

## Insanity 1661

### Chapter 1661: Repaying a Debt of Gratitude

The result of the fifth round made the yellow scaled merman dazed on the spot.

His eyes were about to pop out.

If he was not witnessing this personally, he would not believe it!

He remembered clearly that this was the Gu worm carcass that he had put in the fake rock, but why? Why!

Why was this Gu worm carcass not in his hands but in his opponent's hands?

The yellow scaled merman could not understand.

"Is this all an illusion?" He was going crazy, his pale face surged with redness.

He suddenly pointed at Xia Lin as he screamed in a shrill voice: "You cheated!"

The mermaid girl Xia Lin heard this and became enraged.

She was also kept in the dark, not knowing of Fang Yuan's methods, she shouted: "You lost fair and square, are you going to deny that in front of everyone?"

The yellow scaled merman looked at Xia Lin and the surrounding Gu Masters, his gaze became hollow as he muttered: "No, this is not real, everything is fake, this is an illusion."

He stumbled back and wanted to run away from this cruel reality.

Looking at his pitiful demeanor, the surrounding Gu Masters had complex expressions, they looked at Xia Lin with trepidation and wariness.

The yellow scaled merman was almost mentally broken by Fang Yuan!

Xia Lin pursued: "Let's transact, you did not win a single round, this Golden Jade House is mine."

The yellow scaled merman shuddered like he was shocked with lightning, he screamed in response: "No, this is mine, this is my foundation, I will not give it to anyone! Don't even think about it, you can have it over my dead body!!"

"Sir, we can force them to go down with us!" The scarred merman came up and said with a sinister expression.

The yellow scaled merman shook again.

He wanted to do that, but hearing these words, he realized something.

"No matter who it is, this mermaid girl is just a pawn. The other party could manipulate this situation remotely, setting up a trap against me that I could not deal with. How can I face someone of such a magnitude? If I fight now, wouldn't I be courting death?"

2The yellow scaled merman did not want to give up his Golden Jade House, but compared to his life, the latter was more important.

The yellow scaled merman looked around him, instincts told him that the enemy was among this crowd.

He felt suspicious of everyone, but he could not confirm their identity.

“I admit my loss, I lose!” Suddenly, he stopped his methods as he sprawled on the ground like a dying fish, shouting loudly.

He prostrated on the ground, admitting: “No matter who you are, I admit my defeat, is that enough? You can do anything with me, but before that, may you please enlighten me, when did I offend you?”

Everyone went into a clamor.

The yellow scaled merman’s actions were unexpected, some people snorted in disdain, some felt that he was able to put down his pride and was quite a formidable person.

An unscrupulous merchant that had been in power for decades was naturally not so simple.

Xia Lin was also dazed, at the same time, she felt deep admiration towards Master Chu.

She understood clearly that this was all due to Master Chu, without his guidance, Xia Lin would be in even deeper trouble than the yellow scaled merman. But looking at the prostrating yellow scaled merman, Xia Lin felt joyful and also relieved.

“It is time.” Fang Yuan smiled, guiding Xia Lin.

Xia Lin spoke to the yellow scaled merman: “Do you know why you lost?”

Seeing her speak, the crowd went silent.

The yellow scaled merman raised his head, looking at Xia Lin: “I do not know, please enlighten me.”

“Because someone wanted you to lose.” Xia Lin stated an obvious fact.

The yellow scaled merman’s heart jumped, he lowered his head: “I understand, I understand.”

Xia Lin added: “Do you want this Golden Jade House back?”

“What?” The yellow scaled merman was stunned, what did she mean? Of course he wanted it back, but he did not know about the other party, what did they mean by that? Were they toying with him or had ulterior motives?”

Xia Lin continued: “I have a condition before I return it to you.”

The yellow scaled merman started to kowtow: “Revered lady, please tell me.”

Xia Lin looked at the yellow scaled merman as she said slowly: “The reason why you ended up like this was because of just desserts, you committed too many sins. From now on, you have to commit acts of kindness, do good deeds and turn over a new leaf, I will let you off and return this Golden Jade House. But remember, if you return to your old ways, we will take not just this Golden Jade House next time.”

Once she said that, all the Gu Masters showed perplexed expressions.

After so much talk, Xia Lin and her backer actually had such intentions?

They were promoting kindness?

This was not a common thing.

The yellow scaled merman was also surprised but he did not dare to show anything on the surface, he quickly thanked her profusely: "I will change, I will definitely turn over a new leaf. Revered lady, you are the benefactor of my life, you changed my ways. You are like a saintess guiding people towards kindness and away from evil. I was wrong, I was really wrong, thank you, Saintess, for giving me this chance, from now on, I will be a good person and dedicate my life to doing good deeds!"

The yellow scaled merman lowered his head and apologized sincerely, he was like a pitiful child.

Xia Lin's face flushed: "I am not the saintess, I have no qualification to be one, don't spout nonsense. Remember your promise, we will be watching you. If we find out or anyone reports you in the future, you will regret it."

Saying so, Xia Lin turned around and left.

The surrounding Gu Masters left a path for her.

Xia Lin had just left the Golden Jade House when she suddenly vanished without a trace.

At the next moment, she appeared at the edge of the island through Fang Yuan's teleportation.

"It's safe here, you can go back now." Fang Yuan did not show up, he only transmitted his voice.

"Master Chu, you saved me again, how can I repay you?" Xia Lin called out in her mind: "Master Chu? Master Chu..."

"We will meet again if we are fated to." Fang Yuan said as he smiled, memories emerging in his mind again.

On the beach, Fang Yuan chased after Xie Han Mo and the rest who were leaving: "Please wait!"

Xie Han Mo and the rest stopped walking, while the two guards stared at Fang Yuan in annoyance.

"Lad, stop following us."

"If you want to repay the debt of gratitude, you should get away from us. Do you know that Saintess could have stayed hidden this time, but to save you, she showed up. Now, we failed to find any evidence and even made the other party alert."

"I know!" Fang Yuan was panting.

"You know nothing." The blue scaled guard rolled his eyes.

Fang Yuan chuckled, raising his head and looking at Xie Han Mo and the guards: "I was too rash, but after that, I understand now. You are the Merman Imperial Court's current generation saintess, you came here to find evidence of Frost Tide tribe's corruption. I can help you in this matter. Because I operated gambling dens before, I know about their workings. The main avenue for this Frost Tide tribe's money laundering has to be that gambling den earlier."

“Please give me a chance saintess, let me repay the debt of saving my life.”

Both guards hesitated, they looked at Xie Han Mo.

Xie Han Mo’s thick eyelashes drooped down, before she opened her eyes and looked at Fang Yuan with a crystal clear gaze, after three breaths of time, she nodded: “Then I will thank you in advance, human Gu Master. What is your name?”

“My name is Gu Yue Fang Yuan. You can call me Fang Yuan.” Fang Yuan laughed heartily.

### **Chapter 1662: Competition for Saintess**

Time passed quickly, more than twenty days passed again.

Before the Merit Obelisk, Fang Yuan looked at the rankings with his arms behind his back. His position had fallen to fifth already.

Initially, he was at the front, but changes started to occur.

Gu Immortals realized that as long as they looked into this Merit Obelisk, they would be able to find many options.

These options had price tags, one could use their accumulated merits to exchange for them. Immortal materials, Immortal Gu, Immortal Gu recipes, immortal killer moves, and even Immortal Gu House, they were all available.

With the merits that Miao Ming Shen and the rest had, they could only exchange for the stuff at the bottom of the list. Those expensive options were like carrots dangling above the donkey, they made these Gu Immortals very proactive.

Competition was getting more intense.

Fang Yuan’s focus was not that, his only goal was regret Gu.

Regret Gu was very important to Fang Yuan. Even though the items in the Merit Obelisk were very valuable, they were merely icing on the cake for Fang Yuan, regret Gu could help Fang Yuan gain a qualitative change.

But among these rewards, there was neither regret Gu nor the exchange of Merit Obelisk itself.

This meant that the rewards listed were not fully comprehensive.

Regret Gu was not part of the rewards, but that did not mean that regret Gu was not inside this paradise.

Fang Yuan did not waste his time, he looked for clues and chose specific missions, after using wisdom path methods to deduce, many of his suspicions were lifted. Eventually, his focus was completely on Demon Suppression Regret Crying Sea.

There were many rumors regarding this sea area.

Through Fang Yuan's deductions, there was a high possibility of regret Gu being in there.

However, even though Fang Yuan knew the location, he could not get close.

The mission of punishing the unscrupulous merchant twenty days ago was the closest Fang Yuan had ever gotten to Demon Suppression Regret Crying Sea. But he had tried, after just thirty li away from the island, he could not move closer.

"How can I get into Demon Suppression Regret Crying Sea?"

This was a problem that gave Fang Yuan a headache.

Paradise Earth's arrangements were too powerful, Fang Yuan could not act freely. His space path attainment was also not impressive, he had tried to use Fixed Immortal Travel earlier but it could not activate, even with an immortal killer move that Fang Yuan thought of. This meant that once Fang Yuan left the paradise, Fixed Immortal Travel would not allow him to re-enter again.

"As for these people..." Fang Yuan looked at the names of the Gu Immortals on the merit board, he squinted.

He wanted to keep these people around.

On one hand, killing the Gu Immortals in this paradise was risky.

On the other hand, these Gu Immortals were now earning merits and getting rewards, they were like livestock getting fattened. Fang Yuan could slaughter them when everyone went out, it would give him much greater benefits.

1Thus, not only did Fang Yuan not harm them, he even helped them with more detailed information.

Miao Ming Shen and the rest were competing more intensely. Especially since mission rewards were observable and limited, everyone could exchange for them, once someone got something, others could not.

Thus, even though they did not try to kill each other, they schemed and purposely gave out false information in increasing frequency.

