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## Chapter 3

### The Animosity From Extermination Of An Entire Family (Part 3)

During the day within a cave at the outskirts of the city, several branches of firewood were burning and making a crackling sound. Inside the small space, the flame was glowing as Wu Ruo Jun gently placed Ruo Xiao onto the hay arranged on the ground and brushed away the hair that was on her face. Even though she had lost consciousness, her fine and elegant eyebrows were still lightly knit together while Ruo Jun softly caressed her face.

In her mind, Wu Ruo Jun had a flashback to the time when the arrows were being shot at her close relatives, when they collapsed on the ground, and when an arrow had penetrated her dad's chest. Ruo Jun's eyes were wet with tears; the tears were flowing down her beautiful cheeks to dampen her plain clothing that were already full of bloodstains and she wept absolutely silently.

Leaning weakly to sit beside the rock wall, Wu Ruo Jun felt that she was inside an icehouse. However, she still did not know why her dad became an enemy and was charged with treason overnight. She did not believe it; she did not believe that her dad was that kind of person. Ruthlessly beating the rock wall with her fist, the tiny stones in the vicinity were falling down and yet, she did not feel any pain at all.

Pulling up her own coarse outer clothing, the blood on her right arm was already dried but the bloodstains would still make people who saw it feel shocked. Tearing some of the clothing into strips, she wrapped several clothing strips on her arm and bit the end of the strip while using her left hand to pull it tightly to make a knot. Due to the force, the

wound was bleeding once more but Wu Ruo Jun put on her outer clothing expressionlessly, as if it was not her hand.

"Dad..."

Until she heard the sound of a mournful yell; then, she revealed her expression.

Wu Ruo Jun took Ruo Xiao into her embrace tightly when the young girl strongly grabbed her older sister's arm as she was crying and shouting: "Older sister! Where is dad? Where is dad!!!"

Her arm that was grabbed by Ruo Xiao felt like it was painfully pricking right into her soul but facing her younger sister's mournful sobbing, she was unable to utter even a single word! She could only let her younger sister keep shaking her arm that was already in pain.

In the end, Ruo Xiao had enough crying and making noise that she fell into her older sister's embrace. Her shaky hand lightly touched her own face. At that time, her dad's blood was sprayed on her face so now Ruo Xiao held her own face and buried it within her older sister's embrace. While Ruo Xiao was sobbing, she choked and wimpered in a low voice: "Dad is really dead, dad is dead!!"

Ruo Xiao was weeping in her embrace, on the verge of losing her voice, and the sound was like a dagger piercing Ruo Jun's heart. Suddenly, an angry feeling bubbled up from her heart and her throat tasted sweet just before Ruo Jun was spitting blood onto the rock wall. The traces of bloodstains within the swaying flame looked terrible and frightening.

Ruo Xiao was startled and hurriedly raised her head. Ruo Jun pressed her younger sister's head back down so she would not see that the rock wall was covered by bloodstains. Ruo Xiao saw the scarlet color on her older sister's lips as she pulled Ruo Jun's sleeve strongly and practically went crazy shouting: "Older sister! Older sister, what

is wrong with you? You can not die, can not die, can not leave Xiao Er alone!! Older sister..."

She was so very afraid!!

Ruo Xiao was almost unable to breathe because of her wailing, so Ruo Jun supported her younger sister with one hand while her other hand sealed her own acupuncture. Using her sleeve to wipe the bloodstains from the corner of her mouth, she secretly adjusted her breathing afterwards. Then she carefully held Ruo Xiao's face with her hand and quietly comforted her by saying: "Xiao Er do not be afraid, older sister is fine."

Grabbing the front of her older sister's clothing without letting go, she stared at her older sister's serene face. Ruo Xiao, with a tear-streaked face, sought reassurance and asked: "Really?" She was really afraid; really afraid that older sister would suddenly leave her just like her parents.

"En." Leaning against the rock wall, Ruo Jun propped herself up and took Ruo Xiao into her embrace as she lightly caressed her hair. Hearing her older sister's heartbeats seemed to give Ruo Xiao some strength. She finally stopped sobbing anymore and slowly, calm settled in. Her hands that were tightly holding onto the clothing lapels were gradually loosened, but she was still not willing to let go.

