

Isn't he supposed to be badly beaten up?

Isn't he supposed to be lying in a gully somewhere?

How is it possible for him to be here?

As they looked at the young man who was once again standing before them, both Wang Yu and Liu Jia-Wei were dumbstruck.

And Liu Jia-Wei's expression turned as sombre as a graveyard.

In the end, he did not say a word. But when he turned around to glare at Wang Yu, his eyes looked like they were about to spit fire. The look on Liu Jia-Wei's face seemed to be saying, "You idiot! How did you manage to fail such a simple task? You can't even deal with a country bumpkin! Why should I keep you around?"

All his plans had come to nothing. Just then, Liu Jia-Wei was so angry that he wished he could kick Wang Yu to death.

Wang Yu felt aggrieved and grimaced helplessly to show that he had no idea what had gone wrong.

“Fan, why did you come only now? We have been waiting a long time for you.” Chen Nan looked at Ye Fan and asked in mock anger. When Ye Fan had failed to show up on time, she had worried that he had fallen prey to Zhao Wu-Ji’s men.

Ye Fan smiled indifferently and said, “It’s nothing. I ran into a little trouble and got delayed. It is all thanks to Young Master Liu that I am able to return safe and sound.”

Ye Fan’s words contained a barb so, naturally, Liu Jia-Wei got even more unhappy. He snorted coldly and scolded under his breath: “Hmph, you got lucky this time, country bumpkin. But you might not enjoy such good luck the next time.”

While the group was chatting away, the hall suddenly went silent.

“Ye Fan, look. The VIPs are going to make their entrance.”

Li Xiao-Hong’s face was flushed bright red. This was her first time attending such a grand event, so it was only natural for her to get excited.

And just as she had said, a dozen or so female greeters in cheongsams hurried forward and lined up in two rows after they had received their order. And then, they waited there respectfully.

Beneath their feet, the brand new red carpet extended for several dozen meters from the center of the hall to outside the building.

At this moment, within the enormous hall, everyone's gaze was focused on the entrance.

Everyone was filled with reverence as they awaited the arrival of the VIPs.

Finally, as Li Er made his entrance, the hitherto quiet hall erupted into a frenzy.

"Ye Fan, look!"

"That is Master Li Er! Master Li Er!"

"That is Master Li Er from Yunzhou! Our city!"

Li Xiao-Hong had gotten very agitated. After all, this was her first time seeing Master Li Er of Yunzhou from such a close

distance. Her face was flushed bright red and, in her excitement, her hand that was clutching the corner of Ye Fan's shirt started to tremble.

When Chen Nan saw this, she covered her mouth and giggled. "Xiao-Hong, look at how silly you look now."

"You probably do not know, but this fellow in front of you is a personage more powerful than Master Li Er of Yunzhou."

"Ha? Miss Chen Nan, are you talking about him?" Wang Yu asked as he turned his head to look mockingly at Ye Fan. Clearly, he had overheard Chen Nan's conversation with Li Xiao-Hong.

"Haha~"

"Him?"

"He is just a country bumpkin. What kind of VIP is he?"

Wang Yu pointed at Ye Fan and spoke disdainfully, "You think he is more powerful than Master Li Er? If that is true, then Young Master Liu is the king of the world."

At this moment, he was laughing so hard that his side ached.

Liu Jia-Wei also snorted in ridicule, but he could not bring himself to be bothered with Ye Fan.

As for Li Xiao-Hong, she merely smiled faintly and said, "Nan-Nan, your jokes are really funny."

Fine~

Since no one believed her, Chen Nan did not bother to explain further.

In any case, Ye Fan was going to fight in the tournament later on. At that time, they would know just how radiant the "country bumpkin" they had been disparaging really was.

Ye Fan did not say anything. From the beginning, he had just been sitting quietly, listening quietly and observing quietly.

At this moment, the crowd erupted into an uproar again.

"Good heavens~"

“Master Lei San! That is Master Lei San from Jingzhou!”

“The ruler of Jingzhou~”

“His power and status are equal to that of Master Li Er of Yunzhou!”

“Whoa! Quick, look! Isn’t that Wang Jie-Xi of Haozhou?”

“The head of the Wang family!”

“The ruler of Haozhou?”

“I heard Wang Jie-Xi became the family head and started controlling Haozhou when he was just twenty-nine!”

