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Chapter 1401

Dormer's face darkened as he glared at his granddaughter, then forced a smile and said, "Master Huang, I'm sorry. The child is still young and immature. Please don't take it to heart. The Luo family has no opinions against Encyclo Hall."

"That's good to hear!" Olaric snorted, then swung his sleeves and turned to leave.

There was absolute silence on the Luo family's side. Everyone stared at each other with a heavy expression, and they didn't know what to say.

Especially Dormer. There was a grave expression on his face, and his hand which held the jade bottle trembled.

Barton and others quickly put in good words as soon as they noticed Dormer's reaction, attempting to comfort him.

"Dad, it doesn't really matter whether this medicine is Fade's or not. It doesn't affect us as long as the medicine is effective."

"Yes, it's just spending more money, isn't it? That amount of money is nothing to our family."

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Not only did their words fail to cheer Dormer up, but they angered him even more. The muscles on his face twitched, and his lips curled into a snarl.

After all, the Longevity Pills were originally intended as a gift for the Luo family from Fade, and he could have gotten them for free. But now, he had spent over 200 million yuan for only a bottle.

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A sense of remorse rose in his heart as he thought about how the tables had turned.

Barton seemed to have read Dormer's mind. He edged closer to his side and whispered in his ear, "Dad, there's no need to regret it. Compared to the money you spent, offending the Hsing family is the bigger problem."

Dormer's face relaxed a little at the mention of the Hsing family.

Fade had offended Romeo and the hidden family. The Luo family was smart enough to break off their ties with Fade, so they managed to escape the great misfortune that was about to come down upon Fade. With that in mind, the matter of the Longevity Pill was not so upsetting anymore.

The auction carried on. Countless expensive and precious items were auctioned one by one, arousing everyone's enthusiasm for the auction. The price of the items also increased as the crowd grew more excited.

Fade, too, had spent over 300 million yuan to buy a precious medicinal herb, which was worth it.

All the items were auctioned off one by one, and finally, the long-awaited moment had arrived.

Manager Liu stood up and announced, "The final item for the auction today is a single consultation session with Encyclo Hall."

"The reserve price of this item is fifty million yuan, and the minimum increment for each bid will be fifty million. The bidding starts now!"

Although the reserve price and the starting price were extremely high, everyone was already mentally prepared for it. Therefore, none of them felt surprised, and there were no objections. The crowd fell into a heated discussion immediately.

Many of them exchanged their views on the price and the item, but not many were involved in the bidding.

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It was not like many people could afford the price anyway. Besides, they were less willing to pay such a high price for only a single session.

"Five hundred million yuan!"

"Five hundred and fifty million."

"Six hundred million yuan."

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The price continued to rise. When the price hit 800 million, there were only two or three bidders left.

Looking at the current situation, Fade knew that it was his time to act. So, he raised his bid card and yelled, "Nine hundred million yuan."

Due to his unique identity as a VIP guest, his participation in the auction attracted plenty of attention. Everyone's eyes were on him, as were the few of his competitors.

One of the competitors hesitated for a moment before finally shaking his head and lowering the bid card in his hand.

Another competitor, a proprietor with a huge protruding belly, thought for a moment and raised his bid card. "One billion yuan."

Fade raised his card again without hesitation. "One billion one hundred million!"

The other man seemed to have noticed Fade's determination. He lowered his bid card after hesitating and saluted to Fade. "Congratulations, Mr. Chen."

Fade clasped his hands and nodded to the man, then looked at Manager Liu, who was standing on the stage.

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Manager Liu nodded and raised the mallet as he announced, "One billion one hundred million yuan, first calling! Is there anyone else who wants to challenge the bid?"

"One billion one hundred million, second calling. Last chance for anyone else who would like to bid for the item."

"One billion one hundred million, third calling! I hereby announce—"

"Wait a minute!" Just as Manager Liu was about to announce the auction result, a clear voice resonated in the hall.

Suddenly, everyone's attention was drawn to the source of the voice as they all turned around to look at the person curiously.

A man who looked about 27 or 28 years old stepped into the hall, and all eyes were on him instantly. He had a handsome face, eyebrows that were shaped like two swords, and eyes that shone like stars. Dressed in a plain white robe, he looked neat and clean, like an elegant prince who walked out from a fairytale. His appearance became the primary attention in the hall.

"Who is that? He's so handsome!"

"He looks so young. Does he come from a powerful family?"

"Even if he is from a powerful family, he did not abide by the rules. I don't think it's a good idea to interrupt the auction."

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Amidst the whispers of the curious guests, Manager Liu spotted the man. He looked equally surprised, and his eyes flickered.

"Faxon—Young Master Chiang is here. Invite him to his seat," he ordered immediately.

As soon as he uttered Faxon's name, everyone in the hall burst into an uproar and fell into a deep discussion.

"Faxon, isn't he the top genius in the Martial Arts League?"



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"That's him. The second place on the Dragon List."

"I heard that Young Master Chiang has an exceptional background. It seems like he might be related to the hidden family."

"What is Young Master Chiang doing here? Does he also want to bid for something?"

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Fade couldn't help but glance at Faxon a few times when he overheard the people's discussion.

Faxon walked straight to the front row and glanced at the seat he was brought over to by the servant. He did not sit down. Instead, he went directly to Fade and looked down at him.

Fade raised his head and stared back at him, unflinching.

Faxon stared at Fade for a while and noticed Fade's challenging posture. He said, "Encyclo Hall's consultation session is mine this time."

Fade frowned at his statement. He was determined to win this consultation, and Faxon's arrogant attitude made him upset. He responded coldly, "I'll take it instead."

"You don't seem to understand what I just said. I said the consultation session is mine," Faxon repeated, his tone serious.

Fade snorted and stared right into Faxon's eyes. "If you want it, then bid for it. Don't pretend like you can afford it if you don't have money."

"You—" Upon hearing Fade's words, Faxon raised his perfectly shaped eyebrows and glared at him. "Very well, I'll remember you now."

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He turned around and looked at Manager Liu. "I bid one and a half billion yuan."

Manager Liu's face froze in disbelief, then he looked at Fade apologetically.

Fade dipped his chin to signal to him that it was all right. Then he narrowed his eyes at Faxon and said loudly, "One billion six hundred million yuan."

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Chapter 1402

The exchange between Fade and Faxon had startled everyone else in the hall. Soon enough, they began talking about it.

"Young Master Chiang also wants the consultation opportunity."

"From the looks of it, it seems like Fade is not going to give in as well!"

"How dare he compete with Young Master Chiang? Is he a fool?"

"That's right. Does he think he can beat Young Master Chiang in terms of background and strength?"

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Amid the crowd's chatter, the Luo family members who were initially upset became thrilled at the sight of the confrontation between the two men. Smug grins painted across their faces as they gloated over Fade's unfortunate encounter.

"Is Fade out of his mind? How dare he confront Young Master Chiang?"

"If he had stood down just now, Young Master Chiang might've appreciated his understanding. But now, he has offended Young Master Chiang by competing with him for the bidding!"

"He will ruin himself sooner or later with that kind of temper."

"He's a dead man walking now. Let's just sit back and watch the show."

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Faxon did not seem to expect that Fade would challenge him. He stared at Fade for a few seconds, then said in a low voice, "Two billion yuan. I bid two billion yuan."

His offer caused another uproar among the crowd.

Faxon directly increased the bid by 400 million yuan this time, setting the price at two billion yuan, which was twice as much as the previous price of 1 billion yuan.

