

## Immortal 281

### Chapter 281 - A Visit from a Beauty

"Oh? What kind of business proposal?" The woman behind the screen sounded curious.

Chen Xuan laughed loudly, but didn't answer her question immediately. "Both sides should express their sincerity before business is discussed," he said instead. "I've done my part by coming here personally, yet this gang boss still shuns me and refuses to show herself. Don't you feel that this lacks sincerity?"

A delicate laugh came from behind the screen. "This is a custom that I have already gotten used to after so many years. I hope Stockade Master Chen does not take offense."

A beautiful and enchanting figure slowly emerged from behind the screen as soon as she finished speaking.

Chen Xuan's eyes immediately lit up. The girl in front of him was dressed in a fiery red outfit. She wore a cropped top that exposed her tight, well-sculpted abs. Her skin was fair and smooth, supple and soft, yet he could tell from a single look that her waist was extremely flexible. He fantasized about her sitting on him while gyrating her hips. Her movements would definitely be graceful and full of explosive strength.

Not only did her top fail to cover her stomach completely, it was tight enough to reveal an ample amount of cleavage. A deep valley sat between her tall peaks, drawing attention and yet revealing none of its secrets.

Of course, the more was teased, the more it caused the heart to quicken.

The only regret was that most of her face was concealed under a red veil. He couldn't make out her facial features clearly.

But, with those large and beautiful eyes, it was clear that the rest of her face below definitely wouldn't disappoint.

Of course, with an exceptional figure like that, whether her face was beautiful or not didn't detract from her attractiveness.

At the same time, however, he found her appearance a little strange. Those involved in underground smuggling were usually outside every day, eating and sleeping outdoors. Her skin should have been more tanned. Why did it look like she took milk baths everyday? This gang boss looked more like a girl from a wealthy family.

However, this gang boss had always been mysterious, and never appeared in front of others. That could explain her fair complexion.

This red-clothed young lady didn't seem to mind his hungry gaze. A charming smile appeared at the corners of her lips. "Is this enough to express my sincerity?"

"But of course!" Chen Xuan exclaimed immediately. There'll be even more sincerity if you stripped a bit more.

“Then, I wonder just what kind of business Stockade Master Chen wishes to discuss with me?” The woman’s voice carried a flirtatious tone. Together with her sexy outfit and toned body, they were more than enough to make any man turn into an animal.

This chick could even hold her own against that Immortal Abode’s Qiu Honglei! Chen Xuan swallowed. He felt an unbearable urge to rush up and give that amazing body a squeeze.

However, the Whale Gang’s reputation was fearsome, and it gave him some pause. He didn’t dare act recklessly before he learned more about this group.

“I came here today to discuss an investment.” Chen Xuan’s eyes roamed back and forth between her chest and bottom. I want to invest in both of these assets.

“I do not know what Stockade Master Chen is referring to.” The woman sounded a little confused.

“I’m clearly talking about the illicit salt trade! Could it be that the Whale Gang is involved in other businesses?” Chen Xuan leisurely leaned back into his chair, wantonly admiring the beauty before him.

Discussing business with such a pretty woman really was a joyful thing.

The woman’s brow furrowed, and her voice cooled slightly. “The Blackwind Stockade has always been an independent operator. What is the Stockade Leader trying to say?”

The illicit salt trade generated tremendous profits, and she obviously didn’t want to split the profits with another.

“There’s no need for you to worry. I didn’t come here to fight for a share of your respected gang’s business. Rather, I propose that we cooperate,” Chen Xuan explained.

The woman was puzzled. “How do you want to cooperate?”

Chen Xuan said, “From a certain perspective, your Whale Gang’s business is even more dangerous than our Blackwind Stockade’s activities. Both the royal court and Brightmoon Duke would be much happier without your business, which is a constant thorn in their side. The stuff you sell isn’t even inferior to the official salt at all—perhaps it is even slightly better. The only thing separating your goods from the official ones are the salt permits.”

“Could it be that you can fetch some salt permits?” The woman suddenly grew interested.

Chen Xuan smiled. “Why else would I dare come to this island to disturb you?”

“These salt permits are controlled extremely strictly by the royal court, and only a fixed amount are issued every year. How could you possibly...” Something struck her mid-sentence. “I heard that Wang clan’s young master was kidnapped. I reckon that this is the stockade master’s work?”

Chen Xuan was slightly surprised. “I didn’t expect the gang boss to have such a great information information network on this island.”

The woman smiled faintly. “Of course we do. In our line of work, a good information network is crucial. If not, our gang would have already perished several times over.”

Chen Xuan felt that her words carried a lot of sense. "You are correct," he confirmed. "I have a way of obtaining a batch of official salt permits through the Wang clan, which is why I want to invest these salt permits in the illicit salt business."

The woman thought for a moment, then nodded. "I must admit that this deal interests me. I wonder how Stockade Master Chen wishes to split the profits?"

Chen Xuan laughed and said, "Since both of us have expressed such sincerity, then it obviously must be fifty-fifty! That way, neither side loses out."

The woman laughed coldly at his proposal. "Neither side loses out? The stockade leader is merely providing us with some salt permits and does not need to do anything else. Moreover, your salt permits cost nothing to you. Isn't it a bit too much to ask for fifty percent?"

Chen Xuan put away his smile. "This is where the gang boss' words are incorrect. The salt trade is full of profit to be made. The biggest difference between illicit and official salt are the salt permits. We are now offering you all a means to sell your product legally. How can fifty percent be too much?"

"That is not how the numbers are tallied up," said the woman, her voice growing darker. "The illicit salt we sell and the sales of official salt go down entirely different paths. If we give you half our profits just like that, we might even end up with less than if we had just sold all the salt illegally. Why would we bother going through all this effort, then?"

Chen Xuan shook his head. "Gang boss, please do not try to bully me just because you think I do not understand this trade. Illicit salt sells for twenty to thirty qian a jin, while official salt normally sells for a hundred qian, and up to even a hundred and fifty qian. That is six to seven times the profits! How can you say that you might be losing money through this deal?"

"Stockade master only knows part of the information. Even though the price of government salt is high, the ordinary people cannot afford it, and all of them turn to our illicit salt," explained the woman. "That is why the six- to seven-times profit is only theoretical. In reality, it doesn't reach this price at all, and actually sells for far below this price."

"Then how much does the gang boss feel is suitable?" Chen Xuan knew about the reality of the situation as well. He was only deliberately pressuring the other party earlier.

The woman remained silent for a while. Then, a number escaped her red lips. "Ten percent of next year's profits, at most."

"Ten percent?" Chen Xuan was furious. He suddenly stood up from his chair. "Are you trying to bait a beggar or something? I came in good faith! Isn't the gang boss crossing the line?"

A wave of pressure surged outwards. The Whale Gang members outside tried to rush in, but they were halted by a command from the woman.

After ordering her subordinates to stand down, she turned around and said in a steady voice, "Please do not be quick to anger, Stockade Master Chen. Listen to me explain more in detail. Our illicit salt will sell even without salt permits—compared to selling salt officially, these two modes are entirely different. Of course, having salt permits can add an extra layer of protection, decreasing our business risk. It is just a

pity that Stockade master's salt permits are only a one time deal. You have no way of providing a steady source of them.

"In addition, the stockade leader should not think that our position is comfortable. In reality, a portion of our income is used to bribe various parties. How else could we have survived for so many years? Most of the profits go into the hands of those people, and we only have a small share to ourselves. That is why offering the stockade master a tenth of the profits is already a strain."

A secretive smile appeared on Chen Xuan's face. "I've heard that the Whale Gang has some connections within the government. I wonder—which great figure is sharing the limelight with you?"

This woman's expression grew dark. "The stockade master is going too far with this question."

Chen Xuan knew that she would remain silent on the matter. He laughed loudly and said, "Twenty percent, then. I can't go any lower."

The woman shook her head. "Fifteen percent at most!"

Chen Xuan was silent for a moment. "Fine, we've reached a deal!"

Heh, this one is going to take you into a room sooner or later. At that time, you'll be mine, your money will be mine, and everything you have will be mine. It's not a big deal to settle for a little less now.

"I hope for a successful partnership." The woman wore a faint smile. She raised her teacup in a toast.

Chen Xuan was experienced in these things as well. He had no fear that she was about to poison him. Raising his cup, he took a sip and said, "I still haven't heard the gang boss' name after chatting for so long."

The woman replied, "My surname is Guan."

"Guan..." Chen Xuan was a bit annoyed. This woman didn't even want to give him her name. It didn't matter. He'd find out one day, anyway.

...

While this business deal was being carried out on the island, Zu An was busy searching for Chen Xuan's hiding place, using the documents Jiang Luofu had given him.

She had constantly racked her brains over how she was going to take over the Plum Blossom Sect's property ever since Zu An had given her the promissory note for seven-and-a-half million taels of silver. With the academy's connections, it wasn't too difficult to find all of Plum Blossom Sect's assets, whether legal or underground.

When Zu An came calling, Jiang Luofu had no hesitation in handing him the information she had compiled. She was going to have him take over the property anyway, so giving him this information ahead of time wasn't that big of a deal.

When he saw the information on all the properties packed together, Zu An was inwardly speechless. A casino actually made that much money!

He didn't dare dally. He brought Jiao Shan and the other Chu clan guards with him. Unfortunately, their search was fruitless, even after searching for most of the evening.

Did I guess wrongly? Zu An felt dejected. He returned to the Chu Estate empty-handed.

He still had to provide Chu Chuyan with her treatment, after all.

When he returned to the Chu clan and reported what had happened, Master, Madam, and Chu Chuyan all frowned. This situation was clearly what they were the most worried about.

If they couldn't save Wang Yuanlong, then the relationship between the Wang and Chu clans would be done for. That would truly complicate matters.

Just then, Cheng Shouping came bounding over. "Young master, young master! Someone is looking for you outside!" he said excitedly.

"Who is it?" Zu An was slightly curious. Who was looking for him so late at night, and could even make this fellow so excited?

Cheng Shouping opened his mouth. He suddenly noticed Chu Zhongtian and the others standing there with him, and immediately swallowed what he was going to say. "This humble one doesn't dare say."

"What is there that you don't dare say? When did you learn to hem and haw like this?" Qin Wanru said impatiently. She had a bad impression of this fellow. Back then, he had offered to find the best concubines for her husband, which had angered her quite a bit.

Cheng Shouping was well aware that his injuries from the whipping that Second Miss Chu had given him were yet to heal. However, with Master and Madam staring at him, he didn't dare to remain quiet. "It's Lady Qiu," he said.

"Which Lady Qiu?" Chu Zhongtian was stunned, his brain not quite working up to speed.

Cheng Shouping said proudly, "What other Lady Qiu is there in Brightmoon City? It's obviously the Immortal Abode's Qiu Honglei!"

Endless men found it difficult even to be granted a meeting with her, and yet, she had come all this way in the middle of the night just to seek out the young master! He immediately felt a measure of second-hand pride.

## **Chapter 282: Entering through the Door**

"Qiu Honglei?"

Qin Wanru's expression instantly turned frightful. She had never seen any girl act in such a forward manner towards someone else's son-in-law before!

Chu Chuyan seemed none too pleased as well. After all, which wife would be happy to hear that a prostitute had come looking for their husband late at night?

"Who is Qiu Honglei here for?" Chu Zhongtian was still confused.

“The young master!” Cheng Shouping blinked his eyes. He recalled that Master had also complimented Qiu Honglei on her appearance a few years ago. Is Master jealous?

But Master really is better than young master in almost every way! The only thing in which he lags behind young master is in the art of picking up girls.

Chu Zhongtian hadn’t had a concubine all these years, and Cheng Shouping himself had been sent to work in the kitchens over this matter.

Now check out young master! There are already all sorts of legends about him, not long after he entered the estate!

Master, oh Master, you really need to learn this skill from him!

Zu An felt embarrassed being under so many strange gazes. “Maybe she has something proper to discuss with me... I’ll be right back.”

“Proper? What kind of ‘proper matter’ would make a brothel courtesan run all the way here in the middle of the night?” Qin Wanru scoffed. “You know what, this is a great opportunity. I’m going to see for myself just what is going on!”

Chu Zhongtian nodded. “I should take a look as well.”

Qin Wanru shot her husband a look. Was this guy interested in knowing what was going on, or merely interested in Qiu Honglei herself?

However, she didn’t think it appropriate to act out, especially under so many pairs of eyes.

She settled for shooting Zu An a hateful look. This entire mess was because of this brat!

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 333 Rage points!

Zu An was numb to the incoming Rage points. He decided just to let Qin Wanru throw her tantrum. It’s not like she’ll actually do anything.

