

Immortal 1691

Chapter 1691: Night Scout

Zu An keenly sensed the danger hidden behind the question. However, he still spoke the truth. "Of course I don't want you guys to fight."

Both of them were equally important to him! It would be annoying for him regardless of who lost.

"Oh, then it seems you don't want me to go against that big... Ahem, Miss Pei for first place, right?" Qiu Honglei replied, looking a bit downcast. She looked as if she was about to cry.

Yun Jianyue mentally gave her a thumbs up. As expected of my outstanding disciple! This is what a Devil Sect demoness should be like!

Zu An quickly said, "I don't actually care who ends up winning, I just don't want either one of you to lose. Whether you or Manman loses, I don't want to see that. After all, both of you have worked so hard."

There was another reason he couldn't really say. It would have been fine if they lost to someone else, but these were their future competitors. It would be a bit too hard to accept if they lost then.

Yun Jianyue sneered and retorted, "What, are they supposed to fight to a draw in a martial arts competition? Isn't that just too much wishful thinking?"

Zu An sighed and said, "I'm in a tough spot here too, you know?"

"This isn't really any of your business. Who wins and who loses all depends on their skill. What are you worrying about them for?" Yun Jianyue replied disdainfully.

Qiu Honglei said in a cute and pitiful manner, "Ah Zu, if you care so much about that Miss Pei, I can lose to her for you. Either way, I'm not the real Peng Wuyan, so even if I lose, it'll just be Emptiness Isle who gets embarrassed."

Yun Jianyue raised her eyebrows. Isn't my Honglei becoming more and more formidable?

Even though she also knew such tricks, due to her personality, she had come to find such tactics embarrassing as her strength grew. As such, she was only a charm master in name. In reality, she clearly wasn't even as effective as her disciple. The only time she had ever used her charm skills was the dance she had performed in the secret dungeon for Zu An. Her heart rate sped up a bit when she recalled that situation.

Zu An naturally knew that Qiu Honglei was saying those things on purpose, but he didn't feel disgusted by it. Seeing a woman he liked play around a bit was actually an interesting experience in itself. He said, "Forget it, forget it. You should just fight if you have to. I won't get involved any further."

Qiu Honglei smiled sweetly like a blossoming flower. She didn't say anything else and leaned into his embrace.

Yun Jianyue nodded in satisfaction. Honglei's skills are becoming more and more natural. As expected of the inheritor I favor.

However, she didn't feel as happy as she had expected. In particular, when she saw the two stick together so intimately, she seemed to feel a bit... restless? She couldn't help but feel shocked. Yun Jianyue, Yun Jianyue, you're so shameless! How can you be jealous of your own disciple?

She quickly stopped herself from thinking about it from Qiu Honglei's perspective. However, that meant she could only direct her anger at Zu An. It's all this damn rascal's fault!

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +300 +300 +300...

Zu An was frightened when he saw all of those Rage points. When he looked at Qiu Honglei in his arms, he finally realized what was going on. Still, that only made him feel distraught. This isn't my fault, you know? It was Honglei who leaped over herself!

In his eyes, the two of them had already received the master's approval, so there wasn't anything he really had to worry about. He could only cough lightly and say, "Why don't we first return to Violet Mountain then? For some reason, I just feel that something big is about to take place there. I'm worried that something will happen."

He didn't really care about the other daoists, but Chuyan, Big Manman, and Xie Daoyun were all on Violet Mountain. As for Yan Xuehen, her cultivation was so high that he didn't really have to worry.

Yun Jianyue nodded and said, "Fine, those daoist sects should just disappear as soon as possible."

Peng Wuyan had 'disappeared' for quite some time. It was a good time to return and put on a show of the return of the king. Just the thought of revealing their identities after they won and seeing the reactions of those daoist sect hypocrites improved Yun Jianyue's mood.

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It was already late, which made it easier for them to hurry back. However, that also resulted in another problem: How were they going to return to Violet Mountain?

As a grandmaster, Yun Jianyue could naturally fly. Meanwhile, Qiu Honglei could perform short-term flight, but flying the entire trip wasn't quite within her abilities. She had to be carried by either Yun Jianyue or Zu An.

She wanted to be with Zu An, but she couldn't really show it. As such, she said, "I'll just go with master."

Yun Jianyue's eyes widened. Her disciple was still shooting looks at Zu An while saying that, as if she really wanted to throw herself into his arms, and yet she had still said otherwise. She's clearly saying this out of consideration for me. Looks like I've raised a good disciple after all.

She harrumphed and said, "Forget it. You've been apart for a long time and definitely have a lot to say to each other. I won't get in the way anymore." She didn't wait for their reaction and disappeared into the sky afterward.

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +488 +488 +488...

Zu An blinked. This woman sounds so generous on the surface, and yet she's clearly upset inside.

Qiu Honglei didn't know what was going on and said with a sigh, "Master really cares a lot about me! Ah Zu, we have to treat her respectfully in the future."

Now, it was Zu An's turn to feel conflicted. How does she want to be respected though... However, he couldn't really explain himself either, and could only reply ambiguously. Then, he took out the Wind Fire Wheels and wrapped an arm around her slender waist, saying, "Let's go."

Qiu Honglei was wearing a cherry blossom-colored long skirt with exquisite flowers embroidered on it. When they flew into the sky and the ends of her skirt fluttered, it made her figure seem even more fair and graceful. As he held her in his arms, Zu An felt as if Honglei's body lacked any bones.

The two flew together and chatted about what they had seen and heard while they were apart. They had actually already talked about many things, but as lovers who were passionate about each other, they never ran out of things to say.

As they talked for a long time, their emotions got stronger and stronger. Both of them unknowingly began to kiss each other. Qiu Honglei moaned. She was a bit embarrassed at first, but then she gradually responded in an enthusiastic, yet underripe manner. Her lips were soft and beautiful.

While the two of them were completely lost in their own world, someone suddenly coughed from off to the side. Only then did they realize that they were already at Violet Mountain, and Yun Jianyue was watching them from nearby.

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

"Master~" Qiu Honglei complained. She quickly left Zu An's arms.

Zu An was a bit embarrassed. When he saw the Rage points, he couldn't help but look at Yun Jianyue with a pensive expression.

Yun Jianyue only responded with an upset expression before telling Qiu Honglei, "We're already near Violet Mountain, so there are all sorts of people watching. You should return to Peng Wuyan's appearance."

"Oh..." Qiu Honglei muttered. She turned to Zu An and said, "Big brother Zu, you should go first. I don't want you to see me change into that appearance."

Over the course of the competition, Peng Wuyan had become famous for two things. The first was that she was strong, and the other was that she was ugly. Qiu Honglei hadn't really cared before, since her identity hadn't been exposed; however, now that Zu An knew, she naturally didn't want to leave her lover with any bad impressions.

At first, Zu An wanted to explain himself to Yun Jianyue, but with how things were, he couldn't really do anything. He could only say goodbye.

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When Zu An returned to his courtyard on Violet Mountain, Xie Daoyun sat up and called out, "Who is it?" Zu An's entry had clearly triggered the defense formations she set up.

"It's me," Zu An replied.

"Big brother Zu!" Xie Daoyun exclaimed happily. She pushed away her covers and welcomed him. She was dressed in silk pajamas. Together with her drowsy eyes and slightly messy hair, she looked especially lovely and adorable.

With her upbringing, she definitely wouldn't ever show such a personal side in front of anyone else. Even in front of another woman, she would make sure to retain perfect etiquette, let alone a man! But after being around Zu An for so long, she had gradually gotten used to it.

"I was worried that you might have ended up being kidnapped by the wolves on this mountain," Zu An remarked.

"Big brother Zu is so mean! There are no wolves on this mountain," Xie Daoyun said, her face turning red. "But I was actually worried about you after you left for a few days."

"Don't worry. Nothing major happened, and I've already dealt with everything," Zu An said as he gave her a rough account of what had happened in Yi Commandery. Xie Daoyun was incredibly shocked as she listened. She hadn't expected Yi Commandery's governor to do such a thing.

"Right, has anything happened on Violet Mountain?" Zu An asked.

"Nothing really. We still haven't found Emptiness Isle's Peng Wuyan. Elder Peng seems to have disappeared too," Xie Daoyun said. She thought for a bit before continuing, "Right, Watchful Heart Peak seemed to have had some activity. Some of the test formations I left behind there were destroyed, but when I went over to check them, I didn't notice anything. I only know that a battle happened there. Even though it was covered up, if it could destroy a formation I secretly set up, it definitely couldn't have been on a small scale. But no one else even sensed such a battle, so I'm starting to question my own judgment."

