



½ Prince Volume 9- **Sequel**  
Original novel in Chinese by: [御我 \(Yu Wo\)](#)  
Translated by [Prince Revolution](#)

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Prince Revolution!(or PR! for short)was started in late April in 2009 by Erialis for the purpose of translating and sharing the ½ Prince and The Legend of Sun Knight novels (and now Female Warrior) with other fans (who unfortunately couldn't read Chinese). PR!'s crew has since exploded to include sixteen translators who double as Chinese to English editors and 18 Proofreaders. They also have sister sites translating the novels into Dutch, Spanish, Indonesian, Portuguese and Vietnamese.

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## ½ Prince Volume 9- Sequel

Original novel in Chinese by: 御我 (Yu  
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## Chapter 1: Feng Long Ming, Part One

My name is Feng Long Ming, and I am sixteen this year. Perhaps you may feel that my name is a good name, with the meaning of becoming famous throughout the world just like a dragon. However, I apologize for having to shatter your conjectures. The reason why I am called Feng Long Ming is because my father is called Feng Yang Ming, and my mother is called Long Shui Han. With my parents' personalities that I know too well, they had probably written out all six words of their names on pieces of paper, and then chose three of them to form a name... Thank God! I wasn't called Shui Long or Feng Long, or even worse, if they had picked "Feng Shui," then I really don't know if I should or shouldn't go to a Feng Shui master to ask him to take me as a disciple.<sup>1</sup>

Truthfully, I have never understood how my father and my mother, being so messed-up, managed to raise a sensible kid like me. Could it be the result of things developing in the opposite direction when they become too extreme?

**(Wrong! That's 'cause both your parents and my parents are messed-up, that's why they would throw a four-year-old girl to a five-year-old boy to take care of. If you, who had started being a replacement father since the age of five, hadn't become more serious and responsible, the two of us would have been reincarnated a long time ago.)**

Min Lan Lan is also nicknamed Xiao Xiao Lan. Her mother and my father are twins. Of course, that makes her my cousin, and her way of

speaking always hits the bull's eye.

This was not the most ridiculous part about my parents. To give an example, my parents love going to the pub the most – no, perhaps I should say, the two of them enjoy “ending” pubs the most. Up until now, the two of them have already semi-destroyed twenty pubs and completely destroyed fifteen pubs. There were all sorts of strange reasons for the destruction of the pubs, such as jealousy, people from the criminal underground looking for revenge, and trouble from getting drunk. There was even one instance where my mom suddenly wanted to cook a poached egg for my dad to eat and so she borrowed the pub's kitchen to use.

The strange thing was, the kitchen exploded – right at the same time my mom stepped out of the kitchen. My dad went to the hospital because my mother had used dish detergent as salad oil. The dance hall of the pub also got destroyed because my mom called her own fire truck to help extinguish the fire in the kitchen. Unfortunately, at that moment only Xiao Xiao Lan's mom had been at home, and hence the fire truck was driven there by her. Just as the intensity of the fire was diminishing due to the dance hall staff using ten and more fire extinguishers, the fire truck crashed into the pub's dance hall.

“Where's the fire?” Xiao Xiao Lan's mom asked honorably while holding a water hose. Afterwards, the fire truck's engine caught on fire.

Xiao Xiao Lan's mom had a lot of common sense, so she immediately evacuated the people, yelling, “Everyone, hurry and run away. When vehicles catch fire, it's very dangerous because they will explode!”



After all the people had evacuated and Xiao Xiao Lan's mom stepped out of the pub as the final person, the vehicle indeed exploded. The photo of the composed way she walked out of the pub with the blaze of the explosion roaring behind her was published in the news for a whole week, with the headline: *Fire-fighting Heroine!*

Though the staff of the pub went through a lot of effort to try and clarify that the explosion was caused by this fire-fighting heroine.

After what happened, the dance halls within a hundred kilometer radius of our house all have a warning sign hanging outside: "Dogs and the Feng couple are not allowed inside!"

My parents' powers of destruction are like a nuclear warhead; extremely powerful, and they instill a fear in everyone that they wouldn't be able to get out of the way in time. However, Xiao Xiao Lan's parents are not inferior in any respect. Like environmental pollution, you might not know how scary it is. It is just like how you use plastics very happily, but you would definitely never think that your plastics actually have something to do with the hole in the ozone layer one hundred and eight thousand miles away.

Upon seeing Xiao Xiao Lan's mother beaming from ear-to-ear as she served fine dishes one after another on the table, every visitor would give a thumbs up as they say one line: What a good wife and loving mother. If this really were the case, Xiao Xiao Lan's dad wouldn't be pushed around so badly by her mom. Originally, I too didn't understand what the relation between hair gel and a hole in the ozone layer was – no! I mean I didn't understand what exactly was so scary about Xiao Xiao Lan's mom. After all, she does great cooking, and

always stroked my head while smiling. What exactly was there to be afraid of in this kind and gentle housewife?

These kinds of doubts continued until a certain day, when five or six kidnapers burst into our house. Even the security guards at my house had been overpowered, but Xiao Xiao Lan's mom was still cutting a bunch of ingredients in the kitchen. She had said that she wanted to attempt Buddha Jumps Over the Wall,<sup>2</sup> and this dish required a lot of time to prepare. She had to cook it well in advance, otherwise she wouldn't make it in time for dinner... Getting back to the topic, I only wanted to tell you all that, when this housewife was facing the kidnapers, she was extremely calm and at ease. She even reminded the kidnapers, "You didn't release the safety on your guns. You can't shoot like that."

One kidnapper flew into a rage out of humiliation, and was so angry that he wanted her to go into the living room and squat properly. However, Xiao Xiao Lan's mother only gave a slight frown and said, "Can I stay in the kitchen to look after the fire? Buddha Jumps Over the Wall is not easy to cook, since you have to pay attention to the heat level."

As you can imagine, the kidnapers would of course not allow their hostage to stay in the kitchen to cook Buddha Jumps Over the Wall. An impatient expression flickered across Xiao Xiao Lan's mother's face, and then she raised the kitchen knife that was by her side and gave a few quick swipes!

Swish, swish, swish, bang!



In the first three swings, the guns that the kidnappers were holding broke into pieces. Last of all was the sound of the kitchen knife's handle knocking a kidnapper unconscious. (I have always wondered, what material is that kitchen knife made of?)

Xiao Xiao Lan's mother shouted, "Kenshin, take care of the children!" Our housekeeper, Kenshin, was still using the vacuum cleaner to vacuum the floor. Once he heard her words, he moved so quickly that he was a blur, and instantly hauled Xiao Xiao Lan and me to the second story.

I forgot to mention to everyone that our house is a duplex apartment. From the second story, you can clearly see what is happening in the living room on the first floor. In this way, Xiao Xiao Lan and I managed to enjoy the view of "A housewife wielding a kitchen knife beating up five kidnappers armed with guns."

Ever since that time, Xiao Xiao Lan and I never dared to disobey her mother's words... We became as obedient as her dad. Speaking of which, I couldn't help but sigh as I looked around the deserted European-styled villa. I had only left for a short while, so how was it that when I came back, the scene of everyone gathering together and bustling in excitement had completely vanished without a trace? What a waste of my efforts to specially buy dishes that go well with alcohol.

"Where did everyone go?"

"Perhaps Kenshin would know?" I guessed, and then walked to the kitchen. As expected, inside there I saw an apron-draped Kenshin cooking soup. I forgot to mention, this guy with red hair and a scar on

his face, Kenshin, is my family's distant relative. Because he has no one else to depend on, he has always stayed in our house as a housekeeper. His cleaning work is extremely good. To find a speck of dust in our house is harder than ascending to the heavens... Though I say that, actually Xiao Xiao Lan and I know an enormous secret. This secret was something that Xiao Xiao Lan and I found out by accident. Actually, Kenshin is not just our housekeeper, but also part of a crime syndicate!

The reason why we know the truth was because we found out that Uncle Leng<sup>3</sup> who always comes to look for Kenshin to go out is actually part of the Ice Emperor Syndicate that is famous in the criminal underground. Not to mention that he is even the most famous assassin – Silver-Masked Quick Fox!

*Kenshin must be one of Silver-Masked Quick Fox's assassins*, both Xiao Xiao Lan and I guessed. However, we weren't scared of Kenshin because of this, for in our hearts, Kenshin was still the multi-talented housekeeper who we went to when we were hungry!

"Kenshin, where did everyone go?" I asked.

Kenshin's gaze shifted onto me, and without any change in expression, he answered, "To the place where they first met."

"When are they coming back?" I was not surprised at all, for Xiao Xiao Lan's and my parents were always running around somewhere.

"Tomorrow, maybe." Kenshin lowered his head to taste the soup again, and then turned around to tell me, "Time to eat."

I nodded my head and carried the cooked dishes out. Once I stepped into the dining room, I saw Xiao Xiao Lan scrutinizing a simulation helmet. Curious, I asked, "You want to go to the simulation supermarket to buy stuff?"

"As if!" Xiao Xiao Lan replied casually, "If I want to buy stuff, I have to try it before I buy it. The items in the simulation supermarket aren't the real product."

"Then what are you doing?"

"I just found this in a bunch of stuff that Long jiě-jie brought back. I'm not sure if it is a new product by her company, so I'm checking it out right now." Xiao Xiao Lan looked at it for a moment, and then couldn't help but frown as she muttered, "That's strange. This simulation helmet doesn't seem like a new product. Instead, it appears to be an old model."

"Perhaps my mother is buying random antiques again?" I put a plate on the table. This was something that had a high possibility of happening, for my mom's ability to shop was simply shocking. She shopped so much that besides our house we had built an additional storeroom of 661.02 square meters, just for the sake of storing the random items that my mom bought.

Xiao Xiao Lan shrugged her shoulders, saying, "We'll know once we put it on." Saying that, she really put on the helmet that came from unknown origins.

I was a little worried, for the items that my mom brought back, if they weren't beauty products, clothes, accessories or bags, then they were usually dangerous items! It was not always the case, but last time, my mom brought back an ancient Egyptian necklace, which turned out to be a cursed necklace. At that time, we kept hearing footsteps and a woman weeping in the middle of the night in our house. This kind of situation continued up until Xiao Xiao Lan and I complained to Xiao Xiao Lan's mother. Then, it ended.

Because after that, the necklace was hacked into seventeen, eighteen pieces. Based on the cuts, the weapon should have been a kitchen knife. Because of that, my mom even had a quarrel with Xiao Xiao Lan's mom. However, after a kitchen knife spun past my mom and impaled deep into the wall behind her, other than throwing out the necklace, my mom didn't do anything more.

At this moment, Xiao Xiao Lan suddenly shrieked, "It's a simulation game!"

"What game?" I relaxed. *So it was a game. Perhaps it's newly released by the company.*

Xiao Xiao Lan didn't say a word more. I was suddenly suspicious, and shook her shoulders in a panic, shouting, "Xiao Xiao Lan? Xiao Xiao Lan, hurry up and answer me!"

Xiao Xiao Lan was dazed for a moment, and then she gave me a strong flick on the forehead. After removing her helmet, she muttered in dissatisfaction, "What? I was just about to create a character to go in and look."

I rubbed my innocent head, and said, "I was worried about you. It would be better not to casually wear a helmet from unknown origins. If you want to play a game, then it'd be better to use your own helmet. Isn't yours the best simulation helmet the company has to offer?"

"But this is not the same!" Xiao Xiao Lan seemed a little excited as she exclaimed, "This simulation helmet is specific to one game, unlike our multi-purpose simulation helmets that can go into the simulation supermarket to buy stuff, or read and whatever, and even play all kinds of games."

"And also..." Xiao Xiao Lan had a strange look on her face as she continued, "This game is the forbidden game of the legends. I have only heard about it, but I have never found an entrance into it."

"Forbidden game? What game?" I was a little puzzled. *Wasn't it just a game? What was in there to make it forbidden? Could it be that it was too violent, was that why it was banned?*

Xiao Xiao Lan gave a big smile as she answered, "Second Life."

"Second Life?" I raised an eyebrow. I didn't have much interest in this ordinary game name, and only advised Xiao Xiao Lan, "Hurry up and let's go eat. I think you really are about to embark on your second life."

When Xiao Xiao Lan heard that, she stuck out her tongue, and then picked up her rice bowl in a hurry. She even started talking while eating in an unlady-like fashion. "Come and join me in the game? Since there are four helmets anyway."

Unenthusiastically, I replied, "No, I have no interest in games. I don't like talking to Artificial Intelligences at all; their manner of speech is too boring, with no changes whatsoever. Did you forget that the two of us have played many games, but there hasn't been any that we played for more than a week?"

"That's true." Xiao Xiao Lan was unable to retort back, but the contentious side of her couldn't help but try to argue, "However, it's not that you don't like talking to Artificial Intelligences. You really love taking with the Dictator of Life!"

I was a little at a loss for words but I replied, "That's not the same. The Dictator of Life is developed by our company, and is the best AI. How could you compare him with the others? Besides, he really is very knowledgeable, and by talking with him, you can learn a lot."

Xiao Xiao Lan continued to pester me to play the game with her. I simply couldn't take her pestering anymore, and hid in the study once I wolfed down my food in a hurry. However, even I sort of knew that since I was young, I could never go against Xiao Xiao Lan. In at most one more day, I would definitely be dragged into playing the game with her. Since that was going to be the case, I might as well make use of the rest of today to investigate why Second Life would be called a forbidden game.

"Dictator of Life," I called his name. Afterwards, as per usual, I waited for his hologram to appear.

Usually, the Dictator of Life would appear immediately, but this time, the Dictator of Life instead made me wait for a whole ten or more seconds before he appeared.

The red-haired, gray-eyed Dictator of Life who even had exotic markings under his left eye appeared before me. With a slightly apologetic expression, he answered, "Sorry, I was in the process of settling what Feng Lan has instructed me to do, henceforth I came out a lot slower."

I didn't know what kind of big problem Xiao Xiao Lan's mother gave to the Dictator of Life this time. I remembered last time she actually wanted the Dictator of Life, an AI, to design a "new menu." For that short period of time, the stuff that we ate in our house all had a kind of strangeness to it that we couldn't put into words, especially after hearing the Dictator of Life read out the contents of the menu.

"Ingredients needed: Two hundred grams of *Ipomoea aquatica*, has to be grown via hydroponics so that the amount of chemicals used is decreased, which will prolong the life span of the liver; 0.136367 grams of sodium chloride, 0.0456 grams of sodium glutamate, one piece of *Capsicum annuum* L., to be cut into one cm in diameter, and 0.03 cm tall cylinders. Stir-fry at a high temperature of a hundred and fifty degrees, and then put it onto the plate. With that, it'll be completed."

At that moment, three black lines appeared on the face of Xiao Xiao Lan's mother. She hurriedly went to ask her husband what kind of precious ingredients the Dictator of Life was talking about. Like that, the two of them walked into the kitchen while discussing, and at last,



they served a plate of....

"Ipomoea aquatica, is actually water spinach. Ipomoea aquatica is just the scientific name," explained Xiao Xiao Lan's dad with an upset face, with a little bit of helplessness.

"Isn't sodium chloride salt?" said Xiao Xiao Lan as she realized abruptly.

"What on earth is sodium glutamate?" my dad asked with his arms folded.

"MSG." Xiao Xiao Lan's mom spread out both of her hands, looking as though she was defeated by the Dictator of Life.

"Capsicum annum L, this I know, it's bell peppers." I took in a deep breath. *So combined, these things would become... Stir-fried water spinach with bell peppers...*

"Sob, are you trying to make me eat this dull and tasteless food?" My mom secretly ate a bite of it, and immediately started making a big fuss about it.

"The Dictator of Life said that this way, the salt content wouldn't exceed the amount you're supposed to intake..." Looking at Xiao Xiao Lan's mother's expression, I knew that in the future, she probably would never ask the Dictator of Life to design a menu again.

When I stopped reminiscing about those memories, the Dictator of Life was still silently awaiting my instructions in front of me. A little

apologetic, I opened my mouth to say, "Sorry, I made you wait for a long time. I wanted to ask you about something regarding a game, a game that is called Second Life."

The Dictator of Life's expression momentarily froze. This was an expression that I had never seen him wear before. However, he instantly recovered the faint smile that he wore before. "Why have you suddenly gained an interest in gaming?"

I shrugged my shoulders. "Xiao Xiao Lan dug out a helmet from my mom's pile of stuff, and she kept bugging me to play."

The Dictator of Life gave another faint smile, and started to explain the story behind Second Life. "Second Life is the first game to be able to achieve a realism level of ninety-nine percent, causing a sensation across the whole world. Also, eighty percent of the population entered into this game. However, in the end there was an accident, and because of that, the game went out of control. The game company was completely unable to handle the game, and was even unable to shut down the game. Hence, they could only give an order to recall all of the helmets. This game would hence become known throughout history as a famous title."

"But my mom still managed to buy this helmet," I replied and gave a sigh. *As expected, my mom specializes in buying dangerous stuff to bring back home.*

"It's not bought." The Dictator of Life smiled gently and answered, "Second Life was the first game released by your mother's company."

“What?” I abruptly stood up. I had never heard the adults mention this before, and since this matter happened inside our own family’s company, I couldn’t help but start to be concerned. “What kind of accident happened at that time? How did it make this game become a forbidden game?”

For once, the Dictator of Life didn’t answer my question. He stared at me, and then said, “You can go find out yourself.”

I walked hurriedly to the living room, and then grabbed Xiao Xiao Lan who was in the middle of watching television while snacking. Ignoring her protesting expression, I fastened the helmet onto her head, and then put another helmet onto my own head.

Seeing the pitch-black darkness in front of my eyes, I started to think about how this matter was related to my own family’s company. Not to mention that the Dictator of Life’s strange reaction also led me to greatly suspect that perhaps the accident that happened back then had a very big relation to our family? I made up my mind to uncover the truth!

“Hello! I haven’t seen anyone in a long time.”

After the brief moment of darkness, my eyes were flooded with light. A beauty radiating charm was floating in the air, and she sized me up with curiosity and excitement. She was even smiling with her lips pursed up from time to time, which made me feel wrong from head to toe... Almost as though a beauty was trying to seduce me.

I shook my head to shake off this absurd way of thinking. What was in

front of my eyes was but an A.I, also known as an NPC in game. They were absolutely incapable of having genuine emotions.

Suddenly, the beauty winked, asking, "Do you have any relation to the girl who came in at the same time as you?"

I blurted out, "That's my cousin!"

The beauty snapped her fingers, and then another shadow fell from the sky, even shouting, "That hurts! My butt is about to split apart!" I, who had been startled, looked over abruptly. *Isn't the one lying on the ground Xiao Xiao Lan?* I hurried over to help her up, and then the two of us stared at the beautiful NPC with indescribable astonishment.

"Can we start creating our characters now?" asked Xiao Xiao Lan in dissatisfaction as she rubbed her butt.

The beauty chuckled. "How could it be so simple? If you want to go in, you have to tell me why you want to go in." As she finished, she even winked at me flirtatiously. "Otherwise, ask this handsome boy here to act coyly with me, and perhaps I may let you guys in."

"What are you trying to pull, you A.I, your personality setting is really too lousy. If you don't let us in, then fine!" Xiao Xiao Lan said, nearly hitting the roof in anger.

"Xiao Xiao Lan, calm down." I was extremely interested in figuring out what reason had led to the loss of control over the game. Therefore, I could only turn towards the beauty, and then test the waters with my answer, "We want to go in because... we want to play the game?"

"Save it!" The beauty lay lazily in the air, and while looking at her own nails (This action is sure similar to my mom), she replied, "This game has long been closed. If there isn't any special reason, I cannot let you guys pass."

"We wish to find out the reason why this game went out of control." The words slipped out of my mouth as I became anxious.

At that moment, the beauty raised her head slightly, and then floated in front of me. "What is there to look for? The reason for the loss of control is because humans couldn't handle the NPCs inside, that's all."

"What kind of nonsense are you spouting? How could the NPCs go out of control, they're not living people," Xiao Xiao Lan retorted.

The beauty revealed a faint smile filled with contempt, and in a tone of disdain she asked, "Are you sure?"

"Of course we're sure about it. I say, you are a real person, right? Why are you scaring us like this?" I stood in front of Xiao Xiao Lan, and asked her angrily.

The beauty laughed loudly, nearly to the point of becoming breathless. "I am a human? Am I? Hehe, fine, just consider it as if your reason passed. You guys can go in and find the reason Second Life went out of control."

Xiao Xiao Lan and I both couldn't understand what kind of crazy things this "person" in front of us was talking about. However, the land under

our legs suddenly gave way, and the two of us immediately had the feeling of falling from a great height. Xiao Xiao Lan and I hugged each other tightly, bearing with this terrifying feeling of freefall.

"Oh yeah, as for your characters, they'll be randomized. Who asked you, little beauty of a sister to badmouth me! Also, if you want to know the truth, go look for Prince." The last words of the beauty came over from the air, and they seemed to be accompanied with sounds of chuckling.

"Prince?" I firmly remembered this name.

After a while, the two of us finally reached the ground. I surveyed my surroundings; blue skies and white clouds, with green trees surrounding a few houses made of wood. It was just like the appearance of a small village. I comforted Xiao Xiao Lan, who was cowering in my embrace. "Xiao Xiao Lan, it's fine now. We have reached the ground, and the scenery here is not bad."

"Long Ming..." Xiao Xiao Lan muttered.

"What's the matter?"

"You... Your chest is so soft!" Xiao Xiao Lan said, and even squirmed comfortably on my chest.

"What are you talking about, hurry up and get up. Let's go and take a look around," I said disapprovingly. *Even if we are cousins, Xiao Xiao Lan, you can't lie on my chest like this!*

“Long Ming? Your voice sounds like a girl’s.” Xiao Xiao Lan lifted her head in suspicion, and then looked at me, stunned.

I was also stunned. The person in front of me, in what way was it Xiao Xiao Lan? A head of black, short hair that was not just handsome but stylish, and on an angular face was a set of dashing and thick eyebrows going upwards. The eyes were a shade of amber, and the lips were a nice balance between thick and thin... However, all these were not important. What was important was that the person in front of my eyes was M.A.L.E. Not to mention that he had biceps that made me so envious I wanted to die. I could guarantee that, under this guy’s clothes, you could definitely find a six-pack.

At this point, Xiao Xiao Lan had regained her senses as well. She lowered her head and looked towards my chest, and then became dumbfounded. I too followed her line of vision and looked down, and then saw that at my chest there were two pieces of big and swelling “meat”! Seeing the beautiful shape of these two pieces of meat, I was very certain that it definitely wasn’t that I had become obese, but rather...

“Wow! The D-cup that I have always dreamed of!” Xiao Xiao Lan said blankly, and then revealed an expression of pain. “Why? Why didn’t you grow on my body, but on my cousin’s body?”

This line of Xiao Xiao Lan’s finally broke me out from my daze, and I instantly jumped to my feet, roaring, “Why would the D-cup that you have always dreamed of grow on my body?” Finishing my words, I abruptly realized that my voice was not like a usual low growl in the least bit, but rather, it was more like a woman’s shriek!



I raised both of my hands to my mouth to cover them in disbelief, but then I saw something that was even more shocking again. Both of my hands were actually flawlessly white and tender, with fingers slender like a pianist's... Oh my god! I quickly turned around to question Xiao Xiao Lan intensely, "Xiao Xiao Lan, hurry and tell me, what do I look like right now?"

Xiao Xiao Lan tilted her head to one side as she scrutinized me. "Long golden hair, oh, I also really wish to have this kind of hair; a pair of clear blue eyes that are like the sky, they're simply breathtakingly beautiful. I think that just using these eyes of yours, you can seduce all the guys in the whole world. A goose egg-shaped face, with a small and upright nose, and even rosy lips. You sure you didn't put on lipstick?"

Hearing this, my face had already gone pale. However, Xiao Xiao Lan shrugged her shoulders, and continued again, "Along with the pair of wings on your back, you look remarkably like an angel."

My response was to instantly hit the floor.

"Hey, hey, Long Ming, hurry and wake up! You still haven't told me what I look like!"



I sat at the side of the pool, dismayed. Then I looked at Xiao Xiao Lan with a blank look, and Xiao Xiao Lan too returned the look to me. The two of us almost spoke in unison as we exclaimed, "Why am I not you!"

*Sigh!* The two of us sighed at the same time, with helplessness written over our faces. The truth was extremely clear; the two of our genders seemed to have been coincidentally reversed.

I was a sexy and pretty angel beauty with a D-cup, and my female cousin Xiao Xiao Lan had instead turned into a handsome man with solid muscles and a tall and imposing figure! This was simply teaching girls to go down the wrong path. If it weren't for my intervention, Xiao Xiao Lan would have nearly pulled open the crotch of her trousers to see how "big" she was. The cruel thing was, Xiao Xiao Lan had also forbidden me from lifting open my own lapels to sneak a peek at how "big" I was.

"How vile!" Xiao Xiao Lan abruptly stood up and roared to the heavens, "It must have been that woman's doing!"

I sighed again, and then forced myself to raise my spirits. "Let's go. We'll go ask around about what exactly Prince is, and clear up the doubts regarding this matter, and then afterwards, we won't need to remain as..."

"Trannies!" Xiao Xiao Lan said the word that I couldn't say through gritted teeth.

