

Nobel Ruler 141

Chapter 141: Surrender!

Chu Liuyue ran to the path alone. The closer she was to the outside, the clearer she could feel the strength of the attack. One could just imagine what the scene outside was like.

Rocks kept falling from the mountain and landed beside her. However, Chu Liuyue did not stop and determinedly ran outside.

She had to go forward, even if there was danger. Besides, she really wanted to know why the fiends in Wan Ling Mountain had targeted her...

She felt that her neck was itchy, so she looked down and saw the blood ferret on her shoulders. "It's very dangerous outside. You shouldn't follow me."

The little fellow shook its head. *No! I want to follow you!*

Chu Liuyue laughed softly and tapped its head. "Aren't you very scared? When we met with danger previously, you ran faster than anyone else. Why must you follow me this time? I'm not joking with you. You clearly must know what the situation outside is like. You really don't have to follow me."

However, the little fellow seemed to be hurt by her words. It puffed up its cheeks and glared at her. It decisively turned around and faced her with its bottom. *I said I'm not leaving so I won't! I'm not a coward! Do I seem like that in your eyes? I want to be with you!*

Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears, but her heart was warm. “You can follow me out, but just run for your life by yourself if there’s danger, okay?”

The little fellow shook its tail and covered its ears.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and continued walking outside.

...

At the same time.

On another side of Wan Ling Mountain, Elder Sun and the rest were helpless as they stared at the black flying python that suddenly appeared in the sky.

“What’s happening? Why did the black flying python suddenly appear here?” Elder Sun was stunned.

The other teachers looked at each other awkwardly.

“Elder Sun, did you know that a black flying python was here?”

Elder Sun grimly nodded. “Wan Ling Mountain is its territory. The so-called Fiend Tidal actually started because of it. A black flying python’s cultivation requires it to swallow large amounts of energy, and this includes low-level fiends. Due to the fiend’s power, the low-level fiends could not help but gather together and let it do whatever it wants.”

“Three years ago, Uncle-Master and I met it here coincidentally. However, it was still in the sixth-grade then. I didn’t expect it to break through to the seventh-grade after a mere seven years.”

Everyone was shocked.

Elder Sun tightly knitted his brows. “The center mountain in Wan Ling Mountain is the black flying python’s nest. It never left it before, but it has appeared at the borders for some reason... Qingye, how many more students are there in the mountains?”

A teacher beside him counted in his heart and immediately said, “Quite a few fiends with extreme attacking power appeared a few days ago, which caused quite a number of students to be injured and withdraw. There should only be less than one-third of the original number left inside.”

As he stared at the frighteningly large body, Elder Sun muttered, “No wonder it’s so weird this time. It was because of this fellow...”

Even though he was a distance away, Elder Sun could clearly feel the ferocious murderous intent in the black flying python.

What exactly did it want? Suppressing his uneasiness, he commanded, “Let’s work on our own and bring the remaining students back. Remember, you must be careful not to trigger the black flying python.”

“Yes!”

...

Chu Liuyue reached the cave very quickly. Here, she could clearly feel the ferocious aura getting increasingly closer. She took a deep breath and walked outside.

When her figure appeared at the cave entrance, coldness flashed across the black flying python's eyes as it snarled in mid-air.

All the running fiends stopped in their tracks in unison when they heard the command. However, they had already occupied half the mountain, and the golden-eyed demons in front were staring straight at Chu Liuyue.

No, Chu Liuyue was already completely surrounded.

Following the snarl, Chu Liuyue looked up and was shocked when she saw the gigantic figure. *Seventh-grade black flying python? It is no wonder these fiends are so obedient. This fellow was here.*

The human and the fiend had a staredown.

Chu Liuyue could clearly see the harsh murderous intent in its vertical eyes.

It really did come for me! It wants to take my life! Chu Liuyue's heart gradually sank.

The sun was high up in the air, but her body was cold. If she were in her previous life's body, she would not care about a seventh-grade fiend. However... how could she be its match now, let alone talk about the numerous stern fiends surrounding her?

Chu Liuyue undoubtedly knew that the fiends would immediately rush towards her and shred her to pieces as long as the black flying python gave the command.

In the frozen atmosphere, the black flying python moved and flew to Chu Liuyue. When it got nearer, the golden-eyed demons all bent their bodies. The fiends above this half of the mountain were all fearful as well.

The black flying python looked down at Chu Liuyue from above.

It was just one look, but an invisible suppression overwhelmed her. This was the frightening power that only an advanced fiend would have.

Chu Liuyue felt something harshly slam against her body, and she felt excruciating pain. Her face immediately turned pale as sweat covered her forehead.

The little fellow resting on her shoulders also felt the impact and let out a painful moan. The blood ferret was a fiend and naturally wouldn't feel well after suffering the black flying python's scary suppression.

Chu Liuyue glanced at it and saw that it was terribly trembling in obvious fear and anger. However, its claws tightly clutched onto her clothes as it refused to let go.

She forced herself to continue as she turned around to look at the black flying python. She enunciated each word clearly as she said, "You can have my life, but you should first tell me why and let me die a peaceful death at the very least."

The black flying python looked at her nonchalantly and did not say anything. However, it increased the strength of the force acting on them.

Ka!

The ground underneath Chu Liuyue's feet immediately split open.

Excruciating pain spread throughout Chu Liuyue's body, causing her to see black. She clenched her teeth and stood up straight, but a light flashed across her mind.

It is very easy for this fiend to kill me, but the black flying python didn't directly attack me. Rather than wanting my life, it seems... like it wants me to surrender even more!

Chapter 142: Go Forward Together

I don't know this black flying python at all, and it's my first time seeing it. So why is it treating me this way? Chu Liuyue could not understand at all. However, this black flying python seemed like it didn't want to explain as it stared at her with its deadly gaze. It also kept increasing the strength of the suppression acting on Chu Liuyue's body.

Chu Liuyue grunted, and blood spilled from the corner of her mouth. However, she remained standing straight. She extended her hands slowly to wipe away the blood from her mouth before looking at the black flying python determinedly.

After a momentary silence, she laughed. "... If I kneel just because you want me to, won't I lose face?"

Anger flashed across the black flying python's eyes when it heard her words.

Hong!

With a whip of its tail, a strong wind came hurling towards her.

Chu Liuyue's body flew backward, and she landed heavily on the mountain rocks.

Bang!

A low sound was made, and blood flowed out from her back. Chu Liuyue coughed and spat out blood. Her originally pale lips were tainted with blood, making her look especially miserable. Her shoulder blade was probably crushed.

