

Chapter 741

"You're asking me what happened?" Department Head Wang bellowed in fury, "Now you tell me, what happened to the investigation of the Ephedra Syrup?"

As soon as the Ephedra Syrup was mentioned, Philip's heart instinctively tightened, but he quickly regained his composure and explained, "Department Head Wang, I am trying hard to negotiate for the patent of Ephedra Syrup, but the price they had asked for is too high. We can't afford it at all, so we are still trying to find a way, I..."

"Is it because the asking price was too high, or because you requested too high of a price, Philip?" Department Head Wang interrupted.

Upon hearing this, Philip's heart skipped a beat. He was nervous, but he still pretended to be dumb. "Department Head Wang, I don't get what you mean. We're the ones buying the patent from them, why would I be the one to name the price?"

"Philip, are you still playing dumb? Don't you know that the production of the Ephedra Syrup is intrinsically related to the health of our people across the nation? How can you neglect their lives for your own personal profit?" Department Head Wang shouted angrily.

Philip was thunderstruck. He wondered if Department Head Wang was aware of the truth. A sense of worry crept into his mind.

However, so long as Department Head Wang did not point it out directly, there was no way that Philip would turn himself in, "Department Head Wang, you are going too far. I, too, wish to complete the mission as soon as possible, but they insisted on

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such a high price. I could do nothing but..."

"Shut up!" Department Head Wang bellowed. "Philip, do you really think that I'm clueless?"

"Department Head Wang, what do you mean?" Nervousness overwhelmed Philip. Beads of perspiration began to drip down his forehead.

Department Head Wang shouted, "Philip, so you'd like to play dumb till the very end huhu."

"Fate Chen, who owns the patent of the Ephedra Syrup, had promised to grant us the license to manufacture the drug for free. However, you tried to force him to transfer the patent to your own company, Bulrush Pharma, for free instead. Do you think I'm unaware of this?"

Philip didn't expect that blunder he had been trying hard to conceal, would be discovered by Department Head Wang. Terror-stricken, Philip was at a loss of words.

"Save your chicanery. I already know everything," Department Head Wang said ragingly.

Philip immediately came up with an excuse, "Department Head Wang, I didn't do this for personal gain, but merely to make things easier for the production of the Ephedra Syrup!"

"You are still making excuses!" Department Head Wang admonished him in fury.

Philip gritted his teeth and explained, "Department Head Wang, you know that my team represents the Ministry of Health for the inspection, but to produce the drug on a larger scale, many pharmaceutical manufacturers are to be involved."

"But up to date, there is no manufacturer under the direct control of the Ministry of Health. If we want the involvement of these manufacturers in the production of the Ephedra Syrup, the process will be troublesome. So, I intended to transfer the patent to

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Bulrush Pharma in order to simplify the process in producing the drug on a large scale. After all, Bulrush Pharma is the top manufacturer in the pharmaceutical industry of China."

"I am doing this for the sake of the country and its people."

"Philip, do you actually believe the words you've said just now?" Department Head Wang said coldly, "Or are you treating me like a fool?"

At this moment, Philip was still trying his utmost best to defend himself and said, "Department Head Wang, I really have no intention other than saving everyone right now."

"Fade said that he allowed the Ministry to produce the Ephedra Syrup for free, but Department Head Wang, you also know that once the production and promotion of the Ephedra Syrup starts rolling throughout the country, it will be widely used, and the demand will be extremely high then."

"Initially, Fade gave us the production license for free. But once the demand soars after the extensive promotion from us, maybe he will, similar to what Bald Eagle Pharma did, demand for an unreasonably high price for the patent right."

"If we encounter that kind of problem again, we will have no choice but to pay."

"It's exactly because of this that I intend to keep the patent right in our own hands. That's why I asked him to transfer the patent right instead of merely signing the production license. I am doing this for the greater good!"

To be able to wind up such a seemingly reasonable story within such a short while, there was no doubt that Philip was a man of intelligence indeed.

Under normal circumstances, Department Head Wang might have really considered what Philip had said.

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However, as Department Head Wang had already learned the detailed story from Elder Choi, he knew Fade's character. Philip's persuasion held no water at all.

He sneered and said, "Philip, oh, Philip. Do you think that everyone else is as selfish as you? You don't know Fade at all."

"Department Head Wang, it's true that I'm a little calculative. But I'm doing this with everybody in mind!" Philip was still trying hard to explain.

Department Head Wang shouted, "Shut up. You know nothing at all. If Fade is really doing it for money, he didn't even need to negotiate with us at all."

"Maritime Ocean Pharma and Bald Eagle Pharma had approached him before us, both of them had offered a high price for his patent right. Bald Eagle Pharma even offered an annual dividend of revenue."

"They offered him one billion yuan, with a yearly dividend of at least five percent of the total profit. What's more, they agreed to promote and sell his products across the globe."

"So tell me, if Fade is hungry money, why didn't he get into a joint venture with Bald Eagle Pharma and went on to confer authorized production to us for free instead?"

Philip was stunned by Department Head Wang's query. He did not expect that Fade would refuse such a good offer and such a big profit. He was in total disbelief, "Department Head Wang, this, this is impossible—"

Department Head Wang retorted angrily, "Impossible? For a selfish person like you, you'd think that a person like Fade, who is devoted to the country and the people does not exist."

"I—" Philip was still struggling to find fault.

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But Department Head Wang had lost his patience, he snapped, "Philip, I order you to apologize to Fade immediately tomorrow and assist Elder Chai to sign the joint venture agreement."

"If the agreement is not signed successfully in the end, you will be awaiting punishment by the Ministry."

"By the way, we need to conduct a strict examination of Bulrush Pharma this year. You'd better ensure that there is nothing fishy with your company, or else—"

Hearing this, Philip was totally drained of energy that he almost collapsed to the ground. He tried to figure out a perfect retort, to plead and to save his own skin, but Department Head Wang had already hung up the phone.

Suddenly, Philip's face was full of bitter resentment. Clutching his mobile phone, he muttered, "How could it be possible, how—"

Beside him, the other members looked at Philip, whose expressions changed by drastic shades, with intense bewilderment. They were clueless as to what had transpired.

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At eight the next morning, Fade had just opened the Sincere Medical Center for business. It was drizzling outside.

However, at the doorway, he saw Philip standing at the door with the members of his investigation team, waiting for him in the rain.

As soon as he saw Fade open the door, Philip immediately greeted him with a cordial smile and said, "Hello, Mr. Chen, I..."

Fade's expression was indifferent. He looked coldly at Philip and said, "What are you doing here?"

Philip smiled and said, "Mr. Chen, I'm here to talk about the Ephedra Syrup. You—"

"I have nothing to talk to you about the Ephedra Syrup!" Fade said coldly and waved his hand as a gesture to drive Philip away.

Seeing this, nervousness gripped Philip. He went knees down on the steps and pleaded to Fade, "Mr. Chen, I know I was wrong. I shouldn't have made such a harsh offer before. I shouldn't abuse my own power. I was wrong. Please, give me another chance!"

Fade was slightly taken aback by the fact that Philip had knelt down in public and even admitted his mistake. However, Fade was not one who can be easily deceived by his crocodile tears. He said icily, "Give you a chance? It's impossible. Your chance at redemption has long been massacred by yourself."

With this, Fade turned around and was about to enter the center.

Seeing this, Philip made a deep lunge forward. He kowtowed on the hard stone steps and pleaded, "Mr. Chen, I really know that I

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was wrong. Please, give me another chance. Even if you don't care about me, please spare a thought to all the patients across the nation!"

At the mention of the patients, Fade's heart moved slightly.

However, he remained cold, "I've already made it clear that you don't have another chance."

Hearing this, Philip's countenance paled and his body went Jell-O on the wet stairs.

At the moment, Elder Chai came out from the crowd of people behind them and cupped his hands as a greeting to Fade, "Dr. Chen."

