## My Crown 131

Chapter 131: Test

After the carriage left Xiangyang Town, it continued ahead at top speed. For lunch, everyone ate some dried food in the carriage, casually taking care of it.

As they approached Xijiu City on the official road, the amount of rushing people and carriages grew. The people in the nearby villages and towns must have all gathered in Xijiu City.

Late evening, Qiao Mu's company arrived at Xijiu City's city gate.

However, there was a long line at the gate, and from their spot in the back, Qiao Mu and her group could not see the other end of the line.

"It looks like we will have to wait a while." Qiao Zhongxing pulled the reins and slowed the horse.

The people in line were all conversing with each other and scouting for information. When they learned that other people's villages or towns were attacked by monsters at the same time, they all made sounds of lament.

"Why is it so slow? What is going on at the city gate?" a strong, well-built man impatiently shouted with a bold expression.

There were two city guards in charge of maintaining order. One of them glared at him rudely. "Scram if you don't want to wait. Why speak so much rubbish?"

The strong man grew enraged and swung his fist at the city guard's chest like a fierce tiger.

To his surprise, the city guard contemptuously looked at him and swung his fist as well, directly colliding with the man's iron fist.

When the two fists collided, the strong man released a miserable scream, and a crisp crack was heard from the bone in his arm. His entire person flew back like a kite whose string had been snapped.

A commotion stirred within the crowd, and the nearby people all looked at that youthful soldier with a reverent expression.

Body cultivator! This person's strength differed from normal people. No one expected an ordinary city guard of Xijiu City to be a body cultivator!

Another city guard raised his voice and shouted, "Line up orderly, no trouble allowed. Any troublemaker will have their right to enter the city evoked."

"Soldier, sir, can I ask what is happening up ahead?" Qiao Zhongxing asked with a smile.

The city guard who beat the man calmly looked at Qiao Zhongxing. When his sight landed on Qiao Mu, it involuntarily paused briefly on her indifferent face.

He did not expect the nearby minor villages to have such an exquisite girl as fair as snow, so cold that she did not seem alive.

The little girl half leaned and half sat on the side of the carriage. Her unworldly and fleeting like the wind demeanor stood out distinctly from her clamorous surroundings.

"Sir Soldier?" Second Uncle cautiously called the city guard after looking back at his stoic little niece.

Perhaps seeing that the man's attitude was alright, the city guard looked at him again before saying, "They are testing, the speed is a bit slow. The city lord said that everyone who enters the city must be tested no matter whether they are male or female, old or young so that we can screen for mystic cultivators or people with special abilities."

"Test?" His words were like an instigator and the surrounding women all scrambled to ask, "Do the screened out mystic cultivators have better treatment after entering the city?"

"Of course. The city needs people with special abilities to defend it, and mystic cultivators are more optimal." The city guard was more lenient toward women and nodded before explaining, "You also need to surrender part of your supplies when you enter the city. The more you surrender, the better your treatment."

"Huh?" Hearing that they have to surrender their supplies, everyone released a cry of anguish and subconsciously clutched their bags tighter.

"What do you mean 'Huh'?" The city guard disdainfully looked at the loudest old man. "Defending the city requires a collaborative effort from everyone. You normal people only need to hand over part of your supplies, but mystic cultivators need to have their inner world scanned, so they surrender more than you!"

The inner world scanned? Qiao Mu's brows raised and a foreboding feeling rose in her.

Chapter 132: You Are Very Strong

"May I ask how the inner world is scanned?" Qiao Zhongxing subconsciously asked after glancing at the frowning Qiao Mu.

"Our city lord has an ancient mystic mirror, a look in it will do." The soldier waved his hand with an impatient expression. "You aren't a mystic cultivator, so why are you asking so much? Line up orderly, line up! No trouble-making!"

Qiao Mu sat on the carriage, deep in contemplation without saying a word and was slightly worried.

It could look into the inner world! She did not enter Xijiu City in her previous life, so she did not know about this.

When she thought about her inner world piled high with treasures and gold, the child was a bit mournful.

When an inner world like hers was discovered, would she be treated like a demon and burned to death?

However, they had reached the entrance of Xijiu City already, so it was unrealistic for them to turn back.

"Master, what are you worried about?" the sapling suddenly spoke in her mind when it sensed her rippling emotions.

"You've recovered?" Qiao Mu started before secretly conversing with the sapling.

"I haven't." Qiuqiu sighed deeply. "But I can feel Master's worry."

In truth, Qiao Mu wanted to ask Qiuqiu about her medical skills. She had a suspicion that perhaps she really did learn medicine from someone before...

However, hearing its weak voice, she disregarded it for now since it was not urgent.

