

The Good 411

Chapter 411: I Don't Want To Take Care of a Child (2)

At that moment, the problem they had was with the Vermillion Bird, who was at the same level as the two Phoenixes. It was a tricky problem. If someone were to encounter the same situation, they would have immediately agreed without any hesitation.

A young Phoenix would eventually be a mythical-level beast, and who would not want to obtain one of the most powerful magical creatures in the world?

Of course, an ancient mythical beast like the Vermillion Bird would choose to be so ruthless against a youngling of the same species.

The couple looked at the Vermillion Bird with a perplexed expression. The main reason they wanted to entrust their child to Shen Yanxiao was the little Phoenix's closeness with the Vermillion Bird. However, if the Vermillion Bird would not budge, they would not be able to resolve the situation.

So, they could only pin their hopes on Shen Yanxiao.

"I know it is an arduous task for you to care for our child. However, we have no other alternative option at this time. If you are willing to care for our child, we promise to help you with one favor in the future. As long as it is something that we can accomplish, we would do it." The Phoenix-man spoke with sincerity. Their child was too weak, and they did not want to bring it with them while they went in search of a safe location for a new nest.

It was an enticing promise, and Shen Yanxiao was very tempted. Even if they had not made that vow, she would have made the Vermillion Bird accept the task at hand anyway. The little Phoenix might be weak at that moment, but it will eventually mature into a powerful magical beast. She lacked power at the moment, and so if she took the little Phoenix under her wing, it would serve as another guarantee for her future. Plus, its parents would owe her a favor too.

Shen Yanxiao thought it was foolish to reject their request.

One more mythical beast was always good for the count; it was no trouble at all.

"Vermillion Bird, you started this mess anyway. Why did you have to poke at someone else's egg? The little Phoenix might have been ready to hatch, but if it were not for your fire-elements, would it have hatched in advance? Or take you as its parent? If it were not for you, its parents would not have rushed back to the save, and we would have left after I grabbed the Flame Grass. There wouldn't be any misunderstanding at all. Not only did you take away their role as parents, you even destroyed their home. Don't you think you should bear some responsibility for this?" Shen Yanxiao crossed her arms and glared at the Vermillion Bird with a displeased expression. The Vermillion Bird's curiosity had caused most of their problems at that moment. If it were not for that, the subsequent events would not have occurred either.

The Vermillion Bird's fury instantly cooled when Shen Yanxiao scolded him. There was also guilt on his face, something that would probably appear once in a blue moon.

“I was only looking around casually. Who knew it would jump out of its shell?” The Vermillion Bird felt aggrieved by the accusations. Even though he had lived for millions of years, he had never seen a youngling of his species. Therefore, he was curious about it and wanted to see what a magical beast’s egg looked like.

How could he expect the egg to hatch so coincidentally?

The Vermillion Bird knew that Shen Yanxiao’s argument was valid. He had stronger fire-elements than the Phoenixes, and therefore, the egg would also hatch much faster in his presence.

Shen Yanxiao smiled when she realized that she had been right about it, and she turned toward the Phoenix-man.

“When did you expect the egg to hatch?”

The man answered, “We were only expecting it to hatch in the next three days.”

Chapter 412: I Don’t Want To Take Care of a Child (3)

Shen Yanxiao nodded and narrowed her eyes at the Vermillion Bird.

“Do you still want to deny this? The little Phoenix hatched three days earlier because of you.”

The Vermillion Bird shrunk his neck. Even though he was full of pride, he was never unreasonable. With the facts laid out before him, he had no excuse to reject their request.

However...

He did not want to take care of a child!

“Chu~?” The little Phoenix on his head sensed the Vermillion Bird’s emotional fluctuation, but the ignorant little creature did not know that its ‘family’ had disliked its closeness. Instead, it tried to comfort the Vermillion Bird by rubbing on his head.

“...” The Vermillion Bird looked even more displeased.

“Now that things have progressed to this point, how could you possibly shirk your responsibilities as a mythical beast! You are an ancient mythical beast, don’t you know about responsibilities?” Shen Yanxiao continued to fan the fire.

