

Keyboard Immortal #Chapter 1701: Indecisive - Read Keyboard Immortal Chapter 1701: Indecisive

Chapter 1701: Indecisive

Chu Chuyan was shocked when she realized that. The Devil Sect's charm skills were even effective on women?

Yun Jianyue raised her chin proudly when she saw the results.

Are you kidding me? If our charm skills were only effective on men, who would spend all that time cultivating it? Wouldn't that mean it could only work on half the population?

Of course, it wasn't without flaws. Women were different from men. If they were as innocent as a white sheet of paper, the effects of the dance would be a bit weaker. However, if they had experienced intimate moments with a man, the effects would become much greater.

Yun Jianyue looked around the area. It wasn't that effective on Miss Xie, as expected.

Hm? Why is King Qi Manor's little princess reacting like that? Could it be that she already has a lover?

That stone cold woman... Huh?

She suddenly discovered that Yan Xuehen's expression was a bit strange. There was a faint pink hue on her usually snow-white skin. Even though it wasn't that clear, as someone who had fought against her for so many years, Yun Jianyue was probably the one who understood her the best in this entire world.

Why is she reacting like that?

Even though the effects were extremely weak, with her cultivation and her nature, Honglei's Heavenly Devil Temptation shouldn't have had even the slightest effect on her!

Don't tell me she has a man?

But how is that possible?!

Yun Jianyue immediately discarded that suspicion. If even this stone cold woman could have a man, it would be like the sun rising in the west.

Could it be that something went wrong with her cultivation recently?

She began to feel eager to challenge her rival. Could she use this chance to finally win against Yan Xuehen?

However, when she looked at Guan Chouhai and the others who were still eyeing her like tigers, she gave up on that thought in the end.

...

Just then, something changed on the battlefield. When she saw Chu Chuyan fall for her move, Qiu Honglei suddenly vanished from her original location.

A moment later, a hole seemed to be torn open in the sky behind Chu Chuyan. It was daytime, and yet the inside of that hole contained flickering starlight. Qiu Honglei appeared from within the tear. The demon blade in her hands was like a moon as it hacked down on Chu Chuyan.

This was her ultimate move, Nebula Rend!

The spectators all felt incredibly nervous. Even Zu An couldn't help but lean forward.

The move was full of destructive power, putting Chu Chuyan in danger. The curved blade was about to cut into her when Qiu Honglei suddenly hesitated. The blade in her hands moved a split second slower.

Yun Jianyue cursed her disciple for being foolish inwardly. Why are you showing her mercy at such a critical time? You really are too soft-hearted.

At almost the same time, wind and snow swept around Chu Chuyan's entire body. Her entire figure almost instantly turned into a blizzard. When the blade slashed past, it only passed through the wind and snow. It didn't manage to harm Chu Chuyan's real body.

Qiu Honglei was stunned. Even though she had held back, judging from the current situation, it seemed that she might not have been able to hurt Chu Chuyan even if she didn't. She smiled and said, "Little sister Chu, let's

compete against each other next time. Big sister is leaving now.” She turned into a streak of light and fled toward the horizon afterward.

The blizzard gradually calmed down, and Chu Chuyan appeared again. In the end, she let go of the Primal Skysilk and didn’t chase after her.

The spectators were all shocked. Guan Chouhai and the others flew into the sky and were about to intercept Qiu Honglei when Yun Jianyue blocked their path. The Crescent Ring vibrated as it spun around her, seemingly ready to deliver a thunderous blow at a moment’s notice.

Guan Chouhai shouted furiously, “Witch, what is the meaning of this?!”

Yun Jianyue said with a sneer, “I was about to ask all of you the same question. You’re powerful sect masters, and yet you’re going after a junior without any regard for your own identity.”

Guan Chouhai harrumphed. “We said that we were going to have a decisive battle, and yet your disciple ran before the fight was even finished. What are we supposed to do about that?”

“It’s obviously the result of her resourcefulness,” Yun Jianyue said with a smile. She thought to herself, Qiu Honglei didn’t let me down after all. She really is smart. As soon as she made up her mind, she chose to run without dillydallying at all.

She no longer had any misgivings. Even though there were many powerful experts here, none of them could keep her from escaping.

“If she’s fled, that naturally means she lost,” Guan Chouhai said with a cold laugh. “According to the agreement, you’ll stay here for several decades. Don’t worry. I believe that with his character, Brother Wang won’t make things difficult for you. You’ll just have your vicious tendencies smoothed over through the daoist ways.”

Wang Wuxie remained expressionless, as if he hadn’t even heard anything.

Li Changsheng added, “Your Devil Sect’s people will sell your souls for gain, as expected. She is clearly your beloved disciple, and yet in a moment of life and death, she abandoned you. How cold-hearted.”

Yun Jianyue rolled her eyes and retorted, "Do you think our Holy Sect's people are all as inflexible as your so-called orthodox sects? Now that she's left, I don't have anything tying me down anymore. Do you still think you can keep me here?"

The others' expressions changed. It wasn't impossible to keep her from leaving, but to do so, one of them could have to pay a bitter price of blood. Which one of them would want to be that unlucky person?

Only Zu An sighed in relief. This was actually the best result for him.

The Kunlun Void Sect's Elder Xuan Dou said, "I heard that the Devil Sect Master Yun killed people without a second thought, but words are just words. Today, it seems that you are also a liar who goes back on your words."

Yun Jianyue looked at him with contempt and said, "Don't try to play those little games with me. Those ordinary disciples might not have noticed anything, but there's no way you haven't. If my disciple hadn't held back, that Chu girl might already have been a corpse by now."

Meanwhile, Chu Chuyan had just returned. She remained completely calm and didn't say anything.

The others frowned slightly when they heard that. They had indeed sensed that Qiu Honglei had shown mercy in that instant, and that was also what they found the hardest to understand. A Devil Sect witch had actually held back against an orthodox disciple? Could it be that she was worried that she would end up incurring great enmity from Yan Xuehen by killing Chu Chuyan, and so there would be an even smaller chance of the Devil Sect master and disciple leaving together?

Yan Xuehen knew what was going on. She naturally didn't want her disciple to feel wronged and said, "Witch, you should understand that my Chuyan also held back just now."

Yun Jianyue harrumphed, but she didn't argue. She was quite frustrated inwardly, though. What was going on with these two? Had they ended up fighting over the same man for so long that they ended up getting along with each other? It was one thing for that Chu girl, but Honglei had grown up in the Holy Sect, so why was she suddenly growing so indecisive too?

What in the world? Are they really going to put on this kind and loving pretense?

She felt extremely annoyed. With a wave of her sleeve, she said, "Whatever. They're pretty much equal in strength, so you'll accept a draw, right? Since we didn't lose, can I leave now?"

The daoist sect masters exchanged a look. With their status, forcing her to stay here seemed a bit inappropriate, and yet letting her go just like that would be losing too much dignity.

Just then, Zu An said, "Sect Master Yun, since you were the ones established this bet, I can't say too much. But if we meet again in the future, I won't let you leave so easily."

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Look at this pretty boy talking all big. Those words would sound more believable if it were your emperor who spoke them. But my mood is pretty good today, so I won't argue with you guys. Don't start begging me for mercy if we bump into each other in the future." She swung her sleeves afterward, then instantly disappeared into the distance.

Yan Xuehen cursed inwardly. These two really were quite the actors! If not for the fact that she knew about their relationship, she might have just been deceived too.

Guan Chouhai asked Zu An with a frown, "Sir Zu, isn't it rather inappropriate for you to just let that witch go?"

Many people cursed inwardly. Look at this damn old fox, immediately shifting the blame onto Zu An.

However, they knew it was to protect the dignity of the daoist sects. After all, they had to listen to the court's decisions too.

Zu An said seriously, "His majesty's Fengshan Ceremony is at hand, which is the most important thing. Letting all these side issues affect the timing and location of the setting will only bring trouble." After mingling around the capital for so long, he had already learned how to thrive in such situations. Sure enough, when the others heard that, they didn't say anything else.

Zu An was worried about Pei Mianman's safety and didn't continue to chat with them. Instead, he hurried to the courtyard from the previous night. When

he arrived at that familiar room, he found the wardrobe Yun Jianyue had told him about. When he opened it up, he saw a hidden compartment. Pei Mianman was lying there like a sleeping beauty.

He undid her seals, and Pei Mianman gradually woke up. When she saw that it was him, she jumped into his arms enthusiastically and cried, "Ah Zu, I thought that I wouldn't be able to see you anymore!"

Zu An sighed in relief. It seemed that she really didn't know what had happened the previous night.

Suddenly, he felt a chill behind him. He turned around and saw that both Yan Xuehen and Chu Chuyan were quietly standing by the door, staring at the two of them embracing each other lovingly. He immediately got a huge headache.

Chapter 1702: Champion

"Oh, you two are here," Zu An said with an awkward laugh. "That Yun Jianyue really is devious and actually tied her up to let her disciple win."

Pei Mianman jumped in fright and left Zu An's arms. For some reason, she always felt a bit flustered whenever she saw Chu Chuyan. However, she quickly stopped that train of thought. She had clearly spent more time with Zu An, so why did she feel guilty?

Still, even though that made logical sense, the feeling was an entirely separate matter.

Yan Xuehen smiled and said, "If that witch knew that you were talking behind her back like that, she would definitely make sure you pay the price for that later."

"With big sis Yan covering me, I don't need to be scared of her," Zu An said. Inwardly, he thought, I haven't gotten even with Yun Jianyue yet. We were tossing and turning right in this room the previous night, in all kinds of high-difficulty positions, but she didn't tell me that Manman was hidden right here.

There was a bit of surprise in Chu Chuyan's eyes. Even though she had heard that they'd spent some time together in the Fiend races' territory, wasn't their tone with each other a bit too familiar? However, she didn't think too much about it either, and instead walked over to support Pei Mianman, asking her if

she was unwell at all. After all, Manman was one of her few friends over the years.

When she heard the concern in Chu Chuyan's voice, Pei Mianman sighed. Chuyan, if you were just a bit worse of a person, I wouldn't have to feel so conflicted.

The others from the daoist sects also followed. Elder Huo Ling received the news as well and rushed over. When she saw that Pei Mianman was safe, she immediately took her disciple firmly into her arms. She was so moved she couldn't even utter any words.

When he saw the faint glimmers of tears at the corners of her eyes, even though Zu An was still a bit unhappy about this elder, he acknowledged that she really did treat Manman well.

After all, Manman's history was special. Even though she had been born under the Pei clan, she basically hadn't experienced any real familial warmth.

"Now that the Devil Sect witches' plot has been thwarted, Miss Pei's discovery really is delightful news," Guan Chouhai said with a smile. However, he quickly thought of another issue and asked, "But how should we decide the victor of this competition?" ReAd lateSt chapters at [nôv\(e\)lbin.co/m](http://nôv(e)lbin.co/m) Only

Elder Huo Ling gave him a glare and said, "Our Manman has already reached the finals and her opponent was the Devil Sect witch. She ran away herself, so the victor is obviously Manman."