"Oh? There was an extremely intense battle, but no one noticed anything?" Zu An asked in surprise. Violet Mountain had been quite an eventful place recently. He decided to take a look.

Xie Daoyun suggested accompanying him, but he refused her suggestion. She was dressed in her pajamas and had been sleeping soundly before, so there was no need to disturb her.

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Meanwhile, in Jedefall Palace, Pei Mianman was sleeping. Suddenly, she woke up and shouted, "Who is it?"

"Looks like you're still pretty vigilant," a woman said with a laugh. "Even I'm starting to feel something. No wonder that brat likes you so much."

Chapter 1692: Accidental Meeting

Pei Mianman was startled and followed the source of the sound. What she saw was a great beauty whose hair reached all the way down to her bottom. She was devastatingly beautiful, but at the same time, had a dangerous aura. Anyone could tell from just a glance that approaching her for no reason wasn't a smart choice. Pei Mianman called out, "Devil Sect Master Yun Jianyue?"

Yun Jianyue's long hair was just too unique. After Peng Wuyan's recent disappearance, as people had all suspected it was her doing, she had often been talked about. Elder Huo Ling had even specially warned Pei Mianman to avoid her in every way possible if she ever encountered her.

"Isn't this little girl sharp?" Yun Jianyue remarked, nodding in appreciation. Her eyes couldn't help but dart toward Pei Mianman's chest. This girl had been sleeping soundly a moment ago, so not even the covers could hide the impressiveness of her chest.

"Where's my master?" Pei Mianman asked. She was actually completely tense, ready to retaliate at a moment's notice. After all, Elder Huo Ling was right next door. Her master was always incredibly worried about her, so there was no way she wouldn't notice a thing if someone barged in like this.

"Huo Ling? She was lured away by a small trick of mine," Yun Jianyue said with a chuckle. She clearly didn't treat Elder Huo Ling as a big deal at all.

Pei Mianman's eyes darted around. She said, "I heard Ah Zu say that his relationship with you was pretty good. Ah Zu is here too, so should I bring you to see him?"

She naturally suspected that Yun Jianyue hadn't come with good intentions, so she wanted to try to use her relationship with Ah Zu to get on her good side.

"As expected, you're a smart girl," Yun Jianyue said, a bit surprised by her reaction. "But I came here to invite the lady as a guest. Don't worry, I won't make things difficult for you, as a favor to that brat."

"But I think right here is a good place. Or perhaps I could consult you for guidance once the competition is over?" Pei Mianman asked to test the waters. At the same time, she was a bit nervous.

Why is master not back yet? Also, why isn't the palace lord responding either? Could it be that they didn't even notice the arrival of Yun Jianyue?

"Little girl, don't try to play these tricks with me. I won't make things hard for you because of that kid. But if you go too far, don't forget that I'm the so-called ruthless and cold-blooded Devil Sect Master you all speak of," Yun Jianyue said in an awe-inspiring tone. The atmosphere in the room instantly turned ice-cold.

Pei Mianman felt as if she had been targeted by a wave of terrifying energy and couldn't move at all. She could only release a helpless sigh. She had wanted to put up a struggle at first, but now that she saw the difference between them, despair sank in. She even had a feeling that even though her master was also a grandmaster, the difference in pressure between them was worlds apart. She really didn't know just how Ah Zu could remain completely normal around a woman this terrifying.

Helpless to do anything else, she could only put on her clothes under Yun Jianyue's supervision and follow her out. But even so, she wasn't all that frightened. Zu An had mentioned their relationship to her before, to the extent that they were already friends.

They're already on the level of friends, so no matter how I think about it, there's no reason for her to harm me. But then, why is she taking me away?

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Meanwhile, Zu An arrived at the part of Watchful Heart Peak Xie Daoyun had spoken of. He looked all around and quickly noticed some abnormalities. Even though the traces had been swept clean, he could still detect some plants and trees having been ruined. The most noticeable was the vacant expanse that should have held a gazebo; there was nothing at all now.

He could tell from the scale of the destruction that the battle was between master rank or stronger cultivators. But how could not a single person have noticed anything despite there being so many grandmasters present?

He immediately realized something and suddenly turned around. He saw Watchful Heart Peak's Master Feng Wuchang standing there.

"So it was Sir Zu. What are you doing here so late at night?" Feng Wuchang asked in alarm. Why is this guy here? Could it be that we were exposed?

"I couldn't sleep, so I decided to go for a stroll," Zu An replied without batting an eyelid. "Though I am curious as to why peak master would be here when it's so late already."

Feng Wuchang reacted quickly, replying, "What else could it be but Peng Wuyan's disappearance? As the peak master of Watchful Heart Peak, as well as the one presiding over matters related to this competition, I need to be on the lookout to see if there is anything strange to prevent another disappearance."

Zu An nodded. The explanation was reasonable.

Feng Wuchang was worried that he would ask more questions, so he changed the topic. "When did Sir Zu return? I haven't seen you around recently..."

"I left for an errand a few days ago and just returned," Zu An casually replied. As he couldn't find any more clues, he decided to say goodbye and leave.

When Feng Wuchang watched him leave, his previous smile gradually disappeared. I need to report this immediately so we can figure out how to deal with this Zu brat as quickly as possible.

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Meanwhile, after Zu An left, he was full of doubts. This Feng Wuchang was very suspicious, and yet his behavior on the surface was so natural. He didn't have any proof, but his sixth sense told him that the peak master was suspicious. As such, he went straight to the White Jade Sect's side courtyard. Xie Daoyun's cultivation wasn't high enough, but just because she couldn't sense anything didn't mean Yan Xuehen couldn't.

This path to Yan Xuehen's room was already extremely familiar to him. He didn't go for the main entrance, but rather arrived by the window. After learning his previous lesson, he didn't go straight in; instead, he gently tapped on the window.

"Who is it?" Yan Xuehen asked coldly.

"It's me," Zu An replied.

"You're back?" Yan Xuehen called out. Her voice carried a hint of happiness at first, but then she seemed to have thought of something and snapped in annoyance, "Get lost!"

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +110 +110 +110...

Zu An was speechless. He said, "You've misunderstood. I came because I really have something to talk about."

Did this woman think I was here to attack her in the middle of the night or something?

"It is already so late; a man and a woman should keep their distance. Those things can wait until tomorrow," Yan Xuehen said. Her tone was cold, but she didn't get angrier.

Zu An could only add, "It's an emergency!"

There was a moment of silence. Zu An almost thought that Yan Xuehen had already gone to sleep, but then, the window opened. Yan Xuehen was already properly dressed and appeared in front of him as she said, "Speak. What is it?" She had already made up her mind that if he was deceiving her, she would be sure to give him a proper beating.

"This is what happened. Did you notice anything strange on this mountain two days ago? For example, a battle between powerful individuals?" Zu An asked.

Yan Xuehen shook her head and said, "I didn't."

Zu An then told her about what he and Xie Daoyun had discovered.

Yan Xuehen began to think to herself before saying, "Then, according to what you are saying, there really might have been an intense battle that took place without my notice. Someone probably arranged some special formations nearby ahead of time to seal off any leakage of energy. That is why no one noticed anything."

"Who has that level of ability?" Zu An quickly asked.

"The daoist sect masters are practically all capable of that. However, the most adept among them would have to be Kunlun Void's Sect Master Xuan Bajing. However, he did not come to Violet Mountain this time," Yan Xuehen said while thinking to herself.

Zu An's brows furrowed. He just felt as if something shocking had happened, and he just happened to have missed it all.

Yan Xuehen said, "I'll help you ask around tomorrow. I still have some level of a relationship with the sect masters."

Zu An was a bit worried. He said, "You need to be careful. If you really encounter those involved in a sinister plot, then things will become tricky."

Yan Xuehen smiled and said, "Don't worry. I know what I am doing. There are so many people in the nine sects; there is no way that all of them have allied together, right?"

Zu An figured that made sense, so he didn't say anything else.

Yan Xuehen asked, "Where have you been as of late?"

Zu An said with a smile, "It's quite cold outside. Why don't you invite me in for some hot tea?" However, what he got in return was a window slam. He was completely stunned as he stared at the tightly shut window in front of him. Why did this woman always change her attitude so fast?

Inside, Yan Xuehen actually grinned. This kid really wasn't good at telling lies. Why would he be scared of a bit of cold with his cultivation?

Zu An couldn't really look for Chu Chuyan now, so he could only leave helplessly.

