

Honoured 641

Chapter 641: Flowers [2]

Zhao Tian walked through the large hallways of the Imperial Jade Palace with the bouquet of Starlace violets in his hand, searching for Zhou Hanyue's room.

'They did say she lives on the North East wing of the palace and she is always there, alone...'

The guards stationed along the hallways straightened upon seeing him approach, their gazes respectful.

No one dared to question his presence or his intentions... after all, Zhao Tian was now a member of the royal family through his recent marriage to Zhou Hanyue.

After several minutes of walking, he finally arrived at the part of the palace that seemed almost detached from the rest.

The hallway was quieter here, the air cooler, and the ambiance was also somber.

Pausing for a moment, Zhao Tian raised his hand and knocked gently on the door. Explore new worlds at My Virtual Library Empire

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Inside the room, Zhou Hanyue sat by the window, a teacup cradled delicately in her hands.

The morning sunlight filtered through the sheer curtains, casting a soft glow on her flawless features.

Her long, silken hair cascaded over her shoulders, and her robes of pale blue and silver shimmered faintly as she moved.

The unexpected knock at the door startled her and her brows furrowed as she set her teacup down on the table.

"Who could that be?" she murmured, her tone laced with irritation. It was rare for anyone to disturb her.

Her maid, standing quietly by her side, bowed and moved toward the door. "I will see who it is, my lady."

The maid walked to the door and gently opened it to see who it was.

However, looking at Zhao Tian with a bouquet of flowers in his hands, she was startled "M-Master Zhao Tian."

Huh? Zhou Hanyue's eyes squinted "Zhao Tian?"

Pushing the door, Zhao Tian entered the room but the maid stopped him "Master.. you can't enter."

Hm? Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow "I am going to see my wife... so move away."

He gently grasped her hand and moved it away, walking in.

The maid hesitated, glancing nervously at her mistress, but Zhao Tian's presence made it difficult to protest further.

Looking at him, Zhou Hanyue's gaze narrowed as she spoke in a cold tone "What are you doing here?"

With a carefree smile, Zhao Tian went and sat beside her on the couch "I just got married to you yesterday. So I came here to meet my beautiful wife."

Zhou Hanyue clicked her tongue "Leave. No one is allowed to enter this room without my permission."

Zhao Tian leaned back, resting one arm casually on the backrest of the couch. "As your husband, I believe I have every right to be here."

He gestured toward the flowers "And here.. beautiful flowers for my beautiful wife."

The maid who was standing near the room squinted her eyes in thought 'As I thought, they are Starlace Violets.. and this much of them? It must have been costly.'

A faint blush appeared on her cheeks 'I have always wanted one... but they are too costly. I hope Lady Hanyue accepts the flowers, so I can take care of them.'

"I don't need it."

However, Zhou Hanyue was not impressed at the slightest and replied coldly "I don't need your flowers. Get out."

Letting out a sigh, Zhao Tian spoke "Zhou Hanyue, you're my wife now. Whether you like it or not, it's my duty to take care of you."

Zhou Hanyue's gaze was cold as ever "Your wife? You don't even know me. This marriage wasn't my choice, and your grand gestures mean nothing to me."

Her maid, still standing near the doorway, shifted uncomfortably.

The tension in the air was palpable and she glanced at Zhao Tian, hoping he wouldn't be offended.

Yet Zhao Tian, unfazed by Zhou Hanyue's sharp tongue chuckled softly "You're right, I don't know you. But I'd like to change that."

Zhou Hanyue's fingers tightened around the edge of her robe "I don't need you to know me. I don't need anything from you, Zhao Tian. This marriage might have been orchestrated by others, but don't mistake it for something real. Just leave."

The room fell silent for a moment.

Zhao Tian looked at her, his smile fading. "You're not making this easy, are you?"

His tone was quieter now, almost thoughtful "I didn't ask for this marriage either, Hanyue. But it's happened, and I'm not the kind of man who shirks responsibility."

Zhou Hanyue raised an eyebrow. "Responsibility? Is that what you call this? Showing up uninvited to my room with flowers I didn't ask for?"

He shrugged lightly. "Perhaps. Or maybe I'm just trying to be a decent husband."

Zhou Hanyue still had an indifferent expression as she muttered "A decent husband would respect his wife's wishes and leave her alone."

Zhao Tian tilted his head, considering her words, and stood suddenly, causing the maid to step back in surprise.

Picking up the bouquet of Starlace Violets, he walked toward the far corner of the room, where a simple vase sat atop a polished wooden stand.

Carefully, he arranged the flowers in the vase...

"What are you doing?" Zhou Hanyue asked, her voice laced with irritation.

Zhao Tian turned to face her, "These flowers are a gift, and I'm leaving them here, whether you like it or not. They'll brighten up the room, at least."

He stepped back from the vase, taking a moment to admire the way the sunlight caught on the delicate petals.

Then he turned back to Zhou Hanyue, his tone softer this time "I'm not here to force anything on you, Hanyue. I know this marriage is... complicated."

"But I'm also not going to pretend it didn't happen. You can hate me all you want, but I'm not going to give up that easily."

Zhou Hanyue stared at him, and for a moment, Zhao Tian thought she might lash out again, but instead, she said nothing, merely turning her gaze to the bouquet.

The maid, who had been silent all this time, finally spoke up, her voice tentative. "Lady Hanyue, the flowers really are beautiful. Perhaps..." She trailed off, unsure of how her words would be received.

"Enough,"

She stood abruptly, brushing past Zhao Tian as she walked to the window.

Without hesitation, she reached out and grabbed the bouquet of Starlace Violets from the vase. The vibrant flowers, still glistening with dew-like shimmer, were now clutched tightly in her slender fingers.

Walking to the door, she raised her hand to throw it away in the hallway and glanced back at Zhao Tian "You think you can win me over with pretty words and expensive gifts?"

"You're mistaken."

She pointed at the hall and muttered "Now, get out."

Seeing this, Zhao Tian's gaze narrowed but at this time he remembered Qian Shi's words 'Don't give up on her.'

Yeah....

With a soft sigh, Zhao Tian allowed his gaze to soften, though a trace of disappointment lingered in his eyes. Slowly, he turned and walked toward the door.

"Alright then, I am leaving."

As he stepped out of the room, the maid standing nearby quickly followed, her expression filled with concern.

Zhou Hanyue closed the door with a loud thud so that Zhao Tian would know about her frustration.

Zhao Tian glanced at the scattered flowers on the ground and his gaze quivered.

At this time, the maid walked before him and glanced at the flowers strewn across the hallway.

She hesitated for a moment before crouching down to pick them up one by one.

As he stood there, the maid finished gathering the fallen flowers.

She stood and approached him, the vibrant bouquet cradled carefully in her arms.

"Master Zhao Tian," she muttered softly, her voice tinged with hesitation.

Hearing his name, Zhao Tian looked up at her, his expression softening slightly.

The maid extended the bouquet toward him. "These... I picked them up for you,"

For a moment, Zhao Tian hesitated.

Then, with a faint, dry smile, he took the flowers from her hands.

Looking at them, he turned his gaze back to the maid and extended the bouquet back toward her.

"Would you like to have it?"

The maid blinked, taken aback by the question. "M-Master?"

Zhao Tian chuckled softly, shaking his head. "I know... it was scattered on the floor and is probably untidy now."

He sighed and muttered almost to himself, "Haa, never mind."

The maid's eyes widened, and she quickly shook her head. "N-No, Master! I would be honored to have them!" she exclaimed, her voice filled with urgency.

Lowering her gaze, she added shyly, "I-I have always wanted to have a Starlace Violet... but they are very rare and expensive."

"So, if you don't mind me having them..."

Zhao Tian's gaze softened further as he listened to her.

With a gentle nod, he placed the bouquet back in her hands, his movements deliberate and respectful.

"Please, take good care of it,"

The maid's eyes sparkled with overflowing joy as she clutched the bouquet tightly, her head bowing deeply in gratitude. "Thank you very much, Master,"

Zhao Tian offered her a small nod before turning away...

The maid watched his departing figure, her heart swelling with an unexpected warmth.

A gentle smile graced her lips as she clutched the bouquet closer to her chest.

'He seems like a good person...' she thought, her gaze lingering on him for a moment longer.

Chapter 642: Innovation and Technology!

swoosh A streak of green light creased through the endless void of space and it soon reached the blue-green planet.

The green streak of light gently slowed down, revealing a beautiful futuristic ark as it floated above the Jade Eclipse Star.

Inside the ark, a middle-aged man sat at the helm, his sharp features illuminated by the soft glow of the panoramic window.

His uniform had the insignia of Ebon Luohe and he muttered "Let's go."

"Yes, Commander Garron," replied the navigator, swiftly keying in coordinates.

The ark quickly dashed into the atmosphere of the Jade Eclipse Star and flew to one of the mountains within the forest near the Imperial capital.

The ark found a clearing, its descent precise as it gently displaced the surrounding trees. The vessel landed with a soft hiss, dispersing a fine mist as the hatch opened.

Commander Garron stepped out, his boots crunching softly against the ground and glanced at the enormous laboratory hidden amidst the mountain.

He made his way toward the laboratory, and even more men stepped out of the Ark following Garron.

The laboratory's large metal door opened itself and he stepped into the vast facility of the researchers walking around.

He walked to an elevator and made his way upstairs.

Stepping out of the elevator, he entered the room and glanced at the group of three men and two women lounging in the seats.

There are four people who are researchers, and the fifth is the Jade Emperor, Zhou Mingzhe.

Garron walked to him and gently bowed his head "Good to see you in person, Your Highness."

Zhou Mingzhe waved his hand and gestured for Garron to sit opposite him.

