

Merchant 521

### **Chapter 521: Crescent Moon Radiant Sunlight Tablet**

Upon hearing Cold Moon's words, the Moon Empress did not appear particularly surprised.

Over the week that Lin Yuan had been sleeping, the Moon Empress had long noticed Cold Moon's closeness to Chu Ci.

However, she did not expect Cold Moon, whose personality had always been cold, to voluntarily accept a disciple.

With that thought in mind, the Moon Empress was certain that Cold Moon had only gotten the idea of accepting a disciple after seeing her accept Lin Yuan as her disciple.

Since Cold Moon had learned from her, the Moon Empress felt the need to teach the former how to be a good Master.

From the Moon Empress' point of view, a Master who did not know how to dote on their disciple could not be considered a good one.

"Cold Moon, you must smile more in Chu Ci's presence in the future. It is not good to be too serious."

Having said this, the Moon Empress thought for a while before changing the subject.

"Since you just accepted Chu Ci as a disciple, why don't you find her a Path Protector? This would also guarantee her safety."

The Moon Empress' expression was extremely earnest as she said this. After all, the Moon Empress had just been anxious and frightened because of Lin Yuan's recent incident.

Upon hearing the Moon Empress' words, Cold Moon hurriedly replied, "Moon Empress, I see that Chu Ci gets along well with my Icy King Dragon. I plan to name it Chu Ci's Path Protector."

The Moon Empress felt that Cold Moon was ready to be a Master.

Suddenly, she turned her gaze to the pitiful little rabbit lying on the table that was looking at the carrot growing in the soil.

The little rabbit sensed someone's eyes on its body and instantly raised its ears vigilantly.

After it saw that the Moon Empress was looking at it, the rabbit quickly turned around, stood up, and fiercely blocked the flowerpot where it had planted its carrot.

The Moon Empress shifted her gaze somewhat reluctantly. This rabbit was so close to falling into the carrot's eyes!

At that moment, a clear voice rang from the entrance of the inner palace.

"Moon Empress, the Young Lord's Path Protector, the Mother of Bloodbath, requests to see you."

Turning her head to look toward the room within the inner palace, the Moon Empress said, "Let it in."

With that, she placed one of the Smooth Crystal-Thread Jujubes that she had just peeled on the table.

Cold Moon sharply realized that the Moon Empress' expression had become more somber.

Right after, Cold Moon saw a red-haired, red-eyed woman dressed in red enter through the inner palace's entrance.

Cold Moon's entire body sent out a terrifying force.

Under Cold Moon's guidance, this force did not affect the plants in the inner palace.

However, when it handed on the Mother of Bloodbath's body, it made the fey feel as though it was trapped in a glacier.

The Mother of Bloodbath gnashed its teeth and walked forward, against this force, until it stood before the Moon Empress.

At that moment, Cold Moon's icy voice sounded. "Myth II? Your strength has improved significantly since the last time I saw you, but your alertness is too weak."

The Mother of Bloodbath had already been extremely worried the past few days. Even though it knew that Lin Yuan was not likely to be in any mortal danger, it still did not know his exact condition. Hence, it still felt uneasy in its heart.

When the evolving dimensional entrance had suddenly swallowed Lin Yuan, the Mother of Bloodbath may not have been the most worried compared to the Moon Empress or Chu Ci.

However, as Lin Yuan's Path Protector, it had undoubtedly blamed itself the most.

Upon confirming that Liu Jie and Zhou Luo had not been in danger, the Mother of Bloodbath had turned into a fist-sized spider like in the past before landing on the room's beam.

From there, it had been looking in the direction of Leaning Moon Mountain.

Even when Liu Jie had cooked after waking up, the Mother of Bloodbath had not eaten a mouthful.

Now, it looked at the Moon Empress, someone who had previously saved her life and felt even more remorseful.

Just like what Mystic Moon had said, it had not been by Lin Yuan's side to ensure his safety.

It had betrayed not only Lin Yuan's trust but also the Moon Empress' at the same time.

Even as the Mother of Bloodbath stood before the Moon Empress, it did not know what to say.

Nevertheless, after only two seconds, it broke the silence by asking softly, "Moon Empress, is Lin Yuan doing well now?"

The Moon Empress had originally harbored anger in her heart, but she sighed upon seeing the Mother of Bloodbath's expression.

"Lin Yuan is no longer in danger now. He will be able to recover fully once he awakes."

In the past, given the Moon Empress' temper, it was highly possible that the Mother of Bloodbath would have been sublimated into nothingness the moment the Moon Empress had arrived.

It could be said that the Mother of Bloodbath had not protected Lin Yuan entirely because it had lost her sense of vigilance.

If not, given its Myth II power, the Mother of Bloodbath would never have let Lin Yuan be sucked into the dimensional rift.

However, the present Moon Empress knew that she could not do anything to the Mother of Bloodbath.

When the Moon Empress had been helping Lin Yuan to find a Path Protector, she had been helping him to establish a connection.

This had been comparable to giving Lin Yuan the Extreme Token.

After the Extreme Token had been used, the Moon Empress could replenish its strength by sealing another moonlight domain within it.

Even if a source-type item like the Extreme Token were to be damaged, the Moon Empress could still put some thought into finding a replacement.

Given that Lin Yuan was the Moon Empress' disciple, she naturally understood his temperament.

With the Mother of Bloodbath's role of Path Protector as a fetter, it shared a strong bond with Lin Yuan.

Hence, even the Moon Empress, who had never sighed upon encountering a difficult problem, now sighed for the first time as she faced the Mother of Bloodbath.

The Moon Empress sent a brown flowing light flying toward the Mother of Bloodbath with the wave of a hand.

The Mother of Bloodbath quickly grabbed the brown flowing light and found that it was a simple wooden tablet with a first-quarter and a third-quarter crescent moon carved on it.

The wooden tablet's surface was faintly tinged with a halo of moonlight, making the crescent moons engraved on it appear somewhat hazy.

The Mother of Bloodbath held the wooden tablet somewhat perplexedly. At that moment, it heard the Moon Empress say, "Back then, I chose you as Lin Yuan's Path Protector because your exclusive skill and abilities would have allowed you to increase your capital strength. That was why This Empress valued you."

The Mother of Bloodbath quickly responded, "It was I who betrayed the Moon Empress' trust."

It spoke very calmly but with unspeakable firmness. It was as though it had committed a previously committed error to memory and would remember it for life.

Looking directly at the Mother of Bloodbath, the Moon Empress said coldly, "You did nothing to disappoint This Empress. It is This Empress' only hope that you do not betray Lin Yuan's trust in the future."

“You already repaid your debt to This Empress when you became Lin Yuan’s Path Protector.”

Upon hearing the Moon Empress’ words, the image of Lin Yuan’s determined gaze upon seeing it evolve to Myth II surfaced in the Mother of Bloodbath’s mind...

Along with all the bits and pieces of the times that it had spent with Lin Yuan.

### **Chapter 522: Smile and Smile Until Tears Fall**

The Mother of Bloodbath bowed to the Moon Empress and said, “Moon Empress, since Lin Yuan is no longer in any danger, I will return to the mansion to await his return.”

After speaking, it prepared to place the wooden tablet that the Moon Empress had just thrown to it on the table before her.

At that moment, the Mother of Bloodbath heard the Moon Empress speak again.

“Am I right to say that your strength is insufficient against a veteran faction like the Zheng family?”

“Before the veteran factions, the Myth Breed’s emperor-class combat power will eventually become a shield that does not let a trace of frost pass through.

“However, it’s another matter if you can attain Creation Breed combat power.

“This Crescent Moon Radiant Sunlight Tablet will protect you through the Trial of World Creation, such that you will not fall when you evolve to the Creation Breed. The rest is up to you.”

The Mother of Bloodbath froze with the wooden tablet in its hands. It had a complicated expression on its face.

However, it regained its original composure in an instant.

