

Immortal 311

Chapter 311: Dying with a Grievance

Liu Chan and the others exploded in anger.

Even Chen Xuan felt rage rush to his head.

When he saw how cocky Zu An was being, and thought about how Zheng Dan, now poisoned, would end up being toyed with by him, Chen Xuan almost imploded from anger.

All of them cursed Zu An endlessly. This time, it was Chen Xuan who led the charge. He knew that this hatred of his would only go away after he had chopped up this bastard's corpse into tiny pieces.

Look at how they're running at me! This Fragrant Barf is really effective.

He noticed that Chen Xuan's speed had increased by about five percent. Most likely, Chen Xuan had still been holding back a bit all this while, and finally couldn't hold himself back anymore. He pushed the Sunflower Phantasm to its limit and ran at full speed towards the cave.

When Chen Xuan finally reached the cave entrance, red-faced, alarms were blaring in his mind. The many years he'd spent in perilous situations had honed his sense of danger.

His instincts told him that he couldn't continue chasing after Zu An, and that it would be dangerous to do so.

However, a different voice tugged at his ear. Just how many times have you allowed him to get away already? Are you going to let him escape again? Aren't you going to get revenge for your brother? Do you not want Zheng Dan for yourself anymore?

Zu An noticed that he had stopped at the cave entrance. Fearing that he wouldn't come in, he activated the Fragrant Barf again. "From all your hollering, I thought you might actually have some skill. It turns out you're just a coward."

He continued to walk further in as he ridiculed Chen Xuan.

Chen Xuan was usually immune to such pathetic psychological attacks. But now, it was as if every single word stabbed straight through his heart.

His thoughts had been warped until they were hardly recognizable as his own. In his mind, Zheng Dan was going to become his wife anyway. But right now, someone else was playing with his wife, and all he could do was stand outside and guard the entrance...

He had no idea why he was thinking such thoughts, but he already considered Zheng Dan his possession. His cooked duck was flying away! All his rage was leveled at Zu An.

"I will kill you!"

Chen Xuan couldn't take it any longer. He charged forward in anger.

Zu An had long since found himself a good nook to hide in. Because of the dim lightning inside the cave and his Mirror Mirage concealing his aura, the furious Chen Xuan couldn't find him at all.

There was only one thing in the bandit leader's mind as he charged into the cave. He was entering this cave to save his own woman while hacking Zu An's corpse to endless pieces.

A ferocious roar greeted him as soon as he charged in.

Chen Xuan wailed miserably. He was struck so hard that his body shot backwards like an artillery shell.

The massive crimson dragon followed him out.

"Despicable humans! You dare disturb this king's cultivation? All of you are courting death!" The crimson dragon circled about in the air. It's enormous body made all humans seem insignificant in comparison, which filled the humans with a natural dread.

Cold rationality flooded Chen Xuan's mind. He finally understood what Zu An had been plotting. This guy had deliberately baited him here so that he could use this dragon to deal with him.

His hatred for Zu An grew exponentially when he realized this. This son of a bitch really was treacherous!

He definitely had to kill this bastard today, before he brought a huge disaster upon his head.

He found this thought a little strange. There was a huge dragon in front of him, yet a part of his mind still seemed obsessed with killing Zu An.

His top priority should've been finding a way to stay alive.

The giant dragon's glowing eyes examined his glowing golden body. "So, you're a metal element cultivator. No wonder you're still unharmed after taking my blow."

Chen Xuan groaned inwardly. His organs had already been thrown into chaos, and he knew he had suffered severe internal injuries. He said quickly, "Great king, I only stumbled upon this place while pursuing my personal enemy. I had absolutely no intention of disturbing you! I hope the great king can pardon my actions. I will leave right away."

At the same time, he cast his gaze about, looking for a place to hide. He wanted to wait until Zu An came back out.

He just couldn't abandon the thought of killing Zu An.

The giant dragon snorted. "I cannot allow any human to learn of my whereabouts," he said. "That is why you must die."

It twisted its body right after it said this, lashing out with its tail with devastating power.

Alarmed, Chen Xuan immediately tried to evade. Unfortunately, even though the dragon's body was massive, its movements were nimble, and a slight twitch like that was enough to cover a massive swathe of ground.

Even though Chen Xuan did everything he could to dodge, he was still clipped by the dragon's massive tail. He was sent flying, his tumbling figure crashing through several trees before stopping. Half of his body went numb.

This second blow had much more force behind it, compared to the one he'd taken in the cave. This attack had been meant to kill.

"Boss, what happened... holy shit!" Liu Chan and the others were well below Chen Xuan in terms of cultivation, and they had only just caught up to him. From all the commotion, they thought that Chen Xuan was beating up Zu An, so they were full of excitement as they rushed over. None of them had expected their boss to be the one being beaten up instead!

Their bodies went ice cold when they saw that massive crimson dragon. Dragons were mythical creatures, yet somehow, there was one right before their eyes!

Without the slightest hesitation, they all turned tail and ran. As for their boss... they only hoped that he could delay this dragon just a little longer.

In fact, it would be even better if Chen Xuan died. The Whale Gang would be completely under their control, and they could even use the opportunity to take over the Blackwind Stockade.

The crimson dragon turned towards them. It didn't chase after them, but opened its mouth instead. A torrent of flame burst outwards.

Liu Chan and his men were engulfed in flames. They rolled frantically on the ground, trying desperately to put themselves out. But unfortunately, the flames wouldn't go out no matter how they tried.

Howls of pain and anguish came from within the flames. In just a few seconds, their bodies were all turned into charcoal. A gust of wind blew over them, disintegrating them and scattering their ashes about.

Chen Xuan was absolutely horrified, and started running for his life, all thoughts of fighting abandoned. The metal element was naturally countered by the fire element! His unbreakable metal body, which he perfected with great difficulty, might be able to take a few hits from physical attacks. However, death was the only outcome when faced with fire.

The crimson dragon chased after his fleeing form.

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Zu An heard the pitiful screams outside. You all brought this upon yourselves.

He ran over to Zheng Dan's side. He quickly undid the mist-like binding around her.

"Ah Zu!" Zheng Dan was already burning up, her eyes blurry. She was shocked and elated when she vaguely made out Zu An's appearance. "Am I dreaming?"

"You're not. I'm getting you out of here right now." Zu An didn't dare waste any time. He picked her up and turned around.

As he was about to leave, he heard Mi Li's voice. "Take that bead along with you. It is definitely something extraordinary."

"Got it!" Zu An replied.

He jumped into the air and seized the bead.

Warmth immediately flowed through his hand. Without bothering to try to determine what this bead was for, he casually slipped it into his pocket. Carrying Zheng Dan, he ran out.

Just then, a violent roar shook the heavens. A powerful gale beat down upon him, and he felt an incredible pressure.

The crimson dragon had made it swiftly back to the cave, and had caught Zu An red-handed.

"Despicable human! You actually used your companions to draw out this king so you would have a chance to steal my Brilliant Glass Bead!" The crimson dragon roared furiously.

Chen Xuan screamed inwardly. Who the hell are you calling that bastard's companion? I was also scammed!

You have successfully trolled Chen Xuan for 1024 Rage points!

Zu An was stunned to receive Chen Xuan's rage points. Was Chen Xuan still hiding nearby?

His eyes darted left and right, but he saw no one else. He had no idea where that fellow was hiding.

Just when he was feeling a twinge of regret, a weak voice suddenly came from midair. "Bastard, I'm right here!"

You have successfully trolled Chen Xuan for 999 Rage points!

Zu An lifted his gaze, and joy spread across his face. The wild and arrogant Chen Xuan was deathly pale, his entire body gripped within the dragon's huge claws.

Pei Mianman had told him that Chen Xuan's body was incredibly tough.

However, this nearly-invincible body had been easily penetrated by the crimson dragon's claws. One of them had pierced through the bandit leader's back and came out of his chest.

Blood flowed down that claw. No wonder Chen Xuan's face was pale! He was leaking all this blood from the wound in his chest!

Zu An couldn't hold back his laughter. "Stockade Master Chen, weren't you acting all high and mighty before? You don't look so good right now."

Chen Xuan couldn't muster up a reply.

He was already in such a terrible situation, yet this guy was still mocking him!

He was already close to his last breath, but rage seemed to take control of his body, giving him one last burst of energy. "You damned mongrel, I won't stop hunting you even if I've turned into a ghost!"

His sudden movements made the dragon's claw dig deeper into him, and he almost fainted from the pain.

This was all Zu An's fault!

You have successfully trolled Chen Xuan for 999... 999... 999...

Zu An roared with laughter. "From the very first time we met, you've only had hateful things to say to me, and you're still banging on the same drum now that you're about to die. How pitiful."

Chen Xuan couldn't take this anymore.

You have successfully trolled Chen Xuan for 1024 Rage points!

He struggled with everything he had. He wanted to bite off a chunk of this bastard's flesh, even if he had to die for it!

Unexpectedly, the crimson dragon grew unhappy at his squirming. It slammed its talon into the ground, and his body popped like a melon.

Just like that, an ambitious and ruthless character met his end.

Zheng Dan was so frightened she buried her head in Zu An's chest. Even though she'd killed her fair share of people as the Whale Gang's boss, she had never witnessed such a horrible sight.

The one who died had been an equally-famous underworld leader, and she couldn't help but feel a bit of sympathy.

After all, there was a scant chance of victory against such a terrifying dragon. Chen Xuan had merely left this world one step ahead of them.

The crimson dragon turned its large eyes on Zu An. "So it was you. You didn't die."

Zu An smiled. "You're not dead yet. How can I let myself die before you?"

You have successfully trolled the red dragon for 1024 Rage points!

"You're courting death!" The red dragon roared in rage. Scorching hot flame shot out towards Zu An.

Chapter 312: Burning Bridges

Zu An was already ready for this. He pushed off gently with his toes, and his figure flashed away.

The large boulder he had been standing on was instantly burned to ash by the heat of the flames. Zu An gulped. He would have shared the same fate if he had been caught by those same flames.

Before he had time to think, the dragon let loose another torrent of flame.

Zu An immediately employed his Sunflower Phantasm to evade. Even though he dodged it, the heat made his hair curl, and there was the stench of something being scorched.

Fearing that Zheng Dan would be burned, he quickly employed the Snowflake Sword to cover his surroundings in a layer of cold energy. The coolness helped to dissipate most of their discomfort.

The crimson dragon fired off several more goutts of flame, but somehow, his target miraculously evaded every attack. It started to realize that continuing this barrage would be futile, and only tire itself out. It gave up on its long-range fire attacks. With a flicker, its massive body disappeared, arrowing towards Zu An.

“Ah Zu, get out of here!” Zheng Dan said in a panic. “Don’t worry about me anymore!”

There might still be a chance for Zu An to escape with his teleportation-like movement skill, while she did her best to stall this massive monster.

She was already mentally prepared to sacrifice herself. Whether it be her life or her purity, it didn’t matter.

Zu An chuckled and said, “Even though I’ve never considered myself a hero, I have never abandoned my friends.”

When she saw his optimistic smile, Zheng Dan’s eyes grew moist. “Ah Zu!”

She steeled her resolve. At worst, the two of them would die together.

If they couldn’t be together in life, then they’d be together in death.

