

G E D 1161

Chapter 1161 The Teenager Is Back

Her vision went dark when she fell to the ground head first. She could see stars and her head was swimming. She couldn't even lift a finger.

How she wished she could pass out just like this.

She was so tired that she wished she were dead.

But at that moment, a firm voice rang out in Feng Wu's head.

"Do you want to live?"

"Master this, or you won't be able to defeat Xuanyuan Yi.

"You won't survive if you can't beat him."

If she was dead, no one would bring her beautiful master back to life, no one would be there to protect her family, and no one would kill Zuo Qingluan!

As long as she could breathe, she had to stand up!

Feng Wu pushed herself up from the ground with both hands. Blood oozed out from between her fingers, and there were bloody handprints everywhere.

And it wasn't just her fingers that were bleeding. Feng Wu's right foot was soaked with blood, which had seeped through her boot, painting it red...

It was a frightening scene.

A figure had appeared quietly on the wall when no one was looking.

No one knew how long he had been standing there. There was a domineering look in his eyes, which could send a chill down one's spine.

He kept his unblinking gaze on Feng Wu, and looked as intimidating as death itself. However, there was also a hint of pity in his eyes, and he even looked a little moved.

Jun Linyuan knitted his exquisite straight eyebrows. He jumped off the wall and landed lightly on his feet. He then walked steadily toward Feng Wu on his long legs.

"Let's continue." Biting her lip, Feng Wu stared at Grand Secretary Fang with a resolute look in her eyes.

"B- Boss Jun?"

Feng Xun was the first to spot Jun Linyuan, and he cried out in surprise.

Hadn't Boss Jun voluntarily locked himself inside the water dungeon as punishment?

He still had those injuries on him...

Jun Linyuan walked up to Feng Wu and raised his hand, but it never landed on her head.

“You want to continue?” Even Jun Linyuan himself didn’t realize that the expression on his finely sculpted face had changed.

Other people might not know how tiresome or painful training aimed at breaking one’s limits was, but he knew.

All they knew was how fast he made progress and how omnipotent he was, but what they didn’t know was the excruciating pain he had to endure over and over again to break through his limits during his cultivation as he pushed his body to the point of collapse.

Therefore, when he saw Feng Wu in this state —

Even the crown prince, who had never let any emotions show on his face, was moved.

Feng Wu struggled to look up. Right now, even lifting her head hurt excruciatingly.

She saw an incredibly handsome face with deep-set features, well-defined lines, and a pair of brooding eyes.

One look at his eyes and Feng Wu knew that he understood her.

Many people pitied her and wanted her to stop, but he understood her...

A faint smile appeared on Feng Wu’s fair face. It was barely detectable, but was as bright as fireworks.

“I want to keep going.”

With each word, she felt as if a blade was scraping the inside of her throat, but she still grabbed Jun Linyuan’s hand and emphasized each word earnestly.

Feng Xun, Xuan Yi, Chaoge, and Qiuling were all there, and they were all calling out to her, telling her to stop, but she wouldn’t give up.

Jun Linyuan looked down at Feng Wu’s hand.

The teenage girl’s hands used to be so soft and tender, but now, all her fingers were bleeding and trembling uncontrollably.

“I’m with you.” Taking both hands, he sent a streak of warm spiritual essence from his fingers. It flowed into her body through her injuries.

Feng Wu felt —

Chapter 1162 A Touch-and-Go Situation 1

A streak of warm spiritual essence flowed from the teenager’s hands into hers through her bleeding fingertips. Feng Wu, who was barely breathing and looked like a withered flower, slowly revived, as if she had been watered with spiritual water.

“Keep going.”

The teenager patted her head with his slender fingers, and his lips curled into a smile.

Feng Wu was a little dumbfounded.

But she soon came back to herself. Licking her lower lip, she nodded. “Yes!”

Grand Secretary Fang had been standing a few steps away from them the whole time and hadn’t said a word since Jun Linyuan showed up.

Feng Wu had complained to him quite a few times about how Jun Linyuan picked on her, and the old man had been thinking about finding a time to mention it to His Majesty.

But now —

Seeing the way the teenager patted Feng Wu’s head, Grand Secretary Fang had a strange feeling...

With Jun Linyuan as her training companion, Feng Wu was even more efficient in her practice now, but that didn’t mean that her pain was in any way reduced.

The pain, the dizziness, and the hopeless state were all still there.