Feng Wuchang said, "It's a bit inappropriate to just decide things like that, right? Perhaps we should hold another battle to compensate for the witch's disappearance. Whether it is in terms of character or cultivation, Wu Xiaofan has earned people's approval. I feel that it is quite suitable for him to take Qiu Honglei's place."

Cave Master Mu said, "Our Supreme Mystery Cave was also defeated by that witch. Why is only Wu Xiaofan allowed to enter the finals, while our Shi Dingtian cannot?"

Wang Wuxie finally spoke up and said, "We can let Wu Xiaofan and Shi Dingtian fight a round. The one who wins will enter the finals."

Wan Tongtian sneered and said, "What a joke. All of you have your own excuses. Can I say that the reason why Wan Guiyi lost to Wu Xiaofan was because he was seriously injured, and that if they had fought a fair battle, he might not have lost? Since we're doing it all over again, why not let Wan Guiyi fight another round too?"

The other sects' representatives also began to argue noisily when they heard that. The room suddenly became as noisy as a food market.

Xie Daoyun, who was hiding in a corner, wrinkled her nose. Before she came to Violet Mountain, she had thought that these daoist sect seniors were all mighty and lofty individuals, and yet once she got to know them, they seemed no different from the peddlers and carriers of the markets.

Li Changsheng coughed lightly and said, "From my perspective, perhaps we should Chu Chuyan take the place of the witch to fight a round against Lady Pei?"

His disciple had previously lost to Shi Dingtian in a fair battle, so that was why he didn't suggest a rematch. However, Chu Chuyan was also from the White Jade Sect. As long as they won, the Wordless Edict would still belong to their sect, so it would still be a huge win.

The entire place fell silent then. They quickly concluded that Chu Chuyan was the most suitable candidate. Firstly, she had great prestige among the daoist sects. Secondly, they had all witnessed her great battle against Qiu Honglei. There was definitely nothing wrong with her strength.

Just then, Chu Chuyan said, "I do not wish to join the competition. My mission was merely to face the Devil Sect's Saintess, and I have already completed that task." Whether it was because of Zu An or Pei Mianman, she didn't want to fight and ruin their relationship.

Pei Mianman was stunned when she heard that. She looked at Chuyan with a conflicted expression.

The others panicked when they heard that Chu Chuyan didn't want to fight. They all advised her to change her mind. However, she was like a block of ice. No matter what they said, she didn't react in the slightest.

"Since Chuyan is unwilling, you should not trouble her further," Yan Xuehen said. She naturally understood her disciple's intentions.

That brat Zu An really is blessed. The girls might look as if they're fighting against each other, but they're all quite kind inside.

The others all gave in when they heard her speak up. They didn't try to advise Chuyan any further.

Only Guan Chouhai grumbled, "But if Miss Chu doesn't participate, it'll be quite hard to convince the masses of this result..."

Zu An replied with a smile, "What's so difficult about that? We can just make Miss Pei the victor."

Pei Mianman's face heated up. If not for the fact that so many people were watching right now, she would have tugged on his sleeves. She had never even had any thoughts of taking first place before.

Guan Chouhai said in dissatisfaction, "Even though Miss Pei's cultivation isn't weak, she got byes all the way here. What she relied on was luck. That won't convince everyone."

Elder Huo Ling said unhappily, "Hmph, the fact that she defeated your disciple is at least a genuine victory. Are you going to say that your disciple is that much weaker than the other representative disciples?"

Guan Chouhai choked. Zhi Yin was also full of resentment. He had finally managed to get over that loss, and yet he was getting kicked in the gut again.

Zu An remarked, "So what if it was through luck? Cultivation relies firstly on effort, and secondly on luck. Miss Pei already displayed her true strength in her fight against Zhi Yin. Furthermore, the byes she acquired indicate that her luck is superior to that of ordinary people. That means her future potential is clearly limitless. She is definitely as good of a candidate for first place as anyone else here." When he saw that they were still hesitating a bit, he added, "If we really let Wu Xiaofan, Shi Dingtian, and the others who lost to Qiu Honglei take first place, wouldn't the Devil Sect die from laughter?"

The daoist sects suddenly woke up to that realization when they heard him say those words. They no longer argued any further.

...

Just like that, Pei Mianman somehow ended up winning the entire competition. Perhaps because she hadn't obtained victory through a battle, the congratulatory banquet seemed a bit cheerless. The others' reactions weren't as enthusiastic as expected. Many disciples weren't convinced that Pei Mianman deserved to be in first place. While she had only defeated Zhi Yin alone as a formidable opponent, hadn't the other representative disciples all gone through a lot more?

Zhi Yin felt even more unhappy when he sensed resentment everywhere. However, after thinking about it, the only one he lost to had ended up becoming the champion, which didn't seem as hard to accept anymore.

During the awards ceremony, Wang Wuxie presented all sorts of treasures to the top ten. Even though the items were really precious, they weren't anything special for Zu An at his current level.

Only when the Wordless Edict was handed to Jade Fall Palace did Zu An give it a second look, as his divine sense could reach Pei Mianman.

The book looked completely ordinary and was made of an unknown material. From the looks of it, it was like a stone carving. As expected, it only had a single character. However, there was a profound and mysterious air to it.

Zu An thought to himself, I have to look for a chance to examine it.

...

In contrast, the daoist sects' reactions were much calmer. After all, the Wordless Edict had already been passed along the daoist sects for over a thousand years, and yet countless brilliant geniuses hadn't been able to see through its secrets. Many people even wondered if the book even contained any secrets at all.

The little monk Jie Se asked the old monk next to him, "Master, do you know the secret of this Wordless Edict?"

"If I knew that, I would be the leader of the daoist sects right now," Master Jian Huang snapped impatiently, as if he were looking down on his disciple for asking such a stupid question.

"Does our Buddhist sect have anything on the same level as the Wordless Edict?" Jie Se asked, feeling a bit envious of that Wordless Edict.

“Of course. The Pattra Sutra is on the same level as the Wordless Edict,” Master Jian Huang said, but his expression suddenly grew dim. “Still, it is something that even I have unfortunately only heard of, but never seen. There may not even be many disciples left in this world who have truly seen it.”

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Chapter 1703: Requesting Help

“Then isn’t that the same as not having one?” Jie Se asked with a pout.

Master Jian Huang didn’t bother saying anything else and just gave his disciple’s bald head a vicious beating.

Then, Wang Wuxie declared the opening of the daoist sect's secret dungeon the next day. The nine winners of the group stage and the four second-place group stage members with the best results, together with Chu Chuyan, made up the candidates who had the right to enter the secret dungeon.

Among them, Emptiness Isle’s Peng Wuyan took Qiu Honglei’s spot. Even though she hadn’t fought, she was still a representative disciple, so people were still okay with that.

Wan Guiyi suddenly found Peng Wuyan’s familiar face extremely unfamiliar and puzzling. It was clearly the same appearance, but why didn’t it possess that aesthetic of strength anymore?

...

After the announcement, the crowd gradually scattered. The various sects began to prepare their disciples for the next day’s secret dungeon exploration. At the same time, many of them enthusiastically discussed the Devil Sect Master and Saintess. Even though they were all speaking righteously on the surface, the two women had clearly left a deep impression on them.

The murderous great demoness was actually so beautiful! That Devil Sect Saintess was also a beauty, not inferior to Fairy Chu at all. Furthermore, her dance had left them with a rich aftertaste even now...

After Zu An returned to his room, he opened up the Rage system. He had collected a total of 84,593 Rage points. He wanted to get some Faith in

Brother Spring and other medicines for Chu Chuyan and Pei Mianman. After all, he couldn't enter the secret dungeon this time and couldn't watch over them on their end. Even though with their cultivation, it wasn't supposed to be that dangerous for them, secret dungeons were always places that no one truly knew everything about. It was still better to be careful.

When he pressed the button to start, 'Thank you for playing!' messages continued to show up, but they couldn't make him feel a thing anymore.

In the end, however, the keyboard landed on the R key.

Congratulations! You have won a Nickname Card!

You can temporarily change a person's name.

This wasn't the first time Zu An had obtained the item. The first time he got it, he had thought that it was useless rubbish, but he had discovered that this thing was actually quite the miraculous item in the right situation.

At any other time, obtaining the Nickname Card would have made him really happy, but he didn't feel the same way right now at all. After all, he hadn't obtained any treatment medicines or defensive artifacts.

For some reason, his eyes twitched whenever he thought of this daoist sect dungeon, as if something bad was going to happen.

Suddenly, there was a light knock on the door. Zu An looked up and saw Xie Daoyun standing timidly by the entrance. He asked with a smile, "What is it, little sister Ling'er?"

Xie Daoyun hesitated a bit, then took out two talismans and said, "Big brother Zu, these are two Last Breath Talismans that I drew myself. Even though the effects aren't as good as teacher's, they can still be helpful. You should give these to Miss Chu and Miss Pei."

Zu An was briefly stunned, but then he was extremely happy. He had been feeling worried about what to give the two women and hadn't expected Xie Daoyun to come forward in his time of need.

"Thank you so much, little sister Ling'er!" Zu An said. He suggested, "Why don't you give it to them? You know both of them, after all."

Xie Daoyun shook her head and said, "I actually came to Violet Mountain secretly and didn't reveal my identity, so I can't show myself in public. It would be the same thing if big brother Zu gives it to them. I saw that you were really frustrated just now and kept sighing, so I knew that it was probably out of worry for the two of them."

Zu An said gratefully, "Little sister Ling'er really understands people well. Whomever has the fortune of marrying you truly will be blessed."

Xie Daoyun's cheeks turned red. She pouted playfully and replied, "Big brother Zu~"

Zu An laughed and said, "Then I'll be going. I'll be sure to tell them that it was your goodwill."

Xie Daoyun blushed and didn't say anything else.

When she saw how Chu Chuyan and Qiu Honglei had fought against each other, she had thought to herself that improving her relationship with the two wouldn't necessarily be too bad of an idea...

...

Zu An arrived in front of the White Jade Sect's area. For some reason, Yan Xuehen didn't come out to see him, so he went straight to Chu Chuyan and gave her the Last Breath Talisman.

Chu Chuyan was surprised and happy, saying, "Thank you."

Zu An told her that it was something prepared by Xie Daoyun, but then Chu Chuyan's expression became a bit strange. However, she still said, "Please thank her for me. I thought that she was a good person back in Brightmoon City. She doesn't put on airs like a normal noble at all."

After chatting for a bit, they inadvertently ended up talking about the competition. Zu An asked, "You're not wounded, right?"

Chu Chuyan shook her head slightly and said, "I'm not. Even though my battle with Miss Qiu was fierce, neither of us really went all out. That's why it only looked frightening."

Zu An chuckled and said, "That's good then, that's good."

