

## **Immortal 201**

### **Chapter 201: Dominating the Kindergartens with My Fists and Kicks**

As soon the evil spirits sensed the presence of the Tai'e Sword, all of them backed away in fright. It looked almost as if a bunch of ravenous folks had run to the dining table, awaiting to dine into their food, only to find a plate of shit under the metal lid...

Zu An wasn't too sure what was going on, but seeing all of those evil spirits fleeing as if they had seen a ghost bulked up his courage. He immediately rushed forth and stabbed the Tai'e Sword into one of the slower evil spirits.

Despite being termed as 'evil spirits', they had corporeal bodies and were equipped in armor too. It seemed to be the equipment they wore prior to their death, and it was due to it that the formation of the terracotta soldiers ended up collapsing so quickly.

However, their defense seemed to be useless before the Tai'e Sword. Zu An was able to slice through their armor and body as easily as a burning iron brand slicing through an ice cube.

Puchi!

The evil spirit shrieked in horror upon being stabbed before its body suddenly dissipated into specks of blue light. Part of it was absorbed into the Tai'e Sword whereas the remaining part that harnessed a sliver of primordial ki was absorbed by Zu An to heal his wounds.

Zu An finally understood what Mi Li meant by 'it won't take long'. Most of these evil spirits were as strong as him, and those in commanding positions were even more powerful. Yet, regardless of how powerful these evil spirits were, Zu An was able to curb them with a slash each.

Rather than a massacre, it felt more like the balloon popping game he played once in his childhood. Any evil spirit that came into the slightest contact of his sword would immediately dissipate.

Chu Chuyan was planning to step forward to lend a helping hand, but she realized that any help she offered would only be excessive. It was as if Zu An was the evil spirit haunting them here!

Initially, the evil spirits were still rushing to escape from the lake, but under Zu An's frightening prowess, they ended up leaping back into the lake to seek refuge.

A huge bunch of evil spirits ended up gathering in the lake, not daring to come up. However, it was apparent that they weren't willing to get sealed again, so it resulted in a standstill.

Zu An was put on a spot.

I've only killed a hundred evil spirits or so thus far. Do you need to be so afraid? Aren't you supposed to be vengeful spirits overflowing with malice, elites of the Qin Dynasty? Don't you find it embarrassing to be hiding like cowards?

Zu An provoked them with his hands and taunted, "Why don't you come up if you dare?"

But those evil spirits simply turned a blind eye to him. Do you take us for fools? Why don't you come down here instead?

Needless to say, Zu An wouldn't be so foolish as to leap into the lake. He knew how to swim, but fighting in the water was clearly disadvantageous to him, especially since the movements of the Tai'e Sword would be greatly slowed.

"What do we do now?" asked Zu An.

Mi Li harrumphed in response, "Aren't you good at provoking others? Why don't you use your advantage to lure them out?"

"..." Zu An.

"I might be good at provoking others, but I don't know if it'll work on ghosts. Those fellows know that they'll die if they come up. No matter how dumb they are, they wouldn't fall for my tricks," replied Zu An.

"Try harder then. I believe in you," replied Mi Li teasingly.

Zu An was a little annoyed at how Mi Li was nonchalantly looking at all of this, as if she was watching a soap opera. Irritated, he tossed the Tai'e Sword away before turning to the evil spirits underwater, bellowing, "Fine, I won't use my sword. I'll beat the crap out of you guys with my bare fists!"

Those evil spirits were stirred by what he had said. Zu An's attitude was simply too haughty that it really was asking for a beating.

"Are you going to continue hole yourself up when I've already abandoned my sword? Tsk, what a bunch of scaredy cats. I heard that you're supposed to be elites of the Great Qin Dynasty? How embarrassing!"

You have successfully trolled the Evil Spirit Warriors for +6 +6 +6...

Seeing that his taunts were indeed affecting them, Zu An decided to push a bit harder, "It's no wonder why the Qin Dynasty was brought down so easily. With soldiers like you all, how could the Qin Dynasty possibly not fall?"

You have successfully trolled the Evil Spirit Warriors for +9 +9 +9...

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for +233 Rage!

While she was suppressed here by Ying Zheng, she was still the empress of the Qin Dynasty. It was infuriating to hear another person making light of the Qin Dynasty in such a manner.

Zu An was about to continue his taunt, but the evil spirits couldn't take it anymore. With furious howls, they rushed out and pounced on him.

"Ah Zu!" cried Chu Chuyan in astonishment.

She immediately ran over to help him. After the previous recovery, she managed to repair her ki meridians and advance her cultivation by a rank, rising up to pinnacle sixth rank.

Had it not been for her injuries being too severe, such that a portion of the medicinal properties of the Evanescent Lotus was devoted toward preserving her life, she should have already made a breakthrough to the seventh rank by now.

For someone who wasn't even twenty years of age to be nearing the seventh rank, this was definitely a remarkable feat even considering all of the prodigies in the history of the Zhou Dynasty.

As for Qiao Xueying, she was simply too injured to make any move, so she could only get anxious by the side.

Chu Chuyan moved as swiftly as lightning, and it took only a moment for her to reach Zu An's vicinity. However, the latter's body was already swamped by evil spirits by then.

The prowess displayed by the evil spirits was more than enough to kill Zu An several times over.

"Ah Zu!"

While Chu Chuyan still wasn't accustomed to their current relationship yet, she couldn't remain calm when he was in such deep danger. She quickly froze all of the evil spirits in her way and rushed over to Zu An's side.

But all of a sudden, an explosion suddenly occurred, dissipating all of the evil spirits approaching Zu An at a furious pace.

Zu An emerged from the crowds of evil spirits, keeping them at bay easily with just his fists and kicks.

Chu Chuyan was stunned. When did Zu An become so formidable?

She could tell that these evil spirits were mostly at early third rank, but there were fourth rank and fifth rank cultivators mixed amongst them too. Admittedly, they weren't very strong compared to Zhang Han and Mi Li, but they had a huge numerical advantage here. On top of that, they were well-versed with collaborative offense, possibly because they were from the army in their previous life.

Yet, they were being defeated by Zu An so easily?

Meanwhile, Zu An was feeling extremely exhilarated from bullying the evil spirits. He felt like an adult marching into a kindergarten to tyrannize a bunch of kids. These evil spirits were extremely vulnerable to the purification from the primordial ki, so he wrapped his primordial ki all over his body to ensure that not a single evil spirit could get close to him.

The evil spirits would rather attack the stronger Chu Chuyan than linger in Zu An's vicinity.

"How dare you bully my wife!" bellowed Zu An as he rushed over.

Chu Chuyan's face reddened upon hearing those words. While these evil spirits possessed hardly any sentience at all, she still felt embarrassed being called as such in public.

The evil spirits were infuriated too. Are you done or not?

So, the leaders of the evil spirits began taking charge, and the evil spirits swiftly changed strategies. Instead of fighting him in close-quarter combat, they used their weapons to attack him from afar.

This put Zu An in a great deal of trouble. There was only so far his hands and legs could reach after all. While his attacks infused with primordial ki were able to smash through those weapons with ease, the problem was that another evil spirit would fill its place right away.

A while later, Zu An realized that he was exerting himself too much. It took him far too much effort to kill an evil spirit, such that any primordial ki he gained from it wouldn't be enough to make up for the loss in stamina.

Left with no choice, Zu An could only raise his hand and shout out, "Come, my sword!"

Surprisingly, the Tai'e Sword immediately rushed into his hand this time around.

"Big sis empress, you're unexpectedly obedient," remarked Zu An. He felt incredibly satisfied by how he was able to coolly summon his sword like how it was portrayed in the dramas and movies.

"Prattle on and I'll sever your tongue. It doesn't affect me anyway as long as I keep you alive," replied Mi Li sharply.

"..." Zu An.

This woman's temper is really horrible.

Zu An vented his wrath on the evil spirits, popping them off like balloons once again. It took only a few moments for him to slaughter all of the evil spirits that had risen from the lake. Even those that had gone for Chu Chuyan ended up being destroyed too.

The rest quickly darted back into the lake to hide.

"Why are you running off again? Let's continue the fight!" said Zu An in displeasure.

You have successfully trolled the Evil Spirit Warriors for +6 +6 +6...

Noticing that they were eyeing his Tai'e Sword intently with anger in their eyes, Zu An laughed sheepishly. He tossed the sword into the cliff face and said, "Ah, I got too engrossed in the fight earlier. Don't worry, I promise you that I won't use my sword this time around."

By working his talentedly glib tongue once more, he successfully lured the evil spirits once more. Of course, these evil spirits eventually fell to the Tai'e Sword without putting much of a fight afterward.

You have successfully trolled the Evil Spirit Warriors for +9 +9 +9...

Zu An scratched his head awkwardly and laughed, "Hahaha, this is the last time, really. I can't help my instincts. Don't worry, I'll throw my sword even further this time around so you don't have to worry about me using it anymore."

You have successfully trolled the Evil Spirit Warriors for +9 +9 +9...

Like hell we'll believe you! You're even nastier than evil spirits like us!

This time around, no matter how Zu An tried to bait and threaten them, the evil spirits simply refused to leave the lake. Left with no choice, he summoned the Tai'e Sword back and asked, "Big sis empress, they aren't coming out at all. What should we do?"

Mi Li sighed deeply and said, "They must have been appalled by how shameless you are."

Chu Chuyan and Qiao Xueying nodded in agreement too. It was a rare sight to see the three women standing on the same front.

"..." Zu An.

"What should we do now then? Even if they are willing to come at me, there's no end to them if I continue purifying them one by one at this rate," said Zu An.

Not to mention, I've already duped them twice, so how could they possibly fall for it once more.

"Go and grab the helmet and spear over there," said Mi Li as she pointed the Tai'e Sword in a certain direction.

Zu An quickly rushed over there and picked up the fallen helmet and spear by the wall. It took him a while before realization finally struck. "It's Zhang Han's items!"

He immediately realized what Mi Li was up to, and he brought those two items right by the lake. It was then that Mi Li's silhouette rose from the Tai'e Sword, emanating an imposing air worthy of a true empress.

"I am the empress of the Qin Dynasty, Mi Li. Some of you should have seen me before."

Chaos immediately broke out amidst the evil spirits. While few of them had seen Mi Li in person, they were able to recognize the black phoenix robe embroidered with the unique patterns of the imperial family she wore.

However, even though everyone recognized her, not a single person kneeled down to pay respect to her. Instead, they directed confused and wary looks at her.

## **Chapter 202: An Evil Woman**

"You're all brave warriors of the Qin Dynasty, just that you were betrayed by one of your own and died with grievances," said Mi Li.

She paused for a moment to check the indignant looks on their faces before carrying on, "You were pillars of the Qin Dynasty, and your demise has left a gaping hole in our empire. Not too long after you fell, our Great Qin was taken over by those barbaric rebels. I am as upset and indignant as the rest of you. We aren't enemies but allies on the same front! Who is the one who landed all of us in this plight?"

"Zhang... Han..."

The evil spirits howled in unison as the lake began bubbling furiously. Their eerie voices echoed loudly within this underground hall.

Zu An was deeply impressed by the sight before him. These evil spirits actually weren't too sentient. They were left with only their instincts, leaving them incapable of speaking. At the very most, they could only release some insignificant howls.

Yet, somehow, they were able to speak Zhang Han's name out loud. This showed just how much they hated that man, such that his name continued to linger in their minds even after their deaths.

"Indeed, it's Zhang Han! Our Great Qin has entrusted our hopes to him, but he betrayed our imperial court. For his own safety, he chose to surrender to the rebels and sent out core force to the grave. He deserves to die a thousand times over!" roared Mi Li powerfully.

Zu An frowned a little upon hearing those words. To be honest, he was a little sympathetic toward Zhang Han over here. To the soldiers of the Qin Dynasty, he was indeed a traitor who had backstabbed all of them, but there was no way he wouldn't choose to become the savior of the Qin Dynasty instead of a backstabbing sinner if he had a choice.

With his previous successes on the battlefield, his political enemies in the imperial court began worrying over his growing influence and attempted to slander him before the emperor. It was already tough enough to deal with the rebels, but he had to keep an eye on his back on top of that. He knew that even if he won the battle against the rebels, it was likely that his political enemies would find a reason to frame him and bring him down. Cornered, he was eventually driven into surrendering to the rebels.

As for killing his 200,000 soldiers, that wasn't his idea either. As someone who had already surrendered, he wasn't in a position to stop the rebels either.

A single wrong step was more than enough to drop him into the abyss. There was no longer any turning back anymore.

Of course, even though Zu An sympathized with Zhang Han a little, he wasn't so dumb as to talk about all of these at a time like this. He simply watched the situation quietly by the side, curious to see how Mi Li would wrap things up.

"Just a moment ago, I've already killed the sinner, Zhang Han, and exacted vengeance for the Qin Dynasty and all of you!" Mi Li shot a glance at Zu An, urging him to throw the helmet and spear into the lake. "This is his helmet and weapon!"

Zu An felt a sharp pain in his heart. Both the spear and the helmet had a beautiful luster that hinted they weren't ordinary items. If he were to put it on auction, it would surely stir a bidding war. It was really a huge pity to throw it away just like that.

