

My Crown 1281

Chapter 1281: Forgot to Take Medicine

If it had hands right now, it could just yank that black spirit jade off that person.

*It was all that d*mn lass's fault for kicking it, an egg, inside and leaving it to live or perish on its own.*

So infuriating!

Whish! The tablecloth got lifted, and a sharp gaze landed on it.

'Wah! Master, Master, Master, I've been discovered!!' The egg shrunk back in terror and tumbled straightaway to Mo Lian's table.

Crown Prince Mo, who was speaking with his father-in-law, suddenly caught a glimpse of a round object out of the corner of his eye.

His mouth twitched involuntarily after he focused his gaze. That phoenix egg bolted over to him frantically in a human-like fashion, as if he were his brother that it hadn't seen in 800 years...

On the other hand, Duan Yue was holding a wine cup in his hand and crossed his slender legs as he chatted with Situ Yi about his previous trip into the Mystic Beast Forest.

Out of the corner of his eye, he sensed the two young sirs from the Qin Estate shooting from the next table.

He wrinkled his brows and swept a look over in return. However, he noticed that those two people weren't glaring at him but rather...

He followed their gazes downward and then saw a huge egg swiftly and nimbly tumbling toward Mo Lian's feet before sneaking behind the tablecloth.

Uh, it was a very big egg.

Eldest Young Sir Qin seemed to have realized something, and his eyes brightened as he strode up to Mo Lian with a beam. "Your Highness the Crown Prince, would you please excuse me."

"What are you doing." Crown Prince Mo stretched out his long leg, blocking Eldest Young Sir Qin from lifting up the tablecloth.

"Your Highness the Crown Prince, that egg rolled past me suspiciously just now. I suspect that it wants to steal something of mine."

The crown prince was unable to maintain the solemn expression on his face and burst out laughing. "You're nuts! What can an egg steal from you?"

Beside him, Duan Yue was also cracking up so hard that he had to support his forehead with his hand. "Hey, I say, Eldest Qin, have you forgotten to take your medicine before leaving the house today!"

“Hahaha.” Situ Yi couldn’t hold it in either as he doubled up in laughter.

Yet the eldest young sir gave them all a spurious smile. “Since that egg had been rolling back and forth at my feet just now, I have reason to suspect it of harboring bad intentions.”

Qiao Zhongbang twitched his mouth and hastily mediated with a smile, “Eldest Young Sir Qin, could it be that you were imagining it? Are there eggs here? There aren’t any eggs, no eggs^{1!}”

Situ Yi was unable to resist laughing out loud. *Why the heck did he feel that this conversation was turning so weird?*

“There is an egg, and it is behind the tablecloth. Everything will be clear after we lift it up and take a look.” The eldest young sir smiled as he flicked open his folding fan with a swish and fanned himself. That spot of vermillion between his brows glimmered in the sunlight, making him look exceedingly devilish.

Before Mo Lian could stop Second Uncle Qiao, who had gotten tipsy, the latter had lifted up a large section of tablecloth.

The crowd stuck their heads closer to look underneath the table before promptly hooting with laughter, “There’s no egg, where is the egg, no egg at all!”

“Hahahaha!” Duan Yue was splitting his sides in laughter as he blinked his cold, peach-blossom eyes. He examined Eldest Young Sir Qin with twinkling eyes and chortled, “Hey, are you looking to pick a quarrel, hm?”

“Fourth Duan, I don’t believe that you don’t see it.”

“See, see what?” Qiao Zhongbang was confused. The space under this table was empty at a glance. Let alone that egg, there wasn’t even a speck of bird poop.

“Don’t see it.” Duan Yue shook his head. “Ask Xiao Mo if you don’t believe me.”

Chapter 1282: Not Looking for You, I’m Looking for the Egg

Crown Prince Mo nodded seriously. “Don’t see anything.”

Eldest Qin’s mouth twitched, and then he started snickering, “The crown prince and Fourth Duan both need to get your eyes checked.”

Bam! Second Uncle Qiao abruptly smacked the table as he stood up with a flushed face, shouting drunkenly while pointing at Eldest Young Sir Qin, “You’re the one who needs to get your eyes checked! What do you want to do? Where is there an egg here, where is the egg? There is only you dumb egg here!!”

Everyone: “...”

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Mo Lian facepalmed while sniggering, unable to rein in his amusement.