They hurried over to the entrance as a group. Chu Chuyan kept her silence throughout, but her mere action of following them said all that needed to be said.

When they arrived at the entrance, they discovered that quite a few people had gathered around. All of them were from the Chu clan estate, and they were there to check out what was going on.

After all, Qiu Honglei’s reputation was known throughout Brightmoon City, from those in their eighties all the way to little kids. As long as they were male, they knew of her.

Despite the strict discipline enforced by the Chu clan, none of them could resist their curiosity. They had rushed over to catch a glimpse of this world-renowned beauty.

After all, with their status and income, they really didn’t have any chance of seeing the Immortal Abode’s courtesan queen in her usual establishment.

“What an amazing figure and appearance~”

"If I could land myself a wife like this... no, if I had to die in order to have her for a day, it would surely be worth it!"

"She really is too gorgeous! I don't think she looks too shabby compared to the first miss!"

"Are you tired of living? You actually dare to use the first miss as a comparison?! ... but I guess the first miss is a bit cold. Lady Qiu's smile does tug a bit more at the heartstrings..."

"I heard she was looking for the young master. How could this be possible?"

"Bro, you're so behind on the news. The young master has some mad skills in this field."

Of course, not everyone was this excited. Chu Hongcai didn't believe his ears when he heard of Qiu Honglei's arrival. His shoes weren't even worn on the right feet before he ran out the door. Sure enough, he was greeted by the figure he yearned for day and night.

Every smile and frown from this girl drove him crazy. But such a perfect woman had instead come looking for a different man in the middle of the night.

Chu Hongcai's heart was like a vase that had fallen onto solid ground—instantly smashed to countless pieces.

Forget it, it's just like what Yucheng said. It's better for her to be with Zu An than some other man. Fertile land should not be given to other men to farm.

Even so, why do I feel like crying?

...

Qiu Honglei seemed indifferent to the whispers of the crowd. She smiled as she stood there, calmly waiting for that person to appear.

The gates soon opened. The guards stowed away their smiles at once when they saw Chu Zhongtian. All of them raised their heads and puffed out their chests, refraining from any further nonsense.

Qin Wanru, who had originally been fuming with rage, seemed to lose her fury the instant she laid eyes on the girl waiting there.

How could there be such a beautiful girl in this world?

Her oldest daughter was also extremely pretty, but hers was an otherworldly beauty that grew out of her reserved and aloof demeanor.

This woman before her was the perfect embodiment of worldly beauty. Her entire figure exuded feminine charm. Forget about the men—even women who saw her might let their imagination run uncontrollably wild.

She caught herself a second later. Why am I praising a girl who is trying to steal my daughter's man?

Pah! She's just another seductive vixen!

She was just about to say something when she noticed her husband's eyes had gone wide. Boiling with rage inside, she quickly walked over to him and secretly pinched him.

Chu Zhongtian's face went red, and he coughed to hide his embarrassment.

"I pay my respects to Brightmoon Duke, Madam Chu, and First Miss Chu." Qiu Honglei was slightly surprised by their arrival. However, she kept her nerves in check. She greeted each of them with a smile, her every action full of proper bearing, lacking a single flaw.

Chu Zhongtian looked guiltily at his wife, but he was the clan master. It was only natural that he would be the one to respond. He cleared his throat and said, "Why has Lady Qiu decided to visit so late in the evening?"

"Honglei came to tell Ah Zu some things. I didn't expect to disturb the Master and Madam. I truly must apologize." Qiu Honglei bowed deeply. The hearts of all of the surrounding men were about to melt. How could anyone bring out a shred of rebuke against this girl?

"What do you need Ah Zu for?" Qin Wanru said with displeasure. She knew that her daughter's personality was more reserved, and she might not be able to bring herself to say anything. As a mother, it was her duty to step in to help at such a time.

Hm? I would've been more than happy to see someone take that annoying brat Zu An away before. Why am I now worried about him being taken by someone else?

Qin Wanru pondered the question in her mind. We'd have to find someone else to take his place so that we can refuse the offers of marriage from the different powers. Besides, it'll severely tarnish my daughter's reputation. That seemed like an acceptable excuse.

Hmph, even if it's a piece of trash, it's our clan's trash. How can we let another girl take it away just like that?

Qiu Honglei gave her surroundings a subconscious look, a hesitant expression appearing on her face. "I wish to talk to Ah Zu about these things in private. Speaking about them here might not be too... appropriate."

"Oh~" Knowing expressions appeared on the faces of the men gathered there. Did they even have to guess what a man and woman did in private in the middle of the night?

Chu Hongcai had finally picked up the broken pieces of his heart with great difficulty, only for it to be ruthlessly crushed once more by the suppressed laughter all around him.

His mind told him that he would be hurt less if he left earlier, but his heart just couldn't let go of his emotions. He convinced himself that staring at this beautiful woman for a while longer would still be a good thing.

Qin Wanru forcefully restrained her rage. "Our Chu clan has always believed in conducting our affairs openly and straightforwardly. How could we be involved in something that cannot be spoken out in the open? Just what kind of matter is it?!"

Qiu Honglei blinked a couple of times. "But I am not someone from the Chu clan," she said innocently.

Those large, fluttering eyes drew everyone's pity.

Qin Wanru's breathing stopped. This damn vixen... if I was a man, I really wouldn't be able to rebut her.



Just as she was about to flare up, Qiu Honglei continued, “What I wish to talk about doesn’t need to be hidden from the young miss, though. Could we find a quiet place to talk?”

Even though she was responding to Qin Wanru’s question, most of her attention was on Chu Chuyan.

She had previously been discontented that Chu Chuyan was the publicly acknowledged number-one beauty. She merely attributed it to her status as the duke’s precious daughter.

But now that they’d met, she couldn’t pick out a single flaw in her, no matter how high she set her standards.

She was cool and elegant. What made Qiu Honglei even more envious was the distant air that she naturally exuded, as if she had somehow transcended the cares of the world. This was something that she had always lacked.

She sighed deeply inside. It was inevitable that some inelegance would have rubbed off on her, having stayed in a place like the Immortal Abode—a place constantly filled with men—for so long.

While Qiu Honglei was sizing her up, Chu Chuyan was doing the same to her.

When she first heard that Zu An had a close relationship with the Immortal Abode’s courtesan queen, she hadn’t cared much at all, despite the displeasure that she showed on the outside.

Among the peers in her age group, she had absolute confidence in herself, whether it was in her appearance or her poise.

No matter how much praise the people of Brightmoon City heaped upon Qiu Honglei, she had dismissed it all with a laugh.

However, now that she had personally seen this exceptionally beautiful woman before her, she suddenly felt a twinge of regret. Had she made a mistake in letting Zu An get close to this woman?

Zu An, who was watching from the side in amusement, suddenly felt a chill run down his spine. He scanned his surroundings immediately.

What the heck? This place isn’t even windy!

Qin Wanru looked around. There were indeed too many people gathered here. Even though the Chu clan’s guards were usually loyal, it was still possible for spies to have infiltrated this crowd.

“In that case, let’s head inside!” She said coldly, then turned on her heel and left. She pulled her husband—who was still staring blankly—after her.

“Thank you Madam~” Qiu Honglei said with a smile. She gestured for her servants to wait outside, and then lifted her dress and followed them inside.

What are you thanking me for? Qin Wanru was puzzled. The next moment, her expression froze, as something hit her.

Looking at it a certain way, hadn’t she just let her in through the door?[1]

This fox demon really was terribly cunning!

She gave the girl another look, but her expression hadn't changed a bit. Qin Wanru couldn't help but wonder if she was overthinking things.

When their group entered the study, Qin Wanru chased everyone else out. Only then did she look at the courtesan. "Now can you talk?" she demanded.

Qiu Honglei smiled. She looked at Zu An, who was next to her. "Ah Zu, I heard that you were rushing about everywhere today. Were you looking for the young master from the Wang clan?"

Zu An nodded. "How did you know? That was indeed what I was doing, but I couldn't find a single trace of him."

Qin Wanru frowned, somewhat unhappy that they were leaking such important intelligence to an outsider. If word of this got out to Wang Fu, wouldn't he immediately appear and start another disturbance?

However, it was already too late to stop him now. At worst, they could just detain Qiu Honglei here, to prevent the secret from getting out?

Hmph, the men in this household might be too happy if I did that.

Qiu Honglei said, "I actually have some news regarding young master Wang on my end. I wanted to let you know since this might be important for you."

...

Meanwhile, in the Whale Gang's secret hideout, the young female gang boss was asking a similar question. "I really wonder where the stockade master is keeping Wang Yuanlong."

Chen Xuan's expression became cold. "What is the gang boss' intention behind asking this question?"

The young lady said with a smile, "There is no need for the stockade master to feel so nervous. The entire city is definitely searching for Wang Yuanlong right now. If he is found while the stockade master isn't in the city to oversee things, wouldn't our deal be ruined?"

"There is no need for worry. We surely wouldn't be discovered," Chen Xuan said proudly.

"That's good, then." That young lady suddenly changed the topic. "By the way, I heard that the stockade master wishes to kill someone named Zu An?"

### **Chapter 283: Buying Freedom**

"Correct!" Chen Xuan's face distorted the instant he heard Zu An's name. There was no way he could live under the same sky with the one who killed his brother.

Not only did he not recognize his sworn enemy the last time they crossed paths in the Immortal Abode, that kid had even made him look like a fool. Just the mention of the brat was enough to drive him absolutely furious.

You have successfully trolled Chen Xuan for 404 Rage points!

Chen Xuan gave the woman a suspicious look. "Why would the gang boss suddenly mention this person?"

The woman smiled faintly. "Just curiosity, mainly. I haven't ever heard Stockade Master Chen openly declare that he wanted to kill someone before. Yet this person is still alive, even though a few days have already passed. Does this Zu An have some kind of outstanding ability?"

Chen Xuan scoffed angrily, "He isn't too outstanding himself, but he has quite the wife and father-in-law. The Chu clan's son-in-law isn't that easy to kill."

The last time that little bastard had paraded around town, he could only tail him from the shadows. He'd been certain that there was some kind of ambush waiting. However, he hadn't noticed anything, which made him even more wary of making a move.

The reason the Blackwind Stockade had lasted this long wasn't because of his high cultivation, but rather because of his prudence.

Fortunately, even though he hadn't yet been able to kill Zu An, he was still able to kidnap Wang Yuanlong along the way.

"I have heard some things about the Chu clan's new son-in-law as well. He is not only under the Chu clan's protection, he also has a position in Brightmoon Academy. If I may ask, how does the stockade master plan on killing him?" the woman continued to probe curiously.

"Won't the gang boss find out after I kill him?" Cheng Xuan obviously didn't want his plan exposed. Her questioning made him put up his guard.

The woman smiled when she saw the change in his expression. "Please don't be nervous, stockade master. I was merely concerned because this isn't Blackwind Stockade's domain. Does the stockade master need our Whale Gang's assistance?"

Chen Xuan shook his head. "There is no need. I don't need anyone else's help if I want someone dead," he said coldly.

"Then I wish the stockade master success." A hint of a smile appeared in this woman's eyes. The way she looked would have melted the hearts of any man.

Chen Xuan stared hungrily at her. He had a sudden impulse to run over and rip off the veil covering her face, but his rational self-restraint prevailed in the end. He got up and bid her farewell. "Since we've reached an agreement, I shall take my leave."

He'd been gone a long time. He was slightly worried that something strange would unexpectedly happen in the city. It was probably better to leave sooner rather than later.

As for this woman, she'd be his one day, anyway.

"Take care on your way home. I won't see you out. We will surely meet again." The woman bowed.

Chen Xuan laughed loudly. "The gang boss is so beautiful. Of course I hope to meet with you again." With that, he turned and left.

When his figure had completely disappeared, the red clothed woman removed the veil on her face. She sneered. "Just another perverted toad!"

Zu An would surely have been shocked if he'd been there. This was someone he knew! What would have shocked him even more was that her outfit and bearing were entirely different from what he was used to.

...

Back in the Chu Estate, Qiu Honglei's words had stunned the entire room. "What? Lady Qiu knows where Wang Yuanlong is?" Chu Zhongtian cried out.

Qiu Honglei smiled bashfully. "I do not know for certain, but I received a report that someone who looks similar to young master Wang was led into a certain district by some people."

Qin Wanru was anxious. "Why didn't you tell us earlier if you knew where he was?"

"There were too many people around earlier, so I wasn't sure if the news would get out if I spoke about it outside. Also, I am worried about Chen Xuan taking revenge on me after this matter..." Qiu Honglei seemed genuinely frightened.

