

G E D 551

Chapter 551: Hahaha —

Duan Chaoge had been wondering what her sister was going to show off, and she snorted when she heard Duan Chaoyin's announcement. "So what if you're taking the entrance exam for Imperial College?"

"So what?" Duan Chaoyin and Duan Chaoyue exchanged looks and both saw ridicule in each other's eyes.

"Did you think that you can become a student of Imperial College just by applying? Of all the candidates in the empire, only ten thousand people can take the written exam. The top one thousand can go on to the physical tryout, and only the top one hundred from the physical tryout will be admitted. Do you have any idea how hard it is to register for the exam?"

"However, both of your two elder sisters here successfully registered." Duan Chaoyin gave Chaoge a sidelong glance. "Do you think that's an easy thing to do?"

Chaoge rolled her eyes. "That's it? You got registered for Imperial College's exam? So did I! Big deal!"

"Hahahaha —"

"Ouch, my belly aches —"

Duan Chaoyin and Duan Chaoyue laughed until their stomachs ached. Especially Duan Chaoyin, who laughed so hard that she had to gasp for air.

"Hahaha — Duan Chaoge, I didn't know you could be so brazen. I never knew you had this side to you. You registered as well? Ouch, my belly... I'm cracking up here."

Duan Chaoyue, the more aloof one who didn't talk much, couldn't help but smirk. "Chaoge, did you forget the part of the rules where only a Level 9 Spiritual Master or above can take the exam?"

Chaoge rolled her eyes. "Of course I didn't."

"Then stop bragging! Are you hearing yourself?" Duan Chaoyin snorted.

Chaoge threw them a dirty look. "That's the only way you know of to register for the exam? You people are so ignorant."

Duan Chaoyin racked her brain in order to prove that she wasn't ignorant. She then remembered the exemption, which was rarely used.

"The three recommendation letters from three members of the education board? Is that what you're talking about?" Duan Chaoyue and Duan Chaoyin exchanged looks.

"Yep!" Chaoge grinned.

"Hahahaha —"

Duan Chaoyin and Duan Chaoyue burst out laughing again, even louder than before.

“My tears are coming out... Since when was Duan Chaoge so funny?”

“Can you believe what she just said? She has such a wild imagination... Does she take us for a pair of fools?”

“I’m telling the truth!” Chaoge snapped. “It’s true! The three members are Mr Lu, Grand Secretary Fang, and Old Master Wu. They wrote those recommendation letters for me!”

“Hahahaha —” Hearing those words, Duan Chaoyin and Duan Chaoyue, who had finally stopped laughing, guffawed again.

“This is hilarious. Gosh, I’m in tears...” Duan Chaoyin wiped away her tears. “I won’t even begin to talk about Mr Lu and Grand Secretary Fang. Old Master Wu himself is a well-known formation grandmaster in our empire. You can’t even get close to him. Who are you kidding?”

“I can’t, but Xiao Wu can!” Chaoge gloated. “Xiao Wu had the three bosses write the letters for us.”

“Xiao Wu? Which Xiao Wu?”

“You mean Feng Wu? The one you used to follow everywhere?”

“Yes!” Chaoge was very confident every time Feng Wu was mentioned. “Xiao Wu is the best! Not only did she persuade Old Master Wu and Grand Secretary Fang, she even got help from Mr Lu as well. Oh, right, and there was His Royal Highness. He put in a good word for us, too —”

“Hahahaha —”

Chapter 552: Can You Be Any More Delusional?

Hearing those words, Duan Chaoyin and Duan Chaoyin burst into laughter again!

If what Chaoge said before was remotely possible, the things she had just said was pure delusion!

“Have you caught a cold or something? Are you hearing yourself? Are you daydreaming?” Duan Chaoyin stared at Chaoge.

Chaoge lost her temper. “There’s nothing wrong with my head and I’ve told you nothing but the truth! Let lightning strike me if I’m lying!”

“Wow, you’re taking an oath? That’s just lame, Duan Chaoge.” Duan Chaoyin snorted.

“I’m telling the truth!” Chaoge was furious.

Upright as she was, she hated it when she was wronged. She was eager to prove herself.

