

G E D 341

Chapter 341: The Unaware Prey

Feng Wu smacked herself on the forehead as soon as she walked out!

“Xiaoqi...”

She had forgotten all about Xiaoqi!

It had been two months since Jun Linyuan took him away and she wondered how he was doing now.

Angry and ashamed, Feng Wu turned in the direction of the crown prince’s residence.

She had just jumped onto a wall, when she saw a carriage coming her way.

She quickly made her way up a leafy Chinese parasol tree and took cover in the branches. It was well after dark, so no one would be able to make her out that way.

The carriage stopped under the tree Feng Wu was hiding in and two slim figures came out.

Under the dim moonlight, Feng Wu recognized them.

Feng Liu and Yan Yan?

Since when were they so close? They were holding hands when they came out and both were smiling.

The friendly atmosphere between the two gave Feng Wu the creeps.

Hearing their conversation, Feng Wu frowned.

Feng Liu smiled brightly. “So, deal?”

Yan Yan reached out to her with a finger. “Pinky swear.”

They exchanged looks and smiled wickedly at each other, as if they had reached some secret deal.

Feng Liu said, “I’ll leave you here. You better go back before Feng Wu finds out you’re here.” She then gestured toward the yard. “The first courtyard in that direction is Fallen Star Yard, where Feng Wu and her family now live.”

Yan Yan’s smile widened. “Fallen Star Yard? That’s quite fitting. Was it made specifically for Feng Wu?”

Feng Liu grinned. “A star falling to the dirt. That’s very suitable and very satisfying.”

Yan Yan raised her chin. “We’ve come up with this plan right outside her wall. Imagine how frustrated she’ll be if she finds out about this later.”

Both girls laughed wholeheartedly when they imagined how helpless Feng Wu would be when she walked into the trap.

“I’m going in, then.” Yan Yan waved at Feng Liu.

Feng Liu said, "See you tomorrow."

After Yan Yan left in her carriage, Feng Liu grinned maliciously in Yan Yan's direction. After that, she darted a contemptuous look in the direction of Fallen Star Yard before jumping over the wall and disappearing into the night.

Feng Wu didn't move even after Feng Liu was gone.

She was replaying Feng Liu and Yan Yan's conversation in her head.

Those two would never have expected Feng Wu to be right over their heads in a leafy tree when they chatted by the wall next to her courtyard.

Feng Wu smiled. It seemed that tomorrow would be a very interesting day.

She had to be ready for tomorrow, and it seemed that Xiaoqi would have to wait. Feng Wu darted a pitiful look in the direction of Jun Linyuan's residence.

"That man in the purple robe was a Yan." Little Phoenix couldn't see what was going on outside, but could hear them.

Hence, it had also heard Feng Liu and Yan Yan's plan.

Feng Wu said grumpily, "So what?"

"He has the thing you need! I'm telling you!" Little Phoenix insisted. "You have to reach the Spiritual Grandmaster stage. Right now, Zuo Qingluan can finish you off with a flip of her hand! I've heard so many people speaking despicably about you, and as your mount, I'm so ashamed!"

Chapter 342: Malicious Intentions

"Although you're not a Spiritual Grandmaster yet, I can tell you something in advance!" Little Phoenix said in excitement. "Get in here! Quickly!"

Feng Wu had been intrigued this whole time about the method for waking up her master.

Hence, she turned into her spiritual form and entered her ring the next moment.

The first thing she saw was her beautiful master, who was still lying there with his eyes closed.

Her beautiful master's layered robes hung over the edges of the ice bed like white clouds.

His exquisite features were breathtaking.

On his smooth, glowing forehead, a faint scar marked where the Divine Blood of the Phoenix had been taken out.

Little Phoenix said to Feng Wu, "Look at that scar on my master's forehead. Does it look like a star to you?"

After taking a closer look, Feng Wu saw that the scar was indeed star-shaped.

“Do you want to bring him back?” Little Phoenix asked.

“Of course!” Feng Wu clenched her fists.

It was her ultimate fixation!

“Good,” Little Phoenix said. “All you have to do is gather all five broken pieces of the star and insert them in that scar. That way, my master can wake up.”

