

Chapter 141: Pulling Turnips?

"This is..."

Xu Xiaoshou broke through three layers of barriers and flew to the top of the Black Cliff.

He was stunned by the sight that greeted him there.

A young woman in a white dress had her back facing him, and her butt was sticking so far up in the air that she was hardly the picture of dignity and grace.

"Ah!" She was using everything that she had to pull something out of the ground.

"Are you trying to get a turnip out?" Xu Xiaoshou asked. "Do you need help? I'm really strong!"

"Who is it?" The young lady whirled around and fell onto her butt in shock. "Xu Xiaoshou?"

Everyone in the Spirit Palace knew who Xu Xiaoshou was. At first, no one in the Inner Yard had known much about him, but then Zhao Shu died, and by the next day everyone in the Inner Yard had come to know who he was.

"It's a sword?"

Xu Xiaoshou finally saw what she was trying to pull out of the ground. The turnip-shaped item was a sword that was stuck in the ground...

Hold on. It wasn't a sword. It was a scabbard!

The scabbard was black, plain-looking, and appeared to be ancient. It didn't seem special.

That was when Xu Xiaoshou remembered the white sword energy that he'd seen at Black Waterfalls. This scabbard was half-buried at the top of the cliff. Could those sword energies have come from this?

Besides...

The sword energies had ceased appearing after some time. Was that because this girl had been trying to pull the scabbard out of the ground?

"That's what it gets for slashing me 280000 times," he thought. "It got what it deserved."

Xu Xiaoshou's gaze landed on the young woman on the ground.

She had a pretty face and a slim build. Her cheeks were flushed, most likely because of all the effort she'd been exerting to try and pull the scabbard out of the ground. Her white dress was soaked through with perspiration and was so closely stuck to her skin it was almost see-through.

"May I ask the lady for her name?" Xu Xiaoshou asked politely.

"Luo Leilei!"

Xu Xiaoshou could very clearly sense the near-imperceptible murderous vibes emanating from the young woman as soon as she gave him her name.

Were all youngsters so hotheaded nowadays? Did they have to be so rude when someone asked them for their name? Something must be terribly wrong with them.

Xu Xiaoshou spoke first. "You want to kill me."

Luo Leilei was speechless.

For a second there, she nearly choked from panic.

The thought had crossed her mind, but how had he managed to glimpse that fleeting thought?

"Cursed, Passive Points +1."

When she didn't say anything, Xu Xiaoshou asked another question. "How old are you?"

"Cursed, Passive Points +1."

"Who the h*ll asks for a lady's age as soon as they come up to them? There must be something wrong with this guy!" she thought.

"How did you get here? Why are you here? And... put some clothes on!" Luo Leilei glanced at his muscles, which all look toned and defined.

Xu Xiaoshou froze before hurriedly pulling on some clothes. He'd forgotten that he was in only his underwear.

He ignored Luo Leilei's questions and solemnly mumbled to himself, "You look quite young. You probably haven't hit 30, have you? Why is a young woman like you so hot-tempered? That can't be good for your health."

Thirty? Hot-tempered?

Luo Leilei's jaw clenched.

"You're really asking for it."

"Ha..." Xu Xiaoshou laughed wryly as he buttoned his clothes. "Why are you still trying to put on an act? We both know your cover's blown."

He had suffered Lan Xinzi's nonchalant murderous vibes once. He wasn't going to let his guard down so easily again.

This young woman wanted to kill him even though they'd only just met. Wasn't the reason for her intentions clear as day?

Zhang Xinxiong must've sent her!

He'd thought the man had only sent Yuan Tou after him. He hadn't expected Zhang Xinxiong to have a contingency plan as well...

Xu Xiaoshou laughed internally. The man never seemed to know when to stop!

Luo Leilei had been dying to attack Xu Xiaoshou. She hadn't expected him to blow her cover so directly. She was stunned, and was starting to panic.

When did she blow her cover?

She'd been concealing her real identity so well!

Had the Spirit Palace sent him after her? Was that how he knew what was going on?

Impossible!

The Spirit Palace couldn't know her true identity. She hadn't slipped up or done anything to warrant their suspicion...

But Xu Xiaoshou had sounded really confident. Why?

Luo Leilei's eyes lit up. Was he here for the Black Scabbard too?

Was he one of them?

A test was necessary.

"Is that what you're here for too?" Luo Leilei pointed at the Black Scabbard.

"Suspected, Passive Points +1."

"Suspected, Passive Points +1."

"..."

Xu Xiaoshou turned his thoughts from the notifications popping up on the Information Bar. What was going on? Was the woman possessed by Feng Kong? She was causing a flurry of activity on his Information Bar.

He eyed the scabbard... he had to get his hands on that. How could he give it up? Just by looking at it you could tell how extraordinary it was.

But...

"Go ahead and have a go at pulling it out. Don't bother about me. I'll take over when you give up."

Xu Xiaoshou wasn't worried at all. From what he'd seen earlier, it was clear the young woman couldn't pull the scabbard out.

Noting that Xu Xiaoshou wasn't denying that he'd also come here for the scabbard, Luo Leilei came to a decision. Since they were both here for the scabbard, they could work together.

"Since we're here for the same thing, I'm not going to hide the truth from you. Honestly, I can't get this thing out."

Xu Xiaoshou froze momentarily. Why had she sounded so full of herself when she admitted she hadn't been able to get the scabbard out of the ground?

"But I'm sure that we'll get it out if we work together. We can discuss how to split the loot after that." Luo Leilei stuck her chin out.

"Work together?" Xu Xiaoshou was tickled.

He was raring to go. Why should he team up with someone else?

“There’s no need for that. I’ll give it a go when you give up. I know the rules. The person who comes first gets first shot,” Xu Xiaoshou said earnestly.

Luo Leilei scrunched up her nose, not expecting the young man to turn down her offer.

This was something that even she couldn’t get out of the ground. Did Xu Xiaoshou, who was only at the early-stage Origin Court Level, believe that he stood a chance?

Hold on a second. The Origin Court Level? ...the last she’d heard, he was only at Spiritual Cultivation Level Nine.

“I knew it,” she thought. “You can’t trust rumors.”

“Well, why don’t you have a go then?” she asked, smiling disdainfully. But, trying to appear magnanimous, she added, “Don’t worry. When you come begging to team up with me in a while, I’ll say yes.”

Something flickered in Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes. “Are you really giving up? Don’t you want to give it another go?” he asked.

“That’s right. I’m giving up.”

“And if I manage to pull the scabbard out...”

Luo Leilei was tickled. What a naïve young man.

“It’s yours if you pull it out!”

“Great! You’re a woman of principle!” Xu Xiaoshou shouted suddenly, giving Luo Leilei a fright.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

“Step aside. I’ll show you what I’m made of!” He rolled up his sleeves.

He had a Master Level Physique. What was the point of him hanging around if he couldn’t even pull a scabbard out of the ground? He might as well throw himself off Black Cliff!

The unburied length of the scabbard was exactly the span of two fists and just long enough for him to grab it with two hands.

Xu Xiaoshou gripped the scabbard with both hands and tugged hard.

Plop!

He fell onto his butt, his hands empty.

Luo Leilei burst into laughter. She’d been in his place just moments before.

It felt great seeing someone else meet the same fate!

“You can’t do it, can you?” she teased.

Xu Xiaoshou laughed sheepishly and wildly waved his arms, saying, “I miscalculated.”

The stupid scabbard wasn't any ordinary scabbard after all. No wonder it'd been stuck as some kind of treasure on top of Black Cliff. He shouldn't have underestimated it.

He grabbed the scabbard again, but this time he didn't attempt to yank it out. To prevent his fingers from slipping, he gradually increased his strength as he tried to pull it out of the ground.

Luo Leilei laughed at him when she realized what he was doing. "Don't bother. I've tried that a dozen times!"

Xu Xiaoshou didn't answer her. His face flushed red as he gathered his strength, his butt sticking out in the air.

"Out you go!"

Luo Leilei had wanted to fling a few more mocking words at Xu Xiaoshou, but then the ground under her feet started to shake. The cliff was rumbling, and the ground was cracking.

"Is he trying to get it out with sheer brute force?"

She was dumbstruck. That young man wasn't utilizing any bit of his spiritual source at all. He was relying on pure physical strength alone...

Was he still human? He was a monster in human skin!

Buzz!

Cracks started to appear on the invisible seal around the black scabbard while streaks of light started appearing on the scabbard.

Luo Leilei couldn't believe it. Was Xu Xiaoshou ripping the seal off the scabbard with sheer brute strength?

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

He wasn't done yet. He saw an opening and was going for it. His eyes widened, and the veins on his neck throbbed violently.

Boom!

The earth shattered with a loud explosion. The scabbard was yanked right out of the ground while Xu Xiaoshou was sent flying into the air from the force of the explosion.

After steadying himself to avoid taking a long fall down the cliff, he breathed a sigh of relief.

"Good game."

Chapter 142: Xu Xiaoshou Never Makes the First Move!

"Is this a joke?"

Luo Leilei felt terrible.

Through sheer brute force alone, this punk had managed to easily yank off the seal she'd been struggling so hard to breach without success.

She started to seriously doubt her own capabilities.

Suspected, Passive Points, +1.

Hovering in midair, Xu Xiaoshou scarcely had a chance to take a good look at the scabbard before it shook violently, tore itself from his fingers, and flew into the distance.

“It’s telepathic?”

The last telepathic object he’d come across was Su Qianqian’s Epitaph of City Snow.

Xu Xiaoshou’s curiosity was piqued. Judging from the size of that scabbard, it would perfectly sheathe Hiding Pain!

Well, the scabbard might actually be too good for Hiding Pain...

But that was alright. That was the price it had to pay for hitting him 280000 times!

Xu Xiaoshou didn’t care if the scabbard wanted to run.

He wasn’t going to let it get away so easily!

A Master-Stage Agility wasn’t something one could afford to underestimate. In the blink of an eye, Xu Xiaoshou appeared in front of the scabbard.

His sudden appearance seemed to shock the scabbard, because it froze momentarily, then turned tail and flew off in the opposite direction!

“So it does have a mind of its own.”

He dove toward the scabbard again and grabbed it. He wasn’t going to let something that had caught his eye escape him!

He caught a streak of purple electricity in his periphery, and the next moment, a pale, snowy hand landed on top of his own hand on top of the scabbard.

Luo Leilei?

The scabbard was struggling in their hands. Standing before him was Luo Leilei.

Xu Xiaoshou stared at her incredulously. “You...”

“What?”

Luo Leilei knew that she was going against her word and how bad this made her look, but this wasn’t the time nor place to worry about her reputation. All her years spent infiltrating would’ve been for nothing if she failed to get her hands on the scabbard!

“Let me teach you a lesson today... women are all liars!”