Second Uncle was too comical. They had already told him not to drink since it only took three cups to make him drunk, yet he had drunk so much.

Second Young Sir Dou quickly walked over and mediated, "Alright, alright, both Eldest Young Sir Qin and the Qiao Family's Second Uncle are a bit tipsy, so let us not mind that egg. Today is Second Uncle Qiao's big day, so we..."

"Ay! It's fine if other people's eyesight have problems. But it's too fake if Your Highness the Crown Prince, Fourth Young Sir Duan, and Brother Situ pretend to not see anything." Eldest Young Sir Qin fanned himself with the folding fan and proclaimed with a simper, "How about we just wait here for a bit and see if it will reveal its true form!"

"I don't know what you are talking about." Duan Yue suppressed the impulse to burst out in laughter before forcefully trying to put down the tablecloth.

However, Eldest Young Sir Qin reached out to stop him, causing Duan Yue to stick out his leg to kick him.

Seeing that these two people were about to go at it for some unfathomable reason, Qiao Zhongbang quickly stepped in to stop them. "Let us talk things out nicely."

It was at this chaotic moment that a white light abruptly flitted past everyone so quickly that they could only catch a glimpse of a round furball.

That speed was simply comparable to a swift strike of lightning. After brushing past Eldest Young Sir Qin's waist, it rapidly leapt up to the roof and vanished in several breaths' time.

After the eldest young sir grasped at his belt, a peculiar smile appeared on his face.

On the other hand, Second Qin had sat at the table from beginning to end, not budging even a bit.

Yet his eyes flickered at this juncture, and he stood up to walk toward the eldest young sir.

"You saw now, right. My jade pendant got stolen." The eldest young sir gave Crown Prince Mo and Duan Yue a sardonic smile.

However, those two shameless fellows just shook their heads in unison. "Didn't see anything."

"Ha, ha!" On the other hand, Situ Yi produced two awkward chortles, but before he could continue, the tipsy Second Uncle Qiao exclaimed, "Eh? There really is an egg!"

Fifteen minutes had just gone by, so the egg's disguise was unveiled.

It immediately headed for its teammates: Mo Lian, Duan Yue, and Situ Yi...

"Haha!" Eldest Young Sir Qin applauded with a chuckle, "You can all see it now right. As this young sir said, it is clearly the crown prince and Fourth Duan who need to get their eyes checked!"

Duan Yue: ...

“The crown prince consort has arrived!!” At this moment, the two guards keeping watch at the arched door of the forecourt saw the crown prince consort flashing past. Their brains short-circuited for three seconds before they hastily announced her entrance.

The young crown prince consort strode over quickly as she gazed expressionlessly at the crowd.

Mo Lian immediately went up to welcome her with smiling phoenix eyes. “Qiaoqiao, you’ve come to look for your husband.”

“Not looking for you, I’m looking for the egg.”

Mo Lian: ...

Duan Yue guffawed as he gave Mo Lian a taunting smirk, “Your status can’t even match up to an egg.”

“Scram!” Mo Lian gave him a cold look.

As they spoke, Qiao Mu had already walked up placidly and bent down to pick up the egg on the floor. Then, she pivoted her head and abruptly struck out her palm. She berated Eldest Young Sir Qin sternly, “You hit it?”

Everyone: “...”

Chapter 1283: Why Did You Hit My Egg

She was so quick to act. The eldest young sir twitched his mouth as he quickly dodged, causing Qiao Mu to end up kicking a table instead.

Before it could flip over, Mo Lian pressed it down with one hand.

Bam! In the end, the table stood firm.

“Why did you hit my egg?” Qiao Mu cast Eldest Young Sir Qin a cold glance. “You had better give me a very good reason. Or else I’ll beat you to death.”

Everyone: “...”

Situ Yi was splitting his sides in laughter, unable to even say anything.

“Since it is your egg, why would it slink off to the forecourt by itself?” The eldest young sir looked at this little fellow in amusement, feeling that this stoic face was a bit too entertaining.

Qiao Mu deadpanned, “Taking a walk.”

T-Taking, taking a walk?

Her dad, Qiao Zhongbang, couldn’t stop his brows from jerking, and he wanted to cry on the inside. His daughter didn’t even know how to tell a lie with a more normal reason.

“An egg?” The eldest young sir’s smile grew.

“What do you understand, taking a walk can help with its hatching.” Qiao Mu carried that huge egg and turned around to walk out.