In this situation, the 'honest and truthful' Chu Ying was like an outlier, he became very prominent. Even though Miao Ming Shen and the rest did not say anything, they became increasingly friendlier towards Fang Yuan.

1A change occurred three days later.

A new mission appeared on the Merit Obelisk: Head to the Sacred City of the mermen, attend the Sea God Ceremony, and defend the city from the assault of sea beasts.

Once this mission appeared, Fang Yuan selected it.

"The chance I have been waiting for is finally here!" Fang Yuan was very excited.

The Sea God Ceremony was unique to the mermen, in this ceremony, males and females would gather and form new families, they would also elect the new Saintess.

The saintess had an incredibly high status in merman society.

And Fang Yuan had already gotten crucial information, in this paradise, the saintess had an incredible role. Every time a new saintess was elected, their main mission would be to enter Demon Suppression Regret Crying Sea, using their singing to soothe the killing intent of the demon and stabilize the sea area.

“This Merit Obelisk’s missions are meant to benefit the humans and mermen, bringing prosperity to the people and punishing evil while promoting kindness. After the saintess is elected, she would have to enter Demon Suppression Regret Crying Sea, by then, a relevant mission might appear. But no matter what, I need to accept this mission and meet the saintess in advance.”

“After so long, the Sea God Ceremony is finally here!” Xia Lin pushed open the window of her inn room, the noise of the crowd outside could be heard.

Her room was on the second floor, Xia Lin looked down and saw people moving in the streets while closely packed together. All sorts of flags were waving, there were temporary shops selling Gu, snacks, and even gambling dens, all of the businesses were doing well.

Xia Lin’s mood was quickly affected, she became quite happy.

Splat.

Suddenly, with a soft sound, a pearl landed on Xia Lin’s window frame.

Xia Lin was dazed before she flushed rapidly.

Pearls had a special significance in the Sea God Ceremony, it meant a proposal. If someone tossed Xia Lin a pearl, it meant that they liked her and wanted to marry her.

“Who is it?” Xia Lin did not dare to pick up the pearl because that action had deep meaning behind it, she looked down and saw that dozens of men were looking in her direction, tossing the pearls in their hands.

“Su Yi!”

“Su Yi!” “I love you!”

“Accept my love, Su Yi!”

The men tossed their pearls while shouting.

“Hey miss!” Someone called out to Xia Lin.

Xia Lin turned her gaze towards a young man on the street, he was a merman in tattered clothes, he was clearly poor.

The merman youngster flushed as he said: “Miss, I tossed that pearl to you, I had too little strength, I can’t throw it high enough, can you please toss it back to me.”

Xia Lin instantly understood, this youngster wanted to toss his pearl to Su Yi but had too little strength, it ended up going to Xia Lin instead.

“Lady Su Yi is truly a famous beauty, her charm is too great, be it young boys or mature men, they are all in love with her.”

Xia Lin breathed out slowly, next, waves splashed as the pearl was lifted from the ground, going into the youngster’s hands.

“Thank you, thank you!” The youngster was overjoyed, he tossed the pearl with all his strength.

The pearl got higher and higher, it was in the right direction now, but Su Yi frowned as she closed her window.

The youngster’s pearl landed on the window and fell down, over a dozen pearls suffered the same fate. But these pearls were different, they were huge and shiny, they were not common.

On the street, the men did not disperse after this, they got even more excited, more and more people came to Su Yi’s area and wanted to see her beautiful face. Some still had hope and wanted to toss their pearls, after all, what if they got lucky?

“A bunch of commoners with nothing better to do.” Su Yi frowned, a pink cloud cushioned her tail as she floated downstairs.

She had incredible beauty and arrogance on her face, but the most attractive part were her snow-white scales.

Merman scales varied in different colors, white scales were extremely rare, it was considered the purest color and was extremely idolized in the merman society.

Two mermaid nannies followed after her as they muttered.

“These fellows should look at themselves in the mirror, they want to be Lady Su Yi’s husband? Simply laughable!”

“Our Lady Su Yi is a contestant for the saintess position, she would not accept any man’s pearl.”

The merman saintess was pure and flawless, once she obtains the position, she would not be able to marry for life, she had to keep her virginity.

Xia Lin walked out of her room, lowering her head: “Sister Su Yi.”

“Little sister Xia Lin.” Su Yi showed a faint smile, hiding the arrogance deeply as she spoke: “How was your rest? Have you thought it through?”

“Thank you for the hospitality, right now, all the inns are fully booked, without you, I would not have had a place to rest.” Xia Lin immediately thanked.

A mermaid nanny smiled: “It was fate that you met with our Missy. In this vast sea, the meeting of two mermen is not easy, you two are fated to meet. I will say this bluntly, ordinary mermaids would die to be acquainted with our Missy.”

Su Yi was not just a white scaled mermaid, she had a high status, and was the doted daughter of a strong tribe leader.

“Nanny Rong, what are you saying? I met with Xia Lin because we liked each other. Xia Lin, don’t have any worries, go ahead if you have any busy matters. If you follow me to this Sea God Ceremony, the risks are high.” Su Yi walked towards Xia Lin as she held her hand, saying sincerely.

Xia Lin was moved: “Sister Su Yi, you have helped me too much, since you want to become the saintess, I will definitely support you. But I am afraid that I am too weak, there are only four follower quotas after all.”

Su Yi’s eyes shined brightly, she held Xia Lin’s hands as she said excitedly: “Xia Lin, thank you, with your help, I will have a higher chance of becoming the saintess.”

Xia Lin had low cultivation level, she was only rank two but she had a rank five Gu worm.

Gather oil Gu, a top tier rank five Gu!

Of course, this Gu worm had no offensive might, but Su Yi had already found out about the details of the saintess test, the gather oil Gu would be very helpful in one of the rounds.

### **Chapter 1663: Fang Yuan, You Are A Good Person**

Fang Yuan walked in the merman Sacred City, he did not disguise himself, he was in Chu Ying’s appearance. But his aura was completely concealed, he was like a mortal.

On the street, people moved about fluidly, those who brushed past Fang Yuan would never imagine that a rank eight Gu Immortal was walking so closely beside them.

On the two sides of the street, there were shops and houses arranged in an orderly scale-like manner, the houses of mermen had their unique style, most had seashell or conch designs. Most were huge seashells and conchs, or modified shells of giant crabs and turtles. There were also few Gu houses that were a symbol of wealth and authority, they had great defensive properties. Other than personal estates, Gu houses used as shops were also booming with business.

As he walked, the people walking in front of Fang Yuan started to move away, they were cheering loudly.

Walking closer to take a look, Fang Yuan saw that a mermaid was receiving a jade pearl from a male Gu Master with teary eyes.

This pearl was quite rare, it was like glowing jade and had the shape of an eyeball.

This was not something valuable in the eyes of experts, as for Fang Yuan, it was a mortal material that he had no use for. But it was owned by the rank two male Gu Master, it was not easy for him to obtain this rank four Gu material jade eye pearl.

The mermaid might have noticed his feelings, she received the jade eye pearl in public as it signified her acceptance of his love.

Next, the mermaid placed the pearl into her mouth, everyone started to cheer and shout, the couple started to blush and turn red.



This action was not so simple, it meant she had accepted the young Gu Master's proposal!

"This paradise does not discriminate between races, merman and human can freely fall in love and have children without obstruction."

"But in the five regions, it was forbidden for merman and human to get together, not only would they be discouraged, their children would also be ostracized by both sides or even killed."

Fang Yuan had an eerie gaze.

The Sea God Ceremony was around the corner, the entire Sacred City was oozing with a joyful and festive atmosphere.

This couple was not the first that Fang Yuan saw, they might be very simple and insignificant figures in the Sacred City, but being ordinary did not mean one could not be blissful, this beautiful moment would become a cherished memory etched in their minds.

The memories of the five hundred years of his previous life started to surface again.

A group of mermen were looking at Xie Han Mo, Fang Yuan, and the rest with an imposing aura.

"I am Investigator Wu De, there have been many reports by different clansmen that our current generation saintess Xie Han Mo has an affair with the human Gu Master Gu Yue Fang Yuan, I am here to investigate it!" The leader was a jade-scaled merman who spoke in an icy tone.

"What?"

"I dare you to say that again!"

The two guards behind Xie Han Mo were furious, they wanted to attack in anger.

Xie Han Mo had a calm expression, while Fang Yuan had a dark expression as he clenched his fists.

He helped Xie Han Mo investigate the gambling den, they found a lot of corruption evidence, the saintess' mission had a qualitative breakthrough.

But the other party was not going to wait for the end, they schemed and spread vicious rumors, saying that the saintess was impure and had an affair with a human Gu Master.

These rumors had no evidence and were merely made up, Xie Han Mo and Fang Yuan did not care about them. But to think that the investigator from the Merman Sacred Court would actually come!

"Mobilizing the investigator without any evidence, I am afraid that Frost Tide tribe leader was not the only corrupted person, there is a higher-up involved here!" Fang Yuan transmitted to Xie Han Mo.

Xie Han Mo frowned, with slight hesitation, she spoke: "I am the saintess, you are a mere investigator, do you have the elder assembly's token?"

The jade-scaled merman smiled, taking out an information path Gu worm.

Xie Han Mo was calm: "Just this?"

The jade-scaled merman smiled again: "This cannot allow me to investigate the Saintess, but Fang Yuan is different, he is a human Gu Master. Forget about the token, I can investigate him even without one!"

Even though Fang Yuan was a human and humans were the rulers of the five regions, Eastern Sea's Merman Sacred Court was a super force, Fang Yuan had no background himself, the jade-scaled merman was not lying.

"Too vicious, I cannot believe that Frost Tide tribe's leader is such a person!"

"He is afraid, he knows how amazing Fang Yuan is, he is afraid that we will find out more evidence as time passes."

