

Immortal 1491

Chapter 1491: Shattering of a Past Dream

The woman was dressed in lavish palace clothes. The pearls and jade embedded in her dress flickered beneath the light of the flames all around them, but they paled in comparison to her stunning beauty.

She had a beautiful oval face, with skin as fair as snow. Beneath her curved brows was a pair of starry eyes that were incredibly charming. Her pink lips had a seductive glint. Her chest was large and full, her waist was delicate, and her bottom was round, drawing a perfect arc that granted her both the pure freshness of a young lady, and the mature air of a young, married woman. It really was hard to imagine how such completely distinct styles could coexist within a single person.

However, at that moment, her expression was filled with worry. She held her child close and said, "Don't be scared, mother will protect you."

A resolute look appeared between her brows as she spoke. However, even though her tone was serious, there was a natural charm to her voice that could make even the toughest of men melt, making her sound both lovely and playful.

All the soldiers who heard her felt as if they were suddenly infused with endless energy. There was only a single thought on their minds, which was that they had to protect the Second Empress and not let any scoundrels get near her.

Still, even though her subordinates were fighting for her while soaked in blood, the Second Empress didn't look happy at all. She knew just how much of a difference in strength there was between her side and the opposition. This would do nothing but buy her a bit more time.

She absolutely hadn't expected the Golden Crow Crown Prince to go mad like this, to actually suddenly target his brothers in the Fiend King Court.

Don't tell me he isn't scared of the Fiend Emperor's rebuke once he comes out?

Fortunately, she had some trusted aides in the palace. When they learned that the Golden Crow Crown Prince had secretly summoned his subordinates, she had been worried that her son would be in danger and wanted to bring him into the Imperial Palace. However, not long after she arrived, Director Lei Xin and Martial Guard General Wu Cheng had arrived with a large force of Golden Crow Guards.

They kept saying they wanted to bring back the young prince with them to prevent villains from harming him, but how could the Second Empress agree to that?

Both sides argued for a while. The Second Empress was still the Fiend Emperor's main wife, so at first, the Golden Crow Guards held some reservations; however, the generals the Golden Crow Crown Prince had sent quickly cast aside their emotions. When their argument reached a certain point, a fight broke out, and things quickly got out of hand.

Even though the Second Empress had managed to gather some trusted aides over the years, she had left her palace in a hurry to find her son and couldn't bring too many people with her. As such, she had been left with only the guards around the youngest prince's manor and the few men she had brought, forcing

them to endure bitterly. If not because all those men were willing to risk it all for her, the youngest prince might have already been taken away.

The Second Empress didn't get involved, because neither Director Lei Xin or Martial Guard General Wu Cheng did either. Both sides wanted to keep that last bit of respect for each other. After all, she was the empress of the Fiend races; neither man wanted to commit such an offense. Meanwhile, the Second Empress knew that Lei Xin and Wu Cheng were both famous experts in the Fiend King Court. If she faced them one on one, she could have a chance, but if they faced her together, and with all of their subordinates at that, she knew she wouldn't have any chance.

In that case, seeing as they weren't willing to interfere, holding so many people back was already worth it. The only hope she had was that the longer she held on, and the more forces in the Fiend King Court were alerted, someone would come and save them.

However, who would even come to save her at such a time. It was clearly the Golden Crow Crown Prince who had started this entire affair, and he was going to become the new Fiend Emperor. Who would take the risk of offending the new Fiend Emperor to save her and her son?

Her thoughts drifted to the old Fiend Emperor. The two of them hadn't shared many emotions over the years, but the Fiend Emperor's presence had at least provided her with a sense of security. Now that he had entered the secret dungeon, even her own subordinates dared to offend her.

She hoped for the Fiend Emperor to emerge from the secret dungeon as quickly as possible. That way, these people wouldn't be able to cause her any more trouble. However, she laughed bitterly soon after. Even if the Fiend Emperor came, so what? The crown prince was the one who decided on this. Would the Fiend Emperor really turn hostile toward the crown prince for my sake?

She knew that the old Fiend Emperor was nearing the end of his lifespan. Meanwhile, the crown prince was already destined to become the new Fiend Emperor. After being a part of the royal family for so many years, she knew full well how an emperor thought. If he could live long enough, the Fiend Emperor would definitely have stood at her side, and he would even have punished the crown prince severely. But because he was nearing the end of his life, he would definitely stand with the crown prince.

She felt helpless when she realized that. It was a pity that guy Zu An hadn't been able to assassinate the crown prince. Otherwise, none of this would have happened. Seeing as the crown prince had already emerged and she hadn't heard anything, that meant Zu An had already died inside.

What a pity... He was a pretty interesting little guy. More importantly, he was pretty handsome too.

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By the time she emerged from her thoughts, the battle was already nearing its end. Most of the guards were lying in puddles of blood, and most of her subordinates had already passed away. The ones who remained had retreated to her side. They were surrounded by Lei Xin and Wu Cheng's Golden Crow Guard subordinates.

Countless shining blades that dripped with blood were aimed at the Second Empress' people, giving off a mysterious sense of pressure.

“Second Empress, please don’t trouble us anymore. It’ll be better for all of us,” Lei Xin said, looking at the beautiful woman in front of him with a complicated expression. Even in such a situation, she was still devastatingly beautiful! No wonder the late Fiend Emperor had become infatuated with her.

The Second Empress moved a strand of hair from her forehead behind her ear. She protected her child with her body, replying, “The only way you will get to my son is over my dead body.”

Lei Xin and Wu Cheng’s expressions changed. Lei Xin asked, “Second Empress, is there a need to go so far?”

It was well known that the Second Empress was the late Fiend Emperor’s wife. Even after the Golden Crow Crown Prince ascended to the throne, they would still have to respectfully call her Empress Dowager, so Lei Xin really didn’t want to be involved in a conflict with her. If he wasn’t careful and ended up taking on the criminal charge of killing the empress, if others turned against him, the Golden Crow Crown Prince could just end up abandoning him to appease the common people’s anger. After all, he wasn’t a part of the Golden Crow Crown Prince’s main faction. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been sent to deal with the youngest prince, the trickiest mission.

The Second Empress said with a sneer, “You have already rebelled and plotted to harm the prince. Are you really asking me if I have to do this?”

Off to one side, Wu Cheng said, “Second Empress has misunderstood. We came here to protect the youngest prince and not to harm him.”

The Second Empress looked around the entire place. She looked at the guards who were lying in pools of blood around the manor. She said with a cold laugh, “They were the ones who were protecting the youngest prince. Your words might fool a little child, but do you think I would be fooled?”

Lei Xin and Wu Cheng both had expressions of shame. However, a high-ranking officer who was the Golden Crow Crown Prince’s trusted aide exclaimed, “The situation has already reached this point. What is the point of saying all this? You cannot ruin his majesty’s great plans!”

The Second Empress’ expression turned into one of joy. She asked, “His majesty? Has the Fiend Emperor returned?”

The trusted aide didn’t reply, and simply attacked alongside his companions.

Lei Xin and Wu Cheng shivered inwardly. The crown prince was already the new Fiend Emperor. If they messed up this task, or they didn’t do their share of work, they’d definitely have to pay the price for it in the future. In that case, what was an empress from the past regime worth? In their position, they had already long given up on acting based on their own feelings. Their main consideration was for the interests of their clans and their aspirations.

“We’ve offended you!” the two exclaimed, quickly making up their minds to attack together. In such a situation, they naturally wouldn’t fight one on one fairly like in the world of warriors. After all, the Second Empress was a strong cultivator in her own right, so it was best to deal with her as quickly as possible.

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After a while, the Second Empress groaned, falling at the youngest prince's side. Her glamorous palace dress was already dyed with red spots like blooming roses. How could she face so many powerful opponents by herself?

She tried to struggle to her feet several times, but unfortunately, she was seriously injured and failed. The few surviving guards wanted to support her, but they didn't dare to offend her.

Things had already reached the point that any pretenses could be skipped.

The trusted aide secretly waved his hand, striking the hilt of one of his subordinates' blades. The blade swiftly flew toward the youngest prince.

Lei Xin and Wu Cheng's expressions changed. Even though they had known that the so-called protection the Golden Crow Crown Prince had spoken of wasn't anything good, they had thought it would just be house arrest. They had never expected it to actually be murder!

How vicious! What a malicious older brother!

They moved slightly, but in the end, they still didn't stop it from happening. At this point, they could only walk their current path to the end.

The Second Empress wanted to stop the blade, but in her current state, she couldn't even do things that were normally extremely simple for her. She laughed helplessly, then threw her body in front of the young prince.

"Your highness!" the guards cried in alarm. Unfortunately, they were all wounded too. They were completely spent and couldn't act in time at all.

The Second Empress knew that if she died, her son wouldn't live either. Still, she had no other choice. Suddenly, an absurd thought appeared in her mind.

Just how great would it be if a hero came to save this damsel in distress?

She had always liked such folk stories when she was young, and she had really loved the scenes of heroes saving beauties. She had dreamed countless times about meeting an outstanding hero like that.

However, after she married the Fiend Emperor, she never had such thoughts again. After all, what hero in this world could compare to the Fiend Emperor?

And yet, the Fiend Emperor was as different from the heroes she imagined in her youth as could be. As such, that dream had completely shattered.

She hadn't expected to remember such a thing in the current situation. It seems one's final thoughts really can't be controlled...

She laughed in self-mockery.

Suddenly, a foreign yet familiar voice spoke by her ear. "The Second Empress really is a woman among women. You can even laugh in this situation."

Chapter 1492: Wife, You Don't Want

The Second Empress was stunned to see a shadow in front of her. Suddenly, there was a man blocking her view. He had a handsome visage and was dressed in silver robes. There was a faint smirk on the corners of his lips, and his demeanor was extremely confident and free.

Is this the hero I imagined back then? the Second Empress thought, her heart beating more quickly. She felt as if she had returned to when she was just a young girl.

However, she quickly snapped out of her daze. She wasn't a little girl anymore. Those immature fantasies had long been buried at the bottom of her heart.

"Why are you here?" she exclaimed as she finally recognized who it was. She was both surprised and happy.

Zu An replied with a smile, "Does the Second Empress not want to see me?"

When she met his scorching gaze, the usually flirtatious Second Empress felt her cheeks heat up. However, she quickly thought of something and exclaimed in alarm, "Be careful of the blade... Where did the blade go?"

Her shock gradually gave way to confusion. Judging from the speed at which the blade had been traveling, it should have long since arrived! Furthermore, Zu An was facing her and had his back to the blade.

"Are you talking about this?" Zu An asked as he turned around. The Second Empress saw a blade floating in the air, completely still, as if an invisible hand were holding it in place.

"Huh? Um..." The Second Empress murmured, wondering just how he had done such a thing.

If it were a ki barrier, the blade should have clashed fiercely with it, rather than being so calm. The scene before her eyes looked as if the blade had suddenly decided to recognize Zu An as its master, submissively remaining in place.

The deputy general who had launched the blade shouted, "Who are you? You dare meddle in others' business?!"