Chu Zhongtian gave his wife a look, then said gently to Qiu Honglei, "Lady Qiu does not need to worry. We will definitely send our people to protect you and ensure your safety. However, could you please tell us where he is so that we can send out a rescue party?"

Qin Wanru's temper flared immediately when she saw her husband give her a look because of another woman. But Wang Yuanlong's rescue was definitely urgent, so she forced herself to hold back her rage and wait for Qiu Honglei's reply.

No one expected that Qiu Honglei would shake her head, her lips still tightly sealed.

"What is the meaning of this, Lady Qiu?" Chu Zhongtian said in confusion.

Qiu Honglei hesitated, then said, "I only want to tell Ah Zu."

All eyes shifted to Zu An, leaving him momentarily stunned. "What difference does this make? Telling me and telling them is the same thing, right? I'll tell them later anyway."

Qiu Honglei shook her head. "It's different." Her usual charming appearance had been replaced by a surprising resoluteness.

Zu An was dumbfounded. He really couldn't think of the difference.

Instead, it was Chu Chuyan who picked up on something. "Just why does Lady Qiu treat Ah Zu so differently?"

Qiu Honglei snuck Zu An a look, and then she said shyly, "It's because I like him."

Chu Zhongtian was in the middle of drinking some water. Hearing Qiu Honglei's declaration, he almost sprayed it all out.

Qin Wanru was shocked. Her first reaction was that she heard wrong.

Chu Chuyan's eyes also went completely round. She clearly didn't expect to hear such an answer.

Zu An felt like he was being tossed about in a storm. Just what was this woman trying to do?

After her initial shock, Qin Wanru's face immediately became cold. "Lady Qiu, do you know what you are saying right now?"

Qiu Honglei nodded. "I do. My heart was stolen by his talents, resourcefulness, and character from our first meeting. I immediately fell in love with him."

Chu Zhongtian rubbed his ears. The perfect lover Qiu Honglei spoke of was Zu An?

Even though he never treated this son-in-law too poorly, he had to be honest with himself. Even though he wasn't the trash everyone called him, he was hardly the perfect lover!

Qin Wanru's brows knitted together as she looked at Qiu Honglei. This woman looked pretty and quick-witted out the outside, but there was clearly something wrong with her eyes!

The one who was least surprised was Chu Chuyan. After all, she knew more about Zu An's affairs than the other two.

But why did this woman go this far? Was she able to tell that he was exceptional too?

Chu Chuyan felt a subconscious discomfort when she realized that this secret—that she thought belonged to her alone—was now known by someone else.

Qiu Honglei continued into the silence. "Despite that, I also understand my own status well, and I know I have no right to compete against the first miss at all. What I seek is only to peacefully remain at Ah Zu's side. I would gladly serve as a concubine, or even his servant girl. I will be more than delighted to serve him."

The three members of the Chu clan were rendered speechless for a long time.

Qin Wanru found it hard to recover her composure. Were there really any other girls who were this proactive? Just how long has it been since he had entered their household? It was one thing for a woman to come looking for him, but an entirely different thing for that woman to express a desire to become a concubine!

She would have chased her right out if this was an ordinary girl, but Qiu Honglei's reputation in Brightmoon City was just too great! She was also ridiculously beautiful, and she couldn't bring herself to deal with this girl like how she normally would other girls.

Why would such a beauty—one that even she couldn't help but admire—fall for this kid Zu An?

Even Zu An himself was taken aback. The two had shared a pleasant time in the Immortal Abode before, but it never got to a point where they would seriously talk about marriage! Also, hadn't they just been playing games the last time, with both sides scheming against the other? Why aren't you playing your cards like a normal person?

Chu Zhongtian coughed lightly. "Lady Qiu, are you saying that you want to... be Zu An's concubine?"

He obviously wouldn't take her suggestion of becoming a servant girl seriously. How could anyone dare reduce someone of Qiu Honglei's status to a mere servant?

But he really just couldn't wrap his head around what was going on. Countless high-ranking officials and distinguished individuals had been defeated by her charm. All of them had wanted to take her as their wife, yet all of them had been refused without exception. Everyone wondered privately just what kind of man would actually meet her standards.

Many of those who stood in the higher reaches of Brightmoon City even suspected that she wanted to become the head of a household. Perhaps she might invest herself in some young and promising talent.

But in the end, she chose to become the concubine of another family's son-in-law? What the heck was this?

"Yes." Qiu Honglei raised her head. Her expression was firm, and she seemed extremely proud of what she had declared.

Qin Wanru couldn't take this anymore. "Stop joking around already! What kind of person is Lady Qiu? You can find any husband you want! Why would you come all the way here just to become Ah Zu's concubine?!"

Zu An was floored by her statement. What do you mean by that? Aren't you making me sound like some piece of trash?

Qiu Honglei smiled. "Indeed, there are many men I could choose from, but I only care about talent and character. Ah Zu was the only man who could move my heart after all these years. From the first time we met, I already knew that he was the one I was destined for."

Zu An snorted inside. Like hell I'll believe you! The first time we met, you were already clearly scheming against me!

However, the others still couldn't get over their shock. They were all locals of Brightmoon City, so they obviously knew just how great Qiu Honglei's reputation was. They couldn't figure out what was going on no matter how they racked their brains.

Qiu Honglei continued, "Back then, I also knew that Ah Zu's status was a sensitive issue. I've been slightly more frugal these years, and have saved up some money. If the Master and Madam do not mind, I wish to pay the fee to free myself, in Ah Zu's place."

Zu An almost vomited blood on the spot. Just who is paying for whose freedom?!

#### **Chapter 284: I'd Rather Be the Concubine of a Hero than the Wife of Someone Mediocre**

Qin Wanru sneered inside. This woman finally revealed her true intentions! That thing about being a servant or a slave had all been a pretense. With Qiu Honglei's status, it was completely out of the question.

This was her true objective.

She had come all the way into the Chu Estate to steal another person's man. Absolutely preposterous!

Qin Wanru squashed down her anger. She didn't act out on the spot, instead giving Zu An a big smile. "Our Chu clan has always been a reasonable clan. We have never relied on our authority to push around the common people. That is why this decision will rest with Ah Zu himself. He should decide if he is willing to have you or not."

She didn't want the Chu clan's reputation to be tarnished either. This was a mess he had made, and so he should be the one to clean it up.

"Sure, I'm willing. Why wouldn't I be?" Zu An blurted out. Why would he refuse such a beautiful courtesan queen taking the initiative to free herself to become his concubine? Just call me the King of Moochers in the future!

Wait, why does this sound like I'm criticizing myself?

Even though he didn't mind mooching off of women, his argument with Qin Wanru last time made him realize that the status of a drafted son-in-law really was too low. He was completely attached to the clan, and there were no laws to protect him.

I should get rid of this status as soon as possible.

Besides, I'm so handsome, I'd still be able to mooch off girls even if I become something other than a drafted son-in-law... Ah! Pui, pui, pui! Who is mooching off women?

I'm so handsome, so suave, girls with money and beauty are naturally drawn to me! Isn't that right?

Qin Wanru stared at him, speechless.

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 666 Rage points!

She had expected Zu An to find some excuse to reject her. In her opinion, no man would ever give up the revered and similarly beautiful Chu Chuyan for some brothel girl, even if she was a courtesan queen who had bewitched countless men.

With that, she could then move in to ease the situation.

But this guy just refused to behave like a normal person!

As a duchess, how could she be so shameless as to go back on her word?

While she struggled with this dilemma, Chu Chuyan suddenly spoke out.

"I don't agree!"

Chu Zhongtian and Qin Wanru were both surprised. Their daughter actually straight-up opposed this!

Chu Zhongtian's reaction was one thing, but Qin Wanru actually knew some things about what was going on between her daughter and Zu An. Don't tell me... my daughter really likes Zu An?

Her daughter—who many considered a goddess—and the extremely famous Qiu Honglei were both chasing after the same man! Those who didn't know the full details might well think that this man was some incredible person.

What virtue or ability did this Zu An possess?

You have successfully trolled Qin Wnaru for 233 Rage points!

Qiu Honglei gave her a surprised look. "Why is First Miss Chu opposing this? According to what I've heard, the two of you are actually not that close. Ah Zu's status in your clan is also extremely low, so continuing on like this will only torment both parties."

Zu An sighed inside. This woman is taking the words straight out of my mouth!

If I didn't know of this woman's hidden agenda, I might really be moved to tears!

"Did Zu An tell you these things?" Chu Chuyan's expression grew dangerous.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 587 Rage points!

Zu An could sense that his wife really was angry this time. She didn't even call him 'Ah Zu'.

Qiu Honglei shook her head. "How could a wonderful man like Ah Zu talk behind others' backs? These are things that he doesn't even need to say; things everyone in Brightmoon City are aware of."

Wonderful man?

Chu Zhongtian and Qin Wanru both had strange looks on their faces. Did she not know what those two words meant?

Chu Chuyan's felt her mind shudder. She had an inkling that this was the case, but she had subconsciously chosen to avoid thinking about it.

Only now, when she heard this from the mouth of another, did she realize just how wronged Ah Zu had been all this time, and just how much others looked down on him.

Chu Chuyan's guilt kept growing as she thought of these things. "Who said we don't share a good relationship?" She grabbed Zu An and latched onto his arm. "We've gone through life-or-death trials and tribulations in the Ursae Dungeon. Our affection for each other is far closer than you could imagine. Isn't that right, Ah Zu?"

Even though she had a smile on her face, she pinched his waist hard with her free hand, reminding him to watch his mouth.

Chu Zhongtian was completely stunned by how close his daughter was with Zu An. He subconsciously looked towards his wife, his eyes full of confusion. Is there something I don't know about?

He did not expect Qin Wanru to be just as surprised. This didn't match her daughter's nature at all!

Sensing the hostility around him, Zu An said with a smile, "Indeed, we husband and wife feel incredible affection for each other. I really don't want to leave my wife! Honglei, I fear that you have no choice but to become a concubine."

With his personality, how could he give up such a great chance? He reached out a hand to hold Chu Chuyan's waist as he said this. Oh man, this is what I've been missing!



Chu Chuyan's entire body went rigid when she noticed his actions. She was so tense, it was as if she would blow up at any moment.

However, she didn't say anything in the end. She pursed her lips and slowly relaxed her entire body.

Chu Zhongtian and Qin Wanru almost spurted blood when they heard Zu An ask Qiu Honglei straight up to become a concubine. This guy's shamelessness really was in a class of its own!

But they quickly noticed what was happening between Zu An and their daughter as well. They stared at the hand which had snaked around their daughter's waist. When they saw that she didn't show any signs of resistance, they couldn't help but exchange glances. Did their daughter and this man already become true husband and wife?

Chu Zhongtian was usually kind and polite to Zu An, but that was only because of his self-restraint. When he thought about how his precious daughter could have been toyed with by a swine, he was overcome with a gloominess and dejection that all fathers could sympathize with.

You have successfully trolled Chu Zhongtian for 211 Rage points!

Comparatively, Qin Wanru was slightly better off. After all, she had already heard from her daughter about how she received her life-saving treatments while naked, and she was more mentally prepared.

Qiu Honglei looked at the couple that were glued together, and a faintly discernible smile appeared at the corners of her lips. "Honglei is definitely not the type of shameless and brazen girl who wishes to break up families..."

Qin Wanru scoffed inwardly when she heard these words. Isn't that exactly who you are?

Chu Chuyan's expression also grew cold. Her mood was clearly not that great either.

Qiu Honglei said, "Since Ah Zu isn't willing to leave miss Chu and I don't want to be away from him either, then I guess I'll become miss Chu's younger sister. I wonder if First Miss Chu is willing?"

"I already have a younger sister!" Chu Chuyan wanted badly to refuse her, but she was well aware of the current predicament the Chu clan was in, and her logical mind prevailed. She coldly added, "If I say that I am not willing, will Lady Qiu choose to not tell us about young master Wang's whereabouts?"

"Big sis Chu's words really make me feel slightly ashamed. However, people like us who are tormented by fate only wish to seek that one true love in our lives, and we can't help but use whatever methods are available. I hope big sis doesn't mind."

Chu Chuyan still felt somewhat uncomfortable. This girl even called her big sis!

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 369 Rage points!

She took a deep breath, and then said with a darkened tone, "Lady Qiu's prestige is renowned. There are too many men who are willing to make you their wife outright. Wouldn't you feel it an injustice if you merely became our Zu An's concubine?"

She was still slightly baffled. No matter how outstanding Ah Zu was, he was but the lowest drafted son-in-law. Just what was she plotting?

"I won't feel unjustly treated at all!" Qiu Honglei turned around and gave Zu An a sincere look. "I would rather become the concubine of a hero than the wife of someone mediocre! If I can become Ah Zu's woman, then that would be the greatest blessing of my lifetime! How can I call this an injustice?"

