

Es. Benefits 351

Chapter 351: I really suffered_1

Hearing Lin Wanyun's words, Lu Chen pushed the door open and entered. After entering the room, he casually closed the door and slid the bolt into place.

Having done all this, Lu Chen turned his head to look at the beautiful woman not far away. At this moment, Lin Wanyun's pretty face was slightly red, and she looked tense, as if she was afraid of something being discovered.

Lu Chen asked with a smile, "Madam Lin, I just saw Miss Chen leave the Prince's Mansion. Where is she going tonight?"

Lin Wanyun replied with a blushing face, "The Brocade Guard are all over Yan County, so how could you possibly not know where she is going."

Lu Chen walked up to Lin Wanyun, naturally placing his large hand on her buttocks before embracing her slender waist.

Touched by Lu Chen in this way, Lin Wanyun's delicate body trembled once again. Although she had indulged in that kind of fleeting affair with Lu Chen many times, she couldn't help but feel especially nervous every time they were in contact.

On one hand, it was because she felt extremely ashamed, and on the other hand, she was very afraid of her affairs being discovered by Chen Wanrong, harboring a deep sense of guilt inside.

At that moment, Lin Wanyun asked, "How long will it generally take for the poison in the Palace Master to take effect?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Don't worry, it won't take effect so easily. Without taking the antidote, ten days to half a month won't be a problem."

Hearing this, Lin Wanyun felt a bit relieved. If it wasn't going to be a problem for ten days to half a month, then it would likely not affect Miss Chen too much, considering she was only out for one night.

Just then, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Madam Lin, I've noticed that you seem to have gained quite a bit of weight recently, and there's more and more flesh on your body."

As he spoke, Lu Chen's hand gently pinched Lin Wanyun's waist.

Hearing this, Lin Wanyun gave a cold hum with an icy expression and did not speak.

Lu Chen went on to say, "What were you doing in the room just now? Why did I find you looking very panicked when I came in?"

Lin Wanyun quickly said, "I wasn't doing anything."

She didn't want Lu Chen to know that she was preparing clothes for the child. If this little rascal found out, he might think she had completely submitted to him, that she had fallen for him in her heart, and then he would become even more unrestrained.

Seeing Lin Wanyun's face showing panic again, Lu Chen knew she must be hiding something from him. Then, he wrapped his arms around her slender waist and directly picked her up, carrying her onto the bed.

Lin Wanyun did not struggle, knowing what was going to happen next.

After laying Lin Wanyun on the bed, Lu Chen pressed her beneath him, lifted his upper body, and looked down at her blushing cheeks from above.

"Do you remember what I told you before? Why don't you and Miss Chen both marry me, that way you won't have to worry about me harming Miss Chen."

Lin Wanyun stared into Lu Chen's profound eyes, her heart pounding uncontrollably, her mind filled with images of their indulgent activities, but she was still lucid at this moment.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Lin Wanyun replied without hesitation, "Impossible, I will never agree to that."

"You wish to possess Rongrong's body, only over my dead body."

Lin Wanyun didn't believe Lu Chen at all, even though she knew she couldn't live without him and would likely spend her life in the North Prince Mansion. But she would never allow Chen Wanrong to end up like her.

Chen Wanrong had her own affairs, her own future—how could she stay in the North Prince Mansion bearing children for Lu Chen?

Even if Lu Chen were to be Emperor one day, it wouldn't do. Chen Wanrong was the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace, and cultivation was what she should focus on. The mundane matters of this world were merely a part of her life's experience.

Lu Chen, this little rascal, he already had so many women and still wasn't satisfied. He even wanted Chen Wanrong to bear his children.

Seeing Lin Wanyun's strong reaction, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Making you die is easy."

Hearing this, Lin Wanyun's heart skipped a beat.

She thought Lu Chen had grown tired of her, so to prevent her from interfering with his relationship with Chen Wanrong, he intended to make a fatal move against her.

After all, they had started on opposite sides; Lu Chen's words were unreliable, so killing her would be quite normal.

At this moment, Lin Wanyun felt for her own Inner Strength, realizing it had disappeared just as it had before when she was with Lu Chen—clearly, he had sealed it away.

She was just a Half-step Grandmaster; against a Grandmaster, she had no chance of winning.

With this thought, Lin Wanyun closed her eyes and put on a resigned expression. "Do it then!"

Seeing this, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth lifted slightly. How could he possibly kill Lin Wanyun? She clearly had the wrong idea.

Then, Lu Chen leaned in close and whispered in her ear, "There are many ways to die—for instance, dying beautifully..."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Lin Wanyun was somewhat puzzled. Dying beautifully? What kind of death was that?

Before Lin Wanyun could understand the meaning of Lu Chen's words, she felt her lips covered by a warm presence, "Mmm mmm mmm..."

After Lu Chen kissed Lin Wanyun, he began to get handsy. Since Lin Wanyun wanted to experience the feeling of death, he'd fulfill her wish.

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Meanwhile.

In a tavern opened by the Mysterious Moon Palace in the south of Yan County.

Chen Wanrong, dressed in white, sat on a bed on the second floor. Downstairs were some old ministers from the Chen Nation.

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Ever since they heard that their princess was still alive, they had been extremely excited, with some people rushing to the North Country overnight and arriving at Yan County.

At this time, a former official from Chen Nation said, "Your Highness the Princess, now that you are the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, with its support, our hopes of restoring the kingdom are just around the corner."

Another person spoke up, "Now that Great Xia is in internal turmoil, even if the Great Xia imperial army defeats the rebels in the South, Great Xia's strength will be greatly weakened. Moreover, there

is news of rebellion within the Great Wu dynasty as well, and their troops have already withdrawn from the former territory of Chen Nation. At this moment, all Your Highness needs to do is return to the capital of Chen Nation, reveal your identity, and then the people of Chen Nation will surely support you and restore the kingdom.”

Next to the Xiwu County of Great Xia are the two counties that make up the former territory of Chen Nation. After the outbreak of war between Great Xia and Great Wu, these two counties were occupied by Great Wu, and troops were also stationed there.

But due to the internal strife in Great Wu, the Martial Emperor, in order to quickly deal with the southwestern rebels, has pulled back the elite troops from those two counties, leaving only some ordinary soldiers behind.

For the Mysterious Moon Palace, dealing with these ordinary soldiers is not too difficult.

In the eyes of Chen Nation’s former officials, as long as these ordinary soldiers are dealt with, and Chen Wanrong publicly announces her identity, she would be able to call upon the masses. By the time they could organize a new army for Chen Nation, Great Wu and Great Xia would realize that Chen Nation had already been restored.

Moreover, the internal conflicts within the two great dynasties have already weakened their strength, so even if they see the restoration of Chen Nation, it is highly unlikely that they will send troops to attack Chen Nation at that point.

At this moment, the former officials from Chen Nation on the first floor were all very excited, all thinking eagerly of Chen Wanrong returning to the old territories to restore the kingdom. However, at this point, an elderly man with white hair said, “Your Highness the Princess, I believe that restoring the kingdom in the former territories of Chen Nation is not prudent. The main territories of Chen Nation have now been occupied by Great Wu, which venerates martial power, especially the Martial Emperor who prefers solving problems with force.”