He was a part of the crown prince's faction. He could even holler at Lei Xin and Wu Cheng, so why would he treat Zu An with any respect? Besides, even though the Golden Crow Crown Prince and Zu An shared a grudge, Zu An was still fairly unknown in the Fiend King Court. Not all of the crown prince's subordinates recognized him.

"Noisy!" Zu An snapped, waving his hand. The floating blade suddenly turned around. Then, it flew backward at several times its previous speed, slicing through the deputy general's body like a streak of light.

"Ah... Ah..." The deputy general looked down at his chest, an expression of disbelief on his face. After following the crown prince for so many years, now that the crown prince had risen to the throne, it was finally time for him to shine! And yet, he had ended up dying before he could enjoy anything?

The Second Empress also covered her red lips in disbelief when she saw what had happened. Even though she didn't know what the deputy general's name was, his attack had been really tricky and

vicious. He was a strong individual. Even if his cultivation was weaker than Zu An's, it shouldn't have been by that much. And yet, such an expert had been killed instantly?

The Second Empress was briefly dazed. Is there something wrong with the world? Don't tell me his cultivation increased again in the short time since I last saw him?

But even though his ki aura seems to have become stronger than before, it isn't anything too substantial!

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In the distance, several beautiful women stood. When she saw the look of adoration the Second Empress directed toward Zu An, Yun Jianyue said to Yu Yanluo, "That guy is flirting with women again. Why aren't you doing anything about your man?"

Yu Yanluo didn't reply, and merely gave Qiao Xueying a look. She thought to herself, If I say something but the Elf Princess doesn't, won't I come off as a jealous wife?

Qiao Xueying's gaze became a bit dangerous. She cursed Zu An ruthlessly inside, but she didn't say anything either. She was in front of Chuyan's master at the moment, so she had to appear dignified and reserved, or else she'd be seen as too fierce and lose an opportunity.

Yan Xuehen thought, This guy Zu An's tastes really are a bit unusual. He's even going to go after the Fiend Emperor's wife? Even though she's pretty, she already has a child!

However, something else quickly took priority. Zu An's cultivation seemed to have gone through a huge transformation! Could it be that his mentality and temperament had both advanced after he killed the Fiend Emperor? Even though Yan Xuehen couldn't really tell where exactly the change lay, Zu An now gave off an inexplicable sense of danger.

It was strange; after all, she was a grandmaster! Who would believe her if she said she sensed danger from someone who had only recently broken through into the master rank? And yet, that was exactly what she felt.

Yun Jianyue clearly sensed something and gave Yan Xuehen a look. She quietly asked, "Stone cold woman, do you feel it too?"

"Yes, but it is hard to say just how he has changed. His ki aura clearly has not improved that much," Yan Xuehen said, also feeling confused.

"It's probably something to do with his mentality," Yun Jianyue began. She thought for a bit and said, "He killed the Fiend Emperor in a head-on fight. That must have given him the conviction that he's unrivaled."

Yan Xuehen nodded inwardly. One's mentality could indeed have a huge effect on one's overall strength. Anyone who could defeat the Fiend Emperor was already unmatched in this world. Zu An's circumstances were a bit special, but no matter how special it was, the change in his mentality was real.

The others finally reacted to the situation. Lei Xin and Wu Cheng both raised their weapons, pointing them at Zu An with vigilant expressions. In response, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue exchanged a look and suddenly vanished from their original location.

Lei Xin and Wu Cheng were both master rank cultivators. They were powerful experts in the eyes of most people. However, they were still quite a distance away from the grandmaster rank. Their attention was completely focused on Zu An, so how could they realize that two grandmasters were ambushing them? The major acupoints on their backs suddenly felt numb, and they were restrained instantly.

Both of them scowled miserably when they sensed the terrifying auras of the two women. What the hell is this? Grandmasters are ambushing us?

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions remained calm. Seeing as they were outnumbered, they naturally had to take down the leaders first. Why would they slowly play around in one-on-one duels?

The Second Empress' beautiful eyes widened in disbelief. She had already recognized that these two were Zu An's companions. Previously, she had mocked this guy for being a skirt chaser, saying he always had pretty women around him. How could she have expected that the two were actually glorious grandmasters?

Zu An supported the Second Empress to her feet, calling out, "You have rebelled against the emperor and attempted to harm the Second Empress and the young prince. Now that the leader has been captured, as long as the rest of you lower your weapons, we will let bygones be bygones!"

He used the Lion's Roar skill as he spoke. The skill wasn't that useful against the strongest experts, but it was extremely effective against those who were weaker than him. Sure enough, when they saw their leaders being captured or killed, the Golden Crow Guards were shaken up. When they heard the terrifying roar, they either threw away their weapons and ran for their lives, or kowtowed toward the Second Empress and the others, confessing their crimes.

Zu An looked back at the Second Empress and asked, "How does your highness plan on dealing with them?"

The Second Empress felt a bit dizzy when she saw what had happened. She had been in a critical situation mere moments prior, and yet now, the situation was completely reversed. Moreover, it was all due to the man in front of her.

However, she wasn't a normal woman and didn't have time to be a fool. She quickly understood the current situation and replied, "We cannot let those who fled get away!"

Those who had fled were clearly the crown prince's trusted aides, and the ones who had stayed were ordinary Golden Crow Guards who had no choice but to follow orders. They were still in the dark regarding what had happened. If they let the fleeing guards escape, it would increase the crown prince's strength and grant the crown prince information. Neither outcome was desirable to the Second Empress.

Yu Yanluo's eyes shone with a faint blue radiance. A thin layer of rock began to cover the fleeing Golden Crow Guards as their bodies began to petrify. They suddenly looked as if they were moving in slow motion. Yu Yanluo wasn't willing to kill them, so she only used a bit of her Medusa's Eye power.

Suddenly, countless vines rushed out of the ground, quickly wrapping the guards up. If the Golden Crow Guards focused on defense, they wouldn't be that easy to deal with; however, their confidence had

already been stolen by Zu An, and their movements had been affected by Medusa's Eye. As such, Qiao Xueying was able to lock them in place without much difficulty.

She and Yu Yanluo exchanged a look. They hadn't expected to work together so well even though it was the first time. However, when they recalled their awkward relationship, both of them reflexively looked away.

The remaining soldiers began to become restless. They all worried that they would be next when they saw what had happened. However, the Second Empress immediately spoke up to appease them. Her voice was gentle and pleasant to listen to, with a special charm that calmed their momentary restlessness.

Afterward, she turned to look at Zu An, saying, "Thank you."

Zu An was still supporting her, and she could feel the heat from his hand. With her status, physical contact with another man was actually taboo; however, he had helped her so much, so how could she tell him to let go? How could she turn on her benefactor like that?

Zu An looked at her beautiful eyes from up close. He said through ki, "Wife, you don't want... Ahem, sorry. Your highness, you don't want your son to be killed by his other brother either, right?"

The Second Empress shook her head and said, "Of course not."

Zu An's expression turned serious again. He asked, "Do you want your son to become the new Fiend Emperor?"

The Second Empress' eyes immediately shone with an unusual radiance. She grabbed him and pulled him toward a back room.

Chapter 1493: The Reason I Chose You

The women nearby widened their eyes.

Yu Yanluo opened her mouth. She began to say something, but then hesitated. However, Qiao Xueying said, "Don't worry. Even though Ah Zu says some irresponsible things sometimes, he's actually an extremely reliable man. He won't be confused by beauty so easily. I think the Second Empress probably has something she wants to discuss with him alone."

Yu Yanluo nodded toward her courteously, but she was actually upset inside. This Elf Princess sounded as if she had already been with Zu An for a long time. It really did make her feel a bit uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue looked at Yan Xuehen, who was closest to her. She remarked, "Stone cold woman, is that woman that thirsty? She's really pulling another man into her room in front of so many people?"

Yan Xuehen's face heated up. She replied, "Even though that guy is usually a bit frivolous, he is not that unreliable. We should trust him."

Yun Jianyue replied with a doubtful expression, "You want me to trust that this guy can hold himself back in front of beauty? I'd sooner believe that you've fallen in love with him."

Yan Xuehen panicked, exclaiming, "What kind of nonsense are you saying, witch?!"

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The two women began to fight with each other again. Director Lei Xin and Martial Guard General Wu Cheng both frowned when they heard that. After some hesitation, Lei Xin said, "Even though the Second Empress is normally a bit... enchanting, I have never heard of her doing anything improper over the years. Female heroes, could it be that you have misunderstood somehow?"

Wu Cheng said in agreement, "Right. On the contrary, I am more worried about that companion of yours. The Second Empress is seriously injured and powerless right now. If that companion of yours does something to her, she cannot resist!"

"Nonsense!" both women blurted out at the same time. "He's not that despicable and shameless!"

When they felt the killing intent that suddenly erupted from the two women, both Lei Xin and Wu Cheng felt shivers run down their spines. They didn't dare to say anything else.

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Meanwhile, the main subjects of the discussions outside entered the room. After the Second Empress closed the door, she stared at Zu An with burning eyes, exclaiming, "What did you mean by what you just said?"

"What else could I have meant? It's exactly as I said," Zu An replied with a chuckle.

The Second Empress began breathing quickly. Her chest rose and fell, her beautiful figure swaying back and forth. However, she didn't become muddle-headed from emotion, and quickly calmed down. She asked, "And what are you relying on to make that claim?"

Zu An's cultivation wasn't bad, but the new Fiend Emperor's succession was a huge affair. It was likely out of his power.

When he saw her look of suspicion, Zu An said calmly, "The Fiend Emperor has died."

"What?!" The Second Empress' face instantly turned pale.

Her husband had died? That powerful being had actually died? Even though she had known his lifespan was nearing its end, she hadn't expected that day to arrive so soon.

However, she discovered that she didn't really feel any grief when she learned that he had passed away. After all, she had simply been forcefully seized by the Fiend Emperor because of her beauty. Soon afterward, the Fiend Emperor had become worried about his worsening condition due to heaven and man deterioration, so they had rarely spent time together. Naturally, they hadn't formed strong feelings as a result.

At the moment, she felt more alarmed than anything else. The only reason why she had been respected by the Fiend races for so many years was because she was the Fiend Emperor's wife. Now that she had lost her backing, what were she and her son supposed to do?

No wonder the Golden Crow Crown Prince dared to do something like this! So the Fiend Emperor has already died.

“How did he die?” the Second Empress asked, wiping the corners of her eyes. She had thought she would at least shed some tears for that husband of hers, but she discovered that there wasn’t anything on her fingers.

“You probably wouldn’t believe me even if I told you. I can only tell you that he died in the secret dungeon,” Zu An replied. The woman was still the Fiend Emperor’s wife, after all. Even though it didn’t seem as if they shared any feelings, telling her that he was the one who had killed him just didn’t feel like a good idea.

“So that was what happened,” the Second Empress replied, not asking for any more details. Either way, the Fiend Emperor was already dead, so she was more concerned about what they were going to do now. She asked, “How are you prepared to help me?”