The Mother of Bloodbath thanked the Moon Empress again. Then, it gripped the Crescent Moon Radiant Sunlight Tablet tightly in its hand and left the Radiant Moon Palace to return to the mansion.

After the Mother of Bloodbath left, Cold Moon looked at the Moon Empress as though she was meeting her for the first time. She asked, perplexed, “You could have directly awarded the Crescent Moon Radiant Sunlight Tablet to the Mother of Bloodbath. Why did you put so much thought into it?”

Cold Moon knew that the Moon Empress had never been a woman of many words.

However, she had unexpectedly disclosed the Zheng family’s might when giving the Crescent Moon Radiant Sunlight Tablet to the Mother of Bloodbath.

Although the Moon Empress had only said one more sentence, it had completely transformed Cold Moon’s impression of her.

At that moment, the Moon Empress picked up the Smooth Crystal-Thread Jujubes that she had just put down and began using the jade-textured osmanthus wood pestle to continue pounding them.

Upon hearing Cold Moon’s question, she replied, “This small spider’s self-respect is very great. If This Empress did not mention Lin Yuan and the Zheng family, even if this Crescent Moon Radiant Sunlight Tablet could help it weather the Trial of World Creation, it would not have accepted it.”

Having said this, the Moon Empress glanced at Cold Moon before continuing. "Once you've become a Master, you will realize that martial force cannot solve every problem. In This Empress' view, the wisdom required to be a Master far outweighs that required to be a Class 5 Creation Master."

Upon hearing this, the corner of Cold Moon's mouth could not help but twitch.

She did not understand why the Moon Empress had said this.

In Cold Moon's opinion, it was very easy to be a Master.

In the future, as long as Chu Ci needed it, she would give Chu Ci everything that she could and create the conditions to give everything that she could not. Wasn't that all there was to it?

It was this simple!

Just then, Mystic Moon's clear voice rang from the inner palace's entrance again.

After entering, he immediately reported, "Moon Empress, about the Spirit Savory Pigs that you asked me to get from Chef Supreme... Chef Supreme said that only the last three pigs were left, and I only managed to get one after much struggle."

Upon hearing this, the Moon Empress's brows knitted together.

"How can there only be three left this year? Hasn't old Chef Supreme been studying the Spirit Savory Pigs' breeding process and the postpartum care of sows in Kitchen Fragrant House these few years?"

Mystic Moon's face revealed an indescribable expression. After organizing his messy thoughts, he responded, "According to Chef Supreme's first disciple, his second disciple has been studying how to make braised pork more delicious since the latter's return.

"Because Chef Supreme hadn't seen his daughter in a long while, he let his second disciple and his daughter live in Kitchen Fragrant House for half a month.

"However, during this half a month, Chef Supreme's second disciple had his eyes on those Spirit Savory Pigs. His second disciple slaughtered even the three old sows that had been responsible for producing piglets.

"In my view, it might not only be this year that there are only three Spirit Savory Pigs but every year from now on."

The Moon Empress and Cold Moon were silent for a long while before responding in unison.

"Lin Yuan is still the best."

"Chu Ci is still the best."

Blinking his eyes, Mystic Moon reached out and touched the back of his head.

It looked like he was now the only one without a disciple in the Radiant Moon Palace.

Why did he suddenly feel as though he was being isolated?

...

Lin Yuan had originally been fully immersed in his strange dream.

After an indeterminate period of time, he felt his thoughts return to his body. He could even faintly perceive everything around him through the faint spiritual energy in his mind.

He could feel the soft bed beneath his body, Morbius on his wrist, and the Flowing Cloud Beeswax pendant on his neck.

Although he could sense everything, he could not lift his heavy eyelids no matter how hard he tried.

However, Lin Yuan could already begin interacting with his feys in his mind.

Apart from the sleeping Chimey, Genius, Red Thorn, the Source Sand, and the Ethereal Jellyfish that had returned to his spiritual spatial zone at some unknown time were all interacting with Lin Yuan now.

Especially when communicating with Lin Yuan, Genius had an unusually obvious tearful note in its child-like voice.

After Lin Yuan comforted it for a while, Genius finally calmed down.

However, Lin Yuan found that no matter how he called for Morbius, he was unable to establish a connection with it.

He was extremely familiar with Morbius' current state.

Morbius was now in the state of deep sleep that it had been in when he had just contracted it.

Suddenly, Lin Yuan inexplicably thought about the reddish-gold light in his dream.

Just at that moment, an ethereal voice sounded from the deepest depths of his soul.

"My Lord."

Upon hearing this voice, Lin Yuan initially thought of responding. Unfortunately, he fell once again into a deep sleep in his fatigued state.

When he awoke, he found that he could open his eyes.

In the instant that Lin Yuan opened his eyes, he immediately saw Chu Ci standing guard by his bedside.

It was obvious that Chu Ci had been sitting there for a long time. Her hair was rather unkempt, its dull ends sticking up.

Lin Yuan did not know what the dozing Chu Ci had been dreaming about, but there were obviously traces of undried tears in the corners of her eyes.

Lin Yuan subconsciously reached out to help her wipe the corners of her eyes.

Yet, immediately after stretching his hands out, he found that they had returned to their initial positions.

Still, Lin Yuan could not help but recall the pain in his hands at that time, the pain of countless blooming blades.

After experiencing that kind of pain once, one would never wish to experience it again.

When he reached out to wipe the corners of Chu Ci's eyes, Lin Yuan's slight movement woke her up in a moment.

In that instant, Chu Ci appeared as though she had not returned from her shallow dream. Panic was still written plainly on her face.

However, upon seeing that Lin Yuan had awakened, a bright smile broke out on Chu Ci's face.

It was comparable to the bright and beautiful spring sun in April.

Yet, as she smiled and smiled, large teardrops fell from her eyes onto Lin Yuan's arms, which still carried the warmth of Chu Ci's body temperature.

### **Chapter 523: Vajra Butterfly's Willpower Rune**

Upon seeing Chu Ci cry, Lin Yuan's heart instantly tightened.

From Lin Yuan's recollection, Chu Ci had never cried more than a few times since childhood. However difficult a problem they encountered, she would always wear a smile while standing by Lin Yuan's side.

Now, Lin Yuan immediately felt a little numb.

He did not know how to make her feel better so that her tears would stop falling.

Just as he was mulling over this in his head, Chu Ci suddenly threw herself in his arms and said, hiccuping, "Brother, don't worry. I only cried because I was overjoyed."

Lin Yuan extended his arms to wrap them around Chu Ci and lightly patted her on the shoulder.

Lin Yuan and Chu Ci were both inept at expressing their innermost emotions.

Hence, the only other time they had both revealed their true emotions like this had occurred during their first year of seeking survival together.

It was when Chu Ci had been so sick that she almost hadn't made it—such a scene had taken place, but it had never happened again.

As Lin Yuan lightly patted Chu Ci's shoulder, he sighed in his heart.

Lin Yuan was extremely sensitive to Chu Ci's moods. She had definitely not been weeping with joy but getting her worry off her chest.

Moreover, Chu Ci had called him 'Brother' instead of 'Lin Yuan'.

Obviously, she had also known the whole story behind his injuries, so she must have been worried sick during this period.

Lin Yuan only came up with something to say to Chu Ci to comfort her after a long time.

Chu Ci asked softly with her face buried in his shoulder, "Brother, do you feel discomfort anywhere on your body?"

As she spoke, Chu Ci raised her head off Lin Yuan's shoulder, extended her hand, and wiped off a tear from the corner of her eye.

After which, only a smile remained on Chu Ci's face. Large teardrops would no longer fall from the corners of her eyes.

Upon hearing Chu Ci's question, Lin Yuan tried to open his mouth to speak, but he found that his throat was dry and rough from having slept for so long.

Before he could utter a single word, he began coughing.