Xiao Xiao Lan and I looked all around the village, and walked into a pharmacy. As expected, we saw a young lady standing behind the counter, full of smiles. The moment she saw us walk in, her eyes immediately sparkled as she welcomed us. "May I ask what kind of medicine you want to buy?"

“Uh, we are not buying medicine. We merely want to ask you, do you know Prince?” Xiao Xiao Lan asked.

Once Xiao Xiao Lan’s words came out, the smile on the young lady’s face immediately vanished and was replaced with a scowl. “If you don’t want to buy any medicine, then get out! My place is not a consultation center. Coming to ask me about everything. Someone even asked me how to summon the system menu, and didn’t even buy any medicine, what the heck!”

*Dammit! What a fierce NPC,* I couldn’t help but secretly curse her in my heart.

“Damn, this is the first time I have ever seen such a fierce NPC. What do you want? You want to pick a fight?” Xiao Xiao Lan clenched her fist, and scolded her back mercilessly.

The female NPC actually stuck up the finger right in the center of her five fingers, and even made a sinister expression while doing so. “This is also the first time I have ever seen a level one player dare to fight with an NPC. If you want to fight, then come on! I’ll tell you first, that I’m level fifty-five!”

The two women confronted each other like this in front of me. Xiao Xiao Lan was indeed my most ferocious... No, I mean my most courageous cousin. Even if she heard that they had a difference of fifty-four levels, she still showed no signs of cowering.

“Let me ask you.” Xiao Xiao Lan squinted her eyes, asking, “What is the level of pain that one feels in this game?”

The female NPC coldly replied, "Thirty percent."

Xiao Xiao Lan's imposing manner immediately crumbled, and her face paled. She instantly cowered behind my back. "Long Ming, I hand this fellow over to you."

"Hey, you are a one hundred and eighty centimeters tall man, you think that this woman of a hundred and sixty centimeters can protect you?" the NPC said with disdain.

I looked behind me, and I still had to raise my head to be able to see Xiao Xiao Lan's shadow of "shrinking" in fear. Though I was shorter than that NPC, I still upheld the attitude that a man should take care of women. I stuck out my chest, and was about to reason with the NPC lady...

"Why are you sticking them out so far for? I know that you have a D cup," said the female NPC coldly.

*Sob sob sob....* I couldn't help but squat in the corner to mourn the loss of the solid chest that I had before.

Facing two people who had no will to fight, the NPC's attitude became even more scornful. With both her hands across her chest, she roared, "If you want to ask something, go look for the village chief!"

Xiao Xiao Lan and I scrambled out of the pharmacy, and Xiao Xiao Lan seemed to instantly recover from her cowering manner and stood up straight. In a manner as though she were being driven mad, she yelled,

"Damn that repulsive NPC! Wait till I surpass level fifty-five, I will definitely come back to give your ass a good kicking! Let's go, Long Ming, let's hurry and train!"

As she finished her words, she actually really grabbed me and started to dash out of the village. What was worse was that I lost to her in terms of strength, and was hence dragged away by her like this, with both of my feet even leaving two trails on the ground.

"Xiao- Xiao Xiao Lan... Whatever you want to do, it's fine, but let's go look for the village chief first," I shouted, wanting to cry yet unable to do so.

"Oh yeah, we have to look for the village chief." Xiao Xiao Lan abruptly broke out of her huff, and instantly headed back towards the village chief's room. *However, the problem is, Xiao Xiao Lan, you haven't let go of me!*

Unfortunately, Xiao Xiao Lan, who was bursting with anger, paid completely no attention to me. Just like this, she dragged me into the village chief's house. Thankfully, the village chief looked extremely normal. He was an elderly grandpa who seemed to be rather benevolent, and was even smoking a pipe.

After hearing about the reason why we had come, the village chief opened his mouth to say, in a manner as though he were recalling the past, "Prince, huh? I remember very clearly. He too, was born in this place."

*Born in this place? Could it be that Prince is a player of this game? I*

frowned, but then I immediately overthrew my own conjecture. *This should be one of the scenarios within this game, for it's impossible for NPCs to remember a player's name.*

"Then, what is so special about Prince?" I asked out of curiosity.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **Feng Long Ming's various name possibilities:** "Feng" means wind. "Long" means dragon. "Ming" means name. "Shui" means water. "Shui Long" would have meant water dragon, and "Feng Long" would have meant wind dragon. "Feng Shui" translates literally to "wind-water". It is the ancient Chinese art of placement, and it is a system of laws considered to govern spatial arrangement and orientation in relation to the flow of energy (qi), and whose favorable or unfavorable effects are taken into account when designing buildings. It aims to achieve harmony with the environment, and bring positive energy along with prosperity. For more info, go [here](#)

<sup>2</sup> **Buddha Jump Over the Wall:** This is actually a type of shark fin soup that's famous in Chinese cuisine. The soup consists of many ingredients and requires one to two full days to prepare. Some common ingredients, though not limited to, are abalone, shark fin, ginseng, etc. As one can see, it's a pricey dish.

The reason for its name is because legend has it that there was a traveling scholar who cooked the dish near a Buddhist monastery, where the monks were meditating. The smell was extremely tempting, and hence, though monks are not allowed to eat meat, one of the monks jumped over the wall for it. One said that even Buddha would jump over the wall to eat the delicious dish.

For more info, go [here](#)

<sup>3</sup> **Uncle Leng:** "Leng" is how cold is pronounced in Chinese. It's the first character from Cold Fox's online name.



## Chapter 2: Feng Long Ming, Part Two

"Hoho, that boy, he raised a great uproar in the village the moment he was born." The elderly village chief laughed as he said, "All the girls in the village had chased after him relentlessly, scaring that boy so much that he climbed the fence to leave the village."

Xiao Xiao Lan swallowed her saliva and asked, "Does he look very handsome?"

"Was said to be Second Life's number one pretty boy. From what I saw, that boy is indeed good-looking. He is a handsome elf lad with white hair and red eyes." After saying that, the elderly man chuckled again.

*White hair and red eyes... I tried to take note of it in my brain hurriedly, but then I furrowed my brows. Doesn't this mean Prince is an elf with albinism? Because his whole body is lacking in melanin, it resulted in him having white hair and red eyes? Poor thing!*

"Number one pretty boy!" Xiao Xiao Lan's eyes turned into two hearts, and then she impatiently wanted to drag me outside again, her mouth shouting non-stop, "Quick quick quick! Let's hurry up and look for Prince. I want to see a pretty boy!"

"Wait a moment, Xiao Xiao Lan, wait a moment! I haven't finished asking..." I struggled desperately but to no avail, for the game was too cruel. I couldn't win against Xiao Xiao Lan even if I pitted my whole strength against her.

Bang! A loud sound rang out, and then I felt a sharp pang in my back, hurting me so much that even my face contorted.

Only at this point in time did Xiao Xiao Lan return to her senses. She turned around to look, and exclaimed, "Wow, your wing has been knocked askew by the door!"

*Who do you think caused this?* I resentfully looked toward Xiao Xiao Lan's embarrassed face, and then forced myself to bear with the pain coming from my wing. I turned around and continued to ask the village chief, "Village chief, then may I ask if you know Prince's current whereabouts?"

"Prince? Everyone knows he is in Infinite City," said the village chief, as though it were a matter of fact.

"Infinite City? Where is that?" I asked with wide eyes, doubtful that things could be this simple.

"Right in the center of this continent." The village chief put down the pipe that he had been smoking all along, and then looked at us with a worried expression. "You two youngsters, don't even think about going to Infinite City. At the very least, wait until you're level fifty to sixty before going. There are a lot of monsters along the way, and Infinite City is not a safe place. I'm afraid that it might even be more dangerous than going outside."

"Level fifty to sixty?" Xiao Xiao Lan and I were stunned. *How long would we have to train for to reach that?*

"Yeah, right now, the world outside is very dangerous. Only small places such as ours here are this peaceful." Once the village chief said

the word “peaceful,” his face broke into a satisfied smile.

After asking this question, Xiao Xiao Lan and I didn’t have much to ask anymore. Things were simple. After training to level fifty to sixty, we could then head to Infinite City and find Prince. Our mission would be satisfactorily accomplished after we asked for clarification of the entire story. Though it sounded like a simple enough task, we didn’t even know when we would be able to accomplish the first item on that list. Thus, at the moment, Xiao Xiao Lan and I could only sit at the roadside, propping up our chins while lost in thought.

“I’ve thought of something!” Xiao Xiao Lan abruptly stood up, and then excitedly grabbed my shoulders and shook me frantically. “We’ll go find someone to help us train. Though this is a forbidden game, I have heard that there are still many people who like to play survival games secretly playing here.”

“This world is so big. Who knows if we would be able to find anyone?” I said unhappily. “Even if we find someone, why would they waste their time to help us?”

Once I said this, Xiao Xiao Lan suddenly looked at me with a strange gaze, making goose bumps rise all over my body. She even used a strange hand gesture to clasp my face. “Because of this!”

My face turned pale, and then I spat out a line, “Don’t even think about asking me to seduce someone!”

“This is a very fair trade. For the women, leave them to me, and for the guys, I’ll leave them to you!” Xiao Xiao Lan revealed an expression

that said, "I, too, am making sacrifices," but I really wondered... *How many females like to play forbidden games?*

Thinking about having to wear an enchanting smile on my face, and act coquettishly with a bunch of perverted fellows, f\*\*\*! Just thinking about it made my gastric acids feel like they were surging upwards continuously. Once again, I flatly rejected Xiao Xiao Lan's suggestion, "I don't want to seduce guys!"

Instead, Xiao Xiao Lan's eyes opened wide, and she stared past me. At this moment, I too found out that I had been unknowingly covered by a shadow. I turned my head to look and saw a pair of feet wearing a good pair of boots. Then I slowly lifted my head upwards to see a belt embedded with emeralds. After lifting my head higher, a handsome face with a gentle and faint smile appeared in front of my eyes. Also, he extended his hand to me, and was waiting to help me get up... *Go to hell!* I swatted away his hand, and then jumped up onto my feet by myself.

"Who are you?" I immediately stood in front of Xiao Xiao Lan, blocking her, and stared at the guy in front of my eyes with fear and vigilance. *A dark elf with white hair and green eyes, and his appearance is coincidentally the type that Xiao Xiao Lan loves the most, the mature good-looking type. The equipment on his body looks high quality. This kind of person could probably dispose each of us with a single slice of his sword.*

"Wow! A really handsome guy!" Xiao Xiao Lan screamed in intoxication again.

When I glared behind me at Xiao Xiao Lan, I only saw a muscular man salivating, with both eyes turning into hearts. He even used both hands to cup his face in a manner of acting cute... The whole image was so terrifying that it gave me shivers across my whole body, and I really wanted to commit the crime of battery against my own cousin.

I turned to face the handsome guy from just now. He had obviously seen Xiao Xiao Lan's terrifying expression. His whole body had gone stiff, and he was even slowly taking several steps back...

"Wait... Handsome, don't be scared. We won't hurt you." While saying that, Xiao Xiao Lan was even throwing a flirtatious glance "full of tender feelings" at the handsome guy. *Oh, God, don't use a muscular guy's body to show a girl's coy mannerisms.*

I turned to look toward the good-looking guy once more. Xiao Xiao Lan was only a level one player and was wearing the simplest and crudest equipment while one could tell with a single glance that the dark elf was a high-leveled player. Yet the current situation was one where he was being forced into the corner by a level one player, and the high-leveled player was even showing a "don't come over and please don't hurt me" look.

"Xiao Xiao Lan, don't move any closer. He's about to be scared to death by you." I grabbed Xiao Xiao Lan desperately, and used so much strength that I was about to burst a blood vessel. However, Xiao Xiao Lan's determination to get closer to the handsome guy was simply too strong. The two of us still continued toward the good-looking guy.

At this moment, my wings suddenly trembled twice, and my feet also

suddenly left the ground by a few centimeters. The feeling was as though I was about to take flight... *I'm an angel, right? Then I should be able to fly.* Once I considered that, I moved my wings with all my strength, and I hugged Xiao Xiao Lan's waist tightly with both my arms. At last, Heaven recognized my hard work;<sup>1</sup> I brought Xiao Xiao Lan away from the ground by three meters... Which was also three meters further away from the handsome guy, making Xiao Xiao Lan so angry that she kept struggling as though her life depended on it.

"Xiao Xiao Lan, don't move. We're going to fall." I hadn't even finished speaking when Xiao Xiao Lan's hand hit my wing with a "smack." My balance was instantly broken, and so Xiao Xiao Lan and I free-fell to the ground.

Bang!

"Owie, it hurts like mad. Why is this game's pain level set so high." Xiao Xiao Lan once again clutched her butt and gave an anguished wail, not at all realizing that under her butt, there was a person about to die who had cushioned her fall.

"Xiao Xiao Lan?" The good-looking dark elf suddenly walked over, his face full of doubt.

Xiao Xiao Lan lifted her head up, and then replied tenderly and shyly, "Yeah, I am Xiao Xiao Lan."

Oh God, I simply didn't dare to look at the color of the dark elf's face (Shouldn't it be black?). A muscular, good-looking male saying that he is called Xiao Xiao Lan. This- this- can you even listen to this?

"When did you start to play this game?" However, not only did the dark elf's face not turn pale in fright, he even extended a hand to pull up Xiao Xiao Lan. He also attentively brushed away the dust on her body.

"Just recently." Xiao Xiao Lan was also thoroughly in a panic over the dark elf's intimate actions, and she could only stand rooted to the spot.

"Oh, do you need me to help?" asked the dark elf out of goodwill.

"Eh? You'd do that?" Xiao Xiao Lan asked in shock.

"Of course. I'll go and help you guys buy equipment and red potions first." Once the dark elf finished speaking, he went straight to the store.

"Wow, we met a good-hearted person!" Xiao Xiao Lan was screaming and bouncing in excitement, and then with a shy and proud face, said, "And it's even a good-hearted, handsome guy."

I wiped away the blood at the corner of my mouth, and then coldly threw cold water on her enthusiasm. "Right, and he's even a gay, handsome guy. Don't forget that right now, you are a 'man'! I guess he must have fallen in love with your muscles and handsome face."

As though she had been struck by lightning, Xiao Xiao Lan's face turned from shy to vicious. She looked at me, and then she lowered her head to look at her own pectoral muscles and six-pack. Then, she seemed to have a dizzy spell as she exclaimed, "Oh God! He actually



doesn't love you, the big-chested angel, but has taken a fancy to me, this muscular man. This is simply too disgusting!"

"What is too disgusting?" The dark elf still had a gentle smile on, and at the same time, he was holding a bunch of equipment in his hands.

"Eck!" I glanced at the equipment in the dark elf's hands, and then calmly said, "He said that hitting slimes is too disgusting."

"Oh? Then how about we fight wolves?" The dark elf seemed not to mind as he handed over the equipment to both of us. "What classes are you two planning to choose?"

I raised my chest-breasts up high, and said full of spirit, "I want to be a priest!"

Xiao Xiao Lan seemed to have a touch of embarrassment as she said, "This one wants to be a warrior."

"Pretty fitting for your races." The dark elf nodded his head, pleased. While the dark elf guided us to the training location, he explained, "The wolves' teeth are very sharp, so be careful. Especially Xiao Xiao Lan. Getting hurt is very painful." Then, he pointed to a lone wolf. "Go and try fighting it. Remember, you must be careful. If you can't do it, run back here, and I will save you."

After foolishly smiling, Xiao Xiao Lan easily held the machete on her back in her hands. Then, with a powerful swing of Xiao Xiao Lan's strong arms, the machete rushed toward the poor little wolf in a roundabout fashion. Xiao Xiao Lan was as usual, accurate to the point

of being scary. The blade hit right in the center of the wolf's head. White brain mush mixed with blood leaked out of it...

"Xiao Xiao Lan, your skills haven't deteriorated at all," I praised without any attempt to cover my awe.

Whatever weapon, regardless if they were knives, axes, wooden rods, guns, or bows, as soon as they touched Xiao Xiao Lan's hands, they would all become super lethal weapons! It was exactly this unrivaled talent of hers that made her scare all the guys away no matter which game she was in, and she was never able to become someone's girlfriend... This also indirectly triggered Xiao Xiao Lan's thirst for guys.

"Haha! But of course! Back then, I was known as the invincible female hero who ruled the place with just a knife." Xiao Xiao Lan laughed wildly without any restraint, completely forgetting about being lady-like... Though right now no matter what she still wouldn't look like a lady.

I also seemed to remember that Xiao Xiao Lan's true nickname was "History's Strongest Violent Woman," or "Female Broadsword" that made even monsters tremble at her name, or "Female Pervert" that made all the handsome guys avoid her in fear.

"Long Ming, go over to the side and rest first. You're not a priest right now anyways and can't heal. Stand more to the side so you won't get hurt." Xiao Xiao Lan told me to stand further away as per usual so that I wouldn't get hurt. I obediently walked under a tree to avoid the glaring sun.

Xiao Xiao Lan had a smile on that harbored ill intentions as she slowly approached the poor wolf pack.

While I was cooling off in the shade, I chewed on a steamed bun. All of a sudden, I thought I heard the dark elf mutter, "As expected of her daughter." I looked at the dark elf with suspicion, but he was instead fully concentrated on gazing at Xiao Xiao Lan's brutal killing form and had not noticed me in the slightest.

I too looked at Xiao Xiao Lan with curiosity, but I didn't understand what was so fun to watch about a man chopping up wolves, making blood spray and bone show. I couldn't help but turn my head away, not wanting to see Xiao Xiao Lan's serious violations of animal protection laws.

I waited and waited. Under the cool shade of the tree with the comfortable, gentle wind, I couldn't help but start to doze off. I fell into a deep sleep. It wasn't until there was a sudden sharp pain at my chest that I abruptly opened my eyes. What I saw was only Xiao Xiao Lan's expression of surprise, and following Xiao Xiao Lan's gaze, I saw that Xiao Xiao Lan's two hands were on my chest like claws, and she was even squeezing, damn it.

"It feels really comfortable squeezing them. No wonder everyone likes big-breasted women so much." After saying that, Xiao Xiao Lan stuffed her face in between my chest, and then she even gave a big sigh out of comfort.

*Bang, pop, pow!* I ruthlessly gave her the triple consecutive flicks to the forehead combo, the only attack that I knew, which was also the

one that Xiao Xiao Lan was the most afraid of. Once I used this move, she would always hide in a corner, hugging her head while repenting on what she had done. Of course, this time was no exception.

"You're supposed to be fighting monsters. Why come over and sexually harass me," I cursed unhappily.

"I only wanted to tell you that we're already level ten, and Wicked told us to go change our classes first. He just gave me a sum of money and said that he had business, so he had to go off first. He even said that he'll see us in Infinite City in one month," said Xiao Xiao Lan with a tone of one that had been wronged.

"Wicked? Is that the dark elf's name?" I asked. Xiao Xiao Lan nodded her head.

I gave a helpless sigh. *A month? It looks like Xiao Xiao Lan and I will really have to work hard and put great effort into training.*

"First of all, let's go change classes!" Xiao Xiao Lan dragged me back to the village in high spirits. Then, as though on purpose, she actually dashed into the pharmacy. Once more, we saw the professional smile of that NPC lady. However, this time, the moment she saw us, her face immediately turned cold and harsh.

Xiao Xiao Lan seized the opportunity to yell first, "Twenty bottles each of extra large red potions and blue potions." Afterwards, Xiao Xiao Lan looked at the NPC with a proud look.

The NPC lady's face twitched twice, and then changed from a cold and

harsh face back to a professional one again. She took out the potions dexterously. "Here, customer, these are the potions you wanted."

Xiao Xiao Lan took out a gold coin and then waved it in front of the female NPC. She even pretended to cough and ask, "Miss, could I ask you a question?"

The professional smile of the NPC froze for a moment, and then while smiling, there came the sound of grinding teeth as she replied, "Of course you may. Please go ahead."

"Where do you go to change your class to warrior and to priest?" The corner of Xiao Xiao Lan's mouth kept on rising higher.

"For the warrior, it's in the main square. For the priest, go look for the village chief." Her expression was one mixed between that of a person sniggering and someone whose veins were about to burst.

"Oh, thank you." Xiao Xiao Lan threw the gold coin down, and then she shoved the potions into her pouch. While laughing, she went to find the person that could change her class. During that time, I seemed to have heard the sound of a wooden table breaking behind my back.

After finding the appropriate NPCs to change our classes, we both received our class change quests. Xiao Xiao Lan even tried to forcefully bargain with the NPC, reducing the number of wolf fangs needed for the quest from ten to five. Under Xiao Xiao Lan's unmatched violent tactics, both of our class change missions were accomplished easily. Of course, with our warrior and priest combination, the training went

smoothly and easily.

Basically, I would sleep the whole time while Xiao Xiao Lan killed the mobs. Xiao Xiao Lan would wake me up only when dinnertime came, and then after the two of us had eaten and drunk to our hearts' content, I would conveniently throw a healing spell at Xiao Xiao Lan, and then I would flip over to continue sleeping.

When we tired from training, we would return to the village. Xiao Xiao Lan would go to the pharmacy and continue to sneer at and mock the NPC lady with biting words. Even after quarreling for several weeks, they still never tired of it.

I, on the other hand, would go to the village chief's house to brew tea and play chess. Occasionally, the class change NPC and the counterperson at the weapons shop would come over and play a game of mahjong, completely breaking the impression I had that NPCs would stay in their assigned positions. The NPCs here were always running about, and sometimes they would even go out and hunt, and then they would treat Xiao Xiao Lan and me to baked slime, stewed bone soup (I heard that there was a skeleton cave nearby... Gross!), and also the classic, tasty delicacy of the Wolf King's brain.

"Anyway, the only people who need weapons or class changes here are you two. You guys already have both, so why should we foolishly stay in the stores like idiots?" The NPC... No, Wu Da Lang<sup>2</sup> from the weapons store and the guy who had initially given Xiao Xiao Lan her class change told me while playing mahjong.

Xiao Xiao Lan and I had long since forgotten what we had come here

to do, until one day, when I happened to be in the pharmacy watching Xiao Xiao Lan try to slash prices with the female NPC, the village chief suddenly came to find us. He told us, "Xiao Xiao Lan, Long Ming, didn't you guys want to go to Infinite City to look for Prince? There is a quest that can help you guys."

Xiao Xiao Lan and I exchanged glances, and then we abruptly remembered, *Oh yeah, we wanted to go to Infinite City to look for Prince.* The two of us asked the village chief in a hurry, "What quest is it?"

"There are two players asking for help. They are trapped in a place called Underwater Cavern. As long as you are willing to go save them, they are willing to form a team with you to go to Infinite City to look for Prince together." The village chief explained, and then added on in a hurry, "The village will provide all of the potions needed as well as the best equipment so as to aid you in your rescue mission."

*Is there really such a good deal in this world?* I was extremely suspicious, and I asked, "Why don't you all go save them yourselves? Though Xiao Xiao Lan's and my levels have already increased a lot, we are still not as strong as you all."

"We are NPCs and cannot leave the village." The village chief put on an expression of pity.

"Oh?" I expressionlessly said, "Don't tell me that for the stewed Wolf King's brain that we ate yesterday, the Wolf King had personally come over to jump into a pot so that you guys could stew it? For yesterday's baked slime, did the oven jump outside by itself and trap slimes inside

it to bake? Also, regarding the day before yesterday's bone soup, don't tell me that the skeletons actually ran out of the skeleton caves by themselves?"

The village chief clapped his hands and replied, "The last one is correct. The skeletons really did come out by themselves. It had nothing to do with us."

"That is not the main point!" I brought my face closer to the village chief, a dubious look aimed at him. I threatened, "Tell the truth!"

The village chief feebly said, "It's because NPCs cannot go in there. Only players are able to."

"Just that?" I asked, skeptical once more.

The village chief kept nodding his head as he replied, "Trust me, I wouldn't hurt you two."

Though I was still suspicious, the village chief indeed had no reason to harm us. Judging from my gaming experience, even if he wanted to harm us, it had to be part of the plot. Just let him try and harm us then. I turned around to tell Xiao Xiao Lan, "Let's go and save them."

Xiao Xiao Lan too expressed agreement on this matter, and the two of us spilt up. Xiao Xiao Lan went to the herbal pharmacy and plundered a whole bunch of medicinal herbs, and hence, the lady at the herbal pharmacy was extremely unhappy about this. I could tell from the scratches on Xiao Xiao Lan's face. As for me, I went to the weapons store and asked for a lot of concealable weapons and rope claws.



Holding fast to the theory that I should take advantage of whatever I could, I even forced him to make a small crossbow for me.

"Then, let her take you to the Underwater Cavern." The village chief pointed at an extremely familiar person. It was the NPC lady from the pharmacy.

"What? Can't we exchange her for someone else?" Xiao Xiao Lan gave an anguished wail.

"Humph!" The pharmacy lady's rage was almost about to manifest, so I was also fully in support of Xiao Xiao Lan's suggestion. *For the sake of not dying mid-way on the journey, we better have someone else lead us?*

"No, no. Only she is able to... Only she knows how to get there," explained the village chief frantically.

"Is that so. Then let's go." Though I was still skeptical, role-playing games were usually like this, full of mysteries, so there was nothing strange about it.