As the Fiend Emperor had died, what followed would be a power struggle between the different brothers. Even if they took down the crown prince, there was no Fiend Emperor to settle the dispute.

However, Zu An’s cultivation was quite strong, and he even had two grandmaster helpers, the Snake Race’s Medusa Queen, and the Elf Princess. He had enough influence to affect the heir to the throne.

“Wait, wait, wait. There’s something else you should be concerned about before all of that,” Zu An said, waving his finger. He asked, “Why should I help you?”

The Second Empress was stunned. However, she wasn’t a simple-minded person and quickly said, “You and the Golden Crow Crown Prince share a grudge. With his nature, there is no way that he would tolerate your existence. Furthermore, you have also had a negative encounter with the Second Prince. Even though it is not too great of a grudge, there is no affection between you either. You are naturally much closer to us than them.”

Zu An replied with a smile, “Is that why you think I have to choose your side?”

When she heard the coldness in his voice, the Second Empress felt a weight fall in her stomach. She quickly realized that she might have gone too far with her cleverness. She added, “Of course not. Our friendship has not reached that level. You can choose a different prince, or you can choose not to get involved either. Either way, you are not part of the Fiend races.”

Zu An sighed and replied, “Your highness is an intelligent person after all. But is that all you have to say to me? If you want my help, you have to offer me some benefits, right?”

The Second Empress bit her lips, her face darkening. However, when she thought about how she had almost died, and the despair and powerlessness she felt while embracing her son, the look in her eyes suddenly became resolute. She waved her hand, and some kind of mechanism seemed to activate. A sound barrier appeared in the room. That way, no one else could hear the contents of their conversation.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both frowned. They had been quietly listening to the drama that was unfolding, but the people inside had cut them off? Yun Jianyue felt unhappy, preparing to barge in to find out what was happening.

However, Yan Xuehen stopped her, saying, "Forget it. They are probably talking about some secrets. It is normal for us not to be able to hear them."

Yun Jianyue replied with a frown, "Are you not scared that she'll end up stealing your disciple's man?"

Yan Xuehen thought, It's not just my disciple's man... However, she replied, "Worry not. I believe he is not one of those men who act on lustful impulses."

Yun Jianyue harrumphed in dissatisfaction. "You seem to understand him really well. It's almost as if the two of you have been really intimate with each other before."

Despite what she said, she still gave up any thoughts of entering. Either way, the Second Empress was seriously injured, and Zu An was a monster who had even killed the Fiend Emperor. Would someone like that really end up being eaten up by her?

Meanwhile, the Second Empress walked toward Zu An with light and graceful steps. She stared at Zu An with her beautiful eyes, asking, "Do you think I am beautiful?"

Zu An was stunned. Why is she doing this stuff now? Don't tell me she's going to try to seduce me with so many people outside? Still, he instinctively nodded and replied, "Extremely!"

"Please look at me," the Second Empress said as she stood within reach of him. While she spoke, her fingers brushed past her waist. Then, her dress loosened, gradually exposing her fair, satin-like skin.

In that instant, even the candle flame in the room seemed to have dimmed, all of the light gathering on the wonderful figure at the very center of the room. As if she had become shy, her snow-white skin carried a hint of peach blush. Her beauty really was enough to make the entire world seem colorless in comparison.

Chapter 1494: Call Him Father

This scene before Zu An was enough to make any man among the Fiend races go crazy. The Second Empress was the most famous beauty among the Fiend races. Her special status made countless people feel an innate desire to dominate her.

However, the Fiend Emperor's existence had always prevented anyone from acting on those thoughts. They could only fantasize about her in their dreams. Some people with the means to do so had commanded female servants to wear makeup and clothes similar to the Second Empress; even so, they got bored fairly quickly, and their longing for the Second Empress only grew stronger as a result.

And yet, such a woman who could make any Fiend race man go crazy was now taking off her clothes right in front of Zu An. No one would be able to resist something like that, right?

However, Zu An's expression remained extremely calm. He replied, "Do you think I've never seen a woman or something? Would I lose my head over a woman when it came to something this important?"

The Second Empress' cheeks heated up. For many years, she had been extremely confident about her own body. Any random look would make her subordinates go crazy, while a smile would make them lose their souls. She hadn't expected there to actually be a man who would refuse her.

Ahh... This is so embarrassing... I really want to run away and hide...

That thought appeared in her mind, but she was a competent individual and quickly recovered. She said, "Whether it is the Medusa Queen, the Elf Princess, or the two grandmasters, they are all incredibly beautiful. Of course it would not be so easy to charm you with beauty..."

She felt a bit of regret when she thought of that. How did I forget about that? Now, I'm in this kind of situation...

She quickly sorted out her thoughts and continued, "I was not trying to tempt you with beauty. Rather, I am trying to express my sincerity. This is nothing more than a down payment."

"Down payment?" Zu An repeated with a strange expression. Her wording had been rather unusual just then.

The Second Empress endured the embarrassment she felt as she calmly put on her clothes again. Even Zu An was surprised by just how alluring the scene of her getting dressed was. It really expanded his horizons. Who said women were only beautiful when they took off their clothes?

Soon, the Second Empress finished putting on her clothes again, her face heating up. She turned around and walked back outside toward her crying son. With her back to Zu An, she was able to gradually calm down.

Shortly afterward, the young prince walked back in with her, seemingly confused. He didn't know why his mother would spend so much time in the room with this handsome uncle.

The Second Empress brought the young prince up to Zu An, saying, "Hurry and kowtow toward him. In the future, he will be your adoptive father."

Zu An was a bit surprised. The Second Empress really was a talented woman; she quickly grasped what was important in this situation. She had shown him everything just then, and now, she was making her son establish such a relationship with him. Her actions were full of sincerity. From today onward, they would all share benefits and interests together.

The young prince was unwilling, protesting, "No, I have father emperor!"

"Father emperor is already..." the Second Empress began, but after some hesitation, she didn't say it. He was still too young, and the news would be a bit too cruel. She kneeled down on the ground, held his shoulders, and said seriously, "Your eldest brother wanted to kill you just now. Do you remember how humiliated you felt?"

"I do!" the young prince exclaimed. Her eyes were filled with anger, but he also felt a deep sense of powerlessness. He was still too young and didn't know how to fight against his powerful eldest brother.

The Second Empress said, "Your father emperor cannot protect you anymore in the future. From today on, your adoptive father will protect you and help you defeat your eldest brother. Do you understand?"

The youngest prince had really been frightened badly by what happened today. Furthermore, he was still young and listened to his mother closely. He quickly gave up his objections and respectfully kowtowed toward Zu An, following his mother's instructions. He said reluctantly, "I greet adoptive father."

Zu An picked him up and hugged him, remarking, "Who's a good child?" He thought, As expected of the Second Empress' son, this kid is pretty cute.

When she saw Zu An treat her son in such an intimate way, the Second Empress sighed in relief. At the same time, her impression of him also slowly improved.

Zu An carried the young prince while saying to the Second Empress, "In that case, let's join forces in the future. Tell me what you have at your disposal first, and then we can decide what to do."

Seeing her hesitation, he asked with a frown, "Don't tell me you don't have a single trusted aide after all these years?"

"I do, but I don't know if they'll be of any use," the Second Empress said. As she had maintained a position of power for so long, it was natural for her to have some hesitation about sharing all of her secrets. After thinking for a bit, she eventually said, "I have a trusted aide in the Imperial Palace, Central Regular Attendant Bi Cui. He was the one who informed me, and that's why I knew someone wanted to act against the youngest prince. That was why I quickly left the palace to protect him."

Zu An nodded. A Central Regular Attendant was a eunuch in the palace who was in charge of passing on the Fiend Emperor's imperial orders and official documents, and thus had a large amount of authority. The Fiend races' Imperial Palace had several Central Regular Attendants; if the Second Empress had one who was loyal to her, that would provide them with support in the Imperial Palace.

The Second Empress continued, "There's also the young prince's teacher, Imperial Secretariat Right Confidential Assistant Bo Jin. He's a famous scholar who's known for being kind."

Zu An thought that having someone with a voice in the court would indeed be very useful in the future. However, Bo Jin wouldn't be of much use in tonight's chaos.

"Apart from that, there's also my mother's Xiao clan. They have a portion of the Fiend King Court's City Defense Army under them, but those soldiers are far from as capable as the Golden Crow Guards. Additionally, though, they've been able to maintain a private army of several hundred men around their manor. That private army is much stronger," the Second Empress said.

"Your surname is Xiao?" Zu An asked, a little surprised. The Fiend races' special way of handling titles meant many names were ultimately forgotten.

The Second Empress replied in the affirmative. Then, she told Zu An about the Xiao clan, as well as how to contact them amid the chaos.

Afterward, Zu An saw that she had fallen silent for a while. He was stunned, asking, "That's it?"

The Second Empress' face turned red. She was the empress, and yet she only had those people on her side. It was honestly a bit shameful. Eventually, she said, "This can't be blamed on me. The Fiend Emperor became guarded against me a few years ago and prevented me from interfering with the court. Furthermore, even though I got close to some people, they might not still be reliable after what happened today." She paused for a moment, then continued, "Besides, don't I have you now? You're my greatest strength!"

Zu An was speechless. What you say makes so much sense that I have nothing to refute it with.

Still, he quickly sorted out his thoughts, saying, “These people aren’t enough. We need to first release the Great Elf King and get the help of the Elf King race. Then, we can head over to the Peacock Wise King and Little Golden Peng King. If we can convince them to side with us, we’ll have a much greater chance of success.”

His relationship with the Peacock race wasn’t bad, whether it was through Kong Nanwu or Kong Qing. However, while he’d had a chance to meet the Little Golden Peng King in the garden previously, they were only acquaintances.

The Second Empress was a bit hesitant, saying, “I think it would be better if we didn’t go to the Peacock Wise King.”

“Why is that?” Zu An asked, stunned.

The Second Empress replied with a conflicted expression, “When you seized back the Elf Princess, the crown prince changed his crown princess candidate to Kong Nanwu. Even though they haven’t officially been wed, with that level of relationship, they would definitely help the crown prince.”

Zu An was speechless. He had almost forgotten about that! Even though Kong Nanwu didn’t like the crown prince and had escaped to the south, now that things had already been decided, once the crown prince became the emperor, she would be the new empress! The Peacock King race would naturally take that chance to rise to power. No matter how good their personal relationship was, there was no way the Peacock Wise King would stand by his side.

But during my bet with the crown prince, he lost the crown princess to me. That means Kong Nanwu should be mine...

Zu An dismissed that thought as soon as it appeared. That gamble had just been used to piss off the Golden Crow Crown Prince; the Peacock Wise King’s side definitely wouldn’t admit to it. If the king hadn’t gone mad, he would definitely help the Golden Crow Crown Prince sit on the imperial throne.

Sigh, what a pity about Kong Nanwu though. A flower like her has no choice but to marry a pile of manure.

He sorted out his thoughts, then walked out with the Second Empress. The women, who had been closely paying attention to the situation, sighed in relief when they saw that.

However, Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen frowned. With their grandmaster cultivation, their memories were exceptional. The Second Empress’ waistband wasn’t tied the same way as before!

Chapter 1495: Great Elf King

They were actually doing that kind of thing in the room?

The two women were shocked and furious. However, they couldn't act up in front of so many people. They could only glare at Zu An.

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue +222 +222 +222...

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen +222 +222 +222...

Yan Xuehen felt even angrier because she had even said he wasn't that kind of person in front of Yun Jianyue. And yet now, those words had immediately come back to bite her.

After Zu An emerged, he gathered everyone and shared what he and the Second Empress had just agreed on. Then, he said, "Let's go and save the Great Elf King first. His prestige has always been high, so if he leaves, things will become much easier."

Qiao Xueying's eyes shone brightly. Ah Zu remembered my father all this time! He really is good to me.

Zu An walked up to Lei Xin and Wu Cheng. He said coldly, "I'll give you two a chance. If you bow down to the Second Empress and the young prince now, I'll make the two of you lords. Once the young prince ascends to the throne, you'll be dragons among subjects."

The two looked at each other in dismay. The young prince as the emperor? What kind of joke is this?!

He's still so young! What right does he have to fight over the throne with the crown prince?

Seeing that the two remained silent, Zu An said straightforwardly, "If they aren't willing, just kill them."

"Sounds good!" Yun Jianyue exclaimed. She had been angry to begin with. She immediately took out her Crescent Ring.

When they sensed the thick killing intent in the air, Lei Xin and Wu Cheng were horrified. Why aren't you acting like a normal person? Shouldn't you have tried to move us first or rope us in?

Then, we would act all reluctant, and you'd give us even better conditions! How can you just skip immediately to killing?

When they felt the Crescent Ring draw closer and closer to their necks, the two of them didn't dare to show any hesitation. They immediately got down on their knees and exclaimed, "We are willing to take on her highness and the young prince as our masters! We will obey your orders."

They were helpless in the current situation. They planned to agree for now, then find a chance to run later.

Zu An continued, "Then let's start with some self-expression. Hmm... There's nothing else we need you to do right now, so just curse the crown prince in front of everyone. Curse that his son won't have a butthole, that his daughters..."

The women's faces heated up. This guy is really hateful! Just where did he learn all of these disgusting words from?

Lei Xin and Wu Cheng were stupefied. They wanted to refuse, but when they saw the trembling Crescent Ring, they still chose to obey.

"I, Lei Xin, hope that the Golden Crow Crown Prince's son will be born without a butthole, that his daughters..."

"I, Wu Cheng, hope..."

The two shook in fear as they repeated those terrible words.

The Golden Crow Guards looked at them as if they were dead people. There was no way their cursing of the crown prince could be hidden. In the future, even if they said they were forced to by Zu An, the crown prince would still carry a grudge and make them pay. Lei Xin and Wu Cheng both clearly understood that as well. They thought to themselves, Now that we've fully offended the crown prince, we have no choice but to rely on the Second Prince now.

As for the little prince, he's just a baby. How is he supposed to be a Fiend Emperor?

That was why they didn't even consider it.

However, immediately afterward, Zu An said, "Right, repeat those curses against the Second Prince too. Same thing."

Lei Xin and Wu Cheng were flabbergasted.

Are you not going to give us any chance to live?!

In the end, they could only repeat the curses out of helplessness. They could end up really suffering in the future by saying those things, but if they didn't, they would die right there and then. It wasn't that hard of a choice to make.

...

After wrapping things up, Zu An and the Second Empress headed toward the Imperial Prison.

Along the way, Zu An asked Lei Xin and Wu Cheng about the Golden Crow Crown Prince's current plans. When he learned that the troops had been divided into four different groups, he couldn't help but give the crown prince some credit. He didn't plan on letting a single brother go! Even if the Fiend Emperor hadn't died, he might have just died from anger if he found out what happened.

The group strutted straight into the Imperial Prison. The prison guards immediately acted as if they were facing a great enemy, pointing weapons at them and asking what they were doing.

However, Zu An quickly pushed the Second Empress forward to let her take care of the situation. Sure enough, when they saw the Second Empress, the guards' attitudes improved a bit. Because of the Second Empress' beauty and unique charm, the soldiers all had good impressions of her.

The Second Empress said gently, "We came here to escort the Great Elf King out. I must trouble the hardworking men here to help us with this."

When they heard her gentle plea, the soldiers immediately felt as if they were melting. However, they were still quite troubled, responding, "Your highness, his majesty issued the decree that unless he gave the order himself, the Great Elf King was not to leave this place."

The Second Empress said, "It was the Fiend Emperor who sent me to release the Great Elf King."

The soldiers were startled, asking, "Does your highness have an Imperial Edict?"

The Second Empress shook her head, but replied, "Could it be that you think this empress is lying to you? Who in this world would dare to forge an Imperial Edict? If something happened, it would not be something this empress could shoulder on my own."

When they saw her getting angry, the guards didn't dare to say anything else. They all moved out of the way.

Qiao Xueying couldn't hold herself back anymore. She was the first to rush forward. Zu An was worried that something might happen to her and followed behind her. The Second Empress wanted to get the Great Elf King on her side, so she naturally followed along as well.

After some hesitation, Yu Yanluo also went into the Imperial Prison. She had to go and meet the Great Elf King, whether because of his status as the Elf King or as Qiao Xueying's father. Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue stayed outside to prevent Lei Xin and the others from misbehaving.

The Great Elf King was locked up at the very bottom of the Imperial Prison. When Zu An saw him, he couldn't help but sigh. This guy is damned handsome, almost at my level!

He looks like the freaking elf prince from *The Lord of the Rings*! But of course, he looks much more mature.

However, the Elf King had several thick stakes digging into his back, and he was surrounded by chains binding him to the walls.

"Dad!" Qiao Xueying called out, quickly rushing over.

The Great Elf King was moved when he saw her. He wanted to hug his daughter, but he couldn't move his body.

Qiao Xueying exclaimed tearfully, "The Fiend Emperor actually made you suffer so much!"

Zu An took out the Poisonous Prick and cut the chains. He was about to remove the stakes when the Second Empress stopped him.

"These are Dragon Imprisoning Nails that can restrain even a giant dragon's powerful body. They have to be undone through a special method," the Second Empress said while swiftly moving her hands in a special pattern, removing the stakes one by one. However, she was injured, making the process difficult. She soon found it hard to continue.

The Great Elf King suddenly said, "The Dragon Imprisoning Seal has already been undone. Your highness does not need to be troubled for the rest."

Afterward, he began to transfer his ki. His robes quickly surged, and the remaining three nails popped out from his back one by one, shooting into the walls to the side. The long Dragon Imprisoning Nails stabbed deep into the hard walls. It was easy to see just how powerful their impact was!

Then, a powerful aura surged outward. Zu An sighed in amazement. As expected of one of the three elders of the Fiend Races! The Elf King's power was at least at the grandmaster rank.

The Great Elf King bowed toward the Second Empress, saying, "I greet the Second Empress. Has his majesty allowed me to leave?"

The Second Empress shook her head. Qiao Xueying ran over, saying tearfully, "It would be strange if the Fiend Emperor let you go. He's already dead."

“The Fiend Emperor died?” the Great Elf King repeated, trembling. The explosive news was clearly hard for him to immediately take in.

Zu An said, “That’s right. The Fiend Emperor died in an Unknown Region inside the Imperial Tomb. I personally witnessed it.”

The Great Elf King looked at him in surprise, asking, “This little brother is?”

Previously, Zu An had easily cut the chains forged of cold steel surrounding him. He was definitely a capable individual.

Qiao Xueying blushed, saying, “Dad, he’s the Zu An I told you about before.”

“That was you?” the Great Elf King asked, an extremely strange and complicated expression suddenly appearing on his face. He looked at Zu An as if he were feeding his family’s pearls to swine.

“I greet the elder,” Zu An said, feeling a bit embarrassed. After all, he was taking the other man’s daughter, so he felt a bit of guilt.

The Second Empress said, “The two of you should slowly get to know each other later. Ah Zu, you should tell the Elf King about more pressing matters.”

The Great Elf King was surprised. Judging from the Second Empress’ tone, it seemed she favored him! Still, he just couldn’t figure out how these two had gotten acquainted with each other no matter how he thought about it!

Chapter 1496: Most Handsome in the World

Zu An nodded. They were pressed for time, so he quickly explained the purpose of their visit.

The Great Elf King initially gave the impression of being the quiet, handsome type. However, when he heard what Zu An said, his expression dramatically brightened. His ‘cool, handsome older man’ demeanor suddenly gave way to looking like a drama actor.

“So we are going to assist the young prince...” the Great Elf King trailed off after hearing the explanation, not expressing any strong opinion on the matter. Instead, he said to the Second Empress’ group, “Can I talk to Zu An alone for a bit?”

“Of course,” the Second Empress replied. His reaction was within her expectations. She nodded toward the others, then walked away.

The Great Elf King didn’t feel any strong emotions when he saw her flirtatious smile or beautiful figure. The Elf Race didn’t lack handsome men and beautiful women, after all. It wasn’t as stunning as what he saw when he looked in the mirror every morning.

The others quickly followed the Second Empress into an outside room. Qiao Xueying wanted to stay behind, but the Great Elf King said, “Snow, you should go as well.”

Qiao Xueying jumped in fright, exclaiming, “Dad, you can’t bully Ah Zu!”

The Great Elf King had grandmaster rank cultivation. It was still a bit dangerous for Zu An to be alone with him.

The Great Elf King glowered. As expected, when a girl is of age, she must be married off. He replied, "He just saved me. Is your dad the type of person who turns his back on his benefactors?"

Qiao Xueying stuck out her tongue, then left while pouting. She kept looking back as she left; it was unclear whether it was because she hadn't seen her father for a long time, or because she didn't want to be separated from her lover again.

When the others left, Zu An cupped his hands toward the Great Elf King and said, "Respected uncle, I wonder what you want to talk to me about."

The Great Elf King coldly said, "You have already tricked my daughter into bed, and yet you are still calling me uncle?"

Zu An was speechless. Snow actually told her father about that?

As if seeing through his thoughts, the Great Elf King said, "Snow shared half of her lifespan with you, and as the Elf King, I naturally know the conditions needed for that to happen. Since ancient times, not many elves have been willing to give up half of their life to use that skill. I initially thought that she must have found the most excellent young man in the entire world..." He trailed off as he inspected Zu An closely, before continuing, "But now that I look at you, you don't seem like anything special."

Zu An was speechless.

The Great Elf King then said, "Forget it. Even though you are pretty ordinary, you are better looking than most of the other ugly bastards out there. If Snow has already shared half her lifespan with you, you are probably not that bad. I trust my daughter's judgment."

"Thank you, father-in-law," Zu An said, sighing in relief. I guess this issue has finally been dealt with. As expected, no matter what world it is, meeting your girlfriend's parents isn't an easy matter.