“I have the exam permit!” Chaoge cried out.

Duan Chaoyin and Duan Chaoyue looked at each other... Could it be that she was telling the truth?

“Show us, then!” Duan Chaoyin smirked.

The two of them had their permits on them and they could tell if Chaoge's was a genuine one if she showed it to them.

"No problem! It's right here!" Chaoge reached into her chest pocket.

Shit!

Where was her exam permit?

Xiao Wu had gone to a lot of painstaking effort to get her that exam permit. If she had lost it somehow... Chaoge panicked. She smacked her forehead, trying to remember where she had put it. But she couldn't remember anything!

"Where's my exam permit? Where did I put it? My exam permit..." Chaoge was so flustered that she was almost in tears.

Duan Chaoyue and Duan Chaoyin exchanged looks, then both rolled their eyes.

"You liar!"

"You're so vain!"

"You don't have it, so stop pretending!"

"Mr Lu? And His Royal Highness? Seriously? You're unbelievable."

"You're not a bad actress, I'll give you that. Keep up the good work and show us your exam permit!"

—

Duan Chaoyin and Duan Chaoyue looked at each other and both burst out laughing. This was so much fun. That humble Duan Chaoge was capable of telling lies now.

"I remember! Xiao Wu has it!" Chaoge said in excitement and heaved a sigh of relief. "I didn't lose it, or it would be such a waste of Xiao Wu's efforts —"

However, Chaoge had barely finished her sentence when —

"Oh my, you can't keep up with your lie, so you're getting Feng Wu involved now? She helped you get the exam permit? Hahahaha — are you telling me that she was able to persuade all three members, Mr Lu included?" Duan Chaoyin decided that Chaoge had lost her mind, for that was such an unbelievable story.

"Teehee —" Duan Chaoyue tittered. "Sister, don't put it that way. Chaoge put in a lot of effort to make up such a long story."

"Hahaha, I might actually believe her if she had said that someone else helped her with it. But Feng Wu — that genius-turned-useless Feng Wu? Oh god, Duan Chaoge, can you be any more delusional?"

Chaoge was so mad!

She didn't want to talk to these people anymore and she turned to leave.

But they wouldn't leave her alone.

“Stop right there!”

Chaoge ignored them.

“Where are you going?!” Duan Chaoyin frowned.

“To Xiao Wu’s place, of course!” Chaoge snorted.

Duan Chaoyin frowned. “I heard that that good-for-nothing snuck back from Northern Border City. It seems —”

Chapter 553: Feng Wu In Action!

“It seems that she’s as useless as ever. Duan Chaoge, are you an idiot? Why are you still hanging out with her?”

Chaoge could stand it if she was the only one Duan Chaoyin insulted, but she had insulted Feng Wu.

Chaoge spun around and slapped Duan Chaoyin in the face!

“She’s not useless!”

The attack was so sudden and Chaoge’s hand moved unbelievably fast!

Duan Chaoyin had no time to react!

She was dumbfounded.

“You —”

Both Duan Chaoyin and Duan Chaoyue had applied for Imperial College and were Level 9 Spiritual Masters. After they realized what had happened, they charged at Chaoge at once!

Since Chaoge had made a move, she wasn’t going to back off now!

Thump! Thump! Thump!

A fight broke out right away.

Chaoge was only a Level 7 Spiritual Master now and she was no match for a Level 9, let alone two of them.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Before long, Chaoge had bruises all over her face and she took quite a few blows to the body as well.

Duan Chaoyin smirked. “Duan Chaoge, is that all you can do? You hit me? You’re dead!”

Thump!

Duan Chaoyin slashed down with her palm turned sideways, and it landed right on Duan Chaoge’s forehead!

That hurt —

Chaoge felt a dull pain in her head, her vision went dark, and she could see stars —

“Duan Chaoge, die!” Duan Chaoyin pulled a dagger out of nowhere and stabbed down at Chaoge’s heart!

Duan Chaoyin was cold-blooded that way. Although Chaoge was her sister, she was going to kill the latter because of that slap.

Duan Chaoge’s head swam and she staggered about in all directions. She could barely keep her balance, let alone dodge the blade.