The Vermillion Bird looked bitter. Shen Yanxiao’s words had hit the bullseye. He could disregard everything else, but he cared about his dignity as a mythical beast.

Shen Yanxiao even mentioned the thing that he cared most about, and he had nothing to refute her words.

“Was it not only to take care of it? Why do you need to be that fierce with me? Am I not your magical beast? You yelled at me because of a little creature. Is there another master as heartless as you?” The aggrieved Vermillion Bird glared at her and thought about how he had never seen a master who would instead help an outsider than their magical beast.

However, when he recalled how Shen Yanxiao had bravely rushed to his side when he was in great danger, a trace of warmth flowed through his prideful heart.

Even though this master was black-hearted, unscrupulous and would often enslave him, at least she knew to protect him.

Hmph!

On account of her earlier performance, he would, reluctantly, agree to take the junior with him.

The Vermilion Bird found an honorable excuse for his compromise.

It was not because Shen Yanxiao had yelled at him. Absolutely not!

Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows. The Vermilion Bird's compromise made everything much simpler, and the two Phoenixes were also relieved.

"Are there any conditions for your new home? I have a pretty good location that I could recommend to you." Shen Yanxiao suddenly thought of a rather suitable location for the Phoenixes' new nest.

The Vermilion Bird was stunned for a moment, and he had a bad feeling in the pit of his gut.

The Phoenix-man smiled and said, "Well, it must be hidden and safe, with an abundance of fire elements. It would be best if it was further away from where humans live. That's about it."

The fire element was an elemental power that was naturally produced in the world, but it would not be an easy feat to find sufficient fire elemental power for their use. Furthermore, the Longxuan Empire had a dense population, and humans had occupied most of the lands that were filled with abundances of elemental power. Therefore, it was not an easy feat to find a quiet area while avoiding the human populace.

Shen Yanxiao smiled and said, "Then the location I had should be rather fitting to your requirements. In the heart of the Longxuan Empire, there is a valley called the Lava Valley. The fire elements there would not be less than what you could find at Mount Kuluo. Furthermore, that is the forbidden area of the Vermilion Bird Family. Other than the main family members, no one is allowed inside."

When the Vermilion Bird heard the two words' Lava Valley', he nearly jumped out to strangle his master.

How could she be so shameless to offer his home to those two stupid birds!

Furthermore, she did it right in front of him too!

Did she even stop to consider his feelings?

When the two Phoenixes heard about the location that Shen Yanxiao mentioned, their eyes immediately brightened.

Chapter 413: Return (1)

"It seems like the Lava Valley belongs to a human family. Would they not mind if we were to live there?" The Phoenix-man was rather tempted by the offer, but he was still worried about it. When he heard that the land had belonged to the Vermilion Bird Family, he immediately associated them with the

Vermillion Bird in their midst. Even though mythical beasts had been isolated from the world for ages, he had heard about the powerful five ancient mythical beasts. It did not seem impossible to deduce that the Vermillion Bird in front of him was the mythical beast of the Vermillion Bird family.

Shen Yanxiao said, "I am from the Vermilion Bird family. If you are willing to stay at Lava Valley, I can guarantee that no one would disturb you there. Furthermore, no one would spread the news of your whereabouts. Only me and my grandfather, the current family head, would know about it."

The Lava Valley was the Vermilion Bird's nest, and since he was with Shen Yanxiao all the time, the place was empty. Why would she not do them a favor? After all, the Vermillion Bird had destroyed their nest. He could count that as compensation for the Phoenixes.

The couple looked at each other as they digested the crucial information.

It would save them a lot of trouble if they could find a safe place for their nest quickly.

"Thank you so much." The Phoenix-man expressed his thanks as a way to accept her offer.

As for the Vermilion Bird, he glared at his master as his resentment toward her increased infinitely.

When they reached an agreement, Shen Yanxiao gave them the exact location of the Lava Valley. She intended to send a letter home to Shen Feng to inform him about the matter.