The Great Elf King's eyelids twitched when he heard Zu An call him 'father-in-law'. He replied, "You have not officially wed yet. Just call me uncle for now."

Zu An was speechless. Didn't you just complain about me calling you that?

"We can talk about you and Snow later," the Great Elf King said, his expression suddenly turning serious. He continued, "You said you were going to support the young prince. Were you serious?"

When he saw Zu An nod, he raised his voice somewhat, continuing, "That is not a wise choice. The prince is still so young; how can he become the Fiend Emperor? Asking me to gather the entire Elf race for this cause is practically the same as asking them all to perish."

Zu An explained, "The Golden Crow Crown Prince and I share a grudge that can't be resolved. If he becomes the Fiend Emperor, he'll never let me go. Similarly, it would be unfavorable for your Elf Race."

The Great Elf King knew about the Golden Crow Crown Prince pursuing his daughter. Many people had advised him to agree to it, because it would bring tremendous glory. If Snow became the empress, the Elf race would share in her glory and rise above the other two king races.

However, he alone knew that Snow had already shared half of her life with another man, and that she wasn't a virgin anymore. If she married into the royal family, it would be impossible to hide that fact. At that point, it wouldn't be a blessing for the Elf race, but rather a disaster.

That was why he hadn't agreed to the marriage from the start. The 'Half-Life Destiny' was the Elf King race's greatest secret, so he couldn't talk about it either. The Fiend Emperor had just taken it as a challenge to his authority and found a pretext to throw him into prison.

However, even if he didn't support the crown prince, it didn't mean he absolutely had to support the Second Empress and her son.

Zu An explained his reasoning and added, "Supporting the young prince was because I had no other choice. Furthermore, the youngest prince's age is both a disadvantage as well as an advantage!"

"Advantage?" the Great Elf King asked with a frown. "I cannot see any advantages."

Zu An said, "If a young emperor rose to the throne, he would have to rely on the assistance of virtuous and wise elder ministers. At that time, who else would be more suited to that role than you?"

The Great Elf King said with a hint of dissatisfaction, "Working with the court's politics would only make me grow wrinkles faster and ruin my stunning features."

Zu An was stunned. He really hadn't expected the Elf King to give that kind of reply! Even at the other man's age, he was still a freaking narcissist?!

He could only approach the situation from a different angle and say, "Respected uncle, even if you don't care much about political power, you must consider the interests of the Elf race! I don't believe you would be willing to be thrown into prison again, causing the entire Elf race to suffer instability, right?"

Seeing as the Elf King still seemed rather indifferent, Zu An thought of something and said, "Furthermore, if you really become the most powerful minister in the Fiend races, together with your mighty cultivation, you'll have the entire Fiend race territory to supply you with the treasures you need. You can even search the treasury of the Imperial Palace, and you'll be the first to enjoy the precious items traded from the human side. There are many skin care products that have miraculous effects, you know?"

The Great Elf King's eyes lit up when he heard that. He said, "Hm, I must indeed consider things for the Elf race. Then we will support the youngest prince."

Zu An was speechless. He seemed to have found some way of dealing with this narcissistic father-in-law of his.

The two of them walked out while chatting with each other joyfully. When she saw their smiles, the nervous Second Empress sighed in relief. At the same time, she was curious as to just how the normally aloof and proud Great Elf King had ended up becoming so comfortable with Zu An. Just how had Zu An done it? After all, this matter was of vital importance. Even if he had a close relationship with the Elf Princess, the Great Elf King wouldn't be convinced so easily, right?

I have to properly thank Zu An afterward. He's helped me so much.

When he emerged, the Great Elf King's eyes landed on Yu Yanluo. He exclaimed in surprise, "Hm? How extremely beautiful. Could this be the new Medusa Queen?"

Yu Yanluo nodded with a smile, saying, "I greet the Great Elf King."

The Great Elf King sighed and remarked, "You really look like your mother. Your mother was one of the very few whom I felt was as beautiful as myself."

The others present were speechless.

Qiao Xueying was stupefied. Was my dad also a pursuer of Yu Yanluo's mother?

Ah, that's so freaking embarrassing!

Fortunately, the Great Elf King quickly recovered from his daze and said to the Second Empress, "I plan to sort things out back in the clan first. That will take a bit of time. Try to see if you can rope in some more forces. Our two clans alone might not be enough to affect the current Fiend King Court's situation."

"Thank you, Great Elf King!" the Second Empress replied with a nod. Inwardly, however, she felt quite hard-pressed. Who could she even rope in now?

Her eyes shifted to Zu An. When she saw his confident appearance, her anxious heart gradually calmed a bit.

"Snow, follow dad back. Dad needs your help." the Great Elf King said, waving toward Qiao Xueying. He had been locked in the Imperial Prison for so long and didn't know the recent developments in the clan. He needed his daughter by his side.

Qiao Xueying was a bit unwilling to separate from her lover, but she knew how important the situation was. She could only reluctantly follow her father.

After they exited through the Imperial Prison's gate, the Great Elf King was stunned to see Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue. He exclaimed, "Huh? The human race actually had beauties comparable to us Elves? Snow, are you not embarrassed?"

Qiao Xueying was stunned, asking, "What does this have to do with me?"

"Elves were a bit more beautiful than other races to begin with, and you had the world's most handsome man as your father, and yet your appearance is only on par with them. This really does leave your father a bit ashamed!" the Great Elf King remarked in dissatisfaction.

When she saw Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue look at him as if they were looking at someone with mental deficiencies, Qiao Xueying covered her face. She really wanted to say 'I don't know this man!'

Chapter 1497: New Ally

After the Great Elf King left with Qiao Xueying, Zu An's group separated into two. Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue stayed behind to monitor Lei Xin and Wu Cheng, while Zu An headed to Golden Peng Manor with the Second Empress and Yu Yanluo.

The Peacock Wise King's daughter Kong Nanwu had become the Crown Princess, so they were naturally allied with the Crown Prince. He couldn't really ask for their help. However, the death of the Little Golden Peng King's father had a high chance of being related to the Fiend Emperor. Their faction definitely carried some resentment toward the crown prince, so there was a chance of roping them in.

Along the way, Zu An carried the young prince. The young prince was a bit uncomfortable with calling a stranger his adoptive father at first and didn't let Zu An carry him at all, but after a while, he felt that Zu An wasn't all that scary, and he was pretty good-looking.

With the Second Empress' encouragement, he reluctantly accepted Zu An. Because he had been scared badly the entire night, he unknowingly fell asleep in Zu An's broad and sturdy arms.

When she saw her son's sleeping face pressed up against Zu An's shoulder, the Second Empress felt warm inside. Normally, my son isn't close to anyone but me; I didn't expect him to be so close to Zu An already. Most importantly, Zu An is treating him well too, and doesn't seem impatient at all. Is this heaven's will?

Yu Yanluo was a bit jealous when she saw that. She thought, Ah Zu seems to like this child quite a bit. I should give birth to a child for him too.

Her face began to heat up when she thought about their intimate relationship. However, she quickly realized that with the Medusa's bloodline, she could only give birth to a daughter. She wouldn't necessarily be able to give him a son... She couldn't help but feel a bit of regret when she thought of that.

The group quickly arrived at Golden Peng Manor. Upon seeing the Second Empress, the guard stationed outside was shocked and moved. When he learned that she wanted to meet the Little Golden Peng King, he enthusiastically rushed over to make the report, as if doing it faster would leave the Second Empress with a better impression.

Zu An couldn't help but remark, "Your highness really is charming."

"But unfortunately, a certain someone is not even willing to take a second look," the Second Empress replied quietly.

Zu An knew she was still a bit bitter about what had happened in the bedroom. He smiled and didn't explain himself.

However, Yu Yanluo had a strange expression. Her eyes darted between the two of them, wondering if she had missed something.

Soon afterward, the guard came back and said apologetically, "Your highness, our young master went to the city outskirts to go hunting. He is in a villa outside of the city and has not returned yet."

"He left the city to go hunting?" the Second Empress repeated, her beautiful brows furrowing.

"Yes," the guard replied. He couldn't help but lower his head when he sensed her disappointment, as if he felt upset that he couldn't help her with her worries.

Zu An chuckled. He stopped the Second Empress from saying anything else and pulled her away.

The guards at the gate widened their eyes when they saw that. Who is that man? Why is he pulling the Second Empress so casually like that? More importantly, it looks as if the Second Empress is used to this.

Don't tell us he's a palace eunuch? But he's acting so carefree! What eunuch acts like that?

...

Zu An's group wasn't in the mood to attend to the guards' thoughts.

However, the Second Empress couldn't help but grumble, "Why are you pulling me away? They're clearly lying!" As a woman with feelings toward a man, especially a man she admired, it was easy to see what they were thinking.

Zu An said with a smile, "That's true, but do you think that they would dare make up this kind of lie on their own?"

"Are you saying this was the Little Golden Peng King's idea?" the Second Empress asked in surprise. She was intelligent too, after all. Previously, it was only because she really wanted to rope in the Little Golden Peng King that she had overlooked that possibility.

Zu An nodded and replied, "It's probably because the Little Golden Peng King saw the chaotic situation and guessed our intentions. He doesn't wish to get involved in this matter, so he found an excuse to send us away."

"Things will become troublesome if he isn't willing to join us," the Second Empress said, sounding a bit worried.

Yu Yanluo said, "That might not necessarily be a bad thing. That means the Little Golden Peng King hasn't sided with the Crown Prince or the Second Prince. Otherwise, they would have already joined the conflict and used this chance to capture us while we were alone. The fact that he chose to remain neutral in this situation is actually favorable for us."

The Second Empress' eyes lit up. She couldn't help but give Yu Yanluo a few more looks. She had thought that the beautiful Medusa Queen was just a pretty flower vase. She hadn't expected the woman to actually be so knowledgeable!

"What Ah Luo says is right. Not siding with either one of them is already the biggest help. His position is special, and we aren't all that close to him. Sticking around over there would just be a waste of time," Zu An said.

"Ah Luo?" the Second Empress murmured to herself. When she heard the form of address Zu An used, she couldn't help but think, That really is too intimate. The two's affection for each other is much deeper than I thought.

Yu Yanluo muttered, "It's a pity that the Little Golden Peng King doesn't have any sisters, or else Ah Zu might have had a way."

Zu An was speechless.

The Second Empress couldn't help but smile. She knew that Yu Yanluo was hinting at his relationship with the Elf Princess. At the same time, she was curious just what Zu An had done to convince so many beautiful women to stay around him.

...

Soon afterward, their group arrived at the Ocean races' residence. This time, it was different from the Little Golden Peng King's reception, and they were quickly invited inside.

Chi Wen ran all the way over to greet them, but of course, he ignored Zu An, the only man. His eyes were completely focused on Yu Yanluo and the Second Empress. However, when he recalled the strength of Zu An's fist, he still tactfully shifted his eyes away from Yu Yanluo's body.

Hmph, the Medusa Queen is your woman, but I can look at the Second Empress all I want, right?