The two guards stood in front of Fang Yuan.

After this period of time, they had already acknowledged Fang Yuan.

"Wait, if both sides clash, that will be what the enemy wants to see, we will not be able to explain ourselves. I will go with them, we have a lot of progress in the gambling den, even without me, you can still win if you continue on that trail!" Fang Yuan transmitted.

"No way!"

"Fang Yuan, you are too naive, if you end up in their hands, you will live a fate worse than death."

The two guards shook their heads.

Fang Yuan smiled: "What is there to fear? I will die at worst. You saved my life before, in that case, I will repay it now. Do not look down on their schemes, this was targeted at me on the surface, but the true goal is Saintess. Once her reputation is hit and rumors spread, her status might be affected. Sacrificing me is a small issue, but we must defend Saintess' position, without this, how can you investigate and punish those corrupted people?"

The two guards hesitated.

Xie Han Mo was still composed, she said to the jade-scaled merman: "Go back, I will not hand him to you."

The jade-scaled merman was slightly stunned before he laughed: "Saintess, you want to defend this human Gu Master? Even at the cost of conflicting with us investigators?"

Xie Han Mo nodded: "Go back."

The jade-scaled merman looked at Fang Yuan before turning to Xie Han Mo, he showed a smile as if his scheme succeeded: "Good! We are not Saintess' match, we can only return in defeat. Hahaha!"

Saying so, he waved his hand and left with the merman.

"Saintess, why did you do that?" Fang Yuan was anxious: "Like this, you..."

For the first time, Xie Han Mo interrupted him: "Fang Yuan, you are a good person."

"Hmm?"

“You are not afraid of death, other than courage, the biggest reason is that life is boring right? You seem to be disappointed in this world and in your own life, there is deep fatigue hidden in your eyes. But undeniably, you are a good person.” Xie Han Mo said softly.

Fang Yuan: “...”

Xie Han Mo continued: “And I am also a good person. How can a good person sacrifice another good person?”

Saying so, she winked at Fang Yuan.

Fang Yuan was a little dazed, this was the first time he had seen such lively expressions from Xie Han Mo, she was quite cute and cheeky.

“Then... what about the rumors?”

“Indeed, that damned investigator is going to make up stories when he returns!”

The two guards were very worried.

Xie Han Mo’s expression went back to normal, she said aloofly: “Then let them.”

...

Several days later, the Sea God Ceremony started.

The male mermen wore their shell armors, they carried long spears, javelins and blades. According to traditions, these shells and weapons were made by them personally using locally sourced materials.

The female mermen, the mermaids, wore seaweed strips of various colors on them. Pink seaweed strips were used by young unmarried girls, widows wore black seaweed strips, while noble ladies wore gold, silver, and crystal colored ones. Ordinary mermaids wore brown, dark blue, and grey seaweed strips.

This was the traditional costume of the mermen, it was quite unique.

Long long ago, before mermen learned how to use Gu worms, they lived a primitive lifestyle. Males hunted while females foraged.

At the center of Sacred City, people gathered, singing and dancing.

A large number of merman warriors were waving their spears, their armors clashed and created loud sounds.

The mermaids’ seaweed strips were like rainbow ribbons fluttering in the water, they waved in sync with the singing, experiencing no tiredness.

This moment was reserved for the mermen, all the human Gu Masters were watching outside.

The singing and dancing lasted for hours, mermen, male and female alike, continued to walk out of the area with shattered armors or fatigued bodies.

Gradually, several mermaid girls emerged, they were the contestants for this year’s saintess competition.

But what surprised Fang Yuan was that out of the nine competitors, not all of them had white scales. It seemed like in this paradise, it was not only white-scaled mermaids who could vie for the saintess position, mermaids with different scale colors could also compete.

And among everyone, mermaid Su Yi was the most dazzling one.

### **Chapter 1664: Saintess Test**

During the Sea God Ceremony, Sacred City was flooded with people.

The surrounding spectators were clamoring loudly.

Fang Yuan was in this crowd, he observed the prospective saintesses with an eerie gaze.

His plan was to choose one of them and assist her in becoming the saintess.

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“They are assisting her to become the saintess?”

“That’s right, Frost Tide tribe leader invested a lot into this to help Lady Qiu Shuang.”

Xie Han Mo’s two blue scaled and red scaled guards looked at each other after hearing this, feeling each others’ worry.

In the hall, Fang Yuan sat at one side, he gritted his teeth as his expression turned unsightly.

Earlier, Xie Han Mo rejected the investigator and protected Fang Yuan, this escalated the rumors, eventually, the Merman Sacred Court decided to hold the Sea God Ceremony again to decide on the saintess once more.

“This is a scheme, they made use of your kindness and knew you would not abandon me, thus, this situation arose.” Fang Yuan sighed deeply, feeling like he had implicated Xie Han Mo.

Xie Han Mo glanced at him, smiling: “Fang Yuan, no need to feel responsible. If we abandoned you earlier, they would spread rumors that I am old and callous, it would still affect my reputation.”

“Saintess, no need to console me at this point.” Fang Yuan smiled bitterly: “The effect and severity of both cases are vastly different, we have already worked together for so long, how would I not know?”

Xie Han Mo smiled: “Alright, forget about this, it does not help the situation.”

Fang Yuan and both guards quickly adjusted their mindsets as their expressions changed.

Xie Han Mo added: “The saintess position is not easy to hold onto, the moment I started to investigate the corruption, someone tried to drag me down. This means that the issue of corruption among the Sacred Court’s elders has gotten very severe! Don’t be too pessimistic, even though a new Sea God Ceremony is held, I have not lost my qualifications, right? It is not so easy to nurture a new saintess.”

Places with people will have competition for benefits.

This saying was appropriate for the mermen as well.

Mermen also had schemes and conflict of interests.

The saintess had high status, if the forces in the merman tribe can nurture their own saintess, for the following period of time, they would have some political advantage and would be able to gain more benefits.

Normally speaking, mermaid girls who could compete for the saintess position had deep backgrounds or were backed by one or two large forces.

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In the underwater Sacred City, the singing gradually stopped, as intense sounds of drumming could be heard.

In the square, only a few mermaid girls were left, they danced without showing fatigue, they were extremely determined to become the saintess.

Fang Yuan stood outside the square, looking in, these seven mermaid girls were all beautiful, some were enchanting, some were youthful, some were cute, and some were elegant.

There was a huge spirit spring at the center of the square, it was called the Sea God's Spring, water sprayed upwards and carried an elderly mermaid granny, she was the grand elder of this merman tribe.

The grand elder looked at the seven mermaid girls as she nodded, saying: "The first round of the saintess test, golden needle in black oil."

Saying so, more than ten strength path Gu Masters carried huge vats into the square.

Thud thud thud...

After placing down the vats with loud sounds, each of the mermaid girls had one in front of them. The vats were larger than their bodies by several times, they could only see the inside after floating upwards.

The vats were filled with thick black oil, the first test was to find a tiny golden needle in the designated time.

"I request for my follower to take my stage." The white-scaled mermaid Su Yi looked at the huge water vat as she said calmly.

"Approved." The grand elder looked at Su Yi deeply.

"Don't be nervous, don't be nervous." Xia Lin encouraged herself continuously as she walked into the square while feeling uneasy.

"What's going on? The great Lady Su Yi has a rank two Gu Master as her follower?"

"Calm down, Su Yi's decision means that this mermaid is more than she seems."

Everyone talked among themselves.

"It's her?" Fang Yuan saw Xia Lin and his brows rose, he did not expect this girl to become the follower of the most favored saintess candidate.

Gather oil Gu!

Xia Lin floated to the water vat and used this rank five Gu worm.

Instantly, the black oil in the vat started to move, it was drawn out by Xia Lin and gathered in her hands.

The crowd went into a commotion.

“The aura of a rank five Gu!”

“She is clearly a rank two Gu Master, but she can use rank five Gu? Did I see wrongly?”

“I understand, this must be the rank five gather oil Gu that has been the hot topic recently.”

“So this mermaid has such a quality Gu worm, no wonder Su Yi allowed her to become her follower!”

Gather oil Gu’s effect was no joke, after a while, the vat became empty, only a golden needle was left sparkling at the bottom of the vat.

The crowd was roused.

Countless heated gazes landed on Xia Lin.

Xia Lin was even more nervous now, she flushed red and showed a cute expression of not knowing what to do.

Su Yi looked at her and smiled, thinking: “I was right to recruit her into my group.”

In the first test, Su Yi relied on Xia Lin’s stellar performance to gain a huge boost in reputation.

Fang Yuan’s eyes were dark like the abyss, looking at the crowd leaving, he thought: “Six out of seven passed the first test, they came prepared for this. Evidently, the test content was leaked prior to this.”

...

Pale green flames burned in front of Xie Han Mo, forming a path of flames.

Qiu Shuang, who was also a white-scaled mermaid walked in calmly, standing at the other end of the flame road as she looked at Xie Han Mo mockingly: “Former saintess, your turn.”

“Damn it! This eerie fire burns the soul, special Gu worms are needed to resist it. We were already amply prepared, but to think that this first test would be so specific!”

“And the worst thing is, Qiu Shuang came prepared with the proper Gu worms, she can resist the eerie fire. Is this luck? Hmph! She clearly knows the test content, this is Frost Tide tribe’s scheme, they are colluding and cheating openly!”

Both guards were very angry.

“Let me.” Fang Yuan walked towards the frowning Xie Han Mo.

“You?” Xie Han Mo looked at Fang Yuan with crystal clear eyes.

“Trust me, I am confident in this.” Fang Yuan’s eyes flashed with bright light, looking at Xie Han Mo directly.

The two looked at each other for a moment, before Xie Han Mo turned away.

