

Divine 1801

Chapter 1801 - Together 1

However...

After their return from Snow Territory, once the poison was detoxified, they would still have ample time to talk and spend quality time together. They could look forward to a peaceful life ahead.

Huaijin was now the King, burdened with the responsibilities of taking care of his people. It was only natural that he had to devote his attention to their welfare.

Gu Chaoyan took a sip of tea, feeling a sense of irritation dissipate.

Setting down the teacup, she noticed a familiar yellow figure approaching.

It was Zhou Huaijin, wearing a smile.

Tomorrow was her departure day, and he had come to bid her farewell.

Gu Chaoyan was about to speak when Zhou Huaijin took a seat and said, "Prime Minister Chu is overseeing matters at Shiling Palace, and General Liu will handle other affairs. Elder Miss of the Chu Family and Ms. Yun are also offering their assistance. Lord Yan will take charge of the court, with Lord Yu's support."

“...”

“I have arranged for two-thirds of the Shadow Door personnel to stay behind, while the remaining one-third will accompany us to Snow Territory.”

“...”

“Everything has been settled. Let’s take a well-deserved rest and depart tomorrow,” Zhou Huaijin concluded with directness.

Gu Chaoyan was taken aback, feeling a surge of surprise.

So, he had been absent these days because he was busy handling court affairs in order to join her on the trip to Snow Territory?

Tears welled up in Gu Chaoyan’s eyes.

Who else in this world would be so considerate and kind to her?

Despite his arrangements, Gu Chaoyan still felt a sense of unease. She spoke up, “You have to stay and govern the country. You don’t need to worry too much about me during the journey to Snow Territory. Having hidden guards should be sufficient.”

Before Gu Chaoyan could finish her words, Zhou Huaijin gently placed a finger on her lips, urging her to stop.

“The throne is important, but to me, you are more important. Doing everything I can for you is what I want in life. I only desire to have you by my side,” Zhou Huaijin expressed to Gu Chaoyan.

For him, if anything were to happen to her, all the efforts put into running a prosperous country would lose their meaning.

Zhou Huaijin was not going to entertain any counterarguments on this matter.

The next day, the people from Snow Territory gathered outside the capital, and Zhou Huaijin joined them, accompanied by one-third of the hidden guards, along with Gu Chaoyan.

But in front of the guards from Snow Territory, these people seemed insignificant, like ants.

Ouyang Mingjing didn't mind or pay much attention. After all, it was the King's prerogative to do as he pleased with his own people.

Ouyang Mingjing glanced at them and signaled to Longqing, “Inform them that it's getting late and we should depart immediately. We can't afford to delay any longer.”

Longqing nodded and went to relay the order.

The curtains of the carriage were drawn back, and Ouyang Mingjing continued to observe. He thought that Phoenix Girl was trying to acknowledge his presence.

Behind the curtains...

Zhou Huaijin nodded in acknowledgment towards Ouyang Mingjing as a form of greeting.

Chapter 1802 - Together 2

Ouyang Mingjing was taken aback by the sight of Zhou Huaijin's face. What was he doing inside the wagon? Was he joining them on their journey back to Snow Territory instead of seeing them off?

Ouyang Mingjing couldn't believe it. Zhou Huaijin had just ascended the throne after years of hard work and efforts. Instead of remaining in the court, he was venturing into the unknown Snow Territory with them?

He had initially thought that assigning a group of people to accompany Phoenix Girl was already going above and beyond his duties. But he had clearly underestimated Zhou Huaijin.

Longqing also noticed the King's presence and shared Ouyang Mingjing's surprise. "Is their King really following us?"

"..."

"City Lord, what should we do? Should we proceed with our original plan?" Longqing asked, seeking guidance.

"Yes, nothing changes with his presence," Ouyang Mingjing replied without hesitation.

With Zhou Huaijin accompanying them, their task was to stick to the original plan and avoid any mistakes. The King's affection for Phoenix Girl could potentially complicate matters in Snow Territory.