Chu Ci hurried to the jade porcelain tea table beside her and poured Lin Yuan a cup of spirit tea from the teapot.

When he took the cup from Chu Ci's hands, Lin Yuan smiled sheepishly.

After drinking two mouthfuls of tea and his throat no longer felt dry, Lin Yuan immediately said, "I feel extremely well now! I don't feel a hint of discomfort!"

When Lin Yuan had been inside the dimensional rift struggling to stop its evolution, he had been the most worried about Chu Ci.

He would never have expected that the first person he would see when he awoke would be his sister, who he had not seen for so many days.

Chu Ci studied the sincere expression on Lin Yuan's face. It seemed like he really wasn't experiencing any discomfort.

After another round of scrutiny, she finally felt at ease when she saw that Lin Yuan was in radiant spirits.

At that moment, Chu Ci's expression grew earnest and severe. She reached her hand out and tidied the corner of Lin Yuan's blanket before saying, "Lin Yuan, I need to tell you something in earnest."

Upon hearing how Chu Ci had addressed him, Lin Yuan could not help but stop smiling.

This change had happened too quickly!

Once he had said that he was fine, she had gone back to addressing him as 'Lin Yuan'.

Nevertheless, upon seeing her serious expression, Lin Yuan also immediately grew serious.

Having grown up with Chu Ci, Lin Yuan understood her extremely well. He knew that she was about to tell him something that was very important to her.

He said very earnestly while leaning against the bed, "Why did you suddenly become so serious? Tell me. I'm all ears."

Suddenly, Lin Yuan saw a trace of grievance flash in Chu Ci's eyes.



Immediately after, her eyes reddened once more. Just as Lin Yuan became confused again, Chu Ci's words stunned him.

"Lin Yuan, can you feel what I felt when I heard that you had been sucked into the dimensional rift, and you were hanging between life and death?"

"You can't understand because I have a brother, but you don't."

This sentence, which sounded almost like bragging to Lin Yuan's ears, caused his heart to tremble fiercely.

Lin Yuan was very good at putting himself in others' shoes. Whenever he faced problems, he would try his best to consider them from another person's standpoint.

While he could not accept what some people did, he could at least understand their choices as long as they did not violate moral principles.

However, Lin Yuan realized that he had forgotten to put himself in the shoes of those whom he was closest to.

Lin Yuan's thoughts suddenly returned to a time when he had been eight years old, and it had been raining overnight in the Xia Region.

Then, Chu Ci's high fever had not been receding, but he had not had enough money to pay a healer to heal her.

In the end, it happened that Auntie Zhang had just brought Uncle Li, who had been suppressing his leg, back and had found out about Chu Ci's condition.

Auntie Zhang had hurried to find a healer to heal Chu Ci. Only then had Chu Ci survived the ordeal.

The despair that he had felt at being weak and the belief that the only companion in his bitter life would disappear were deeply engraved in Lin Yuan's heart.

His eyes reddened involuntarily.

He moved the corners of his lips, meaning to say something.

However, he did not end up speaking his intended words out loud.

Still, he said them softly in his heart.

"I have a sister, but you don't."

"So I know!"

Chu Ci froze when she looked at Lin Yuan. His eyes had unexpectedly reddened.

Chu Ci immediately became flustered.

Just then, she collected herself and changed the topic.

“Brother, I have comprehended another Willpower Rune.”

In the next instant, Chu Ci’s spiritual energy directly shot forth a Willpower Rune that had an unusually heavy feeling.

This heaviness was like a sturdy shield, but an indomitable might seemed to be hidden behind it.

It was just that this might was hidden behind the heaviness as if only after the latter were shaved off would one be able to see the former.

Lin Yuan could not believe that Chu Ci had comprehended yet another Willpower Rune in such a short period.

However, this Willpower Rune looked somewhat special. Lin Yuan was also rather puzzled by what the will in this rune actually represented.

Lin Yuan could not help but ask, “Chu Ci, under what conditions did you comprehend this Willpower Rune?”

After thinking for a while, Chu Ci responded, “I comprehended this Willpower Rune when I saw the patterns on the wings of the Vajra Butterfly.”

Upon hearing this, Lin Yuan felt as though he was receiving a blow for the first time.

He had always believed that his comprehension of Willpower Runes was already very impressive. Unexpectedly, it was nothing compared to Chu Ci’s.

After all, Lin Yuan had been looking at Genius every day, but he had never comprehended the Willpower Rune that he should have comprehended from doing so.

Still, since the Willpower Rune that Chu Ci had comprehended was from the Vajra Butterfly, then it must have been one that the butterfly could use when it became a Fantasy Breed.

In the room, as Lin Yuan studied Chu Ci’s Willpower Rune, Chu Ci also answered his questions fully.

It was as though they had both forgotten how their eyes had been red just a minute ago.

Steam curled from the tea in the porcelain cup, and the room was stained with the fragrance of matcha.

A jade safety pendant hung on the head of the bed, witnessing the peacefulness through the years under the curl of the steam.

#### **Chapter 524: Chu Ci’s Growth**

Lin Yuan looked at the new Willpower Rune Chu Ci had comprehended. He was surprised by how fast she was growing.

Lin Yuan had been working hard the past six months on increasing his own power and had gone through changes multiple times.

Chu Ci had not fallen behind either.

She already had the Fantasy Obsidian Iron Wild Bull, but now she also had the new Willpower Rune, which was the equivalent of possessing another Fantasy Breed fey.

To other spirit qi professionals who comprehended Willpower Runes, the hardest part of evolving Fantasy Breed feys was increasing their quality.

But with Lin Yuan around, it would be easy to evolve the Vajra Butterfly's quality to Legend.

The recently-turned 16-year-old Chu Ci essentially had two Fantasy Breed feys.

The thought frightened Lin Yuan.

At 16 years old, one was supposed to be in Year 1 at Redbud Intermediate Spirit Qi Academy, but Chu Ci already had two Fantasy Breed feys.

As long as Chu Ci's Fantasy Breed feys both evolved to Silver, she would distinguish herself if she attended Redbud Intermediate Spirit Qi Academy.

Moreover, both of Chu Ci's contracted feys had amazing foundations.

Although Lin Yuan had been hoping that Chu Ci's fighting style would not be too aggressive, he had to admit that the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull perfectly demonstrated how offense was the best defense.

The Vajra Butterfly was also an exceptional defense-type fey.

Lin Yuan had picked out the Vajra Butterfly for Chu Ci after sorting through numerous defense-type feys.

The Vajra Butterfly's defensive abilities were considered impressive amongst Bronze-grade feys.

In Lin Yuan's opinion, the Vajra Butterfly's true strength did not lie in its innate power but in its outstanding potential for evolution.

If the Vajra Butterfly could evolve to the Jadeite Butterfly, Chu Ci's defensive abilities would rocket up another level.

The Vajra Butterfly would need to absorb a large amount of pollen from plant-type feys to evolve into the Jadeite Butterfly, after which the plant-type feys' wood-type attribute would start to slowly change the Vajra Butterfly's aura.

During this process, pure spirit qi would need to be showered over the Vajra Butterfly in order for it to successfully evolve into the Jadeite Butterfly.

The key ingredient was the pollen from the plant-type feys that it needed to absorb.

The Vajra Butterfly was metal-type, and it would struggle to absorb the pollen from plant-type feys.

Thus, the best way for the Vajra Butterfly to evolve into the Jadeite Butterfly was for it to absorb the pollen from metal- and plant-type feys.

Previously, Lin Yuan had been worried about needing metal- and plant-type feys when he was trying to help Chu Ci contract the Vajra Butterfly. However, now he was not troubled at all over the need to procure the pollen from metal- and plant-type feys.

Jiao Hanzhong's garden-like Diamond fey storage box already had a few Golden Curtain Peonies, a metal- and plant-type fey.

The Golden Curtain Peony was an admire-type fey that blossomed at the end of the year. Its flowers were larger than bowls and glowed brightly with a metallic luster. It looked like a stack of thin metal pieces.

