

My Crown 441

Chapter 441: Shock

Ye Lingmin actually escaped from Sky Peak's Duantian Cliff on her own accord and entered the arena to compete without permission?

This kind of audacity was too outrageous.

At this time, Coitus Faction's Qi Mei'er ran over utterly discomfited.

Everyone turned their heads for a glance, and they saw that unlucky woman looking like she had crawled out from a cesspool, a stinky scent wafting outwards from her.

"Master, that person, she!" Qi Mei'er was already smothered into tears by her body of stink.

How would she know that a normal trip to relieve herself would end in someone pulling a sack over her head from behind and beating her up? Her whole body was tainted by the stink of feces and urine, wuwuwu...

It was so infuriating, it really infuriated her to death!

She was met with a disaster falling from the heavens simply from relieving herself. Truly, no one else could match her luck...

Everyone gazed sympathetically at this stinky young lady. Even her master Granny Witch couldn't bear her stink and quickly evaded when she saw her walking over. Her rotten luck really had skyrocketed for such an unexpected disaster to befall her.

A nice and delicate beauty covered in, cough, cough, the stink of urine really didn't smell too pleasant.

"Why aren't you hurrying back to wash up!!" Granny Witch berated angrily. She still f*cking dared to disgrace herself in front of others with this appearance that looked like she had suffered from a plague!

Her old pride had already gone down the drain because of this moron!

"Senior Sister, let me accompany you to wash up." Dressed in pale clothing and her head adorned with only a small pink beaded flower, Qi Huo'er walked up and put a cloak around the overwhelmingly stinky Qi Mei'er.

Qi Mei'er also knew that she would definitely be a thorn in her master's eyes if she continued to stand there, so she could only follow Qi Huo'er to bathe and change her clothes. Nevertheless, she hated that woman that snatched her match to the bones.

Before the pair of senior and junior sister could walk far, they saw someone supporting an elderly man over.

To avoid being loathed by the elderly man and his attendant, Qi Huo'er hastily pulled her senior sister a bit over to the side. She left after glancing at them from the corner of her eyes.

"Sir, those two were Coitus Faction's disciples." Qiu San spoke softly.

“Fallen women that only know how to cover themselves in garish makeup.” Liu Yizhi coughed several times before standing still and fixating on the stage with his gloomy gaze.

“Sir, the strength of these two Lower Domain disciples are comparable to our prefecture soldiers, right?” Qiu San spoke out loud.

“Humph, they only measure up to the outer prefecture soldiers and don’t even qualify to guard the inner prefecture.” Liu Yizhi’s eyes were filled with strong disdain.

All of a sudden, Liu Yizhi’s body stiffened, and his expression shifted slightly. This was because Mo Lian and Qiao Mu both turned their heads to gaze coldly at him.

At the same time, Duan Yue also turned his head cheerfully in the same direction as the other two. He lifted a brow, and his gaze circled between Liu Yizhi and Qiu San before he retracted it.

As Liu Yizhi didn’t witness Duan Yue and Peng Zhang’s battle, he didn’t know this youth’s strength. However, he had a deep impression of Mo Lian. Even he didn’t dare to easily offend this youth that could control a powerful fire spirit.

Even though they were far from the arena at the moment, those three people could sense them. It had to be said that even Liu Yizhi was shocked by this degree of acuteness.

The battle on stage had already entered the most heated phase at this time. The silver spear in Ning Bihuan’s hand suddenly snared onto Ye Lingmin’s headscarf and cloak, unveiling her face before everyone.

“Senior Sister Ye?!” Many of the Holy Water Sect disciples cried out softly in surprise as they covered their mouths with both hands.

Ye Lingmin was holding a willow-leafed saber. At this time, because the mystic energy overflowing from the silver spear had pierced her shoulder, that area was already dyed red.

She was extremely furious and agitated. Her mind was in a mess, and her saber technique was already in disarray.

Chapter 442: Willful and Capricious

She had put in so much effort to come participate in this competition to just lose to the woman before her!

She wanted to prove to her master that she had absolutely made a wrong decision by not choosing her to participate in this competition!

Ning Bihuan creased her brow and said coldly, “You should admit defeat. I don’t want to take your life either, so leave the arena yourself.”

Afterwards, she directly flicked Ye Lingmin away with a shake of her silver spear. Ye Lingmin rolled on the stage three times before flopping onto the ground.

Her eyes revealed a glint that was unwilling to acknowledge defeat, and she glared fiercely at Ning Bihuan. “You think that you’ve won already?”

After all, the two hadn't summoned their mystic beasts from beginning to end, almost as if they had mutually agreed to it beforehand.