It seemed that Chaoge would be stabbed to death...

Right at that moment!

Thud!

A leaf flew down and hit Duan Chaoyin on her wrist.

That hurt —

Duan Chaoyin’s grip loosened at the pain and the dagger dropped to the ground just before it reached Chaoge’s chest.

Meanwhile, Feng Wu stood on the wall.

After Chaoge was gone for a while, Feng Wu recalled the complicated relationships in the Duan family and decided to check up on the girl.

Feng Wu knew where Chaoge lived. Like herself, Chaoge had been given the most remote courtyard in the family. Hence, she had jumped onto the wall and was going to run along it to get to Chaoge’s place. However, she saw what was happening before she entered the yard.

Feng Wu was furious!

How dare they bully Chaoge, her friend?

She picked a leaf from a nearby tree.

Luckily, Feng Wu could still think straight and she covered her face with a black scarf. She couldn’t let anyone else know about her cultivation ability for now!

“Who’s there?” Duan Chaoyin realized what was going on and a murderous look flickered in her eyes!

Looking up, she saw a masked person charging at her!

“You —”

That was all Duan Chaoyin could say. The masked person then smacked her on the forehead!

Thud!

It was such a formidable blow!

Duan Chaoyin flew back and crashed into a nearby wall!

Rumble!

The ramshackle wall collapsed at the impact and the bricks buried Duan Chaoyin.

“You —” Seeing this, Duan Chaoyue realized the danger and turned to run.

However, she was only able to take a few steps when Feng Wu kicked up a stone and struck down with its sharp tip aimed at Duan Chaoyue’s back —

“Ahhh —”

Duan Chaoyue cried out in surprise and fell forward on her face. What a sorry picture.

Just then, Feng Wu sensed a great power surge out from deep inside the Duan family’s house!

Chapter 554: Xiao Wu! It’s You!!!

Seeing Duan Chaoyue fall on her face, Chaoge rushed over, climbed onto her back, and pounded Duan Chaoyue’s head with her fist!

Thump! Thump! Thump!

The strikes were relentless!

But Feng Wu could sense a formidable power coming their way!

There was no time to think. Grabbing Chaoge, Feng Wu said, “I like this chubby girl. She’ll make a nice stew for my dinner; she’s coming with me!”

After that, Feng Wu hurried off, dragging Chaoge along with her!

Feng Wu and Chaoge had just jumped over the wall when a middle-aged man appeared in front of Duan Chaoyue.

“What’s going on?”

“Father!” Duan Chaoyue looked up and saw that it was her awe-inspiring father. She wrapped her arms around his leg and burst into tears right away.

Duan Hongyi was going to go after the intruder, but with Duan Chaoyue holding his leg, he couldn’t move.

“*Phew —*”

Feng Wu only let out a breath of relief after they were away from the Duan family.

She was only able to handle Duan Chaoyue and Duan Chaoyin that easily because she was a Level 4 Spiritual Grandmaster and those two were only Level 9 Spiritual Masters. There was no surprise there.

However, the person that came afterwards was way above Feng Wu’s level. She might be able to run away from him, but Chaoge would be in a lot of trouble.

“You — you can’t eat me! I don’t taste good at all!” Chaoge stared at Feng Wu in alarm.

Chaoge didn’t recognize her?

Feng Wu found the girl hilarious. She put on a long face and eyed Chaoge maliciously. “Chubby girls like you are my favorite! I’ll slow cook you on a pan until the grease sizzles! It’ll smell so good!”

Chaoge pictured herself sizzling in a pan and was almost in tears!

But she still said stubbornly, “I, I’m poisonous!”

Feng Wu stepped forward. “That’s ok. Poison doesn’t affect me.”

“I, I... Do you know who Feng Wu is? We’re good friends! If you eat me, she’ll kill you to take revenge for me!” Chaoge stared at the masked person, sounding nervous.

Feng Wu couldn’t hold it back anymore and burst out laughing.

“You —” Chaoge recognized that voice and her eyes widened.

Feng Wu then removed the black scarf over her face.

“Xiao Wu! It’s you!!!”

Chaoge stared at Feng Wu in disbelief!