The three members of the Chu clan could barely believe their ears. They stared at her, speechless.

Zu An was the only one struggling to hold back his laughter like an idiot.

Chu Chuyan's face became gloomy. She was silent for a while before saying, "I have a question I wish to ask Lady Qiu. Just how did you find out about young master Wang's whereabouts? After all, our Chu clan couldn't find him even after mobilizing all of our men."

"Is big sis suspecting that I was the one who sent out men to kidnap young master Wang? Where would Honglei get the courage to do such a thing?" Qiu Honglei smiled. "Everyone employs their own methods. Our Immortal Abode has all sorts of guests, and information flows more quickly there compared to elsewhere. I just happened to pick up this piece of information as well."

Chu Chuyan nodded, accepting her explanation. "Fine, I'll agree to let you join our household. When the time comes, the Chu clan will also send people to pay the fee to take you out of the Immortal Abode and formally bring you in. You can tell us where young master Wang is now, right?"

## **Chapter 285: Fire in the Back Garden**

Chu Zhongtian and Qin Wanru's faces turned pale with fright when they heard her words.

Qin Wanru immediately pulled her daughter to the side. "Chuyan, you cannot make such a rash decision! We will think of a different way!"

Chu Zhongtian, on the other hand, was studying Zu An with an extremely complicated expression. This son-in-law of his really was something else!

Everyone knew that there was nothing special about him, and even viewed him as a piece of trash. They had already been incredibly jealous when they heard that he had ended up marrying the Chu clan's first miss.

Yet now, even this absolutely stunning Qiu Honglei had fallen for him. She was even throwing herself at him so aggressively!

Could this be attributed to luck anymore? Had he truly been a hero in his past life or something?

Sigh, even with my status as Brightmoon Duke, I probably won't be able to land a girl like Qiu Honglei unless I use my authority. Why is there a sour taste in my mouth all of a sudden?

The hero in this situation, Zu An, was currently thinking about the soap operas of his previous world. There were many instances where the heroine would offer up their body to the villains to save a captured protagonist.

Then, is Qiu Honglei that villain, and I am the heroine?

This truly doesn't feel bad at all, though. I'll take another one, please.

Chu Chuyan tried to placate the distraught Qin Wanru. “I know what I am doing, mother.”

Many of the clan’s matters were already managed by Chu Chuyan. To a certain extent, she was already a vice clan master.

There was nothing much Qin Wanru could say after hearing that she had made her decision. However, she couldn’t shake her discomfort.

What clan in Brightmoon City—no, in the entire Great Zhou Dynasty!—has ever had a son-in-law this unbridled?!

Just how long has it been since he joined the clan? And he already has a concubine?

Speaking of, can drafted son-in-laws even have concubines?

The wife’s family is even helping him get a concubine!

Why do I feel like everyone is taking advantage of our Chu clan these days? Just who is the dukedom here?!

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 66... 66... 66...

Qiu Honglei relaxed when she heard Chu Chuyan’s agreement. Her actions indeed carried quite the risk. If the Chu clan hadn’t agreed, things would have taken a complicated turn.

She also knew to get out while she was ahead. Since the other party agreed, she wouldn’t play any other tricks. She immediately revealed Wang Yuanlong’s whereabouts to quell their anger. “From the information I received, young master Wang seems to be kept in Cleverjade Lane.”

“Cleverjade Lane!” Chu Zhongtian exclaimed. No wonder they couldn’t find him! He was actually being kept in a brothel!

All of their men were busy searching remote and hidden places, but their target was actually hiding right in the city!

“Yue Shan!” Chu Zhongtian immediately gave out orders. Now that they knew where Wang Yuanlong was, it would be much easier to carry out a rescue.

Such matters did not require Chu Zhongtian’s personal attention. With Yue Shan commanding a group of elite troops, they’d even be able to take care of Chen Xuan if he showed up.

Yue Shan quickly acknowledged his orders and left. When he had departed, Chu Zhongtian brought his focus back to Qiu Honglei.

After all, his daughter’s happiness was much more important to him than Wang Yuanlong.

Chu Zhongtian thought over how to phrase his question. “So, Lady Qiu, why did you end up... favoring Zu An? To be honest, I find it a bit hard to believe, even now.”

Qin Wanru and Chu Chuyan nodded in full agreement. They weren’t saying that Zu An was bad, but that this situation was just too strange.

“Respected Brightmoon Duke, I truly do not know either. Love moves in strange ways. These days, I’ve only had a single thought in my mind, and that was to marry him,” Qiu Honglei said with a bashful expression.

Chu Chuyan gave Zu An a fierce glare. What in the world did this guy do to scam this girl?

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 33... 33... 33...

Zu An burst out laughing when he saw the Rage points come in. His wife’s jealousy was adorable.

Chu Zhongtian was stupefied by her answer. He was silent for a long while, before he finally sighed and said, “How does lady Qiu plan to leave the Immortal Abode if Wang Yuanlong is successfully rescued? I can send some people over to pay your release fee.”

Qin Wanru kicked her husband fiercely under the table, leaving Chu Zhongtian completely dumbfounded. “Dear, what’s wrong?” he asked via ki transmission.

Qin Wanru replied, “Why are you being so proactive on this matter? Are you itching to bring her into our estate or something?”

Panicked, Chu Zhongtian tried to defend himself. “What are you saying? We’ve already promised her! The Chu clan has been as good as their word for hundreds of years. We cannot be the cause of our reputation being ruined.”

“Do you care about your daughter at all? It seems like you’re already eager to drag in a vixen to compete with her!” Qin Wanru kicked with even more force. “Are you really doing this for Ah Zu or for yourself?”

Chu Zhongtian smiled bitterly, “Wife, it’s not like you don’t know about my situation. How could I ever harbor such thoughts?”

Qin Wanru’s face flushed red. She knew that she was being unreasonably jealous here. However, that was in her nature, and she wasn’t willing to just back down. She continued to grumble, “Even if you can’t touch her, just looking at her is probably still enjoyable to you, isn’t it? This is a vixen that even makes my heart rate quicken when I look at her. I can’t imagine what she does to you men!”

Chu Zhongtian had no words left to say.

He realized that reasoning with his wife wasn’t an intelligent move. The more he said, the more mistakes he made. He decided just to shut his mouth.

Qiu Honglei gave the two of them a look. As if she guessed what they were discussing, she said with a smile, “There’s no need to trouble Brightmoon Duke. I have put aside some savings during these years, and I’ve already talked things out with mama Hua in the Immortal Abode. There is no issue with me obtaining freedom on my own.”

The three Chu clan members looked at each other in dismay. Even Qin Wanru was dumbstruck. She had seen people make stupid choices that lost them money instead of making them money, but this was on a whole different level.

Allowing their daughter to marry Zu An had already seemed like a loss to the Chu clan, but compared to Qiu Honglei’s choice, it was absolutely nothing.

However, just thinking about how her daughter had to share a man with a brothel girl slowly made her more and more annoyed. She said coldly, "Our Chu clan can still pay this bit of money. If news got out that we let Lady Qiu pay her own way to freedom, our Chu clan will become a huge laughingstock."

Qiu Honglei shook her head. "Madam Chu, I wish to make one point clear. I am not marrying into the Chu clan. I am not someone who belongs to the Chu clan, but rather to Ah Zu. That is why I truly do not dare act so shamelessly as to take Master and Madam's money."

For the umpteenth time that night, the three Chu clan members were stunned speechless.

Even Zu An couldn't help but sigh in admiration. "Honglei, you really treat me too well."

"Shut up!"

Chu Chuyan and Qin Wanru both glared daggers at him.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 250 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 250 Rage points!

Zu An wisely shut his mouth. He was already the winner out of all of this, yet he was still causing trouble. No wonder they got upset at him.

Qiu Honglei looked like she was given a scare. She gave Zu An a shy look, and then her eyes returned to the three Chu clan members, her expression as pitiful as it could be.

Chu Chuyan felt a wave of annoyance surge within her. I'm not even yelling at you! Who are you putting on this performance for?

Qin Wanru was extremely irritated as well. This girl was making them look like monsters! However, there really wasn't much she could say.

It's all that brat Zu An's fault!

They glared at Zu An a second time.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 444 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 444 Rage points!

A flash of inspiration struck Zu An when he saw these Rage points. He'd discovered another way to make a killing on Rage points.

It seems like having more close girlfriends doesn't only make others donate Rage points to me out of jealousy. I can even earn Rage points from my close girlfriends themselves!

Those guys with harems are always scared of their girls getting angry at each other, but I'm different! The more they fight, the better! The more angry they get, the more Rage points I pocket.

I'm such a bloody genius!

Chu Chuyan tamped down her rage and said coldly, “Lady Qiu does not wish to become a part of the Chu clan, but Ah Zu is part of the Chu clan. Even if we leave aside other matters for now, where does Lady Qiu plan on living?”

“Big sis’ is correct to reprimand me. This humble one has taken things for granted.” Qiu Honglei smiled. “As for where, I’ll obviously live wherever Ah Zu lives. But, if he is living together with big sis, then pretend I didn’t say anything. It is enough if you arrange a small room for me.”

The clump of anger in her chest grew steadily. This woman clearly knows that I don’t live with Zu An! Did she say this on purpose?!

Ah Zu definitely spilled everything. How else would she know all of this?! Chu Chuyan shot Zu An another hateful look.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 666 Rage points!

Qin Wanru sneered inside. This woman really is worthy of her place in the Immortal Abode. Her methods are incredibly savage! How can my pure little girl be a match for her? This won’t do. I have to lend my daughter a hand.

Zu An wanted to ease the tension. Actually, I don’t really care where I stay, haha...

He didn’t even mind if all three of them stayed together. However, for the sake of keeping his head attached to his shoulders, he wisely chose to keep these words to himself.

Qin Wanru said, “Lady Qiu, it is already late. Let’s slowly discuss these matters another time.”

This was where her experience kicked in. She would get rid of this girl first, and then discuss things privately at another time.

No one expected Qiu Honglei to say with a slight blush, “Actually, I don’t have to go back. Either way... either way I am already Ah Zu’s.”

“Zu An!” Chu Chuyan suddenly got up. She couldn’t hold herself back anymore. A chilling wave of energy suddenly spread outwards.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 1024 Rage points!

Just as she was about to say something, her face flushed with an unnatural redness. She spat out a mouthful of blood, and her entire body crumpled.

Before the blood even landed on the ground, it had already turned into crystals.

“Honey!” Zu An screamed, rushing to support his unconscious wife. His mischievous expression disappeared without a trace.

Qiu Honglei wore a pensive expression. There were rumors that Chu Chuyan suffered serious internal injuries, but others said that she was perfectly fine. Now that she had witnessed this firsthand, she knew that her condition was far worse than the rumors stated.

“Get lost! It was you who caused her such harm! How could you have the nerve to touch her?!” Qin Wanru was a bundle of nerves. She reached out a hand to push him aside.

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 678 Rage points!

"I am the only one who can save her right now," Zu An replied coldly. "Do you really want to vent your anger or do you want to help save Chuyan?"

Qin Wanru felt a chill run through her body. Her daughter had indeed said that it was Zu An who had been treating her condition. She couldn't find any words to rebut him.

Zu An quickly carried Chu Chuyan back to her room. Qin Wanru followed them in a state of panic.

Chu Zhongtian saw that his wife hadn't argued when Zu An said that he would save Chuyan. There was clearly something he didn't know. However, he trusted his wife's judgment.

He stayed behind to deal with the aftermath. "Lady Qiu, it is already late. The city has not been too peaceful recently, so please rest in the estate tonight."

Qiu Honglei knew that he was worried she might reveal Chu Chuyan's real condition to outsiders. She bowed slightly. "Thank you Brightmoon Duke. I really must apologize for today's matters."

"What happened earlier cannot be put on your shoulders." Chu Zhongtian waved his hand distractedly. "Send someone to bring Lady Qiu to the room to rest."

He too was worried about Chu Chuyan's condition, and beat a hasty farewell. He wasn't in the mood to deal with her.

"Understood!"

Some servants escorted Qiu Honglei away.

Qiu Honglei flashed a sudden, sweet smile. "Excuse me, which room do you plan to bring me to?"

"The guest room, Lady Qiu." The servant could feel his soul about to leave his body, just from her smile alone.

"How about you bring me to the young master's room?"

"Isn't that a little inappropriate?"

"Did the Master and Madam not tell you? That was what they arranged for."

"Ah, is that so? All right, then."