Shen Yanxiao and the Vermillion Bird brought the little Phoenix with them to bid the two Phoenixes farewell after they had resolved everything. Before they left, the Phoenix-woman gifted Shen Yanxiao a robe weaved with the most treasured flame feather from their bodies.

The Phoenix robe had a high fire resistance; as long as Shen Yanxiao had it on, she could be completely unharmed even if their fireball hit her in the chest. It was a unique item.

The most treasured item on their bodies were the flame feathers beneath their neck; only one feather would drop in a decade. One would need to wait hundreds of years to gather enough feathers for a robe. One could even say that there was only one robe in the entire Brilliance Continent.

Shen Yanxiao wore the Phoenix's robes under her existing clothes. She did not look any different from her usual self, but she could feel the warmth that the robe exuded.

After she bid farewell to the Phoenixes, Shen Yanxiao left Mount Kuluo. As for the little Phoenix, it remained sprawled on top of the Vermilion Bird's head. It was not even sad to leave its parents. On the contrary, it looked quite comfortable and happy.

However, the Vermilion Bird had a pale complexion, and it looked like he wanted to vomit blood.

He had lost so much during that trip. Not only did he have to bring a deadweight home with him, but he also had to give his home away to someone else. His situation was akin to the idiom, 'having given away a bride, and to lose one's army too.'

Most of the surviving mercenaries had returned to the safety area just outside Mount Kuluo. They looked to be in a sorry state as they panted heavily beside their carriages.

Due to Du Lang's advanced arrangement, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group did not suffer any losses. Only a few of their members had sustained light injuries. The same could not be said for the other mercenary groups though. Most of them had suffered heavy losses, especially those who had stood at the front lines. More than half of those mercenaries were buried on that mountain.

Out of a thousand men, only a fraction had managed to survive the ordeal. Most of the groups had lost more than half of their members.

It was a significant loss for those groups, except for the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

Chapter 414: Return (2)

Evil Wolf was still in shock when he looked at their devastating losses. They were fortunate that their leader had made a brilliant decision. Otherwise, they would be ones crying then.

"Leader, that kid, Huo Xiao, has yet to return." Evil Wolf had surveyed his surroundings, but he did not see that deadweight anywhere. He was worried about him.

When they had to face the might of the Phoenixes, the big and tall men could not even care for themselves, let alone a little kid. Even though the kid was quite smart, he was still a child! Thus, Evil Wolf was quite worried about the kid's safety.

Du Lang sighed and said, "If I am right, he would not have been in any danger. We'll wait for him here." For some reason, Du Lang felt that Huo Xiao was connected to the appearance of the third mythical beast at Mount Kuluo. Unfortunately, they were very far from that location, and so they did not see the third mythical beast.

Evil Wolf said nothing after that, but he continued to look around Mount Kuluo discreetly as he prayed for the kid's safety.

After the mercenary leaders took a short rest, they organized their subordinates. They had sworn at their client's entire eighteen generations for the ordeal that they had to go through. They were also annoyed at the client's disappearance, and they could not even find the black-robed man who was responsible for this carriage.

Since they could not locate the perpetrator, some of the mercenary leaders were not willing to linger at that god-forsaken place. Furthermore, most of their men were injured and required treatment.

In any case, the employer was nowhere to be seen, and their commissions were stored at the Mercenary Guild. They might as well pack up to leave that place.

Only the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group remained there as the other mercenary groups left the area.

Except for Du Lang and Evil Wolf, no one else believed that Huo Xiao was still alive. However, since they had spent so much time with the kid, they were reluctant to leave him behind. So they all waited in silence.

When the sun descended, most of them had already given up hope. However, just when they were in despair, two petite figures slowly walked out from the foot of the mountain.

With their backs against the evening sun, Shen Yanxiao and the Vermilion Bird walked out Mount Kuluo. From afar, she noticed that the mercenaries had waited for her.

“They didn’t leave?” Shen Yanxiao was surprised at their wait. They were mere acquaintances, and after the Phoenix attack, their top priority should have been to leave that god-forsaken place the first chance they had. Shen Yanxiao was surprised to see that they had not left, and instead, they had waited outside Mount Kuluo for her return.