At the end, she even tossed them a look of extreme disdain. “So ignorant and inexperienced. People like you who don’t have eggs[1] would not understand. Step aside, don’t block the way.”

Everyone: “...”

This sentence sounded a bit grating on the ears!

Crown Prince Consort, come back and say clearly, who doesn’t have eggs...

After a while, Duan Yue finally burst out laughing and pointed at Eldest Young Sir Qin, whose handsome face had stiffened, hooting, “You don’t have eggs! Hahahahaha!”

“Crown Prince, have the crown prince consort come back and make herself clear!” The eldest young sir said to Crown Prince Mo in both amusement and exasperation.

Crown Prince Mo turned his head aside while sniggering, ignoring him.

Even long after Qiao Mu walked out of the courtyard, she could still hear Duan Yue and the other people laughing their heads off, and she chided them for being nutcases in her mind.

She knocked the egg forcefully. “Will you be able to come out right away after absorbing that black spirit jade!”

“How is that possible? I need at least a thousand pieces of black spirit jade before I can come out of the egg. You think I am a weakling like you humans? The amount of black spirit jade I need is enormous!”

When Qiao Mu heard this, her entire face blackened, and she glowered at the egg, lambasting, “Then you still expended that much effort just to steal that piece of black spirit jade from Eldest Qin? Are you sick in the head!”

What use was this drop in the bucket? Would stealing it do anything?

“A single piece is better than none, alright! After absorbing this piece, there’ll only be 999 pieces to go, right?” The egg spoke with conviction.

Qiao Mu did not say anything further and merely tossed up the egg. As the egg screeched “Woman, you’re kicking again...”

Piu... That egg was kicked flying.

Two hours later, the egg finally rolled its way back with great difficulty. When it saw the little fellow lying on the bed comfortably, it felt its lungs throbbing painfully from indignation.

It was too aggravating to be encumbered with such an unconscientious master.

Look at how upset she was when he brought her a piece of black spirit jade. She kicked him out so far away that it had to hop and bounce for a long time before it could get back.

The egg “sat” inside its small cotton nest in a huff and did not utter a word for some time.

Meanwhile, Qiao Mu was eating from a platter of fruit as she laid on the bed. “Rather than exerting that much effort to steal a piece of black spirit jade, why don’t you tell me where this kind of black spirit jade deposit exists so I can go excavate it.”

The originally dejected egg suddenly bounced out from its cotton nest, crying out excitedly, "You-you, you are willing to find black spirit jade for me."

Qiao Mu paused in peeling her banana.

Chapter 1284: Talisman Practitioner Advancement

When she saw the big egg bouncing onto her bed, she reached out to stroke its shell tenderly with her petite hand.

The phoenix egg inexplicably felt cold shivers running down its spine, its shell also trembling.

A white and fuzzy furball abruptly jumped into her arms while holding Eldest Young Sir Qin's jade pendant in its mouth.

Qiao Mu reached out to take it. After flipping it continuously to examine it, she was unable to discern anything special about the pendant. It just looked like a normal jade pendant crafted from white jade.

"You're certain this is that black spirit jade?"

The egg affirmed repeatedly while bouncing about. "Of course. Masta, inject it with mystic energy to peel off its outer layer!"

Qiao Mu did as instructed. Very soon, this jade pendant's outer layer had peeled off, revealing a piece of warm white jade half the size of her palm.

It was glimmering with a faint silver glow.

That egg immediately bounced over and urged repeatedly, "Master, Master. Quickly place this piece of black spirit jade on my shell."

Qiao Mu nodded as she threw the black spirit jade onto the egg.

In only a few seconds, that phoenix egg had absorbed that black spirit jade, making it vanish.

Qiao Mu turned to look at that egg that stopped making a fuss and turned very quiet. After observing it for a while, she did not detect any anomaly.

It was only then that she set down the fruit platter in her hand, planning to take a leisurely afternoon nap.

After the Qiao Family finished hosting Second Uncle's wedding, they went all out in cooperating with the palace to prepare for her wedding.

Qiao Mu once again became idle during this time and holed up in her room every day to draw talismans. This also allowed her to make considerable progress in her talisman technique.

During this day's afternoon nap, the 12 jade slips that had been hovering silently in her conscious pool suddenly lit up.

The seventh jade slip flew out and unfurled. A line of fine print drifted on top of it, and the slumbering little fellow soon absorbed all of it subconsciously.

