

Immortal 1241

Chapter 1241: Huge Scandal

Zu An's soul had already been condensed. Together with the jade badge's abilities, everything happening in the palace was within his range of perception. Normally, Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen's perception should have been more powerful than his. However, they were seriously injured, causing their perception to drop drastically. That was why he had noticed them first.

He found that a bit strange. Yu Yanluo's curiosity he could understand, and Yun Jianyue was from the Devil Sect, so she was rather straightforward in nature. Making that kind of decision wasn't too unexpected. Considering Yan Xuehen's nature, however, why had she also rushed out like this, as if she were coming to catch an adulterer?

Pah pah pah, I'm completely innocent; why would I need to be scared of being caught?

Even though he thought that, he knew being seen sneaking around with Tushan Yu secretly like this would definitely put him in a difficult position. As such, he quickly said, "Come to my room at night."

Afterward, he quickly disappeared into the darkness.

Tushan Yu's face immediately turned red when she heard that. He's calling me over to his room at night? Don't tell me he wants to...

Yu Yanluo quickly appeared in her line of sight. When she saw Tushan Yu, there was a hint of surprise in her expression as she asked, "Little sister Yu, have you seen Zu An at all?"

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue also noticed the two of them. They both stopped in hidden places and didn't show themselves.

Tushan Yu reacted quickly, answering, "I haven't. Did young master Zu go missing? Should I send some people to look for him?"

"There's no need for that," Yu Yanluo replied. She thought to herself, If everyone in the palace ends up looking for Ah Zu, wouldn't that make me seem as if I'm making a big fuss over a minor issue? She noticed something and asked, "Hm? Little sister Yu, why is your face so red?"

"It might have been because I drank a bit too much, haha. I came out to get some fresh air," Tushan Yu replied. She was even starting to admire herself. I am a fox-spirit after all; I can lie in front of his real partner without batting an eyelid!

"Your Bluefield Country's wine is indeed quite delicious," Yu Yanluo replied. She chatted a bit more with Tushan Yu, but because she was more concerned with Zu An, she soon turned around and left.

On the other hand, when the two other women saw that Zu An wasn't there, they also quietly left. At the same time, they found it strange. Why am I coming out like this too? It's enough for Yu Yanluo alone to keep an eye on him, right?

Then, the ladies saw Zu An back in the main hall. He seemed to be in high spirits, drinking one glass after another. By the time the music finished and everyone left, he was already dead drunk.

Yu Yanluo supported him on the way back to his room while complaining, "What were you drinking so much for?"

Yun Jianyue sneered. "Who knows? He might be happy because he met up with an old friend."

Yu Yanluo's expression froze. This Yun Jianyue normally seemed to have disdain for this entire world, yet in private, her words were so sharp and penetrating. She used a hot towel to help Zu An wipe his cheeks and neck.

She was initially planning to stay behind to take care of him, but Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue stared at her with scorching eyes, making her feel strangely guilty. She couldn't bring herself to stay. Still, she was still too worried to leave Zu An alone.

While she was hesitating, Tushan Yu said with a smile, "Do not worry. I will send some of my people to stand guard outside. They will immediately enter and help him if he has any needs." The three women sighed in relief when they heard she wasn't the one who would remain.

At Zu An's current cultivation, even if he was completely drunk, if someone wanted to do anything bad to him, his soul would naturally react and wake him up. Still, just in case, Yan Xuehen left behind a yin-yang diagram mirror. When she saw that everyone was looking at her strangely, she explained, "This is a warning magic artifact. Unless Zu An personally opens the door or windows, if any outsiders come in, this magic artifact will sound the alarm. At the same time, it will activate a defensive formation."

Yu Yanluo felt great admiration when she saw the item. As the leader of the White Jade Sect, Yan Xuehen had many hidden cards after all.

Just then, Yun Jianyue took out a small lamp and hung it in the room. When she saw the others look at her, she replied with a completely normal expression, "This thing's use is about the same as the stone cold woman's. Just treat it as an extra layer of protection."

Yan Xuehen was speechless. This witch was clearly doing this out of concern that she might try something. How annoying!

Tushan Yu shivered. Why does it feel as if young master Zu's harem is full of killing intent?

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The atmosphere in the room became a bit strange. Soon afterward, those present all scattered, returning to their own rooms. No one had changed their rooms, since it had only been a single day after their arrival.

After she returned to her room, Yu Yanluo couldn't help but toss and turn. She just felt as if something might happen to Zu An after he got drunk. She really wanted to go to Zu An's room to take a look, but the two grandmasters were just next door. They would pick up on anything she did. If she went over now, the two might mistake her for an intruder. There was no way she would do something that embarrassing!

Huh? He's clearly my man. They don't have any kind of relationship with Zu An, so why am I so scared of them?

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Next door, Yan Xuehen couldn't sleep either. The fat daoist's divination continued to appear in her mind, talking about how Zu An would have a bloody calamity. They had clearly made it through the previous day safely, so they had all treated it as nonsense. And yet, they just happened to stay the night in the same place again! Yu Yanluo and that witch both suspected the fox-spirit country leader, but she knew the romantic calamity the fat daoist had spoken of might just be about her!

If the two of them had only shared that damn 'Love is More Solid Than Gold' skill, that would be one thing. She had cultivated the Unshakable Daoist Manual and believed that she could control herself.

But her clothes had exploded in front of him once, and then she had shown him such a humiliating side. Together with the shameful feeling she felt when he treated her, she was now completely at a loss. She even began to wonder whether she could maintain her previously emotionless state after getting rid of the skill's effects.

Don't tell me that 'bloody calamity' divination is really going to happen to me?

But how could that be possible if I don't leave my room? Don't tell me it is someone else?

She inadvertently sat up from the bed when she thought of that. She decided to take a look. Otherwise, she felt as if her own dao heart might become damaged. As such, she used the Unshakable Daoist Manual to completely conceal her aura, then secretly leaped out of her window.

Next door, Yun Jianyue immediately opened her eyes and muttered, "Hmph, I've caught you this time, stone cold woman!"

She had always been thinking about the 'romantic calamity' divination over the past few days. There was no way it would happen to her, and Yu Yanluo was already Zu An's lover. That meant there was only Yan Xuehen and that Bluefield Country fox-spirit left.

Even though she didn't believe Yan Xuehen would be interested in that man, just in case, she had still set up a secret detection formation in the other woman's room. Who would have thought that it would actually prove useful!

She was extremely curious. This stone cold woman wouldn't really look for Zu An in the middle of the night, right? Master and disciple serving the same man? That would be a huge scandal!

Her eyes were sparkling when she thought of that, and she secretly followed behind Yan Xuehen.

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Meanwhile, Tushan Yu was also incredibly conflicted. Those two mysterious and profound ladies had set up defensive magic artifacts there. If she headed over and kept the appointment, would it end up triggering the alarm?

However, when she thought about Zu An's firm tone, after some hesitation, she quickly arrived outside his door before she realized it. When she was outside, she gently called out, "Young master Zu?" She thought that if he really was already asleep, then she would just explain things to him tomorrow.

She was just about to leave when the door groaned and opened, and Zu An called out, "Come on in."

Zu An was sitting in his bed, not showing a single trace of drunkenness.

Tushan Yu's heart pounded. The memory of the previous night continued to appear in her mind. She felt her body grow a bit weak.

"Why aren't you coming in?" Zu An asked. He just assumed she was scared of Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's magic artifacts. He said, "Don't worry, I opened the door from inside, so it won't activate their magic artifacts."

Tushan Yu replied, "Oh." When she entered, she unthinkingly closed the door behind her. However, she then felt a bit strange. She was about to open it again, but Zu An patted the bed next to him and said, "Come over and have a seat."

Even though Tushan Yu was no walking seductress, she was still a fox-spirit. Normally, it was always those fox women who played around with men, and not the other way around; and yet today, her head went completely blank like a little girl. She only instinctively obeyed.

Only when she sat down did she realize something. Ah, I sat down on his bed again so easily! The clan's grandmothers have always taught me that men always treasure what they can't obtain easily. I already made a mistake last night; I should be trying to fix that today...

Zu An was about to say something to her when his expression suddenly froze. He noticed that Yan Xuehen would arrive soon. He quickly said, "Take off your clothes."

"Oh," Tushan Yu replied, instinctively agreeing. Her hand was already moving to her collar when she suddenly noticed that something wasn't right. She exclaimed, "Huh?"

Chapter 1242: We're Going to Ascend?

"Hurry!" Zu An urged Tushan Yu when he sensed Yan Xuehen getting closer and closer.

"Oh..." Tushan Yu replied.

She was even starting to look down on herself. Why had she agreed so easily? Was she nothing more than a plaything to him? One after another, different memories appeared in her mind, especially the one when he had kneaded her tail. Was she just a toy? All kinds of thoughts flashed through her mind at that instant.

However, she discovered that she wasn't as angry as she imagined, and was instead looking forward to it a bit. She removed her dress. She thought about how she had been too confused the previous night, but she definitely had to seize the initiative today. The reputation of the fox-spirits' ancestors cannot be ruined at my hands!

When he saw how Tushan Yu had already revealed most of her white skin, and she seemed as if she would remove more of her clothing, Zu An jumped in fright. If that happened, it would be even harder to explain if Yan Xuehen came in!

He quickly stopped her, saying, "Don't take off any more! Uh... Hurry and change into these clothes." Afterward, he pushed her over to a wardrobe: Pin Ru's Wardrobe.

Tushan Yu found it a bit strange. When had the wardrobe appeared? It didn't seem to match Bluefield Country's style.

Soon, however, her face turned even redder. As a fox-spirit, how could she not know a man's thoughts? Men loved it when women wore stimulating clothes to add to the atmosphere. If anyone else had suggested it, she might just have spit in their face. But at that moment, her heart leaped furiously. Things were getting a bit more exciting.

Huh? Why is it just a normal dress? she thought in surprise. However, the dress was quite pretty. She could tell that the workmanship was exquisite and gorgeous. At any other time, she wouldn't mind wearing such a pretty dress. In this kind of situation, though, wouldn't it be a bit too strange?

She suddenly thought of something. She remembered some of the elders in the clan mentioning that some men had a special fetish for having a woman dress up as another woman, and that it would make them even more excited.

So he was actually like this!

At Zu An's urging, Tushan Yu put on the clothes in a daze. She became more and more curious as to just who this dress belonged to.

The three women from earlier in the day appeared in her mind. Every single one of them were exceptional beauties.

