

Immortal 151

Chapter 151: Befriend a Rich Man

Zu An nearly burst out laughing upon hearing those words.

Please, she's my wife. I'll hold her hands whenever I want to. What business of it is yours? Aren't you too narcissistic? You actually want my wife to remain maidenly for your sake?

That obsession of yours is a mental disorder! Go and get yourself locked up in the asylum or something!

Chu Chuyan's face turned cold. "It's out of your place to interfere in the affairs of me and my husband."

Even someone who was as nonchalant as her was getting angry at this situation too. What's wrong with him? Even Zu An looks far more normal compared to him!

Shi Kun took a deep breath to calm himself before saying, "I thought of you as a fairy descending from heaven, and I was intending to pursue you slowly. However, it looks like my plan isn't going to work out. If I continue taking my time, another man would only get to you before me."

By the side, Qiao Xueying felt a little hesitant to speak up. Young master, there's actually no need for you to worry. Zu An is... But she found herself unable to speak up as she wouldn't be able to justify why she hid this matter from him in the first place.

Zu An and Chu Chuyan also shot looks of astonishment toward Qiao Xueying too, clearly bearing the same thoughts in mind. They also didn't expect the latter to hide the fact that Zu An was impotent from Shi Kun.

Zu An nudged his wife and whispered softly, "See? Even though Snow keeps taunting me about that, she still cares a lot for my reputation."

Chu Chuyan was also perplexed about the situation too. Could these two really be the what 'loving, quarreling couple' that Zu An spoke about earlier?

Their intimate interaction further fanned the inferno burning in Shi Kun's heart. "I shall just skip the hassle and get straight to the act. Right here right now, I shall kill Zu An and seal the deal with you!"

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +678 Rage!

"You were indeed the culprit all along! The reason why you slotted Snow into the Chu clan and slipped so many of your lackeys into the academy was all to make me yours?"

"Indeed! I was mesmerized by you at first sight, so I made many arrangements for it over the years. Many women have offered themselves to me, but I didn't even spare a glance at them. Our relationship shall be perfect, built upon purity. Aren't you impressed by the sheer devotion I carry for you?" Shi Kun looked at Chu Chuyan in anticipation.

At the same time, he felt greatly tilted as well. The goddess in his heart had already been sullied by another man's hand now. He couldn't help but wonder if they had even more intimate interactions over the days, and just the thought of it was enough to drive him insane.

He had more than a decade of effort into this just so that he could court the lady of his dreams. It was finally all within grasp, and all that was left was for him to make a move. Yet, another man actually got to her first! How could he possibly not be angered?

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +785 Rage!

“You disgust me,” said Chu Chuyan with a deep frown.

“You!!!”

Shi Kun could have never thought that all the sacrifices he had made would lead to such an outcome. His face turned so livid that it looked as if it would seep out ink.

“Very well. Since you harbor no feelings for me, it looks like I’ll have to go around it by force. You might hate me at the start, but once your body is mine, you’ll eventually come to accept and love me. Hahaha!”

“Shameless!” Chu Chuyan’s eyes glazed with frost. Unable to take it anymore, she drew her sword and charged right toward Shi Kun.

However, Shi Kun was already prepared. He summoned four tornadoes around him as he stepped forward to meet with Chu Chuyan’s attack.

It was said that if one were to master the Shi clan’s Wind God Formula to the highest level, one would be able to summon nine devastating tornadoes that could bring about ruination. Even though he was only able to summon four at the moment, compared to those in his age group, he could easily count as one of the three most talented cultivators in the entire history of the Shi clan.

Soon, the two of them began crossing blows with one another, causing a snowstorm to rage. The surrounding grass was covered in frost, and many of the trees in the area were battered down by the powerful wind.

Behind Chu Chuyan, Zu An silently slipped out Poisonous Prick, ready to launch a surprise attack on Shi Kun as soon as the latter showed an opening. How could he possibly tolerate another man coveting his wife?

However, his plan was destined to never come to fruition, for Shi Kun’s lackeys were not fools. The two fourth rank and five third rank cultivators immediately charged toward Zu An.

They had just seen with their own eyes just how much Shi Kun hated Zu An, so they implicitly understood that they would be handsomely rewarded if they ended Zu An’s life with their own hands.

It was just that Zu An was no pushover either. He was already angry enough as he was, and these lackeys still wanted to stand in his way at a moment like this. With a flash of his sword, he ended the life of one of the third rank cultivators mercilessly.

The remaining six lackeys immediately froze up in place.

To their horror, none of them had actually managed to see how Zu An managed to land the blow earlier. His sword was clearly aimed at Shi Kun, but for some inexplicable reason, it twisted in an unnatural

angle, and before they knew it, one of their comrades had already fallen. This eerie occurrence crushed their confidence to defeat Zu An, causing them to hesitate.

Qiao Xueying, who had been watching him all this while, was alarmed too. She knew that Zu An had been playing the fool in the Chu clan all this while, but she never expected him to actually know such profound swordplay.

She suddenly recalled how Zu An had dragged her into the lake back then. She thought that it was due to her fear of water that led to her getting done in that easily back then, but looking back at it now, Zu An's unexpected strength probably played a huge role as well.

Just thinking about his hands pumping down on her chest made her face redden in embarrassment and fury.

He really is a despicable scoundrel through and through!

You have successfully trolled Qiao Xueying for +128 Rage!

The other six lackeys had been intimidated by Zu An's attack, but that wasn't enough to stop them. Their initial plan was to confront Zu An head-on and take him down, but right now, they chose to split up and encircle him instead.

No matter how powerful Zu An might be, there was so much he could do against the encirclement of six skilled cultivators. He could only try his best to dodge their attacks using Sunflower Phantasm. It was fortunate that these cultivators were far weaker and less skilled than Jia Zhengjing and the others, or else he would have probably been dead by now.

Everyone implicitly understood that the key of the battle lay in the fight between Shi Kun and Chu Chuyan. If Shi Kun won, Zu An would definitely fall as well. If Chu Chuyan won, a bunch of third rank and fourth rank cultivators like them wouldn't possibly dare to confront her.

All of a sudden, Shi Kun burst into laughter and said, "Chuyan, if you had been in your peak, I would probably only have an equal chance of defeating you. In your current state, however, you stand not a sliver of a chance at all!"

Under the augmentation of Wind God Formula, his sword formed countless after images, as if a storm battering down on the enemy.

On the other hand, Chu Chuyan ignored Shi Kun's words and formed an ice barrier before her in order to deal with Shi Kun's attack.

The swords crashing on the ice barrier produced jarring clanging noises, and soon, cracks began forming on the surface of the ice barrier.

Shi Kun roared in laughter upon seeing the cracks whereas Chu Chuyan's frown deepened.

Eventually, the ice barrier succumbed, and Shi Kun morphed into a tornado and charged forth. Everything that stood in his way, be it rocks or stones, were crushed into smithereens. Nothing could stand in the path between him and Chu Chuyan anymore.

Chu Chuyan knew that she would be disadvantaged in a direct battle against Shi Kun in her current state, so she chose to kite him instead. She danced around the battlefield like a snow fairy amidst the storm.

Zu An was worried for Chu Chuyan after learning of her injuries, so he made sure to keep an eye out for her. He noticed that she was being forced back by the mini storm ravaging the area. While she hadn't been struck yet, it didn't seem like she would be able to last long before this overwhelming force struck her.

His heart couldn't help but tremble in worry. His momentary distraction caused him to suffer a few more wounds on his wound, but fortunately, he was still able to dodge in time and avoid any fatal injuries.

Chu Chuyan was taking a defensive position at the moment, but that didn't mean that she had given up on the fight yet. Soon, the opportunity she was waiting for arrived, and she harrumphed coldly, "Did you think that you were the only one capable of summoning a storm?"

Her sword moved in a beautiful arc, reminiscent of a dance. A snowstorm swiftly began to build up around her before gushing in Shi Kun's direction.

The two storms collided with one another in a deafening collision, producing devastating wind blades that rippled outward, ravaging everything with its touch. Everything was sliced into two under their furious assault, be it grass, tree, or even boulders.

Sensing the terrifying shockwave heading in their direction, the battling cultivators quickly retreated to seek cover. One of the early third rank cultivators wasn't able to get away in time and ended up getting battered by the surrounding ice shards, smashing bloodied holes in his body.

Zu An was appalled. The strength wielded by fifth rank cultivators was indeed far beyond his current means to deal with. It would appear that his triumph over Yuan Wendong was indeed mostly due to the help of modern technology.

Meanwhile, Chu Chuyan and Shi Kun were standing in the heart of the storm, their silhouettes flickering here and there as they hurled blows at one another.

It was slowly becoming apparent that the windstorm was getting overwhelmed by the snowstorm, and it eventually got to a point where everything within twenty meters radius of Chu Chuyan turned snowy white. Shi Kun's hair, limbs, and the surface of his body were coated in a layer of frost.

Even he was taken aback by this outcome. It's no wonder why this woman was dubbed as the most talented prodigy of Brightmoon City. Despite her current state, I'm still in a disadvantageous position against her in a direct clash.

"What are you dawdling over there for? Help me!" Shi Kun glared at Qiao Xueying sharply.

His earlier actions toward Chu Chuyan had effectively led to a complete fallout. By this point, he couldn't care about his pride or dignity anymore. Or rather, if Chu Chuyan and Zu An were to get out of here alive, both he and the entire Shi clan would be shamed!

Qiao Xueying was still deeply conflicted. She was unwilling to make a move against Chu Chuyan, but she couldn't disobey the young master's order either. Biting her lips, she eventually decided to charge toward Zu An instead.

The young master didn't mention whom she should help anyway, so it was the same for her to deal with this hateful fellow too.

Zu An clicked this tongue. This shrew just wouldn't give up, huh?

With a fifth rank cultivator joining the fray, the pressure on Zu An was immediately heightened. But surprisingly—perhaps it was due to Qiao Xueying holding back, or that her coordination with the other cultivators was lacking—he found himself barely able to hold on against such a powerful line-up.

On the other hand, Shi Kun frowned upon seeing her actions. It should have been obvious that he was telling Qiao Xueying to back him up, but she chose to attack Zu An instead. Does she still feel a bond toward the Chu clan?

However, this wasn't the time to be pursuing such stuff. He had to focus his attention on dealing with Chu Chuyan for the time being. In any case, as long as the others subdue Zu An's quickly, they would be able to focus their strength on dealing with Chu Chuyan.

Chu Chuyan also noticed the situation over on Zu An's side too. Zu An was already in a bad position dealing with six cultivators simultaneously, and the addition of Snow into the line-up further worsened his plight.

In a moment of agitation, her face suddenly began to turn unnaturally red. Then, she spurted a mouth of fresh blood filled with ice fragments, causing her aura to weaken significantly.

Shi Kun was delighted to see that. It looks like her injuries are finally acting up on her now. Heh, there's no way I can lose now!

So, he immediately moved in to pressure her, causing a twist in the situation.

Zu An swiftly noticed the anomaly with Chu Chuyan, and considering the terrible position he was in too, it would only be a matter of time before they got done in here. So, he took in a deep breath and shouted out loudly, "Wait a moment! I'm friends with your young master!"

Qiao Xueying rolled her eyes. You're friends with the young master? Hahaha! Why don't you say that I'm in love with you instead? That would have been far more credible!

The other lackeys were also intending to shrug off Zu An's remark and continue their assault, but unexpectedly, Shi Kun shouted back, "Hold it right there! He's indeed my friend!"

Chapter 152: A Friend's Wife Shouldn't Be Coveted

Everyone immediately turned to look at Shi Kun in astonishment upon hearing those words.

"???" Qiao Xueying.

"???" Shi Kun's lackeys.

Qiao Xueying even began wondering if the young master had lost his sanity. How could he possibly be friends with Zu An? That's impossible!

Chu Chuyan was utterly dumbfounded too. What is Shi Kun up to this time around?

But the one who was the most dumbfounded of all was no other than Shi Kun. He felt like his mind had turned into mush as two conflicting tendencies arose in his head. He even wondered if he had gone mad.

Meanwhile, Zu An heaved a sigh of relief. In this critical moment, he decided to use his skill 'Befriend a Rich Man'!

Still, how does this skill take my money away though? Do my banknotes just mysteriously disappear or something? More importantly, do I need to bring my banknotes with me, or does it just apply to money that belongs to me?

Goddamnit! I lost 100,000 silver taels just like that! Even a firework goes off with a bam, but my 100,000 silver taels vanished without even a poof!

Just looking at the culprit who forced him to use the skill filled him with great fury, but he forced himself to put on a smile. He walked over to Shi Kun with his arms opened wide, as if preparing to embrace the latter. "Ah, my friend! My deepest apologies for the misunderstandings we had between us earlier!"

Qiao Xueying looked at Zu An as if he was an idiot. You want to hug the young master? Hah, your arms are going to be severed off!

Chu Chuyan also felt her heart thumping nervously. She silently approached the two of them, thinking that she would step right in to save Zu An in case Shi Kun attempted anything.

But to everyone's disbelief, Shi Kun also opened his arms wide as well to invite Zu An in for an embrace, replying, "My friend, I've no idea what gotten over me earlier. Please forgive me for my earlier foolishness."

Qiao Xueying rubbed her eyes in bewilderment.

Oh my god, I'm going to go blind. When in the world did the young master become friends with Zu An?! Did I get off the wrong side of my bed today? Or am I actually dreaming right now?

She looked at the lackeys around her, only to see disgusted expressions on their faces. Their reactions told her clearly that she wasn't seeing things here.

Chu Chuyan also thought that the situation unfolding before her eyes was utterly ridiculous. It made her suspect if Zu An had been on the same side as Shi Kun right from the start.

No, that can't be. Given Shi Kun's personality, there's no way he would tolerate his subordinate becoming my husband. If so, Zu An is likely sent by other clans. Is he from the emperor's faction or the empress' faction?

All of a sudden, Chu Chuyan felt her body turning icy-cold. She had tried her best to guard against them, but she still fell for their schemes in the end.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for +512 Rage!