What was urgent was how she could handle the inner world scanning matter.

After the matter was briefly explained, Qiuqiu was silent.

Meanwhile, the line kept moving forward, and it was clearly moving faster. She guessed they increased the manpower at the city gate.

This gremlin!!! Why isn't it speaking!

When the city gate loomed nearer, Qiao Mu rolled her eyes at the sky...

Just when she thought the little gremlin had foggily fallen back asleep, its voice faintly rang at last. "Master, what do you think the Golden Talisman Jade Tome is? Did you think it simply taught you talisman methods and your inner world can be inspected easily by some nobody? Even super mystic cultivators 18 levels higher than you can't forcefully probe into your conscious and inner world, let alone some ancient mystic mirror!"

Qiuqiu could not understand why Little Master was worried about this?

"Heh, so it's like that. I really didn't know!" Qiao Mu embarrassedly touched her nose.

"Master, you are actually really strong," Qiuqiu suddenly inputted.

Qiao Mu chuckled ironically. "I'm really strong..."

"I nearly believed it!"

The carriage followed the city guards' directions and parked to the side in advance.

When the soldier went up to inspect it and saw that there was only an old lady with a broken leg inside without any supplies, he did not make things difficult.

Qiao Mu's family was lined up behind a young married couple. The couple looked a bit nervous, and the wife was tensely holding the cloth bag.

There was a table placed on the left of the city gate, and a scholar was sitting there and making notes as registration. Without looking up, he asked, "What's your name? Are you a mystic cultivator or do you have special abilities?"

The couple shook their heads one after the other. "Wang An."

"X-xi Mei."

The scholar looked up. "Will your family surrender any supplies?"

"D-do we have to?" Xi Mei timidly asked.

The scholar nodded. "You don't, but you will have to earn your own keep after entering the city. The City Lord's Estate won't distribute any supplies to you."

"There are free shack areas for living," the scholar added.

The husband and wife nodded furiously. "We won't hand over any supplies. We can live in the free shack area."

The scholar nodded and gave them a meaningful look before handing them a bamboo tablet with their names written on top and "low rank" carved on the flip side.

The soldiers on the two sides then called, "Next."

Chapter 133: Daybreak Sect

Qiao Zhongbang went up and reported his name before saying, "These people behind me are my family."

The scholar nodded and glanced at him. "Go over there and be tested."

Qiao Zhongbang looked at the direction that the scholar pointed to. There was a transparent crystal ball silently laying on a long table.

He wryly smiled. "Sir, we don't need to waste our time testing. I'm merely a normal person."

The soldier on the side impatiently said, "If we have you test, then test. Why are you so wordy?"

"Why didn't the husband and wife in front of us have to test?" Qiao Mu's soft childish tone contained a trace of coldness.

The soldier shot her a glare, scaring Wei Ziqin into subconsciously reaching out and pulling Qiao Mu into her arms to protect her.

The scholar lifted his hand to stop the soldier and did not get angry. He gently looked at Qiao Mu as he explained, "Little one, you can tell that married couple are normal people with a single look. There wasn't any mystic energy on them."

Then, his voice paused, and he suddenly looked intently at Qiao Mu. "Little one, come and test."

Qiao Mu expressionlessly shook her head. "I'm merely a normal child."

"Hey, girl, do you not understand Sir Zhang's words?" the soldier shouted, ill-tempered.

"Hm? What happened?" A cyan figure walked over followed by several men in white robes.

The scholar immediately stood up and properly saluted. "Greetings, City Lord, young masters from Daybreak Sect."

The city lord, Gu Qingfeng, nodded minutely. "Testing?"

His gaze swept over Qiao Zhongbang and his group.

"Hey, look! Look quickly! Who am I seeing? Isn't this our fifth junior brother?" a man in white robes suddenly exclaimed with a bright laugh.

This person was of a similar age to Qiao Zhongbang, about 30 years old, but he looked younger than Qiao Zhongbang. He had a very normal face, and his mouth contained a dash of derision, giving him an acerbic look.

"How come I have never heard of some Fifth Junior Brother? Eldest Senior Brother, did you recognize wrong?"

"Third Senior Brother, your memory is awful! This Fifth Senior Brother is the person who Master once complimented as being more astute than Eldest Senior Brother. How unfortunate! Less than two years later, Fifth Senior Brother's cultivation was crippled and his meridians were damaged completely, so he was subsequently expelled down the mountain by Master! Tut, I really didn't expect to meet him here! How coincidental!"

"Hey, why did our once high-spirited Fifth Junior Brother age so prematurely? Hasn't it only been 10 or so years? You look so old that I nearly didn't recognize you."

