

Immortal 1161

Chapter 1161: Gacha God

Zu An was speechless. Am I being looked down on by a tree right now?

Seemingly sensing something wrong with his expression, the Silverflame Flowertree said quickly, "Wait... Don't do anything strange. If you don't accept my condition, I'll just fight until both of us die!"

Zu An almost laughed out loud, retorting, "You think you're even capable of taking me down with you?"

Seeing that Zu An wasn't convinced in the slightest, that Silverflame Flowertree replied, "This is a mine, and those miners always talk about how this place is full of explosive gases, and that flames can't be brought down here. If you push me too far, then I'll just blow up this entire mine! You guys won't be able to live either."

Zu An and Yu Yanluo's expressions changed. Yu Yanluo was especially frightened, because the mine was part of the Yu clan's foundation. How could she let it be destroyed?

"Then why hasn't there been an explosion yet, even though you've always been burning here?" Zu An asked suspiciously.

"I can absorb those gases and let them burn slowly, not letting them explode... If you keep pressuring me, I won't care anymore! I'll just make this whole place explode!" the Silverflame Flowertree cried.

Zu An was at a loss. He eventually remarked, "You're pretty good at talking, aren't you? I almost wonder whether there's a human hiding in there."

"I'm just a flower, but after staying here for so long and listening to the miners for so long, I learned things from them," the Silverflame Flowertree said with a shrug.

"Didn't you say you were a tree just a second ago?" Zu An's forehead darkened as he spoke. But he was worried that it might really do something stupid, so he offered, "How about this? If you answer another question from me, I'll let you go."

"Sure, sure. Ask away." When it heard that it could live, the Silverflame Flowertree immediately focused. Its body stood up a bit taller than before.

"Where did that Scaled Deathworm underground come from? When did it appear?" Zu An asked. Since the tree had already been here for a long time, it had to know something.

"Bro, you asked two questions," the Silverflame Flowertree complained. It rested its arms on its waist, seeming a bit unhappy.

Zu An didn't say anything, and only moved the Tai'e Sword in his hand.

The Silverflame Flowertree sensibly changed its tone and explained, "You're talking about that ugly bug with the black fog all around it, right? I never saw it in all the years I spent here. It seemed to have appeared around half a month ago. A spatial rift opened up in the depths of the mine, and it crawled out from inside."

"A spatial rift?" Zu An exclaimed in surprise. Did this weird bug come from another world?

To a certain degree, secret dungeons were also different worlds, but they were usually strange worlds that people from this world entered. It was rare to hear of beasts entering this world from one.

"That makes things much more troublesome. If an endless swarm of those strange bugs rushes in, the people of this world will be in great danger," Yu Yanluo said worriedly. This was Cloudcenter Commandery, as well as their Yu clan's ore mines. She naturally had some attachment to the area after staying in it for so long.

The Silverflame Flowertree explained, "The spatial rift isn't too stable. Something as powerful as that creature coming through is already its limit. There shouldn't be anything else of that scale that can cross over for some time. However, when that spatial rift stabilizes over time, it'll be hard to say."

Zu An gave it a doubtful look and asked, "Are you really just a tree?"

The Silverflame Flowertree stood up and replied, "I've lived for so long already; of course I know a bit more than others."

Yu Yanluo asked out of curiosity, "Then why has that strange bug never come to eat you?"

"Are you really asking me that? That weird bug isn't a vegetarian, and it likes the darkness, not this kind of bright environment. We just mind our own business," the Silverflame Flowertree replied.

Zu An laughed in annoyance and remarked, "You really do like to act cocky."

Even though the Silverflame Flowertree wasn't weak, it was still incomparable to the strange worm. Zu An thought, You're still saying both of you mind your own business? That's like me saying I'd give Kobe Bryant a run for his money.

The Silverflame Flowertree turned its corolla and completely ignored what he said.

Zu An put away his mischievous side and asked, "Where is that spatial rift?"

"Just how many questions have you asked already?" The Silverflame Flowertree felt really dissatisfied. But when Zu An gave it a glare, it could only reply, "I don't really know exactly, but I can sense its direction. It should be around twenty li in that direction if I use your human species' calculation method..."

Zu An shot Yu Yanluo a look and said, "We should find a chance to locate that spatial rift."

Yu Yanluo shared his thoughts, but she said with a frown, "But that Scaled Deathworm is too strong for us to deal with at all. We'll just be throwing our lives away if we go there."

Zu An replied, "Did you forget that we have someone else?"

Yu Yanluo's eyes lit up. She asked, "Are you talking about Yan Xuehen?" However, her expression quickly grew dark and she said, "But she'll probably kill us first if she sees us."

"She won't kill us," Zu An said with a strange expression. He didn't know how long his Gold Phoenix would last, but it shouldn't have worn off so quickly, right? "Besides, since she's the head of the orthodox faction, she has to ensure the safety of the common people. She won't be able to ignore it if we share what we know with her."

"Alright." Yu Yanluo approved of Zu An's reasoning too. Even though Yan Xuehen was a bit too fierce, Yu Yanluo had no doubts regarding her character.

Suddenly, the two of them noticed that something strange was happening. When they looked up, they saw that the Silverflame Flowertree had crawled out of the ground. Its dense roots had split into two parts, becoming like a pair of legs. It had already begun running into the distance.

Seeing that it had been discovered by the two of them, the tree screamed while running, "Don't chase after me, or else I'm going to take you all down with me!" It even raised its flames as it spoke. Mere moments later, it disappeared into the distance.

Zu An and Yu Yanluo were speechless.

Their horizons really had been widened today. Meeting a talking tree was one thing, but this fella could actually run?!

"Was there something wrong with my eyes?" Yu Yanluo asked in disbelief.

"We were scammed by that damn tree.," Zu An said gloomily. It had already run away, so the matter of the Wuyang Jade they had agreed on before was obviously not going to happen.

Yu Yanluo covered her mouth and giggled, saying, "Don't worry, even if it runs, it'll still be in these mines. It needs a large mine like this to survive. We can just take the time to find it again later.

Zu An nodded and said, "You're right. At the very least, it provided us with a lot of useful information. Let's make some preparations first, then look for Yan Xuehen."

He began to collect the Wuyang Jade around him; there were nineteen pieces in total. He now had more than enough for Daji's seventh rank breakthrough. After doing that, he didn't immediately leave, but instead said to Yu Yanluo, "I have something to do first. Can you watch my surroundings for me?"

Yu Yanluo just assumed he needed a break to readjust his condition. She didn't hesitate and said, "No problem." She took out the World Painting and used it to protect their surroundings, remaining on guard against any potential dangers that might show up.

Zu An sat down and began to calculate the Rage points he had collected since the previous time.

He had experienced many dangerous situations in this mine, making him use all of his trump cards. Now, he needed something to help him defeat the Scaled Deathworm. He couldn't give up any opportunities to increase his own strength. Even if he couldn't get a skill, another bottle of red medicine would still be good.

He had collected a total of 294,499 Rage points! That was enough for him to pull almost 3000 times.

He secretly carried out some prayers. If there is some god in this world, spare me a bit of blessing and protection, please. I'm trying to save the world here, so you can't just watch without doing anything!

He then began to pull the lottery. The shining indicator quickly flew across the keyboard.

'Thank you for playing' messages continued to repeat. Ki Fruits also appeared one after another. Suddenly, however, his breath caught in his throat. The shining indicator had stopped on the Z key!

I got a skill!

Zu An was in disbelief. He had already been mentally prepared to only get a few bottles of medicine. He hadn't expected to actually get his hands on a precious skill this time!

He was about to check to see what kind of skill it was when the light indicator suddenly continued moving through the lottery.

Ding!

Soon afterward, it actually stopped on the H key.

Two jackpots back to back?!

Zu An never would have expected to actually pull two skills at the same time! Apart from his initial round of beginner's luck, he had never had such good fortune again.

He quickly checked to see what skills he had won. He checked the Z key's skill first.

Congratulations for winning the skill 'John Doe's Nemesis'.

Skill description: At a certain point in spacetime, there was a crazy bastard named John Doe who existed outside the law. He always managed to find loopholes around laws. There was an almighty judge who finally couldn't take it anymore and wanted to bring him to justice. After endless trials and tribulations, he finally succeeded. For the first time in history, John Doe was convicted. However, John Doe quickly found a new loophole and recovered his freedom once more. The almighty judge continued to look for ways to convict him, but John Doe continued to escape blame, and that process continued again and again... That is why the almighty judge obtained the title 'John Doe's Nemesis'.

Skill effects: Upon use, anyone named John Doe will be confined for one second. After one second, the target will return to normal.

What the f*ck? Did this really come from the Z key?

Zu An was stunned.

This is absolute horsesh*t! What kind of use does this damn skill even have?!

Chapter 1162: Only Benefiting a Third Party

Ordinarily, one second would be nothing, but for high-level cultivators, one second would be enough to do many things.

But the skill was only useful against people named John Doe? That was freaking useless!

How many people were even named John Doe in this world? Zu An hadn't encountered a single one yet.

Even if he did, they might not even be his enemy. Even if they were his enemy, Zu An could probably deal with them through his strength alone.

To encounter someone named John Doe, whom Zu An couldn't defeat with his current strength... The chances of that happening were utterly abysmal, no?

He probably wouldn't encounter such a thing in his entire lifetime.

Zu An glowered, shifting his gaze to the other skill.

Congratulations on winning the skill 'Hidden in the Dark'!

Zu An's eyes lit up. This skill sounds pretty good... At the very least, it seems more reliable than John Doe's Nemesis.

Skill description: At a certain point in spacetime, there was a socially anxious shut-in otaku scientist. He dreamed of being able to interact with the opposite sex, yet he didn't dare to even speak to them in real life. As such, he decided that even if he could only hide and sneak a peek, that would be good enough. That way, the other party wouldn't see him, and he could admire their beauty without disturbing them.

As such, he devoted his entire life to the art of stealth. He called it Hidden in the Dark.

But by the time he developed the skill, he was already old and dying, and the thoughts he had when he was younger had already grown weak. But for fear of wasting a lifetime of devotion and hard work, he decided to use it.

Unfortunately, the goddess of his youth had already passed on, so he sought out her granddaughter. She looked exactly the same as his former goddess. He was so excited when he successfully snuck into her room in the middle of the night; and yet, he saw the goddess of his dreams being plowed furiously under the body of another man. He was mentally ruined. Furthermore, because he was old, he took his last breath there and then...

Zu An was speechless when he saw the description. This guy's experience... It's way too tragic, right?

Both tragic and perverted!