When he recalled how upset Yun Jianyue had been along the way, he decided that he would have to talk things out with her this time. At the same time, he could try to appease her anger a bit.

When he arrived at Emptiness Isle's courtyard, he couldn't really report his visit, so he secretly snuck into Yun Jianyue's room.

"Who is it?" Yun Jianyue called out, clearly sounding extremely vigilant.

"It's me," Zu An said.

"One moment!" Yun Jianyue replied, sounding a bit flustered.

When Pei Mianman, who was next to her, saw that, her eyes lit up.

Favorite

Chapter 1693: Another Disappearance

However, just when Pei Mianman was about to call out, she had her acupoints sealed by Yun Jianyue first. Then, she was thrown into a wardrobe off to the side. She blinked in confusion.

Why was the glorious Devil Sect Master Yun Jianyue suddenly so alarmed? Could it be that she was scared of Ah Zu? Why was Ah Zu was looking for her so late into the night? In that instant, all kinds of possibilities filled her mind.

Yun Jianyue closed the wardrobe door. She was about to open the door when she remembered something. She opened the wardrobe again, and seeing Pei Mianman's shocked expression, struck another acupoint to knock her unconscious. When she saw Pei Mianman faint, she sighed in relief. Then, she closed the wardrobe door again.

"What were you doing? Why did it take so long?" Zu An asked in confusion.

Yun Jianyue was alarmed, but she didn't show it on the surface. She said, "Don't I have to at least get dressed if you visit me in the middle of the night?"

Zu An smiled and said, "You know, I wouldn't mind if you didn't wear anything either."

Yun Jianyue was stunned for a moment before snapping, "Damn kid, are you looking for a beating right now?"

Zu An darted into the room and said with an apologetic smile, "I was just joking with you, haha."

"What are you sneaking around like this for?" Yun Jianyue asked. Despite that, she still closed the door again.

Zu An looked around. Yun Jianyue's heart quickened and she asked, "What are you looking for?"

"Honglei isn't here, right?" Zu An asked. If she found out that he was looking for her master in the middle of the night, that would be a bit troublesome.

Yun Jianyue sighed in relief, saying, "She's not. She already went to bed. Why are you here?"

"The main reason is that some things happened on Violet Mountain," Zu An said. He then told her about Xie Daoyun's discoveries and asked for her opinion.

"To achieve the results you're describing, someone would have had to arrange a huge formation," Yun Jianyue said. She thought for a bit before replying, "According to what I know, the Shaman Great Elder Wu Wuyan is quite adept in that field."

"Shaman Great Elder?" Zu An asked, stunned. He had almost paid dearly because of a shaman not too long ago, so hearing about them again was naturally startling.

"The shamans don't have a so-called sect master. They all believe they're servants of the shaman god. Meanwhile, this great elder is their spokesman in this world, practically the one with the greatest authority among the shamans. Wu Wuyan is a seasoned grandmaster herself, and has unfathomable cultivation. Together with her shaman skills that are difficult to prepare against, there's almost no one who would be willing to provoke her," Yun Jianyue said seriously.

"Who would provoke people like that?" Zu An replied, then explained what had happened when he faced Zhang Jie again.

"The shamans' curse arts aren't as terrifying as you imagine. They often collect the hair and fingernails of their targets, and they need their astrological information too. Only then will their skills be the most effective," Yun Jianyue explained. "As for that Zhang Jie you described, strictly speaking, he isn't a shaman. Otherwise, there's no way the court wouldn't have noticed him. It's probably some possession technique he learned from the shamans that temporarily invited a powerful shaman into his body so he could borrow their abilities.

"From what you described, someone that powerful would be at least at the level of a shaman elder. It might even be Wu Wuyan herself."

Zu An's expression became serious. If just borrowing her ability had already made Zhang Jie so hard to deal with, just how troublesome would the person herself be?

"The shamans aren't entirely without faults either," Yun Jianyue said to console him. "They excel at scheming against others from behind and aren't great at a frontal clash. That's why the best way to deal with them is to fight them in close quarters." Afterward, she taught Zu An some methods to deal with them.

Zu An was filled with complete admiration. As expected of the Devil Sect Master! Her knowledge and experience were something few people could compare to.

"Alright. I'll increase my vigilance for now, and I'll also pay that Feng guy some attention. You can leave now," Yun Jianyue said, as if to chase him out.

"Do you really want me to leave that badly?" Zu An replied with a laugh. "Honestly, you're a bit suspicious right now. Weren't you upset with me before? Why do you seem... guilty instead?"

Yun Jianyue endured her urge to glance at the wardrobe and quickly replied, "What guilt? Also, what do you mean by angry? Brat, stop making things up."

Zu An looked at her ridiculously charming face and said gently, "You know I can sense if someone is angry or not. Honestly, I was actually really happy to see you angry. That means you actually do care about me, which is why you would become jealous."

"Who's jealous?!" Yun Jianyue snapped, her face heating up. She pushed him toward the exit and said, "Go, leave already. Stop bothering me!"

Zu An suddenly turned around and took her waist into his embrace. Then, without waiting for her reaction, he gave her alluring lips a kiss.

Yun Jianyue stiffened. In that instant, a streak of electricity seemed to run through her entire body. Her mind went blank for a few seconds. However, she finally reacted when Zu An's tongue reached deeper. She pushed him away in shame and annoyance, snapping, "You stinky brat, what are you doing?!"

"Am I stinky? You can give it a taste again," Zu An said with a laugh, and moved closer to kiss her again.

Yun Jianyue was speechless. At first, she struggled intensely, but she didn't use her grandmaster rank power. As such, there was no way she could struggle free from his powerful arms. Her resistance gradually grew weaker, and her temperature increased. Her body became softer and softer too.

She was a mature woman, and she hadn't used any of the charm skills she had practiced for so long. As such, her body was like a volcano on the verge of erupting. In the past, it hadn't really mattered much when she was feeling pent-up, but previously, Zu An had opened up a brand new world for her. That volcano had become active once more, and Zu An was the only one who could make her erupt.

After a while, she finally got a chance to breathe. Hesitantly, she said, "What we're doing isn't right..."

Zu An didn't say anything. Instead, he rained down scorching hot kisses on her cheek and neck.

Yun Jianyue moaned. This man is just too good at this...

Unlike Yan Xuehen, as someone from the Devil Sect, she knew much more about these things. She didn't have as many reservations, despite knowing that she couldn't continue to have an ambiguous relationship with Zu An like this, as it would only hurt Honglei. However, when she thought about how Pei Mianman was in the wardrobe, she suddenly felt a bit mischievous.

The Devil Sect's people had always believed in the law of the jungle. They were trained to steal good things from others since they were young. She remembered that when she was little, her senior sister had a toy that she really liked, so her master had encouraged her to steal it. Then, after struggling for a while, she had successfully stolen that toy from her senior sister. When she saw her sobbing senior sister, she had suddenly realized that she didn't like the toy that much. Instead, she liked the feeling of success that came from stealing the item more.

She felt as if she had returned to her childhood. Not only did she like this toy, she could even enjoy the happiness of stealing it from someone else. She felt guilty toward Honglei, but she didn't carry such misgivings toward other women.

In that instant, she even felt a bit of regret. Why had she decided to make Pei Mianman faint? Wouldn't it have been even better if she had to see everything?

As soon as Yun Jianyue had that thought, her entire body began to shake uncontrollably. This was a kind of excitement that came from her very soul!

Suddenly, she groaned. She discovered that while her imagination was running wild, that kid had already taken the chance to enter her. She looked at the large and tall man in front of her. As the Devil Sect Master, she didn't like this kind of submissive position. She bit her lip and seized the initiative, saying, "I want to be on top!"

Zu An knew that she cared a lot about her pride and didn't fight her over that. He looked at her with a smile and said, "Go ahead, sect master."

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The next day, on Violet Mountain's peak, the nine daoist sects' representatives gathered once more. It turned out the missing Emptiness Isle disciple had already been found.

"Elder Peng, how did you find her?" Heavenly Sorrow Sect's Guan Chouhai asked curiously.

"Why do you care? Since she's already here, we can just start the final competition now, right?" Yun Jianyue harrumphed.

"Come on, don't be like this. What if the Devil Sect Master is already here on this mountain? You should explain it to us so we can take some precautions," the White Jade Sect's Li Changsheng said. He was worried that Yun Jianyue could be a variable that would end up affecting their great scheme.