After giving the order, Ouyang Mingjing exchanged a nod with Zhou Huaijin as a way of acknowledging his presence. Then he averted his gaze and took the lead.

Piaomiao Pavilion and the Cangyan Door also made the decision to follow them out of the capital.

However...

Despite their presence, the guards from Snow Territory made it difficult for anyone to approach Phoenix Girl or find any trace of Golden Rolls along the way.

Ouyang Mingjing scanned the surroundings before entering the wagon. His gaze fell upon Qing, who was among the crowd. He was pleased that Longqing had done a good job.

Qing couldn't believe that Ouyang Mingjing was looking at her in such a way. She started to question herself, wondering if it was just her imagination.

But...

Just receiving that look from him made her immensely happy. It was enough for her.

That's why she made the decision to follow Longqing's instructions.

As for Elder Miss, she believed that in her next life, she would have the opportunity to repay the debt.

Qing averted her gaze, lowered her head, and moved forward.

If everything went well, she would reach Snow Territory with them and spend the rest of her life there, being able to see him frequently.

Qing's heart skipped a beat with anticipation.

Meanwhile, Gu Chaoyan followed Ouyang Mingjing's guidance, making her way alongside the group.

Ouyang Mingjing appeared to be searching for someone, his gaze scanning the surroundings with purpose. But who was he looking for?

Gu Chaoyan glanced around but soon stopped her search, thinking that it might have been just a casual glance rather than something significant.

The wagons continued to move swiftly, as if worried that Gu Chaoyan might change her mind at any moment.

The group following behind also maintained a quick pace. However, what puzzled Gu Chaoyan was that the wagon remained steady, causing no jolts or bumps for her.

After they had distanced themselves from the capital, a hidden guard from the Shadow Door relayed a message to them.

Sword One, upon hearing the news, returned to the wagon.

“What has happened?” Gu Chaoyan inquired.

“Elder Miss, something significant has occurred in the capital,” Sword One replied, wearing a complex expression on her face.

Chapter 1803 - Revenge 1

Sword One hesitated before speaking to Gu Chaoyan, addressing her as Elder Miss, in accordance with their low-profile identities outside the palace.

Gu Chaoyan’s mind immediately recalled Duke North’s pale face and the somber atmosphere that enveloped Duke North Mansion the last time she visited. It marked the end of their friendship.

As they were en route to Snow Territory, news about Duke North reached Gu Chaoyan, prompting a heavy sigh to escape her lips. She had hoped that Duke North would find success in his position and lead a peaceful life, especially considering the hardships he and his mother had endured.

Lost in her thoughts, Gu Chaoyan was abruptly interrupted by Sword One’s additional information. “The Department of Soldiers discovered Duke North’s lifeless body in the hostel, within the yard where people from Piaomiao Pavilion resided.”

“....”

“The body was left untouched in the yard, showing no signs of a struggle. Duke North’s internal organs were brutally crushed, and there were no other injuries on his body. It appears he was slain with a single lethal strike, likely executed by individuals associated with Piaomiao Pavilion.”

“....”

“Elder Miss, Mr. Head, what should we do about this?” Sword One asked urgently, seeking guidance. “Why would Piaomiao Pavilion target Duke North?”

As Gu Chaoyan pondered Duke North’s fate, memories of their initial encounter flooded her mind. He was just a simple Mr. Duke back then, nearly meeting his end if not for her intervention.

She also reminisced about the time spent with Zheng Chenyi, when he exuded warmth and joy despite her reservations about his mother. They had shared pleasant moments together, and she had hoped to help him overcome his inner darkness.

However, everything changed after his return from the border battle. Zheng Chenyi’s demeanor had taken a somber turn, and Gu Chaoyan had been determined to assist him in finding solace. Yet, now news of his demise arrived all too soon.