Judging from the introduction of the two skills, he realized that the keyboard's skills all originated from different parts of spacetime. However, they all had one common trait, which was that their creators were all bizarre and twisted individuals.

Recalling that the skills all had various faults, he immediately continued reading.

Skill effects: In a place without any light, you can completely hide yourself. You will not be detected by touch, taste, smell, hearing, sight, spiritual senses, or any other means of perception. However, if you attack, the effects will disappear. At the same time, this skill will not work in places with even a bit of light.

Zu An was speechless.

This thing sounded great, but it was similar to the flashlight he had won before. The flashlight could only be used in bright places, and it wouldn't shine in dark places. This skill was the opposite. He couldn't hide in bright places, and he would only vanish in darkness.

If it were completely dark, wouldn't he already be hidden anyway? Like hell he would still need this skill at that point!

He continued reading with a gloomy expression. In the end, perhaps because he had pulled two skills, he only obtained 250 Ki Fruits, a bit lower than the average. He didn't get anything else either.

250...

Zu An's eyes twitched. He couldn't help but feel as if he were being mocked when he saw the number.[1]

He put away the Ki Fruits. Daji still lacked the Blue Earthflowers, so it was pointless to feed her the fruits at the moment.

"Are you done?" Yu Yanluo asked out of concern when she saw him get up.

"Yeah," Zu An said with a smile. "Let's look for Yan Xuehen."

Suddenly, they sensed a terrifying undulation outside. It was much more intense than before, shaking the entire mine. The cave they were in also began to collapse.

Zu An quickly grabbed Yu Yanluo's hand and returned to the main mine. Dirt and rubble completely buried the place they had been in just a few moments after they rushed out of it.

Yu Yanluo still felt lingering fear, wondering, "Could it be that Yan Xuehen already met that strange bug?"

Zu An nodded and replied, "Judging from the activity, they seem to be fighting a fierce battle right now."

Yu Yanluo suggested, "Why don't we use this chance to look for that spatial rift while that monster isn't here? Let's see if there's a chance to destroy it."

Zu An remained silent for a moment, saying, "Let's check on that battle first."

Yu Yanluo asked with a bit of hesitation, "Are you worried about her?"

Zu An couldn't help but chuckle. He replied, "Are you jealous? I just realized that we don't know how to seal up that rift, and we'd probably need Yan Xuehen's strength to do it."

"That Scaled Deathworm is a bit too strong. If Yan Xuehen can't defeat it and ends up being eaten, it'll become even harder for us. We might as well use this chance to see if we can be of any help."

"Why would you think I was jealous?" Yu Yanluo asked with a strange expression. "Unless there's actually something between you and Yan Xuehen?"

In her experience, Yan Xuehen had been a senior of the martial world, as well as one of the most powerful cultivators, for as long as she could remember. She even seemed to practically be the leader of the orthodox faction. She was known for being free from emotions. How could someone like that develop feelings for a young man, and her disciple's man at that?

Even though Yu Yanluo thought Zu An was outstanding, her thoughts couldn't go in that direction no matter how great her imagination was.

Zu An's face heated up. He was naturally too embarrassed to explain the Gold Phoenix's skill. Fortunately, Yu Yanluo didn't think too much of it either. She said, "That makes sense. Let's go and see if we can help her. Even if Yan Xuehen doesn't let me go then, I'll acknowledge my fate."

The entire mine would be destroyed if the Scaled Deathworm were left in it. At that point, forget about the Yu clan, all the common people of Cloudcenter Commandery would be massacred by it. In comparison, her own safety wasn't that important.

Zu An held her hand and said, "Don't worry, that won't happen."

The two of them quickly hurried in the direction of the battle.

...

Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both gasped for breath. They no longer looked as graceful and elegant as before. Both of them were in a sorry state; even their hair was in complete disarray.

Yan Xuehen exclaimed angrily, "This is all your fault, you crazy woman! Look! Now we're both going to die here." There were spots of blood on her white dress. Her injuries definitely weren't light.

On the other hand, Yun Jianyue retorted with a foul expression, "It's this stone cold woman here who insists on willfully slaughtering the innocent."

"I didn't even kill Zu An!" Yan Xuehen exclaimed, feeling somewhat regretful. If not for her pride keeping her from explaining things to her old rival, they wouldn't have put each other in such a state, potentially letting the strange worm that had appeared take advantage of their current situation.

"Hmph, I didn't expect the glorious White Jade Sect's master to still speak lies even in a moment of life and death," Yun Jianyue shot back. She wasn't convinced at all. As far as she knew, Yan Xuehen was incredibly stubborn and had always wanted to ruin Zu An's relationship with her disciple. It would be strange if she had chosen not to do anything using the situation with Yu Yanluo as a pretext.

"Why would I lie to you at this point?" Yan Xuehen replied, looking at the terrifying worm that towered before them with a wry smile of distress.

She couldn't have expected to have ended up in such a situation after dominating this world for so many years. In truth, she didn't actually fear death. However, it was a bit hard for her to accept being eaten by the disgusting worm before her.

Yun Jianyue was stunned. She couldn't help but curse, "Then why didn't you tell me you didn't kill him to begin with?!"

"It was you who insisted on fighting..." Yan Xuehen said weakly, but she seemed to be losing confidence midway. She immediately stuck out her chest and straightened her back, exclaiming, "Why do I need to explain any of my actions to you?!" She was going to die soon anyway, so she might as well die with a bit of dignity.

Yun Jianyue was dumbstruck. But she was from the Devil Sect, so there was no need to go through hell for the sake of appearances. She quickly said, "What about that incredible Ice Heart Pill of your White Jade Sect? I know you usually carry two on you. Hurry up and take them out! We'll take one apiece. With our strength, we might even be able to escape from this brute."

She was seriously injured, so not even the best medicines would allow her to recover quickly. Her medicines weren't even as good as Yan Xuehen's; the Ice Heart Pill could quickly help them recover some strength. If the two of them worked together, they might be able to defeat this strange worm.

But Yan Xuehen's face turned red and she exclaimed, "I don't have any!"

How could she tell her that she had given her precious medicines to Zu An? How would she even explain that? She would rather die than admit to that when she thought of Yu Yanluo's gossipy expression.

1. In the past, 500 taels of silver were referred to as one 'feng', while 250 taels was referred to as a 'half feng'. 'Feng' is pronounced the same way as the word for mad/crazy. Over time, people began to use '250' to describe stupid, rude, and impetuous people. ㄟ(ゎ)ㄟ

Chapter 1163: Courting Disaster

"How is that possible? We've fought for so many years. Do you think I don't know what you do and don't have?" Yun Jianyue responded in a panic. She only thought Yan Xuehen was unwilling to share medicine with her. "You're not still trying to act tough even at this point, are you?"

Yan Xuehen didn't know how to explain herself. She said with a cold expression, "If I don't have it, I don't have it. There's no reason."

Yun Jianyue felt her teeth grow sore. She said through gritted teeth "Look at you... I don't care if you don't give me one, but at least take one yourself and get rid of this disgusting worm first!"

They were still grandmasters, and both of them were extremely powerful. Even though they had been ambushed while they were seriously injured, with all of their ultimate trump cards, they could still injure the worm.

But as time dragged on, the Scaled Deathworm began slowly raising its head. It was already starting to recover, and began another round of attacks.

By then, the two were already at their limit, unable to fight back at all. As such, Yun Jianyue took a step back. Rather than being eaten by a disgusting worm, she would rather end up falling at Yan Xuehen's hand. But Yan Xuehen only had a hesitant expression, and in the end, she didn't move at all.

Yun Jianyue was stupefied. She exclaimed, "You really don't have them?"

Yan Xuehen said angrily, "I already told you I didn't have any several times!"

She was in a terrible mood. She had given her own life-saving medicine to Zu An, while that guy had probably already gone far away with that other woman. They must have been really happy together... How would he have any idea how great her sacrifice was?

She jumped in fright as soon as that thought emerged. She put on a straight face, thinking, I save whomever I want to save; who wants him to know?!

Seeing Yan Xuehen's expression change several times, Yun Jianyue asked curiously, "I've never heard of you getting injured in the past few years. Furthermore, with your cultivation, you wouldn't need something like that... Did you actually end up giving them to some lover of yours?"

Yan Xuehen felt as if she had been seen through completely. She quickly exclaimed, "No, I didn't! Don't say random things!"

Yun Jianyue had only thrown out that remark for fun. After all, this old rival of hers was a stone cold woman. Yan Xuehen wasn't capable of feeling anything like emotions or love! And yet, judging from her flustered reaction, which made her sound just like her lovestruck disciple, Yun Jianyue immediately thought, This woman really does have someone?

"Tell me, tell me! Which miracle man managed to melt our stone cold woman's heart? I really never would have expected to hear something so interesting while on the brink of death! This death of mine won't even be so sad anymore," Yun Jianyue said teasingly. She knew that the two of them were dead for sure, and had already come to terms with it. The only thing she was curious about was who Yan Xuehen's man was.

"Nonsense! There's no such miracle man!" Yan Xuehen retorted, but Zu An instantly appeared in her mind. She felt ashamed and embarrassed as she thought, What kind of witchcraft did that guy use on me to make me like this?!

The Scaled Deathworm was a bit apprehensive of the two women, as they had injured it quite badly. It was somewhat confused when it saw the two of them seemingly joking with each other, suspecting that they were deliberately baiting it in to attack them. As such, it was hesitant, not daring to attack.

But when it recalled how its attack should have seriously injured the two of them, it could no longer hold itself back after some time. After all, even if it didn't attack itself, it could make its subordinates attack.

The worm let out a strange cry. In response, the ground and walls swelled up in several different places, and several smaller Scaled Deathworms emerged from the earth. The massive mother worm cried out, seemingly giving them orders. It then leaned toward Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen, and the smaller worms reentered the earth to attack the two women.

Although the other worms were smaller, that was only in comparison to the mother worm. They were all between ten to twenty meters in length, and their sharp mandibles could crush anything to pieces.

The two women's expressions changed. They both took out their respective weapons, but they then realized their injuries were way too serious. They couldn't even use their own weapons properly. They sighed. They were both prideful, respected by many, dignified, and powerful; and yet they were going to fall here.

Suddenly, two Scaled Deathworms emerged rapidly from underground, snapping their mandibles closed. The two women barely managed to evade the fatal attack with the last bit of their cultivation. However, several more worms burst out from the walls and the ceiling above them. The two had no more strength left, and could only wait for death in despair.

But the pain they anticipated never came. Instead, they sensed waves of sharp sword ki. Soon after, the heads of the Scaled Deathworms around them left their bodies. The worms' corpses flailed wildly, and green liquid continuously spurted out of the severed stumps.