Ning Bihuan shook her head. "You're a Holy Water Sect disciple, right. You bypassing the prior rounds and directly competing in the finals already doesn't accord with the rules. I'm not going to argue with you, so you should know when to stop."

"I'm telling you, you can't defeat me!" Ye Lingmin's obstinate temper struck again, and she grasped a small bottle with a sudden flip of her hand.

The three peak masters who were sitting in the front row simultaneously twitched their eyelids.

Murong Xun's complexion sank. Just as she shouted "Lingmin," she saw Ye Lingmin unplugging the bottle stopper and gulping down all at once the three drops of holy water that she had saved up until the present.

All the Holy Water Sect disciples knew that they would advance most rapidly with the best results the first two times they drank holy water. Ye Lingmin hadn't been willing to use up her second time and had instead been accumulating holy water. She had always been saving up the holy water that she requested from Lady Holy Water each time.

When she gulped it all down, the three peak masters' complexions turned abnormally unsightly.

Soon, mystic energy from all directions gathered into a small whirlpool above Ye Lingmin's head and continuously funnelled into her body.

Until—

It thoroughly erupted!

Ye Lingmin advanced a level under everyone's watchful gazes!

Everyone's eyes were filled with intense disbelief.

There wasn't anyone who didn't know how dangerous and difficult it was for a great level-10 mystic cultivator to advance to a great level-11 mystic cultivator.

But what happened just now?

How did Ye Lingmin break through the barrier for great level-10 mystic cultivators in an instant?

Before everyone had regained their senses, Ye Lingmin had already jumped up and swung down her saber spiritedly.

Her willow-leafed saber spun in mid-air before flying towards Ning Bihuan with a whoosh.

With a solemn expression, Ning Bihuan readied her silver spear and struck the edge of the saber. She could immediately feel both wrists sinking at once and almost lost her grip on her silver spear.

"Why aren't you letting go already!" Ye Lingmin shouted with a commanding presence. She abruptly retracted her willow-leaf saber and then chopped at Ning Bihuan's left wrist.

With no other choice, Ning Bihuan could only evade backwards. However, Ye Lingmin suddenly snatched over the silver spear in her hands and kicked it flying. With a swish, it ended up stabbing into the stage at an angle.

The whole arena was silent.

Murong Xun's complexion had already turned indescribably foul.

On the other hand, a haze of doubts and suspicions surfaced in the eyes of Coitus Faction's Granny Witch.

Could this be the Holy Water Sect's so-called Holy Water Spring from the rumors? Its effect truly was so good that it could make a great level-10 mystic cultivator immediately advance to a level-11 cultivator with a gulp?

And crush Ning Bihuan, who was similarly a great level-10 mystic cultivator, within minutes?

Holy water indeed had such an effect!

In the quiet arena, Ye Lingmin raised her willow-leaf saber above her head and shouted, "I won!"

On the side, Ning Bihuan glanced silently at her while clutching her chest. She then walked directly to her silver spear, pulling it out of the ground before rapidly leaping off the stage to leave.

Chapter 443: Expelled from the Sect

Xixia Valley's Valley Master was bewildered and didn't know whether or not to go on stage to announce the results of the match.

Seeing that no one else was coming up on stage, Ye Lingmin leaped off of it and walked up directly to Murong Xun. She stiffened her spine to salute, "Master, Aunt-Masters."

Murong Xun's complexion was already so foul that it could not turn any worse.

She gazed coldly at Ye Lingmin and didn't say anything, just gazing at her for a long time.

This kind of silent gaze that exuded an extreme pressure caused Ye Lingmin to panic.

Actually, it was best if she could immediately enter closed-door cultivation right now.

Because she wanted to win the battle just now, she swallowed three drops of holy water at once to forcefully advance her cultivation to level-11. She did achieve a crushing victory, but she actually hadn't thoroughly assimilated these three drops of holy water.

To completely stabilize her level-11 cultivation state, she still needed to enter a period of closed-door cultivation.

She had only wanted to win too badly and wanted to demonstrate herself before her master. She wanted to gain her master's approval and recognition so much.

She wanted to let her master know that she, Ye Lingmin, her master's third disciple, was not inferior to anyone.

However, her master's apathetic gaze right now scared her.

Ye Lingmin called out quietly, "Master."

"Lingmin, it's because I failed in teaching disciples that brought about your willful and capricious, undisciplined, and out-of-control character." Murong Xun's disappointed gaze caused Ye Lingmin's entire heart to start quivering.

Why was this happening? She had won! Why was her master still so disappointed in her when she had won? Didn't she win??

"Master." Ye Lingmin completely panicked. She was frightened out of her wits and looked desperately towards her two aunt-masters. However, she saw that they both wore the same grave expressions.

"Master!" Ye Lingmin wanted to grab onto Murong Xun's sleeves.

