

## Immortal 81

### Chapter 81: Guys, Time to Wake Up for the Show!

Wei Suo was taken aback. How am I supposed to carry on the conversation like this? He found something else interesting to continue with. "Speaking of which, what color is Principal Jiang's stocking today?"

Zu An thought about Jiang Luofu's long and shapely legs, and he subconsciously answered, "Nude-colored~"

Wei Suo swallowed. "As expected of my goddess. Ahh, I'm so jealous of you. You were able to meet her twice despite having just arrived a few days ago. I haven't even gotten a chance to meet her once thus far!"

Zu An burst into laughter. "You're so obsessed with her even though you have never met her before?"

"You don't understand. Distance makes the heart grow fonder. From the moment I caught a glimpse of her on the street, I was captured by her charms. My heart and body belong to her," said Wei Suo, lovestruck.

Zu An shook his head in disdain. Heart and body, my ass. As if she would be interested in your body.

"Speaking of which, who is this teacher who keeps putting on airs?" Zu An took this opportunity to gather some information.

As expected of a true gossip master, Wei Suo immediately offered an answer. "His name is Yang Wei, Brightmoon City's Civil Affairs Administrator. He's in charge of collecting agricultural taxes in the city. He's also our arithmetic teacher."

"Ohhh, arithmetic teacher," Zu An murmured contemplatively.

"Zu An, get up and stand at the back of the classroom!" Yang Wei bellowed from the podium all of a sudden.

His voice was a peal of thunder, jolting awake the students who had just barely fallen asleep once more. Some nearly peed their pants at the scare.

What the hell are you up to? Can't a student get some proper sleep here?

Everyone turned to look at Zu An, curious to know just what dastardly deed had earned the teacher's wrath. Some of his classmates had grown quite impressed with him. Ever since he'd enrolled in the academy a few days ago, he had crashed headlong into trouble after trouble.

It had only been several minutes since the class started, but the teacher had already shouted at him twice.

Zu An frowned. He knew that Yang Wei was hostile toward him, but he didn't expect the latter to act up so quickly.

“Are you deaf? Didn’t you hear me telling you to stand at the back of the classroom?” Yang Wei stepped down from the podium to glare at Zu An with a darkened face.

Zu An sneered coldly. You aren’t even offering me any Rage points. It’s obvious that your anger is feigned. So, he replied leisurely, “If I may ask, why are you punishing me?”

“Instead of paying attention in class, you started chatting with the classmate next to you. Tell me, should I not punish you for that?” Yang Wei said haughtily.

This was the privilege of having higher standing. If a teacher was determined to punish a student, he could easily find an excuse for it, and no one could fault him. Besides, Zu An hadn’t been listening to the lesson, which spared Yang Wei the trouble of having to think of an excuse to deal with him.

Zu An’s eyebrows shot up. The Yellow class was filled with the worst students in the academy, and hardly anyone was paying attention to the lesson. He’d seen a third of them sleeping and another third of them chatting. There were even a couple secretly playing cards at the back of the classroom.

Instead of dealing with those clowns, he chooses to come after me instead...

Zu An had spoken to Wei Suo without looking at him earlier, to avoid giving Yang Wei a reason to flare up. However, it made no difference. Since Yang Wei was determined to get him, he could have no complaints if Zu An reacted accordingly.

“Teacher, I’m afraid I don’t understand what you’re saying. I’ve been listening intently all this while, and I haven’t talked to anyone. Do you have any evidence to prove that I haven’t been paying attention?” asked Zu An.

His rebuttal left Yang Wei speechless.

Dealing with a mere student was supposed to be a walk in the park. He just had to find a reason to punish him before blowing the matter up and having him expelled. Without the protection of the academy, those lords would have an easier time dealing with him.

Who would have expected Zu An to talk back to him?

Due to the significance of the academies in this world, respect for the teachers was paramount. It was unprecedented in the history of the academy for a student to talk back to a teacher.

No matter—he could turn this situation around to his advantage. He was still struggling to find a legitimate excuse to have Zu An expelled; after all, he was just an ordinary teacher. While he could dish out punishments to students, having them expelled went beyond the scope of his authority.

However, if Zu An went against propriety and openly challenged him, it would be the perfect excuse to drive him out of the academy.

“I saw you chatting away with the person seated next to you. Are you telling me that my eyes are playing tricks on me?” Yang Wei said hotly.

Zu An countered sharply, “If you saw the two of us chatting with one another, shouldn’t you call both of us out? Why single me out? It can’t be that a respected teacher is picking on one of his students, can it?”

"I don't know what that student's name is, that's why I only called you out," Yang Wei hurriedly explained.

Zu An burst out laughing. "Oh? That sure is weird. I don't recall introducing myself when I walked in earlier. I've only enrolled in this academy a few days ago, and this is my first lesson with you. Yet, you actually knew my name... I'm positive that you're intentionally picking on me right now."

The other students who were watching the exchange narrowed their eyes. None of them were fools. Something weird was going on.

While none of them was fond of Zu An, they detested their teachers much more. This was especially true for scrawny middle-aged men who combed their hair into awful center-partings like Yang Wei.

If teachers were truly intentionally picking on students, any of them could be next!

With all eyes on him, Yang Wei shifted uncomfortably. He quickly clarified, "Who in Brightmoon City hasn't heard of you, Zu An? You got into a conflict with a fifth rank senior, and you gambled in the Silverhook Casino and won seven-and-a-half million silver taels. How could I not know who you are?"

I nearly fell into his trap! Yang Wei had been duly warned of Zu An's sharp mouth, but he hadn't expected him to be this formidable. He reminded himself to keep his guard up, lest he got done in like Mei Chaofeng.

Zu An nodded slightly. "Well, even if you do know me, I wasn't talking earlier. As a teacher, you shouldn't slander your own students."

"Rubbish! I saw you chatting with the classmate next to you with my own eyes! Do you think that I, as a teacher, would wrong you?" Just a moment ago, Yang Wei had been pleased that he hadn't had to falsely accuse Zu An. And yet, the rascal had the nerve to start lying outright?

"That's hard to say. As they say, a huge jungle is home to all kinds of weird birds." In the face of Yang Wei's open hostility, Zu An felt no need to hold himself back. "Since you claim that I was chatting with the classmate next to me, why don't you present some evidence then? Otherwise, I'll sue you for defamation!"

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 666 Rage points!

Yang Wei nearly fainted from anger. He had always been the one to fabricate false accusations against others. And yet, the one time he'd caught someone in the midst of wrongdoing, he found himself unable to mete out justice!

How the hell am I supposed to find evidence for this? It's not like there's a recorder around!

"You have evidence, right?"

Yang Wei was unwilling to throw in the towel. He turned to Wei Suo and demanded sternly, "Speak! Did you talk to him earlier?"

Wei Suo blinked his eyes innocently. "Teacher, I didn't."

Zu An secretly flashed Wei Suo a thumbs-up. He had been prepared to remind him not to give him away, but the lad apparently knew how to read the room. Young lad, you have potential!

"I..." Yang Wei was so angry that he had trouble even forming words. The academy's culture is really deteriorating. Each batch of students is worse than the previous one!

Fortunately, Yang Wei had come prepared. He wouldn't trip over something as minor as this. Hah, all you have is your mouth. I shall show you the absolute difference between us!

Yang Wei took a deep, calming breath. "You claim that you have been earnestly listening to my lesson. In that case, you should be familiar with what I've just taught you, right?"

Many of the other students found Yang Wei's demand unreasonable. After all, arithmetic was not a simple subject. Even a diligent student would find it difficult to fully understand what was being taught right away. To them, it was clear as day that Yang Wei was picking on Zu An.

Some of them felt compelled to speak up for Zu An—they were still young and hot-blooded, after all. However, to their shock, Zu An agreed to the challenge without any hesitation. "Indeed I am. The content you are going through is too easy for me. Of course I know it."

While this world had a mystical element of cultivation, it lagged behind Zu An's modern world when it came to other fields of study.

Who do you think I am? I'm a university student who has been through the torture of the National College Entrance Examination! Your arithmetic questions are a child's play to me!

Yang Wei was delighted. You could have chosen to back down, but your arrogance has gotten the better of you!

"This is my first time seeing such an arrogant student! Very well, I'll come up with twenty questions. As long as you can answer any of them correctly... No, I mean three of them correctly, I'll believe that you weren't lying. How does that sound?"

He was confident that Zu An wouldn't be able to answer even one of them correctly, but the incident at the Silverhook Casino had taught him the value of being conservative. While Zu An might be able to get one right by some stroke of luck, there was no way he could answer all three correctly!

Wei Suo felt a deep sense of worry at how the situation had unfolded.

Yang Wei's arithmetic class was notoriously difficult. When it came to other subjects, students could still get by through memorization, but the same trick didn't apply to arithmetic. In a previous test, Yang Wei had upped the difficulty of the questions, and everyone had ended up flunking it. Now that he was intentionally picking on Zu An, he was bound to set the hardest questions. It was unlikely that anyone would be able to answer any of them.

Just as Wei Suo was about to warn Zu An, the latter confidently accepted the challenge. "Sure, that's fine by me. What if I manage to answer all of the questions correctly?"

"Answer all of the questions correctly?" Yang Wei burst into laughter, as if he had heard the most hilarious joke in the world. "If you can get all of them correct, I'll resign from the academy and let you take over my position!"

Zu An's eyes lit up. "It's a deal then!"

"Deal!" Yang Wei smirked, secretly wondering if Zu An was out of his mind.

Do you think that the questions I set will be easy? As a Civil Affairs Administrator handling taxes, I have been dealing with arithmetic for decades now! With my experience, I reckon there's no one in the entire prefecture who can surpass me in this field!

That fool must have only seen the papers I have set in the past. Let me tell you this... I have been dumbing down the questions for the sake of the students! I shall go all out this time and show you how terrifying arithmetic can be!

"What if you can't answer at least three questions correctly?" Yang Wei challenged Zu An provocatively.

"Since you're willing to put your career in the academy on the line, it's only fair that I do the same too. If I'm unable to answer three questions correctly, I'll leave the academy on my own accord," replied Zu An.

Yang Wei's joy was complete. You've jumped straight right into my trap! Since that's the case, you have no one to blame but yourself!

The tense standoff between teacher and student got the rest of the Yellow class riled up. No matter which world they're from, everyone loves a good commotion. Besides, hardly any students in the Yellow class actually cared about their studies. To them, gambling was much more fun and productive.

They crowded around, anxious for the show to start.

## **Chapter 82: Popular Star Shang Liuyu**

Yang Wei took great pride in his occupation as a teacher, and the rowdy atmosphere that had arisen irked him to no end. It was more suitable for a streetside show than a classroom! However, he had no choice but to bear with it. The priority was still to deal with Zu An. "Since that's the case, we shall have the students here bear witness to the proceedings, lest someone refuses to acknowledge the bet later on."

Zu An raised a hand to forestall him. "Wait a moment."

"Why? Are you afraid now?" Yang Wei asked with a frown. He was worried that Zu An would back down at the last second.

"Afraid?" Zu An burst into laughter. "No way! I just want to find a witness for our bet."

Yang Wei gestured to the students around him and asked, "Are these people not enough for you?"

"Of course not!" Zu An replied matter-of-factly. "If you win, these witnesses would be enough for you. However, if I win, I'm afraid that we won't have enough say to make you fulfill the end of your promise. After all, we're all of lower standing than you."

"Are you saying that I'd lose to you?" Yang Wei snorted angrily.

He might not have excelled as a cultivator, but he was still proud of his expertise when it came to arithmetic. No one was allowed to question his ability in that field.

“Nothing is for certain in this world. If you aren’t willing to do it, let’s just call off the bet.” Zu An shrugged before turning to leave.

Seeing how Zu An was about to back down at the last moment, Yang Wei immediately panicked. It hadn’t been easy for him to lead his prey by the nose so far, and he was just on the verge of ensnaring him. There was no way he could allow Zu An to leave at this juncture.

So, he replied, “Very well then. Let’s find another teacher to bear witness to this. However, I don’t know who would be free at this time.”

Yang Wei had intended to rope in a colleague he was on closer terms with, but at that very moment, a refreshingly gentle voice came from the doorway. “I shall be the witness to this bet.”

The melodious voice immediately caught the crowd’s attention, and all the heads in the classroom swiveled to find its source. In an instant, the previously bustling classroom fell silent.

A woman was leaning lazily against the door frame. Her skin was fair and her lips were crimson. Her dress flowed along her body like silk, vaguely hinting at her beautiful figure. Even though her dress only revealed a small portion of her fair hands and legs, her appearance was more than enough to steal the breaths away from all the men present.

She had a carefree disposition that lent her actions an indescribable grace. Even in her casual, leisurely pose, she still looked as beautiful as a goddess descending from the sky.

Had it not been for the green wine gourd hanging from her waist, she could have been easily mistaken as an ethereal fairy untouched by the mortal world.

“T... Teacher Shang!”

The brief silence in the classroom was erased by a loud cheering. As one, the students rushed forward to crowd around the woman, excitement painted on their faces.

Even Yang Wei’s breathing hastened as well.

In truth, he had been reluctant to teach at the academy. His work at the Civil Affairs Department was more than enough to keep his hands busy. Had it not been for the rules of the royal court dictating him to serve as a teacher, he would have never bothered coming to an academy to teach a bunch of immature brats.

However, the first time he held a lesson at the academy, he’d caught sight of this woman’s face, and all of a sudden, his obligation felt less like a chore. In fact, he would find reasons to stay at the academy, in the hope that he would be able to catch another glimpse of her.

Zu An, too, was also surprised by this development. To his astonishment, he had actually met this woman before. They’d spent time playing with a flute in the gazebo back then... Ah pui, pui, pui! I mean we bonded through music!

He had asked the woman for her name afterward, but she had refused to tell him, saying that they would meet each other again if fate permitted.

Back then, he'd assumed that she was just turning him down. How easy could it be for two strangers to meet one another once more in this massive world? However, with the benefit of hindsight, it seemed likely that she had known he was a student from Brightmoon Academy, and that their meeting again was inevitable.

