## **Divine 1791**

Chapter	1791	Collabo	oration	2
CHUPICI	1//	COHUD	oranon	_

Upon hearing that it would be a performance, Gu Chaoyan and Zhou Huaijin began considering the proposal more seriously. Ouyang Mingjing's plan relied on Phoenix Girl agreeing to work with them.

Although Ouyang Mingjing appeared composed on the surface, internally he was filled with bitter laughter. He had always believed that he would go to Snow Territory as the City Lord and marry Phoenix Girl. However, he hadn't anticipated that he would have to deceive her in order to bring her to Snow Territory, where he would finally meet his future wife.

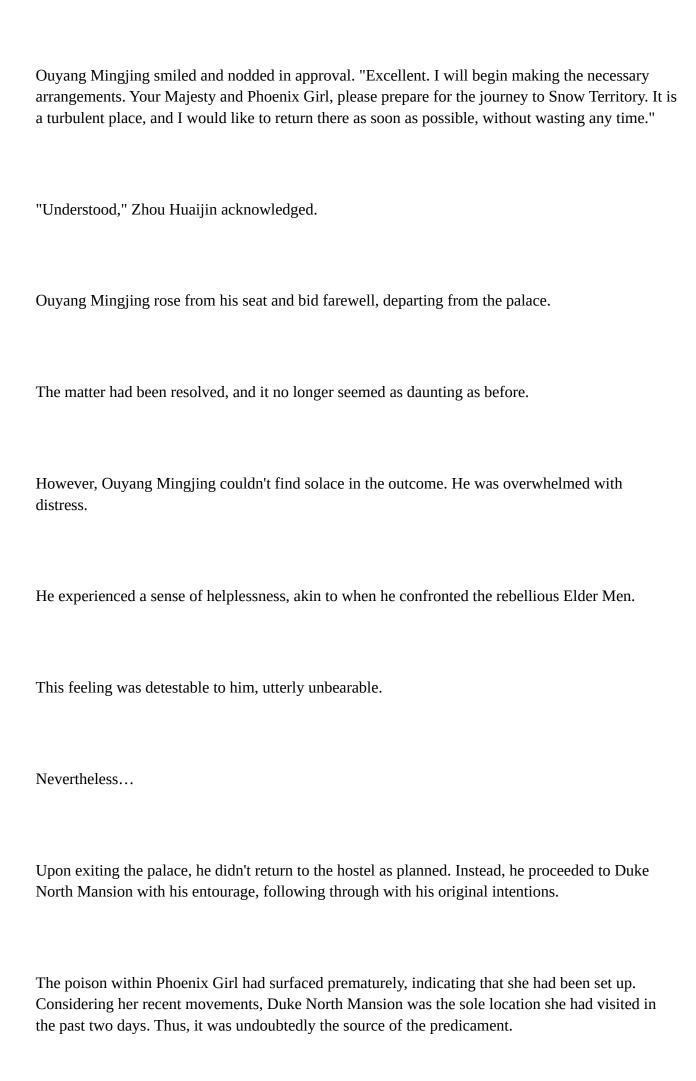
Ouyang Mingjing felt a pang of distress.

As Gu Chaoyan and Zhou Huaijin contemplated the proposition, now aware that it would be a performance, they started to consider the potential arrangement.

Ouyang Mingjing required Phoenix Girl's involvement due to her special social status, while they sought the Fire Lotus that could cure her profound poison.

It appeared to be a proposal worth considering.

After carefully pondering the possibilities, Zhou Huaijin turned to Gu Chaoyan and nodded. "If that's what you require, City Lord, Chaoyan and I will accompany you to Snow Territory. We will assist in stabilizing the situation there in exchange for the Fire Lotus."



His subordinates had conducted a thorough investigation, confirming Duke North's incompetence.
As the leader, Ouyang Mingjing adhered to the principles of the Saint Divine Land, not Snow Territory. He couldn't simply take a man's life at will. Nevertheless, he intended to enlighten that fool about the extent of his own stupidity.
The manager promptly relayed Ouyang Mingjing's arrival at Duke North Mansion directly to Duke North.
Zheng Chenyi was taken aback upon receiving the news.
"Why is he here?" he wondered aloud.
Could it be that he wanted to collaborate, similar to Piaomiao Pavilion?
Zheng Chenyi sneered in response.
Indeed, when one held a certain degree of power, everyone seemed to flock to their side.
Wasn't that precisely what Ouyang Mingjing was attempting to do? Chapter 1792 - Interrogation to Duke North 1
So, if Ouyang Mingjing had intentions of rebellion, this was the perfect opportunity for him.