Taking a seat, Garron smiled faintly "It is heartening to see that you are slowly adopting technology and innovation in your star, Your Highness."

"Among the six Apex High stars, you are the only one far behind others in terms of technology."

"So, we in Ebon Luohe are grateful that you are finally accepting our offers and doing research here."

Hearing this, Zhou Mingzhe's gaze narrowed and he muttered "What needs to be done has to be done."

"I have come to realize that clinging too tightly to tradition may hinder the power and progress of my star. The balance between the Apex High Stars is delicate, and I cannot afford to let the Jade Eclipse Star falter."

Garron nodded, his expression one of understanding. "Indeed, Your Highness. The balance is paramount. Ebon Luohe has long sought to assist you in integrating advancements that could strengthen your star without compromising its identity."

"This laboratory is but the first step... a bridge between tradition and progress."

Zhou Mingzhe leaned back in his chair, his gaze fixed on the polished table "Mhm," he said thoughtfully.

"I've received troubling news. The vampires are rapidly developing their technology. At this rate, it won't be long before the Six Apex Stars become the Seven Apex Stars."

Garron sighed deeply, shaking his head. "Those guys... negotiating with them is impossible. They're always thirsting for power—bloodsucking bastards in every sense of the term."

His tone carried frustration but also a grudging respect for the vampires' relentless ambition.

Zhou Mingzhe had a contemplative gaze "I can't let a normal High Star take our place as an Apex High star..."

Garron nodded in agreement. "Indeed, Your Highness. There's been chatter among our intelligence networks about suspicious movements by the vampires. And it seems they've started infiltrating even within your star."

Resting his hand on the armrest Zhou Mingzhe gave a nod "I've heard the same. Ji Shuang, the Sect Master of the Jade Eclipse Sect, reported spotting a vampire near the outskirts of her sect."

"It escaped before she could capture or kill it, but the mere fact that they're encroaching on our territory is concerning."

He exhaled slowly, his fingers drumming lightly against the armrest. "I wonder... could they be planning an attack? Our comparative lack of advanced technology and weaponry might make us a tempting target."

Garron chuckled softly, though there was little humor in his voice. "If it comes to that, the treaty among the Apex High Stars will ensure your protection. Ebon Luohe, Qinghua Veil, Stygian Halo, and Longqing Ridge will stand with you."

"Any attack on the Jade Eclipse Star would be an attack on all of us."

A soft sigh escaped Zhou Mingyue's lips "If only the Elven star cooperated with us and share their artifact knowledge..."

Garron sighed, shaking his head. "The Elven Star has always been reclusive. Their connection with the outside world is so sparse it's practically nonexistent."

"Convincing them to share their secrets is as likely as convincing the vampires to sign a peace treaty."

Zhou Mingzhe waved his hand "Forget about that, I am more interested in the new technology these researchers were talking about..."

"Teleportation portals?"

With a nod, Garron took a small, cylindrical device from his storage ring and placed it on the table.

The device illuminated instantly, projecting a holographic image of a circular structure pulsing with golden energy at its center.

The hologram hovered in the air, casting soft, shimmering light across the room.

Garron pointed to it and began his explanation. "Your Highness, I'm sure you're already familiar with the concept of the rune language?"

Zhou Mingzhe nodded. "Yes, the ancient script used in the creation of artifacts." Find your next read on My Virtual Library Empire

"Its applications are vast and deeply tied to our understanding of energy manipulation."

Garron smiled. "Exactly. But have you ever wondered how artifacts like storage rings function? These rings..." he said, holding up his own,

"... use runes to compress and contain vast amounts of space within a tiny object. It's one of the most fascinating applications of rune language and spatial manipulation."

He leaned forward, "Here's the catch: while the rune language is relatively simple to learn, creating space-related artifacts like storage rings requires something far more elusive... comprehension of spatial energy."

Zhou Mingzhe's brows furrowed. "Spatial energy... A rare affinity, is it not?"

"Precisely,"

"Not everyone can comprehend or wield spatial energy, which is why artifacts like storage rings are so expensive."

"In Ebon Luohe, we assembled a team of researchers and artifact makers who excel in rune language. They collaborated with storage rings artifact creators to create these devices."

"Over time, we refined our techniques, but the limitation has always been the scarcity of individuals capable of harnessing spatial energy."

He gestured toward the hologram. "However, with years of research and experimentation, we've developed something extraordinary... an artifact that doesn't merely compress space into a storage unit but instead manipulates it on a grand scale."

"This teleportation portal shrinks the space between two locations, allowing instantaneous travel."

Zhou Mingzhe's eyes widened slightly, "You're telling me this portal eliminates the time and distance between two points?"

"Exactly,"

"It's not without its challenges, of course. Creating this prototype took decades. We had to perfect the runic sequences, ensure stability in spatial compression, and even develop a self-sustaining energy core to power the portal. But the result is revolutionary."

The holographic portal flickered, the golden energy within it swirling as if alive.

Garron pointed to specific runes etched along the outer ring of the structure. "These runes are the key. They form a sequence that stabilizes the spatial tunnel, ensuring safe passage for anything, or anyone, traveling through."

Zhou Mingzhe leaned forward; his interest piqued "And how practical is this technology? Could it be deployed on a large scale?"

Garron hesitated, choosing his words carefully. "It's still in its infancy. The energy requirements are immense, and the materials needed for the portal's construction are rare. Deploying it on a large scale would require significant resources."

"But... once refined, this technology could revolutionize not only transportation but also defense, commerce, and even warfare."

The room fell silent for a few seconds as he thought about it.

He understood why Garron was here; it was because of the lack of resources and the Ebon Luohe needed the Jade Eclipse Star's help.

And if they helped, when this technology reaches its final stage.. they can also utilize these transportation portals.

After some contemplation, Zhou Mingzhe spoke "Begin the preparations. If this technology can secure our future, I will ensure the resources are provided. The Jade Eclipse Star will not fall behind."

Garron bowed his head, a faint smile on his lips. "As you wish, Your Highness. Together, we'll ensure the balance of power remains intact."

Chapter 643: Really a curse? [1]

"Oh? Miss Shi has already left?" Zhao Tian murmured as he leaned back on the plush couch, swirling the glass of juice in his hand before taking a long sip.

The sunlight streaming through the ornate windows cast a warm glow over the room, accentuating the luxurious furnishings.

Li Jia, who was seated beside him with her legs casually crossed, rolled her eyes in mild exasperation "Don't tell me... were you trying to court her last night? Is that why she disappeared this morning?"

Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow at her accusation, his lips curling into a smile "No, idiot. We just had drinks and a good conversation. Nothing more, nothing less."

Li Jia's expression softened as she leaned forward and gently lay across his lap, her silky hair spilling over his legs like a waterfall.

"By the way Tian, Sect master and Elder Jing said that they need to leave soon as they have their own duties within the Sect."

At this, Zhao Tian frowned as he set the glass of juice on the table with a soft clink. "Then I guess I'll stay here for a while longer,"

With a lazy roll, she turned over, wrapping her arms around his waist and burying her face into his abdomen. "Then me too..." she murmured, her voice muffled yet affectionate.

With a chuckle, he patted her head as she snuggled into his abdomen.

A warm chuckle escaped Zhao Tian's lips as he glanced down at her. "Clingy as ever," he muttered, gently patting her head.

Li Jia, content in her position, let out a pleased hum.

However, after a few moments, she raised her head and rested her chin on his abdomen, her expression turning serious. "Tian, if you really want to make progress with Hanyue, you need to start by building a good relationship with her maid."

"She's always by Hanyue's side. If anyone knows her habits, her preferences, or even her vulnerabilities, it'll be her maid. Gain her trust, and you'll gain valuable insight into Hanyue."

Zhao Tian leaned back. "Hmm... that does make sense and the maid seemed... different. Loyal, but not entirely hostile toward me. Perhaps I can work with that."

Li Jia grinned, propping herself up on her elbows. "See? I'm not just a pretty face, you know."

Zhao Tian let out a chuckle, flicking her forehead gently. "Oh, I've always known you're more than just a pretty face. You're also a pain in my ass."

Li Jia gasped, feigning offense as she swatted his arm. "How rude! Here I am, offering you brilliant advice, and this is the thanks I get?"

"Hahaha..."

...

Knock, knock.

Lan Shuqin, who had just finished tidying her modest quarters, froze at the unexpected sound.

She wasn't used to visitors, especially not here in the maid quarters.

Her brows furrowed in confusion, and she hesitated before calling out cautiously, "Who is it?"

A familiar voice answered from the other side of the door. "Zhao Tian."

Lan Shuqin's eyes widened in shock 'Master Tian? Here?'

Panic set in as she quickly glanced around her small room, her heart racing.

She hurriedly straightened her maid uniform, tying the last knot on her sash.

Her hands trembled slightly as she adjusted her hair in the mirror.

"P-Please wait a moment, Master Zhao Tian!" she called out nervously.

After ensuring she was presentable, Lan Shuqin opened the door hesitantly.

Standing before her was Zhao Tian, his presence seemed to fill the narrow hallway, and Lan Shuqin couldn't help but notice the curious gazes of the other maids peeking from around the corners.

She blushed, feeling self-conscious about the attention, and quickly stepped aside. "Please come in, Master Zhao Tian," she stammered, bowing slightly as she gestured for him to enter.

Zhao Tian stepped into the room as he glanced around at the modest but tidy quarters.

The room was small, with simple furnishings... a single bed, a wooden table with a few neatly stacked books, and a vase with the starlace violets he gave her earlier.

Lan Shuqin wrung her hands nervously. "Forgive me, Master Tian. This place may not be to your liking. I-"

Zhao Tian raised shook his head and smiled softly. "Don't worry, Shuqin. Your hospitality is more than enough."

