

## Immortal 1171

### Chapter 1171: Situation Reversed

After around a stick of incense's worth of time, Yun Jianyue reappeared in front of Zu An and asked, "How much have you learned?"

Before Zu An had a chance to reply, however, she continued, "The Star Shattering Imprint is extremely profound and mysterious. It would be difficult for a beginner student to understand its essence within a short amount of time. Based on what we've seen from successive generations of cultivators, those with outstanding aptitude can reach roughly a threefold increase in power, while stunning talents can reach a fivefold increase in power. There are a select few who can quickly reach a sevenfold increase.

"With your aptitude, you should be able to produce a fivefold increase... Yes, for that deathworm, that should barely be enough. After all, you haven't had much time with the technique. As you spend more time working on it, you'll slowly be able to reach a tenfold increase in power."

She spoke for a long time, but when she saw that Zu An wasn't answering her, she couldn't help but frown. She asked, "You haven't even reached fivefold? Um... You weren't given much time, I guess, so there's no need to feel bad... You should at least be able to display three times the power, right?"

Zu An didn't say anything. He took a deep breath, then circulated all his ki through a special pattern. Then, his fist smashed outward. At that instant, the friction between his fist and the air produced a blinding white radiance. A seemingly bottomless crater appeared before him, stretching out endlessly.

The entire blood moon domain trembled intensely. Yun Jianyue had to withdraw several dozen zhang to avoid the attack. Then, she returned with a strange expression, exclaiming, "You didn't say a single thing before you attacked! My domain was almost destroyed by your punch..."

Within their own world, a grandmaster was like a founding deity. They could set various laws and principles within their own space. No matter how strong the people inside were, they still wouldn't be able to do much to the domain. That was, unless someone of equal or higher level unleashed their own domain. The two domains would then mutually offset each others' power. And yet, Zu An had almost destroyed her domain, relying only on his own brute force?

But Yun Jianyue didn't get angry at all. She instead felt somewhat happy as she asked, "You can reach a tenfold increase in power?"

Zu An said seriously, "I was scared that I might hurt you and held back a bit. I should be able to achieve a tenfold increase in power."

Yun Jianyue was speechless. A glorious Devil Sect Master like her had actually been shown mercy by a junior...

Of course, she knew that it was because she was seriously injured at the moment, and that he really was worried about her.

"How did you manage to get to such a high level with the Star Shattering Imprint, reaching a tenfold increase in power immediately?" she asked, practically in shock.

"Is this that hard?" Zu An asked in confusion. "How much of an increase was big sis sect master able to reach in the beginning when you first learned it?"

"Of course... ten times. You're right; it isn't that hard. Even though there haven't been too many of them, there have still been some who could reach this level from the beginning throughout our many generations," Yun Jianyue replied, although her cheeks heated up a bit.

She had actually only been able to achieve a sevenfold increase when she first learned the technique, and she was actually already an absolutely stunning figure, a rare talent that had only shown up once in thousands and thousands of years of her Holy Sect's existence. And yet today, this little monster was even more ridiculous.

But she cared about face, so how could she show weakness in front of someone from the younger generation?

"Huh? Just now, didn't I hear you say that only a few geniuses could reach a sevenfold increase in power?" Zu An asked, somewhat confused.

"Ahem..." Yun Jianyue looked away, her expression somewhat unnatural as she said, "I said that because I was worried that you'd be overambitious, so I didn't tell you the truth. If I knew you had talent like this, I wouldn't have hidden it from you."

"Oh..." Zu An didn't think too much about it either.

Yun Jianyue felt a bit guilty. She was worried that he might keep asking questions, so she quickly dispelled her domain.

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo had already rushed over when they heard the noise. They asked, "How is the lesson going?"

Yun Jianyue felt a bit uncomfortable and nervous for some reason. Only after some time did she say, "It's going very well!"

A hint of gentleness appeared in Yan Xuehen's cold and clear eyes. She remarked, "His talent really is quite good."

Suddenly, a rumble shook the cave around them. They could hear the worm's terrifying noises in the distance again.

"It seems to have found us, and it is showing us how angry it is," Yu Yanluo said worriedly. "We need to hurry; it would be very bad if the worm caused this mine to collapse."

She was the Yu clan's leader, and these mines were the Yu clan's very foundation. She naturally didn't want anything happening to them. The others, on the other hand, were worried that even more creatures might enter through the spatial rift if they waited any longer.

They quickly began to discuss the details of the plan. In the end, they decided that Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue would draw the Scaled Deathworm's attention from the front to allow Zu An to secretly approach. Then, Zu An would deliver the fatal blow.

They were both grandmasters, and their souls were powerful. They could sense their surroundings even in absolute darkness. The lack of light wouldn't affect their movements at all.

Yu Yanluo would keep watch from a distance, helping them guard against the sudden ambushes of any smaller worms and making sure that they had a way out.

Having decided on a strategy, they ventured deeper into the mines. They were relatively small, so it would be for the Scaled Deathworm to find them. However, the mother worm screamed from time to time. Furthermore, the closer they got, the thicker the black mist all around them grew, making it extremely easy to find.

Soon, they all got into position. The Scaled Deathworm didn't crawl along the ground like an ordinary worm; rather, it hid underground almost completely. Only a small portion of its body would be exposed above the surface.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen quickly began to attack it with their respective skills. Of course, they made sure not to release any light in the process.

On the other hand, the Scaled Deathworm didn't have any eyes. The area it was in was completely dark too.

Screeeeeeeech...

With more scalp-numbingly loud grinding, half of the Scaled Deathworm rushed out of the ground. It was clearly angered. These despicable humans... It had already given up on troubling them, and yet they actually dared to provoke it now?

It opened its mouth, firing a thick torrent of black fog at the two women.

But the two of them knew how formidable the attack was and didn't dare to face it head-on. Both of them dodged to one side.

The beam of black fog struck a wall, immediately corroding it and leaving a large crater. It was easy to imagine how if the attack had hit, even if the two were in their strongest states, they might not have been able to endure such a blow.

They didn't run and instead moved around the worm, allowing Zu An to approach the enemy more easily.

The Scaled Deathworm suddenly fired something similar to a pair of flying swords from its mouth, which quickly chased after the two women. The pair of blades had been refined from the large mandibles the worm had shed over the years. They were even stronger than some human cultivators' flying swords.

Normally, Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen would have several ways of dealing with the two weapons. However, they were seriously injured and could only flee in panic. On several occasions, they were surrounded by danger.

Because of the difference in quality of the pills they had consumed, Yun Jianyue clearly hadn't recovered as much as Yan Xuehen. After dodging a few times, she was powerless to do so anymore. She thought of blocking an attack with a non-essential part of her body, but she worried about whether she could withstand the enemy's frightening poison.

Suddenly, Yan Xuehen rushed over and grabbed her, narrowly avoiding the Scaled Deathworm's attack by a hair.

Yun Jianyue was a bit surprised. The two had faced each other for so many years, both wishing to end each other's lives. She had never expected the other woman to save her here. Still, although she was grateful, she remarked, "Who wanted you to save me? It's not as if I couldn't have avoided that!"

Even as she spoke, she used her Star Shattering Imprint to smash away one of the long, venomous blades aimed at Yan Xuehen's back.

"Keep dreaming! Who was trying to save you? I wanted to kill you myself; I did not want you to die to a monster like this before that." Yan Xuehen didn't mince words either.

When she heard the two women arguing against each other, Yu Yanluo's face darkened. If anyone else saw this, their eyeballs might just pop out, right? Two grandmasters who can dominate this world are actually fighting here like sisters!

She didn't just stand there doing nothing either. She drew continuously in the air, granting the two of them all sorts of blessing halos.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen immediately felt their bodies grow lighter. Their speed, regeneration, and other abilities all increased considerably. They were knowledgeable in their own right and quickly realized that these were blessings conferred by the academy's dao of art.

If it were any other time, the blessing halos wouldn't really help them at all, perhaps even having the opposite effect. After all, grandmasters needed absolute control over their own bodies. If something else interfered with them, it could end up causing their judgment to deviate. But in their weakened state, those kinds of buffs were extremely useful. At the very least, they no longer had to struggle as much against the Scaled Deathworm's flying mandibles.

"I didn't expect to end up owing this woman a favor..." Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both felt rather strange. It was easier for the two of them to accept favors from each other, because they were just too familiar with each other after fighting for so many years. But now, they actually owed Yu Yanluo a favor...

Her ridiculous beauty made both women feel considerable danger. Between her close relationship with Zu An and her identity as a Medusa... The two women didn't know why, but they subconsciously didn't want to owe her anything.

But they didn't have the time to worry about such things at that moment either, because they noticed that the mother worm had begun diving underground periodically before bursting out of the surface. It had clearly decided to lurk underground, searching for a good opportunity to inflict a fatal blow on the two of them. It was biding its time, waiting to take them out in a single move!

The two women began to sweat. With their judgment, they both knew with absolute certainty that they wouldn't be able to dodge anymore after another three seconds passed!

Just then, a pitch-black glint suddenly flickered by the Scaled Deathworm's side. Zu An appeared, thrusting a blade outward like a thunderbolt!

The Scaled Deathworm was alarmed. Its senses, both physical and spiritual, were extremely well-developed. Not a single thing within this dark area should have escaped its perception! But where had this person come from? Only when he struck had it sensed his presence! Now, it was already too late to evade or counterattack!

Its bestial instincts told it that the dagger was dangerous. Black light swirled around it as it frantically gathered power around its entire body to defend against that attack.

Unfortunately, it didn't have much time and couldn't put up a perfect defense. The dagger arrived with absolutely ferocious momentum, cutting straight through its energy barrier that hadn't fully solidified yet. Then, it smashed against the worm's scales with an ear-piercing, metallic screech, sparks flying in all directions.

The Scaled Deathworm's defenses were actually that tough!

Yun Jianyue felt dejected. She was familiar with the Star Shattering Imprint, so she had obviously realized that at that instant, the Star Shattering Imprint's fifty percent success rate hadn't worked!

### **Chapter 1172: Little Bastards Don't Fight with Honor**

Yun Jianyue shivered in horror, thinking, It's all over!

The exact scenario she had feared the most had happened, but there was nothing she could have done other than to risk it all. Despite that, she had lost the gamble.

It was easy to imagine that Zu An would quickly be killed by the enemy. The three of them wouldn't be able to escape either.

Even taking a thousand steps back and assuming that some of them managed to escape, the Scaled Deathworm wouldn't be fooled so easily a second time. As long as it hid underground, who could even do anything to it?

From then on, it would just bide its time underground, only attacking when there were good opportunities. They would only be able to passively defend at that point as it attacked again and again. By then, a single slip-up would make them food.

Yan Xuehen clearly realized that as well. She shot Yun Jianyue a glare and cried, "The stuff you taught him is way too unreliable! You ended up sending Zu An to death!"