Shen Yanxiao touched her nose and thought to herself, ‘This is not a bad feeling, right?’

“Vermilion Bird, can you change your appearance?” Shen Yanxiao asked. Even a fool could see that he was not a human with his scarlet eyes and a headful of flaming red hair.

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The Vermillion Bird was still depressed, but he did not resist her request. In the blink of an eye, his flame-colored long hair turned black while his scarlet eyes became dark brown. Except for the exquisiteness of his face, he looked completely human.

Shen Yanxiao and the Vermilion Bird gradually approached the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. Before she reached them, however, Evil Wolf pounced toward her like a tiger and rested his palm on her head.

Chapter 415: Return (3)

“A little kid like you dared to run around so casually; do you know how dangerous it was then? Good thing you’re unharmed!” Evil Wolf said with a worried and concerned tone.

Those iron-blooded mercenaries were rather simple with their feelings. Their brothers and partners were their life.

“Well, I came back in one piece, didn’t I?” Shen Yanxiao blinked.

Du Lang had a comforting smile on his face as he looked at Shen Yanxiao. At the same time, he noticed the little guy by his side.

That youth looked very young, but he seemed quite aloof.

“Chu?” A fluff of red fur suddenly appeared on the top of the Vermilion Bird’s head. It widened its black and round large eyes as it looked at the new group of humans in curiosity.

“Where did you pick up that little fellow?” Evil Wolf had only just noticed the Vermilion Bird’s presence.

Shen Yanxiao touched her nose as she thought of a random excuse to fool them. They did not care about that, and so, they would not continue with more questions.

The most important thing was that she had returned safe and sound to them; other things did not matter.

When she sat in the carriage, Shen Yanxiao could finally relax. It was a rather fruitful trip. She did not only manage to get some Flame Grass, but she had also managed to pick up a little Phoenix with her. Besides that, she also received a Flame robe and the friendship of a pair of Phoenixes.

The Vermilion Bird sat beside Shen Yanxiao with a rather grim expression on his face.

The carriage...

It was a carriage again!

The Vermilion had experienced motion sickness so severe that he wished he could jump out of the carriage to fly back on his own. However, one stare from Shen Yanxiao, and it was as if he had been frozen to his seat.

He wanted to cry; no one even bullied him like that!

The little Phoenix rolled back and forth happily on the Vermilion Bird's head as it released soft and tender chirps.

Du Lang and Evil Wolf, who sat opposite, stared at them with curiosity.

However, they were smart enough not to ask her anything.

The moment the carriage started to move, the Vermilion Bird's complexion immediately turned green.

"Erm, are you alright, little friend?" Evil Wolf asked kindly as he stared at the Vermilion Bird's unsightly expression.

The Vermilion Bird shot him a glare.

Evil Wolf gulped and muttered in silence, 'That little kid has a bad temper'!

Compared to the Vermilion Bird's arrogance, Evil Wolf felt that Huo Xiao was much more likable and adorable.

Both of them were kids, so why was there such a huge disparity?

No one knew that the Vermilion Bird's mood had fallen to the pits.

He had feared sitting in carriages the most!

As they traveled along the bumpy road, the Vermilion Bird's complexion changed from green to white, and then from white to purple.

Ultimately, it turned black.

After that...

"Ough!!"

"Sh*t! Little kid, don't just puke everywhere!!"

On the first night of their journey back to the Black City, Evil Wolf and Du Lang had to leave their original carriage because of some unspeakable reasons. They had to squeeze into the other carriages.

One could also hear the sounds of someone puking in the carriage throughout their journey home.

The forest on Mount Kuluo finally recovered its peace from the sea of fire attacks.

The pair of Phoenixes stood before their collapsed nest and rested there for the time being.

At that moment, Mount Kuluo welcomed another guest.

A slender figure stepped into the mountain forest, and the moment he appeared, the barely-recovered demons and magical beasts immediately evacuated a hundred-meter radius from him.

That man ascended to the peak of Mount Kuluo slowly, and there he met with the pair of Phoenixes.

A pair of eyes as gentle as jade stared at the cave that had collapsed as his thin lips slowly parted.

