



Eclipse Hunter Volume 3: Angel, Slaughter  
Original novel in Chinese by: [御我 \(Yu Wo\)](#)  
Translated by [Prince Revolution](#)

## DISCLAIMER!

Please take note of the following:

- The following translation of the Eclipse Hunter Volume 3 is by **Prince Revolution!** and is a “by fans for fans” translation.
- This translation is completely FREE of charge, so if you have paid for this you have been ripped off!
- **Prince Revolution!** does not ask for donations, payment, or anything else of the sort. We do not benefit monetarily from our novel translations AT ALL.
- We only ask that you do not steal credit or attempt to profit monetarily from our translation. Please also inform us if you come across individuals or groups stealing credit or profiting monetarily from our translations.

## Copyrights

- Copyrights to the Eclipse Hunter novels are held by Yu Wo, the author of the novels.
- Copyrights to the Eclipse Hunter novel artworks are held by Chris (克里斯).

## One Last Thing

- **Prince Revolution!** has received permission from Yu Wo to translate the novels into English. However, this is NOT an official translation of the novels!
- As such, please cease distribution of this PDF (make sure you get your copy from PR! and not another site, if so, report the site to PR!) once an official ENGLISH version of the novels has been published.

HAPPY READING!

# Credits

## About Prince Revolution!

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 Dutch, Spanish, Indonesian, French, Portuguese and Vietnamese.

## Art

Chris (克里斯)

## Translators

**lucathia** (Afterword)

**Trespasserby**  
(Prologue, Chapter 1,  
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,  
10, Afterword)

## Proofreaders

**Arcedemius** (Chapter  
5, 10, Afterword)

**elisa** (Prologue,  
Chapter 1, 2, 3)

**J Tao** (Chapter 7, 8, 9)

**Minthe** (Chapter 1, 2,  
3, 6, 7, 10, Afterword)

**Tresspasserby**  
(Afterword)

**Xuan**  
(Chapter 4)

## Chinese/English Editors

**J Tao** (Chapter 9)

**lucathia** (Chapter 4,  
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)

**Simone** (Prologue,  
Chapter 1, 2, 3)

## Eclipse Hunter Volume 3: Angel, Slaughter

Original novel in Chinese by: 御我 (Yu Wo)

Prologue: Prologue .....	5
Chapter 1: Memories of Yue Ya'er in the Evening .....	8
Chapter 2: Simulation, Reality, Death .....	21
Chapter 3: Struggling Between Ruthlessness and Sincerity .....	48
Chapter 4: Prison of Love .....	72
Chapter 5: Disobeying Out of Love .....	98
Chapter 6: Dangerous Thinking .....	117
Chapter 7: Rescue Mission, Begin! .....	137
Chapter 8: A Wounded Beast's Fury .....	158
Chapter 9: Leisurely Days, Anxious Heart .....	185
Chapter 10: Loss .....	214
Afterword: Afterword and Character Introductions "Bye, Ezart. Bye, El-gē .....	248

## Prologue: Prologue

"Bye, Ezart. Bye, El-gē. Bye, Eloise. And bye to Eli too. I'll see you all tomorrow!"

Ri Xiang Ye happily and energetically waved at the four people in the doorway. On his face was what his older brother declared was the world's most adorable smile.

Ezart didn't even turn his head around and just casually raised a hand in reply.

"Bye, Ah Ye." Elian displayed a dazzling smile and replied properly.

"Ah Ye, you aren't allowed to wear those hideous glasses to class!" Eloise warned with her hands on her hips.

As for Eli, he only turned his head slightly and nodded.

Ri Xiang Ye once again waved with all his might. He stood in the doorway until he could no longer see his four classmates and only then reluctantly shut the front door. As soon as he turned around, he saw a handsome person with regal bearing and a haughty expression standing before him. This person had a full head of hair that was such a brilliant gold that it was almost blinding.

"Gēge!" Ri Xiang Ye called out with a silly smile.

As soon as he heard this cry of "Gēge," the monarch suddenly became an ordinary, neighborly big brother. He smiled indulgently at his little

brother. As he rubbed his brother's head, he smiled and asked, "Ah Ye, were you happy today?"

"Mhm!" Ri Xiang Ye enthusiastically nodded, smiling like a flawless fallen angel. Childlike, he said, "I got to eat together with Gēge, Bàba, and my friends. I was really, really happy!"

"As long as you had fun. *Tell* them to come over to eat next week."

Ri Xiang Yan was the older brother of the angelic youth in front of him. He was good-looking, but his heart didn't match his looks. He always held a commanding attitude toward people, without the slightest undertone of making a request. But knowing his true identity, his arrogant attitude was understandable.

After all, Ri Xiang Yan was the Sun Emperor who had the entire world in his clutches. The word "please" wasn't in his dictionary, as though that was completely natural.

"Mhm. Gēge, I'm going to do homework."

Ri Xiang Ye, a youth with an angelic smile, was also the Sun Emperor's younger brother and received one hundred percent of his older brother's love. He was a kindhearted and good child, as well as the only student who dutifully did his homework in the class where Yelan Academy sent all their underachievers.

Despite looking like an adorable youth who could captivate anyone, Ri Xiang Ye had a huge secret—he wasn't completely human.

As a child, he had been despised by his father since birth. His only value had been being made into a cyborg and becoming the ultimate bodyguard for his older brother.

Fortunately, even though this youth didn't have a loving father, he had an older brother who loved him.

Through great effort, Ri Xiang Yan had finally been able to save his younger brother. He had sworn to protect his little brother's smile and to let him always be happy.

Currently, this half cybernetic youth who had never had exposure to a lot of people before was also working hard learning to become an ordinary teenager. He was doing his best to adapt to school life, experience everything he could, make a few friends, and in the future, he would learn to become more... Human!



## Chapter 1: Memories of Yue Ya'er in the Evening

Ri Xiang Yan picked up his cup and drank some black coffee. The coffee had been steeped for too long. It was so bitter that even despite being used to drinking black coffee, he couldn't help scowling. The coffee made his mood even worse. He lifted his head, looked at the screen of the video call and impatiently said, "I don't care what others are saying. It doesn't matter what kind of forceful or underhanded tactics you have to use. I need Bai Lian Yue ousted."

The face on the screen of the video call was that of the extremely capable secretary who was also known as the Sun Emperor's right hand—Kyle.

"Sun Emperor, the Purple Moon Alliance has been cleverly manipulating public opinion by exaggerating our use of certain punishments and secret methods to generate a considerable amount of unfavorable opinion toward us. It is to the extent that even other economic alliances believe the Sun Alliance intends to annex all alliances, and that the destruction of the Purple Moon Alliance would only be the first step. At the moment, it seems if we really do eliminate the Purple Moon Alliance, it will cause the other alliances to take action."

"Hmph! Looks like Bai Lian Yue also realized the pitiful Purple Moon Alliance can't withstand my wrath."

Ri Xiang Yan was unsurprised by Kyle's report. After all, their opponent had also been navigating the business world for many years, and the Purple Moon Alliance was considered one of the largest alliances in the



world. It would have been strange if Bai Lian Yue hadn't taken any measures to guard against Ri Xiang Yan's vengeance.

As he plotted, Ri Xiang Yan asked for information he needed. "Earlier, during that incident when the headquarters were blown up, what were opinions on that?"

Kyle dutifully reported, "Following your previous orders, we announced all of our suspicions on the matter and attempted to seamlessly inform all relevant parties of the truth. However, many of the alliance leaders seem to have reservations about the loose ends."

Ri Xiang Yan frowned as he thought for a moment, quickly realizing what the reason was.

"I would have had reservations as well. Although everyone wants to usurp the Sun Alliance's position, assassinating me is the absolute worst tactic. The whole economy would collapse, and bringing it back would probably take a few years. Even if they really wanted to replace the Sun Alliance this way, their profits wouldn't necessarily be higher than what they already have."

Kyle nodded. Indeed, it was the reason why assassination wasn't often used as a tactic in the business world... Though it wasn't that rare either.

Ri Xiang Yan muttered, "And Bai Lian Yue has always been an expert in the business world. There probably isn't anyone who'd think he'd be stupid enough to use a method that would shoot himself in the foot."

"And the grudge between him and me... Even I don't remember what it was, never mind anyone else."

He couldn't help but massage his temples. *I don't get it. I really don't get it!* His capacity for recollection was better than most, and although his ability to remember people was a little worse, that was in part because he knew far too many people. But how could he not recognize someone who had pursued him for eight years?

No matter how much he thought about it, he didn't have the vaguest recollection of Bai Lian Yue wooing him. There had been several men who had chased after him before, but none of them had persistently pursued him for eight years.

"Kyle, you've been with me for seven or eight years now?" Ri Xiang Yan returned his attention to his personal secretary, asking, "Don't tell me that you don't remember Bai Lian Yue chasing me either?"

Kyle honestly replied, "Sun Emperor, although I've handled many things for you, when it comes to personal matters—forgive my bluntness—you have always disliked interference from others."

"That's right. When you're young, you hate letting others manage your relationships. I regret it now!" Ri Xiang Yan frowned and issued a command, "In the future, establish digital records to categorize anyone who pursues me or sends me love letters, gifts, or things like that. If one of them is too fanatic, report it. It's better that I deal with her... Or *him* early."

"Yes, Sun Emperor." Kyle slightly inclined his head. Another task had been added to his daily routine.

"In addition, as we were talking about public opinion earlier..."

"Gēge."

Ri Xiang Ye peeked his head out from behind the door, cautiously asking, "Are you busy?"

A gentle smile stretched across Ri Xiang Yan's face. He replied to his little brother, "Busy? How could I be? It's not work hours right now." As he spoke, he sneakily reached out to turn off the video call. He completely disregarded the Kyle waiting on the other end of the line for his boss's orders.

Ri Xiang Ye cheerfully ran into the room. In his hands was an exquisite black box inlaid with rubies. He put the box on top of his brother's office desk, excitedly asking, "Gēge, I found this box in your room. What is it? Can I look?"

Ri Xiang Yan smiled at the sight of his little brother's smiling face, and hadn't even properly looked at the box before answering, "Of course you can. If you like it, you can even have it."

After he obtained permission, Ri Xiang Ye impatiently opened the box, just like a child. There were many trinkets in the box, but the first thing that caught his eye was a silver pistol. The gun's design and appearance were already extremely outdated. It was clear that it was a gun with some years to it.

After playing around with it for a little bit, he lost interest. After all, it was nothing compared to the various firearms in his room, and too old-fashioned.

Ri Xiang Ye picked up another item in the box. It was a necklace in the shape of a crescent moon, made of a clear and sparkling material and prettier than anything he had seen before. Extremely curious, he asked, "Is this Gēge's necklace?"

It was only then that Ri Xiang Yan finally took in the appearance of the box. It turned out that it was the box he used to hold several items of sentimental value. It was only because he hadn't taken out the box in two or three years that he hadn't been able to recognize it at first glance.

He couldn't help but feel a little melancholic. When he was ten, his father had given him that box as a birthday present. It was said that the box was a priceless antique that had been handed down through many generations of the family. His father had originally been unwilling to give him a treasure with such special significance when he had been so young, but he still couldn't help repeatedly asking for it...

"Gēge?"

Hearing that call, Ri Xiang Yan abruptly returned to reality. He turned his head to see his little brother looking at him confusedly, and he hastily looked at the necklace. After shaking his head, he said, "No, that's not mine."

He looked at the crescent necklace with a frown, then said, "As for whose it is, I've forgotten... When I was young, I would always put in random stuff. It's probably not important. Wait, a crescent shape? Then maybe it's Yue Ya'er's necklace."

"Who's Yue Ya'er?"

"It's a long story..."

Ri Xiang Yan frowned. But when he raised his head, he saw his little brother's wide eyes. He was like a well-behaved child waiting to hear a story...

*He's so cute I'm going to die! Ah Ye! How can you be so adorable?! Ri Xiang Yan couldn't help but squeal in his heart.*

Thus, the good older brother obediently began narrating the story to his little brother. "It started when I was in middle school and decided I didn't want to continue studying at home. Instead, I brought up going to school.

"At that time, I was a foolish youngster who didn't like having a bunch of bodyguards trailing behind me. So, on the first day I was to go to school, I stubbornly went through a lot of trouble to throw off all the bodyguards and the chauffeur, and walk to school on my own.

"Who could have known that before even walking two blocks, I'd have caught the eye of the ruffians by the roadside and be forced into a dark alley..."

"A little baby from a posh school like you should have a couple thousand on you, right? Us bros are in need of a little cash. Why don't you lend us a few big bills to spend, great young master? Haha."

Several gangsters kept shooting glances at Ri Xiang Yan's finely made clothes, their eyes full of envy.

"I don't have any cash." Ri Xiang Yan lightly replied. He was also telling the truth. He never carried money on him, only a Sun credit card.

Several of the gangsters immediately began getting riled up and jeered, "Impossible! Quit lying. Anyone can see that you're a rich family's brat loaded with money."

Ri Xiang Yan shrugged and asked, "I have money, but I didn't bring any cash. Do you accept credit card?"

"... You playing us?"

Ri Xiang Yan frowned, and replied somewhat impatiently, "No, I never play with anyone. If you accept credit card, then hurry up. I'm about to be late to class."

"You little punk..."

Seeing the fist fly toward his face, Ri Xiang Yan raised an eyebrow and said indifferently, "You want to hit me? Fine. I've never been hit before. I might as well experience it firsthand."

As Ri Xiang Yan said those words, the person about to punch him nearly vomited blood in anger. As his fist descended, he screamed, "Good! Then today's the day you die."

As the fist was about to hit his face, Ri Xiang Yan noticed another figure rushing toward him out of the corner of his eye. His eyebrows remained raised and he said nothing, just stayed calm and unruffled as he watched the person rush over... who turned out to be a girl? She was wearing a cheongsam in an antiquated style, but kicked and brandished a whip until several of the gangsters were tripping over themselves trying to run out of the alley, crying for their mommies.

*What a swift and fierce girl!* Ri Xiang Yan lightly smiled. He clapped as though he had seen a thrilling show and said, "Your fighting style is a delight to see. It's like a dance."

The girl laughed sincerely and said, "You're quite interesting. Do you truly want to experience being hit?"

"Don't tell me that I can't?" Ri Xiang Yan chuckled, "I'll try anything once!"

"Of course you can. Do you want a taste of my whip?"

"Alright," Ri Xiang Yan replied, smiling faintly. Then, relaxed, he waited for the other person to hit him.

Serious, the girl raised her whip. But even after a long time had passed, she didn't lash out. Finally, after spluttering out a laugh, she



giggled and said, "Never mind, forget it. When you smile at me with your pretty face and those eyes, how can I possibly hit you?"

Ri Xiang Yan laughed, "You're also very beautiful, Yue Ya'er."

"Why did you call me Yue Ya'er?" The girl seemed a little startled.

Ri Xiang Yan pointed at the girl's clothes and the pattern on her chest. "Because there's a crescent moon on your clothes."

Yue Ya'er murmured, "Is that so? And I had thought you knew my name..."

"Hm?"

"It's nothing. I can't bear to hit you, so do you want to watch other people being beaten? A fighting competition is holding preliminary matches nearby at this very moment."

*Today is the first day I'm supposed to go to middle school...* Ri Xiang Yan shrugged and said indifferently, "Alright. Let's go."

"And that's how I met Yue Ya'er. After that, she would send me flowers every day. If I wanted to hang out with her, then I would place the flowers by my window, wait until nightfall, and she would be by the back entrance waiting for me."

Ri Xiang Yan smiled faintly. Those had really been some crazy times. He had often stayed out all night, but still had to go to class during the day and spend time with his father to learn how to handle all sorts of

business matters and other things. Without the vigor of youth, he probably would have collapsed.

"I'd like to meet Yue Ya'er-jǐějie," Ri Xiang Ye requested somewhat enthusiastically.

Ri Xiang Yan shook his head and said, "That's impossible. One day, Yue Ya'er disappeared. She no longer sent me flowers, and even when I bought my own flowers to place in the window, she never showed up... It was so strange!"

He lowered his head and murmured, "But the whole time, I don't remember her giving me this necklace. Maybe it's not her necklace after all?"

*Then haven't I just told that story for nothing?*

"Sun Emperor, allow me to speak."

Hearing that sentence, Ri Xiang Yan froze, but next to him, Ri Xiang Ye speedily reacted and pressed the button for the screen of the video phone. He cheerfully greeted, "Kyle-gē, good evening."

"Good evening, Young Master Ri Xiang Ye," Kyle deferentially greeted. At this moment, Ri Xiang Yan looked at the switch for the phone and then realized that just now he had only turned off the screen, not severed the connection for the call. And Kyle had probably thought there were still matters he wanted to issue commands for, so Kyle had been waiting on the phone the whole time.

“What is it?”

Kyle respectfully asked, “Would you allow me to see the necklace in question?”

Not waiting for Ri Xiang Yan’s reply, Ri Xiang Ye immediately lifted up the necklace in his hand and said, “I’ll let you look, Kyle-gē.”

Kyle only glanced at it for a moment before determining, “Sun Emperor, that necklace is the family heirloom Bai Lian Yue brought when he publicly confessed to you.”

“Huh?” Ri Xiang Yan frowned and looked at the necklace. *So it was Bai Lian Yue who had actually given me the necklace?*

“If I could have your attention again, Sun Emperor. Would you say that Yue Ya’er’s antique styled skirt resembled this type of clothing?”

After Kyle finished speaking, an ancient Chinese-styled chang pao that was even covered with a duan gua appeared on the screen of the phone.

“That’s right. Yue Ya’er was wearing that kind of skirt!” Ri Xiang Yan couldn’t help sighing with nostalgia.

“Sun Emperor, this is not a skirt. This is called a chang pao ma gua and is worn by men. Furthermore, it is the traditional clothing worn by Bai Lian Yue’s family.”

“What?” Ri Xiang Yan instantly stiffened.

Kyle still remained respectful and polite as he explained, "As your subordinate, my theory is that your first love, Yue Ya'er, was actually Bai Lian Yue. But because he was wearing a traditional ma gua, which in the eyes of a modern person, looks like a cheongsam that a girl would wear, in addition to his somewhat beautiful and feminine looks..."

"Wait a moment!" Ri Xiang Yan shouted in alarm, "If he's Yue Ya'er, then when he confessed to me, how could I not have realized it was him?!"

"My humble guess is that perhaps he was following local customs that day, or because he was going to confess to you, he wore a formal Western-style suit and perhaps tied up or cut his hair short. Forgive my bluntness, but in addition to the fact that your ability to recognize people has always been somewhat lacking, you were also preoccupied with the matter of Young Master Ri Xiang Ye's disappearance at the time. As a result, you were unable to recognize that the man confessing to you was Yue Ya'er."

Ri Xiang Yan frowned, deep in thought. He commanded, "Give me a picture of Bai Lian Yue wearing that... Whatever gua!"

"Ma gua."

On screen, Kyle clicked the mouse incessantly. Shortly after, a photo appeared on the screen of an extraordinarily beautiful creature wearing a gorgeous chang pao ma gua. Although this person had a

beautiful face, it was still possible to look at their figure and tell they were male.

“Ah!”

Although the person was bulkier than the Yue Ya’er he remembered and gave off a more masculine air, as soon as Ri Xiang Yan saw that photo, he could see similarities between their faces. He couldn’t help covering his mouth with his hand to keep from shouting out in surprise.

*Bai Lian Yue is actually... Yue Ya’er!*

## Chapter 2: Simulation, Reality, Death

Ri Xiang Yan held the black box of memories in his hands. His little brother Ah Ye, being the good child that he was, had gone off to sleep a long time ago. The office had been completely silent for some time when at last, there was the sound of a sigh.

"Bill."

"Yes, Sun Emperor." Kyle was still waiting on the phone. He was never the one that pressed the button to end a call.

"What should I do?" Ri Xiang Yan held the sparkling crescent necklace. It dazzled before him, like the smile of his first love had.

"I do not know." Kyle still did his duty and did not provide a reply. He understood very well that this was not a business matter that required his response, and that the Sun Emperor also did not really want him to answer. He was posing the question to himself.

"Ugh! This matter has gone on for so long already, and he's also hated me for so long. He's not going to simply forgive me just after hearing a stupid reason like that, right?" Ri Xiang Yan idly spun the crescent necklace around and around.

Kyle quietly waited on the other end of the call.

"As for the revenge thing, just punish him a little. Don't bother with ousting him anymore." Ri Xiang Yan listlessly said, "I owe him that much."

“Understood.”

Then Ri Xiang Yan pressed the button to end the call and stared at the crescent necklace in his hands for a long time. In the end, he placed it back into his box of mementoes and placed the cover of the box back on. But seeing the box whole again, he couldn't help gazing fixedly at the black, finely detailed box again and lightly stroking the rubies on top.

*Father...*

Ri Xiang Yan closed his eyes and slowly leaned back into the chair. He murmured, “If māmā hadn't died or if you didn't hate Dìdi, wouldn't that have been great? We would have definitely been a happy family... Unfortunately, ‘what ifs’ have absolutely no meaning.”

He put away the box, sparing it no further attention.



“Bye, An Te Qi-bàba. I'm going to go to school.”

Ri Xiang Ye planted a kiss on An Te Qi's cheek. An Te Qi was holding a cup of coffee in his hand, his face extremely haggard-looking, his eyes lifeless, and his mind clearly wasn't entirely there. If a police officer had been present, they no doubt would have immediately arrested him for being under the influence of drugs.

Ezart let out a huge yawn. He looked An Te Qi up and down, and rudely said the conclusion he had drawn, “Is he a madman?”



"An Te Qi-bàba doesn't have a mental illness."

Ri Xiang Ye skipped over to Ezart and tried hard to explain, "Every night, Bàba works until it's really late. But Gēge told Bàba that he has to take good care of me. He has to send me off to school every day and say goodbye to me at the door, otherwise he'll be executed. So Bàba has no choice but to wake up early and doesn't have much energy."

Ezart said somewhat disapprovingly, "Your dad is crazy. He's so old already and he's still staying up so late. Same with your bro. You're how old now? And you still have to say goodbye before going to school."

As those words were said, a certain druggie suddenly snapped awake. As he scanned his surroundings, he furiously bellowed, "Who was it? Who said that I'm old?"

"... Your dad woke up."

"Mhm... An Te Qi-bàba, I'll see you later. I'm going to school." Ri Xiang Ye hugged An Te Qi again.

"Oh, Ah Ye."

An Te Qi blankly stared at the two students in front of him. He was somewhat confused about how long he had been standing in the doorway. *I can't remember at all...* But since he valued his life, he still

obediently did what Ri Xiang Yan said and told Ah Ye goodbye. "Be careful on your way to school."

"Come on."

Ezart yelled impatiently, and left on his own first, taking huge strides.

Seeing this, Ri Xiang Ye anxiously tried to catch up, even shouting, "I'm coming! Wait for me, Ezart!"

"Young people are really so full of energy..."

An Te Qi leaned on the side of the door and drank some coffee. He watched the two youngsters leave, one ahead of the other, and then lamented like an old man.

The two people, with one of them ahead of the other, hadn't been walking at their rapid pace for long before the bigger one in the front reverted to being lazy, walking so that each step wasn't even a full stride. Ri Xiang Ye didn't react in time and rushed ahead. He'd passed Ezart by several meters before he blankly realized what happened and hurried back to Ezart.

"There are practicals today. Remember to let Dark Sun into the battle simulator. I want to have some fun with him today." Even though Ezart seemed to be saying it nonchalantly, his shining eyes clearly indicated that he was looking forward to fighting Dark Sun.

"Hm?"

Ri Xiang Ye was startled, but then he remembered that ever since Ezart, Elan, and his other friends had discovered that he was Dark Sun, and had been threatened by Ri Xiang Yan to never disclose the truth that Ri Xiang Ye wasn't an ordinary boy, everyone had simply decided to treat Ri Xiang Ye and Dark Sun as two different people. They didn't want to accidentally let the secret slip one day and get silenced.

Ri Xiang Ye was still the frail young master, and Dark Sun was the bodyguard. This was the consensus everyone had reached.

"But El-gē also said he wants me to... Wants Dark Sun to fight with him today."

"What?!" Ezart was somewhat unhappy as he said, "Didn't he fight him last time?"

"But you fought the last last time..." As Ri Xiang Ye spoke, his voice grew softer and softer.

"That's right! So now it's my turn. Don't argue so much. Just go with it," Ezart went ahead and declared.

Ri Xiang Ye could only blankly say, "Oh," and continued walking with him until they passed a toy store. He suddenly stopped, and even tugged on the corner of Ezart's clothes.

Ezart gave him the side-eye and asked suspiciously, "What? If you don't hurry up, you're going to be late."

Ri Xiang Ye pulled out a pink, heart-shaped virtual lover console from his backpack. His eyes shone as he looked at the toy store and said, "Xiao Ai has an upgrade chip out. I want to buy it."

"... You're still playing with that thing? And you even want to buy a new update?" Ezart looked incredulously at the virtual lover console.

After hearing that, Ri Xiang Ye had a pitiful expression full of disappointment. He asked in a small voice, "I can't buy it...?"

*There it is again! The puppy's begging for a bone!* Ezart helplessly facepalmed and growled, "Whatever, just do what you want. If you want to buy it, hurry up. You're going to be late to class."

Of course, he didn't care about being late to class, but any reason was a good one as long as he could leave the toy store faster!

"It'll be really quick. Ezart, you have to wait for me."

Ri Xiang Ye rushed into the toy store as soon as he obtained permission. He knew Ezart didn't have any patience at all when it came to waiting for people, so he wanted to hurry and buy it. Otherwise, he would be left behind.

Ri Xiang Ye was planning to pounce on the counter and shout "give me the newest upgrade chip" as soon as he rushed into the toy store, but there was another customer making a purchase, not just the shop clerk from last time. So Ri Xiang Ye had no choice but to pause. A bit anxious, he didn't know what he was supposed to do.

The shop clerk had clearly recognized the big-spending customer and smiled from ear to ear as he called out, "May I ask what you would like to look at?"

"I-I want the newest upgrade chip. The one on TV that said I could feed Xiao Ai food from different countries, do makeup, and give Xiao Ai a pet to raise. It also has a lot of clothes she can change into." Ri Xiang Ye lifted up the virtual lover console in his hands, rattling off what he had heard from the ad on TV.

"The Virtual Lover 8.0 update? Please wait a moment. I will have it ready for you immediately." After the shop clerk finished speaking, he immediately lowered his head to look beneath the counter for the merchandise.

"O.K." Ri Xiang Ye waited obediently.

"A virtual lover game. That sort of thing for little children really does suit you."

Ri Xiang Ye froze. Then he realized those words had actually come from the other customer at the counter. Although the other person had spoken, they didn't seem to have any intention of turning to face Ri Xiang Ye.

"Ah... Bai Lian Xing, are you buying toys too?"

"It's a model!" Bai Lian Xing turned his head and fiercely glared at Ri Xiang Ye. Then he disdainfully glanced at the virtual lover console in Ri

Xiang Ye's hands, and said with contempt, "I have no interest in childish playthings."

"Models? Is that a fun kind of toy to play with?" Ri Xiang Ye asked curiously.

"Models are not toys!" Bai Lian Xing angrily growled.

"Huh?" With a blank expression, Ri Xiang Ye asked, "Isn't this a toy store? Don't they only sell toys?"

"Of course not, you moron. Don't lump the things I'm buying with your toys."

"P-Please don't be upset, customers." The shop clerk hastily came out from under the counter to intervene. "We are a toy store, but we do also sell models. Both of you are correct!"

Ri Xiang Ye cocked his head to think, then he happily laughed and said, "So it's like that. I didn't know toy stores sold things other than toys."

After hearing that, Bai Lian Xing rolled his eyes and walked several steps back. Minding his own business, he continued to thumb through a catalog, trying to distance himself from Ri Xiang Ye.

The shop clerk let out a sigh of relief seeing that the two customers had finally stopped arguing. He put on a professional smile and asked Ri Xiang Ye, "Would you like to view our models?"

*I kind of want to look... N-No! Ezart is still waiting outside for me.*

Ri Xiang Ye shook his head and hurriedly pulled out his credit card to pay as he said, "I'll look some other time. Ezart's outside waiting for me."

As soon as he saw that credit card, the shop clerk's face broke out in a smile. He respectfully bowed at a ninety-degree angle. "Very well. I will immediately process your payment. When you have time, we welcome you to look at our models."

Seeing this, Bai Lian Xing couldn't help looking at the shop clerk strangely. That level of fawning was excessive. Even he had never received that kind of treatment. He couldn't help shooting a glance at the credit card in the shop clerk's hands.

As soon as he saw it, his eyes almost bored holes through it. He simply couldn't believe it. *How could this idiot have the highest level of Sun credit cards?!*

This card was so uncommon that not even a hundred of them had been issued, and every person that had one was amongst the world's most impressive and well-known people. Something unique about the card was that it was completely black, with the golden Sun Bank logo on it. It was extremely easy to recognize.

However, no one in the school knew this guy before him, much less the whole world. Even at school, few people knew he existed!



Immediately after Ri Xiang Ye had just lowered his head to finish signing the bill, an impatient shout came from outside.

"Ah Ye, are you done or not?"

"C-Coming!"

Ri Xiang Ye hurriedly put away his credit card and upgrade chip. He hastily headed for the door and had almost stepped out when he seemingly remembered something. He quickly turned his head back to say, "Bye, Bai Lian Xing."

Although Bai Lian Xing's face stiffened, he still nodded. After all, although he didn't know what kind of background the person in front of him had, it was certain that he wasn't insignificant.

After Ri Xiang Ye had finished calling out, he hurriedly rushed out of the store. Ezart's loud voice could be faintly heard coming from outside the store.

"You take so long. Today's practicals are first and second period. I don't want to have less time to fight Dark Sun because I was late!"

"No way. Ezart, it doesn't even take five minutes before you're defeated by Dark Sun every time."

"Shut up!"

"Oh. O.K."

*Dark Sun?!* Hearing those words, Bai Liang Xing rushed out of the toy store in a hurry. But by that point, Ezart and Ri Xiang Ye were already on a different topic, wrestling with the question of whether or not to have a midnight snack.

He watched the two figures with some uneasiness, and doubtfully asked himself, "Is that idiot actually connected to Dark Sun?"

*He has a Sun credit card, when not even a hundred of them have been issued, and he is connected to Dark Sun... Could that idiot An Xiang Ye actually be related to the Sun Alliance?*

Bai Lian Xing eyes were fixed on the two receding figures. A hundred thoughts seemed to swirl in his eyes. Finally, he softly called out, "Come out."

"Yes, sir!"

His three servants leapt out from the shadows of the street. The three of them deferentially clasped their hands and kept their heads lowered in front of Bai Lian Xing and awaited orders.

"Old weirdo, immediately report to Father that I have discovered a classmate who may have a major connection to Dark Sun and the Sun Alliance. Ask him if I could borrow one of the newest modified humans." He muttered to himself for a bit and added, "Also ask him to lend me a technician. I need someone to modify something for me."

"Yes, Young Master."

Within their group of three, the short, ugly man put his hands together and bowed, and then turned around and left at lightning speed.

Bai Lian Xing stood outside of the toy store for a while. In the end, he walked back into the toy store and tossed a credit card at the shop clerk.

"Give me a virtual lover game. The same model the kid from just now had."



Standing in the battle simulator's plaza while Ezart was full of excitement for battle made it awkward for Ri Xiang Ye when he said, "Ezart, you go in first. I'll go in later to find you."

"I'll be waiting on you! I'm going to fight that Eloise woman first." After Ezart decided on it, he didn't even look back as he entered the battle simulator.

*Then I should go find a place to change into Dark Sun's clothes too!*

Ri Xiang Ye lifted his backpack. He was going to walk into the dense woods on campus as usual to take off his uniform, then put on his visor and become the mysterious expert, Dark Sun.

Elian had reported back to the Principal that Dark Sun was too strong and that he wasn't willing to see the Principal, so they had been unable to retrieve Dark Sun. But the Principal seemingly was still unwilling to give up and had installed countless cameras on campus just to find Dark Sun. Luckily, Eliau and the others became double

agents, telling Ri Xiang Ye where the security cameras were installed along with helping him to find a place to change his clothes.

Although Ri Xiang Ye was very grateful for Elian and the others' help, he couldn't help thinking that really, he didn't need to turn into Dark Sun again... Except that Elian and Ezart were both battle fanatics who always asked him to go into the battle simulator to fight with them during practicals.

Of course, he couldn't fight them every practical. Otherwise, the Principal would definitely realize that Dark Sun and Elian's group were connected. Similarly, he also couldn't go into the battle simulator together with Ezart. Naturally, the reason for that was they were afraid the connection between Dark Sun and Ezart would be discovered.

Thinking about this, Ri Xiang Ye grew more and more worried. He frowned and said, "I hope no one finds out I'm Dark Sun. Otherwise, Gēge will definitely be really mad."

Throwing off his uniform, he exposed the red, form-fitting clothes underneath. At the same time, he put on his silver visor. Afterward, he stuffed the uniform into his backpack and hid the backpack within the undergrowth, finally finishing the ritual he did each time to become Dark Sun.

"Ah! The expression, the expression!"

Ri Xiang Ye shut his eyes and slapped his cheeks hard. His innocent expression gradually disappeared and was replaced by... No, there was

nothing replacing it. His face was completely devoid of emotion. Even when he opened his eyes, they held no trace of humanity.

Unfeeling, heartless, seeming more inhuman than human—this was Dark Sun.

*Mission: Enter the battle simulator. Fight Ezart and Elian.*

After confirming his assignment, Dark Sun quickly strode out of the woods, heading directly for the battle simulator. But he hadn't gone far before he heard his name being called on his way there. At the same time, some people had followed behind him. Although they weren't following closely behind, staying at least ten paces back, Dark Sun didn't allow people to follow behind him where he couldn't see them.

When the number of people following him started to grow more and more, Dark Sun finally stopped. The number of people already reached a level where they could be a threat and could not be ignored any longer.

He turned around to observe the people. These people did not make any threatening actions, but their following behavior had already triggered an alarm in Dark Sun's brain. He instinctively thought, *Attack them. Defeat their troops...*

*No! They're all my classmates. Don't hurt them.* Ri Xiang Ye's thoughts interrupted Dark Sun's plan of action.