The two women were stunned. They both looked at each other, thinking that the other person must have still had some strength left, but they only saw shock in each other's eyes. They knew then that they had been mistaken.

The two strange worms that had attacked first emerged once more from underground and tried to bite them again. The two women wanted to evade the attack, but although they could normally have eliminated such enemies with just a thought, they could no longer even muster enough strength to move a finger. The worms' ugly rings of teeth and the foul stench coming from their mouths made the expressions of the two women, who had resigned themselves to their fate, change.

But they weren't bitten by the two Scaled Deathworms; instead, they entered a very warm embrace. When they raised their heads, they saw a handsome and resolute face.

"It's you!" both of them cried out. Even though they said the same thing, however, what they felt was entirely different.

Yun Jianyue was really happy to see him, because she had thought he'd died not too long ago. But now, not only had she met him again, she had even been saved by him. What else could she feel besides joy?

Yan Xuehen's feelings were much more complicated. Her first reaction was also happiness, but she quickly realized that she was being hugged at that moment. For countless years, forget about being hugged by a man, not even one of her fingers had been touched by one.

While she was mainly embarrassed, she also felt extremely guilty. She was worried that Yun Jianyue would notice something and quickly exclaimed, "Let go of me!"

Yun Jianyue rolled her eyes and remarked, "We're in this kind of situation, and yet you still care about that? It's not as if you'll get pregnant from a hug." She clearly thought that Yan Xuehen was just acting cold as usual and didn't want to be hugged by a man.

When it saw its children being killed, the mother Scaled Deathworm roared in anger. Having confirmed that the two powerful human women had already lost their fighting strength, it quickly charged forth over like a hurricane.

The worm's speed already exceeded Zu An's imagination. He was carrying two women who couldn't move by themselves. As such, he couldn't escape the Scaled Deathworm's pursuit even if he used Grandgale.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen had even sharper senses, so how could they have not realized that? They both cried, "Don't worry about us anymore!"

If he still tried to save the two of them, let alone saving neither one, he would even end up throwing his own life away. As such, it would be better for him to just let go of the two women. While the strange worm ate them, he might have enough time to escape.

But Zu An didn't have any intention of letting go. He quickly called out, "We're five li away!"

As soon as he said those words, the three of them instantly vanished, and the Scaled Deathworm bit down on empty air. It opened and closed its mandibles a few times, but didn't sense the presence of flesh between its jaws. It looked around in confusion, but there was no one to be seen.

...

Meanwhile, somewhere in the distance, Zu An and the two women opened their eyes, finding themselves underwater.

Zu An was still fine, because those who had reached a certain level of cultivation could breathe internally. However, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue weren't so fortunate. Normally, they wouldn't have any problems underwater, but they had been seriously injured, and so they were completely caught off guard by the sudden water. They almost immediately began to suffocate, their faces turning red.

At that moment, the two of them were no different from ordinary people who were drowning. They both instinctively reached for their sole lifeline: Zu An.

The normally proud and aloof, ice-cold sect master, as well as the domineering Devil Sect Master, were both weak and delicate, their red lips carrying an unusual sort of fatal charm.

Zu An subconsciously moved closer to them. Scenes from several movies he had seen in the past appeared in his mind. Didn't people in those scenes always use their mouths to transfer oxygen?

Chapter 1164: Awkward

Yan Xuehen blushed furiously when she saw Zu An move closer, perhaps because of bashfulness or alarm. She began to struggle frantically, not knowing where she was suddenly getting the strength to do so from.

Zu An was conflicted over the blissful question of who to give oxygen to first. After a moment, though, he realized something in alarm. What the heck am I thinking?! They're Chuyan and Honglei's masters!

What the hell possessed me just now?!

Men are all pigs after all!

Zu An cursed himself inwardly. He quickly used Blue Mallard to form an air bubble for the three of them. As the bubble formed, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue began frantically breathing in oxygen. Only then did they gradually begin to recover.

They both looked at Zu An. Yan Xuehen's expression was extremely conflicted. On one hand, she was furious that he had used some witchcraft on her, but on the other hand, she had to admit that he had saved her life. Furthermore, when he had appeared in their moment of crisis, her heart had begun beating in a way it never had before; it was an unfamiliar feeling.

The bubble wasn't too small for them, but it was still a bit cramped for all three people. Zu An felt as if he had returned to the experience of mornings in his previous world, where he had been crammed into a train with many other passengers. But unlike the big and smelly uncles who had surrounded him, he instead had two stunning beauties next to him, making the experience worlds apart.

Yan Xuehen could sense Zu An's body's heat through her clothes, which made her feel extremely uncomfortable. She subconsciously moved backward, but that just made the water bubble shake intensely.

“Stone cold woman, can you not move, please? You’ll break this bubble and we’ll all become food for the fishes,” Yun Jianyue remarked, shooting her a glare.

Yan Xuehen knew that she was in the wrong as well. She looked away with a harrumph, not arguing against her adversary for the first time.

Only then did Yun Jianyue give Zu An a look, a hint of gentleness appearing in her eyes. She said, “Damn kid, you were actually alive and kicking. I worried about you all this time for nothing.”

Yan Xuehen was just about to shoot back a sarcastic reply, but considering what had just happened, wouldn’t that only make Zu An feel even more grateful toward Yun Jianyue? As such, she swallowed those words back down.

“Big sis sect master, why are you here?” Zu An asked. He had never thought that he would see her here.

“That’s a long story...” Yun Jianyue replied. Even though she was from the Devil Sect, she didn’t want to explain in detail either; as such, she just said with a smile, “Not even the emperor Zhao Han would dare to have me and Yan Xuehen surrounding him, one in each arm, and yet a brat like you achieved it. How does it feel?”

Yan Xuehen gave her an accusatory look. This witch... We’re in this kind of situation, and yet you can still say something like that?

Zu An was sweating buckets. He almost choked on water and quickly explained, “Uh, I can only make the bubble this big. Any bigger and it’ll break.”

“I wasn’t blaming you, so what are you getting all nervous for? Sigh, my body really is weak right now. Lend me a shoulder,” Yun Jianyue said. She shifted into a more comfortable posture and leaned against him, letting out a light sigh of comfort.

Yan Xuehen’s eyes went wide. What is going on with these two? Why does all of this seem so natural? No wonder Yun Jianyue almost fought me to the death when she heard me say I killed Zu An.

She had faced Yun Jianyue for many years. The other woman understood her, so how could she not understand as well?

Even though Yun Jianyue was from the Devil Sect, she had always maintained her purity. For so many years, even though there were untold numbers of experts who had fallen under her hands, she had never had any kind of relationship with any man, let alone acting so intimate.

Just what strange powers does this brat have? Yan Xuehen thought. She was suddenly horrified. Don’t tell me Yun Jianyue was also affected by his strange magic?

Her expression became unpleasant as she thought, This guy is way too despicable. At the same time, she felt a bit of sympathy for her old adversary Yun Jianyue.

“What are you staring at? This is my little brother. Why can’t I use his shoulder to rest for a bit?” Yun Jianyue remarked. She had noticed Yan Xuehen’s expression and just thought that the other woman was curious about their relationship.

"Your little brother or your little lover?" Yan Xuehen couldn't help but shoot back, thinking that the other woman was usually pretty sharp, and yet she was actually completely unaware that she had already been afflicted by this man's witchcraft.

"When did a woman like you become so sharp-tongued too?" Yun Jianyue replied, a bit surprised. But she suddenly thought of something. She looked at Zu An with an ambiguous smile and asked, "I almost forgot, but just now, didn't you want to use that chance to kiss us?"

Yan Xuehen's expression turned unnatural when she heard that. Meanwhile, Zu An's face heated up as he replied, "What are you talking about? I saw that you two were drowning, so I quickly used my skill to make a water bubble."

Yan Xuehen became a bit embarrassed, thinking that she had misunderstood him. At the time, she was struggling intensely... Just the thought alone made her feel a bit embarrassed.

But Yun Jianyue said, "Ah, what a pity. I was already prepared to kiss you. I've lived for so many years, and yet I've never even been able to experience what it feels like to be kissed by a man."

Yan Xuehen said coldly, "A demoness is nothing but a demoness after all. You have no sense of shame."

"He was going to do that to save my life. What is there to be embarrassed about in that kind of situation?" Yun Jianyue retorted mockingly. "It's someone else here who, because they're filthy inside, sees everything in a filthy way. Do you think Zu An wanted to kiss you? You're just a chunk of ice; what is there to even kiss? He's not even related to you in any way. Even if he did kiss someone, he would kiss me first."

Yan Xuehen began breathing heavily. She subconsciously wanted to retort that her relationship with Zu An wasn't any worse than Yun Jianyue's, but she was held back by her reasoning. She swallowed her words back down and looked away sharply, starting to sulk.

Yun Jianyue liked seeing Yan Xuehen looking wronged. She giggled and said, "Right, you were struggling like a woman clinging onto her chastity. Was that to preserve your purity for the one you like?"

"The one she likes?" Zu An exclaimed in shock. Even a woman like Yan Xuehen has someone she likes?

Yan Xuehen subconsciously gave Zu An a look, but she immediately shifted her gaze unnaturally, retorting, "What kind of nonsense are you speaking in front of a junior?"

"Shameless woman," Yun Jianyue said, curling her lips. But her mood was so good from having survived their ordeal that she didn't even bother arguing.

Yan Xuehen wanted to change the topic too. She looked at Zu An with eyes that were as pure as a snowy mountain, asking, "How did you instantly move us here? Was it Soulspeak?" She was a sect master, so her experiences were extraordinary. She quickly recovered her usual temperament when the conversation returned to cultivation.

"Idiot. Ah Zu isn't even from the Dragon Race, so how could he know Soulspeak?" Yun Jianyue remarked without a trace of politeness. Yan Xuehen frowned, but she didn't retort. That really didn't seem too likely, after all.

Zu An thought to himself, Were these two women enemies in their last lives or something? They've been arguing from the moment I saw them. However, he replied, "It's actually more or less the same; the principles are similar."

Yun Jianyue sighed with amazement and said, "Thank goodness we ended up in the water. If we had appeared in the earth, we might have just suffocated to death."

Zu an said with a smile, "I wouldn't have suffocated to death, but I wouldn't have been able to produce this kind of water bubble to give you two air then."

Yan Xuehen blushed, while a dangerous glint flashed through Yun Jianyue's eyes as she replied, "You damn brat, you really were planning to feed us oxygen through a kiss?"

"What else could I have done then?" Zu An replied, surprisingly straightforwardly. "Would I just have to watch you two die?"