“What catastrophes have you two encountered now?”

Chapter 416: Return (4)

The Phoenix couple seemed familiar with that man. The male Phoenix, who had transformed into his human form, smiled bitterly and said, “We encountered some unfortunate incidents, and our egg hatched earlier than expected.”

The handsome and elegant young man frowned.

“I don’t sense the little Phoenix.”

The Phoenix-man replied, “Mount Kuluo is no longer safe. We have entrusted a friend to temporarily care for it. After we find a new nest, we would fetch our child home.”

A trace of doubt surfaced in the young man’s calm eyes. He knew how much the couple cared for their youngling, so it was simply unbelievable that they would bear to hand their child to the care of someone else.

“If there’s a need, I can search for a new home for you. It was my mistake for arranging you to live on Mount Kuluo and, thus, allowed some people to invade your home.” The young man’s tone was apologetic.

The male Phoenix smiled and said, “The God Realm has helped us plenty of times, and we are very grateful. However, we’ve already found a new home.”

“Oh? Where would that be?”

“The Lava Valley.”

A trace of surprise surfaced on the young man’s face.

“The Lava Valley? That’s the Vermilion Bird’s nest. You intend to head there?”

The male Phoenix nodded.

“We’ve already made plans for that, so thank you for your care and concern during this period.”

The young man did not question him further and bade farewell to the Phoenixes before he left while he was still deep in thoughts.

“Why would they head for the Lava Valley? Even though Xiaoxiao had left with the Vermilion Bird, but...” His mutters contained traces of doubts.

He was as gentle as jade and as calm as a quiet lake.

He was Shen Siyu.

...

The Vermilion Bird had no idea how he made it back to the Black City. He only knew that those few days were the most horrific nightmare of his entire life. He had wanted to return to Shen Yanxiao's body multiple times, but the little Phoenix had grabbed onto him for dear life. When he had tried to push it away, the little creature had cried so pitifully and looked at him with tears in his eyes.

The Vermilion Bird had no intention to care for that deadweight, but Shen Yanxiao would never let him shirk his responsibilities just like that.

Since his master was uncooperative, he could return to her heart, even if he had wanted to.

The Vermilion Bird could only puke throughout the journey and 'enjoy' the little Phoenix's clinging as they made their way back to the Black City.

When they arrived at the Black City, they had to carry the Vermilion Bird down from the carriage. Shen Yanxiao arranged for them to rest in one of the inns.

Then she made her way toward the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group to get her share of remuneration for that mission.

Even though their mission had been unsuccessful, the problem was with the employer's information. Therefore, many of the mercenary groups had successfully obtained the remuneration from the Mercenary Guild. Even Shen Yanxiao had received the portion that Du Lang had promised her.

In addition to that, Du Lang had sincerely invited Shen Yanxiao to become a temporary member of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group, and Shen Yanxiao had accepted his offer.

However, that was nominal only. She would have the freedom to choose if she wanted to participate in any of their missions.

When she obtained the Flame Grass, she could finally check that off her list. Her collaboration with the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group led her to entrust the mission to search for the Skeleton Flower to them. After all, she still had to attend to her studies at the Saint Laurent Academy. It was not like she had the extra time to roam around the continent.

After she resolved everything, Shen Yanxiao returned to the inn to look at the Vermilion Bird, who had puked so much that he wished he was dead.

That was a problem she had yet to resolve!

Chapter 417: Going Too Far (1)

Since the little Phoenix was still unwilling to leave the Vermilion Bird, he could not return inside her. If the Vermilion Bird were to disappear, the little Phoenix would be completely dumbstruck. Furthermore, she was inexperienced with caring for a magical beast, and so she could only allow him to remain outside for that time being.

However, she could not bring the Vermilion Bird and the little Phoenix along with her back to the Saint Laurent Academy, right?

Ouyang Huanyu was the Saint Laurent Academy's dean, and he was a Great Archmagus. Even if he could not identify the Vermilion Bird's true identity, he would certainly know the little Phoenix's rank. She knew just how much trouble an eighth-ranked young magical beast would bring.