Fade cast a look at Elder Chai, then to Philip. He immediately understood that Elder Chai had reported the whole matter to his superior which had resulted in Philip's apology to him. "Elder Chai," Fade greeted politely.

Elder Chai approached him and said, "Dr. Chen, Department Head Wang has already severely reprimanded Philip. He will certainly deal with him seriously when we return to the Capital City."

"However, we are facing a grave situation especially with the severe shortage of Alstom Antibiotics. Therefore, Department Head Wang asked me to replace him as the captain of the investigation team and to negotiate with you again, Dr. Chen. I hope you can give us another chance. This time, Dr. Chen, the terms and conditions of the agreement are subject to your discretion." Elder Chai displayed absolute respect towards Fade.

Fade's expression changed slightly. After a few seconds of contemplation, he nodded and said, "Since you have become the captain, I'm relieved to hear that. Let's go in and discuss this."

Elder Chai immediately cupped one hand in the other before his chest as a gesture of gratitude. Then, he walked into the medical

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center with Fade.

In the meeting room, the negotiations between the two sides went on quickly. In less than half an hour, the contract was signed.

At first, Elder Chai offered him a sum of money for him to sign the license agreement.

However, Fade refused the money. He insisted on their initial negotiation, which was to authorize the Ministry of Health with the patent of the Ephedra Syrup for free.

Fade refused the money because he did not really care about his own fortune, let alone it was not a big sum of money to begin with. Since he had promised a free offer beforehand, there's no way for him to take back his words just for a mere sum of money.

On the other hand, Fade also put forward some additional conditions in addition to the free use of his patent.

Among them, there were some suggestions to implement some policies to support and to maintain the price of traditional Chinese medicine. Elder Chai, who himself was a traditional Chinese medicine doctor, naturally agreed without any objections, when he saw that Fade was doing so for the sake of the development of traditional Chinese medicine. Moreover, his requests were rational and reasonable,

On top of that, Fade specifically added one more condition onto the contract, which was to grant permission to every qualified pharmaceutical company in the country to manufacture and use the Ephedra Syrup, except one, which was the Bulrush Pharma owned by Philip.

Fade was determined not to give Philip Lu and his company any chance of being involved in the issue of the Ephedra Syrup anymore, for he was a money-hungry man even in times of national disaster.

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In this context, Elder Chai did not have any objections and agreed immediately.

So, after the contract had been signed, Elder Chai immediately sent the content of the agreement to Department Head Wang before he hurried back to the Capital City.

As for Philip, who left together with Elder Chai to return to the Capital City, looked completely downtrodden, which presented a stark contrast to his arrogant attitude when he first came.

With the departure of Elder Chai, the investigation was officially over. With the collaboration of the Ministry of Health in the promotion and production of the Ephedra Syrup, Fade's burden felt relieved as his burden had been alleviated.

Fade, who had been busy for months, could finally relax a little at this moment. He felt light all over his body as if he had lost a few pounds.

He peeked out of the medical center and saw that there were only a few patients out there. He gave some orders to his employees and tidied up his things before leaving.

Fade drove along the slip road that led to the building of Fei Enterprises Holdings Inc, humming a tune with a smile on his face. His mood was an extremely good one. "Let's take a look at the company, then ask my wife out for lunch at noon later. After all, I've been too busy in the past two months. I don't even go home most of the time, let alone go on a date with my wife." Fade said merrily in his mind.

At the thought of this, Fade felt as if he was on cloud nine. He stepped on the gas pedal and the car accelerated.

When he drove past a newly launched shop in unnerving speed, a sudden thought flashed across his mind. With a nicely controlled emergency brake, followed by a spectacular drift, he parked his car accurately in front of the shop.

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In the newly opened shop, the boss was busy cleaning the shop in the entrance. When he heard a sudden ear-screeching brake, he looked up just in time to see a black shadow flying toward the shop, he was thunder-stuck.

However, the car finally stopped precisely and steadily in the parking space at the door of the small shop. Fade came down from the car and walked toward the small shop, saying, "Boss, is your store open?"

When the boss heard the voice, he regained his composure and hastily nodded. He came up and said, "The store is open. How can I help you, sir?"

"There are a variety of soft toys in our store, as well as cartoons and animation of local and foreign productions, and even fun learning kits. They are all authentic products!" The owner began an animated chatter of introducing the assortment of products in his shop.

Fade looked around in the store. Then, his eyes fell on a Doraemon soft toy. He smiled and said, "I want this, how much is it?"

Seeing this, the owner quickly took the toy with a smile and said, "Sir, you have good taste. This is a limited edition. There is less than 50 of it in the entire Dragonville City. It is absolutely worthy."

"Sir, are you buying it for your child at home? How old is your kid? Has she started school?" The boss engaged in a lively chat with Fade as he settled the bill.

When Fade heard the boss's words, he couldn't help thinking of his cold wife, who'd be unexpectedly adorable whenever she saw furry toys. He nodded with a smile and said, "Yes, I'm buying it for my child. She's a lovely little girl."

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Hearing this, the boss immediately said, "Awesome! You're so lucky to have a lovely daughter. It's better to take care of a daughter than a son. What's more, for a son, you have to worry about housing and his marriage. There are enough troublesome matters, I..."

Upon hearing this, Fade couldn't help but burst out into a fit of amused laughter. He wondered if he should record the shop owner's words and play them to Quin when he delivered the gift. He wondered what Quin's reaction would be.

After paying for the bill and picking up the wrapped-up toy, Fade went out and was ready to get on the car.

Just as Fade was about to drive away, he suddenly caught a glimpse of two figures from the corner of his eye as they walked into the shopping mall across the street.

Although their moves were swift, Fade could still clearly see the faces of the two figures with his eagle-sharp eyes.

It was a young man and woman, both in their twenties. The man had a handsome countenance with a hint of a smile on his lips. Fade did not know him at all.

But he was too familiar with the woman beside him. It was Quin!

Seeing this scene, Fade's heart missed a beat. His relaxed mood could not help but tense up at the moment. His first instinct was to rush over to find out what was going on, but his senses held him back.

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Fade was not an impulsive person, after all. He took a deep breath and tried to regain his composure. He whispered to himself, "Maybe, he is just a businessman who has a business relationship with Quin. My wife may just be out with him for some business negotiation."

As he thought so, Fade took out his mobile phone and dialed Quin's number.

After a while, the phone connected. Fade put on a tone as calm as possible, "Honey, where are you? There's nothing to do in the medical center now. I'm going to the company. Let's have lunch together at noon."

Quin was momentarily silent before she said, "No, thanks. I'm not at the office."

"If you're not there, where are you then? I'll go over and find you," Fade asked.

Quin said lightly, "I'm going to inspect a factory. I'll be back in the evening. There's no need for you to come here."

"I still have something to do. I'll hang up first." Quin immediately hung up the phone.

At this moment, Fade felt his emotion, which had just been calmed down, flared up into a huge storm like a sea with perilous waves.

All of a sudden, all kinds of thoughts rushed into his mind.

"Why did my wife lie to me, telling me that she was inspecting a factory?"

"Who's that man? What's his relationship with my wife?"

"What are they doing in the mall? What are they talking about?"

"What if he's a bad guy? My wife is not in danger, is she?"

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The more Fade thought about it, the more nervous he became. He couldn't care about anything else. He even forgot to put down the soft toys in his car. He brought the toys along and rushed into the mall across the road.

After entering the mall, Fade quickly scrutinized the area in search of her familiar figure.

The shopping mall was spacious, but Fade could feel the special aura of Quin's Bodhi bracelet, so it did not take him long to quickly figure out the direction of his wife. He dashed forward in the direction without a second thought.

When he arrived at the third floor of the shopping mall, Fade saw his wife, Quin, in a cafe.

Quin was sitting opposite the young men. There were two cups of coffee on the table in front of them. Her lips were moving as if she was saying something.

As he spoke, the man laughed from time to time and even took the initiative to lean towards Quin.