“You, you —”

She hadn’t detected any spiritual essence in Feng Wu all this time, so she just assumed that...

She didn’t realize that Feng Wu was such an advanced cultivator!

“Xiao Wu, you...” Chaoge was more excited than if she had the ability herself. She ran up to Feng Wu and threw her arms around the latter. “Xiao Wu, you smacked Chaoyin down and kicked Chaoyue away in one go! Wow! Xiao Wu, you’re incredible! What level are you now? Let me guess —

“Are you a Level 1 Spiritual Grandmaster?”

Feng Wu shook her head.

“Level 2, then?”

Feng Wu shook her head again.

“Level 3?!” Chaoge was thrilled.

But Feng Wu still shook her head. “Not anymore.”

“Holy crap! You’re a Level 4 Spiritual Grandmaster? Oh my god!” Chaoge’s knees almost buckled.

Feng Wu nodded. “Yes, for now.”

For... now...

Chaoge smiled in resignation.

“A Level 9 Spiritual Master is already good enough to qualify for the exam. Xiao Wu, you...” Chaoge’s cheeks flushed with excitement. “Those people all think that you have no spiritual essence and they all laughed at you! Are they blind?!”

“No, I was as blind as them —” Chaoge buried her face in her hands and smiled bitterly. “I’ve been with you all this time, yet I had no idea how amazing you are!”

Chapter 555: Astonished!!!

Feng Wu gave her a wry smile. “I’ve been keeping it from everyone on purpose.”

“But why?” Chaoge was confused.

Feng Wu said grumpily, “The people who did those things to me are still lurking in the dark. Revealing myself prematurely is as good as sending them an invitation to kill me, don’t you think?”

Chaoge nodded repeatedly. “That’s right — although, I bet they’ll be so shocked if they knew how wonderful you are already.”

“I’ll gladly shock them out of their minds.” Feng Wu was in a great mood.

Chaoge then glanced at Feng Wu in grievance. “You said you were going to eat me... I was so scared.”

“Hahaha —” Feng Wu talked as she walked and she said grumpily, “If I didn’t say that, your family would think that you were with me and you’d be in a lot of trouble.”

Chaoge found that explanation reasonable.

Feng Wu went on, “Now that I’ve made it look like you were taken away, your family won’t blame you. Moreover, it doesn’t seem like they’ll bother to search for you. After you go back with your achievements, you can tell them outright and honestly that they never tried to save you in the first place.”

Chaoge was thrilled to hear that and her eyes lit up!

With a single sentence, Feng Wu was making all these future plans for her!

“Xiao Wu, you’re so smart! How did you come up with those things given the circumstances?” Chaoge scratched her own head. Why was she so dumb herself?

Feng Wu patted her head. “Enough of that. We have less than seven days left and we’ll have to prepare for both the written exam and the physical tryout. There’s no time to lose.”

When they got back, they didn’t even walk into the Feng clan manor, but went straight to Grand Secretary Fang’s house next door.

Grand Secretary Fang was composing a memorial to the throne.

Xiao Wu was so talented, but she couldn’t get into Imperial College because of His Royal Highness’s intervention. It was such a loss to the school!

The more Grand Secretary Fang thought about it, the more sorry he felt. In the end, he decided to write it down in a memorial to the throne.

Other people might not dare to confront Jun Linyuan, but surely His Majesty would...

Grand Secretary Fang was only halfway through the memorial to the throne when Feng Wu and Chaoge arrived.

The old steward was waiting on Grand Secretary Fang inside, and Steward Fang stood outside the room.

After what happened last time, when Steward Fang had failed to recognize Feng Wu's talent, the man greeted Feng Wu warmly. "Miss Feng, it's wonderful to see you. Please come in."

"Is your old master in?" Feng Wu asked as she walked in.

"Yes. Yes, of course." The last thing Steward Fang would do now was stop her. His old master thought very highly of this young lady.

Steward Fang showed Feng Wu to an inner living room.

The old steward opened the door and let Feng Wu and Chaoge in after recognizing them.

Grand Secretary Fang still had half of the memorial to the throne to write when Feng Wu entered. He grunted. "You came soon enough. How did it go? Did His Royal Highness give you a hard time?"

