

## Immortal 1321

### Chapter 1321: Superman Punch

The Golden Crow Crown Prince's libido instantly vanished. After all, that was something he was extremely sensitive about. He cared about a woman's purity a lot. He glowered and said, "You are a glorious Elf race princess, so how can you not have any self-respect, to actually have illicit relations outside of marriage? Are you just saying this deliberately to get out of today's situation? That has to be it, right?"

When she saw his reaction, a flicker of joy appeared on Qiao Xueying's face. She had just thought of that rumor regarding the Golden Crow Crown Prince, and feeling helpless, she had given it a try. Who could have expected that it would actually work?

She spat, "Hmph, you're a glorious fiend race crown prince, and yet you're still trying to fool yourself in this kind of situation. Well, I suppose there's no harm in telling you. Have you forgotten that I was acting as a spy in the human world for a long time? Back then, the situation was truly terrible, but fortunately, I met him."

Zu An's face appeared in her mind. Qiao Xueying even felt a bit guilty when she talked about that time. They had practically been enemies when they first met, and she had cursed him day after day, hoping he would die earlier.

That guy really was infuriating back then!

When he saw the sweet smile on her face, the Golden Crow Crown Prince felt as if he were about to go insane from anger. This was a smile that should have belonged to him alone, and yet it was stolen by someone else!

Damn it all!

You have successfully trolled the Golden Crow Crown Prince for +999 +999 +999...

"Who is that person?!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince exclaimed.

"You wouldn't know him even if I told you. Either way, he's the most handsome, incredible, and strongest man in this entire world," Qiao Xueying replied defiantly. She didn't speak Zu An's name for fear of bringing him danger. After all, this guy was the fiend races' crown prince, someone who had the ability to mobilize endless cultivators. If he really did send people after Ah Zu, she would really regret it forever.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince's eyelids twitched when he heard her description. He cursed, "You damn slut, I shouldn't have cherished you with utmost care like a goddess all this time, wasting all that time chasing after you. To think you already went to bed with another man!"

Qiao Xueying spat, "You can even call your actions today 'cherishing with care'? Hah!"

"Ha... Haha... You've done it now!" The Golden Crow Crown Prince was so angry he began to laugh. He replied, "I will make sure you understand what the title of 'world's strongest man' really means today!"

Qiao Xueying's expression changed when she saw him draw closer. She asked, "Don't you have a strange fetish, that you won't touch any women who aren't virgins?"

"That's only toward ordinary women. For a true beauty, this crown prince doesn't mind playing around a bit," the Golden Crow Crown Prince replied. The three incredible beauties he had met in the Snake race territory appeared in his mind again. He suddenly thought to himself, What is up with me? Why am I always encountering people I can make an exception for?

"Hmph, this crown prince will personally examine if you really are a virgin or not. If you are just trying to deceive me in order to get away, this crown prince can forgive your bit of stubbornness, and I will still make you the crown princess. But if you really have already lost your chastity..." the Golden Crow Crown Prince continued, his expression turning grim, "not only will I strike the Elf race off the list of three great king clans, I will turn you into a slave. I will throw you to my subordinates and let you be their public toy. Let us see if your lover will still want you then!"

Qiao Xueying was so angry her entire body was shaking. She cried, "You're supposed to be the honorable crown prince of a country, and yet you're actually this shameless!" She hadn't expected her personal affairs to end up involving the entire Elf race. Furthermore, what the crown prince had threatened afterward was something that would make any woman tremble with fear.

"You forced me to do this. It's your fault for being so shameful!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince yelled. He pounced on her, no longer as calm and patient-seeming as before.

Qiao Xueying's expression changed and she quickly used a movement technique to move out of the way. Even though her cultivation had improved a lot after she came back, however, she was still quite a bit weaker than the Golden Crow Crown Prince. Furthermore, she had been drugged by that despicable poison, so she couldn't use much of her cultivation. She was quickly pushed into a corner by the crown prince.

Qiao Xueying's braids began to produce soft green shoots, lashing at the crown prince. With a casual wave of the Golden Crow Crown Prince's hand, however, he pushed them aside. Then, he grabbed her shoulder with his hand and a burst of ki entered her body. Qiao Xueying felt her entire body turn limp. She didn't have the strength to retaliate at all anymore.

"Where is your lover now? He cannot even protect his own woman! Just a piece of trash," the Golden Crow Crown Prince spat, looking sinister. When he saw Qiao Xueying's beautiful and tender face, even though he had admired her greatly before, now, he only felt anger.

He took out a recording mirror from his inner pocket and coldly said, "I am going to record what is about to happen with this mirror, and then I will show it to your lover. He will forever be a loser in front of me in the future, hahaha!"

He had already felt a deep sense of defeat when he found out another man had taken Qiao Xueying's first time. Upon getting that idea, however, he felt relieved. He decided that he had to make sure to properly display the fiend races' might in this recording!

"You're despicable!" Qiao Xueying cried, her entire body shaking. Unfortunately, not only had she been affected by the drug, her acupoints had been sealed too. She couldn't retaliate even if she wanted to.

On the other hand, her hatred and alarm completely aroused the Golden Crow Crown Prince's inner beast. His long and narrow eyes exuded a hint of viciousness, making his normally decent-looking face appear rather warped. He reached out a claw towards her collar, about to rip it open...

Suddenly, the nearby door exploded!

A gust of wind swept toward the Golden Crow Crown Prince, making his fine hairs stand on end. At that instant, it was as if he had sensed the aura of death. He quickly used the Golden Crow Radiant Flow to evade, and yet the intruder seemed to have anticipated it, following right behind him.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was suddenly ambushed, so he lacked the initiative. Furthermore, because all of his blood had been gathered in the lower parts of his body, he couldn't use a good chunk of his cultivation. He couldn't retaliate at all.

Even so, he was still one of the famous Five Great Experts of the fiend races' younger generation. There were even some who believed that he was the leader of the five. As such, his reaction speed was naturally first-rate. His entire body erupted with a golden blaze: Golden Crow Sacred Fire!

Golden Crow Sacred Fire could burn everything to ashes, so his opponent would only be able to retreat. Once the Golden Crow Crown Prince caught his breath, he could then launch a thunderous retaliation.

And yet, who would have thought that the attacker wouldn't evade at all? A pitch-black dagger thrust toward the Golden Crow Crown Prince's chest. At that instant, he felt as if all of his blood were about to freeze. He felt a premonition that as long as he was hit by the dagger, he would undoubtedly die.

However, things were happening too suddenly! Furthermore, the intruder seemed to be extremely familiar with his skills, so he was constantly restrained. He could only watch as the dagger stabbed into his body.

Just then, the golden feather that hung from his necklace ignited, blocking the pitch-black dagger for him.

He remembered that the Fiend Emperor had granted him a life-saving crow feather when he returned to the Fiend King Court, which could help him block one lethal blow. At the time, he had felt that his father worried too much. Forget about no one in the Fiend King Court daring to attack him, even if there were any, with his cultivation, why would he use something like that?

And yet, it had been used then and there. When he thought about how his own life-saving treasure had been used up just like that, the Golden Crow Crown Prince was shocked and furious. His entire body flickered with golden light as he prepared to use his most powerful technique to retaliate.

Suddenly, a fist flew toward him.

Golden Crow Crown Prince was one of the younger generation's supreme five, so he naturally knew that if he continued to only dodge, he would only fall further into absolute disadvantage. If the pitch-black dagger attacked again, he didn't have a second feather to save his life. As such, he gritted his teeth. Even if he had to take the blow, he had to retaliate.

Either way, the Golden Crow royal family's bodies were sturdy, and their regenerative prowess was astonishing. The fist wouldn't inflict any serious injuries, and he could even end up being able to seize the chance to flip the situation upside down.

However, his expression suddenly changed. The fist initially lacked killing intent, but instantly became extremely terrifying, to the extent that it was comparable to a grandmaster's attack! In barely more than an instant, the fist smashed through his ki armor and slammed into his underbelly. Terrifying ki surged into his body. Not even the Golden Crow royal family's sturdy body could withstand it.

Just like that, the lower half of his body was completely pulverized beyond recognition!

## Chapter 1322: Eyes in the Sky

"Ahhh!" The Golden Crow Crown Prince released a world-shaking scream. After all, considering what had just happened, all of his blood had been focused down there. That made it a serious injury, which could cripple him down there forever.

The one who had arrived was, of course, Zu An. He had followed the guard into the palace, taking in the surrounding territory while inquiring about Snow's whereabouts. An ordinary guard obviously wouldn't know the details of the inner palace, but he had mentioned something strange. The crown prince had cleared out a secluded courtyard, and there weren't any eunuchs or maids there; even the guards were stationed far away.

Zu An immediately connected the dots. The crown prince wanted a secluded place to do something dishonest. After all, Snow was the Elf race's princess. If what he planned to do to her became known to the entire world, the royal family would lose a lot of face. They wouldn't be able to explain things to the various clans.

Suddenly, though, Zu An had received a huge amount of Rage points from the Golden Crow Crown Prince, so he knew his target wasn't too far away. After all, the Rage system collected soul fluctuations, so he wouldn't be able to collect Rage points at such a great distance.

As such, after finding out where the courtyard was, he had immediately knocked the guard out. Whether or not it would end up affecting Heichi Ran, sparking an investigation into someone who could change faces, he couldn't be bothered to worry about that. He only wanted to save Snow as quickly as possible, and was unwilling to waste even a second.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince had driven away all of the guards and servants so he could do as he wanted, but that had just made things easier for Zu An. Otherwise, if there were powerful cultivators everywhere, forcefully breaking through a defensive line would be difficult for him.

Fortunately, Zu An had arrived at the last moment. When he saw the Golden Crow Crown prince about to take advantage of Snow, blood rushed to his head and filled him with rage. He couldn't care less if this was some fiend race crown prince and struck decisively to kill. Unfortunately, the crown prince had a strange feather that blocked his lethal attack.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was an outstanding individual in the fiend race's younger generation, so it wouldn't be easy for Zu An to win against him. After the Poisonous Prick was deflected, Zu An couldn't use it a second time; however, he still managed to send a fist flying toward the crown prince.

After destroying the Golden Crow Crown Prince's lower body, Zu An's right hand finally recovered. He thrust the Poisonous Prick at the crown prince again, intending to end his life.

Just then, someone let out a furious roar. "Scoundrel, you dare?!"

Then, an overwhelming force surged toward Zu An, who retaliated with a palm. The two forces clashed, resulting in a tremendous noise. All of the chairs, tables, and flower vases nearby were blown to smithereens.

Zu An felt his inner energies surge chaotically. He quickly recognized the attacker; he was the grandmaster protector who was always at the Golden Crow Crown Prince's side.

At almost the same time, a pair of giant eyes slowly opened in the clouds above the imperial palace. They resembled red phoenix eyes, but were longer and more narrow. Red light flickered within their pupils.