There were three youths in their 20s who wore the same style of white robes with the same circular emblem embroidered on their cuffs and chest.

They circled around their eldest senior brother and were praising Eldest Senior Brother enthusiastically while disparaging Qiao Zhongbang unrestrainedly at the same time.

Qiao Zhongbang had become utterly frozen the moment that Eldest Senior Brother spoke.

After those people finished mocking in a fluster, Qiao Zhongbang returned to his family's side without a word.

"Hahaha," the people from Daybreak Sect chortled, unbridled.

They were unexpectedly interrupted by a soft childish voice, "So noisy like a group of ducks. Are we done registering? We have to leave if we're done."

The laughter of the Daybreak Sect's disciples abruptly halted.

They looked at Qiao Mu in disbelief, as though they did not comprehend where the child got the nerve to speak to them like this.

The scholar hastily took a bamboo tablet and wanted to hand it to Qiao Mu. "Go on then."

Qiao Mu glanced at him and was about to reach out.

To their surprise, a burst of mystic energy suddenly shot out from the side and sent the bamboo tablet clattering to the ground.

One of the youths in white robes sardonically looked at Qiao Mu and her family, lifted his robes up, and pulled into a martial-arts squat. "Fifth Senior Brother, you can pass if you want, but you have to go through here!"

"Hahahahaha," the other people from Daybreak Sect all let out malicious laughter.

Chapter 134: Savage and Frightening

"Jia Mingren, don't go too far!" Qiao Zhongbang tightly clenched his fists, his fingers were unconsciously digging into his palm.

"Sixth Junior Brother, you are being naughty again, aren't you?" Eldest Senior Brother guffawed and did not have any intention of stopping him.

Jia Mingren smiled in understanding and turned more insolent as he pointed under his crotch. "Fifth Senior Brother, will you pass or not?"

Qiao Mu's eyes turned sharp, and she pushed her mother's arms away and headed straight for Jia Mingren.

Everyone was stunned. City Lord, Gu Qingfeng, stood on the side and looked at the people from Daybreak Sect with disapproval.

"Little girl, you want to take your father's spot?" Jia Mingren looked at Qiao Mu with a strange smile. "It's not that you can't, but..."

Qiao Mu walked to the front of Jia Mingren silently. Without waiting for him to finish, she suddenly flung out a rope and looped it around Jia Mingren's leg.

With a pull, the rope tightened in her hand. Taken back, Jia Mingren's left leg was pulled a giant step forward, and he was forced into a split.

F\*ck him, his crotch immediately ached...

Jia Mingren released a blood-curdling screech.

Qiao Mu pull out her ferule and smacked him viciously on the spot, admonishing, "Why are you shouting! Quiet!"

Some distance away, the slender purple figure, who had been standing next to the city gate for a while and was enjoying the show, lightly shuddered. He inwardly thought, "The little girl looks like she got scarier. Even he didn't dare to nonchalantly provoke this vicious darling, where did these wimps get the guts to do it?"

"What are you doing?" Eldest Senior Brother promptly shouted after recovering his wits with great difficulty.

"If you come over, I will kill him!" Qiao Mu looped the rope around the youth's neck, raising his leg as well.

Things turned tragic! Sixth Junior Brother's leg made a loud crack, and his body was trembling from the pain.

Qiao Mu switched to using a dagger and pointing it at Jia Mingren's waist. Then, with raised brows, she told the livid Eldest Senior Brother, "Back up one meter!"

"Eldest Senior Brother! Eldest Senior Brother, save me!" Jia Mingren howled.

His fellow disciples from Daybreak Sect felt their faces boiling red, especially when they saw the strange gaze from City Lord Gu and the other people. They inwardly berated this useless Sixth Junior Brother.

He couldn't even handle a child. Yet, he had the pride to complain about his pain?

"Eldest Senior Brother?" A languid voice drifted into everyone's ears.

Closely after, a slender purple figure slowly walked toward them, revealing a youthful and outstandingly gorgeous face.

"How come I remember that I defeated you two days ago? Shang Kun, is your memory remiss? According to the rules of Daybreak Sect, I am now your Eldest Senior Brother, aren't I?" The youth blinked at the frozen Eldest Senior Brother, his vixen peach-blossom eyes containing a smile.

Eldest Senior Brother Shang Kun blushed, unable to respond.

Qiao Mu's sight landed on the youth's arm. As soon as he spoke, Qiao Mu did not have to look to see that it was Duan Yue.

They parted for a few days, but his injuries had already fully healed, and he had also become the Eldest Senior Brother of Daybreak Sect.