Yun Jianyue's expression became somewhat strange as she replied, "What you said makes some sense. But you would only have needed to help me. Don't tell me you were going to kiss this stone cold woman too?"

Yan Xuehen's expression changed and she exclaimed, "Why would I want him to save me?!"

Zu An replied impatiently, "Didn't I just save you? If I hadn't arrived just in time, you would already have been sliced in half by that Deathworm. At that point, the goddess of Cloudcenter Commandery would have had her inner organs strewn everywhere, and even that would later have turned into the Deathworm's poop."

"You!" Yan Xuehen exclaimed, blushing furiously. Smoke almost seemed about to come out of her head as she cried, "Wasn't all of this your fault to begin with?!"

If it hadn't been for this scoundrel, would she even have come here in the first place? Would she have fought against Yun Jianyue like that? That damn worm obviously wouldn't have mattered.

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +411 +411 +411...

"What does this have to do with me?" Zu An replied, completely confused.

Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue's expression also became a bit unpleasant as she asked, "Can you not be so gross?" After all, that had almost happened to her too.

"Alright, alright, I was wrong," Zu An replied, chuckling in embarrassment. While they were speaking, however, the bubble had already reached the surface. With one of the women in each arm, he kicked off and headed for shore.

When she felt his hand's warmth, Yan Xuehen's entire body stiffened. Even Yun Jianyue, who had been focused on adjusting her condition, felt a bit uncomfortable.

Because they had been underwater, their clothes had already been drenched. It hadn't been that obvious while they were in the water bubble, but now that they had returned to the surface, their clothes now stuck to their skin, becoming see-through.

Such a thing would never happen normally. Their cultivation levels were so incredible that their bodies normally wouldn't be tainted by even a single speck of filth, let alone water. Even if something did get on them somehow, just a bit of ki would make them completely dry again. But the two women couldn't do that right now!

Chapter 1165: Shock

Even though Yan Xuehen was furious, she had too many doubts, and didn't really know what to say. Instead, Yun Jianyue couldn't take it anymore and cried, "Brat, close your eyes!"

Zu An hadn't noticed anything at first, but only now that he had been reminded did he notice the two women's current state. He was stupefied. The women's figures were graceful, lovely, and absolutely enchanting; more importantly, they were both well-known individuals in this world!

Yun Jianyue was someone who incited fear throughout the world, her prestige born of dominance. She was someone many parents used to make their children stop crying at night. There was even less need to talk about Yan Xuehen. She was a goddess in the eyes of many people, revered by countless individuals.

The two were both absolutely stunning, and yet no one dared to have such thoughts, or even discuss their appearance for that matter. That was because they were both just too powerful. They were almost like almighty deities that others could normally only look up to, not daring to have any blasphemous thoughts.

And yet, this side of the two women that no one else had seen was actually right in front of Zu An. Considering the huge disparity in status, who could resist such stimulation?

"You're still staring?" Yun Jianyue snapped. She was still the Devil Sect's master; her brows stood on end, killing intent surging within her. Even though she was seriously injured at that moment, her killing intent was still real.

"Um... If I don't watch the way, I might fall back into the water," Zu An subconsciously replied.

Yan Xuehen said with a sneer, "With your cultivation, you should be able to clearly sense the way even with your eyes closed. How could you possibly fall back into the water?"

With their knowledge, such a crude excuse was instantly exposed.

Zu An sighed and replied, "Since I can sense my surroundings even if I close my eyes, what difference is there whether I leave my eyes open or close them?"

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were speechless.

"Fine, fine, fine., I'll just close my eyes." Even after dancing on the brink of death like an absolute madman, Zu An still obeyed. He moved toward the shore, and after putting the two women down, he turned around and asked, "I have some clothes here; do you want any?"

When she saw him turn around, Yan Xuehen nodded inwardly. Even though this brat spoke rather frivolously, he actually had a gentlemanly side to him. Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue said in shock, "You actually have female clothes on you? Are you a pervert?"

Zu An was speechless. He could only say, "They're all Chuyan's clothes. I carry some for her in my storage pouch." In truth, he didn't only have Chuyan's clothes; he had clothes from his other sweethearts too. But he wasn't in a position to explain such a thing.

Yan Xuehen's heart skipped a beat when she heard the name 'Chuyan'. She began feeling vexed, thinking, He is my disciple's man! Just what the hell have I been thinking recently?!

But she quickly concluded that she was probably still being affected by his sorcery. She felt even more annoyed when she realized that.

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +109 +109 +109...

Zu An jumped in fright. He didn't know how he had offended her. It seemed he shouldn't have mentioned Chuyan's name after all...

On the other hand, Yun Jianyue sneered. She asked, "Why do you only have that Chu Chuyan's clothes? You don't have any of our Honglei's? You really don't deserve that girl."

Zu An said sulkily "When it comes to why I don't have her clothes, does big sis sect master really have no idea?"

Only then did Yun Jianyue realize she had tried to break them up several times. Her expression became a bit awkward. Suddenly, she felt some doubts. Was her choice to break them up correct?

Even though Honglei might be able to cultivate the Heavenly Devil Temptation to an even higher level, if her man ended up being stolen by that Chu girl, she would still be the loser in the end...

If it were another girl, Yun Jianyue wouldn't have cared at all. But Chuyan was Yan Xuehen's disciple. If her disciple lost to Yan Xuehen's disciple, wouldn't that be like having lost herself, in a certain sense?

Yan Xuehen felt hesitant. At first, she had thought that Yun Jianyue was also affected by Zu An's sorcery, but judging from their conversation just then, that didn't seem to be the case.

Don't tell me that after he used that witchcraft on me, I really ended up liking him without realizing it? She was stupefied when she thought of that possibility.

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but give Yan Xuehen a few more looks. She just felt that this old rival of hers was really acting a bit strange today. But she couldn't figure out what was going on, so she said to Zu An, "It's really hard for us to change our clothes in our current state."

Zu An was alarmed. As if she had seen through his thoughts, Yun Jianyue remarked, "What, you thought I would ask you to help us get dressed?"

Zu An almost choked on his own saliva. He spluttered, "Of course not! I was going to say that I could use my skills to dry your clothes."

Yun Jianyue then nodded in satisfaction, saying, "That's more like it. You can use the fire element, so it's suitable for drying clothes."

Yan Xuehen had seen Zu AN use fire and ice before. She once again sighed in amazement, thinking, This kid really is a ridiculous genius, someone any sect would fight over.

Maybe I should just make an exception and take him into our White Jade Sect. With his cultivation and aptitude, the other elders won't have much to say either. I can see him more often too...

Her expression changed as soon as that thought emerged. She quickly warned herself that her cultivation technique focused on being free from emotions, so she definitely couldn't bring him back! That would greatly affect Chuyan's future.

Meanwhile, Zu An's palm was already pressing against Yan Xuehen's back. Her entire body went rigid when she felt the heat from his palm.

In the past, she definitely wouldn't have let another person place their hand in such a vital area. But now, she discovered that she wasn't worried about him hurting her at all, even though she had clearly been after his life not too long before.

Zu An suddenly said, "Ma'ams, don't worry; my eyes are closed."

Yun Jianyue said jokingly, "If you dare to open your eyes halfway, I'll definitely gouge them out after this is done."

Zu An couldn't help but laugh. He replied, "Big sis sect master, you don't seem to understand this current situation! You two can't do a thing to retaliate right now. If you piss me off too much, aren't you scared that I'll do things to you, and then kill you afterwards?"

Yan Xuehen was horrified. Even though she didn't care about her appearance, after so many years, she had sensed how much other people around her cared. She knew just what kind of appeal her appearance had to men. Even though Yun Jianyue had faced her for several years, she also had to admit that the demoness was also extremely beautiful.

Normally, no one would dare to do anything to them, but now, they were completely defenseless. Furthermore, their special status and appearance would only give a man even greater stimulation...

While Yan Xuehen was feeling restless, she heard Yun Jianyue reply with a sneer, "Would I have treated you as my friend if I didn't know about your character? Would I have done all that when I heard you... Ahem, anyways. I know you're not that kind of person."

Zu An protested, "So honest people deserve to be bullied?"

Yun Jianyue giggled and said, "Alright, enough. Stop chattering already. That monster is still here, so help us dry our clothes first."

Yan Xuehen remained silent. She had discovered that she knew far less about Zu An than Yun Jianyue did. That made her feel extremely unhappy. However, a warm feeling quickly spread through her entire body. The clothes on her body gradually began drying, emitting a cloud of steam.

She nodded. Even though Zu An's grasp over the fire element was still a bit immature in the eyes of a grandmaster, it had already exceeded the understanding of many experts in this world. It wasn't something someone of his age should have been able to achieve.

Yan Xuehen's expression stiffened when she realized that she had just praised him again inwardly. She quickly shifted her attention and asked, "What about Yu Yanluo? Why don't I see her with you?"

Zu An smacked his head and cried, "Ah, I forgot about her while saving you two!"

Since the Scaled Deathworm was too powerful and Yu Yanluo was still recovering, he had made her wait in a safe place far away from him. But he still hadn't looked for her after so much time. She was probably worried to death, right?

He suddenly turned around and said, "Your clothes are already pretty much dry. Rest here for a bit; I'll be back after I get her."

"Yu Yanluo, the capital's number one beauty. Tsk tsk, you really are a cunning bastard, not even letting a Medusa go," Yun Jianyue remarked. She naturally knew what had happened recently. She had been extremely unhappy to hear that the two of them were together.

Zu An's forehead darkened and he asked, "Can you not describe me with such words, please?"

"What will we do if you leave? What if another one of those strange bugs comes? We'd be dead for sure." Yun Jianyue said with a frown. Yan Xuehen gave her a look of astonishment. Why did she feel as if the other woman was acting jealous?

Still, what Yun Jianyue had said made sense. The terrifying bug had summoned more subordinates, showing that there were definitely many more of its kind in the mines. If the bugs made their way over, the two women would be done for.

Zu An used Blue Mallard to create an air bubble, then placed the two women inside, saying, "Those strange bugs move through the earth. You two should be safe in the water."

He was about to leave when he suddenly thought of something. He took out a pill and said, "Sect Master Yan, this is the Ice Heart Pill you gave me. It should be useful for your injuries." While he was talking, however, he suddenly saw Yun Jianyue's jaw drop as she stared at Yan Xuehen.

Chapter 1166: Caught Red-Handed

Yan Xuehen had already gotten a bad feeling when she saw him moving to take out an item. Now, though, it was already too late to stop him. A red blush rushed across her snow-white skin when she sensed Yun Jianyue's surprised and gossipy expression. She was so embarrassed she really wanted to crawl into a hole and disappear.