In the past, he could only admire the Second Empress from a distance. Now that she was up close, his eyes were wide open and extremely enthusiastic. He was at her every beck and call, introducing everything and trying to get closer.

The Second Empress responded respectfully. She experienced such things often and didn't find dealing with it too hard at all. In contrast, Zu An giving her the cold shoulder was what left her feeling awkward.

They quickly arrived at the guest hall. There was a familiar, beautiful figure in the room, filling the area with a sense of peace.

Today, Shang Liuyu was representing all the Ocean races, which was why she was dressed in a luxurious and wide-sleeved dress rather than her usual white silk dress. Her outfit's material was made from extremely precious Black Glimmer Beast scales, as well as the silk of the Rainbow Frost Silkworm. It was also decorated with beautiful coral pieces that had sparkling pearls embedded inside.

Meanwhile, the guest hall wasn't illuminated by fire the way it would be in other clans, but rather a massive luminescent pearl. The gentle light it cast over her body made her seem even more alluring.

The current Shang Liuyu was no longer the willful and carefree woman from Brightmoon Academy, but rather the Ocean races' respected princess. Of course, the only things that remained the same were her spotlessly white bare feet. Their graceful, natural arcs made even her extravagant dress pale a bit in comparison.

When she saw Zu An, a faint smile appeared on Shang Liuyu's face. However, when she saw the child Zu An was carrying, her smile instantly froze. Her first reaction was, His child is already so big?

When she recognized that it was the young prince, she sighed in relief. She suppressed her curiosity and said with a smile, "You aren't someone who would die easily after all. But if you were no longer in this world, it would become much duller."

The Second Empress was a bit shocked. The first reason was that she was the glorious Second Empress, and yet she wasn't the first one Shang Liuyu greeted. The second reason was that judging from her tone, Shang Liuyu's relationship with Zu An seemed even closer than her intelligence had stated.

Zu An sighed and said, "I was supposed to die, and I even met the king of hell, but when he heard that I had one greatest regret, which was that I couldn't see big sis Shang anymore, he let me go."

When Chi Wen heard that while sneaking looks at the Second Empress, his mouth couldn't help but turn crooked. This guy Zu An won't really become my brother-in-law, will he? But his way of flirting is really messed up. It'd only be able to fool naive little girls. My aunt is so wise and hates slick-mouthed people. There's no way she'll tolerate this.

However, Shang Liuyu had an ambiguous smile as she replied, "Look at you, you're always speaking so confidently. Then now that you've seen me, perhaps it's time for you to return to the king of hell?"

Zu An shook his head. "The king of hell has also known of the Mermaid Princess' beauty for a long time, but he never had the chance to meet you. As such, he gave me a mirror and allowed me to remain in this world of the living for a few more years. That way, I can make a few more memories of the Mermaid Princess before going back."

He then took out King Qin's Mirror of Souls, as if to prove what he had said. However, when he saw the reflection, his face immediately turned red and he put it away. He almost forgot that the mirror now had special skills. My bad...

Shang Liuyu didn't know that she had been taken advantage of. On the contrary, she laughed so hard her entire body shook, saying, "It's been a while, but you're still the same."

Chi Wen was instantly stunned when he saw her laugh so happily without any intention of scolding Zu An. Little Aunt, this isn't like you at all! I always get scolded whenever I flirt with women like this; why is it that you suddenly can't see through his schemes?

The Second Empress' expression was also strange. She suddenly recalled Yu Yanluo's earlier roast and immediately felt a bit of regret. Why didn't the Little Golden Peng King have any sisters? Additionally, she suddenly gained a lot of confidence in the success of their trip.

Shang Liuyu and Zu An teased each other for a bit longer; then, she nodded toward Yu Yanluo. Finally, she turned to the Second Empress and said, "Your highness has visited at such a late time. There must be a reason for your visit."

The Second Empress cursed inwardly, So you finally remembered me! However, she still gave a rough account of her visit's purpose. Chi Wen's expression changed greatly when he heard that; he was clearly shocked.

In contrast, Shang Liuyu seemed to have seen it coming. She replied, "Your highness, to be honest, if not for Ah Zu, I wouldn't have even opened the door for you today."

Chapter 1498: Stopped

The Second Empress was shocked. She hadn't expected Shang Liuyu to be so ruthless. She laughed inwardly in self-ridicule. She had been the glorious Fiend Empress, and yet now that the Fiend Emperor had died, she had nothing left.

Of course, that was just a thought. She quickly recognized the reality of the situation and didn't continue to throw around her weight as the empress. After all, she was the one who had come to ask for help today. Furthermore, Shang Liuyu's willingness to meet them because of Zu An was already a good start.

However, now that she thought about it, Zu An really was close to a lot of people. Shang Liuyu had clearly said that so she would recognize the need to be grateful to Zu An. Just what kind of relationship did he have with this mermaid princess, that she was willing to go so far?

The Second Empress sorted out her thoughts, then told Shang Liuyu about the reason behind her visit. Before the princess could refuse, she took the initiative to propose some favorable conditions.

Sure enough, Shang Liuyu didn't immediately refuse; instead, she merely pretended to be concerned, using it as a pretext to ask for more benefits for the Ocean races. However, the Second Empress was no pushover either, so there was no way she would yield blindly.

Zu An was stupefied as he watched them. These two delicate and pretty women were actually so fierce in their war of words! Their way of speaking really was fierce and direct. They even proposed conditions that couldn't possibly be acceptable to the other. He thought one side would just storm off in anger, but instead, they slowly negotiated and gradually showed signs of reaching an agreement.

Chi Wen was eager to give it a try too. His eyes continued to wander across the Second Empress' stunning face and figure. In the end, he couldn't help but say, "I want to raise a condition! I want..."

Before he could even finish his sentence, Shang Liuyu shot him a look and snapped "Get out!"

"Oh..." Chi Wen moved quietly and dejectedly toward a corner, pretending to be invisible again. He had been scared of his little aunt ever since he was little. Even though she was ridiculously beautiful, she never hesitated to actually beat him up, leaving him deeply traumatized.

Yu Yanluo was a bit worried to see what was happening. None of the beauties around Ah Zu's side were easy to deal with! What were they supposed to do if they didn't get along and fought with each other?

Hmph, I can seek out Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue for help in the future. We've all gone through so much in the Unknown Region and are already really close.

If Shang Liuyu wanted to pressure her with the Ocean races' power, she would be more inclined to seek out Yan Xuehen. After all, Yun Jianyue was a bit too violent.

With the friendship we developed along the way, she should help me, right?

Shang Liuyu and the Second Empress' negotiation eventually reached a conclusion. The Second Empress granted the Ocean races all sorts of favorable conditions in return for the Ocean races' support of the youngest prince ascending to the throne. Shang Liuyu was very satisfied. She had obtained many benefits that would normally be impossible for the Ocean races to gain.

Meanwhile, the Second Empress was also satisfied. Even though the Ocean races' forces in the Fiend King Court weren't too powerful, their strength among the Fiend races overall couldn't be overlooked. Things would become much less difficult now that she had their support.

As for all the things she had to give up, it was just an empty check for now. After all, her son still hadn't obtained the throne yet, and none of those things were theirs to begin with. They couldn't consider public assets their own property, could they? If she could gain the imperial throne, she felt the price would be worth it.

Then, Shang Liuyu expressed her sincerity and had Chi Wen gather the Ocean races' forces in the Fiend King Court so they could lend the Second Empress a helping hand. As for herself, she wouldn't personally make an appearance. The first reason was that she had always preferred peace and quiet. She didn't like to participate in such matters.

The second reason was to ensure her own safety. If the youngest prince's side lost tonight, she could still push the blame onto Chi Wen. After all, he was known to be a famous hedonistic son and it wouldn't be strange for him to do something like that. That way, if another prince rose to the throne, it couldn't be blamed on the Ocean races.

Of course, Chi Wen had absolutely no idea that he was being used as a scapegoat like that. When he heard that he was tasked to help the Second Empress, he happily left to gather their men.

...

Zu An then took the Second Empress and Yu Yanluo to the Demon race's residence. With Princess Suolun as their mediator, they were able to smoothly meet with the Demon race's representative in the Fiend King Court. Similar to the Ocean race encounter, the Second Empress and the Demon race's people haggled back and forth.

It was clear that the Demon race wasn't willing to join their side, and they didn't want to support the youngest prince. However, they really couldn't withstand the sheer amount of benefits the Second Empress was offering them...

In the end, after giving them a ton of benefits, the Second Empress was able to successfully recruit them. Just like the Ocean races, the agreement was only to allow Princess Suolun to bring some of her subordinates with her. That way, even if something happened, the blame would just fall on Princess Suolun, and they could claim it was because she and Zu An had a deep personal friendship. That would be her own personal action, unrelated to the Demon race.

The Second Empress cursed them for being wily old foxes, but she knew that the fact that they could reach such an agreement was already quite good.

When they emerged from the Demon race's residence, the Second Empress looked at Zu An with a smile, asking, "Are there any other little sisters you are close to? Should we make another trip?"

Zu An's expression darkened. He replied, "What in the world are you saying? There aren't that many of them."

The Second Empress said, "I am not teasing you. I am being serious. I realized that as long as there is a woman you are close to, that faction will basically agree." She then gave Yu Yanluo a look.

Yu Yanluo thought, What are you looking at me for?

The Second Empress said with a smile, "Little sister Yu, we were in such a rush that I have not had time to talk to you yet. I am grateful for your support in this situation too. If we succeed, I will definitely help you restore the Snake race to its former glory."

In the past, the Snake race had been a powerful clan among the Fiend races. Unfortunately, after the Medusa Queen disappeared, the entire Snake race had ended up in a poor situation.

Yu Yanluo's eyes lit up. Even though she knew the Second Empress was just trying to buy her good intentions, she still couldn't help but feel happy. After all, the Snake race's power among the King races was already negligible. She was the only one who could pull weight. The Second Empress' promise was already extremely generous.

Even though she knew the empress was only doing it to rope in Zu An, she still expressed her thanks. The two of them immediately started acting more familiar. They even began to chat while holding hands as if they had already been close friends for many years.

Zu An clicked his tongue distastefully. Women always became friends quickly, but didn't they also leave each other quickly?

...

Then, the group joined up with other forces. The Elf King had also gathered his forces, but the ones who led the troops were Qiao Xueying and Qiao Heng, whom Zu An was close to. The Great Elf King didn't show himself.

After they returned and talked things over, the Elf race's elders hadn't agreed to that risk. Their line of thinking was similar to that of the Ocean races. The Demon race was the same and adopted similar plans of action.

The Second Empress couldn't help but feel slightly disappointed when she saw that the Great Elf King hadn't arrived. After all, this was a crucial moment. Having someone powerful on their side could be the deciding factor between victory and defeat.

When he saw her concern, Zu An consoled her, saying, "Don't worry, I'm here."

The Second Empress forced a smile. She was confused about why he had so much confidence; he was just a master rank cultivator. He wouldn't necessarily be able to affect the situation much.

