

Divine 1831

Chapter 1831 Protection 4

Gu Chaoyan's voice resonated with authority as she addressed the gathered individuals.

"The maids from the Saint Divine Land may serve the court, but they are not of low class. According to the court's rules, when these maids reach the age of 25, they have the freedom to choose their own path. They can opt to leave the court and receive settlement money, allowing them to establish their own households, build their own houses, and even pursue marriage. Their choices are unrestricted and entirely their own."

A stunned silence fell upon the crowd.

"These maids may serve the court, but they are individuals with agency," Gu Chaoyan continued, her voice calm but resolute. "They have chosen to accompany me to Snow Territory, but their lives and choices remain their own, even after they turn 25."

She walked through the camp with a quiet confidence, ensuring that Lingyun assisted Sword One in adjusting the maids' clothes. It was a reminder to all that these women were not mere servants to be bullied at will. Gu Chaoyan was determined to make both the people of Snow Territory and the maids themselves understand this truth.

Wherever they went, these maids had someone to support them, someone who would stand up for their rights. There was no need for them to be afraid.

Though Huaijin was absent, Gu Chaoyan, as the Queen, would make the decisions necessary to protect their honor.

As her words sank in, she observed the pallor that spread across the faces of those from Snow Territory.

They had never anticipated such a response. They had regarded the maids as mere servants, easily disposed of.

But Phoenix Girl had stepped forward to defend them.

She had even gone so far as to sever the guards' arms.

Longqing was incensed and prepared to argue, but Ouyang Mingjing held him back, leaving him alone with his mounting anger.

Gu Chaoyan paid them no mind and continued her address. "Allow me to explain why these men do not deserve our women."

"...."

"They are supposed to be guards, responsible for protecting others."

"...."

"But they proved themselves useless when they failed to protect the visiting King during the ambush."

"...."

"Oh, but they excel at bullying the weak. The maids, unable to fight back in their presence, must be quite a feat for these supposedly capable guards from Snow Territory."

"...."

"Maids from the Saint Divine Land, even if they choose to leave the court and seek marriage, they will find true men, not trash like you who only know how to prey on the vulnerable."

"....."

"But I didn't see any resistance from you when I severed your arms."

"...."

"You can keep those people if you consider them precious. Our maids have no need for such treasures." Gu Chaoyan's words were laced with directness and disdain as she surveyed the people from Snow Territory.

Capable individuals?

Mediocre, at best.

Then, a glimmer of pride crossed Gu Chaoyan's face as she turned her attention to the hidden guards from Shadow Door. "Our hidden guards from Shadow Door, even in such harsh conditions, are still selflessly sharing their warm clothing with the women. That is the true measure of generosity!"

Chapter 1832 Protection 5

"It is our fault, and you have punished them, we cancel out," Ouyang Mingjing admitted, taking a step forward and deciding against further investigation.

On one hand, he acknowledged their mistake and realized they couldn't escape justice.

On the other hand, Ouyang Mingjing was overwhelmed with panic as he recognized the accuracy of Gu Chaoyan's assessment. She had perceived what he failed to see—those guards were truly narrow-minded, which explained their constant internal conflicts since he assumed the position of City Lord.

Ouyang Mingjing planned to deeply contemplate this matter upon his return to town.

However...

Gu Chaoyan wasn't ready to let go of the issue so easily.

She persisted, saying, "I am not done yet."

"...."

"City Lord..."

"...."

"What authority did you possess to determine the fate of my maids?"

"...."

"Huaijin may not be present, but as the Queen, I hold the power of decision-making."

"...."

"You are merely the City Lord; it is not within your jurisdiction to make decisions regarding the affairs of the Saint Divine Land!"

"...."

"Remember this, City Lord: even though we are within your domain, we are not at your disposal. I will consider whether or not to continue cooperating with you." Gu Chaoyan's tone turned threatening.

Ouyang Mingjing's face turned pale.

The guards were indeed at fault, and it was understandable for Gu Chaoyan to want to investigate further. However, he had already given her the opportunity to do so. Now, it seemed she had no intention of saving his reputation. What was her true motive?

Ouyang Mingjing's displeasure was evident on his face.