With a sigh of relief, Lan Shuqin nodded "Would you like something to drink or eat, Master Zhao Tian? I can-"

"There's no need," Zhao Tian interrupted gently.

He took a seat on the couch and gestured for her to do the same. "Please, sit. And you can call me Tian."

Lan Shuqin's eyes widened in surprise. "I couldn't possibly-"

"Please," Zhao Tian insisted.

After a moment's hesitation, Lan Shuqin reluctantly sat down on the chair opposite him, her hands folded neatly in her lap.

She kept her head slightly lowered, unsure of why Zhao Tian had come to her quarters personally.

Breaking the silence, Zhao Tian asked, "How long have you been serving Zhou Hanyue?"

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Lan Shuqin' blinked her eyes 'So that's why he's here... He wants to ask about Lady Hanyue.'

"For about forty-two years, Master Tian."

Zhao Tian nodded thoughtfully, "Then you must know her better than anyone. Tell me... what can you share about her? And the curse that surrounds her?"

Lan Shuqin's breath hitched and she lowered her gaze, her fingers tightening slightly around the fabric of her skirt.

"The curse... It's not something she likes to talk about. Few people even know the full truth."

Zhao Tian leaned forward, his eyes narrowing slightly. "I'm not 'few people.' I'm her husband now. If I'm to help her, I need to know everything."

Lan Shuqin glanced up at him, surprised by the determination in his tone.

For a moment, she hesitated, torn between her loyalty to Zhou Hanyue and the earnestness she saw in Zhao Tian's eyes.

Finally, she sighed and began to speak "Her curse is real... and she actually believes it."

Hm? Zhao Tian had a thoughtful gaze as he asked "The three deaths of her previous Husbands might just be a coincidence right?"

"Why would she believe that she is cursed?"

With a shake of her head, Lan Shuqin began to explain "No.. not just her Husband. She lost everyone who is close to her."

"Her mother, her two little brothers, a big sister, her close friends and Husbands... all of them died."

Chapter 644: Really a curse? [2]

With a shake of her head, Lan Shuqin began to explain "No.. not just her Husbands. She lost everyone who is close to her."

"Her mother, her two little brothers, a big sister, her close friends and Husbands... all of them died."

H-Huh?

This startled Zhao Tian and his eyes quivered in shock 'Everyone close to her?'

'Her mother too? Then Jade Empress? Hmm... her mother must have been a second wife or concubine of the Jade Emperor.'

Letting out a sigh Lan Shuqin continued, "People started to think that she was cursed."

"That her presence brought death to those around her. People avoided her like she was some kind of plague. It didn't matter that she was once surrounded by those who loved her; it didn't matter that she had once been a beloved figure."

"When everyone around her began to perish, people grew afraid. And it wasn't just the common folk. Even those who had been close to her started to distance themselves. Even her own family... they could barely look at her."

Lan Shuqin's voice wavered as she continued. "In her most despairing moments, when the pain became too much to bear, there were times... when she tried to take her own life."

"She felt that there was no reason to keep living, that the world would be better off without her. After all, everyone she loved was gone, and there seemed to be no end to the tragedy that followed her."

"But it was her mother's words that kept her alive for this long."

"Gradually, she also began to distance everyone else and hate others."

"She is distrustful of people around her. She puts on a front and never trusts others."

"She has continued to doubt others; she has continued to protect her heart, and has completely stopped opening her heart to anyone."

"Even me... she keeps myself at an arm's distance and never interacts much with me."

As she raised her gaze she spoke "But she is doing that to protect me."

"She doesn't want me to get too close, because she fears that if I do, I too will die. She believes that anyone who grows too close to her will be lost. And so she keeps herself distant, indifferent, and cold."

"...and maybe... that's why she also hates you, to protect you."

Looking at his face, she spoke "She doesn't hate you in the way you think..."

"She doesn't hate you for who you are. She hates the idea that you, too, could become someone she cares for... because that means you, too, would eventually leave her."

"You would be taken away from her just like everyone else. She hates that possibility. She hates that she can't allow herself to love without fearing the loss."

Zhao Tian took a deep breath after hearing all of this.

Looking at him, Lan Shuqin asked "Master Tian... do you also believe that she is cursed?"

With a shake of his head, Zhao Tian spoke "No... I know losing everyone close to her is not very coincidental, but I still refuse to believe it is a curse."

Lan Shuqin stayed silent upon hearing this and Zhao Tian clutched his temples in thought.

"Shuqin, I would need your help from now on..."

Huh? Lan Shuqin blinked her eyes in confusion "My help, Master Tian?"

With a nod, Zhao Tian stood up as he slowly made his way to the vase near the window "Yeah... your help to get close to Hanyue. I want to know what she likes, and what she doesn't.. I want to know about everything."

"Master Tian..." Lan Shuqin's voice trembled slightly as she hesitated, unsure whether to speak the words that she knew needed to be said.

"Are you not afraid that you might lose your life if you get too close to her? That her curse, as others call it, might catch up to you too?"

With a chuckle, Zhao Tian reached out, gently caressing the Starlace Violets in the vase "I just told you... I don't believe in her curse."

"She is my wife and it is natural that I should get close to her."

Hearing this happiness swept over Lan Shuqin's heart and she stood up, bowing her head "Please... be careful." Continue your journey on My Virtual Library Empire

Zhao Tian's smile remained gentle as he glanced at the vase once more, his fingers absently tracing the delicate petals of the Starlace Violets "Seems like you are taking good care of the flowers."

Lan Shuqin, caught off guard by the compliment, hurriedly walked over to the vase and instinctively adjusted it slightly, as if her attention to detail might somehow be noticed more by Zhao Tian.

"Of course, Master Tian.. I told you I will take care of it dearly."

Keeping his smile, Zhao Tian glanced around at the modest room.

Lan Shuqin was quite flustered to see him inspecting her room and raised her hands to hide his eyes' vision line "Master Tian... don't look around too much; it's kind of embarrassing."

Seeing this, Zhao Tian couldn't help but chuckle "No, just wondering.. even though you are the personal maid of the princess, you are here in maid quarters with other maids?"

"Don't you have to be close to Hanyue to help her whenever she needs."

Lan Shuqin lowered her hands and spoke "I told you, Master Tian, she doesn't want anyone getting close to her... so she made me stay away from her."

"Hmm..." Zhao Tian mused under his breath upon hearing this.

"I see, so the first thing we need to do is change your living place."

Eh? Lan Shuqin tilted her head "Change my place?"

Zhao Tian gave a nod "Mhm. I need to change your living place so that you're closer to Hanyue. You should be there for her, whenever she needs something—whether it's help, company, or just someone to listen."

"You're the one who has been by her side the longest, and it makes sense that you should be close enough to help her directly."

Lan Shuqin shook her head "But Lady Hanyue won't like that..."

Zhao Tian smiled knowingly, "Let's see, I know she's pushing people away. I understand why she's doing it, and I'm not going to force her to open up."

"But sometimes, being there might be the first step in letting her feel safe again. And once she sees that you're there to help, rather than to smother her, she might begin to change her mind."

Lan Shuqin bit her lip, considering his words.

A part of her knew that what Zhao Tian said made sense... Hanyue needed someone she could trust.

And if that person was Lan Shuqin, then perhaps it was time to take the next step.

But another part of her remained deeply worried.

Could this plan truly work?

Zhao Tian looked at her and asked "Are you afraid that you would lose your life if you stayed close to her?"

Hm? Lan Shuqin looked up at his blue eyes.

It was a risk, yes, but it was one Zhao Tian was willing to take... and that was something Lan Shuqin couldn't ignore.

With a bow she spoke "Master Tian, I trust you, and I will do whatever it takes to help Lady Hanyue. But... you must understand that she may not accept it easily."

"She may try to push you away, or even me, but please... please be patient with her. She's suffered so much, and it will take time."

"I want her to be happy."

Chapter 645: Just a ring!

Taking a deep breath, Lan Shuqin nodded her head. "Please wait a few minutes, Master Tian. I will arrange my belongings so we can leave."

"Oh, about that... hold on,"

Lan Shuqin tilted her head curiously as she watched Zhao Tian's hand glowing slightly.

A moment later, he retrieved a beautifully crafted storage ring, its surface glimmering with faint inscriptions.

"Here," Zhao Tian said with a smile, holding the ring out toward her. "You can use this storage ring."

"Huh?"

She stared at the ring as if it were a piece of forbidden treasure. Then, realizing what he was offering, she panicked and took two hurried steps back, shaking her head furiously.

"N-No, Master Tian! Storage rings are very expensive, and a maid like me does not deserve to own one."

Zhao Tian sighed, shaking his head helplessly. "Shuqin, don't be so dramatic. It's just a small gift. Consider this a token of gratitude for taking care of Hanyue all these years."

"But-" Lan Shuqin's face turned red as she clutched her hands together, clearly flustered.

"Master Tian, I have already received my monthly salary for my service to Lady Hanyue. This... this is too much. I cannot accept it!"

Zhao Tian's lips twitched with amusement at her stubbornness.

He stepped closer, his expression softening "Shuqin, it's just a ring. Don't make me feel like I'm bribing you for something."

Lan Shuqin took another step back, nearly bumping into the small table behind her. "It's not about bribery, Master Tian. This is too valuable for someone like me. What if Lady Hanyue sees me wearing it? She might think-"

"Think what? That I'm spoiling you? Let her think it. You deserve this."

"Master Tian." Lan Shuqin's voice rose slightly, her hands flailing in panic.

"No, no, no! I cannot take this! Please listen to me!"

Zhao Tian let out an exaggerated sigh, clearly enjoying her reaction.

He reached out and gently grasped her left hand, holding it firmly. "Come here..."

"H-Huh?!" Lan Shuqin's face turned crimson as she tried to pull her hand away.