Chaoge and Qiuling watched with teary eyes until they cried. More than once, they almost ran over to Feng Wu to wrap their arms around her bloody body and yell, “That’s it. We give up!”

However, when they saw how hard Feng Wu was trying, they sobbed and couldn’t say a word.

Jun Linyuan’s face was as breathtakingly handsome as ever. He kept his gaze on Feng Wu the entire time with a stern look on his face. Every now and then, a pitying look would flicker in his eyes.

No one else noticed, but Grand Secretary Fang, who had been looking closely, was utterly surprised.

Could it be... Was it what he thought it was? If that really was the case, the girl would never be able to get away from Jun Linyuan.

However, Feng Wu couldn’t see anything else at the moment. She was devoted to her practice and was giving it all she had, sparing no effort!

Right up until the very last moment —

Feng Wu kicked the last white chess piece into the tube!

At that moment, Feng Wu burst into tears. Her legs gave out and she felt backward.

Before her head hit the ground, the teenager rushed to her side to catch her, and he picked her up in both arms.

He looked down at her. His lethal, threatening air was long gone, replaced by a gentleness that no one else had seen before.

Seeing Feng Wu collapse into Jun Linyuan’s arms, Chaoge and Qiuling were both worried sick!

During Feng Wu’s practice, Chaoge had tried to run to her a few times, but Feng Xun had stopped her each time. Now that the training was over, she finally dashed over like a shooting arrow!

“Xiao Wu! Xiao Wu —”

Chaoge tried to take Feng Wu back from Jun Linyuan.

But the crown prince didn't even look at her. With Feng Wu still in his arms, he jumped onto the wall with light feet.

"Quickly, go with him." Feng Xun tugged at Qiuling and Chaoge. "Go get some warm water and fresh clothes."

An hour had passed after they cleaned Feng Wu up.

"How is she?" Feng Xun stared at Jun Linyuan nervously. "When will little Feng Wu wake up?"

Jun Linyuan knitted his fine eyebrows. "It's hard to say."

"Boss Jun, are you leaving?" Seeing that his leader was leaving, Feng Xun was a little nervous.

Jun Linyuan glanced sideways at him, the look in his eyes brooding.

Before he left, he gave the Fang manor a long look.

Despite its ordinary appearance, the house was equipped with a top-grade essence-gathering formation, which had abundant spiritual essence. He wondered what formation master had designed it.

But Jun Linyuan was on a tight schedule and couldn't stay here any longer.

Chapter 1163 A Touch-and-Go Situation 2

"Take good care of her." Jun Linyuan glanced at them sideways, and the look on his face reminded them of a god of death. His intimidating power spread out in the yard. The people of Fallen Star Yard only came back to themselves after Jun Linyuan left.

"Is... is..." Qiuling grabbed Chaoge's hand nervously and said in a tiny voice, "Is His Royal Highness and Miss Wu..."

For a split second, Chaoge thought the same.

But she rejected the possibility right away. "No, it can't be!"

"But His Royal Highness carried Miss Wu back himself..." Didn't the crown prince abhor the touch of other people?

After some thought, Chaoge shook her head adamantly. "Who knows what the hell is wrong with that crown prince. Anyway, it's all in your head!"

Qiuling said, "Alright..."

"That's right! My sister will never like him! She's my sister and nothing else!" The boy standing in the doorway spoke angrily with his cheeks puffed up.

Feng Xun was lost for words.

Xuan Yi's mouth fell open.

The two of them exchanged wry smiles.

It seemed that Boss Jun still had a long way to go before he could win the girl's heart.

However, the more pressing issue now wasn't winning the girl's heart, but —

Would Feng Wu wake up before noon?

Feng Xun said, "It's dawn now, and the sun is about to rise."

Neither Feng Xun nor Xuan Yi left. They stood in the yard and looked up at the dark sky.

The air was as cool as water and both looked worried, even from behind.

Xuan Yi said, "Yes."

Feng Xun asked, "Do you think Feng Wu can wake up before that?"

Xuan Yi said, "The chances are slim."

Feng Xun heaved a long sigh. "She worked so hard. After everything she put into this, it would be such a pity if she has to give up because she missed the stipulated time."

"This Xuanyuan Yi really is something. He's given all of us a sleepless night." Feng Xun smiled bitterly.

Back in the day, they wouldn't have wasted their breath on a nobody like Xuanyuan Yi.