Big sis Yu's relationship with him is really intimate; they probably already have a physical relationship. I don't think he would make me wear her clothes.

That means only the two other women are left. One is cold and indifferent, while the other is beautiful but dangerous. Even though they are close to young master Zu, it seems as if they have not yet taken the final step.

Still, it seems young master Zu is interested in them too and wants me to play their role. This dress' style looks more similar to that of the woman surnamed Yan.

While Tushan Yu was letting her imagination run wild, Zu An suddenly made a 'shush' hand sign at her. Tushan Yu was startled; only then did she notice a figure by the entrance. Judging from how that person was pacing back and forth, she could tell they were feeling extremely conflicted.

A while later, that person seemed to have made up their mind, and gently knocked on the door. They called out, "Ah Zu, are you asleep yet?"

The one standing by the entrance was naturally Yan Xuehen. Even she was confused as to why she would come over to see if the fat daoist's divination would come true. She had planned to leave afterward, expecting to see nothing wrong, but when she arrived outside the door, she saw that there was an extra person inside. It was a woman, no less!

Even though her injuries were serious, she was still a grandmaster in the end. Furthermore, she was paying close attention, so there was no way she could make any mistake at such a short distance. However, because her and Yun Jianyue's magic artifacts were inside, she couldn't be sure who the person was.

A woman was in a man's room in the middle of the night. She knew what was happening without even thinking about it.

Yan Xuehen's heart seemingly turned ice-cold when she first made the discovery. She was about to turn around and leave, but she was also curious as to who the romantic calamity the fat daoist had spoken about was referring to.

However, it would be far too awkward for her to walk into such a situation. That was why she had paced back and forth by the door for so long. In the end, however, she told herself that it was just to confirm Zu An's safety so he wouldn't get taken advantage of by an evil person.

After thinking everything through, she made up her mind to knock.

I'll just pretend I didn't know there was someone else inside. As long as I'm not awkward, the only ones who will be awkward are the ones inside.

Zu An wanted to ignore it, but when he sensed the water-like aura surrounding the place, he knew Yan Xuehen had already searched his room with her soul. If he continued to deceive her, he might really offend her badly. That was why he replied after a moment of hesitation, "Oh, it's big sis Yan. I was feeling thirsty, so I woke up to drink some water."

He got up and walked over to open the door after speaking.

Tushan Yu began to panic. Why is he opening the door now?

What am I supposed to do?

The worst part was that the clothes she was wearing might be Yan Xuehen's! If the original owner saw her, wouldn't it be absolute social suicide?!

However, Zu An had already opened up the door before she could even react. I'm finished, I'm finished!

Tushan Yu could only go for broke. She forced a smile to make herself look a bit more normal.

Yan Xuehen was initially conflicted, wondering what she would do if Zu An didn't reply. With her status and identity, that kind of problem had never happened in her life. That was why when she really did run into it, she discovered that she was completely baffled, and that she was even less adept at dealing with such situations than ordinary women.

And yet, the door actually opened up easily. She felt warm inside. Looks like he didn't plan to trick me on purpose.

"Why is big sis Yan here? Why don't you come in for a cup of tea?" Zu An asked, then moved aside and invited her in.

However, Yan Xuehen immediately waved her hand and said, "There is no need. I was just going for a stroll since I was unable to sleep. I just wanted to see if you were okay while passing by."

If there had been no one else, she couldn't be sure whether she would have followed him in. However, while there was clearly another woman inside, she still had her sense of shame. There was no way she would dare to go in.

She pretended to absentmindedly look into the room while speaking. When she saw the face of the person inside, she was stunned. From her perspective, the one inside was actually Yu Yanluo. Why is it her?

Tushan Yu smiled awkwardly at her. She didn't even know where to put her hands at that moment. It really was too embarrassing.

Yan Xuehen quickly said, "Since you are safe and sound, there is no need for me to worry. I will be heading back." She didn't wait for him to say anything, and simply left without even turning around again.

Perhaps because she was leaving too quickly, or because she was absent-minded, she almost slipped and fell by the doorstep.

Yu Yanluo really is sly... She looked calm and indifferent on the surface, and pretended to be sleeping soundly next to us, but she actually snuck over.

They were lovers to begin with, anyway. Would we even be able to say anything if she came over directly?

No wonder she didn't even greet me just now. She's probably embarrassed too, right?

For some reason, the trees and grass in the palace looked especially green along the way. She could only continuously console herself, telling herself that it was better for that romantic calamity to happen to Yu Yanluo than any other woman.

Ahhhhh! Then why do I care so much?

It's all the fault of that damn 'Love is More Solid Than Gold'!

Yun Jianyue, having followed her over, was confused. Why is she acting all dramatic with her face red?

Don't tell me Zu An did something to her?

After thinking about it, she decided to check out Zu An's room first to see what was going on.

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At that moment in Zu An's room, Tushan Yu said with a red face, "Young master, I don't even know how to face them tomorrow..."

She was a country's lord, after all. She had come to a man's bed in the middle of the night, and had even been caught while roleplaying. Just the thought alone was embarrassing.

Zu An chuckled and said, "Don't worry, she didn't recognize you. She thought you were a different person because of the clothes you're wearing."

Tushan Yu's eyes widened. She replied, "There's actually something as magical as that?"

Zu An was about to explain when his expression froze. Why is another one here?

“Brat, why did that stone cold woman run away with a red face? Did you do something... to her...?” a loud but pleasant voice called out. Yun Jianyue was standing in the entrance, but she saw the scene inside halfway through her sentence and immediately froze up.

Zu An was about to reply when Yun Jianyue raised her hand to stop him, saying, “There’s no need to explain anything. I understand. Sorry for disturbing you.”

She also turned around to leave after saying that. No wonder that stone cold woman had that kind of reaction! Turns out she ended up running into a couple’s passion!

Hmph, that Yu Yanluo really is cunning. She pretended to be with us on the surface, and yet she snuck over here.

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Zu An chuckled bitterly when he saw her leave. Looks like I have to be careful tomorrow. If Yu Yanluo is exposed, I’ll definitely be in big trouble.

After closing the door again, he said to Tushan Yu, “There’ll be problems if we stay here. Who knows, someone else might show up. Why don’t we go to your room instead?”

Tushan Yu bit her lips and said in a troubled manner, “When I visited you, I came with my trusted aides. They’re trustworthy and won’t leak any information. But if you go to my room, there are all types of people and forces watching. We might not be able to keep it a secret then.”

Zu An didn’t want the entire city to know about what was happening. As he was trying to think of a different place where they wouldn’t be disturbed by anyone, his eyes suddenly lit up. He remembered the spoils of war he had gotten from Chi Wen. He hadn’t had the time to test those things out yet. Wasn’t now a great opportunity?

As such, he took out the flame wheels. After properly making them his own artifacts, he tried to stand on them. Even though the Wind Fire Wheels burned fiercely with flames, they weren’t hot to stand on at all, likely because he had already made them his.

He couldn’t find his balance at first, but he quickly got used to it. He had tried segways before; the feeling was similar.

Next to him, Tushan Yu exclaimed in shock, “This is a heaven-grade weapon?” As a country’s lord, she at least had a bit of knowledge.

Zu An nodded. He reached out and wrapped his arm around her waist. Then, he flew out of the window. Once they left the room, he rushed straight into the sky. At first, they could still see Bluefield Palace, but soon afterward, there were only lights left. Eventually, even the lights disappeared, as they quickly rose above the clouds.

Zu An was excited. Even though he could fly for some time by relying on his own cultivation, compared to the Wind Fire Wheels, it was lacking in both speed and altitude.

“Ah!” Tushan Yu jumped in fright, her face incredibly pale. After all, she wasn’t a grandmaster[1] and had never flown so high. If she fell down from here, she might instantly turn into a bloody paste.

“Don’t be afraid; I’m here to protect you.” Zu An said to comfort her.

Tushan Yu gradually calmed down when she heard the gentleness in his voice. Then, her fear was replaced by novelty. So flying has this kind of sensation! There are so many clouds around us...

Just then, Zu An stared into her eyes and asked, “Was the reason why you weren’t willing to go to your room because you didn’t want Hu Qianxiao to know?”

Chapter 1243: The Choice

Tushan Yu’s face turned pale. In the end, she still said quietly, “You’re right. The fiend race territories are a place where the weak are prey for the strong. Our Fox race’s women are well known for our feminine charms and aren’t good at battle, so it’s only natural that others would drool over us. That’s why we can only rely on the strong to protect us.

“Among the beast races, the Tiger race and Lion race are the strongest. Since the Fox race and Tiger race have been rather close historically, we chose to rely on Hu Qianxiao. Over the years, he’s protected us a lot, but of course, we’ve also helped him do many things. That’s why from the outside, it looks as if I’m Hu Qianxiao’s woman.

“Because I need to borrow his name to scare off people with evil motives, nor have I cleared things up, for some reason, Hu Qianxiao has also tacitly approved of that.”

Zu An couldn’t help but chuckle. This really was a perfect recreation of the saying ‘the fox exploits the tiger’s might’. He looked into Tushan Yu’s eyes and asked, “Then are you Hu Qianxiao’s woman?”

Tushan Yu protested, “Didn’t young master already personally experience it last night? Whether I am or not, shouldn’t you know more clearly than anyone else?”

When he remembered the beauty’s foxy charms from the previous night, Zu An couldn’t help but shiver. He asked, “Then was Hu Qianxiao the one who sent you last night?”

This Hu Qianxiao isn’t wrong in the head somehow, is he? Why would he send this woman he has an ambiguous relationship with to me?

The worst part was that he had never even heard of that name before today. So why was this Tiger race guy so intent on dealing with him?

Tushan Yu’s face paled. After a moment of hesitation, she nodded and said, “It was indeed Hu Qianxiao who had me come over last night. But he didn’t make me... do that. I actually don’t know what was going on either. I was muddle-headed and just... just...”

She felt incredible remorse when she said that. The only way to redeem herself was to show that she was the one who had acted proactively last night, that she was willing. That way, she would at least leave behind a good impression in Zu An’s mind and increase his feelings of tenderness.

I’m finished, I’m finished! I’m not a qualified fox-spirit after all; I’ve shamed all of my ancestors...

Zu An was stunned. He had initially thought that she was the one who had taken the initiative then, and that she was already well experienced. Now, it turned out that she had been a young and inexperienced maiden, leaving him a bit baffled.