“Be careful, this eerie fire is not simple... if you cannot endure it, you can just step down.” Xie Han Mo said.

Fang Yuan laughed heartily, turning around and taking huge strides into the eerie fire.

Pain!

An intense pain originating from his soul assaulted Fang Yuan’s entire body in an instant.

Fang Yuan shuddered as he walked with great difficulty.

He gritted his teeth until they bled.

His eyes were wide opened, they were also tearing apart.

His soul was burned by the flame as it melted, thankfully, he had two lifetime’s accumulation, and was an otherworldly demon, the eerie fire was less effective on him than on others.

He would not give up midway, because he knew that by taking Xie Han Mo’s place, if he failed, Xie Han Mo would fail too.

When he finally walked through the eerie fire road, everyone went wild, countless shocked gazes gathered on him.

Many mermen were moved.

Fang Yuan tried to smile but at the next moment, he fainted.

But right when he was about to land on the ground, Xie Han Mo arrived and held him in her arms.

“Don’t worry, I will not waste your effort.” Xie Han Mo looked at Fang Yuan deeply before turning to look at Qiu Shuang. For the first time, her gentle eyes revealed a cold and sharp light.

Thanks to Fang Yuan’s desperate attempt, Xie Han Mo passed the difficult trap set specially for her.

The second, third, and fourth test...

She performed perfectly, the other competitors soon fell short, eventually, only mermaid Qiu Shuang was left.

“It seems that Lady Xie Han Mo will very likely retain her position as saintess.” Outside the square, Fang Yuan was still pale as he sat down weakly, expressing joy on his face.

“It was all thanks to you Fang Yuan, without your performance in the first round, we would not have gotten this far.”

“Hahaha, you got past the flame road, it was shocking to everyone. A few days later, you woke up, do you know that news of your survival shocked countless mermen in the Sacred City!”

Both guards laughed loudly.

Fang Yuan stopped his joyful expression as she said: "Be careful, the situation is in our favor, the other party will not stand by."

Fang Yuan had expected Frost Tide tribe leader to act, but he did not expect that it would be so vicious.

In the house, the red scaled guard knelt on the ground, his face was red: "Saintess, please let me battle, I need to clear up the accusation and humiliation that they have dealt to me. How could I possibly bully a widow?!"

Xie Han Mo sighed: "Get up, I know you well, but this is clearly the enemy's plot. If you charge out like this, their schemes will succeed."

The blue scaled guard was worried: "This is not an ordinary widow, she is Bu Su Lian, the wife of the former third elder of the Sacred Court. They are simply too vicious, the investigator will come soon to arrest him for trial. In that case, he would not be able to join the test, our strength will fall greatly!"

Fang Yuan added: "This wife of the former third elder of the Sacred Court was willing to sacrifice her reputation to accuse him. She must have a close relationship with Frost Tide tribe leader, this corruption is extremely severe, otherwise, she would not have to act personally. Since they set this trap, they must be amply prepared, if we try to clear up the situation, we would fall into their scheme. We can only play along with this and find a way out."

"How do we do that?"

"Very simple, I will take the blame." Fang Yuan said plainly.

Both guards stared with wide opened eyes as they started at Fang Yuan.

"No way." Xie Han Mo rejected this instantly.

### **Chapter 1665: The Story of the Sea God and Mermaid**

Even though Xie Han Mo understood that if Fang Yuan took the blame, the situation would be resolved, she still rejected him without hesitation.

But this way, Xie Han Mo and the rest would be in a passive spot.

The turning point happened three days later, Xie Han Mo received some information.

Xie Han Mo looked at the information as she became stunned before sighing: "Qiu Shuang is no longer pure."

She gave the intel to her guards and Fang Yuan to see.

After looking at it, their expressions changed.

Qiu Shuang was the saintess candidate that Frost Tide tribe leader supported, she was extremely popular during this Sea God Ceremony, she was the most likely person to take the position of saintess from Xie Han Mo.

But to think that she had lost her virginity.



Only mermaids who were virgins could compete for the saintess position, this was the first condition.

The red scaled guard was extremely happy: "Great, to think that this Qiu Shuang is not a virgin, with this information, they are history!"

The blue scaled guard was very calm: "The Sea God Ceremony is the most important ceremony of our tribe, it has always been inspected strictly, how did Qiu Shuang get through the inspection? Unless our tribe's corruption has already extended to the priest? Then the situation is too severe."

Fang Yuan frowned: "We need to remember something, if we announce this now, everyone might think that we are trying to protect red scale and this is just our accusation. How reliable is the information? If this is part of their plan, we would be in trouble..."

Xie Han Mo shook her head: "This is definitely reliable, Qiu Shuang is supported by Frost Tide tribe's leader, we are supported by the grand elder, this was given to me by her. Even though we do not have evidence, I believe that as long as we inspect Qiu Shuang's background, we would be able to find out if she is a virgin by asking another priest."

Fang Yuan understood now that Xie Han Mo was able to become the saintess because she was supported by the grand elder of the Merman Sacred Court.

Among all the higher-ups, grand elder was the fairest and most lenient one, she had great authority. But because she was too lenient, everyone became corrupted, her support towards Xie Han Mo was also an attempt to correct her mistakes.

Everything that followed went as Xie Han Mo predicted.

After Qiu Shuang was reported, she was investigated upon and her story was exposed, she had really lost her virginity.

This information was too shocking, the Merman Sacred Court could not keep it secret. As news spread, the entire Sacred City was in a commotion, countless Gu Masters gasped.

"This is likely the biggest scandal in our Merman Sacred Court for the last thousand years!"

"Qiu Shuang was truly disrespectful, such a desecration towards the Sea God, she has to be punished."

"Killing her will not soothe our rage!"

Anger was not just in the commoners, the higher-ups of the Merman Sacred Court were furious too, the punishment towards Qiu Shuang was rapidly decided.

A few days later, Qiu Shuang's head fell off her head and onto the ground, she died.

Bam!

A high quality cup was smashed onto the ground by Frost Tide tribe's leader, it broke into pieces.

"Xie Han Mo, you were too much!" Frost Tide tribe's leader growled, his eyes were bloodshot.

"I told you long ago to control yourself when drinking. After Qiu Shuang's matter, as the person who supported her, the higher-ups will no longer give you their attention." In the room, there was a mermaid noble lady, she drank tea slowly, she showed no fear towards the angry Frost Tide tribe leader.

Frost Tide tribe leader gritted his teeth, he said to the mermaid noble lady: "Bu Su Lian, I do not need your reminder. Our allies will not turn on us after just this small issue. If Xie Han Mo retains her saintess position, they will also suffer and die. So even if they hate me, even if they do not want to see me, they will have to force themselves to work with me!"

Bu Su Lian said plainly: "You are right, but now that Qiu Shuang is dead, how will you defeat Xie Han Mo? Our best pawn has already been destroyed."

"No, no." Frost Tide tribe leader laughed sinisterly: "You can rest assured, I still have methods left."

"Oh? I am listening." Bu Su Lian sat up straight.

Frost Tide tribe leader kept it a secret: "You will know in a few days."

A few days later.

On the square of Sacred City, mermaid Dong Lei said under everyone's watchful eyes: "I am willing to take Qiu Shuang's place and continue with the Sea God Ceremony."

"Who is Dong Lei?"

"She was one of Qiu Shuang's followers."

"To think that Frost Tide tribe's leader had this pawn prepared."

"According to our tribe rules, sisters can take each others' place, Dong Lei can totally replace Qiu Shuang and attend the Sea God Ceremony to contest for the saintess position."

Everyone discussed.

The origin of the Sea God Ceremony was a legendary story among the mermen.

In the story, the first batch of mermen lived in Eastern Sea, they created a small fishing village.

One day, a huge sea beast attacked the island, it created a tsunami around the island, the fishing village was almost about to be destroyed.

To save the villagers in the fishing village, mermaid Ah Qing knelt at the cliff and prayed to the Sea God.

The Sea God heard her prayer and said: "Oh Ah Qing, I love to hear beautiful singing. If you can sing three satisfactory songs for me, I will chase the sea beast away and calm the sea, defending the fishing village."

Ah Qing was overjoyed, she quickly agreed.

She started to sing the first song by the cliff, it was enchanting. After she finished, the Sea God savored the melody as he calmed the sea.

Ah Qing sang the second song, her beautiful voice mesmerized the Sea God, seaweed danced to her singing, prawns and fish gathered by her side as they listened.

Ah Qing wanted to sing the third song but at that point, she no longer had any strength. After singing for two days and two nights, she was too tired.

After returning home, she called her sister Ah Ya and told her everything before dying from exhaustion.

Ah Ya was very upset but she listened to her sister Ah Qing's wish, she came to the cliff and said to the Sea God: "Oh Sea God, I will take my sister's place and sing the third song for you."

Sea God said: "Go ahead."

Ah Ya started to sing, her voice was filled with agony and misery, but also firm determination. After she finished, the Sea God was pleased and the sea beast left, the fishing village was safe once again.

When choosing the saintess, mermen would set up many tests during the Sea God Ceremony.

These tests had varying contents, but the final round would always be the same, since the start of the ceremony's history.

That was a singing competition among mermaids.

They would get on the stage and sing on the specially made altar-like Gu house.

Everyone would get to sing three times, from the results, they would choose the sole saintess.

All the tests before this were just elimination rounds.

If during the Sea God Ceremony, all of the contestants got eliminated, then the saintess position would remain empty.

### **Chapter 1666: Intercept**

The sea at night was turbulent with vicious waves, wild winds were howling.

From the black depths of the sea, a chain made of pearls of light started to shine. Next, intense drumming and zither music could be heard reverberating in the waves.

The tens of merman warriors wore ancient armor made from seashells, they held up a huge white shell shield. Behind them, mermen danced and sang, surrounding Xie Han Mo and Dong Lei. Behind them, countless mermen were watching this final test with high spirits.