The Second Empress' Xiao clan had also rushed over when they received the news. Together with the Demon race and Ocean races' troops, as well as the Golden Crow Guards led by Lei Xin and Wu Cheng, they marched straight toward the Imperial Palace.

Regardless of the dynasty, the Imperial Palace would always be a powerful symbol of political significance. As long as one controlled the Imperial Palace, one would practically have won half the war already.

With the Second Empress' identity, they had a justification to carry out their plan. Thus, the group slaughtered their way up to the Imperial Palace's gates.

However, they were quickly stopped by a group of soldiers. The Imperial Palace was the crown prince's territory. How could they let others defile this place?

The Second Empress walked forward and called out, "Am I not allowed to return to the Imperial Palace either?"

"The crown prince has ordered that no individuals without assigned tasks are to enter the palace," a soldier refused in a robotic tone.

“What crown prince? You need to call him his majesty now,” a loud and clear voice called out.

Zu An frowned. The voice was a bit familiar.

A tall and sturdy figure appeared at the top of the wall, and behind him were some familiar people. The ones behind him were the Lion race’s princes, Shi Min, Shi Gong, and Shi Rong; the man in front was naturally the Lion King Shi Zhentian.

A large group of Lion race warriors followed behind them, aiming their crossbows at the group and the Golden Crow Guards outside.

The Second Empress’ expression changed. She exclaimed, “Shi Zhentian, are you rebelling against the nation?”

“The one who is rebelling is you!” Shi Zhentian sneered. “The new Fiend Emperor has already nominated and appointed me to the Imperial Palace defenses. Did you lead all these people here to start a rebellion?”

As they looked at Zu An, Shi Min and the other princes’ eyes were filled with cold smiles. Who cares if you win in the beginning? Aren’t we the ones who will have the last laugh? Just wait and see how we’ll deal with you!

Chapter 1499: Crazy Taunting

“New Fiend Emperor?” the Second Empress replied, glaring. “There is only one Fiend Emperor in this world; where did this ‘new Fiend Emperor’ come from?!”

Even though she had already learned of the Fiend Emperor’s death from Zu An, her legitimacy and authority all came from the Fiend Emperor, so she was naturally unwilling to admit that he had died.

The soldiers of the various forces under their command were all a bit shaken up when they heard that the Fiend Emperor had already died. After all, the Fiend Emperor was the spiritual backbone of the Fiend races. Those normal soldiers only calmed down after hearing the Second Empress’ refutation. After all, regardless of which side they were on, all ordinary soldiers needed something to believe in.

The Crown Prince’s faction naturally supported the royal family. If other people were starting a rebellion, they had to follow the Crown Prince in quelling the disaster. Meanwhile, the Second Empress’ side believed that the Crown Prince was conspiring to do evil, so they had to deal with the matter for the Fiend Emperor and the Second Empress. Both sides believed they were standing on the side of righteousness. That was how they maintained morale.

Shi Zhentian said coldly, “Your highness, everything was going quite well for you. Once the morning court began tomorrow and the Crown Prince officially ascended to the throne, you would be respected as the Empress Dowager. But you just had to do what you absolutely should not have done, and got involved in some things you absolutely should not have gotten involved in.”

Even though his tone was absolutely ruthless, Shi Zhentian secretly observed the empress. He thought, This woman really is freaking beautiful!

She had been the glorious Second Empress whom no one dared to touch. But now that the late emperor had died and she had joined a rebellion, there was no way for her to serve as the Empress Dowager anymore. The Crown Prince wouldn't tolerate her.

If he arrested her and took her back to the Lion race's territory, wouldn't he be able to enjoy the Fiend Emperor's joy everyday? When he thought of that, he immediately felt some heat down there that could erupt at any moment.

The Lion race naturally had a high libido. Every single powerful lion had a huge harem. In their opinion, the stronger a man was, the more beautiful women they should possess. That was merely a matter of course.

Shi Min and the others sensed their father's intentions. They felt that someone with a status as respectable as the Second Empress wasn't someone they could even think about. Even the Medusa Queen was out of their reach. Apart from her incredible reputation, she could be someone the Crown Prince or another great figure would want.

There was also the Elf Princess who had almost become the Crown Princess. Even though that hadn't ended up happening, who knew what kind of thoughts the Crown Prince had toward her? Who would dare touch someone like that?

Still, there were other women at Zu An's side, especially the one that looked like a block of ice; subduing her would definitely bring them an incredible feeling of achievement.

There was also an incredibly beautiful woman who was full of killing intent. Could she be from the Cow race? She also gave off a proud and haughty air that really made one's desires go crazy!

Furthermore, as soon as they thought about how each and every one of the women was at Zu An's side, the princes all felt an even stronger urge to obtain those women. After all, they had suffered quite badly because of Zu An.

A loud laugh emerged from some distance away as someone called out, "Hahaha, why is it so lively here?"

Then, another group arrived in the area. The one in the lead was tall and strong. His body was covered in colorful patterns, and there was a 王 character on his forehead. Just one look was enough to identify him as the Tiger King Hu Qianxiao.

Surprisingly, he didn't have any Tiger race princes behind him; it was unknown what they were up to. However, the warriors around him all had fierce expressions and powerful auras. They were all strong cultivators.

"What are you doing here?" Shi Zhentian asked. He couldn't help but frown when he saw Hu Qianxiao. The two races had always hated each other, so they naturally didn't like seeing the other side.

"What else? I was scared that you wouldn't be able to properly protect the Imperial Palace, so I came to help you out," Hu Qianxiao replied with a laugh. At the same time, he scanned the surroundings with his eyes. When he saw the Second Empress and the forces around her, he suddenly began to think to himself.

“What a joke! Does this king need your help?” Shi Zhentian sneered.

...

Suddenly, a loud noise came from the distance, accompanied by terrifying energy. Those present all turned toward the source of the sound. Many of them were shaken up. This was the energy of a battle between grandmasters, and it wasn't just one or two!

The source of the noise seemed to come from the Second Prince's manor. The Crown Prince and the Second Prince's battle on that side must have reached its climax.

Hu Qianxiao frowned. The Crown Prince had led his men to ambush the Second Prince, and that sort of situation shouldn't have been the case. How did the Second Prince's side have such strong forces?

Zu An said just then, “Stop wasting our time. Either repent for the error of your ways and swear loyalty to the Second Empress and the youngest prince, or suffer execution. Stop blocking the way here.”

The Second Empress' beautiful face contorted. Wasn't this going way too far? Shi Zhentian and Hu Qianxiao were both grandmasters who had been famous for a long time. They were well known for their strength. Furthermore, the Lion race and Tiger race had so many powerful individuals. They didn't have a good chance of victory if a fight really broke out.

Forget about her, even the Ocean races' and Demon race's people frowned. They thought, Why are we following someone so brainless this time? Did we make the wrong choice?

Chi Wen had a huge smile as he thought, Heh, this kid is courting death! The Lion and Tiger Kings should just kill him. That way, the Medusa Queen will end up grieving, and I'll have a chance to get closer to her.

But that means we'll be in danger too... I won't be able to help the Second Empress become the ruler.

When he thought about how sad the Second Empress would become, Chi Wen hesitated.

Sigh, I'm good at everything, but I just have too much love for the world. I can't bear to see women suffer.

Meanwhile, Qiao Xueying's eyes shone as she looked at Zu An. She had absolute confidence in him. The two of them had even fought against such a terrifying being in the secret dungeon. Who cared about the Lion and Tiger Kings?

On the other side, Hu Qianxiao's face darkened. Shi Zhentian was even more furious.

“How brazen!”

You have successfully trolled Shi Zhentian for +444 +444 +444...

You have successfully trolled Hu Qianxiao for +222 +222 +222...

Shi Min and the other princes were full of curses. They hadn't expected this at all! It was fine if Zu An treated them as his opponents, and yet he dared to provoke their father!

“Noisy!” Zu An harrumphed. His powerful voice spread in all directions, causing many of the soldiers on the walls to fall off. Even Shi Min and the others felt their energies stir. They were horrified.

Shi Zhentian’s expression changed. He exclaimed, “The Lion’s Roar Skill? When did you steal my clan’s Lion’s Roar Skill?!”

He was naturally able to tell that Zu An had used the Lion’s Roar skill to release his sound wave attack.

Zu An replied indifferently, “That shoddy method of yours? I learned it from just a glance.”

Off to the side, Yun Jianyue had a strange expression as she thought, This punk really is good at taunting others.

“This old one is going to kill you!” Shi Zhentian exclaimed, unable to hold himself back.

He leaped down from the palace gate and pounced toward Zu An, brandishing his fist as he approached. A giant golden lion projection appeared, roaring as it charged at Zu An. The difference in their sizes made it seem as if it could devour Zu An in a single bite.

It was the Lion race’s ultimate skill: Mad Lion’s Hegemon Fist!

However, Zu An didn’t move. A streak of sword energy that was as bright as snow suddenly appeared from the side, surrounded by fine snow. Yan Xuehen had used her Snowflake Sword! The sharp sword energy scattered the powerful golden lion.

Yun Jianyue was stunned. Isn’t this stone cold woman usually ice-cold to everyone? But she seems to care quite a bit about Zu An.

Still, with how energetic she is, it’s starting to make my value drop! We honorable grandmasters now seem as if we’ve become his bodyguards or something.

“Grandmaster rank!” Shi Zhentian spat, his eyes narrowing. He hadn’t expected this ice-cold woman to actually be a grandmaster! After all, he had seen these two fight at the All Races General Assembly. Even though the way they had fought was quite ingenious, their auras hadn’t even reached the level of master rank.

He didn’t have time to think more about it, though. A fight quickly broke out between the two of them.

Shi Min and the others looked at each other in dismay. They had mysteriously lost to the two women at the General Assembly. Back then, they had felt really ashamed, not knowing what happened. Now, it seemed their loss wasn’t so bad at all! Oddly, they felt a bit happier when they thought of that.

When the Second Empress saw that, she ordered her subordinates to attack the palace gates. They had to seize the chance to enter the Imperial Palace. She had trusted aides who would support her inside.

Chi Wen screamed as he charged at the forefront. Now that the grandmaster wasn’t fighting anymore, he, the powerful Dragon race prince, was naturally unstoppable. He wanted to show off as much as possible in front of the Second Empress. Who knows, she might even dream of me at night.

However, he discovered that a streak of moonlight moved even faster than him.

Huh?

Why did the moon suddenly appear in front of the palace gates?

Only then did he see a beautiful figure standing in front of him. The Crescent Ring in her hands smashed down on the palace gates. Even though the defensive formations flickered and held, a corner still collapsed.

Chi Wen was speechless. That guy Zu An's women are all so strong! Is he not scared that if they stiffen up their legs, his thing might just break?

The Second Empress' side immediately received a huge morale boost. The Xiao Clan's private army took the lead and charged forth. Lei Xin and Wu Cheng exchanged a look. They had no way out now, so they could only lead the Golden Crow Guards under them and brace themselves. The Elf, Demon, and Ocean races' people swiftly followed.