"Phoenix Girl, everything happened so quickly that I didn't have a chance to thoroughly consider the situation. If matters have been resolved, why continue delving into it?" Ouyang Mingjing's impatience was apparent.

"Delving into it? The Saint Divine Land upholds civility, and we are not uncouth individuals. It is only natural to address any breaches that occur. I am merely seeking clarification," Gu Chaoyan countered.

Ouyang Mingjing sneered.

Then he turned and left.

Longqing was consumed by anger and followed suit.

The disarmed guards were left groaning, while the maids wept.

Being of low social standing, they had never expected someone to step forward on their behalf.

For the first time, they felt the presence of someone supporting them from behind, offering assistance.

Gu Chaoyan approached the guards, observing their neatly arranged attire.

Softening her tone, she spoke gently, "I appreciate your presence here in the Snow Territory. Remember, I will always support you and you need never fear. Furthermore, once we return to the Saint Divine Land, each of you will receive a bonus."

The maids all knelt down and gratefully exclaimed, "Thank you, Your Majesty!"

"Alright, rise and take a well-deserved rest," Gu Chaoyan instructed.

Then...

Together with Sword One and Lingyun, she made her way towards the carriage.

Exhausted, Gu Chaoyan leaned heavily on Sword One as they exited the camp, her energy completely depleted.

Chapter 1833 Qing's Ending 1

Sword One was taken aback by the weight of Gu Chaoyan leaning on her. Concerned, she asked, "Elder Miss, are you alright?"

Gu Chaoyan weakly shook her head and replied, "I'm fine, just a little exhausted."

She had been feeling unwell and had been suppressing her fatigue while dealing with the guards. Using almost all her energy, she had almost nothing left, prompting her to lean on Sword One for comfort.

They entered the wagon.

Gu Chaoyan instructed Sword One to change into fresh undergarments.

Unable to bathe or change clothes fully, they settled for a simple wipe-down. The spare clothes provided some relief, reducing her discomfort.

Before taking a rest, Gu Chaoyan emphasized, "By standing up for the maids, I may have unintentionally worsened their treatment from the guards. Be vigilant and ensure their safety."

With that, Gu Chaoyan closed her eyes and drifted off to sleep.

Sword One and Lingyun followed her instructions.

Time passed in this interlude.

Longqing utilized his magical abilities to preserve the armless guards. Though they had lost their arms, they managed to survive.

Longqing's emotions were complex as he looked upon these guards.

They had served him faithfully, displaying talent, skill, and dedication, aside from this one flaw. Longqing had overlooked their imperfections, but it seemed his leniency had unexpectedly irritated Phoenix Girl.

Well...

Longqing experienced a mix of anger and satisfaction upon witnessing this scene.

Phoenix Girl appeared cold yet compassionate when treating her servants in such a manner, devoid of any airs of superiority.

However, today was different.

He witnessed a Phoenix Girl who exhibited no mercy.

That was the true essence of Phoenix Girl.

With her presence, those who sought to cause trouble in the Snow Territory would not be spared.

Hence, it was both a gratifying and troubling realization.

Longqing held conflicting thoughts within his heart.

Ouyang Mingjing was a different story.

She had harmed many of his guards without showing him any respect.

He genuinely disliked her.

That was not how a woman should behave.

Qing possessed a gentler demeanor compared to him.

Ouyang Mingjing instructed his men to bring Qing to his wagon.

It was Qing's first time entering his wagon. Startled, she wondered if she had made a mistake.

She had faithfully followed his orders not to visit Elder Miss for the past two days.

"Pour me some tea," Ouyang Mingjing requested.

Qing, still taken aback, felt a surge of joy upon receiving the order.

Carefully, she poured the tea.

Then, Qing gently reminded him, "City Lord, please wait for it to cool down."

She looked up at Ouyang Mingjing momentarily.

Noticing the displeasure on his face, she wondered what had transpired to put him in such a state. She didn't dare inquire.

So, in a soft tone, she asked, "City Lord, is something troubling you?"

Ouyang Mingjing glanced up at Qing.

In his eyes, she appeared increasingly beautiful.

That was the embodiment of what a woman should be like—gentle and composed.