Xu Xiaoshou stared at her with wide eyes, his mouth gaping open. His gaze fell on her hand, which was still tightly clutching his own. His voice was full of shock when he spoke next: “...Are you trying to cop a feel?”

Luo Leilei felt as if she'd just been struck by lightning.

What?

She was going after the scabbard! She wasn't trying to cop a feel!

She looked down and saw her hand on top of Xu Xiaoshou's...

"... .."

"Cursed, Passive Points +1."

A blush spread across her cheeks, and she jerked back her hand as if she'd experienced an electric shock. "I didn't mean to..."

Swoosh.

How agile were Xu Xiaoshou's reflexes? Well, he was as agile as a Master Level cultivator!

As soon as Luo Leilei pulled away her hand, he pulled the scabbard out of her grasp within the blink of an eye.

And with a few steps, he carried the scabbard away and placed a significant distance between himself and Luo Leilei.

"You want to teach me a lesson?" He gave the young woman a once-over before scoffing derisively.

"Maybe when you've wised up a little!"

"You!" Luo Leilei could feel her guts churn painfully with anger.

Was he doing it on purpose?

He'd managed to put on such a flawless performance, feigning outrage of his modesty despite the tense situation. How had he managed to do that?

There was something seriously wrong with the man!

"Leave the scabbard and I'll spare your life." Luo Leilei's eyes darkened.

"Are you panicking?" Xu Xiaoshou seemed tickled, and he taunted, "I seem to remember someone saying that the scabbard would be mine if I managed to pull it out."

Luo Leilei's eyelids twitched violently. How could she have known that this fellow would be a freak of nature...

She had only her own youth and naivety to blame for her earlier declaration.

"Did I say that? I forgot!" she puffed her chest out and declared shamelessly.

"Hah! Women!"

With a blur, Xu Xiaoshou suddenly disappeared along with the black scabbard in his hand.

"Come get me!"

Luo Leilei was speechless.

What a scoundrel!

One could almost hear Lu Leilei's teeth grinding she was so livid. The manner in which the young punk had spoken to her was absolutely infuriating!

"You have no idea who you're up against!"

Her fingers curled into tight fists, and her clothes billowed and hissed in the wind.

The sound of loud crackling erupted in the air as purple electricity surrounded Luo Leilei, her eyes each lighting up with a single streak of purple lightning.

"Heavens!"

Xu Xiaoshou extended his spiritual senses as he darted away from the young woman. She looked terrifying. She was no ordinary cultivator. She seemed to possess the Innate Elemental Power of lightning.

His heart jumped at the thought.

That d*mn system. He would've had an equally enviable Innate Elemental Power too if he hadn't swallowed it.

Crackle!

He was pulled out of his thoughts by a sudden crackle of lightning. Enveloped in electricity, Luo Leilei appeared right before him.

"What the h*ll! Did you hack the system?"

With his current speed, Xu Xiaoshou would've left his former opponents in the dust.

How had the young woman caught up with him?

"You're one of the newly appointed Inner Yard Thirty-Three, aren't you?" Xu Xiaoshou blurted out in shock.

"That's right!" Luo Leilei said unabashedly. "If you know what's good for you, you'll hand that scabbard to me. Otherwise, don't blame me for not showing you mercy."

She paused momentarily. She was in the wrong for going against her word, after all, so she added, "I'll make it up to you. If there's anything you lack, I could get it for you as compensation."

She really shouldn't have spoken so soon. If not for feeling so badly for going against her word, she would have simply snatched the scabbard from Xu Xiaoshou.

She was too softhearted.

Xu Xiaoshou attempted to fly away, but Luo Leilei's face darkened, and she went after him and caught up with him again.

"Stop trying. You're too slow. You won't be able to escape me," she said kindly.

Xu Xiaoshou took a deep breath. He hadn't expected the gap between members of the newly appointed Inner Yard Thirty-Three to be so great.

"Hah..."

"I'll admit that you're the fastest cultivator amongst the young cultivators that I've met. But if you want the scabbard..."

Xu Xiaoshou's lips curled into a smile as he stowed the scabbard away in his ring. "...You can forget about it!"

Swoosh.

But he didn't get to be smug for very long. A dark light shot out of his chest and rose into the heavens.

"Hahaha!" Luo Leilei burst into laughter before hiding her smile behind her hand. All traces of mirth vanished from her face the next moment when the scabbard reappeared in her hand.

"Xu Xiaoshou, you still have much to learn. Don't you know that spiritual items can't be stored in a space ring?"

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

"What the h*ll!" he thought.

He'd miscalculated!

He finally realized why Su Qianqian was always lugging around that huge sword of hers.

How was he supposed to know that you couldn't put this stuff away in storage?

"Luo Leilei, if you know what's best for you, you'll return what's mine to me. I'm a gentleman. I don't like to hit women," he said seriously.

"Are you panicking now?" Luo Leilei finally had the taste of sweet revenge. She disappeared without a trace.

"Come get me!"

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

What a horrible woman!

She was the first person who'd dared to play him for a fool. She was more hateful than the scabbard that had hit him 280000 times!

"Get you?"

"You think too highly of yourself. I, Xu Xiaoshou... never makes the first move!"

He pinched two fingers together, and faint sword energy appeared on his fingertips. The ordinary power of thought gathered and darted across the heavens without any fanfare.

The next moment, akin to a display of the gods' fury, spiritual mist started to roil in the sky and on land. It was as if a dragon had just swept across the heavens, leaving howling winds and roiling clouds in its wake.

Luo Leilei felt her hair stand on ends. She felt as if she'd run right into the arms of death. She whirled around and was greeted by the sight of a sword energy that seemed to have the power to rip the very heavens apart. It was upon her!

Boom!

A glazed look appeared in her eyes momentarily as the sword energy hit the scabbard and sent the scabbard smacking her squarely in the chest.

Crack. Luo Leilei felt her ribs snap, and she spat out a mouthful of blood as she was flung into the distance.

Tears appeared in her palm as the scabbard shook violently and ripped itself out of her hand.

Swoosh.

Aboard his flying sword, Xu Xiaoshou appeared above Luo Leilei and easily caught the scabbard.

He placed the two fingers that had unleashed the terrifying sword energy a moment ago under his lips, then laughed once, softly. A wisp of spiritual mist seemed to emerge from his lips and rise into the sky.

His cool voice filled the heavens:

"One Sword, One Will!"

Chapter 143: A Lie That Led to a Mind-Blowing Revelation

"Xu... Xiao... Shou!"

Luo Leilei's face turned deathly pale, but she seemed to look much better after clutching her chest and swallowing an elixir.

She knew she'd gone against her word. Thus, she'd had the intention of having a proper discussion with Xu Xiaoshou. She wouldn't have minded trading something in return for the scabbard.

She had other valuable items on her she could've traded for it. In fact, she'd been willing to trade multiple items.

But Xu Xiaoshou had attacked her first before she could make the first move.

He hadn't held back at all, and had hit her hard. What was that he'd said about not hitting women?

"Men are all liars!"

Nevertheless, his attack had shocked her. She'd done her homework on the new cohort of Inner Yard Thirty-Three, and they were hardly her match.

She'd known she wasn't going to run into any worthy rivals during her short stay in the Tianxuan Gate.

But then she'd come across Xu Xiaoshou...

His physical strength and resilience were incredible, and his swordsmanship also seemed quite accomplished.

Compared to Brother Shuangxing...

Well, they were worlds apart.

“Xu Xiaoshou! You’re really asking for it, aren’t you?” She got mad once again, and her eyes burned with anger as she glared at him.

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Missed, Passive Points +1.

“Missed?” he thought, and he hurriedly stopped his flight. His two fingers looked ready to destroy his enemy.

“Why has she started missing me?”

He wasn’t frightened of being cursed. What he was terrified of was being remembered and missed, especially when it was a woman doing the missing.

Nothing good ever happened when that particular notification popped up.

If he was remembering correctly, the last time it appeared it’d come from the masked intruder!

Xu Xiaoshou shivered uncontrollably.

“Hold on a minute. I’m not asking for anything.”

He raised his hands in a placating manner. “You tried to snatch my scabbard from me, so I hit you once. We’re even. We can go our separate ways now.

“...You go do whatever you’re supposed to do while I go on my merry way.”

Luo Leilei was so shocked she almost threw up another mouthful of blood.

Did he just call his attack and her attempt at taking the scabbard from him a fair exchange?

His attack had landed, so shouldn’t he let her have the scabbard, then? This man had absolutely no shame.

She had to control her temper.

There was something not quite right with him. This was a man who, like her, had been chosen to go on an undercover mission. He wasn’t someone to easily trifle with.

He must be trying to provoke her. She had to keep herself from blowing up!

Xu Xiaoshou stared at Luo Leilei as she panted violently, not saying a word, and couldn’t help but be taken aback.

Was she that weak? She’d taken an elixir, hadn’t she? So why was it taking so long for her to recover?

“Are you dying? I have some medicinal juice I just brewed. Would you like to try it?” He paused, then smacked his lips together. “It should taste delicious.”

“1...” Luo Leilei’s eyes widened with incredulity. She was unable to believe her ears.

Did he just ask her if she was dying? No decent man would’ve asked that! Had he forgotten who’d hit her in the first place?

Hnn!

She could no longer keep it in and finally spit up blood.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Resented, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou started to panic. He had no intention of killing her. Even though Zhang Xinxiong had sent her after him, she seemed different from the others...

She seemed less aggressive.

She was like a dog whose bark was worse than its bite. She might talk about killing him, but she never seemed to do it.

Xu Xiaoshou felt bad for trying to kill her.

He pulled out a bottle of medicine. “Try it? It tastes really sweet.”

As a result of Cooking Expert, Amber Juice had turned out sweet without being excessively so.

Xu Xiaoshou had a few bottles of it on him. When he had nothing else better to do, he would treat it like soda and drink it.

This was a chance to test its efficacy on someone else and maybe even promote the elixir.

Luo Leilei’s eyes darkened with anger as she swiped the blood from her lips.

“Hah...”

She told herself not to blow up.

This was the first person in years who’d managed to infuriate her to the point of puking blood.

She’d always been the one to infuriate people! Not the other way around!

Luo Leilei decided to be honest with Xu Xiaoshou and spill the truth. “Xu Xiaoshou, stop that act of yours. We both want the same thing. Honestly, we really need that scabbard. Why don’t you sell it to me?”

“We?” Xu Xiaoshou thought, raising an eyebrow. His spiritual senses flooded the area, but he didn’t sense anyone in the vicinity.

Was she trying to mislead him?

Did she think he had only his spiritual senses at his disposal?

He extended Sense but failed to sense another presence in the area.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

That was interesting.

He had to admit it. He was stumped.

Had the enemy somehow hidden his presence?

Sense could detect anything in all directions. Yet, it didn't detect anyone else in the vicinity... Was Luo Leilei trying to trick him?