She used her arms to push herself and forcefully stand up. Before she could even stand still, another terrible force went straight for her.

Bang!

Chu Liuyue was flung backward again. This time, her injuries were even worse than before.

The little fellow tightly clutched onto her clothes and flew along with her. It nervously looked at Chu Liuyue, and its eyes were filled with tears.

Chu Liuyue took a long time to recover. She then bore with the excruciating pain as she used a nearby rock to help her stand up once again. At this time, her body was covered in patches of blood, making her look ghastly.

It was not that she did not want to retaliate, but the other party did not even give her a chance to do so. A seventh-grade fiend's ability was undetermined. She was also no match for it with her current cultivation level.

But... why? The little fellow quickly wiped away its tears with its claws as it angrily looked at the culprit. It clenched its teeth loudly before it finally jumped forward and went straight for the other party. It wanted to kill that fellow!

"Come back!" Chu Liuyue was shocked and wanted to stop it, but it was too late.

The black flying python's eyes turned and looked at the rushing blood ferret like it was looking at something dead. *You don't know your own limits.*

With another wave of strong suppression, the little fellow's body suddenly stiffened, and it collapsed onto the floor. It lay on the ground motionless, and Chu Liuyue did not know if it was dead or alive.

Chu Liuyue's eyes narrowed.

A cold gaze landed on her body.

She looked up.

The black flying python bent down to look at her as if it was looking at an ant uselessly struggling.

...

After receiving Elder Sun's command, the teachers immediately took action. They very quickly found the remaining students in the woods and brought them out safely. The process was very smooth. Before they left, Elder Sun kept reminding them not to enter the depths of the mountains.

Thus, most of the students were still at the borders, which silently made their retreat convenient.

Elder Sun was a little surprised when the teachers came back and said that the majority of the students had been sent out. "So quickly?"

"Yes. The students did not go in too deep. Even though they were separated, it was easy to find them. Perhaps it's because of the black flying python, but the fiends in the mountains seemed to have been called over. Therefore, we didn't meet any obstacles."

The teachers were also thankful for their luck.

Elder Sun nodded, and his heart felt a little more assured. "How many students remain inside?"

"Other than the three who are dead, our batch of students are all out," said an elder lowly.

"Four have died, and there's one missing. The rest have already left." Another elder looked grim.

Sun Zhongyan kept quiet for a while. This was the worst battle situation the academy had ever been in. If he had known it would be like this...

“Bai Chen, what about the freshmen?” asked Elder Sun as he suppressed his emotions.

Bai Chen looked terrible. “Two people died in Gu Mingzhu’s team, and we found their corpses in the woods. The other three are missing, and... there’s no news from Chu Liuyue’s team of four.”

Sun Zhongyan was shocked. “Why is there no news? The borders are only so large. Besides, they have their signal bottles with them. Why can’t you—”

He suddenly thought of something, and his voice faded.

Bai Chen bitterly laughed. “I’ve searched the other areas, but it was to no avail. There’s only one place I haven’t gone to.”

Everyone knew the place he was talking about. They had all avoided the mountain that the black flying python occupied as they acted.

“... They’re very possibly there!”

Everyone then fell into dead silence.

The black flying python was very dangerous. If the few of them really were there, it would be hard for them to survive.

Sun Zhongyan tightly knitted his brows. The next moment, he decisively said, "You guys leave first. I'll go there on my own!"

"Elder Sun, please think twice. That black flying python is ferocious! In this situation, we have no idea what it's going to do. If you go now, you'll—"

"I can't worry so much. If they're not in the other areas, then they can only be there. It's precisely because the black flying python is too formidable that I have to go there!" *The other students most likely can't hold on much longer in front of so many fiends.*

"Elder Sun, what if they're not there? Why don't we take..."

"There's no time." Sun Zhongyan shook his head.

Bai Chen immediately said, "I'll follow you!"

Si Ting stepped forward, and his handsome face looked very calm. However, something stirred in his eyes as he said, "Master, let me go with you!"

Chapter 143: Perilous Situation

"No! It's very dangerous there. How can you go with me?" Elder Sun rejected him without thinking. Si Ting was talented and capable, but that did not mean that he was currently strong enough. If anything happened to him, what would he do as his teacher?

Si Yang could not help but close in and softly said, "Big Brother! Are you crazy? That's a seventh-grade black flying python! Don't you want to live?"

He looked at his surroundings hesitantly, and his voice became even softer. "You shouldn't take the risk because of... because of other people! Besides, you might be Elder Sun's burden if you go with him!"

However, Si Ting was insistent. "Teacher, it's precisely because it's dangerous that I should follow you there. You're my teacher, so I have no reason to sit aside and watch the show. Besides... you know my abilities the clearest. Perhaps I can even help you later on."

Si Ting usually did not speak much. Even though he had good grades, he was usually very humble. Today was the first time he said such words, and it subconsciously garnered the glances of many other elders and teachers.

Si Yang looked at him and knew that he could not advise him otherwise. He instantly felt his head hurt. *Big Brother always does things decisively and will definitely not change his mind on things he has decided on. If he wants to go, then... he'll definitely go!*

Other people might not know why, but I do! It's precisely because that person is there!

"Aish!" Si Yang sighed heavily as he walked to one side because if he could not see something, it would not hurt him.

Elder Sun looked at Si Ting weirdly. "... You really want to go?"

Si Ting nodded.

After keeping quiet for a while, Elder Sun finally agreed when he saw Si Ting's serious expression. "Since it's so, follow me then!"

...

"The exit should be outside this!" Cen Hu knocked on the side of the mountain and wiped off the beads of sweat on his forehead at the same time. He looked elated.

Mu Hongyu walked forward and knocked on the surface like Cen Hu before leaning in to listen. "The sound seems different from before," said Mu Hongyu, somewhat uncertain. "Cen Hu, are you sure this is the exit?"

"Of course! When I lived at home, I loved to follow my father up to the mountains. Even though I'm not super familiar with it, I can tell a thing or two." Cen Hu patted his chest. "If we break open this layer and it's not an exit, you can deal with me however you want."

Upon seeing his confidence, Mu Hongyu believed in him even more. She then turned around to look at Gu Mingfeng. "Shall you do it?"

Gu Mingfeng nodded and indicated to the other two to move backward. He stood in front of the wall and held the black Xuan formation crystal.

His thoughts changed, and he injected his force into it.

A faint light suddenly glowed—this was the indication that the Xuan formation had been activated.

The surroundings were deadly quiet, and this light became the brightest existence.

The three of them stared straight at the black Xuan formation crystal.