"N-No, please, Master Tian, listen to me!"

But Zhao Tian had no intention of letting go.

Tightening his hold slightly, he sighed "Shuqin, don't be so stubborn. You're making this more complicated than it needs to be."

"I'm not being stubborn!" Lan Shuqin protested, squirming in his grip.

"This is inappropriate! If Lady Hanyue finds out-"

Zhao Tian rolled his eyes and pulled her hand closer. "Ay, Shuqin, you worry too much. Just stay still and-"

"Noooo, Master Tian!" Lan Shuqin wriggled, her voice taking on a slightly whiny tone.

"Let me go! I can't accept it, I really can't!"

Zhao Tian clicked his tongue in mock annoyance "If you keep squirming, I'll have to force it on you."

"What?!" Lan Shuqin gasped, her eyes widening in disbelief.

"You can't do that! That's... that's bullying!"

"Oh? Bullying?" Zhao Tian asked, clearly enjoying her flustered state.

"I'm simply giving you a gift. How is that bullying?"

Lan Shuqin protested even more "You're not listening to me. Let me go this instant!"

"Stay put" Zhao Tian muttered, carefully slipping the ring onto her finger despite her protests.

"Nooooo!" Lan Shuqin whined dramatically, flailing her free hand in protest.

"Master Tian, stop it!"

"There, it's done!" Zhao Tian uttered as the ring slid snugly onto her finger.

Lan Shuqin froze, staring down at her hand in disbelief.

"M-Master Tian..." she stammered, her voice shaking. "You really... you really put it on me."

Zhao Tian smiled, clearly satisfied with himself. "Of course. It looks good on you."

Lan Shuqin looked up at him, her cheeks still flushed. "I... I told you not to! Now what am I supposed to do if Lady Hanyue sees this?!"

Zhao Tian crossed his arms, pretending to think. "Hmm... Tell her it's from me. Problem solved."

"Master Tian!" Lan Shuqin cried, burying her face in her hands.

Zhao Tian chuckled, his tone softening. "Shuqin, listen to me. This ring isn't just a gift... it's practical. You'll need it to carry your belongings and help Hanyue more efficiently. Besides, you've served her for over forty years. You've earned this."

Lan Shuqin peeked at him through her fingers, her expression a mix of embarrassment and gratitude. "But it's still too much..."

"Too much?" Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow.

"For someone as loyal and hardworking as you? I disagree."

Lan Shuqin bit her lip, her heart softening at his words.

She sighed in defeat, lowering her hands. "Fine... I'll accept it. But only because you insist so much."

Zhao Tian couldn't but smile enjoying her reactions "That's more like it."

Lan Shuqin glared at him playfully. "But if Lady Hanyue scolds me for this, I'm blaming you."

"Deal," Zhao Tian said with a laugh. "Now, get ready. We have work to do."

Lan Shuqin shook her head, muttering under her breath as she began gathering her belongings. "Master Tian... you really are something else."

Zhao Tian leaned against the wall, watching her with an amused smile. "Don't worry, Shuqin. You'll get used to me."

Lan Shuqin stared at the storage ring on her finger with a mix of awe and nervousness. "Master Tian... I don't even know how to use this,"

Zhao Tian let out a chuckle "Don't worry, Shuqin. It's not that complicated. Here, let me show you."

"Huh? Show me?" Lan Shuqin blinked, her heart racing when Zhao Tian suddenly leaned forward and extended his hand toward hers.

Before she could react, he gently grasped her right hand, pulling it closer to him.

"M-Master Tian." she stammered, her face turning crimson.

"You don't have to hold my hand! I can learn on my own..."

Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow, clearly amused. "Oh? And how will you learn if you don't even know the basics? Stop squirming."

He adjusted her hand so her palm was facing upward, his fingers brushing lightly against hers as he guided her movements.

Lan Shuqin stiffened at the touch, her cheeks burning but she didn't make any efforts to pull her hand away.

'How can he casually touch me as if I am his friend... I am just a maid.'

"Relax, Shuqin," Zhao Tian said softly...

"Focus on the ring. Close your eyes if it helps."

Lan Shuqin hesitated but eventually obeyed, closing her eyes and taking a deep breath. "Okay... now what?"

"Feel the ring's energy, it's connected to you. Concentrate on that connection."

Lan Shuqin frowned in concentration, her brow furrowing. "I... I think I feel something. It's faint, like a small current."

Zhao Tian smiled "Good. Now imagine opening a door with your mind. The space inside the ring will reveal itself to you."

Lan Shuqin's lips parted slightly as she focused, and after a few moments, her expression brightened. "I see it!"

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"It's like... a tiny room filled with light."

With a nod, he explained "That's your storage space, you can place items in there or retrieve them with a thought. Here, let's try it."

He picked up a small teacup from her table and placed it in her other hand. "Now, focus on the teacup. Imagine it disappearing into the space you just saw."

Lan Shuqin nodded, her expression serious as she followed his instructions.

A soft glow emanated from the ring, and the teacup vanished in an instant.

"I did it." she said, opening her eyes in happiness. "Master Tian, I really did it!"

"Mhm, seems like you are a quick learner."

Lan Shuqin smiled at the praise, but then her smile faltered. "Wait... how do I get it back?"

"That's easy," Zhao Tian said, tightening his grip on her hand slightly. "Just imagine the teacup reappearing in your hand."

Lan Shuqin closed her eyes again, and after a few seconds, the teacup reappeared in her palm, looking as pristine as before.

She let out a gasp of amazement. "It worked! Master Tian, this is incredible."

Looking at her child-like excitement Zhao Tian smiled in his heart "Good..."

Lan Shuqin looked down at her hand, still held firmly in his, and bit her lip. "Um... Master Tian... you can let go of my hand now."

"Mhm."

With a nod, Zhao Tian retracted his hand and Lan Shuqin bowed her head "I will prepare to leave then."

Chapter 646: A little drama!

The soft hum of the evening breeze was disrupted by a faint ruckus outside Zhou Hanyue's room.

Seated gracefully by her writing desk, Hanyue frowned in thought.

Her evenings were always quiet... but now, the rustling and faint murmurs outside her door stirred her curiosity.

Setting her brush down, she rose from her chair, her robe flowing elegantly as she moved.

She reached the door and pulled it open, her gaze scanning the dimly lit hallway.

Her eyes caught sight of another door slightly ajar, light spilling out, accompanied by muffled voices.

'Who is here?'

With cautious steps, she walked to the room's door and peeked through the ajar door to see what was happening inside.

Huh?

There she saw Lan Shuqin cleaning the room while Zhao Tian was also helping her unpack her things.

"What is happening here?"

Hearing a cold voice, Lan Shuqin's body tensed and she hurriedly turned around to see Zhou Hanyue standing at the doorstep.

"Lady... Hanyue."

Zhao Tian glanced at him and smiled "Good evening, dear..."

Dear? Zhou Hanyue's eyes narrowed but she didn't pay attention to him and glimpsed at Lan Shuqin.

"I asked what is happening here."

Lan Shuqin who was confident till now, shivered when she confronted Zhou Hanyue directly "I-i uh.. I mean we... this room."

Looking at her stuttering, Zhao Tian couldn't help but chuckle in his heart as he found this endearing.

Zhou Hanyue's eyes narrowed further "Both of you are going to use this room?"

H-Huh?

Lan Shuqin gasped in shock and hurriedly shook her head "No, No, No Lady Hanyue... you are misunderstanding."

"This room... we..."

Looking at her hesitating, Zhao Tian let out a sigh and spoke "Dear, since Shuqin is your maid, I thought it would be good if she stayed close to you."

"With that, she can take care of all your needs. As your Husband, I am worried about you... so I want Shuqin to be very close to you."

'Close to me?'

Zhou Hanyue glared at Lan Shuqin "So... you started doing things without my permission? Since when did you grow this audacious, Qin'er?"

"Did that new guy promise you money to act as his doll?"

Lan Shuqin's gaze quivered as she lowered her head, her whole body trembling in panic "N-No, I didn't mean to..."

Zhao Tian reached out and gently grasped Lan Shuqin's hand, pulling her behind him as if protecting her from Zhou Hanyue.

"Why are you scaring my maid?"

Hm? Zhou Hanyue maintained her indifferent expression "Your maid? She is my maid."

Hearing this, Zhao Tian shrugged casually and replied "Well, I am your Husband.. so 'our' maid."

Our? Zhou Hanyue glared at Lan Shuqin, who was still hiding behind Zhao Tian "I see... in a single day, he has made you defy my orders, huh?"

"Then answer this... Lan Shuqin, to whom have you pledged your loyalty?"

Hearing this, Lan Shuqin's body stiffened and she spoke in a low voice "To... you, Lady Hanyue."

Satisfied by her answer, Zhou Hanyue spoke "Then my orders are absolute, right?"

Lan Shuqin nodded her head "Yes, Lady Hanyue..."

Zhou Hanyue's sharp eyes flicked at Zhao Tian briefly before returning to her maid. "Then come here."

Lan Shuqin obediently nodded and pulled her hand from Zhao Tian's grip "Let me go, Master Tian."

But Zhao Tian refused to let her go and muttered in a low tone "Shuqin..."

However, seeing her pleading eyes, his grip loosened and she opened her lips "Please..."

Zhao Tian let out a sigh and let her go.

Lan Shuqin swallowed hard, guilt etched into her features as she slowly pulled her hand free. "I-I'm sorry, Master Tian," she whispered under her breath.

Her feet carried her hesitantly toward Zhou Hanyue, and once she reached her mistress, she lowered her head, standing behind her as though seeking shelter from Zhao Tian's gaze.

Zhou Hanyue glanced at her and nodded "Wise choice..."