Qiao Mu abruptly opened her eyes and blankly gazed at the muslin canopy overhead.

Had she broken through to the cultivation realm of yellow-level talisman practitioners?

It had not been long since she had broken through to an advanced-level talisman practitioner. So other than being very surprised, she was also a bit delighted to have broken through to a yellow-level talisman practitioner so soon.

Becoming a yellow-level talisman practitioner meant that she had already entered the ranks of powerful talisman practitioners.

The current her absolutely possessed the qualifications to classify herself as a great talisman practitioner.

She flipped around and got up from bed at once. Her gaze regained its lucidity, and she used her spiritual conscious to flip through the talisman she had newly learned.

After advancing to a yellow-level talisman practitioner, only a single demonstration talisman had drifted down.

Qiao Mu picked it up to examine it. It was actually a deity-inviting talisman: 'Summon an immortal spirit to earth. They can assist in battle for two hours.'

This should be that powerful talisman that the little monk had mentioned previously.

Qiao Mu got up jubilantly and then stood at the table, using her spiritual conscious to check the hidden jade slip that corresponded to the curse technique. She detected that a new type of curse had appeared.

'Puppet curse: You only need to give the person afflicted by the curse a suggestion, and they will be at your command for seven days.' Of course, this type of curse also had a requirement: her cultivation must be higher than the other party's by three levels or more.

Otherwise, the curse would fail, and the backlash was not something that just any curse practitioner could endure.

People afflicted by the puppet curse had no change in their outer appearances, and even their actions did not differ from normal people.

As Qiao Mu contemplated, Xiang Yuanyuan's chubby face inexplicably surfaced in her mind.

Could it be as she thought?

Even so, she only turned this thought over once in her mind before casting it away.

Chapter 1285: Deity-Inviting Talisman

After Qiao Mu perused the contents of the jade slip again, she obtained a piece of information.

After the eighth jade slip got activated, she should be able to learn black-rank talismans. Another thing she learned was that she would be able to produce jade talismans after entering the ranks of black-level talisman practitioners.

Producing jade talismans signified an extreme soar in the great talisman practitioner's cultivation state.

Compared to ebony talismans, the talisman energy in jade talismans was probably tripled.

A minute hint of excitement showed on the little fellow's face. Gripping her gold-beaded talisman pen, she took out two ebony tablets and started learning how to draw deity-inviting talismans.

That demonstration talisman was drawn so well. Speaking of which, she wondered who it was that was so considerate to draw a demonstration talisman for her each time she learned a new talisman.

Qiao Mu had immersed herself in drawing the new talisman.

After becoming a yellow-level talisman practitioner, the difficulty of drawing a deity-inviting talisman had increased significantly compared to drawing the high-rank and mid-rank talismans from before.

She needed to concentrate her entire attention on the task.

Soon, she entered a total state of mindlessness.

Even when Wei Ziqin, Qiao Lin, Mo Lian, and the others came to check up on her one after another, she was totally unaware and turned a deaf ear to her surroundings, as if she was in an entirely vacuum-sealed environment.

Drawing this deity-inviting talisman took until late into the night.

It was only after she had failed no less than thirty times that Qiao Mu finally drew a successful deity-inviting talisman near dawn. She then exhaled a long sigh.

When she compared the deity-inviting talisman she had drawn with the demonstration talisman, she felt that there were still a lot of inadequacies.

The senior that had drawn this deity-inviting talisman was clearly more practiced than her.

Although she had started getting more familiar with the talisman after failing time and again, she still felt disdain for herself after making this comparison.

Forget it, she'd just leave it at this for today.

Qiao Mu put away the two deity-inviting talismans and rubbed her sunken belly. Her nose suddenly wrinkled, seeming to have sniffed the fragrant smell of green onions wafting over.

"Here, a bowl of piping hot mini wontons." A slender hand passed a big blue-and-white porcelain bowl to her.

Looking up, Qiao Mu saw that guy bending toward her with a grin.

After taking that steaming bowl of mini wontons into her hands, Qiao Mu cast him a glance and took a bite before asking, "When did you come."

"Sigh, I've been here for more than half the day. It's just that a certain person had been so engrossed in drawing talismans that she completely ignored everything happening outside. Hanging her hubby out to dry, not concerned in the least."

Qiao Mu felt her stomach warm up after drinking two gulps of soup, and her gleaming pair of large eyes curved in delight.