However, when he looked into the lake and saw hundreds of thousands of eyes staring back at him, he felt goosebumps rising all over his body. With a deep sigh, he tossed the helmet and spear into the lake with a reluctant look on his face.

As soon as the helmet and spear fell into the water, the evil spirits immediately rushed forward with reddened eyes. Seemingly viewing the two pieces of equipment to be Zhang Han himself, they opened their mouths wide and chomped down on them.

Zu An was dumbfounded.

What the hell? Zhang Han's spear and helmet look to be of a similar level as the current Tai'e Sword, and yet, the evil spirits are munching down on them with their teeth?

However, what was even more shocking was that the spear and helmet were actually growing smaller at a visible pace, and it didn't take long before it completely vanished from view.

"..." Zu An.

The wrath of the evil spirits placated a little after devouring Zhang Han's armor and spear. In fact, some of them even had serene expressions on their faces.

Mi Li made use of this opportunity to ask, "All of you have turned into evil spirits due to your hatred toward Zhang Han. However, now that Zhang Han is dead, are you really content to continue living in such a state, never to be reincarnated?"

Those words made the evil spirits struggle for a moment. Clearly, their inability to find inner peace was torturing them too.

"It's about time for you to let go of your persistence and reincarnate into a new body," said Mi Li. "I'll lend you a helping hand. A Life's Gate will appear here later on; you'll be able to be born anew once you pass through the gate."

Zu An was in the midst of watching the show when a formula suddenly sounded in his ears. It was a ki transmission from Mi Li. "Channel the second rank of your Primordial Origin Sutra and manifest it in this manner corresponding to the Art of Afterlife..."

Zu An immediately did as he was told, channeling the primordial ki from the world together as he muttered, "Dirt to dirt, earth to earth. Those who have departed ought not to linger here..."

As Mi Li's voice sounded, a white gate suddenly appearing in mid-air. It was initially around the size of a palm, but it gradually grew larger before eventually reaching several meters in height. The gate gave off an air of divinity and majesty.

Zu An widened his eyes in awe. He had never seen such a cool effect before. If I use this to show off in the future, won't everyone bow down to me in awe?

At the same time, he felt the disparity between him and Mi Li in terms of experience. The latter was clearly much more knowledgeable than him, knowing all kinds of different stuff.

He turned to look at Mi Li, only to be surprised to see that her silhouette had vanished without a trace.

Wait a moment, has she left together with the Life's Gate? Ah, what a pity. If only I knew in advance, I would have taken my chances with the beautiful big sis empress...

"..." Mi Li.

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for +555 Rage!

"You really are a pervert through and through."

Zu An was delighted to hear her voice. "Ah, you're still here! You really scared me earlier! Where did you go to?"

"Of course I've returned back to the Tai'e Sword! Why would I remain outside after the Life's Gate has been opened? I'd be asking to be purified!" replied Mi Li snappishly.

It was only then that Zu An remembered that Mi Li had made a deal with him precisely out of fear of his purification ability. The white gate seemed to possess some sort of mysterious suction power that drew the evil spirits out of the lake and through it. They had peaceful looks on their faces as they passed through the gate, seemingly filled with great expectations for their next life.

There was a thin film in the gateway, and the evil spirits who passed through it would vanish without a trace, as if they had been transported into another mysterious world.

Zu An couldn't help but ask in wonderment, "Is it the afterlife beyond the Life's Gate?"

"Of course not," sneered Mi Li.

"Huh?" Zu An was confused.

"The afterlife is something fleeting and beyond reach. There might be some powerful experts in the world who have the ability to reincarnate, but it's not something that ordinary mortals can hope for. That Life's Gate is nothing more than a manifestation of your purification ability. The evil spirits who pass through it will simply be disintegrated into the most fundamental form of ki," explained Mi Li.

"..." Zu An.

This woman is simply too vicious! Her speech was so impassionate that even I fell for it, but it turned out to be a big fat lie?! Looks like I must really keep my guard up against her in the future, or else I might just get sold one day!

"Of course, this is a fair ending for them too. Evil spirits aren't entitled to peace even after death," added Mi Li.

Like hell I would believe that!

But of course, Zu An wasn't so dumb as to tell the evil spirits the truth of the Life's Gate.

"Don't waste this precious opportunity. Hurry up and assimilate the primordial ki emanated by the evil spirits," reminded Mi Li.

At her reminder, Zu An realized that the primordial ki in the surroundings was growing more and more concentrated along with the disintegration of the evil spirits. So, while maintaining the Life's Gate, he drove his Primordial Origin Sutra to heal his injuries.

Meanwhile, Chu Chuyan stood by his side to guard him. At the same time, she kept an eye out for Qiao Xueying as well, feeling a bit worried for the latter since she had sustained severe injuries too. While it was not to the extent of being fatal yet, it could possibly pose some danger to her if left untreated for too long.

"Honey, I'll be fine. You should take care of Snow first," Zu An opened his eyes and said.

Chu Chuyan responded with a nod before rushing over to Qiao Xueying's side. She noticed that the latter had already fallen into a semi-conscious state, so she quickly infused her ki into her body. While it was not as pure as primordial ki, it should be enough to slowly heal her injuries up.



Some time later, Qiao Xueying's eyes slowly fluttered open. Upon seeing that it was Chu Chuyan who was saving her, there was a complicated look on her face for a moment before she whispered softly, "Thank you."

"There's no need to thank me. It's Ah Zu who told me to save you," replied Chu Chuyan.

Qiao Xueying smiled softly in response. "You're still the same as always. Despite harboring kind intentions at heart, you simply wouldn't admit to it."

Chu Chuyan's cheeks flushed a little. The relationship between the two of them was a little awkward at the moment. While Qiao Xueying was a spy sent by a hostile power to infiltrate the Chu clan, somehow, Chu Chuyan was unable to bring herself to hate her.

But of course, after all that had been said and done, it was impossible for their relationship to go back to how it was before.

After a moment of hesitation, she changed the topic and asked, "Speaking of which, you were on bad terms with Ah Zu all this while. How did the two of you become so much closer all of a sudden?"

"Don't misunderstand it. There's nothing between me and him at all. We're just two individuals working with the same goal in mind. We happened to share a bit of camaraderie from our shared efforts to save you earlier; there's nothing else other than that," replied Qiao Xueying.

Chu Chuyan chuckled softly. "I didn't say anything. Why are you in such a rush to refute my words?"

Qiao Xueying's face heated up. She wasn't saying anything else, but she found her heartbeat hastening. What's wrong with me? It's not like I'm lying or anything. Why would I feel so conscience-stricken?

...

It took a few hours before the 200,000 evil spirits were fully purified. With the disintegration of the final evil spirit, the temperature in the underground hall suddenly seemed to raise by a few degrees. At the same time, the black lake slowly turned clear.

Zu An heaved a sigh of relief. He had managed to recover fully from his terrifying wounds by absorbing the primordial ki, and he felt more spirited than ever.

While he was healing his wounds through the Primordial Origin Sutra, his body underwent a complete tempering session too. He was at least two times more resilient than before. In fact, he had a feeling that he could withstand a full power blow from a fifth rank cultivator without taking much damage as long as the latter didn't tap into his elemental prowess.

He lowered his head to look at 'little Zu An'. He couldn't help but remember how shocked he was when he first heard of the story of Lao Ai[1] using his thing as an axle to turn the wheels of a carriage. However, now that he looked at it once more, it seemed no more than a child's play to him.

He couldn't help but notice that he had only absorbed less than half of the primordial ki earlier on. Most of the energy produced by the disintegration of the evil spirits had gone into the Tai'e Sword instead.

Zu An sighed softly and said, "Big sis empress is truly a cunning one. After all the trouble I've been through, it turns out that you're still the biggest victor of all."

## Chapter 203: Call Me Master

A silhouette rose out of the Tai'e Sword—Mi Li. She was previously dressed in Zu An's clothes, but now that she had turned into a soul, she had reverted back to the black empress robe she was wearing previously.

Why is she still wearing clothes even when she has turned into a soul? Just who is she guarding against?

Mi Li felt a little displeased upon seeing Zu An's gaze. She harrumphed coldly and said, "You're the one who landed me in my current state. So what if I absorb a bit of energy from those evil spirits to heal my soul? You should remember that we're linked with one another now. You should be praying that my soul remains as healthy as it gets."

"Yes yes yes, I would love no more than big sis empress to live for tens of thousands of years. It would be even better if you can live for all eternity," replied Zu An fawningly.

"Haa. Since ancient times, all cultivators, no matter how strong they may be, aren't able to escape from the fate of eventual declination. True immortality is simply too far beyond reach," remarked Mi Li. Then, she suddenly directed a sharp glare at Zu An and said, "Besides, you obviously have the face of a short-lived brat. What's the use if I'm the only one who is able to live for a long time?"

"Wait a moment, what do you mean by 'I have the face of a short-lived brat'?!" protested Zu An angrily.

"That mouth of yours is simply too good at drawing the ire of others. You're bound to make a lot of enemies in your lifetime, so you're obviously going to be short-lived," replied Mi Li.

"As a cultivator, how can I cower in fear before my enemies? In my view, rather than a threat, my enemies are nothing more than a grindstone that pushes me to higher grounds!" said Zu An.

Mi Li was surprised. "I must have been underestimating you. I didn't expect to hear such words from you."

Chu Chuyan and turned over to look at Zu An, surprised by his perspective toward this matter."

Meanwhile, Qiao Xueying was already used to it. Having fought together in the three seals, she had long come to a realization that Zu An was no longer the wastrel son-in-law of the Chu clan whom she had looked down on in the past.

But Zu An suddenly burst into laughter and remarked, "Of course. Someone as cool as me attracts the attention of women no matter where I go."

"..." Mi Li.

"..." Chu Chuyan.

"..." Qiao Xueying.

Allow me to take back those words I've just said. He's still as thick-skinned as ever.

“Forget it. So that you can at least live a little longer, I’ll give you a reminder here. I’m not the only one who benefited from assimilating the 200,000 evil spirits earlier; the Tai’e Sword has also been greatly nourished too. It has regained its powers to some degree. In the future, you can use its Kingship Domain to exert pressure on your enemies. You’ll be able to fully seal the movements of lower rank cultivators and greatly weaken the strength of stronger opponents,” said Mi Li.

Zu An was delighted. “Doesn’t that mean that I’ll become unrivaled in the future?”

“It isn’t as simple as you think. The Kingship Domain is powerful, but it saps a lot of energy each time it’s activated. I reckon that you’d only be able to activate it once every half a month, so I suggest you reserve this skill for truly desperate moments lest you find yourself without this trump card during moments that really count,” replied Mi Li.

Zu An could accept such a limitation. After all, it wouldn’t make sense for him to use such a powerful skill as and when he pleased. “Ah, you mentioned ‘lower rank cultivators’ and ‘stronger opponents’ earlier. What would count as a lower rank cultivator and what would count as a stronger opponent? I need to know the exact detail so at least I’d have some idea of what I’m able to do.”

“I only know of the prowess of the Tai’e Sword’s Kingship Domain in its peak. Needless to say, it’s still much weaker than it was at its peak, so I don’t really have a gauge for you either. You should test it out for yourself in a battle instead,” replied Mi Li.

“I see...” Zu An was a little disappointed to hear those words, but he decided to think on the bright side instead. It was already good enough that he obtained another powerful skill he could use; there was no need for him to get too greedy here.

He turned to the side to check on Qiao Xueying, only to notice that her face was extremely pale. So, he quickly rushed over and asked, “How is she doing?”

“I used my ki to stabilize her injuries for the time being, but she needs to get proper treatment as soon as possible.”

Zu An flicked the Tai’e Sword impatiently and said, “You went too far earlier.”

“The fact that she’s still breathing now should be enough to show that I’ve gone easy on her,” sneered Mi Li.

Zu An snorted in response before hurriedly pulling Qiao Xueying to his side in order to treat her, but Mi Li’s voice suddenly sounded at this moment.

“Are you intending to treat her with your Primordial Origin Sutra?”

“Indeed.” Zu An was confused as to why Mi Li was asking this question. “Is there a problem with that?”

“You won’t be able to do it. The first rank of the Primordial Origin Sutra tempers your body, the second rank purifies malevolent beings, the third rank cures all poison, and only at the fourth rank will you be able to treat others. You’re still lacking in your current state,” replied Mi Li.

Zu An was taken aback. “But didn’t I repair Chuyan’s ki meridians earlier on?”

Chu Chuyan's face reddened upon hearing those words, and she quickly turned her head to the side awkwardly, feigning as if she wasn't listening to their conversation.

Toward Zu An's question, Mi Li replied, "That wasn't a conventional treatment method. You were using the amalgamation of yin and yang along with your transcendent class aptitude as a medium in order to carry out the treatment, but surely you can't be thinking of doing it with everyone else in order to save them? Putting all other concerns aside, what if your patient is a man?"

The thought of ramming into a man made Zu An shudder.

Why the hell would I want to treat a man? It goes without saying that I'll only treat women! Bros, you shouldn't blame me for being heartless, it's just that... how can I bring myself to do it?!

"Besides, not all women would be willing to be saved by you in such a manner." Mi Li shot a glance at Qiao Xueying. "Why don't you try asking her then?"