“If we try to restore the kingdom now, once Great Wu deals with the southwestern rebels, they are very likely to send troops to attack us.”

Hearing this, another former official of Chen Nation said, “What’s there to worry about? General Wei is about to return from Wind Cloud Island. The Wei Family has been developing Wind Cloud Island these years and has trained a hundred thousand elite troops there. With these elite troops, I don’t believe Great Wu would dare make a move on us while they are weakened.”

Just as the white-haired elder was about to say something, Chen Wanrong, who had been quiet upstairs, spoke up, “The matter of restoring the kingdom is of great importance. Let’s not discuss it today. We will wait for General Wei’s arrival in the North Country before making further discussions.”

Seeing that Chen Wanrong had said so, the former officials of Chen Nation didn’t say any more. Although they were former officials of Chen Nation, they didn’t have much backing. Although they all wanted to restore the kingdom, they could only talk; they could not contribute significantly to the restoration.

Only people like Wei Siyuan, who had troops at their command, could play a significant role in restoring the kingdom. Without troops, shouting about restoration was futile.

Afterward, they stopped discussing the restoration and instead talked about what preparations they should make next.

About four hours later, Chen Wanrong returned to the Prince’s Mansion from the tavern. Originally, she had planned not to return tonight, but somehow after leaving the Prince’s Mansion, she felt rather unsettled.

Once Chen Wanrong reached Yunrong Courtyard, she intended to go to her own room when she heard the sound of animals crying out in their wild state upon entering the courtyard.

Hearing these noises, Chen Wanrong’s eyebrows slightly furrowed.

That man had actually come to Yunrong Courtyard to do such a thing.

Chen Wanrong then activated her skill, concealing her presence before stealthily approaching Lin Wanyun’s room door. Next, she poked a small hole in the room’s paper window to check what exactly was happening inside.

Seeing the two overlapping figures, Chen Wanrong’s face turned exceedingly cold. She had only been out for one night, and they had rushed to this courtyard to engage in such acts.

Chen Wanrong felt a sense of oppression in her chest as she found the distasteful scene unbearable to continue watching. She prepared to turn around and leave, but as she was about to do so, Lin Wanyun said weakly, "Chen'er, I... I beg you, give the antidote to Rongrong."

Upon hearing this, Chen Wanrong was slightly stunned.

Antidote? What antidote?

Lu Chen said with a laugh, "Wanyun, you can't be thinking of other things at a time like this."

Lin Wanyun continued, "Ah... Rongrong still has her own mission, martial artists... ah... it is difficult for martial artists to conceive. Yelv Nanyan has been married into the Prince's Mansion for so long without conceiving."

"If we wait for me to conceive... haah... your child before giving her the antidote, the civil war in Great Xia would be over."

As Lin Wanyun said this, Chen Wanrong heard a series of hurried sounds, and it took a long time before Lu Chen said, "It's not going to be so easy for me to give her the antidote."

Lin Wanyun pleaded, "I'm asking you... if you give her the antidote and let her leave the North Prince Mansion, I will stay in the North Prince Mansion forever after. Whether you want me to serve you or bear your children, I am willing."

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Hearing Lin Wanyun's words, Chen Wanrong had pretty much guessed what Lin Wanyun meant.

Chen Wanrong's expression became even colder. She had always thought that Lin Wanyun was involved with Lu Chen to help her feed him the powder of the Pair-Wing Butterfly, and secondly because she herself had certain needs.

But now, listening to their conversation, it was not the case at all.

From their discussion, it seemed that Lu Chen had poisoned both of them, which was why Lin Wanyun had surrendered herself to Lu Chen, hoping to obtain an antidote from him, then help herself detoxify and leave the North Prince Mansion.

When it came to poison, Chen Wanrong felt very confused; she never felt like she had been poisoned.

But if she hadn't been poisoned, then Lin Wanyun should not have been threatened by Lu Chen, nor would there have been the exchange they just had. What exactly was going on?

Could it be that Lu Chen had deceived Madam Lin?

Or was it that the poison was exceptionally unique, and she was poisoned without even knowing it?

Lu Chen then said with a laugh, "How do I know if your word is your bond? What if I give her the antidote, she runs away, and you run away with her?"

Lin Wanyun responded, "Just give one antidote, you don't have to give me mine."

Lu Chen said, "If you're set on dying, and after she takes the antidote and detoxifies, leaving the North Prince Mansion, you commit suicide, then wouldn't I be at a great loss?"

Blushing deeply at these words, Lin Wanyun said, "I... I won't... commit suicide..."

"I've already... grown unable to leave you..."

As she said this, Lin Wanyun turned her head away, so ashamed she wished she could hide away in a crack in the ground.

Hearing Lin Wanyun's words, Lu Chen said with a smile, "I, of course, know you can't leave me, but that does not mean you won't seek death."

Seeing that Lu Chen still didn't trust her, Lin Wanyun simply said, "My heart... has been taken by you. Even if you didn't coerce me, I would still be willing to be your woman."

Hearing this, Lu Chen was stunned for a moment. He hadn't expected the woman who had always been so resolute to say such a thing today. Of course, he knew she was telling the truth; her favorability towards him had long since reached one hundred percent. But the likelihood of Lin Wanyun saying something like this was probably still for Chen Wanrong's sake.

Like Chu Yuqin, Lin Wanyun was a traditional beauty with a gentler nature, typically reserved, usually finding it difficult to speak of love and affection.

Chen Wanrong felt like her heart was being pricked by needles upon hearing Lin Wanyun's words.

So, did that mean Lin Wanyun had truly betrayed her?

No, it wasn't right to call it a betrayal. If she truly liked Lu Chen, then as a child whom Lin Wanyun had brought up, she should wish her happiness, not consider it a betrayal.

But Chen Wanrong felt an inexplicable emotion inside, leaving her somewhat agitated and confused; she couldn't clarify what this emotion was.

Shortly after, a series of hurried sounds came from the room. It was a long time before Lu Chen spoke again, "I never thought that there would come a day when my Wanyun would speak such words. So, does this mean you truly wish to bear my child?"

Lin Wanyun's shame had peaked, her entire body flushed red, and her pale neck also blushed deeply.

Even she herself had never imagined that one day she would utter such shameful words.

Lin Wanyun thought to herself, just consider it for Rongrong's sake.

If being shameless allowed her to obtain the antidote from Lu Chen, able to help Chen Wanrong leave the North Prince Mansion, then whatever she did was worthwhile.

Just as Lin Wanyun harbored this thought, Lu Chen said, "Wanyun, what do you think Miss Chen would feel if she knew you became like this for her sake? Would she feel heartbroken for you, or would she be extremely angry, thinking you betrayed her?"

With a weak voice, Lin Wanyun said, “What... do you mean?”

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Lu Chen smiled and said no more, continuing with his busy work.

Chen Wanrong stopped eavesdropping on their conversation; she only felt an uncomfortable feeling in her heart and then turned around to leave the doorway.