"It's yummy."

"But of course, this is not just any simple bowl of mini wontons."

"Is there anything special about it?" Besides the delicious flavor, the wontons were perfectly bite-sized. *So tasty.*

On the other end, the man winked at her. "Hubby had put all his love into it while cooking. Can't you savor it?"

Qiao Mu pursed her small lips as she rolled her eyes at him. "Always so honey-mouthed."

Mo Lian chuckled as he stroked her head. "Qiaoqiao, I came to tell you that I need to set out for Jiaozhong Defensive Base at dawn. I estimate that it will take me ten days or so to return to the capital."

Qiao Mu paused her eating. "Why are you going?"

Mo Lian reassured with a smile, "It's nothing big, just a routine inspection."

"Liar." Qiao Mu puffed out her small cheeks and protested in a huff, "Tell me the truth."

She wasn't dumb. It was such a poor excuse!

Chapter 1286: Going Together

"Why are you so clever." Mo Lian sighed helplessly as he picked up the little fellow and set her on his knees. He embraced her while explaining softly, "There's a bit of trouble. Jiaozhong Defensive Base's water source has been sabotaged. It's like you said before, they've started to tamper with the water sources."

"You didn't take precautions?" Qiao Mu gazed at Mo Lian worriedly.

"As a small and remote base, its precautionary measures will certainly not be as impregnable as the large bases surrounding the Mo Kingdom capital."

"Even Little Seven needs to fly for around three days from the Mo Kingdom capital to get there." Mo Lian tucked the loose hair hanging beside her cheeks behind her ear as he beamed, "Qiaoqiao, don't worry. Hubby will hurry back in 10 days. I definitely won't miss our wedding."

Qiao Mu cast him a gruff look. "I'm going with you."

"No can do. That place is too remote and the situation is not clear. It may be dangerous." Mo Lian coaxed while hugging her, "Be obedient now."

However, Qiao Mu arched up her neck to look at him. "If you don't bring me along, I'll trail you secretly."

Mo Lian was both amused and exasperated as he looked down at her and remarked, "You really aren't obedient."

Qiao Mu hugged his waist with her petite paws. "Going together!"

"How are you so obstinate." In the end, Mo Lian couldn't do anything about her, and he nuzzled her forehead left and right with his own. "Obstinate and vexing."

"Going together!"

"The royal court issued a cleanup mission for Jiaozhong Base. Many people will be going with me, so there is nothing to worry about, Qiaoqiao. So just stay behind obediently and happily prepare to be my bride."

"Going together!" The little fellow was glaring at him with such displeasure that her eyes had turned round.

Mo Lian was simply at his wit's end. Even 18 horses were unable to drag this little one back when she became stubborn.

"I'm only going to check on the situation there. Strictly speaking, there is not much danger."

The little fellow's gaze scanned over him nonstop, and she frowned with a stiff expression, not saying anything.

Mo Lian simply could not go against his little emperor darling, and he relented with a sigh. He grunted as he cupped her petite face with his hands, "Fine, fine, fine. We'll go together, go together."

He really couldn't talk this little fellow out of it. It was too vexing.

Qiao Mu immediately hopped off his knees, and she opened the closet to take out several light-colored everyday clothes and socks before stuffing them directly into a sack. She then threw it over her shoulder and pattered up to Mo Lian. "Let's go!"

Mo Lian: ...

"My Qiaoqiao, we'll only be setting off at dawn, so it's still a bit early now." Mo Lian encircled her waist with both amusement and exasperation as he carried her over to the bed in a princess carry. "Let's sleep for a while before setting out."

Qiao Mu swept him a suspicious glance. "You won't sneak off while I'm asleep, right?"

The two lay down while still dressed. Mo Lian turned to look at his wifey and shook his head mirthfully. "Since I've promised you, I will naturally make good on the promise."

"Humph." Still feeling a bit mistrustful, Qiao Mu reached out to clutch a lock of his long hair in her fist.

Her small body then nestled comfortably in his embrace, and she called out cheerfully, "Sleeping now."

Mo Lian: ...

You're able to sleep comfortably, but pity on him for lying there stiffly. His olfactory sense was assailed by the little fellow's tantalizing fragrance.

Chapter 1287: Setting Out

Mo Lian's heart was so flighty that he tossed and turned sleeplessly while hugging that little one stiffly. He had no idea when he fell asleep.