He was about to respond when Longqing's voice interrupted, "City Lord, Elder Men have arrived. They need to speak with you."

Chapter 1834 - Qing's Ending 2

After resolving the issues in Snow Territory following the ambush, the Elder Men had arrived, ready to return with Phoenix Girl in triumphant glory.

Ouyang Mingjing felt considerably better now that he understood the situation.

However, in that moment, his gaze fell upon Qing's face.

A proud smile formed on his lips.

He was on the verge of attaining everything he desired.

Deciding not to keep Qing hidden any longer, he spoke gently to her, "I still have a few matters to attend to. You may leave for now, and I will join you later."

"..."

"Remember what I told you about being by my side?"

Qing didn't answer verbally but nodded in acknowledgment.

"Very well. Keep it in mind. It will happen soon." Ouyang Mingjing smiled, his expression filled with a sense of accomplishment.

Blushing, Qing's face turned as red as a beet, the color spreading from her cheeks to the roots of her ears. She couldn't help but feel bashful; her entire face displayed her embarrassment.

He hadn't spoken those words lightly. It was something he truly intended.

Just as Qing's heart raced, as if it were about to leap out of her throat, Ouyang Mingjing instructed her to depart.

Qing had just been escorted away when the Elder Men and Longqing entered. They had encountered Qing along the way.

The Elder Man appeared deeply displeased.

He halted his intended words and instead retorted, "City Lord, do you recall the promise you made to me?"

"..."

"You spared this woman's life because you didn't want to kill her. You also promised me that you would avoid getting involved with her."

“....”

“Why is she here with you?” The Elder Man snapped.

Having witnessed the City Lord’s growth, the Elder Man had seen him act with thoughtfulness and seldom make mistakes. However, this time, he felt immense disappointment. Ouyang Mingjing had forgotten his promise and disregarded not only his own reputation but also the safety of Snow Territory.

He should never have kept this woman by his side.

Confronted with the Elder Man’s interrogation, Ouyang Mingjing maintained a composed demeanor.

He responded, “Did you hear what Longqing just told you?”

“Look at what she has done! Our guards provoked her maids, and she retaliated by severing their arms, paying no heed to my reputation. The Saint Divine Land and Snow Territory are distinct. She wants a clear separation between us,” Ouyang Mingjing complained. “Moreover, she shows me no respect. Why should I bother liking her?”

“...”

“Women should embody gentleness and kindness, unlike her with her lethal and rude nature!”

“....”

“Qing is the ideal choice! She likes me and me alone.”

“...”

“As for her...” Ouyang Mingjing shook his head slightly.

Evidently, there were numerous aspects of Gu Chaoyan’s behavior that displeased him.

The Elder Man sneered at this childish reasoning.

The City Lord appeared to be influenced by Acacia beans or intimidated by Phoenix Girl’s assertiveness.

Neither should hold any sway.

“Women should indeed possess gentleness and kindness,” the Elder Man smiled. “But those women are meant for ordinary men, not for you, City Lord. You are destined to stand apart from other men.”

Chapter 1835 - Qing’s Ending 3

“Gentle and kind women are indeed wonderful to spend a lifetime with. However, City Lord, as the leader of a town, such women would only hinder your progress,” the Elder Man explained.

“...”

“Only a woman as lethal and assertive as Phoenix Girl is worthy to stand by your side, equal in stature!”

“...”

“Only she can provide the assistance you require.”

“...”

“With infighting occurring in Snow Territory and people on the verge of rebellion, what can kind and gentle women do to aid you? They would only further disappoint those individuals,” the Elder Man reasoned.

“...”

“Phoenix Girl’s intimidating presence is a fortuitous sign for us.”

“...”

“You cannot allow yourself to be overshadowed by the King of the Saint Divine Land!” The Elder Man expressed his disappointment.

Ouyang Mingjing suddenly snapped out of his reverie.

The Elder Man was absolutely right.

He was the City Lord, destined to be different.

He couldn’t fathom what had clouded his judgment earlier.

Thanks to this reminder, he had been pulled out of his confusion and regained his clarity of purpose.

“Elder Man, you are absolutely right. This is my fault,” Ouyang Mingjing admitted with humility.

The Elder Man breathed a sigh of relief.