## **Chapter 286: A Goddess in Critical Condition**

Zu An carried Chuyan back to her room and laid her down on the bed. Then, he pushed Qin Wanru to the entrance and said, "Mother-in-law, please help me watch the entrance. Do not let anyone in."

Qin Wanru hadn't expected him to display such great strength. She found herself shoved outside before she even realized what had happened. "I've already ordered some servants to find physician Bao and Divine Physician Ji. It's enough as long as you stabilize Chuyan's condition for now."

Zu An shook his head. "They won't make it in time. Besides, those two can't do anything about Chuyan's current condition."

Qin Wanru grew enraged. "The two of them are known for their medical expertise! Are you telling me that you can do something that they can't?"

This fellow had drawn in this vixen and put her daughter in such a precarious state! Her anger burned fiercely within her.

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 787 Rage points!

Zu An quickly replied, "I am definitely inferior to them regarding the treatment of other illnesses. However, no one understands Chuyan's condition more clearly than I. Stay by the entrance and do not let anyone disturb me. I must not be distracted at all."

He didn't wait for her retort, but shut the door firmly in her face with a loud bang.

Qin Wanru's nose was almost flattened. She was just about to erupt, but she suddenly recalled that both of her daughters had mentioned that he was the one who had been treating Chuyan.

Chuyan's improvement so far indeed proved his treatment's effectiveness.

She also knew that Chuyan's clothes had to be removed in order to administer this treatment. That was indeed something no outsider could be allowed to see.

She puffed her cheeks angrily and stood by the entrance. She was going to slowly settle things with him after her daughter was saved!

Chu Zhongtian finally made it over, together with Chu Huanzhao, who had rushed over after hearing the news as well. The two of them were anxious to go in and check on her, but they were stopped by Qin Wanru.

"Don't go inside. Now is not a good time," Qin Wanru said.

Chu Zhongtian was bewildered.

What do you mean, 'it's not a good time'? I just want to see my own daughter!

Something struck Chu Huanzhao. "Is brother-in-law treating big sis?"

Qin Wanru grunted in acknowledgment.

Chu Huanzhao sighed in relief. "Then big sis should be fine."

Qin Wanru frowned. Why did her second daughter trust Zu An so much? It almost seemed as though she worshipped him a little.

"Is there something I am not aware of?" Chu Zhongtian thought back to the previous conversation that his wife had had with Zu An in front of Qiu Honglei. This conversation between mother and daughter was also quite strange.

After some hesitation, Qin Wanru told him about the treatment that their daughter was receiving, and how it was Zu An that administered it.



“So, the improvement of Chuyan’s condition was because of him?” Chu Zhongtian was stunned. “Wait, you said that she needs to remove her clothes during the treatment?”

Qin Wanru nodded. “Yes. Because he needs to use acupuncture to remove the cold energy from Chuyan’s body.”

Chu Zhongtian remained in a daze for a long time. The daughter he’d doted on and raised with so much love had truly been ravaged by a swine! There was no way he could remain unaffected. “Their relationship has already... reached this level of intimacy?”

“It is probably just because of the severity of the situation...” Qin Wanru said, her voice tinged with uncertainty. She hadn’t let herself believe that her daughter would actually like Zu An before.

But her daughter’s jealous reaction earlier hadn’t escaped her notice. Moreover, someone as outstanding as Qiu Honglei had come to offer herself up in such a fashion. The thought of her daughter falling for this man no longer seemed completely unacceptable.

But why, then? Why can’t I just figure out what’s so outstanding about this Zu An? How does he manage to get so many exceptional girls to like him? Even her own youngest daughter acted all submissive around him!

Does this kid really have some strong points I don’t know about?

...

Inside, Zu An was busy examining Chu Chuyan’s condition. Her anger had made a complete mess of the cold energy in her body.

All of the work he’d put in these past few days had gone to waste. Moreover, her condition was in a far worse state than before his treatment.

It was as if a great snowstorm was ravaging her body from the inside, about to wipe out her life force at any time.

“Go away. I don’t want to be saved by you.” Chu Chuyan reached out a hand to push him away, but she couldn’t muster up the slightest bit of strength. Instead, her body fell limply into his arms.

Zu An hurriedly supported her. “Don’t act so rashly. Your situation is precarious, and you might die at any time.”

“What’s so bad about dying? I should have died a long time ago anyway.” Chu Chuyan’s voice was lifeless, lacking the slightest trace of youthful energy.

Zu An exclaimed in alarm, “I only barely managed to save you in the dungeon! How can you give up on yourself like that?!”

When she heard him mention the events in the dungeon, Chu Chuyan’s expression softened. However, the recent events in the study came to mind again, and her brow furrowed once more.

Zu An was in the midst of taking her pulse, and was examining her condition closely when he sensed another wave of fluctuations in her aura. He immediately said, "Are you angry about what happened just now? It's really not what you think it is!"

"What is there for me to feel angry about? After I die, you'll recover your freedom, and it'll even help you be with that Lady Qiu." Perhaps because of her current weakness, Chu Chuyan discovered that she couldn't control her emotions like how she usually did.

Zu An couldn't help but laugh. "It turns out that my wife was jealous!"

"Nonsense! Who's jealous?" Chu Chuyan's face grew red, and she quickly turned her head to the side. She didn't want to look at him anymore.

What is going on? Why am I so angry? This isn't like me at all! Her feelings were all jumbled up.

Is it really because of him?

Zu An said, "Honey, I recall asking you this several times, but you've always said that you don't mind if I look for other women, right?"

Chu Chuyan's face grew cold. "Correct, that's what I said."

Why are you bringing this up now? Is this even fair? The two of us were spouses in name only and barely talked, so of course I wouldn't have selfishly tied you down!

But now, the two of us are already...

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 233 Rage points!

"Honey, you were jealous after all." Zu An gently embraced her. Her body was as cold as a block of ice, but it wasn't hard. Instead, it felt as soft as the finest cotton.

Chu Chuyan was just about to push him away, but she heard him continue, "There really is nothing between myself and that Qiu Honglei! I don't know why she would talk like that either! Perhaps I am just too handsome, and she is lusting after my body? But I absolutely haven't... haven't done anything with her that would let you down! I can swear an oath right now!"

The night he'd had with Snow popped into his mind, but fortunately, he managed to quickly change what he was about to say.

"Really?" The power of contracts in this world was binding. Even without the oath, Chu Chuyan had a strong confidence that he was telling the truth.

Then again, why did she want to hit him so badly when he said that Qiu Honglei desired his body?

"Of course! I have a wife at home who looks like a goddess to me. Why would I care about any other girls?" Zu An said with a laugh.

Chu Chuyan's face flushed red. "That Lady Qiu is clearly also beautiful."

"Her motives might not be that pure. I just have yet to figure out what exactly she's after," Zu An said, his voice growing dark.

Chu Chuyan gradually pulled herself out of the depths of her anger, her logical mind reasserting control. "Now that you mention it, it does sound a little strange. Why would someone of her caliber end up liking you?"

Zu An ground his teeth silently.

I'm busting my ass trying to comfort you here! How could you turn around and say such hurtful things?

Chu Chuyan giggled at his reaction. To Zu An, it felt like the first snowmelt in Spring. "All right, I know you're charming. Maybe she does really like you."

"That's more like it," Zu An grunted, his wounded pride restored. However, his mood fell immediately after. "Honey, your condition really is not great..."

Chu Chuyan lost her smile as well.

As a cultivator, she was acutely aware of her condition. She shook her head slightly and said indifferently, "This is why I said I should've died back then. I've already lived on for so long, and I should be more than satisfied. It is only a pity that the Chu clan is in the middle of a huge storm right now, and lil' Huanzhao hasn't matured either..."

Zu An immediately cut her off. "How can you still be worrying about others at a time like this?"

"Let me finish speaking. I might not have another chance," Chu Chuyan said, enduring the pain. "Our Chu clan is currently caught between the emperor and King Qi's factions. We're fighting against the current right now. Unfortunately, our clan has a thousand years of tradition and honor that we have sworn to uphold, and we do not wish to be swallowed up by any side. That is why the current situation was inevitable.

"Before, with me around, we could still try to hold out until the new emperor took the throne. Now, it seems like there is no chance at all. It will be hard for my father to hold out alone..."

"Ah Zu, after I leave, can you help the Chu..." She sighed. "Forget it. Your days in the Chu clan have been far from joyful. My request is too selfish.

"Despite all that, I still hope that you can promise me one thing. If something unexpected truly happens to the Chu clan, please help me take care of lil' Huanzhao. I know the two of you are pretty close. Also, I still have another younger si... ahem, ahem... younger brother who is studying in the capital. If it is possible, please help me save him from this sea of suffering as well."

Her weak voice finally fell silent. Zu An wanted to laugh, yet he also felt heartbroken. "Why does it seem like you're saying your final words? Who said that you were going to die?"

Chu Chuyan laughed, although it seemed to cause her some distress. "I've cultivated for so many years, so I at least have this amount of judgment. My current condition is something not even an immortal can cure. The previous frost-extracting acupuncture won't be of any use now either."

Back then, the frost in her body was still at a level that could be controlled. That was why it could still be removed bit by bit through the use of needles.

However, the frost in her body was now completely out of control, ravaging through her like a blizzard. The tiny bit that could be extracted through acupuncture wouldn't amount to much.

"An immortal can't do anything, but I can! You should know that there is still another way." Zu An looked into her beautiful eyes.

Chu Chuyan stared blankly. It took her a long while to grasp his meaning. Her face, pale with weakness, suddenly flushed red. "No! Absolutely not!"

"You would rather die than agree to it?" Zu An was crestfallen.

"Of course!" Chu Chuyan subconsciously blurted. Immediately realizing her mistake, she explained in a hurry, "It's not because of you... sigh, how can I agree to something like that?"

"We are husband and wife to begin with, after all!" Zu An smiled.

"We are only a fake couple." Chu Chuyan hurriedly corrected.

"Fake?" Zu An couldn't help himself. "We're already officially wed, and everyone in Brightmoon City knows that we are husband and wife! Besides, we've already done it before..."

Flustered, Chu Chuyan tried to defend herself, but Zu An continued, "Besides, if you really weren't willing, why did you get so angry when you learned about what had gone on between Qiu Honglei and myself?"

"I..." Chu Chuyan was at a loss. Her mind was a huge mess, and she wasn't sure what to think anymore.

Seeing her confusion, Zu An seized upon this chance to kiss her. This was the time for a man to be more proactive.

Often, the relationship between a man and a woman was sealed off by a final layer that was thinner than paper. Once it was broken, things would flow smoothly. If they always held back, the two might only grow further and further apart.

Feeling his lips brush against hers, Chu Chuyan's eyes widened. Her grip on his clothes tightened.

## **Chapter 287: Ridiculous**

The Chu estate's physician, Bao Youlu, rushed over in a hurry. He was just about to push open the door when Qin Wanru stopped him.

"Madam, what is the meaning of this? Isn't the young miss seriously ill?" Bao Youlu asked in puzzlement.

Qin Wanru's face became red. "Um... there is someone inside, so it's not appropriate to enter right now."

"What? Did Divine Physician Ji arrive?" Bao Youlu subconsciously stroked his white beard when he saw Qin Wanru's sudden embarrassment. The Madam is truly stunning, my heart might have been moved if I was twenty years younger.

Master Chu is quite blessed. It's such a pity though...

Sigh, fate truly toys with people.

"No, it's someone else," explained Qin Wanru. "I must trouble physician Bao to wait for a bit."

"Oh?" Bao Youlu looked towards the house with curiosity. "Is there another individual with outstanding medicinal expertise in Brightmoon City? Then this old one will be able to deepen my knowledge."

Qin Wanru lapsed into an awkward silence. She had no idea how in the world she was going to explain things later!

Chu Zhongtian paced back and forth nervously. Finally unable to contain his nervousness, he pulled his wife aside and asked, "Dear, is Ah Zu really reliable? Should we have physician Bao take a look first, or send for Divine Physician Ji?"

He lowered his voice as he said the second name, in consideration for Bao Youlu's pride.

Qin Wanru wasn't confident either. "I really don't know either, but Chuyan seems to trust him a lot. He is probably reliable."

Chu Huanzhao added vehemently, "I also trust my brother-in-law! He will definitely cure big sis!"

Qin Wanru jabbed her daughter's forehead. "What does a brat like you know?" she said with a huff.

Chu Zhongtian wore a stupefied look. "You let him treat her even though you're unsure?"

"Enough, enough!" Qin Wanru felt a wave of anxiety. "Where did you send that fox demon?"

"Fox Demon?" Chu Huanzhao looked at the two of them in confusion.

Chu Zhontian hurriedly said, "There's a child here! Please watch your language."