Such a scene made Fade livid with anger, he could feel his blood gushing. He was so indignant for himself that he felt like dashing forward and throwing the man out.

However, before he could confirm what was going on, Fade did not act out impulse.

He crept into the clothing store next to him, bought a coat, and put on a pair of sunglasses. Then, he walked into the café with the toy in hand.

Quin's seat was on the right side of the cafe. After Fade came in, he walked to the left, took a detour, before he finally sat down at a table behind Quin.

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Fade put the toy on the chair to cover his body. Then, he adjusted his position to peek at Quin from the corner of the table. Quin was so engrossed in their conversation that she did not notice what was going on over there at all.

Even if she had noticed it, she would not have thought that the man who was holding a toy and wearing sunglasses, would be Fade.

Fade ordered a cup of coffee. As he sipped casually, he cast a glance at Quin from the corner of his eye. At the same time, his ears trembled as he tried to catch Quin's conversation with the man.

Although their voices were not loud, Fade was not an ordinary person after all. He had an unusually sharp sense of hearing, so he could clearly eavesdrop their conversation.

The man smiled gently and looked at Quin, saying, "Quin, we haven't seen each other for five years since graduation!"

Quin replied calmly, "Yes."

"Quin, I haven't seen you in so long. You're still as beautiful as ever! Nothing has changed. Unlike me, I have aged," The man looked at Quin with keen eyes.

Quin's brows quivered at the man's slightly intimate words, she said, "Richard, you are now a high-ranked executive of a multinational company. You are young and promising. How are you an old man?"

Hearing this, the man called Richard raised the corners of his mouth and smiled in delight. He stirred the coffee and said, "No matter how powerful my company is, I'm merely a worker. I can't compare with you! Quin, you are the Chief Executive Officer of Fei Enterprises Holdings Inc, a real big boss!"

"Fei Enterprises Holdings Inc is blooming rapidly in the past two years, and its current market value is more than 10 billion yuan.

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Even the foreigners from the top management of our company asked me to pay attention to your company and even said to network with your company." Richard said.

Quin shook her head gently and said, "My position as the Chief Executive Officer is inherited from my parents. It's not a big deal, but you're the capable one. In just a few years, you have worked your way from the bottom into the person in charge of the Asia region of a multinational trading company like Maisie Corp."

Richard chuckled. He waved his hand and said, "Enough with the formalities, Quin. we are old classmates, that's no need for us to flatter each other like this."

Quin also smiled and stirred the coffee. After hesitating for a while, she finally said, "Richard, the medicine you mentioned to me on the phone, I don't know..."

Richard replied, "Oh, I have gotten a tube of that medicine."

"You have it? That's great. Where is it?" Quin was a little excited.

Richard made a quiet gesture and whispered to Quin, "Quin, keep your voice down. I left the drug in my hotel. If you want it now, you can go with me to get it."

"The hotel!" Quin's expression stiffened immediately as if she noticed something unusual.

Richard quickly explained, "I just started my work here not long ago, so I haven't bought a house yet. So right now, I live in a hotel near the company. Besides, this drug is a brand new product developed by a foreign laboratory, it isn't on sale yet. I have violated the regulations when I snuck one out, so I can't simply bring it anywhere with me."

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After listening to Richard's explanation, Quin hesitated for a moment. Finally, she nodded and said, "Well then, I'll go with you to pick it up!"

"Alright!" Richard revealed a relieved smile when he heard so. He picked up the cup and finished the remaining coffee. "The hotel I stay in is not far away from here. We'll get there in a jiffy."

Quin was not in the mood to drink coffee either. When she heard him, she stood up and said, "Let's go then."

"Okay, I'll get the bill." Richard got up and went to pay the bill. Then, he walked out of the cafe with Quin.

Everything that happened in the café went unmistakably into Fade's eyes and ears. At this moment, his feeling was beyond the expression of words. His wife agreed to go to a hotel with a young man, and it seemed that she was very familiar with him. An ominous feeling transpired in his heart.

However, the medicine they mentioned just now had aroused his curiosity. Without further ado, he paid the bill and left.

Walking out of the mall, Fade caught up with them.

The two of them did not drive but walked directly to a hotel not far away.

Ten minutes later, they entered the hotel and took the lift upstairs.

Fade followed them closely and went straight to the front desk. He asked, "Which room are the two guests just now heading to?"

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When the receptionist heard Fade's blatant question, she could not help but frown slightly and immediately said, "Sir, I'm sorry. We cannot reveal our guests' rooms out of privacy."

Fade didn't have time to explain. He whipped out his mobile phone and made a phone call, saying, "I'm Fade. I'm in the hotel under your company. I'm going to check a room number now. Please inform your staff about this."

After that, Fade hung up the phone.

At the sight of this, the girl at the counter froze in stunned silence

"Was the man in front of her really some kind of big shot?"

The receptionist thought so in her heart. Then, she shook her head subconsciously. In her opinion, Fade didn't look like a big shot at all, judging by his attire. The phone call just now might be merely a trick of him as a means to deceive her.

Just as the receptionist was contemplating the possibility of it, the phone at the front desk rang. She immediately picked up the phone and said, "Hello, this is..."

Before she could finish her sentence, a deep voice came from the other end of the phone, "A guest named Mr. Chen is at the reception. Fulfill whatever his request is. No questions asked!"

How could the receptionist not recognize that this was the voice and number of her boss? She immediately responded in all seriousness, "Yes, boss!"

"One more thing, if you irritate Mr. Chen even by a bit, just wait to be fired!" After that, her boss hung up the phone.

Hearing this, nervousness gripped her.

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Putting down the phone, she looked at Fade again with a completely different look. She greeted him respectfully, "Sir, you..." Fade was getting a little impatient and said, "Tell me their room number now."

The receptionist noticed that Fade was in a bad mood and she immediately panicked. She replied hurriedly, "They are in room 888, and it is registered under the name of Richard Yi."

Hearing the name, Fade was sure that it was the man just now. Without saying a word, he immediately walked into the lift and went upstairs.

At the same time, Quin and Richard came to the eighth floor. At the door of room 888, Richard opened the door and invited Quin into the room.

Looking at the room, Quin couldn't help but halted in her steps. Of course, she knew that it was dangerous to be entering a bachelor's room alone.

But for the sake of the medicine, she was willing to take the risk. Moreover, Richard was her classmate for many years, so she had a little confidence in Richard's morality.

"Quin, are you coming in?" Richard gestured to Quin.

Quin took a deep breath and walked into the room.

Richard immediately closed the door, and said to Quin, "Quin, take a seat. I'll get you some tea."

Quin looked around the room and found that the doors and windows of the room were all closed, and even the curtains were pulled shut, she couldn't see anything outside.

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The depressing environment intensified her nervousness. She couldn't help but felt uneasy. She said, "That won't be necessary, Richard. I'll leave after picking up the drug."

At this moment, Richard had already walked over with a cup of tea in his hand. He smiled and said, "Have some tea, Quin"

Rather than drinking it, Quin took the cup and put it on the table. She then said, "Richard, the medicine you mentioned—"

Without waiting for Quin to finish, Richard picked up the phone again and said to Quin, "Quin, what do you want to eat? I'll call someone to bring it over."

Quin stood up and said, "Richard, don't bother. I'm not hungry."

"I didn't eat anything in the cafe just now. Are you sure you don't want to eat anything now?" Richard asked.

Quin felt strange at the tone of his words. She took a deep breath and said in a serious tone, "Richard, I'm really not hungry right now. What's more, I'm here today mainly to talk to you about the medicine."

Richard put down the phone and said, "Quin, don't worry about the medicine for now."

As he talked, Richard walked over to Quin with a look of deep affection. He fixated his stares at Quin and said in a suggestive tone, "Quin, we have been classmates for so many years, and it's been a long time since we last saw each other. Are you that unwilling to even chat with me for a while?"

Quin was not used to being so close to Richard. She slightly frowned and took two steps back, saying, "Richard, I really need that medicine. After I'm done with my work, I will show my most sincere gratitude to you."