Time crawled by.

The night ended and the sun rose.

As the streets got busier, the entire imperial capital seemed to wake up.

However, Feng Wu still lay completely motionless, without any sign of waking up.

The people of Fallen Star Yard were calm at first, but as time went by, they couldn't remain as unperturbed.

Feng Xun kept running into Feng Wu's room to check on her.

"Is she still not awake?" Feng Xun asked quickly.

Qiuling was pale, and was visibly worried. She shook her head.

"We only have two hours left here." Feng Xun frowned.

While Feng Xun was feeling worried sick, his mother had been summoned to court.

The empress dowager frowned as soon as she saw Lady Northern Feng. "I heard that Feng Wu is in trouble again."

Lady Northern Feng's stomach sank, and she wondered who had been saying bad things about Feng Wu in front of the empress dowager.

She looked up at the empress dowager.

On the empress dowager's left was none other than Empress Dugu, whereas Concubine Oriole, the emperor's favorite woman at the moment, was on the empress dowager's right.

Despite her frustration, Lady Northern Feng put on a bright smile when she walked up to the empress dowager. “Your Majesty, has someone been telling you bad things about little Feng Wu again?”

The empress dowager snorted. “I don’t need to be told. She’s done so many things that the news fly into my ears all on their own.”

“Your Majesty, you’re so well-informed. I’d love to hear about it.”

Chapter 1164 A Touch-and-Go Situation 3

Lady Northern Feng didn’t look like her tough self at all when she was with the empress dowager. Bending down, she gently took the old lady’s hand and gave the latter her brightest smile. The empress dowager snorted, pointed at Concubine Oriole next to her, and said in a disgruntled voice, “Even Concubine Oriole here has been telling me about how your little Feng Wu has been bullying other people just because she has powerful connections.”

Lady Northern Feng didn’t like the sound of that at all. “She has never done such a thing.”

The old lady frowned. “She hasn’t? I heard that she was behind that filthy affair of the Xuanyuan family!”

Lady Northern Feng giggled. “Your Majesty, surely you don’t mean what happened between Lady Cai and Zuo Qingliu.”

The old lady snorted.

Lady Northern Feng chuckled. “I don’t understand. Why is my Xiao Wu involved in the affair between Lady Cai and Zuo Qingliu? Did she force them to sleep together?”

The empress dowager found that argument plausible.

Empress Dugu shot a warning glance at Concubine Oriole.

The empress had grown smarter. She would behave as nobly as an empress should, and let Concubine Oriole do all the dirty work for her.

Concubine Oriole covered her mouth with a handkerchief. “Lady Northern Feng, everyone has been saying that Feng Wu set Lady Cai and Young Master Zuo up. What happened was a trap.”

“Well, that’s the truth, but do you have evidence? If not, just shut up!” thought Lady Northern Feng.

She found this Concubine Oriole a pain in the neck.

However —

She would never lose her temper in front of the empress dowager. Holding the old lady’s hand, Lady Northern Feng said in a soft voice, “I don’t get it. Why would my Xiao Wu set Lady Cai and Zuo Qingliu up? She would have to have a motive, right?”

The empress dowager was persuaded. Yes, one had to have a motive to do such a thing.

Hence, the old lady looked dubiously at Concubine Oriole.

Could Concubine Oriole say that it was because Xuanyuan Ying tried to set Feng Wu up first? Of course she couldn't!

Before Concubine Oriole could speak, Lady Northern Feng struck again.

"Moreover, it's like you've said: Xiao Wu is a dumb girl without much cultivation capability. How can she frame the oldest daughter-in-law of the Xuanyuan family in their own territory? Concubine Oriole, do you think that's possible?"

Concubine Oriole smiled awkwardly and was about to speak when —

Lady Northern Feng went on. "Concubine Oriole says that my Xiao Wu had been bullying people because of her powerful connections. Who are you suggesting those connections are? Me? Does Concubine Oriole think that I prompted Xiao Wu to do those things that night?"

Concubine Oriole was about to explain, but Lady Northern Feng had already taken the empress dowager's hand and burst into tears. "Your Majesty, I never knew that Concubine Oriole has this sort of impression of me. I don't want to live anymore..."

Things turned against them so fast that both Concubine Oriole and Empress Dugu were speechless.

Empress Dugu was used to this. After all, Lady Northern Feng hadn't remained the empress dowager's favorite for years for nothing.