When faced with such criticism from her old enemy, for the first time, Yun Jianyue didn't retort. Instead, she only looked nervously in Zu An's direction.

Just then, the Scaled Deathworm moved. It suddenly turned around, biting down on the place where Zu An had just been

But Zu An had already used Grandgale to move several zhang away. He left behind a pile of assorted bottles and containers in his original location. The Scaled Deathworm just happened to bite down on that spot, swallowing up those containers.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue frowned. Did Zu An plan to poison it? They obviously knew that the worm had been venomous to begin with. It had extremely high poison tolerance. There probably weren't any poisons that could injure it, right?

Yu Yanluo was even more worried because she had personally seen Venom Child being chewed to death by a Scaled Deathworm. Back then, when Venom Child was on the verge of death, not even his best poisons had been able to do anything against that worm. Venom Child was extremely skilled in the use of poisons, and the worm that had bitten him was nothing more than an ordinary worm, and yet his poisons didn't do anything. There was even less of a need to talk about the more formidable mother worm.

It was no wonder that even though the Scaled Deathworm had clearly sensed the medicine bottles, it still hadn't avoided them at all and had just swallowed them. These drugs were probably nothing more than nourishment for it.

Just then, Zu An appeared next to the women. He grabbed their hands and ran frantically, crying, "What are you all staring for? Run!"

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen were both stunned. A slight blush appeared on their faces. Fortunately, none of them could see each other because it was pitch-black. They quickly flung aside Zu An's hand. The two of them had already recovered a bit of cultivation. They were grandmasters, after all, so they weren't much slower than him.

Zu An didn't pay too much attention to that. He had been worrying about how he was going to bring Yu Yanluo with him anyway. By the time he reached her, his hands were empty, so he grabbed her and ran.

Yan Xuehen noticed that and suddenly felt a bit of regret. However, she quickly snapped out of her daze and called out, "We won't be able to escape that deathworm's pursuit with our current speed!"

Suddenly, however, she was stunned. She saw that the deathworm didn't chase them, and instead began to jerk wildly back and forth in place.

Only after they reached a safe spot did all of them stop. Yan Xuehen asked, "Just what kind of poison did you feed that strange worm? Why did it look as if it had been poisoned?"

Yu Yanluo brought up what had happened with Venom Child previously as well. The three women were all curious. Unfortunately, Zu An didn't give them any details no matter how they asked.

Eventually, even Yun Jianyue began to sound angry as she said, "Ah Zu, we're all in the same boat here. We haven't withheld anything from you, so why are you hiding this from us?"

For the first time, Yan Xuehen stood on the same side as her. The two had already taught him their very best techniques, and yet he still wouldn't tell them the truth.

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +100 +100 +100...

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +100 +100 +100...

Yu Yanluo spoke up for Zu An and said, "Seniors, please do not misunderstand! Ah Zu is not that type of person. There is definitely something too embarrassing for him to talk about."

When she heard that, Yan Xuehen's expression grew even colder. Yun Jianyue also harrumphed. "You're the only good guy here, and the rest of us are villains?"

Yu Yanluo felt wronged too. She subconsciously trusted Zu An, so she had spoken up for fear that he would misunderstand. But in the end, these two had interpreted it as her scheming.

Seeing that the situation was getting a bit out of control, Zu An could only say, "I can tell you all, but you can't get angry."

"Your drug worked against that worm, so why would we get angry?" Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen asked, somewhat confused.

"Alright then," Zu An said. "Because the things I tossed into its mouth were 'Bull's Cream', 'Eighteen Spring Winds', 'Worries Be Gone'..."

Yu Yanluo cried out in alarm. Her cheeks flushed red, because she had been a direct victim of Bull's Cream! When she remembered what had happened, she wanted to crawl into a hole and hide forever.

Yan Xuehen was baffled. She asked, "What kind of drugs are those?" Considering her status and the reputation she had of being an ice queen, who would dare to bring up such drugs to her?

On the other hand, Yun Jianyue, despite being of high status, came from the Devil Sect and had heard all sorts of rumors. She harrumphed and said, "They're all lowlife aphrodisiacs!"

"Ah?!" Yan Xuehen was stupefied. A faint layer of redness appeared on her sparkling skin.

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +198 +198 +198...

Zu An became depressed when he saw her furious expression.

Yun Jianyue spoke again. "Actually, calling them 'lowlife' isn't quite right; they're all the best of the best in their field. Their effects are hundreds to thousands of times stronger than other drugs in their category... Damn kid, how do you have so much of this stuff? You really are a womanizer!"

She was actually quite glad. Previously, she had heartlessly tried to break up Zu An and Qiu Honglei. Now, that seemed to have been a good choice, or else Honglei might have suffered from his drugs.

Zu An looked extremely wronged. He protested, "I'm the victim here! There were villains who used these drugs to harm others, but then I heroically stepped forward to save their victims! These drugs were all just spoils of war obtained from those people..."

Yun Jianyue had an ambiguous smile on her lips as she remarked, "Oh, what a hero you are..."

Yan Xuehen didn't notice her implication and only coldly said, "If you truly had no bad thoughts, why would you keep these things on you? A gentleman would have destroyed them all!"

Zu An said with a resolute expression, "Sect master is an honorable grandmaster; how can you ask such a childish question? Let me ask you: Your Snowflake Sword and the techniques used by those bad people can both take lives, so how can you decide which ones are good or evil?"

Yan Xuehen subconsciously replied, "Based on the user, obviously. Considering their different motives, you can tell whether they are good or evil."

“Right, so ultimately, it depends on the one using it,” Zu An replied. “Drugs can be used to harm others, but they can be used to save people too.”

Yan Xuehen harrumphed. “How can filthy drugs like these be used to save people?!”

Zu An gave her a strange look and shot back, “Didn’t I just use them to save you?”

Yan Xuehen was left at a loss for words. She knew Zu An was engaging in sophistry, and yet she couldn't really find any words to argue against him.

Yu Yanluo asked curiously, “Ah Zu, Venom Child used all sorts of poisons against that worm, and yet none of them worked. Why did these drugs of yours work?”

“It’s probably because these items aren’t poisons, but rather magnify one’s primal desires a thousandfold,” Zu An explained with a smile. “Venom Child’s life was hanging by a thread at the time, so he naturally subconsciously chose to use poison. He wouldn’t realize that it was this kind of drug that would be incredibly effective.

“I recalled that the Scaled Deathworm was female. In that case, I thought, these drugs might be of some use. After I gave it a try, sure enough, they were effective.”

Yun Jianyue said with a sigh, “Brat, you’re pretty sharp. I thought you were done for, but you actually found this damn way out of that dire situation.”

Zu An gave her a look and said, “I’m actually really thankful to you. It was you who told me that I needed to be mentally prepared for the Star Shattering Imprint’s chance of failure. That was why I had a backup plan.”

Yun Jianyue opened her mouth, looking extremely conflicted. She had actually just said that without too much thought, but Zu An had actually really taken it to heart.

It’s no wonder that even though his cultivation wasn’t high before, he managed to escape from all sorts of dangerous situations, even becoming more and more powerful. Honglei’s eyes are quite good, but this stone cold woman’s disciple managed to act first! Ah... I’m so angry!

Several strange screams emerged from the distance, accompanied by the sounds of activity.

Zu An said, “The effects will probably wear off soon. Let’s head over and take a look. Those drugs might not last very long against its enormous body!”

The women all blushed. If it were a human, they probably wouldn’t agree to head over. But because it was a worm, there was no reason for them to refuse.

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The group quickly followed the sounds to a massive cave. When they saw the scene before them, all of them were stupefied.

There were several smaller deathworms gathered there. They were all winding around the mother worm, seemingly giving everything they had. Several deathworms lay on the ground nearby; they were all completely still, as if they had been sucked dry.



Under the dim light, their scales reflected multicolored radiance, making the atmosphere look even stranger...

### **Chapter 1173: Two Grandmasters Admit Defeat**

Zu An had been worrying about how he would get rid of those deathworms. After all, they came and went freely underground, making them pretty much impossible to track. The mother worm was easier to locate, but the small worms were extremely troublesome to find. Now, they seemed to have saved him quite a bit of time.

The mother worm seemed to have called over its subordinates to help it get rid of the poison. Of course, because of the huge disparity in strength and difference in their body size, one or two ordinary worms couldn't do much at all. That was why the mother worm had released large amounts of pheromones.

The worms scattered throughout the mine had sensed the pheromones and rushed over wildly in a frenzy. They didn't care how many of their companions were there at all, and still did their best to cram their way inside.

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Zu An's group felt their scalps go numb when they saw the endless worms. They were even starting to feel a bit claustrophobic.

As he watched the worms mating furiously, Zu An's expression was strange. Were these worms its subordinates or its offspring? If they were its offspring, then...

But the world of bugs had always been pretty messy to begin with, and that kind of thing wasn't all that strange. He wasn't in the mood to think about any ethical issues involving these strange bugs, and instead noticed that the worms lying off to the side weren't moving at all.

"Sucked dry?" Zu An had a strange expression. This mother worm really is vicious! After mating, she even sucked their essence dry.

The mother worm didn't seem to have any intention of stopping, even after having sucked so many of the smaller worms dry already. The ordinary worms continued to throw themselves at her one after the other, seemingly not scared at all. It was as if sharing in her burden was the highest honor.

However, that was fine as well. It saved the group the trouble of eliminating the worms one by one.

Zu An had originally worried that the drugs would be ineffective. He hadn't expected them to actually be so deadly while mixed together. If a human ingested all of them, what would happen then? I have to do some research later and see just what ratio I should mix them in to magnify the effects to the greatest degree...

Ahem, this is purely for the sake of science!

Even though the place was extremely dark, they were all experts. They could still piece together the scene in their minds.

"Use this chance to attack it!" Yan Xuehen exclaimed. Her expression was a bit unnatural. The scene had clearly delivered a huge blow to her usually incorruptible self.

Zu An said quietly, "Let's wait a bit longer."

Yan Xuehen was stunned. This guy really is shameless! He even wants to watch a group of worms mate?

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +37 +37 +37...

Forget about her, even Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo looked at him with raised eyebrows, their expressions strange.

Zu An quickly noticed that their thoughts were going in the wrong direction. He explained, "Have you all not noticed that those ordinary bugs die after being sucked dry? We should use this to get rid of the worms hidden all over the mines. Otherwise, if we get rid of the mother worm and those other worms go into hiding, we might not be able to find them anymore. After some time passes, they might reproduce on their own, and a new mother worm might appear."

Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo weren't stupid. They quickly realized that waiting a bit longer was the best choice.

"What if there are other female worms that haven't crossed over? After all... After all..." Yan Xuehen trailed off, too embarrassed to continue.