It seemed that it was the influence of the Acacia beans rather than Ouyang Mingjing’s genuine beliefs that had troubled him.

He needed to be firm in certain matters.

The Elder Man continued, “You can no longer keep that woman. I should have killed her outright, but I expect you to do it yourself. By doing so, you will become even more invincible and be a better City Lord for Snow Territory!”

Upon hearing this, Ouyang Mingjing felt a sharp pang in his heart.

Killing her?

He knew it was something he shouldn’t do, but he couldn’t bring himself to end her life so abruptly.

“City Lord, don’t let an insignificant woman ruin our plans!” the Elder Man urged with hope.

“Okay,” Ouyang Mingjing agreed, albeit without hesitation.

“It will be dark soon, and during our preparations later, it will be the optimal time. Snow Territory is covered in snow all the time, and in two hours, she will be buried in snow, putting an end to it all,” the Elder Man suggested.

Ouyang Mingjing nodded in agreement.

The Elder Man felt a sense of relief, but he instructed Longqing to keep a close eye on Ouyang Mingjing.

A man who was too soft-hearted would never accomplish great things, and there was a chance that the City Lord might change his mind upon seeing the woman.

After considering it further, the Elder Man remained uncertain.

He made up his mind to personally observe the situation. This matter needed to be resolved today.

Having solidified his decision, the Elder Man prepared some items and intended to present them to Phoenix Girl and her companions

That was compensation.

Though she had sought justice...

Yet it was Snow Territory, and they needed to show their faith.

There was no need to make their relationship stiff because of this minor incident.

They soon found the place to start the camp as the day went darker.

Ouyang Mingjing told Longqing to get the girl out.

Hearing the news, Qing soon came to the assigned spot.

She was very excited.

The City Lord was not lying to her. He stuck to his promise after making this to her.

But City Lord seemed in a bad mood. Was he trying to share some thoughts with her?

She wasn't so good at consoling people, but...

Chapter 1836 - Qing's Ending 4

She was a good listener.

Qing was whispering to herself.

And he said that he was going to give her a title, meaning that she could show up right next to him when they reached Snow Territory?

Qing was just imagining to herself when Ouyang Mingjing arrived.

He, like before, seemed very gentle, calm, and steady.

No one was around, except for the two of them, as well as some snow.

She did not have an umbrella with her when she came out. The City Lord had no umbrella with him either as he walked towards her.

Ouyang Mingjing had a sword with him instead of an umbrella.

“City Lord?” Qing whispered.

Ouyang Mingjing nodded.

Then he looked into an empty space, saying quietly, “Qing, thank you very much for liking me. It is very rare for you to like someone so firmly. Few people can do it.”

“...”

“I am so honored to be liked by you!”

“....”

“But, sorry, Qing,” Ouyang Mingjing said.

Qing realized what was happening, and she was about to speak when Ouyang Mingjing abruptly drew his sword and thrust it into her heart, exerting force and freeing himself, panting heavily.

“Why?” Qing covered her chest, her voice strained between clenched teeth.

Why was she being confronted with such a brutal truth when she had nurtured such immense hope?

If only she hadn’t harbored that hope within her...

Perhaps the pain would have been less unbearable.

Ouyang Mingjing didn’t comprehend her question, but he replied, “Our connection was a result of an accident. I had intended to drug Phoenix Girl with Acacia beans, but you consumed them instead, and now we are bound by the effects of those beans.”

“...”

“We cannot be together. I’ve tried, but I cannot.”

“...”

“And so, this is what you are left with. You will always disrupt me, so you must not remain here.” Ouyang Mingjing confessed, feeling a weight lifted from his shoulders.

Qing laughed bitterly.

She laughed at her own foolishness and regretted the actions she had taken because of her own naivety.

She extended her hand and willingly allowed the sword to penetrate her body.

Then she shut her eyes.

“Qing!” Gu Chaoyan’s voice rang out from behind as she hurried to the scene.

She had sprinted as fast as she could, but it was still in vain.

If only Qing hadn’t acted so forcefully, she could have been saved. Yet, as Gu Chaoyan held the blood-soaked Qing, she knew with certainty that she couldn’t rescue her.