The empress dowager patted Lady Northern Feng's hand. "You silly girl. That's nothing worth crying over."

Lady Northern Feng said, "Your Majesty, I feel so wronged."

The empress dowager patted her hand and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "She wasn't targeting you. Why do you feel wronged?"

"I feel wronged for my Xiao Wu. She didn't do anything, but every time something happens to someone else, she's the one who's blamed. She had nothing to do with this whole Xuanyuan business!" Lady Northern Feng sounded even more aggrieved as she spoke. "Plus, Your Majesty made her Princess Feng Wu yourself. Are you going to do nothing about all this slander?"

That jogged the empress dowager's memory. Lady Northern Feng was right. The empress dowager had given Feng Wu that title herself.

Chapter 1165 A Touch-and-Go Situation 4

Lady Northern Feng said, "Your Majesty, she's my goddaughter who received her princess title from you. One ought to show her some respect out of deference to you; as the saying goes, you don't hit a dog without checking who its owner is first. They shouldn't have disrespected Your Majesty like that!" Lady Northern Feng was doing all she could to pull the empress dowager to her side. That way, attacking Feng Wu would be attacking the empress dowager. Lady Northern Feng would like to see them try!

As expected —

Concubine Oriole and Empress Dugu couldn't sit still after Lady Northern Feng said that.

Because the lady was directly accusing them of disrespecting the empress dowager!

Concubine Oriole left her seat immediately and knelt down in front of the empress dowager with a ghastly pale face. “Your Majesty, I — I really didn’t mean that. I was only trying to entertain Your Majesty with some gossip I was told. I was only trying to cheer Your Majesty up. I didn’t mean anything...”

Empress Dugu changed the subject in a hurry. “Of course you didn’t. It was nothing, really, but I heard that our crown prince flared up over a girl. In order to save Feng Wu, he cut off all four of Old Master Xuanyuan’s limbs, which is why we’re talking about it.”

Well...

Concubine Oriole hadn’t gotten to that part yet. As soon as Empress Dugu said that, the empress dowager’s face darkened!

“What did you say?!”

Despite her old age, she smacked the table so hard that she almost smashed it to pieces!

Darting a taunting sidelong glance at Lady Northern Feng, Empress Dugu said to the empress dowager, “Your Majesty, I heard that the heads of all the major clans protested and gave His Majesty pressure. His Majesty was so angry that he locked the crown prince in the water dungeon!”

The water dungeon?!

The empress dowager felt her head spin!

The water dungeon... That was supposed to be a form of torture for felons!

The water there went as high as one’s chin, and the prisoners couldn’t sit, sleep, or rest in any way, for they would fall down in the water and drown if they relaxed —

“How dare he keep that from me? How dare he?!” The empress dowager was infuriated.

Empress Dugu went on tattling to the empress dowager: “His Royal Highness is supposed to be an aloof, sensible person who sees any woman other than Your Majesty as a stranger. But he stood up for Feng Wu —”

“Feng Wu, this is going to be your downfall. Let’s see if you can withstand Her Majesty’s rage!” thought Empress Dugu with a malicious smile on her face.

The empress dowager was so angry that she almost had a heart attack!

Lady Northern Feng was flustered. Empress Dugu’s attack was a very effective one!

Not only did she mention the difficult situation His Royal Highness was in at the moment, she also pointed out that Feng Wu was the reason, and reminded the empress dowager that Jun Linyuan treated Feng Wu differently...

Those three things together were enough to set the empress dowager off.

What a malicious woman!

If Lady Northern Feng wasn't here, Feng Wu really would be blamed for everything, and the empress dowager would probably send Feng Wu some poisonous wine and have the latter commit suicide by imperial order!

Lady Northern Feng tried to explain immediately. "Her Majesty the empress has to be mistaken."

Empress Dugu smirked inwardly, but her face remained composed. "Isn't it the truth? All the ladies at the Xuanyuan Mansion that night said so."

Lady Northern Feng snorted. "But you weren't there that night. I was!"

She then turned to the empress dowager. "Your Majesty, it was all my fault. Please punish me."

The empress dowager looked at Lady Northern Feng in bewilderment and wondered why the latter was suddenly so serious.

Lady Northern Feng said in a solemn tone, "His Royal Highness did indeed take action that night, but it wasn't to save Feng Wu. He did all those things to save me."

The empress dowager said, "What?!"

