

## Divine 1811

### Chapter 1811 - Into Snow Territory 6

Qing was on the verge of fainting when she unexpectedly came face-to-face with Ouyang Mingjing. Being so close to him made her incredibly nervous. This was a situation she had never anticipated.

This sudden surge of happiness left Qing breathless, rendering her unable to respond to Ouyang Mingjing's questioning.

Ouyang Mingjing felt a pang in his heart as he observed her state.

Despite consuming Acacia beans, she still longed for her Elder Miss. That's why she kept seeking glimpses of Gu Chaoyan.

He had noticed this habit of hers from the beginning. Initially, he didn't deter her because he empathized with her plight. It took great courage for her to follow the troops to this unfamiliar place all by herself.

He did it for his sake.

Thus, Ouyang Mingjing permitted her to seek out her Elder Miss.

However, in this moment...

Phoenix Girl had nearly spotted her, which alarmed Ouyang Mingjing. He worried that if Qing drew attention, their plan to enter the Snow Territory might be jeopardized.

He didn't want any complications with the plan at this crucial juncture. That's why he questioned Qing, a hint of displeasure coloring his tone.

But afterwards, he realized that her actions were merely a result of his own allowance.

Ouyang Mingjing composed himself and spoke in a firm tone, "Do not engage in such foolish acts anymore. Phoenix Girl is more perceptive than others, and she will easily discover your presence."

Qing didn't quite grasp Ouyang Mingjing's intention.

Unhappily, she replied, "Elder Miss is sensitive to the cold. She will suffer greatly in this place. I have served her before, and when I'm not around, I can't help but feel anxious!"

She didn't want anything untoward to happen to Elder Miss.

Sword One was also cautious, but as a martial artist, she might not be as vigilant as Qing herself.

As for Lingyun, Qing had no knowledge of how well she would take care of Elder Miss.

Her worries were genuine.

Ouyang Mingjing felt as if a bucket of cold water had been poured over him. He swiftly regained his composure and added, "Just... take care of yourself."

He felt himself drifting away when Phoenix Girl made the decision to return to the Snow Territory alongside them.

In that moment, he even forgot his own identity, simply caught up in the company of this servant.

That fundamental difference between them was what made their union impossible.

Afterwards, Ouyang Mingjing found himself in a foul mood.

He despised losing control of himself in such a manner.

With that, he left Qing, who was still lost in her reverie.

Ouyang Mingjing resolved to check on Phoenix Girl's well-being, and if she was doing fine, they could proceed.

But suddenly...

A moderately sized snow mountain collapsed.

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The hidden guards from Shadow Door, along with Gu Chaoyan and Zhou Huaijin, were all startled by the sudden collapse.

The snow mountain hadn't been particularly large, and the weather seemed fine. Yet, it unexpectedly crumbled.

The hidden guards swiftly surrounded Gu Chaoyan, intending to protect Elder Miss from any potential danger...

But then, they noticed Ouyang Mingjing standing right in their midst, employing his power to create a barrier, shielding them from the falling snow.

The thunderous noise abruptly ceased. However, the snow on the ground grew thicker, forming numerous snowdrifts that made walking arduous.

Fear gripped them all as they witnessed the scene.

The collapsing snowy mountain was terrifying, and so was the City Lord.

He single-handedly halted the snow mountain's descent through sheer force. It was truly awe-inspiring!

Meanwhile, the hidden guards from Shadow Door finally understood why Elder Miss consistently sought contingency plans for their sake and expressed concern for them. Their skills and abilities significantly differed from those in the Snow Territory.

They glanced at the verdant mountains not far away, contrasted with the boundless expanse of snow. It was evident that challenging times lay ahead for them.

Such were the thoughts that silently occupied the minds of the hidden guards.

Ouyang Mingjing wore a gentle smile as he approached Gu Chaoyan, seemingly unaffected by the recent events. “You inquired about the remaining duration before reaching the city. I informed you that it would take ten days. Although Snow Territory is not vast, the environment is far from pleasant. The snow mountain’s collapse has created numerous obstacles, requiring us to adjust our plans.”