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Early in the morning, Lin Wanyun tried several times to drive Lu Chen out of the Yunrong Courtyard. She feared that Chen Wanrong would come back and discover what had happened between them, but no matter how much she struggled, she couldn't push Lu Chen away.

Fortunately, it was the day of the small court assembly in the North Country, and after half an hour of effort, Lu Chen finally left her room contentedly, leaving the Yunrong Courtyard.

After Lu Chen left, Lin Wanyun quickly straightened her clothes and came out. Not seeing Chen Wanrong in the courtyard and finding it empty, Lin Wanyun finally breathed a sigh of relief.

What Lin Wanyun didn't know was that Chen Wanrong had returned last night and was now meditating in her room.

Seeing the empty courtyard, Lin Wanyun sighed.

What a sin, she had clearly come to help Chen Wanrong control Lu Chen and then use Lu Chen to create the Subtle Dragon Spell, but she ended up becoming Lu Chen's woman and even fell in love with him.

This nemesis, Lu Chen, how could he be so adept at dealing with women.

Lin Wanyun muttered to herself, “Ah, Yue, how did you give birth to such a little rascal? You've made me suffer.”

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As time passed day by day, the war between the Great Sum Imperial Court and the southern rebels had intensified; both sides were continuously reinforcing their troops and fighting more fiercely.

However, to everyone's surprise, with the war having reached this point, why were the seigniors still without any action?

The Sum Emperors of the past few generations have all been reducing the power of the seigniors, and although they still retained a lot of autonomy for the seigniors, anyone could see that reducing the power of the seigniors was a governance direction of the Great Sum imperial family.

The aristocratic families and the seigniors colluded with each other and belonged to the same interest group. Many times, the aristocratic families could use the seigniors' autonomy to gain more benefits for themselves without falling under the direct control of the Imperial Court.

If the Sum Emperor were to annihilate the ancient families, then cutting back the seigniors' power might be next.

While the Imperial Army was fighting with the southern rebels, in reality, many aristocratic families from other regions were already aiding the southern rebels. They understood the principle of shared fate very well.

Even the families outside the South were supporting the southern rebels, but the seigniors remained inactive, which inevitably led to suspicions that the seigniors were intending to benefit from the conflict like the fisherman who profits from the fight between the snipe and the clam.

Lu Chen had always paid close attention to the civil war in Great Sum, and this war had allowed the North Country to gain a significant increase in population and more benefits.

As the Great Sum Imperial Court completely ignored the North Country, Lu Chen simply stopped pretending and began to aggressively expand his army. Thanks to the population increase, Lu Chen's new round of military expansion added a hundred thousand soldiers. These hundred thousand were not the soldiers of Wind Cloud Island but soldiers recruited from the North Country itself.

If we include the soldiers from Wind Cloud Island, the North Country now had nearly four hundred thousand troops.

North Prince Mansion.

Lu Chen's study.

Lu Chen looked at the military expansion plan on the table, a satisfied smile on his face.

It was at this moment that the voice of a maid sounded at the door of the study, "Prince, Commander Wu has brought a man surnamed Wei to the Prince's Mansion."

Hearing this, Lu Chen's smile became even brighter. "Finally, he has arrived."

Then he said to the maid, "Let them come to the study."

Chapter 354: The North Prince You Mentioned, Is It Lu Chen?_1

Wu Yuan, accompanied by Wei Siyuan, arrived at Lu Chen's study, and Wei Siyuan immediately knelt halfway and said to Lu Chen, "General Wei Siyuan presents his respects to the Prince, long life and prosperity to the Prince, may you live thousands and thousands of years!"

Lu Chen immediately rose from his seat and then, holding onto Wei Siyuan's shoulder, said, "General Wei, please rise quickly, I have been eagerly awaiting your arrival."

After Wei Siyuan stood up, he said, "Thank you, Prince!"

Once Wei Siyuan stood up, Lu Chen asked, "General Wei, do you know how many large warships there currently are on Wind Cloud Island?"

Upon hearing this question, Wei Siyuan was startled for a moment, then he replied, "Prince, the ships on Wind Cloud Island are mostly medium-sized vessels; there aren't many large ones, and they hardly qualify as warships."

After arriving in the North Country, Wei Siyuan saw the Dongfang Family's large merchant ships. The Dongfang Family engaged in maritime trade for their business, hence they built especially large ships.

Before seeing the Dongfang Family's large merchant ships, Wei Siyuan had always thought the ships of Wind Cloud Island were the biggest. But upon reaching the North Country, he saw merchant ships that were a whole size bigger than theirs. It suddenly made him feel as though the ships they had built on Wind Cloud Island were nothing but fishing boats.

Now, Wei Siyuan felt embarrassed to tell Lu Chen that they had been building warships – how could warships look like little fishing boats next to merchant vessels?

In this era, it was believed that the size of a ship corresponded to its strength. If this were modern times, it would be normal for merchant ships to be larger than warships; however, they still lived in an era where tonnage was a measure of combat power.

After hearing Wei Siyuan's words, Lu Chen thought for a moment, it seemed that if he were to build a navy in the future, he would need shipbuilding know-how, but they did not yet possess the technology to build large ships.

He would have to ask the Dongfang Family later on. Given that the Dongfang Family built such large merchant ships, they must have skilled craftsmen and shipbuilding technology.

Just then, Wei Siyuan asked, "Prince, when I reached the North Country, I heard that the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace is residing in the North Prince Mansion?"

Wei Siyuan's question took Lu Chen aback. What did the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace staying in the North Prince Mansion have to do with Wei Siyuan? Why would Wei Siyuan ask such a question?

Lu Chen, curious, asked, "Why do you bring up this question?"

Wei Siyuan directly inquired, "I wonder if the Prince is aware that the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace is actually a princess of Chen Nation?"

If Wei Siyuan were acting on behalf of the remnants of Chen Nation, he naturally would not have disclosed anything about Chen Wanrong to Lu Chen. But now that the Wei Family had awaited the

birth of the Son of Destiny, the North Prince would be their new master, and they need not remain loyal to the Chen royal family anymore.

Wei Siyuan decisively betrays Chen Wanrong's identity; after all, Chen Wanrong is a princess of Chen Nation, and Lu Chen is a Seignior of Great Sum. A princess of Chen Nation residing in the North Prince Mansion would be instantly suspect of plotting something nefarious.

As a subordinate of Lu Chen, Wei Siyuan naturally had to disclose this, and also had to make sure if Lu Chen was aware of these matters.

Hearing Wei Siyuan's words, Lu Chen was stunned once again.

How could Wei Siyuan, a man from Wind Cloud Island, know about this?

Not many knew of Chen Wanrong's true identity as a princess of Chen Nation, even the women in the inner courtyards of the North Prince Mansion, Lu Chen's women, were unaware of it. Most of them thought Chen Wanrong was just the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace.

Coming back to his senses, Lu Chen, still curious, asked, "How did you come to know of her identity?"

Wei Siyuan responded, "To not conceal it from the Prince, the Wei Family had a good relationship with the Chen royal family and were highly favored by them. After the downfall of Chen Nation, the Wei Family then moved to Wind Cloud Island and has been awaiting the Prince's orders."