When he sensed the strange atmosphere in the air, Zu An couldn't help but stop as well. He asked in confusion, "Big sis sect master, why are you two acting like this?"

"She gave you that?" Yun Jianyue asked in absolute disbelief.

"Yup." Zu An nodded instinctively. He explained, "I was injured before and she gave me two of them. But I already ate one..."

He suddenly realized there was a big problem. There was only a single pill left! How were they going to share it? It had been Yan Xuehen's medicine to begin with, so of course she should use it. But he and Yun Jianyue were close. Giving it to another woman in front of her really didn't seem too good.

Unfortunately, he didn't have any more bottles of Faith in Brother Spring. Otherwise, he could give Yun Jianyue one. But even if he had Faith in Brother Spring, it would only have been the small version. It wasn't even enough to help him completely recover, so its effects might be negligible for grandmasters.

"She gave you both pills?" Yun Jianyue's voice rose an octave, shock written all over her face.

"Yeah..." Zu An replied.

He wanted to say something else, but Yan Xuehen quickly stopped him in shame and embarrassment, saying, "Enough, enough. Hurry and save that little lover of yours already, or else you'll be in tears after finding out she was eaten by those strange worms." She was worried that Yun Jianyue's next words would make it hard for her to still conduct herself with dignity. She obviously had to chase Zu An away ahead of time.

Zu An figured that made sense as well. Yu Yanluo's safety was still the most important. He couldn't be bothered with anything else at the moment. He searched his robes again and took out a Soul Return Pill, saying, "This pill is the famous Soul Return Pill made by Divine Physician Ji. It should help at least a little with your injuries." He didn't wait for the two of them to say anything else and quickly left.

...

Zu An was going to let the two split the goods themselves. He would offend the other party if he gave it to either one of them.

"This damn brat!" Yun Jianyue gritted her teeth so hard she felt them ache when she saw him make his getaway. However, she wasn't in the mood to divide the pills at all. Instead, she gave Yan Xuehen a look and said, "Tsk tsd tsd, no wonder you weren't willing to hand over the pills no matter how I asked. So you gave them to him!"

Yan Xuehen really wanted to jump into the water and end it all at that moment. That way, she wouldn't have to experience such mockery. But considering how that would only further confirm their relationship, slandering her sect, she took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down. She said, "Considering his and Chuyan's relationship, I obviously could not just see him die and let it affect my relationship with my disciple."

Even though she was pure and dignified like the snow on a mountain's summit, she was first and foremost a sect master. She wouldn't have been able to sit in her position if she didn't have a few tricks of her own. She quickly found a good excuse.

"Give me a break. Do you think I'm a three year old child?" Yun Jianyue sneered. "If my memory serves me correctly, you were about to kill him, right? You must already have made your decision then. With your personality, how could you possibly change your mind and save him?"

Yan Xuehen said calmly, "I indeed wanted to kill him at first. I thought he was just lusting after beauty and that he had colluded with the fiend races. But when I saw him risk his life to protect the Medusa, I decided that he had some loyalty, and that he was not a shameless man who only acted out of perversion. I felt a bit of appreciation, so my killing intent dissipated a bit."

She continued, "Afterward, I was shocked by the cultivation he had at his age. What was even more remarkable was that he did not give up in the face of adversity, and he always found a solution

somehow. Such aptitude, paired with that kind of nature, would result in immeasurable future prospects. I cherished his talent and wished to take him in as a disciple."

"Take him in as a disciple?" Yun Jianyue's expression turned strange. She asked, "Doesn't your White Jade Sect focus on being unmoved by emotions? You've long been trying to break up his relationship with your disciple too. Aren't you scared that the Chu girl won't be able to achieve that state if you make them fellow disciples?"

Yan Xuehen said seriously, "I have thought this through. If I forcefully separate them, it will only create regret in Chuyan's heart. Rather than that, I might as well allow them to be close to each other, and let her seek a true state of emotionlessness that way. I believe that with her aptitude and nature, she will be able to achieve this sooner or later."

Yun Jianyue replied with a laugh, "That Chu girl might be able to, but how could that crazy brat Zu An achieve that kind of mental state?"

Yan Xuehen was also stunned. She thought back to how, ever since she had learned about her disciple's encounter, she had sent some people to look into Zu An. She had learned that he had all sorts of beauties around him and almost passed out from anger. Now, it seemed that taking him in as a disciple really wasn't too realistic.

Yun Jianyue's smile faded as she said, "He's my little brother and also Honglei's good friend. If he's going to be anyone's disciple, he should be mine. There's no place for a stone cold woman like you."

"Do you really have to fight against me over everything?" Yan Xuehen shot back, sitting up straight and giving the other woman an angry look.

"Your state of indifference doesn't suit him. He definitely won't choose you either," Yun Jianyue said. She had great confidence in that point.

"That might not necessarily be the case." Yan Xuehen harrumphed. "The White Jade Sect has many secret methods. He doesn't need to cultivate the dao of emotionlessness."

Yun Jianyue was shocked. She replied, "You usually brag about your emotionless state to people like a madwoman, telling them all to learn it, and yet you're actually willing to let someone learn something else today?"

Yan Xuehen's face heated up. She replied, "Am I really as stubborn as you make me out to be? One obviously needs to teach in line with the student's ability."

"This is strange!" Yun Jianyue remarked suspiciously. "Your Ice Heart Pill is one of your White Jade Sect's greatest treasures; how could you just give it out like that? Not only that, you gave two of them in one go? He's not even your disciple yet! And when I asked you about it before, you were stuttering and mumbling. Why didn't you just tell me then?"

"What, do you think I like him or something?" Yan Xuehen shot back. She switched tactics, going from passive to aggressive. However, her heart was pounding, fearing that the other woman might notice something.

Yun Jianyue was actually somewhat stunned. That had only been a small suspicion, after all. However, after fighting against Yan Xuehen for so many years, she knew the woman better than anyone. How could this stone cold woman possibly like Zu An? Let alone the fact that he was her disciple's man... Even our Devil Sect's women aren't that unrestrained.

"Enough, enough. Just take the medicine already. Recover some strength as soon as possible," Yan Xuehen said, feeling a bit happier when she saw the other woman's stunned expression.

"Since there's only one, you should just take it," Yun Jianyue said. She didn't wait for the other woman to retort and picked up the Soul Return Pill, ingesting it. She was proud and didn't want to fight with Yan Xuehen over a pill; she still had her dignity.

Yan Xuehen gave Yun Jianyue a long look. She felt a bit of admiration for her adversary's decisiveness, so she didn't put on airs either and took the Ice Heart Pill, saying, "Alright. Even if I recover a bit faster because of this, I won't trouble you in this mine."

Yun Jianyue sneered. "You're making it sound as if you'll really recover faster than me or something."

Yan Xuehen knew that she was acting tough and didn't expose her. The two sat down in the bubble and began to adjust their breathing.

...

Meanwhile, Yu Yanluo had been nervously pacing about in a hidden cave. When she saw Zu An, she couldn't hold her emotions back and rushed at him, crying, "Ah! I thought something had happened to you! I wanted to find you, but I was scared that you'd come back and miss me..."

Zu An felt conflicted when he felt her lightly trembling body. He said, "It was my fault; I came back too late."

After a while, Yu Yanluo finally began to calm down. She noticed her current state and left his embrace in embarrassment. She wiped her tears while asking, "What happened over there? Why was there so much noise? Did you find Sect Master Yan?"

Zu An had a strange expression on his face as he replied, "It isn't just Sect Master Yan; Sect Master Yun was also there."

Yu Yanluo was stunned. Then, however, she felt overjoyed as she exclaimed, "Doesn't that mean it'll be even easier to defeat that Scaled Deathworm?!" In her opinion, even though the two were in different factions, they were both humans. They could work together to solve the problem, right?

Zu An had a bitter smile as he said, "I fear that it's not that easy... It's hard to explain all of this right now. You'll understand once I bring you over."

Suddenly, the two of them shivered. They saw a giant worm slowly moving toward them. What else could it be but the mother worm?!

Chapter 1167: Three Women Are Enough for a Drama

Screeeeech...

A strange and terrifying noise filled the air. It was without a doubt the Scaled Deathworm's armor grinding against the sand and stones again.

Zu An felt an extremely eerie and cold divine will scan through the surroundings. They had already been discovered! He knew full well that considering the Scaled Deathworm's strength, together with the wind sweeping through the dirt, even if he went all out, he might still be caught quickly by it. Only if he instantly moved over a large distance like before would he be able to shake it off.

He thought of using Keyboard Come again, but his soul ached. It was clear that using it twice in a row just then had already taxed his soul greatly. If he forcefully used it again, he might just die even without the worm's help.

What do I do, what do I do...

Zu An had a particular good trait, which was that the more dire the situation was, the calmer he became. His thoughts even became a bit sharper than usual. He quickly thought of something.

He urged Yu Yanluo, "Hurry and enter your World Painting!" His Brilliant Glass Bead couldn't store people in it, but Yu Yanluo's magical artifact could form a world of its own. He had been sucked in himself.

Yu Yanluo was puzzled, but she roughly guessed what he was thinking. However, even if it could suck them in, the World Painting would still be present. It might be able to fool ordinary worms, but the powerful mother worm would definitely sense that she was inside the painting. At that point, if it devoured the painting, the world inside of it would also experience a calamity. The people inside would still be dead for sure.

Even so, she knew that the situation was dire. She didn't have time to ask anything, but she still chose to trust him without holding back at all. Her figure flickered, and she was quickly sucked into the painting. She was about to pull Zu An in too, but he instead rolled up the painting.

"Huh?" she exclaimed. If it were anyone else, they definitely wouldn't be able to use her scroll this easily. But when Zu An did it, she didn't resist at all, letting him roll it up just like that.

"Ah Zu, what are you doing?" she cried, suddenly panicking. She was worried that he would sacrifice himself to save her.

"Shh! Don't speak!" Zu An replied as he collected the scroll and put away the luminescent pearl he held. Then, he used the skill he had just unlocked, 'Hidden in the Dark'.

At that instant, the Scaled Deathworm's large mouth snapped closed, biting the area the two had just been in. Its two massive mandibles clanged together with a tooth-rattling noise. It raised part of its body in confusion, clearly realizing that it had missed. It looked all around itself to try to find its target.

It was technically incorrect to say the worm was looking around, because it didn't have eyes. It relied on its six feelers to sense the small vibrations in the air around it. At the same time, it used its sense of smell, as well as releasing its grandmaster rank divine will. Even though its surroundings were pitch black, that didn't hinder its senses at all.