The golden mane bear cub moved uneasily, and Mu Hongyu hurriedly touched its ears before wrapping it even more tightly. If anything bad happened later, she could still protect it.

Gu Mingfeng kept injecting his force into the black Xuan formation crystal, and the light shone even more brightly.

Very quickly, a Xuan formation outline appeared.

A faint suppression started to spread.

Cen Hu suddenly said softly, "I wonder how Liuyue is doing on her side."

Mu Hongyu's heart skipped a beat.

Actually, even though they were here and could vaguely feel the movements outside, they could not guess what was happening. Nobody knew what was going on outside.

She suppressed her inner worries and took a deep breath in. "Liuyue is very capable and super smart. She'll definitely be alright. Since she said that we'll meet outside the mountains, she won't go back on her words. Let's hurry up and get out of here to meet her!"

Cen Hu nodded with all his might. "Right!"

Buzz!

A faint buzz suddenly sounded.

The two of them looked over and saw a complete Xuan formation forming on top of the black Xuan formation crystal in Gu Mingfeng's hands.

It was shining brightly and exuded strong suppression as it dazzled their eyes.

"It's done!" Cen Hu excitedly waved his fists in the air.

However, the light suddenly dimmed very quickly. Even the suppression they felt before had suddenly become unstable.

"W-what's wrong?" Cen Hu's smile stiffened.

Mu Hongyu suddenly realized something. "Perhaps... Gu Mingfeng's strength isn't enough to activate the black Xuan formation crystal?"

Since they were not Xuan Masters, they were at a disadvantage because warriors normally wasted more energy to activate the black Xuan formation crystal as compared to Xuan Masters.

“However, the two of us can’t help him any longer... I have already used up my force,” said Cen Hu bitterly.

As he spoke, the light grew even dimmer.

Mu Hongyu weakly closed her eyes. “It’ll be great if I became a stage-four warrior.” *If I was, this wouldn’t have been a problem! Liuyue left her trump card for us and is facing the danger on her own. Yet, we still can’t succeed...*

The atmosphere became stiff.

Weng! Weng!

The soft buzz sounded again, and Mu Hongyu and Cen Hu were stunned when they realized that Gu Mingfeng’s aura was becoming stronger.

The black Xuan formation crystal in front of him shone brightly once again.

Mu Hongyu’s eyes widened.

Cen Hu could not help but curse. “Damn! Gu Mingfeng, you freaking became a stage-four warrior already?”

Hong!

A frightening force burst out from the black Xuan formation crystal.

...

Chu Liuyue clenched her teeth, stood up once again, and walked forward. She walked very slowly as blood kept dripping down. Every step she made would leave behind frightening bloody footprints.

The black flying python nonchalantly looked down at her, and the murderous intent in its eyes intensified.

Chu Liuyue's reluctance to surrender had thoroughly angered it. The more she behaved this way, the more unwilling it was to kill her directly.

Chu Liuyue finally stopped. Then, she bent down to pick up the motionless little fellow. Upon closer inspection, its body seemed to be trembling slightly because of its breathing, so it was clearly still alive.

Chu Liuyue instantly heaved a sigh of relief in her heart. Even though it was not her fiend, she did not want it to die because of her, especially when it chose to be with her at the most crucial point.

Just as Chu Liuyue's hand was about to touch it, a strong wave of force hurled towards her.

Chu Liuyue went flying backward once again!

This time, the black flying python finally moved. Its wings vibrated as it rapidly flew toward Chu Liuyue. Then, it opened its mouth, which was extremely big. It was like it could swallow the ground whole.

Chu Liuyue almost fainted from this impact, but she used her last bit of perseverance to stay awake. However, when she spat out blood and forcefully opened her eyes, she saw eerily sharp teeth.

The black flying python was right in front of her eyes and planned to swallow her.

Chu Liuyue instinctively wanted to shy away, but discovered that her body was already numb.

She could not move at all.

Mockery flashed across the pair of vertical eyes from above. *The weak can be played by anyone.*

Chu Liuyue clenched her teeth tightly. *I can't die here!*

Buzz!

The water droplet in her dantian suddenly twirled.

Chapter 144: Desperation

The moment the water droplet started twirling, the black flying python—which was very close to Chu Liuyue—suddenly felt life-threatening danger.

It looked at Chu Liuyue in shock, and the mockery and contempt its eyes had disappeared. It was replaced by unconcealable, deep fear. The next moment, it anxiously moved backward without even choosing where to go. It acted as if Chu Liuyue was some formidable existence.

All the surrounding fiends were stunned by the scene.

What's... going on?

I thought it wanted to kill that despicable human? Why...?

Chu Liuyue suddenly recovered her senses and noticed that the water droplet in her dantian had moved. The immense strength kept moving, and a small water droplet separated from the main one the next second.

Chu Liuyue suddenly felt her palm itch. When she looked down, she widened her eyes in shock. A small water droplet had suddenly appeared on her bloodied palm. The water droplet was the size of a bean and was completely transparent. It looked just like a normal water droplet. However, she could feel the formidable suppressive force inside it when she went near it.

Chu Liuyue looked at it dazedly. This scene was very similar to the one where she recovered her Yuan meridian. The only difference was that the previous water droplet was used to recover her Yuan meridian while this was used to attack.

Without waiting for her to react, the water droplet rapidly launched forward and went straight for the black flying python.

The black flying python swiftly retreated, but the water droplet was much faster than it.

In the blink of an eye, the water droplet had already arrived in front of it.

The black flying python's wings flapped, and an orange fire emerged, forming a barrier in front of it. However, shock filled its eyes the next moment.

This was because the water droplet had directly flown past the fire barrier and did not even decrease in size.

The water droplet travelled at lightning speed. Upon closer inspection, it could see a hole in the fire barrier. Before the fire barrier could even properly form, the water droplet had passed it.

The black flying python was even more stunned. It had previously already felt that something was amiss, and the scene in front of it had proved its thoughts—Chu Liuyue had an unusual source of formidable strength in her. Even it was not the strength's match.

As it thought in that way, it rapidly flew backward and wanted to avoid the water droplet.

The large, red fiend crazily spun in the air as its route was very disorganized, making it look very weird. However, the water droplet kept following closely behind it and decreased the distance between them as if the water droplet had eyes.

...

“What's going on?”

Elder Sun and Si Ting silently rushed over, but felt that something was wrong. When they looked up, they coincidentally saw the black flying python crazily spinning in the air.

It seemed like it was avoiding something.

Si Ting quickly looked up and knitted his brows. His eyes turned and landed on the middle of the mountain. There was still quite some distance between them and the mountain, but they could roughly see the situation there.