Moreover, his presence was desperately sought after by the various schools nowadays.
With a confident gaze, Zheng Chenyi glanced at Gu Ruxue, ready to assert that choosing him had been the right decision. Now, even the Head of Snow Territory was personally at his doorstep.
Gu Ruxue was genuinely surprised.
While she had placed some hope in Zheng Chenyi, she had also lost a significant amount of confidence she had when she believed she would marry the Crown Prince. After all, Zheng Chenyi was merely a Duke. Nevertheless, she decided to take the risk; it was always better to take action than do nothing.
But now
The situation had changed.
She even began to believe that their shared goal would come to fruition.
Zheng Chenyi was being sought not only by Piaomiao Pavilion but also by Snow Territory.
Gu Ruxue was well aware that Snow Territory wielded far more power than Piaomiao Pavilion, as their conversations had occasionally revealed.

She showered Zheng Chenyi with flattery and smiled. "Congratulations, Mr. Duke. You are now one step closer to attaining what you desire!"
Zheng Chenyi's previously somber face was now adorned with a smile. "Hahahaha, you know how to flatter people. Don't worry, once I achieve what I want, you will receive your share as well!"
Gu Ruxue's smile gleamed brightly, as if she could already envision herself as the future queen.
"Go and bring him in. I'm eager to have a pleasant conversation with him!" Zheng Chenyi proclaimed proudly.
The City Lord himself had come to their doorstep, sparing Zheng Chenyi the need to personally greet him. All he had to do was wait here until Ouyang Mingjing arrived.
Maintaining a composed demeanor was crucial. After all, the man was coming to him personally!
Growing up in Duke North Mansion, Zheng Chenyi had gained insight into worldly affairs. He understood that sometimes, maintaining a calm composure without compromising one's own status was essential. Only when you respected yourself would others respect you.
Dressed in a moonlight-white blouse, Ouyang Mingjing entered expressionlessly, accompanied by the housekeeper.
Zheng Chenyi put on a hospitable expression. "Welcome, City Lord of Snow Territory. What brings you here?"

Simultaneously, he gestured for his servants to pour the tea. It was imperative for him to maintain an air of arrogance, yet he also needed to show respect to the City Lord of Snow Territory. After all, he required the assistance of Snow Territory.
Ouyang Mingjing disregarded the pleasantries and focused on suppressing his anger as he addressed Zheng Chenyi. "Phoenix Girl paid a visit to your mansion yesterday, didn't she?"
Zheng Chenyi was taken aback momentarily, but swiftly composed himself.
So, Ouyang Mingjing had come to Duke North Mansion to inquire about Phoenix Girl's visit? That made sense.
After all, it was his own accomplishment, wasn't it?
"Yes," Zheng Chenyi replied directly.
"And what did you do under the influence of Piaomiao Pavilion? You drugged Phoenix Girl! She placed her trust in you and never doubted you. But you betrayed her," Ouyang Mingjing interrogated sternly  Chapter 1793 Interrogation To Duke North 2
Chapter 1733 Interrogation to Duke North 2
Zheng Chenyi's expression shifted as he absorbed the words being spoken to him.

He couldn't help but feel a sense of detachment from the outsider's judgment. His interactions with the City Lord of Snow Territory were purely based on their mutual interests and held no relevance to anyone else. He was not obligated to explain himself or be interrogated in such a manner.

However, a subtle discomfort washed over him as he was accused of betraying trust. What was wrong with his actions? From his perspective, he wasn't causing any real harm. The discomfort she would experience was temporary and non-fatal. There was nothing to be afraid of, and he could assure that much.

In fact, he had grand plans for her once she became his wife. He intended to treat her with utmost care and affection, surpassing the treatment she had ever received from anyone else. He envisioned a future where she would be his queen.