After much consideration, Shen Yanxiao ultimately decided to leave the Vermilion Bird at the Black City temporarily. A master and their contracted magical beast shared a spiritual connection, and they could maintain communication even if they were separated.

She was surprised that the Vermilion Bird did not protest her decision. Only the gods knew how suffocated and restricted he had felt since a long time ago. How could he turn down such an excellent opportunity to remain outside and lurk around?

His depression about the little Phoenix's existence had instantly dissipated.

After Shen Yanxiao gave the Vermilion Bird some money for 'living expenses,' she left the Black City for the Saint Laurent Academy the next morning.

It was already afternoon when she had returned to the academy. After she satisfied her hunger, she returned to the dormitory and made preparations to report to the Archer Division in the afternoon.

However, she bumped into Lin Xuan, who was prepared to leave the dormitory, the moment she returned.

Lin Xuan was surprised to see the roommate he had not seen for a while. Why did he look so shocked and... evasive?

"Shen... Jue, you're back?" Lin Xuan spoke in a weird tone, and his eyes were unfocused as he did not dare to look at her.

Shen Yanxiao was curious about Lin Xuan's unusual attitude. However, she had only returned and had a pile of matters to handle. So, she did not pay much attention to him. She nodded and said, "Yes, I just came back."

Lin Xuan revealed a stiff smile.

"Oh, t-then you s-should get busy f-first. I'm heading to the library to take some things."

Shen Yanxiao moved to the side to make way for Lin Xuan to leave. Then she peeked into the room, but she did not see Tang Nazhi there. So she called out to Lin Xuan, "Where's Tang Nazhi? Since he's not sleeping in the dormitory during the afternoon, where has he run off to again?"

Tang Nazhi and her had been practically glued together while they were at the Saint Laurent Academy. She felt somewhat unaccustomed when she did not see him upon her return.

Lin Xuan's back stiffened, and after a brief moment, he stuttered as he replied, "I-I... I don't know." After that, he immediately ran out without giving Shen Yanxiao another chance to continue with her questions.

“Am I that scary?” Shen Yanxiao touched her chin. She had already worn the disguise mask when she returned, so there should not have been any problems with that.

After she returned to the dormitory, Shen Yanxiao changed her dirty clothes and wore the long robes that represented the purple class.

Soon after that, Shen Yanxiao noticed that something was amiss.

Tang Nazhi’s bed was empty, and it did not have any beddings either.

Shen Yanxiao furrowed her eyebrows and went to open Tang Nazhi’s wardrobe.

All the books and daily necessities in the wardrobe had disappeared without a trace, and it looked as clean as if no one had used it before.

“What’s going on?” Shen Yanxiao knitted her eyebrows, and she felt a little uneasy about the situation.

She went through all of Tang Nazhi’s space hastily, but she could not find anything. All his items had disappeared, and she could not find a single trace that he had once lived there.

Chapter 418: Going Too Far (2)

Shen Yanxiao sensed that something was amiss and immediately left the dormitory. Then she rushed to the Magus Division in a flurry.

Students from the Magus Division were ready to take a break from their lessons, and they were caught dumbstruck when they saw a popular student from the Herbalist Division dashed into their top student’s dormitory.

What had happened?

Why was that kid from the Herbalist Division there?

Furthermore, he had a darkened expression on his face.

Had Shen Jue wanted to extend his reach to the Magus Division after he defeated the division’s top student, Shangguan Xiao?

Shen Yanxiao pushed Qi Xia’s door open, and the three students inside were stunned when they saw her. Qi Xia was sitting at the table as he browsed a book on magic. He was equally shocked when he saw the familiar figure at the door. As for his other two roommates, they were rendered speechless too.

“I have something to ask you,” Shen Yanxiao said.

Qi Xia quirked his eyebrow as a faint smile appeared on his face.

“This is not the place to talk. Let’s go outside.”

After that, he stood up and left the room with Shen Yanxiao. His two other roommates could only stare at their departing backs as if they had seen a ghost.