Feng Wu’s eyes sparkled. “That’s all?”

“That’s all?!” Little Phoenix rolled its eyes at Feng Wu. “Do you have any idea who the owners of those five pieces are? You make it sound so easy! It’s harder than collecting real stars!”

Feng Wu was used to Little Phoenix’s sarcasm already, and she only prompted, “Who?”

Little Phoenix said proudly, “You don’t need to know the others. You won’t be able to get them now anyway. It’ll only get you killed quicker.”

“I’m making progress, you know?” Feng Wu protested.

Little Phoenix snorted. “Become a Spiritual Grandmaster first, then we’ll talk.”

Feng Wu was speechless.

She wished that she could get to the Spiritual Grandmaster stage more than anything else, but she had hit a bottleneck, which was so frustrating.

Little Phoenix knew that it was making an impossible request as well. Feng Wu was already doing a great job by rising to a Level 9 Spiritual Master from scratch in an unprecedented few months. No one on the entire continent had ever been able to do this.

Feng Wu went back to their previous topic. “Fine, don’t tell me the rest, but what about the first piece? Are you suggesting that...”

“Yes!” Little Phoenix sounded thrilled. “That first piece of the star is on that man in a purple robe, that Sir Yan your uncle was fawning over.”

Feng Wu nodded. “That’s Yan Shifan, a minister on the Grand Council as well as the Ministry of Official Personnel.”

“That’s him!” Little Phoenix grabbed Feng Wu’s sleeve, the look in its eyes fervent. “You have to get that first piece, and you better be quick about it!”

“Quick?”

Little Phoenix nodded. “The broken star pieces can thoroughly remold and change a person’s body, improving their physical strength. How long do you think that Sir Yan will wait before he uses it on himself? Once he does that... your beautiful master will never wake up!”

Feng Wu clenched her fists!

It was late, but instead of going back home, Feng Wu headed for the Yan manor.

No one but herself knew what she did there.

The next day, Feng Wu heard familiar footsteps as soon as she woke up.

It was Granny Gui.

Granny Gui had been holding a grudge against Fallen Star Yard since the last time, but —

Chapter 343: Your Uncle Cares About You

But she had to force a smile. “Is Miss Wu at home? Lady Wang is asking for her.”

Granny Zhao asked what it was about and Granny Gui said, “Sir Yan’s mother is celebrating her 80th birthday today and the ladies of all the major families are going to attend the banquet. Since Miss Wu is back, she can’t hide in Fallen Star Yard forever, can she?”

Granny Zhao snapped, “You —”

Granny Gui smiled. “I always speak my mind and I admit that I’m not the smoothest talker. But I’m telling the truth. Miss Wu can’t hide behind closed doors forever, can she? She has to get married and have babies someday.”

Granny Zhao glowered. “It’s none of your business!”

Granny Gui shook her head and smiled wryly. “She’s not your Miss Wu alone, but a daughter of the Feng clan as well. If Miss Wu was a cultivator like all her sisters, we wouldn’t be rushing her into marriage. But she’s crippled. So, getting married is her only option now —”

Granny Zhao was so angry that she wanted to slap Granny Gui. Even Qiuling rushed out of the kitchen with a cleaver in her hand.

Feng Wu had finished washing up by then and she walked out wearing a long dress with buttons down the front and a light red robe. Standing there gracefully, she reminded one of spring sunshine and morning dew.

Although Feng Wu didn’t utter a word, Granny Gui couldn’t help but shudder at Feng Wu’s presence...

How could this be? Granny Gui was shaken. Miss Wu was useless now, but how could she still be this intimidating? Especially those eyes, which made Granny Gui feel as if her heart had been pierced through with a sword!

“Let’s go,” Feng Wu said unhurriedly, looking as stunning as ever.

“Miss Wu —”

Qiuling and Granny Zhao each took one of Feng Wu’s arms and both shook their heads repeatedly.

After everything Feng Wu had put her through, Lady Wang was never going to help Feng Wu get a good husband. Of course she was going to get the worst candidate possible!

However, Feng Wu only smiled and left them some instructions. "Shut the door after I leave and look after my mother."