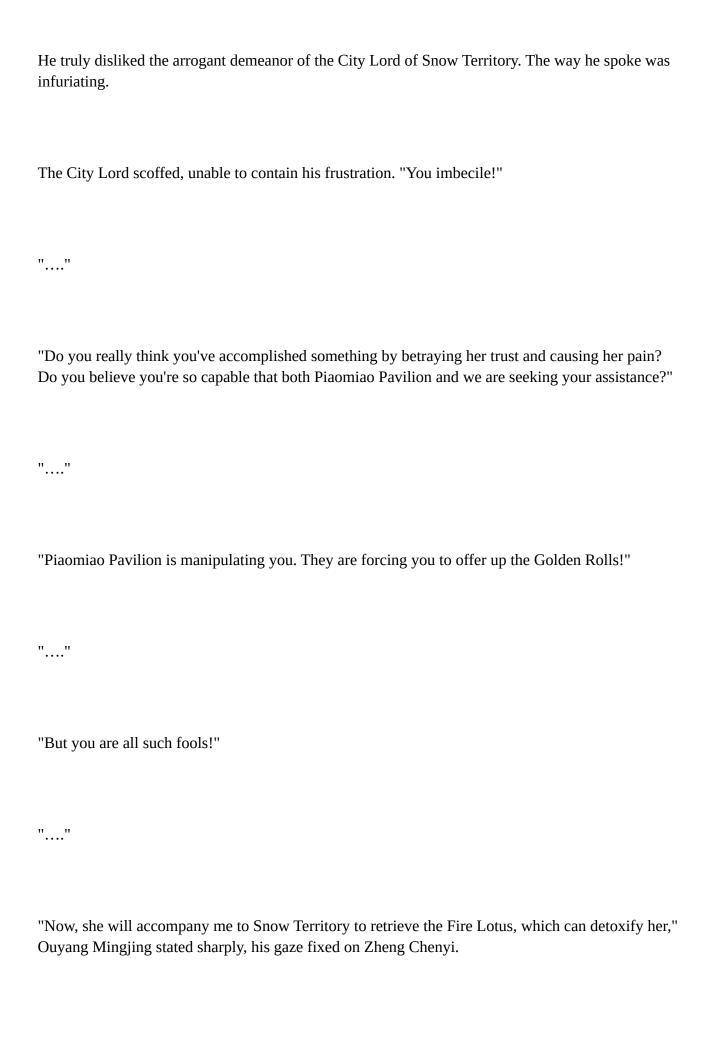
"So what if I did? What right do you have to question me? Who are you to her? You hold no closer connection to her than I do," Zheng Chenyi retorted defiantly.

"...."

"Furthermore, it's clear that you have your own motives for her. I know all about your need for Golden Rolls. We each obtain what we desire by doing what we must. City Lord, what is your true purpose for being here? Speak plainly, without beating around the bush."

"...."

"Piaomiao Pavilion and I have a cooperative relationship. If you have a specific request, just state it," Zheng Chenyi responded with displeasure evident in his voice.



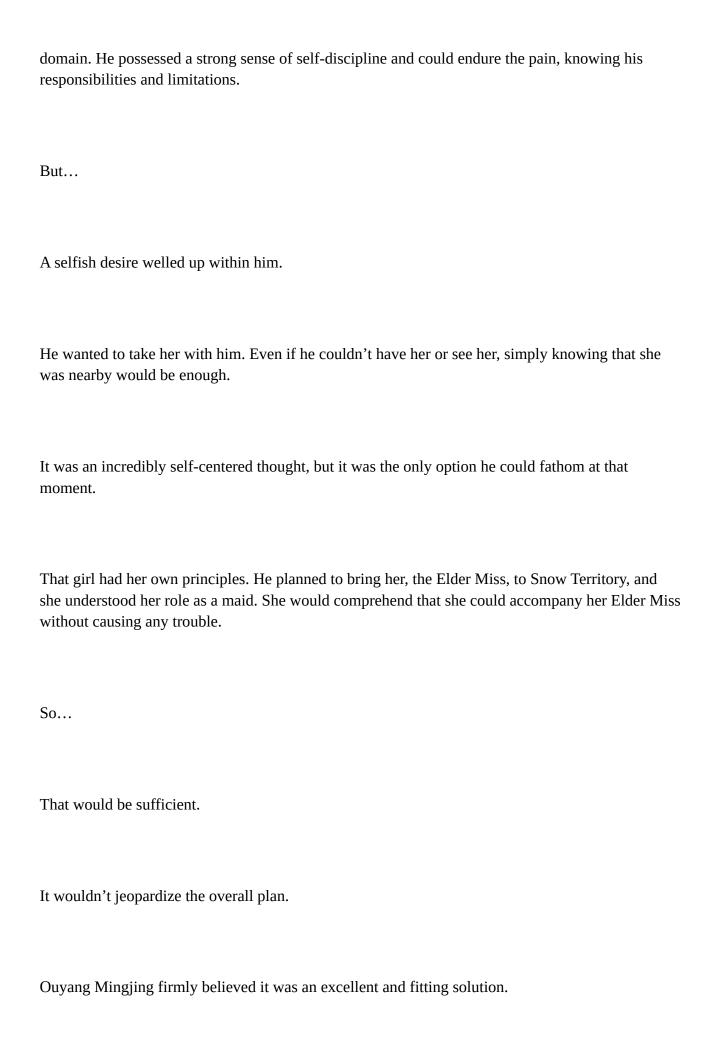
True.
The foolish actions of Duke North inadvertently served Ouyang Mingjing's plans, yet he remained displeased that his future wife had been entangled with such an indecent man.
Driven by frustration, he allowed himself to release his anger, hoping it would bring him some semblance of satisfaction. However, true happiness continued to elude him, leaving a sense of suffocation in his heart.
Yet, as he witnessed the expression of disbelief and misery on the face of the indecent man, a wave of relief washed over Ouyang Mingjing.
"I am the City Lord of Snow Territory, and while I cannot act against individuals in the Saint Divine Land, know that if you continue to harm her, you will face dire consequences!" Ouyang Mingjing snapped, his voice dripping with warning.
Having issued his caution, he turned his attention to Zheng Chenyi. "You would do well to remain in your place and cease your hurtful actions. Otherwise, I will not hesitate to cross the boundary!"
""
"You are unworthy of Phoenix Girl. You simply do not measure up."  Chapter 1794 Interrogation To Duke North 3
Having said this, Ouyang Mingjing turned around and left directly.