It was unlikely that there was someone hiding out there. He would've believed this were the case if they weren't in Tixanxuan Gate. But only ten of them had passed through the gate.

None of the ten could have slipped past Sense.

The other possibility was that Luo Leilei was trying to trick him.

Well, two could play this game.

Xu Xiaoshou raised his chin slightly and feigned a look of scorn.

"Well, let's show our cards, then.

"We need this scabbard very much too. We're already having trouble deciding how to split the scabbard amongst the group."

So she had one other person hiding out there, didn't she? Well, he had a whole group of invisible lurkers out there!

Two could play this game.

This wasn't his first rodeo. He pretended that he had an entire army and had successfully gotten two assassins killed with this deception of his. Luo Leilei had met her match.

The young woman froze. She'd thought that Xu Xiaoshou's organization was a small and insignificant one, but it appeared that they had something ambitious planned.

"Are you sure? You know of the Heaven's Vision, don't you? As soon as this scabbard leaves the barrier, the people outside will sense it immediately.

"When that happens, the next time the Tianxuan Gate opens again... you'll be greeted with the Spirit Palace's upper management!" Luo Leilei laughed.

What was going on?

Xu Xiaoshou was utterly bewildered. What was Luo Leilei going on about? He had a feeling that they weren't talking about the same thing at all.

There must be a few screws loose in her head...

He was still in the middle of ridiculing the young woman internally when Luo Leilei continued in a mocking tone, "It'd be a pity if you were to lose both the scabbard and your life when you leave the Tianxuan Gate despite the great lengths you've gone to steal it. It'd be such a loss."

Xu Xiaoshou's heart skipped a beat.

Was this theft?

He felt a sudden prickling numbness shoot up his spine... could it be that the both of them had never been on the same wavelength?

Had she been trying to steal the scabbard all along?

Oh my god!

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbstruck. He was reeling with shock.

He took a deep breath and swallowed his heart back into his chest. Then, he spoke as clearly as he could, enunciating precisely so that there would be no misunderstanding, "Do you... know who Zhang Xinxiong is?"

"Zhang Xinxiong?" Luo Leilei barked out a laugh. This young man was definitely an eccentric fellow. They'd been having a serious conversation, and here he was, interrupting it with a sudden change of subject.

"Of course. He's been in the Inner Yard for a while. Everyone knows who he is. Why do you ask?"

"Of course? What the h*ll!" Xu Xiaoshou cursed inwardly. It seemed that... Zhang Xinxiong hadn't sent Luo Leilei after him.

He realized that the situation had gotten out of control. In fact, he might end up in a terrifying predicament, one where his life might be put at risk.

At that moment, Xu Xiaoshou bravely struggled to get the gears in his mind to spin rapidly.

He was a decisive man in moments of crisis.

Everything that Luo Leilei had said and done since they'd met flashed through his mind.

Xu Xiaoshou got rid of the assumptions that he'd had of Luo Leilei and placed everything in the correct context of her attempted theft of the scabbard. It was clear that the young woman had planned everything. She had entered the Tianxuan Gate to steal the scabbard!

Xu Xiaoshou's heart grew cold...

He couldn't believe his luck. How could he have bumped into something so unlucky during a simple trip to the Tianxuan Gate?

Was the scabbard extremely sought after?

He revealed no hint of what was going on in his mind as thoughts flashed through his mind at lightning speed. Then, he said casually, "I've made plans to deal with the aftermath when I leave Tianxuan Gate. I'm not afraid at all..."

“How about you? Aren’t you afraid? I’m curious. Who are you?”

Luo Leilei rolled her eyes. The man truly knew no shame.

Would anyone answer such a question?

“How can you ask me that question when you haven’t made a proper introduction.” Luo Leilei curved her lips into a smile and tilted her head. “Where are you from?”

He’d decided to trick her, he naturally wasn’t going to hold back.

“I was worried that the name would terrify you...” He folded his hands behind his back, paused deliberately for a moment, then lifted his chin slightly. “I’m from the Holy Vassal!”

The Holy Vassal... was the organization that the masked man belonged to. It was a terrifying organization whose members could take on the entire Tiansang Spirit Palace alone!

Xu Xiaoshou activated Sense so he could observe the young woman’s reaction to his words in detail, but the expected shock and horror didn’t appear. Instead, he was greeted with a stunned look.

“The Holy Vassal?” Luo Leilei looked unconvinced. “Are you a part of the Holy Vassal? Why don’t I know you?”

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbstruck.

Clang.

Hiding Pain dipped suddenly, and Xu Xiaoshou took an immediate plunge towards the ground.

Chapter 144: Something Only Grown-ups Can Play

Things had... gotten out of hand!

The Holy Vassal?

Xu Xiaoshou hadn’t expected his casual deception to reveal such a shocking truth! He hadn’t expected the young woman to be a part of the Holy Vassal.

He couldn’t be blamed for being distracted. This revelation would’ve blown anyone’s mind.

He’d just said he was a part of the Holy Vassal a moment ago, and then his cover had been blown because the person standing before him was actually a part of the Holy Vassal...

Who alive could’ve withstood that kind of mind-blowing shock?

Luo Leilei’s heart skipped a beat when she saw Xu Xiaoshou plunge toward the ground. She wasn’t an idiot. She instantly realized what was going on.

The Holy Vassal had few members. Both the young and old in the Holy Vassal were powerful cultivators with incredible means, and all were generally familiar with one another.

Xu Xiaoshou, on the other hand... was someone that Luo Leilei had never seen before, and his reaction to her outburst clearly pointed to something being amiss.

“You tricked me!” Her lovely eyes shone with incredulity.

Xu Xiaoshou tried to ease the tension and said with measured calm, “That’s not true. You shouldn’t accuse me of something I didn’t do...”

“You’ve got a masked man in the Holy Vassal. He thinks highly of me. I’m not lying.

“Erm...” Xu Xiaoshou found himself floundering. The shock had rendered him speechless. “Well, we’ve all got a long way ahead of us. Till we meet again!”

After a short pause, he raised the scabbard and clasped his hands. “Farewell!”

Then, he turned tail and ran.

Luo Leilei shook violently. She didn’t bother to say anything else. With a sudden loud thunder, a pair of flashy Purple Lightning Wings sprouted from her back. She fluttered her wings and, within the blink of an eye, reappeared right before Xu Xiaoshou and stood in his way again.

Xu Xiaoshou stared at the beautiful lightning wings on the young woman’s back as if he were staring at an angel that had descended upon the earth. His eyes flashed with envy, and his tone was hostile when he spoke.

“Get out of my way! I won’t get into a fight with you on account of your being part of the Holy Vassal. Don’t force me to fight you.”

Luo Leilei’s fingers curled into tight fists. Lightning flashed and thunder boomed deafeningly around her petite form, her dark hair taking on a tinge of purple. She was ready to battle.

“You don’t want to get into a fight with me. Well, I have plenty of reasons to get into a fight with you.”

She’d been tricked into revealing her true identity. It didn’t feel good to be played for a fool. Luo Leilei wasn’t interested in talking anymore. Without any hesitation, she sent her fist flying at him.

Purple electricity sped across the heavens at a speed as fast as that of lightning... No, it was racing at the speed of lightning!

Boom.

The sound of her fist hitting Xu Xiaoshou’s chest resounded in the air.

Xu Xiaoshou hardly had a chance to react before he was struck by the fist and assailed by waves of numbing pleasure... It felt so good that he nearly moaned out loud.

He staggered backward a few steps from the force of the blow. Luo Leilei, on the other hand, was sent flying into the distance from the impact.

“Are you trying to tickle me...” But his smile froze before it could fully unfurl on his lips as he saw a black bolt of lightning as wide as a bucket descend from the heavens and then pierce right through him.

“It tickles... hahaha... oh my god, it tickles!”

Xu Xiaoshou stiffened. His body was scorched black while his hair was standing on end.

His eyes rolled to the back of his head. It felt as if his soul might've been charred from that lightning strike.

Luo Leilei's eyes were filled with disbelief. She couldn't believe that Xu Xiaoshou had emerged unscathed from her punch.

She had summoned Thor's Form. Every punch that she unleashed would be followed by a bolt of lightning. The lightning bolt was what gave the attack its destructive punch.

Perhaps mere punches and kicks wouldn't work on this guy... Perhaps she needed to resort to spiritual techniques instead.

But didn't he have an Innate Level Physique? That punch of hers should've gone right through his chest!

Realization struck Luo Leilei then. "You don't have an Innate Level Physique, do you?"

Xu Xiaoshou had finally recovered from the electrifying and burning numbness of the lightning bolt. The attack hadn't caused him much damage, but the paralysis that it had inflicted on him had been something.

He looked at the young woman, also known as Thor incarnate, and nodded solemnly. "That's right. I have Innate Level Physique."

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

"Heavens... you've attained a Master Physique, haven't you?" Luo Leilei murmured to herself in disbelief, not seeming to have heard what Xu Xiaoshou said.

She had only come across two cultivators with the Master Physique in her lifetime. The first was her father, and the second, her elder brother.

But they were reclusive hermits who were living the dream of a secluded life.

She hadn't come across anyone her age who possessed a Master Physique. In fact, even cultivators with Innate Level Physique were few and far between.

Yet standing before her now was an Outer Yard disciple who possessed the same ability as her elder brother and father.

"Xu Xiaoshou, come with me!

"Your talents will be wasted if you remain at the Tiansang Spirit Palace. You deserve a bigger stage to showcase your gifts!"

Luo Leilei's eyes shone with approval and respect. Her desire to develop and put talent to good use had been ignited.

This fellow might have tricked her, but the fact remained that he was a smart and talented man. She was confident that he would gain someone's favor and regard if she recommended him to the powers that be.

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Admired, Passive Points +1.

Invited, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou froze momentarily. An invitation?

"I refuse."

Only an idiot would accept this offer and seek out the masked intruder. She must be joking!

There was an earnest look in Luo Leilei's eyes. "Why?"

Xu Xiaoshou waved his arm. How he wished he was wearing an impressive cape now. Regardless, he put on a solemn expression and said, "I'm doing it in the name of justice!"

Luo Leilei stared at the stupid look on his face and couldn't help but smack her forehead with her palm.

This guy... might just be as idiotic as her brother!

She started to regret extending the invitation...

No!

This was a talent. The Holy Vassal must have him!

"What do you know about this world? What you think is just and right might not be true justice!" Luo Leilei said seriously as she folded her hands behind her back, and her eyes flashed dangerously with purple lightning.

Xu Xiaoshou was momentarily distracted by how pretty the young woman looked then.

"Just look at those enormous wings of purple lightning," he thought. "I want those too!"

"D*mn this system!"

Luo Leilei wanted to say something more, but the odd, burning look she caught in Xu Xiaoshou's eyes made her swallow the words on the tip of her tongue.