As an admire-type fey, the Golden Curtain Peony did not have any special uses other than highlighting one's presence.

However, it was suitable for the Vajra Butterfly to absorb its pollen.

Lin Yuan was now extremely confident of being able to evolve the Vajra Butterfly into the Jadeite Butterfly.

Lin Yuan pondered for a while before seriously saying to Chu Ci, "Since you're on holiday, you shouldn't need the Vajra Butterfly to enter battles, right?"

Chu Ci nodded and said, "I don't think I'll need the Vajra Butterfly for battle before school starts. I'm going to use the holiday to go on Star Web and watch the Radiance Hundred's members' fights."

Chu Ci's voice was full of enthusiasm.

Ever since Chu Ci had decided to become a part of the Redbud Hundred, she had set her sights on the Radiance Hundred Sequence.

Chu Ci could gauge how far her abilities were lacking by watching the Radiance Hundred Sequence's fights.

Knowing her weak points encouraged Chu Ci and motivated her to increase her power.

Lin Yuan was surprised to discover Chu Ci's ambition. She was aiming for the Radiance Hundred Sequence after such a short time.

However, the Radiance Hundred Sequence members were all devious, and each of them kept their true powers tightly locked away.

They only demonstrated the powers they possessed when they first entered the Radiance Hundred Sequence.

Lin Yuan decided against telling Chu Ci about the Radiance Hundred Sequence's true power for fear of killing her passion.

Lin Yuan wanted to cultivate her ambition.

"Leave this Vajra Butterfly with me. Let me see if I can nurture it into the Jadeite Butterfly. If I'm successful, you'll be able to increase your power again when it becomes a Fantasy Breed."

Chu Ci activated her spiritual energy to summon the Vajra Butterfly.

Chu Ci would never reject Lin Yuan's suggestion and his willingness to put in effort for her.

Chu Ci was no longer the naive girl who did not have any contracted feys. She now understood the difficulty behind evolving a fey's quality and transforming a fey.

Chu Ci knew how hard Lin Yuan had to have worked in order to secure her first fey.

She knew he had probably used up all his resources.

Lin Yuan was not one to openly express his feelings, but Chu Ci had grown up with him and knew how kind he really was.

The Vajra Butterfly was not just a fey that Lin Yuan had strengthened—the first face it had seen when it hatched belonged to Lin Yuan.

When it saw Lin Yuan leaning against the bed, the Vajra Butterfly immediately flew over to rest on his nose.

The Vajra Butterfly fluttered its wings, its wingspan covering half of Lin Yuan's face.

The dust that fell from the Vajra Butterfly's fluttering wings made Lin Yuan sneeze five times in succession.

After sneezing, Lin Yuan felt unusually relaxed.

Lin Yuan kept the Vajra Butterfly into his Spirit Lock spatial zone and prepared to find the right time to nurture it.

Before nurturing the Vajra Butterfly, Lin Yuan first needed to nurture the Golden Curtain Peonies.

### **Chapter 525: Plan to Forge Iron Bucket Sister Can't Fail!**

Chu Ci suddenly thought about her evolved Silver Obsidian Iron Wild Bull.

Chu Ci was still uncertain when it came to instructing the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull.

"Lin Yuan, my Obsidian Iron Wild Bull has evolved from Bronze to Silver. Master said that the Silver Obsidian Iron Wild Bull has decent abilities. But my senior in dueling class is always saying that its abilities are nothing special."

Lin Yuan immediately caught the keyword in Chu Ci's speech—Master.

The word Master and Teacher was extremely meaningful.

Chu Ci called everyone who taught at Redbud Intermediate Spirit Qi Academy as Teacher, but the word Master carried with it the intention of legacy. A Master could have many disciples, but a disciple could only have one Master in their lifetime.

Instead of answering Chu Ci's question, Lin Yuan asked, "Chu Ci, when did you acquire a Master? Why haven't you mentioned it to me?"

Although Chu Ci had grown up and was capable of making decisions like becoming someone's disciple, it worried Lin Yuan that Chu Ci had completely failed to bring up this important development in her life to him.

Lin Yuan's mind immediately went to her young age.

Could she have been cheated due to her lack of experience?

Chu Ci stuck her tongue out at Lin Yuan and said sheepishly, "My Master is Auntie Cold Moon! She said she wanted me to become her disciple. I feel that she looks at me the same way you do, and she feels like family too. I was planning on telling you over the phone the other night, but by the afternoon, I heard that you were sucked into the dimensional rift."

When Lin Yuan heard that it was Cold Moon, his worries vanished.

It seemed that Cold Moon and Chu Ci had been getting along very well in those few months since Cold Moon had taken Chu Ci in as a disciple.

Lin Yuan did not ask for details and changed the topic because Chu Ci had brought up the dimensional rift. He did not want her to cry again.

Lin Yuan quickly replied, "Chu Ci, summon the Obsidian Wild Bull. Let me see what's wrong with its abilities."

If Cold Moon was willing to compliment the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's abilities, it was definitely not weak.

But Chu Ci's senior had said during dueling class that its abilities were not special, which told Lin Yuan that there was an issue with ability combination.

Some feys needed some conditions to be met when they used their abilities.

Currently, Chu Ci was unable to fulfill those conditions during battle, and her opponents were of no help either.

This could be why Chu Ci was unable to use the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's Silver abilities during battle.

Chu Ci lifted her arm and summoned the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull.

Lin Yuan carefully used True Data to scan the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull.

[Fey Name]: Obsidian Iron Wild Bull

[Fey Species]: Horned species/Bull species

[Fey Grade]: Silver (5/10)

[Fey Type]: Metal

[Fey Quality]: Fantasy II

Abilities:

[Iron Horn]: Enhance the metallic properties of the nose horn. Disregard injuries and smash into the enemy with full strength.

[Sacrifice]: When the contractor is injured, automatically split the damage with the contractor. If the contractor is injured, it will feed the contractor with its vitality.

[Pain Buffer]: When damaged by elemental energy, form a shield of elemental energy on the surface of the body that will slow the elemental energy damage for a certain period. Further damage will only be incurred after the shield breaks.

Exclusive Skill:

[Pain Absorption]: When receiving damage, absorb a portion of the damage and turn it into vitality.

[Annihilation Gaze]: Domineering battle consciousness and war fervor drive its instinctive footsteps. The Obsidian Iron Wild Bull instantly transforms all the damage taken in a battle into a mental impact on the opponent.

Lin Yuan was stunned as he stared at the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's data. The spirit tea in his hand splattered all over the blanket.

The silk blanket absorbed the spirit tea, and the patch formed made it look as though Lin Yuan had wet the bed.

Lin Yuan's eyes were as wide as saucers. He stared incredulously at the metal block that was the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull.

The Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's grade was now Silver V, and its quality had improved from Fantasy I to Fantasy II.

It was difficult for Lin Yuan to evolve the quality of Fantasy Breeds.

Cold Moon definitely had something to do with Chu Ci's Obsidian Iron Wild Bull evolving to Fantasy II.

Despite this, Lin Yuan sighed heavily again.

Chu Ci's growth was too fast!

It was possible for Chu Ci to only use the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's power to take on Listen, as the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull was Fantasy II while Listen's Pain Illusory Fox and Three-Tailed Crimson Fox were both Fantasy I.

If a fight ensued, it would be hard to say who would win.

Chu Ci had been watching Lin Yuan's expression. When she saw a strange look cloud over Lin Yuan's face, she anxiously asked, "Lin Yuan, do you also think that the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's Silver abilities are lacking?"

Lin Yuan shook his head vigorously. He was pleasantly surprised by the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's Silver abilities.

When it came to raising Chu Ci's overall fighting ability, the Silver-grade Pain Buffer was more effective than the Elite-grade Sacrifice.