Granny Zhao and Qiuling saw the light suddenly and they realized why Feng Wu was so calm... After that, they turned in unison and gave Granny Gui inscrutable glances, which baffled the latter.

Feng Wu followed Granny Gui to Flying Snow Building, and the latter managed to exchange some pleasantries with Feng Wu along the way, although her smile looked rather stiff.

Feng Wu was on guard.

She spotted Feng Liu as soon as she set foot inside Flying Snow Building.

Feng Liu had dressed up for the occasion. She was bright-eyed and looked as pretty as a picture. Her lilac dress went all the way down to her ankles, the layers of which reminded one of floating clouds, and she wore a pair of embroidered shoes rimmed with golden thread.

Feng Wu was secretly amazed. After what had happened, Feng Liu could act as if she was completely unaffected. Tough girl.

Feng Liu returned Feng Wu's stare with a dirty look. She snorted and went back to her mother.

Despite Lady Wang's hatred for Feng Wu, she was able to squeeze out a kind smile like a gracious aunt should. "Xiao Wu, there you are. Come, I've prepared an outfit for you."

Feng Wu took a glance at the pale green dress and shook her head. "That won't be necessary."

Lady Wang smiled as she took Feng Wu's arm. "Xiao Wu, your uncle left me with instructions that we should show you around more. He also asked me to make some new clothes for you. Your uncle really cares about you."

Chapter 344: Pardon? What Was That —

Her uncle cared about her? Feng Wu felt like cracking up.

To irritate Lady Wang, Feng Wu played along and nodded. "I know, Uncle is great to me. He's going to make me the crown prince's..."

Feng Wu knew that those words would make Lady Wang try her best to stop her uncle from doing that.

She knew it!

Lady Wang's face stiffened right away and the smile disappeared. However, it only took her a second to pull herself together.

As always, Feng Liu was the one unable to control herself.

"Feng Wu! You're shameless! Offering yourself to the crown prince? Who the hell do you think you are? His Royal Highness will never agree! You're bold as brass!..."

"Feng Liu!" Lady Wang scolded her and gave her a warning look!

Only then did Feng Liu realize what she had done. How could she have forgotten about her important plan? After today, Feng Wu would be... Well, that was if Feng Wu would live to see another day.

Feng Liu snickered, darted a contemptuous look at Feng Wu, and turned away.

Feng Wu went on with her excellent acting. Looking at Lady Wang, she smiled bitterly. "If Xiao Liu really doesn't like it, I won't go to the Yan manor, then —"

Lady Wang and Feng Liu exchanged looks and said in unison, "You have to go!"

Feng Wu hesitated. "But I have a headache..."

Lady Wang went up to her in a hurry and helped her sit down. "Granny Gui, give Xiao Wu a head massage."

"And my hands hurt." Feng Wu made another request.

"I'll rub them for you." Lady Wang was burning with hatred, but she forced herself to smile.

"And my feet hurt, too..." Feng Wu said in a pitiful voice.

"Feng Wu! You're pushing it!" Feng Wu didn't put any effort into making her acting convincing, which only agitated the others further.

Everyone knew that Feng Wu was pretending, but if she really decided not to go, there was nothing they could do about it. Feng Wu was the key to their plot today, and without her, they would come away empty-handed.

"Feng Liu! Apologize to your sister!" Lady Wang gave Feng Liu a warning look.

Feng Liu was furious. However, at the thought of their plan, she had no choice but to clench her fists and say, "... Sister Wu, I'm sorry."

"What was that? I didn't catch that." Feng Wu looked bewildered.

"Miss Wu! I'm sorry!" Feng Liu glared at Feng Wu!

"Pardon? The wind was blowing so hard. I didn't hear you."

"Forget it! Stay at home!" Feng Liu stormed off.

Feng Wu frowned at Lady Wang. "My feet hurt so bad. Aunt, I don't think I can go today. Sorry for wasting your time..."

Shaking with anger, Feng Liu turned around and stomped back. She knelt down in front of Feng Wu and took the latter's leg. "Where does it hurt? Here? Or here?"