Yet, Murong Xun knocked her several steps away. She stood there in stupefaction, dumbly raising her head to look at her unfamiliar master.

"From today on, you are no longer my, Murong Xun's, disciple. Nor will you be Holy Water Sect's disciple any longer. You should leave." Murong Xun stated plainly.

Ye Lingmin felt as if she were struck by lightning and immediately staggered backwards. She raised her tearful eyes and looked towards Murong Xun and uncontrollably asked, "Why, Master? Why?"

Third Senior Sister...

The other disciples from the First Peak were also dumbfounded. They wanted to rush forth to dissuade Murong Xun's decision, but they didn't dare to when they met her admonishing gaze.

Ye Lingmin suddenly knelt before Murong Xun with a thud and wailed, "Master, Master, don't drive me away, Master. This disciple is at fault, Master. This disciple wasn't obedient and shouldn't have left Duantian Cliff, Master. Forgive me this one time, Master. Master, don't drive this disciple away!"

Murong Xun had already made her decision. No matter how other people came over to speak good words on Ye Lingmin's behalf, Murong Xun still insisted on expelling Ye Lingmin from the sect.

"Master!"

"You should leave. Return and carefully think about what exactly you did wrong. If you feel remorseful in the future, then look after your former sisters properly if you happen to meet them again in the pugilistic world." Murong Xun turned her back around and didn't look at Ye Lingmin anymore.

"Master!" Ye Lingmin was utterly flustered. Upon turning her head, she saw the stunned Qiao Mu and hastily rushed to her. She clutched her arms and repeatedly pleaded, "Little Junior Sister, help Third Junior Sister. Little Junior Sister, go beseech Master on my behalf. Master likes you the most, so she will definitely listen to you. Little Junior Sister, Little Junior Sister, Senior Sister is begging you, wuwuwu..."

Chapter 444: Sacred Water is Exposed

"Third Senior Sister." Qiao Mu blinked, then raised her head to look at Murong Xun, who was standing on the side with her back to them.

She only felt like her master's stiff back silhouette seemed to be concealing an infinite amount of pain.

"Third Senior Sister, Master is currently in a temper. How about this? You leave first, and I'll slowly persuade Master?" Qiao Mu asked softly.

Ye Lingmin looked at Qiao Mu with brimming tears. "Little Junior Sister, you really will help me, right?"

Qiao Mu nodded seriously.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry..." Ye Lingmin didn't expect that the little junior sister who she criticized on their first meeting would disregard past grudges and help her so.

She tightly and firmly grasped both of the little girl's hands. After turning her head to glance at Murong Xun's rigid back silhouette, she didn't dare to stay any longer and fled in tears.

On the other end, Liu Yizhi and Qiu San's figures were long gone.

Qiu San supported Liu Yizhi out of the arena. Liu Yizhi was beside himself in excitement, and his entire body was trembling faintly.

"It isn't a holy water spring, definitely isn't a holy water spring." How on earth was this a holy water spring!

He saw extremely clearly just now that that Holy Water Sect girl on stage had swallowed only three drops of water. Three drops!

Three drops of water immediately induced her to bridge such a large gap and advance from a level-10 to a level-11 great mystic cultivator!

Hahahahaha!

He was already well aware now that this holy water spring was definitely a smoke screen that the Holy Water Sect came up with to conceal the holy water's real identity.

They had duped the entire world for so many years, hahahahaha!

Good, good, very good! A tiny Holy Water Sect in the Lower Star Domain was actually so insolent as to produce clouds with one turn of the hand and rain with another right under the Six Prefectures' noses!

Presumptuous!!

How was this a holy water spring!

It clearly was—

Sacred water!

When speaking about sacred water, you had to first mention the five elemental spirits.

Everyone in the Six Prefectures knew that you had to first sense one of the five elemental spirits in order to break through the level-15 great mystic cultivator barrier. You would then be able to smoothly enter a higher realm and complete the transition from the mystic realm to the spirit realm.

And among the water elemental spirit's ten possible grades, sacred water was the unrivaled and unmatched elemental spirit of all elemental spirits!

Usually, the five elemental spirits that people could sense were basically from grade-one to grade-five. Only especially talented people could sense higher-grade elemental spirits.

What kind of existence was sacred water?

That was the basis of all water elemental spirits and completely crushed all water spirits grade-nine and below.

A fight was bound to break out over the emergence of a sacred spirit. A sacred spirit referred to the five elemental spirits' sacred water, sacred fire, sacred wood, sacred earth, and sacred lightning.

"Hurry and inform all of Shuntian Prefecture's members on Sikong Planet to immediately travel nonstop day and night to the Holy Water Sect outside of Five Moon City. We must obtain the sacred water before the other five prefectures!"