He could vaguely see a familiar figure on the mountain. *If it isn't Chu Liuyue, who else can it be?*

At this time, she leaned against a rock and seemed to be unwell.

Si Ting's heart stopped, and he wanted to continue forward. However, he was stopped by Elder Sun. "Si Ting, if you move forward any further, it'll be the fiends' area, which is within the black flying python's control. It's not easy to come out if you go in. You should wait here while I check what's going on."

Si Ting's thin lips moved as if he wanted to say something. However, he swallowed his words when he saw Elder Sun's determined look, which did not allow for any objection. "... Yes."

Sun Zhongyan then stepped forward.

Bang!

A loud sound was heard!

Elder Sun and Si Ting were frightened. When they looked in the direction of the sound, they saw a hole on the ground nearby.

A hand suddenly stretched out from below.

The both of them were alarmed.

Elder Sun hollered, "Who are you?"

The person below seemed to be taken aback as well since they quickly retracted their hand. However, a figure quickly jumped up from below. It was a young man of muscular build and dark skin. He had injuries everywhere, and the blood made him look terrible. However, he wore Tian Lu Academy's uniform.

Elder Sun heaved a sigh of relief in his heart.

Once the young man came out, he immediately looked at Elder Sun and Si Ting. When he recognized their faces, he could not help but be dazed. "Elder Sun?"

The worries and hesitations in his heart immediately dissipated as he turned back and yelled into the cave. "Hongyu! Mingfeng! Quickly, come out! The person outside is Elder Sun!"

Once they heard these two names, Elder Sun and Si Ting immediately understood what was going on—that they were the ones in Chu Liuyue’s team.

Mu Hongyu and Gu Mingfeng quickly climbed out from the hole, looking equally miserable and bloodied.

Elder Sun’s eyes quickly swept past the three of them, and he could not help but knit his brows. “What happened to you guys? Why are all of you so severely injured?”

When he finished his sentence, he saw Mu Hongyu actually carrying a golden mane bear cub. “This is...”

“Elder Sun, we were harmed by Gu Mingzhu and suffered a golden mane bear attack. We barely killed it and managed to survive.” Mu Hongyu’s simple sentence had summarized the happenings of the previous day and night.

Elder Sun and Si Ting were stunned after they heard her words. “Golden mane bear?”

That’s a fourth-grade fiend!

How did they actually kill it?

Mu Hongyu nodded. “This little fellow is a golden mane bear cub. I took it to be my fiend.”

Elder Sun wanted to ask further, but Si Ting suddenly questioned them in an indifferent tone. “There’s only the three of you?”

Cen Hu immediately said, "Yeah! We separated from Liuyue. She said she'll meet us outside the mountain. Where is she?"

Cen Hu then realized that Chu Liuyue was nowhere to be seen.

Si Ting clenched his fists even more tightly in his sleeves. "She's not here."

Gu Mingfeng had already discovered that something was wrong on the other end, so he silently surveyed his surroundings. Finally, he saw a familiar figure on the far away mountain. "She's there!"

At this point, she was clearly surrounded by countless fiends. However, this wasn't the scariest thing!

Gu Mingfeng stared straight at the large figure in the air. *Black flying python? It is no wonder Chu Liuyue had not appeared yet. She is obviously in a perilous situation.*

Elder Sun could not care about their situation and swiftly gave instructions to Si Ting. "Wait here. Immediately take action if anything weird happens. Protect the three of them first. I've already contacted the other teachers to bring them out."

Si Ting nodded. "Don't worry, teacher."

Elder Sun nodded and turned around to leave. However, the moment he took a step, the black flying python in the sky suddenly roared crazily. It seemed as though it was suffering excruciating pain. After it crazily moved in the air, it directly slammed into the middle of the mountain head first.

Chapter 145: Spare its Life

The water droplet swiftly pierced through the black flying python's belly. It was clearly just a small droplet, but it had immense strength as it left a bloodied hole—the size of a fist—on the black flying python's body.

The hard scales were easily shattered, and blood spurted everywhere. The black flying python had never suffered such a loss. It painfully shrieked, hating Chu Liuyue even more.

When the spectating fiends at the foot of the mountain saw this scene, they were all stunned. To them, the black flying python was the strongest existence, and it was the king that they all had to succumb to. However, it was actually injured by a human.

The fiends started to become uneasy. The ones at the outermost area had started to move backward hesitantly. They all had decent intelligence and naturally knew that Chu Liuyue was not that easy to deal with when they saw this scene. Thus, they felt it was better for them to temporarily stay away from the battlefield in consideration of themselves.

Of course, most of the fiends still stayed there and closely watched the black flying python in the sky.

Feeling those gazes, the black flying python became even more furious. It had been known as the king of Wan Ling Mountain for years, but its status was dropping just because of a Chu Liuyue. If it lost to Chu Liuyue in front of everyone today, it would lose its authority.

Upon thinking of this, mania flashed across the black flying python's eyes as it went straight for Chu Liuyue again.

Hong!

It whipped its long tail, and Chu Liuyue barely managed to avoid it. However, the rock behind her shattered into pieces, and the broken pieces flew everywhere.

Even though she had forcefully avoided the impact, her injuries felt even worse. Chu Liuyue turned around to look at her left shoulder. The other injuries did not matter, but the important thing was that her shoulder blade had shattered when she slammed against the rock. She probably could not hold on for much longer.

I must quickly think of a way to escape! As she was thinking, she ran to the side to hide.

As if it was a psycho, the black flying python followed closely behind her.

The places Chu Liuyue went to were all shattered into pieces.

Bang!

A low moan suddenly sounded.

The movements behind her suddenly stopped.

Chu Liuyue turned around to take a look and noticed that the black flying python's injury had widened as if it was attacked again. At this point, it curled up into a ball because of the pain.

Chu Liuyue tightly knitted her brows. *So this is actually... the water droplet's strength.*

The black flying python painfully struggled, and its chaotic strength crushed all the surrounding rocks.

Now is the best time to escape! Chu Liuyue turned around. However, when she took two steps forward, she suddenly felt a hand stretching over.

Her gaze darkened, and she immediately turned around to take a look. Chu Liuyue's eyes were like a sharp dagger, which made the other party fearfully stop moving. However, Chu Liuyue had already clearly seen the other party's face. "Gu Mingzhu?"

Gu Mingzhu's entire body was currently dirtied by dust and blood. Her face was also scratched, and her hair was unkempt. She seemed anxious and looked terrible. She stared straight at Chu Liuyue and anxiously said, "Chu Liuyue! Chu Liuyue, help me! Take me with you!"