As expected, the road there was full of trouble. The two women who seemed to have grudges as deep as the sea quarreled non-stop. One said that the other smelled like moldy *Angelica sinensis*, while the other party replied that the other was all brawns and no brains. One said that the other party's strength and level was lousy, and the other replied that the other person only knew how to use potion bottles to crush people to death.

In conclusion, these two people's quarrelling ability had really surpassed all others of their kind before and since. Thankfully, the aforementioned Underwater Cavern was not far. Otherwise, I would not have been able to resist lifting my crossbow and taking aim, and then resist that by putting it down. This continued for quite a few times.

"This is the place." The pharmacy lady spoke unwillingly.

"Here?" Xiao Xiao Lan looked over in doubt, and then started to mock, "Are you kidding me? This is a waterfall, not an underwater cavern. Could it be that your memory is failing in your old age?"

The pharmacy lady was so angry that her whole face flushed red. "Enter from this waterfall, you brainless idiot."

Hearing the pharmacy lady's words, I immediately walked to the front of the waterfall and stuck my hand in. As expected, it was completely empty inside, and there were absolutely no rock walls. I hurriedly called Xiao Xiao Lan over to go into the waterfall first... A warrior is, of course, supposed to walk in front. Don't tell me that I, the priest, am supposed to walk in front?

After Xiao Xiao Lan gave the pharmacy lady an angry glare, she walked before me and prepared to step into the waterfall. However, at this moment, the pharmacy lady suddenly called out to Xiao Xiao Lan, "Hey, remember what I said. Don't just pick anyone. You can only pick your own companion."

Both Xiao Xiao Lan and I were bewildered, but the pharmacy lady had

left without even looking back after she finished speaking. The two of us could only shrug our shoulders and start our underwater cavern adventure.

Walking into the underwater cavern, a bizarre sight appeared. Surrounding us was actually a sea of blue, as though we had walked into the ocean, yet we were still able to breathe, and there was no water resistance. However, the weird thing was, a school of fish actually swam happily past my ear.

They were really very happy, for I even heard them say while laughing, "Look, guys, those big fish look so strange and actually have neither tails nor fins."

*Okay, though this is the first time in my life that I have been made fun of by fish, life must still go on, and we still have to continue walking down the road.* I slapped Xiao Xiao Lan's back violently. Shocked, she didn't dare to use her feet to step on a certain innocent stingray.

I pointed out a direction to Xiao Xiao Lan. At our front left, there was only one road that had a sign saying, "Do not enter if not a fish." Although the road sign said so, Xiao Xiao Lan and I usually have the habit of "If there is a road in Heaven, I wouldn't take it, but even if there is no door to Hell, I will barge through."<sup>3</sup> Reality has also proven that Hell is indeed a more exciting place.

"Hey, Long Ming, do you think we will meet a mermaid?" Xiao Xiao Lan asked me in an excited tone while walking.

After I glanced at her, looking askance, I replied, "I think that the one

that you want to meet should actually be a merman, right?”

Xiao Xiao Lan said with absolute certainty, as though it was but a matter of fact, “Birds die in pursuit of food, and human beings die in pursuit of the opposite sex!”<sup>4</sup>

*Is this phrase used this way?* I was highly sceptical, but my doubt only remained for 0.5 seconds before I knocked into Xiao Xiao Lan who had stopped abruptly. Under the situation where my pronounced and delicate nose might have been knocked crooked by Xiao Xiao Lan’s solid back muscles, Xiao Xiao Lan instead gave a gasp in admiration followed by several more.

“Wow, I really saw a merman!”

“Then are there any mermaids?” I stuck out my head from behind Xiao Xiao Lan’s back in a hurry to look around.

I widened my eyes as I saw the unbelievable scene in front of me. Two people had been frozen separately within two pillars of ice. No, more accurately, it was an elf and a demon. In both of their hands, they held weapons. The elf held a bow while the demon wielded a magic staff. It was as if they had been abruptly frozen in the middle of a battle.

Xiao Xiao Lan walked closer and closer, and in the end, she seemed to have almost stuck her eyes onto the ice. While looking, she even swallowed her saliva, saying, “Wow, the elf is the extremely pretty type, slim with golden hair and blue eyes. The kind that really makes people want to push him down.”

Then Xiao Xiao Lan started pacing back and forth between the two pillars, unable to make a decision about which one to lean on. However, when she walked between the two pillars, Xiao Xiao Lan disappeared without a trace. She didn't even have time to scream, leaving me and the black hole on the ground to look at each other in dismay.

At this moment, there instead rose a fairy maiden from in between the two pillars. *That's right, it's a fairy. But, but... Why is it that Xiao Xiao Lan's "mermen" are so handsome, and are even two different types of good-looking men, while my fairy is that kind of short and chubby old fairy that can at most only be described as benevolent and amiable. I won't let this go lying down!*

"Cute little girl, did you lose someone?" The fairy asked me gently.

I was stunned for a moment before I remembered that I was a female angel right now, and hence "cute little girl" would of course be referring to me. I hurriedly answered, "That's right, my companion just fell into the hole."

The fairy gave a gentle smile, and then with a wave of the wand she had in her hands, the original ice pillar encasing the elf suddenly disappeared. The elf's eyes also blinked several times, and then he looked at the fairy and me with a bit of shock.

The fairy opened her mouth to ask, "Is the person that you lost this one?"

I opened my eyes wide as I denied, "No, this is not the one that I lost."

The fairy smiled gently, and then encased the elf in ice once more. This time, the ice around the demon disappeared. "Then, is this person the one that you lost?"

The demon slowly opened his eyes, and the expression on his face was incomparably cold and proud, looking simply like a monarch... I suddenly felt incomparably glad that the one who fell down was Xiao Xiao Lan and not me. Otherwise, Xiao Xiao Lan might possibly hesitate between choosing the elf or the demon, and definitely wouldn't think about saving her poor cousin.

"No! This is also not the person I lost," I denied strongly. *I don't want to save two guys.*

The fairy once again waved her hand and put the demon back into the ice, and then, there appeared a black hole on the ceiling. Xiao Xiao Lan gave an "Ahh" as she fell from the ceiling. With an unkempt appearance, rubbing her butt non-stop, and even pouting her lips, her disgusting manner made me nearly want to say that this is also not the person that I had lost... Too bad I couldn't do so. I could only admit, "Yes, this is the person I lost."

"Child, you are really honest." The fairy gave a benevolent smile. "In order to reward you, I give all three people to you."

The fairy waved her hand, and the two ice pillars disappeared again. The elf and the demon had both been released, and the fairy too had a

faint smile on as she vanished. "Have fun, children."

Leaving only the four of us humans... *No, only Xiao Xiao Lan is a human.* The four of us, organisms from different races who could only look at each other in dismay, not knowing what to do.

At last, I asked a little hesitantly, "Are you guys the players who were trapped here? The two who are willing to take us to Infinite City?"

The awkward atmosphere was finally warming up. The elegant elf gave a faint smile. "Yes, thank you for saving us. I am called Elf, and I am an archer."

"Demon Thirteen. Magician." The other replied a little coldly.

"Nice to meet you two. I am Long Ming, a priest. The warrior beside me is Xiao Xiao Lan." I was grinning from ear to ear. *At long last, we can head for Infinite City.*

For some reason unknown to me, Demon Thirteen and Elf who were in front of me suddenly became red in the face. Elf seemed to be a bit tongue-tied as he greeted me back, while Demon Thirteen directly turned his head to one side, a blush coming over his cheeks.

"A warrior, a priest, an archer, and a magician. What a good team." I couldn't help but smile even wider. This time, we would definitely be able to reach Infinite City.

*Prince, here we come!*

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **“At last, Heaven recognized my hard work”**: The actual idiom is 皇天不負苦心人, huáng tiān bù fù kǔ xīn rén, meaning that Heaven will not disappoint someone who tries. In other words, if you try hard, you’re bound to succeed eventually.

<sup>2</sup> **“Wu Da Lang”**: A character from the famous Chinese classic, “Water Margin” (水滸傳). He is the older brother of Wu Song, a heroic outlaw whose exploits include killing a tiger single-handedly. Unlike his brother, Wu Da Lang is usually bullied. More info [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> **“If there is a road in Heaven, I wouldn’t take it, but even if there is no door to Hell, I will barge through.”**: Usually, this line is said by the bad guy, telling you that you’ve made the wrong choice. There is a road to Heaven, yet you didn’t choose it. Even if there is no door to Hell, you will rather barge through. The meaning is that you picked not the road that would let you live, but the road that would kill you.

<sup>4</sup> **“Birds die in pursuit of food, and human beings die in pursuit of the opposite sex!”**: A parody of the phrase that originally says, “Birds die in pursuit of food, and human beings die in pursuit of wealth”.



## Chapter 3: Xiao Xiao Lan, Part One

*Aiya, that pigheaded Long Ming! What's he doing, smiling at those two males like an infatuated idiot... Doesn't he know just how potent his current appearance is? Just wait until the Elf or that Demon Overlord set their sights on taking him for themselves; I sure as hell am not going to go save him.*

Ah! I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Min Lan Lan, but everyone calls me Xiao Xiao Lan. That's because my mom is called Feng Lan, so she's Xiao Lan, and since I'm her daughter, that makes me Xiao Xiao Lan!

Thinking of this, I couldn't help but shake my head again. Never mind that my mom's ability to choose names is subpar, but even that dad of mine, Min Gui Wen, who's reputed to have an IQ of 200, fails in an equally shameful manner when it comes to picking names. Thanks to that, even though I'm fifteen this year, I'm still being called Xiao Xiao Lan.<sup>1</sup>

Just how small am I? In any case, I'm a little bigger than my mom—I'm an A-cup! Seeing that beautiful elven bishie and cool demon hottie actually give a fine fifteen-year old maiden like me the cold shoulder and instead fawn over Long Ming just made me feel so incomparably...jealous! Considering this, I resentfully shouted, "Let's go, Long Ming, you pig head."

Long Ming turned his head toward me, and with that exceedingly beautiful angelic face, he said innocently, "Alright, we're leaving now! You don't have to be so mean!"

"You should be gentler towards ladies," Elf said in a rather displeased tone, and even the aloof demon hottie shot a cold look at me!

*The real "lady" here is me! I wailed inwardly, Sob sob! I want to be protected by hot guys too!*

"Why were you two trapped here?" I asked, feeling it was strange. It couldn't be that the two had come here to elope? No, no, no. These two bishies were definitely not... *They treated the busty Long Ming very well, so they shouldn't be gay, right?*

The elf and demon both looked as though they wanted to say something but couldn't. For the longest time, they would start mumbling vaguely, then break off again, unable to utter a single word. At this point, Long Ming said in an annoyed tone, "Xiao Xiao Lan, every person has secrets. What do you think you're doing, prying into other people's affairs?"

*I just asked because I was curious!*

Dissatisfied, I pouted and followed the other three back to the village. Along the way, I watched as Elf and Demon Thirteen carefully opened a path for Long Ming, pushing aside branches and even spreading a cloak on the ground, like they were afraid Long Ming would step in mud. But just when I was also about to step on the cloak, Demon coldly snatched it back, nearly causing me to fall flat on my face!

*What's with this difference in treatment? I really wanted to cry.*

As Long Ming and I were leading Elf and Demon back to the village, we saw all the villagers standing and waiting anxiously by the village entrance. Upon seeing the four of us, all of them let out a cheer.

The village chief was even more moved, and he patted Elf and Demon on the back while tearfully saying, "Thank goodness you got out alright."

"You guys are on really good terms with the villagers," I said with surprise.

Upon hearing this, Elf, and even the aloof Demon Thirteen, smiled bashfully.

"Alright, alright! Everyone calm down. The two of them are still going to Infinite City with Long Ming and Xiao Xiao Lan," the village chief said as he wiped his tears and prevented everyone from rushing at us in their excitement.

The village chief turned his head toward the four of us and happily said, "All of you must be extremely careful; the road to Infinite City will by no means be a peaceful one. Infinite City itself is also not a place to take lightly. All of you must help each other, work together, and must not fight amongst yourselves."

The four of us nodded our heads.

"Hey! Buy some more potions before you leave. Since I can finally be rid of you, I'll even throw in a twenty percent discount," said the NPC lady from the village pharmacy. She was even holding a bunch of

health and mana potions in her hands and wore an expression that plainly said “get-the-hell-out-of-here-you-pests.”

“What kind of attitude is that? In any case, I’ve visited your store a number of times, yet you still want to get rid of us that badly?” I asked in a sour tone, especially upon seeing Long Ming who was saying goodbye to the village chief, weapons store NPC, and class change NPC. All of them wore very sorrowful expressions on their faces and looked very reluctant to let him leave. So why was it like this with me?

“Hmph! Every time you come, you do everything you can to bring down the prices. I’m only too eager to see such a bad customer like you leave,” the NPC lady snapped back, her face full of loathing.

“Oh? For an NPC like you, who always greets customers with such a sour face, it’s not like I want to see you again either!” I responded fiercely, without forgetting to pointedly extend my longest finger.

The NPC lady’s face flushed red, and with a heave, she threw over the red and blue potions and shouted, “Scram! Get as far away as you can, and never come back here again.”

After she finished saying this, the NPC lady turned away and left furiously.

“She didn’t have to be so mean,” I mumbled to myself resentfully. At the same time, I wasn’t completely sure, but just now I thought her eyes looked a little red...

Right at this moment, the village chief walked over, and after heaving

a long and loud sigh, he shook his head as he remarked, "An ill-fated relationship. Such an ill-fated relationship!"

I walked toward Long Ming.

"Long Ming, are you done saying goodbye? Let's go."

"Cough, cough," the village chief coughed forcefully and in the blink of an eye, moved between me and Long Ming. Gazing far into the distance, he said, "Love is really an illogical thing, wouldn't you say so?"

"I guess!" I answered irritably. This damn village chief definitely knew that, in my fifteen years, I had not had a single boyfriend, and that's why he was deliberately mocking me. At that thought, I repeated, this time more angrily, "Let's go, Long Ming."

Long Ming nodded and followed me, and together with Elf and Demon Thirteen, the four of us prepared to leave.

"Wait!" the village chief gave a furious shout.

The four of us froze mid-step, and in unison, we turned to look back with puzzled expressions on our faces.

"Have you not discovered her feelings for you?" the village chief asked in a disbelieving tone.

An expression of sudden realization dawned on my face. *So the village chief was talking about that!* I immediately assumed a look of

understanding.

"Of course I have. Even though she and I have had our differences, I still understand her feelings."

On everyone's faces appeared an "oh-so-you-actually-knew" expression.

I lifted up a belt of potions. "She's actually pretty nice. Seeing that I've been to her place for over a month, she actually gave these potions to me for free. She has an awful temper, but she still has a sense of ethics when it comes to business."

Everyone fell over. Long Ming was even crying as he apologized to everyone, "I'm sorry. It's my fault for not teaching her<sup>2</sup> well."

After Long Ming finished apologizing to everyone, he grabbed hold of the back of my collar and dragged me out of the village with Elf and Demon Thirteen, wearing disbelieving looks on their faces, following behind. But I still couldn't figure it out.

*Just what did I say wrong?*

"Xiao Xiao Lan, you probably don't need to carry a bunch of potions at hand. We already have Long Ming as a priest," the Elf kindly suggested. I glanced at Long Ming's innocent face and was reminded of how every time I was risking my life training desperately, there would always be an angel sleeping and drooling under the shade of the trees. I distributed a few jars of health and mana potions to Elf and Demon Thirteen. To the two clueless people, I said earnestly, "Trust me, it's

better to hold onto these.”

In the following days, I found myself extremely thankful for the addition of Elf and Demon Thirteen to our team, even though the latter always wore a dour look on his face, as though he had lost millions of dollars to someone who promised to pay him back but never did.<sup>3</sup> As expected, the increase in battle power caused our team’s levels to rise at lightning speed.

Whenever a monster approached us, I instantly rushed to the front lines to defend, while Elf would shoot arrows from behind to help kill the monsters closing in on me. Demon Thirteen would stand beside Long Ming, freezing all the monsters that came near, and when the situation on the front lines took a turn for the worse, Demon Thirteen’s Frozen Arrow Burst, a technique with which I had a love-hate relationship, proved even more indispensable. I just hoped that those frozen arrows wouldn’t get shot into my butt again.

What? What was the priest doing?

Long Ming was, of course, performing his duty as a priest. During the battle, he was responsible for sleeping, and after we finished fighting he would conveniently wake up, eat, and then do his job by throwing a few healing spells.

*Being a priest is such a nice profession!* I thought, grinding my teeth.

“See, I told you guys to hold on to those potions,” I chided them from the side, and the two desperately nodded their heads.

"I'm dead tired from walking so much," Long Ming said as he gave a huge stretch, then proceeded to lie down lazily on the hammock that Elf and Demon Thirteen had set up for him. Next to it, there were even fruit and beverages.

I took a rusty hatchet and began to furiously hack at a tree. Demon Thirteen walked past me and coolly said, "Warrior, after you finish chopping the firewood, don't forget to pitch the tent."

Having said this, he took a freshly-picked coconut, which even had a straw stuck into it, and walked to Long Ming's side, somewhat shyly putting it next to Long Ming's hand.

*What's with this difference in treatment? Damn that Long Ming. Stupid Long Ming, going so far as to steal the cool, silent type of guy I liked best.* I brandished the hatchet violently, imagining that the tree before me had turned into that damned angelic face of Long Ming's, and hacked it into bits and pieces, thus proclaiming the end of the tree's life.

After chopping up the firewood, I threw down the hatchet and went to pitch the tent, my entire heart full of hatred. As I passed by Long Ming's hammock, I made a point of not forgetting to glare at him fiercely.

"Elf said to pitch two tents. One is for my personal use, and the other is for the three of you," Long Ming said while grinning broadly.

Dissatisfied, I growled, "Why do you get a whole tent to yourself?!"

"What? Not satisfied?" Long Ming's smile became even lewder. "Being



able to sleep with two hotties is a rare opportunity, yet you want to let this heaven-bestowed chance pass by?”

*That’s right!* As if suddenly struck by lightning, I realized that I could sleep with a beautiful elf and a handsome demon, *Th-this thought is simply too drool-inducing.*

Thinking of this, I happily prepared to go to the lakeside to pitch two tents and even Long Ming’s lewd smile could not dampen my spirits. I cheerfully began to pitch the tents. *First, set up the main frame...*  
Whoosh!

I continued my happy task of pitching the tents. *Next, throw the cloth on top.*

Whoosh!

I continued to happily pitch the tent for me and the two hotties. *All that’s left is to nail down the four corners of the tent, and then, we can sleep!*

“Idiot! Are you deaf?” An angel, a demon, and an elf simultaneously roared.

“What?” I looked toward the other three, not comprehending why they were suddenly yelling at me for being deaf. In any case, I was doing my best to pitch the tents!

“Look behind you!” Long Ming shouted as he pointed behind me, his eyes nearly popping out.

*Behind me? Isn't the lake behind me? What's there to see? Is it possible that there are sharks in the lake?* Completely bewildered, I turned around.

Based on my meager knowledge of biology, if a shark came out of a lake, that would definitely constitute an extraordinary phenomenon. However, if a clam came out of a lake, that would still be considered possible. Following this line of reasoning, I should be more surprised to see a shark in this lake than a clam... But at this moment, the situation was the exact opposite. I saw a clam, and moreover, I received a shock a hundred times greater than if I had seen a shark.

With great difficulty I recovered my voice and immediately yelled, "Wow, what a huge clam!"

There it was, a clam that was bigger than a person, and it was alive and standing... or rather, floating on the surface of the lake.

"That's not the point! Look, look! It actually has eyes," shouted Long Ming, sounding like he was going crazy.

"Oh!"

I peered closely and above the clam's pink and extremely bouncy meat, there were indeed two eyes as big as yellow watermelons. With a very serious expression on my face, I said, "Usually my mom does all the cooking, so I never noticed whether clams had eyes or not. Now I finally know—as it turns out, clams have eyes after all."

“Do clams...have eyes?” Elf and Demon Thirteen asked each other.

“Of course not!” Long Ming maniacally screeched, his mouth wide open and golden hair a disheveled mess, scaring the two males, who stared at him with wide eyes.

Sudden silence fell over the scene, and the hysterical angel finally recognized his own loss of self-composure. He turned his head away, sprayed on some “Sassoon,”<sup>4</sup> then gently arranged his hair back into its original position. He turned back and, putting on an innocent, angelic look, said, “I want to eat clam!”

Long Ming assumed a sparkly, teary-eyed expression, spurring the two bishies into action. Elf and Demon immediately gave in; as one raised his bow and arrow and the other a magic staff, the two of them released a terrifying aura that clearly said, “The fair lady wishes to eat, and we will obey even at the cost of our lives!”

However, I didn’t know why, but even I, who also loved to eat clams, didn’t dare attack this clam. I couldn’t help but feel that this clam was no ordinary clam, and a faint but dangerous aura seemed to be emanating from it..

I didn’t know why, but since I was little, my mom had always told me this: “Do not randomly eat things that have eyes!”

That’s why, whenever we ate fish at home, my mom would always dig out the eyes beforehand. Naturally, I didn’t dare eat anything with eyes—even more so if the thing had eyes as big as yellow watermelons as the clam in front of me did.

“Take this! Continuous Arrow!”

With the fair lady watching, Elf demonstrated 200% of his strength and simultaneously fired five arrows, aiming every single one at the clam. But, as expected, that clam was no ordinary clam. It closed itself up, and its solid shell easily deflected all five arrows. After deflecting the arrows, the clam once again opened its shell, its two large eyes fixed on Elf as if it were mocking the futility of Elf’s arrows.

Seeing this, Elf covered his face with both hands as he sank to his knees. Listening to him muttering to himself, he was probably regretting being miserly and not buying Drill Arrows and so on.

“Hmph! I’ll cook you directly! Meteor Shower!”

The mage raised his magic staff high, and in a flash, ten meteors sped toward the clam. Just as I was about to witness the completion of a cooked clam, the clam suddenly jumped, dodging all the meteors, and with a snap of its shell, it forcibly swallowed Demon Thirteen, who had been standing by the lake.

After swallowing Demon Thirteen, the clam appeared to be unsatisfied, and it instantly rolled beside the slim Elf, and it swallowed him with lightning speed as well. Long Ming and I, who were standing to the side, were both scared witless; it was only then that we found out that man-eating clams actually existed! My mom was right after all; things with eyes should not be randomly eaten!

At this point, the clam once again began to make strange movements,

using all of its strength to rock itself up and down, left and right, once in a while even doing a 720-degree spin. As I watched, my eyes began to spin—what's more, I wasn't sure if I was imagining it, but I thought I heard a shout that sounded like "Help!" originate from within the clam.

After a long time had passed, the clam opened its shell very slightly and spat out two people. They were an awful sight to behold; Elf and Demon Thirteen looked as though they had just been extracted from a fruit using a juicer and were presently sprawled on the ground. Not only did they appear boneless, they were also completely beaten up. The clam used its two very large eyes to look straight at Elf and Demon Thirteen, and from within the clam came a phrase, "Do you discriminate against clams?"

Both Long Ming and I opened our eyes wide. *No way... Could it be that this clam was not only really big, had eyes and superior fighting strength, but could even talk?*

Seeing that Elf and Demon Thirteen gave no response, the clam once again moved toward them, and repeated, this time in a louder voice, "Do you discriminate against clams?"

"Hey, AnRui! The way yer daddy sees it, they don't have any strength left to discriminate against clams," a deep male voice laughed as he stated the facts.

Immediately, I looked toward where the voice had come from. A cool, heavily-muscled man with a crew cut was casually sitting on a tree branch, wearing a look of delight on his face as though he was

enjoying watching us suffer.

Upon hearing the crew-cut man's words, the clam lowered itself to look closely at Elf and Demon Thirteen, and only after confirming that the two were really unconscious did it raise its head to reply, "XiMen Feng, you're late."

"Oy oy, it's your fault for hitting me that far. Do you know much trouble it was just to walk back here? I would have been smashed to a pulp if I hadn't put my neck on the line to learn the Parabolic Landing Technique back when I had first been sent flying by you. Otherwise, who knows how many times yer daddy would have been killed!" XiMen Feng bellowed resentfully.

"XiMen Feng's the one who wanted to follow AnRui."

"Shut up! That guy Prince hasn't appeared for so long, who's yer daddy supposed to follow if not you?" The crew-cut man jumped down from the tree branch, walked in front of the clam, and even boldly leaned on the clam's shell.

*Prince?*

Long Ming and I glanced at each other, and I immediately dashed in front of the crew-cut man and hurriedly asked, "Do you know Prince?" XiMen Feng looked startled, and then pounded his chest and said, "No duh. Of course I know Prince. I've known him since more than ten years ago."

Long Ming and I both had puzzled looks on our faces, and Long Ming

even pulled me aside and muttered into my ear, "He said he's known Prince for more than ten years. If that's the case, then that guy called XiMen is also an NPC."

I opened my eyes wide. "Really? He doesn't look like an NPC."

Long Ming rolled his eyes. "Just what NPC here acts like an NPC?"

I bit my thumb and recalled the pharmacy lady who argued with me every day, the warrior job change NPC who even let me bargain over the job change quest requirements, and the weapons shop keeper Wu Da Lang who slept and drooled on the job, not even noticing if his weapons were stolen. I shook my head.

