

## GED 1

### Chapter 1: Gifted Girl: Abandoned (1)

The Junwu Empire, the imperial capital.

Both Zuo Qingyun and Feng Wu were only eight years old.

*Ffft* —

The tip of the cold, purple sword in Zuo Qingyun's hand stabbed into Feng Wu's forehead right between her eyebrows.

When the sword was pulled free, it drew out a suspended drop of amber True Phoenix Blood from Feng Wu.

With a grasping movement of her left hand, Zuo Qingyun drew the drop of amber blood into her palm, and poof! The droplet exploded with a squeeze of her hand!

Despite the blood that covered her hand, Zuo Qingyun smiled strangely.

She smirked at the girl on the ground, whose body had curled up in agony.

"Feng Wu, only one person in this world can possess True Phoenix Blood! Since I'm already here, you should never have existed!

"I never wanted to be mentioned alongside you as the 'Phoenix Duo of the imperial capital'! What right do you have to be considered my equal?!"

"So what if you were betrothed before I was? I'm going to become the wife of the crown prince and Jun Linyuan will be my husband!

"I can't believe that you were chosen by the Master of Firmament Palace! Well, you're useless now, and I'm the only candidate for the goddess of Firmament Palace! So, die!"

The cold purple blade stabbed at Feng Wu's heart!

Feng Wu grabbed the blade with both hands and blood gushed out of the deep cuts on her palms, but she seemed to feel no pain.

Spiritual essence was dissipating from the spot between her eyebrows and her cultivation was disappearing even then.

She was becoming an invalid now that her True Phoenix Blood had been destroyed!

Feng Wu stared at Zuo Qingyun with her inky black eyes.

"Die!" With a sudden exertion of strength, Zuo Qingyun pushed the blade into Feng Wu's chest. With a thump, the blade pierced through Feng Wu's body and red blood splashed all over Zuo Qingyun's face.

The smile on Zuo Qingyun's face looked grotesque under all that blood. "From now on, I will be known as Zuo Qingluan! Qingluan, as in 'Green Luan Bird and Red Phoenix' and the king of all birds. I will be the only true phoenix of the Junwu Empire!"

Collapsing on the ground, Feng Wu's vision began to blur. She watched as the leader of the Zuo family escorted Zuo Qingyun away, and realized that her mind was slipping away. She was running out of time...

*Zuo Qingyun, you took advantage of today when my beautiful master was refining his true form to destroy my True Phoenix Blood. After my master comes out of his seclusion, can you, your family and your clan, or even the entire Junwu continent, be able to withstand his rage?!*

Her master wasn't human. More specifically, he was a soul attached to his Dragon and Phoenix Spiritual Ring.

It was said that one's fate was determined by the family one was born into, and a competent father was one's most valuable asset.

Feng Wu would proudly announce that although she had never met her own father, she had the most remarkable and beautiful master in the entire continent!

She still remembered the day she triggered the spiritual ring for the first time and saw her beautiful master stroll out of that dimension inside the ring.

Being a girl of only three, she looked up at the otherworldly teenager dressed in white and asked innocently, "Well... are you very capable?"

Putting his hands behind his back, her beautiful master said casually, "I'm alright, I guess, since I used to rule this land."

In the last few years, her beautiful master, who had been in his spiritual form all this time, had finally accumulated enough Divine Blood of the Phoenix of his own, and was ready to refine a true physical form. That way, he would no longer be confined to the spiritual ring as a soul.

Was it a dying illusion? Feng Wu's eyes grew heavier, but she seemed to see her beautiful master, dressed in a snowy white gown, now standing there slim and graceful as a god.

White Immortal Flowers drifted down, reminding her of pure, sacred snowflakes.

He strolled out of the Dragon and Phoenix Spiritual Ring and was carried toward her by a gentle breeze.

Before Feng Wu realized it, she was lying in his warm arms.

He had the cleanest smell in the world, which was the refreshing scent of the essence of plants.

"Master..." Feng Wu broke into tears after seeing her family. Her voice was thick with emotion.

Her master could hold her now! He finally had a physical form! His long-awaited dream had come true!

Her beautiful master's long robe and wide sleeves spread out over the ground as his brooding gaze landed on the wound between her eyebrows. He didn't seem disturbed at all.

“Master, am I going to die?” The little girl’s eyes were as clear as water.

Her master replied unhurriedly, “No, you’re not.”

After that, he gestured with his slender finger, and immediately, a drop of golden blood flew out from between his eyebrows.

Feng Wu’s pupils contracted! That was Divine Blood of the Phoenix! Her master’s Divine Blood of the Phoenix, whose power exceeded that of True Phoenix Blood many times over!