The Holy Water Sect certainly wouldn't carry sacred water, such an important item, along with them on this trip out of the sect. It presumably should be lying peacefully in the Holy Water Sect's secret land at this moment, waiting for their Shuntian Prefecture to go forth and gather it, hahahahaha!

No, it was waiting for him, Liu Yizhi! To go forth and seize it.

"Yes!" Qiu San immediately cupped his fists and hastily turned to leave.

Liu Yizhi raised his head to look at the azure sky, and his aloof eyes squinted slightly. He stifled several continuous coughs, then sniggered, "It seems like... the heavens are about to witness a change of powers."

The following matches had turned dull and insipid.

Besides, many people's minds were not focused on the competition.

The result was that Darling Qiao obtained the final victory. Why was this?

Because the other top four competitors—Duan Yue, Xu Shanshan, Situ Yi, Baili Xi—were disinclined to battle her, so she automatically got promoted to first place.

Chapter 445: Looming Dark Clouds

However, there was not one bit of excitement or joy. Although it was the Three Sects' total victory, there was not a hint of joy on the faces of the Holy Water Sect's three peak masters.

After returning to their courtyard, all the senior sisters ran over to give her gifts. They said euphemistically that since their little junior sister had achieved glory for the Holy Water Sect, they had to gift the first place winner presents.

Xu Shanshan gifted her a dagger that was a level-15 mystic weapon. She told her that she had brought it out from the Maple Pavilion and that it was quite convenient to use.

Qiao Mu intuitively felt that it was a bit strange. Her senior sisters ran over one by one to present her with gifts that were all considerably valuable.

“What happened?” Qiao Mu asked sternly.

“What can happen?” Yang Xirong smiled and said, “Youngest Disciple, you haven’t returned home for so many years since coming to the sect. How about returning home for a visit this time?”

Qiao Mu nodded. She also had such an intention, but...

She had just about assimilated the essence water, so she had a bit of difficulty in suppressing her cultivation now. She planned to first find a place to advance her cultivation level before returning home.

“Master, are you still angry at Third Senior Sister?” Qiao Mu walked to Murong Xun’s side and tugged at her sleeve. “You can’t forgive her? You already know what kind of personality she has.”

Master always knew that she was competitive and unwilling to admit defeat, but why was she so enraged today? Qiao Mu felt that she must have overlooked something.

An idea suddenly occurred to her, and Qiao Mu hurriedly asked, “Is it related to the holy water?”

Because Third Senior Sister swallowed the holy water on the spot and attracted unwanted attention? Then what would happen to the sect, Master and Aunt-Masters, and the senior sisters? Qiao Mu only felt like this turn of events was not very reassuring.

“Silly child, what can happen?” Murong Xun smiled and said, “Don’t let your imagination run wild and go rest earlier. All the other sects and factions are leaving Xixia Valley early tomorrow morning. We will have to leave too.”

“Child, your parents must be worried as you haven’t returned all these years since leaving them, so stay at home for longer this time. You don’t need to hurry back since not much is happening at the sect anyways.” Murong Xun pulled Qiao Mu’s hand and instructed quietly, “The world outside is different from inside the sect. Be vigilant in everything that you do, and take care of yourself on your journey.”

“Young Master Mo has come.” Xu Shanshan spoke.

Qiao Mu walked outside, slightly depressed.

Mo Lian grasped her small hand and squeezed it. He said smilingly, “What is it? Because I have to leave tomorrow, too? And you’re unwilling to part with me?”

The little fellow wasn’t in the mood to joke and raised her head sulkily to look at him.

She suddenly thought of something and rummaged through her purple talisman, finally plopping a small rectangular iron box onto Mo Lian’s palm. “I don’t know how to open this.”

Mo Lian involuntarily let out a laugh and then lowered his head to look at this small rectangular iron box. It was melded together seamlessly and sure enough lacked a spot from which to open it.

“Duan Yue should know.” The little fellow was still slightly depressed, so she said, “Help me hand it over to him so he can study it.”

"If you're returning to your sect, then we will have to go our separate ways tomorrow. Don't leave this sour face for me to remember, or else the expression I'll always be keeping in mind will be your sour face." Mo Lian suddenly raised her small face with his hand. "Qiaoqiao, seriously smile for me. It's been so many years, but I truly haven't seen you smile before!"

Qiao Mu rolled her eyes at him. How could she smile without rhyme or reason just because he wanted her to?

"How about I tell you a joke and you try smiling?" Mo Lian teased her small face with his finger.

"Tell me." The little stoic wasn't in a happy mood.

"Once upon a time, there was a bad person called Duan Yue. One day, he was beaten to death by a good person called Mo Lian."