"What are you looking at?"

"Nothing."

Xu Xiaoshou yanked his thoughts back to the present, then stared unblinkingly at her. "Are you trying to convert me? It's not going to work!"

Luo Leilei fell silent.

Xu Xiaoshou was simply too infuriating!

Luo Leilei sighed. "I'm serious. If you want to pursue true justice, come with me. I'll show you true darkness and true light."

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head profusely. "I'm not interested. I didn't mean what I said."

"..."

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

“Well, you’ve got no choice in the matter. You’re going to come with me!” she said angrily.

“Is that so?” Xu Xiaoshou’s lips curled upward. “Are you going to kidnap me? Do you really think you’re up for the task?”

“We won’t know until we try, now will we?” At that moment, a thought flashed through Luo Leilei’s mind, and a sly look appeared in her eyes. “Let’s make a bet.”

“I don’t partake in prostitution, drugs, or gambling,” Xu Xiaoshou coolly shot back.

Luo Leilei’s pupils contracted, and you could almost hear her collarbones creak.

Ah!

She was going to blow up this very instant!

Purple electricity crackled violently around her as she fumed.

She told herself she was going to control her temper and pretend that she didn’t hear what he’d just said.

“If I win, you have to come with me. If I lose, you can do anything with me!” Luo Leilei said.

“Anything I want?” Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes lit up, and his gaze slid down her body before flying up to meet her eyes again. “Are you sure?”

His stare was making Luo Leilei’s hair stand. She caved and replied weakly. “Well... not that.”

“That? What?”

“... ..”

“Xu Xiaoshou, don’t go too far!”

“Haha!” Xu Xiaoshou rolled his eyes and turned away. “Little young, why don’t you run along and get back home? Bets... are something that only grown-ups make.”

“D*mn him!” she thought.

Luo Leilei’s eyelids twitched violently, and she felt a sudden clarity take over her mind.

“Fine. It’s a deal!”

Chapter 145: Incredible Close-Combat Skills

The heavy snow never stopped falling in Tianxuan Gate.

Hovering in midair above the Black Cliff was Luo Leilei. With a pair of purple wings on her back and electricity buzzing around her, the young woman looked like a god that had descended upon the earth.

Before her was an ordinary young man with nothing but a sword in his hand.

Xu Xiaoshou smacked Hiding Pain, then turned and smiled. “You sure about this?”

“Yes!” Luo Leilei snapped back with stubborn determination in her sweet voice.

Xu Xiaoshou guessed he couldn’t stop youngsters from their reckless impulsiveness... He shook his head and said mildly, “Your parents will mourn your decision.”

Luo Leilei fell silent, and her eyes flashed dangerously.

“How do you want to do this?” Xu Xiaoshou appeared unfazed.

He’d just advanced to the next level and was still uncertain about what he was capable of. It wouldn’t be a bad idea to pit himself against a worthy opponent.

Yuan Tou, the other newly appointed member of the Inner Yard Thirty-Three, wouldn’t have quite made the cut.

But this young woman was different. She was part of the Holy Vassal... How impressive was that?

Xu Xiaoshou generously laid out the options. “Close combat, a sword fight or a fight using purely spiritual techniques Pick your poison.”

These were the three types of battles he knew right now. His impression of prodigies was that they excelled equally in physical fighting and the magical.

He was great with swords, spiritual techniques, as well as a simple old-fashioned fistfight. He was better than the average prodigy!

“I’m going to thrash you!” Luo Leilei scoffed coldly. Her four fingers touched and formed a triangle, and through that triangle, one could see Xu Xiaoshou right smack in the center of it.

She had no idea how physically powerful Xu Xiaoshou was. Naturally, she wouldn’t try to fight him head-on. She wasn’t a swordswoman. So, the only option left was long-range combat.

Xu Xiaoshou immediately sensed danger when he saw that hand seal, and he looked up to see dark storm clouds gathering above him with wildly dancing silver serpentine streaks.

“Are you trying to force an ascension on me?”

Xu Xiaoshou wasn’t going to stand there like an idiot and wait for lightning to strike. He immediately shot up and burst through the gathering storm clouds.

A wave of burning, prickling numbness assailed him. But the sensation was mild and tolerable.

“Haha, I wonder if your lightning bolts travel upwards too!”

Luo Leilei was stunned by Xu Xiaoshou’s unexpected move, and it took her a moment to recover from her shock.

“Hah, you guessed it!”

Buzz...

A streak of purple lightning darted across the sky like a serpent and charged at Xu Xiaoshou.

He was prepared this time. He knew that he wasn't going to be fast enough to evade the lightning bolt... but he also knew his physics very well!

He flung Hiding Pain away, then darted aside. The move instantly drew the lightning bolt towards his sword.

Boom!

The nearby explosion nearly blew out his eardrums, and he could only pray that Hiding Pain was alright. He gazed at the thick clouds beneath him, then tightened his fist.

"Infernal Heavens!"

The spiritual source inside him diminished suddenly while the air around him rapidly started to heat up.

It was as if the ancient spiritual energies that had been floating leisurely between heaven and earth had just been given a shot of adrenaline. They transformed into wisps of mist and rose into the air.

The clouds hovering near the ground vaporized instantly with the tightening of Xu Xiaoshou's fist.

Without the layers of clouds between them, Xu Xiaoshou could see the amazement in Luo Leilei's eyes when their gazes met.

Pain flashed across her eyes the next second.

Crackle! Pop!

"Infernal Heavens... In a Blink of an Eye!" Xu Xiaoshou was immensely tickled.

The invisible flames of Infernal Heavens were burning Luo Leilei!

His spiritual techniques were extremely aggressive techniques, and nearly all of them had immediately taken effect!

"What kind of sorcery is this?"

Luo Leilei was having a taste of what Shao Yi had suffered that night. She'd reflexively used her spiritual source as a shield, not expecting the flames to burn through her spiritual source as well!

Xu Xiaoshou was no longer the Xu Xiaoshou of that fateful night.

He had advanced to the Origin Court Level. Even though he was still at the early stage, the quality and quantity of his spiritual source were considerably more impressive now.

As someone who had acquired his spiritual source at the Acquired Stage, the subsequent transformation that his energy reserve had undergone at the Innate Stage was a growth that bordered on freakish.

He didn't need to level up High Spirits at all. His spiritual source remained unchanged despite the spiritual energy he was constantly expending. Hence, he wasn't worried about it at all.

Xu Xiaoshou caught Luo Leilei in the midst of building a shield. With a curl of his finger, the flames of the Infernal Heavens burning on Luo Leilei shrank in size and intensified at the same time.

With his Cooking Expert at the Innate Level, he could now control his flames remotely.

Luo Leilei's body was ravaged by pain. She didn't have an Innate Level Physique, so if it wasn't for Thor's Form shielding her from most of the flames and mitigating the damage, she would have already been burned to a crisp.

"Why are his spiritual techniques so powerful too?"

Luo Leilei knew few defensive spiritual techniques, so she decided that the best defense was offense.

She curled her fingers into claws, stabbed the air, and ripped a tear in the very heavens.

"Forbidden Lightning Purgatory!"

A Master Stage spiritual technique!

As far as the eye could see, the very space around Xu Xiaoshou for hundreds of yards collapsed, and black lightning formed a web that crossed and converged with one another like the roots of an ancient tree that had just gained sentience.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Endless lightning bolts rained down on Xu Xiaoshou as the heavens became like a deadly sea of lightning where only corpses could float.

Luo Leilei panted heavily. The attack had taken a lot out of her. Without any warning, her pupils contracted and her scalp prickled with numbness.

A bathtub... had appeared in the middle of the Forbidden Lightning Purgatory!

What was that?

Where had Xu Xiaoshou gone?

She extended her spiritual senses, then whipped her head up to the sight of a sphere of energy with an unsteady glow heading toward her.

"Lesser Fireball!"

The scorching heat of the refined fireball was a terrifying sight to behold, and Luo Leilei instinctively dodged it.

Boom!

A loud explosion sent waves of heat rippling across the sky, and the falling snow vanished as the heat turned it into a mist, a mushroom cloud appearing in the heavens.

The force of the explosion sent Luo Leilei flying into the distance.

She was horrified when she realized that another Refined Fire Seed was waiting for her in the distance.

Farther away was Xu Xiaoshou with an infuriating smile on his face and three more Refined Fire Seeds in his hand.

"Don't worry," he said. "Let's take it slow."

“You may have dodged the last one, but there’s another one waiting for you. After you dodge that one, you’ll still have another three to deal with!”

Luo Leilei was quickly approaching the Refined Fire Seed. When she heard these words, she immediately reacted to dodge the impending danger.

“Purple Flash!”

Xu Xiaoshou stared as Luo Leilei shifted and transformed into a bolt of golden lightning that dodged the Fire Seed in the nick of time.

“Yellow Flash?” Xu Xiaoshou was startled.

How he envied these cultivators who had such a wide arsenal of cool and flashy spiritual techniques.

Unfortunately, with his level of talent, he was fated to be stuck with boring spiritual techniques that he’d created himself and had to rely on their actual destructive force to intimidate his enemies.

While Xu Xiaoshou’s mind was wandering, Luo Leilei chose to pull closer to Xu Xiaoshou instead of rapidly retreating, and appeared right in front of him.

Buzz. Zap. Buzz.

What sounded like the birdsong of a hundred starlings rang in Xu Xiaoshou’s ear, and he caught sight of the electricity coiled around Luo Leilei’s hand...

“Chidori?”

“Lightning Strike!” Luo Leilei thrust her clawed hand forward in what seemed like an attempt to skewer Xu Xiaoshou.

Xu Xiaoshou might have a Master Physique, but so what? Her Master Stage spiritual technique was possibly the most powerful attack that a single cultivator could unleash on her enemy!

Gasp!

It was then, at that most critical moment, that Xu Xiaoshou suddenly took a sharp breath in her face.

This was the amazing close-combat skill that Xu Xiaoshou had stumbled upon in an epiphany at the Spirit Library Division and had used to consume Elder Sang’s Infernal Fire Seed.

Contrary to the stench that he’d had to endure then, the scent that Xu Xiaoshou caught was the refreshing perfumed fragrance of a young woman.

Buzz.

The sudden churning of her spiritual source inside Luo Leilei left her bewildered. She had no idea what was the cause of this.

The electricity snaking around her hand weakened instantly and only managed to burn Xu Xiaoshou’s clothes... Her clawed hand didn’t manage to pierce his skin at all and instead became a gentle caress.

Xu Xiaoshou stared stupidly at the snowy hand that Luo Leilei had placed on his chest.

“Are you copping a feel again?”

“...”

Luo Leilei was livid. But before she could blow up, Xu Xiaoshou grabbed her pale wrist and yanked it up, leaving her chest vulnerable to attack.