"Initially, the Wei Family intended to support the restoration of Chen Nation, and over the years, I have continuously corresponded with the princess of Chen Nation."

"However, since we have now received the Prince's orders, our natural course of action is to assist the Prince in achieving his great ambition. Hence, the matter of restoring Chen Nation no longer concerns the Wei Family."

Smiling, Lu Chen then said, "So that is the case."

Lu Chen thought to himself, it was unexpected that Chen Wanrong's people had now become his; he wondered what she would think once she learned of this.

At that moment, Wei Siyuan continued, “Prince, the princess of Chen Nation must have had a motive for coming to the North Prince Mansion, you should be wary.”

To this, Lu Chen replied indifferently, “You needn’t worry about that; before long, she will become my Side Concubine and bear my children.”

“You, the former ministers of Chen Nation, needn’t be overly concerned either.”

This...

Wei Siyuan was momentarily stunned.

Honestly, Wei Siyuan did not wish to see conflict arise between Chen Wanrong and Lu Chen; the Wei Family had enjoyed excellent relations with the Chen royal family, and their prosperity today was supported by them. Without the help of the Chen royal family, it was doubtful whether the Wei Family would have been able to await the appearance of the Son of Destiny.

If the princess of Chen Nation could unite with the Son of Destiny, that would be ideal.

Regaining his composure, Wei Siyuan said, “I understand.”

Lu Chen went on, “Moreover, later you shall inform her about the Wei Family pledging allegiance to me. It’s also time for me to lay my cards on the table with her.”

Wei Siyuan replied, “I understand.”

Lu Chen contemplated that having delayed for so long, this was a good opportunity. The Wei Family was certainly an important force for Chen Wanrong, and now that the Wei Family had pledged themselves to the North Country, it would be a considerable blow to Chen Wanrong, causing her to lose hope in restoring her nation.

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Moreover, Chen Wanrong was already aware of the affair between him and Lin Wanyun. Her spying on his trysts with Lin Wanyun wasn't just a day or two's matter; Chen Wanrong must have guessed that her secret with Lin Wanyun was known to him as well.

Once she found out that the former officials of Chen Nation were coming to seek sanctuary with him, Chen Wanrong would definitely explode with anxiety and couldn't help but come to find him directly. He just needed to wait.

Wei Siyuan then reported the situation on Wind Cloud Island to Lu Chen. After roughly finishing the report, Wei Siyuan was led by the servants of the Prince's Mansion to Yunrong Courtyard.

At this very moment.

Lin Wanyun and Chen Wanrong were discussing the matter of the former Chen Nation officials in the pavilion.

Chen Wanrong said, "The Wei Family should arrive at Yan County in the next few days."

Lin Wanyun asked with concern, "Palace Master, can we really trust these Wei Family members? After all, Chen Nation has been gone for so many years and people's hearts can change. Moreover, they now have a force of one hundred thousand elite troops on Wind Cloud Island, and they might have developed some inappropriate intentions."

Historically, when royal power waned, Military Generals with army control would often entertain the thought of becoming Emperor themselves. Especially since Chen Nation had long since fallen, and the royal family of Chen Nation had nothing left but a princess, without even having a prince. With no prince, why would others aid you in restoring the nation? They might as well become Emperor themselves and forcibly take the royal princess for marriage.

Chen Wanrong said, "The Wei Family has always been loyal to the Chen royal family. For the sake of Chen Nation, many Wei Family members died on the battlefield. I was able to escape the capital of Chen Nation thanks to the Wei Family. Now that I am the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace, with its power behind me, they will not waver."

Chen Wanrong naturally understood Lin Wanyun's concerns. If she were just a princess with no power or influence, the Wei Family might well use the pretense of restoring the nation and, after Chen Nation was restored, force marriage upon her and then usurp the throne, with a Wei ending up as Emperor.

But she was not a powerless princess. She had the entire Mysterious Moon Palace behind her. The Wei Family would certainly be aware of what kind of power the Mysterious Moon Palace represented, and with such a formidable sect behind her, Chen Wanrong didn't believe the Wei Family would dare harbor any thoughts of usurpation.

Having heard Chen Wanrong's words, Lin Wanyun considered them and felt there was some truth to them. After all, Chen Wanrong was the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace, and she herself was a Grandmaster. Perhaps the Wei Family would still remain loyal to the Chen Family, loyal to Chen Wanrong.

Just as Lin Wanyun was thinking this, a maid from the Prince's Mansion suddenly entered Yunrong Courtyard. Seeing the maid enter, both Lin Wanyun and Chen Wanrong were startled and immediately became vigilant.

Usually, without their permission, the maids of the Prince's Mansion would not enter Yunrong Courtyard directly. The two of them had quite special identities in the Prince's Mansion, being guests there, so the maids usually stood outside Yunrong Courtyard.

At this time, the maid said, "Master Chen, a guest surnamed Wei requests an audience."

Upon hearing this, Chen Wanrong's brows knitted slightly.

A guest surnamed Wei?

That could only be Wei Siyuan.

Why would Wei Siyuan come to the North Prince Mansion to see her?

Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun looked at each other, and Lin Wanyun asked, "Palace Master, you didn't invite him to come find you here at the North Prince Mansion, did you?"

Chen Wanrong didn't respond. This was the North Prince Mansion after all; how could she possibly have Wei Siyuan, a former official of Chen Nation, come here to find her? If she had let him come here, wouldn't that mean Lu Chen had found out?

Lu Chen had already seen through their plans. If he also discovered that Chen Nation still had one hundred thousand elite soldiers on Wind Cloud Island, who knew what he might do.

When things don't go as usual, there must be something amiss. Chen Wanrong didn't believe that Wei Siyuan, a man in his forties, could lack such basic sense. Him coming to the North Prince Mansion to find her must mean something had happened.

Chen Wanrong then asked the maid, "Where is he now?"

The maid answered, "He's here in the Prince's Mansion."

Chen Wanrong immediately said, "Bring him here."

"Yes, Master Chen."

After that, the maid turned and left. It wasn't long before a middle-aged man appeared at the gates of Yunrong Courtyard.

Seeing Wei Siyuan's appearance, Chen Wanrong was taken aback once again. Although more than a decade had passed since she had last seen Wei Siyuan, she could still recognize him at a glance. The middle-aged man in front of her was indeed Wei Siyuan, the very same who had helped her escape the capital of Chen Nation.

Wei Siyuan looked much the same as he had fifteen years ago; other than having grown more facial hair and appearing more mature, there was little change in him.

After entering the courtyard, Wei Siyuan also recognized Chen Wanrong immediately. Despite the many changes from when she was a young girl to a grown woman, Chen Wanrong bore a strong resemblance to the former Empress of Chen Nation, making her easy to identify.

Wei Siyuan immediately walked to the outside of the pavilion, knelt halfway, and said, "Your humble servant Wei Siyuan greets the princess—long live the princess, for a thousand autumns and ten thousand years!"

Hearing this, a flicker of shock passed through Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun's hearts.

This was the North Prince Mansion, and Wei Siyuan shouldn't have shown such a gesture. Although 'palace master' and 'princess' sound similar, when you add "long live for a thousand autumns and ten thousand years" after it, others could instantly infer that it was 'princess' being addressed.

