



Eclipse Hunter Volume 2: Having Friends, Having Feelings
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 many others) with other fans (who unfortunately couldn't read Chinese). PR!'s crew has since exploded to include several translators who double as Chinese to English editors and several Proofreaders. They also have sister sites translating the novels into many other different languages.

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Prologue: Prologue

Not too long ago, there was a criminal operation aimed against the Sun Emperor. The criminals had placed countless bombs in the Sun Alliance headquarters owned by the Sun Emperor. They threatened the Sun Emperor with the thousands of people in the building, and planned to abduct him.

The Sun Emperor, called cold-blooded and heartless by people up until this point, agreed to their request in an unprecedented move, shocking people so much their eyeglasses shattered. The release of thousands of hostages made it even clearer that the Sun Emperor had truly fallen into the hands of the criminals.

But following that, the headquarters had still been blown up and the entire building was instantly reduced to a pile of rubble. Fortunately, the few thousand people were no longer inside.

Initially, the populace was all at a loss. They were in despair waiting for a huge financial crisis, a stock market crash, the collapse of the global economy, or other bad news to arrive the next day. However, the following morning, the Sun Emperor himself, under the protection of numerous bodyguards, slowly walked amidst the rubble of the building... The threat of a financial crisis vanished into nothing.

The frightening fact that he was able to emerge unscathed even under such circumstances not only terrified his enemies, but also made the general populace revere him even more.

Several days later, the media, who were even better than the police at getting their hands on any information, released a short video clip. A strange black shadow flew up to the top of the building during the time the Sun Emperor was being held captive, and when the building exploded, it flew away from the building.

Some people said it looked like a large black bird. There were also people who said with certainty that it was a flying machine the Sun Alliance had just developed. But some also said...

"He's a demon! I saw him fly over with my own eyes, and heard him say with my own ears that he's a demon!" A certain busboy from a restaurant shouted this wildly.

Most people just smiled at the busboy with pity.

How could there be demons in this world?

If a demon really did save the Sun Emperor—a demon had saved the leader with control over the world—then what would that say about this world?

Was it then actually hell?

Chapter 1: A Demon Incarnate

Although a small number of elites in the world had their diaries dictated by conspiracies and schemes every day, most of the populace's lives were fortunately still peaceful.

At the very least, the morning streets of the city were still tranquil.

Two ordinary youths walked along these city streets. If one had to say what might be strange about them, it would be that these two people had unusual hair colors, one silver and one orange.

The silver-haired boy looked especially proper. His hair was parted neatly and his school uniform was ironed straight. In this day and age, even if you combed through the most famous schools, it would be difficult to find such a classic example of a student.

The orange-haired youth had a laidback appearance. Although he looked that way, his tall and sturdily built figure along with his muscled arms exposed by his short-sleeved shirt warned other people that he wasn't someone to mess with.

Aside from his muscles, his head of orange hair that wildly spiked up toward the sky looked exactly like an angry hedgehog. Not to mention the clothes he was wearing were wrinkled and tattered and torn. Such a classic example of a delinquent was also hard to find.

A rigidly by-the-book student and a delinquent walking together would draw some strange looks from people, but this was still within the

scope of ordinary life, nothing too strange. At least, so far it was still within expectations.

“Ezart, Ezart.... Ezart...”

“What do you want?! Calling me over and over. Are you trying to lure my spirit out?!” Ezart replied back, extremely irritated.

When he looked back, an idiotic youth had his entire body plastered against the transparent glass of a display window that had been polished sparkly clean. Fortunately, there was an eighty percent chance that the shop clerk inside was still yawning because it was so early, and hadn’t discovered this yet. Otherwise, he probably would have already rushed out to scold them.

This teenager had recently become Ezart’s classmate. And because he was stupid, so stupid he couldn’t tell how dangerous this orange hedgehog-haired and muscle-bound classmate was, he kept walking together with Ezart. As a result, the two of them had a strange relationship where they weren’t as indifferent to each other as regular classmates, but also definitely couldn’t be called friends in the end.

Ezart continued to maintain that it was the sort of fundamental compassion any person would have upon seeing a stupid dog lying in the middle of a busy road and having no choice but to kick it aside to avoid having the cars squish it into a meat patty. Therefore, he walked with Ri Xiang Ye.

Without him, the obedient-looking Ri Xiang Ye would have been beaten up and extorted by his schoolmates an unknown number of times already.

"Look!" Ri Xiang Ye turned his head, his face full of excitement. He pointed straight at the thing in the display window, urgently asking, "What is it? What is that?"

Ezart frowned and looked at the display window. Displayed inside was one of the currently most popular handheld virtual lover consoles. The entire console case was designed as a heart. The color was even an exclusively feminine pink. *What the heck, hasn't this been popular for a long time already? Even three year old kids know what this toy is!*

"What is it?" Ri Xiang Ye was anxiously awaiting his answer.

Baffled, Ezart looked him over for a moment. *Did this brat grow up in a cave?*

"It's a toy! A dating game."

"A toy?" Ri Xiang Ye turned to look again at the pink, heart-shaped device, thinking of the toys his brother had bought for him when he was little. *There were small balls, storybooks, markers...*

Ezart impatiently pulled him away by the arm and urged, "Come on. If you don't get going, you'll be late to class!"

After he finished speaking, he turned around to leave. Who would have guessed that behind him, Ri Xiang Ye would point at the display window to succinctly and resolutely shout, "I want that!"

Someone nearly slipped...

"That's for kids!" Ezart whirled around to roar.

Although it really wasn't like that, since plenty of adults were captivated by this sort of thing as well, from Ezart's point of view, this sort of thing was no different from the toys kids played with.

Ri Xiang Ye immediately turned his head to look at Ezart, his gaze full of disappointment, his eyes watery. It was like he was silently asking, *I can't buy it? I really can't? But I really want to buy it. Let me buy it!*

He looks just like a puppy begging for a bone! Ezart buried his face in his large hand, and with no other choice, sighed, "Do what you want!"

Following that, he indifferently watched Ri Xiang Ye rush into the store in high spirits. Then under the shop clerk's strange looks, Ri Xiang Ye refused other options and stubbornly picked the pink, heart-shaped simulator in the display window. His eyes were sparkling when he looked at Ezart off to the side.

"Ezart, you should get one too, so we can play together," Ri Xiang Ye happily called out. He felt that toys had to be played together with other people to be fun. His brother had always played with him in the past.

Ezart coldly huffed, "I'm not interested in that kind of thing."

Ri Xiang Ye disappointedly went, "Oh," but then decided to pick up his new toy. At this moment, the shop clerk reminded him with an ugly expression, "My apologies. Please pay first. Your total is twenty-five thousand yuan."

"What? Twenty-five thousand yuan?" Hearing the price, Ezart immediately shouted, "You're ripping him off!"

Seeing the mountains of muscle on Ezart, the shop clerk was a bit scared. However, he remembered that public security on this street was excellent! If he pressed the alarm button, the police were sure to arrive within three minutes. His courage was bolstered once again.

If he had known that Ezart was the famed Yelan Academy combat department's god of destruction, and wouldn't even need thirty seconds to send him to the hospital, his response would probably have been very different.

The shop clerk rudely extended his hand with newfound courage. "It is indeed twenty-five thousand yuan. If you can't pay up, then please leave. Otherwise, I'll be calling security." The shop keeper's hand was already on the alarm. He believed that there was no way these two students could pull out twenty-five thousand.

Ezart coldly laughed and was about to drag Ri Xiang Ye away from this shady store...

"Can I use this? Ri Xiang Ye pulled out a credit card and passed it over to the shop clerk.

The shop clerk coolly glanced at the credit card, slowly pulling it over. He even said, "Are you certain this credit card has enough on it..."

Ri Xiang Ye honestly replied, "I don't know either. Gēge gave it to me. He said I can use it to buy things. Can I?"

Ri Xiang Ye hadn't even finished speaking when the shop clerk suddenly broke out in the world's most brilliant smile. The frosty look in his eyes earlier was now the look of someone who had spotted the lover of their dreams, a passion that could almost melt an iceberg. He fervently nodded his head and said, "Of course you may! Please wait a moment. I will immediately process this. May I ask if you would like to peruse our other products? Would you like me to recommend some of our newest simulator models?"

Ezart gave the shop clerk a strange look. *Is this guy insane?*

Ri Xiang Ye shook his head. He clutched the pink, heart-shaped simulator to his chest, saying, "I just want this!"

"Very well. Thank you for your purchase. Please grace us with your presence again." The shop clerk proffered Ri Xiang Ye's credit card, his smile like the one the madam of a brothel would have while inviting in a customer.



Ri Xiang Ye excitedly began to play with the pink, heart-shaped device.

Type in your name. Pick a name for your lover. Select an appearance... As he did so, he asked, "Ezart, what name do you think would be good for my lover?"

"Call her Xiao Ai." Ezart offhandedly picked one of the two words from "liàn ài" (romance) and replied.

"Oh. O.K. Xiao Ai..." Ri Xiang Ye entered in the name with seriousness. Then, he asked, "What about hair color?"

"Pink," Ezart irresponsibly threw out again.

"Eyes?"

"Pink."

"Face shape?"

"Round."

Ri Xiang Ye input the settings, when suddenly, the microchip in his brain sent out a warning... He abruptly stopped playing, crying out as he looked up. "Oh no! I'm going to be late!"

"You've just realized? I even thought an airheaded stickler for the rules like you was actually going to play until you forgot to go to class."

Ri Xiang Ye looked at his watch. There weren't even ten minutes left until class. However, the school was at least a twenty minute walk from his current location. It looked like it was already certain that he would be late.

Seeing the brat was really going into a panic, Ezart rolled his eyes. "Please. You're just going to be late. What's there to be worked up about? Everyone in Yelan Academy has been late before."

Ri Xiang Ye interrupted his words. "Sorry, Ezart. I'll be going first." After he finished, he didn't wait around and took off like a gust of wind.

"Hey!"

The brat is actually pretty fast! Ezart scratched his face. Does he not want to be late that badly? But it's rush hour right now. Even if he's planning to hail a taxi, he won't make it.

"If you don't want to be late, you'd better fly," Ezart joked. Then he continued to lazily walk to school.



Ri Xiang Ye clearly understood that he'd only be on time if he flew. Generally speaking, most people had no way to fly. But that didn't apply to him.

Ri Xiang Ye wasn't most people. It could be said that half his body wasn't human anymore.

After he'd left Ezart's line of sight and darted into an alley off to the side, he speedily messed up his hair and took off his uniform, revealing the red skintight shirt underneath. Finally, he pulled out and put on a silver visor from his backpack.

Steel wings, activate!

A large part of Ri Xiang Ye's cyborg body was "liquid metal." This kind of metal structure was extremely fluid and extraordinarily strong. As a consequence, he weighed a full ninety-three kilograms, but it also contributed to his strong physical form.

To control the part of him that wasn't human, Ri Xiang Ye's brain had microchip that similarly wasn't human. When Ri Xiang Ye suddenly became aware that he was about to be late just earlier, it was also because of a warning sent by the microchip.

The microchip precisely redirected the liquid metal from his four limbs to flow toward his back and out the skin on both sides. Two perfectly symmetrical feathers finished forming. But while real feathers would be soft, these two synthetic feathers were indestructible.

Following that, like a movie on fast forward, more metal feathers continued to take shape. Row by row, they layered on top of each other. Finally, two enormous metal wings had emerged out from this slender teenager.

The person who had sprouted wings was about to spread his wings and soar, but suddenly remembered something. "Right, my expression..."

He smacked his cheeks. As he removed his hands, the perpetual expression of a curious bookworm disappeared. The obedient Ri Xiang Ye no longer existed, replaced by an icy, expressionless cyborg who always prioritized his master. Even if he had to turn into a demon to do so, he would complete his orders...

His name was now—Dark Sun!

What the cyborg Dark Sun planned to do next was to follow his master's order—Take school seriously! Don't be late!

Although his ability to fly would allow him to complete this order, there was another order from the master he had to follow—Don't let any inhuman abilities get discovered!

If he flew in front of Ezart, he would violate the command to not expose his abilities. However, the microchip in his brain had calculated the time he would need to take to arrive at school based on his ability to fly, and issued a warning according to that time restriction. As a result, aside from flying, there was no other way for him to arrive to school on time.

Since he had no other option than to fly, he could only approach this from the angle of not exposing his inhuman abilities.

Luckily, his master had only wanted "Ri Xiang Ye's" inhuman abilities to not be uncovered. But when it came to "Dark Sun"... This was a sneaky kind of makeshift solution.

He slowly flapped his wings a few times, testing his steel wings and confirming that they were still functioning well. Dark Sun took a deep breath. Then his slender figure rocketed into the azure sky.

Dark Sun flew up very high, with only blue sky and white clouds around him. The buildings and cars on the ground looked as small as matchboxes.

Although he'd already disguised himself so that other people wouldn't be able to tell his actual identity, anyone would be shocked to see a person with wings flying around in the sky. Flying up a bit higher would keep him out of view from most people.

Another reason was that Ri Xiang Ye also loved the sensation of flying in a blue sky like this.

Dark Sun didn't mind indulging... his other self a little while obeying his master's orders.

Unfortunately, he was pressed for time today. Dark Sun only flew for a little bit before he slowly landed in a small alleyway near the school.

Thankfully it was still morning and the streets didn't have a lot of passersby. Otherwise, he likely would have had to stop somewhere farther away. If that had happened, he probably wouldn't have had enough time left to reach school.

Dark Sun removed his visor, retracted his huge wings, and put his uniform back on. He expressionlessly straightened out his clothing... *Someone is approaching!*

Another one of Dark Sun's abilities was suddenly put to use. The fingernails on his right hand abruptly extended three centimeters. Even in this dim alley, it was still visible that these fingernails were different from a human's. No human's fingernails glinted with a cold, metallic, deadly light.

A student wearing Chinese style clothes froze after seeing him, and switched to an expression of contempt to say, "Ah, it's you. Ezart's lackey."

It was Bai Lian Xing, Ri Xiang Ye's classmate. After his assessment, Dark Sun immediately retracted his fingernails and switched to Ri Xiang Ye's somewhat dorky expression. He timidly said, "Bai Lian Xing? It's me. What is it?"

"Nothing!" Bai Lian Xing didn't seem to want to bother paying attention to him. He only glanced all around. When he really didn't see anyone else there, he had no other option than to ask the nerd in front of him, "Did you see a winged... A person's shadow?"

After speaking partway, he suddenly changed his words. Although what he saw did really look like the silhouette of a person with wings descending here, he didn't want to rashly say it to avoid being treated like a crazy person.

Ri Xiang Ye put on a foolish expression. "I didn't see any birds."

"It wasn't a bird!" Bai Lian Xing impatiently rejected.

“Young Master!”

“Young Master, where are you?”

A few shouts of “Young Master” drifted over, followed by the sound of hurried footsteps. After that, three more people showed up in the alley, two males and a female. In addition, these three weren’t strangers. Dark Sun knew they were Bai Lian Xing’s attendants. They had come to study at Yelan Academy with Bai Lian Xing in order to serve and protect him.

Bai Lian Xing waved a hand. “I’m fine.”

Then, his eyes swept over Ri Xiang Ye’s body in suspicion. When he had charged into the alleyway just now, hadn’t the expression on this coward’s face seemed a bit... Merciless? Or maybe he’d been mistaken from the darkness of the alleyway?

Whatever! People would typically be expressionless when there wasn’t anyone around them, and that had led to me thinking it was a merciless expression...

“Hmph!” Bai Lian Xing coldly snorted, thinking to himself that this sort of lackey, who only knew how to toady up to the strong, couldn’t be related at all to the word “merciless.”

Bai Lian Xing’s attitude was haughty. After looking at Ri Xiang Ye from the corner of his eyes, he tossed out a sentence as though he were throwing money to the poor, “Tell Ezart that I’ll be waiting inside for him to come lose during today’s practicals!”

"Oh. Sure. I'll tell him." Dark Sun only nodded, not in the least resentful about the other person's contempt.

Dark Sun never took things like feelings into account in his thought processes. Even as Ri Xiang Ye, he had also never learned to feel something as complex as being angry in response to being looked down upon.

Bai Lian Xing left the alleyway. He felt something was a little strange. *Was that shadow just now really just a bird?*

If he were anyone else, he would have already assumed that. But he knew that there truly was a winged person in this world. His eyes dangerously narrowed.

That guy who saved the Sun Emperor...

He didn't doubt his own eyes. He had definitely seen the shadow of a winged person. Only, was there any link between that shadow and the guy who saved the Sun Emperor? *Or maybe...*

As he was pondering, a gust of wind suddenly swept by. He looked up in shock, unexpectedly seeing Ezart's lackey running through the school gates at high speed and coincidentally stepping through the school gates a second before the bell sounded!

What speed! Bai Lian Xing was stupefied. The speed Ri Xiang Ye had used just then... Even someone like himself who focused on speed wouldn't be able to say with full confidence that he could reach that.

The mysterious person who had saved the Sun Emperor, the winged shadow that had landed in the alleyway, and Ezart's nerdy lackey... *Could the three of them be connected?*

No matter what their connection is, I'll find out! Bai Lian Xing silently resolved.

Chapter 2: A Rocky Start

Ezart walked very slowly into the classroom. The teacher was already teaching at the podium, and the students were already wreaking havoc below. However, as soon as he came in, everyone suddenly stopped and stared as though they were frozen in place inside a freezer.

After several seconds of analysis, everyone confirmed that Ezart's expression was the same as usual and continued to wreak havoc or teach as usual. The classroom was complete chaos, with various things that could be used in a fight lying scattered across the classroom in pieces, but Ezart's path was particularly clear.

"Ezart, Ezart. You're here!" Ri Xiang Ye happily waved at Ezart.

"You're pretty fast. Were you late?" Ezart casually replied.

"Nope," Ri Xiang Ye said delightedly.

"Really?" Ezart didn't really believe him. If he himself had run at full speed, he would still have trouble arriving on time. But he didn't ask further about a small matter like that.

"Oh, I want to tell you something! I met Bai Lian Xing and his three friends."

Ezart coldly laughed. "Those are his minions. What? Did they give you a group beating?"

"Nope," Ri Xiang Ye shook his head. "He wanted me to pass on a message."

"Ah?" Ezart pulled a chair out and lazily sat in the chair.

"He said that during practical combat class, he'll be waiting in the battle simulator for you to come lose," Ri Xiang Ye clearly conveyed in full detail without changing anything in the slightest.

The combat simulator was Yelan Academy's most famous iconic feature. The exterior wasn't very different from that of a colossal gymnasium. Once you stepped in, you'd discover the inside had various virtual terrains, like a tropical rainforest or the ruins of a city, built as a smaller scale version of a real city.

And every person that stepped inside had one sole purpose: to protect their own life and to cut short the lives of all others. Of course, the killing was all simulated too. It wouldn't really involve ending people's lives. Otherwise, Yelan Academy would probably only be left with a few students.

"Hmph!" Ezart coldly laughed. Displeased, he smashed apart the desk with a single, powerful punch. The solid wood immediately fragmented into many pieces.

Ezart was very strong, so strong that the students at Yelan Academy treated him like a god of destruction. The inhuman strength permeating his entire body left people in awe. However, he unfortunately had to come across Bai Lian Xing, who was well known

for his speed. Bai Lian Xing's martial arts was passed down to him from a long-established influential family.

Although he didn't have Ezart's inhuman body strength, and was even so fragile that a single punch from Ezart would definitely leave him flat on the ground, his unpredictable, snake-like martial arts stances kept Ezart's rash punches from even touching him at all.

Ezart's strength was enormous, but it wasn't of any use if he couldn't land a hit!

So ever since the two of them had first crossed paths, Ezart had always suffered defeat. But originally, he hadn't cared one way or another. Ezart's greatest pleasure in life was battling strong people. The existence of a strong person he wasn't able to win against only increased his desire to fight... But it just so happened that aside from his combat capabilities, Bai Lian Xing was the kind of person Ezart loathed the most.

A playboy from a rich family, arrogantly looking down upon other people. Swaggering about campus with several attendants in tow. If his ego was from his combat strength, then it would have been tolerable. But instead, what Bai Lian Xing liked to flaunt the most was his family background, that he was the son of the head of the Purple Moon Alliance, the second largest economic alliance in the world.

"Second largest economic alliance in the world" was a bit of an exaggeration. In reality, aside from the absolute dominance of the Sun Alliance, it was difficult for any of the other organizations to claim they

were second. However, it was a fact that the Purple Moon Alliance was formidable.

Ezart coldly asked, "What period is today's practical?"

Ri Xiang Ye honestly replied, "Third and fourth period."

"Great! I'll take a nap first so I'll have the energy to fight that piece of trash." Ezart was about to lean down and sleep when he realized that he had smashed his desk into a pile of splinters earlier. He just pointed at the classmate next to him and rudely said, "Hey! Hand over your desk."

The student next to him didn't dare to say no, and even hastily wiped the desk before carrying it to Ezart. The student set the desk down, trembling with fear, deeply afraid the desk might be placed down at the wrong angle and cause Ezart to sleep badly.

Ezart impatiently waved away the student still adjusting the desk and then immediately sprawled across it. Not even three seconds had passed before he suddenly lifted his head to send a fierce look at Ri Xiang Ye next to him and warned, "Don't wake me up again! You hear me? Or I'll flatten you!"

What Ri Xiang Ye loved the most was diligently attending class and then reminding other people to also take class seriously. He already had a record of repeatedly waking Ezart up from dreamland.

"Oh." Ri Xiang Ye obediently nodded. Although he really wanted Ezart to take class seriously, after failing multiple times already and adding

onto the fact that he didn't really want to be beaten up by Ezart, he gave up on it.

After receiving a response from Ri Xiang Ye, Ezart went to sleep in satisfaction.

In contrast, Ri Xiang Ye, being a good student, was about to pull out his pencil case to start taking notes. But as he opened his backpack, he saw the toy he had just bought, his virtual lover game, sitting inside. He couldn't help but let his attention wander to the pink, heart-shaped console...

No! I have to take class seriously. I can't play games. Ri Xiang Ye sternly scolded himself. Then he quickly pulled out his pencil case and closed his backpack to remove the virtual lover game from view.

In 2055 was the gradual weakening of power countries held... The world was in chaos. Free-for-all combat arose...

If I ignore her, will Xiao Ai be angry?

In 2075 came the rise of economic alliances... Taking over the political power of the entire world...

Oh no. He didn't think he had given Xiao Ai anything to eat yet. *Will she starve to death?*

In 2099, the Sun Alliance officially became the world's largest economic alliance, controlling thirty percent of the world economy...

I really want to take a peek and see what Xiao Ai's doing! Just a look should be O.K., right? Anyway, I don't have to look at the notebook to write down any notes... So I can look and study at the same time!

He had finally come upon a so-called perfect solution, when it really was just an excuse.

Ri Xiang Ye pulled out the virtual lover game with his right hand. Of course, his left hand was still taking notes. With the assistance of the microchip in his brain, operating both his left and right hand at the same time wasn't a problem at all for him.

He placed the virtual lover console on the desk. After he started it up, the heart projected the image of a virtual girl. She had true to life proportions but was scaled down to be about as tall as a forearm. She had pink eyes and pink hair, along with a round face. She couldn't be called pretty, but calling her cute was perfect.

"Good morning, Ah Ye." The virtual girl smilingly greeted Ri Xiang Ye. Of course, Ri Xiang Ye himself had entered in the name Ah Ye, wanting his lover to call him that.

Seeing the girl really had appeared again, Ri Xiang Ye replied with childlike excitement, "Good morning, Xiao Ai!"

At this moment, three buttons appeared on the heart-shaped touchscreen. A line of explanatory text appeared above the buttons: What would you like to do together with Xiao Ai? 1. Talk 2. Eat 3. Watch TV...

Ri Xiang Ye thought for a moment and chose: 1. Talk. Xiao Ai immediately spoke again. "Ah Ye, what are you doing right now?"

She really is talking with me! Ri Xiang Ye excitedly replied, "I'm in class!"

"Is being in class fun?" Out of the possible reasonable answers, Xiao Ai's program selected one that fit the situation to respond with.

"It's not fun," Ri Xiang Ye honestly replied.

Truth be told, his brain's microchip had a large volume of information recorded in it. But most of it was practical in nature, such as how to operate various vehicles from cars to space shuttles, how to distinguish between and neutralize all known poisons, and even what weak points in a human's anatomy to strike in order to kill them instantaneously...

The huge amount of information stored on the microchip made going to class a little boring. Even if the teacher were teaching something not on the microchip, Ri Xiang Ye only had to hear it once. After it had been recorded on the microchip, he wouldn't ever forget it.

Taking notes was due to a conclusion reached by the microchip. Taking notes was what one was supposed to do in class. Furthermore, lending classmates the notes would promote interpersonal relationships.

But so far, none of his classmates had asked to borrow notes. Ri Xiang Ye had thought of lending Ezart the notes to read before. However, Ezart had just treated him to a lot of eye rolls and even a bonus

explanation of, “Nobody bothers paying attention to combat history class. The only real classes are practicals where we get to use knives and guns.”

Therefore, class so far had left Ri Xiang Ye with no idea of what the point of going to class was. Going to class seemed to just be for practice in note taking.

“If it’s no fun, why do you have to go?” In the same manner as before, Xiao Ai’s program had her reply with a perfectly puzzled expression.

“Because Gēge wants me to go to school,” Ri Xiang Ye replied matter-of-factly.

“Ah Ye has a big brother, huh...”

A student next to him shouted in amazement as though he had discovered a new land, “Hey! Take a look at that brat still playing virtual lover!”

“No way! That nerd? Doesn’t he act like he’d die if he doesn’t take class seriously?” A girl with at least five different colors in her hair giggled off to the side.

Ri Xiang Ye had also heard them. He raised his head to look at the classmates who had spoken. Based on the words “virtual lover,” they should be talking about him.

He was a bit happy. No one in the class aside from Ezart had paid any attention to him so far.

“Do you want to play together?” Ri Xiang Ye asked with extreme friendliness.

Although asking classmates to play video games together during class didn’t seem to be an appropriate action, after the past few days of class, Ri Xiang Ye had quickly realized that he shouldn’t completely follow what the microchip said to do.

In a class this chaotic, if there ever came a day when the entire class “obediently” played video games instead of fighting, randomly throwing desks and chairs, gambling with cards or dice, or openly trafficking various bladed weapons and firearms, even loudly haggling over the prices, then the teacher would be touched enough to immediately consider it a great accomplishment.

Normal ways of thinking shouldn’t be applied to the slacker class of a combat academy.

“Hahaha. Retard. Who’d want to play with a kids’ toy like that!” A male student loudly jeered.

“He even wants to play together! He’s such a kid.” The multicolor haired girl raised her scarlet-painted fingernails, feigning a mature pout.

“If it were a real girl, especially a pretty one, I wouldn’t mind playing together with you.”

After he finished speaking, several male students laughed lecherously.

"Hey! Do you not want to live anymore... That brat is under Ez... under his protection!" A student with a grim expression reminded them off to the side. Halfway through speaking, the student was even worried that mentioning Ezart's name would wake him and hastily changed what he was about to say.

Several people immediately fell silent and peeked at where Ezart was sitting out of the corners of their eyes. They only relaxed their taut expressions once they saw that he was still sprawled out on the desk, fast asleep.

"I don't get what he's doing, protecting that wimpy piece of trash."

"Isn't it obvious? It's because he's hilarious."

"You're right! He really is a joke. What era is he from? Who even dresses like that? He looks super lame!"

After throwing insults for a while, they finally felt more at ease.

"Hey! What'll we do if he whines to Ezart later?" One person in the group suddenly asked with worry. He even lowered his voice when he said "Ezart" so that it was barely audible.

"No way. Ezart wouldn't listen to him."

Although he said that, the person speaking also wasn't entirely sure. Ezart was Yelan Academy's god of destruction and viewed as a sort of boss. But he had never taken someone under his protection before and

hadn't accepted anyone as a follower. That he was going around with Ri Xiang Ye was already more than anyone had imagined. Who knew if Ezart would take it a step further and protect Ri Xiang Ye?

Several people grew somber. They looked at each other in distress, not knowing what to do but also not willing to continue harassing Ri Xiang Ye. After all, Ezart was right there!

Actually, Ri Xiang Ye had been confused this entire time. He didn't really understand most of the insults. To him, words like "wimpy" and "lame" were bizarre and undecipherable based off of their literal meaning. But he was able to understand when everyone criticized the clothes he wore.

In a small voice, Ri Xiang Ye asked, "Are my clothes ugly?"

But Gēge picked these clothes for me. And Gēge was very happy with them! Gēge loves me so much that there's no way he'd let me wear ugly clothes. Ri Xiang Ye had never doubted how much his brother loved him.

However, Ri Xiang Ye had missed a few things. His brother was a full ten years older than him. In addition to his mature personality, Ri Xiang Yan treated his little brother like a child who didn't fully understand things yet. He wanted him to be a normal boy who didn't stand out. This combination of factors lead to Ri Xiang Yan dressing his little brother like a bookworm, something modern youngsters hated the most.

At this point in time, the one sided conflict between Ri Xiang Ye and the group had already attracted the attention of the whole class, including the teacher. Other than the teacher worrying about things like a fatality in the class and being held liable for it, everyone else watched excitedly, delighting in someone else's misery.

Everyone's attention was on the few people who had mocked Ri Xiang Ye. They were waiting to see if those people would continue making fun of Ri Xiang Ye or if they would sing a different tune and flatter Ri Xiang Ye to avoid angering Ezart.

A few of them were originally planning to apologize, but with everyone watching, they couldn't bring themselves to. Otherwise, they would be labeled with the word "wimpy" from before.

The male students looked at each other in distress, unwilling to continue picking on Ri Xiang Ye but also not wanting to be labeled as wimpy. Instead, the girl with multicolored hair declared, "Ugly as f***!"

After she finished speaking, she looked at the whole class brazenly, as though she had just undertaken a great deed requiring an immense amount of courage.

But no one had any trace of admiration on their faces. Everyone knew that while Ezart wasn't a gentleman, he wasn't fond of hitting women. So for the most part, his tolerance was slightly higher for female classmates than male classmates.

After receiving such a clear cut response, Ri Xiang Ye froze. Although his microchip immediately concluded that he should humbly accept his classmates' criticism and express his willingness to change, he really felt that he shouldn't. These classmates weren't trying to give him helpful advice.

He fell silent for so long that even the brazen girl started becoming nervous.

In the end, Ri Xiang Ye still replied with the standard response: "I'm sorry. I will improve. Thank you for your feedback."

Everyone froze. *There's no way a normal person would have that kind of response after being made fun of like that, right?* But coming from a nerd like Ri Xiang Ye, it seemed perfectly reasonable.

"Wimp!"

Deprived of a good show, the surrounding crowd was outraged. One by one, they hurled curses at Ri Xiang Ye.

Adding the situation together with when the word was being used, Ri Xiang Ye began to understand what "wimp" meant. They probably thought he was cowardly.



"What is it? Bad mood? It's rare for a brat like you to be this quiet."

Ezart was pretty pleased as he walked. He hadn't been piled with random questions, questions that made him wonder if the brat Ah Ye

had crawled out from under a rock in the mountains to be missing that sort of common sense.

Mood? Ri Xiang Ye felt that there was something heavy in his heart, but didn't really think too much about something as intangible as his mood. He was only focused on where the problem was in his interpersonal relationships. Why was it that he was unable to make friends? Why couldn't he establish a good relationship with his classmates? Did it really have to do with his clothes?

But the clothes his brother had picked wouldn't have any problems. His brother loved him very much and always gave him the best.

Then is there a problem with my looks? Ri Xiang Ye was puzzled. *Am I really ugly?*

But Gēge is always saying I'm very cute... But even if I were ugly, Gēge loves me so much that he'd still say I'm cute! After all, Gēge really does dote on me too much.

"Ezart, do you think I'm good looking?" Ri Xiang Ye asked with incomparable seriousness.

"What?" Ezart looked strangely at Ri Xiang Ye. *What's wrong with this nerd's brain? That weird question came out of nowhere.* Even stranger was that Ri Xiang Ye had asked him. *Can't he tell from the beat up clothes that I don't care about how I look?*

"In your honest opinion, am I really ugly?" Ri Xiang Ye was extremely insistent on receiving an answer.

Ezart looked him over for a moment, and scratched his face while saying, "I don't really know what girls' standards are nowadays. You're a bit too skinny, but you're not ugly. Your face looks O.K. It's just the thick black framed glasses that look kinda strange." He assumed that there was a high chance that this brat was asking such a strange question because he had fallen for a girl.

The glasses are strange? Ri Xiang Ye immediately took off his glasses and asked again, "What about now?"

Ezart froze. This was his first time seeing Ri Xiang Ye without his glasses on. Without the tacky black framed glasses, Ah Ye looked a lot more normal. At least he didn't look hilariously like he was from the wrong time period.

"A lot more normal. I think you're better off not wearing those glasses," Ezart bluntly said.

"Really? Then I won't wear them in the future." Ri Xiang Ye was overjoyed. He believed he had found the problem. *So the glasses didn't suit me! Gēge picked them, but Gēge doesn't wear glasses. So he must not be very good at picking glasses!*

"Won't wear them? What about your nearsightedness? Can you see?" Ezart casually asked.

"Mhm. I can see." Ri Xiang Ye nodded. In actuality, he was never nearsighted. As someone who had been modified so that half his body was robotic, how could he have been left nearsighted?

"That's good. Wait outside for me once you're done buying lunch."

Ezart stopped and raised his head to look at the colossal battle simulator. His eagerness to fight showed in his smile, especially because Bai Lian Xing had issued a challenge to him.

Although Ezart hated the way Bai Lian Xing acted, he did not hate his skills.

"Oh." Ri Xiang Ye nodded.

Ezart gazed at the simulator. He excitedly murmured, "I really hope that Dark Sun guy comes too." Once he finished speaking, he tossed his backpack into Ri Xiang Ye's arms and then walked into the huge battle simulator.

Because of the microchip's fundamental setting to grow stronger and protect the master, Ri Xiang Ye had entered the battle simulator before as Dark Sun so he would grow stronger by fighting strong people.