Chu Chuyan suddenly said with a sigh, "Back then in Brightmoon City, she was crying and begging to call me big sister, and saying she was going to be your concubine, and yet she came here to try and become the big sister. If I had known things would end up like this, I would have just agreed back then."

Zu An immediately began to sweat. Even though she looks pretty calm and aloof on the surface, she's probably not that happy about this. She has to have gone through a lot to accept all of this...

A while later, Chu Chuyan suddenly said, "You should head over to Manman. You probably have one for her too, right?"

Zu An said with an awkward smile, "It wasn't me who prepared it for her. It was Miss Xie."

Chu Chuyan merely chuckled. Zu An couldn't meet her clear and cold gaze anymore and ran away.

When he left, Yan Xuehen appeared in the room and remarked, "That kid is so fickle. Is he really worth it?"

Chu Chuyan held the talisman close. There was a gentle smile on her face as she murmured, "Why did I have to bump into him back then? Maybe it's fate..."

Yan Xuehen sighed and said, "It really might just be fate."

Chu Chuyan gave her a look of surprise. Why did it almost seem as if her master felt those emotions stronger than she did?

...

Meanwhile, Zu An ran over to Jedefall Palace's area. Because of Pei Mianman's disappearance, Elder Huo Ling was even more strict now, not leaving her side for any reason. She interrogated anyone who approached her disciple like a criminal. Thus, Zu An didn't have the chance to share any intimate words with Pei Mianman, and left after giving her the Last Breath Talisman.

When he left, Elder Huo Ling stared at her disciple and said, "Manman, tell me honestly. What is your relationship with him?"

Zu An's previous instances of assistance could be explained, but he had helped her become first place, and he had even given her something so precious. That was definitely not something that could be explained just with infatuation.

Helpless to do anything else, Pei Mianman could only vaguely describe her relationship with Zu An. After all, just the thought of her master always getting in their way was a headache to think about.

"There are no good men in this world!" Elder Huo Ling cried, turning pale from fright when she heard about their private relationship. She felt as if her precious pearl had been swallowed by a swine. But when she thought about how Zu An had helped her, she still added, "But this kid isn't that bad. He's at least a bit better than Wan Tongtian back then." Then, she added with a frown, "But he is a bit too fickle. I heard that he has an unclear relationship with that White Jade Sect's Chu girl."

Pei Mianman carefully explained, "They were actually husband and wife before..."

Elder Huo Ling immediately cried out in alarm before she could finish, "No way, no way, then aren't you going to become a concubine? Someone like you deserves a man who is completely devoted to you!"

"They're already divorced..."

"That's still not okay. Why would you want something another woman doesn't even want?"

"That's not really it..."

...

The next morning, the daoist sects all gathered on Golden Peak. The Righteous Sun Sect's elders started to open up the secret dungeon. Zu An was then surprised to discover that the so-called secret dungeon was actually hidden in the Wordless Edict!

The Wordless Edict opened up, and a group of daoists performed a ritual. Streaks of black and blue light shone from the book, casting out a wormhole-like gate of light nearby. The qualified candidates bid their sects goodbye, then entered the gate one after the other.

Chu Chuyan and Pei Mianman also secretly said goodbye to Zu An. Zu An wanted to suggest that they work together inside, but he was worried that his suggestion would produce the opposite effect. The two were good friends, though. If they really encountered something, they would know what to do.

When people were finished entering, the portal disappeared. The Wordless Edict returned to normal. The gate would open up again half a month later. As for what they could acquire in the secret dungeon, that would depend on their own luck.

Because the Wordless Edict now belonged to Jedefall Palace, Wan Tongtian and Elder Huo Ling guarded it together to prevent something from happening to it, lest danger befall the disciples inside. The other sects were worried, so they also placed experts nearby.

Zu An felt a bit more at ease when he saw that.

...

After leaving Golden Peak, he intended to say something to Yan Xuehen, but he didn't see her anywhere. He assumed that she was probably hiding from him, so he could only return to his own place out of helplessness.

When he returned, he saw that Xie Daoyun was lying in bed asleep. He found that a bit strange. Suddenly, he frowned and stared deeper inside.

A woman with hair that cascaded down her back like a waterfall walked out, remarking, "Tsk tsk, our Sir Zu is pretty blessed, no? He has a beautiful mistress wherever he goes."

"Big sis Yun!" Zu An exclaimed happily. He saw the beautiful woman behind her too and said, "Honglei! So both of you came."

Qiu Honglei said with a smile, "It almost feels as if we're disturbing your happy time."

Zu An replied with a smile, "What are you saying? You two know why Miss Xie came here too. I was just worried that you two would be noticed by those daoists."

Yun Jianyue said with a snort, "In my eyes, those daoist sects are nothing at all."

Zu An couldn't help but ask, "You might not be worried, but what about Honglei?"

Yun Jianyue rolled her eyes and retorted, "Doesn't she still have you? If the two of us worked together, I refuse to believe that anyone could do anything to her."

Qiu Honglei was speechless. Master, this isn't what you used to say when you tried to stop me and Ah Zu from getting together...

Zu An said with a laugh, "That's true."

"Ah... It pisses me off just thinking about it! Honglei had a chance of looking around that daoist secret dungeon too, and then we could have just looted all of those daoists' treasures. That would have been really exciting to see," Yun Jianyue said. She was a bit upset, especially since today was the day the others had gone inside the dungeon.

Zu An asked curiously, "Just how did those Emptiness Isle people escape? Did you find out why?"

"I haven't had time yet. There's something more important to take care of right now," Yun Jianyue said with a cough.

Qiu Honglei seemed to have woken up from a daze. She said, "Ah Zu, actually, we came here today because we needed your help with something. We need you to rescue someone for us."

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Chapter 1704: Spy

"Fine!" Zu An immediately agreed.

"You're not even going to ask who it is we want you to save? You're just going to agree?" Qiu Honglei asked, stunned.

Zu An said with a smile, "If it's you two asking me for help, forget about one favor, even if it were ten or a hundred, I'd still brave any dangers to achieve them."

Qiu Honglei had a strange expression as she thought, Wasn't it just me who was asking for a favor? Why are you saying 'you two'?

"Look at this slick kid. I really wonder just what part of you Honglei likes so much," Yun Jianyue said, rolling her eyes as if she were looking down on him.

Zu An smiled. This woman really is interesting. She's going so far as to put up an act even in front of her disciple...

Even though Qiu Honglei felt that the other two's expressions were a bit strange, she didn't think too much about it. She said, "Ah Zu, this is the situation. You should know the Imperial Palace's Concubine Bai, right?"

"Concubine Bai?" Zu An repeated, stunned. He suddenly recalled the beautiful woman who always gave off the scent of flowers. He continued, "Don't tell me she's the one you want to save?"

Yun Jianyue said with a nod, "Rouxue is my junior sister. In the past, she received a mission from the Holy Sect to infiltrate the Imperial Palace as a spy, but we suddenly lost communication with her a few days ago. According to our sources, her identity might have been exposed. That's why we need your help."

Zu An was a bit surprised. He hadn't expected that delicate and gentle woman to be someone from the Devil Sect. Still, it wasn't all that shocking. After all, Concubine Bai had seemed to offer some help when Yun Jianyue and the others invaded the Imperial Palace. After he rescued Yun Jianyue, her attitude had always been rather good to him.

Seeing as he didn't say anything, Yun Jianyue continued, "From what I know, Rouxue has actually treated you quite well."

Zu An sighed and said, "So it was because of that. I thought it was because she thought I was handsome, so she had a good impression of me."

Qiu Honglei and Yun Jianyue were speechless. They both thought, I've never seen such a shameless person in my life.

Zu An put his smile away and said, "But from what I know, the emperor is already on the way to Violet Mountain. Was Concubine Bai brought out, or was she imprisoned in the palace? Or perhaps..." He refrained from

mentioning the worst outcome. There was a high chance that she had already been secretly executed.

Qiu Honglei shook her head and said, "Our current intelligence is also limited. After our assault on the Imperial Palace, we lost a lot of our eyes in the palace. There's been practically no useful information for us to obtain. In the end, we could only ask for your help."

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Rouxue's identity is one of the Holy Sect's greatest secrets. No more than three people know her identity. If not for the fact that we're treating you as one of our own, there's no way we would have told you even if something happened to her."

"Master~" Qiu Honglei called out, giving her an upset look. Her master's temper was one thing, but they were asking for help right now... Couldn't she sound a bit nicer?

Yun Jianyue naturally guessed what Qiu Honglei was thinking. She thought, This silly child, did she get confused from all of those battles? Why is she suddenly scared of upsetting that brat?

Qiu Honglei quickly realized that with both master and disciple asking him for help, if he refused, they would have really chosen to trust the wrong person.

Sure enough, Zu An quickly nodded and said, "Don't worry. Leave this to me. But you two need to be mentally prepared, because I might not be able to save her."

"Ah Zu really is the best!" Qiu Honglei exclaimed as she clung to his arm happily. She thought, He didn't get angry even though master was so rude to him. He's definitely so nice because of me! He really is so good to me.

Yun Jianyue felt a bit annoyed when she saw the two so close together. She said, "Don't worry. I know this situation is a bit difficult. Whether you succeed or not, we'll remember this favor."

"Oh!" Zu An suddenly added. "If Concubine Bai is your junior sister, why has her cultivation always seemed to be nothing special?"

She had loaned him her spice bag that hid her cultivation, but that spice bag's effects were limited. Yun Jianyue was a grandmaster, so wasn't this junior sister of hers a bit too lacking?

“That little white flower in her hair is a special seal on her cultivation. After all, she was entering the imperial family, so having a high cultivation would only be a bad thing,” Yun Jianyue explained. “Furthermore, Rouxue walks a different path from me. She cultivates another special technique of the Holy Sect that’s a bit similar to the Voice of the Devil, but it doesn’t excel in fighting.”

Zu An suddenly understood everything. It was no wonder that, regardless of what kind of outfit Concubine Bai had, she always had that little white flower on her head. He had thought that it was just because she liked flowers before. If her cultivation technique was similar to the Voice of the Devil, could it also be a type of charm skill? Indeed, Concubine Bai had a gentle and delicate air about her that made men unable to help but want to cherish her. Was the flower fragrance she gave off also a unique trait of her cultivation?

Of course, he couldn't ask these two about such things.

Seeing as Zu An had agreed, Yun Jianyue nodded. She was about to leave with Qiu Honglei when she suddenly noticed her disciple’s reluctant gaze. After some hesitation, she said, “I’ll wait for you two outside.” She turned around and left afterward. If she didn’t see them doing it, she wouldn’t get as annoyed.

Qiu Honglei felt a bit embarrassed. Suddenly, she didn’t know what to do.

Zu An laughed when he saw her bashful appearance. He remarked, “Where did that flower courtesan who enchanted everyone in all of Brightmoon City go? Why is the Devil Sect Saintess who left all of those daoist sect disciples speechless with her dance suddenly so shy?”

“Come on, you’re different from other people!” Qiu Honglei replied with a pout.

...

Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue was nearby, leaning against a tree. Even though she looked calm on the surface, she actually perked up her ears. She felt a bit irritated as she listened to their lovers’ talk. Still, she knew that she didn’t have the right to feel angry in the current situation. She felt even worse when she realized that.

Suddenly, she shivered and backed up roughly a dozen meters. She looked in a certain direction vigilantly. There, a woman in white was standing in the

entryway. Her stunning face lacked all expression, as if she were a thousand-year-old glacier.

"If I decided to ambush you just now, you might have already died," Yan Xuehen said with a frown. "That's not like you. Why were you so distracted?"

Yun Jianyue was relieved, but she didn't dare to admit it on the surface. She retorted, "Wow, what a shameless boast. I was clearly baiting you on purpose earlier. You don't know how lucky you are."

"Is that so?" Yan Xuehen replied, staring blankly for a moment, but she didn't suspect much. After all, with Yun Jianyue's cultivation, her opening statement was a bit excessive.

Yun Jianyue was really confused. She fired back, "Why are you suddenly coming to your disciple's place when she's in the secret dungeon? Won't rumors start if news of that gets out?"

Yan Xuehen's ice-cold expression revealed a hint of a blush. She was alarmed, wondering if Yun Jianyue somehow knew about her and Ah Zu. However, she was a smart person and quickly calmed down. She retorted, "Isn't there someone else who's also running to their disciple's place?"

Yun Jianyue was alarmed. At that moment, both women panicked, standing stiffly in place.

Fortunately, Zu An came out to check on the situation when he heard the noise. He was extremely happy to see Yan Xuehen, saying, "Big sis Yan, you also came."

Yan Xuehen saw that Qiu Honglei's upper body was practically sticking to him. Her expression turned cold as she said, "Sir Zu, you are a court official, yet you are playing around with a Devil Sect witch. Furthermore, the daoist sects have gathered all over this mountain. If they found out about this, how would you deal with that situation then?"

"Stone cold woman, can you clean your mouth before you speak? Who are you trying to scare here? The two of them are perfect for each other, so stop trying to drive a wedge between them," Yun Jianyue snapped in annoyance. She just felt like Yan Xuehen was trying to help her own disciple by spouting some so-called righteousness.

Yan Xuehen frowned. Her expression became even colder.

Sensing that the temperature in the entire courtyard seemed to be dropping, Qiu Honglei was too embarrassed to be so intimate with Zu An anymore. She quickly stood up and greeted Yan Xuehen respectfully. "Many thanks to senior and Lady Chu for helping me that day."

Yan Xuehen said indifferently, "I am different from those who let lust dominate their thoughts. Why would I ever let you go on purpose?"

Yun Jianyue said with a smile, "This stone cold woman is always so hypocritical. She clearly did it, and yet she can't admit it. You didn't join those people in going against me, so I still owe you a favor. If you ever end up surrounded by the Holy Sect's people, I'll let you go once too."

"I don't need it!" Yan Xuehen snapped, looking away.

The two were arguing against each other on the surface, but they both knew that after fighting together in the Fiend races' territory, there was no way they could do something so shameless as attacking the other side with a group. Of course, they were still on opposing sides. If they faced each other in a fair battle, they would still fight properly.

Yun Jianyue gave her a look of disdain and said, "Hmph, if you ever find a man, sooner or later, you'll definitely lose him because of that duplicity of yours."

However, she almost laughed in self-mockery after saying that. If Yan Xuehen were to look for a man, the line to talk to her would probably reach all the way from Violet Mountain to the capital. Who would be willing to let her go?

Unbeknownst to her, those words struck a sore spot, leaving Yan Xuehen alarmed for a moment.

Because of Yan Xuehen, Qiu Honglei couldn't continue to talk intimately with Zu An. Furthermore, there were all sorts of troublesome things to take care of back in the Devil Sect, so they found some excuse to leave. Soon after, only Zu An and Yan Xuehen were left in the courtyard.

"And here I was thinking you would never look for me again," Zu An said happily. After all, she had been avoiding him whenever he looked for her.

Yan Xuehen was startled. She quickly said, "I came because there's something important to talk about. I think there's something wrong with Wang Wuxie right now."

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Chapter 1705: Royal Family Chaos

"What kind of problem?" Zu An asked, stunned. When he saw her serious expression, he didn't dare to joke any further.

Yan Xuehen's pretty brows furrowed. She replied, "Think about it. When Yun Jianyue was exposed, as the leader of the daoist sects, wasn't Wang Wuxie a bit too quiet?"

Zu An recalled the previous situation and reflexively nodded. Back then, Wang Wuxie seemed to have lacked more presence than even Watchful Heart Peak Master Feng Wuchang. Furthermore, Wang Wuxie hadn't interfered when Yun Jianyue was about to attack Feng Wuchang. It was actually Master Jian Huang who had saved him.

"Also, when the secret dungeon was opened, Wang Wuxie didn't say much either. His behavior just seems really strange," Yan Xuehen continued. Even though she was frowning, she was still extremely beautiful.

Zu An said with a smile, "Maybe his condition has just been poor these past few days. He said earlier that he had something he needed to work with the emperor on for the Fengshan Ceremony. Maybe his attention isn't on the daoist faction right now? His cultivation is so high, there's no way someone could be impersonating him the way Yun Jianyue impersonated Elder Peng, right?"

"I don't think it's an impersonation. He's probably still Wang Wuxie, but I just feel that something is strange..." Yan Xuehen trailed off, hesitating for a moment. Eventually, she said, "You've probably heard that Wang Wuxie pursued me in the past..."

"What do you mean, pursued? He was crazily infatuated with you," Zu An said with a sigh. After all, no one wanted another man to keep thinking about their woman.

"That was nothing more than his one-sided attention. I've never liked him," Yan Xuehen quickly replied. She was stunned after she said that, too. Why did she have to explain such a thing to him?

Zu An felt a bit happy when he heard the enthusiasm in her reply. He asked, "What does him liking you have to do with what you just said?"

Yan Xuehen's face turned a bit red. She said in embarrassment, "Ever since I arrived at Violet Mountain, I've gotten the impression that Wang Wuxie was no longer as... crazy as before. However, occasionally, he still... looked at me with that strange gaze. I didn't want him to have any misunderstandings, so I pretended not to notice. However, he hasn't looked at me once over the past few days."

Zu An couldn't help but laugh. He remarked, "Isn't it a bit saddening when you find out one of your fans no longer cares that much about you?" He had even seen a few of those expressions himself, so he had a pretty strong impression.

Yan Xuehen frowned and snapped, "I'm talking about something serious here. If you continue to act like that, I'm going to become angry!"

Zu An set aside his joking demeanor and said, "This really is quite strange. Then perhaps we should look around Pure Yang Palace tonight?"

Yan Xuehen shook her head and said, "Forget it. Wang Wuxie's cultivation is extremely high. If we went over and got discovered, that would only cause a lot of complications." She didn't want her close relationship with Zu An to be known by those from the daoist sects.

Zu An was stunned. He asked, "If you don't want to look into it, why did you come to talk about this with me?"

Yan Xuehen said emotionlessly, "I just wanted to warn you, that's it." She left in annoyance afterward.

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +222 +222 +222...

Zu An felt a bit strange as he watched her leave, thinking, What is she suddenly getting angry for?

A while later, he finally realized what just happened. I really am dumb! She just came to see me, and that was just some random excuse! And there I was, digging into her excuse.

However, he had a huge smile on his face when he realized that.

...

When he returned to his room, Zu An took out his recording mirror and began to dial a special rune code. A while later, the call successfully connected. A ripple spread across the mirror surface like water, and a beauty with a red beauty mark between her brows appeared.

“Did anything major happen?” Bi Linglong asked in surprise.

After all, the cost of activating the recording mirror was quite high. Not even the court would use such a method unless it was extremely important. That wasn’t even accounting for the fact that she was the crown princess. If someone saw that she was secretly talking to a man through the recording mirror, that would cause huge problems. Fortunately, she was away from the capital and had a bit more freedom.

“Can’t I just call you if I miss you?” Zu An replied with a sigh. “I thought that you wouldn’t be doing so well after I left, but your face is glowing with health. You’re even a bit prettier than when I left the capital now... Sigh, I feel so broken-hearted.”

“Hmph, no way,” Bi Linglong said with a scoff. She subconsciously touched her face. Even though she knew that he was flattering her, she still couldn’t help but feel happy. She said, “You’re the one who’s rosy from ear to ear. I reckon that you have quite a few beauties at your side.”

Zu An cried out inwardly in guilt, but there was no way he would admit to it.

After the two of them chatted for a while, Zu An finally began to ask indirectly about Concubine Bai’s situation. Bi Linglong’s expression immediately changed. She said, “I was just wondering why you contacted me. So it was because of another woman!”

The screen blurred, and the recording mirror turned into an ordinary mirror. Bi Linglong had clearly hung up on Zu An, leaving him speechless.

A while later, the recording mirror suddenly rippled. Bi Linglong was clearly calling him back. Zu An tapped the mirror to activate it, and Bi Linglong appeared again with an ice-cold expression.

“His Majesty had Concubine Bai accompany him when he left the capital. I do not know anything else,” Bi Linglong said coldly.

Zu An was stunned. He asked, “Shouldn’t the emperor have brought his own wife? Isn’t it a huge scandal to bring his daughter-in-law?”

Bi Linglong corrected him unhappily, “His majesty only has one daughter-in-law, and that’s me. Concubine Bai is nothing more than a concubine of the crown prince. Even though it’s a bit inappropriate to bring her, it isn’t anything to make a huge fuss over either.” After a brief pause, she continued, “Furthermore, Concubine Bai was his majesty’s woman to begin with. It was because he was worried about the crown prince’s... slow nature that he had her serve him. Then, Concubine Bai gave birth to the imperial grandson not long after.”

Zu An’s expression changed. He replied, “You’re implying that the child is actually the emperor’s?”

Apart from playing around with mud every day, what else did the crown prince know? He had never even touched such a pretty crown princess after so many years, so how could he possibly impregnate Concubine Bai in such a short amount of time?

“I never said that,” Bi Linglong said expressionlessly. She continued, “But her status is quite special. Even if you are a pervert, keep your paws off her.” She cut off the call again immediately afterward. Zu An tried to call her again, but there was no response.

Zu An was a bit flustered by this information. Even though he’d had his guesses earlier, he was still a bit alarmed now that it had been confirmed.

This Zhao Han really does play hard! He gave his own concubine to his son to become his concubine, but then he wanted his own son to call his older brother dad?

Still, this was the same man who had previously sent a split soul into the crown prince’s body, and had also prepared his daughter-in-law, the crown

princess, for himself in the future. Now that Zu An thought about it again, it wasn't that strange anymore.

After receiving that information, Zu An wasn't all that worried about Concubine Bai's safety anymore. At the very least, there would be no threat to her life for some time. However, could the Devil Sect's plan be considered a success now? The future imperial grandson even carried their bloodline...