"None of them."

"I think he's definitely a character from a story plot." Long Ming excitedly continued, "Aren't all games like this? First, you have to find the key character and unlock the story plot. Only then, can you battle the final boss in the end."

I suddenly understood, and I too became excited. If that was the case, then we were also getting closer to finding Prince.

Long Ming wore a triumphant smile, walked before XiMen Feng, and with that angelic face of his asked, "Mister XiMen Feng? If I may ask, where are you heading now?"

Upon seeing Long Ming's angelic face, XiMen Feng also couldn't help gulping before saying, "Yer daddy's goin' to find someone."

"Find someone?" Excitement flashed across Long Ming's eyes. "Can we go with you?"

XiMen Feng shrugged his shoulders indifferently and answered, "Doesn't matter to me. If the little girlie wants to come, then come." After hearing XiMen Feng's reply, Long Ming turned around and made a victory sign at me...

*Just who was the one who, a couple weeks ago, fervently swore to me that he would die before using seduction...?*

"Since you guys want to go, get on. And bring those two ooze-like things as well," said XiMen Feng.

*Get on? On what?* As I watched the big clam become a huuuuuuuge clam, my confusion disappeared completely. Then I saw XiMen Feng lie down comfortably on the clam's meat, treating it as if it was a dream waterbed, and he promptly began to snore.

"Can we really...ride the clam?" I doubtfully asked Long Ming.

"The clam can even talk. Riding it isn't that big of a deal," replied Long Ming, who sounded as though he was trying to remain calm.

"But just recently, Elf and Demon Thirteen went in and came out like ooze." With some apprehension, I looked at Elf and Demon Thirteen, who were still knocked out on the ground.

"That's because they offended the clam. Don't worry, we won't be



turned into ooze.” As he spoke, Long Ming climbed onto the clam, then lay down on top and let out a comfortable noise. “It’s so soft. It feels so nice to lie on.”

Seeing as Long Ming had already gone ahead, I had no choice but to pick up Elf with my left arm and carry Demon with my right (I swear that I did not seize the opportunity to eat their tofu; it’s hard to avoid touching someone’s waist and chest when carrying them!) and jumped onto the clam, causing the meat to ripple. After placing the two bishies on either side of me, I lay down comfortably between the two of them, a very content smile on my face.

The clam slowly closed its shell, and I suddenly got that feeling of intense excitement you get when you’re sitting on a rollercoaster, the safety bar has been lowered, and you’re just about to set off. At this moment, XiMen Feng’s voice drifted over. “Oh right, yer daddy forgot to tell you guys. You won’t be used to riding AnRui at first, but you’ll get used to it soon.”

After saying this, XiMen Feng placed his two hands behind his head, and without further ado, resumed his snoring.

*Not used to?*

Before I even had time to ponder this, the clam suddenly shifted into a standing position. That’s right, a standing position. As one might well imagine, all of us who were lying down on the clam’s meat obviously rolled and rolled until we fell to the bottom, our chests pressing into each other’s backs... Long Ming’s D-cup breasts were squashed into my back, and my chest in turn was pressed into someone’s—I didn’t know

whether it was Elf's or Demon's—back.

"Long Ming... I'm in so much pain," I said, nearly breathless.

"Ugh..." Long Ming emitted an unintelligible noise.

"What's wrong, Long Ming? If you're injured, then hurry up and replenish your HP," I somewhat urgently reminded him. He was a priest after all. It wouldn't do for him to be so lazy that he died before replenishing his own health.

"I, I think my breasts exploded..."

"...Don't worry, even if they did explode, this is a game. They'll come back after you restore your HP."

"No more, let me out."

After Elf and Demon Thirteen had woken up (in fact, it was just a few seconds after Long Ming's breasts exploded), they kept desperately trying to get out of the clam, banging on the shell non-stop, though most of the time it was actually them being thrown into the walls of the shell by the violent rocking motion of the clam.

"I'll never use a blender again," I sobbed. "I understand the pain of the apples and oranges."

"Heal, Heal, Heal..."

Long Ming kept casting healing spells, one after another, because his

three teammates kept losing blood non-stop. Elf, who had very little HP, nearly died, and it was only thanks to Long Ming's healing spells that he barely managed to survive. What was more, now the clam's body was shaking up and down, left to right like a milk bubble tea shaker; the only difference was what was being shaken was not milk bubble tea, but a scarlet red "watermelon juice." Among the three of us, only the human warrior, who was the strongest –that was to say, me! and had the most HP, still had the tiniest bit of strength left to look around.

To my surprise, I saw XiMen Feng still fast asleep and snoring inside this "watermelon-juice shaker." *Just how high is this guy's defense? Or is he simply too thick-skinned?*

"XiMen Feng, we've arrived," AnRui said.

How strange. This XiMen Feng, despite the tremendous convulsion, had been sleeping so soundly, actually woke up at the clam's one phrase. He even gave a big stretch and slowly opened the clam's shell, allowing sunlight to peek through. XiMen Feng led the way out of the clam and we too rushed out, scrambling frantically.

I was just thinking of asking XiMen Feng where Prince was when I saw a strange sight. XiMen Feng's crew cut suddenly began to grow longer and longer, finally stopping when it had transformed into a sheet of raven-black hair that fell to the waist. I followed it with my eyes, and when I reached the waist, I abruptly realized that slender, tiny waist could not possibly belong to a large man, not to mention that curvy and tight butt and that curved and beautiful pair of long legs...

“We’re here.”

XiMen Feng turned around, and a fresh, beautiful woman stood before us. She placed her hands on her hips, and in a coarse manner that was completely unbecoming of her appearance, said, “Come on, yer daddy still needs to find an extremely troublesome guy. Damn it, that pretty boy is always givin’ me so much trouble.”

“But you...you,” I stammered, unable to continue.

XiMen Feng looked at himself, waved his hand carelessly, and indifferently explained, “Yer daddy’s a woman during the day and a man at night. Get it? Yer daddy’s going now. Whether you want to come or not is up to you.”

We watched as XiMen Feng really turned around to leave, giving us no time to ask any further. We promptly followed him, and Elf uncertainly asked me, “Where are we going now?”

“I don’t know either,” Spreading my hands, I honestly stated, “I don’t even know where this is.”

After a little while, a city appeared before our eyes. It was extremely immense in scale, and it definitely wasn’t something our tiny village—whose total number of NPC and players you could count with two hands—could compare with.

But the strange thing was, this city’s gates were unexpectedly hanging slanted upon their hinges, and there were even vines growing all over them. Dust covered everything like a blanket, and on both sides of the

road were many strange tree demons. If I hadn't been completely certain about which game I was in, I would've thought that I was role-playing as Ning Cai Chen<sup>5</sup> standing in front of LanRuo Temple, preparing to seek out the grandmother tree in a fight to the death.

"Is this a ghost town?"

Long Ming, on the other hand, was surveying the scene with wide eyes. For him, who often played games like Resident Evil where you shot dead carcasses into even bloodier piles of dismembered flesh, this wasn't much.

"Ghost town, my foot! Before, this used to be Southern Continent's most prosperous capital," XiMen Feng retorted. Then, with a slight shudder, he continued, "What's more, this place is that guy's territory, and if I'm seen by that hideous pair of eyes... Yer daddy would sooner risk his luck dukin' it out with the cold-faced duo than look into that damned pair of eyes."

*Could eyes be so terrifying? Don't tell me that this was the legendary Medusa, whose eyes could turn you into stone with just a single look?* I couldn't help but swallow nervously. I definitely did not want to be turned into a stone statue and placed at the ghost town's entrance as decoration.

"Alright, we're goin' in. You all had best look out for yourselves; yer daddy don't have time to babysit you." Having said this, XiMen Feng boldly followed the clam in.

The four of us exchanged looks of dismay and then looked at the

malevolent NPC grandmother trees. Immediately, we broke into a run and rushed behind XiMen Feng, following him very carefully, afraid that we would be snatched away and sucked dry by the trees.

"Don't worry. AnRui is ranked very highly among the NPCs. There aren't many NPCs who would dare do anything to AnRui," XiMen Feng said, laughing at our timorousness as he crudely sauntered along and complacently patted the clam's shell.

"XiMen Feng, just who have you come here to look for?" I couldn't resist stealing a glance at the surrounding NPCs. There were various types of NPCs, and their only shared trait was that they all held the same expression that suggested they really wanted to rush forward and tear us to pieces.

"Didn't I tell you already? The one with the hideous eyes," XiMen Feng impatiently answered.

I opened my eyes wide and yelled, "Since he is so terrifying, why are you looking for him?"

"You think yer daddy wants to find him?" XiMen Feng said irritably, "If it weren't for the pretty boy wantin' yer daddy to come, and even gettin' that sister-in-law to stand by with that smile of hers, yer daddy wouldn't have even bothered to come here."

I listened, completely bewildered. *Pretty boy? Sister-in-law?*

"If it weren't for that, why else would yer daddy want to come to this kind of creepy place." XiMen Feng abruptly stopped walking and raised

his head to look toward the strange sight in front of us. There was a “human” presently fighting with a grandmother tree, and moreover, as the fighting continued, sobbing noises could be heard.

*Could that be Xiao Qian crying as she desperately struggled against the grandmother tree? If so, how could this Ning Cai Chen ignore her plight?* At once I raised my claymore and rushed over as I bellowed,

“I’m coming, Xiao Qian!”

“Sorry, I’m sorry. Our Xiao Xiao Lan loves playing RPGs too much, so...”

Long Ming hurriedly apologized. Then, together with the Elf and Demon Thirteen, he hurried to provide back-up support.

I dashed to the front, and only then did I realize that it was no Xiao Qian, but rather a man who had an extremely muscular body. Even though his back was facing me, there was no mistake that the waves of sobbing were coming from him. Except... This image of an Arnold Schwarzenegger<sup>6</sup> crying like a girl who had just been dumped was simply too strange.

*Nevertheless, since I am already here, I might as well help him.* Just as I was thinking this, Arnold Schwarzenegger actually brutally ripped the grandmother tree’s branch off, and even climbed onto it, using his mouth to bite off the leaves. By this point, not only was Arnold Schwarzenegger crying, but even the grandmother tree began to wail, and for a moment I wasn’t sure who was more pitiable. *Just who am I supposed to help?* The three who had come to provide back-up and I stood there, uncertain of what to do.

“Undying Man, yer daddy’s come to find you!” bellowed XiMen Feng, who had also caught up. The strange thing was, he was now wearing a pair of sunglasses.

The grievously weeping Arnold Schwarzenegger suddenly stopped, and the grandmother tree that he had been chewing on took the chance to escape, sobbing as it went. Arnold Schwarzenegger slowly turned around, and before we had time to get a good look at his face, he had moved in front of XiMen Feng. In an extremely grateful tone, he sobbed, “XiMen Feng, did you come here to help me recover my Southern city? I’m so thankful.”

As if in slow motion, Arnold threw himself at XiMen Feng. On the other hand, XiMen Feng, who’s expression had changed drastically, turned, intending to run away as he howled, “Stay awaaaaay from meeee!”

Unfortunately, XiMen Feng was not as quick as Arnold, and in one swift motion, Arnold grabbed on to XiMen Feng, even forcibly turning XiMen Feng’s face toward him. Even though Arnold’s back was facing us, we could still see very clearly that Arnold didn’t do anything to harm XiMen Feng, but the latter let out a scream and then, foaming at the mouth, fainted dead away.

“Aiya, to think that XiMen would be so happy that he fainted,” Arnold said happily and then used one arm to place the thin and weak XiMen on top of the clam.

“Just who are all of you? How come you’re not the people with Prince?” Arnold slowly turned around.



The four of us were so happy upon hearing the word “Prince” that we forgot to consider a certain matter: what had caused that fearless XiMen Feng to faint?

Suddenly, a pair of sparkly eyes appeared before us. The instant I saw that pair of large and bright shoujo manga eyes, the only thing I thought of was Candy Candy.<sup>7</sup> Candy Candy’s theme song played through my mind, and then, quite abruptly, I saw Candy Candy’s eyes being ripped out and stuck onto Arnold Schwarzenegger’s face—what’s more, the eyes continued to sparkle brightly, never ceasing their sparkle attack on us.

<Strength minus 9999! All four receive powerful shocks. Commence non-stop vomiting!>

Arnold-Candy continued to approach us, looking at us with concerned Candy Candy eyes, and then, in a boorish Arnold-esque voice asked, “Are you alright?”

<HP minus 9999! All four receive a one-hit K.O.. Status: You have died!>

“Aiya, why has everyone fainted? No worries, come to my house—AnRui, if you wouldn’t mind carrying them.”

“Undying Man, the owner of Meatbun wanted XiMen Feng and I to find you and then meet up at Infinite City as quickly as possible.” AnRui opened its clam shell and looked at Undying Man with its two large eyes.

“Prince wants us to meet up? I wonder what he’s up to?” Undying Man scratched his face and promptly said to AnRui, “Alright, then let’s head back immediately.”

Having said this, Undying Man used his sturdy arms to pick us up and toss us into the clam one at a time, and after everyone was inside AnRui, he also jumped in. Then the clam shell clamped shut once more, and it gradually stood upright. Immediately, a series of “Bang-bam-thud-aiya-my-poor-head” sounds from various objects colliding issued from within.

“Nooooooooooo! Let me out! I don’t want to ride a clam!”

From within the clam shell came several different voices, yet all were saying the exact same thing.

When the clam opened once again, the sky was already full of stars—no, perhaps it was because I was so dizzy and muddleheaded that I was seeing stars? With effort I crawled out of the clam, and when I raised my head, I saw tall city walls and a set of grand and imposing gates. These gates did not belong to the ghost town from before—it was very obvious that this was another city.

Furthermore, I also saw that Undying Man was speaking with someone we recognized: the white-haired, green-eyed dark elf, Wicked. I could faintly make out what they were saying.

“Why haven’t you gone in yet? How long have you been here?” Undying Man asked concernedly.

"Almost a month..." Wicked answered with a forced smile.

"A month?" Undying Man showed a surprised expression, "Don't tell me that you've been lingering around outside like this for a whole month?"

Wicked remained silent.

As if he understood, Undying Man asked, "Is it because of Prince?"

Wicked maintained his silence, though his expression seemed to darken.

"I heard that it's been almost ten years since you disappeared from Prince's house?" Undying Man worriedly inquired.

"Seven years. Xiao Xiao Lan turned eight that year," Wicked said, looking as though he were recalling distant memories.

"Why did you leave?"

"Xiao Xiao Lan...resembles how she looked as a child too much," A pained expression came over Wicked's face, "I couldn't bear looking into that large pair of eyes any longer."

Both Undying Man and Wicked fell silent, but my mind was filled with a chaotic buzz. *Wicked disappeared from Prince's house? What relationship does he have with Prince? But why was my name mentioned? Whose childhood self did I resemble?*

I was utterly unable to understand Wicked's words, yet I had the feeling that I had forgotten something very important. Especially upon seeing Wicked's pained expression, my mood had also become heavy and I felt as though there was something I absolutely had to remember no matter what.

"Wicked!" A clear and sharp male voice interrupted my train of thought, and a person's figure also appeared at the city gates.

Wicked nearly fell over, but I was very certain that he knew the person who had called him because a surprised yet happy expression appeared on his face. He gently called, "Xiao Lan?"

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **“Xiao Xiao Lan”**: “Xiao” means small or little and is used as a diminutive in nicknames. “Xiao Lan” (Little Lan) is Feng Lan’s nickname. Most people call her Xiao Lan (never just Lan). Xiao Xiao Lan is Min Lan Lan’s nickname, in which “Xiao” is used twice (as she is the younger Xiao Lan, making her Xiao Xiao Lan). Her name would make her “Little Little Lan,” which is why she’s complaining about how she’s still being called this nickname even though she is already fifteen.

<sup>2</sup> **“I’m sorry. It’s my fault for not teaching her well.”**: In Chinese, the pronunciation of he/she/it/him/her is exactly the same. Although Long Ming referred to Xiao Xiao Lan as a “her”, he did it in speech and not on paper, so he hasn’t given away her gender.

<sup>3</sup> **“...As though he had lost millions of dollars to someone who promised to pay him back but never did”**: The original Chinese expression reads “好像被倒了幾千萬的會似的。”來會 is a Chinese group lending practice, where a group of people pool together money, each person contributing the exact same amount. Then, everyone offers a payback interest rate as a bid for the pooled money, and the person who offers the highest payback interest gets the money. 被倒會, then, is when the person who receives the money breaks his promise and does not pay back those who had contributed.

<sup>4</sup> **“Sassoon”**: A brand of beauty products.

<sup>5</sup> **“Ning Cai Chen”**: A reference to the character Ning Cai Chen (寧采)

臣) from one of the stories in Liaozhai Zhiyi (聊斋志异), also known as *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*, a collection of nearly five hundred tales that are mostly supernatural. In the story that Ning Cai Chen is in, he journeys to a temple to fight against the tree demon Lao Lao for his love, Xiao Qian (小倩).

<sup>6</sup> **"Arnold Schwarzenegger"**: Arnold Schwarzenegger served as the governor of California for several years but is better known as a movie star and body builder. The Terminator is one of his most famous roles as a movie star.

<sup>7</sup> **"Candy Candy"**: This is a shoujo manga from the 1970s. It's theme song is found [here](#).

## Chapter 4: Xiao Xiao Lan, Part Two

I felt as though I had suddenly been struck by lightning. I knew the name "Xiao Lan" all too well. Growing up I had often heard this nickname, because everyone called her that. She was my mom, Xiao Lan.

That figure rushed from the city gates to stand beside Wicked, and only then was I able to see his appearance. He was an elf with snow-white short hair, eyes the color of wine, and an exceedingly beautiful face. A tiara rested upon his forehead, and hanging by his waist was a black dao...*The village chief was right. A guy this beautiful would certainly be chased by women endlessly.*

A look filled with emotion and nostalgia appeared on that beautiful elf's face, and he said, "Long time no see."

"Yes." Wicked gazed at the beautiful elf as if he would never tire of looking at him.

The two graceful and handsome elves gazed at each other, creating a romantic and beautiful scene that was enough to make any woman bleed from her nose until she died. Yet somehow, inwardly, I was very certain that the following scene would not be a romantic one.

"You big idiot!" The beautiful elf suddenly began to violently hit Wicked. Strangely, the angle and strength of the blows looked very familiar, very much like an authentic Long Ming-family-style punch.

Seeing that the elf was about to pounce at Wicked and give him the beating of his life, Undying Man hurried to hold back the elf as he coaxed, "Prince, don't be so rash, calm down."

"Prince?" Three surprised cries escaped from beside me, and when I turned my head to look I saw Long Ming, Elf, and Demon Thirteen all lying on the ground like me and secretly watching the proceedings.

"Let go of me, Undying Man. I WILL beat him up. This guy just goes off and disappears without a single word, and we thought that he had been kidnapped. We were worried to death, and in the end this guy just sends a letter saying he's going to travel around the world! That really pisses me off!" As Prince spoke, his eyes actually reddened.

"Xiao Lan, I'm sorry, I only..." Wicked's face was full of regret, yet he was unable to say anything in his own defense.

Upon seeing Wicked's apologetic expression, Prince softened his expression, though he couldn't refrain from nagging, "From now on you're not allowed to leave without saying goodbye—no, even if you say it I won't let you leave!"

A happy smile appeared on Wicked's face as he earnestly promised, "No, I'll never—"

"My dearest wife, where have you gone? Wait for me." Another all-too-familiar voice came from the city gates, interrupting Wicked.

A familiar yet unfamiliar person ran out: a demon with dark hair and amethyst eyes holding a guqin in his hand. Even though the whole



image was very different from my dad who wore a suit and tie to work, that face, plus that unbearably sickening way of calling someone, made me absolutely positive that this was definitely my dad, Min Gui Wen. *Ahhhh!*

My dad threw himself onto Prince with a flying tackle, hugging him tightly, and he even looked hostilely at Wicked. "You're back." Wicked's smile evaporated in an instant, and with an icy expression he responded, "Yes."

"Are you married yet?" My dad narrowed his eyes dangerously, as though he were asking his own forty-year-old daughter if she had found a husband yet.

"None of your business." Wicked's tone became even colder.

"Of course it is." Looking as though he was about to go berserk, my dad pointed at Wicked's nose as he wildly scolded, "Who knows if you're still thinking of someone else's wife!"

"Hmph." Wicked's face had already turned ashen, and without another word he turned to leave.

"Argh! You two, don't fight as soon as you see each other." Prince hurried to pull back Wicked, but when he turned around and saw my dad looking as though he was on the verge of tears, he had no choice but to hug him to his chest. This scene looked a lot like me and Long Ming when we were kids, when we were fighting to be hugged by my mom, who then had no choice but to hug one of us in each arm.

In a tone that suggested he did not know whether to laugh or cry, Prince said, "I'm telling you guys, can't you make peace for a bit? It's already been ten years, and you two are still acting like children."

However, despite not knowing what had transpired to cause such deeply-rooted hatred between Wicked and my dad, it was very obvious that ten years had not been long enough for them to make peace as they glowered at one another. But at that moment, the sound of a crowd of people drifted over from the city gates, and it looked like some ten people were walking over. From among them a wolfman's deep voice called, "Wicked?"

"Ah, Wicked-gēgē is finally back!"

A cute angel girl delightfully threw herself on Wicked, which allowed Prince to finally let go, since he no longer had to worry about Wicked running off.

At this point, everyone began to laugh, and among the crowd there were so many handsome guys and beautiful women that I found myself drooling all over the ground to the point where I very nearly died from dehydration.

After everyone was happily reunited, they walked into Infinite City together— even the clam went in—and then the gates closed with a huge rumble, causing a gust of autumn wind to swirl through the dead leaves... Then with a crackle, several kilograms of said dead leaves fell onto the pitiful heads of the four who were beneath the trees.

I spat out two leaves as I finally came to my senses and immediately

dashed to the city gates, pounding on them furiously as I desperately shouted, "Hey! Open the door, we're still outside!"

I pounded for ten minutes, and still no one came to answer the door. From behind me came Long Ming's quaking voice as he said, "Xiao Xiao Lan, come back quickly."

Feeling very cross, I turned around as I said, "What do you want? Can't you see that I'm knocking on the door?"

Immediately after I turned my head, my eyes nearly popped right out of their sockets. The several kilos of leaves that had piled up on top of our heads had actually taken flight and were fluttering in the air like butterflies...Normally this wouldn't have been anything out of the ordinary—it was not as if I had never heard of a leaf butterfly. Yet, it was true that I had never heard of them coming together to form a chain, and then tying a person up in a most sadomasochistic style. But luckily, the one who was being subjected to this sadomasochism was not me, but the big-chested angel, aka Long Ming.

Meanwhile, Elf had been strung upside-down on the tree, and Demon Thirteen was even worse off, his body tied up in thousands if not millions of knots, and what's more, in veritable "butterfly bows"<sup>1</sup> to boot.

Dumbstruck, I asked, "No way... are all butterflies nowadays so dangerous?"

"Hurry up and save us!" The three of them roared in unison.

I hurriedly dashed over, and after pulling out my great dao,<sup>2</sup> began to chop wildly. After I had finished, Long Ming fell down and scrambled to crawl back up, his entire white gown having been turned into a bikini. Elf fell from the tree with a crash, with only a piece of cloth still hanging onto his lower body. With his back facing us, Demon Thirteen bolted toward the forest in a flash, using his hands to cover up his fair and tender buttocks the whole time.

I opened my eyes wide, and Long Ming, who was using his two hands to desperately hide his “springtime blossoms,” coldly said, “Do you really have to stare like that?”

*I—I am completely innocent!*

“Ah! These perverted butterflies are starting to attack again!” Unable to cover both his stomach and butt, Long Ming waved his hands to drive away the butterflies as he screamed and followed in the direction Demon Thirteen had gone.

“Butterflies originally metamorphosed from caterpillars so that they can have sex,<sup>3</sup> after all!” I said matter-of-factly, and then seeing Elf running off to join the other two, I hastily shouted, “Hey, wait for me!” I broke into a run to give chase, but the perverted-metamorphosed butterflies were fluttering in front of me, and there were so many of them that it was like a thick wall. I could only wave my sword to drive the butterflies away as I yelled, “Long Ming? Elf? Demon? Where are you guys?”

From far away I heard their voices, yet I had no way to determine their location. I ran helter-skelter this way and that, finally stopping in

order to catch my breath, but of course Long Ming and the others had long since disappeared without a trace.

Discouraged, I knelt down in a crouch. *Sob sob sob, it seems like I have become a missing child?* I'd heard that when you get lost, the best thing to do is to stay right where you are. Not to mention my guaranteed utter lack of a sense of direction... This inherited peerless lack of a sense of direction would only cause me to wander further and further from my destination, so I decided to crouch where I was and wait for Long Ming and the others to come rescue me.

"Sigh. To think that after all that trouble, I was so close to finding out the truth, yet I just sat there and watched as they closed the city gates right in front of me."

I couldn't stop sighing, and then recalled what I had seen just now. The more I thought about it, the stranger it seemed. Even though my dad was often bullied by my mom, he submitted to it quite happily. If anyone said that my dad was having an affair behind my mom's back, I definitely would be the first non-believer.