"Eldest Senior Brother, Eldest Senior Brother, save me! Kill this d\*mn girl!" Jia Mingren cried for help. He had toppled over after his leg became tied to his body and was viciously dragged some ways by Qiao Mu, causing him to wail in pain.

Qiao Mu stepped on Jia Mingren's head, rolling her ankle to completely smash it to the ground before looking up and icily glancing at Duan Yue. "Compensation. Otherwise, I kill him!"

Everyone: ...

Duan Yue's lips twitched. He just knew that this d\*mn brat couldn't be judged by conventional logic.

"Kill him then. So stupid, he deserves to die."

Qiao Mu raised her leg and aimed it for Jia Mingren's throat.

Duan Yue's eyelid twitched. "Wait!"

Chapter 135: Kill Him

"What compensation do you want?" Duan Yue was sullen. He felt like every time he met this imp nothing good happened.

"Fixed price, 100 pieces of low-grade magnetite in exchange for his wretched life," Qiao Mu calmly stated.

The people from Daybreak Sect all looked at Qiao Mu as though she was a freak.

One hundred pieces of low-grade magnetite? This child really had the appetite of a lion, her guts raising people's hackles!

"Second Junior Brother, how should we handle this?" Duan Yue promptly kicked the ball to Shang Kun's court.

When Shang Kun heard "Second Junior Brother," his brows involuntarily trembled.

"Eldest... Second Senior Brother," a Daybreak Sect disciple quickly corrected himself as he addressed Shang Kun. "You can't give it to her!"

"That's fine since he is part of your group anyway. Second Junior Brother, when you bring Junior Brother Jia's corpse back to see Sect Master, remember to provide an adequate explanation." Duan Yue turned around to leave after saying this.

"Eld-eldest Junior Brother, wait! Wait!" Shang Kun blocked Duan Yue with embarrassment. "How about we pool our resources and ransom Junior Brother Jia first before thinking of a way to kill this child..."

Shang Kun's eyes emanated a cold light when he looked at Qiao Mu, and his voice turned lower.

He will seek revenge for this disgrace!

Shock entered Duan Yue's heart. He was about to berate this idiot when he saw an icy glint surface in Qiao Mu's eyes.

"Kill him!"

Following this abrupt order, a black figure dropped down from the sky, and a powerful burst of mystic energy slammed into Shang Kun's chest.

Shang Kun felt pain stab his chest and felt he suddenly flew up, heavily crashing into the nearby table. Blood spat from his mouth, and shock pervaded his eyes.

The table was snapped in half, and the scholar hastily stood up and retreated.

Astonishment appeared in the eyes of Gu Qingfeng and the disciples of Daybreak Sect.

They knew Shang Kun's cultivation. He was a level six mystic cultivator, a shining star amongst the younger generation.

However, now, he was no match against the attack of this youth in black who appeared out of nowhere.

Ao'ye swiftly shot up and was about to add another stab when Duan Yue hastily called out, "500-500 pieces of low-grade magnetite for these two idiot's lives!"

"Ao'ye."

The youth in black quickly returned to Qiao Mu's side.

"600!"

"600 is too expensive. Two idiots aren't worth that price!" Duan Yue blinked his misty seductive eyes and said with a mischievous smile, "500 with a kiss added! How about it?"

"Who are you kissing, punk?!" Ao'ye's brows twitched, and he suddenly had an ominous feeling.

"Your Highness the Crown Prince, you are in danger!"

"Fine, 500 then. They are truly worthless," the apathetic child agreed with a cold face.

As for some kiss, she naturally did not want it!

Duan Yue reached out to summon a bag and handed it to her with a grin. "You're Qiaoqiao, right? I must say, we really have an affinity..."

Qiao Mu turned around as soon as she took the bag and walked toward her parents, leaving behind a dumbfounded youth.

"I haven't finished speaking yet!!! Your bad habit of thinking you spoke too much without speaking more than three sentences really needed to be corrected! You won't have any friends otherwise!"

Duan Yue was very annoyed so he immediately looked back at Shang Kun, who just stood back up, and angrily shouted, "Five hundred pieces of low-grade magnetite, return it to me tomorrow!"

Shang Kun abruptly fell back on the ground, miserable. "Eldest Senior Brother, I-I don't have that much magnetite."

Duan Yue did not have an outlet for his anger so he shouted, full of ire, "I don't care whether you have it. Steal it, snatch it, whatever! You just have to return it to me tomorrow!"

Otherwise, you will die!

"Little Miss, why don't you also take the test? If your family has two mystic cultivators, the City Lord's Estate will provide quite a decent residence for you, and you will only need to finish one mission every month to continue staying there at no cost."

Chapter 136: The Youngest Mystic Cultivator

"Without compensation?" the stoic child expressionlessly asked.