As a result, Dark Sun stopped what he was doing and quietly watched the crowd. Since he was not allowed to preemptively attack, then he could only wait for an opportunity to strike.

The crowd was split into many small groups. Everyone was whispering:

“Dark Sun! He turned around.”

“So cool.”

“It’s Dark Sun! He finally came. I’ve been waiting for three days now. He’s a really strong fighter.”

“Do you think he’ll give autographs?”

Dark Sun stood there for a while. After he determined that the people were not hostile and were not going to attack, he turned back around and continued walking toward the battle simulator.

However, he had just turned around when he immediately noticed someone drawing closer. Dark Sun instantly whirled around, silently extending the nails on his hand.

“C-Could you sign this for me?” A shy girl was walking closer and holding out a photo. Her face was flushed red from embarrassment. Behind her were a couple of girls shouting encouragement.

Dark Sun looked at the girl. He determined that her short skirt and spaghetti strap top had no room to conceal weapons. At the same

time, he was also looking at her muscles and figure. She didn't pose any sort of threat. In his mind, the softhearted Ri Xiang Ye had already nodded in agreement, so Dark Sun retracted his nails and silently accepted the photo. Surprisingly, the photo's image was of him fighting in the battle simulator...

He signed the words "Dark Sun" on it. The lettering was so neat that at first glance, it seemed like it had been typed by a computer. Then he handed the photo back to the girl.

"Th-Thank you!"

The girl took back the photo, and embarrassed but happy, ran back to her little group. The girls shrieked happily.

Dark Sun immediately turned around to carry out his mission to battle, but as he turned around, he felt another person draw close. Only this time it wasn't just one person, but several dozen people. The alarm in his head instantly began sounding loudly. His blade-like nails once again came out, and as he turned, his hands were in a position ready to attack, prepared to face the numerous enemies behind him...

Thirty or so people behind him lifted up photos at the same time, respectfully asking, "Please sign this for me!"

Dark Sun suddenly froze where he stood. He wanted to complete his mission to battle, but the emotional part of his mind had gone softhearted once more. So he could only stop and take the nearest person's pen and photo to write the words "Dark Sun" again.



*It's just signing my name. It won't take too long. I can go back to finding Ezart and the others in a little bit.* Ri Xiang Ye was thinking.

After he had finished writing the first name on the photograph and looked up, the thirty people had already turned into three hundred people.



"That brat Ah Ye!" Ezart furiously smashed his fist into the wall next to him, shouting, "He actually ditched me!"

"Even Lian got called away by the Principal. It's so boring! We should just head out, Eli." Eloise was sitting on the ground, bored out of her mind. She used her finger to poke holes in the stone slabs paved on the ground.

Eli looked sideways at the two others. Then he lifted his head again to look around at the ruins surrounding him. It had originally been a bustling business street, but as the two violent people next to him grew impatient while they painfully waited for Dark Sun, it had suffered catastrophic devastation. The students in the battle simulator had all been similarly destroyed.

"Then let's just go out," was all Eli could suggest.

"Let's head out and give that brat Ah Ye some payback," Ezart coldly huffed. Then without caring about the other two people, he left on his own.

"Hey! You're not allowed to bully my Ah Ye."

Eloise hastily stood up and quickly went after him. Eli naturally could only follow along.

"What did the Principal want Lian to do?" Eloise turned her head to ask Eli after she had caught up with Ezart. "Also, he didn't ask the two of us either. Usually the three of us operate together."

"No idea," Eli honestly replied back.

"Really now. If Lian finishes one more mission than us, then wouldn't he graduate before us?" Eloise pouted and grumbled, "We can't let him graduate on his own first. We have to make him help us finish a mission later before letting him graduate!"

"We've already completed one mission more than him."

"What?" Eloise's head instantly swiveled around. Staring at Eli with wide eyes, she exclaimed, "No way!"

"Regarding those missions about Dark Sun last time, our mission was just to collect information about Dark Sun. Elian's mission was to bring Dark Sun to the Principal."

Eli looked sideways at Eloise. So even his partner hadn't clearly understood the contents of the mission in the first place. He could only do his best to explain, "I reported to the Principal that I could not sense Dark Sun's thoughts at all and that he didn't seem human. That could still count as collecting information about Dark Sun."

"So that's how it was!" Eloise replied a little foolishly. After she replied, she exclaimed again, "Oh no! Then doesn't that mean that we have to help Lian finish a mission?"

"I think that he won't need our help at all," Eli coldly said.

The three of them walked out of the gymnasium, which was also a huge battle simulator, when Ezart, who had been walking in front, suddenly stopped in his tracks. The two people behind him weren't paying attention and both their faces smacked into his back with a "bang." Both of them grimaced in pain. They had narrowly avoided their noses becoming crooked from the impact.

"Why the hell did you stop like that?!"

Eloise rubbed her face while wailing angrily.

"What the hell is that?"

Ezart had a very strange expression as he pointed in front of him. Only now did the other two realize something wasn't quite right with the plaza. The crowd was still a crowd, with about the same amount of people as usual, but everyone was in a huge line that curved in many loops. That was a little strange.

"Wow! There's so many people in line! I want to line up too!" Eloise grew worried. She was afraid that by the time it was her turn, they would stop letting people line up.

"Do you even know what you're lining up for?" Ezart asked incredulously.

"How would I know? If there's a line, then line up. Maybe there's something good!" Eloise replied naturally. After she finished replying, she really did ditch the two men and rushed off to find where the end of the line was, intending to line up.

"You..."

Seeing Eloise charge through the ranks, Ezart was left speechless.

"Dark Sun," Eli suddenly said.

"What?" Ezart turned his head to look at Eli. *Why'd the weird guy suddenly call out "Dark Sun?"*

"Their hearts are mostly calling for Dark Sun," Eli explained further. *This line has something to do with Ah Ye?*

There was a complicated expression on Ezart's face as he looked at the line. He wanted to see what the line had to do with Ah Ye, but as soon as he saw that the line was so long that its end couldn't be seen, he didn't want to set even a single foot in the queue. Just as he was thinking of simply finding the front of the line and cutting there, Eli had started slowly walking ahead.

"Where are you going?"

Eli pointed at Eloise, who had already found the end of the line and was currently waving at them vigorously. She was clearly shouting, "Let's line up together!"

"... Not interested," Ezart irritably responded.

*Anyway, with Ah Ye's strength, even if all of these people are his enemies, they won't be able to do anything to him. Might as well go back to the classroom to sleep.*

As he was about to turn around and leave, he heard Eli saying the word, "Wait."

"What now?"

"Elian is calling me. He's in the crowd." Eli scanned the crowd for his teammate.

"El? Didn't that guy get called away by the Principal?" Ezart frowned. He looked at the crowd. *Don't tell me that El guy is also in line. This is getting ridiculous!*

"Principal. Mission..." Eli frowned. He was trying hard to read Elian's thoughts from within the crowd. He murmured the things that he read aloud, "Dark Sun. Warn."

Ezart and Eli looked at each other and said at the same time, "The Principal gave him a mission that has to do with Dark Sun?"

"He wants us to warn Dark Sun." Eli said after nodding. They had been teammates for so long that even with a few words, he could roughly tell what Elian meant.

"But who knows where that guy is! And if the Principal is just relying on El, then he doesn't have the skills to beat Dark Sun."

Ezart was still too lazy to care. In any case, Elian had already tried many times to challenge Dark Sun, and Elian's results were the same as his: defeat after defeat. The most he could last was five minutes, and the most El could last was three more than him.

But Eli shook his head. He explained, "The Principal should also know that Elian can't beat Dark Sun. He wouldn't only send him."

"Even if he has help, Dark Sun doesn't like fighting. He's going to run. And if he wants to run, then there's no one who can stop him!"

As soon as he said that, even Eli had to nod. Dark Sun's strength was plain for all to see.

But Ezart didn't feel like leaving now. He muttered, "But if there's going to be a show, then I might as well finish watching it before going to sleep."

"..."

"Come on, Eli. We're heading to the front to watch." Ezart picked Eli up with one hand. Once he had grabbed him, Ezart headed for the very front of the line. *Lining up? No way in hell!*

Seeing this, Eloise also ran out of the line. She caught up by jogging, and as soon as she had hurried next to the two of them, she began scolding, "Hey! Why aren't you lining up? Cutting in line is really rude!"

"I'm not lining up. Is there something wrong with standing and watching on the sidelines?" Ezart asked mockingly as a rebuttal.

"This..." Eloise frowned. It seemed like it would be fine.

"Eloise, the Principal just gave another mission to face Dark Sun. Elian wants us to warn him," Eli conscientiously reported.

"Ah?" Eloise froze. After she exclaimed, "Oh," she said, "Then let's go. Dark Sun's at the front of the line."

"What? How do you know..." Ezart and Eli were both shocked.

"The people in line said they're getting Dark Sun's autograph!"

"Then why are you in line?" Ezart asked incredulously.

"I also want his autograph! Nothing wrong with that, right?" Eloise fanned out five photographs and happily said, "Look! The people next to me even shared Dark Sun photos with me. He looks so handsome!"

*That's not the problem! Dark Sun is clearly Ah Ye, so just ask him to sign them later. Why line up...* Ezart facepalmed again.

Eli was used to this and did not react in the slightest.



As the three of them dawdled, the person lying in wait within the crowd was so angry he was about to vomit blood.

*What the hell are they doing?! I told them to hurry and warn Dark Sun, but they're over there talking!* Elian was about to explode. He was itching to walk up and smack the three of them on their thick skulls.

"Your face is too stiff, Elian. Don't hold me back later!" A cold voice said.

"My apologies. I'm just a little sick of waiting." Elian turned around and smiled charmingly. "Is this better, Death?"

The person next to Elian had a head of short black hair. His face was extremely handsome. He also had a pair of green eyes so piercing, it seemed he was always glaring at people. He was about the same height as Elian but his build was even more slender. At first glance, it was difficult to tell what gender this person was, considering how there weren't huge differences between men and women in this current age.

"Are you two a couple? You're really good match!" A small girl asked next to them while blushing. The group of girls next to her also began discussing the pairing.

"The girl is so pretty. The guy is also really good looking too! But the girl seems to be taller..."



Elian bitterly laughed and explained, "Hahaha! No. *He's* a boy. We're just friends."

"Wow! Boy x Boy!"

*Wait a moment, "boy x boy?"*

"It's like a BL pairing of bishies from a manhua!"

"Who do you think is the top and the bottom?"

"..."

"Does it even need saying? You can instantly see that the reddish-brown haired one is stronger. It has to be him on top."

"What were you all saying?!"

Death dangerously narrowed his eyes. He coldly said, "Did you just say I was beneath Elian?"

"D-Don't be angry, Death. The top and bottom they were talking about wasn't about whose strength is higher or lower!"

Elian hurriedly tried to intervene. He couldn't let Death do anything. That guy had no concept of letting someone off lightly. Once he acted, he would take a life. He was a dangerous person who really should be shut in a cell with a sign saying "Danger! Do not release."

"Did you just say that I was beneath Elian?" Death completely ignored what Elian had said. His hand was already on his weapon. He was only waiting for that group to say "yes" and he would eliminate them along with Elian to demonstrate that his power was definitely higher than Elian's!

"You're on top!"

Under Death's ominous stare and with Elian vigorously signaling by winking, all the girls replied in unison.

Seeing this, Elian finally heaved a sigh of relief.

"Hmph! Of course I am the strongest." Death moved his hand off his weapon. He fiercely glared at Elian, and proclaimed, "Whether it's you or Dark Sun, I will be on top!"

At his declaration, the girls all had fervent gazes as they began talking, one after another.

"Wow! He wants to take on Dark Sun too!"

"Is it a love triangle?"

"Or is it one going after two?"

*There's no point in arguing over top and bottom! Death, you really have no idea what that gaggle of girls mean by "top and bottom..."*

Elan felt even more like crying. He just hoped that this incident wouldn't blow up, or he really would want to choke Death!

"I've spotted the target. Hey! Don't hold me back."

Death coldly sneered at Elian, then in a split second, his expression became gentle. The look in his eyes was no longer lively, but instead as entranced as the fans around him. In an instant, he went from being a felon to a fan.

"Death! The Principal doesn't want you to kill Dark Sun. Remember that."

"Shut up!"

Elia biterly smiled. Maybe the Principal hadn't partnered him with Death to help him attack Dark Sun, but rather, to prevent Death from killing off Dark Sun.

After all, Death was most skilled at assassination.

## Chapter 3: Struggling Between Ruthlessness and Sincerity

*Why haven't Ezart and the others gone to warn Dark Sun yet?*

Elian was silently worrying. Dark Sun had already signed one, maybe two hundred photos. Even someone more vigilant than him would have dropped their guard by now. Also, the Principal was really quite cunning. As soon as he noticed the situation in the plaza, he had immediately notified Elian and Death and had them hide and wait in the line to carry out their ambush.

Elian looked at his surroundings. He and Death weren't the only ones around. Many Elite Combat Class students were lying in wait. They were all there to surround Dark Sun and keep him from escaping. It looked like the Principal had really invested a lot into this attempt.

"Please sign this for me!"

Death had reached the front of the line where Dark Sun was. Dark Sun remained expressionless as usual. Death was beaming as he made his request, and he handed the huge autograph board and pen he was holding to Dark Sun.

*Death wants to attack Dark Sun while he's giving his autograph?*

Elian frowned. It was indeed a good opportunity. While signing an autograph, Dark Sun would be focused on writing. In addition, the huge autograph board would also help block Dark Sun's line of sight. If Death really did attack and injure Ah Ye, the situation would become

very bad. Elian hadn't forgotten that "a certain person" was supporting Ah Ye from the shadows.

*I have to think of a way to warn Dark Sun... Bastards! Are the three of them here yet?*

But Elian didn't have time to check on such a thing. At that moment he saw Dark Sun reaching out to take the autograph board from Death. He also couldn't give a direct signal to him. The Principal would definitely be using the security cameras to observe the current situation. If he did warn Dark Sun directly, he would definitely be carefully monitored by the Principal afterwards, making the situation worse.

While Elian was mired in his dilemma, Dark Sun hadn't continued. He didn't accept Death's autograph board and instead slowly raised his head to look at Death and Elian. There was still no expression on his face, so it impossible to tell what he was thinking.

*Did he realize something was wrong?* Elian's hopes soared.

Dark Sun opened his mouth. In a flat voice he said, "You two..."

"Dark Sun!"

Dark Sun stopped what he was saying and turned his head in the direction of the voice. The voice belonged to Eloise, so Dark Sun... Or it should be said, Ah Ye didn't give it much thought as he turned his head to look. Eloise, Ezart, and Eli were running toward him. Eloise looked panicked, and even Ezart was frowning.

*Oh no! I didn't meet up with them...* Ah Ye panicked. In that instant, Dark Sun's calmness was replaced by Ri Xiang Ye's guilt and panic.

*Now!*

Death had a faint smile on his face. He wordlessly kicked out the small blade hidden within the toe of his shoe, stabbing directly at Dark Sun's knee... Only to see Dark Sun stumble forward. His attack had actually succeeded!

"Ha!"

Death let out a loud, wild laugh. As he laughed, he ruthlessly kicked toward Dark Sun's other knee. However, Dark Sun was already on guard and dodged to the side. But due to his knee injury, Death still grazed a line of blood across his thigh.

*Shoot! With one knee damaged, Dark Sun won't be able to fully use his superior maneuverability.* The color of Elia's face changed drastically. In this situation, with Death and himself attacking from both sides in addition to the Elite Combat Class members surrounding him, even Dark Sun wouldn't be able to escape!

At that instant, a voice suddenly came over the school intercom.

"Attention all students. This is Principal Ah Na Yi. There is an Elite Combat Class combat exercise underway at the moment in the plaza. Please do not enter the battle if you are not an Elite Combat Class student, and evacuate the ring in the center of the plaza."

Clusters of twos and threes in the crowd began complaining, saying things along the lines of, "What the heck? I was just about to get to the front of the line!" But since it was the Principal's order, everyone still left the middle of the plaza and stood in a ring outside to watch.

As this was happening, all the hidden Elite Combat Class students emerged from the crowd. They formed a circle, a pair in each clock position for a total of twelve teams. In addition to Death and Elia at the center, there was a total of twenty-six of them.

"E-Everyone was mobilized?" Elia looked around him. He took a deep breath. Including Eloise and Eli, there would be twenty-eight people in all. Even so, there were two people missing. However, those people were rumored to be on a secret mission, so almost no one had ever seen them before.

At this moment, the Principal issued further commands. "Eloise and Eli, go to the team at three o'clock. And Ezart, leave the central plaza."

Ezart frowned. He looked at Dark Sun's knee injury and the twenty-eight Elite Combat Class students. He coldly huffed and said, "Interesting! I've been wanting to fight a few rounds with the Elite Combat Class. Let's see who's stronger!"

Having said this, he resolutely remained within the center of the plaza and slammed his gloved fists together.

Elia secretly cheered on Ezart for his actions.

But the Principal was already prepared for this. The intercom sounded once again. "After ten seconds, any students not from the Elite Combat Class still within the plaza will be expelled!"

Ezart and Elia both stiffened at the same time. Ezart hesitated for a moment, unable to decide whether or not to leave.

But the battle in the plaza couldn't wait ten seconds. Death had already launched another attack. The attack with his leg was so fast, it was just a blur. Because of the sharp blade in the toe of Death's shoe, Dark Sun had no choice but to use his injured leg to evade the attack. However, because of his leg injury, he was unable to dodge as usual and could only use his hands to block.

Dark Sun's blade-like nails were already extended. He used them to block Death's leg. At the same time, he used his nails to stab the other person's calf, ripping apart the pants covering it. But instead of the sound of a sharp blade tearing through flesh, it was the ear piercing sound of steel scraping against steel.

After those crisp sounds, the two combatants separated once more. Death began laughing maniacally, while Dark Sun didn't show any reaction, just as always.

Everyone stared. Three long, broken, metal nails glinted on the ground. Everyone looked at Death's leg in shock, but they didn't see the bloody skin that they expected. Instead, they saw a metal boot. It looked like it wasn't just the tip of Death's boot that had a trick; his entire shoe was a weapon. Then they looked toward Dark Sun's hand



and saw that three nails had snapped off his left hand. The remaining two were the ineffective ring and pinky nails.

Against the thick metal boot, Dark Sun's nails were too fragile and had no way of piercing through, having even snapped off in the first clash.

Death didn't give Dark Sun any room to breathe. He immediately mounted another assault. This time, Dark Sun didn't try to meet him head on and dodged instead. Just as it seemed that he wouldn't be able to dodge in time, he evaded the blade and struck Death in the underside of his leg. But regardless of whether he was attacking or dodging blades, every action took a huge toll on his injured knee. Most people would probably have been rolling on the floor in pain already. But he didn't let out a single sound. Most of the bystanders felt more strongly than before that the two combatants didn't seem quite human...

While the two people in the center fought fiercely, off to the side and under the threat of being expelled for not getting out within ten seconds, Ezart had no choice but to move toward the plaza's edge for now. He deliberately stood on the boundary between the inside and the outside of the perimeter. His eyes were still fixated on the situation in the center of the plaza. If things really were to go south for Dark Sun, Ezart couldn't let being unable to graduate hold him back.

Elian's expression was unsightly. He hadn't expected Dark Sun to be at a disadvantage. That first blow had affected him too much. Because Dark Sun had always heavily relied upon perfectly precise movements to attack and dodge, once his joints were injured, it had a greater impact on him than anyone else.

By this point, Eloise and Eli had reached three o'clock. The two of them watched the situation in the center with pale faces. They didn't know what they could do.

Suddenly, Eli froze. He quietly said to Eloise, "Dark Sun, h-he's talking to me..."

"What? What's Ah Ye saying?" Eloise asked anxiously.

"An Te Qi. Scythe. Reaper."

"What? I only understood 'An Te Qi.' Isn't that Ah Ye's dad?" Eloise frowned.

Eli quietly said, "Use your cell phone to call me. I'll pretend to pick up. Then I'll leave and call An Te Qi."

"O.K."

Once Eloise finished listening, she immediately reached into her pocket stealthily and dialed Eli's number. A few seconds later, Eli's cell phone began ringing. He apologized to the Elite Combat Class student next to him and then walked off to the side. Of course, he wasn't answering a call, but rather hurriedly dialing Ah Ye's home.

As Eli was making his phone call, Death was urging Elian, "What are you doing? Why aren't you providing backup?!"

Hearing Death's urging, Elian's heart skipped a beat. On the surface, he remained nonchalant and asked, "I thought you wanted to have a duel with Dark Sun? Didn't you want to prove that you're stronger than him?"

"Winning means you're strong. It doesn't matter if it's one-on-one or ganging up on them," Death replied impatiently.

*Not even the slightest bit of sportsmanship!* Elian silently scolded. But the only thing he could do was grit his teeth and move forward to "gang up" on Dark Sun. Otherwise, the Principal and Death would definitely suspect he and Dark Sun were connected. When that happened, Ri Xiang Ye, who was always hanging around with them but disappeared when Dark Sun appeared and who had such a unique hair color, would definitely fall under suspicion.

The only reason that no one had discovered Dark Sun and Ri Xiang Ye were the same person yet was that no one had compared the two of them. If someone suspected that the two of them were the same and compared them together, then it would definitely be revealed. They were the same person after all. Everything from their hair colors to their physique was identical. It really wasn't difficult to recognize him.

By now, Dark Sun had backed away. He turned his head to look at Death and the approaching Elian. As Death was about to launch a reckless all-out attack, Dark Sun finally opened his mouth and spoke.

"I agree to meet the Principal."

As soon as those words were said, the intercom sounded once again.  
"Stop, Death!"

Already mid-kick, Death's leg abruptly stopped. The tip of his shoe was only ten centimeters away from Dark Sun's face. Although his leg had stopped, his handsome face was twisted in a way that didn't match, as though he were trying to extinguish the flames of his fury. In the end, he slowly lowered his leg.

"Elian, Death. Bring Dark Sun to the Principal's office."

"Understood," the two of them simultaneously replied. Only Elian had on a faint smile. Death's face was dark.

After making his statement earlier, Dark Sun spoke no more. Elian walked ahead and gestured to Dark Sun. Dark Sun just silently followed behind Elian, and Death followed behind him, looking just like they were escorting a prisoner.

Even though Elian was smiling, he was extremely worried inside. Principal Ah Na Yi had never taken no for an answer. Just by seeing that the entire Elite Combat Class had been mobilized for the sake of capturing Dark Sun, one could tell that the Principal thought that Dark Sun was a must-have acquisition.

Once Dark Sun entered the lion's den of the Principal's office, he would be hard pressed to escape!

*The Principal wants to have Dark Sun, but Dark Sun only obeys the Sun Emperor... May heaven have mercy on us. We have to avoid*

*provoking the Sun Emperor at all costs, or the situation will become unimaginably dire. The Sun Emperor's wrath isn't something tiny Yelan Academy can bear.*

*Ring... Ring ring...*

In his laboratory, An Te Qi had reached a critical part of his experiment. He delicately let a drop of brown liquid fall onto a petri dish. What looked like an unidentifiable lump of flesh was squirming on it. Once the liquid hit the lump of flesh, the lump stopped moving for a moment, then began crazily writhing.



*Ring ring...*

"Seems like the dose is too high." An Te Qi unblinkingly watched the flesh lump struggle, a bit annoyed.

*Bang!*

The lump on the petri dish had been madly struggling for some time when it suddenly exploded. It sprayed the entire lab bench with pink slivers of flesh.

*Ring ring...*

"Well, damn. It looks like the drug's potency is too high. I can only use it once before the sample is destroyed. I don't know how I should improve it. Reduce the dosage or reduce the potency? I don't know which one will damage the sample less."

*Ring ring...*

*Ring ring? What does that mean?* An Te Qi blankly wondered. Finally he remembered and shouted, "Ah! It's the telephone ringing!"

*It can't be Ri Xiang Yan calling home, right?* An Te Qi's complexion darkened. He immediately rushed out of his isolated laboratory. He didn't even have time to put down the beaker in his hand. Once he reached the room outside, he instantly picked up the phone.

"Hello! This is An Te Qi."

"Uncle, you finally answered the phone!" Eli didn't even know if there was any point in having the phone answered now.

"What do you mean 'uncle?'" An Te Qi grimaced. *Uncle?* He was only a little over thirty, and he was actually being called uncle?!

"Uncle, Dark Sun is in trouble."

"Cheeky little bastard, call me Dàgē... What? You said Ah Ye's in trouble?" An Te Qi was startled. *How did something happen again?*

Eli explained the entire course of events simply, then said, "Finally, he spoke in his mind your name, uncle, and the words 'scythe' and 'reaper.'"

"Call me Dàgē!" An Te Qi frowned. "I understand. I'll head over immediately. Meet me at the school gate."

"Got it." After he gave his simple reply, Eli hung up.

After hanging up the phone, An Te Qi put all his energy into rushing upstairs. That was where Ri Xiang Ye's weapons exhibit, training grounds, firing range, and the like were.

His eyes swept across the area, and he quickly found the Death Scythe's case. When he reached out to grab the box, he realized that in his haste, he was still clutching the beaker from his experiment. The brown liquid inside wobbled back and forth. It was lucky it hadn't spilled over. He offhandedly set the beaker down and picked up the Death Scythe while muttering to himself.

"Ah Ye's school life really is full of excitement! It looks like Ri Xiang Yan's way of thinking was too simple. His little brother could never be an ordinary person."

Dark Sun was completely silent. The entire time, he only stated that he wished to meet the Principal and then quietly went along with Elian and Death. Nobody knew what he was thinking. Some people were even wondering if he was planning on doing something like directly getting rid of the Principal.

Actually, this wasn't the result of the rational Dark Sun's thinking, but rather the emotional Ri Xiang Ye's decision.

Ah Ye's way of thinking was simple. He simply had to clarify to the Principal that he only obeyed his older brother and didn't want to join

the Elite Combat Class. Then the Principal wouldn't come seeking him in the future.

Dark Sun concluded that this was a disadvantageous plan. If the other party refused to let him go, then with his damaged knee joint and without the Death Scythe, it would be difficult to escape. However, his emotions suppressed this rationality. Ri Xiang Ye stubbornly believed that he just had to explain the situation, then the Principal definitely wouldn't force him to stay.

Since his logic and emotions were running counter to each other, Ri Xiang Ye followed what his brother had said and chose his emotions.

And this was why Dark Sun was obediently going with Elia and Death to the Principal's office. He didn't know that he was actually making Elia and Eli extremely worried. Elia knew very well that the Principal wouldn't give up. If he entered the Principal's office, coming back out would be a challenge. Eli was distressed that after finally managing to contact An Te Qi, Dark Sun was about to head into the Principal's office. He and Eloise had no way of getting An Te Qi into the Principal's office.

*This is really bad!* Everyone each thought to themselves.

Dark Sun was completely oblivious to the fact that he was worrying everyone. He followed Elia all the way to the Principal's office. Although it was called an "office," it was actually a large building. This building had been dubbed the Elite Combat Class's classroom, but everyone knew that the Elite Combat Class never attended class. To



them, this entire building was the Principal's office where they were assigned missions!

The three people walked into the building. It was heavily guarded, and only Elite Combat Class students with special passes could enter. Elian took out and swiped his card, then pressed his thumb against a fingerprint recognition machine. This made the doors to the building open.

Dark Sun instinctively scanned his surroundings as soon as he stepped inside. He observed that the sole entrance to the lounge had over ten swiveling security cameras, both in the open and hidden, which had three hundred and sixty degrees of visibility. In addition, the walls of the building didn't seem to be made of ordinary reinforced concrete.

Dark Sun's immediate instinct was to escape through the still-not-yet-shut doors, but it again was suppressed by his emotions.

And so, the three people arrived at the Principal's office on the highest floor. When they opened the doors to the Principal's office, Principal Ah Na Yi, who Dark Sun had seen before in the battle simulator, was sitting next to a small table. He was leisurely making tea. As soon as he saw Dark Sun and the people accompanying him, he beamed. The laugh lines on his face were so deep that a mosquito could be squished to death inside them.

"Dark Sun! You finally came. I've been waiting quite a while for you!" Ah Na Yi greeted as he smiled. "Come sit over here. Let an old man like me have a good look at a beautiful child like you."

But Dark Sun remained silently standing in the doorway. If he could, he wanted to explain the matter, then turn around and leave. And that's what he planned on doing.

"I have an employer. I do not want to join the Elite Combat Class. I request to leave."

"..."

It wasn't just Principal Ah Na Yi who froze. Even Death, who had unusual behavior, was side eyeing Dark Sun and thinking, *This guy's combat ability is inversely proportional to his speaking abilities.*

Elian was even more unsure whether to laugh or cry as he thought, *Ah Ye... When you don't talk, people only feel that you're indifferent. But once you open your mouth, people can immediately tell that something's off!*

"Don't say such things. Won't you sit down and drink some tea with an old man?"

The Principal was worthy of being the principal. He was only stunned for a moment before smiling from ear to ear again. He smilingly went to pull Dark Sun over, but Dark Sun dodged to the side.

If it wasn't necessary, he didn't want to have anyone touch him. It was extremely dangerous. Especially since he had just been ambushed by Death, he was even more sensitive to this sort of thing.

"Take a seat, Dark Sun. In any case, you can't leave right now, correct?" Ah Na Yi smiled and looked down at Dark Sun's knee. Although the blood had already coagulated, the wound still looked ghastly.

Earlier in the plaza, if not for this wound, Dark Sun would have long chosen to turn around and escape instead of staying put and fighting Death. But with his knee injury, Dark Sun's speed was greatly affected. As soon as he turned around, he probably would have given Death an excellent opportunity to deal a heavy blow, so he was unable to choose to escape.

His current situation was even worse. This room was completely sealed. Death and Elia were blocking the door. His only option was to take the Principal hostage and force Death and Elia to move out of the way.

*Sit down first to hear what the Principal has to say!* Ri Xiang Ye insistently shouted.

As a result, Dark Sun really did take a seat. The Principal laughed and also sat down, even passing him a cup of tea. Of course, Dark Sun didn't appreciate the gesture and allowed the cup of tea to remain on the table.

"I wonder who is fortunate enough to be able to hire an expert like you." Ah Na Yi didn't pay any mind to Dark Sun's rude behavior. He was like an elderly neighbor talking with a young person.

Because he didn't know what Ah Na Yi's intentions were, Dark Sun remained fixated on his every movement. He only said, "Classified information."

"Why have you come to Yelan Academy? You aren't actually here to use the battle simulator, right?" Ah Na Yi chuckled, "An expert like you should be very busy?"

Dark Sun wasn't listening to a single word Ah Na Yi had said. He asked directly, "What do you want?"

"You really do cut to the heart of the matter." Ah Na Yi praised and did away with his kindhearted old man act, switching to the expression of a businessman. "Then I'll get to the point. Ten missions. If any alumni of Yelan Academy's Elite Combat Class have a mission request of the academy, their missions would all be prioritized by the academy. You don't have to pay tuition, and I'll still give you a diploma. Aren't these conditions wonderful?"

Dark Sun didn't respond at all.

"These terms are really very good. Other Elite Combat Class students have to complete thirty missions before they can graduate. If they fail a mission, another three missions are added. However, I believe that you won't fail, so I won't add this condition."

"No." Dark Sun didn't even pause to think before declining.

Ah Na Yi didn't give up. "If you have an Elite Combat Class diploma from Yelan Academy, no matter where you apply as a bodyguard, at the very least you will be guaranteed the position of team leader."

At that moment, Elia, who was standing in the doorway, had a very strange expression come across his face. He couldn't help mentally shouting at the Principal, *Principal! The conditions you're offering really are great, but it's a pity that the person before you is the Sun Emperor's little brother. The Sun Emperor already spoils Ah Ye to the point that he'll give him whatever he wants. How could Ah Ye care about a diploma or any sort of deal?*

*There's probably no one on the planet who'd dare to hire the Sun Emperor's little brother as their bodyguard, right?*

"No." Dark Sun still stood firm.

At this point, Principal Ah Na Yi's face was becoming unsightly. He sweetened the deal again, "Eight missions. Everything else stands."

"No."

"Six! I can't make it any lower." Ah Na Yi revealed his bottom line all at once. This was roughly the number of missions that had been entrusted to the academy that were too difficult for the students to complete. He hoped to win Dark Sun over and get these six missions completed too.

Dark Sun clearly enunciated every word, "I only listen to my current master's orders."

Ah Na Yi didn't seem to know when to give up. He continued trying to persuade Dark Sun, "Not an issue. I'm not in a hurry. When does your bodyguard contract expire?"

Dark Sun was silent for a while. Then he replied, "When I die."

As soon as those words were said, Ah Na Yi was instantly struck speechless. Even Death couldn't help but applaud. *Right to the point!*

"You can't accept side jobs?" The Principal still wasn't willing to throw in the towel.

He had no other choice. There were some commissions that were too difficult, and giving them to the students was too dangerous. But if they weren't completed, Yelan Academy's reputation would plummet. After a lot of difficulty, he had found a student whose abilities were on par with Death's. Of course he would do everything to persuade him. He would only have to send Dark Sun together with Death on missions, and those difficult commissions would probably be resolved.

If Dark Sun had immediately replied with "No," then even Ah Na Yi wouldn't be able to do anything more, and that would have been the end of the day's events. But oddly, influenced by his emotions, Dark Sun hesitated. He was hesitating over whether or not to lie to the Principal about this.

This hesitation gave Ah Na Yi an opportunity. He realized it wasn't that Dark Sun couldn't accept side jobs, just that he didn't want to.

"Five missions. In addition, I will never pry into your affairs in the future, and I'll take down all the security cameras installed around campus."

Dark Sun thought about it. It wasn't that he couldn't accept. And this way, as long as the Principal didn't investigate Dark Sun's identity, Ri Xiang Ye would also be much safer. After all, if the surveillance continued, sooner or later it would be discovered that Ri Xiang Ye was Dark Sun.

Dark Sun compromised, but added an extra condition, "I won't accept missions I don't want to."

"Deal!" Ah Na Yi quickly agreed.



"Ah Ye, is it really O.K. for you to accept missions from the Principal?"