She wasn't the only one who felt despaired. The others were also contributing a lot of Rage points to Zu An too.

Looking at the inflow of Rage points in his system, Zu An silently thought, Honey, please calm down for now. I'll explain it all to you later!

Just as he and Shi Kun were about to embrace one another, he summoned Poisonous Prick and aimed it right toward the latter.

He had been wondering how he could best use 'Befriending a Rich Man' since it was time-limited, and the concept of 'friends' was simply too vague. Everyone had their own interpretation of it, after all!

However, he figured that friends, regardless of what kind, would probably not have their guards up against one another, which created the perfect scenario for him to use Poisonous Prick. As long as he could get close enough to nick the other party with it, he would be able to carry out any assassination with ease.

As Poisonous Prick swiftly approached Shi Kun, a sinister smile suddenly crept on Shi Kun's face. He deflected Poisonous Prick with his sword before abruptly sinking a punch into Zu An's body.

Pu!

Zu An spurted a mouthful of blood as he staggered backward. It was fortunate that he had his guard up all along, such that he managed to use Sunflower Phantasm in the final moment to ward off the impact, or else that single punch would have been more than enough to end his life.

This was yet another scene that completely confounded everyone. It was just a second ago that they were friends delighted to reunite with one another, but in the next second, they fell out with one another and tried to take each other's life. Just what kind of bizarre play was this?!

Chu Chuyan was bewildered, but she still rushed forward to catch Zu An and stop Shi Kun from launching any follow-up attacks.

Zu An fell right into Chu Chuyan's embrace, but he was too bewildered by the happenings to enjoy her soft and comforting arms. Instead, he stared at Shi Kun in shock as he exclaimed, "Why?! We're obviously friends with one another!"

He couldn't make sense of the current situation. While the Keyboard system did often offer terrible prizes, he had never faced any trouble with the effectiveness of its tools before. So, why would it fail him now? Why would Shi Kun still be guarded against him and even attempt to take his life?

Shi Kun looked at Zu An with a smile and said, "We're friends, but that doesn't change the fact that your wife is pretty. As they say, true friends go through prosperity and suffering together, so I shan't hold myself back either."

"^&*%#@ " Zu An.

If the system could collect his Rage points too, it would definitely rocket shoot through the limit right away.

He had never thought that his assassination attempt would actually fail due to this.

Indeed, 'Befriend a Rich Man' had turned Shi Kun into his friend, but this perverted bastard couldn't curb his lustful thoughts for Chu Chuyan because she was too pretty! In other words, he was determined to lay his hands on Chu Chuyan regardless of whether Zu An was his friend or not!

Shit, how could I have overlooked such a possibility? Someone as cold-hearted as Shi Kun wouldn't hesitate to kill his friend as long as he could gain something out of it!

Damn it, that's 100,000 silver taels over there! It's all going to waste just like that!

Zu An thought that there was no greater misery in life than losing 100,000 silver taels in an instant, but it turned out that he was gravely wrong. Even the saddest songs in the world couldn't hope to describe the anguish he was feeling at this very moment!

It looks like even though the skill can change my affection meter with an individual, it cannot change the individual's personality. Betrayal does happen between friends after all, so I shouldn't hope to think that everything would be fine just because I become friends with someone.

Damn it, is there a rewind button in this world? Let me do it all again!

Shi Kun slowly walked over to Zu An and said, "I don't know why you're suddenly a friend of mine, but as a fellow friend, allow me to reassure you that you can leave in peace. I'll take good care of your beautiful wife after your death."

Ever since he obtained the Rage system, he had been the one to anger others and make them stamp their feet maddeningly, but for the first time in forever, he was actually the one getting angry this time around. Shi Kun was simply too depraved and warped that he couldn't stand it at all.

It wasn't just Zu An who was angered here. Chu Chuyan also looked at Shi Kun with a frosty look on her face. "The world praises the Sixth Young Master of the Shi clan for being a humble gentleman, but who could have thought that a depraved beast hides beneath his cover of eloquence!"

Qiao Xueying also silently nodded in agreement. The current Shi Kun was indeed very different from the man in her memories. She could understand him for resorting to some underhanded means to court the woman he fancied, but ever since arriving in this dungeon, perhaps it was due to him knowing that nothing would get out, he lost the morals he usually shackled on himself and began acting as he pleased.

The current Shi Kun felt incredibly foreign to her, leaving her with a great sense of loss.

Shi Kun sneered ruthlessly, "Chu Chuyan, you were the one who forced me to do this. If you hadn't gotten overly intimate with other men, I wouldn't have anxiously resorted to such means either!"

"You lunatic!" bellowed Chu Chuyan.

"Well said, honey!" complimented Zu An with a thumbs up. Then, he added his own share in too, "You fucking pervert!"

Initially, Shi Kun didn't pay much heed to Zu An's criticisms at all. In his view, Zu An was already a dead man, and whatever insults he hurled were nothing more than the death throes of the weak. In fact, Zu An's shoutings only further proved his strength and power, which left him with immense satisfaction.

However, it was a different thing to see him doing it together with Chu Chuyan. It felt as if they were the real couple here, and it ignited the pot of envy in his heart.

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +996 Rage!

“Bastard Zu An, I’ll slice you into pieces!”

The light around Shi Kun suddenly distorted. Taking a closer look, many translucent wind blades were floating around him, ready to strike forth at any moment to splatter blood.

Tempestuous Blades!

With a furious howl, the wind blades began revolving furiously in Zu An’s direction. Even without trying out their sharpness, Zu An had no doubt that he would be sliced into sashimi pieces at this rate.

Naturally, Chu Chuyan wouldn’t leave him to the lurch. With a bellow, she transformed everything within a three meters radius into ice, shrouding the two of them amidst a blue barrier reminiscent of an eggshell.

It was just that this blue barrier was much more resilient than mere eggshells. The onslaught of wind blades produced ‘kacha kacha’ sounds upon striking the barrier, but they were unable to breach its defense.

However, Zu An wasn’t optimistic about the situation they were in. He noticed that Chu Chuyan’s face was turning pale, and her breathing was getting more and more irregular.

Shi Kun burst into laughter and said, “Young miss Chu’s ‘Blue Guardian’ is indeed as spectacular as the rumors put it out to be. I just wonder how long can it last. It looks like it’s diminishing at a visible pace.”

Chu Chuyan’s blue barrier had been six meters wide at the start, but it had diminished to just around two meters now.

“The young master is truly formidable!”

“Looks like even the number one prodigy of Brightmoon City is nothing before him!”

“No matter how formidable she is, she’s just a woman. Before our dashing young master, it’s inevitable that she would succumb! Hahaha!”

...

Laughter roared in the surroundings as Shi Kun’s lackey cheered loudly for him by the sidelines. It was apparent to anyone with eyes that Shi Kun had the advantage here. The only one who remained silent was Qiao Xueying, who watched the scene with a brooding look on her face.

A moment later, the blue barrier grew even smaller, becoming just a meter wide. It left the duo inside with no choice but to huddle closely together.

Had it been on any other occasion, Zu An would surely have been delighted to get so intimate with Chu Chuyan, but looking at her ghastly pale face and the sweat dripping profusely from her cheeks, he couldn’t remain in his merry mood anymore.

Meanwhile, Shi Kun watched as the cracks on the blue barrier grew more and more numerous, and a smile finally broke on his face.

It's all finally going to be over. I'll first deal with Zu An before sealing the deal with Chu Chuyan.

Chu Chuyan is a prideful woman though. If I force my way with her, it's unlikely that she'd agree with it. Perhaps I should spare Zu An and use his life to threaten her to submit to me?

Shi Kun was a little conflicted. The notion of Chu Chuyan submitting to him for another man displeased him greatly, but the thought of the lofty beauty kneeling before him for her husband felt incredibly enticing too. Ahhh, my heart is racing now.

All of a sudden, Zu An asked, "Brother Shi, are you filial to your mother?"

Chapter 153: The First Man To Get Pregnant in the Great Zhou Dynasty

"Of course! Why would I not be filial to my mother?" Shi Kun snapped in response.

The Great Zhou Dynasty embraced the value of filial piety. No matter how lofty a person's standing was, they dared not to be pinned with the label of being unfilial.

"How can you claim that you're filial without going through the hardship brought about by ten months of pregnancy and the pain of labor? You don't know the suffering your mother has been through in order to have you!" Zu An sighed deeply.

"..." Chu Chuyan.

She had no idea why Zu An was saying such words at this moment, but again, he had always been an unpredictable person to her.

The other lackeys were dumbfounded too. Everything that had happened today was so ridiculous that it felt like a badly written novel. The young master and Zu An identified one another as their friends, then they fell out with one another, and now, they were suddenly talking about filial piety. What was wrong with this world?!

"..." Shi Kun.

He harrumphed coldly and said, "It's out of consideration of our friendship that I patiently answered your ridiculous question. Now that I've fulfilled your curiosity, you can depart with peace of mind!"

"Since you view me as a friend, it's only right for me to bequeath you with a gift. I'll allow you to experience the joys and hardship of pregnancy so that you can better appreciate your own mother and become a more filial son!" A mysterious smile emerged on Zu An's face.

"What nonsense is that?" Shi Kun and his lackeys stared at Zu An as if he was a fool. How could a man possibly get pregnant?

Only Qiao Xueying was alarmed at those words, and she shouted out loud, "Young master, be careful!"

“Be careful?” Shi Kun was perplexed. Victory was already in his grasp, and very soon, Chu Chuyan would be his. What was there to be careful about?

Ah? Why does my stomach suddenly feel bloated? Did I eat something bad? Argh, it’s getting fuller and fuller...

Shi Kun’s face scrunched a little. He thought that he was suffering from diarrhea. One must know that he valued his image as a refined gentleman greatly, so it would be extremely humiliating for him if he had to run to the toilet in the presence of so many people.

Hm? Why does it feel like my stomach is getting bigger and heavier?

He looked down at his own stomach, but there were clearly no changes at all.

It’s getting more and more swollen!

It was a weird disconnect between how he felt and what he saw, and it made him doubt his own senses. He turned to his lackeys and asked, “Is my stomach getting bigger?”

“Bigger? It isn’t.”

The lackeys shook their heads in confusion. At the same time, they began trading glances with one another.

“Isn’t there something very different with the young master today?”

“Yeah! He claimed that Zu An was his friend, and now, he’s asking if his stomach is getting bigger...”

“Say, it is possible for the young master to have gone mad from envy from seeing Zu An and young miss Chu getting so intimate with one another?”

“That’s very possible.”

...

Shi Kun couldn’t help but reach out to fondle his stomach, but no matter how he touched it, the bizarre sensations he was feeling just wouldn’t go away.

Soon, a mystifying pain assaulted him, causing his handsome face to scrunch together. It was an incredibly weird pain, coming from his nether region. He had never felt anything like this before. It felt like his soul was screaming from within.

He was, after all, a reputed prodigy, a young master from a prominent clan. He forced himself to swallow down the pain and stopped himself from screaming out loud. He couldn’t bring himself to shriek before his lackeys and the woman he loved.

Fortunately, the pain lasted for around ten seconds before finally fading off, as if it had never been there.

“What’s going on?” Shi Kun frowned. He realized that the wind blades he had been controlling were showing signs of dissipating, so he quickly focused his attention on them once more.

But around thirty seconds later, that familiar yet foreign pain assaulted him once more.

“Ah?”

The sudden assault of excruciating pain caused Shi Kun’s wind blades to nearly scatter on the spot. Why is it coming again?! He tried his best to endure it, and once again, the pain vanished after a few seconds.

“Have I been cultivating too hard that my cultivation is going a little berserk?” Shi Kun felt that he should get Elder Shi Lezhi to take a close look at his current condition.

He quickly regathered his focus to control the wind blades once more, but he couldn’t shake off the worry that the excruciating pain would strike him once more.

Even though he was already mentally prepared for it, when the unbearable pain struck again around twenty seconds later, he still nearly caved in on the spot.

Shit! Stop it!

Worst of all, he realized that the interval between each assault of pain was growing shorter, and the pain was getting more and more intense.

“What’s he doing?” Chu Chuyan stared at the livid-faced Shi Kun in confusion.

She could sense that the wind blades in the surroundings were suddenly alternating between strong and weak. Right now, it even looked like they were going to dissipate. This lessened the pressure on her greatly.

“He might be reflecting on his evildoings now,” sneered Zu An.

That fellow would have never imagined that the pain he’s suffering is known as labor pain. Well, no man in this world would have that experience to share with him, and no woman would talk about this before a man in this fairly conservative era.

Given how desperate the situation was becoming, he had no choice but to use ‘Knock-You-Up Eyes’ here. Its effects were fairly splendid, but it was a pity that he only had one use of it left after this.

Zu An wanted to rush forward to get rid of Shi Kun once and for all, but seeing that Qiao Xueying and the others had already run over to cover him, he had no choice but to drop that thought. With his current strength, he couldn’t hope to overpower them.

Zu An pondered for a moment before taking out ‘Faith in Brother Spring’ and handing it over to Chu Chuyan. “Honey, drink this.”

“What’s that?” Wary about the bottle of suspicious liquid, Chu Chuyan was a little hesitant to drink what Zu An was offering her.

“This is recovery medicine. Don’t worry, it has no poison and side effects, and it’ll send you back to full health right away!”

Zu An was a little reluctant to bring it out and this was the only bottle he had left, so it was basically taking away his only bonus life left.

However, he knew that the crux of whether they could survive this ordeal lay with Chu Chuyan. He was clearly insufficient to deal with a fifth rank cultivator at the moment, not to mention that there was a bunch of fourth rank and third rank cultivators around too.

As long as Chu Chuyan could recover back to full power, she should be able to deal with the threat right before them. Besides, she was his wife too, so it was not like he was giving such a precious treasure away to an outsider.

Chu Chuyan stared at Zu An quietly for a moment before finally nodding. "Very well."