Feng Liu pressed so hard that anyone would jump up in pain —

"Ouch!" Feng Wu reacted exactly that way. Her leg flexed and she kicked Feng Liu in the face. There was a loud thud, which almost sent Feng Liu flying backward.

However, Feng Wu was the one who looked hurt. "Feng Liu, did you have to press that hard? Do you hate me that much?"

Feng Wu had aimed her foot exactly at the tip of Feng Liu's delicate nose.

It was one of the softest parts of the body and Feng Wu spared no effort. Feng Liu broke into tears right away!

"Xiao Liu!" Lady Wang forgot all about Feng Wu and ran to her daughter!

Chapter 345: Feng Wu Is Her Natural Enemy!

Lady Wang ran up to Feng Liu in a hurry. "Xiao Liu, are you alright? Talk to me!"

Tears rolled down Feng Liu's cheeks as blood gushed out of her nose —

Her eyes glinted like a hungry wolf's and she looked like she was ready to tear Feng Wu's throat open!

"Feng Wu, you b—"

However, blood rushed into her mouth as soon as Feng Liu opened it, and the taste almost made her puke.

Feng Wu looked as innocent as a bunny. "Oh god, what happened? Xiao Liu, I didn't mean to, but you squeezed my foot too hard and I flinched before I knew it... Xiao Liu, are you alright? Let me have a look.

"There's so much blood! Luckily, I'm a doctor. Here, let me help you." After those words, Feng Wu grabbed a handful of ashes from a censer nearby, made her way to Feng Liu's side, and smacked the handful right onto Feng Liu's pretty face!

Feng Liu had just opened her mouth to speak and the ashes fell right in...

" *Retch* — "

Poor Feng Liu. Her face was streaked with tears, blood was gushing out of her nose, and she was repulsed by the ashes... It couldn't be any worse.

Lady Wang realized what was going on right away and she glared at Feng Wu. "Feng Wu, what are you doing?!"

Feng Wu looked very innocent. "I was helping Xiao Liu. She was bleeding so bad. See? Her nosebleed has stopped."

Lady Wang then saw that Feng Wu was telling the truth. However, Feng Liu's makeup had all been ruined and she looked a mess.

What infuriated Lady Wang even more was that Feng Liu's dress had been specially designed for today's event and it was the key to their plan!

"My lady, we're running late —"

Seeing that Lady Wang was going to waste her time arguing with Feng Wu, Granny Gui hurriedly gave her mistress a reminder.

Lady Wang closed her eyes and took a deep breath —

She wished more than anything that she could rip Feng Wu's face off. However, she had no choice but to force a smile at the latter. "Xiao Wu, thank you."

Feng Wu said matter-of-factly, "You're welcome. We're all trying to help Xiao Liu here."

Lady Wang almost choked on her own spit. This Feng Wu was her natural enemy!

To calm herself down, Lady Wang turned to Feng Liu with a scowl. "Come inside with me and clean yourself up!"

One couldn't help but wonder what instructions Lady Wang would give Feng Liu as she cleaned her daughter up. However, Feng Wu couldn't care less. She only looked around casually, savoring the view of Lady Wang's room.

Servants came in to clean up the mess, while Granny Gui kept her eyes on Feng Wu, fearing that the latter would try some new trick.

Feng Wu smiled a little.

Lady Wang and Feng Liu were in this scheme against her together and she was only getting her revenge in advance, while making their plan more difficult.

Before long, Feng Liu came out in a pink outfit.

It was a lovely dress, but the redness on the tip of her nose made her look like she had been crying, which might not seem that auspicious for a birthday party.

Lady Wang frowned. "Xiao Liu, how about you stay at home?"

"No!" Of course Feng Liu wouldn't agree to that.

She was the one who had come up with the plan and she had made sure that everything was set up just the way she liked it. She couldn't give up now because of this petty incident!

She had to see Feng Wu's downfall with her own eyes!

"My lady, it's about time..." Granny Gui reminded her.

Lady Wang had her own mission to accomplish at tonight's banquet.

Feng Yanfeng was longing for this transfer to the Ministry of Official Personnel, and after some painstaking effort, he had finally been able to make Sir Yan's acquaintance. Hence, for the old lady's birthday dinner party —

Chapter 346: Visiting the Yan Manor

Feng Yanfeng had enjoined Lady Wang repeatedly, telling her to fawn over the Yan family as best as she could!