Things were falling into place!
Although not perfect, Phoenix Girl had agreed to accompany them back to Snow Territory, which was a promising start.
Once they arrived in Snow Territory
They would be in control.
They would have the power to make all the decisions!
Elder Men left the room to finalize the arrangements.
Meanwhile, Ouyang Mingjing sat alone, a sense of confusion clouding his clear eyes.
The Elder Men were diligently organizing the journey back to Snow Territory, ensuring everything was well-prepared. The prospect of restoring order to Snow Territory should have put his mind at ease, but inexplicably, he felt a lingering unease. Something crucial seemed to be missing.
But what was it that was missing?
Weren't they here primarily for Phoenix Girl?



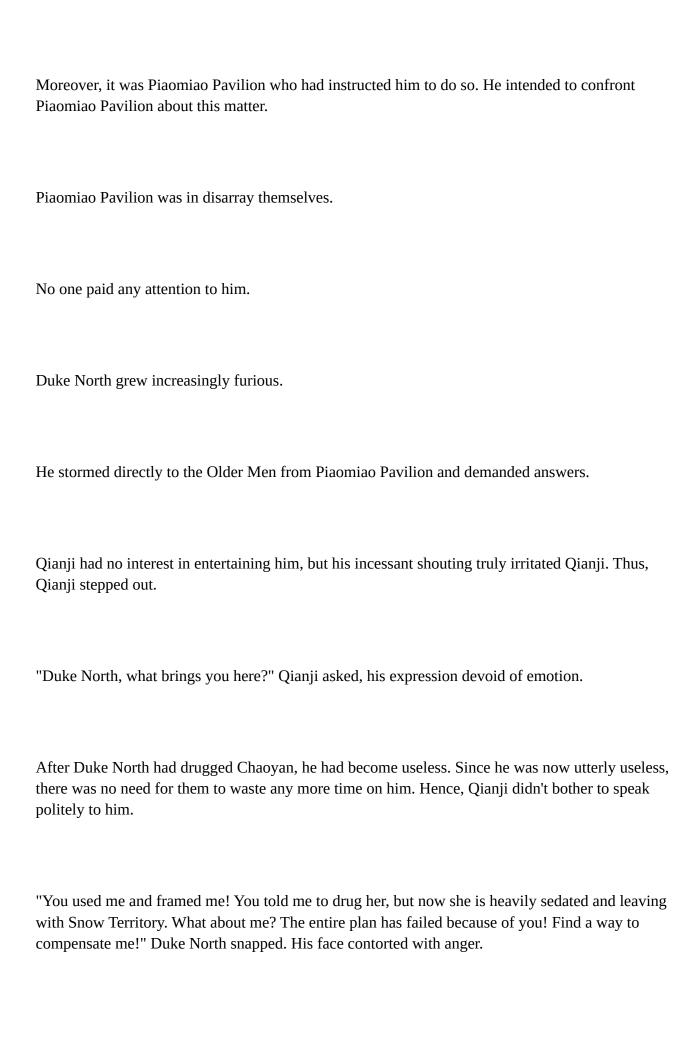


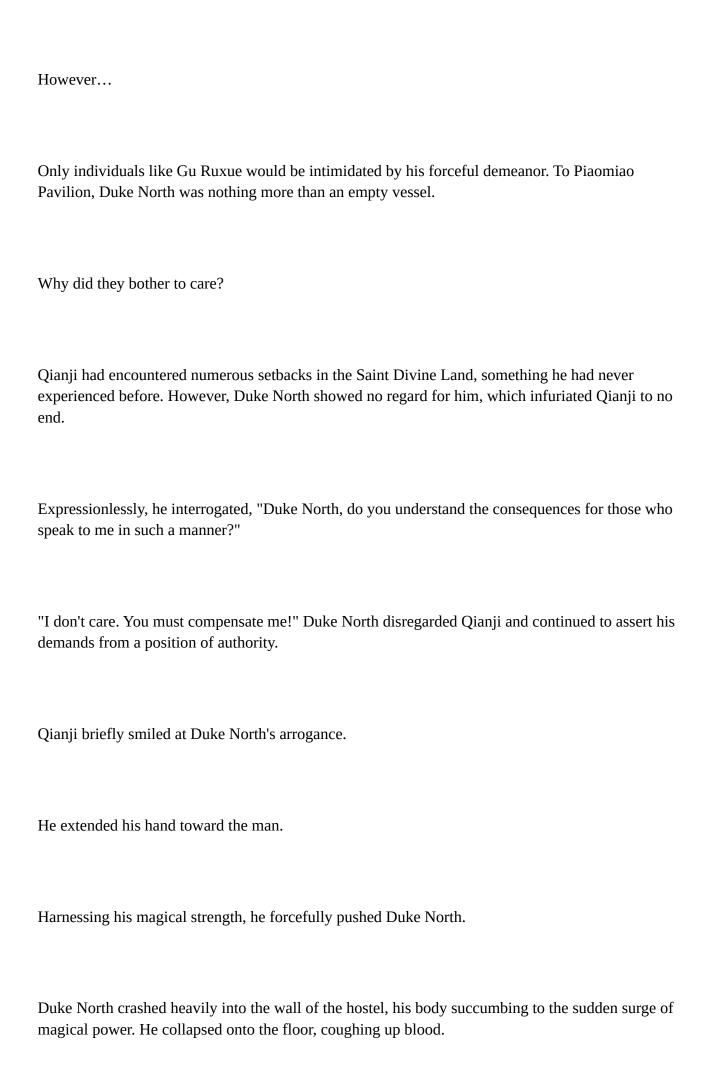
Turning to Longqing, he shifted the conversation away from Piaomiao Pavilion and spoke with a serious tone. "I'm assigning you a mission, but you mustn't disclose it to Elder Men. As far as I recall, Phoenix Girl relocated her maid to the temple. Inform her of this news and let her know before we depart. Additionally, assist her in joining our entourage as a servant. But keep it limited to that. This way, she can accompany us."
Longqing was taken aback by the unexpected plan.
He had assumed the City Lord sought to exact revenge on Piaomiao Pavilion as a way to express his anger for Phoenix Girl. While not the most pragmatic or advantageous strategy, it was still comprehensible. Longqing could have understood such a course of action.
But
The City Lord was talking about the maid serving Phoenix Girl.
The maid who had inadvertently obtained the Acacia beans!
The City Lord had always exhibited great self-control, and they believed he could suppress his emotions as long as the maid remained out of sight. Besides, everyone's focus was on Phoenix Girl, and nothing else seemed to matter.
But evidently, they had underestimated the power of the Acacia beans.

He had contemplated discussing this matter with Elder Men, but it appeared that the City Lord wanted to keep it hidden from him.
Suddenly, he recalled Elder Men's words—that the girl should die when she accidentally obtained the beans.
Chapter 1796 - Revealing News 2