“The Wang family is the number one family in Haozhou City.”

“Even somebody as important as him is here today!”

There was tumult everywhere and, in every corner of the hall, voices could be heard talking about the VIPs.

Each time a VIP appeared before the spectators, a reverent uproar would erupt

from somewhere among the crowd.

And finally, the mood within the hall peaked when the last two attendees made their appearance.

The whole place was in an uproar!

“Damn! That is Zhao Wu-Ji, the head of the Zhao family!”

“He is the number one tycoon in Jiangdong~”

“His personal wealth is estimated to be a hundred billion.”

“This is a big shot! A super big shot!”

“Damn! Chen Ao!”

“Master Ao of Jianghai!”

“The King of Jiangdong, Chen Ao?”

“Good heavens!”

“Even a big shot like him has come?”

“What is going on today?”

“Why are all the leaders of Jiangdong here?”

Inside the hall, all of the nearly ten thousand spectators were in a frenzy.

Before the appearance of the VIPs, they had only known that the fight today would be an extraordinary one. But this was beyond all their expectations.

It seemed the leaders of the eighteen cities of Jiangdong province had all gathered here.

Tonight, Mount Tai Hall had become the center of Jiangdong!

“Cheng-Cheng, did I hear it wrong?”

“Chen Ao is here too?”

“Good heavens!”

“The King of Jiangdong, Chen Ao?”

“What does he look like? I have never seen him before!”

“Is he good-looking? Does he have a son?”

“If I can successfully woo the son of Chen Ao, then wouldn’t I become the Queen of Jiangdong?”

Su Qian had lost herself in the throes of excitement. As the red-faced and bright-eyed girl clutched at the corner of her friend’s dress, she continued to chat away merrily.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was rendered speechless. She thought that her BFF was really vulgar, since the latter only valued either money or power.

“That’s enough. Stop looking.”

“You picked such lousy seats. Even if I jump, I still won’t be able to see what he looks like,” Qiu Mu-Cheng complained angrily.

Yes, both Qiu Mu-Cheng and Su Qian were seated at the very last row at the back of the hall. And their seats were at the corner that was furthest away from the ring where the fight was going to take place. Not only were their seats far away from the center of the hall, they also did not have a good line of sight to the front. If the spectators in front of them stood up or

moved about, then the two girls would not be able to see anything.

“There was nothing I could do about it. We came too late. I only managed to get these two tickets because I threw a tantrum in front of my brother,” Su Qian explained helplessly.

It could not be helped. The two girls had only decided to come yesterday. Since they had arrived late, it was not possible for them to get good seats.

Just then, all the Jiangdong leaders had already entered the venue one after another. Wherever they passed, cheers and reverential congratulations would erupt from the crowd. Eventually, their voices coalesced into a stream that shook the firmament around them.

What was power? This.

Just because one man entered the hall, a ten thousand strong crowd was driven into a frenzy! And just because he stood before them, they could not help but devote their attention to him!

From a distance away, Li Xiao-Hong gazed

at the VIPs who stood at the peak of society. Just then, a look of fascination could be seen in her beautiful eyes.

“Ye Fan, so they are the big shots?”

“No matter where they go, they exude such radiance. Wherever they are, they command attention and respect from everyone.”

“No matter how much I struggle, I will never be able to accomplish one tenth of what they have accomplished.”

Li Xiao-Hong exclaimed feelingly. From her words, one could feel a sense of inexplicable sense of dejection.

The society she lived in was really unkind to poor people like her. The rich and powerful had control over all sorts of resources. People without power or background, such as herself, faced an uphill battle if they wanted to climb up the ladder of success.

Perhaps, if she worked hard her whole life, she just might be able to pay off her mortgage.

“But Ye Fan, I think you will be able to succeed.”

“You may be poor and, right now, maybe you are still doing your best to make your way out of the darkness.”

“But I believe, in twenty years time, or maybe thirty years, you will become somebody like Master Li Er or Master Lei San. At that time, you too will stand in the limelight and everyone’s eyes will be on you.”

Li Xiao-Hong said this with a smile and, when she looked at Ye Fan, an unfathomable light sparkled in her eyes.

When she had first met Ye Fan, Li Xiao-Hong could sense an extraordinary aura exuding from him.

Since then, she had held an inexplicable confidence in him.