Her master’s voice was indifferent and detached. “Don’t squirm.”

He then inserted the drop of blood into her forehead.

“No!” Feng Wu had an ominous feeling. “Master, I’m not going to die, but what about you?! Divine Blood of the Phoenix is the essence of your life. Without it, your body...”

The look in her master’s eyes was indecipherable. “Divine Blood of the Phoenix will be sealed for the time being. Once the Nine Transformation Spirit Restoration Pill is activated, you’ll be able to resume your cultivation...”

Before he could finish the sentence, his body began to fade away...

“No!”

Covered in blood, Feng Wu screamed at the top of her lungs. Blue veins popped on her skin and she reached out, trying to hold her beautiful master!

“Master!”

However, her beautiful master, who looked as sacred as a banished immortal, disappeared from between her fingers.

“Master!”

Exhausted, Feng Wu fell to her knees. Her red dress was soaked in blood, her fair cheeks were stained red, and she felt like crying blood, too!

It was so painful that she couldn’t breathe!

Every one of her muscles twitched in such agony!

Guilt almost drove her to take her own life!

She hadn’t even felt this much hatred when Zuo Qingyun destroyed her True Phoenix Blood!

She would rather die herself than have her impeccable, beautiful master harmed!

There was so much hatred!

Feng Wu clenched her fists furiously, her nails nearly cutting into her skin and all her fingertips raw with blood!

*Zuo Qingyun, I hereby swear that I will destroy you one day! I, Feng Wu, will not rest until you're wiped off the face of the earth!*

## **Chapter 2: Gifted Girl: Abandoned (2)**

Five years later, the Junwu Empire, Northern Border City.

“Master!!!”

Feng Wu shrieked and bolted up in bed!

“Miss, Miss, are you alright —”

Qiuling, her chief maid-in-waiting, rushed into the room. After setting down a copper basin filled with water on the shelf, she went up to Feng Wu in a hurry.

Qiuling always considered her mistress, the fifth daughter of the family, to be an exceptional beauty. However, she now saw that the young lady was as white as a sheet.

Qiuling's heart went out to her mistress. In a comforting, gentle voice, she asked, “Miss, did you have a nightmare?”

Staring at Qiuling, Feng Wu gradually woke up, and everything slowly came back to her.

Zuo Qingyun had destroyed her True Phoenix Blood, and in saving her, her master had fallen back into an endless coma... All that wasn't a dream at all! It really happened five years ago!

After her True Phoenix Blood was destroyed, the once gifted teenage girl fell into disgrace and became the shame of the Feng clan. Together with her beautiful mother and her own brother, they were packed up and banished to the old Feng family residence in Northern Border City, which sat on the border of the empire.

Qiuling fetched a pair of fluffy slippers for Feng Wu, then helped her sit down at the dresser and began to dress her for the day.

—

“Sister! Sister! We got a letter from the imperial capital!”

They heard some hasty footsteps, and shortly afterward, a teenage boy dashed into the room like a gust of wind.

He was about twelve years old and very good-looking.

He had skin as fair as snow and exquisite features, especially his eyes. His eyelashes were long, dense, and curly, and his eyes were remarkably big and bright.

Before Feng Wu could ask anything, Feng Xiaoqi stuffed a letter into her hand. “Sister, read it now!”

It was a red envelope, which stood for a red alert. No wonder he was in such a hurry.

Despite Feng Xiaoqi's anxious tone, Feng Wu remained as calm as ever. She unfolded the letter with slender fingers as fair as white jade and quickly read it through.

"Sister!" Feng Xiaoqi stared at Feng Wu with unblinking eyes. Seeing her slight frown, he grew all the more uneasy. "Has something happened in the imperial capital? Was there an incident?"

Qiuling looked equally curious and anxious.

Feng Wu waved the letter and smiled. "It's nothing. Jun Linyuan is coming here on an inspection tour of the border cities."

Qiuling cried out in surprise, "Our crown prince, the most influential and supreme figure in the empire, is coming out here?"

Feng Wu nodded. "We can avoid him easily enough. However, our family has been trying to regain favor with the crown prince, and I'm afraid this means that they're now going to send someone here from the clan."

"What? What are we going to do?!" Feng Xiaoqi almost jumped into the air. "We've been banished to this old house on the border already! What more do they want? To kill us all?!"

Feng Wu darted an irritated look at Feng Xiaoqi. "Calm down!"

Feng Xiaoqi was so anxious that he was almost in tears. "Sister, how can I be calm? If you were still what you were, we wouldn't give a damn who comes here! You'd be able to handle them with a wave of your hand! But now... all your cultivation has been destroyed!"