Representatives of the different clans in the Fiend King Court stood up and looked to the horizon, crying out in horror.

"Who provoked the Fiend Emperor into acting himself?"

"Don't tell me the human emperor has come in person?"

...

Just how many years had it been since they saw the Fiend Emperor himself act? None of them had ever seen him angry. The Fiend Emperor had already remained secluded in the palace for so long that some from the younger generation had already forgotten his terrifying presence. At that instant, however, countless fiends were forced to kneel from the pressure. They were left with a mix of terror and adoration, so moved that their entire bodies shook.

Inside the Snake race's residence, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue suddenly stood up, their expressions grave.

"As expected, the Fiend Emperor's reputation is well deserved. Judging from the pressure, he isn't inferior to Zhao Han at all," Yun Jianyue said. She had fought against Zhao Han before, so she naturally had the ability to make that judgment.

"Why did the Fiend Emperor suddenly make a move? At their cultivation realm, such individuals usually remain in seclusion to delay their heaven and man deterioration for as long as possible," Yan Xuehen said in confusion.

"Maybe a powerful enemy invaded..." Yun Jianyue began, but she shook her head halfway through her sentence. Apart from Zhao Han, who in the current world could make the Fiend Emperor get involved personally? She walked over to the window and looked toward the imperial palace, noticing the chaos in the area, and said, "Maybe something happened in the imperial palace."

"Who in the world would be brave enough to cause trouble in the Fiend Imperial Palace?" Yan Xuehen wondered, giving Yun Jianyue a look. The Fiend Imperial Palace was the same as the human race's imperial palace, not one bit inferior to a forbidden region. Only someone as crazy as Yun Jianyue would dare to invade such a place.

Yu Yanluo walked over to the window, a hint of worry appearing between her brows. She asked, “Do you two think... that it’s Ah Zu?”

“No way. That guy is pretty smart. Why would he do something like... throw his life away...?” Yun Jianyue replied. She sounded quite confident at first, but in the end, even she wasn’t sure.

Yan Xuehen was alarmed. That guy was so brazen, he even dared to bully her! It really was possible that he would do such a thing!

...

While the three women were worrying about him, Zu An held Snow in his arms as he ran for his life through the imperial palace.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince’s strength was almost on par with his. There were two reasons why the crown prince had been injured so easily, though. First was because Zu An knew what kind of skills he had, and his skills just happened to counter the crown prince’s. Second was because Zu An had launched a surprise attack and had the initiative.

Now that the Golden Crow Crown Prince’s grandmaster protector had arrived, though, Zu An wouldn’t have a chance, and would only be risking death by persisting. Furthermore, the Fiend Emperor’s terrifying pressure made all of his fine hairs stand on end. Why would he ever make the idiotic choice of staying behind and fighting to the death? As such, he had picked up Snow and fled.

The grandmaster intended to chase after him, but then he heard the Golden Crow Crown Prince’s miserable screams. He quickly turned around, and when he saw the crown prince’s badly mangled lower body, he jumped in fright, thinking, The injuries were actually that serious? He helped the crown prince seal up the bleeding while providing him with ki to stabilize his injuries.

“That seemed to be Heichi Ran just now...” the grandmaster remarked. When he recalled what had happened, he recognized who it was. After all, Heichi Ran was the crown prince’s trusted aide. They had been playmates from a young age.

“Don’t tell me that bastard was the one who coveted Princess Snow’s beauty? Don’t worry about me and catch him! I want to dice his corpse into ten thousand pieces!” the Golden Crow Crown Prince snarled, gritting his teeth. His eyes were full of bitter resentment.

He knew what kind of poison Princess Snow was affected by. If Heichi Ran brought her away, wouldn’t that end up benefiting him? Let alone the fact that he himself had been injured so badly. Forget about Heichi Ran, the entire Heichi clan could go to hell!

The elder frowned. He thought to himself that even though Heichi Ran’s cultivation was quite good, inflicting such a serious injury on the Golden Crow Crown Prince in such a short time, and even calmly receiving a blow from him, should have been completely impossible. There were many suspicious things about the situation. However, the Golden Crow Crown Prince was furious, so he couldn’t say too much. As such, he handed the crown prince to the Golden Crow Guards who rushed over, while he himself began to chase after the two that fled.

“Let... Let me go,” Snow murmured. As she leaned into his embrace, she could sense a familiar and intimate feeling coming from Zu An’s body. However, she knew that this person seemed to be the crown

prince's trusted aide, so she just assumed it was due to that damn drug's effects. She was ashamed and panicked, worrying that if she waited any longer, she would lose her reason and let this man...

Suddenly, Zu An restored his original appearance and said, "Snow, it hasn't even been that long. You can't even recognize me anymore?"

When she saw that face she had yearned for day and night, Qiao Xueying was instantly stunned. She murmured to herself, "Am I dreaming?"

How could there be that much of a coincidence, though? Her lover had just happened to save her in her greatest moment of peril. It wasn't like that even in the romance books Chu Chuyan loved to read! Worried that the drug might have made her mistake another man for Zu An, she gave him a pinch as she spoke.

Zu An cried out in alarm. "What are you doing? Are you attacking your own husband?!"

"I'm checking to see if this is just a dream," Qiao Xueying said with a blush. This guy's reaction was just as she remembered. So it really was him!

"Then why didn't you pinch yourself?" Zu An complained. This girl's fingernails are way too long! That area looks as if it's about to bleed...

"Are you really scared of a bit of pain?" Qiao Xueying replied while reaching out to embrace Zu An's neck tightly, her voice delicate and sweet. When she saw his bright eyes and his smile, she didn't want to be separated from him anymore.

Zu An was about to reply when his entire body went rigid. A terrifying, powerful, ice-cold divine sense swept over him.

#### Chapter 1323: Nowhere Left to Run

The pressure shook Zu An's very soul; clearly, it was something only the legendary Fiend Emperor could have. Zu An was extremely thankful that the divine sense swept over several small creatures he began controlling first. Otherwise, if it reached him, he could end up with no way to escape at all.

The Fiend Emperor quickly realized that there was something wrong with the small creatures. A cold snort rang out in Zu An's mind, and the creatures instantly exploded into bloody mist. Zu An cried out in pain and clutched his head with one hand.

Qiao Xueying jumped in fright and asked worriedly, "Ah Zu, what's wrong?"

"It's nothing," Zu An replied, firmly shaking his head to get rid of the terrible pain. Fortunately, he had been controlling the small creatures through the jade badge and not through his own soul; otherwise, he could have ended up injuring his soul, assuming he wasn't turned into an imbecile on the spot. Something like that could end up being impossible to recover from for the rest of his life.

However, there was no time for him to be happy, because he could sense that the terrifying divine sense was rapidly searching the area. If it sensed him, he would be done for. And yet, no matter how fast he was, how could he possibly be faster than an earth immortal's divine will?

Fortunately, there was a large ornamental lake nearby, so he picked up Qiao Xueying and jumped straight in. He used Blue Mallard's ability to form a transparent bubble around them, then quickly swam to the very bottom and dug into the sludge. Fortunately, the water bubble surrounding them kept them from being covered in mud.

Zu An used Blue Mallard to merge their auras into the surrounding water, while simultaneously using the Unshaken Daoist Manual and Mirror Mirage to restrain his own aura. Qiao Xueying was quick-witted, promptly copying him and hiding her own aura.

Zu An was quite shocked. If he hadn't been looking at her, he would have wondered whether there really was someone there. Snow's stealth technique really was miraculous.

He suddenly remembered that Snow had actually been a part of Brightmoon Academy as one of the top ten beauties. However, the other students had only vaguely remembered that that member existed and couldn't even describe her name or appearance. When he recalled what Kong Qing had said about Princess Snow having her beauty unsealed, he could only sigh in admiration of Snow's unique concealment technique.

The moment the two properly hid themselves at the bottom of the lake, an ice-cold divine sense swept over where they had just been. Then, it passed over the lake without leaving even a single ripple across the water's surface.

However, Blue Mallard was extremely miraculous, allowing one to completely become one with the water. Together with the Unshakable Daoist Manual, Mirror Mirage, and other outstanding stealth skills, the Fiend Emperor's divine sense only passed by without detecting them.

When he sensed that the divine sense had left, Zu An sighed in relief. Only then did he notice that he was pressed against a soft and beautifully fragrant body. Just then, whether he had been saving her or running away, all of it had happened too quickly. He'd had no time to take a good look at her at all. Only now did he have a chance to look at her up close.

Qiao Xueying's skin was fairer than snow. Her brows were curved, and her mouth was small. She was delicate and dainty. Her eyes were sparkling and crystal clear, giving off an intelligent glint. Perhaps because of the drug, a sense of charm emanated from those eyes, as if every expression conveyed sweet and gentle messages.

"What, you don't recognize me anymore?" Qiao Xueying remarked with a big smile when she saw Zu An stare at her.

"I heard someone say that Princess Snow had her appearance sealed, but then it was undone when she returned to the fiend races. At the time, I was worried that my beloved Snow was gone forever, but the changes weren't as great as I imagined," Zu An said, sighing in relief. The difference between this young lady and the Snow he knew wasn't that great, but it did give her an entirely different demeanor.

Before, Snow had been cute and charming, but because she had spent too long as a maid during her time as a spy, she had come off more like a pretty girl-next-door, like a pretty supporting actress that made other girls look more beautiful. Other people wouldn't concentrate their attention on her.



Now, however, she was a dazzling star. No matter who she was with, she wouldn't lose out in the slightest. Otherwise, she wouldn't have become the famous Princess Snow among the fiend races' younger generation, nor would she have made the Golden Crow Crown Prince, who had seen many beautiful women, yearn for her day and night.

"Then was I prettier before, or am I prettier now?" Qiao Xueying asked.

Zu An replied, "Whether before or now, you are you, my most cherished Snow."

Only a blockhead would answer such a deadly question incorrectly.

"Hmph, you've always been a smooth talker," Qiao Xueying replied with a smile, clearly pleased with the answer. However, she still didn't let him go and asked, "Then which one do you like better?"

Zu An was starting to get a headache. That topic isn't done yet? As such, he went on the offensive, saying, "Let me give it a go to find out."

Then, he kissed her. Qiao Xueying moaned, her entire body going soft. When their lips separated, she looked embarrassed, yet expectant.

Zu An pursed his lips and said, "Mmm, your lips are just as spicy as before. This is exactly the kind of feeling I like."

"You're so annoying. You're already teasing me right after we meet again," Qiao Xueying said, sounding mildly annoyed. Compared to her usual sharp and clear voice, she now sounded sweet and lovely.

"I was thinking about how when we first met, we both fell into a pond too. Now that we're on the topic... At the time, you were already a sixth rank cultivator, and yet you almost drowned underwater. Were you just using that as a pretext to get closer to me on purpose and take advantage of me?" Zu An asked. Because there were Golden Crow Guards everywhere, he wasn't in a rush to leave the lake. It would be a bit safer to stay for a bit.