Elia was extremely worried. *What will happen if the Sun Emperor were to find out about this?*

A row of people were standing by the school gate. Even though school hadn't let out yet, they still planned to wait for An Te Qi, who should be arriving soon, to take Ri Xiang Ye home.

The reason he was going home early was of course so that An Te Qi would have time to treat the injury on Ri Xiang Ye's knee. If Ri Xiang Yan discovered the injury, then none of Yelan Academy's students would ever have to come back to class again, as the school would be obliterated by the Sun Emperor.

By this point, Dark Sun had already gone back to looking like Ri Xiang Ye. He quietly replied, "It should be fine... As long as Gēge doesn't find out."

*This kind of response would make anyone extremely worried!*

Everyone smiled bitterly.

"Your dad's here."

Ezart lazily pointed outside the school gates. Everyone's lines of sight followed his finger. As expected, they saw An Te Qi, who had worry written across his entire face, getting out of a taxi. He was carrying a huge box. As soon as he leapt out of the taxi, his head naturally turned toward the school gate, and of course he saw the row of people there, Ri Xiang Ye included.

Seeing that Ri Xiang Ye appeared to be fine, An Te Qi stood next to the road stunned as he carried the box, wondering what he was even here for.

Elian patted Ri Xiang Ye on the back and said, "Go on. Your father must have been worried for quite a while."

"Mm!" Ri Xiang Ye turned around, smiled, and bid everyone farewell, "Bye, Ezart, El-gē, Eloise, and Eli."

"Bye, Ah Ye..." One after another, everyone said goodbye to Ah Ye.

Eli's expression suddenly changed and he shouted, "Uncle, danger!"



Many of them froze. They didn't quite understand what Eli meant. The only one to react was Eli's partner, Eloise. As soon as he spoke, Eloise had immediately broken out into a run toward the edge of campus, right where An Te Qi was.

"Huh?"

An Te Qi saw Eloise sprinting over and was extremely suspicious. But his suspicions didn't last for long because a motorcycle quickly rode in front of him. On it were two people, one behind the other. The two people were wearing leather jackets and leather pants along with fully enclosed helmets, so it was impossible to make out their appearance. Then, the person sitting on the back slammed a fist into An Te Qi's stomach. An Te Qi fainted without even being able to utter a sound. With a single hand, they lifted An Te Qi by the waist and used the other hand to pick up the box he had been carrying.

"Hah!"

At that moment, Eloise had caught up. Without another word, she put all her strength into kicking the waist of the one sitting on the front of the motorcycle with the intention to knock him off, and her kick landed solidly. With her strength, even an elephant should have toppled over, but the rider didn't even budge. Instead, he stepped on the motorcycle's accelerator.

As soon as the accelerator was floored, the motorcycle shot off in an instant, like a bolt of lightning. Eloise fiercely went in pursuit, but it

was clear after several steps that she wouldn't be able to catch up. All she could do was stop helplessly.

"An Te Qi-bàba!"

At that moment, Ri Xiang Ye rushed after the motorcycle. Despite that the motorcycle was already so far away that it was a mere speck, he wasn't willing to let the motorcycle go. This sudden action caused the wound on his knee to immediately split open again. Blood poured down his calf onto the road the whole way.

Elian hastily moved forward to hold Ri Xiang Ye while calling out, "Ah Ye, don't chase them. There's no way you can catch up."

"No!" Ri Xiang Ye desperately struggled, shouting, "A-An Te Qi-bàba's been kidnapped! I have to go save him!"

"Ah Ye..." Eloise saw how frantic Ah Ye was. She also felt extremely anxious, unsure of how to comfort him.

*Smack!*

Ezart slapped Ri Xiang Ye with so much strength that Ri Xiang Ye fell backwards. Ri Xiang Ye was sitting on the ground, stunned that he had been hit. He could only hold back his tears and blankly look up at Ezart.

Ezart instead yelled at him, "What are you looking at me for? The only thing you can do to help is to call your brother! Call him now!"

“O-Oh.”

Ri Xiang Ye hastily took out his cell phone from his backpack and dialed his brother’s number. As soon as the call went through, he cried, “Gēge, Gēge!”

“Ah Ye! What’s wrong? Did something happen?” Hearing Ah Ye crying, Ri Xiang Yan was beginning to panic noticeably.

“A-An Te Qi-bàba’s been kidnapped!”

The other end of the line was silent for a while. Then Ri Xiang Yan asked, “Are your four classmates next to you?”

“Yeah...” Ri Xiang Ye replied as he used his sleeve to wipe his tears.

“Press the button for the speaker. I’d like to talk to them.”

“Oh.” Ri Xiang Ye obediently did as he said.

“The four of you are to immediately bring Ah Ye home. Stay by his side. Do not take a single step away from him. You are not to leave the house. Do you understand me?”

## Chapter 4: Prison of Love

The four of them half escorted, half forced Ri Xiang Ye to go home. It wasn't long after, that Ri Xiang Yan came home via the secret tunnel. As soon as he entered the living room, he found his little brother curled up on the sofa with his eyes red from crying. Elan had brought over a basin of clean water and was trying to wipe away the bloodstains that had run from Ri Xiang Ye's knee down to his calf.

As soon as he saw Ah Ye's tears and blood-streaked calf, Ri Xiang Yan was both heartbroken and furious. His heart ached because of Ah Ye's tears, and he was furious because even under his protection, Ah Ye had suffered once again. No matter if it was the people who abducted An Te Qi or even his own careless self, they all deserved to die!

"Gēge!"

At this moment, Ri Xiang Ye realized his brother had returned. He suddenly stood up and threw himself into his older brother's arms, crying as he said, "Gēge, An Te Qi-bàba. H-he's been taken!"

Ri Xiang Yan nodded. He pulled out a handkerchief and tenderly wiped away his little brother's tears as he soothed, "Ah Ye, don't worry. An Te Qi will be back soon."

"Gēge, I'm fine." Ri Xiang Ye forcefully brushed away his tears. "Gēge, don't worry about me. Hurry and save Bàba."

"Relax. Bill is already searching." Ri Xiang Yan frowned. It really wasn't too difficult of a search. It was very likely that the people who had

taken An Te Qi had been sent by Bai Lian Yue. He was the only one who could have possibly discovered An Te Qi's existence during the past few modified human incidents.

Who would have thought that as soon as he had become a little soft-hearted toward Bai Lian Yue and wanted to go easy on him, a huge incident like this would happen? The Sun Emperor let out a cold chuckle. Had he become too soft recently? Soft to the point that people had forgotten how the Sun Emperor's ruthless reputation had come about? *Hehe...*

Elian and the others felt their hair stand on end from watching the Sun Emperor icily laugh. They quickly and quietly told Ah Ye, "Ah Ye, go hug your brother so he quits laughing like that."

"Oh?" Ri Xiang Ye didn't quite understand. *What's wrong with Gēge's laugh? He often laughs like that...* But since everyone was saying to do it, Ri Xiang Ye still obediently went to hug his brother.

Just as expected, the hug really did divert Ri Xiang Yan's attention. The sneer on his face instantly vanished as he gently smiled and rubbed his little brother's head. He warmly said, "Don't worry. I have informants everywhere in this city. No matter where they run, they won't be able to hide from me. Just be good and wait at home for news, O.K.?"

After Ri Xiang Ye heard those words, he hesitantly asked in a small voice, "Gēge, I can help. Last time, I also..."

"Last time?" Ri Xiang Yan smiled brilliantly as he asked, "You mean the time when you had An Te Qi and Bill hide the fact that you ran off to exterminate the modified human laboratory from me, and I *very nearly* sent the two of them off to the afterlife?"

"..." Everyone observed a moment of silence for the two souls.

Ri Xiang Ye lowered his head, almost not daring to look his brother in the eye.

"Don't worry, Ah Ye." Ri Xiang Yan calmly said, "I'm not called the Sun Emperor for nothing. No matter who it is, I won't let them off this time. They'll be annihilated until there isn't even a sliver of them left."

"I don't want people annihilated. I just want An Te Qi-bàba back..." Ri Xiang Ye replied softly.

"I'll have Bill place An Te Qi's rescue as the number one priority."

Ri Xiang Ye could only nod, but he was still extremely worried. The way he saw it, Gēge was always trying to shoot Bàba to death. Their relationship never seemed to be very good, and it didn't seem at all like Gēge would try very hard to save Bàba.

"Ah Ye, stay at home. I'll send people to guard here." Ri Xiang Yan put his hands on his little brother's shoulders. He gravely said, "This time, you are not to go running around outside. I forbid you from using Dark Sun's identity again to go kill people, and you absolutely are not to get hurt again. Do you understand?"

Even though he had just been thinking of sneaking out to save An Te Qi, under his older brother's stare, Ri Xiang Ye had no choice but to nod and agree.

"I understand, Gēge."



When An Te Qi came to, the first thing he noticed was the pain in his stomach. Then he felt his whole body ache. As soon as he tried to move, he discovered that he wasn't able to move his arms or legs at all. He was obviously tied up. Based on the cold feeling on his wrists, it should be something metal. Although he had opened his eyes, everything was dark. He had been blindfolded with a black cloth.

"Although we had an X-ray scan confirm that your body is indeed unmodified, one can never be too careful. Wouldn't you agree, Doctor An Te Qi?"

An Te Qi reflexively tried to locate the source of the voice by turning his head back and forth. He could immediately tell that this low, raspy voice had probably been altered with a machine and wasn't his kidnapper's true voice.

"Especially when going against the Sun Emperor, one has to be as careful as possible."

An Te Qi was silent. The kidnapper already knowing his name wasn't anything strange. After all, they knew how he looked. They would only have to do a search to find out. At the same time, they had also said

they were going against the Sun Emperor. So most likely, this was the person that had sent the modified humans.

Though of course, the Sun Emperor had many enemies. There was a high probability that An Te Qi was mistaken, but his gut feeling was that he was right.

"What do you want with me?" An Te Qi asked.

"Heh! There is no need for you to do anything. Being a hostage is sufficient."

"Is that so?" An Te Qi insipidly replied, "It looks like you haven't been the Sun Emperor's enemy for very long; otherwise, you would have known that the Sun Emperor has never cared whether others live or die. I think that instead of keeping me as a hostage to negotiate with that person, you would be better off directly negotiating with me."

"Heh heh! I've already kidnapped you. What qualifications do you have to negotiate with me?"

An Te Qi serenely said, "Dark Sun is my creation."

After those words were said, the other person was silent for quite a while. Then, they suddenly exploded with laughter, laughter that reverberated for a long time.

"That certainly is enough qualifications to bargain with me! As long as you can create a Dark Sun for me, I can give you whatever the Sun Emperor has given you or even double that!"



"Rather than having me create a second Dark Sun, I think it would be better if you let me improve your modified humans first." An Te Qi lightly said, "Dark Sun is indeed a flawless masterpiece, but it cost a lot of time and money. Money may not be a problem for you, however, if you're going against the Sun Emperor, do you have the time to wait for me to create a second Dark Sun?"

"How long does it take?" the other person curiously asked.

"The previous attempt took eight years. This time, I would need at least five years and I can't guarantee success."

"Hmph! If you can't create another Dark Sun, then what use are you to me? I already have modified humans."

An Te Qi knew very well how to handle this kind of business person. They only wanted results. So as long as he could make an attractive enough proposition, he wasn't worried that he wouldn't be able to hook them.

"Give me two modified humans and half a month to modify them. After they're modified, the two modified humans together can beat Dark Sun."

The other person was silent. But An Te Qi wasn't worried. Although he couldn't produce a second Dark Sun, as long as the two modified humans could defeat Dark Sun, why would they need to insist on making another Dark Sun?

"How do I know you're not lying?" the other person finally asked.

"Why would I trick you?" An Te Qi laughed. He helplessly said, "What's the difference between working for the Sun Emperor or for you? Right, my other conditions are unlimited research funds and the highest state of the art laboratory."

"Hehehe. You're quite reasonable, Mr. An Te Qi. I'll give you the half a month. After the half a month is up, I want to see the two modified humans who can defeat Dark Sun."

"No problem."

An Te Qi readily agreed. But in that instant, a smiling face calling him "An Te Qi-bàba" flashed through his mind...



Ri Xiang Yan had gone back to his office. As always, Kyle was sitting to the right side of the office. His desk was an arc formed by pushing three tables together, with three computers on it operating simultaneously. All sorts of documents had also been stacked on the desk. Even though there was so much stuff that the three large office tables were all covered, it was all rather organized and did not give a feeling of messiness.

As Ri Xiang Yan walked in, Kyle was focused on issuing all sorts of commands through his computer. His three monitors displayed more than twenty chat windows. Who knew how he was able to simultaneously discuss business matters with all of these people and not mix up the contents of their conversation?

"Where is An Te Qi?"

Kyle raised his head. He had already prepared an answer,  
"Understood. Mr. An Te Qi is currently held captive in the Purple Moon Alliance's underground laboratory in the suburbs not far from here. Although we have enough strength to launch a successful assault, we cannot guarantee Mr. An Te Qi's safety."

Ri Xiang Yan frowned and asked, "Has the Purple Moon Alliance issued any demands?"

"No, Sun Emperor."

Ri Xiang Yan sat at his office desk. His fingers beat a slow rhythm against the desk's surface, and he muttered to himself for some time before he asked, "Do we have any spies in that lab?"

"No. Everyone in that laboratory is an expert in their field. They do not have a lot of personnel either. The importance of this laboratory had not been made known before this, so no spies were arranged to be there."

Ri Xiang Yan felt a wave of frustration. His complexion was ugly as he issued the command, "Tell me the best way to deal with this."

Kyle looked a little oddly at Ri Xiang Yan. Normally, the Sun Emperor needed no suggestions from other people, but this time he had even directly issued an order for advice. Although Kyle felt that it was rather strange, he still did as ordered and said the optimal method, "I

suggest directly attacking. Extracting the hostage would be the top priority; however, should rescue be impossible, then the focus should be to eliminate the hostage. As for Young Master Ri Xiang Ye's future maintenance..."

Ri Xiang Yan icily glared at Kyle from the corner of his eye. As soon as he had spoken, Kyle knew he had said the wrong thing. Although his back was covered in a cold sweat from fear, his expression didn't change as he continued to speak.

"For Young Master Ri Xiang Ye's future medical treatment, we can gather up people with the relevant skills to form a medical team to treat him. If it only involves normal care and treatment and does not involve his modifications, there should not be a problem."

After Kyle finished speaking, Ri Xiang Yan didn't say a word. Kyle continued to handle issues over his computer. He had only been in discussion with the Sun Emperor for a few minutes, but more than ten emails requiring his reply had been added.

Though he thought deeply about the issue for several minutes, Ri Xiang Yan still had no choice but to admit that Kyle's suggestion was the best way to handle things. It was how he also would have handled things from the beginning. Of course rescuing An Te Qi would be great, but if he couldn't be rescued, then at the very least he had to be killed!

After all, An Te Qi knew too many of Ri Xiang Ye's secrets. Moreover, if his skills fell into someone else's hands, it would be highly troublesome for the Sun Alliance.

*But I can't do it!* Ri Xiang Yan sighed and said, "But Ah Ye really likes An Te Qi. If An Te Qi were to die, he would be very sad."

As Kyle dealt with matters, he reflexively replied, "Children forget pain very easily."

But Ri Xiang Yan frowned, saying, "It doesn't matter if Ah Ye will forget or not. I already said I wouldn't let him be hurt anymore, Bill."

"Yes." Kyle stopped doing things on the computer and silently awaited the Sun Emperor's orders.

"Place An Te Qi's rescue as the highest priority. No matter the cost, that bastard has to come back alive."

"Understood. Please set the highest acceptable cost."

"Do not jeopardize my or Ah Ye's safety." Once Ri Xiang Yan finished speaking, he frowned once more and thought for a while. He added, "Also don't jeopardize your own safety."

"Understood." Kyle nodded.

The tone of Ri Xiang Yan's voice suddenly turned severe as he said, "In addition, send the most elite troop to guard the house. If Ah Ye wants to leave, they are to follow closely behind him. If the troop lets him suffer even the tiniest scratch, they will all pay for the mistake with their lives!"

"Understood."



Ezart casually stepped onto Ri Xiang Ye's doorstep. As soon as he pressed the doorbell, the person who came out obviously wasn't An Te Qi nor was it Ri Xiang Ye, but an unfamiliar buff guy. Upon seeing Ezart's appearance, his expression immediately became wary. Of course, the way he said, "State your purpose," also wasn't very nice.

"Dropping off Ah Ye's homework!" Ezart irritably replied.

"Ezart! Ezart, is that you?"

From behind the buff guy came the sound of hurried footsteps and then Ri Xiang Ye's shout. The buff guy was pushed out of the way, but he still tried to stay between the two of them. However, a cyborg's strength was not one to be scoffed at, and he was still easily shoved aside by Ri Xiang Ye. With no other choice, he could only say, "Y-Young Master, we still haven't searched this person."

"You! Out of the way!" Ri Xiang Ye stubbornly yelled at the buff guy.

*Oh, when'd the brat get an attitude?* Ezart thought with his eyebrows raised, though he did not say it aloud.

The buff guy still stubbornly stuck to his duty and turned to face Ezart. With the tone of a soldier issuing a command, he said, "If you are carrying any weapons, please turn them over."

Ezart shrugged and wordlessly removed the gloves on his hands. Then he tossed them along with his backpack at the buff guy and asked, "This O.K.? But make sure to return the backpack to me. Ah Ye's homework is in there."

The buff guy carefully examined the backpack and didn't find any dangerous items. He looked over Ezart. Ezart was wearing pretty simple clothes: a T-shirt and jeans. He could possibly have hidden a small knife, but definitely wouldn't have been able to conceal a gun.

From the perspective of the troop stationed around the house, a small knife didn't pose any threat to the young master's safety. He returned the backpack to Ezart and allowed him to enter. Of course, he didn't forget to trail closely behind the two of them. After all, compared to the robust Ezart, the young master was so dainty. This guy might be able to snap the young master's neck with just his bare hands!

"Hmph!" Ri Xiang Ye's annoyance was written across his entire face. He dragged Ezart toward the living room, with no intention to listen to the buff guy.

"You've only been gone from class for a couple days, but your temper's really grown." Ezart looked him up and down a little oddly, and said as though he didn't recognize him, "Decided not to be a good little boy for your bro anymore?"

Ri Xiang Ye stiffened. He stubbornly replied, "I don't care about Gēge. He doesn't come home and he won't let me go save Bàba."

*So it's just a kid throwing a tantrum...* Ezart scratched his face. *Wasn't he always the well-behaved type before?*

The two of them had only walked past the front door and through a short hallway, but they had already passed over a dozen guards standing watch and each armed to the teeth. It was clear from a glance that every bodyguard had been through specialized training. They all had the precise movement of a soldier, and each of them stood with strict discipline while stationed at... An ordinary house. The house seemed more like a battlefield.

The more Ezart saw, the weirder he thought it was. He couldn't help shoving Ri Xiang Ye's shoulder. "Hey! Is your house having a military..." *Drill?*

Ezart hadn't finished speaking before the surrounding bodyguards moved in a crisp, synchronized motion to aim their guns at him, provoked by his shove.

Deserving of the title of Yelan Academy's long-reigning god of destruction, Ezart didn't show any signs of panic despite having over a dozen guns pointed at him while having no weapons in his hands. His hands remained brazenly crossed in front of his chest as usual. Only his raised eyebrows indicated that he was aware of the dozen or so guns aimed at him.

"Put the guns down! You're not allowed to hurt Ezart!"

Ezart didn't react, but instead, like an angry little cat, Ri Xiang Ye shouted at the bodyguards around them. The bodyguards didn't move



until the bodyguard who had originally opened the door for Ezart gave the sign. Then in sync, they put their guns down and returned to their original positions.

Ri Xiang Ye furiously pulled Ezart along. He didn't look at the bodyguards around them and charged straight to the living room.

Once they reached the living room, Ezart unceremoniously spread himself out on the sofa. Then he offhandedly asked, "What's going on at your house?"

"Gēge said these people have to protect me." Ri Xiang Ye sat down next to Ezart and explained a little unhappily.

"Protect you? Hahaha!" Hearing that, Ezart began laughing loudly. He was still laughing as he said, "Relying on those guys with guns? They better not come crying to you to protect them later!"

After hearing what Ezart had said, Ri Xiang Ye tilted his head and imagined those gun-wielding, stiffly standing bodyguards pleading with teary expressions. His bad mood vanished completely, and he couldn't help but to let out a "pfft." Out of the corner of his eye, he glanced at the soldiers standing by the living room entrance. There was no way they hadn't heard Ezart's words, but their rigid faces showed no emotion, remaining just as stiff as ever. The contrast made Ri Xiang Ye laugh even harder.

"Here! Your homework." Ezart tossed over a couple books that had crumpled from being crammed in his backpack.

Ri Xiang Ye hurriedly took the homework. Even though homework was usually pretty boring, at least it was better than just idling around the house. As soon as he opened the textbook, he found a piece of paper stuck inside. The handwriting on the paper was neat and proper. It didn't seem to be Ezart's handwriting, as his handwriting was as bold as his personality and had no relation to propriety.

However, Ri Xiang Ye was able to quickly read between the lines to figure out it was written by Elian. After a few lines of a simple greeting at the top, it directly got to the point. It turned out that the Principal had assigned the first mission to Dark Sun. The mission even had a time limit on it. Elian's hands were tied, and all he could do was write a letter informing Ri Xiang Ye to see if he wanted to turn down or accept the mission.

Ri Xiang Ye thought for a bit. Although he had been unwillingly forced by the Principal to join the Elite Combat Class, at the moment, he really wanted to accept the mission. This was because his brother had forbidden him from going out for a whole week already, and he was stuck day after day with these stiff-faced soldiers. It was extremely hard to tolerate. As long as he could head outside, anything would be fine.

*But Gēge definitely won't let me go out.*

"What's with that cranky face?" Ezart stretched Ri Xiang Ye's cheeks.

"Gēge won't let me go save An Te Qi-bàba and won't let me go outside." Ri Xiang Ye pulled his cheeks away and massaged them to make the pain go away.

Ezart tugged on his messy hair and shrugged, saying, "Nothing we can do. Who told your dad to get kidnapped in the middle of the street? It's been six or seven days now and there's still no news."

But Ri Xiang Ye shook his head and said with certainty, "There has to be news, but Gēge's just not telling me!"

Ezart shrugged.

Ri Xiang Ye looked at the soldiers standing on guard by the door and thought that he shouldn't mention anything about the Principal's mission in front of them. Otherwise, if his brother found out the Principal had sent Death and Elia to beat him up and force him to accept five missions, he didn't know what kind of fate would befall Yelan Academy...

"Let's go to the basement. There's toys we can play with there."

"Toys...?" Ezart didn't even hide his look of disgust. "Xiao Ai wasn't enough for you? Still playing with toys at this age..."

Having said that, he suddenly stopped talking. *Wait!* Based on his own conclusions, the brat's mental age wasn't even ten years old?!

"No! They're not the same as Xiao Ai." Ri Xiang Ye vigorously shook his head and explained, "They're guns, explosives, battle simulators, and a lot of stuff like night vision goggles and skeleton keys."

"How are those toys..."

"Come on, Ezart." Ri Xiang Ye stood up and forcefully tugged on Ezart, wanting him to get up too. Seeing that Ezart still didn't seem to be in the mood, he could only hint, "Let's go talk about El-gē. I really miss him."

Ezart gave an "oh" as a reply. Then he unhurriedly got up. Ri Xiang Ye was about to tell him that the armchair was actually the basement "elevator" when a bodyguard by the door voiced an objection.

"Please wait a moment, Young Master. For your safety, I must prevent you from bringing another person with you to the weapon-filled basement."

"It's Ezart, so it's no problem!" Ri Xiang Ye insisted, "If you don't believe me, you can ask Gēge. Gēge would definitely let me bring Ezart down there."

He bodyguard frowned as he listened. Then he pulled out a cellphone and began asking his superiors for instructions.

He simply and clearly explained the situation to his superior, then passed the cellphone to Ri Xiang Ye. Ri Xiang Ye was a little nervous as he took the phone, afraid that his brother wouldn't let him bring Ezart to the basement.

"Ah Ye." The sound of Ri Xiang Yan's voice came over the phone. He sounded a bit tired. "I'll let you bring Ezart to the basement, but you have to promise me that you absolutely won't let yourself get hurt."

"Oh, O.K." Ri Xiang Ye nodded and to reassure Ri Xiang Yan, he also added the guarantee, "Gēge, you don't have to worry. Ezart can't beat me."

Listening off to the side, Ezart shot him an annoyed eye roll.

"That's good. If you want, you can let him stay at our house for a sleepover," Ri Xiang Yan generously offered from the other end of the line. He thought, *If Ezart's at home to keep Ah Ye company, then he won't think about trying to escape to save An Te Qi.*

Having gained his older brother's permission, Ri Xiang Ye returned the cell phone to the bodyguard. He saw the bodyguard listen to the phone while replying with an unending stream of "yessir, yessir."

Ri Xiang Ye dragged Ezart. Then he explained to him how to use the "elevator." This time, the bodyguard did not try to stop them.

The two of them soon arrived at the basement. Ezart went right to the point and asked, "Hey! Are you taking the Principal's mission? That El guy wants me to tell him by tomorrow. If you're not taking it, the Principal's going to have him and Death do it."

Ri Xiang Ye nodded and said, "I want to accept it, but Gēge won't let me go out."

Hearing that, Ezart scratched the back of his neck. "Your house looks like a military camp. If you ran off, your bro would definitely know. I think you'd better not take it. Your bro going crazy after catching you going out wouldn't be a normal sort of problem!"

"But I really want to go out..." As Ri Xiang Ye spoke, his voice grew softer and softer. His face slowly turned more downcast.

Ezart rolled his eyes and irritably said, "You're thinking of going to rescue your dad?"

Once Ri Xiang Ye heard that, he was silent for a bit. But in the end, he still nodded acquiescingly as confirmation.

"Ha! Even by randomly guessing, I got it right. Your bro definitely knows how you are. I think he didn't send the people up top to protect you but instead to keep an eye on you. You would've definitely run off otherwise."

Ri Xiang Ye froze. Then finally seeing the true picture, he exclaimed, "Ah! It's like that? Gēge's so sneaky!"

"So, you shouldn't run off. Just be good and wait for your bro to rescue your dad," Ezart offhandedly said while strolling aimlessly around the room. He browsed through the various firearms displayed all around the room.

Ri Xiang Ye anxiously replied, "But An Te Qi-bàba isn't Gēge's Bàba. Gēge also always tries to shoot Bàba. I'm scared Gēge won't try very hard to rescue Bàba."

"Oh... That's true. Your family situation's really complicated." After Ezart shrugged, he pointed at the guns in a display case and asked,

"Hey! Can those guns really be fired or are they just there for decoration?"

Ri Xiang Ye nodded and replied, "The guns here can all be fired. The bullets are next to the guns."

Once he heard they could be fired, Ezart went ahead without asking and pulled open the display case. He pulled out a large caliber gun that looked like it had a lot of firepower. Although he didn't use guns often, he still handled it without much trouble. He had a rough idea of how to load bullets into the gun. After he took the box of bullets off to the side and loaded them, he straightforwardly lifted the heavy gun toward the firing range. Without even putting on the earmuffs to prevent hearing loss, he fired a shot.

Ezart didn't assume a proper stance and staggered back a step from the force of the gun's recoil. Of course, the bullet didn't even hit the edge of the target. But he didn't think anything of it. With a loud laugh, he said, "Ha! This gun feels pretty good to shoot!"

After he finished speaking, he tossed the gun over to Ri Xiang Ye and said, "Why don't you fire a few rounds?"

"Oh."

Ri Xiang Ye nodded. He adopted the standard way of holding a gun as he walked to the shooting line. He got into position, lifted the gun, and fired, almost as one motion. His movements were so fluid and natural that it almost seemed like he was born with the ability. After the sound

of the gunshot rang out, the center of the target had a hole the size of a fist in it.

Seeing that, Ezart let out a whistle. "That gun's firepower isn't too bad."

"Mm. But its bullet capacity is too low. I've been wanting to improve it, but I haven't found a way yet."

"Hey! Lemme see you fire a few more. You make it look so easy. Maybe if I watch a few more times, I'll pick it up too." Ezart cocked his eyebrow and looked like an insufferably arrogant bad boy.

Ri Xiang Ye smiled and replied, "O.K."

And so, the two of them took turns firing several shots. Ri Xiang Ye hit the bullseye a hundred percent of the time, while Ezart's probability of hitting the target remained at zero.

"Heehee. Ezart, you haven't hit it at all." Seeing this, Ri Xiang Ye began giggling.

Ezart fired another shot, but the target sheet remained spotless. He unhappily tossed the gun back to Ri Xiang Ye, retorting, "Why do you care? Can't I just shoot for the heck of it?"

"Yup." Ri Xiang Ye took the gun, then locked his eyes on the target and began shooting.



Although Ri Xiang Ye's movements were still beautifully precise, Ezart was already tired of watching. His eyes wandered the room. He noticed a cup on the table. It looked like there was soda in the cup. He swiped it and brazenly downed it in one gulp. He asked, "Ha! This tastes pretty good, but it's a bit bitter. Hey! What kind of drink is this?"

"Drink?"

Ri Xiang Ye froze. He stopped firing and turned his head to look. He honestly said, "There aren't any drinks in the house, only water and Bàba's coffee. Ezart, do you want water or coffee?"

"Then what's this? Coffee? It didn't taste like it." Ezart lifted up the cup and frowned as he examined it. He clicked his tongue and said, "This cup's really weird looking. It even has measuring lines on it."

Ri Xiang Ye blankly looked at the cup and said, "You're right. It's a really weird cup. It looks a lot like the beakers An Te Qi-bàba uses in experiments..."

Once he said that, the two of them fell silent and stared at the cup. At the same time, they let out an "ah" of comprehension. *This cup looks like a beaker, because it is a beaker... Beaker?!*

Both of them blankly stared at the beaker. Only two or three drops of brownish unknown liquid remained inside. The rest of it had all been... Drunk by Ezart!

"Ezart!"

Ri Xiang Ye cried out in alarm, "Q-Quick! Spit it out!"

"It's already been so long since I drank it. What's there to spit out?"  
Ezart incredulously shouted back, "What was your dad's experimental beaker doing over there? And what was even in that cup?"

"I don't know either!"

Ri Xiang Ye was in such a panic he didn't know what to do. *An Te Qi-bàba's experiments have nothing to do with the word "safety!"* He couldn't help but remember the wretched corpses in the laboratory that were incapable of reincarnation. *Ezart won't end up like that, right? I don't want that!*

The more he thought, the more panicked he grew. In the end, he steeled his heart, clenched his right hand into a fist, and sent it into Ezart's stomach.

Ezart wasn't expecting to be punched. In addition, Ri Xiang Ye was so anxious that he had made it a very heavy punch. Furthermore, he had precisely hit the stomach. Ezart began endlessly vomiting on the ground right there.

"T-Throwing it up is good."

Seeing this, Ri Xiang Ye let out a sigh of relief. Like this, Ezart probably wouldn't become like one of the cadavers in the laboratory.

As Ezart vomited, he occasionally lifted his head up to glare at Ri Xiang Ye. He cursed as he puked, "*Blearghhhh*. You little brat, are you tired of living... *Hurk!* I'm gonna kill you later!"

Although Ri Xiang Ye was being cursed at, he beamed. If Ezart could still swear at people, then he should be fine. He gently patted Ezart on the back, helping him feel more comfortable. Of course, Ezart sent him plenty of complimentary glares.

"I'll bring you some water to rinse your mouth."

Having dirty looks shot at him, Ri Xiang Ye tactfully pulled back his hand. He walked to the water dispenser in the corner and picked up a cup to fill with water. As he filled it, he heard some strange groans and panting. He immediately stopped filling the cup and looked back. Ezart was still kneeling on the ground, but he had stopped vomiting.

Although he wasn't vomiting anymore, his shoulders were heaving up and down. Looking more carefully, his entire body was slightly shaking.

Seeing this, Ri Xiang Ye shouted in an odd voice, "Ezart?"

"Uh." Ezart didn't even raise his head. It seemed like upon hearing his name, he had responded as a reflex. But after responding, there was a series of muffled groans.

Ri Xiang Ye dazedly held the cup. He didn't know if he should continue filling up water or walk back to see how Ezart was doing. As he was hesitating, the situation instantly changed. Ezart suddenly lifted his head and roared at the ceiling. His face was feral, and his eyes had

rolled back until only the whites were showing. He didn't seem at all like he was conscious.

"Ezart?"

Ri Xiang Ye was scared witless. It wasn't until the cup in his hand fell to the floor and smashed into a pile of fragments that he suddenly snapped out of it. By then, Ezart was clutching his head in pain and rolling about on the ground. Ri Xiang Ye didn't know if he was seeing things, but he thought he saw the muscles on Ezart's body begin to squirm...

As time passed minute by minute, the muscles on Ezart's body clearly writhed. His roars grew increasingly ferocious, and the expression on his face couldn't possibly be any more pained. He kept rolling about on the ground until finally, his entire body looked like a lump of dough being kneaded. His body was severely deformed.

"Ezart! ... Ezart!"

Ri Xiang Ye ran to Ezart's side. He didn't know what to do, so he desperately hugged Ezart while sobbing, hoping that putting enough pressure on the deformed areas would make them go back to their normal positions. He only wished that he could end Ezart's pain.

He didn't know how much time had passed when Ezart finally grew still. His muscles also finally stopped grotesquely squirming, and the deformed areas had returned to their normal appearance. The only thing off was that his skin was as red as fire. No matter how you

looked at it, it didn't seem like he was completely fine. No matter how much Ri Xiang Ye called him, Ezart didn't have the slightest response.

"Ezart? Ezart?"

Ri Xiang Ye carefully examined Ezart. His chest was heaving up and down, so Ri Xiang Ye didn't need to examine him to know he was still alive. However, he didn't know why he couldn't wake him up.

At this moment, a soldier from upstairs came down to the room and dutifully notified him, "Young Master, dinner is ready."

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Ye raised his head in a daze. He looked at the soldier with streaks of tears down his face. At a loss, he asked, "I can't wake up Ezart. What do I do?"

## Chapter 5: Disobeying Out of Love

"Ah Ye..."