When he thought about that complicated relationship, after a while, Zu An sighed. He muttered, "The imperial family really is messy!"

...

There wasn't much left for him to do in Violet Mountain. Chu Chuyan and Pei Mianman had both gone into the dungeon and wouldn't come out for a while. As such, Zu An decided to take on the role of messenger to report on their work and to greet the emperor's troops, which would also let him look into Concubine Bai's situation. Concubine Bai's identity was very sensitive, so there was no way the emperor would let his subjects deal with her. He probably still kept her by his side.

Zu An woke up Xie Daoyun, who had been knocked unconscious by Yun Jianyue, and told her where he was going. He thought of escorting her back along the way too.

However, Xie Daoyun shook her head and said, "The task teacher assigned me isn't complete yet. I need to stay at Violet Mountain for a while longer."

Zu An was a bit surprised. Just what kind of mission had Yan Xianggu given her, for her to have to stay here for so long? Still, he couldn't ask too many questions. He left after telling her a few more things.

Next, he went to Yan Xuehen's courtyard to bid her farewell. Of course, the pretext was that the emperor had summoned him.

When she listened to what he had to say, Yan Xuehen said indifferently, "Just leave if you're leaving. Why are you telling me?"

Zu An stared at her perfect face before saying, "I was worried that you wouldn't be able to find me if you ever needed me."

“Who would look for you?!” Yan Xuehen snapped with a frown. She immediately turned around.

Zu An knew that this was just how she was and didn’t push the issue. He waved toward her, then walked out.

Just as he was about to leave, Yan Xuehen said gently, “Take care of yourself.”

“I will,” Zu An replied, immediately feeling his mood improve a lot. He turned around and opened his arms toward her before saying, “We might not see each other for a long time. Can I get a hug as a goodbye?”

He thought she would tell him to get lost, but to his surprise, after a moment of hesitation, Yan Xuehen slowly walked over and hugged him lightly. She knew that Zu An wouldn’t be in any real danger with his current cultivation. Still, the one he was facing was Zhao Han... Furthermore, after recalling what Yun Jianyue had said earlier, she was suddenly a bit worried that if she gave up on this chance, she could end up with some irredeemable regret.

At first, Zu An was stunned when he sensed the cold and soft body in his arms. Then, he was overjoyed and took her firmly into his arms.

Yan Xuehen was extremely embarrassed. She instinctively wanted to push him away, but was no match for how tightly he was holding her. She gradually stopped resisting so much.

“It’s a good thing that there are no White Jade Sect disciples in this courtyard. Chuyan also went into the secret dungeon...”

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Chapter 1706: Execution

The two held each other quietly. As the sun began to set outside, their shadows reached into the distance...

Yan Xuehen was a bit alarmed when she saw their reflection in the shadows. Just what am I thinking about right now?

She was about to push him away when Zu An suddenly lowered his head and kissed her gently. Yan Xuehen's eyes widened, perhaps out of embarrassment, maybe out of anger. Her neck turned red at a visible rate.

She was just about to explode when Zu An suddenly let go of her first. He waved his hand while smiling, saying, "With big sis Yan's caring kiss, I'm sure this trip will go extremely smoothly!" He didn't give her a chance to act up and slipped into the distance afterward.

Yan Xuehen's cold expression gave way to a smile when she saw him flee for his life. She muttered, "He really is a rascal..."

...

Meanwhile, Zu An's mood was incredible after what had just happened. He sped along while riding on the Wind Fire Wheels, continuing for several days.

Finally, he encountered the emperor's troops near a small city. The emperor had left to conduct the Fengshan Ceremony, so the procession was extremely grand. Lines of troops stretched for several dozen li, and there were tens of thousands of people. Zu An didn't show himself rashly; instead, he saw some familiar people in the group and snuck in while they were setting up camp.

The ones who seemed to be in charge of the outpost work were the thick-browed and big-eyed Qin Guangyuan, and the more delicate-featured Qin Yongde. Even the Murong clan's young miss was present, dressed in military attire. Between that and her tanned skin, she really looked valiant and outstanding. Their group was actively discussing the layout of the camp.

When they saw Zu An, they were startled. However, this was a reunion of friends, so the mood quickly became lively. Murong Qinghe was especially happy to see him, perhaps because of Chu Youzhao. The only regret was that Chu Youzhao hadn't come with her on this trip.

Zu An naturally knew the reason. Chu Youzhao was a crossdresser, after all. She could continue the act in the capital with the Qin clan covering up for her, but it was hard to keep her identity a secret in the long term in an army.

After talking to them for a bit, Zu An learned roughly how large the Fengshan procession was. Apart from the empress, who was recuperating from her illness, almost all of the other top-tier figures of the capital were present. They were all familiar faces.

King Qi, Zhao Jing, was here; however, his heir, Zhao Zhi, hadn't come. They were likely worried about putting all their eggs in one basket.

Apart from him, there was also the Director of the Imperial Secretariat Pei Ming, who could be considered Big Manman's great-uncle. The Imperial Secretariat's Right Confidential Assistant Bi Qi, the crown princess' father, had also come; he was accompanied by the crown princess' older brother, Bi Ziang. The Imperial Secretariat's Left Confidential Assistant had previously been Yu Xuanchong, but because of the scandals surrounding Yu Nan and then Cloudcenter Commandery's Yu clan, he had been dismissed from office and wasn't present.

The Imperial Secretariat's five important ministers hadn't come and remained in the capital to deal with governmental affairs. Zu An cried out inwardly in disappointment. He had wanted to catch up with Sang Hong and ask about Sang Qien's situation. He wondered how she was doing with her pregnancy.

The Central Secretariat Supervisor Meng Yi and Secretariat Director Lian Yu were both present. So was the Emperor's subordinate Chief Attendant Pei Zheng, Pei Mianman's grandfather; and Chief Attendant Dongfang Bai, whose wife was the previous dynasty's princess. Zu An recalled Zhang Jie mentioning them when he talked about the previous dynasty.

The Nine Ministers' Supervisor of Attendants Murong Tong, Commandant of Justice Jiang Boyang, and Imperial Director Zhen Xueyi had also arrived. The Supervisor of Attendants' responsibility was ensuring the safety of the emperor, so that his presence was to be expected. Unfortunately, Jiang Luofu wasn't present.

As for Zhen Xueyi, Zu An also remembered what Zhang Jie had said. Zhen Xueyi also had a strong connection with the former dynasty, but his treatment was vastly different compared to Dongfang Bai. However, when Zu An was thrown into prison over his scandal with Bi Linglong, Zhen Xueyi had secretly helped him a bit, so that was a favor he had to remember.

When the emperor set out on a journey, his safety was definitely the number one priority. King Liang, Zhao Yi, was the Rear General. He followed the emperor with the elites of the capital's first six battalions. However, the six battalions' respective military officers hadn't come, and were instead guarding the capital with another group of people. King Qi's heir Zhao Zhi was none other than the Reserve Diary Officer.

Apart from those people, there was also the War Chariot General Liu Yao. Zu An had previously met him all the way back in Brightmoon City. Even though back then, he had thought that this man's cultivation was really high, it now seemed fairly average. With their resources, the fact that such individuals only had their current levels of cultivation meant that their talent was really ordinary.

Compared to the six battalions, the two higher-level figures' forces were more complete. Left Guard General Lu He was the brother of Eunuch Lu, who always followed at the empress' side. Right Guard General Guo Zhi was someone whom Zu An had frequently interacted with back in the Imperial Palace. Guerilla Warfare General Zhao Yuan was only part of a rather distant branch of the imperial family, and he also had the title King Guangling.

Apart from that, there were the divisions named Fierce Tiger, Armed Escort, High Rider, Unique Force, and so on. Zu An himself was an officer of the Armed Escort Division, so he was technically supposed to be part of the procession.

When he saw that almost all of the major figures of the capital had appeared, Zu An couldn't help but become a bit curious. He said, "The court's bigwigs are all here. Are they not scared that something might happen back at the capital?"

Qin Guangyuan explained, "That is why the middle-level officials in charge of specific government affairs all remained in the capital. Together with the capable crown princess and other competent individuals from the Eastern Palace, assisting the crown prince in presiding over the empire's affairs isn't too big of a problem."

"That's not what I'm worried about," Zu An said. He naturally knew about Bi Linglong's ability. He continued, "It's more that the high-level military strength of the court has all left, so what if the Devil Sect or rebel army decides to incite trouble in the capital again?"

Murong Qinghe said with a smile, "There's something big brother Zu is overlooking. There are still the eight dukes in the capital. Those old monsters are always cultivating in seclusion within their manors. If something really does happen, they definitely won't just remain bystanders."

Qin Yongde added, "The eight dukes are powerful, all having grandmaster rank cultivation. Who would dare to stir up trouble in the capital? But strictly

speaking, there are only seven dukes now, and that has to do with Brother Zu.”

Zu An was startled. He replied, “The Shi clan?”

Qin Guangyuan nodded and said, “Right. To be honest, the Shi clan was the clan with the weakest background out of the eight great clans. Their clan leader needed some more time to reach the grandmaster rank, but you single-handedly destroyed the entire clan, so he no longer had a chance. That matter really caused quite the stir among the capital’s great clans.”

Zu An had a blank look on his face for a moment. He had already provoked such a giant as the Shi clan not long after he transmigrated... The naive truly were fearless!

He had already known about the so-called eight dukes for a long time, but had rarely seen any of them. They were similar to the Committee of Elders in the Fiend King Court. They normally rarely showed themselves and only appeared when there were big events.

Zu An found a chance to ask about Concubine Bai, but the others only replied with bewilderment.

“His majesty did bring some concubines, but Concubine Bai is the Crown Prince’s concubine. There’s no reason for her to be here, right?”

Zu An could tell from their dumbstruck looks that only a few people knew about the emperor’s relationship with Concubine Bai. As for the more important ministers, they likely have their guesses, but there was no way they would mention such things to their children.

...

After figuring out recent developments from them, he went to look for Zhao Han. After all, Zhao Han was too powerful. It wouldn’t be a good thing if his sneaky actions were found out.

With his current identity, it wasn’t too difficult for him to meet with the emperor. Eunuch Wen quickly emerged to bring him to the giant imperial tent. There were threads of gold and pieces of jade and agate everywhere, making it extraordinarily extravagant.

When a servant went in to announce Zu An's arrival, an indifferent voice called out, "Enter."

When Zu An entered the tent, he saw that even though the outside of the tent was luxurious, the layout inside was extremely simple. Inside, Zhao Han was on a soft seat. In front of him were two pots of precious incense. The tent wasn't inferior to any top-notch cultivation paradises in this world; it had clearly been reinforced with special rune formations. At the same time, the incense likely had many precious ingredients added to them to aid in enhancing cultivation and longevity.

Zhao Han didn't even open his eyes when he heard Zu An enter, asking, "What are you doing here?"

Zu An replied, "Violet Mountain's affairs have already been wrapped up, so I wanted to make a report to your majesty. I didn't dare to disturb your majesty further, so I made a special trip all the way back."