Zu An turned to Qiao Xueying and asked, "Snow, we're comrades who have braved through danger together. Don't worry, I'll definitely do everything I can to save you. Even if I have to squeeze out every single droplet I have, I'll do so without any hesitation just so that..."

"Go to hell!" Qiao Xueying interjected furiously as she exerted all of the strength she had to push him away..

Chu Chuyan quickly rushed over to support Qiao Xueying before directing a glare at Zu An. "How can you joke around at a time like this?"

Zu An felt indignant. "All I wanted to do here is to save her! I mean, I'm even willing to deplete my blood essence for her!"

"..." Chu Chuyan.

"..." Qiao Xueying.

Black lines streaked across Mi Li's face. "Time and time again, you renew my perception of how low a human can get."

Zu An sighed deeply, lamenting how no one in the world could empathize with him. However, considering the fact that Qiao Xueying was indeed not in mortal danger at the moment, it would be inappropriate for him to do that with her.

That being said, it didn't hinder him from muttering grudgingly, "Hmph, no wonder they say that 'three monks won't have water to drink[1]'. If there aren't the two other women by the side, Snow might have just succumbed there and then."

It was then that the Tai'e Sword suddenly flew into the air and knocked hard on Chu Chuyan and Qiao Xueying's nape, causing the two of them to collapse onto the ground.

Chu Chuyan was too busy taking care of Qiao Xueying and brooding over her changed relationship with Zu An that she was completely caught off guard from the attack. As for Qiao Xueying, she was simply too weakened to retaliate at all.

“What are you doing?!” Alarmed, Zu An bellowed at Mi Li. He quickly rushed forward to check on the two women’s condition, heaving a sigh of relief when he noticed that they were only unconscious.

“Kill them,” ordered Mi Li coldly.

“You’re sick in the mind!” retorted Zu An angrily.

“I know that you have a close relationship with them, but a bond between a man and woman is not something that can be relied on. You have revealed far too many secrets to the two of them, be it your transcendent class talent or the Primordial Origin Sutra... and if I’m not mistaken, you’ve practiced the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra too, right?” asked Mi Li.

Zu An was taken aback. He looked at Mi Li warily as he asked, “How do you know that?”

Mi Li chuckled softly with a hint of pride in her eyes as she replied, “Every time you get injured, your physical prowess would be enhanced greatly, be it your speed or your strength, allowing you to exert might far greater than your current cultivation rank. I’ve seen records relating to it during my time in the imperial palace, so it isn’t that difficult for me to fathom a guess.”

Zu An fell silent. This woman is simply far too powerful and knowledgeable. It won’t be easy to fool her in the future.

“However, there’s one thing I still don’t understand. The Phoenix Nirvana Sutra shouldn’t have the effect of invulnerability. Why was I unable to kill you earlier on?” Mi Li frowned deeply. Despite all of the books she had read in her time, there was nothing that could explain this baffling situation.

Zu An scratched his head awkwardly. The Heiress’ Ball of Delight was simply far too embarrassing of a tool that he swore that he would never speak of its existence to anyone else.

Fortunately, Mi Li didn’t probe deeper into this matter. “It matters not. I’ll eventually uncover your secrets in time to come anyway. In any case, you should understand how dangerous it would be for your secrets to be revealed. Be it the Primordial Origin Sutra or the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, they are top-notch skills that even the strongest experts in the world coveted. On top of that, you should do well not to forget that you do possess transcendent class aptitude, and there are many old monsters who desire your flesh and meat.”

“Surely people wouldn’t really be so naive as to think that they would be able to achieve immortality by consuming the flesh of a transcendent class aptitude cultivator?” asked Zu An meekly.

“Even Ying Zheng was unable to resist the allure coming from the possibility of immortality back then, let alone the others.” Mi Li’s expression grew a little complicated when she mentioned Ying Zheng.

“Those people have already reached the peak of the world, holding onto great authority and wealth in their hands. There’s nothing they lack in the world, and thus they are more fearful of death than anyone else.

“To them, as long as there was even a sliver of a chance of achieving immortality, they would have to give it a try. It was not as if they had anything to lose out of it. So, if they find out that you possess transcendent class aptitude, they would even go to the extent of grinding down your bones so as to swallow every single part of you.”

Zu An was horrified to hear Mi Li's descriptions. He subconsciously replied, "But the two of them are the people closest to me at the moment. I don't think that they would reveal it to others."

"Ying Zheng was also the man closest to me back then, but did that hinder me from getting backstabbed by him?" replied Mi Li with a vicious edge in her voice. "Humans and feelings are the two most unreliable things in the world. Our fates are already tied together, so I can't allow any harm to come to you. If you aren't willing to make the move, I'll silence them myself."

The Tai'e Sword rose to the sky and prepared to execute the two women.

Shocked, Zu An quickly stepped in front of the two of them to protect them. "You can't just deny all feelings in the world just because you have been betrayed in the past. Besides, if I were to kill two of the closest people to me over something like this, how would I be different from Ying Zheng then? Surely you wouldn't want to live your life with a second Ying Zheng, right?"

"Ying Zheng might be vicious, but he's much more decisive and wiser than you are." Despite her words, the Tai'e Sword slowly fell back to the ground.

"Wait a moment, why is the Tai'e Sword so heeding of your commands? Aren't I supposed to be its real master?" exclaimed Zu An.

"That's because its sword spirit is still in hibernation from the injuries it sustained back then. In some sort of way, you can think of me as a temporary sword spirit for the Tai'e Sword."

"Oh? You're the Tai'e Sword's sword spirit now?" Zu An's eyes lit up. "Shouldn't you call me 'master' then?"

"..." Mi Li.

## **Chapter 204: River of Forgetfulness**

Zu An was a little excited at the notion of someone as noble and powerful as Mi Li calling him master, but needless to say, how could someone as prideful and lofty as Mi Li do something like that.

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for +888 Rage!

Looking at the Rage points he had received from Mi Li, Zu An's heart jolted in horror. He suddenly remembered something incredibly frightening—he hadn't plucked off the flag where he wouldn't receive anything from the lottery draws yet.

He had sworn back then that he wouldn't receive anything for the next three subsequent drawings.

In truth, it was not that he had forgotten about this matter but he simply hadn't been able to find an opportunity to do it. Ever since he left the seal, he had been too preoccupied with dealing against Mi Li and purifying the 200,000 evil spirits that he wasn't able to get any time to himself.

As a result, he was basically wasting every single Rage points he was earning right now.

"Why don't you try saying that again?" asked Mi Li with tightly gritted teeth.

"Shouldn't you call me 'master' then?" Zu An quickly supplemented, "You're the one who told me to say it again. I was just following your instructions!"

"..." Mi Li.

If it had been back then, she would have surely had the man who dared speak to her in such a manner tossed out of her palace to be executed.

When Zu An found the sharp blade of the Tai'e Sword pointed directly at his neck, he immediately recoiled in horror and exclaimed, "Our fates are linked together now! You mustn't kill me!"

"I might be unable to kill you, but I can at least sever your tongue or your ears to vent my anger, right?" said Mi Li with a frosty voice.

"That won't do! If you inflict any injuries on my body, I... I'll kill myself right away!" Zu An harrumphed. "At most, we'll just all die together!"

"..." Mi Li.

She suddenly felt incredibly exhausted. This fellow is obstinate like a mule, but at the same time, he's shameless enough to ignore social conventions and the rules. How am I supposed to deal with someone like this?

Zu An made use of this opportunity to add on, "Also, you can't kill them either. What's the point of living in this world when I can't even protect my women?"

"Your women?" sneered Mi Li. "That Chu woman is one thing, but are you calling that ponytail girl your woman too?"

"She isn't yet, but it's only a matter of time. After all, she has already been betrothed to me," murmured Zu An in response. And you might be the next one too.

"What did you say?" Mi Li glared at Zu An coldly as Tai'e Sword rose into the sky.

"I'm saying that big sis empress shouldn't get angry so often. Do you know that getting angry is bad for your skin?" Zu An pushed the Tai'e Sword away from his face as he explained cheekily.

"Do I need you to teach me how to do things?" Mi Li sounded extremely displeased.

"I'm just worried about you," replied Zu An with a meek smile. "Things are different now. You used to have plenty of maidservants by your side, so you need not worry about it back then. However, now that you don't have anyone to attend to you, you should start taking note of it now."

"Hmph! I'm born with natural beauty, so why would I have to care about all of that?" said Mi Li.

"However, what you said does make sense. I happen to be lacking maidservants at the moment. These two women do look fairly decent. Shall I extract their souls and turn them into my maidservants?"

Zu An was appalled. He didn't expect Mi Li would still be so determined to kill them after all that had been said. He decided to get straight to the point, "That won't do. Absolutely not. If you take their lives, it'll be over between us!"

Mi Li didn't get angry this time around. She looked at him quietly for a moment before eventually sighing deeply, "You're still too young. You haven't seen how hideous a human can be, and you have never experienced betrayal from someone close to you before. You'll surely regret it in the future."

Zu An shook his head and replied, "I'm not the type of person who naively believes in human goodness either. It's just that I've known them for some time, so I understand what kind of people they are. If they really do betray me, I reckon that they must have some compelling reason to do so."

Putting aside Chu Chuyan, even Qiao Xueying who had been out for his life thus far was obviously someone with a strong front but a soft heart. The latter even went to the extent of sacrificing half of her lifespan in order to save him, so it went without saying that he could at least accord her with this bit of trust.

Mi Li harrumphed coldly. "Sometimes, you're wily like an old fox, but on other occasions, you're as dumb as a brick. Forget it, I'll spare them on your account, but we'll have to seal off their memories."

"Seal off their memories?" Zu An was taken aback.

"Indeed. The secrets you hold are simply too dangerous that even if they don't intentionally betray you, there's no saying that they might accidentally leak it out to someone else. You don't have the ability to protect yourself at the moment, and I don't wish for anyone to know of my existence yet too," said Mi Li. "This matter is not up for negotiation. It's either I kill them or seal their memories. Make your choice!"

"Wow, I never thought that I would bump into the cliché amnesiac scene." Zu An thought about the drama serials he had seen in his previous life and felt a little wistful. Such a plotline was usually just for the sake of creating drama out of nothing just so that the story can be prolonged for the sake of milking the audience.

"I know what you're thinking," sneered Mi Li. "Don't worry, they will remember whatever they need to. I'll just seal off the portions regarding our secrets."

Zu An smiled sheepishly upon having his thoughts seen through, but he was satisfied with this outcome. From Mi Li's perspective, she had already made a huge compromise.

"Right, how are you going to seal off their memories? Would it inflict any physical harm on them?" asked Zu An worriedly.

"I'll be using a skill known as 'River of Forgetfulness'. It won't hurt their soul or body, so you need not worry." Mi Li raised her hands and quickly formed a few complicated hand seals.

Zu An had to acknowledge that Mi Li's hands were indeed very pretty. They were long and slender, and her red fingernails gave off a dangerous yet tempting allure.

Soon, Mi Li finished forming the hand seals. A river seemed to flow from between her hands, bearing the word 'Forgetfulness' on it. It washed over Chu Chuyan and Qiao Xueying's body before gradually disappearing.

Zu An stared at the two women intently, afraid that something would go wrong. Fortunately, the two of them appeared calm throughout the entire procedure, not displaying any anomaly at all.



A moment later, Mi Li finally placed her hands down and said, "It's done. They'll forget everything about me and your secrets once they rouse from their slumber."

Zu An couldn't help but ask, "Big sis empress, are you a runemaster?"

The beautiful sight of Mi Li forming hand seals continued lingering in his head. He had heard that runemaster was another alternative route a cultivator could specialize in, and it was a mysterious but powerful occupation. Runemasters were capable of achieving feats that would otherwise be impossible for cultivators.

It was just a regret that he hadn't been able to get acquainted with a runemaster thus far. The Chu clan did have a runemaster, but his skills were clearly lacking in comparison with Mi Li's, being only able to inscribe runes on weapons to enhance and enchant them with auxiliary effects.

"Of course! I'm the greatest runemaster of the Great Qin Dynasty!" replied Mi Li proudly. Her air was so powerful that it colored Zu An impressed.

It's amazing how some people are able to look cool even without trying. Haa, looks like I'm still far from matching her level.

"The Life-and-Death Contract and Life Gate you taught me earlier is the means of a runemaster, right?" asked Zu An.

"Indeed!" Mi Li puffed her chest up high.

Zu An pondered for a moment before asking in intrigue, "If you're the strongest runemaster of the Qin Dynasty, you should be familiar with formations and the sort. How ironic it is that you ended up getting sealed instead!"

"..." Mi Li.

Do you have to mock me at every turn? I really want to give this infuriating bastard a good pummeling!

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for +233 Rage!

Noticing Mi Li's awful complexion, Zu An wisely changed the subject, "Speaking of which, why didn't you seal the Life-and-Death Contract with Ying Zheng back then? You wouldn't have to worry about him turning his back on you then, right?"

"He's a guy who thinks that his merits surpass that of the Three Sovereigns and Five Emperors, believing that he'd live as long as heaven itself. How could he possibly allow his own fate to be bound to another person as an equal?"

Zu An nodded in realization. "So you asked him to sign the contract but got refused?"