Lady Wang smiled. She wouldn't fail her husband!

They headed for the Yan manor in a carriage. Lady Wang and Feng Liu sat on one side and Feng Wu sat on the other.

Feng Wu was the fifth daughter in the clan, which meant that she had four elder sisters.

Bored by the uneventful ride, Feng Wu asked Feng Liu, who sat rigidly upright opposite her, "Where's my third sister? I haven't seen her since I got back."

Her eldest and second sisters were Lady Wang's daughters, both of whom had gotten married. Her third sister, on the other hand, was still single.

"Feng Wu, you should consider yourself lucky that my third sister is absent!" Feng Liu smirked. "Don't worry. You'll see how capable she is when she gets back from Imperial College!"

Feng Wu replied with a half-smile, "Why aren't you in Imperial College yet?"

That successfully silenced Feng Liu!

The cultivation education system in the Junwu Empire consisted of junior, intermediate, and advanced schools.

One would only be admitted to the junior school after they became a Level 3 Spiritual Master, and would graduate when they reached Level 6.

The intermediate school was open to those who had reached Level 5, and the students graduated at Level 9.

Only those who had reached the Spiritual Grandmaster stage could apply to the advanced school.

Feng Liu was a Level 6 Spiritual Master at the moment, which meant that she had just reached the standard for the intermediate school, and was way below the entry level for Imperial College, the advanced school.

Feng Liu glared at Feng Wu. "At least I'm in the intermediate school. Feng Wu, you're useless and you can't even get into the junior one. No, you're too useless to even get into a nursery school! You're only humiliating yourself by bringing it up!"

Feng Wu darted a look at Lady Wang. As expected, the lady kept her eyes closed, as if she was sleeping, but in fact, she was giving Feng Liu tacit consent for her words. Feng Wu smiled. "I'll be in Imperial College soon."

"Hahahaha —" Feng Liu laughed, as if she had heard the funniest joke. She laughed until she was in tears. "You? Get into Imperial College? You're not even a Level 1 Spiritual Master! Are you going to ignore all college regulations?"

Feng Wu shrugged. "You'll see."

Feng Liu kept her unblinking gaze on Feng Wu, as if she was going to bore into Feng Wu's flesh with her eyes.

Despite her arrogant laughter, she had never forgotten how brilliant Feng Wu had been. Could she really get into Imperial College?

The carriage stopped as they spoke.

Granny Gui's voice came from outside. "My lady, we're at the Yan manor."

As one of the most influential officials at court, Sir Yan's banquet had attracted a great number of guests.

Needless to say, Lady Wang wasn't important enough for Mrs Yan to greet in person.

A maid welcomed Lady Wang at the gate before showing them the way to the banquet.

The venue was quite spacious. The male guests were entertained on the left and the ladies on the right. The two areas were only separated by a hedge.

There had been influential officials from the Feng clan before, and it had been one of the nine major clans. However, its status had continued to fall after it was no longer among the nine... It had never been this inconsequential.

As a result, Lady Wang was seated at quite a remote table.

Seeing her seat and the ladies around her, Lady Wang frowned.

She was too far away from the center to even talk to Mrs Yan.

Feng Wu looked up and saw Mrs Yan sitting at the host table in the center. Among the ladies sitting with her, there was a face that Feng Wu recognized.

Chapter 347: The Possible Marriage Between the Royal and Zuo Families

"Mrs Yan is back? That was quicker than I thought." Feng Wu remembered that Mrs Yan had taken Mrs Ning back to Anyuan City to seek justice for the latter.

Feng Wu's murmur attracted the attention of the others.

There were six seats around the round table Feng Wu was at.

Lady Wang, Feng Liu, and Feng Wu took three seats, and three other ladies sat on the other three.

They were a mother with her two teenage daughters.

"Mrs Feng, is this one of your girls? She's so lovely. Is she engaged yet?" The longer Mrs Ma looked at Feng Wu, the more beautiful she found Feng Wu. It would be wonderful to have such a daughter-in-law.