Feng Wu said innocently, "No, he didn't."

"You don't have to pretend with me," Grand Secretary Fang said grumpily. "Don't worry. My words still mean something and I'm writing a memorial to the throne to His Majesty. I don't know about other people, but His Majesty should be able to talk to him."

Feng Wu was very touched.

The old man was so nice to her that she almost felt bad about buying his house.

Feng Wu opened her palm, revealing a little red booklet.

"What —"

The old man rose to his feet so abruptly that he stumbled.

Chapter 556: You're Not A Cripple?!

Feng Wu reached out in a hurry and steadied him. "Watch out!"

The old man snatched the red booklet from Feng Wu and opened it!

Feng Wu's personal information was indeed recorded in it!

"I have one, too —"

Chaoge presented her own as well.

Only after Grand Secretary Fang examined both booklets was he convinced that Feng Wu had really received her exam permit.

The old man hadn't thought much of the exam permit at first, but then Jun Linyuan got involved, and all of a sudden, it was hell mode for them all.

"You really have it..." The old man was amazed. "Didn't His Royal Highness try to intervene?"

Feng Wu had charged out, looking as if she was going to punch someone in the face. Grand Secretary Fang had thought that Feng Wu would be thrown out of the crown prince's residence for sure. However, not only hadn't she been thrown out, she had somehow secured the exam permits?

Grand Secretary Fang found it hard to believe.

Feng Wu nodded. "I was lucky. Jun Linyuan had a breakthrough and he was in a good mood. So, he made it easy for me."

Grand Secretary Fang cried out, "His Royal Highness made a breakthrough again?"

"Exactly what level is he now?" Feng Wu couldn't help but ask.

It seemed that Jun Linyuan's cultivation level was a secret.

The old man patted Feng Wu's head grumpily. "That's a top secret of the empire! You shouldn't even ask! Now that you have the exam permit, your most important task now is to pass the exam."

"Yes —" Feng Wu and Chaoge stood at attention and nodded solemnly.

"As for the physical tryout —" Grand Secretary Fang sighed in resignation. "Chaoge can probably make do with a crash course, but what about Xiao Wu? You're —"

She had no cultivation ability whatsoever and the old man didn't know what to do.

Chaoge's eyes lit up.

Xiao Wu wasn't a cripple! She was amazing!

Right now, the only people in the room were Feng Wu, Chaoge, and Grand Secretary Fang.

Feng Wu smiled, then put the Concealing Jade back into her ring.

If she hadn't seen the old man writing that memorial to the throne to Emperor Wu, she would never have realized how kind he was to her, which was why she decided to let him in on her secret.

Grand Secretary Fang was deep in thought, trying to come up with some ideas to help Feng Wu. He turned around and saw Feng Wu beaming at him.

The old man was disgruntled. "Kiddo, get serious. We're running out of time. The exam is in seven days and you can't even —"

"Wait a minute!"

Grand Secretary Fang looked shaken all of a sudden. He rushed to Feng Wu's side and his voice trembled with excitement. "Kiddo, you —"

Staring at Feng Wu, the old man said in a shaky voice, “No, that can’t be. That’s impossible...”

However, Feng Wu only stood there as steady as anything, with perfect composure.

“Show me your hand!” Grand Secretary Fang stared at Feng Wu.

Feng Wu gave him her right hand, then activated her spiritual essence.

“A Level 4 Spiritual Grandmaster!” Grand Secretary Fang figured it out right away.

“You have very sharp eyes.” Feng Wu grinned.

“You naughty kid...” Grand Secretary Fang smiled wryly. “You’re already very capable. Why did you go to all that trouble to hide it? Do you like to be called a cripple?”

However, given how experienced Grand Secretary Fang was, he immediately realized why Feng Wu had done so.

Chapter 557: Exam Papers

He figured it out almost right away. “There’s another explanation for that incident, isn’t there?”

By that incident, he obviously meant the one five years ago when Feng Wu lost her cultivation ability.

Feng Wu said, “Yes...”

Grand Secretary Fang nodded. He now understood why the girl had to hide her real ability at the cost of all those insults and contempt.

It was incredible that she could be this level-headed at such a young age.