Lady Northern Feng started her little revenge. "Your Majesty, you have no idea how arrogant that old man Xuanyuan was! He was outrageous!"

Chapter 1166

No One Challenges the Authority of an Emperor!

"Something went missing in his family and he had to search everyone —" Lady Northern Feng sounded angry and aggrieved. "And even that wasn't enough for him. He hated me, so he lashed out at Xiao Wu. "He actually wanted to search Xiao Wu's memories with his soul power," said Lady Northern Feng between broken sobs. "Your Majesty, you know the consequences of that. If one's memories are searched with soul power, they'll become mentally handicapped, or even killed!"

The empress dowager shuddered.

Lady Northern Feng went on. "And he tried to do that even after the imperial edict was read, when everyone knew that Feng Wu had been made a princess by Your Majesty. He was so unscrupulous, despising the authority of Your Majesty and the emperor like that."

"It wasn't like that. Actually..." Concubine Oriole tried to interject, but Lady Northern Feng wouldn't let her. She went on.

"Your Majesty, Xiao Wu was about to be killed, so of course I had to do something. The crown prince just happened to arrive at that moment, so I begged him to save Xiao Wu. That was why His Royal Highness took action!"

Seeing that the empress dowager didn't look as angry, Lady Northern Feng went on immediately. "Your Majesty, you raised His Royal Highness yourself, and no one knows him like you do. Other people may spread baseless rumors about him, but I'm sure Your Majesty knows that the crown prince isn't the type

to meddle. His Royal Highness usually turns a blind eye to Xiao Wu. Why would he stand up for her? Why would anyone fabricate a lie like that?!"

Lady Northern Feng was giving it all she had to save Feng Wu's life.

The conversation might seem nothing more than a petty household matter, but such trivialities had gotten more women killed in the imperial palace than one could count.

Lady Northern Feng was sure that if she didn't speak up for Feng Wu, the latter would be killed without a sound. After all, no one could challenge the authority of the royal family.

Hearing Lady Northern Feng's explanation, the empress dowager's mood finally lightened slightly, and she let out a breath of relief.

Lady Northern Feng then helped the old lady sit down.

They had just taken their seats again, when there was a loud announcement.

"His Majesty the emperor has arrived —"

Emperor Wu entered the hall, dressed in his bright yellow imperial robe. His gait was steady and even, and he gave off a naturally intimidating air as he walked.

All the concubines bowed to him.

Emperor Wu casually waved them off. He went over to the empress dowager in a hurry and asked anxiously, "Your Majesty, what happened? Are you not feeling well?"

The empress dowager was a little short of air from her anger earlier, and before she could reply, Lady Northern Feng said, "Her Majesty has delicate health to begin with, and someone upset her just then. That's why Her Majesty is like this."

Emperor Wu flared up. "Who upset Her Majesty?! How dare they?!"

Lady Northern Feng glanced at Concubine Oriole. "Well, no one would dare do it deliberately. It's just that Her Majesty heard about His Royal Highness being held in the water dungeon..."

Emperor Wu's face turned livid immediately!

"Who told Her Majesty that?!" He had given an explicit order that no one was to bring it up in front of the empress dowager!

Emperor Wu scanned the crowd with his sharp, gloomy eyes.

Concubine Oriole was almost scared to tears. She went down on her knees immediately and burst into tears.

Emperor Wu glared at Concubine Oriole!

Concubine Oriole had a beautiful voice. Therefore, Emperor Wu made her "Concubine Oriole" after taking her to bed. He had enjoyed her for a few days at this point, but didn't know that she could be so reckless!

“Get her out of here! She’s banished to the cold palace!”

An emperor would never allow anyone to challenge his authority.

In a mere moment, he had determined the fate of a common human being.

“Your Majesty —”

Chapter 1167 What Should We Do?

No matter how much Concubine Oriole pled, Emperor Wu didn’t give her another glance, even though they had just shared a bed the night before. “Your Majesty, help me! Help —”

Concubine Oriole cried and screamed like a crazy person, but Empress Dugu only gripped her handkerchief and looked away, acting as if she didn’t know who Concubine Oriole was.

“Her Majesty the empress told me to say all those things... Your Majesty, it was her —”

Infuriated, Empress Dugu gripped her handkerchief so hard that blue veins popped on the back of her hands.

“Your Majesty, what Concubine Oriole is saying is pure slander...” Holding Emperor Wu’s hand, Empress Dugu gave the emperor a pleading look with her teary eyes.