She then turned her eyes to Zhao Tian "First, you tried to woo me with your petty flowers."

Zhao Tian chuckled softly at her words, "Petty? I thought they were rather thoughtful." Find more chapters on NovelBin.Côm

"Thoughtful?" Zhou Hanyue's voice hardened as she took a deliberate step forward.

"And now... what?"

"Did you think you could get close to me if you got close to my maid first?"

Zhao Tian just smiled and looked at Lan Shuqin, who was standing behind Zhou Hanyue.

Feeling his gaze, she quickly bowed her head and lipsynced, 'Forgive me, Master Tian'

Zhao Tian sighed in his heart, as it was understandable and Lan Shuqin is loyal to Zhou Hanyue after all.

Zhou Hanyue's eyes flicked back to Lan Shuqin, who was still trembling behind her. "And you, have you forgotten who you serve? Or did this 'husband' of mine promise you riches and favor in exchange for your loyalty?"

Lan Shuqin's head snapped up, her eyes widening with panic. "No! No, Lady Hanyue, I would never-"

"Silence, I gave you my trust, and this is how you repay me? Sneaking behind my back, acting without my permission?"

Lan Shuqin lowered her head again, tears brimming in her eyes. "I-I didn't mean to-"

"Enough," Zhou Hanyue said coldly. "I won't tolerate disobedience. Remember your place, Qin'er."

Seeing this, Zhao Tian's gaze narrowed and he stepped close to her "Hanyue, don't frighten her... she acted according to my words."

She turned her gaze to Zhao Tian "That's why I am scolding her, so she would remain loyal to me. If you think you can manipulate your way into my good graces, you're sorely mistaken."

As Zhou Hanyue turned to leave, her eyes flickered down and caught a faint glimmer on Lan Shuqin's finger.

The subtle shimmer of a ring reflected the ambient light, drawing her attention.

She halted mid-step, her gaze narrowing. "Hm? What's that?"

Without waiting for an answer, Zhou Hanyue reached out and grasped Lan Shuqin's wrist, holding it firmly as she examined the ring.

Her brow furrowed slightly as she looked at the delicate craftsmanship of the item, her lips curling into a humorless smile. "Oh... now I understand."

Lan Shuqin's eyes widened, her body stiffening as her mistress's grip tightened. "Lady Hanyue... it's nothing-"

"Nothing? So, this is how he won your loyalty, huh? With a mere trinket?"

She tilted her head slightly, her gaze shifting to Zhao Tian for a moment before returning to the ring. "Is this a storage ring?"

Her fingers moved toward the ring, "If I remove this..."

"No!" However, Lan Shuqin instinctively pulled her hand back, clutching her fingers into a protective fist.

Her other hand covered the ring, shielding it from Zhou Hanyue's grasp. "I can't give this up, Lady Hanyue. This... is a gift from Master Tian."

Huh? Zhou Hanyue was startled to see Lan Shuqin acting against her "Hoh, so you have grown that bold huh..."

She forcibly grasped Lan Shuqin's hand and tried to pull it from her finger "Take that off..."

Lan Shuqin shook her head frantically, tears brimming in her eyes. "No! Please, Lady Hanyue, let me keep this!" she pleaded in a desperate voice.

"It's... it's mine. Just this once, I beg you."

Seeing this, Zhao Tian stepped forward and pulled Lan Shuqin toward his side "Hanyue... at this point, you are just bullying her."

Zhou Hanyue's heart fumed in anger "Bullying? A maid dares to defy my orders..."

Placing his hand on Lan Shuqin's trembling shoulder, he spoke "She is your maid, not your slave. You don't have rights over her personal feelings or belongings."

"The ring is a gift I gave her.. and she has all the rights to keep it. This has nothing to do with you, Hanyue."

For a moment, Zhou Hanyue seemed taken aback, her lips parting as if to argue.

But no words came. Instead, she turned her attention to Lan Shuqin, "Shuqin, if you value this ring so much, then perhaps you no longer value serving me."

Lan Shuqin's eyes widened in horror, her hands shaking as she clutched the ring tighter. "No, Lady Hanyue!"

"Please don't say that. I-I live to serve you. This ring... it doesn't change that. It's just... it's just..."

"Just what?"

Lan Shuqin swallowed hard, tears streaming down her cheeks. "It's just a reminder," she whispered.

"A reminder that... that someone else sees me as more than just a maid. But my loyalty to you is unwavering, Lady Hanyue. Please believe me."

Zhou Hanyue stared at her for a long moment before she turned back with a frustrated sigh "Keep your ring, but don't think this means you've won, Zhao Tian. Or you, Shuqin."

With that, she stormed off from there, going to her room.

Looking at her retreating figure, Zhao Tian's brows furrowed slightly as his eyes caught a subtle movement... Zhou Hanyue raising her hand to her face, swiping quickly at her cheek.

'As I thought, she was holding back her tears...'

He exhaled slowly, his eyes softening with a mix of understanding and sorrow. 'To keep everyone distant from her, she is purposefully acting like a cold woman... so no one would get close to her and die.'

Zhou Hanyue wasn't the ruthless, cold-hearted woman she pretended to be.

Beneath that cold exterior lay a heart burdened by grief, guilt, and an overwhelming fear of losing those she cared for.

But now wasn't the time to dwell on her.

He then turned his gaze to Lan Shuqin, who was already crying.

With a sigh, he spoke "Forgive me, Shuqin..."

At his words, Lan Shuqin flinched.

She shook her head weakly, her lips quivering as she struggled to form a reply.

But no words came, only a fresh wave of tears cascading down her face.

Her sobs, which she had been desperately trying to suppress, broke free in soft, stuttering gasps.

Seeing her in such a state, Zhao Tian's chest tightened.

Without hesitation, he stepped closer, gently placing a hand on her shoulder. "It's alright,"

Feeling his comforting words, Lan Shuqin's fragile resolve shattered.

With a desperate cry, she clutched his robes, burying her face against his chest.

She clung to him, her fingers curling tightly into the fabric of his clothes.

Chapter 647: A small guess?

Lan Shuqin stepped back, her cheeks flushed, and lowered her gaze to the floor.

Her hands clutched at her robes nervously, and she rubbed her red, swollen eyes with her delicate fingers.

Taking a deep breath, she lowered herself into a deep bow, her voice soft and tinged with guilt. "Forgive me, Master Tian... I showed such a pathetic side of myself, and I even dirtied your clothes."

Zhao Tian glanced at his robes, the faint wet marks from her tears barely noticeable against the fabric.

A faint smile tugged at his lips and he shook his head slightly "Leave that; how do you feel now?"

Lan Shuqin straightened her posture slightly, her fingers twisting the edge of her sleeve.

She hesitated for a moment before nodding softly, "I feel better now."

With a soft sigh, Lan Shuqin spoke "Haa... this is the first time Lady Hanyue acted like that to me."

"It's alright, we have to do something to get close to her... but it seems like none of them is working."

Her lips curved into a small, bittersweet smile as she looked up "Let's think this as the first step getting close to her."

With a nod, Zhao Tian looked around the room "For now, stay here... After today's little drama, I think she won't poke much into you..."

"I will also try to talk to her."

The corners of Lan Shuqin's lips lifted into a faint smile, "But... please be careful."

Zhao Tian raised an brow "Careful?"

Her cheeks reddened slightly, and she quickly lowered her gaze. "It's just... Lady Hanyue can be harsh," she said quietly.

"I don't want her to hurt you."

With a chuckle, he nodded "Yeah..."

...

It was already night-

smooch

"Mnnnng~"

"Tian'er..."

Kissing noises filled the room as Zhao Tian and Yao Jing cuddled on the bed, their tongues intertwined as they hugged each other tightly.

She fervently sucked on his tongue as if she wanted to eat him more and Zhao Tian equally reciprocated, sucking and biting on her tongue.

As they pulled back, they looked at each other, their chests raising up and down because of her rapid breaths.

Zhao Tian slowly began to kiss her neck and his hand reached out to her clothes, slowly removing them.

"Mmngh..."

His lips traveled to his bare shoulder and he pulled her clothes even more revealing the soft curves of her cleavage.

With a smile, he buried his face onto her cleavage, enjoying the soft cushion and her womanly scent.

As he pulled her clothes even further, the round flesh buns with pink nipples on top of them appeared in front of his eyes.

Zhao Tian looked at her blushing face and asked with a teasing smile "What happened? Not going to stop me anymore?"

She looked away with a huff "Will you let me go if I stop you from removing my clothes?"

"No..."

Yao Jing reached out and pinched his cheek "Figured."

With a hearty chuckle, he placed a kiss on her pink areola before letting his tongue out and rolling it over her nipple.

He glanced up to see her reaction and she closed her with a sigh of pleasure, enjoying the warmth of his tongue.

With a teasing glint in his eyes, he opened his lips a little and bit her nipple with his teeth.

H-Huh? Yao Jing gasped in shock and her eyes shot up, feeling the slight pain radiating from her nipple.

"Tian'er?"

Biting her cherry, he pulled it up, stretching her breast even further, making her eyes quiver in mild pain.

pop As he let go of her nipple, her breast jiggled, and Zhao Tian admired the dark red mark he had left on her breast.

"Now, it looks even more beautiful."

The blush on Yao Jing's face deepened as her fingers brushed over the faint love mark Zhao Tian had left on her nipple.

She tried to glare at him but failed miserably, her lips curving into a playful pout. "You're hopeless, Tian'er,"

Zhao Tian couldn't help but laugh as he reached out, his hand gently enveloping hers, and laced their fingers together.

His thumb traced soft circles over her knuckles, "Jing'er," he said softly, his gaze locking onto hers with an intensity that made her heart skip a beat.