The scholar's mouth twitched. He understood her meaning in a second and quickly answered, "There's compensation, there's compensation! Any reward acquired in your mission will belong to you. However, the monthly right of residence for the upper-class residential area requires every family to complete one mission level three or above every month."

"Any decent residences inside the city are concentrated in the eastern and central districts, and mystic cultivators and superpowered people have the priority. As for other normal people, even if they had spare money on them, they won't be able to buy housing in the better areas..."

"I understand." She will test then. She had a large family behind her, so Qiao Mu wanted everyone to live semi-comfortably since she did not know the duration of their stay.

Qiao Mu walked to the table with the crystal ball and laid her hand on the ball in a que sera sera manner.

She had previously experienced this type of mystic energy test. Only a trace of mystic energy needed to be inputted and a cloud of white fog would rise from the bottom, layer by layer, in the transparent crystal ball.

Normal people who touched this crystal ball would not be able to provoke any reactions.

Only mystic cultivators could awaken the mystic energy inside this crystal ball.

The inside of this crystal ball just happened to be divided into 15 layers, representing all 15 levels of mystic energy. And currently, with a touch, Qiao Mu activated four layers in a flash.

When she put down her hand and turned around, she caught Gu Qingfeng and the other people's strange looks.

"Level-four mystic cultivator." The scholar faltered, subconsciously rubbing his eyes with his hands.

She really was a mystic cultivator! It appeared he had quite good judgment! He was wondering since he had felt something peculiar with this child from the first time he looked at her.

The scholar could not resist chuckling lightly. "Child, you are the youngest mystic cultivator I've ever seen in all my years."

City Lord Gu also went up with a bright laugh. "That's great! Our Xijiu City just happened to need mystic cultivators and body cultivators to join and construct an impregnable defense for our city together."

"Yes. My second uncle is a body cultivator," Qiao Mu calmly stated and extended her hand toward the scholar. "Give us a quieter house. Also, don't forget to supply all the living essentials and furniture."

Gu Qingfeng's lips twitched. He helplessly broke into laughter and glanced at the child as he said with a nod, "Of course, of course. Mister Zhang, help them arrange... Your surname is Qiao, right? Let Miss Qiao's family live in that house on Pear Blossom Alley. It's quite near to the City Lord's Estate, so if you have free time, I welcome Miss Qiao to visit the City Lord's Estate."

A level four mystic cultivator at such a young age was truly too rare! She was either a prodigy or a genius, so Gu Qingfeng was very inclined to befriend her.

As for the tossed aside Daybreak Sect disciples, they all looked very displeased.

Especially Jia Mingren, whose leg was broken by Qiao Mu, his eyes revealed his utter disbelief.

He himself was a level-four mystic cultivator, so he knew how much effort he had put into it in order to achieve this height.

Yet, this girl who did not look older than seven or eight years old before them, she actually...

Such frightening talent truly made people want to forcibly snap it apart! Envy flooded from Jia Mingren's eyes.

A disciple from Daybreak Sect suddenly said, "Y-you, why haven't you released Junior Brother Jia yet after taking the magnetite!"

As Qiao Mu's hand lightly tugged on the rope, it flew up and hit Jia Mingren right in the crotch.

Immediately, most of the men present felt their bodies abruptly grow taut, and they felt their skin crawl!

Jia Mingren maintained his strange sitting position and was sent flying back with a kick from the girl. He did not even have the chance to howl before he fainted from pain!

Chapter 137: Pay with Your Life

Duan Yue had no words.

In contrast to Jia Mingren's immense tragedy, Duan Yue suddenly felt very moved. The little miss treated him in quite a friendly manner previously!

As expected, it was a world that depended on looks!

A certain youth whose ego felt quite good immediately lost all anger and even looked at the child cheerfully.

The stoic child was apathetic and merely sent him a strange look before looking away and thinking, "There's probably something wrong with this youth's mind. It was his Junior Brother Jia that she knocked unconscious with a harsh kick just now, yet he could still smile at her!"

His reaction was abnormal, right!

What was normal was Shang Kun's flustered and indignant expression!

Qiao Mu's sight shifted to Shang Kun and his group, and she asked, mild-tempered, "Do you also need people to enter through your crotch?"

Shang Kun and his group all froze simultaneously and shuddered inexplicably before taking a few steps back.

Qiao Mu looked calm and unruffled. "If you don't, then we will leave."

"Wait!" A youth next to Shang Kun reached out to block the carriage with a dark look. "Did City Lord Gu forget something? As a mystic cultivator, shouldn't her inner world be inspected and a portion of her supplies be surrendered?"