“He’s gone?” Gu Chaoyan’s voice carried a cold, resolute tone as she commanded the wagon to halt.

Swiftly, Gu Chaoyan disembarked and mounted her horse, galloping off in a different direction. Zhou Huaijin and their companions followed closely, sensing her intent.

Gu Chaoyan was a woman who cherished her friendships, and it was clear that she intended to seek vengeance against Piaomiao Pavilion.

Sword One and Fu Bao maintained close pursuit, understanding the gravity of the situation.

Meanwhile, the people from Snow Territory remained oblivious to the events that had unfolded, but Ouyang Mingjing took charge, ensuring they came to a stop. However, a commotion erupted around Ouyang Mingjing, plunging the surroundings into chaos.

Chapter 1804 Revenge 2

"Longqing, go and find out what's happening. Why did Phoenix Girl suddenly run off?" Ouyang Mingjing, who had maintained a composed demeanor, now felt a surge of panic. Concern for Gu Chaoyan's well-being weighed heavily on his mind.

However, his worries were not solely altruistic. It was partly due to his own self-serving motives.

The reason Qing accidentally consumed Acacia beans was that Ouyang Mingjing hadn't anticipated Gu Chaoyan's generosity in allowing Qing to share her food. It was a testament to how well Gu Chaoyan treated her servants, considering them as sisters rather than mere maids. Furthermore, Gu Chaoyan had supported Qing and helped her find solace at the temple even after Qing's "betrayal." This demonstrated Gu Chaoyan's genuine care for Qing.

But now...

Could Gu Chaoyan have suddenly discovered Qing's departure from the temple?

If that were the case, it would pose a challenging situation to handle.

Selfishly, Ouyang Mingjing hoped that Qing had followed him back to Snow Territory, rather than remaining here. If Qing was discovered, she would be unable to stay.

Longqing departed to fulfill the order, while Ouyang Mingjing anxiously clasped his hands together, suggesting that the troops take a break while awaiting news and formulating a plan.

Gu Chaoyan, aware of the synchronized movements between Piaomiao Pavilion and Snow Territory, soon caught sight of individuals from Piaomiao Pavilion.

Unaware of Phoenix Girl's purpose for being there, members of Piaomiao Pavilion were perplexed.

Meanwhile, Qianji inside the wagon also became aware of Phoenix Girl's approach, adding to the unfolding situation.

Darkness suddenly dissipated from Qianji's face. Was Phoenix Girl harboring regrets or seeking to establish an alliance by offering Golden Rolls?

That would have been a remarkable turn of events!

Qianji forcefully struck his legs, signaling for the wagon to halt.

Stepping out of the wagon, Qianji approached Gu Chaoyan, who was riding towards them.

Not far away, the Cangyan Door, though uninvolved, noticed the unfolding situation. Sensing a potential connection to the Golden Rolls, they decided to pause and observe.

"Hello, Phoenix Girl, what brings you here?" Qianji greeted with a friendly smile, showcasing his adept social skills.

"I have a few inquiries," Gu Chaoyan responded, her expression devoid of emotion but emanating a hint of sharpness. Her gaze remained fixed on Qianji. "Duke North's lifeless body was discovered in the yard where you were residing. Piaomiao Pavilion, it is imperative that you provide an explanation. It was Duke North who perished, but innocent lives should not be destroyed in this manner."

"..."

"If you don't tell me what is going on, Piaomiao Pavilion should never be allowed to leave our territory." Gu Chaoyan interrogated.

Qianji's joy disappeared.

He had thought that she was here to talk about Golden Rolls and alliance.

Chapter 1805 - Familiar Look

Qianji hadn't anticipated that the truth would differ from his initial expectations.

How absurd!

That imbecile had drugged her and caused her harm.

“It’s his own problem that he died. Why should it be our concern?” Zhao Dier shouted, clearly displeased with Gu Chaoyan’s involvement. “D was...”