"Who was trying to take advantage of you back then?!" Qiao Xueying protested. When she remembered what had happened, she could no longer hold back her annoyance and bit down on Zu An's shoulder.

Zu An sucked air through his teeth. However, his expression quickly became strange. Qiao Xueying only used a bit of strength at first, but then she used the tip of her tongue to gently lick the wound. She even looked at him with an ambiguous expression, as if she were sending him a silent invitation.

If someone so beautiful and delicate looked at him in such a way, which man could possibly resist?

Zu An was also stirred, his entire body stiffening. However, he quickly realized that something wasn't right. Snow's body was burning up too much, and her body was giving off an unnatural redness. She was also much more proactive than usual. Having been in similar situations so many times, he reacted quickly and asked, "You've been poisoned?"

Qiao Xueying voiced her confirmation, a hint of embarrassment appearing on her face as she said, "The Golden Crow Crown Prince put a despicable drug in the candle."

Zu An reached out to check her pulse. He glowered and cursed, "That damn birdman, I went too easy on him!"

Qiao Xueying quickly covered his hand with hers and said, "Don't do anything stupid. He is the fiend races' crown prince, after all, and this is the Fiend King Court. Apart from the human emperor, no one is a match for the Fiend Emperor. I don't want to become a femme fatale who puts you in danger."

"Don't worry. I'm not that kind of hothead. I'll only make a move after I've thought things through," Zu An replied to console her.

"That's true," Qiao Xueying said. She thought about how ever since she had met him in Brightmoon City, Zu An had offended many people who were stronger than him, yet almost none of them had met a pleasant end. Instead, he had always been the one to remain happy and free.

Zu An was about to help Snow get rid of the poison when his expression changed. He sensed a group of Golden Crow Guards arriving by the lakeside.

The imperial palace guards were clearly experienced. Their leader quickly said, "Those who are good at swimming, enter the lake and look around. Don't let a single corner remain unsearched! The order this time is absolute. Even if we have to dig up three feet across this entire place, we have to find that assassin!"

"Understood!" The Golden Crow Guards all accepted the order. It was clear that the Fiend Emperor was furious that the crown prince had been injured so severely. No one dared to show any negligence in the matter. With several splashes, they jumped into the water and quickly began searching the lake.

Zu An was nervous. Even though he could escape the Fiend Emperor's detection by hiding at the bottom of the lake, if the experienced Golden Crow Guards investigated up close, he wouldn't be able to hide from them.

Sure enough, some Golden Crow Guards came close. Zu An didn't just wait passively and instead acted suddenly, restraining the nearby Golden Crow Guards. He then rushed upward with Qiao Xueying in his arms.

The surrounding Golden Crow Guards cried out in alarm, and many of them leaped at them. However, Zu An didn't dare to continue fighting zealously. If he got tangled and caught up in something, even if the Fiend Emperor didn't act, just the grandmaster and the others in the imperial palace would make sure that he could never leave the place.

He ran with everything he had, carrying Qiao Xueying in his arms and evading round after round of pursuers. Unfortunately, this was the imperial palace, and so there was more than one direction he had to worry about. In the end, more and more Golden Crow Guards began to detect the two of them and he was stopped several times along the way.

Zu An didn't even dare to evade, instead fighting with the intention of exchanging wound for wound. He seriously injured many of the Golden Crow Guards, but of course, he was soon covered in wounds himself.

At first, Qiao Xueying could still assist him. After some time, however, the poison within her began flaring up. She struggled to even hold herself together, let alone let alone try to help fending off the enemies.

Just then, Zu An felt another wave of ice-cold divine sense sweep over him. This was the Fiend Emperor's power!

I'm f\*cked!

No matter how sturdy Zu An's will was, he still began to feel despair.

Suddenly, a wonderful figure appeared nearby. Zu An wondered whether he should seize her as a hostage, but to his surprise, she gave the two of them a cold look and said to them, "Follow me!"

#### Chapter 1324: Fiend Empress' Resting Chambers

The wonderful figure was a beautiful young married woman, dressed in a long silk dress that looked extremely soft and sleek. Anyone who saw it wouldn't be able to help but think about touching it. A brilliant belt hung around her slim waist, accentuating her slender figure and making her chest's wonderful curve seem even more incredible.

The woman spoke in a mature cadence that conveyed a sense of awe. However, her flawless face was so beautiful that it was hard to associate her with an imposing demeanor. Her oval face was spotless and snow-white; her umber-black, curved eyebrows were extremely seductive, her rosy lips shining with an alluring gloss. Even though her tone was somewhat cold, her voice naturally carried a sense of soul-melting temptation that could make one's heart go crazy.

Even though Zu An had never seen her before, he was familiar with her voice. He immediately reacted and exclaimed, "Second Empress?"

Head caught a glimpse of her figure by the city gates, but that was just a glance through the carriage's windows. However, her incredible voice had left him with too deep of an impression.

The woman didn't reply to him, instead continuing to walk toward a rock garden without paying him any attention. Zu An hesitated, but when he heard the shouts and hurried footsteps of the Golden Crow Guards not far away, and felt the Fiend Emperor's imminent divine sense closing in, he knew he would quickly be trapped inside with no way out. As such, he gritted his teeth and followed her into a rock garden.

Inside the garden, the woman turned a small rock in a hidden place, suddenly revealing a secret door. She took the lead, heading inside first. Then, she gestured toward Zu An and called, "Come in!"

When he saw the pitch-black tunnel, Zu An didn't hesitate and went straight in. Staying outside any longer would allow the Fiend Emperor to find him. Zu An had smashed half of his son's lower body rotten; furthermore, it was the son the Fiend Emperor had already publicly declared to be his successor... If Zu An ended up in his hands, that would guarantee his death.

Even though he couldn't figure out the Second Empress' intentions, an ice-cold divine sense was already sweeping over the rock garden.

Zu An asked worriedly, "Can this tunnel escape the Fiend Emperor's detection?"

The Second Empress took out a luminescent pearl and led the way. Under the faint illumination, the skin of her pale white wrist seemed even more dazzling than the bright pearl itself. She replied, "This tunnel was created using a special design. It can block a cultivator's divine sense."

"It can even block off the divine sense of the Fiend Emperor?" Zu An replied. He obviously knew that there were many princes and dukes who had built secret passages with similar technology. Since it was a secret passage, it was naturally intended to aid escape in a moment of danger. If someone could detect it with a single sweep of their divine sense, could it still call itself a 'secret' passage?

However, even though ordinary cultivators wouldn't be able to detect the secret passage, earth immortals were far beyond the understanding of normal people. How could even such cultivators fail to notice something like that?

The Second Empress replied, "That is because he has not fully awakened. This is but one of his divine wills."

"He hasn't fully awakened? Don't tell me he's been sleeping all this time?" Zu An exclaimed, alarmed when he realized what she was implying.

This time, the Second Empress didn't reply and instead silently led the way. As he followed behind her and watched her figure sway back and forth in a rhythmic manner, Zu An felt a bit absent-minded. For some reason, a Coca-Cola bottle appeared in his mind. Sigh, I really miss that stuff...

The Second Empress sensed his direct gaze, but misunderstood him. She said with a lovable smile, "You really are outrageously bold, as expected. No wonder you even dared to go after the crown prince's woman."

You have successfully trolled the Second Empress for +114 +114 +114...

Zu An was a bit stunned when he saw the Rage points. This woman appeared to be all smiles on the surface, but she was actually angry! Looks like she's someone who hides evil intentions behind a smile... I have to be careful around her in the future.

He didn't try to explain the misunderstanding. Instead, he said, "Second Empress, you've misunderstood something here. She isn't the crown prince's woman, but rather my woman."

By then, the drug had already taken over Qiao Xueying's body. She used the only bit of rationality she had left to cling firmly onto Zu An, not letting anyone separate them. At the same time, however, her body jerked around unconsciously, rubbing against his body, as if she could only obtain a bit of consolation then.

The empress harrumphed and said, "As she is in that kind of state, you can obviously say whatever you want. It is not as if she can say anything about it."

Zu An said with an upright expression, "Snow and I met previously in the human world, and we went through several life and death situations together. That was how we became each other's sunshine. If not for that, there are many beauties in this world, so why would I take such a huge risk and charge into the Fiend Imperial Palace to save her?"

The Second Empress was a bit stunned. With Zu An's appearance and cultivation, he definitely wouldn't lack women. Entering such a place to take Princess Snow from the crown prince was clearly an extremely dangerous choice, and definitely not something that would only be motivated by lust.

"Each other's sunshine..." the Second Empress repeated. She sighed, looking somewhat forlorn. However, her impression of Zu An had changed quite a bit. She remarked, "No wonder Princess Snow has never been willing to become the crown princess. So it was because of you."

Zu An looked at the young lady in his arms with tender feelings. Refusing the role of crown princess was clearly a decision that had brought her a lot of pressure.

This silly girl... Why didn't you copy Kong Nanwu and hide in the human world? You're definitely more familiar with humans than her.

...

Just then, the Second Empress pushed open a door in front of her, and light shone in from the other side.

Zu An followed her in, and saw that a spacious palace room was on the other side. The furnishing and decorations inside were extremely elegant, with transparent curtains fluttering against the wind. The air was filled with a sweet, but not cloying fragrance. The room conveyed a charming and gentle atmosphere.

"What kind of place is this?" Zu An asked. He secretly sized it up, but there was no one else inside.

"My resting chambers," the Second Empress replied as she sat down casually on a couch, crossing her legs on the seat. As she sized up Zu An, she rested her chin on one hand, seemingly very curious about him.

"Your resting chambers?" Zu An asked in surprise, his expression turning strange.

The Second Empress laughed and said, "As expected, you are definitely someone with bad intentions. Don't tell me you think I invited you all the way here because you caught my eye or something?"

Zu An realized that the way he was speaking was a bit too bold, but he didn't look pressured in the slightest. He replied, "The Second Empress is overthinking things. I have someone in my arms right now, so why would I have any other thoughts? I only thought that, since these were your resting chambers, I might be troubling you if the Fiend Emperor suddenly came for a visit."

"You are quite good at speaking." The Second Empress waved her hand, gesturing for him to take a seat wherever he wanted. "As for your worries, they are unnecessary. It has already been many years since the Fiend Emperor has come to my place."

Zu An's expression changed. The Second Empress could have just used any random excuse in response to his question, and yet she had spoken in such detail, and in such a charming manner. Was she hinting at something?

"Are you that human who defeated the Golden Crow Crown Prince?" the Second Empress asked. She yawned, covering her delicate, ruby-lipped mouth with her hand in a way that gave off a lazy, careless air.

This woman had saved the two of them, so Zu An didn't hide it and replied, "It was just a fluke."