"It had nothing to do with the Devil Sect," Yun Jianyue replied. She was in high spirits today, so she didn't feel like bickering with the others today.

They were about to ask more when Elder Huo Ling ran over with a nervous expression, crying out, "My disciple is missing!"

Chapter 1694: Identity Exposed

"What?!" the daoists exclaimed in shock. They had just found Peng Wuyan, yet Pei Mianman was now missing?

However, Zu An was even more shocked than the daoist sect members. He quickly arrived in front of Elder Huo Ling and urgently asked, "What? How did she disappear?"

Qiu Honglei was also stunned. She hadn't expected Pei Mianman to disappear at all. She didn't even have time to feel jealous, and just looked at her master to see if she had any solutions.

Yun Jianyue remained expressionless, however. This brat was full of honeyed words last night, and yet today, all of his attention is now on another woman?

The surrounding people also cast sidelong looks. Why is this kid so panicked? Could it be that he really ended up liking that Miss Pei?

Still, when they recalled Pei Mianman's stunning features and physique, they felt that it was only too natural for someone as young as him to feel that way.

Elder Huo Ling's expression changed several times, but she didn't have time for anything else and explained, "I went out for some business last night. When I returned, everything was normal, but when it was time to leave this morning, Manman didn't seem to have woken up yet. It was when I went to her room that I noticed that she was gone. Then, Jadenfall Palace's disciples and I looked everywhere, but we still didn't find her. That was why we came here to see if anyone knew anything."

Wang Wuxie shook his head and said, "We only just now heard about her disappearance. We do not know anything either."

The others began to discuss the situation in a lively manner. They clearly didn't know where Pei Mianman had gone either.

The disciples gradually found out about what happened and erupted into alarm. Unlike Peng Wuyan, who was safe because of her appearance, Pei Mianman was an incredible beauty! With that bewitching figure, if she went missing, it wasn't hard to imagine what could happen at all. Many people felt pity when they thought of that. Such a stunning individual actually ending up like that would just be too sad.

Zu An was more worried about Pei Mianman's safety. He quickly asked Elder Huo Ling for more details. "Manman's cultivation isn't low, and you and Palace Lord Wan are both grandmasters. How could she have been silently kidnapped just like that with both of you overseeing your residence?"

Wan Tongtian's expression became a bit unnatural as he said, "Ahem, I had some affairs to deal with and also left for a bit. It might have happened then."

The others had strange expressions when they heard that. They had all heard about Wan Tongtian and Elder Huo Ling's hatred for each other, and yet both had gone out in the middle of the night. It was hard for them to not suspect anything. Fortunately, the subject was Pei Mianman's safety, so it wasn't the time to crack jokes.

Elder Huo Ling said, "It's actually quite strange. When I went to examine Manman's room, there were no signs of a battle."

The others had strange expressions as they said, "Lady Pei's cultivation isn't low though. How could she have been captured silently like that?"

Even though Pei Mianman had been able to get this far partly due to luck, she had displayed her strength during the group stage. Furthermore, that Fu Hao Owl Statue of hers was quite miraculous. She was a top-tier expert in the world of warriors. Even if a grandmaster had faced her, unless they launched an ambush, it shouldn't have reached a point where she didn't even have the slightest ability to retaliate.

Those present exchanged their opinions. After a while, they looked toward Yun Jianyue and Qiu Honglei.

"What are you looking at me for?" Yun Jianyue snapped impatiently.

Yan Xuehen, who had remained quiet the entire time, said, "Pei Mianman's disappearance seems similar to Miss Peng's. I wonder who Miss Peng was kidnapped by, and how she was rescued? We might be able to obtain some clues that will aid Miss Pei's rescue through this information." She knew about Zu An and Pei Mianman's relationship. Furthermore, Chu Chuyan and Pei Mianman were also close friends, so she couldn't just watch without doing anything.

Guan Chouhai and the others couldn't help but give her a look. This woman was usually quite aloof and indifferent. Why did she suddenly seem so engaged in this matter? However, most of them were looking at Yun Jianyue, waiting to hear her speak about how Peng Wuyan had been saved.

Only Zu An knew that Qiu Honglei's disappearance was fabricated. How could Yun Jianyue provide any useful clues in this situation?

Yun Jianyue coughed lightly and said, "That is related to a secret of our sect, but since this is related to martial niece Pei, I cannot hide it anymore. Our sect left a tracking talisman on Peng Wuyan. If she goes missing for a certain period of time, it activates on its own. I sensed it and swiftly looked for her, and found her in a cave. The strange thing was that it was just her inside. The one who kidnapped her was nowhere to be seen."

Elder Huo Ling urgently asked, "Where is that cave?"

Yun Jianyue replied somewhat awkwardly, "What are the chances of it being in the same place? They would definitely have known that the place was exposed once the kidnappers saw that Wuyan was no longer there. Would they continue to hide people there?"

The representatives from Jadedfall Palace felt that the explanation was reasonable. They all had disappointed expressions.

Guan Chouhai looked at Qiu Honglei and asked, "Martial niece Peng, who exactly was it that kidnapped you? Do you not remember anything?"

Qiu Honglei shook her head. "I was cultivating at the time, but then I was suddenly knocked unconscious by someone. When I woke up, I was in that cave. I don't know what kind of objective the other party had either, nor did they ask me for anything. Later, I was rescued."

That was what Yun Jianyue had told her to say before, so there was no chance that they would have holes in their story.

"Someone who could render you unconscious without alerting anyone has to at least be at the grandmaster rank. But which grandmaster in this world would attack a junior without any regard for their status?" Master Jian Huang muttered to himself.

Li Changsheng said, "It is most likely the Devil Sect Master, Yun Jianyue."

Yun Jianyue's brows rose when she heard that. She replied, "Couldn't it be the dark elves?"

The dark elves excelled at ambushes and assassination. Even if they didn't have grandmaster rank cultivation, such a thing would actually be possible for them.

"Shadow Group?" The others' expressions changed. The Shadow Group was an assassin organization they were all a bit apprehensive about.

Li Changsheng shook his head and said, "Our daoist sects have all gathered together today. There is no reason for the Shadow Group to offend all of us. They have never engaged in any losing transactions."

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None of them were able to come up with a conclusion even after analyzing the situation.

Elder Huo Ling was really starting to panic. She asked Yun Jianyue about the cave and quickly left to look for it.

Zu An was about to leave too when Yun Jianyue secretly told him, "Don't worry. Nothing will happen to her."

Zu An was stunned. He noticed that she seemed to be implying something. He was about to ask her about it when he heard her say clearly, "The competition has already dragged on for so many days, and my disciple has already returned. Can we continue now?"

A huge uproar followed. Wan Tongtian looked at her unhappily and said, "All of us delayed the competition when your disciple went missing before. Now, when our Jedefall Palace's disciple has gone missing, you instead want the match to start? What is the meaning of this?"

The others all looked at Yun Jianyue, especially the young disciples. They were full of righteous anger and shot her indignant gazes.

It wasn't just them; even Qiu Honglei was a bit confused. Why had her master done such a thing even though she knew about Pei Mianman's relationship with Zu An? Why would she raise such a disrespectful request at a time like this?

Zu An frowned. He knew Yun Jianyue definitely had a reason for doing such a thing, so he began to speculate about what was happening.

When faced with their questioning, Yun Jianyue didn't back down at all. She said, "Our daoist sects came all the way here from afar to conduct this great competition at Violet Mountain and can't stay here forever. We've already been away for long enough.

"Once we decide who the winners are, we still need to send the disciples into the secret dungeon. All that needs to be done in order. We've already stalled for long enough. If we wait any longer, just how much longer are we going to dilly-dally for?"

"In my opinion, that mysterious individual hiding in the dark must have done all of this to ruin our great competition. Even if Pei Mianman returns, there could be other annoyances. This competition could never continue then. As long as the competition reaches its conclusion, that mysterious person will likely cease their schemes."

The others felt a bit angry when they heard her analysis, but they gradually began to feel that her argument made some sense. After all, they hadn't learned anything from Peng Wuyan's return, and yet Pei Mianman had been captured now. No matter how they looked at it, there seemed to be a troublemaker doing all of this on purpose.

Watchful Heart Peak's Feng Wuchang said, "What Elder Peng has said is reasonable. However, with Lady Pei missing right now, we cannot continue the competition even if we want to."

Zu An gave him a strange look. Shouldn't Wang Wuxie have been the one to speak in such a situation? To be honest, wasn't Wang Wuxie a bit too quiet today compared to before? He hadn't even snuck any looks at Yan Xuehen.