Qiao Mu: "..."

Chapter 446: Should it Be Older Sister?

Wow, it really was very funny. Qiao Mu swept him a glance and poked his chest with her finger.

"Not funny."

With a tug of his hand, Mo Lian pulled the little fellow into his embrace, chuckling as he hugged her.

Suddenly, a fuming voice sounded from the door. Duan Yue dashed over and yelled lividly, "Of course it's not funny! Qiaoqiao, don't listen to him talk rubbish! I am a good person without equal."

Without equal, huh? Mo Lian cast him a slightly disdainful look and conveniently chucked that small rectangular iron box at his head.

Duan Yue was so angry that he raised his leg, intending to send it flying with a kick.

However, just as his foot was about to come into contact with the small iron box, Mo Lian's voice sounded leisurely. "It's Qiaoqiao's."

Duan Yue stumbled, and his kicking motion abruptly changed into an outstretched grasp. His movements were skillful and flowed smoothly, successfully nabbing the small lousy box into his hand.

"This should be a concealed weapon box." Mo Lian said indifferently.

Raising his head proudly, Duan Yue cast a sidelong glance at him before giving a humph. Then, while shaking the small iron box in his hand, he said smugly, "You don't know how to open this, right. Let me tell you, this type of concealed weapon box has been sealed with a method passed down from ancient times, and normal people absolutely cannot unseal the outer layer. I can already 99 percent determine that whatever is in here is a treasure."

This small iron box had indeed perplexed Darling Qiao for many years. When she had free time and nothing else to do, she would do all sorts of things to it—soaking it in water, roasting it in fire, even stabbing it with needles and throwing it in the fryer... cough, cough.

Hearing what Duan Yue said just now, the little fellow pattered before him with great interest and urged, "Hurry and open it."

"Okay!" Duan Yue tossed the small iron box in the air. Then, he pulled Qiao Mu to his side and said with a grin, "But you have to call me 'older brother!'"

Our dear Mo Lian's face darkened. Duan Yue, that punk, really knew how to take a mile when given an inch!

He had originally thought that the icy little fellow would reject. After all, Duan Yue was also just making a joke, but the next second—

Darling Qiao called him "older brother" very straightforwardly in a clear and crisp voice. Afterwards, she hurriedly tugged his sleeve. "Let's go!"

Duan Yue was taken aback.

Mo Lian was furious! His handsome face had turned ashen, and he pulled the little fellow into his embrace, his entire body emitting a low pressure.

As dense as our dear Qiao Mu was, even she could sense the displeasure he was exuding.

The little fellow raised her head from his embrace and looked baffled at his expression. She asked flabbergasted, "What happened?"

"You called him 'older brother!'" Mo Lian gnashed his teeth.

Qiao Mu nodded, then she turned her small stoic face to look at Duan Yue, who stood there laughing himself silly. She creased her brows and asked, "What happened to him? If not 'older brother,' should it be 'older sister?'"

Mo Lian: ... Why can I not refute her?

Yet hearing this, Mo Lian's shoulders trembled, trying to stifle his laughter. He lowered his head and hugged the little girl, unable to suppress his laughter at that moment.

His darling, was still young...

When Duan Yue heard her after returning to his senses, he also felt a bit both amused and exasperated. He swept a glance at Mo Lian and humphed, saying, "What are you laughing at. If I were to be 'older sister,' you would be 'older sister,' too! Tsk!"

You think that you wouldn't be as attractive as me if you were to masquerade as a young lady with that face? Ah, blah! Who was a young lady? Your whole family were young ladies!

"Qiaoqiao, let's go!"

"Don't be so touchy! Lead the way in front!" Mo Lian swatted away Duan Yue's misbehaving paw but was met with Duan Yue's indignant glower.

Chapter 447: Concealed Weapon Box

The three people found a room to sit down in. Duan Yue set the small iron box onto the table, then he successively pulled out about a dozen intricate tools from his inner world.

The little girl propped up her cheeks with her hands, her dark eyes curiously watching Duan Yue busy around.

She really didn't know how to make heads or tails of this toy!

She felt a bit indignant thinking about it. With her bright and intelligent mind, it really made her angry that she couldn't even open a concealed weapon box.

"This kind of concealed weapon box passed down from ancient times was sealed by our predecessor with a melding technique. You can't open it even if you hack it with a saber, slash it with a knife, soak it in water, or burn it in fire!" When Duan Yue spoke up to this point, he subconsciously raised his head to look at Miss Qiao, and he discovered that her small face wore a weird expression.

Duan Yue was involuntarily amused, and he broke out into laughter, saying, "Oh? You wouldn't have tried all these methods I just mentioned one by one, right?"