This made her feel much more blessed than Chu Chuyan.

Right at this time, the crimson dragon roared with laughter. “I’ve caught you!”

He had already figured out the rhythm of Zu An’s strange movements.

No matter how miraculous the Sunflower Phantasm was, the difference in strength was still too great.

Zheng Dan saw a massive claw appear in their path, as if the dragon had somehow foreseen their movement. It was so close she could even see the blood staining that claw!

This blood was clearly from Chen Xuan’s body. Not even Chen Xuan’s powerful metal body could withstand a single hit—what hope did Zu An have, with his weaker cultivation?

Zheng Dan wanted to block this attack in his place, but the arms that held her tightened around her. She herself was completely powerless as well, and there was no way she could have moved to shield him.

She decided to bury herself deeper in his chest. This way, when the claw tore through his chest, it would kill her as well. The two of them would thus truly become one.

Mi Li screamed in Zu An’s head. “You’re mad! Why are you purposely standing still?!!!”

Even though the Sunflower Phantasm couldn’t make up for the difference between their cultivation levels, there was still a chance that it hadn’t yet been compromised.

With her insight, she could tell that Zu An was refusing to dodge on purpose.

Zu An didn’t reply her. He turned his back and used it to take the full force of the dragon’s claw.

The crimson dragon saw that his target had no chance of evading his strike. Truly, humans were nothing more than ants.

However, when it saw him tightly embracing Zheng Dan, it felt a twinge of reluctance. After all, this woman really was pretty.

Soon, it would be able to take human form, and it had planned to celebrate its success with this woman.

Even though the two of them were different species, higher-level dragons could all change into human form. That was why dragons and humans had similar standards of beauty.

This shared perception of beauty wasn't limited to just the dragon race. Other races with the potential to cultivate to a high level seemed to share it as well.

After all, the human form was the most suitable for cultivation. As such, all other high-level cultivators from these races also desired to evolve towards a more human form.

Of course, there were races who were limited in their cultivation, and had no hopes of ever achieving human form. To them, a human beauty might look no different from a female pig.

Killing such a beauty really was too much of a waste. As such, the red dragon held back at the last moment. Even so, its strength would still be enough to blast open a hole in the man's body.

Unexpectedly, as the tip of his claw touched the man's back, it did not penetrate flesh. Instead, it felt as if it had struck an invisible barrier.

A blue scale suddenly appeared on the man's back, blocking this fatal strike.

"This is the Ocean Race's..." Before it could finish its sentence, Zu An seized this moment of distraction. There was a flash of black, his dagger cutting through a layer of the dragon's skin.

The crimson dragon was shocked. "An ant like you has a weapon that can injure me? Ridiculous! However, such a small weapon is only enough to tickle me!"

Zu An smiled. "Are you sure?"

The red dragon didn't rise to this taunt. It raised its claw to strike him again. "You can die now, ant."

Suddenly, its entire body trembled. It let out a cry of terror. "What is going on? This... this is a curse.. Ahhh..."

Its voice was full of fear and reluctance. Its sharp and penetrating eyes became dim, and then its massive body seemed to lose all strength, and it smashed into the ground. The whole cavern trembled, as if the earth itself was rupturing.

"It's really dead!" Zu An gasped for breath. To be honest, he wasn't a hundred percent confident. He wasn't sure if the Poisonous Prick would be effective against such a massive dragon.

This was a dragon, after all, and one with a terrifyingly high level of cultivation. It wouldn't have been all that strange for the Poisonous Prick to fail. After all, the Poisonous Prick hadn't worked against Zhang Han and the others in the dungeon.

But Zu An had still decided to stake it all on this. He figured that it probably didn't work on Zhang Han and the others since they were already dead. No matter how ridiculously powerful this dragon was, it was still very much alive.

Of course, no matter how extraordinary the Poisonous Prick was, it still had its weaknesses. He might not be strong enough to wound the enemy with it.

In a normal fight, it would have been hard for him to even stab someone like Chen Xuan, let alone such a massive dragon who was much stronger.

That was why he decided to stand his ground, and try to kill this crimson dragon by taking its blow full on and surprising him in one hit.

His body had already experienced several instances of the Primordial Origin Sutra's refinement, and his ability to recover was also astonishing. He had been willing to gamble that the dragon's attack wouldn't kill him.

He hadn't expected Shang Liuyu's jade pendant to activate.

When he recalled Shang Liuyu's words regarding this pendant, a lingering fear welled up in him. The jade pendant had deduced that the strike would have been enough to take his life, which was why it had blocked the blow.

Mi Li's furious roars echoed in his mind. "Do you know that you almost died just now? If it wasn't for that treasure you had, my life would have been thrown away too..."

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for 444... 444... 444...

She was well and truly angry.

"But I'm still okay..." Zu An said shakily.

Mi Li's soul body appeared. She looked at him, her face clouded over with anger.

Zu An tried to appease her, his voice tinged with embarrassment. "Come on, big sis empress, don't be so mad, okay? I went a little too hard this time, but I'll definitely be more careful next time..."

"As if there'll be a next time! Do you think lives are meant to be toyed with like this? Do you still have another life saving treasure?" Mi Li scoffed.

"No..." Zu An replied weakly.

Despite it all, the jade pendant that Shang Liuyu had given him really was amazing. It could even block the strike of a massive dragon!

"Where did you get that thing anyway?" Mi Li asked curiously.

"A friend gave it to me." Zu An roughly explained the situation with Shang Liuyu to her.

"Next time, ask her for a few more," Mi Li ordered, as if this was something completely normal.

Zu An was utterly confused.

“This sort of treasure is incredibly precious! How can I be so shameless as to ask for more?”

Isn't big sis empress a little too thick-skinned?

“So, the word ‘shame’ actually exists in your dictionary?” Mi Li grunted. “If you really feel too embarrassed, then make her your woman. Wouldn't it be easier to get your hands on more of these then? Either way, I can already tell that you're a complete womanizer.”

Zu An had no words.

Big sis empress, your words make so much sense that I can't even argue with you.

Mi Li continued, “Hurry up and extract that red dragon's inner core. That core is sure to be something extraordinary.”

Zu An walked up to the dragon. “This world has such a thing as inner cores?” he asked curiously.

In his encounter with those assrip wolves, he had tried searching them for some sort of inner core or magic stone, but he'd found nothing of that sort.

As if she had read his puzzlement, Mi Li explained, “Low level beasts don't have any, but a dragon will definitely have one. This dragon should have already reached the master level.”

“Master level?” Zu An was stupefied. This is probably the first master-level cultivator I've ever met, right? I wonder what level Mi Li was when she was at her peak.

“It's common knowledge that a beast is often stronger than a human of the same level,” Mi Li said. “That is why you shouldn't underestimate it. A dragon with master-level strength might be something not even several grandmasters could deal with. I really didn't expect it to fall under your treachery.”

Zu An's eyes brightened. “This means I can tell others that I've killed a grandmaster level expert before! Ahem, ahem, no—I should say equivalent to a grandmaster. Doesn't this mean that everyone else just sucks?”

“Can you please not?” Mi Li rolled her eyes. “Everyone will just think that you're crazy, and if they don't, you will only invite more trouble upon yourself. It will be a disaster.”

“I'm just happy, okay? Can't you just let me run my mouth a little...” Zu An said resentfully. As he spoke, he followed Mi Li's instructions and fished out the inner core.

The dragon was incredibly tough, and even its corpse wasn't something an ordinary blade could cut through. Fortunately, he had this incredible Poisonous Prick.

The inner core was rose-colored, and even gave off a bit of heat.

“A master level inner core! This really is a rare and incredible treasure!” Mi Li said with a sigh of admiration.

It could be used to awaken a fire element, smelt weapons, or prepare medicine... This was definitely a top level item.

Mi Li glanced at the dragon's corpse. "This dragon's entire body is also a treasure. Alas, it's too big, so we can't bring it with us. It would be great if we had a spatial ring."

But she shook her head right away. There were no spatial rings that could hold such a massive body.

They were interrupted by a sweet and seductive moan. Zu An smacked his head. "I almost forgot about her."

The effects of the drug in Zheng Dan's body had probably reached a peak. There was little chance that she hold out much longer.

He rushed over to support her. Zheng Dan's body was boiling hot. He quickly sent a wave of cold energy into her body.

Zheng Dan mind cleared slightly. When she saw Zu An, she immediately pushed him away. "Don't touch me!"

Zu An was left speechless.

Ma'am, what the hell?

"Ah Zu is already dead, so I have no desire to live anymore." Zheng Dan said in distress. She reached out her hand and prepared to strike her own head.

Zu An jumped in alarm, and hurriedly stopped her. "Are you all right? I'm right here! Is your fever messing with your head?"

Zheng Dan stared hatefully at him. "Evil dragon, do not think that I will be deceived and obey you just because you assumed Ah Zu's appearance after killing him!"

Zu An had never been struck so dumb in his life.

Chapter 313: Shocked

Zu An was momentarily speechless. "Sis, how in the world do you even come up with this stuff?"

"Am I wrong?" Zheng Dan sneered. "You said that once you achieved human form, you'll... you'll..."

Her face grew entirely red, and she couldn't finish what she wanted to say. "How could Ah Zu possibly have survived your attack? Poor Ah Zu, for my sake..."

Zu An saw tears leak out from her eyes, and he attributed her behavior to a combination of the drug's effects and the fear she just experienced. That was surely why her mind seemed so muddled.

Zu An pointed at the giant corpse. "Look over there. That dragon is already dead."

Zheng Dan was stunned, and turned to look at where he was pointing. Sure enough, there was a crimson dragon corpse there. She was shocked and overjoyed. "It's really dead?"

"Of course, I killed it!" Zu An puffed out his chest. He really needed another guy around to brag about this dragon's cultivation for him. Explaining it himself was just too lame.

He didn't dare ask Mi Li to help him out. Compared to his ego, his life was more important.

"Ah Zu, it really is you!" Zheng Dan choked with emotion. She threw herself into his arms. "You're really okay?"

She examined his back while asking this. The sight of the dragon's claw slamming against Zu An's back had clearly cast a dark shadow over her mind.

Zu An's heartbeat quickened when he felt the astonishing heat coming off her supple body. However, fearing that her imagination would run wild again, he quickly put away these thoughts. He lightly patted her back to console her. "I had a defensive treasure that managed to block that strike."

"So that was it..." Zheng Dan pursed her lips. She buried her head into his chest again.

Zu An drew on his Snowflake Sword again, sending strands of cold energy into her body in an attempt to get rid of the drug's effects. Unfortunately, the cold energy was devoured by endless flames as soon as it entered her body. After a bit of hesitation, he said, "This poison afflicting you is proving to be quite troublesome..."

Zheng Dan grunted in agreement. "Yeah, I know."

Zu An was dumbfounded. What do you mean, 'you know'?

With Zheng Dan's higher cultivation level and her ability to run the Whale Gang, he had expected her to have all sorts of knowledge and experiences that could help her deal with this problem. Yet in the end, she didn't offer any way to help her!

Zu An called out to Mi Li again. "Big sis empress, do you know any other way to get rid of this poison?" If Ji Xiaoxi were here, she'd probably know a way.