Yao Jing raised a brow, her eyes narrowing slightly, though the corners of her lips betrayed the faintest hint of a smile. "Call me Master, you idiot," she said, trying to sound stern but failing to hide the warmth in her tone.

Zhao Tian chuckled, leaning closer, his forehead nearly touching hers. "Yes, yes, Master,"

Yao Jing rolled her eyes, though her blush deepened further. "Hopeless," she murmured again, though this time, there was no bite in her words, only fondness.

Still holding her hand, Zhao Tian raised it to his lips, placing a feather-light kiss on the back of her palm. "Hopelessly in love with you, Master,"

She shook her head, muttering under her breath, "How did I end up with someone like you?"

Zhao Tian grinned. "Because no one else is as lucky as me to have you, Jing'er."

Yao Jing couldn't suppress her chuckle, but her laugh seemed to wake up someone.

Feeling the small movements in the bed, both of them turned to look at Li Jia, who was sleeping after another day of drinking.

Yao Jing grinned upon seeing this "I gave her a potent wine; she won't wake up anytime soon..."

With a wry smile, he asked, "Why would you do that?"

Pouting her lips, she replied "Because tomorrow I am leaving... and this is the last night with you, as I don't know when you will return to the Sect."

"I don't want it ruined by her. I wanted to cuddle with you... and kiss you like this."

"So I made her drink a lot... hehe."

Zhao Tian burst out laughing and seeing him; she also giggled.

She raised her legs, wrapping around his waist "Now... take your time and suck my breasts all night, it would take some time before you suck my breasts again..."

With a grin, she squeezed her breast within her palm, making her nipple perk up a little bit.

Seeing this erotic scene, Zhao Tian gulped before leaning forward to suck her nipple.

"Hmng~"

...

The soft glow of the lantern reflected off the steamy water, casting a golden hue across the bathroom.

Sitting on the stool, Zhao Tian let out a soft sigh of relief.

On either side of him, Xia Shenyi and Fei Lingxi were dutifully tending to him, their delicate hands moving with practiced ease as they brushed his body with warm, damp towels.

Xia Shenyi noticed that he is thinking about something and asked "Tian, you've been lost in thought for a while now. What's troubling you?"

Zhao Tian let out a long sigh, his head leaning back as he closed his eyes. "It's about Zhou Hanyue,"

Fei Lingxi tilted her head, her curiosity piqued. "Oh? Did you find anything about that curse of hers?" she asked, wringing out the towel in her hand before brushing it gently over his shoulder.

Zhao Tian opened his eyes and gazed at the ceiling, "Not exactly... but I've started piecing together a guess."

Xia Shenyi paused, her hand resting lightly against his arm. "A guess?"

He nodded. "Hanyue's maid mentioned something that caught my attention. It wasn't just her previous husbands who died. Everyone close to her, anyone she cared for, has died."

Fei Lingxi frowned slightly "That's... not just a curse. That's a tragedy."

Zhao Tian chuckled bitterly. "Exactly. It feels less like a curse and more like a deliberate act."

"Someone is targeting her loved ones, systematically removing them from her life."

Xia Shenyi's hand tightened slightly around the towel she held. "Why would anyone do such a thing?"

"That's the question, isn't it?" Zhao Tian murmured, his gaze distant.

"If my guess is right, someone hates Zhou Hanyue enough to want her to live in constant despair."

"Killing her loved ones and trying to break her spirit and torture her emotionally..."

Fei Lingxi's eyes widened, her grip on the towel faltering for a moment. "If that's true, then... they'll come for you next," she said, her voice laced with worry.

Zhao Tian met her gaze, a faint smile tugging at his lips. "It's a possibility."

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"If Hanyue has truly caught the attention of someone so cruel, then anyone who gets close to her becomes a target."

Xia Shenyi's brows furrowed, "Tian.. you..."

"Husband?"

Zhao Tian chuckled softly, reaching out to place a hand on each of their shoulders. "I appreciate your concern, but let's not jump to conclusions yet. This is still just a guess, and I don't want either of you to worry unnecessarily."

Fei Lingxi pouted her lips "Too late for that. You're stuck with two very worried wives now."

Xia Shenyi hugged him from the side, her breasts squeezing against his arm "Be careful Tian... don't forget that you have wives who are waiting for you inside the artifact."

Turning to her, he placed a kiss on her head "Of course, dear..."

...

Meanwhile outside in the hall, Fei Ziyu and Yao Lian are bustling in the hall "Quick, quick.. ahhhhhh...."

Chapter 648: A surprise?

"Haah..."

After donning some light clothes, Zhao Tian stepped out of the bathroom, droplets of water still clinging to his well-toned frame.

Behind him, Xia Shenyi and Fei Lingxi stepped outside, their bodies wrapped in towels, their damp hair cascading down their shoulders.

As Zhao Tian reached for the towel on the nearby chair, a sudden warmth enveloped him from behind.

Xia Shenyi's arms slid around his waist, her soft voice brushing against his ear like a melody.

"Tian..."

"Hm?" He tilted his head, his gentle gaze meeting hers over his shoulder.

Without a moment's hesitation, Xia Shenyi leaned in, capturing his lips in a tender kiss.

Zhao Tian blinked, caught off guard by the sudden kiss.

Her lips lingered just long enough for his heart to stir before she pulled back, her cheeks tinged with a faint blush.

"Close your eyes," she murmured, a playful glint in her eyes.

"Close my eyes?" Zhao Tian asked in confusion.

"Yeah, just close them," she insisted, her hands already rising to gently cover his eyes.

A faint chuckle escaped him as he allowed her to obscure his vision. "Don't tell me... you're planning some sort of surprise?"

Her lips brushed against his ear, "Mhm. So don't you dare peek... or no sex for a week,"

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"Eh?" Zhao Tian smiled wryly, helpless against her playful threats.

She guided him carefully out of the room and down the stairs, her hands still shielding his eyes.

Fei Yu, Yao Lian, Li Jia, and Shi Yixian, who were waiting for him, smiled as they looked at him.

After reaching down, Xia Shenyi removed her hands and Zhao Tian curiously looked around to see what was the surprise.

H-Huh? He was startled to see the decorations around the hall and glanced at the heart shaped cake on the table.

'Cake... birthday?'

"Happy Birthday!"

Everyone exclaimed in unison and only then did Zhao Tian realize the surprise was for his birthday.

He blinked his eyes in surprise and chuckled looking at everyone "Thank you, dears..."

Fei Lingxi walked to him and hugged his arm "So, did you like the surprise Husband?"

Turning to look at her, he smiled softly "Very much..."

His gaze flickered to the cake 'I am sure my 22nd birthday already passed like a month ago during the tribulation...'

'Well, they are inside the artifact, so it must have been hard for them to pinpoint the date considering the time dilation within the artifact.'

'But who remembered my birthday...'

If it was his mother or sister, he would not have been surprised.

Then who?

Xia Shenyi hugged him on the other side and spoke "It was Ziyu who remembered your birthday. We didn't know the exact date, but she insisted on this."

Ziyu? Zhao Tian glanced at her and she lowered her gaze with a shy smile "Well, Master... I was obsessed with you back during my days at university."

Her voice wavered as she continued, "I memorized everything about you, including your birthday. But with the artifact's time dilation, I wasn't sure if today was right..."

Her words trailed off, and she bit her lip nervously...

Zhao Tian's eyes softened and he walked close to her "Thank you, dear..."

He leaned forward and kissed her lips, his hands sliding down to hold her waist.

Fei Ziyu's heart fluttered at the sudden kiss and she instantly closed her eyes, reciprocating the kiss.

With a small jump, she wrapped her legs around his waist and in turn, he grabbed her ass to firmly keep her in place as he continued devouring her lips.

The kiss slowly turned passionate as they intertwined their tongues.

"Master..."

The others standing there smiled dryly as they exchanged amused glances seeing them going all out and making out in front of them.

Yao Lain facepalmed herself 'This guy... in one way or another, always finding time to make out with his women.'

"Do they always have to make such a scene?" Yao Lian muttered under her breath, crossing her arms.

"Well, it is his birthday," Li Jia replied with a shrug, though a faint blush colored her cheeks as she avoided looking directly at the couple.

Shi Yixian chuckled, her calm demeanor unwavering. "Let them have their moment."

Xia Shenyi, however, smirked proudly. "What can I say? Our man knows how to appreciate a good surprise."

Fei Lingxi rolled her eyes playfully. "At this rate, we'll be here all day before he even cuts the cake."

Their teasing remarks barely registered with Zhao Tian or Fei Ziyu, who were entirely lost in their moment.

Finally pulling back, Zhao Tian placed Fei Ziyu back on her feet as he gently patted her head.

Fei Ziyu was more than happy to get spoiled by him and enjoyed the attention he was giving her.

Yao Lian spoke in a hurried tone "Master, quick... i want to eat this thing called cake."

Hm? Zhao Tian looked at Yao Lian and chuckled "You are always in your fox form; I almost forgot your human form."

Yao Lian just grinned "Well, it feels great to move around in fox form and it's comfortable."

With a shake of his head, Zhao Tian walked to the cake and looked at the small knife beside it.

Taking the knife, he cut a small, precise slice and picked it up between his fingers. As the sweet aroma of the cake wafted toward him, he hesitated, his brows furrowing slightly.

'Wait.. fuck, who to give the first bite?'

He could already feel the expectant gazes of the women around him, each silently vying for the honor.

Xia Shenyi stood to the side, her fingers toying with her hair as a faint blush crept across her cheeks. 'Maybe... he'll give it to me. I am one of his favorite wives, after all...'

Fei Lingxi, standing near the table, fidgeted with her fingers nervously 'I am sure he won't give it to me first.. b-but it would be nice if I get it, maybe.... there is a slight chance of me getting it...'