“...”

“This is the reason for the extended time.”

“...”

“However, there’s no need to worry. We have guards here to protect you from any potential snow collapses.” Ouyang Mingjing offered a brief smile.

Well...

That was precisely why Ouyang Mingjing harbored no complaints when Zhou Huaijin and his men were present.

In this snowy setting, they would find themselves utterly incapable.

Ouyang Mingjing derived a certain satisfaction from witnessing their struggles.

He couldn't change the circumstances with Phoenix Girl back in the Saint Divine Land, and now, they both shared a sense of helplessness.

Gu Chaoyan gazed at the mountains that had formed due to the snow, her expression displaying a mixture of complexity and seriousness.

Well...

She had overlooked this aspect.

Winged spindles could endure the snow, leaving behind detectable traces if one paid close attention.

However...

If the snow mountains collapsed, there was little they could do.

And what Ouyang Mingjing was implying was that the mountains collapsed frequently, transforming into small hills each time. Consequently, the terrain constantly changed.

In their current situation, they had to adhere to the routine of the Snow Territory inhabitants.

Gu Chaoyan felt a deep sense of concern.

However, she concealed her worries, her face showing no signs of distress. “So, are we going to adjust our route soon?”

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Ouyang Mingjing nodded and spoke calmly, “We will take a detour, which may cause a slight delay, but hopefully the road ahead will improve.”

He observed Gu Chaoyan, bundled up in thick blankets, as she continued to suffer from the cold.

Gazing into the distance and then back at Gu Chaoyan, he remarked, “As we approach the city center, it will only get colder. Those measures won’t be as effective then.”

While speaking, he cast a casual glance at Zhou Huaijin.

He knew one thing for certain –

During their journey, Zhou Huaijin had made numerous arrangements and preparations, but he never bothered to provide them with any reminders.

Phoenix Girl should rightfully be his wife, not the Queen.

He could acknowledge that among all the inexperienced individuals, he himself stood out remarkably. Yet, he still felt unworthy of Phoenix Girl's presence.

However, when Phoenix Girl was around, he found himself unable to take any action against Zhou Huaijin.

But as they drew nearer, he would ensure that this man fully comprehended his own insignificance.

Just like now.

With a sneer, Ouyang Mingjing instructed his men to fetch a particular item.

It was a round, black ball.

"Take this, it will provide warmth for your wagon. However, it will only last for two days. If you need more, feel free to ask my guards," Ouyang Mingjing said calmly.

Indeed, this would be far more beneficial than those thick, intricate, and heavy coverings.

Zhou Huaijin's expression turned visibly irritated.

Ouyang Mingjing was deliberately provoking him, and he could sense it. He had never liked Ouyang Mingjing, even though he allowed them to accompany them in Snow Territory.

However, for Chaoyan's sake, he had to endure this.

The moment they received the item from Ouyang Mingjing, they immediately felt the warmth emanating from it, making it suitable for placement in their wagon.

Even though it was a provocation, Zhou Huaijin couldn't reject something that would make Chaoyan more comfortable.

Zhou Huaijin had spoken those words for the sake of Phoenix Girl.

Then he turned around and left.

Zhou Huaijin put that thing in the wagon.

Gu Chaoyan was holding a very serious look on her face. She did not care about those minor stuff. She was thinking about something else.

She had thought that the winged spindle could help them mark the road back to the entrance, so they could follow the trail when they needed to get out.

But she soon realized that it was not that easy if the mountain collapsed. And it was going to be very difficult as well.

Such accidents happened all the way. If they wanted to go to the entrance the same way they came, it would be impossible because the snow might have piled up.

Also, the winged spindle's smell might be heavily covered by the thick snow.

Then...

They needed to think of some other ways to deal with this problem.

Gu Chaoyan sighed slightly, "Fu Bao, what do you think?"

Chapter 1814 - Into Snow Territory 9

Fu Bao's face contorted into a bitter expression. The Shadow Door had always possessed limitless capabilities, and he had never imagined encountering such confusion. Arriving in the realm of Snow Territory, Fu Bao realized that he had stumbled upon a formidable challenge, leaving him utterly perplexed and without any solutions.