Initially, he believed that the Older Men were excessively cruel in their decision. However, it became apparent that the Elder Men were correct and possessed foresight. If they had acted earlier, the City Lord would never have considered bringing her along, especially since everything was going so well at the moment.
"Don't dwell on this too much; obey my order. I know how to maintain control. I won't jeopardize the overall plan due to selfish desires. If anything goes wrong, I will be the first to end it," Ouyang Mingjing looked directly at Longqing, speaking straightforwardly.
As the City Lord of the Snow Territory, Ouyang Mingjing considered not only the people within the Snow Territory but also those who supported him.
He was fully aware of all the rules and practices.
Upon receiving the City Lord's assurance, Longqing departed immediately.
Just as Longqing left, Ouyang Mingjing sat down and closed his eyes, finally feeling a sense of calmness in his heart.
He couldn't comprehend why he kept thinking about her all the time.

He should have exercised more caution to avoid causing unnecessary trouble.
Regret filled Ouyang Mingjing momentarily, but he quickly dismissed it. What was done was done, and there was no need to dwell on it. Instead, he preferred to focus on devising better arrangements.
Ouyang Mingjing rested for a while, and soon enough, Longqing returned.
Upon hearing the footsteps, Ouyang Mingjing opened his eyes and asked, "How did it go?"
"City Lord, we have already spread the news and assigned one of our men to assist her discreetly. She will surely blend in with the crowd," Longqing informed Ouyang Mingjing in great detail.
Afterward
Longqing remained somewhat unconvinced. He didn't like the City Lord's attachment to her. He truly cared.
Longqing reminded him, "City Lord, if you're not convinced and want her to stay nearby, it's easily achievable. I can keep an eye on her. However, City Lord, please remember that Snow Territory and Phoenix Girl are of utmost importance. Don't jeopardize everything for someone who is unnecessary."
"Longqing, I know what needs to be done and what holds greater significance. If she can quietly stay nearby, I won't delve deeper into it. But if she becomes a disruptive influence, I will show no mercy. Do you understand?" Ouyang Mingjing asserted.