Richard drew another two steps closer to her. Looking at Quin, he said affectionately, "Quin, I don't need your gratitude. I need

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you."

"Richard Yi, you!" Quin was taken aback by his words. She realized something fishy and immediately went to the door. She quickly said, "Richard, if it's not convenient for you today, I'll be leaving first. We'll talk again another day."

But Richard moved faster. He reached the door before her, blocking her escape. He stared at Quin with hot eyes of fervent enthusiasm, "Quin, do you know that I have been in love with you ever since we were in high school?"

"You have always been the goddess in my heart. I have never forgotten you when I was in college and even when I was working abroad."

"In the past, I was very self-abased, I did not have the guts to confess to you. Now, I have finally made achievements in my career. I can no longer restrain my love for you in my heart and I can no longer endure that suppressed feeling deep down."

"Quin, I love you. I really love you. Will you be my girlfriend?" Richard confessed whole-heartedly as he closed in until he was almost touching Quin.

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If this had occurred to any ordinary young girl, especially after receiving a confession of love by such a good-looking and promising young man, she would certainly feel a stir in her heart, even if she refused the confession.

However, Quin was not a naïve little girl, but a veteran who had been in the business industry for ten over years.

At this moment, as she looked at Richard's affection-filled face, her eyes became increasingly cold because she could see from Richard's eyes that the so-called love from him was simply a greedy evil scheme.

At once, Quin was flustered. She took another step back and said, "Richard, I'm married. You can't..."

Richard continued to approach her and said, "I know you're married, Quin. But I don't care, I love you, I will love you forever. I don't care if you have other men around you. I just want to be with you."

As he spoke, Richard wrapped his arms around Quin's shoulders with an affectionate expression on his face. At the same time, he bent forward and was about to kiss her.

Seeing this, Quin instinctively felt a sense of disgust. She shoved Richard away and said coldly, "Richard, get out of my way. I'm going back."

However, at this moment, Richard's eyes were red with flaming desire. He pounced onto Quin and said, "Quin, I love you. I love you so much. You don't know how many years I have been keeping my love for you at the bottom of my heart. Today, I can no

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longer suppress my feelings anymore."

Richard took action quickly, and was ready to tackle her by force.

Quin's face was shrouded by apprehension. She tried her best to stop Richard, but at the same time, she tried to warn him, "Richard, don't do anything foolish. It's against the law. You..."

Richard didn't care about her warning at all. He flung Quin onto the bed and stared closely at her with lascivious eyes. He took off his shirt and was about to pounce on her.

There was no way for Quin to escape. She shut her eyes immediately in despair.

However, just as Richard was about to pounce on Quin, the Bodhi bracelet on Quin's wrist suddenly emitted a circle of purple gold light.

The glowing light covered Quin completely and Richard bounced off in a forceful impact.

The huge force sent Richard flying and he smashed into the wall of the hotel room. He let out a muffled groan and spat out a mouthful of blood from the corner of his mouth.

"What's going on?" Richard's eyes hardened as he looked at Quin in disbelief.

At this moment, Quin opened her eyes and saw the glowing bracelet on her wrist. She immediately thought of what Fade had said when he sent her the bracelet. She could not help but feel a sense of warmth surging through her terror-stricken heart. Then, she quickly climbed down from the bed in a bid to escape.

"Quin, don't you dare think about leaving today!" Richard went after her again. He stared at Quin with a ferocious look and extended his hands, trying to hold her back.

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However, just as his hands were about to touch Quin, another beam of purplish gold light radiated from the Bodhi bracelet and bounced Richard away again.

Richard fell hard on the ground with a sickening thud, coughing up blood again. His face instantly turned pale.

At this time, Quin had already arrived at the door. She was about to twist the door knob and escape.

At this moment, Richard's eyes turned cold. He said in a low and cold voice, "Jacob, do it now!"

As soon as Richard finished speaking, a tall man with a thin face in his forties showed up from out of nowhere.

With a relaxed look on his face, the thin man whistled at Richard and said with a taunting smile, "Richard, I've told you long ago. You should have done things directly. But you insist on these romantic tactics. You see, in the end, it's futile, and you still have to call upon me."

Richard spat and gnashed his teeth. "I wanted to give her a chance, but she didn't cherish it. I have no choice."

Hearing this, the thin man couldn't help but burst out laughing and said, "Richard, why give her a chance? I think you just want to have s*x with this woman. Come on, we are all men, cut to the chase. I understand."

"To tell you the truth, this woman is quite attractive. I'm a little tempted by her as well!" Jacob glanced at Quin with a cunning look and licked his tongue.

Hearing this, Richard's face unconsciously distorted.

Meanwhile, Quin, who was standing at the door of the room, felt a chill run down her spine. She quickly grabbed the door knob with both of her hands and tried to open the door to leave.

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Just as she was about to open the door, Jacob came over behind her and grabbed Quin's shoulders with a pair of claw-like hands.

However, as soon as he laid hands on Quin, his grip was immediately blocked by the purplish golden light.

However, Jacob gave a cold snort and said disdainfully, "It's just a layer of Genuine Vitality Shield. Piece of cake."

Then, Jacob shook his arm and a layer of black light emerged from his claw-like hands. His hand penetrated the purplish-golden light shield and landed on Quin's shoulders, pulling Quin back and throwing her onto the bed.

After that, Jacob looked at Quin coldly and said, "Tell me, where is the concoction formula?"

Quin was a little confused. "What formula?"

Jacob immediately looked at Richard and said, "You haven't told her the truth yet?"

At this time, Richard stood up, walked to the bedside, and said to Quin in a fake tone, "Quin, I mean no harm to you."

Quin sneered and said, "You mean no harm to me? Richard, do you believe in your own words?"

Richard's expression twitched, then his face turned cold. He stared at Quin and said in a low voice, "If that's the case, I'll get straight to the point. I want you to get me the formula for the Ephedra Syrup."

"The formula for the Ephedra Syrup!" Quin's eyes widened when she heard this. She looked at Richard in disappointment and said, "It turns out that you are here for this. I was wondering why did you suddenly reach out to me when you haven't seen me in so many years? And you even happened to have the medicine that I need."

Richard decided not to conceal the truth anymore. He said directly to Quin, "Quin, I really have no intention of deceiving you. It's

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just that if you keep the formula for the Ephedra Syrup with you, it will only bring more trouble to you. It's better to hand it to us to save you from trouble."

Quin stared at Richard with a burst of mockery and said, "Richard, I really didn't expect that you would become such a hypocritical and shameless guy now. And now, you're still trying to give me those seemingly noble excuses?"

Richard's face stiffened. He looked grim.

Seeing this, Jacob couldn't help but chuckled in disdain, "Richard, like I said, it will be more effective if you deal with this kind of woman the harsh way. Don't mess with your so-called emotional tactics. It's futile."

As he spoke, Jacob cast a look at Quin. A pistol with a silencer suddenly appeared in his hand.

He pointed his pistol at Quin's left hand and said, "Tell me, what is the formula for the Ephedra Syrup? Where is it?"

"I won't..." Quin was about to mouth a refusal.

But Jacob's face turned solemn. He said in a cold voice, "You can remain silent, but with every passing minute, I'll shoot off one of your fingers."

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"You..." Quin's face trembled as fear began to overpower her.

Jacob had already pointed the muzzle of the gun at Quin's left thumb. He put his fingers on the trigger and said coldly, "The first minute starts now. Speak!"

Quin was trembling all over in deep terror. However, she did not let slip of anything even in face of danger. She looked at Richard and Jacob with eyes beamed with resentment and hatred, "If you hurt me, my husband will not let you off the hook."

"Your husband? Is he the so-called master of martial arts? I heard that he fights well, but I wonder how long can he withstand my attacks," Jacob said with a smug smile.

Richard added beside him, "Quin, your husband is just a useless b*stard. Do you think it's worthwhile to sacrifice yourself for him?"