"Young Master!" The look Qiuling gave him had never been so stern!

Feng Xiaoqi realized that he had said the wrong thing. Covering his mouth with both hands, his eyes opened wide and he looked at Feng Wu guiltily, not knowing how to take it back.

Feng Wu only smiled. "So what if it's destroyed? Can't your sister find a way to resume her cultivation?"

Feng Xiaoqi's eyes lit up immediately. "Sister! Can you do that? Have you found a way?!"

Feng Wu shrugged. "No, I haven't."

Feng Xiaoqi looked crestfallen right away.

When no one else was looking, the look in Feng Wu's eyes turned brooding.

Her beautiful master had told her that in order to resume her cultivation, she had to refine the Nine Transformation Spirit Restoration Pill first.

She knew the pill recipe and was capable of refining it. However, she still needed one last ingredient: Immortal Spiritual Fruit.

Feng Wu had had her eye on this Immortal Spiritual Fruit for five years, and it was almost ripe...

Meanwhile, Feng Wu was perfectly aware that the oldest child and the sixth child of her generation in the Feng family were coming. When those two arrogant bastards arrived, her beautiful mother and

naive younger brother would live in misery without her protection. Hence, she needed to obtain that Immortal Spiritual Fruit as soon as possible to resume her cultivation!

Feng Wu clenched her fists. *Jun Linyuan, are you really here just to inspect Northern Border City?!*

### **Chapter 3: A Meeting In Yunlai Tower**

Northern Border City, Yunlai Tower.

Yunlai Tower was the closest restaurant to Frozen Forest. Cultivators coming in and out of that forest would often stop by Yunlai Tower to rest. Hence, the restaurant never ran short of customers and its business was booming.

Normally, the customers mainly consisted of men, but today, for some unknown reason, the restaurant was occupied by pretty young ladies.

For today's event, Feng Wu had covered her unparalleled beautiful face with yellow face powder. She now looked like an inconspicuous common girl, and even her splendid aura had been mostly dimmed.

Qiuling was also wearing a disguise, and had turned into an unprepossessing little maid.

Feng Wu and Qiuling had barely sat down when they heard the conversation beside them.

"Is His Royal Highness really coming to Northern Border City?"

"I have reliable information that His Royal Highness has already arrived at Northern Border City. I paid a small fortune for that info, so keep it to yourself!"

"I'll finally get to see His Royal Highness's graceful bearing! This is the gifted teenager ranked top on 'The Greatest of Our Generation List' we're talking about here! One look at him up close and I'll be content for the rest of my life."

Feng Wu listened in silence.

Qiuling pursed her lips, venting her sarcasm inside her head. How green and inexperienced these girls were! They were content just to have one look at the crown prince? Her mistress had been betrothed to the man once!

"Why, there's an empty seat. Do you mind if I sit here?" A pleasant voice rang out next to Feng Wu.

Looking up, Feng Wu saw a pair of smart, clear eyes.

Feng <sup>1</sup> Xun? Right away, Feng Wu recognized the teenager, who had the appearance of an outstanding cultivator.

She remembered fighting this one back in the imperial capital, but with the disguise she was wearing and the fact that they hadn't met for five years, it was only normal for Feng Xun not to recognize her.

If she remembered correctly, Feng Xun was Jun Linyuan's childhood friend, and the two teenagers were best buddies.

Feng Xun's folding fan opened with a flick of his wrist to cover most of his face. He then smiled at Feng Wu. "You're welcome to ignore me."

Sit here without interacting? That wouldn't do. Feng Wu rejected that suggestion in her head. She had come here to gather information, in order to find out if Jun Linyuan was here for that Immortal Spiritual Fruit. It was by sheer luck that she had run into Feng Xun, and she wasn't going to let this opportunity slip by!

Feng Wu pondered, trying to figure out a way to get the information from Feng Xun without raising an alarm.

Feng Xun loved noise and excitement. He couldn't stop his eyes from darting around the restaurant.

All of a sudden, he poked Feng Wu with his fan and asked, "Do you know who that is?"

Feng Wu followed the direction he was pointing his fan in, and saw a young lady wearing a curtained hat. She could faintly make out the shape of her face through the white veil.

"Who is she?"

"That's Fairy Muyao." Feng Xun smiled.

Feng Wu was mildly surprised. "As in Fairy Muyao, the sacred lady of Firmament Palace?"

"You're looking at her." Feng Xun arched his eyebrows, pleased with himself. "Did she really think she could fool me with that curtained hat? Nothing escapes my sharp eyes."

Was the sacred lady of Firmament Palace pursuing the crown prince in secret now? Feng Wu hadn't expected Jun Linyuan to be so popular now.