But it didn't sense anything even after searching for some time. It released an ear-splitting cry, clearly in a terrible mood. Its prey had suddenly disappeared right before its eyes several times already that day, but it couldn't figure out why at all. It was a bit unwilling to accept that, and continued to search its surroundings.

In truth, Zu An was very close by. From up close, he could clearly sense just how terrifying it was. The power it gave off even surpassed the domain of a grandmaster. Perhaps it was due to his instincts as a living creature, or because he just didn't want to end up as food, but all of his fine hairs were standing on end.

At first, he had still been a bit worried that the monster would notice him. After all, it was just way too powerful. But after some time, he had noticed that it was just slamming its body from side to side like a headless fly, unable to find him at all. He sighed in relief. It seemed the keyboard's skills were still quite reliable.

After making sure of his own safety, Zu An looked at the worm that was moving around in the distance. He was itching to give it a try. If he attacked with the Poisonous Prick, would he have a chance of killing it?

Eager to attempt it after the thought appeared in his mind, he secretly took out the Poisonous Prick. However, the Scaled Deathworm suddenly turned around to 'look' in his direction. He was so frightened he quickly put the Poisonous Prick away. The Scaled Deathworm moved back over to where he was hiding; it looked around but didn't find anything. Only then did it disappear back underground.

Only then did Zu An discover that his entire body was completely drenched. It seemed that considering the Scaled Deathworm's strength, just a hint of killing intent would be enough for it to detect him.

He recalled the 'Hidden in the Dark' skill's description. If he attacked, the stealth effects would instantly vanish. Considering the Scaled Deathworm's terrifying strength, it would instantly react. He wondered how he could get rid of it while releasing Yu Yanluo.

"Ah Zu, how did you do that?" Yu Yanluo asked, sounding incredibly shocked. In her perception, the two of them had always been there; and yet, even after that worm had moved around them several times, it hadn't noticed a thing.

"I have a skill that can allow me to hide myself," Zu An explained. He said, "Let's rendezvous with Sect Masters Yun and Yan first."

...

The two of them quickly arrived by the pool where Zu An had left the other two women again. Zu An sighed in relief when he saw that the bubble was still intact. He really would have regretted it forever if he came back and saw that the two women had been devoured by some strange beast.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen had been meditating and adjusting their condition in the water bubble. When they sensed the water bubble slowly rising, they both opened their eyes.

Yun Jianyue was happy to see Zu An return safely. Even Yan Xuehen's ice-cold expression softened somewhat. But when they saw Yu Yanluo behind him, both of their smiles quickly disappeared.

"Greetings, Sect Master Yan and Sect Master Yun! I've admired both of you for a long time, but I didn't expect to meet in this kind of situation." Yu Yanluo was free and unrestrained. She greeted the two of them naturally.

Even though her cultivation was inferior to theirs, it wasn't low either. Furthermore, as the Yu clan's leader, and considering her incredible reputation, she wasn't inferior to them at all. There was naturally no need for her to be too humble.

Yan Xuehen's expression was a bit unnatural. After all, she had tried to kill Yu Yanluo not too long ago.

Yu Yanluo was acting so friendly, and Zu An was right there too, so Yun Jianyue couldn't just treat them too coldly. She said, "I've heard of the great reputation of the capital's number one beauty as well. Now that we've met, your beauty even leaves me moved."

It wasn't their first meeting at all. But this was the first time they'd had a proper face-to-face conversation.

Yu Yanluo smiled and replied, "Sect Master Yun is too kind with your praise. In terms of appearance, the sect master is superior to this little sister."

Even though she knew that those words were just flattery, Yun Jianyue still liked hearing them. After all, the other woman had been publicly acknowledged as the number one beauty. She couldn't help but give Yan Xuehen a smug look as if to say, 'Do you see that? She told me I was prettier than her, but she didn't say the same about you. Your appearance is clearly inferior to mine.'

Yan Xuehen had fought Yun Jianyue for so long, so how could she not guess the other woman's intentions? She looked away, ignoring those senseless competitive statements.

Zu An coughed and said, "Enough, enough. Stop with all the polite talk already. The most important situation right now is dealing with that Scaled Deathworm."

He then shared what he had learned from the Silverflame Flowertree with them. Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions grew serious when they heard the explanation.

"I have never heard of this Scaled Deathworm before."

"It seems to have come from a different world after all."

Zu An said, "I want to get rid of it as quickly as possible. What do you two think?"

Yan Xuehen nodded and said, "Eliminating evil is my way, and the responsibility of my people. I will not shirk this responsibility." She nodded inwardly. Even though this kid was a bit of a pervert and a bit shameless, he still acted properly at critical moments.

Yun Jianyue remarked unhappily, "What do you mean eliminating evil? We're just chasing out an outsider. Even though you call my faction part of the evil path, for one thing, this matter involves me too. I don't want to see the people suffer either."

Yu Yanluo showed both of them a respectful bow and said, "I thank the two of you in place of all of Cloudcenter Commandery's common people."

Yun Jianyue laughed and said teasingly, "We have a fiend and a demoness here. We're always being chased and hunted by the orthodox faction, and yet at critical moments, we still defend the peace of this world dutifully. I wonder what a certain member of the orthodox faction has to say about that?"

Yan Xuehen frowned. Indeed, for the first time she couldn't think of a retort. She began to wonder if all of her past actions had been based on seeing the world as too black and white.

Seeing Yan Xuehen fall silent, Yun Jianyue felt a bit bored. She said, "But we have another problem right now. I fought against this stone cold woman for too long and injured my foundations. Even though I've recovered a bit of movement ability with that medicine, I'm far from being at the level where I can face that Scaled Deathworm."

"Indeed. In our current state, even if all four of us work together, we will still not be a match for it," Yan Xuehen said, looking worried. She gave Yun Jianyue a hateful glare. It was all this madwoman's fault for insisting on fighting her, leaving two glorious grandmasters in their current state.

Yun Jianyue became upset, snapping, "Stone cold woman, if it weren't because you insisted on being all prideful and saying you killed Zu An, how would all of this have happened?!"

Zu An was stunned. So these two were fighting because of me!

Yu Yanluo's expression turned strange. She could never have expected that these two legendary women would actually fight because of Zu An. When she recalled how Yan Xuehen had given Zu An such precious medicines...

She jumped in fright. These two won't become my rivals in love, will they?

Chapter 1168: Investing a Lot

Zu An felt moved as he looked at Yun Jianyue and exclaimed, "Big sis sect master, so you fought against her because you thought I had died!"

Yan Xuehen felt sore inside. She must have become a villain in his eyes. But she quickly realized that there was something wrong with her mood, and only felt more and more vexed.

Yun Jianyue cleared her throat and said, "You don't have to be too thankful. You are Honglei's... good friend, after all. Even I owe you, so how could I just watch without doing anything?" She suddenly realized something and said, "How about this? If you're grateful to me, then just accept me as your master."

Zu An and Yu Yanluo were speechless. Zu An thought, Why is another woman wanting to take me as a disciple? Am I a hot commodity or something?

Yan Xuehen began to panic. She exclaimed, "Demoness, you are shameless! I was clearly the one who decided on that first!"

"He didn't even agree to join you," Yun Jianyue remarked, rolling her eyes. She said to Zu An, "If you make me your master, you'll be Honglei's junior brother. It'll be easier for you two to be around each other."

“Furthermore, in our Holy Sect, Honglei is the saintess. But as a preventive measure, we actually have many saintess candidates, and all of them are stunning beauties. If you like any of them, you can take them as your companion and do whatever you like.”

Zu An and Yu Yanluo were speechless once again.

Fortunately, Yan Xuehen was the first one to blurt out, “Miss Yun, do you even have any sense of shame left? Are you looking for a disciple, or are you... Are you...” She was too embarrassed to even finish her sentence.

Yun Jianyue gave her an indifferent look and said, “Considering Zu An’s aptitude, strength, appearance, and his status as my disciple, those saintess candidates would be fighting for the chance to become his companion. What would there be to feel unhappy about?”

Yan Xuehen was really getting annoyed. She shot back, “That really is something only the Devil Sect would do. Utterly shameless!”

Yun Jianyue said coldly, “The way our Holy Sect does things is actually practical and realistic. You clearly want to take him in as a disciple, and yet you’re acting like a petulant child. How fake!”

“You!” Yan Xuehen didn’t know how to retort. She definitely wouldn’t be able to make a similar offer. Forget about the fact that she had never intended anything like that; even if she did, the others in the sect wouldn’t agree. That would shake the very principles of the White Jade Sect.

She took a deep breath and looked at Zu An, asking, “What do you think?” She figured that even though this man was a bit perverted, he already had so many beauties at his side. Furthermore, he actually had a bit of a chivalrous side to him deep down. Yun Jianyue’s temptation might not necessarily work.

Zu An thought to himself, Do you even need to ask? Of course big sis sect master’s offer shows more sincerity.

He was just about to speak, but when he saw her expression that was as clear as water and full of expectations, he changed his wording just as the response left his lips. “Only a child would answer that multiple-choice question. A mature person would obviously... want it all!”

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were speechless.

Zu An coughed and said, “The two of you are both extraordinary legends. If I could take both of you on as my masters, I would definitely be able to learn even more formidable things.” As for Master Empress, he’d just coax her a bit afterward. She probably wouldn’t mind letting a few more little sisters teach him.

Yun Jianyue was so annoyed she laughed, saying, “Kid, your appetite is surprisingly big, hm? If it were anyone else, I would already have smacked them to death. But you are quite something. I like this domineering side of yours.”

Even though Yan Xuehen wasn’t happy to hear that, she didn’t refuse it either. Her own conditions were far inferior to Yun Jianyue’s, and yet the other party still wanted to take her as his master. Didn’t that mean that to some extent, she had actually won against Yun Jianyue?

Yu Yanluo couldn't keep watching the scene. She said, "Ahem, everyone. Isn't the more important matter now how to deal with that Scaled Deathworm?"

The two women's eyes were practically turning green from greed. Where had their grandmaster attitudes gone? It was as if they were trying to fight over a man or something! Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue immediately realized how they were acting and felt somewhat embarrassed.

Zu An said, "Actually, I had a chance to kill it, but it noticed me ahead of time..." Then, he gave them a rough recount of what had just happened.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen were both shocked, exclaiming, "You ran into that worm again?" They looked at each other when they realized they had blurted out the same thing.

Yan Xuehen quickly asked, "Just what kind of skill was that, if it allowed you to avoid its spiritual senses?"