The old man liked Feng Wu even more.

“But,” said Feng Wu, “Xuan Yi doesn’t know about my recovery...”

Feng Wu didn’t finish the sentence, but Grand Secretary Fang knew what she meant.

He nodded. “Your top priority now is to prepare for the written exam.”

Grand Secretary Fang then asked the old steward to fetch a stack of exam papers, then had the servants transcribe two copies.

Meanwhile, Steward Fang was instructed by the old man to set up a couple of desks and chairs in the main hall.

The papers, which still smelled of fresh ink, were laid out.

Grand Secretary Fang casually sat down in the head seat and waved his hand. “Finish the papers in two hours.”

Feng Wu and Chaoge looked at each other in bewilderment. Neither of them had studied the subjects or read the relevant books. The stack of papers was completely foreign to them.

Feng Wu picked up the first paper.

The first section was filling in the blanks.

A few characters were missing from a verse and one had to fill in the missing parts.

Feng Wu was well-versed in books and could finish five out of the ten problems. Chaoge, on the other hand, was at a complete loss. She knew next to nothing about literary works.

Feng Wu looked up at Chaoge and shook her head with a wry smile.

Although there were only ten questions, they covered a very wide range.

The study of nature, history, cultivation theory, formations, medicine... you name it. If one wasn't well-read enough, they wouldn't even be able to understand the question.

Poor little Chaoge...

Feng Wu then moved on to the second section.

One had to write something from memory.

And the subjects covered were just as diverse.

There was a random paragraph taken from some book and the candidate had to write down the rest of the passage from memory.

One could only answer the question if they had memorized the passage. Even after reading the passage, they might not be able to write down everything. However, if one hadn't even read it, then...

This was the case with the sentence Feng Wu was reading. "Courtesy is the standard by which intimacy and remoteness is determined."

Feng Wu was dumbfounded. Where was that sentence from? Although she had read a lot of books, she had never seen it before.

Because she didn't know that sentence, she left the entire section blank.

The third section consisted of multiple choice questions.

"Write down the option(s) you deem correct in the bracket. The answer is only correct when it contains all the correct option(s) and only the correct one(s)."

Feng Wu read the questions, then rubbed her forehead.

They were incredible.

The subjects mentioned covered everything from astronomy and the universe, to medicine refinement... No subject was left out, and candidates who weren't well-read enough would fail miserably in this section.

Section four was short answer questions.

The name of a practice manual was mentioned and the candidate needed to elaborate on the theory, techniques, and innovations.

The name of the manual on Feng Wu's paper was "Ice Everywhere."

Ice Everywhere? Feng Wu was elated!

She didn't have the ice attribute herself, but she had a peerless beautiful master who knew all the attributes and all professions.

Her beautiful master used to explain all the attributes and skills to her. With his encouragement, she memorized everything, even though she hadn't understood most of it.

Chapter 558: My Score?

Back then, Feng Wu used to be so confused and had to ask her master the reason for her memorizing all those theories and techniques. She wasn't going to have all of those attributes anyway.

Her beautiful master told her that whether she had an attribute herself or not wasn't relevant; it was about recognizing her opponents' attributes and techniques. As the saying went: *Know the enemy and know yourself, and you can fight a hundred battles with no danger of defeat.*

Hence, her beautiful master had urged her to learn all the techniques by heart.

Back then, she had even talked to her master about making innovations to existing manuals.

She had only been five or six and knew too little to innovate anything. Her beautiful master, however, was a different story.

He was the man that could look down on the entire continent. He was like a god who stood on the clouds.

If he wanted, nothing on this continent could escape his eyes.

A casual comment on a practice manual could make men go wild with joy, or even create a grandmaster of a generation.

Hence, Feng Wu was elated when she read the question for the fourth section. It was right up her alley.

She wrote down her answer without hesitation.

The fifth section was on auxiliary skills.

From a list of questions related to auxiliary skills, one had to choose two and make improvements.

The subjects covered formations, medicine refinement, sewing, smelting, and so forth.

Feng Wu was looking at an incomplete formation.

She soon saw that it was a medium level formation, which could be turned into an advanced level one with some minor alterations...