In other words, this meant that Faxon was determined to win the bid, and it served as a warning to Fade.

Fade furrowed his brows when he heard the bid. Two billion yuan was indeed beyond his expectations. However, this consultation session was an opportunity to help Joey find her parents, so he must bid for it.

Besides, he was not short of money. Not only did he just earn over one billion yuan from the pills, but he has also generated a huge income from his business throughout the recent years. Besides, there was also the money from the powerful families who were under his control. His net worth would be tens of billions. To spend several billion yuan to bid for the consultation opportunity was not a big deal to him.

Therefore, instead of backing down from Faxon's threat, he offered, "Two billion five hundred million."

The audience gasped in amazement as soon as he uttered the price. He had gone so far as to raise the bid by 500 million yuan, which was even higher than Faxon's increase. Everyone was surprised by his madness and determination.

"Is Fade really that rich?"



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"The audacity! I wonder what his background is like."

"That was not a wise thing to do. It's not about money at all. It's about Young Master Chiang's reputation!"

"He's offending Young Master Chiang and upsetting him even more. Is he trying to get himself killed?"

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Faxon's face scrunched in frustration as he glared at Fade before shouting, "Two billion seven hundred million."

Fade blurted immediately, "Three billion."

"You—" Even Faxon felt the price was ridiculous this time. He glared at Fade, gritted his teeth, and seethed, "Do you know what you are doing? I already told you that I am determined to win this bid."

Fade glanced at him and snorted with disdain, "Determined to win? Then pay for it. If you don't have the money, then don't play the game."

Faxon's face darkened upon the remark, and he clenched his teeth hard. He scowled at Fade and said, "I bid three and a half billion yuan."

As soon as Faxon finished announcing the price, Fade cut in, "Four billion."

"You—" Faxon felt the pressure as he couldn't afford to catch up with the price anymore. He bared his teeth at Fade as if he wanted to swallow him alive.

Fade crossed his arms casually and sneered, "What about me? This is an auction. If you want to win the item, you have to pay for it."

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"You—" Faxon's face was flaming red, and his eyes bulged in anger. He clenched his fists so tightly that his fingers dug into the flesh of his palms. He was barely restraining himself from beating Fade up.

"What now? Now that you don't have the money, you want to beat me up? Speaking of a beating, I'm fine with that, so let's get on with it."

Fade threw a few punches in the air and stared at Faxon with a relaxed expression.

Fade's actions were a mockery to Faxon, which angered Faxon so much that he almost burned up.

Suddenly, his vital energy burst out from him with a whoosh. His violent energy surged towards Fade and enveloped him.

The fight between them was on the verge of breaking out.

Just then, Manager Liu hollered, "Young Master Chiang, this is Encyclo Hall, and we have rules here. Please remember that."

What he said was actually a warning to Faxon. Although Faxon came from a powerful background, Encyclo Hall was nevertheless superior to him, and they would never condone his reckless attitude. Therefore, Manager Liu was obligated to remind him of that.

Faxon shifted his gaze to Manager Liu in response and held back his anger. Glaring at Fade, he jabbed a finger at him and muttered, "Very well. Fade, right? I'll remember you."

Then, he flung his sleeves and walked out of the auction house.

Fade pursed his lips, unconcerned. He did not take Faxon's threat seriously.

The auction resumed normally. Manager Liu shot an apologetic look at Fade. "Mr. Chen, according to the rules, you just bid four

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billion yuan, so now—"

Even Manager Liu himself felt the price was incredible. Although the opportunity to consult in Encyclo Hall was very precious, four billion yuan was too much. The cost was totally beyond the normal range.

Fade didn't care much about the money. He waved his hand and said, "Manager Liu, don't sweat it. Since I have already bid the item for four billion yuan, let's carry on according to this price."

"I— Mr. Chen, I'm terribly sorry that such a thing happened. I did not expect it at all, so—" Manager Liu was apologetic, but Fade didn't think it was a big deal.

The crowd once again fell into a heated discussion.

"Fade is so amazing, he scared Young Master Chiang away by winning the bid."

"You call that amazing? I think he doesn't even know the disaster that awaits him!"

"That's right. Young Master Chiang comes from a powerful family. Fade has pushed him to the wall by not only embarrassing him so badly but also robbing him of the opportunity to consult Encyclo Hall. He will suffer the consequences soon."

"The young man is too frivolous. He forgets himself just because he has some money. He doesn't know that money does not mean everything in this world."

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At this moment, the Luo family pretended to lament Fade's unfortunate encounter with smug grins on their faces.

"He dares to offend Young Master Chiang. He's a dead man now."



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"Of course. Young Master Chiang is not a man to be trifled with. Plus, with his previous grudge with the Hsing family, he's done for."

"He's so full of himself. He's asking for it!"

"What's more, in the end, he spent four billion yuan on an item which is only worth one billion yuan. What a fool!"

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Chapter 1403

Ignoring their sarcastic remarks, Fade told Manager Liu, "Manager Liu, it's just four billion yuan. I can afford it. Let's go through the formalities!"

Manager Liu nodded ruefully and apologized to Fade nonstop as he went through the formalities with him.

His apologies were drowned out by the guests' growing chatters, as they were still enthusiastically discussing the incident between Fade and Faxon.

When they were about to complete the paperwork, a booming voice interrupted, "Manager Liu, there's no need to do this."

Everyone turned towards the source of the voice. A man in his late fifties walked out from backstage with a friendly grin on his face.

As the guests wondered about the man's identity, Manager Liu gasped in surprise. He turned around hastily and bowed. "Master Soh, you're here."

"Mr. Chen, this is Mr. Lathrob Soh from Encyclo Hall. He's the master from our company who would like to meet you, the one I mentioned to you about just now," Manager Liu introduced quickly.

Upon hearing this, Fade nodded his head courteously at Master Soh and said, "Master Soh, delighted to make your acquaintance. I'm Fade Chen."

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"Nice to meet you too, Mr. Chen! I should have come earlier to greet you. I'm really sorry for keeping you waiting." Master Soh was interestingly respectful to Fade.

"Master Soh, that's very kind of you." Fade chuckled and shot a questioning glance towards Manager Liu.

Manager Liu was equally baffled as he stared back at Fade and flicked his gaze towards Master Soh instead. Master Soh had initially arranged to meet Fade in private, but instead, he came to see him publicly. There must be something going on.

The sound of the guests shifting in their seats and their chatter about Master Soh's appearance suddenly filled the hall.

"He's a member of Encyclo Hall Clan, and he's also Manager Liu's boss. He's a real big shot!"

"Encyclo Hall Clan is the pinnacle of all Earth Level Clans. It's undeniably a powerful clan."

"I've heard a lot about Lathrob Soh. Apparently, he is a martial arts expert himself, and he has already reached the final stage of the Earth Level!"

"Why would such an important figure turn up at this moment just to talk to Fade?"

"Well, maybe they were talking about some kind of business!"

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Just as everyone was busy guessing, Lathrob grinned at Fade and then instructed Manager Liu, "Exempt Mr. Chen from the four billion yuan charge for the final auction item! We'll gift it to him free of charge."

"What? Free of charge!" Manager Liu gasped.

To think that Lathrob would exempt such a massive sum of payment from Fade! After all, this wasn't an insignificant amount of

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money, but an enormous asset worth four billion yuan.

As for most of the guests who were sitting in the back rows, even their net worths did not reach four billion yuan.

But now, Lathrob was actually willing to let go of Fade's four billion yuan debt with a single order. What he did was truly incredible.