"A fluke?" The Second Empress raised a brow and said, "The Golden Crow Crown Prince's reputation was not artificially inflated in any way. He has been undefeated in the Fiend races' younger generation. I heard that he even used the Golden War Chariot and the Sun Slaying Bow, yet he was still defeated. Even after all of this, you are still acting so humble. Is that not acting a bit hypocritical?"

"The Second Empress is wise," Zu An said with a smile and didn't argue against her. However, as he looked at Qiao Xueying, he felt worried. Her body was burning up badly. He poured a cup of tea from off to the side and fed her a bit while carrying her.

A strange look appeared in the Second Empress' eyes when she saw his careful and considerate movements. She asked, "By the way, what kind of relationship do you have with the Medusa Queen?"

"She's a very good friend," Zu An replied.

"A friend?" The Second Empress had an ambiguous smile on as she continued, "The kind of friend you go to bed with?"

Zu An almost choked on his tea. Why is this woman so direct?

"The Second Empress must be joking. We're just friends; it isn't that kind of relationship." Zu An was worried about dragging Yu Yanluo into this mess, so he didn't tell her the truth.

"Is that so?" The Second Empress declined to comment and asked, "What was your name again?"

Zu An was about to reply when suddenly, hurried footsteps and a clamor of servants and guards drew near. Then, a loud voice resounded. "We pay our respects to the Second Empress! This humble servant has received orders to arrest an assassin!"

#### Chapter 1325: Surprise Attack

Zu An gave the Second Empress a look. He suddenly felt that this woman wasn't as great as he had thought. Why had they come to search her own chambers so quickly?

The Second Empress clearly felt a bit embarrassed too. She first gestured for Zu An to stop Qiao Xueying from making any sound, then said coldly, "If you are all going to search for the assassin, then go look for him. What are you coming to this empress' chambers for?"

Zu An was a bit troubled. Qiao Xueying was still affected by the poison, which made her groan and pant for air from time to time. Sweet moans also emerged from her throat every so often. In her current state, it would be useless even if he spoke to her; still, he was reluctant to cover her mouth with his hand, worried that he might hurt her.

After thinking about it, he bent down and kissed her. The half unconscious Qiao Xueying groaned, as if her passion had instantly been ignited. Then, she wrapped herself around him like an octopus.

The Second Empress was speechless. What kind of place are these two treating this palace as?!

The worst part was that she knew that Zu An was doing so to stop Qiao Xueying from making any noise, so she couldn't really say anything either.

A guard called out from outside, "Second Empress, please do not be offended. This is the Fiend Emperor's decree; we must find the assassin even if we dig up three feet across the entire palace. Even all the concubines' residences, as well as the princes' and princess' residences, are being searched to prevent that assassin from disturbing the nobles."

Even though his words were flowery, both sides knew that the main reason for the search was suspicion that someone inside the palace was hiding the assassin.

The Second Empress harrumphed. "Would this empress not know if an assassin were hiding in my own territory? Go search somewhere else."

"Um..." The guard was quite troubled. The empress' status was special, so he didn't dare to offend her too badly. However, there had been an absolute order from above telling them to check every single place. How would he explain things later if he overlooked an area?

"What are all of you gathered around this place for?" a loud and clear voice called out. Another group of soldiers seemed to have arrived.

"General Niu, you came at a good time. This is the situation..." The guard gave him a rough summary of what had happened.

Zu An was startled. General Niu was probably the Right General Niu Dao, whom Kong Qing had mentioned.

Niu Dao called out, "Second Empress, that assassin's cultivation is profound, and he has seriously injured the crown prince. Not only that, he even successfully broke free after taking a blow from Elder Wu. There was not the slightest reaction from the imperial palace's outer defenses at all, so it is easy to see how powerful his stealth technique is. If someone like that wanted to remain hidden, I fear it would be difficult for the Second Empress to notice his existence. Please let us enter and carry out a search, as that will also guarantee your respected self's own safety."

The Second Empress frowned. She could only say, "I have already gotten into bed to rest. Now is not a good time to receive guests."

She thought that would be enough to make them back off, but Niu Dao said with a serious tone, "The Fiend Emperor has issued the decree that every single corner must be searched. I hope that the Second Empress will not trouble us. This humble official will only come in with a few subordinates, and we will leave after a simple search. We will definitely not hold up the empress' rest."

He gestured with his hands as he spoke. As an experienced Guard General, he was already suspicious; he worried that the Second Empress was being threatened by someone, making her continue to refuse their search.

The Second Empress noticed their reaction through the window. She knew that her own cleverness had simply made the other side more suspicious. That would make things troublesome. She had never expected the Fiend Emperor to give such an order, one that included even her chambers in the search.

She would have made the two of them return to the secret passage, but the sound of the passage opening definitely wouldn't escape the ears of those outside. If that passage were revealed, she would

really be done for. As such, she quickly got up, gesturing for Zu An to bring Qiao Xueying with him and hide on the bed.

Zu An was shocked, but the situation was dire. He couldn't be bothered to worry too much, picking up Qiao Xueying and leaping toward the bed. He was quite curious, though. Wouldn't they be easily discovered if he hid on the bed? What was this Second Empress trying to do?

Thank goodness I have Hidden in the Dark. No one can sense anything if I hide under the covers.

He held Qiao Xueying in his arms. He was about to use Hidden in the Dark when the covers suddenly moved, and another warm body also made its way in. Zu An was speechless.

"Do not think too much of it. I simply do not want you to be exposed," the Second Empress said. Perhaps Zu An had misheard, but her tone was no longer ambiguous the way it had been before; rather, she sounded a bit embarrassed.

Then, after some hesitation, the Second Empress removed her dress, only leaving behind a thin personal garment. Even the skin underneath was vaguely visible. She leaned to one side to make the covers swell up, making it easier to cover Zu An and Snow beneath them.

"Come closer!" the Second Empress said through ki. It would be difficult for others to see that she was hiding them if they were farther away from the door. Thankfully, she was the master of the harem, so everything was up to the highest standard. From the bed to the covers, everything was the largest possible size; that made them just about adequate to deal with the situation.

At the same time, a cold glint flickered through her eyes. If things really were exposed, she would just say that she had been forced by him. At that point, it would be best if the two were silenced on the spot.

How could Zu An know that she was hiding such killing intent? He simply felt a bit apologetic. Not only had she saved him, she had even sacrificed so much. In order to avoid arousing suspicion, he didn't lean directly against her, but instead pushed Qiao Xueying between the two of them. Fortunately, Snow's body was petite, so there was enough room to hide her between them.

A look of surprise appeared in the Second Empress' eyes. She hadn't expected this guy to be such a gentleman. However, her attention quickly shifted to the young lady behind her. Because of the drug, Qiao Xueying body really was heating up a lot. That heat made the Second Empress feel some concern.

Niu Dao called out again. "Second Empress, please forgive this humble one's actions. I am coming in!"

He really was worried that the Second Empress was being threatened, so he didn't wait for a reply and pushed open the door, barging in with several subordinates. Once they entered, the Golden Crow Guards began to carefully examine any spots that could hide anything. Only a few people had been brought in, but they were all carefully selected experts.

After searching the surroundings, they gradually pressed in. Soon, they saw the Second Empress staring coldly at them, reclining on her side. They were all alarmed. The Second Empress was the most beautiful woman in the imperial palace, and always looked like a work of art created by the heavens, one that seemed to embody seduction itself. She had appeared in the dreams of countless guards.



Once, a guard had begun talking in his sleep in the middle of the night. With a rustle of the covers, he had mumbled the words 'Second Empress'. Afterward, the guards had found that his covers were a wet mess. That guard was quickly executed. From then on, people only dared to hide such thoughts at the very bottom of their minds, not daring to express them in the slightest.

And yet now, they had actually been able to enter the Second Empress' chambers and even see her resting posture. Their hearts that had been still for so long began to pound crazily.

"Niu Dao, you are truly brazen. You even dare to barge into this empress' chambers?" the Second Empress scolded him.

Niu Dao really was as his name implied<sup>[1]</sup>. He had a pair of sharp horns on his head, and his nose was large and rough looking. When he heard that, he broke out into a cold sweat as he said, "Your highness, please forgive us. We are acting on the Fiend Emperor's orders."

"Do not try to use the Fiend Emperor to convince me. Did he really tell you all to barge in and watch me sleep?" the Second Empress retorted, her expression cold. Even though her voice was still soft and charming, a layer of killing intent filled the air. She was still the empress of a country. Even though she wasn't as strong as the Fiend Emperor, she wasn't that weak.

"This humble one does not dare!" Niu Dao replied, even as he saw the Second Empress' chest rise and fall. Even though she was angry, her cheeks had a rosy blush, and her eyes were large and bright. Even though he was usually straightforward in nature, he felt his body heat up a bit. He didn't dare to look too much and quickly said, "We will leave right after we finish our inspection."

Things had already reached this point, so he had to at least do his job. Otherwise, he would have offended her for nothing. He immediately smacked some of his subordinates in the backs of their heads to wake them up, reminding them to quickly finish the inspection.

The guards were elites from the Golden Crow Guards, so their skill was naturally unquestionable. They quickly searched every corner of the room, but they didn't find any suspicious signs.

"This humble one does not dare to disturb your highness' rest, so I will leave now," Niu Dao said. He waved his hand and led his subordinates away. Many of them were a bit reluctant, because they would likely never be able to see the Second Empress in bed again. Even though they hadn't seen anything, just the thought alone was stimulating.

Suddenly, however, the Second Empress began trembling, and reflexively cried "Ouch!"

Even though she quickly caught herself, it was already too late. Niu Dao and the others quickly turned around and looked at the bed.

1. Niu means ox. 牛

#### Chapter 1326: Not Qualified

The Second Empress cried out in protest inwardly. Just then, Qiao Xueying's condition had made her unsatisfied with just kissing. She had begun to grope around, inadvertently reaching into the Second Empress' dress.

The Second Empress' chest had suddenly been grabbed by a scalding hot hand, so her first instinct had been to think that Zu An had used the chance to take advantage of her. Thus, she had cried out in alarm and anger. Afterward, however, she quickly realized that it was Princess Snow's hand.

Still, it was already too late for regret. Niu Dao and the Golden Crow Guards all turned around to look at the bed with suspicion.

The Second Empress was about to say something, but Qiao Xueying once again began groping her to the point that she almost couldn't catch her breath. Are you kneading freaking dough or something?!

"Your highness, did something happen?" Niu Dao called out, giving his subordinates a look. They fanned out and began to move toward the bed.

"It is fine. I was just a bit annoyed when I remembered something just now," Second Empress replied, trying to remain calm. Princess Snow, are you done yet?!

Zu An transmitted his voice through ki, saying apologetically, "I'm sorry! I'll move her hand away." After saying that, he reached in with one hand.