Zhao Dier was about to reveal that Duke North had deserved his fate when Qianji swiftly interrupted her. His voice carried a dark tone as he interjected, “Duke North did approach us, seeking collaboration. However, we had nothing to offer him, so we turned him away. We never anticipated that he would encounter such an unfortunate incident. It’s possible that someone from Piaomiao Pavilion is responsible. I will investigate this matter thoroughly. Please grant us some time.”

Taking charge of the situation, Qianji assumed responsibility.

He pulled Zhao Dier away as he addressed her, moving towards their disciple. “Lady Dier, refrain from divulging any potentially incriminating details. Duke North did drug Gu Chaoyan, but he is now deceased. If you reveal everything, Phoenix Girl will hold us accountable for what occurred.”

“... ”

“We may not possess the Golden Rolls, but we must avoid becoming enemies of Phoenix Girl. It simply isn’t worth it,” Qianji emphasized, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a favorable relationship with Gu Chaoyan.

He had lost his greatest hope and felt a profound sense of distress. However, he had no choice but to suppress those emotions in order to ensure that everything proceeded smoothly.

Gazing at his disciples, he motioned for one of them to approach his side.

Taking the chosen disciple with him, he approached Gu Chaoyan.

The disciple had no inkling of the situation. He believed that Elder Man had summoned him for something auspicious, perhaps an opportunity for a promising future.

As the disciple stood before Gu Chaoyan, Qianji exerted his power, instantly striking the disciple who collapsed lifeless in front of Gu Chaoyan before he could even utter a question.

“Duke North and this disciple had a conflict. Duke North used his power to kill him. Now, this is the culprit, and his life has been forfeit,” Qianji stated. “If you’re not satisfied, Phoenix Girl, I can offer more disciples to atone for it. It’s the only way I can make amends.”

Gu Chaoyan’s lips parted, ready to voice her inquiries.

However, she chose not to confront Qianji.

It was a fair outcome, given that Duke North had willingly entered the hostel, initiating the chain of events.

But...

Gu Chaoyan sensed that there was something more to the situation.

Zhou Huaijin tugged at Gu Chaoyan's arm, exchanged a few words with Qianji, and swiftly concluded the matter concerning Duke North.

A sigh of relief escaped Gu Chaoyan's lips.

Chapter 1806 - Into Snow Territory 1

She resembled Qing, with her delicate features and graceful demeanor. However, Qing should not have been present at that moment; she was supposed to be at the temple. Gu Chaoyan couldn't understand how she could have missed Qing, who had faithfully served her for so many years.

But...

Just as Gu Chaoyan was about to investigate further, Ouyang Mingjing approached her, concern evident in his eyes. "What's going on?" he asked.

Gu Chaoyan shifted her gaze towards the girls from Snow Territory, who bore a striking resemblance to each other. None of them was Qing. Perhaps her vision had deceived her, and it was all a blurry illusion.

Putting aside her thoughts, Gu Chaoyan turned to Ouyang Mingjing and spoke calmly, "There seems to be a lingering dispute between the Saint Divine Land and Piaomiao Pavilion, but we have resolved it amicably. It's nothing serious."

“....”

Ouyang Mingjing showed a gentle smile intact as he nodded. “No need to apologize. Let’s continue.”

Gu Chaoyan acknowledged his understanding with a nod, grateful for his reassurance.

Back in the wagon, Gu Chaoyan couldn’t shake off her confusion. She turned to Sword One and asked, “Sword One, did you notice a girl among the ones from Snow Territory who resembled Qing?”

“Elder Miss, no, I didn’t see anyone like that. Could it be that you’re feeling unsettled because we’re leaving?” Sword One inquired.

Gu Chaoyan glanced at Zhou Huaijin, who shook his head in agreement. He hadn’t noticed anything unusual either.