"..." Mi Li.

"Ridiculous! The Life-and-Death Contract is a vow sealed only by two people deeply in love with one another. I'm in a political marriage with him, so why would I even seal such a contract with him?"

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for +567 Rage!

Zu An felt exasperated upon seeing yet another wave of Rage points coming in. Argh, what a waste!

“Hold on for a moment,” exclaimed Zu An.

He decided to draw the lottery right now to cut his losses. Based on his previous experiment, Wei Suo wasn’t able to see his Keyboard, so the same could apply to Mi Li too though he wasn’t too sure about that.

Speaking of Wei Suo, he was starting to miss that fellow. I wonder if he has been secretly checking on Principal Jiang’s stockings while I’m away.

Zu An quickly shook out the miscellaneous thoughts in his head and got to action. He was determined to get rid of the flag he had planted as soon as possible so as to minimize his losses.

He quickly checked on his Keyboard, only to be shocked to realize that he had actually accumulated a staggering amount of 34,584 Rage, which meant that he could draw 345 times!

This was the first time he had hated how proficient he was at drawing the ire of others.

Damn it! Snow, do you know how huge of a loss I’ve made because of you? You better bear me a soccer team’s worth of children in the future, or else your conscience will never be able to rest easy!

He quickly took a look and realized that the largest sum he had received was from the evil spirits. It was fortunate that there were only thousands of evil spirits nearing the surface of the lake who had witnessed his shamelessness and contributed Rage points to him, or else the amount would have been even greater.

If all 200,000 evil spirits contributed 6 to 9 Rage points each, that would total up to a sum of several million. Just how huge of a loss that would be?!

It suddenly dawned on Zu An that he should prepare a huge megaphone wherever he went so that he could make sure to taunt everyone properly and squeeze them dry.

With a heart bleeding in pain, Zu An began drawing the lottery. Just as he had expected, everything he got this time around was just ‘Thanks for participating’. He didn’t receive a single thing at all!

It looked like he really wouldn’t be able to get anything until he finally removed the flag.

Seeing how Zu An was prancing around like a clown, Mi Li asked doubtfully, “What are you doing?”

“Nothing much. Let’s continue our previous conversation. Where were we again? Ah yes, I remember it now.” Zu An looked at the imposing Mi Li and blinked his eyes a few times before remarking, “You mentioned that the Life-and-Death Contract is something that would only be used by a couple deeply in love. The fact that you used it on me... doesn’t that mean that you’ve already fallen for my charms?”

“...” Mi Li.

## **Chapter 205: It’s Hard to Cure Brain Damage**

Mi Li was rendered speechless. Why does this fellow not operate like a normal human being?

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for +250 Rage!

"You fellow..." Mi Li gritted her teeth angrily, but before she could go on a rampage, Zu An suddenly raised his hand to stop her.

"Hold on for a moment."

"What do you want?" asked Mi Li with a frown, not knowing what he was up to.

Zu An summoned his Keyboard and began drawing his lottery once more.

He had already lost over 30,000 Rage points in the previous lottery, so there was no way he was going to let history repeat itself. Thus, he decided to use up his Rage points right away!

He was left with 84 Rage points previously, so with Mi Li's new contribution of 250, the sum had added up to a total of 334 Rage points, which meant that he could draw three more times.

At this moment, he even felt that he was making a profit here.

Just as he had expected, he got nothing from the three draws at all. However, his feelings were very different from before. He felt far more relaxed now that he had finally gotten rid of the flag weighing him down.

I really mustn't make vows casually in the future. Karma is a bitch.

"Alright, I'm back. Big sis empress, what were you saying earlier on?" Zu An was in such a good mood that a smile lingered on his lips.

"I was going to say earlier that..." Mi Li was halfway into her words when she suddenly froze up. Huh, what was I going to say earlier? The earlier disruption had thrown her off her tempo.

It took a long moment before she finally recalled what she was getting to. "Hmph, don't you know better than anyone else why I'm sealing this Life-and-Death Contract with you? It maddens me just to think about it! If you dare bring this matter up to make light of me in the future, I won't let you off the hook easily."

There was a slight moment of pause as Mi Li wondered if her threat was far too vague to be taken seriously, so she supplemented, "I might be unable to kill you, but I can easily break your limbs. You need to be beaten up in order to raise your cultivation anyway, so I'm actually doing you a favor here. Hmm, now that I'm thinking about it, I'm really tempted to give it a try."

Noticing how Mi Li's eyes were glancing toward his limbs, Zu An recoiled in horror. He quickly replied, "T-there's no need to give it a try! I trust your words, I really do! Ah right, I have a question for you. If Ying Zheng knows a mean to deal with you, why didn't he simply purify you back then instead of creating such a complicated seal?"

"The purification of the Primordial Origin Sutra only works on souls. I was protected by my body back then, so why would I fear his purification?" Mi Li harrumphed.

Zu An was perplexed. "But he could have killed you and purified your soul right after, no? Pardon my frankness, but you should be weaker than Ying Zheng, right? Surely he should have some ways to kill you, right?"

Mi Li had been vague about this matter thus far, but perhaps due to their fates being linked together now, she chose to elaborate deeper into the matter this time around. "He's a headstrong person. He wanted me to submit to me, but how could I let him get his way? That being said, I do acknowledge that he probably spared me on the account of our couple ties... It was shortly after our fight that Ying Zheng suddenly dropped dead, so I ended up getting stuck in my seal."

Zu An noticed a peculiarity in Mi Li's expression when she made those remarks, as if she was reminiscing the past. For some reason, he had a feeling that the latter was intentionally hiding something from him.

He knew that further probing wouldn't make Mi Li reveal any information she didn't want to, so he decided to put the matter aside for now and only ask about it after they got closer to one another.

"You mentioned that Zhang Han used the lingering aura of the Soul Suppression Seal to seal off the 200,000 evil spirits together with Xiang Yu. Since Xiang Yu came to this mausoleum, considering the hatred he bore toward the imperial family, it didn't make sense for him to spare you," asked Zu An.

"You surprisingly know quite a bit about Xiang Yu." Mi Li was surprised. "Indeed, Xiang Yu has harbor great hatred for the Qin Dynasty. He killed the Qin soldiers who surrendered back then, burned down the palaces, and plundered Xianyang[1] as he pleased. When he learned about my existence from Zhang Han, he wanted to lay his hands on me too."

There was a hint of fury in Mi Li's voice as he spoke. "He has long heard of my beauty, and my identity as the empress of the Qin Dynasty also stoked his desire to conquer. He began bearing filthy thoughts about me. He started off by expressing his admiration for me in the underground palace, and eventually, he succumbed to his lust and tried to undo the Soul Suppression Seal."

Zu An was alarmed. "Given Xiang Yu's strength, even the Soul Suppression Soul shouldn't be able to stop him, right?"

In his previous world, Xiang Yu was known to be a powerful general renowned for his martial prowess. In this world of supernatural abilities, wouldn't Xiang Yu be a terrifyingly powerful cultivator then?

"You're mistaken about that. Xiang Yu is indeed an extremely powerful individual; the Human Seal and Earth Seal couldn't stop him at all. He was able to overcome the trials far faster than you did," replied Mi Li.

Zu An scratched his head sheepishly. I mean, it's nothing much to lose to a legendary historical figure, right?

"However, he failed at the Heaven Seal. No matter how powerful he was, he was unable to stand against heaven's will. On top of that, he seems to have met with some trouble outside, so he ended up never returning to this mausoleum. It's for that reason that I thought that the Heaven Seal is fraught with dangers. If even someone as powerful as Xiang Yu wasn't able to breach it, I can't say that I bear any hopes for a third rank cultivator like you. Yet, you actually managed to succeed at where he failed. Perhaps it's heaven's will at play here," remarked Mi Li wistfully before she chuckled softly.

But she suddenly remembered how she had been shackled into yet another cage shortly after being released, and her complexion turned awful once more.

"Looks like I'm the one chosen by heaven," remarked Zu An gleefully.

His glee only further spurred Mi Li's displeasure. "Hmph! If not for the Tai'e Sword suffering great damage from Xiang Yu's attempt to breach the seal back then, it would have surely been far more difficult for you."

Zu An didn't think that it was a big deal at all. "The fact how everything worked out despite the odds stacked against me shows that it's the work of fate at play here. Don't you find it interesting how a third rank cultivator like me was able to accomplish what the powerful Xiang Yu is unable to pull off?"

Mi Li was slightly surprised to hear those words. She murmured under her breath, "Fate, huh..."

It took her a long while before she snapped out of it and said, "You have been asking me questions for some time now. It's time for you to answer my questions now."

"Big sis empress, feel free to ask anything of me. I'll answer your doubts to the best of my abilities!" replied Zu An with a smile.

For some reason, Mi Li had a feeling that Zu An was going to concoct lies. "Where did you obtain the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra from?"

"Well, I received it from a mysterious old man..." Since he was bound to Mi Li in a Life-and-Death Contract now, there was no reason for him to hide this from her. She was bound to find out once they returned to the Chu Manor anyway.

Besides, Old Mi had always given him a sinister feeling, so it might be good for him to discuss this matter with Mi Li.

Mi Li frowned. "Is he your father or your grandfather?"

"..." Zu An.

Why do I feel like I'm being scolded here?

"Neither."

"If he's unrelated to you, why would he present such a powerful secret art to you? It's as clear as day that he's up to something," sneered Mi Li.

Zu An shared the same thoughts too, but he simply couldn't figure just what he had that Old Mi coveted.

"Is it my looks? Y'know, I have a strong feeling that I'm the one chosen by heaven, the protagonist of the world. I feel that it's only normal for powerful experts to want to impart all of their skills to me."

"..." Mi Li.

She eyed Zu An with narrowed eyes for a moment before asking, "By any chance, are you deranged?"

"???" Zu An.

You're the one who is deranged. Your entire family is deranged!

"If there's something wrong with your head, you ought to tell me right away. I might be a runemaster, but I am fairly well-versed in medicine too. I might just be able to treat your illness before it gets too severe. It's common knowledge amongst physicians that those with mental problems tend to be the hardest to treat," remarked Mi Li.

"..." Zu An.

However, he suddenly noticed something and asked, "Wait a moment, you're a physician too?"

"Of course!" replied Mi Li proudly. "Back then, the Qin Dynasty conquered the whole Central Plains and gathered the collection of books from all annexed countries into its imperial palace. I would browse through those books whenever I had time. Eventually, I managed to converge my knowledge of runes and medicine together to create a new path for myself. You can say that I'm still decent in the field of medicine."

Even though Mi Li said that she was only 'decent', there was an incredibly proud look on her face that screamed 'praise me, worship me'.

"Since you're a physician, you should hurry up and treat Snow!" Zu An was overjoyed. Mi Li was turning out to be a far greater treasure than he had expected.

Mi Li's face immediately turned cold. "I don't have any medicinal herb or pills on me. How do you expect me to save me?"

"Tsk, looks like you aren't as formidable as I thought." Zu An clicked his tongue.

"You need not try to rile me up," replied Mi Li. "I can treat her if the situation really necessitates it, but I'm in far too much of a weakened state at the moment. It wasn't easy for me to heal up a little through those evil spirits, so why should I expend myself for a woman I owe nothing to? Besides, she isn't in mortal danger. All she needs to do is to consume some vitality restoring herbs or pills, and she'll be able to easily make a full recovery."

Zu An also realized that he had failed to assess the situation properly due to his worry, but still, he wasn't about to lose this quip. "I still think that your skills as a physician aren't anything much. Otherwise, how could you get done in by poison so easily?"

Mi Li really lost her temper this time around. "Ignorant brat, what do you know? The Red Tears of Lady Xiang is not something that should exist in the mortal world. It's something that can kill even an Earth Immortal! If not for my knowledge of runes and medicine allowing me to draw my soul out of my body, I would have died by now!"

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for +512 Rage!

Zu An was astounded. He didn't think that the poison was so potent. It was just a pity that Zhang Han had used up the final droplet, or else he would be able to easily eliminate anyone with that poison in hand.

Mi Li felt that she would get a heart attack soon if she continued speaking to Zu An, so she decided to ignore him altogether. She turned to the terracotta soldiers and said, "You've worked hard. If not for

you all fighting valiantly to buy us time, we wouldn't have been able to bring down those evil spirits so easily."

The terracotta soldiers were touched to hear those words. They had guarded this underground hall for over a thousand years now, and they were finally being recognized for their efforts. This was something incredibly honorable to them.

"Now that Zhang Han is dead and the Qin Dynasty has fallen, you'll serve me from now onward," said Mi Li as she gazed down at the terracotta soldiers with an air of loftiness.

Those terracotta soldiers looked at one another hesitantly for a moment before hurriedly getting to their knees to bow to her. This was a gesture of servility in the Qin Dynasty.

Zu An was delighted to see this.

Wouldn't I be able to do as I please with this? I'll get Mi Li to send those terracotta soldiers against anyone who dares to cross me! Ahhh, it looks like I'm born to be a moochlord!

While he was deep in his thoughts, an unexpected situation suddenly occurred. Murderous intent flashed across Mi Li's eyes as she raised her hand, and the Tai'e Sword suddenly swept through the terracotta soldiers with immense momentum.