Zhao Han then opened his eyes. When he recalled how he had been summoned like a monkey in a performance show again and again, his face twitched slightly. When he heard those words, however, he felt a bit better and said, "Not bad, you've shown some progress."

Zu An then told him about what he had discovered on Violet Mountain. He didn't hide Yun Jianyue's appearance. After all, with so many people there, this man would find out even if he didn't report it.

"That witch Yun Jianyue really is daring. But the daoist sects really are declining as they struggle. They actually only found out at the finals," Zhao Han said with a snort, showing clear dissatisfaction.

Zu An replied, "The more the daoist sects decline, the more it proves that the court is flourishing. Your majesty should be happy."

Zhao Han raised a brow and said, "It's been a while, but it seems you've learned how to speak properly, brat."

"This subject is only speaking the truth," Zu An said with flawless etiquette.

Zhao Han nodded in approval and asked, "Was there anything else strange at Violet Mountain?"

“There wasn’t,” Zu An replied. After some hesitation, he chose not to mention Wang Wuxie’s situation. The first reason was that he didn’t have proof, and the second was that even if there was something wrong with Wang Wuxie, why did he have to warn Zhao Han? It wasn’t as if he really was a loyal slave.

“You’ve dealt with the Violet Mountain task decently,” Zhao Han said, his expression easing. He continued, “You’ve returned at a good time. There just happens to be something that I need you to take care of.”

Zu An cursed inwardly. This guy immediately gave me something to do as soon as I returned! Of course, though, he still said, “I will do my utmost.”

“It isn’t anything too hard. I only need you to secretly execute a woman,” Zhao Han said casually.

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Chapter 1707: Repay Kindness

Zu An replied in shock, “This... might not be too appropriate, right?”

Zhao Han sounded as if he wanted Zu An to act against a certain concubine, making him begin to wonder just who the woman in question was. Don’t tell me it’s Concubine Bai?

“What is so inappropriate about that? Whatever this emperor says is suitable, that is what is suitable,” Zhao Han said indifferently. “Zhuxie Chixin is not here right now, and the highest-ranked Embroidered Envoy present is you. Who else would go, if not you?”

Zu An was startled. It seemed this wasn’t the most glorious affair, so Zhao Han wanted to make use of the Embroidered Envoy. And yet, he was worried that an ordinary Embroidered Envoy wouldn’t be able to keep the secret, so he chose Zu An.

“I will naturally share in your majesty’s burden. I wonder which woman it is?” Zu An asked, although he already had his guesses. If that task fell into his hands, the odds of rescuing Concubine Bai would be much higher than if others were assigned to it.

“There is a white tent in this camp. It is the woman inside. Eunuch Wen will take you there. Deal with it cleanly and do not let anyone else know.” Zhao Han said, then closed his eyes again. He clearly wasn’t in the mood to entertain Zu An any further.

“Understood!” Zu An replied. He looked calm on the surface, but he was actually quite frightened. He rapidly thought of a solution while also trying to figure out why Zhao Han would speak in riddles like this.

When he left the imperial tent, Eunuch Wen was already waiting outside. He received Zu An with a big smile and said, “This way, please, Sir Zu.” He had clearly already received orders from the emperor.

Zu An couldn't help but quietly ask, “Eunuch Wen, there is no one the emperor trusts more than you. Why didn’t his majesty send you for this task?”

Eunuch Wen smiled when he heard that and replied, “This only proves how much more trust his majesty has in Sir Zu.”

In truth, it had been something he was supposed to take care of. However, since this youngster had just come back, he would be perfect for the task. In the end, such an affair was nothing good, so he couldn't be happier to have someone else take care of it.

Zu An could sense Eunuch Wen’s happiness from his smile. He wondered whether Zhao Han was handing him this task in preparation for silencing him in the future.

In that case, rather than leaving it to a trusted aide like Eunuch Wen, the emperor could just leave it to Zu An, who would be abandoned sooner or later. That was likely why he hadn’t minded letting Zu An find out a bit.

Zu An found it hard to feel happy when he realized that. However, after thinking about it, he had to face Zhao Han directly sooner or later, so it didn’t really matter.

There were patrolling soldiers everywhere along the way. The security in the area was clearly made extremely strict to guard against assassins, while at the same time preventing people from coming and going as they wished.

Just like that, they went along a winding path until they finally arrived at a white tent. The tent was isolated, a fair distance away from any others. It had

clearly been set up that way intentionally. The patrolling soldiers noticed people approaching, but when they saw Eunuch Wen, all of them bowed and withdrew.

Eunuch Wen told Zu An, "That person is inside. There is also a nanny who watches over her, but the other one is your target."

Zu An asked again to test the waters, "Eunuch Wen, just who is the person inside?"

Eunuch Wen replied with a vague smile, "When working in the imperial family, there are questions that you shouldn't ask. Even if you know them, you need to pretend that you don't. That is the key to personal longevity."

Zu An cursed him for being an old fox inwardly, but said, "Thank you for the reminder, Eunuch Wen."

He walked toward the tent afterward. Before he even reached it, however, he smelled a familiar flower fragrance. He sighed... It was Concubine Bai after all. Such a unique smell was something that no cosmetics could ever imitate.

He secretly extended his divine sense and discovered that even though Eunuch Wen hadn't gotten closer, he kept secretly watching the situation from a distance. The emperor clearly didn't trust Zu An that much and wanted Eunuch Wen to monitor the situation.

Isn't Zhao Han just testing me right now? Zu An thought with a scowl as he arrived at the tent entrance. A rough voice said from inside. "What are you acting all high and mighty like some noble for?"

Concubine Bai replied in a gentle, but pained voice, "I only wanted some water. I won't move anymore."

"You only know how to do trifling things," the rough voice grumbled. Then, there was a loud noise, as if someone had been given a slap to the face. "Endure it! You don't have much time left to live, anyway."

Then, there was a baby's cry. The rough voice added mockingly, "Who are you acting all flirtatious for? Men might fall for it, but it's nothing more than a pretense. It's disgusting."

Zu An moved aside the curtains with a frown and walked in. He saw that there was a simple bed inside. Concubine Bai was huddling inside, a handprint on her fair face, clearly from the slap just then. Her temperament was quite gentle, but in the current situation she couldn't help but sob, making her look more and more pitiful.

Meanwhile, there was a rough, crude older woman sitting on the chair next to her. At that moment, she was gorging herself on some exquisite food on the table. The food had all been prepared for the imperial family, concubines, and other nobles. From the looks of it, she was taking all of Concubine Bai's share.

Zu An thought to himself, For better or for worse, Concubine Bai came from the Devil Sect. Why would she let herself be abused to this degree?

However, when his aura locked onto her figure on the bed, he immediately received his answer. A special seal restrained her. She couldn't use her cultivation at all, so she was even weaker than an ordinary woman.

When Concubine Bai saw him walk in, a look of hope and joy filled her despairing face. After all, regardless of how one looked at it, their relationship was quite good.

"Who are you?" the chubby nanny asked, looking at him with a frown. Food sprayed out of her mouth from time to time as she spoke.

Zu An turned away to avoid getting it on his clothes. He said indifferently, "His majesty sent me to execute the criminal."

When she heard that, Concubine Bai's look of joy immediately turned into shock. However, she quickly laughed in distress and didn't say anything.

The nanny asked with a frown. "Why isn't it Eunuch Wen?"

"Do you think there's anyone in this entire camp who would dare to lie about any imperial edict?" Zu An snapped impatiently. When he recalled what this woman had been doing to Concubine Bai, he found it really hard to develop any goodwill for her. He continued, "Eunuch Wen is watching outside. If you're worried, you can go out there and ask him."

"That's true," the nanny said, wiping her hands on her clothes to get rid of the food grease. "You should've come earlier so I wouldn't have to waste so much time here."

She walked to the exit afterward, clearly not intending to spend even a second more than she had to. However, when she reached the entrance, Zu An struck her unconscious with his hand.

Concubine Bai had been lying numb on the table. When she saw that, her eyes widened. Zu An moved closer and quietly asked her, "What exactly happened for you to end up like this?"

Concubine Bai smiled bitterly and replied, "It's a long story."

Zu An knew that time was pressing, so there was no chance for him to slowly listen to her talk. He said, "Tell me later once I rescue you."

Then, he supported Concubine Bai, helping her sit upright. Her body really gave off an enchanting flower fragrance mixed with a hint of a milky scent. Zu An had initially planned to undo her restrictions, but he soon discovered that it was beyond his level.

"Don't waste your time anymore. This is a seal applied by his majesty. Unless he himself were to arrive, there would be no way to undo it," Concubine Bai said, shaking her head and looking at Zu An with her beautiful eyes. "I'm already extremely grateful that you even thought of saving me. But this matter is extremely important. It will be really bad if it ends up involving you. You should just kill me to complete your task."

Zu An shook his head and replied, "How could I kill you?" He had already received Yun Jianyue and Qiu Honglei's requests. Furthermore, Concubine Bai had helped him quite a bit in the Imperial Palace. How could he possibly kill her?

Concubine Bai didn't know about Zu An's relationship with the Devil Sect and was stunned when she heard that. Her neck reddened, and her voice became even more gentle. Her tone also became more sincere as she said, "You really can't save me. Eunuch Wen is watching outside, and his majesty is also here. If something happens, he only needs to reach out a hand and everything will be over. If you really want to help me, then help me pass a message to someone."

She paused for a moment, partly because she was embarrassed, but also because she felt really sad. She then said, "I understand the young master's goodwill. If there is a next life, this humble one will surely repay you."

Zu An was speechless.

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Chapter 1708: One for Another

Zu An said seriously, "You can send that message once you escape yourself. For now, first take off your clothes."

Concubine Bai was stunned. In that instant, she felt as if she had completely misjudged the person in front of her. Was he going to assault her in her moment of crisis?

However, when she saw him take off the chubby nanny's clothes, she knew that she had misunderstood him. An awkward look flashed across her beautiful face as she said, "That won't work. You won't be able to fool a three-year-old child if you only change the clothes."

Whether it was their age, appearance, or build, there wasn't a shred of similarity between them. If such a thing really worked, everyone in the world would have to have gone blind.

"Don't worry about that. I have my ways," Zu An said as he took off the nanny's clothes while feeling really conflicted. Just what kinds of women did he remove the clothes from with his own hands? Chuyan, Manman, Yanluo, Xuehen, big sis Yun... Which one of them wasn't an extraordinary beauty? And yet today, they were being wronged like this. He was removing the clothes of such a large, disgusting woman.

Fortunately, the nanny wore a lot of clothes, so he didn't touch anything he didn't want to. Soon after, he finished removing her outer garments. When he turned around, he saw Concubine Bai sitting in bed with her eyes wide, looking in his direction. Her clothes were still untouched.

Zu An couldn't help but frown. He asked, "Why are you wasting time right now?"