The impact of their simultaneous charge was too great. The Lion race's defensive line was almost instantly broken through. Under the circumstances, it could just break apart entirely.

Hu Qianxiao cursed the Lion race for being useless. He couldn't just watch the scene continue. He quickly rushed forth to stop the valiant Yun Jianyue, thus barely stabilizing the situation.

Up in the air, Shi Zhentian had been fighting intensely; was shocked and angry when he saw the situation below. He roared at Zu An, "Weren't you boasting arrogantly just now? Why don't you come up if you have the skills? Is hiding behind women all you know how to do?!"

You have successfully trolled Shi Zhentian for +666 +666 +666...

Chapter 1500: I'm Worried That You'll Just Die

Shi Zhentian was furious. Not only had he almost failed to guard the gates, he had even been laughed at by his old enemy. It was all that brat Zu An's fault!

It was clearly the Second Empress leading the troops this time, but for some reason, all of his anger was directed at Zu An.

This brat is just too good at taunting people!

You have successfully trolled Shi Zhentian for +444 +444 +444...

When she heard his provocation, the Second Empress quickly grabbed Zu An's arm, exclaiming, "Don't be so reckless!" She worried that Zu An was still too young and hot-blooded, assuming he was acting based on emotions.

In the distance, Chi Wen was fighting while drenched in blood, feeling proud of himself. I just performed so many of the Ocean races' incredible skills and defeated so many enemies! My handsome image must have left the Second Empress with a deep impression, right?

However, he didn't want her to see that he really cared about that either, so he only secretly looked at the Second Empress out of the corner of his eye. And yet, the Second Empress wasn't even looking at him at all. Instead, she was tugging on Zu An's arm with a worried expression. Her eyes were filled with affection! Chi Wen immediately felt depressed.

Heavens, are you messing with me right now?! Sigh, throughout history, all those who have endless love like me have been destined for regret! It seems as if I won't love again in this life of mine... Chi Wen thought, looking as if his parents had died or something.

The Lion race's reinforcements and the Golden Crow Guards who had stayed behind with the Crown Prince all rushed to the top of the wall. They all aimed their rune-imbued crossbows at the people below.

Chi Wen was busy lamenting, so he didn't immediately notice it.

Someone shouted from one side, "Be careful!" Then, a huge pile of vines wove together to form a web, blocking the shower of crossbow bolts.

Only then did Chi Wen realize that he had been saved. He reflexively turned around, saying, "Thank... you?"

When he saw Qiao Xueying's slender and elegant figure under the moonlight glow, he suddenly felt as if beautiful music were playing in his ears. Oh no! It seems as if I'm able to love again!

"Oh, beautiful Elf Princess, please let me introduce myself..." he began, showing Qiao Xueying a smile that thought was handsome.

Unfortunately, Qiao Xueying cut him off before he could even finish, saying, "Introduce, my butt! Hurry and fight!"

Chi Wen's smile immediately froze on his face. Why is this Elf Princess not warm at all?

Regardless, he thought, that only proved Qiao Xueying was straightforward in nature, and that she wasn't the type of woman to put on airs. Ahhhh, I'm in love!

...

Just then, more reinforcements arrived from the Imperial Palace's side. They seemed to be preparing an even more formidable defensive formation.

Yu Yanluo's eyes shone with light. The Medusa's Eye made the strong cultivators who had arrived slowly begin to petrify, their movements slowing down.

Chi Wen's jaw practically dropped to the ground. He thought, The women around Zu An are all freaking violent! I should just stay a bit farther away from her...

Hmph, it's still the Elf race's princess who seems the most gentle and delicate.

Huh? Wait... the Elf Princess seemed to be really close to Zu An on the way here too...

Motherf... how the hell is this fair? Why do all of these beauties have something to do with him?

Princess Suolun used the chance the Medusa Queen provided to lead the Demon race into battle, breaking the enemy's defensive points one after another. As she charged and moved around in the battle formation, her excellent figure gave off a stirring sense of beauty.

Chi Wen's eyes lit up. People always say that Demon race women taste quite excellent, but I've never tried it before.

Hm... This Demon race Princess matches my tastes, whether it's her face or her figure. I'll pursue her then! There's no way this woman has something to do with that bastard too, right?

Zu An didn't notice the Rage points continuously coming from the little dragon in the backend. He looked up at Shi Zhentian indifferently, saying, "I'm just worried that if I get involved, you'll lose your life immediately."

"Huh?"

Shi Zhentian was stunned at first. Then, he doubled over with laughter. He was almost hurt by Yan Xuehen's Snowflake Sword as a result, exclaiming, "Are you trying to make me die from laughter?"

Meanwhile, the brothers Shi Min, Shi Gong, and Shi Rong, also laughed in the midst of combat when they heard Zu An. Is there something wrong with this guy's head? It's one thing to win against us through schemes and craftiness, but you even dare to provoke our father?

Do you know who our father is? He's one of the strongest experts among all the Fiend races!

He could kill you as easily as crushing an ant!

However, Zu An didn't waste any more time with words and took out a bow. Then, an arrow that looked illusory appeared.

Shi Min sneered. "He was actually planning to mount a hidden attack! What a pity that he's not at a high enough level. That bow and arrow won't even be able to land a scratch on father."

"Third brother is wise, as expected!" the two brothers next to him exclaimed, both giving him a thumbs up.

Only Shi Zhentian frowned as he floated in midair. He hadn't noticed anything at first, but then he had suddenly felt an uneasiness he couldn't really explain.

There's no way I'm scared of that brat, right?

How is that possible?!

He wanted to laugh, but he couldn't. Suddenly, he remembered where he had seen that bow before. Isn't that the freaking...

Just then, a brilliant streak of light flew toward him, making him think he had seen a shooting star. It was the first time he had seen a shooting star so close up... as well as the last time.

...

Shi Zhentian was full of regret.

Ever since the day he was born, life had always gone the way he wanted, with everyone around him worshipping and praising him. He had been publicly acknowledged to be the most outstanding genius of

the last few centuries. There was even an ancient prophecy in the clan that claimed a golden lion would lead the Lion race to glory they had never experienced before.

People had always thought that he was the one the prophecy was talking about.

When he was little, he had already become the young king of the entire Lion race. He had been undefeated among his peers. He had even been able to beat up some kids older than him badly.

Whenever he went out to play in the wild, if he didn't fall off a cliff, he had been captured by some big bird, or surrounded by ferocious beasts. However, he could always turn misfortune into fortune, falling into some bird's nest or beast valley and obtaining various secret manuals, divine skills, and wondrous treasures... Compared to his fortuitous encounters, the opportunities found by juniors like Shi Ling and others amounted to nothing at all.

The older he grew, the stronger he grew as well, without end. Forget about people his age, even older generation experts weren't a match for him. Thus, in order to gain battle experience, he had taken the initiative to separate himself from his father. He had begun to wander across the prairie.

He hadn't been satisfied with friendly battles, because he knew his opponents would hold back some of their trump cards. The benefits he would gain from such fights would be limited. As such, he had only done one thing: Whenever he passed by a tribe, he stole the wife of the strongest person there.

The greatest grudges came from none other than murdering one's father, or stealing one's wife. Only that way could he make so many experts willing to fight him to the death. Such life and death struggles would truly decide who was stronger.

Of course, there was another reason why he had sought out such experts, which was that the women of strong cultivators were often the greatest beauties. Playing around with them really was quite fun.

Just like that, he had wandered the world for a few years, soon leaving all the experts of the prairie terror-stricken. At that point, he could no longer find worthy opponents anymore. As such, he had returned to the Lion King Court, then challenged his father.

After a great battle, the former Lion King had been killed in battle, and Shi Zhentian won. He had thus become the new Lion King.

That wasn't particularly shocking for the Lion race, however. Changes of leadership among Lion Kings were often accompanied by bloody battles. Only then could they ensure that every Lion King was the strongest, thus bringing the entire race the greatest glory.

However, directly killing the Lion King like that still wasn't that common. Most of the time, the former Lion King would just leave in disgrace upon realizing he wasn't a match.

Of course, the Lion race didn't have any concept of patricide. It had happened more than once or twice in history. That was why, even though it was a bit inappropriate, it had still been considered acceptable.

Then, Shi Zhentian had taken over his father's harem. He hadn't emerged from the imperial palace for three months after that. He soon discovered that during those three months, he felt even more tired than when he was fighting against strong experts outside. However, he had been happily tired. His father's wives really were incredible; their taste really was quite excellent.

People in the Lion race were all used to it; every new Lion King did the same. On the prairie, women were precious strategic resources who could continuously give birth to later generations. In contrast, the human race neglected the wives of the former ruler. That merely seemed like a waste to them.

Thus, after decades of Shi Zhentian's rule, he had unified the different Lion race tribes on the prairie and forced back the powerful Hyena race bit by bit. He soon expanded his territory there to the limit.

Afterward, however, he was no longer satisfied with the prairie, and thus aimed at the Fiend King Court. He wanted to seize even more benefits for the Lion race. Why were there only three king races, the Peacock, Great Peng, and Elf races, under the Fiend Emperor? The Lion race had every right to become a fourth King race, or to even be above the other king races!

The Golden Crow Crown Prince had recognized his great strength and ambition, so the two sides had hit it off. Shi Zhentian knew that after tonight, there would be a shuffling of the Fiend races' power structure. The more chaotic the situation became, the more opportunities the Lion race would have.

The Peacock King race, Golden Peng King race, and Elf King race had remained powerful for too long. It was time for them to be replaced. That would bring a kind of glory the Lion race had never experienced before. However, he wasn't satisfied with just that.

Who says the Fiend Emperor's position has to be held by the Golden Crow race? Am I, Shi Zhentian, not fit to become the Fiend Emperor? he thought. However, the late Fiend Emperor had just been too strong, which temporarily suppressed his ambitions.

When he was told that the late Fiend Emperor had already died by the Golden Crow Crown Prince, he had been wild with joy. The heavens really are helping me!

No wonder I had so many miraculous encounters ever since I was young. I am a child blessed by fate!

The late Fiend Emperor died unexpectedly in the secret dungeon and wasn't able to pass on his cultivation to the Golden Crow Crown Prince. Does that brat really think I'll yield to him?

I'll work with him to get rid of other powerful enemies first, but once I gain great authority, that will be a chance for me to become the new Fiend Emperor!

His plans were clearly perfect, so why had something unexpected happened?

This little monster Zu An, just where did he come from? Who the hell says he's just reached the master rank?

Bullshit!

I have so many regreeeees!

You have successfully trolled Shi Zhentian for +555 +555 +555...

Can I have just one more chance?

Unfortunately, his consciousness quickly plunged into endless darkness.

...

When the onlookers saw a lump of badly-mangled flesh fall from the air, a deep silence fell over the entire place. Many people rubbed their eyes in confusion, thinking that perhaps they were mistaken.

Some of them thought Shi Zhentian was just wounded. However, with a loud noise, his body broke into pieces from the fall.

Those present finally reacted to what had happened.