Elder Miss, ever resourceful, continued to contemplate possible remedies as they trudged through the snow. However, Fu Bao found himself devoid of any ideas or strategies to overcome their predicament.

After pondering for a moment, Fu Bao helplessly shook his head and addressed Elder Miss, "We are at a loss, Elder Miss. We lack both ideas and methods."

Gu Chaoyan had anticipated this outcome, which left her equally bewildered. The unexpected nature of Snow Territory had caught them off guard.

“Let’s stick to our original plan while also brainstorming alternative approaches,” Gu Chaoyan suggested. “Despite the challenging environment here, try your best to memorize our point of origin. If you can’t recall it exactly, at least make an effort!”

Motivated by Elder Miss’ words, Fu Bao nodded fervently. He checked the time and realized they couldn’t linger for too long, as it might raise suspicions from Ouyang Mingjing. He needed to exercise extreme caution.

Coughing and hunching her shoulders, Gu Chaoyan couldn’t conceal her discomfort caused by the biting cold. Though she made an effort to shield herself from it, she couldn’t fully ward off the frigid temperature, which left her feeling quite uneasy.

Zhou Huaijin was deeply concerned about her well-being. Tenderly, he held her in his arms and carefully entered the wagon, ensuring her comfort.

Chaoyan’s nurturing nature extended not only to the matters concerning the Shadow Door but also to the people and things around her. Zhou Huaijin understood this and often allowed her to involve herself, knowing that she would feel worse if left out. However, this situation was different.

She was clearly experiencing great discomfort, and it was important for her to conserve her energy rather than focusing solely on the affairs of the Shadow Door.

Zhou Huaijin was known for treating his subordinates with fairness and generosity. As long as they put in their best effort, he ensured they received the best possible treatment, maintaining an open-minded approach.

However, there was one fundamental reason behind his establishment of the Shadow Door. He had created it with the intention of acquiring enough power and abilities to protect not only himself and his men but also those he deeply cared for.

The members of the Shadow Door were granted the best treatment because they dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to its cause. The current mission at hand emphasized the safety of Chaoyan in Snow Territory and their collective departure from it. While meticulous planning was necessary for their whereabouts, the foremost priority remained Chaoyan's well-being and security.

Zhou Huaijin made it clear that he would not tolerate any hidden guards causing her any distress, particularly when she was already unwell.

Such actions were simply unacceptable.

Zhou Huaijin briefly conversed with the hidden guards before entering the wagon to attend to Gu Chaoyan.

Soon, Lingyun arrived, carefully carrying a tray with a cup of steaming tea. Placing it down, she proceeded to assess Gu Chaoyan's condition, stepping into the role of a makeshift medic due to her familiarity with drug-making.

"How is it?"

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Zhou Huaijin's concern was evident in his questioning tone.

Lingyun withdrew her hands and handed the hot tea to Gu Chaoyan, reassuringly saying, "She's doing alright. However, Snow Territory's extreme coldness and the unfamiliar environment have made Elder Miss uncomfortable. But the longer she stays here, the more accustomed she will become."

Zhou Huaijin wasn't entirely convinced and expressed his concern, "Take a break and leave the rest to me. We still have ten more days until we reach the town, and enduring such torment isn't fair to you."

"Okay," Gu Chaoyan agreed, understanding his worry. She didn't want him to be further concerned if she refused.

After adjusting themselves, they continued their journey.

Despite the extraordinary powers possessed by their group, traveling through the snow-covered roads proved to be considerably slower. However, the ride in the wagon remained smooth, as if they were traversing a flat road.

Zhou Huaijin felt pleased about this, as Chaoyan had a fear of bumps, and the absence of jolts was a relief.

However...

Zhou Huaijin peered outside the wagon and noticed the unfavorable situation. Numerous roads were blocked due to accidents, hindering their progress significantly.

It wasn't until evening when they finally discovered a slightly more suitable spot to settle down.