He suddenly thought of something and asked, "You used your charm technique on me last night, right?"

Tushan Yu panicked a bit. Under Zu An's fierce gaze, however, she still felt guilty. She replied, "I used a bit, but only a bit..."

Zu An finally understood what had happened. She had probably used her Fox race's charm technique on him, but because of his and Daji's soul contract, and the fact that Daji was the Fox race's highest-leveled Nine-Tailed Heavenly Fox, it had instead bounced off.

Sigh, I thought it was because of my own charms.

After thinking about it, he summoned Daji. He wanted to see if she had anything to do with this world's Bluefield Country.

A woman dressed in white clothes purer than snow appeared out of thin air. No matter how many times she made an entrance, he always admired her exceptional appearance. However, her usual expressionless appearance quickly turned to alarm, because there was nothing underneath her feet. She began to fall straight down.

At the moment, Daji was only at the seventh rank, and was actually quite far from the master rank. She naturally had no way of flying through the air.

Zu An cursed himself for being careless and quickly tried to grab her. However, just when he was about to touch her, her body twisted to the side to avoid him.

Zu An was stunned. Only then did he recall that valkyries never allowed him to touch their bodies. Even in this situation, would she rather die than be touched by me?

He felt as if he had just suffered a huge mental blow.

All of those Ki Fruits I fed you must've been for nothing.

However, jokes were jokes; he couldn't let her really fall to death. Even so, he couldn't touch her. As he was wondering what to do, he suddenly thought of something. He took out the Primal Skysilk he had gotten from Chi Wen earlier, and with a shake of his wrist, he wrapped it around Daji's waist. With a gentle pull, he brought her back to his side.

With the Primal Skysilk holding her in place, Daji was also able to float in the sky. At first, she struggled instinctively. When she discovered that it was Zu An who had caught her, however, she calmed down and instead looked at the red silk around her curiously.

Tushan Yu was stupefied by these sudden developments. She really couldn't figure out the pair's relationship. However, her attention quickly shifted to Daji. She couldn't help but feel that the ridiculously beautiful woman before her was somewhat familiar.

"Do you recognize her?" Zu An took the chance to ask.

"I don't know," Tushan Yu replied, feeling a bit lost. "Normally, I shouldn't, but I have a strange kind of feeling that I should be able to recognize her. I feel a sort of intimacy from her, as well as a sort of pressure. It's so strange... her cultivation seems to be lower than mine, so why am I scared of her?"

Suddenly, her expression changed. She mumbled, "She... She... She..."

Zu An quickly asked, "What's wrong?"

"I finally remember where I've seen her before!" Tushan Yu exclaimed, trembling a bit and sounding agitated.

"You've seen her before?" Zu An replied, stunned. But that shouldn't be. Even if Daji is from the Fox race, just how many generations has it been? How could they have met before?

Tushan Yu said, "Our Fox race's lords always pass down an inheritance to the next generation. When the previous country lord or elder activates the power of our bloodline, the image of our Fox race's ancestor appears in our minds. Our Fox race's most formidable being has always been the Nine-Tailed Heavenly Fox. Why is she so similar to the image in my memories?"

It wasn't her fault for not being able to immediately remember. It had already been a long time since her bloodline had activated, and that scene had only lasted a brief moment. Furthermore, it was quite difficult to associate this delicate woman with the powerful existence in her memory.

Zu An was moved when she heard her explanation. He recalled Daji and explained, "She indeed has some connection with your Fox race, but it's not what you're thinking." He didn't want to explain Daji's origins, or else it might cause a huge uproar.

When she saw how Zu An had summoned a person with just a wave of his hand and that person had disappeared with another wave, and that the person even resembled the Fox race's highest being, the expression with which Tushan Yu looked at Zu An became even more fanatical.

No wonder he could defeat the Golden Crow Crown Prince! This man is really too mysterious.

She completely let go of her misgivings when she thought of that. She warned him, "Young master, you absolutely can't go to the Fiend King Court."

Zu An was stunned, asking, "Why?"

"Because the matter of young master's transcendent aptitude has already been exposed. The reason why Hu Qianxiao gave me the order to approach you was because he wanted to take the chance to obtain your blood essence," Tushan Yu said, deciding to just tell him everything. "When you fought against the Golden Crow Crown Prince, he feared that if he used force, his men might not be your match. That's why he tried to use gentler methods, sending me to approach you."

Zu An was alarmed. How had Hu Qianxiao found out about his transcendent aptitude? In the end, he figured that it was probably a lot of his blood had landed on the war chariot and weapons during the fight against the Golden Crow Crown Prince.

Sigh, I was too careless. Back then, in Brightmoon City, Principal Jiang warned me to never reveal that, but after nothing happened for so long, I ended up becoming negligent.

Zu An sighed and said, "You still managed to complete your mission in the end."

Tushan Yu's face turned pale. She quickly exclaimed, "I didn't!"

When he saw her nervous expression, Zu An said with a smile, "I was just joking around with you."

Tushan Yu finally understood what he meant. She became extremely embarrassed. "Young master, you're so bad... How could I possibly hand over that kind of thing?"

"Ahem..." Zu An was also caught off guard. This woman seemed to have misunderstood him. He quickly changed the topic, adding, "Why don't I just give you a bit of blood essence then? Otherwise, you won't be able to explain things to Hu Qianxiao."

Tushan Yu felt warm inside when she heard what he said. However, she still shook her head and said, "If young master had said that before last night, I would definitely have happily received it, but now, I think it's best if I don't take it. Blood essence is too important for young master. Forget about the fact that a loss of blood essence would make young master weak for a long time, who knows what Hu Qianxiao would do with it?"

"There are too many curse techniques and puppet arts in this world. That's why young master absolutely can't randomly hand over your blood essence."

When Zu An heard the concern in her words, he couldn't help but ask, "Why are you worrying so much for my sake?"

Tushan Yu said with a sigh, "I'm already young master's woman; who would I think of if not young master? Besides, after Hu Qianxiao learns of what happened last night, there won't be any good news waiting for us. Rather than that, I might as well wholeheartedly choose young master."

"Of course, I'm definitely not the type who would become so dead set on someone because of a single night's happiness. However, when I saw that mysterious girl, I suddenly felt as if you were sent by the heavens to save us. That's why I made this choice."

Zu An knew that there was no need for her to say all that to him at all. The reason she had done so was clearly because she was worried that he would misunderstand. He gently held her hand and said, "I won't superficially promise you any grand future, but as long as it's within my power, I'll definitely protect the Fox race."

Tushan Yu said with a smile, "I would feel more worried if you promised me all kinds of things. Our clan has met too many men like that, every single one of them offering flowery but insincere speech. In the end, all they wanted was just to take advantage of us."

Zu An chuckled and asked, "Then how do we deal with Hu Qianxiao's mission this time?"

"I'll tell him that Chi Wen's appearance interrupted the plan and caused a last-minute failure. The ocean races are even more powerful than the Tiger race, and there has always been conflict between them. There's no way Hu Qianxiao would be able to confirm whether that was true or false," Tushan Yu explained.

Zu An gave her a look of surprise. He hadn't expected her to have already prepared so thoroughly. This girl really is quite quick-witted, he thought. No wonder she had been able to make the weak Fox race flourish for so long.

The two chatted for a while longer. After exchanging the information they had, Zu An decided to bring her back to the palace. However, Tushan Yu stopped him and asked, "Can you wait for a bit? I've never experienced flying like this before, so I want to stay here for a bit longer."

"Alright," Zu An replied. How could he refuse when he saw how hopeful, and yet scared that he might reject her, she was? He used the Wind Fire Wheels to bring Tushan Yu high up into the air.

As she looked at the mountains and rivers below, as well as the stars above, Tushan Yu's cheeks turned red. Never in her life had she felt so carefree. The man at her side kept warmly satisfying her requests.

She pursed her lips, then suddenly pushed them outward. A tender yet slightly flirtatious expression appeared on her fresh and pure cheeks. She said, "Young master, I was flustered last night and didn't show you my usual skill. Today, I'll let young master experience what a true fox-spirit is capable of."

Zu An's eyes opened wide. This woman was just too good! There was probably no one in this world who could refuse such temptation, right?

Chapter 1244: Tangseng's Flesh

Then, Zu An finally understood what a 'soul-stealing' fox-spirit was like, because they really were too good at pleasing men. Even though it was in midair and she couldn't even stand still, she was still able to do all kinds of things by leaning against Zu An's body.

If he hadn't already personally experienced it the previous night, Zu An would find it really hard to believe that she was actually a pure and innocent young lady. That was probably just the innate talent of the Fox race.

...

After some time, Zu An snapped out of his daze. They had already flown somewhere far from Bluefield Country. He suddenly remembered a poetry verse written by Li Bai in his previous world that described how he felt: 'While on cliffs of the Yangtze Gorges, gibbons ceaselessly cry. By evening I'll be home at Jiangling, a thousand miles I've gone.' [1]

Tushan Yu clung to his body like a koala, her chest rising and falling continuously. Her face was flushed red, and fine beads of sweat formed on her temples. This kind of position, where she couldn't stand, had clearly made her use up several times more stamina than usual.

She moved closer to Zu An's ear, her breath soft and fragrant as she whispered, "Young master, compared to the Medusa Queen... how am I?"

Zu An couldn't help but chuckle, replying, "Why are you trying to compare with others, haha..."

"Tell me~" Tushan Yu insisted, sounding sweet and intimate.

Zu An had to admit that when a fox-spirit began to pout playfully, there weren't many men who could refuse her. Unfortunately, he was currently in the sky!

He reached out his hand and hooked his finger under Tushan Yu's chin, saying, "Your methods just now were indeed quite good, but in my opinion, it's still a bit lacking compared to last night."

"Why?" Tushan Yu asked, feeling a bit confused. She had been completely muddle-headed the previous night, and everything was a mess in her memory.

Zu An said with a chuckle, "Because last night, you really were passionate. What you showed were your natural reactions, which are way more effective than any technique."

"Ah..." Tushan Yu seemed to have realized something. She said with a red face, "Last night really was too embarrassing..." She had been doing her best to control herself the previous night; after all, she was a country lord. She didn't want to experience something that embarrassing again.

"But I don't think so," Zu An said, hugging her from behind. "You've worked hard just now. Just leave the rest to me."

Before Tushan Yu could even reply, her entire body trembled. She asked in embarrassment, "But what if someone passes by? That'll be way too embarrassing!"