Yu Yanluo said with a smile, "Sect Master Yan, for species like them, oftentimes, only the leader is female. As long as the leader remains, there is no chance of their race producing a second female. Only when the female is gone do the other worms fight against each other. One of them then changes sexes and becomes the new mother worm. That is why Ah Zu's concern is reasonable. If we do not use this chance to get all of the worms in one place, they will multiply and become a huge population again."

She understood this kind of thing a bit better than humans would. She had the Medusa bloodline within her, after all.

"So that was it. Then let us wait for a bit longer," Yan Xuehen said. Even though she wasn't used to such scenes, she still acknowledged their explanations.

Yun Jianyue said with a sneer, "What are you acting all innocent for? It's just some worms in heat, and yet you already look as if you can't take it."

Yan Xuehen shot back in annoyance, "Demoness, do you always have to go against me?"

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "It's your fault for always looking all pure and spotless. I don't like it."

"You!" Yan Xuehen's look turned cold. Her hand was already on her sword hilt.

Zu An quickly stood between them and asked "Can you two not fight right now? What if you end up alerting that mother worm? Everything will be over then!"

In any other situation, they would already have been discovered by that mother worm. But because it was overwhelmed with pleasure, its concentration had become much weaker. That was why their group could just watch leisurely from one side.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen naturally knew how critical the situation was. They both harrumphed and looked away, both of them thinking, Out of sight, out of mind.

...

Just like that, they continued to silently observe the scene. In order to avoid being noticed, they hid behind a dirt mound and only peeked out slightly to see what was happening on the other side.

They were all close together, so Zu An felt several soft sensations and incredible fragrances around him.

The blazing hot, slightly dangerous sensation clearly belonged to Yun Jianyue. The sweet scent, like that of orchids within a valley brought over by a gentle breeze, was Yan Xuehen's. The faint, elegant, and yet dignified fragrance was Yu Yanluo's.

Zu An might have been the only one in history who could enjoy their scents so close up. He was even starting to admire himself. He had actually managed to recognize every single one of them through his nose alone. Was this the legendary skill of female scent detection?

But he noticed that the women around him were all breathing somewhat heavily. He wasn't sure if it was because of the worms copulating in the distance, or because they noticed that he had been sniffing softly. But what was unexpected was that not a single one of them spoke out to criticize him.

As he was surrounded by softness and several wonderful scents, he felt that waiting for a bit wasn't so bad at all...

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Two hours passed.

"Why aren't they finished yet?!" Yan Xuehen exclaimed. Her face was entirely red. No one would dare to bring up such things before her normally, let alone display it in front of her! She had already endured the embarrassment for a long time, and her eyes were about to turn sore. And yet, there were no signs of the situation ending at all!

The worst part was that the person next to her was just way too close. Even though his hands remained where they should, he sniffed from time to time, clearly taking in her scent. It made her feel as if she were being violated, even though such a thing had clearly never happened.

The worst part was that she realized that she didn't even seem to be too against it... For those reasons, her entire body had become more and more sensitive, until she finally couldn't take it anymore.

Yun Jianyue gave Zu An a look of confusion and asked, "That drug of yours actually has a prolonged effect?"

Even though she came from the Devil Sect and had heard of these things, she had never personally experienced anything of the sort. That was why her knowledge of them really wasn't all that much better than Yan Xuehen's.

She had obviously noticed what Zu An was doing with his nose. Even though she was a bit embarrassed, she merely thought of it as the effect of her own charm. At the same time, she thought to herself that she'd have to look for a good chance to properly teach this brat a lesson. He actually dares to even have such thoughts about me! But in front of the other women, she decided to leave him with a bit of dignity.

Zu An was sweating buckets. He had no idea how to explain himself.

Suddenly, Yu Yanluo spoke up. "It's actually quite normal. Many species... do those things for quite long. For example, when the Snake race copulates, they can often continue for many hours on end."

When she finished speaking, she was stunned. She discovered that the others had all turned to look at her, their expressions extremely strange. Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were especially shocked, looning as if they were ashamed of their inferiority.

Yu Yanluo immediately realized what was going on. Her face turned entirely red. "I'm not talking about myself... Just ordinary Snake race individuals... I have mostly human blood inside me..."

But the more she tried to explain, the more she panicked. She was on the verge of tears when suddenly, a gentle palm took her hand. When she felt Zu An's comforting touch, she felt even more embarrassed. Did I scare him away...

Back then, wasn't mother a full Medusa? And yet father still married her...

But she couldn't really explain such things. Her entire face became red, and she looked almost as if smoke were about to emerge from the top of her head.

The others' expressions were strange as their thoughts went in all sorts of directions. They continued to hide and observe the situation, however.

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Another two hours passed, and they were all on alert.

It's almost time!

There were deathworm corpses everywhere. Only a few worms were left tangling around the mother worm.

Zu An said quietly, "Wait here. I'm going to head over, and will come back soon." He intended to try an ambush. The mother worm was still overcome by lingering pleasure, so its vigilance would be much lower than usual. He didn't need them to distract it.

"Be careful!" The women all spoke up in unison. Then, they looked at each other with unnatural expressions. Why did they suddenly feel like sisters sending off their husband?

Yu Yanluo didn't mind too much. She had already confirmed her relationship with Zu An.

Yan Xuehen, on the other hand, was vexed by her own changing feelings. She was starting to wonder whether she really had been done in by his strange method or if she really had accidentally ended up liking him.

Yun Jianyue also felt extremely uncomfortable. What is wrong with me? Why do I feel so awkward?

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Zu An thus used 'Hidden in the Dark' to quickly approach the massive mother worm. As soon as he approached, a nauseating smell filled his nostrils. However, he remained unfazed, his resolute expression completely unchanging as he arrived next to the mother worm.

He even personally examined the deathworm corpses scattered all over. There were some whose mandibles and feelers were still trembling a bit, but their essence had already been sucked dry. They weren't going to survive.

Only when he was closer did he notice that the mother worm's stomach was several times larger than before. Its body also squirmed continuously.

Just then, eggs slowly came out of it one after another. Every single one was around the size of a basketball, and they were covered in viscous liquid. The eggs quickly piled up like a small mountain.

...

In the distance, the women were all shocked. Isn't this a bit too fast?

It just had intercourse with all of those worms, right? And yet it already got pregnant and gave birth?

When she saw Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue turn toward her with strange expressions, Yu Yanluo was embarrassed and annoyed. She protested, "Why are you all looking at me?!"

#### **Chapter 1174: Sacrifice**

The two women were embarrassed. It was just that when they recalled Yu Yanluo's previous analogy, they had subconsciously thought of the fact that she was a Medusa. The Snake race actually seemed quite similar to the deathworms, so they had ended up unwittingly making that connection.

However, they both knew that wasn't actually the case, so they quickly looked elsewhere. They wanted to see if Zu An would succeed this time.

Yu Yanluo couldn't be bothered to blame them. She also moved close to them to see what was happening. Unfortunately, apart from the deathworms, she didn't sense anything. She was worried, so she quickly asked the grandmasters at her side, "Where did Ah Zu go?" Their cultivations were higher than hers, so their senses might be a bit sharper as well.

"I don't know either," Yan Xuehen replied, embarrassed.

Yu Yanluo was speechless. You don't know, but you're still so focused?

Yun Jianyue said with a sigh of admiration, "Ah Zu's stealth technique is way too formidable! There are many techniques to hide one's aura in this world, but almost all of them have some flaws, and would struggle to escape the detection of a grandmaster."

For example, the Devil Sect's Mirror Mirage could also conceal one's aura. However, if the user were seen, they'd still be exposed. Besides, it wouldn't help them avoid detection by high-level cultivators capable of sensing with their soul.

But Zu An's skill completely hid himself from all detection through both the senses and the soul. Even though they knew he was right there, they still couldn't sense where he was at all.

"He should... be able to succeed this time, right?" Yu Yanluo asked, clenching her hands nervously. They had barely managed to escape last time by relying on the drugs. They wouldn't have another chance. After all, the mother worm... had already released everything just now.

"I don't know," Yun Jianyue replied worriedly. Even though the Star Shattering Imprint was powerful, its weaknesses were apparent. There was no way of ensuring whether the next attack would succeed or not.

"The most important part is that the Star Shattering Imprint can only be used three times every day. If that's exceeded, the physical body will break down," Yun Jianyue said with a serious expression. "He already used it once during practice. Between that and the time he failed earlier, he only has one last chance."

"What kind of shoddy technique did you end up teaching him? It does not even work at the most important time," Yan Xuehen remarked, feeling extremely unsatisfied. She was really worried about Zu An's safety, but she couldn't show it, so she already had a lot of irritation bottled up.

Yun Jianyue was also starting to feel annoyed. She snapped, "Why don't you do it then, if you're so amazing?!"

"What I taught has a hundred percent success rate, unlike a certain someone's technique," Yan Xuehen said with a snort.

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "What use is there in just hiding killing intent? What we need now is offensive power."

"Please stop fighting..." Yu Yanluo pleaded, panicking internally. Her mental image of the two grandmasters had already been completely destroyed. Whenever it involved each other, the two would become like little girls. "It'll be bad if we alert the mother worm and put Ah Zu in danger!"

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were just getting started, but when they heard that, both of them shut their mouths.

...

Just then, Zu An approached the mother worm. He used the Unshaken Daoist Manual to hide his killing intent as he slowly approached its abdomen with the dagger. Then, he used the Star Shattering Imprint, stabbing forward!

Clang!

The dagger was blocked by the monster's armor again!

Yun Jianyue cried out in alarm, "No, it failed again!"

Yan Xuehen was even more discouraged. According to what Yun Jianyue had said, this was already the last time. They could only try again the next day. But the mother worm would already recover by then! If it hid underground again and went on guard, they might not have another chance to ambush it.

"Zu An, come back!" Yan Xuehen cried out in alarm. At that moment, the best plan was to leave the mines first. Once they recovered, they would try again, and possibly ask for help from other powerful humans.

Of course, she knew that if they did that, these worms would already proliferate like crazy. The surrounding Cloudcenter civilians might end up in trouble then

Yun Jianyue was shocked when she saw Yan Xuehen fly over to help, thinking, Doesn't this stone cold woman usually strongly dislike Zu An? Why does she seem to care more about him than me now? However, she didn't dare to hesitate either, also rushing forth to help Zu An.

Yu Yanluo didn't blindly charge forward. She knew she was at a disadvantage in terms of cultivation compared to them. If she went there, Zu An might be distracted by having to take care of her too. As such, she simply used her painting brush to assist them from a distance.

The Scaled Deathworm sensed the attack and was instantly enraged. This human ant had challenged it again and again! And he had actually disturbed it at such a time, no less. Absolutely preposterous!

You have successfully trolled the Scaled Deathworm for +999 +999 +999...

Its normally large and ponderous body twisted around, then swept at Zu An like a whip of lightning.

Zu An felt as if a fire truck had rammed into him. It was as if all of the bones in his body were about to break apart.