"The poison in her system is unusual. It is tougher than even that giant python in the dungeon. I fear that there might not be any other methods." Mi Li sneered when she said this. "Brat, stop bragging! You're already reaping all the benefits of this situation. You know that there is only one way to cleanse her, yet you keep asking about this! Disgusting."

Zu An became dejected. "I was really trying to be a gentleman!"

"Hah!" Mi Li scoffed.

Zu An turned to Zheng Dan sheepishly. "The only way to get rid of the poison in your body... is..."

Zheng Dan bit her lips. Her voice was incredibly soft. "I'll have to trouble you, then..."

She was a woman of incredible willpower. If it were any other woman, they would surely have lost their rational minds by now, and given into their instincts.

Of course, the fear of the giant dragon and the cold ki that Zu An had supplied her also helped her to hang on to the last shred of reason.

Unfortunately, it was because she was still rational that her situation caused her more embarrassment.

“It’s no trouble, no trouble at all!” Zu An said with an awkward laugh. Which man would be troubled over something like this? All those men had pursued the two of them for so long precisely because they didn’t want the two of them to end up doing this.

Zheng Dan’s head drooped even lower when she heard these words.

Zu An raised his head to look at the nearby cave. He decided that the inside of the cave was at least decent, so he carried Zheng Dan in.

That red dragon’s corpse still lay outside. It still gave off a residual pressure, and ensured that no beasts would dare to approach.

As for human trespassers, they were in the depths of the Hidden Dragon Mountain. No one would dare enter this deep. Even if someone were here, no one could drag off such a massive dragon body.

“Big sis empress, you aren’t going to peep on us, right?” Zu An suddenly asked Mi Li.

You have successfully trolled Mi Li for 513 Rage points!

“What kind of person do you take this empress for? Why would I want to watch your filthy deeds?!” Mi Li hollered furiously. “I’m going back to sleep. Don’t bother me!”

With that, his mindscape grew quiet again.

Zu An called out to her a few more times. When he didn’t hear any activity, Zu An sighed in relief.

After bringing Zheng Dan into the cave, Zu An was just about to say something when a pair of soft red lips covered his own.

The poison in Zheng Dan’s body had taken full effect.

Her fine, supple body was cradled in Zu An’s embrace. With such a beautiful woman making such moves on him, there was no way he could remain indifferent and still call himself a man.

Their breathing and movements grew more and more intense.

Zheng Dan’s dress was thin, and had been slit almost in two by the dragon.

Whatever remained of it tore and scattered like a flock of butterflies, exposing the perfect body that countless Whale Gang members had dreamed about.

Zheng Dan had one final moment of clear-headedness. She stopped Zu An, her eyes swirling with watery brilliance. Her voice was equally conflicted and anxious. “No... I can’t... I can’t ruin my purity before I get married...” she pleaded.

Many of the ideas she had been brought up with were already deeply etched within her. Even in such a situation, she still remembered her many years of stubborn resistance.

Zu An would’ve been fine if she hadn’t said this. However, the more she behaved like this, the more he couldn’t handle it.

The last time, he had failed at the very end because of this. How could he make the same mistake this time?

Zu An kissed her gently. Her vision soon blurred, and the hand that pushed against him no longer did so as firmly.

Sensing her hesitation, Zu An pressed down on her gently with his body.

A line of tears trickled down her face. The two of them had finally become one.

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After a long time passed, a hint of clarity returned to Zheng Dan's eyes.

"You won't blame me for this, right?" Zu An said apologetically.

Zheng Dan shook her head slightly. Her fine jade-smooth arms gently wrapped around him, answering him with her body.

A while later, she suddenly felt a wave of heat surging within her. It was the same sensation as when she'd first been poisoned. She immediately recalled Chen Xuan's arrogant words.

Her charming face grew red. However, now that the situation was what it was, there was nothing left to be shy about. She moved her lips next to his ears and whispered quietly, "Ah Zu, the drug I was given is called 'Eighteen Spring Winds'..."

"I know that." Zu An was stunned. He didn't know why she would suddenly tell him this.

Seeing his incomprehension, Zheng Dan's face only reddened further. She had no choice but to explain, "It's exactly as the name implies, we need to do it... eighteen times..."

She cursed Chen Xuan to death inside. Where in the world did he get such a despicable drug?

Zu An's eyes went completely round, then he laughed. "I will serve the young lady!"

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More time passed by. Zheng Dan tightly embraced Zu An. her entire body was trembling.

It took her a moment to catch her breath. She helped Zu An wipe away his sweat. "Won't you be too tired to continue?"

Zu An laughed. "There's no man in this world who'll get tired, not with such a beautiful woman in front of them!"

Zheng Dan smiled sweetly. His lingering emotions made her appear even more enchanting than usual.

Her true nature was not one that was rigid and conventional. The 'Eighteen Spring Winds', coupled with their close relationship, completely ignited that flame she had suppressed within her very depths.

While the two embraced each other, she gently muttered by his ears, "Ah Zu, don't you feel like our relationship is like the lake and the moon?"

"The lake and the moon?" Zu An was baffled. Do all noble daughters love this poetry stuff?

"I am the lake, while you are the moon," Zheng Dan said, smiling sweetly. "The lake is beneath the moon, while the moon is above the lake. I am under you, while you are..."

She giggled.

Zu An felt a wave of heat surge through his body, and he thought he was going to explode. This woman really was a vixen among vixens!

...

Yet more time elapsed, and Zu An's entire body suddenly went rigid. And yet, he felt a slight hesitation - she was engaged, after all. If he accidentally got her...

As if she could sense his misgivings, Zheng Dan looked at him with gentle eyes. "It's fine. There's a place where the sunlight can't come, but you can."

Zu An gave a guttural roar. How could he possibly hold himself back?

...

In a corner of the cave, Mi Li's soul body was just vaguely visible. Her face was flushed red. "If this woman ever joined an imperial chamber, she would surely suck away all affection and bring about absolute disaster!"

This woman was able to switch so seamlessly between being properly dignified and charmingly seductive. Few men could resist such temptation.

She suddenly noticed that Zu An was making another comeback. She was stunned. "It really has been eighteen times... If he was a gigolo he'd surely be the most popular one."

The word 'gigolo' was also something she had learned from Zu An.

Her cheeks grew redder and hotter. She finally couldn't take it anymore.

She shut off her five senses and hibernated.

...

"Stop sleeping already, get up!"

The next morning, Zu An was woken up by Mi Li's dissatisfied voice.

"What's wrong, big sis empress?" He looked towards the half transparent Mi Li, still drowsy-eyed.

At the same time, he checked on Zheng Dan. She was still sleeping in his embrace, a sweet and satisfied smile resting on her face.

Mi Li snorted, "Take out that bead. Let's see what kind of treasure it is."

This guy had tossed and turned for an entire night, which meant that she hadn't managed to get any rest. The scenes she had witnessed had haunted her even after she shut off her five senses.

Yet somehow this guy had managed to sleep so soundly after all his exertions!

She was in a terrible mood, so she found a reason early in the morning to holler him awake.

"Oh..." Zu An's curiosity was also piqued. He searched inside his clothes and found the bead.

“Let’s go outside first. I don’t want to keep looking at a woman in such unkempt clothes.” Mi Li grunted and began to walk off.

He lowered his head to look at Zheng Dan’s rosy skin. Her clothes are already far beyond unkempt!

Zu An laughed awkwardly and quickly made to follow her. However, he stumbled after just a single step. It didn’t feel like he was walking on solid ground, but on cotton.

Mi Li shot him a look. She had clearly deduced what was wrong with him.

Zu An laughed in a simple and honest manner.

Mi Li snorted coldly, before giving him instructions. “Imbue the bead with your ki, and then send your consciousness in bit by bit.” She slowly taught him how to direct his consciousness.

Zu An nodded. He did as he was told, and was shocked when he sent his consciousness into the bead.

Chapter 314: Handsome Men Always Have the Best Luck

Zu An felt as if his consciousness had entered a vast, hazy space. Gray-colored mist surrounded everything, severely limiting his vision.

He tried to probe further into the depths, but his surroundings remained the same no matter what he did. It was as if he was surrounded by what fantasy stories described as primal chaos, a swirling nothingness which existed before the world was formed.

His mental strength was close to exhaustion. He couldn’t stay here any longer.

“This bead seems quite strange.” Mi Li’s voice came from beside him.

Mi Li was, to a certain extent, connected to his soul. She could see everything he saw.

“Big sis empress, do you recognize this bead?” Zu An asked quickly. “I think that dragon called it a Brilliant Glass Bead,”

He understood his own limitations. He was still a foreigner to this world, and his knowledge was very limited.

However, Mi Li was different. Her cultivation was profound, and she used to occupy such a high position. Her knowledge and experiences were definitely extraordinary.

Mi Li shook her head. “Brilliant Glass Bead? I’ve never heard of such a thing before. I only know that it seems to carry extremely profound spatial principles. Maybe it suffered too much damage, or had most of its functions sealed. There isn’t much we know about it right now.”

“Sealed?” Zu An was momentarily stunned, but his bewilderment soon gave way to joy. “Doesn’t that mean that this might be some sort of divine artifact?”

He’d watched so many movies in his past life. Every single one of the sealed treasures in them had badass effects!

Mi Li snorted. "Where do you even get your delusions from? Just because it's sealed doesn't mean that it's definitely a formidable treasure. No one can know before the seal is undone."

Zu An was puzzled. "Would anyone waste their time and energy sealing an ordinary treasure?"

"Nothing is too bizarre in this world," Mi Li said indifferently.

Even a donkey like you exists—can anything else even surprise me anymore?

"How do I unseal this thing, then?" Zu An continued with his questioning. He really wanted to know what this bead could do.

Mi Li shook her head. "I have no idea."

"You don't know?" Zu An grew discouraged. He really hadn't expected such an answer.

Mi Li couldn't stand his disdainful expression. Her face reddened. "Do you think I'm omniscient and omnipotent?" she retorted. "What's there to be surprised about just because I don't know? As far as I know, these seals are usually undone only by a mixture of opportunities and coincidences. There is usually no set way to unseal them."

Zu An was stunned. "You're saying that it depends on your face?"[1]

"Your face?" After being around this fellow for so long, Mi Li had picked up on the meanings of some of the strange phrases he used. "Indeed, it depends on your luck. Some people are blessed with good fortune and might unwittingly undo the seal, while others struggle their entire lives without finding a way."

Zu An laughed. "Then there's no problem at all! My luck has always been pretty good."

Mi Li was momentarily at a loss for words.

She was also starting to get used to this fellow's delusional confidence. She snorted, then continued, "Your luck is indeed pretty good. This bead seems to be in a sealed state, but you can use it to store things. Aim the bead at what you want it to store, and then give it an order with your mind."

"Spatial storage?" Zu An was excited. This was exactly what he lacked the most right now! Bringing everything around with him really was inconvenient, especially things like the Tai'e sword.

Having such a treasure to store things would simplify matters.

He tried to store a large rock first. Sure enough, that large rock was sucked right in.

With another thought, the large rock was released again.

This was the first time Zu An had a treasure similar to a spatial ring. He couldn't contain his excitement, and his eyes darted around the cave, storing and releasing objects again and again.