Even Fade himself gaped at Lathrob astonishingly. "Master Soh, I... I appreciate your generosity. However, rules are rules, so I'll pay for the item!"

Lathrob smirked and waved his hand dismissively. "Mr. Chen, please don't mind. Four billion yuan is nothing to Encyclo Hall. In fact, it is our honor to befriend you, as our friendship is far more valuable than four billion yuan."

Then, he turned to Manager Liu and ordered, "Please carry on and complete the paperwork. If they were to audit the amount, tell them it's on me."

"Alright, Master Soh!" Manager Liu bobbed his head as he quickly completed the formalities. Shortly after, he handed Fade a custom-made card and said, "Mr. Chen, this is the ticket for the consultation session with Encyclo Hall. You may consult us at any time as long as you show us the card."

Fade dipped his chin in acknowledgment as he slipped the card into his pocket and thanked him.

The guests below stage drew in sharp breaths as they watched. Their faces were full of surprise.

At the same time, the Luo family, who had just mocked Fade for buying only a piece of information with four billion yuan, were so shocked that they were at a loss for words. They could only watch everything with dark expressions on their faces.

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Barton turned to Dormer and hissed, "Father, don't overthink it. Even if that kid was lucky enough to save four billion yuan, it doesn't matter. After all, he offended the Hsing family, and they are not the people to be trifled with. When the time comes and the Hsing family seeks revenge, he probably won't live long enough to spend his money anymore."

"Exactly!" Sandra echoed.

Dormer's downcast face turned slightly more pleasant when he heard Barton's explanation.

Just when Fade was ready to leave after accepting the card, he heard a familiar cry. "Instructor Chen."

A figure came running over from backstage and approached Fade eagerly. "Instructor Chen."

Fade narrowed his eyes to make out the person's face. He raised his eyebrows as he realized that the person was Romeo.

"Romeo, why are you here? What's the matter?"

Romeo replied with a delighted smile, "Instructor Chen, my father wants to see you. I know that you are here to attend the auction, so I brought him here."

Then, he turned around to look behind him, as if he was expecting someone. A burly man in his late forties walked out from the dark.

The crowd gasped in astonishment as they saw the man. Almost everyone at the scene knew who he was.

That man was Harmon Hsing—the head of the Hsing family in Capital City, and Romeo's father. Although the Hsing family had kept a low profile, due to their relations with the hidden family, Harmon had an extremely prominent reputation in the capital.

Even the Luo family's Old Master Dormer's status was far inferior to Harmon's.

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"Hello, Mr. Hsing!" Fade greeted.

The man laughed and patted Fade on the shoulder. "You are Fade, right? Romeo has told me about you. Because of your positive influence, Fade, he grew up and dropped his arrogant attitude. I really have to thank you for this!"

"Master Hsing, it was nothing. I didn't do anything." Fade chuckled.

"Fade, I can't thank you enough. Please, call me Uncle." Harmon patted Fade's shoulder again. "Come, let's go in and have a chat."

Lathrob nodded in agreement at the side. "There's a reception room inside. Let's go in."

Fade was satisfied with the arrangement. He walked between the two elderly men and went inside.

The guests outside, who were still seated in the hall, stared at them with their jaws wide open.

"What... what's going on? How come even the head of the Hsing family knows Fade?"

"Their relationship isn't that simple. It seems like they have a close friendship!"

"What connections does the kid have? Even Master Soh and Harmon Hsing favor him."


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The crowd was confused by what they just witnessed, and the Luo family was just as shocked.

Especially Barton, who had just made fun of Fade for offending the Hsing family, and predicted that Fade would not have a good end. At this moment, his jaw dropped so wide that he couldn't think of anything to say.

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The other Luo family members stared at Fade as he left the hall, rendered speechless by the special treatments he had received throughout that day.

They couldn't understand why the Hsing family, who was supposed to be Fade's enemy, suddenly treated him so kindly. 

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Chapter 1404

Everyone's questioning gaze focused on her. "Sandra, you were the one who told us that Fade offended the Hsing family. Tell us, what is going on now?"

Sandra, who was equally confused, waved her hand in a panic and blurted, "I-I don't know! Fade did offend Romeo at that time. Audrea's brother, Johnson, said so himself. I swear!"

"In that case, how do you explain this?" One of the family members questioned.

"Fade is very close to Master Soh, and he calls Harmon his uncle. His connections and backing are even more powerful than our family's! Since we have offended Fade, I'm afraid..." Someone said worriedly.

Another family member lowered his head in remorse, "Fade used to be courteous to our family. He even offered his nourishing pills in exchange for information. But instead, we... Alas, if we chose to trust him back then, our family would have achieved greater heights!"

They shouldn't have said those things, especially in Dormer's face. Witnessing Fade's success was already hurtful to the Luo family, and listening to their remarks was like rubbing salt into their wounds.

Dormer's face turned pale, and his expression stiffened. He collapsed onto his seat and didn't say a word. He was shattered.

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On the other hand, Fade, Lathrob and Harmon were in the lounge located backstage, chatting while enjoying a nice cup of tea.

Fade thanked Lathrob and Harmon for their kindness and asked if they had anything he could help with. After all, he knew that no one would be kind to him with no motive. Although some things seemed transactional, it was understandable.

Lathrob and Harmon took the hint and immediately corrected him with a smile, "We truly don't have any other intentions, Fade. We just wanted to have a chat with you after our chat with Baldrick. Also please, send our regards to Master Hsuanyuen."

Fade finally understood why Lathrob and Harmon took great notice of him. They knew about his relationship with Aldred from Baldrick, so they treated him kindly.

He sighed quietly as he thought about Aldred. To him, he was just a wretched and shameless scoundrel, and he would never have thought that he was revered by many.

Fade complied as he nodded, "I'll send him your regards."

"I really appreciate it, Fade."

"Thank you."

Lathrob and Harmon's faces lit up as they heard his reply.

Without further ado, Fade skipped the pleasantries and went straight to business. He pulled out the consultation card that he received and began to inquire about Joey's parents.

As soon as Lathrob received Fade's queries, he opened up a secret passage and ordered Manager Liu to retrieve the related information.

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In less than 15 minutes, Manager Liu returned with a customized USB flash drive and handed it to Fade with both hands, "Mr. Chen, here is the information we've found based on the details you provided."

Fade's heart pounded heavily against his chest as he accepted the flash drive. He was overwhelmed with emotion.

"Thank you!" He slipped it into his pockets, stood up, and bid goodbye to Lathrob and Harmon before leaving the auction house.

When Fade returned to the school dormitory, he did not check the contents in the USB flash drive. Instead, he called Joey and told her about it.

She immediately rushed to Fade's apartment as soon as she received the news.

The two of them quickly sat in front of the computer, plugged in the USB flash drive, and entered the password to access the files. A document appeared as soon as they hit the enter button.

Joey gripped the computer mouse tightly and hovered the cursor over the document. Her hands trembled uncontrollably as she was about to click it.

Fade noticed her hands shaking. He inched closer and patted her on the shoulder softly. "Joey, relax."

"Let me do it." He took over the mouse and clicked on the document.

A window filled with dense text popped up on the screen, with a few pictures and links attached.

The two of them held their breaths as they stared at the screen and read through the content attentively.

They finally finished reading the document after half an hour. Joey's face turned pale, and her eyebrows raised skeptically, as if the contents in the article was hard to believe.

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Fade rubbed her shoulders and said, "Joey, if you're still unconvinced, we will go to the Luo family tomorrow to confirm this with them."