Once Ri Xiang Yan had rushed home, he saw his beloved little brother kneeling by the side of the bed where Ezart was lying. Ezart's eyes were shut tight, and his skin was abnormally flushed.

As soon as he took another step closer, Ri Xiang Ye was immediately alert. He sat up and turned to look at Ri Xiang Yan, rubbing the sleep from his eyes. He mournfully called out, "Gēge."

"How is Ezart?" Ri Xiang Yan walked up and lovingly rubbed his little brother's head.

"The doctor said Ezart's condition is similar to if he had orally taken a stimulant." Ri Xiang Ye turned to look at the unconscious Ezart, sighed, and continued to say, "The doctor also said that because he doesn't know what Ezart ate, he doesn't dare to recklessly prescribe anything. He was scared it would make things worse. They can only move onto a treatment after they analyze the liquid in the cup. Right now all we can do let Ezart sleep."

"Then you shouldn't worry, Ah Ye. Based on Gēge's experience, if they don't die on the spot, they usually won't die." Ri Xiang Ye glanced at the person on the bed and muttered, "Especially a guy like him. He's so strong that he's like an indestructible cockroach."

"Really?" Ri Xiang Ye lifted his head, asking full of hope.

"Of course!" After Ri Xiang Yan nodded with complete seriousness to his little brother, he reluctantly urged, "You should go to sleep too. Your eyes are all red. I'll have those three other people come over tomorrow to keep you company, El or whatever he's called. How's that?"

"Could you?" Ri Xiang Ye asked in amazement.

"Of course we can." Ri Xiang Yan smiled indulgently, "Otherwise, wouldn't it be very boring being alone at home?"

"Yeah yeah!" Ri Xiang Ye energetically nodded his head. Then he said quietly, "Gēge doesn't come home. An Te Qi-bàba also isn't here... Ah! An Te Qi-bàba! How is Bàba right now? Gēge, have you rescued Bàba yet?"

Ri Xiang Yan said a little awkwardly, "Not yet."

"Ah... Really? Then you need to keep trying, Gēge."

Ri Xiang Ye's head drooped, and his face was full of disappointment. He reached out to straighten Ezart's blanket, then with a despondent expression, walked past his brother.

Ri Xiang Yan reached out, wanting to pat his little brother's shoulder. But whether by chance or design, Ri Xiang Ye turned to the side a little and the hand missed. Then he continued to walk on.

A-Ah Ye... Ri Xiang Yan was frozen with his hand outstretched. His little brother's disappointment was a heavy blow that left him stunned where he stood.

But as Ri Xiang Ye approached the door, he suddenly stopped and remained motionless.

"Ah Ye, what's wrong?" Ri Xiang Yan couldn't help asking oddly.

"Gunfire..."

Ri Xiang Ye hadn't even finished speaking when the door to the study slammed open. Ri Xiang Ye's nails extended immediately. In the instant the person who slammed the door open rushed inside, his hand shot toward their throat like a flash of lightning. Just as he brushed against skin, he realized who the person was and didn't pierce any further. But he didn't move his nails away, either.

The person who had rushed inside was originally planning on speaking. However, opening his mouth to speak meant his throat also invariably moved. It was only at that moment he noticed the sensation of metal against his neck. The stinging pain from his skin left him with no doubt that that thing could slit his throat and kill him.

He stared with wide eyes at the delicate boy in front of him. Ri Xiang Ye's previous behavior had always been like a kid who had yet to grow up, but now he was completely different! His attack just now had been even more fluid than that of an elite soldier.



"One of the bodyguards..." Ri Xiang Ye muttered. He hesitated, but still moved his hand away.

"What's going on?" Only now did Ri Xiang Yan snap out of it. Faced with the fact that his little brother had nearly killed a person again, his irritation suddenly flared.

Hearing Ri Xiang Yan's sharp question, the bodyguard immediately stood at attention and promptly said, "Reporting: The enemy has invaded. We advise the Sun Emperor to withdraw to the hidden room."

After hearing the report, Ri Xiang Yan fell silent for a moment. He nodded to the bodyguard and turned his head to address his little brother, "Ah Ye, pick up Ezart and come with me."

Ri Xiang Ye was originally going to argue with his older brother to let him go out to help, but after hearing Ezart mentioned, he turned his head to look at the unconscious person on the bed. Then he quietly picked him up and stood next to his older brother.

Ri Xiang Yan peeked at his little brother out of the corner of his eye. In his mind, he let out a sigh of relief. Luckily that Ezart guy couldn't be woken up and had to be carried by someone. Otherwise, Ri Xiang Yan wouldn't have had any reason to convince Ah Ye not to join the battle.

However, that the enemy was actually able to find this house only confirmed that the information from the past few days' investigation was correct.

*An Te Qi... Have you... Betrayed us?*

*If Ah Ye knew, he would definitely be heartbroken, right?*

Thinking this, Ri Xiang Yan felt a burst of unhappiness in his heart. But he didn't continue thinking about it for the time being. The most important thing at the moment was to retreat to the hidden room so Ah Ye wouldn't be forced to hurt people again.

He walked over to a stretch of wall and lifted up a small painting that hung there. There was a small keypad behind the painting. Then without a pause, he typed in a twelve digit password. Afterward, the wall suddenly turned into a door which opened into an entranceway narrower than the door itself.

"Ah Ye, come over here."

Ri Xiang Ye obediently did as his brother said and went into the entranceway carrying Ezart. This wasn't an easy task. Ezart had a sturdy build, and this entranceway was narrower than an ordinary door. He just stopped short of shoving Ezart through the doorway.

After Ri Xiang Ye went into the secret passageway, he kept going down and down the descending stairway. He finally reached the end of the stairs after walking for several minutes.

Finally, he walked into a room filled with high tech instruments. One of the room's walls was entirely taken up by a huge screen. In front of the screen was a control board covered with buttons. The only thing in the room that wasn't an intricate machine was a bed big enough for a

single person. On the other end of the room was another door, presumably to a passageway that led outside.

After he placed Ezart on the bed, Ri Xiang Ye turned his head and saw that his older brother and the bodyguard had already entered the tiny room. Ri Xiang Yan was currently manipulating the buttons in front of the screen. After a few button presses, faint noises came from above. When Ri Xiang Ye looked up, the door had already closed.

Seeing the door close, Ri Xiang Ye anxiously said, "Gēge, I can..."

"No!" Ri Xiang Yan didn't even turn his head as he said it.

Hearing his older brother's response, Ri Xiang Ye only let out an "oh," and didn't dare to ask further.

Ri Xiang Yan turned on the screen. The screen was split into eight smaller images, each image showing the situation in every corner of the house. The battle was taking place in the image displaying the hallway.

The bodyguards on screen were wielding weapons of varying firepower and organized in a well-trained formation, like an unyielding fortification holding off the enemy. From the whistling of the weapons in their hands and the storm-like deluge of gunfire, even if the enemy were a special force troop, they should have been half eradicated.

However, the enemy was only two people, and they didn't seem to be damaged in the slightest.

Their motions were so fast they didn't seem humanly possible. Also, their feet weren't only in contact with the floor. They landed on the two walls to the sides and even the ceiling several times, as though gravity simply didn't have an effect on them. They continued on moving up, down, left, and right.

Even the highly trained bodyguards couldn't help but mutter, "They're not human at all..."

Ri Xiang Yan frowned. Even though he didn't have a deep understanding of combat, even he could see that the enemy's movements were extremely familiar.

The more Ri Xiang Ye watched the screen, the stranger he felt. Finally, he couldn't help blurting out, "Their movements are a lot like mine."

After Ri Xiang Yan heard that, his face stiffened. His brother had realized it after all.

The bodyguard next to them looked slightly taken aback, as though he didn't really believe those words. Although he had already heard that his young master's skills were exceptional, he had never thought it would be this superhuman.

"Why are their movements so similar to mine? They clearly weren't like this before." Ri Xiang Ye stared at the screen. He had the microchip in his brain run an analysis to determine the degree of similarity they shared.

"Ah Ye!" Ri Xiang Yan calmly called out to draw his little brother's attention away. Hearing his older brother calling, Ri Xiang Ye had no choice but to stop the analysis and turn his head to look at his brother. Ri Xiang Yan's expression didn't even change as he lied to his little brother. "I think I just heard Ezart groaning that he wanted water. Do you want to pour some for him?"

"Really?"

Although Ri Xiang Ye hadn't heard anything, he still worriedly turned around and walked over to the bed. He carefully checked on Ezart's condition, but Ezart was still unconscious. He hadn't even changed positions.

As Ri Xiang Ye was doing so, Ri Xiang Yan immediately hit the switch to turn off the screen. Then he feigned annoyance and said, "Damn it, looks like the screen stopped working!"

Ri Xiang Ye cocked his head and visually examined Ezart. After he determined Ezart hadn't moved at all and then heard what his brother had said, he couldn't help looking back at the screen. The screen really was completely dark.

"Tell the others outside to notify me immediately should the situation change," Ri Xiang Yan commanded the bodyguard next to them.

"Understood." As soon as the bodyguard finished replying, he immediately lifted up his walkie-talkie to notify his comrades outside.

Ri Xiang Yan walked over to the bed, rubbed his little brother's head, and said consolingly, "Don't worry, Ah Ye. This room is very secure. Even if those two people really do have godly skills and take out all the bodyguards, they can't get in here."

*Especially because An Te Qi doesn't know the code to this room,* Ri Xiang Yan lightly added in his mind.

"Mm." Ri Xiang Ye nodded.

"Reporting: the situation has changed," the bodyguard suddenly cried out.

Hearing this, Ri Xiang Yan frowned and succinctly ordered, "Speak!"

"The enemy was unable to break through the blockade and have begun retreating."

Ri Xiang Yan's eyes lit up. *The enemy is already retreating? Excellent. We've finally avoided a crisis that could have forced Ah Ye to battle.*

He commanded the bodyguard, "Send reinforcements for the watch tonight. Escort us back to headquarters tomorrow morning."

"Understood."

Ri Xiang Yan reached out to lovingly rub his little brother's head. With a tone so determined that it even bordered on sinister, he said, "Ah Ye, Gēge will absolutely protect you."

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Ye just obediently nodded, but he was inwardly a bit exasperated, because...

*I want to protect you too, Gēge.*



The room was completely dark. One person lay on the bed, so deeply asleep he didn't even turn.

At this moment, a figure quietly, stealthily entered the room. They stood by the bed watching for a long time. The person on the bed still remained asleep, without the slightest reaction. The figure softly asked, "Ezart, when are you going to wake up?"

Of course, the sleeping person couldn't reply. The figure could only silently leave the bed side to accomplish the real objective they came to complete.

They walked to a small picture and lifted up the frame, where a keypad was hidden. They typed in a series of numbers while murmuring, "The twelve numbers Gēge typed in earlier were 5874..."

Once the numbers were all typed, the door opened again. Behind the door was the descending spiral staircase. The figure didn't pause while going down the stairs, and continued down to the hidden room. As soon as they stepped inside, the room automatically brightened, and the figure was fully revealed: silvery hair, pure black irises, and a child-like innocent expression on their face. It was Ri Xiang Ye.

He guiltily said to himself, "If Gēge finds out what I plan to do, he'd definitely be furious, right?"

Thinking about that, he couldn't help but hesitate over whether or not he should carry it out, completely going against his big brother's wish for him to be an ordinary boy...

*But I've never been an ordinary boy.*

*Besides, I want to protect Gēge.* This was what he had originally resolved already.

Ri Xiang Ye tossed aside all hesitation. He looked at the huge screen in the room. Earlier, his older brother had said the screen was broken... He bitterly smiled. *Did Gēge really think I'd believe him?*

Even if Ri Xiang Ye would have been fooled, "Dark Sun" couldn't be so easily deceived. As the ultimate bodyguard, how could he not have the ability to analyze things?

Almost in the instant that Ri Xiang Yan lied, Dark Sun had determined it wasn't true.

*Gēge claiming the screen was broken definitely had to be because he didn't want me to see something, so he turned off the screen. And what Gēge doesn't want me to see always has to do with battling or something that would make me sad. But right now, what would make me sad or have to go fight and involves modified humans are things related to Gēge or An Te Qi-bàba.*



So how could he not find out more!

Even if he would feel hurt, even if he would feel sad, even if he would go against his brother's wishes and fight, if it had something to do with his brother's safety, there was no way he could turn a blind eye. This was because of Ri Xiang Ye's wish to protect his brother, and Dark Sun's instinct to protect his master.

He lowered his head to look at the control panel covered with buttons and spent a few minutes to familiarize himself with the controls. Then he searched up the video of the modified humans' intrusion. Ri Xiang Ye fixedly watched the screen.

The battle was intense but didn't last very long, only about ten or so minutes. The clip was soon over. After the film of the two modified humans was finished, Ri Xiang Ye shut his eyes and concentrated on letting the microchip in his brain determine what areas had problems.

Soon after, the microchip's analysis concluded.

The two modified human's movements were ninety percent similar to Dark Sun's basic movements. Because the sole surviving member of Dark Sun's development team was "An Te Qi," the probability that these two modified humans were made and improved by "An Te Qi" was ninety-nine percent.

*Ninety-nine percent...* Ri Xiang Ye opened his eyes. A calculation of ninety-nine percent by the microchip was basically the same as one hundred percent because there was always some degree of error in everything.

“So that’s how it is? An Te Qi-bàba went over to the enemy’s side?”

Ri Xiang Ye’s head drooped. But it wasn’t because he was disappointed or hurt like Ri Xiang Yan would have guessed. In fact, he wasn’t surprised by An Te Qi’s betrayal.

After all, he had known An Te Qi for eight years already. It really wasn’t any shorter than his interactions with his own brother. Although it hadn’t been through the usual kind of interactions, it was enough for him to understand the doctor’s personality.

An Te Qi wasn’t the kind of person who would sacrifice himself for someone else. Otherwise, during that eight year span, An Te Qi would have thought of a way to save him early on, rather than repeatedly subjecting him to life threatening surgeries.

An Te Qi had sympathized with him, comforted him, and had been sad and reluctant to part with him, but An Te Qi had never thought of trying to save him, not even once.

But Ri Xiang Ye still liked An Te Qi-bàba because An Te Qi-bàba had smiled at him from the beginning and never begrudged him a smile. Without that smile, he might not have held on until his brother came. Instead, from the start, he would already have ...

*I still like you, An Te Qi-bàba. But you betrayed Gēge, and Gēge definitely won’t forgive you.*

“Gēge really had been planning on saving you because of me, but after discovering An Te Qi-bàba’s betrayal, he’ll definitely change the order from ‘saving’ to ‘killing’ you.”

Ri Xiang Ye closed his eyes sadly. If An Te Qi-bàba really had betrayed them, which would also endanger his brother, then to protect his brother, even he would choose to kill An Te Qi!

*Maybe... Bàba is just pretending to betray us and the two modified humans aren’t really that strong?*

Ri Xiang Ye couldn’t help thinking along those lines and holding onto hope. He pressed the button to play the battle clip again and let the microchip determine if these two modified humans were strong enough to possibly be a threat to him.

“That’s...”

Ri Xiang Ye had watched half of the clip when he suddenly noticed that the movements of one of the modified humans were somewhat odd. Its movements didn’t seem to be fluid enough, and it was grazed by bullets several times. But looking at the bullets’ trajectories, the modified human should have been able to dodge them.

For most people, errors were highly possible. But for a modified human, making those mistakes would have already been enough for it to be declared “defective”...

Ri Xiang Ye frowned and watched the scene. He felt that the modified human’s footsteps seemed to be off. *Tap. Tap tap...*

*Morse code!*

He immediately reached out and went back to the beginning of the clip, watching it from the start. He stared at the screen, unwilling to miss even a single footstep, analyzing in detail what the code was trying to say.

"I am. An Te Qi. Three days later. 2 AM..."

Then came a long address. Ri Xiang Ye continued deciphering the code while using the microchip in his brain to search it up. He discovered the address was fairly far away from his home.

"... Save me."

After decoding this, the two modified humans began to cover for each other as they retreated. Their footsteps no longer had anything to do with Morse code.

"An Te Qi-bàba..."

Ri Xiang Ye lowered his head to think. *What should I do? Tell Gēge? But if it's a trap... Ah! If even I think it's a trap, then Gēge will definitely think so too, right? Will he go save An Te Qi-bàba?*

Ri Xiang Ye frowned. The logical, Dark Sun part of his brain was sending out warnings nonstop, saying, "It's a trap. Do not proceed." But his emotional side didn't want to listen to these warnings because

if he did, he might never see Bàba again. One of his favorite people would soon be gone.

In the end, Ri Xiang Ye lifted his head and resolutely declared, “I still like Bàba. I’m going to save Bàba!”

*But how do I actually do it?*

If he waited until tomorrow, the bodyguards would then send him and his brother to the headquarters. It wasn’t that he couldn’t defeat the bodyguards, but if his brother were next to him, he definitely couldn’t disobey his brother. And his brother wouldn’t let him go save An Te Qi-bàba.

Once they reached headquarters, there might be even more people watching him, and his brother might make him stay by his side. It would be even more impossible to leave.

*If I really want to go save An Te Qi-bàba, then there’s only...* He turned his head to look toward the room’s other exit. He could only leave now. Tomorrow morning, there would be nothing more he could do to save Bàba.

Once he thought this, he made his decision to leave immediately. But he remembered the Death Scythe had already been taken by the enemy and that the three most important nails on his left hand had snapped off. It could be said that he was missing his main weapon and that his second best was half unusable. His combat strength had already taken a huge hit.

"I'll have to use firepower to make up for it."

Ri Xiang Ye frowned and turned around. He returned to the room upstairs. Glancing at Ezart on the bed again just hardened his resolve to save An Te Qi. *After all, Ezart ended up like this because he drank An Te Qi-bàba's drug. So An Te Qi-bàba should definitely have a way to wake Ezart up!*

He was walking in the hallway, where many bodyguards were standing to both sides. But none of them showed any misgivings about his movements or tried to stop him. After all, in this day and age, a young adult staying up in the middle of the night wasn't anything noteworthy.

If Ri Xiang Yan or An Te Qi had been there, they definitely would have realized something wasn't right. For good little boy Ah Ye, who always went to bed at ten every day, loitering around the hallway in the middle of the night was extremely out of character.

But his bàba and older brother weren't present, so Ri Xiang Ye went about unobstructed. First, he went back down to the basement to pick up a duffel backpack, packing heavy firearms, light handguns, time bombs, hand grenades, and other dangerous objects into it.

Then, carrying his bag on his back, Ri Xiang Ye returned to the living room, planning to use the hidden room to leave.

But this time, he caught the attention of the head bodyguard. It was normal not to be asleep in the middle of the night, but not sleeping in the middle of the night and running around while lugging a backpack clearly filled with firearms was just a bit strange.

The bodyguard hesitantly asked, "Young Master, may I ask what you are carrying those guns for?"

"We're leaving home tomorrow, so I'm packing my luggage," Ri Xiang Ye innocently replied to the bodyguard.

*Why would youngsters nowadays have luggage entirely filled with ammunition? Even using such an innocent expression to reply...*

Although he wanted to shout this, the bodyguard still conscientiously reminded him, "Young Master, we can help you carry it."

"No! They're my precious." Ri Xiang Ye didn't panic but said authoritatively, "I'm taking them with me tomorrow."

"Understood."

The bodyguard could only nod and silently pray that the young master's skill with firearms really was as great as the rumors said. If that ammunition misfired, the word "terrible" would be an understatement.

Ri Xiang Ye carried the entire bag of firearms into the room. Then he opened the door to the hidden room. He was about to step down the stairs when he suddenly stopped and turned his head to look at Ezart on the bed. With absolute determination, he declared.

"Ezart, wait for me. I'll bring An Te Qi-bàba back to save you!"

Once he finished speaking, he no longer hesitated and turned around to enter the secret tunnel. But he didn't notice the person on the bed clench his right hand into a fist and then relax so it was flat on the bed before returning to his seeming slumber.



## Chapter 6: Dangerous Thinking

It was a night where the moon was hidden behind black clouds. Most of the city was dark and silent except for the occasional dog's bark and voices from somewhere that mixed among the lights and sounds from one or two cars whistling past.

A garbage truck was parked in an alley between two tall buildings. Garbage overflowed from it, and mice had torn into the bags. The ground was littered with trash tumbling in the wind, unacceptably dirty. Fortunately, few people frequented the alley. Both walls were lined with rundown metal doors that seemingly hadn't been opened in ages.

In this seemingly coalesced darkness, one of the metal doors opened noiselessly, as if opened by a ghost. It seemed inconceivable that this dilapidated, rusted metal door didn't make a single sound as it opened, even more silent than an automatic door.

It would have been enough to stir doubts in someone's heart that maybe what had opened the door was one of the ghosts of the city?

But the next moment, a person wearing a red, tight-fitting shirt and a silver visor came out from behind the door. He was even carrying a large bag on his back. The outlines of firearms could be faintly seen through the lumps in the backpack.

This person clearly wasn't a ghost, but his movements were so graceful and silent that he wasn't too different from a spirit.

The man slowly closed the door. After he turned his head slightly to survey the surroundings, he began to think.

According to the Morse code, the rendezvous would be in three days. In that case, where could he go for now?

He had to find a place where he would not be found. So he wouldn't be able to use his credit card to stay at a hotel. Even if he didn't use his credit card, staying in a park wouldn't work either because as long as it was public, he would definitely be found!

He really didn't have a lot of choices, and he hadn't gone to many places before. Apart from home and the Sun Alliance headquarters, he had only gone to school. Naturally, he could cross off the first two options so that left... *I guess it's just school?*

He muttered to himself, "School, principal... The Principal's office!"

Once he thought of "the Principal's office," he finally decided on his destination. He looked around the alley. There was only one path he could take, so his only option should have been to walk out of the alley.

But he didn't move forward. Instead, he... went up!

He ran forward two steps then kicked off the wall, borrowing the force to leap up to the window of the second floor. Even though the window was covered by a curtain, a sliver of light shone through, illuminating the silver strands of his hair. He was, as usual, wearing a silver visor on his face.

Dark Sun grabbed the windowsill and flipped up. Both hands were planted on the top part of the second story windowsill. He did a handstand and sprang up into the air. Then his feet caught onto the windowsill of the third story. He did it another time and continued to repeat these clean and efficient motions to climb up.

He didn't climb up to the highest floor, instead leaping onto the roof of the adjacent building once he reached the fifth floor. Then he continued running and leaping and even pulling himself up to speedily bound across the buildings. This whole time, he still hadn't ascended to the highest floors but hadn't dropped to the ground either. He knew those places all had surveillance cameras, and he would easily be tracked.

Only in this area between the floors of the buildings did the surveillance cameras have a blind spot. And as long as no one spotted him and the surveillance cameras didn't catch him, his brother would have a difficult time tracking him down.

Aside from the surveillance cameras, he had naturally left the cell phone his brother had given him behind as well. Although he hadn't inspected the cell phone, he could guess that there would definitely be a tracking device inside.

He continued moving forward in a manner that seemed to defy the laws of space. It wasn't too long before he could already see the school buildings, and he further quickened his pace. After a short time, he was climbing up a flowerbox on a building next to the school. He surveyed the surrounding terrain and the positions of the security

cameras. Then in the depths of the night, he agilely leapt toward the school.

Because the Principal had already agreed to remove the security cameras, Dark Sun directly went across the campus, heading straight for the Principal's office.

He continued all the way until he was in front of the Principal's office... Or more accurately called "the Principal's building." He turned around, rummaged around in his backpack and pulled out a card. After he had accepted the Principal's missions, the Principal had given him this card as proof that he was an Elite Combat Class student.

The thought that he was a single person but had two Yelan Academy student ID cards made him want to laugh.

He swiped the card, and the doors to the Principal's building opened in response. He walked inside. Amazingly, even though it was the middle of the night, there were still two or three people either walking around or sitting in front of a public computer to do research for a mission. No one paid any attention to anyone else, minding their own business. When the door opened, not a single person turned to look.

That made him relax. He strode toward a public computer, planning to search up several things and kill time until it was morning, when the Principal would be here. He could meet with him then.

He opened a web page to browse around and saw the daily news on it. The news headline was: Clash Between the Sun Alliance and the Purple Moon Alliance.

Ri Xiang Ye couldn't help clicking on the page. As soon as he did, the page displayed photos of Ri Xiang Yan and Bai Lian Yue. There were even the letters "VS" between the two photos.

In the photo, Ri Xiang Yan had his head tilted slightly upward and was even dangling a cigarette in his mouth. His haughty attitude seemed like he was looking down on the whole world. On the other hand, Bai Lian Yue was looking straight ahead with a faint, enigmatic smile.

"Gēge..." Ri Xiang Ye felt sad looking at the photo. *How will Gēge react when he finds out I've disappeared?*

Thinking about how he wouldn't be able to see his brother for many days, he felt a little lonely and in that moment, pressed the Print button. After Ri Xiang Yan's photo had printed, he carefully gazed at it for a long time. Then he folded it up and tucked it in his shirt.

*Just wait! Gēge, wait for me to bring An Te Qi-bàba back and our family will go back to what it used to be!*



"Gēge, I don't want to! I don't want to go to school! I don't want to leave Gēge!"

"Ah Ye, don't be scared. Gēge will protect you."

"Really?"

"Of course. If Gēge lied to you, I'll eat lots and lots of bitter melon."

*"Pinky promise?"*

*"O.K. Pinky promise."*

*"Bàba! Where is Ah Ye?"*

*"I was going to give him to you as your twenty-fifth birthday present..."*

*"Congratulations on successfully turning a youth into the ultimate bodyguard—Dark Sun."*

*"Ah Ye. You are still my Dìdi. I swear, I will protect you."*

*"Please, let me protect you, Gēge. Not only does Gēge want to protect Ah Ye, Ah Ye also wants to protect Gēge!"*

*"Ah Ye, why can't you be a normal teenager?"*

A head of brilliant golden hair spread across a black leather chair, causing it to be incomparably eye-catching. Ri Xiang Yan was lying like that in his office chair, fast asleep. His computer hadn't even been shut off.

Even in sleep, his brows were knitted tightly as though some matter were troubling him. After his eyebrows twitched a few times, his eyelids suddenly shot open, revealing his beautiful, ruby-like eyes. However, his eyes were unfocused and even appeared a bit dazed, but after blinking twice, he was already fully awake. He tiredly rubbed his face with his hands and murmured, "Ah Ye..."

He looked at the clock on the wall. The hands were currently pointing to 3 o'clock. Of course, it wasn't three in the afternoon, but three in the morning. At this hour, Ah Ye should be sleeping. It was just that the dream he had just had left him feeling panicked for no particular reason. It made him stop to think, *Should I check in on Ah Ye?*

With a little bit of thinking, he brushed aside his own thought.  
*Absolutely not! Ah Ye isn't a normal teenager. Even if I moved as lightly as possible, I'd definitely wake him. I can't possibly disturb Dìdì's rest in the middle of the night for no reason.*

*But why is it... Why is it that I feel so uneasy?*

Ri Xiang Yan kept hesitating. But the more he thought, the more worried he grew as he thought about what could be wrong. Finally, he still couldn't help but rush to his little brother's room, unable to help the fact that he would wake up his brother. He paused in front of the door for several minutes but still pushed the door open.

As soon as he entered, his eyes went directly to the bed, but he didn't see anyone there. He walked further in, opening the bathroom door as he passed by. There also wasn't anyone inside. Finally, he walked up to the bed. The bed was spread with only a pillow and a neatly folded blanket. He reached out to touch it. The blanket was cold, as though no one had slept in it... *Ah Ye is gone!*

Ri Xiang Yan's mind went blank for a long time. Then he finally remembered that the last time he had seen Ah Ye, Ah Ye was still in the room where Ezart was lying.

"Don't tell me he's still in the guest room with Ezart?"

Thinking this, he once again rushed out, even losing some of his poise. Even when he came across a row of bodyguards along the way, he didn't pay them any mind.

Once he had rushed to the guest room, Ri Xiang Yan abruptly flung open the door, shouting, "Ah Ye?"

The room only had one person lying quietly on the bed. But it wasn't the person Ri Xiang Yan was looking for.

*Where on earth did Ah Ye go?*

Ri Xiang Yan shouted in a panic, "Captain of the bodyguards!"

The door to the room immediately opened, revealing the figure of a ramrod-straight bodyguard leader. He responded, "Sir."

The bodyguard captain's respectful actions made Ri Xiang Yan realize his mannerisms were lacking. He didn't immediately issue instructions, instead taking a deep breath to steady his emotions and at the same time, straightening out his thoughts. He tried to think about his little brother's possible movements. Once he had calmed down, he frowned and asked, "Where is Ah Ye?"

"The young master is in this room and has not left," the bodyguard leader said. At the same time, he anxiously realized that this room held no traces of Young Master Ri Xiang Ye.



"You are certain that Ah Ye was in this room the entire time and never left?" Ri Xiang Yan asked once again.

"No, the young master did go to the basement earlier and carried a bag of firearms up, saying he wanted to take them with him as luggage. Then he returned to the room once again and did not come out."

Hearing this, Ri Xiang Yan's emotions once again flared out of control and he furiously roared, "And you didn't inform me?"

"No, I did not."

The bodyguard braced himself and replied. By now, he had already realized his future was looking bleak. He really had been too careless. But it was because he had been treating the young master as an employer rather than a prisoner, and therefore hadn't thought much about the possibility of him fleeing. Furthermore, who could have guessed that the young master of a rich family would be able to carry a bag of firearms that was so heavy a normal person would have trouble lifting it and run away from home?

Even though he had calmed down earlier, Ri Xiang Yan once again became so upset that his breathing turned ragged. Even the bodyguard captain was staring with wide eyes. It was just too unbelievable. The entire time he had been following the Sun Emperor, he had never seen the Sun Emperor's emotions as wildly out of control as they were now.

After all, when the Sun Emperor had been threatened by criminals with the lives of thousands of employees being held hostage, he hadn't treated it as a large matter and even picked up the menu to order his dinner... Wasn't the Sun Emperor supposed to be a cold-blooded person like that?

Ri Xiang Yan had probably seen that the bodyguard was so shocked that his eyes were about to fall out. So he walked over to the wall, opened up the small painting on the wall and keyed in the secret code to open the hidden door. Then he commanded the bodyguard, "Go down to the hidden room and see if he's still there!"

"Understood." The bodyguard immediately went through the hidden door after receiving the command.

As soon as the bodyguard left, Ri Xiang Yan's façade of strength crumbled. Like a balloon with its air let out, Ri Xiang Yan weakly collapsed onto the bed. He murmured, "Ah Ye, did you want to save An Te Qi that much? He's a traitor..."

Traitors had to be punished to let everyone know that betraying the Sun Emperor would lead to a fate worse than dying at the hands of the enemy. Not only would it lead to your destruction, but the Sun Emperor's fiery wrath would descend upon your friends and family... It was better to heroically sacrifice your own life than to betray the Sun Emperor. At least the huge sum of compensation paid to your family would be enough to ensure their future well-being.

This system had sustained the Sun Alliance for many years now. So after An Te Qi chose to betray them, Ri Xiang Yan ordered his death

without the slightest hesitation. But An Te Qi was a solitary individual; he didn't have any family, much less any friends to drag down with him. This was probably one of the reasons he had dared to become a traitor.

*Did Ah Ye realize I wasn't planning on rescuing An Te Qi anymore, so he went to save him himself?*

"Damn it!" Vexed, Ri Xiang Yan couldn't help cursing.

*I was too careless!* He had always assumed Ah Ye wouldn't disobey him, so he hadn't even ordered the bodyguards to watch Ah Ye closely.

At this moment, the bodyguard also came back up. "Report: the young master is not in the hidden room."

Ri Xiang Yan had already guessed that would be the case, so he wasn't particularly surprised. He dully commanded, "Return to your posts."

"Understood!"

Ri Xiang Yan walked back to his study. As soon as he sat down, he called his secretary, not caring in the slightest that it was currently three something in the morning.

Normally, Kyle would have answered the phone before the second ring, but since it was the middle of the night, the phone rang for longer this time. As Ri Xiang Yan waited, his fingers tapped lightly

against the surface of the gleaming black desk. His face was expressionless.

After the phone rang five times, it was picked up. A tired voice that was still trying to remain professional came over the phone. "Good morning, Sun Emperor. This is Kyle."

"Morning, Bill." Ri Xiang Yan succinctly and quickly explained, "Ah Ye ran away from home taking a large bag of firearms with him. He should be trying to save An Te Qi."

The other end of the phone was silent for a while. Although Kyle had definitely heard him, what he was actually waiting for was the Sun Emperor's order.

"He snuck out from the hidden room. Dispatch a tracking team immediately. I want him brought back as soon as possible."

"Understood."

Ri Xiang Yan didn't issue any further commands, but he also didn't press the button to end the call. The silence continued like this for some time.

Kyle was never the one to end the call first. He could only keep on waiting. Finally, he couldn't help but ask, "May I ask if I should rescind An Te Qi's death sentence?"

Kyle inquired gingerly. Although he should not be questioning the Sun Emperor, it didn't seem ideal that the Sun Emperor had an order to kill

the person Young Master Ri Xiang Ye had unhesitatingly left home to rescue. And perhaps the reason that the Sun Emperor was delaying the end of the call was that he wanted to show mercy to the person who Young Master Ri Xiang Ye wanted to save, but was unable to give the order to rescind the command to kill a traitor.

And so, Kyle brazenly asked this question to give the Sun Emperor a way out.

But contrary to Kyle's expectations, although Ri Xiang Yan was silent for a long time and did not agree to it or turn it down, he still ultimately said icily, "No. Kill him. I won't let a traitor exist!"

"Understood."

After he finished speaking, Ri Xiang Yan pressed the button to terminate the call. On the outside he looked as cold-hearted as usual, but in his heart this time, he really had to pause. That pause was because of his only weakness.

*If I kill An Te Qi, will Ah Ye be sad?*

But if he didn't kill An Te Qi, even if they were able to rescue him, that wouldn't be a good thing. An Te Qi had too much influence over Ah Ye, and Ah Ye was his own only weakness!

If one of his enemies wanted to threaten him and indirectly used An Te Qi to hurt or use Ah Ye, that wasn't something he wanted to see ever happen.