"Bumpkin." Mi Li sneered. However, a smile subconsciously tugged at the corners of her lips.

Zu An suddenly had a thought. "Doesn't this thing make me invincible, then? I can just suck in any enemy from now on! I don't even have to fight them."

This was the same as the gourd from 'Journey to the West'! He could even suck people in!

Mi Li shot down his fantasies straight away. "Dream on! Spatial artifacts can only be used to store non-living objects. These are things set by natural laws, and not something we can go against. You also have no way of taking in things with other people's spiritual imprints.

"If you could, then why not just steal your opponent's weapons, their clothes, and everything else while in combat? What would even be the point of fighting, then?"

Zu An's eyes brightened when he heard her explanation. If he could straight up steal his opponent's clothes while they were fighting, then wouldn't he be invincible against women...?

Mi Li gave him a strange look. She couldn't quite figure out what had gone through his mind to make him smile in such a perverted way.

"There's one last thing. We don't know how large this spatial storage is. Even though it looks pretty large, since everything was covered in mist," Mi Li muttered to herself. "See if you can take in that dragon's corpse."

Zu An was slightly shocked. "It's probably too big, right?" That dragon was several dozen zhang[2] in length, after all. It looked practically like a small mountain when it was all coiled up.

Even though he didn't have much confidence, Zu An still gave it a try.

Surprisingly, the entire dragon's body vanished instantly.

Zu An rubbed his eyes. He was in complete disbelief.

He hesitated, then activated the bead again. Sure enough, the massive dragon's corpse appeared in front of him again.

"This... this..." Zu An was speechless.

Mi Li gasped in astonishment. "Brat, your luck really is quite good! Normal spatial rings have restricted space, yet the one you have can even store a giant dragon! I could sense that, even with the dragon inside, it could still store more things."

Zu An roared with laughter. "Handsome men always have the best luck!"

Mi Li resisted the urge to slap him.

She couldn't handle his narcissism anymore.

"Enough already! I'm going back to sleep since there are no more dangers. I'm being serious this time. Don't disturb me if it's not something important."

She went silent after saying this.

Zu An's expression grew strange. Why did she say that she was being serious this time? Was she lying when she said this the night before?

Then again, he didn't really mind her seeing his gallant and heroic figure. They were already so close anyway.

Zu An deliberately made this thought crystal clear. When he didn't see any Rage points come in, he was reassured that she had truly gone into hibernation.

He was just about to return to the cave when he noticed a pool of blood with a golden blade next to him. Only then did he finally recall that Chen Xuan had been crushed to death in this very spot.

Sigh, a formidable figure was ground into meat paste just like that.

Why does that make me feel so... refreshed?

That Chen Xuan was a monstrous criminal! He should've died a long time ago!

He suddenly noticed a small bottle next to him. When he picked it up, he noticed that it was still half-full with some sort of medicinal liquid.

He uncorked it, and a sweet, fragrant smell wafted out.

What is this? Zu An didn't dare drink it. However, he subconsciously sensed that it was probably something good.

He stored it away inside the Brilliant Glass Bead. He'd have Ji Xiaoxi analyze it for him later. She's pretty skilled in medicine, so she should be able to figure out what this stuff is.

He searched around what remained of Chen Xuan, and stumbled upon many thin, skin-like masks.

Hm?

From all the shows he had watched previously, he obviously knew what all this was for.

When he tried them on his face, he discovered that each of them made his face change into a different, unfamiliar look.

"No wonder no one could catch this Chen Xuan all these years. He could change his appearance!" Zu An carefully stowed away these masks.

They might prove extremely useful in the future. The only regrettable thing was that these masks had a fixed appearance. They couldn't change him into whatever he wanted to look like.

He put away Chen Xuan's blade as well. He made a final sweep and saw nothing of value, so he quickly returned to the cave.

"Where did you run to, Ah Zu?" Zheng Dan was already seated upright, looking all around her in a panic. As her eyes settled on him, tears began to flow down her cheeks.

Zu An rushed over to console her. "I went out for a bit just now. Come on, don't cry."

"I thought you left me..." Zheng Dan laughed in embarrassment. She had just offered her everything to him, and she couldn't help but feel worried.

Zu An felt his heart skip a beat. Zheng Dan's clothes were already torn to shreds. When she stood up, almost everything was revealed to him.

Zheng Dan covered her chest with one hand, and she used the other to tuck away some loose strands of hair behind her ear. "You've already had all night to look at me," she murmured shyly. "Haven't you... haven't you seen enough?"

Zu An was surprised. She had been so enthusiastic last night, yet now, she was incredibly shy again, as if she had returned to being that sweet-tempered young miss. Why did she seem to have such split personalities?

Whatever it is, it doesn't look too serious. Her two personalities aren't completely separate, after all. Not like in those movies, where one personality had no idea of the other personality's existence, or what it did.

Anyway, it's not even that big of a deal even if she has split personalities.

I'll just enjoy both of them!

Zu An reached out a hand and lifted her chin slightly. "I'll never be able to get enough of you," he said, gazing at her perfect face. He sighed in admiration.

Zheng Dan's face grew red. "I really don't think I can right now. It hurts..." she said softly.

Her eyes were full of embarrassment.

Zu An laughed and took her into his arms. "Relax, I'm not that much of a beast."

Leaving her aside, even he had run out of stamina after experiencing those eighteen spring winds.

Zu An noticed a set of sparkling purple clothes in the cave. It seemed to have been made from some type of silk, and its surface was embedded with crystals and gems.

They were truly clothes befitting a goddess. Even Zheng Dan, who had seen all sorts of clothes before, wasn't willing to part with it after putting it on.

Dragons were fond of collecting shiny objects. There was quite a bit of gold, silver and other gemstones piled up here, and that dragon had probably added these clothes to its collection because it was also bright and dazzling.

"We've really struck it rich now! There are so many treasures here!" He took in all the piles of gold and silver, and estimated them to be worth two or three million taels of silver, at least. He could barely contain his glee. "Let's split it in half," he told Zheng Dan.

Zheng Dan shook her head. "Money and valuables are only worldly possessions, and they mean nothing to me. You can have all of it."

Zu An was stunned. "Why did you secretly establish the Whale Gang if you don't care about money?"

Chapter 315: Promise

Zheng Dan sighed. "I did it for my clan, of course. The Chu clan has their ancestors' achievements to help them maintain most of Brightmoon City's market. The rest of us have been smothered until we can't even breathe, so we can only look for other methods to survive.

"I was young and ambitious back then. When I saw how troubled my parents were day after day, I wanted to help them take on a share of their burden. I also felt a little uneasy about our clan's future myself, so I wanted to try a different type of lifestyle. I never expected things to escalate so much that I would end up creating something like the Whale Gang.

"The Whale Gang has earned quite a bit of money for the Zheng Clan these past few years, and to some degree, it has weakened the Chu clan. Father has been smiling more, but I cannot say the same for myself."

It seemed to Zu An that there really were different perspectives to every situation.

From the Chu clan's perspective, the illicit salt smugglers were despicable, and so was the Zheng Clan for using all sorts of contemptible methods.

But in the eyes of the Zheng clan, they were dissatisfied that the Chu clan has enjoyed their privileges generation after generation. They didn't feel inferior to the Chu clan in any way.

Zu An couldn't say which side was right and which side was wrong. In the end, all that mattered was which side you belonged to.

"Why couldn't you feel happiness?" Pity welled up within Zu An when he saw the worry etched between her brows. He reached out a hand to comfort her.

"The Whale Gang was engaged in illegal activities after all, so we were definitely targets for the River Patrol Army. This was the main reason for our marriage alliance with the Sang clan. Only with the Sang clan's protection did we have a chance of continuing the illicit salt trade. Otherwise, the Whale Gang would've been wiped out a long time ago," explained Zheng Dan.

When they found the Zheng clan's butler involved in the smuggling, the Chu clan had already suspected that the Sang clan was most likely involved.

Now, they finally received confirmation.

This Sang Hong really was vicious! He hadn't even hesitated to risk colluding with the illicit salt smugglers in order to bring down the Chu clan.

Once exposed, not even the emperor would be able to protect his status as the governor!

Unfortunately, there was no proof for anything. There was no way he could just drag Zheng Dan over to testify against the Sang clan, right?

He couldn't bring himself to do something so merciless.

Zu An pondered a moment, and then he asked, "Do you like Sang Qian?"

Zheng Dan smiled. "Are you jealous?"

Zu An snorted. "Why would I be jealous of him? If anything, he should be jealous of me."

Zheng Dan obviously knew what he was talking about. She rolled her eyes and said, "Regardless of appearance, background, or ability, Sang Qian is an excellent husband for our Zheng clan. Unfortunately, I just don't feel much of anything when I'm with him. The only reason I agreed to the marriage was because of the benefits it would bring the clan. Actually, I didn't even have a choice in this matter. The clan had already made the decision for me a long time ago."

Sensing the dejection and loneliness in her tone, Zu An said, "Why don't you just throw away this engagement then? You can follow me instead."

"Follow you?" Zheng Dan said with an ambiguous expression. "Would I follow you into the Chu clan?"

Zu An's breathing stopped. When he thought of the grudges between the two clans, he really didn't know what to say.

Zheng Dan sighed. "Even though I've always appeared to others as a gentle and quiet person, I'm actually incredibly proud and arrogant. I never wanted to become the wife of another, not even to someone with such an outstanding background like Sang Qian."

When she saw Zu An's expression grow rather awful, she said, "But Ah Zu, you're different. Being your wife... is not impossible."

When he saw the gentle feelings in her eyes, Zu An reached out to hold her soft hands. He didn't know what to say.

"What a pity..." Zheng Dan moved the conversation on. "I cannot make decisions for myself alone. I have to think about the good of my clan as well. I cannot be that selfish and harm my clan."

"The Sang clan came in response to the emperor's will, so the Chu clan is merely fighting valiantly to hold back their inevitable defeat. Our Zheng clan has remained the Chu clan's enemy for so many years already. I cannot make such a decision for the Zheng clan."

"But your purity is already... How are you going to marry the Sang clan like that?" Zu An couldn't help but mention this.

"I'll find a way to solve this in the future. Either way, it's still a while before our marriage is formalized. I should be able to use some tricks to get by for now." A hint of worry creased Zheng Dan's brow. The Sang clan weren't idiots. Sang Hong was even sharper than his son, so deceiving them was definitely going to be hard.

Zu An became a bit gloomy. "Do you really want to marry into the Sang clan that badly?"

Zheng Dan's soft fingers gently caressed his cheeks. "Is my daddy getting angry?"

Her teasing made both of them recall the words of passion they had shared the night before, stirring their hearts.

"I guess, in the end, we just aren't strong enough. We cannot make decisions for ourselves alone..." Zheng Dan sighed. However, she quickly added, "But Ah Zu, please, there's nothing to worry about. Even if I marry into the Sang clan, I will always be yours. As long as you want me, you can find me at any time..."

There really was a type of mysterious charm when she spoke such captivating words with such a dignified tone.

Zu An's heart skipped a beat. "Do you think that's all I'm after..."

Zheng Dan pressed her finger gently against his lips. "I know you aren't that type of person, but this is all I can do for you."