"This... I..." She hesitated.

"If you still can't make a decision, then don't. You should rest. Don't overwork yourself," he said softly when he saw the troubled expression on her face, "You can make a decision when you feel better."

"Okay," she nodded half-heartedly as her eyes filled with unspeakable sadness.

"Lie down and rest if you're tired. You can sleep here tonight," he looked at her and said.

She was silent for a while before she tilted her head gently and stretched out her arms. "I want you to carry me, Fade!" She said as she pouted her lips.

What she did reminded Fade of when they were growing up on Tianwu Mountain.

Joey was five years younger than him. When she was little, she would always follow him wherever he went, stretching out her arms and asking him to carry her, just like what she was doing now.

His heart softened. He gently leaned over and wrapped her in his arms.

Her body felt soft against his, and she smelled nice. However, he held no impure thoughts about her. He tenderly picked her up and put her on the bed, "Rest well, Joey," he whispered.

She was unwilling to let go, and her arms wrapped around his neck tightly. She hugged him and pulled him onto the bed. "Fade, I want you to hold me until I fall asleep, just like when we were kids."

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"Alright. I'll hug you to sleep. Little Joey, let me tell you a story." He held her in his arms and told her a bedtime story from when they were kids, "A long, long time ago, in a faraway land..."

The next morning, a golden beam of sunlight shone through the window and hit Fade's face. He slowly forced his eyes open as he laid lazily on the bed.

As he slowly opened his eyes, he felt something soft in his arms. He looked down and realized that Joey was snuggling against him, sound asleep with a faint smile on her peaceful face.

He glanced further down and accidentally caught sight of her soft and fair skin under her collar. His gaze wavered, and he looked away as he withdrew his arm gently, not wanting to wake her up.

However, she was startled by his movements. She flinched and rubbed her sleepy eyes. When she saw him lying beside her as she opened her eyes, she shrieked, "Fade, what are you doing on my bed? Were you trying to do anything inappropriate to me?"

She swiftly covered her chest with both hands and stared at him warily. Her dark eyes sized him up as if she was looking at a criminal.

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Chapter 1405

Fade chortled at Joey's reaction and tapped on her head, "Silly girl, take a closer look. This is my bed. Have you forgotten what happened last night?"

After he reminded her, she immediately recalled what happened the night before. Her pretty face flushed red in embarrassment, and she lowered her head coyly.

She quickly got off the bed and ran to the bathroom, "I'm going to wash up."

He was amused by her embarrassment and deliberately teased, "Joey, the story I told you last night was good, wasn't it? I'll tell you the story again next time."

She heard him from the bathroom and squealed. She turned on the tap on purpose, attempting to drown out his words with the gushing water, "Stop talking, I can't hear you! I can't hear anything; I don't know anything..."

After a while, she came out of the bathroom. Her cheeks were still flushed, and she looked embarrassed.

Fade stopped teasing her, and he became serious. He coughed and asked, "Joey, have you given a thought about whatever happened last night? Do you want to visit the Luo family?"

Her face darkened at his question, and she became silent.

He didn't force an answer from her. Instead, he quietly watched her from the side.



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A few minutes later, she glanced up at him as she nodded seriously and said, "Yes, let's visit the Luo family."

"Great, I'll let Gentro know!" He scrambled for his phone and searched for Gentro's number.

Both families were not on good terms. However, the Luo family was worried that they would be caught in the middle since Fade had offended the Hsing family. Harmon had shown favor to him the day before.

The Luo family had nothing to worry about. Therefore, he believed that as long as he made it clear that the Hsing family was on his side, there was no reason for the Luo family to shun him.

He thought about it and was about to make the call.

Just then, his phone rang. He looked at the caller ID, and saw that it was Gentro.

Fade was surprised. He picked up the phone, "Hello, Gentro. How can I help you?"

On the other end of the line, Gentro sounded a little anxious, "Mr. Chen, I-I'm sorry to disturb you. It's my grandfather. He wanted me to ask if you're free. We would like to apologize to you in person, so..."

He understood what Gentro was trying to say. The Luo family probably saw what happened the previous day and finally came to their senses. They now realized that Fade was not someone to be messed with, so they wanted to admit fault, apologize to him and get on his good side again.

He paused before he answered, "Yes, I'm free."

"That's great! May I know when would be a convenient time for you? We'll come to the school to apologize to you..."

"I am free now. There's no need to come to the school. I'll go to your house."



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"Alright, sure. I'll arrange for it right away. Mr. Chen, are you at school? Shall I send someone to pick you up?" Gentro quickly asked.

Fade nodded and replied, "Okay!"

He hung up the phone and turned to Joey, "Someone will be here to fetch us soon. We'll go to the Luo family and figure everything out."

"Okay!" She responded.

An hour later, they arrived at the Luo family's manor.

The only difference from their first visit to the Luo family was that almost everyone in the Luo family stood at the door and greeted them respectfully as they got out of the car.

"Mr. Chen and Miss Chen, please have a seat!" Dormer invited them to sit on the main seats when they entered the living room, as he stood respectfully before them.

Fade sat down without hesitation.

Then, Dormer hurriedly apologized to him, clasping his hands before his chest. "Mr. Chen, we wrongly believed the rumors and realized that we were being misled. Our family misunderstood you, Mr. Chen, and we made a huge mistake. For this, we apologize to you and ask for your forgiveness."

Dormer waved his hand as he spoke, and two figures came in bowing. They walked towards Fade and knelt with a thud. Their backs were exposed, and there were thorns tied to their backs that were cutting their flesh open. Blood oozed from their wounds.

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Fade examined their faces and immediately recognized them. They were Sandra and Borton, the father and daughter who enjoyed making fun of him.

Now, they came to him, completely humbled.

"Mr. Chen, we were wrong. We sincerely apologize and ask for your forgiveness," The two knelt in front of him and pleaded.

Fade looked at them and was silent for a while. In the end, he sighed softly and waved his hand, "Let bygones be bygones. Please stand up!"

The Luo family beamed with joy as they heard his response. They quickly clasped their hands together to thank him and then stood up.

His eyes glinted as he thought about their reactions. It didn't matter whether or not the Luo family's apology was sincere. They did put on an interesting show. Besides, there was no need for him to hold a grudge against the Luo family.

What's more, if Joey's matters were real, she and the Luo family would be more closely related. Hence, he couldn't risk ruining his relationship with the family anymore.

"I would like to take my sister to the Luo family's ancestral shrine for the matter we discussed before. Can we go now?"

Dormer bowed and answered quickly, "Yes, of course. Mr. Chen and Miss Chen, please follow me!"

They got up and followed Dormer to the Luo family's ancestral shrine.

They arrived at the ancestral shrine, passed the mourning hall, and finally came to the library behind the shrine. Fade and Joey began to search for information about the Luo family based on the corresponding clues.

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An hour later, they came out of the ancestral shrine, and they looked serious. They stared at the Luo family strangely.

As they returned to the living room, Fade looked at Dormer and asked, "Master Luo, there's something I want to ask you but I'm not sure if it's a question you could answer."

"Mr. Chen, please ask. I will tell you everything I know," Dormer replied.

Fade nodded and glanced at Joey, "I would like to know about Daisy Luo. Please tell me about her!"

Everyone's facial expressions suddenly stiffened at the mention of Daisy Luo. For a moment, the room was silent, and no one made a sound.

Seeing their response, Fade snorted, "If you don't want to talk about it, then forget it."