If An Te Qi were like himself and saw Ah Ye as family and his highest priority, and would never turn on Ah Ye, then Ri Xiang Yan might have considered saving him.

However, An Te Qi's betrayal this time clearly illustrated that An Te Qi had never thought of Ah Ye as his most important family. Or perhaps it should be said, he might have treated Ah Ye like family, but obviously family wasn't as important to him as himself or his experiments.

This kind of person who had such a large influence over Ah Ye but didn't care for Ah Ye enough was way too dangerous!

Ri Xiang Yan covered half his face with his hands. His ruby eyes buried within the darkness of his palms shone with a cruel, bloody gleam through his fingers. "An Te Qi must be eliminated!"

This was definitely the right course of action. *Only, the correct choice doesn't necessarily mean Ah Ye won't be sad...* Why was it that even at the height of power, the simple wish for his little brother to never be sad was impossible to grant?

*What kind of Sun Emperor am I? I'm just an awful older brother who can't even make Didi happy. I don't even know if the order I just gave is right... or wrong.*



The laboratory had the same facilities, and the whole lab was just as messy. The same zombie-like person was standing in the lab.

Nothing seemed to have changed. The only difference was that there wasn't a silver-haired teenager who would burst in, reciting a long list of his older brother's instructions while tidying up things along the way and then saying he would bring dinner later.

Normally, An Te Qi would be annoyed as soon as he heard that long list of demands because he wouldn't be able to concentrate on his experiments. But now he felt the lab was too quiet, so quiet that he couldn't focus on his experiments.

Before it wasn't like that at all. In the past, he would have given anything to have a lab where he wouldn't be disturbed by anyone. But now... *Did something change?*

An Te Qi was caught in a quagmire. Although he wanted to figure out what went wrong, he also clearly knew the problem had something to do with that noisy teenager. But he wasn't willing to and couldn't admit it. He had already betrayed that person, so what point would there be in admitting the problem?

"So I've heard that Ri Xiang Yan has already issued your death sentence."

His attention was drawn back by a silky male voice. But he didn't turn his head to look back. He just blandly replied, "Oh, is that so?" As he replied, his scalpel moved with lightning speed.

"You don't care?"

Bai Lian Yue's seductive, lithe figure emerged from the shadows. He had a bewitching smile on his face and his finger lightly twirled his long hair. Almost coquettishly, he said, "Not a single person the Sun Emperor has issued a death sentence for still lives you know?"

"I know. I've read the Sun Alliance employee handbook. It's written out very clearly there."

An Te Qi pushed his glasses up his nose. He recalled the rule written in the handbook that couldn't be any clearer about a traitor's fate, just stopping short of giving a list of every possible punishment.

Bai Lian Yue gracefully sidled over to the doctor. He moved his face up against An Te Qi's ear and breathily crooned, "Oh, so you were already prepared to descend. Into. Hell. Darling Dr. An Te Qi?"

"Instead of worrying about me, worry about yourself." An Te Qi's gaze remained on the experiment. He didn't turn to look at Bai Lian Yue and deliberately asked, "The Sun Emperor must be putting a lot of pressure on you."

After hearing those words, Bai Lian Yue's tone suddenly turned sullen. "It is none of your business."

An Te Qi couldn't help smirking. Ri Xiang Yan really wasn't giving this guy any room to breathe.

Perhaps Bai Lian Yue discovered what An Te Qi was thinking and stopped being coy. After a cold huff, he got down to business, "The Sun Emperor has issued your death sentence, so it is guaranteed that



the assault force will be invading soon. We cannot stay here. Pack your things to leave.”

“Mhm.” An Te Qi nodded.

“Have you made modified humans who can utilize the Death Scythe yet?”

“Nope,” An Te Qi lightly replied.

*Smack!*

After dealing An Te Qi a forceful slap, Bai Lian Yue shouted, “An Te Qi! I’m warning you, I’m running out of patience!”

An Te Qi slowly turned his head back. Half of his face was red and swollen but he made no move to soothe it. His expression still remained indifferent as he blandly said, “I can see that you have no patience, but as I’ve told you from the start, wielding the Death Scythe requires extremely high speed and strength working in coordination. Not just any random modified human can wield it. Even if you don’t need a hundred percent of the Death Scythe’s strength, just using it would require three months of repeated modifications, testing, and experimentation.”

The expression on Bai Lian Yue’s face was ugly after he heard that. He knew it required three months as An Te Qi had said clearly since the start, but he also knew there was no way the Sun Emperor would give him three months.

Previously, he had been relying on reports that Ri Xiang Yan did not want to kill An Te Qi and would be unwilling to act rashly in case An Te Qi accidentally died. But now that Ri Xiang Yan had given the order to kill, his subordinates would no longer need to care about a hostage's life and naturally, they would take much quicker and deadlier actions than before.

*Was I too reckless?* Bai Lian Yue subconsciously nibbled on his nail. He thought, *Maybe leaving that message in Morse code really did...*

*No, no matter what, Ri Xiang Yan would never allow An Te Qi to be in the hands of the enemy for three months. One and a half months at most. If he still couldn't save An Te Qi, he definitely would have ordered him to be killed.*

*In that case, it was better to stake everything on luring Dark Sun out.*

"So be it. Forget about the Death Scythe. How many modified humans have you created?"

"Three. If you hadn't come to disturb me, it could have been four," An Te Qi couldn't help taunting him in reply.

*Smack!*

Bai Lian Yue coldly said, "Don't get smart with me. Pack your things to leave."

An Te Qi turned his head back around and indifferently said, "Got it."

Bai Lian Yue huffed again, turned around, and left.

An Te Qi waited until Bai Lian Yue had left before resuming his work with the scalpel and muttering to himself, "How terrible, between having a gun pointed at my head and being slapped, I'm starting to miss the gun. As long as the trigger isn't pulled, it's not going to hurt. But even if it were pulled, I probably wouldn't feel any pain either."

An Tei Qi fell silent for a while before he muttered, "And at least Ah Ye would be there telling me to eat dinner and breakfast. Not like here! Even if I starved to death, no one would care."

*But what am I doing right now?*

*Modifying humans to be powerful enough to annihilate the person who tells me to eat!* An Te Qi couldn't help stopping his scalpel and bitterly laughing at his own actions.

*But it doesn't matter. That bro-con Ri Xiang Yan would definitely smother Ah Ye with protection. No matter how strong I make the modified humans, I wouldn't be able to hurt his beloved didi under the Sun Emperor's watch.*

*That guy always is overdoing things. There's an eighty percent chance he's lined up a huge number of special forces carrying heavy weaponry to make a human wall, then used the human wall to circle his beloved Ah Ye three times over. And on the outermost layer, there's what looks like an ordinary residence but is actually a house that bullets would bounce off of.*

*With that kind of setup, don't even mention a few modified humans, even if you flew a couple bombers over it, Ah Ye wouldn't even have a scratch.*

*That's right! Even if four modified humans come at him together, Ah Ye definitely wouldn't get hurt.*

The scalpel in his hand started rapidly moving again.

## Chapter 7: Rescue Mission, Begin!

"Bill, it's been three days. Why hasn't Ah Ye been found yet?" Ri Xiang Yan expressionlessly asked, hands pushing against the surface of the desk.

Although he knew the Sun Emperor didn't accept any excuses for failure, this was a direct question from his superior. Kyle, as the Sun Emperor's subordinate, could only do exactly as duty required and replied, "Because Young Master Ri Xiang Ye seems to be intimately familiar with the position of every surveillance camera within the city, there has not been a single camera that has caught a glimpse of him, making it extremely difficult to track him. At the same time, he has not relied on any of his friends for help, has not used his credit card, has not withdrawn money, and has not been recorded leaving the area. Based on reports from our spies within the large alliances, they have not captured anyone matching the young master's description."

The color in Ri Xiang Yan's face returned to something a little closer to normal after he heard that. He had originally been worried that the reason there hadn't been the slightest bit of news about Ah Ye was because someone had captured him. That was the outcome he feared the most, but since it wasn't the case, then he didn't need to worry about Ah Ye's safety.

Kyle continued to report, "We have already initiated a blanket search. Unless the young master has left the city or its surroundings, we should have news of him within two days."

"Ah Ye eats quite a lot every meal. How could he not have withdrawn money to use?" Ri Xiang Yan frowned. *Dìdì isn't starving himself, is he?*

Kyle silently replied in his mind, *I also have serious doubts. The young master's intake is undoubtedly astonishing. If he hasn't used money to buy food, then he could only have stolen food.* But he had already investigated the city and surrounding area, and there hadn't been any remnants of news trails about large quantities of food being stolen... It was like Ri Xiang Ye had vanished without a trace.

Although Ri Xiang Yan was extremely worried about Ah Ye's situation, as long as Ah Ye hadn't fallen into someone else's clutches, then his safety was probably nothing to worry about. Since he couldn't find Ah Ye for the time being, it was better to deal with other matters first. "What's the situation with Bai Lian Yue?"

"The assault on the laboratory was a success. However, the target had already been evacuated from the laboratory. We are currently pursuing all leads on him."

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan tapped his fingers on the table, indicating he understood.

That the Sun Emperor hadn't issued any instructions indicated that he approved of the way things were being handled. Kyle continued to report further, "As for the investigation into individuals Bai Lian Yue has close ties with, he lost both parents and has no wife. Although he has many mistresses, they are frequently replaced. The only individual who can be considered to be relatively close to him is his successor,

Bai Lian Xing. However, upon further investigation, Bai Lian Xing is not his biological child but rather, is adopted from a distant relative. The relationship between the two of them is not very close.”

“So, you’re saying there isn’t a single person he cares about?”

Ri Xiang Yan’s expression hardened. People like Bai Lian Yue were the most troublesome to deal with. He didn’t have anything he cared about, so he could act without restraint. The plan to threaten him with his loved ones obviously wouldn’t work.

“Yes.” Kyle nodded.

Ri Xiang Yan returned to being expressionless. His pointer finger lightly tapped the table.

Kyle continued to report, “Regarding retaliation against the Purple Moon Alliance, measures such as using various names to acquire shares of their company and block their financing are already underway. However, the Purple Moon Alliance is enormous. There are banks that operate under them and they are well-established in the business world. In the short term, we are unable to deal them a crippling blow...”

“I know that.” Ri Xiang Yan impatiently interrupted the report. “Of the top ten economic alliances, which one doesn’t have a solid financial base? I wasn’t expecting to topple the Purple Moon Alliance anytime soon; I just wanted to make it known we are openly antagonizing them. This way, the other alliances and the businesses under them will act accordingly. Even if they don’t cut business relations with them

entirely, they will at least delay any collaborations. The addition of this kind of news will be enough to make Purple Moon Alliance shares tumble!”

Once their stocks fell, it would be even easier to buy them up. With some covert manipulation as well, it would be enough for the Purple Moon Alliance’s property to change hands, with no one the wiser. Also, as long as the Sun Alliance divided up a majority of the benefits between the other alliances, they wouldn’t say much about the Sun Emperor’s annihilation of the Purple Moon Alliance.

Kyle had known what kind of strategy the Sun Emperor was most likely to use. Although this strategy seemed simple, only the Sun Alliance, which controlled the economy, could carry it out successfully. After all, it wasn’t a simple feat to have the majority of the alliances go along with the situation. It seemed like the Sun Emperor really wanted the Purple Moon Alliance to disappear completely this time.

“After the Purple Moon Alliance falls, even if Bai Lian Yue has An Te Qi in his grasp, what good will that be?” Ri Xiang Yan snorted.

At this moment, the computer in front of Kyle pinged with a message. This was nothing odd, as his computer was constantly receiving information from all over the place. However, the moment he saw the subject line, Kyle frowned.

*“Bai Lian Yue” is actually displayed as the sender of the message!* Kyle decided on the spot to deal with this message first. As soon as he saw the contents, he froze. Then, he hastily reported, “Sun Emperor! The



news from the Purple Moon Alliance is that they are requesting a meeting between the leaders of both sides.”

“Oh?”

Hearing the news, Ri Xiang Yan faintly smiled. *Looks like someone’s realized they’re in trouble.*

“The other party wants an immediate reply. The meeting is to take place at noon two days from now, and they will decide the location.”

As Kyle gave his report, he frowned. These demands were both rude and unreasonable. Even an ordinary CEO would normally have their schedule planned out a month in advance, to say nothing of the leader of the economy, the Sun Emperor. A last-minute request to meet in two days was utterly absurd.

In addition, the other party wanted an immediate reply and to decide the location themselves. Did they see the Sun Emperor as a subordinate? They couldn’t possibly be ruder.

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan frowned as well. *Why does Bai Lian Yue think I’ll agree to this meeting?*

At this moment, Kyle suddenly realized there was an attachment with the message. Against all odds, he somehow hadn’t noticed it immediately. *It looks like I’ve been working too hard recently... All I can do is brace myself and report it.*

"Sun Emperor, there is also an attachment with the message. It seems to be an image."

"Oh?" The Sun Emperor did indeed shoot him an icy glare. He commanded, "Print it out."

Kyle automatically opened the image and pressed the print button. Only then did he have time to make out what the image was of, and his blood ran cold. *Young Master Ri Xiang Ye...*

Ri Xiang Yan indifferently took the photo from the machine, but the moment his eyes focused on it, he immediately cried out in alarm, "Ah Ye!"

Indeed, the photo was of Ri Xiang Ye, or perhaps it should be said, of Dark Sun. In the photo, he was imprisoned in a cell. It was clear that his captors were very afraid of him. The room had solid metal walls rather than iron bars to imprison him in his cell, and the walls were covered with a dense net of red lasers.

Although Dark Sun's hands and feet weren't bound, when faced with a prison cell like this, even he was clearly helpless. He could only stand still in the cell.

"Bill!" Ri Xiang Yan shouted once again.

"Yes, I am currently determining whether or not the photo is a forgery. Please allow me five minutes."

He didn't need the Sun Emperor to give the order. Kyle had already been using the computer to find the subordinate who was most skilled in this line of work and request him to analyze the authenticity of the photo as soon as possible.

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan lowered his head to look at the photo. The Ah Ye in the photo didn't have any traces of panic on his face, but Ri Xiang Yan still felt absolutely heartbroken. His beloved dìdi was shut up like a criminal, and had even fallen into the clutches of his enemy. If he didn't handle this properly, Ah Ye's plight would become even worse. As Ri Xiang Yan thought that, his hand that was holding the edge of the photograph unexpectedly began to shake uncontrollably.

"Sun Emperor, the verification is complete. It is indeed an unaltered photograph."

Reading that reply, Kyle felt his heart skip a beat. *Someone has the Sun Emperor's greatest weakness in their grip. What will he do?*

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan slowly leaned back into his office chair with thoughts whirling through his mind non-stop. He said, "Agree to the Purple Moon Alliance's demands. Mobilize our strongest combat elite troop. I remember Ah Ye saying to me that his friend called Eli had a strange ability. Bring him to me immediately!"

"Understood."

After Ri Xiang Yan finished issuing the command, he thought for a moment, then gave another command, "Bring Elian and the other girl here. I heard Ah Ye say that their combat skills are also not bad."

Hearing this command, Kyle asked with slight hesitation, "But they are not professionals, and they are still children..."

"And isn't Ah Ye a child?" Ri Xiang Yan icily replied.

"Yes, sir."

"Has the hedgehog-head woken up yet?" Ri Xiang Yan's voice was even more merciless. In his heart, he thought, *Ah Ye's treated that guy so well, he should be ready to die for Ah Ye!*

"No."

Hearing the Sun Emperor's tone, Kyle knew that the Sun Emperor wouldn't listen to anyone's advice. He instinctively wanted to use up everything he could, leaving nothing unspared.

But Kyle's intuition was telling him that this wasn't a very good situation. *If something happened to Young Master Ri Xiang Ye's friends while they tried to save him, wouldn't the young master be very sad?*

*With how the young master left home, anyone can tell from a glance that the Sun Emperor isn't good at dealing with matters of the heart!* However, this was understandable; a huge economic alliance like the Sun Alliance wasn't run with emotions.

Having been in a seat of power for so long, the Sun Emperor had only subordinates by his side who obeyed his orders and enemies who didn't obey them. It probably wasn't easy for him to understand

something like the feelings between friends or why his little brother wasn't listening to him.

Kyle couldn't help but sigh inwardly. *When will these brothers figure out how to properly interact with each other?*



"My younger brother has been kidnapped. On the day of the negotiations, I want you to use your ability to scout for his whereabouts."

Ri Xiang Yan's hands were folded over his knee as he issued orders to Eli in front of him.

"What did you say?! Ah Ye's been kidnapped?"

Off to the side, Eloise shouted incredulously. Elian was also frowning. Eli was taciturn. He knew that before the Sun Emperor, saying no wasn't an option. But once he began helping the Sun Emperor probe his enemies' thoughts, would he ever be able to escape in the future?

Elian suddenly asked, "How was Ah Ye kidnapped? And what happened to Ezart? It's been almost a week since he last came to school. Was he kidnapped like Ah Ye?"

Eli lowered his eyes, which were brimming with gratitude to Elian. He knew Elian really did want to know the answer to these questions, but it was likely that the main reason Elian had asked was to help him out and give him time to read the Sun Emperor's thoughts. Then he could weigh the pros and cons before answering the Sun Emperor.

The Sun Emperor raised an eyebrow at Elian's questions. Although he didn't have Eli's ability to read minds, how would it have been possible to hide a ploy like this from the scheming king of the business world?

He knew what Elian's intentions were, but he still planned to answer these questions. That way, they would understand Ah Ye's plight, and it would foster feelings of voluntarily wanting to help Ah Ye out. Therefore, Ri Xiang Yan took the opportunity to answer, "No, Ezart is comatose. The reason is that he drank a drug that An Te Qi had left behind."

"... Huh?" The three of them all froze.

"Because Ah Ye wanted to save An Te Qi, he fell into the clutches of my enemy. At the moment, my enemy is requesting a negotiation."

Hearing that, the trio was in shock for a long time. Elian was the first one to snap out of it. He muttered, "No wonder Ah Ye was kidnapped. He must have been too hasty while trying to save An Te Qi. If he doesn't save An Te Qi soon, then Ezart will also die. Ah Ye really likes those two a lot, so if something happens to both of them, he will be extremely distressed."

It was Ri Xiang Yan's turn to be stunned. Only then did he understand. *Is that what Ah Ye was thinking? Saving An Te Qi wasn't just for An Te Qi's sake but also for Ezart's sake?*

"Oh no!" Eloise was so anxious she was pacing back and forth. "Ah Ye definitely must have been blaming himself again. Every time he does

something wrong, he's always in agony and saying that he's so stupid and doesn't understand anything... Aiyah! Anyway, we need to go save him! Elian! Eli!"

The two people Eloise had called on stared at her helplessly. They hadn't even finished considering things and she had already decided to set off?

"Ah Ye isn't stupid!" Ri Xiang Yan roared while slamming his hands on the table. *Who dares to call Ah Ye stupid?!*

"Right? Right?" Eloise loudly parroted, "Ah Ye is the cutest! But he doesn't realize it at all. Let me tell you, one time, Ah Ye even asked me if he was ugly."

"What?!" Ri Xiang Yan leapt up from his office chair, furiously bellowing, "Who dares to call him ugly?!"

"I know, right?! He clearly isn't ugly at all. Ah Ye's so cute I could die!" Eloise nodded her head as though this was completely obvious.

With an obnoxious level of pride, Ri Xiang Yan said, "Of course my Ah Ye is the cutest. Ever since he was little, he's been as cute as a lump of dough."

*Is a lump of dough supposed to be cute...* Off to the side, Kyle continued typing away expressionlessly. He logically did not judge the Sun Emperor's description.

"Really? Do you have any pictures of him from when he was little that I can see?"

"Of course. This is Ah Ye when he was five." Ri Xiang Yan pulled out a necklace. The small locket was a round, carved case that could be opened. When he opened the cover, there was a little photograph inside.

"Ah! He's absolutely adorable!"

"Of course my dīdi is adorable."

"Do you have any other pictures?"

"Yes, but they aren't here."

*... Looking at it from this angle, don't the Sun Emperor and Eloise have a lot in common?* Elian and Eli stared at the two of them, speechless.

"Sun Emperor, the Purple Moon Alliance has sent a reply," Kyle calmly reported.

"Let me tell you, I have several hundred pictures at home of Ah Ye when he was little. I had some of them enlarged... Huh? Oh, oh! Ahem."

Ri Xiang Yan froze at first, then seemed to abruptly remember he wasn't here to share pictures of Ah Ye. He snatched the locket out of Eloise's hands and sat back down expressionlessly. He resumed his



position of sitting arrogantly with his hands folded over his knee.

"Speak."

"The time they have decided on is noon tomorrow. The location is a restaurant in the suburbs. Both sides may bring four people as company."

Ri Xiang Yan let out a hum to show he understood. Then his gaze shifted to Eli and he asked, "What is your decision?"

Eli lowered his head in contemplation for a moment. But he still could only powerlessly say, "If you agree to some of my requests."

"Then speak." Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan could only faintly smile, thinking to himself, *In the end, it still comes down to a business exchange. Not the ties of friendship!*

"In the future, if someone tries to force me to use my ability or tries to kill me to silence me, you must prevent that. For your end of the deal, I will help you read others' minds, but this will be limited to only three times a year."

"Hmph!" Ri Xiang Yan coldly chuckled.

"Are the terms unsatisfactory?" Eli asked warily.

Even though he could read the Sun Emperor's thoughts, it was too difficult to find an answer in a mind that was ten layers deeper than that of a normal person. It was simpler to directly ask. Even if the Sun

Emperor didn't say his answer aloud, it would emerge in his mind and then Eli could easily read the answer with his mind reading ability.

"So long as you can read my little brother's location, you will be added to my list of elites. That way, no one will dare to touch you. You can dispense with the request that I only ask you to help me read others' thoughts three times a year."

Ri Xiang Yan slowly stood up, emanating the cold, haughty, self-confident aura of a monarch. He vowed, "I, the Sun Emperor, have never needed the ability to read minds to find out what my rivals are planning!"

Eli was speechless. Even though he had asked, his mind reading ability had still been unable to find the answer. He didn't know if the Sun Emperor's thinking was so fast that the answer had flashed by too quickly for him to catch it, or if the Sun Emperor was thinking of too many other things and the answer had been hidden behind those thoughts, even when he was answering the question of someone right in front of him.

"I understand."

Although he wasn't able to read the Sun Emperor's thoughts, Eli still nodded. This was because the Sun Emperor's conditions were really quite favorable. In the first place, he hadn't had any hope that he would be able to refuse the Sun Emperor and had even been mentally prepared to be forced into becoming the Sun Emperor's underling.

But now, he just had to do one mission, and then he would never be forced into reading minds again while also receiving the Sun Emperor's protection. It was simply a gift from heaven... As long as the Sun Emperor wasn't planning to silence him during the fight and that was why he was fine with giving random offers.

Even though Eli had those misgivings in his heart, if the Sun Emperor really wanted to silence him, he wouldn't be able to flee to the ends of the earth to escape. He probably wouldn't even be able to step out of the city before being wiped from existence.

Right now, his only option was to strive to save Ri Xiang Ye, hoping that he would have mercy on his friends and prevent his older brother from silencing them. The best-case scenario was that the Sun Emperor still agreed to comply with the terms he had stated.

"Eli will definitely be coming." Ri Xiang Yan looked at the other two people. He elegantly cocked his head, "As for you..."

"I would like to come as well. My skills are very strong. I can definitely be of assistance," Elian hurriedly said. On one hand, he was worried about Ah Ye's safety. On the other, he was also thinking that Eli was in danger of being silenced. If he didn't go along, he wouldn't be able to rest easy.

"I want to go too!" Eloise hastily cried out.

"You can't!" Elian and Eli shot back at the same time.

"Why not?" Eloise unhappily shouted.

Of course, this was because if the Sun Emperor really wanted to silence Eli, then it would be easier for two of them to escape than three. Especially because Eloise didn't specialize in speed, it was even harder for her to flee... However, they couldn't say this in front of the Sun Emperor.

They thought hard to come up with a reason to urge Eloise to stay, but Elian could only internally let out a sigh and give a reason even he didn't believe, "You have to look after Ezart and when he wakes up, hurry to bring him along to help too!"

"Is that so?" Eloise frowned and said, "O.K. then. I'll wait for Ezart to wake up. Ah Ye likes Ezart so much. If he sees Ezart coming to save him, he'll definitely be super happy."

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan faintly smiled. "If that's the case, you can stay with my secretary, Bill. If Ezart wakes up, he will immediately make preparations for you to come find us."

When they heard that, Elian and Eli couldn't keep their expressions from changing. *In that case, hasn't Eloise just been sneakily turned into a hostage?*

Completely oblivious to her teammates' worry, Eloise enthusiastically thumped her chest as she promised, "Rest assured! The instant Ezart wakes up, I'll immediately bring him to you guys."

*Eloise...* Elian couldn't help letting out a heavy sigh in his heart. It looked like all they could do was try their best to save Ah Ye so that he could keep the Sun Emperor from sealing their mouths shut.

Elian opened his mouth to ask, "Then, Sun Emperor. Please tell us what your plans are so that we can coordinate with you."

"It's simple. I will allow negotiations to break down, but not so far that it will infuriate my opponent. Then we will decide on a time for a second negotiation." Ri Xiang Yan pointed at Eli, commanding, "While I am holding the discussion, you are to find out where Ah Ye is being kept."

After Eli nodded, he said, "If you ask where Ah Ye is, it will be easier for me to read the answer."

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan gave an "Mm" in response. He lowered his head, pondering the best things to say to fish out Ah Ye's whereabouts. However, by lowering his head, his eyes landed on the round locket in his hand.

In the photograph, Dìdi had on a wide, cute smile. He abruptly realized that this was a photograph of Ah Ye when he was just seven, and not the current Ah Ye...

*Everything is ready. All that's left is to wait for the negotiations tomorrow.*

*Ah Ye, wait for Gēge to rescue you. We'll go and take photos together. Please don't get hurt. Please don't...*



Instead of going through a lot of trouble to find An Te Qi's location, it was faster to just get caught and brought in directly.

Ri Xiang Ye slowly circled once around the room. As expected, the Morse code from An Te Qi really had been a trap. As soon as he arrived at the specified location, he saw four modified humans waiting for him. Although he still was able to flee, if he did run, then he really wouldn't have any way to find An Te Qi's whereabouts.

Rather than running off without anything to show for it, it was better to get caught and directly brought in.

"Anyway, no matter what kind of prison it is, as long as there's a door, it can't keep me in!"

Ri Xiang Yan took a tour of the cell. It was truly a prison that could be described as impenetrable, but no matter the thickness of its walls, it wasn't a big issue. What was most important was the type of lock on the door. Based on what people normally did nowadays, most of the time the lock was electronic.

He glanced at the door. It was indeed an electronic lock that required a card swipe.

Ri Xiang Ye walked over and looked at the electronic lock. The front of the lock was enveloped by a number of lasers. If he wanted to touch the lock, the lasers would definitely burn him.

But he extended his left hand without the slightest bit of fear. At most, the lasers would be able to damage his skin and flesh. They were incapable of slicing through his strengthened bones. As soon as his left hand touched the lasers, the stench of burning flesh began to emanate from it. Immediately, what was originally a pale and slender hand was halfway to being charred black.

However, the teenager with the burnt left hand didn't show the slightest expression, as though what had been burned was a chunk of wood instead. He continued extending his hand toward the lock. At last, he pushed against the card swipe of the electronic lock with his finger and extended his fingernail into the gap to begin overriding the system.

Ri Xiang Ye expressionlessly carried out the task. Because his older brother hated seeing him use abilities a normal person didn't have, he had never dared to use this ability. However, hacking into computers was actually one of his abilities, and he was particularly skilled at it!

"What are you doing? Get away from the electronic lock! Otherwise, we will open fire!"

At this moment, an announcement echoed through the cell. Clearly, his captors had already noticed something wasn't right.

But Ri Xiang Ye didn't pay them any mind at all and continued hacking.

A gun silently extended from each of the four corners of the prison cell in order to prevent him from continuing with what he was doing at the

lock. They fired two warning shots, but Ri Xiang Ye dodged them without difficulty.

"Immediately move away from the electronic lock. Otherwise, we will use machine-gun fire."

Having heard that, Ri Xiang Ye slowly raised his arms, including his charred left hand. Then, he slowly moved away from the door lock.

"Just like that, move farther away!"

Finally, Ri Xiang Ye approached the middle of the cell. He lifted his head up to innocently ask, "Is this O.K.?"

"Stand there. Do not approach the lock on the door again." The speaker even broadcasted the mutter, "What the hell? Is that boy actually man or machine?"

Although he couldn't approach the door again, Ri Xiang Ye smiled faintly. He lowered his head. An extremely unobtrusive silver thread was on the floor leading from his left hand all the way to the lock on the door. It was a network cable. Even though his left hand was this far from the lock, as long as he had this cable, he would be able to hack into the electronic lock just the same as before.

*When I suddenly run outside, those people who want to shoot me with their guns will definitely have a big fright, right?* Thinking of that, an absolutely adorable smile came across his face. He sat cross-legged onto the floor so that most of the silver thread would be hidden underneath his bottom and would be even harder to notice.



*Just three more minutes before I get to go save An Te Qi-bàba!*

Ri Xiang Ye couldn't help happily humming a little tune, looking just like an innocent boy. It was just that his sincere smile along with his charred left hand made for a very strange scene. Even the people watching the surveillance cameras couldn't help but shudder at the sight.

Because he was in a good mood, Ri Xiang Ye felt the three minutes pass by quickly as he hummed a little tune. He glanced out of the corner of his eye at the electronic lock and gave it the order to open the door. Then he retracted the silver thread back into his left hand. At this moment, the prison door also smoothly opened. He instantly used his quickest speed to flash out the door in a single breath.

The empty prison cell was quiet for a few moments. Then the people behind the security monitors finally came to and immediately sounded the alarms. A frantic shout came from the broadcast speakers.

"E-Escaped prisoner!"

## Chapter 8: A Wounded Beast's Fury

The restaurant in the suburbs was decorated simply and elegantly, giving it a relaxing ambiance. However, there were no servers inside, just two groups of people on either side of a table. The atmosphere was tense as a bowstring and the situation could deteriorate at any moment.

"It's been a long time, Sun Emperor."

Bai Lian Yue took the initiative to speak. His voice was cloying as honey. He even threw some flirtatious looks at Ri Xiang Yan. Behind him stood four modified humans, standing ramrod straight without any trace of expression on their faces.

"It really has been a long time."

Ri Xiang Yan smiled faintly in response, then gently called out, "Yue Ya'er."

Hearing that, Bai Lian Yue was stunned. He couldn't help blurting out, "Ah Yan, you..."

But as he began to speak, he noticed the Sun Emperor's ruby red eyes. Although the Sun Emperor was smiling, those eyes weren't those of the proud but silly Ah Yan. Instead, they were the eyes of the scheming Sun Emperor as he faced an enemy, wearing a façade.

Seeing that, Bai Lian Yue gave a bewitching smile and said, "So you still remember me. Yue Ya'er's heart is moved. I had thought that Yue Ya'er was beneath the Sun Emperor's notice!"

Ri Xiang Yan laughed. "How could that be? I've never forgotten the beautiful way you brandished your whip."

"Teeheehee. I never knew the Sun Emperor was such a sweet talker!"

"How could it compare to your sweet face?"

"Heehee..."

*Why does it feel like these two are reminiscing to the point that it sounds a little like an old couple flirting with each other, but the room temperature's slowly dropping?* Standing behind the Sun Emperor, Elian and Eli both thought that there was something really wrong about the mood between these two people.

Bai Lian Yue stopped flirting. He smiled faintly and said, "Even the sweetest faces are unable to capture the smallest bit of the Sun Emperor's attention. Getting the Sun Emperor to spare a glance at my face is even more difficult than running the entire Purple Moon Alliance."

Hearing this, Ri Xiang Yan knew that pleasantries were over and he should now get to the point. He quietly sighed, "Is it necessary to oppose me just because of some past differences? I don't want to see the economy descend into chaos because of our fighting. No one would benefit from that."

Bai Lian Yue snorted in response.

It was as if Ri Xiang Yan had not taken notice. He continued to speak gently, "Yue Ya'er, it truly was my fault back then. I should not have forgotten you. I am sorry. We should reconcile and stop hurting each other. How is that?"

Hearing that, Bai Lian Yue smiled mirthlessly. He thought to himself, *The Sun Emperor is indeed worthy of his name. First, he discusses not wanting to fight from the cost-benefit analysis perspective of a businessman, then says that the true reason is because of old ties. Either way, he hasn't said a word about the hostage from start to finish. Is that to make me think I captured a useless hostage?*

If he hadn't discovered Dark Sun's identity as the Sun Emperor's younger brother, then perhaps he would have been deceived!

*What a pity.* No matter how clever the act or ruse, it was impossible to hide the truth from him. Ri Xiang Yan had told him personally that the reason he had become the Sun Emperor, the reason he had become the god of the business world, was to find a single person—his dìdi!

Saying that Ri Xiang Yan didn't care about his younger brother... *Ha!* *Saying that he doesn't care about the world's destruction would be more believable.*

"Sun Emperor, if you say it like that, I want to make peace too!" Bai Lian Yue smiled ingratiatingly. "I will return An Te Qi to you. However,

I can't do anything about the bodyguard. He tried to escape, so I was forced to kill him!"

Ri Xiang Yan abruptly stood up. His eyes were wide and staring, and his face was white as a sheet of paper.

Seeing that, Bai Lian Yue sighed inwardly. As he had thought, only that little brother could make the Sun Emperor lose his composure. Bai Lian Yue deliberately spread open his hands and shrugged, innocently saying, "Oh my! Sun Emperor, it was just a bodyguard. Why are you so concerned?"

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan forced a smile and slowly sat down, forcing himself to calm down. *Bai Lian Yue couldn't have killed Ah Ye! He sent a photo of Ah Ye, not An Te Qi, so he should know that he needs Ah Ye to threaten me. Therefore, he wouldn't kill Ah Ye. He's just trying to scare me. He's just trying to scare me...*

Ri Xiang Yan was ninety-nine percent sure that Ah Ye was still alive, but he was still so afraid that he was shaking slightly. Even he couldn't help laughing bitterly at himself in his mind. *Am I really the Sun Emperor? Even a bluff could scare me so badly.*

Seeing that Bai Lian Yue's smile had widened, Ri Xiang Yan knew that he could no longer hide his weakness. He huffed and said in a low voice, "Speak. What do you want for his release? Don't forget, destroying your Purple Moon Alliance isn't a difficult feat for me."