Zu An was far from a dense protagonist in a novel. With everyone around him addressing her as 'Teacher Shang', as well as those men acting as if they were animals in mating season, it was plain to see that this woman was Shang Liuyu, ranked third on the Sweetheart Ranking.

That would explain why the gorgeous principal had asked him if he was acquainted with Shang Liuyu, and why she had helped him alter the records of his aptitude test. All of it was coming together now.

Yang Wei's face lit up with what he thought was his nicest smile. "Teacher Shang, what brought you here today?"

Shang Liuyu returned his smile and said, "I just happened to be passing by. I heard a commotion, so I came in to take a look."

Her smile was so potent that Yang Wei felt his heart melting. However, his face immediately heated up as he recalled the situation facing him. He quickly explained, "Sorry you had to bump into something like this. This student is simply too obstinate, so I'm hoping to teach him how to respect his elders."

Shang Liuyu threw a glance at Zu An, and the corners of her lips inched upward. "I happened to overhear that the two of you are intending to make a bet against one another. Why don't I be the witness for your bet?"

"Sounds good~"

"Teacher Shang, you're the best~"

"Teacher Shang, you're my idol!"

Loud cheers broke out in the classroom. Clearly, Shang Liuyu was awfully popular.

"This..." Yang Wei was a little hesitant to accept Shang Liuyu's offer. It should have been easy enough for a teacher like him to deal with an unruly student. If another teacher were to get involved too, there could be unexpected complications.

"Am I not welcome here?" Shang Liuyu looked at Yang Wei quietly with her beautiful eyes.

This was the first time Yang Wei was interacting with her in such proximity. The image of her perfect face hit him right in the chest—a critical strike!—leaving him short of breath. "T-that's not what I mean! You're more than welcome here!"

Yang Wei quickly convinced himself that it was no big deal. I never get a chance to interact with Shang Liuyu, and this is the perfect opportunity to display my talents before her. While I might be lacking in terms of cultivation, there's no one in Brightmoon City who can match me when it comes to arithmetic!

His skill at arithmetic was difficult to flaunt. He couldn't possibly walk up to Shang Liuyu and start reciting all sorts of mathematical equations—she would think that he was insane! It was unlikely that he would ever get another opportunity to impress her with his skill.

"Teacher Shang, this way please." Yang Wei guided her toward the podium obsequiously.

Zu An clicked his tongue at his subservience. Surely, this was the epitome of 'simpling'.

Shang Liuyu casually took a seat before smiling at the students. "Alright, let's quieten down so as to not interrupt their match."

Her words seemed to contain some sort of sorcery. The classroom that had been as noisy as a wet market a moment ago fell utterly silent. Zu An nodded slightly, impressed by her charisma.

Yang Wei rolled up his sleeves, motivation pumping through his veins. He was determined to prove his worth to his goddess. Using all the knowledge he had accrued over the past few decades, he crafted out twenty highly difficult questions. He was confident that none of these students would be able to solve them—even he himself would stumble on them if he got distracted for a moment!

He could already imagine what was about to happen. Zu An would nibble on his brush in frustration as he found himself utterly stumped by the questions. He would shamelessly claim that these questions were unsolvable. Then, before the respectful eyes of the students, he, Yang Wei, would slowly decipher every single question, leaving all who witnessed it in awe of him.

Maybe Shang Liuyu will look at me with glittering eyes too. This might just be the start of a blissful relationship!

Just thinking about it was more than enough to make his cheeks quiver from laughter.

No, no, no, I have to calm down. A lot of eyes are on me right now. I need to take care of my image!

Mindful of his demeanor, Yang Wei coughed softly before passing the test paper to Zu An. "It is not too late to back out now. If you can't even do a single question, you'll have to leave the academy."

He was only saying those words in front of Shang Liuyu to create the impression that he had no intention of cornering his student; it was the student himself who insisted on it. Of course, given the current, heated atmosphere, there was no way Zu An could back out easily.

In response, Zu An chuckled softly and said, "You'll be the one leaving the academy if I get everything right."

Not just Yang Wei, but even the other students in the classroom felt that Zu An had a screw loose in his head. Shang Liuyu merely watched the scene with an enigmatic smile on her lips, as if she knew something that the others didn't.

"Ignorant and arrogant!" Yang Wei flew into a furious rage. "You shall pay the price of being so full of yourself!"

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 541 Rage points!

He didn't take being insulted in front of his goddess too well, especially by a mere student.



Ignoring the outburst, Zu An shrugged leisurely and took the test paper.

Without warning, he exploded with laughter. "Is that all you got?"

To be honest, he hadn't been certain that he would be able to answer all of the questions. After all, he wasn't too sure how far mathematics had developed in this world. However, when he saw the questions on the paper, he realized that he had been overestimating Yang Wei's ability.

"I advise you to focus your efforts on answering the questions instead of letting your mouth run. If you can't finish the paper before class comes to an end... Heh..." Yang Wei didn't finish his sentence, but his implied meaning was clear enough.

Shang Liuyu spoke up. "There isn't much time before the class comes to an end. Isn't that too much of a rush? Why don't we do this instead? Since I'm taking the next class, I'll allocate half of the lesson to you so that you can take things slowly."

Yang Wei was taken aback by the proposal. However, he didn't think that Shang Liuyu had proposed this to help Zu An. After all, the two were not related in any way, so there was no reason for her to look out for him.

My goddess is probably just pitying Zu An and wants to give him a chance. She must also be worried that others would accuse me of bullying the juniors, and she's doing this with my reputation in mind. How touching.

Yang Wei was so moved that tears were about to leak out from his eyes. He quickly nodded in agreement. "Yes, what Teacher Shang makes perfect sense. Zu An, I'll give you another half a class to answer the questions then."

Arithmetic is a subject where either you get it, or you don't. If you don't understand the question, I can give you all the time in the world, and it will do you no good.

Zu An had given up on responding to Yang Wei. Instead, he started reading the first question.

'3 people drink 3 buckets of water in 3 days. How many buckets of water do 9 people drink in 9 days?'

Wei Suo's eyes lit up right away. "This is such an easy question! Even I can answer that! If 3 people drink 3 buckets of water in 3 days, it should go without saying that 9 people would drink 9 buckets of water in 9 days!"

Most of the spectating students nodded in agreement. Only a small minority felt that there was something wrong with the answer Wei Suo proposed, but they couldn't put their finger on what it was.

Yang Wei smirked at Wei Suo's confident statement. Do you think that I would come up with such an easy question? Of course, he didn't bother putting a halt to the discussions going around. He would love more than anything for these people to mislead Zu An.

Zu An, meanwhile, shook his head in disappointment.

Even elementary-schoolers would be able to solve such a question easily. 3 people drink 3 buckets of water in 3 days, which means 3 of them drink a bucket of water each day. Multiplying it proportionately, 9 people should drink 3 buckets of water each day, and 27 buckets of water in 9 days!

Zu An wrote down the answer, and Yang Wei's eyes widened in disbelief. How could this be possible?

The first time he had seen this question on an ancient record, he had ended up falling for its trick and answered wrongly. Afterward, he posed this question to many of his colleagues, and most of them would instinctively answer '9 buckets of water'. How did this fellow solve it so easily?

Then again, this question wasn't too difficult. It was possible that Zu An had just gotten lucky.

Hmph, this is the easiest question of the lot! The difficulty will only increase with each passing question. I don't believe that you can remain so lucky!

Now that Zu An had managed to answer a question, though, it would probably be more difficult to chase him out of the academy. If only I had known that this would happen, I wouldn't have set the bar so low.

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 9... 9... 9...

Seeing the inflow of Rage points, Zu An was surprised by how well Yang Wei lived up to his name. Even his Rage points dribbled in, instead of flowing in a steady stream.[1]

He moved on to the second question.

'A farmer's wife is washing bowls by the river. Passers-by ask her why she has so many bowls to wash. She answers that she had just hosted a number of guests. Every 2 people would share a bowl of rice, every 3 people would share a bowl of soup, and every 4 people would share a bowl of a side dish. All in all, there are 65 bowls. How many guests did she host?'

### **Chapter 83: Shameless**

One of the students immediately exclaimed in horror, "Isn't that family too stingy? Two people have to share a bowl of rice? How in the world do they eat like that?"

Yang Wei's face darkened. "Why are you picking faults with the question? We're here to answer the question, not to gossip about whether the family is stingy or not."

Zu An chuckled softly under his breath. He couldn't understand why Yang Wei would think that such a simple question was somehow difficult. Could it be that people in this world didn't understand the concept of algebra?

Zu An did a rough calculation before writing down '60'.

"Gulp~"

Yang Wei swallowed in shock. How could this be? Did the fellow see the answer key beforehand? No, that's impossible. I came up with these questions on the spot! Are these questions actually that easy?

He started to doubt his sanity, but was comforted by the confused looks on the faces of the students all around. Nay, how can that be? That fellow must have guessed the answer to the question, and happened to get '60' on his first try. Yes, that's definitely the case.

Zu An moved on to the third question.

'In Brightmoon City's market, a rooster is worth 5 qian, a chicken is worth 3 qian, and three chicks are worth 1 qian. The farmer used a total of 100 qian to buy 100 animals. So, how many roosters, chicken, and chicks did she buy in total?'[1]

Hm? This question looks pretty interesting. There are three unknown variables but we can only formulate two equations here. However, since the number is pretty small, we can just do a guess and check.

Of course, we won't exhaustively guess all of the possibilities to figure out the answer. There's a trick to it. Taking the number of roosters, chickens, and chicks to be  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  respectively, we can simplify the equation to  $y = (100 - 7x)/4$ .

Given that the number of roosters, chickens, and chicks have to be whole numbers, the equation  $(100 - 7x)$  must be a number that is divisible by 4, which means that  $x$  has to be an even number.

From there, we can quickly deduce that there are 4 roosters, 18 chickens, and 78 chicks in total![2]

When Yang Wei saw Zu An writing the answer out, his mind blanked out for an instant. Three questions! He has already managed to answer three questions correctly!

He couldn't throw his weight around and insist that Zu An's answer was wrong because of the huge crowd watching. While these students might not be able to solve the questions properly, it was easy enough for them to verify the answer by working backward. On top of all that, Shang Liuyu's eyes were on him too!

How in the world is the fellow doing this? Isn't he supposed to be trash? How is he able to answer all of these questions so easily? On top of that, the speed at which he's solving these problems is unbelievable!

With Zu An having answered three questions correctly, the bet had already been lost. Yang Wei couldn't chase him out of the academy anymore. Instead, he had to pray that Zu An wouldn't be able to solve all of the questions, or else he would find himself in a tight spot.

He had never thought that such a situation would occur, so he agreed to the bet without any hesitation. Zu An's high proficiency in arithmetic was unexpected, and it left him panicking inside.

No, there's nothing to fear. The questions are getting progressively harder, especially for the last one. I found it in an ancient record. Putting aside the students, even he couldn't solve the question himself!

No matter how incredible this fellow is, there must be a limit to his capability. There's no way he can solve such an ancient difficult question too!

To his dismay, Zu An's brush flew across the page as he solved question after question, eliciting shocked exclamations from the surrounding students. Initially, they'd assumed he had just lucked out and somehow managed to guess the right answer. However, the fact that he was able to solve question after question correctly with hardly any pause proved that he was a true arithmetic prodigy.

Many of them were hoping to see Zu An make a fool out of himself. After all, he had married Chu Chuyan, the most beautiful woman in their academy, and flirted with many of those in the Sweetheart

Ranking. They couldn't accept how he had a harem when the rest of them were still single. Any one of them would have pounced on the slightest chance to drive him out of the academy.

Strangely enough, as the challenge progressed, none of them were disappointed to see Zu An answering the questions one after another. Instead, they were starting to tremble in excitement. After all, the one thing that was more interesting than seeing a fellow classmate being expelled was seeing their own teacher being expelled!

The faintest trace of a smile crept onto Shang Liuyu's lips as well. Her eyes were locked onto Zu An. He really looked quite suave when he was focused on a task.

She was reminded of their first meeting in the gazebo, which further spurred her curiosity about him. Just how many secrets is this fellow hiding?

In contrast to Shang Liuyu's relaxed demeanor, Yang Wei dabbed at his forehead frequently with his handkerchief, which was already drenched in his cold sweat. He could sense the eyes of the crowd lingering on him silently, which made goosebumps rise all over his body. Calm down, calm down... Yes, there's nothing to worry about. There's no way he'll be able to solve the last question!

Finally, Zu An reached the last question.

'Two farmers' wives brought a total of 100 chicken eggs to Brightmoon City's market to sell, and the two of them earned the same amount of money after selling out their goods. The first told the second, "If I had as many chicken eggs as you, I would have been able to earn 15 silver qian." The second then replied, "If I had as many chicken eggs as you, I would only have been able to earn 6 and two-third qian." How many chicken eggs do each of them have?'

The students began discussing the question fervently amongst themselves.

"This is weird. They're both selling chicken eggs, right? Why are their prices different then?"

"Isn't that perfectly normal? It's obvious that one of them is better-looking than the other. People will naturally buy from the farmer's wife that looks better even if it's more expensive, and the uglier looking one has no choice but to lower her price to bring in customers."

"What wise words!"

...

Zu An was stunned to see this question. He turned to Yang Wei and asked, "You can't actually find this question hard, right?"

Yang Wei was bubbling with frustration. Of course! Why else would I leave it for the last? However, at this point, he dared not underestimate Zu An anymore. So, he responded vaguely, "Those who are able to solve it naturally see no difficulty in it."

"Indeed, it's not hard at all," replied Zu An.

This was basically a problem involving simultaneous equations with four variables. While the calculations were tedious, the question itself was, by no means, difficult.

Yang Wei was ticked off by Zu An's answer. I was just being courteous with you, but you sure are putting on airs, huh? Why don't you try solving it and show me the correct answer then!

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 222 Rage points!