In her drowsiness, Qiao Mu felt the sounds of soft chatter entering her ears.

Qiao Mu lifted her heavy eyelids and looked about in a daze. She suddenly discovered that was surrounded by a hazy fog.

"You're awake." Mo Lian's mirthful voice rang out.

Qiao Mu fully woke up and stretched her small figure, whereupon she realized that she was sitting on a dragon's back, nestling in Mo Lian's embrace.

When she pivoted her head around, she saw many familiar faces.

"Senior Brother Situ, Senior Sister Liang."

"Qiaoqiao, you're awake." Liang Qingqing, who was chomping down on a cob of corn, beamed at her with two corn kernels still sticking to the corner of her mouth.

"Morning, Qiaoqiao!" A white-furred fox the size of a hill was flying beside the dragon.

Duan Yue was sitting cross-legged on the fox's head, and he waved at the bleary-eyed Qiao Mu from up above.

The little fellow couldn't shift her gaze away anymore after sweeping it over, and she stuck her small paw out toward the large, furry fox.

At once, Mo Lian caught her small paw with his hand, and he swept Duan Yue a disdainful glance. "Go further away."

"Chestnut!"

Duan Yue's eyes lit up, and with a mischievous grin, he offered, "Qiaoqiao, do you want to come sit over here!"

Qiao Mu blinked her eyes, but just as she was about to nod in acceptance, the golden dragon whisked its tail, propelling its lengthy body a considerable distance forward.

The group of people sitting on the dragon's back all lost their balance from the jolt, and they quickly clambered to steady themselves with a shout.

*F*ck! You petty Mo Lian!*

Duan Yue pointed his hand forward. "Chestnut, Chestnut, chase them quickly!"

Bounding off its chubby hind legs, Chestnut's large body boosted several kilometers forward and caught up to Little Seven's speed.

Mo Lian recruited one hundred teammates for this time's cleaning operation at Jiaozhong Base. Every one of them was at least a level-11 great mystic cultivator.

There were also four superhumans who possessed extraordinary hearing or speed.

Little Sixth Zheng was not part of the team this time. Shortly after coming back from the Mystic Beast Forest, he had broken through to a level-10 great mystic cultivator. Afterwards, he trekked back to the forest alone to seek out a suitable mystic beast to form a contract with.

As Qiao Mu had only just woken up, she turned to ask Mo Lian, "Have we been flying for some time?"

"It hasn't been for too long, only a little over an hour." Mo Lian glanced down at the little fellow. "First eat some dry food to fill your stomach for now. We will only be able to land at night."

The little fellow took out the mini steamed minced pork bun that she usually had prepared and felt full after eating two.

"Is Jiaozhong Base's situation rather serious?"

"Mhm." Mo Lian nodded. "I was still receiving messages from a Night Pavilion team member four hours ago, but there have not been any at all since."

"I suspect that something bad may have happened to him."

Qiao Mu's small face turned taut, and she agreed with a nod. "It looks like it will be troublesome."

Mo Lian caressed her small oval face and told her softly with a smile, "Don't worry, other than these hundred great mystic cultivators I recruited, I have also instructed the Hidden Night Pavilion to dispatch 3000 disciples over in secret."

"There should not be much of a problem." Mo Lian looked ahead impassively, "Not much time should have passed from Jiaozhong Base's breach to its conclusion. I think that we should review our experience and lessons from this trip to prepare for possible troubles in the future."

Chapter 1288: Jiaozhong Fortification

Qiao Mu nodded in absolute agreement.

Only by knowing both the enemy and themselves would they be ever-victorious. Yet they weren't even sure who the people in that organization were, so they had always been put in a passive position. They should indeed go make contact to learn more about them.

The golden dragon flew a full three days and two nights on this journey to Jiaozhong Base. In that time, they had only stopped twice to rest and cook food.

Every once in a while, they would also encounter several ignorant zombies, who were all swiftly dealt with. Qiao Mu simply didn't have to worry about it.

When they were still five kilometers away, they could see a batch of refugees madly galloping in their direction from far away.

These people should be the survivors that had fled from Jiaozhong Base.

In contrast to Jiaozhong Base's original population of several tens of thousands of people, only less than 3000 people had escaped.

But the most worrying thing was that perhaps there were people who had secretly gotten infected among them. It was possible that a mutation would break out and harm another group of people again.

After escaping from Jiaozhong Base, these refugees would definitely rush toward the nearest and largest base: Rice City Base.