Hence, Mrs Ma asked.

Before Lady Wang could reply, Feng Liu said with a smile, "Mrs Ma, this is my fifth sister, Feng Wu —"

She made sure that she enunciated Feng Wu's name.

Mrs Ma found the name familiar, but failed to put her finger on it. "Feng Wu... Feng Wu..."

Feng Liu was about to remind her when the older Miss Ma took her mother's hand and whispered something in her ear.

Mrs Ma looked embarrassed right away.

Lady Wang only appeared to hear the question then and gave Mrs Ma a benign smile. "This is Xiao Wu, the daughter of the second branch of our clan. She's not engaged yet. Mrs Ma..."

Mrs Ma's younger daughter said arrogantly, "Mrs Feng, you've left something out. Miss Wu isn't 'not engaged.' Her engagement was annulled."

All the ladies here were ready for some gossip.

Hearing the noise, all eyes began to turn in their direction.

Mrs Ma gave her younger daughter an embarrassed smile. "Well, that was... I'm just asking..."

Lady Wang seemed to not detect her embarrassment at all and she prompted, "Mrs Ma, I recall that you have an 18-year-old son..."

The younger Miss Ma glared at Lady Wang. "Mrs Feng, our family isn't interested in a woman with an annulled engagement and my brother will never marry someone like that! Please stop asking!"

Lady Wang darted a sorry look at Feng Wu and heaved a sigh.

Feng Wu watched as Lady Wang gave her award-winning performance and she could detect more and more eyes on her.

And she could hear people talking about her in subdued voices.

"So, that's Feng Wu —"

"Back then, she was the genius second to the crown prince only!"

"I heard she got greedy with her cultivation and ruined herself."

"And the royal family canceled the engagement."

"That was quite a snobbish thing to do."

"No, it wasn't. The crown prince is like a deity; would you be able to stand it if he married a cripple?"

"Of course not!"

"Wait, wasn't there another girl as talented as Feng Wu back then? Zuo Qingyun of the Zuo family?"

"She's Zuo Qingluan now. The real owner of the True Phoenix Blood!"

"I heard that Zuo Qingluan has reached the peak of the Spiritual Grandmaster stage?"

"You need to update your database. She's not a Spiritual Grandmaster anymore, but a Spiritual Elder!"

"Holy crap! That's so scary! She's only 15, isn't she?"

"That's right. And only a genius like her is good enough for the crown prince. Word on the street is that the royal family is considering a marriage proposal to the Zuo family."

Chapter 348: The Proud Crown Prince

“So, Zuo Qingluan is going to be the crown prince’s wife and our future empress!”

Feng Wu listened as the others went on murmuring.

Feng Liu looked at Feng Wu, gloating at the latter’s predicament.

She would like to see how much longer Feng Wu could keep her composure under all those stares.

However, to Feng Liu’s surprise, Feng Wu looked as undisturbed as ever, as if those people weren’t talking about her at all.

Ladies at another table heard the talk as well.

“You flatter me. My Xiao Luan isn’t like that at all. She’s only just become a Spiritual Elder.”

Zuo Qingluan’s mother, Lady Tao, who was from the Tao clan of Ruyang, waved her hand in a modest manner.

“A Spiritual Elder? That’s amazing! We can’t even imagine ever reaching that level!”

The other ingratiating voices chimed in.

Another person asked, “So, is the royal engagement proposal really happening?”

Lady Tao shook her head. “No, it’s nothing like that. Granny Qi, the empress dowager’s maid, paid us a visit, that was all.”

“Granny Qi? That’s the empress dowager’s most trusted servant! One word from her is more convincing than a lengthy speech from anyone else!”

“Granny Qi would never visit the Zuo manor for no reason. I’m sure it was on the empress dowager’s command.”

“The Zuo family is really going to have a true phoenix!”

The flattery went on and on. Lady Tao kept waving her hands in denial, but she couldn’t keep the gloating smile off her face.

The crown prince’s residence.

Jun Linyuan had two residences, one in the royal palace and the one outside.

He usually stayed in the one outside.

Xuan Yi paid him a visit today.