As a defense-type fey, the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's Sacrifice's main appeal was that it could protect its contractor, Chu Ci.

However, once the Vajra Butterfly became a Fantasy Breed, its shield could already provide Chu Ci with full protection.

Thus, Sacrifice could only be used as Chu Ci's last resort for defense.

Pain Buffer was more flexible, and it provided the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull with a temporary impenetrable shield against elemental energy.

Even if Lin Yuan was unaware of how long the Pain Buffer's shield would last, it still defended the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull against elemental energy.

The Obsidian Iron Wild Bull was already naturally resilient. Given this added temporary defensive ability, its seat as the main fey Chu Ci—a defense-type spirit qi professional—was secured for a long time.

For the first time, the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull did not look as reckless and dense to Lin Yuan.

Chu Ci sighed and said, "If only I could meet more feys on Star Web that attack with elemental energy! When those attacks hit the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull, its metal horns which can release elemental energy will look so much cooler!"

Chu Ci's lament made Lin Yuan feel that he had misjudged the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull.

The Obsidian Iron Wild Bull was not the one that was hot-headed... Chu Ci was actually the hot-headed one!

How hot-headed is Chu Ci? How can she already want to show off her power right after acquiring a good defensive ability?

Lin Yuan thought back to the fairy source-type lifeform, the Burning Sunflower, which he had traded for at the Indigo Azure Sea Market.

His confidence spiked.

No matter how impulsive Chu Ci was, the plan to forge his sister into an iron could not fail as long as there was the Burning Sunflower!

### **Chapter 526: Am I About to Have a Sister-in-law?**

Lin Yuan felt that the present situation was too much of a coincidence.

The Burning Sunflower that Lin Yuan had prepared for Chu Ci was a source-type lifeform that would have a burning effect on everyone other than its contractor.

After the Burning Sunflower was contracted, the Burning Sunflower Spirit would bloom out of its flower buds.

Fairy source-type lifeforms like the Burning Sunflower had high intelligence. As a fire-type, the Burning Sunflower Spirit had a temper like raging flames.

The Burning Sunflower would attach itself onto one target in battle while its flames razed all the opponents present.



If it attached itself onto one of its teammates, said teammate would be covered with a shield that was impervious to fire-elemental energy.

If it attached itself to an opponent, the opponent would suffer excessive damage from fire-elemental energy and burn continuously from the Burning Sunflower's nearby flames.

The Burning Sunflower also had fairy-elemental energy and could morph its body.

This meant that the feys that the Burning Sunflower Spirit attached itself to would be unable to escape the attachment through physical attacks.

The Burning Sunflower Spirit's attachment could be either a blessing or a curse depending on which side it chose.

However, the Burning Sunflower Spirit was not without weakness, as it was not as effective against feys with dispersal abilities.

Although the Burning Sunflower Spirit would only show its true might on the battlefield, Lin Yuan did not insist on giving it to Chu Ci because of the damage it could inflict on its enemies.

It was because its imperviousness against fire could provide Chu Ci with an additional level of protection.

The moment Lin Yuan had set his eyes on the Burning Sunflower, he felt that it was exceptionally compatible with the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's exclusive skill, Pain Absorption.

It would help the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull to fulfill the conditions needed for Annihilation Gaze when the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull was not being attacked.

Chu Ci's enemies would face more than just spirit qi professionals that had attacking abilities from now on.

The Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's Annihilation Gaze needed it to be injured so as to transform the damage into mental attacks that could be used against the enemy.

Once the conditions for Annihilation Gaze were met, even if Chu Ci was faced with spirit qi professionals that were skilled at using support-type feys, regular defense-type spirit qi professionals, or even healing-type spirit qi professionals, she would be fine.

After seeing the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's Silver abilities, Lin Yuan felt that the Burning Sunflower was complementary to the Pain Buffer ability.

Chu Ci had not formed a contract with the Burning Sunflower, and its abilities had not yet been ascertained.

Nonetheless, Lin Yuan was already extremely happy with the fairy source-type lifeform's original abilities.

Lin Yuan could not help but internally whistle his approval.

Many source-type lifeforms might look average, but they will become unexpectedly powerful with the right contractor that can tap into their real power.

For example, the Burning Sunflower, whose flames could not be contained, was considered a burden to most people's fey teams.

Chu Ci was a defense-type spirit qi professional, and she had the Vajra Butterfly.

The Vajra Butterfly's shield and the Burning Sunflower Spirit's protection over its own teammates against fire-elemental energy could protect Chu Ci's feys from being burned.

Besides hoping that they had an impressive fey, spirit qi professionals also wanted their contracted feys to complement each other so as to form a well-rounded combat system.

The addition of the Burning Sunflower to Chu Ci's combat system would change the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's originally man-powered strength into nuclear-powered.

Lin Yuan only hoped that Chu Ci's process of forming a contract with the Burning Sunflower would go smoothly and that the Burning Sunflower was not hiding any strange abilities.

Although Chu Ci had formed a contract with the Burning Sunflower, Lin Yuan felt that his plan to nurture his sister into an iron bucket had completed its beginning stage.

Lin Yuan did not use to be a shut-in, but he did often get dragged off by classmates to play League of Legends.

No matter which hero Lin Yuan chose, he would lose whenever he encountered Demacia powerhouses.

Regardless of how hard Lin Yuan worked, he could not break out of the 0-8 where he died multiple times.

As such, since the Lin Yuan of today was set on turning Chu Ci into an iron bucket, he was determined to help Chu Ci attain power akin to a Demacia powerhouse's.

The Obsidian Iron Wild Bull's exclusive skill, Pain Absorption, was the equivalent of Chu Ci wearing Warmog's Armor.

The Vajra Butterfly's exclusive skill Counterattack Tremor was the equivalent of Chu Ci wearing Thornmail.

Once Chu Ci formed a contract with the Burning Sunflower, she would also be wearing the equivalent of Sunfire Cape.

With all these armors, how could she lose? I'm going to nurture her into Demacia itself! This is what a good brother should do.

When Chu Ci saw that Lin Yuan was suddenly stunned, she anxiously waved her hands in front of his face. Lin Yuan did not react, and she had no idea what was going through his mind.

She stared warily at Lin Yuan as she blinked.

Chu Ci considered sending out a message for help on Star Web's gossip column.

Her post would be—'My brother is suddenly spacing out. Am I about to have a sister-in-law?'

Chu Ci cleared her throat and decided to test Lin Yuan.

“Big Brother, it’s two days until New Year’s. Who are you going to spend it with?”

When Lin Yuan heard Chu Ci’s words, his brain was split between thinking about the next step in his plan to turn his sister into a Demacia powerhouse and the Burning Sunflower’s potential.

The gears in Lin Yuan’s mind were turning rapidly.

Lin Yuan hoped that after the Vajra Butterfly became a Fantasy Breed, it would form a connection with the Burning Sunflower.

This would allow Chu Ci to form a fighting formation with the Obsidian Iron Wild Bull at the center, and the three feys would be working with perfect cohesion.

Since his mind was preoccupied, Lin Yuan unconsciously said, “I’ll be spending it with you, of course!”

Before Chu Ci could react to Lin Yuan’s response, she saw him splutter and turn toward her to ask in surprise, “What? How is it only two days until New Year’s?”

Chu Ci nodded.

Lin Yuan remembered that when he had been sucked into the dimensional rift, there were still ten days until New Year’s.

Lin Yuan was certain that he had only used half a day to stop the dimensional rift from evolving.

This meant he had been in a coma for seven days!

### **Chapter 527: The Warmth in the Years**

Lin Yuan instinctively touched his pocket.

This was when he realized that his clothes had been changed an unknown amount of time ago.

Instead of his original moon-white spirit qi clothes, he was now wearing moon-white lounge clothes similar to what he and the Moon Empress wore on a daily basis.

Lin Yuan was about to look for his phone when he suddenly remembered the Mother of Bloodbath had taken his phone before he was sucked into the dimensional rift.