Given her formation skills, Feng Wu solved the problem in no time.

The second question she chose was on medicine refinement, which she solved very quickly as well.

Whoosh –

Feng Wu didn't linger on any of the questions. She answered those she could answer, and as for those she couldn't, staring at them wouldn't change anything.

After handing in the paper, Feng Wu turned around to look at Chaoge.

Feng Wu had at least answered part of the first few sections and had done well in the last section. But Chaoge...

Chaoge had chewed the end of her pen raw, but her paper remained blank.

Chaoge looked up and her face reminded Feng Wu of a poor, sad spiritual pet.

Feng Wu rubbed her forehead.

Chaoge... had a lot of work to do.

After Feng Wu handed in her paper, Grand Secretary Fang began to correct it right away.

The first section totaled 50 points and Feng Wu scored 25.

The second section required her to write from memory, but since Feng Wu wasn't familiar with the text, she had left it blank, which meant she got a zero.

Grand Secretary Fang wrote a big, round zero on the paper with cinnabar. He then raised his head and gave Feng Wu a stern look.

Feng Wu felt ashamed and bit her lower lip involuntarily.

The third section was multiple choice questions.

The requirement was very strict. The answer was only correct when all correct option(s) and only the correct one(s) were selected.

There were ten questions in total and they could be on any subject.

The frown on Grand Secretary Fang's face gradually eased as he read on.

Feng Wu had answered five out of the ten questions, and all five were correct. That was to say, as long as she knew the subject, she could get the correct answer.

The five unanswered ones were on subjects she didn't know.

Out of the total 50 points, Feng Wu got 25 again.

Section four was short answer questions, and the candidate needed to elaborate on the theory, techniques, and innovations of the "Ice Everywhere" stance.

Chapter 559: Poor Kid...

Grand Secretary Fang was frowning at first, but as he read on, his eyes widened. He then raised his head and stared at Feng Wu!

“Did you... come up with the answer yourself?!” Grand Secretary Fang found it hard to believe.

How could a 13-year-old girl have such a thorough understanding of the ice attribute?

Her explanation of the theory and skill was straightforward and easy to understand. As for the innovation part —

She actually did it!

If this got out, all the ice mages on this continent would be shocked!

Because —

Even the examiners who designed this question couldn't come up with such an answer!

“Who else do you think could have come up with the answer if not me?” Feng Wu looked at him with a half-smile.

Grand Secretary Fang agreed.

He admired her innovation from the bottom of his heart.

Fighting back his impulses, Grand Secretary Fang moved on to correct the fifth section.

Formations...

Grand Secretary Fang knew before he read the answer that Feng Wu was going to get full marks, for she was as advanced as he was, if not more.

He was right.

Feng Wu completed that medium level formation and improved it to the level of a master formation. She then stopped there.

Grand Secretary Fang raised his head and gave Feng Wu a disgruntled look. “You canny girl.”

She was at least a Grandmaster level formation master, but she had only demonstrated a master level formation.

And that was enough to surpass most of the formation masters on this continent — even some of the teachers in the formation department of Imperial College, for that matter.

What else could he give her but full marks?

To Grand Secretary Fang's surprise, Feng Wu didn't just get full marks in formation skills. In medicine refinement —

Grand Secretary Fang was well-versed in that subject as well, not to mention that he had the standard answer on hand. He then saw that the final number Feng Wu had given was down to the twelfth decimal point.

And —

It was identical to the standard answer!

That was to say —

“You know medicine refinement?” Grand Secretary Fang asked in amazement.

Chaoge said grumpily, “What sort of question is that? Xiao Wu was an advanced medicine refiner when she was five. She could only have gotten better after so many years!”

“Five? An advanced medicine refiner?” Grand Secretary Fang couldn’t believe his ears.

Five-year-olds weren’t even as tall as a refining cauldron yet!

Feng Wu threw a disgruntled look at Chaoge. “Finish your paper.”

Chaoge felt like crying. She knew the words on their own, but put them together into sentences and... she didn’t understand any of them! It was terrible!

Meanwhile, Grand Secretary Fang had finished correcting Feng Wu’s paper.