Qin Wanru scoffed disdainfully. "Am I wrong? Would Chuyan have gotten so angry if that woman hadn't come knocking on our door?"

Even though she maintained her fierceness, she still changed her wording.

"You can't blame her either," Chu Zhongtian couldn't help but say. "She didn't know Chuyan was injured. In the end, this was a result of Ah Zu being too lenient on all parties."

"What?!" Qin Wanru erupted in rage. "She hasn't even joined his family, yet you're already speaking up for her? You men really don't have a single redeeming quality! All of you lose your heads as soon as you see someone pretty!"

"What do you mean..." Chu Zhongtian had a forced smile on his face.

Chu Huanzhao was puzzled. "Dad got a concubine?"

Those uncles in our clan all have huge harems, and our dad's status is the highest of them all!

She actually felt a slight pity for her dad. He really struggled on this front.

She had always thought it perfectly normal for those in the noble circles of this world to have multiple wives and concubines. On top of that, her mom had always been the strict one, while his father was more agreeable, so she naturally leaned towards taking her father's side.

Of course, if Qin Wanru had known what she was thinking, she would surely have taught her the painful lesson of what motherly love truly was!

Chu Zhongtian's face reddened. "Nonsense! It's nothing like that! It's your sister's husband!"

"Brother-in-law!?" Chu Huanzhao, who had been in high spirits while watching all of this drama unfolding from the sidelines, was stunned when she heard this. What was going on?

"Brother-in-law is taking in a concubine?" Chu Huanzhao blinked rapidly. She clearly couldn't stomach this information yet. This news really was too odd!

"Hmph, I've never heard of such an outrageous son-in-law either!" Qin Wanru snorted angrily. Her displeasure at this situation was abundantly clear.

"Who is she?" Chu Huanzhao felt her mind go completely blank. Her original excitement that her dad was finally getting a concubine vanished.

"Some girl from the Immortal Abode. Is she not afraid of bringing shame to our Chu clan?!" Qin Wanru glared at her husband, clearly warning him not to bring up the identity of this person.

"Is it that Qiu Honglei?" Chu Huanzhao's voice rose an octave.

"How did you know?" Chu Zhongtian was astounded. How did his daughter know about the Immortal Abode affair?

"Hmph! How could I not know? Brother-in-law stirred up a huge commotion in that place! He actually has the nerve to bring someone back so quickly!" Chu Huanzhao looked angrily at Chu Zhongtian. "Dad, where did you send that woman?"

"Probably the guest room. As for where exactly, I wouldn't know..." Chu Zhongtian replied distractedly.

Why is my second daughter getting even more angry than my first daughter?

Without waiting for him to finish, Chu Huanzhao stormed off to the guest rooms in a cloud of anger.

Unfortunately, they didn't know that Qiu Honglei wasn't in the Chu clan's guest room at the moment. Rather, she was at Zu An's residence.

"So this is your young master's living quarters?" A faint smile tugged at the corners of Qiu Honglei's lips when she looked at the small courtyard in front of her.

"Indeed, the young master lives here. He normally does not stay with the young miss," said that servant in a fawning manner. This woman is just too pretty! Her body smells so good as well.

"Thank you! What is your name?" Qiu Honglei smiled sweetly.

That servant, immediately overwhelmed by the favor, replied in a flustered manner, "This humble one is Jin Zhu!"

"Jin Zhu?" Qiu Honglei giggled. "That's quite a special name." [1]

That servant's entire body went numb. She smiled at me! She smiled at me!

“The lady can ask me for anything you need!” The servant Jin Zhu continued to simp.

“Thank you brother Jin.” Qiu Honglei dismissed him with a smile. She then examined this small courtyard with great curiosity.

Qiu Honglei wore an expression of curiosity. I wonder if he hides anything in his normal living quarters. She pushed open the door and entered. She wanted to look around to see if she could find out how Zu An had changed so greatly from his previous, publicly-acknowledged trash self.

Her expression changed suddenly, and she quickly dodged to the side, just as a fierce gust of wind swept past where she had just been.

“Hm?” Her attacker clearly hadn’t expected her to avoid this deadly blow.

Qiu Honglei was alarmed. Her attacker’s timing was exceptional, and the angle of attack had made the blow difficult to block. Her evasive maneuver had been beyond the limits of her usual ability. She wasn’t confident of avoiding a second attack.

A woman?

Her attacker’s surprised voice had lasted only for a moment, but it hadn’t escaped her ears.

Who is this person?

Because neither of them had the chance to light a lamp, the room was dark. Both sides exchanged a flurry of blows.

Is it the Chu clan’s second miss? She dismissed the thought as soon as it appeared in her head.

It was public knowledge that the Chu First Miss seemed to have inherited all of the Chu clan’s blessings. Aside from inheriting her mother’s beauty, her younger sister didn’t have a single good thing about her.

As for whether or not she was hiding something... hmph, how could this world have so many unexpected things? One Zu An was already enough. How could there just happen to be another one like him?

Then who is she? Why is she in Zu An’s room? Qiu Honglei was puzzled, but her confusion contained an excited quality to it.

She decided that she would capture this woman. She felt like she was about to stumble upon a great secret.

Unfortunately, this woman’s cultivation was ridiculously high. Although Qiu Honglei didn’t hold back at all, the other party easily blocked all of her moves, and had almost turned the tables on her several times.

Afraid of alerting the members of the Chu clan, Qiu Honglei didn’t dare use her elemental ability. The two combatants continued to exchange physical blows.

However, the longer the fight wore on, the more worried she became.

Pei Mianman was similarly shocked. She had been waiting in this room for Zu An. To be honest, not even she knew why she kept running over to this place.

Perhaps it was because she hadn't had many friends ever since she was young, and Zu An was different from others. She treasured their period of association greatly.

Of course, if you asked her, she would say that she was merely doing this to prevent Zu An from being assassinated by Chen Xuan.

She had arrived slightly earlier than usual. She had been full of expectation, thinking that the person approaching was Zu An, returning from whatever hubbub was going on outside. In the end, it turned out to be a woman instead.

Even though she couldn't see clearly, the person's aura made it clear that it was not Chu Chuyan, Chu Huanzhao, or anyone else from the Chu clan.

From the way she had sneaked in, she assumed this was an assassin sent by Chen Xuan, and immediately went on the offensive.

She fully expected it to be easy. However, her opponent's cultivation was actually ridiculously high!

Every single exchange was dangerous. They traded several dozen blows, but nothing she tried seemed to work.

Pei Mianman almost used her black flame several times. However, she held herself back, not wanting to let Chu Chuyan know that she was here.

The two of them continued to fight hand-to-hand, both with their own ulterior motives.

...

Zu An obviously didn't know that such an intense battle was playing out in the room. He was fully concentrated on treating Chu Chuyan.

Chu Chuyan had subconsciously rejected him at first. However, she also knew that her resistance was weak.

A while later, her entire body suddenly went rigid, her face becoming completely red. "You scoundrel!"

When she said this, she bit down fiercely on his shoulder.

She was going to return to him all the pain she felt!

Zu An gasped. It wasn't because of the pain, but rather because she really was cold.

Who was it who said that even the coldest woman was warm inside?!

That had indeed been the case last time.

But today, it felt as if he had entered into a world of ice and snow.

It was the tempering effect of the Primordial Origin Sutra that saved him. Any normal man would have immediately shriveled up, and could even have been maimed for life.



Zu An gently smoothed out the tangles in her hair, saying tenderly, "Your body is already so cold! You've always pretended to be strong. It really must have been tough."

Chu Chuyan's eyes instantly grew red. His words had shattered her toughest shell, exposing her weakest parts.

After her initial embarrassment had passed, Chu Chuyan instead felt slightly apologetic. "Are you getting hurt?" she asked.

Zu An laughed loudly. "This is exactly what I've been looking forward to! How could I be hurt?"

"You rascal!" Chu Chuyan pinched him in anger. However, he really was like a scorching sun, releasing endless warmth through her body.

"How does it feel?" Zu An suddenly asked.

Chu Chuyan was at a loss for words.

This guy is actually asking such a shameless question! How am I supposed to respond?

She turned to the side, biting her lip and not saying a word.

Zu An knew that she was conflicted when he saw her expression. He explained with a bitter smile, "I am asking if you feel better now. I'm using primordial ki to nurture your body. If any of it feels wrong, you need to tell me immediately. How else would I be able to treat you as quickly as possible?"

## **Chapter 288: Furious**

Only then did Chu Chuyan realize that it was her own mind that was coming up with the wrong thoughts. Her pale face tinged with a layer of redness, and her ice-cold body also warmed slightly from her embarrassment.

Zu An grinned mischievously when he noticed her body's sensitivity. "Honey, you still haven't replied to my question! Which part of your body feels the most uncomfortable? I should treat that part first."

Chu Chuyan gritted her teeth. This guy just doesn't know when to stop!

The two of us are already engaged in this act. What else do you want me to say?

"If you don't tell me, I'll have no choice but to randomly treat you my way, you know?" Zu An whispered beside her ear.

Chu Chuyan frowned when she noticed his movements. She tried to stop him at once. "Wait...!"

Zu An looked confused. Chu Chuyan's eyes swirled with mist, as if she were on the brink of tears. "Please, stop for a bit. Let me catch my breath."

Even though this wasn't the first time the two of them had been so intimate with each other, for some reason, her memories of their last experience in the dungeon were extremely blurry. She only remembered a mixture of anger, embarrassment, and confusion.

This was the first time she was still rather clear-headed.

Are all men this extreme? Chu Chuyan clenched her teeth tightly as she endured it bitterly. This sudden thought made her face flush red. Her strict upbringing immediately stopped her from exploring it any further.

She clung tightly onto his clothes, breathing heavily as she gradually got used to the feeling of a man.

When he saw her beautiful brows knit together, Zu An's heart welled up with sympathy. He couldn't help but lean down to kiss her red lips.

Chu Chuyan's entire body trembled. She felt as if an electric current had shot through her entire body.

Zu An was stunned. He hadn't expected this ice queen to be so sensitive.

A naughty smile appeared on his face. "I'm going to start, then."

Chu Chuyan was so embarrassed she didn't dare to look him in the eyes. She turned her face to the side, exposing her neck, which had flushed red as well. She quietly voiced her agreement.

She didn't know what in the world was coming over her. Her previous self would never have agreed to letting any man do this to her. Even the Chuyan from yesterday definitely wouldn't have agreed to it.

But now...

She didn't understand why either.

She didn't want to understand right now.

Soon, she didn't have any room to think about these things. She felt as if her body was like a skiff in the sea, tossed and turned under a violent storm. Sometimes, she was sent towards the clouds, at other times dragged deep into the ocean depths... she didn't know if she would live, or be drowned in the endless abyss...

Quite some time had passed, and the Chu clan members outside had grown extremely anxious.

"I wonder what's going on inside..." Qin Wanru paced about the entrance.

Her daughter had matured at an early age, and had slowly grown more and more reserved. Because of this, she arranged for special rune formations to be placed around the door and windows to isolate all sound.

That was why no one outside had any idea what was happening inside.

Qin Wanru suddenly thought of Snow. It would have been good to have someone like her to check out the situation inside.

Ever since Snow left, Chu Chuyan hadn't found another maid for herself.

Off to the side, Chu Zhongtian noticed her anxious pacing. "Why don't you go inside to take a look?" His wife had mentioned that the treatment had to be conducted while his daughter was naked, so it was inappropriate for him to enter.

But that was no issue for his wife at all!

Qin Wanru saw the sense in his words. Although it wasn't appropriate for others to go in, there should be nothing wrong for her as a mother.

Emboldened, she knocked on the door and said, "Ah Zu, how is Chuyan's condition?"

Silence answered her.

"I'm going to come in if you don't say anything!"

There was still no reply. Worried for her daughter's safety, she tried to push the door open, but it didn't budge at all.

"That brat locked the door!" Qin Wanru looked angrily at her husband.

Chu Zhongtian nodded. Her daughter was still young, but her cultivation was extremely high. The restrictions she put in place couldn't be undone by an ordinary person.

He walked over to the door and gently pressed his hand against the door. Ki left his body, undoing the restrictions on the door. "It's done."

"Help me keep watch outside. I'm going to take a look," Qin Wanru said. If a bunch of people accidentally rushed in and saw their daughter without any clothes on, whatever purity she had left would be in tatters.

She needed to know that her husband would stand guard.

Chu Zhongtian gave her a firm nod, which helped to ease her anxiety.

Satisfied, Qin Wanru pushed open the door and entered, quickly closing it behind her and locking it up again.

Only then did she head further inside.