"Exactly! Why did I not know that you had such a formidable skill?" Yun Jianyue also expressed her disbelief.

After all, even the two of them wouldn't have been confident in their ability to escape its perception even when they were at their strongest. Just how had Zu An done it?

"It's a new skill." Zu An chuckled in embarrassment. "I can hide myself in absolute darkness, but as soon as there's a bit of light, or if I attack, it'll lose its effectiveness."

They had to work together to defeat the terrifying monster in the future, so he didn't hide such a crucial piece of information. Otherwise, the consequences might be really terrible if there were any slip-ups.

Yan Xuehen's expression became a bit conflicted. Previously, she had realized that Zu An and Yan Jianyue had already known each other for a long time, and that their relationship was special. Otherwise, Yun Jianyue wouldn't have gone crazy when she heard that I had killed Zu An.

I was trying to kill him not too long ago, and yet he's actually telling me the flaws of this skill so easily. He is a true gentleman after all...

She couldn't help but ask, "Did you plan on using that pitch-black dagger, then?"

Zu An hesitated. He took out the Poisonous Prick and said, "Indeed. This thing has something similar to a curse. Once injured by it, the target will immediately lose their life."

"There's something so magical in this world?" Yun Jianyue exclaimed in incredible shock. "This thing might be deity-grade! Brat, how do you have so many secrets?"

Yan Xuehen was also extremely moved. With her and Yun Jianyue's status, they had seen all sorts of deity-grade weapons. However, it was the first time she had seen one like this. Even they were a bit tempted. She said with a serious expression, "Don't tell anyone about this item in the future. Possessing a treasure will arouse the envy of others; you might incite the jealousy of the powerful in this world."

Yu Yanluo had been about to say that herself. When she heard Yan Xuehen say it, she sighed in relief.

Zu An chuckled and replied, "You aren't outsiders, and we're stuck in the same boat right now. I can't hide such important information from you."

Not outsiders... Yan Xuehen's heart skipped a beat. Her expression was also a bit unnatural; she wasn't willing to look into his eyes again.

"With this thing, there's indeed a chance to kill that worm," Yun Jianyue said. "But at the grandmaster level, we become extremely sensitive to killing intent. That worm isn't any weaker than me or this stone cold woman. Between that and its animal instincts, it can only be even more sensitive than us. It can hide underground at any time. So even if you lurk beside it, once you decide to attack, your stealth will disappear, and it'll sense your killing intent. It could easily kill you instead."

"I have a solution to that," Yan Xuehen said. "I'll pass the 'Unshaken Daoist Manual' onto you. It can help you restrain your killing intent. As long as you attack while you're close enough, it shouldn't be able to sense anything."

Yun Jianyue asked in surprise, "You're even teaching him something like that?"

Yan Xuehen said indifferently, "This matter is related to the safety of the human race. He is risking his life for the people, so how can I cling onto a trifling technique? Furthermore, he was already willing to take me on as his master, so it would not go against the rules for me to teach him this."

Yun Jianyue sighed and said, "Look at you. Normally, you're all rigid and inflexible, a bit temperamental, and kind of annoying too... but today, I'm even feeling a bit of admiration for you."

Yan Xuehen's eyes twitched when she heard the string of adjectives. She shot back, "I suppose I should be thankful for that?"

Yu Yanluo said through ki, "Ah Zu, you're really fortunate! The 'Unshaken Daoist Manual' is White Jade Sect's supreme treasure text. Yan Xuehen relied on that art to reach the level she has today." She felt a strong sense of danger when she said that. These women really were going all out for Ah Zu!

But Zu An instead sounded a bit hesitant as he replied, "Um... I'm just a normal person; I like to experience feelings of love. Will I lose my emotions if I learn your technique and become a daoist, heartless and emotionless? If that's true, I don't want to learn it..."

Yun Jianyue's body rocked back and forth with laughter when she heard that. She remarked, "Stone cold woman, I didn't expect you would even go through something like this today!"

Yan Xuehen was speechless.

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +574 +574 +574...

Chapter 1169: Supreme Skills of Two Masters

Yan Xuehen immediately felt the urge to beat this damn kid up.

The Unshaken Daoist Manual was White Jade Sect's supreme treasure. There were countless people in this world who wanted to learn it, and yet would never have the chance. This was such a huge opportunity, but he was worried that he wouldn't become as good at playing around with girls because of it?

He's just a stupid and perverted man after all!

Yu Yanluo covered her mouth and giggled, thinking, Ah Zu really is interesting. In the past, she had always been surrounded by hypocrites. Zu An's straightforward side was a pleasant change of pace.

Yun Jianyue was even more delighted, saying, "Brat, big sis over here really likes this side of yours."

Yan Xuehen's expression turned ice-cold. She gritted her teeth and said, "You don't need to worry about that. This technique will only help you restrain your killing intent. There's no way just a trifling few lines will be enough to make you reach the indomitable state free of emotions that countless geniuses from our sect have been unable to reach."

Yun Jianyue also chuckled and said, "You really are overthinking it. The Unshaken Daoist Manual is so boundless and mysterious. There's no way she can teach you the entire thing in such a short amount of time. You can just relax and learn whatever she teaches you."

"Okay, I'll give it a try then," Zu An said, finally nodding in the end.

Seeing how unwilling he was, Yan Xuehen felt irritation boil within her. However, she was suddenly frightened. She had cultivated her unshaken state for so long; her mental state should have been free of any ripples. Why was it that after she had met him, she had begun feeling all sorts of strong emotions?

She couldn't vent her frustrations out on him, but she wasn't so polite toward Yun Jianyue. She said, "I'm going to pass him the chant now."

Yun Jianyue clicked her tongue and asked, "Do you think I'd be interested in a technique that prevents interpersonal relationships?" She walked some distance away and sat down cross-legged to meditate.

Yu Yanluo obviously knew that Yan Xuehen definitely didn't want her to hear the technique either. She gave them a smile, then walked off to one side to nurse her own injuries.

Yan Xuehen felt somewhat amazed. As expected of an incredible beauty like her; no wonder this guy was willing to risk his own life to protect her.

Sensing that her current mindset wasn't quite right, she quickly took a deep breath. She gave Zu An a cold look and said, "Before I pass the Unshaken Daoist Manual to you, I need to ask you something."

"What is it?" Zu An asked with a smile. "As long as sect master is the one asking me, this humble one won't withhold anything."

"Smooth talker." Yan Xuehen harrumphed. "Did you use... some strange kind of technique against me?"

Zu An was alarmed. She probably noticed the effects of Gold Phoenix's 'Love is More Solid Than Gold'.

"No, I didn't. Why would the sect master ask something like that?" he replied, pretending to be puzzled. Only an idiot would admit to that in the current situation. Otherwise, considering Yan Xuehen's nature, she would definitely become hostile. If that happened, how were they supposed to work together to deal with that Scaled Deathworm? Even if he decided to tell her, he had to tell her in private if they had an opportunity in the future.

Yan Xuehen carefully looked into Zu An's eyes. She thought to herself, Was I just overthinking things?

Could it be that it wasn't some kind of sorcery, but rather that she had actually become attracted to his outstanding characteristics after fighting against him...

Her heart beat crazily. She didn't dare to continue thinking about it and instead tried to sound emotionless as she said, "It is nothing; just a random question. I am going to pass you the Unshaken Taoist Manual. You cannot share this with anyone else, or else I will come to eliminate you no matter what corner of the world you flee to."

Zu An sighed in relief and said, "If you're going to be the one going after me, there's no problem."

Yan Xuehen was stunned. Zu An coughed and quickly explained, "What I meant was that seeing you would definitely be a happier thing than seeing some old men. Of course, I would never leak this to anyone else."

Yan Xuehen gave him a glare and shot back, "I am your master now; you are not allowed to speak nonsense anymore!" Despite saying that, however, she still enjoyed the praise about her beauty.

"I haven't even formally become your disciple yet..." Zu An mumbled.

"Focus and memorize the mental cultivation portion," Yan Xuehen said. She calmed herself down before slowly continuing, "Unmoved against all emotions, cast aside feelings; remain unshaken and undisturbed. From the heavens to the self, let this reign supreme. One's fate lies in the breath. The dead find root in the living; the living find root in the dead..."

Zu An's eyes lit up. As Yan Xuehen spoke, the energies around him began to move, as if extremely profound laws were swirling around him. He quickly collected his thoughts and memorized the whole thing. At the same time, he carefully analyzed the experience, comparing and contrasting it with everything he already knew. He gradually felt as if he were obtaining a kind of enlightenment.

Yan Xuehen knew that Zu An was gaining a lot of understanding from his appearance. She felt great admiration for him. This fellow's talent really is exceptional. Eventually, she said, "That piece was the Unshaken Daoist Manual's introduction. Remember it and spend some time thinking about it. It will be of great benefit to your future cultivation."

Zu An didn't agree with that. Even though the manual was profound and mysterious, if one studied it every day and you ended up becoming all cold and emotionless, what meaning would there be in life anymore? Of course, he didn't dare vocalize any of those thoughts.

Yan Xuehen continued, "Your talent is incredibly high, and you have already comprehended the basics of the Unshaken Daoist Manual. Now, I will teach you how to restrain your killing intent through this foundation."

Then, she started another chant. "Calm above impatience, cold above heat, peace and quiet as a principle. Seek a peace like the void; become absolutely empty..."

Yan Xuehen's hair fluttered around. Her clothes were purer than snow. She looked as pure as ceramic, her presence filled with the air of an immortal.

Zu An felt an icy cold emerge within him as Yan Xuehen chanted the sutra. Even his restlessness calmed down a bit.

"Focus!" Yan Xuehen noticed that he was fixing his stare on her, and a blush covered her cheeks. She glanced over at Yun Jianyue guiltily, and then sighed in relief when she saw that no one was paying attention to what was happening between them.

Suddenly, Zu An coughed and said, "I think I've already pretty much learned it."

"You already learned it?" Yan Xuehen exclaimed in shock. She said, "Then pick up a sword and try to stab me."

"Won't I hurt you?" Zu An replied somewhat hesitantly.

Yan Xuehen rolled her eyes and said "I am not asking you to stab me with that Poisonous Prick." Even though she hadn't reached her peak condition, her sight and spiritual senses still remained. It wouldn't be too difficult to evade Zu An's sword.

"Okay." Zu An didn't act too politely. He took out an ordinary sword from his Brilliant Glass Bead and said, "I'm starting."

Yan Xuehen felt a bit warm inside when she saw him take out an ordinary sword, clearly for fear of hurting her. She replied, "All right. Keep the technique I just taught you in mind."