That time he had faced off against Bai Lian Xing and seen Ezart's fighting style. Afterward, he learned from Ezart that the two of them were considered to be first and second among the school's best fighters, aside from the people in the school's extremely secretive Elite Combat Class, abbreviated to the Elites. Otherwise, there was no one stronger than them.

But disappointingly, Ezart had said that the students in the Elites never used the battle simulator.

Therefore, his goal to look for strong people had disappeared. Logically speaking, Ri Xiang Ye had no reason to go into the battle simulator again as Dark Sun... However, Ezart continued to talk about wanting to battle Dark Sun.

Ri Xiang Ye hesitated for a moment. Although he did kind of want to grant Ezart's wish, he was also worried his identity would be revealed... If a skilled fighter repeatedly went into the battle simulator to fight, it would definitely attract the attention of the school. If that happened, the order for "Ri Xiang Ye" to hide his abilities would become much harder to accomplish.

A friend's wish versus the master's order... After some internal debate, Ri Xiang Ye raised his head to look apologetically at Ezart's departing figure. He couldn't risk the possibility of violating a command from the master to satisfy a friend's wish.

Sorry, Ezart. I'll disguise myself to directly fight with you as Dark Sun some other day, instead of fighting you in the battle simulator! Ri Xiang Ye silently said to himself.

Since he wasn't planning to go in, then he'd head over to the cafeteria to wait. He could play with Xiao Ai while waiting to buy lunch!

After Ri Xiang Ye came up with a plan that left him happy, with a big backpack hanging off of each shoulder, he went toward the cafeteria.

“Hold on!”

Ri Xiang Ye continued to walk toward the cafeteria. His face was filled with excitement, and his steps were so light it was like he was about to float away.

“I told you to stop. Did you not hear me?”

Right, should I buy a console for Gēge on my way home so we can play together? Ri Xiang Ye seriously contemplated this issue. *But Gēge’s so old now. Does he still like toys?*

“Hey! Are you ignoring me on purpose?”

A furious girl’s voice carried over. At the same time, Ri Xiang Ye sensed something headed for his shoulder. He reflexively dodged and turned around while retreating, putting some distance between the object and going from having his back turned to it to facing it.

The girl in front of him was frozen where she stood with just her right hand extended, her stance completely not one trying to attack him.

The girl was extraordinarily pretty. Her black hair was cut in a neat, short style. Her friendly red eyes had widened and were very cute.

“Beautiful moves!”

Two guys were standing next to the girl. One of them had brown hair and aquamarine eyes. The smile on his face was extremely gentle and

left a good impression on people. The praise from just earlier was from him.

The other person was completely the opposite. He had pale blue hair like ice, along with eyes of the same color but just a shade darker.¹ This combination of cool colors was enough for people nearby to feel that the temperature had sharply dropped. As if that weren't enough, the expression on his face was frigid to the point that people might wonder if his face was carved out of ice.

"Eli, don't you think those moves were pretty good?" The guy with the brilliant smile spiritedly asked his companion, as though he didn't notice the frigid expression on his companion's face.

The frosty man called Eli's lips moved almost imperceptibly to say, "Not bad."

The radiant young man exaggeratedly gasped in awe, "Wow! Eli actually said, 'Not bad,' so you really must be pretty good."

"Stupid Elian! That isn't what matters." The girl spun around angrily. Then she said, "What matters is that he made me call him three times and ignored me!"

"That's truly unforgivable. How could you have let our Princess Eloise call you three times?" Elian shook his head and sighed exaggeratedly.

At this moment, Ri Xiang Ye was still in the mindset of a curious child. He immediately asked, "Why do you call her princess?"

Royalty no longer existed in this world, so of course, there also wouldn't be the title of princess, a noun that he believed only existed in the history books.

Perhaps, the lifestyle from being the children of some economic alliance bosses was about the same as those of princesses and princes of old, even tending to be slightly more luxurious... But at the very least, most people still wouldn't be calling them things like princess or prince.

"Because Eloise is the only girl in the Elites! Of course she's our princess," Elian replied with extreme friendliness.

"Oh..." Ri Xiang Ye replied as though he understood when really he didn't.

If the person he was asking were Ezart instead, he definitely would have continued to ask questions about it. *Why would the only girl have to be called a princess? A princess should be the daughter of a king, right?*

But over the past few days, Ri Xiang Ye had already fully understood a problem of his. To other people, it was just how things were, so asking made them suspicious of him and instead had them wondering where he was getting all these troublesome questions from. So it was better to stop while he was still ahead.

Wait a moment! Did they just say... The Elites?! Ri Xiang Ye suddenly lifted his head and blurted out, "You're students from the Elites?"

Hearing this, Elian showed an expression of frustration, seemingly regretting his slip of the tongue. However, his actions earlier were all so exaggerated that it was hard to tell if he was actually was frustrated or if it was just another act.

"You can't tell anyone." Elian clasped his hands together in a pitiful, pleading way.

"But..."

Ri Xiang Ye looked around them. When Elian had admitted he was an Elite Combat Class student earlier, he hadn't spoken very quietly. Ri Xiang Ye's shout just now wasn't very quiet either and had attracted even more attention. A lot of people around them had stopped with expressions of either disbelief or suspicion on their faces.

It didn't seem to matter whether or not he told anyone.

"Please!" Elian looked even more pitiful.

"Elian!" After Eloise suddenly shouted, she grabbed Elian and tossed the grown man into the air like a pillow. Then, with her hands on her hips, she shouted at the man in the air, "You're not allowed to bully him. I saw him first!"

Elian was a bit of a sad sight as he fell out of the sky. He even landed butt first. His originally fairly handsome face was now twisted in an unsightly wail of anguish, but Eloise didn't have the slightest bit of sympathy for his plight. She impatiently shouted, "Elian, you're so noisy! If you don't shut up, I'll toss you up again!"

After receiving a clear warning, Elian could only stop using his pitiful expression. As he massaged his butt while standing back up, he muttered, "Being bullied by me is definitely better than being liked by you."

Ri Xiang Ye looked at Eloise warily. *She was actually able to throw such a tall man into the air so easily. Her strength might be comparable with Ezart's.*

But Eloise had evidently heard Elian's mutterings, and ferociously glared at him. Elian could only hastily remind her, "O.K., O.K. Princess, finish hitting on your beloved pretty boy! If we fool around here any longer, we might not be able to finish the mission the principal gave us."

A mission from the principal? Ri Xiang Ye tilted his head to think. He remembered Ezart saying before that the students who joined the Elites were people who were all so strong that they didn't need combat lessons. So usually, they were completing missions from the principal. Once they completed a certain number of them, they could graduate.

"Elian, Eli, look! He's so cute when he tilts his head to think like that!" Eloise scooted closer to Ri Xiang Ye, looking at his face infatuatedly.

"Really now. I think Eli and I are handsomer! He's clearly still a kid." Elian rolled his eyes, muttering grudgingly. Then again, thinking about it, if a girl who could casually throw him up into the air confessed to him... A shiver went up his spine. He decisively decided to stop talking and just silently watch someone else suffer.

"Hey, hey. Be my boyfriend?" Eloise requested extremely bluntly.

"No!" Ri Xiang Ye also declined extremely bluntly.

"Why not? Am I not pretty enough?" Eloise shouted.

Hahaha! This isn't the first time the princess has been rejected, but it's still the first time someone's rejected her so flatly! Elian was off to the side wildly laughing while tugging on Eli's arm, although Eli didn't pay him any attention.

"I have Xiao Ai," Ri Xiang Ye replied matter-of-factly.

Eloise was stunned. Then her shoulders slumped and she dispiritedly walked back to where Elian and Eli were, lamenting, "So he already has a girlfriend. You should have said so from the start!"

"This is my Xiao Ai."

Ri Xiang Ye pulled out his virtual lover game from his backpack and then cheerfully introduced Xiao Ai to his new friends. Since they had exchanged more than three sentences, they were friends! That was Ri Xiang Ye's definition of a friend.

Elian, Eloise, and even the cold Eli couldn't help but glance at the console. Even Eli's frigid face gained some expression—that of surprise.

"Princess, your Highness! You... You've actually lost to a dating sim! I- It really ..." After Elian finished his exaggerated shouting, he couldn't hold back a huge laugh. "It really is a record-breaking reason to turn someone down!"

Eloise's face was flushed with anger. She furiously glared at Ri Xiang Ye and bellowed, "Are you trying to mess with me?!"

Since they were friends, at this point, Ri Xiang Ye's own reminder to not ask random questions had already flown out of his mind. He immediately asked back in bewilderment, "What does 'mess with you' mean?"

Hearing those words, Eloise's eyes grew wide. She was trying to tell from Ri Xiang Ye's face if he was trolling her or if he really didn't know... But like how Ezart had once commented to Ri Xiang Ye, his face that completely said, "I'm a dork. What can you do about it?" was f***ing idiotic to the point that it left people unable to do anything to him.

"Did this brat... Come out of a cave?" Elian had no idea that he had come to the same conclusion as Ezart.

Eloise, who was initially filled with rage and about to randomly vent her anger, really couldn't bring herself to smack the pretty boy she liked. He was showing such a dorky expression too. *How can someone so dumb be so cute!*

She wanted to just run up to him and give a "big sisterly hug" to comfort this dorky pretty boy!

Ri Xiang Ye seemed to sense danger and slowly backed away...

"Oh, it looks like the princess isn't planning on going into the battle simulator. Eli, let's just go in on our own. Anyway, it's not like the target is guaranteed to show up," Elian said to his companion.

Eli nodded.

"Princess! We're heading in on our own first, O.K.?" Elian didn't forget to inform Eloise.

"What?!"

Eloise looked about ready to eat someone as she whirled around, giving Elian a huge scare. He hastily spoke, stopped, and started again, "Since you want to torment... No, *comfort*! Comfort the pretty boy, then the two of us will head into the simulator to find our target first. We have to complete the mission the principal gave us!"

A conflicted expression appeared on Eloise's face when she heard those words. After having an internal struggle for a while, during which she had looked several times at Ri Xiang Ye with reluctance, she finally made up her mind. She refused, "No! I must go in!"

"I didn't know you could be so professional?" Elian muttered.

"Rumor has it the target is a handsome man," Eli coolly said this sentence.

So that's why! Elian suddenly understood. So the real reason is that a pretty boy can't beat the charms of a handsome man!

"What are you saying?! I-I heard that the target was very strong, so..."
Eloise's voice grew softer as she spoke. It looked like she couldn't even persuade herself.

"Fine, fine." Elian rolled his eyes. He turned his head to look at Ri Xiang Ye and ask, "Kid, what class are you from?"

Although Elian didn't know Ri Xiang Ye's exact age, Ri Xiang Ye was so cute, still played with toys, and had a timid appearance. It was already enough for Elian to treat him like a young kid.

"Class D," Ri Xiang Ye honestly replied.

"Thanks." He turned his head again to look at Eloise. "Is this O.K.? You can go find your handsome man first, then go on your own to Class D and find your pretty boy."

"Lian! I love you to pieces!" Eloise always loved to call Elian by a nickname. According to her own explanation, her name was three syllables long, so of course she also had to call Elian by a three syllable nickname. Only then would it be "fair."²

"Yes, yes! Your Highness, Master Ice Cube, we'll be off! If we head into the simulator any later, it'll be time for lunch already, and the simulator will be shut off!" Elian dragged the other two off toward the simulator. He had only walked two steps when he looked back at Ri Xiang Ye to yell, "Kid, don't forget to cheer us on from outside!"

"You're planning to fight?" Eli finally reacted.

Elian explained as he walked, "We've already waited for so many days and haven't found the target. If we fight, the target might come out to challenge us..."

After Ri Xiang Ye blankly watched the three of them walk into the simulator, a calculating and emotionless cold light surfaced in his eyes. It was the look of Dark Sun.

Three strong fighters... Especially that Elian who liked to laugh. He was the strongest!

Ri Xiang Ye thought... Or rather, "Dark Sun" thought for a while. Then he wordlessly left with rushed footsteps.



The plaza in front of the battle simulator was crammed with an unprecedented amount of people. It seemed almost all the students in the school were there, and even most of the teachers had heard the news and had come. Over ten thousand people were gathered. Moving in the slightest could mean trampling other people into a rug, or becoming the rug other people stepped on.

This was all because of one reason: the Elite Combat Class students, who had never shown up before, were participating in the battle!

The crowd went from speculating whether Ezart would beat Bai Lian Xing this time to wondering if Ezart and Bai Lian Xing could fight on equal ground with Elite Combat Class students.

Most people were still confident in them, but there were still some who were on edge. After all, rumor had it that the Elite Combat Class was really so strong they were almost superhuman... But then again, Ezart's monstrous strength and Bai Lian Xing's snake-like body also couldn't be considered human.

In this noisy, packed plaza, a single person silently approached. However, even water wouldn't have been able to seep through the crowded path leading to the battle simulator door. Everyone was waiting for the losers to come out. Then, they would rush to ask how it was like being killed by students from the Elite Combat Class.

That person observed the situation and came to the conclusion that normal means couldn't be used to traverse this path. He crouched down, jumped the height of a person, and speedily leapt through the air toward the doorway. Naturally, the places he was pushing off of were people's shoulders and even heads.

"Who did that?!"

"Who stepped on my head?!"

"My face! It's ruined..."

Everyone fiercely searched for the culprit, but they could only glimpse the back of a figure in a tight-fitting red shirt and jeans that were tucked into boots. This attire was very familiar...

"T-that's..." Someone gasped in alarm.

"Who was that? Tell me! I'ma kill him!" A person who'd been stepped on swore.

"It's that guy who defeated Bai Lian Xing the other day..."

Defeated Bai Lian Xing? Up until now, only one person had defeated Bai Lian Xing in the battle simulator...

Dark Sun!



On his second time stepping into the battle simulator, Dark Sun didn't come in unprepared looking like Ri Xiang Ye like last time. Instead, he was already fully dressed as Dark Sun, including a silver mirrored visor on his face. His expression was without a trace of humanity.

Appearing on the giant screen was an old man with a mischievous smile.

"Hello. I am Yelan Academy's principal, Ah Na Yi. Young man, I welcome you to strengthen yourself in the battle simulator. Please enter your username and password."

"Username: Dark Sun. Password: XXXX," Dark Sun tonelessly replied.

“Now choose your equipment.”

“Two daggers, a set of throwing knives, and a pistol.” Dark Sun was being more cautious than last time. The three people from the Elite Combat Class didn’t seem to be nobodies.

The virtual equipment immediately appeared in front of Dark Sun. He quickly inserted a dagger into his boots, hung the entire set of throwing knives across his waist, and used his belt to bind the pistol to the outside of his left thigh. Last, he gripped a dagger backwards in his right hand.

“And finally, I wish you a happy battle. Hehe.” On screen, Principal Ah Na Yi had on an indulgent smile as he watched his student slowly walk into battle.

In order to preserve fairness, the battle similar had many entrances, placing students in random areas to decrease the chances of getting ambushed. The settings for the battles were also always randomly sampled. Dark Sun currently found himself in a dense tropical rainforest.

First defeat Ezart, then battle with those three! In any case, Dark Sun was ninety percent sure that the target they were speaking of was probably him.

Although he didn’t know why they were looking for him, knowing that they wouldn’t leave the battle simulator before finding him, Dark Sun was in no hurry to find the three of them.

Since he had bothered to come in, then why not find Ezart first and grant him the wish of fighting with him?

In the rainforest, Dark Sun fully utilized the lush vegetation to conceal himself. He brushed past people several times. They were completely unaware of his presence.

Dark Sun used the microchip in his brain to calculate the dimensions of the battle simulator and his position, efficiently seeking out Ezart.

Still not having found Ezart yet, he instead found a familiar person first: Eloise.

She didn't look much different, still wearing light and comfortable clothes. The only thing was that she held a pair of massive axes in her hands. Even though the size and weight of the axes made it look like they should only be displayed in a museum exhibit and would require finding a trolley whenever they needed to be moved, Eloise was casually lifting them.

Her ease warned other people that the two axes in this woman's hands weren't just for show.

She was walking around alone in the rainforest. In addition, she didn't have any intent to hide at all, even offhandedly cutting down whatever was blocking her path, from weeds to large trees. She had a faint aura of being willing to hack down any god and kill any demon that stood in her way.

"Will he really show up? We've been here so many times already, and this time we're stuck in this stupid rainforest again!" As she approached, she constantly complained, as though there were a person next to her listening to her talk.

Dark Sun didn't really think that there was no one near her. First of all, where did Elian and Eli go? Furthermore, Eloise didn't look at all like she was talking to herself.

Dark Sun scanned Eloise's surroundings. But he was completely unable to uncover any trace of other people, putting him even further on guard.

"Shut up!" A deep male voice warned.

Eloise's eyes grew wide. Her face was filled with anger as she said, "Eli, don't think that if I can't see you, I can't do anything to you! If you make me mad, I'll cut down everything around me. We'll see if you can still dodge that!"

Eli's irritated voice once again came out from somewhere in her vicinity, "Quiet! There's someone else here!"

This time, Eloise did shut up. She knew that based on Eli's personality, he wouldn't say this without good reason. She squinted her large eyes and scoured her surroundings.

Dark Sun had now confirmed that at least Eli was indeed somewhere nearby. But even with his cyborg abilities, he was still unable to locate Eli. Yet Eli had somehow found him?

He really wanted to test Eli and see if Eli could find his location. If he could, then Dark Sun needed to find the reason and make improvements to have the highest capabilities to complete his master's orders.

So he quietly waited.

Eloise was beginning to feel a little uneasy. Normally, Eli would have already told her where the enemy was and then, she would smash the enemy to death. Yet, she received no response.

It was silent for a while longer, but Eli's cold voice finally sounded again, "I can't find him... Looks like we've really found our target."

"Even you can't find him?" Eloise was dumbfounded. *But Eli's a person with "that special ability!"*

"Maybe there really isn't anyone?"

"No. There's someone. I can sense it, but it's very weak," Eli immediately dismissed.

Eloise muttered a few words, "Fine, fine. I know your ability is really strong."

Can sense it, but it's very weak? Dark Sun immediately began to try to determine how the enemy had actually discovered his presence. The enemy was clearly unable to find his location, but had also determined with certainty that there was someone present?

Perhaps it isn't an ordinary method. Dark Sun began to understand. In that case, should he fight with them or follow his original plan to find Ezart?

"Eloise." Eli had appeared from somewhere without anyone noticing and walked next to Eloise, saying, "Destroy this place."

Eloise rolled her shoulders. "O.K.! It was getting too boring anyway."

Once she finished speaking, she lifted her massive axes in both hands and began to wreck everything indiscriminately three hundred sixty degrees around her. With her terrifying destructive power, there was no difference between large trees and weeds. They were all smashed apart in a single blow.

Eli was almost smashed apart along with them more than a few times. In addition, the fact that he hadn't been crushed wasn't because Eloise had stopped, but rather, Eli himself had dodged away.

That being said, Dark Sun wasn't certain if this strength was actually greater than Ezart's. However, in regards to visual impact, between seeing a pretty girl and a ripped man display the same kind of freakishly huge strength, it was clearly a lot more shocking to watch the girl.

Leading her to battle Ezart seems like it would be a lot of fun... Dark Sun—No, it should be the hidden Ri Xiang Ye—couldn't help but childishly think.

Eli suddenly widened his eyes, shouting, "I sensed it! Over there!"

The tacit understanding between them clearly wasn't from just fighting together for only one or two days. Eli had only stared in a certain direction, and Eloise's axes immediately swung down upon Dark Sun's hiding place. Almost at the same time Eli finished speaking, the axes had already cut down the spot he had indicated.

The figure of a person leapt up from the debris of the tree leaves and trunk. Seemingly as a taunt, when he landed, he purposefully did so on top of Eloise's ax.

"A handsome man!" Eloise greedily took in Dark Sun's slender figure, and although his face couldn't be seen, just those tightly-pressed lips of his lower face and his figure were enough.

"It still counts if his face can't be seen?" Eli coolly mocked as he pulled out and shot a small flare. A beautiful firework burst in the sky.

Eloise lifted her other ax and sent it toward the aforementioned handsome man while replying, "Aiya! Guys like you wouldn't understand. As soon as I watched the video of his battle, with those beautiful moves and that icy cold attitude, I knew that he has to be super handsome under that visor!"

Eli coldly huffed at this completely unfounded bias that wasn't even worth paying attention to. His hands reached into his possessions and ten specially crafted darts appeared in his hands. The front of the darts were blades five centimeters long, with grooves for blood at the tip.

The back of the darts were rings, just big enough for fingers to slide in.

“Hey! Hey! Ten darts? Are you aiming to kill?” Eloise stared with wide eyes. The mission they had received wasn’t to kill Dark Sun!

Eli icily retorted, “I doubt these ten darts can hold him off until Elian comes.”

Eloise blinked. She felt a bit like Eli was taking things too seriously. Dark Sun was very strong in the clip of his battle, but no matter how strong he was, he would still have a difficult time fending off her and Eli!

Although it seemed like the two of them were quarreling, Eloise’s attacks had never paused. The two massive axes constantly whistled back and forth through the air.

Dark Sun dodged easily. She couldn’t reach Bai Lian Xing’s speed. He believed that if he wanted to defeat her, it wouldn’t be a difficult matter.

Her fighting style was very similar to Ezart’s too. Instead of fighting Eloise, he might as well go battle with Ezart and grant his friend’s wish while he was at it.

The more she fought, the more uneasy Eloise became. She even repeatedly looked toward Eli.

Dark Sun's desire to fight her was already gone. If he hadn't been waiting for Eli, who was off to the side, to make a move, then Eloise would have already been defeated a long time ago.

But Eli still didn't do anything.

"Eli!" Eloise finally couldn't take it anymore and yelled, "Why aren't you using your ability to help me?!"

Eli pursed his lips. His face was unexpectedly pale. "I can't sense it..." "What?" Eloise was shocked.

"I can't tell what he's thinking or what his next attack will be. I can't sense anything at all." There was a tremble in the last word Eli spoke.

Eloise turned pale with fright. "No way! Have you lost your ability? You can't read thoughts anymore?"

"No. I know what you're thinking. It's only him that I can't sense anything from." Eli was disturbed. He began to doubt whether there was something wrong with his ability. *Or... is the person before us... not human at all?*

"Aside from a small number of the body's reflexes, if it's a conscious movement, it will definitely take some thought, no matter how short that amount of thinking is..."

This was how he and Eloise had always fought. Eloise would be on the front lines meeting the enemy head on, and he would be off to the side silently indicating what the enemy's next move would be, even using

his darts to attack the enemy on his own. For a person who could read minds, finding the enemy's weak points and striking at them was his most fearsome ability.

"But he's not thinking at all. It's like all of his movements are reflexes." Eli had to keep the alarm from his voice, "But this isn't possible! Only animals are like that."

Eloise was already at a loss. This kind of situation had never happened before, and it left her unsure of what to do. She already knew from the video clip of the battle how strong Dark Sun was. If Eli was unable to help her, she didn't have any way to keep Dark Sun from leaving.

In contrast to the duo's shock, Dark Sun was making a determination. Mind reading was a useless ability to him. Even science couldn't reproduce that kind of special ability.

He hadn't expected both Eloise and Eli's abilities would be useless for him. Although he wouldn't go so far as to say he was disappointed, Dark Sun didn't want to continue being caught up with them.

Let's go find Ezart! After he had decided, Dark Sun shot away like an arrow, resuming his unfinished search.

Dark Sun's inhuman speed left Eloise with no chance to block him. She was extremely upset. Theyd searched for so many days, and finally found him with difficulty, only to have their hopes dashed.

She angrily roared at her partner, "He ran! What now?"

"I read something," Eli replied with a completely different answer.

"What did you read?"

"Ezart."

Footnotes

¹ **Hair and eye color:** The trio's looks have changed quite a bit since the old edition of Eclipse Hunter!

Eloise: Pink hair, red eyes

Elian: Reddish brown hair, blue eyes

Eli: Pale green hair, silver eyes

The old volume 2 artwork by Ya Sha depicts them with the old descriptions

² **Elian's nickname:** Eloise gives an explanation in this edition and not the previous edition. Elian's name is written as 艾爾利安 (Ài ěr lì'ān) and four syllables long, while his nickname is 艾利安 (Ài lì'ān) which cuts it down to three. Eloise's name is 愛蘿伊 (Ài luó yī).

Chapter 3: A Demon Incarnate

Ri Xiang Ye speedily walked into the school cafeteria. He was just thinking of rushing to line up to buy lunch when...

"Stupid brat. Over here!"

Ri Xiang Ye turned to look. Ezart was already lazily munching on bread. As usual, his surroundings were free of people. It was clear that Ezart had already realized that Ri Xiang Ye hadn't come to the cafeteria first, so he'd helped Ri Xiang Ye grab two large plates of food.

Oh no! Ri Xiang Ye anxiously walked over and sat across from Ezart.

"What the hell were you doing!" As expected, he was yelled at as soon as he sat down. "I told you to come buy lunch first and you came even later than I did!"

Although Ezart was cursing at him, the expression on his face clearly wasn't one of real anger. Ri Xiang Ye even had the impression that Ezart was in a good mood.

Ri Xiang Ye was puzzled. He had definitely heard other people say that Ezart and Bai Lian Xing had gone up against Elia from the Elites and had even lost two against one. In the end, both of them had been killed and eliminated by Elia.

This was why Dark Sun had been unable to find Ezart in the battle simulator that entire time. Finally, the timer for the game had run out,

and he had no choice but to hurriedly change into student clothes and run to the cafeteria.

"You seem really happy?" Ri Xiang Ye gingerly asked.

"Of course!" Ezart slapped the table forcefully. There was an overjoyed smile on his face. "You won't believe who I met in there! A student from the Elites!"

"Was he powerful?" Those words were actually spoken by Dark Sun, but the excessively thick glasses obscured his merciless eyes.

Ezart burst into loud laughter. "Powerful? Lemme tell you, I can only say one thing. Strong! Extremely strong!"

A strong fighter! Dark Sun couldn't help but want to duel Elian. But then he also remembered that Eli and Eloise were also supposed to be strong fighters, but their abilities weren't of any use to him. He couldn't help but frown and ask, "What is Elian's fighting style like?"

"Since when have you been so interested in battles, brat?" Although Ezart was asking, he was in such a good mood after his battle that he didn't give it any further thought. He even felt that he wanted to tell everyone all about how amazing Elian was. "He wields blades, dual blades. He waves them so fast it's like the blades form a net around him. Even that brat Bai Lian Xing couldn't find any gaps."

Dark Sun nodded and understood that he would need to enter the battle simulator again. Even though he knew this could easily go against the command for keeping his abilities hidden, he had no choice

but to do so for the sake of growing stronger. It was the reason he had put his glasses back on.

Although the glasses had been deemed “ugly,” they were very effective at hiding his identity. In order to follow his master’s command, he couldn’t care less if they were ugly or not.

“Ah Ye, eat up! Today’s my treat!”

Ezart straightforwardly patted Ri Xiang Ye on the back. It looked like he was really in too good of a mood. He went so far as to say he was treating Ri Xiang Ye despite Ri Xiang Ye’s terrifying appetite and his own state of impoverishment.

Ri Xiang Ye only said, “Oh,” and then began to battle with the two large plates of food.

Meanwhile, Ezart hummed a tune while munching on his bread.

At that moment, three unexpected people stepped into the school cafeteria. Even more, they were looking left and right like they were searching for someone.

While they were looking around, the students in the area also recognized the three people. They were the ones who had just been in the battle simulator fighting against Ezart, Bai Lian Xing, and Dark Sun: Elian, Eloise, and Eli.

The cafeteria fell silent. The students seemed to have fallen victim to a paralyzing technique, each of them frozen in place. There were even

some who had stopped in the middle of eating noodles, a bowl in their hands and noodles dangling from their mouths. Their heads were raised as they stared dazedly at the three people.

It wasn't long before the three of them found who they were looking for. They nimbly walked over to what was evidently their target—the cafeteria was so crowded yet this single table was almost empty and only seated two people, making it a clear target—and that was Ezart and Ri Xiang Ye's table.

Elian looked at Ezart with a smile and said, "Hello."

Ezart was actually even happier than Elian. He shouted, "It's you! Fighting you was the best!"

"Agreed. It's a pity you and Bai Lian Xing aren't students of the Elites." As usual, Elian had on an exaggeratedly regretful expression.

Ezart's eyebrows went up. He was about to make plans to battle with Elian again, but a rude girl's voice cut him off.

"You're Ezart?" Eloise asked without a trace of politeness.

Ezart straightforwardly replied, "That's me."

"Do you know Dark Sun?" This time it was Eli speaking. He normally wouldn't casually open his mouth to speak, but right now he was very anxious to confirm if the name he had read was from Dark Sun.

"Dark Sun?" Ezart had no idea of what was going on. He offhandedly replied, "I've only seen him once in the battle simulator. That punk Bai Lian Xing was the one who actually got to fight him."

"You really have only seen him once?" A trace of disbelief flitted across Elian's face. Then his expression shifted to one of pure innocence as he said, "But he clearly told me that he was best buds with you! And if I needed to find him, I should come look for you."

Hearing this, Ri Xiang Ye lifted his head. His black eyes were cold behind the lenses. He obviously knew that he had never met Elian as Dark Sun, to say nothing of whether or not he had told Elian how to find him.

"The heck?" Ezart's head was in a fog. He frowned as he said, "I've never said a word to that guy. How could we know each other?"

"Eh? Really?" Elian glanced at Eli out of the corner of his eye while his mouth moved in an apology to Ezart, "Maybe we found the wrong person or heard the wrong name... This sucks! Now we don't know where to go find Dark Sun."

Elian's actions and Eli's look of frustration hadn't escaped Ri Xiang Ye's notice. He knew Eli could read minds, so he was being especially careful not to have his mind read. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to keep the secret that Ri Xiang Ye was actually Dark Sun hidden.

"Huh? Haven't I seen you before?"

At this moment, Eloise noticed the nerd off to the side. Such a stereotypical-looking student was really hard to miss. If they hadn't been so focused on Ezart in order to complete their mission, it wouldn't have taken this long for them to notice him.

But I only just met Eloise earlier and she already can't recognize me? Are these black frame glasses really that ugly...? Ri Xiang Ye hesitated for a moment. Should I admit that I'm the person she blocked earlier in the plaza? Or continue eating and pretend I don't know?

But actually, although the black frame glasses really had an awful effect on his looks, it wasn't so bad that it would cause someone he had just met to be unable to recognize him. What really prevented Eloise from recognizing him was that Ri Xiang Ye's mouth was completely stuffed with food, which distorted the shape of his face. When paired together with the "points subtracting" black frame glasses, it led to Eloise being unable to recognize him.

Therefore, once Ah Ye had swallowed the food in his mouth with a gulp, Eloise immediately shrieked and then grabbed Ri Xiang Ye's black frame glasses, threw them to the ground and—like a cockroach deserving death ten thousand times over—forcefully smashed them again and again. She didn't even forget to flip them over several times with the tip of her foot.

It should be remembered that Eloise is a character that could wildly wave around gigantic axes that looked like they belonged in a museum exhibit. Under her extreme hatred and formidable destructive power, even the floor tiles had been cracked, to say nothing of the glasses. In

the end, what had just been a perfectly good pair of glasses was turned into dust, their original shape was unable to be made out.

"M-My glasses..." Ri Xiang Ye blankly watched his perfectly good glasses get smashed into smithereens, and then grinded into the floor, finally leaving nothing behind.

Everyone dazedly looked at the "glasses killing murderer," not understanding what deep seated grudge this girl held against the pair of glasses, causing her to enact the sort of evil scheme where only dust remained.

Eloise didn't care at all about the attention from everyone. She fiercely said to Ri Xiang Ye, "You're not allowed to wear those incredibly ugly glasses anymore!"

"Aiya, it's the kid from the plaza." It was at this moment that Elian finally recognized Ri Xiang Ye.

Ri Xiang Ye was frozen. He didn't know how to respond. He obviously didn't have to listen to Eloise, and he wasn't afraid of her inhuman strength. But at the moment, he distinctly sensed that telling her no would be an unwise move.

After hesitating a moment, Ri Xiang Ye replied, "Oh." In this situation where he had no idea what to do, he responded with an ambiguous answer.

"You can't just say 'Oh.' You have to swear you won't wear glasses again." Eloise wasn't willing to let him off the hook.

"About that... But my nearsightedness..." Unable to trick her, Ri Xiang Ye could only try to convince her to give up.

"So what if you're nearsighted! There's contact lenses! If not, I'll even pay for you to get an eye operation to fix it!"

Eloise seemed to be the embodiment of a rakshasa. Her expression was so scary Ri Xiang Ye wanted to cry. Her voice went up over an octave as she screeched, "Anyway, you just CAAAAN'T! WEAAAAR! GLAAAAASSES!"

S-So scary! Ri Xiang Ye was about ready to cry. *Gēge...*

"Dearie me. Why are your eyes red? But you're even cuter this way!"

Suddenly, the rakshasa turned into the big sister from next door. She gently held her arms out as she thought to give a "big sisterly hug." Then with a "gentle" voice, she comforted Ri Xiang Ye, who was shivering in her bosom, "Don't worry. Big sis will protect you!"

Ri Xiang Ye was tightly gripped by Eloise. He wanted to break free but didn't dare to. Although Eloise was exceedingly gentle at the moment, it was her rakshasa-like face earlier that had scared him so much he was about to cry.

The flip between the rakshasa and the gentle big sis made it even more terrifying. With tears swimming in his eyes, Ri Xiang Ye could only look at Ezart for help...

It was a pity that Ezart clearly had no interest in acting out “saving a ‘damsel’ in distress.” With an extreme lack of chivalry, he turned his head away and continued to munch on his bread.

Elian was off to the side laughing so much that he was grasping onto Eli’s shoulder to keep from falling to the ground and rolling about.

“Let me tell you, Eloise, before you go around hugging people, you have to at least ask their name first!” Through his laughter, Elian teased, “Otherwise when people ask you what the pretty boy you ‘forcefully hugged’ was called, you’ll have no clue! Won’t that be embarrassing?”

“What do you mean ‘forcefully hugged?!’ Where do you see me forcing him?” Eloise replied self-righteously, “This is mutual! Mutual!”