Gu Qingfeng was somewhat embarrassed.

Especially when he saw Qiao Mu look at them like she was looking at monsters. He was at a loss for words.

Gu Qingfeng chuckled in embarrassment. "Young Master Li, the little miss is so young, so there probably isn't much in her inner world. We don't need to inspect it, don't you think?"

"How could that do? The rules are the rules. What City Lord Gu is saying is outlandish! If everyone is like this girl evades their inner world being inspected by saying they are young, then wouldn't the city lose a lot of supplies?" Li Xiang righteously stated with a cold face.

"Shameless," Qiao Mu scoffed. Wanting to steal things from this treasure, what a twisted adult!

Gu Qingfeng: ...

"Be quick about it then! A group of men being fussy like a young wife, how dull!"

What should they do? They really wanted to beat this child to death! How could her words be so unpleasant! The people from Daybreak Sect's faces were livid with anger.

However, when their sight landed on the youth in black next to the child, they did not have the nerve to move.

After all, the strength that the youth in black displayed just now could easily triumph over Second Senior Brother Shang Kun, so how did the other people dare to disregard their lives like this?

Gu Qingfeng summoned up the courage to order people to bring the ancient mystic mirror and reluctantly smiled at Qiao Mu. "Little Miss Qiao, no need to worry. The ancient mystic mirror merely scans your inner world and won't cause any damage to you. It's fast, so you just need to stand still right there."

"Let me!" Li Xiang snatched the mirror from Gu Qingfeng's hand and walked forward with large strides, coldly telling Qiao Mu, "I'll be candid with you. If you vainly attempt to resist with your mystic conscious, don't blame me for getting your mystic conscious hurt by the ancient mystic mirror!"

"If a single hair on me gets hurt, you will pay with your life!" Qiao Mu ominously spoke. When she looked at Li Xiang, he felt like all of the blood in him was frozen and could not say anything!

Clang! The youth in black drew his sword and aimed it at Li Xiang, looking like he would act on a moment's notice.

When the air tinged with gunpowder, Gu Qingfeng quickly walked up to smooth things over. "H-how about I inspect the little miss' inner world myself..."

He was suffering! The little miss did not look like easy meat, so why did the Daybreak Sect have to keep picking fights with her?

"No need!" Li Xiang stubbornly pushed away Gu Qingfeng's arms, and he was incensed that he was intimidated by a little girl's aura.

There were many people gathered by the city gate. Many civilians heard that there was a mystic cultivator merely seven years old and that her inner world would be inspected on the spot, so they were extremely curious.

Chapter 138: Backlash

She was clearly a tiny child, but Li Xiang did not dare to look into her eyes.

He felt like her demonic pupils were like an icy abyss, and his soul might get sucked in if he did not pay attention.

He tightly held the mirror and took a deep breath, inwardly mocking himself for being nervous.

So what if she was a level four mystic cultivator? She was merely a little younger and a little more talented than ordinary people, so what tricks could she pull?

D\*mn girl, it's time to serve you your just desserts!

He raised the ancient mystic mirror and abruptly pumped a large amount of mystic energy into it. There was a sneer on his lips as he aimed the mirror at the girl's forehead.

The hearts of Wei Ziqin, Qiao Zhongbang, and the rest of their group raised high, and there was a trace of nervousness in their eyes.

It was invisible to normal people but mystic cultivators could see an intense milky white light shoot out of the mirror and head straight for Qiao Mu's conscious like a bolt of lightning.

"Young Master Li!" Gu Qingfeng cried in shock. Li Xiang wanted to destroy this girl's conscious!

Normally, who needed to inject so much mystic energy to inspect someone's inner world? This Li Xiang! Gu Qingfeng's pupils dilated, and he inwardly cursed.

Just as everyone thought that they would soon be able to admire a young mystic cultivator's inner world inside the ancient mystic mirror, Li Xiang suddenly released a wretched scream, and the mystic mirror in his hand exploded. The broken pieces were ground into powder in an instant by some terrifying power, scattering everywhere!

"AH!" Li Xiang heavily crashed onto the ground, his limbs faced the sky and a large mouthful of blood spurted from his mouth.

His eyes were brimming with endless terror, and he looked at the child who silently stood in front of him without moving a centimeter like he was looking at a monster.

"You!" Li Xiang strenuously raised his hand and shakily pointed at the child. "Your conscious... contains... spat!"

Li Xiang spat out another mouthful of blood, and there were actually some fragments of his organs mixed into the blood.

"Junior Brother Li!" Shang Kun frightfully shouted and reached out to help the fallen Li Xiang up.

Li Xiang tightly gripped Shang Kun's sleeves and brokenly uttered, "Sen-senior Brother, don't! Don't! Provoke! This... little..."