She knew that this young man, who had also come from a poor family in the countryside, would one day become an extraordinary person! It might take him many years, but she believed that he would be able to do it.

Chapter 144 What Is Power?



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Li Xiao-Hong remembered. Her first meeting with Ye Fan had taken place at Hongqi Bank.

At that time, she had really thought that Ye Fan was a low-profile scion of a wealthy family. After all, even her boss at the bank had treated him so courteously.

Afterward, at Sheng Tian Restaurant, Master Li Er had respectfully invited Ye Fan to dinner. That incident had further cemented her belief that Ye Fan was the scion of a wealthy family. But during their time here, he had revealed that he was actually the son of a poor countryside woman. And so, Li Xiao-Hong finally realized that she had been under a misunderstanding all along.

The truth was, Ye Fan was just like her. They were both from poor families.

People like them faced an immense amount of pressure and mockery, if they wanted to climb up the ladder of success. Li Xiao-Hong understood that more clearly than most people, because she too was the child of a rural farming family.

And Li Xiao-Hong finally understood why

Ye Fan had helped her with her work and obtained justice for her when they ran into each other at Sheng Tian Restaurant. He had done all that because he had seen a reflection of himself in her.

But Ye Fan was different from her.

Li Xiao-Hong could sense an extraordinary aura exuding from this man.

And that was why she believed that Ye Fan's future accomplishments would not be lesser than those of Master Li Er's and Master Lei San's.

However, when Wang Yu heard what she said, he laughed out loud.

"Him?"

"He wants to catch up to Master Li Er and Master Lei San?"

"What a joke!"

"Even if we give him thirty years, no, three hundred years, he is still not going to be able to do it."

"He is a country bumpkin and he is

destined to live out his life in squalor.”

“These days, a person without connections or background can never hope to succeed.”

“You can keep on daydreaming!”

Wang Yu laughed mockingly and then stared coldly at Ye Fan. “Ye Fan, I am not trying to put you down. But this is how our society works. There is a gap between the upper-class and the lower-class.”

“You are one of the lower class, so you should know your place and your own limits. Rather than devoting your thoughts to unrealistic endeavors, isn’t it better to spend your energy doing farm work at home? You should be thinking about things like getting a better harvest.”

“Miss Chen, am I right?”

“Haha~”

Wang Yu laughed heartily. After disparaging Ye Fan, he looked at Chen Nan and spoke in a sincere manner.

“Miss Chen, this is why when you are

looking for a partner, you should look for someone from a wealthy family. Someone like Young Master Liu, for example.”

“If you stay with a country bumpkin, then you will have to spend the rest of your life on a small plot of land in a farming village.”

“Everyday, you will look down on the soil and expose your back to the sun. You will do the most menial work and get the lowest return for your labor.”

“You will be doing the same work day in and day out. Is that the kind of life you want for yourself?”

Wang Yu did his best to flatter his young boss, and so the latter’s mood improved immensely. Liu Jia-Wei sat up straighter and, to show off his wealth, he rolled up his sleeve to reveal the Rolex watch on his wrist.

Chen Nan merely smiled and nodded her head. She did not reply to any of their questions.

From the beginning to the end, both Wang Yu and Liu Jia-Wei had no idea that Chen

Nan only saw them as buffoons.

Her father was the King of Jiangdong, Chen Ao. In terms of power and wealth, Chen Nan's family was worth much more than a hundred Liu Jia-Weis.

She was already living in wealth, so there was no need for her to play up to a nouveau riche like Liu Jia-Wei.

Therefore, from the very beginning, she had not paid attention to Liu Jia-Wei's and Wang Yu's braggings.

But both Chen Nan and Ye Fan had not bothered to explain anything. They simply allowed Wang Yu and Liu Jia-Wei to continue their performance and listened to the duo's braggings as if they were jokes.

But the pitiable Li Xiao-Hong was still kept in the dark, so she continued to speak up for Ye Fan.

"You stupid wretch! You shut your mouth now!"

"What the hell do you know?"

And every time she spoke up for Ye Fan,

she would get a tongue-lashing from her uncle.

While Ye Fan's group was having their conversation, the organizers had already finished setting up the venue and all the VIPs had taken their seats.

According to their seating arrangement, it was obvious that the Jiangdong leaders were divided into two factions.

On one side was the Eastern Jiangdong Faction led by the King of Jiangdong, Chen Ao. And on the other side was the Western Jiangdong Faction led by the number one tycoon, Zhao Wu-Ji.