Chu Chuyan was the precious daughter of a dukedom after all, so her room was still quite large. From where she was, Qin Wanru couldn't immediately make out the situation inside.

She didn't want to announce her presence with a loud voice either, just in case they were at a crucial part of the treatment process. I'll just sneak a look and leave after making sure my daughter is fine. I won't disturb their treatment process.

As she walked further into the room, she suddenly heard some odd noises, almost like a suppressed sobbing and moaning.

"Hm?" Qin Wanru was confused. She was no stranger to such sounds, but how could this be possible?!

Perhaps Chuyan is groaning because her condition is too serious.

This thought had just entered her mind when she made it beyond the screen. The scene before her left her completely stunned.

She had thought of countless possibilities, and had even prepared herself for her daughter's condition being incurable. This was the one scene she had never expected to see.

Zu An and Chu Chuyan hadn't expected her to enter either. They turned around instinctively at the strange noise. The three of them grew wide-eyed.

"Zu brat, you bastard!" Qin Wanru finally recovered from her initial shock and astonishment, and instantly erupted in rage.

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 1024 Rage points!

Qin Wanru refused to believe that her daughter would allow any man to treat her like this, not even if the man in question was her actual husband.

There could only be one explanation! Zu An had taken advantage of her like a deranged beast while she was seriously injured and powerless to resist!

She thought about how everyone was still worried outside, completely unaware of the misfortune and humiliation that her daughter was suffering inside. It made her want to skin Zu An alive!

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 999... 999... 999...

She could no longer hold herself back, attacking Zu An directly. She was completely ruthless, striking to kill.

In a panic, Zu An dodged to one side. But Qin Wanru was a sixth rank cultivator. How could it be that easy to evade her?

At this moment of crisis, he hurriedly employed Mi Li's modified Sunflower Phantasm. His figure immediately split into two, both images running in two different directions.

Qin Wanru focused all of her attention on the figure in front of her. She swung a vicious palm which cleaved straight into the middle of his back.

Her hand felt as if it had struck empty air, leaving her shocked. The figure in front of her scattered into an expanse of light and shadows.

A decoy?

She was still a duchess after all, and had much experience. She knew immediately what had transpired.

Her eyes locked onto the other Zu An, who had fled to the other side of the room. Just as she was about to attack again, Chu Chuyan's weak voice called out to her. "Mom..."

"It's okay, mom is here." Qin Wanru immediately rushed over to support her. At the same time, her heart softened. She thought about how proud and arrogant her daughter had been since birth, and how her purity had been destroyed by such a deplorable fellow.

It's all our fault for trusting him too much!

She moved to renew her attack.

"Stop..." Chu Chuyan grabbed her hand, while using her other hand to wrap the quilt around herself.

Qin Wanru looked at her, puzzled. Her daughter's reaction was too strange! Was she too shocked by the situation?

"He... he was actually... giving me treatment." Chu Chuyan lowered her head, her face already completely red.

This really was too embarrassing! Her own mother had stumbled in and seen her.

She was still too embarrassed to say anything, but she was worried that her mother would really kill Zu An, or alarm someone else into rushing in. That would be even more humiliating.

"Treatment? What the heck is being treated here?!" Qin Wanru assumed her daughter was too embarrassed to speak the truth. "Don't worry, your mother will avenge you! This little bastard will not get away with violating you today."

With that, she charged at Zu An.

Chu Chuyan panicked when she saw that her mother had not understood. There was only one thing left to say. "Actually... actually... I agreed."

Qin Wanru came to a screeching halt. She turned around in disbelief. "What did you say?"

Chu Chuyan's face was clouded over, clearly conflicted. She took some time to steel herself. "Actually... in the dungeon... we... we already became a real... a real husband and wife."

Qin Wanru was at a loss for words. Her mouth worked furiously, but no sound came out.

She never would have imagined such a situation, not even in her wildest dreams or her darkest nightmares.

Zu An was incredibly moved. After all, even though the two of them had engaged in an intimate act, it had only been to save Chu Chuyan. In their hearts, they knew that they were still far from a true husband and wife, and that Chu Chuyan still didn't truly accept him.

Who could have expected Chu Chuyan would actually admit to this herself? He felt like he was about to explode with happiness.

"The two of you have already consummated your marriage in the secret dungeon?" Qin Wanru finally managed. She was still completely stunned, but a glimmer of understanding came to her. No wonder my daughter was willing to receive treatment from him without her clothes on, despite her cold and reserved nature! I should have foreseen this!

"Then again, even if the two of you are really husband and wife, to engage in... in this sort of thing at this kind of time... this... this is too much!" Qin Wanru was clearly not in the mood to try and figure out the history behind these two. Right now, her daughter was clearly extremely injured, a group of people were nervously waiting outside, and yet, they were...

Zu An smiled bitterly. "I really am rescuing Chuyan!" he cried.

"Shut your mouth!" Qin Wanru gave him a hateful glare. As her eyes landed on him, her expression suddenly froze.

She had been so wrapped up in her anger while chasing after him that she hadn't noticed anything else. Now that she calmed down a little, she suddenly realized that he was stark naked.

Why is this guy so... so... Qin Wanru's face grew a bright shade of red. She turned a flustered look upon Chu Chuyan. How could her delicate daughter endure such a thing?!

### **Chapter 289: Qin Wanru's Tortured Heart**

Chu Chuyan hadn't yet noticed that something was off about her mother. She frantically explained, "Mom, he really was treating me... This method might seem crazy, but it really is healing me..."

Her neck grew red as she spoke. After all, she had been an excellent daughter since she was little, and had never given her parents cause to worry.

Now though, she actually had to explain such an embarrassing scene to her mother. It really was too humiliating...

"It's all this guy's fault!" She couldn't help but give Zu An a hateful look.

Zu An felt as if he had suffered a great injustice. How is this my fault? No one could have expected your mom to suddenly break in!

Qin Wanru turned her head rigidly to the side. Then, she looked at her daughter in a deeply concerned manner. "Yan'er, has your condition improved?"

Chu Chuyan bit her lip and said quietly, "I'm not fully healed yet, but I feel much better than before."

"Such a thing can really produce healing effects?" Qin Wanru was dumbstruck. She had her fair share of knowledge and experience, yet this was the first time she ever heard of such a thing.

"He might be different from other men..." Chu Chuyan explained quietly. As a cultivation genius, she was able to keenly sense that the other party's ki could repair her meridians naturally in her stead, as if it was her own ki.

But of course, she was a complete newbie when it came to such a thing, so she had no way of confirming if this belief was true.

"It's mainly because of my constitution and cultivation method. Other men cannot do the same thing," Zu An anxiously added from the side.

I absolutely cannot have these two have any more misunderstandings at such a time!

Qin Wanru wanted to ask him what kind of constitution and technique he was talking about, but her face became rigid as soon as she turned around. She immediately shifted her gaze away. Now really wasn't the best time to ask about this.

"Put on some goddamn clothes already!" Qin Wanru sat down so that her side profile was presented to him, her head turned to face away. Her ample chest rose and fell, although it was unclear whether it was because her anger had yet to dissipate, or for some other reason.

“Follow me out when you are dressed, and then explain the situation to Master,” Qin Wanru added. She obviously couldn’t allow Zu An to continue tormenting her daughter now that she had interrupted them.

This is completely outrageous! Can’t you husband and wife just play around at night behind closed doors? You guys just had to fool around now, with everyone still anxiously waiting outside!

Chuyan used to be so good. It’s all that Zu An’s fault for leading her astray.

Her rage immediately boiled over at this thought.

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 777 Rage points!

Zu An picked up his scattered clothes and forced a smile. “I still haven’t completed Chuyan’s treatment! If we leave now, all the efforts we’ve put in would be ruined...”

Chu Chuyan was left speechless, but her stunned incomprehension was no match for Qin Wanru’s.

What was this fella trying to say? Don’t tell me he wants to continue?

Qin Wanru was about to lose her mind. “Are you trying to use this chance to take advantage of Chuyan?” she said coldly.

Zu An had a helpless expression on his face. He pointed towards Chu Chuyan. “If you don’t believe me, then ask her.”

Qin Wanru turned to look at her daughter. Her daughter had always been a prodigy at cultivation, so she naturally understood her body’s condition better than anyone.

“Some of the cold energy in my body has started to rebound again...” Chu Chuyan said with some hesitation. Her reserved nature as a young woman made her unwilling to admit this, but after managing many of the Chu clan’s affairs all these years, she had trained herself to remain rational at all times.

If Zu An was chased out now, then all of it would truly have been for naught.

Earlier on, she had been so sure that she was done for. She had even left behind so many last words.

In the end, she couldn’t let go of the Chu clan. Now that there was hope that she could live, how could she give it up because of a momentary impulse?

“Either way, Ah Zu and I are already... like that. A few more times wouldn’t make a difference.”

Even though Chu Chuyan had chosen her words carefully, her meaning was abundantly clear.

Qin Wanru’s mouth worked soundlessly.

She knew that her daughter was earnest to a fault. If she said so, then this was most likely the case.

Even though she felt some mild injustice, her daughter’s health was still the most important thing.

She had no choice but to rise to her feet. “You two... keep working hard, then. I’ll help watch the door.”

Why do these words sound so weird?!

Just what kind of situation have I gotten myself into?!

Qin Wanru wanted to give Zu An one final hateful look, but then she recalled what she'd seen earlier, and her expression instantly became unnatural. She hurried outside.

When her mother left, Chu Chuyan's strong front disappeared without a trace. "It's all your fault, making me so embarrassed." She began to sob on the bed.

Zu An rushed over to console her. "All right, all right, it's all my fault. I should've sensed her coming."

His expression suddenly went blank as he spoke. The blankets covering Chu Chuyan's body slid off as she began to sob, exposing her flawless body.

"You are still looking? Haven't you seen enough already?" Chu Chuyan pulled the blankets back up in a panic. She made a fuss in order to hide her embarrassment.

Zu An said with a sigh, "Wife, you really are too beautiful! I wouldn't get tired of looking at you for the rest of my lifetime."

No matter how prideful and cold Chu Chuyan was normally, she was still a little girl who had just experienced her first awakening of love. A sweet feeling blossomed in her heart when her husband's compliment reached her ears.

How could Zu An possibly resist such a beautiful and shy appearance? He dove into the sheets and embraced her.

"Why are you always so rough?" Chu Chuyan complained as he pressed her down roughly.

Zu An laughed. "Isn't 'Dominating Sword Immortal' a favorite book of yours?"

"Ah! You scoundrel! So you did see it that day!" Chu Chuyan was so embarrassed, she wished fervently for a hole in which she could hide.

He could no longer hold himself back, planting a kiss on her perfect lips...

...

Chu Zhongtian and the others quickly surrounded Qin Wanru as she left the room. Bao Youlu seemed particularly curious.

"How is Chuyan doing?" Chu Zhongtian's face was full of concern.

Qin Wanru's face flushed red as the scene she'd witnessed appeared in her mind. "Ah Zu is currently treating her. She should be past the critical phase."

Chu Zhongtian laughed loudly. "That's good, that's good. I have to give this son-in-law some credit."

Qin Wanru was full of hidden resentment. You might have just killed him there and then if you had seen what he was doing to your daughter in that room!

Bao Youlu was effusive with his praise. "I didn't expect the young master to have such miraculous skill! He is actually able to treat the young miss! This old one will have to consult him properly when he comes out."



He had been the first one to diagnose Chu Chuyan back then, and formulating a cure had been beyond his abilities. Who would have expected that Zu An could save her? How could he not be curious?

Qin Wanru had a strange expression on her face. "I don't think it's something you can learn."

Bao Youlu was miffed. "Madam, are you looking down on this old one? This old one still has some achievements in the field of medicine! Even that Ji Dengtu is only a tad bit better than I! What medical skill could there be in this world that I cannot learn?"

"This... I fear that you really might not be able to learn it. He had a very unique and special technique." Taking in his elderly figure, that young and vigorous thing suddenly appeared in her mind. The powerful contrast made her heart jump. She chased those thoughts out of her head at once.

Bao Youlu wasn't willing to let her off the hook, and continuously pelted her with questions. Qin Wanru found a random excuse to appease him. Afraid that he would continue to ask about this, she hastily said to her husband, "Dear, why hasn't Huanzhao returned after so long? Did something happen to her?"

Chu Zhongtian was puzzled. "What can possibly happen in the estate?"

Qin Wanru replied, "She has always been close to her big sister. What if she gets mad when she hears about Qiu Honglei's situation and uses the Wailing Whip on her? That would be the end of our Chu clan's reputation!"

"You're right! I'll go and take a look right now!" Chu Zhongtian took off in a hurry.

He'd been too worried about Chu Chuyan to think about these things earlier.