"My husband is a great hero, he is not a villain like you are!" Quin glared at Richard furiously.

Richard's face turned pale in anger. He retorted angrily, "Quin, you—"

Before he could finish, Jacob looked at the timer and said calmly, "Ten seconds left! I'm starting the count down now!"

"Ten, nine, eight—"

All of a sudden, Quin couldn't help but felt desperate. Her pretty face was distorted, her complexion was pallid, and her skinny

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body was shaking uncontrollably.

"Four, three, two—"

As he was counting down, Jacob's index finger on the trigger was beginning to exert a force downward.

At this particular moment, a loud bang came from the door. Immediately, the whole door was kicked off from its frame.

Then, a figure rushed swiftly into the room.

"Who is it?" Richard and Jacob turned to look at the intruder at once and shouted in alertness.

The man dashed across the room and reached the bedside. He hugged Quin, who was lying pitifully on the bed, and said gently, "Honey, I'm here!"

Overwhelmed by the trauma and the relief of Fade's sudden appearance, Quin could no longer hold back her tears. Tears were streaming down her cheeks as she cowered into the warmth of Fade's embrace, bursting into a loud sob.

Richard and Jacob turned to look at Fade.

"Hey, so you are this woman's husband!" Jacob said in a disdainful tone.

Richard's face became sullen. He glared at Fade and growled in a low tone, "You're Fade Chen? The formula for the Ephedra Syrup is with you?"

At this moment, after Quin had regained her composure, Fade stood up and looked at Richard and Jacob. He nodded and said, "Yes, I'm the one who invented the Ephedra Syrup."

"Very good. Now, hand over the formula!" Richard said with an air of superiority.

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Fade glanced at Richard in displeasure and said, "Who do you think you are? Why should I hand you the formula?"

"You!" Richard glared furiously at Fade, he took out a gun from his waist. Pointing it at Fade, he said, "Are you stupid, kid? If you don't give me the formula, I'll shoot you."

Fade showed no sign of fear at all. Instead, he approached Richard blatantly and said, "Since you know that the formula for the Ephedra Syrup is in my hands, why don't you find out who I am?"

"I don't give a sh*t about who you are. Give me the formula right now, or I..." Richard threatened.

"There's no 'or'. Get out!" Before Richard could finish, Fade moved his body and kicked Richard in the belly.

The huge force directly sent Richard into mid-air. He smashed into the TV and the cabinet behind him and fell onto the floor with all sorts of things and debris falling over him.

Afterwards, Fade shifted his gaze to Jacob.

Jacob was totally indifferent towards Richard's injury. Instead, he was eyeing Fade with great interest and said, "It seems that the rumors are somewhat true. You seemed to have some actual skills."

"However! Your skills, in my eyes, are not worth mentioning at all." Jacob turned the gun in his hand and looked at Fade with disdain. "Kid, I'll give you a chance, give me the formula, and I'll let you off this time."

Fade shook his head, curled his lip and said, "No, because..."

"I'm not giving you a chance!" After a pause, Fade suddenly reached out his right hand to seize Jacob.

Jacob's face tensed up. He slid and took a few steps back to dodge. In the blink of an eye, he pointed his gun at Fade and pulled

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the trigger.

As soon as the bullet ricocheted, a triumphant smile appeared on the corner of Jacob's mouth. He looked at Fade and said arrogantly, "If you want to sneak an attack on me, why don't you investigate thoroughly what I am famous for? Very few people in the world can dodge my bullets."

"Go to h*ll, brat!"

Jacob spat every word with utmost complacency.

Fade didn't intend to dodge his bullets at all. Instead, he raised his right hand and made a grabbing motion in the air. He said lightly, "Since very few people can dodge them, I will not dodge!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the bullet had already hit Fade's right palm.

However, unlike what Jacob had imagined, the bullet did not pierce through Fade's palm and bring flesh and blood flying in the air.

On the contrary, Fade calmly clenched his fist and spread out his right hand. Suddenly, a completely deformed copper bullet head appeared in his palm.

"I-impossible!" Seeing this, Jacob was terror-stuck. "How can you block my bullets with your palm? T-this is impossible!"

Fade shook his head and said coldly, "It's not that it's impossible, it's that you are too weak."

"No, that's not true. I'm a world-famous sniper, I—" Jacob bellowed, and at the same time, he aimed his gun at Fade madly, ready to pull the trigger and shoot again.

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Before he could pull the trigger, Fade's right palm struck towards him and landed on the top of Jacob's head.

In an instant, there was a crisp sound, and Jacob's neck drooped. The light in his eyes quickly faded away. He fell to the ground with a loud thud, as he lost his breath completely.

Jacob was dead.

After killing Jacob, Fade turned around to look at Richard.

Intimidated by his gaze, Richard suddenly felt a chill all over his body. His face was pale and his whole body was shivering. "Don't, don't come over!"

Fade looked at Richard coldly and said, "Tell me, who is the mastermind behind you? What is this whole thing about?"

"Please, let me go, please..." The death of Jacob was a huge blow for Richard. After all, Jacob was an internationally renowned sniper in the underworld, and he was one of the most-wanted criminals in the country.

As a result, such a powerful sniper had been killed by Fade so easily, and Fade even managed to block Jacob's bullets with his bare hands. This rendered Richard too timid to fathom Fade's full strength. Therefore, facing Fade at present, Richard was overwhelmed with utter fear and remorse.

Fade's sharp stare was fixated on Richard, who was shuddering all over. He raised his right hand and shouted, "Say the truth or go to h*ll!"

Upon hearing the word "h*ll", Richard's trembles intensified. Straight after, he began to confide the whole story in detail.

Chapter 747

It turned out that the matter had something to do with Bald Eagle Pharma.

Some time ago, a conflict arose between Bald Eagle Pharma and the country due to the Alstom antibiotic incident, and it had aroused much attention abroad, especially those who were involved in the pharmaceutical business.

Just as everyone thought that there was no doubt that Bald Eagle Pharma would win the game, Fade, who suddenly popped out from nowhere, triumphed over Bald Eagle Pharma. He invented a medicine that could replace the Alstom antibiotics - the Ephedra Syrup.

This unprecedented breakthrough had no doubt invoked shock to many professionals in the pharmaceutical field, like a bomb that suddenly exploded.

By and by, it was widely known that Bald Eagle Pharma was interested to obtain the concoction formula of Ephedra Syrup from Fade. Their effort in this aspect even surpassed their interest in many other popular drug formulas.

However, it seemed that Bald Eagle Pharma failed in their attempt, for they did not manage to acquire the concoction formula of Ephedra Syrup as they had intended.

Under such circumstances, many of his business rivals in the pharmaceutical field couldn't help but muster up the courage to join the competition in getting the formula of the Ephedra Syrup so as to make a fortune for themselves.

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The number of competitors rose sharply, especially after the failure of Bald Eagle Pharma's billion yuan and annual dividend offer to Fade in exchange for the copyright of Ephedra Syrup.

Richard was one of the competitors. When he found out that his former classmate, Quin, had a close relationship with Fade, he was ecstatic and immediately came up with an evil scheme to obtain the formula from Quin.

After listening to Richard, Fade's face turned sullen.

Quin's expression changed drastically as well. She looked at Richard in dismay and said, "You were lying to me? Then, is it true that you said you have the medicine that I'm looking for?"

Richard shook his head and admitted frankly, "Regarding the medicine, it was just a scam that I made up. I merely wanted to gain your trust so that I could obtain the formula of the Ephedra Syrup."

"Richard, you, you..." For a moment, Quin couldn't accept the truth. After all, Richard had been her classmate for years. How could he cheat her like this? She was feeling somewhat heartbroken for the betrayal.

At this moment, Fade was not in the mood to listen to this guy's gibberish anymore. He directly slapped Richard's head.

Suddenly, Richard's neck made a clicking sound. His head drooped and his body fell to the ground.