Relieved by their responses, Gu Chaoyan concluded that she must have been mistaken. Qing had made arrangements to stay at the temple after recent events, and Sword One had ensured her safety. There should be no reason for her to be anywhere else but the temple. Gu Chaoyan realized that her own anxiety had caused her to overthink the situation, likely due to the shock of Duke North’s unexpected demise, which she was still struggling to come to terms with.

Deciding to put the matter aside, Gu Chaoyan returned to her wagon, pushing the thoughts from her mind. They had a journey ahead of them, and dwelling on uncertain sightings wouldn’t be productive.

And so, they continued on their way.

As they traveled, Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but notice the stark contrast between the people from Snow Territory and their own group. It seemed as though the Snow Territory individuals possessed an otherworldly power, allowing the wagon to move swiftly yet steadily.

Typically, the journey from the capital to the border would take five days, even with the fastest horses. However, the group managed to depart from the Saint Divine Land's boundaries in just two days. It was an astonishing feat. Even the concealed guards from Shadow Door felt a sense of awe, realizing that their own well-honed skills would pale in comparison.

The abilities of the Snow Territory group were truly exceptional.

They had just been pondering over their recent observations when they arrived at an exceedingly peculiar location.

In this moment...

Longqing halted and turned to address Ouyang Mingjing. "City Lord, we are now at the very border of Snow Territory. We should be cautious and prevent these outsiders from discovering the entrance."

"...."

"Perhaps we should consider devising a solution..." Longqing hesitated as he voiced his concerns.

Ouyang Mingjing regarded Longqing with a composed expression. It was evident that he remained unruffled by the situation. He replied softly, "The border of Snow Territory is not a complete enigma to everyone."

Chapter 1807 - Into Snow Territory 2

"Numerous individuals have unintentionally entered, and many have come seeking to prove their prowess. What does it matter? Even highly skilled warriors have found themselves trapped within Snow Territory, enduring starvation and freezing to death."

"They may know the entrance, but they cannot safely navigate their way out of Snow Territory on their own."

"...."

"Longqing, you have given this matter excessive consideration," Ouyang Mingjing calmly addressed Longqing. It was evident that he didn't fully comprehend the reasons for Longqing's worries.

Longqing shouldn't have even entertained such thoughts.

Ouyang Mingjing shook his head subtly.

Longqing understood the implications of Ouyang Mingjing's words. He was aware of it himself. However, he simply wanted to exercise caution. Phoenix Girl and the King from the Saint Divine Land didn't appear to be easy individuals. It was always better to remain vigilant. Snow Territory had changed, and conflicts were prevalent. He didn't want any mistakes that could negatively impact the people in Snow Territory.

But upon hearing the City Lord's response, Longqing felt his concerns dissipate.

He returned to his own wagon.

They embarked on their journey into the vast realm of Snow Territory.

Their progress was swift.

Moments ago, the people on Gu Chaoyan's side had witnessed mountains in every direction. Yet, as they stepped into this particular cluster of mountains, what lay before them was not more mountains or a sprawling landscape, but a sea of white snow. The white expanse seemed endless, with distant snow-covered peaks punctuating the pristine whiteness.

Turning back to look, they could still see the green mountains they had left behind. However, the stark contrast with the snow-capped mountains ahead created an illusion of an invisible barrier dividing the two sides in a peculiar manner.

The sight left them all in awe.

It was an incredibly sensational experience, something they had never witnessed or learned about before. Beyond the three countries they were familiar with, there lay uncharted territories in this vast universe.

Even Gu Chaoyan couldn't resist the temptation and pulled aside the curtain to steal a glimpse outside.

Zhou Huaijin's demeanor stiffened as they ventured deeper into Snow Territory. In a hushed tone, he beckoned Fu Bao and whispered, "We have now entered Snow Territory's realm, an unknown land to us. The whiteness ahead might lead us to an entirely snowy domain. No one knows what awaits us. Fu Bao, inform our concealed guards to exercise extreme caution. Remind them of the entrance and remain vigilant for any potential ambush."

"..."