Feng Xun didn’t come with Xuan Yi, which was quite rare, so Jun Linyuan asked about it in passing.

Xuan Yi said, “Sir Yan’s mother is celebrating her 80th birthday today and Feng Xun is a relative, so his mother ordered him to attend. I don’t think he’ll come hunting with us today.”

Xuan Yi realized that Jun Linyuan wasn’t listening.

The crown prince, who had always been focused, was playing with a shiny golden bead in his hand, and his mind had wandered off.

This wasn't right at all!

Xuan Yi frowned. "Where did that bead come from?"

He reached out as he spoke. Usually, Jun Linyuan would hand it to him in passing, regardless of how valuable the object was. However —

Jun Linyuan closed his fingers around the bead, looked up, and raised his eyebrows. "Where's Feng Xun?"

Xuan Yi's mouth fell open.

"He's visiting the Yan family. Sir Yan is holding a birthday banquet. Do you want to go?" Xuan Yi asked.

Jun Linyuan gave Xuan Yi an "are you an idiot" look. Since when would he bother going to a birthday banquet?

"By the way, I ran into the Feng clan's carriage on my way here. Lady Wang was taking Feng Liu to the banquet, and when the breeze lifted the curtain, I saw Feng Wu inside, too," Xuan Yi said attentively.

He kept his unblinking gaze on Jun Linyuan as he spoke, not wanting to miss anything.

Jun Linyuan frowned a little and tightened his grip on the golden bead.

"Birthday banquet at the Yan manor?" Jun Linyuan darted a glance at Feng.

Feng took the hint right away and nodded. "Sir Yan sent an invitation, but everyone knows that such an event is too petty for Your Royal Highness to attend, and the invitation was just out of politeness."

Jun Linyuan didn't say anything.

Chapter 349: Clamor

"Your Royal Highness, are you going to the Yan manor?" Feng gave Jun Linyuan a knowing look.

Jun Linyuan narrowed his eyes, clenched his fists, and darted an arrogant look at Feng. "Why? I can't?"

The Yan manor would never be given such an honor if it wasn't for that girl.

"Of course you can. Would you like a plain carriage or..." Feng asked attentively.

Jun Linyuan darted another arrogant look at Feng. "It's been a while since I last used my guards of honor and you guys are out of practice. It's time to put them to use now."

Feng was speechless.

The Yan manor.

Feng Wu sat at her table, surrounded by all the murmurs and smirks.

Some stared at her openly, while others stole glances at her.

Some were curious and some jeered.

There was both sympathy and contempt.

However, Feng Wu, the center of attention, kept her gaze on her chopsticks and enjoyed her meal, as if all the clamor had nothing to do with her.

Feng Liu was here to laugh at Feng Wu and she wasn't satisfied by Feng Wu's calm at all.

"Sister Wu, don't be sad. We're all here for you —" Feng Liu took Feng Wu's hands and said in a clear voice. "Sister Wu, you can stop pretending. It breaks my heart to see you force yourself like this."

So... the others saw the light suddenly.

They had thought that Feng Wu was really that tough. As it turned out, she was only acting.

"That girl is so fake."

"I thought that she was shameless. So, she's only pretending."

"I would have run away in tears if I were her. How can she just sit there?"

—

The Zuo family sat at a table that was much closer to the front and many ladies had surrounded them.

Lady Qian, one of the bolder ones, asked, "Mrs Zuo, what do you think of the fifth daughter of the Feng clan?"

Mrs Zuo asked in bewilderment, "The fifth daughter? Who's that?"

Ignoring Feng Wu was the most insulting reply.

The others around the table chuckled and Lady Qian went on. "Mrs Zuo, I was talking about Miss Feng Wu, the girl who was once engaged to the crown prince."

Mrs Zuo didn't even raise an eyebrow. "Her? Didn't she ruin her own cultivation?"

Lady Qian said, "That's what everyone says. But after all, she used to be as famous as your daughter once and they were called the 'two genius girls of the imperial capital' back then."

Their table was some distance away from Feng Wu's, but the hall was rather quiet and everyone heard it.

Mrs Zuo smiled. "That's why we should never be too greedy. My Xiao Luan knew from the very beginning that you can't rush your cultivation."