The room was filled with the sound of non-stop discussion.

"Hey, have you heard? The fifth daughter of the Feng family who was banished by her clan five years ago is said to have been living in this city since then."

"Are you talking about Feng Wu?" a voice interjected.

"Who else? Speaking of which, that name really gets on my nerves. She's rather brazen to be using that name still. Why didn't she change it?"

"Does that name imply something?"

"You don't know?"

#### **Chapter 4: The Girl Who Soars like the Phoenix**

"Know what?"

"His name means 'the sovereign descends to the world' and hers 'the phoenix soars above the land' <sup>1</sup>. Their names alone suggest that they're made for each other! We could live with that back when Feng

Wu was this genius teenage girl, but she's a good-for-nothing now! She doesn't deserve that matching name with our crown prince!"

These people! Qiuling was so furious that she was going to shoot up from her seat.

Feng Wu stopped her in time, then gestured at Feng Xun with her eyes.

Qiuling pouted, looking aggrieved. She was almost in tears. How could her mistress's name offend these people? What they said was so awful!

Across the table, Feng Xun's mouth curled into a smile. "The sovereign descends to the world? The phoenix soars above the land? Good god! If that guy finds out that his name is mentioned together with Feng Wu's, tsk, tsk, tsk..."

Before Feng Wu could even frown at that comment, the crowd stirred all of a sudden.

"Wait, isn't that young Prince Feng?"

"As in the younger prince of Northern Feng Mansion? His Royal Highness's childhood friend?!"

"Oh god, he's the closest friend of the crown prince! Touching him would be like touching the crown prince indirectly! I've never been this close to His Royal Highness in my life!"

"My prince!"

A group of young women rushed toward the table Feng Wu was sitting at!

To avoid getting crushed, Feng Wu tugged at Qiuling and the two of them moved away to one side.

Seeing the surging tide of women coming his way, Feng Xun's face almost turned green!

If nothing else, he was at least the younger son of Northern Feng Mansion, which should be a title intimidating enough on its own, but whenever his name was mentioned, everyone's first reaction was: the childhood friend and footman of His Royal Highness. *Sigh*, some people were just more popular than others.

Feng Xun leapt up onto a high window and was about to take flight when —

The ground shook violently!

Everyone lost their footing!

Everything flew into the air and everyone was bumping into each other. Mixed into all the thumping and crashing sounds were the screams of people.

It all happened too suddenly for anyone to react in time!

Everyone was utterly dumbfounded.

However, it was just the beginning!

The next moment, a streak of fire crashed into the restaurant, and with a whoosh, it spread out, setting everything aflame!



“Oh god! What’s this? What’s happening?”

“It’s Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle! Holy crap! Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle, the ruler of the eastern region of Frozen Forest!”

“Shit! Is the eagle out to ravage our land again? I heard it devoured an entire village only a while ago!”

“Is that Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle that terrifying?!”

The next second, Yunlai Tower, the restaurant that had stood there for years, made crumbling sounds, as if it was going to collapse the next moment.

The owner of Yunlai Tower blanched!

“Yunlai Tower is collapsing! Run!” Feng Wu cried out.

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Everyone inside immediately rushed out of the restaurant!

Feng Wu looked up at the sky.

High above, she could make out the enormous Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle flapping its wings, which were wide enough to cover mountains, and it dove at them in a frenzy!

“Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle has gone wild! It’s come out of Frozen Forest to ruin our land again!”

“What now? What should we do?! Are we going to die?!”

“I’m only here to get closer to Jun Linyuan! I don’t want to die here!”

All the girls were terrified. They looked wretched and as pitiful as fragile flowers ravaged by a storm.

“We’re not going to die.”

Feng Wu’s eyes were as sharp as ever!

One look and she saw that the eagle was being pursued!

But no one would listen to her.

However, a second later —

## **Chapter 5: The Teenage Ruler**

A teenager wrapped in a black robe swept across the sky like a meteor as he dashed in their direction at a tremendous speed!

He was very far away at first, but within a split second, he was right in front of them!

He had a stern, forbidding look on his face and his eyes were as brooding as they were apathetic. His black robe flapped in the wind and he reminded one of a celestial being descending to this world!

He then brought down the resplendent sword in his hands, creating a splendid arc in the air!

The light which came off the sword had a momentum as tremendous as an erupting volcano, and a formidable power of Nature burst out!

Everyone down on the ground was shaken by the towering sword energy.

The overbearing strength of the powerful teenager made them stiffen and hold their breaths, not daring to make a sound!

The black-robed teenager crashed into the eagle like a thunderbolt!

The collision created sky-high flames!