The Second Empress' entire body went taut. Is this guy trying to take advantage of me on purpose?

Zu An had reacted instinctively, but he quickly realized that something wasn't quite right. Even if he pulled his hand back, however, it wouldn't do anything. What mattered was moving Snow's hand away. As such, he braced himself and grabbed Snow's hand, pulling it back.

The Second Empress's mind was extremely tense the entire time. Fortunately, she sensed that Zu An's hand still moved with some decency, trying to avoid touching her skin the entire time. Even so, on several occasions, his arm unintentionally brushed her. Her body trembled slightly, but she bit down on her lip and endured it.

Zu An jumped in fright. Why does this Second Empress feel as if she doesn't have any bones?

However, how could he have known that the Second Empress had a shortcoming no one knew about? It was that, the moment a man touched her, her entire body would become as soft as cotton.

The Second Empress was worried and nervous, so her body had become even more sensitive. She was almost unable to hold on. Fortunately, she knew what kind of end she would face if she were exposed. She stopped her voice from shaking with all of her willpower, calling out "Why are you not leaving yet?"

Niu Dao looked toward the bulging covers with suspicion, asking, "Your highness, are you feeling unwell?" He didn't move at all, clearly not intending to leave.

Second Empress knew that he was suspicious, and that she would be forced onto the defensive if she only answered his questions. Instead, she went on the offensive and asked, "What, are you staying here because you want to see what I look like in bed? Or are you suspecting that I am hiding someone under my covers?"

"This humble subject doesn't dare!" Niu Dao replied, breaking out into fine beads of sweat.

Even though he indeed had such a suspicion, how could he dare to say it out loud? This was the Second Empress! Even though she was beautiful, everyone in the palace knew she was vicious and merciless.

Any subjects who offended her usually didn't meet good ends. Unless there was absolute proof, his suspicions would just be groundless accusations. She would have endless methods to get revenge on him afterward.

"However, it seems as if you are raring to give it a try," Second Empress said with a sneer. "What, do you want to use the assassin as a reason to move aside my covers and take a look? There is no harm in telling you this, but I am not dressed right now. If you are not scared, you can come and give it a try."

Niu Dao's face turned completely red. His Golden Crow Guard subordinates all began breathing hurriedly.

To be honest, they really did want to move aside the covers and see what Second Empress looked like, especially without her clothes on. Still, those thoughts could only remain as such; none of them were willing to make that gamble! If they undid the covers and the Second Empress really wasn't wearing any clothes, they would have their eyes gouged out, experience death by a thousand cuts, and cause their clans to be eradicated!

"This humble official doesn't dare!" Niu Dao repeated what he had just said. However, he still didn't show any intention of leaving.

"Since you are all unwilling to do it yourself, this empress is going to move the covers aside for you," the Second Empress said. Her beautiful eyes almost seemed to be conveying a smile, silently inviting them over. As she spoke, she began moving the covers bit by bit.

When he saw her smooth and exquisite shoulder's dazzling white skin, Niu Dao noticed the dress was draped over a screen off to the side out of the corner of his eye. Thus, he quickly said, "I will not disturb your highness' rest anymore. This humble subject will say his goodbye here." Then, he quickly moved his eyes away for fear of the empress really pulling aside the covers. If that happened, his clan really would be destroyed.

The other Golden Crow Guards hurriedly withdrew. They even closed the door behind them. The other guards waiting outside asked what had happened. Niu Dao and the others didn't say anything and just quickly left.

The Golden Crow Guards were left extremely puzzled, wondering, "Why are all of you hunched over?"

Meanwhile, Niu Dao and the others moved to a quieter place. His subordinates asked, "General Niu, are we going to just leave like this?"

"What else can we do? Don't tell me you really would move aside the Second Empress' covers?" Niu Dao replied. The sight of the empress moving aside her covers appeared in his mind again, with part of her shoulder exposed. Damn it, that woman really is something!

If there hadn't been other people there, if the two of them had met in private, he wasn't even sure whether he could hold himself back. The Second Empress' endlessly seductive figure was something he knew he could never touch unless he wanted to experience a terrible death, but it was just way too tempting!

"But is it possible that the Second Empress is hiding the assassin under her covers?" a Golden Crow Guard voiced his suspicion.

“Are you stupid?” Niu Dao smacked him in the back of the head. “Even if that assassin really had been sent by the Second Empress, would she sacrifice that much, to even hide the assassin in her own covers after taking off her clothes?”

“But she only showed half of her shoulder just now... The dress that was thrown to the side might not have really been taken off her body...” the Golden Crow Guard muttered.

“Heh, what, don’t tell me you actually want to look at the Second Empress’ body, you little bastard? Are you not scared of dying by a thousand cuts?” Niu Dao harrumphed. “Do you think I didn’t think of what you just said? I already checked with my divine sense just then. There was no one else under her covers; otherwise, why do you think I left?”

“But the Second Empress suddenly cried out, as if something happened under the covers!” The Golden Crow Guard still wasn’t willing to let it go.

Niu Dao had a strange expression as he replied, “Can you use your brain a little bit? The Second Empress was in the room alone. She already took off her clothes and was under her own covers. She didn’t want to meet anyone either. What do you think she was doing?”

“Don’t tell me...” A Golden Crow Guard swallowed. He felt his body become extremely stiff.

No wonder the Second Empress had looked as if she were about to break out into tears. So it turned out she had been playing with herself!

They cried out in regret. If they had gone in alone without so many people, they might have even had a chance to get closer. When they remembered the Second Empress’ enchanting figure, all of them hunched over to hide their bodies’ reactions. They felt the same thing as Niu Dao. She’s just way too hot!

...

Meanwhile, back in the Second Empress’ chambers, she immediately got up from the bed after the others left. The clothes on the screen divider seemed to be pulled over by an invisible hand, instantly wrapping around her again.

Zu An was quite shocked. That was probably the fastest he had ever seen someone get dressed. The scenes he remembered from television dramas in which women leisurely reached into their sleeves seemed like nonsense in comparison.

“You brat, this empress was almost done in because of you!” the Second Empress exclaimed, shooting him a hateful glare. However, she really was too charming, so the glare didn’t convey any viciousness, only seeming even more tempting instead

“I really am sorry. I’ll definitely repay your kindness for saving my life.” Zu An knew that he was in the wrong and could only apologize.

The Second Empress harrumphed. “Oh? How exactly are you going to repay me?”

“If Second Empress is okay with me, I am willing to devote my body to you,” Zu An said, looking at her with a smile.

The Second Empress was stunned. However, after a moment, she laughed so hard her entire body rocked back and forth. She shot back, "Are you doing me a favor, or yourself?"

Zu An was surprised. There was more to this woman than meets the eye after all. He had said that on purpose to test her, but she hadn't gotten mad at all. As such, he said seriously, "Your highness saved us presumably due to the matter of the Golden Crow Crown Prince. The Golden Crow Crown Prince rising to the throne wouldn't be good for either of us, so we should form an alliance."

The Second Empress' expression turned cold as she said, "First of all, I am the empress. Even if the crown prince rises to the throne, he has to call me empress dowager. There is no such contradiction between us. Secondly, if this empress needed to find someone to ally with, you would still lack the qualifications to be that person."

#### Chapter 1327: Confrontation

Zu An didn't get angry and simply replied with a smile, "I was only speaking in a closer manner because we've already had some physical intimacy. If your highness wants to act so distant, let's just treat things as official business. If your highness needs something in the future, please contact me then."

He picked up Snow, intending to leave on the spot. Her condition was extremely poor and she needed to be detoxified as quickly as possible.

Seeing that he was about to leave, the Second Empress quickly extended her hand and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Leaving this place, of course," Zu An said in confusion.

The Second Empress said seriously, "You cannot. There are Golden Crow Guards everywhere outside; you will be easily found out if you leave. If you are caught, that will affect me too."

In her position, she obviously wouldn't believe something like a promise. Even if Zu An continued to say he wouldn't sell her out, if he really were caught and tortured, no one could hold all that information in.

Zu An knew that what she said was the truth. There were indeed Golden Crow Guards everywhere outside at that moment, all intending to dig up the entire palace if it meant finding him. The Fiend Emperor's divine sense also swept through the entire place from time to time as well, so it was indeed hard to get out.

"Stay here for now. Once they have searched a few times without being able to find you, and think you have already escaped, you can then look for a chance to escape," the Second Empress said as she moved over to the window and opened up a small crack to check on the situation outside.

Zu An frowned and said, "I can wait, but she can't."

Qiao Xueying was completely unconscious. Her body was burning up severely, and she was only able to instinctively rub her body against his, as if only then would she feel the slightest bit of comfort.

The Second Empress remembered how she had been groped by Princess Snow. Her expression became a bit unnatural as she remarked, "The crown prince really is brazen, actually daring to feed Princess Snow this kind of drug."

Zu An asked, "Your highness, are you able to obtain any herbs from the imperial hospital? Additionally, we need the maids to prepare a bathing tub and fill it with cold water."

"Absolutely not!" the Second Empress directly refused. "Everyone in the palace is looking for you two. If even a hint of a clue leaks out, they will become suspicious. We cannot afford that kind of risk."

The crown prince knew what kind of drug Princess Snow had been affected by. If they tried to get some medicine or large amounts of cold water, they would easily bring suspicion upon themselves.

"Then I have to leave," Zu An said with a stern expression. "Even though it's dangerous outside, I can't let anything happen to Snow."

"Snow? The two of you sound quite close," the Second Empress said with a laugh. "Isn't that easy enough? Isn't it just that kind of drug? Aren't you the best antidote?"

She had a hint of an indescribable expression in her eyes. She definitely didn't have any good intentions behind proposing such a thing. After all, she didn't want the Golden Crow Crown Prince to be connected to the Elf Race in marriage. If that happened, the crown prince's influence would become even stronger.

Meanwhile, if she let a man take the chastity of someone who was already pretty much the crown princess... Just the news of that would greatly shake the crown prince's prestige, turning him into the laughingstock of all the fiend races.

That wasn't all. Such a thing would be a huge mental blow for the crown prince himself. It would become an inner demon in his path of cultivation. If he couldn't break through that, he could end up unable to make any further progress in his cultivation. How could the Fiend Emperor pass on his position to trash like that?

Zu An was speechless. Young ladies who were already married were just this bold! They didn't have any sense of shame when saying such things. He thought for a bit, but concluded that was indeed the best method available. As such, he nodded and said, "Alright, I'll be borrowing your highness' bed for a bit."

Then, he carried Snow over to the bed.

The Second Empress was speechless. She had thought that he would refuse her a few times, but she would have to find a way to convince him, slowly making her plan come to fruition. How could she have expected that he would agree just like that? As expected, he was just a perverted kid!

Suddenly, her expression changed. Wait, they're going to use my bed?

She wanted to stop them, but it was already too late. Zu An had already lowered all of the curtains around the bed. She could vaguely see that he was already removing the clothes around Princess Snow's shoulders.