Dormer quickly replied, "No, no. We are willing to talk about it. We're very willing to."

He glanced at Fade and Joey, let out a long sigh, and then started to explain, "Daisy was my youngest daughter, and she was born after Leroy and Borton, my two sons. She was clever since she was a little girl, and she was the apple of my eye..."

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Fade listened attentively and finally figured out the whole story.

Daisy was Dormer's youngest daughter. She had always been smart, so he doted on her and trained her to one day bring honor to their family.

However, much to his surprise, Daisy was not interested in running a business, even though she was extremely clever and gifted. Instead, she was passionate about martial arts.

He disagreed with her interests at the start, but she was stubborn. She started learning martial arts secretly, and interestingly, displayed remarkable potential.

His attitude gradually softened as he noticed her talent and determination, and he began to accept the fact she was getting trained. Until later, when she became acquainted with Harold Chiang, a young martial artist, the entire Luo family's attitude completely changed. They suddenly supported her to study martial arts and kept hinting for her to take her relationship with Harold to the next level.

The reason for their sudden change in attitude was because Harold had an exceptional background. He was from the Chiang family, a hidden family.

Although the Luo family was considered influential, they could never compare to bigger and more powerful families like the hidden family.

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The Luo family would be thrilled if Daisy and Harold were romantically involved. Even Dormer himself had gone to visit the Chiang family in person to push things forward in secrecy.

What made things easier was that Harold seemed to fancy Daisy as well, and he agreed to consider marrying her. To the Luo family, it was good news. They cheered in excitement and treated Daisy as if she was a precious treasure.

However, she was neutral towards Harold. She clarified to her family that she only saw him as a friend from the martial arts circle and had no plans of dating him.

Harold and the Luo family couldn't be bothered. They believed that with Harold's status and capabilities, it was only a matter of time before he would win her heart.

At the Martial Arts Convention that same year, Harold planned to propose to Daisy in public after winning the championship. However, his plans were ruined when he lost the finals to an underdog - Moore Chen.

Initially, Moore was a nobody, but in a few years, he rose to become an outstanding young martial artist of his generation. Later, when people learned that he once entered the Dragon Mausoleum, they assumed that his martial arts directly related to it.

Harold and the Luo family were frustrated as their plan was foiled, and what made it even worse was that Daisy met Moore after he won the competition. The two fell in love at first sight and were completely smitten with each other. Moore even came to the Luo family for a marriage proposal.

As the new champion of the martial arts world, Moore's potential and capabilities were unmatched, and he would be a good match to Daisy.

However, the Luo family knew what sort of powerful background Harold came from, and they looked down upon Moore and



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immediately rejected his proposal. Then, they contacted the Chiang family and quickly arranged a marriage between Daisy and Harold, forcing her to marry into his family.

As one would expect, Daisy would never agree to be forced into marriage. The family fell into utter chaos. Eventually, she left on her wedding day and eloped with Moore.

What she did was a slap in the Luo family's face, and they saw her as a humiliation to their family. On the other hand, the Chiang family was furious. They immediately issued an order to hunt the two of them down and kill them afterward.

Although the Luo family was worried about Daisy's safety, they didn't dare confront the Chiang family. Therefore, they could only watch silently from the side without another word. After all, the Luo family was in the wrong. If the Chiang family blamed them, they would probably suffer tremendously.

After more than a year of searching, the Chiang family stopped their hunt. They announced that Moore and Daisy were killed, and it was the end of the chapter as the Chiang family had finally gotten their revenge.

The Luo family didn't dare to ask more. They silently accepted the news and trod cautiously since then.

Fearing that they might offend the Chiang family again, the Luo family covered up everything related to Daisy and forbade family members and outsiders from mentioning this again. They acted as if nothing happened, and Daisy never existed, until now.

When Fade and Joey came to the Luo family and mentioned Daisy's name, they were forced to reveal the past they buried for nearly twenty years.

Fade turned to look at Joey after Dormer finished the story. One of her clues was a piece of jewelry marked with a special pattern. The information they found from the Luo family's ancestral temple described it as a pattern unique to Daisy.

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If all of these were true, Joey's real identity was about to be unraveled.

She was undeniably Daisy's daughter, and there was a huge probability that Moore was her father, the underdog of that competition.

There was still so much more to find out. Did the Chiang family successfully murder Daisy and Moore? What exactly happened during all that, and why did they abandon Joey and sent her to his master? Only Daisy and Moore had the answers.

"Joey, are you okay?" Fade asked softly.

Her lips curled into a faint smile and her eyes were expressionless. She replied after pausing for a moment, "I'm fine, Fade."

He continued, "Then do you have anything else to ask the Luo family?"

Joey glanced at the Luo family. Initially, she wanted to ask more about Daisy. However, she was annoyed by the panic and fear in their eyes as they looked at her, so she lost interest in asking them about it.

Dormer was willing to force his daughter to marry Harold for his benefit, and he allowed the Chiang family to chase after his daughter to provide the so-called protection for his family. Joey felt disgusted by his actions and could not bear to take one more look at his cowardly face.

Fade and Joey did not want to linger any longer. They left the Luo family as soon as they could.

When they returned to school, he applied for a leave of absence on her behalf and rented a hotel room. He decided to let her stay in the hotel so that she could get better rest.

Fade continued attending classes in school while he carried on his training with the Five Elements Squad in the Stealth Team

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base.

Time flew by quickly, and the Martial Arts Convention was almost here. There were more martial artists in Capital City than usual. Almost all the hotels were occupied. Some of them came to participate in the competition, while some were just guests who came to watch.

A few days before the Martial Arts Convention began, Fade gave Jasmine special training, and sure enough, her combat skills improved significantly.

Although she was only a beginner at Black Level, she was cultivating a high-level technique that Fade was teaching her. Besides, she had a rare Green Wood Spirit. The combination of both made her positive energy much stronger than an ordinary martial art practitioner.

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Chapter 1407

With Jasmine's current combat skills, she could easily defeat an ordinary intermediate or even expert Black Level martial artist. The competition was only a day away. Fade did not let Jasmine continue her training. Instead, he wanted her to rest and prepare herself for the big day.

He also applied for a leave from school to prepare for the Martial Arts Convention.

As soon as he returned to his apartment, his phone rang. He sighed as he pulled out his phone. His eyes immediately widened as he saw the caller ID, and he picked up the phone. "Tom, it's been so long since the last time we talked!"

"Fade, how are you? It's been a while," Tom laughed on the other end of the line.

"Indeed. Is there anything I can do for you?" Fade asked.

Tom chuckled, "Well, I'm in Capital City. Are you free? I would like to invite you out for dinner."

"You're in Capital City?" Fade was surprised. "Why are you here? Forget it, since you invited me, we'll meet and talk in person! Where are you now?"

"Alright. I'm in St. Roland Hotel. Is it convenient for you to come over?"

Fade immediately answered, "St. Roland Hotel is not far from my place. Could you wait for me? I'll be there in half an hour."



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He immediately left for St. Roland Hotel as soon as he hung up the phone.

Shortly after, he arrived at the entrance of the hotel. Tom, who was waiting in front of the hotel, greeted him with a warm embrace as soon as he got out of the car. "Fade, you're here. I haven't seen you in ages," Tom said with a huge grin on his face.

"Yes, it's been too long," Fade gave him a huge pat on the back.

Tom gestured towards the entrance and said, "Brother Fade, I booked a private room. Let's go in and eat while we chat."