The seashell floated to the surface of the sea, waves landed on the huge shell and caused waves to splash.

Surrounding the seashell, merman warriors did their best to stabilize it.

The huge shell slowly opened up, this was a natural stage.

The seashell had a great origin, it was left behind by the desolate beast giant music shell, there was a vast number of sound path dao marks on the seashell, even if a mortal stood inside, their voice would be spread far and wide.

Dong Lei was the first to ascend the shell.

Countless mermen floated to the surface of the sea, watching in anticipation.

At a corner, in a boat-like Gu house, Bu Su Lian watched as she said to Frost Tide tribe's leader: "Are you so confident in Dong Lei? The first person to perform has a natural disadvantage."

Frost Tide tribe's leader smiled: "Just watch, I cannot explain it in words."

Bu Su Lian looked at Frost Tide tribe's leader deeply before turning towards the giant music shell.

Dong Lei started to sing.

Her voice was clear and elegant, it was quite mesmerizing, all of the mermen started to indulge in this beautiful song.

At once, due to the giant music shell's effect, in the radius of a thousand li, Dong Lei's beautiful singing could be heard. Even the torrential tides were suppressed.

Mermen were born with a throat that could sing better than other species, they could produce incredibly beautiful singing.

1According to human standards, each merman was a natural born singer.

This was because each merman's body had abundant water path dao marks. And in their throats, there was a particular cartilage that was filled with sound path dao marks.

There was a point in history where humans slaughtered mermen to take away the sound path cartilage in their throats, it was an excellent sound path Gu material.

And the mermaids competing to become saintess had even better singing than most mermen.

Those who live near the sea would often hear similar rumors about sailors who would get mesmerized by the singing of mermaids, they would forget time, forget their direction, they would not notice even if their ship hit a reef.

This was not an exaggeration, it was the truth.

Dong Lei's singing was superb, most of the people were listening in enjoyment, only Fang Yuan and the rest became furious, their expressions were ugly and they frowned tightly. Even Xie Han Mo, who was usually calm, had a change of expression, sadness and shock was expressed in her eyes.

"What is going on?"

"Why is Dong Lei singing the song that we prepared?!"

The red scaled and blue scaled guards were furious with wide opened eyes.

Fang Yuan's expression was grim, he gritted his teeth: "Isn't this obvious? There is a spy among us, he informed the enemy of our song!"

Both guards looked at each other before turning to Fang Yuan.

Fang Yuan looked at them fearlessly: "Only the four of us know what songs we prepared, the traitor must be one of you. Who is it?"

Xie Han Mo could not be the traitor, so among Fang Yuan, blue scale and red scale, one of them had to be the traitor.

"Bullshit!"

"You are the traitor!"

Both guards were furious with red faces as they denied it.

Xie Han Mo sighed, shaking her head: "There might not be a spy, they might have found out about our preparations through special information path methods."

"Hahaha." Far away, Frost Tide tribe's leader laughed loudly in his Gu house.

Bu Su Lian had been observing Xie Han Mo and the rest long ago, seeing their expressions, she understood as her eyes shined: "You planted a spy near her?"

Frost Tide tribe's leader laughed continuously: "Of course! Xie Han Mo is too young and too naive to compete with me. Do you know the huge price I paid in order to get a spy this close to her?"

Bu Su Lian's eyes flickered with bright light: "As expected and befitting of Frost Tide tribe's leader, the price you paid is worth it. Now that Dong Lei has sang her song, Xie Han Mo cannot use it again, she is almost helpless now that she has no song to sing."

Xie Han Mo had truly fallen deeply into the plot of Frost Tide tribe's leader!

The final round of the saintess competition was to sing three songs. These three songs needed special preparation, sound path Gu worms were needed for them, including lots of practice.

Each song needed to produce a different effect.

The first song was to calm the sea waves. The second song was to attract living beings, and the third song was to repel sea beasts.

Thus, even though Xie Han Mo prepared three songs, after Dong Lei stole the first song, her remaining two songs were different and could not be used in its place.

"What do we do?" Both guards were extremely flustered and anxious.

"Damn it, damn it, we got so far but still fell for a trap at this moment."

"It is no use, it is too late to prepare now!"

"This must be the scheme of Frost Tide tribe's leader, we will expose it and ruin his reputation!" Red scale screamed.

Fang Yuan looked at him like he was an idiot: “Do you have proof? Who would believe us? They would use this chance to counterattack and accuse you instead, what do we do then?”

“Oh.” Red-scaled guard was stunned.

Xie Han Mo sighed deeply: “In that case, forget it.”

“Saintess?” Both guards were stunned.

Xie Han Mo smiled bitterly: “You can still leave now, hurry. While there is still some time, leave this place.”

Xie Han Mo would lose the competition for the saintess position, she would no longer be the saintess. This way, she would face the attack of the new saintess Dong Lei and Frost Tide tribe’s leader, she would have a terrible end.

To not implicate her three followers, even if there was a possible spy among them, Xie Han Mo wanted to fight for some time.

“Saintess...” Understanding Xie Han Mo’s intention, both of her guards started to choke with tears.

This situation had attracted everyone’s attention.

“What happened to Xie Han Mo?”

“Something bad seems to have happened!”

“They are panicking, haha, it seems that Lady Dong Lei’s singing has sent them into despair!”

“Xie Han Mo is finished.” Inside the Gu house, Bu Su Lian sighed deeply.

Frost Tide tribe’s leader smiled sinisterly: “Even though I can’t deal with that foolish old grand elder, I will definitely torture that Xie Han Mo after this to vent my anger and hatred!”

Dong Lei stepped down the stage as she raised her eyebrows: “I have already calmed the sea by five feet, I will anticipate sister Xie Han Mo’s performance next.”

## **Chapter 1667: White Moonlight**

2

Xie Han Mo looked at her deeply in the eye as she ascended the stage.

She had just entered the stage when she got stunned.

“Why are you...” She looked at Fang Yuan who was beside her with deep shock.

Fang Yuan interrupted her: “As your follower, I am of course qualified to be your accompaniment.”

“Quickly leave...” Xie Han Mo swiftly said, but anxiety was all over her face for once.

“You want to sing the same song? Even if you sing better than Dong Lei, the rules will disqualify you. Trust me, I have a song for this.” Fang Yuan interrupted Xie Han Mo as he transmitted.

Xie Han Mo's heart wavered.

Songs could not be changed easily, because they needed to be paired with Gu worms and needed lots of practice.

By changing the song, the Gu worms used also needed to be modified.

In this situation, Xie Han Mo could no longer change her Gu worms, this meant that the new song and the original song needed to have the same rhythm and melody.

It might be possible given a hundred days of preparation, but in this rushed situation, the chances were close to zero.

"The song is not the same of course, but don't forget that I had participated in our song composition. I have a similar song here, but I need you to adapt to it on the spot, take note of the cooperation between my song and the Gu worms." Fang Yuan transmitted: "And these are the lyrics and tune."

Xie Han Mo was stunned before nodding: "Okay."

Fang Yuan breathed in deeply: "Then let's start."

Xie Han Mo breathed in deeply, she shut her eyes, this was her usual habit before singing.

Everyone became quiet.

They waited quietly...

And waited...

"Why is she not singing yet?" Gradually, some people became impatient.

"Hahaha, how can they sing? They have no songs to sing!" Frost Tide tribe's leader laughed loudly with a face flushed red.

"Oh, sorry, can anyone lend me a zither Gu?" Fang Yuan broke the silence.

Everyone: "..."

You are the accompaniment but in this important Sea God Ceremony, you did not even prepare a zither Gu?"

Is it really okay to be so lax?

"I need a rank three zither Gu, can anyone lend me one?" Fang Yuan added, looking towards the grand elder.

The grand elder understood his words, Xie Han Mo met with an accident, she had anticipated this and quickly asked someone to send a zither Gu.

Fang Yuan obtained the zither Gu and said: "This is too important, let me refine the Gu on the spot."

Everyone: "..."

What? At the last round of the Sea God Ceremony, you want to refine Gu?

Are you serious?

What was this human Gu Master thinking? He was toying with everyone!

The mood of all the mermen turned bad.

Frost Tide tribe's leader quickly instructed his lackeys, a voice suddenly resounded: "You are purposely stalling for time!"

Everyone was about to clamor when Fang Yuan shouted loudly: "Are you saying that the Sea God Ceremony has a rule against refining Gu? This is for the sake of the song, we will start after the Gu is refined."

Grand elder quickly added: "There are no such rules indeed, I will allow it. Quickly refine the Gu and start, what does everyone think?"

The other elders looked at each other, some wanted to speak while others stayed silent.

Lackeys of Frost Tide tribe's leader shouted again: "The Sea God Ceremony is such an important ceremony, you want all of us mermen to wait for your Gu refinement?"

Fang Yuan quickly rebuked: "I am refining Gu for the Sea God Ceremony, are you all unable to wait a little bit for this important ceremony? Whoever has no patience can stand up now! You can leave right away."

Everyone went silent.

"You have a sharp tongue! But when you end up in my hands, I will make sure I smash all your teeth and pull out your tongue." Frost Tide tribe's leader snickered.

On the giant shell that was floating on the sea's surface, the merman warriors were exerting themselves while stabilizing it.

Some of the mermen floated to the surface, some only had their heads above the water, but all of them were looking at Fang Yuan refine his zither Gu.

Xie Han Mo was instead ignored.

She stood beside Fang Yuan feeling very strange. She had attended the Sea God Ceremony once before and became the saintess. She had seen countless Sea God Ceremonies, but never had such a thing ever happened!

Fang Yuan's refinement speed became faster and faster, this was because the zither Gu's owner cooperated with him.