His fingers turned into blades, and Xu Xiaoshou showed no mercy for his female opponent as he pierced her chest with his fingers!

“Hnn!”

Luo Leilei widened her eyes and spat out a mouthful of blood that landed on Xu Xiaoshou’s face.

Xu Xiaoshou exhaled softly, a distant look in his eyes.

This was his first battle since reaching the Innate Stage. He’d expected Luo Leilei, who was an Upper Spiritual Level Holy Vassal, to be stronger than him. But, honestly... she was extremely weak!

“Remember, no matter how powerful your spiritual techniques are, you shouldn’t try to engage in a close-combat battle with me. That’s a hopeless fight.”

He wiped the blood off his face, and, as he stared as Luo Leilei’s eyes gradually glazed over, said in a measured voice, “You lost.”

Chapter 146: My World

“You lost.”

As if these three simple words were the last straw to break the camel’s back, the brightness in Luo Leilei’s eyes disappeared.

Her Thunder God’s Body faded away, and her purple lightning wings broke.

She was angered by Xu Xiaoshou’s words and actions. She’d finally been defeated by his odd move.

“Why did my own spiritual energy burst just from this guy taking a breath?” she thought. “Shouldn’t I be in control of my own spiritual energy?”

Luo Leilei’s eyes gradually lost focus, and Xu Xiaoshou became a blur, but it seemed to her that he looked a little panicked.

“Heh, this guy...” she mused. “He said he doesn’t hit women, but every blow he landed was more severe than the last one.”

Xu Xiaoshou was panicked.

He was really flustered.

After saying a few words and savoring his victory, he’d realized that the girl in front of him didn’t have an Innate Level physique and that she probably didn’t have Eternal Vitality either.

So that hole he’d punched through her chest could kill her!

Yet, Luo Leilei couldn't die!

If she'd been sent by Zhang Xinxiong, then her dying wouldn't have mattered, but she was a member of the Holy Vassal!

"If she dies, what should I do when the masked man comes to duel with me?" he thought.

Xu Xiaoshou took out a jar of golden liquid to drink, intending to let her drink all of it, but thought better of it.

"Well, she probably doesn't have Breathing Technique, so she could die from taking it! A drop of this red gold liquid is much stronger than the Red Gold Pill," he thought.

Xu Xiaoshou used his finger to pick out a small piece and carefully jammed it between Luo Leilei's pale lips. Though this girl had fought violently, Xu Xiaoshou found her small mouth rather soft and warm.

Noticing that the medicine was kicking in, he pulled his right hand out from her chest.

The red gold liquid was indeed the best of Xu Xiaoshou's invention. Its efficacy was excellent when it was still within its shelflife.

Soon after, the wound on Luo Leilei's chest healed, and her chest returned to normal without a trace of a scar.

Xu Xiaoshou forcefully pulled his gaze away from her chest and focused on the girl's face.

"Pah, pah!"

He hit her cheek twice. "Wake up!"

"Hmm?" he thought. "It's quite soft."

He couldn't help but pinch it, and the pain awoke Luo Leilei.

She saw Xu Xiaoshou's face and said in surprise, "Xu Xiaoshou! Are you dead too?"

Xu Xiaoshou: "..."

Luo Leilei finally remembered what had happened and became angry. However, she was so weak that she couldn't stop his hands from pinching her.

"What are you doing?!"

Xu Xiaoshou was calm and collected. "To save you, and wake you up as well."

"I'm already awake!"

"Oh." Xu Xiaoshou's hands didn't stop moving. "According to the rule of the wager, your whole person has lost to me even though you're awake now. So it's not outrageous to pinch you."

Luo Leilei's face was red. Whether this was from Xu Xiaoshou's pinching or because she was angry was unclear.

"Xu Xiao... um!"

Xu Xiaoshou jammed the honey on his finger into the girl's mouth, muffling her words.

The sweet and sticky fluid melted in Luo Leilei's mouth, and she asked crossly, "Xu Xiaoshou, what did you feed me?"

"Poison." Xu Xiaoshou dropped her on the Black Fallen Cliff, got up, and said, "In order to prevent you from going back on your word, I have to feed you this."

He pointed to a jar of honey-like medicine on the ground. "This stuff is yours now. Don't finish it too fast, because by the time it's finished, you'll be close to death."

An uncertain, gloomy look appeared on Luo Leilei's face.

"I've been an outstanding person all my life. I never expected that I'd fall into the hands of such an evil man," she thought, her eyes red.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou had no intention to spend time with her, but he couldn't kill her either. On the other hand, he would face a great deal of trouble if he let her live.

He remembered what the girl had said earlier: "Even if you get the scabbard, you won't be able to transport it out of here."

As such, she must have a way to transport it out since she'd said this much while knowing the strength of the Tiansang Spirit Palace.

Then, when the Tianxuan Gate opened again, it would be another fight to the death.

What a headache!

Xu Xiaoshou covered his head with his hands, thinking that he'd better leave first and stay far away from here. Then that masked man probably wouldn't fix his attention on him again.

"I'm leaving, and don't follow me again." Xu Xiaoshou looked back at her and said, "It's impossible to give you the scabbard. You've lost, so it's not that unreasonable for me to take it."

"This girl is very fast, but I defeated her in this fight, so it would be dishonorable for her to continue following me," he thought. "As such, I can act alone again."

Luo Leilei propped herself up on the ground with her hands, and, to her surprise, found that she'd regained some of her energy and felt that she could possibly fight again.

But when she thought of Xu Xiaoshou's strength...

"Forget it," she thought. "This guy is a monster with a Master Level Physique, swordsmanship, and magic techniques. I guess only Brother Shuang Xing will be able to defeat him."

Her eyes drifted to the side. "You can leave, but you must give me the antidote."

Xu Xiaoshou was amused at how she'd actually believed him.

"There is no antidote."

Luo Leilei glared at him angrily. "You..."

"I only developed the poison, and have no intention of giving the enemy the antidote. But," Xu Xiaoshou rolled his eyes sideways and suddenly teased, "there is a way to save you!"

"What way?"

"Fight poison with poison!"

Luo Leilei froze. "What kind of poison do I need to fight it with?"

"Haha." Xu Xiaoshou flew up into the blue sky with his hands behind his back, his clothes fluttering in the wind. "Missing someone is a kind of intestinal poison. Whenever you think of me, the medicine will cure the illness."

Luo Leilei was speechless. "Xu Xiaoshou, you're sick!"

It was then that she realized she'd been tricked again. This guy probably hadn't dared to poison her.

"Oh, right." Xu Xiaoshou suddenly turned his head around mid-flight and pointed his finger at the girl's chest. "I forgot to mention this to you; put on clothes," he said slowly.

"Also," he continued, unable to help but add this remark, "now that you're a grown-up, you need to learn to buy some new clothes for yourself. You can't always wear clothes of such a small size; it's suffocating."

Startled, Luo Leilei lowered her head and saw that the clothes on her chest hadn't returned to normal although the wound passing through her chest had.

A slight blush spread across her cheeks, and she almost ground her teeth to pieces.

"Xu... Xiao.. Shou!"

Missed, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou was startled to see her try to fly up again.

"Stop," he said. "You don't need to chase me anymore. Even if you catch me, you can't beat me."

Luo Leilei was immediately at a loss for words, and she really wanted to cut his tongue off.

She was so angry!

But there was nothing she could do.

She pulled the clothes over her chest, and her tone softened as she said seriously, "Xu Xiaoshou, are you really not going to go with me?"

"As long as you want, this girl will stay with you and take you away once we're out of the Tianxuan Gate. I heard that you were refused entry by the Spirit Palace."

"No way!" Xu Xiaoshou interrupted her. "I didn't do anything to you, so you can't ask me to be responsible for you. I was kind enough to have reminded you."

Luo Leilei: "..."

"Don't joke around. I'm serious," she said gravely.

Xu Xiaoshou stopped grinning, which hardly ever happened, and called back the small bathtub he'd knocked away during the fight. It had turned black after the strike.

He retrieved Hiding Pain. Fortunately, it wasn't broken!

He looked at the girl on top of the cliff. "Don't you hate me since I injured you like this?"

Luo Leilei casually waved her hand. "This big girl doesn't remember a small man's fault. I appreciate your qualifications."

Xu Xiaoshou smiled and shook his head again. "I refuse."

"Are you serious?"

"I'm serious!"

"Do you know what you're refusing? What you will lose?" Luo Leilei was furious. She thought she'd been sincere. She hadn't gone this far with anyone else before.

"I don't know, and I don't want to know." Xu Xiaoshou rubbed Hiding Pain and mercilessly chose to run away.

"Xu Xiaoshou!" Luo Leilei stopped him. "You really don't want to take a look at the outside world? Maybe it's more exciting than you think!"

"It's my world. I'll go see it for myself."

Luo Leilei watched him fly away. She cupped her hands around her mouth and said loudly, "Without someone to protect you, you'll only end up bruised all over!"

"Even so!" he yelled.

Luo Leilei was shocked by Xu Xiaoshou's serious tone. She was dumbfounded as she watched him fly away into the distance, a peculiar look in her eyes.

"It's my world. I'll go see it for myself, even if I end up bruised all over?" She muttered Xu Xiaoshou's words to herself.

Chapter 147: He is Very Gentle

Five men were gathered inside a dim, cramped room.

Qiao Qianzhi added a pair of chopsticks and a bowl for Zhao Xidong. The task of guardian was hard, so he deserved such treatment.

Zhao Xidong finally go to taste the coveted food of Elder Qiao and was almost moved to tears.

A big red ham in sauce slid into his stomach, and a glass of fine wine burned his throat.

"Cool!"

He heavily slammed the cup down on the tabletop, feeling a great sense of pride.

“Pah!”

There was a crunching sound that clearly hadn’t come from the tabletop.

The four people next to him froze and looked at Zhao Xidong and then behind him.

Zhao Xidong’s heart skipped a beat.

“No way, not again!”

He turned his head with difficulty and found that the bead above the “Twelve Beads Spiritual Curtain Plate,” which had lost its protective power of the barrier, was cracked and appeared dim.

“It can’t last long, as expected.” Xiao Qixiu let out a sigh.

Since the three layers of protective barrier could be broken through, he figured that the seal couldn’t stop the spy either.

“Perhaps it’s like what Elder Sang said, and they’ve sent someone in to intervene in the Tianxuan Gate?” Elder Qiao frowned.

Ye Xiaotian looked at Elder Sang. “What do you think?”

Elder Sang sucked his finger and said calmly, “Maybe what you said is true, and the current situation isn’t the worst yet.”

Everyone was startled. Even though they didn’t want to admit it, this could most likely be the case.

On the first day of the disciples entering the Tianxuan Gate, they’d already lost two of the treasures that protected the barrier. What would happen in the next two days?