Those unguarded terracotta soldiers were sliced into halves in an instant!

## **Chapter 206: Abled**

"???" Zu An.

His eyes nearly bulged out upon seeing this sight.

What's going on? It was only a moment ago that they pledged their loyalty to you, but you killed them right after? What about my army of terracotta soldiers? I haven't managed to show them off yet!

As if having sensed Zu An's doubts, Mi Li shot a glance at Chu Chuyan and Qiao Xueying and remarked, "It's only on your account that I spared them, or else they would have suffered the same fate as those terracotta soldiers."

"Why did you kill them? They have already pledged their loyalty to you!" exclaimed Zu An.

"Loyalty?" sneered Mi Li. "That's just a beautiful sounding word that people spout for the sake of it. If you don't want to be betrayed by your subordinates, you need to offer them something that they can't resist. What a pity that I'm unable to ensure that in my current state, and I can't bring them with me either. Since that's the case, I might as well just kill them and be over with it lest they leak my secrets out in the future."

"You killed all of them over that?" Zu An was horrified. "They can't even speak! How could they leak your secrets?"

"They have witnessed everything that has happened here. Even if they are incapable of speech, there's no way I could allow them to continue existing on the world," remarked Mi Li. "I would rather be the one to betray others than to be betrayed."

"..." Zu An.

Sis, why in the world did you even bring out Cao Cao's famed words too?

However, this incident made him realize that he and Mi Li lived in completely different worlds. He had transmigrated over from the modern world, and while he was a little greedy, lustful, and handsome, he was still a good person overall. Unless someone threatened his life, he wouldn't go to the extent of taking a person's life.

However, the world of cultivation was a cruel place where everyone was born unequal. Those who were born in noble clans or possessed exceptional cultivation talent were far more privileged than their peers, and the positions of superiority they were in made them look down on those beneath them.

Mi Li was one example of it. She used to be the lofty empress of a dynasty, and no one dared to cross her. That eventually bred an egocentric point of view in her.

Noticing the awful look on Zu An's face, Mi Li harrumphed. "Are you a man or not? I thought that you were a decisive person from the way you fought earlier, but you're far more of a wuss than I thought."

Zu An shook his head bitterly. "How can that be the same? It's only normal to go all out in a fight against an enemy, but I can't bring myself to be vicious toward those who have never shown me hostility before."

"Naive!" evaluated Mi Li. "There were countless famed young generals who shared the same thought as you. They were able to conquer the battlefield, but they ended up getting backstabbed by those who envied them and lost their lives. I couldn't care less about your foolishness, but our fates are now tied together. I won't allow you to walk in their footsteps like an utter imbecile."

Zu An fell silent. He knew that Mi Li's words did have some sense to them, but he still couldn't accept her world view.

Mi Li wasn't interested in preaching philosophy to Zu An either as she changed the topic. "The two of them are about to wake up soon. You should know better than anyone else what you should and should not say before them. My soul has suffered quite some damage today, and it seems like the poison from the Red Tears of Lady Xiang is still affecting me. I'll need to hibernate for a long period of time in order to recuperate, so don't disturb me unless there's something important."

After saying those words, she returned back to the Tai'e Sword. A moment later, her worried voice sounded once more, "Brat, make sure that you don't carelessly die this time around. You should know that you have two lives on you right now!"

"..." Zu An.

Her use of phrase...

"Don't worry. I might have many flaws, but I do have one strength, and that's fear of death."



Zu An was probably the only one in the world who could openly boast about his fear of death. He waited for a while, but he didn't hear any response from Mi Li.

"At least say something. It's rude of you not to respond to me."

Despite his retorts, he had no intention of really knocking on the Tai'e Sword to demand a sentimental goodbye message from Mi Li. Instead, he quickly rushed over to check on Chu Chuyan and Qiao Xueying.

The two of them gradually woke up with a slight moan.

"How are you feeling?" Zu An looked at the two of them anxiously.

Even though Mi Li had guaranteed him time and time again that they were fine, he found it hard to trust her after seeing how vicious she could be.

As soon as Chu Chuyan opened her eyes, she saw that she was lying in the embrace of a man and immediately stiffened up. She instinctively pushed him away before darting aside. Despite her frantic movement, her fluttering hair and robe were still incredibly beautiful.

As expected of my wife. She looks gorgeous no matter what she does. But while I admit that you're beautiful, you can't just turn your back on me like that!

It was only then that Chu Chuyan realized that it was Zu An, and she retrospectively felt that her reaction was a little overboard. Her face reddened in embarrassment. "Pardon me... I didn't know it was you."

Zu An felt a bit more assuaged upon hearing those words. "It's fine. Do you still remember what happened earlier?"

Chu Chuyan's face reddened further as she turned her head away and muttered, "D-did anything happen?"

"???" Zu An.

Mi Li fooled me!

"Can the two of you spare some thought for the severely injured patient lying beside you?" grumbled Qiao Xueying.

Her grudging voice made Zu An feel a bit apologetic. After all, she had only gotten injured due to him.

"My bad. I'll bring you out right now to see if we can get any recovery medicine from the other students."

"Hm? If I recall correctly, you were severely injured earlier too. You look perfectly fine now though... Weird," remarked Qiao Xueying in intrigue.

Zu An reckoned that this lapse in memory might be due to her forgetting about the Primordial Origin Sutra, so he tried asking, "Do you remember how I got injured?"

"Of course I do. You were in the midst of saving me when... Hm?" Qiao Xueying suddenly froze up. "Wait a moment, why can't I remember who hurt you?"

Chu Chuyan also pressed on her temples as she sensed that there were some gaps in her memories.

Zu An quickly laughed it off and said, “Hahaha, who else could it be? It was the evil spirits and terracotta soldiers who hurt me!”

“Did you manage to clear off the evil spirits and the terracotta soldiers?” Chu Chuyan was astonished. One must know that there were 200,000 evil spirits, and those terracotta soldiers weren’t pushovers either. “How did you do it?”

“You want to know? Call me hubby and I’ll tell you.” Zu An couldn’t think of an excuse to clean up the mess Mi Li left for him, so he could only try to divert the topic elsewhere.

Chu Chuyan turned her head away and ignored him.

“Let’s head out first. Treating Snow takes precedence here,” said Zu An as he pulled Qiao Xueying into his arms and carried her up.

“Let me down!” The sudden princess carry left Qiao Xueying’s pale cheeks reddening once more.

“Stop struggling. Your wounds will open up again,” reminded Zu An. “You’ve already given the most precious thing in your life to me, so it’s only right for me to help you here.”

“Looks like you still have a conscience.” Qiao Xueying thought that Zu An’s words made sense. She did use her Half Life’s Fate on him, so it was only right for him to do this much for her. Besides, she had been carried in an even more embarrassing position back in the Earth Seal anyway.

On the other hand, Zu An lowered his head contemplatively. He had intentionally asked the question to probe how much Qiao Xueying remembered, and he heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing her answer.

However, Chu Chuyan was utterly dumbfounded by those words.

The most precious thing in her life? Isn’t what is the most precious thing to a woman obvious?

What’s the situation with these two? He has just barely done that with me... then he suddenly went to hook up with Snow right after?

Even though Chu Chuyan had betrothed Qiao Xueying to him back then, she still felt something very uncomfortable about the current situation.

Zu An took the lead with Qiao Xueying in his arms. “Why are you so light? You should eat a bit more meat. Your body won’t grow properly if you just munch off melon seeds.”

“I don’t like meat. Besides, what’s wrong with melon seeds?” protested Qiao Xueying in dissatisfaction.

“Ah, I forgot that you’re a tree demoness,” teased Zu An.

“You’re the one who is a tree demoness! Your whole family is tree demonesses!” roared Qiao Xueying in response.

...

Chu Chuyan noticed that even though the two of them were bickering as always, there was a lack of tension and hostility in their interaction. She chuckled softly at their interactions before suddenly falling into a daze. She noticed that she was unable to get into their conversation at all.

What's with this awkward feeling watching the two of them in front of me?

"How did you manage to clear those evil spirits?" asked Qiao Xueying.

"Well, I enlightened them with my words. They agreed that it isn't good for them to continue living in such a manner, so they willingly dissipated themselves into the world," replied Zu An with a smile.

"Never mind if you don't want to tell me." Qiao Xueying harrumphed.

Zu An shrugged in response. He wasn't exactly lying either since the evil spirits were indeed fooled by Mi Li's words...

It was then that a white silhouette suddenly flashed across them. Chu Chuyan had run ahead of them.

Noticing their doubtful gazes, she replied coldly, "There are still some zombie soldiers lingering ahead. I'll clear the path."

Zu An glanced at the Tai'e Sword he was carrying on his back as he spoke, "Actually, there's no need for that. I'm a man who carries an aura of kingship. Those zombies will flee in my presence."

He recalled Mi Li mentioning that the Tai'e Sword had the effects of suppressing the terracotta soldiers, and he thought that it should work on the weaker zombie soldiers above too.

"..." Chu Chuyan.

"..." Qiao Xueying.

This fellow just can't stop bragging, huh?

As the group headed back upward, the zombie soldiers who were roaming in the area swiftly gathered around them like sharks having caught the scent of blood. Chu Chuyan swung her sword at them, releasing a burst of frost that turned them into ice sculptures.

Zu An was amazed. "Honey, you're much stronger than before! What's your current cultivation rank?"

"I'm at pinnacle sixth rank. It's thanks to the Evanescent Lotus that you fed me..." Chu Chuyan suddenly jolted upon realizing something. She turned around to look at him curiously as a question lingered on the tip of her tongue, but her face reddened right away and she found herself unable to pose the question.

Qiao Xueying, on the other hand, was more liberal. She asked directly, "Speaking of which, you should be inept down there, right? Why are you suddenly 'abled' again?"

## **Chapter 207: You Really Go All Out For Your Flirting**

Chu Chuyan's fair face tinged in red, and she began fidgeting awkwardly upon hearing those words.

“...” Zu An.

As a woman, don't you feel embarrassed for asking about such a thing?

“What do you mean by I'm not 'abled'? I've always been abled, alright?!” roared Zu An furiously.

“Heh!”

His remark was met with a roll of the eyes from Qiao Xueying. Please! All of us here know the truth better than anyone else!

Chu Chuyan eventually spoke up, “Divine Physician Ji has checked on his condition and prescribed him medicine to cure him. The main ingredient is the Evanescent Lotus.”

“You mean the legendary Evanescent Lotus that can raise a cultivator's cultivation by a step for each flower petal consumed?” Qiao Xueying was shocked. “He gave that to you?”

As a cultivator, she knew better than anyone how difficult it was to raise one's cultivation even by a step, especially when one got to the later stages. A single flower petal could offset years of hard work one would need to make a breakthrough. If a high-level cultivator were to consume it, it could easily offset decades or even centuries of hard work! That was just how formidable of a treasure the Evanescent Lotus was!

Chu Chuyan nodded in response as she looked at Zu An with a gentle look in her eyes.

“Rumor has it that the Evanescent Lotus has nine flower petals. How many of it did he give to you?” asked Qiao Xueying.

Now that she thought about it, she did recall hearing about the Evanescent Lotus from Zhang Han, just that she was too affected by Shi Kun's betrayal and the despairing plight she was in that she instinctively ignored everything that was going on around her.

“He... gave it all to me.” Recalling how Zu An had fed her the flower petals mouth-to-mouth, her voice grew quieter and quieter.

Qiao Xueying glanced at Zu An with a complicated look in her eyes as she remarked, “You really went all out to win Miss Chu over.”

She had entered the underground palace together with them, but she ended up expending her most precious Half Life's Fate and lost half of her lifespan whereas Chu Chuyan obtained the Evanescent Lotus and grew by almost one whole cultivation rank.

What's with this huge contrast? Why is my life so tough...

Sensing Qiao Xueying's downcast mood, Zu An remarked, “Don't feel that it's unfair. I gave up a lot for you too.”

I used up tens of thousands of Rage points there, and that's not including the losses I made from the 'three times draw nothing at all' debuff! Otherwise, I might have just gotten something powerful or cool from this!

Qiao Xueying was displeased as she wondered what Zu An had given up for her. But all of a sudden, she remembered the mysterious medicine he conjured out of nowhere that saved her life.

Even though he didn't explain it explicitly to her, she knew that the more valuable something was in this world, the harder it would be to obtain it. Without a doubt, he had to pay a hefty price to obtain such potent medicine.

Her memories were a little faint at the moment, but she had the impression that she was facing an incredibly terrifying opponent when Zu An rushed forward to stand in front of her and protect her.

Such thoughts brought back a gentle look on her face.

However, when her eyes swept across Chu Chuyan, the expression on her face grew gloomy.

But it's already too late. They are already a pair. What a twist of fate this is. If only the two of them didn't consummate their marriage earlier...

A thought suddenly flashed across Qiao Xueying's mind as she remarked, "Wait a moment. Miss Chu was the one who ate the Evanescent Lotus, right? How did you manage to recover then?"

This fellow couldn't do it with me, but he could do it when it's with Miss Chu?

"I met with another fortuitous encounter in the seals and happened to release my seal," replied Zu An vaguely. "Alright, let's not talk about this anymore. Isn't it embarrassing for a young lady like you to talk about such matters?"