Even though they were high up in the sky, there were some powerful beings who could fly in this world. Even though the chance of running into someone in the middle of the night wasn't too great, if someone really did pass by...

Before, when she had taken the initiative, as long as she buried herself in Zu An's chest, no one could really see anything. But now...

Zu An rested his shoulder on her soft and delicate shoulder and replied, "Don't worry. If anyone approaches, I'll be able to sense it ahead of time."

Afterward, Tushan Yu didn't say anything else. She just looked away, scared that her red face might give her nervousness away.

Zu An thought of something, then took out the Primal Skysilk and covered her eyes.

"Ah, young master?" Tushan Yu exclaimed, jumping in fright. If she couldn't see, all of her other senses would be magnified several times. She was completely flustered.

Zu An moved over to her ear and said, "Don't be scared. I'm here." Seeing that the Primal Skysilk was quite long, he had an idea. He wrapped up Tushan Yu and brought her into the sky, then let go of her hands.

"The young master is so bad..." Tushan Yu murmured, her cheeks red. The fox-spirits were well-experienced in this field, but everything Zu An brought to the table was full of novelty. She was alarmed. Don't tell me the Medusa Empress taught him all this?!

She racked her brains, but how could she know that even though she had the Fox race's generations of knowledge, Zu An had had countless experienced veterans from his previous world to teach him? When those two factions were compared, it was hard to say who would win against whom.

...

The next morning, Zu An's group formally left Bluefield Palace.

However, the palace's women once again told them that their country lord wasn't well, so she wouldn't be seeing them out and that she wished all of them a smooth journey. They also prepared some precious gifts from Bluefield Country.

Yun Jianyue was a bit unhappy. She remarked, "What is going on with that woman? Her body doesn't seem that weak, so why is she always sick?"

Yan Xuehen's pretty brows furrowed. She said, "She might have been injured from her battle against Chi Wen last night. She seemed to be a bit unwell yesterday and forced herself to fight. It is understandable that her condition worsened."

Zu An's mouth was shut tightly. The only one who knew what had happened to Tushan Yu was himself. To a certain degree, he was part of the reason.

But that fluffy tail really feels great; no wonder so many people like raising pets.

For some reason, Tushan Yu really hadn't wanted to show him that side of her. But with the help of the Primal Skysilk, she had been utterly defeated, and she could no longer control her body.

The Primal Skysilk and Wind Fire Wheels really are useful!

If Nezha knew his weapons had been used for that kind of nonsense, he might just return from the grave to beat the crap out of Zu An.

Still, the Wind Fire Wheels really were excellent. With their help, it was as if Zu An had a private jet. Even though they were far from the human world, it wasn't a huge problem anymore.

While Zu An's mind was wandering, Yu Yanluo asked curiously, "But why did she suddenly prepare a gift for us? She didn't give us these things before we left yesterday."

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both shut their mouths and ignored her when they heard that. They harrumphed and thought, You sneaky woman!

They were all women, so Yu Yanluo immediately sensed that something was off. She looked at the two of them in confusion, wondering just how she had offended them.

When Zu An saw that, he quickly said, "It might be because she's grateful that we helped her yesterday."

Yun Jianyue chuckled and said, "Then we are merely sharing your glory."

Even though with their status, they didn't really care about any gifts, these were the Fox race's specialties that were hard for them to even run into; that made it a fresh experience.

"Even so, I can't help but feel that something is a bit strange. If she really is grateful, then she should have come out herself to see us out. Only giving us these things feels a bit off-putting," Yu Yanluo said, somewhat confused. According to her previous interactions with the Bluefield Lord, the other woman was clearly someone well-versed in social relations too.

Zu An was sweating buckets inwardly. Tushan Yu had just lost her virginity the previous day, and then they had 'fought' for an entire night. Her body was actually incredibly tough; however, it was a bit

difficult for her to even walk, so she might have been worried that someone might notice something. That was why she would rather offend them a bit than take that risk.

He thought for a bit, then explained to her, "Maybe she's trying to avoid rousing suspicion."

"Avoid suspicion? What kind of suspicion does she have to avoid?" The three women all became somewhat vigilant.

"She told me that my transcendent aptitude has been exposed, so she warned me not to go to the Fiend King Court," Zu An said with a sigh. That was the biggest headache right now. At that moment, the risk of going to the Fiend King Court was too high. However, if he didn't go, he would feel worried for Yu Yanluo's sake.

"What?!" All of their expressions changed when they heard about that matter. After being around each other for so long, the three of them had found out about his transcendent aptitude for various reasons. They also knew just how much trouble such aptitude would get him into.

They asked each other a few more questions. When they learned that it had been exposed during the battle with the Golden Crow Crown Prince, Yan Xuehen said with a serious expression, "Don't go to the Fiend King Court. It's way too dangerous."

Shockingly, Yun Jianyue didn't argue against her and said, "Indeed. Many people will want to kill you before you can grow. After all, no one wants another great enemy to appear on their own cultivation path. Furthermore, some people need your flesh and blood. It's rumored that the blood essence of a transcendent aptitude cultivator can prolong your longevity, and it also has great benefits toward cultivation."

Zu An's expression grew strange. In his previous world, no matter how nasty something was, as long as it was rumored to be able to boost a man's performance, it would be eaten to extinction.

His own situation was far more dangerous than those cases. He was basically Tangseng from Journey to the West; everyone wanted a piece of him[2]!

Yu Yanluo said, "Ah Zu, you should go back to the human territory with big sisters Yan and Yun. I don't want you to lose your life in the Fiend King Court."

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both nodded. They thought to themselves that this woman might be sneaky and cunning, but she was still able to discern serious matters.

Zu An said, "I'll ride with you guys for part of the journey, and make my decision as things play out. I suspect only a few people know about this, so it might not be as dangerous as you think."

After chatting a bit more about the subject, they could only temporarily push the issue aside.

...

When the group left Bluefield City, Yan Xuehen suddenly voiced her surprise, asking, "Ah Zu, when did Bluefield Lord tell you about this?"

The other women seemed to have realized something. They immediately looked at him with suspicion.

Chapter 1245: Swindler

Zu An immediately felt his scalp turn numb. These women were just too smart! They had been able to pick up some clues just from a few words! Faced with the three women's suspicious stares, Zu An was 0.01 seconds away from being exposed when fortunately, Maid Xing brought the others over to receive them just then.

With that breathing room, he finally thought of an excuse. He coughed lightly and replied, "There was a slip of paper in the pastries this morning, containing that information she just happened to have received. That's why I was alerted ahead of time."

Yan Xuehen voiced her surprise. "Normally speaking, that should be something only the higher ups in the Fiend King Court should know. Why was she able to obtain that information?"

Yu Yanluo explained, "The Fox race's people have always been good at being smooth in social situations. Their relationship with the different forces is quite good, so their intelligence network is also outstanding."

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both nodded inwardly. Yu Yanluo was more familiar with the two fiend races, so this type of explanation made sense.

"What I'm more curious about is why she would contact you, and through that kind of method no less," Yun Jianyue said, looking at Zu An in confusion. As someone who had grown stronger step by step in a place like the Devil Sect, she was quite sensitive to unusual things. She just felt that the matter was extremely strange, and yet she couldn't really say how either.

Zu An had already sorted out his thoughts. He said, "It's probably because I saved them, so she did this to thank me. That's why she used such a method. It was probably to protect herself, to prevent others from knowing that she contacted me. She didn't come out today either, probably to avoid suspicion and make the other forces think she wasn't very close to us."

He was even starting to admire himself as he said that. I really am a genius for being able to salvage this kind of situation.

"So that was it." The women all sighed.

"I felt that Tushan Yu was being a bit cold, but now, I know that we've accused her wrongly. We'll have to make sure to express our thanks properly next time."

...

After the tension was defused, they all gradually calmed down. A strange silence fell upon the carriage.

Yu Yanluo found a chance to secretly tug on Zu An's sleeves. Then, she asked through ki, "Ah Zu, did I end up offending the two of them somehow? You have to tell me, in case I might have made a mistake and not even know about it!"

Zu An felt a bit embarrassed. He said, "You didn't. You must be overthinking things." Of course she hadn't done anything wrong. He had actually used her to take the blame.

"No, there's definitely something," Yu Yanluo said. Her pretty brows furrowed slightly. She surreptitiously looked toward the two girls. She had sensed that something was off all the way from their first morning greeting. She hadn't thought too much about it before, but later on, various clues had shown that there was indeed a problem.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue, who had been paying close attention to her, both looked away. They all thought to themselves, She's secretly gossiping about something again. They're probably flirting.

Hmph, do you really like sneaking around that much?

Besides, Zu An, do you have no self-respect? Do you have to engage in this public display of affection in front of us?

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +111 +111 +111...

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +111 +111 +111...

Zu An was stunned when he saw the incoming Rage points. However, he didn't dare to ask them about it at that moment.

...

Afterward, the mood in the carriage became a bit heavy. When they arrived at a small town, Zu An called for a stop to get some rest.

Maid Xing was confused. She said, "It has only been half a day since we left Bluefield City. Why are we stopping for a rest so quickly?"

Yu Yanluo coughed lightly and said, "We'll listen to him and stop."

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen couldn't take the strange atmosphere in the carriage anymore either. They both voiced their approval of the break too.

They wandered around the small town while deep in thought. In order to ease the awkwardness, Zu An found a topic and remarked, "Hm? There seemed to be quite a few strong individuals along the way here."

"You're right. I noticed that before in Bluefield City too. At first, I thought it was because Bluefield Country was more open to outsiders, and that these cultivators were here to experience the famous fox women." Yun Jianyue didn't want to talk to him at first, but since it was about something important, she still responded.

Yan Xuehen sighed and added, "After the great war between humans and fiends, it's already been a long time since I last saw so many fiends."

Yu Yanluo wanted to ask if these two had experienced that bitter war, but she suddenly remembered how strangely they had been acting right before she spoke and swallowed the words right back down. She thought, Hmph, you're all giving me the cold shoulder, so why would I treat you guys enthusiastically?

"I seem to have heard those fiends chatting about some treasure map and great treasure," Yun Jianyue said. She had been paying close attention to everything the entire time.

"I noticed that as well. It looks as if many people are holding maps of some sort. It would be strange if it really was a treasure map," Yan Xuehen said. She obviously didn't believe it. If there really was some great treasure, it was likely extremely precious. Why would everyone have a share?