Seeing that Ruo Xiao had stopped crying, Wu Ruo Jun softly asked: "Xiao Er, let older sister know; what has happened!"

She could not let her dad and mother to die shadily like this. She must know the reason, otherwise she was not their daughter!

Ruo Xiao had already closed her eyes but then tensed her body again once she heard older sister's words. She was gently and uncontrollably trembling as she helplessly answered: "I, I do not know."

Using more strength to pull Ruo Xiao into her embrace even more, Ruo Jun softly said: "Do not cry, let older sister know what you know."

Grasping the front of Ruo Jun's clothing firmly, Ruo Xiao recalled what happened in the past few days. After a good while, she murmured and said: "Mother offered a birthday present for the Empress Dowager, but she did not return in the evening. Afterwards, there was news from the palace saying that mother broke the Late Emperor's ceramic cup. Mother did not want to implicate the family, so she had killed herself. The people from the palace brought mother back home and mother looked like she was sleeping, but her neck displayed a strip of snow white silk. Early that morning, mother combed my hair but by the evening, mother could no longer open her eyes and call me Xiao Er anymore."

Her gentle but strong mother would not kill herself; she would definitely not! Ruo Jun's heart felt a burst of tightness again, so she harmonized her breathing to remove the pain. Ruo Jun was softly patting Ruo Xiao, but she could not control her trembling hand. "Xiao Er, continue talking."

"After dad brought mom back home, he was always dispirited and listless. The day that mother was buried, His Majesty issued an Imperial Decree declaring dad a rebel and took custody of dad. Afterwards, afterwards..."

Every chaotic thing that happened that day made Ruo Xiao tremble in fear. So she curled up her body again, shaking in silence, and did not say anything anymore.

"That is alright, do not say anymore." Ruo Jun could not bear to torture her sister by continuing to remember all of the frightening memories. She would take responsibilities of dad and mom's injustice on her own!

"Go to sleep!" Wiping the tears from the corners of her eyes, Ruo Jun gently rocked her, just like when mother would coax her to sleep in the past.

But Ruo Xiao suddenly sat up and was looking for something from inside her prisoner clothing. She could finally find a very small folded silk in the furthest pocket and gave it to Ruo Jun: "Here it is."

Wu Ruo Jun straightened up her body, took the silk while asking: "What is it?"

Ruo Xiao blankly shook her head to answer: "This was mother's ornamental hair ribbon that dad found when he buried her. Dad only gave it a single glance. When the officers and soldiers were rushing into our home, dad stuffed this inside my clothing so I could keep it away properly."

Ruo Jun looked at the silk that was in her hand. She knew that this was certainly a clue as to why her parents were murdered. Otherwise, dad would not put it in Xiao Er's hand unless he absolutely knew that he would certainly be dead next. Thus, he left this important thing to Xiao Er because even if Xiao Er was killed and her body buried, the silk could also be preserved whereas his corpse would most likely be discarded.

Setting Ruo Xiao down onto the hay, Ruo Jun walked to the side of the bonfire and after harmonizing her breathing several times, she carefully opened the silk.

Looking through the flames, Ruo Jun clearly saw several bloody words that were on the silk.

'Emperor Yong, Long Qu Mu rebelled against the Late Emperor to gain the monarchy, resisted the posthumous edict; the superior nation jade ruler's seal was hidden inside the coffin at Feng Huang Valley - the sacred stone was the key.'

This...

Afterwards, Wu Ruo Jun instantly felt sluggish and finally understood why her parents had to die! Just because mother knew the secret that Long Qu Mu seized the throne, he then punished mother by hanging, made dad bear the fate of a treacherous person, and

even exterminated several hundreds of the people of the Wu family.

Long Qu Mu... Long Qu Mu, I would kill you!

"Ah....." The flame also seemed to feel Wu Ruo Jun's extremely angry outburst, accompanying the sound with blazing fire and making the scene look more beautiful!

Ruo Xiao covered her ears, crouched at the corner, and did not dare to look at older sister's crazed appearance. Inside the cave, the mournful and roaring sound echoed for a very long time!

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Sian's notes:

Oh my gosh, this chapter is so devastating!!! I feel that it's more devastating translating the situation that these two sisters had to deal with! I'm choking and had to stop a few times. 😭😭