The Second Empress' expression changed several times. Stopping Zu An at that point really would be a bit inappropriate. If she really ended up annoying him and he insisted on leaving, thus getting himself caught, things would instead become even more troublesome.

Hmph, I'll just have the maid change all of the bedsheets afterwards. Actually, this entire bed can just be burned away.

Princess Snow's sweet moans rang out through the air. As a mature young madam, how could the Second Empress not know what was going on? Her heart rate began to accelerate madly. Princess Snow's reaction didn't seem to indicate that it was her first time. Was it because of the drug?

She shook her head and didn't think about such things too hard. However, she secretly took out a recording mirror to record everything. Either way, she would be able to take it out and deal the crown prince a devastating blow, and she could even use it to threaten both the Elf Race and this man.

However, as soon as she took it out, a powerful suction force manifested and the recording mirror in her hands flew out of her hands. That wasn't all, though. Because she tried to catch the recording mirror, she lost her balance and was sucked in by the force too.

She fell into the curtains with a dull thud. She was alarmed and instinctively got up to protect herself. However, a large hand was already clutching her throat. Zu An looked down on her from above, his expression icy as he asked, "What is the meaning of this, your highness?"

The Second Empress opened her eyes and saw that Zu An's upper body was bare. His powerful masculine energy practically struck her in the face. This guy's physique is pretty good, huh...

However, she quickly became annoyed. Her real strength was definitely not so low that she would normally be defeated so quickly. It was only because she had been caught completely unprepared that she was restrained by such a move. With her vitals restrained, she could only force a smile and ask, "What kind of technique is this?"

Even though she had been a bit careless, she still had her cultivation. However, she hadn't been able to resist that powerful suction force at all. No wonder he was able to seriously injure the crown prince even under Elder Wu's protection, then rescue Princess Snow.

"I'm the one asking the questions here." Zu An said, looking at her indifferently.

The Second Empress recovered her composure and replied, with a lovable smile, "How can I not record Princess Snow's first time as a memory? I planned to give it to the two of you afterward, but who would have thought that you would misunderstand."

Zu An obviously wouldn't believe such nonsense. He sneered and said, "Your highness, please do not take me for a fool."

The Second Empress' smile faded as she said, "You are right; I indeed treated you rudely just now. I apologize. This recording mirror will be given to you as an apology."

Zu An replied coldly, "Do you think I would forgive you just because you apologized?"

The Second Empress' expression changed. "What, don't tell me you'll dare to kill me? With my help, you two might still have a chance of leaving the imperial palace. Otherwise, you'll be dead for sure. Furthermore, both the Elf Race and Snake Race will be completely destroyed."

"Your highness, threatening me in this kind of situation isn't a good idea." Zu An hooked his finger around her chin frivolously. He continued, "You're right when you say that I won't kill you, but are you not scared that I'll carry out the punishment right here on this bed? Judging from how your body reacted to my touch earlier, I believe you won't dare to talk about it in the future either, right?"

"You're shameless!" the Second Empress exclaimed in horror. It was the first time she had lost her composure that way. The other party really was a villain! She really couldn't tell the Fiend Emperor or anyone else. At that moment, she had felt a mysterious feeling of fear.

Seeing that he had scared her enough, Zu An pulled his hand back and said, "I'm only telling you these things to make it clear to you that we could have had a proper cooperation before. You shouldn't try to think yourself clever, but ultimately force our relationship into a state that's beyond reconciliation."

He didn't wait for her to reply after speaking. He immediately placed a restriction on her body and just threw her out.

Of course, he didn't have a fetish for letting her watch what they were doing, but he didn't dare to leave her too far away, because who knew what kinds of tricks she still had up her sleeves? If the restriction were undone and she rushed out to call the guards, he would be in trouble. As such, he tossed her over to one side of the bed, on the ground. That way, she couldn't see what was happening on the bed, but she was also still within Zu An's control.

She fell to the ground roughly with a thud. The restrictions placed on her prevented her from moving for some time too, making the Second Empress furious and nervous. When had she ever been treated so roughly before?

You have successfully trolled Second Empress for +555 +555 +555...

"Tell me your name already!" the Second Empress asked through clenched teeth, unable to retain her usual collected and flirtatious demeanor.

"Yan Zu. You can call me Ah Zu if you want too," Zu An said. Even though the fiend races and humans didn't communicate smoothly with each other, news would get there sooner or later. He didn't want Zu An's name to appear in the human faction's intelligence. The matter of Cloudcenter Commandery had already been annoying enough; he didn't want to go through that again.

"Yan Zu..." the Second Empress repeated, etching that hateful name in her memory. "I will remember you."

Just then,, a voice that could make anyone embarrassed came from the bed. It came from Princess Snow. The empress hadn't expected that petite body to actually erupt with such powerful energy.

The Second Empress didn't have the leisure of feeling embarrassed. She simply hissed in alarm, "Can you be a bit gentler?! Don't let those outside hear,, or else we're finished!"

"Don't worry. I already set up a sound blocking barrier," Zu An said from the bed, his voice muffled as if his mouth were occupied with something else.

Only then did Second Empress notice a transparent barrier around them. She thought to herself, Even though this guy does things in a rough manner, he is pretty meticulous in thought.

Then, the crazy experience from before appeared in her mind. She harrumphed with a reddened face. Is this guy from the Donkey race? How can Princess Snow's petite figure handle him?!

Chapter 1328: Take Care of Something



The Second Empress wanted to cover her ears, but her major acupoints were sealed, so she couldn't budge an inch. She could only listen to everything happening above.

Even though she usually behaved rather coquettishly, being so close to such a thing was still quite shocking to her. After all, because the Fiend Emperor was experiencing heaven and man deterioration, he spent most of his time preserving his strength to extend his life. It had already been many years since he last came to her palace.

The charm she displayed could be used as a kind of weapon, but it lacked true substance. And yet now, this guy was thrusting away with the real deal, leaving her alarmed and horrified. So you could actually do such a thing...

...

After a long time had passed, the gasping on the bed finally calmed down. A strange mood filled the air.

Zu An helped Snow cover up her body. Because of the poison and her exhaustion, she was already fast asleep. After covering her up, he covered himself with a thin blanket and sat by the side of the bed, looking down on the woman on the ground.

The Second Empress was furious. That thin blanket was what she loved to sleep with the most normally, and yet it was now being used to cover that filthy thing.

You have successfully trolled the Second Empress for +283 +283 +283...

Zu An reached out and shot a strand of ki at the Second Empress, undoing her restrictions. The Second Empress jumped back some distance the moment she was freed, staring at him vigilantly.

Zu An couldn't help but chuckle. He said, "Don't worry, I won't do anything to you. If I wanted to, I wouldn't have undone your restriction."

The Second Empress' face heated up a bit. She realized that her actions had been a bit exaggerated, but she reacted quickly and covered it up, remarking, "It really is a pity that you do not work at a gigolo shop."

Zu An thought in surprise, So this world had something similar, too? Could it be that this woman is a transmigrator too? He said, "If the constant stays the same in a trigonometric function..."

The Second Empress frowned and replied, "What the hell are you saying?"

Zu An realized that he had been mistaken. He laughed and asked, "What, if I work at a gigolo shop, will your highness help me take care of my business?" The empress normally behaved flirtatiously, so he figured that joking around with her that way would just make them closer.

"Hmph, who would want something like that?" the Second Empress retorted, but inside, her heart was pounding and her ears were even burning up a bit. Just then, she had truly witnessed what it meant to be a healthy, masculine man. If...

She quickly threw that thought away. She was a glorious empress; why would she think such strange thoughts?

"What are you planning to do now?" she asked, shifting her legs somewhat. She couldn't help but feel a bit uncomfortable.

Zu An said, "I'll deal with the situation as it changes. If there's a flood, just block it with dirt."

The Second Empress sneered and said, "I fear you will be unable to stop that flood. But your luck is still pretty good. The Fiend Emperor has just entered seclusion. Normally, he only leaves a strand of divine will outside, so I do not think he will personally come after you. However, the Fiend King Court is full of powerful cultivators, so the slightest slip-up means you might be gone from this world."

"I'll need to request for Second Empress' guidance in the future," Zu An said, looking at her with a big smile.

The Second Empress was speechless. This guy had treated her so poorly just a moment ago, and yet he still had the nerve to pretend that nothing had happened! However, she still replied, "This night is about to pass. The Golden Crow Guards were unable to find you inside the palace, so they will probably start to direct their attention outside. I will find a chance to send you two out."

"At that time, you should quietly deliver Princess Snow back to the Elf Race. Otherwise, as time goes on, Princess Snow's reputation might no longer hold up."

Zu An frowned and asked, "Then wouldn't Snow be in danger?"

"Don't worry. As long as Princess Snow insists she does not know you, saying that you were masked the entire time, then nothing major will happen," the Second Empress said. She continued, "As of late, after what happened to the Golden Peng King and Peacock King, the entire Fiend King Court's situation has become a bit tense. Princess Snow's status is special. Even if the crown prince's side knows that she is not speaking the truth, they would not dare to say it. After all, he was the one who drugged her first. If news of that were to get out, it would cause a huge uproar."

Zu An nodded. The Second Empress had been a part of the Fiend King Court for a long time, so she knew how things worked in it. If she had arrived at that kind of conclusion, that meant there would naturally be no problem.

"However, you should not return to the Snake race territory. I am quite certain that the crown prince will investigate the Snake race," Second Empress warned him.

Zu An frowned. His relationship with the Snake race was special, so how could he just leave them alone? Of course, there was no reason to explain that to the Second Empress.

"You should lie low near the Fiend King Court for some time. I will contact you when there is a chance. If you can take care of one thing, you will have nothing else to worry about," the Second Empress said with a strange glimmer in her eyes.

"What kind of thing?" Zu An asked with a frown.

"It is not time yet. You will naturally know when it is time," the Second Empress said. She shook her head and didn't explain herself.

"You know, those who speak in riddles are often the ones who end up getting beaten up," Zu An remarked, but he didn't continue to ask questions. Their relationship wasn't good enough yet, so the empress wouldn't answer even if he asked.

The Second Empress got up and said, "Rest here for a while first. I will pay the crown prince a visit. After all, something so major happened to the crown prince. If I did not head over to take a look, as the empress, it really would be a bit inexcusable."

Zu An frowned and didn't say anything.

The Second Empress was intelligent and immediately noticed his misgivings. She asked with a lovely smile, "What? Are you scared that I will sell you two out?"

Zu An said with a chuckle, "The Second Empress must be joking. We're now grasshoppers on the same rope. Why would we be worried about these things?"

The Second Empress harrumphed, sensing the implicit threat in his voice. She got up and strutted out.

As he watched her swaying, rhythmic gait, even though Zu An had just fought a great battle, his body still began to heat up. This woman really is full of feminine charm in everything she does...