"If you want to destroy it, then destroy it. Do you think I really care about the Purple Moon Alliance?" Bai Lian Yue's expression was indifferent.

At that moment, Ri Xiang Yan had an ominous feeling. He remembered the bombing of the building and how the perpetrators hadn't cared about potentially ruining the world economy. There were very few enemies like this who didn't care about maximizing profit and would cause destruction indiscriminately. He calmed himself and asked, "Then what do you want?"

"What do I want?" Bai Lian Yue blinked and said, "Don't tell me you still don't know?"

"What?" Ri Xiang Yan frowned. He didn't quite understand what Bai Lian Yue wanted to do.

"I want... Heh heh... Hahaha! You still don't understand?" Bai Lian Yue first started chuckling, then his laughter grew wilder and wilder. Finally, he couldn't help laughing maniacally, "I want you to suffer! Sun Emperor, I want you to be in more pain than I was in after you were done using me and completely erased me from your mind! Hahaha!"

"You're mad!" Ri Xiang Yan heavily slammed his hand onto the table. He bellowed, "I don't have time to listen to your ravings! Where is he?"

Behind the Sun Emperor, Eli closed his eyes when he heard the Sun Emperor ask that question, focusing completely on reading Bai Lian Yue's mind. He tried to read Ri Xiang Ye's location...

"Beneath your feet." Bai Lian Yue indifferently replied.

Ri Xiang Yan froze. *W-What does that mean? Is it a trap? Or...*  
"It's true!"

At this moment, Eli was somewhat panicked as he said in a low voice,  
"H-He even has nuclear warheads stationed underneath us!"

Although he was speaking quietly, he was still heard by everyone present. Everyone aside from the four emotionless modified humans behind Bai Lian Yue jumped in fright.

"Oh?" Bai Lian Yue couldn't help casting a few looks at Eli. He raised a slender eyebrow and said, "This child is quite interesting. There is no need to worry. Even if they detonate, I guarantee that we will be unharmed. As for the people beneath us... Heh! There's no need to mention the ashes. Have you ever seen what it's like when a nuclear warhead explodes? People are vaporized in an instant!"

*Vaporized...* Pain shot through Ri Xiang Yan's heart. He roared, "If you kill him, I will never let you get away with it!"

Bai Lian Yue shrugged with open hands. "That's nothing to me. If I can see the world's most exquisite expression of pain on your face because you lost your beloved didi, I'll die with no regrets!"

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan had an expression that couldn't be any uglier. His face was dark as he asked, "What exactly do you want?"

"Haven't I already said? It looks like the Sun Emperor doesn't have a particularly good memory."

Ri Xiang Yan was silent for a while. Then he said, "Release him. You can take me and torture me all you want."

Hearing that, Bai Lian Yue showed a beautiful smile. "Deal. Follow me downstairs. Then I'll release him."

Ri Xiang Yan hesitated for a moment. What if he was captured, but Bai Lian Yue didn't release Ah Ye?

Seeing Ri Xiang Yan's hesitation, Bai Lian Yue just smiled faintly. "There's nothing for you to worry about. I have only ever wanted you. Once I have you, as far as I'm concerned, he's useless."

Ri Xiang Yan glanced at Eli. After Eli nodded to show that Bai Lian Yue was speaking the truth, Ri Xiang Yan deeply sighed and said, "I understand. Then take me to see my dìdi. I want to see you release him with my own eyes."

"That won't be an issue." Bai Lian Yue's mouth rose up in a faint smile. He stood up and gestured for the Sun Emperor to go on ahead.

"Sun Emperor!" Elian shouted in a panic. *Don't tell me we're just supposed to watch as Ah Ye's big brother is taken away?*



Ri Xiang Yan turned his head to glance back at Eli. Eli felt as though a megaphone had gone off by his ear, and almost fainted from the shocking volume of Ri Xiang Yan's inner voice.

*Wait aboveground to support Ah Ye. Once you meet up with Ah Ye, immediately take him away from here. Let Bill handle the rest. Just help me watch over Ah Ye. Even at risk of your lives, you must not let him come rescue me! Do you understand?*

Eli was so dizzy that he had to grab Elian to keep himself from falling. His head hung low, but he nodded slightly.

Seeing that, Ri Xiang Yan shifted his gaze. He indifferently said to Bai Lian Yue, "Let's go."

Bai Lian Yue looked suspiciously at Eli. Although he couldn't guess what Ri Xiang Yan's thoughts were, he remembered how frenzied the Sun Emperor had looked just a moment ago when he heard the lie that his little brother had been killed. Bai Lian Yue guessed that Ri Xiang Yan wouldn't dare to do something brash and risk his brother's vaporization.

"This way, my beloved Sun Emperor." Still, Bai Lian Yue didn't dare to take him lightly and pressed him on. He wouldn't be able to truly relax until the Sun Emperor had completely fallen into his hands.

Ri Xiang Yan indifferently glanced at Bai Lian Yue before walking past him like a haughty aristocrat. His mannerisms were like those of an invited guest, rather than a soon-to-be prisoner.



“Dark Sun has escaped?”

Bai Lian Yue had just brought Ri Xiang Yan down to the underground base when he immediately heard his subordinate’s report. Neither person could hold back the odd expressions that crossed their faces, especially Ri Xiang Yan. Even the corners of his mouth were twitching uncontrollably. He hadn’t expected Ah Ye to escape on his own. *Aren’t I just making trouble for myself?*

Bai Lian Yue’s smile didn’t reach his eyes as he leered at the Sun Emperor, and said, “This is fine. I don’t need to release him, since he escaped by himself. Shouldn’t you be able to rest easy now?”

Ri Xiang Yan turned his head away, not rising to the taunt.

Bai Lian Yue muttered to himself, *It was strange how easy it was to catch Dark Sun earlier, almost as if he walked into the trap in order to save An Te Qi.* “Has An Te Qi been rescued yet?”

The half-kneeling subordinate reported, “Mr. An Te Qi is still in the laboratory.”

Bai Lian Yue said, “Kill him.”

Ri Xiang Yan said, “Kill him!”

As soon as these words were said, Bai Lian Yue looked at Ri Xiang Yan oddly. *He had actually said to kill An Te Qi as well?*

However, having An Te Qi around was a huge benefit for Dark Sun, whether it was by providing maintenance after combat, modifications to further strengthen him, or even the creation of other modified humans. It would also be conducive to saving Ri Xiang Yan himself. If Dark Sun came with other modified humans and coordinated with them, they could possibly rescue Ri Xiang Yan. Therefore, it was natural that Bai Lian Yue wanted to kill An Te Qi, but why would the Sun Emperor also want to kill him?

Seeing Bai Lian Yue's expression, Ri Xiang Yan coldly huffed and said, "Traitors must die."

"Even if he's very useful?" Bai Lian Yue arched an eyebrow. A businessperson would naturally want to use every resource until it was completely expended. It was truly a waste to abandon something useful.

Ri Xiang Yan icily said, "If a useful person isn't loyal, it's better to kill them. If they betray me, their talents would benefit my enemies instead."

"So that's how it is."

Bai Lian Yue nodded. The Sun Emperor truly was the Sun Emperor. Was this all to uphold the reputation of the god of the commerce world? Or was he actually bluffing? Maybe he wanted Bai Lian Yue to think that he wanted to kill An Te Qi so that Bai Lian Yue wouldn't want to kill An Te Qi anymore?

"In that case, how about I allow you to personally execute this traitor yourself?"

Ri Xiang Yan faintly smiled. "That couldn't be better."

Bai Lian Yue scrutinized Ri Xiang Yan's face several times. Just like always, that handsome face contained nothing but arrogance. *It's impossible to tell what he's thinking!*

Even though he had become a prisoner, Ri Xiang Yan never once bowed his head. Even as he gave the command to kill, his expression didn't change. Knowing what this kind of person was thinking was impossible even for someone with the ability to read minds!

"Then please come with me, Sun Emperor."

A trace of tenderness came across Bai Lian Yue's face. *He's just the same as always!* Most young masters from rich families would have been pitching a fit in the face of hooligans about to beat them up, but Ri Xiang Yan had still been completely unruffled as he said that he wanted to experience the feeling of being hit... *Heh!*

Ri Xiang Yan walked in front, his attitude completely unlike a prisoner's. Bai Lian Yue walked behind and to the right of him. Naturally, following behind them were the four modified humans created by An Te Qi. It was like a king going to survey his lands.

Each time they reached a fork in the road, Ri Xiang Yan would look out of the corner of his eye at Bai Lian Yue, who would naturally point him in the right direction.

When they reached a certain electronic door, Bai Lian Yue walked up to it, then took out and swiped a card. The electronic door opened.

As expected, An Te Qi was inside. It was hard to tell if it was because of their sudden appearance, but he seemed rather flustered. He even had a strange expression on his face as he asked, "Ri Xiang Yan, why are you here?"

"It's been a while, An Te Qi."

Ri Xiang Yan faintly smiled in greeting. This faint smile made An Te Qi's hair stand on end, and he felt a strong sense of foreboding.

"We'll cut the small talk. You must have had an idea what would happen when you betrayed me, right?" Ri Xiang Yan was still smiling, but the derringer was in his hand and pointed at An Te Qi.

Bai Lian Yue gave him a side-eyed look, but he didn't seem to care about the gun and let his prisoner continue carrying it.

Seeing that, An Te Qi suddenly had a huge change in his expression. He shouted, "S-Stop! Ri Xiang Yan, don't kill me. At least, not right now..."

*Hmph!* As though Ri Xiang Yan would listen to his words. With a cold arrogance, he raised the silver pistol and said, "Farewell, An Te Qi."

A gunshot rang out, but there was someone who was even faster than the speed of sound. A blur shielded An Te Qi's front, but because

things had happened so suddenly, he was forced to stop the bullet with his arm.

Ri Xiang Yan's eyes were wide. He almost couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the person who had taken a bullet for An Te Qi. The bullet he had fired had actually hurt his...

"A-Ah Ye! What are you doing here?"

Ri Xiang Ye didn't reply. All these unexpected events happening one after another left him unable to react. *Why is Gēge here? And he's standing next to Bai Lian Yue. It looks like he isn't being coerced either? Does Gēge want to kill An Te Qi-bàba that much?*

Seeing that Dark Sun had unexpectedly appeared here, Bai Lian Yue deftly drew his whip and suddenly struck, knocking the gun Ri Xiang Yan was holding to the ground. Then, with another lash of the whip, he curled it around Ri Xiang Yan's neck.

"Don't move, Dark Sun!"

Once Ri Xiang Yan was under his control, Bai Lian Yue ordered the four modified humans to cover them from the front so that even someone stronger than Dark Sun wouldn't be able to run off with Ri Xiang Yan.

Bai Lian Yue's actions caused the dazed Ri Xiang Ye, who was at a loss as for what to do, to vanish. He was replaced by Dark Sun, the strongest bodyguard. He stared at Bai Lian Yue, simultaneously and rapidly trying to determine how to save Ri Xiang Yan.

“Dark Sun, I want you to kill An Te Qi! Kill him now!”

Bai Lian Yue screamed. He had already seen that Dark Sun’s left hand was destroyed. Without An Te Qi, it would be difficult for it to be repaired completely. He thought that he absolutely could not give An Te Qi the opportunity to treat Dark Sun.

“Stop...” Ri Xiang Yan cried out in alarm. *You can’t let Ah Ye kill people! Especially the An Te Qi-bàba he likes so much! He’ll be in anguish!*

The whip in Bai Lian Yue’s hand tightened so Ri Xiang Yan had a hard time breathing, let alone speaking. Ri Xiang Yan could only use his hands to desperately pull at the whip, wanting to call out and stop his little brother from killing someone.

“Kill An Te Qi, Dark Sun, or I’ll break your brother’s neck!”

Hearing that, Dark Sun instantly turned around, nails extending from his right hand and gleaming with a cold light. His target was the person he had selflessly tried to protect earlier.

“Ah Ye...”

An Te Qi despaired as he looked at the emotionless Dark Sun. He knew that Dark Sun would mercilessly eliminate anything that could bring harm to his master. Unfortunately, he was currently one of those things.

Knowing his fate was sealed, he just let out a sigh in his heart. Then, as Dark Sun blocked him from sight, he silently mouthed to Dark Sun that the Death Scythe was in Bai Lian Yue's study.

Even though he still remained expressionless, two teardrops fell from Dark Sun's face. The nails kept drawing closer to An Te Qi...

"Ri Xiang Yan, I'm going to give you some final advice."

Faced with death, his words held no malice. He sincerely said to Ri Xiang Yan, "If you keep treating your little brother like a baby bird who has to be protected, then the events that transpired today will continue to happen."

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan's heart skipped a beat. But he still viciously glared at An Te Qi with a look in his eyes that said "None of your business."

*Heh! The unfathomable and untouchable Sun Emperor is really just a dumb big brother who doesn't know how to educate his little brother.* An Te Qi thought humorously. But, following that, he felt a sharp pain in his chest...

Dark Sun's cold yet tear-streaked face was right in front of him, and Dark Sun's hand was even closer: it had directly pierced his chest. *This injury looks like it's...* An Te Qi raised his head to look. More and more tears were falling down Dark Sun's face, and even the hand in his chest was shaking slightly...



*This really f\*\*\*ing hurts. Against all odds, Dark Sun somehow hadn't instantaneously killed him. It's probably because I'm too important to him, so he couldn't directly kill me off. Even though I'm very touched, this still hurts like hell!*

*"Ah Ye, can you... Ugh!" ... Hurry up and let me die? I'm really in a lot of pain!*

An Te Qi hadn't even finished speaking when Dark Sun's charred left hand slammed into his chest, knocking the wind out of him. He fell to the ground, unmoving. It was impossible to tell whether he was dead or alive.

Dark Sun turned around to say, "Report: Mission complete!"

*Ah Ye!*

Ri Xiang Yan saw his little brother's face streaked with tears, right hand stained with blood, and left hand charred black... He felt like his heart was being torn apart by this scene. The majestic Sun Emperor felt like screaming.

*How? How did Ah Ye end up like this?*

"Are you in pain, Sun Emperor?" Bai Lian Yue suddenly pulled Ri Xiang Yan's face close with the whip, captivated by his expression of pain.

"What a fascinating expression. As expected of the little brother who consumed your thoughts back then. Only he could make you show such a beautiful expression."

*You damn freak! It's all because of you! You covered him in injuries and caused my Ah Ye to be in this much agony!* Ri Xiang Yan's eyes were a raging inferno.

"Heh!" Seeing the look in Ri Xiang Yan's eyes, Bai Lian Yue coldly laughed, but ignored him. He raised his head to say to Dark Sun, "Dark Sun, destroy your right hand."

Dark Sun froze. His left hand was already partially destroyed. If his right hand was also...

"Now!"

Bai Lian Yue tightened the whip further. Immediately, Ri Xiang Yan found himself unable to breathe. His entire face began to turn red. However, he didn't care about the fact that he was about to suffocate. Instead, he was desperately crying out in his heart, *No, stop, don't harm him! Don't harm Ah Ye!*

Dark Sun conducted a simple assessment of the situation. With the four modified humans that had been personally modified by An Te Qi and the master having fallen into the hands of the enemy, there was nothing he could do to rescue the master under these circumstances.

He could only temporarily obey the enemy's orders. Since they commanded him to destroy his right hand, they probably were not planning to kill him for the time being. As long as he was still alive, he could still come up with a way to save the master.

Dark Sun extended his hand, then violently smashed it against the wall. A tremendous sound rang out, and his right hand was grotesquely distorted in an instant.

Even so, Bai Lian Yue still was not at ease even after seeing this. He instructed his four modified humans, "Break his legs."

The four modified humans moved simultaneously. Dark Sun retreated several steps in hesitation. Without hands, he could still move. If his legs were broken, then it would be exceedingly difficult for him to escape, much less to save the master.

But he looked at Ri Xiang Yan, and in the end, didn't resist. He allowed the four modified humans to throw him to the ground as they pummeled and kicked him. He only did his best to protect his vital organs, trying as hard as possible to minimize the damage done so that he would still have a chance to save the master later.

*Ah Ye. Don't hit Ah Ye...* Ri Xiang Yan was being strangled so much that his face was red, but his eyes were still fixed on his little brother's suffering. He could only feel an iciness that spread from his heart to his entire body. *Don't hit my Ah Ye. Please, I would give anything. Just don't hurt him...*

"Sun Emperor?"

As the beating continued like this for a while, Bai Lian Yue suddenly felt a weight against his hand. At that moment, he realized the person in his grasp had unexpectedly fainted. A strange look came across his

face. *Why is it that one person was brutally beaten, but it was the other one who fainted?*

“Enough. Retreat.”

Bai Lian Yue saw they were almost finished with their beating. If they stayed in this place any longer, the Sun Emperor’s reinforcements might arrive.

He carried the unconscious Sun Emperor with one hand and glanced at Dark Sun, lying on the ground. Dark Sun’s injuries seemed extremely severe. He tried to get up several times, but because both his hands were so heavily damaged, he couldn’t even use them to prop himself up.

Bai Lian Yue picked up a silver derringer off the floor—Ri Xiang Yan’s. He smiled coyly and pointed the gun at Dark Sun, who was still struggling on the ground.

“Come now, cute little Dark Sun-xiǎodìdì. Just two more shots should be good enough. You know how paranoid I am. You’re so strong. If I don’t have you at death’s door, I just won’t be able to rest easy!”

Dark Sun gazed at the mouth of the gun and saw a spark...



“M-Mr. An Te Qi?”

*Who’s calling my name? Is it Ah Ye? Is it time to eat breakfast, lunch, or dinner? Uh, maybe it’s a midnight snack. Ah Ye’s gone out a lot to*

*eat midnight snacks with his friend Ezart lately, and he never forgets to bring me back a huge pile of food.*

An Te Qi slowly opened his eyes. Everything was a sea of white. But this wasn't anything strange. He always worked too long on his experiments. He had passed out on several occasions and had to have Ah Ye carry him back to the bedroom. Whenever he woke up, it felt about the same as this.

He blinked a few times, and his vision finally came into focus. The sea of white began to turn into a white ceiling and some sort of light fixture. *This doesn't seem like my room? It looks more like a hospital room.* He lifted up his left hand, and as expected, there was an IV drip attached. He really was in a hospital.

"An Te Qi-bàba, you finally woke up!"

An Te Qi slowly looked in the direction of the voice. Several faces were happily staring at him. He frowned and said in a raspy voice, "Eloise..."

"Hooray! An Te Qi-bàba called my name."

Eloise was overjoyed. She suddenly hugged Eli and spun around in circles.

Faced with An Te Qi's blank stare, Elian began to explain, "Mr. An Te Qi, you've been injured. You were close to never waking up again. The doctors were saying that even if you did regain consciousness, there was a high probability that you would have been in a vegetative state."

Hearing that, An Te Qi dazedly thought, *Is that so? It's not a big deal. Every time I pass out in the lab, I always feel like I'm never going to wake up again. But... Eloise, you're not allowed to call me Bàbà! Even Ah Ye is one kid too many!*

Eloise anxiously asked, "But, An Te Qi-bàba, what exactly happened? What about Ah Ye?"

"Huh?" An Te Qi rolled his eyes and said in a hoarse voice, "I was going to ask you guys what happened. Have Ah Ye and his brother been rescued?"

Hearing that, the three people's expressions grew solemn.

"Ah Ye and the Sun Emperor have both gone missing."

"What?" An Te Qi frowned. He asked, "What about the Sun Emperor's all-purpose computer?"

*All-purpose computer... Should mean Kyle. The trio didn't know if they should laugh or cry. That's a really fitting nickname!*

Elian sighed and explained, "It's already been a week. Secretary Kyle has the entire Purple Moon Alliance under his control, but he can't find Bai Lian Yue. Bai Lian Yue should have the Sun Emperor and Ah Ye."

"Can't find..." An Te Qi coldly said, "Are you sure it's not 'doesn't want to find?' As long as the Sun Emperor isn't here, Kyle is the Sun Alliance's leader. He could do anything he wanted!"

“Even if the Sun Emperor is here, doesn’t Kyle do everything already?”

*That’s true!* The people standing in the hospital room all nodded in agreement.

*Eh?* Everyone turned to look. Standing in the hospital room’s doorway was An Te Qi’s aforementioned all-purpose computer.

Kyle was dressed in a well-ironed Western-style suit with a briefcase in his left hand. He was even carrying a fruit basket for patient visits in his right hand. He walked over, put the fruit basket on a table to the side, and pulled out a laptop. As he typed on the computer, he asked, “I need to know everything you know so it will be easier to rescue the Sun Emperor and Young Master Ri Xiang Ye.”

An Te Qi coldly laughed. “Is that a good thing? Once you rescue them, you’ll be back to being the Sun Emperor’s obedient all-purpose computer. Or is it that you can’t relax, worrying that the Sun Emperor will be back one day, so you absolutely have to find him and shoot him dead yourself?”

Kyle’s expression didn’t change even slightly, even after he heard those words. He typed into the computer as he said, “Mr. An Te Qi, don’t worry. Everything you have thought of has definitely been considered by the Sun Emperor, a seasoned veteran of the business world. Since even the Sun Emperor trusts that I won’t betray him, what do you have to worry about?”

Words like those really left An Te Qi speechless. He raised his eyebrows but didn't voice any further doubts. He began to retell what happened that day.

"I don't know much. That day, Ah Ye suddenly appeared before me..."



"An Te Qi-bàba!"

An Te Qi was engrossed in an experiment when he suddenly heard someone calling him. *That nickname and voice sound just like Ah Ye!*

"Damn!" He mocked himself, "Has it been too long since I last ate? To think I heard Ah Ye calling me..."

"An Te Qi-bàba, over here!"

An Te Qi stiffened. The air vent above his head clamored. Then, a teenager dropped down from above, landing next to him.

"A-Ah Ye? Why are you here? How did you get here?"

Ri Xiang Ye giggled and said, "I came to save you! I finally found you, An Te Qi-bàba. We better hurry and go!"

Hearing that, An Te Qi was dumbstruck. He lowered his head to look but saw Ri Xiang Ye's charred left hand. He was shocked. "How did it end up like that?"



Ri Xiang Ye waved his left hand, saying, "It couldn't be helped. To escape, I had to sacrifice my left hand. But it's O.K.! As long as I have An Te Qi-bàba, this injury will be fixed in no time."

Looking at the state the hand was in, An Te Qi frowned and said, "Let me treat this for you this first. After I finish treating it, you should hurry up and leave. It's too dangerous here."

"An Te Qi-bàba, you're not coming with me?" Ri Xiang Ye became distressed.

"I..." An Te Qi hesitated, but he still sighed and said, "Ah! I can't leave this place. I betrayed you. Your brother definitely won't forgive me. Once I leave here and he finds me, he'll definitely kill me."

"He won't!" Ri Xiang Ye loudly interrupted An Te Qi. "Gēge promised me that he won't kill Bàba!"

An Te Qi dubiously asked, "Really?"

*Would the Sun Emperor really forgive someone who betrayed him?*

Even Ri Xiang Ye wasn't sure. He could only bravely say, "No matter what, I won't let Gēge kill you!"

Seeing that, An Te Qi knew that Ri Xiang Yan truly hadn't pardoned him. He was silent for a moment before he said, "I'll treat you first. Then we'll see."

"Oh." Ri Xiang Ye nodded and obediently extended his left hand. He thought, *Even if Bàba doesn't want to leave, I'll just knock him out and take him with me. Then Bàba can always stay with me so Gēge can't kill him.*

An Te Qi was just about to take out his instruments to examine Ri Xiang Ye's injury when he saw that the electronic door had begun flashing non-stop. It was the signal that someone was about to come in.

"Ah Ye! Outside..." He cried out in alarm.

But Ri Xiang Ye's reaction speed was even faster. He had already darted away, dashing behind a cabinet off to the side.

Then Ri Xiang Yan and Bai Lian Yue had entered, intending to take his life...



"Ri Xiang Yan fired at me and Ah Ye rushed out to block the bullet. After that, Bai Lian Yue grabbed Ri Xiang Yan, then threatened Dark Sun to kill me. He really did attack. I passed out after that, so I don't know anything!"

Even though he was lying on a bed, An Te Qi still managed to shrug. He didn't have any expectations that Kyle would be able to find any clues from what he had said. He knew that these words weren't the least bit useful in finding the Sun Emperor and Ah Ye.

After hearing him speak, they all fell silent.

After a while, Kyle indifferently said, "Young Master Ri Xiang Ye expertly avoided your heart. Otherwise you would have died on the spot."

An Te Qi huffed. "You don't have to tell me that. I'm a doctor. You think I'd hold a grudge against Ah Ye for trying to kill me? You should instead tell me about why you have control over the whole Purple Moon Alliance, yet you still can't find two people!"

Once that was mentioned, Kyle's voice became extremely resigned. "The Sun Emperor had already made preparations. He notified all spies within the Purple Moon Alliance and covertly discussed conditions with the Purple Moon Alliance's family members. If Bai Lian Yue were to die, then the entire Purple Moon Alliance would not be divided up between other alliances but would remain intact, passing into the hands of Bai Lian Xing and the other family members. Like that, the Sun Emperor went to the meeting, and we gained control over the Purple Moon Alliance soon after."

"If that's the case, then why haven't you saved the Sun Emperor yet?" An Te Qi asked a bit incredulously.

"It's quite simple. Everything that has happened in this case was the result of Bai Lian Yue acting alone. He did not mention anything to other members of the family and also did not care about the fate of the Purple Moon Alliance. After you fell unconscious, he disappeared with the Sun Emperor, Young Master Ri Xiang Ye, and the four modified humans. We speculate that he used a private stealth jet to leave and did not land in any airports, so he left no traces behind."

An Te Qi's jaw dropped. He already knew that guy had some issues, but he hadn't thought he was that crazy. *What is he doing? Dragging the Sun Emperor to a remote island for the two of them to live together?*

"He's completely mad," An Te Qi said wholeheartedly.

Hearing that, Kyle couldn't help but pause typing in agreement. He inwardly sighed. *Sun Emperor. Oh, Sun Emperor. Even you couldn't predict what a madman would do.*

*How am I supposed to bring you and Young Master Ri Xiang Ye back safe and sound?*

## Chapter 9: Leisurely Days, Anxious Heart

Bai Lian Yue languidly reclined on a lounge chair. He was using the television remote in his hand to surf through channels.

"The global economy seems to be very stable. It looks like your legendary Secretary Kyle truly is highly capable. Even with our sudden disappearances, he has managed to stabilize the situation."

Ri Xiang Yan sat in a relaxed pose in another chair, reclining against the chair's back. There was even a small table nearby with a cup of his favorite black coffee. Aside from the chains shackling his legs, the whole scene appeared very normal, like two friends were in a living room drinking tea and gossiping while watching TV.

Ri Xiang Yan icily replied, "Of course. Do you think a secretary I chose would be subpar?"

"Mhm! Maybe it wouldn't even matter if you never went back?"

Bai Lian Yue maliciously leered, "In any case, as long as Kyle is there, it doesn't matter whether or not there's a Sun Emperor!"

Ri Xiang Yan ignored his taunts. Instead, he simply picked up a book next to him and began thumbing through it.

Seeing that, the flirtatiously smiling Bai Lian Yue suddenly and violently grabbed his book, hurled it far away, then shouted, "You aren't allowed to ignore me, Ah Yan! You know what the consequences are if you do!"

Ri Xiang Yan's complexion immediately changed. Thinking of the consequences, he felt a pain in his heart. *Ah Ye...*

"Fine! What did you want to say?"

Bai Lian Yue smiled victoriously. He returned to his lounging and curiously asked, "Why do you trust Kyle so much? Aren't you afraid that he'll take the opportunity to betray you? Who knows if perhaps he has already given up on searching for you?"

Ri Xiang Yan coldly huffed. "He has a problem."

Hearing that, Bai Lian Yue's expression immediately became ugly. He frigidly said, "So it seems the Sun Emperor isn't even willing to tell me a story!"

Ri Xiang Yan rolled his eyes and irritably said, "I meant that Bill has an extremely rare genetic disorder."

"Oh?" Bai Lian Yue was stunned. He hadn't thought to interpret the phrase like this; he had assumed Ri Xiang Yan had made up a random excuse. He couldn't help but ask, "Even if he's ill, isn't that unrelated to his loyalty to you?"

"He has to take medication every day to treat his illness. Without medication, his body will slowly calcify. In less than a year, his entire body will calcify to the point he'd be a person made of bone, though he'd already have died before reaching that point. As a result, he'd be dead in three months at most, when his internal organs calcify."

Hearing about that terrifying illness, even Bai Lian Yue couldn't help but frown.

Ri Xiang Yan blandly said, "I'm the only one with the medicine he needs. Every six months I give him half a year's worth of medicine."

"You're extorting him. If he weren't your loyal dog of a secretary, you wouldn't give him the medicine?" Bai Lian Yue chuckled, "You're really despicable, Ah Yan!"

Ri Xiang Yan huffed in agreement. "He can't complain. I had to invest over ten billion in capital just for the research and development of this drug alone. He couldn't pay me back even if he worked as my secretary for ten lifetimes!"

"Even if you say that, you can't have invested it just for him?" Bai Lian Yue smiled, "You aren't worried that you can't recoup ten billion in capital if you put that drug on the market, are you?"

"There's no way it can be marketized." Ri Xiang Yan coldly said, "That genetic disorder is incredibly rare. Only three cases appear every year, if even that. But the shelf life for the drug is very short—just half a year. Also, the manufacturing process is extremely complicated, and the raw materials are difficult to obtain. Manufacturing six months' worth of medicine is already about ten million, so a year of treatment is twenty million. How many patients do you think could pay for that?"

"So, even if I didn't hold a monopoly over this medicine, Bill wouldn't be able to buy it."

Bai Lian Yue didn't quite know whether to laugh or cry as he said, "So he's actually a secretary worth ten billion. plus a bonus of twenty million a year?"

Ri Xiang Yan gravely corrected him, "With a bonus of thirty million. I still pay him a salary!"

"Just listening makes me envious! Back when I was Yue Ya'er to you, you never gave me that much attention!" Bai Lian Yue had a puzzled and suspicious expression as he asked, "Why would you invest ten billion in a secretary? I'm very curious, Ah Yan."

Although he was forced to answer, Ri Xiang Yan couldn't help reminiscing. He said with some dissatisfaction, "He's always been my secretary. I personally interviewed him and thought I had found an extraordinarily capable secretary. But later I discovered that he'd been secretly sent by my father from the beginning and had even lied to me by saying he was called Bill."

*So you actually know his name isn't Bill...* Bai Lian Yue couldn't help raising an eyebrow. This part was most surprising to him.

"Perhaps it was divine retribution, but he suddenly fell ill one day. In what was probably a deathbed confession, he told me the truth that my father was the one who had sent him.

Once he had said that, Ri Xiang Yan fell silent. Not only had An Te Qi betrayed him, but even Kyle had done so in the past. But back then, he had forgiven Kyle because he hadn't become the Sun Emperor yet.



Therefore, he could still make decisions based on personal likes and dislikes. Even if he did make any mistakes, his father was there to clean up after him. It wasn't like that anymore.

He was the one at the top now. The consequences of every decision he made were solely his to bear. There wasn't anyone who had the power to help him deal with the aftermath anymore.

*So. Ah Ye, Dìdì! Please understand that your gēge can't act of his own free will because he's in a high position. Gēge trying to kill the An Te Qi-bàba you like so much isn't because he hates An Te Qi-bàba. Gēge also didn't mean to deceive you. It's just that upholding the rules that keep the Sun Alliance functioning also keeps you safe. So we cannot break them!*

"I want to see my brother." Ri Xiang Yan frowned. Thinking about Ah Ye made him worried, and he wanted to go see him.

Bai Lian Yue arched an eyebrow and said, "Didn't you just see him this morning?"

Ri Xiang Yan resentfully growled, "And I want to see him right now. He's my dìdì. Even seeing him ten times a day isn't enough."

Bai Lian Yue rolled his eyes. He couldn't resist teasing Ri Xiang Yan, "Why don't you ask other elder brothers if they have to see their little brothers ten times in one day? They might even be too lazy to go look even once."

Ri Xiang Yan was quiet for a while. Finally, he looked up at Bai Lian Yue. His tone was almost pleading as he said, "I'm very worried about him."

"Heh! The only time you aren't wearing a haughty expression is when you talk about your little brother! Fine then. How could I refuse you, Ah Yan?"

As Bai Lian Yue spoke, he tried to curl a finger around several strands of Ri Xiang Yan's shiny, messy hair, but Ri Xiang Yan leaned out of the way.

However, Bai Lian Yue wasn't angry as he pulled his hand back. There were still plenty of days ahead of them. Rushing these sorts of things would only have the opposite effect.

"Let's go see Dìdi."

"He's my dìdi, not yours!" Ri Xiang Yan growled. What he hated most was other people stealing his spot as Gēge.

"Yes, yes, yes! Let's go see your dìdi, O.K.?"

Bai Lian Yue smiled charmingly and took the lead, walking in front. Ri Xiang Yan followed behind him. The two of them walked out of the living room and arrived in an awe-inspiring midair corridor. Or, rather than a "corridor," it was more like a small suspension bridge. Ri Xiang Yan stepped onto the bridge and glanced down. Beneath his feet was a dense jungle. Surveying the area from far above, the surroundings

comprised entirely of ocean. It was truly the quintessential small island.

Bai Lian Yue had constructed buildings on the peaks of the island's three hills. The main residence was in the middle, connected by the suspension bridges. As for the other two hills, one was where the modified humans were kept and the other was...

"We're here, Ah Yan."

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan snapped out of his reverie and immediately rushed inside.

*Ah Ye...*

As soon as he rushed inside, it was like he had entered an ancient tomb. There was a small dome, and the walls and ceilings were painted with beautiful images. In the middle was a huge crystal coffin with a "grave guardian" at each of the four corners. The only peculiarity was a complicated tangle of high-tech cables underneath the crystal coffin.