"Tushan Yu mentioned before that recently, there have been some things that she has to deal with here. Did she tell you anything else about it?" Yu Yanluo asked. She ignored the two women and looked straight at Zu An.

Zu An's smile immediately froze. He replied, "She didn't..."

The two of them had been focused on their 'interaction'. Even when they had talked, it was mainly about the Fiend King Court and the matter of his transcendent aptitude.

If he had known that things were going to be like this, he would have asked her about it then. With their current relationship, she definitely wouldn't have hidden anything from him.

"Everyone, come and take a look! This is a treasure map I just happened to have stumbled upon; written on it is a great opportunity! Who knows, the lucky one might just be you!

"It is only ten taels of silver for a copy, and you might become the one chosen by the heavens. You might be able to experience an unmatched encounter!

"It is just ten taels of silver, and yet you cannot even afford it? Look at these poor beggars."

When the group heard the curses, they exchanged a look. The voice was quite familiar: It was precisely the fat daoist who had previously given them divinations.

The party followed the source of the sound. Soon afterward, they saw that Wu Liang was shouting and spitting saliva as he tried to sell treasure maps. He wasn't holding the 'pseudo-immortal' banner today and wasn't even wearing his daoist outfit. Instead, he wore a fluffy hat with dog-like ears, just like a street vendor.

After some time, many people left while swearing, but there were a few who spent ten taels to try their luck. Just like that, Wu Liang managed to successfully sell quite a few.

Zu An's group was stupefied. "This guy is just a swindler after all!"

Wu Liang was fixated on the silvers when he suddenly felt a pat on his shoulder. He reflexively turned around and began, "Ah, are you going to buy a map... Oh, so it was you guys."

Zu An chuckled and asked, "Why did daoist priest change careers?"

Wu Liang seemed completely unfazed as he replied, "The people here are too enthusiastic; if they see my daoist outfit, they will want to make donations. I cannot refuse them if they do that. I did not want to be tainted by the karma of the secular world too much, so I changed into a different set of clothes."

Zu An's group was speechless. This guy really knew how to speak nonsense with a straight face!

“Then this treasure map thing you’re selling, aren’t you scared that it will taint you with secular karma?” Yun Jianyue said with a sneer.

Wu Liang said with a sigh, “Even the great ones who stand aloof from this world must eat. I am making money through my own skills, so what is wrong with that?”

The group was speechless.

Wu Liang’s eyes suddenly lit up. He began to gesture and wink toward Zu An, saying, “Seeing how you are smiling from ear to ear, your brows and eyes full of romance, how did that romantic affair go?”

The three women who had initially been upset at each other all simultaneously looked at Zu An when they heard that.

Chapter 1246: Succeeding Through a Lucky Stroke

Zu An was starting to have thoughts of killing this damn fatty. He had finally dealt with that issue with great difficulty, and yet now, they had run into him and it was brought up again? He retorted coldly, “What romantic calamity? Your divinations weren’t correct at all. You should be glad that I’m not asking you for compensation, and yet you have the nerve to act all cocky here!”

Yu Yanluo nodded inwardly. Zu An had indeed never left his room over the past few days, acting the part of a proper gentleman. How could there have been any romance?

However, that wasn’t what Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue thought. They had personally witnessed Zu An and Yu Yanluo having a secret meeting in the middle of the night!

Still, the two were lovers anyway. If even that could be called a love affair... That would be pushing it a bit, right?

Wu Liang voiced his surprise. “But that should not be. How could I possibly have made a mistake?” He made some finger seals and began to carry out a divination again.

Zu An’s scalp turned numb when he saw that, so he quickly changed the topic. “Damn fatty, what were you selling just now?”

Wu Liang’s eyes lit up when he heard that. He offered, “Does young master want one? This is a treasure map I obtained with great difficulty! Recorded on it is an important treasure that can completely change one’s fate! I will only charge you 100 taels of silver. There is no better deal than this! Do not miss this chance!”

Zu An was speechless. He replied, “But I clearly just heard you selling it for ten taels of silver just now. Why are you selling it to me for 100?”

The women’s expressions became unkind. This guy is a swindler after all. Does he think we’re easy to cheat? Because of that, the credibility of the romantic calamity dropped considerably.

Even though his scheme had been seen through, Wu Liang didn’t seem nervous at all. He said in a calm and unhurried manner, “The young master might not know, but the one I am selling them is a copy. It is missing a lot of details and information! This one is the original, and the fact that I am only charging you 100 taels is only because you are a repeat cus... ahem, because you and this poor daoist share affinity.”

Zu An laughed out of annoyance. He grabbed Wu Liang's hand and shouted loudly, "Everyone, come and look! The treasure map he sold all of you is a sloppy version!"

The people nearby cried out in alarm, feeling scammed when they heard that. Then, when they saw the expressions of the people around them, they quickly realized that he had scammed more than one person. They flocked over furiously, about to skin the fat daoist alive.

Wu Liang was so scared that his soul almost left his body. He exclaimed, "Young master, you are killing me here! How about I just give you this treasure map for free?"

Afterward, he flung the map into Zu An's hands. Suddenly, his wrist became incredibly slippery, sliding out of Zu An's grip. He vanished around a street corner in the blink of an eye.

Zu An was a bit stunned. Even though he hadn't used that much strength when he grabbed Wu Liang, hadn't this guy slipped away too easily?

"It seems to be a kind of extremely profound bone-withdrawing art." Yan Xuehen remarked. "It is more profound than any other I have seen. I wonder which sect he is from."

Yun Jianyue said coldly, "If it were me, I would've just seized that guy and interrogated him a bit. We would have found out everything then."

Zu An shook his head. "We don't know whether he's a friend or foe yet. There's no need to offend him for no reason." Even though he had exposed Wu Liang's scam, the fatty hadn't given him any Rage points. That meant there wasn't much resentment involved at all.

Yu Yanluo walked over to his side and said, "Let's take a look at this map first."

Zu An voiced his agreement. He unfolded the map in his hands. The material looked similar to sheep skin, but it had clearly been processed through a special method, making it hard to damage by water or fire.

"Hm? This thing appears to be pretty old. Don't tell me what he said about it being the original is actually true?" Yun Jianyue remarked, having noticed that as well.

"But if it really is the original, why would he give us something so precious?" Yan Xuehen wondered, feeling extremely confused.

Zu An thought for a bit and said, "Judging from the earlier situation where he sold the treasure map to many people, there are two possibilities. The first is precisely that this treasure map is a scam, and he only wanted to make a profit."

Yu Yanluo shook her head and said, "That isn't too likely. That person carries something that hides his aura, to the point where none of you are able to see through it. That means he's indeed extraordinary. Ten taels of silver might be a considerable amount for ordinary people, but even if he sold a few thousand copies, it wouldn't be all that significant to someone like him."

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both nodded. Even though they weren't happy about her being sneaky the previous night, they still approved of her deduction. With the ability the fatty had displayed, earning tens of thousands of silvers should be effortless. Why would he have to go through all of this trouble?

Zu An said seriously, "Then that means it's the second possibility. This treasure map is real, but for some unknown reason, he needs more people to help him out."

Yun Jianyue said, "Perhaps he can't open up that treasury by relying on his own strength alone. That's why he distributed the treasure maps to many people, to lend him a helping hand. Meanwhile, you're clearly extraordinary at first glance, so he wanted to bring you over somehow too."

Zu An chuckled and replied, "I'm just an ordinary guy; what do you mean extraordinary? It's probably because I had three goddess-like beauties at my side that he gave me a second look."

"Look at how slick-tongued you are," the three women cursed. Still, having been praised like that, they found it hard to not feel happy. The strange atmosphere between the three of them finally disappeared.

...

After teasing each other for a while longer, they all began to research that map.

Even though Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were full of ability and wisdom, they didn't know much about the fiend races' world. They couldn't figure anything out even after staring at the map's lines for a long time.

Yu Yanluo was the Snake race's Lord, but she had spent more time in the human world. Even though she knew more about the fiend races than Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue, she didn't know that much more.

Zu An stared at the map too. Suddenly, he voiced his surprise. "This place seems familiar. It's that way, about eight hundred li from this place." He pointed roughly in its direction.

The women all blinked. They asked, "How were you able to figure this out?"

Zu An's expression froze. It was because, while he had been playing around with Tushan Yu in the skies above, they had just happened to pass by that area. He had been admiring the majestic mountain ranges below while subduing one of the fiend races' most famous beauties. He had felt a great sense of achievement at that moment, so his impression was rather deep.

Of course, those mountains were indeed quite unique. That was why he had been able to quickly match them up with the map. He hadn't expected his romantic adventure to actually help with important matters...

How was he supposed to explain things to the women, though? He couldn't just say that he had been doing some bondage exercise in the skies above with Tushan Yu right?

"Ahem, I was testing out the Wind Fire Wheels before and noticed it from above," Zu An explained.

"Wind Fire Wheels?" Sure enough, that drew the women's attention.

"Ah, did I not tell you yet?" Zu An pretended to be shocked and said, "Back then, the price Chi Wen paid for his life..." He gave them a rough account of the entire process.

When they heard that, the women's expressions immediately became brilliant. Yun Jianyue didn't carry many misgivings and said, "Brat, you really do know how to mooch!"

Afterward, she even gave Yu Yanluo a look, making her face turn entirely red.

What are you looking at me for? Didn't you two let him mooch off you too?

...

The group then hurried in the direction where the map pointed. Even though it was eight hundred li away, it wasn't too far for them.

When they were about to reach their destination, Yan Xuehen's expression became a bit serious. She remarked, "There seem to be many strong individuals from different clans around us; they have even higher cultivation than the ones we saw before in Bluefield City."

There were many individuals at the seventh or eighth rank, and even some at the ninth rank. The most important part was that none of them seemed to be that old, so who knew if there were seniors hiding and watching from the shadows.

These people had clearly all come for a similar objective.

Chapter 1247: Giant Tongue

Yun Jianyue seemed to have seen through Zu An's misgivings and explained, "You don't need to worry. Because of their innate talents, the fiend races do advance in cultivation ranks faster than humans. However, what the fiend races pay the closest attention to is bloodline inheritance. Among heirs, there's usually only a single individual who can obtain the approval of their parents, and thus awaken the power inherited by their ancestors. The other brothers and sisters don't have such luck and are thus forever stuck at the same cultivation realm, unable to advance at all."

"Even though cultivation is difficult for humans, there are no such restrictions. That is why there are more people who slowly advance bit by bit," Yan Xuehen added.