As he said this, even he himself couldn't help stifling his laughter with several coughs.

Darling Qiao humphed and rolled her eyes at him emphatically!

"Hahahahaha!" Duan Yue couldn't stifle it anymore and simply laughed out loud.

Being laughed at now for being uncultured... Qiao Mu simply turned her head aside. Yet, she saw that even though Mo Lian didn't laugh out loud like that dunce Duan Yue, he also couldn't hide the laughter in his eyes. That laughter was practically about to flow out tangibly from his curved pair of phoenix eyes.

"Pfft." Duan Yue controlled his laughter and hurriedly consoled the little fellow. "You can't be blamed for being dumb."

Our dear Qiao Mu glared with rounded eyes! This darling wasn't dumb to start with!

"Only Guanlan City's Duan Clan[1] would know a bit about this kind of melding technique. However, they wouldn't know how to unseal it, either. Their patriarch is absolutely an idiot. I reckon that he wouldn't be able to open it even after studying concealed weapons for so many years." Thinking of the people from the Duan Clan, Duan Yue pursed his lips in disdain.

Qiao Mu urged him hastily. "Hurry and open it." It wasn't going to take until dawn, right!

Duan Yue curbed his smile and lowered his head. He held the small iron box in his hand, then he used a small crystal awl to lightly fiddle with its four corners.

She couldn't see his movements clearly, but he was so skillful and quick that it dazzled her eyes.

They then heard a light "kacha."

A small hole actually cracked open on the top of that seamlessly melded small iron box.

As their three heads immediately huddled over it, Duan Yue simply half-bent his waist to stand up. He flipped over the small iron box and grabbed a small iron bowl in passing.

They saw a trickle of corrosive liquid flowing out of the small hole. It let out fizzling sounds as soon as it dropped into the small iron bowl.

“Wow, that concealed weapons master used poison to seal this concealed weapon box.” Qiao Mu recalled that she had thrown this toy into the fryer before, too...

Cough, cough, cough. Fortunately, this concealed weapons master had exceptional craftsmanship. Or else, wouldn't it have harmed Fat Sister's thirty-year-old frying wok that had been passed down in her family!

Although Duan Yue kept his hands busy, when he saw the little fellow wearing a weird expression again, he couldn't help teasing, “What is it? Could it be that you even tried frying it in a wok?”

Darling Qiao: “...”

Why did I suddenly have nothing to say?

The two youths both looked at her small face and involuntarily chuckled in amusement. “You really did fry it?”

Humph!

Qiao Mu propped her chin on both hands and simply ignored them by turning her small head aside.

Nevertheless, Duan Yue's movements were fairly quick. When he finished speaking, he had already poured out all of the corrosive poison from the small hole.

Subsequently, he picked up a thin and long needle, and with a concentrated gaze, he stabbed it into the hole extremely slowly.

Chapter 448: My Qiao Laughed

Qiao Mu held her breath slightly anxiously.

Was this fishy small iron box that had troubled her for so many years, finally about to be opened?

Her large dark eyes radiated a joyous light.

“Kacha, kacha, kacha!” With slightly narrowed eyes, Duan Yue put down the needle in his hand and quickly set the small iron box on the table.

However, they instead heard a series of elaborate mechanical springs discharging inside the iron box.

Both youths suddenly stretched out their hands at the same time and pulled her backwards.

This curious darling had been stretching her neck forwards at that moment, so when they pulled her without warning, her body fell backwards...

Mo Lian caught her fall and carried her up by the waist swiftly, then retreated out the door at lightning speed.

Just as the three people exited the door, Mo Lian embraced the little fellow tightly below his body, and they all flopped to the ground at the same time.

They heard an earth-shaking boom come from inside, and the door instantly blasted into pieces.

This d*mned explosion was especially resounding during this time at dusk. It not only alarmed everyone from the Three Sects and Five Factions, but it even frightened Xixia Valley's Valley Master into leaping off his chair in one breath. He roared "Which brat just blew up a room?" but he had already run rapidly out the door towards the source of the sound.

When the Three Sects, Five Factions, as well as Xixia Valley's large number of disciples rushed to this room, they only saw a complete mess of the place but didn't see anyone there.

After the explosion, Mo Lian and the other two promptly fished up the iron box that had been blasted out the door and fled at once. Who would foolishly stay there and wait to be berated...

At this time, they partly ran and partly flew to an area considerably far away from the Southern Courtyard before stopping.

This place was a secluded cave within Xixia Valley that was normally deserted. The three finally let out a sigh of relief and all looked at each other.

Qiao Mu couldn't help being amused from this glance.