Then, she downed the content inside the bottle in a single gulp.

Frankly speaking, what she was doing here was incredibly risky, and it was far beyond her comfort zone. As the daughter of a ducal clan, there were constantly plenty of people out for her life. On top of that, her beautiful appearance attracted the lust of the men around her, leaving her with no choice but to be constantly wary of her surroundings.

From a young age, she was taught to never accept food from others and never allow her drinking water to be out of her sight. Due to such an upbringing, she had been able to keep herself safe thus far.

Her reflexive reaction if anyone were to offer her a bottle of unidentified fluid was to ignore it. If the person offering the bottle to her was someone of special standing, making it impolite for her to turn that person down right away, she would accept it with a smile, but she wouldn't really drink it.

But for some reason, after looking into Zu An's eyes, she actually broke the own rule she had set for herself.

Is it because he's my husband? Is it because I sensed sincerity in his eyes? Or is it because of the look of reluctance on his face?

Even she had no idea what was going through her mind either when she chug down the drink.

That being said, she didn't bear much hope for his 'recovery medicine'. After all, given Zu An's background and strength, it was unimaginable for him to bring out anything decent.

But all of a sudden, she felt a warm surge of energy gushing through her body into her limbs. The dull pain coming from her injuries and the chaotic ki raging in her body began to alleviate swiftly.

"What medicine did you give me? How could it be so potent?" asked Chu Chuyan in astonishment.

"It's the medicine my teacher gave me back then. It's said to be able to revive even a dead corpse. How is it? Are your injuries fully recovered now?" asked Zu An.

Previously, when Chu Zhongtian and Qin Wanru grilled him about his background, he claimed that a mysterious man had taught him how to cultivate. It would make perfect sense for him to push this matter over to his 'teacher' too, or else Chu Chuyan would start suspecting him once again.

"Your teacher must be a formidable person," remarked Chu Chuyan. "Even though I haven't fully recovered yet, my injuries should have healed by around 60 to 70 percent. I've never seen such an incredible recovery medicine before!"

Even a recovery medicine concocted by someone of Ji Dengtu's caliber would require some time in order for it to take effect, but this medicine was actually able to heal a person instantaneously. If sold in the market, its value would be immeasurable!

"Of course! Your husband is an amazing man, after all!" replied Zu An gleefully. Then, he suddenly noticed something that she said and frowned. "Wait a moment, you said that your injuries only recovered by 60 to 70 percent?"

"Yes, it recovered by that amount instantaneously. Isn't that good enough? I was still having trouble trying to hold on earlier, but my condition is good enough to put up a fight now." Chu Chuyan was more than satisfied with the results, so she couldn't understand why Zu An had a discontented look on his face.

Of course it isn't enough! I was able to recover my wounds instantaneously the last time I drank it, so why is it different for Chuyan? Could it be that the effect of the items from the system is discounted for others?

No, that doesn't make sense though. The items should either work or not work at all; there shouldn't be any reason why the effect is discounted.

Wait a moment!

Zu An suddenly remembered that the 'Faith in Brother Spring' had a parenthesis behind labeled S. Could this mean that it only heals lower-ranked cultivators to full health, but its effects are less effective on higher-rank cultivators?

His years of gaming experience in his previous life helped him to swiftly figure out the truth. Chu Chuyan's cultivation rank was much higher than his, so even if he could recover to full health, that didn't mean that she would be able to do the same too.

"Argh, it hurts!" exclaimed Shi Kun.

No matter how strong his willpower was, the pain arising from childbirth was not something a human could endure. Once he started crying out, he couldn't stop anymore. Screams of misery escaped from his mouth, shocking everyone present.

"Young master, what's wrong?"

The lackeys panicked, unable to comprehend what was happening to Shi Kun. They couldn't see any injuries on him, so why was he suffering so much?

Shi Kung's face had distorted from sheer pain, such that he couldn't even speak a word at all.

Qiao Xueying glanced at Zu An fearfully. There was no way she couldn't tell that Shi Kun was suffering from the same symptoms as she did back then. She had thought that it could have been just as coincidence as it was unthinkable to her how it could have been Zu An's doing, but it turned out to be really the case!

Zu An reined in his thought and shouted, "Quick, kill them!"

“Alright!” Chu Chuyan had no idea why Shi Kun would suddenly be in such great pain, but an opportunity had finally presented itself.

So, she immediately charged over to Shi Kun’s side. Despite her incredibly fast movement, her motions remained pleasingly graceful, reminiscent of a true fairy.

Qiao Xueying’s face paled. She raised her hand and channeled the vines on the floor toward Chu Chuyan in hopes of stopping her.

In response, Chu Chuyan calmly swung her sword and tapped it lightly on the vines coming her way. Those vines that had been touched by her sword were immediately cloaked in a layer of frost, falling heavily back to the ground and losing their ability to move.

Qiao Xueying hurriedly took out a bottle of medicine and threw it over to one of the lackeys, saying, “Quick, feed this to the young master!”

Zu An was alarmed. He had no idea what that medicine was, but it would cause a variable if Shi Kun were to eat it. So, he immediately made a move and charged forth as well.

He was determined to take down Shi Kun while the latter was down!

Chapter 154: Divine Beast Devouring Kun

However, Shi Kun’s lackeys were already prepared to deal with Zu An. The stronger four of the five lackeys stepped forward to stop Zu An whereas the weakest hurried over to feed Shi Kun the medicine.

They had witnessed Zu An’s elusive movement skill and swift swordplay, so they dared not to let down their guard. They swung their weapons before them to create a defensive arc, aiming not to bring down Zu An but just to keep him at bay.

Zu An tried to charge forth numerous times, but he was forced to retreat before them. These four lackeys were stronger than him in terms of cultivation ranks, so it was hard for him to bypass them in a forceful charge.

By then, the weakest subordinate had already reached Shi Kun and was offering him the pill. Shi Kun was dripping tears and snot around the place from the sheer pain. If someone told him that eating shit could alleviate his suffering, he would probably do so without any hesitation.

He swallowed the pill without any hesitation, and a moment later, his pain really began to alleviate. While it didn’t disappear entirely, it had receded to a level where he could still barely tolerate it.

“Why would you have a pill like this?” Shi Kun’s face was drenched in sweat, such that his hair was sticking to his face. He looked at Qiao Xueying with appreciation in his eyes.

Qiao Xueying glanced at Zu An with a slightly reddened face as she answered, “I suffered the same plight back then too, so I prepared some medicine in the off case the same thing happens once more.”

The previous encounter had really traumatized her, and being unaware of the cause of it only scared her more. So, she requested some Pain Suppression Heart Calming Pills from Divine Physician Ji in the off

case that it happened to her once more. Who could have thought that it would really be put to good use here?

Zu An was dumbfounded. He didn't think that this trump card of his was overcome so easily!

Why is my luck so bad today? Goddamnit!

I wasted 100,000 silver taels on 'Befriend a Rich Man' for naught, and 'Faith in Brother Spring' wasn't as useful as I thought. And now, I've wasted a precious use of 'Knock-You-Up Eyes' too.

He had used so many of his trump cards, but they still weren't out of danger yet. This was really a huge loss to him!

Since Shi Kun had already recovered, Zu An dared not to push too much anymore. He quickly retreated to Chu Chuyan's side, and the battle between Chu Chuyan and Qiao Xueying came to a halt too.

"Well done!" said Shi Kun. His face was still pale and he couldn't stop clutching his stomach, but he was in a much better condition now.

"Brother Shit, congratulations on being the very first man in the Great Zhou Dynasty to have a taste of pregnancy and labor pain. Don't you feel more appreciative of the sacrifices your mother had to make for you now? Don't you think that you'll be a far more filial son now?" said Zu An.

What was done was done. He would just have to make it back by squeezing more Rage points out of Shi Kun.

"You were the one who did it earlier?" Shi Kun growled lividly. "Wait a moment, what do you mean by pregnancy?"

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +233 Rage!

"Isn't it obvious? The pain you suffered earlier was a symptom of labor pain. Actually, I'm quite curious as to where it would hurt for you. After all, you shouldn't have a womb as a man, right?" asked Zu An.

"..." Shi Kun.

It turns out that he really is the culprit here. Just thinking about the hellish experience he had just gone through made rage rush into his head.

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +1024 Rage!

Qiao Xueying was astonished too. It really is pregnancy! Wait a minute, doesn't this mean that I was knocked up by that hateful Zu An? Her face immediately flushed red.

You have successfully trolled Qiao Xueying for +1024 Rage!

"I'll kill you!" Veins popped out on Shi Kun's temples as he gathered his wind blades once more.

Instead of stepping away, Zu An took a step forward and said, "Oh? You want to have a taste of pregnancy again?"

Those words immediately jotted up the intense spasms of pain that assaulted him earlier, and he began shuddering uncontrollably. The wind blades around him dispersed right away as he muttered with a hint of fear, “H-how did you do it?!”

Zu An smiled. “Well, this skill is called ‘Knock-You-Up Eyes’. All it takes is one glance from me, and that person will be able to enjoy the joys of childbirth. Does any of you want to give it a try too?”

Wherever Zu An’s gaze fell on, that person would instinctively take a step back. Be it Shi Kun or his lackeys, no one had any interest in suffering the pain of childbirth.

Even Qiao Xueying was frightened too. She was probably the only one who could empathize with Shi Kun as she had been through the same unbearable pain too.

“Rubbish! How could there be such... an eccentric skill in the world!” Shi Kun couldn’t stop his voice from quivering. Without a doubt, he was already scarred for life.

“Didn’t you already try it out yourself? Would you like to try it once more to see if I’m lying or not?” Zu An took another step forward.

Once again, Shi Kun and his lackeys retreated a step as they waved their hands frantically.

“If there’s nothing else, we’ll be taking our leave then.” Zu An grabbed Chu Chuyan’s hand. “Honey, let’s go.”

Chu Chuyan was still dazed even up to this point. Everything that had happened so far had transcended her common sense.

Is it really possible for there to be a skill in the world that makes one pregnant just by looking at them? Doesn’t that mean that he can make me pregnant whenever he wants to?

Those thoughts made Chu Chuyan’s face heat up.

All of a sudden, she raised her hand and formed an ice barrier right behind the two of them. Innumerable wind blades crashed onto the ice barrier the next instant.

Zu An quickly turned around, only to see that Shi Kun and his lackeys were chasing after them.

“Hahaha, I nearly got scared off by you!” Shi Kun sneered in disdain.

Zu An’s faced darkened. “It looks like you really want another taste of pregnancy, huh? You better pray that you have enough medicine for everyone there then!”

Those words made Shi Kun’s lackeys recoil in fear. If all of them were to fall under the ‘Knock-You-Up Eyes’ skill, the ones prioritized for the medicine would definitely be Shi Kun and Qiao Xueying. As for the rest of them... it was likely that they would have to suffer through the full course of the skill.

Shi Kun harrumphed coldly. “Don’t be intimidated by him! How could there be a skill in the world that could induce pregnancy? Even if there is, he definitely has to pay a heavy price for it. Otherwise, given his vindictive personality, how could he possibly let us off? He could have just ended all of us with a glance instead of talking so much!”

Zu An was stunned. He realized that he had underestimated Shi Kun all this while. He should have known that a person who could reach his position at that age was bound to be no fool.

He could use the 'Knock-You-Up Eyes' again, but there were too many people here, and they had painkillers on them too. It was likely that his skill would just go to waste once more. He would be much better reserving this skill to use on someone else in the future.

Chu Chuyan pulled Zu An behind her and glared at Shi Kun coldly, "We haven't finished our earlier battle. Let's continue then!"

"Your aura... Why do you seem unharmed?!" Shi Kun's eyes widened in shock.

The earlier clash had proved that he wasn't a match for Chu Chuyan in a direct confrontation, not to mention that his limbs were still weak from the extreme pain he just suffered from the 'Knock-You-Up Eyes'. In his current condition, he wouldn't stand a chance against her at all.

Someone quickly explained to Shi Kun how Zu An had fed her a bottle of medicine, which led to Shi Kun staring at Zu An deeply. "I must admit, I have made a grave error thinking that you were an insignificant good-for-nothing. With all of the means you have displayed here today, there's more reason for me to eliminate you for good here!"

The more outstanding Zu An was, the higher chances of him winning Chu Chuyan's body and soul over. Besides, even if not for Chu Chuyan, it was a threat in itself to make an enemy out of a talented individual who possessed a myriad of means. The wisest move was to stifle Zu An while he was weak, or else he would surely pose a great threat in the future.

"Aren't you being too confident here?" remarked Chu Chuyan with a frown.

She had recovered greatly from her injuries whereas Shi Kun was in a weakened state at the moment. Even if he combined forces with Qiao Xueying here, she was confident that she could deal with them.

As for the others, given the powerful movement skill that Zu An had demonstrated earlier, he should be able to hold his own against them until her battle came to an end. Overall, they should have been in an advantageous position here, so she couldn't understand why Shi Kun was making such confident remarks here.

"Indeed, it would be hard for me to defeat you in my current condition. Had it been any other situation, I would have offered a truce." Shi Kun paused for a moment as he glanced at Zu An. "However, that fellow is a huge variable. I'll have to get rid of him here regardless of the cost!"

"Heed my summons, Devouring Kun!"

Shi Kun raised his ring up high as he muttered an esoteric chant. His ring began to glow with a grayish light as a terrifying pressure crushed down from above.

All of his lackeys immediately fell to their knees under the pressure, unable to move at all. A green barrier formed around Qiao Xueying, allowing her to barely hold on.

Zu An wasn't faring any much better either. The sudden outburst of pressure made it hard for him to breathe, as if a mountain was crushing down on his back. His bones began to creak under the force.

If even fourth rank cultivators were finding it hard to hold on, how well could a third rank cultivator possibly stand against it? It was just that he gritted his teeth and tried his best to hold on here. He didn't mind mooching off others, but he wouldn't allow himself to kneel before Shi Kun.