"So that was it," Zu An mused. He thought to himself that having two grandmasters at his side really made things different. Their knowledge and experience was much greater than that of ordinary people.

From time to time, some people spoke up from off to the side.

"Whose young master is that? He even brings so many of his women with him when he goes on a trip?"

"The outside world is full of dangers. Does he think this is some vacation? He's going to be killed and have his women stolen one day."

"But to be honest, those women are really freaking hot... Even though they're masked, judging from those figures and eyes, they're clearly exceptional beauties. It's to the point that even I'm starting to think about doing something like stealing them..."

"The treasure map is more important. If you found the treasure, what kind of woman couldn't you get?"

...

Zu An was speechless when he saw how people kept sneaking reluctant glances at the women with him as they left. He muttered, "I finally know why the stuff I read always ends up with the main character surrounded by villains... When the women around you are too pretty, that's a source of disaster in itself!"

Yan Xuehen's expression turned ice-cold. Who would dare to talk about her in such an obscene way normally? However, after seeing the nearby people treat her like one of Zu An's wives, she felt a bit embarrassed and forgot about acting out.

Yun Jianyue remained surprisingly calm. She said, "Those who don't have the skill but still take exceptional beauties as their wives never come to a good end. I've seen too many similar tragedies in my years in the martial world."

While they were all talking to each other, bitter screams suddenly erupted in the distance. Then, many people quickly ran back.

"Poison! There's a poisonous miasma!"

Several people were screaming. Zu An and the others already saw that many of them were covering their faces. Their eyes and skin were already starting to fester, so it was easy to imagine just how fierce the poison was.

"It looks like that treasure map is real. How can any important treasure not have any defenses?" Yun Jianyue remarked, remaining calm. The people screaming in pain didn't make her feel a thing.

Zu An felt worried, however. He said, "I don't fear poison, but you're all injured. Will you end up being affected?"

Let alone a threat to their lives, even the slightest scar on their perfect skin would be a terrible tragedy!

Yan Xuehen's brows furrowed slightly. She said, "That is hard to say. If the poison is too severe, I might not be able to withstand it in my current state."

Yun Jianyue was more prideful, so she wasn't willing to say it out loud. However, her silence revealed a similar opinion.

If the two of them had their grandmaster level cultivation, they could prevent even a speck of dirt from touching their bodies, so they naturally wouldn't fear most poisons. That was why they didn't have any poison resistance pills, as they normally didn't need them. How could they have anticipated that they would become injured to this extent?

Yu Yanluo spoke up just then. "There's an easy solution. The Snake race has researched poisons extensively, and I have many antidote pills on me. Dealing with some poisonous miasma shouldn't be an issue."

The others suddenly realized that was indeed the case. There were many kinds of Snake race people, and many of them were poisonous. That was why the Snake race's achievements in poison were well known. How had they forgotten about that?

Yu Yanluo handed them all a batch of antidote pills. Just in case, they each kept one in their mouth. The pills were all refined by the Snake race's elites. This time, as their clan leader was going on a dangerous trip, the various families had prepared all kinds of resources for her.

She had been a bit upset about how the two women were treating her before, but after thinking about it, she was a legitimate lover of Zu An, so she should help him with his worries. If the two grandmasters

became his enemies because of her, that really would be bad. That was why she took the initiative to hand over her precious medicines to ease their relationship.

At that point, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were too embarrassed to continue being angry at her. They thought to themselves, With this, we'll just forgive your sneakiness now.

Seeing that their relationship had improved again, Zu An sighed in relief. He once again warned himself that he would never bring so many women with him on a trip ever again.

Then, the group quickly arrived in front of the miasma. The cloud of pinkish mist before them really was a bit frightening. Zu An even wondered if the miasma had any indecent effects. However, the miserable screams of those who had run out proved that he was overthinking it.

Of course, not everyone was powerless before the miasma. The fiend races all had their own different methods. Some put up a translucent barrier around themselves to forcibly block the miasma. Others had transparent wings on their backs; whenever they moved their wings, the miasma in front of them was blown aside. Some carried magic artifacts to protect themselves, and walked straight in. Others took antidote pills, then faced the mist head on.

...

"About half of the original group has been filtered out," Yan Xuehen concluded after observing for a bit.

"Weeding them out is a good thing too. If they can't even get through this first, outermost trial, they'll only be throwing away their lives if they go deeper in," Yun Jianyue said indifferently.

Yu Yanluo said worriedly, "Even though I only caught a glimpse, I seem to have seen the Golden Peng race, Peacock race, Demon race, Lion race, Bear race, and even the ocean races' experts. Judging from the purity of their bloodlines, they seem to be from king clans."

Yun Jianyue said with a chuckle, "That's not all. There are some that are pretty cute, don't you think, Little Zu?"

Zu An was speechless. He shot back, "What are you asking me for? I don't care if they're pretty or not. Also, can you not call me that? It makes me feel like some Imperial Palace eunuch."

"No problem, Little Zu," Yun Jianyue said with a grin. She found his distressed appearance extremely adorable.

Zu An was speechless.

Yan Xuehen frowned and said, "Stop messing around. The others have already gone in. Let's hurry and follow along."

"Why are you in such a rush? Isn't it fine to have the others scout out the situation? Would any important treasure be that easily found?" Yun Jianyue replied. Despite that, she still walked in quickly.

...

The group continued for a long time before gradually, light reappeared in front of them. They sped up, and finally broke free from the miasma. Before them was something that resembled a vast swamp. However, for cultivators who could get that far, a swamp wasn't a big deal at all.

On the other side of the swamp was a group of neat and orderly trees, with a small trail running through them. Off to either side, there were all kinds of stone beast statues.

"Memorial statues!"

Those present were shocked. The statues were stone people and beasts that protected their masters. Tombs that had the right to have memorial statues all contained at least high nobility or ministers. It could even be an imperial tomb!

The other fiend race experts who had gone through the miasma also recognized the memorial statues. They all began to breathe heavily with excitement. A great tomb like this definitely had precious funerary objects.

They finally couldn't hold back anymore. They all leaped forward, wishing to be the first to find the tomb and seize the most important treasure. They revealed all sorts of remarkable abilities. Some took to the skies, while others moved through the water.

Yun Jianyue remarked with a frown, "It's not that simple!"

A few others, whose performances had been the most outstanding, had come to the same conclusion as her. They didn't move either.

Suddenly, the previously calm swamp surged. Then, a massive tongue reached out. The fiend race individuals weren't newbies; as they leaped over the swamp, they had all prepared for sudden developments beneath them. However, the tongue was way too fast. Most of them weren't even able to react before they were entangled.

A few cultivators with higher cultivation tried to attack the tongue wrapped around them. However, the tongue was covered in viscous liquid that made all of their attacks slide off.

Still, the owner of the tongue seemed to have felt pain, and immediately pulled its tongue back. All of those above the swamp were dragged into the water. Miserable screams rang out again and again, but there wasn't even a single wisp of blood visible.

Those by the shore shivered as they watched the scene.

Chapter 1248: The Consequences of Wit

"What is that?!" the onlookers exclaimed, shivering. They couldn't see what it was at all, apart from tongue. Not knowing what it was left them all terrified.

Even Yan Xuehen and the other women frowned. They weren't exactly scared, since as grandmasters, they had seen their share of beasts that were even more mysterious and terrifying. Still, women had a natural sense of disgust toward sticky tentacle-like things.

Meanwhile, the remaining fiend race experts all frowned as well. They were trying to figure out what kind of monster was below when suddenly, a loud, stormy noise boomed all around them.

Rumble...

The noise was like muffled thunder, or perhaps a giant hammer smashing down viciously on an ancient drum. The sound was deeply uncomfortable.

Rumble... Rumble...

More rhythmic, muffled thunder rang out. Those present felt as if their chests were becoming tighter. One after another, their expressions began to turn pale.

After a few more rumbles, suddenly, someone couldn't stand it anymore and vomited a mouthful of blood. Lying in the pool of blood was a heart that seemed to beat along with the rhythm of the muffled thunder. After one more rumble, the heart exploded on the spot.

The survivors' expressions changed. Someone cried out, "Cover your ears! If our hearts beat along with this rhythm, we'll undoubtedly die!"

The others quickly covered their ears, many even tearing off bits of cloth to use as earplugs. However, those with higher cultivation ranks sneered. This kind of sound wave attacked at the body directly, so covering one's ears was useless. Instead, they either used weapons or techniques to face the strange sound.

With Zu An's current cultivation, even though the sounds were uncomfortable, it wouldn't do much against him. He was more worried about the women at his side.

Even though Yu Yanluo had been seriously injured, after experiencing the Primordial Origin Sutra's special shared cultivation treatment, she had already mostly recovered. Her strength hadn't been low to begin with, and she had the ancient Medusa's bloodline. The unknown beast's sound wave attack wasn't a problem.

However, Yan Xuehen had a much harder time. Her injuries were too severe, leaving almost all of her cultivation useless. Normally, with her grandmaster knowledge and experiences to rely on, she would be able to defend herself against other strong cultivators. However, she couldn't find out the basis of the sound wave technique. Soon afterward, her ki and blood surged, and her complexion instantly paled.

She was about to use her Unshakable Daoist Manual to resist the sound waves, but she suddenly noticed a warm hand grab hers. Then, warm streams of energy entered her body. Her face turned red.

She subconsciously wanted to pull her hand back, but Zu An said, "It'll be bad if you end up worsening your previous injuries."

Yan Xuehen obviously knew the importance of that. She could only let him hold her hand. The strange cries hadn't even made her heart twitch, and yet now, her heart was beating furiously with emotion, almost matching the sound of the strange cry. She was alarmed, quickly using her Unshakable Daoist Manual to calm herself down.

She was too embarrassed to look at the other two women. Instead, she pretended to be looking at the center of the swamp, as if trying to figure out what kind of beast was over there.

Just then, Zu An also tried to help Yun Jianyue, but Yun Jianyue pulled her hand back. She said proudly, "You just need to take care of that stone cold woman. I'm not as weak as her."

Zu An was speechless. Your injuries clearly aren't light either, okay?

Sigh, why do you always have to act so tough?

Some strong cultivators couldn't take it anymore. A tall and sturdy white-haired man roared, and his muscles quickly began to bulge. He picked up a massive boulder next to him and threw it at the center of the swamp.

There was a tremendous rumble as water and sludge flew in all directions. The strange cry also came to a grunting halt.