Yet, that demon just now was clearly my dad, and I actually saw him go and hug an insanely beautiful guy? Could it be that beautiful guy was...Long Ming's dad?

*But...* I furrowed my brow in thought. *Why would my dad call Long Ming's dad "my dearest wife"?* Not to mention the fact that everyone had already been living together for a long time, and yet I still had not discovered anything going on between my dad and Long Ming's dad.

More importantly, just how would they have the guts to commit adultery? Long Ming's mom and my mom were definitely ranked among the top in the world when it came to people you should never mess with.

"Xiao Xiao Lan!"

Long Ming's shout came over, and I hastened to answer, "I'm here! Don't leave me behind by myself!"

I had just finished shouting when I suddenly felt my shirt collar being lifted up. With a shock, I realized that I was actually "flying" up the tree trunk, and was even nimbly leaping among the trees, although I was very certain that it definitely wasn't that I had become Tarzan, but rather the person carrying me had Tarzan-like martial arts skills.

Just like this, with my eyes wide open, I was bewilderedly carried along until I saw Long Ming and the other two waving to me from the ground. I happily waved back, and the person carrying me gently landed in front of Long Ming. Long Ming rushed forward and pulled my cheeks hard. "Dumbass! I was so worried that you might have been eaten by the butterflies."

I muttered vaguely, "I accidentally got lost."

"It's lucky that he found you, otherwise I really wouldn't have known how to look for you in this game without PMs," Long Ming said irritably.

*He?* I stood there, completely clueless, but then I immediately remembered that I had been carried here by someone. I gingerly

turned my head, and someone who I would never have imagined appeared before my eyes.

*Kenshin!*

I was so surprised that I couldn't keep my mouth from hanging open. Even though the present Kenshin was outfitted very strangely, the cross-shaped scar on his face was very obvious. He was wearing a unique loose-fitting robe, at his waist hung a katana, and his whole person was emitting a very cold and distant aura. He was very different from the image I had of the Kenshin who wore an apron and cooked and vacuumed, yet that face unmistakably belonged to Kenshin.

I glanced left and right. According to my mom, if I saw "that guy"... then the person in front of me would clearly be Kenshin... I looked more closely, and I finally saw that behind and to the right of Kenshin was a guy with black hair, black clothes, a black weapon, and his entire body cloaked in black: Silver-Masked Quick Fox, the Ice Emperor Syndicate's number one assassin. He almost never said anything, but simply stood silently within a three meter radius of Kenshin.

I still couldn't help asking, "Are you really Kenshin?"

Kenshin nodded, and then said, "Follow me."

"To where?" I asked with wide eyes.

"Northern Continent," Kenshin answered simply.

"Eh?" Long Ming asked in surprise, "B-but, I thought we're in Central Continent right now, so how are we going to get to Northern Continent?"

Before I had time to say anything, Elf and Demon Thirteen both shouted with extreme dismay, "We absolutely will not ride the clam!" After they finished yelling, Long Ming and I also revealed distressed looks on our faces.

Kenshin did not explain anything, but only raised his head to look up at the sky, and the four of us also looked up. In the blue sky dotted with clouds there were unidentifiable flying objects zooming around. It looked quite mundane. *What in the world was Kenshin looking at?*

*Wait, why is there a piece of cloth floating in the middle of the sky?* I watched as the piece of cloth rushed toward us at high speed, even quite skillfully dodging several flying objects, projectiles such as jets, rockets and the like, until it finally arrived above us. I stared dumbly at the piece of cloth, my mouth hanging wide open; I had never in my life seen a piece of cloth that could fly before.

The piece of cloth slowly landed, and I could now see clearly that there was a beautiful man on it, with a broad smile on his face. This man looked very familiar. I furrowed my brow as I racked my brains. *Do I know any Arabian people?*

The dark-skinned, beautiful man jumped down from the piece of cloth, and in a few quick steps he rushed before me and exclaimed with surprise, "Wow! Little Long Ming has become Big Long Ming. You've



grown so strong!”

Then he rushed up to Long Ming, and with another smile said, “Xiao Xiao Lan is also very beautiful! Come, give Sunshine-gēgē a hug.” Having said this, the dark-skinned beautiful guy spread his arms wide and pulled Long Ming into a tight embrace.

“Sunshine-gēgē?” I cried out in surprise. “You’re Fairsky-jiějie’s husband, Sunshine-gēgē?”

Sunshine looked at me, and then lowered his head to look at Long Ming, who had several dark lines descending down his face, and then revealed a look of sudden realization. “I’ve made a mistake. Wow, Long Ming, you’ve become so beautiful. Xiao Xiao Lan has also become very strong.”

I was too lazy to explain how Long Ming and I had become transvestites, and instead I immediately threw myself at Sunshine-gēgē, so happy that I nearly split my mouth in two from smiling so much. In a slightly accusing tone I said, “Sunshine-gēgē, you and Fairsky-jiějie haven’t come home in so long, it’s been so boring.” Sunshine-gēgē gave a foolish smile. “I’m really sorry. It’s because Fairsky and I ran into some trouble that we haven’t come home, but we’ll be back very soon.”

“When will you be back?” I asked with a pout, intent on getting an exact answer from Sunshine-gēgē. Otherwise, who knew when “very soon” would be? Last time, they left after attending my elementary school graduation, saying that they would be back very soon, and then what? I ended up graduating from junior high without seeing them

even once.

"We will be back in a few days." Sunshine-gēgē extended an arm to pull me in, though with his slim body it was impossible for him to hug both me and Long Ming at the same time.

Upon hearing this I finally stopped worrying. After all, Sunshine-gēgē never lied.

"Sunshine, let's go. He is still waiting for us," Kenshin said calmly. *Who's waiting for us?* I looked toward Sunshine-gēgē, my face full of questions, but he only gave a mysterious smile instead of answering. I couldn't keep myself from pouting.

"I'm begging you, don't pout with the face of a muscled bodybuilder. It's disgusting, you know that?" Long Ming said, a repulsed expression on his face.

I threw Long Ming a nasty look and followed Sunshine-gēgē onto the piece of cloth and sat down. I beckoned at Elf and Demon Thirteen and urged them, "Hurry up!"

Incidentally, the two of them had long since changed into brand new clothes, and were no longer chest- and- buttock-baring, attractive eye candy. *Sigh, such a shame!*

"Can we go too?" Elf asked in surprise.

I turned my head to look at Sunshine-gēgē, and begged, "Can we bring Elf and Demon with us? Can we?"

"Of course. Xiao Xiao Lan and Long Ming's friends are our friends as well." Sunshine smiled cheerfully and said, "Don't worry, this flying carpet can carry eight people."

Elf and Demon Thirteen exchanged looks, and then excitedly stepped onto the flying carpet.

At first I was very scared as I stepped onto the soft and flimsy carpet, expecting it to fall at any given moment. But the flying carpet demonstrated its extreme flying prowess, accelerating in a straight line, around turns, and in S-curves and swiftly evading obstacles. All of us let out exultant cheers.

"This is awesome!" Long Ming could not resist shouting in delight as he raised his arms high.

The flying carpet flew all the way over and beyond the continent and out over the ocean. Even though we had crossed the ocean before, at the time we had found ourselves inside the body of a clam and hadn't seen anything of the ocean view. Now, seas that stretched as far as the eye could see suddenly appeared before our eyes, and I was so deeply moved that I couldn't say a word. A long time passed before I finally found my voice.

"When did Sunshine-gēgē and Kenshin start playing this game?" I asked curiously, "Why didn't you guys ever tell us that there was such a fun game?"

Sunshine-gēgē gave a weak smile. "Do you think Second Life is really

fun?’

“Second Life is more fun than all the games I’ve ever played! Why doesn’t everyone play it?” What I found even harder to understand was that I had heard before that Second Life was a forbidden game, the cruelest game that ever existed. Yet, ever since Long Ming and I had started playing it, we had never felt that way at all. The only thing was that we found the NPC’s artificial intelligence to be shockingly high, to the point where they could not be distinguished from actual humans.

“Oh.” Sunshine-gēgē revealed a distressed look. “There’s a reason for that. I still think it would be better to let ‘him’ explain everything to you guys.”

“Him?” I asked, puzzled.

Sunshine-gēgē again gave a rare mysterious smile, and pointed ahead with his finger. “We’re almost there.”

I followed Sunshine-gēgē’s finger with my eyes. The coastline of a continent had already entered our field of vision, and the flying carpet, seemingly getting excited as well, suddenly sharply accelerated, to the point where I couldn’t even open my eyes and was reduced to clinging onto the edge of the carpet for dear life.

Then, the flying carpet violently came to a stop—I even thought that I almost heard the long screeching sound of the carpet “braking”—and the carpet stopped moving.

I slowly opened my eyes. We had stopped in front a peculiar-looking

palace. I exclaimed in astonishment at the grand and magnificent sight of the colossal palace—those enormous gates alone were large enough to permit the entry of three lines of dinosaurs.

Without another word, Kenshin began to walk toward the gates, and just when we thought he was about to bang his head on the two massive doors, they soundlessly swung open, revealing a wide walkway within. The ceiling seemed as high as the sky, and beside the walkway stood countless marble pillars, each one so wide it would have taken five people to completely wrap their arms around it. And yet, although this palace was unmatched in its size, there was a sense of loneliness in its empty spaciousness.

From a distance I saw that in the innermost part of the palace was a throne, and it was very clear that there was a person sitting on it. Kenshin led the way into the palace, and we also followed closely behind him, feeling like kindergarten kids being led by the teacher on a fieldtrip to the Louvre Museum.

As we walked further in, I realized that the “him” that Sunshine-gēgē had been talking about was most likely referring to the person on the throne. I opened my eyes wide, gazing at the figure upon the throne. As we approached, the figure became clearer: long red hair, a black robe, gray eyes laden with grief, and an exotic pattern below the left eye.

“Dictator of Life!” Long Ming and I said together.

The person who appeared before us was someone Long Ming and I were extremely familiar with, whom we had seen since we were

children. He was the Dictator of Life, reputed to have the highest artificial intelligence in the world, yet often failed in designing menus. However, this was still the first time I had seen the Dictator of Life actually appear before us. Everything up until this point had been mere holograms.

Having thought of this, I rushed toward the Dictator of Life in a few large strides and hugged him around the waist. I was overjoyed upon discovering that I was really holding onto the Dictator of Life, unlike when I was younger and, forgetting that the Dictator of Life was just a fake image, rushed forward to hug him, always ending up sprawled on the floor.

"Dictator of Life, did you come here to play this game too?" I raised my head from the Dictator's chest to look up—ugh, the truth was that I was a lot taller than him, so I could only raise my head from his shoulder level, and then look back down at him. The Dictator of Life smiled. "I have always been here."

"Here? In Second Life?" Long Ming rushed to ask.

The Dictator of Life nodded, and Long Ming's mouth opened, then closed, then opened, as if he had a million questions to ask, but did not know where to begin.

I could completely understand Long Ming's feelings because while my mind was also exploding with questions at the moment, I could only utter the following in the end. "It has occurred to me that our family doesn't seem to be a particularly normal one?"

The Dictator of Life gave a light laugh. "Actually, all the answers are in your mother's study room."

I opened my eyes wide. "My mother's study room?"

"And what's more, Long Ming already knows the truth as well." The Dictator of Life turned toward Long Ming, smiling mildly.

Long Ming pointed to himself in shock, and the Dictator of Life quietly said, "Half Prince."

Long Ming revealed a baffled look, and perplexedly said, "Half Prince? Isn't that a really old novel in the study room? It's mainly about a virtual reality game where the NPCs suddenly obtain self-awareness..."

Long Ming abruptly froze, and on his face appeared an increasingly alarmed look. In the end he dumbly exclaimed, "No way?"

"What? What's 'no way'? Hurry up and tell me, Long Ming!" I tugged at Long Ming with all my strength, wanting to shake him out of his daze.

"Allow me to tell you, Xiao Xiao Lan." With a wave of his hand, the Dictator of Life caused the surrounding palace to instantly dissolve into nothingness.

In front of our eyes materialized a very familiar scene: the place where we set our characters right after we entered Second Life. With surprise I discovered a girl before us, someone I knew all too well. That was my mom, but a lot younger, looking no more than twenty years old. And there was also another person, the NPC in charge of assisting in

character choices...

“Isn’t that my mom?” Long Ming gave a startled shout, and it was only then that I really paid attention to the NPC. That appearance made it undoubtedly clear that that was Long Ming’s mom!

Then I watched wide-eyed as my mom actually became a trans person, and an unbelievably hot one to boot. As luck would have it, he looked exactly like the super-hot trans elf I had just seen earlier—Prince! Prince was actually my mom!

*My goodness, why did my mom do something so unbelievably stupid as to choose to become trans?* Furthermore, I had actually unwittingly followed my mom’s footsteps and even ended up in a worse state. At least my mom was a slim, beautiful bishounen, while I was a gigantic, buff, handsome bodybuilder. If I were to also have a daughter, I imagine that “she” would be Arnold Schwarzenegger’s successor.

The scene changed, and Prince was chased all over the place like a piece of steak, and even had his tofu eaten by Lolidragon... *Ugh, don’t cry, mom. I have already taken revenge for you and gotten your share of tofu back from Long Ming...*

Following this, I saw Prince’s unique fighting style, and saw the origin of our family’s Meatbun (I had always wondered why none of my classmates believed me when I said my family owned a pet meatbun), and then Prince’s first declaration.

Afterwards, I saw Tian Lang-gēgē. Even though he had the appearance



of a wolf, I could tell right away with one look that Ugly Wolf was Tian Lang-gēgē. Then I saw an angel necromancer, the strangest of all possible combinations of race and profession—strange, why had I not realized how much Doll-jiějie liked Sailor Moon?

Then I saw Guileastes, that homosexual demon bard. As it so happened, he was the very source of the sperm that produced me...Sobsobsob, my dad was originally a homosexual? This was indeed a huge reason for shock!

At last, I saw Yu Lian-jiějie. Yu Lian-jiějie and Tian Lang-gēgē's romance was so moving!

The images skipped past at high speed. Odd Squad was finally officially established, next came the conflict between Odd Squad and Dark Emperor, the fierce battle that took place during the Adventurers' Tournament, the founding of Infinite City, the inner turmoil and pain of Prince who had become liege lord, and then finally, the appearance of the Dictator of Life, and the revelation of the truth—Long Ming's mom actually had an older brother, who was none other than the misguided Long Dian.

What shocked us the most was that Kenshin and Sunshine were not actually real human beings—especially the fact that Kenshin, who had always been by our side as our all-capable housekeeper, was actually not a human...

"Kenshin isn't a real human?" Not daring to believe it, I looked at Kenshin, and the latter revealed a rare, flustered expression.

"Xiao Lan didn't want to tell you two." The Dictator of Life continued evenly, "She was worried that you wouldn't be able to accept the truth, and was even more concerned that you would stop treating Kenshin and Sunshine as human beings."

Just when I was about to open my mouth and respond that I would never change my attitude, Long Ming suddenly cried out in surprise, "So that means that Ice Emperor Syndicate's Silver-Masked Quick Fox isn't human either? Darn it, that's so disappointing. And I thought that he was the strongest person in the world." Long Ming gave an aching look toward Silver-Masked Quick Fox.

"There's nothing weird about that, is there?" I also glanced toward Silver-Masked Quick Fox. "I feel like Silver-Masked Quick Fox's level of intelligence isn't as high as Kenshin's. He doesn't talk much."

"Yup yup, and he doesn't know how to do chores or cook—it seems like all he can do is stand beside Kenshin. Looks like his level of intelligence isn't that high after all." Long Ming nodded his head in agreement.

I turned to ask the Dictator of Life. "Then, Silver-Masked Quick Fox hasn't gained self-awareness yet, right?"

Upon hearing this question, the Dictator of Life was taken aback, then a smile crept onto his face, and finally, unable to stop himself, he broke out into hearty laughter.

Confused, I turned my head toward Kenshin, and the corners of his mouth were actually turning upward! *My goodness, Kenshin is smiling?*

This was more shocking than finding out my mom was trans and my dad a homosexual.

"I'm a human." A voice cold enough to freeze water came from a place some three meters behind Kenshin.

Long Ming and I looked over to Silver-Masked Quick Fox. He had the same icy cold expression on his face, causing us to wonder if that voice just now had come from him.

"He is a human." Kenshin briefly said with a slight smile.

Long Ming and I opened our eyes wide. *Say wha-?* Even though Kenshin and Silver-Masked Quick Fox were both very cold, we still felt that Kenshin's temperature was slightly higher and closer to the body temperature of a normal human, and yet the truth was just the exact opposite?

We coughed awkwardly, not daring to chance a glance at Silver-Masked Quick Fox, and hastened to change the topic of conversation.

"Don't worry, our attitude toward Kenshin won't change."

I looked steadily at Kenshin and said, "Every time someone disappeared from home, Long Ming and I would always be able to count on Kenshin's presence. To us, Kenshin is like a second dad. We definitely will not change."

As I spoke, Long Ming also frantically nodded his head, worried that Kenshin could not see our conviction.

Kenshin turned his face away, but his ears had turned slightly pink.

As we were quietly snickering at the rare sight of Kenshin's distressed state, Elf and Demon Thirteen suddenly came to stand in front of Long Ming and me. Elf looked as though he were desperate to say something yet could not, leaving the two of us bewildered.

"What's up?" I asked curiously.

Elf seemed to finally gather his courage and said, "The truth is, me and Demon Thirteen..."

"We're both NPCs," Demon Thirteen finished.

Elf had no choice but to continue. "We're NPCs with a hidden mission. You had to buy more than five thousand flasks of potion from the lady at the pharmacy in order for her to tell you the location of the underwater cavern. This mission could only be triggered by a player, but because no player had come to our newbie village, the village NPCs were all very worried that the two of us would be trapped inside those icicles forever."

"I see. So that's why they wanted Xiao Xiao Lan and me to go rescue you guys," Long Ming said with a sudden sense of realization.

"Don't worry. Elf, Demon, you guys will always be our comrades," I affirmed, placing both my hands on Elf's shoulders.

Long Ming also placed his hands on Demon's shoulders, saying, "Right. Especially you, Demon. Xiao Xiao Lan will definitely take responsibility for your butt."

I grabbed onto Long Ming's ear and, ignoring his miserable howling, directly asked the Dictator of Life, "Dictator of Life, do you know what happened to Long Dian in the end? And how did my mom come to choose between Wicked and my dad?"

A look of grief came over the Dictator of Life's face. "Later on, Father seemed to sink into a state of frenzied desperation, and actually threatened the world..."

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **“butterfly bows”**: In Chinese, a bow/knot where you form two loops is generally referred to as 蝴蝶結 (húdié jié), which literally reads as “butterfly knot,” most likely because the loops resemble the wings of a butterfly. In this chapter, the characters are literally being tied up by butterflies.

<sup>2</sup> **“great dao”**: Xiao Xiao Lan’s weapon is a da dao, otherwise known as the Chinese greatsword. For more info, click [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> **“Butterflies originally metamorphosed from caterpillars so that they can have sex”**: In Chinese, the word for “perverted” and “metamorphosed” is the same (變態, biàntài). In other words, Xiao Xiao Lan is trying to say that butterflies are the perverted versions of caterpillars.

## Chapter 5: Wicked, Part One

My real name is Zhuo Ling Bin, but in Second Life, I go by Wicked.

Second Life is a virtual game developed more than ten years ago. However, due to overdeveloped artificial intelligence, the game spiraled out of control. Since then, the government has explicitly limited the artificial intelligence level in games. In other words, Second Life, also called the Forbidden Game, is still the world's most immersive game, especially since nearly half of the NPCs developed self-awareness. If not for the Dictator of Life's aid in overseeing this place, I have no idea what sort of devastating consequences this game would have resulted in.

Although in reality, this game has already had dire repercussions. More than ten years ago, the developer of Second Life, Long Dian, contracted a terminal illness. Terrified of the idea of death, he even used the world's most intelligent computer, the Dictator of Life, to threaten the entire world!

That particular event had huge consequences, including making Second Life spiral out of control forever, turning it into a world of only NPCs. However, the biggest consequence to me was that I lost my most precious person.

Feng Lan, my Xiao Lan, was Prince, the person who led everyone to stop Long Dian at that time.

That year, during the confrontation with Long Dian who had already made himself into an artificial human, we had been beaten into a

retreat. In order to save Xiao Lan, I was sent flying and lost consciousness. When I finally woke up, the hospital's bland white ceiling forcibly registered in my line of sight. I immediately remembered Xiao Lan and ran around madly, frantically shouting her name, afraid that my most beloved girl had...

I found her in Gui's hospital room. Her eyes were swollen red from crying. Once she saw me, she flew into my arms and cried out, "Zhou-gēgē, what should I do? The doctor said Gui might never wake up."

As I tried to mollify Xiao Lan, I looked over and saw Gui breathing through a ventilator, his body pierced with IV drips. My heart filled with irresolvable conflict. On one hand, I wished for Gui to quickly wake up so Xiao Lan would not have to cry anymore. On the other hand, I secretly wished for Gui to never wake up. *Don't... Don't take away my Xiao Lan!*

"Prince, why don't you take a break? It's been a while since you've been to class, right?" Lolidragon's concern was plainly visible on her face. "We'll take good care of Gui."

"Never!" Xiao Lan refused immediately.

"If Gui never wakes up... I'll always be by his side taking care of him." Xiao Lan cradled Gui's hand, eyes brimming with determination. No one could shake her resolve. Not even me.

*Gui will wake up.* No one understood that better than I did. In order to bring a smile to Xiao Lan's face once more, that man would crawl back to her even if he had sunk eighteen levels down into hell. That man



was someone who would never surrender. He was so extremely determined that even I sometimes could not help but admire Gui's resolution.

And so, I left the hospital room, paying no attention to the sounds of surprise and Gui's hoarse voice calling out for Prince.

My heart understood. In the end, I still lost my Xiao Lan – my precious girl with her big, bright eyes.

*What should I do?* I could not help but feel at a loss.

"Roam the lands, forever leaving this land of heartbreak?"

My little brother, Zhou Ming Bin, known as Ming Huang in-game, attempted to give me suggestions while immersed with playing CS.<sup>1</sup>

I shook my head, my heart heavy. "No, I haven't received my diploma yet. I cannot leave school."

"Drink away your sorrows." Ming Bin clapped his hands before reaching for his wallet, about to rush out. "I'll go buy you a beer."

"No!" I sternly rejected his suggestion. "Alcohol can cause liver cancer."

"Then...should I go buy you a packet of GENTLE cigarettes<sup>2</sup>?" Ming Bin furrowed his eyebrows in thought.

"No, you would breathe in second-hand smoke." I could not cause my little brother to get lung cancer just because of a broken heart.

Ming Bin propped his chin up with both hands. "Then why not weep your heart out under your covers? I'll even pretend not to hear anything."

I seriously considered it before replying, "No. I have a laboratory experiment with my professor tomorrow. I cannot appear with swollen red eyes. I'll cry some other day."

Ming Bin looked defeated. "You'll cry some other day? Ha, only my brother would say something like this. Bro, can you not be so collected? I think only the brother who has lived with you for over ten years can tell that the you right now is hurt such that you would much rather die. Bro, you're too reserved. No wonder you couldn't win Prince over."

My face fell. *Was being calm the wrong course of action?*

"Prince is so dense that there has never been, nor will there ever be another like her. In my opinion, I think you should have run up to her and confessed 'I love you' every day for an entire year. Only then would she truly believe that you love her." Ming Bin murmured to himself, "That gay guy really used the correct method to steal Prince away."

Later, I thought the sight of Professor Min Gui Wen practically exuding happiness at school would be the most painful thing I would have to endure. However, I was wrong. On the day of Xiao Lan's graduation, I brought her her favorite tulips to congratulate her...

The graduation ceremony went by smoothly, with congratulations from the president, then a valedictorian speech and everyone bidding farewell to the graduates, until Professor Min Gui Wen appeared on stage in his strange outfit. Everything changed. The entire school screamed and even the teacher's faces went red in embarrassment.

I could not be any more familiar with his outfit. That was Gui's wandering bard attire, and even his guqin and earrings were the same. His overall appearance made the originally serious Professor Min Gui Wen look charmingly handsome. With everyone's gaze on him, he walked to Xiao Lan's side. Nearly dumbstruck, Xiao Lan asked, "Gui? Do you think we're having a masquerade?"

Gui coughed twice, put down his guqin, and took out a heart-shaped, pink box. After opening the box, Gui knelt down on one knee and used a voice full of love to say, "My dearest highness, Xiao Lan. I am no longer your teacher, and I would like you to use another name to address me from now on."

"What name?" Xiao Lan, who had always been slow on the uptake, also came to an understanding about what Gui was trying to do at this time. Her face could not be any redder than it was.

Gui gently picked up the ring. On top of the silver ring was a tulip whose petals were made out of diamonds. Undoubtedly, Gui also knew that Xiao Lan's favorite flower was the tulip.

"Are you willing to call me husband, and to let me call you my dear wife?" Gui asked sincerely.

Please forgive me for being unable to tell you what happened after this. I could no longer stay there. With tulips in my hand, I walked home, hand shaking so much that I was nearly unable to open the door. I walked inside my house, and like always, took out a vase and put the flowers inside it. I placed the vase next to the front door.