Qiao Xueying turned her head away. She was indeed feeling a little embarrassed about this all. However, she still had some doubts in mind. I entered the seals with him too, but I don't recall him stumbling upon any fortuitous encounter...

As for Chu Chuyan, even though she was officially his wife, their relationship was still in an awkward position at the moment, not to mention that they had just done that earlier on. There was no way she could bring herself to probe on more about this matter.

So, the trio continued marching on broodingly. Chu Chuyan was still on her guard, worried that more zombie soldiers would pop up on their way out, but surprisingly, those zombie soldiers were making sure to steer clear of her.

"Are they hiding in advance because they knew that they're no match for me? That shouldn't be though. They shouldn't be smart enough to make such a call." Chu Chuyan was perplexed.

It was then that she heard Zu An asked, "Snow, what do you intend to do from now on."

Qiao Xueying shook her head and replied with a deep sigh, "I don't know either."

"Since you've already seen through Shi Kun's true colors, you should return with us to the Chu clan. We'll welcome you back," said Chu Chuyan.

Zu An nodded in agreement. "Indeed. You're betrothed to me after all, so it doesn't make sense for you to stay elsewhere. We've already warmed to each other anyway; I trust that you wouldn't have any problem warming up my bed in the future too."

“...” Qiao Xueying.

“...” Chu Chuyan.

You have successfully trolled Qiao Xueying for +250 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for +250 Rage!

This fellow... Did his head get kicked by a donkey or something?

Qiao Xueying ignored him and turned to Chu Chuyan, saying, “Thanks for your offer, Miss Chu. I appreciate your goodwill, but there are still many things I have to clean up after severing my relations with the Shi clan.”

“Do you need my help?” Chu Chuyan was well aware that powerful clans had many means to keep their subordinates in check, such as to use their kin as hostages.

Qiao Xueying shook her head and replied, “It’s fine, I can handle it myself.”

Chu Chuyan sighed deeply and said, “When did the two of us grow apart?”

Qiao Xueying remembered how the two of them nibbled on melon seeds while reading romance novels together over the years, and it suddenly left her in a wistful mood. Great emotions welled up in her heart, and she suddenly found herself with so many words she wanted to say. Yet, the only words that eventually came out of her mouth were, “I’m sorry.”

“There are far too many things that are beyond our control in life. I don’t blame you for that, Snow,” replied Chu Chuyan gently.

The two of them fell silent afterward.

Zu An wasn’t too sure what was wrong with their relationship, but he felt that they were making a big fuss out of nothing.

Didn’t we get along fine all this while? Why are they suddenly acting like characters in a melancholic soap opera? Y’know, they always say that any arguments can be easily solved in bed at night.

Of course, considering the disparity in their cultivation at the moment, Zu An wisely chose to hold his tongue out of consideration of his own safety.

All of a sudden, the surroundings began to tremor as silt and rock fragments fell from the sky. The last time such a tremor occurred was when the 200,000 evil spirits rushed out from their seal, but the tremor this time around was even stronger than before.

The zombie soldiers lurking in the surroundings immediately darted around fearfully like panicking flies.

“The underground cavern is going to collapse! We need to hurry!” shouted Chu Chuyan in astonishment. She could feel the elemental ki in the surroundings falling into disarray, a sign that the place was going to collapse inward.

Zu An reckoned that it might be due to the undoing of the Soul Suppression Seal, as well as the disappearance of the Evanescent Lotus, Tai’e Sword, Zhang Han, and the 200,000 evil spirits. All of these

caused the balance in the underground cavern that had been delicately sustained over the past several thousand years to suddenly shatter, resulting in massive instability.

“What a pity!” remarked Zu An as he glanced backward reluctantly. He was still thinking of returning back to this underground cavern to take a second look after seeking treatment for Qiao Xueying.

One must know that this was the empress mausoleum of the Qin Dynasty; there were bound to be countless treasures in here! The fact that the Heiress’ Ball of Delights worked earlier was more than enough to show that there was at least several hundred thousand silver taels worth of treasures in here.

Putting all things aside, just the weapons and helmets the zombie soldiers were wielding were already of higher quality than those sold by the Chu clan, and the Chu clan’s weapons were well-known for their quality in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Damn it! Am I going to lose such a huge fortune just like that? Argh! Forget it, I should be satisfied with having unsealed ‘little Zu An’, obtaining the Tai’e Sword, and learning the upper half of the Primordial Origin Sutra. At the very least, all of my efforts and sacrifices weren’t in vain.

Besides, the greatest treasure in this underground palace is probably Mi Li. Not only is she knowledgeable about everything, but she has an amazing body to match her wisdom...

As soon as those thoughts surfaced in his mind, Zu An suddenly felt a little guilt-conscience. He subconsciously glanced at the Tai’e Sword and was relieved to see that it wasn’t reacting in any way. It would seem that Mi Li was really in deep sleep at the moment.

I wonder if she’s really able to read my thoughts...

Zu An was quite amazed at his ability to think about all sorts of useless stuff even when the cavern was collapsing on him right now.

Anyway, with Chu Chuyan leading the way, the three of them soon saw a speck of light in front of them. Rushing forward, they finally managed to escape through the entrance of the cavern.

It was a rule of thumb whenever a cavern started collapsing, the protagonist and his team could only make it out the nick of time. True to the prophecy, barely a few seconds after they ran out, a deafening rumble sounded behind them as the underground cavern finally collapsed entirely. Even the massive stone gates at the entrance were unable to withstand the pressure and were destroyed too.

A cloud of smoke rose into the air, forming a mushroom in the sky.

The ground also began to tremor under the impact, quaking up and down. On top of that, there seemed to be some sort of shockwave that was swiftly rippling outward in their direction.

“Be careful!”

Chu Chuyan rushed forward to grab Zu An before fleeing toward the distant forest. She was already nearing the seventh rank by now, so naturally, she was able to move far quicker than Zu An.

The sudden intimate contact caught Zu An off guard. He could smell her fragrance and feel the softness of her body.

Wow, to be holding a beautiful woman in my arms while being held in the arms of my wife; is this what the pinnacle of harem looks like? I wonder how many men in the world is as blessed as I am!

Perhaps it was due to her feeling Zu An intentionally leaning as close as he could to her, as soon as they arrived at the safer forest, Chu Chuyan tossed him to the side before harrumphed angrily.

Zu An was rendered speechless. Is it that big of a deal for me to snuggle up to you? I mean, I was even inside you earlier!

However, his attention was soon caught by the cloud of dust in the distance. Seeing how such a massive hill had collapsed within moments, he found himself impressed once more by the prowess of nature.

Chu Chuyan's head tilted to the side before murmuring, "Someone's here. There are quite a few of them."

"A lot of people are heading our way?" Zu An instinctively searched the area for a place to hide. "Quick, let's find somewhere to hide and watch the situation first."

"Hide?" Chu Chuyan's voice carried a hint of pride. "I've already recovered my cultivation. Why should I hide?"

## **Chapter 208: The Circle of Nobility Sure is Complicated**

It was then that it sunk in for Zu An that Chu Chuyan was already at pinnacle sixth rank.

He was too used to keeping a low profile that it had become a habit for him to scheme against others in the shadows, but given Chu Chuyan's current cultivation, even if the teachers of the academy were to bring their students here, they might not necessarily be a match for her. Naturally, there was no need for them to act so carefully anymore.

Mi Li was currently not around, Zhang Han was dead, and the zombie soldiers, evil spirits, and terracotta army were completely destroyed. In this entire dungeon, there was probably not a single person who was stronger than her anymore. In the first place, this dungeon was evaluated to be of lower risk, or else the academy wouldn't have sent just two sixth rank teachers in to lead the students.

It was just that the appearance of the underground palace was completely unexpected.

Hm? Isn't this another opportunity for me to rake in Rage points again?

Zu An sharply caught the scent of a business opportunity, but he eventually held back his urge to harvest Rage points.

Forget it, I should dote on my wife instead.

Even though Chu Chuyan had spoken such grand words, she didn't let her guard down. She continued staring warily in the direction where the voice had come from.

"Hm? It's Miss Chu!"



Two figures rushed forward simultaneously. One of them moved in a seductive manner whereas the other one had a huge bald spot on his head.

Zu An heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing them. “Hey, Teacher Lu and Teacher Bai.”

Needless to say, they were the teachers whom Brightmoon Academy had sent into the dungeon to lead the students, Bai Susu and Lu De.

“It’s really a huge relief that you’re fine!” Bai Susu and Lu De spoke in unison. When they realized that the other had spoken the same words as them, they shot sharp glances at one another before turning away with a cold harrumph.

Following that, another group of people arrived at the scene too.

There was one person with massive bosoms that immediately caught Zu An’s eye—Pei Mianman. This woman really should learn water elemental skills. It seems far more matching to her as compared to fire.

Pei Mianman also noticed Zu An’s gaze and shot him a seductive look. Then, she moved over to Chu Chuyan’s side, grabbed her hand, and asked, “Aiya, what happened, Chuyan? Why do you have so much blood on your clothes? Let me see your injuries.”

“I’m fine. This blood doesn’t belong to me...” Chu Chuyan’s face was a little red. Most of it had come from Zu An, but there was quite a bit that actually belonged to her...

Thinking about how she was no longer a maiden anymore, a conflicted frown formed on her forehead. However, when she recalled how Zu An fought hard to protect her in the underground cavern, the slight frown gradually loosened.

“It’s not yours...” Pei Mianman was stunned. She turned her gaze to Zu An with the intention to probe on, only for her eyebrows to shoot upward in surprise.

Hm? Isn’t that woman he’s holding onto the tenth place of the Sweetheart Ranking? To be holding onto another woman in the presence of his own wife, and for his wife to show no hint of criticism on her face at all... it looks like he does have some means.

Qiao Xueying hurriedly whispered to Zu An and said, “Quick, put my veil on!”

Zu An knew that she was unwilling to have her true appearance seen by those in the academy, so he asked, “Where’s your veil?”

Qiao Xueying’s face reddened. “It’s inside my robe.”

She was severely injured at the moment, so her body was incredibly weak. Even moving her fingers was tough enough for her, so it would be hard for her to grab her veil and put it on.

Had it been another man, she would have never allowed the other party to take something from her robe, but if it was Zu An...

Thinking about how they had spent a long time hugging one another while fighting together in the underground palace, as well as the fact that she had used her Half Life's Fate on him, she felt an inexplicable feeling of intimacy toward him.

Besides, he had already seen and touched everything there was back at the Chu Manor, so it didn't seem much of a deal to let him touch her again.

Hearing her words, Zu An immediately reached into her robes to retrieve a spare veil and cover her flushed face. Qiao Xueying breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing that Zu An didn't make use of this opportunity to take advantage of her.

Pei Mianman happened to see this series of actions, and her eyes widened in astonishment. Wait a moment, is this for real? He just put his hands into her robe just like that?

She subconsciously glanced at Chu Chuyan and saw that she had noticed the happenings on that side too. Surprisingly, Chu Chuyan didn't respond at all.

Pei Mianman was utterly dumbfounded.

What's going on here? Even if Chu Chuyan doesn't like Zu An, he's still her husband. Surely she wouldn't allow him to cheat on her even if she doesn't like him, right?

Also, what's with Zu An messing around with another woman before his own wife? He's a drafted son-in-law! How could he have the guts to do this?

Also, that tenth place—what's her name again? Qiao something, right?—she should have some sense of shame as to turn Zu An down here!

Pei Mianman had no idea why a spectator like her was even more anxious than those involved in this matter. There must be something wrong in this world!

"Ah Zu~"

A delighted voice suddenly sounded in the air and a small, feminine figure dashed forward. However, when she saw that Zu An was holding a woman in her arms, she immediately halted her footsteps.

"Xiaoxi!" Zu An's eyes lit up upon seeing the other party. He rushed to her side with Qiao Xueying in her arms and asked, "Do you have any recovery medicine on you? Quick, she needs treatment right away!"

"Ah? Y-yes, I do have some recovery medicine on me..." Ji Xiaoxi quickly snapped out of her daze and started searching through her little bags. Soon, she found a bottle of medicine and fed it to Qiao Xueying.

Meanwhile, more and more people were arriving at the scene. When they saw Qiao Xueying in Zu An's arms, they gasped in shock and incredulous voices began sounding.

"The woman he's holding is the tenth place on the Sweetheart Ranking, right?"

"Indeed, that's her!"

"Holy shit, what's with his luck?!"

“Honestly, I’m more impressed with his ability to placate all of those women rather than his ability to hook up with them. I mean, none of them look discontented at all despite him flirting with another woman right in front of their eyes!”

“Yeah! Pei Mianman and Chu Chuyan are whispering to one another, and Ji Xiaoxi is treating her love rival without any signs of jealousy at all. My gosh, this is unbelievable! He’s really the role model of all men!”

“I used to think that young master Xie was the love expert in the academy, but it looks like the title is going to change hands.”

...

Hearing their discussions, Xie Xiu smiled bitterly and murmured, “I’m indeed far lacking compared to Brother Zu.”

In order to enjoy the flowers in the garden without being tied down, he had always been careful not to choose the most beautiful ones. He knew that women who stood at the top tended to be prideful and wouldn’t allow him to cheat on them.