The rational choice would be to use the recoil force to quickly leave the place and reconsider the situation. However, he felt that this was a really precious opportunity that had been created after much difficulty, and it might not reappear again.

Even though he was no Mother Teresa, he was a flesh and blood human. He still felt that he had some responsibility when he thought about how all of Cloudcenter Commandery would become overrun by the worms and be left in absolute chaos.

He clenched his teeth and forcefully endured his injuries. He activated Grandgale, instantly appearing in front of the mother worm and stabbing outward with the Poisonous Prick again.

Because of the huge disparity between them, even with his speed, he wouldn't be able to hit it. That was why he used the Star Shattering Imprint again! Only if his speed and power were increased tenfold would he be able to hit the monster.

As long as it could create even the tiniest of injuries on the mother worm, it would be a success!

Pfft!

Failed again? What kind of blasted RNG is this?! Zu An thought. He was about to curse out loud! He was going to grab Yun Jianyue and give her a good spanking the first chance he had in the future!

But he probably wouldn't have another chance, because the mother worm had already opened its large, sinister mouth and was about to bite down again.

Zu An had just used up all of his strength. Furthermore, because he had forcefully used the Star Shattering Imprint again above the daily use limit, all of the meridians within his body were being ripped apart. He didn't have a chance of evading the attack at all.

Suddenly, a lantern flew above him, casting a yellow radiance. It was the Empress Lantern!

The mother worm's body froze for a moment under its light. However, it resumed moving a second later.

The Empress Lantern grew dim, falling to the ground. Yun Jianyue's entire body trembled, and she coughed out a mouthful of blood. If not for the buffs Yu Yanluo had given her, she might not even have been able to use the Empress Lantern in her current state.

But even so, forcefully using the lantern still wasn't enough to truly stop the mother worm.

Fortunately, Yan Xuehen had already arrived at Zu An's side. One hand wrapped around his waist, while the other held a sword, thrusting it toward the sky. She used the Snowflake Sword!

A layer of frost quickly appeared all over the mother worm. Yan Xuehen took the chance to kick off the ground in an attempt to bring Zu An away.

But the mother worm only slowed down for a split second. It shook off the frost covering its body, firing a blast of black light outward.

Yan Xuehen groaned, coughing out a mouthful of blood. She had been hit in the back and could no longer continue flying. She dropped out of the sky carrying Zu An.

Fortunately, Zu An had already caught his breath, and he caught her instead. If it were any other time, he wouldn't mind staring into her eyes as they slowly spiraled down through the air like in the movies. However, he knew that at that moment, they no longer had any chance of getting away.

Right at that moment, the aura of a primal beast filled the entire place!

Zu An and Yan Xuehen were both alarmed. They were both extremely familiar with that aura. It was the pressure released by the Medusa's Eye when Yu Yanluo used it with all her strength!

Yu Yanluo slowly rose into the air. Her long hair fluttered around wildly, and the vague sound of snakes hissing even filled the air. Her eyes were becoming a light brown color, the color of mother earth!

Has she gone mad?!

Yu Yanluo had already used the technique several times before, so she was already seriously injured. If she used it again without holding back at all, no matter what happened afterward, her life would probably be over.

Yan Xuehen was horrified. Even a fiend race individual could be so loyal and true? She obviously knew that Yu Yanluo was doing it because of Zu An. However, the fact that Yu Yanluo was saving her too was an undeniable fact.

Yan Xuehen had always been after Yu Yanluo's life, and yet now, she was the one being saved. Just how ironic was that?

The mother worm's skin was beginning to be petrified. However, Yu Yanluo had already reached her limit, and she fell from the air. Soon afterward, the mother worm went berserk, releasing a wave of terrifying force. The petrification began to disappear.

Zu An didn't pay Yu Yanluo any attention, nor did he have time to catch her. There was only one thing on his mind at that moment: He needed to kill the mother worm! Only then would they have a chance at survival.



He didn't waste the moment Yu Yanluo had bought him. He quickly appeared next to the mother worm.

Star Shattering Imprint! Activate!

"You'll die!" Yun Jianyue on the ground cried out in horror when she saw that. She could only use it three times, and yet how many times had Zu An used it already? Even if he succeeded, his body would break down completely! He was clearly doing so because he planned to sacrifice himself to save them.

She was a glorious Devil Sect Master, a demoness who left the entire world in fear and awe. Ever since she was five, she had never cried once. Yet now, her eyes were blurry from tears.

### **Chapter 1175: Exploit a Weakness**

Boom!

Zu An seemingly turned into a stream of light. After failing several times in a row, the Star Shattering Imprint had finally succeeded!

The mother worm wanted to evade and then retaliate. It was confident it could make sure that this human ant never had a chance to dodge again. But it quickly discovered that it couldn't keep up with the human's speed. It could only watch as the pitch-black dagger stabbed toward its body.

The very air around it began to warp and ripple as it tried to repel his attack. With its current strength, the human should have been blasted into a pile of mincemeat before he could even approach. But he actually didn't seem affected at all; its terrifying power didn't seem to do a thing to him.

Then, the human's dagger sliced through its ki barrier like paper. However, it didn't panic. It still had its scaled armor that was as hard as metal. It had managed to stop this human's attacks several times already, after all.

But it never would have expected that its incredibly tough scales were cut apart instantly by the dagger! Suddenly, it felt intense pain.

But it doesn't matter!

There's only so much damage such a small dagger can inflict upon me. Watch how I shred your body in half with a single bite afterward!

The pain stirred up its vicious nature, and it charged at Zu An in indignation. Suddenly, however, its entire body trembled. Then, all of its scales lost their luster, and its massive body crashed heavily into the ground. Rubble began to fall from the ceiling, causing dust to fly everywhere.

Zu An fell from the sky like a kite with its strings cut. Quickly, a white figure darted forward.

Unexpectedly, Yan Xuehen had flown over to catch him. When Zu An saw that it was her, he showed her a weak smile and murmured, "I'm glad I didn't let everyone down." His mind weakened the moment he finished speaking, and his head lolled to one side as he fainted into her chest.

Yan Xuehen's cheeks flushed red. Normally, if anyone dared to do such a thing to her, she would already have frozen them into a chunk of ice. But when she saw how weak Zu An was and how expressionless his face was, she couldn't bring herself to push him away.

She walked over to the worm. She summoned her divination circle and slammed it down on the corpse, as if venting out her anger. Unfortunately, although sparks flew, her attack only left an extremely faint white imprint on its scales. She was too weak at the moment and couldn't use the divination circle at its full power; as such, she couldn't overcome the scales' defense at all.

Suddenly, she saw faint movement in the surroundings. Some of the eggs had begun to move a bit, as if something were about to come out.

"We cannot let them break out of their shells!" Yan Xuehen cried out in alarm. She wanted to attack the eggs, but she groaned as soon as she raised her hand. Then, she collapsed to the ground powerlessly. But even though she fell, she still clung tightly onto Zu An, using her own body to break his fall.

Her beautiful brows furrowed as soon as she hit the ground. A layer of faint sweat covered her forehead. However, she didn't cry out and instead gave Zu An a look. She sighed in relief when she saw that he was fine.

Then, she looked at the pile of eggs in the distance. She could vaguely see some small bugs squirming around inside, as if they might break out of their shells at any time.

If even a single worm emerged, all of their hard work would have been for nothing.

Yun Jianyue gritted her teeth, then unleashed the Empress Lantern's radiance. With a gentle exhalation from her red lips, she sent out some sparks. They landed on the pile of eggs and created a raging blaze upon contact.

Miserable screams emerged from within. However, the worms weren't even able to break out of the shells, so how could they resist those flames? They were all quickly burnt to ashes.

A mouthful of blood burst out of Yun Jianyue's mouth, and she swayed unsteadily from side to side. It was clear that using the Empress Lantern in her current state had left her with severe internal injuries.

"Are you alright?" Yan Xuehen quickly asked. Never would she have expected that she might actually worry about her nemesis' safety.

"I'm sorry for disappointing you, but I won't die," Yun Jianyue said, wiping away the blood on her lips. She looked at Zu An and asked, "How is he?"

Yan Xuehen was annoyed when she heard Yun Jianyue's first words, but when she heard the next question, a worried look appeared on her face. She replied, "It doesn't look good. His breath is weak, as if it might stop at any time."

"The Star Shattering Imprint can only be used three times a day at most, and yet he used it five times through brute force. If it were anyone else, their body would've exploded already," Yun Jianyue said as she moved toward the two of them. "But this fella's body seems to be extraordinarily tough. The fact that he's still breathing means that there might be a chance to save him."

She suddenly frowned and asked, "Stone cold woman, did you turn over a new leaf or something? Why are you shoving his head into your chest?"

Yan Xuehen seemed almost as if she had been struck by lightning. She quickly pushed Zu An away, exclaiming, "That was how he fell before! How could I pay attention to such a thing in a moment of danger? Only a witch like you would actually think about that at a time like this!"

"What are you doing?!" Yun Jianyue exclaimed, jumping in fright. She quickly rushed over to support Zu An. Unfortunately, her injuries were too severe, and her body was extremely weak. Even though she caught him, she staggered from his weight and rolled along the ground.

Meanwhile, Zu An's head sank into her chest. Fortunately, that area was soft enough that he didn't suffer any more injuries.

Yan Xuehen briefly felt regret when she saw that Zu An had been about to fall because of her. But when she saw that, she sneered. "I was wondering why you sounded a bit jealous just now. It turned out you wanted to do that yourself!"

Yun Jianyue could feel Zu An's heavy weight, and she could even feel his shockingly low body temperature. Meanwhile, her heart was beating crazily. Even though she came from the Devil Sect, which gave her knowledge in various fields, experiencing it herself was something different entirely. She was both embarrassed and alarmed to have a man touch such a sensitive spot.

But when she heard what Yan Xuehen said, she instead calmed down and said, "He didn't hesitate to risk his life, and he knew that only by gambling everything would we have a chance of survival. If this were a story out of literature, it would only be natural for us to devote ourselves to him. This isn't a big deal at all." She thought that as long as she didn't let herself feel embarrassed, only the other person would be embarrassed.

Sure enough, compared to Yun Jianyue, who was from the Devil Sect, Yan Xuehen was more easily embarrassed. She was frightened when she heard that, saying, "You can devote yourself to him if you want; don't drag me into it."

Yun Jianyue sighed in relief when she saw her rival's alarm. I made the correct choice after all.

She harrumphed, then ignored the other party. She took out a pill and fed it to Zu An. As a sect master, she naturally had some medicines on her. Even though they couldn't compare to the Ice Heart Pill, their effects weren't bad either.

However, she suddenly felt a headache. Because Zu An was seriously injured at that moment, he couldn't ingest the medicine on his own at all. After a moment of hesitation, Yun Jianyue placed the pill into her own mouth. Then, she lowered her head. Her lips joined together, and she opened his teeth with her tongue. That way, she passed along the pill.