“You must be blind... Can’t you see he’s about to cry? Is that what you call mutual?” Elian muttered.

“What did you say?” Eloise pointedly asked.

“I said, hehe, what’s your name, kid?” Elian hastily turned his head to ask Ri Xiang Ye smilingly, trying to distract Eloise.

“An Xiang Ye,” Ri Xiang Ye timidly replied with his fake name.

“Oh. Ah Ye, huh? That’s not a bad name.”

Smiling, Elian rubbed Ri Xiang Ye’s head, already treating him like a little brother.

Ri Xiang Ye suddenly looked up at Elia, unexpectedly overflowing with joy. *Elia called me Ah Ye! And Elia just called me that on his own without me telling him.*

"You're like my gēge!" Ri Xiang Ye couldn't help saying emotionally.

"Hm. I'm like your gēge?" Elia replied with some astonishment. *What a coincidence. Ah Ye just happens to have a brother that's like me?*

"Yeah!" Ri Xiang Ye nodded his head vigorously.

"Dìdi! Come, give Gēge a hug." Elia had on an exaggeratedly mushy expression. He pulled Ri Xiang Ye into his embrace. Then he sent a look at Eloise, using his eyes to smugly say, *Look! This is what "mutual" is!*

Eloise was about to explode. But when she saw how happy Ri Xiang Ye was, she couldn't force him to not hug Elia. She could only grudgingly say, "It's only because you just happen to look like Ah Ye's big brother."

But actually, Elia and Ri Xiang Yan were completely different, from their looks to their personalities. It was just that Ri Xiang Ye had the odd trait of treating any male life form that smiled at him like his brother. This was because he simple-mindedly believed anyone who smiled at him was like his brother.

"Great! I've gained a little brother to dote on in the future!" Elian looked at Ri Xiang Ye emotionally, asking, "Can I come visit you often, Ah Ye?"

"O.K., El-gē. You definitely have to come visit me." Ri Xiang Ye was delighted. Not only did he have another Gēge who would smile at him, but he also had Eloise and Eli as friends.

Hearing the words "El-gē," Elian's smile seemed to freeze a little. But he immediately rubbed Ri Xiang Ye's head again indulgently, saying, "No problem. I'll definitely come find you."

"You have to, El-gē." Ri Xiang Ye happily smiled.



After leaving the school cafeteria, Elian, Eloise, and Eli were abnormally silent as they walked to the deepest part of the school.

Their destination was a place most students couldn't go into—the principal's exclusive building. It was also the Elites' "classroom," even though the Elites had never done something like "go to class."

"Elia!"

Eloise suddenly called Elia out. In an instant, the three of them all stopped. Elia turned his head to look back, his face completely expressionless, unlike his usual smiling face.

She reproachfully said, "If you just wanted to get closer to Ezart, there was no need to take advantage of Ah Ye, right?"

Elian shook his head and said, "I had another reason. Did none of you notice? Dark Sun has silver hair. An Xiang Ye's the same. Even their builds are almost identical."

"You suspect Ah Ye's Dark Sun?" Eloise was extremely shocked.

Elian didn't respond to her, instead turning to his other companion to ask, "Eli, did you manage to read anything?"

"I only read a few fragments. None of them had anything to do with Dark Sun," Eli straightforwardly said.

Elian nodded.

He knew that in reality, Eli's mind reading ability didn't allow him to know everything. People's thoughts were extremely complicated, usually with layers of thoughts on top of and intertwining with each other, and Eli could only catch a few of the most important fragments of thought.

In battle, enemies were usually focused on the battle at hand and wouldn't be thinking of trivial matters. As a result, thoughts during battle were the easiest to read. But if it were an ordinary chat, Eli would only be able to read some fragments, and these fragments were not always useful.

"What did you read?" Elian sensibly asked.

This wasn't the first time he had used Eli's mind reading ability to complete a mission. Although Eli hadn't read any pertinent information, Elian knew those seemingly useless pieces of information often would yield unexpectedly useful tidbits after thinking them over.

"Glasses, ugly, master, game, order, and such phrases. When you started speaking with him, there were some that had to do with you. " Eli hesitated for a moment, not entirely certain as he said, "Elian, liar, smile, Ah Ye, and Gēge."

"He thought I was a liar?" Elian warily asked.

Eli shook his head. "I'm not sure. There could have been another person's name in between I didn't read. There is a chance he wasn't directing it at you. When he called you El-gē, he really was very happy."

Hearing those words, Elian's face stiffened. But he immediately reverted back to his solemn expression.

"No way!" At this moment, Eloise loudly interjected, "Ah Ye's not Dark Sun. Lian, you must have made a mistake. The two of them are completely different. Ah Ye's so naïve and cute, and Dark Sun is, is so scary!"

Elian really changed expressions this time. He had on a sneer as he looked at Eloise and said, "Eloise, after working together with me for so long, don't you know how many two-faced people there are in this world? Even if your cute Ah Ye-dìdi turned into a demon, it wouldn't be anything strange."

"It would be strange to me."

Eloise still couldn't find a retort, but Eli insipidly spoke up.

"Although I can't always use my mind reading ability to read useful information, when it comes to determining a person's nature, it's very simple."

Eli's gaze shifted over to Elian's face. "Your thoughts are very fast. There's also a large number of thoughts and complex layers upon layers crossing. People like that are usually more reserved and are skilled schemers."

Elia froze, but didn't deny it.

"An Xiang Ye happens to be the opposite. His thoughts are very slow and there's a lot fewer of them compared to the average person. Furthermore, all his thoughts seem to be in a straight line."

"What does that mean? What kind of person is Ah Ye?" Eloise was anxious, fearing that Ah Ye's cute naivety was really fake.

Eli was silent for a while before he opened his mouth to say, "A little kid. I've only read those kinds of thoughts from little kids."

Hearing this, Eloise was smug. She gave Elia a look of "I told you so."

But Elia was indifferent to Eloise's taunt. He only asked again, "Have you ever come to the wrong conclusion before?"

Eli glanced at Elian, explaining, "I've read false information before, but I've never been wrong in reading someone's 'thinking pattern'..." He thought for a moment and added an amendment. "Never truly been wrong."

"Never 'truly' been wrong?" Elian stressed.

"Dissociative identity disorder. I read a person like that before." Eli explained with indifference, "It should be said that I first read one of the personalities and concluded that he was a simpleminded, straightforward person, but when I turned around, he gave me a knife in the back. At that moment, his thinking pattern had completely changed... I only found out later that he had two personalities."

"Then could An Xiang Ye be like that?" Elian hesitated for a while before asking. He knew that people with split personalities shouldn't be that common. Ah Ye also seemed to be very normal, not like someone with two personalities.

"Elian, are you not going to be satisfied unless you can frame Ah Ye?" Eloise exploded, "Didn't you hear how happy he was calling you El-gē?!"

Elian's face hardened, and he growled, "So what? Eloise, don't forget that this is a mission the principal gave us! Bring Dark Sun to see him! If we fail, we'll have three times as many graduation missions."

"That..." Hearing those words, Eloise also couldn't stay angry.

Eli didn't pay any attention to the argument between his companions. He only finished his explanation, "Until I read another personality, I have no way to confirm if An Xiang Ye has a second personality or not. But based on my previous experience, there is a good chance he has that condition."

"What?!"

Eloise and Elian both turned their heads toward Eli in shock. Even Elian hadn't put much hope into the split personality theory.

"For his age, he's too innocent. It's very abnormal." Eli added one last explanation, "The person with split personality I met before was like that. One personality was more kindhearted than most, and the other was extremely vicious."

Hearing this, Eloise started panicking, and Elian was even more certain that An Xiang Ye definitely had something to do with Dark Sun. They couldn't let this lead vanish!



"Bye bye, Ezart. See you tomorrow morning!"

Ri Xiang Ye happily waved goodbye to his classmate.

Because the way back home was mostly the same for the two of them, they often walked home together... But truthfully, the two of them had traveled on the same path several times already, just that at the beginning Ezart was walking in front and Ri Xiang Ye was following

behind him... In the end, it had turned into them walking home together without them realizing.

Ezart seemed to have remembered something as he said, "Tomorrow? Oh, head to school first on your own tomorrow. I might not go."

"Huh? Why?" Ri Xiang Ye's happy expression disappeared in an instant.

"I have something I need to do tonight. Dunno if I'll go tomorrow," Ezart shrugged and candidly explained.

Ri Xiang Ye wanted so say something further, "But..."

"Students should go to class every day?" Ezart rolled his eyes and irritably said, "Whatever you're going to say, I'd already know even if I used my biceps to think about it!"

"Then you should go to class..." Ri Xiang Ye's voice grew softer and softer as he spoke.

"Don't have time for that! I have to earn money. Do you think I'm rich like you, able to drop over twenty thousand yuan on a toy?" Ezart disapprovingly scoffed.

Ri Xiang Ye blankly asked, "You're going to work?"

"I guess you could say that. I'm going to go fight in the underground arena." Ezart looked at the time. "I can't keep talking to you. If I'm late, the money the boss deducts is going to be on your head."

Once he finished speaking, Ezart turned around to leave, only waving backwards in passing as a way of saying “see you.”

“Ah... Bye bye, Ezart!” Seeing this, Ri Xiang Ye also hurriedly said goodbye.

Ezart didn’t even turn his head back to look as he left.

Ri Xiang Ye only started walking toward his own home once he couldn’t see Ezart’s figure anymore. At the same time, he thought, *What is an underground arena? “Fightin’” the underground arena... Oh. Is ‘the Underground Arena’ a person and Ezart’s going to fight him?*

Then should I go help Ezart fight him?

He thought as he walked. Before he realized it, he was already at his doorstep.

Ri Xiang Ye pulled out the key that hung around his neck. After he opened the door, he saw that the entire house was dark, but he didn’t think anything of it.

He knew his older brother was still at work at this time. And An Te Qi-bàba... He was originally supposed to pick him up after school, but would always lose track of time while he was doing his experiments, and would then stand him up.

Every time An Te Qi-bàba ditched him, his brother would get close to exploding, waving his gun threateningly. Several times after Ri Xiang Ye came home, he had to hastily keep his older brother from killing his

papa. After this happened a few times, Ri Xiang Ye just simply told his brother that he would be walking home together with a classmate and wouldn't need his papa to come pick him up.

This finally put the daily "patricide" incidents to rest.

Ri Xiang Ye turned the living room lights on, and there was an immediate flood of light. The decorations displayed in the living room weren't complicated. The walls were light green and the sofa set was a deep green. There was also a long, clear, glass short table as well as two large bookcases. The bookcases were filled with various storybooks. The storybooks were obviously for Ri Xiang Ye to read.

The house was designed floor by floor. The first floor had the living room and kitchen, and the second floor had the bedrooms.

Ri Xiang Ye went up to the second floor. There were three doors in the corridor. He went to the middle one, pushed the door open and walked in naturally. This was his room.

With a flick of the light, the room brightened, and now the inside of the room was finally revealed.

A large and comfortable bed was in the center of the room. In addition to the pillows and blanket on the bed, there were also many fluffy plushies. The headboard had several books arranged on it. It looked like a little kid's room.

But one side had a large workbench covered with things that would never be found in a child's room.

Several disassembled guns, more than ten boxes of bullets of different sizes, various types of throwing knives, what looked to be an unfinished bomb, an entire set of dismantling tools in good condition, and the highest quality diamond-tipped cutting tools...

The entire room seemed at odds with itself. One side was an innocent child's bedroom brimming with toys, while the other side was filled with things that would be found in the room of an evil, mad murderer or a demon of destruction.

When Ri Xiang Ye entered the room, he first put his backpack on the chair. After some thought, he opened the backpack. Arranged inside were notebooks, a pencil case, and other things for school. There was also an object that looked like a lunchbox. He picked up the lunchbox, and when he opened it up, there was a collection of candies.

After Ri Xiang Ye took out a few and tossed them into his mouth, he turned a star-shaped candy among them. The lunchbox made a small click and a rectangular hole opened in the side. He put his hand into the hole, then pulled out a silver visor and a lump of something black and rubbery.

RI Xiang Ye easily unfolded the black lump of rubber. Unexpectedly, the rubber thing, which wasn't very large, was a pair of boots.

Then, Ri Xiang Ye took off his uniform, revealing the clothes he was wearing underneath: a red, skintight shirt and tightfitting jeans.

This was Dark Sun's standard attire!

Ri Xiang Ye contemplated whether he should first take a shower or read the storybooks... But when his eyes accidentally landed on the unfinished guns on the table, the innocent look in Ri Xiang Ye's eyes vanished and the childlike expression on his face just earlier as he had thought of reading storybooks also faded away... *I'll finish the guns first!*

In the end, Dark Sun sat down, burying himself in his firearms modification work.

It wasn't long before a beeping noise came from the front of his workbench. Dark Sun lifted his head. He knew it was the sound of the telephone, and offhandedly pressed the answer button.

A square screen suddenly appeared on the flat wall in front of the table. As soon as the screen flicked on, a man's face appeared. He had lustrous, golden hair and beautiful, ruby-like eyes. He was so handsome that people would find themselves unable to tear their eyes away from his face filled with contempt for the entire world.

This man who should have been looking disdainfully at the world with his smile had softened his expression for the moment. He mushily said, "Ah Ye..."

Hearing that name, the cyborg Dark Sun's face began to show emotion and a smile. Finally, it was the darling Ri Xiang Ye that happily shouted, "Gēge!"

Indeed, the golden haired man on the screen was the older brother Ri Xiang Ye had been mentioning all day: Ri Xiang Yan.

“Ah Ye, you’re so cute today like always!”

As soon as he heard the word “Gēge,” Ri Xiang Yan’s air of arrogance toward everything transformed on his face into an incongruous expression. It was an extremely infatuated expression, as though the sound of “Gēge” could even melt the sun.

Ri Xiang Ye had on a silly smile. “Gēge, are you coming home?”

“Yes! Yes! I’ll be home right away. Just wait there for me...”

“Sun Emperor, you called home to pass on the news that you must work overtime today and cannot return home,” a formal-sounding voice reminded off-screen.

Ri Xiang Yan’s face abruptly froze. Then he grandly waved and ordered, “Bill, cancel my work!”

“My name is Kyle.” After Kyle futilely made a correction out of habit, there was a series of rapid typing sounds and he then reported flatly.

“You have not held a meeting with the heads of the alliances for a month now. You have amassed two hundred thirty-six documents and one thousand two hundred fifty-five calls urging for the meeting. Twenty-six tabloid magazines are speculating whether or not the Sun Emperor died of his injuries in the incident. Five newspapers are beginning to revisit the odds that you survived the incident. In a few

more days, I'm afraid what will be appearing is something along the lines of that you have been long dead and the current survivor is actually a body double."

After listening to this stream of words, Ri Xiang Yan's face went as rigid as a corpse's. He knew that this meeting was vital, but as soon as he saw his little brother's cute face over the phone, he felt that there was nothing more important than that adorable smile!

"Gēge has to go to a meeting? And can't come home?" Ri Xiang Ye was a little disappointed.

"No..."

Ri Xiang Yan underwent a great internal struggle for a while. Then there was a "THUD" as Kyle tossed a mountain of documents in front of his boss.

The corner of Ri Xiang Yan's mouth twitched for some time, but he relented, "Yeah. I have to go t-to a meeting." *Sob sob sob. I want to go home and see Dìdi...*

"Oh, then do your best, Gēge!" Ri Xiang Ye nodded as he said this. He was a bit crestfallen, but after thinking about it, he could see his brother tomorrow anyway and wasn't so disappointed anymore.

"O.K." Ri Xiang Yan was so moved by the support that he wished he could leap into the telephone and properly hug his cute Ah Ye.

"Do your best too, Kyle-gēge!"

Ri Xiang Ye shouted into the phone while beaming. The sound of someone falling over next to Ri Xiang Yan came over the phone. They then muttered to themselves, "Someone actually said my name correctly." This was followed by Ri Xiang Yan glaring to the side, and a hastily revised reply, "Mhm. I'll do my best, too."

"Ah Ye, remember to tell An Te Qi to take you out to eat. And if you think of anywhere you want to go, tell him to take you. Remember to have him take you to school tomorrow... No, wait. You now go to school with your classmate. Then remember to tell him to buy you breakfast. Oh, oh. Also don't forget to have him help you wash your clothes, wake you up tomorrow morning for school, put handkerchiefs and tissues into your backpack..."

Ri Xiang Yan nagged like a worried mother, even instructing An Te Qi, who wasn't even there, to do a bunch of things.

"Mhm. I'll tell An Te Qi-bàba!" Ri Xiang Ye conscientiously nodded.

"Sun Emperor, it's time to start the meeting."

"Fine!" Ri Xiang Yan resentfully roared to the side at Kyle. Then he turned back to the telephone screen and with incomparable gentleness said, "Ah Ye, Gēge loves you very, very much!"

"Ah Ye also loves you very, very much, Gēge," Ri Xiang Ye replied back extremely happily.

"Sob sob sob. Ah Ye said he loves me. I'm so touched..."

"Sun Emperor! Time to go to the meeting!"

"No! I'm going home to see Ah Ye..."

"The meeting!"

"Bye, Gēge."

In the end, it was Ri Xiang Ye who happily waved and then just simply ended the call. The screen finally went back to being pitch black.



Once the telephone screen went black and Ri Xiang Ye's adorable smile had vanished from sight, on the other end of the line, Ri Xiang Yan's good older brother persona immediately disappeared as well. No one other than his little brother would receive his compassion.

His handsome face was only left with a cold expression, and his voice was icy. "Bill, is everyone who's supposed to be at the meeting present?"

"Aside from the people on leave, everyone is present." Kyle also immediately returned to his demeanor of a professional secretary, and used the computer to effortlessly find out who had arrived at the conference room.

"On leave?" The Sun Emperor's voice suddenly grew colder.

"There are at least ten people who are on leave this time. It is a bit unusual," was Kyle's easily understood report. "I surmise it has to do with the headquarters exploding the other day as well as the fact that you have not issued any large scale orders in a month."

"Oh?" The corners of Ri Xiang Yan's mouth were hooked in a smile.

"Are they doubting my authority? Interesting."

"The reason is probably that your methods have been more lax recently," Kyle admitted.

"Lax?" Ri Xiang Yan lightly rubbed his chin with his finger, lifting his head up in comprehension with a smile as beautiful as a fallen angel's.

"All of my compassion has already been given to Ah Ye. Anyone else shouldn't even hope of getting the dregs."

This period of weakness... Was only a façade.

After a huge incident, first feign injuries and then strike with the ferocity of a tiger upon those who dared to defy him. And so, in the future, no matter what situation arose, no subordinate would easily dare to rebel due to suspecting it could be a test.

"I don't want to see those ten people in the future," Ri Xiang Yan serenely commanded.

Having heard this, Kyle merely typed the simple word "eliminate" into a list of names, thus deciding the fates of those ten people.

"Start the meeting."

Ri Xiang Yan. Sun Emperor. The leader of the Sun Alliance, currently the strongest global power. A man known as the Sun King, issued a decree like a monarch.



Having received instructions from his older brother, Ri Xiang Ye abandoned the half-finished firearm he was holding and stood up to go find An Te Qi. Although Ri Xiang Ye hadn't seen him since he had arrived home, Ri Xiang Ye knew well where to go find him.

After he walked out from the bedroom, Ri Xiang Ye jumped directly from the second floor to the living room below to save himself the trouble. He sat on the armchair in the sofa set, put both hands on the armrests, and said, "Basement two." The armchair immediately descended. When the armchair had completely sunk beneath the floor, another identical armchair rose up again. Only, this one of course didn't have any trace of Ri Xiang Ye.

The armchair Ri Xiang Ye was sitting on descended several stories before stopping.

He got up from the armchair. In front of him was an extremely thick metal door, and behind the door was a basement Ri Xiang Yan had specially constructed. It was extremely durable so that even if there were an explosion inside, it wouldn't affect the house above in the slightest.

The reason why this place was so durable was that this was An Te Qi's laboratory. His experiments typically had no relation to the word "safety" at all.

Ri Xiang Ye politely pressed the intercom by the doorway. Based on past experience, no one would respond, so he just opened the door himself and went in.

As soon as the door was open, the heavy smell of formaldehyde assailed his nostrils. With another look, he immediately understood why there was such a strong smell of preservative. In the laboratory, three operating tables each had badly mutilated, incomplete bodies.

Aside from the cadavers on the operating tables, other places were similarly too horrifying to look at. Tables were filled with bubbling, unknown liquids. Glass cabinets were full of jars of human organs. There were some organs that even a cyborg like Ri Xiang Ye couldn't identify.

This sort of environment could cause a person who saw it to regurgitate everything they had eaten over the past week... But there was a person who was actually capable of staying up for many days straight in this place that assaulted both sight and smell. Only once one of the people from above suspected that another corpse was about to be added to the laboratory would they come down to drag him back up.

"An Te Qi-bàba."

Ri Xiang Ye didn't pay attention to the terrifying scene in the laboratory. Instead, he gazed at a person who looked as ghastly as a corpse, but who Ri Xiang Ye concluded was probably still alive because he was still standing and holding a surgical scalpel, dissecting things at an amazing speed.

At this moment, the standing "living corpse" slowly raised his head. His eyes were completely bloodshot. Because he was wearing a surgical mask, it was impossible to see his expression.

"Gēge said to have you take me out to eat, take me out to play, buy me breakfast to eat tomorrow morning, help me wash my clothes without forgetting, wake me up tomorrow morning for school, and put handkerchiefs and tissues in my backpack!"

Ri Xiang Ye finished rattling off all the things his brother had told An Te Qi to do.

After hearing this long string of words, the "living corpse" froze for a long time. Then without the slightest response, he slowly lowered his head and the scalpel in his hand began moving again, as though the instructions just earlier had completely gone in one ear and out the other.

Ri Xiang Ye was already very used to this sort of lack of response. He just continued to ask without prompting, "An Te Qi-bàba, do you want to take me out to eat?"

No response.

"Then I'll go buy dinner and bring some to you in a bit."

Still no response.

Ri Xiang Ye automatically took down several dirty surgical gowns hanging on the clothes rack. Then he was seemingly talking to himself as he said, "I'll be taking your clothes to wash. I'll knock Bàba out tomorrow morning so you can sleep, and help you change into clean clothes while I'm at it. I'll also be leaving some bread for your lunch, so don't forget to eat it."

Just as before, there was no response.

"See you later, An Te Qi-bàba," Ri Xiang Ye loudly called out before leaving.

The "living corpse" finally seemed to hear the two words "see you." As though he hadn't spoken in several hundred years, he managed to produce a raspy-sounding noise akin to "see ya."

After the sturdy metal door shut again, isolating the stench, rotting corpses, and a person more like a living corpse, Ri Xiang Ye went back to his room. He picked up his visor and a black backpack, heading out to buy dinner looking like Dark Sun.

Although his brother didn't like him going out as Dark Sun, every time he went out with Ri Xiang Ye's innocent, guileless, childlike appearance, he would attract the notice of unsavory youngsters or gun-carrying muggers almost without exception.

In addition, to follow the order of not exposing Ri Xiang Ye's combat capabilities, he could only silently let the unsavory youngsters punch him a few times and have his things taken.

After this happened several times, Ri Xiang Ye learned his lesson. As long as he had to go out alone, he had to go out looking like Dark Sun.

At the same time, whenever he looked like Dark Sun, Ri Xiang Ye would use the secret passage in the house. The exit to the secret passage was an abandoned factory on an adjacent street. The location was fairly hidden, so almost no one would spot him exiting from there.

Not too long later, Ri Xiang Ye was walking in a bustling, flourishing nightlife district. Although he had gone out looking like Dark Sun, he hadn't switched to a cold personality and was still in an innocent frame of mind. So everything novel in his surroundings was enough to attract his interest and get him to stop in his tracks to watch for a while.

As he walked, he wondered if he should randomly find a restaurant that looked special to visit. Finally, he was pacing back and forth between two restaurants, undecided. He didn't know which one was better.

"Come! The underground arena is having three matches today! It's guaranteed to be exciting!"

Underground arena? Didn't Ezart say that before? Ri Xiang Ye sharply turned his head to look at the person shouting.

Several youngsters had their faces and bodies painted with various patterns. They were calling out loudly with smiles while randomly tossing out flyers, causing passersby to sidestep them with irritation. Of course, some interested people walked up to ask about who would be fighting in the arena tonight and such.

“You definitely don’t want to miss it! The biggest event tonight is the spiky-haired, very strong newcomer, King of Might, challenging the champion of the underground arena. It’s guaranteed to be exciting!”

While the youngsters were publicizing with extravagant embellishments, Ri Xiang Ye walked over, picking a flyer up off the ground. He carefully looked at the advertisement on it. The words written there were unsurprisingly exaggerated headlines.

“It’ll be nothing less than the bloodiest and most brutal battle in history: The Underground Arena’s King of the Ring VS. The King of Might! King versus King! Who will be the ultimate winner?” and such. They naturally didn’t forget to put the address at the end.

The underground arena is actually a place to battle?

Ri Xiang Ye was somewhat surprised. *So Ezart wasn’t satisfied just fighting in the battle simulator during the daytime and wants to battle more at night?*

Will there be strong people there? Dark Sun’s way of thinking faintly drifted into his mind.

No! Ri Xiang Ye immediately shook his head forcefully. *I still have to bring dinner back for An Te Qi-bàba.*

He instantly made up his mind. *Buy dinner, then head home!*

“The battle tonight of king versus king is evenly matched! It won’t be strange even if someone dies!” The advertising people called out in a strange tone of voice.

Although hearing of a person being beaten to death sounded frightening, he was certain that almost anyone who went to watch the underground arena wanted to watch someone die.

Just as expected, the people asking had fearful expressions but their eyes showed they were looking forward to it.

Someone dying... Hearing this, Ri Xiang Ye stopped in his tracks and looked back down at the flyer, a sudden thought flashing across his mind. *Is the King of Might on the flyer Ezart?*

If it really is Ezart, with his strength, he won’t be beaten to death, right?

Ri Xiang Ye stopped in front of the doorway to a restaurant. He raised his head to look at the restaurant and then looked back down to carefully examine the flyer. He wasn’t sure what to do.

“Hey! Are you going to eat or not? If you’re not, quit blocking the path!” The server in charge of receiving guests at the restaurant door finally lost his patience and roared at Ri Xiang Ye.

RI Xiang Ye had no response whatsoever. The furious server had already found a coworker, and walked up to drag off this stupid little brat. Right as he had just walked up to Ri Xiang Ye...

"Three special combo sushi to go." Ri Xiang Ye calmly said.

At the same time, a platinum level Sun credit card, from the Sun Bank which was the largest bank in the world, appeared in his hands.

The server's swinging fist snapped down by his leg in an instant. Becoming extremely deferential, the server's tone couldn't be more humble as he bowed and said, "... Right away, sir. Please wait a moment."

Anyway, An Te Qi-bàba doesn't care if he eats dinner on time or not. So I'll just buy three portions of dinner, give one to Ezart, and then go home to give An Te Qi-bàba his dinner.

This was the plan Ri Xiang Ye decided on.

Chapter 4: A Distant Figure

Ri Xiang Ye was extremely glad that he had come to this place as Dark Sun.

This “arena” had likely been something like a sports stadium in the past, with a round field and amphitheater-like seats. It was just that the circular field was now overgrown with weeds, and the concrete, step-like seats had many cracks. The place looked more like an abandoned sports field than an arena.

However, this place had a lively air that didn’t seem to match its abandoned state.

The seats were filled with crowds of people, all of them dressed bizarrely. There were hairstyles even more eye-catching than Ezart’s red-orange hedgehog head of hair. The crowds yelled fanatically and fought against each other. There were even quite a few who had already drawn blood.

Ri Xiang Ye was crammed among these people. He wasn’t very happy with this. In the past, whenever he had gone shopping with his innocent appearance, it was people dressed like those currently surrounding him who had bullied him and even robbed his bag.

Thus, he was very keen on finding Ezart quickly, making sure he was okay, giving him his dinner, and leaving right away.

In this packed, noisy mass of people, though, he almost couldn’t even make out what the people next to him were saying. In addition, aside

from the somewhat lit arena, the whole area was extremely dark. It wasn't at all a good place to try to find someone.

Ri Xiang Ye was beginning to doubt that he would be able to find Ezart, even if he searched the entire night.

"But I bought sushi to give to Ezart for dinner." Ri Xiang Ye was a bit disappointed. He was worried that he wouldn't be able to give the sushi to Ezart for dinner and cheer him on while handing it over.

"Or maybe I can wait until he's done fighting and give it to him as a midnight snack?"

He felt like this also was a good idea. Anyway, with Ezart's personality, wishing him good luck seemed a bit unnecessary. He might as well just wait for Ezart to finish fighting, when he would be hungry, to give him the food.

Since he had decided to give the sushi to Ezart as a midnight snack, Ri Xiang Ye quietly waited for him to enter the arena. Then, after Ezart won, Ri Xiang Ye would give him the midnight snack to eat.

He believed Ezart was so strong that it shouldn't be possible for him to lose.

The event organizers probably knew they couldn't let the people out there, who had absolutely zero patience and only knew how to stir up trouble, wait for too long. At this moment, an announcer wearing bright yellow clothes jumped into the arena and gave a throat-tearing shout, whipping the already lively atmosphere into a frenzy.

With this sort of feverish atmosphere, there were many times when Ri Xiang Ye had to narrowly avoid being hit by the wildly flailing fists of the people around him.

Although he used his extraordinary reflexes to dodge the hits one after another, it was really much too crowded. No matter where he went, shoulders were rubbing up against other shoulders. This wasn't a good thing for Ri Xiang Ye's abnormally vigilant state of mind. Every time he brushed past a person, he would warily judge whether the other person intended to attack or not, leaving him extremely on edge. It was exhausting.

Maybe moving a bit farther away would be better!

Ri Xiang Ye desperately tried to squeeze outward, but after he had pushed himself halfway through, he heard the announcer introduce the newcomer in the red corner—"the King of Might, his accomplishments are..."

Ri Xiang Ye immediately looked back, trying to see if the King of Might was really Ezart or not.

Red corner, where's the red corner... There! The person sitting in the red corner... Was wearing a full face mask.

Ri Xiang Ye didn't know if he should laugh or cry. How was he supposed to tell if that was Ezart or not? If it wasn't Ezart, then hadn't he come here and waited for nothing?

That's right! As soon as I see that person's fighting style, I can determine whether it's Ezart or not.

With that thought in mind, Ri Xiang Ye turned around and pressed back toward the arena. He would be able to make a better determination from a closer distance.

Ri Xiang Ye hadn't even reached the front yet, and the fight had already started heating up.

Although the person in the red corner was called the King of Might, the person in the opposite corner was even more muscular. The muscles all over his body were like small mountains.

Unlike the King of Might who was wearing an ordinary shirt and jeans, the opponent was wearing a skintight outfit which made the muscles all over his body plainly visible. In addition, he shouted repeatedly and showed off his muscles. No matter whether he could actually defeat the King of Might or not, at the very least, when it came to looking dangerous, he had the King of Might beat.

While the chap with the muscles was showing them off, the King of Might did absolutely nothing and just lazily stood there. It was like he was a part of the audience, rather than someone fighting in the arena.

His actions seemed to irritate the audience, and a lot of people threw whatever they had on hand at the arena. They were all aiming for where the King of Might was.

"Ah, don't throw things."

When he saw this, Ri Xiang Ye inwardly became anxious. It was very likely that the King of Might was his friend Ezart!

Ah! You're still throwing things!

Seeing that the person next to him was even about to throw a banana peel, Ri Xiang Ye angrily raised his hand and sneakily smacked the person on the back of the head. By the time the person bellowed in pain, "Who did that?" Ri Xiang Ye's head had already turned away in guilt. Luckily, it was too crowded, and his movements were too fast, so the person was left with no idea who the "head-smacking culprit" was.

Having felt that he had taken revenge for Ezart, Ri Xiang Ye could now happily go back to watching the battle on stage.

At this point in time, the muscled man seemed to have finally satisfied his desire to show off his muscles and began taunting the King of Might. One moment he was sticking his tongue out and showing off his tongue ring, the next he had turned around and begun slapping his butt at the King of Might.

Seeing this, the King of Might didn't say anything and just sent an explosive punch his way. The muscled man began laughing with mockery and malice. As he laughed, he sidestepped and easily dodged.

The spectators also began booing, extremely disappointed in the King of Might's fist missing its target.

“Huh? Why’d he miss on purpose?”

Only Ri Xiang Ye was looking perplexed. He didn’t understand why the King of Might... No! It was Ezart. Why had he purposefully missed?

That’s right. Ri Xiang Ye had already recognized from that punch and posture that it really was Ezart. In fact, the lazy way he had been standing at the beginning had been Ezart’s unique way of standing!

Also, he had seen the muscled man’s dodging speed. There was no way Ezart could have missed.

The muscled man began guffawing and mocked Ezart incessantly. Even the audience around the stage was booing and shouting. Faced with such a scene, Ezart still remained lazy and gangster-like, not seeming to care in the least about everyone mocking him.

Slowly, a few people stopped shouting and froze in surprise. More and more people followed suit. In the end, everyone was silent. They all stared at the muscled man’s left cheek.

A horizontal line of blood had appeared on the muscled man’s cheek. At first, no one understood why. How could he be bleeding all of a sudden if he hadn’t even fought?

They recalled that the single instance of fighting earlier was only the one punch from the King of Might. But that punch hadn’t even landed on target and had swung past his cheek... *Past his cheek!*

Taking a closer look at it, wasn't the location and shape of the line of blood exactly where the fist had flown past?!

Could it be that just whooshing past his cheek had this kind of effect?

At that moment, the muscled man finally also realized something was wrong. After he wiped his hand across his face, he was initially alarmed by his bloodied hand. Then a trace of fear flashed through his eyes as he lifted his head and locked his gaze on the King of Might. He froze in place. He was beginning to wonder if it was worth risking his life for the prize money.

With his eyesight, Ri Xiang Ye was even able to make out the wobbling of the so-called champion's legs.

Ezart really deserved to be called Yelan Academy's god of destruction. The wind from a punch he had randomly thrown could slice open his opponent's cheek. This kind of strength was horrifying.