After getting the zither Gu, Fang Yuan stood up and went behind Xie Han Mo, saying confidently: "Alright, the real show starts now."

"Finally." The mermen let out breaths of air, feeling resentful.

"Go ahead and sing, I want to see what song you can come up with!" Frost Tide tribe's leader snickered.

Below the stage, the grand elder and both guards had worried expressions.



Xie Han Mo shut her eyes.

At this moment, the zither started playing.

Fang Yuan had activated the zither Gu, it let out a long and deep melody, the tune was extremely beautiful to listen to.

Xie Han Mo shut her eyes, she started to sing<sup>1</sup> —

1The white moonlight is somewhere in my heart.

It is so bright, yet so icy cold.

Everyone has their own sadness.

Wanting to conceal it, but it just became more obvious.

...

Everyone was silent, only the sound of waves could be heard.

Her beautiful voice intoxicated everyone, they could not stop savoring it.

...

The white moonlight lightens the horizons of the world.

It's in my heart, but not by my side.

I could not wipe the tears off your face back then.

The road is too long, I could not seek forgiveness.

...

The tune was sorrowful but simple and elegant, it progressed smoothly with each verse, a feeling of intense sadness and agony filled everyone's hearts.

Xie Han Mo had a pure and penetrating voice, she was gentle and warm, just like the pale white moonlight that seemed cold and also a little warm on the inside.

The giant shell started to emit a white light, the waves did not seem to want to disturb her beautiful singing, they became weaker.

...

The white moonlight lightens the horizons of the world.

The fuller it is, the more loneliness I feel.

Unable to wipe the tears in my recollection.

The road is too long, how can I make amendments to you?

...

Xie Han Mo was also engrossed in it, her gaze shifted towards Fang Yuan, who was standing there activating the zither Gu with his full concentration.

She thought to herself: "Is there sorrow in your heart as well?"

Countless mermen shed tears.

The pain of love and affection, these tears were hidden deep in their hearts.

Was there true fulfillment in this world?

Loneliness always existed.

...

The white moonlight is somewhere in my heart.

It is so bright, yet so icy cold.

Everyone has their own sadness.

Wanting to conceal it but it just keeps growing.

...

As the song ended, the crowd remained silent.

In the Gu house, Frost Tide tribe's leader was stiff like a statue, shock expressed all over his face.

The sea was calm and the dark clouds scattered, pure moonlight shone down on the giant seashell, enveloping Xie Han Mo and Fang Yuan.

The two turned around slightly, looking at each other.

### **Chapter 1668: Too Naive**

As the music ended, the mermen started to converse among themselves.

"What song is this? This is the first time I have heard it, it is simply too amazing."

"Did you all notice, the song was superb but Xie Han Mo was not skillful, her Gu worm manipulation had lots of errors." Many mermen talked about it with strange expressions.

The true reason was that Fang Yuan and Xie Han Mo did not practise this earlier. If they had even one practice, they would not make such mistakes.

But even so, reaching such a level of cooperation in their first attempt, Xie Han Mo's personal attainment was truly profound.

"Right now, the sea is calm and the weather has changed, the dark clouds scattered and the moonlight reappeared. Regardless of Xie Han Mo's mistakes, the results are evident."

"This should be a draw, in fact, Xie Han Mo should have a slight lead."

“It will depend on the next two songs.”

The mermen were getting more excited about the rest of the Sea God Ceremony.

The grand elder could notice many things, she let out a breath of air as the worry in her heart lifted.

“What is going on?!” In the Gu house, Frost Tide tribe’s leader screamed.

“It seems that although your scheme succeeded, an accident occurred.” Bu Su Lian squinted her eyes, focusing her gaze on Fang Yuan, she sighed in amazement: “This man is not so simple, no wonder Xie Han Mo took interest in him. I am a song expert, this is likely his own creation, this shows that this human has very high attainment in sound path.”

2Frost Tide tribe’s leader expressed his suspicions: “There are countless songs in this world, how can you be sure that this was his creation?”

Bu Su Lian smiled lightly, looking at Frost Tide tribe’s leader with an expression of disdain in her eyes: “You don’t understand.”

Frost Tide tribe’s leader’s face became even darker: “Bu Su Lian, can you speak clearly?!”

Bu Su Lian chuckled coldly, ignoring Frost Tide tribe’s leader as she looked towards Fang Yuan with glistening eyes.

Others would fear Frost Tide tribe’s leader’s political power but Bu Su Lian was an exception.

This was not only because she was the spouse of a former tribe elder, but also because of her own talent and schemes.

But Bu Su Lian guessed wrongly in the end, Fang Yuan was not the creator, this song was originally from Earth.

“This song is unique and unheard of, it has to be a new creation by you. To think that you would have such high attainment in sound path, Fang Yuan.” Xie Han Mo walked down the stage and transmitted to Fang Yuan, showing appreciation and praise in her tone.

Fang Yuan smiled bitterly: “I am flattered, you saw for yourself, I even had to borrow a zither Gu, I do not have such a high sound path attainment.”

“No need to be humble, being able to create such a song means that your sound path attainment is beyond ordinary, you might have a future if you change to cultivating sound path.” Xie Han Mo looked at Fang Yuan with a sincere and bright gaze.

1Fang Yuan had already anticipated this.

He did not want to explain it, because that was not important and he could not explain it clearly either.

“The important thing now are the next two songs, if I am not wrong...” Fang Yuan hesitated.

They walked down the stage as Dong Lei went up.

Fang Yuan and Xie Han Mo might have had an impressive performance, but she was not flustered, she remained calm and composed.

She started to sing, her moving voice attracted lots of fish groups to her.

“As expected.” Fang Yuan snickered.

Xie Han Mo’s gaze also became increasingly cold.

Both guards looked at each other with bright red faces: “This bitch stole our song again!”

“Don’t worry, I have a song prepared.” Fang Yuan smiled with deep confidence.

After Dong Lei went down the stage, the two of them went up again.

Fang Yuan played the music<sup>1</sup> while Xie Han Mo sang and danced.

...

When did the bright moon first appear? One raises a cup and asks the blue sky.

One does not know in the celestial palace, what year it is this evening.

...

Once the song started, the atmosphere changed, all of the mermen shut their eyes in enjoyment.

...

I wish to ride the wind and return there, yet I fear the jade towers; in a high dwelling, one cannot bear the cold.

Starting to dance with one’s own shadow, how can it compare to life in the mortal world?

The moon revolves around the red pavilion, hanging upon the silk windows, the light shines upon the sleepless.

...

Xie Han Mo thought about about the time she was saintess, even though she had high authority, she was all alone, she became filled with deep emotions at this moment.

I wish to return by riding the winds, but the position of saintess is like the jade tower that locks me in. The cold atmosphere is chilling, I cannot sleep, who is here to dance with me?

...

I should not have resentment; but why is the moon always full at times of separation?

People feel sorrow and joy upon partings and reunions, the moon can be dark or bright, full or crescent.

These problems have existed since ancient times. Yet one hopes for longevity, a thousand miles apart, seeing the moon’s beauty together.

...

As the song ended, the world went silent.

Fish, prawns, turtles, crabs, all of the aquatic animals floated on the surface of the sea, scattered all over the place.

Birds were fluttering in the sky, many were birds that flew in the day, they were drawn over from their slumber by this beautiful song.

Beautiful lyrics and an enchanting tune, it pierced deep into everyone's hearts, the mermen could not help themselves but listen.

Xie Han Mo looked at Fang Yuan, she thought: "Was this a song he made for me?"

She could feel resonance in the lyrics, she felt consolation and warmth from it. She was pure like the icy jade, but was maligned by outsiders, right now, all of the sadness and annoyance in her heart had faded, none of the rumors from before could affect her heart anymore.

"He is someone who knows me." At once, Xie Han Mo felt an indescribable feeling in her heart, she was truly moved.

The results were clear, Fang Yuan and Xie Han Mo won by a margin again.

Dong Lei's face turned pale below the stage, she understood that if not for Xie Han Mo and Fang Yuan's imperfect cooperation that led to certain mistakes, she would not even be able to sing the third song.

"This person is a huge threat!" Frost Tide tribe's leader gritted his teeth, slamming his fist onto the window of the Gu house.

"You finally realized?" Bu Su Lian said plainly, mockery was in her words.

Frost Tide tribe's leader snorted, he did not want to argue with Bu Su Lian.

He needed to resolve this problem now, because at this rate, after the third song, Xie Han Mo was bound to win.

"Fang Yuan is it? To think he is such a problem!"

"I need to get rid of him!"

Frost Tide tribe's leader was determined to do this, but felt a huge headache. In normal times, he had countless methods against Fang Yuan, but now during the Sea God Ceremony, under everyone's watchful eyes, he could do close to nothing.

"What do I do?" Frost Tide tribe's leader thought about it rapidly, his forehead was covered in sweat.

After a long period of consideration, Frost Tide tribe's leader finally acted.

"Fang Yuan, I am Frost Tide tribe's leader!" He directly transmitted to Fang Yuan, this was the most useful choice of action.

Fang Yuan's expression changed but he did not reply.

Frost Tide tribe's leader chuckled: "You can just listen to me, I know you are a smart guy but you are too young, you have aspirations that are too unrealistic and naive."

Fang Yuan laughed coldly as he replied: "I am not naive, this is my ideal, you won't understand."

"That's why I said you are foolish, lad, don't think that you two are basking in fame now by standing there, you are just pawns. Look at the flag fluttering in the wind, its foundation is the pole. Think about it, what are you relying on?"

"The grand elder? Just go ask around, what kind of person is she? She had the political power to suppress our faction but she chose to let you people be the vanguard. When Xie Han Mo investigated the corruption case, did she help you? She might have given you some clues or what not, but trust me, it was really not much of an effort."