"We may have reached an agreement with the City Lord, but we cannot predict the actions of his subordinates towards the Phoenix Girl and us in Snow Territory. Their land is exposed, and we cannot assume safety."

"...."

"Remain cautious in the face of the unknown. Understand?"

Fu Bao nodded in acknowledgment and swiftly departed on his horse to relay the message to his comrades.

In addition...

Chapter 1808 - Into Snow Territory 3

Also, as they ventured further into the snowy land, Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but feel an intense coldness seeping into her bones. It seemed as though she was on the verge of freezing.

Initially, she attributed it to her body adjusting to the new environment. However, as they continued marching forward, the chill became overwhelming, almost causing her to collapse.

Instinctively, Gu Chaoyan sought warmth by embracing Zhou Huaijin, her voice barely a whisper. “I’m so cold.”

Cold?

Zhou Huaijin was taken aback.

He had already provided her with a fox-fur wrap, concerned about the cold weather.

But evidently, it was insufficient.

Chaoyan was already layered in multiple garments and had heated items with her.

“Sword One, prepare the coal basin and bring it to the wagon. Fetch thick blankets, a hand-kettle—everything!” Zhou Huaijin’s voice carried a note of urgency, yet he efficiently issued the orders.

He held Gu Chaoyan tightly in his embrace.

Everyone came to a halt as Sword One swiftly made the necessary arrangements.

Soon, everything was ready.

Gu Chaoyan felt a sense of relief, and she gradually relaxed as the warmth surrounded her.

When the troops came to a halt, Ouyang Mingjing approached them from his own contingent. Instead of entering the wagon, he spoke to them from outside. “In Snow Territory, it snows all year round, and the snow never melts. Consequently, it is much colder here compared to other places.”

“...”

“We, the inhabitants of Snow Territory, have acclimated to the weather and possess magical abilities that shield us from the cold. It feels the same to us as any other region.”

“...”

“However, it’s evident that you are not accustomed to these conditions. So we can take a break here for you to adjust. Once you feel ready, let us know, and we can resume our journey.” Ouyang Mingjing conveyed his message succinctly.

After some time...

Gu Chaoyan inquired, “How much longer until we reach the towns?”

“They are located in the heart of Snow Territory, the coldest area of all. It will take another ten days for you to reach there,” Ouyang Mingjing responded from outside the wagon.

This meant that without the troops, the travel time would be considerably shorter.

Such was the disparity.

The hidden guards might be skilled, but they lacked experience. They would struggle to adapt to this harsh environment and might even have difficulty finding their way back to the entrance.

Gu Chaoyan wasn't in a rush to reach the towns. She wished to allocate more time on the journey, allowing the hidden guards to familiarize themselves with the route.

“That's alright. We are not accustomed to the weather here, so we can proceed at a leisurely pace. Additionally, could we stop here for a brief break? I'm hungry and would appreciate some tea and hot food,” Gu Chaoyan requested.

Ouyang Mingjing hesitated.

They had stopped to equip Phoenix Girl with tools to protect against the cold.

Now...

Chapter 1809 - Into Snow Territory 4

Gu Chaoyan's request for a break and the need for food would consume a significant amount of time. Moreover, they were currently at the entrance to Snow Territory, which was not an ideal place to linger.

However, Gu Chaoyan and Zhou Huaijin's actions did raise some concerns for him.

Observing Gu Chaoyan bundled up in thick clothing and blankets, with only her eyes exposed, while her maid prepared the coal basins, he pondered for a moment and realized that perhaps he had overthought the situation.

He nodded. "Very well, we will take a break here."

He then informed his troops of the decision to pause and rest.

Gu Chaoyan glanced outside the wagon, her gaze falling upon the mountains beyond the realm. This location was ideal for the hidden guards of Shadow Door to leave their marks.

Looking at Zhou Huaijin, she instructed, "Summon Fu Bao. I have a few words to share with them."

Zhou Huaijin relayed the order in a hushed voice.