“Don’t worry. Those people should have a sense of caution. After all, if more than four treasures are taken, the Tianxuan Gate will blow up, and they won’t be able to come out alive,” said Elder Sang.

The Tianxuan Gate might blow up?

Zhao Xidong was stunned. This was his first time hearing this, and it made him think of his earlier dream.

It was a possibility that his dream would come true.

Qiao Qianzhi was anxious. “Then it’s necessary that we intervene right away. Otherwise, what will happen to our disciples inside the Tianxuan Gate?”

Elder Sang calmly waved his hand. “Don’t worry. The Tianxuan Gate won’t blow up. No one will die.”

“Are you sure?” he thought. “I’m afraid there is a possibility!”

Ye Xiaotian found the old man was as stubborn as ever and couldn’t help but say, “Your two disciples are still inside!”

“Yes, they are still inside.” Elder Sang didn’t show the slightest hint of anxiety, which made the other four people feel worried.

As Ye Xiaotian was about to speak again, he saw the old man turn his head sideways, his thin eyebrows knitted as if he'd thought of something.

Elder Sang had a flash of inspiration.

If Xu Xiaoshou had followed the map he'd given Mu Zixi, then he should've reached the bottom of the Black Fallen Cliff. However, judging by the image they'd seen, he had already climbed to the top of the cliff.

Everyone was ignoring the fact that Xu Xiaoshou was in the air at that moment!

Moreover, when Elder Sang thought about it more carefully, he realized that he hadn't actually seen that lad with the black sword under his feet.

Had he broken through to Master Level?

Elder Sang was a little surprised. He remembered that the last time he'd seen Xu Xiaoshou, he was merely at the ninth level.

The "going through fire and rebirth!"

Elder Sang thought of the steps he'd taken back in the day. The last step of the "Infernal Heavens" was to break through and develop.

He hadn't waited until Xu Xiaoshou had broken through because he firmly believed this lad with amazing perseverance could come through, so he'd taken him as a disciple first.

Now Xu Xiaoshou should have reached this step and, as such, must have successfully broken through to Master Physique.

"You're doing great, lad," he thought. "You're going to be better than your master."

To think of himself back in the days. It'd taken him three days to break through to Master Physique!

Then...

Elder Sang looked at the crowd. "What is the cultivation level of that Leilei on top of the Black Fallen Cliff?"

"The Late Upper Spirit. She is the strongest among the thirty-three newly promoted people this time, and also the best qualified one too, with thunder attribute," Ye Xiaotian replied. "Why? What's wrong?"

"The Upper Spiritual Level," Elder Sang murmured under his breath. "She shouldn't be able to beat Xu Xiaoshou."

The other four: "..."

Zhao Xidong was dumbfounded, and felt like his ears needed to be cleaned of earwax.

"What reason do you have to be so confident in this disciple Xu Xiaoshou? He's merely someone of the ninth level!" he thought.

Of course, he didn't dare to speak his mind. All he could do was silently eat his meal, which was his show of stubbornness.

There was a hint of brightness in Elder Sang's eyes. He reached out his chopsticks again and said, "This old man already knows who the spy probably is. There should be two of them; one is Leilei, and there is another one."

The crowd looked at him expectantly.

"Well, he conceals himself very well. This old man doesn't know either."

"..."

The wind was blowing the snowflakes, which were as large as goose feathers, and there were few stars hanging in the sky.

In the whistling wind, a row of footprints faded into the distance amid the drifting snow.

Mo Mo looked rather calm, but although she looked ordinary, she had an elegant calmness about her. She looked like a pure white snow-lotus in this world, and it seemed that there was nothing in this world that could disturb her mood.

Her right hand still held the copper stove with sandalwood incense burning in it. The remaining ashes gave off a few wisps of immortal smoke.

Her left hand had a white stone not seen before. It was the size of a fist and didn't show any spiritual energy.

"The Stone of Seal has been obtained. Are you awake?"

Her right hand quivered, and the smoke of the small copper stove grew thicker, which then converged into a fuzzy human face.

"I'm awake. I didn't respond to you earlier because someone was eavesdropping on us. So, be careful."

The voice was as fuzzy as the figure. One couldn't judge whether the voice belonged to a man or woman, and it was even difficult to determine whether it spoke human words.

"Eavesdropping?" Mo Mo was a little surprised. She didn't ask more questions and put it out of her mind. "I should have completed my task. When do I release it?"

"You've only completed half of the task!" the fuzzy voice interrupted her. "Moreover, my existence is more beneficial than harmful to you."

Mo Mo clutched the stone. Though her voice was soft, a hint of stubbornness could be heard as she said, "I don't need your protection."

"Next, kill two people."

Hearing the unquestionable tone, Mo Mo slowly closed her eyes. "Who?"

"Xu Xiaoshou!"

She abruptly opened her eyes, full of astonishment. "Why?"

"He's discovered me."

"Impossible!"

"Oh? You're defending him?" The fuzzy voice had a little more emotion in it.

Mo Mo's voice became calm. "Even the elders of the Tiansang Spiritual Palace failed to find out, so how could Xu Xiaoshou have discovered you?"

"You don't need to know this; just carry out the mission."

"I won't kill Xu Xiaoshou," Mo Mo said, a look of determination on her face.

"You like him?"

Mo Mo froze, a fleeting blush clouding her pretty face. She thought of the finals on the Competition Arena again, and the frisky guy who'd complimented her beauty.

"It's not about liking; it's just that I don't want to kill him."

"Why?"

Mo Mo thought of the black sword that had pierced the two of them, and the apprehension she'd felt when she'd fallen from the sky in his arms as she feigned being faint.

"He is very gentle." A gentle smile came over her face. "There are always some people who don't deserve to be hurt."

The smoky human face was silent and then completely dissipated, seemingly respecting Mo Mo's wishes.

However, the next second, the voice rang out emotionlessly, "The second person, Zhao Xidong."

Mo Mo halted in her tracks. "What, the Law Enforcer Zhao?" she thought.

She'd only met him once in the Inner Yard.

"Why kill him?" she wanted to ask, but the smoky man had already dispersed.

"Ugh."

The snow was falling, and Mo Mo had no choice but to continue onward, as her task was only half-completed.

What would happen later should be dealt with later!

She looked ahead in the direction of the "Secret Forest of Moro."

Chapter 148: Haha, a Shoddy Sword!

The Tianxuan Gate, the place of a hundred battles.

This was a very large martial arts arena on which rested two weapons racks full of swords, broadswords, spears, sticks, axes, hammers, daggers, bows, and shields.

All kinds, styles, and all sorts of weapons.

Yuan Tou stood with his spear in his hand, his aura rising.

Soon, a stir occurred in the empty space, and he broke through to the late Upper Spirit Level.

As he opened his eyes, the spiritual mane disappeared, but his energy reserve kept on surging.

The Mysterious Overload Spear shook in his hand, and Yuan Tou felt he had the power to destroy the gods. He was unstoppable!

“It’s been a day.”

As a master of time management, even if there was only one star, not to mention the alternation of day and night, he was still able to pinpoint the time to the minute and second.

Bringing back his spear and jumping up, Yuan Tou flew up high into the sky.

The “Place of Hundred Battles,” the martial arts arena, had been blasted to ruin by him. As far as the eye could see, it was full of big craters.

This was the power of his innate attributes—they were as powerful as ten thousand pounds!

However, the most significant gain of this trip wasn’t this, but the intermittent spear intent.

If he were given more time, perhaps this extremely difficult spear intent would be forced out. Yet, he had more important matters to take care of first.

“Xu Xiaoshou.”

He couldn’t believe that he’d trusted Xu’s words, went all the way westward, left the last trial secret realm half a day ago, and arrived at the “Place of Hundred Battles.”

However, he hadn’t found even a single person here!

“D*mn it!” he cursed.

“That lad must have known from the beginning that I was on him, but pretended not to know about it in an attempt to avoid the disaster of being killed.

“He is indeed someone who killed Chao Shu and is thought highly of by Zhang Xinxiong!

“Fortunately, I had a breakthrough in this place, so this trip wasn’t a total loss.”

Yuan Tou floated in the empty space and lifted his head to look around.

“If he’s not in the Place of Hundred Battles, then he must be at the Black Fallen Cliff.”

He didn’t know much about the secret trial places of the Tianxuan Gate except for four or five of them, but he knew about the famous “Black Fallen Cliff,” the place sword cultivators must go through.

If Xu Xiaoshou wanted to go to the secret realm after entering this land, he would have no other place to go but the “Place of Hundred Battles” and the Black Fallen Cliff!

It was the second day since they’d entered the Tianxuan Gate. The “lost plan” had to be carried out. If it was further delayed, everyone would converge at the exit.

The possibility of being discovered would be much higher by then!

Swoosh!

The Mysterious Overload Spear turned into a flash of dark light along with Yuan Tou, and they disappeared into the horizon.

“Xu Xiaoshou, wait for me!”

“Hiss, Ah-choo!”

Xu Xiaoshou sneezed.

“Is something wrong again?” He scratched his head curiously, feeling somewhat perplexed.

Usually he didn’t sneeze much, but every time he did it foretold a life lost. Actually, an enemy’s life lost.

At first, he thought this sneeze was just a coincidence, but then he thought again. “This time, is another person coming over to die?” he thought.

“This should be an ability only the most powerful people have: the whim!

“Or is it a special effect of Sense?”

Xu Xiaoshou chose to believe the former.

“Forget it. Keep on heading west.”

His purpose for going west was, of course, to encounter Yuan Tou by chance.

In the past, he’d had no choice but to hide his whereabouts, but now that he’d had a breakthrough, he naturally wanted to find out Yuan Tou’s true intentions.

As the saying goes, “Although one doesn’t fear the thieves, one is afraid of being watched by the thieves!”

Yet he wasn’t in a hurry to catch up. He should be invincible in the Tianxuan gate at present, as he had enough strength to achieve the so-called “Kill God while being blocked by God and kill Buddha while being blocked by Buddha.”

More importantly, he had to figure out the weapon in his hands.

The “Black Fallen Scabbard.”

Since he’d pulled the black scabbard out from the Black Fallen Cliff, he’d given the sword this name. He’d been checking it out for a long while but couldn’t figure out how to use it.

Naturally, it’d be easy to use if it was just a sheathe for a sword.

But Xu Xiaoshou was someone who held a grudge, and he hadn't forgotten about those 280,000 white sword energies!

"This scabbard doesn't even have a sword. How can it emit sword energy?" Xu Xiaoshou was very curious.

If this was a sword with spirit, it being able to emit sword energy would make sense.

But this was merely a sword scabbard.

Could it be that this scabbard could also be used to cause damage? A white sword energy?

Or could it be that this thing's predecessor had protected a great sword, and the interaction with the sword had also made this scabbard spiritual?