Ri Xiang Yan ran to the crystal coffin's side. The transparent crystal allowed him to clearly see the person within.

It was a teenager wearing the clothing of a young prince. Even his hands were covered with beautifully embroidered white gloves. His head of short, soft, shiny, silver hair was combed to the sides of his face. Every part of him was the picture of elegance. The only pity was

that his eyes were tightly shut, so there was no way of learning their beautiful color.

Although the scene was beautiful, a careful look would reveal that the prince's neck, wrists, waist, and ankles were encircled with thick bands of metal that shackled him to the crystal coffin. It was just that the metal bands were mostly covered with woven flowers and other decorations, so the bands were inconspicuous underneath.

Seeing that Ri Xiang Ye was lying safely inside and that the meters on the crystal coffin were showing his vitals were stable, Ri Xiang Yan finally was able to breathe out a sigh of relief.

He knew he wouldn't be able to touch his beloved little brother, but he still placed his hand on top of the crystal coffin and gazed at him. At that moment, his entire face softened. There wasn't a trace of cold-bloodedness or ruthlessness in his expression.

Bai Lian Yue greedily drank in the Sun Emperor's tender expression for a long time before he was willing to open his mouth and say, "So it turns out the powerful Dark Sun is actually this cute. No wonder you adore him so much."

Ri Xiang Yan coldly huffed, "Of course. Ah Ye is the cutest kid in the world. He's cute when he's sleeping, even cuter when he's smiling, and when he says Gēge, he's so cute that you'd melt."

*You're the only one who would melt...* Bai Lian Yue wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry. If anyone else had heard that, no matter who they

were, none of them would be able to believe that this was the cold-blooded, ruthless Sun Emperor!

"Ah Ye really is fine?" Ri Xiang Yan couldn't help anxiously asking, "When I fainted, hadn't he been hurt very badly?"

"You've asked more than a hundred times already! Relax! When I put your darling into the astronaut sleeping cabin, I had the modified humans treat his injuries first.

"You shouldn't have told the modified humans to hit him."

Ri Xiang Yan's expression darkened. He needed only to think of Ah Ye being beaten right in front of him for a pain to shoot through the pit of his stomach and his limbs to tremble, in so much agony that he would rather die.

Bai Lian Yue had long since realized how to deal with the brother-obsessed man in front of him. He repeatedly apologized in a gentle voice, "I'm so sorry! I won't hurt your little brother ever again. Look, haven't I let him wear such pretty clothes and let him sleep in such a beautiful place? It suits him very well, right?

"Since we'll live here from now on, your little brother won't ever be hurt again. Won't it be wonderful?"

*Ah Ye won't ever be hurt again...* Ri Xiang Yan put his hand on the lid of the crystal coffin. His emotions were in turmoil.



Two desks sat in an enormous office. Right in the center was a massive, black desk, clearly meant for the boss. But at the moment, no one was sitting there.

The other desk was white and even larger than the black desk, though it was actually formed by piecing together three desks into a half moon shape.. All sorts of documents had been neatly placed on the desk.

Kyle sat there, ramrod-straight in a Western suit, looking extremely serious as he handled business.

The only sound in the entire office was the “clack clack clack” of rapid typing. Kyle’s attention was fixed on the screen. On it, there were ten chat boxes and more than ten files open. It was impossible to tell how he communicated with that many people while handling so many documents.

The names on the chat boxes were also very odd, labeled Secretary 1, Secretary 2... And all the way down until Secretary 10. Kyle himself was named Head Secretary.

Not long after, the monotonous sound of typing in the office was interrupted by a melodious tune. It was clearly coming from a small clock on the desk. The clock was an approximately fist-sized cube, and seemed to be made from some kind of black stone that had been polished until it shone.

*Time to take my medicine.*

Kyle dragged the clock over and pressed the decorative ruby on top. The face of the clock opened with a click. Inside were several dozen green pills. A careful look would reveal that there was even a drawing of a person on the clock's cover.

The person looked to be an adolescent in their twenties, with a handsome appearance and true to life arrogant expression. His ruby red eyes were as beautiful as the real ruby decorations beside him. Kyle couldn't help but feel awestruck. *Sun Emperor...*



"Here! Take this clock. I spent all my savings to develop the medicine inside. You'll be able to live if you take one pill a day. In return, I want your complete loyalty! Bill, you're my secretary from now on, not my father's. Understand?!"

"Yes, Young Master Ri Xiang Yan. But my name is actually Kyle."

"What?! Whatever. You should already be glad I even remember one name, yet you want me to remember two? *Bill*! Hurry up and take your medicine!"

"Yes. But may I ask, why is your picture inside..."

"Don't be silly. Naturally, it's to remind you that I am your master!"

"Pfft... Haha! Yes, Young Master Ri Xiang Yan. You are my master."



In the blink of an eye, he had been the Sun Emperor's secretary for eight years. *Or is it nine?*

That young master who didn't hesitate to rebel against his father for his younger brother's sake had now become the Sun Emperor and finally found his treasured younger brother.

Kyle had thought that from then on, the Sun Emperor would be able to live happily ever after with his younger brother. It was a pity that things weren't as simple as in a fairy tale. Ever since Young Master Ri Xiang Ye had returned, things kept happening one after another. It was like... Young Master Ri Xiang Ye was cursed to never be able to escape from suffering.

Kyle looked at the man drawn on the clock. He sighed, "Ah! Sun Emperor, when will you understand that Young Master Ri Xiang Ye won't ever be an ordinary boy."

He picked up a pill, stood up, went to the other corner of the office to pour some water, then swallowed the pill. The computer emitted a notification chime for receiving an email. This wasn't anything strange. Every day, several hundred emails were guaranteed. However, this sound was exactly the same as the melody that had played from the clock with the pills.

*This chime...* It only played when a certain inbox received an email. And the only ones who knew the email address were the Sun Emperor and Young Master Ri Xiang Ye!



Kyle immediately returned to the desk. As soon as he saw the screen, he cried out, "T-This is..."

The sender of the email was...

Ri Xiang Ye!



Eloise had her face propped against her hands and was sending death glares at the big lump on the bed. She couldn't help poking with an extended finger, "When are you going to wake up?"

"Don't you know Ah Ye and his big brother got kidnapped? And you're still here sleeping without a care in the world. I've really got to envy you."

Seeing that the person on the bed still didn't respond in any way, Eloise clicked her tongue and said even less happily, "You know, because of you, Ah Ye was in too much of a hurry to save his papa. And in the end, he was captured!"

"I'm so jealous. You're Ah Ye's best friend, you know." Eloise couldn't help grumbling, "If I ever ended up like you, Ah Ye definitely wouldn't try so hard to save me... I don't get it. Why does Ah Ye like you so much when you clearly ignore him? Not like me and Lian..."

"Eloise!"

"Hm?" Eloise raised her head and saw Elian and Eli rush in. She asked a little oddly, "What's all the fuss? Don't tell me... Has something happened to Ah Ye?"

Elian was still breathing hard. In bursts, he said, "W-we found Ah Ye and the others."

"What?" Eloise jumped up and shouted, "Really? Where are they?"

"Sounds like they're somewhere in the ocean."

"Somewhere in the ocean?" Eloise had a strange expression. *Don't tell me Ah Ye and the others are swimming in the ocean?*

Elian's speech was finally returning to normal. He carefully explained, "Secretary Kyle said that Ah Ye sent a message. But they weren't able to confirm the precise location from the message and only managed to figure out that the general area is in the ocean. However, that stretch of ocean has a lot of small islands so they can't confirm where it is. They want to send three large submarines and then use small boats to do a blanket search. He agreed to let us go..."

"Woohoo!" Eloise jumped while shouting, "I want to go too! You can't leave me behind this time!"

"We get it. We weren't planning on leaving you behind." Elian nodded, saying, "Besides, we even got Death to help."

"What? Death's coming too?"

Right as she shouted, Eloise suddenly noticed a person standing by the door. It was hard to tell if that person was male or female, but regardless of their gender, they were definitely dangerous. As soon as that person noticed Eloise had seen them, they gave a cold huff in dissatisfaction.

"The modified humans are too strong. If we don't have Death with us, it will be hard for the few of us to win." Elian said somewhat helplessly, "Also, we have to protect Mr. An Te Qi, who has zero combat capability."

"What? He's coming too? But he can't even fight!" Eloise cried.

*Exactly!* Elian sighed. *How is this a rescue mission? It's more like a tour group!*

"But Mr. An Te Qi said that the last time he saw Ah Ye, Ah Ye had been badly injured. He has to come so he wouldn't worry."

Eloise's face turned white as soon as she heard that Ah Ye was badly injured. She said, "T-Then it's better if he comes along. Otherwise, if Ah Ye is c-close to death... If An Te Qi-bàba is there, then he can treat him."

Elia nodded. This was the reason he couldn't keep Mr. An Te Qi from following along. However, they would have an additional person who couldn't fight at all, plus the burden of bringing a pile of medical equipment. As a result, he had no choice but to ask Death for help. If they were unable to save Ah Ye and instead fell into the hands of the enemy, it would be catastrophic.

Death icily said, "You agreed that after saving Dark Sun, both you and him owe me ten battles!"

"Of course." Elian wryly smiled. It looked like Ah Ye was going to owe more and more battles. *I hope he doesn't start laughing bitterly once he hears the news that not only does he have to battle me and Ezart, but Death too.*

"Each small boat can hold ten people. By our count, we have five so far. Then there's a huge amount of medical equipment Mr. An Te Qi wants to bring, so we'll need two people's worth of space for that. The equipment needs to be carried by someone when we disembark, so he's bringing two more modified humans..."

Eloise rolled her eyes. "So you're saying that An Te Qi-bàba alone already takes up the space for five people."

"That still leaves one spot. Who do you plan to bring?" Eli tonelessly asked.

Elian nodded. "I don't have any other candidates. I was planning to let Secretary Kyle arrange it for us..."

"Hey! I'm coming too."

Everyone froze. *That voice was...*



Ri Xiang Ye opened his eyes. He was in a very good mood. *Luckily the message got to Kyle-gē without any problem.* Fortunately, he had still maintained a connection from when he escaped from the prison cell and hacked into Bai Lian Yue's base's Internet.

Now, he had to figure out how to escape from the sleeping cabin now. Aside from the loops of metal around his neck, wrists, and waist, Bai Lian Yue had also filled the sleeping cabin with anesthetics. He could still stay focused, but his limbs had no strength, and he couldn't break out of the metal bands.

Even if he could move his limbs, there were still four modified humans standing outside. In his current condition, there was no way he could win against them.

*What should I do...*

Ri Xiang Ye was currently at a loss when he heard the sounds of people. It had to be his brother and Bai Lian Yue. In a single day, his brother would come to see him at least three times, sometimes up to ten. Each time, Bai Lian Yue wouldn't be able to resist complaining about his brother coming in all day to see him.

"It's really boring nowadays." That was his brother's voice.

"Ah Yan, no matter what you want, I'll give it to you..."

His brother said dejectedly, "I want to touch Ah Ye's face. I want to rub his head. I want to look at his night-black eyes. I want to hear him call me 'Gēge.'"

*Gēge...*

It was quiet for a long time. Finally, Bai Lian Yue said a single word: "Fine."

Ri Xiang Yan was stunned. He hadn't thought Bai Lian Yue would actually agree to his request. It wasn't until he saw Bai Lian Yue really was operating the sleeping cabin controls that he quietly said, "Thanks."

Afterward, Ri Xiang Ye heard the sound of the top of the cabin opening. A hand lightly stroked his cheek and rubbed his hair. He couldn't have been more familiar with these actions; his brother would do this several times a day. Although he badly wanted to open his already moist eyes and call out, "Gēge," he still kept his eyes shut tightly. He couldn't let Bai Lian Yue know that the anesthetics weren't enough to knock him unconscious. Otherwise, Bai Lian Yue would definitely use methods that would be even harder for him to escape from.

Bai Lian Yue indifferently explained, "You'll have to wait for the drug's effects to wear off before he'll wake up."

"O.K."

After a while, Ri Xiang Ye felt it was about time, so he slowly opened his eyes and pretended to be in a daze. Then he hoarsely said, "Gēge..."

Hearing that call, Ri Xiang Yan felt his heart melt. He softly said, "I'm here. Don't be scared. Everything's fine."

Ri Xiang Ye's eyes teared up at those words. He sobbed, "I'm sorry, Gēge. I shouldn't have run away from home."

"Don't worry. What little brother wouldn't run away from home?" Ri Xiang Yan gently brushed away the tears on his little brother's cheeks while softly comforting him.

*Normally, don't younger brothers not run away from home?* Off to the side, Bai Lian Yue wondered, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

"You stay here and sleep tight. Gēge will come visit you often, O.K.?"

Ri Xiang Ye hesitated. *It can't be that Gēge's telling me not to do anything, right? No way! I won't be able to protect Gēge like that!*

He stubbornly shouted, "I don't want to be here alone!"

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan frowned. He knew very clearly that the most Bai Lian Yue was willing to tolerate was opening the sleeping cabin. He couldn't possibly request anything more. He quietly said, "Ah Ye, listen to me."

"Behave, Dìdi." At this moment, Bai Lian Yue smiled charmingly as he lowered his head to look at Ri Xiang Ye. His hands gestured at the modified humans surrounding them. "Look, haven't I let four big brothers stay here to keep you company?"

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Ye was silent. Even if he got out of the sleeping cabin, he wouldn't be able to win against the four modified humans.

"Don't step out of this beautiful crystal coffin, xiǎodìdì. Otherwise, the four big brothers will have to tear you apart piece by piece, you know!"

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Ye was even more alarmed. If he couldn't even step out of the sleeping cabin, then there wasn't any way he could save his brother.

"Don't scare him!" Off to the side, Ri Xiang Yan growled in dissatisfaction.

"Sorry, but it's for his own good. I already gave the order that as soon as he steps out of the coffin..." Bai Lian Yue's smile widened and he used his hand to draw a line across his neck.

Seeing that, Ri Xiang Yan angrily clenched his fists. He lowered his head to look at his little brother and said beseechingly, "Ah Ye, Gēge is begging you. Be a good boy and wait here for me to come see you, O.K.?"

Hearing his older brother's plea, Ri Xiang Ye could only obediently reply, "O.K."

Ri Xiang Yan regretfully watched as his little brother was once again locked inside the sleeping cabin, unable to even move. If not for the fact that he had no other choice, how could he bear to let Ah Ye lie inside this coffin-like thing?



*Ah Ye, I'll think of a way to save you. Definitely!*



"Lian, how many islands has it been now?" Eloise asked, listless.

"Six."

Elian replied helplessly. Eloise wasn't the only one who felt exhausted. Even he was feeling a bit tired. He wanted to find Ah Ye and the others, but it really was too difficult. This stretch of ocean was covered with coral reefs. Some of the little coral islands were only big enough for a single person to reside on, but others were as large as a sizeable city.

However, most of them were small islands. Although they were small, they were still big enough to conceal a small base. Therefore, every time they found an island, they had no choice but to go investigate.

They had already searched five islands. They had already been living in a submarine for almost a week, but they still hadn't found any trace of Ah Ye. Who wouldn't be discouraged?

*The sixth island probably won't have anything either, right?*

"Cut the chitchat. Just get off and search already!" An impatient voice came from one corner. The figure was hidden in the shadows, so it wasn't clear who it was.

Hearing those words, Elian also nodded. He said to the person at the helm, "Draw closer to shore to let us disembark."

"Understood." The person at the helm followed the order and parked the submarine by the shore. Then they opened the hatch to exit.

Elian took the lead, craning his neck to survey the island. This island couldn't be considered small. The surface was lush and green, and it clearly seemed to have freshwater.

He pulled his head back and said to the people down below, "It looks like an inhabitable island. We should go down to look. Follow the procedure. Mr. An Te Qi, please wait by the shore with the modified humans. Wait until we find traces of Ah Ye. We'll contact you then."

An Te Qi nodded. It was only logical. He didn't want to keep his precision instruments in the damp of the jungle for too long. The more intricate the instrument, the easier it was to damage! Of course, there were exceptions. "Dark Sun," for example, couldn't be any more intricate, yet he was a lot stronger than a regular person.... Then again, there was only one Dark Sun in the entire world.

"Tch! Can't I wait here too until you've found Dark Sun and come back to tell me?" Death was lazily leaning his upper body against a chair.

"Of course not!" Elian shot him down, "If you want to fight ten matches with Dark Sun, you'll have to help."

"Tsk ts!" Death cracked his knuckles and somewhat impatiently stood up from the chair.

Everyone gathered up their basic equipment and weapons, then left the submarine one after another. An Te Qi was still busy directing the modified humans how to properly place the equipment when the others were already preparing to set off.

However, An Te Qi suddenly shouted for the last person to stop. "Wait a moment! In the free time I had these past few days, I made you some gauntlets. It's made of the material leftover from Ah Ye's Death Scythe. It's not as good as the Death Scythe, but it should be a lot stronger than your average weapon! Take them!"

The person scratched their head and took the weapons. They didn't say a word of thanks, just grunting in reply.

Elian said extremely surprised, "Mr. An Te Qi, aren't you a doctor? How do you know how to forge metals?"

An Te Qi grumpily replied, "How many metal pieces do you think Dark Sun's body has? Even his bones have been blended with metal. If I hadn't done research on these sorts of things, Dark Sun would have long since become a lump of scrap metal."

"Ah... That's true." Elian laughed embarrassedly. "Then, we'll be off first to investigate."

An Te Qi was busy with directing the modified humans setting up the equipment, so he waved goodbye to Elian to show that he understood.

Elian took a good look at their surroundings. Aside from the beach at the coast, everything in the middle was dense jungle. Although the island wasn't large, the topography was extremely uneven. As far as the eye could see, there were hills high and low. It was impossible to see anything.

He couldn't help but sigh. It looked like it was going to take a while to search this island. He could only hope that this trip wouldn't be a wasted effort. After he called out to the others and they were about to depart, Eli suddenly said, "Wait."

"What is it?" Elian asked in shock.

"Mr. An Te Qi should come with us after all." Eli raised his head to look at the hills and said, "This island. Something isn't right."

*Don't tell me...*

"Ah Ye is here?" Eloise grabbed Eli by the shoulders and forcefully shook him.

Eli let her shake him, just shaking his head and saying, "I don't know. But there are definitely people here."

Elian muttered to himself for a while, then turned his head to say, "O.K. Mr. An Te Qi, please come with us this time."

"Got it." An Te Qi nodded. He commanded the modified humans to hoist up the instruments and followed the others.

After hearing that this island had people, everyone clearly felt invigorated. Eloise repeatedly urged Elian, who was at the front, to go faster. Even An Te Qi couldn't help looking back to scold the modified humans for moving too slowly. Burning in everyone's hearts was a single word, or perhaps it should be said, a single person...

*Ah Ye!*



"Why isn't there anything? Eli, are you sure your mind reading ability works?!"

They searched for a long time but they didn't find a single trace of Ah Ye. Finally, Eloise snapped. She grabbed Eli's cheeks and forcefully pulled on them.

An expression of doubt came across Eli's face. Even though his cheeks were being pulled, he completely ignored it. He kept looking upward at the enormous vines. He pointed at the vines and said, "That's strange."

"The vines?" Elian raised his head to look up at the vines. *They look like regular vines!*

"It really is a bit strange." An Te Qi walked forward. He said, looking at the vines, "Although this is a tropical jungle, these vines are a bit too large. In addition, the way they grew is odd. Look, the biggest ones connect the hills, just like suspension bridges."

Once An Te Qi had said that, everyone lifted their heads one by one and took a careful look. Because the jungle had been so dense, their view was greatly obstructed, but they could still make out that the swells of several hills were connected with huge vines. In addition, one thing the connecting hills and vines had in common was that they were all concealed by especially dense vegetation.

Elian blurted out in shock, "It's a suspended fortress!"

An Te Qi nodded. "They used the forest to hide. That way they would avoid being seen by helicopter searches from above and searchers on foot from below. The huge vines were camouflage for the suspension bridges connecting it. I think the only one who could launch such a huge engineering feat without attracting the notice of the Sun Emperor's secretary would be Bai Lian Yue. Maybe we've really found the place."

"Tsk!" Death rolled his eyes and impatiently muttered at a vine, "Don't tell me we have to climb there? I didn't think I'd have to be a monkey to fight Dark Sun!"

Elian nodded. He cautiously said, "Then should we return to the submarine first to tell Secretary Ky..."

*BOOM!*

A tremendous explosion cut Elian's words off. Everyone blankly turned toward the hill where the sound of the explosion had come from. The large trees there had already been blown to smithereens, exposing the

domed structure underneath. But that structure was half-destroyed, flames blazing everywhere.

**AH YE!**

"Ugh!" Eli suddenly clutched his head, his face deathly pale as he knelt down.

"Eli?" Elian was the first to realize something wasn't right with Eli, and asked concernedly.

His face pale, Eli raised his head and pointed in another direction. He said, "Over there. I heard... The Sun Emperor's inner thoughts. He shouted "Ah Ye" extremely, extremely sorrowfully. It was louder than the explosion just now..."

Hearing that, Elian froze. *After the explosion, the Sun Emperor shouted "Ah Ye" in sorrow? It can't be...*

He lifted his head, looking at the dome. His complexion was unsightly as he yelled, "Hurry! We have to get there quickly! There's a high chance Ah Ye is in there!"

*What?*

"Wait a moment!"

An Te Qi shouted to the anxious group, "We have to send people over to the Sun Emperor. Now that something's happened, the people

guarding the Sun Emperor must definitely have their attention stretched thin. There have to be people going over to save him.

"Eloise and 'you.' You're both strong, so grab my equipment and come with me to rescue Ah Ye.

"Elian, take the mind reader, Eli; Death; and my two modified humans over to where the Sun Emperor is. Keep as low a profile as possible and act when the moment's right. Don't pressure Bai Lian Yue. His martial arts skills are very strong, and if he grabs the Sun Emperor, you'll be helpless to do anything."

An Te Qi added, "Use the walkie talkie to keep in touch. If anything happens, immediately let us know. If everything goes well on Ah Ye's end, I'll let the two of them head over to assist you."

"Got it."

Elian nodded. He called out to Eli and Death, as well as the two modified humans behind them. Their group headed in the direction Eli had pointed out.

"You two come with me..."

Halfway through speaking, An Te Qi was thrown over someone's shoulder. That person carried An Te Qi on their shoulder while carrying a black box with their other hand. Then they said to Eloise, "You take those things."



Eloise stared at An Te Qi with shining eyes. Like a spoiled child, she begged, "Can we switch? I'll carry An Te Qi-bàba, and you can take the equipment!"

That person didn't respond, but An Te Qi had already icily lifted his head to say, "I refuse to switch!"

Eloise puffed her cheeks and begrudgingly hoisted up the cold equipment.

## Chapter 10: Loss

Ri Xiang Yan felt as though his heart was about to shatter. He shouted in grief, "Ah Ye, Ah Ye!"

He whirled around, eyes completely bloodshot and roared at Bai Lian Yue, "What did you do to Ah Ye? Didn't you only want to see me suffer? You didn't really kill him, did you?"

"I..."

Bai Lian Yue was even more at a loss. He had originally thought that the explosion was Ri Xiang Yan's work. However, as soon as Ri Xiang Yan realized the explosion had happened in the dome that his little brother was in, he passed out for several seconds in fear and then cried out for his little brother heartbrokenly. *He can't possibly be faking. He can't!*

"Ah Ye ..."

Ri Xiang Yan staggered in the direction of the dome where Ah Ye was.

Bai Lian Yue hastily grabbed him, calling out, "What are you doing? The suspension bridge was destroyed in the explosion. You can't cross it!"

"Let go of me. I have to find Ah Ye!"

Ri Xiang Yan desperately struggled with unexpected strength. Even Bai Lian Yue, who had trained in martial arts for many years, almost

couldn't keep a grip on him. With no other choice, Bai Lian Yue used his hand to deliver a chop to the back of Ri Xiang Yan's neck. Following which, Ri Xiang Yan fell unconscious.

Bai Lian Yue laid Ri Xiang Yan on the sofa. Then he turned his head to look in the direction of the half-destroyed dome. He muttered in confusion, "Dark Sun, what exactly are you doing? However, even if you truly did survive that kind of explosion, you wouldn't even have the strength to move. Furthermore, you were already injured."

However, he couldn't relax. The explosion definitely had to be the work of Dark Sun. Although he didn't know what Dark Sun was planning, he knew that Dark Sun would never abandon Ri Xiang Yan and choose to flee on his own. That was the only thing he was certain of. Therefore, all he had to do was guard Ri Xiang Yan.

After commanding the modified humans to guard the surroundings, Bai Lian Yue slowly sat down on the sofa. He lowered his head to look at the unconscious Ri Xiang Yan and reached out to stroke his supple golden hair.

He absent-mindedly murmured repeatedly, "Ah Yan, I'll never let you go. Never!"



"Ah Yan. Never let you go. Never..."

Eli leapt up on a thick branch and quietly said the information he had read. The expression on his face was strange.

Hearing that, Death stared with wide eyes, not understanding the situation.

"... Looks like the Sun Emperor and Bai Lian Yue are definitely in there. Are there any other people?" Elian was off to the side, his mouth hooked in a mirthless smile.

Eli shook his head, saying, "There aren't any other people. However, there could be modified humans. I can't read modified humans' thoughts."

"Is that so?"

Elian was very distressed. According to An Te Qi, Bai Lian Yue was very strong martial artist. If there were modified humans on top of that, then they would be unable to launch a surprise attack to seize the Sun Emperor. If they botched the attempt, then they might even injure the Sun Emperor, which would certainly have consequences.

"All we can do is wait for an opportunity. Eli, carefully listen to the situation inside. Once there's a chance, we'll immediately..."

"Hey!" Death suddenly warned.

He hadn't even finished speaking when the window beside the three of them was suddenly sent flying. A humanoid shape brushed past them, then tumbled straight down, repeatedly snapping numerous branches and sending up a cloud of leaves and broken twigs everywhere...

"..."

The three people wordlessly looked down at the hole that had been smashed through. Then Elian lifted his head to look at Eli. Eli revealed a rare expression of embarrassment as he said, "It wasn't that I wasn't listening. That was definitely a modified human without thoughts. Otherwise, that was something Dark Sun did."

Hearing that, Elian said emotionally, "Ah! I really miss the days when only humans were capable of murder."

At this moment, Bai Lian Yue's furious shout came from inside the building. "Dark Sun! I won't let you take Ah Yan!"

*It's Ah Ye!*

Elian wanted to call out to Eli and Death, then rush in to help Ah Ye, but Eli quietly called out, "Elian!"

Then he used his hand to point in the three o' clock direction.

Elian's gaze followed his finger. The suspension bridge had a whole line of modified humans currently running toward the central complex. Seeing that, Elian couldn't help but gasp, and he promptly made the decision, "Get on the bridge. We'll use the chokepoint to hold them off."

After he finished speaking, the three of them, in addition to their two modified humans, immediately leapt over to where the suspension bridge was, securely sealing off the pathway in the nick of time. Taking advantage of the moments before the modified humans

arrived, Elian glanced back at the central building. He nearly cried out in shock. He saw Dark Sun covered in injuries blocking Bai Lian Yue from the front. And behind him was the Sun Emperor's unconscious body lying on a sofa.

Although Elian wanted to help Ah Ye, he knew that they couldn't let the modified humans on the bridge into the building or they would all be doomed.

"Hold them off, Death, Eli!"

"Does that need to be said?" Death crankily replied. He was beginning to think that the reward of ten battles was much too little.



Ri Xiang Ye dodged around, breathing heavily. But Bai Lian Yue's whip was like a cunning serpent and kept up an unrelenting pressure. In addition, there were the modified humans to the side watching carefully, so all he could do was dodge. Although his microchip had determined that after he retreated, he could use heavy objects to attack, he couldn't leave the sofa's side. Otherwise his brother would be vulnerable to the enemy's attacks.

"How unexpected. You could actually still escape under those circumstances." Bai Lian Yue showed a beautiful smile. "However, what good are you like this?"

Although he had been caught off guard by Dark Sun's attack to the point that Dark Sun had even forced him away from Ri Xiang Yan's side, when Bai Lian Yue took a closer look, he realized Dark Sun was

covered with injuries. The originally distorted right hand had been twisted back into place, but the angle still wasn't quite right. It also explained why Dark Sun had yet to use his hands to attack and just kept dodging.

Bai Lian Yue coldly chuckled and commanded, "Modified humans, attack the person on the sofa!"

As soon as the order was issued, the modified humans instantly changed directions to swing their weapons down at Ri Xiang Yan, who was unconscious on the sofa. Ri Xiang Ye was forced to abruptly turn around to protect his brother, but Bai Lian Yue's whip wrapped around his ankle and forcefully pulled him to the ground.

"Stop! Suppress the enemy on the ground instead."

The modified humans immediately stopped, each of their weapons poised just above Ri Xiang Yan's head, and turned around to suppress Ri Xiang Ye.

As Ri Xiang Ye was restrained by the modified humans, unable to move, he felt a deep sadness. *I'm sorry, Gēge. I still couldn't save you...*

"You really have been naughty." Bai Lian Yue strode a few steps forward. He used the tip of his shoe to repeatedly kick Ri Xiang Ye's cheek. "Look at you. Your cute face has become all dirty. Just how heartbroken do you think your brother would be if he saw this?"

Bai Lian Yue coldly laughed. Calm in the midst of the chaos, he looked at the three people battling against a whole row of modified humans outside and shouted, "The three of you outside! If you don't stop, Dark Sun's head and body will be going separate ways!"

Hearing that, Elan and the others stiffened. Although they wanted to stop, the modified humans weren't stopping their attacks! How could they stop?

Bai Lian Yue naturally was aware of the plight they were in, but he didn't feel like telling the modified humans to stop. Instead, he relished seeing them suffer.

"Still not stopping? Then I'll just..." Bai Lian Yue gave a sickly-sweet smile and sent a heavy lash down upon Ri Xiang Ye's back.

Ri Xiang Ye stifled a groan. Soon after, the whip hit him even harder but he no longer made a sound. This only enraged Bai Lian Yue further. He screamed, "How dare you ignore me!" as the whip lashed down harder and faster.

"Ah Ye!"

Hearing the sounds of the lashing whip hitting Ri Xiang Ye's body, Elan was extremely panicked. He quickly looked back to see Ri Xiang Ye's situation.

"You trying to die?!" Death growled and helped block a blade for Elan. Otherwise, that blade would have split open his skull.



Although Eliau had looked back and saw Ri Xiang Ye being beaten, the sentence that came out of his mouth was strangely, "Great. He's here—"

At this moment, a massive fist swung down from the side, aimed at Bai Lian Yue's face. Bai Lian Yue almost didn't notice until the very last second and was forced to dodge. Although he had dodged the brunt of the attack, after the gust from the fist had blown past, a line unexpectedly appeared on his cheek with blood trickling down.

"Who are you?" Bai Lian Yue shouted in astonishment as he turned his head.

That person slammed his fists together, causing the metal gauntlets on his hands to clang with a sound that reached the skies. With a cold laugh, he shouted with his fists extended out, "Heh. I'm yer daddy!"

Hearing that, Bai Lian Yue was ablaze in fury. He brandished the whip in his hands and began battling the person with the gauntlets.

Eloise had rushed over and began fighting the remaining modified humans on one side, each of her punches blowing away another modified human.

Off to the side, Ri Xiang Ye blankly watched the person fighting with Bai Lian Yue. He almost couldn't believe it as he called out his name, "E... Ezart?! You're awake?"

Despite hearing that shout, Ezart never stopped swinging his fists. Instead, he glared at Ri Xiang Ye from the corner of his eye and

irritably said, "Idiot! How'd you end up looking like a piece of charcoal?"

"Y-You really are awake..." Ri Xiang Ye's eyes grew moist. He almost started spouting tears.

Ezart grumpily said, "No shit. If I wasn't awake, wouldn't I just be sleepwalking right now?"

At this moment, Ri Xiang Ye tried to get up, but his hands and feet didn't have much strength. His knees went soft and he sat on the ground right where he was.

His initial injuries had already been so heavy that he wasn't fit for battle, but he had repeatedly forced himself to pull one dangerous stunt after another. First, he had used his plasma hair strands, the only thing not under restraints, to slice open the sleeping cabin. Then he had stealthily thrown the bomb inside his body outside the sleeping cabin, which had caused a huge explosion that blew apart the four modified humans guarding him.

Although he was protected by the sleeping cabin and had minimized the injuries he had received, he still couldn't help adding to his injuries.

Then he had taken advantage of the moment Bai Lian Yue had been looking down at Ri Xiang Yan to kick open the window, and send one of the modified humans flying with another kick. Then he began battling Bai Lian Yue's four remaining modified humans.

He had long been covered in wounds, so much so that a quarter of his body was even smoking black from the blast earlier. That was why Ezart had made the comment that he looked like a piece of charcoal.

"Ah Ye, sit still. I'll help treat your injuries."

Ri Xiang Ye froze. *That voice is...*

"An Te Qi-bàba."

An Te Qi gave an "Mhm" in reply. His expression was grave as he looked at Ri Xiang Ye's injuries. The muscles on Ri Xiang Ye's left hand were completely destroyed. His right elbow was a bit crooked, looking as though it had been twisted out of place and then forced back in. Although the tibia and fibula in his legs hadn't snapped, the flesh around them was split open.

"Luckily none of your bones really broke, or we'd be in trouble."

An Te Qi took hold of Ri Xiang Ye's right hand and began using a cylindrical apparatus he had placed to the side, saying, "I'm first going to adjust the angle of the bones in your right arm and spray some hemostatic agents on your injuries. The rest will have to wait to be tended until we can get back to the lab."

"O.K., but don't use any anesthetics." Ri Xiang Ye hastily said, "Otherwise, I won't be able to move my right arm afterward."

"Then you'll have to bear with it."

An Te Qi nodded and pressed several buttons on the apparatus. He allowed the apparatus to do its work as he picked up the hemostatic spray. At first, he looked for injuries on Ri Xiang Ye's body to spray, but in the end, he realized that he couldn't find a single place that hadn't been injured. So he just sprayed Ri Xiang Ye completely from head to toe.