Chen Wanrong was puzzled. How could Wei Siyuan be so lacking in vigilance?

Chen Wanrong responded coldly, "Rise."

Wei Siyuan immediately got up from the ground and said, "Thank you, Your Highness the Princess."

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Hmm?

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Chen Wanrong's willow brows lifted again. It was one thing to be called Princess, but to add "Your Highness" on top of that—did she fear others might not know she was a princess?

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At that moment, Chen Wanrong spoke, "It's been over a decade since we last met, Mr. Wei. You've changed a great deal."

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Wei Siyuan replied, “Compared with Your Highness, my changes are insignificant.”

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Seeing Wei Siyuan repeatedly address her as Princess Your Highness, Chen Wanrong could hardly bear it any longer and asked directly, “Mr. Wei, why have you come to the North Prince Mansion to find me? Has something happened?”

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Smiling, Wei Siyuan answered, “Your Highness, I did not come here specifically for you. I just happened to have business at the North Prince Mansion and took the opportunity to pay my respects to you.”

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This...

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Hearing Wei Siyuan’s response, both Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun immediately felt an ominous premonition.

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Wei Siyuan has business in the North Prince Mansion? What business could a subject of the Chen Nation possibly have at the North Prince Mansion?

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Chen Wanrong quickly deduced the meaning behind Wei Siyuan's words and said coldly, “You, have you betrayed the Chen Nation?”

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As she spoke, a chill emanated from Chen Wanrong's body, and the entire courtyard turned extremely cold, as though a layer of frost had formed inside and outside the pavilion.

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Still smiling, Wei Siyuan replied, “What are you saying, Your Highness? I have never betrayed the Chen Nation. After all, the Wei Family and I have been with the North Prince from the very beginning.”

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This...

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At Wei Siyuan's words, Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun were both stunned.

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Especially Chen Wanrong, who was incredibly shocked in her heart.

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The North Prince's man?

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Lu Chen's man?

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How old is Lu Chen this year?

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How could Wei Siyuan have possibly been Lu Chen’s man from the start?

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Of course, Wei Siyuan knew Chen Wanrong would be baffled as to why he would say such a thing, given that Lu Chen was only eighteen this year, and the Wei Family had been in the Chen Nation since its inception, with a history in the Chen Nation that was almost a century old.

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Even though Chen Wanrong was perplexed, there were some secrets that Wei Siyuan could not casually reveal to her. His main purpose was to clarify his stance to Chen Wanrong. Other matters were not his to disclose to her.

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After Wei Siyuan finished speaking, the Yunrong Courtyard became eerily silent, and the sound of fish flipping over the water’s surface in the lotus pond seemed exceptionally loud.

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Chen Wanrong had never imagined that Wei Siyuan would turn out to be Lu Chen's man.

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After a long pause, Chen Wanrong confirmed, “The North Prince you mentioned, is it Lu Chen?”

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What Chen Wanrong was thinking was that perhaps the North Prince Wei Siyuan spoke of was not Lu Chen but someone else. The title of North Prince was just a princely title that anyone could use, and perhaps there had been a North Prince from Great Sum whom they did not know about.

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However, at that moment, Wei Siyuan said, “Yes.”

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Seeing Wei Siyuan confirm it, Chen Wanrong's expression grew even colder. The loyal retainer of the Chen Nation she always believed in, the crucial force she had been waiting for to help her restore her country, now came to tell her they were Lu Chen's men?

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What kind of joke was this?

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After an indeterminate amount of time had passed, Chen Wanrong finally spoke coldly, “The Wei Family almost faced extermination for the sake of the Chen Nation, and now you tell me that from the start you have been the North Prince’s men? Was the North Prince even born at that time?”

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Wei Siyuan sensed Chen Wanrong’s anger and the mounting chill, yet his expression remained unchanged. Smiling, he replied, “Your Highness, it’s true the Wei Family has sacrificed much for the Chen Nation. However, that was merely to repay the Chen Nation. There are some matters I cannot reveal to Your Highness, but I can tell you this—the Wei Family has only ever had one master from the beginning: the North Prince.”

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Chen Wanrong stated, “So you’re saying that when I arrived in the North Country, the Wei Family told the North Prince everything about me?”

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Wei Siyuan replied, "That's not the case. This is the first time I have been to the North Prince Mansion, and today is also the first time I have met the North Prince. However, from my earlier conversation with the North Prince, he indeed knew about your identity long ago."

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"It was the North Prince's wish that I meet with you now."

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The silence lingered once again.

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Chen Wanrong did not believe Wei Siyuan would take her for a fool with his bizarre tale. Lu Chen had not even been born when the Wei Family became his people. Such a story could only fool a simpleton.

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Yet with Lu Chen, the more it defied common sense, the more likely it was to be true.

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Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun had been in the North Country for so long, and had witnessed Lu Chen's many miracles. They had also heard the rumors about Lu Chen being a disciple of an immortal.

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Combined with Chen Wanrong's own experience of having an exceptionally skilled mentor and having seen many of the world's wonders, she was quick to accept Wei Siyuan's words.

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If what Wei Siyuan said was true, then it meant someone was paving the way for Lu Chen even before his birth.

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Thinking this over, everything that occurred after Lu Chen's arrival in the North Country seemed to be orchestrated by an invisible hand. Lu Chen might not be just an ordinary prince, and with the rumors of him being a disciple of an immortal, his identity seemed even more extraordinary.

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What kind of force lay behind Lu Chen?

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Chen Wanrong suddenly felt helpless, as if she had hit a thick wall.

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The closest person to her, Lin Wanyun, had been manipulated by Lu Chen, and now Wei Siyuan was telling her that the important force she had been awaiting for the restoration of her country was also Lu Chen's men.

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Ever since arriving in the North Country, she felt as if the world revolved around this man, Lu Chen.

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Seeing that Chen Wanrong remained silent for a long time, Wei Siyuan continued, “Your Highness, there is no need for you and the North Prince to be adversaries. Although he is the child of the Sum Emperor, he is not only the Sum Emperor's child. You share many common interests, and as far as I know, his mother is the Goddess of the Mysterious Moon Palace, and he is the God's Son of the Mysterious Moon Palace.”

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At these words, Chen Wanrong's voice turned icy, "You needn't advocate for him. You may leave now."

Chapter 357: It seems that all men are the same, and you are no exception_1

Seeing Chen Wanrong becoming angry, Wei Siyuan chose not to say anything more. It was normal for Chen Wanrong to be upset, after all, the Wei Family was the power she valued most for the restoration of the country, and yet he just told her that the Wei Family had long had a master.

Anyway, he had told Chen Wanrong the truth, and the next move was up to the North Prince. Since the North Prince had long been aware of Chen Wanrong's identity and had kept her in the North Prince Mansion for so long, that indicated he held a certain favorability toward her.

Wei Siyuan hoped that the North Prince would quickly win over Chen Wanrong and have offspring with her, as this would benefit the Wei Family members as well.

After that, Wei Siyuan said, "This old servant shall take his leave."