"Sure!" Fade nodded and walked into the hotel alongside him. "Tom, why are you here in Capital City?" He asked as they were heading towards the restaurant.

Tom replied with a smile, "Well, I came to Capital City this time for the Martial Arts Convention."

"The Martial Arts Convention," Fade was surprised.

Tom explained, "I've been travelling for more than a year, but I wasn't slacking off. I've been practicing martial arts, and now, my skills improved a lot."

Tom released some of his positive energy as he spoke.

Fade sensed that Tom had become a beginner of the Black Level. For a martial artist at his age, his achievement was remarkable.

"You've made great progress. I'm looking forward to your performance at the Martial Arts Convention," Fade patted his shoulder.

"Thank you for your kind words. I'm counting on that," Tom gave him a wink and smiled, "By the way, I came here with some friends. They are in the private room. You'll get to know them later."

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"That's great!" Fade replied cheerfully.

As they entered the private room, he saw three people sitting at a round table.

There were two men and one woman. One of the men looked slightly older than the others, about 34 or 35 years old. He looked composed and serious.

The other man and the woman seemed relatively young, about 25 to 26 years old.

Tom tilted his chin towards the young man and introduced, "Fade, this is Halge Xu."

Then the young woman, "This is Lillian Gui."

Finally, he gestured at the older man, "This is Hertzell Pei."

"We were acquainted through martial arts training. This time, we've come to Capital City to participate in the Martial Arts Convention together," Tom said excitedly.

Then, he introduced Fade to his friends, "Everyone, this is Fade. He's the Brother Fade whom I was telling you about."

Fade nodded and flashed a smile at them as Tom spoke. He stretched out his hand to greet them, "Hello, I'm Fade Chen."

However, the three of them looked at him suspiciously and then snorted. They sat in their seats, unwilling to stand up to greet him. They didn't seem very fond of him.

Especially the young man, Halge. The corner of his mouth curled into a sarcastic smile, "Tom, so this is the so-called powerful Brother Fade? I don't see anything powerful about him."

Tom's face darkened as he heard his remark. He glared at him and snarled, "Halge, are you doubting me? You're no match for



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Fade's capabilities."

"Is that so?" Halge was unconvinced. His body jerked, and a wave of positive energy gushed out. He looked towards Fade as if he was about to fight against him.

Lillian, who was standing at the side, chimed in, "Tom, you're not bluffing, right? Halge is a martial artist from the Three Fists Clan. He's not someone whom a self-taught martial artist can compete with!"

Fade sensed the energy of the two people. Halge was roughly an intermediate of the Black Level, whereas Lillian's was even weaker. She was only a beginner of the Black Level. To Fade, fighting against martial artists at this level would be like squashing ants.

He was disinterested in them. He turned his head away after he took a glance at their faces.

However, what he did seemed cowardly in their eyes, and they got more arrogant. They sneered at him.

"What's the matter? Are you backing down? Are you too afraid to go up against me?"

"Tom, you are bluffing about your Brother Fade. I'm a little disappointed with how he is behaving now!"

"Halge, Lillian, you've crossed the line. Brother Fade is a really powerful man. I believe he's not interested in arguing with you, but please don't try him," Tom's face darkened as he glared at both of them.

Halge was furious. He slammed the table and stood up as he yelled, "Tom, you are the one who crossed the line! You told us that you'll be introducing an expert to us, but you brought this guy here. It's such a waste of our time."

Lillian pursed her lips. "That's right. The Martial Arts Convention is tomorrow. I'd rather spend a bit more time training while we



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have the time. What a waste of time to even be here. It's absolutely..."

"You..." Tom was so infuriated that he could barely control himself from slamming the table.

At this moment, Hertz, the composed man who was silent, frowned and chided, "That's it, stop bickering."

Obviously, Hertz was the most authoritative among them. Everyone shut their mouths and looked at him after he shouted.

Hertz said in a deep voice, "Since we agreed to work together, then don't make a fuss over such a small matter. We are self-learners, and we can't compare with those powerful ones. Thus, we must unite and depend on each other. Maybe then, we will have a chance to win. Do you understand?"

Tom nodded, but Lillian pouted and retorted unhappily, "Of course we have to unite, but we've agreed on four people, and now Tom brought another person. What does this mean? Does he want us to carry the group and share our resources with him? You know what, it took us a lot of effort to qualify for this Martial Arts Convention."

Halge bobbed his head approvingly as she spoke. Now, even Hertz frowned suspiciously at what she said.

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Chapter 1408

Tom's face darkened. He was about to explain.

Fade stood up, interrupting him. He looked at them and spat, "Don't you worry about me needing your resources. I am already qualified to participate in the Martial Arts Convention. I am not planning to steal anything from you!"

The three of them who stood across him were stunned by what he said. Their eyes widened as they gasped silently, but later, their facial expressions went from surprise to doubtful.

Fade noticed their skeptical expressions, but he did not feel the need to explain anything to them. He patted Tom's shoulder and smiled, "I've got stuff to do, and I have to go back to school now. Let's talk after the Martial Arts Convention!"

"Fade, I..." Tom hurriedly got up to persuade him to stay, but when he caught sight of the look on his three friends' face, he stopped himself, "I'll walk you out, Brother Fade."

"Alright!" He nodded, and the two of them left the room.

As they reached the hotel entrance, Tom furrowed his brows at Fade apologetically. "I'm terribly sorry. I just wanted to introduce my friends to you. I didn't expect that they..."

"It's alright. Those in the martial arts circle always put their interests first. Besides, there's nothing wrong with them being vigilant," Fade laughed it off as he waved his hand dismissively. "You should prepare yourself and give it all you got in the Martial

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Arts Convention tomorrow."

"Alright, I will." Tom bobbed his head as he watched Fade enter the car and left the hotel.

Halge and Lillian were busy scarfing down food when Tom returned to the room. When he got back, he was infuriated by their attitude, and he glared at the two of them. "Halge, Lillian, what was that all about? I invited Brother Fade here, but why did you two do that?"

Lillian slowly put down her bowl and chopsticks and sneered. She glanced towards Tom and said, "Tom, don't pretend anymore. You have been bragging non-stop about your Brother Fade throughout our journey. It was just a trick to convince us to take him with us to participate in the Martial Arts Convention. However, you have to know that we worked hard to earn our resources and the qualifications. Did you ask us before you decided to share them with an outsider?"

"That was not my intention. Besides, Brother Fade is a strong martial artist. He doesn't need my help if he wants to participate in the Martial Arts Convention. You worry too much," Tom defended.

However, the two of them remained unconvinced. "Fade? Strong? You must be joking. I probed how capable he was when he came in, and I couldn't detect any trace of positive energy. I could tell that he was a nobody with just one look at his face. You've got to be kidding!"

"That's right, Tom. You fawned over us to partner with you. Don't forget where you stand," Lillian said coldly.

"You two..." Tom clenched his fists so tight that his knuckles cracked. He was trying hard not to start a fight.

At this moment, Hertzell slammed the table and warned, "The Martial Arts Convention is tomorrow. Now is not the right time to fight among ourselves. Let's talk about it after the competition."

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Tom looked at them, and his face turned dark. He swung his arm and turned away to leave the private room. "I've lost my appetite. I'll go back to my room to rest."

The three of them stared at Tom as he left. Halge tilted his chin towards Hertzal as he complained, "Hertzal, it looks like you chose the wrong person to be on our team!"

Lillian quickly chimed in, "I thought that he was an honest and hardworking person who was willing to put in the grind, but little did I know that he had other intentions."