On the side, Ezart yelled, "I'm ready to rumble!" Then he swung his fists and engaged Bai Lian Yue in battle. Bai Lian Yue could see that this person had alarming strength. If he took a hit, his internal organs would be completely ruptured. So he dodged more than he counterattacked.

Bai Lian Yue's fighting style was similar to his son's, Bai Lian Xing's, except that he was more cunning and even swifter. However, Ezart was no longer the same old Ezart. His speed had also leveled up considerably, and the strength behind his fists had also multiplied several times over. Time after time, the fists merely brushed past, but the wind from the fists' passing had already torn Ezart's opponent's clothing to shreds. His strength truly was like that of a hurricane.

As Ri Xiang Ye allowed An Te Qi to treat his wounds, he watched the battle, unable to tear his eyes away. He even gasped in admiration, "Ezart's become really strong!"

An Te Qi was busy treating Ah Ye's injuries as he also said with disbelief, "I heard that he drank my drug and somehow didn't die. That guy really is tough. My drug can bring out a person's innate potential and substantially increase their strength and speed, but in my

experiments up until then, most of the experimental subjects died soon after drinking the drug.”

By this point, Elian, Death, Eli, and An Te Qi’s two modified humans had completely dealt with the modified humans outside. Several people immediately went back to help Eloise deal with the remaining modified humans.

“Damn it!”

At this moment, Bai Lian Yue knew the tides had turned. He smashed apart a window next to him with a flying kick. Ezart shouted for him to stop and then followed suit.

Seeing that, Elian was concerned that Ezart wouldn’t be able to defeat Bai Lian Yue and rushed to the side to say to Death, “Death, I’ll have to ask you to follow. Coordinate with Ezart to subdue the enemy and then bring them back.”

After rolling his eyes, Death said, “And this is the last order?”

“Yes, the last one.” Elian nodded.

Death nodded in satisfaction. Then he went in pursuit in the direction Bai Lian Yue and Ezart had taken.

“Ah Ye, are you O.K.?” Elian asked in concern.

"My adorable Ah Ye! You've been bullied to the point you look like this... Sob sob, it's so tragic!" Eloise looked at Ri Xiang Ye's half-charred body and began wailing loudly.

"Eloise, I'm fine." Ri Xiang Ye hurriedly leapt up to reassure Eloise.

As soon as he jumped up, the bandages wrapped around half his body loosened instead. An Te Qi rolled his eyes at that. But he thought, *Whatever! Anyway, the hemostatic agents have just about finished stopping the bleeding. The rest will have to wait until we get to the lab to do a complete overhaul.*

"Just as long as you're fine." Elian smiled in relief. Although Ah Ye's appearance was really a ghastly sight, if Ah Ye could leap up to console Eloise, and An Te Qi, who was nearby, wasn't worried, then there really shouldn't be any major problems with Ah Ye.

At this point, Ri Xiang Yan, who had been lying on the sofa up until this point, slowly opened his eyes. He sat up and immediately saw Ah Ye giggling and chatting with Elian and the others. The tension in his heart relaxed in an instant. In that moment, he was dazed. His brain was only filled with, *Ah Ye is alive. Ah Ye is alive.*

"An Te Qi!"

Ri Xiang Yan suddenly caught sight of An Te Qi. His gaze turned fierce. He absolutely could not allow a person who jeopardized Ah Ye's safety to remain alive. He absolutely, absolutely did not want to ever again experience the despair and pain from realizing Ah Ye had died.

Without anyone noticing, he walked to a drawer in the study. He knew this was where Bai Lian Yue had kept his gun. He pulled out the silver derringer and aimed it at An Te Qi. He coldly sneered, "For Ah Ye's sake, you have to die!"

*Bang!*

"Gēge, don't!"

Ri Xiang Ye loudly cried out as he darted in front of An Te Qi, using his arm to take the bullet instead.

"No!"

Seeing that, Ri Xiang Yan gasped. The pistol in his hands clattered to the ground. A chill went through his stomach. *I hurt Ah Ye. I actually hurt Ah Ye!*

Ri Xiang Ye didn't pay any attention to the bullet hole in his arm. A bullet from this sort of small gun couldn't even pierce through his muscles. He plucked the bullet stuck in his arm and angrily shouted, "Gēge, why do you have to kill An Te Qi-bàba?!"

*Smack!*

Ri Xiang Yan fiercely slapped his younger brother. Ri Xiang Ye appeared to be stunned and helpless as he caressed the cheek that had been hit. *Gēge... Hit me?*

Ri Xiang Yan screamed in fury, "Killing An Te Qi is to protect you! Do you realize how much I've sacrificed until now in order to protect you? You, you repeatedly let yourself be hurt, not caring the slightest about your own self!"

Ri Xiang Ye blankly stared at his older brother. *B-But I was hurt because I wanted to protect Gēge...*

"Why can't you be a good kid? Obediently stay under my protection and just obediently be an ordinary boy?"

After Ri Xiang Yan had finished shouting bitterly and sorrowfully, he crumpled into a sitting position on the ground. He buried his weary face in his hands and thought, *Ever since I rescued Dìdi, how many times has he been hurt? Why is it that even under my protection, he never stops being hurt?*

*This time, I was even the one who opened fire and wounded Ah Ye!*

"Gēge..."

Ri Xiang Ye watched him and timidly called out. "I-I'll be good from now on. Can you not kill An Te Qi-bàba?"

At first, when he had heard his little brother calling, Ri Xiang Yan felt his heart soften. But once he heard the words that followed, he became enraged again. He couldn't help roaring at his younger brother.



"No! He has too much influence over you yet doesn't care about you at all. He could betray you at any moment. Leaving a person like him by your side, don't tell me I'm supposed to wait for him to betray you again, or even worse, to hurt you again?!"

Off to the side, An Te Qi had ducked behind Elia and Eloise. The three of them awkwardly stood where they were, not knowing if they should interfere in this argument between the brothers.

Seeing that his older brother was holding firm, Ri Xiang Ye grew nervous. He tried hard to plead, "Gēge, I really will be good. Don't kill An Te Qi-bàba, O.K.?"

At first, Ri Xiang Yan nearly caved in. But his rationality pulled him back. If he didn't execute a traitor like An Te Qi, who would take him seriously? If he didn't kill An Te Qi, then if he betrayed them again, Ah Ye would be hurt once more!

Thinking of this, Ri Xiang Yan wanted to refuse his little brother's request. But he had second thoughts. Was there any need to refuse to his little brother's face and break his heart?

After all, the experiments An Te Qi conducted were highly dangerous. Who knew when he would just drop dead in the middle of his lab, right?

Ri Xiang Yan faintly smiled as he pacified his little brother, "O.K. I won't kill An Te Qi now. Is that all right, Ah Ye?"

Ri Xiang Ye didn't immediately agree. Instead, he stared with wide eyes at his own brother, causing Ri Xiang Yan to experience a sudden feeling of foreboding.

On the sidelines, Elian and the others looked sideways at Ri Xiang Yan. Even they didn't believe Ri Xiang Yan was really going to pardon An Te Qi.

"Gēge, you're lying to me again, aren't you?"

*I was actually found out.* Ri Xiang Yan's smile froze.

"Gēge always lies." Ri Xiang Ye's head drooped.

"What? I haven't..." Ri Xiang Yan's eyes widened. Except when left with no choice, how could he have lied to Ah Ye?

"When father was taking me away, Gēge clearly said he would protect me. But I waited a long, long time and Gēge never came! Back then, only, only An Te Qi-bàba would smile at me. If An Te Qi-bàba hadn't been there, I wouldn't have been able to hang on!"

Ri Xiang Yan stilled and thought back to Ah Ye's life seven years ago.  
*Those days must have been unbearable...*

"I don't want An Te Qi-bàba to die, but no matter what I say, Gēge wants to kill An Te Qi-bàba. Yet you say you haven't lied to me!"

Ri Xiang Yan was unable to refute his little brother at all. He could only direct his anger toward An Te Qi. "It's all your fault! Why did you betray us?!"

An Te Qi finally stepped out from behind Elia and Eloise. He faced Ri Xiang Yan and icily responded, "If I didn't help Bai Lian Yue modify humans, would I still be alive? Furthermore, I thought that with your protection, Ah Ye couldn't possibly be harmed by the modified humans, so I easily agreed to Bai Lian Yue's requests. How could I have guessed you'd let Ah Ye run away from home?"

Ri Xiang Yan was left speechless. It really was his fault. Ah Ye could tell that he wasn't actually going to save An Te Qi and might even kill him, so Ah Ye had run away from home. So if he had sincerely promised Ah Ye that he would not have killed An Te Qi, and stayed true to his word, then Ah Ye wouldn't have run away.

When it all came down to it, if he hadn't gone to negotiate with Bai Lian Yue, hadn't become a hostage, then Ah Ye might have successfully fled home with An Te Qi!

Finally, An Te Qi said indifferently, "The two of you brothers, one has a Gēge to protect you, the other has a Dìdi to protect you. I only have myself. I just want to survive. Is that wrong?"

"An Te Qi-bàba..." Ri Xiang Ye hesitantly called.

An Te Qi turned his head to look at Ri Xiang Ye. He sighed and said, "Ah Ye, for the sake of our previous ties, please help stop your brother for a moment so that I can escape. After this, you won't have to care

about me anymore. And especially don't ever run away from home again."

"Wait! An Te Qi-bàba, don't go!" Ri Xiang Ye cried out in alarm, "Don't go. I'll convince Gēge not to kill you!"

An Te Qi bitterly smiled. He didn't believe that Ri Xiang Yan would forgive him. If he continued staying with the Ri family, someday he would die without even knowing how.

Ri Xiang Ye turned his head to look at Ri Xiang Yan. His tone was even more pleading as he said, "Gēge, please don't kill Bàba!"

Ri Xiang Yan's face was rigid. He thought, *If I refuse Ah Ye's request, wouldn't that be breaking my promise that I would give Ah Ye anything he wanted? But if I pardon An Te Qi, what would become of Ah Ye's safety and the traitor's punishment?*

While he was stuck in this difficult dilemma, a pitiful cry suddenly came from the doorway, "Ri Xiang Yan!"

Ri Xiang Yan turned his head to look. He froze and murmured the person's name: "Bai Lian Yue..."

Half of Bai Lian Yue's body was covered in wounds. However, Bai Lian Yue paid no attention to the condition of his injuries and held a pistol aimed at Ri Xiang Yan. In a frenzy, he shouted, "If I can't have you, I'll just kill you! I'll kill you!"

Ri Xiang Yan's expression darkened after he heard that. He was about to icily reply when he realized Bai Lian Yue's eyes held no trace of killing intent, only an imploring look, and two trails of tears silently flowed down Bai Lian Yue's cheeks...

*If he really wants to kill me, why hasn't he fired yet?*

Since the beginning, Bai Lian Yue had so many chances to kill him, but he had never taken the opportunity to strike each time. He had never even lashed the whip at him once.

*When you smile at me with your pretty face and those eyes, how can I possibly hit you?*

Ri Xiang Yan suddenly understood. No matter what, Yue Ya'er would never hurt him. Even pointing a gun at him was just Yue Ya'er's way of begging him to send a glance his way. He would never fire.

He sighed and said, "All right. Just put down the gun. From now on, you'll be by my side as a secretary like Bill."

A dazed expression came across Bai Lian Yue's face as he heard that. *How could this be?* The only choice Ri Xiang Yan would give to a traitor was death, much less an enemy!

Seeing Bai Lian Yue look at him with mistrust, Ri Xiang Yan added, "I swear on the name of the Sun Emperor, I will not kill you. I will let you remain by my side as my secretary."

He sincerely meant to forgive Bai Lian Yue. He thought, *The turncoat An Te Qi won't be killed anymore. And since even An Te Qi, who might betray us again, can be pardoned, what reason would I have to kill Bai Lian Yue, who would never betray me?*

"Ah Yan..."

Hearing those words, Bai Lian Yue simply couldn't believe it. He unconsciously slowly lowered the gun in his hands.

Ri Xiang Yan looked at Bai Lian Yue, faintly smiling as he nodded. This only made Bai Lian Yue feel even more like it was all a dream.

*Since I'm planning on having him be my secretary, naturally I have to give him some benefits so that he'll pour everything into his work just like Bill. Heheheh! After all, Bai Lian Yue controlled the Purple Moon Alliance for so long with such good results, so it's clear he has a lot of talent!*

It just so happened that he had also been a little worried that if Bill continued working so hard, he could collapse from exhaustion. Who would help him deal with all that work then?

"Ah Yan..."

The gun in Bai Lian Yue's hands trembled, tears pouring down his face. He couldn't believe that things had turned out this way. He had been forgiven by Ri Xiang Yan and received his attention. And in the future, he was even going to be able to stay by Ri Xiang Yan's side...

“Ah Ye, stop!”

At this moment, An Te Qi suddenly cried out. But everything happened so quickly. There was no time!

While Ri Xiang Yan distracted Bai Lian Yue, Ri Xiang Ye snatched up the silver derringer on the ground with lightning speed. A sound of a gunshot rang out, and Bai Lian Yue swayed. His eyes were full of anguish with the realization that he had been tricked after all...

But as he glanced at Ri Xiang Yan one last time, he saw Ri Xiang Yan’s stunned expression, as though he didn’t understand what was happening.

Seeing that, Bai Lian Yue tranquilly smiled.

*It seems like you weren’t the one who wanted to kill me! But even if you truly did want me to die, at least you were willing to show me that dazed expression. I don’t have any regrets...*

A trickle of blood came out of Bai Lian Yue’s temple. Then he closed both his eyes, and his body slowly toppled to the ground. He didn’t move again.

At this moment, Ri Xiang Ye took several steps forward until he was next to Bai Lian Yue. There wasn’t the slightest trace of emotion in his eyes. He lifted up the gun, intending to fire again at the person on the ground, who he wasn’t sure was dead, to ensure his demise.

“Ah Ye, what are you doing?!”

Ri Xiang Yan suddenly came back to his senses. He rushed to his little brother and smacked the gun out of his hands.

Ri Xiang Ye froze. His face went from being expressionless back to his naïve look. He timidly replied, "I-I'm protecting Gēge!"

Ri Xiang Yan shouted, angry and distressed, "Didn't I promise Bai Lian Yue I wouldn't kill him? Why did you kill him? Do you like murder that much?"

At this moment, Ri Xiang Ye realized he had done something wrong. His eyes went wide and he explained, flustered, "But, but Gēge also promised me that you wouldn't kill An Te Qi-bàba. Except you were just tricking me. I thought, I thought Gēge was lying to Bai Lian Yue to divert his attention so I could have the chance to defeat him."

That was the conclusion the microchip had come to! Gēge was only tricking that person. That was the best time to strike. *Take out Gēge's enemy... but I was wrong!*

Ri Xiang Ye's tears fell down one by one. He cried as he shook his head, "I don't know! I don't know when Gēge is telling the truth or when you're lying! I don't know!"

After he said that, he turned around and ran out the door.

Ri Xiang Yan's expression changed. He yelled, "Ah Ye, come back!"



Hearing his brother's shout, Ri Xiang Ye went rigid. But he still kept running.

Seeing Ah Ye wasn't listening to him again and had run from his side once more, Ri Xiang Yan stood where he was, stunned. Only once his little brother's figure had disappeared behind the door did Ri Xiang Yan finally snap out of it. He hurriedly rushed forward several steps, running to the door, but tripped over Bai Lian Yue's body.

He glanced at the corpse and abruptly stopped. Bai Lian Yue had a smile on his face!

He had tried to kill An Te Qi to protect Ah Ye. Ah Ye had killed Yue Ya'er to protect him.

"I only wanted to protect you, Ah Ye. And you only wanted to protect me."

Ri Xiang Yan suddenly began laughing wildly. *Ah Ye and I truly deserve to be called brothers! Even our actions were exactly the same. We just wanted to protect each other. We just wanted to protect each other!*

"Haha! But why do we keep hurting each other instead? Why—Ha! Isn't it just ironic? Hahaha—"

*Haha... Heheheh. Sob... Ah Ye!*

"Sun Emperor..." Elian called out hesitantly.

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan stifled his tears.

*How can a king be seen crying?*

Even if the world were to collapse, he could only faintly smile... even if his laughter would sound more like weeping.

At this moment, An Te Qi slowly walked to Ri Xiang Yan's side. He looked at the door Ri Xiang Ye had left from. He hesitated for a moment but didn't follow. Instead, he lifted up the walkie talkie from his waist and said, "Ezart, Ah Ye ran out. He's not quite right. Follow him to see how he's doing."



"Ah Ye!"

Ezart came out, chasing after him. Luckily, Ri Xiang Ye hadn't been running at full speed or there would have been no way Ezart could have caught up.

Hearing that shout, Ri Xiang Ye staggered forward a few more steps but didn't continue running.

"Ah Ye, what are you running for?" Ezart grumpily said as he caught up.

"Ezart..."

Ri Xiang Ye turned around. His eyes were full of tears, and he was shaking slightly as he asked, "Am I the spawn of a demon?"

“Huh?”

Ezart froze. *What the hell is that question? How come every time the brat asks a question, it's weird as hell? Last time it was about how he looked. This time it's about being a demon or not. I really don't get what goes on up in that brat's head.*

“Why? Māmā died. Father died too. Ezart nearly died. Then it was An Te Qi-bàba. I even almost caused Gēge to die. Now I even killed someone Gēge didn't want to die!”

Ri Xiang Ye said, almost in a daze, “Will everyone who's connected to me die?”

“What are you talking about? I'm not dead! Your An Te Qi-bàba also isn't dead. Your big bro is alive and well enough to bicker with you!” Ezart irritably replied, “And if I randomly drink things and almost do myself in, what the hell has that got to do with you?”

But it was like Ri Xiang Ye hadn't heard him. He kept asking himself questions and then answering them. “Gēge wanted to kill An Te Qi-bàba because he was a traitor... But An Te Qi-bàba only wanted to live. Gēge wasn't wrong. An Te Qi-bàba wasn't wrong. T-Then whose fault is it?”

“How would I know?” Ezart scratched his face as he said. From the beginning, he hadn't really understood what was going on. He just knew that Ah Ye and his brother had been kidnapped and he had come to rescue them.

"I'm the one who's wrong!" Ri Xiang Ye came to this conclusion.

*That's right! Of course it's my fault. If I didn't exist, then Māmā wouldn't have died.*

*If I didn't exist, then how could Gēge have hurt the father he loved so much?*

*If back at school, I had followed my microchip's decision instead of following my feelings and insisting on seeing the Principal, then An Te Qi-bàba wouldn't have been taken away because he came to deliver the weapon for me.*

*If I hadn't run away from home and then been captured by Bai Lian Yue, then Gēge wouldn't have been captured by Bai Lian Yue.*

*Everything is my fault. It's all my fault!*

Ezart frowned. *There's something completely wrong with this guy.* He shook Ri Xiang Ye by the shoulders and asked, "Ah Ye?"

*If "Ri Xiang Ye" didn't exist, would things be better?*

*Is it like Father said? Anyone the demon's spawn touches will encounter misfortune?*

*"So I will use Dark Sun as a seal to shut away the spawn of a demon like you. Only like this will you not harm your elder brother, my beloved child, my great Sun King."*

“Ah Ye, what are you thinking so much for? Let’s go back and find your bro and Elian and the others.” Ezart forcefully patted Ri Xiang Ye on the shoulder.

*Go back...* Ri Xiang Ye froze. He remembered that when he had rushed out, his brother had yelled for him to come back.

*The master’s command is to return.*

*No! I don’t want to. I don’t want to go back. Gēge said I can do what I want to do. If I go back, I’ll hurt Gēge...*

*B-But Gēge was the one to tell me to come back. He said I can do what I want, but I don’t want him to kill An Te Qi-bàba, yet he’s not willing to let him go, so why should I comply?*

*I don’t know. I don’t know...*

*The master’s orders cannot be disobeyed!*

“Ah Ye?”

Seeing Ri Xiang Ye standing in place but uncontrollably shaking, Ezart frowned and shouted, “Hey! What are you doing? It’s just an argument with your brother. Just head back and say you’re sorry. Your bro’s not gonna eat you. What’s the point in shaking in fear?”

*Return to the master’s side. The master’s command is to return. Dark Sun, obey the command!*

*But Ah Ye is the spawn of the demon. If I go back, sooner or later I'll hurt Gēge.*

*"Use Dark Sun as a seal to shut away the spawn of a demon like you..."*

*If Ah Ye is sealed away, then I won't hurt anyone? I just have to let Dark Sun go back!*

Ri Xiang Ye suddenly stopped trembling. The emotion in his eyes slowly faded away. His face gradually turned expressionless.

"Ah Ye?"

The more Ezart watched, the more he felt something wasn't right. Although Ri Xiang Ye had stopped shaking, he felt even more strongly in his gut that things were far from good. *There's definitely something wrong with this brat!*

Finally, he simply spun Ri Xiang Ye around forcefully. Ri Xiang Ye turned around, but at the same time, his hands pushed outwards, shoving away Ezart's hands.

Ezart froze. He had suddenly seen Ri Xiang Ye's frigid expression—*No, it isn't Ri Xiang Ye at all!*

"Dark Sun?!" He asked, baffled. *Why is Dark Sun suddenly here?*

"The master's command is to 'return.'" Dark Sun's voice was monotone as he spoke. He slightly cocked his head, his motions as stiff as a robot's.

"Ah Ye? What the hell are you doing?" Ezart questioned, eyes wide.

"Return to protect the master. Return. Protect..."

Dark Sun jerkily staggered past Ezart, as though his limbs were unable to coordinate with each other. At the same time, his mouth constantly repeated the same phrases, like a broken record.

Ezart used a hand to grab Dark Sun's shoulder. By now, even a blind person could see something was completely wrong with the brat. But unexpectedly, as soon as he pulled, he didn't just cause Dark Sun to stop but his entire body toppled backward. Ezart was completely caught off guard. It wasn't until Dark Sun had fallen more than forty-five degrees that he just managed to catch him.

"Ah Ye?"

Ezart adjusted his position and then slowly placed Ri Xiang Ye's ninety-kilogram body on the ground. Then he finally had time to check what had happened.

He only saw that Ri Xiang Ye's eyes were tightly shut and his brows were furrowed. Every now and then his body would twitch.

"What the hell's going on?" Ezart was stumped. He had no idea what this current condition was.

Eventually, Ri Xiang Ye slowly grew dormant. His body stopped twitching, but he didn't open his eyes.

"Ah Ye?" Ezart shook Ri Xiang Ye but didn't get any response. He couldn't help muttering, "This isn't good! Don't tell me he's kicked the bucket?"

He offhandedly picked up Ri Xiang Ye with one arm. Ri Xiang Ye wasn't a light load, but with his current strength, it still wasn't a big deal.

Ezart power walked back to the room where Ri Xiang Yan and the others were.

He had just walked back to the door when he saw Ri Xiang Yan was still sitting in the same spot, his face buried in his hands.

Meanwhile, An Te Qi was fiddling with the corpse by the door. Elia and the others were at a loss. They didn't know what to do.

Ezart shouted, "Hey! Ah Ye's big bro and old man, there's something not quite right with Ah Ye."

"What's happened to Ah Ye?"

Hearing those words, Ri Xiang Yan hastily tidied up his appearance and then stood up. He anxiously walked toward Ezart, frowning as he saw Ri Xiang Ye who was being carried by Ezart. He had gotten halfway there when Ri Xiang Ye suddenly opened his eyes.



"He's awake." Ri Xiang Yan saw that and relaxed.

Ezart looked down at the person he was carrying and faintly felt something was off. *Since when has Ah Ye's expression been so cold? Or is it because he's still mad at his brother?*

*No! This isn't Ah Ye. He's missing that dorky aura. Even if Ri Xiang Ye's mad, he can't cover up that dorky feeling coming out from deep in his bones.* Ezart glanced at him another few times and then bluntly said, "You're Dark Sun."

Ri Xiang Ye, or rather Dark Sun, nimbly leapt out of Ezart's arms to the floor. His posture was just like that of a constantly vigilant leopard. Then he walked over behind his master and stood there, straight and unmoving.

"Ah Ye?" Ezart and Ri Xiang Yan said at the same time.

At this moment, An Te Qi, who had been crouched on the ground fiddling with the corpse, also lifted his head up. He frowned as he assessed Ri Xiang Ye.

"What happened to you?" Ri Xiang Yan hastily turned around. He worriedly grabbed onto his little brother's shoulders. He just wanted to see any sort of emotion on his brother's face. Even tears would be fine!

Hearing the master speak, Dark Sun immediately began to conduct a self-scan. Then he reported, "Parts of the body are damaged. Repairs recommended. Microchip has no abnormalities."

Hearing that kind of response, Ri Xiang Yan was completely frozen.

At this moment, An Te Qi walked over. He reminded, "Tell him to turn off the emotion suppressing switch."

"Is it because the emotion suppressing switch is on? I command you to turn it off! Do you hear me?! Turn it off!"

"Yes, Master."

Dark Sun was silent for a moment. Strings of numbers flashed across his eyes. Finally, he reported, "Report: the emotion suppressing switch cannot be turned off due to Ri Xiang Ye following a prior order by the master. If emotions and commands conflict, emotions are prioritized. As a result, he has voluntarily chosen to turn the emotion suppressing switch on and refuses to turn it off. Forced attempts were unsuccessful."

Hearing that, Ri Xiang Yan was shaken. *How could this be? Ah Ye refuses to turn off the emotion suppressing switch? He doesn't want to have emotions?*

"An Te Qi!" He spun to the doctor at the side and in a panic, shouted, "Hurry and think of a way to save Ah Ye! I swear, I swear with everything I own, no matter the circumstances, I will not kill you!"

An Te Qi reluctantly said, "Even if y-you say so, I don't know what's happening to Ah Ye right now. I can only head back to the lab first and gradually examine him."

But the microchip's workings had always been highly complex. With the current completely conflicting situation, even as Dark Sun's head surgeon, he didn't know what to do.

Seeing that An Te Qi was completely unsure, Ri Xiang Yan felt his heart freeze. He turned his head to look at his beloved little brother. Although he didn't like to see Ah Ye weeping and brokenhearted, he was even more unwilling to see him without any expression just like a robot!

"Was it really that painful? So painful that you gave up your emotions, Ah Ye..."

*Is the Dark Sun in front of me still Ah Ye?*

*No! Of course, this emotionless robot isn't Ah Ye. Then where has Ah Ye gone? He refused to turn the emotion suppressing switch off... Does this mean that Ah Ye won't ever appear again?*

*Ah Ye... Have I destroyed you with my own hands?*

"NOOOOOOOOOO—"

## Afterword: Afterword and Character Introductions

If volume 3 were the final volume, I would probably get beaten up by everyone until Yu Wo becomes Mashed Pota-Wo

.

That's why this isn't the final volume. This isn't the final volume. This isn't the final volume. This really isn't the final volume!

There are still two volumes after this, so don't get riled up and grab weapons to come after me!

In the first two books, even though Ah Ye was slightly rebellious, it was still within the cute boundaries of stubbornness (I think...). In this book, he is truly rebellious.

Really, Ah Ye isn't the obedient type. He started to rebel so soon after leaving the lab. But you can also say that this is recoil from being confined too long. Ah Ye has experienced being imprisoned for too long. He has had enough of it. That kind of feeling!

So, in this book, he has begun to rebel. His fath... I mean, his brother Ri Xiang Yan has begun to experience that children are actually... Wrong again! He has begun to experience that Dìdi won't always listen obediently. He has his own way of thinking and doing things.

When it all comes down to it, *Eclipse Hunter* is all about "the conflict and connection between father and son."

Even though I try to call it a "relationship between brothers," Ri Xiang Yan and Ri Xiang Ye's relationship is more like that of a parent and

child. After all, they have a ten year gap, and Ah Yan was even the one who raised Ah Ye until he was seven.

Volume 3 is the beginning of Ah Ye's rebellion. Volume 4 will be the climax of the rebellion? Though, I can't actually call it the climax. After all, later on during *No Hero*, Ah Ye even runs off to live by himself, angering Ah Yan so much that he fights a cold war with him.

In this book, I sometimes call Ah Ye "Dark Sun" and sometimes "Ri Xiang Ye." I mostly wanted to highlight the change in attitude he has while he's doing something. Sometimes, he's a naïve child. Other times, he's a ruthless robot. This is another conflict, especially when these two personalities are really the same person. How severe might the tug of war be within?

Truthfully, everyone has an Ah Ye and Dark Sun within, an angel on one side, and a devil on the other side. Sometimes, we listen to the angel's advice. Sometimes, we succumb to the devil's temptation. Truthfully, there is no right or wrong, no good or evil.

The angel's conclusion might be a weak one, despite being kind. The devil's conclusion might be the most feasible and keeps casualties to a minimum, despite being cruel.

Even though angel and devil mostly refer to Ah Ye and Dark Sun, they can also be used to describe Ah Ye and Ah Yan.

As the business sovereign at the top of the world, it feels kind of impossible for him to be kind-hearted. Even though I don't want to

admit it, people who are too kind are unable to get by in many places, especially when it comes to money.

To me, Ri Xiang Yan is a good example. Every aspect of humanity has a price in his heart. If the price is right, then he can sell it... The exception being Ri Xiang Ye—his precious darling, his conscience, his weak point.

If he tosses away that concern, he can obviously become even more perfect and completely without any weaknesses. Yet, he's unable to toss it away. He would rather die than suffer the loss! In regards to Ri Xiang Yan, this was the point that I wanted to write the most.

A sovereign whose weakness has been exploited is truly too captivating.

By Yu Wo



### **Afterword for Clearing Things Up (Old Afterword)**

If this were the conclusion to *Eclipse Hunter*, Yu Wo's blog would definitely get a record high amount of traffic. Everyone's resentment would bomb the blog until it crashes!

So, for the sake of my life, Yu Wo wants to quickly clarify here that this isn't the ending. This isn't the ending. This isn't the ending...  
(Repeat this ten thousand times)

*Eclipse Hunter* has gone through these books: Protection, Friendship, and Humanity. What might the next book be?

Dun dun dun dun~~~ It's the legendary "S!"

Come! Take a guess. What S word will it be?

(Yu Wo: Anyone who guesses Superman will be sentenced to death via the Death Scythe!)

When it comes to S, of course it's Study!

After our little Ah Ye experienced humanity's complicated dark side and responded with "I don't understand" countless times, of course he has to begin to study! Otherwise, how will he "understand?"

However, our Ah Ye has already slowly been growing up! Has anyone noticed? Our cute Ah Ye who always went "Ah Ye this Ah Ye that" has now gradually begun to address himself with "I?"

So, after experiencing the dark "H" book, what follows will be the warm Study book! (\*excited\*)

What? You're saying that the ending to the H book was too dark, so the S book that will follow can't possibly start off warmly?

My dear guest, you might not know this, but falling to the depths is the reason that there is space to crawl up! This book has already been so miserable, so how could things not look up after this?

Don't you agree?

Now, let's advertise the next new series (this should be okay?). Yu Wo will have a new series with Spring Publishers called *The Legend of Sun Knight*. The contents will be about revealing the true colors of knights... haha! The series is mainly a lighthearted fantasy about knights. I have excerpts of *The Legend of Sun Knight* on my blog!

Ya Sha is the one drawing the covers again!

I welcome everyone to come to my blog to read the samples (^0^)-~ and I hope you will all like it.

If you want to buy the series, the bookstores, 7-11, and the online bookstore books.com.tw will all have it for sale! (Why do I feel like I'm selling snake oil... XD)



The following are Q&A I received on my blog.

**1. How many volumes will Eclipse Hunter have?**

A: Five to six volumes!

**2. When does Eclipse Hunter usually get released?**

A: Winter and Summer CWTs have the first releases!

**3. Where can I buy Eclipse Hunter?**



A: "The Convention Edition" can be bought in two ways. First, as the name implies, you can purchase it at CWT. The quality of the cover is a bit better, but the contents are the same. Also, many extra items are also sold. Second, you can acquire the convention edition through ordering it online. Extra items will also be sold. Here is the website for that: <http://www.ainsuph.idv.tw/>

As for the "regular edition," you will need to ask your comic book rental stores to order it. Please note, after each initial release, it will take a month for the book to be available, and you will only be able to purchase the book and not any of the extra items.

#### **4. Is there a limited quantity to the "Convention Edition?"**

A: Yes. Currently, the first book, P, and related extra items are all out of print. The second book is still being sold. I don't know if it will be sold out during the summer convention.

If you have any other questions, please come to Yu Wo's blog and ask in the Yu Rice Ball section. Thank you.

Now comes the cruel preview to whet your appetite:

Since our little Ah Ye has hidden away behind Dark Sun, Ri Xiang Yan succumbs to endless guilt.

An Te Qi racks his brain trying to find a solution. Part of it is for Ah Ye, who is like his own child, while the other part is for the sake of his own insignificant life. The longer Ah Ye takes to recover, the frostier Ri Xiang Yan's face gets. If things keep continuing like that, Ri Xiang Yan

will one day lose his mind and forget his promise, opening fire and shooting An Te Qi dead.

As for Ezart, he optimistically fights Dark Sun all the time. Hey! In any case, when the time is right, that brat Ah Ye will definitely show himself!

Elian and the others go to the Ri house to eat once a week. During that time, they have to painfully suffer through the Ice Age playing out across the Sun Emperor's face.

Just what do they have to do to allow Ah Ye to return to an innocent state?

Everyone desperately searches for a solution.

However, the person who wakes Ah Ye is someone completely unexpected...

Also, you haven't forgotten about the missions Dark Sun promised the principal, have you? Just what kinds of missions will be given to him by this no good principal who always treats the students like aliens?

Please look forward Eclipse Hunter, Volume 4, Study. It will be released for the first time at the 2008 Winter CWT!

By Yu Wo



June 2007

## **Character Intros—translated by Trespasserby**

### **[Death]**

Personality in a Nutshell: Will do whatever it takes to win

Occupation: The combat class's repeat student who still has no way to graduate

Appearance: Short black hair, green eyes, and a handsome, somewhat androgynous face

Weapon: Metal boots

Catchphrase: "Winning is everything."

### **[Ah Na Yi]**

Personality in a Nutshell: Shamelessly serving his self-interests

Occupation: Yelan Academy's principal

Appearance: Otherworldly old man

Weapon: Ensnaring words and tricks of the trade

Catchphrase: "Isn't this a great offer?"