Yun Jianyue proudly said, "You've all seen how Wuyan prevailed over so many strong opponents, and Jadedfall Palace's Lady Pei only won because of luck. If they really fought, I'm sure everyone has their own ideas as to who would win. In that case, why don't we just proclaim Wuyan the victor and be done with it?"

The others looked at each other in dismay. They had to admit that the cultivation Peng Wuyan had displayed before was a bit higher.

Yan Xuehen said, "Often, it is difficult to tell who would win and who would lose without an actual fight. If we only made decisions based on what we expected, Miss Pei might not even have made it out of the group stage. As for Lady Peng, she also fought against powerful opponents to reach where she is today."

The other sect masters had been a bit tempted at first, but they began to hesitate when they heard what she said.

Yun Jianyue gritted her teeth. This stone cold woman really is my arch-nemesis! She'll still go against me even when I've changed my identity!

Suddenly, someone screamed shrilly, "That Elder Peng is fake! She's actually the Devil Sect Master, Yun Jianyue!"

Chapter 1695: All Cards Revealed

Those present on Golden Peak were all alarmed. Even Zu An felt something drop in his stomach. Why was Yun Jianyue's identity being exposed right now?

Qiu Honglei's expression changed slightly. She quickly looked at her master. Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue turned to look in the direction of the mountain entrance.

There was a group of people quickly approaching. The one in the lead was a disheveled, but rather fierce-looking middle-aged woman. Her appearance normally wouldn't be anything special, but her features were those of Emptiness Isle's Elder Peng. Meanwhile, there was a young lady standing by her side who also had a distinctively unattractive face.

Jadedfall Palace's Wan Guiyi widened his eyes. He had previously thought that there was an air of strength in her appearance, so how could he forget that face? He quickly looked at Qiu Honglei with wide eyes.

Golden Peak had previously been filled with noise, but it was now completely silent.

Guan Chouhai and the others looked at Yun Jianyue and her disciple, then looked at Elder Peng and her disciple. They instinctively kept their distance from both parties.

"What is going on?" Zu An secretly asked through ki.

"I don't know," Yun Jianyue replied with a serious expression. "Something must have happened in the place I locked them up in. If I had known this was going to happen, I would have just taken their lives."

The other group of people also walked over. Guan Chouhai was stunned and called out, "Elder Lian?"

A white-haired elder in the group cupped his hands and replied, "Sect Master Guan!"

Many people from the daoist sects had met this elder before. They all greeted him in a friendly manner. However, they suddenly noticed the issue. There were two Elder Pengs and two Peng Wuyans. What exactly was going on here?

Wan Tongtian asked gravely, "Elder Lian, what is going on here?"

The elder gave the middle-aged woman next to him a look and said, "Junior sister Peng, you should tell them."

That Elder Peng said, "I was on my way to Violet Mountain with Wuyan to participate in this Great Daoist Competition, but I ended up falling victim to an ambush near Violet Mountain by the Devil Sect and was imprisoned. Then, they used some strange drugs and smeared them on my face, which we later found out was actually in order to create masks to impersonate us."

The others' gazes shifted to Yun Jianyue and her disciple. They were all on guard.

Yan Xuehen also looked at her in surprise. Could this really be Yun Jianyue? They really were meant to clash with each other!

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Zu An had a huge headache. They hadn't even dealt with Manman's situation, and yet now something was happening to Yun Jianyue and Qiu Honglei. He couldn't just walk away from all of this, right? There was nothing he could do but watch the situation play out for the time being, though.

Yun Jianyue remained calm and retorted, "Nonsense. Elder Lian, you actually dare to collude with the Devil Sect bastards to slander me? This really is a disgrace to our Emptiness Isle!"

Fuming with anger, Elder Lian exclaimed, "You demoness, what nonsense are you speaking?!"

"Am I wrong? You were found to have been colluding with the Devil Sect, but then you slinked off for fear of punishment, betraying Emptiness Isle. Now, when Emptiness Isle has earned the greatest glory in all of our history, you're actually stepping forward to start trouble! Just how much do you hate Emptiness Isle?" Yun Jianyue retorted, firing round after round of attacks, leaving even Elder Lian a bit stunned.

Zu An was left in admiration. As so many people recognized Elder Lian, Yun Jianyue had decided to not dispute his identity, instead declaring that he had betrayed Emptiness Isle.

Emptiness Isle was rather secluded compared to the other sects and wasn't all that connected. As such, there were many people who hadn't even seen Elder Peng before. If Elder Lian really had betrayed Emptiness Isle, there would be no way for them to confirm that for some time.

Sure enough, the others also increased their distance from Elder Lian for fear of him being a Devil Sect spy.

"You witch, cease your venomous slander!" Elder Lian shouted angrily. After being thrown for a loop by Yun Jianyue, he could only say that, as he was unable to provide any useful evidence.

"If I really were Yun Jianyue, I would have killed you all as soon as I captured you. Why would I give you the chance to ruin things?" Yun Jianyue harrumphed. Inwardly, however, she was a bit worried. The fact that Emptiness Isle's representatives had been rescued meant something had happened on their Holy Sect's side. She wondered just what was going on.

Many people nodded when they heard that. They had long heard of Yun Jianyue's bloodthirsty nature, so why would she leave behind living witnesses? As such, they became even more vigilant when they looked at Elder Lian's group.

Elder Lian's group grew nervous when they saw the shift in attitude. Elder Peng cursed, "Who knows what kind of motive they had for leaving us alive? The Devil Sect's bastards have always been crafty and cunning. How would we know why they did such a thing?"

Li Changsheng coughed lightly and said, "Ahem, you might not know about this, but they've already entered the finals of the competition, as well as being the ones favored to win."

That Elder Peng laughed and said, "Do you really have no idea what our Emptiness Isle is capable of? How could someone we raised possibly win against Righteous Sun, White Jade, Jadedfall Palace, Kunlun Void, and Heavenly Sorrow, all sects with tremendous resources?"

The others were stunned when they heard that. They had felt that Qiu Honglei was a bit too much even for a dark horse. Now that they thought about it, it really was too strange. Her performance didn't really match Emptiness Isle's expected strength!

Only Peng Wuyan's face was entirely red. There was no need to degrade her for the sake of proving their identity, right? For better or for worse, she was a representative disciple, and she had her pride too.

Yun Jianyue quickly retorted, "What a joke. Our Emptiness Isle has experienced tremendous changes in the past few decades. Furthermore, after picking up some excellent saplings, what's so strange about making a name for ourselves in this competition? You keep looking down on Emptiness Isle, and yet you're still denying that you're monsters from the Devil Sect!"

Even Qiu Honglei herself was almost convinced by what her master said. She suddenly felt that she was still far too lacking compared to her master in this field.

Elder Lian and Peng were so angry they were panicking. They began to berate the other side, but unfortunately, how could they be Yun Jianyue's match in a verbal assault? They were pushed back bit by bit. More and more people began to think that Yun Jianyue was the real one.

Suddenly, Yan Xuehen, who had already remained silent for so long, said, "It is simple enough to determine who is real and who is fake. We can seal up both of your acupoints, and then, once we examine your bodies, it will be clear who is the fraud."

Yun Jianyue cursed inwardly. This stone cold woman is my nemesis after all. She snorted and replied, "What kind of a joke is this? If I let myself be restrained by all of you, wouldn't I just become meat on a chopping block? If you all had any ulterior motives, our Emptiness Isle would be done for!"

What she said was reasonable. Which cultivator in this world would be willing to hand their fate to another?

Yan Xuehen said indifferently, "The daoist sects are part of the righteous faction, and there are so many young disciples watching. We will not do anything that will bring down our own reputations."

Elder Peng and Elder Lian, who had always been at a disadvantage, snapped out of their daze. They shouted, "We are willing to go through this examination!" Then, they acted as if they were surrendering themselves for inspection.

Yun Jianyue's expression changed several times. This was clearly an overt plot, but she couldn't play along! If her identity was checked, there would be no way for her to escape. Furthermore, she would be restrained, so it would be impossible for her to resist even if she wanted to.

When they saw her expression, the others finally realized what was happening. The sect masters all moved closer to surround Yun Jianyue.

"Hahaha, so the daoist sects only amount to this, huh? You all shoot your mouths off constantly, and yet in the end, our Devil Sect's disciple still took the first place!" Yun Jianyue declared as she decided to just drop the act. Her outfit exploded, revealing her long hair. There was a bewitching and dangerous beauty to her appearance.