Lin Yuan hurriedly turned to Chu Ci and asked, “Chu Ci, lend me your phone. I need to make a call.”

When Chu Ci saw the look of worry on Lin Yuan’s face, she quickly handed him her phone.

Seeing how worried he is, could something urgent have happened?

Before he had lost consciousness, Lin Yuan had treated Liu Jie’s injuries, but Lin Yuan was unsure if Liu Jie’s mental state had been affected by the purplish-gray poison.

During the seven days that he had been in a coma, the Insect Queen’s transformation must be almost completed.

Lin Yuan was also rather concerned about Zhou Luo.

However, Zhou Luo's life was not in danger.

Since Zhou Luo had taken an oath to Lin Yuan under the Willpower Rune, Lin Yuan was certain that Zhou Luo was still alive.

Lin Yuan received Chu Ci's phone and was about to call when he realized that Chu Ci did not have Liu Jie's number.

Lin Yuan did not have the habit of memorizing phone numbers, so he circulated his spiritual energy to summon Genius.

Lin Yuan asked Genius, "Genius, what's Big Brother Liu's phone number?"

Genius had evolved into the Thousand Questions Beast and was not what it used to be.

Not only had it retained all its abilities as a housekeeping beast, but it was also even stronger now.

Genius answered in a child-like voice, "1..."

Genius hopped into Lin Yuan's embrace, its tiny claws digging into Lin Yuan's neck.

Genius had turned into a mask for Lin Yuan when they were in the dimensional rift.

Thus, Genius and Lin Yuan had shared the same view of everything in the dimensional rift.

Genius had watched with fright as the flesh of Lin Yuan's hands was stripped by the dimensional fluctuations.

However, Genius had been unable to do anything other than watch.

Lin Yuan had comforted Genius in the spiritual world, but it was still anxious over Lin Yuan after being summoned.

When Lin Yuan saw how worried Genius was, he stroked Genius' three tails and was about to massage Genius' furry neck when he saw Genius raise its head to look at him.

Tears were welling up in Genius's eyes, but it spoke with utter solemnity. "I want to be stronger, Yuan! I want to help you!"

Lin Yuan smiled and stroked Genius' head.

"Genius has always been helping me. Knowledge is power. You're amazing!"

Genius swiped its claws at the air before replying, "Genius is as powerful as a plate of roasted meat. I'll do my best to become as powerful as 100 plates of roasted meat!"

Genius stretched out its claws and waved it in front of Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan pinched Genius' claws that were moving about in the air and touched the soft pads underneath its claws. He shook the claws twice before hooking his finger around Genius's claws.

"Then we have a deal. I can't wait till Genius becomes as powerful as 100 plates of roasted meat!"

Genius' brilliant blue eyes shone, and the corners of its eyes were still damp.

Genius' small face spread into a human-like grin.

Before Genius could respond, Chu Ci dashed in.

Chu Ci scooped Genius into her arms and started to stroke Genius' fur with practiced ease.

Chu Ci's actions immediately had Genius purring contentedly.

"Did you miss me, Little Genius?"

Chu Ci took a few pieces of meat out of the fey storage box Lin Yuan had gifted her and held the fragrant morsels up to Genius' mouth.

In the time that Lin Yuan had been in a coma, Genius had not had any appetite for food.

Most of the Cane Luffa in the Spirit Lock spatial zone had ripened and fallen to the ground during the seven days.

Genius had been so worried about Lin Yuan that it had not thought about food at all.

But now that it took a whiff of the meat in Chu Ci's hand, Genius' stomach immediately started to gurgle.

Genius said in a child-like voice instead of eating the meat, "Genius missed Chu Ci so much! I missed you as much as 1,000 pieces of roasted meat!"

Lin Yuan raised his eyebrow at Genius' words.

Genius had always been beloved everywhere it went. Even a middle-aged uncle like Hu Quan enjoyed hugging Genius at every opportunity.

Lin Yuan finally understood why.

At that moment, Lin Yuan's call to Liu Jie went through.

Lin Yuan rushed to ask, "How are you recovering, Big Brother Liu?"

Liu Jie did not answer Lin Yuan's question. He could not help but take over the conversation and ask, "How are you, Lin Yuan?"

Liu Jie still had more to say, but Lin Yuan heard Wen Yu's voice on the other end say, "Big Brother Liu, is the call from Young Master? Why didn't you say anything? Has his body recovered?"

Lin Yuan heard Wen Yu's voice increase in volume by several times.

"All of you come here! Young Master is calling!"

Less than half a minute later, Lin Yuan heard Endless Summer, Hu Quan, the Mother of Bloodbath, Listen, and Zhou Luo's voices.

Their tones were urgent as they anxiously questioned his condition.

A tinge of warmth crept over Lin Yuan's heart.

When the cacophony of voices died down, and after some idle chatter, Lin Yuan said, "I'll be going back tomorrow. It's going to be New Year's in two days. We should make preparations together!"

Lin Yuan was really looking forward to this year's New Year's celebrations.

Last year, Lin Yuan had spent New Year's with Chu Ci in the Xia Region.

This year, both Lin Yuan and Chu Ci had embarked on a new chapter of their lives and had amassed many caring companions.

After saying that, Lin Yuan was about to ask if Liu Jie's Insect Queen had finished transforming.

Liu Jie said, "Lin Yuan, I just received word from the Radiance Sacred Hall that the Chief Guard of the Spirit Guards wants to see me!"

Now that he knew Liu Jie was busy, Lin Yuan did not ask about the Insect Queen's transformation.

Lin Yuan was going to return to the mansion tomorrow anyway. If there were any issues with the Insect Queen, Lin Yuan could use True Data then to check.

The moment he hung up, an ethereal and strangely crisp spiritual voice called out once again from the depths of Lin Yuan's soul.

"My Lord."

### **Chapter 528: The Grace Queen and the Sword of Punishment**

Lin Yuan was immediately startled upon hearing that voice.

He had already found its source—it had come from the depths of his soul.

He subconsciously pushed his thoughts into the depths of his soul. He discovered that he could touch it unimpeded this time, although he had failed to do so before.

There, Lin Yuan immediately found that within one of the two humanoid shadows was a girl with her eyes closed, a crown on her head, and a sharp sword in her hand.

He used True Data to scan the girl floating in the air within the shadow.

Upon analyzing True Data's information, Lin Yuan was suddenly at a loss for words!

Could sacred source lifeforms merge?

The girl whom he had scanned was not one sacred source lifeform but two that were merging together.

These two sacred source lifeforms were presently merging together slowly into one.

This led Lin Yuan to think about the scene in his dream where the reddish-gold light had coerced the crown-wearing girl into embracing that sharp sword.

According to True Data, this girl was a sacred source lifeform with the name 'Grace Queen'.

And the sword with the gorgeous patterns engraved on its hilt was also a sacred source lifeform with the name 'Sword of Punishment'.

These two sacred source lifeforms had already been 70% fused.

After the remaining 30% fused together, the two would become a new sacred source lifeform.

Lin Yuan made a rough calculation based on the time that he had spent in a coma. He would know what kind of sacred source lifeform would come about from the fusion of the Grace Queen and the Sword of Punishment in about three days.

In the process, the two's abilities would be sealed off as they fused together.

As they had already been around 70% fused, Lin Yuan could not understand their individual abilities from the information he had obtained from True Data.

Nevertheless, just by looking at her name, the Grace Queen was a sacred source lifeform with support abilities, while the Sword of Punishment was one with attack abilities.

Lin Yuan was not at all worried about what the two would fuse to become—he was filled only with intense anticipation.

The Moon Empress and the Mother of Bloodbath had both previously mentioned that every sacred source lifeform had irreplaceable abilities.

This also meant that sacred source lifeforms did not have a weak existence.