The hidden guards from Snow Territory, accustomed to the cold climate, felt no discomfort as they walked across the icy terrain. To them, it was like walking on a plain. They didn't even bother setting up camps for the night. Only the hidden guards from the Shadow Door took on the task of preparing for the camp, which proved to be a challenging job.

Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but feel concerned about them.

Half of the hidden guards busied themselves with cooking, while the others worked on setting up the camp.

Zhou Huaijin insisted that Gu Chaoyan stay inside the wagon until everything was settled, forbidding her from venturing out.

Two hours later, the food was ready, but the camp was still in the process of being set up.

Gu Chaoyan remained patient and not the least bit angry. She pushed herself to eat a bit of the food.

Just as she finished her meal, Ouyang Mingjing approached and positioned himself outside the wagon. "I will stand guard outside the wagon overnight. The situation doesn't look promising. The snowy mountains may collapse again, and since we're close to the center, it's getting extremely cold. The fireball I gave you might lose its effectiveness overnight. However, with me here, you can keep the chill at bay."

Ouyang Mingjing's tone was assertive, bordering on a veiled threat. He posed his statement as a question, but he left no room for refusal.

Fearlessly, he dared to challenge Zhou Huaijin openly.

Zhou Huaijin understood the provocation but still nodded in acknowledgment. "Thank you, City Lord."

Ouyang Mingjing smiled and shook his head. "It's only natural for me to do so."

Zhou Huaijin's expression turned grim, but he remained silent.

Inside the wagon, Gu Chaoyan spoke casually, almost as if engaging in light conversation. "Snow Territory's terrain is incredibly intricate... but City Lord and the guards have a map of it, don't you?"

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Upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's question, Ouyang Mingjing smiled briefly, but internally, he began pondering the matter.

Snow Territory possessed a complex and intricate landscape, making it impossible for anyone to navigate freely in and out of the territory. Phoenix Girl had posed this question because she was contemplating marking the paths and ensuring they could find their way when needed.

Unlike the Saint Divine Land, where the landforms were clear and unchanging, complete with detailed maps indicating specific locations, streets, and stores, Snow Territory presented a challenge. Its ever-present whiteness and frequent snowfall caused constant accidents and mountain collapses. Maps proved futile in such circumstances, and individuals had to create their own paths.

"Guards from Snow Territory have basic maps, but due to the ever-changing nature of Snow Territory, with its snow-covered landscape and frequent accidents, maps are not reliable. You need to rely on your own judgment," Ouyang Mingjing explained.

"...."

She began to grasp the underlying message.

Snow Territory did indeed possess maps, implying that the people native to Snow Territory relied on specific methods to determine their paths rather than aimlessly wandering. However, they were not going to disclose those methods to outsiders, even if they were aware of them.

Gu Chaoyan had asked Ouyang Mingjing these questions because she sought to gain a better understanding of their current situation. She knew she would only receive limited information, but she hoped to glean some additional insights from his response.

Ouyang Mingjing's assessment was accurate.

Maps would only complicate matters for them.

In most places, one could simply walk in a straight line from the center and eventually exit. However, Snow Territory was unique. With frequent snow-related accidents, they could easily find themselves trapped in a repetitive loop, unable to escape.

It was akin to a Möbius ring that kept them perpetually inside.

They needed a method to break free from this predicament.

Although still puzzled, Gu Chaoyan felt a sense of relief. She quietly replied, "Oh, I see... I was just curious."

Ouyang Mingjing chuckled softly. "Phoenix Girl, get some rest as soon as possible. We need to continue our journey tomorrow. There are dangers lurking in Snow Territory, and we must hasten our progress."

"Okay," Gu Chaoyan agreed.

With that, they lapsed into silence amidst the darkness, surrounded by the snowy expanse.

The entire night passed peacefully within the warmth of the wagon, undisturbed by any external occurrences. Gu Chaoyan had a restful sleep, and as she woke, a healthy flush returned to her cheeks.

Sword One handed her a cup of tea, which she gratefully accepted. Gu Chaoyan had grown weary from spending the entire day confined to the wagon.

However, as she lifted the drapery, she was taken aback by what she saw.