It was just that willpower could only do so much against absolute strength. Just as he was about to cave in, he felt a cooling touch wrapping around his hand, and the pressure on him suddenly alleviated.

A blue barrier was erected around them. Chu Chuyan had activated her Blue Guardian once more.

It was daytime, but the sky suddenly darkened. Zu An raised his head, only to be appalled by what he was seeing.

A massive beast of over three hundred meters in length had floated into appearance in the air. It was grayish in color, reminiscent of a massive whale. However, its appearance was far more frightening than any whales. There was a blood-red light glaring from its eyes, and it had a massive mouth filled with innumerable sharp teeth. Its appearance looked more than enough to intimidate any lifeform into submission.

Looking at the whiskers curling down from its mouth, Zu An frowned doubtfully. Why does this look like the kun[1] I've seen in game ads in my previous life?

"This aura... Ninth rank?!" Chu Chuyan's face paled. "No, its aura is at ninth rank, but its strength is much weaker."

But no matter how much weaker the summoned beast was, it was still far beyond her means to deal with.

A gleeful smile emerged on Shi Kun's face as he said, "This is the means our Shi clan possesses. It's a defensive tool that my clan has specially prepared for me, and I was reserving it only for dire situations. Zu An, you should be glad that you're going to die in the hands of Divine Beast Devouring Kun..."

However, Zu An interrupted him before he could finish his words, "Wait a moment, you said that this beast is called Devouring (Shi) Kun too? Ah, it actually has the same name as you! Is it your father?"

1. Kun is a mythological fishlike monster which is known to be able to transform into a roc in the air.

Chapter 155: Absolute Zero

"..." Shi Kun.

Before Shi Kun pointed it out, he hadn't noticed that his name and Devouring (Shi) Kun were actually homonyms. However, even if the Devouring Kun was a divine beast, it was still a beast. By asking if it was his father, the other party was insinuating that he was a beast too!

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +885 Rage!

The other lackeys also stared at Zu An in astonishment. Wow, he dares to further rile up the young master even when he's already in such a situation. He's really going to die a terrible death later on.

Qiao Xueying was also surprised by Zu An as well. The latter might be hateful, but even she had to admit that he had guts. If she had been in his position, she wouldn't even dare to breathe out loud in the presence of such a powerful beast. Yet, Zu An was still able to maintain his composure. It was truly hard to tell whether he was feigning courage or that he really was that brazen!

"Talking tough even when you're already on the verge of death, huh? You'll soon regret having been born with that mouth of yours!" Shi Kun snapped.

"Who dares to summon me?"

A voice suddenly boomed out of nowhere. It was from the massive the Devouring Kun above, and shockingly, it was actually speaking human speech!

"O' great divine beast Devouring Kun, I, offspring of the Shi clan, beseech for your help in eliminating my enemy!" Ever since Zu An pointed out that their names were homonyms of one another, he couldn't help but feel incredibly awkward calling out the divine beast's name.

"Let me see just how powerful your enemy is that you were willing to use up your final chance to summon me!" The Devouring Kun directed its blood-red eyes toward Chu Chuyan and Zu An, then it bellowed furiously. "Audacious! How dare you summon me for a mere sixth rank and third rank ants!"

"Sixth rank!" Shi Kun turned to Chu Chuyan in shock.

She has already reached the sixth rank! It's no wonder why I'm no match for her. This woman sure hid her true ability well! If not for the fact that she has sustained severe injuries, I wouldn't have stood a chance against her at all!

Qiao Xueying was dumbstruck too. Despite being by Chu Chuyan's side for so many years, she actually didn't know that she had already made a breakthrough to the sixth rank. Did it happen recently?

Zu An remarked in awe, "Honey, you're more amazing than I thought!"

Chu Chuyan sighed deeply and said, "I improved too quickly that I compromised my foundation for it. The battle with Wu Di ended up leaving me a trauma. I wouldn't have rushed things if I knew that things would turn out this way."

Trauma? Did Faith in Brother Spring not cure her trauma?

Zu An was perplexed, but he knew better than to enquire about it before so many people.

Shi Kun looked to the massive divine beast above and said, "Those two might not be of high cultivation rank, but their defeat is of utmost importance to me. I beseech you to curb the young lady for me, but please do not harm her life. As for this man, do as you please to him, just leave a breath in him for me to deal with him afterward."

He was afraid that the Devouring Kun would go overboard and take Chu Chuyan's life. So, he made sure to remind the latter carefully. As long as he could get it done with Chu Chuyan and make her his, it would be worth expending the final use of the Devouring Kun here.

As for Zu An, he had a weird movement skill and all sorts of bizarre skills, making him an extremely tricky opponent to deal with. So, he wanted the Devouring Kun to render him powerless so that he could slowly torture him afterward.

The Devouring Kun snorted coldly, causing a slight storm to stir in the sky. "You humans carry such depraved thoughts. Forget it! I've promised three favors to the ancestors of your Shi clan for the graciousness they have shown me, and this is the final favor. With this, my soul will finally be able to rest."

As a divine beast who had lived for innumerable years, it could see through Shi Kun's thoughts with a glance.

Chu Chuyan stared at the massive beast in the sky intently as she finally figured out the reason between the dissonance in its aura and its true strength. It turns out that it's just the manifestation of its soul, not its true body. That makes perfect sense. In the first place, there's no way a storage ring large enough to store such a massive lifeform!

"Ah Zu, run away," whispered Chu Chuyan in a hushed voice.

Zu An shook his head and said, "I can't leave you all alone in such a critical situation. If we must die here, we'll die together."

"What's the point of dying together?" Chu Chuyan frowned. "If you live through this ordeal, you'll at least be able to inform my father and have him take vengeance on the Shi clan on my behalf."

"Then you should leave then. I'll help you hold them here!" said Zu An.

Even though he didn't mind mooching, he couldn't leave his wife to the lurch in such a precarious situation.

"How are you going to hold them here?" Chu Chuyan was getting agitated by Zu An's obstinacy. Not wanting to waste time with him here, she pushed him lightly, and Zu An was immediately 'tossed' several li away.

(1 li = 0.5 kilometers)

Shi Kun and the others were astonished by her sudden action. They immediately tried to give chase, but a blue barrier suddenly appeared before them, blocking their path.

"Lord Devouring Kun!" Shi Kun raised his head and exclaimed.

The massive divine beast in the sky shook its body. Despite its bulky physique, it was able to move with astonishing alacrity. Before anyone present could even see it, its tail had already struck squarely on the blue barrier.

'Blue Guardian' was able to withstand the barrage of wind blades from Shi Kun earlier, but it shattered instantaneously under the force of the Devouring Kun's strike, dissipating into thin air.

Pu!

Chu Chuyan spurted out a mouthful of blood as she was sent flying through the air helplessly.

“Lord Devouring Kun, don’t hurt her!” exclaimed Shi Kun. If Chu Chuyan were to die or lose a limb here, all of the effort he had put in over this period of time would have been in vain.

The massive head of the Devouring Kun turned to him as a ferocious glint flashed across its red eyes.

“Are you teaching me how to do things here?”

“I dare not to!” Shi Kun quickly lowered his head as he subconsciously retreated several steps. Even though he was the one to summon the divine beast, he wasn’t certain whether it would attack him if he got on its nerves.

“Don’t worry, I’ll curb her and leave her for you to deal with,” said the Devouring Kun. “Even though our race differs, I’ve to admit that this woman does have a beautiful appearance. If not for the fact that I’ve already lost my body, I might even be unwilling to leave her to you.”

Shi Kun was rendered speechless. So what if you have a real body? Even a single strand of hair from you is wider than Chu Chuyan’s waist. What can you possibly do to her?

However, he soon remembered that some divine beasts gain the power to transmogrify into humans upon reaching a certain cultivation rank. The thought of the Devouring Kun getting steamy with Chu Chuyan ruined his mood right away.

Shit, this really annoys me. Why does it have to be such a perverted kun?

By this point, Chu Chuyan had already stood back up. She wiped off the bloodstains from her mouth and uttered coldly, “I might be defeated, but I won’t be humiliated. You’ve forced me.”

In the sky, the Devouring Kun burst into laughter. “So what if I forced you? Lass, your strength is nowhere in comparison to mine. Struggle all you want, but it’ll be in vain. Just surrender! Young master Shi will treasure you well.”

“Hmph!” Chu Chuyan’s face turned cold as she slowly rose into the air.

Shi Kun and the others widened their eyes in disbelief.

While cultivators were able to leap across the air upon reaching the fourth rank, only ninth rank cultivators possessed the ability to truly fly in the air. This was common sense in this world.

But what was with the sight before them then? Chu Chuyan was definitely not a ninth rank cultivator, so how could she rise up in the air in such a manner?

“Hm?” The Devouring Kun was also taken aback by the situation before it too. It reassessed the lass before it, wanting to see what she was up to.

Chu Chuyan’s hair and dress fluttered freely in the air, accentuating her slender figure. She emanated off a noble and lofty aura that mesmerized everyone present, such that even Shi Kun’s lackeys began staring at her blatantly, not bothering to hide their gazes from Shi Kun.

Only Qiao Xueying caught a whiff of danger here. It was just that her side had the overwhelming advantage at the moment—there was an incomparably gigantic kun on their side. She couldn’t understand why she was feeling a little uneasy on the inside.

“Absolute Freeze!” Chu Chuyan’s voice sounded.

Blue light gushed out from her body, causing the surrounding temperature to plummet swiftly. Snow began to descend in the surroundings, cloaking the earth white. Even the sky had turned into an eerie ice-blue color.

Paired with Chu Chuyan’s aesthetics, such a sight was truly pleasing to the eye. Shi Kun’s lackeys were enchanted. Shi Kun himself also gasped in wonderment as well. Such a beautiful woman will soon be in my embrace. Ahh, what bliss!

Qiao Xueying was the only one who retained her rationality. She quickly grabbed Shi Kun’s robe and pulled him away. The other two fourth rank cultivators also noticed that there was something amiss with the situation and hurriedly backed off too.

However, the remaining third rank cultivators reacted slower than the rest, and it didn’t take long for them to be cloaked in frost. Their movement grew slower and slower before they eventually turned into an ice sculpture. The inertia from their earlier movement caused them to fall frontward and shatter in countless ice fragments. What made it even eerier was that their bodies were so thoroughly frozen that they didn’t even bleed a droplet of blood.

Looking at the sight of his shattered subordinates, Shi Kun gulped fearfully. “T-t-this...”

The prowess Chu Chuyan was exerting was clearly abnormal. This was definitely far beyond what someone of her cultivation rank was capable of.

“Mere tricks!” Devouring Kun sneered in disdain. It had seen what had happened on the ground, but it didn’t think that it posed a threat to him at all. How could those weak ants even be placed in the same category as it?

It felt that it was beneath it to even dodge an attack of this caliber, so it stood still in the spot. It didn’t believe that Chu Chuyan had the means to freeze its three hundred meters long body.

It’s nothing more than a breeze to me.

However, its carelessness soon took its toll on it. Its eyes widened when it realized that its body was really freezing over, and it exclaimed with a hint of fear in its voice, “No, that’s not right. This is... absolute zero!”

It immediately swished its tail and tried to escape from this ice domain, but it was already too late. Its massive body was already completely covered in frost, and its flames of life had started to extinguish.

“This is impossible! How could a cultivator as weak as you possibly know such a profound forbidden art?” The Devouring Kun howled in disbelief as it desperately tried to flee. However, as a manifested soul, it no longer commanded the great strength it did at its peak. It couldn’t stop the frost from engulfing it.

“Stop! Someone of your rank can’t possibly sustain this forbidden art! You’ll die! Even if you survive by chance, all of your ki meridians would be destroyed as a result of this! Stop right now!”

Its initial lackadaisical, teasing voice transformed into horror and fury before finally weakening into desperate pleas.

However, nothing it said was able to faze Chu Chuyan at all. She continued channeling the forbidden art with an impassive look on her face.

Slowly, the degree of the Devouring Kun's thrashing grew smaller and smaller as it lost strength. Eventually, when its blood-red eyes were coated in blue frost as well, its massive body lost its ability to elevate in the air. It began to plummet to the ground.

Something of such massive size falling to the ground from such a great height was bound to crash with devastating impact. The Devouring Kun's body immediately shattered upon collision, and the shockwave that gushed outward blew off the forests in the vicinity, producing a mushroom-shaped cloud in the air.

It was fortunate that the Devouring Kun was only a soul manifestation. Otherwise, if it had fallen with its real body from such a height, the impact would be as if the entire dungeon had been struck by a comet.

"It's finally over..." A miserable smile crept on Chu Chuyan's face as her body finally succumbed. She couldn't sustain her flight anymore and began falling to the sky.

I guess it isn't too bad to die like this too. It's just a pity that Shi Kun ran too quickly, so I wasn't able to kill him. I wonder if Ah Zu will be able to escape from their clutches...

It was then that a nervous voice that sounded incredibly familiar to her sounded, "Honey!"

Then, she found herself falling right into a warm embrace. She opened her eyes, and Zu An filled her sight. But his presence hardly brought her any relief at all; if anything, it only maddened her. "Why didn't you run away!"

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan +520 Rage!

She was already a cripple now, but the threat wasn't over yet. She failed to deal with Shi Kun and his lackeys, and there was no doubt that they would continue coming after him once they return to their senses!

Chapter 156: Lovers' Suicide

"How could I leave my wife and run off on my own?" replied Zu An grimly.

Looking at Chu Chuyan's pale face and blood stained dress, he felt a bitter feeling in his chest. He quickly took out some recovery medicine and fed it to her. "Quick, eat this. While it isn't as miraculous as the medicine I gave you earlier, it's still medicine concocted by Divine Physician Ji. It'll do wonders to your recovery."

Many of them were given to him by Ji Xiaoxi. Considering how much Ji Dengtu doted on his daughter, he wouldn't scrimp on this.

"It's no use. My ki meridians are already ruined." Chu Chuyan shook her head. Her voice was incredibly calm despite her plight, as if she had already resigned herself to fate.