The chants Zu An had just heard appeared in his mind. The expression in his eyes began to turn empty as he slowly thrust his sword outward.

"Even though it is much better than before, it still occasionally lets out a strand of killing intent. Try it again," Yan Xuehen remarked after easily avoiding the sword.

Zu An thrust his sword outward again.

"Even though no killing intent leaked out at all that time, it is still too slow. If you want to defeat that Scaled Deathworm, the slower you act, the more variables might appear. Again!" Yan Xuehen said. She was a famous master, after all. She easily noticed where the problem lay.

Just like that, Zu An's sword thrust outward again and again. Yan Xuehen continued to point out his weaknesses.

"Thrust at me again!"

"Use more strength!"

"Like that; don't stop!"

...

Yun Jianyue felt strange when she heard all those things. She asked, "Why does it sound as if the two of you are doing something dirty?"

Yan Xuehen was stunned. Only then did she realize the double meanings behind what she had just said. Her ice-cold face turned as red as an apple. She shot back angrily, "You witch, what kind of nonsense are you saying?"

She grabbed her sword and tried to attack Yun Jianyue. However, Yun Jianyue evaded it with a smile, saying, "You're the one saying strange things, so why are you telling me to be quiet?"

Yu Yanluo's forehead darkened. She thought to herself, Why are these two grandmasters fighting like two little girls? She took the chance to ask, "Ah Zu, how is the training going?"

"I'm fortunate to have Sect Master Yan here to teach me carefully. It should be fine now," Zu An said.

Yan Xuehen finally calmed down a bit. She recovered her usual capable appearance and said, "Mm, his aptitude is quite good. He was able to keep his killing intent from showing. However, there is another problem right now. That Scaled Deathworm is almost entirely covered in armor. It is also ridiculously strong, and there seems to be something like a ki barrier protecting it. Even though his Poisonous Prick is sharp, even if he manages to stab it, it might not produce an injury."

That was another reason why similarly-ranked beasts were stronger than human cultivators. Their bodies were just too powerful. With their two-fold protection, they could endure many more attacks.

Zu An felt a bit worried when he heard that. Even though the Poisonous Prick was extremely sharp and had successfully killed several Scaled Deathworms, none of them had been the mother worm. They had been much weaker.

Yan Xuehen and the mother worm had fought before. If she was saying that, it meant that she didn't feel that his Poisonous Prick could break through the monster's two-fold defense.

Yun Jianyue suddenly harrumphed and said, "Stone cold woman, you don't have to incite me like that. Even a miser like you taught him your best skill; do you think I'd hold back, considering our relationship?"

"Ah Zu, I'm going to pass an exceptional skill onto you, the Star Shattering Imprint. It can instantly increase your offensive power by ten times. With your current cultivation, forget about the Scaled Deathworm, even that damn emperor wouldn't be unscathed if he took your attack without dodging!"

Chapter 1170: Star Shattering Imprint

Zu An was shocked to hear that claim. What did it mean to be able to increase one's strength tenfold? His greatest advantage was that the Primordial Origin Sutra could strengthen his body and regenerative ability. With the Heaven Devouring Sutra, he could neutralize the attacks of those of higher cultivation than himself. However, his offense was comparatively very lacking.

There had been many times when he couldn't even break through his opponent's defenses. He could only use the Poisonous Prick and some other skills to make up for his lack of power in those cases. However, those skills all had their own respective weaknesses. They might not necessarily work against the most powerful opponents.

If he could increase his strength tenfold even temporarily, with proper timing, he would have absolute control over the battlefield!

Of course, it was possible for him to achieve a similar effect through Keyboard Come. However, the terrifying rebound meant that if he used that skill, it would be hard for him to keep his life.

Yan Xuehen felt unhappy when she saw the blazing passion in his eyes. The Unshaken Daoist Manual she had just taught him wasn't inferior to the Star Shattering Imprint, and yet this fellow didn't seem that interested at all. Didn't that mean she was inferior to the other woman?

She gave Yun Jianyue a cold look and said, "Stop bragging already. You did not even see the emperor's face when you carried out that attack on the capital, and yet you were beaten up so badly. You still have the nerve to say such things?"

Yun Jianyue blushed. She was a bit embarrassed for the first time. She shot back, "That's different! If he didn't dodge at all and let me attack him, I swear I could blast his brains out!"

"Hah..." Yan Xuehen merely laughed with folded arms, clearly showing disdain.

Yun Jianyue said in annoyance, "Ah Zu, don't listen to that stone cold woman. The emperor is an Earth Immortal. His cultivation realm isn't something we can understand. There's no way he would stand in place and let others hit him anyway. What we need to focus on right now is killing this Scaled Deathworm."

Seeing that she was getting embarrassed, Zu An obviously wouldn't be so tactless as to pursue the matter. He replied, "Of course!"

But inwardly, he felt a bit of regret. Even grandmasters like Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen had no confidence in their ability to fight the emperor. What was he supposed to do against the emperor if things really went south?

Yun Jianyue gave Yan Xuehen a resentful look and asked, "What, are you going to just stand here? Are you trying to steal my skill or something?"

"Who would be interested in something like that?" Yan Xuehen sneered and left.

Yu Yanluo gave Zu An a look and told him, "Ah Zu, Sect Master Yun's reputation throughout these years has been incredible precisely because of this one-of-a-kind technique, allowing her to remain undefeated among her peers. Back then, countless experts from all sorts of different sects arrived under the court's lead to surround her, yet they were all killed one by one. Blood flowed like streams. Even the emperor himself admired her unparalleled offensive dao. You need to make good use of this chance."

Zu An replied, "Thank you for the reminder. The dao of art you taught me before is also unmatched and I benefited a lot from that. You need to be careful while I'm learning, too." Without her art dao, his 'Face of a Thousand Identities' wouldn't have become successful.

Hm? Doesn't this mean he's gone down all our paths...

Yu Yanluo blushed, her eyes full of emotion as she looked at him. She had felt somewhat bad when she saw Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue pass down such incredible ultimate techniques, having a sense of inferiority and thinking she couldn't do a thing. And yet, he had sensed how she was feeling and said that to comfort her.

He really is a gentle and considerate man... Why do the people of the world think he's a disrespectful philanderer?

Hmph, they're all blind!

Her mood immediately became much better. She left while humming a small tune.

...

Yun Jianyue pinched Zu An's ear when Yu Yanluo left, remarking, "Stupid brat, do you know what kind of situation we're in? And yet, you're still flirting with her?"

At the same time, she sighed in amazement. Yu Yanluo really deserved her reputation as the number one beauty. The smile she had shown in that instant really was too shocking. Not even the most charming girls from her Holy Sect could compare!

Zu An cried out in protest. "I was just warning her to be a bit more careful so she wouldn't get ambushed by those worms."

Yun Jianyue said indifferently, "With me and that stone cold woman here, we'd immediately sense it if that strange worm got too close. You should just focus on learning the Star Shattering Imprint."

Zu An grumbled, "Weren't you two seriously injured because of the mother worm's ambush?"

Yun Jianyue's eyebrows shot up as she exclaimed, "What did you say?"

"Nothing! I said I would be the best student in the entire world!" Zu An replied, immediately straightening his back.

"That's more like it," Yun Jianyue said, her demeanor turning strict as she explained, "As the name implies, the Star Shattering Imprint, when cultivated to its peak, can even shatter a star in a single hit."

Zu An was stunned. He asked, "Is it really that crazy?"

Yun Jianyue's expression became somewhat unnatural as she replied, "I obviously can't do it, but that was what the ancestors passed on... Ah! Stop asking questions and listen carefully!"

"Yes, ma'am!" Zu An replied. Seeing that she sounded angry, he didn't dare to provoke her anymore.

Yun Jianyue continued, "Even though this technique is powerful, it has quite the rebound. You have to keep that in mind, or else it might come back to bite you."

Zu An nodded. It wouldn't make sense for such a formidable skill to not have any downsides.

"Even if you cultivate this technique to its highest state, you still won't be able to use it successfully every time," Yun Jianyue said.

"What is the success rate?" Zu An asked.

"Only around half," Yun Jianyue said with a serious expression.

Zu An was stunned, exclaiming, "It's that high?!" He had thought that it would only have around a ten percent success rate. Fifty percent wasn't that low at all.

"Is it?" Yun Jianyue sneered. "After all, when two experts meet, life and death are usually decided by the slightest bit of superiority. If your winning blow didn't succeed, wouldn't that mean the tides could immediately turn against you?"

Zu An realized that was true. If that kind of situation did happen, he would most likely be killed.

Yun Jianyue continued, "There's another problem, too. Fifty percent success rate doesn't mean you'll succeed if you use it twice. If your luck is bad, you won't succeed even once when you use it ten times in a row. That's a lesson we learned by paying the price of blood throughout many generations."

"I understand. Is it really that random, or is there some kind of mechanism behind it?" Zu An asked. He remembered how statistics teachers in his previous world would ask students to do something like flipping a coin a hundred times and record the results. Then, when the teachers checked the students' homework, the results that had many heads and tails in a row pretty much all belonged to those who had done their homework properly. The ones that alternated regularly, on the other hand, tended to be made out.

"Is it really random?" Yun Jianyue repeated. She wasn't too used to the term, but she felt that it made sense. "Correct. It's more or less like that. That's why you need to be mentally prepared. You need to think of a way out whenever you plan to use it. That way, you can still salvage the situation if you fail."

"Then, how long will it take before I can use it again?" Zu An asked while paying close attention.

"This technique's burden on the body is great. Several hours after using this technique, your condition will worsen," Yun Jianyue said. "Furthermore, you need a stick of incense's time before you can use it again. Moreover, you can't use it more than three times in a single day. Otherwise, your body won't be able to handle it and will explode."

"What the hell?!" Zu An exclaimed. Still, he thought that because his body was tougher than most, he should be able to use it a few more times.

"How can something this ridiculous have no price?" Yun Jianyue sneered. "Watch carefully. How much you learn will depend on you." She began to explain while demonstrating.

All sorts of dao phenomena began to emerge around them. Zu An felt as if he were being dragged into a world filled with slaughter and death. All around them were mountains of corpses and seas of blood; broken weapons were scattered across the ground. Overhead hung a moon... no, a blood moon!

"Is this her domain..." Zu An murmured in shock. Just how many bloody battles would one have to go through to produce such a world?

"Concentrate! Pay close attention!" Yun Jianyue called out in a dignified voice.

Zu An shivered inwardly. He quickly immersed himself, focusing on her as she displayed unrivaled offensive strength. It was as if he were following her as she faced the experts who had surrounded her...