But Emperor Wu only waved her off. He only cared about his mother.

When the empress dowager was finally able to breathe normally again, she looked up and stared at Emperor Wu. “What did you do to my Baby Jun?!”

Even when she was having difficulty breathing, the empress dowager’s first reaction was still to find justice for Jun Linyuan.

Holding his mother’s hand, Emperor Wu said, “Your health is the most important thing right now...”

The empress dowager gasped. “If you really care about my health, get Baby Jun out of that place!”

Emperor Wu said, “Well...”

The empress dowager threw off his hand and rose to her feet.

Emperor Wu said, “Your Majesty, where are you going?”

The empress dowager smiled grimly. “I’m going to see my Baby Jun now, and if you won’t release him, I’ll stay in the water dungeon with him. I’m going to take the punishment with my Baby Jun!”

Emperor Wu was utterly dumbfounded.

The empress dowager was usually a kind, amiable lady, but she could be hopelessly stubborn when Jun Linyuan was involved.

Emperor Wu frowned. “Your Majesty, the heads of all the clans are all on their knees outside the gate. How am I going to convince them if I don’t punish him?! He cut off all four limbs of the head of the Xuanyuan family!”

The empress dowager said, "That's because my Baby Jun is talented!"

Emperor Wu was rendered speechless. "Your indulgence is the reason Jun Linyuan has always been such an unruly son! He does whatever he wants and listens to no one else!"

Emperor Wu had made up his mind that he would teach his son a good lesson!

"He committed a heinous crime, but he can't give a convincing reason for it. It's preposterous, and I've had enough. This is a good time to teach him a lesson."

"Was it because of that girl, Feng Wu?" The empress dowager frowned.

Well...

Emperor Wu snorted. "I wish it was because of her! That way, at least he would have a reason!"

That calmed the empress dowager down a little.

Emperor Wu glanced at Empress Dugu, hinting at her to change the subject so that the empress dowager wouldn't go on about Jun Linyuan.

Empress Dugu's eyes darted around, and she was struck by an idea.

She said, "By the way, I heard that Feng Wu is going to die."

The empress dowager said, "What?!"

Emperor Wu was equally surprised.

Empress Dugu put on a long face. "Well, that Feng Wu girl agreed to a duel to the death with Xuanyuan Yi of the Xuanyuan family, but given her capability, Feng Wu can't possibly defeat him. She's asking to be killed."

"With Xuanyuan Yi? A battle to the death?" Emperor Wu glanced at Lady Northern Feng.

Lady Northern Feng bit her lip and nodded in resignation. "That's true."

The empress dowager heaved a sigh of relief.

The old lady liked Feng Wu less and less by the day, and thought it was a great chance to get rid of Feng Wu for good.

Lady Northern Feng had been watching the empress dowager the whole time. When she saw the look on the old lady's face, Lady Northern Feng's heart sank.

No...

No matter how hard she tried to explain on Feng Wu's behalf, the empress dowager already hated Feng Wu. This was going to be difficult.

Chapter 1168 Her Majesty the Empress Dowager Is Here —

The empress dowager suddenly raised a hand and said to Granny Lan by her side, "Help me change." Granny Lan looked at the empress dowager in bewilderment.

The empress dowager snorted. "I'm going to Imperial College."

What?

The empress dowager was going to Imperial College?

Even Emperor Wu was baffled. He was about to say something, when the empress dowager snorted and waved her hand. "Your Majesty, don't bother. I have nothing better to do and the weather is nice, so I think I'll take a walk outside."

Lady Northern Feng sighed inwardly.

It seemed that the old lady really held a grudge against Feng Wu.

Back at Imperial College —

The arena for the duel was in a huge square between Blue Cloud Court and Universe Court. The Year 1 billboard was right next to it!

The teachers knew that the Year 1 students wouldn't be in the mood for class because of the duel, so they simply gave them the morning off.

The arena wall was about 10 meters tall and made from big, thick dark iron stone, which gave off a crude yet forceful feel.

The arena was empty, but the area around it was packed.

There were newbies from Blue Cloud Court, seniors from Universe Court, and some other people who had been given access because they were related to the event somehow, such as the Feng and Xuanyuan clansmen.

There was no shortage of onlookers. It was someone else dueling, but the onlookers were even more excited.

It was almost time, but neither of the two contestants had shown up yet.