“Who says that it won’t work! There’s definitely a way out of this! We’ll look for Divine Physician Ji afterward. I’m sure that he’ll be able to figure something out!” Zu An insisted vehemently as he stuffed the best medicine in his possession into Chu Chuyan’s mouth.

As perverted as Ji Dengtu was, his medical skill was the real deal. Besides, even if he couldn’t do anything about it, surely there would be something in this huge world of cultivation that would work!

And even if there was nothing in this world that would work, he still had the Keyboard with him! The items from its lottery might just be able to create the miracle required to treat her!

“Cough cough~” Chu Chuyan had never been treated so crudely before, and it made her both embarrassed and agitated. However, she didn’t even have the strength to move right now, let alone fight against him.

“It looks like you’re on good terms with Ji Xiaoxi.” Chu Chuyan noticed that the sachets holding the medicine bottles had been embroidered with flowers, and there was even a faint fragrance coming from them. It was clearly meticulously prepared by a woman.

“I told you that your husband is popular with women,” Zu An teased. However, he suddenly recalled that she was already in a bad condition and that it would be bad to anger her. So, he quickly changed the topic and said, “We encountered an army of zombies in a valley a while ago. I told her to escape and seek help while I lure them away, and out of worry, she gave these to me.”

Chu Chuyan sighed softly and said, “Why are you explaining this to me?”

“I’m just afraid that you’ll be jealous,” replied Zu An sheepishly.

Chu Chuyan didn’t respond to him anymore.

By then, Shi Kun and the others had already turned their sights over. Shi Kun’s face was so dark that it looked as if it was going to drip ink. “Young miss Chu, you really do impress me. I didn’t think that you would have such a powerful move that allows you to even deal with the Devouring Kun. However, you ended up crippling yourself for that. Was it worth it?”

He viewed Chu Chuyan as his ideal wife and did everything he could to attain her, only for her to be crippled right before his eyes. There was no way his clan would allow him to marry a cripple like her.

With her beautiful appearance, even if she had lost her cultivation, he would still have been more than willing to bring her in as a concubine to serve him. However, her injuries were so severe that it was unlikely that she would survive this ordeal.

Years of planning had gone to vain just like that. He had even resorted to using his greatest trump card, but it all ended up for naught. How could he possibly not be disappointed?

Qiao Xueying had a complicated look on her face. While she had entered the Chu clan with ulterior motives, the years she had spent together with Chu Chuyan had made the two of them as close as sisters. She honestly hoped that she could marry the young master.

In her view, only the Sixth Young Master of the Shi clan was worthy of becoming the young miss’ husband. No matter how she looked at Zu An, he wasn’t worthy of her in any way.

She never thought that Chu Chuyan would rather cripple herself than to give in to Shi Kun. It made her feel deeply guilty, for she knew that she was responsible for forcing Chu Chuyan to this point too. She reproached herself for the decisions she had made.

Meanwhile, Chu Chuyan gazed into the sky despite having heard Shi Kun's question. She wasn't interested in answering him at all.

Zu An noticed that there was hardly any focus in her pupils at all. He realized that she wasn't looking at the sky but blanking out. Her heart had succumbed to despair—she had already given up.

Her body temperature was frighteningly cold. Holding onto her felt like hugging a piece of ice that had been frozen for over a thousand years, chilling Zu An down to his bones. If even hugging her was enough to make him so uncomfortable, it was hard to imagine just how cold she must be feeling at the moment.

During this short period of time, Zu An had already inspected her body with his ki. An ordinary person's ki meridians should have been overflowing with vitality, but Chu Chuyan's looked like the aftermath of an explosion. It was tattered and suffused with an air of desolation.

She was even weaker than an ordinary human in her current condition, let alone regaining her cultivation. The devastation of her meridians had crippled her, leaving her body almost paralyzed.

Zu An even suspected that she might have died right away had she not consumed 'Faith in Brother Spring' prior to using the forbidden art.

Shi Kun didn't seem too displeased even though Chu Chuyan wasn't answering his question. Instead, he murmured to himself, "You were the number one prodigy of Brightmoon City. Even if we look at the entire world, there are very few of our age who can compete with you. You stood at such a high and lofty position, only to be reduced to a cripple now. No, you are even less than a cripple. In your current state, you wouldn't be able to tend to your daily life..."

"Shut up! No one will think that you're mute if you don't speak!" Zu An bellowed in frustration. He was already worried about Chu Chuyan's dying spirit, and yet Shi Kun still continued running his mouth. Based on his limited knowledge regarding medicine, he knew that the effectiveness of any treatment had a huge part to do with the will of the patient.

If the patient had already given up hope, it would really be all hopeless.

"Hmph! Lowly trash like you would never understand the troubles we prodigies face!" Shi Kun looked at Zu An coldly. "People like us are born superior to the masses. We have our own pride and dignity, and we won't allow ourselves to be looked down upon or pitied. Even if you managed to save her life, it'd be nothing more than torture to her if she has to live her life as a cripple."

"I don't object to you calling my wife a prodigy, but how is the like of you considered a prodigy too? You can't even defeat my wife despite her injuries, and you had to bring out reinforcement like a loser. That Devouring Kun was a ninth rank cultivator or something, right? He still got destroyed by my wife in a single hit. What about you then? What are you capable of? What rights do you have to be spoken on equal terms with her?" Zu An was already feeling terrible just by looking at Chu Chuyan's state, but this fellow still had to continue buzzing around like a pesky little fly, challenging the limits of his tolerance.

"..." Shi Kun.

Being told by a good-for-nothing whom he looked down upon that he wasn't a prodigy was a humiliation to him. But he was indeed lacking compared to Chu Chuyan, making him unable to refute Zu An's words at all.

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +314 Rage!

What are you acting so smug for? It's not you who is formidable but Chu Chuyan!

Shi Kun could only console himself in such a manner. He reminded himself that it was beneath him to bicker with people of Zu An's caliber and calmed his emotions before carrying on, "I might be lacking, but I have a huge clan behind me. Even at birth, I'm already at a height where you can never hope to reach no matter how you struggle. I don't say these words with the intention to brag; I'm just conveying the truth to you. The resources I have at my disposal far surpasses yours. It's unlikely that you'll ever be able to treat her no matter how you struggle, but it's different for me.

"Not only can I preserve her life, but I can reconnect her ki meridians too. If you truly love her, hand her over to me instead of selfishly keeping her by your side. You'll only be stalling her future."

Qiao Xueying nodded in agreement too. "Indeed, the Shi clan has a lot of connections in the capital and the physicians in the imperial court. They also have innumerable treasures at their disposal. Their means definitely far surpassed what the Chu clan is able to do. If you hand the young miss over to the Shi clan, the young master would definitely figure out a way to treat her!"

Seeing that Zu An had fallen into deep thought, a hint of a smile curled on Shi Kun's lips. For someone of his position, there was no need to resort to violence all the time. Sometimes, he could get things done just by appealing to a person's morality and utilizing some of the advantages he was blessed with.

He would try his best to cure Chu Chuyan upon receiving her, but admittedly, the chances of her making a full recovery were unlikely. That being said, it should be easy to sustain her life, which meant that he would be able to keep her as a concubine by his side.

It was just a pity that she wouldn't be able to move, so he wouldn't be able to do a lot of fun stuff with her.

Thinking that Zu An had really been persuaded, Chu Chuyan's eyes glazed with fear. She feebly muttered, "D-don't hand me to anyone else."

Even though she didn't like how lackadaisical and boastful Zu An was, at this very moment, she only felt at ease being by his side. She was afraid that he would be moved by Shi Kun's words and hand her over to that scoundrel.

Zu An directed a smile at her and said, "Honey, what are you saying? How could I possibly hand you to another man? I was just thinking of another problem."

Shi Kun's face darkened. "Zu An, are you really intending on foiling young miss Chu's future over your own selfishness?!"

Zu An rolled his eyes. "Please, I've watched far too many dumb protagonists falling for such tricks on TV that I think that it's an insult that you even think that you can fool me with something of this level. You're trying to stand at a moral high ground to criticize me just so that you can conceal those depraved

thoughts in your mind. I must really look gullible in your eyes, huh? I'll take responsibility for my own wife's condition. An outsider like you can scram!"

Shi Kun's face turned completely cold. "What arrogant words! You can't even protect her well, and you still dream of treating her? Young miss Chu, you might blame me right now, but I'm certain you'll understand my intention in the future!"

With a wave of his hand, he ordered his lackeys to kill Zu An. While he figured that there were some restrictions to the 'Knock-You-Up Eyes' skill, the pain he had suffered earlier was not something he would want to experience twice. He wasn't willing to take the risk once more, so he ordered his lackeys to do the job instead.

Meanwhile, he would just wait patiently for an opportunity to leap in and end Zu An's life for good!

"W-wait." Chu Chuyan spoke up feebly.

Shi Kun's face lit up in delight. He raised his hand to stop his subordinate and asked, "Young miss Chu, have you thought things through?"

Ignoring him, Chu Chuyan turned to Zu An and said, "Kill me."

"???" Zu An was dumbfounded.

It was so abrupt that he was taken off guard.

However, Chu Chuyan got even more anxious upon seeing that Zu An wasn't reacting. She quickly added, "I'm already a cripple now, and you aren't a match for them. Are you intending to watch as I get humiliated by another man? You should flee after killing me and inform my parents about what happened here. Get them to avenge my death. That's all you can do for me now."

Zu An exhaled deeply. He slowly raised his sword up.

Chu Chuyan closed her eyes. A peaceful smile appeared on her face as she waited for the descent of the sword that would claim her life.

"Zu An, you dare!" bellowed Shi Kun.

Even though Chu Chuyan had spoken softly, he was still able to hear everything loud and clear. He would rush over to snatch Chu Chuyan over if he could, but he was afraid that a sudden move from his part would end up agitating Zu An into making a reckless move.

Zu An ignored him. He pulled his sword downward, but the trajectory caused him to stab himself in the chest instead.

Shi Kun and Qiao Xueying were dumbfounded. They didn't expect Zu An to hurt himself. What is that man up to?

Qiao Xueying even wondered if Zu An was trying to commit a lovers' suicide for Chu Chuyan. Even though he's hateful, I didn't think that his feelings for the young miss would actually run this deep.

Chapter 157: Diving Right Into Danger

Shi Kun was dumbfounded. Is he committing suicide because he can't win? Well, that works in my favor too.

His two fourth rank cultivators also heaved a sigh of relief. To be honest, they wouldn't want to face Zu An if they had a choice too. Even though the latter was a third rank cultivator, he was incredibly tough to deal with, not to mention those bizarre skills he had up his arse.

In Zu An's embrace, Chu Chuyan felt droplets of blood splattering on her body. With disbelief reflected in her eyes, she muttered anxiously, "W-what are you doing?"

Why is he trying to kill himself instead? Is he trying to do a lovers' suicide because he was unable to save me?

Perhaps it was due to the years of bond they had as master and servant, Chu Chuyan actually had the same thoughts in mind as Qiao Xueying.

A tinge of redness surfaced on Chu Chuyan's pale face as she said, "You need not do this. We're not..."

Before she could finish his words, Zu An had already interjected, "We can whisper sweet nothings later. For now, let me kill these hateful fellows first."

With one hand holding onto Chu Chuyan to keep her body leaned toward him, Zu An brandished the sword in her other hand and bellowed furiously, "Have a taste of my forbidden art, Return of the Myriad Swords!"

Everyone was still trying to make sense out of Zu An's bizarre behavior when he suddenly shouted out loud, causing the crowd to recoil in fear. They had just witnessed Chu Chuyan's forbidden art destroyed the Devouring Kun in a single strike, so they were particularly sensitive toward the words 'forbidden art' at this very moment.

Considering Zu An's earlier bizarre behavior and the sudden imposing aura he was giving off, even Shi Kun instinctively decided to back down for the time being to assess the situation before deciding what to do next.

While everyone was putting their guard up against Zu An, the latter tossed his sword aside, picked up Chu Chuyan, and fled.

"???" Shi Kun.

"???" Qiao Xueying.

"???" The two fourth rank lackeys.

Everyone was stunned for a brief moment before it finally dawned on them that they had fallen from Zu An's feint. The latter was just trying to intimidate them so as to buy some time for his escape! Knowing that they had fallen for such a cheap trick made the crowd tremble in fury.

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +666 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Fourth Rank Lackey A for +233 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Fourth Rank Lackey B for +233 Rage!

Qiao Xueying looked at Zu An fleeing silhouette with a complicated look on her face. She couldn't give a damn about Zu An's life and death, but she couldn't help but be worried for Chu Chuyan. On one hand, she was relieved that the young miss managed to get away, but on the other, she was worried that Zu An didn't have the ability to treat her. This plunged her into a state of dilemma.

"Chase them!"

The infuriated Shi Kun ordered with a roar before darting forward nimbly. As a wind element cultivator, his speed was significantly enhanced as compared to his peers. Given the disparity in their cultivation ranks, as well as the fact that Zu An was holding onto a person in his arm, he should have been able to catch up with Zu An in just a few seconds. Yet, to his bewilderment, he had only managed to close the gap slightly even after chasing for quite a while.

Chu Chuyan was initially perplexed by Zu An's act of self-harm, but when he fled with her in his arms, she immediately understood what was going on. For a moment there, she found herself admiring his sharp wits. However, no matter what kind of ingenious plan he came up with, the disparity in their cultivation ranks made it impossible for him to turn the tables on Shi Kun.

"Let me down. You might still be able to get away if you escape alone."

"Shut up! How can I leave you to the lurch?" replied Zu An grimly.

Under the effects of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, as long as he accumulated a certain degree of damage, his ki would go into a berserk mode, causing a significant enhancement in his strength and speed.

It was using this trump card that he managed to curb Pei Mianman and Qiao Xueying back then, though he understood that these two women had gone easy on him out of other considerations. They were probably afraid of alerting the experts of the Chu clan, so they opted for a physical brawl instead, which allowed him to stand his own against them.