However, due to safety reasons, Rice City Fortification's City Lord would not necessarily allow these people inside their city. That much was certain.

It wasn't that Rice City Base's City Lord was being selfish. It was simply that as the city lord, he of course had to first consider all matters from the point of view of Rice City Base's citizens.

Allowing these 3000 people to stay while they were engulfed by hunger and terror may create more problems.

"Little Seven, descend." Mo Lian pointed down below.

It was only a two to four hours' walk from where they were to Jiaozhong Base. They could see that the Jiaozhong Base in the distance seemed to be enshrouded by layers of black mist. It was as if it had thoroughly evolved into a ghost city.

Mo Lian frowned as he suppressed the fury in his heart.

This was the underground organization's provocation to him.

After all, he had successively provoked the underground organization's two bases: the underground village and the large base in the Mystic Beast Forest.

After several days, the underground organization started to counterattack to knock him down a notch.

According to his conjecture, this was the reason Jiaozhong Base got attacked.

There were so many bases in the whole nation that it was impossible for him to pay attention to all aspects. For a small and remote base like this, the precautionary measures definitely weren't as comprehensive as the large fortifications'.

Even though he had already ordered them all to keep watch over their water sources, there were too many holes to exploit in small fortifications.

After the golden dragon descended from the clouds, Mo Lian jumped down while carrying Qiao Mu. The hundred great mystic cultivators behind him also hopped down before landing on the ground lightly.

Many among the 3000 refugees who were hastening on their journey let out shouts of surprise as they stared wide-eyed at this group of “immortals” who descended from the sky.

“Wow! Mom, look, look at the sky!”

“Wow, a big fox is flying!”

“A fox has ascended to the sky!”

After Duan Yue leapt down, the Seven-Tailed Heavenly Fox transformed into a gleaming light and instantly disappeared into the mystic beast space inside his body.

The young golden dragon Seventh Yan also spiraled in the sky before returning into Mo Lian’s body instantly with a whisk of its dragon tail.

At this time, level-seven mystic cultivator strode out from the group of refugees and cupped his fists toward Mo Lian and company. He inquired fervently, “Are, are you the great mystic cultivators the royal court sent to take charge of sweeping through Jiaozhong Base.”

Mo Lian nodded. “Mhm. How is the current situation in Jiaozhong Fortification.”

Chapter 1289: You Can’t Save Him

“This humble one is Liu Yuan, the second manager of Jiaozhong Fortification’s City Lord’s Estate.” That level-seven mystic cultivator lamented, “Both the city lord and city lord madam have passed away in this sudden catastrophe.”

At this time, a small boy around seven to eight years old charged out like a small calf toward Mo Lian and Qiao Mu, whining repeatedly, “Why did you people come so late? My dad and mom have both died! It’s all your fault, it’s you people who came so late! You’re all useless, useless! Useless!”

“Youngest Young Sir, Youngest Young Sir.” Liu Yuan strode up with an awkward expression and dragged over that kicking and wailing boy. He explained to Mo Lian apologetically with a bitter smile, “This is the youngest young sir of the City Lord’s Estate. Everyone, apologies, his parents’ death has given the child a big shock.”

Qiao Mu cast that child an indifferent glance, and suddenly, she shook her petite hand, aiming her pitch-black crow repeating crossbow at that seven to eight-year-old boy.

Liu Yuan jolted in fright, and he hastily stuck out his sleeves to hold the boy. He then dragged the boy backwards repeatedly in his terror. “D-Don’t, what are you doing? This lady, our, our youngest young sir talks wildly and does not accord the proper respect to his seniors, b-but could you please spare his life on account of his young age.”

“You think I want to kill him just because he scolded me?” Qiao Mu gazed apathetically at that Second Manager Liu Yuan.

She only felt that this person was being very absurd.

Although she wasn't a good person, she wasn't that narrow-minded.

There was only one reason for her to make a move—

“This child has been infected. Look at his eyes. Judging from the extent of his mutation, he will completely lose his reason in less than 16 hours.”

When she finished speaking this, the crowd instantly turned silent, and everyone spontaneously retreated backwards in horror.

The second manager of the City Lord's Estate's, Liu Yuan, also unwittingly released his grip, but then he recalled something and embraced that child again. He shook his head repeatedly while arguing, “No, that is not possible. It is not like this. This miss, you must be mistaken, no?”