Yan Xuehen's eyes widened. Her voice began to shake as she exclaimed, "He... He is your disciple's man! Are you even going to fight her for him? Do you have any sense of shame?!"

She had personally investigated Zu An for her precious disciple's sake, so she obviously knew about his and Qiu Honglei's relationship. At that instant, she was filled with shock, anger, and confusion. She felt as if her treasured toy had been stolen by someone else.

Yun Jianyue raised her head, feeling the leftover heat on her lips. Her stunning features only seemed even more alluring. In truth, she was just as embarrassed as Yan Xuehen, but how could she show that in front of her old rival?

"I was just trying to save him; what in the world are you thinking?" she retorted, shooting her rival a look. "Honestly, aren't you the one who cultivates some emotion-free technique or whatever? Why do you seem like some jealous little girl now? What, did you end up liking your disciple's man?"

"No way! You're speaking nonsense!" Yan Xuehen cried in a panic.

Yun Jianyue immediately felt much better when she saw Yan Xuehen's alarm. She had never seen her rival in such a sorry state in all of the years they had interacted with each other. Looks like I chose the right path.

This is how you exploit a weakness!

### **Chapter 1176: Are You Going to Do It, Or Am I?**

"Wait," Yun Jianyue suddenly said, feeling confused. "Did we forget something?"

Yan Xuehen was stunned. She replied, "Did we?"

Both of their expressions changed immediately afterward and they exclaimed, "Yu Yanluo!"

All of their attention had been focused on Zu An's safety. Besides, Yu Yanluo had been some distance behind them, so the two had actually ended up forgetting about her. But she had also done everything she could to save the two of them! They felt apologetic and quickly ran toward where Yu Yanluo lay.

Even though Yun Jianyue was seriously injured, she was still a grandmaster. She took a pill from her sect and managed to recover a bit of strength. She supported Zu An with her shoulder and walked toward Yu Yanluo. After some time, however, she turned around and shot Yan Xuehen a look, asking, "What are you doing? You're empty handed, but you're slower than me?"

She really needed the other woman to help her carry Yu Yanluo too. After all, she was extremely weak at the moment. It really would be quite tiring if she had to carry both of them. But with her pride, how could she possibly bring herself to beg for that?

She had initially expected Yan Xuehen to suggest that, while she would refuse once. Afterward, she would reluctantly agree. But this woman didn't seem to get it at all. She hadn't offered to help at all even after so much time. She couldn't help but feel upset when she saw the other woman was moving so slowly.

"None of your business. Just take care of yourself," Yan Xuehen shot back, her expression cold.

"What the hell is wrong with you?!" Yun Jianyue exclaimed angrily, thinking, Even if this stone cold woman loves arguing against me, can't she pick a better time to do this? She didn't feel like paying the other woman any more attention, and just continued to walk toward Yu Yanluo while carrying Zu An.

Only then did Yan Xuehen stop hiding her hand. It was covered in blood that was starting to turn black, and she was holding a dagger-shaped tooth. The black light fired from the Scaled Deathworm's mouth when she tried to save Zu An had been that very tooth.

She hadn't been able to evade the worm's attack and could only forcibly block it with her own body. However, instead of announcing her injury, she had used ki to seal the acupoint on her back to prevent the poison from spreading.

After taking some White Jade Sect medicines, she quickly followed along, and soon arrived next to the others. It was difficult to tell whether Yu Yanluo was alive or dead. Her complexion was as pale as paper, her black hair dull. There wasn't a trace of her previously devastating beauty.

"What happened to her?" Yan Xuehen asked Yun Jianyue, who had arrived before her. Zu An had already been set down on the ground next to a large rock.

"Her situation is a bit more severe than even Zu An's," Yun Jianyue said, letting go of Yu Yanluo's hand after checking her pulse. She pointed at the other woman's skin and continued, "The surface of her skin is already showing signs of petrification. It looks like a side-effect of forcefully activating the Medusa's Bloodline."

"But this is really strange... With her cultivation, even after using that kind of power just now, the effects shouldn't have been so severe," Yun Jianyue muttered, her brows furrowing tightly.

Yan Xuehen sighed and explained, "I was chasing after them previously. She has already used her Medusa skill twice."

Yun Jianyue's eyes widened and she cried, "Miss Yan, you really love screwing everything up!"

Surprisingly, Yan Xuehen didn't argue. This entire situation had indeed been caused by her. If she hadn't insisted on chasing after Zu An and Yu Yanluo, they would all still be in good health. Instead, she took out a pill and said, "Feed this to her. Even though it is not the Ice Heart Pill, its effects are not bad..."

Yun Jianyue rolled her eyes and retorted, "Do you think I lack medicine? She probably wouldn't even want to eat any medicine from you at this point."

She didn't take the pill, and instead took one out herself before trying to feed it to Yu Yanluo. But her expression quickly froze. Yu Yanluo's mouth was closed, and she couldn't be fed the medicine. Damn it, why do I have to do the same thing for her as for Zu An?!

She turned around to look at Yan Xuehen and asked, "Do you want to do it?"

Yan Xuehen blushed and looked away, saying, "Since you want to help her, you should do all of it."

Yun Jianyue was speechless. Still, she didn't think too much of it. Seeing as she had even kissed Zu An already, she didn't mind kissing another person. Either way, Yu Yanluo was a woman.

She put the pill in her mouth, then lowered her head to feed Yu Yanluo the pill. Afterward, she quickly got back up. As if to hide her embarrassment, she said with a sigh, "As expected of the capital's number one beauty, her lips are soft and sweet. I was able to achieve something so many men yearn for in this world, but will never get to experience, haha... Hahaha."

But after a few moments of laughter, she noticed that Yan Xuehen was looking at her as if she were an idiot. She felt somewhat embarrassed.

Just then, they heard a sudden groan. Yu Yanluo's eyelashes moved slightly, and she slowly opened her eyes.

"You're awake?" both Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen asked out of concern.

"Where is Ah Zu?" Yu Yanluo asked. Her first reaction was to look in the direction of the deathworm.

"Don't worry. That bug has already been destroyed. Zu An ended up getting hurt a bit, but he's over there," Yun Jianyue explained somewhat ambiguously. She was worried that Yu Yanluo's condition would worsen if she learned about Zu An's condition.

Yu Yanluo looked visibly relieved when she saw Zu An, saying, "I can feel at ease then." She closed her eyes and fainted again immediately after.

Yun Jianyue checked her condition again. She said with a grave expression, "I didn't expect the medicine to only allow her to remain conscious for that bit of time. She... might not make it."

Yan Xuehen was silent. At any other time, the two of them might have been able to rely on their astonishing cultivation to treat Yu Yanluo together using ki, to see if that would help. But at that moment, it was hard to say if they would even recover fully themselves, so what else could they possibly do?

"Ah, this is so damn frustrating! I, Yun Jianyue, have never owed anyone any favors, and yet not only won't I be able to return this favor, cough cough..." Yun Jianyue trailed off, beginning to cough intensely. Her speaking had ended up making her injuries worse.

Yan Xuehen suddenly cried out in alarm, "He... Why is he bleeding?!"

Yun Jianyue turned around and saw that fine cracks had begun to cover Zu An's body, leaking out small droplets of blood. He was soon covered in blood due to the sheer number of those wounds. She exclaimed in horror, "He used the Star Shattering Imprint too many times. His body can't take it and is starting to break down!"

"What do we do?" Yan Xuehen asked. She had never panicked so much in all the years she had been alive. She felt as helpless as a new cultivator.

"There's no cure!" Yun Jianyue cried, her expression downcast.

There were many before her who had cultivated this technique, and quite a few of them had used it more times than the limit. All of them had ended up passing away without exception. Otherwise, the technique's secret manual wouldn't have warned against it so strictly. This was a lesson learned through blood. However, Zu An had used it five times. The fact that he hadn't exploded into a bloody mist on the spot already spoke volumes of his ridiculous talent.

Yan Xuehen suddenly asked, "Is his life force breaking down? Could he be saved as long as his life force was replenished?"

Yun Jianyue's eyes widened. She began, "Are you saying..."

Yan Xuehen nodded and explained, "The techniques we cultivate probably both have intertwining cultivation techniques. When yin and yang intersect, life force flourishes; the cosmos harmonizes and

brings forth natural luck. The area would be suffused with the great dao laws of the universe. With our cultivation rank, we should be able to supply him with the life force he needs.”

Yun Jianyue’s jaw was about to hit the ground. She obviously knew that there were intertwining cultivation techniques; when dao companions cultivated them together, they would help each other improve, leading to even greater results. But with their status and cultivation, they hadn’t had any interest in seeking out any dao companions.

When she heard Yan Xuehen’s explanation, her first thought was to be alarmed. But she was knowledgeable, and after thinking about it, she concluded that such a plan did have a chance of success. But she still said seriously, “There’s too much of a cultivation gap between us and him. If we really carry out such intertwined cultivation, our own cultivation might suffer. Besides, there’s only a chance of success, and it might not necessarily work.

“Of course, he’s only in his current state because he was trying to save us. It’s fine to lose a bit of cultivation to give it a try. But the biggest problem is that his relationship with us is too awkward!”

If it were any other man, she might just decide to go through with it. Even though she had remained a virgin her entire life, that was only because she hadn’t found someone she liked. She didn’t have too great of an attachment to something like that.

Zu An wasn’t a bad choice, but he was their disciples’ man! What the hell was this situation?!

Unbelievably, however, Yan Xuehen acted as if she hadn’t heard a thing. She said coldly, “Are you going to do it, or am I?”

Yun Jianyue: “???”

## **Chapter 1177: Regret**

“Are you kidding me?” Yun Jianyue protested. She was starting to feel a bit dizzy. The Yan Xuehen she knew would have immediately gotten offended and argued back at any other time. Why had she still taken the initiative to propose intertwined cultivation? And it was with her disciple’s man, no less!

Yan Xuehen looked at her coldly and shot back, “Do I look as if I am joking?”

Yun Jianyue fell silent. She felt extremely conflicted. If she were alone and there was no choice, then if she had to save him, she’d just save him. At worst, she’d just pretend that nothing had happened once Zu An woke up, to save her from the trouble.

But at the moment, there were other people present. There was no way to keep such a thing a secret. Besides, her cultivation would drop substantially afterward. That woman Yan Xuehen would definitely be annoying as hell once she found out.

But she couldn’t just ignore Zu An. Her expression was overcast. In the end, she took a deep breath and said, “If we have to save him, let’s save him together!”

That way, neither of them would have an advantage over the other, and neither one would speak of it. Furthermore, both of their cultivations would drop. Neither one would be bullied by the other, as they would still be on the same level.

Yan Xuehen's expression was a bit strange; she was clearly shocked by the suggestion. She couldn't help but sneer. "This brat really is something. Is this not letting him have it too easy? Forget it. I know you have some misgivings, so I will do it."