At the moment, however, his resolve was firm. He quickly calmed down, then walked over to the bedside to gently wipe away the fine sweat on Qiao Xueying's forehead.

As if sensing his consideration, Qiao Xueying slowly opened her eyes. A hint of bashfulness appeared in her eyes as she called out, "Ah Zu~"

"You're awake?" Zu An replied, helping her sort out her messy hair. "You should sleep a bit longer."

"I can't sleep anymore," Qiao Xueying said, shaking her head. She looked around her. When she saw the surrounding layout, she asked in surprise, "So this is really the Second Empress' chambers?"

She had actually still retained a vague hint of consciousness just then, but she had felt that it would have been too absurd for them to be on the Second Empress' bed, so she had thought that it was an illusion. Now that she saw her surroundings clearly, however, she discovered that everything she remembered was actually real!

Zu An nodded and said, "Indeed, this is the Second Empress' place..." Then, he told her about how the Second Empress had saved them.

"Ah?!" Qiao Xueying cried out in alarm. She asked, "Then, doesn't that mean that just now... She saw everything?"

"She couldn't see anything. I sealed her movements and left her underneath the bed," Zu An explained.

"What difference does that make?!" Qiao Xueying cried. She shrank into the covers, unwilling to come out. She was just way too embarrassed!

"Don't worry, only she knows about this. We're all in the same boat now, so she won't tell anyone else," Zu An said in consolation.

"But someone else saw such an embarrassing side of me! I'm going to die from embarrassment..." Qiao Xueying said in a low, muffled voice.

Zu An chuckled and said, "Actually, there's no need to feel embarrassed. You actually have some dirt on the Second Empress too."

"What?" Qiao Xueying stuck part of her head out of the covers, her eyes flickering brightly.

"Earlier, you were groping her..." Zu An whispered in her ear.

Qiao Xueying's face immediately turned completely red. She cried, "Ahhhhh! It's all your fault! I'm really going to die from embarrassment!"

Zu An wasn't able to calm her down again even after a long time had passed. However, when the Second Empress returned, Snow calmed down. The Second Empress gave her a strange look and remarked, "Princess Snow? So you have woken up."

This little girl's body is so delicate and petite, and yet it actually contains such wild strength.

Qiao Xueying quickly got dressed. She greeted the empress with a reddened face. "Thank you for saving us, Second Empress."

"The one who saved you was not me. It was mainly him," the Second Empress said, looking at Zu An with an ambiguous expression.

Zu An coughed lightly, worried that Qiao Xueying would feel embarrassed. He changed the topic and asked, "How is the Golden Crow Crown Prince? Dead or alive?"

"He did not die, but he did have half his life shaved off," the Second Empress said with a strange expression. "You really are quite vicious, smashing his lower body into a bloody mess. You clearly did not want him to be able to have children anymore."

"That guy deserved it," Qiao Xueying spat hatefully. When she remembered how she had been embarrassed by him, she really wanted to hit him a few more times.

Zu An said, "Then your highness should be thanking me. The Fiend Emperor will definitely not pass his position to someone without any chance of producing descendants. Of the remaining sons, the second prince has the highest chance of succeeding the throne."

The Second Empress sighed and said, "If only it were that simple. If you really killed the crown prince, there would be hope of the second prince rising up. Right now, however, the throne is still the crown prince's."

"Why?" Zu An asked, surprised. "He hasn't gotten married, nor does he have any heirs, right?"

Chapter 1329: New Grudge, Old Hatred

"The Golden Crow royal family's members are tough, and they have the Golden Crow Sacred Fire, as well as other heaven-defying skills, granting them powerful regenerative abilities," the Second Empress explained.

"Even though you smashed apart his lower body, he has the Golden Crow Sacred Fire. Together with the help of the Fiend Emperor's will, he has already begun to gradually recover. When I paid him a visit, that..." She hesitated in the middle of her sentence, only finding the words after a long time. "...part was already starting to grow again."

Zu An's jaw looked as if it were about to drop to the ground. He asked, "That thing can even be regrown after being smashed like that? Then doesn't that mean you can never beat him to death? Why isn't he freaking dying?!"

The Second Empress said with pursed lips, "Of course, it is not limitless regeneration; there is definitely a limit. He almost reached the limit of what he could endure this time. Furthermore, with the Fiend Emperor's help, he was able to regrow that lost part, but it is still far inferior to before. It is only to the point where it is still barely usable. He will definitely hate you to the bitter end."

Zu An sighed in relief. That was more like it. After all, if nothing had happened to the Golden Crow Crown Prince at all, he himself would probably just explode from anger.

"It is about time to go. The sky is starting to brighten, so I will bring the two of you out of the palace," the Second Empress said as she got up.

Zu An asked seriously, "What if we end up being discovered? We won't have anywhere to run off to in that case."

"The Golden Crow Guards did not find anyone even after looking around all night. Now should be when they are the most exhausted, and also the most relaxed," the Second Empress explained. Afterward, she put on a proud and dignified expression as she continued, "Furthermore, who would dare to examine this empress' personal carriage?"

Zu An's expression turned strange. Weren't even your own chambers investigated by the Golden Crow Guards? They almost lifted your covers.

Still, since she had confidence, he chose to trust her. After all, this was the palace, watched over by the Fiend Emperor. He just couldn't feel at ease being inside.

Then, the Second Empress called over a carriage, precisely the one Zu An had seen outside the city gates previously. She activated a mechanism, and a space that was large enough for someone to hide in opened up. It was a bit too small for two people, but Qiao Xueying was petite enough that they were just barely able to fit.

"You actually had this kind of space under your carriage?" Zu An asked, his expression somewhat strange. He wanted to say something, but then stopped.

"Do you think I use this to smuggle things in and out of the palace or something? Hmph, do you think the Fiend Emperor is just there for decoration?" The Second Empress shot him a look and said, "I only had this space in preparation for the unexpected. I did not expect to actually need to use it."

When she saw Zu An fall silent, the Second Empress remarked with a chuckle, "What, a grown man like you is unwilling to let a woman like me sit on top of you?"

Zu An was actually listening to Snow's ki transmission; she was warning him to be careful. The Second Empress was known for being beautiful yet inwardly sinister, like a snake. There could be some kind of trap inside the carriage. As such, he secretly checked to see if there were any mechanisms in that space; otherwise, they could be headed to their own doom.

Fortunately, apart from some formations on the walls that blocked energy from leaking out, there wasn't anything else. As such, he said with a smile, "Who knows just how many men there are in this world who want to be sat on by your highness..."

He trailed off, stunned. He didn't have any such intentions, and yet it had sounded as if he did.

The Second Empress' cheeks also heated up. She realized that her own words had contained several implications. She said with a lovely smile, "Brat, you are daring, as expected. You even dare to take advantage of this empress?"

Qiao Xueying secretly pinched him. This guy even dares to mess around with this treacherous woman. Is he not scared that she'll just swallow him up?

The Second Empress noticed her jealous action and was a bit surprised. These two have an even better relationship than I thought!

Then, the Second Empress took the two of them out toward the city gates on the main street. They could hear palace personnel paying their respects from time to time. Sure enough, no one came to investigate them.

When they reached the palace gate, however, they were still stopped. A general asked, "Your highness, where are you going?"

Zu An was alarmed. This person sounded like the Left Guard General Ma Tian he had met when he entered the palace.

"Does this empress need to report to General Ma about where I go?" the Second Empress replied. Her voice was still charming, but her tone was extremely cold.

"This humble one does not dare!" Ma Tian replied somewhat hesitantly. "Your highness, there was an assassin that caused trouble in the palace, so I fear that it might not be too safe to leave the palace right now."

"This empress' cultivation is more than enough. Furthermore, we are in the Fiend King Court, and the Fiend Emperor is still here. Who would dare to do anything to me?" The Second Empress felt a bit guilty even as she spoke. She had had her movements sealed and had been forced to listen to their activity all night, leaving her entire body feeling extremely sticky and uncomfortable. I am definitely going to wash myself properly once they are sent out of the palace.

Ma Tian cursed inwardly when he heard that. Hadn't that assassin even attacked the crown prince?

"What, does General Ma want to come into my carriage to check?" the Second Empress snapped with a hint of anger

"This humble one does not dare. I was only worried about your highness' safety," Ma Tian said. He remembered how the previous night, that blockhead Niu Dao had barged into the Second Empress'

chambers, and yet hadn't found a thing in the end. Forget about the Second Empress' revenge, once the Fiend Emperor was finished with what he needed to take care of, he wouldn't let the general go either. How could he follow in Niu Dao's disastrous footsteps? While moving out of the way, he said, "I will respectfully see off your highness!"

The Second Empress harrumphed. She waved her hand, gesturing for the carriage to continue. When they left the imperial palace, she found a quiet place to let Zu An and Snow out and said, "Make sure to be careful. I hope you are not dead when I come looking for you in the future."

Zu An smiled and said, "Thank you for saving us, your highness. We will meet again if fate wills it."

The Second Empress nodded. Then, she pulled Qiao Xueying over, instructing her on how to deal with the imperial palace's questioning. Afterward, she left.

Zu An sent Qiao Xueying back to the Elf Manor according to the method Second Empress had explained to him, deliberately making it so that many people saw her return. Of course, he definitely couldn't show himself.

Along the way, Zu An had told her his current identity and that he was temporarily staying at the Snake Race's residence. Snow was incredibly jealous, because there were just too many rumors in the fiend races about the Medusa Queen.

Only when Zu An said that Yan Xuehen was also there did she feel at ease. She thought to herself, With Chuyan's master there, this guy probably won't act wantonly. She returned to the Elf King Manor happily.

...

While some people were feeling happy over the recent developments, inside the imperial prison, Director Heichi Ran had been imprisoned. There wasn't a piece of flesh on him that was unharmed, and he couldn't even open his eyes anymore. He could only mumble indistinctly, "I was wrongly accused..."

"You still aren't going to tell the truth?" The Golden Crow Crown Prince snapped, his face pale. It was clear that though he had managed to recover through the Golden Crow Sacred Fire, the process had still taken a lot out of him. He yelled, "Help me get a castration for this bastard!"

The jailer had a shocked expression. Only then did the Golden Crow Crown Prince realize that he had let his anger confuse himself. "Ah, no! Help him get a castration for me!"

The jailer was speechless, practically about to cry. Just who are we castrating?

Fortunately, the grandmaster Elder Wu stopped him and said, "Crown prince, please do not act too rashly. In this old one's opinion, I suspect that the one from yesterday was not Heichi Ran."

"Who else would it be, if not him? I saw him with my own two eyes!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince replied. He thought to himself, I finally managed to set up that situation yesterday, and I was about to obtain Princess Snow, and yet this bastard took her away!

Princess Snow had been drugged, so what would have happened over the evening went without saying.