"Mm? Mr. Chen, why did you change your fighter?"

"Where is that brat you have pinned all your hopes on? Where is that Mr. Chu?"

"Didn't you just tell us confidently that this Mr. Chu would be able to turn back the tide of defeat?"

"Why are you acting like a scaredy cat now?"

“Why did you change your fighter at the last minute?”

“Please don’t do that. Why must you switch him out when I have already prepared a coffin for him?”

“Haha~”

When Zhao Wu-Ji saw that the person sitting beside Chen Ao was a grey-robed old man instead of the young man he had seen earlier, he shook his head with a laugh and looked mockingly at his long-time rival.

Chen Ao glanced at Zhao Wu-Ji and snorted coldly. “Mr. Chu is an elusive person. Anyway, the truly strong rarely make appearances before public eyes.”

“As for headmaster He, he is one of the fighters I have invited. He will fight Wu He-Rong first to test the waters for Mr. Chu. What’s wrong? Are you unhappy with the way I have arranged things, Mr. Zhao?”
Chen Ao retorted.

But before Zhao Wu-Ji could respond, an elderly man in military uniform, who was standing beside him, spoke up in a heavy

voice: "Only the weak have to resort to underhand tricks."

"The strong should just press forward indomitably!"

"There is no need to test the waters if it is just Wu He-Rong. I can defeat him with a single punch."

"What are shackles? They are things for us to crush."

"If you let your fear take over and act indecisively, then you will definitely be defeated!"

Boom~

When the elderly man spoke, an awe-inspiring presence swept through the air in the vicinity. The crowd could sense the cold authority emanating from the speaker, and it was so overpowering that it caused even Xing He to frown. The Taichi grandmaster felt as if he was in the presence of a dangerous enemy.

The powerful presence proved that the elderly man in the military uniform was an extraordinary person indeed!

“Awe-inspiring!”

“Well said~” Zhao Wu-Ji started clapping immediately. At the same time, he turned to smile haughtily at the sombre-looking Chen Ao.

“Mr. Chen, do you see? This is how an expert should behave.”

“The strong should just press forward indomitably!”

“My fighter is different from that Mr. Chu of yours. Hmph, testing the waters?”

“Only a coward would do such a thing!”

“Oh, that’s right. Mr. Chen, I haven’t introduced him to you yet.”

“This elderly gentleman here is one of the top fighters in the Jiangdong Military Region and the chief instructor of the armed forces! Meng Bai-Chuan! I paid him a hundred million to come here and fight for us.”

“Hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the military region revere him as their teacher!”

“In front of Chief Instructor Meng, that Mr. Chu of yours is just a little brat. I think Chief Instructor Meng can kill that brat with just a single slap.”

Zhao Wu-Ji’s eyes were filled with ridicule as he said this.

Chen Ao did not answer the taunt, but the heaviness in his heart grew even more intense.

No wonder he had sensed the air of a great general emanating from this Meng Bai-Chuan.

To think, he was actually the chief instructor in charge of training hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the military region!

It looked like Meng Bai-Chuan would be a person difficult to deal with.

And Chen Ao was overwhelmed with worry.

“Alright, Mr. Chen, it is getting late. Let us stop chit chatting and get Wu He-Rong to show himself.”

“And once we have dealt with Wu He-Rong, we can take the opportunity to settle the scores between us.” Zhao Wu-Ji got up suddenly and, with an evil grin on his face, he invited Chen Ao to step forward with him.

The two men looked around and shouted in unison.

“Ten years of grudges, a thousand days of honor and disgrace!”

“Wu He-Rong, let us put an end to the grudges between us.”

“Show yourself!”

“Let us settle all our past scores today!”

The words were spoken forcefully and the heavy voices of the two men resounded through the air for a long while.

At this moment, the entire hall went quiet.

Everyone held their breath and looked around in a panic.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was confused by the sudden announcement and, her friend, Su

Qian started looking around the hall. Meanwhile, Liu Jia-Wei and company were looking sombre as they waited in their seats.

Everyone was curious. Just what sort of person could make all the leaders of Jiangdong come together at one place?

Even personages such as Chen Ao and Zhao Wu-Ji had come in person. All the powers in Jiangdong had come together, just to deal with this person.

Just who was this person?



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