"I've been blessed with a life of luxury from birth, and my parents have treated me extremely well. I was granted resources and an education, so I really can't just abandon them. I hope Ah Zu doesn't blame me for this choice."

Zu An shook his head. "The reason you are making this type of choice is because you are a sincere and strong-willed person. You are doing this out of filial piety and out of a sense of responsibility. How could I selfishly blame you for that? Speaking of which, when are you and Sang Qian getting married?"

"In about a year," Zheng Dan replied after thinking for a bit.

"Then there's still time," Zu An muttered to himself. His voice grew serious. "I'll definitely steal you back when the time comes. You won't have to worry about your clan's problems then either," he declared.

A big smile appeared on Zheng Dan's face. Her beautiful, misty eyes were swimming with deep emotion. "I'll be waiting for you."

"But you definitely cannot let that Sang dude take advantage of you before that!" Zu An said with a serious expression.

Zheng Dan smiled and said, "Don't worry, I haven't even let him hold my hand."

Zu An was astonished. "Then why did you approach me before..."

She had clearly come to him with such an open mind! That was why he thought that she was like this with her fiancé too. If he hadn't confirmed that she was a virgin, he would have assumed much more.

Zheng Dan gave him a look. "I don't even know why myself. I always lose my mind when I'm with you. I was supposed to set a honey trap for you, but I ended up suffering a double loss instead!"

Zu An laughed. "Doesn't this just mean that we are a match made in heaven?"

Zheng Dan smiled sweetly and pressed her cheek against his chest.

"By the way, why did you approach me in the beginning?" Zu An asked, slightly curious.

"Of course I was after your promissory note from the Silverhook casino! Many clans have been eyeing Plum Blossom Sect's assets." Zheng Dan smiled in embarrassment as she recalled the incident. She was the one who had intentionally tried to seduce him.

"It's not just the clans. Even the academy is eyeing them." Zu An roughly explained his deal with the academy. The two were already so close, and he didn't want to hide this from her.

Zheng Dan grew flustered. “On my goodness! You didn’t have the seven-and-a-half million taels of silver from the start?” Her cheeks flushed with embarrassment. “You never said anything, even after I wasted so much energy!”

Zu An chuckled. “The two of us were enemies back then. Why would I tell you anything? Besides, which man would be stupid enough to turn away a great beauty who is intent on throwing herself at him?”

“Ahhhh!!! I hate you so much! I’m going to bite you to death!” Zheng Dan bared her teeth and pounced at him. Zu An quickly dodged with a smile.

The two of them tacitly remained in the cave for the next few days. Firstly, they needed to recover from their injuries, and secondly, this was the most intimate place for them. In this place, they didn’t need to think about their responsibilities, their clans, or any of the other things that troubled them.

This pair of lovers stayed here alone, and each time their eyes met, the heavens shook and the earth was rent asunder.

When Zheng Dan recovered from the Eighteen Spring Winds, the two of them shared a period of intense bliss.

From time to time, sounds that would make even passing birds blush could be heard, as well as the intimate words shared between lovers.

“Even if something happens and I can’t steal you back in time, I won’t let him touch you even if you marry into the Sang clan!”

Zheng Dan giggled. “He is going to be my real husband! Aren’t you being too unreasonable~”

“I don’t care! I won’t allow it!”

“Then you have to do your best to steal me back! I don’t think it’ll be that easy, though.”

“Are you trying to get me angry on purpose?”

“Ah, forgive me daddy~”

Chapter 316: Profit from Disaster

From her perch on top of a tree, Zheng Dan looked towards the boats that were gathered along the river’s shore. She sighed. “Seems like we have to go back.”

Zu An nodded. Even though the men were still some distance away, it would only be a matter of time before they found this place. “Do you know if they are from the Whale Gang, or people from Brightmoon City?”

Zheng Dan shook her head. “They aren’t from the Whale Gang. The Whale Gang don’t wear this sort of attire. They should be...”

She was the Whale Gang’s boss, so she naturally knew about these things.

Seeing her speak but then break off, Zu An said with a smile, “Is it Sang Qian’s River Patrol Army?”

Zheng Dan nodded with a gloomy expression.

“This guy seems to care quite a lot about you,” Zu An said with a sigh.

Zheng Dan had a complicated expression on her face. “He has always treated me quite well.”

Zu An wasn’t expecting that.

“Why do I feel like we are the adulterers here?”

“Pui!” Zheng Dan spat out. She blushed at once. “Who talks about themselves like that?”

Zu An laughed. “Okay, okay, let’s pack up and head back.”

He had disappeared for so long. The academy and the Chu clan were sure to be worried.

There wasn’t that much to pack. They had been chased here in the first place, so they hadn’t brought anything with them.

The only thing they had to bring with them was the red dragon’s pile of treasure.

“How do we bring all of this back?” Zheng Dan stared at the piles of treasure in front of her with a worried expression.

Zu An smiled. “Don’t worry.”

He walked up to the treasure and exerted some metal strength. With a single, concentrated thought, all the sparkling treasures vanished without a trace.

“A spatial artifact!” Zheng Dan was shocked. Her face immediately grew red. “No wonder I couldn’t find that promissory note on you! You had such a thing with you! I wasted so much...”

Zu An wrapped his arms around her willowy waist and gave her a firm kiss on the mouth. “Without all that, we would never have been brought together. This truly was the workings of fate.”

“Fate is truly unkind!” Zheng Dan scoffed. She couldn’t stand what he was doing and turned away, her face burning.

Zu An laughed loudly and followed her out.

“That’s right, I’ve heard that dragons carry grudges. Won’t it come after you once it finds out that you’ve stolen all of its treasures?” Zheng Dan said when they left the cave.

“Don’t worry, that dragon won’t be back.” Zu An smiled.

Zheng Dan was surprised. “It seems like you really do have a powerful expert at your side.”

The Sang clan had assigned her the task, but she never expected to find out the truth in such a manner. The price she paid for it had been too steep!

“What if I was the one who killed it?” Zu An couldn’t resist saying.

“You really love to brag,” Zheng Dan scoffed. “Don’t worry, I won’t tell the Sang clan.”

She obviously didn't believe that Zu An had the strength to kill a giant dragon as terrifying as that one. Besides, the dragon's corpse had vanished as well, and it was probably the expert backing him that took it away.

Just how strong was that expert? He could even defeat such a terrifying creature!

She always had confidence in the Zheng clan overtaking the Chu clan, especially since the Chu clan was desperately trying to hold back the inevitable. However, if they had the help of a top-level expert, then it was hard to say who would come out ahead.

She even subconsciously thought about bringing Zu An into the Zheng clan. However, there was the issue of her current engagement to Sang Qian. She sighed heavily, and let go of the thought without saying anything.

"What's wrong?" Zu An held her hand when he sensed the change in her mood.

"It's nothing." Zheng Dan forced a smile. She suddenly thought of something and hurriedly asked, "If there is an expert at your side, then these few days... the two of us... didn't he see all of that?"

She was thoroughly embarrassed by how the two of them had completely abandoned all restraint while they were in the cave. She didn't mind showing Zu An this side of her, but she would be too ashamed if anyone else had seen it too.

"Don't worry, no one saw anything." Zu An reassured her while feeling guilty inside. Big sis empress was a woman, after all, and it was fine if she had seen them.

That Mi Li really is two-faced! She said she was going to sleep, and yet she still stayed up to peep on them.

Only after Zu An comforted her repeatedly did Zheng Dan finally calm down.

The two of them made it a short distance before Zheng Dan cried out, "Wait!" She whipped around and ran back to the cave.

Zu An was puzzled. He didn't know what she was doing, but followed her anyway. He saw that she was cleaning up the places where the two of them had slept together.

The messy straw was sorted neatly, and then she even summoned her water element powers to give it everything a thorough washing.

Zu An stood staring, his mouth slightly agape.

Zheng Dan pinched the corners of her dress in embarrassment. "It seems a little shameful if someone else found out about this."

Zu An really couldn't associate this bashful young lady with that fierce and bold figure from a few days ago.

The two of them headed down the mountain together. When they were still a hundred meters from the search party, Zheng Dan suddenly stopped Zu An. "Ah Zu, don't follow me."

"Are you worried about your fiancé finding out?" Zu An laughed.

Zheng Dan grew flustered, and hurriedly explained, "That's not it! It's just that Sang Qian is a bit narrow-minded, and he doesn't like you at all. We're in the wilderness right now, and there isn't anyone else around but his own people. I'm worried that he might suddenly attack you."

Her words made sense to Zu An. Only Sang Qian's River Patrol Army soldiers were here, and this area was completely desolate and uninhabited. That fella might really give in to his killing intent.

"All right then. Take care of yourself." Zu An bid her goodbye reluctantly.

Zheng Dan suddenly threw herself into his arms. She rose on her tiptoes and gave him a deep, long kiss, before reluctantly parting from him.

"Dan'er, are you there?" Sang Qian's call came from a distance away.

Zu An hid behind a large tree so that the commander couldn't see him.

Zheng Dan's face was slightly flushed as she pushed him away. She secretly waved goodbye to him, and then walked out into the open. "Commander Sang, I am over here."

Sang Qian was shocked and overjoyed. He quickly rushed to her side. "Dan'er, it really is you!"

Zheng Dan felt a twinge of remorse when she heard the concern in his voice. "I've troubled Commander Sang."

"Not at all, not at all!" Sang Qian laughed loudly. He was clearly extremely happy to see his fiancée fine and well. Suddenly, his eyes froze. "Are your legs injured?"

Zheng Dan was taken aback. "No. Why would you ask that?"

"You seem to be walking differently from how you usually do, although I can't really tell what's different about it." Sang Qian scratched his head. He stared at her legs with a perplexed expression.

Zheng Dan's face reddened immediately. She thought about how, day after day, she had let Zu An's preposterous...

Her heart began to pound, and she quickly changed the topic. "By the way, how did you manage to find this place?"

Sang Qian also snapped out of his daze. "A spy from the Whale Gang relayed a message, saying that something had happened on the island. I was concerned, so I brought some men along with me. Hmph, to think that Chen Xuan would be so brazen as to go after the Whale Gang! I would never have sucked up to the Shi clan if I knew that things would turn out this way."

Only then did Zheng Dan feel relief. The Sang clan was not the only one with spies on Whale Island, even the Zheng clan had their own. However, she never expected Chen Xuan to incite all of those higher-level figures against her.

Things had happened so abruptly that she had no chance to react properly.

However, now that the Sang and Zheng clans had been informed, there was no way either of them would sit idly by.

"I heard that Chen Xuan and Liu Chan's band of conspirators were chasing you. They... didn't do anything to you, did they?" Sang Qian asked nervously. As a man, there were some things he was most worried about. Many terrible scenarios appeared in his head.

Zheng Dan's face reddened slightly, and she quickly shook her head. "Of course not!"

She felt rather guilty. Even though Chen Xuan's group had not touched her, Zu An...

Sang Qian sighed in relief when he heard her reply. "Where are they? Don't worry, I will make sure anyone who bullies you will have their corpses hacked to pieces!"

Zu An, who was currently hiding on a tree while under the effects of Mirror Mirage, had a strange expression on his face. Could what he had done during this period of time be considered as bullying Zheng Dan?