The clouds echoed with rumbles and the entire sky shook with it!

With a loud bang, the enormous body of Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle plummeted from the sky and crashed onto the roof of Yunlai Tower!

The age-old building collapsed under the eagle's weight and crumbled loudly to the ground!

The air was filled with dust and flames leapt into the sky.

All mouths fell open and everyone was rendered speechless.

Wasn't that Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle supposed to be really powerful?

Weren't they told that no one was able to tame this savage beast?

Hadn't the head of the Qiushui family fled Frozen Forest in a flurry, pursued by this bird?

Who was this teenager? Who on earth was this peerless, talented young man in black?!

Once the smoke and flames dispersed, they saw a youth of great radiance pointing his sword at the eagle's throat, one foot on its head.

The eagle that was so rampant a moment ago was barely breathing...

Everyone then saw the teenager's face.

His black robe flapped in the wind, wrapping around his deft, slender figure. He looked poised and graceful.

He had deep-set, sculpted features and sharp, ruthless eyes that had something dangerous about them.

His aura was so intimidating that no one dared move closer or look directly into his eyes!

Everyone drew in their breaths.

"Oh my god!"

"Holy crap!"

"Good gracious!"

Instantly, all the pretty girls lost control.

Some trembled, some cried into their hands, and some even passed out!

However, at the same moment, that giant eagle was raving furiously. “Face and head are off limits in a fight! Keep your feet away from my head!”

Jun Linyuan smirked, then stepped on its head again.

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle said angrily, “Can’t you hear me? Don’t step on my head! I’m the boss of the giant eagle clan, for Christ’s sake!”

Jun Linyuan snorted, then stepped on it a few more times.

The eagle was almost in tears. Seeing that playing tough didn’t work, it yielded, imploring with a wail, “Dude, please let me go. You’ve chopped off half of my skull; if you keep stepping on my head, I’ll die!”

Jun Linyuan sneered.

By now, all the girls in the crowd had been driven mad by their stunning crown prince!

“Jun Linyuan! It’s Jun Linyuan! Jun Linyuan, our crown prince!”

“Gosh! Oh god! Aah!”

“I thought I was going to die here today, but His Royal Highness saved my life! I was taught to return a favor with all I can offer. He saved me, so I’m going to repay him with my own body!”

After that, the bold, passionate young woman threw herself at Jun Linyuan!

No one expected that at all!

Even someone as haughty and detached as Jun Linyuan was taken by surprise.

Shit!

Feng Wu noticed Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle’s eyes at that moment. In an instant, its inky black eyes turned scarlet red. The animal was going berserk!

How cunning! The weakness it had shown a moment ago was all fake!

Feng Wu feared nothing more than death. Before she realized it, she had backed away and turned to flee!

However, at that moment —

## **Chapter 6: Taken By the Eagle**

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle exploded with a roar, shaking heaven and earth!

It went berserk!

Just when all eyes were on that bold, passionate girl, who pounced on Jun Linyuan —

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle flapped its wings and picked Feng Wu out of the crowd!

Feng Wu was dumbfounded!

“Holy crap!” She swore she was going to have a heart attack!

She had been taken by Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle!

Feng Wu was dazed for a moment. She began to pound on the eagle’s chest when she came back to herself. “Put me down! Now! Why are you doing this to me?!”

The eagle sneered. “He stepped on my head and I’m taking his woman!”

Feng Wu knew perfectly well who the bird meant by “he,” which was what frustrated her the most!

“I’m not!”

“You all are!!!” the eagle said stubbornly as it remained unmoved, its eyes flickering fiercely.

Feng Wu said in resignation, “... Fine, let’s say I am. In that sea of women down there, why did you have to grab me?!” Why on earth should she be the most unlucky one?

The eagle smirked. “Those women are all nuts. They terrify me. You look like a lamb!”

Feng Wu almost choked. *Screw you!*

So, she seemed vulnerable because she wasn’t pulling her hair out and throwing herself at Jun Linyuan like the others? What kind of reasoning was that?!

Jun Linyuan had been genuinely astonished by the fanatical girl, but he was only dazed for a brief moment.

The next second, he raised Sky Destroyer — his sword — and charged at the eagle like a cannonball!

Holding Feng Wu up by her throat and using her as a shield, Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle threatened Jun Linyuan. “You! Stop right there! Come any closer and she’s dead!”

Feng Wu really wanted to die at that moment!

*Are you kidding me?* Jun Linyuan was callous and heartless, and couldn’t care less whether other people lived or died. Why on earth did the bird think he would be intimidated?

“Hey! Did you hear me? I told you not to come any closer!” The eagle kept falling back.