Concubine Bai was embarrassed as she replied, "I... can't muster any strength. I can't take them off."

Zu An then remembered that her restrictions were special. That Zhao Han really is something. Even some random seal he made is enough to turn a powerful cultivator completely harmless.

After some hesitation, Concubine Bai asked, "Will we really be able to fool them if I change my clothes?"

"Trust me, it'll work," Zu An said with a nod.

Concubine Bai bit her lip. She looked conflicted, but she still said, "Then please help me take them off."

Zu An was speechless. Just what kind of situation had they gotten in already? He wanted to be a gentleman, and yet he always ended up in these kinds of situations where he had to make mistakes.

Still, he knew that there was no time. After some slight hesitation, he didn't refuse her, saying, "Sorry."

Concubine Bai pursed her lips and moved her hand aside. She knew the importance of the situation and didn't demand something melodramatic such as making Zu An close his eyes. However, when his hand touched her body, she still couldn't help but shake all over. A layer of redness covered her skin.

Zu An had a strange expression. This woman was clearly a mother, and yet she was acting like a maiden when embarrassed. He said, "Don't worry too much. I'm only taking off your outer garment. You'll still be wearing your inner clothing."

Concubine Bai voiced her understanding and knew that she was overreacting too. However, when his hand pressed against her body, she felt as if electricity ran through her entire body. It was something she had never experienced before.

Even though Zu An did his best to avoid touching her as much as possible, he still couldn't avoid making contact sometimes. He sighed inwardly at how soft her body was, and how amazing she smelled. Compared to that big nanny, it really was like the difference between heaven and earth.

In order to ease their mutual awkwardness, he took the chance to ask, “Why was that nanny so terrible to you? No matter how dire of a situation you’re in, you’re still a concubine.”

Concubine Bai explained, “Nanny Ping is an old face in the palace, and quite a few young maids and other newcomers have been bullied by her before. In the past, because of something minor, a young maid was tormented to death. After I learned of that fact, I punished her for it. She probably still harbors a grudge over that incident.”

Zu An nodded. In a place that was as freakish and dangerous as the Imperial Palace, there weren’t many nannies who were normal.

Finally, after a rather intimate process, he successfully removed her dress. Concubine Bai felt very embarrassed and ill at ease. She hugged her knees as she curled up on her bed like a little white flower amid frigid winter winds.

However, she still summoned her courage and said, “Even if I change clothes, it won’t fool anyone.”

Zu An frowned and said, “Don’t worry, I have a way.”

He didn’t swap their clothes, and instead took out a wardrobe. Under Concubine Bai’s shocked gaze, he put the nanny’s clothes inside. Concubine Bai noticed that when he put the clothes inside, he seemed to be hesitant. He grimaced and muttered something under his breath.

However, Zu An still put them in. A while later, he took them out again and said, “Alright, you can change into them now.”

The wardrobe was ‘Pin Ru’s Wardrobe’, which he had obtained from the system in the past. As long as the clothes were placed inside, then put on someone else, they would look just like the original owner. The effect was only useless against Zu An, perhaps the creator of the wardrobe had been worried that he would do some filthy things with it...

Concubine Bai was surprised. However, when Zu An put her clothes on Nanny Ping, her eyes widened. She was shocked to discover that the large and stocky Nanny Ping had actually taken on her exact appearance!

“Just what kind of ability is this?” Concubine Bai exclaimed. She was quite knowledgeable herself, but the sight before her was still beyond her wildest imaginations.

“That’s a secret,” Zu An said with a chuckle. In truth, he didn’t really understand the principles behind it either. Rather than trying to explain it, it was better to act a bit mysterious to get by for the time being.

Concubine Bai looked at the man in front of her with a strange expression. Even though she had already known that he was different when she met him in the palace, she had always been quite confident in her ability to see through him. She knew he had his secrets, but only now did she realize how arrogant she had been. This man was actually full of mysteries!

Zu An walked over again. He put on her clothes while saying with a frown, “Your current condition might make things a bit hard.”

Nanny Ping had a rough and tough appearance, and was normally quite vigorous. If she suddenly became weak and passive, her appearance would easily draw suspicion.

Concubine Bai’s face reddened. She said, “I have a pill in my satchel that can temporarily stimulate one’s energy. Even though it won’t be enough to break the emperor’s seal, it shouldn’t have any problem returning me to the level of a normal person.”

Zu An asked, “Won’t it have a lot of side effects?” He knew the Devil Sect loved to use things that ignited their own blood essence.

Concubine Bai shook her head slightly and said, “There are some side effects, but I’ll be able to recover after a period of time. We don’t really have the luxury of worrying about those right now, anyway.”

Zu An figured that what she said made sense. With her life being at risk, they could worry about everything else later. Thus, Concubine Bai guided him toward her most personal area. He felt a soft and incredible sensation. Both of them were stunned.

Concubine Bai began breathing quickly. She bit her lip and said, “It’s... a bit further inside.”

Zu An focused his attention, and finally took out the drug and fed it to her. A flush of rosiness returned to Concubine Bai's face. A while later, she said, "I can move now. I'll put on the clothes on my own."

Zu An nodded. After letting her go, he quickly set up the room.

Suddenly, however, he noticed something. Concubine Bai made a shushing motion and looked vigilantly at the door.

"Sir Zu, why is it not finished yet after all this time?" Eunuch Wen called out, seeming to have already moved closer to the tent.

"It's already done," Zu An said, striking Nanny Ping's lethal acupoint and moving her to the bed. Concubine Bai coordinated with him and stood next to him.

Eunuch Wen pushed aside the curtains and walked straight in. He gave Concubine Bai a look, and her heart immediately began to race. However, Eunuch Wen didn't seem to have noticed anything strange. Instead, he moved closer to the bed to examine the corpse. Even though she wasn't breathing anymore, he secretly blew apart her meridians while examining the corpse. Now, she really couldn't be more dead.

Zu An felt a sense of lingering fear. Fortunately, he hadn't used that fake death pill Ji Xiaoxi had given him, or else Concubine Bai would really have died even though she was pretending.

Eunuch Wen got up afterward, seemingly satisfied. He said to the two of them, "Take care of the corpse. Don't let anyone else find out about this."

"Understood!" Zu An replied. Suddenly, however, his expression changed.

That was because at the same time, Eunuch Wen sent him a ki transmission that said, "Once you're done with this, kill Nanny Ping too." Then, before leaving, he patted Zu An's shoulder and gave him a look, implying that this was the emperor's will.

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Chapter 1709: Ominous Premonition

Zu An sighed in relief. He thought, The imperial clan really is a dark place... They don't even hesitate in silencing others.

To be honest, if not for the fact that he had some status and skill, he likely would have just been killed off immediately too. Still, according to Zhao Han's arrangements, he would no doubt be silenced sooner or later.

When she was certain that Eunuch Wen had left, Concubine Bai sighed in relief. She almost collapsed on the spot. Even though the whole interaction hadn't taken that long, her heart was all the way up in her throat. She had thought that she was dead for sure, so how could she not feel excited now that she had another lease on life?

Still, Zu An's way of saving her was just too outrageous. She had been worried that she wouldn't be able to fool Eunuch Wen. Fortunately, everything had gone smoothly. That feeling of escaping from the brink of death was a completely new one to her.

The look she gave Zu An was full of adoration and respect as she asked, "What do we do now?"

"This skill of mine can't be maintained for too long," Zu An said. As time went on, unless Pin Ru's Wardrobe was also next to them, the target would definitely return to their original appearance. Leaving a wardrobe in the tent wouldn't be that conspicuous, but he couldn't just keep it with him wherever he went, right?

He continued, "But we've already set up camp today, and there are patrolling soldiers everywhere. We'll easily startle people if we leave. Once the army continues its march tomorrow, I'll find a way to send you out of here."

"Alright," Concubine Bai said. She understood the current situation. She had just been condemned to execution, so Eunuch Wen and even the emperor could have left some people to watch them. If something strange happened now, they could both end up being killed very quickly. She looked at Nanny Ping's body lying on the bed and asked, "How do we deal with her corpse?"

Zu An stored the corpse straight into the Brilliant Glass Bead. Even though it couldn't store living things, storing corpses wasn't an issue. He said, "I'll leave tomorrow with the excuse of disposing of the corpse. I don't think Eunuch Wen and the others will suspect anything."

Concubine Bai voiced her understanding, remarking, “You’ve thought about this more deeply than I have.”

...

Then, Zu An took Concubine Bai out of the tent while Pin Ru’s Wardrobe was still active. There hadn’t been any people stationed around the tent to begin with, and those who passed by saw that it was just Nanny Ping, so no one paid them too much attention.

However, it became a bit awkward in the evening, as Eunuch Wen had had someone arrange a tent for Zu An. Concubine Bai had nowhere to go, so she could only hide inside. However, things in the army were always simplified as much as possible; so, there was only a simple bed in the tent, and it was extremely narrow. When she saw that, Concubine Bai was a bit troubled.

However, Zu An said, “ You should sleep on the bed. I’ll just meditate off to the side.” This was an extremely important matter, so he didn’t dare to have Concubine Bai leave his sight. Otherwise, he wouldn’t necessarily be able to respond in time if something happened.

Concubine Bai shook her head and replied, “You’ve already saved my life, so how can I let you suffer such an injustice? You should sleep on the bed and I’ll meditate.”

Zu An smiled and said, “Your body is already so weak, so don’t be overly polite. I’m pretty tough and have already gotten used to this.”

Concubine Bai’s face turned red as she asked, “You always let the woman sleep in the bed while you stay off to the side?”

Zu An was speechless. His expression darkened as he said, “I meant I’m used to meditation. Either way, a single night isn’t that long. It isn’t too strange for cultivators.”

Concubine Bai understood her current situation, so she didn’t force it any further. After freshening up in a simple way, she withdrew under the covers. Still, how could she sleep so easily? She carefully peeked at the man near her, blinking her large eyes from time to time. She saw that Zu An seemed to have closed his eyes earlier when she was preparing for bed and looked like he was sleeping. He really was acting like a gentleman.

Ah... why did I have to say that I'd repay him in the next life if he passed on a message for me? Now, he's even saved my life, which is way more than passing on a message. Just how am I going to repay him?

"Is there something on my face?" Zu An, who had been meditating, suddenly opened his eyes and asked. He had clearly noticed that she had been staring at him the entire time.

Concubine Bai said in embarrassment, "For some reason, it's a bit hard for me to fall asleep."

"That's nothing strange after what you just experienced," Zu An said with a nod. He then asked, "Right, there was no time earlier, but why does the emperor want you dead?"

After some hesitation, Concubine Bai said, "Actually, I come from the Devil Sect..."

Zu An nodded and said, "I know." As she was willing to tell him the truth so frankly, it seemed that he hadn't saved her in vain.

Concubine Bai exclaimed in surprise, "You knew?"

Zu An voiced his confirmation and said, "The reason I came here is that Yun Jianyue entrusted me with the task of rescuing you."