They had heard the rumor about the unspeakable relationship between their top student and a Herbalist Division’s first-year student. It looked like the rumor had been true!

Why was their division's top student so amicable?

A sentence of six words was sufficient to lure him out of the room!

Furthermore, the other party was only a little kid from another division. They found that hard to believe!

As Shen Yanxiao and Qi Xia walked side by side in the compound of the Saint Laurent Academy, they had attracted many unwanted gazes.

"I guess that you wish to ask about Nazhi," Qi Xia said after he ensured that there were no outsiders around them.

Shen Yanxiao glared at him and said, "Has something happened to him? I thought it was weird that I couldn't see him when I returned to the academy. Then I discovered that all of his belongings have disappeared. Had something happened to him?"

Qi Xia sighed softly. Then he looked up at the afternoon sun and slowly said, "He's leaving the academy."

"What! Why?" Shen Yanxiao looked at Qi Xia in disbelief. Tang Nazhi had spent two years trying to enter the Herbalist Division with great difficulties. How could he possibly leave for no reason?

She had only been away for a month. Even if he had any plans, it would not have happened in that short period. Something must have occurred during her absence that forced him to leave.

Qi Xia shook his head.

"He forbade us from telling you. If you wish to know the truth, go to the underground casino and ask him in person. Your return is timely as he is only leaving tomorrow. So you can still see him today."

"Alright. I'll personally ask him about it then." Shen Yanxiao did not even hesitate as she walked toward the academy's gates without another backward glance.

She had to ask that stinky bastard the reason he had to leave the academy. Did he not know that since he had insisted on entering the Herbalist Division that he could no longer turn back? What kind of pressure would he face if he were to leave then?

Therefore, she had to ask him about it in person!

Chapter 419: Going Too Far (3)

The Saint Laurent Academy's underground casino bustled as usual. At Phantom's rest area, Tang Nazi sat on a chair by himself. He looked lonely as he kept his gaze down and caressed the interspatial ring on his index finger.

His few months at the Herbalist Division seemed to have ended just like that. He had packed all the things that he had brought with him to the academy. He had been full of fighting spirit when he first arrived at the academy, but alas, it was time for him to leave...

Tang Nazi sighed. Shen Yanxiao had been away from the academy for almost a month, and he was supposed to return to the Black Tortoise family a few days ago. However, he wanted to bid his little sister farewell before he left the academy, and so he decided to delay his departure. However, his

grandfather, the family head, had issued him with an ultimatum for him to return home the next morning.

"It seems like I won't get to see her before I leave." A bitter smile surfaced on his usually energetic face, and a cloud of gloominess shrouded his usually joyful personality.

Bang!

Someone had kicked the door open without any warning, and Tang Nazhi turned toward that noise. A familiar petite figure appeared in his line of sight.

"Xiaoxiao? You've returned?" Like a faithful wife who waited for her husband's return, Tang Nazhi's gloomy mood immediately lifted when he saw his comrade. His signature smile also blossomed on his face.

Shen Yanxiao looked at Tang Nazhi coldly as she walked toward the long sofa without saying a single word. She crossed her arms as she stared at the smiling Tang Nazhi with indifference.

He had already taken off the long robes, which represented the Herbalist Division's purple class, and his cyan gown had made his slender physique look more handsome.

"Xiao... xiao?" Tang Nazhi looked at Shen Yanxiao with cautiousness. The usually gentle little girl radiated a strong sense of displeasure and even some hints of coldness.

"Young Master Tang, what a good hobby you have. Are you so tired of school that you just decided to pack up your bag and leave for home? Have you packed all your belongings? Do you need some money for your journey home?" Shen Yanxiao's soft voice had a tone that could choke one to death.

Tang Nazhi's expression stiffened from her odd tone of speech, and he wiped his cold sweat discreetly as he looked at Shen Yanxiao.

"You've heard about it then?" Tang Nazhi tried to test the waters.

Shen Yanxiao sneered and said, "All I know is that my friend's belongings had vanished when I returned to the dormitory. It's hard not to notice that."

Tang Nazhi let out an awkward laugh.