"As expected of the Blackwhite Bears' Xiong Great! He's rumored to have extraordinary strength that can move mountains and seas. Today, it looks as if he deserves his reputation after all!"

"Xiong Second hasn't even made a move yet. If the two of them work together, which beast can't they subdue?"

...

Those present began to cry out in surprise. Some people wanted to show off their knowledge too and explained, "There's the Golden Peng king race's young master Jin Shi, the Peacock king race's Princess Changing, and the Elf race's Qiao Heng!"

Someone else who didn't want to be outdone added, "That's not all! There's the Demon Sect's Princess Suolun, the Lion race's prince Shi Ling, the ocean races' prince Yin Sha... Hm? Why does that person look like the Blood race's Ma Huang?"

"Yeah, I think that's him! I thought I saw the Dark Elf race's Duan Tiande just now. There'll definitely be some good drama to watch soon."

Zu An gave those people a look. Based on the methods they had displayed earlier, he could more or less match the names to faces.

Yu Yanluo explained quietly, "These are all outstanding members of the younger generation from the fiend races' various tribes. However, apart from Princess Suolun and Shi Ling being from the direct line of descent, the others from the different tribes aren't. Looks like this treasure map appeared only recently, or else it wouldn't only be these people who made it here."

The women all nodded. This was fine, since it was better than having some old freaks contending over the treasure. In their current state, there wasn't much they could do either.

Zu An voiced his surprise. "Isn't the Demon Race's king race surnamed Yun? Why is this Suolun also a princess?"

He even snuck Yun Jianyue a look. Madam Wu, also known as Yun Yuqing, was precisely from the demon race... What kind of a relationship did she really have with the Demon Race then? Unfortunately, Yun Jianyue didn't show any reaction. He couldn't read what she was thinking.

Yu Yanluo explained, "There's always a misconception that there's only one clan within a race. The same way humans have countless powers and great clans, though, the fiend races' various tribes are similar.

“The authority of the massive Demon race is managed jointly by the Yun, Suo, Rong, and Wu families. Even though the Yun clan is a king race, the other clans control various other departments, so they all stand on equal footing with each other.

“Meanwhile, this Princess Suolun is the Suolun clan’s beloved daughter, so it makes sense for her to have the title of princess.”

Yun Jianyue asked with an ambiguous smile, “Why do you care that much about this Princess Suolun? Are you interested in her? Should big sis catch her for you to accompany you in bed?”

Princess Suolun was the most beautiful woman among the people they were talking about.

Beside her, Yan Xuehen became unhappy. This witch was always trying to cause trouble. She remarked, “Hmph, with your current condition, would you be capturing her or just giving yourself up to be captured?”

“Stone cold woman, do you want to make a bet? What will you do if I really do seize her?” Yun Jianyue retorted, raising her brow.

Zu An was speechless. These two women were starting to fight again. He quickly interrupted them and said, “I was just asking about the Demon race, that’s all. After all, the Demon race and Devil Sect share some resemblance in name. Do you two have any relationship to each other?”

Yun Jianyue said seriously, “Brat, we’re the Holy Sect. If anyone else dared to say Devil Sect or whatever in front of me, I would make sure not even bones were left of them.”

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Zu An chuckled. “Come on, big sis. We’re all close; don’t treat me like an outsider like this.”

Yun Jianyue harrumphed, but then ignored him. Zu An wanted to inquire about more information, but suddenly, an ear-splittingly painful rumble loudly filled the air and left their ears in pain. The swamp began to churn, and a mountainous body surfaced.

It was a giant toad, covered in several pustules that stored all sorts of viscous liquids. It really was nauseating and disgusting. Half of someone’s leg was hanging from the corner of its lips, clearly what was left of one of the victims who had been eaten.

“A master rank beast...” Those present felt an empty sensation in their stomach. Beasts were more powerful than normal cultivators of the same rank to begin with. This was the toad’s home turf, so how in the world were they going to deal with it?

Still, seeing how the treasure-filled tomb was already within reach, no one was willing to leave just like that.

The toad was clearly unhappy about being hit by the massive boulder. Its belly inflated before it returned to normal, groaning loudly as it stared in the direction of the Blackwhite Bears.

The other experts quickly ran away in fear. There were some who were already planning their next move, thinking that once the toad and the bear brothers started fighting, they would use that chance to cross the swamp.

There were many who thought that, and they all began to move. They had witnessed the length of the tongue earlier, so they made sure to maintain distance several times its length away. That way, the toad wouldn't be able to harm them at all.

We're freaking geniuses!

Just then, however, a large, bloody mouth suddenly opened up from the left side, then swallowed up all of the passing fiend race experts like a whale eating plankton.

On the left side, dark light flickered in the air, as if several massive scythes had hacked outward. The fiend race experts on that side were all diced up!

Chapter 1249: The Different Races' Elites

The ones who had been about to jump, but didn't have time to move yet, were scared witless. They crawled back to shore in a sorry state. Only then did they finally see what was going on.

There was a several-dozen-zhang long giant crocodile to the left, covered in tough scales. The rows of sharp teeth stretching across its bloody mouth glinted, making the experts shiver from just a single look. The remains of several people's bodies were still dangling from the crocodile's jaws. Those who were particularly cowardly couldn't help but vomit on the spot.

The crocodile's amber eyes swept across the people on shore; its expression was filled with greed as it seemed to be eyeing its next meal.

On the right was a massive praying mantis. Its body was red and white, and covered in thorns. It looked just like a moving thorny flower. Someone recognized what it was and cried out, "It's a Redthorn Flower Mantis!"

The others' expressions changed. They had heard about that vicious creature before. Its forearms were like two sharp scythes, covered in saw-teeth. The fiend race experts who had flown through the sky had been diced up into pieces by those two scythe-like arms.

The mantis was holding a fiend race expert in its claws. That person had been bisected at the waist and only had his upper body left, but he was still alive. He screamed in pain as he was eaten alive. He reached out toward the Peacock race woman next to him and pleaded, "Princess... Save me..."

The expression of the princess, who was called Changning, changed a bit. She reflexively backed up. The scene before her was just too horrifying.

The giant mantis seemed to feel that its prey was being too noisy. With a loud crack, its mandibles crushed the fiend race expert's skull, and it began to slurp his brains out.

The fiend race expert's entire body stiffened as he died. However, his eyes were still wide open in death; he clearly still carried a grievance about the fact that his companion hadn't saved him.

Those on the shore gulped. They didn't really care about one cultivator's death, because death wasn't rare among the fiend races. What they were more alarmed by was the shocking way the mantis had feasted, and the terrifying gaze of its compound eyes.

The Golden Peng race's young master, Jin Shi, said seriously, "Everyone, fighting by ourselves is not the solution. What do you think of working together to slay these monsters first? We can compete after we cross the swamp."

"Fine!" The Peacock race's Princess Changning immediately agreed. She had lost quite a bit of reputation with the group after the way she had just stood there without saving her subordinate, so she had to take the chance to regain a bit of respect.

Meanwhile, the bear brothers said, "Alright, we brothers will deal with this big toad."

Then, their muscles swelled, making them grow several times larger. One had a spiky bone club, while the other used a large steel hammer. They roared as they charged at the big toad. Whenever they took a step, it left a deep footprint in the ground. Even the world itself seemed to be trembling.

Zu An's group was alarmed. The Bear race was made up of natural berserker-like fighters after all! Wasn't such an imposing manner a bit too ferocious? If a large group of Bear race cultivators appeared, it really would be difficult for a human army to defeat them.

The giant toad seemed to have been angered as well. It opened its large mouth.

Croak!

A visible sound wave swept outward. Wherever it went, it even tore apart the ground. It was clear just how powerful it was.

Xiong Great and Xiong Second roared loudly. They brandished the spiky club and hammer at the powerful sound waves, taking them head-on and forcibly dispersing them.

The toad's tongue shot out like lightning. Xiong Great quickly pushed Xiong Second away, crying, "Careful!"

However, he couldn't evade in time and could only prevent his vitals from being hit. His shoulder was pierced by the tongue, filling the air with bloody mist and even some bone fragments. It had clearly been shattered.

The cultivators watching were shocked. The battle had just started, and yet one of Xiong Great's arms had already been destroyed! If such a thing had happened even to one of the strongest members of the Bear race, what the heck were the rest of them still fighting for?

Just then, however, Xiong Great roared. He bit down on the tongue near his shoulder, forcefully tearing off a piece of it. The toad quickly retracted its tongue in pain.

Most of the onlookers cheered, but Yun Jianyue, Yan Xuehen, and the other women frowned. "Does he have to be so disgusting?"

Zu An was also a bit speechless. That Xiong Great is willing to take a bite out of that nasty, sticky toad tongue?

...

Just then, the others also began to fight. The Golden Peng race's young master, Jin Shi, brandished his spear. The Peacock race's Princess Changning drew her sword and rushed into the air to attack the Redthorn Flower Mantis.

The two of them hadn't reached the master rank, but as members of the winged races, they had a certain capacity for flight. Thus, they both attacked simultaneously, sending flickers of dazzling light all over the place. However, the Redthorn Flower Mantis's front limbs blocked all of their attacks.

Right at that moment, Princess Suolun's eyes began to turn purple. She was about to deal with the remaining giant crocodile when Prince Yin Sha moved over to her and said obsequiously, "How could I trouble the princess to fight a monster like this? Just let this prince take care of it."

He turned around confidently as he spoke, and suddenly turned into a megalodon. He chomped down on the giant crocodile with his giant jaws.

"Are the heads of the ocean races really only filled with lust?" Yun Jianyue remarked disdainfully.

With her perception, she could tell that Prince Yin Sha wasn't weak, but he was still a bit weaker than the giant crocodile. They might have had an advantage if he worked together with the Demon Race's princess, and yet he had insisted on going by himself. That Chi Wen from before was like that as well. When he saw the pretty Tushan Yu, he had forgotten about everything else. Considering that the Dragon King had sowed his seed all over the place, she really was starting to wonder whether it was a pattern among the ocean races.

"I don't think we should lump them all together like that," Zu An said. Shang Liuyu's gentle and calm bearing appeared in his mind. She was completely different from these fellas.

At first, the megalodon put up a decent fight against the giant crocodile. It even twisted its nimble body to bite down on the giant crocodile a few times. Unfortunately, the giant crocodile's scales were incredibly tough. Sure enough, just as Yun Jianyue had predicted, the megalodon failed to cause any serious damage, and was even bitten a few times by the giant crocodile. The megalodon's body dripped with blood and it was left at a disadvantage.