Frost Tide tribe's leader was quite eloquent, he added: "Or rather, even if you win and defend the title of saintess, so what? Do you think I will die? No, Frost Tide tribe is the largest faction in the Sacred Court, if I die, the entire Sacred Court will be in turmoil or even break apart. The grand elder does not have the guts or determination to do that, she only wants to keep me in check and prevent me from acting out of line."

"So in the end, no matter what you find out, I will still continue to live as Frost Tide tribe's leader, at worst, I will sacrifice a few scapegoats and stop my overbearing actions."

"In the Sea God Ceremony, almost every saintess candidate is backed by their own force. Do you think this is simply a competition for the saintess position? No, this is a game, this is a way for the higher-ups to distribute resources for the next few decades without internal conflict. The force that has a saintess will get a bigger share of the pie, those who don't will receive less."

"Fang Yuan, you might hate or detest these games that we play in the dark, but you must understand that in this sea, darkness is the true ruler. The so-called light merely shines at the surface of the sea, ordinary people might enjoy or indulge in its dazzling beauty, thinking that light is the truth of the sea, but they are just... too naive."

Fang Yuan was silent.

### **Chapter 1669: Rejection**

Inside the blue dragon whale grotto-heaven, the Merman Sacred City.

The atmosphere in the inn was heavy.

"What do we do?"

"In the next test, Zhao Lu's follower will be taking part. That person is famous in the seas, with him around, we have no chance of winning."

The two nannies had grim expressions.

White-scaled merman Su Yi sat at the center as she held a cup in her hand, she was in a daze while looking at the tea inside.

"Missy, you cannot hesitate anymore."

“That’s right, the Sea God Ceremony has already gone on for so long, only us and Zhao Lu are left, the rest have been eliminated. After the next round is the final test, once we get past this hurdle, we will be able to vie for the saintess position.”

The two nannies urged anxiously.

Su Yi sighed: “But what can we do now?”

The nannies quickly came forward to Su Yi’s side.

“Missy, didn’t our tribe find a strong expert that can fight against the enemy?”

“That’s right, as long as we get him to fight, even if we cannot win, we will not get eliminated at least.”

Su Yi’s gaze was lingering on the cup, she said in a long sigh: “I understand your suggestion, but did you forget something, I can only have four followers in this competition, these spots are all used up now. Even if the tribe invites an expert, we cannot use him.”

The two nannies looked at each other with bright gazes.

“So that’s it, Missy had such plans already but she could not say it personally.” They understood the reason now.

Among them, one nanny said in a soft voice: “Missy, this matter can be easy or difficult depending on us. We just need to abandon one follower!”

“That’s right.” The other nanny added: “According to the Sea God Ceremony’s rules, we cannot abandon followers easily, but if they are corrupted or have committed crimes, for the purity of the Sea God Ceremony and the saintess, we can expel them with proper reason. With that freed follower position, we can then invite the expert into our group, right?”

Su Yi’s expression changed as she rejected: “This is not appropriate. The Sea God Ceremony is such a huge event, if a scandal occurs, that person’s reputation would be tarnished for life, they would never be able to clear their name. All of my followers have helped me greatly, how can I repay gratitude with enmity?”

“Oh Missy, a great person would not mind small sacrifices, so what if we have to give up someone?”

“I would suggest we target that Xia Lin. She has no background and is a mermaid that nobody will care about, who knows what luck she had to be able to obtain that gather oil Gu.” Seeing Su Yi’s displeasure, Nanny Rong added: “Of course, we are not framing her, we are trying to move her with logic, Xia Lin looks like an understanding young lady after all. Missy, leave this to me, I will negotiate with her, it is okay if we pay a small price. Compared to the saintess position, it is evident which is more important!”

“This...” Su Yi hesitated.

The other nanny quickly added: “Missy, we are not forcing or harming Xia Lin. We are seeking her cooperation, in any case, so what if she loses some reputation? Xia Lin is a poor girl, she needs some materialistic gains more. It is very likely that after hearing our suggestion, she might become very happy and would want to deal with us, she is merely trading reputation for huge benefits!”

“Leave, let me consider it first...” Su Yi frowned as she asked them to leave.

The two nannies looked at each other before leaving.

Days later, rumors regarding Xia Lin spread throughout the city.

“That’s her, the shameless mermaid who betrayed her benefactor Su Yi just to gain the favor of the rich and noble!”

“No wonder Lady Su Yi was always at a disadvantage, she had a traitor after all.”

“I want nothing more than to tear the tendons and skin out of this scoundrel.”

“She is truly shameless, I can’t believe she is still coming to find Su Yi at this time!”

Xia Lin bit her lips, walking up the inn’s stairs under everyone’s accusations.

“Stand there.” Halfway through, mermaid Nanny Rong blocked Xia Lin with a cold expression.

“I was framed, I want to see Sister Su Yi!” Xia Lin raised her head, looking at Nanny Rong with an anxious expression.

Nanny Rong laughed coldly: “Xia Lin, you still want to act? Missy was very upset after hearing the news, you still want to see her now during a crucial moment of the Sea God Ceremony? You are truly vicious, you want to annoy our Missy and cause her to make mistakes in the competition later?”

“That’s not it, Nanny Rong, listen to me...”

“Listen to what? What is there to say! You are a shameless scum, we were blind to accept you into our group. Scram!” Nanny Rong lost her patience, she screamed in a shrill voice, being very overbearing.

“You don’t believe me but I believe in Sister Su Yi, if I don’t get to see her, I will not leave!” Xia Lin’s eyes were red, a light of stubbornness flickered in them.

“You are forcing me to chase you away?” Nanny Rong said sinisterly.

“Stop.” At this time, Su Yi appeared, walking down the stairs.

“Sister Su Yi!” Xia Lin was overjoyed, she wanted to move forward but Nanny Rong’s arms blocked her path.

“Xia Lin...” Su Yi said to Xia Lin with a complex tone.

“Sister Su Yi, you need to believe me, I did not betray you!” Xia Lin shouted.

“Do you need us to investigate it?” At this moment, a group of mermen charged into the inn, they drew all the attention away.

This group of mermen walked towards Xia Lin as they said: “Xia Lin right? I am the Sacred City’s investigator, someone reported you for corruption, you betrayed Su Yi and tried to ruin the sacred Sea God Ceremony, you tried to manipulate the saintess’ competition. We are now arresting you, follow us and tell us everything that you did.”

“No, I am innocent!” Xia Lin turned pale from fright, she shouted loudly in retaliation.



“We will investigate whether you are innocent or not.” The investigator was very cold.

“No, I will not leave with you, I was framed, someone framed me!” Xia Lin was frightful, she continued to shake her head.

“You don’t want to leave with us? Hmph, you don’t have a choice! Come, arrest her!” The investigator ordered as the merman Gu Masters behind him acted.

“Wait.” At this moment, Su Yi spoke.

“Sister Su Yi!” Xia Lin’s eyes shined with a light of hope.

But Su Yi shook her head: “Sister Xia Lin, I do not believe that you betrayed me, but the investigator is here, we need to believe in Sacred City’s justice! I believe that they will clear your name, go with them, as long as the results come out, your innocence will be proven, right?”

“Sister Su Yi...” Xia Lin’s eyes turned dim.

“Go, go with them.”

Xia Lin lowered her head, walking towards the investigator: “I was framed, but I will go with you.”

The investigator nodded in satisfaction: “That’s right, come with us.”

Xia Lin was quickly brought into the interrogation room.

#### COMMENT

“These information path Gu worms are all evidence, take a good look, I will give you some advice, don’t think you can get out of this!” The investigator smiled sinisterly, pointing at the information path mortal Gu on the table.

Xia Lin looked into them one by one.

Soon, shock was expressed all over her face: “These videos and voices are all fake, I have never said such things!”

“That is your explanation against all this evidence? Who would believe you?!” The investigator chuckled.

“I have never said such things! I...” Xia Lin was anxious.

The investigator raised his arm, stopping Xia Lin from talking, he smiled: “I know you were framed.”

Xia Lin was stunned: “What, what did you say?”

“You were framed.” The investigator repeated himself.

Xia Lin was stunned, she blinked before saying: “In that case, why did you...”

“Because this was Lady Su Yi’s request.” The investigator laughed again.

“What do you mean? Don’t try to sow discord between us!” Xia Lin was enraged.

“You are truly a naive little girl. Let me explain it to you then. You know who Lady Su Yi’s father is right? Do you know the current situation of the Sea God Ceremony...”

## COMMENT

The investigator spoke as Xia Lin went into deep shock upon hearing his words.

After a long while, she reacted: "I do not believe that this is sister Su Yi's plot! If she wants me to step down, I can leave. If she told me herself, I would not have rejected her."

The investigator looked at Xia Lin with a mocking expression, rebuking mercilessly: "Is the Sea God Ceremony an event where you can just leave like that? If anyone could just step down, this competition would just be a pure contest between forces. The only way to step down is by force, at the same time, that position left behind could be filled again."

Xia Lin said in a daze: "A situation like this..."

The investigator smiled: "Indeed, you've grown smarter. Alright, you have two choices now, the first choice is to deny this evidence and fight for your innocence. But this evidence is concrete, nobody will believe your words."

"The second choice is to cooperate with us, admit to the crime and even though you will lose reputation, we will repay you with abundant resources. Choose now."

Xia Lin smiled bitterly, lowering her head.

Did she have a choice?

The other party tricked her into this interrogation room, at this point, she could no longer reject them.

Even if she tried to, she would still be framed and trialed as guilty.

She did not have the strength to resist them, she did not have the right to reject them!

Silence.

After a long silence.

The investigator spoke: "Xia Lin, if you keep silent any longer, I will take it that you accept our proposition. The facts are simple and clear, I believe a smart person will make a wise choice. This benefits both of us, isn't that right?"