She seemed pretty happy through all of it though, so I'm probably in the clear, right? I'm definitely not one of those people Sang Qian is talking about.

"All of them are dead," Zheng Dan replied.

"Dead?" Sang Qian didn't dare believe what he was hearing. Liu Chan and the others were one thing, but Chen Xuan had managed to evade the efforts of the Chu clan and the city lord to capture him for all these years. Did he really die here?

"I fled into the depths of Hidden Dragon Mountain. In the end, we accidentally stumbled into a dragon's territory. All of them were killed by the furious dragon. I used the chance to get away," Zheng Dan explained, leaving out some parts of what happened.

She had spent these past few days thinking about how to explain what had happened to anyone who asked, and she replied without any hesitation.

"A dragon!" Not just Sang Qian, but even the surrounding soldiers were shocked. "There really is a dragon in Hidden Dragon Mountain?"

Zheng Dan nodded. "That dragon is extremely formidable. It uses the fire element. It burned Liu Chan and the others to ashes with a single breath."

These were things Zu An had told her. She retold everything in a vivid manner, and even described the dragon's appearance in great detail.

Sang Qian was satisfied. He roared with laughter. "Who would've thought that we would profit from this disaster? I will bring some troops over to hunt down this dragon. We've struck it big this time! This is a legendary dragon we are talking about! Every single part of its body is a treasure!"

Zu An had a very different thought in mind. I feel like your fiancée—not the dragon—is the one whose entire body is a treasure.

If he had spoken this out loud, the reaction it drew would have been second only to 'your wife was so wonderful'. He would've surely raked in a ton of Rage points.

However, out of consideration for Zheng Dan's circumstances, he held his tongue.

Chapter 317: New Task

Zheng Dan wasn't all that worried that Sang Qian seemed so excited. That dragon wasn't even there anymore. When they carried out their search and found nothing, they would just assume that the dragon moved its nest because it didn't want to be disturbed.

At the same time, she praised herself for scouring that cave of any trace of her and Ah Zu. If she hadn't, and such a large group ventured inside, there was no guarantee that no one would find anything.

"Let's return to the Whale Gang's headquarters first. We need to deal with this mutiny," said Zheng Dan.

Chen Xuan only colluded with the middle- and upper-level figures in the Whale Gang. Now that those people were all dead, she could bring the entire gang back under her control again.

"You should just return to Brightmoon City," Sang Qian said with a heavy voice. "There is no need for you to go to Whale Island."

"Why?" Zheng Dan was confused.

"My men have already eliminated everyone in the Whale Gang." Sang Qian sounded as if he were merely talking about the weather.

"What?!" Zheng Dan turned pale with fright.

Sang Qian continued indifferently, "If they can betray you once, then they might betray you again.

"Besides, you're going to marry into our Sang clan. If news of you being the Whale Gang's boss gets out, it will cause huge problems for us. That's why I took this opportunity to completely pull out this problem from its roots."

Zheng Dan immediately grew upset. "Your actions have wasted many years of effort!"

"There is a time to let things go. The Whale Gang has already accomplished what it was meant to do over these years, and has instead become more of a liability. You should think about preparing yourself to become a good wife. That is what you, first miss of the Zheng clan, need to focus on." Sang Qian waved his hand, gesturing for his subordinates to escort Zheng Dan back.

Zheng Dan felt her soul leave her body when she learned that the Whale Gang had been completely destroyed. The soldiers escorted her away, supporting her powerless body.

Zu An felt a chill run down his back as he watched this group leave. This Sang Qian looked rather suave and handsome from the outside, but his actions were truly vicious.

There had been at least several hundred people on that island. Together with their wives and children, the population of the island might have surpassed a thousand souls. Everyone had been massacred by him.

No wonder Zheng Dan stopped him from accompanying her. With this guy's merciless nature, he really might have used this chance to kill him.

Zu An waited until Sang Qian and the others left, and then he rushed off in the direction of Brightmoon City. He finally returned to the Chu clan in the evening.

“The young master has returned!”

Cheng Shouping was squatting by the gate. He shouted with joy when he saw Zu An.

A huge commotion broke out in the entire Chu clan estate, and in an instant, quite a few people rushed out.

Surprisingly, Qin Wanru was the first one to appear.

When she saw that it really was Zu An, she was both surprised and delighted. “Where the heck have you been these past few days?!”

“Thank heavens you came back. Go and contact the Master, Chuyan, and Huanzhao! They don’t have to keep searching for him!”

Zu An was perplexed that he hadn't seen Chu Chuyan around. He was completely stunned when he heard what Qin Wanru said. “Chuyan and the others are looking for me?”

“They are!” Qin Wanru said with a sigh, “When Miss Shang from the academy told us that something had happened, Chuyan couldn’t sleep for many days. She brought some men with her everyday, and went out looking for you.

“Even that brat Huanzhao is doing the same. I really don’t know why she is getting all worked up.

“She still hasn’t fully recovered yet...” Zu An was incredibly moved, but his heart was also overwhelmed with grief. Even though he had stayed in the cave to treat his injuries, the main reason he’d delayed his return was so that he could continue to act shamelessly with Zheng Dan.

Chu Zhongtian and the others quickly returned when they heard the news.

Even though Chu Chuyan was misty-eyed, she was still naturally more reserved, so she maintained some semblance of composure. However, Chu Huanzhao definitely couldn’t hold herself back. She threw herself into his arms and began to cry. “Brother-in-law, where did you go these past few days? All of us were worried to death...”

Chu Zhongtian exchanged a look with his wife. Qin Wanru’s brow was slightly furrowed, as was his own. However, seeing how emotional their second daughter was, there was little that they could say.

After a while, though, even Chu Zhongtian couldn’t stand his second daughter sticking so closely to Zu An. He coughed lightly and said, “Ah Zu, where did you go these past few days?”

All eyes turned on Zu An. Their gazes seemed to be burning hot as they stared at him, so Zu An awkwardly pushed Chu Huanzhao away. However, the front of his clothes had already been completely soaked by her tears.

The bodies of girls really were made of water.

Zu An sighed and replied, "I was out with some people from the academy that day. Later on, I discovered some news about the Whale Gang's boss, so I decided to look into it. However, the enemy saw right through me and captured me, and brought me straight to Whale Island."

Everyone's faces changed. He said this casually, but they could well imagine how terrifying of an experience this was.

"Did you find out who the Whale Gang's boss was?" Qin Wanru quickly asked. After all, the Whale Gang has stolen a huge share of the Chu clan's market, and their boss was even more mysterious than Chen Xuan.

"I do not know. When I was captured, there seemed to be some internal strife going on in the Whale Gang. I used the opportunity to get away," replied Zu An. What he said was still mostly true.

He felt guilty about all this, but there was no way he could just sell Zheng Dan out like that.

"How unfortunate! We still don't know anything about them!" Qin Wanru's annoyance was palpable.

"It is now completely meaningless whether we know their identity or not," Chu Zhongtian said. "We have just received the news that Sang Qian found Whale Island. His River Patrol Army has already destroyed it completely."

"Just what kind of relationship does Whale Island have with the Zheng clan? Where are the captives from the island? Tell Xie Yi to interrogate them," Qin Wanru demanded hastily.

Chu Zhongtian shook his head. "They didn't spare a single person on that island!"

Qin Wanru gasped. "That Sang Qian really is a vicious man."

Zu An's face sunk as well. He had only suspected this to be the case before, but he now had confirmation.

Chu Chuyan's voice was icy cold. "It seems like the Whale Gang really is connected to the Zheng clan. Otherwise, Sang Qian wouldn't have to go so far as to silence everyone."

Zu An secretly gave his wife a thumbs-up. His main wife really was a smart one! Dandan, you can't blame me for this one. They reached these conclusions themselves.

"Oh, right. Ah Zu, why did the Whale Gang suddenly suffer from internal strife?" Chu Chuyan looked at him with her beautiful eyes. This was a well-organized group that had brought the Chu clan countless headaches over the years. She just couldn't figure out why they would suddenly turn on each other.

"Chen Xuan paid a visit to the island. He incited many people in the Whale Gang to betray the boss. Those members were already dissatisfied with how conservative their boss was, and wanted to widen the scope of their illicit salt business. A fight between the different factions broke out, allowing me to escape." Zu An told them all of this plainly, as there was no need to hide anything.

"Chen Xuan!" Even Chu Zhongtian was shocked when he heard this name.

"What was the result of this battle?" Qin Wanru asked hurriedly.

"They should all be dead," replied Zu An.

“Dead?” All of them were puzzled. They clearly couldn’t get over the fact that someone like Chen Xuan could die so easily.

Zu An told them the story he and Zheng Dan had agreed on. “As I was running away, I suddenly heard a dragon’s cry. Immediately afterwards, a terrifying pressure spread in all directions. There was a giant dragon flying in the air far away. I believe Chen Xuan and the others caught up to the Whale Gang’s boss, but they ended up accidentally stumbling upon a dragon’s lair.

“That dragon flew about in the air and breathed fire continuously from its mouth. No matter how strong Chen Xuan’s cultivation is, there’s no way he could defeat a dragon.

“A while later, I snuck closer to take a look, and saw a huge pile of burned corpses, as well as a messy pile of trampled flesh. Chen Xuan’s blade was right next to it, so that was probably his corpse.”

Chu Zhongtian could barely contain his shock. “Giant dragon! Our ancestors have left us with records stating that Hidden Dragon Mountain did indeed house a dragon in its depths. However, it has been centuries since anyone saw it, so we all thought that there was some error.

“It seems like I’ll have to bring some old friends with me and make a trip through Hidden Dragon Mountain to search for this dragon’s whereabouts.”

Not even he could resist the temptation of a dragon! At the same time, he knew full well that he had no chance of defeating something on this level by himself.

Like hell you guys will be able to find it. That dragon is sitting inside my Brilliant Glass Bead right now.

Qin Wanru smiled. “Despite all the dangers involved, we’ve received two important pieces of information. The Whale Gang and Chen Xuan were both major sources of trouble for our Chu clan, but both of them have finally been eliminated.”

Chu Zhongtian smiled as well. “Indeed, indeed! Who would have thought that Zu An would be our lucky star!”

Chu Chuyan walked over to Zu An’s side. “Ah Zu, don’t do such dangerous things in the future,” she said quietly. “Send us word first if you notice anything. I’ll go with you.”

Zu An felt his heart melt. He couldn’t help but reach out to hold her small, cold hand.

Embarrassed, Chu Chuyan subconsciously tried to pull back, but Zu An had moved too quickly, and his grip was firm. She couldn’t pull back in time, and could only let him get away with it.

Chu Zhongtian’s eyes went round when he noticed this. He couldn’t help but give his wife a look.

Qin Wanru returned his look with a flat stare. What the heck are you looking at me for? You might just die from anger if you knew what he had been up to with your daughter in bed.

With the most pressing questions out of the way, Chu Chuyan ordered some servants to prepare a hot bath, clearly worried that Zu An was too exhausted.

Chu Huanzhao headed off to the kitchen, announcing loudly that she was going to make something for her brother-in-law.

Zu An had settled into his bath comfortably, and was just enjoying himself when his heart suddenly jumped. He turned around in panic.

A shriveled elder stood next to the bathtub. He chuckled in a terrifying manner. "Your vigilance has grown again."