Zu An threw a perplexed glance at Yang Wei. He scribbled out a series of calculations on another sheet of paper before finally jotting down the answer: The first farmer's wife had 40 eggs and the second farmer's wife had 60 eggs.

Many of the students had been diligently checking Zu An's answers for him. There was a short pause, and one of them exclaimed excitedly, "He got it right! He managed to get all twenty questions right!"

The crowd was astonished. A growing number of eyes began to dart toward Yang Wei, his earlier wager still fresh in everyone's minds. Since Zu An had successfully answered twenty questions, it was time for him to resign from his job at Brightmoon Academy.

There seemed to be a loud ringing in Yang Wei's ears. Everything that had just happened defied his common sense. His mission to trample all over an incompetent student was supposed to be sweet and easy! Who could have expected the tables to be turned on him?

This isn't right! Isn't he supposed to be a notorious wastrel? How can he possibly be so skilled at arithmetic?

Zu An turned to look at the ravishing Shang Liuyu, and favored her with a smile. "Teacher Shang, right? As our witness, I'd like you to declare the winner of this bet."

"Needless to say, you've won." Shang Liuyu nodded in response as she directed a knowing smile at him.

With the contest decided, Zu An turned to Yang Wei and said, "Teacher Yang, I recall someone mentioning that he would resign from the academy if I managed to answer all twenty questions correctly. May I know if your words still hold true?"

Yang Wei's face swiftly flushed bright red. He pointed his finger at Zu An in agitation as he bellowed, "You cheated! That's right, you must have cheated!"

All concern over embarrassing himself in front of his goddess had flown out the window. The most important thing right now was for him to keep his job! If not, he would go down as the first teacher in the entire Great Zhou Dynasty to be forced to resign under pressure from his student. He would never be able to raise his head again if he suffered such humiliation!

"Tsk!"

Disgruntled snorts echoed throughout the classroom. The students were all rather dissatisfied by his weak-minded attempt to renege on his promise.

Shang Liuyu frowned as well. "Teacher Yang, all of us can bear witness to the process. How could he have possibly cheated?"

Yang Wei could feel contempt in Shang Liuyu's gaze, which made him even more agitated. He hurriedly fashioned an excuse. "I remember now! These questions can all be easily guessed as long as you're lucky. The numbers aren't that big anyway. He could have just tried each number one by one to get the

answer. Look at his workings! Do any of you understand what he's written down? He's obviously guessed his way through!"

Some of the students carefully examined Zu An's workings, and they found themselves agreeing with Yang Wei's words. They really are illegible... If he really guessed all of the answers, doesn't that mean his luck was way too good? Then again, he did win seven-and-a-half million silver taels from the casino just yesterday, so he probably has no lack of luck.

Zu An sighed deeply. "Your reputation as a shameless man precedes you, but your shamelessness has managed to exceed my wildest imagination. You have no qualms spouting nonsense in front of your own students. Why don't you just tell us whether my answers are right or not?"

"What's the point of getting the answers right? If the steps you take to get there aren't right, these answers are all just flukes that deserve no marks!" Yang Wei forcefully argued for his logic. "This is simply the common rule of arithmetic classes. The purpose of the rule is to deal with those who copy answers, and others who luck out like you!"

Shang Liuyu chuckled softly before remarking, "Teacher Yang, I don't think that words make much sense. Even if he's lucky enough to guess an answer or two correctly, he can't possibly be that lucky to get all twenty questions correct. Perhaps he's using a method so novel that no one has seen it before?"

Her good looks and refined poise allowed her to convince others easily, without the need for her to push her point of view aggressively.

"Teacher Shang is right!"

"It doesn't make sense for there to be such a huge coincidence in the world."

...

Yang Wei's eyebrows twitched in anger. Is this woman intentionally trying to go against me? With both his job and his honor on the line, he couldn't care less about fostering his relationship with her.

His face dark with rage, he began putting Shang Liuyu down. "Teacher Shang, you're a foreign language teacher, so I don't blame you for not knowing arithmetic. The methods he has jotted down are absolutely nonsensical. Even the arithmetic teachers of the Royal Academy in the capital wouldn't be able to understand them. There are no such methods in the world. Therefore, the only remaining possibility is that he managed to get everything correct by chance. If you don't believe that, why don't you get him to explain the steps he took to reach the correct answer?"

He had already decided that, no matter whether Zu An's explanation made sense or not, he would simply shrug it off as nonsense. With his reputation on the line, he couldn't care less about how others thought of him at this moment.

Shang Liuyu found herself in a tight spot. Yang Wei was a renowned arithmetic expert in Brightmoon City, which made him quite an authoritative figure on the subject. She wasn't in a good position to comment on this matter.

With no way to help, she turned her gaze toward Zu An. She was curious to see how he intended to deal with this situation. He always had a knack for resolving problems through unusual means.

“With your poor aptitude in arithmetic, I doubt you would understand my methods even if I tried to explain them to you,” Zu An replied calmly.

Yang Wei was so angry that he began laughing instead. “Hahaha! Do you hear what that arrogant man is saying? I’ve never heard such an insolent student before. I’ll report this to the academy and have it expel you under the grounds of disrespecting your teacher!”

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 521 Rage points!

#### **Chapter 84: Not a Single Question Correct**

Zu An chuckled at Yang Wei’s expression. He looked like he was about to burst a blood vessel. He said to the teacher, “There’s a very easy way to resolve this situation. I’ll set twenty questions too. Regardless of whether you cheat or guess your way through, as long as you can solve them all... Forget it, I’ll give you a discount. If you even solve half of them, I’ll pack up my stuff and get out of the academy immediately. If you don’t, I will hold you to your earlier wager. How does that sound?”

No matter what, Yang Wei was still an official of the royal court, and a teacher officially hired by the academy. Neither Zu An nor the academy was in a good position to terminate him over a mere bet. However, what if Yang Wei couldn’t even answer a single question Zu An set? No matter how shameless he was, there was no way he would suffer the ignominy of staying in the academy.

Yang Wei was taken aback by the sudden proposal. He was intimidated by how Zu An had managed to easily solve all twenty questions, and his confidence was rapidly deflating.

Shang Liuyu took this opportunity to chime in, “Teacher Yang, surely you can’t be intimidated by your student, right?”

“Of course not!” Yang Wei immediately straightened up. “Do your worst then! I’ll solve even 200 questions if that’s what it needs to make you submit!”

This wasn’t a bad bet to make. Even if he was not confident in solving all twenty questions, at the very least, solving ten of them would be well within his capabilities. He was a renowned arithmetic expert in Brightmoon City after all, having calculated years of taxes for the Civil Affairs Department. There was no way a young punk’s questions could trip him up. As long as he succeeded, he would be able to send Zu An packing from the academy!

Zu An had an inkling of what Yang Wei was thinking based on his reaction, and he smiled to himself. I shall show you the horrors of mathematics then!

There were many plausible questions he could come up with, but he decided not to use the less-mainstream geometry questions. He doubted anyone in this world knew about pi, calculating the area of a circle, and that sort of thing. Setting those questions would only make the others think he was intentionally making things difficult for Yang Wei.

In order to crush Yang Wei thoroughly, what he had to do was to come up with questions that everyone understood, but were unable to solve. Got it!

With quick, deft strokes of his brush, Zu An wrote out twenty questions in a flash. He handed the sheet of paper over to Yang Wei with the sincerest of smiles. "Since you're a renowned arithmetic expert, I trust that these questions wouldn't pose any problem to you."

Yang Wei was surprised by Zu An's sudden humility. He cleared his throat. "Of course. How difficult could questions coming from a junior like you be?"

He took the paper and read the first question:

'There are two numbers, each between 1 and 20. The sum of the two numbers is given to Person A, and the product of the two numbers is given to Person B. Person A told Person B that he didn't know what the two numbers were, and Person B said that he didn't know either. With that, Person A said that he knew the answer now, and Person B replied that he knew the answer too.

'What are the two numbers?'[1]

Based on the questions Yang Wei had come up with, the concept of multiplication did exist in this world, so it wasn't out of the syllabus.

Yang Wei blinked his eyes several times after reading the question. What the hell is this? I've never seen such questions before! T-this... How the hell do I solve such a question?!

The question looked simple enough at first glance, but as he tried to solve it, cold sweat began dripping from his face. Despite the knowledge he had accrued throughout his entire life, he found himself unable to figure out a way to solve this question!

The surrounding students also began discussing the question. They had never seen such a novel question before. However, even after racking their brains for a long while, they had no idea where to begin.

"Silence!"

Yang Wei was hoping for some inspiration from the students around him, but most of their discussion was nonsensical, contributing nothing. This made him incredibly frustrated.

The students stuck out their tongues at him in response. You're the one who can't solve the question. Why are you venting your frustrations on us?

Yang Wei's face turned as black as charcoal at their mutterings. It was then that he realized there were only twenty numbers in total. At most, I'll just try the numbers one by one. I reckon that's how that fellow solved my questions earlier!

He quickly composed himself and proceeded with his calculations.

The students looked on as he began working through the problem, feeling deeply impressed. As expected of the teacher. He managed to find a way to work out the answer in just a few moments.

Meanwhile, Zu An was sitting cross-legged on a chair, calmly sipping a cup of tea which Wei Suo had brought out from god-knows-where. His eyes were fully on Shang Liuyu, appreciating her marvelous figure. He'd met quite a few beauties after coming to this world, but even he had to admit that her charm was the real deal.



Shang Liuyu, on the other hand, was focused on the question. Even though she was a foreign language teacher, she still knew a thing or two about arithmetic. She had been able to solve most of Yang Wei's questions earlier, but the question Zu An devised was simply too bizarre. No matter how she thought it through, she couldn't make heads or tails out of it.

She threw a discreet glance at Zu An, only to see him staring at her. She was amused by how his attention was wandering despite being in the midst of an important bet. This lad sure is confident in himself. He really is different from the others.

In contrast to Zu An's relaxed demeanor, Yang Wei's clothes were completely drenched in sweat. He'd made some initial progress through trial and error, but the more he progressed, the more muddled he became. Somehow, every answer he arrived at didn't seem right to him.

He swallowed and shot a look at Zu An, who stared back at him with an enigmatic smile on his lips. All of a sudden, it struck him. This fellow must have intentionally put the hardest question in front to trap me! I nearly fell for his ploy!

Yang Wei decided to move on to the next question. He would return to this one later on.

He flipped over to the second question, and this was what he saw.

'There are three doors in front of you. Behind one of the doors is a treasure, but there is nothing behind the other two. After you select a door, someone opens one of the two remaining doors, revealing an empty room. Then, the person offers you the chance to switch to another door. To maximise the probability of choosing the door that hides the treasure, would you switch to another door? Please state the reason behind your decision.[2]

Yang Wei was delighted.

That fellow has indeed put the hardest question in front. This is much easier! Hmph! Isn't the probability the same regardless of whether I change doors or not? He even tried to mislead me by phrasing the question to make it seem as if there's a better decision. Do you take me for a fool?

He quickly wrote down 'I won't switch to another door'. However, still worried that his answer might be too ambiguous, he jotted down 'Regardless of whether I switch doors or not, the probability of selecting the door with the treasure is the same'.

Satisfied with his answer, he moved on to the third question.

'Five pirates managed to obtain 100 ki stones in a raid. Pirate A was given the right to decide how to distribute the bounty, but the proposal he comes up with must be agreed upon by more than half of the pirates in order for it to be accepted. Otherwise, he would be thrown into the sea, and Pirate B will be given the right to determine the distribution, with the same rules applied. Assuming that you're Pirate A, how should you distribute the ki stones in order to maximize your gain?

'Please assume that the pirates are rational arithmetic experts, and they're able to accurately calculate their gains and losses to decide on the best course of action that maximizes their gains.'[3]

Yang Wei was stunned. Just what in the world is in that fellow's mind for him to come up with such weird questions?

His first response was to equally distribute the ki stones among all the pirates, but he soon threw out the answer and tried to calculate other possibilities.

The surrounding students also launched into fervent discussion, but none of them had a clue what the optimal distribution for Pirate A was.

Shang Liuyu found the use of the term 'pirates' in the question rather endearing. This lad sure comes up with interesting questions.

After struggling for a while, Yang Wei took out his already-soaked handkerchief once more and wiped his forehead. He was in full-blown panic. He couldn't find a way to verify whether his answer was right or not.

Should I move on to the next question?

Yang Wei remembered how Zu An had chosen to put the hardest question in front, and he figured that the questions behind should be easier. Taking a deep breath, he proceeded with the fourth question.

'Five prisoners, numbered from 1 to 5, take turns to draw green beans from a rucksack filled with 100 green beans. The rules state that they'll have to take at least one green bean. The prisoners are not allowed to communicate with one another, but they are able to count the number of beans left in the rucksack through touch. Which of the five prisoners has the highest chance of survival? All the prisoners who end up with the most beans and all with the least beans will be sentenced to death.

'Note:

- 1) All of the prisoners are smart, rational people who will decide on the best course of action for them.
- 2) Their primary aim is to survive. If that is not possible, they will aim to kill as many people as possible.
- 3) There's no need to fully distribute all 100 green beans amongst themselves.'

Yang Wei nearly burst out cursing on the spot. What is this dumb question? Why are there so many rules here? The question looked simple at first glance, but if one were to start thinking about the specifics, there were so many factors to consider that it could blow one's mind.

He spent a while attempting to work out a solution before eventually giving up and moving on to the next question.

'There are 100 people on an island. 5 of them have red eyes and 95 of them have blue eyes. This island has three weird rules:

- '1) They are not allowed to look into mirrors or any other reflective surfaces, so they aren't able to determine their own eye colors;
- '2) They can't tell others what their eye colors are;
- '3) Once a person realizes that he has red eyes, he would have to commit suicide that very night.

'One day, an adventurer arrived on the island. Oblivious to the rules, while he was partying with everyone else, he accidentally let it slip that "Some of you have red eyes".