Jun Linyuan smirked. From the start, he hadn’t even darted a glance in Feng Wu’s direction, as if she was just one of the eagle’s feathers!

Seeing that things were turning south for itself, the eagle panicked!

The next second, it flapped its wings that covered half the sky and bolted!

“No!” Feng Wu cried out in despair!

With her between its beak, Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle fled!

It flew away!

Feng Wu's vision blurred, her stomach churned, and she could feel the biting cold wind scrape over her cheeks!

Looking down, she realized that she was rising higher and higher...

Everyone on the ground looked as tiny as ants.

It finally occurred to her that she was hanging in the fangs of Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle and dangling in the wind!

"You —" Feng Wu wanted to slap the bird!

How dare it kidnap her!

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle lowered its gaze and realized that the girl was still around, which pissed it off right away.

What was this burden here for? It took Feng Wu in its claws and was going to throw her down!

Feng Wu held onto its talon. "What do you think you're doing?!"

Falling from this height would kill her!

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle glared at Feng Wu impatiently. "You're useless and a terrible hostage! Are you good at anything at all?"

Feng Wu drew in her breath and fought back her anger!

"So, are you saying it's my fault?"

The eagle snorted. "I've never met a hostage as hopeless as you. What good are you?"

Feng Wu listened in silence.

*I. Am. Not. Talking. To. You!*

## **Chapter 7: Frustrated**

Looking down, Feng Wu saw Qiuling hopping around anxiously and calling her name loudly.

At this height, she was able to see much farther out.

On the state highway a short distance away, she could make out a team of riders galloping toward the city.

Her eyes widened when she saw the familiar figure on one of the horses!

The rider leading the team was Feng Yiran, the eldest son of the Feng family! Immediately behind him was Feng Liu, his younger sister who shared the same parents! The rest of the team consisted of the guards of the Feng family.

Feng Yiran and Feng Liu! Neither of them was the type one wanted to hang out with. The brother was a sinister hypocrite and the sister was obstinate and capricious.

At the thought of her beautiful mother, whose only forte was crying, and her naive younger brother, who was as innocent as a blank canvas... Feng Wu almost had a stroke!

What would happen to them now that the eagle had taken her away?!

With her gone, how were they supposed to deal with the cunning Feng Yiran and the unruly Feng Liu?!

Meanwhile, those on the ground were utterly baffled as they watched the eagle fly away with the ordinary-looking girl...

So was Feng Xun...

He said a silent prayer for that common girl...

What were the odds?

She was the first to warn everyone and the first to flee, but the eagle picked no one else but her. Talk about bad luck...

He would be crying blood by now if he were the girl.

Seeing that Qiuling was about to faint with anxiety, Feng Xun patted her slim shoulder and said, "Lassie, judging by the look of your mistress — her being a weakling and all — I think she's doomed and chances of her returning are very slim. You have my condolences. By the way, if you really have nowhere to go, I could use an extra pair of hands at home, in return for sharing a table with me just then."

"Go away!" Qiuling stomped her foot. "My mistress is awesome and she's never been defeated by anything! She'll come back safe and sound!"

The other girls were all scared out of their wits. Patting their chests, they were still in a state of shock as they rejoiced over the fact that they weren't the ones taken.

Just then, Jun Linyuan turned around and went after Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle!

"Gosh! Look! His Royal Highness is going after the eagle!"

"How I envy that ordinary-looking girl! I wish the eagle took me! That way, I'd be able to see the crown prince up close!"

"It's not just seeing His Royal Highness up close, but also being rescued by him! Talk about saving a damsel in distress! It would be a perfect opportunity to offer myself!"

"That's so true. Why didn't the eagle take me? What was up with that girl? Why did she have to run at the front?! I would so have been the one taken if she hadn't!"

"I bet she did it on purpose! She doesn't have the looks, so she made up for it with her scheme! She so planned it!"

Qiuling shook with fury!

These women... all these women... they would give up their lives just to see the crown prince? Seriously?!

Feng Xun rubbed his nose. After hanging out with Jun Linyuan all these years, he was already quite used to the reckless plans of all these women...

"Ignore them..." Feng Xun darted a sympathetic look at Qiuling. "Now, since your mistress was unbelievably unlucky, I'll go into Frozen Forest myself and see if I can get her out."

He disappeared into the distance immediately after those words.

Right now, Feng Wu was dangling in the wind from one of the eagle's talons like a tiny piece of sun-dried meat.

She was so frustrated.

### **Chapter 8: Lost the Best Chance to Escape**

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle's enormous body flew rapidly across the sky on wings that were wider than clouds!

At this height, the temperature had dropped significantly. Together with the freezing wind that lashed at Feng Wu like whips... she was almost in tears.