Xu Xiaoshou pulled out Hiding Pain. The black sword drooped, a stark contrast to the scabbard, which was constantly quivering and struggling.

The black sword had even lost the impulse to devour its master after being struck by lightning.

Xu Xiaoshou hated the fact that his sword wasn't as powerful as he wished it was. "Look at that scabbard. It's more spiritual than you, a sword!" he said, talking to his sword.

"You've lost the ability to devour your master, and you've become weaker and weaker!"

"You've been shivering for a long time, but there's no way you can escape from my palm. Can't you cut it out?" Xu Xiaoshou said to the scabbard, expecting it to respond in some way.

The scabbard started to quiver more and more. In anyone else's hands, it might've had a chance to break free, but the scabbard had no chance to do so in the tight grip of someone with a Master Level Physique.

Xu Xiaoshou frowned, pondering this.

In order to stimulate the formidable white sword energy, he'd tried all kinds of methods, including the spiritual source infusion, kindly persuasion, violent beating, and slamming.

All in vain!

"Is it really necessary to recognize the master?" Xu Xiaoshou dripped a droplet of his blood on the scabbard, but the blood slipped off, and his efforts were still in vain.

"It's preposterous!"

Xu Xiaoshou was angry.

He held up Hiding Pain and threatened, "If you don't give in, I'll stick you in it!"

Buzzing!

The black fallen scabbard quivered even more as it tried to break free from the big hand that controlled its fate, but it was unable to do so.

"Good, the more you resist, the more excited my sword will get!" Xu Xiaoshou said viciously.

As he was about to insert Hiding Pain into the scabbard, the sword wimped out and became soft and bent.

Xu Xiaoshou was perplexed.

“What’s wrong with you? You’re that much of a wimp?”

“You’ve been enjoying devouring your master. And now that I’ve found a scabbard for you, you wilt at the critical moment,” he thought. “This might be a scabbard for a mighty sword. How many swords out there would like to have such a soul mate, yet you become soft when I get it for you.”

“Straighten up for me!” he yelled.

Hiding Pain, with sword will infused into it by Xu Xiaoshou, straightened with a buzzing sound and emitted a formidable sword aura.

The scabbard quivered even more fiercely, like a virtuous woman who would never submit to the procurer.

Clang!

A crisp sword sound echoed in the empty space as Xu Xiaoshou sheathed Hiding Pain in the scabbard.

It was at this moment that the whole world seemed to fall silent as the scabbard seemed to stretch a little before weakening.

The scabbard stopped quivering. He wondered why.

Looking at Hiding Pain, Xu Xiaoshou could feel its joy even though it pretended to resist the forced arrangement.

“Haha, a shoddy sword!”

But...

If this scabbard had become spiritual because of the last sword, could it help Hiding Pain becoming spiritual too?

Xu Xiaoshou rubbed his chin, pondering this.

As a hot-blooded lad, he had a dream of “venturing the world with a sword” in his heart, but he didn’t want to abandon Hiding Pain because he’d become too strong for the sword to keep up.

“But reality is cruel,” he thought. “My fingers are now more powerful than this black sword. If it won’t improve, it will not escape the fate of being abandoned.”

“Come on, little Hiding Pain,” he told it. “I will try to find something to help you improve later, otherwise...”

“Your master will have no choice but to find another sword!”

Buzzing?

The Black Fallen Scabbard was desperate enough to stay motionless.

Hiding Pain paid no attention to what Xu Xiaoshou said, but it groaned cheerfully, seemingly pleased with its new companion.

Xu Xiaoshou's black hair fell onto his forehead.

"Sure, a shoddy sword."

Chapter 149: Roundhead?

For the first time, the Black Fallen Scabbard emotionally moved Xu Xiaoshou.

It never gave in, and was a touch aggrieved.

Xu Xiaoshou was overjoyed, and he wondered if it could communicate with him.

This was a good thing!

"As long as you can communicate with me, recognizing me as your master will happen soon enough," he thought.

He patted the scabbard and comforted it, saying, "Don't worry. As long as you keep following me, you'll become famous on the continent."

The Black Fallen Scabbard didn't respond.

Xu Xiaoshou frowned, and he wondered if the scabbard didn't like the way he tried to comfort it.

"Don't look down on little Hiding Pain. Although it's currently weak, it might become a popular and famous sword in the future, so you don't have to feel aggrieved," he tried persuading it.

The Black Fallen Scabbard still wasn't moved.

Xu Xiaoshou started to become impatient. "Life is like having sex," he scolded it. "Since you can't refuse it, you'd better enjoy it!

"Anyway, you can't even run away from me, yet you're still so arrogant. You'd be better off listening to me. But if not, I don't care!" he snickered and flew forward, yet his Sense still continued to carefully observe it.

The Black Fallen Scabbard stirred with a great deal of anger, and Hiding Pain inside it became so scared that it almost came out.

Xu Xiaoshou held the black sword down with his hand.

He was only kidding. If he drove the sword away now, how could he make the scabbard yield later on?

The scabbard wouldn't yield while Hiding Pain was sheathed inside it, so he couldn't just let the sword come out. After the matter was settled, he intended to use this scabbard to develop many powerful moves!

"Don't make a scene," he told it. "With me, you'll have meat to eat. Or, I'll help you find your former master. Are you still upset because you were abandoned?" Xu Xiaoshou inquired.

The Black Fallen Scabbard showed a hint of joyful emotion.

Xu Xiaoshou looked pleased, and he wondered if this was, in fact, the reason why the scabbard was so stubborn.

“Did someone really abandon you?”

The scabbard became angry.

Xu Xiaoshou was amused. It turned out that the sword’s breakthrough had come from the previous master. That was fantastic!

“How about this. You stay with me for the time being, and I’ll try to help you find your former master. But I have no idea if he’ll want you back. After all, he threw you into this sh*tty place,” Xu Xiaoshou said casually.

Having had such a breakthrough, he believed he could eventually win the heart of the scabbard.

This scabbard seemed rather powerful, so it’d be worth the extra effort.

The Black Fallen Scabbard seemed to hesitate.

Xu Xiaoshou added, “I don’t know how long you’ve been here, but if you don’t come with me, you’ll have to live your whole life alone when I leave in two days.

“And no new master, let alone the old master, will come this way again!”

Buzz!

The scabbard shook, and it was at this moment that Xu Xiaoshou felt he had a connection with it, just like he had with Hiding Pain.

Of course, his intimacy with Hiding Pain was incomparable to that he now felt like he had with the scabbard.

Xu Xiaoshou was overjoyed. “It’s done!”

“This scabbard seems to have an illustrious background. It wouldn’t have such an arrogant temper otherwise. I must have picked up a treasure,” he thought to himself.

“As long as the scabbard doesn’t run away, I’ll blame everything on Luo Leilei after I get out of the Tianxuan Gate. No one will know that I have the scabbard in my possession.”

“Yo ho ho ho, yo ho ho ho ho,” Xu Xiaoshou laughed a strange laugh, and he laughed so much he almost sounded like he’d gotten drunk off of fine wine.

“...”

He was too happy.

Phew!

A black shadow flew past underneath his feet.

After flying for a while, Xu Xiaoshou stopped as an afterthought. He leisurely turned around, and the figure did the exact same. Both of them were aghast.

“Xu Xiaoshou?” A smile spread across Yuan Tou’s face.

“Roundhead?” The corners of Xu Xiaoshou’s mouth gradually quirked up.

It was indeed a small world!

Both of them lamented the same feeling at the same time.

Yuan Tou’s eyes flashed with a hint of ruthlessness. As the saying goes, “You looked high and low till your iron shoes were worn out but still to no avail. Then you chanced upon it without even looking for it.” This lad wouldn’t get away today!

What?

Wait!

How was he able to fly?

The ruthlessness in his eyes was replaced with surprise, and Yuan Tou’s whole body froze. “Have you broken through to Innate Level?”

Just a day ago, at the entrance to the array of the Tianxuan Gate, he’d witnessed with his own eyes this lad break through the ninth level of Spiritual Cultivation to reach the tenth level.

That was merely a day ago. How could he have achieved innateness so soon?

Even though he was in the Tixanxuan gate, his cultivation speed couldn’t be that startling!

Yuan Tou felt like his entire worldview had collapsed, and he wondered if what Xu Xiaoshou had achieved fit the saying, “It’s like three years passed after one day apart.”

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou nodded graciously. “Yes, I’m already at the Innate Level.”

“Xu Xiaoshou, don’t think you can hide what level you’re really at by using a little trick like flying,” he sneered. “Today you’ll be lost inside the Tianxuan Gate!”

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

“...”

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned by this guy’s intelligence, “Look at my body energy and tell me it isn’t Innate.”

“A little foolish trick. Do you really think I can’t see through it?” Yuan Tou slammed his spear on the ground and jumped into the air.

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou: “...”

He had no intention to have more exchanges with him and got straight to the point. “So you’re the one that Zhang Xinxiong sent, right?”

“Not bad!” One corner of Yuan Tou’s mouth twitched up. “Your path has come to an end. Remember this in your next life: it’s not a good idea to touch a woman you shouldn’t!”

“Woman?” Xu Xiaoshou was astonished, and he wondered if he meant Wen Chong.

This...

He stumbled a little. This information was a little too much to take in!

“So, Wen Chong is actually...” he thought.

Wrong!

That didn’t feel right!

Xu Xiaoshou didn’t believe it and asked sincerely, “Before I die, can you tell me who this woman is?”

“Heh. You’re really going to pretend to be confused?” Yuan Tou’s tone was morose.

“No, I really don’t know who you mean. If you really can’t tell me who she is, at least tell me this person’s true gender,” he said eagerly.

Yuan Tou” “...”

“What’s wrong with you?” he thought. “I already told you that it’s a woman!”

He couldn’t help himself, and said, “Rao Yinyin.”

“Rao Yinyin?” Xu Xiaoshou was stunned. So the woman turned out to be this gurgling person.

He remembered that he’d come in contact with some woman named Lan Xinzi when choosing his site in the Inner Yard, and that she’d guided him.

Well, Lan Xinzi?

Lan Zhang Rao?

“Am I being killed because of a love affair?” Xu Xiaoshou put a palm to his forehead. He was a little confused by the situation.

He’d thought that the cause of this matter was just Wen Chong, but the issue seemed to have changed.

“So you really came here to try and kill me?” Xu Xiaoshou gave up on trying to process it and chose to face the outcome head-on.

Yuan Tou shook his head. “The Tianxuan Gate will be open for only three days. If you don’t get out in time, you’ll only get lost in this small world.”

He stared at Xu Xiaoshou. “I’ve never killed anyone. You got lost yourself.”

“Huh!”

Xu Xiaoshou sneered. “I’m lost?” he thought. “Do you think this is the fifth personality?”