With those words, Wei Siyuan turned and departed.

Yunrong Courtyard became incredibly quiet again. The gentle breeze rustled the leaves, and the two people inside the pavilion did not speak, simply sitting there in silence.

Lin Wanyun glanced at Chen Wanrong, knowing that today's events must have been a huge blow to her.

Although Chen Wanrong now was the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, most of the people there weren't under her control, including many Elders who constantly suppressed her as the Palace Master.

Therefore, for Chen Wanrong's restoration of the country, the power of the Wei Family was extremely important, particularly the one hundred thousand elite soldiers from Wind Cloud Island.

Unfortunately, those one hundred thousand elite soldiers had now become people of the North Prince Mansion...

Thinking about it, if Chen Wanrong were to also know about her affair with Lu Chen, it would likely be an even greater blow. Lin Wanyun felt extremely conflicted at the thought.

After a long while, Lin Wanyun finally spoke up, “Palace Master, what do you plan to do next?”

Chen Wanrong did not answer Lin Wanyun’s question, continuing to sit quietly.

Seeing this, Lin Wanyun sighed and said no more.

At this point, Chen Wanrong was thinking that since Lu Chen had sent Wei Siyuan to Yunrong Courtyard to personally tell her about the Wei Family’s allegiance to the North Prince Mansion, it was likely Lu Chen intended to have a showdown with her.

Indeed, after having been at the North Prince Mansion for so long, it was time for a showdown.

With that in mind, Chen Wanrong planned to meet with Lu Chen tonight and also to ask Lin Wanyun what exactly the antidote she mentioned while with Lu Chen was all about.

Ever since she overheard Lu Chen and Lin Wanyun’s conversation, she had been checking her own body, but no matter how she examined it, she found no signs of poisoning.

If she, a disciple of the immortal, couldn’t detect her own poisoning, she began to suspect that Lin Wanyun might have been deceived by Lu Chen.

In the deep quiet of the night, lights shone brightly in Lu Chen’s study as he examined the latest map of the North Country, looking for a place to build a port city.

The large merchant ships of the Dongfang Clan were arriving by sea to the North Country without a place to dock. Soon, soldiers from Wind Cloud Island would also arrive, and he planned to create a navy. Thus, building a port became an urgent matter.

After scanning the map, Lu Chen finally decided to build the port city on top of a fishing village. Dongfang Clan’s merchant ships were currently docking there, and the place, with an extending peninsula, was well-suited as a sheltered harbor.

Just as Lu Chen finalized the location for the port city and was planning to visit Spring Sound Court to cultivate a relationship with Yelv Nanyan, he suddenly sensed a familiar presence outside the courtyard.

The next moment, an arrow flew in through the door and struck the bookshelf.

It seemed there was a paper tied to the arrow. Lu Chen walked over to inspect it, pulled out the arrow, and then took the paper to read.

The paper contained just one sentence.

“Meet tonight at the Mysterious Moon Tavern in the southern city.”

Seeing this, Lu Chen showed a hint of a smile. He, of course, knew who had sent this note—he had just sensed Chen Wanrong’s presence.

Even if he wasn’t a Grandmaster and couldn’t sense Chen Wanrong’s energy, he could still guess who wanted to meet him tonight.

Obviously, Chen Wanrong was ready to have a showdown. Both of them had been in the North Prince Mansion for so long, their plans not only unsuccessful but also involving Lin Wanyun. Now, her power for the restoration of the country had pledged allegiance to the North Prince Mansion, and she had no choice but to confront him.

As for any danger, Lu Chen was unconcerned about it. He himself was a Grandmaster, and with another Grandmaster in the city, if a Grandmaster’s battle broke out, Zhuge Zhongguang would quickly notice.

Moreover, Lu Chen didn’t believe that Chen Wanrong, who had a one hundred percent favorability toward him, would kill him.

Then, Lu Chen bathed, changed into fresh clothes, and set off alone toward the Mysterious Moon Tavern in the southern part of the city.

By the time Lu Chen arrived at the Mysterious Moon Tavern, there were hardly any people left on the streets.

When the carriage stopped at the entrance of the Mysterious Moon Tavern, and Lu Chen got down, he felt Chen Wanrong's familiar energy.

Looking up, he saw Chen Wanrong in white clothes standing on the balcony of the third-floor loft of the Mysterious Moon Tavern, gazing at the moon above.

At that time, a female disciple of the Mysterious Moon Palace approached Lu Chen, "Prince, please follow this girl."

Lu Chen smiled slightly. With his ability, he could easily leap directly to the third-floor loft, without the need for stairs.

However, he felt that would be somewhat improper, too hasty. How could he rush when meeting with a fairy late at night, in case it left a bad impression on Chen Wanrong?

Chapter 358: It seems that all men are the same, and you are no exception_2

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Lu Chen followed the female disciples of the Mysterious Moon Palace diligently and arrived at the third floor of the Mysterious Moon Tavern.

After reaching the attic on the third floor, the female disciple said at the door, "Palace Master, the Prince has arrived."

Chen Wanrong's cool voice came through immediately.

"Come in."

The next moment, Lu Chen pushed the door and entered.

Upon entering the room, Lu Chen subconsciously closed the door behind him.

When Lu Chen turned around, he was startled by the scene before him.

The moonlight, gentle as water, bathed Chen Wanrong, making her seem to radiate a holy glow. Dressed in a white gown, she stood on the balcony like a fairy from the Jade Pool.

Chen Wanrong at that moment was like a dazzling, incomparably beautiful, ice-carved and jade-polished, flawless porcelain statue.

Her snow-white skin, her beautifully curved body, her slender waist that could be encircled with a handful, and her long jade legs all made Lu Chen extremely restless.

However, the next moment, Lu Chen instantly sobered up.

Wait a minute...

What was that about?

Indeed, Chen Wanrong was beautiful. From the first glance, Lu Chen wanted to possess her, but he usually didn't harbor any lustful thoughts in front of her.

Because Chen Wanrong always exuded an aura like that of a fairy, utterly pure, making it difficult for Lu Chen to have thoughts of devouring her completely.

But what had just happened?

Why did he, upon entering the room and catching just a glimpse of Chen Wanrong, find it impossible to contain the agitation in his heart, almost wanting to pounce on her immediately?

This was clearly abnormal.

As Lu Chen puzzled over this, he suddenly noticed an insect on his shoulder.

Upon seeing the insect, Lu Chen finally understood what was happening.

Seeing that Lu Chen was completely unaffected, Chen Wanrong said coldly, “The Love Worm also has no effect on you. It seems Madam Lin truly didn’t use the Pair-Wing Butterfly powder on you.”

Chen Wanrong did indeed plan to confront Lu Chen, but before doing so, she wanted to verify a suspicion: whether Lin Wanyun had used the Pair-Wing Butterfly powder on Lu Chen or not.

If it had been used, Lu Chen’s desire for her would have peaked. At that moment, deploying the Love Worm would have had a very high chance of success. Unfortunately, she failed—the Love Worm didn’t enter Lu Chen’s body nor did it control him. Lu Chen was merely stunned for a moment.