‘Assuming that everyone on the island is smart and capable of logical deduction, what do you think will happen on the island afterward?’[5]

Yang Wei’s eyes lit up. This question was much easier than the ones before. He grabbed his brush right away and began jotting down his answer.

...

...

...

Just like that, with bouts of smiles and bouts of stress, he went through the questions one by one. Eventually, he realized that he was only able to solve a few of them.

By this time, a huge crowd had formed outside the classroom. Classes had already ended, but to everyone’s astonishment, none of the students from the most mischievous Yellow class had left yet. Out of curiosity, the students from the other classes decided to head over to take a look. It didn’t take long for news of the bet between Zu An and Yang Wei to spread around the entire academy, drawing in massive crowds.

If it was only a simple duel between Zu An and Yang Wei, the proud prodigies of the Sky class wouldn’t have bothered. However, the presence of Shang Liuyu changed things.

Shang Liuyu was the most popular teacher in Brightmoon Academy. Her classes were always packed to the brim, and her students were always incredibly focused. Their eyes were simply too caught up in appreciating her beauty to be distracted by anything else.

Some of the students came to watch the drama, but the majority flocked over to ogle Shang Liuyu. However, it didn’t take them long to be drawn to Zu An’s questions.

What was interesting about Zu An’s questions was that they were very easily understood. Most of them felt that the questions were easily doable, and they naturally began to discuss the possible solutions with one another. Even the prodigies of the Sky class, who were usually only interested in cultivation, began making their own calculations too.

“Brother-in-law, you’re the best!”

Chu Huanzhao wasn’t one to miss a commotion, and she seemed oddly proud about the situation. It was almost as if she was the one in the limelight right now. She didn’t question her feelings; she put them down to a shared sense of glory with a fellow Chu clan member.

The adorable Ji Xiaoxi was also standing amidst the crowd, poring over the questions with interest. The slight frown on her face did little to mar her beauty. How are these questions supposed to be solved? Should I go back and ask my father about them? Ah, but father isn’t interested in this kind of thing. He only fancies those perverted magazines he has stowed in his room. He seems to have gotten a new book recently, and he’s being very secretive over it. He doesn’t even allow me to come close to it. Hmph...

Pei Mianman, dressed in a black cloak that concealed her proud figure, was also watching the spectacle. Her lips inched up into an amused smile. This fellow sure is an interesting one. Chu Chuyan does have a

sharp eye for people. Should I find an opportunity to nab him over to my side? It should be interesting to take her stuff away from her...

Hiding at the very back of the crowd was Zheng Dan, who was feeling particularly flustered. The reports she had browsed through depicted Zu An to be a good-for-nothing, and she had put his big win at the Silverhook Casino down to an incredible bit of luck. She hadn't expected Zu An to be this skilled in arithmetic.

It looks like it wasn't just luck at play at the Silverhook Casino. I reckon that even Yang Wei will be done in by him. I sure do wonder who was the one who sent Yang Wei after him, though.

Still, I should probably proceed carefully from now on, lest my honey trap backfires on me.

After what seemed like forever, Shang Liuyu issued a reminder to the embattled arithmetic teacher. "Teacher Yang, time is already up."

Yang Wei wiped off the sweat on his face. "Give me a while more, I'm just about finished."

All along, he had been the one to see students struggling to solve his questions under the time limit. Who knew he would be put in the same position one day?

However, with so many spectators, he couldn't bring himself to shamelessly drag things out for too long. He made a few final strokes with his brush, then put it down and said, "I'm done."

To be honest, he had no confidence in all but two of the answers he had written down. However, he still felt he was in with a chance. At the very least, he should be able to get ten questions correct.

He was relieved that he hadn't declared arrogantly that he would get all twenty questions right. If so, it would already be all over for him. As long as he could get ten questions correct, he would be able to salvage some of his pride. After all, everyone here knew just how difficult the questions were.

"How is it? I managed to at least get ten of them right, didn't I?" Waiting calmly as Zu An checked his answers, Yang Wei slipped his sweat-soaked handkerchief back into his pocket, a triumphant smile emerging on his lips.

He was confident that no one in the entire Brightmoon City would be able to fare better than him on the test—well, except for Zu An the pervert, anyway.

"As expected of Teacher Yang, he managed to answer all of the questions!"

"Wow, that's really impressive. I don't even know how to answer a single question at all."

"Teacher Yang is not our arithmetic teacher for nothing. How can he hold his own without possessing some skill?"

"Still, I must say that the questions Zu An came up with are truly tough. His proficiency in arithmetic is at least on par with Teacher Yang."

"I reckon it's just Teacher Yang going easy on him. There's no reason for him to take a student so seriously, after all."

...

Yang Wei's back slowly straightened with pride as he savored the commentary coming from the surrounding students. It seemed he had managed to build up quite some prestige for himself over the years. He patted his chest and turned to glance at Shang Liuyu, relieved that he had at least managed to salvage his reputation in front of her.

However, Shang Liuyu wasn't looking at him at all. Her eyes were fixed intently on Zu An, curious as to what the results would be.

Zu An finally broke his silence. "Is this the level you're at? It looks like I've overestimated you. You didn't even manage to get a single question correct!"

The classroom erupted in chaos.

"What?" Yang Wei swore that he was hearing things. There's no way I could have gotten everything wrong! He glared at Zu An in aggravation as he hollered furiously, "Lies! How dare you slander me!"

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 1024 Rage points!

He had been feeling good about himself just a second ago, but now, practically everyone in the academy heard the announcement that he hadn't gotten a single question correct. This sudden nosedive his emotions took was simply too great for him to bear!

## **Chapter 85: You Again!**

"How is it possible that I got all of the answers wrong? You must be saying that in order to win the bet! There's no other reason for that!" Yang Wei glared at Zu An angrily. He was confident that he should have gotten at least ten questions correct. He could never accept that he had actually gotten everything wrong.

"Indeed! How could Teacher Yang possibly get everything wrong? He's our academy's arithmetic teacher!"

"Zu An is going too far, lying just to win the bet. It only shows how despicable he is as a person!"

...

Zu An didn't lose his temper despite all of the criticisms directed at him. Instead, he raised the paper Yang Wei had just completed up high and said, "Very well, let me enlighten you on your mistakes then. Look at the first question. The right answer is 2 and 2, and yet you wrote 10 and 15. You must have just made a random guess, hoping that you'd somehow get it right."

Yang Wei's face heated up in embarrassment. It was true that he had guessed two random numbers. He'd simply gotten more and more confused as he thought about the problem, and eventually gave up. However, there was no way he was going to admit to it. "Your question is simply illogical. Given these conditions, how can anyone possibly deduce the answer?"

"Oh, is that so?" Zu An shook his head disdainfully.

“Since you don’t understand it, allow me to enlighten you. Person A knows the sum of the numbers, but he doesn’t know what the two numbers are. If the sum of the numbers is either 2 or 3, he would immediately know that the two numbers are (1, 1) and (1, 2) respectively. Similarly, if the sum of the number is either 40 or 39, he would know that the numbers are (20, 20) and (20, 19) respectively. Therefore, the possibilities for the sum of both numbers is narrowed down to be between 4 and 38.

“Let’s take 4 as an example. If 4 is the addition of both numbers, the two numbers could possibly be (1, 3) or (2, 2), so A is unable to determine which is correct.

“Now, let’s look from Person B’s perspective. If the number B got was a prime number, namely 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, so on and so forth, he would be able to deduce right away that the numbers are 1 and the number itself. Those are the only two factors after all. Since he was unable to deduce what the number was right away, we can eliminate all prime numbers.

“Back to A’s perspective, assuming that the sum of the numbers is 4, and the product of the numbers isn’t 3—which is likely, since B would immediately know the answer if it were—it only leaves the combination of (2, 2) that fulfills the criteria.

“There are other combinations of two numbers that sum up to more than 4, such that A is unable to deduce what the two numbers are, and B is unable to follow up with a corresponding deduction too.”

After his lengthy explanation, Zu An shook his head and sighed deeply. “See, as long as you had the right direction in mind, you would have gotten the answer on your first try. Isn’t it simple? That’s why I chose to put this question first. Who knew you couldn’t even solve such a simple question? Haaa~”

The spectating students began gossiping amongst themselves.

“Hmmm, the logic is pretty simple now that he has explained it.”

“Tsk, why weren’t you able to solve it then?”

“I just wasn’t able to think of it on the spot! I mean, even Teacher Yang couldn’t get it right either!”

...

Yang Wei’s face reddened at the damning comments from the spectating students. “Fine, let’s take it that I answered this question wrongly out of carelessness. What about the next question, then? Isn’t the probability the same no matter which door is chosen? There’s no way I could be wrong about that!”

That was the question that he was the most confident about.

The crowd murmured in agreement. “Indeed, the probability should be the same no matter which door is chosen. Whether he chooses to switch to another door or not shouldn’t make a difference.”

Yang Wei’s words were in line with common sense.

However, Zu An sighed deeply and remarked, “It’s one thing for the students to get this question wrong, but how could an arithmetic teacher like you make the same mistake too? This sure is... Hai...”

His condescending attitude so angered Yang Wei that he was on the verge of exploding. “Why don’t you put away that mysterious act of yours and point out what’s wrong with my logic?”

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 472 Rage points!

Zu An finally got around to his explanation. "No matter which door you select, the chances of selecting the treasure is one-third. In other words, the total probability of the treasure being in the two remaining doors is two-thirds. If I open one of the two doors to show an empty room, wouldn't the probability of the treasure being behind the only remaining unchosen door be two-thirds? Given that, you should definitely change your choice of door since the chances of getting the treasure are higher!"

"Rubbish!" said Yang Wei. "The probability of each door having the treasure behind it is independent. It should all be one-third. How could one of them suddenly become two-thirds?"

Zu An shook his head in response. "I fully expected that someone of your IQ wouldn't be able to understand such complicated logic. Well, let me phrase it in a much easier way for you. Assuming that there are 10,000 doors before you, and only one of them has a treasure behind it. If you choose any of the 10,000 doors, your chances of getting the treasure is only 1-in-10,000, right? With such probability, it's almost impossible for you to get it right. It's almost certain that the treasure is in the remaining 9,999 doors.

"So, if I open 9,998 of the remaining 9,999 doors and show that they are all empty, and I offer you the same choice, will you be willing to switch to the other remaining door?"

"Of course I would switch!" replied Yang Wei without much thought. However, right after he responded, his mood darkened. Could I really be wrong about that?

Zu An nodded in satisfaction. "As expected of an arithmetic teacher! You surely got it quickly enough. It looks like you aren't beyond salvaging yet."

Steam almost began rising from the top of Yang Wei's head. It sounds like this fellow's praising me, but why do his words sound so jarring?

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 333 Rage points!

Zu An continued deconstructing his problems. "Moving on to the next question about the pirates. The optimal distribution of ki stones for Pirate A is either (97, 0, 1, 2, 0) or (97, 0, 1, 0, 2). Look at your own answer. Is it right?"

Yang Wei angrily refuted Zu An's answer. "Nonsense! Pirate A would practically be taking all of it for his own. How could the other pirates possibly agree to it?!"

"I told you that these pirates are smart people who are able to rationally weigh their gains and losses and make the best decision. If we were to put you in their place, I reckon that you would be dead by now!" replied Zu An with a shake of his head.

He launched into the explanation without preamble. "Let's work backwards through this question, starting from Pirate E. He's the safest one of them all since he's in no threat of being thrown into the sea. Thus, his strategy is the simplest. As long as everyone ahead of him dies, he'll be able to monopolize all 100 ki stones.

"As for Pirate D, whether he survives or not depends on whether there are any survivors in front of him. If it ever comes down to a situation when only he and Pirate E is left, Pirate E is bound to oppose his

distribution no matter what and feed him to the sharks. That will let Pirate E monopolize all of the ki stones. Thus, Pirate D is inclined to support Pirate C for his own survival.

"As for Pirate C, based on the logic of Pirate D, he would surely propose (100, 0, 0) since he knows that Pirate D would surely support him unconditionally in order to avoid getting killed by Pirate E. With his own and Pirate D's vote, he would be able to get majority support for his proposal and monopolize all 100 ki stones safely.

"However, Pirate B, as a perfectly logical thinker, is aware of Pirate C's distribution plan. What he would do is to propose a distribution of (98, 0, 1, 1). Pirate D and Pirate E would be inclined to support him since they would be able to receive 1 ki stone, which is more beneficial to them as compared to Pirate C's distribution plan. With that, he would be able to get the majority and hoard 98 ki stones for himself.

"Unfortunately, Pirate A is also no pushover. After analyzing everyone's strategy, he is aware of the scheme Pirate B is cooking up. So, he chooses to give up on Pirate B, who is likely to vote against him regardless of what he offers, and proposes a distribution of (97, 0, 1, 2, 0) or (97, 0, 1, 0, 2). With this proposal, Pirate C and either one of Pirate D or Pirate E would be able to receive more than what they would earn in Pirate B's distribution. Since that's the case, they would support Pirate A, thus allowing Pirate A to secure three votes and claim a majority. With this, he easily secures 97 ki stones for himself."

Everyone gasped in astonishment. "Aren't those pirates way too smart?"

"How frightening it would be if the pirates in real life were that smart too!"

"Don't worry, it's just a hypothetical situation. Anyone who is that smart won't have to resort to piracy!"

"I guess so..."

...

Yang Wei's eyes stared blankly. He was dazed on his feet, unable to hear anything at all.

Zu An was displeased with his reaction. Hey, hey, hey, can you not succumb so easily? You haven't provided me with enough Rage points yet!

To his dismay, even as he shot Yang Wei's answers down one by one and explained the remaining questions, the latter only provided him with a few hundred Rage points. It seemed the arithmetic teacher had already suffered a mental breakdown.

"My gosh, he really didn't get a single question right! Isn't Teacher Yang a little too incompetent?"

"He always sticks his nose up high as if he's a big deal. Yet, it turns out that he's all talk!"

"Tsk, why does our academy have someone like him as a teacher? Won't he mislead the students at this rate?"

...