Hertzal frowned and hesitated, "The Martial Arts Convention is about to begin. Let's talk about it later."

"Then we'll have to endure this brat for a few more days," Halge and Lillian snorted.

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Fade got up early the next morning and left Capital University with Jasmine. They drove to the Martial Arts Convention.

The Convention was happening at Swallow Lake this year, located in the northern suburbs of Capital City. The suburban district was sparsely populated and surrounded by scenery which was beautiful and suitable to be used for a Martial Arts Convention.

Fade saw a lot of cars driving towards Swallow Lake. The passengers in those cars were martial artists with majestic positive energy. Some of the arrogant ones even released their positive energy as they were still in their vehicles to show off and challenge others.

They finally arrived at their destination after an hour and a half of driving.

Fade parked his car and walked towards the lake nearby to take a look at the venue. Rows of spectator seats had been set up

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around Swallow Lake, and they were divided into separate areas for the participants and guests.

Several steel fighting rings were set up on the lake. These were the arena for the competition. In the middle of the lake was a two-story arena. This would be the main arena for the Martial Arts Convention.

The match had not started yet, but many people gathered around Swallow Lake. Some of the martial artists were busy greeting their old friends, whereas some made new acquaintances.

A few smart business owners took the opportunity to set up stalls by the lake. They were selling all kinds of products: cultivation methods, martial arts techniques, weapons, and pills.

As expected, there were also various kinds of gambling stalls.

Among them, the most popular one was the bet on Martial Arts Convention's winner. The popular candidates were selected beforehand, and their information was displayed at the gambling stall. Everyone was busy analyzing and discussing the possibility of the candidates winning the championship as they decided who to place their bets.

At that moment, Tom, Halge, Lillian, and Hertzelt were walking towards a large gambling stall.

Halge and Lillian looked at the stall with interest as they walked over. "Let's go and place our bets too!" Halge suggested.

Lillian quickly supported him, "Yeah, if we can win the bet, even if we lost the match, our trip will still be worth it."

Tom wasn't interested initially, but he followed Heertzel unwillingly when he saw him walking towards the two of them.

The stall owner promoted enthusiastically as he saw new customers walking towards his stall, "Lady and gentlemen, would you like to place your bet?"

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Halge raised his eyebrows, "We don't know much about the candidates. Could you please introduce them to us?"

The stall owner was amiable. He patted his chest and said, "Of course! Look, the twenty people on the ranking board are the popular candidates for the championship this year. They are basically the top twenty of the Dragon List."

"Who is the most popular person?" Lillian cut in. She was too impatient to let the stall owner finish his explanation.

The owner smiled and pointed his finger at the top of the list, "Young Master Faxon is the most popular candidate."

"Why is it so?" Halge asked.

"Young Master Faxon is from the Martial Arts League, and he ranks second on the Dragon List. Besides, rumour has it that he is related to the hidden family. Such a powerful person is, of course, the most popular one."

Halge, Guilian, and even Hertzels eyes lit up with excitement when they heard the stall owner's explanation.

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Chapter 1409

The stall owner immediately asked when he saw their faces, "Would you like to bet on Young Master Faxon? He's almost a sure win!"

Their eyes shifted between the stall owner's encouraging gaze and the customers around them who were placing their bets. Most of them were betting on Faxon. Although the payoff was low, the risk of losing was low. As long as they placed a huge enough amount of money into the bet, they would probably win big.

They got excited as they thought about this.

Halge and Lillian glanced at each other, then pulled out their bank cards, "We'll bet on Faxon, 50 million each." They handed their bank cards to the stall owner.

Hertzel, who remained silent the whole time, also reached for his bank card. He waved the card in front of the stall owner and said, "I'll bet a hundred million."

As the three of them were about to place their bets, Tom knitted his eyebrows, his face was full of concern and he asked, "Do you want to give it a second thought? This is too risky."

Halge glanced at Tom and said, annoyed, "How can you call yourself a martial artist? You're too much of a coward to even place a bet!"



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"That's right. No wonder you're so weak, Tom. You're not even a match for Halge and Hertzal," Lillian mocked.

Hertzal shot a look at Tom and said, "Tom, it's fine if you don't want to place a bet. It's absolutely your choice." His tone was calm.

The three quickly placed their bets after going through the paperwork.

Tom's face grew weary as he suddenly thought of something. "By the way, boss, you said that Faxon is the most popular candidate, but he is only ranked second on the Dragon List. What about number one on the Dragon List? Why isn't he among the more popular candidates?" He blurted.

Halge and Lillian paused and hesitated as they heard his question. They looked at each other with skepticism and panic on their faces. After all, they had just placed their bets. If another popular candidate suddenly appeared, it was already too late for them to change their bets.

They turned to stare at the stall owner accusingly.

The stall owner chuckled and replied, "I figured that none of you are from the Capital City. You don't know much about how the Dragon List works, do you?"

"You're right, we're not from Capital City." They nodded.

The stall owner immediately explained, "Well, everyone was certain that Faxon would be number one when the Dragon List was announced. However, an underdog appeared, beat Faxon and became number one on Dragon List. His name is Fade Chen."

"Fade Chen!" Tom gasped in surprise as he heard the name. He immediately thought of the Fade he knew. "Could this Fade be my Brother Fade?" He thought.

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Halge and Lillian knew what Tom was thinking and sneered at him.

"Tom, are you being silly? How can your uncivil friend be number one on the Dragon List?"

"Haha! Tom, you must have been overwhelmed by what happened yesterday. Are you too desperate to find a capable friend?"

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Tom frowned and ignored their insults. Instead, he continued to ask the stall owner, "Boss, Fade ranks first on the Dragon List, but why is he not one of the more popular candidates? Did he not participate in the Martial Arts Convention?"

The boss shook his head. "No, it's not like that. In fact, according to the information we got, he will be participating in the competition. However, we have little information on him before he was ranked first on the Dragon List. We couldn't find any public records of his combat history. Therefore, we don't know what he is capable of. Besides, rumors said that he was ranked number one in Dragon List because he has connections with the Martial Arts League."

"Anyway, Fade, who is ranked number one on the Dragon List, did not display convincing combat skills. Thus, he wasn't listed as one of the more popular candidates."

A few of the customers beside them also nodded in agreement. They began to discuss Fade and Faxon. From their discussion, they seemed to look up to Faxon, but doubted Fade.

Fade was a nobody who suddenly came in first on the Dragon List, and this was enough to cause a stir. The people were not wrong to doubt his abilities. It was natural for them to do so.

The stall owner stared at Tom, who was nodding half-heartedly, and said with a smile, "What do you think, young man? Do you want to place a bet too? You will definitely win if you bet on Young Master Chiang."

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Tom hesitated but finally shook his head and said, "Forget it, I am not interested."

The stall owner immediately turned his head away as he heard Tom's reply. He suddenly became disinterested in him.

Tom strode off. Halge and the other two approached him, holding their bets in their hands.

"Tom, are you short of money? I'll lend you some to place a bet. Remember to give me 5% interest when you win the money!" Halge giggled.

Lillian snorted, "I thought you were a generous person, but who knew you're a stingy guy."

Tom frowned and ignored them as he was about to speed up his pace. However, at this moment, he heard someone calling him, "Tom!"

He turned around and saw Fade. He was walking towards them with a friendly grin on his face.

Tom returned his greeting with a surprised smile, "Brother Fade, why are you here?"

"Didn't I tell you yesterday? I registered for the Martial Arts Convention," Fade smiled at him with his arms crossed in front of his chest.