After seeing that, Qiu Honglei also returned to her true appearance. Ki surrounded her entire body in preparation for a battle.

A commotion broke out all across Golden Peak! The daoist sects and Devil Sect were sworn enemies. Many younger disciples had listened to stories of the Devil Sect's cruelty growing up. Yun Jianyue was especially famous for the seas of blood and the mountains of corpses she had created.

However, they had only heard of her, but they had never seen her in person. They hadn't expected her to be such an extraordinary beauty! Apart from her, Qiu Honglei was also stunning. Just a single smile from her was enough to make most of the disciples flustered.

Only Wan Guiyi had a blank expression. Why had she changed? Compared to this weak-looking appearance, he preferred the strong beauty from earlier.

Chapter 1696: Imminent Battle

Tranquility Temple's little monk Jie Se widened his eyes and exclaimed, "Oh my goodness, what a great living transformation!"

Master Jian Huang couldn't help but shoot him a glare. He replied, "Weren't they living people before too?"

"Master always calls women rouge, powder, and skeleton. We only saw the skeleton before, but only now is there rouge and powder!" Jie Se said with a sigh of admiration.

Master Jian Huang smacked Jie Se's round head and snapped, "Women really are the only thing filling that head of yours all day."

Jie Se felt wronged and replied, "I'm still young, so isn't it normal for me to be young and vigorous? I don't want to be like master, who's so old that you don't even have any reaction anymore."

Master Jian Huang's expression immediately became dangerous. He said, "Copy the Heart Sutra two hundred times tonight. You're not allowed to sleep until you finish it."

Jie Se immediately cried out in alarm. "Master, you're only doing this out of pettiness..."

"Three hundred times," Master Jian Huang said, his expression frightening.

Jie Se had an expression of loss on his face, but in the end, he really didn't dare to challenge his master any further.

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Meanwhile, on the Heavenly Sorrow Sect's side, all of the disciples were stupefied. Cai Yu muttered to himself, "I didn't expect that witch to have such looks..."

Yun Jianyue was also incredibly beautiful, but she still had her identity as the Devil Sect Master, so Cai Yu subconsciously treated her as someone from the last generation and didn't dare to have any bad thoughts. However, it was different for Qiu Honglei. She was young and pretty, and had an especially dainty and weak appearance that made others cherish her. She looked like a gentle, kind, and distinguished daughter! There wasn't a trace of a Devil Sect witch in sight!

Zhi Yin's breathing quickened. He had been completely infatuated with Chu Chuyan before, yet today, he finally saw someone whose beauty was comparable to hers.

Previously, even though Pei Mianman was pretty, he had lost to her and thus developed a bit of a mental shadow. As such, he found her a bit less attractive. However, Qiu Honglei was different. She made him unable to help but feel a sense of protectiveness. He even began to wonder if there was some sort of misunderstanding. How could this woman be a witch? Even though he didn't know the whole story, he knew that she had definitely been wronged somewhere just from looking at her appearance.

Zhao Xiaodie was a bit absent-minded. Before joining this Great Daoist Competition, she had absolute confidence in her appearance. She was a goddess with countless pursuers in the Heavenly Sorrow Sect. And yet, after coming to Violet Mountain, she had encountered Chu Chuyan, Pei Mianman, and now Qiu Honglei, who were all exceptional beauties. She suddenly felt a bit overshadowed. That wasn't even factoring in the two seniors, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue. She had never felt so inferior before.

The disciples of the other sects were more or less the same too. Even Wu Xiaofan couldn't help but give her a few extra glances. They had never expected to be defeated at the hands of such a delicate and pretty woman.

Only Supreme Mystery Cave's Shi Dingtian had a rather normal expression. For him, her appearance wasn't even as interesting as his dog's.

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Li Changsheng coughed and said, "Outstanding. I didn't expect the Devil Sect's Saintess to have already cultivated the charm arts to such a superb level. Yun Jianyue, you've really found a worthy successor."

When they heard his cough, the disciples felt as if thunder had resounded in their ears. All of them trembled and quickly snapped out of their daze. When they recalled the thoughts they had, they all felt incredibly ashamed. At the same time, they consoled themselves by thinking that this woman was just so cunning that they had fallen for her charm arts, and that it wasn't because they were excessively perverted.

Only Xie Daoyun had a worried expression as she looked at Zu An. She naturally recognized Qiu Honglei. The other woman had made all of the men in Brightmoon City go crazy for her, after all.

However, Xie Daoyun had also heard that Qiu Honglei had gone all the way to Chu Manor and requested to become Zu An's concubine, and that she was Chu Chuyan's rival in love. Later, even though she had failed, her relationship with big brother Zu had clearly remained quite close. Now that the master and disciple were in trouble, how could big brother Zu just stand to the side without doing anything?

It would be one thing if they met in a different place, as with big brother Zu's cultivation, it wouldn't be too much trouble to save them. However, there were so many daoist experts on Golden Peak right now, and Sir State Teacher was present. If Zu An helped the Devil Sect under so many prying eyes, how was he supposed to remain in the court in the future?

Yan Xuehen also understood that point. Furthermore, she knew that Zu An and Yun Jianyue were extremely close. There was no way he would just watch everything with his hands folded. When she thought about how Yun Jianyue's whims had put Zu An in this predicament, she couldn't help but shoot Yun Jianyue a glare. It's all this woman's fault!

Yun Jianyue could feel the provocative look, so she also shot Yan Xuehen an angry glare. If not for this stone cold woman's meddling, she wouldn't even have been exposed.

Just then, Wang Wuxie asked, "Sect Master Yun, why have you caused trouble in Violet Mountain? Do you really think that the daoist sects are pushovers?"

Yun Jianyue said proudly, "The world is so large, I can go wherever I please, so why would I have so many misgivings? But this time, my disciple didn't even use any underhanded means and even held back on her strongest skills for fear of exposing her identity. Even so, she still surmounted all difficulties and even took first place. Is that all the daoist sects amount to?"

When they heard that, the young disciples of the daoist sects all felt their faces heat up. They had actually let the inheritor of the Devil Sect take first place!

Wu Xiaofan and the others had conflicted expressions. Wu Xiaofan in particular had been a bit unconvinced about losing to Qiu Honglei at first, because he was injured going into the fight. Now that he learned that she had actually been holding back, all that remained was a feeling of shame.

Wan Tongtian harrumphed. "Who says she took the number one place? She still hasn't fought with Jadedfall Palace's martial niece, so how can you just say that she's the first place winner?"

Yun Jianyue retorted, "My disciple is here, so why don't you bring that niece of yours here to fight her?"

Wan Tongtian angrily replied, "You clearly know that she's missing..." He suddenly realized something and asked, "Did you kidnap her because you wanted your disciple to take first place?"

Yun Jianyue said indifferently, "Your own Jadedfall Palace didn't keep a good eye on your disciple. What does this have to do with me?"

At the same time, she secretly said to Zu An, "Don't worry, that Pei girl is hidden in my room's wardrobe. She isn't hurt."

Zu An's worries were finally set at ease. But soon after, his expression changed. Then, didn't that mean she had seen everything between him and Yun Jianyue? Just what kind of a weird fetish does this Yun Jianyue have?

As if guessing what he was thinking, Yun Jianyue blushed. She gave him an annoyed look and added, "What kind of nonsense are you thinking? She was unconscious last night."

Zu An chuckled awkwardly when he heard that, but then sighed in relief.

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Nearby, Yan Xuehen saw the two of them exchanging looks and knew that they were definitely up to something. For some reason, she felt a bit unhappy.

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Just then, Li Changsheng added, "Witch, aren't you acting a bit too arrogant here? Since you're so fond of coming to Violet Mountain, you should just remain here for a hundred and eighty years to quell your evil tendencies."

Yun Jianyue sneered. "Are you daoist sect people planning on going against the etiquette of the world of warriors by using your advantage in numbers?"

Guan Chouhai replied with a laugh, "Sect Master Yun, what use is such sophistry? Against those like you who have walked the crooked path, there is naturally no need to talk about any so-called etiquette."

"As expected of you, Mister Guan. You're actually able to talk about something so despicable in a dignified manner," Yun Jianyue said, her expression cold. "Still, even if all of you come at me together, even if I can't win, none of you can stop me if I want to leave."

The conspirators from the daoist sects exchanged a look. They knew that what she said was true. Previously, they had needed to ambush Wang Wuxie, and they even had Feng Wuchang working for them from the inside; that was the only reason they had succeeded. Right now, Yun Jianyue was in tip-top shape. It wouldn't be so easy to keep her here. With their important mission to take care of as a priority, they didn't want to suffer any serious injuries.