However, in another life, she used to be an elite secret agent. Hence, the more dangerous the situation was, the calmer Feng Wu became.

Her mind raced and she looked around to take in her surroundings!

Looking for the best possible way to survive in any situation had become an instinct for secret agents like her!

Soon, her eyes flickered at a discovery!

She spotted a branch sticking out of a cliff which they were flying toward!

Calculating in her head, she estimated the wind and the eagle's speeds, the distance she would fall to get to the cliff, and the strength of that branch...

The conclusion elated Feng Wu!

She could do it!

She was going to live!

Five hundred meters...

One hundred meters...

Fifty meters... Almost there!

Feng Wu was almost grinning now. She couldn't wait to start maneuvering!

They were getting closer and closer...

The last thirty meters, twenty meters...

When Feng Wu was ready to loosen her grip so that she could jump toward the cliff, roll down the slope, and grab that branch...

*Whoosh!*

Something happened one second before Feng Wu could let go!

*Bang!*

The energy surge from a sword arrived behind them!

Because of that freezing energy, Feng Wu was stuck to the eagle's talon!

Feng Wu: !!!

She was less than fifty meters above the ground now. With her slight build and her skills, she was completely confident that she could land safely...

But! She wasn't able to do that now! She was rendered completely immobile by the energy and her hands were stuck to the eagle's talon as if they were glued on!

Feng Wu was so frustrated!

Such a chance would never come again!

She would probably never be this close to the ground again, and that could have been her only chance!

At that thought, Feng Wu exerted all her strength, trying to free her hands.

When that was to no avail, Feng Wu did a chin-up and banged her head against the thick layer of ice on the talon.

*Thump! Thump! Thump!*

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle looked down in confusion at Feng Wu, who was still banging her head against the ice. "What are you doing?"

Feng Wu glared at it and snapped, "I'm going to kill myself. Happy?"

Of course she wasn't going to share her escape plan with the eagle! It would be the end of her!

"Well, you don't have to go through all that trouble," said the eagle calmly.

Its gaze gave Feng Wu the creeps. "What are you doing?!"

"I'm starving." The bird was drooling.

Feng Wu said in resignation, "... So, you took me as food reserve?"

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle's eyes lit up. "That's a great idea!"



Just then, Feng Wu sensed that the thick layer of ice was loosening up!

She was noticeably delighted!

She was going to be free!

Triumphantly, she called out, "There goes your food reserve!"

She released its talon and was ready to fall.

However, at that most critical moment...

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle made its move!

"No!" Feng Wu felt utterly defeated.

She had finally freed her hands from the thick layer of ice, but Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle turned its enormous body around.

And she lost the best chance to escape!!!

### **Chapter 9: The Clash**

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle's furious, bloody red eyes were now fixed on the human teenager in front of it.

Thanks to the eagle, Feng Wu met Jun Linyuan again.

He had the most impeccably handsome face!

His brooding black eyes, straight nose, thin lips, and debonair pose were the most stunning, making any natural wonder seem dull in comparison.

However, the first thing anyone ever noticed about him were those brooding eyes!

They were sharp as an eagle's, and the look in them was merciless, intimidating, overbearing, and majestic. Anyone bold enough to look into his eyes would be shaken and would turn their gaze away.

Right now, the handsome face had a stern, forbidding look on it and his gown flapped in the wind.

He stood there in mid-air, pointing his sword up at the sky.

Energy surged out, stirring up the clouds. A shock wave then blasted out at Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle!

Feng Wu's heart sank when she saw what was happening!

With her spiritual energy gone, she would die if she was hit by that shock wave!

A living person was hanging from one of the eagle's talons and dangling in the wind. *Jun Linyuan, how can Your Royal Highness miss that?!*

However, when Jun Linyuan's Freezing Needles pierced the eagle's acupuncture points all over its body, Feng Wu realized in frustration that he could see perfectly; it was just that he was simply ignoring her, that was all.

To him, she was probably less than a stranger.

He was so heartless and almost inhuman!

*Bang!*

Jun Linyuan raised his hand and the most formidable spiritual energy poured out of it to run through Sky Destroyer like a storm!

He then swung down!

Feng Wu craned her neck, only to see that the lower half of the eagle's giant body was gone. Jun Linyuan had hacked it all off!

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle roared in agony, which kicked up a massive sound wave!

Hanging on its talon, Feng Wu was almost swept away by the blast!

Her eardrums were nearly destroyed!

All her internal organs felt out of place!

Blood oozed out of her nostrils, ears, and mouth, and splattered all over her clothes. For a moment there, Feng Wu really thought she was going to die.