Chu Liuyue did not say anything, only scanning her appearance instead. She could guess what Gu Mingzhu had been through. However, Chu Liuyue turned around and walked away expressionlessly.

Gu Mingzhu did not expect Chu Liuyue to be so heartless and felt even more anxious. "Chu Liuyue! You can't abandon me! We're from the same school! If you treat me like this, I'll..."

Chu Liuyue did not stop in her tracks and just ignored Gu Mingzhu. It was already hard for her to save herself. If Chu Liuyue added Gu Mingzhu into the equation, she was bound to die. Therefore, why would she want to bring along this burden?

Gu Mingzhu turned around and glanced at the black flying python—which was painfully struggling—as she bit her lips. Even though she did not want to admit it, she knew that she would only have a slim chance of survival by following Chu Liuyue.

She tried finding her trump card for a very long time but still could not find her black Xuan formation crystal. This was why she could only brace herself and go down the mountain, hoping that she would be lucky enough to avoid the fiends and escape safely.

However, after walking for a while, she was discovered by them and almost died in their hands.

Unable to do anything else, she could only choose to come back again. It was then she discovered that the fiends no longer climbed up, probably because of the black flying python's suppression. However, though they could not come up, they could not leave as well. Thus, they blocked the way down the mountain.

Chu Liuyue used some method and actually temporarily stopped the black flying python from attacking. I must leave with her! When Gu Mingzhu thought of this, she quickly followed her, but Chu Liuyue suddenly turned around and coldly glared at her.

"I may be injured now, but it's as easy as ABC for me to kill you. If you want to live for a while longer, you had better leave me alone."

Gu Mingzhu was stunned by the obvious murderous intent in Chu Liuyue's voice. She only recovered her senses after some time. *How dare Chu Liuyue threaten me like this? Chu Liuyue has completely disregarded our relations at this point and actually said that sort of thing!*

"Chu Liuyue! Are you pushing me to my death?" yelled Gu Mingzhu in disbelief.

Chu Liuyue sneered. "You should've expected this day to come when you lured the golden mane bear over."

After saying her piece, Chu Liuyue did not stop again when she turned around to leave.

Gu Mingzhu was furious, and her hatred for Chu Liuyue had reached its peak. *Nice one, Chu Liuyue! You clearly have a way to help, but you're still so cruel! You want to push me to my death! Thus, don't blame me for being heartless when you're like this towards me.*

Chu Liuyue only walked two steps forward when she suddenly felt a cold gush of air coming from behind. She swiftly avoided it, and a rock flew past her ear.

The rock was one of the broken pieces from before. It had sharp edges. The point was that this rock was thrown towards her back injury. If she had not avoided it in time, the rock would have smashed against her crushed shoulder blade.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows and turned around. "Gu Mingzhu! You—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Gu Mingzhu suddenly lunged at her.

Chu Liuyue raised her leg and harshly kicked Gu Mingzhu's chest.

Gu Mingzhu fell backward and spat out blood. However, she clenched her teeth and climbed over to grab onto Chu Liuyue's legs tightly. She turned around and yelled to the black flying python, "I-I'll help you to hold her back! C-can you spare my life? You just want her life anyway, right? Can you not kill me?"

Coldness appeared in Chu Liuyue's eyes.

Chapter 146: Rong Xiu

"Something seems to be wrong there." Elder Sun noticed that the black flying python suddenly stopped for a while after flying toward the mountain.

It looked really weird from afar.

"I'll go over. You must be careful here," reminded Elder Sun before he quickly left for the mountain.

Mu Hongyu dazedly looked on, and her eyes were red. "I-if it wasn't for us, Liuyue wouldn't have..." She choked on her words and could not continue on; her tears kept falling.

She had always been strong and competitive. She also never cried in front of others as she thought it was too cowardly. However, she no longer cared about that at this point. The guilt and sadness had overwhelmed her like the seawater at this point, making her unable to breathe.

Cen Hu's face was also very pale. He could only walk to the side and harshly punch the tree trunk.

Gu Mingfeng was the calmest one. "She'll be fine."

When the few of them heard that, they turned to look at him.

Mu Hongyu could not help but ask, "Really? Mingfeng, why are you so sure?"

Gu Mingfeng's gaze was light, and he did not say a word. *Why did a girl, who is so intelligent and decisive when killing, allow herself to be in a passive position? Her abilities are definitely way greater than what we saw earlier. She really is too mysterious. It's like she knows everything.*

Hasn't the fact that she completely and safely withdrew herself after offending the Crown Prince and the Chu family proved her abilities?

He had some unknown confidence in her at the bottom of his heart, even though he did not even know where the confidence came from himself.

But...

They just had to wait.

Si Ting looked at him, and a dim glow flashed across his narrow and sharp eyes. He then retracted his gaze and looked at the mountain as his hands in the sleeves gradually formed fists.

He also knew that Chu Liuyue had hidden her abilities, but... that was a seventh-grade black flying python! *What must she do to escape unscathed?*

...

Elder Sun silently inched in closer and quickly reached the foot of the mountain. As he was afraid of attracting attention, he did not dare to fly in the air and could only hide in the woods.

Even though he was not discovered, the bottom to the middle of the mountain was completely occupied by fiends. If he continued forward, he would definitely be discovered.

While looking at the sea of fiends in front of him, Elder Sun was secretly anxious.

The entire mountain was surrounded, and it was impossible for him to enter from the outside.

Not mentioning the black flying python, it would be hard for him to fight off all these fiends if they went for him at the same time. However, Chu Liuyue and the rest were still there.

He found a hidden place with a clear view, and he looked at the mountain again. From here, he could clearly see the scene at the top. However, just one look at it had made Elder Sun's heart skip a beat.

Chu Liuyue and the black flying python were going against each other amidst the chaos in the mountain.

The black flying python curled up into a ball and kept on flinging its strength around crazily. It looked petrifying.

On the other end, Chu Liuyue seemed to want to leave, but her leg was held back by another person.

Elder Sun took a closer look and discovered that that person was Gu Mingzhu! *What is she doing? Since she is already there, why didn't she leave with Chu Liuyue? Why does she want to hold her back? It looks like she isn't helping Chu Liuyue, who is from the same school as her. It looks like she's helping the black flying python instead.*

Elder Sun's blood boiled, and he wanted to rush over immediately. *This Gu Mingzhu is really crazy!*

...

Chu Liuyue wanted to kick Gu Mingzhu away, but Gu Mingzhu seemed to have steeled her heart. She seemed very determined to hold Chu Liuyue back in exchange for a chance of survival.