Zuo Qingyu said proudly, "My sister is a Spiritual Elder now and she'll only get better. As for a certain someone... she's long fallen in the dirt and she should stay there. But no, she just has to walk around, taking advantage of my sister's fame. Shame on her."

"Xiao Yu!" Mrs Zuo cast a stern look at Zuo Qingyu and feigned a vexed tone. "Watch your language!"

“I’m telling the truth!” Zuo Qingyu said indignantly. “Even I’m in Imperial College now, but she... Haha, even compared with me, she’s nothing. How dare she mention her old fame? If she has any sense of shame, she should have killed herself back then. She’s an insult to us all!”

Chapter 350: Young Lord Feng, the Savior

Zuo Qingyu raised her voice deliberately, making sure that Feng Wu could hear it.

Anyone who genuinely cared about Feng Wu would have jumped to their feet by now. However, Lady Wang and Feng Liu only exchanged satisfied looks at the insult.

Feng Wu clenched her fists.

No one with any sense of self-respect would turn a deaf ear to such humiliating words.

However, Feng Wu knew better than anyone that she couldn’t do anything reckless.

A Level 9 Spiritual Master was something in Northern Border City, but here in the imperial capital, she still wasn’t strong enough.

Feng Wu wasn’t going to take it lying down, though. She was going to rise to her feet when —

“Little Feng Wu —”

A familiar voice ran out.

It was a melodious male voice.

And Feng Wu wasn’t the only one who heard it. Everyone turned in that direction.

A teenager sat on the hedge to their right, beaming at Feng Wu.

Bright light shone behind him, giving his smile a blurry effect and making it all the more stunning.

One couldn’t help but cheer up at the uplifting air the teenager gave off.

“Feng Xun!”

Everyone cried out in surprise!

Feng Xun, the Young Lord Feng, was infamous in the imperial capital for his unruly behavior. As the only son of the Northern Feng General, his mother doted on him, which had resulted in his current personality. He could behave like the most spoiled young lord.

It was common knowledge that Feng Xun obeyed one person only — the crown prince.

The eyes of many ladies lit up at the sight of Feng Xun!

Not only was Feng Xun handsome, he also had a superior status. In the list of “ideal husbands” in the imperial capital, he was second only to Jun Linyuan.

“Little Feng Wu!” Feng Xun hopped off the hedge, ran up to Feng Wu, and rubbed her hair in an affectionate manner. His warm smile reminded one of the pleasant spring sunlight. “Where are you looking? I’m right here.”

The smiles froze on many of the young ladies’ faces.

Were Feng Xun and Feng Wu... very close?

Feng Wu threw a dirty look at him. “Your hand.”

“What?” Feng Xun was bewildered.

“Off me.” Feng Wu hated when other people touched her head. It was bad luck.

“Sure.” Seeing Feng Wu’s frown, Feng Xun obeyed right away. He patted her on the shoulder instead and smiled broadly. “You’re here for the banquet as well? Gosh, isn’t it so boring? Come, I’ll show you around.”

Feng Wu then stepped on his foot.

Feng Xun cried out and accused Feng Wu with an exaggerated expression, “Hey! Little Feng Wu! You stepped on my foot!”

“Hit her! Now!”

Zuo Qingyu clenched her fists and stared at Feng Wu in hatred, wishing that she could pierce Feng Wu with her gaze.

Zuo Qingyu had been secretly in love with Feng Xun for a very long time and she couldn’t get over her infatuation. She had hinted to her mother on multiple occasions to propose her marriage into the Feng family. Never had she expected that Feng Wu would be so familiar with Feng Xun. She grit her teeth so hard out of jealousy that her molars almost broke!

However, Feng Wu overpowered Feng Xun with her smirk. “Get back to wherever you came from. Now.”

Feng Xun darted a look at Feng Wu, then whispered in her ear, “Aren’t you angry about all these people saying such things about you? How about I get revenge for you?”

All human beings were emotional animals. After everything Feng Xun had done for her, Feng Wu would be lying if she said she wasn’t touched. It was just that —

“That won’t be necessary.” Feng Wu turned him down casually.