If they had used their elemental powers, they would surely have been able to defeat a low level cultivator like him with ease.

Now that they were in the dungeon, there was no reason for Shi Kun and Qiao Xueying to hold back anything against him. While Zu An was in a strengthened state from the effects of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, he knew that he wouldn't be a match for them.

He chose to harm himself and trigger the effects of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra not to raise his fighting prowess but to enhance his speed for escape. That was also why Shi Kun hadn't been able to chase up with him thus far.

"We won't be able to get away," remarked Chu Chuyan with a deep sigh.

She didn't know what kind of secret art Zu An had used in order to increase his speed, but Shi Kun was a fifth rank wind element cultivator. The difference in fundamental speed between them was as clear as day. It was only a matter of time before Zu An got caught.

"There's a place where there might still be a glimmer of hope," said Zu An as he gazed at the small hill not too far away.

He hadn't been just blindly running away and hoping for the best. All this while, he was thinking about what he could do in order to get out of this quandary, but none of his skills and trump cards were working at all. Furthermore, it didn't seem like reinforcement was coming, or else the massive commotion earlier on would have already drawn someone over. He figured that it might be due to the terrifying emergence of the Devouring Kun that everyone was choosing to keep their distance.

Given so, there was only one way out—dive right into the depths of danger to create an opportunity.

He had witnessed with his own eyes those terrifying zombies marching into the hill, but Shi Kun's group lacked that information. If he lured them there, he might just be able to find a way out of it.

Of course, he understood how frightening the zombie army was. The odds were likely that he and Chu Chuyan would die in their hands too, but doing nothing at all guaranteed certain death too. At least they still stood a glimmer of hope over with the zombies. Besides, it didn't sound like too bad of a deal if he could pull his enemies down to the grave together with him.

Welp, I guess humans buy lottery for a reason. As long as they luck out, everything would be smooth-sailing. I mean, what's a life without dreams?

By then, the pursuers behind them were already pressing closer. Shi Kun's teasing voice sounded, "Hah! Run as fast as you can; I sure would like to see where you intend to run to! The moment you run out of ki is the moment of your death!"

He had made sure to keep tabs of the whereabouts of the academy's teachers before confronting Zu An and Chu Chuyan, so he knew that everyone else was a far distance away from them at the moment. They wouldn't be able to get here any time soon whereas all he needed was five minutes in order to catch up with Zu An.

"Snow, stop him!" Seeing that there was a forest ahead, Shi Kun bellowed.

Qiao Xueying hesitated, but she eventually still waved her wrists, and the trees before Zu An seemed to come immediately to life. All sorts of vines began darting toward his leg, attempting to trip him over.

Zu An had fallen for this trick once and learned from his previous lesson. He immediately executed Sunflower Phantasm to the limits and dodged everything coming his way.

For some reason, he felt that there were more openings in the assault of the vines than the previous time.

Shi Kun's face darkened. Naturally, he could tell that Qiao Xueying was intentionally going easy on the two of them, but at this juncture, he chose not to say anything about it.

Wind God Dash!

Shi Kun's legs began moving so quickly that they turned into a blur, raising his movement speed by a great deal. This movement skill was extremely harsh in terms of ki depletion, so he would avoid using it unless the situation necessitated it.

Hearing the 'whoosh' behind him, Zu An knew right away that Shi Kun was going to attempt something. So, he sidestepped in an attempt to dodge the attack, but it was too late. Shi Kun's sword had already struck his back.

“Hm?”

Shi Kun expected his sword to plunge right through Zu An’s chest, but instead, he felt a huge counterforce pushing back the tip of his sword. It was then that he realized that Zu An was wearing an armor underneath!

He would have never thought that this poor bloke would actually have such a powerful armor, resulting in his attack which should have been enough to penetrate Zu An’s chest to barely sink in by an inch. By the time he attempted to increase the force, Zu An had already run off.

Shi Kun harrumphed coldly. I’ve already caught up with you. Where else do you think you can escape to?

Under the buff of Wind God Dash, his speed was at least 20% faster than Zu An. On top of that, the other party was holding onto a person in his embrace and didn’t have a sword anymore. If he couldn’t even take down Zu An with such an overwhelming advantage on his side, he would really be utterly inept!

Shi Kun directed his sword toward Zu An’s legs, thinking that it would be an easy fight once he severed the latter’s tendons and crippled him.

However, Zu An abruptly flung his sleeves backward, and a shadow suddenly shot out from his wrist area.

Shi Kun could tell right away that it was a hidden crossbow. He remembered one of his lackeys having such a weapon. However, he didn’t think much of it as such weapons crossbows could only pose a threat toward low ranked cultivators. For a high level cultivator like him, the arrows wouldn’t even penetrate his ki armor.

So, he continued pushing his sword ahead, completely disregarding the arrow shot in his direction.

But just as his sword was about to pierce into Zu An’s leg, his body suddenly jolted. To his bewilderment, the arrow had actually pierced through his ki armor to sink into his shoulder. While the soft armor he was wearing had mostly cushioned the impact, limiting the injuries he sustained, he could feel a bizarre chill seeping into his wounds and spreading all over his body, causing him to shudder uncontrollably.

“What is this? Is the arrow laced with poison?” Shi Kun was shocked. He hurriedly drove his ki in order to drive off the coldness.

At the same time, Zu An abruptly turned around and attacked Shi Kun too. There was a pitch-black dagger in his grasp.

“Young master, be careful!” Qiao Xueying had experienced the prowess of the dagger herself, so she immediately shouted out a warning.

Shi Kun had suffered a bit from complacently thinking that he could use his ki to block the enemy’s arrow, so he wisely chose to face Zu An’s dagger directly this time around. He tossed aside his sword decisively and generated several wind blades to strike at Zu An.

The abrupt wind blades struck Zu An squarely, causing him to spurt blood. The strike had sustained significant injuries to him. On top of that, the obstruction of the wind blades closed up the temporary opening Shi Kun had revealed, giving the latter more than enough time to dodge his incoming attack.

Seeing this, Zu An could only sigh helplessly and back away,.

The hidden crossbow was a weapon he had obtained from Jia Zhengjing's group, but he replaced the normal arrows with the armor-piercing arrows he had obtained from the zombie army.

It was fortunate that the mechanism of the hidden crossbow was rather simple. All Zu An had to do was to trim down the length of the armor-piercing arrow and slot them into the crossbow for it to work. Thanks to it, he managed to catch Shi Kun off guard for a moment there.

But it was a pity that he didn't manage to kill him in the end.

Zu An noticed that Qiao Xueying and the other two fourth rank cultivators were about to catch up, so he quickly turned around and continued fleeing.

Meanwhile, Shi Kun stopped momentarily on the spot to consume a recover medicine and expel the chilling aura that had seeped into his body with his ki. Then, he extracted the arrow from his chest and examined it with a frown. "Just what kind of arrow is this? How could it be this formidable?"

This wasn't the time for him to be brooding too much over such matter. Zu An had already gotten a lead on him, so he quickly ordered his lackeys to continue the chase.

Eventually, Zu An finally arrived at the stone doors at the foot of the mysterious hill. Seeing that Shi Kun and the others were still hot on his heel, he gritted his teeth and began walking toward the stone doors.

Chu Chuyan had remained in his embrace throughout the chase. From where she was, she could clearly see his blood-soaked clothes and hear his furiously thumping heart and his erratic breathing. Slowly, her eyes that were previously clouded in despair began filling with something else.

Born with great talents, she had always been the tall figure who protected others under her wing. Yet, in a twist of fate, she found herself helplessly in the arms of a man who was desperately doing everything he could to save her. He could have run off by himself, but he refused to let go of her, a baggage who was dragging him down.

"Fool..."

Chu Chuyan silently murmured her evaluation of him before slowly closing his eyes.

Zu An was oblivious to the thoughts of the beauty in his arms. He ran over to the stone doors worriedly, fearing that he wouldn't be able to open it. However, perhaps it was because the effect of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra had significantly enhanced his strength, this time, he was actually able to open a small crack that was enough for a person to slip in.

The pitch-black cavern that lay before him screamed of untold dangers. Zu An clenched his fists tightly before heading into the darkness.

...

Not too long later, Shi Kun and the others finally arrived before the stone doors too. They could feel the chilling air coming from the cracks of the slightly ajar doors, and their eyes flickered in hesitation and trepidation. "What's this place?"

“Hmph! If even Zu An can enter this place, is there any reason why we can’t? Chase him!” With a grand wave of his hand, he took the lead and charged right in.

He had lost far too much today that he couldn’t give up at this juncture.

Chapter 158: We Might Not Have Been Born In the Same Quilt, But We Shall Die in the Same Grave

When Zu An walked through the stone doors with Chu Chuyan in his embrace, he was surprised to see that the interior of the cavern wasn’t as dark as he expected.

There was faint grayish light providing some illumination behind the stone doors, making the surroundings look slightly ashen. It looked a little like the smoke drifting from small villages, just that this smoke depicted not of life but death.

An eerie wind blew over, causing Zu An’s goosebumps to rise up. The surroundings had an inexplicable atmosphere that made him feel incredibly uncomfortable. At the same moment, he was starting to feel a little weak from having lost too much blood.

All of these observations made him realize that the environment in this cavern wasn’t friendly to living beings. In the context of a game, it would be something like a death aura that constantly gnawed away at one’s health points. While the effects weren’t too pronounced on cultivators, this could be fatal for Chu Chuyan, who was already in a weakened state.

So, Zu An quickly stuffed a couple of medicine into Chu Chuyan’s mouth and ate some himself too. It was only then that the feeling of discomfort finally alleviated a little.

He was relieved that he had found quite some recovery pills from Jia Zhengjing and the other assassins. Together with the medicine that Ji Xiaoxi had given to him prior to their separation, they should be able to hold on in here for a while at least.

Chu Chuyan had never been treated so brashly by a man before, but she knew that he was doing it for her sake, so she didn’t lose her temper. Still, she simply couldn’t get used to it. To turn her focus away from her awkwardness, she asked, “What’s this place?”

She realized that Zu An’s earlier escape wasn’t aimless; he had a destination in mind right from the start.

“This is the cavern of the zombie army. I reckon that it’s a mausoleum...” Zu An quickly filled her in about what he had seen at the valley earlier on.

“The den of the zombie army...” Chu Chuyan’s eyes widened in shock. “Aren’t you courting death by running in here?!”

She had already resigned herself to her death, so it didn’t matter where she was. However, she couldn’t stand the idea of Zu An putting himself into danger for her sake.

“Instead of succumbing to Shi Kun outside, we might as well take a gamble here. Perhaps, if we shake things up enough, heaven might just take pity on us and show us a way out.” Zu An’s tone was casual, but his nerves were all strung up, ready to react as soon as any danger surfaced.

Chu Chuyan sighed deeply and said, "You didn't have to force yourself to save me. You could have escaped all alone, but you leaped deeper into the abyss instead."

"It doesn't seem that bad to die together and become a pair of lovebirds." Zu An chuckled. "Even if we aren't born in the same quilt, we should die in the same grave as a couple."

Chu Chuyan's pale face blushed a little. "Pui. You're thinking of taking advantage of me even at a time like this."

"What can I do? I'm afraid that there wouldn't be any chance to say these words in the future." Zu An noticed that Chu Chuyan's eyes were half-closed, as if she would fall into a deep sleep at any moment. In order to pique her spirit, he was doing everything he could to attract her attention.

"If we do get out of this alive, won't you consider living in the same room as me?" asked Zu An with a cheeky smile.

"Even at a time like this, you still are in a mood to talk about such stuff?" remarked Chu Chuyan.

"It's even more so during times of trouble that we need something to look forward to. This darned place is really terrifyingly scary."

While Zu An chatted, he was scanning the area carefully while proceeding forward. Due to the gray fog lingering in the surroundings, his vision was limited. Nevertheless, he could still tell that they were currently walking through an extremely long passageway.

This passageway was inclined downward, which meant that they were heading underground. Perhaps they were heading to the depths of hell itself.

The walls along the passageway were dry and smooth on touch. There were all sorts of marks on them, which on careful examination, appeared to be murals. It depicted the scene of a gruesome battlefield.

However, Chu Chuyan didn't pay any heed to all of this. She was brooding about what Zu An said before replying feebly, "Why are you so insistent about living together with me? You're already..."

Her words trailed off halfway, perhaps not wanting to hurt Zu An's feelings.

Zu An burst into laughter and said, "You're my wife after all. It doesn't make sense for newlyweds to sleep in separate rooms, no? As for my physical condition, you need not worry about it. I have already consulted Divine Physician Ji about it, and all that's lacking is just the main ingredient. Once I get my hand on it, I'll be able to treat my affliction, and we'll be a pair of blissful couple."

Chu Chuyan's face reddened. She instinctively disregarded the final sentence and asked, "You're referring to the Evanescent Lotus?"

"Indeed. Who knows? I might just find it here," replied Zu An.

Chu Chuyan fell silent. A place that was creeping with an air of malevolence like here couldn't possibly give birth to a treasure like the Evanescent Lotus.

However, with the despairing situation they were already in, she didn't want to destroy his confidence. So, she replied, "Alright. If we ever get out of this situation safely, you can move into the same room as me."

She was well aware of her condition. It was unlikely that she would be able to walk out of the dungeon alive, so she didn't mind satisfying him a little before her death.

"Really?" Zu An was overjoyed. He never expected to hear such a response from Chu Chuyan.

Chu Chuyan was just about to reply when she suddenly caught sight of something. "What... is that?"

Zu An also raised his head to take a look, only to realize that the passageway was far taller than he had expected. The ceiling was thirty meters high, and there were countless rubies embedded in it, emanating a faint red glow.

"T-this..." Zu An was unable to see it clearly due to the concealment of the fog. However, a sudden slight breeze dispersed the fog slightly, granting him a much clearer view of the things that were on the ceiling. They weren't rubies at all but the eyes of countless bats!

These bats were larger than any other Zu An had ever seen before, each spanning the size of a bathtub. Their sinister appearances and sharp fangs were more than indicative of their vile nature.