Moreover, even if Lin Yuan did not know why these two perfectly good sacred source lifeforms would fuse together in his soul, he knew that the new lifeform birthed from their fusion would be stronger than their original forms!

If not, why would they even fuse?

In the depths of his soul, Lin Yuan could hear the crowned girl with her eyes closed calling him "My Lord" continuously, even when he was deep in sleep.

He felt a throb originating from his bloodline.

This throb connected him and the girl tightly.

Back then, in order to prevent the dimensional rift's evolution, the two sacred source lifeforms in Lin Yuan's hands had absorbed a lot of his blood.

They had even absorbed some of Lin Yuan's bone marrow from his broken bones.

If not for the fact that this crowned girl with her eyes closed was an illusory spiritual body, just the feeling of his bloodline's connection to her would have made Lin Yuan feel as though he were raising a daughter.

At present, Lin Yuan did not think too much. He just needed to wait three days.

Then, he could use True Data to completely understand the new sacred source lifeform's abilities.

After coming back to his senses, Lin Yuan found that Genius had turned into a cat pancake in Chu Ci's arms.

Its three small tails wagged continuously as it wore a satisfied look on its face.

Actually, when Lin Yuan had hung up the phone earlier on, he had already noticed that Chu Ci had been looking at him hopefully.

At the same time, her expression carried a hint of shyness.

Lin Yuan could immediately tell what Chu Ci was thinking about.

Lin Yuan stretched his hand out and stroked her hair as she hugged Genius in her arms.

After pressing down the stray hair on her head, he said, "Buy whatever you want when you go shopping for New Year's goods. This time, the Black Back Mountain Boar and Bighead Carp Soup will be enough!"

Chu Ci chuckled upon hearing Lin Yuan's words.

Although she still didn't know how many resources Lin Yuan had on hand, just the pocket money she received from him on her Star Web Card every once in a while would be enough to buy several Black Back Mountain Boar and Bighead Carp breeding farms.

Moreover, Chu Ci always ate the nutritional set meal that Lin Yuan had customized at the Spirit Food Pavilion. She could always eat food that was two times more delicious than Black Back Mountain Boar and Bighead Carp Soup.

However, when Lin Yuan mentioned these two dishes, Chu Ci still felt unrestrained warmth surging in her heart.

No matter what happened in the future, the taste of Black Back Mountain Boar and Bighead Carp Soup had long been engraved in Chu Ci's memory.

In her 16 years, this taste was equivalent to the memory of celebrating New Year's with Lin Yuan.

"Brother, don't be reluctant to eat the carp in the Bighead Carp Soup this New Year's."

Lin Yuan rubbed his nose upon hearing this.

Chu Ci had really misunderstood his intentions!

During every New Year's meal, Lin Yuan would indeed always save the Black Back Mountain Boar's lean meat for Chu Ci, while he would eat some of the boar skin or vegetable soup that she did not like.

However, he did not eat the carp in the Bighead Carp Soup just because Chu Ci liked eating it... He didn't like eating foods with strong smells at all.

When it came to this, Genius had the same preferences as Lin Yuan.

After Chu Ci had spoken, the hope in her expression disappeared.

Every year, she and Lin Yuan would hold a few hundred Federation dollars to buy New Year's goods.



This had been her childhood dream.

Now that she had grown up, even if buying New Year's goods was no longer her dream, the thought of eating New Year's delicacies still filled her with delight.

Perhaps what delighted her even more was the fact that she could spend time with Lin Yuan, just like when they had been children.

As the hope on Chu Ci's face disappeared, her shy and restrained expression grew increasingly intense.

Upon seeing her expression, Lin Yuan revealed his white teeth with a bright smile and said...

### **Chapter 529: Skipping a Grade and the Woman in Black on the Rope Bridge**

"Haven't you already met Liu Jie and Wen Yu?"

"Previously, you also saw all those people when we were on that video call.

"They all hope that you can come over. Wen Yu already set up a room for you when the mansion was built.

"Uncle Hu knows that you like Black Back Mountain Boars, so he even made some wooden carvings of them that he left in your room."

Upon hearing Lin Yuan's words, Chu Ci wondered if she still wanted to defend herself at this time.

She could not remember how many times she had already told Lin Yuan that she only liked eating Black Back Mountain Boars—she didn't like the boars themselves.

However, every time she explained this, Lin Yuan would always be afraid that she was oversensitive and would hint to her that she was free to like any fey.

Not being too concerned about this, Chu Ci decided to give up on correcting him.

The shyness on her face also vanished.

After she had grown a bit older, Chu Ci had also begun helping Lin Yuan greet the guests at his fey store.

Although she was not good with words, she was also not a coy person.

It was just that, meeting so many of Lin Yuan's friends at once still made a 16-year-old girl like Chu Ci feel a little nervous.

After all, even if she did know some of the mansion's inhabitants, she had only met them through a video call and not in real life.

Suddenly, Chu Ci recalled Cold Moon's suggestion for her before the latter had become her master and said, "Brother, Master said that if I qualify for the Redbud Hundred this year, I can represent them to participate in the Radiance Hundred Sequence's selection next year.

"I will also get the chance to qualify for the ten Radiance Hundred seats.

"If I do qualify for the ten seats, Master suggested that I should directly skip a grade and take the entrance examination for Royal Capital Advanced Spirit Qi University."

Upon hearing this, Lin Yuan did not immediately help Chu Ci make a decision as he would have done so before.

Instead, he smiled slightly and replied, "You're all grown up now. You can make your own decisions about these matters."

In this world, the person who most understood Lin Yuan may not have been Chu Ci, but the person who most understood Chu Ci was definitely Lin Yuan.

Although Chu Ci was usually rather reserved, she was someone with her own ideas.

Since Chu Ci had brought this matter up with him, it proved that she was already planning to skip a grade and enter Royal Capital Advanced Spirit Qi University.

Previously, Lin Yuan had gritted his teeth and chosen to let Chu Ci continue her education under such difficult conditions because he had wanted her to experience a complete childhood and feel that she could gain the same knowledge as other children with parents.

However, Chu Ci now chose to embark on a path for prodigies through her talent and hard work.

After the holidays were over and she returned to school, Chu Ci would possess two Fantasy Breed feys and one fairy source-type lifeform, the Burning Sunflower.

It was very likely that few of the seniors who used to participate in training competitions with Chu Ci were now worthy of being her opponents.

This was, for someone like Chu Ci, who was good at finding problems in actual combat and making progress, tantamount to missing out on many opportunities for hard practice.

Hence, for Chu Ci to maximize her growth, her best option was to attend Royal Capital Advanced Spirit Qi University.

By that time, she would also be able to live in the mansion and return to it directly every day after school.

The siblings could also live together every day.

Chu Ci smiled upon hearing Lin Yuan's words.

"Then I will do as Master says and aim to skip a grade next year to attend Royal Capital Advanced Spirit Qi University."

Lin Yuan scratched Chu Ci's nose, thinking to himself that her heart's ambition was not small.

Nevertheless, thinking about her Obsidian Iron Wild Bull that had evolved from Silver to Fantasy II and how she now had an expert like Cold Moon as her Master, Lin Yuan suddenly had the feeling that Chu Ci could even get a seat in the Radiance Hundred Sequence the next day if she wanted to.

Having been awake for a while now, Lin Yuan said as he lifted the covers and got out of bed, "Chu Ci, let's go out! Our Masters must be worried sick!"

As he spoke, Lin Yuan's expression grew slightly cold.

At that time, he was thinking about Hunting-Ashes, the gray-haired, gray-eyed man whom he had encountered in the dimensional rift.

He also recalled how the man had said the name 'Seventh Page War' after injuring Liu Jie and thinking that Lin Yuan and Liu Jie would definitely die.

It could be said that these two pieces of information were all the information about the enemy that Lin Yuan could grasp while he had been in the evolving dimensional rift.