The criticisms of the surrounding students were like knives stabbing into Yang Wei's heart, and something in him finally broke. He let out a frenzied roar and rushed out of the classroom with his hands



covering his ears. He kept going at full pelt, ignoring all the shouts directed at him. He was desperate to get out of this darned place as soon as possible.

It was all too humiliating! He thought that he could easily trample all over Zu An, but who knew he would end up being the one trampled on instead? After this incident, there was no way he would dare to show his face in Brightmoon Academy anymore.

For a teacher to be unable to answer any of the questions posed by his students—he would definitely become a laughingstock not just in Brightmoon City but in the surrounding municipalities too!

Wei Suo rushed forward to massage Zu An's shoulders. "Boss, you're incredible!"

The other students also crowded around to offer him tea and snacks. With such arithmetic prowess, he would have a bright future ahead of him even if he was completely inept as a cultivator. It was only prudent to curry favor with him right now.

Chu Huanzhao tried to squeeze through to talk to her brother-in-law, but a huge wall of students had crowded in, blocking her way and shutting her out. Frustrated, she stomped away in a huff. "Bootlickers!"

Ji Xiaoxi's face was also red, her cheeks flushed in excitement at the impressive feat that she had just witnessed. At the same time, though, she was worried for Zu An. Won't he be in trouble for offending a teacher of the academy like this?

Pei Mianman's lips curled upward suggestively, leaving the men around her swooning. "It seems making a deal with that fellow wasn't so bad after all. It looks like I might just be able to get something from him."

Not too far away, Zheng Dan, who had been studying the reactions of these women, could barely conceal her shock. She thought that the rumors of Zu An's relationships with them were just hearsay. After all, how could Zu An possibly charm all of these outstanding women?

A deep and powerful bellow cut through the ruckus. "What are all of you doing here instead of attending classes? Are you trying to rebel against the academy?"

The voice sent instinctive shudders down many a spine. All of them had, at some point, suffered trauma from their experiences with the owner of this voice.

A middle-aged man rocking a bald spot on his head stormed towards the gathered crowd, ruler in hand. Who else could it be other than discipline master Lu De?

The crowd automatically parted to open up a path for him. At the very center of the commotion, he saw Zu An seated grandly on a chair, being served by his fellow students. Deep furrows appeared on his forehead as his eyebrows knit together in dismay.

However, when he caught sight of Shang Liuyu, his frown immediately smoothed out. "Ah, Teacher Shang is here too! What in the world happened here? I saw Yang Wei rushing off with his head lowered almost to the floor. I called out to him, but he didn't respond."

"He probably feels embarrassed," replied Shang Liuyu with a faint smile. She quickly explained the events that had transpired earlier. Her smooth voice sent tingles through the heart, and it was a pleasure just to hear her speak.

"You again?" Lu De glared at Zu An. The gentle look that he had favored Shang Liuyu with was gone, replaced by a severe expression.

## **Chapter 86: Bai Susu**

The intense heat of Lu De's gaze immediately sent Wei Suo and the others scurrying into the background. Not one of them felt safe remaining by Zu An's side.

Those disloyal bastards. He calmly returned Lu De's gaze. "Yang Wei picked on me first. He was the one who proposed this bet in the first place. Why am I the offender for accepting his wager?"

"Have you forgotten our academy rules? The most important value we embrace is to respect the teachers. No matter how capable you are, if you don't even have basic respect for your elders, you'll only become a menace to the world once you're out of the academy!" Lu De berated him sternly.

"I'm afraid that I don't concur. A student should respect his teacher only if the teacher is a good role model. However, Yang Wei intentionally picked on his students because of personal reasons. Is such a person worthy of being respected as a teacher?" replied Zu An with a frown.

Lu De was further incensed by Zu An's temerity to talk back to him. "No matter what, he's still your teacher! Even if there's an issue with him, you should leave it to the academy to investigate the matter. How could a student like you attempt to deal with him by your own accord?"

"What do you mean by 'dealing with him by my own accord'? Our bet was open and fair. Everyone present can testify on my behalf," said Zu An as he gestured to the students around. "We invited Teacher Shang here to be our witness to ensure that everything was conducted appropriately."

Shang Liuyu nodded in agreement. "Indeed. Teacher Yang agreed to it as well."

"Teacher Shang, don't be fooled by this fellow!" Lu De sent a smile Shang Liuyu's way before turning back to Zu An with a stern expression. "You really are a gambler through and through, huh? One of our ten core academy rules prohibits gambling, but you openly walked into the Silverhook Casino to gamble with your money, causing a huge uproar. Do you know what kind of negative influence you have brought to our academy? I haven't even taken you to task for that, and now you're even betting against a teacher in the academy? Hmph! We don't need a person like you in our academy. You should return to your Chu Estate!"

The surrounding crowd grew agitated. No one expected Lu De would dish out such a severe punishment as expelling Zu An on the spot.

Of course, given Lu De's strength and standing in the academy, doing so was well within his authority.

Hong Xingying, hiding at the back of the crowd, sneered coldly. You sure acted arrogantly, huh? It looks like retribution has finally caught up with you! It must be humiliating for you to be expelled from the

academy. Do you know how much the Chu clan values its reputation? You can be darned sure that Master and Madam won't spare you easily!

Just two days ago, Hong Zhong had warned him to keep himself in check. In order not to cause trouble for his father, Hong Xingying wisely decided to stop messing with Zu An and focused his efforts on cultivating instead.

He had been in the midst of cultivating earlier when he was drawn over by the commotion. He followed the rest of the crowd, and was confronted with the sickening sight of Zu An basking in the limelight. He felt physically sick, as though he'd just eaten some shit.

He was just about to turn his back on the nauseating sight when the situation took its dramatic twist. He was more than exhilarated by this development, and decided that he would add two dishes to his lunch later on to celebrate.

Another one who shared Hong Xingying's feelings was Yuan Wendong. He had always been proud of the high standing he'd gained in the academy over the years, and was well-respected by many. He had hoped to announce his breakthrough to the fifth rank with a huge bang, but his plans had been ruined by Zu An.

He wouldn't have felt so frustrated if he had lost to an expert. But, of all people, it had to be the piece of trash he had been looking down on all this while, Zu Wastrel An! His humiliation had been amplified a hundredfold. He would have much preferred to have been killed rather than live with this unbearable shame!

When he arrived at the scene and saw Zu An sitting haughtily on the chair with his legs crossed, he immediately felt an urge to step forward and teach that arrogant prick a lesson. However, he was forestalled by the presence of Pei Mianman. His previous defeat to her was fresh in his mind, and that took all the wind out of his sails. He could totally imagine Zu An shamelessly summoning his harem of women as soon as he tried to make a move, so he had no choice but to hold himself back.

That left him feeling stymied, but Lu De's arrival brought about an unexpected development that chased away the heaviness in his chest.

Zu An noticed the trickle of Rage points from Hong Xingying and Yuan Wendong. Those two fellows are as persistent as cockroaches. However, this wasn't the time to bother about them. He was just about to respond to Lu De, when Chu Huanzhao suddenly stepped forward to join the fray.

"Discipline Master Lu, you're taking this too far. How can you expel my brother-in-law just like that? It's not like he gambled in the academy. Besides, can the bet he made with the arithmetic teacher even be considered gambling? And anyway, the one who proposed the bet was Yang Wei, so why aren't you punishing him?" Chu Huanzhao's face was red with indignation.

Zu An gave her a thumbs-up. It looks like it's always the sister-in-law who really cares for the brother-in-law. It seems suffering the vicious lashing of the Wailing Whip was not for nothing.

Lu De responded calmly, "For privately proposing a bet to a student despite being a teacher of the academy, he is henceforth terminated from his position in Brightmoon Academy. What else do you have to say?"

The sudden announcement of Yang Wei's abrupt termination sent shockwaves around the classroom once more. While Yang Wei had wagered to back out of the academy on his own accord, it was still just a verbal promise. He could always have chosen to hang around shamelessly if his skin was thick enough.

However, things were different now that the academy had officially terminated his position. There was no way for Yang Wei to return, and it was likely that no other academies in the prefecture would be willing to hire him.

Chu Huanzhao was poised to retort, but Lu De cut her off with a sharp look. "Speaking of which, Chu Second Miss colluded with this fellow to deceive me at the gates of the academy not too long ago. I haven't settled that score with you yet."

Chu Huanzhao wilted under Lu De's intimidating stare. As a young woman, it was difficult for her to stand up against someone of Lu De's caliber.

Finally, it hit Zu An. Now I know why I feel like this fellow is picking on me. It's all because of what happened back then! Still, isn't he nitpicking here?

Shang Liuyu spoke up, a cool expression on her face. "Going by Disciple Master Lu's words, shouldn't I, as the witness of their bet, be punished as well?"

"Teacher Shang, that's not my intention. It was out of kindness that you participated, in order to maintain a sense of fairness. Punishing you for this would not be appropriate." Lu De put on his most handsome smile as he answered Shang Liuyu. His receding hairline made him look less than charming.

"Tsk!" The crowd clicked their tongues in unison.

Of course, none of them dared to voice out their criticism of Lu De's actions. Well, except for one.

"Aiyo, Discipline Master Lu. You sure are exemplifying the very meaning of 'double standards' here."

Zu An blinked his eyes in surprise. The voice was smooth and sweet, which surely meant it belonged to a gorgeous woman. But, for some reason, he felt that something about it was a little off.

With his sharp eyes, he noticed Lu De's cheeks twitching a little in response. Not only that, many of the male students swallowed fearfully, and some even began trembling uncontrollably.

Their female counterparts, on the other hand, seemed unconcerned.

A light breeze brought with it the scent of perfume, filling the classroom with a pleasant aroma. Zu An wondered idly if this was the scent of a renowned brand.

Behind it came a slim figure. Dressed in a white robe, with long hair, shapely eyebrows, peach blossom eyes, and delicate facial features—if this person wasn't a man, he would surely have countless pursuers after him.

In Zu An's mind, the only one who could possibly match him was Xie Xiu. However, despite Xie Xiu's delicate, feminine appearance, his manner and gestures were masculine, which made it impossible to mistake his gender.

The man walking toward him had a feminine manner that made it really hard to distinguish whether he was a man or a woman. Whether it was the way he folded his arms, or the way his hips swayed as he walked, there was a distinctive feminine quality to it all.

“Who’s that person?”

Zu An was, after all, someone who had lived in the information era, and he had seen all kinds of unholy things on the internet. In comparison to them, this man seemed perfectly normal. At the very least, his appearance was attractive, which made him much less disturbing.

What he was most curious about right now was the man’s identity.

Unfortunately, Wei Suo wasn’t around to chip in with the necessary information. The coward had long since burrowed into a hidden corner somewhere. Instead, it was Shang Liuyu who secretly whispered the details to him. “He’s Bai Susu, a teacher in charge of imparting cultivation in the academy. The Yellow class has very few cultivation classes, and you’ve only arrived just a few days ago. There’s no reason for you to have met him yet.”

“Bai Susu...” Zu An found the name rather odd for a man.

“Aiyo~” Lu De imitated Bai Susu’s feminine tone, then spat in disdain. “As a man, could you at least try to be less disgusting? You’re really giving me goosebumps!”

“You treated little sister Shang so kindly earlier, yet you act so crudely towards me?” Bai Susu sniffed coyly. “How do I pale in comparison to little sister Shang? Is it my looks?”

There was the sound of dry retching. The surrounding crowd reached their limits of tolerance, and hurriedly dispersed.

Even Shang Liuyu’s carefree smile looked a little stiff. Clearly, she had not appreciated the comparison all that much.

Lu De’s face darkened. “Bai Susu, don’t butt into things you have no business in. Scram!”

“Haiyoh! Look at what you’re saying!” Bai Susu raised his hand daintily. He perfectly adopted the pose of a courtesan beckoning her customers in a brothel. All he lacked was a handkerchief in his hand. “They’re my students too, so how could this possibly be none of my business?”

Zu An’s eyes widened as the reality of the situation sank in. Clearly, Bai Susu was at loggerheads with Lu De. It would serve him well to cling tightly to this beautiful man’s slender thighs in the future.

However, just observing Bai Susu’s mannerisms made him swallow hard. What if this fellow is into guys? What am I to do if he lusts after my dashing face?

## **Chapter 87: Authority**

“So what if he might be your student? All students in this academy are subjected to the academy rules!” Lu De’s eyelids twitched continually at Bai Susu’s dainty gestures. He felt a strong urge to dig a hole and bury Bai Susu in it. “Zu An has flouted the academy rules by partaking in gambling and publicly talking

back to a teacher in the academy compound. Either offence would be more than enough to have him expelled from the academy.”

To be frank, Zu An wasn't too worried. After all, he had huge backing in the academy now. However, since Bai Susu had stepped in to help him, he was more than willing to take a back seat and enjoy the show.

Bai Susu shook his head. “Big brother Lu, it looks like you have some misunderstanding here. Zu An did gamble in the Silverhook Casino, but that was outside the academy. As far as I know, the academy rules only apply within the boundaries of the academy itself. As for talking back to a teacher, I've already heard about the ins and outs of the matter. It was Yang Wei who proposed the bet, and Zu An was pressured into accepting it.

“If you're going to punish him over this, wouldn't others think that our academy is blatantly siding with a teacher who picked on a student despite him having lost a bet? That would truly be a huge scandal. Word would spread beyond Brightmoon City to the entire country. By then, the world will think of us, teachers of Brightmoon Academy, as cowards who can't take a loss.”

The intimate way in which Bai Susu addressed him made Lu De shudder in disgust.

To be fair, Bai Susu's point did make some sense. However, the fact that it was his old nemesis who raised this point was more than enough reason for Lu De to disregard it. After all, Bai Susu had no particular ties to Zu An either, and was intervening in this matter just to annoy Lu De.

This made Lu De even more obstinate. “Hmph, I am the discipline master of the academy. I have the final say as to how students should be dealt with. Teacher Bai, your interference is not needed here!”