Even the spectators who were used to watching fighting matches were aghast. The booing from earlier had disappeared without a trace. There were also many people who had originally intended to throw banana peels and tomatoes on stage that were now locked in place.

When Ezart's eyes emotionlessly swept toward them, quite a few people smiled embarrassedly and lowered the various fruits in their hands that they had been preparing to hurl. Following that, they took a bite out of the rotten tomatoes and banana peels in their hands and contorted their faces into smiles that said, "This rotten tomato sure is good."

Seeing the person he had hit on the head smiling bitterly as he ate his banana peel, Ri Xiang Ye couldn't help letting out a "pfft" of laughter. He was extremely happy for Ezart.

Ri Xiang Ye's original reason for coming here was mostly that he was worried for Ezart's safety. However, he had actually been overthinking things. How could an ordinary person compete against someone from a combat academy? Let alone, against the god of destruction feared by ninety percent of the combat academy's students!

Only a cyborg like Ri Xiang Ye would consider someone as strong as Ezart weak enough to worry over.

"For now, I'll head to the back to wait for Ezart !"

As soon as he had stopped worrying about Ezart, Ri Xiang Ye squeezed himself out of the crowd. He was extremely glad he could leave that place with its terrible atmosphere and clamorous din, not to mention the way it had strained his reflexes. But the main reason he had left early was that he was in a hurry to change back to Ri Xiang Ye's appearance before Ezart won.

As for Ezart's win... It probably wouldn't even take a single minute.



The King of Might's ferocious punch sent the champion out of the arena, and even took down and injured several innocent audience members with him. They groaned as they were crushed.

Seeing the unconscious “champion” beneath him, the King of Might coldly threw out a single line, “What a boring fight.”

Then, he ruthlessly turned around and got down from the stage. Along the way, not a single person dared to draw breath.

He walked back to the abandoned arena’s lobby and tore off the mask with a single pull, revealing the dragon tattoo on his face and his bright, red-orange, hedgehog hair. As expected, the King of Might was Ezart himself.

He impatiently tossed the mask into a corner. The cheap, unbreathable thing made his face itch.

At this moment, the rusting, steel lobby doors let out a creaking noise. A bald man grinning from ear to ear appeared from behind them. As soon as he came in, he gave a thumbs up and said with admiration, “You did great! I knew I didn’t pick the wrong guy!”

Ezart idly glanced at the bald man. The last time he had given Ezart the money, he had even thrown at him. Had the bald man decided to sing a different tune now?

“The money?” He said, not beating around the bush.

Ezart rudely stuck his hand out, asking for the money. The bald man silently cursed a few times, but on the surface, he obsequiously hurried to pull out a wad of cash.

“Here it is! Here it is!”

He had no choice but to act this humbly. The strength Ezart had shown tonight had not only opened the audience's eyes to what true power was; at the same time, it had alerted the bald man that a few gun-toting bodyguards weren't enough to stop the god of destruction in front of him.

This both scared and delighted the bald man. He was terrified that he couldn't bend the person in front of him to his will, but was nevertheless happy to have a frighteningly powerful champion in his possession. For someone running a fighting arena, it was the same as having money grow on trees.

Ezart snatched the wad of cash. He didn't even count it before he put it in his pocket and said, "When's the next fight?"

"Ah, that. We still have to discuss it..."

The bald man felt some regret looking at that wad of cash. He had given away ten percent more than the amount they had agreed on. To keep a new champion like Ezart, though, a sum that small wasn't much. He was already scheming what sort of gimmick to have in place during Ezart's next match to get the audience even more hyped up.

"Call me when you decide."

Ezart didn't have the patience to discuss it. He picked his jacket up from the side after tossing out that sentence. Then, he pushed open the creaky, rusty steel doors and left without further ado.

Before he shut the steel doors, Ezart seemed to faintly make out the bald man quietly cursing, "F***! What was that, treating *me* like that..."

But, he didn't have the patience to head back to give the damn baldy a beating, and find a new manager afterward. In any case, for someone known as Yelan Academy's god of destruction, it wasn't like there weren't enough people cursing behind his back.

Even that idiot Ri Xiang Ye, who couldn't be any stupider, has probably cursed me behind my back more than once. It's not like I've held back with the scowls I've given that nerd, Ezart coldly thought.

"Ezart..."

He knew that everyone called him the god of destruction behind his back, but he didn't know what that particular idiot had been saying while his back was turned. *Violent maniac? God of destruction? Muscle for brains...*

"Ezart!"

Ezart's expression suddenly stiffened, and he stopped in his tracks. Did he seem to have heard that idiot calling him? Was he hallucinating?

How could that nerd be hanging around outside in the middle of the night? There's no way a model student like him would have anything to do with this sort of messed up place... Not a...

"Ezart! This is great. I thought I'd missed you!" Ri Xiang Ye was smiling foolishly. He frantically waved as he ran toward Ezart.

... Chance.

Ezart wordlessly watched a model student who didn't fit in at all with his surroundings come bounding over to him. He even brought with him a brilliant smile and exaggerated wave, making Ezart want to... beat him up!

"You were amazing just now, Ezart!" Ri Xiang Ye smiled brilliantly as he ran up to Ezart.

You went over to watch the fight? And the nice, charitable fellows over there didn't beat you to pulp that even your brother wouldn't recognize? Ezart thought in disbelief.

"Right!" Ri Xiang Ye rummaged in his backpack, smiling happily as he pulled out a large box. "Look, I even brought you a midnight snack! It was supposed to be your dinner, but I came too late and you were already onstage, so I can only give it to you as a midnight snack. I also bought one for myself, so we can eat together—"

"Why the hell are you here?" Ezart cut him off.

"To give you something to eat and cheer you on!" As Ri Xiang Ye explained, he also opened the box of sushi. He worriedly looked at the sushi. *It hasn't gone bad yet, I think?*

"How did you know I was here?" Ezart frowned. *I don't remember telling him where the arena is?*

"I saw it on a flyer while I was buying dinner."

A flyer wouldn't have my real name, right? You could guess it was me from the three words 'King of Might?' Ezart really didn't know whether he was unlucky or whether Ri Xiang Ye had the devil's luck. This couldn't have been the only place holding fighting matches, yet he had just so happened to find the right one.

"Do you want to eat dinner together?" Ri Xiang Ye gingerly asked Ezart while looking at him. *He doesn't look very happy.* This made Ri Xiang Ye feel a bit nervous.

Ezart just scratched his head and grunted, his show of agreement.

Not too long afterwards, two people sat at a roadside vendor's stall eating barbecue. The sushi had indeed gone bad from being left out too long.

Ezart had only taken a single bite, and the putrid smell had already traveled up into his brain. After that, he immediately punched Ri Xiang Ye. The idiot had already stuffed his face full of sushi and was completely oblivious to the fact that the things in his mouth were no longer edible. It was this punch that made him spit out the food in his mouth in time.

"Idiot," Ezart said as he snatched away the piece of meat Ri Xiang Ye had held.

“Hm?” Ri Xiang Ye, who had his meat taken away, froze. Then, he switched to taking the shiitake mushrooms, the only things left on the barbecue grill.

Really stupid... Ezart was speechless.

“In the future, don’t come to the arena to find me. Otherwise, if one of these days someone puts you six feet under, I’ll even have to dig you up to bring your body back to your bro.”

The more he looked at Ri Xiang Ye’s foolish appearance, the more Ezart felt it—if this guy kept going out at night to these arenas populated by shady folk, he wouldn’t even last a few days before he would be mugged or beaten up by a gang. Afterward, if he weren’t buried on an abandoned hillside, then he would have been sunken in some unknown bay.

Ri Xiang Ye currently had three shiitake slices in his mouth. Although he didn’t understand why going to watch the match would cause people to put him in the ground, the mouthful of food left him incapable of opening his mouth to ask questions, so he could only nod.

But then, he rethought. *If I don’t go to watch the matches, I can’t eat midnight snacks together with Ezart like this.*

He hastily swallowed the food in his mouth and then anxiously said, “B-But I still want to eat midnight snacks.”

Ezart rolled his eyes and growled, "You're an idiot! Can't you eat midnight snacks on your own or with your brother? You have money anyway. Go to some fancier place to eat and save yourself the trouble!"

"I want to eat midnight snacks with Gēge, but I also want to eat midnight snacks with you!" Ri Xiang Ye was a little dejected. They had just been eating so happily that he thought Ezart liked eating together with him.

Ezart's face went rigid. *Is this brat for real? He's already under my protection. There's no need for him to suck up to me this much, right?*

But seeing that Ri Xiang Ye was becoming more and more dejected, to the point where he wasn't eating much... Of course, compared to a normal person's food intake, the amount he was putting on his plate definitely couldn't be called "not eating much." However, Ezart was familiar with the amount and speed at which Ri Xiang Ye normally ate. This could already be considered "a loss of appetite."

The two of them ate dispiritedly for a while. Ezart said with deliberate casualness, "You don't have to come to the arena to eat midnight snacks with me. Can't you just tell me, 'Let's go eat midnight snacks tonight?'"

"Huh?" Ri Xiang Ye suddenly lifted his head up and blurted, "You mean I can ask you to go eat midnight snacks?"

Ezart made a noise of agreement as his reply.

Ri Xiang Ye was beaming with joy. He and Ezart went to school with each other and would now eat midnight snacks together too. They had to be best friends, right? He had finally made a best friend!

Thinking of that, his appetite finally came back. He cheerfully tossed the raw meat on his plate down onto the barbeque grill all in one go. A few minutes later, he ate the savory meat all in one go as well.

"You sure can eat. You're not getting any flabbier even after eating so much. I have no idea where you're putting it. What a waste of money! You've almost eaten all my winnings!" Ezart grumpily said.

Ri Xiang Ye only had the credit card that his brother gave him. The credit card had the ability to withdraw money, but he had never used it to withdraw money before. Basically, he had already forgotten that the card had that sort of function. This sort of roadside stall naturally wouldn't accept credit cards either, so the responsibility to foot the bill fell to Ezart.

"Ah... You don't have any money?"

Ri Xiang Ye blurted out without thinking. He was completely unaware that after he said those words, the owner of the roadside stall immediately shot them an extremely unfriendly glare.

Ezart rolled his eyes. He knew Ri Xiang Ye was once again treating what everyone else would have known was just complaining as actual fact. To get the owner to stop glaring murderously, he loudly and irritably replied, "You're such an idiot. How could you really eat up all my winnings? I didn't actually mean it."

"Oh!" Ri Xiang Ye relaxed and then ate with even less restraint.

The corner of Ezart's mouth twitched upward when he saw that. He thought to himself, *Is this guy the reincarnation of someone who starved to death? I have no idea how his bro's managed to feed him this long without going bankrupt.*

"Ezart, you must really like battling a lot if you even go battle in the arena after school." Ri Xiang Ye made small talk as he ate.

"Going up against those weaklings can't be called battling, just getting into a scuffle. No! It's just pummeling," Ezart contemptuously said.

"Since you don't like it, why do you keep fighting in the arena?" Ri Xiang Ye didn't understand at all.

"Didn't I already tell you?" As soon as Ezart saw the blank look in Ri Xiang Ye's eyes, he knew Ri Xiang Ye had completely forgotten. He grudgingly explained again, "I have to get money so that I can eat. Get it yet?! Otherwise, I'm not so bored that I'd go fight in the arena against that trash. Even grabbing someone to beat up at school would be more satisfying!"

"Because you need money, you go even though you don't want to?" Ri Xiang Ye didn't fully understand yet.

He had been locked in a lab since he was seven and had been pampered by the world's most powerful figure, the Sun Emperor, since

he was let out. He basically had no idea what money stood for and naturally even less of an idea of the importance of earning money.

“Well, yeah! Or what, you’ll pay for my tuition and food?”

After Ri Xiang Ye exposed Ezart’s thoughts so directly, even someone like Ezart who already understood Ri Xiang Ye’s foolish personality could only shout back in frustration.

“Sure.” Ri Xiang Ye nodded. “If I give you money, you won’t have to fight battles you don’t like.”

Ezart was shocked. He frowned as he asked, “What are you even saying? Don’t joke with me.”

“I’m not joking. Gēge gives me a lot of money. I’ll give you some, and you won’t have to fight in an arena you don’t like.”

From his simple point of view, his brother gave him a lot of money anyway, and his brother had also said to buy whatever he wanted. If he didn’t have enough money, then he would just have to call his brother, and his brother would immediately dispatch someone to “purchase” it.

But what Ri Xiang Ye didn’t know was that the highest level Sun Bank credit card had no upper limit. If something couldn’t be bought with a card with unlimited credit, it meant that money wasn’t the issue. The dispatching of someone to make a “purchase,” as previously mentioned, would more accurately be described as dispatching heavily

armed troops to throw down a check and take it by force, regardless of whether the person was willing to sell or not!

With Ri Xiang Ye's simple way of thinking, Ezart had treated him to a meal twice, so he could naturally also give Ezart money and Ezart wouldn't have to fight battles he didn't want to.

But he didn't understand that to most people, treating your friends to a meal and directly giving your friends money were two completely different things. In addition, with such a huge wealth disparity between the two of them, it was even more taboo.

Ezart's expression grew cold. He was still unable to tell what Ri Xiang Ye's intentions were. Was he really that stupid? So stupid that he didn't understand that friends didn't give each other money?

No way. There's no way he's that stupid.

So Ri Xiang Ye wants to "repay" me for the protection and guarantee he'll keep getting protection while he's at it!

Hmph! He's no different from the rest of them. If he can't beat them, then he'll pay people to bend the knee?

Ezart sneered. He had plenty of people try to pay him for protection before. As soon as he met them, he showed them no mercy and was unsatisfied until he sent them to the hospital with heavy injuries. This was why he had always stayed out of things, and also the reason he had the title "god of destruction."

He hadn't raised his hand against Ri Xiang Ye yet only because he still harbored some doubts. Was Ri Xiang Ye really the kind of person to pay people for protection?

It was hard to believe that this guy, who came to hand over midnight snacks in the middle of the night while even letting the snacks spoil, had the brains to do that!

"Ezart, can credit cards be used to pay tuition?"

Ri Xiang Ye didn't really know, because he didn't pay for his tuition himself. If it didn't work, then he would have to find his brother. Seeing that Ezart's expression was growing unsightly, he thought that it was because he couldn't pay with a credit card, and hastily added, "Don't worry. If I can't use the credit card, I'll just talk to Gēge. Gēge will pay for your tuition!"

Without a word, Ezart ruthlessly threw his eating utensils at the table. The pair of chopsticks actually got stuck in the table, the ends still quivering. The people around them were staring and unable to look away, especially the owner, whose eyes were wide. He was deeply thankful that he hadn't gone over to demand payment for the food earlier, or this pair of chopsticks would probably have gotten stuck in his body!

"Ezart, what's wrong?" Ri Xiang Ye timidly asked.

Ezart abruptly stood up and icily said, "I might be poor, but I'm not so poor I'd beg from my own classmate!"

Once he finished speaking, he ignored the pile of food still on the table and walked toward the owner, who had initially been busy slicing meat but was currently blankly staring at the sight of the chopsticks stuck in the table. When the owner saw that the person who had caused the unbelievable sight was walking toward him, his face turned the same color as the meat he had just taken out of the freezer.

Ezart pulled out a fistful of bills and forcefully threw them onto the owner's cutting board. He coldly said, "Keep the change."

"W-Wait, Ezart." Ri Xiang Ye had only just reacted. He hastily stood up.

Ezart stopped. He didn't even turn his head back as he threw down the words, "From now on, we walk on our own to and from school. Don't bother talking to me. I won't answer you."

He finished speaking, stuck his hands in his pockets, and stalked away hunched over.

Ri Xiang Ye was frozen where he stood.

How had this happened?

He didn't understand.

Why? Hadn't we become good friends who go to school and eat midnight snacks together? Why is Ezart angry? And he doesn't want me to talk to him in the future... We can't go to school together. We can't... Eat midnight snacks together.

"I don't want that!"

Ri Xiang Ye's hands were balled into fists as he shouted at Ezart's departing figure.

The figure, with its hands in its pockets and back hunched over, stopped for a moment.

Seeing that Ezart had paused, Ri Xiang Ye quickly shouted, "Aren't we best friends?"

The wind blew a sentence over from where the figure was.

"We never were."



An Te Qi crawled out from his lab. He had originally planned to find Ah Ye and ask him to make some instant noodles for him, but after he had dragged his body, nearly starved to death, through every room, he finally realized that Ah Ye wasn't actually at home!

An Te Qi looked lifelessly at the clock. It was already four in the morning. *Ah Ye isn't home even at this hour?*

"Could it be that he's finally become..." An intense look appeared in An Te Qi's eyes, and he slowly choked out, "A true teenager?"

That's right. Ri Xiang Ye obediently came back every day to eat dinner, went to bed at ten every night, and then woke up at five in the morning the next day. This behavior wasn't normal for a teenager!

No! No one below the age of sixty acted like that!

Only someone like Ri Xiang Yan who lived in the past century would think the way his little brother lived was normal for a teenager!

However, Ri Xiang Yan himself was clearly someone who would still be up even in the middle of the night, and relied on an extremely strong cup of black coffee to wake him up in the morning. His clothes were the cutting edge of fashion, and his hair was also so trendy it was unbearable. It was a mystery why he let his little brother live like a sixty year old man whose clothes were even from the previous century.

"Anyway, there'll come a day when I finally understand this riddle... But if I don't make some instant noodles right now to avoid starving to death, then I'll never know."

The rumbling of his stomach along with his limbs growing weak from hunger alerted An Te Qi that if he didn't replenish his calories, then it was very likely he would only be able to go to hell to ask the Grim Reaper this riddle for the ages.

Tearing open a bowl of instant noodles of an unknown flavor, he cracked a few eggs, eggshells included, into the instant noodle bowl. Upon seeing his mistake, An Te Qi consoled himself that eggshells

were a good source of calcium anyway. Then he dumped in the hot water.

Although the cover clearly stated that he had to wait three minutes before the noodles could be eaten, when, in his hunger, he saw a hazy, black-robed figure before him, holding a scythe, he could barely wait thirty seconds before ripping off the instant noodle cover and noisily slurping down the somewhat stiff noodles and half cooked eggs.

He clearly didn't understand the meaning of the word "scalding" and ate the entire bowl of instant noodles, including the soup, in under a minute. Only then did he feel like he had come back to life.

His life was no longer in jeopardy, but his belly still wasn't satisfied. He decided to make another bowl of noodles to compensate his stomach for the many meals it had missed. This time, he resolved to not add eggshell fragments into the bowl of noodles, and definitely wait patiently for three minutes... *Damn, uncooked noodles and eggs are really disgusting!*

As An Te Qi sat in the living room, impatiently awaiting his second "delicious" bowl of noodles, the sound of keys being inserted and turning in the lock came from the door. An Te Qi turned his head to look... He suddenly had a feeling of foreboding...

Is the one who came back home the younger brother or the older brother?

If the person who had come back was the older brother, Ri Xiang Yan, he would find out that his precious darling of a little brother wasn't

back even though it was four or five in the morning, and that the guy who was supposed to be looking after Ah Ye was in the living room eating instant noodles... *That said, didn't Ah Ye say something about Ri Xiang Yan giving me a lot of things to do?*

Thinking this, An Te Qi tore open the bowl of noodles. Although he had only waited a minute and a half, he knew that Ri Xiang Yan wasn't kindhearted enough to wait for him to finish eating his instant noodles before shooting him.

No, even if I'm about to die, I want to finish my noodles first!

The man whose death was drawing near slurped his noodles with everything he had. When his lips were so scalded they were even about to blister, he saw a head of silver hair out of the corner of his eye ... *It's the younger brother, Ah Ye!*

Sob sob sob! My life is safe. Luckily, I can continue doing experiments!

An Te Qi immediately released the noodles in his mouth. Then, better than having nothing, he replaced the lid and continued to wait for the remaining one and a half minutes.

"So it was Ah Ye! You really scared me to death. I thought that this day next year would be the anniversary of my death. Dying isn't much, but no one would complete my experiments. That'd be the real tragedy..."

An Te Qi crouched next to the short dining table, muttering as he stared at his instant noodles.

Ri Xiang Ye seemed to walk over from behind him. His hand moved past An Te Qi's shoulder and placed a plastic bag down on the short table. Inside were many boxes of food.

"What is this?"

An Te Qi acutely picked up on what seemed to be the delicious smell of food. He quickly opened a box of food and let out a cheer. There was a bunch of barbecue inside, causing him to immediately abandon the instant noodles and begin attacking the barbecued meat.

"Ah Ye, did yuh come back sho late becaushe yuh went to eat barbecue? Wiv who? The fwend you menshoned befware?"

An Te Qi's mouth was full of food. He asked this carelessly, but when he didn't receive any sort of response, he felt that something was a bit strange. He recalled that Ah Ye would normally loudly call out, "I'm home" as soon as he came back. Furthermore, when he saw Ri Xiang Yan, he would immediately shout, "Gēge," and when he saw An Te Qi, he would immediately shout, "An Te Qi-bàba." No matter who he called out to, his tone would always be cheerful.

But just now, An Te Qi hadn't heard a single peep.

An Te Qi felt something wasn't right. He suddenly lifted his head to look, only seeing that Ri Xiang Ye's back was currently facing him, as he was about to head up to the upper floor.

He asked somewhat suspiciously, "Ah Ye? What's going on?"

Ri Xiang Ye trembled for a moment. Then he forcefully shook his head and said, "Nothing."

As if it's nothing! An Te Qi frowned. He chewed his full mouth of barbecue while walking toward the stairs.

He placed both hands on Ri Xiang Ye's shoulders. Even though his mouth was still full of food, An Te Qi tried to say in his clearest and tenderest voice, "What's wrong, Ah Ye? Tell An Te Qi... Tell 'Bàba' about it, O.K.?"

Ri Xiang Ye's shoulders shook. Then he nodded and slowly turned around.

An Te Qi's jaw dropped, letting all of the well-chewed, almost-ready-to-swallow, barbecued meat that was going to replenish his calories drop to the floor.

What shocked him this much was that on Ri Xiang Ye's face... Were two lines of tears.

"W-Wha... What happened? Who bullied you? Who could even bully you? It's not possible. Your powerful body was the work of my own scalpel... No, no. That's not what's important."

After An Te Qi stammered out nonsense for a while, he viciously pinched his own thigh. The pain finally sobered him up.

He took several deep breaths. He used his sleeve to wipe away the tears on Ah Ye's cheeks as he seriously and concernedly asked, "Ah Ye, did something happen? Tell An Te Qi-bàba, O.K.?"

Ri Xiang Ye nodded forcefully.

"I-I went to see Ezart's arena fight, but the midnight snacks I gave him were spoiled, so we went to barbecue, but E-Ezart stuck his chopsticks in the table and isn't friends with me anymore. I-I thought we were b-best friends..."

Ri Xiang Ye's head drooped, and he said, brokenhearted, "He said we never were and didn't want me to ever talk to him again."

What a convoluted story! An Te Qi did his best to suppress the look of doubt in his eyes and put on an expression of "understanding."

Aiya! So basically, there's a person called Ezart who doesn't want to be friends with Ah Ye.

An Te Qi tried to remember the gentlest tone of voice he had... No matter what, he could only think of the tone of voice he would use to pick up hot babes. *This is bad!*

In the end, he could only soften his voice to say, "It doesn't matter if he doesn't want to be friends with you. You still have a lot of other classmates who could be your friends, right?"

Ri Xiang Ye lowered his head and said in a small voice, "Everyone ignores me. Everyone hates me. Only Ezart didn't hate me. But now... I thought we were best friends. Why is he angry all of a sudden?"

Don't look at me expectantly. Even your god-like brother wouldn't know the reason why from your mess of a narrative! An Te Qi silently wailed in anguish.

But Ri Xiang Ye's expectant gaze and pitiful expression left him unable to truthfully say, "I have no idea, don't ask me!"

An Te Qi could only spout random nonsense. "Uh, maybe it's just a small argument between friends? Friends often have some misunderstandings and squabbles. Apologizing should fix things."

"R-Really?" Ri Xiang Ye suddenly lifted his head. His originally teary eyes seemed to light up.

"Yeah..." *Should be?* An Te Qi could only force a smile.

Whatever had happened, An Te Qi could only hope that this Ezart guy had some tact and would quickly forgive Ah Ye. Otherwise, if Ri Xiang Yan saw Ah Ye crying, who knew what that bro-con would do?

He might even throw every person named Ezart in the world into an incinerator.

Ri Xiang Ye wiped away his tears. *So that's how it is. All friends argue?* Although he didn't understand why Ezart was angry, maybe it

was only because all friends needed to argue with each other, so he got angry. *That way we can argue?*

“Then, I’ll apologize to Ezart later!”

Ri Xiang Ye looked at the clock. It was already 5:15 in the morning. He would be heading to school in a bit and where he could also apologize to Ezart. Then, they could continue being best friends!

Thinking this, he simply couldn’t wait, wishing he could immediately rush out the door and go to school.

I hope nothing goes wrong. An Te Qi looked at how happy Ah Ye was and felt faintly uneasy.

“How about I take you to school today?”

It was highly unusual for An Te Qi, who stayed in his lab all day long, to actively offer to take Ah Ye to school. *I’ll consider it as putting in some effort to ensure world peace! A single drop of Ah Ye’s tears is currently scarier than a nuclear bomb.*

“No.” Ri Xiang Ye flatly declined. “Then I can’t go to school with Ezart. I want to find him and apologize. Then we’ll go to school together.” He had even planned it out already!

“So that’s how it is.” An Te Qi scratched his face and didn’t do anything further.

In any case, he had already tried to ensure world peace. Furthermore, if Ah Ye came back home deeply hurt and crying, it would be hard to say that Ri Xiang Yan wouldn't gun him down, or simply destroy the entire world. So, while the world was still safe and sound, he should hurry and do his experiments!

Chapter 5: The Definition of Friends

Ri Xiang Ye walked in a hurry. He was afraid that Ezart would arrive at school earlier than him. Then, he wouldn't make it in time to go to school with Ezart.

He walked until he was on the path that Ezart would have to pass through and looked at his watch. There was no problem. It was only seven. Normally, Ezart would only pass through this area when it was growing close to eight. He definitely hadn't passed by here yet!

Ri Xiang Ye was exceedingly patient. He waited with his neck craned. His eyes took in every nook and cranny. Even though he knew that Ezart's towering height and orange-red hair were conspicuous, impossible for him to overlook, he still did not dare to drop his vigilance and constantly scanned back and forth across the street.

Having waited until it was eight, Ri Xiang Ye inwardly began to grow worried. *Is Ezart not coming to class today?*

That's right. Didn't he say yesterday that he might not come? But yesterday's match at the arena didn't end very late. He said at the barbecue that he'd still come to class today...

"Maybe he's so angry he doesn't want to come to class?" Ri Xiang Ye became dejected. He didn't know if he should continue waiting or head to class.

The combat academy started class at 8:20. If he left now, he could still walk there. If he waited for another ten minutes, he would have to fly in order to make it to class. Ri Xiang Ye couldn't make up his mind.

Or I could wait for when Ezart comes to class to apologize to him?

As he hesitated, he didn't notice several unfriendly students surrounding him. Only once they had encircled him did Ri Xiang Ye abruptly notice their presence.

"Can I help you with something?"

But he still wasn't alarmed. He had already recognized that these people were his classmates.

More specifically, they were the students who had made fun of him the previous day. Of course, Ri Xiang Ye hadn't understood most of what they were ridiculing him about and didn't even really quite understand what the words "made fun of" meant.

"You were a d*ck yesterday, giving us the cold shoulder!" A male student's face darkened.

Ri Xiang Ye didn't understand at all. When had he given his classmates the cold shoulder? Every time he saw a classmate, he would diligently call out a greeting. But for the most part, they didn't pay any attention to him.

"What? You think we wouldn't dare lay a finger on you?" The girl with the multicolored hair snorted. "You didn't know that we were at that barbecue place last night, too?"

"Huh? Really?" Ri Xiang Ye had a sudden realization. No wonder they said that he had given them the cold shoulder. They had been at that barbecue restaurant too, but he hadn't recognized them. It was natural that they would be angry at him.

Ri Xiang Ye felt that he was in the wrong. He sincerely apologized, "I'm really sorry. I didn't notice you. Next time, I will definitely greet you."

Being apologized to, the others seemed to freeze. Then the girl screeched, "Who'd want to say hi to a piece of trash like you! Lemme tell you, we're not scared of you. You violated the god of destruction's taboo! We saw with our own eyes him saying he wouldn't protect you anymore."

The male classmate beside her also hollered along with her, "I'mma tell you that he's always stuck to his word. If he's not gonna protect you, then even if we pound ya to a pulp in front of him, he won't give a damn about you!"

Ri Xiang Ye didn't know that Ezart's nickname was "the god of destruction," but he was only with Ezart last night, so it was easy for him to realize that they were saying he had violated Ezart's taboo.

He anxiously asked, "What is this taboo?"

He really wanted to know what he had done to make Ezart mad.

"Hmph!" The girl looked at him in disbelief. She was wondering if the nerd really didn't know or if he was just faking it. But either way, they wouldn't answer him!

Several of them looked at each other gloomily. Although they had heard Ezart himself say that he wouldn't protect the brat, they still didn't dare to beat him up in front of Ezart and test if Ezart would go back on his word or not. So they had cut Ri Xiang Ye off outside of school.

After they shot a couple glances at each other, they slowly boxed Ri Xiang Ye in...

"What are you doing?"

Behind him was a wall. Ri Xiang Ye instinctually didn't like not having a way out, even though he knew the people in front of him weren't able to pose a threat to him.

"Nothing. We just want you to come with us to a little alley to play," one of them replied with a sinister smile.

Although Ri Xiang Ye felt it was a bit strange, he was also a bit happy. His classmates were paying attention to him and even said they would play with him. But he had to wait for Ezart right now!

"I'm sorry. Can we play another day? I'm waiting for Ezart today, and it's almost time for class. We'll be late."

"F***! Do you really think you have a choice?!" An impatient classmate shouted.

"Don't waste your time talking to him! Punch him, and drag him in!"

"I'll start us off!" A different person raised his fist.

Ri Xiang Ye perceptively noticed a head of red-orange hedgehog hair and loudly called out in a hurry, "Ezart!"

The others turned their head to look, and sure enough, it was the academy's god of destruction. They were so scared they instantly froze up, unable to move.

"Ezart!" Ri Xiang Ye happily walked forward a few steps.

Ezart's eyes coolly swept over the scene. He hadn't expected Ri Xiang Ye to be ganged up on this fast. He had at least thought it would take until after class of the first day. No wonder Ri Xiang Ye had been in such a hurry to find someone to rely on!

"Ezart, I'm sorry." Ri Xiang Ye could finally say these words aloud. He said sincerely, "I seem to have violated your taboo. I'm sorry I don't know what your taboo is, but I didn't do it on purpose, so I'm apologizing. Can we still be friends?"

Ezart didn't respond. As he walked by, he didn't even glance at Ri Xiang Ye. It was as though there was no one there trying to talk to him.

Ezart? Ri Xiang Ye was stunned. His mind was in complete disarray. He had apologized! Why was Ezart still ignoring him?

At this moment, the students surrounding him knew from Ezart's actions that he didn't care in the slightest about this brat anymore. Their courage was instantly bolstered. They moved up to grab the brat by the shoulders, planning to drag him into the alley for a vicious beating.

Usually, Ri Xiang Ye absolutely hated people touching him. But at the moment, he paid no attention to the actions of the classmates around him. His eyes were only fixed on Ezart's departing figure.

He had the feeling that if Ezart turned around at the sounds of him being beaten, then they still must be friends, maybe even better friends than before. But if he didn't look back...

A fist slammed into Ri Xiang Ye's stomach. He deliberately didn't dodge or suppress his muffled groan. The cyborg Dark Sun normally wouldn't utter a single sound, even if he were being bludgeoned to death.

His dark eyes were fixated on Ezart with hope still shining in his pitch black eyes. Would that gangster-like figure stop for his sake and turn around to run over to save his friend?

Dark Sun, a strong cyborg, was now praying that someone would come save him. Not to save him physically, but rather, to save his mind. Because he needed a friend.

Someone who would smile at him aside from his brother and An Te Qi. Otherwise, he would never, ever step into the world beyond those two people.

"Ezart!" Ri Xiang Ye seemed to be pleading, asking for Ezart not to abandon him, to drag him out by the hand.

Hearing that cry, Ezart paused, but he didn't look back.

His footsteps never stopped.

He didn't drag Ri Xiang Ye out by the hand. The undying hope shining in those night black eyes gradually dimmed the farther that figure went...



Ri Xiang Ye was shoved into the alley and was punched and kicked without letting up. But how could the fists falling on his body be any more painful than his father's hatred?

Any more painful than having every bone in his body replaced with metal, the surgeries that forced his flesh to become stronger, and the recovery afterward?

Any more painful than not being able to see his brother, the only one who loved him, for seven years?

Any more painful than being abandoned by his friend... No! Were they friends?

We never were.

Ezart's reply from last night flashed through his mind.

So that's how it was.

He never had any friends. And now... He never would have any.

Ri Xiang Ye was flat on the floor. He used his hands to protect his head and face. It looked like he was incapable of fighting back. He was being beaten so viciously that it was like they wanted this to be his final resting place.

But behind the hands covering his face, there wasn't a single trace of fear or pain. It could even be said that there wasn't any humanity on his face.

Dark Sun calculated that he couldn't let them continue hitting him. If his injuries were too noticeable, the master would be unhappy.

But he couldn't allow Ri Xiang Ye's abilities to be discovered. That was the master's command.

Then...

Kill!

Eliminate them all! Not only could worse injuries be avoided, no one will know of Ri Xiang Ye's abilities!

Metal fingernails soundlessly extended out. Those people currently beating up Ri Xiang Ye did not seem to notice in the least the fate that was about to befall them...

Kill them!

"Stop! Are you trying to beat him to death?!"

Ezart? The inhuman mask suddenly cracked, and hope and expectation shone through. Ri Xiang Ye propped himself up with his hand, lifting his body to look at where the voice came from. *Ezar...*

Elian?