Now that he was back at the Radiant Moon Palace, Lin Yuan could relay this information to the Moon Empress. He could also see if the Moon Empress knew who this opponent was and how much power they had.

...

Liu Jie only felt confused at that moment.

Even if he was ranked Radiance Hundred Sequence #30, he was still unworthy of being personally received by the Chief Guard of the Spirit Guards.

Moreover, the Chief Guard herself had personally informed the Radiance Sacred Hall about this matter before they had relayed the news to him. This could be said to be extremely formal.

Yet, the more formal it was, the more Liu Jie felt that it was unusual.

He also had a faint guess. The reason the Chief Guard had summoned him likely had something to do with the dimensional rift that had appeared at the coastal sea near Indigo Azure City.

It was just that, although this was an important matter, the Spirit Guards' Guard Envoys could have been fully responsible for receiving him.

Besides the Guard Envoys, even the left and right heads could have taken care of this.

It did not require the Chief Guard at all.

While Liu Jie puzzled over this, he arrived at the lakeside of Spirit Guard Lake, where the Spirit Guards' headquarters was located.

As long as he walked across the rope bridge that led to the center of the lake, Liu Jie would arrive at the Spirit Guards' headquarters.

When he arrived at the lakeside and was preparing to step onto the rope bridge, Liu Jie saw a black-robed, black-veiled woman in the distance.

She was standing in the middle of the bridge with her hands behind her back.

She did not reveal the slightest spirit qi fluctuation, as though she was an ordinary person.

Even when the east wind caused the rope bridge to sway, the woman's figure was like the unmoving bronze beast guarding the ends of the bridge.

As a Radiance Hundred Sequence member, Liu Jie had seen the Chief Guard of the Spirit Guards before. Just by looking at the way she was dressed and her appearance on the rope bridge near the Spirit Guards' headquarters, Liu Jie could immediately confirm her identity.

### **Chapter 530: Greetings, Chief Guard; What a Coincidence**

At that moment, an idea suddenly sprang into Liu Jie's head.

"Can it be that the Chief Guard is waiting for me here?"

However, he cast this idea aside as soon as he thought of it.

Given the current active period of this dimensional rift, the Chief Guard would have to deal with many things every day. How would she have been able to make time to wait for him?

Just as Liu Jie looked at the black-robed, black-veiled Chief Guard, she seemed to sense his gaze and turned her head to look toward him.

Despite the vast distance between them, Liu Jie still saw the Chief Guard's pitch-black eyes the moment she turned around.

Under the gaze of that pair of pitch-black eyes, Liu Jie suddenly felt a trace of indescribable pressure.

He was like a fish leaving the water under a final endless, starless night that felt like it would be sealed off by the endless night, doomed to sink forever.

At that moment, Liu Jie stepped onto the rope bridge and walked across it to the other side.

The Chief Guard stared at him unyieldingly, which filled him with a strange feeling.

However, he also had no idea what to do. He had no choice but to move forward one step at a time.

The more he walked, the more misgivings surfaced in his heart.

There was no one on the bridge but Liu Jie, and the Chief Guard kept looking in his direction without shifting from her position.

It really looked like she was specifically there to wait for him.

Liu Jie quickened his pace and walked until he was beside the Chief Guard.

After thinking for so long, he still did not know what to say to her.

Finally, he only said respectfully, "Greetings, Chief Guard. What a coincidence."

Upon hearing Liu Jie's words, Night Leaning Moon turned her body to make room for him.

She signaled for him to come forward and walk shoulder to shoulder with her.

Immediately after, Liu Jie heard an unusual sound that was steady yet sweet as a singing yellow oriole.

Upon hearing this sound, he inexplicably thought of the sound that Chimey made when it was calling out.

Because of Bai Hao, Liu Jie had also heard Sparrow Voice Loli Goddess, Star Web's beautiful host, sing a few times before.

Previously, Liu Jie had only sighed at how Sparrow Voice Loli Goddess' singing voice was so pleasant that it could actually be compared to that of an avian fey.

However, Liu Jie suddenly had an idea. What if the beautiful Star Web live streamer was the Spirit Guards' Chief Guard?

He immediately cast this idea aside as soon as he came up with it.

Liu Jie thought in his heart about the absurdity of this notion. Could the influence of the mental poison in the dimensional rift have messed with his head?

Nevertheless, upon hearing the Chief Guard's words, Liu Jie's expression transformed immediately.

He looked both shocked and solemn.

"It was not a coincidence. I intended to come here to wait for you.

"Am I right to say that your Insect Queen has not woken up from its state of mutation?

"The Insect Queen's body should have absorbed most of the Blade Queen Bee's natal poison within the natal poison core."

Back in the evolving dimensional rift, Liu Jie had been tortured by the purplish-gray mental poison.

Even after receiving Lin Yuan's healing and the Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia's baptism, only his physical body had been healed.

If not for the Cinnabar Sweet Osmanthus flower paste that Lin Yuan had given him, it was very likely that Liu Jie would have woken up a few days later.

Moreover, Liu Jie had still slept for a full five days and had woken up only two days earlier than Lin Yuan.

Upon awakening, Liu Jie had found himself lying in his own room in the mansion.

According to Wen Yu, it had been Uncle Mystic who had brought him there.

Now, the Chief Guard not only knew about his Insect Queen's condition, but it was also in such great detail.

This meant that when he had been in a coma after being spat out of the dimensional rift, the Chief Guard must have been there to have personally checked the Insect Queen's condition.

Upon hearing the Chief Guard mention the Insect Queen, Liu Jie thought about when he had sensed the Insect Queen's condition himself.

In the process of evolutionary mutation, the Insect Queen had been in an awkward state where it could neither advance nor retreat.

Now that the Chief Guard had mentioned the Blade Queen Bee's natal poison, Liu Jie finally knew what the gray-haired, gray-eyed man had launched at him in the dimensional rift.

The Insect Queen had absorbed this poison in order to mutate.

However, because there had not been enough poison in the natal poison core, the Insect Queen had been unable to absorb the amount needed to complete its mutation.

The poison had also fused into the Insect Queen's genetic model during the mutation process.

Now, as the Insect Queen had been suspended in the mutation process for a long time, it was very possible that the absorbed natal poison would attack the Insect Queen's body.

If that happened, the poison engraved in the Insect Queen's genetic model would explode in its body.

The Insect Queen's spiritual energy would be severely damaged by the Blade Queen Bee's mental poison.

It might even die under the poison's attack.

Most people would not easily discuss private issues like the condition of their feys with others.

However, since the Chief Guard had asked, Liu Jie did not hold back when he told her about the Insect Queen's current condition.

As he spoke, his feet traversed the rope bridge and stepped onto the Spirit Guards' land.

They continued walking toward the study where Night Leaning Moon always stayed.

After understanding the Insect Queen's condition, Night Leaning Moon said, "The Insect Queen only needs to absorb more of the Blade Queen Bee's natal poison from its poison core in order to complete its mutation."

Upon hearing this, a bitter smile revealed itself on Liu Jie's face.

Carcinoma feys were rare on this continent. Moreover, he needed to find a particular carcinoma fey.

This was simply an impossible task.

At that moment, Night Leaning Moon added unhurriedly, "When you said 'what a coincidence' just now, you weren't wrong.

"Amongst the carcinoma feys kept in the Spirit Guards' headquarters, there happens to be one Blade Queen Bee."

As she spoke, Night Leaning Moon was already sitting at the desk in her study where she usually read the secret letters sent by her Guard Envoys.

Liu Jie was pleasantly surprised by her words.

Deeply concerned about the Insect Queen, Liu Jie had forgotten that the Spirit Guards and Guard Envoys took in carcinoma feys found throughout the Radiance Federation and high-grade feys that had committed evil, keeping them on this land.

The Spirit Guards were in charge of the world's feys.

Based on the Chief Guard's words, it seemed that he could extract the natal poison core from the Blade Queen Bee's body and give it to the Insect Queen.