Before she had a chance to recover her breath, the infuriated eagle clashed with Jun Linyuan again!

The battle was so fierce that the sky seemed to be shattered by the force!

Feng Wu felt as if she was on the bumpiest plane ride as she was tossed around like a sack of sand!

*Thump! Thump! Thump!*

That wasn't from the collision between Jun Linyuan and the eagle, but was made by Feng Wu's dangling body knocking into the eagle's face...

She was sure that all her bones were breaking... However tough and determined she usually was, Feng Wu really felt like crying at that moment.

Not from pain, but because of her bad luck.

And it actually got worse —

Putting the sword back in its sheath, Jun Linyuan now looked as cold as he did murderous!

*Boom —*

He struck out with a fist, which contained the most formidable spiritual energy!

It made a great indent in Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle's mountainous wings!

The impact took a heavy toll on Feng Wu!

Her hands were long bruised from holding onto the eagle, and were raw and bloody!

She could no longer hold on and plummeted!

Ah!

Feng Wu cried out in her head.

Beneath her was a misty, bottomless chasm, and she would shatter into a thousand pieces from the fall!

But she didn't want to die!

Feng Wu's head remained clear as ever thanks to her secret agent instinct!

*Bang!*

The moment she began to fall, Feng Wu reached out and grabbed the eagle's feathers!

### **Chapter 10: What Good Can You Do Me?**

Once Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle went berserk, it spread out its vast wings, covering half the sky. Even the mountains beneath were in its shadow — that was how enormous the bird was!

Glossy and slippery, its feathers were more like armor than a layer of down!

Feng Wu's fingers closed on empty air, and she fell rapidly!

She was in dire danger!

Her life was hanging in the balance!

At the most critical moment, she finally grabbed hold of the eagle's sharp talon.

The claw was as sharp as a blade, which cut deep into Feng Wu's palms. Blood gushed out!

That had to be painful as hell...

However, Feng Wu didn't even flinch. With the momentum, she swung herself up deftly and climbed back onto the eagle's talon.

Only then did she let out a breath of relief.

She had narrowly escaped death. If she had been a tenth of a second slower, she would be dead now!

At that thought, Feng Wu turned her sharp gaze to Jun Linyuan!

Was everyone else an ant to that crown prince?!

He was so poised and elegant, while she was in such a sorry state.

Fury burned in Feng Wu's chest like flames!

Strength... She had never craved strength like she did now!

Feng Wu took a deep breath. Immortal Spiritual Fruit, that was what she had to get her hands on now. Only after she refined the Nine Transformation Spirit Restoration Pill could she resume her cultivation...

There was still a long way for her to go. *Jun Linyuan, let's wait and see!*

At the moment, the most important thing was to stay alive.

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle eyed Jun Linyuan in terror!

How could this teenager be so formidable?!

He was still so young, but his abilities already exceeded that of a Demi-Emperor!

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle was no match for the teenager even after going berserk!

When this teenager reached his full potential in a few years, would that mighty being which dwelled in the middle of Frozen Forest be threatened by this human as well?

At that thought, a look of despair flickered in the eagle's eyes!

However, if it couldn't escape, it would make sure to fight to the end!

Seeing the frantic look in the eagle's eyes, Feng Wu's heart sank!

She couldn't care less about the eagle's fate, but if both sides went at each other's throats, she would certainly become collateral damage and she wouldn't get out of this alive!

It wasn't that she didn't want to beg Jun Linyuan for help, but she knew perfectly well that there was no point asking.

Because right now, to Jun Linyuan, she was a complete stranger.

The man had always been unbelievably heartless!

The motto he lived by was: *save yourself, or stop wasting your breath.*

To him, there were two kinds of people in this world: his people and everyone else.

He would stand up for his people no matter what and ignore the rest.

Clearly, Feng Xun was his man, while Feng Wu... belonged to the other category.

As frustrating and infuriating as that sounded, it was the fact.

Hence, Feng Wu pinned her hopes of survival on the eagle!

Feng Wu looked down again —

Frozen Forest was divided into five concentric circles, and the most formidable ruler of the forest lived in the very center!

It was a place that intimidated even the most capable cultivators of the empire.

Because of that crucial Immortal Spiritual Fruit, Feng Wu had gained some in-depth understanding of Frozen Forest.

One glance and she recognized that they were above the eastern region of the fourth ring.

The next moment, the detailed map of this area came to her mind.

“If you fight him to the end, he will escape without a scratch, but you’ll perish. How about we join forces?” Despite the cuts on her hands, Feng Wu grasped the eagle’s talon and nimbly moved toward the eagle’s ear.

“Join hands? What good can you do me?” asked Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle with contempt.