"Elder." Zu An felt extremely uncomfortable when he saw Old Mi. He subconsciously curled up inside his bathwater to prevent the old man from seeing that his seal had already been broken.

Fortunately, Old Mi had his own traumas, and instinctively refused to look in that direction. "Brat, you're growing more and more reckless. You will really end up throwing your life away one day."

Zu An laughed in embarrassment. "I didn't want to do anything to do with that either, but heaven's plans are greater than our own."

"I'm glad that you're back." Old Mi harrumphed. He had been incredibly worried about Zu An these past few days. In fact, he was probably one of the top three people most concerned about Zu An's safety. After all, there was no time for him to look for another suitable candidate.

Secretly, he considered whether he should break one of Zu An's legs first, so that Zu An would stay home instead of running about outside and encountering danger after danger.

However, there were still things that he needed Zu An to do for him, so he dispelled this tempting thought.

"I have a new task for you," Old Mi said with a grave voice.

"New task?"

Old Mi brought out a small, finely-embroidered box. "Find a case identical to this one in the Wei clan estate and bring it to me."

Chapter 318: Strange Big Bird

"What's inside this case?" This case was rather delicate and exquisite. It was made of first-rate pear wood and the decorative design on its surface was refined as well.

Old Mi sneered. "You don't need to know what's inside the case. Just remember what it looks like and bring me the same exact one that is in the Wei clan's possession."

Zu An scratched his head. "Elder, I'm confused. With your cultivation, wouldn't it be easy for you to get whatever you want from the Wei clan estate? Why do you have to go through the trouble of sending me?"

After all, Old Mi could move around the Chu clan without anyone's notice. Not even the eighth-ranked Chu Zhongtian noticed anything.

No matter how tight the security in the Wei clan was, it couldn't be better than the duke's estate, right?

Old Mi snorted. "I have my reasons. If I tell you to go, then go. Don't give me all this nonsense."

“All right.” Zu An shrugged his shoulders. Since it wasn’t too difficult a task, he’d just help this old man out.

Old Mi smiled in satisfaction. He turned around to leave, but stopped suddenly. “You absolutely must not open that case, or else it will endanger your life,” he warned Zu An. “Don’t say I didn’t warn you.”

Zu An jumped in fright. “It’s that dangerous?!”

“Just don’t open it,” Old Mi instructed.

By the time he finished speaking, his figure had already vanished.

Zu An became quiet. What in the world was inside that case?

The human mind was a curious thing. If Old Mi hadn’t warned him to not open it, he probably wouldn’t have this strong urge to peek inside.

He remembered the warnings on lightbulb packages from his previous world, which warned against putting them into your mouth. Usually, no one in their right mind would do something so stupid, but how could one not be curious after seeing this warning? Who knew how many warriors there were in the world who were willing to put their bodies on the line to test this out?

There was a kid from his school who obviously knew the reasoning behind why a light bulb couldn’t be removed after it was inserted into the mouth. However, being one who didn’t believe in myths or urban legends, he just had to give it a try. Of course, the kid wrapped a condom around it just in case. That way, he figured it’d be slippery and easy to remove.

In the end, reality taught him a harsh lesson. All of the students and teachers in the school saw tears streaming down his face as he ran towards the hospital with a condom-wrapped lightbulb in his mouth. To this day, this sort of social death made him cringe whenever he recalled it.

I’ll just sneak a peek later. I’m sure it will be fine.

However, he couldn’t shake the sense of danger lurking in the back of his mind. This Old Mi definitely had an ulterior motive. He couldn’t let him keep controlling him like this.

He had to find a way to break free.

He immediately felt discouraged when he recalled Mi Li’s assessment of that old man’s cultivation. Unless he had a poison like the Red Tears of Lady Xiang, not even all of his cheats added together could help him at all.

And catching Old Mi off guard, like he did with that dragon, would be virtually impossible.

Increasing my cultivation is my top priority!

Zu An quickly checked the amount of Rage points he had collected—71,915 points.

So few!

Zu An frowned. Seventy thousand seemed like a lot, but it took a hundred points to draw the lottery once, and he would only average one Ki Fruit every ten draws. From this perspective, what he had wasn't that much at all.

I've become complacent! I didn't earn that many Rage points this time.

He was aware that, compared to when he first started out, this rate of farming was already pretty good. However the higher his base level of cultivation, the more terrifying the amount of ki fruits were needed to increase his cultivation further.

I really need a new way to farm more efficiently.

But he just couldn't think of any amazing method no matter how he racked his brain.

Feeling helpless, there was nothing to do but start drawing the lottery.

Since he was in the bathtub already, he washed his face a few times and then pressed the 'Enter' key.

After a series of 'Thanks for playing!', he ended up with seventy-two ki fruits. He did not manage to draw any skills or items.

This was to be expected. After all, how could it be so easy to draw the good stuff?

He popped them into his mouth one after another like chocolates. He sensed his internal ki spread throughout his body and gather towards his ninth formation.

Huh?

Zu An sat up at once. He discovered that his ninth formation was now fully filled!

What the...

Zu An recalled that the ninth formation needed 2584 ki fruits to fill it up. He had only eaten 320 ki fruits before, and just ate another 72. There was no way it should've been enough!

Something dawned on him. He had been injured several times recently, and that strike from the dragon's tail in Hidden Dragon Mountain had almost killed him.

At its core, the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra relied on him getting beaten up to cultivate.

However this still didn't make sense! When Mi Li had hacked away at him until he was on the brink of death, with only the 'Heiress Ball of Delights' keeping him alive, he had basically died several times! Why were the effects of that single dragon strike so good?

Did that second attack that was blocked by Shang Liuyu's pendant count as well?

He'd previously spent some time trying to figure out the rate at which the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra increased his cultivation, but today's effects left him confused again. His previous hypotheses were all overturned.

Sigh, maybe this is something only big-shot mathematicians can figure out.

Zu An shook his head. He gave up on trying to decipher the pattern behind this system.

Right now, there was a more pressing issue that concerned him. He had obtained Grandgale when he reached the peak of the second rank. Was there something else waiting for him now?

He examined himself. He discovered that there were some special lines added to the ninth formation. Again, it seemed to vaguely trace out the outline of a giant bird.

“Yet another large bird?” Zu An had a strange look on his face. Do I have some kind of special affinity with big birds?

Grandgale’s body was snow white, with red tail feathers. This large bird’s body was an azure blue and looked like a goose. It was different from Grandgale’s imposing appearance, this bird looked much more affable.

However, its proud and unyielding gaze told him that this definitely wasn’t some harmless pushover.

There was a stamp like imprint to this big bird’s lower right side. There were two small characters: Blue Mallard.

Blue Mallard... it’s another one of the phoenix’s nine chicks after all. Zu An already had this suspicion when he first saw Grandgale. He’d finally gotten confirmation.

So what can this fellow do?

Following his prior experience with Grandgale, he poured his ki into the imprint of Blue Mallard. When his ki covered the entire diagram, Blue Mallard’s eyes shone. Then, a Blue Mallard projection appeared in front of him.

Zu An suddenly felt as though the water in his bathtub felt extremely comfortable. A sudden idea struck him, and he let his entire body sink to the bottom.

He discovered with shock that he could breath like normal underwater. He even had a feeling that, as long as he had enough ki to maintain Blue Mallard, he could remain underwater for however long he wished.

Zu An was overjoyed. Many of the fights he’d had somehow ended up with him in the water. Even though he knew how to swim, it was still quite inconvenient. With this skill, he could turn the water into his home field!

Another idea flashed into his mind. Since he could project Grandgale forward, what would happen if he did the same with this Blue Mallard?

He used Blue Mallard in the same way that he would employ Grandgale, projecting it towards the doorway. In an instant, all of the water in the tub seemed to have been summoned, rushing forth towards the doorway like a tidal wave.

The door was blasted to pieces by the crashing water. Even the walls around it were blasted full of holes.

Before Zu An could feel any excitement at all, stunned horror engulfed him. Chu Huanzhao was standing not far away from the shattered door, completely drenched by the torrent of water.

An excited smile was still frozen on her face. She stood shock still, and was probably contemplating her life at that very moment.

Zu An stood up in a hurry. "Little Huanzhao, are you all right?" Fortunately, the door and walls had absorbed most of the impact, reducing the danger to her.

"I'm fine..." Chu Huanzhao subconsciously replied. Suddenly, she screamed. She covered her eyes in a panic, her pretty cheeks immediately blushing a bright red. "Brother-in-law, you pervert!"

Chapter 319: Chu Chuyan's Rage

Zu An stared blankly for a moment, then discreetly lowered his gaze. Only then did he notice that almost all of the water in the tub was gone because he had used the Blue Mallard technique.

Even the tub itself was in tatters, shattered by the tremendous force. He had taken his clothes off since he was bathing, and so he was completely naked.

Zu An's face heated up. He quickly grabbed the clothes hanging on the screen to cover himself. This kid is getting more and more out of control.

You're shouting at me, but why are the gaps between your fingers so big?

Feng Daniu and the other guards heard the activity and rushed over at once. "Young master, what's wrong?"

"It's nothing. All of you can head back to your posts." Zu An stepped in front of Chu Huanzhao to block her and shooed them away.

"Okay." The guards withdrew when they received his order. However, they still began to whisper among themselves in private.

"Did you all see that? Even the door was broken! How could nothing have happened?"

"Exactly! Even the second miss was screaming."

"Stop gossiping. If the young master says it's nothing, then it's nothing. Stop looking for trouble."

"Don't you think the two of them were a little too close?"

"Everyone knows that the second young miss and the young master have a good relationship. The young master really is a real man! He might really take the second young miss as his wife too! He is a role model for all of us."

"Shush! I don't think we should be gossiping so much about our Master's family!"

...

Satisfied that the guards had left, Zu An patted Chu Huanzhao and said, "All right, stop screaming already. I'm already the one who's losing out big time, right?"

Seeing him approaching, Chu Huanzhao covered her eyes firmly again. "Have you put on your clothes yet?"

It's not like you couldn't see for yourself! But out of consideration for her shyness, he didn't expose her. "My clothes are on."

Chu Huanzhao lowered her hands. Her face was completely red. Her eyes darted away. How could she meet his gaze after what she had just seen?

Zu An changed the topic. "Why did you come here?"

Chu Huanzhao finally snapped out of her daze. "Oh, I just wanted to call you over for dinner. I made you something myself today! You'd better eat a lot," she said excitedly.

"Sounds good to me." Zu An rubbed her head. What a cute and considerate kid.

Chu Huanzhao tidied her hair, clearly annoyed. "Don't rub my head like I'm Cheng Shouping... achoo..."

She suddenly sneezed in the middle of her sentence.

Only then did the two of them remember that she was completely soaked.

"Don't stand outside, you'll catch a cold from the wind," Zu An said.

"Oh yeah..." Chu Huanzhao subconsciously followed him inside.

After they had gone inside, Zu An was just about to tell her something when his eyes widened. It was getting dark outside so he hadn't noticed earlier, but in the light of the room's lamps, he could clearly see that Chu Huanzhao's clothes were plastered to her skin.

They were already partially transparent after being drenched, and the outlines of her petite and attractive body were faintly visible.