Yun Jianyue's eyes widened. She cried, "Are you still that same stone cold woman I know?" She reached out to check Yan Xuehen's forehead, as if to see whether she was confused from a fever or something.

Yan Xuehen smacked her hand away, her expression somewhat downcast. She retorted, "Stop speaking nonsense. Or are you going to do it?"

Yun Jianyue was speechless. The two of them doing it together was her bottom line. If she did it alone, that would be too big of a sacrifice. She really wasn't too willing.

Yan Xuehen sneered. "This entire tragedy was because I chased after them. He has already saved me several times, so I owe him. He has also saved countless civilians in Cloudcenter Commandery. A hero like this cannot be allowed to fall here. What does my personal purity matter?"

The numb feeling in her back was getting stronger and stronger. She was seriously injured and no longer had the strength to force the poison out. The worst part was that the deathworms' poison was unusual. It had merged with her internal injuries and quickly tangled around all of her meridians. Even if her cultivation recovered in the future, she still couldn't rely on her own strength to force it out.

Furthermore, if she borrowed an external force, it would definitely harm her meridians and internal organs. That was, unless all of her meridians and internal organs were swapped out. But before something like that could be done, she would already have died several times over.

She knew it might be the end for her. Rather than dying helplessly, she would rather use her body to see if she could save Zu An. That way, she would make up for what she owed him.

If it were another man, she definitely wouldn't have such thoughts. But at that moment, she had extremely strange feelings about Zu An. That scene just then, of him fearlessly saving the world, was deeply ingrained in her mind. She suddenly felt that engaging in such intertwined cultivation wasn't something she couldn't accept.

"Did something happen to you?" Yun Jianyue asked. She understood Yan Xuehen too well. She really couldn't understand why she would do something like that.

At any other time, she would definitely have made fun of Yan Xuehen for doing such a thing, and she would even tell the entire world. But they had just fought together, and the other woman would be doing it to save Zu An too. Her pride wouldn't allow her to do something like that.

"No," Yan Xuehen replied. She didn't want to explain anything to her rival either. "Are you going to keep staring?"

Yun Jianyue blushed. The two were going to engage in intimate intertwined cultivation... Indeed, she couldn't bring herself to watch. But the thought of leaving on the spot also felt frustrating somehow. There were too many thoughts going through her mind and she didn't know what to do.

Suddenly, Zu An groaned in pain, and began to show signs of waking up.

Both women cried out in alarm. "You're awake?"



Yan Xuehen's face turned entirely red. She would have been willing to engage in intertwined cultivation if Zu An didn't know what was happening, but that didn't mean she would be okay with it if he was awake.

Furthermore, he had woken up at the worst possible time. Had he heard what they were saying? If he had, how was she supposed to keep living from now on?

Zu An chuckled and replied, "Don't tell me you two want me to sleep forever?"

Seeing how he was smiling despite his wounds, even though he was clearly in so much pain that he had to grit his teeth, Yun Jianyue couldn't help but grumble. "Do you know what kind of state you're in right now? And yet you're still in the mood to think such thoughts."

"It's better than crying, right?" Zu An replied, sounding surprisingly optimistic. "Hm? What were you two discussing just now?"

"We were..." Yun Jianyue trailed off and subconsciously gave Yan Xuehen a look.

Yan Xuehen quickly cut her off. "Nothing. We were just wondering how to treat your condition."

"I'm fine," Zu An replied.

"Take a look at yourself. What do you mean you're fine? Don't try to show off and let the stone cold woman save you," Yun Jianyue quickly said.

Yan Xuehen blushed. Just the thought of having to perform intertwined cultivation with him while he was conscious made her want to faint from embarrassment.

Zu An lowered his head and took a look. The blood all over his body was a bit frightening, but his body had experienced the Primordial Origin Sutra's tempering several times. Combined with his powerful regeneration abilities and the fact that his soul had been fully condensed, even though the Star Shattering Imprint had indeed almost made his body break apart, now that some time had passed, he was already slowly starting to heal.

"I really am fine," Zu An insisted. Suddenly, he realized something and was stunned. He looked at Yan Xuehen, asking, "How was Sect Master Yan going to save me? Don't tell me you have medical skills?"

Yan Xuehen's expression grew even more unnatural. She looked away and said, "Do not listen to what that witch is saying. I know no such thing."

Yun Jianyue was starting to panic. She cried, "Do you know what kind of situation we're in? What are you still being all embarrassed for? If you don't save him now, it'll be too late!"

Yan Xuehen was also hesitant. She had been poisoned, after all. If she delayed any longer, she might not even have any strength left to do it. But to do 'that' with him while he was conscious... Her disciple Chuyan's face continued to appear in her mind. She felt as if she were about to go crazy. She shot back, "I am not going to save him anymore! You save him!"

Yun Jianyue's expression became unnatural. She replied, "What? Didn't we already agree? Why are you suddenly changing your mind? I already told you, if I'm going to save him, you have to join too. Otherwise... Otherwise I'm not doing it..."

Yan Xuehen was so nervous she almost stomped her feet. She asked, "How can we do that kind of thing together?"

Zu An replied, puzzled, "What kind of weird riddle are you all playing at?"

The two women tacitly agreed to shut their mouths. Neither one of them wanted to tell him the truth.

Zu An quickly looked around and asked, "Right, where is Yu Yanluo? She seems to have forcefully activated her Medusa's Eye just now..."

As he spoke, however, he saw Yu Yanluo. He quickly got up to check her condition. Even though his movements were sluggish, he didn't look like a dying person. The two women were both stunned.

Yun Jianyue was the first to react. She sighed and said, "Her condition is even worse than yours. She might not make it."

Zu An noticed that Yu Yanluo's eyes were closed, and her complexion was deathly pale. Her aura was incredibly weak, as if it might disappear at any time. He immediately felt downcast.

Yan Xuehen felt a bit conflicted and said, "Sorry, we really are powerless. All we could do was to try and see if we could save you."

Zu An didn't seem to have heard anything. All of his attention was on examining Yu Yanluo's condition. Several forced activations of Medusa's Eye against those whose cultivation ranks were far above hers had already pushed her life force to its limit. Even if he were to recover to his strongest, there would be no way for him to treat her externally.

There's only one way left!

He wasn't the indecisive type. He quickly made his decision and held Yu Yanluo, saying, "I'll save her. Please wait over here for a bit."

That kind of method would easily cause misunderstandings. He didn't want these two to think that he was some brute who would take advantage of others' difficulties.

"She can still be saved?" Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen exclaimed, both stunned. They were experienced and knowledgeable. Both of them had already concluded that she was beyond saving, and they were already confident of her fate. And yet, even in such a state, Zu An thought she could still be saved?

Zu An didn't pay the two of them any attention. He carried Yu Yanluo back to the lake. However, he turned and looked at the two of them with a forced smile and asked, "Why are you two following me?"

"We are worried about you," Yan Xuehen said, her face pale. In their eyes, Zu An himself was about to die, so how could they dare to leave him alone?

Zu An was a bit surprised. The woman's voice was full of concern. He asked, "Thank you, but I'm going to take Yu Yanluo down to treat her. I'll have to ask the two of you to watch the surroundings for me."

He couldn't explain the situation, so he could only use that as an excuse to appease them. Fortunately, the lake water could hide him and Yu Yanluo, which would save them a lot of awkwardness.

"Don't tell me this pond has healing properties?" Yun Jianyue asked skeptically.

Yan Xuehen recalled how she had been pressed up tightly against Zu An underwater. Even her clothes had been completely soaked then.

"I'll explain everything once it's over. Saving her is more important right now," Zu An said. He was worried that Yu Yanluo wouldn't be able to hold on. He jumped into the water with her in his arms as soon as he finished speaking.

"That damn brat doesn't look like he's planning to die," Yun Jianyue muttered. She gave Yan Xuehen a look, searching for a confirmation.

Yan Xuehen frowned and replied, "You're right."

"Then I guess you don't have to give up your purity to save him anymore," Yun Jianyue said with a smile.

Yan Xuehen was embarrassed. She quickly clutched her mouth, scared that Zu An would hear. At the same time, she felt a bit disappointed, as if she now had a great regret before death...

### **Chapter 1178: One Line Prophecy Fulfilled**

Meanwhile, Zu An carried Yu Yanluo and slowly entered the water. Blue Mallard's ability created a water bubble so she wouldn't suffocate.

Zu An began to transfer ki throughout his body to adjust his condition. Even though his wounds were also quite serious, his condition was still passable. As such, he began to use the Primordial Origin Sutra, sending a strand of primordial ki into Yu Yanluo's body.

Seemingly sensing the warm stream that entered her body, Yu Yanluo groaned and gradually began to wake. However, she was so weak that even opening her eyes was a bit strenuous. When she finally realized that it was Zu An, a faint smile appeared between her brows. She asked, "Ah Zu, you've already recovered? I'm not dreaming?"

Normally, her complexion was so beautiful that many men would feel ashamed of their own inferiority and wouldn't even dare to look straight at her. But now, she was extremely wan and sallow, like a porcelain doll that would shatter if handled carelessly.

Zu An felt extremely pained. He held her hand and placed it against his own cheek, replying, "Yanluo, can you feel my warmth? Why would you be dreaming?"

Yu Yanluo's lips curled into a faint smile when she felt those firm lines. She said, "You're okay... That's good. Unfortunately, I won't be able to stay with you."

She was an expert herself. She had known just what kind of consequences forcefully using the Medusa's Eye several times would produce. However, she felt no regret. If she were given another chance, she would still make the same choice.

"No, you can," Zu An said with certainty.

Yu Yanluo just assumed he was consoling her. She said weakly, "I can only exchange a few words with you; this is all the time I have left... I feel a bit cold. Can you hold me a bit closer?"

Only then did Zu An realize that Yu Yanluo hadn't liked the cold to begin with. Now, she was seriously injured, her life's flame about to go out. As they were at the very bottom of the lake, it was extremely cold. Naturally, she couldn't take it. Thus, he quickly transferred his ki.

Waves of warmth entered Yu Yanluo's trembling body, and she finally felt a bit of relief. She smiled and said, "I remember how you gave me some Warm Darlings when you first met me and saw that I was cold. Now, I've discovered that you're the best warm darling."

This was the capital's number one beauty. Even if she just stood there without doing a thing, even if she didn't say anything... For many men in this world, they didn't even have to see her; just hearing her name alone would leave them completely captivated. And yet at that moment, she was lying right in Zu An's embrace, whispering sweet words to him.

But Zu An didn't think of any of those things at all. He only felt endless tenderness and worry. Thus, he told her, "We'll have more than enough time to talk in the future. Try to preserve as much strength as possible. I have a way to save you."

Yu Yanluo had a distressed smile as she replied, "There's no need for you to trick me. I know my condition the best."