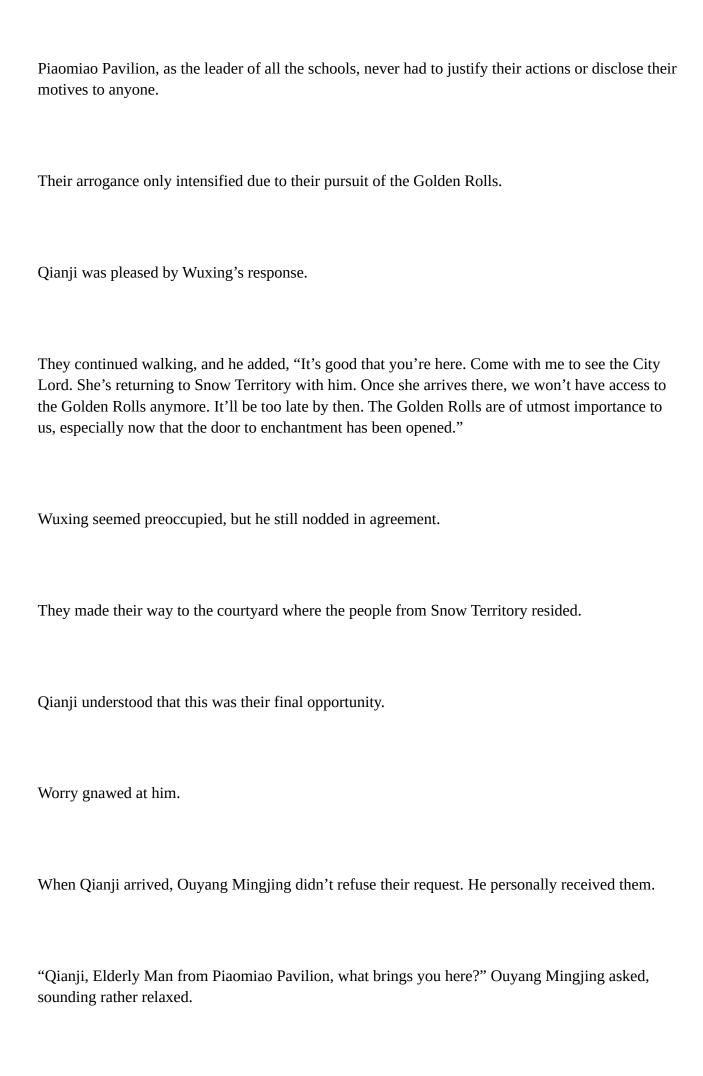
Upon hearing the City Lord's detailed explanation, Longqing started to feel more reassured. He nodded and said, "I understand."
Ouyang Mingjing instructed him to leave the room.
Outside the hostel, there was commotion and chaos as preparations were being made to return to Snow Territory.
In another courtyard of the hostel
Duke North and Gu Ruxue hurriedly entered.
Duke North had personally requested Piaomiao Pavilion's presence, but it appeared that Piaomiao Pavilion had refused. Chapter 1797 Revealing News 3
In this scenario, he had no choice but to appear in person.
He had meticulously planned everything, even drugging Chaoyan. But was this the result he had expected? He was utterly unconvinced.