Bai Susu placed his arms on his hips in displeasure as he berated Lu De, “Hey, are you going to blatantly ignore all reason? This is an abuse of power! I'll report you for that!”

Lu De burst into laughter. “Go ahead then. Even if you report this matter up to the capital, this matter is still under my purview. If you have any disagreements with my judgment, why don't we settle it with a fight then?”

“Hmph, let's do it then! I'm not afraid of you!” Bai Susu scoffed.

He took out a plum blossom flower from his robe, and a powerful aura burst out from him. The sudden wave of force forced the students surrounding him to retreat hurriedly.

Watching the other students struggling under Bai Susu's sudden show of force, Zu An was intrigued as to why nothing was happening to him. His eyes fell on Shang Liuyu, who was standing casually in front of him. His forehead creased in thought.

Seeing Bai Susu take out his plum blossom flower, Lu De's expression turned grave. He raised his ruler up high, ready to strike his enemy down.

While the students from the Black class and Yellow class looked flustered, those from the Sky class and Earth class looked upon the brewing battle with anticipation in their eyes. These two individuals were true sixth rank experts, and they were likely the strongest cultivators in the academy other than the principal.

A battle between sixth rank experts was exceedingly uncommon; many people went through their entire lives without having an opportunity to see this grand spectacle. Naturally, none of the students were going to miss this precious opportunity to see them in action.

Yuan Wendong stared unblinkingly at the two teachers as he waited for the battle to commence. He was hoping to draw inspiration from their battle to aid in his next breakthrough. Even though he was only one rank behind them, he knew that many individuals were unable to take the final step to progress beyond the fifth rank in their entire lives.

Only Pei Mianman yawned in boredom, throwing a disinterested glance in Zu An's direction. She noticed that he was staring at Shang Liuyu's beautiful side profile, and her lips curled into a smile. What a pervert he is.

The tension was so thick it could be cut with a knife. Bai Susu's face was a grim mask, and Lu De looked as if he was glaring at a mortal enemy. They assessed each other with intense focus, searching for openings to strike.

"You have been staring at each other for a long time now. Are you two going to fight or what?"

A languid voice broke through the tight and nervous atmosphere. It was none other than Zu An, hands over his head, stretching his back out lazily.

You have successfully trolled Bai Susu for 666 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Lu De for 666 Rage points!

The gathered crowd was stunned. He actually dares to offend Lu De and Bai Susu at once. What a brave man he is!

Zu An was unable to help himself. What can I do? A man has to earn his keep. My calling as a keyboard warrior requires me to stick my head out.

Bai Susu and Lu De exchanged glances, and the two enemies shared a rare moment of telepathic connection. Let's call a truce and get rid of this shameless fellow first, all right?

Before they could make a move, a cold, authoritative voice rang out. "What are you all doing?"

Bai Susu and Lu De widened their eyes in shock, and hurriedly kept away their weapons. They bowed respectfully to the person striding toward them. "Paying respects to the principal."

"Paying respects to the principal!"

"Paying respects to the principal!"

...

The other teachers and students hurriedly followed their lead.

Zu An was surprised at this sight. It never crossed his mind that this gorgeous principal would actually command such authority in this world.

A beautiful figure slowly walked toward them. Her skin was as fair as snow. Her long, slender neck gave her a noble and graceful air, and her hair was pinned gracefully in place. Her captivating appearance was more than enough to put anyone who saw her under her spell. However, her sharp, piercing eyes gave her an air of imposing authority.

Her slender legs, wrapped in skin-tight, nude-colored stockings, peeked through her fluttering skirt, rounding off her considerable physical charm.

Zu An secretly wondered if all these people were intentionally bowing down in order to sneak a peek at her legs. At the very least, he could be certain that one of them was.

Wei Suo was staring intently at Jiang Luofu's eyes, his gaze full of unrestrained passion. He swallowed as if he couldn't believe his eyes, and excitement was splattered all over his face.

That idiot!

Zu An clicked his tongue in disdain. His gaze went subconsciously towards Shang Liuyu, and he noticed that she was wearing a long skirt that left only her heels uncovered. His mind drifted to the time they spent in the gazebo, and how her casual way of sitting had revealed her smooth thighs. In his humble opinion, Shang Liuyu's legs were more than a match for Jiang Luofu's.

"What are you looking at?" Shang Liuyu asked curiously.

Zu An replied with a smile, "You should consider wearing a shorter skirt. It's such a pity to conceal the beautiful legs you have."

Shang Liuyu's mouth fell open, and a tinge of redness suffused her cheeks. "If not for our previous meeting in the gazebo, you would never get away with making such remarks. A student should act like a student; don't go around casually teasing your teachers."

"Does that mean that I can do so as long as I'm serious about it?" asked Zu An.

Shang Liuyu's expression turned bizarre. "Your personality sure is... It's no wonder why so many people have a beef with you even though it has only been days since you enrolled in the academy."

"They're just jealous of how handsome and attractive I am. Have you noticed that there hasn't been a single woman in the academy who has been out to get me yet?" Zu An pointed out with a shrug.

His statement surprised Shang Liuyu. That's true. Those who have been trying to get even with him are all men. On the other hand, it's always a woman who stands up for him in his times of crisis. Even Bai Susu, who can somewhat be considered a woman, is siding with him.

Their secret whispers were picked up by Jiang Luofu. She snorted under her breath. So much for not knowing Shang Liuyu. Look at just how chummy the two of them are!

She was familiar with Shang Liuyu's character. She had a carefree and gentle personality that made her seem easy to get along with. However, she always made sure to maintain some distance between herself and others. Beneath her warm and inviting appearance lay a cold and reticent heart. She had never chatted so intimately with anyone else before.



After a brief look, Jiang Luofu cleared her throat and glared at Lu De and Bai Susu. "What are the two of you doing? Despite being teachers, the two of you intend to fight in the academy compound before the eyes of so many students?"

Bai Susu covered his mouth with a slim hand and giggled. "Big sister Jiang, you misunderstand. This fellow was picking on one of our students constantly for no reason. If you don't believe my words, you can ask anyone else here."

Lu De nearly exploded at Bai Susu's bare-faced accusation. However, he knew better than to act up in the presence of Jiang Luofu. He quickly strung together his argument. "Principal, Zu An has no respect for his elders, and he goes around gambling with others. He's poisoning the conducive learning environment of our academy by propagating bad habits. I decided to have him expelled from the academy on these grounds. However, this fellow simply had to stand in my way!"

Jiang Luofu heaved a helpless sigh. These two would never stop trying to pin the blame on the other. She waved them into silence. "Enough! The two of you can cut it out. I am well aware of the situation. Since it was Teacher Yang who proposed the bet, he should face the consequences for it, lest our academy becomes a laughingstock to the rest of the world."

...

Yang Wei returned to the classroom just in time to hear Jiang Luofu pronounce her verdict, and sank into despair.

He had dashed out earlier because of the overwhelming humiliation he had suffered, but managed to regain his composure after a while. He reminded himself that he was an official formally appointed by the royal court. His reputation in Brightmoon City, the connections he possessed, and the power he wielded in society all far surpassed that of Zu An. As such, there was no need to worry over what had just transpired. It wasn't worth it to run away and lose his job over this.

So, he had bucked up his courage and marched back to the classroom. He had resolved himself to stick around as a teacher even if this incident left a permanent mark on his career and his reputation at the academy. While the humiliation might mean that he would walk around the academy with his head bowed, he would bear it stoically.

He had not expected his return to be greeted by Jiang Luofu's merciless verdict.

It had taken a considerable amount of courage for him to return, and he was not about to go meekly, without a fight. Bracing himself, he stepped forward and said, "My position as a teacher is formally appointed by the royal court, as evidenced by the records in the Ministry of Rites. Even if you're the principal, you don't have the power to terminate my appointment like this!"

Loud boos echoed all around. No one had expected Yang Wei to be so shameless as to return after everything that had happened.

"Despite being an arithmetic teacher, you were outdone by a student in your field of expertise. Our academy does not need a teacher as inept as you. I will personally write a report to the Ministry of Rites to have your position as a teacher formally revoked," said Jiang Luofu coldly.

There was no way someone with her wits could be fooled. She knew that Yang Wei was intentionally picking on Zu An. Since she couldn't be bothered to work out who the mastermind was, she had decided to simply kick him out and end things there.

Had Zu An been an ordinary student, she would still have weighed the pros and cons before coming to a decision. But he wasn't. As the all-important principal of Brightmoon Academy, she could shrug off his identity as the drafted son-in-law of the Chu clan. However, the same couldn't be said about his transcendent class aptitude and all the mysterious events occurring around him.

She couldn't allow someone with limitless potential to be stifled in her academy. Compared to what he could become in the future, a mere third rank official was nothing at all.

Yang Wei was utterly appalled. There was no way he could bring himself to linger after that. He turned tail and fled in a fluster, unwilling to stay even a second more. Just thinking about the gleeful smirk that would be on Zu An's hateful face made him want to rip that wastrel's mouth off.

You have successfully trolled Yang Wei for 999 Rage points!

The notification left Zu An speechless. Wait a moment, it was the principal who stripped you of your position, so why are you blaming me for that? Wow, you really are a loser who picks on the weak.

Yang Wei's mind was consumed with rage. It's all that bitch's fault for sending me here. It should have been an easy affair, yet I ended up suffering such a grievous humiliation. That bitch better have an explanation for me, or else I swear that I'll make her suffer for this!

Lu De frowned at Yang Wei's receding figure. It truly was an unsightly affair. Shaking his head, he turned to Jiang Luofu. "Principal, I do agree that Yang Wei had it coming. However, it doesn't change the fact that Zu An talked back to his teacher and gambled on academy grounds. Shouldn't he be punished for his deeds?"

## **Chapter 88: I Want to Keep a Low Profile Too!**

"Discipline Master Lu, I'd say that it was more of a contract than a gamble. I believe that you're exaggerating this matter. Contracts have binding power, and since Zu An won, it was only right for Yang Wei to fulfill the end of his promise," replied Jiang Luofu with an air of finality.

Lu De was unwilling to drop the matter. "But..."

Jiang Luofu looked at Lu De calmly. "Are you questioning my words?"

Lu De's heart skipped a beat. He hurriedly lowered his head and said, "I dare not!"

Zu An was thrilled at this exchange. The domineering aura of the gorgeous principal is amazing! Even the fierce Lu De is nothing more than a mere hatchling in her eyes. Tsk, tsk, tsk, it looks like I really have to hold on tight to her wonderful thighs.

The surrounding crowd bobbed their heads in unison, firmly on the principal's side. Yang Wei had started the conflict in the first place, and he'd had it coming. Lu De's intervention had been absolutely unnecessary.

That being said, no one had dared to step forward to speak up for Zu An, out of fear of offending Lu De. They weren't friends with Zu An anyway, so there was no reason for them to stick their necks out for him. All in all, the principal's verdict was still a satisfactory conclusion to the incident.

Of course, there were some who were unhappy at this, with Yuan Wendong, Hong Xingying, and Ye Chenliang among them. To them, the principal had arrived at a bad time. It seemed that every time Zu An got into trouble, there would always be someone around to clean his backside for him. What's with his goddamned luck?!

You have successfully trolled Yuan Wendong for 444 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Hong Xingying for 444 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Ye Chenliang for 444 Rage points!

...

While Zu An welcomed the inflow of Rage points, he was left unsatisfied by the relatively small amount. I should really try to enrage a few more short-tempered prodigies during my time here.

Jiang Luofu still had more to say. "Since Yang Wei has been fired, our academy is short of an arithmetic teacher. It just so happens that the contract between Yang Wei and Zu An specified that the latter would take over the position if the former lost. Until a new arithmetic teacher is appointed, all arithmetic classes in the academy will be taken by him."

A queer silence descended upon the crowd. All eyes turned toward Zu An. Lu De, Bai Susu and Shang Liuyu all wore various quizzical expressions, and their confusion was clearly shared by the rest of the students.

Even Pei Mianman, who was still giggling at the situation, felt her smile freeze in place. What's going on? Doesn't that mean that I'll have to call that fellow 'teacher' from now on?

Being unceremoniously thrust into the spotlight was hard to bear even for the thick-skinned Zu An. His gaze subconsciously drifted towards Jiang Luofu, and she winked at him. He suddenly remembered his request to become an honorary teacher for seven-and-a-half million silver taels earlier that morning. She had rejected it without any hesitation earlier, so why change her mind all of a sudden?

He put the thought to the side. The most important thing now was to exploit this situation to earn a huge wave of Rage points!

He gave a slight cough and turned to Lu De, Bai Susu, and Shang Liuyu. "Well, I guess we'll be colleagues from this day onward. Please take good care of me."

You have successfully trolled Lu De for 999 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Bai Susu for 999 Rage points!

How in the world is this fellow worthy of the same position as the rest of us?!

Zu An felt a twinge of regret that Shang Liuyu didn't offer him any Rage points. It seems like she has a pretty good impression of me.

Having earned his due from his fellow teachers, he turned to the students around him and sighed deeply. "I would love to keep a low profile too, but it's a pity that my talents and skills don't permit me to do so. Since that's the case, I have no choice. From today onward, I'll have to ask all of you to call me Teacher Zu."

A huge uproar broke out there and then.

Why is this fellow acting so smug? I want to beat him up!

You have successfully trolled Yuan Wendong for 999 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Hong Xingying for 999 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Ye Chenliang for 999 Rage points!

What the hell is going on? Have I gone mad, or is this world bonkers? How could this piece of trash become a teacher in the academy?

You have successfully trolled Student Spectator A for 222 Rage points!

You have successfully trolled Student Spectator B for 222 Rage points!

...

The massive inflow of Rage points delighted Zu An, who thrived on such schadenfreude. Ahh, my classmates sure are cute. Really, there's no need for you all to be so kind!

That being said, their murderous gazes were still pretty terrifying. Zu An ducked behind Shang Liuyu and asked her, "Big sister Shang, you'll protect me if these students were to pick on me, right?"