"Feng Sang, Feng Sang, why is Feng Wu still not here?"

Many knew about the relationship between Feng Sang and Feng Wu, so they all ran over to ask Feng Sang for information.

"Is Feng Wu too scared to come?"

Next to them, Gongsun Qing snapped, "Xuanyuan Yi isn't here either. Why are you only targeting Feng Wu? If you ask me, Xuanyuan Yi is the one who doesn't dare show up."

Gongsun Qing was from the Gongsun family and too prominent for anyone to oppose. However —

"Look. Someone's coming!"

They turned around to see a streak of light flying across the sky. The next thing they knew, Xuanyuan Yi landed on the right side of the arena.

He stood there in his white robe with a long sword on his back. Sword energy filled the air!

Standing there with his hands behind his back, he gave one the feeling that he and the sword had become one.

“What —”

Two people in the crowd exchanged surprised looks.

They were none other than Rong Shixin and Si Yuan, the 1st and 2nd on the Year 1 billboard.

Rong Shixin’s eyes flickered. “If I’m not mistaken, there’s been a clear improvement in Xuanyuan Yi’s capability.”

Si Yuan nodded with a dark face.

Someone cried out next to them, “With Xuanyuan Yi’s capability now, he should be able to make it into the top 100 on that billboard, right?”

Rong Shixin only smiled. “Top 100? You’re underestimating Xuanyuan Yi.”

“What do you mean?”

Rong Shixin didn’t say anything, and only smiled.

Several people in the crowd were worried for Feng Wu, such as Jin Yuntao and his friends, who got along well with Feng Wu.

Yuan Ming gritted his teeth. “Xuanyuan Yi made so much progress... What will Feng Wu do?”

Ye Zhou said, “I didn’t see this coming. It’s only been a day, and he’s changed so drastically! There’s no way that Feng Wu is going to win this.”

Yuan Ming said, “Losing won’t be a big thing if this was any other day. She could always start again, but now...”

Ye Zhou broke out in a cold sweat. “It’s a duel to the death. What are we going to do?”

The two of them then turned to Jin Yuntao in unison. “Did you send out the message?”

Chapter 1169 False Accusations

When Jin Yuntao sent a message to World Tower the last time, the head of the tower moved Jin Yuntao up two floors right away. What would happen this time? Jin Yuntao smiled bitterly. “This is a big deal. I’m sure His Royal Highness already knows, even if I didn’t tell him.”

However, His Royal Highness hadn’t responded...

“Xuanyuan Yi! Xuanyuan Yi! Xuanyuan Yi —”

The crowd kept cheering, which was quite electrifying and exciting.

Just then, there was a commotion outside.

“Is Feng Wu coming?”

With that question, everyone turned their heads to the main gate, only to see —

The bright yellow color that was unique to the royal family walked into the courtyard.

The color of the royal family?!

Which member of the royal family was here?

Could it be a prince or a princess?!

“All hail Her Majesty, the empress dowager —”

The empress dowager?!

Everyone present cried out in surprise!

The empress dowager was known to have little contact with the outside world, and very few people had seen her. What brought the old lady here?

Mr Fang didn't have to be here today, but then, the empress dowager was here... Chief Yu sent someone to find Mr Fang, while she rushed over to greet the old lady.

Of course, Qiao Yi wouldn't miss out on such a great opportunity. Quickening her pace, she followed the crowd as well.

“Your Majesty —” Chief Yu bowed to the empress dowager.

The empress dowager only glanced at her, and continued walking without stopping.

Rising to her feet, Chief Yu followed the old lady hastily with her head still lowered, so that she could clear the space in front of the arena for the empress dowager.

Naturally, the empress dowager hadn't come on her own.

Empress Dugu was with her, and so was Lady Northern Feng. Even the third princess, Jun Wuxia, was here as an onlooker.

As soon as they took their seats, Jun Wuxia stared at Chief Yu. “Where's Mr Fang, the principal?”

Chief Yu broke out in a sweat and nodded repeatedly. “Mr Fang will be here in a minute. He'll be here.”

One couldn't begin to imagine how awestruck she felt.

The women in front of her could be considered the most respected women in the empire. No one was as close to the seat of power as they were.

Taking advantage of her special status, Jun Wuxia spoke to Chief Yu in a condescending tone, “What now? It's time for the duel. Why isn't it starting?”

Chief Yu had a bitter taste in her mouth...