“Self-deception!” he said lightly. “I, Xu Xiaoshou, have never killed an innocent person. If this matter has nothing to do with you, I advise you not to interfere.”

Xu Xiaoshou looked at Yuan Tou and slowly extended a finger. “I’ll give you a chance to leave immediately, and I’ll pretend that I didn’t see you here.”

Yuan Tou’s body suddenly gave off clicking sounds. He looked rather formidable in his set of black armor.

“Give me a chance?” He tilted his head and sneered, “You’re teasing me!”

He pointed the Mysterious Overlord Spear diagonally at the blue sky, and his cold tone, as if seeping out from the cold prison of the Nine Hells, echoed beneath the firmament as he yelled, “The Mysterious Realm!”

After he shouted this, the gravity in their surroundings increased by tenfold. The spiritual energy in heaven and earth fell all of a sudden, and the ground instantly collapsed more than ten dozen feet.

Boom!

Xu Xiaoshou’s shoulders sank suddenly, like a heavy mountain was pressing down on him, and he fell straight to the ground and was deeply embedded in it.

“Gravity change?”

He gritted his teeth and quickly straightened his back, the bones in his body making snapping sounds.

“I have a Master Level Physique, so there’s nothing you can do to me!” he thought.

With cold eyes, Xu Xiaoshou gripped Hiding Pain in the Black Fallen Scabbard, and an eerie sword will emanated from him.

Even though he knew that Yuan Tou had been sent by Zhang Xinxiong, he’d tried his best to sincerely ask him to give up his assassination attempt, so he now had no choice but to kill him.

“People who are about to die have no need to speak!” he thought. This was more advice for himself rather than for Yuan Tou.

“Let’s fight!”

Chapter 150: Tousand Leaf Stream, Sword-Draw Style, Black Fallen Strike!

When he saw how Xu Xiaoshou gripped the hilt of his sword, he knew what the lad’s next move was.

“Sword-draw style?” Yuan Tou snorted.

As one of the few people who knew Xu Xiaoshou’s true fighting ability, and as one who’d even witnessed Chao Shu’s death, Yuan Tou had taken the time to carefully study the various moves of the youth before him.

It was unknown where this lad had learned such a strange “sword-draw style,” which had an amazing power, but the more amazing thing was his sword speed!

Few people at Master Level would be able to respond to such a formidable sword speed in time without being prepared for it in advance.

Unexpectedly, Xu Xiaoshou spoke a few simple words while holding Hiding Pain in his hands.

“The Sword-draw Style... Evolved!

“Thousand Leaf Stream, Sword-draw style, Black Fallen Strike!”

Yuan Tou was baffled. He wondered if this was... an extended tactical term.

Then he saw the lad lower his head and pat the scabbard in his hand, whispering, “Make me look good and cooperate with me...”

Yuan Tou didn’t feel so good!

Was this lad playing him?

His strongest long-range move was the “Mysterious Realm,” but this spiritual technique seemed to have no effect on Xu Xiaoshou’s Innate Level Physique.

The only option left was close-range combat... Yuan Tou was waiting for Xu Xiaoshou to strike, but the strike never came. Xu Xiaoshou continued dilly-dallying around.

The Mysterious Overlord Spear shook once, becoming impatient.

Yuan Tou no longer hesitated. Even if Xu Xiaoshou were to suddenly strike, he had no choice but to draw closer to him.

Swoosh!

A hundred meters away, a strike arrived.

The Black Fallen Scabbard in Xu Xiaoshou’s hand shook once, and Yuan Tou suddenly felt sword energy coming from it.

His heart beat faster. As long as he could block the sword energy, he would be able to seize the opportunity to finish Xu Xiaoshou off.

Clang!

Seeing Xu Xiaoshou reluctantly draw his sword and strike hastily, a sinister smile almost appeared on Yuan Tou’s face, but then he froze suddenly.

“My God!” he thought. “How come there’s so much sword energy?”

As far as he could see, the frequent sword energies kept getting stronger as Xu Xiaoshou pulled out his sword. They filled the space around him.

“Crap!”

Yuan Tou was panicked. As far as he could remember, there was no mention of such a formidable “sword-draw style” in the information he’d gotten!

This couldn't be the freaking sword-draw style. It was more like a human splicing machine.

Due to the momentum, Yuan Tou was unable to turn back. All he could do was raise the Mysterious Overload Spear and seize an opportunity to slash it down.

"Mountain Heavy!"

Boom!

The powerful force knocked the incoming white sword energy into pieces as if it were paper mache!

But before Yuan Tou could begin to feel thrilled over this, he froze again.

His pupils gradually dilated, reflecting the white sword energy... behind the shattered white sword energy.

"How many freaking layers are there!" he thought.

"There's at least one thousand layers of sword energy!"

A large amount of meaningless white sword energy passed through his body, but a great deal of sword energy also remained inside his body.

Yuan Tou just managed to turn his heavy spear around to block the sword energy in front of him, but he was unable to block much of the energy, and the spear was knocked away by the sword energy.

The rest of the sword energy cut through his body.

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle...

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked.

The moment he got the Black Fallen Scabbard, he'd had the idea of improving the "sword-draw style" because of the white sword energy on the Black Fallen Cliff.

But he hadn't expected this scabbard to have such a powerful effect after cooperating with his sword will.

"Who could withstand this?" he thought. "I should know. This is the sword energy that knocked me around, and I have a Master Level Physique!"

"With the addition of my own sword will, the power has increased rather than decreased!"

"It's too strong!"

Xu Xiaoshou was excited. Looking at the Black Fallen Scabbard, he believed he'd truly picked up a treasure.

Among those sword energies that had been emitted earlier, only one of them had actually been emitted by himself. The rest was the power of this scabbard.

"Cough, cough, poof!"

In the distance, the sound of someone coughing up blood rang out. Xu Xiaoshou was astonished that his opponent hadn't died yet.

Yuan Tou was indeed alive, but he'd been greatly injured.

If it wasn't for his habit of wearing the "Black Mysterious Heavy Armor" before battles, he probably would've died here.

Looking at the armor, which had been struck to pieces, Yuan Tou felt his heart ache.

This was a seventh-grade defensive spiritual armor!

Its value was comparable to that of an attacking spiritual weapon at Master Level, but it'd been destroyed...

Yuan Tou reached out his hand to grab the Mysterious Overload Spear, intending to get up from the ground.

"Ka, ka!"

The spear had also shattered...

"Poof!"

Doubly struck, Yuan Tou spat out a mouthful of blood.

"D*mn it..."

He looked at Xu Xiaoshou in the distance and wondered how the lad had grown in strength so fast in one day.

"Didn't this guy barely win with blood all over his body after fighting Chao Shu in a life and death battle?" he thought. "Why is it that I've lost in my fight with him just after one hit?"

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou had turned his attention away from his scabbard and was looking at his opponent.

To be honest, even though he'd killed Chao Shu and severely injured Luo Leilei, he didn't dare to treat this person differently.

This was because, in his opinion, all three of them were equally weak.

All of them were ants to someone like him, who was at Master Level!

But he really hadn't expected Yuan Tou to be so weak...

In his line of sight, he saw Yuan Tou, who was trapped in a deep pit, take out a small blood-red bottle and pour out... a drop of blood?

It was a golden blood... which was something he hadn't seen before.

Was this Yuan Tou's backup plan?

It was understandable that he'd probably prepared for this fight before coming since he'd witnessed the death of Chao Shu.

Yet Xu Xiaoshou didn't do anything to stop him.

He aspired to fight with someone in the hopes that they could push him to his limit. He didn't intend to win with just one strike every time.

That would put him in a confusing situation.

Yuan Tou swallowed the golden blood and grimaced.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at him curiously, as if he were observing a lab rat.

Rumble...

His muscles bulged and his hair grew.

Yuan Tou's eyes turned scarlet, and he grew by more than half of his own height, with bulky waist and shoulders. He looked like a giant!

Xu Xiaoshou felt disgusted, wondering what he'd become to have all this hair over his body.

"Yuan Tou... an ape... returning to the body of his ancestors?"

Ten feet tall, Yuan Tou stood up from the deep pit, looking quite formidable.

"Xu Xiaoshou..." His voice became rough and hoarse. "You have indeed become stronger, but eventually you will die because of your pride!"

Yuan Tou was also surprised that Xu Xiaoshou hadn't stopped him from taking the "throne essence blood." However, since he'd swallowed it, Xu Xiaoshou...

He would have to regret it in h*ll!

Xu Xiaoshou looked at him calmly and said indifferently, "If this is all you can do, then you're not worthy of my pride."

"..."

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Whoosh!

Yuan Tou, though his body looked clumsy, abruptly appeared in front of Xu Xiaoshou and slapped him across his face, sending the stunned Xu Xiaoshou flying!

Boom!

Xuan Tou found his hand being knocked backward at the same time. As a result, he was also sent flying!

"Cough... poof!" Xu Xiaoshou spurted blood!

"Holy shit! What the h*ll. This speed..."

Shocked, he wiped the blood off his lips.

That golden blood turned out to be extraordinary, as it'd improved Yuan Tou's strength to such an extent!

He'd thought that, with such a bulky body, this guy would move like a snail, so he'd failed to react fast enough to avoid the swift strike.

Xu Xiaoshou stood in the empty space and looked at Yuan Tou.

Though Yuan Tou's eyes were scarlet and had gone berserk, he hadn't completely lost his sanity.

Yuan Tou was also stunned.

What was it that when he'd slapped him he was knocked away, even though Xu Xiaoshou had obviously failed to react?

What was the reason for this?

His bloody pupils flashed with rage. Yuan Tou grew impatient and disappeared with a whooshing sound.

When he reappeared, he'd already arrived in front of Xu Xiaoshou and blasted him with a thrusting fist.

"Good timing!"

Faced with a fist the size of a maternity basin, Xu Xiaoshou didn't dodge. With a whistling wind, he thrust his own fist forward and didn't even bother adding spiritual elements.

Yuan Tou's eyes were full of disdain. He didn't even see Xu Xiaoshou's incoming fist. In his scarlet eyes, there was only a bean-sized man!

"..."

There was no sound at all as their fists clashed. The air exploded and shot up into the sky.

The falling snowflakes in the thousand square feet area were swept away by the soundless waves.

One second vacuum!

"Boom!"

The next moment, an earth-shattering sound resounded as the two fists clashed, and the two of them were sent flying backward at the same time.

Ten feet, a hundred feet, a thousand feet... Xu Xiaoshou could barely steady himself.

Ten feet, a hundred feet, a thousand feet... The giant-like Yuan Tou plummeted to the ground and then stopped.

It was a tie!

His scarlet eyes widened in shock. Yuan Tou was completely flabbergasted.

"How can this guy, with just a flesh body, match me, someone who just swallowed the 'throne of essence blood?'" he thought.

“He must be a freaking fiend!”