Shang Liuyu took a deep breath before answering, "I honestly want to give you a beating too."

It was also at this point that Lu De finally snapped out of his shock and exclaimed in horror, "Principal, how can we appoint a student as a teacher?!"

"Is there anything wrong with it?" replied Jiang Luofu calmly. "In the history of our Great Zhou Dynasty, there are plenty of outstanding students who decided to stay on in their academy to teach their juniors."

"But those are outstanding students, talented individuals who possess capabilities far surpassing others. How could Zu An be put on the same pedestal as them?" questioned Lu De.

If he weren't standing before Jiang Luofu, he would certainly have resorted to even more extreme words to vent his frustrations.

Bai Susu also belatedly returned to reality, and he chimed in with a coy smile, "Discipline Master Lu, your words don't make much sense. He's being appointed as an arithmetic teacher, not a cultivation teacher. Whether he's strong or not has nothing to do with this. Zu An has already proven his outstanding talent in arithmetic in his earlier competition with Yang Wei. With the ability he has displayed thus far, I don't see anything wrong with appointing him as our arithmetic teacher."

To be fair, Bai Susu agreed that appointing Zu An just like that was a slap in the face to all teachers. However, Lu De's vehement opposition to Zu An's appointment swiftly changed his mind. He had clashed with Lu De innumerable times over the years, and neither of them could stand the other. Thus, whatever Lu De opposed, he would support, and vice-versa.

Lu De's face turned grim. "Bai Susu, now isn't the time for us to be arguing with one another! Are you really okay with a student like him becoming a teacher of our academy? That would make our academy the laughingstock of the world!"

"How would it make our academy a laughingstock?" Bai Susu said with a dainty wave of his hand. "If anyone dares to mock us, we can challenge them to an arithmetic competition, with Zu An to represent us. We'll silence them all with our true capability!"

Lu De could find no way around Bai Susu's argument. Even he had to admit that Zu An was a prodigy at arithmetic. Yang Wei was publicly known to be the most talented arithmetician in the surrounding municipalities, but he had still ended up suffering such a tragic defeat. He would be hard-pressed to find someone who could match Zu An's skill.

Jiang Luofu stepped in to calm the waters. "You need not worry about that. He's just filling in for the time being. He isn't an officially employed teacher, and his details will not be recorded with the Ministry of Rites. Once the Ministry of Rites appoints a new teacher here, I'll relieve him of his position. Also, aside from teaching arithmetic lessons, Zu An, you'll continue to attend lessons like any other student. Any objections?"

This fellow sure is a troublemaker. Right after I appoint him a position, he immediately begins parading around like a proud cat with its tail stuck in the air. It literally took him mere moments to offend the entire academy. I'm finally starting to see why he has been slacking off all of these years. Given his affinity for troublemaking, his enemies would have sent real experts to assassinate him a long time ago if he hadn't feigned weakness.

Zu An obediently replied, "I have no objections."

Do I look like I have no objections? You're just using me as an unpaid part-time worker!

Of course, there was no way Zu An would dare to voice his objections out loud. He was not one to go around offending people indiscriminately. He could sensitively discern who were the ones he could offend and who he couldn't. One person that he absolutely couldn't offend at this point was Jiang Luofu, his greatest backing. He still planned to cling tightly onto her smooth, luscious thighs for the foreseeable future, so it made sense not to excessively annoy her.

Lu De sighed with relief upon hearing that his appointment as a substitute teacher was a temporary one. This was still a tolerable outcome. Thankfully, there was no need to publicly go against the principal. The rest of his hair might have fallen out because of the stress.

With no one voicing their opposition, Jiang Luofu nodded and said, "This matter is settled, then. All of you should return to your classrooms. Break time is already over, so none of you should be congregating here."

At the direct order of the principal, the students swiftly dispersed.

In contrast to Yuan Wendong and the others, who looked as if they had shoveled shit into their mouths, Chu Huanzhao was in a merry mood. Her excited expression clearly indicated that there was much she wanted to say to Zu An. However, under the stern watch of the teachers, she had no choice but to return to her classroom. Nevertheless, she constantly snuck glances at Zu An as she walked away.

Pei Mianman let herself be swept away by the crowd, the tiniest fraction of a smile on her lips. This lad actually managed to become a teacher of the academy. This is getting more and more interesting.

Shang Liuyu summoned the students of the Yellow class back into the classroom and started on her foreign language class. As usual, the students were excited to attend her class. Waaa, Teacher Shang's class is so beautiful... interesting! I mean, interesting!

Zu An started to head back into the classroom with his fellow classmates. He wasn't lusting over Shang Liuyu's beauty, but was honestly curious about the languages of the other races in this world. This topic was much more interesting than the nonsensical law and etiquette classes he had attended thus far.

Unexpectedly, Jiang Luofu stopped him. "What do you think? Your seven-and-a-half million silver taels weren't spent in vain, right?"

"Yes, indeed. What I got was worth every tael," replied Zu An obsequiously.

While the humongous inflow of Rage points was great, he was excited just imagining how all students of the academy would have to respectfully address him as 'Teacher Zu' from now on. Yup, I should try that on my honey next time and have her call me 'Teacher Zu' too.

"When you turned me down earlier, I thought I had lost my one and only chance. Who knew that you had follow-up arrangements ready?"

Zu An fought off the urge to express his gratitude by diving forward and hugging her thighs. He knew that she would more than likely scorn him as a pervert.

"It was indeed a hopeless cause earlier this morning. No matter how much money you threw at me, there was no way I could possibly have you appointed as a teacher. I never imagined Yang Wei would challenge you to a bet, much less offer to have you replace him if he loses. By proving your worth before the entire academy, you gave me the opportunity to push things along.

"Even though you aren't registered as an official teacher yet, rest assured that you'll still be accorded the privileges of one. I'll have someone lead you over to the staff's exclusive dormitory later. If you need a place to rest, you can head there whenever you want to. You'll also be paid monthly stipends as well. Since you're a temporary teacher, you'll only be paid eighty percent of the usual wages. I trust that won't be a problem?"

"Of course not!" Zu An was overjoyed.

There's actually an exclusive staff dormitory! It looks like there's no need for me to get Cheng Shouping to buy a house outside anymore. Living in the academy is so much better—there are youthful female students and gentle and beautiful teachers here!

Zu An suddenly remembered something vital. "Speaking of which, now that you've managed to get me appointed as a teacher, what about the dungeon slot we discussed earlier?"

Jiang Luofu blinked a couple of times as her mind worked. A playful smile slowly crept onto her lips. "Since you're even capable of taking down a teacher, I trust that a simple qualification examination shouldn't be a problem for you."

Without waiting for a response, she waved in dismissal and walked away, leaving a dumbfounded Zu An in her wake. What do you mean, 'it shouldn't be a problem for me'? Does that mean that she'll make arrangements for me, or does she intend for me to win the selections with my own strength?

"You're close with Principal Jiang?"

His musings were interrupted by a pleasant voice right beside his ear. He turned to see Shang Liuyu standing right behind him.

### **Chapter 89: Bixie Swordplay Manual**

Zu An found the two women really interesting. Each of them had asked him the same question about the other. "You could say so. My dashing appearance makes it inevitable that women would fall for me."

Shang Liuyu didn't know whether to roll her eyes.

She let out a long sigh before offering him a piece of advice. "You'd best not say those words in front of our principal. She doesn't like people with slick tongues."

Zu An was surprised by that. The gorgeous principal seems to have taken a liking to me, though. Is this because I'm too charming? I've long heard that the power of love allows one to overlook their partner's flaws.

"Big sister Shang, I'm flattered by your concern," replied Zu An with a chuckle.

Shang Liuyu sniffed. "I'm only helping you since you played me a decent melody once before. However, I've already repaid the favor, so don't expect me to help you anymore."

She had expected Zu An would be disappointed, but to her surprise, his eyes lit up. "Oh, that's simple enough to fix. I have plenty of melodies to spare. I'll play you another one if an opportunity arises in the future."

A rare tinge of excitement flushed Shang Liuyu's usually-composed face. "Really? You have more melodies on par with the one you played previously?"

"Of course! Let's find a convenient night to bond over music, shall we? Where's your dormitory room? I also have a room in the staff's dormitory now. We might even be neighbors with one another!" Zu An's mind filled with tales of how his senior transmigrators had plagiarized all kinds of poems from their previous world to show off their 'literary talent'.

Since this world doesn't allow me to plagiarize poems, surely I should at least be able to plagiarize some melodies right? Pui, what am I even saying? It's called propagating the wondrous culture of the modern world. A noble act like this shouldn't even be called plagiarism!

An enigmatic smile played across Shang Liuyu's lips. "Isn't it perfectly fine to meet during the day? Why must we meet at night?"

"That's because we have lessons during the day. Right now, I'm taking on the roles of a student and a teacher simultaneously, so I'll be busier than ever. I reckon I'll only be free at night," replied Zu An earnestly. "Other than exchanging melodies, you can also help me with my studies. I've attended the academy for a while now, but it seems I haven't even attended any of your classes."

"Help you with your studies?" Shang Liuyu repeated, a bizarre look on her face. "We'll talk about it another time."

Other students had begun streaming out of the classroom. She didn't want to be seen too close to him in public, so she bade a quick farewell and headed off.

As he watched her beautiful silhouette depart, Zu An couldn't shake the thought that she was a little bipolar. She could be friendly in one moment, only to be distant in the next.

The foreign language class had ended quickly because the bet, and all that followed it, had eaten into it. Next up was cultivation class.

Zu An was excited about this. He had been through all sorts of useless lessons the past few days, but he believed that none of them would be as practical as this. While he did have a convenient system that allowed him to level up through an alternative method, his lack of knowledge on conventional cultivation made it hard for him to assess the threat that his opponents carried. This fueled his strong desire to learn more about this subject.

The cultivation teacher was Bai Susu. As soon as he walked in with his hips swaying seductively, the noisy classroom immediately settled down.

This was not the class of some third rank teacher. A true sixth rank expert stood before them. Unless they were tired of living, it was wise not to act up before him.

On top of that, Bai Susu's eerily seductive aura was a huge deterrent to the students. No one wanted to risk drawing his attention. If he somehow called any of them to his office for a private chat, they could be in for a virgin experience.

Bai Susu walked up to the podium and scanned the faces before him, letting his eyes drift leisurely before stopping on Zu An. A smile emerged on his face as he said, "I have been to this class many times now, but this is the first time I'm pleasantly surprised. There's actually a colleague of mine seated here as well."

The surrounding students immediately directed looks of envy toward Zu An. He simply responded with a shy smile. He was delighted to see yet another wave of Rage points come in.

Bai Susu cleared his throat and said, "Before I begin the class, let me first make an important announcement. The Ursae Dungeon is about to be opened, and while most of you are unlikely to stand a chance, you may still register for the selections if you're interested."

His words caused a stir in the classroom. The students began whispering amongst one another excitedly.



Zu An was a little surprised to see that the Ursae Dungeon was common knowledge. It looks like I really need to brush up on my general knowledge of this world. Yup, that's the perfect excuse to get Shang Liuyu to tutor me after school...

"Hm? The dungeon is opening up much earlier this year."

"Yeah, it's half a year earlier than usual, right?"

...

Those who were more well-informed were surprised by the news.

Bai Susu quickly explained, "Dungeons are existences that are shrouded in mystery to us. The current conclusions we have made about them might not necessarily hold true, such as our assumptions of their opening times. However, there does seem to be something peculiar about the premature opening of this dungeon, and venturing into it would certainly prove more dangerous than usual. Unless you have the capability, it's best for you not to covet what could be inside the dungeon. Know that the academy will not be taking responsibility for your death."

"Teacher Bai, you're thinking too much. We have at least that much self-awareness."

"Indeed. Those who usually qualify to enter dungeons are always those from the Earth class or the Sky class. How could anyone from our Yellow class possibly qualify?"

"We're just there to enjoy the show."

...

"It's good that you all understand. Alright, let's start today's lesson. Even though most of you are likely to take on academic roles in the future, our Great Zhou Dynasty is, after all, founded on military might. All of you should possess some fundamental knowledge, so that you won't disgrace yourself and our academy with your ignorance," said Bai Susu.

"I've already imparted to you the basic cultivation technique. How far each of you can reach will depend on your talent and on fate. For today, I'll be teaching you some combat skills. While your cultivation technique allows you to strike harder and move faster than ordinary mortals, such gains are meaningless if you don't put your strength and speed to good use."

Those words made Zu An's eyes light up. His fight with Snow had already enlightened him on the importance of properly harnessing raw physical prowess. In his severely injured state, his strength and speed had been boosted to a level comparable to hers by the effects of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra.

However, as soon as she employed her combat skills, he had been forced to a corner, unable to retaliate. It was similar to comparing an ox to a tiger. In terms of absolute strength, an ox was likely stronger than a tiger. However, it was always the tiger hunting the ox, simply because the ox couldn't exert its strength effectively. Zu An, as the ox, was currently facing the same problem.

Thus, he sharpened his focus upon hearing that Bai Susu was instructing them in combat skills.

Bai Susu pushed back the hem of his robe and pulled out a meter-long sword. The students' eyes went wide with astonishment. They were certain that Bai Susu hadn't had a sword on him when he entered, so where did he conjure it from?

Some students studied him carefully to see if there was any way to feasibly hide such a long sword, but it simply didn't seem possible.

Hm, wait a moment. He couldn't have been hiding it there, could he?

A flicker of excitement flashed across Bai Susu's fair face as he said, "All right, I'll be imparting to you the Thirteen Forms of Elementary Swordplay."

Zu An nearly spurted blood. He had read plenty of novels in his previous life, and all of them had techniques with awe-inspiring names. Given how top-notch Brightmoon Academy was, he had expected to be introduced to secret arts on the level of Dugu Nine Swords or Six Pulse Divine Sword.

Yet, this secret technique he'd been hoping for bore such a humble name. 'Elementary Swordplay'—the name reeked of weakness!

Many in the class shared his thoughts, and they began booing.