Soon, Fu Bao arrived.

Gu Chaoyan inquired, without adding anything, "Does anyone remember the entrance?"

A troubled expression appeared on Fu Bao's face.

Shadow Door had always been an unbeatable force across the four countries. Nothing could easily trouble them, and even if challenges arose, they swiftly devised solutions.

But...

They had discussed this matter before and never arrived at a satisfactory solution.

Fu Bao shook his head. However, now that the troops were taking a break, they had more time to contemplate the issue.

But Gu Chaoyan anticipated that they hadn't made any progress.

It was the first time Shadow Door had encountered such a problem and remained unable to find a solution even after an extended period of time.

Snow Territory was an enigmatic and unfamiliar place for them.

The techniques and methods they employed outside the snowy region were ineffective here.

“Summon Lingyun,” Gu Chaoyan instructed, wrapping the blankets tighter around herself as she spoke. She still felt an intense chill.

Fu Bao complied with the order.

Just as the tea was ready, Fu Bao approached her. Lingyun had used the snow water from Snow Territory, enhancing the flavor of the tea.

Fu Bao’s eyes brightened upon hearing the suggestion.

He had spent hours discussing potential methods with the hidden guards, hoping to find one that would be effective in Snow Territory. However, none of the approaches they had used previously seemed to work in this unfamiliar land.

Chapter 1810 - Into Snow Territory 5

When they were contemplating their options, Elder Miss immediately found the solution.

The vast land offered no trees or surfaces to leave marks, but their sense of smell could be utilized.

Fu Bao was astonished. “Elder Miss, that’s a brilliant idea! Why didn’t it occur to us?!”

Following that...

Fu Bao was deeply moved.

It was the duty of the hidden guards to escort her, just as they had undertaken various tasks in the past. Elder Miss, known as Phoenix Girl, was impervious to harm, yet she still concerned herself with helping the hidden guards.

The landscape ahead was completely blank, and moving forward would lead them into towns belonging to the Snow Territory, effectively trapping them in someone else's territory.

Everything appeared to be going smoothly for now, but the possibility of conflict loomed.

However, Elder Miss had already anticipated this when they first entered the Snow Territory.

What else could they possibly complain about when they had such an exceptional lady to serve?

The hidden guards of Shadow Door had assisted their leader in establishing the organization. Initially, they harbored doubts and were not particularly pleased when Elder Miss received the authority token. However, any lingering grievances had now dissipated, and they felt immensely grateful to her.

"Let's try to maintain a low profile to avoid attracting attention from people in the Snow Territory. leave it to me and Lingyun only," suggested Fu Bao upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's information.

Gu Chaoyan nodded in agreement, giving her approval to the suggestion.

She then instructed Sword One to prepare some food near Fu Bao and Lingyun, ensuring that they wouldn't draw unnecessary attention.

After placing the order, Gu Chaoyan returned to the wagon. Standing outside, she felt a sharp pain from the wind blowing against her.

Just as Gu Chaoyan turned around, she had a sense that someone familiar was watching her. Feeling slightly surprised, she looked around but found no one in sight.

Initially, Gu Chaoyan questioned her own perception, thinking she might have made a mistake.

However, she had learned to trust her instincts. She was certain that someone she knew was indeed watching her!

But who could it be?

Before Gu Chaoyan could dwell on it further, she saw nothing but an expanse of whiteness. She sighed and made her way back to the wagon.

Meanwhile...

It was Qing.

But Elder Miss nearly caught sight of her.

Qing was on the verge of revealing herself when she was abruptly pulled away.

She was so anxious that she failed to register who had intervened.

Taking a moment to compose herself, Qing lifted her gaze and saw who stood before her.

It was Ouyang Mingjing.

Taken aback, Qing exclaimed, "What are you doing here?!"

"If you want to safely reach the Snow Territory, refrain from doing anything foolish like this," Ouyang Mingjing sternly cautioned.