These two incomparably beautiful and handsome youths that were usually confident and refined, always keeping a neat and tidy appearance, were now covered in dirt. Their heads of long messy hair hung down loosely, while their faces were smudged with a lot of dirt here and there. It was very hilarious how it looked like they had popped out from a burrow somewhere.

Mo Lian's set of white robes, especially, were covered in dirt, and dust would come off his body as he moved. Duan Yue's situation was not much better either. The collar of his brocade robe was stuck upright with quivering lumps of dirt.

"Hahahahaha!" A crisp and pleasing, familiar yet slightly unfamiliar laugh suddenly rang out.

The two youths that were currently tidying their robes suddenly spun their heads over in shock. Their eyes simultaneously rounded at the little girl that was presently clutching her stomach in uproarious laughter.

Mo Lian, who had recovered his wits, darted towards the little girl with a whoosh and fished her up into a hug. He murmured incessantly in excitement, "Qiaoqiao, you laughed, Qiaoqiao, you laughed, you laughed."

It was no longer that stiff and sarcastic smile that looked like she was splitting open a crack in the corner of her mouth, nor was it that expressionless small stoic face.

She really laughed, she laughed. Her laugh was so lively and vivacious, lovely and adorable. At that instant, Mo Lian felt like she had lit up the entire world, suddenly transforming its colors from monotone into multicolored. It was extremely pretty.

Our fellow Duan Yue, who came to half a beat slower, missed his chance to snatch up the little girl and could only circle around the two people continuously. He stretched out his hands and said, "Hurry and step aside. Step aside!"

For the lesser half of his lifetime, he had never seen the little girl beam with such a happy laugh. It was so rare for him to see her like this, but he only witnessed it for one second before that punk Mo Lian blocked the way. He really was too hateful!

Chapter 449: Finally Opened

“Qiaoqiao.” Mo Lian stretched out his hand to lift up the little girl’s small face that was still tinged with a hint of laughter, and he lowered his head to rub it against her smooth forehead. “I hope that you can always be happy like this in the future.”

It would be even better if your smile were to stay for good...

Duan Yue missed his chance to snatch up the little girl in a hug and could only glare from the side. However, he still nodded upon hearing what Mo Lian said.

Although that fellow was very hateful, but seeing as his words made a lot of sense, he would just... acknowledge them reluctantly.

Qiao Mu suddenly stretched out her hand and plucked a piece of dirt off from Mo Lian’s face. She cried out in displeasure, “The dirt on your face got onto mine!”

“Pfft... Hahahaha!” It was Duan Yue’s turn to be amused this time, and he pointed at Mo Lian in uproarious laughter.

Mo Lian simply hugged the little girl shamelessly and deliberately rubbed his face against hers. “Right, we’re already in this muddy appearance, so why don’t you join us!”

“Right, right, right. This is called enjoying blessings and enduring misfortune together!” Duan Yue butted in.

Qiao Mu unexpectedly laughed out loud. Her pair of dark eyes were filled with amusement. She gazed at Mo Lian just like this, and it felt like most of the haze in her heart had dissipated.

“Qiaoqiao.” Mo Lian caressed her small face and was unable to suppress the smile at the corner of his mouth.

“It’s lucky that we fled quickly. Otherwise, if we were to bump into Xixia’s old man, he would harp on us again!” Duan Yue remarked as he patted the opening of his sleeves.

Mo Lian turned his head around to glare at him. “You’re not ashamed to say so! And yet you were boasting about how you were without equal, as if you could immediately disassemble whatever concealed weapon came in your hands. Look at how discomposed you caused us to be now!”

“An error, an error!” Duan Yue scratched his nose in awkward laughter. His pair of peach-blossom eyes flashed and he threw Qiao Mu a bright flirtatious glance. “Rest assured, Qiaoqiao. I had only neglected to undo a small mechanical spring, which is why that happened just now. I’ll fiddle with it again this time and be done right away!”

With Qiao Mu in his arms, Mo Lian jumped backwards.

“Eh? What are you doing? Don’t look at me with this disbelieving gaze, okay! You have to trust me, you know? You have to trust! Let’s go, go, go! Let’s do it in the cave. I guarantee success this time!” Our fellow Duan Yue ran up to them and used each of his arms to drag the two unwilling people into the cave.

“I’ll succeed or die trying!”

An illumination pearl hovering in mid-air brightened up the cave.

Mo Lian pulled Qiao Mu to sit slightly farther away from Duan Yue and nearer to the mouth of the cave so that cough, cough, it would be more convenient to flee for their lives later.

“What are you doing sitting so far away?” Our fellow Duan Yue came over to pester them again and sat down across from the two. He selected a long needle and started to fiddle with that hole again.