Lu Chen raised his hand, grabbed the “caterpillar” on his shoulder, and then smiled and said, “So this is the Love Worm. Does it really look no different from a regular caterpillar?”

“Miss Chen, you have misunderstood Madam Lin. She did indeed use the Pair-Wing Butterfly powder on me; it’s just that the powder is ineffective on me.”

Upon hearing this, Chen Wanrong was slightly taken aback.

Ineffective?

Impossible.

The Pair-Wing Butterfly powder wasn’t considered a poison; it merely stimulated latent desires in people. How could it be ineffective on anyone? Her master had once told her that even Grandmasters would have difficulty detecting the powder of the Pair-Wing Butterfly.

Lu Chen continued, “Miss Chen, the reason you called me here tonight wasn’t to try to bewitch me with a worm, was it?”

Upon hearing Lu Chen’s words, Chen Wanrong collected herself. Her expression cold, she said, “I am already aware of your affair with Madam Lin.”

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I also know you've known about my affair with Madam Lin for quite some time. After all, you have spied on Madam Lin and me in our intimate moments more than once or twice."

"To tell the truth, I didn't expect you to have such a hobby, Miss Chen."

Chen Wanrong did not get angry at Lu Chen's words. Her expression still icy, she said, "Madam Lin thought she had committed herself to you because you had poisoned me, and I want to know what kind of poison you have used on me."

Lu Chen said indifferently, "Love poison."

Upon hearing this, Chen Wanrong was taken aback once more.

She did not know when she had been poisoned by the Love poison nor felt any symptoms.

After taking the Pair-Wing Butterfly powder, a person would develop certain desires. It made no sense for her to be poisoned and still act like a normal person.

Knowing Chen Wanrong might not believe him, Lu Chen continued, "This poison is colorless and tasteless, and it won't harm a person at all. However, if you stay away from me too long, the poison will flare up. You'll think of me day and night, miss me, to the point where you'll be unable to cultivate and might even go mad from the longing."

Chen Wanrong's brows lifted slightly. What Lu Chen described didn't sound like a poison to her, but rather the condition some of the female disciples of the Mysterious Moon Palace experienced when they had to return to the palace after falling in love with a man in the secular world.

In other words, this wasn't poison at all; it was the pain brought about by love.

Her master had warned her never to develop feelings for a man, as those feelings could lead to a point of no return.

Chen Wanrong looked at Lu Chen expressionlessly and asked, "Are you implying that I have fallen in love with you?"

“Don’t you think you’re being somewhat conceited, Prince?”

Lu Chen laughed out and said, “Miss Chen, I never said you had fallen in love with me; I simply said you were poisoned, and the antidote is with me.”

Chen Wanrong asked, “Is this what you told Madam Lin to deceive her into giving herself to you?”

Lu Chen replied, “No, no, no; she chose to be with me willingly.”

As his words fell, the room fell silent. Chen Wanrong gazed into Lu Chen’s eyes, speechless for a long time as the temperature in the room seemed to drop several degrees.

After an unknown period, Chen Wanrong finally spoke, “Since you have discovered our plan, what do you intend to do with us?”

Lu Chen said, “Deal with you?”

Chapter 359: It seems that all men are the same, and you are no exception_3

Speaking of this, Lu Chen shook his head and continued, “You are the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace, and I wouldn’t dare to deal with you. I’ve heard from Madam Lin that your Mysterious Moon Palace has powerhouses who surpass the Heavenly Human Realm. I can’t afford to offend such powerhouses.”

Chen Wanrong said in an emotionless tone, “I haven’t seen from your actions that you fear the Mysterious Moon Palace.”

If Lu Chen truly feared the Mysterious Moon Palace, afraid of her master, then he wouldn’t have possibly wrecked Lin Wanyun, let alone speak of things like inflicting her with a love poison.

Clearly, the power backing Lu Chen was immensely strong, and so was the person paving the way for him, such that Lu Chen had no fear of the Mysterious Moon Palace.

Chen Wanrong continued, "Since you say you wouldn't dare to offend my master, what would you do if I asked you to let us go?"

Now that the situation had been exposed and there was no need to stay in the North Prince Mansion any longer, especially since her forces for reclaiming the nation had defected to Lu Chen, her stay in North Country had lost much of its significance.

Her only option now was to try cooperating with Lu Shuyun in the south, to obtain his blood for the forging of the Dragon Subduing artifact. But whether Lu Chen was willing to let them leave was the question.

The power behind Lu Chen was complicated, and he wasn't afraid of the Mysterious Moon Palace, so he might not readily let them go.

Lu Chen said indifferently, "If Miss Chen wishes to leave the North Prince Mansion, she is free to do so at any time."

Chen Wanrong immediately asked, "What about Madam Lin?"

Lu Chen smiled, "She cannot. She still has to bear my children. From now on, she shall serve me in the North Prince Mansion."

As Lu Chen's words faded, gusts of cold wind blew outside the pavilion, and Chen Wanrong and Lu Chen once again fell silent.

After an unknown amount of time, Chen Wanrong finally spoke, "I will spend one night with you, let me take Madam Lin."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen suddenly experienced a strong sense of déjà vu.

Chu Qingli had given herself to him for the sake of Chu Yuqin.

Lin Wanyun had given herself to him for Chen Wanrong.

And now Chen Wanrong herself, for the sake of Lin Wanyun, wanted to give herself to him.

Lu Chen suddenly felt as if he had become a great villain.

Lu Chen then said, "I will let you take Madam Lin away, but Miss Chen, you should think this through. Madam Lin may not necessarily choose to go with you. If you do this, you might end up not only unable to take Madam Lin away but also staying in the North Prince Mansion yourself."

From Chu Qingli and Lin Wanyun's actions, it was clear that despite claiming to act for others, deep down, they had already become inseparable from him. They were just too proud to admit it outright and used these excuses to justify their union with him.

At this moment, Chen Wanrong said, "You only need to agree or disagree."

Chen Wanrong could see that Lu Chen lusted after her body, and she believed it would be a great temptation for him.

As for losing herself to Lu Chen, Chen Wanrong didn't mind too much; she had already planned to bear Lu Chen a child to be the future emperor of Chen Nation.

With Lu Chen's high Martial Arts Talent and the superpower behind him proving his extraordinariness, their future child was bound to be formidable. Therefore, surrendering her purity to Lu Chen didn't feel like a loss at all.

Seeing Chen Wanrong's frosty face, Lu Chen's desire was stirred again. To spend a night with such a fairy, how could he not be willing?

Lu Chen soon said, "If Miss Chen is resolved, then naturally, I am willing."

Seeing Lu Chen's agreement, Chen Wanrong slowly walked into the room from the terrace. After entering, she waved her hand, and a gust of wind blew, shutting the folding wooden doors of the pavilion and closing the windows on the side.

Lu Chen was slightly surprised by this spectacle.

To know that Chen Wanrong was of the Master Realm and yet able to manipulate Gang Qi to this extent nearly approached that of a Grandmaster.

He was someone blessed with a system, hence his immense strength, but Chen Wanrong was a native, and for a native to possess such talent was truly rare.