"Be careful, those are Vampiric Boar Bats! They are known to be able to suck the blood of a cattle dry within seconds!" Chu Chuyan warned Zu An anxiously.

Even though she had already resigned herself to fate, she was still innately disgusted by such creatures.

Making a quick estimation based on the number of red eyes on the ceiling, there had to be at least a thousand of these Vampiric Boar Bats above them. Zu An gulped. If all of them were to swipe down on them at once, the two of them would be instantaneously reduced to dry corpses.

Isn't this place the base of the zombie army? Why would there be vampiric bats here too?

All of a sudden, the hibernating bats began to move. They seemed to have caught a whiff of blood in the air. As more and more of them woke up, Zu An realized that things were going to get troublesome.

One must know that both he and Chu Chuyan were coated in fresh blood at the moment. They must have looked truly delectable in the eyes of those vampiric bats at this very moment.

It was then that a peal of hearty laughter sounded behind, "Hahaha! Looks like I've finally caught up to you!"

Shi Kun and the others were around ten meters away from them at the moment, and he was staring at them with a cold sneer sitting on his lips. He had already summoned dozens of wind blades around him, ready to end Zu An's life at any moment.

Zu An knew that it would be hard for him to deal with Shi Kun in his current condition, so he decisively shot an arrow toward the ceiling before hurriedly diving to the ground with Chu Chuyan.

The bats were still rousing from their sleep when the great reverberation from the sudden arrow agitated them, causing them to spread their wings and swipe downward right away.

“What are those?!”

Shi Kun was horrified to see a wave of black lifeforms swooping in his direction. He instinctively shot out the wind blades around him to stop them.

Bursts of blood exploded in the air as ten of the vampiric bats were immediately reduced to shreds. Unfortunately, such a course of action was no different from poking a hornet’s nest. All of the surrounding bats immediately identified Shi Kun as their enemies and charged toward him.

Shi Kun’s face paled. He quickly channeled his ki to summon even more wind blades around him so as to fend against the onslaught of the bats. At the same time, Qiao Xueying also anxiously summoned a swirl of green leaves around her so as to fend off the aggressors.

As for the two remaining fourth rank cultivators, they also did everything they could to hack down the vampiric bats heading in their direction. However, there were simply too many of them, and every single one of them was fairly strong.

One of the fourth rank cultivators made a slip-up and ended up getting his defenses breached by a vampiric bat. It immediately bit down on his neck and began sucking.

A miserable cry sounded. He anxiously tried to pull the bat away from his neck, but in an attempt to do so, he ended up forsaking all defense. As a result, even more bats swooped down and began sucking his blood.

His miserable cries didn’t last long, for his tall and brawny body dried up at a visible pace. It took just a few seconds before he was reduced to just a mere corpse.

Shi Kun was enraged and horrified. Knowing that the danger these bats posed, he dared not to hold back anymore. He immediately summoned a tornado filled with wind blades to massacre all of the massive bats around him.

Qiao Xueying’s face also turned frosty. She began flicking the green leaves outward like sharp daggers, sniping down the massive bats one by one. At the same time, the little ponytail on her head began to grow, extending into countless vines filled with green thorns. These vines lashed through the bats mercilessly, smacking them down.

The remaining bats swiftly realized that they had picked on someone beyond their means and hurriedly escaped the area, leaving behind just a couple of carcasses lying around.

Despite this, Qiao Xueying didn’t retract her hair right away. Looking at the bloodied bat carcasses hanging on the tree vines extending from her hair, she disdainfully raised her sword and chopped it off. In just a few moments, however, her hair grew back to its original length.

On the other hand, Shi Kun took a look around, but Zu An and Chu Chuyan were no longer anywhere to be seen. By this point, it was apparent that they had been done in by them, and he flew into a state of rage. “Bastard Zu An! Even if I have to chase you through the gateways of hell, I’ll mince you into pieces!”

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +999 Rage!

“Young master, this place feels sinister. I have an ominous feeling about this. Why don’t we retreat first and reassess the situation?” asked Qiao Xueying.

Shi Kun harrumphed coldly and said, “Are you getting worried about your young miss now? Did you think that I didn’t notice that you went easy on them earlier on? Whose fault do you think it is that they were able to get here in the first place?”

“I...” Qiao Xueying felt a little indignant. She was earnestly saying those words out of worry for Shi Kun. As a wood element cultivator, she was able to sense the life force lingering around her, but this place exerted a strange pressure on her that made her unable to exert her ki smoothly. It felt like there was some sort of terrifying existence lurking in here.

Shi Kun belatedly realized that he had already lost a lot of his subordinates, and it would be unwise for him to fall out with Qiao Xueying at this point in time. So, he mellowed his tone and said, “Snow, I was a little too agitated so my words turned out harsher than I thought. Don’t take them to heart. While this place is a little sinister, it’s just filled with Vampiric Boar Bats and those sorts of monsters. As long as we keep our guard up, we shouldn’t face too much trouble. We can’t possibly watch idly while young miss Chu dies in Zu An’s hands. Let’s quickly find her and get out of here, alright?”

Qiao Xueying nodded. “Yes, young master. It was indeed my fault earlier. I was too soft.”

Shi Kun laughed heartily and said, “It’s fine. This shows that you’re a sentimental person who values loyalty. I would have been far more worried if you were able to bring yourself to be callous to young miss Chu instead.”

Hearing those words, Qiao Xueying, who was conflicted all this while, was finally able to squeeze out a smile. “Thank you for your understanding, young master.”

Shi Kun nodded before beckoning her deeper into the passageway.

Chapter 159: Don’t Come Here

While Shi Kun and the others were dealing with the Vampiric Boar Bats, Zu An quickly slipped deeper into the passageway with Chu Chuyan in his hands.

“I wonder if those bats carry viruses on them,” murmured Zu An worriedly.

There were many bats flying around earlier, and the air was suffused with their flesh and blood. One must know that bats were known as a vat of germs and viruses in his previous world; many diseases that plagued humans had originated from them. Even the great Bear Grylls, a man who stood at the top of the food chain, had to cook them for several hours before daring to eat them.

However, such thoughts were swiftly dispelled from Zu An’s mind. We’re already on the verge of getting killed! Who cares about viruses or germs?

After running for some time, Zu An noticed that he was finally approaching the end of the passageway and heaved a sigh of relief.

While the passageway was still fairly safe, there was only one road to run and nowhere to hide. If Shi Kun were to catch up with them in there, they would be doomed.

Of course, the end of the passageway was likely to be filled with dangers too, especially the zombie army Zu An encountered previously. So, he was planning to find a hiding spot and camp there. As long as he didn't alert the zombie army, he should stand a fair chance of surviving this ordeal.

His plan was simply to lure Shi Kun sufficiently deep into the cavern, where he would be utterly obliterated by the zombie army.

He carefully entered the cavern, only to feel two terrifying wind pressure gushing down toward his head right away. Fortunately, he was prepared and immediately used Sunflower Phantasm, allowing him to retreat a meter back right away.

Once he regained his footing, he immediately took a look at his assailants. They were two ax-wielding zombie soldiers.

The two zombie soldiers were stunned by their missed attacks. They were certain that their strikes were going to land squarely, so it was unimaginable to them how their target was able to vanish right before their eyes.

However, after a brief moment of astonishment, they instinctively raised their axes and began chasing after Zu An.

Zu An shook his head. These two zombie soldiers looked to be at the second rank at most, so there was no way they could have been a match for him. It was just that he was reluctant to get into a fight with Chu Chuyan's in his arms, so he chose to flee instead. In any case, his speed was faster than the two of them anyway, so there was nothing to worry about.

But unexpectedly, their chase alarmed some of the other soldiers, leading to more and more people getting on Zu An's tail, as if a deadly snake game. Soon, there were more than twenty soldiers chasing after him.

Seeing this, Zu An frowned. He was starting to get a little pressured now, knowing that he couldn't continue like that. At this rate, it wouldn't take long for the zombies to fully encircle and corner them.

So, while escaping their attacks with his movement skill, he began scanning the area for places to hide. To his dismay, even though the area was far wider than the passageway, there were no hiding spots around. The cavern was practically empty.

"Your movement skill is really incredible," remarked Chu Chuyan.

She saw how Zu An was able to maneuver around the zombies without getting struck at all, reminiscent of a butterfly weaving around a field of flowers. This was not her first time seeing Zu An's movement skill, but for some reason, it seemed much more formidable than before.

As a prodigious cultivator, she was naturally interested in his movement skill too.

He really has done well concealing his true skills. It's no wonder why Shi Kun and his lackeys end up suffering a lot under his hands. He really is... scheming.

"It was imparted to me by my teacher. It's my trump card to survive dangerous situations." Zu An was planning to attribute everything that he couldn't explain to his teacher.

"Your teacher is an incredible person. I can't figure out its crux even when watching it up close," said Chu Chuyan.

She might have lost her cultivation, but her eyes were still working perfectly. She had been paying attention to Zu An's movement skill all this while, but to her astonishment, she was still unable to make sense of it.

"He's indeed an incredible man." Thinking of the unfathomably powerful Old Mi, Zu An nodded in agreement as well.

"What about that skill of yours which... makes other pregnant?" This was the one thing that Chu Chuyan was the most curious about. She had seen with her own eyes just how much Shi Kun suffered from it earlier on, and she couldn't imagine how there could be such a skill in the world. At least Zu An's ingenious movement skill was still within the boundaries of common sense, but that skill sounded nothing but illogical to her.

Now that she thought about it, it was weird how Snow failed to assassinate him in the Chu Estate back then. Everyone was baffled back then to hear that a fifth rank cultivator had suddenly suffered from a stomachache and ended up failing her mission, but looking at it retrospectively, Zu An must have used this skill against her.

Snow must have been enraged to have such an embarrassing skill used on her...

"It's not real pregnancy; the skill just simulates the feeling of childbirth. However, there's a hefty price to pay for using it too, so there's a limit to how many times I can use it. Otherwise, I'd have made that bastard faint from the pain!" Zu An suddenly changed his tone at this point and said, "Honey, if you're interested, there's actually no need for me to use the skill at all. We can do it for real."

Chu Chuyan was rendered speechless. It was as if he had to tease her every few words he spoke. However, having known one another for quite some time, she had gotten used to him running his mouth that it couldn't faze her as much anymore. "Earlier, your speed and strength increased significantly after you got injured. Was it a skill you learned from your teacher too?"

"Yup. The cultivation technique I'm learning is rather peculiar." Zu An thought about how Old Mi had been hiding amidst the Chu Estate all this while, as if a dangerous power was after his life. This made him realize that the skills he was learning could potentially bring about danger, so he wasn't sure if he should tell Chu Chuyan about the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra or not as it could risk implicating her too.

Fortunately, Chu Chuyan didn't probe deeper into it. One's cultivation techniques and skills were considered a secret in this world as revealing them were no different from exposing one's openings to another. Her questions earlier were a little overboard, but she simply couldn't resist her curiosity, especially since she was already on the verge of death.

She didn't think that Zu An would answer her question earnestly. Is he not guarded against me at all?

Zu An looked at Chu Chuyan and fell into deep thought once more. Afraid that she would fall asleep, he tried searching for a topic to engage her, but the warning bells in his mind suddenly blared then. He immediately darted aside instinctively.

Pu!

A sharp spear landed on the spot where he was standing earlier.

Zu An noticed that there were nine zombie soldiers armed with spears standing not too far away. In terms of physique and equipment, these zombie spearmen were clearly of a higher position than those zombie axemen.

Those zombie spearmen orderly placed their shields and spears in front of them before marching a step by a step toward Zu An, closing the distance between them. Their orderly footsteps and imposing vibes made Zu An feel as if he was faced with an entire army.

This wasn't good for Zu An. The formation of the zombie spearmen was much more organized, leaving no room for him to weave around with Sunflower Phantasm. As a result, he could only continuously back down.

Soon, he could already see the wall of the cavern behind him. He knew that if he backed any further, it would really be the end of him. So, he waited for an opportunity to dash forward to leap above their heads. This was the only way out that he could see here.

But while he was in the midst of jumping past them, three of the zombie spearmen leaped up into the air and thrust their spears from multiple angles toward Zu An.

"*&%" (" Zu An.

What the hell! These zombies are actually able to jump so nimbly too?!

The earlier clumsy zombie axemen had left him with a mistaken impression of the zombie soldiers as a whole, which led to him underestimating what the zombie spearmen were capable of.

Stuck in midair, there was no way for him to dodge. However, he didn't give up just like that either. He quickly raised his arm and shot out an arrow from his hidden crossbow. It struck one of the spearmen in the air squarely.

Under the impact, the spearmen were knocked down to the ground, and after twitching for a bit, it stopped moving altogether. It looked like the armor-piercing arrow was indeed extremely effective against these zombies.

At the same time, Zu An also took out Poisonous Prick to deflect one of the spears heading in his direction, pushing it a few centimeters away to his side, where another zombie spearman was standing. Then, making use of this opening, he quickly nicked Poisonous Prick toward one of the zombie spearmen, causing a loud screeching sound from the dagger scraping against the bones.

Zu An thought that he could end the life of the spearman with that, but unexpectedly, the latter remained perfectly fine. It was then that he realized that these zombies were undead creatures, so the effectiveness of Poisonous Prick was limited on them.

To make things worse, the spearman retaliated by thrusting his spear toward Chu Chuyan.

The might of the incoming spear wouldn't have posed a threat to Chu Chuyan in the past, but right now, it was more than enough to shatter her entire body. She sighed deeply before closing her eyes in resignation.

Seeing that Chu Chuyan was going to be struck, Zu An howled furiously as he forcefully twisted his body midair to take the spear thrust with his own back.

Pu!

Blood spurted from Zu An's mouth, but he couldn't care much about it in the midst of the battle. He made use of the impact from the stab to bolt out of the encirclement of the spearmen.