Concubine Bai's face immediately lit up. She said, "You didn't have to tell me about these things, and I would have felt even more grateful to you."

Zu An chuckled and replied, "What, you aren't grateful anymore?"

"Of course I am. I don't even know how to repay you anymore..." Concubine Bai said, feeling a bit embarrassed.

Zu An instinctively blurted out, "There's a joke from my hometown that goes like this. When a woman is saved by a man, if the man is ugly, she'll say that she'll work hard to repay the favor in her next life. If the man is handsome and her type, she'll say that she can't repay this tremendous favor with anything else, other than to devote everything to him..."

After saying that, he immediately realized that it was a bit inappropriate and quickly added, "Uh... I just thought of some things from the past. I'm not implying anything."

Concubine Bai's face turned bright red. It was unclear whether she believed him or not. After a moment of silence, she said, "I didn't expect you and senior sister to be so familiar with each other. She even asked you for help with this kind of thing."

If not for the fact that she had been undercover in the Imperial Palace, there wouldn't have been any way for Yun Jianyue and the others to carry out their assassination so easily. The reason Yun Jianyue had been able to leave so easily after was actually because of her help behind the scenes. She had always been aware of Yun Jianyue and Zu An's connection, so she had done her best to provide Zu An with help in various ways. She had thought that she was the one who knew everything behind the scenes, but she now discovered that his relationship with Yun Jianyue was even deeper than she had thought. In that instant, she felt like a little clown.

Zu An didn't want to talk too much about Yun Jianyue, as he was worried that a junior sister like her would notice something. He said, "Even if your identity was exposed, there should be no reason for the emperor to kill you. After all, you are his... Ahem, you are the mother of the imperial grandson, right?"

Concubine Bai's expression grew serious as she said, "Actually, I always had a feeling that the emperor already knew about my identity a long time ago, but he just left me to my own devices. That's why I was caught off guard by all of this too." She paused, but a while later, she slowly said, "With my understanding of the emperor, he seems to have had some kind of bad premonition. All of this seems to be... preparation for what happens next."

"What happens next?" Zu An repeated in surprise. Who was Zhao Han? He was the number one most powerful being in the entire world! Even if there was some kind of conspiracy on Violet Mountain, how could he be so weak as to need to prepare for the event of his death?

"I don't understand it either," Concubine Bai said. "Maybe it's because he had some sort of premonition, or maybe his heaven and man deterioration is drawing closer than expected, but he's been getting rid of some unstable variables. If something were to happen to him, as the mother of the imperial grandson, I could cause quite a bit of trouble. My Devil Sect background is a

potential risk to the crown princess' side, and I could even seize control over the court. He probably wasn't willing to take that risk."

Zu An thought to himself, No wonder Bi Linglong never liked Concubine Bai that much. So it was because of her political acumen allowing her to understand the threat Concubine Bai had to her position. After all, she and the crown prince were only husband and wife in name, never mind producing a child.

However, the speculation Concubine Bai proposed was really interesting. Could it be that Zhao Han really did sense the threat of death approaching?

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Chapter 1710: King Guangling

The two of them talked for a while longer until drowsiness gradually overtook Concubine Bai. After all, she had been sealed, and had also gone through such a frightening experience. Later, she had even eaten a drug that activated her hidden potential. Her body was a bit weak as a result. Thus, she unwittingly fell asleep.

Zu An didn't really mind, and continued cultivating while meditating. Nothing melodramatic or intimate happened all night. Concubine Bai didn't invite him into the bed with her and slept soundly from start to finish, and she actually slept quite well. She was quite the quiet sleeper, not exposing her thighs in the middle of the night or anything like that.

Zu An remained completely calm. He wasn't as inexperienced as he had been in the past, when he would have been hopeful for those kinds of things.

The next morning, when Concubine Bai woke up, she was startled at first. However, when she saw that Zu An was still seated in the same position, as steady as a boulder, she smiled. It had been a long time since she had last slept so well. She was actually quite surprised at herself. As someone from the Devil Sect and a survivor of a place as dangerous as the Imperial Palace for so many years, she actually trusted a man like this...

Zu An sensed her movements and opened his eyes, asking, "You're awake?"

“Yes,” Concubine Bai replied, feeling a bit embarrassed. After all, she felt as if these were words that a married couple would say to each other. Just how many women would reveal such an intimate sight in front of a man?

“Then let’s clean up and prepare to set out. If I’m not mistaken, Eunuch Wen should have already informed the surrounding guards,” Zu An said as he got up. Daytime was different from nighttime. The patrolling soldiers were far more tense at night. In order to guard against any potential dangers, they paid far more attention to any suspicious behavior. In the day, however, they were more relaxed.

“Am I going to leave just like this?” Concubine Bai asked, and was about to put on her clothes when Zu An stopped her.

“You should put on Nanny Ping’s outfit again. Just in case, you should act like a corpse,” Zu An said. That way, just in case someone checked in on them, he would be able to explain things.

“Okay,” Concubine Bai said, although she felt an instinctive rejection of Nanny Ping’s clothes. They were dirty and oily, and they also had a strange smell. However, she understood the seriousness of the issue and didn’t refuse.

Zu An took out a small chest. After some hesitation, he said, “I’ll have to trouble you to lie inside here. I don’t know if you’ll fit. If it’s too small, I’ll look for a larger one.”

Even though he stored all kinds of daily use items in the Brilliant Glass Bead, who in the world would always keep a chest nearby to store a corpse with them? Even this chest was something he had barely managed to find.

Concubine Bai looked at the chest in surprise and asked, “Would such a small chest be able to hold Nanny Ping? Won’t people grow suspicious?”

“It’s precisely because it’s small that people won’t suspect that there’s someone inside. As for Nanny Ping’s body being too large, either way, it’s already a corpse to those in the know. It should be able to just barely fit.”

“Then what about my corpse? Won’t they suspect that?” Concubine Bai asked worriedly. She’d naturally be fine once she escaped, but Zu An might get in trouble.

Zu An showed her a small bottle in his hand and said, "Eunuch Wen gave this to me yesterday. It's some kind of corpse-dissolving powder. You are a palace concubine, after all. Even if you die, your corpse can't be wantonly touched by men. So, your body was supposed to be dissolved completely to take care of the situation."

The medicine was extremely precious, and he only had enough to dissolve a single corpse. As for why Eunuch Wen hadn't done the deed himself, it could be because he didn't want to get involved too heavily and end up being killed down the line by the emperor. He had already remained in the Imperial Palace for many years, and so had already become a cunning old fox.

Concubine Bai was full of admiration. She said, "This situation that already left me in absolute despair has been dealt with so smoothly and rationally. It really is inconceivable."

"Alright, enough with the flattery already. Can you fit inside?" Zu An asked worriedly.

"It should be fine," Concubine Bai said with a blush. Then, under Zu An's shocked gaze, she first sat down in the chest, and her body trembled. Her legs moved behind her head, while her arms wrapped around her body and twisted at an exaggerated angle. In the end, she contorted herself into a sphere.

Zu An was a bit absent-minded as he looked at the bowling ball-shaped woman in front of him. He remarked, "Now this is what I call inconceivable."

Concubine Bai said in embarrassment, "My body is a bit more flexible than usual, and I learned some body arts in the Holy Sect. That's why I'm able to do this."

Zu An thought to himself, How is this just a bit more flexible? You're already practically boneless.

Just who the heck came up with the Devil Sect's skills? Whether it's Yun Jianyue and Qiu Honglei's charm skills, or Concubine Bai's body arts, they really are lethal to all men!

"I've scared you, haven't I?" Concubine Bai asked, feeling a bit worried when she saw his stupefied appearance.

“Not at all. It’s incredible,” Zu An said sincerely with a sigh of admiration.

Now, it was Concubine Bai’s turn to be embarrassed. Being stared at like this made her feel as if all her secrets had been completely exposed.

Fortunately, Zu An quickly snapped out of his daze and took out the Fake Death Pill Ji Xiaoxi had given him. He said, “Eat this. You’ll quickly enter a fake death state. That way, no one will be able to sense your aura anymore.”

There would be many strong individuals in the emperor’s procession. If her aura were exposed, many imperial guards could realize that there was someone living inside. All of their efforts would be in vain then.

Concubine Bai nodded and swallowed the pill without any hesitation. She knew she wouldn’t be aware of anything else that happened once she took the pill. Still, she felt that this man in front of her was worthy of her trust.

When he saw her gradually fall asleep, to the point that even her heartbeat and breath were almost nonexistent, Zu An sighed inwardly. Xiaoxi’s drug really is incredible. He couldn’t help but touch his lips when he remembered that kind and pure little lady. He still remembered the soft sensation from when she had given him the drug. He really owed her a lot. But this world was so big, he didn’t know when he would next meet her.

After sorting out his thoughts, he closed the container and brought Concubine Bai outside. He had to admit that her body was really light. It was almost as if the chest didn’t have any weight at all.

The camp was packing up to move again, so the surroundings were a bit noisy. However, the trip was quite smooth. Perhaps because Eunuch Wen had already informed the others, none of the imperial guards stopped him.

However, when Zu An reached the outermost area of the camp, there just happened to be troops passing by. The one in the lead was clad in golden armor and had sharp eyes. They were a group of elite troops.

Zu An cried out inwardly because the other figure was King Guangling, Zhao Yuan. He led the most elite troop of the entire Imperial Guard. Their status was quite a bit higher than his own Armed Escort Division. Most importantly, this man had always been on good terms with King Qi. The two of them were more than allies.

Sure enough, Zhao Yuan frowned when he saw Zu An, calling out, "Halt. State your intent!"

"Does General Zhao have guidance for me?" Zu An replied, not calling him by his noble title so as to not lose out in his presence. After all, their official ranks were similar, and between that and his position in the Eastern Palace, perhaps he was even ranked a bit higher.

"So it was Sir Zu," Zhao Yuan said, pretending to have just recognized who he was. "I wonder what Sir Zu is doing in such haste?"

"There is a matter that requires me to make a trip outside," Zu An said, feeling a bit regretful. If he had known that it would be like this, he would have changed into his Golden Token Envoy attire. Then, no one would dare to question him. He thought, Sigh, I've made a blunder!

"The army is about to set out. Could it be that Sir Zu's matter is more important than his majesty's procession?" Zhao Yuan said in surprise. Then, his gaze moved to the chest in Zu An's hands. "I wonder what is stored in Sir Zu's chest?"

The chest was a bit conspicuous, so it was hard to not notice it.

"There is no need to try to pressure me with his majesty's name. I am precisely acting under his majesty's orders. There is something related to my task inside," Zu An said unhappily. "Could it be that the general wishes to look inside?"

"If Sir Zu doesn't mind, then please open it up for us to examine," Zhao Yuan said with an apologetic expression. "Please do not feel offended, as this is just procedure. Anything and anyone that leaves must be examined. I am not only targeting Sir Zu."

Even though that was what he said, his expression seemed to be saying 'I am targeting you; what are you going to do about it?'

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