Zu An said with an honest expression, "I really do have a way. The method I cultivate is extremely special. Not only does it have powerful regenerative abilities, it can even treat many injuries that touch upon one's foundation. Look, even though I forcefully exceeded the limits and used the Star Shattering Imprint just now, aren't I still slowly recovering?"

Yu Yanluo was stunned. She recalled that Zu An had seemed about to die, and yet now, he was still fine. His condition was clearly much better.

Zu An said, "But the method to save you is a bit... special. I'm worried that you won't be willing to receive it."

Yu Yanluo smiled and replied, "Why wouldn't I be willing to receive your treatment?"

Zu An moved closer and whispered into her ear. Yu Yanluo's pale cheeks immediately turned slightly red. She pursed her lips, but in the end, she replied quietly, "Okay."

Zu An was stunned. He hadn't expected her to agree so decisively. He asked, "You're not doubting me at all? That I might be taking advantage of you?"

Yu Yanluo shook her head. Her gemstone-like eyes were full of gentleness as she said, "Since I chose you, of course I trust you. Besides, either way, I'm already yours."

"Yanluo..." Zu An trailed off, feeling incredibly touched. He took her firmly into his embrace.

Yu Yanluo's cheeks heated up as she said, "I heard that in the past, Chu First Miss had her foundation damaged in that secret dungeon. Everyone from Brightmoon City thought she was going to die. But she not only recovered; she even improved further. Was it because... You saved her like this?"

"Yeah," Zu An replied. He was a bit embarrassed to be talking about another woman, but for the sake of granting her more confidence, he still admitted it. "I wouldn't have expected you to even know about what happened back then in Brightmoon City."

Yu Yanluo leaned against his chest, her eyes almost sparkling. She said, "Back then, I was saved by a young man, so I began to pay more attention to him. However, that was only out of gratitude. I didn't expect that young man to become my man in the end."

Zu An thought back to their first meeting and replied with a smile, "You didn't think I was just joking around when I said I was going to become your man back then, did you?"

Yu Yanluo looked a bit embarrassed as she replied, "How could I have known that, when you were just a little rascal back then?" She had just treated his bold words as a joke back then, and had had no idea that he was being serious.

When he saw the loveliness in her playful pout, Zu An couldn't help but press his lips against hers. Yu Yanluo moaned, closing her eyes and taking him in. Her long eyelashes cast shadows across her jade-like cheeks, fluttering ever so slightly.

Soon, Zu An raised his head. Saving her was the most important thing at the moment, and yet he was worried that he would wrong her.

Yu Yanluo seemed to have guessed his suspicions. She said gently, "I don't even have the strength to raise my arm. My clothes... You need to take them off."

She didn't dare look him in the eyes after she said that. She was clearly already utterly embarrassed. At that moment, her decision to give herself fully to her man really made her too beautiful and alluring.

Zu An continuously warned himself that saving her was the most important thing, and that he couldn't be distracted at all. As such, he didn't hesitate any longer and instead gently undid the band around her waist. Yu Yanluo's skin was just as smooth and sleek as before; all her clothes came off without him even having to use much strength.

Ever since Zu An had entered the mine, the surrounding environment had been completely dark. However, at that moment, there was a dazzling and sparkling expanse of white before his eyes. Even the invaluable luminescent pearls now seemed to pale in comparison.

...

A while later, Yu Yanluo raised her hand to stop him. Then, she said bashfully, "You should put my clothes underneath me."

Zu An was momentarily stunned, but then he replied with a smile, "There's no need."

But Yu Yanluo's attitude was firm. She said, "I've been married before, after all. I don't care what others think, but I care about what you think. Even though I told you that the duke and I were only a couple in name, words are unreliable. I don't want you to have any doubts about us."

Zu An knew that he couldn't persuade her, so he could only place the pure white dress underneath her.

Yu Yanluo's breath soon quickened. Her beautiful eyes looked at the manly man before her with endless gentleness. Her red lips parted as she cried, "Ah Zu, I love you~"

Those simple words were more effective than any medicine Venom Child could create.

Under Yu Yanluo's love-filled gaze, Zu An completely became one with her. Soon, with a groan, Yu Yanluo almost fainted. Her entire body immediately tensed.

Fortunately, a wave of warmth created from the foundation of the cosmos entered her body, nourishing the meridians and internal organs that had been withered and damaged. This was something she had never experienced before! Yu Yanluo felt even more amazing than when she had broken through to her current cultivation realm. At that moment, she felt as if she were within the great emptiness before the world was created. She sensed opportunities for life emerge around her, and the dao changing and evolving.

She relaxed completely and held onto her beloved tightly.

...

Meanwhile, by the shore, Yan Xuehen was seated in meditation, trying to remove the poison. Even if she didn't succeed, she could at least stop her condition from worsening.

Yun Jianyue wasn't in the mood to try to recover. She knew her condition wouldn't improve for some time, so she paced around by the shore. She felt extremely restless at that moment.

Suddenly, she gave Yan Xuehen a curious look and asked, "Stone cold woman, why is your hair turning a bit green? Are you okay?"

"I think your face is the one that is becoming a bit green," Yan Xuehen shot back, but she was actually a bit nervous. Has the poison inside me already spread throughout my entire body?

#### **Chapter 1179: Keep a Secret**

"Can you stay still, please? You are making me all annoyed from pacing back and forth," Yan Xuehen snapped. For some reason, she just felt a bit fidgety.

But not only did Yun Jianyue not stop when she heard that, she even deliberately walked over to pace around Yan Xuehen. She said tauntingly, "I'm going to pace around right in front of you. What are you going to do about it? Are you going to bite me?"

Yan Xuehen was speechless. She cried, "You damn witch, how did you end up becoming just as shameless as Zu An?"

Yun Jianyue was stunned. Her actions were indeed a bit similar to that damn brat's. She thought, Don't tell me I've already unknowingly become affected by him? She blushed and quickly tried to hide it, retorting, "Shameless woman, aren't you always bragging about how emotionless you are? Why is it so easy to make you angry then?"

Yan Xuehen was momentarily distracted. It seemed as if ever since she had met Zu An, ripples had begun affecting her previously calm mind. When she thought of that, a mouthful of blood suddenly filled her throat.

Yun Jianyue jumped in fright, shouting, "What's up with you?!"

“Nothing,” Yan Xuehen replied, wiping the corners of her lips with a grave expression. Her Unshaken Daoist Manual could quickly increase her cultivation, but strong emotions were taboo. She could already feel her cultivation becoming a bit unstable.

Yun Jianyue was about to say something, but she suddenly stopped. She turned to one side and listened carefully, asking, “Do you hear something?”

“What?” Yan Xuehen replied, snapping out of her daze and thinking, Did some worms manage to get away? But instead of the rustling noises from before, she heard some faintly audible moans.

Even though they were seriously injured, they were still grandmasters. Their gazes quickly turned to the lakeside.

Yun Jianyue exclaimed in annoyance, “That damn brat! He told us to wait here while he went down there to enjoy himself?!”

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +666 +666 +666...

Yan Xuehen’s cheeks also turned red. Even though she remained pure, she had lived for a long time. She naturally guessed what was happening below. It made her feel extremely strange, though. According to the original plan, she was supposed to have been the one who engaged in intertwined cultivation with him. Yet now, it had become him and Yu Yanluo! Why do I feel so strange?

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +666 +666 +666...

Yun Jianyue managed to recover more quickly. She said, “Even though that guy is perverted, he wouldn’t go so far as to take advantage of others. Don’t tell me he’s treating Yu Yanluo right now?”

Regardless of which one it was, she really had to protect Honglei better. This fella really does take the purity of women as if it’s nothing! He even dared to do this kind of thing in front of two grandmasters.

Yan Xuehen thought back to everything that had happened. She nodded as well, saying, “He is indeed not that kind of person.”

Yun Jianyue was a bit surprised, saying, “I’m surprised you’re speaking up for him.”

“I am just speaking the truth,” Yan Xuehen said indifferently. “But I did not expect him to actually know an intertwined cultivation method.”

Yun Jianyue was a bit worried too. She said, “His body is on the verge of collapse, so how can he save someone else? Furthermore, Yu Yanluo was about to give out too... There’s no way she could be saved just by relying on intertwined cultivation!”

Their injuries were different. Even though Zu An had been seriously injured, he still had a bit of vigorous life force within him. On the contrary, Yu Yanluo’s life force was on the verge of fading at any moment.

With their strength, they would have at least fifty percent chance of successfully healing the wounded Zu An. But even if they were male and in their best condition, the chances of them saving Yu Yanluo would have been infinitely close to zero.

"It might just be their final exchange of feelings before they pass away," Yun Jianyue said. After thinking for a long time, she could only think of that reason. "But Yu Yanluo is already in that kind of state; how can she handle such tossing and turning? That brat really is a rascal."

Yan Xuehen's expression was also strange. She thought back to the couple's previous intimate interactions and said, "But Yu Yanluo should be willing."

Yun Jianyue sat down next to her and said, "Sigh, the two of us really are quite the troubled sisters here. We actually ended up guarding another couple's bedroom."

Yan Xuehen was speechless. She could only reply, "You can think that if you want. I am going to focus on my wounds; do not bother me." She closed her eyes to rest after saying that. However, when she recalled what the two of them were doing down there, she couldn't calm down at all.

Yun Jianyue began feeling bored, but she didn't want to meditate and focus on her injuries either. As such, she propped up her chin with her hand and eavesdropped on the rhythm below. Her finger tapped against a stone wall as she suddenly said with a sigh of amazement, "That guy would definitely be really popular as a gigolo."

A while later, she cried out in alarm, "That Yu Yanluo looks all soft and delicate, but she has quite a bit of endurance!"

...

Yan Xuehen finally couldn't stand it after listening to Yun Jianyue's endless commentary for some time. Her eyes widened as she glared at the other woman, snapping, "No one will think that you are mute if you stop talking!"

Yun Jianyue wrinkled her nose and said, "I was talking to myself. Who said you could eavesdrop on me?"

"Your voice is so loud; is it really my fault for listening?" Yan Xuehen replied with an icy expression.

Yun Jianyue said with a smile, "Are you taking me for a fool? With our cultivation levels, if we really wanted to focus, would we be bothered by these sounds? That means you're not calm, and that you wanted to listen to what I was saying."

Yan Xuehen's face heated up. She replied, "I just thought that since you were so close, you might suddenly attack me."

"I'm not that despicable, alright? Even if I want to win, I'll do it properly," Yun Jianyue replied, seemingly offended.

Yan Xuehen suddenly frowned and said, "But this really is a bit strange. Are they not taking far too long? It has almost been two hours already."

Yun Jianyue sneered and said, "Did you forget what Yu Yanluo just said? When the Snake Race does those things, they often continue for several hours. Honestly, I feel as if it's that brat that'll give in first."