No, to be precise, there were almost no individuals in this world with such talent at such a young age; at least Lu Chen had never heard of anyone. Wu Junwan, although a Master, was already thirty, and several years older than Chen Wanrong.

With the doors and windows sealed, Chen Wanrong continued to approach Lu Chen. As she came closer, her white dress began to slide off her shoulders smoothly.

Seeing the fairy drawing nearer, Lu Chen's heart began to beat frantically. Gazing at the delicate beauty of her collarbones, the snow-like skin, and her stunningly cold face, his insidious thoughts were fully awakened.

Yet Lu Chen still restrained himself, not rushing forward immediately.

Just then, Chen Wanrong walked past him, bringing a delicate fragrance to his nose.

Chen Wanrong slowly moved towards the bed. Before she lay down, she was overpowered by the now unrestrained Lu Chen, who pinned her on the bed.

From his advantageous position above, Lu Chen looked down upon the beauty before him. Her arms were smooth and tender like snowy lotus roots, her long white legs and the stunningly beautiful face—there was not a single part of her that wasn't bewitching, not a single aspect that didn't incite temptation.

However, just as Lu Chen was on the verge of losing control, he managed to calm his emotions. Taking a deep breath, he tried his best to restrain himself.

Lying on the bed, Chen Wanrong's hair sprawled out, her eyes coldly staring at Lu Chen. Then she said, "I thought you wouldn't be moved, it seems all your calmness was just an act."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen smiled and said, “Faced with such a beautiful fairy, if I weren’t moved at all, would I still be a man?”

At that moment, Lu Chen’s hand slowly moved to Chen Wanrong’s waist, intent on removing her last garment. Sensing Lu Chen’s subtle movement, Chen Wanrong said expressionlessly, “Madam Lin was right, all men are the same, and you’re no exception.”

Lu Chen replied, “Your words are too narrow. Not only are men alike, but women are no different.”

Chen Wanrong turned her head away, not speaking, but a blush appeared on her face.

Seeing the cold beauty’s flushed face, Lu Chen chuckled. That night, he would definitely bring this high and mighty fairy down to earth.

With that thought, Lu Chen leaned down and kissed Chen Wanrong’s red lips.

Chapter 360: Love Worm Turns into Butterfly_1

North Prince Mansion.

Tonight was Lin Wanyun’s duty. After patrolling the courtyard of the Prince’s Mansion several times, she returned to Yunrong Courtyard.

She had wanted to find Lu Chen to talk, to ask him what he planned to do.

However, when she had gone to the study earlier, she found no candlelight there; Lu Chen must have gone to one of his wives or consorts to sleep.

Not having found Lu Chen, Lin Wanyun had no choice but to return to Yunrong Courtyard. She sat in the pavilion, watching the moonlight this evening and couldn’t help but sigh.

Lu Chen was Chu Yue’s son; Chu Yue was her sworn sister through a pact of sisterhood, and Chen Wanrong was the child she had picked up and raised. Now she had become Lu Chen’s woman. The relationships among them were far too complicated, and she did not wish to see anyone get hurt.

But she was well aware of the deep hatred Chen Wanrong harbored in her heart for the Sum Emperor who had led his troops in annihilating Chen Nation and slaughtered its royal family. With such deep-seated vengeance, it was not so easy for Chen Wanrong to let go.

Thinking of this, Lin Wanyun sighed again in her heart, and at that moment, she turned her head to look at Chen Wanrong's room.

To her surprise, there was no candlelight in Chen Wanrong's room tonight. What could this mean?

Under normal circumstances, the candle in Chen Wanrong's room would burn from evening until morning. Only when Chen Wanrong was not in her room would there be no light.

The thought crossed Lin Wanyun's mind—could it be that Rongrong had gone out?

Immediately, Lin Wanyun approached the entrance to Chen Wanrong's room and tentatively called out, "Palace Master, are you in there?"

No answer came from the room after her words fell. Lin Wanyun called out once more, but still, no response. Clearly, Chen Wanrong was not inside.

Anxiety surged in Lin Wanyun's heart. Where could she have gone at this late hour?

...

Meanwhile.

Mysterious Moon Tavern, south of the city.

In a room on the third floor, two figures overlapped, and after an indiscernible amount of time, Lu Chen slowly got up and looked at Chen Wanrong as she was now.

Chen Wanrong's beautiful eyes seemed to contain springs of crystal-clear, glistening water, pure and moving. Her tender, beautiful face, paired with pink lips, delicate nose, and exquisite chin, bore a touch of flush, irresistibly provoking one's desire to conquer her.

But Lu Chen had not engaged in the act of man and woman with her just now; he had only kissed her.

As Lu Chen got up, Chen Wanrong's mind became significantly clearer.

This was her first time being so close to a man. She thought that Lu Chen would directly do that with her, the way he had done to Lin Wanyun in the study.

However, Lu Chen did not directly take ownership of her body, but rather, his hands roamed over her and he kissed her fervently.

Even though they did not go through with that act, her body experienced unusual sensations.

The moment she came into contact with Lu Chen's body, her face became extremely hot, her blood boiled, and her heart pounded madly. Realizing the abnormality in her body, Chen Wanrong immediately tried to harness her skill to calm herself down, only to discover that the skill within her had vanished without a trace.

Without her skill, she was totally unable to resist those strange sensations.

Seeing Chen Wanrong with seductive eyes, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth lifted slightly.

Chen Wanrong was different from the former Bai Qingqing. Both were ice beauties, but Bai Qingqing had lost her emotions and thus always had an expressionless face.

Chen Wanrong was different. Although she always appeared cold, it was due to the deep hatred in her heart and living in a place like Mysterious Moon Palace that caused her to show no other expressions; it did not mean she lacked feelings at all.

If Chen Wanrong were truly devoid of emotions, she wouldn't have thought of revenge. It was precisely because she was an emotional being, combined with Lu Chen's methods of dealing with women, that Chen Wanrong's mind quickly became muddled.

Now she only felt extremely uncomfortable in her body.

Seeing Lu Chen stare at her so intently, with a hint of a playful smile on his face, Chen Wanrong realized the reason why Lu Chen did not directly do that act with her. With a flushed face, she said coldly, “You’re humiliating me.”

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled and said, “Humiliate? How could this be called humiliation? I am just proving that women are like men.”

As he spoke, Lu Chen reached out and stroked Chen Wanrong’s exquisite chin.

Chen Wanrong immediately turned her face away, saying no more.

Seeing Chen Wanrong still so defiant, Lu Chen chuckled and then straightened her head to kiss her once again.

“Mmm mmm mmm...”

At this very moment, in a corner of the room, a caterpillar slowly made its way onto the table, raising its head to feel the cool moonlight streaming through the window.

After a while, the caterpillar ceased its movement; its skin hardened into a shell. Soon, a pair of beautiful wings burst forth, aglow with myriad colors, and the caterpillar – now a magnificent Pair-Wing Butterfly – took to the air.

The butterfly flitted through the air, its shimmering wings scattering luminous, golden dust, just like the stars in the sky.

At the next moment, beside the pillow on the bed, a little porcelain bottle’s lid was nudged open, and another caterpillar crawled out from it.