For the sake of the entire forest, he had no choice but to forsake some of the trees.

Yet, Zu An was able to accomplish what he was unable to pull off.

Meanwhile, Zheng Dan stared at Zu An with a doubtful glint in her eyes.

Shi Kun was determined to kill him this time around, but it doesn’t seem like anything has happened to him. Based on the intelligence, he shouldn’t have the means to deal with Shi Kun’s force, so how did he manage to survive? Was it Chu Chuyan’s intervention?

But what’s with the woman he’s holding in his hands then?

Her gaze continuously alternated between Chu Chuyan and Qiao Xueying before glancing at Ji Xiaoxi and Pei Mianman. In the end, she could only conclude... The circle of nobility sure is complicated!

Not too far away, Hong Xingying sighed in disappointment. This fellow sure is lucky.

He rushed over to Chu Chuyan’s side and asked, “Young miss, are you fine?”

“Yes, I’m alright.” Chu Chuyan directed him a slight smile. They were all members of the Chu clan after all, so it wouldn’t do for her to be too distant to him.

Her faint smile enchanted Hong Xingying. For a moment there, he had a feeling that the young miss had become even more beautiful. In the past, she felt like an unreachable flower, lacking a human’s touch, but the current her seemed to command a much more feminine grace, making her even more alluring.

Could this be the effect of her marriage?

Hong Xingying knew that Chu Chuyan and Zu An were just a couple in name, but he was still unable to curb the envy in his heart.

If not for that bastard's sudden intervention, I would have become the young miss' husband. She was supposed to be mine!

You have successfully trolled Hong Xingying for +1024 Rage!

Pei Mianman watched as Hong Xingying turned around and left before remarking with a smile, "Chuyan, that subordinate of yours seems to be very fond of you."

Chu Chuyan shook her head, not bothering to respond to that remark. There were far too many people who had expressed affection toward her over the years, so how could she possibly bother with every single one of them? Her time could have been used at something far more productive.

At the same time, Zu An was shocked by the sudden influx of Rage points from Hong Xingying. Woah, I didn't know he harbors such a huge grudge toward me!

After everything he had been through in the underground cavern, he had grown not just in terms of strength but ambition as well. He had seen how huge the world beyond what he had seen thus far was, and he didn't think that it was worth wasting his time with someone of Hong Xingying's caliber anymore.

But still, it wouldn't do to keep someone who obviously bore malicious intentions toward him by his side. He would have to find a way to deal with him once and for all.

"Ah Zu, you've bled a lot! Are you really fine?"

After checking Qiao Xueying's condition, Ji Xiaoxi noticed that Zu An was covered in blood as well. His clothes that were even more tattered than a beggar showed just how intense of a fight he had just been through.

To that, Zu An responded with a smile, "Don't worry, I'm fine. If you're still worried, do you want to check my pulse?"

He offered his hand to her while saying those words.

Zu An simply looked too miserable that Ji Xiaoxi was unable to calm the unease she felt in her heart despite his assurance. So, she placed her fingers on his wrist to read his pulse and diagnose his condition.

"Xiaoxi, I'm really grateful to you this time around. If not for you, I would already have died many times by now," said Zu An.

Had it not been for the huge amount of medicine she had given him, there was no way he would have been able to toil through those difficult battles he had been through.

It had just been a few days, but he had encountered the zombie soldiers, came under the assault of Shi Kun and his subordinates, and faced all sorts of crisis in the underground cavern. All in all, he must have fought at least a dozen battles by now. It was only thanks to her medicine that he had been able to pull it through all of these.

"There's no need to thank me. You did save my life too. If not for you, I would have been killed by those zombies." Sensing the earnest gratitude in Zu An's eyes, a flush of redness gushed up Ji Xiaoxi's neck.

Zu An burst into laughter. “Haha, let’s skip all of these polite words then. It feels kind of weird to be thanking one another as friends. Ah, what brought all of you here?”

Before Ji Xiaoxi could respond, Bai Susu had already spoken up, “It’s all due to Xiaoxi. Just not too long ago, young master Shi returned in a terrible state. He told us that a particularly terrifying zombie has captured all of you.

“Everyone was alarmed upon hearing those words. After all, Shi Kun is a strong cultivator, and he has many experts under his command. Worse comes to worst, he has a lot of life preservation means given to him by the Shi clan. If even he had such a close shave with the zombie, it was unlikely that others would fare any better against them.

“Most people wanted to leave the area, but Xiaoxi pleaded for us to save you, so we decided to make our way over.”

Bai Susu didn’t speak the complete truth. If it had only been Zu An, they wouldn’t have cared even if he died. However, the problem was that Chu Chuyan was with him too. If she were to die here as well, they wouldn’t be able to bear the responsibility of it.

So, he quickly looked for Lu De’s group and gathered some of the stronger student cultivators to explore the area. Unexpectedly, before they encountered any danger, they ended up meeting one another.

Qiao Xueying’s face twitched a little upon hearing Shi Kun’s words. She seemed to be on the verge of saying something, but she eventually held herself back.

On the other hand, Zu An harrumphed coldly. “Where’s Shi Kun right now?”

## **Chapter 209: I’m Doing It For Your Good**

“Aiyo~ Why are you suddenly shouting so loudly? You made my heart thump in fright!” Bai Susu patted his own chest softly, acting like a frightened, dainty lady.

“...” Zu An.

I think someone as handsome as me should stay away from him lest he bears any ulterior motive toward me.

With such thoughts in mind, Zu An took several steps back away from Bai Susu.

“Shi Kun didn’t come over due to the severity of his injuries,” replied Bai Susu.

“Hah, that lucky bastard!” sneered Zu An. He reckoned that Shi Kun must be feeling really guilt-ridden at the moment that he dared not come.

“What’s wrong?” Bai Susu sensed something amiss with his tone, so he asked in curiosity.

“That bastard tried to kill me and Chuyan, resulting in the two of us nearly losing our lives in the underground cavern,” roared Zu An. He pointed to Qiao Xueying before carrying on, “He even pushed her in front of a terrifying zombie just so that he could escape on his own. If not for the Goddess of Luck looking after us, we would have already lost our lives by now!”

Qiao Xueying was still resting due to her feeble condition when she heard his words and her eyelashes quivered slightly. She seemed to be a bit shaken upon recalling what happened earlier.

The crowd flew into a commotion upon hearing those words. One must know that fighting was disallowed amongst students of the academy, let alone killing one another and betraying a fellow student to escape. These were all huge taboos!

“Nonsense!” Wu Qing leaped out and roared in disagreement. “How could someone of young master Shi do something like that? You’re slandering him!”

Even though the one she fancied was Xie Xiu, she had a good impression of Shi Kun too. After all, most people viewed Shi Kun to be a refined gentleman. It was only in front of Zu An that he found himself so stifled that he ended up revealing his true colors.

Besides, the Wu clan was on bad terms with the Chu clan too, and she detested Zu An quite a lot. Thus, she didn’t hesitate to step forward and refute Zu An.

Her words brought about a flurry of agreement from the crowd. Zu An was indeed not too well-liked amongst the student populace, and what Shi Kun mentioned earlier contradicted what they said.

Of the entire crowd, the only one who knew that Zu An was telling the truth was Zheng Dan. However, the Shi clan was, in some ways, an ally to the Zheng clan, so naturally, she couldn’t step forward to speak up on Shi Kun’s behalf.

Zu An rolled his eyes. “Are you Shi Kun’s mistress? Why do you pop out as soon as I mention this matter?”

“M-mistress?!” Wu Qing was utterly astounded. She was the daughter of a duke, someone who used to be held in high esteem, so when had anyone dared to speak so crudely to her?

You have successfully trolled Wu Qing for +581 Rage!

“How weird. If you aren’t Shi Kun’s mistress and you didn’t witness the scene with your own eyes, why would you insist that I’m talking nonsense?”

“I... I...” Wu Qing was rendered speechless. She had never been sharp-witted, so she was unable to make a comeback even after some time.

One of her lackeys, Pan Long, stepped forward and said, “Young master Shi’s character is clear for everyone to see. It’s only normal for Miss Wu to harbor doubts regarding what you’ve mentioned.”

Fu Feng nodded in agreement too. “Indeed. Everyone knows that you don’t get along well with young master Shi. That greatly reduces the credibility of what you’re saying.”

Their words brought about a wave of agreement from the crowd. Considering the enmity they harbor toward one another, it was only normal for Zu An to make use of this opportunity to slander Shi Kun.

Zu An sighed deeply and said, “The woman you’re interested in is speaking on the behalf of another man, but the two of you still unhesitatingly stepped forward to her aid. Even for bootlickers, it sure is rare to see someone stooping down to your level.”

“You!!!” The two of them were infuriated to be described in such a manner.

You have successfully trolled Pan Long for +698 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Fu Feng for +698 Rage!

“Oh hoh! Are you intending to make a move on your teacher? Very well, I’ll show you what it means to respect your teacher today!” Zu An entrusted Qiao Xueying over to Ji Xiaoxi before rolling up his sleeves and walking up to the two of them.

Pan Long and Fu Feng were stifled. It was only now that they were recalling that Zu An had entered this place as a teacher. As infuriated as they were, they dared not to attack a teacher in the presence of so many people.

The more they thought about it, the more infuriated they became. They couldn’t understand just what Principal Jiang was thinking to actually assign this hoodlum to be a teacher!

You have successfully trolled Pan Long for +777 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Fu Feng for +777 Rage!

Zu An felt exhilarated to hear the pleasant sound of Rage points coming in. Due to the flag he had raised for himself a while ago, all of the Rage points he earned had to go to waste, so he felt frustrated every time he saw Rage points coming in. It felt like it had been forever since he had last celebrated the inflow of Rage points.

If only this Keyboard had a shop or something. I would have spent all of my Rage points on buying stuff before using the last bit for the lottery. This way, I would have been able to break the flag without wasting my points.

Barely as those thoughts arose in his head, Zu An suddenly froze up. It dawned on him that the Keyboard indeed had a shop. He could have used his Rage points to buy the Marrow Cleansing Pill! It was just that he instinctively disregarded the function as he thought that it wasn’t worth the sum.

Damn it! That is a huge loss!

The crowd watched as Zu An’s face distorted, and they jolted in horror. Lu De was worried that he would really attack Pan Long and Fu Feng. If that were to happen, things would really get messy.

“Enough, how can a teacher like you fight against a student?” Lu De walked in between them before glancing down at his tattered clothes. His eyelids immediately started twitching. “Hurry up and change to other clothes!”

Zu An clicked his tongue in annoyance. “How am I to find any clothes here?”

Cultivators had the ability to cleanse the dirt off their body, so there was no need for them to bathe or change clothes too often. Considering that the dungeon only lasted for ten days, most of them didn’t bother bringing along a spare set of clothes.

It's all Mi Li's fault! She kept slashing at me viciously, causing my clothes to all become strips of cloth! Also, why did she only shred my upper half but left my lower half intact? I mean, how good it would be if she could cut a bit of holes on my pants too so that I can show off a little...

Heh, the men would feel self-conscious and all women would start weeping tears. Haaa, but what a pity that it would never come to be!

It was then that a gentle voice sounded. "I... I have spare clothes here!"

The crowd turned their heads over, only to see Ji Xiaoxi shyly taking out a green robe from her bag. It wasn't convenient for her to move around as she was taking care of Qiao Xueying, so she could only toss it over.

The crowd was stunned. Son of a bitch! The two of them had already gotten that close to one another, such that Ji Xiaoxi actually brings about a spare set of clothing for him wherever they go?!

All of the male students clenched their teeth in burning jealousy.

Even playboy Xie Xiu couldn't keep his calm here.

I really must consult him on this soon. How in the world was he able to build up a harem filled with top beauties without incurring their jealousy? But wait a moment, he couldn't possibly tell me his secret, right?

Should I get my older sister to come into contact with him and see if she can figure something out?

Xie Daoyun would probably feel deeply conflicted if she found out that her younger brother had the intention of selling her out.

Meanwhile, Zu An looked at the new influx of Rage points coming in, and his mood finally improved a little. Heh, it looks like no matter which world one is in, there's no better way to incur the ire of other men than to provoke them with beautiful women.

Zheng Dan stared at Zu An in astonishment too. What's with this man? How could someone as average as him win the affection of so many beauties?

This was simply how humans were. They would always value something more when it was in hot demand.

Even Chu Chuyan also directed a surprised look at Ji Xiaoxi. She had heard previously that the two of them were friends, but from the looks of it now, it was clearly far more than that.

Pei Mianman was the type of person to stoke the flames and stir trouble. She discreetly nudged Chu Chuyan and said, "Chuyan, it looks like your husband is quite popular with women. You ought to keep a close eye on him lest he gets stolen by someone else."

Chu Chuyan harrumphed coldly. "Feel free to take him. I don't care."

"Really?" Pei Mianman's eyes glimmered in interest. I really don't understand why this man is so popular with women. Is there something special about him?

On the other hand, Chu Chuyan was starting to feel a little frustrated.



What's wrong with him? First Snow, then Ji Xiaoxi, and now even Zheng Dan is looking at him weirdly! He's supposed to be a wastrel in Brightmoon City, someone who is... not even a man... He only just cured his impotence back at the underground palace!