She cast a piercing gaze at Ouyang Mingjing, as though he were her ultimate adversary.

Qing had always been devoted to her, a bond forged since their childhood. However, since Ouyang Mingjing entered the picture, Qing had gone beyond what was expected of her. Gu Chaoyan didn’t hold Qing responsible for this, but she hadn’t wanted her to reach this point.

Unexpectedly...

It was all because of Snow Territory's plan. Qing had been the victim!

She had always felt some familiar look following her after she came to Snow Territory. She had thought that she had got an illusion, but no, it was never an illusion. It had been Qing all the time.

Qing was a kind girl, and she could have got married and given birth to her children. But now, she was dead in this cold land.

Gu Chaoyan stared fiercely at Ouyang Mingjing.

Chapter 1837 - Qing's Ending 5

It was no wonder that Qing had become so infatuated with Ouyang Mingjing after just two brief encounters, going to such lengths that were completely out of character. Gu Chaoyan could never have imagined that Qing would behave this way.

Little did Gu Chaoyan know that Qing had been manipulated and controlled by these people through drugs that had clouded her mind.

Now, she held Qing, lifeless, in her arms, overwhelmed with regret. Gu Chaoyan knew Qing so well, and she should have investigated when she noticed Qing's peculiar behavior. But instead, she had left Qing alone in the temple to face her struggles and battle her own mind without any assistance.

If only she had dedicated more time and effort to uncover the truth, Qing wouldn't have ended up like this, and the situation wouldn't have spiraled out of control.

And when she had seen that familiar figure, she should have probed deeper.

At the very least, she should have assigned someone to guard Qing when she was left alone in the temple, ensuring her safety.

Qing had been all alone in that temple, cut off from the outside world.

How had Qing learned about their journey to Snow Territory? And how had she managed to escape the temple and join the troops there?

It seemed she had been in contact with Ouyang Mingjing!

Well...

Ouyang Mingjing was evidently involved in the scheme.

They had enticed Qing to Snow Territory, intending to use her for some purpose. However, upon realizing that Qing would become a liability, they mercilessly killed her.

Qing had been in Gu Chaoyan's service, and they had no right to commit such a heinous act against her.

Gu Chaoyan glared at Ouyang Mingjing, her voice filled with resentment. "City Lord, I demand an explanation."

Ouyang Mingjing locked eyes with Gu Chaoyan, displeased with the way she looked at him. She regarded him as an enemy.

She was merely a maid, and he held the position of City Lord in Snow Territory. Why was Gu Chaoyan giving him such a hostile gaze, as if seeking retribution with his life?

He preferred the way she used to look at him when he aided her in reclaiming the monsters back in the Saint Divine Land.

She held a grudge against him.

And it signified that attempting to reach a compromise would be utterly futile.

However, in the Snow Territory, he held the power to do as he pleased.

What was the point of providing an explanation?

Upon hearing this, Longqing was taken aback.

“What are you hesitating for?” Ouyang Mingjing interjected, growing increasingly displeased by Longqing’s lack of response.

Soon enough, Longqing proposed that the guards should step forward to escort the girl away.

Gu Chaoyan was restrained and instinctively resisted, causing the hidden guards from the Shadow Door to unsheathe their swords and advance towards her.

Chapter 1838 - Freeing

“I will handle her funeral, and there is no need for you to concern yourself with it,” Ouyang Mingjing remarked to Gu Chaoyan, paying no heed to the approaching hidden guards.

Gu Chaoyan seethed with fury but managed to maintain her composure, instructing the hidden guards to remain composed.

Most of those hidden guards had suffered severe injuries during the ambush and were still recovering. Half of them had yet to fully regain their strength.

Their resentment towards Snow Territory had grown due to what had happened to Qing, and Gu Chaoyan was determined to seek revenge for her.

However...

She couldn't afford to panic at this moment. She wouldn't allow the hidden guards to sacrifice their lives for a fleeting grudge.

They were no match for the guards from Snow Territory, and Ouyang Mingjing had already revealed his sinister side, indicating that he wouldn't show mercy against any attack.

There was still time.

Huaijin was still missing, and they couldn't sever all ties completely.

They needed to bide their time and gather their forces.