This guy actually dares to double-cross his patron? He dares touch my woman?

Elder Wu explained, "Crown prince, please reconsider. Even though Heichi Ran's cultivation is not low, how could he be a match for your respected self? Furthermore, I even fought against that assassin last night myself. With Heichi Ran's cultivation, he would definitely be unable to take a blow from me."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince had been taking out his anger on Heichi Ran all night, and was already feeling considerably better. He finally recovered a bit of his intellect and asked, "Then who else could it be if not him? That assassin looked exactly the same as him. Even his teeth were completely identical!"

Elder Wu explained, "That person might have an extremely profound appearance-changing technique, allowing him to impersonate Heichi Ran. Right, Left Guard General Ma Tian reported something worth investigating. He mentioned that yesterday, when he entered the palace, 'Heichi Ran' said that he had been called by the crown prince. He even took out the Golden Crow Token that belongs exclusively to you. How can something like that be faked?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was furious. He snapped, "Get me everyone who has the crown prince's token and interrogate them properly! This crown prince must find that person. Only if I skin him alive and tear out his bones will I be able to get rid of this hatred!"

Elder Wu hesitated, then asked, "Crown prince, have you forgotten that when we were in the Snake race territory, we gave one out at that time?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince's face darkened. "Are you talking about that hateful human?"

"Indeed. Only he would be so familiar with your skills, and would not fear your Golden Crow Sacred Fire. If it were anyone else, even if they launched a surprise attack, they might not have been able to seriously injure you so quickly," Elder Wu said. "Furthermore, I heard that the Snake race's people recently arrived at the Fiend King Court."

"So it was actually him? Good! This is the perfect time to get my revenge!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince cried, smashing the table next to him to pieces. "Men, arrest everyone from the Snake race right now!"

#### Chapter 1330: Money and Influence Will Help You in Any Occupation

Off to the side, the grandmaster Elder Wu said with a frown, "Crown prince, even though the Snake race has declined in recent years, they are still a great clan at the end of the day. If something happens to the Medusa Empress in the Fiend King Court, the consequences might be more than we can handle."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince coldly said, "Even if there are consequences, could they be worse than what happened to me? If I don't even dare to get revenge after what happened to me yesterday, who knows how many scoundrels will start having thoughts they shouldn't have?!"

Elder Wu figured that reasoning made sense too. There had been so many Golden Crow Guards at the scene of the crime, so there was no way to hide what had happened when so many people were involved. Who knew how many great clans were looking at them as if they were a joke? Making an example for the others was necessary as well. He said, "This old one will personally make the trip then. That assassin's cultivation is too high. Between him and the Medusa Empress, normal Golden Crow Guards might find it difficult to restrain them."



“Then I’ll have to trouble Elder Wu.” The Golden Crow Crown Prince really wanted to go, but his condition really was unsuitable for that.

Even though he had already regenerated his broken parts with the Golden Crow Sacred Fire, that feeling of being crushed down there the previous night still remained. That scene reappeared as soon as he closed his eyes, already having left behind psychological trauma that would take a long time to free himself from. He was definitely not in the mood to show himself in public to be laughed at.

...

Meanwhile, Zu An changed into Yan Zu’s face mask and returned to the Snake race’s residence.

After everything that had happened the previous night, Yu Yanluo and the others had to be incredibly worried. He was wondering how to explain things to the ladies when his entire body suddenly froze. He saw that a large group of Golden Crow Guards had already surrounded the residence. The one in the lead was precisely the grandmaster he had faced previously.

Zu An’s expression changed. How did the crown prince’s investigation reach this place so quickly?

He was worried that showing up at that point would only prove the Snake race’s guilt. As such, he hid nearby and used the jade badge to scout out the courtyard’s surroundings. If the situation really did become that dangerous, he would have no choice but to rush out and save Yu Yanluo and the other girls.

Meanwhile, Elder Wu strutted into the courtyard with the guards. He was about to give the order to arrest the Medusa Queen and her companions when his expression changed. He noticed that there were many people inside. It wasn’t just people from the Snake race; there were also leaders from many other races. From the looks of it, they were holding a meeting.

Yu Yanluo slowly walked over and asked with a frown, “What are all of you doing?”

Many of those present were meeting Yu Yanluo for the first time. They were stunned by her beauty, crying out inwardly, How can there be someone so beautiful in this world? When they saw her frown, they all felt incredible pity. Many of the Golden Crow Guards felt a guilty conscience too, as if their sudden arrival had disrespected this beautiful woman.

Even though it wasn’t the first time Elder Wu had met her, he still sighed in amazement at her beauty again. However, he was still a grandmaster; furthermore, he was not like the others. He regained his composure and asked, “What are all of you doing here?”

One of the leaders had seen Elder Wu before. He walked over to greet him, saying, “We were invited by the Medusa Queen to discuss trade relations, so we came over. Why did Elder Wu come here personally? Did something happen?”

Elder Wu’s expression changed a bit. The Medusa Queen really did have influence. Only a single day had passed, and yet she had already built connections with so many other races so quickly? Some of them were just small border races, but many of them were also great clans with powerful influence. Even though none of them were as dominant as the Lion or Tiger races, when all of them were gathered together, they formed quite the sizable force.

He hesitated for a moment, deciding to withdraw his previously overbearing attitude as he said, "We received a tip-off regarding the assassination on the crown prince yesterday, so we came here to conduct an investigation."

The leaders of the various clans were all shocked when they heard those words, looking at Yu Yanluo. The previous night's events had caused such a huge uproar that they had been discussing it in private even when they were holding the meeting. And yet now, it actually had something to do with the Medusa Queen?!

Yu Yanluo's pretty brow furrowed slightly. Then that really was Ah Zu?

She became extremely worried. It had already been a long time since she last saw Ah Zu. She wondered if he was safe or not. However, even though she was overwhelmed by emotion, she looked calm on the surface. She said, "So it was Sir Wu. May I ask what made all of you come here when you are investigating the crown prince's assassination attempt?"

"Right, could there be some kind of misunderstanding?" Many leaders who were on good terms with Yu Yanluo who couldn't help but speak up for her. Yu Yanluo's charm was unmatched, so they were instinctively partial to her. However, they were all clan leaders, so they weren't completely infatuated.

Even though the Medusa Queen's strength was exceptional, if one was to claim that she had broken into the palace to assassinate the crown prince and seriously injured that young prodigy under the protection of so many powerful cultivators, there was no way that was possible, right?

After all, the Snake race had declined over the years. The other races had never heard of them having any powerful cultivators. Thus, they all felt the situation had nothing to do with Yu Yanluo. They all wanted to take the chance to get closer to the goddess.

As he watched everything happen through the jade badge, Zu An had a strange expression. Back then, Yu Yanluo had also been such a person on the human side, and now, it was the same on the fiend side. He had to admit that being pretty made people welcome you wherever you went!

Elder Wu frowned, but he still said, "Our investigation has shown that the assassin used a Golden Crow Token to enter the palace. Furthermore, judging from his skills, he greatly resembled the human who was traveling with the Snake race and the Medusa Queen last time. That is why we must ask the Medusa Queen to please hand that person over."

When they heard that, those who had just spoken up for Yu Yanluo were horrified. They couldn't help but take a few steps back, maintaining some distance from her. Even though the Medusa Queen was beautiful, they wouldn't be so stupid as to risk their own clans for her.

Yun Jianyue, who had been watching everything from a side room, sneered. "Hmph, men!"

Yan Xuehen also looked worried. She said, "It seems to have been Zu An who started all of that last night. Why is he so reckless? The Fiend Emperor is overseeing the imperial palace! He just broke through to master rank, and yet he already dares to show off like this?!" She couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed.

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Odds are that it was for that woman. This guy is normally pretty sharp, but whenever it involves women, he seems to become an idiot without the slightest bit of intellect."

Yan Xuehen thought about the things that had happened in the past. She nodded in deep sympathy. This guy really was willing to do anything for girls. If one put it nicely, he was affectionate and true, but if one were to be more direct, he was just sex-crazed.

Yu Yanluo was very nervous, but she reacted quickly, replying, "According to what I know, though, there are more than a few Golden Crow Tokens, right? Why are you so certain who it was that night? Is there any recorded proof?"

"We naturally have our own reasons for our conclusion. We have already sent men to check on the other Golden Crow Tokens," Elder Wu said coldly. "According to how the Medusa Queen is speaking up for him, it seems that your relationship isn't shallow."

Yu Yanluo replied, "That human is just an acquaintance I met in Cloudcenter City in the past. After the previous events, he was scared of the Fiend King Court's revenge and quickly returned to the human side. I do not know where he is right now, so I fear I will have to disappoint Elder Wu."

"Is that so?" Elder Wu sneered. He had seen that the two's relationship in the Snake race territory was extremely intimate. How could they just be acquaintances?

He had originally planned to directly arrest the Medusa Queen, and he would have more than enough methods to make her speak then. However, he hadn't expected there to be people from so many other clans present. If news of him abusing his authority got out, it probably wouldn't turn out too well.

However, the crown prince's grudge couldn't be left unavenged. If he gave up on the spot, it would be detrimental to the crown prince's reputation. As such, he took a deep breath. He decided that he was going to bring the Medusa Queen back for the time being. For all he knew, it was possible that the hidden assassin would make the reckless choice of trying to save her.

He was just about to give the order when a group of people appeared at the entrance, exclaiming, "Oh? Why is Elder Wu here?"

Elder Wu turned around. He knew the person; it was the capable Kong Qing, who worked under the Peacock Wise King. Behind him were representatives from the Peacock race; many of them were holding all kinds of household goods.

"Kong Qing, what are you doing here?" Elder Wu asked with a frown.

Kong Qing looked around. When he saw the Golden Crow Guards' fierce attitudes, he was quite surprised. After some hesitation, he replied, "I came on the wise king's orders to bring some daily necessities to the Medusa Queen, so that their time spent in the Fiend King Court would not be too inconvenient."

The other clans all began to exchange looks when they heard that. Does the Peacock Wise King have his eyes on the Medusa Queen?

Elder Wu was also surprised. He hadn't expected the Peacock race to be so close to the Medusa Queen. Don't tell me this assassination had the Peacock Wise King working behind it?

In the side room, Yan Xuehen voiced her surprise. "This Kong Qing actually dares to get involved in something like this? He even used the Peacock Wise King's name?"

Yun Jianyue said, "I reckon that the Peacock race has been quite resentful of the crown prince's smugness as of late. How could the Peacock Wise King not have any thoughts of his own after he was forced to resign? I fear he probably wants to take the chance to vent against the crown prince's side a bit."

Elder Wu's thoughts moved quickly. He became more and more certain that he had to bring the Medusa Queen back. If they managed to find out that there was something wrong with the Peacock Wise King, that would save the crown prince a lot of headaches in the future.

He was about to give the order when another group of men entered from outside.