Although he didn't know why Ezart and Ri Xiang Ye were suddenly fighting, and it seemed to be over something serious, Ri Xiang Ye's expression was that of someone who had been abandoned by the entire world... *Is such a person really Dark Sun?*

Elian quashed the random thought and took a deep breath. This had nothing to do with him! He was only here to investigate if Ri Xiang Ye was Dark Sun. He didn't need to involve himself in anything else.

So he watched on as the boy who called him El-gē was shoved into an alley, as countless heavy blows fell ruthlessly on the frail boy's body. It was like those people held a deep grudge against the boy. The punches and kicks never stopped, from start to end. The boy could only curl up like a shrimp on the ground, feebly using his hands to protect his head and face...

Hurry up! If you're Dark Sun, these people are nothing. You definitely have the power to fight back.

Elian hid next to the alley, only exposing an eye to observe the violence in the alleyway. A boy's hunched form was reflected in his eye. *How long can such a frail boy last?*

Could he really callously watch on as the boy who called him El-gēge was beaten to death, just to use his death to justify that he wasn't Dark Sun?!

Could he even be called human then?

But being "inhumane" isn't really a strange thing. Aren't the people in front of me that kind of people?

After he sneered at the people pummeling the boy in front of him, Elian suddenly felt that if he idly stood by and did nothing, what difference was there between him and these people?

He rushed into the alley.

"Stop! Are you trying to beat him to death?!"

Several people stopped and turned around, full of fury at whatever punk was stupid enough to interrupt their beating!

"None of your damn business! Get lost if you want to live," a person cursed with a fierce expression on his face.

“Whatever! Why not drag him over and rough him up together? Then we don’t have to fight over this scrawny brat,” another person laughingly said, as he kicked Ri Xiang Ye another time.

Seeing Ri Xiang Ye take another kick, Elian’s face darkened even more as he shouted, “You’ll pay for that!”

“Hear that? He said we’re going to pay for that. Hahaha, no way. I’m gonna die laughing!”

Several people burst into laughter, almost to the point where they were rolling on the ground hugging their stomachs.

Elia pulled out two blades... Or more accurately speaking, the hilts of two blades. These blade hilts weren’t normal wooden hilts. They were made of metal. The metal even shone with a beautiful, gentle, pale blue sheen.

Elia held these special blade hilts and assumed a simple but effective battle stance.

He didn’t move at all, but two beams of energy taking the shape of blades of light extended from the hilts. The body of the blade had a perfect, slight curve and pale, water blue light emitted from it, causing gasps of awe.

“Two energy blades... H-He’s the student from the Elites who defeated Ezart and Bai Lian Xing in the battle simulator the other day!”

Several people finally recognized him, and they cried out in a panic.

Elian laughed and said, "Bingo! You guessed right."

A battle with a huge gap in abilities unfolded. It was painful to watch. Instead of calling it a battle, it would be more aptly called a one-sided slaughter.

After only a few exchanges, Elian had already chopped the weapons they brought out into scrap metal. He then began to let them personally taste the pain of being pummeled.

The small alley was filled with "Aiya! Don't hit us anymore!", "I was in the wrong. Let me leave!", and other incessant cries for forgiveness.

After Elian used the blade hilts to knock the last standing person to the ground, he looked at the people wailing in anguish on the ground. When he determined that their injuries were now about as serious as Ah Ye's, he finally stopped.

"I'm warning you. I'm not the only one protecting Ah Ye. There's also Eloise, a woman whose strength doesn't lose to Ezart's and who loves Ah Ye so, so much. If she found out you dared to hit Ah Ye... She won't be as kind as me, only using the hilt of my blade to hit you!"

Hearing this, several people all piteously wailed, "Please spare us!"

Elian coldly snorted. "Get out! If you're not out of my sight in ten seconds, I'll call Eloise and get her to continue the beating!"

As soon as he said these words, the people lying on the floor playing dead, who had looked like they were about to breathe their last breath, all jumped up and raced to beat each other out of the alleyway.

At this moment, Elian went from using a demonic expression to turning to look at Ri Xiang Ye with worry. "Ah Ye, are you O.K.?"

Ri Xiang Ye was still sitting where he had originally been beaten up. His expression was dull. Elian saw that he was currently staring at the energy blades and thought he had been scared witless by them. Elian hastily retracted the blades and put the hilts back under his shirt.

"Are you all right, Ah Ye?" Elian crouched down, wanting to examine Ri Xiang Ye's injuries.

Ri Xiang Ye recoiled. He clearly didn't want Elian to look.

"Do you want me to take you to the nurse's office?" Elian put his hand down, very concerned. It looked like Ah Ye really had been scared witless.

"Or do you want to go home?"

"No! I don't want to go home!" Ri Xiang Ye said in alarm. He was afraid that his brother might have already returned home. He didn't want his brother to see that he had been hurt. His brother would worry!

"O.K., O.K.! Not home." Elian hastily tried to soothe him, "Then, I'll take you to the nurse's office."

Ri Xiang Ye nodded at first, but he promptly remembered that he couldn't let a doctor examine him. His body's abnormalities would be uncovered immediately!

"No! I have to go to class."

"But you're hurt." Elian frowned.

"It's nothing." Ri Xiang Ye stood up and patted the dust off his clothes. Then he straightened out his messy clothes.

Elian had been frowning at Ri Xiang Ye the entire time. He could see from the places his clothes had ripped that there were many bruises and wounds. But Ah Ye wasn't willing to go to the nurse's office. So what should he do?

Or should he ask Eloise to look after Ah Ye? He didn't know how to care for a boy who'd received both physical and mental injuries...

Ri Xiang Ye picked up his backpack off to the side and also patted the dust off it. The entire time, he hadn't uttered a word.

This strengthened Elian's feeling that there was something off about Ah Ye. *Was the shock he received too much?* He began to feel frustrated. Why hadn't he stepped in earlier to keep those people from hitting Ah Ye?

"Is everything all right, Ah Ye?" Although Elia asked this, he was already sure that there was definitely something wrong with Ah Ye.

"I'm fine. I'm going to class now. Thanks for helping me, El-gē." Ri Xiang Ye bowed at Elia in thanks. Then, he turned around and walked toward the entrance of the alley.

Not only is something wrong, it's pretty serious too. Elia frowned, and he lifted up his cell phone to dial Eloise. At the same time, he was worried that Ri Xiang Ye would meet with some sort of mishap, so he closely followed behind.

Ri Xiang Ye slowly walked to school and went into his classroom. He knew he was late.

However, in a classroom that was louder and more chaotic than three markets combined, no one, including the teacher at the podium and the students playing dice below, would have noticed anyone walking in. A single late student really wasn't able to garner any attention.

Therefore, Ri Xiang Ye's tardiness had not caught anyone's eye. In fact, no one had even noticed that the students who had bullied Ah Ye were absent.

Because this was Class D, the legendary slacker class. As long as the tuition was handed over with no trouble, even if you didn't attend the graduation ceremony, the school would still send you a diploma in the express mail.

Only, a diploma with a blazing huge “D” on it usually wasn’t useful for much.

Ri Xiang Ye hung his backpack neatly next to his desk and then sat down. He turned his head and saw Ezart with his red-orange hair. He was still sprawled out asleep on the desk. Ezart had still come to school to sleep during class as usual, and only practical classes could wake him up.

Ri Xiang Ye sat in his usual spot and pulled out his notebook to diligently take notes. He knew that Elian had followed him the entire way and was currently outside the window watching him, seemingly concerned.

But he didn’t plan to respond at all to Elian. He only wanted class to finish already, so he could then go home to his brother and An Te Qì-bàba.

Only they wouldn’t turn their backs on him. Only they wouldn’t leave him.

Ri Xiang Ye rapidly wrote down the teacher’s every word. But his eyes were completely dull. Writing down things that he didn’t need to write down in the first place naturally wasn’t very interesting. If things were normal, he could still talk a bit with Ezart, even though Ezart would always be feeling murderous after being woken up.

Boring. Boring... That’s right. I still have a toy I can play with.

“Xiao Ai!”

Ri Xiang Ye searched through his bag. Sure enough, he found the pink, heart-shaped virtual lover console at the very bottom. He quickly pressed the power button.

A girl with a pink face and eyes was projected. She pouted as she complained, "Ah Ye's the worst. Ignoring people for so long!"

"Sorry, I didn't mean to do it. Have you been waiting the whole time for me?" Ri Xiang Ye continued writing notes with his right hand, while his eyes and left hand were on Xiao Ai.

He still had Xiao Ai. Xiao Ai would always wait for him.

"Yeah!" Xiao Ai pouted cutely.

"Don't you feel like ignoring me?"

"Of course not! Ah Ye, what do you want to do now?" Xiao Ai asked with a smile. Of course, a few options appeared on screen: Talk, Eat, Study...

Ri Xiang Ye cocked his head. He decided to start with the first option and play through each of the options once.



Elian was standing outside, frowning as he watched Ah Ye's situation inside. He seemed to be fine. After he sat down and took notes, he started playing his virtual lover game. He seemed no different from usual.

The only thing that was different was that he and Ezart didn't seem to be on speaking terms with each other.

"Is Ah Ye all right? Which bastard dared to hit my adorable Ah Ye?!"

Her voice preceding her arrival, Eloise was still in a distant part of the hallway when she began shouting. Her voice traveled all the way over to Elia's ears at the other end of the hall.

Elia rolled his eyes at her. Good thing Class D was unbearably noisy. Even Eloise's deafening voice didn't attract any attention. *What an unbelievable class!*

"He's over there playing video games. He looks like he's fine..."

Halfway through his words, Elia was squished aside by Eloise. After Eloise had moved Elia out of the way, she immediately craned her neck at the window. Only when she saw Ah Ye sitting in his seat, perfectly fine, did she finally relax.

"Ah Ye looks O.K?" Eloise was somewhat relieved. Elia's explanation over the phone had made it sound like Ah Ye would most definitely be hiding in a dark corner sobbing his heart out.

"He's despondent." It was only then that Eli slowly wandered over. The moment he spoke, his words worried both of the others.

Elia and Eloise abruptly turned their heads to stare at Eli.

Eli ignored the two people staring at him and, after “listening” for a while, continued on his own, “Don’t turn your back on me, Ezart. Never were.’ He keeps repeating those words in his head. His attention isn’t on the game at all.”

Elian was stunned. “But he’s clearly playing the video game.”

After giving Elian the side-eye, Eli asked, “He’s playing at the same time he’s taking notes, all with a lifeless look in his eyes. He isn’t looking at anything. You consider that playing?”

Elian looked back, and it was just as Eli had said. He was speechless.

“Ah, ah, you’re right! My Ah Ye! He’s not smiling anymore! That Ezart must have bullied him!” Eloise exploded with anger, and she roared, “No! I have to get justice for Ah Ye!”

Once she finished speaking, she jumped onto the windowsill before Elian could even stop her and dramatically pointed at Ezart, who was sprawled out asleep. She shouted, “Ezart! You better come out! I’m going to punish you in Ah Ye’s place!”

As soon as the name “Ezart” was said, the entire class fell silent. They were astonished that there was actually someone who dared to challenge Yelan Academy’s god of destruction. But they turned their heads to look. Weren’t those three people the Elites who had hogged all the limelight in the battle simulator last time?

Ezart lazily lifted his head up, in a bad mood from being woken up. Coupled with the dragon tattoo on his face, he looked extremely

menacing. To everyone around them, it looked like a huge battle was inevitable...

They didn't expect Ezart to toss out the sentence, "Tomorrow in the battle simulator during seventh and eighth period practicals," and then sprawl out again, continuing to sleep.

Eloise was furious. She was about ready to spit fire and burn the entire classroom to the ground.

Elian could only shake his head and pull Eloise, who was ready to explode, from the classroom with great effort.

However, Eli actually sent an admiring look at Ezart. He was a person who had an extremely blunt personality. There weren't any unnecessary thoughts in his mind. The words that he spoke aloud were his exact thoughts. *What a great person who is the same on the inside and the outside!*

"Ah Ye!~ Jiějiě will avenge you!" Eloise shouted as she was dragged away by Elian. The unhurried Eli followed behind them leisurely.

Avenge what? Ri Xiang Ye blankly watched the three of them leave. After being frozen for a while, he decided to lower his head and continue playing with Xiao Ai.



Back at home, An Te Qi was restless for quite a while. Although he'd entered the laboratory to do his experiments, after he almost accidentally destroyed the entire lab on multiple instances, he really

didn't dare to risk the lab anymore. He couldn't do anything but sit in the living room and look at the clock while waiting for Ri Xiang Ye.

"Sigh sigh. How is what I'm doing any different from a father worrying over his kid?" An Te Qi pushed the small spectacles on his nose further up. He complained to himself, "I clearly haven't even tied the knot, so why am I called Bàba? I'm even worrying about my son's friend making problems now. I really don't know if I'll have to help my son woo a girlfriend someday..."

"I'm back."

"Oh, you're back... Ah Ye!"

An Te Qi immediately leapt up and rushed to Ri Xiang Ye's side, looking him up and down.

Great, great. Looks like nothing happened. Although he doesn't look very energetic, at least he didn't come back in tears.

Ri Xiang Ye just smiled and responded, "Yeah. I'm back. An Te Qi-bàba, I got hurt. Can you help me treat it?"

"Oh, O.K. I'll help you trea... Wait a moment! You're hurt?" An Te Qi finally realized what Ri Xiang Ye had said.

He said he's hurt? The cyborg Dark Sun is injured?

An Te Qi was shocked for a long time. Then he hysterically shrieked, "Who injured you? Was it the modified humans who abducted Ri Xiang Yan last time? To actually hurt you, were they very strong?"

But more importantly... He swallowed his drool and anxiously asked, "Did you leave any bodies? Can I have some to do research?"

It wasn't that he didn't care about Ah Ye! Anyway, he was already standing there perfectly fine, which meant nothing was wrong! Since there was nothing wrong, then of course he should hurry and ask where the modified humans' corpses were. Then before Ri Xiang Yan destroyed all traces of the bodies, he could rescue a few of them and bring them back!

Hehe. It just so happened that the cadavers downstairs had already been experimented on to the point where they were almost shreds.

Ri Xiang Ye shook his head and explained, "No, I was beaten by my classmates."

An Te Qi's jaw dropped. It was a long time before he was able to say, "Your... Your classmates are also modified humans?"

"Normal humans."

"Do they have superpowers? Or special abilities?" An Te Qi couldn't believe it.

Dark Sun! The work he was the absolute proudest of. He had spent seven years modifying him into the strongest cyborg. Even if he were

given the same lab, the same materials, and the same amount of time, An Te Qi couldn't say with complete confidence that he could modify someone into an identically strong robot.

Ri Xiang Ye once again said honestly, "They don't have any of those."

"... They were wielding the most hi-tech weapons modified to have super, unrivaled firepower?" Only by adding those random adjectives was An Te Qi able to convince himself that this was something that could have happened.

"They used their fists and feet to hit me."

How could this be! An Te Qi was frozen in place. His brain had crashed.

"Gēge will be back soon, right?" Ri Xiang Ye was a little worried and shook An Te Qi, urgently saying, "An Te Qi-bàba, hurry and help heal me. Otherwise, if Gēge sees..."

... It'll be the end of the world! An Te Qi suddenly snapped back to reality. He pulled Ri Xiang Ye towards basement one in a rush.

Basement two in this house was An Te Qi's special morgue and his lab.

Basement one was Ri Xiang Ye's. The distance between the two floors were a full five times farther apart than they would be in a normal building.

For safety reasons, Ri Xiang Yan had insisted that the distance separating the two had to be so that "even if a nuclear explosion went

off in basement two, it wouldn't affect basement one." However, as there was only concrete and metal between the two floors instead of other floors, these two floors could only be called basements one and two.

Just inside the large doors to the basement was a wide training ground. There was a shooting range, a single-person combat simulator, and both sides had transparent, bulletproof display windows showcasing all sorts of firearms and bladed weapons. Even a large weapons exhibition wouldn't have such a spectacular sight.

In this place brimming with ruthlessness, there was a pure white room partitioned off with transparent glass. Inside were various hi-tech apparatus. The middle had a conspicuous pink operating table.

Ri Xiang Yan: A white operating table will remind Ah Ye of bad memories. Make it pink!

Why pink? Is blue not O.K.? An Te Qi had done his best to squash his doubts and reply with "yes."

After Ri Xiang Ye walked into the room, he threw off his long sleeved shirt, exposing the clusters of bruises on the upper half of his body. Then he automatically lay down on the operating table.

"Why is it this serious?"

Seeing this, An Te Qi couldn't be any more shocked. Even after fighting those nameless modified humans last time, Ah Ye hadn't had so many injuries.

“Gēge will be able to see my arms. Treat there first.”

Ri Xiang Ye raised his arms. Because he had used his arms to protect his head and face, his pale arms were covered with bruises and injuries more severe than any other area. There was almost no place left unmarked.

“O.K.”

An Te Qi frowned. He picked up a needle-shaped suction device with a practiced hand and pierced where the most serious bruises on Ri Xiang Ye’s arms were. The suction device dutifully extracted the blood that had flowed out when his capillaries broke. Shortly after, it released a dose of analgesic to soothe the wound.

Gradually, the bowl-sized bruises shrank. Finally, all that was left were bruises the size of a finger.

Ri Xiang Ye frowned and said, “Gēge will still notice this.”

“There’s nothing else we can do. Wounds can’t heal instantaneously,” An Te Qi said as he held the suction device with both hands and quickly treated the bruises on Ri Xiang Ye’s arms.

He shrugged as he worked and said, “Find an excuse. Say there was a bit of a problem with your hand, and I helped fix it, so it left some wounds...”

“I see. That’s an excellent excuse.”

"Sigh. No matter how good the excuse is, it's no use. Your brother is such a bro-con that as soon as he sees the injuries all over you, there's nothing that can stop him from going berserk."

An Te Qi sighed. His expression was full of helplessness. The first one in the line of fire was always him. He was almost used to the feeling of having the derringer pressed against his head.

But it was a little odd. Just now, that didn't sound like the way Ah Ye spoke! Could it have been Dark Sun, but no, it didn't sound like...

At this moment, Ri Xiang Ye sat up from the operating table. His wide eyes were staring behind An Te Qi's back.

A shiver crawled up An Te Qi's spine. *It's over...*

"Who did it?"

Ri Xiang Yan questioned in a frigid tone, but anyone who knew him would know that behind that frigidness was a fury blazing like hellfire.

"Gēge," Ri Xiang Ye somewhat nervously called out.

Ri Xiang Yan dexterously pulled the derringer from his bosom and fired a shot. The bullet beautifully grazed past An Te Qi's cheek, leaving a line of blood on his face. It was just not a shot that would render him dead.

This action was scary enough, but An Te Qi's response was even more frightening. An Te Qi merely pushed the small spectacles up his nose with a look of resigning himself to his fate. Then he continued with the treatment he hadn't finished and picked up the suction device to treat Ri Xiang Ye's bruises. He didn't care at all about the blood on his face.

"Who was it?" Ri Xiang Yan snarled.

"It was just a fight between classmates." Without any other choice, An Te Qi said the truth, although he himself didn't believe it.

"A fight between classmates?"

Ri Xiang Yan looked at the bruises all over his little brother. There was heartache in his ruby eyes as he said, "You still call being beaten like this just a fight between classmates? Who dared to hit Ah Ye? Was it that guy with the strange hedgehog hair?!"

"No! It wasn't Ezart. Really! He wouldn't hit me..."

After Ri Xiang Ye said this, he suddenly stopped because even he wasn't sure of that fact. *Would Ezart really not hit me? We aren't friends...*

Ri Xiang Yan fiercely roared, "Then who was it? If you don't tell Gēge, I'll get rid of that hedgehog head!"

Ri Xiang Ye began to panic. He knew that if his brother found out which classmates had beaten him, those people would never have to come to school again. He frantically waved his hands and explained,

"Gēge, Ah Ye's fine. It's just a small injury. It'll be fine once An Te Qi-bàba treats it."

Ri Xiang Yan walked over. He sorrowfully caressed each of his little brother's bruises, as though the wounds had been inflicted on himself.

I shouldn't have done that. How could I make Gēge so sad! Ri Xiang Ye lowered his head and remorsefully said, "Gēge... Don't be sad. Ah Ye won't willingly let himself be beaten up again."

When An Te Qi heard this, a strange expression emerged on his face while he administered the treatment.

Ri Xiang Yan's face distorted. He said, extremely incredulous, "Willingly let yourself be beaten?"

Ri Xiang Ye nodded halfway and suddenly realized that saying this seemed to have made his brother even angrier? He didn't dare to continue nodding and also didn't dare to lie. So Ah Ye could only guiltily lower his head, not daring to look at his brother's face.

"Ah Ye, you really won't tell me?" Although Ri Xiang Yan was highly vexed, he was the Sun Emperor after all. He immediately cooled off and said indifferently, "Whatever! I'll just kill your entire class and transfer you to another class tomorrow."

"No!" Ri Xiang Yan anxiously shouted, "Gēge, don't kill Ezart!"

Ri Xiang Yan gracefully tilted his head to think and smiled. "O.K. then. I'll kill everyone aside from Ezart. I'll transfer the two of you to another class tomorrow."

"Ah..."

Ri Xiang Ye felt this wasn't quite right. He didn't talk with the other students in his class, b-but he also couldn't let innocent people be killed by his brother like that.

Gēge's actually in such a good mood that he's faintly smiling... It looks like he's really planning to kill all my classmates. What should I do? Should I tell Gēge which people hit me so Gēge will only kill those classmates? So Gēge won't kill the whole class?

That's not O.K. either! Those classmates were already given a beating by Elian today. If they're also killed by Gēge, t-that's too tragic. Even though they hit me, I don't want to see them die...

On the outside, Ri Xiang Yan looked like he didn't care anymore about the matter of Ah Ye being beaten, but inside, he was so angry his teeth smarted. Of course he wouldn't kill off the entire class. It would attract a storm of attention. Later, that scrutiny would fall on the sole... No, the two survivors. (Heavens knows why Ah Ye liked that hedgehog head so much!) It would place Ah Ye at an extreme disadvantage when it came to hiding his identity.

Killing them would have to wait until his little brother left the class!

As An Te Qi tended to Ah Ye's wounds, he watched the two brothers.

One looked worried and the other was faintly smiling with an ominous glint in his eyes. Who knew what sort of a bloodbath he was planning...

He could only silently shake his head. *Sigh!* The naïve Ri Xiang Ye pitted against Ri Xiang Yan, whose plots ran deeper than the Grand Canyon, was like pitting a baby against a schemer!

What do I do? Without a way to stop his brother from killing his classmates, Ri Xiang Ye was so worried his eyes were growing red. He still couldn't think of anything... *Why am I so stupid?*

Not only had he violated Ezart's taboo and made him angry, he still didn't know what Ezart's taboo was. Then he had been given a beating by his classmates, and he still didn't know why they had wanted to hit him. Now his brother wanted to kill his classmates, and once again, he couldn't think of anything... *Oh!*

I'm such an idiot! An idiot who doesn't understand anything... His eyes grew warm and two lines of tears streamed down from his black eyes.

"Ah Ye, you better honestly tell Gēge exactly who hit you... Ah Ye?"

Ri Xiang Ye's head was lowered to hide his crying.

The perpetually poised Sun Emperor uncharacteristically had his mouth agape. He went into a panic. Was he supposed to wipe away the tears on Ah Ye's face or pat his back to comfort him?

Seeing Ah Ye's tears tumble down, Ri Xiang Yan grew furious, furious at himself.

Damn! Have I gone mad? I used my usual plotting on Ah Ye and made him cry. Didn't I promise to always make him happy? Why have I made Ah Ye cry instead?

Ri Xiang Yan's voice was shaking as he pleaded, "Don't cry... Don't cry, Ah Ye. Gēge's wrong. Don't cry. Don't be sad. Don't be unhappy!"

Even though his brother said this, Ri Xiang Ye could only shake his head while he cried because he couldn't stop his tears. Instead, after hearing his brother apologize, more tears welled up from grievances over the past few days. He was crying so much his shoulders were shuddering.

"O.K., O.K.! Gēge won't kill your classmates. Not a single one. They'll all live well... Even if they're walking on the road, get hit by a car, and are smashed into a pulp, I'll have someone drag them back from hell!"

Ri Xiang Yan vehemently declared. If it meant Ah Ye would no longer be sad, he would drag them back from hell himself!

"R-Really?" Ri Xiang Ye sniffled as he asked Ri Xiang Yan with teary eyes.

Seeing those black eyes full of tears, could Ri Xiang Yan have even said no? He couldn't even argue and just nodded as he promised, "Really."

"Mm. O.K..."

Ri Xiang Ye wiped his tears. At the moment, he felt a little embarrassed. He was already sixteen and he was still crying to his big brother. It wasn't something he should be doing.

"B-But, Ah Ye... You have to at least let me send someone to beat up the people who hurt you, O.K.?"

Ri Xiang Yan asked with extreme eagerness. As soon as the thought that the people who had beaten Ah Ye were still going unpunished came to mind, his heart was consumed with flames of fury!

But Ri Xiang Ye shook his head and said, "You don't have to, Gēge. El-gē already beat them up for me."

El-gē... Who? Who dares compete with me for the title of Gēge?! Ri Xiang Yan's face distorted.

No! I can't be so petty... He faintly smiled and said, "El-gē. This person named El," (He said while gnashing his teeth.) "Must treat you very well for you to call him that."

Pfft! What a strong jealousy I sense. Hehehahaha...

Off to the side with his back facing Ri Xiang Yan, An Te Qi couldn't hold back his shaking shoulders, and his facial features twisted under the effort of restraining his laughter. His abdominal muscles even began faintly throbbing with pain.

"Yeah. El-gē is a good person. He saved me today!"

After Ri Xiang Ye happily said this, he suddenly became gloomy. Upset, he said, "I shouldn't have ignored him. El-gē was so worried about me and said he wanted to take me to the nurse's office. He even followed me back to class. But I didn't feel like talking at the time because I was sad that Ezart was ignoring me."

"What?" Ri Xiang Yan roared, "What did that hedgehog head Ezart do? He actually made you sad?"

Ri Xiang Ye blinked in confusion. Then he realized that he had once again said something he shouldn't have and blurted, "Ah!"

Oh, Ah Ye! I'm never going to tell you any more of my secrets. You always let slip a pile of information without knowing. An Te Qi inwardly shook his head and sighed.

"He was the one that hit you, wasn't he? I knew it was him! I knew it!"

Ri Xiang Yan angrily paced back and forth around the laboratory. His mind was filled with eighty-eight unspeakable, R18, absolutely forbidden, excessively gory plots for revenge.

"Huh?" Ri Xiang Ye hastily clarified, "No! Gēge, Ezart didn't hit me. The ones who hit me were some other classmates who don't like me."

Oh, so it's like this. There are other students who don't like Ah Ye? Ri Xiang Yan's eyes narrowed dangerously.

Ah Ye, you just let slip even more information for your brother to use in his revenge plot. An Te Qi helplessly pushed his small spectacles up his nose.

"Really. But Ezart, h-he said that we weren't friends. That's all..." Ri Xiang Ye lowered his head, hurt showing in his eyes.

What?! You had the honor to be friends with Ah Ye, and you dared to say you and Ah Ye aren't friends?! You even made Ah Ye sad! Ri Xiang Yan was about to blow his top. He wanted so badly to order someone at this moment to grab the hedgehog head to use every one of the tortures in his mind on him.

"Gēge! You're absolutely not allowed to bully Ezart!" Ri Xiang Ye glared at his brother. His eyes were full of the resolution "You're absolutely not allowed to touch Ezart, or I'll cry for you to see."

Damn! Ri Xiang Yan silently cursed. But on the outside, he still fawningly smiled and said, "O.K., O.K.! Gēge won't touch him. There's no need for you to cry."

Is this what's known as an Achilles's heel?

The king at the top of the world is no match for a few tears. He's even smiling like the madam of a brothel as he placates his little brother...

An Te Qi once again was off to the side, trying to hold back his laughter and keep his body from shaking.

As soon as Ri Xiang Ye heard this, he relaxed. After some thought, he asked, "Gēge, can I ask you a question?"

"Of course you can." Ri Xiang Yan tenderly replied, "No matter what the question is, Gēge will give you an answer."

"What do people have to do to become friends?" Ri Xiang Ye looked at his brother, full of hope.

Ri Xiang Yan was a commerce fiend who only had beneficial connections and no friends for ten years. His current expression was that of someone stuck in a difficult place because his little brother had asked him how to be good friends with people.

Hahaha... Off to the side, An Te Qi had been silently laughing so much he had stomach cramps.

Ri Xiang Yan vehemently glared at An Te Qi, off to the side with cramps. A plan came to mind, and he turned to his brother with a smile to say, "Oh, this is the kind of thing you should ask An Te Qi-*bàba!*"

An Te Qi's silent laughter was immediately cut short.

An Te Qi was a mad scientist who had only come into intimate contact with another person usually in a postmortem state (with the exception of a few in vivo experiments) during his experiments for fifteen years. At this moment, his face was frozen because his son, who he had unexpectedly gained despite being unmarried, had asked him how to

make friends. And his son's older brother was off to the side polishing his already shiny enough derringer.

"Making friends is... Doing stuff like eating and shopping together," An Te Qi replied with difficulty.

"I've eaten with Ezart before, and we even ate midnight snacks together. We also went to the toy store to buy Xiao Ai and played games together! Xiao Ai's name and appearance were both chosen by Ezart for me. But he still said we aren't friends..."

Ri Xiang Ye had on an expression of hurt and confusion. He hopefully looked at his older brother and papa, wishing for them to provide him an answer.

Wait a moment! Ate midnight snacks together? Ri Xiang Yan's face twisted. Aren't midnight snacks normally eaten in the middle of the night?

"Is that so? Hahaha... Then I'll help look up the definition of 'friends' in the encyclopedia for you." Once An Te Qi finished speaking, he fled upstairs with his tail between his legs to look it up in the encyclopedia.

As a result, Ri Xiang Ye's gaze shifted onto his older brother. Ri Xiang Yan silently cursed An Te Qi while he suggested another way to solve the problem. "T-Then I'll have my subordinates investigate how to make friends."

After he finished speaking, the Sun Emperor, a majestic and powerful, important figure, also followed An Te Qi and fled with his tail between

his legs. He went upstairs in a hurry to make a phone call and throw this conundrum that had baffled the leaders of two different fields to his subordinates to worry over...



Friends are people whose interpersonal relationship has already reached a certain level. Often they are not blood related but have an extremely close relationship. Friends are typically honest and loyal to each other, as well as placing each other's considerations first.

Their personalities, tastes, interests, et cetera may be very similar. Moreover, they may frequently participate in activities together. They may also provide mutual assistance, for example, listening to each other's worries and providing advice. With regards to most people, friends are trusted companions.

An Te Qi looked it up on Wikipedia. As soon as he finished speaking, he was reminded by Ri Xiang Ye that the microchip in his brain already had this explanation. After the explanation, Ri Xiang Ye had to stop another patricide attempt from unfolding.

Friends are for playing drinking games with and for picking up and checking out hot babes.

Soon after, Ri Xiang Yan fired a nameless, innocent subordinate.

What... exactly is a friend?

Ri Xiang Ye still didn't understand. He had only wanted to go to school together, eat lunch together, eat midnight snacks together, and well do a bunch of things together with Ezart. Although Ezart hadn't smiled at him at first and was always even telling him to leave, later on they had gotten along well. Hadn't they?

As Ri Xiang Ye walked on the path to school, he thought of how the classmates who had beaten him had said he had violated Ezart's taboo. What was that taboo?

"Ah Ye!"

Ri Xiang Ye suddenly stopped. He turned his head to look at the person calling him and blurted out, "El-gē?"

As soon as the words were out, the girl next to Elia immediately looked wronged. Ri Xiang Ye hastily added, "Hello, Eloise."

Eloise broke out in a big smile. She leapt in front of Ri Xiang Ye and, like a man flirting, used both hands to cup and even rub back and forth across Ri Xiang Ye's cheeks. She emotionally said, "Ah Ye, you're so cute today too!"

Ri Xiang Ye helplessly smiled. *The reason I look cute is because you completely destroyed my glasses!*

"You're smiling, Ah Ye." Elia felt like letting out a sigh of relief.

"That's great. I was really worried you'd had such a shock you wouldn't recover."

Not expecting El-gē to still be worrying about him, Ri Xiang Ye apologized, “El-gē, I’m really sorry. I was ignoring you all of yesterday.”

Elian smiled, waving it off. “Don’t worry. I knew you weren’t feeling well.”

“Ah Ye, don’t be sad! Eloise-jiějiě will definitely help you take your anger out on that Ezart and give him a pounding!” Eloise guaranteed as she smacked her chest.

Ri Xiang Ye suddenly lifted his head. He remembered the challenge Eloise had given Ezart the previous day. He immediately became anxious. “Eloise, Ezart didn’t bully me. Only, only he doesn’t want to be friends with me. That’s all...” The more he talked, the more brokenhearted his voice became.

Elian and Eloise looked at each other and saw in each other’s eyes that they were both at a loss for ideas. If Ah Ye had been bullied by someone, that was easy to solve. Just pay them a visit and beat them up in return.

But there wasn’t a way they could force someone to be friends with Ah Ye, right?

As Ri Xiang Ye looked at the worried duo, a thought came to him. *Right! El-gē, Eloise, and Eli look like they’re good friends. So I can ask El-gē what friends are and how to make friends!* Ri Xiang Ye lifted his head and to look at them. He asked extremely hopefully, “El-gē, when are you considered friends with someone?”

Elian frowned. This question didn't have a universally recognized answer he could respond with.

But Eloise actually replied straightforwardly, "Does it have to be said? It's when you tell them everything, drag them along to do everything, find them to go drinking when you're unhappy..." At this, Elian glared at her, warning her not to lead the kid astray. "... Find them to go eat together! Of course, if you're unhappy you can also find me."

"Do you have to tell them everything?" Ri Xiang Ye was hesitant. *But I can't tell Ezart anything about Dark Sun.*

"Yup! You're friends. What's there to hide?" concluded Eloise based on her own personality of saying whatever was on her mind.

Elian frowned. Generally speaking, what Eloise had said wasn't wrong. But he felt it wasn't quite right?