Yan Xuehen gave her a look and asked, "Did you forget that Yu Yanluo was wounded?"



Yun Jianyue's smile froze. She quickly turned back to look at the pond. Right... With her condition, there's no way she can last that long! With that intensity, she should already have been completely destroyed!

"Don't tell me Zu An's treatment really worked?" both women blurted out at the same time.

Yun Jianyue suddenly thought of something and said, "Right, I once heard Honglei mention that your disciple was injured so severely that she was going to become a cripple, and it was hard to say whether she'd even survive, right?"

"Indeed, that seems to have happened, but when I asked her, she did not go into detail and said that it was Divine Physician Ji who saved her. Since her body was fine, I did not ask too much either," Yan Xuehen replied after a bit of thought. Suddenly, she was shocked. Don't tell me...

Yun Jianyue was clearly thinking the same thing. She said, "It sounds as if she was saved by that brat Zu An too, and it was precisely through that kind of method!"

Yan Xuehen's expression changed. It was no wonder that no matter how she asked, Chuyan had still remained hell-bent on staying with him. It turned out there was a deeper reason!

"Alright. If Yu Yanluo can be saved, that's a good thing too." Yun Jianyue sighed in relief. She began to wonder how Zu An knew that kind of skill.

Could this be a special effect of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra?

No wonder even the emperor seems to want it.

That kid Honglei is so useless. I taught her the perfect charm technique, yet she was still outdone by someone else in Brightmoon City.

Yan Xuehen's brows furrowed deeply. With how vigorous Zu An seemed, he was probably fine. Yu Yanluo was probably going to be saved too. Even though Yun Jianyue's injuries were serious, one day in the future, she would recover.

Only I might die over here.

I can't have that fellow Zu An, use that method to save me, right...?

She jumped in fright as soon as that thought emerged. She quickly tossed it away. Yet the more she tried to do that, the easier it became for all sorts of scenes to appear in her mind.

Just like that, the two women fell silent.

...

Some time passed, and the noise below only became more and more intense. Yun Jianyue's eyes twitched. She finally couldn't take it anymore and roared at the pond, "Damn brat, are you freaking done yet? How much longer are you going to keep going?!"

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +777 +777 +777...

Silence fell for a moment. Zu An's guilty voice called out from below, "Almost, almost..."

Yan Xuehen covered her mouth and smiled. This was the first time she had found her adversary Yun Jianyue so refreshing.

Some more time passed. The waters finally parted, and Zu An brought Yu Yanluo out. Zu An appeared to be completely at ease, while Yu Yanluo was hiding behind him, not daring to look at the two women at all.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's eyes widened. Yu Yanluo could actually stand on her own! Even though the way she walked was a bit strange, she could move on her own. And yet, she had looked as if she might pass away at any time previously!

This kid Zu An really is that awesome?

Yu Yanluo pinched Zu An's waist when she saw the two's vicious gazes. It's all this guy's fault! He just kept going again and again. I'm so embarrassed...

Zu An crossed his arms and looked at the two grandmasters vigilantly, asking, "What are you two doing...?"

Yan Xuehen awkwardly shifted her gaze, her cheeks turning a bit pink. Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue said with a sigh, "So you were actually a human-shaped spiritual medicine, brat? If news of this got out, people would probably squeeze you dry."

Zu An said with an embarrassed smile, "My constitution and the technique I cultivate are a bit special. I can save women who are injured externally or internally. I hope you big sisters can protect this secret of mine."

But Yun Jianyue refused, replying, "No way, unless you agree to a condition of mine!"

### **Chapter 1180: Trapped**

"What kind of condition?" Zu An asked, suddenly feeling a little strange.

In all the stories he had read, it was usually the men who had the women's weaknesses in their grasp, and they would use those weaknesses as leverage in various ways. Why was it now the other way around?

Yun Jianyue forced herself to maintain a smile when she saw how nervous he was. "Of course, that's for you to become mine."

"No, he is mine!" Yan Xuehen cried in panic.

Zu An was confused. Yu Yanluo's lips parted slightly, her expression filled with shock. Even though they had indeed shared a heavenly experience, how had these two found out? Besides, weren't they both grandmasters? Was it really appropriate for them to be fighting over someone so shamelessly like this?

Yu Yanluo suddenly felt as if she had to step forward and voice her own opinion.

Yun Jianyue noticed their expressions. After a moment of shock, she cried, "You damn brat, what are you thinking of? I was talking about taking me as your master!"

Yan Xuehen also realized that there were several meanings to what they had just said. Her cheeks flushed red, and she shot Zu An a resentful look.

It's your fault for not saying things that clearly... Zu An thought with a downcast expression. He coughed lightly and said, "Actually, I have a master. I have to listen to her opinion first, right?"

He actually didn't mind taking on a master, but these two were fighting with each other at the moment. It would feel weird for him to reject either one of them.

If he said he wanted both of them, deciding on the one he would choose to take as his master first would also be a problem. As such, he planned to use Mi Li as an excuse to just get by for the time being. Then, he'd find a chance to deal with them one by one.

"Who is your master?" Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both asked, looking at him. Anyone who could produce such a formidable disciple was definitely an extraordinary master. The two of them might even just acknowledge that master.

"I promised her that I wouldn't expose her identity to anyone," Zu An replied, feeling a bit troubled.

The two women understood that kind of thing. There were many eccentrics who had such preferences. But that only made them even more curious about this master.

Zu An changed the topic, saying, "Let's deal with the spatial rift here first. It would be really bad if some more creatures cross over from a different world."

"Alright," Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue replied. They didn't have any objections.

However, as soon as Yu Yanluo took a single step, her legs buckled and she almost fell to the ground. When they saw that, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions became extremely strange. Their gazes screamed 'brute' when they looked at Zu An.

Zu An was also a bit embarrassed. He reached out his hand to support Yu Yanluo, but she was way too embarrassed and quickly pushed his hands away. Her cheeks were red as she said, "I'm okay."

Then, the group headed deeper into the cave.

...

With the two grandmasters Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue leading their party using their extremely sharp spiritual senses, finding the spatial rift wasn't too difficult at all.

They quickly arrived near where they had fought the intense battle with the deathworm. When he saw the corpse on the ground, Zu An walked over to it and said, "Hold on."

Yun Jianyue nodded and remarked, "Smart decision. That thing should have quite a few treasures on its body. Its scales are a little tougher than even dragon scales, and its fangs are excellent materials for forging weapons. Even its poison is useful... But its body is extremely tough, so it might not be that easy to break... down?"

Then, her eyes widened, because the mother worm's corpse abruptly vanished!

"Huh?" Yan Xuehen exclaimed, completely stunned. "Was that because of your storage treasure?"

“Something like that,” Zu An replied. He thought back to how, even though he had killed many Gray Wolf Kings during the crown prince’s exam, he had never collected their corpses. He didn’t want to make the same mistake again.

“Why is it so big?” Yan Xuehen asked in shock.

Yun Jianyue also found that inconceivable. Due to her cultivation and status, her storage artifact was already quite extraordinary. However, there would be no way she could store such a massive mother worm’s corpse!

Yu Yanluo’s face turned red. She was just as shocked as the others.

“Maybe my luck is just good, haha...” Zu An trailed off, as thunderous noises erupted in the distance. How could there be thunder underground?

Yan Xuehen’s expression changed. She cried, “Oh no, the spatial rift!”

The group was alarmed, and they quickly headed in the direction of the noise.

...

Soon afterward, an open space appeared before them. There, a pitch-black rift floated in midair. It was shaped almost like an eye that was rotated ninety degrees, narrow on either end and wider in the bottom.

The spatial rift was similar to a wormhole out of a science fiction movie. In its vicinity, thunder rumbled and lightning flashed. It was clearly extremely unstable. In addition, several terrifying silhouettes deep within appeared to be trying to break through the lightning and rush out of the spatial rift.

“As expected, without that mother worm asserting its dominance, the other creatures now want a slice of the pie too,” Yun Jianyue said, her expression grave.

Just then, Zu An summoned the Fire Phoenix. He unleashed a Flame Blade that was several dozen meters long directly at the pitch-black rift. However, when it approached the rift, the enormous Flame Blade became incredibly small, immediately disappearing into the space within the rift.

“It’s useless. The space within the spatial rift is folded in on itself. You cannot damage it,” Yan Xuehen said, shaking her head.

“Then what do we do?” Zu An asked, feeling dejected.

“It would be great if senior brother were here...” Yu Yanluo said. “His achievements in the field runes are extremely profound. He would be able to neutralize the spatial force here.”

Zu An was briefly stunned. Then, he realized that she was talking about Xie Daoyun’s master, the libationer’s first disciple.

“Yan Xiang is indeed an incredible genius. I’ve heard that his knowledge in runes has already reached an incredible level,” Yun Jianyue remarked. She had naturally heard about such people, who were at the top of their fields. She continued, “But there’s nothing to worry about. He might not be here, but this

woman has a way.” She pointed at Yan Xuehen and said, “The White Jade Sect’s knowledge regarding runes is on the same level as Yan Xiang’s.”

“Yan Xiang is without equal in the field of runes. However, we only need to deal with this spatial rift, so I can give it a try,” Yan Xuehen said as she walked forward. She raised her Flying Snow Sword, then began drawing strange and profound runes in the air.

At first, she drew runes at a normal speed, but over time, she slowed down greatly. Furthermore, her body began to shake visibly.

“What’s up with you?” Yun Jianyue asked in confusion.

“Nothing,” Yan Xuehen replied. She took a deep breath, then continued to draw. When she finished the final stroke, the rift trembled and began to change.

Yan Xuehen’s complexion was pale as she said weakly, “Hurry, attack it with all your strength. You should be able to destroy it directly now.”

Zu An didn’t dare to hesitate. He once again summoned the massive Flame Blade, and he also used the Blue Luan Sword Formation. He used everything he had against the spatial rift.

Yun Jianyue didn’t show any negligence either. She gathered the strength she had recovered over time, lashing out with a palm.

Even Yu Yanluo attacked with all her power.

Several streaks of light collided with the rift. They were no longer absorbed by the mysterious space as before, but rather made proper contact with the edges of the rift.

With a huge explosion, the thunder and lightning inside the rift ran amok. Waves of destructive aura gushed out of it. The terrifying figures inside screamed miserably, then all turned into ashes. The spatial rift closed like an eye, instantly disappearing into nothingness.

Afterward, the entire mine began to rock back and forth. It was far more intense than the previous shaking. The ground was quaking so hard that it was hard to stand still. Rocks tumbled down from the ceiling with no signs of stopping.

Yu Yanluo’s expression changed. She cried, “No! This entire mine is about to collapse...” A deafening noise erupted in the distance as soon as she spoke.

Yun Jianyue let out a forced laugh and said, “That noise seems to be coming from the cave entrance. It’s already collapsed, and we’re trapped here.”