Fade went over to the bedside and gently hugged Quin, who was looking downtrodden, and said softly, "Honey, it's all right, it's all right."

Quin plunged into Fade's embrace. Her face was still drenched in tears. She whimpered softly, "But, but if there's no medicine, Jeremy, he, Jeremy..."

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Fade's heart skipped a beat and he said, "What's wrong with Jeremy? The medicine you asked from Richard is for Jeremy?"

Quin nodded and said softly, "Jeremy has been in a coma for so long now, and he shows no sign of awakening at all. What's more, his physical condition is getting worse recently. I am worried that he will never wake up again, so I am trying my best to look for medicine and doctors everywhere to bring him back."

Hearing this, Fade was a little taken aback. He looked at Quin and said, "Dear, why didn't you tell me about Jeremy? You know, I'm a doctor. You can consult me about your worries."

Hearing this, Quin hesitated for a moment. Then, she looked at Fade and said, "Because, because you've been too busy recently. What's more, Jeremy once treated you in that way. I-I thought..."

There was no need for Quin to continue. Fade understood what she meant.

He looked at Quin and said firmly, "Quin, you must know that I am your husband. I am Quin Lin's husband, whatever your business is, is my business."

"Since I promised you that I would try my best to heal Jeremy, I won't break my promise. I will spare no effort to find a way."

Looking at Fade's determined eyes, Quin was deeply moved. Then, she revealed a trace of guilt, "I, I didn't expect..."

Fade stretched out his finger and gently placed it on Quin's lips. He said softly, "Say no more, dear. I believe in you. I will always believe in you."

His words were like a sudden warmth that sparked into her heart. The usually cold, icy beauty now turned into a stream of spring water in Fade's arms.

Fade could feel his wife's soft body in his chest and his body suddenly felt hot with desire

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However, the two dead bodies of Jacob and Richard were still lying in the room at the moment. He didn't want to make love to his wife in such a place.

Therefore, Fade carried Quin in his arms and strode out of the room.

Quin was startled by his action. Along the corridor, she said hurriedly, "Let me down. I can walk on my own."

Fade laughed, but he didn't let go. "Honey, I'm not tired. I'll carry you."

Then, Fade carried Quin out of the hotel and headed for his car.

And so, this was the scene that many passers-by happened to witness on that day - Fade, a man who was neither well-built nor muscular, carrying a beauty effortlessly with one hand, and a big box in the other. He got onto his car swiftly and left without a trace.

Quin sat in the passenger seat and looked curiously at the box that was thrown into the back seat by Fade. She asked, "What's that?"

Fade smiled at Quin and said, "That's a gift I prepared for you, my dear. You can open it and have a look, love."

"A gift!" Quin exclaimed in sheer surprise. Then, she opened the box and saw a huge Doraemon toy inside.

All of a sudden, Quin felt a deep sense of warmth deep down. Tears began to well up in her eyes again.

Quin looked at Fade with much tenderness in her eyes. At this moment, Quin was at a loss for words.

Seeing this, Fade couldn't help but laugh in joy and said, "Dear, if you don't know how to thank me, why don't I keep you company tonight?"

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When they returned to their mansion, Fade did a thorough checkup of Quin's body. He even transferred some of his positive Qi into her body for recuperation. Then, he sent her to the bedroom to rest.

After doing so, Fade went to Jeremy's special ward to check his physical condition.

As a result, Fade found that Jeremy's body deteriorated a little faster than he had expected before. If it went on at this rate, Jeremy would definitely die within half a year at most.

Moreover, for the time being, Fade did not have a good way to maintain Jeremy's physical condition as well. After all, he could not remain by Jeremy's side and transfer his positive energy to him all the time.

Therefore, he had to find the medicine to cure Jeremy as that was the only way out.

However, it was not so easy to find the blood-nourishing herb that Jeremy needed for his treatment. Fade could only try his best to ask others to find it for him.

In the next few days, just as Fade was waiting for updates regarding the search for blood-nourishing herbs eagerly, a long-lost face suddenly came into Fade's sight.

The man was in his sixties. He was wearing a traditional suit with a head of silver hair. He was none other than Master Aaron Xie, whom Fade had not seen for a long time.

Chapter 748

Back then in Bay City, Aaron had been defeated by Fade. Since then, he had followed Fade to Long City. Later, Fade arranged a task for Aaron to do, so they did not meet again for quite a long time.

At the moment, Aaron's sudden reappearance startled Fade. He looked at Aaron in surprise, saying, "Young Master Xie, what brings you here? What can I do for you?"

Aaron's face was etched with anxiety. He said to Fade in a desperate tone, "Mr. Chen, I have bad news."

"What happened?" Upon hearing his words, Fade couldn't help but felt a jolt in his stomach. His expression turned somewhat grave.

After all, the mission which Fade had given Aaron was to guard the cave where the Rudraksha tree could be found in the heart of the forest. It was located at the border separating Long City and Bay City.

Back then, Fade discovered the Strengthening Ruby in the cave of the Rudraksha tree. Thus, Fade planted a premature Nine Leaf Ice Flower over there, in an attempt to make use of the aura of the Strengthening Ruby to nurture the Nine Leaf Ice Flower until it blossomed.

The Nine Leaf Ice Flower was extremely precious, it happened to be one of the nine yin-yang plants that Fade was desperately searching for. Therefore, Fade placed the utmost importance on this matter whereby he specially asked Aaron to stand guard to prevent any unforeseen incident from occurring.

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Unexpectedly, something bad happened anyway.

Fade's face suddenly turned cold and he asked, "What happened at the cave of the Rudraksha tree?"

With a look of guilt, Aaron said, "Mr. Chen, you asked me to guard the cave of Rudraksha tree and protect the Nine Leaf Ice Flower, but I failed the mission."

"Just this morning, a group of people passed by. They discovered the Rudraksha tree in the cave and asked to visit the cave. Naturally, I refused, but they are all equipped with supreme martial-arts skills. They defeated me and broke into the cave."

"Initially, they rushed in to steal the Rudraksha tree's trunk, but in the process, they discovered the Nine-leaf Ice Flower."

"They wanted to take possession of the Nine Leaf Ice Flower. Of course, I tried to stop them. I told them the consequences of doing so but they turned a deaf ear to me. They defeated me and dominated the cave, the Rudraksha tree and the Nine Leaf Ice Flower are now in their hands."

After hearing what Aaron had said, Fade's face turned extremely icy. He slammed the table in anger and said icily, "How dare they snatch my belongings? How many people were there? Who are they?"

Aaron said, "There were six in total. I don't know their exact identity, but judging from their accent, they seem to originate from the Southcloud District. Moreover, they are quite skillful in martial arts. Among the six people, four of them have achieved the Black level, and the other two are at the peak of the Yellow Level."

Aaron's martial arts had improved a lot under Fade's guidance. He had achieved the early stage of the Black Level. His level was definitely fit to be addressed as a master in any small town.

However, Aaron was completely outnumbered by six opponents. No wonder he was defeated.

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Nonetheless, no matter how strong they were, their skills were not incomparable when they were compared to Fade. So, Fade slammed the table coldly and stood up, saying with raging wrath, "Let's take a look."

With that, both of them left the company.

Meanwhile, in the cave deep in the forest, three people were surrounding the Rudraksha tree, with traces of astonishment emitting from their greedy eyes.

Amongst the trio was a middle-aged man with silver hair. He looked at the Rudraksha tree with admiration and said, "The Rudraksha tree can grow this huge with such a strong aura! It's really a precious treasure!"

"But it's nothing compared to the Nine-leaf Ice Flower below it. The Nine-leaf Ice Flower is the real deal!" A Taoist nun clad in robes replied with a serious face.

"Let's not talk about the treasures first. I just went out to make an inquiry about the guy who was beaten by us earlier. His name is Aaron Xie, also known as Master Xie. He is indeed very famous in this region, and his martial arts skills are not bad!" A man in his thirties, who was dressed in a short robe, said with a serious tone.