Gu Chaoyan seethed with anger, but she kept herself composed.

Because she needed to maintain the calmness of her men.

Elder Man observed Gu Chaoyan's retreating form and glanced at Ouyang Mingjing. It seemed like a prudent approach to handle the current situation. Phoenix Girl cherished her servants, and the loss of her beloved maid at the hands of Snow Territory's people would undoubtedly leave her deeply dissatisfied. However, attempting to appease her now wouldn't serve any purpose. They had to wait a little longer for the situation to calm down before making amends.

Nevertheless...

It had been an excessively ruthless act.

Elder Man contemplated for a moment and decided to intervene.

As the guards from Snow Territory escorted Gu Chaoyan toward the wagon, Elder Man approached them.

He instructed the guards not to allow Gu Chaoyan to enter the wagon directly.

Then he spoke, “Phoenix Girl, I understand your anger and empathize with your feelings.”

“...”

“The City Lord’s actions have been ruthless, but he had his reasons.”

“...”

“The Acacia beans originated from our Snow Territory, but they are part of a tradition passed down through generations. One bean for the City Lord, and one for the Phoenix Girl, to solidify their bond. The City Lord acted out of duty, and he did not anticipate such an unfortunate turn of events.”

“...”

“But due to the unforeseen circumstances, the City Lord decided to fulfill the girl’s desires. However, she asked for too much and caused us trouble, necessitating her removal.”

“...”

“The City Lord’s actions were in the best interest of the people from Snow Territory!”

“...”

“We will provide compensation to her and her family. They will receive all the monetary support we can offer.”

“...”

“It all began with a single mistake, and the City Lord was compelled to take these measures,” Elder Man explained, sounding relieved.

Upon hearing this...

Gu Chaoyan scoffed.

The plan with the Acacia beans had been orchestrated by them, and if there truly was a rule passed down through generations, why had they carried it out behind their backs?

She couldn't ascertain if Qing had asked for too much, which she highly doubted based on her understanding of Qing.

But even if she had...

Chapter 1839 - On Her

Even if Qing had asked for too much, it should have been Snow Territory's responsibility to handle the situation.

They had drugged Qing, causing her to lose control due to their plan. Why didn't they take responsibility for their actions?

Snow Territory and its City Lord were the ones who committed all these terrible deeds.

And now, they were blaming Qing for asking too much and using the City Lord's helplessness as an excuse?

They were truly shameless individuals, worse than those from Piaomiao Pavilion.

Gu Chaoyan sneered. "Is that the justification you offer for all these heinous acts?"

"..."

"The Acacia beans were your plan, and you killed Qing. These are undeniable facts," Gu Chaoyan declared resolutely, showing no signs of backing down.

"..."

"Yes, Qing was a servant, a maid, but she grew up with me. She was kind, devoted, and a living being. She was not something that could be traded for money or treasure. Elder Man, surely you understand the value of a life shared with another, don't you?"

The Elder Man involuntarily flinched.

Gu Chaoyan's gaze was piercing, and even he couldn't help but feel a sense of fear.

They had treated the girl far too callously.

They had assumed that she was nothing more than a servant, and killing her would sever the City Lord's ties with her.

However, they had not anticipated the accident unfolding in this manner.

Phoenix Girl had witnessed everything and grasped the situation, placing them at a significant disadvantage.

She had already been furious about the guards mistreating their own subordinates, and now she was further agitated.

Things might not proceed as smoothly as they had hoped.

The Elder Man grew increasingly concerned.

But...

Fortunately, they had already reached Snow Territory's domain, and despite her anger, she wouldn't dare to make any significant moves.

The City Lord had made the right decision this time.

"Phoenix Girl, you are overly agitated. Take some time to think things through, and then we can discuss further," the Elder Man evaded Gu Chaoyan's question and stated.

He then departed.

Before leaving, he instructed Longqing to assign more guards to keep a close watch on Phoenix Girl in case of any unforeseen incidents.

They were determined to bring her to Snow Territory, regardless of the circumstances.

That would be their next step.

Gu Chaoyan entered the wagon, her anger palpable as she trembled with fury.

Qing was an incredibly important person to her, and now...

Her anger burned within her.