Chapter 1817 Into Snow Territory 12

Ouyang Mingjing had spoken the truth. Something had indeed occurred during the night.

Snowdrifts covered the surroundings, indicating that the mountains had collapsed once again. Thanks to Ouyang Mingjing's protection, they had emerged unharmed.

However, this meant they would need to take another detour today. Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but wonder if it would cost them more time. She disliked wasting time trudging through the snow.

Stepping out of the wagon, she immediately felt an intense chill. Despite the cold, she welcomed the chance to leave this place and stretch her legs.

As she circled the wagon, an unsettling feeling washed over her. It seemed as though someone was watching her. Furrowing her brows, she directed her gaze toward the source, but there was nothing visible.

This sensation had persisted since the beginning of their journey. Initially, Gu Chaoyan dismissed it as a figment of her imagination. However, it happened far too frequently for her to believe she was mistaken.

She surveyed the area where the stare originated from and then glanced down.

Footprints marked the spot, evidence that someone had stood there alone.

Comparing the footprints to her own, she deduced that they belonged to a girl.

Who was watching her?

The intensity of that gaze was unsettling, leaving Gu Chaoyan on edge.

There were no other girls accompanying Ouyang Mingjing.

"Elder Miss, is something the matter?" Sword One inquired, noticing Gu Chaoyan's perplexed expression.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head. "It's nothing. I was just lost in thought. Let's return to the wagon." With that, she ceased her pondering and reentered the wagon. Before closing the drapery, she briefly glanced outside, hoping to catch a glimpse of the person she felt was watching her. Yet, to her disappointment, there was no one in sight.

Letting out a sigh, she relinquished her search.

"Elder Miss, what's going on?" Sword One asked, still bewildered.

"It's nothing. I have the sense that someone keeps staring at me. Sword One, stay vigilant and try to identify who it might be," Gu Chaoyan instructed, her dislike for being scrutinized evident. She desired to uncover the person responsible as soon as possible.

Sword One nodded, her concern deepening.

Once the meal was finished, they resumed their journey.

During their travel to the town, Longqing seized the opportunity and approached Ouyang Mingjing. He had intended to discuss this matter with the City Lord the previous night, but Ouyang Mingjing had been busy safeguarding Gu Chaoyan. Longqing was unwilling to wait any longer.

"What is it that you seek?" Ouyang Mingjing inquired, noting Longqing's discreet approach.

Longqing had a certain demeanor when he had something important to discuss.

"The Elders have returned to the Snow Territory towns, and before their departure, they entrusted me with the task of ensuring your safe return. Therefore, I have a few questions for you, City Lord."

"..."

"We cannot afford to let the King from the Saint Divine Land enter our towns," Longqing declared firmly, emphasizing the urgency of the situation.

Longqing possessed certain insights regarding this matter.

Having established Shadow Door at the young age of 10, he had seen the organization grow into a formidable entity over the years. That particular individual, if left unchecked, would pose a significant threat to Snow Territory. Magical powers or not, his presence had to be eliminated.

Ouyang Mingjing had previously overlooked this concern.

However...

## Chapter 1818 - Into Snow Territory 13

After spending two days observing the man, Ouyang Mingjing noticed that his hidden guards were organized and competent, despite some underlying anxiety. This sparked a sense of concern within him.

It was evident that this man possessed great potential.

Just as Longqing had emphasized, keeping him around would undoubtedly pose a threat to Snow Territory.

However, the timing was not yet ideal.

“Inform the Elders to arrange for our men to ambush in two days,” Ouyang Mingjing commanded.

Longqing had been worried that the honorable City Lord might not approve of the ambush, so he had prepared to carry it out discreetly, knowing it could complicate matters.

Yet, with the City Lord’s order, Longqing felt a sense of relief.

With the order in place, the plan would proceed smoothly.

The following days remained unusually quiet.

Silence enveloped them.

The hidden guards from Shadow Door had grown accustomed to the harsh coldness of their surroundings. Every day felt repetitive, consisting of constant movement and detours.

However, today...