“Don’t worry, I’m skillful at this! It really was only an error just now.” Duan Yue raised his head smilingly to blink at Qiao Mu. “Qiaoqiao, you have to trust me, you know? I am the person most worthy of your trust.”

Qiao Mu’s gaze shifted a bit, and she just gazed at the youth fixedly like this.

A smile hung on the corner of Duan Yue’s lips before skillfully probing the thin and long needle into the hole. He recollected his frivolous smile and replaced it with a serious expression as he undid the snugly-fitted mechanical springs in the interior.

“Kacha, kacha—kacha, kacha, kacha!” Several sounds rang out in succession. Qiao Mu’s heart was also on edge as she heard these sounds, her small face anxious.

Mo Lian patted her back with his hand to placate her.

Suddenly, they heard an extremely light and crisp “ka” sound resounding next to their ears.

The small iron box abruptly blossomed outwards like a flower, revealing a transparent crystal square box inside.

Chapter 450: Tianji Treasure Blueprint

A thin scrap of paper rippled and swayed within the transparent crystal, furling and unfurling extremely nimbly.

“What is this?” Qiao Mu gasped in shock.

“Tianji Treasure Blueprint!” The two youths spoke in unison, equally as shocked.

“What is Tianji Treasure Blueprint?” Qiao Mu tugged on the corner of Mo Lian’s sleeve.

“When speaking about the Tianji Treasure Blueprint, we have to first mention Master Tianji. He was a very extraordinary mechanisms and concealed weapons master from three hundred years ago.” Duan Yue butted in and said, “This person was well-versed in the mastery of mechanisms and concealed weapons and possessed very intricate craftsmanship. As I said, the method to create this kind of concealed weapon box had long been lost, and I had been wondering who made this. So it turned out to be him.”

“Mastery of mechanisms and concealed weapons? Then this whatever-blueprint is actually just a secret tome about mechanisms and concealed weapons?” It really was bizarre. Why would the Holy Water Sect even have this?

“Then this thing is definitely useless to me.” Qiao Mu was deflated. She didn’t understand mechanisms nor concealed weapons, so why would she want this toy?

“I’ll give it to you guys! You can have it to research!” The little fellow unhappily pushed that transparent crystal towards Mo Lian and Duan Yue.

The two youths immediately broke into laughter.

“Qiaoqiao, do you realize the pandemonium that this Tianji Treasure Blueprint would instigate if people were to catch wind of it?” Mo Lian looked helplessly at this clueless little girl. “Where did you get this from?”

The little girl was disappointed. So what if it were to instigate a pandemonium in the Six Prefectures and Three Provinces! A lousy blueprint was completely useless to her. She couldn’t get excited no matter the extent of the pandemonium it would raise.

“When I went to select mystic techniques at the Maple Pavilion, it! Followed me around like a cuckoo!” She felt depressed just talking about it. At that moment, time was almost up, and this iron box just dug a pit for her like this!

“Oh my.” This darling was unhappy! Duan Yue couldn’t help feeling amused looking at her. “Let me tell you, Qiaoqiao. You really picked up a treasure this time! Truly!”

Nah! What treasure! It was a treasure for the two youths who liked to research mechanisms and concealed weapons, but to her, it was just a bullsh*t blueprint...

Looking at the little fellow’s depressed face, the two youths smiled and stopped teasing her.

Mo Lian spoke, “Duan Yue is correct this time. This truly is a treasure! Because this blueprint itself is a divine weapon that Master Tianji forged with his lifetime’s work.”

“Huh?” Our dear Qiao Mu was confused.

This blueprint was a divine weapon? Now, what was a divine weapon?

Mo Lian couldn’t help laughing as he flicked her small forehead lightly. He said, “You don’t have to worry about what the heck a divine weapon is. You just need to know that it’s especially amazing. Come, be a good girl and first form a contract with it. I’ll help you seal the divine weapon at the same time and suppress it to a state suitable for your current cultivation, or else you won’t be able to use it.”

“But how about the mechanisms and concealed weapons techniques inside?”

She didn’t have a bit of use for it! The little fellow asked with a conflicted expression.

“Silly!” Duan Yue chuckled. “Won’t it be fine if you first contract with it and then take out the secret tome to show us? You’re still hesitating when this is a divine weapon? Quickly, quickly, quickly, it’ll be dawn soon if you keep hesitating!”

No matter how she looked at it, a thin scrap of paper didn't seem to look like a whatever-divine weapon!

Without much of an expression, Qiao Mu stretched out her small hand and injected a thread of mystic energy into the crystal casing that was skirting the outer layer of the blueprint.

Really, she had only injected a small portion of mystic energy, so minute that you could almost disregard it, yet the entire crystal casing immediately cracked open. The blueprint within shot up rapidly and suddenly emitted a dazzling golden light.