Meanwhile, upon feeling warm fluid dripping on her face, Chu Chuyan opened her eyes, only to see a trail of blood seeping from Zu An's mouth. She was able to figure out what had happened immediately, and her long eyelashes quivered in disbelief.

"Young miss!"

Numerous vines shot across the air to smash the axemen who were about to hack their axes down on Zu An and Chu Chuyan.

Zu An turned his head around, only to see that Qiao Xueying had appeared in the vicinity. Her hair had morphed into vines once more and was currently pummeling a zombie. Meanwhile, Shi Kun and his other two fourth rank lackeys were also busy fighting with a group of zombie soldiers.

"What are you looking at? It's not as if I'm trying to save you!" Noticing Zu An's gaze, Qiao Xueying glared at him and harrumphed.

"I know that you're embarrassed to admit that you care about it. Don't worry, I understand."

"..." Chu Chuyan.

This fellow sure is narcissistic. Also, is he seducing another woman right in front of me? This feels... weird.

Qiao Xueying noticed Shi Kun shooting a bizarre glance at her upon hearing Zu An's words, and it made her both embarrassed and infuriated. "What nonsense are you spouting? I'll kill you!"

You have successfully trolled Qiao Xueying for +134 Rage!

As she said those words, she sent a vine straight toward Zu An, intending to tie him down.

However, Zu An was already prepared. With a chuckle, he dodged the vine easily and escaped. Qiao Xueying immediately tried to pursue him, but a new group of zombie soldiers charged forth to stop her path.

Shi Kun, on the other hand, was incredibly displeased to see this. It was one thing for Zu An to be holding onto his dream lover, but to think that he would dare to flirt with his maid too! He glared at the skeleton axemen around him and roared furiously, "How dare you block my path? Go to hell!"

A powerful outburst of wind blades gushed outward, slicing the zombie axemen into slices. The zombies might be incredibly resilient, but there was no way they could survive after being sliced into pieces.

However, Shi Kun's actions caught the attention of the zombie spearmen. They immediately turned around, directed their spears toward Shi Kun, and began marching over. These spearmen were much more difficult for Shi Kun to deal with; even his powerful wind blades only left small marks on the shields of the spearmen before dissipating.

Watching as the formation of zombie spearmen approached him, Shi Kun's complexion darkened. He gathered his strength and swept his sword outward, releasing a ten meters long ki that sliced all of the shields of the zombie spearmen into two.

The zombie spearmen looked at the half-shattered shield and let out a miserable cry.

"Shit, they are calling their companions!" exclaimed Qiao Xueying.

While Shi Kun's group was plagued with chaos, Zu An decided to head deeper into the cavern. He was thinking of seeking refuge first till both Shi Kun and the zombie army wore each other out before slipping past them to escape the cavern.

Shi Kun immediately noticed Zu An's escape and tried to give chase. He, too, didn't want to stay in this cavern for too long anymore, so he wanted to quickly secure Chu Chuyan and end Zu An's life so that he could leave this place. He wasn't certain if he could remain safe if Zu An were to venture any further in.

However, the formation of zombie spearmen stood in his path, so he could only roared at Zu An furiously. All of a sudden, he noticed that Zu An had stopped running. The latter's footsteps halted for a brief moment before he began retreating. Seeing this, Shi Kun burst into laughter, "Hahaha, what's wrong? Why aren't you running anymore?"

Zu An continued gazing at the depths of the cavern as he retreated. With a gulp, he asked, "Brother Shit, how many zombie spearmen are you able to deal with simultaneously?"

Shi Kun was confused by the same question. Then, he heard the sound of orderly matching echoing from the depths of the cavern. He took a closer look and saw rows of zombie spearmen marching out from a stone door at the other end of the cavern.

Shi Kun recoiled in horror, bellowing, "Fuck you, Zu An! Don't you dare come over here!"

Chapter 160: I'm the One Suffering the Brunt of the Impact!

With a look of absolute horror, Shi Kun bellowed at Zu An ferociously.

But of course, there was no way Zu An was going to listen to Shi Kun. With Chu Chuyan in his arms, he ran right toward where Shi Kun was.

Looking at the zombie spearmen trailing behind him, Shi Kun felt like something was exploding in his mind. Not once had he ever hated a single person in his life so much as he did at this moment.

The situation didn't allow him any respite to wallow in his emotions though. He hurriedly utilized all of his means possible to fend against the zombie spearmen and escape, otherwise he would be swamped very soon.

"Young master, be careful!"

Qiao Xueying directed some of her vines toward Shi Kun to block some of the zombie spearmen charging toward him. The wood element's ability seemed to be advantageous toward the undead, possibly because of its life attribute.

As powerful as Shi Kun's Tempestuous Blades were, there was no flesh or blood for him to shed off from the bodies of the zombie spearmen, not to mention that they were wielding shields. As a result, he found himself in a helpless position.

If I'm struggling against them too, given how weak Zu An is, he should be dead by now, right?

At this point, he couldn't care less whether Zu An was dead or not; his focus was on Chu Chuyan. He quickly scanned his surroundings, only to widen his eyes in the next moment. He saw Zu An weaving around the zombie spearmen in a blur, waiting for opportunities to land a strike. Amazingly, every strike he dealt would end with the death of a zombie spearmen.

"That doesn't make sense! His strength and speed are only at most a match for me!" Shi Kun was bewildered. He had tasted the defensive prowess of the zombie spearmen personally, and they were definitely not the kind of mobs where one could kill in a single spear thrust.

Wait a moment, spear?

Shi Kun suddenly noticed that Zu An was wielding a spear identical to those of the zombie spearmen. It seemed like he had just picked it up from the floor. A thought surfaced in his mind, and he immediately hollered to his other two companions, "Use the zombie's weapons! They can curb them!"

Right after saying those words, he immediately picked up one of the spears fallen on the ground and started brandishing it. Despite his lacking proficiency with the spear, he found that the zombies' movement speed would be slowed by at least half if he landed a blow, thus relieving the pressure on him.

Who could have thought that their spear would actually wield such great prowess!

Shi Kun considered bringing a batch of these spears out. It might just be some sort of incredibly powerful weapon!

Qiao Xueying and the other fourth rank cultivators quickly followed suit. They grabbed a spear each and began fighting back. It looked like they would be able to hold on for the time being.

While Zu An had lured most of the zombie spearmen over to Shi Kun's side, there were still five who were still insisting on chasing him.

"Let me down," said Chu Chuyan feebly.

Zu An shook his head, refusing to let her go.

Chu Chuyan sighed helplessly and explained, "It won't be easy for you to deal with so many zombie spearmen while holding onto me. You can put me down by the corner first and fight them off. Once you're done, you can just... just pick me up and leave."

"Ah, I misunderstood your words." Zu An chuckled softly. He gently placed her down by the corner of the cavern while standing guard in front of her. Then, he turned around and charged toward the five zombie spearmen.

He exerted Sunflower Phantasm to its very limits, stabbing the spear in his hand toward them. However, due to his lacking proficiency in spear, he found it hard to circumvent the zombie spearmen's shields to strike their bodies.

"Time your attacks carefully to the moment they strike," reminded Chu Chuyan.

She had already resigned herself to fate, but she didn't want to see Zu An dying for her here. As the number prodigy of Brightmoon City, her combat sense and experience far surpassed that of the current Zu An.

Zu An nodded. He flitted amidst the zombie spearmen, baiting their attacks. He waited until the moment one of them lowered their shields slightly to thrust their spear forward to swiftly push his own spear through, striking it squarely in the chest.

Using the same trick, he struck another one of the zombie spearmen squarely in the chest, killing it on the spot. However, while his spear was still lodged inside its body, one of its allies suddenly charged forward to grab the other end of his spear, attempting to pull it off his hand.

"Let go!" bellowed Zu An as he attempted to retract the spear forcefully.

The zombie spearman lurched forward from the sudden tug, but it still insisted on holding the weapon. Just like that, the two of them started a ludicrous tug-o-war match in the midst of the sinister battlefield.

It was then that the other two zombie spearmen also flanked him from the sides and attempted to take him down while his hands were busy.

Just as it looked like Zu An was going to fall under their coordination, he suddenly raised his arm and shot an arrow right into the head of the zombie spearman tugging on his spear.

"..." Zombie spearman.

What happened to sportsmanship?! It's supposed to be a proper battle, so how can you resort to hidden weapons?

You have successfully trolled Zombie Spearman for +6 +6 +6...

Zu An was amused to see that. He didn't think that these zombie soldiers would possess sentience. It was just a pity that they didn't seem too smart, or else the amount of Rage points he could earn would have been greater.

But again, if they were really smart, he would probably face much greater difficulty dealing with them.

While his mind was wandering a little, his body hadn't stopped moving at all. After shooting down the zombie spearman before him, he swiftly retracted his spear and stabbed it into the bodies of the remaining two zombie spearmen by his sides in quick succession.

After eliminating the five zombie spearmen, Zu An delightfully turned his head around to report his success to Chu Chuyan, only to be nearly scared out of his wits.

Three zombie axemen had already arrived by her side, and they were already in the midst of hacking their axes down on her. Despite so, Chu Chuyan simply looked on with a peaceful expression on her face, not making the slightest noise at all.

Zu An immediately threw the spear in his hand forward with a javelin and killed one of the zombie axemen. Then, he raised his hidden crossbow and shot the other one down.

As for the last one, he drove Sunflower Phantasm to its very limits, and just in the nick of time, he managed to block off the ax at the very last moment. He then quickly picked up one of the spears lying around and ended the zombie axeman's life.

After it was all done, he quickly checked Chu Chuyan's condition carefully as he exclaimed, "Are you injured? Why didn't you ask for help?!"

"You were in a dangerous position earlier too. I didn't want to distract you. Besides, I'm already a goner. It makes no difference whether I die right now or a little later." Chu Chuyan's face slowly reddened as she quickly added, "Also, can you stop touching me?"

Zu An scratched his head sheepishly as he quickly retracted his hand. "I'm checking if you're injured. I'm not trying to taking advantage of you."

Chu Chuyan replied with a nod before falling silent.

Meanwhile, the other zombie spearmen had seen the tragic plight of its comrades over at Zu An's side and quickly charged toward him. With a rough estimation, there should be at least thirty to forty of them.

A deep furrow immediately formed on Chu Chuyan's face. "Hurry up and let me down!"

"That won't do. I'm unable to keep so many of them at bay simultaneously. If I leave you here, you'll die without a doubt!" Zu An shook his head. After how Chu Chuyan refused to speak up despite being in imminent danger, he knew that he couldn't leave her alone anymore.

He quickly picked up her body before charging right into the midst of the zombie spearmen. He had to take the preemptive move here, or else things would get troublesome once they finished creating an encirclement around him.

His movements were unpredictable, and he was swiftly getting more and more adept at using the spear together with his Sunflower Phantasm. Quite a few zombie spearmen were struck squarely by him and fell dead even before they could even react.

"You can only use one hand holding onto me, and it'll affect your speed and form too. You can't use a spear properly with just one hand. On top of that, you're also hastening the rate of depletion of your ki too. At this rate, you'll really die!" said Chu Chuyan anxiously.

“Don’t worry, didn’t you say that vermins live for centuries? I won’t die that easily!” said Zu An. “I’m glad that my wife isn’t a pig, or else it won’t be as easy for me to fight with you in my arm.”

Chu Chuyan grumbled coyly, “You’re the one who is a pig.”

Seeing that Zu An had already made up his mind, she chose not to say anything lest she distracted him. Nevertheless, there was still a worried furrow persisting on her forehead. It wouldn’t be easy for him to deal with so many zombie spearmen simultaneously even in his peak state, let alone now that he was handicapped with her.

A while later, however, Chu Chuyan realized that she had still been underestimating Zu An’s strength. Even while holding onto her, he was still able to move elusively, and every strike of his spear was able to effectively claim the life of a zombie spearman.

In fact, in terms of strength and speed, he was already on par with her in her peak condition. Factoring in his powerful movement skill too, if she didn’t resort to her elemental powers, it was likely that she wouldn’t be a match for him.

After consecutively killing 23 zombie spearmen, Zu An’s speed began to slow down. His exertion was starting to take a toll on him, evidenced by his heavy breathing. Holding a person in one hand and brandishing a spear in the other was definitely a tiring act, such that Zu An’s right arm was aching terribly, almost to the point of numbness.

To make things worse, the more he killed the zombie spearmen, the more attention he attracted from the others. More and more of them were forsaking Shi Kun’s side to charge at him.

Damn it! Are zombies attracted to my charm too?

“Brother Shit, you always talk as if you’re the greatest in the world, so why aren’t you pulling your weight right now? All of your zombies are coming my way now!” cursed Zu An.

Shi Kun immediately cursed back without bothering to put on his usual pretense, “Bloody hell! We were the ones who were controlling the bulk of the zombies earlier, giving you an easy time. Stop grumbling and do your part!”

He was clearly the one who was receiving the brunt of the blow here, and yet, the one who was holding onto his beloved goddess still dared to claim the greatest credit here and complain about it. This made Shi Kun feel incredibly stifled.

You have successfully trolled Shi Kun for +999 Rage!

On the other hand, Zu An had no spare attention to check the inflow of Rage points anymore. He tightened his left hand, pulling Chu Chuyan closer to him, and he continued brandishing his spear at those zombie spearmen.

Unfortunately, both his speed and strength had clearly fallen greatly. Barely after he killed a zombie spearman and was going to retract his spear, one of its allies immediately thrust its spear toward Chu Chuyan. Clearly, they had realized that Chu Chuyan was his greatest weakness right now.

Zu An gritted his teeth as he twisted his body and took the blow for Chu Chuyan.

Puchi!

The spear plunged into Zu An's flesh, leaving his consciousness flickering for an instant. He was already in a weakened state at the start, and this attack nearly took him down for good.

"Ah Zu!" Chu Chuyan cried out anxiously.

Zu An squeezed out a smile and replied, "It's almost like I'm putting my life on the line to court you. Have you considered betrothing yourself to me in reciprocation?"