A snow mountain unexpectedly collapsed. Although such occurrences were not entirely uncommon for the troops who had grown accustomed to them, they still experienced a tinge of heartache. They knew that City Lord would help them navigate around the obstacle, so their worries were somewhat alleviated, yet they couldn't shake the bittersweet feeling of having to take another detour.

The people of Snow Territory often lamented the additional hours spent on these detours.

As they were preparing to address the collapsed snow mountain, a sudden group of troops appeared, catching Ouyang Mingjing off guard. The situation quickly descended into chaos, with snow and mountains blending together in a tumultuous scene.

The sound of combat erupted, alerting Gu Chaoyan to the unfolding disturbance outside. She lifted the drapery to peer out and confirmed the disarray.

Before Gu Chaoyan could fully comprehend the situation, several individuals rushed towards the wagon, only to be intercepted by the hidden guards stationed outside. Sword One and Lingyun remained by Gu Chaoyan's side, instructed to ensure her safety. However, the hidden guards outside the wagon soon found themselves overwhelmed. In the midst of the chaos, a figure in white dashed into the wagon.

Zhou Huaijin stepped forward, attempting to stop the intruder, but he too became trapped by the assailants outside.

Taking notice of the chaos unfolding, Longqing swiftly guided the wagon to a different location.

Zhou Huaijin desperately sought to retrieve Gu Chaoyan, but he found himself ensnared.

Amidst the ongoing skirmish, another smaller snow mountain collapsed, burying Zhou Huaijin and a few of his men, including Fu Bao.

The battle raged on for another two hours before finally subsiding. Satisfied with the success of their plan, Ouyang Mingjing led his guards, along with the remaining hidden guards from Shadow Door, towards Gu Chaoyan's wagon.

Ouyang Mingjing had no regrets about the arrangement he had orchestrated. To ensure the plan appeared flawless, he had executed the ambush without mercy, sparing no consideration for the enemies.

Even in such chaotic circumstances, he had managed to safeguard half of the hidden guards and ensure the safety of the girls in their ranks. Ouyang Mingjing realized that he had underestimated their resilience and capabilities.

If Zhou Huaijin had been allowed to enter the towns, it would have unleashed a whirlwind of chaos and turmoil.

Longqing and his men were waiting for them with the wagon, prepared for their arrival.

Inside the wagon, Gu Chaoyan anxiously lifted the curtain, eagerly listening for any signs of Zhou Huaijin's voice. But to her disappointment, she failed to catch a glimpse of him.

"Where did he go?"

## Chapter 1819 - Separation 1

Gu Chaoyan's heart raced as she realized that Zhou Huaijin was nowhere to be seen. She desperately scanned the returning troops, but there was no sign of him among the guards from Snow Territory or the hidden guards. Panic overwhelmed her.

Ouyang Mingjing was bewildered by the situation. He observed the troops and responded, "Wasn't he always in the wagon?"

"...."

"We came here under the assumption that he and you were taken away by Longqing first, and we followed to join you," Ouyang Mingjing explained, his confusion evident in his voice.

Hearing Ouyang Mingjing's words, Gu Chaoyan became almost certain that she and Zhou Huaijin had been separated. Moreover, he had enemies with magical power. Where could he possibly be? Was he safe?

Determined to find him, Gu Chaoyan mounted her horse. "I will go and search for him!"

However, her sudden decision caught Ouyang Mingjing off guard. He used his magical power to restrain her, his voice filled with anger. "What's the point? You are a stranger in this land, and it's snowing heavily. The weather will only worsen. Your body won't withstand the cold. Besides, do

you even know where he is or how to navigate through this terrain? You'll only end up getting separated from us and unable to find him!"

"..."

"Get back here!"

"..."

"I will have my guards search the area. They are familiar with this territory, and perhaps they can find some traces. They are experienced in these lands," Ouyang Mingjing stated firmly, looking at Gu Chaoyan with a mixture of anger and concern.

Deep down, he was frustrated. Gu Chaoyan, the Phoenix Girl, should have been his wife. Yet, here she was, consumed by her unwavering devotion to another man, disregarding her own safety in the process. He regretted not having ordered his men to eliminate Zhou Huaijin, as seeing his lifeless body would have brought her ultimate conviction.