Then, I planned on returning to my room. When I turned, Ming Bin was staring at me with large eyes. At a loss, he blurted, "Tomorrow... You don't have to do an experiment tomorrow?"

I shook my head and walked past Ming Bin. He reluctantly said, "Ah, Bro... I'm sorry for your loss." <sup>3</sup>

I didn't have the heart to tell Ming Bin that "I'm sorry for your loss" wasn't used that way.

In the following months, I did my best to avoid Xiao Lan. Even if she specifically came to my house, I would have Ming Bin tell her that I wasn't home. I was deathly afraid to hear from her mouth that she had already decided to marry... Someone who wasn't me.

Just now, Xiao Lan had come again. I heard her voice. It had been months since I saw Xiao Lan. I heard her say regretfully, "Really? Zhuo-gēgē is still not home?"

Finally unable to hold back, I climbed out of bed and rushed downstairs to the door. Unfortunately, the door had already closed, and Ming Bin was holding a pink invitation as he lamented, "Man, this is cruel. Isn't my brother already in enough misery?"

"Give it to me!" I was nearly shaking as I said this.

Ming Bin finally realized that I was standing behind him. He turned to face me, and then he hid the invitation behind his back. His smile was forced as he said, "Trust me, Bro, you don't want to see this."

"Give it to me!" I persisted. Even though I very much agreed with Ming Bin's words, that I definitely wouldn't want to see that invitation, I still had to see it no matter what.

Ming Bin sighed. He handed the invitation over. I think I will never forget the moment I saw that invitation that left me no room to doubt. It was a wedding invitation, and on it were Feng Lan's and Min Gui Wen's names... Droplets of water fell next to Xiao Lan's name.

"Bro... Um, Prince wants you to look at the back," Ming Bin said cautiously.

Trembling, I flipped the invitation over. The back had a few handwritten lines. I could tell at a glance that it was Xiao Lan's handwriting. Messy and squiggly handwriting like this was not common.

*Zhuo-gēgē,*

*I went to your house several times, but you were never home. I guess I can only leave words for you on the back of this invitation for now because I'm afraid you won't be home again. Although Gui told me I shouldn't give you an invitation, that you would be very unhappy, I can't not give you one. You are someone very important to me. You are Zhuo-gēgē who loves me the most. I would very much like for you to attend my wedding. Really. I really hope you can come. I hope that*

*I can receive your blessing.*

*Love,*

*Xiao Lan*

My entire body froze. I only dared to gently hold onto the invitation by the corner, afraid that I would accidentally damage it. I did not want to even damage a single corner of it.

Suddenly, a drop of water dripped onto the invitation and dirtied Xiao Lan's message. I frantically tried to wipe away the droplet but only made it worse. The water droplet had blurred several words. I wiped my face with my hand in frustration. I was afraid that yet another accursed water droplet would ruin the message that Xiao Lan had personally written.

"Bro..." Ming Bin's eyes were large. He was frantic and didn't know what to do.

However, the door was loudly kicked open. Feng Yang Ming stood outside. He was pulling along a full cart, holding a can of beer. He lazily said, "Want some Heineken?"

On the day of Xiao Lan's wedding, I went. No matter what, I could not miss seeing Xiao Lan wear a wedding dress, even if the man standing beside her wasn't me.

The wedding was a large occasion. Different colors of Xiao Lan's favorite tulips were spread all over. I nodded my head in satisfaction and walked over to people I recognized. Wolf-gē, Yu Lian, Lolidragon, and even Doll, who was a princess, had come dressed in everyday

clothes. Nan Gong Zui brought with him people from Righteous Blades, and of course Dark Emperor would not miss the occasion, but my teammates were all unable to look at me.

Xiao Lan was already wearing her wedding dress and standing before the priest, waiting for Gui. The white lace veil on her face concealed her appearance, but I believed that my Xiao Lan must be the most beautiful bride in her wedding dress.

"Strange. Has Prince always been this tall?" Yu Lian asked in confusion.

"Probably because she's wearing high heels. Don't brides usually wear high heels?" Li Tian Lang said matter-of-factly.

"Doll recalls that it should be the groom standing before the priest to wait for the bride, right?" Doll asked while biting on her fingernails.

"Could it be that Gui is late?" Nan Gong Zui guessed.

"Impossible!" Everyone... Even I, shouted in unison.

"He's getting married to Prince. Even if Gui were to get killed by a sandstone truck on his way here, his spirit would float here on time," Lolidragon earnestly claimed.

Even I had to agree with Lolidragon's words. Gui was exactly that sort of person.

The doors to the church finally opened, and like we thought, a person wearing a white tuxedo walked in. Upon seeing me, the person's face

lit up and she walked over. "I knew that Zhou-gēgē wouldn't miss my wedding."

"X-Xiao Lan. Why are you dressed like that?" Losing my composure, my mouth dropped open. Actually, everyone present had their mouths open quite wide. In comparison, I hadn't lost my composure all that badly.

Indeed, Xiao Lan was wearing a white tuxedo, and she had her hair done in a ponytail. She looked very dashing, and the look suited her... But a bride should wear a bride's dress!

"Huh, this?" Xiao Lan pulled on her tie. "It looks good, right? The more I looked at it, the more I thought that Gui's tuxedo looked better than my wedding dress, so I had him swap with me."

Everyone's mouths dropped open even wider. In unison, we turned our heads to look at the person wearing the wedding dress.

Xiao Lan strode over to the bride... No, the groom, and then smiled happily at the priest whose mouth was wide open. "Father, quickly read the testimony. I can't wait to eat food from my wedding reception. It's a buffet from a five-star hotel."

When I saw Xiao Lan lift the veil from Gui's face, my heart twisted in doubt. If Xiao Lan had wanted to exchange with me, would I have agreed? I probably...would have. As long as I could marry Xiao Lan, even if I had to wear a wedding dress, I would do it.

However, when Gui came over to talk to me in his low-cut wedding



gown, I could not help but admire him just a bit.

"Thank you for coming to the wedding." Gui muttered quite reluctantly, "Xiao Lan was very happy you could make it."

"You don't have to worry. I graduated as well. In the future, I'll stay far away from your family," I replied icily, like usual.

Gui looked as though he was struggling for a moment before sighing sadly. "Don't go, I need your help. Xiao Lan hopes Kenshin and the rest can come to the real world, especially Sunshine. Fairsky can't live without him."

"We're producing artificial bodies?" I asked, somewhat shocked.

Gui nodded his head. "Lolidragon and Doll will cover all the costs."

I was a little hesitant. If I did this, I would constantly have to see Xiao Lan...

"Xiao Lan will be very happy that you'll be around to help," Gui muttered unwillingly.

Upon hearing his words, I couldn't help but nod my head.

Once Sunshine, Kenshin, and Celestial came to the real world one by one, I wondered if I should go out and find a job. Despite Lolidragon's offer of a job at her company, I did not want to work near Xiao Lan's house anymore, so I found a job overseas. I decided to give Xiao Lan my final goodbye.

Xiao Lan opened the door, happily crying out, "Zhou-gēgē, welcome! I was just about to tell you, Gui and I are having a child."

"Oh?" I couldn't help but sneak a peek at Xiao Lan's stomach, already feeling envious of the child's father.

Xiao Lan followed my line of sight down to her stomach, but she quickly declared, "Not here."

Xiao Lan took my hand and dragged me inside.

"Over there." Xiao Lan pointed to the Gui, whose stomach was sticking out. He wore maternity clothes and was sitting on the sofa, busy knitting.

I lost my composure again, my jaw dropping. Once Gui saw me, he jumped up and shouted, "Hey! You shameless guy! Don't you dare hold hands with my wife."

After speaking, Gui rushed over but got tangled in the yarn he held, looking like he was about to fall on his back. I immediately rushed forward and caught Gui at the last second, thankfully avoiding a fall that could have caused them to lose the child. My heart on the other hand felt like it was about to jump out of my chest.

"That was close," Xiao Lan commented, eyes wide. After that, she turned around as if she had nothing to do with the conversation. "I'll go and bring you something to eat. Don't fight, okay?"

Both Gui and I sat down on the sofa as he resentfully started knitting again. Unable to hold back, I asked, "Are you really pregnant?"

"Obviously!" Gui snapped, "You think I like wearing maternity clothes for nothing?"

"Why?" I asked before remembering that Xiao Lan was afraid of pain.

"I can't help it, Xiao Lan is afraid of pain. But this is good as well. If you ask me to listen to Xiao Lan's labored cries during childbirth, I might as well be the one giving birth. This way I actually don't have to worry as much," Gui nonchalantly said as his hands worked on knitting a small cap.

I almost couldn't speak. This man's love for Xiao Lan had even exceeded my expectations. I had to pause to think. *If it were me, would I be able to stand ten months of pregnancy for Xiao Lan? I...couldn't.*

"I heard that you refused Lolidragon's offer of a job at her company?" Gui questioned.

"Yeah, I'm planning on leaving the country." I had finally given up completely. Perhaps Xiao Lan would be happier with Gui than she ever would with me.

"What! Why?" Xiao Lan was holding a pot of soup. After hearing my words, she rushed over, momentarily forgetting that she was holding a pot in her hands. She stumbled, and the entire pot flew toward Gui who was resting on the sofa.

Almost as a reflex, I flung myself to the side and used my body to cover Gui so that the hot soup would not burn Gui's stomach. Thankfully, I was wearing a full suit. The material was very thick...

"Zhou-gēgē, are you really leaving?" Xiao Lan asked worriedly.

I was leaning a few inches away from Gui's belly, afraid to actually touch him, feeling the hot waves dripping down my back. Face white and voice shaking, I mumbled, "No, I won't be leaving the country. I'll actually move in with you two."

*If I don't move in, I'm afraid that Xiao Lan's child will not survive until childbirth.* "Finally I don't have to watch Gui all day. I'll be cleaning now," Kenshin said coldly as he passed by the corridor, holding a vacuum cleaner.

Still, I had the feeling that even after the birth of the child, I would not be able to leave this couple alone. Not unless I never wished to see Xiao Lan's child grow up.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **"CS"**: Short for Counter-Strike, a first person shooter.

<sup>2</sup> **"GENTLE cigarettes"**: GENTLE is a brand of cigarettes found in Taiwan. The original name used to be LONG LIFE, named to celebrate the seventieth birthday of the president of the Republic of China, Jiang Zhong Zheng. Launched in 1958, the product was a way of wishing for the president to live a boundless, long life. The product was officially renamed to "GENTLE" in 2007.

<sup>3</sup> **"I am sorry for your loss"**: Used to console someone when someone they know has passed away.

## Chapter 6: Wicked, Part Two

"Zhuo-gēgē, when Xiao Xiao Lan grows up, will you marry her?" Xiao Xiao Lan asked me with innocent and adorable eyes, and she had a giant ribbon on her head.

"It's Zhuo-shūshu." I corrected her patiently, trying to resist the churning inside my heart. What Xiao Xiao Lan just said was almost identical to what Xiao Lan had said in the past.

I thought that I had already stopped caring about Xiao Lan's marriage to another person. However, once I heard Xiao Xiao Lan's words and saw that pair of eyes that were so similar to Xiao Lan's, I felt as though my scars had been re-opened. I... fled in defeat from Xiao Xiao Lan's house when Xiao Xiao Lan was just seven years old. (Thankfully, the eight-year-old Xiao Long Ming was already very sensible and was skilled at taking care of his little sister.)

I thought about things in the past as I stepped onto the streets of Infinite City. Just now, I had another huge quarrel with Gui and then took the chance to run away. However, I quite understood that for a long time now, Gui hadn't been able to ignite my wrath. What I was afraid of was that Xiao Xiao Lan would be coming over in a short while.

According to what Prince said just now, Xiao Xiao Lan had always been looking for me, for her Zhuo-gēgē.

*It has already been eight years, but she is still looking for me? At that time, she was only seven years old. I had taken care of her frequently,*

even more so than Xiao Lan and Gui, her parents who ran about as they wished. *However, it has been such a long time since then. She actually still remembers me...* The corners of my lips couldn't help but rise.

Xiao Xiao Lan's adorable face with her cute child-like voice rang again in my head. *Will Zhuo-gēgē marry Xiao Xiao Lan in the future?* I couldn't help but hit myself on the head. *What kind of nonsense am I thinking about? Xiao Xiao Lan is younger than me by thirty years!*

However, what I didn't expect was that Xiao Xiao Lan would also come to Second Life. *How did she manage to find a way in?* Not to mention that even Long Ming was here, and the two of them had even switched genders. Xiao Xiao Lan had actually become a trans person, just like her mother had.

I shook my head, intending to leave Infinite City to avoid running into Xiao Xiao Lan.

However, once I opened the gates of Infinite City, Xiao Xiao Lan was coincidentally about to push open the doors. Her arms were stretched out wide, as though she was waiting for someone to hug her. After she saw me, she blinked.

"Oh, it's Wicked. We meet again." She looked at me, smiling broadly, and seemed not to mind much as she asked, "Are you leaving the city?" I forced a smile. "Yes."

Xiao Xiao Lan made an "Oh!" sound and cleared the way for me to go through without any intention of persuading me to stay... *Perhaps she*

*still doesn't know that I am her Zhuo-gēgē?* With mixed feelings, I stepped past Xiao Xiao Lan's shoulder.

THUMP! A loud sound rang out, and a pang of immense pain came from my head. I lay on the floor, not very sure of what had just happened. I shook my head, which was a little muddled.

"You think you can leave?! This girl here has been looking for you for eight years now. Do you think that I will just let you go?" Xiao Xiao Lan said ferociously.

"Xiao Xiao Lan, if you beat Zhuo-shūshu to death, and he flies back to the rebirth point, you won't be able to find him anymore," Long Ming said worriedly.

"Wicked is level two hundred and fifty-three. Even if the four of you were to gang up on him, you wouldn't be able to beat him to death," was Kenshin's cold answer.

"Oh, I see... Xiao Xiao Lan, he's about to climb back up. Hurry up and hit him a few more times, otherwise Zhuo-shūshu will run away," Long Ming shouted, making a big fuss.

Following that, I was whacked on the head several more times, and Xiao Xiao Lan was even shouting, "Elf, Demon Thirteen, hurry and help me beat him up. If I don't render him severely injured, I'm scared that he will run away." After that, other than fists, I felt a few pairs of feet trampling on me too.

To tell the truth, it didn't hurt much. The level of Xiao Xiao Lan and the



others were probably not even past fifty yet. With both of my hands, I grabbed the legs of two different people and when I stood up, the two of them tumbled onto the floor. They were probably the elf and demon that Xiao Xiao Lan had called Elf and Demon Thirteen.

"Oh no!" Xiao Xiao Lan gave a shriek and then jumped onto my back, clinging on to me tightly with all four limbs, refusing to let go. Long Ming, who was at my side, was grasping onto an arm firmly. Even the elf and demon, who were on their stomachs lying on the floor, were grabbing onto my legs.

I found it both laughable and heartening as I said, "Even if all of you do this, you still have no way to stop me from leaving."

"I don't care! Whatever happens, I will do my utmost to stop you from leaving." Xiao Xiao Lan's mouth was beside my ear as she roared, "Even if you manage to escape this time, I will still continue to chase you next time!"

I couldn't help but feel a warm feeling in my heart. However, I had a bitter smile on my face as I replied, "Xiao Xiao Lan, it shouldn't matter whether I leave or not, right? Strictly speaking, I'm only your nanny from seven years ago."

Instead, Xiao Xiao Lan said naturally, "Also my boyfriend from fifteen years old to twenty years old, and my husband from twenty years old till the day I die. My mom said that one can already get married at eighteen, but my dad said no. He said that I have to be at least twenty."

I was almost unable to say anything. "What are you talking about? Your dad would never let you get married to me."

Xiao Xiao Lan stuck her face onto my cheek, and said clearly, "My dad didn't oppose it. Before that, I purposely brought a classmate of Long Ming's home for my dad to see. After that, my dad immediately changed his tune to say that I'll be better off getting married to Zhuo Lin Bin. At least you don't drink, don't smoke, don't gamble, don't use violence against females, and also don't swear... God! If I were to let Zhuo-gēgē escape, then where else am I going to find this kind of good man? Good men are an extinct species!"

"I'm also a good man!" Long Ming exclaimed in protest.

"What shit lot of good would it do if you were one? I can't commit incest with a close relative," Xiao Xiao Lan spat.

"A female shouldn't speak so crudely," I gently reprimanded her, frowning.

"Okay." Xiao Xiao Lan stuck out her tongue and then added with a grin,

"Also, my dad says that it seems that only Zhuo Ling Bin can look after me. Otherwise, I'll become a wild girl sooner or later."

I sighed and answered, "Xiao Xiao Lan, we are thirty years apart."

"Yeah. What a pity, we have thirty-eight fewer years to spend together." Xiao Xiao Lan seemed to be somewhat blaming me as she said, "It's all because you went missing for eight years. Otherwise,

going by the human's average age of two hundred, we could have originally spent one hundred and fifty years together. Now that there's eight years fewer, what's left is only a hundred and forty-two years."

Hearing those words, I almost, almost wanted to turn around to hug Xiao Xiao Lan. However, I couldn't. "Xiao Xiao Lan, you're still young. Perhaps you don't know what kind of men you like." *Just like your mother. When she was young, she also said that she wanted to marry me.*

"I'm fifteen years old, not seven. I know that I like you." Xiao Xiao Lan hugged me even tighter, and her voice was just as obstinate as before, not relaxing in the slightest.

I couldn't come up with any more words of protest. *However, how can I be together with Xiao Xiao Lan? We are thirty years apart, and I was once in love with Xiao Xiao Lan's mother. I... cannot be together with Xiao Xiao Lan.* Thinking that, I threw a flurry of hits to Xiao Xiao Lan's joints. She immediately fell to the floor with her limbs numb. I tried not to listen to her groans of pain and then shook off the other people.

"Kenshin! Help me stop Zhuo-gēgē," Xiao Xiao Lan shouted loudly. Kenshin was indeed stronger than me, but I didn't intend to escape within the game. I resolutely went offline.

I took off the game helmet and shook my head. I feared that it would be ten days or more— no, several months before I could go online again. Other than her trait of muddle-headedness that was like Xiao Lan, Xiao Xiao Lan's personality was more like her father's. Since she was young, her determination has been so strong that it is frightening.

Even her clinginess was very much like him. I couldn't help but remember that just now, Xiao Xiao Lan had wrapped her whole body around me... Though other than solid muscles, I hadn't managed to feel anything remotely like a girl's. However, this still made it so I couldn't help the heat rush to my face.

Ring, ring!

I received a great shock and felt restless inside my heart. *Can it be that Ming Bin has told Xiao Xiao Lan my telephone number?* I hesitantly picked up the call.

"Hey! Bro, how many years have you been in hiding already? Do you know that I'm about to go crazy from the pressure from the Feng and Min family?"

Ming Bin's voice came from the phone, crackling. I finally relaxed yet found it a little disappointing. I pressed the power button on the monitor, and Ming Bin's face came into view on the screen.

"We have already discussed this problem before." I replied like usual, "If you were to tell them my phone number, then I will change my number and won't tell you my phone number again."

"Who cares about that! I was going to tell you that our family is going to hold a wedding soon. Are you coming back to attend or not?" Ming Bin's face was fierce, and his manner seemed to say, "I dare you to try not coming back."

I was deeply shocked. "You're getting married?"

"I'm already in my thirties, so what's so strange about getting married?" Ming Bin was not in a good mood as he said, "On the contrary, you're in your forties but still aren't married yet. Mom and Dad are just about worried to death."

I couldn't help but start to feel guilty. Indeed, I hadn't visited my mother and father in a long time. I lifted my head to look at Ming Bin's face. *Since when did Ming Bin's baby face become so mature?*

"Hey! Are you coming back or not?" Ming Bin rushed me unceasingly.

I said quickly, "Of course, I'll go back right now..." However, I opened my mouth again to question a little hesitantly, "You didn't invite Xiao Xiao Lan, right?"

"Xiao Xiao Lan?" Ming Bin raised an eyebrow as he said, "Since when have you started avoiding Xiao Xiao Lan? Weren't you hiding from Prince before? Fine, don't give me that dirty look. I didn't invite her as a guest. I only invited the people from the Dark Emperor Team."

*The Dark Emperor Team. I also haven't seen them for so long.* I nodded my head. "I'll come back immediately."

After I neatly folded several pieces of clothing and put them into my small luggage bag, I headed off to the nearest transmission station. It took less than half an hour before I once again stepped into the place I was most familiar with. My house was just two streets away from Xiao Xiao Lan's house.

With much difficulty, I finally managed to find among my pile of cards the magnetic card that opened my house door. However, before I had even stuck the card in to open the door, the door had already opened. Ming Bin's slender figure and his face bearing an indifferent expression appeared behind the door. He easily took the luggage from me, saying, "Come on in. I'll introduce the bride to you."

Hearing this, I couldn't help but be a little nervous. I smoothed out my already very smooth suit, fearing that I might cause Ming Bin to lose face. I stepped into the living room and following that was completely stunned. My house's not-so-spacious living room was now packed full of people. There was Xiao Xiao Lan, Gui, Lolidragon, and Feng Yang Ming, who was even yawning.

"Come, this is the person who is about to become our family's bride—Xiao Xiao Lan!" Ming Bin introduced her very seriously, and I became even more dazed. This was the first time I had seen Xiao Xiao Lan after she grew up. She looked more like her father, but that pair of large eyes was exactly the same as Xiao Lan's.

Turning my head as though I was a robot, I asked shakily, "The person that you are going to marry is Xiao Xiao Lan?"

Ming Bin raised an eyebrow and answered, "How is that possible? Even if I wanted to marry her, she's not willing to marry me."

"B-But you said that you are getting married?!" I suddenly felt like a bird caught in a trap.

"I said that our family is going to have a wedding." Ming Bin blinked his innocent-looking eyes as he replied, "Bro, you're also considered our family member, right?"

I roared loudly, "You said that you didn't invite Xiao Xiao Lan."

"Exactly." Ming Bin said earnestly, "I didn't invite her as a guest. She is the bride."

"Stop talking nonsense." I was a little at a lost for words and retreated back towards the door slowly. Then, I broke into a run towards the door, afraid that I wouldn't be able to escape later.

A big boy stood at the door and was stretching his arms and legs. Then, with a spinning kick, he broke the screen at the front door. Following that, he gave a dashing smile and said, "Hi, long time no see, Zhuo-shūshu. I am Long Ming. Do you still remember me? My kung fu is pretty good, right? This was learned from Kenshin, and of course, Silver-Masked Quick Fox also taught us quite a bit."

These words were the equivalent of telling me that leaving from the front door was impossible. My gaze flickered, and I dashed up the stairs, intending to escape from my room's window.

Just as I was intending to kick the window open, the window itself shattered into a pile of shards. A familiar apron-wearing, kitchen knife-wielding figure was single-handedly supporting herself on the window ledge; then, she jumped in. She was Cold Fox's brilliant student, Feng Lan.

“Zhuo-gēgē, long time no see.” Xiao Lan smiled incomparably radiantly, so much that it was even a little hard on the eyes, almost like Yu Lian’s smile.

“Xiao Lan...”

*How could I possibly square off with Xiao Lan?* What was more important was that even if I exchanged blows with her, I was afraid that I wouldn’t be her match.

Once again, I could only turn around to leave. I remembered that there was a back door in the kitchen, so I sprinted down the stairs. When I passed by the living room, I saw Xiao Xiao Lan still sitting on the sofa. She only watched me pass by with open eyes, not making any movements at all.

From the kitchen, there came sounds of someone stir-frying some food. After I dashed in, I realized that Wolf-gē’s large figure was currently busy pouring drinks into cups, and Yu Lian was standing in front of the back door. She held a ray gun in both her left and right hands, and on her face was a terrifying, amiable smile.

“Xiao Xiao Lan says that she doesn’t mind the groom sitting in a wheelchair at the wedding.” Yu Lian gave a gentle smile.

My face was ashen-white, and I slowly backed out of the kitchen. However, Wolf-gē stopped me, “Wicked, take this tray of beverages out for everyone to drink on your way out.” Then, he passed the tray that was full of drinks to me.



I received the tray and walked back to the living room with heavy footsteps. I put the beverages on the table, and everyone took a cup for themselves. Then, they sat in a circle, surrounding me in the center.

"Do you prefer a Western-style or Chinese-style wedding?" Xiao Xiao Lan asked with wide-open eyes.

I purposely didn't look at Xiao Xiao Lan and turned around to look at Gui. As though I was crying for help, I pleaded, "Gui, didn't you say that you would definitely not let your daughter marry me?"

Instantly, a kitchen knife latched onto Gui's throat, and another Cold Fox-brand flying dagger that gave off a cold gleam appeared in Xiao Xiao Lan's hands as she gently placed it at the back of Gui's neck. Gui was incomparably calm as he replied, "In my house, there are two women who can wield kitchen knives or throwing knives and deal away with ten or more robbers holding ray guns. I have already married the one wielding the kitchen knife. I believe, other than you who had tried to fight with me over the woman holding the kitchen knife, I'm afraid that no one would dare marry the one in my house wielding the throwing knife."

A hand clapped onto my back. I turned to look and saw Long Ming who was currently shaking his head as he sighed, "Zhuo-shūshu, Xiao Xiao Lan has already sent countless admirers running off in fear. She will not let you go."