Gu Mingzhu had already exhausted most of her energy during these few days of struggles. However, this did not bring too large an injury to her. Compared to Chu Liuyue, she was even better. Thus, with Gu Mingzhu's grit and determination, Chu Liuyue could not fling her away.

On the other side, the wound on the black flying python's body kept expanding. However, it could finally catch its breath when the water droplet's energy depleted.

It looked up, its vertical eyes filled with vengeance and hatred.

Even Gu Mingzhu was frightened by it. Fear grew in her heart, and she shouted even more anxiously, "I-I'm helping you hold Chu Liuyue back. C-can you let me off? I'm begging you!"

The black flying python endured the pain and roared.

Chu Liuyue's ears buzzed as if a small mountain had suddenly put pressure on her shoulders. The immense suppressive force made it hard for her to move. Her heart sank.

The black flying python seemed to have recovered its energy. It looked like it would crazily take revenge afterward.

Chu Liuyue had exhausted all of her energy at this point, so she could not fight back. She looked down, and her gaze landed on the black flying python's stomach.

It had a gigantic injury there, and its bloodied look was terrifying. The wound was left behind by the water droplet earlier.

She secretly clenched her teeth. *If... If there is another water droplet, I might actually win!*

Just as the thought flashed across her mind, the black flying python suddenly moved. This time, it did not move forward but flew into the air instead.

Its wings vibrated, and a strong wind came hurling over. Then, it suddenly opened its mouth, and an ear-piercing shrill was made.

Chu Liuyue's heart sank, and uneasiness overwhelmed her.

The next moment, the originally bright sky suddenly darkened.

A round black hole appeared on its head.

The surrounding clouds were rapidly drawn in.

As objects kept flying into the black hole, it kept expanding. The black hole quickly became the size of the mountain.

After a while, the rocks on the mountain started shaking, also flying up while getting sucked into the black hole.

Chu Liuyue's heart completely sank. *This is the black flying python's killer move—Swallowing the Sky! This move will exhaust its energy, so it clearly is planning to put its life on the line.*

Chu Liuyue kicked Gu Mingzhu away and harshly stabbed the dagger into the nearby mountain.

A strong suction force began acting on them.

Gu Mingzhu's body flew up uncontrollably. At this point, she finally felt that something was amiss. Once she was swallowed by the black hole, she would definitely die.

She hurriedly looked around and wanted to grab onto something, but it was too late. "No! No! I can't die! I've already helped you hold Chu Liuyue back! Why must you kill me?"

Gu Mingzhu was anxious beyond words, and her shrills were sharp.

The black flying python did not even look at her. It was completely uninterested in an ant like her.

Gu Mingzhu felt that the pressure on her body had increased. She could not help but look up, discovering that she had already reached the black hole.

The inside was pitch black like a deep abyss. Once she entered it, she could never escape.

Her face was as white as a sheet as she tried to escape. However, her efforts were to no avail. “No, no!”

The next moment, her body was completely swallowed.

It was as though millions of blades instantly slashed across her body.

“Ah!” A miserable cry reverberated throughout the mountains, but it quickly disappeared without a trace.

Ka!

The dagger that Chu Liuyue stabbed into the mountain suddenly created a large crack, and her body uncontrollably slipped forward.

The black flying python roared once again.

The black hole in the sky started spiraling crazily.

The mountain beside Chu Liuyue suddenly collapsed, and she lost her anchor point. The formidable force then instantly tugged her up towards the black hole.

Happiness flashed across the black flying python's eyes.

As long as it killed Chu Liuyue...

Upon seeing the black hole getting increasingly closer, Chu Liuyue could even see the streaks of black forces intermingling right in front of her.

Her body was completely swallowed the next moment.

The devastating black color poured in from all directions. Then, when the surrounding force was about to kill her, a white figure suddenly appeared.

A long, white hand pierced through the darkness and tightly held onto her.

That hand was as cold as ice, but Chu Liuyue suddenly felt very hot. The scorching heat spread from the point of contact to her heart.

In the next moment, she landed into a warm and spacious embrace, separating her from the violent and terrible suction force.

She had not seen the person's appearance clearly. However, the familiar cold fragrance reassured her unknowingly. She could not help but raise her head. "... Rong Xiu?"

Though she could not see his face in the darkness, she was very confident that it was him.

The person who hugged her lowly chuckled as if he was elated.

Chu Liuyue could even clearly feel his chest vibrating.

"Yue'er, your vision is really good. You can tell that it's me without even looking."

Chu Liuyue felt her ears heat up.

One could not see a single thing in this darkness, but he still said that she had 'good vision.' He was clearly mocking her.

If she was not overly familiar with him, how could she have recognized that it was him from a mere hand and hug?

"Why are you here? It's too dangerous." Chu Liuyue then remembered that Rong Xiu actually entered the black hole together with her.

Rong Xiu's hands gently swept past her back, becoming very sticky. *She must have lost a lot of blood.*

It was as though something had harshly stabbed his heart when he paused in his actions. "It's precisely because it's dangerous that I need to come here."

Chapter 147: Chaos

Still in Rong Xiu's embrace, Chu Liuyue could clearly feel his heart beating and the breath on her forehead when he spoke.

He said he came precisely because it was dangerous. He said this sentence so dotingly and naturally. It is as if doing this is the right thing to him. However, everyone cherishes their lives in this world, so who would willingly do so much for someone else? He has even ignored the dangers, not caring about his own life.

Chu Liuyue suddenly grabbed his collar tightly and softly said, "... Rong Xiu, I really thought I was going to die."

She had experienced the overwhelming and the helpless loss of hope once, and it was clearly etched in her memory. She could never forget about it. Once she thought of it, she would feel excruciating pain that even extended to her bones.

Rong Xiu did not dare to touch Chu Liuyue's injuries and could only hold her waist carefully with one hand. As he gently brushed her hair with the other hand, he lightly said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here."

Chu Liuyue felt her tears well up, and her heart was sour and uncomfortable.

If someone also told her that they were there and not to be afraid...

The scorching pain spread throughout her body, and it was heart-wrenching.

She closed her eyes and leaned closer, resting her forehead on his chest.

Rong Xiu suddenly stopped in his actions.

“Rong Xiu, why me?” asked Chu Liuyue in a low voice. It wasn’t the first time Chu Liuyue asked such a question. However, this time was clearly different from the rest.

Rong Xiu kissed her forehead and closed in on her ear. In a gentle and low voice, he said, “You’re worth it.”

The person in his arms did not say a word.