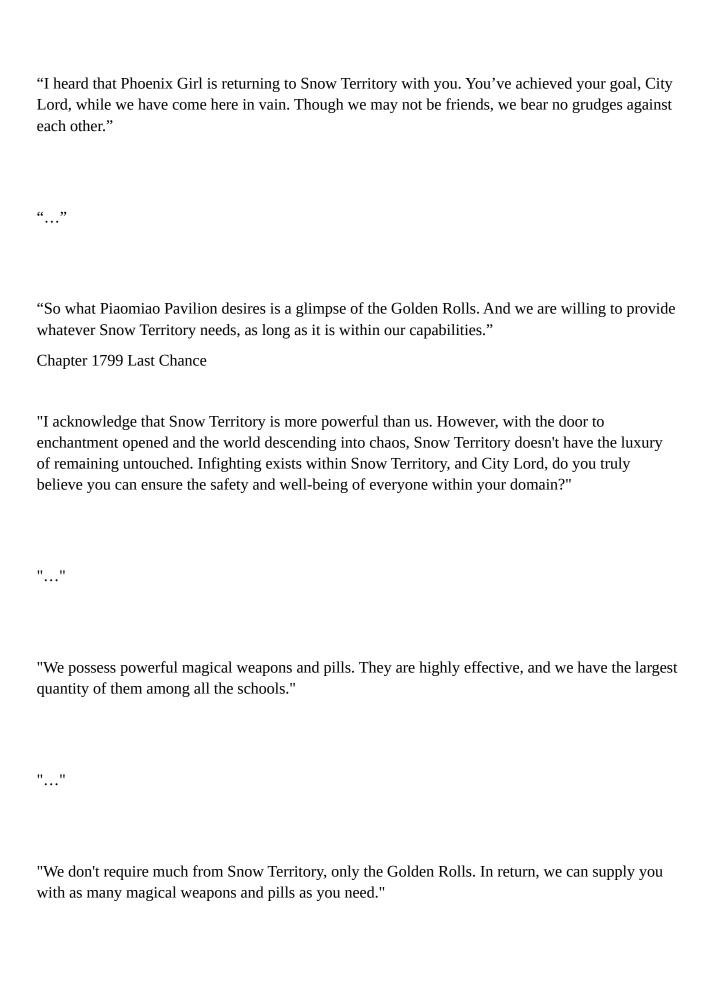




Since drugging himself, he had been relying on the solution as he was not in good condition.
For the first time, he felt death approaching. His internal organs seemed shattered.
Chaoyan.
Duke North's thoughts turned to her, then his breath ceased.
Gu Ruxue was shocked by the scene that unfolded before her.
Duke North had sought refuge with Piaomiao Pavilion, and she had kept him company in hopes of benefiting from his supposed imminent victory. She had sensed that Duke North possessed some abilities and was confident in his success.
But now
Piaomiao Pavilion had treated him as if he were insignificant, snuffing out his life like an ant.
Duke North was dead.
Yet she wanted to survive!

Chapter 1798 - Revealing News 4
She couldn't simply die, even if she couldn't become the Queen.
Survival was her only hope for a future. If she died, there would be no hope for her whatsoever.
Terrified and shaken, Gu Ruxue turned to Qianji. "I saw nothing, absolutely nothing! I came here today because Duke North forced me to! I am just a helpless girl with no other choice! I never intended to harm Piaomiao Pavilion. I was coerced into coming here, I swear!"
" "
"Don't kill me. I pose no threat. I'll leave now. I saw nothing, and I'll keep it all a secret!" Gu Ruxue pleaded fearfully, attempting to flee.
Qianji chuckled, observing Gu Ruxue's reaction.
He had initially planned to kill her as well, but her current state of fright stayed his hand.
What else could she do in her fear?
Would she expose the events of today?
Even if she did, what would it matter?