Feng Wuchang chuckled and said, "We might not be able to keep you here, but we can definitely keep your disciple here."

Yun Jianyue's expression changed. She snapped, "What right does a trifling peak master have to interrupt when we're talking?!" She appeared right in front of Feng Wuchang and sent a palm straight at his head as soon as she spoke.

Feng Wuchang's body instantly turned ice-cold. He felt an endless sea of blood and a mountain of corpses in front of him. Yun Jianyue seemed to have come from the very depths of hell. He actually couldn't muster even the slightest strength to resist!

Just as the palm was about to make contact with his head, a Buddhist sound filled the air, and a golden buddha suddenly appeared amid the world of corpses and blood. It reached out a hand to stop her lethal attack.

Yun Jianyue gave Master Jian Huang a displeased look and called out, "Baldie, are you going to make our Holy Sect your enemy too?"

Master Jian Huang put his palms together and said, "Amitabha buddha, this old one is quite indebted to Benefactor Feng's treatment as of late, so I have accepted this piece of karma. That is why I cannot remain a bystander."

Guan Chouhai, Li Changsheng, and the others cried, "Witch, you actually dare to hurt one of us? Do you really think we wouldn't act at all?"

They began to surround Yun Jianyue. A battle seemed on the verge of breaking out at any time. With them taking the lead, Kunlun Void's Elder Xuan Dou, Mount Luofu's Elder Xu, Purity Temple's Sect Master and Vice Sect Master, Supreme Mystery Cave's Cave Master Mu, and the others also moved closer.

Yan Xuehen frowned, but she didn't move. After what they had gone through in the secret dungeon, she couldn't bring herself to surround and attack Yun Jianyue.

Chapter 1697: Predestined Showdown

Even when she saw so many powerful cultivators from different sects surrounding her and her disciple, Yun Jianyue didn't feel any fear. She said, "Wow, look at all of you. Since even your so-called orthodox faction doesn't want to play by the rules, if something unexpected happens to my disciple, don't blame me for bringing chaos to your families.

"Whether it's your wives, children, aging parents, or even your beloved disciples, if even a single one of them survives, my name isn't Yun Jianyue!"

As the Devil Sect Master, her words naturally carried great intimidation. The others' expressions changed when they heard her threat. They knew that Yun Jianyue's word was as good as gold in the current scenario. If they couldn't kill her and let her escape, there would definitely be absolute chaos back home. Who could stop a grandmaster if they were determined to kill all of your loved ones? Let alone the fact that this was the Devil Sect Master! The power at her disposal was unimaginable.

The only solution was to end her today on Golden Peak. Without their leader, the Devil Sect's various factions would start to fight against each other for the position of sect master, so they wouldn't have to worry about revenge anymore. Still, killing Yun Jianyue wasn't so easily done!

Nevertheless, if the daoist sects gave up just because of a few threatening words despite gathering so many powerful cultivators, they really wouldn't have any face left. How were they supposed to retain a footing in the world of warriors then?

They were stuck in a tough spot, but suddenly, Master Jian Huang said, "Amitabha buddha. Conflict in the world of warriors is best dealt with using some reason. Why must we fight to the point where even our families are put at risk?" As someone from the Buddhist sects and a figure with prestigious standing, he did have the right to smooth things over.

Yun Jianyue said with a sneer, "An old vegetarian monk like you doesn't have any family, so what are you scared of? Don't tell me the fat little monk at your side is your illegitimate child?"

The little monk Jie Se immediately felt a bit of resentment. You can call me 'little monk', but did you have to add the word 'fat'? It's not as if I ate your family's rice...

"Amitabha buddha. Tranquility Temple has always attached great importance to our rules. Who would believe the unfounded ravings of Sect Master Yun?" Master Jian Huang said calmly, clearly not all that affected by her words.

"Whatever, I don't feel like arguing with you. You don't want to fight, and yet you aren't letting me go either. What do you even want then?" Yun Jianyue asked, sweeping her gaze over those present with a swing of her sleeve. They all looked away, unwilling to look straight at her.

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Meanwhile, Zu An was full of admiration. He had already gotten used to Yun Jianyue's kind side. It wasn't that often that he got to see her Devil Sect Master side. Now, she had seized absolute initiative from a position of total disadvantage. Such a presence really was impressive. Still, it really was hard for him to make the connection between her domineering side and the charming and pleading woman from the previous night.

Master Jian Huang said, "This old one suggests a gentleman's agreement. How about both sides have a competition? If the daoist sects win, Sect Master Yun's disciple will remain as a guest and cultivate in Violet Mountain. If the daoist sects lose, we will let Sect Master Yun leave. That would be quite fair; what does everyone think?"

Yun Jianyue roared with laughter and replied, "Why not? Who wants to fight a round against me? If I lose, I'll accept whatever happens!"

The others had strange expressions. Wasn't this woman too confident in herself? Even though she was formidable, this was Golden Peak. There were several individuals on the same level as her. Did she really have faith that she wouldn't lose? Wang Wuxie, in particular, had remained number one among the daoist sects for so many years already. In theory, he was supposed to be a bit stronger than her.

Only Yan Xuehen knew that they had experienced many miraculous encounters with Zu An in the secret dungeon, to the extent that they had even sensed the auras of true immortals. Her strength had already reached new breakthroughs. These people might be in for some pain if they were evaluating her through the information they had before.

Guan Chouhai said, "No, we're in a position of absolute advantage. We finally managed to surround this witch. If we go one on one, we'll be letting her off easy."

At the same time, he secretly cursed Master Jian Huang. Did that old monk go senile? Wang Wuxie is clearly injured and controlled by Shaman Arts. His strength is nowhere near his peak. How are we supposed to win against her?

Master Jian Huang frowned when he heard that. This Guan Chouhai really is muddle-headed. With such an important mission to take care of, it'll only be disadvantageous to us if we keep her here. We're better off finding some random excuse to send her away. Don't tell me you actually want to lose our forces just to keep Yun Jianyue here?

Yun Jianyue looked at Guan Chouhai and sneered. She retorted, "Mister Guan, how about we fight a round first? I'll give you this round for free. Even if I win, we won't count it."

Guan Chouhai's expression changed. He yelled, "You witch! Do you think I'm scared of you?!" At the same time, he was alarmed. Why did he get the feeling that she was absolutely certain of her victory? Furthermore, he could tell that it definitely wasn't some false bravado.

Li Changsheng stepped forward to smooth things over. He said, "Brother Guan, please do not act recklessly. How about we do a two out of three? That way, our daoist sects' advantage would not be wasted."

Yun Jianyue said angrily, "I only have me and my disciple, so where would we find a third?"

Zu An was a suitable candidate, and there would definitely be no issues with winning a round. However, she didn't want to involve him in this trouble.

Emptiness Isle's Elder Peng sneered and said, "I'm sure you can win two rounds yourself, no? You can use your disciple to buy you some time in the middle, and that should be enough time for you to recover. Of course, since you're so confident, you can also fight all three rounds alone."

"Your thoughts are as disgusting as expected," Yun Jianyue said, shooting her a cold look.

Even though she had confidence, that didn't mean she had gone crazy. Her cultivation had made a huge breakthrough before, but there were so many talents here in the daoist sects. Fighting three rounds was still too difficult.

Elder Peng almost went crazy from anger. She was about to fire off a round of verbal abuse, but Yun Jianyue considered it disdainful to even bicker with her further.

"We'll either decide everything through a single round, or just fight to the end. Wang Wuxie, aren't you the number one among the daoist sects? Why haven't you said a thing all this time? Don't tell me you're too scared to fight against me?" Yun Jianyue called out, directly issuing Wang Wuxie a challenge.

Yan Xuehen gave Wang Wuxie a strange look. He really was a bit too quiet today. Normally, he would have long since stated his opinion.

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Golden Peak immediately erupted with noise. Many people even felt admiration for Yun Jianyue. Even though she was a woman, her powerful presence wasn't inferior to any man's. Wang Wuxie was the daoist sects' publicly acknowledged number one. As she had taken the initiative to challenge him, that meant her confidence was definitely real.

Suddenly, Wang Wuxie said, "His majesty is about to come to Violet Mountain to carry out the ceremony. I need to assist him, so it is not convenient for me to act here. I hope that Sect Master Yun can forgive me."

His excuse was reasonable, so no one suspected anything. Instead, they began to wonder what sort of important matter the emperor and Wang Wuxie had to work together to complete.