Rong Xiu pronounced every word clearly as he said, “I have a whole lifetime ahead of me to prove that you’re worth it.”

She didn’t believe me the first time. She also didn’t believe me the second time. However, she will believe it one day.

Chu Liuyue still kept quiet.

Rong Xiu knew her character the best. He also knew that she would not completely trust him in such a short period of time, but he had enough patience.

Rong Xiu suddenly said, "Hold me tight."

Chu Liuyue guessed that he wanted to break free of the black hole, so she obediently grabbed his thin waist. Even though she knew that Rong Xiu had been hiding his abilities all along, the other party was still a black flying python. It was not easy to defeat.

She thought for a while and could not help but ask, "How confident are you?"

Rong Xiu was about to say something, but he felt that the arm around his waist was especially soft and warm. The person in his arms was at the prime of her life, exactly when a young woman blossomed.

He smiled lightly. "I'm confident, but I need time."

...

Elder Sun saw everything that happened on the mountain. His heart was thoroughly crushed.

The black flying python was insistent on killing Chu Liuyue and had even used its killer move.

Elder Sun's back broke out into a cold sweat when he saw Chu Liuyue being swallowed by the python.

No! I must do something! Even though I have no chance of winning, I can't just watch as Chu Liuyue dies! Elder Sun clenched his teeth and held his breath to gather his focus. His fingertips glowed with a silver light just as he was about to set up a Xuan formation.

Then, the skies suddenly changed again at this point.

A muscular fiend, as white as snow, suddenly appeared! It looked like a lion, but Elder Sun could not identify what it was.

It did not seem to exist in his memory... However, he could not deny that this was an advanced fiend.

It ran over from the horizon at lightning speed. In the blink of an eye, it appeared in front of the black flying python.

When it saw the approaching fiend, hatred filled the black flying python's eyes. It looked like it had suppressed its anger for a very long time.

Xue Xue stared at it and was furious. A few years ago, Xue Xue had come here and fought with this fellow. Back then, the black flying python was still a sixth-grade fiend and was brutally tortured by Xue Xue.

Xue Xue did not expect that this fellow would actually lay its hands on Chu Liuyue a few years later. It was asking for death!

Hoo!

Xue Xue roared angrily, shaking the forest.

All the fiends instantly felt an intense suppression and were petrified.

The fiend that suddenly appeared seemed to be even stronger than the black flying python!

The suppression on their bodies made them stay rooted to the ground, unable to move.

When the black flying python saw this scene, its blood boiled. It swiftly whipped its tail towards Xue Xue.

Xue Xue quickly jumped around and avoided its attack in no time. Xue Xue then appeared in front of the python and harshly slammed its paws against the black flying python's head.

Pak!

Blood flew everywhere!

The black flying python's large body fell forward uncontrollably and landed loudly on the mountain.

A crack appeared on the mountain, and half of it collapsed.

Elder Sun was shocked. *Are... these two advanced fiends fighting?*

Hoo!

Xue Xue closed in on the python and hit it once again before it could even stand up. A slash of its claws directly cut away a large part of the python's scales.

The black flying python painfully moaned.

The two forces intertwined in an intense battle.

Hong! Long! Long!

The large mountain started to collapse.

The countless fiends at the foot of the mountain started running for their lives.

The entire Wan Ling Mountain became chaotic.

Elder Sun wanted to take the chance to go forward but met with a bunch of golden-eyed demons.

They seemed to have been agitated as they went for Elder Sun carelessly. They attacked as if they were putting their lives on the line.

Elder Sun knew that something was wrong when all the fiends seem to have gone crazy. He battled with the golden-eyed demons, trying to break through the circle to save people. However, these fiends recklessly held him back.

Elder Sun hurriedly looked up and saw that the black hole in the sky had suddenly exploded. He was taken aback, and his face was as white as a sheet.

...

On the other side, Si Ting and the others were speechless when they saw the scene.

Mu Hongyu turned around and covered her mouth as her shoulders kept trembling.

“They’re here!” A few teachers rushed over anxiously.

“Let’s retreat! The fiends in Wan Ling Mountain have gone crazy! We need to leave now.”

“No! Liuyue is still there! She—” Cen Hu angrily shouted, but he fainted before he could finish his sentence.

A teacher carried him and commanded with knitted brows, “Take all of them away. We can’t stay here for long!”

Si Ting suddenly turned around and ran towards the woods.

Chapter 148: Aura

“Si Ting, stay here!” A teacher swiftly moved forward and blocked his path. “It’s very dangerous there. How can you proceed?”

Si Ting’s handsome face had a layer of frost over it, and he looked extremely cold.

When the teacher saw him, he was taken aback. However, he still insisted on dissuading Si Ting from his foolish actions. “Two advanced fiends are now fighting each other, and the entire Wan Ling Mountain is in chaos. If you go over now, you’re just pushing yourself to your own death. Even if anything happens, there’s still Elder Sun. We must evacuate!”

Si Ting coldly said, “There are other people who haven’t come out yet.”

“You’re still caring about other people at this point? If this continues, we might not even be able to leave safely!”

The teacher behind the two couldn’t stand aside and do nothing when he saw this. He knitted his brows and asked, “Si Ting, you’re always calm and disciplined. What has gotten into you today?”

Si Ting’s lips moved, and his jaw tightened.

Hong! Hong! Hong!

The loud sound reverberated throughout the woods.

The black hole in the sky exploded and turned into countless black sparks that descended downwards.

All sorts of fiends loudly shrieked at the same time, which made people panic.

“Let’s go!” Without hesitation, that teacher pulled Si Ting away by his shoulders.

With the other teachers, they forcefully brought the students away.

Just as they took a few steps out, a loud sound reverberated through the mountain once again.

Si Ting’s heart skipped a beat. When he turned around, he saw that the entire mountain had collapsed.

...

Xue Xue and the black flying python battled very intensely. Their immense strength made the entire mountain collapse. The forest looked terrible.

If one could head closer and take a look, they would realize that this battle was one-sided. The black flying python was on the losing end, unable to retaliate at all.

After battling for a few rounds, its body was filled with injuries. The originally pretty and hard scales had almost completely disappeared. Blood also spurted out from the few holes in its stomach. Even its forehead was injured; blood was spilling out of the injury, making it look extremely miserable.

Its initial arrogant attitude had completely disappeared; it only felt endless regret and fear.

The black flying python really regretted its decisions! When it battled with Xue Xue previously, it had been completely tortured. Therefore, the black flying python was furious about it and took it to heart.

After all, Wan Ling Mountain was its territory. How could it allow other people to mess around here?