Ri Xiang Ye distractedly thought of Eloise's "definition of a friend." Telling them everything, doing everything together, being able to drag them off to eat midnight snacks when he was unhappy, and if they were unhappy, they could also drag Ah Ye off to eat midnight snacks with them. This kind of "friend" seemed like... Something to hope for!

"Ah Ye? Ah Ye? Lian, is Ah Ye off in his own world?" After Eloise blinked, she exclaimed, "But his dazed look is even cuter!"

At this moment, Ri Xiang Ye lifted his head. His black eyes shone with determination!

Seeing this, Elia started to say some prayers. He hoped Eloise's words hadn't started something serious...

Chapter 6: Friends, All Together Now

As usual, Ezart lazily sauntered into the classroom shortly after the bell had rung. Everyone, loud enough to raise hell, immediately fell quiet for a few seconds as they saw him come in. After concluding that the god of destruction's expression was no different from usual, they continued raising hell.

He slowly walked over to his seat, offhandedly tossed aside his backpack, and prepared to do what he was compelled to do in class every day: sleep.

But today, Ri Xiang Ye had already been sitting in his own seat for a long time, waiting. He suddenly stood up and forcefully slammed his hands down on Ezart's desk, keeping Ezart from sleeping.

Seeing this, Ezart coldly raised his head and glared at him.

The class fell silent once again. It was as though they had seen a ghost in broad daylight. Every student had their mouth wide open and stopped whatever they were doing.

"If you don't get your hands off my desk, you'd better be ready to head to the hospital," Ezart said with a frosty tone.

But the ice in his voice didn't scare off Ri Xiang Ye. Rather, he said with absolute determination, "Ezart, come with me for a moment. I have something to ask you and something to tell you!"

What the hell is this idiot doing? Ezart doubtfully looked Ri Xiang Ye up and down. *Does he really think I won't clobber him?*

And yet, Ri Xiang Ye seemed to know what Ezart was thinking. He even proposed on his own, "Let's go to the roof. After you've heard what I have to say, if you still want to beat me up, you can beat me up all you want over there!"

Oh, he's already prepared himself for a beating? That kind of bravery was worth wasting his time listening to a pile of bullsh*t. Ezart stood up and frankly said, "All right. To the roof."

Once Ri Xiang Ye heard him say this, he inwardly let out a huge sigh of relief. He had been really worried Ezart would be unwilling to come with him at all! Afraid that Ezart would go back on his word, Ri Xiang Ye quickly picked up his backpack and hurriedly led the way.

Ezart followed him with the same lax, gangster-like walk. Just as he stepped out of the classroom, though, he turned back to glance at the class and lazily threw out a warning. "If anyone dares to eavesdrop, they'd better have steeled themselves to head to the hospital like him!"

And so, the two of them left the classroom. One led, the other followed. One was hurrying and the other was laidback.

It took a long time for the people in the classroom to recover from their shock. A person blankly said, "I didn't think that nerd had those guts..."

There wasn't a single soul on the roof. Then again, class was going on at the moment, and moreover, students weren't even allowed up here in the first place.

Ezart had followed Ri Xiang Ye the whole way there, but once they arrived, all Ri Xiang Ye did was set down his backpack. He didn't even turn around to face Ezart. He just stood there without moving.

Just as Ezart was about to lose patience, Ri Xiang Ye finally spoke up. "Ezart, I don't know what taboo of yours I've violated.

I also don't know why you're angry, why you don't want to go to school together with me anymore, or why you won't let me talk to you."

Ri Xiang Ye suddenly turned around. With determination in his eyes, he shouted, "But I don't want things to be this way! I don't want to part ways with you like this. I want to be friends with you — best friends, who go to school together, eat together, talk together, and have midnight snacks together!"

Hearing these words, Ezart was speechless. After a moment, he cursed, "Are you an idiot? You sound like a little kid. How old do you think you are..."

That moment, Ri Xiang Ye's expression began gradually changing. The determined look in his eyes, along with his childlike expression, faded away completely, leaving behind a face without a trace of humanity in it. With just a change in expression, Ri Xiang Ye's baby-faced innocence suddenly morphed into Dark Sun's cold indifference with a

face that caused people's hearts to tremble in fear. Though his appearance was still delicate and cute, it was thoroughly overtaken by an inhuman coldness.

"Hey! Ah Ye, what's going on?" Ezart asked, somewhat shocked.

With a single motion, Dark Sun tore off the school uniform he was wearing, exposing the red shirt and tight-fitting jeans underneath. Next, he bent down to pick up his backpack, pulling out rubbery boots and that silver visor...

After he donned the boots and the visor, he said to Ezart with a monotonous voice, "Haven't you always wanted to fight me? Then, we can fight now."

Dark Sun!

That nerd Ah Ye... was really Dark Sun?!

*F***! What kind of situation is this?* Ezart was left completely unable to react. He simply stared blankly at Ah Ye. He had been so childlike a moment ago and now transformed into the mysterious savant, Dark Sun!

But at that moment, Dark Sun took initiative and opened with a punch. It wasn't very fast, meant only to remind Ezart that the fight had started.

Because he was stunned, Ezart barely managed to dodge sideways, only snapping out of it once Dark Sun's fist was right in front of his eyes.

"My name is Dark Sun. Current age: nine years."

What? Ezart dodged again, avoiding a kick from Dark Sun.

"When Ri Xiang Ye was seven years old, he was shut away in a laboratory by his father and reborn as a modified human."

Ri Xiang Ye...? Shouldn't it be An Xiang Ye? As Dark Sun spoke, Ezart dodged several more punches and lateral kicks. He was already getting more and more confused. *Are Ah Ye and Dark Sun the same person or not? Why does it sound like they're two different people?*

"Specializing in combat, Dark Sun is the ultimate bodyguard. He only obeys orders from his master, who is, in fact, Ri Xiang Ye's older brother." Dark Sun's tone was utterly toneless, as though he were simply making a report, rather than retelling his own life.

Finally, Ezart couldn't hold back anymore. He counterattacked with a strong punch, while shouting, "Then what about Ah Ye? What is Ah Ye?"

"Ri Xiang Ye is... An ordinary boy. After he was locked away by his father at age seven, he was finally rescued by his brother. He doesn't understand anything. He only wants to do as his brother said: be an ordinary boy, properly attend school, make good friends, live happily..."

Just then, Dark Sun's fist hit the ground hard, creating a huge crater ...

"But he doesn't enjoy going to school at all."

"The only enjoyable part of attending school was walking to and from school with Ezart, eating lunch and talking together, and also eating midnight snacks together! ."

What...

Ezart hadn't even finished processing those words when he was hit with the full brunt of one of Dark Sun's heavy punches. Ezart's body was rather sturdy, but surprisingly, even he couldn't just shrug off the punch. He doubled over in pain, simply unable to dodge Dark Sun's next action.

"What exactly is your taboo? Tell me, or I'll kill you."

His metal fingernails suddenly extended. Dark Sun's eyes, black as night, held no emotion. Ezart only had to refuse, and Dark Sun really would kill the person before him, since he had made Ri Xiang Ye suffer and made him violate his master's order to "be happy"...

What the hell is up with those nails? Ezart clutched his stomach, one knee on the ground, his mind full of doubt. *Where does the strength in Ah Ye's twiggy arms come from?*

But those questions could be discussed later. Right now, the most pressing issue was that Dark Sun was walking over, and it was clear that he really would kill Ezart!

Ah Ye really wasn't trying to bribe me into protecting him. By now, this point was very clear to Ezart. With that kind of strength, who'd have the capability to protect him?!

"You won't say?" Dark Sun lowered his head to look at Ezart and lifted his right hand. The metal fingernails flashed with a cold light. Dispassionately, he said, "Then I'll kill you."

"Ah Ye, you're such an idiot!" Ezart growled.

Dark Sun paused.

Ezart unhurriedly stood up as though he couldn't see those deadly fingernails. He only spat a mouthful of bloody phlegm to the side and shouted at Dark Sun, "Who gives their friends money?! Friends don't talk about money. Get it yet?!"

"I don't..." Dark Sun's icy expression crumbled in an instant. Ri Xiang Ye took off the visor, revealing his foolish expression, as though he were completely lost.

"Ah Ye? It's you, right?" Ezart asked a little uncertainly. Going by his expression, it looked like Ah Ye the idiot was back?

What a relief! He would much rather see Ah Ye's foolish expression than ever see Dark Sun's lifeless look again.

Ri Xiang Ye nodded. Aggrieved, he explained, "Ezart, were you mad because I wanted to give you money for your tuition? B-But I only wanted to help you. If you had money, you wouldn't need to fight in that arena you don't like, right? Why'd you get mad instead?"

Ezart helplessly buried his face in his hands. *This guy really crawled out from a cave... Wait, didn't Dark Sun just say that Ah Ye was locked up by his father since he was seven or eight?*

"When did your brother rescue you?" Ezart couldn't help but ask.

Ri Xiang Ye tilted his head to count and replied, "One month, eighteen days ago."

Locked up since he was seven or eight, and not let out until a month ago? Ezart finally realized why this guy had no common sense and seemed so childlike... No! Not childlike, this guy really was a little kid!

*Well, sh*t! I've been arguing with someone who might not even be mentally ten years old?*

With that thought, Ezart had the urge to slam his head against a wall.

"Why'd your dad want to shut you away? And, what's with your nails? What the hell is Dark Sun? Are you two the same person?"

He sat on the ground, somewhat exhausted. He might as well hurl out all his questions at once and get them cleared up to avoid making another mess out of a misunderstanding later.

Ri Xiang Ye cautiously examined Ezart's expression. *Could he be...
Forgiving me?*

But Ezart's expression was merely laidback, and he couldn't read Ezart's face at all. He could only ask directly, "Ezart, you aren't mad anymore?"

Be mad at a ten year old kid? A slightly bizarre expression appeared on Ezart's face. Then he embarrassedly replied, "I wasn't angry! In the future, don't talk about giving me money. I hate when people pay me off the most."

"Oh! Then I won't ever give you money."

Ri Xiang Ye cheered up, but he was still a bit worried. Even if Ezart wasn't angry, he still hadn't said he wanted to be friends...

"Ezart, then, in the future, can we walk to and from school together?"

"Sure."

"And I can talk to you?"

"Yes!"

"And, and we can eat midnight snacks together?"

"It's fine!"

"Then are we best friends?"

Ezart suddenly sat up. He wanted to teach this chatterbox a lesson, but as soon as he got up, he was faced with Ri Xiang Ye's terribly hopeful eyes...

This brat really is a child... Ezart could only helplessly reply, "Yes, yes, yes! Are we good now? You're really a pain! Answer my questions already, will you?"

Ri Xiang Ye was so happy he wanted to leap up and cheer. *This is the best! Eloise was right. As long as you tell your friend everything, you'll be best friends! Ezart's my best friend now!*

He was thinking about where he wanted to go eat midnight snacks that night with Ezart when he was suddenly smacked on the head. It was followed by Ezart grinding his teeth and saying, "Are you going to tell me or not?"

Ah! Ah! Oh no! Ezart's about to get angry! Ri Xiang Ye hastily began to explain his past, "B-Bàba hated me because Māmā died giving birth to me..."

Ezart used his hands to prop up his head and lay down as he listened to Ri Xiang Ye describe a past that sounded like it had come from a storybook...

"... Finally, Gēge saved me. Now, I live with Gēge and An Te Qi-bàba, at home."

It feels like this is actually a huge secret... Whatever, it doesn't matter! Ezart was quiet for a while before asking, "Your brother really loves you? Has he not treated you like a robot bodyguard?"

Ri Xiang Ye replied as though it were a matter of course. "Gēge loves me the most, and he hates me being Dark Sun most of all. Last time, when I went to save him, he even got angry!"

"Oh," Ezart said. "That's good, then..."

"Ah Ye! Where are you? That bastard Ezart isn't bullying you, is he, my Ah Ye?!~~"

Strange expressions simultaneously crossed the faces of the two on the roof. Only Eloise had a voice that could reach their ears while she was still several hundred meters away.

Ezart glanced at Ri Xiang Ye before warning, "Your clothes!"

Ri Xiang Ye lowered his head to look. He was wearing a red, tight-fitting shirt... *Oh no!*

At that moment, the sound of Eloise's forceful and rapid footsteps already seemed to be drawing close to the rooftop. Ri Xiang Ye hurriedly grabbed the clothes from the ground, but he didn't have enough time to put them on. He could only grab his backpack too and hide behind the water tank.

Ri Xiang Ye had only just ducked behind the water tank when he remembered Eli's ability to read minds, so he hastily switched to Dark Sun's emotionless way of thinking.

With a bang, Eloise slammed open the rooftop's steel door and rushed in with the ferocity of a demon. Then she roared in fury, "Ezart! I won't let you bully Ah Ye!~~"

Ezart lazily sat up. "Why the hell would I be bullying him?"

"You!"

Only then did Eloise really take a good look at her surroundings. She was baffled. *Strange! Why is Ezart the only one here?* She had clearly heard the people in Class D say that Ezart and Ri Xiang Ye were having a talk on the roof! She thought of how cute, how delicate, and how naïve and guileless Ah Ye was. *How could he win in an argument with that violent bastard Ezart? Wahhh! What if Ah Ye's adorable face has been pummeled into a lump of meat...*

"Where's Ah Ye?" Eloise pointedly asked.

At that moment, two other people entered the rooftop. Elian and Eli went to stand next to Eloise, to show their support as well as their opposition towards Ezart.

"Eloise, I don't think Ezart would hurt Ah Ye. Don't be so aggressive," Elian advised, smiling.

But on the inside, you're even more furious than Eloise... Eli silently thought, off to the side.

"He went home," Ezart offhandedly said.

"You liar!" Eloise reflexively shot back and forcefully interrogated, "Your classmates clearly said you and he were having a talk. How could he have gone home... No way! You threw him off the roof already?! Oh heavens, my sweet Ah Ye!"

After she finished speaking, she immediately rushed to the side, climbing up onto the chain link fence. She looked down, searching for the smashed and broken Ah Ye she imagined.

"Then, if you would, please tell us where Ah Ye is. Is that alright?"

The smile on Elian's face grew wider, and his question to Ezart was exceedingly gentle and polite. But at the same time, Eli, who was next to him, backed up several steps, as though he couldn't bear standing too close to Elian.

Ezart waved his hand and replied impatiently, "I said he went home. Didn't you hear?!"

Elian's hands slowly clenched. He asked slowly, one word at a time, "Where. Is. Ah Ye?!"

It was a pity that Ezart wasn't someone who could be intimidated. He sneered and repeated what he said before, "He went home."

"He went home?" Elian asked with a slight smile. "Are you sure?"

"Lian, he..." Eloise was a little scared. Apparently, she had never seen Elian in such a state before. *Isn't he supposed to be the coolly rational and level-headed one?*

Eli once again put several paces between him and Elian. Then he explained to Eloise, "Earlier, he was very worried about Ah Ye. Now, he's extremely angry, no, outraged!"

Outraged?! Eloise turned her head to look at Elian. The smile on his face was so wide it was terrifying... Unconsciously, she took several steps back. She continued until she was next to Eli, just shy of actually hiding behind his back.

"Elian looks so scary. I'll leave Ezart to him. It's better if I go look for Ah Ye."

After Eloise reached her decision, she immediately turned to leave... *Ah!*

"What are you doing, Eli? Let go of my collar. I have to go find Ah Ye..."

"You aren't trying to run away, are you?"

After using both hands to grab Eloise's collar, Eli slowly turned his head. Half his face was in shadow as he coldly asked, "You want to leave me alone to deal with a rampaging Elian?"

“...” Eloise actually really wanted to say “Yes.”

“Don’t forget, we’re combat partners. Would you want me to give you false information during a fight in the future?”

Eloise’s expression crumbled. She wailed wretchedly, as though the world was about to end. “Wahhh! Eli, let go of me! A rampaging Lian is so horrifyingly strong, I don’t want to stay! Spare me!”

A rampaging Lian is horrifyingly strong?

Dark Sun was hiding behind the water tank. He had originally planned on jumping straight down from the building and leaving. After all, Ezart had even lied to cover for him, stubbornly saying he had gone home. So, he had intended to act accordingly with what Ezart had said and actually go home, but Eloise’s words made him stop.

So strong, is he...?

The instinct to seek out and duel strong opponents awakened in Dark Sun’s mind... Or rather, in the microchip. Unconsciously, he took a step out from behind the water tank. *No! Ezart lied for me. I can’t let him down!* Ri Xiang Ye shouted in his heart.

Dark Sun’s foot slowly drew back...

At that moment, Eli suddenly shouted, “Eloise, the water tank! Someone’s hiding behind it!”

Due to her tacit understanding with Eli, Eloise immediately sent a flying kick at the water tank, almost exactly as Eli finished speaking. She put an extraordinary amount of power behind that kick, even kicking a hole in the water tank. A large amount of water rushed out, and the water tank toppled over, falling to the ground with a loud crash.

Elian shouted in a panic, "Damn, what if it's Ah Ye..."

"It's not!"

Eli cut Elian's words off, eyes looking straight past the water tank. "I can barely hear his thoughts... I've only met one person like this."

The stream of water gradually dwindled, and the dust from the water tank's fall to the ground slowly settled. A slender, fit figure appeared before them. He had silver hair, a matching visor, a red shirt and tight-fitting pants and boots...

Dark Sun!"

Elian smiled coldly upon seeing this person. He turned to Ezart and said, "Interesting! So you do know Dark Sun, you were just pretending to be stupid."

Ha! I only just found out that I knew Dark Sun too... Ezart scratched his head without saying anything in his defense. But Ah Ye, you brat, why did you stick around instead of leaving? You wasted my hard work to hide your identity.

"Hey! Ah Ye really did go home. You'll see that he's all in one piece tomorrow." Ezart really didn't want to get any more caught up in this mess.

"Why would he go home?" Elian sneered as he said, "Class is still going on. Ah Ye's such a good student, he wouldn't skip class for no reason."

Ezart was at a loss for words. He really couldn't find an excuse for why a model student like Ah Ye would go home early.

"The young master went home at the master's request."

Everyone was stunned and looked at the person who had spoken. It was Dark Sun.

"Who is this young master you mention?" Elian asked hesitantly.

"Young Master An Xiang Ye," Dark Sun coolly replied.

Of course, this wasn't the truth; it was just a lie to get Ezart out of trouble. Although the mind-reading Eli was present, Dark Sun had discovered that, based on his previous few encounters with Eli, mind reading abilities could not be used on Dark Sun, perhaps since there was only a microchip analyzing the optimal way to proceed instead of thoughts.

"Ah Ye is your young master?" Eloise cried, "In that case, you're not a student but coming to Yelan Academy to protect Ah Ye? You're Ah Ye's bodyguard?"

Dark Sun ruthlessly replied, "I have no obligation to explain the details of my work to you."

With a bodyguard as strong as Dark Sun, even Ezart wouldn't be able to touch Ri Xiang Ye? Elian was only then able to relax. With the matter of Ah Ye resolved, he could now face Dark Sun head on!

We've been searching for him for so long—Dark Sun has finally shown up!

"Eloise, Eli, surround him!" Elian recovered his wits and ordered his teammates to flank Dark Sun.

The two of them responded immediately after receiving the command. Each stood at the corner of a triangle centered on Dark Sun.

Dark Sun didn't move at all, allowing them to encircle him. He had planned on fighting Elian, in any case.

The circumstances were just right. There were no other people around, which lowered the chances of blowing his cover.

Ezart scratched his head on the sidelines. He hadn't thought it would come to this. Was he supposed to help Ah Ye or not? Elian, who he had personally fought before, was really strong. But compared to Ah Ye... Ezart didn't know, since he had never fought Ah Ye before.

I've definitely got to fight Ah Ye more in the future... Ha! Ah Ye being Dark Sun really isn't too bad!

Besides, seeing that Ah Ye is standing there without moving, it must mean he actually wants to battle Elian! Realizing this, Ezart simply stopped worrying. This is such a rare chance, I may as well just stay on the sidelines and be a spectator!

Having reached a decision, Ezart walked to the side of the roof and leaned against the chain link fence, watching calmly as it all unfolded.

By then, Elian had taken out his energy swords. Once he assumed a stance that could adapt to any combat situation that might arise, he passed on the principal's message, "Dark Sun, the principal of Yelan Academy would very much like to meet you. If you agree to accompany us and go meet him, this battle can be avoided. If you are unwilling... We can only resort to force!"

After his speech, Elian sincerely hoped that Dark Sun would peacefully come with them to see the Principal. Now that he knew Dark Sun was Ah Ye's bodyguard, he didn't really want to fight him. After all, it would be like hurting someone Ah Ye knew, and he felt that really wouldn't be right.

Dark Sun fell silent for a while, then asked, "Why is he looking for me?"

Elian honestly replied, "The Principal didn't give a reason... But by the look of it, he probably wants to ask you to join the Elite Combat Class to do some work for him."

"Tell him I only follow my master's orders."

Hearing this, Elian sighed and confirmed one last time, "In that case, you're unwilling to come with us to see the Principal?"

"I won't," Dark Sun bluntly answered.

"Then, it looks like our fight today was inevitable." Elian also didn't plan on wasting any more words. Even though Dark Sun was Ah Ye's acquaintance, Elian had already warned that if they truly couldn't reach an agreement, they'd have to settle things through combat.

"Indeed," Dark Sun replied honestly and bluntly.

Even if he were willing to see the Principal, this battle between him and Elian was unavoidable. His instincts were urging him to battle strong opponents and even surpass their strength, in order to remain the strongest of all. Then he could complete any order issued by the master... Although Ri Xiang Yan's orders up until now had nothing to do with combat.

"In that case, let's make a deal." Elian put on his usual warm and handsome smile. "If I win, you'll come with me to see the Principal. If I lose, I'll give up on the mission. If you agree to these terms, I'll tell Eloise and Eli not to interfere in our battle, and we'll fight one on one. But in return, you have to promise that you won't run halfway through."

"I won't run. One on one or three on one is fine." Dark Sun truly didn't care. Either way, his goal was to fight and grow stronger. Being surrounded might even be better for him.

And losing... He never considered that he might lose.

Elian might be extremely strong, but he could only be strong by human standards!

As for Dark Sun... Half his body had already surpassed human limitations.

But Dark Sun didn't take Elian lightly. He could see how graceful and natural Elian's posture was when holding his energy swords, as though they were extensions of his arms.

He was definitely an expert with those weapons.

Although Dark Sun had his own weapon of expertise, the Death Scythe, he wasn't planning to kill Elian, so he didn't need to use it as long as he had...

His fingernails extended, gleaming with a cold metallic light.

... These!

Everyone was stunned upon seeing the fingernails, approximately ten centimeters long, especially since they had realized the nails shone like knife blades. They couldn't help but gulp.

"A very unique weapon." Elian was the most cool-headed person there, merely taking a moment to praise them.

Dark Sun didn't say anything unnecessary and simply raised a hand to his chest. The other was left hanging downward. This simple hand positioning allowed him to quickly adapt, whether it was to initiate an attack or passively block a blow.

Elian obviously had his own preferred hand positioning. His right wrist was held in front of his waist and his left above his head. The two blades were positioned so one pointed straight up in front of his chest, while the other was ready to slash down from overhead.

"Left-handed?" Dark Sun lightly said.

Noticed it that fast? Elian used a faint, handsome smile to reply, "Yes."

Dark Sun easily understood that Elian's right hand, in front of his chest, was better for defending than attacking. The left hand, raised above his head and looking like it would chop down at any moment, was naturally for attacking. The strength of a person's dominant hand was greater than the other, so the hand with the greater strength was bound to be used for attacking.

It was different for Dark Sun. His left and right hands were equal in strength, since his arms had been modified until there was no difference in power.

The two people faced off. They were equally calm, so much so that they seemed a little relaxed. Obviously, both knew that allowing their muscles to stay tense had no benefit.

In an instant, it was silent on the roof, aside from the sound of the wind.

“Are they going to fight or not?” Eloise quietly asked Eli next to her. She really didn’t have the patience to wait.

Eli also replied quietly, “They’re looking for the moment the other shows a weak point... At least, Elian is.”

Ezart scornfully said, “Looking for what weakness? The two of them are so strong, how could their battle stances have weak point?”

These words seemed to affect the people facing off. But Elian still didn’t move. His fighting style was more suited to counterattacks, rather than preemptive strikes.

“I’ll go first.”

Dark Sun lightly said. As he finished saying the final syllable, the red figure shot forward like lightning. Elian concentrated on Dark Sun. The silver lights from the fingernails kept flashing in his eyes. A meter before the two of them would meet, Elian moved.

He used the energy sword in front of his chest to block Dark Sun’s sharp claws. Since it was crucial to avoid touching the energy blades, Dark Sun was forced to break off his attack halfway through and dodge, to prevent the blade from hitting him. But Elian’s other sword was lying in wait, like a tiger ready to strike. As Dark Sun swept to the left, planning to attack from that direction, Elian took the opportunity to hack down viciously.

With Dark Sun's physical strength, and the strength of his fingernails, his original technique of grabbing a blade from above would have been easy. But Elian used energy swords. The entire blade was made of searing energy, so it couldn't be touched at all.

Dark Sun could only dodge, using his speed and skill to change his posture in midair, twisting his body to evade the energy swords' pincer attack.

Elian was clearly a student of the Elite Combat Class. Even faced with Dark Sun's impossible dodge away from his attacks, he didn't pause at all, simply using the energy blades in his hands to continue his pursuit.

Suddenly, the bystanders could only see cold, blue light being brandished at high speed, as though Elian were holding two blue circles instead of faintly curved energy swords.

But Dark Sun's movements were even more extraordinary and harder to predict. Not only could he avoid contact with all parts of the energy blades while being attacked from both sides, he also didn't have a long weapon to put distance between them. Dark Sun was at a complete disadvantage in this situation, but he still remained uninjured.

Although there was a stretch of time when he couldn't find a chance to counterattack, Dark Sun wasn't worried. He knew that if they continued their stalemate, Elian would exhaust himself completely, while Dark Sun would only have used twenty percent of his stamina. Furthermore, exhaustion would affect Elian's movements. Dark Sun's movements could only be affected by injury, so as long as he was

uninjured, he could ignore any fatigue or hunger to continue fighting until death.

Humans and cyborgs couldn't be compared at all, but if given the choice, most humans wouldn't be willing to fight to the death, right?

"Dark Sun's movements seem kind of like the way that brat, Bai Lian Xing, moves," Ezart muttered to himself, off to the side, wondering if he was imagining things. This was in fact the case. After Dark Sun fought faced off against Bai Lian Xing, he had completely recorded Bai Lian Xing's skills into his microchip and trained himself to integrate them into his own movements. It made his skills even more perfect than they had been a month earlier. Dark Sun's strength wasn't the fact he was "currently" very powerful, it lay in the fact that he was an excellent study. The more he fought, the stronger he became; the more he fought, the more perfect he became.

"I feel like my eyes are blurring. Everything's in circles." Eloise could only see those two circles spinning intensely, making her dizzy. Even when she closed her eyes to rest them, there were two blue spirals spinning erratically in her head.

Eli sighed in admiration. "It's so fast. Now this is a true expert. Even if I can read Elian's mind, I still can't read his mind quickly enough. He'd already have defeated me. When experts fight, it's really almost reflexive."

Although Elian's hands were moving at high speeds, his thoughts weren't any slower. It wasn't long before he realized that if this continued, he would definitely collapse before Dark Sun would.

Admitting defeat because he ran out of stamina wasn't the way he wanted to lose.

So he immediately changed tactics. He couldn't keep defending himself—He had to go on the offensive!

On the other hand, Dark Sun didn't care about how he won, so he was neither in a hurry, nor did he try to prolong the fight. He just wanted to fight with a strong opponent and take their best traits to achieve his own goal of fighting to become stronger. If the fight dragged on, that wouldn't be such a bad thing.

But just then, the tempo of Elian's fighting suddenly quickened. Dark Sun immediately analyzed that Elian intended to change tactics, and it seemed he wanted to assume a proactive stance.

Then how should he respond?

The microchip gave him the most optimal tactic: break away from the enemy and attack by throwing objects from a distance. Since he lacked the Death Scythe, this was the simplest way to win.

If Dark Sun hadn't switched on his emotion switch, perhaps he really would have done this.

However, the current Dark Sun knew this wasn't a method he should use. He shouldn't deal with Elian this way, since was both a friend and an enemy.

What should he do?

While he thought, Elian's energy swords formed a cross and attacked. Dark Sun couldn't escape. He could only sacrifice an arm to block the attack, while jumping back at the same time, so the injury would be as light as possible. The attack was impossible to avoid, and two burn marks immediately appeared on his arm. Elian didn't congratulate himself yet. He simply pressed his advantage further. Pushing off the ground, he flipped in front of Dark Sun. The two energy blades directly thrust toward Dark Sun's face...

If this attack hit home, it would be fatal!

Elian's eyes were trained on Dark Sun, a thousand words flashing through them as though he were asking, *Dark Sun, will you die like this? You won't, right? But if you die just like this, you weren't worth having me specially bring you in to see the Principal anyway.*

Since there's no way to dodge, then...

Plasma hair strands, activate!

Because of the visor in the way, Elian didn't notice the numbers scrolling across Dark Sun's black eyes.

"Energy weapons" were the latest in weapons technology and were said to be the future of weaponry. Compared to traditional guns and blades, energy guns didn't need bullets, just recharging. Firepower could also be adjusted. As for metal obstacles like steel doors, energy blades could melt right through or even burst them.

There was one flaw that was yet to be resolved: the energy consumption of energy guns was too high. One energy cartridge was only enough to shoot six bullets. Compared to the current bullet-type guns which easily had a capacity of fifty to a hundred bullets, it was really too few.

However, blade-type weapons didn't have that kind of problem. An energy blade was simply used for battling and cutting and could last three to six hours without issue.

The two light swords in Elian's hands were high quality equipment. Under normal conditions, they could last for ten hours straight.

Among regular humans, few could fight for over ten hours straight. Therefore blade-type energy weapons had actually developed much further than gun-type weapons, but they had one minor flaw. They were currently too expensive for the average person to afford, so they were rarely encountered.

Half of Dark Sun's body was constructed by the world's best scientists, how would they forget to equip him with this weapon of the future?

Obviously, it had been impossible for the scientists who had originally designed Dark Sun to overlook this trend regarding weaponry of the future. They had hidden the energy weapon... In Dark Sun's hair! Dark Sun's short, silver hair suddenly grew, the silver strands fluttering like snakes. Then, in an instant, they aggregated in front of him, winding tightly around the energy swords that were about to strike his face, and entangled them so they couldn't move.

Elia's blades had been grabbed by Dark Sun's hair. Suddenly, he was incapable of moving, while the silver hair in front of him danced about wildly, like that of a demon! His pupils abruptly shrunk. Regardless of how cool-headed he still was, this instant there wasn't enough time to react.

At that moment, Dark Sun's hands latched onto Elia's shoulders. The approximately five centimeter, metal fingernails were buried entirely in Elia's flesh, causing him to stifle several groans as his face abruptly turned white.

Next, Dark Sun pulled his hands back as he slammed his foot into Elia's stomach and sent him flying several meters away.

Dark Sun had put enough strength into this kick that even Elia would only be able to lie on the ground, unable to crawl up even half a day later.

"Elia!" Eloise and Eli rushed forward to help him sit up. At the same time, they kept their guard up against Dark Sun in case he suddenly attacked.

"You really are too strong." Elia had to recover his breath for a while before he was able to smile bitterly and say, "It looks like I was unable to convince you."

"You're strong too. Tremendously strong."

Dark Sun said with complete sincerity. At the same time, he retracted his strands of plasma hair. The head of long, untamed silver hair returned to a normal person's short hairstyle.

For a human like Elian who had never undergone any modifications, being able to fight against the cyborg Dark Sun in single combat for so long, even forcing him to use his high energy consumption plasma hair, meant no other word besides "strong" could be used to describe him.

When Dark Sun called him strong, Elian smiled. Even without Eli's mind reading ability, he knew that Dark Sun's praise was sincere.

"Are there students stronger than you in the Elite Combat Class?" This was Dark Sun's most pressing question.

"You still want to fight against other people? Just your technique with your hair is scary enough. I really don't know what kind of special ability that is." He smiled even more bitterly but still replied, "It depends on your definition of strong. From one perspective, Eli's ability is in higher demand than my two blades."

"A combat perspective," Dark Sun simply said.

After muttering to himself, Elian said, "There is a person... But if your combat abilities are just your fingernails and speed, you won't be able to beat him."

"Name?"

"Seth. No one knows his name, but the Principal calls him Seth."

At this moment, next to him, Eli interrupted, "You're wrong, Elian. The Principal doesn't call him 'Seth' but 'Death!'"¹

*Elia*n froze. *So it was "Death," huh? Though that's really not suitable to use as a name, it fits the person quite well...*

Dark Sun still wanted to ask where he could find this "Death" person when the sound of a ringtone burst out. He recognized it as his cell phone's ringtone. There were currently only two people in the world who had his number: Ri Xiang Yan and An Te Qi.

Furthermore, these two people were more important than anything else. So, without the slightest hesitation, Dark Sun tossed this "Death" person to the back of his mind and answered the phone...

"Gēge?"

Upon hearing Ri Xiang Yan's voice, Dark Sun almost went back to being Ri Xiang Ye but immediately recalled that the mind-reading Eli was present. So he maintained Dark Sun's lack of emotion and walked over to the side to explain his current situation to Gēge.

Once Elia

n saw his opponent receive a call and leave, he finally slumped onto the ground in exhaustion. He wondered if the Principal would really send "Death" out to capture Dark Sun. *What would happen then? It wouldn't go like this, right? The Principal must know that if he sends "Death," the mission will end with a corpse being dragged back to him.*

In the Elite Combat Class, Death was sent out only for well-known and important missions. Whenever he was dispatched, it was to take a life. Therefore, despite his formidable strength, he still hadn't graduated even after a long time. There weren't enough missions the Principal dared give him, unless it was a commission for an assassination...

"That was a great match! I really want to fight you again!"