“You're just deceiving yourself as well as other people.” The crow repeating crossbow in Qiao Mu's hand was already prepared for release, and she creased her brows. “Step aside, do not be so soft-hearted.”

“No, I will not yield.” Second Manager Liu Yuan did not understand his own rationale. He only knew that there was a belief supporting himself deep inside his heart that he absolutely had to save this orphan of the City Lord's Estate.

He absolutely had to save him!

“You can't save him!” Qiao Mu continued coldly, “Even if you can protect him for several hours now, once time is up, he will completely mutate with no cure for it.”

“No, there is a cure. This miss, you must have a cure when you have such extraordinarily remarkable powers, right?”

Qiao Mu shook her head in exasperation. “There is no cure.”

At least the current her was unable to do anything about it at all.

They could only helplessly watch on as the people who got infected and mutated walked step by step towards the abyss of death. Apart from that, there was no other way out.

“No!” Second Manager Liu Yuan hugged that boy tightly as he retreated backwards step by step.

However, that group of refugees around him would not have it. When they saw that he wanted to duck inside the crowd, everyone parted to the sides and started protesting, “Second Manager, don't you harm other people!”

“That's right, there's already no cure for that child. You can't endanger us all just for him.”

Liu Yuan abruptly whisked his head around to glower at everyone.

Chapter 1290: Bite Her

“Don't you forget who it was that sacrificed themselves to save the lives of all you people.”

“You should also not forget who it was that stalled time for you people to flee out of the city!”

“It was City Lord and Madam who fought the zombies bravely to the death with 2000 defenders, which was how you people could successfully escape from the city and be saved.”

“Right now, you’re actually planning to requite kindness with enmity and push the only orphan of the City Lord’s Estate to his death?”

His sonorous and rousing speech caused the surrounding people to look at each other in dismay as shame surfaced in their hearts.

However...

“The miss already said that the youngest young sir, he, he will mutate in 16 hours?”

“Don’t just believe what other people say!” Liu Yuan roared, “If we just look on unfeelingly as someone else kills the youngest young sir today, then are we still human?”

However, Qiao Mu tilted her head as she turned to look at that second manager coldly. “You don’t care even if he bites you later on and you get infected?”

Liu Yuan clutched the boy’s shoulders tightly as he gulped, “I-I don’t care.”

Qiao Mu traced this person’s face with her gaze before moving on to examine his entire body. “You, seem a bit weird.”

“Wh-What weird.”

“You have other intentions toward him.” Qiao Mu stared coldly at that manager.

Second Manager Liu Yuan shivered, his knees practically caving in from her intimidating gaze.

Qiao Mu swept a glance at him but did not say anything else. She put away her crow repeating crossbow and tugged at Mo Lian’s hand. “Let’s go.”

“Ah, this miss. May we ask, wh-what about us?”

“Weren’t you guys heading toward Rice City Fortification?” Qiao Mu cast a faint glance at them. “Continue on.”

Several complaints could promptly be heard from the crowd. “Didn’t you come to rescue us?”

“Why aren’t you arranging for us to enter Rice City Fortification?”

“That’s right, that’s right. If we go to Rice City Fortification, we definitely won’t be able to step through their gates. We would need to wait for a long time while going through inspection. Won’t that mean that we would have to weather the winds and suffer from hunger outside the city for a good several days.”

Mo Lian swept them a sardonic glance. “Is that not the normal procedure. Just do as you are told. It will not take up much of your time.”

“Shouldn’t you be rejoicing right now that you were able to escape,” Liang Qingqing mocked as she crossed her arms and looked at the griping adult men. “You’re all full-grown men, yet you’re whining like sissies. You should be using that energy to kill a few more zombies. Don’t fantasize all day about receiving other people’s selfless help.”

You’re making it sound like the entire world is your mother, but it’s not like we owe you anything.

So laughable!

They were all taking grave risks by hastening here to Jiaozhong Base, but their compensation wasn’t guaranteed to be all that much either.

“We’re leaving.” Everyone followed Qiao Mu and Mo Lian forward.

For some reason, the boy in Liu Yuan’s arms had been boring a hateful stare at Qiao Mu.

It happened just as Qiao Mu walked past them.

That boy jumped up and pounced at Qiao Mu like a mad tiger cub, widening his mouth to chomp down on her arm.

“You’re courting death.” Mo Lian jolted in fright, not expecting this child to have such a vengeful mindset.