"To be fair, I should have left a long time ago. With my lack of talents, I'm not suited to become an herbalist. I insisted on becoming one because of my one-track mind. My results have only been fair while I'm here, so there's no need for me to stay."

"Oh?" Shen Yanxiao quirked an eyebrow.

"Does that mean Young Master Tang has decided to leave?"

Tang Nazhi was surprised as he was unaccustomed to the way Shen Yanxiao had talked to him. If the former Shen Yanxiao was a gentle and quiet little rabbit, then at that moment, she was an indifferent and evil-tongued snake.

The difference was like heaven and earth!

However, no matter what she said, Tang Nazhi knew that he could not return to the Herbalist Division again. He said with a bitter smile, "I know that you would be angry if I were to leave just like that."

Chapter 420: Going Too Far (3)

"I know that you have my best interest at heart, and you're afraid that I won't have a good life at home if I were to withdraw from the academy so suddenly." He knew the reason behind her unusual behavior. However, since things had progressed to that state, he could no longer go back.

Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath and suddenly stood up to go closer to Tang Nazhi.

"And you're also aware that everyone would look down on you if you were to withdraw just like that? Since you have chosen to be an herbalist, you should have persisted! Do you not know about the pressure of being part of the Black Tortoise family? Do you think it's beneficial for you if you were to leave? You're not only giving up, but you're also giving other people more reasons to crush you!" Shen Yanxiao was furious. She was genuinely enraged.

She was familiar with Tang Nazhi's frankness, and she knew that he was not a fool. He would know the consequences of his decision to drop out of the academy.

She would not have participated in that stupid competition because of the gamble with Shangguan Xiao otherwise!

"I know. I know about all of that." Tang Nazhi could not even lift his head when Shen Yanxiao scolded him. However, he had his reasons.

"Since you know about that, then why are you still doing this?" Shen Yanxiao stared at Tang Nazhi, and she did not give him a chance to avoid her. "It is definitely not your decision to drop out. Who forced you to do it?" Even though the Black Tortoise family was not particularly pleased when one of their members decided to become an herbalist, they should not force him to drop out just to keep up their appearance.

However, Tang Nazhi had never bothered about other people's threats against him.

That was why Shen Yanxiao could not comprehend the reason that would make Tang Nazhi abandon his choice to become an herbalist.

If he were to do that, he would not only abandon his profession as an herbalist, but he would also let go of his position in the Black Tortoise family!

"Please don't ask about it anymore. I shall return home tomorrow, and I am very happy to be able to see you for the last time today. I do not know when I would return again after my departure. Let's not talk about such depressing things." Tang Nazhi no longer wanted to discuss the issue with his drop out, and he could only avoid Shen Yanxiao's sharp eyes.

"Do you think that I won't find out if you keep mum about it?" Shen Yanxiao narrowed her eyes. Tang Nazhi's continuous avoidance had aroused her attention, and she felt that the issue was not that simple as it seemed.

“Xiaoxiao, please, stop asking about it.” Tang Nazhi felt vexed. He had wanted to see his little sister before he left, but he did not expect that she would press him for the reason of his dropout so persistently. Furthermore, it was not something that he would want her to know.

“Even if you remained silent, she would still find out one day.” A lazy voice interrupted their deadlock. Qi Xia leaned against the door lazily with his arms crossed.

“Don’t cause trouble for me.” Tang Nazhi glared at Qi Xia.

Qi Xia shrugged his shoulders. After Shen Yanxiao left, he had followed her and heard their conversation from outside the door. He knew that Tang Nazhi would not be truthful with her even if they continued their argument.

However, how long could he hide the truth from her?

“You forbade us from telling her, so I could only lead her back to you. If you are still unwilling to say, then I can only lead her to some other people who would know about it.” Qi Xia revealed a rather shameless smile. The three of them had promised him that they would not tell Shen Yanxiao the truth about the issue, but many people had known about it in the academy.

Tang Nazhi glared at Qi Xia in disbelief, and he wished that he could pounce and strangle that bastard to death.

If you don't wish to help, then forget about it. But how could you come here and stir trouble for me?