Then, his head slumped sideways, and he stopped speaking. Shang Kun reached out to feel his breathing with terror in his eyes and discovered that it had ceased.

"Junior Brother Li!" Another disciple from Daybreak Sect sprinted over and touched Li Xiang, his eyes aghast.

All the bones in Junior Brother Li's body abruptly shattered into pieces at that moment, and without the support of his bones, he deflated like a leaking balloon.

No one knew what happened, even Qiao Mu was dumbfounded.

If the mystic cultivators did not comprehend, let alone the normal people watching. All they saw was that Li Xiang flew backward on his own for no reason and then died...

However, there was one similarity. Everyone looked at Qiao Mu as if she was a freak.

The ancient mystic mirror not only was unable to reflect the child's inner world, but it also crumbled into dust. Moreover, the disciple of Daybreak Sect who held the mirror lost his life as a result. This was terrifying, alright!

"Do you still want to scan?" When the soft voice suddenly drifted into everyone's ears, they all unanimously shook their heads like a rattle-drum.

Why would we still scan you, ancestor! That person died from your inspection! Who would dare to inspect something as vicious as your inner world unless they wanted to die?!

"Then let's go!" Qiao Mu jumped onto the carriage and then kicked away her delicate shoes. With a gelatinous and sweet voice, she said, "Mother, the shoes got dirty."

"Yes, yes, yes. Mother will give you a new pair."

As everyone watched the carriage enter the city, they all lost their ability to speak.

Why did Li Xiang of Daybreak Sect die? No one knew.

## **Chapter 139: Your Highness the Crown Prince, No Good!**

Clack, clack, clack...

The carriage drove into the city and headed toward Pear Blossom Alley.

As Qiao Zhongxing drove the carriage, he was still dazed and could not comprehend the earlier events.

In truth, even Qiao Mu herself did not understand what had happened, let alone her family.

Li Xiang from Daybreak Sect died in an incredibly inexplicable and suspicious way. Qiao Mu could not make heads or tails of it no matter how she pondered over it.

Qiao Zhongbang coughed twice and could not resist asking, "Qiaoqiao, that young man earlier...?"

The youth's figure had disappeared as soon as they entered the city, but everyone bore witness to his strength.

Qiao Zhongbang was knowledgeable about Shang Kun's strength. When he left Daybreak Sect, Shang Kun was a level four mystic cultivator.

After that, Shang Kun advanced two levels in 15 years. To the majority of people, this was a normal speed for advancement.

Although to extremely talented people, this was absolutely a turtle's speed.

However, all the disciples that Daybreak Sect accepted in recent years seemed to have very mediocre talent. It could be said that Qiao Zhongbang from back then could be considered fairly outstanding amongst the younger generation. Unfortunately, he was expelled from the sect in less than two years.

Qiao Mu looked away from her father and nonchalantly responded, "He will follow us."

"That youth's cultivation is extremely advanced and extraordinary! Why did he follow us the whole way?" Qiao Zhongbang asked with obvious incomprehension.

Qiao Mu answered without skipping a beat, "He paid his dues!"

Qiao Zhongbang was confused. Was he slow or stupid? How come he felt like he was speaking on a completely different wavelength when he conversed with his eldest daughter...

On the side, Qiao Hu quickly interjected and supplemented, "That big brother and Shaoyao both handed over a large amount of board and lodging fee and willingly followed Elder Younger Sis to be her subordinates! Eldest Uncle, Elder Younger Sis is too awesome!"

As Qiao Hu said this, he wore an expression of worship.

"Wh-what do you mean?" Qiao Zhongbang was so shocked that his chin nearly dropped to the ground. "What if they didn't pay their board and lodging fee???"

"Then Elder Younger Sis certainly wouldn't take them in!" Qiao Hu looked at his eldest uncle like he was a fool. How could Eldest Uncle not understand such a simple concept! He was dumber than a child, so comical!

Qiao Zhongbang's lips twitched. His young nephew's gaze made him really want to smack his head!

A great, esteemed mystic cultivator whose ability exceeded Shang Kun actually had to pay a fee to follow his daughter! It would make other people lose their minds!

Currently, the great, esteemed mystic cultivator, Ao Ye, mentioned by Qiao Zhongbang was hiding behind some eave and surreptitiously pulled out a pure white jade talisman about the width of his palm from his pocket.

If Qiao Mu was present, she would be able to tell that this jade talisman was created by carving onto a jade stone using absolutely authentic talisman methods.

This was a messenger jade talisman, a rare sight even in the royal capital, Guanlan City.