Suddenly, a cold and clear voice called out, "Lady Qiu and I just happen to have a decisive battle arranged. Why don't the two of us fight a round to decide whether she stays or leaves?"

Long hair fluttered around an icy blue dress. It was as if a woman of snow had come down from the Great Snowy Mountains.

Lou Wucheng and Zhi Yin both exclaimed in excitement, "Fairy Chu!"

Zu An's heartbeat also quickened. Who else could it be but Chu Chuyan?

It had seemed that their fight was nothing more than a pretense for Yun Jianyue's real plans before, so he had thought that the decisive battle could just be avoided. He hadn't expected this kind of situation to happen, as if the battle had been decided by fate itself!

Chapter 1698: Sisters

Chu Chuyan had spent the entire competition cultivating in seclusion in preparation for her battle against Qiu Honglei. Today, however, such a big commotion had broken out on Golden Peak. As she was wondering what happened, an enthusiastic disciple came up to her and explained the situation: Emptiness Isle's Elder Peng was actually an imposter from the Devil Sect!

Chu Chuyan was extremely beautiful and had a refined and aloof temperament, making her quite popular among the daoist sects. As such, several people sought an opportunity to talk to her.

When she heard about the entire course of events, she was shocked. She hadn't expected Qiu Honglei to have already been there for some time, and to have actually fought through many rounds of the Great Sects Competition, no less. Now that she knew what was happening on Golden Peak, she could no longer continue to cultivate and hurriedly rushed out, thus arriving just in time for the earlier scene. That was why she had taken the initiative to suggest the battle.

Qiu Honglei raised her brows when she saw Chuyan arrive. She immediately felt a competitive drive grow within her. She took a step forward and was about to agree to the proposal.

However, Yun Jianyue blocked her path and said to Chu Chuyan, "Honglei has fought so many battles and defeated your fellow daoist disciples. If not for what happened today, she would have already been decided as the winner. If you want to fight against her, why don't you face those daoist colleagues of yours and take first place first?"

Even though she was at odds with that stone cold woman, she understood Yan Xuehen's ability. Her disciple definitely wasn't weak either. Furthermore, Chu Chuyan's talent was exceptional too, meaning that her cultivation was likely equal to Qiu Honglei's. It was hard to say who would win if they really fought. She definitely didn't want the situation to end in a coin flip.

Qiu Honglei was quite tired from everything that had happened recently, too. She had already fought many rounds, exposing many of her skills. In contrast, Chu Chuyan had been cultivating in seclusion, preparing for this battle the entire time. Even the slightest mistake would cost Qiu Honglei and her master a great deal.

Chu Chuyan frowned. She didn't know what to say in response.

Guan Chouhai said, "Niece Chu, we appreciate your good intentions. However, eliminating the Devil Sect and defending justice is our generation's responsibility. You only need to watch from the sidelines."

His concerns were actually the opposite of Yun Jianyue's. He had witnessed Qiu Honglei prevail over representative disciples again and again. Even the publicly acknowledged number one of the daoist sects' younger generation, Wu Xiaofan, had lost to her. Even though Chu Chuyan's cultivation was excellent, her prior performance hadn't exceeded Wu Xiaofan's. In his opinion, the chances of winning wouldn't be in their favor if the two sides fought, so he didn't feel like there was a need to take such a risk.

Yan Xuehen said, "Witch, Chuyan's battle against your disciple has already been agreed upon between the daoist sects and the Devil Sect. Are these excuses you are producing a result of your fear?"

Guan Chouhai immediately felt conflicted when he heard the sweetheart of his dreams speak up. If he continued to insist otherwise, wouldn't that make her unhappy?

Yun Jianyue's beautiful eyes narrowed. She retorted, "Stone cold woman, why would I be scared?" Even though she knew that Yan Xuehen was taunting her, she still couldn't help but become a bit upset.

Master Jian Huang said, "This old one thinks that this is a good idea. There was already a battle scheduled to begin with, and there wouldn't be any unfair controversies." Meanwhile, he sent a ki transmission to Guan Chouhai, telling him to stop causing trouble.

Guan Chouhai understood the reasoning behind it, but he couldn't really swallow his resentment after having been publicly ridiculed by Yun Jianyue.

Li Changsheng said, "This daoist also approves of this competition. Niece Chu's cultivation is not low, and I do not think that she is any weaker than the Devil Sect witch." He was part of the White Jade Sect too, after all. When he spoke up, all the other daoists voiced their agreement.

The younger disciples had excited expressions. In a battle between the older generation, they wouldn't even be able to learn much because the difference in level was too high. However, a fight between younger generation disciples was different. Even if they were stronger, it would still be within a reasonable degree. Watching powerful younger cultivators fight would bring extraordinary benefits to their own cultivation.

Furthermore, putting aside everything else, Chu Chuyan was extremely popular! If she fought against another beauty like Qiu Honglei, just watching such a battle would be a feast for the eyes.

Wan Tongtian harrumphed. "I don't care who fights whom; I only care for the safety of our Jade Fall Palace's disciples. Witch, as long as you hand over niece Pei, I can choose not to make things difficult for you today." Pei Mianman was his junior sister Huo Ling's precious disciple. She represented Jade Fall Palace's future, so they definitely couldn't let anything happen to her.

Yun Jianyue said with a chuckle, "Don't worry. There's someone who cares about her even more than you, who will save her. There's nothing for you to worry about."

The onlookers thought she was talking about Elder Huo Ling. Only a few people actually knew that she was referring to Zu An.

Yun Jianyue was about to say something else when Qiu Honglei said, "Master, please let me fight. This is something we already decided on. I won't disappoint you."

When she saw the determination in her disciple's eyes, Yun Jianyue knew that Qiu Honglei wanted to prove herself. After some hesitation, she didn't refuse and said, "Fine. Your master believes that you'll definitely get what you want!"

Qiu Honglei's face heated up. Master really has a big mouth. What is Chu Chuyan going to think after hearing that?

Yan Xuehen had a weird expression. These young girls seem to be more courageous in their love. It really is enviable...

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Surprisingly, Chu Chuyan was still completely calm. She slowly walked forward and said, "Little sister Qiu, if you would!"

Qiu Honglei had a lovely smile as she replied, "Miss Chu, you aren't much older than me. You might even have to call me big sister."

"We'll know after this fight," Chu Chuyan replied, her expression cold. She slowly raised her longsword.

Those present were confused. What was going on with these two women? Why were they fighting over who would be the big sister when this battle was related to such an important event?

Xie Daoyun knew the insider details, so she couldn't help but give Zu An a look. When she saw his serious expression, she thought that her big brother Zu was definitely really anxious. One was his wife, while the other was a girlfriend he was really close to. She started to feel a headache thinking about it.

A gust of wind blew past, and Qiu Honglei's blades instantly left their scabbards. The two stood facing each other. A battle was on the verge of breaking out. There was no stage, nor were there any restrictions. As such, the disciples and the other sect members all retreated far away to avoid getting needlessly hurt.

Qiu Honglei said with a big smile, "This is the daoist sects' territory, and I am a guest. How about I take the first move?"

Many people cursed this Devil Sect witch for being shameless, using words to try and seize the initiative. However, it was understandable too, because of the importance of the battle. They were worried that Chu Chuyan's pride would keep her from handling the situation.

Fortunately, Chu Chuyan said, "Guests are chosen by the host. The Devil Sect's witches all deserve punishment. Apologies!" Her longsword seemed to turn into an icicle and stabbed straight toward Qiu Honglei's brow.

“What high-sounding words,” Qiu Honglei retorted with a sneer. With a twist of her waist, her entire body bent like a crescent moon, avoiding the deadly attack. At the same time, the two short blades shone with a vicious glint that resembled moonlight. They drew two strange arcs, one aimed at her opponent’s throat, the other right behind her.

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The spectating disciples gasped. Even though the battles during the Great Sects Competition were intense, they had still maintained basic etiquette. They were rarely this ferocious right from the start. More importantly, this level of ferocity was coming from two delicate-looking beauties. As their figures darted around, they looked like goddesses who had descended into this mortal world. They were so stunning that many of the onlookers couldn't even take their eyes off the battlefield, causing them to overlook the killing intent concealed behind each move.

As the two went back and forth, each attack was aimed at the opponent’s vitals. Xie Daoyun’s eyes widened. Why were the women at big brother Zu’s side so terrifying in battle? For some reason, she felt her entire body turn a bit cold. She reflexively wrapped her arms around herself. Her expression was full of worry and helplessness.