However, Gu Chaoyan shook her head, understanding that the guards from Snow Territory could conduct a thorough search. But she couldn't bear to stay idle and wait. Zhou Huaijin had been kind to her, and she couldn't abandon him in this unknown and perilous place.

Disregarding their objections, Gu Chaoyan dashed out, retracing the path they had taken during the recent skirmish. It hadn't been long since the fight occurred, so there was a chance that Zhou Huaijin was still nearby.

As soon as Gu Chaoyan departed, Sword One, Lingyun, and a few hidden guards followed suit, joining her in the search. Gu Chaoyan acknowledged their presence and gave clear instructions, saying, "Split up and search in different directions, but never lose sight of each other!"

## Chapter 1820 - Separation 2

Hearing Gu Chaoyan's orders, the hidden guards dispersed in different directions, diligently carrying out their search. Ouyang Mingjing observed their movements from a distance, his expression somber and contemplative.

He hadn't anticipated that Gu Chaoyan would make such a decision, defying his warnings and venturing out on her own. His heart felt heavy with a mix of concern and frustration.

Longqing asked "City Lord, what should we do now?"

Ouyang Mingjing's gaze remained fixed on Gu Chaoyan as he replied icily, "Follow her closely and ensure she doesn't put herself in further danger."

Longqing nodded, quickly organizing the Snow Territory guards to assist in the search. However, deep down, Ouyang Mingjing knew that Gu Chaoyan's chances of success were slim. Snow Territory was a treacherous and intricate land, unfamiliar to them, and simply searching blindly would yield little results.

Moreover, he knew that those people had already taken Zhou Huaijin away, leaving little hope for Gu Chaoyan to find him by herself.

With a resigned sigh, Ouyang Mingjing shook his head slightly and trailed behind Gu Chaoyan, silently observing her desperate cries for Zhou Huaijin. In his heart, the desire to possess Gu Chaoyan grew stronger, regardless of their current relationship.

From his earliest years, Ouyang Mingjing had known his fate as the City Lord, with Gu Chaoyan destined to be his wife. And now...

Ouyang Mingjing felt his anger rise within him. How could she be so stubborn? She was his future wife, yet she continued to search for another man right in front of the Snow Territory guards.

Gu Chaoyan had invested eight long hours into the search, tirelessly shouting Zhou Huaijin's name. Her pale face had grown even more haggard due to the harsh cold, and it was evident that she couldn't sustain this frantic pursuit much longer.

Approaching her, Ouyang Mingjing firmly spoke, "You cannot continue like this."

"..."

"Firstly," Ouyang Mingjing continued, "your physical endurance is reaching its limit. You will collapse before you have a chance to find him."

"..."

"Secondly," Ouyang Mingjing pressed on, "you are unfamiliar with this land. You couldn't even locate the site of the ambush, let alone find him in this vast wilderness. Despite the hours we've been searching, we are still close to where we started."

"..."

“Listen to my plan,” Ouyang Mingjing implored. “Return to the wagon and take a break. We will continue our journey towards the town, and my men will intensify the search. I will even mobilize my own soldiers once we reach the town.”

“...”

Gu Chaoyan’s head shook.

She couldn’t accept it. She couldn’t bear the thought of giving up. She had to find him, no matter the cost.

He and Fu Bao might have gotten injured during the fight. Even if they were not injured, they had nothing to keep themselves away from cold, and they had no food. They would not make it in such a weather.

She did not want to wait.

She had nothing to linger on in this life, and Huaijin was her only motivation. But if something happened to Huaijin...

There was no point in living on, let alone getting herself detoxified.

She shook her head and continued to look.

Longqing, who was working for City Lord, could not stand it but stepped forward. “Phoenix Girl, our soldiers would have more efficiency in finding them than you alone. Besides, you are not strong enough to do so.”

Longqing had turned really angry at this moment.

Sword One and Lingyun also noticed that Elder Miss was not looking good either.

Sword One said, “Elder Miss, please, let’s take a break first.”