But she managed to regain her composure and instructed, “Inform Sword Two to find out where they have placed Qing’s body.”

“...”

“Take a rest for the night and try not to dwell on this too much.”

“...”

“Tell everyone to stay put. I am here,” Gu Chaoyan reassured Sword One.

Sword One nodded, tears still glistening in her eyes.

Gu Chaoyan wiped away her own tears with her sleeves and commanded, “Go.”

That same night...

The atmosphere was hushed and heavy.

It felt different from any other night, despite being the same night. Many couldn’t find sleep, their minds burdened by what had befallen Qing.

As the dawn approached, the guards from Snow Territory urged them to continue the journey, seemingly eager to reach the town of Snow Territory as swiftly as possible.

Just as Gu Chaoyan had stepped onto the wagon...

She felt another familiar gaze upon her.

Chapter 1840 - Condition 1

This time, she didn't hesitate but fixed her gaze in that direction.

Behind a small hill, the sight of a familiar figure greeted her.

Huaijin?

Fu Bao!

Accompanying Huaijin were a few discreet guards, undoubtedly separated from the group to ensure his safety. Surprisingly, none of them seemed injured or harmed, having managed to find their way back to their team.

Gu Chaoyan stole a quick glance at them, cautious not to attract attention from the guards of Snow Territory.

Maintaining an air of nonchalance, Huaijin discreetly gestured toward a wounded spot, signaling Gu Chaoyan that they required assistance.

Gu Chaoyan observed the injury and committed it to memory, nodding subtly in response.

Taking cover within the hills, they concealed themselves, opting not to reveal their presence again.

Gu Chaoyan returned to the wagon and whispered, “Lingyun, fetch some medicine to staunch the bleeding and gather herbs known for their cooling properties. Inform the covert guards to discreetly leave them in the snow. They’re in need.”

“...”

“Mr. Head and the others?” Sword One inquired excitedly. Gu Chaoyan motioned for her to lower her voice, and Sword One complied, understanding the need for discretion.

They silently organized the arrangements.

However, Gu Chaoyan found herself in a state of hesitation.

The condition of the hidden guards was dire, and Huaijin’s well-being seemed far from optimal.

They had suffered severe injuries in an ambush, and their resources were scarce in this icy, snowy land. Enduring the bitter conditions, they had faced immense hardships.

The herbs available to them had proven to be less effective than desired.

Gu Chaoyan pondered for a while.

Nevertheless, she made up her mind to enter the space.

Within the space, a myriad of herbs flourished due to the enchanting aura, and several fruits thrived, nourished by holy water. If she could provide these resources, it would facilitate their swift recovery.

Gu Chaoyan gathered an assortment of fruits.

Since she had concealed the existence of the space from the public, she couldn't simply hand over the items she retrieved to Lingyun and the hidden guards. She needed to devise a way to deliver them personally.

But how could she accomplish this?

It presented a challenging predicament for her.

As Gu Chaoyan found herself in a state of confusion, Huang Fu settled down beside her.

Donning his red robe, he still exuded an air of arrogance, albeit less pronounced than before.

During these days...

He had been contemplating his actions.

He and Feng Le held grievances against each other, but she had chosen to forget. He had been pressuring her to make amends, but she couldn't comply.

Perhaps they could take things slowly.

When this thought crossed her mind...

Dealing with that could be put off for now.

"You're unsure how to deliver it to them?" Huang Fu queried.

Silence followed.

"I may not like him, but I can assist you this time," he offered.

"..."

“But you must promise me one thing.”

“That’s impossible,” Gu Chaoyan promptly declined.

Huang Fu had a tendency to exploit her vulnerabilities whenever she was down. At this moment, she preferred to devise a solution on her own rather than agreeing to his terms.

Huang Fu smiled helplessly.

Indeed, deep down, that was who she truly was.

Bitterly, Huang Fu continued, “Listen to me first.”

“...”

“I lack sufficient magical power, trapping me in this place. I can only venture out when my magical power replenishes, albeit for a limited duration.”

“....”

“I can assist you in retrieving the items,” he stated.

“...”

“I have a different request this time, one that diverges from my previous statement.”

“...”

“I simply wish to...”