Ao Ye dug out a specially made jade pen and wrote on the jade talisman, "Your Highness the Crown Prince, not good! A youth from the Daybreak Sect appeared and looks like he wants to poach your prey!"

Then, he wrote a bunch of things in a rambling manner...

Something about some youth from Daybreak Sect who insisted on giving a kiss to dear Qiaoqiao but dear Qiaoqiao adamantly refused, and he even purposefully described dear Qiaoqiao's stoic face!

If Qiao Mu saw the nonsense that Ao Ye was writing, she would certainly be enraged and kick him into the horizon.

After Ao Ye teemingly wrote a thousand words, he stopped writing with lament. He looked up at the horizon and sighed with a tinge of grief. "Your Highness, this subordinate can only help you to this extent! Where else would you find such a perfunctorily responsible subordinate who reports in such details!"

## Chapter 140: Qiao Estate

How would Qiao Mu have known that Ao Ye had secretly sent a message to the crown prince?

Currently, she was attempting to mentally converse with the sapling. She still felt like Li Xiang's death was very fishy, so it would be great if the sapling knew what had happened.

"Qiuqiu, do you know what happened?"

However, even after a moment, the sapling did not respond. Qiao Mu waited for a bit longer and finally sighed after seeing its lack of response. She just knew that she could not be too reliant on this unreliable tree.

The carriage bounded into the city and entered the most flourishing part of Xijiu City.

Life looked just the same as before the zombie outbreak. The streets were bustling with life, the storekeepers and stall owners were energetically shouting about their products while an endless stream of pedestrians and carriages waded through the streets.

When Wei Zigin looked over, joy surfaced in her eyes.

It looked like her daughter was right! Coming to Xijiu City was the correct move!

Look at how these residents of Xijiu City lived in peace and worked happily! They even had the free time to stroll about the streets, as though they were entirely unaffected by zombies.

However, Qiao Mu was not as optimistic as her mother. Mister Zhang had said earlier that the central and eastern district were the more prosperous areas, but what about the western, northern, and southern districts? What did the streets look like there?

The shed area in the western district, in particular, had an assembly of the lowest rung of society and all the plebeians who fled here from the villages and towns? Would they... really live worry free, blissfully, and happily?

Qiao Mu looked away and calmly looked forward.

However, none of that was her concern.

After they passed the main street, they followed the address provided by Mister Zhang. Qiao Zhongxing drove the carriage to the entrance of Pear Blossom Alley, and they really felt a relaxing and quiet air envelop them.

Although this place was only half a street away from the main street, it was considerably more peaceful.

There were locust trees planted on both sides of the road. If the carriage traveled through the shadow of the trees, then they would be able to see the City Lord's Estate located at the end of the street.

Another turn and they would go deeper into the alley where a tranquil estate with a courtyard greeted its visitors.

Qiao Zhongxing pulled the carriage to a stop and stated joyously, "Deboard, we've arrived."

The residence did look quite decent. Although it was not too large, it looked very exquisite and more than sufficient to house their family.

Most importantly, it was quiet. There was only one house in this deep part of Pear Blossom Alley, so they did not have to worry about being disturbed.

"Or perhaps, this was originally a recreational residence of the City Lord's Estate?" Qiao Mu considered.

"Dad, I like this place!" Qiao Hu happily exclaimed. After such a hectic journey, Qiao Hu's joy could not be described when he thought about how he could sleep in a comfortable bed tonight.

"Let's enter and take a look." Seeing everyone joyfully and boisterously leave the carriage, Qiao Zhongbang also followed the group while carrying Elderly Lady Qiao on his back.

Wei Ziqin walked up the steps with Xiao Lin'er in her hands and had Qiao Mu take the lead to knock on the door.

Quickly, the door opened, and an old servant dressed in clean and orderly cyan clothes came out. He bowed toward Qiao Mu. "You are Miss Qiao and her family, correct? Please enter. We've been waiting for you all for a while."

"You 1 are?"

"Miss, you're being polite. I'm Chang Zai, the steward in charge of managing the residence."

Qiao Mu nodded. Her guess was proven correct. It appeared this house used to be a recreational residence of the City Lord's Estate.

"Steward Chang, is there anyone else in this house besides you?" Qiao Mu did not like having too many people. In reality, if it was up to her, their whole family living here comfortably would be enough.

Chang Zai covetously looked at Qiao Mu. "Besides this old servant, there's also an elderly female servant who cleans and a gardener. If... Miss needs to purchase some maidservants, this old servant can go to a middleman and help Miss choose a few suitable..."

"No need!" Qiao Mu dryly interrupted him. "Remember to make a plaque that says 'Qiao Estate' as soon as possible and hang it up."