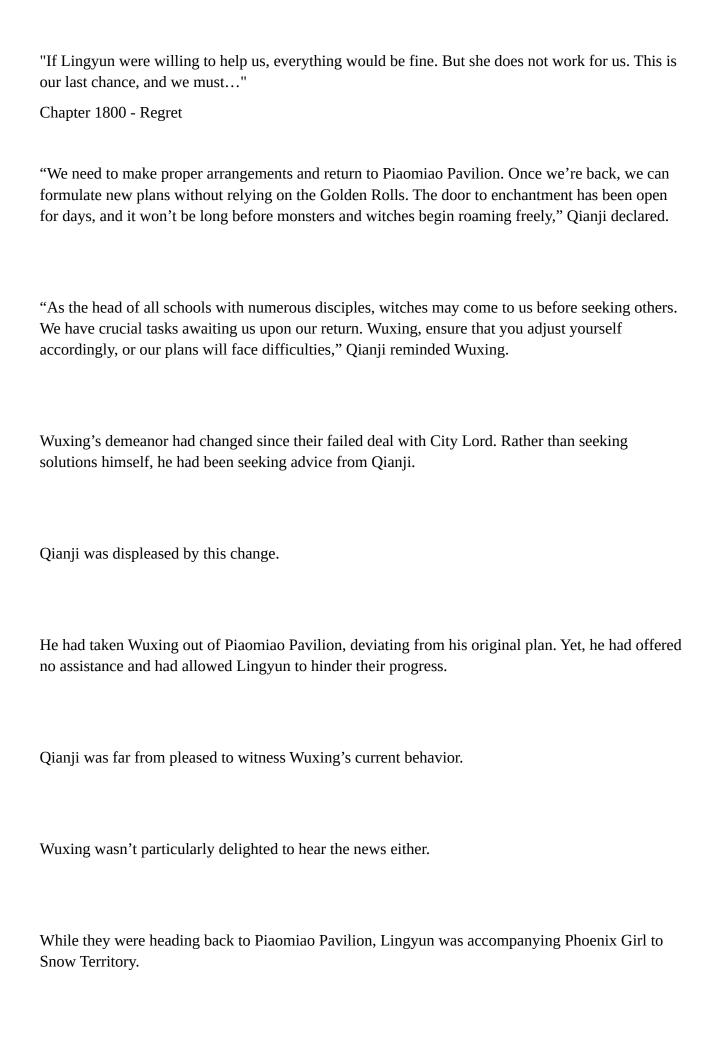




"What are your thoughts on this?" Qianji spoke with unwavering confidence.
Having learned about the infighting within Snow Territory, Qianji had acquired a valuable bargaining chip. He could exploit this information to strike a deal with the City Lord.
It became clear why the City Lord personally went to retrieve Phoenix Girl—it was all connected to the internal strife.
Any faction plagued by infighting would eventually crumble, regardless of its initial strength.
Snow Territory might find themselves desperate for assistance.
Qianji felt assured in his understanding of the City Lord's motivations. He believed he had seen through the City Lord's intentions.
Ouyang Mingjing felt a certain unease as he observed Qianji's manner of speaking, as if he had figured out Snow Territory's objectives. While Piaomiao Pavilion was undoubtedly powerful, they displayed a rather narrow-minded perspective. Such was the nature of the Elder Men and those alike.
Ouyang Mingjing had no interest in collaborating with Piaomiao Pavilion.

Maintaining a composed expression, he responded to Qianji without any emotion, "Qianji, Elderly Man, that is a dreadful suggestion."
""
"Snow Territory has no interest in your magical weapons and pills. Elder Man, please take your leave. We are currently occupied with pressing matters," Ouyang Mingjing stated plainly before turning and making his way back to his inner chamber. He had no intention of wasting any more time with Qianji.
Qianji's confident demeanor faltered upon hearing Ouyang Mingjing's response, and his expression became complex. He was far from pleased, but he exerted great effort to suppress his anger, refraining from displaying it to Ouyang Mingjing. Qianji understood that he could express his anger to certain individuals, but not to everyone—definitely not to Ouyang Mingjing or Phoenix Girl. However, Duke North had been an exception, as he was no longer of use.
With a dismissive wave of his sleeves, Qianji departed in a fit of anger once Ouyang Mingjing was out of sight. Wuxing accompanied him.
Once they were outside, Wuxing inquired, "Elder Man, what should we do? City Lord has shown no interest in working with us!"
Qianji's mood was sour, and he let out a snort while flinging his sleeves in frustration. He replied with anger in his voice, "There's nothing we can do. We can barely decipher the Golden Rolls! Phoenix Girl won't offer us any assistance!"

"..."



Their paths were never going to cross again.
Wuxing knew he needed to have a conversation with Lingyun.
He wasn't angered by Lingyun's revenge plan, as he felt he had already settled his debts with her.
But couldn't they start anew?
What was the point of going through all of this if Lingyun wasn't present?
In truth
Qianji had already noticed Wuxing's absent-mindedness after his speech. It seemed that Wuxing no longer cared about Piaomiao Pavilion or the Golden Rolls.
This irritated Qianji greatly.
How could the senior disciple of Piaomiao Pavilion be so consumed by thoughts of a woman?
"Wuxing, what are you thinking about? I might have to reconsider the tasks I assign to you," Qianji argued.

Wuxing appeared not to hear him at all.
Qianji let out a heavy sigh.
If Wuxing continued to be like this, Qianji would definitely reconsider entrusting him with any further responsibilities.
That's what Qianji believed.
Unaware of Qianji's intentions, Wuxing's thoughts remained fixated on Lingyun who was working for Gu Chaoyan.
Lingyun was living a simple yet happy life alongside Gu Chaoyan. She had learned the art of relaxation, taking time to enjoy moments of tranquility like sipping tea. She no longer burdened herself with excessive work in her room.
Every now and then, Gu Chaoyan would join her for a cup of tea and engage in pleasant conversations.
A few days passed.
According to Ouyang Mingjing's arrangements, it was time for them to depart for Snow Territory.

Zhou Huaijin had been occupied with matters at Shiling Palace, making him scarcely visible. Gu
Chaoyan knew he would return to his room for brief periods of rest, but whenever she was awake,
she found it difficult to catch a glimpse of him.

A sense of regret filled her heart.

Their departure for Snow Territory was imminent, and they would likely be separated for a considerable period of time. Gu Chaoyan had hoped to spend some cherished moments together before their departure, but...