These VIPs had arrived so out of the blue that she had been taken by surprise.

“We have 5 minutes before the start of the duel.”

Jun Wuxia waved her off. “Go and tell them to hurry up!”

Chief Yu said, "Yes, yes..."

Chief Yu left, but Qiao Yi stayed. Seeing the way the latter's eyes were darting around, Jun Wuxia couldn't help but frown. "Who are you, then?"

Qiao Yi bowed immediately, then smiled and spoke in a cloying voice, "Your Royal Highness, I'm Feng Wu's teacher."

Jun Wuxia knitted her eyebrows right away.

Qiao Yi immediately saw that the princess here didn't like Feng Wu.

Moreover, upon close observation, Qiao Yi noticed that the princess wasn't the only one who didn't like Feng Wu; the empress dowager and the empress looked equally disgruntled.

This is perfect!

Qiao Yi sighed. "But this Feng Wu... well... I don't know what to say about her."

That tone...

Jun Wuxia took the hint right away. She smirked inwardly, but asked immediately, "What are you saying? What kind of student is Feng Wu? The empress dowager and the empress are here. You have to tell the truth!"

Qiao Yi was here to make false accusations, so of course she would make use of this great opportunity.

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"Of course... of course I'll tell the truth..." Qiao Yi feigned a regretful tone. "Miss Feng Wu has received a lot of complaints from her fellow classmates."

Jun Wuxia was excited to hear that, but she still pretended to be confused. "Really? Feng Wu isn't popular with her classmates? What's her problem?"

Fighting back her excitement, Qiao Yi said, "I assume that you know that Feng Wu was admitted into the college with the highest mark?"

Jun Wuxia said, "That's right. Not only did she receive the top mark, she also got full marks, which is unheard of."

Qiao Yi smirked. "But why didn't she dare take the ranking test after she got in, even if she got full marks?"

Jun Wuxia's eyes lit up. "Are you saying that she cheated in the entrance exam?"

Qiao Yi waved her hands immediately. "Princess, I didn't say that. That wasn't what I meant."

Jun Wuxia threw a dirty look at Qiao Yi. She couldn't have made it any clearer, but she still tried to deny it. This Qiao Yi really was a piece of work.

"However..." Qiao Yi seemed to want to say something, but hesitated. "It's just that because of that, Feng Wu has never shown up on the billboard, which made some of the students question her ability."

Jun Wuxia snorted. "If she really has the ability, why didn't she dare take the ranking test? She must have something to hide!"

Jun Wuxia stole a glance at her mother and grandmother as she spoke.

Empress Dugu was sipping tea from the cup she was holding, acting as if she had nothing to do with this. She hid her satisfaction over Feng Wu's predicament very well.

The empress dowager, on the other hand, looked furious!

Qiao Yi and Jun Wuxia exchanged looks, and reached a tacit agreement.

"What else has everyone been saying about this Feng Wu?" Jun Wuxia tried to create more opportunities for Qiao Yi.

Qiao Yi pretended to hesitate over the question, but said in the end, "Apart from that, I guess Miss Feng Wu is... alright..."

Jun Wuxia smirked. "What do you mean by 'alright'? If there really is nothing wrong with her, why did you hesitate? Qiao Yi, you're facing the empress dowager and the empress here. Are you trying to withhold information from them?"

Qiao Yi apologized immediately, then sighed. "Actually, Feng Wu doesn't come to the college that often. School has been in session for a while, but as her class teacher, I've only seen her twice."

The empress dowager's face darkened right away.

Before, when Qiao Yi hinted that Feng Wu had cheated, the empress dowager had still found that statement dubious, but this information convinced her completely!

"How arrogant!" The empress dowager snorted.

Lady Northern Feng felt her throat tighten.

She wondered what kind of grudge this Qiao Yi had against Feng Wu. Why was she slandering Feng Wu like this?

Qiao Yi smiled bitterly. "The last time I saw her, she almost beat a new student to death. She was so merciless..."

Jun Wuxia timed her questions perfectly. She asked, "What?! Feng Wu almost killed a classmate?!"

"That's right. That day..." Qiao Yi described what happened the other day, interpreting it in her own way and focusing on how arrogant Feng Wu was. As a result...

Mu Yaoyao sounded perfectly innocent in her narration, while Feng Wu was completely at fault.

"And the next time I saw her was a few days later..." Qiao Yi looked like she was about to cry.