I was finally forced to look at Xiao Xiao Lan but attempted one last struggle. "Xiao Xiao Lan, you're only fifteen years old."

Xiao Xiao Lan still had her eyes wide open as she asked, "Am I too young? Then should we get married later?"

I nodded my head desperately.

Xiao Xiao Lan immediately stood up screaming loudly in happiness, "That's wonderful! Zhuo-gēge agreed to marry me."

I froze. *What did I just agree to?*

"You promised me that you'll only marry at twenty," Gui murmured to Xiao Xiao Lan uneasily, and Xiao Xiao Lan nodded her head cutely.

It was only at this moment that I recalled that it was completely impossible for Xiao Xiao Lan to get married to me right now. *The law dictates that you can't marry at fifteen!* I had been tricked; I had been set up by everyone! My own little brother included. I couldn't help but lift my head to shift my gaze onto my brother.

Without even the least bit of remorse, Ming Bin said, "Don't use that resentful look on me. Who asked Mom and Dad to say that the two sons in the house are both not married, and if you didn't find a wife within half a year, I was to immediately go prepare a photo for an arranged marriage?"

My gaze became even more resentful.

"Moreover..." Ming Bin shrugged his shoulders as he said, "You like Xiao Xiao Lan a lot anyways, so I don't know why you're splitting hairs

over it.”

“I don’t!” I objected, but then I abruptly remembered that Xiao Xiao Lan was right here, and if I spoke like this, I would hurt her.

I looked at Xiao Xiao Lan in a hurry, but she had turned around with her back facing me. Seeing her helpless shoulders shaking non-stop, my heart felt as though it was shaking continuously along with those small shoulders. I seemed unable to control my body and walked towards Xiao Xiao Lan, pulling her into an embrace. Filled with matchless regret, I said, “Sorry, I didn’t say that on purpose. I was only... splitting hairs over it.”

“Then, do you like me?” Xiao Xiao Lan asked, choking a little as she sobbed.

“I like you, I like you!” I couldn’t help but bury my face in her hair, breathing in a fresh and clean fragrance like that of grass.

Xiao Xiao Lan turned around to face me, and her eyes were still held wide-open, without even half a drop of tears. She smiled as radiantly as the sunlight as she answered, “I knew that you would definitely like me.”

Following that, she pulled my head over and ruthlessly gave me a kiss!

## Chapter 7: Kenshin, Part One

I was not surprised at all as I watched Xiao Xiao Lan kiss Wicked by force.

Everyone thought that Xiao Xiao Lan's personality resembled that of her mother's, but I knew better. Xiao Xiao Lan was too stubborn to relent, just like a carbon copy of her father. This also meant that she was extremely clingy and never believed that she could ever fail. So, when Xiao Xiao Lan announced that she would marry Wicked, I immediately started preparing her dowry. I just didn't expect to wait this long.

I forgot the fact that humans have to live for about twenty years before they get married.

My name is Kenshin. I'm not sure exactly where this name came from. Well, I think that since Prince has been calling me that from the beginning, and I knew nothing beside the fact that I was the Demon King, I believed Kenshin to be my name. In truth, I don't know what my name is because I am an artificial intelligence, a computer application with self-awareness.

I was originally an NPC in a game called Second Life, but I suddenly grew self-aware, and in a twist of fate I walked out of that dark cave with Prince and my companion.

I had originally thought that the two of us would keep following Prince until the game was shut down, which would also be the day we died.

However, a lot of things happened, and I finally understood that I had actually been a real person. I had died because Long Dian's experiment failed, and thus I became a "person" who died inside a game and yet came back to life in the game. Just what in the world am I? Even I myself don't understand.

When Prince offered to make me an artificial body, I wavered. I wasn't sure if I really wanted to go to the real world. However, I didn't hesitate for long before I decided to go. The reason was that I discovered the Min couple had almost burned down their house for the fifth time in three days. There were a lot of reasons for that: they forgot the soup was on the stove and melted the soup pot; after roasting meat, they threw the grill directly onto the grass; they put burning incense on the bed...

If I didn't go take care of that couple in the real world, they probably wouldn't make it past their wedding anniversary. First, I became the Min and Feng family butler, and then I had to look after the pregnant person. Luckily, Wicked came to help, or else I wouldn't have been able to leave Gui's side. Afterward, I became a nanny. Xiao Long Ming and Xiao Xiao Lan's energy and destructive abilities were astonishing, on the same level as their mother's.

Originally, their favorite pastime was to run away from the house. Escaping from my supervision was their usual leisure activity. Playing pranks on me and making fun of me gave them a sense of accomplishment, even though they rarely succeeded.

But one day, when Cold Fox came to our place and accidentally left his

family crest at our house, Xiao Long Ming and Xiao Xiao Lan suddenly respected me much more, and they even started to idolize Cold Fox.

"No doubt the Ice Emperor Syndicate is famous, but normally, do five and six year old kids know so much about the criminal underworld? Even recognizing the crest of the Ice Emperor Syndicate?" Cold Fox mused as he drank his tea.

"Normal kids shouldn't know, but nobody from this family is normal," I replied calmly.

The day before yesterday, Long Ming made a bomb and blew up the storeroom. Yesterday, Xiao Xiao Lan used a big motorcycle lock to severely injure the man who had tried to kidnap them. Earlier today, they had run to Lolidragon's company and gone on a rampage, paralyzing the entire company's systems. I had just caught them and spanked their bottoms.

The two that had been spanked and had been crying a few minutes ago were now hiding near the living room, eavesdropping on my conversation with Cold Fox. *Their recovery rate is astonishingly fast, but their ability to reflect on their actions is astonishingly low.*

"Quick Fox-gēge, your flying daggers are so pretty. Can I have one?" Xiao Xiao Lan finally couldn't help but rush over to Cold Fox's side to stare at the daggers at his waist with glittering eyes.

Before Cold Fox could answer, I said, "No!"

She had severely injured someone with a motorcycle lock, so if Xiao

Xiao Lan got her hands on a dagger that could cut through even metal, she would be a danger to the entire world.

Xiao Xiao Lan pouted and sat down on the sofa, fuming. Xiao Long Ming also came over, stared at Cold Fox, and swallowed a couple of times. *Does he think that Cold Fox is edible?*

"Are you the top assassin for the Ice Emperor Syndicate, Silver-Masked Quick Fox?" asked Xiao Long Ming, even though his eyes were saying: I know you are, there is no use in denying it.

"Then Kenshin must be Silver-Masked Quick Fox's underling. He probably turned over a new leaf, so he hid his identity and came to our house to be our butler." Xiao Xiao Lan nodded knowingly and patted me, saying, "Don't worry, Long Ming and I won't tell anyone about your real identity."

"Yep." Long Ming had a serious expression on his little face. He said, "We won't be scared of you because you were an assassin. Kenshin will always be our capable butler."

*I am not sure if I'm supposed to be happy or exasperated. These two kids have astonishing imaginations as well.*

All of a sudden, the phone rang. I picked it up, and Celestial's face appeared on the screen. He sobbed, "Kenshin, Kenshin, my wife has gone missing. She's been stolen away!"

"Doll has been stolen away?" I frowned. *Did she fall in love with another person, or does he mean something else?*

A hand appeared on the screen and shoved Celestial's face away, and then Nan Gong Zui's face appeared. "Kenshin, I need to talk to Cold Fox."

I raised my eyebrows and reached over to tug Cold Fox into the screen, thinking, *Weird, why does everyone looking for Cold Fox come to me?*

"Something happened?" Cold Fox asked expressionlessly.

"Have there been plans of kidnapping Doll in the criminal underworld lately?" asked Nan Gong Zui seriously. He explained, "Doll got kidnapped and the kidnappers have asked for a large ransom. They also requested that children bring the money. It's a very serious matter."

Celestial squeezed back into the screen and yelled, "Kenshin, Kenshin, quickly, go and bring my wife back to me!"

I asked coldly, "Aren't you Doll's bodyguard? How did you lose sight of her?"

"I... I..." Celestial suddenly went all teary and started mopping up tears with a handkerchief. He cried, "My wife got all angry at me for no reason and then she yelled at me and stormed off. She also forbade me from following her."

"What happened to Doll-jiějie?" asked Xiao Xiao Lan worriedly as she also squeezed in front of the camera, her small face appearing on the screen.



Nan Gong Zui and I both lowered our heads and looked at Xiao Xiao Lan. I asked, "Have you found any children to pay the ransom?"

"No. No parent would ever agree to this." Even as Nan Gong Zui spoke, his eyes strayed down to Xiao Xiao Lan constantly. Finally, he could not help but ask, "Where are Prince and Lolidragon?"

"They went out, saying something about finding inspiration in Egypt," I replied calmly, even though I didn't understand what kind of inspiration they needed. I continued, "Yang Ming followed them to Egypt while Gui and Wicked got dragged into the company lab by Long-bà. Those two will not be coming out of there until their experiment succeeds."

Nan Gong Zui blinked. He said, "That means that you are in charge right now?"

"I have always been in charge." Basically, from which kindergarten Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming went to, all the way to what brand of toilet bowl cleaner we use is up to me. Gui and Feng Wu Qing even gave me their bank books and seals.<sup>1</sup>

Feng Wu Qing said this, "If you keep our bank book, I will have a coffin to sleep in when I die. If Shui Han or I keep it, we probably would end up with no money. We would have to take apart the Chanel handbags to make our burial clothes. Then, our bodies would get dumped into the sea as fish food."

Gui said this, "Ah, Kenshin, I think that you should keep our bank book."

You see, Xiao Lan and I have lost it too many times already, and the bank has already warned us that they will not give us a replacement if we lose it again.”

“Then is it okay...” Nan Gong Zui seemed to be struggling, but when his eyes fell on Xiao Xiao Lan’s cute face, his expression changed. He sighed. “Forget it, I can’t let Xiao Xiao Lan take such a venture.”

“Adventure? Where?” Xiao Xiao Lan’s eyes sparkled.

“No fair! I want to go on an adventure too. Why only consider Xiao Xiao Lan?” Xiao Long Ming pouted.

I thought this over, *We can’t leave Doll alone*. I said to Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming, “This is dangerous. Can you promise me that you won’t fool around?” Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming both nodded vigorously. I turned to Nan Gong Zui and said, “Talk to the kidnappers and postpone the ransom exchange for at least six hours. There are some things I need to teach Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming first.”

Nan Gong Zui nodded seriously, “It’s up to you then, Kenshin.”

I nodded back, ended the phone call, and turned to look at Cold Fox, who threw his flying dagger into the hard marble table and drew out a mini ten-centimeter handgun from his boot. Cold Fox said, “Mini derringer. It has fifteen bullets. It may be small, but killing someone with it isn’t a problem.”

Following that, Cold Fox took out a metal tube the size of a finger from behind his ear. It had a safety pin on top. Cold Fox explained, “There

are two liquids inside; drawing out the safety pin and shaking it will make it explode. It counts as an extra small sized bomb.”

Then, Cold Fox took off the ring on his little finger and put it on Xiao Xiao Lan’s forefinger. “An electric ring. If there is an impact from the front side of the ring, it will release enough electricity to knock someone out.”

Next, Cold Fox took out an earring about the size of a thumb nail from his left ear and put it on Xiao Xiao Lan’s ear. Cold Fox looked at me and said. “This earring is a microcomputer. You can direct Xiao Xiao Lan from within.”

Cold Fox brought his feet up onto the table and showed the nails underneath, “Spiked shoes, originally designed to lessen friction when exercising, but they’re also pretty good for sneak attacks. Give me one hour, and I can get two pairs in Xiao Xiao Lan’s and Xiao Long Ming’s sizes, as well as bullet and blade proof tops, pants, and head bands from home. I guarantee that they will look like normal clothes.”

“Can I have a Meat-bunbun design?” Xiao Xiao Lan asked with anticipation.

Cold Fox nodded and then called his house to pass on the orders. I thought of something and went to Prince’s study where Meatbun and Fire Phoenix were soundly sleeping. I grabbed Meatbun, ignored Fire Phoenix’s fire (since my body was impervious to damage anyway), sewed two straps onto Meatbun, and walked back into the living room. I waved Xiao Long Ming over and strapped the “Meatbun backpack” onto him. Meatbun blinked and asked, “Ken Ken, what is Meat-bunbun

doing on Long Long's back?"

"If Long Ming tells you to do anything later, do it! Now, don't move or talk," I said simply, the simpler the instructions for Meatbun, the better.

Meatbun dared not nod, so he blinked to show that he understood.

After an hour, Cold Fox's people really did send over two sets of gear. They looked like cute, normal kids' clothing with a Meatbun design. If not for the fact that they didn't have a single scratch on them even after Cold Fox shot them with a machine gun, it would be hard to believe that they were anything other than normal kids' clothes.

I helped the two children change and then started teaching Xiao Xiao Lan how to fight, while Cold Fox started explaining to Long Ming how to use the mini derringer and test tube bomb.

This was the first time that I was glad for Xiao Xiao Lan's gift for combat, which definitely came from her mother. In fact, she had probably already surpassed her mother. However, I was also a little worried about the damage Xiao Xiao Lan may inflict on this world in the future now that her destructive ability was going to grow even more.

Long Ming also took after his mother. He easily grasped the usage of every kind of projectile and trap. Cold Fox even asked me, "Can I recruit these two kids into the Ice Emperor Syndicate?"

"Unless you want the Ice Emperor Syndicate to be utterly annihilated

by an artificial human,” I replied icily. *If I let these two kids go into the criminal underworld, giving them two extremely dangerous and destructive biological weapons, then how could I face ... No, not their parents, how could I face the world?*

It was about time, so I prepared to take the two kids to the transmission station, but before I left, I could not help but turn and tell Cold Fox, “Take care of it if you can. If possible, I don’t want these two kids to face danger.”

Cold Fox nodded seriously.

I took the six year old and five year old and left the house. *Is there anything less dependable than depending on two children to save a queen?*

*Unfortunately, as objectionable as it is, we still have to do it for Doll’s sake.* I brought Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming to Doll’s country. We had just stepped out of the transmission station when we saw a row of black limousines parked outside. The door of one car opened and Nan Gong Zui stepped out. He sighed in relief when he saw us, appreciation written all over his face, but Phoenix beside him had a face full of worry.

Xiao Xiao Lan rushed over when she spied Phoenix and said sweetly, “I haven’t seen Phoenix-jièjiè in a long time.”

Phoenix picked Xiao Xiao Lan up and asked in a touched voice, “You still remember me?” Phoenix then turned to Nan Gong Zui, “Husband, must we let them go for the ransom exchange? I’m really worried.”

"Phoenix, the kidnappers insisted on children. For Doll, we have to do this." Nan Gong Zui spoke resolutely, even though his baby face made it look more like he was pouting.

I also comforted Phoenix, "Don't worry, I will be with Xiao Xiao Lan." Phoenix nodded. Suddenly, Celestial rushed out from the limousine, grabbed me, and started bawling, "I want to go save my wife. I want to go save my wife too!"

I replied coldly, "You stay with me in Xiao Xiao Lan's earring, then."

Nan Gong Zui took a deep breath, squatted down next to Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming, ruffled their hair, and asked, "Are Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming scared?"

Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming looked at each other and said at the same time, "We're a bit nervous."

Nan Gong Zui smiled, "Promise Zui-shūshu, you have to put your own safety first, okay?"

Both Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming nodded meekly, but every time after they created chaos and promised not to wreak havoc anymore, they wore that exact same expression. Three minutes later, they would go back to wreaking havoc.

Obviously Nan Gong Zui did not understand these two as well as I did because he nodded with satisfaction, took out a black bag, tied it to Xiao Xiao Lan's wrist, and explained, "This bag is very, very important,

okay? Xiao Xiao Lan has to look after it because you will need to trade this for Doll-jiějie.”

Then, Nan Gong Zui gave Long Ming a mini communicator. “The kidnappers want you two to hold on to this. They will use this to communicate with you. Follow their instructions, but if there is any danger, don’t put yourselves at risk, all right?”

Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming nodded more vigorously. While everyone was praising how obedient they were, I was probably the only one who saw them exchange an excited look.

Then, the communicator Xiao Long Ming was holding started to sing “I’m not afraid of going to a cemetery~.”<sup>2</sup>

Xiao Long Ming pressed the receiver button and answered the call without hesitating. “Hello? What? How old am I? I’m six years old, and my sister is five... Go into the transmission station? Okay, I will go in with my sister now.”

Xiao Long Ming hung up, took Xiao Xiao Lan’s hand, and waved goodbye to us. “Mr. Kidnapper wants us to go into the transmission station. Can we go in now?”

I nodded, “My consciousness has entered Xiao Xiao Lan’s earring. You can go, and I will be watching.”

Then, Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming cheerfully walked into the transmission station hand in hand, looking as happy as they would have been if they were out on a trip. As for me, I still looked the same

in my artificial body, but in truth, half of my consciousness had already entered Xiao Xiao Lan's earring. Through the earring's camera, I saw the world at a child's height for the first time.

Xiao Xiao Lan quickly got into a transmission machine, and I heard Long Ming say, "Mr. Kidnapper wants us to randomly select a coordinate, or else they will kill Doll-jiejie"

"Kill?" Xiao Xiao Lan bit her finger, "What does that mean?"

Long Ming cocked his head, "I don't know either, but Zui-shūshu told us to follow Mr. Kidnapper's instructions, so let's follow Mr. Kidnapper's instructions." Long Ming started to randomly press buttons. The transmission machine instantly started.

As the two kids disappeared from the transmission station, Nan Gong Zui's smiling face collapsed. He covered his face, saying, "My god, please let them be okay. I'm already starting to regret letting them go. If anything happens to Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming, what am I going to tell Prince and Lolidragon?"

"It would make more sense to think about what you are going to tell Gui and Feng Wu Qing," I said coldly.

I watched Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming arrive at an unknown place and said to Nan Gong Zui, who was relentlessly blaming himself, "I have contacted Sunshine. He said that he will help us find Prince."

After that, I ignored Nan Gong Zui's self-reproach and focused on Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming's situation. They had just received



another call from the kidnappers. The kidnappers seemed to have told the kids an exact location this time. The two kids were whisked away again before they had even stepped out of the transmission station. When the kids got to the new location, the kidnappers gave another order, telling them to get on a bus.

Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming were being very obedient and went on the bus under the kidnapper's directions. Then, they stuck their head out of the bus in curiosity, looking at strange new sights. This unexpected development helped me gain new information. From how the heat distorted faraway scenery, I could tell that it was a very hot country. The people on the streets wore hoods and long robes to protect their bodies.

*Arabia?* I narrowed the list of countries in my head.

The bus drove out of the city into a sandy desert, making the two kids who had never seen a real desert gasp and become more excited, to the point of wanting to jump off the bus and play in the sand. Luckily, Xiao Long Ming had pretty good self-control and kept telling Xiao Xiao Lan that they would come and play in the sand after they were done.

When the bus drove past the Sphinx, I was finally one hundred percent sure that they were in Egypt.

The bus drove for so long that even the two hyperactive kids dozed off, and all of the other passengers had gotten off. But I was still alert. My body was now sitting on a chair in the palace, but my consciousness was in Xiao Xiao Lan's earring, aware of everything that was going on.

When night fell, “cemeteries don’t scare me” sounded again. Xiao Long Ming rubbed his eyes and picked up the communicator. “Hello? Get off at the last stop, pick up the bag there, and go south following the compass? Oh, okay.”

Long Ming closed the communicator and shook Xiao Xiao Lan next to him. “Xiao Xiao Lan, wake up, we have to get off.”

Xiao Xiao Lan followed Long Ming off the bus groggily. They found and opened the bag the kidnappers had mentioned. It contained two long coats for kids, two large water bottles, and a compass.

“Mr. Kidnapper said, wear the coats, or when the sun comes up, we will dry up in the heat.” Long Ming told Xiao Xiao Lan as he helped her get into the coat. I nodded in satisfaction. *As expected of Long Ming for being the older brother. He is taking good care of his sister.*

Then, the two small silhouettes began to move in the flying yellow sand. Facing the endless sand around them, the two kids weren’t afraid at all. In fact, they were singing while they walked, as expected of kids from our family.

After an hour, the sun gradually began to come up, and I could even see the temperature rising. *It’s unlikely that kids can withstand desert temperature. Haven’t these kidnappers taken care of children before? Letting them walk for such a long time in the desert!* I started to get unhappy.

“It’s hot.” Xiao Xiao Lan pouted while walking.

"Drink lots of water or you will get dehydrated." Xiao Long Ming sensibly gave Xiao Xiao Lan more water to drink.

Time passed by, and before I knew it, the two kids had already been walking for four hours. Towards noon, the temperature from the sun turned hotter and hotter. The two kids couldn't even talk from heat and exhaustion.

Xiao Xiao Lan pouted and shouted tearfully, "Long Ming, I am so hungry."

Long Ming couldn't even reply. From the camera his steps looked wobbly, and it was worrying me quite a bit. In the end, Long Ming stumbled and collapsed onto the sand.

"Long Ming? Long Ming?" Xiao Xiao Lan shook Long Ming's body and cried tearfully.

I finally couldn't stand it any longer. I told Xiao Xiao Lan through the earring, "Xiao Xiao Lan, stop walking and find a shady spot in the sand dunes. I am coming to save both of you."

"No!" Long Ming lifted his head weakly. "Doll-jiejie will get killed by Mr. Kidnapper. We have to keep going. Xiao Xiao Lan, help me up."

Xiao Xiao Lan nodded resolutely as well, but every time she helped Long Ming stand up, he fell again, feet unstable. I couldn't stand it anymore. I yelled at Xiao Xiao Lan, "Turn back, Xiao Xiao Lan. I'm telling you to turn back!"

"No! Doll-jiějie will get killed. Xiao Xiao Lan's not turning back." Xiao Xiao Lan wiped away her tears and got down before Xiao Long Ming. Her voice was nearly like an order. "Long Ming, climb on my back. I'll carry you!"

Long Ming obeyed in a daze and climbed onto Xiao Xiao Lan's back. Xiao Xiao Lan stood up and walked forward step by step with Long Ming on her back, dripping sweat unceasingly with every step.

I was almost speechless. Facing Xiao Xiao Lan's persistence, I couldn't tell her to stop. I could only watch as Xiao Xiao Lan's sweat dropped onto the sand, only to evaporate right away. Xiao Xiao Lan had inherited all her mother and father's determination.

Xiao Xiao Lan's face brimmed with stubbornness. She was naturally stronger than a normal child, but for her to walk in the hot desert with a boy on her back was too much, even for her.

*No, I can't take it anymore.* I stood up from the chair and looked toward the very stressed Nan Gong Zui at my side and said, "I am going to go find them."

"Has there been trouble?" Nan Gong Zui panicked.

"The kidnappers have obviously never taken care of kids before," I replied coldly, preparing to go to the transmission station.

"Kenshin ..." A voice directly sounded in my mind. This was the way the Dictator of Life, Celestial, Sunshine, and I communicated.

*This voice...* I frowned and asked, "Sunshine? What is it?"

"I got a hold of Prince and Lolidragon. They are at the Sphinx in Egypt right now, sightseeing. Are Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming okay?" Sunshine asked, concerned.

"I think they will be okay now." I sat down slowly, causing Nan Gong Zui and the others to stare in confusion. I said to Sunshine, "Tell Prince and the others, Xiao Xiao Lan went on a bus, the bus passed by the Sphinx at one point, they took the bus all the way to the last stop, and now they're heading south. Sunshine, tell Prince to hurry and they can probably catch up with them."

"No problem," Sunshine answered.

I hesitated and asked, "Do Prince and Lolidragon have any weapons?"

"Wait a second, I'll ask." Sunshine finished and replied a moment later, "Yes, they do."

I calmed down. With a fully armed Prince and Lolidragon to the rescue, even if the kidnappers had three heads and six arms each, they were still screwed.

I turned my attention back to Xiao Xiao Lan's earring and found that a few black silhouettes had appeared in front of Xiao Xiao Lan. They walked toward Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming. Xiao Xiao Lan was exhausted and sweaty, but she summoned the energy to yell, "Hey, are you the kidnappers?"

"That's right, little girl." The leading man laughed.

"Then Nan Gong Zui-gēgē wants me to give this to you guys." Xiao Xiao Lan let Xiao Long Ming down, untied the black bag at her wrist, and raised it in the air.

The man in the front made a grab for the bag, but Xiao Xiao Lan unexpectedly snatched it back, causing him to miss. She pouted, "Where is Doll-jiějie?"

The man in the front seemed stunned by Xiao Xiao Lan's reaction. He hesitated and then laughed, "At our headquarters. Do you want to go find her, little girl?"

Xiao Xiao Lan seemed to consider it very seriously, but the kidnappers around her laughed. They seemed to be amused by the idea that a little girl whose life was now in their hands was considering the question seriously.

Xiao Long Ming spoke up at this moment, "Xiao Xiao Lan, let's go get Doll-jiějie first."

Xiao Xiao Lan had always listened to Xiao Long Ming. Hearing him say that, she nodded and told the kidnappers, "Okay, we will come with you."

The kidnappers laughed, a car drove over, and the kidnappers all got in. So did Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming.

"Ah, cool air! Air conditioning is really the greatest thing ever invented

by humans.” It was like Xiao Long Ming had suddenly gotten revived. He sprawled over the air conditioner in bliss.