At this moment, Ezart came up next to Elian and slapped him on the back. The slap made Elian smile in pain. *That really hurt. I'm actually seriously injured, you know...*

"If you want to fight Elian, you'll have to beat me first!" Eloise couldn't stand this Ezart guy. Not only did he bully Ah Ye, but he also had a fighting style exactly like her own. As always, she couldn't help but wonder who would be stronger.

"Then let's fight a round right now." Ezart was raring to go. After seeing Ah Ye and Elian's fantastic match, his blood was boiling. He wanted nothing more than to have a good fight.

"Alright!" Eloise couldn't resist accepting. Even though she couldn't stand Ezart, in many ways, his blunt way of speaking was really to her liking.

The two of them were just about to start, but even as they spoke, several figures suddenly climbed over the rooftop's chain link fence. Without a word, they promptly launched attacks at Dark Sun. In their hands, they had guns with heavy firepower.

Just like that, the entire rooftop was filled with the unceasing roar of machine guns, interspersed with the occasional explosion.

This ruthless attack caught even Dark Sun off guard. Although he was the first to react and leapt away, he still couldn't avoid sustaining some damage from the guns. Several bullets were lodged in his four limbs. By luck, he had managed to dodge all the explosive rounds, so he hadn't received any heavy injuries, but he was unable to counterattack for a moment. He could only calculate the positions of the enemies' gun barrels and use his incredible speed to dodge the bullets.

"Eli?!"

Elian yelled through the whistling gunshots. So many people had been hiding in the vicinity, but Eli, who was supposed keep watch with his mind reading ability, had issued no warning at all. He was definitely slacking off!

Eli was even more shocked than Elian. He stammered an explanation, "T-They're... Like Dark Sun. I can't read their minds at all!"

Elian immediately stood up. Although his injuries weren't trivial, in the face of real danger, he wasn't about to obediently lie down and die.

That moment, he realized the people were only attacking Dark Sun. *Is Dark Sun their target?*

At that moment, Dark Sun was so besieged he had almost no opportunity to ward off all attacks. The heavy fire from the guns had left him only able to dodge without pause. In addition, the enemies weren't much slower than him. Combined with their superior strength in numbers and excellent teamwork... No! It definitely wasn't teamwork. Their battle formations and movements seemed computer calculated. He feared they didn't just seem computer calculated but actually were.

By now, Dark Sun had noticed that each of these people had over half of their bodies modified, just like him... But they were clearly much more crudely made. Their modified limbs were exposed, hardly covered at all, and the backs of their heads were comprised of just half a metal sphere!

"Are these people... Robots?" Eloise gasped, voicing the shock everyone else was feeling.

At the same time, Ezart suddenly charged, taking down one of the robots. He shouted, "Who cares what they are?! They're Dark Sun's enemies!"

They're Dark Sun's enemies... But bro, we're not even Dark Sun's friends in the first place. Elian smiled bitterly.

"What's with that face? Dark Sun's enemies are Ah Ye's enemies, right?"

Ezart yelled at Elian and the others. He had realized that although these robots weren't as strong as Dark Sun, it wasn't a favorable matchup. It would be much better if he could get those three to help.

Right! Dark Sun is Ah Ye's bodyguard... Elian and the others finally recalled. At the same time, they inferred that perhaps these people weren't truly aiming for Dark Sun. Rather, were they aiming for his charge, Ah Ye?

Once she realized this, Eloise had no more objections and joined Ezart in beating up the robots! As her partner in battle, Eli could only follow her into combat. Otherwise, if the guns turned Eloise into a honeycomb, he wouldn't have a partner anymore.

Elian still had reserves of cool-headedness. He cautiously analyzed the situation with the robots. He realized that, as things were, he could probably deal with one of them, Ezart could handle one, and although Eloise and Eli had lost the advantage of mind reading, the two of them together should be able to take care of another easily. Taking on two would be a bit more difficult.

There are a total of six enemies ... Can Dark Sun take down three of them on his own?

Elian was a little worried as he glanced at Dark Sun. Dark Sun's injuries from the battle earlier weren't serious, but the robots' sudden attack just now had caused him to take a lot of bullets...

At the moment, Dark Sun was dodging... And talking on the phone!

Elian suddenly didn't feel too much like chopping up these robots anymore. *I'd rather chop up Dark Sun instead! He's really ticking me off! But maybe his being so relaxed just shows that he doesn't take these robots seriously?* Elian had no choice but to force himself to calm down.

Whatever. Since it has to do with Ah Ye, I'll still help! Elian shook his head, lifted his energy swords, leapt for a robot and began fighting him.

Although Dark Sun was talking on the phone, he wasn't relaxed in the slightest!

His brother on the other end was ready to explode!

"Who? Just who dares send people to attack you?! I'll crush them. I'll give them death by a thousand cuts. Once they're dead, I'll send them to An Te Qi's laboratory so they'll never be able to reincarnate!"

Being sent to An Te Qi-bàba's laboratory means not being able to reincarnate? Now that I think about it, those fragments of corpses, steeped in various chemicals, really might not be able to reincarnate. Ri Xiang Ye didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Gēge, these people should be from the same batch as the modified humans from last time, only they seem a bit more crudely made." As he spoke, Ri Xiang Ye noticed that the others had also joined the battle. Seeing him still on the phone, Ezart rolled his eyes. The group of four entering the fray really lessened Ri Xiang Ye's burden a lot — not just his physical burden, but even the one on his spirit, too. He

suddenly began to feel that he had four more friends fighting alongside him!

"Is that so? Excellent. I've almost finished investigating which faction those people were from. Hehehe. Daring to challenge me, you won't even have a proper burial and your name forgotten!" The person on the other end of the phone already seemed to be deep in thought, concocting plans for the most horrifying and bloodiest vengeance in history...

But no vengeance plot was more important than Ah Ye's safety. As he fully understood who they were dealing with, Ri Xiang Yan asked with utmost solemnity, "Ah Ye, are you finished dealing with those people yet?"

"Yes, not a problem." Hearing an inquiry from the master, Dark Sun immediately resurfaced, replying without hesitation as he dodged a row of bullets shot by the enemy.

Ri Xiang Yan could naturally hear the hair-raising sounds of gunfire. But he knew that if he dispatched people to aid Ah Ye, they would most likely not be able to get there in time to help. Moreover, they would expose the fact that Dark Sun was one of the Sun Emperor's associates, increasing the probability that more incidents would occur in the future.

After much deliberation and despite his worries, Ri Xiang Yan could only repeatedly express, "Ah Ye, be careful. Avoid getting injured at all costs!"

"Oh!" Ri Xiang Ye glanced down to look at the bullet holes in his legs and arms. He didn't know how to reply to his brother. *Already too late...*

"You're hurt? You're hurt, aren't you?"

Judging by Ri Xiang Yan's tone, the older brother seemed like he was about to go crazy. Ri Xiang Ye even pulled the cell phone away from his ear to avoid going deaf from the voice of his enraged brother.

"Gēge, I have to fight now or I'll get even more injured. I'll find An Te Qi-bàba when I'm back home to treat me. Good luck with your work!"

Ri Xiang Ye hung up as soon as he finished speaking to keep his brother from hearing another series of gunshots. He was afraid Ri Xiang Yan would personally come over, gun in hand, to blast away the punks who dared to shoot at his little brother.

In addition, he had also seen Elian give him the evil eye several times already. He really felt terrible for having the others deal with the enemies while he was chatting away on the phone.

Having put his phone away, Dark Sun began to unleash his full strength. The blade-like fingernails extended and his skills were entirely on display as he zigzagged quickly through the enemies' bullets as swiftly as a hurricane. He rushed in front of one person, then ducked and leapt behind the enemy in an instant. His fingernails ruthlessly stabbed into the enemy's spine from both sides. Finally, he clenched his hands, and the bone snapped accordingly.

Seeing this, everyone's blood suddenly ran cold, especially Elian's, since he had just been fighting Dark Sun. He felt a chill run down his spine...

Right. An Te Qi-bàba said something about wanting a few modified human corpses... If I bring them back alive, won't he be even happier? Ri Xiang Ye's thoughts trickled out faintly.

"An Te Qi, modified humans?"

Eli just happened to be paying attention to Dark Sun and unconsciously read those few words, immediately blurting them out loud.

Dark Sun swiveled his head to look at Eli.

Oh shoot! Did I just read something I shouldn't have? Even worse, Dark Sun knows about it! Eli backed up several steps toward Elian, scared that Dark Sun would permanently silence him.

However, regardless of whether Dark Sun really was planning to silence Eli, for the moment, Dark Sun was clearly more focused on the robots. He simply shot him a look before returning to the fight. He constantly flew in and out of the enemies' midst, leaving them unable to predict his movements. Again and again, he broke the enemies' limbs, avoiding any mortal wounds.

"Isn't... Isn't he being a bit cruel?"

Eloise gulped. Although she had sent plenty of people to the infirmary with broken bones, it hadn't been like this. He clearly could have finished off his opponents in an instant, but he seemed to be toying with them instead, breaking their limbs so they couldn't move any more. They could only writhe on the ground, trying to continue their attack.

Seeing this, Eli moved even closer to Elian...

"What are you doing?" Confused, Elian watched Eli retreat behind him.

"I accidentally read Dark Sun's thoughts and said them aloud. He heard," Eli explained simply.

"... Got it."

Elian grimaced for a moment. It wasn't the first time Eli had discovered someone's secrets and almost been silenced for it. Elian and Eloise had gotten rid of quite a few threats for him. But this time, even with Elian and Eloise present, they might not be able to stop Dark Sun.

"Eloise, fall back!" Elian yelled anxiously.

Elian had the urge to flee, but as luck would have it, Dark Sun was blocking the exit. If they tried to make a run for it, it might provoke him instead...

"What's the matter?" Eloise was in the middle of fighting. She had knocked the enemy to the ground after quite a bit of difficulty, but

after being startled by Elian's shout, she could only put her opponent down and hurry back.

"Eli's in danger of being silenced again," Elian explained simply.

"What?" Eloise shouted, "Don't tell me the one who wants to silence you is Dark Sun!"

Beside them, Eli was silent for a while. "Sorry."

Elian smiled bitterly. "We're the ones who should be apologizing. This time, we might not be able to protect you..."

Just then, Dark Sun used his claws to slit the throat of the last enemy, the same one Eloise had let go of midway through battle. Not caring that the ground was littered with writhing enemies, he slowly turned his head to look at Eli. He gave off an air of hostility, as though he had just marked Eli as the final person standing in his way.

Seeing this, Elian and Eloise immediately blocked Eli off behind them in an unyielding, "You'll have to get past us first if you want to touch him" sort of way.

Ezart was the only one who didn't really understand what was going on. They had just been cooperating to fight some people. How did they suddenly end up on two sides, opposing each other?

"What are you doing? Why are you protecting that guy? Dark Sun would never do anything to him!" Ezart blurted. *Because Dark Sun is*

actually Ah Ye and Ah Ye wouldn't kill Eli. He turned his head to call out to Dark Sun, "Right, Dark Sun?"

Dark Sun was silent for a long time, so long that even Ezart, who had asked, was beginning to suspect that he actually was planning to kill Eli. He finally answered, "Young Master An Xiang Ye wouldn't permit me to kill you. But keep in mind, no matter what you read, whether it's from me or the thoughts of Young Master An Xiang Ye, you can never tell anyone. Otherwise, no matter what the young master says, I will kill you."

"I won't say a word. Thank you for sparing me." On the outside, Eli still looked calm, but his heart was pounding violently. He knew he had just been delivered from death's door.

"In return for sparing me, I'll give you a piece of information."

Dark Sun quietly waited for him to speak.

"There was someone watching from the door just now, up until those people were defeated. Then, he was in an annoyed state of mind as he left."

"Who?" Dark Sun expressionlessly asked.

"The other person who fought with Elian in the battle simulator. I don't know his name."

"Bai Lian Xing," Dark Sun said the name coldly.

He had already recalled that it was only after hearing Bai Lian Xing's words last time that he found out the master had been attacked. Bai Lian Xing's father was the leader of the Purple Moon Alliance. Was the Purple Moon Alliance behind these modified humans?

They had acted out against Ri Xiang Yan multiple times now. Dark Sun's instinct had already been activated...

Hunt down all of Ri Xiang Yan's enemies!

Footnotes

¹ **"Seth and Death":** Elian thought the name was 矢 (shi) from arrow, 箭矢 (jiànshi), when it is actually 死 si (die/death). We picked Seth because it sounds close to Death.

Chapter 7: Purple Past

Ri Xiang Yan gripped his cell phone. The look on his face was so horrifying that even Kyle, who had observed the Sun Emperor for many years, tried to hide behind his computer screen to avoid catching a glimpse of that demonic nightmare-inducing face.

"Bill, what's the status of the matter I told you to investigate earlier?" With great effort, Ri Xiang Yan suppressed the urge to rush out to help Ah Ye and instead asked his question coolly and collectedly (though much more coolly than collectedly).

Kyle formally reported, "Regarding the kidnapping incident from over a month ago, the organization most likely responsible is the Purple Moon Alliance. Prior to the kidnapping, they dumped a large quantity of stocks all pertaining to companies with ties to the Sun Alliance. In addition, it was discovered that they have a large number of researchers and doctors in a laboratory working for them and yet so far, have not announced any relevant new products."

"Bai Lian Yue's Purple Moon Alliance?" Ri Xiang Yan lightly rubbed his chin, a habit of his when he was thinking.

It was widely known that Bai Lian Yue's grudge against him ran deep. He didn't know why Bai Lian Yue's enmity was directed at him, but this wasn't the first time that Bai Lian Yue had tried to attack him, so he wasn't surprised at all.

From Ri Xiang Yan's perspective, an enemy out in the open could be dealt with last. What was more important were the hidden, nameless

enemies. Therefore, he had delayed making a move against the Purple Moon Alliance. It was just that he hadn't anticipated that as a major player in the business world, Bai Lian Yue would actually be willing to take down the global economy in order to send him to hell.

Even if he had sold off Sun Alliance stocks in advance, if the Sun Alliance collapsed, it would not be as simple as the Sun Alliance just disappearing. Rather, the entire global economy would collapse...

Don't tell me I did something to him before to make him to hold a grudge against me to this day? Ri Xiang Yan thought hard. "About Bai Lian Yue from the Purple Moon Alliance, I don't remember taking over any of his companies, stealing any of his women, or snatching any big contracts from him... That's odd. We're complete strangers. He shouldn't have any reason to hate me?"

Kyle sighed and dutifully reported, "Sun Emperor, you are not complete strangers. Bai Lian Yue was your middle school classmate."

"Oh? Really?" Ri Xiang Yan calmly replied, "I don't remember. But that's nothing strange. I don't remember a single one of my middle school classmates."

He was also your high school classmate."

Ri Xiang Yan hesitated for a moment then continued speaking, "Is that so? But I don't remember that many of my high school classmates anyway."

"In addition, he was your classmate in college."

"..." Ri Xiang Yan fell silent for a while, then tried to justify himself with some difficulty, "Fine. It just shows that my memory isn't too great. Is that any reason for him to hate me?"

"I have no idea about that. However, according to the information I've received, Bai Lian Yue is bisexual. In addition, because his lengthy attempts to win over the heart of a 'certain classmate' in middle school, high school, and college failed, he particularly likes mistresses with golden hair and red eyes."

Golden hair and red eyes? Those traits are a lot like mine... Ah!

Forcefully slamming both of his hands on the desk, Ri Xiang Yan asked incredulously, "Bai Lian Yue chased after me?"

Kyle nodded. "Yes. He pursued you for a duration of eight years, sent over more than a hundred gifts, and at the same time, gave you different flowers every day for eight years without fail."

... And I don't even remember him!

No wonder he hates me and opposes me in everything. But even when Ri Xiang Yan wracked his brains until he felt his head would burst, he still couldn't recall what Bai Lian Yue looked like. *Strange. Did he really chase after me?*

"...Reportedly, during the final instance, when he brought a family heirloom necklace to confess to you, you replied to him with a single sentence."

"What was it?" Ri Xiang Yan was starting to get curious about what he had said at the time. He truly didn't remember.

It was with eyes full of pity that Kyle looked at the information on his computer screen. Then he replied, "At the time, you said, 'Who are you?'"

But for the sound of Kyle typing, the office was silent.

After a long time, Ri Xiang Yan abruptly stood up and gazed out into the faraway sky through his tall French windows. Then in a distant tone of voice, he said, "Back then, since Ah Ye had disappeared, I was busy trying to find him. My heart was filled with nothing but worry about Ah Ye and hatred toward my father. There wasn't room for anything else!"

Kyle simply replied, "Indeed."

But Young Master Ri Xiang Ye disappeared when you were seventeen and, according to the rumors, Bai Lian Yue had been chasing after you since you were thirteen.

"He doesn't understand how I felt back then. How could he just hate me like this?"

"Indeed. It is unacceptable."

Based on the records, Bai Lian Yue once mobilized eighty percent of his family's labor force to seek out Young Master Ri Xiang Ye on your

request and almost brought his entire family's operations to a standstill.

"Sigh, this whole thing has been a misunderstanding."

"Indeed. A misunderstanding." Kyle didn't hesitate to agree with the Sun Emperor.

"So, he has no reason at all to hate me!" Ri Xiang Yan turned toward his secretary and roared, "No matter what, anyone who dares to touch my Ah Ye deserves to die!"

"Indeed. They deserve to die." Kyle was looking on the computer at the human resources that could be sent out and asked, "Sun Emperor, would you like to deploy the stealth force to quietly eradicate the laboratory or directly send troops to raze it to the ground?"

In an instant, Ri Xiang Yan went from being a furious older brother back to the composed Sun Emperor. He carefully evaluated, "Directly sending troops would be the same as declaring war on the Purple Moon Alliance. If there's a war, there will be a lot of conspiracy theories to deal with, which would be truly annoying! The entire stealth force consists of meticulously trained elites, so I really don't want to waste them by having them and a bunch of modified humans hack each other down."

After he finished, he muttered to himself, "Ugh, this is such a pain..."

"If we had Dark Sun coordinate with the stealth force to attack, we would keep casualties to a minimum while also avoiding a war," Kyle dutifully stated the best course of action.

Bang!

Ri Xiang Yan slammed the office desk with a single hand and icily asked, "What did you just say?"

As soon as he had spoken, Kyle knew he had crossed the line. Although he was shaken, he could only forcibly calm his violently pounding heart and then reply, appearing composed, "It is merely a solution. If it is not to the Sun Emperor's liking, it can of course be rejected."

Ri Xiang Yan shouted, "Don't bring Ah Ye into it! Ever! Do you understand?!"

"Yes. Understood."

"Then, send out the stealth force immediately. I want that laboratory gone tonight! As for Bai Lian Yue, I'll deal with him later! I'm going home to eat dinner with Ah Ye now. You'll be working overtime to settle this matter!"

Like a monarch who had issued a final decree, Ri Xiang Yan departed through the secret entrance without glancing back.

"Why did he specifically mention overtime? Since when have I ever had a day where I didn't work overtime?" Kyle muttered to himself.

Whose fault is it but my own for becoming acquainted with the Sun Emperor back then? Sigh!

All Kyle could do was resign himself to overtime and think of a way to minimize the losses in the stealth force. Otherwise, when the Sun Emperor saw the number of casualties tomorrow, he might explode again.

After some time had passed, the secret door to the office opened once again. Suspicious, Kyle lifted his head. The only ones who could use the special entrance were the Sun Emperor, himself, and few personnel on secret missions who rarely came by.

A silver-haired teenager walked in.

Oh! He remembered now. Over a month ago, yet another person could come and go—the Sun Emperor’s younger brother, Young Master Ri Xiang Ye.

“Hello,” Dark Sun greeted emotionlessly.

Kyle calmly replied, “Hello.”

“I’d like to ask you about a few things.”

“Yes?” Kyle was still calm as he continued to say, “May I ask if Young Master Ri Xiang Ye is at home? I’d prefer to speak with him.”

A faint, mirthless smile curved up on Dark Sun's face. "What a pity. He's not home."

"That truly is regrettable." Kyle really was filled with regret. But he could only follow his duties and ask, "What did you wish to inquire about?"

"Information on the Purple Moon Alliance." Dark Sun's expression became one of indifference once again.

Kyle straightforwardly answered, "The Sun Emperor will not allow me to tell you."

In an instant, Dark Sun reverted back to being Ri Xiang Ye. A childlike grin appeared as he asked with a laugh, "Gēge must have told you before that no matter what I want, you have to give it to me, right?"

As he watched the supposedly "not home" Ri Xiang Ye come bounding out, Kyle could only helplessly reply, "Yes, Young Master Ri Xiang Ye." *Great. If I spill, the Sun Emperor will have me killed gruesomely. If I don't spill, Dark Sun will kill me gruesomely. Then, Ri Xiang Ye will run crying to the Sun Emperor, and the Sun Emperor will have me killed again.*

Well, dying once is always better than dying twice.

"The Purple Moon Alliance has a laboratory at this location. According to our investigation, there is a high probability that it is the source of the modified humans. The Sun Emperor just issued an order for the

stealth force to eliminate that laboratory tonight. If you could coordinate with the stealth force, I would be extremely grateful.”

As Kyle explained, he printed out a map of the laboratory’s location and handed it to Ri Xiang Ye.

“Thanks, Kyle-gē. I’ll coordinate with them. And you don’t have to worry. I won’t tell Gēge you told me.”

“Nothing stays hidden from the Sun Emperor.” Kyle shook his head. In any case, being at the Sun Emperor’s side meant being ready to serve at any time. The ancient saying “keeping company with a lord is like keeping company with a tiger”... just about summed up his plight.

“Bai Lian Xing is my classmate, and one of my friends has the ability to read minds...” Ri Xiang Ye hinted. He was only hinting! He definitely wouldn’t tell other people to lie to his brother!

“I see.” Kyle nodded his head in understanding. It looked like he would be able to live for a little longer.

After he finished speaking, Ri Xiang Ye lowered his head to look at the map. He frowned, saying, “It seems to be a bit far. Maybe I’ll have to steal a car from the car park to get there.”

“The Sun Emperor’s exclusive car park is upstairs. The Sun Emperor has collected quite a few cars. The red sports car is the fastest, the white Mercedes-Benz is the most durable, and the blue has the best overall performance,” Kyle kindly pointed out where he could steal a car, informing him of each car’s features as well.

"Mm. Got it. Thanks, Kyle-gē." Ri Xiang Ye smiled brilliantly.

"There is no need to thank me." After Kyle politely responded, he hesitated for a moment. He couldn't help but add a warning, "Young Master Ri Xiang Ye, please be careful. Your life is the Sun Emperor's everything."

"I know. Gēge is also Ah Ye's everything, so... I won't allow anyone to harm Gēge!"

Ri Xiang Ye gripped the map tightly and swiftly left the office.

May no harm befall you.

After Kyle calmly watched Dark Sun leave the office, he silently wished him well. Then, he lowered his head to continue his mountain of work.



[Purple Moon Alliance Headquarters]

Bai Lian Xing's footsteps were hurried and heavy. His martial arts already placed an emphasis on speed, but now because of his anger, he moved at an even faster pace. The three people following him—a dual gun wielder; a short, ugly old man; and an icy woman with claws on both hands—almost couldn't keep up.

The three subordinates could only lower their heads and strive to keep up with their young master's pace. They didn't dare to call out to him.

Anyone could see that Bai Lian Xing was in a very bad mood. Whoever dared to tug on a tiger's whiskers would certainly meet a bad end.

Bai Lian Xing walked all the way to a set of black doors that had been polished to a mirror shine. He took several deep breaths until he was certain that he had calmed down and wouldn't say things that would regret because of his fury. No matter how angry he was, if he drew out the wrath of the person behind the black doors, even he wouldn't be able to deal with the consequences.

Finally, Bai Lian Xing knocked and waited until he heard a languid "enter" come from within before he pushed open the doors to go in.

However, the three subordinates behind him didn't dare to follow him inside. It was a forbidden place they were absolutely not allowed to enter: the room of the highest authority of the Purple Moon Alliance.

The room was entirely Chinese-styled, just like Bai Lian Xing's clothing. Huge calligraphy hung on both walls to the sides. In the middle of the room stood a humongous golden chaise longue carved in the shape of a dragon. Spread on the chair was a thick, soft, embroidered purple cushion. It looked unspeakably expensive.

However, what was even more astounding was the person on the chair. That person was idly reclining on the dragon-shaped chaise longue. His long, purple-black hair was loosely draped over the chair. The person was wearing a purple Chinese long coat that trailed from the chaise longue to the floor. The outfit was completely an antique style, unlike Bai Lian Xing's modernized Chinese clothes. But as a result, they matched the surrounding decorations even more.

Bai Lian Xing stood before the chaise longue. Extremely deferential, he clasped his hands and greeted, "Your child has come to visit his father."

The person on the chaise longue suddenly opened his eyes, a pair of slender, beautiful golden eyes. His mouth curved into a bewitching smile that wasn't like a smile at all. He indolently stretched and, acting as if he didn't care much, asked offhandedly, "Oh~ Xing Er,¹ you took six of the failed experiments from the laboratory. Was it to play?"

In contrast to his father's ease, Bai Lian Xing was clearly very uncomfortable. There was even a little dread in his voice as he said, "I... Took them to deal with a classmate."

"Your classmate?" Bai Lian Yue slowly went from a reclining to a sitting position. He narrowed his beautiful eyes and asked again, "Your classmate?"

Have I already been discovered? Bai Lian Xing lowered his head and admitted, "Yes, I suspected my classmate was the person who had previously rescued the Sun Emperor."

Bai Lian Yue stood up from the chair. Despite the Chinese long coat dragging far behind him on the floor, he still walked with extraordinary grace, as though he were naturally suited to wear such luxurious robes.

Bai Lian Yue walked until he stood in front of his son. His oval face almost pressed against his son's as he said in a soft, low voice, "You found him... But you did not report to me?"

"My apologies... I was just uncertain yet that he was the same person who previously saved the Sun Emperor. I-I wished to first confirm it then report to you, Father."

Although Bai Lian Yue looked delicate and gentle, Bai Lian Xing, who was well acquainted with his father's true nature, was frightened to his very core. His father was extremely angry. Bai Lian Xing knew that anything involving the Sun Emperor would always lead to extreme moods in Bai Lian Yue, and his extreme moods often resulted in bystanders meeting a grisly end.

"First confirm it?" Bai Lian Yue's languid expression abruptly changed. A slap landed on his son's face and he rebuked, "By the time you confirmed it, Ri Xiang Yan would already be at our door!"

Even after being slapped with enough force to turn his head, Bai Lian Xing's expression remained completely unchanged. He could only silently clench his fists and turn his head back to continue reporting, "I only tested the strength of the Sun Emperor's modified human. He would not make a huge fuss over nothing. Conflicts between the economic alliances are a common sight, are they not?"

"A huge fuss over nothing?" Bai Lian Yue's elegant face darkened. "Are you aware of who that modified human is?"

"Your child only knows he is called Dark Sun," Bai Lian Xing admitted.

Bai Lian Yue snarled, "I don't care what he is called. In short, he is Ri Xiang Yan's younger brother, the younger brother he searched eight years for!"

"What? The Sun Emperor has a younger brother?"

Bai Lian Xing froze. He had never heard that the Sun Emperor had a younger brother... He hesitated for a moment. *Could it be that this younger brother is not a blood relative but adopted, like me?*

Bai Lian Yue said with absolute certainty, "He does! And that is the only thing he cares about. The only thing!"

When they had abducted Ri Xiang Yan, the modified humans had surveillance cameras installed inside them. Watching the transmitted scenes, Bai Lian Yue was shocked at first when he saw a frail boy unexpectedly holding his own against the modified humans. However, what was even more shocking was the look of anxiety the always composed and hateful Ri Xiang Yan showed. In the past, only when talking about his younger brother would his expression show something other than composure and disdain.

It was at that moment that Bai Lian Yue knew the boy was no one else but Ri Xiang Yan's younger brother!

"You tried to harm the thing Ri Xiang Yan cares for the most." Bai Lian Yue firmly held onto Bai Lian Xing's collar, and coldly warned him, "In the future, you are not to take initiative for yourself, especially when it comes to matters concerning Ri Xiang Yan. If you step out of line

again, you will no longer be my successor, and I will immediately throw you back to your family. Do you hear me?"

Bai Lian Xing lowered his head and replied, "I understand."

Finished with his threats, Bai Lian Yue let him go, his face blank. As he returned to his dragon chair to recline, his expression once again became gentle. He languidly said, "Having provoked Ri Xiang Yan, I believe the modified human laboratory is a lost cause. Have all the scientists and doctors withdraw but leave the modified humans. Send some people to serve as victims and pretend they're the scientists and doctors. I don't want Ri Xiang Yan to know he's merely wiping out an empty shell."

Bai Lian Yue smiled faintly, his beautiful golden eyes flashing with a strange light.

"I want the laboratory to become a massive trap to ensnare Dark Sun."

And Dark Sun... is the ultimate bait to ensnare Ri Xiang Yan!

Bai Lian Yue closed his eyes once again and languidly lay on the chaise longue, fantasizing about the moment that man with eyes as red as rubies and golden hair as brilliant as the sun would fall into his grasp. *It truly is something to be in a good mood about!*

Footnotes

¹ **“Xing Er”**: 兒 Ér means “son.” Bai Lian Yue added it to the Xing of Bai Lian Xing to create a nickname that shows Bai Lian Xing is his child.

Chapter 8: Hunting and Being Hunted

"An Te Qi-bàba, I'm going to go play with my classmates. I might come home late."

Ri Xiang Ye was holding a cell phone and had called home to report he was fine.

On the other end of the phone, An Te Qi was silent for a long time before he asked with difficulty, "Ah Ye... Does eating dinner involve using the Death Scythe? Are you going to cut steak with it or what?"

"Ah..." Ri Xiang Ye replied in an embarrassed tone, "An Te Qi-bàba, you found out I took the Death Scythe?"

"Mhm. Earlier, Ri Xiang Yan called home and ranted for a while about some modified humans showing up again and said they even went to attack you and stuff like that. So I figured maybe you'd use the Death Scythe sometime soon and was just thinking about doing maintenance on it. But it was missing."

"Don't tell Gēge, O.K.?" Ri Xiang Ye pleaded.

"Where are you going?"

After his previous lie had been seen through, Ri Xiang Ye didn't dare lie to An Te Qi again. He could only honestly say, "I'm going to demolish the lab that the modified humans come from."

"Your brother will be livid. No, he'll explode..."

Ri Xiang Ye also knew that if his brother found out about this, he would definitely be very, very, very angry. But Dark Sun was unable to disobey his instinct to hunt down enemies, and Ri Xiang Ye also didn't want to disobey that instinct. He wanted to protect his brother.

"Just don't let him know, and it'll be fine."

Ri Xiang Yan's going to know. He's definitely going to know. Even the tiniest injury wouldn't escape that bro-con's notice, An Te Qi muttered to himself. But he also knew that Ri Xiang Ye wouldn't give up just because he was told to.

It's because Ah Ye and Ri Xiang Yan are brothers, one hundred percent. One's a little brother bro-con and the other's an older brother bro-con. And when it comes to things that have to do with the other, they both become equally stubborn! Besides, protecting his master is Dark Sun's reason for existing. He could never go against that.

"Fine. I'll help cover for you..." *I just hope Ri Xiang Yan won't see through the lie on the spot, then shoot me dead.*

"Thank you so much, An Te Qi-bàba," Ri Xiang Ye replied extremely cheerfully.

"You're welcome... If you really want to thank me, then bring back a few modified human cadavers in good condition for me to do research on!"

"Hehe. An Te Qi-bàba, I sent you a present! It should arrive soon." Ri Xiang Ye couldn't stop giggling as he thought about how An Te Qi-bàba would definitely love his present.

"Oh?" An Te Qi blankly replied. He was about to remind Ah Ye to call his older brother and tell him the lie about going out for dinner with his classmates and such, but the cell phone already went *beep beep*.

"Hello? Hello? Seriously! Hanging up like that. How am I going to explain things to Ri Xiang Yan while still preserving my life...?"

Ding dong!

That's... the doorbell? An Te Qi was stunned for a while before he finally reacted. There was no way he could have reacted differently. The three people who lived in the house all had keys, so they wouldn't ring the doorbell. In addition, the three of them didn't have any friends, so no one would be visiting them. Even the delivery person had never come up to the door before.

An Te Qi walked up to the door and pressed the button for the security camera screen. Standing outside were several youngsters he had never seen before. *Wait!* He had seen one of them before... Or he should say, he had seen that head of red-orange hedgehog hair before, which was so distinctive it was impossible to forget.

Ah Ye's friends?

An Te Qi was baffled. *Ah Ye isn't at home. So what are they here for?*

On the screen, the girl threw the modified human she had been carrying on her shoulder to the ground and shouted unhappily, "What the heck? Ah Ye's so strange. How could there be someone who likes this sort of present?"

One of the others, a brilliantly smiling man, said with some reproach, "Quiet down. The one who likes 'this sort of present' is Ah Ye's dad. You have to show respect to your elders, Eloise."

"What do you mean show respect?!" The girl called Eloise incredulously questioned back. "The way I see it, the only people who would like this kind of present are probably weirdos!"

"You guys are really noisy!" The tall, well-built, red-orange hedgehog-haired man said with irritation, "Anyway, Dark Sun said Ah Ye wanted us to give these people to his An Te Qi-bàba. Let's just do what he said. Who cares if his dad's a weirdo?!"

Eloise muttered resentfully, "It would be fine if we were giving them to his big brother. Ah Ye's so cute, his big brother has to be super handsome. A dad... Just from that, I'm sure he must be an old geezer."

Finally, a grim-faced youth said with a cold voice: "Even if he's not an old man, he's a dad already. Not even dads are safe from you?"

Just as Eloise was ready to propose "let's just dump the presents and leave," the door was pulled open. An extraordinarily refined-looking and handsome man appeared. He was wearing small glasses and had the air of a scholar. The man with this refined appearance said

extremely irritably, "I'm so sorry! Weirdos like me just love this sort of present!"

Eloise first looked him up and down for a long time, swallowing the drool in her mouth again and again. She looked at him so much An Te Qi's hair stood on end. He was just thinking of slamming the door when she violently shrieked, "So handsome! A refined hottie!"