Shi Yixian, tilted her head slightly, her piercing gaze locked on the cake with childlike curiosity. 'Cake...'

Fei Ziyu smiled dryly as she already knew that she would not be his first choice.

Li Jia was screaming in her mind 'Come here, you bastard! If you don't choose me, I swear you're not touching me tonight!'

_-

Uhhh...

Zhao Tian stood frozen, a bead of sweat trailing down his temple.

Being put in a tough position, Zhao Tian hesitated, 'This is a minefield. Should I just eat the first piece myself?'

With a faint smile, he turned to look at the woman and walked toward her to give her the first piece of his birthday cake.

"I know you must have worked hard for this, so here... Ziyu."

H-Huh?

Fei Ziyu was taken aback to hear this and her heartbeat quickened "M-Me? Master?"

Before she could say anything more, Zhao Tian gently brought the slice of cake to her lips. "Yes, you. Open up."

Her face flushed crimson as she opened her mouth, allowing him to feed her.

The sweetness of the cake filled her senses, but it was the softness in his gaze that truly melted her heart.

"Delicious," she murmured as she licked a small smudge of frosting from her lips.

The other women were also not mad that Fei Ziyu got selected, as they all knew Fei Ziyu had worked tirelessly on the decorations and the cake, and her effort had earned her this moment.

Now that the first piece has already been cut "My turn!"

Yao Lian exclaimed and jumped near the cake, quickly taking the knife and slicing a part for herself.

Before anyone could stop her, she popped it into her mouth, her eyes lighting up. "So sweet! What is this? It's amazing!"

"I need more."

As she reached for another slice, Xia Shenyi intercepted her hand with a sharp glare. "Oi, you feral fox! Wait your turn... everyone wants some!"

"Nooo!" Yao Lian whined, her tail swishing behind her.

"Cakeeeee."

Fei Lingxi chuckled at the commotion, shaking her head.

She sliced a small piece and walked gracefully to Zhao Tian "Here, husband," she said softly, her voice like honey.

Zhao Tian opened his lips and accepted the cake.

Li Jia blinked her eyes 'I was so focused on getting the cake from him that I forgot I can also give him the cake first.. ahhhh Sister Lingxi beat me to it.'

Not one to be outdone, Xia Shenyi quickly grabbed a slice and marched up to Zhao Tian. "Here, Tian," she said as she held the cake to his lips.

Before he could finish chewing Lingxi's offering, Li Jia pushed her way forward, a slice in hand

Li Jia also hurried to action "Me too..."

"Calm down, everyone..."

"My Liege, me too."

"CAKEEE!!!"

"Hahaha.."

Chapter 649: Flowers again?

Under the brilliant blue array, Zhao Tian sat cross-legged in the serene courtyard, his eyes closed as he focused on cultivating the astral energy coursing through his body.

The light from the array pulsed faintly, casting a soft glow around him.

Inside the hall, a cozy warmth filled the air as the women sat together, their chatter light and filled with laughter.

Fei Ziyu glanced at Li Jia and gently bowed her head. "Thank you, Sister Jia. Without you bringing the decorations and the ingredients for the cake from the outside, none of this would have been possible."

Li Jia, reclining casually on the couch, waved her hand dismissively, her lips curving into an easy smile. "Oh, come on, Ziyu. You don't have to bow your head for something so small... we are sisters after all."

Yao Lian who was in her fox form, curled in Li Jia's lap, purring, "Bring more, Li Jia... the cake was yummy."

With a chuckle, Li Jia patted the cute fox "Alright... I will." Enjoy more content from NovelBin.Côm

A few hours later, Zhao Tian stood up from the array and stepped outside.

Raising his hands, he combed his long hair to a man bun.

With a sigh, he stretched his body after hours of sitting "Ughh... in three more days, I can reach the 2nd level of Heavenly Tribulation stage."

His gaze squinted in thought 'I still have some stuff to do, I need to melt Hanyue's heart, need to investigate the deaths around her.'

'And the tournament for that Astral Mine is also coming; I also need to visit my new teacher...'

'Velnorah should miss me too.... Uffff, she refused when I invited her to the marriage.'

...

It was already evening-

Zhao Tian walked through the royal hallways with a bouquet of yellow flowers in his hands.

The flowers swayed gently as he moved, their vibrant petals glowing in the evening light

He soon arrived at a particular door, and raising his free hand, he pushed the door open without knocking.

"Hanyue..."

The room was bathed in warm lamplight, the rich fragrance of freshly brewed tea mingling with the faint scent of sandalwood.

Zhou Hanyue sat gracefully by a low table, her back straight and her demeanor poised, sipping tea from a delicate cup.

Behind her, Lan Shuqin stood silently, her hands clasped neatly in front of her, the very image of a dutiful maid.

Zhou Hanyue didn't react upon his arrival and continued sipping her tea.

However, Lan Shuqin's eyes softened and she bowed her head in respect.

As he walked in, Zhou Hanyue's gaze flickered to the bouquet in his hands "I am sure I already told you to stop bringing me flowers... you can't-"

Zhao Tian cut her off with a smile on his lips "Who told you that I bought flowers for you.."

"Huh?" Zhou Hanyue's eyes narrowed slightly, her composure slipping just enough to reveal a glimmer of surprise.

Before she could respond, Zhao Tian turned to Lan Shuqin, holding the bouquet out toward her. "I bought these flowers for my maid. Here, Shuqin."

E-Eh?

Lan Shuqin was quickly flustered as a blush crept upon her cheeks and she could already feel Zhou Hanyue glaring at her.

Her body tensed in panic 'I don't even need to look... i am sure she is glaring at me.'

Seeing his soft gaze, Lan Shuqin tentatively reached out to receive the bouquet "Thank you, Master Tian... i really appreciate it."

As her fingers brushed the flowers, a pleasant warmth bloomed in her chest, a warmth that made her blush deepen.

Zhou Hanyue's grip on her teacup tensed slightly seeing this as she felt a light squeeze in her chest.

With a *clank* she placed the cup on the table and abruptly stood up, walking to her inner chambers.

"U-Uh.. Lady Hanyue."

Zhao Tian chuckled and sat on the couch where Zhou Hanyue was sitting before "Let her go, pour me some tea."

Lan Shuqin's gaze lingered on the door before she took the teapot and poured tea for him in another cup.

"Here you go, Master Tian."

Taking the cup, he sipped the tea and smiled "The tea is great."

Lan Shuqin smiled and bowed her head "Thank you, Master Tian."

Before she could step away, Zhao Tian reached out and gently grasped her wrist.

With a gentle tug, he guided her to sit beside him.

"Pour yourself a tea too."

Lan Shuqin was dumbfounded "But I am just a miad..."

Taking another sip of his tea, he muttered "When you are with me, you don't have to be so stiff... you can be like my friend."

Lan Shuqin let out a soft chuckle "As you say, Master Tian."

As he said, she poured herself a cup of tea and began to drink it.

Looking at her, he asked, "By the way, do you like the flowers?"

With a nod, Lan Shuqin looked at the ring on her finger "Yeah.. I like them; I stored them in my ring."

"Oh, seems like you have learned how to use it now."

She gave a grateful nod "Yeah, it is very helpful."

"Hmm, then should I bring flowers for you daily?"

Giggling, Lan Shuqin shook her head "No, Master Tian, I can't take care of all of the flowers..."

"So please refrain from doing that."

Zhao Tian had a thoughtful face and asked with a smile "Then, shall we go out sometimes?"

Lan Shuqin blinked her eyes "Uh.. with you, Master Tian?"

With a tilt of his head, he asked "Hm? You don't like the idea of being with me?"

Lan Shuqin shook her head "No, it's not that, Master Tian... I need to serve Lady Hanyue."

Hearing this, Zhao Tian's gaze squinted "You don't take any breaks? Then what are you doing with the salary you are receiving from the palace?"

With a soft sigh, Lan Shuqin spoke "I don't go out much often... and I do take breaks to cultivate."

"And I have some money saved up... for my marriage in the future."

Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow in surprise "Are you seeing someone, Shuqin?"

Hm? Lan Shuqin shook her head "No, no.. I barely have time outside of this palace. I don't have time for this romance."

"If I ever get married in the future... so I am saving money for that."

"I also use some money to buy pills and other things for my cultivation."

Sipping his tea, Zhao Tian murmured "I see..."

"Hmm..."

A comfortable silence enveloped them as they continued drinking their tea.

...

It was already night and Zhao Tian was cuddling with Li Jia in the bed.

Li Jia, dressed in a thin silk robe, rested against the plush pillows with her hair cascading over her shoulders.

Her hand absently moved through Zhao Tian's hair who was snuggling onto her, her fingers combing through the soft strands.

"As expected of you," she murmured, her tone laced with teasing. "You managed to get closer to the maid so easily, huh?"

Zhao Tian let out a soft chuckle, his breath warm against her skin. "What can I say? I'm good with people."

Li Jia raised an eyebrow, though she didn't stop stroking his hair. "Well, she's just a maid. With your charms, it must have been a walk in the park for you."

Zhao Tian pulled back slightly, just enough to glance at her, "She's more than just a maid, you know. She's a good woman. Beautiful, too."

He paused, a faint smile curling his lips. "Her antics are... quite cute."

The words hung in the air for a moment, and Li Jia's hand froze mid-motion.

Slowly, her narrowed eyes slid down to meet his gaze.

"Wait a minute." Her voice was calm but carried an unmistakable edge of suspicion. "Tian, don't tell me..."

Her eyes narrowed further "You've fallen for the maid, haven't you?"

Zhao Tian closed his eyes and said nothing, burying his face in her neck once more as if hoping to escape the weight of her piercing gaze.

"Oi, oi." Li Jia's hand moved swiftly, pinching his cheeks and pulling his face away from her neck.