“Long Ming must have been a penguin in his past life. You are so bad with heat,” Xiao Xiao Lan stated with confidence.

“Then Xiao Xiao Lan’s past life must have been a gorilla. You’re so strong,” Long Ming countered, not to be outdone.

The kidnappers were quite amused by the idle chatter of the two kids. All of them laughed so much they couldn’t close their mouths. The car arrived at an oasis accompanied by Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming’s arguing. The car actually drove into the lake in the middle of the oasis. Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming both rushed over to the window in amazement, but no water leaked into the car. The car just sank. It sank to the bottom, and then a semi-circular cover rose around the car, and the water was drained away. Then, the ground sank once more, and when it stopped, I finally saw it — an underground base!

Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming looked around in excitement. The base was not very big; the corridors were narrow, only wide enough for one adult to pass through at a time. Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming could pass through it standing shoulder to shoulder. Even though it was small, the base was well-equipped. This was obviously a highly professional organization. After all, an organization that can kidnap a queen can’t be underestimated.

Finally, the kidnappers led the two kids to a hall. There was a seat in the middle of the hall, and to the left was a metal cage. A stately,

elegant woman with a crown on her head sat inside the cage.

“Doll-jiějie!” Xiao Xiao Lan lunged to the front of the cage.



## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **“Seal”**: East Asian countries often use seals (stamps) in place of signatures on documents, paperwork, and contracts. Banks use seals as the method of identifying the account holder.

<sup>2</sup> **“I’m not afraid of going to a cemetery~”**: This is a Taiwanese pop song sung in the Taiwanese Hokkien dialect in the year 1964 by Ye Qi Tian (葉啟田). It was later covered by other singers like Wu Bai (伍佰) and Jolin Tsai.

## Chapter 8: Kenshin, Part Two

Doll, whose eyes were shut, was shocked. After she opened her eyes, she gaped with her mouth wide open in a very un-queenly way. It took her some time before she could speak. "Xiao Xiao Lan? Xiao Long Ming? Why are you here?"

"To take Doll-jiějie back." Xiao Long Ming grinned.

Doll panicked and yelled, "Idiot! Which idiot let you guys come here?"

"Kenshin and Nan Gong Zui-gēgē," Xiao Xiao Lan replied honestly.

Doll's face distorted from anger. "Those two idiots! When I get home, they are done for!"

"Do you think you can go home, Your Majesty?" All the kidnappers laughed.

"You should already have the ransom, but you're not letting me go?" Doll's face spoke of sternness and severity, daring anyone to object.

"The ransom is here!" Xiao Xiao Lan raised the little black bag in her hand and said to the kidnappers with a frown, "If you don't let her go, I'm not giving this to you!"

"Xiao Xiao Lan." Doll's helplessness was completely evident in her expression.

The kidnappers laughed hysterically. One of the kidnappers walked

toward Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming, reaching out as he said, “Be a good little girl and give that to uncle here, okay? Then uncle won’t hurt you.”

Xiao Xiao Lan snatched the bag back and pouted, “If you don’t let Doll-jǐějie go, you are not getting this.”

The kidnapper lost his patience and grabbed Xiao Xiao Lan’s little hand to forcefully take her bag, but Xiao Xiao Lan countered and grabbed his fingers instead, jerking them backward. A clear crackle of bones breaking echoed, along with the piercing howl of the kidnapper.

The kidnappers were astonished, and three more kidnappers rushed over. To their surprise, Xiao Long Ming extended his arm, and a ten inch mini derringer slid out along his sleeve. Bang, bang, bang. Three shots later, the three kidnappers all collapsed to the ground, howling while they each hugged a leg.

When the others saw that Xiao Long Ming had a gun, they all pulled out their guns in surprise and aimed them at the two. *Finally, I can come into play.* The gear worn by Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming were computer operated. In other words, the gear could be operated by me. I immediately activated the function built into Xiao Xiao Lan’s and Xiao Long Ming’s headbands— Shield, and two circular shields sprang up in front of the two.

The kidnappers’ bullets all hit the shields, not harming Xiao Xiao Lan or Xiao Long Ming at all. After a crazy volley of shots, the kidnappers, having identified the shields, dropped their guns and took up daggers and clubs.

Xiao Xiao Lan took out the Cold Fox brand flying dagger from her boot, rolled under a kidnapper's feet, and sliced at a foot with the extremely sharp dagger. After getting injured, the kidnapper tried to cut down Xiao Xiao Lan with his knife, but he got shot through the arm by Xiao Long Ming and joined the others howling on the ground.

"Damned kids!" Another kidnapper with a club seized Xiao Xiao Lan's collar and tried to use Xiao Xiao Lan as a shield against Long Ming's mini derringer. What he didn't know was that for mass destruction, Xiao Long Ming significantly eclipsed Xiao Xiao Lan, but in terms of single target destruction, none could hope to stand against Xiao Xiao Lan.

Xiao Xiao Lan landed a flying kick with a nailed shoe in the kidnapper's face. The kidnapper immediately screamed in agony, hands no longer having the luxury of holding onto Xiao Xiao Lan as he was preoccupied with covering his "holed face."

Even though the enemy was already severely injured, Xiao Xiao Lan didn't forget my order to utterly obliterate the enemy's ability to move, which meant not letting the enemy's feet go unharmed. Xiao Xiao Lan obeyed me very well; she didn't forget to step on the holed-face kidnapper's feet as she landed. Cold Fox brand nailed shoes definitely lived up to their name, and the kidnapper collapsed, howling nonstop. Currently, the situation was like this: Xiao Xiao Lan continued with her single target destruction, and Xiao Long Ming covered her with his mini derringer, throwing out Cold Fox brand test tube bombs whenever he had the chance. The door that had originally admitted a flow of kidnappers was instantly destroyed, leaving only a tiny crevice half a

person tall.

Out of the original seven to eight kidnappers in the hall, three were taken down by Long Ming, one had his finger broken by Xiao Xiao Lan, another gained a “holed face” and “holed feet,” and the two to three kidnappers that were left soon collapsed on the ground as well from Xiao Xiao Lan’s flying dagger and Xiao Long Ming’s mini derringer.

*Have I created the world’s two most dangerous weapons? When they get back, I must confiscate all their gear, or else I cannot face this world.*

Xiao Xiao Lan put her hands on her hip and yelled arrogantly, “Humph! Lying adults, don’t you dare lie to us in the future!” After speaking, Xiao Xiao Lan turned and ran back to Doll’s cage. Like a cute puppy wagging its tail, she asked in a cute voice, “Doll-jiějie, isn’t Xiao Xiao Lan incredible? Kenshin taught us all of that!”

With difficulty, Doll managed to close her gaping mouth a little, and then she rubbed Xiao Xiao Lan’s head. “Xiao Xiao Lan is indeed incredible.”

“Who is more incredible, my mommy or me?” Xiao Xiao Lan looked at Doll in anticipation.

The corner of Doll’s mouth twitched, “Well, your mother’s ability has already crossed into the non-human realm, thus it is out of my understanding.”

“Xiao Xiao Lan, look out!” Xiao Long Ming yelled. He fell silent after a series of gunshots, so Xiao Xiao Lan turned to look. Long Ming was

being held by the throat by a gentle-looking man. The gentleman adjusted his glasses and glared at Xiao Xiao Lan coldly.

"Meat-bunbun, help me hit the enemy!" Xiao Long Ming shouted. Meatbun immediately flew up from behind Xiao Long Ming and yelled, "Don't bully Long-Long!"

Then, he charged at the gentle-looking man, but after a string of gunshots, Meatbun fell to the floor face-first with smoking holes in his white, pudgy body. Meatbun couldn't help but sob on the ground. At this moment, a muscular man wearing an army outfit came over with a machine gun, stepped on Meatbun, and ground Meatbun under his foot.

"Meat-bunbun! Let them go!"

Xiao Xiao Lan shrieked and rushed forward to save Long Ming and Meatbun. Suddenly, a shadow fell over Xiao Xiao Lan. Even though Xiao Xiao Lan was surprised, she still reflexively sliced at the person's foot with the Cold Fox brand flying dagger.

However, this time the dagger attack wasn't successful. It was trampled underfoot along with Xiao Xiao Lan's hands by army boots.

Xiao Xiao Lan's eyes teared up from the pain, but she bit her lip to prevent herself from crying out.

Xiao Xiao Lan looked up to see the muscular guy in the army uniform looking at her with a scornful look. With a strike from the man's hand, Xiao Xiao Lan went flying into a wall. She coughed up a mouthful of

blood and collapsed weakly by the wall.

"Stop! She is just a child!" Doll's knuckles turned white from the force of her grip on the metal cage bars, but her face was even whiter.

"A child? They took out seven of my men." The gentleman adjusted his glasses and threw Xiao Long Ming and Meat-bunbun toward Xiao Xiao Lan. Xiao Xiao Lan barely managed to block the two from hitting the wall, but consequently, Xiao Xiao Lan's face became even paler.

"Kill them." The gentleman said uncaringly to the muscular man in the army uniform.

"Stop!" Doll shook the cage desperately.

The uniformed man spat to the side and advanced on Xiao Xiao Lan with a disgusted expression, "Gah, if you need me to deal with such small fries, then your men are indeed a bunch of trash!"

The gentleman adjusted his glasses once again and replied coldly, "I do have quite some trash underneath me, but these two twerps are pretty good if they could defeat that trash. It's a pity their opponent today was me."

The uniformed man laughed and said, "I really want to see their parent's expressions when they see their bodies."

With that sentence, he kicked forcefully at Xiao Long Ming. Xiao Xiao Lan leaped and managed to shove Xiao Long Ming away. She took the kick herself, grunting from the pain.

The expression of the uniformed man darkened. "Little girl, you sure are stubborn."

Fists rained down on Xiao Xiao Lan. Even though Xiao Xiao Lan's reflexes were fast, and she managed to block all the hits with her arms and legs, how could her thin limbs stand up to the battering of the uniformed man? Soon after, Xiao Xiao Lan couldn't even raise her limbs anymore, and her tears streamed continuously down her face, yet she still bit her lip to prevent herself from crying out.

"Xiao Xiao Lan." Tears ran down Doll's beautiful face as she cried out, unable to bear to look at the scene where Xiao Xiao Lan was being brutally beaten up.

"Stop beating her!" Xiao Long Ming struggled to stand up in front of Xiao Xiao Lan, only to be swatted away by the uniformed man.

"Stop playing around and kill them already. We have to continue with our second round of ransoming." The gentleman said impatiently. The other man grinned cruelly upon hearing that and took out a German-made machete from his waist. He raised the knife high in front of Xiao Xiao Lan...

BANG!

The door that was originally blocked by rocks was suddenly blown wide open. Smoke billowed all around the room. Through the haze, the outline of a hover bike appeared, and both the gentleman and the uniformed man pulled out their guns and watched warily.



The smoke finally cleared away. Two people sat on the hover bike; the one in front wore a black safety helmet that covered the entire head, a leather windbreaker, and black jeans, looking very cool and strong. In the back seat sat a seductive and charming beauty with hair dyed in a purplish-red who was wearing a low-cut top and possessed a pair of long, shapely, and high-heeled legs that peeked out from underneath a cute, mini leather skirt. Even the gentleman and the man in uniform swallowed at the sight of those beautiful long legs.

"Who are you?" The gentleman immediately regained his composure and asked. He looked at the one sitting in the front seat of the hover bike.

The beauty in the backseat stepped off elegantly and sensually. But after that, her legs wobbled and she almost fell, only righting herself in the nick of the time against the bike. The beauty couldn't help but protest to the bike driver, "Hey, you speed too much! Four hundred, it was four hundred! You went faster than a high-speed train!"

After the bike driver took off her helmet and shook out her ponytail, she laughed, "It's to save our babies."

The face under the helmet couldn't be any more familiar to me. With brown hair and brown eyes, she was a forever confident and handsome girl; Prince! This time, my expression finally relaxed. There was no need to worry about the two children anymore.

"Two beauties!" The uniformed man muttered in lust.

"Mommy!" The two children yelled. Xiao Xiao Lan finally stopped biting

her lip and started to cry loudly.

"Prince!" Doll also yelled, relief in her voice.

Prince spotted Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming, both of them with many injuries, especially Xiao Xiao Lan. Prince quickly rushed over to her precious daughter's side, and Xiao Xiao Lan dove into her mother's lap. Prince asked Xiao Xiao Lan gently, "Does anywhere hurt very, very much?"

"Everywhere!" Xiao Xiao Lan bawled in her mother's embrace. Prince quickly examined Xiao Xiao Lan's body, making sure that her daughter hadn't received any fatal injuries, and sighed in relief. She emitted a motherly aura and said to her daughter, "Xiao Xiao Lan, go with Xiao Long Ming over to his mommy, okay?"

Xiao Xiao Lan sobbed while replying, "What's Mommy going to do?"

"Nothing much. Mommy is going to let certain bad guys know that they are not the worst in this world!" Prince replied and then stood up slowly, her fierce eyes saying, "You don't know what it means to anger a wolf!"

The gentleman and the uniformed man hesitated. After the gentleman collected his thoughts, his expression turned vicious and he said to the man in the army uniform, "Let's take care of her together!"

However, the uniformed man ignored him and charged toward Prince alone, yelling, "She's just a woman. I can make her cry on her knees by myself!"

The machete in his hands was almost upon Prince's head when Prince calmly drew out a weapon from her back and stopped the German-made machete with a clang. The uniformed man stared in disbelief at the weapon in Prince's hands; a kitchen knife.

This weapon is the ultimate tool, as it can be used for anything from chopping vegetables to butchering pork. You can even hide it in your house without raising suspicion, and even the weapon control protocol can't forbid you from using it.

When you are going through customs, you can simply pack it inside your suitcase and stick on a "Kinmen"<sup>1</sup> label on the box. Then, even the officials at the customs will praise you smilingly, "You sure are a professional. This one's a good knife."

The German-made machete suddenly emitted a breaking sound, and then it started to crack. The entire machete soon crumbled into a pile of scrap metal. The uniformed man stared at the kitchen knife in Prince's hands in disbelief and yelled, "That's not a kitchen knife! That can't be a kitchen knife!"

Prince raised a finger and wagged it smartly, "No! This IS a kitchen knife, but it's also a diamond edged, invincible kitchen knife. Not only can it cut through the most stubborn pork bones, it can also dismantle ray guns. It's my faithful comrade for traveling, cooking, and even cutting up criminals!"

"Go to hell, woman!"

The uniformed man roared and kicked at Prince's shins. However, Prince instead stepped firmly on his kicking foot. She slammed the hilt of the knife into the man's temple, and then Prince's heavily booted foot kicked viciously toward the man's groin.

After two sounds similar to the sound of bubbles popping, the man went down frothing without a noise.

"Bastard! You dare to hit such a cute loli like my daughter? I will punish you in the name of all those with Lolita complexes around the world!" Prince yelled heroically at the unconscious man on the ground.

*Hey, are you really Xiao Xiao Lan's mother... You should be punishing him in the name of your daughter!* I watched Prince exasperatedly through Xiao Xiao Lan's earring.

"Who are you?" The gentleman asked, his complexion turning sour. Prince turned to look at the gentleman and narrowed her eyes dangerously. She asked, "Are you the mastermind? The one who kidnapped Doll, let my baby walk around in a sizzling desert, and then even dared to injure her?"

The gentle-looking man didn't answer Prince. Instead, he picked up something that looked like a communicator and yelled into it, "Send men over. Where the heck are all of you?"

"If the ones you're calling are those people outside, they either got run over by my bike, or got run over after they were taken down by my tear gas, so I suggest that you save your breath." Prince's expression was dark, and her voice was icy as she spoke.

The gentleman took out a light rifle, but just as he started to pull the trigger, the kitchen knife flew over and split it right down the middle. The knife then continued to fly into the wall behind him, embedding itself nearly to the hilt.

The gentleman was initially startled by the sight, but his expression soon turned shrewd, and he said, "You don't have the diamond edged kitchen knife anymore, so how are you going to fight me now? Just a warning, I am a karate five dan—"

"Hiya!" Prince charged straight at him, and with a spinning kick, she attacked him without any hesitation. He barely managed to deflect it with his hands, but the force from Prince's kick still sent him rolling to the side.

The gentleman's face twisted and his arms shook, but he still forced himself to stand up nonchalantly. He said, "Nice karate kick, but I'm telling you now, I am also a judo—"

Prince rushed forward again and grabbed his collar, right leg kicking out at his ankle viciously, and threw him over her shoulder. The gentleman lay on the floor, blood trickling out of his mouth as he continued his sentence, "...Three dan."

The gentleman finally counter-attacked. As his legs formed a cross, he restrained Prince's waist while his arms circled around Prince's neck. He looked exultant as he said, "I am also one of the world wrestling guild's top class members."

"Oh, tough luck," Lolidragon said lazily, "The one you are wrestling with right now is the world wrestling guild's honorary advisor." The gentleman was stunned, and Prince grinned evilly, "Cross strangle!"

Finally, the gentleman joined the frothing club on the ground. Prince retrieved her kitchen knife and cut the gentleman's clothes into ribbons.

Prince took out a key from the mess of clothes, and she went over to Xiao Xiao Lan to give the key to her. Prince smiled as she said to her daughter, "Go let your Doll-jǐějie out. She was saved because of Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming."

Xiao Xiao Lan smiled as she happily took the key and went to open the cage with Xiao Long Ming.

I lay on Prince's palm... To be precise, Prince wordlessly took off Xiao Xiao Lan's earring and put it on her palm. She even stuck her big eyes against the earring and said, "Kenshin, tell Nan Gong Zui that the case has been solved, and don't forget about the reward money. If he doesn't pay up, then we will take his wife on a trip."

The kidnapping incident finally came to an end. Queen Doll gave Celestial thirty-six continuous slaps upon his tearful arrival and attempt to hug her. Celestial cried even more, but Doll just said angrily, "You'll still hug me? Didn't you have fun with that cute maid last time?"

Celestial sobbed and tugged on the corner of Doll's clothes. "She

kissed me on the cheek by force. I didn't have fun. Celestial only likes Doll."

"Liar!" Doll's expression softened, but she still replied harshly.

"It's true, I only like Doll." Celestial was bawling now, afraid that his wife wouldn't believe him.

"Really?" Doll narrowed her eyes.

Celestial nodded vigorously, and Doll finally smiled. She patted Celestial's head. "Fine, Doll will believe you. Celestial's the best."

"I have to ask, the reason that you guys argued, resulting in your running away and getting kidnapped can't be because..." Nan Gong Zui and Phoenix's expressions were horrified, "A little maid kissed Celestial's cheek?"

Doll and Celestial both replied innocently, "Yeah!"

The incident where Doll got kidnapped only took up a tiny corner in the newspaper, but the incident where Nan Gong Zui and Phoenix beat up the queen of a country became the headline for three weeks.

Later, Doll was determined to marry Celestial, but all of her chancellors opposed her decision. In a fit of rage, Doll abdicated and tossed the throne to her sister, eloping to our house with Celestial, becoming one of the "parasites." Yu Lian, Ugly Wolf, Winter Triumph, and his sister, Disi, who were working in Doll's palace, also came with her.

Although Cold Fox hadn't found out the kidnapper's identities right away, when the gentleman tried to escape from jail, Cold Fox "helped" him; he helped him escape into the Ice Emperor Syndicate's black jail. Since then, I often went to Cold Fox's home for tea and to "visit" the mastermind behind the event that caused the two children to go through torture and turned them into potential dangers to the world.

Xiao Xiao Lan hid the Cold Fox brand flying dagger in her underwear. She boldly said to Cold Fox, "If you want it back, then you need to take off my underwear!"

But, Wicked and Gui were watching on the side. Even though both Gui and Wicked combined together still could not hope to match Cold Fox when it came to fighting, Gui's two hundred I.Q. was not for nothing. Gui said coldly, "There are four three-hundred and sixty degree cameras in this room. If you dare take off my daughter's underwear, I will broadcast the video of Silver-Masked Quick Fox taking off a five year old girl's underwear to the world."

Prince's reaction was this: "You want to take off my daughter's underwear? Okay, but remember, you have to be responsible and marry her when she is eighteen, or else I will tear Kenshin into scrap."  
*What does all of this have to do with me?*

"Don't touch Xiao Xiao Lan, or I will infect Kenshin with viruses."  
Wicked threatened coldly as well.

Cold Fox and I were both speechless.



Xiao Long Ming didn't put the mini derringer into his underwear because Cold Fox would just take it without any qualms. Instead, he stuffed it into Xiao Xiao Lan's underwear as well, and it went off accidentally in the process... Luckily, the gun was pointing down, so there was just a small hole in Xiao Xiao Lan's underwear.

Cold Fox looked at me. "What should I do now?"

I looked at the two kids. Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming both had an imploring expression on their faces, but I refused to give in and ordered, "Return them!"

Both Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming looked completely disappointed. Xiao Xiao Lan took out the mini derringer and the flying dagger, pouting, "Looks like I have to take Mommy's kitchen knife, although it's heavy. Luckily, my mom has a lot of back-up kitchen knives." Prince said helpfully, "Do you want Mommy to give you a fruit knife? It's much lighter."

"My dad's ray gun is also very heavy. Looks like I have to work on my arm strength. Luckily, my dad has a full collection of gear." Xiao Long Ming sighed at the sight of his toothpick sized arm.

"...Both of you can keep the gear," I couldn't have answered in any other way.

From that day onward, Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming often visited the Ice Emperor Syndicate. Cold Fox even gave them permits to prevent them from using the flying dagger to dig a hole in the door of the Ice Emperor Syndicate when they couldn't find Cold Fox to open

the door for them.

As usual, Xiao Xiao Lan never gives up on her goals until she accomplishes them. In order to find Cold Fox, she could cause complete chaos in the Ice Emperor Syndicate. When Cold Fox came back after just going out for coffee, he could only stare blankly at the sight of Xiao Xiao Lan and Xiao Long Ming taking on a group of ray gun armed members of the Ice Emperor Syndicate.

Just because her father said "I miss your mother so much," Xiao Xiao Lan could also post up advertisements searching for her mother in the newspaper. When that didn't work, she personally went out to search around half the globe for Prince and lied to get her home, the lie being that Daddy had a fatal disease and was about to die.

"Daddy's got lovesickness. It's very dangerous; Lin Dai Yu<sup>2</sup> died from it!" Xiao Xiao Lan pointed out to her mother without any remorse.

So, when Xiao Xiao Lan said that she was going to marry Wicked, I never doubted that her future husband would be Wicked. When I saw that Xiao Xiao Lan finally had Wicked wrapped around her finger, I only thought about how slow she was this time. *It was probably because she was not in hurry to get married as she was still young!*

Back in the present, after Xiao Xiao Lan had Wicked wrapped around her finger, she wasn't ever going to let him go again. Therefore, Wicked had to go back to Lolidragon's company, and he became the newest member of our family. His fate was similar to Gui's, always either waiting for his wife to come home or chasing his wife around the world every day.

Currently, our family consists of Lolidragon, Feng Wu Qing, Prince, Gui, Xiao Long Ming, Xiao Xiao Lan, Long-bà, Prince's parents, Zhuo family's parents, Ming Huang, Doll, Celestial, Ugly Wolf, and Yu Lian. Winter Triumph and Disi also came over with Doll, Sunshine and Fairsky referred to this place as their home base, and there was also Meatbun and Fire Phoenix. Not long afterward, Nan Gong Zui and Phoenix also moved in, so it's like an extremely large family. Oh, right. There is also the Dictator of Life, me, and the newly joined Elf and Demon Thirteen.

Cold Fox is here so often he might as well be residing here too. Even though the number of members in this family is unbelievably large, not everyone is home at the same time. Prince, Lolidragon, Long Ming, Xiao Xiao Lan, and the always-chasing-after-the-wife-every-time-they-realize-the-wife-disappeared husbands, namely, Gui, Wicked, and Feng Wu Qing; these people always do weird things in various places around the world.

Generally, Prince is the one who starts it, or Xiao Xiao Lan.

If you ever read in the newspaper about some slave trader tied up in front of a police station, crying about how he will never do it again, or some corrupted minister stripped naked and tied upside down on a balcony, the evidence of his corruption e-mailed to the world, or some kidnapped girl being rescued by an anonymous person, face blushing over her rescuer's handsomeness, or about an ancient treasure that was found and donated to the world's museums but with some of the beautiful pieces of jewelry missing... No doubt, you are looking at Prince's work.

Time passed. What didn't change in hundreds or even thousands of years was, I still sat in the same old castle, sipping tea with Cold Fox who had also become an artificial human, watching Xiao Xiao Xiao Xiao... Lan, watching the creation of all kinds of everlasting legends!

"Welcome to Second Life. I am Second Life's Dictator of Life. Please note that you have only one chance to create a character. No changes can be made after the character has been created."

With gray eyes, long red hair, and strange patterns under his left eye, the Dictator of Life asks you with a smile, "Now, are you ready to create a legend?"

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **“Kinmen”**: Kinmen is an island controlled by Taiwan famous for its knives made out of steel obtained from bomb shells that were fired at the island by Communist forces.

<sup>2</sup> **“Lin Dai Yu”**: Heroine of the Dream of Red Chamber, one of the Four Great Classical Novels of China.