So, just why are those proud and lofty women so interested in him? Am I blind or are they blind?

Ji Xiaoxi's face reddened when she realized that everyone had misunderstood her. The truth was that she didn't prepare this spare set of man clothes for Zu An but her father. Ji Dengtu was an alcohol addict, and his drunken rampage was really one to behold. So, she would often bring some spare sets of clothes with her in case her father ever needed them.

Who could have thought that it would lead to such a misunderstanding?

She wanted to explain, but she wasn't particularly good at public speaking due to her shy nature. On top of that, she was worried about sully her father's reputation, so she ended up stuttering helplessly.

Zu An caught the clothes and replied with a smile, "Thanks!"

What a kind and adorable lady she is!

He looked at her slightly chubby cheeks and wondered if she would burst into tears if he were to smooch her cheeks. However, as soon as those thoughts arose in his head, he suddenly felt a rush of scorn for himself.

It was just a moment ago that she helped me, so how can I think of bullying her right away? Pui, you scum!

He quickly tossed those thoughts to the back of his mind before grabbing the clothes to the side. Then, he made sure to declare loudly, "I'm going to change my clothes right now. Make sure that you don't sneak a peek!"

All of the women clicked their tongues and turned away. Please, who would sneak a peek at him before so many people?

Zu An proceed on to face the male students and added on, "I mean it. You really shouldn't peep at me. I'm saying this for your own good, especially my fellow male brethren."

Those words were extremely effective in piquing the curiosity of the listeners. Why is he suddenly saying all of these? Is it because he has something he dares not show us?

By this point, all of the male students were already utterly exasperated with Zu An, not to mention that there were also those like Hong Xingying who hated him with a passion around. They would love more than anything to find out any physical defects he had just so that they could go around spreading it.

So, with Pan Long and Fu Feng taking the lead, the male students discreetly snuck closer to Zu An to take a peek. Xie Xiu was curious as well, but his pride wouldn't allow him to peek at another man changing clothes.

It was then that Hong Xingying suddenly walked back. He couldn't help but notice that the other party had an utterly horrified look on his face.

Even though the two of them hadn't really spoken to one another before, Xie Xiu still couldn't help but lean closer and ask, "What's going on?"

Hong Xingying was such deep shock that his eyes were staring blankly into space. He murmured in a daze, "You should take a look yourself."

## **Chapter 210: Trauma**

Xie Xiu was more confused than ever.

Following that, he saw Pan Long and Fu Feng returning with pale faces, seemingly having just received the scare of their lives.

Unable to hold back his curiosity anymore, he quickly snuck forward, and soon, he finally saw it.

Zu An was currently changing his clothes under a tree. He had taken off all of his tattered clothes, including his pants, revealing his well-toned body.

Xie Xiu didn't think much of it at first glance. He knew that most women actually didn't like buff men, preferring to go for slender ones like him. So, there was no reason for him to be jealous of Zu An's figure.

But when his eyes finally moved down a little, his body immediately recoiled in horror.

"How could this be?" Xie Xiu subconsciously rubbed his own eyes, wondering if he was seeing things.

When he finally confirmed that his eyes were indeed not playing tricks on him, he immediately fell silent. He finally understood why everyone had such queer expressions on their faces.

He tried holding his arm up to compare the sizes, and his face immediately collapsed.

He's definitely doing it on purpose!

Normal people would first wear their pants before wearing their shirt, but Zu An intentionally wore his shirt first... not to mention that he was changing incredibly slowly, and he would even swing left and right from time to time!

That beast!

Xie Xiu thought about how Zu An intentionally told them not to peep on him, and he immediately knew that it was a trap the latter had prepared for them.

Meanwhile, the women by the side noticed that the returning guys had pale, listless looks on their faces, and they couldn't help but be curious as to what they had seen.

The thoughtless Wu Qing turned to Pan Long and Fu Feng and asked, "What's wrong? You look as if you've seen a ghost!"

"It was even more terrifying than a ghost!" replied Pan Long and Fu Feng with bitter looks on their faces.

"What did you see? Stop keeping me in suspense!" replied Wu Qing impatiently.

Pan Long and Fu Feng were usually very heeding of Wu Qing's commands, but they adamantly shook their heads and refused to answer this time around.

You must be kidding me! How could I say something like that out loud?! We also have our pride, alright!

The other women also asked the same question, but surprisingly, all of the male students seemed to be on the same front this time around. There was not a single person who divulged Zu An's secret at all.

Pei Mianman noticed that Xie Xiu had walked over calmly earlier, only to return with a crestfallen look on his face. She couldn't help but ask, "Xiu'er, what's wrong? You look horrible."

Being in King Qi's faction as well, she was in close contact with the Xie clan and was good friends with Xie Daoyun. Due to that, she wasn't as restrained before Xie Xiu.

Xie Xiu put on a strained smile and replied, "It's nothing much. I'm just amazed at what a huuuugeeee world we live in."

It was a rather cryptic response from him, but he wasn't in a mood to be chatting at the moment. He walked under another tree, sat down, and stared into blank space.

Pei Mianman turned to Chu Chuyan and asked, "What's wrong with those men?"

"How am I to know? You should ask Ah Zu later on," replied Chu Chuyan with a reddened face.

"I guess so." Pei Mianman nodded with a smile.

Meanwhile, all of those men looked at the two whispering women as realization finally struck them. Many things that they had been unable to make sense of thus far suddenly clicked together.

It's no wonder why the high and lofty Chu Chuyan would choose a useless wastrel as her husband. Everyone thought that he had nothing to boast of, but it turned out that there was one part of him that no one could see that was exceptional boastful.

It's no wonder why he was able to win the fancy of so many beautiful women! It turned out that his secret weapon was that! What kind of woman wouldn't like that kind of man?

...

Many thoughts ran through the minds of the male students. They thought about how those beautiful woman they idolized had been slowly conquered by that man's 'strength', and it immediately filled them with complicated emotions such as envy, self-consciousness, and admiration. But in the end, all of this morphed into rage.

Hong Xingying had always looked down on Zu An, thinking that the latter wouldn't be able to compete with him at all. Even when Zu An made a name for himself in the Clans Tournament, he didn't think much of it, holding firm to his belief that he would eventually surpass him.

However, what he had just witnessed was a huge blow to his confidence. It was something that he would never be able to match up to in his entire lifetime. To compete against such a man made him feel utterly inferior, and he felt that he would never be able to raise his head before Zu An ever again.

You have successfully trolled Hong Xingying for +999 Rage!

He wasn't the only one who harbored such thoughts.

You have successfully trolled Pan Long for +999 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Fu Feng for +999 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Xie Xiu for +999 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Wei Hongde for +999 Rage!

...

Zu An was delighted to see the huge inflow of Rage points. I warned all of you, didn't I? You were asking for it, so who can you blame now?

After wearing his clothes properly, Zu An turned around and walked back to the crowd, only to see a bunch of utterly crestfallen male students. Thank you for your generous contribution of Rage points, heh.

All of a sudden, he noticed a particularly familiar name in the Keyboard's notifications.

Wei Hongde? Isn't that the guy whom Old Mi told me to get close to?

Zu An made his way over to Wei Hongde's side. Compared to the scrawny and sly-looking Wei Suo, Wei Hongde had a far more honest and upright look. It really made one wonder if they had really come from the same womb.

"Brother Wei!" Zu An warmly wrapped his arm around Wei Hongde's shoulder and greeted him. "I've long heard of your name. It's a pleasure to meet you!"

Wei Hongde didn't expect Zu An to suddenly walk over and hug him. He stiffened up in awkwardness as he asked, "Do we know each other?"

Long heard of my name? In terms of fame, there's no one in the academy who can compete with you. It has only been days since you arrived, but there's probably no one who hasn't heard of you yet.

Wei Hongde's eyes wouldn't stop flickering toward Zu An's crotch as the image of what he saw earlier floated into his mind, causing his face to turn pale.

"Wei Suo and I are seated side by side. He's a good brother of mine, and I happened to hear him mention once that he has an older brother who attends the academy too. I've been wanting to pay you a visit for some time now, but I haven't got an opportunity to do so till now," explained Zu An.

"Ah, so it's Wei Suo." Wei Hongde finally revealed a smile, exposing his bucktooth conspicuously. His doubts regarding whether Wei Suo and Wei Hongde were really brothers or not were finally dispelled.

The two of them continued chatting for a while longer, but Zu An wasn't able to gather any useful intelligence. No matter how he looked at it, there was nothing special about Wei Hongde at all. Other than the fact that he had managed to get into the Sky class, there was nothing particularly outstanding about him.

He couldn't understand why Old Mi wanted him to get close to Wei Hongde.

“Ah Zu, come here for a moment!” a seductive voice sounded.

Zu An turned his gaze over, only to see Pei Mianman looking in his way with her eyes curled into sweet crescent moons as she gently beckoned him over with her hands.

“Alright.”

Zu An made his way over without hesitation. Needless to say, he would rather hang out with these gorgeous ladies than those stinky men.

Upon seeing this sight, the male students felt yet another gush of envy. They wanted to speak words of protest, but the memories of the shocking beast they had just witnessed rushed into their heads, and they immediately deflated in disappointment.

You have successfully trolled Hong Xingying for +666 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Pan Long for +666 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Fu Feng for +666 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Xie Xiu for +666 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Wei Hongde for +666 Rage!

...

“Just what in the world happened back there? Why do all of them have such weird looks on their faces?” asked Pei Mianman curiously.

Chu Chuyan looked disinterested by the side, but her pricked up ears told a different story.

“They might have been unintentionally traumatized,” replied Zu An in embarrassment. “I told them not to peek, but they insisted on doing so.”

“...” The other male students.

You bastard! You knew that we would want to look by saying those words! It was obviously a bait! Damn it, just why do I have to go through this torture? I need to get some water to wash that image out of my eyes later on!

You have successfully trolled Hong Xingying for +233 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Pan Long for +233 Rage!

You have successfully trolled Fu Feng for +233 Rage!

...

“What trauma?” Confused as to what Zu An was referring to, Pei Mianman shot a sweeping glance at the male students.

Usually, these male students would love more than anything to be met with Pei Mianman’s seductive eyes, but at this very moment, everyone was feeling far too self-conscious to enjoy her gaze. Their eyes averted elsewhere, fearing that she would call them out.

"It's nothing much, just some secrets amongst us guys," replied Zu An with a mysterious smile. No matter how thick-skinned he was, it was simply too embarrassing for him to boast about his own assets.

Afraid that she would continue interrogating him, he quickly took his leave and rushed over to Ji Xiaoxi's side.

Pei Mianman stomped her feet in frustration as she pinched Chu Chuyan a little. "Hey, is that your husband or other people's husband? Why does he keep running over to other women's side?"

"If you feel so indignant about it, why don't you go and snatch him back?" Chu Chuyan turned around and walked away.

In truth, she had roughly guessed what was going on from the cryptic remarks made by those male students. It wasn't too hard for her to figure it out since she had a firsthand experience of it.

Just thinking about what had happened back at the underground palace made her face steaming hot. She wouldn't be able to take it if Pei Mianman continued harping on the topic.

Pei Mianman looked at Chu Chuyan with a confused frown. Why is everyone acting weird today?

It was then that Lu De stepped out and gathered everyone's attention with a light cough. "Alright. Since they're all fine, let's all get back to what we were doing. It's a rare opportunity for us to be able to explore a dungeon, and we still have three days left at the moment. Let's not waste our precious time, alright?"

The male students agreed vehemently with Lu De's words and scattered in all directions like fleeing rabbits. It was simply too pressurizing for them to stay together with Zu An.

Lu De and Bai Susu glanced at one another before quickly gathering their team of students to depart from the area.

Zu An remained in the area to take care of Qiao Xueying. Ji Xiaoxi had also sprained her ankle and was unable to move properly, so she stayed in the vicinity too.

Zheng Dan had many things that she wanted to ask Zu An about, but with so many other women in the area, she wasn't in a convenient position to make her move. So, she directed him with a smiling gaze before leaving the area.

Chu Chuyan had long wandered off from being unable to take the embarrassment.

Pei Mianman hesitated for a moment, but harboring the same reservations as Zheng Dan did, she turned around and left for the ruins of the underground palace. She was hoping to see if she could find anything good from there.

"Was Zheng Dan shooting you a flirtatious gaze earlier?" Qiao Xueying pinched Zu An unhappily.

Zu An was astonished. "When did you wake up?"

"Why? Are you afraid that I saw something I shouldn't have?" Qiao Xueying harrumphed.

“Of course not. You must have been seeing things earlier. How could I possibly be in any relationship with Zheng Dan?” replied Zu An with an earnest look on his face. How could I possibly admit to that before the ladies?

Qiao Xueying hesitated for a moment before advising, “Be careful. That woman is getting close to you for that 7,500,000 silver taels debt note you have.”

She had come into contact with Zheng Dan before as Shi Kun’s subordinates, so she could easily guess what the latter was up to.

“Oh? I didn’t think that you would be so concerned about me,” replied Zu An with a hearty laugh. “Don’t worry, I won’t fall for her tricks that easily. Heh, I’ll make sure that she makes the greatest loss she has ever made in her life!”