Her eyes had almost turned into hearts as she said with extreme admiration, "You must be the big brother Ah Ye always talks about!"

An Te Qi looked at the girl before him. She had just called him a weirdo and an old geezer, but now her attitude had made a 180-degree turn! After raising his eyebrows, he corrected with the air of a spectator, "No, his older brother isn't back yet. I am the An Te Qi-bàba Ah Ye spoke of."

Eloise's jaw almost dropped and she cried, "What? You're the weird old geezer?"

"..." An Te Qi icily replied, "You can say I'm a weirdo, but I won't let you call me an old geezer."

Elian hastily pushed aside the petrified Eloise and then politely stepped forward to clarify, "S-Sir, are you Ah Ye's father? Greetings. We are Ah Ye's classmates. These things... These 'people' were what Ah Ye asked us to deliver."

After he finished speaking, Elian felt a little uneasy. *Will Ah Ye's father be angry?*

After all, these “things” that didn’t look quite human were still writhing on the ground with all their might, despite their broken arms and legs. In addition, the expressions on their faces were ferocious. It was certain that these people really weren’t things that made for a good gift.

An Te Qi knelt down. He looked at the six modified humans on the ground. Their bodies were a little contorted but they were definitely still alive. Then, instead of exploding with fury like Elian expected, he smiled in a way that terrified the four young adults.

He pushed his glasses back, and as he tenderly caressed the wriggling “things” on the ground, he said gratefully, “Ah Ye, you really are my angel!”

At that precise moment, Dark Sun was standing in front of an abandoned factory. He was already dressed in suitable clothes and wearing his silver visor. He lowered his head to look at the map Kyle had given him to ascertain that this was the right place.

Now all he had to do was wait for the stealth force...

As the Sun Emperor’s secretary, Kyle’s efficiency was clearly better than imagined. Dark Sun had gone straight to the laboratory after leaving him and hadn’t made any delays other than to call An Te Qi along the way.

Yet, he only had to wait a short ten minutes before the aforementioned stealth force appeared.

A total of just three people had come. They all carried heavy weaponry with them. After taking out and showing him their Sun Emperor insignias, they asked, "Dark Sun?"

Dark Sun nodded. He didn't have any insignia to show them, so he merely showed a special key with an especially long key blade, ending in a graceful sun-shape. That key wasn't just a simple notched piece of metal. It even had the most technologically advanced microchip inside it. Even if the key was stolen, it could be virtually accessed to immediately render it useless.

As soon as those three people saw the key, they immediately gasped. This was the Sun Emperor's personal key.

The Sun Emperor hated any sort of troublesome thing, and a large bunch of keys was clearly among those troublesome things. As long as it was a place the Sun Emperor needed to use a key, from his bedroom to his front door to his car to his safe and so on, the lock would be specially crafted so the only thing that could unlock it was that unique key.

But that key wasn't unique anymore. There were now two of them. One was in the Sun Emperor's hands, and the other was in Dark Sun's hands.

After confirming the key was genuine, the three people were immediately certain the person in front of them was Dark Sun and promptly saluted with respect, "'Right hand of the Sun Emperor,' allow us to use all our abilities to aid you and to protect you with our lives."

Right hand of the Sun Emperor? Shouldn't that be Kyle-gē? He really is like Gēge's right hand. Without him, it probably would be just like Gēge had lost a hand, Ri Xiang Ye secretly thought.

Kyle truly was very capable. He had only dispatched three people. This number suited Dark Sun's personality well. He wasn't an expert in giving commands. If an entire troop had been dispatched, he might have simply abandoned the troop and relied on himself.

Furthermore, the three people were all carrying heavy artillery, an area Dark Sun was somewhat lacking in, that would be of great help in breaking down heavily defended areas.

"How do you want us to coordinate with you?"

Dark Sun tilted his head back. "Behind me. Blast what I tell you to blast."

"Understood."

The three people were well-trained and had no objections at all to following behind Dark Sun. Dark Sun pressed his hand on a black box. Four silver lines began to spread from where his palm was. With a pop, the box opened along the silver lines. The contents of the box was split into three parts—a bright silver shaft that had been divided into two and the main part of a sickle that was gripped by deep red skeletal claws.

The Death Scythe, Dark Sun's fearsome weapon.

The three people frozenly stared at Dark Sun kneeling before the box. Dark Sun nimbly assembled the scythe and finally stood up. The smile on his face let off a faint chill as he held the Death Scythe, which stood taller than a human, in his right hand. The sight was truly terrifying.

The three people unconsciously shuddered.

They all thought, *could this be the grim reaper?*

“Go. The time for Dark Sun to hunt has come.”

Dark Sun spoke, then took the lead to walk into the abandoned factory.

“Understood.” The three people hurriedly followed close behind.

Once he reached the factory doors, Dark Sun took a moment to observe. The steel doors before him looked like they were about to fall off. However, he noticed the steel doors didn’t make any noise when the wind blew. They were evidently sturdier than their appearance let on. They were probably sturdier than most doors used to protect restricted areas.

“Blast the doors.” Dark Sun lightly said.

The thunderous sound of a shotgun rang out. At the same time, a small dent appeared in the dilapidated door, but that was all.

Unexpectedly, the Sun Alliance's specially modified shotgun left nothing more than a small dent in the door.

It looked like they were right. This place was indeed the Purple Moon Alliance's secret base.

Dark Sun didn't move. The three people were well-trained. Upon seeing the situation, they immediately switched to using a weapon with higher firepower. One of the people among them raised a miniature rocket launcher. After loading a small rocket, he knelt down and aimed at the steel door.

"Dark Sun... Sir, please back up a little," one of them warned Dark Sun, seemingly unsure of how to address him.

Dark Sun retreated to the side a few steps, then the person holding the miniature rocket launcher fired. The sound of the explosion seemed to come from hell.

A plume of smoke from the explosion rose from the steel doors. As the smoke slowly dispersed, a hole as tall as a person came into view. The explosion left the doors looking a bit sorry, but the scene behind them was of a brightly lit, white corridor. It looked extremely clean and tidy, and not in the slightest like an abandoned factory.

"Go."

Dark Sun quietly called out and dashed in himself.

"Has the fish been hooked?"

Bai Lian Yue was lying idly on the dragon-shaped chaise longue again. Bai Lian Xing was sitting on a somewhat smaller chair. Several attendants stood at their side. Some helped massage Bai Lian Yue's legs, while others stood by the huge 3D screen. They operated the security camera images to ensure Dark Sun's figure was always shown on screen.

"I was initially worried Ri Xiang Yan wouldn't be willing to risk his younger brother." Bai Lian Yue elegantly muttered. He was a little vexed as he thought aloud to himself, "Could it be he doesn't love his younger brother as much as I thought? Or is there another reason?"

"Perhaps he came and concealed it from the Sun Emperor." Bai Lian Xing's eyes were fixedly staring at the screen. Even though he had already seen Dark Sun's skill some time ago, Dark Sun's astonishing skill at the time had greatly inspired him, and he still wanted to see it a few more times. No one would get grow sick of watching a battle between experts again and again.

"Xing Er, you truly are brilliant. That's very likely." Bai Lian Yue's spirits soared. Ri Xiang Yan not knowing meant Bai Lian Yue had a much higher chance of capturing Dark Sun. And capturing Dark Sun was... *Teehee. No different from capturing Ri Xiang Yan.*

Bai Lian Xing took no notice of his father's praise because, on screen, Dark Sun had just encountered the outermost wave of modified humans. Those modified humans were stronger than the failed products he had secretly taken. Dark Sun wouldn't be able to defeat them so easily...?

His eyes widened as he saw how Dark Sun's naturally movements flowed. They appeared to be very slow, but in reality, they were too fast for the eyes to follow. As he was still admiring Dark Sun's smooth motions, sprays of blood had already filled the air in the blink of an eye. It was only then that he noticed that the fearsome, massive scythe had already beheaded the enemies. It was merely because Dark Sun was so quick that their necks would only start to spurt blood after he jumped clear of them.

Bai Lian Xing was shaking as he watched. He knew modifying humans could increase their strength greatly, but it also had a major flaw. It was a balancing issue. Modified bodies would have extreme strength and speed, but they had a different, fatal weakness.

Modifying one's arms into mechanical arms gave them tremendous power, but they weren't nimble enough. So they were unable to use advanced martial arts techniques.

Even though Bai Lian Xing devoted everything to becoming faster, he was absolutely unwilling to modify his body. That was because he knew it might increase his speed to the point it was so fast his own brain wouldn't be able to respond. There would be no use in that. Superficially, it would look like he had grown faster and had become stronger, but in reality, he would have sacrificed the possibility of changing his action. As soon as he committed to an action, he would have no leeway to change it, since by the time his brain received the command to change his stance, the action would already be past the point where he could retract it.

It was clear from the heavy scythe Dark Sun expertly wielded that his strength was undoubtedly great. The speed he wielded the scythe with was also very high. It was even clearer that whether it be his strength or speed, Dark Sun was above the modified humans. But Bai Lian Xing couldn't see any of the flaws of a modified human, such as being unable to respond in time, or the inability to perform advanced martial arts techniques.

Dark Sun quickly leapt through the corridor. He wasn't just stepping on the ground, but also on the walls to either side and even a few times on the ceiling. He used the energy from the rebound to appear before his enemies in an instant.

The only thing that could be seen in the entire corridor was a figure, sometimes dashing back and forth like lightning, sometimes whirling through the air with a curve as graceful as a woman's hair. The only thing that remained the same was that wherever he passed through would spray with scarlet blood.

His footsteps would pass by. With each step, blossoms of blood bloomed. With each slash, lives were reaped.

Are such graceful, flowing movements that seem more like dancing than battling truly made by a modified human?

As Bai Lian Xing sat spellbound and his brain was about to stop working, Bai Lian Yue no longer had a languid expression. He went from reclining to sitting upright, and his expression was completely stormy.

The last time people had been dispatched to abduct Ri Xiang Yan, he had obtained a glimpse of Dark Sun fighting through the surveillance cameras. But because the modified humans had died too quickly, there hadn't been enough time to clearly see how Dark Sun wielded the scythe. This time, it was crystal clear!

Horrifying! Absolutely horrifying!

Even if the finest modified humans Bai Lian Yue owned besieged Dark Sun, would they be able to stop him?

The answer was obvious. They would not!

A trace of sinister intent crept into Bai Lian Yue's perpetually elegant expression.

He contemplated whether or not he wanted to blow up the entire base and use it as a pretext to exterminate Dark Sun. If he weren't exterminated, he would undoubtedly become the Sun Emperor's strongest weapon... If Ri Xiang Yan were willing to use his younger brother as a weapon, that is.

But memories of the past suddenly flooded his mind...

Those ruby-like eyes that had captivated Bai Lian Yue for many years were filled with pain beyond compare, and on top of that was that voice choked with emotion. *"I'm begging you. Help me find my little brother. My father hates him too much. If we're too late, I might never see him again. I'm afraid I'll never get to see Ah Ye again, my Ah Ye..."*

Ri Xiang Yan wouldn't. He wouldn't use his younger brother as a weapon. Because he sees no one in his eyes but his younger brother.

Bai Lian Yue calmed down. I cannot kill Dark Sun. Only as long as Dark Sun exists does the Sun Emperor, who disdainfully looks down upon commoners, have a weakness.

He couldn't help but hesitate and wonder for a moment. If Dark Sun—the Sun Emperor's sole vulnerability—died, what would be the consequences?

If the god-like demon with the world in his grasp were to lose the only source of his emotions, perhaps the entire world would descend into hell...

I cannot kill Dark Sun. Killing him would only serve to draw Ri Xiang Yan's wrath... And even drive him insane in his furor. Only capturing Dark Sun is tantamount to having Ri Xiang Yan in the palm of my hand—thus, having the god of this world under my control!

"Father, it appears the modified humans are unable to detain Dark Sun."

Although Bai Lian Xing was awestruck by Dark Sun's skill, he still remembered to warn his father to prevent his father venting his anger on anyone in the vicinity after realizing the modified humans had all been wiped out.

"Let him kill. Treat it as an offering to a demon."

Bai Lian Yue lay back down and replied with disinterest.

I was too careless this time. Next time, next time I will have the brothers yield to me.

One a demon like a god.

The other a demon like a grim reaper.

What a pity. The two demons allowed me, a human, to discover their fatal flaw—each other!

“Heheheh hahaha...”

Bai Lian Yue couldn’t hold back his laughter, regardless of the alarmed expressions of his son and subordinates beside him.

Bai Lian Yue shouted, “Ri Xiang Yan! Dark Sun! Even if you are dreadful demons, I have already discovered your weakness! Next time, there will be two demons kneeling before me, an ordinary human! Hahaha...”

Dark Sun had just cut off a modified human’s head when there was a vibration on his chest from his cell phone. Under the amazed gazes of the three people behind him, he picked up the phone.

“Where are you?” Ri Xiang Yan’s abnormally level voice sounded from the phone.

Dark Sun chopped off a modified human's neck as he used Ri Xiang Ye's innocent tones to say, "Gēge? I'm eating with my classmates!"

Absolutely no emotion could be heard in Ri Xiang Yan's voice as he asked, "Oh? Which classmates?"

"It's... Ezart! The one you always call hedgehog head."

Reaper's claws, detach. Dark Sun commanded the massive scythe blade to fly out, pinning two enemies who had been intending to flee to the wall.

"Oh, wait a moment." Ri Xiang Yan's voice suddenly sounded far away. Then a different deep voice came over the phone, "Ah Ye..."

Hearing that voice, Dark Sun had a sudden change in expression. This time he wasn't pretending anymore, but actually turned back into Ri Xiang Ye. "... Ezart?"

"Mm. It's me. Elian and the rest are here, too."

Flustered, Ri Xiang Ye held the cell phone as he retreated behind the three stealth force members and gestured for them to hold off the enemy.

The three of them immediately moved forward to block the few remaining modified humans. At that moment, the phone once again transmitted the sound of someone else's voice. Elian said in an extremely helpless voice, "Ah Ye, your brother is holding a derringer to

your An Te Qi-bàba's head. The look in your bro's eyes seems to be saying that if you don't come back home, he's going to kill your dad."

"No! El-gē, you have to hurry and stop my brother! I'm heading home right now." Ri Xiang Ye grew anxious and repeated over and over, "You absolutely can't let my brother kill An Te Qi-bàba."

"I'll do my best. But your bro looks like he's about to explode. And he's 'that person' too. Who can stop him..." Elian couldn't help but mutter these words, entirely unsure about his task.

Go home, I have to go home now!

"Retreat!" Ri Xiang Ye commanded the three people.

The three people were baffled at why they were retreating just as they were on the cusp of an overwhelming victory, but their excellent training didn't allow them to disobey a superior. They only replied, "Understood."

Then they hastily retreated with Dark Sun...

Going back in time to when Ezart and Elian's trio had arrived at Ri Xiang Ye's house and An Te Qi had gone out to receive his present...

At that time, Eloise was very much thinking about being a bother. Her expression said that she wanted to rush inside their house and shamelessly stay until it was time to eat breakfast the next day, but Elian obviously wouldn't let her do as she pleased. With a terrible complexion, he apologized to An Te Qi as he planned to take his leave.

An Te Qi originally was going to say “good riddance” with a wooden expression, but at that moment, a different male voice suddenly came from behind him...

“Where’s Ah Ye?”

After that, An Te Qi had an expression like he had just heard a demon calling out. He took several deep breaths before he was able to turn around to reply to that man, “He went out to play with his classmates.”

Then Eloise said a sentence that made everyone present at the scene want to throttle her.

“Eh? Ah Ye went out to play? Didn’t he say he was out eating dinner with his big brother?”

After that, the four people were “invited” inside Ri Xiang Ye’s home by Ah Ye’s big brother. The moment Eloise laid eyes on Ri Xiang Ye, she shrieked “ULTRA HOT BISHIE!” to the point where she almost fainted.

But it turned out the one who really fainted was Eli.

Based on his later recollections, he fainted because he had read Ri Xiang Yan’s mind... He had never encountered a mind like that before, with thoughts like massive spiraling whirlpools and layers stacked over ten times deeper than a normal human’s. As soon as Eli had read that complex, treacherous mind, he had experienced a pain like a hundred encyclopedias smashing into his skull.

"The Sun Emperor!"

Then with a deathly white face, Elian blurted out the name that the entire world knew.

Under the Sun Emperor's terrifying glare, An Te Qi immediately surrendered. He divulged everything about Ah Ye's whereabouts. Next was the pitiful secretary, Kyle, who also suffered the Sun Emperor's bombardment and interrogation on the other end of the telephone screen.

Finally, everyone involved was sitting in a row on the sofa, looking exactly like obedient schoolchildren, as they watched Ri Xiang Yan call Ri Xiang Ye and ask him to come home immediately.

After Ri Xiang Ye promised to come home, the Sun Emperor sat before the obedient schoolchildren like a monarch. He looked at them condescendingly and said as if it were an inevitable fact, "If Ah Ye's identity is leaked, your lives are forfeit."

Everyone nodded like they were pounding garlic, except for Ezart. He only coldly huffed, "I won't leak Ah Ye's identity, but it's not because of you. It's because of Ah Ye."

A glimmer of admiration flashed in Ri Xiang Yan's eyes as he heard that. *He's worthy of being Ah Ye's chosen friend... But I'm definitely not going to praise this hedgehog head! What does he think he's doing, having such strange hair? What if Ah Ye copies him and ends up with a hairstyle like that too?*

"An Te Qi, you too! You colluded with Ah Ye to deceive me..." Ri Xiang Yan viciously glared at the person before him.

To preserve his insignificant life, An Te Qi immediately deployed a diversionary tactic and said, "Ah Ye and his classmates haven't eaten anything yet. I'm sure they must be hungry. If you help order some delicious food for them, Ah Ye will definitely be overjoyed when he comes home!" After living together for a few months, An Te Qi already clearly understood how he could divert the Sun Emperor's attention: in short, tell him how to make Ah Ye happy!

Hearing those words, Ri Xiang Yan blanked out. The thought of Ah Ye seeing an entire table full of dishes surrounded by his gēge, bàba, and friends floated into his mind. *How happy would the smile on his face be?*

It would definitely be an absolutely extremely brilliant and adorable smile!

Ri Xiang Yan immediately took out his phone and commanded Kyle to order an entire table's worth of food. "Ah, Kyle. Have the most high-class restaurant send their best dishes right now. Right, Ah Ye likes fried chicken. There has to be fried chicken. French fries, too. Order some braised chicken wings and barbeque while you're at it..."

Sun Emperor, are you sure what you want is a five-star restaurant? Or is it KFC? As Kyle did as he was instructed, he couldn't help but complain in his mind.

“Whew.~”

Seeing that Ri Xiang Yan was busy ordering food, An Te Qi finally heaved a sigh of relief. Based on the phone call earlier, Ah Ye shouldn't have run into any danger, and as a result, the Sun Emperor was still in a mood where he could order food to be delivered.

He was about to console the people who had just encountered the Sun Emperor for the first time. *Don't worry. It's normal for the Sun Emperor to hold a gun to other people's heads. He won't necessarily fire. Although it's also normal for him to open fire...*

But as he turned his head, he instead saw a row of people looking at him with admiring gazes. Elian even deferentially said, “Mr. An Te Qi truly is fearless, actually daring to speak back to the Sun Emperor.”

“Hehehe. It's nothing. You just have to get used to it.” An Te Qi couldn't help but think to himself self-deprecatingly, *Yup, you just have to get used to having a gun held to your head.*

Not long later, the secret entrance to the house opened. Kyle was the first to step out. After clapping his hands, an entire row of butlers walked out, wearing Western-style suits, each carrying a porcelain or silver platter that looked better suited for a museum exhibition of an imperial palace than for carrying fried chicken.

Everyone stared wide eyed at the line of butlers elegantly arranging a long table and spreading out a pure-white tablecloth. Cooking utensils were also displayed to the side. A head chef stood before the cookware with an extremely solemn and proper expression while wearing a

completely white chef's uniform. In a five-star restaurant, this person would be diligently pacing back and forth and instructing subordinates to make the food, but this time, he was responsible for making everything himself.

Kyle explained to the Sun Emperor, "When it comes to fried chicken and French fries, they are more delicious freshly fried. Therefore, I had the chef come."

"Excellent." Ri Xiang Yan nodded in satisfaction. Then he instructed, "Ah Ye should almost be back home. Have them start now. I want him to be able to smell the food as soon as he steps through the door."

Kyle nodded and gave the head chef a look. The chef, trembling with fear, began making the most harrowing meal of his life: a meal consisting of fried chicken and French fries.

As everyone was swallowing their drool from the delicious smell of the fried chicken and French fries, the front door burst open.

In a complete panic, Ri Xiang Ye rushed inside. He didn't take in the current circumstances at all and darted in front of An Te Qi to shield him behind his back. He loudly implored his brother, "Gēge, you're absolutely not allowed to kill An Te Qi-bàba!"

Ah Ye! You really are an angel! Seeing Ri Xiang Ye's actions, An Te Qi was so moved he was about to cry. Both of them were made by the Ri family, but why's one of them so cute and the other one's so despicable?

"Gēge, why do you always want to kill An Te Qi-bàba?" Ri Xiang Ye's eyes lowered in dejection and he said sadly, "Unless Gēge really doesn't like An Te Qi-bàba..."

Seeing that his little brother was dejected, Ri Xiang Yan hastily pacified him, saying, "No! I don't dislike An Te Qi at all. I 'really like' your An Te Qi-bàba."

The words "really like" are really scary... This went through everyone's minds.

"Really? That's great... Ezart, Elan, Eloise, and Eli, it's great to see that Gēge didn't kill any of you." Ri Xiang Ye finally noticed the other people there. He was overjoyed that everyone was still alive and well.

"...We're alive, but almost got scared to death," Eloise muttered.

"I never expected you to be the Sun Emperor's little brother." Elan bitterly laughed.

"And that you're Dark Sun," Eli said as he stared at Ri Xiang Ye's clothes.

Ri Xiang Ye apologetically lowered his head, "Sorry, I didn't mean to deceive you."

"N-No worries..." The three of them said in unison because a certain ruler who controlled everything under the sky was currently coldly glaring at them off to the side.

"Ah Ye, are you hungry?" Ri Xiang Yan asked in concern.

"Yeah. Starving." Ri Xiang Ye nodded honestly. As a result of the huge battle earlier, his stomach was growling. Such intensive exercise naturally required a similarly enormous amount of calories as sustenance.

"Smells good... Is it fried chicken?"

Reassured that An Te Qi and his classmates were safe, the starving Ri Xiang Ye finally noticed the delicious scent of food, and it was even his favorite food—fried chicken, both delicious and high in calories.

"Yes. It's your favorite fried chicken and French fries." Ri Xiang Yan suggested with a warm smile on his face, "Ask your classmates if they'd like to eat together."

Ri Xiang Ye froze. Afterward, he jumped with joy and pulled on Ezart and Elian's hands as he said, "Ezart, Elian, Eloise, and Eli! Come on, come on! Let's eat midnight snacks together!"

Hearing Ri Xiang Ye say this, Ezart sat beside the table without further ado. Then, he took a few pieces of fried chicken. After he passed one to Ri Xiang Ye, he began taking huge bites.

Ri Xiang Ye happily took the fried chicken and then began eating heartily with Ezart.

Seeing this, everyone glanced at each other. Their eyes were filled with helplessness, but also indulgence and love for Ah Ye, this adorable kid.

Each of them sat down, one after another. The atmosphere was like that of a large family around the hearth.

But no one was happier than Ri Xiang Ye. One moment, he was picking up fried chicken for Ri Xiang Yan and An Te Qi, and the next, he was putting French fries in Ezart and Elian's bowls. In addition to filling up his own stomach, he simply didn't have a moment to spare.

"Ah Ye, I didn't get anything..." Eloise said aggrieved.

Ri Xiang Ye rushed to apologize, "Sorry, Eloise and Eli. These are for you!"

Once he finished speaking, he dumped an entire plate of the fried chicken the chef had just finished frying onto their two plates. The fried chicken piles were about as high as a small mountain.

Seeing this, Eloise squeezed Ri Xiang Ye with all her might and forcefully planted a few kisses on his face, squealing, "Ah Ye, I love you to pieces!"

Ri Xiang Ye sheepishly laughed and said, "I like you too, Eloise. Although you're kind of scary sometimes..."

Luckily Eloise had ascended to fried chicken heaven and hadn't heard the word "scary" at all.

"Ah Ye, are you happy?" Ri Xiang Yan warmly looked at his brother's brilliant smile.

"I'm happy! Really happy! This is the first time I've eaten together with so many people! And they're even all my friends, Gēge." An elated, beaming smile appeared on Ri Xiang Ye's face.

Seeing his little brother so happy, Ri Xiang Yan laughed and nodded. "Just so long as you're happy."

Then, he suddenly turned his head to face Ezart and the others. As he turned his head, his expression went from smiling to ice cold, and he said in a commanding tone, "From now on, you all must eat together with Ah Ye at least once a week!"

"Nuh-No pwoblem. I've nevurr eaten such good fwied chikun befur! I'm defunitely going tuh find Ah Ye tuh eat wif oftun now," Eloise replied with her mouth full of food. At the same time, she snatched away other people's fried chicken as if her life depended on it.

Ezart only shrugged and didn't reply.

But Elian resolutely said, "I'll come to eat with Ah Ye, but it's not because of you. It's because of Ah Ye!"

Hearing this, Ri Xiang Yan lightly smiled. His eyes never left Ah Ye's brilliant smile.

Doing something for Ah Ye was the same as doing it for him. Because Ah Ye was his everything.

Afterword: Afterword and Character Introductions

In this volume, our Ah Ye has finally begun to make friends. However, the issue of his mental age makes him run into many troubles. At the same time, because his personality and appearance are like a younger brother's, he has gotten to know many people who treasure him, such as Elia and Eloise.

But in the end, his favorite friend is still Ezart. Even though they ran into a huge problem in their interactions at first, the many misunderstandings arose due to a mistaken assumption. I think their friendship came out stronger because of their conflict? Or, I should say that without a bit of chilling cold, how would we enjoy the fragrance of plum blossoms? Friendship that has seen strife comes out all the stronger for it.

All the way up to *No Hero*, Ezart still makes frequent appearances. Even though he doesn't have much to do with the main plot, I find it hard to imagine that Ah Ye would spend his days completely estranged from Ezart. Therefore, Ezart bursts into the young master and the butler's life every so often.

In terms of plot, it is sometimes difficult to justify when Ezart's appearance has nothing to do with the main plot, but compared to whether or not it makes sense, I just like to treat the characters in the books like real people as I write them. They are living their own lives in the books. They will meet many people, experience many things, and continue to walk down their paths.

Maybe some people will be closer. Maybe some will grow apart. Some people may meet by chance, while some may influence another person for life.

Of course, I can't write a novel completely like someone's life. Throughout someone's actual life, they would meet even more people and live even more complicated lives. Chance meetings would be too numerous to recount, while a novel can't be so disorganized. I can only keep trying to find a better balance to make the novels interesting and also allow the characters to feel real.

However, this balance often sways, sometimes to the left, sometimes to the right. Depending on different times and backgrounds, or different readers, this point of balance may be different too. Therefore, the author is always striving to find the right balance!

Having written up to here, I realize that I seem to have taken it as a matter of fact that you have all read *No Hero*. Some of you may be directly reading *Eclipse Hunter* and haven't read *No Hero*. This is just the author's afterword, so just let me ramble a bit of nonsense.

I can be very casual in writing the afterword. Sometimes, I even jump around with my thoughts. Being able to casually write the afterword has always been a pleasure. I hope you can all bear with me.



The virtual lover game was inspired by Tamagotchi of the past. I wonder if you all have played those things before?

I'm sure they're very rare now. They were very popular for a period. I also played them for a while, but they were really too unrealistic and easy to lose interest in. I look forward to having super realistic pet consoles to play with in the future. Before this "future" arrives, let's write it into the book to enjoy it first!

There are many things in my books that come about from the thought "because they're still not possible now, I'll write it into the book to enjoy it first." The most, most, *most* obvious one is probably heroes. Since we still don't have heroes zooming about right now, let's write them into a book to enjoy it first! Haha!

This is also true with "past events." We don't have professions like knights anymore now, so I thought to write it into a book to enjoy it! As a result, I came up with the series *The Legend of Sun Knight*.

For a series to take shape, many factors are involved. It's not that "a single thing" can form a series, even though I often say that such and such series removes the illusions around knights or heroes. Truthfully, the theme has never been "removing the illusions" of something, but more like the following words:

"Someone's real appearance is often not as perfect as everyone would think, but the imperfect reality is often much more touching than the imagined perfection."

I hope that these imperfect knights and imperfect heroes in my books can touch everyone's hearts a bit.

By Yu Wo



Old Afterword

Devil Author—Yu Wo's Afterword

In *Eclipse Hunter: Friendship*, it's been a devil of a time. Demonic feelings have been rising, perfectly depicting Yu Wo's feelings and the surrounding atmosphere while she toiled over her manuscript. (Everyone, when you held this book, did you feel foreboding resentment spread from the book? Be wary of Yu Wo crawling out of the book in the middle of the night...)

Anyway, Yu Wo really spent a lot of time to write *Eclipse Hunter II*!

The main theme of this book was supposed to be Humanity, but as I wrote, it became Friendship. The original theme of humanity will have to be moved to the next book. The main reason is that I discovered that if I don't have Ah Ye make some friends first, the theme of humanity could only be explored through Ri Xiang Yan's business devil face. That would be way too simplistic.

Therefore, I changed it to Friendship.

In the previous volume, I used English titles for the chapter names, but this time I changed it to short Chinese poetry (I myself consider it poetry), since the English did not have the effect I wanted, so... *Sob, sob, sob*. Last time with the English chapter titles, Yu Wo put a lot of effort organizing them. If you line up the first letter of all of the titles, another word is formed!¹ But no one realized it~~ *Sob, sob, sob*, Yu Wo is so sad...

(Quick, go flip through the first volume and find out what that word is!)

Uh huh, for the sake of punishing everyone, Yu Wo is going to turn into a devil now!

I'll announce the contents of the next volume of *Eclipse Hunter* to whet everyone's appetite~~~ Hahaha!

The theme of the next volume is of course Humanity.

Since Bai Lian Yue, this foe who has a history with the Sun Emperor, has appeared, this should clue everyone in that Ri Xiang Ye will be making more appearances in the next volume.

At the same time, how Ri Xiang Yan found his own right hand, Bill... No! Kyle, will also be covered.

There will also be the tragic past of Bai Lian Yue pursuing Ri Xiang Yan.

As for Ah Ye's side, the mysterious principal and the barely mentioned "Death" will probably make an appearance. At the same time, the King of Might Ezart is of course a character that can't be missing from all of this. Hehe, as Ah Ye's first friend, Ezart will become stronger!

As for Elia and the rest, hahaha... If you want to see them, please come to Yu Wo's website to support them!

Also, depending on how things turn out, An Te Qi-bàba's past will be written or postponed to a later volume.

Finally, let's have a Rose n' Siren Eyes & Blue Spider Web type of preview!

Because he was forgotten by Ri Xiang Yan (or perhaps he never stayed in his memory in the first place?), Bai Lian Yue held resentment in his heart and deliberately set up a trap, finally capturing the Sun Emperor.

Having fallen into Bai Lian Yue's hands, Ri Xiang Ye('s chastity?) is currently in danger.

Dark Sun, Ri Xiang Ye, who has sworn to protect his master gēge, falls into the foe's trap on his way to rescue his brother.

Oh no! Just who is able to save these two brothers?

Please look forward to *Eclipse Hunter: Humanity*, which will hit the screens in 2007's summer CWT... Wrong! It's hit the stacks!

(Sorry, sorry, I've watched too many movies.)

By Yu Wo, completed on the night before Christmas

(Still toiling over manuscripts on Christmas Eve, how depressing!)

Yu Wo's sites:

Website: <http://www.wretch.cc/blog/kim1984429>

Family: http://tw.club.yahoo.com/clubs/kim6_6_6_fantasy/

Ya Sha's sites:

Website: <http://asuna666.skyzoo.biz/>



**Character Introductions—translated by Trespasserby
(proofread by Arcedemius; C/E edited by lucathia)**

[Eloise]

Personality in a nutshell: A girl with explosive strength who adores hot guys and pretty boys

Profession: A student from the Elites

Appearance: An attractive girl with short, black hair and dark red eyes

Weapon: Two massive maces

Catchphrase: "Ah Ye!~~ You're really too cute!"

[Eli]

Personality in a nutshell: The ice cube in the corner who gets easily forgotten by people

Profession: A student from the Elites

Appearance: An ice cube with blue hair and dark blue eyes

Weapon: Throwing knives and mind reading ability

Catchphrase: "..."

[Elian]

Personality in a nutshell: A person hiding their schemes behind a mischievous smile

Profession: A student from the Elites

Appearance: A warm, big brother-type with brown hair and green eyes

Weapon: A pair of energy swords

Catchphrase: "Wow! (An overly exaggeratedly long sigh) Really?"

[Kyle]

Personality in a nutshell: A strategist on par with Zhuge Liang who won't stop until either the job is done or he's dead

Profession: The Sun Emperor's right hand and a secretary capable of doing anything

Appearance: Black hair, blue eyes, earnest face

Weapon: His computer

Catchphrase: "Understood. As you say."

[Bai Lian Yue]

Personality in a nutshell: Bizarre

Profession: The leader of the Purple Moon Alliance

Appearance: A beautiful man with Chinese tastes, purple black hair, and golden eyes

Weapon: A plasma whip

Catchphrase: "Ri Xiang Yan, someday you will be mine!"

Footnotes

¹ **“Old Volume 1 Titles:”** Here are the titles Yu Wo used for the old edition of volume 1. There was no table of contents, so you would have to flip through the entire book to read each title and line them up.

Prologue: Pass everything to reach the final attachment

Chapter 1: Rain is your tear

Chapter 2: Obey is my only thought

Chapter 3: Tell me what you desire

Chapter 4: Eyes with no feelings

Chapter 5: Call me brother, please

Chapter 6: Tell me what you care

Chapter 7: I care nothing but

Chapter 8: Only you

Chapter 9: Nothing is more important than you