"I reject the offer." Xia Lin suddenly raised her head as she spoke.

## Chapter 1670: Racing Heart

"Reject?" The investigator frowned, a cold light flickered in his eyes and his tone became much tougher: "Young lady, think properly. You are young, you should not be impulsive, you need to know the weak cannot contend with the strong, let alone that you can't even be considered weak."

"I know I have no one to rely on, I am just a small character, which was why you all targeted me, isn't that so?" Xia Lin looked straight at the investigator, her tone was filled with mockery but also bitterness and helplessness: "But you don't have to worry, I won't make a useless retaliation or file a complaint. I

accept your false accusation, I will consider it as paying back Sister Su Yi's kindness. I don't want any compensation, from now on, we no longer have any debt to each other, we will just be strangers."

The investigator revealed a surprised expression as he looked at Xia Lin firmly. In the dim room, Xia Lin's eyes seemed to shine brightly. This pair of bright eyes directly shined on the investigator's heart, making him unable to match her gaze!

He quickly moved his gaze: "You can leave, I hope you can uphold what you said."

"I will." Xia Lin stood up and left with a calm expression that contained no anxiety.

Several days later.

"Lady Xia Lin, it is not that our inn does not want to do business with you but that the public sentiment is too fierce and many people have made reports. If we continue to let you stay here, they will..." The innkeeper said with a bitter expression.

Xia Lin stopped him from continuing the story: "I understand your situation, I will leave then."

"I thank you for the understanding, Lady Xia Lin, you truly are a good person." The innkeeper said as he thanked profusely and gratefully.

Xia Lin packed up her luggage and left her room, walking down the stairs.

"Look, it is her!"

"This woman secretly betrayed Lady Su Yi for her own personal gains."

"This kind of person is simply tarnishing the Sea God Ceremony and our Sacred City."

The Gu Masters inside the hall saw Xia Lin and started discussing while pointing fingers at her.

Xia Lin heard them but walked out of the inn with a calm and composed expression.

When she arrived at the wide main street, a bustling tide of people was moving along the path.

"Today is the day of the second last test of the Sea God Ceremony."

"I can barely wait, today is sure to be spectacular!"

"Do you guys know? Su Yi had been in a disadvantageous position for so long because there was a spy by her side."

"Who does not know of it? It's Xia Lin! As the saying goes, no matter how vigilant one is, they cannot defend against an internal threat."

...

Most of the people did not recognize Xia Lin, their attention was on the Sea God Ceremony as they hurried towards the central square.

Even if some people recognized Xia Lin, they were not absolutely certain. The Sacred City was extremely crowded at this time, it was normal for there to be one or two people with similar appearances.

The atmosphere was bustling, the people were jostling through the street as joy filled everyone.

Xia Lin mixed in with the crowd, her expression was tranquil, a stark contrast with her surroundings.

She had felt happy before, but now, it was like layers of heavy mist had gathered in her nostrils, making her feel difficulty in breathing.

She could no longer feel happy in this Sacred City or satisfy her curiosity.

“Maybe, I will never come here again in my life.” Xia Lin raised her head slightly, looking at the tall buildings.

These buildings seemed to be slanting down, the whole Sacred City seemed to be pressing towards her.

Xia Lin felt increasingly depressed and frustrated, she quickened her pace and left the crowd, walking into a dark alley.

The alley was dim and dark, trash was piled up in corners, spreading stench throughout the alley.

Xia Lin, however, felt her breathing become much smoother as if a huge weight had been lifted out of her heart.

Walking in this dark alley devoid of people, Xia Lin’s raised head drooped slowly.

“How did I reach this state?” She asked herself but obtained no answer.

Her eyes reddened and she soon turned tearful.

She was still a young girl, her previous strong attitude was just a facade.

“Hello, young lady!” Three mermen suddenly walked out of a corner of the alley.

Xia Lin was dazed for a moment before turning vigilant.

These three mermen were hooligans, their ill intentions were clearly exposed by their gazes. More importantly, every one of them was a rank two Gu Master.

Xia Lin was also only rank two.

“What do you want?” Xia Lin took a step back.

“What do we want? Hehehe!” The three mermen looked at each other, laughing deviously at the same time.

“Young lady, our encounter was fated, why be in a hurry to leave?”

“Even if you want to leave now, it is too late.”

At this moment, two rank two merman Gu Masters walked towards Xia Lin from behind.

Xia Lin’s heart sank, not only was it five against one, both the front and rear paths were blocked.

Although this alley was not far from the main street, these people were all Gu Masters and had clearly been lying in ambush; they definitely had methods to suppress the commotion.

The five mermen approached Xia Lin menacingly.

Xia Lin was panicking, she retreated again and again till her back touched the wall.

The cold wall made her feel even more helpless.

She gritted her teeth, her brows rose as she suddenly said: "Come, even if I die, I will drag you down with me."

"Oh dear, the little girl has guts!"

"Quite fiery, big brother likes such girls."

The five mermen giggled in amusement, they showed no fear but their footsteps had slowed down.

Bump.

Suddenly, Xia Lin felt an intense dizziness.

She was attacked!

Her mind was filled with fright as she turned to look back with difficulty, she saw the wall melt down from which the sixth merman Gu Master walked out.

"They got me!" The moment before she fell unconscious, Xia Lin's heart turned cold.

"She is down..."

"Hahaha, boss, your method is truly amazing!"

"Quickly clean up this place, the Sea God Ceremony is currently ongoing after all!"

The six mermen gathered around Xia Lin.

"Wake up, wake up..." A deep voice lingered in the darkness.

Xia Lin slowly opened her eyes, the alley was once again reflected in her eyes. The pain behind her head reminded her, she got a fright and quickly struggled to stand up.

She then saw the six mermen lying on the ground motionless in strange postures.

A human Gu Master was standing in the middle of the six mermen.

Xia Lin cried out with joy: "Master Chu, it's you!"

"It's me. I have been observing the Sea God Ceremony from the start, I heard of your matter as well, you were tossed aside by Su Yi, right?" Fang Yuan slightly smiled.

Xia Lin's tear immediately started to fall as she sobbed: "Master Chu, you..."

"I have good judgment of people, although I have only met you a few times, you are not that kind of person." Fang Yuan continued.

Xia Lin could not hold it in anymore as she covered her face and started crying, like a wronged child finally getting vindicated.

Fang Yuan quietly watched her cry for sometime before patting her shoulder: "Let's go."

“To where?” Xia Lin was slightly dazed.

“I am also slightly responsible for your current situation.” Fang Yuan sighed: “If I did not give you gather oil Gu, you would not have been targeted by Su Yi and participated in this Sea God Ceremony. So, I am taking you with me, follow me and leave.”

“Okay.” Xia Lin nodded, she no longer had no interest in Sacred City.

Fang Yuan led the way while Xia Lin obediently followed behind him.

At the end of the alley, there was another branch of the main street, it was also crowded with the stores at the sides enjoying bustling business. At the center of the street, there was a lion dance team.

Facing the crowd again, Xia Lin immediately felt some fear and disgust, but Fang Yuan had already walked ahead so she could only follow.

Snap.

The moment they walked out of the alley, Fang Yuan snapped his fingers.

The next scene stupefied Xia Lin, her mouth opened so wide that it could swallow an egg. She shockingly saw the whole street coming to a standstill.

“This, this...” She was unable to speak.

“Just a small trick, come.” Fang Yuan waved towards her before entering the crowd.

Xia Lin quickened her pace, following behind closely.

This was a wondrous situation that she had never experienced before!

She walked right past two mermen who looked like they were having a close conversation and seemed to be lovers. She looked at a store where a customer seemed to be haggling price with the clerk, spittle flew out of the clerk’s mouth and was suspended in the air, almost landing on the customer’s face.

There was a dog which was moving past the tightly packed legs and merman tails. Its body was bent as it was moving around a blue scaled merman, its three legs were raised high while one was on the ground.

Xia Lin stared widely at these people with various lives, the liveliness in them made her forget her depression and frustration.

Fang Yuan was extremely agile and walked quite quickly, it was quite tiring for Xia Lin to follow him.

Bump.

In a moment of carelessness, she bumped into a sturdy human Gu Master.

The human Gu Master swayed, his posture was still the same walking posture from before but his feet had almost left the ground, he started tilting to the side.

“Sorry!” She was just about to prop up this human Gu Master when she was grabbed by Fang Yuan.

2“Here.” Fang Yuan gave her a mask.

“Master Chu, this...” Xia Lin was puzzled, Fang Yuan did not lead her away from the street but brought her in front of that lion dance team.

The mask that Fang Yuan gave her was colorful and made from fish scales and bird feathers.

Fang Yuan pointed to the lion dance team: “Don’t you think it lacks two key characters?”

Xia Lin nodded: “They are playing the sea lion winter spring opera, they are short of the male and female leading characters, a filial fisherman and a traveling mermaid princess. But I think this performance was a spontaneous idea, they are not a real opera team, it is normal for them to not have all the characters.”

Likely at the start, one Gu Master put on the opera costume and makeup for his own entertainment. Later, along the way, more Gu Masters joined in.

These people were generally opera fans and loved such culture.

In fact, there were all kinds of traditional opera and plays that existed in the grotto-heaven, it was the trending entertainment of this paradise.

“My method can only last for a short while, put on the mask quickly, we will move with the crowd.” Fang Yuan hurried Xia Lin, not giving her the chance to refuse.

“Oh, okay.” Xia Lin subconsciously took the mask and when she wore it, her heart suddenly calmed down.

No one would recognize her like this.

The mental pressure on her had greatly reduced.

But shortly afterwards, her face blushed. Because she saw Fang Yuan wear a mask and it was the mask of the filial fisherman.

“Doesn’t this mean that Master Chu and I are the main male and female characters?”

Xia Lin’s heart started to race wildly!