Her strength was gentle but firm enough to make him wince slightly. "Bastard, tell me... do you love her?"

Zhao Tian let out a soft sigh as he relented. "As I said... she's beautiful. And, well..."

He hesitated, searching for the right words. "I maybe... like her."

Li Jia's lips twitched, her expression shifting between frustration and amusement. "You really can't keep your dick in your pants, huh? Always looking for new women. Every time I blink, there's a new one in your sights."

Zhao Tian laughed softly, the sound vibrating against her skin as he wrapped his arms more tightly around her. "What? You'd get a new sister out of it. Isn't that a good thing?"

Li Jia rolled her eyes dramatically, though a small smile tugged at her lips as she resumed patting his head, "Yeah, yeah... you idiot."

Silence settled between them for a moment, broken only by the faint rustling of the sheets and the distant chirping of crickets outside.

Li Jia tilted her head slightly, her gaze softening as she stared at the ceiling. "You know, sometimes I wonder if there's any end to your appetite for chaos."

"Chaos?" Zhao Tian muttered, feigning innocence like a child.

"Yes, chaos." She glanced down at him, her tone matter-of-fact.

"Every time I think you've finally settled, you find a way to complicate things. Like now... adding another woman into the mix."

Zhao Tian just smiled and looked up at her "Jia..."

Li Jia opened her mouth to reply, but her words caught in her throat as Zhao Tian leaned closer.

His lips brushed hers gently at first and then, before she could react, he deepened the kiss, his hand sliding to the back of her neck to pull her closer.

Li Jia gasped softly against his lips as his tongue sought hers, the kiss growing bolder and more passionate.

Her initial surprise melted away, and she responded in kind, her arms slipping around his neck as she pressed herself against him.

Zhao Tian's other hand slid down her back, his fingers tracing the curve of her spine through the thin fabric of her robe.

"Mmn.." Li Jia shivered under his touch, a soft moan escaping her as the intensity of the kiss left her breathless.

"Haah.."

When they finally broke apart, both were breathing heavily, their foreheads resting against each other as they caught their breath.

Li Jia's cheeks were flushed, her lips slightly swollen from the kiss.

"You're so infuriating," she whispered, though her voice was softer now, almost trembling.

"Yeah.. bear with me," Zhao Tian replied, his grin widening as he leaned down to kiss her jawline, trailing soft kisses down to her neck.

Li Jia let out a soft laugh, her hands threading through his hair as she tilted her head to give him better access. "I always will."

Chapter 650: Two twisted women [1]

"Hmmm..."

Under the pale moonlight, a woman perched gracefully atop the sloping roof of a grand building, with her legs crossed in a casual manner.

A faint smirk tugged at her lips as she raised a delicate crystal wine cup, letting the cold breeze brush against her skin.

Elvoria Di Gardia's crimson eyes crescented "Heh, who expected Velnorah's cherished Vryienne to be the Heaven sent child... Zhao Tian."

She tapped a finger against the edge of her cup, lips curling into a sly grin. "I can still smell it... the blood that clings to him. The very same blood I tasted from Velnorah on that day."

Her grin widened, revealing a hint of her sharp teeth "Your man... will be mine."

The thought of Velnorah's anguish, her heartbreak, her utter despair... It was a music that Elvoria longed to orchestrate once more.

Unable to contain the heat building within her, Elvoria flung aside the heavy cloak that draped her shoulders, letting it fall to the roof tiles.

Her flawless naked figure glistened in the moonlight, exposed to the cold breeze that caressed her skin.

"Hmnggh" A gasp escaped her lips as the wind grazed her, teasing her senses with its icy touch.

Her fingers slid downward, gliding over her collarbone and tracing the curve of her breasts.

She paused, her hand hovering just above her peak as if teasing herself.

Slowly, she let her palm press against the soft flesh, savoring the sensation.

"Umnggh~" A low, trembling sigh escaped her lips, twisting the nipple in her fingers.

She squeezed gently, her fingers curling around the supple curves of her breasts, the coldness of her touch contrasting with the heat that surged within her.

Her thumb brushed over her peak, the hardened bud straining against her teasing touch.

"Mmngh~" The sensation sent a jolt of pleasure coursing through her, her lips parting in a soft moan that the wind eagerly carried away.

"Hah..." Her voice was breathy, trembling with a mixture of pleasure and frustration.

Her crimson eyes flickered open briefly, glinting with amusement. "Do you feel this, Velnorah? The man you hold so dearly will soon tremble beneath my touch... just as you did."

The thought made her grin widen, a cruel satisfaction blooming in her chest as her fingers pinched and rolled her sensitive peak.

Her back arched slightly against the tiles, her body craving more...

She let her free hand wander, trailing down the curve of her waist, her skin igniting under her own touch.

Her fingers moved faster, teasing, tormenting herself as she envisioned the moment she would see the look of betrayal on Velnorah's face, the despair that would crush her when Elvoria took everything she held dear.

"Oh my... you are pleasuring yourself on top of a roof now? How sexually frustrated are you?"

Hearing a melodic voice, Elvoria Di Gardia turned her head to look at the woman who was standing on the rooftop behind her.

The woman standing behind her was bathed in moonlight, her dark hair cascading over her shoulders and her emerald-green eyes glinting with mischief as a smirk played on her lips.

Elvoria's grin widened, her sharp teeth catching the faint glow of the moon.

She sat up languidly, unbothered by her naked state, and tilted her head, letting her black hair fall to one side. "Care to join me, Sister Selena?"

The woman let out a chuckle, her smirk deepening as she stepped forward, her heeled boots clicking softly against the roof tiles. "You're bold, Elvoria,"

"Shut up..."

Selena chuckled, brushing her dark hair behind her ear as she crouched beside her. "You've always been the queen of temptation."

She reached out, her gloved fingers trailing down the smooth curve of Evoria's cleavage.

Looking at her sister's beautiful body, Selena licked her upper lips "You are beautiful as ever... Elvoria."

Elvoria reached out and grasped her hand as she opened her lips, biting the tip of the glove on her hand.

Pulling back her head, she bit off the glove from her hand and kissed her palm.

Her tongue flicked out, tracing a deliberate path along the lines of Selena's palm, leaving a faint sheen that caught the moonlight.

"Selena..."

Elvoria pressed her hand against her breast and Selena squeezed her fingers, making her let out a soft gasp.

"Mmngh~ Selena..."

Selena's eyes gleamed with a mischievous spark as she leaned closer, her breath warm against Elvoria's ear. "Oh my, is that what you call me?"

Elvoria's lips quivered, the slightest flush spreading across her pale cheeks and her voice softened "Big Sister..."

Selena smirked, her lips curling into a satisfied grin.

She reached out to brush a strand of hair from Elvoria's face, tucking it behind her ear. "What a good girl."

Before Elvoria could respond, Selena leaned down, capturing her lips in a kiss.

Elvoria melted into the kiss, her body instinctively pressing against Selena's, her hands reaching up to tangle in Selena's dark hair.

Selena's gloved hand slipped behind Elvoria, her grip firm and possessive as she pulled her closer.

Selena deepened the kiss, her tongue tracing the seam of Elvoria's lips before pushing inside.

"Mmnh~" Their tongues intertwined, tasting the rich taste of their shared saliva.

When they finally broke apart, their breaths mingled in the cool night air, their eyes locked in a silent exchange of desire.

Selena's smirk widened as her hand traveled lower, her fingertips tracing slow patterns along Elvoria's nipple "You're so eager tonight, aren't you?"

Elvoria leaned into her touch, her crimson eyes glinting with longing. "You're the one who came here, Selena. Don't act like you're not just as eager."

Selena chuckled, her lips brushing lightly against Elvoria's neck as she murmured, "Perhaps. But I always enjoy taking my time with you."

Elvoria reached up, her fingers deftly undoing the clasp of Selena's cloak.

The fabric slid away, pooling at Selena's feet and revealing her slender body.

The moonlight highlighted the sharp lines of Selena's collarbones and the soft curves of her body.

Selena tilted her head as she whispered, "Enjoying the view?"

Elvoria chuckled softly, her voice laced with heat. "Always."

She reached out, her fingers grazing Selena's cheek before trailing down to rest on her shoulder.

With a gentle tug, she brought Selena closer, their bodies brushing together as the night breeze wrapped around them.

"You always did look stunning under the stars," Elvoria whispered, her voice filled with genuine admiration.

Selena raised an eyebrow, her gaze softening for just a moment before her signature smirk returned.

"Oh come on, you are a beauty yourself, little sister," she said, leaning in to press another kiss to Elvoria's lips.

As they pulled back the kiss, Elvoria looked into her eyes "I love you... Big Sister."

With a hearty chuckle, Selena traced her hand down, reaching Elvoria's crotch as her fingers caressed the red tattoo above her crotch.

"Of course, I love you too.. you are my Vryienne."

(A/n: They are not in harem.. i wont add yuri in harem.)

...

Velnorah, who was sitting on the bench in her courtyard, felt an uneasy squeeze on her chest as she thought of Elvoria 'Those twisted, incestuous sisters...'

'I didn't even go for his marriage because I thought if Elvoria followed me there.. she would find out that Tian is my Vryienne through his blood.'

'I can only hope she never gets close to Tian, or else she would immediately recognize his blood...'

A soft sigh escaped her lips 'Since Sect Master was not in the Sect for two days.. it was the perfect opportunity for them to attack the Sect.'

'But I didn't get the order to carry out the attack.. Are the machines not ready yet?' Enjoy new chapters from NovelBin.Côm

flick As she was thinking, she felt a presence approaching her and she raised her head looking at the skies.

In the next instant, someone appeared in front of her making her gasp in surprise.

"Missed me, Velnorah?"

"Huh? Tian?"