Fortunately, Princess Suolun wasn't mere eye candy. She had already prepared to make her move. When she saw what had happened, she put her hands together and fired streaks of purple light at the giant crocodile. Only then did Prince Yin Sha have a chance to catch his breath.

Zu An became absentminded when he saw the scene unfold. Princess Suolun's methods looked extremely similar to Yun Yuqing's. He thought, Sigh, I wonder how she's doing now.

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When the other strong cultivators saw that the others were struggling against the beasts, a young Lion race man roared and said, "I will help out the bear brothers!"

His lion's roar ability blocked one of the toad's fatal attacks as he leaped out, sending a fist smashing down on the toad's head. The strike made the toad's island-like body sink a little into the swamp.

The other cultivators all voiced their praise. "As expected of Shi Ling, the second most powerful among the Lion race's eight princes! He has already cultivated to such a level at the mere age of thirteen!"

Zu An looked at Yu Yanluo curiously and asked, “Who has the greatest talent in the Lion race?”

Before Yu Yanluo could answer him, elsewhere, a handsome man from the Elf race said with a loud chuckle, “Brother Jin, Miss Kong, this humble Qiao will lend you two a hand.”

He drew his bow, and fired an arrow at the Redthorn Flower Mantis. The arrow was encased in ki, releasing a blinding radiance as it tore through the air. The Elf seized an opportunity Jin Shi and Princess Changning had created to blast a hole in one of the giant mantis’ wings.

Zu An was startled. This person is also surnamed Qiao! I wonder if he knows Snow.

Qiao Heng was about to fire a second arrow when his expression suddenly changed. He quickly changed directions and fired in another direction while dodging to one side.

Unfortunately, he was a bit too slow. A long, thin, pitch-black blade came out of the shadows, tracing a long wound on his chest. The thin sword didn’t stop at all, however. It seemed to tangle around him and continued to attack; it clearly wouldn’t stop until it took the elf’s life.

Meanwhile, Qiao Heng had just focused all of his attention on hitting the giant mantis in the air. The sudden ambush caused all his energies within him to stir chaotically. How could he possibly still avoid the attack?

Chapter 1250: Why Is It Different?

“I’m done for!” Qiao Heng exclaimed in despair.

Just then, however, a voice called out from off to the side. “What you lookin’ at?”

The thin and slender sword paused for a moment. Its wielder, the Dark Elf in the shadows, turned around and replied, “I’m looking at you, shithead!” Even as he spoke, he was completely stupefied. He was usually a silent person, so why would he have been distracted at such a critical moment?

Qiao Feng finally had the breather he needed and quickly widened the distance between them.

Meanwhile, the princes and princesses of the other races noticed what was happening. They all cursed, “Duan Tiande, do you not see what kind of situation we’re in? It’s one thing if you don’t want to help, but you’re being a hindrance!”

The Dark Elf saw that Qiao Heng had already retreated into the distance and was on guard. He knew there was no chance of killing the Elf again today, and that he had also drawn the dissatisfaction of everyone present. He smiled and shrugged, saying, “I was just testing out Brother Qiao’s cultivation; I didn’t have any bad intentions, haha.”

The others rolled their eyes. Everyone knew about the grudge between the Elves and the Dark Elves. They always fought to the death as soon as they met, so who would believe what he said? Still, they were facing a powerful enemy at the moment. Since Duan Tiande had already backed down, the others couldn’t really pressure him too much either.

Even Qiao Heng only frowned and didn’t plan to continue fighting the Dark Elf. On the contrary, he looked toward Zu An in surprise. That voice saying ‘what you lookin’ at’ had come from that guy. Even

though he didn't know why Duan Tiande would stop, to a certain degree, Zu An had saved him. He cupped his hands toward Zu An with a smile and called out, "Thank you, brother!"

Zu An merely nodded in return. He didn't want to get too involved in this dispute between races.

Yan Xuehen voiced her surprise. "What kind of ability was that? It seems a bit like the Dragon race's Soulspeak."

As a grandmaster, she obviously wouldn't assume that the dark elf's sudden pause was a coincidence. Rather, it was as if he had been forced to respond by some mysterious laws.

"It's something similar to Soulspeak," Zu An replied. He didn't know how to explain the keyboard's skills any other way.

Yan Xuehen gave him a deep look and said, "After traveling with you all this time, we have found out more and more about your trump cards. Are you not scared that we will already be prepared against them if we try to kill you in the future?"

Zu An asked in confusion, "Are you still going to kill me?"

Yun Jianyue rested an arm around his shoulder and said, "Stone cold woman, watch your words. Why would I kill my good little brother?"

"Witch!" Yan Xuehen shot back. She felt unhappy to see Yun Jianyue casually acting so close to Zu An.

Yu Yanluo stepped forward to smooth things over, saying, "Let's use this chance to cross over first."

Meanwhile, Qiao Heng helped Jin Shi and Princess Kong Changning, while Shi Ling helped the two bear brothers. Duan Tiande went to help Princess Suolun and Prince Yin Sha.

They were all the best among their clans' younger generation, so they carried all kinds of precious magical weapons their seniors had bestowed upon them. Even though they couldn't defeat the beasts alone, together, they quickly gained the advantage.

In particular, on the giant crocodile's side, a streak of dark light shot out from among the spectators, then attached itself to the crocodile's wounds. The crocodile screamed in agony and frantically twisted its body, trying to shake it off. Unfortunately, no matter how terrifying its movements were, it couldn't break free from the dark light.

Only then did everyone notice that the dark streak of light was actually a shriveled-up middle-aged man. As they watched, the giant crocodile began to shrivel up visibly. Furthermore, wizened man's body gradually inflated, and his face also began looking younger.

"Blood race!" Zu An exclaimed with wide eyes. He remembered the fear of being completely overwhelmed by Mosquito Daoist. That kind of skill really had a naturally powerful offense.

However, this individual's methods seemed greatly different from those of Mosquito Daoist. Although Zu An was puzzled, someone had already recognized who he was. "The Blood race's Ma Huang!"

The others kept their distance from that area when they heard the man's name. Even Prince Yin Sha quickly backed up. He had quite a few injuries on him, so he didn't want to have his blood essence sucked dry by this guy.

"Ma Huang? Leech?" Zu An mumbled to himself. The Blood race really did have all sorts of creatures among them.[1]

Just then, the others ran toward Zu An, because the part of the swamp he was in was more spacious. It hadn't been affected by the battles and was the best for crossing over.

However, Zu An's brow furrowed slightly. He muttered, "Something's not right. There's something else under the swamp!"

Right after he spoke, the water's surface parted and a giant pillar suddenly rose from it. It smashed into the bodies of those who were above it.

Pa!

With a loud and clear noise, quite a few people were sent flying, vomiting blood out of their mouths as they flew backward. Some people with weaker cultivation were even smashed into a bloody mist on the spot.

Then, two large lanterns rose from the water's surface. For some reason, they made people shiver. Only a while later did the cultivators see that they weren't lanterns at all, but rather the eyes of a giant snake.

"How could there be a snake this big?!"

The cultivators' eyes paled. How was this still a snake? It could only be called a great serpent! They all felt despair. Even the young masters and misses from great fiend race clans frowned. The other three beasts were already extremely difficult to deal with. If another one with an even more terrifying aura joined in...

Fortunately, the giant crocodile was almost finished. Later, they all had to join forces to fight against this giant serpent; otherwise, all of them could forget about crossing over.

Yun Jianyue said with a frown, "Let's cross first. There's nothing to look at here." Even though she was wounded, she was still a grandmaster. She obviously didn't fear this beast.

"Okay," Zu An replied. He felt as if they had spent too much time here, so it would be best if they crossed over to take a look at the other side first.

He was just about to move when Yu Yanluo stopped him, saying, "Wait." Then, under the others' shocked gazes, she walked over to the water with graceful steps and looked at the giant snake.

"Be careful!" Qiao Heng reflexively warned her. Because Zu An had saved him earlier, he subconsciously felt somewhat close to the people at his side, so he couldn't help but speak up.

There were many others who shared his thoughts, but that was more because of Yu Yanluo's beauty. Even though her face was veiled, her graceful and moving figure, as well as her picturesque brows, made it incredibly obvious that she was a stunning beauty. Her waist was so fine that it might not even be caught between the giant serpent's teeth.

Sigh, this really is a waste of such a beauty.

The giant serpent saw that an insignificant figure had dared to stand in front of it. A vicious look appeared in its eyes as it raised its upper body, its forked tongue darting in and out. It was just about to launch a lethal attack when it was suddenly stunned. It tilted its head to one side and sized up the woman before it.

It had looked ferocious just a moment before, and yet now, it looked almost... cute?

Yu Yanluo walked over and said to Zu An's group with a smile, "Alright, it's fine now. It has permitted us to cross."

The fiend race experts snorted disdainfully when they heard that. Was this woman scared silly? And she's even saying the snake is letting them cross? Does she think it's her subordinate or something?

Only then did Zu An and the others remember that Yu Yanluo was the Snake race's clan leader. Within her flowed the blood of the ancient Medusa. To a certain degree, this serpent was of the same race. They couldn't help but chuckle, not expecting to have dealt with the situation so easily.

Just then, the serpent's tail slammed fiercely against the water's surface. The swamp's waters instantly parted, forming a several-meter-wide tunnel.

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"Thank you!" Yu Yanluo said, nodding at the serpent with a smile. Then, she led the others straight toward the passage.

The others' eyes were about to pop out. What the hell is going on?

The fiend race young masters were also gloomy. We're fighting for our freaking lives here, and yet you can just pass through on your side?

The fiend race cultivators who were near Zu An began to look around. Maybe this giant serpent is quite agreeable?

When he recalled how Yu Yanluo had behaved, there was one daring individual who also ran over to the water to look at the serpent. The serpent was a bit dumbfounded, not knowing what he was trying to do.

The fiend race cultivator saw that the serpent indeed didn't attack him and was ecstatic. It works after all! Then, he copied Yu Yanluo and showed it a smile that he thought looked kind and said, "Thank you!"

Afterward, he impatiently followed in the steps of Zu An's group. However, the serpent quickly became furious. It swept out its tail and sent him flying.

The others who were about to imitate the process all stopped. Why is this thing showing them such a huge difference in treatment?

Don't tell us it's just because she's pretty?

So it was a perverted snake!