Bai Susu seemed to have expected such a reaction. He waited for the students to calm down before he explained, "Don't look down on the Thirteen Forms of Elementary Swordplay. You should know that these Thirteen Forms are the foundation of all swordsmanship. All the mystical and amazing swordplays you see are basically an extension of the Thirteen Forms.

"The Thirteen Forms have been continuously refined over the centuries to maximize their prowess. Its aim is to bring down your enemy using the fastest speed and in the shortest distance. Most powerful experts in the world eventually return to the basics, and their movements are more or less similar to the Thirteen Forms."

The students were placated by those words, and they gave Bai Susu their fullest attention once more.

Bai Susu nodded in satisfaction. He raised his sword up high and began lecturing, "The Thirteen Forms are namely 'Stab', 'Chop', 'Tap', 'Swing', 'Pick', 'Flick', 'Intercept', 'Sweep', 'Slit', 'Shed', 'Cloud', 'Revolve', and 'Rise'. All of them are simple, direct and to the point—there's nothing fancy about them at all. However, even though they look simple enough, mastering them will be a challenge. I'll demonstrate the Thirteen Forms once for you, then slowly impart them one by one in subsequent lessons."

With that, Bai Susu's demeanor suddenly changed. His air of femininity faded as the sword in his hand morphed into a cold burst of light, causing the students in the classroom to shiver involuntarily.

Watching the swordplay on the podium, Zu An couldn't help but recall a poem.

Once there was a fair lady by the name of Gongsun, a great commotion she would stir when she danced with her swords.

Mountains are shamed by the crowds she draws, even heaven and earth would sway with her grace.

Her blade glimmers as bright as the nine suns Hou Yi downed, her moves swift like the dragon chariots of the heavenly gods.

With thunderous fury she commences her dance, but with the tranquility of the reflected moon in the sea it concludes.

...

Haaa, what a pity that he's a guy. What a waste of his beautiful appearance, or else it would be a truly marvelous sight.

The Thirteen Forms were soon fully demonstrated. Seeing the awed looks of the students around, Bai Susu asked with a smile, "Isn't it formidable?"

"Amazing!"

"The Elementary Swordplay actually wields such great prowess!"

"I think it looks suave too. Girls will surely fall for me if I can master this!"

"That's because Teacher Bai has a beautiful appearance. Just look at your own face... Tsk, tsk, tsk."

...

Bai Susu took out a little mirror to check if his hair was disheveled, then continued on with the lecture. "All right, I've shared with you the strengths of this technique, so naturally, I should also talk about its weaknesses, lest the lot of you attempt to do something rash with it.

"My swordplay might have looked formidable, but that's because my cultivation is higher than yours. Strength and speed are necessary to bring out the prowess of this swordplay to its maximum potential. If your cultivation is not at a high level, executing this swordplay will reveal all sorts of openings. This technique has powerful offensive prowess, but its defense is fragile in comparison.

"However, you need not worry. It's unlikely that you'll clash with powerful cultivators in the future. You should find this swordplay sufficient to deal with common thieves and bandits."

"Tsk~"

The excitement in the room dimmed significantly as the weaknesses of the style were laid bare. Most of the students lost their initial enthusiasm. I should have known. Any combat skills that are imparted to our Yellow class are bound to be nothing special.

However, Zu An was intrigued by Bai Susu's description of the swordplay. Since he did not lack strength or speed, its weakness didn't apply to him. In fact, if he could synergize Grandgale's instantaneous movement together with this swordplay, he would be able to exert an incredible amount of force.

He thought about the Bixie Swordplay in TheSmiling, Proud Wanderer, a wuxia drama series he had watched in his previous life. That technique was also straightforward, and focused mainly on offense. In the eyes of true experts, it was filled with openings. However, if it was used in unison with a powerful movement technique, the swordsman would become nigh impossible to deal with.

As long as you're fast enough, openings are not openings anymore. You'd be able to release your prowess to the greatest degree.

The more Zu An thought about it, the more excited he was. However, he soon realized something. He lowered his gaze to look at 'little Zu An', and tears welled up in his eyes.

Is it destiny?[1]

## **Chapter 90: Sent Right To My Doorstep**

Despite it all, Zu An was still determined to learn the Thirteen Forms of Elementary Swordplay properly. After all, his survival was at stake. If he could pick up a powerful combat skill, he would have yet another means to deal with his enemies.

He earnestly listened to Bai Susu as he broke down every single form. Wei Suo tried several times to engage him in conversation, but his concentration never wavered. This frustrated Wei Suo. Bro, you're in the wrong class. We of the Yellow class don't focus on cultivation.

After class, Zu An went through everything he had learned earlier when a staff member suddenly called out, "Zu... Teacher Zu, your residence is ready. Would you like to head over to take a look?"

It was inevitable that the staff member felt awkward addressing Zu An as a teacher. It was just moments ago that he was still a student. Who knew he would climb up the ladder so quickly?

"It's you? What a coincidence!" remarked Zu An. It was the same staff member who had led him to the Principal's Office when he first arrived at the academy.

"It sure is," replied the staff member with a polite smile. "Come, I'll familiarize you with the area."

"Sure!" Zu An nodded. It was the afternoon break anyway, and there was plenty of time for him to take a look before the afternoon classes began.

"How do I address you?" Zu An asked. It was their second time meeting, so it would be good if they could at least acquaint themselves with one another.

"I am Zhu Gan. I'm in charge of the logistics affairs of the academy," replied the staff.

"Zhu Gan? You have quite an imposing name. To live a carefree life and screw with anyone who stands in your way," remarked Zu An.

The staff member's face darkened. Clearly, this was not the first time someone had misunderstood his name. He quickly clarified, "No, it's not that Gan (干). It's the Gan (淦) with three droplets and the 'Gold (金)' character." [1]

An awkward cloud descended. Zu An tried to laugh it off. "That sounds equally great too. Haha, hahaha~"

Zhu Gan looked less than impressed by his attempt. Seriously, I don't sense any sincerity in your compliment.

It didn't take long for the two of them to reach a tranquil area dotted with villas—a 'villa park', thought Zu An, for lack of a better term. It was near a serene-looking forest, but the colorful grass along the road was trimmed neatly. Every now and then, an independent villa was vaguely visible amidst the trees. It bore a striking resemblance to the high-class residential areas he had seen on TV in his previous life.

They stopped in front of one of these villas. "Teacher Zu, this is your residence. This token over here is the key, and your information is already imprinted on it. The formation around the residence will automatically identify you," said Zhu Gan as he passed a translucent jade token to Zu An.

Zu An examined the token, and he marveled at its appearance. It looked like something that had come out of a fantasy movie. It was way more classy than the hotel keys he had seen in his previous life. "Can I use this to enter the other residences?"

His question left Zhu Gan speechless. Are you an idiot? Even a person thinking with his bum will be able to tell you that it's impossible.

However, knowing how Zu An had an overwhelming tendency to get into trouble, he decided to warn him just in case. "Of course not. If the formation senses that someone is trying to trespass on the residence, it will automatically attack the trespasser. You shouldn't mess around with the residences of the other teachers."

"Oh~" Zu An was a little disappointed. "Then, where's Teacher Shang Liuyu's residence? Is it neighboring mine?"

"Dream on!" Zhu Gan finally couldn't stand it anymore. Shang Liuyu was the dream lover of many male teachers in the academy, and he was naturally one of them. "Teacher Shang's residence is located in another area. You won't find it here."

Zu An was truly amazed by just how needlessly rich academies in this world were. To think that every teacher would be allocated their own independent residence! The dormitories in my previous world are so much better. Everyone living harmoniously in the same cluster of buildings. Who knows? A babe might just live next door!

Zhu Gan relayed some additional information then quickly took his leave. He was afraid that he would cave in to his desires and end up giving Zu An a good pummeling. He simply couldn't stand how smug that rascal was acting.

Zu An began to explore his own residence. It was similar to a courtyard house—not too big, but sufficient. The furnishings were not particularly elegant, but most of the necessities were provided. Overall, it was pretty amazing for free lodging.

It looks like teachers in this world are treated really well. I guess I don't have to waste my money on buying a residence in the city. Hmph, if the Chu clan angers me again, I'll... I'll run here to seek refuge!

I wonder if the academy allows me to hire and bring in some beautiful maids...

All of a sudden, he heard a gentle voice coming from the entrance of his residence. "Teacher Zu, are you inside?"

Zu An was surprised. Was my desire so great that the world felt compelled to send a beautiful maid my way? Or does the academy actually assign a beautiful maid to every teacher? This voice sounds a little familiar though...

He rushed to the doorway and saw a traditional-looking beauty standing by the doorway. She looked at him with a pair of tender almond-shaped eyes.

Zu An blinked his eyes. "You are... Zheng Dan?"

Is my luck with romance that strong? To actually be called 'teacher' by a beautiful woman like her... Ahhh, it really feels good!

I should have gotten others from the academy over to take a good look. Let them see how this young lady willingly calls me 'Teacher' with that sweet voice of hers. Watch and learn, all right?

The beautiful woman smiled sweetly as she replied, "Teacher Zu sure has an amazing memory. I didn't think that you would still remember me."

Zu An kept his incredulous snort to himself. I just saw you this morning. I'd have to be senile to actually forget you this quickly.

"May I know what business Miss Zheng has with me?" Zu An remembered the warning that Chu Huanzhao gave him earlier that morning, so he didn't let the woman's beauty get the better of him.

"I was in too much of a rush earlier this morning, so I wasn't able to properly thank you for saving my life." Zheng Dan raised her hands and shook the lunch box that she held. "It happens to be lunchtime, and I had a feeling that you haven't had your meal yet. So, I personally cooked a few dishes and brought them over. I hope that you can enjoy them."

"You cooked them personally?" Zu An frowned with a weird look on his face. "Miss Zheng, didn't you attend the classes this morning?"

Are you insulting my intelligence? I saw you at the entrance just this morning. When did you have the chance to return home to cook?

Zheng Dan was an astute woman, and was able to swiftly guess what he was thinking. She explained calmly, "My family has prepared a residence for me in the academy too. I prepared the food there."

"Hm? Students can own a residence in the academy too?"

Zheng Dan covered her mouth and laughed lightly. "Most people won't be able to, but our Zheng clan has quite a bit of influence in Brightmoon City. So, we were granted some leeway."

The truth dawned on Zu An. It was likely that most of the notable young masters and young misses, Zheng Dan included, had their own residences in the academy.

Pui! I thought that the academy was a sacred place for learning! It seems that its purity has been marred by greed too!

“Teacher Zu, may we continue the conversation in your residence? If anyone passing by were to see this, it might lead to some negative rumors.” Zheng Dan looked at Zu An with eyes pitiful enough to melt the hearts of all men.

As a mortal man, Zu An was no exception. He stood aside to let her in, and commented in a teasing voice, “Are you worried that your reputation will be sullied if news of this got to Commander Sang?”

Zheng Dan sighed gently. “It seems like Teacher Zu knows about my engagement. Hai, there’s nothing I can do. In large clans like ours, we don’t have the freedom to decide who our partners will be.”

Zu An was impressed with Zheng Dan’s way with words. She was able to express her helplessness in being forced into marriage without making a negative remark about Sang Hong. It looked as if she was making a point, but in truth, she hadn’t said much at all.

Even if others were to hear about it, it wouldn’t be a big deal.

“Let’s not talk about such things. I’m here today to thank you for your help.” Zheng Dan blinked her large, gleaming eyes at Zu An. She looked even more ravishing up close.

Even with all of the beauties around him, Zu An had to admit that the woman standing before him was incredibly good-looking. No wonder she was in the Top Ten of the Sweetheart Ranking.

Zheng Dan took out some plates packed inside a wooden box and began laying them on the table. Her movements were precise and incredibly elegant. Zu An was reminded of the spirited Jiangnan women dressed in qipaos he had seen on TV in his previous life.

Soon, the table was filled with plates of side dishes, and every single one of them looked appetizing. It was going to be a delightful feast.

Zheng Dan was particularly proud of this. Her skill set wasn’t just limited to brewing tea; in fact, her specialty lay in cooking. She was proud of her culinary skill, though she hardly had any time to cook. It was her interest in it that compelled her to continue squeezing out time for this hobby. Not even Sang Qian had had the opportunity to enjoy her cooking yet.

She waited quietly for Zu An to praise her cooking so that she could respond with words of humility. She had already scripted out the entire scenario in her head. Having played the persona of a perfect young miss from an illustrious clan for so many years, it was almost second nature to her.

“Oh, your lunchbox actually retains heat!” Zu An exclaimed as he picked up the wooden box to examine it more closely.

Zheng Dan nearly choked on her saliva. She couldn’t understand just what Zu An was up to, talking about such meaningless things. Nevertheless, she responded with a slight smile, “The wooden box is inscribed with a formation that retains warmth. It isn’t anything special.”

Zu An nodded. “I see.”

He reminded himself never to underestimate this world. While it lagged behind in terms of technological development, they were still able to achieve many things through the use of formations, be it the runes on Chu Chuyan’s carriage that acted like a car’s suspension system, or the ki-isolation runes on the dice

shakers. He remembered the Chu clan mentioning something about inscribing runes on weapons as well. This was one area in which he sorely needed to brush up on his knowledge.

Zheng Dan, meanwhile, had caught on to what was going on.

Just a month ago, this fellow was still a delinquent idling his life away. It's only after becoming the drafted son-in-law of the Chu clan that he came into contact with all of these things that we who come from affluent clans think of as common. It's inevitable that he's still quite ignorant about them. Well, a canary can't evolve into a phoenix just because it has flown to a higher branch.

Despite being filled with scorn for Zu An, her smile remained impeccable. "Teacher Zu, please have a seat. The food won't taste as nice once it has cooled down. Here, I'll pour you a cup of wine."

"A cup of wine?" Glancing at Zheng Dan's fair wrists peeking out from her sleeves as she poured out a cup of wine, Zu An remarked profoundly, "Haven't you heard that alcohol tends to erode one's rationality?"