"So what? We still defeated him!" the serious-looking Taoist nun said with a strong sense of disdain in her tone.

The man in short robe continued, "Madam Jodie, things are not as simple as you think. I found out that Aaron is not the strongest martial artist in this place. There is a real mastermind behind him. They call him Master Chen, he will be our real enemy."

"What bullsh*t is this Master Chen? It's ridiculous to call him a master in the face of us!" One of his companions said scornfully.

The man in short robe frowned and said, "We can't underestimate our enemy. I heard that Master Chen is powerful indeed, he

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even has the title of the top master in the local area. Therefore, we must be careful and vigilant against Master Chen's arrival." "We should collect the treasures and leave as soon as possible!" he added.

After hearing his words, the silver-haired man looked at the man in the short robes in amusement. He said with a calm and composed smile, "Mr. Liu, don't be nervous. Along the way, we have seen a lot of the so-called 'local top masters'. But it turned out that they are merely farces. Don't take their title too seriously."

"Apparently we can't leave now, because the Nine Leaf Ice Flower has not blossomed in its entirety. If we plucked it now, its therapeutic value will be greatly reduced. Thus, we should just wait and see. After all, the affair of the Westamor District wasn't so urgent, so we still have time to spare."

Madam Jodie nodded approvingly and said, "The Nine Leaf Ice Flower is extremely rare. We can't waste this opportunity."

Hearing what they said, Mr. Liu stopped talking about Master Chen. Instead, he rolled his eyes before another thought flashed across his mind. Then he said slowly, "Mr. Ann, Madam Jodie, you both said that the Nine Leaf Ice Flower is extremely precious, but there is only one of it. I wonder how we will distribute it after it blooms."

Hearing this, there was an immediate change of expression on their faces, and cold light flashed across their eyes.

The silver-haired man, Mr. Ann, snorted and said, "When we fought against Aaron, I made the most contribution, so the majority of the Nine Leaf Ice Flower should belong to my Dark Souls Clan. The Nine Leaf Ice Flower has nine petals in total, so our Dark Spirit Sect should take five of it."

Hearing this, Madam Jodie immediately raised her objection in dissatisfaction. "You have gone too far to be asking for five petals for your own. My clan, the Quiet Heart Monastery, has contributed a lot to fend off Aaron too! Based on your explanation,

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we deserve five petals of the flower."

Hearing this, President An rebuked coldly, "Madam Jodie, the Quiet Heart Monastery is by no means as strong as the Dark Souls Clan. Are you sure that you want to fight with me?"

Madam Jodie showed no slightest intention of giving in. She said bluntly, "I will give in to you if it's something else, Mr. Ann, but definitely not when it comes to the Nine Leaf Ice Flower."

Chapter 749

"Mr. Ann, If you're unhappy with this arrangement, I'll give up the Rudraksha tree," added Madam Jodie.

Hearing this, Mr. Ann sneered, "The Rudraksha tree is nothing if compared with the Nine Leaf Ice Flower. I am willing to give up the Rudraksha tree, can you give me the Nine Leaf Ice Flower instead?"

Madam Jodie was sullen. She said, "No way. I must acquire the Nine Leaf Ice Flower."

Sensing the brewing fight between both of them, Mr. Liu, the man in a short robe, quickly interrupted, "Mr. Ann, Madam Jodie, both of you are well-respected seniors in our region, and both the Dark Souls Clan and the Quiet Heart Monastery are famous sects in Southcloud District. Why are you both putting your reputation on the line by quarreling over such a trivial issue?"

"I have a suggestion. Since there are nine petals in total, and we happened to come from three different parties. Why don't we divide them equally, so that each of us gets three petals. Isn't that brilliant?"

However, as soon as Mr. Liu finished, Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie whipped their heads to Mr. Liu and said in unison, "Divide equally? No way!"

Mr. Ann said in a low and threatening voice, "Mr. Liu, is the Liu family of Southcloud District trying to fight with the Dark Souls Clan?"

Madam Jodie also shot Mr. Liu a death stare and said, "Our Quiet Heart Monastery is set on getting the Nine Leaf Ice Flower."

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Hearing this, Mr. Liu could not help but put on a bitter smile. He understood that the Liu family he came from was not on par with the Dark Souls Clan and the Quiet Heart Monastery in terms of power.

Therefore, he came up with the proposal to divide the petals in equal. After all, that would be the best choice for him as the weakest party of the three.

However, he did not expect his suggestion to be shot down outright as soon as he voiced his mind.

It seemed that the duo was serious about the Nine Leaf Ice Flower, they were prepared to fight till the end. As for how many petals would be left for the Liu family in the end, Mr. Liu felt hopeless thinking about it.

As Mr. Liu had gone silent, Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie immediately moved their attention away from him. Mr. Ann glared at Madam Jodie and said, "Madam Jodie, give it to me. The Dark Souls Clan will owe you a favor, and I will always remember your kindness."

Shaking her head, Madam Jodie pressed on firmly. "Why don't we do it the other way round? You give it to me, in return, I will remember your favor."

The atmosphere was getting increasingly tense, as if they were about to break out into a fight any second now.

But at this particular moment, a loud sneer came from their top and drifted into their ears without fail. "A group of stupid thieves, you haven't manage to steal anything yet, but you're already discussing on dividing the loot. This is ridiculous."

Hearing this, the trio in the cave were thunderstruck. They bellowed in anxiety, "Who, who is talking?"

"Who's hiding there? Show yourself!"

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Meanwhile, their followers who were standing guards outside the cave, all rushed in and said in frenzied voices, "Oh no, that Aaron Xie is back, and he's brought a man to aid him."

"Aaron, that old man, he had the guts to come back?" Mr. Ann frowned.

"An aid? What aid?" asked Madam Jodie.

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Right at this moment, two figures strode into the cave. They were none other than Fade Chen and Aaron Xie.

The six people in the cave scrutinized the duo with squinted eyes. Then, their eyes fell on Fade and shouted to him, "Who are you?"

Fade's eyes were grave. He glanced at them with a venomous look before shaking his head and said coldly, "What a gang of daring thieves. You stole my stuff, but you had no idea who I am?"

Aaron also said in a deep voice, "This is Master Chen, who owns everything in the cave. Apologize for it right this instance, or else..."

Without waiting for Aaron to finish, Mr. Ann sneered and interrupted him. Wearing a look of disdain, he said, "Aaron Xie, haven't you learnt your lesson? Your nose is bloody and your face swollen. Such guts you have to be coming back again, I think you are seeking for your own demise!"

Madam Jodie also guffawed. Her eyes fell on Fade. She snorted disdainfully and said, "You're just a brat. How dare you speak so rudely to us? Do you know who we are?"

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Only Mr. Liu was eyeing Fade intensely. He frowned slightly and searched hard in his train of memory, but he couldn't remember having seen this person before at all.

After hearing their response, Fade's face turned solemn. He shook his head and said in a cold voice, "Silly thieves. I don't need to know who you are. Go to hell!"

As he spoke, Fade's anger exploded and initiated the attack.

Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie merely sneered at him.

"Arrogant boy, you don't know what's good for you. How dare you attack us! You are looking for death!"

"Boy, are you the so-called Master Chen? Is that all you can do? Ridiculous!"

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While speaking, Mr. Ann wielded a stream of black light toward Fade, which was akin to a sharp sword, charging toward Fade with incredible speed. On the other hand, Madam Jodie waved a beam of silver light at him, which transformed into dozens of silver needles that aimed to seal all of Fade's Acupoints.

The combo technique of the duo's signature moves was extraordinary indeed. Both Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie had achieved the middle stage of Black Level in martial arts, and they were both ranked as the top master of their respective districts.

However, they were unfortunate to have met Fade as their opponent.

"Break it!" At this moment, Fade didn't care about their sarcastic words and offensive moves in the slightest. He merely narrowed his eyes and extended his arms to block their attack with his palms.