Chu Huanzhao also noticed that something wasn't right. She lowered her head to examine herself, and then she screamed even louder than before. "Stinky brother-in-law!"

How could Chu Huanzhao be shameless enough to continue to stay there? She turned around and ran.

Zu An was shocked. He quickly chased after her and stopped her.

"What... are you going to do..." Chu Huanzhao jumped in fright, and even her voice carried more than a hint of alarm.

Zu An hadn't expected the normally carefree Chu Huanzhao to have such a bashful side. He quickly wrapped his own coat around her. "Cover yourself with this first so no one sees you along the way."

Chu Huanzhao had a strange expression on her face. You don't want others to see, but it's perfectly okay for you to have seen it?

Her neck grew redder than ever before. "It's all your fault!" She kicked Zu An in the shin and ran off with his coat around her.

Zu An grimaced in pain. He watched this young lady disappear into the darkness of the night. She really was a cute little pepper.

Just then, he heard a cold voice. "What happened?" Chu Chuyan was standing not far away.

"Oh, wife, you're here." Zu An felt rather guilty.

"Didn't Huanzhao come to call you over for dinner? She didn't return after so long, so I decided to have the food brought over instead." Chu Chuyan ordered the servants to set out the food. However, she was shocked when she noticed the terrible state that the room was in. "What happened here?"

"I suddenly had a breakthrough and accidentally broke the door," Zu An said in embarrassment.

Chu Chuyan smiled. "I didn't expect you to be such a hard worker."

Which woman didn't wish for their husbands to earnestly improve themselves? Her own cultivation had come about not just because of her outstanding aptitude, but because of the hard work she had put in day after day. That was why her mood was naturally lifted when she learned that her husband was thinking about cultivation even when he was in the bath.

Zu An felt embarrassed by her compliment. What he did had nothing to do with diligence.

Chu Chuyan looked all around her. "So where did lil' Huanzhao go?"

"The water blasted everywhere and ended up drenching her. I told her to go back and change her clothes so that she wouldn't catch a cold." Zu An said nonchalantly.

Wait, I'm clearly the victim here. Why do I have such a guilty conscience?

Chu Chuyan panicked at once. "Was she injured?"

"No, she's fine. Only her clothes were soaked," Zu An replied.

Chu Chuyan finally calmed down. "No wonder I saw someone running out on my way here. I called out to her several times but she didn't reply."

"Let's eat first. Some of it was made by Huanzhao... and by me." A tinge of expectation suddenly shone in Chu Chuyan's eyes.

"Awesome!" Zu An's heart softened. That brat made food for me herself, and even my wife cares for me. What a good life!

However, when he saw the charred food on the table, some of it even blackened beyond recognition, his smile instantly vanished.

"Why aren't you eating?" Chu Chuyan was confused.

"I'm going to eat right now!" Zu An raised his chopsticks and put on a brave and heroic expression.

All of the dishes in front of him seemed to have been horrifically botched. His eyes jumped around, finally settling on the most ordinary-looking dish—eggs fried with tomatoes.[1] This is the easiest thing to make, so it can't taste that bad no matter how much you suck at cooking, right?

His fate was sealed the instant he put it into his mouth.

“How is it? Does it taste bad?” Chu Chuyan asked with a nervous expression when she saw his change in expression.

“How is it just bad? It tastes absolutely disgusting!” Zu An said in assessment, “Who the hell puts vinegar in this dish? Don’t let Huanzhao into the kitchen again in the future. She’s just wasting ingredients!”

Chu Chuyan’s expression grew slightly discouraged. However, she still forced a smile and pointed at another dish. “Then what about this one?”

“What the heck is this black stuff that looks like sludge? Is it some sort of burnt river fish or something?” Zu An asked curiously.

Chu Chuyan stared at him, speechless.

“It’s stir-fried cabbage.”

Zu An felt his brain short-circuit.

He really couldn’t associate her words with the dish currently in front of him.

Zu An spat it back out immediately after putting it in his mouth. “Pui pui pui! Oh my goodness, I’m going to throw up. What sort of vegetable is this? Even pigs wouldn’t eat this if you fed it to them!”

“Don’t eat it if you don’t like it, then!” Chu Chuyan’s face was as cold and harsh as a winter storm. She got up to leave.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 999 Rage points!

Chapter 320: My Own Wife Loves Me the Most

Zu An was frightened by just how angry she was. After all, Chu Chuyan was normally so calm and cool. She rarely ever showed any emotions at all.

Other than the time Qiu Honglei had paid them a visit, this was the first time she had given him so many Rage points.

Zu An was confused. “It’s not like you were the one made these dishes. Why are you getting so angry?”

“Of course I...” Chu Chuyan instinctively began to reply, but she quickly changed what she was about to say. “Of course, I know that Huanzhao went through so much effort to prepare this for you, so you should be grateful even if it doesn’t taste good. You can’t say such mean things to shame... shame her.”

“How am I shaming her? I was just telling the truth! This shit is nasty!” Zu An felt rather wronged as well. “Besides, Huanzhao and I are close. She wouldn’t care that much even if I said it to her face.”

“You can’t say such things no matter how close you are to someone! If someone cooks for you out of such good intentions, yet hears you give such an evaluation, how do you think they would feel?” Chu Chuyan said angrily.

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

Realization struck Zu An when he saw how angry she was. "You're absolutely right. Since someone worked so hard to prepare this food, I should eat it gratefully."

He began to shove the food into his mouth like a glutton.

When she saw how much he was enjoying himself, Chu Chuyan grew confused. Do I really have a talent for cooking?

Why did he say all those things before, then?

Confused, she picked up a pair of chopsticks and had a taste.

Her face twitched as soon as she took a bite. A hint of redness colored her fair cheeks. "It is indeed somewhat unpalatable. Please don't eat any more. I'll have the kitchen prepare some more food for you."

Zu An laughed. "The food itself doesn't taste that great, but with my wife's love, it becomes an absolutely gourmet meal!"

"What do you mean love..." Chu Chuyan was annoyed, but she quickly realized what he was saying. "You knew... that it was me who..."

Zu An pulled her into his embrace. "I'm not that stupid. There's no way I wouldn't have noticed it by now."

Chu Chuyan was frightened when she was suddenly pulled in. Because of her nature, she wasn't used to such an intimate gesture.

However, this fellow's strength seemed to have grown suddenly. She struggled several times to break free, yet she couldn't. Worried that she could injure him if she used any more strength, she gave up and let him hold her.

It's not like anyone else is watching anyway..

Right at that moment, Cheng Shouping shouted from outside, "Young master, young master!"

Chu Chuyan jumped like a startled rabbit. She leapt out of embrace and awkwardly sorted out her hair. "Enjoy your meal. I'm heading back first."

With that, she ran away.

"Huh? First miss..." Cheng Shouping, standing by the entryway, just happened to see her. He was about to pay his respects to her, but she ran away without even turning around.

Chen Shouping scratched his head and looked at Zu An in confusion. "Young master, what happened to the first miss? Did you do something to upset her?"

Zu An ground his teeth, staring at the young rascal in irritation. "I finally know why you were sent to the kitchens to work..."

Cheng Shouping felt a chill run down his spine. This really wasn't the right time to be troubling the young master. "I'm going to look for someone to repair the door!"

With that, he scampered off as well.

Zu An was completely speechless. Just how had this kid managed to survive for so long?

After finishing his meal, Zu An headed over to Chu Chuyan's Unvoiced Residence.

The Chu clan no longer put up the extra layers of security around her residence, since Chu Chuyan's condition had already improved considerably. It was much easier for him to find his way there.

"Who's there?"

The slight sounds of his movement didn't escape Chu Chuyan's detection. A chilly breeze blew past him, and she appeared in front of him, sword in hand.

When she saw that it was Zu An, the frosty expression immediately disappeared from her face, and she flushed red. "What are you doing here?"

Zu An jumped in through the window. "I didn't even get to finish what I wanted to say just now."

Chu Chuyan put away her sword. "You sounded like you were done."

"I'll never run out of things to talk about with you," said Zu An with a smile.

Chu Chuyan pursed her lips. "Let's talk tomorrow. It's already dark today."

"Oh, then let's talk about more important matters. I came to detoxify the remaining cold in your body," said Zu An, his expression deadly earnest.

Chu Chuyan's cheeks burned red. "I'm already fine. I don't need any more of this cold detoxification."

Zu An shook his head. "It only seems fine on the surface! There is still some frost poison left in your body. If something unexpected were to happen, it could spell another round of trouble for you. You don't want to experience such suffering again, do you?"

Chu Chuyan grew unsettled by these words. After all, she had felt perfectly fine before this illness had arisen abruptly, striking her down without giving her any time to prepare herself.

Sensing her slight fear, Zu An smiled and swept her off her feet and into his arms, carrying her straight towards the inner chambers.

Chu Chuyan's entire body went stiff. Her heart began to pound. She felt like she should be rejecting him, yet she couldn't seem to muster even the slightest bit of strength from her body.

While her mind was all over the place, her body suddenly trembled. It was a while before her beautiful lips finally opened again, allowing her to catch her breath.

Chu Chuyan gave him a hateful look. This guy is getting more and more out of hand...

Zu An kissed her earlobe and said with a half-smile, "See, your body is already completely ready."

Her ears were a very sensitive part of her body. She felt his warm breath caress her ear gently, and her entire body went limp. She subconsciously embraced the man lying atop her. "You really are a rascal..."

Zu An loved seeing the face of this frozen beauty grow red from his teasing, and he adored her bashful appearance the most. The feeling of accomplishment that washed over him was simply incomparable.

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After a while, Chu Chuyan said weakly, "Why do I feel like you've tricked me?"

Zu An chuckled. "Didn't you enjoy it?"

Chu Chuyan buried her face in his chest, too embarrassed to reply.

...

Zu An looked outside. The sky had already grown dark. "It's already late. I should head back first."

Just as he was about to get up, a pair of soft arms pulled him back.

Faced with Zu An's somewhat confused gaze, Chu Chuyan stammered, "Actually... actually, there's no need for you to go back to your place."

"Huh?" Zu An was both surprised and overjoyed.

Chu Chuyan immediately became embarrassed. She quickly pulled the covers over her head and said in a low, muffled voice, "Don't think too much into this. Your doors and windows were broken... You can go back there to sleep once everything is fixed."

Zu An laughed out loud, and then he jumped right back into the blankets to embrace that beautifully soft yet supple body. "My own wife is still the one who loves me the most!"

Chu Chuyan's voice jumped up an octave. "Is there something going on between you and someone else's wife?"

"No way, no way!" Zu An hastily explained. "It's just a slip of the tongue."

It's said that you can't trust a man's words, but you can't trust a woman's words either!

Chu Chuyan had clearly agreed that she didn't mind him looking for other women. Why did she suddenly seem full of jealousy?

"Really?" Chu Chuyan wasn't fully convinced.

Zu An was worried that he might only make things worse the more he spoke. He didn't say anything, but flipped himself over and pressed himself down on her.

"Again?" Chu Chuyan's face paled. Her voice carried traces of shock and fear, but also a dash of excitement.

...

The next morning, there came a loud knocking on the door of the residence. "Chuyan, open the door. Mother has something to tell you."