"This, I..." Tom was embarrassed as he was reminded of what happened the day before. Halge and the others were mocking Tom and constantly reminded him of how difficult it was for them to qualify for the Martial Arts Convention. He was so influenced by them that he thought that Fade wouldn't be able to participate.

Halge, Lillian, and Hertzels' faces darkened as they saw Fade. A look of displeasure painted across their faces.

"You're participating in the Martial Arts Convention? Haha! Are you trying to pull something?"

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"It'll be so embarrassing once he gets exposed for what he is. However, some people are thick-faced, so they don't mind being humiliated! Haha!"

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Tom brushed off their insults and walked towards Fade. Then, he noticed Jasmine, who was standing beside Fade. His eyes widened in surprise. "Brother Fade, this is..."

Fade smiled and said, "This is my friend, Jasmine Zhuo. She's here to attend the Martial Arts Convention and practice her skills."

"Jasmine, this is Tom Wei, a good friend of mine," Fade introduced as he gestured towards Tom.

Jasmine nodded at him and bowed. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Wei. I'm Mr. Chen's student. He's the one who taught me martial arts."

Tom quickly waved his hand and replied, "Miss Zhuo, there's no need to be so formal. You can call me Tom."

Halge and the others were also drawn to Jasmine's beauty.

Especially Halge and Hertz. When they saw Jasmine, a young, innocent and coy looking lady, their eyes lit up, and their hearts raced.

"Fade has such dumb luck. How did he get such a beautiful female student?"

"D*mn, why am I not as lucky? I'm so much better than him."

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Chapter 1410

On the other hand, Lillian snorted coldly as jealousy was written all over her face, "What a joke. He doesn't even have the capability, yet he still dares to accept students. I'd like to see what she learned from a teacher like him."

Fade disregarded their remarks. Instead, he turned to Tom and said, "Time's almost up, and we'll need to go in soon. Our seats are right there. Do you want to join us, Tom?"

He shook his head. "My seat is right here, Brother Fade."

"Alright then. I'll see you after the competition." Fade waved goodbye to Tom and led Jasmine towards their seats.

He turned around and walked towards his seat too.

Lillian stood next to him, still jealous and displeased. She stared at Fade and Jasmine as they left and spat, "That's the VIP area for the participants from the Martial Arts League. Look at him deliberately walking over there. Tell him to stop pretending. What a joke!"

"It'll be interesting if they get thrown out later," Halge stared at them enthusiastically as if he was waiting to watch something good.

Tom furrowed his brows, attempting to defend Fade.

However, at this moment, they spotted a man and a woman waving at Fade as they walked quickly towards him and greeted him

07:45 

warmly.

"You're finally here, Mr. Chen. This way, please."

"Hello, Mr. Chen. This must be Miss Zhuo. Please have a seat!"

Such greetings were normal under normal circumstances. However, everyone was confused as the two people were greeting Fade warmly.

Both of them were Galeno's disciples, Hollace and Lucille. Both of them possessed remarkable strength and were ranked 12th and 18th respectively on the Dragon List. They were also two of the more popular candidates betted on as the Martial Arts Convention's winner.

To receive such warm treatment from two popular star contestants was a great honor. Inevitably, Fade attracted everyone's attention, and of course, their doubtful glances.

Something clicked in Tom's mind as he watched them from afar. He glanced towards him and exclaimed, "Could Brother Fade be the Fade who ranked first on the Dragon List?"

Halge and the others snickered at his claim.

"Tom, are you out of your mind? That guy could never come first on the Dragon List. You're kidding, right?"

"Lucille and Hollace greeting him doesn't mean anything. Perhaps he used some alternative measures. I've seen too many people like him pretending to be someone they are not, just to impress others. Haha!"

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07:45 

"But..." Tom felt that his hunch was right.

As he watched Fade exchanging pleasantries with Hollace and Lucille, a group of men in uniforms walked past him.

Halge and his group stared at the group of men in uniforms. Their eyes filled with reverence and admiration, "It's the Stealth Team's Five Elements Squad!"

Noticing the group, the passersby pointed towards them and started talking about them.

"The Five Element Squad is here. They're incredible. No wonder they're the elites of the Stealth Team!"

"Of course. The five captains of the Five Elements Squad are all in the top twenty on the Dragon List. They're also among the more popular candidates for this competition."

"But the Fire Squad captain, Lester, has been replaced. I heard it has something to do with their new instructor."

"Yes, I heard about it too. Their instructor was supposed to be the Gold Squad's captain, Romeo, but they replaced him with another person in the end. No one knows who the new guy is."

"An instructor to the Five Elements Squad must be someone powerful."

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Amidst the crowd's discussion, the Five Elements Squad marched towards the VIP area and walked towards Fade. They stood at attention and saluted in unison, "Good morning, Instructor!" they shouted.

Fade nodded and muttered, "Okay. We're in public, relax. Don't be so serious."

"Yes, Instructor Chen!" The Five Elements Squad replied.

07:45 

Then, they began to chat and laugh.

When the others saw their exchange, they immediately fell into a heated discussion.

"Did you hear that? The Five Elements Squad just called the young man their instructor. Is he the new instructor for the Five Elements Squad?"

"He looks so ordinary. Does he have what it takes to be their instructor?"

"Don't judge a book by its cover. Those who can be instructors are definitely something."

"Yeah. Besides, Lucille and Hollace were very friendly towards him. He must be somebody powerful."

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As the crowd was buzzing in excitement about Fade, Tom was overwhelmed with disbelief. "This, I..." His eyes widened as he yelled in excitement, "Brother Fade is really Fade Chen, first on the Dragon List!"

Halge and the others frowned as they heard Tom yell. Instinctively, they wanted to refute Tom. Based on their impression of Fade, he was too ordinary, and he would never be number one on the Dragon List.

However, they couldn't explain why Hollace and Lucille were so respectful towards him and why the Five Elements Squad called him their instructor.

There could only be one reason. Fade was really first on the Dragon List. There was no other explanation.

"Could it be that the kid really is..." Hertzels face was filled with incredulity as he asked weakly.

"No, it can't be..."

07:45 

"That's impossible. How..."

Halge and Lillian were still unconvinced.

Just then, a staff member approached Fade, "Are you Fade Chen, first on the Dragon List? Please sign here to register."

Fade nodded, picked up the pen, and swiftly signed on the paper.

This confirmed Fade's identity. Those who were doubtful towards him stared at him with astonishment as they tried to digest the news.

"H-How is this possible? He... He is really first on the Dragon List." Halge and Lillian's jaws dropped as they cried out in disbelief. Shortly after, their faces darkened in fear. "W-We have offended him. If..."

Even Hertzel, who was always calm, couldn't hide the anxiety on his face.

Just when everyone was surprised and worried, Fade chatted for a while.

Suddenly, someone let out a hearty laugh, "You must be Fade!"

Fade turned his head towards the voice and saw a burly man in his sixties. The man had a huge grin on his face as he walked towards him. He patted Fade's shoulder. "Fade, I've been looking forward to meeting you."

Hollace and Lucille hurriedly explained, "Mr. Chen, this is our master."

Fade's heart skipped. He knew Galeno was their master. He was one of the leaders of the Martial Arts League, a Heaven Level Late Stage expert, and the sixteenth on the Divine Dragon List.

"Nice to meet you, Master Zhu!" Fade bowed and greeted him respectfully.

07:45 

Galeno patted him on the back and laughed, "Don't be so formal, boy. You can call me Old Zhu." 