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When Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie saw the scene, they immediately burst into loud laughter.

"Boy, how silly you are. How dare you block my attack with your own palms? You're courting death!"

"An arrogant boy who overestimates himself. You are just a frog in the well who hasn't seen the real deal before. How ridiculous and pathetic!"

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With a condescending attitude, the duo seemed to have foreseen the scene where Fade was defeated spectacularly by their attack.

However, Mr. Liu, who had been silent the whole time, suddenly recalled something from his train of memory. He stole a few glances at Fade again to reconfirm his suspicion, and his face stiffened dramatically into a sheer horrified look.

He quickly shouted to Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie, "Both of you, stop fighting now, hurry."

"Mr. Liu, what are you doing?" Hearing his words, Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie frowned in exasperation. They stared at Mr. Liu disapprovingly.

At this moment, nervousness was mounting in Mr. Liu. He yelled, "That, that person you've just attacked is Master Chen. Master Chen, he is the real deal. He is the real master of martial arts. Stop now. If we offend him, none of us will be alive."

Hearing Mr. Liu's exaggerated holler, Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie were overwhelmed by puzzlement and disappointment. Their stunned face was in a complete daze. "What Master Chen? He's just an ignorant brat. What's wrong with you, Mr. Liu?"

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Mr. Liu was growing anxious at this moment because he had suddenly recalled Fade's identity. He knew that the man in front of him was a real martial arts master.

Therefore, Mr. Liu hurriedly said, "Mr. Ann, Madam Jodie, this is Master Chen, Master Chen of Dragonville City!"

"Master Chen, who defeated Yohannes Yue and Franklin Chang from the Lighting Clan in the Martial Arts Convention of the Five Province not long ago! Stop it!"

Hearing this, Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie were thunderstruck, they exclaimed in surprise.

"You mean he's Master Chen, the Earth Level master?"

"The Master Chen who defeated Elder Francesca Sun?"

"It's impossible. How can Master Chen be this young? This man is only in his early twenties, isn't it? How can he be a master who has mastered the Earth Level?" The duo felt somewhat dubious of his words.

They even started doubting that Mr. Liu had hidden motives beneath his words. "Mr. Liu, is this guy someone you've brought to deceive us so that you can take the Nine Leaf Ice Flower all by yourself?"

When Mr. Liu heard this, he was both infuriated and frustrated. He said impatiently, "I have already warned you. If you refused to listen, don't blame me then."

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With that, Mr. Liu ceased his attempt to persuade the other two. He directly knelt down in Fade's direction and said genuinely, "Master Chen, I am Shelton Liu, a disciple of the Liu family from Southcloud District. I am sorry for trespassing your territory out of momentary greed. I was wrong. I accept your punishment, Master Chen."

Fade heard Shelton's words and cast a curt look in his direction, but he didn't say anything.

Seeing this, Shelton lay on the ground in a kowtow position with his forehead touching the ground while his body remained motionless. It seemed that he was determined to maintain this position to show his sincerity until Fade pardons him.

When Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie saw what Mr. Liu was doing, there was an immediate twitch on their faces. Then, they began to spat words of sarcasm and disdain.

"Mr. Liu, albeit your family background is no match to the Dark Souls Clan and the Quiet Heart Monastery, your Liu Family is still one of the most influential clans in Southcloud District. As a disciple, you are really humiliating the reputation of the Liu family to bow your head to a young man!"

"Shelton, if this spreads to our hometown, I am afraid that you will no longer have any standing in the martial arts field of Southcloud District."

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At this moment, Shelton paid no heed to their criticisms at all. He merely went on with his sincere kowtow to Fade to beg for his forgiveness. He was well aware that all three of them were no match to Fade Chen in terms of retaliation.

When Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie failed to persuade Shelton, they couldn't help but shook their heads in puzzlement and disappointment.

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Then, both of them turned to Fade and said coldly, "Kid, I don't know what gimmick you used to fool Mr. Liu. However, whatever trick you're trying to pull is definitely futile to us."

As they spoke, both of them raised their arms, and the black flowing light, accompanied with a silver aura, surged out again. It pierced through the air, charging straight toward Fade.

When Fade saw their attack, his eyes narrowed slightly. He raised his arms and gently slapped forward. He confronted both of them boldly without the slightest hint of backing down.

"Bang, bang!"

As the two sides collided with each other, bursts of explosions reverberated in the air.

As soon as their powerful attacks collided with Fade's palm, it immediately exploded and was instantly smashed into thousands of pieces.

"How is this possible?"

"How did he manage to shatter our attack with his mere palms? We're masters at the mid-level of the Black Level!"

While the duo was flabbergasted, Fade was already piercing through the explosion, charging toward them.

At the sight of this, they were taken aback. They immediately shouted, "Charge, finish him!"

In an instant, their followers dashed forward to join the fight. They immediately launched a fierce attack together on Fade.

Shelton's follower was hesitating whether to join the fight or not, but he had received a glare from Shelton, which caused him to give up on the idea.

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So, this left four people to attack Fade. Two masters at the middle-stage of the Black Level, one at the early-stage of the Black Level, and one at the peak of the Yellow Level.

This was definitely a powerful combination that could go head-in-head with any Black level master.

However, it was unfortunate to face an opponent who was none other than Fade.

Fade slightly curled his lips, revealing a disdainful sneer. He raised his right hand and wielded a beam red light, which converged into a curve of sharp rouge blade.

Then, Fade swung the sharp crimson blade with a swing of his arm and a slash went directly toward the four.

The moment the dazzling red light was launched, they felt a mortifying momentum so strong, they could not resist it at all. They could only back off in a hurry.

However, it was still too late for them to move just in time. The red light pierced through the air and hit them hard.

With sickening groans, they were sent flying into the air.

The two followers, who were weaker in strength, were cut horizontally into half by the sharp blade. Their torn up bodies fell onto the ground with a sickening thud. There was no doubt that they died a horrible death.

Although Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie were stronger than them, they barely blocked Fade's attack. They were nevertheless seriously injured and spat out mouthfuls of blood. Their countenance was pale and grim to behold.

They got up from their awkward contortion from the ground. Hands pressed against their wounds, they looked at Fade with sheer horror in their eyes.

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"You, are you really Master Chen?"

"The Earth Level master, Master Chen!"

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In fact, there was no need for Fade to answer as the truth was already clear in their heads.

Fade looked at them coldly and said, "Tell me, what do you think I should do to you?"

Upon hearing this, the horror on their faces was replaced with gloom.

After a brief hesitation, Mr. Ann said, "Master Chen, I admit we're at fault. But..."

Upon hearing this, Fade raised his eyebrows and retorted coldly, "Just admit your wrongdoings, I don't want to hear any excuse!"

The duo quickly cupped one hand in the other before their chests and said in a terrified voice, "We are wrong. Please punish us, Master Chen!"

Fade gave them a long, hard stare. He contemplated for a moment, and then said coldly, "Since you want me to punish you, then cut off one of your arms!"

Too shaken by his cruelty, both Mr. Ann and Madam Jodie exclaimed.

"Master Chen, we know we're wrong. Please give us another chance. We're willing to pay for your loss."

"Master Chen, we, the Dark Souls Clan, and the Quiet Heart Monastery are also the famous martial arts sects in the Southcloud District. Master Chen, please, taking into consideration the wellbeing of our clans, we beg for your pardon."

Fade snorted and said, "Are you threatening me?"

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"No, we wouldn't dare!" They quickly bowed their heads and said in a frightened voice.

"You wouldn't dare?" Fade sneered coldly. "When you see the treasure, you have been blinded by greed. You injured Aaron and took my possession by force. I came to retrieve it but you didn't return the treasure you've stolen from me, you've even attacked me."

"If my martial arts is not as powerful as you, I'm afraid that I would've been dead with my treasure shamelessly robbed! Now that you realize that you can't defeat me, you bow down and apologize, and even tried to ask for my pardon using your clans as a shield."