She got 25 in section one, zero in section two, 25 in section three, 50, which was the full mark, in section four, and 50 points each from the two questions on auxiliary skills.

Out of 300 points, Feng Wu got 200 in total.

That exceeded Grand Secretary Fang’s expectations; Feng Wu had scored much higher than he had anticipated. He had thought she would get 50 points at most.

“Is this really your first time answering these questions?” Grand Secretary Fang looked at Feng Wu suspiciously.

Feng Wu smiled bitterly. “My family just moved back from Northern Border City. Do you think I could get hold of mock exam papers when I was out there?”

Grand Secretary Fang agreed.

This girl really was a genius.

Despite his joy, Grand Secretary Fang kept a straight face. He then turned to look at Chaoge.

Chaoge couldn’t sit still anymore. She slowly rose to her feet and handed in her paper.

Chapter 560: Straight D Student

Grand Secretary Fang turned to section one and it was blank.

Section two. Blank.

Section three...

The old man's eyes were the size of saucers!

And the sound of flipping pages was very loud!

He would dart a look at Chaoge every now and then as he looked through her paper.

Chaoge was still on the chubbier side, which gave her a tough look.

However, she couldn't help but cringe at Grand Secretary Fang's stare and she tried to take cover behind Feng Wu.

Grand Secretary Fang snorted grumpily. "Seriously? You think she can shield you?"

Chaoge gave Grand Secretary Fang a pleading look.

"Get over here!"

Grand Secretary Fang snapped.

Aggrieved, Chaoge turned to Feng Wu for help.

Feng Wu could only rub her forehead in resignation. Her face was also twitching after looking at all those blank answer sheets.

Grand Secretary Fang had picked up his cinnabar pen to correct the paper, but he got blank sheets from the beginning to the end...

The old man didn't know what to say.

Feng Wu didn't say anything either.

Chaoge kept her silence, but took a small step back.

Grand Secretary Fang glared at Chaoge. "You —"

He wanted to say something, but words failed him.

After doing this for so many years, this was the first time he had ever seen a completely unanswered exam paper.

Seeing how cross the old man was, Feng Wu poured him a cup of tea at once. "There, please have some tea and calm down. Chaoge has always been a straight D student, I won't deny that."

Grand Secretary Fang's chest heaved with indignation.

Straight D student? Yes, that was exactly what she was!

"You're absolutely correct!" Taking Feng Wu's hand, the old man vented his grievances. "I've never met any student as hopeless as she is! How can she, how can she..."

Feng Wu rushed to the old man's side and massaged his shoulders in an ingratiating manner. "Please don't get upset. Chaoge tends to go overboard on some subjects. Theory isn't her forte, but she's great

in actual combat and very efficient in her cultivation. At least she's more than just empty talk, right? With proper education, there's no difference between students. I'm sure you'll teach her well."

Grand Secretary Fang gulped down deep breaths, then said reluctantly, "I'm going to have a stroke before I can do that!"

"Nonsense. You'll live a thousand years and more. Please help Chaoge. Please..."

Grand Secretary Fang gave Feng Wu a disgruntled look. He had daughters and granddaughters of his own, but they were nowhere near as sweet as this child.

With a wave of his hand, Grand Secretary Fang said, "Fine, fine. I'll teach Chaoge as well, for your sake."

Both Feng Wu and Chaoge were elated. After all, they only had seven days left.

Grand Secretary Fang said to Feng Wu, "You can worry about Chaoge later. You're not much better yourself. You got 200 points out of 300, which means you barely passed. But that won't put you in the top 1000 students."

Only the top 1000 could qualify for the physical tryout.

"It's so competitive..." The more Chaoge thought about it, the sadder she became.

Xiao Wu had 200 points and she still couldn't get into the top 1000. She herself couldn't answer a single question... What was she supposed to do?

"Xiao Wu, I'm so sorry..." Chaoge was so upset that she smacked herself on the head and stomped her foot. "You got me that exam permit after all those setbacks, but I'm so useless... I'm sorry... sorry..."

Overwhelmed with guilt, Chaoge began to cry...

Feng Wu rubbed her head, but it only made Chaoge sadder, which upset Feng Wu as well.