Now that Chu Chuyan was no longer in danger, his heart grew more relaxed.

However, he began to panic again when the thought of Qiu Honglei's beautiful figure being struck by the Wailing Whip emerged in his mind.

Although he harbored no other thoughts towards Qiu Honglei, as a man, he couldn't bear to see the face of such an exceptional beauty like Qiu Honglei endure the slightest suffering. To him, it was almost an affront to heavenly grace.

Qin Wanru was filled with relief when she saw her husband leave. The matters between the young couple in this room were truly complicated, and it wasn't convenient to tell him about these things yet.

However, making a father wait outside in ignorance seemed improper as well. That was why she'd found an excuse to send him away.

Bao Youlu was just about to ask for details on Zu An's treatment method again, but she had taken this short pause to prepare an excuse to deflect him. She said quickly, "I must ask physician Bao to prepare some body-nurturing medication for Chuyan."

"No problem." Bao Youlu's expression flipped instantly, now that he was finally of some use.

Just as he began to leave, Qin Wanru suddenly called out to him again. "Hold on. Please prepare some vitality-boosting medication as well."

“Vitality boosting?” Bao Youlu was momentarily stunned, but then understanding struck him. With the young miss in her current condition, it would be good to prepare some vitality-boosting medicine, just in case.

As for those from the second and third branch who came over later, they were all turned away. Besides, Chu Yucheng was still seriously injured and needed proper care.

Qin Wanru finally sighed in relief when everyone had been sent away. She didn’t have to worry about anyone finding out about what was happening inside anymore.

A huge scandal was sure to erupt if word of something unexpected got out!

It’s all that Zu An’s fault. Her heart really was being tortured by this guy’s stuff!

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 233 Rage points!

...

Chu Zhongtian was midway to the guest rooms when he ran into Chu Huanzhao coming back. He immediately asked, “Little Huanzhao, what did you do with Lady Qiu?”

“I was just going to ask you about her! I didn’t find that woman at all!” Chu Huanzhao said with an angry huff. A strange look suddenly appeared in her eyes. “Dad, you’re being weird, really weird. She’s not your concubine, so why are you so nervous?”

Chu Zhongtian gave his daughter an annoyed look. “Just where did a brat like you learn to fill your head with so many random things?” He looked around at the Chu estate, his expression becoming a little strange. Did that woman come here to steal?

## **Chapter 290: Why Can’t I?**

Chu Zhongtian panicked. He rushed to check on the estate’s valuables.

From the way her father was acting, Chu Huanzhao assumed that something big had happened. She followed him anxiously.

Chu Zhongtian examined the clan’s treasures carefully, but discovered nothing missing. The extremely vital spiritual creek that they possessed had already been contaminated for a long time.

Did I overthink things? Chu Zhongtian called over the servant named Jin Zhu, and asked him where exactly he had brought Qiu Honglei.

Jin Zhu was puzzled. “Didn’t the master tell me to bring the lady to the young master’s room?”

Chu Zhongtian had a blank look on his face. “When did I say that?”

“Lady Qiu said you did,” Jin Zhu replied in a deadly earnest manner.

Chu Zhongtian was speechless.

Why does our estate have so many of these marvels? Cheng Shouping has already given us more than enough headaches, now we have to deal with this Jin Zhu too?

Chu Huanzhao was quick to pick up on his words. "She went to brother-in-law's room? This woman is so shameless!" Chu Huanzhao instantly erupted in anger. She rushed towards Zu An's residence, fuming with rage.

Chu Zhongtian's eyebrows climbed high up his forehead. He noticed that his daughter had indeed brought her Wailing Whip with her.

He immediately took off after her, fearing that something bad could happen.

...

Qiu Honglei and Pei Mianman traded punches and kicks, their fight surpassing over a hundred blows exchanged. They had progressed from the initial feel-each-other-out sparring to full-blown, no-holds-barred combat.

After such a brutal slog, both suffered considerable internal injuries.

"Name yourself, bitch!" Pei Mianman demanded fiercely, gasping for air as the two combatants took a small breather.

She'd been here early, happily waiting for Zu An's return. Who would have expected this random woman to pop up?! This jarring reality was so different from her expectations, it left her hopping mad.

Qiu Honglei refused to be outdone. "And which bitch might you be?"

Each of them was wondering who the other woman was. Was she Zu An's friend or foe?

Unfortunately, neither was able to make any headway in piercing the other's identity. There was still so much they didn't know about each other.

The two of them harbored ulterior motives, and neither was willing to ask the other about their relationship with Zu An, out of fear of being exposed.

The two of them leaped in for another round. Both struck at the other's chest.

Huh? Why are these boobs so big?

This woman isn't inferior to me! I never knew Ah Zu had someone like this by his side!

...

The fight grew more and more intense. Suddenly, Pei Mianman was startled by the sound of hurried footsteps approaching. "Count yourself lucky this time!" she spat coldly.

She didn't want the Chu clan finding out that she was here, so she couldn't stay to finish her fight with this woman.

Hmph! Just a trifling fifth rank! I'll make sure to make you regret this the next time I see you!

She leaped away in a flash. Her movement technique granted her extreme speed, and her silhouette disappeared into the darkness of night.

Qiu Honglei rubbed her chest, a hint of pain flashing across her face. That bitch had some really fierce moves. If I hadn't been afraid of alarming the Chu clan, I would have already killed you a hundred times over!

Hmph, just a trifling fifth rank!

"Qiu Honglei, get out here this instant!"

The angry shout of a young lady rang out from a distance away.

Is that the foolish second daughter? She had obviously carried out a thorough investigation of the Chu clan before she made her move, and possessed a good understanding of all of the important people here.

She thought about smoothening her messy clothes, but hesitated a moment before deciding to walk out in her current state.

"What happened to you?" Chu Huanzhao had originally come to denounce her, but when she saw the other party's obvious distress, she subconsciously swallowed those words.

Chu Zhongtian was stunned as well. Qiu Honglei's clothes and hair were a mess, and her face was flushed an enchanting pink. There was a sheen of sweat on her forehead. All of this made her seem even more seductive, even more lovely and endearing.

"Lady Qiu, what happened?" Chu Zhongtian instinctively echoed his daughter's words.

"Brightmoon Duke! A woman came out of nowhere and attacked me! If it wasn't for Brightmoon Duke's timely arrival, I might have... might have..." Qiu Honglei's face was already dripping with tears as she spoke. After spending so much time in Immortal Abode, she already mastered the art of crying. Her sobs seemed heartbreakingly genuine, and filled the hearts of others with pity.

"A woman?" Chu Zhongtian was taken aback. He subconsciously glanced at his daughter.

Chu Huanzhao grew nervous. "What are you looking at me for? I've been with you all this time!"

Chu Zhongtian went inside to take a look.

Seeing the chairs and tables in a mess, Chu Zhongtian's expression grew strange. "Lady Qiu is also a cultivator?"

Why don't I sense any traces of ki from her body?

"I am not a true cultivator—I've only learned a few tricks. After all, I needed some way to protect myself in a place like the Immortal Abode." Qiu Honglei had an excuse at hand.

Chu Zhongtian nodded. This explanation made sense. He gave the place a cursory examination. "It seems like the mysterious intruder couldn't see things clearly either, because of the darkness."

Qiu Honglei hurriedly added, "I'm sure that Brightmoon Duke's quick arrival made the thief run away in a panic!"

Even though Chu Zhongtian wasn't usually affected by feminine charms, he still felt a surge of pride at being praised by a beauty. "Our Chu clan has still been negligent, and it has caused Lady Qiu to suffer a scare. You said that this thief was a woman?"

"That's correct. She's a woman, and quite a young one at that."

But her breasts are so big! Naturally, she didn't say that last part out loud.

"A woman..." Chu Zhongtian was perplexed. Why are there so many intruders recently? Are all of these a coincidence?

We really need to strengthen the security around here.

With that in mind, he said, "Lady Qiu, this area is a bit further out, so the security might be slightly more lax. Servants! Bright Lady Qiu to a guest room to rest."

He obviously wouldn't let his own son-in-law sleep with this woman.

Qiu Honglei didn't object at all. "Thank you, Brightmoon Duke."

She cursed inwardly. It's all that mysterious woman's fault. I could've further deepened my relationship with Ah Zu if not for her.

After sending Qiu Honglei off, Chu Zhongtian called over the butler Hong Zhong and ordered him to further strengthen the estate's defenses. There had been too many incidents lately.

Chu Huanzhao was sent to check on the condition of her older sister. Along the way, she realized that she had originally gone to settle things with that vixen. Why had she let her go just like that?

However, she was reminded of the sorry state that the other woman had been in, and her anger dissipated slightly. She felt a strange affinity to whoever that mysterious woman was. She had really helped vent some of her anger.

However, her light mood only lasted a short while. Even though she was usually carefree, she was someone who made a clear distinction between pretty and ugly.

She had always thought that Qiu Honglei's reputation was unfounded. After all, just how pretty could she be?

Now that she had seen her with her own eyes, she had to admit that the girl was ridiculously beautiful. Every single motion of hers fully displayed a woman's graceful bearing.

She looked at her own unflattering chest. "Even hers are so big..." she mumbled quietly.

"What did you say?" Qin Wanru was standing guard outside her daughter's room when she suddenly noticed her youngest mumbling to herself as she walked over.

"Nothing." Chu Huanzhao's gaze flickered. When she saw her own mother's impressive chest, she felt even more depressed.

Why couldn't I inherit that from my mom? I wouldn't have a need to be scared of that Qiu Honglei, otherwise.

"Is it really nothing?" Qin Wanru reached out a hand to stroke Chu Huanzhao's head, taking note of her daughter's unnatural expression. Something had happened to her oldest daughter—she really didn't want something to happen to her youngest as well.

Chu Huanzhao's face turned red. She hurriedly changed the topic, "It's really nothing! How is big sis?"

It was Qin Wanru's turn to blush. "Your brother-in-law is... carrying out the treatment."

A huge smile blossomed on Chu Huanzhao's face when she heard about this. "Brother-in-law is amazing! I'll have brother-in-law treat me if I get sick in the future!"

Qin Wanru immediately turned pale with fright. "No way, absolutely not!"

"Why?" Chu Huanzhao was bewildered. She couldn't figure out why her mom would act like this.

"Don't ask why. If I say no, then no." Qin Wanru's face flushed in anger as Zu An's treatment method came to her mind.

"Why is it okay for big sis but not for me? Mom, you're being unfair!" Chu Huanzhao was already unhappy because of her thoughts about Qiu Honglei. Her mind drifted to memories of how her mother had always praised her big sister since they were young. Even though she never said anything outright, every single child still wanted to be the one most well-liked by their parents.

All of her pent up feelings came to the fore, and her tears began to pour out. She turned around and ran off, not looking back no matter how Qin Wanru called out to her.

"This child!" Qin Wanru stamped her foot angrily. Chu Chuyan was in critical condition right now, so she didn't dare leave the doorstep. Stamping her feet was the most she could do.

Foolish child, do you even know how your brother-in-law is treating your big sister? Would you really be willing to be treated by him?

It's all that Zu An's fault!

You have successfully trolled Qin Wanru for 531 Rage points!

Inside the room, Zu An shivered. What does this woman have against me? Why is she getting angry at me at such a time?

Chu Chuyan noticed that something was off with him. "What's wrong?" she asked, her voice somewhat distorted.

She jumped in fright, not daring to believe that this was her own voice. She had never spoken with such an ambiguous voice before. However, all of this seemed completely natural.

Zu An smiled. "Nothing."

Hmph, your mom's always bullying me. It's only right that I collect interest from your body.

...

Qin Wanru's legs were about to give out, having stood for so long. The room door finally opened. Zu An came out, fully dressed.

She glared at him. Are you some kind of animal? How much time do you need?

But there was no way for her to say such a thing out loud. "How is Chuyan?" She asked instead.

Zu An replied, "She's out of the danger zone. She should make a full recovery after a few more sessions. That should completely wipe out the illness at its roots."

Qin Wanru was stunned. "You need... a few more sessions?"

"Yup." Zu An's face colored slightly. This was actually his own selfish intention. After today, Chu Chuyan's condition had already improved considerably.

However, he still had the final say in this matter. Wouldn't he be an idiot if he let this great opportunity go?

Qin Wanru's expression flickered several times. In the end, she refrained from saying anything at all. Instead, she hurriedly entered to check on her daughter's condition.

Zu An wondered if it would be too cold of him to leave now. However, now that a mother and daughter were chatting in private, it would be rather awkward for him to linger.

Just as he was about to leave, a flustered Yue Shan rushed over. "Where is Master and Madam? Something major has happened!"