All these years, the black flying python held its anger in and cultivated in seclusion, finally breaking through and becoming a seventh-grade fiend.

Since the black flying python had met Xue Xue again, it was determined to kill Xue Xue. However, it did not expect Xue Xue to improve faster than it did.

Previously, the black flying python could still unleash a few moves. However, the black flying python was totally defeated this time.

The main point was that this thrashing happened in front of so many Wan Ling Mountain fiends. The black flying python's reputation was thoroughly tarnished.

Pak!

Xue Xue bit the black flying python's tail and harshly flung it.

The black flying python drew long streaks of blood on the ground and finally smashed against a pile of rocks, covering its body in dust and blood.

It hung onto its last breath and could not move at all. The black flying python looked as though it would die in the next moment.

Xue Xue looked at the black flying python with eyes still filled with anger. Xue Xue's anger had yet to subside. From the start till now, Xue Xue had never cared about this fellow. However, it did not expect the black flying python to be so vengeful.

It even wanted to kill Chu Liuyue...

Who else could Xue Xue hit?

Just as Xue Xue was about to go forward and teach the python a lesson, Xue Xue suddenly paused and turned around.

A transparent ripple appeared in the air.

Afterward, a muscular figure emerged from within.

It was Rong Xiu! He carried a woman—Chu Liuyue—in a princess carry.

When Xue Xue saw Chu Liuyue's bloodstained clothes and frightening wounds, its eyes filled with guilt and pain. It hurriedly ran over to take a closer look.

Rong Xiu glanced at it slightly.

Xue Xue suddenly stopped in its tracks and lowered its head in a self-reproaching manner.

The scene in front of Chu Liuyue's eyes was suddenly bright. She then recovered her senses and realized that they had escaped from the black hole.

She looked at Rong Xiu dazedly. *He actually... did it? How strong is he?*

After noticing the commotion at the side, she turned around and saw Xue Xue.

She saw the black flying python lying in the middle of the rocks near Xue Xue. She didn't know if the python was alive or dead.

The black flying python's entire body was covered in injuries, not a single spot remaining uninjured. This clearly showed how harsh Xue Xue was when it attacked.

Chu Liuyue opened her mouth.

Xue Xue... is so powerful as well? Xue Xue can actually torture and injure a seventh-grade fiend to such a state, yet it remained unscathed?

"Punish yourself after this matter has concluded," said Rong Xiu lightly.

Xue Xue wept softly and lowered its head even more.

“Why are you punishing Xue Xue all of a sudden?” Chu Liuyue pulled Rong Xiu’s collar. *Xue Xue even taught the black flying python a lesson!*

Rong Xiu squinted its eyes slightly. “It has spent too much time with you, so your body has its aura. This black flying python has a feud with Xue Xue, so it brutally acted when it detected Xue Xue’s aura on your body.”

Chu Liuyue was stunned for quite a while. *So... it was because of this?*

She was caught between laughter and tears for a moment. She was confused about why the black flying python hated her so much. However, she did not expect this to be the reason.

“Forget it. Xue Xue didn’t do it on purpose. We can only say that it’s a coincidence.” Chu Liuyue really liked Xue Xue. Even though this trouble occurred because of Xue Xue, she still could not blame Xue Xue at the end of the day.

When Xue Xue heard her, it became even more remorseful, and its tail drooped down.

“However, I was only close to Xue Xue for a short period of time. It also isn’t my fiend, so why is Xue Xue’s aura on my body?” muttered Chu Liuyue in confusion. *Even if Xue Xue’s aura is on my body, it should be very faint. Logically speaking, it shouldn’t have triggered the black flying python’s immense murderous intent.*

Xue Xue’s body stiffened.

Rong Xiu's eyes darkened, and a layer of mist covered his eyes, preventing anyone from seeing their depths. He lightly said, "... Perhaps you've spent too much time with Xue Xue. Just try not to meet Xue Xue in the future."

Xue Xue raised its head in shock, unable to believe that it had been betrayed. It had diligently infused Rong Xiu's strength over all those nights, carefully transferring it to Chu Liuyue's body to help her recover her Yuan meridian. *I should be credited for my efforts! Why did he ignore me now?*

The aura around Chu Liuyue's body wasn't Xue Xue's; it was clearly Rong Xiu's.

Xue Xue and Rong Xiu were master and servant, so their auras were connected. It didn't matter if the black flying python had misunderstood, but Rong Xiu had even misled Chu Liuyue.

Xue Xue wanted to retaliate but was met with Rong Xiu's cold gaze. It immediately quietened down.

Chu Liuyue nodded and did not pursue the matter. She surveyed her surroundings and discovered that the tall mountain had been leveled to the ground.

She sighed in her heart. *The fight between two advanced fiends with formidable power is indeed terrifying.*

Rong Xiu found a clean spot and put her down. He placed one hand near the back of her heart and kept injecting his force into her.

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "They're all light injuries. You don't have to do this—"

Rong Xiu's other hand lightly covered her eyes. "Rest for a while. We'll leave after I'm done."

Chu Liuyue could only see black, and she could not help but ask, "... Done with what?"

Rong Xiu's lips curved up slightly, but his smile did not reach his eyes. "Finishing things that should be gone..."

Chapter 149: Punishment

Outside Wan Ling Mountain, Tian Lu Academy's students and teachers quietly waited together.

The atmosphere was stiff, and nobody said a word, resulting in a suffocating silence.

Some students had fainted because of their severe injuries. Although the others were not too injured much, they looked upset. At one glance, one could see that nobody had come out unscathed.

Time trickled past, and the waiting time became increasingly terrible.

At times, some would even look towards the flattened Wan Ling Mountain. Their faces weren't filled with excitement and hope like before, but fear and horror.

Who would have expected this to happen to Wan Ling Mountain?

Now that they thought of it, they felt scared.

A sudden sound broke the silence, and a few figures rapidly ran out of the forest.

Everyone looked over.

The teachers standing at the front revealed elated expressions.

“You’re finally back! It seems like Wan Ling Mountain had a very big commotion earlier. What exactly happened? Also, that black flying python seems to have used its killer move. The situation was way too dangerous! Luckily, all of you made it out in time.”

Since they waited outside, they could not see the situation inside. They could only hear the loud sounds, which reverberated as if an intense battle was happening.

Two teachers walked forward, going past Cen Hu and Mu Hongyu, to the people beside the duo and looked at their injuries.

One of the teachers sighed. “Don’t talk about it. That black flying python went crazy and made all the fiends in the woods surround that mountain. Mu Hongyu and the rest escaped with much difficulty. Afterward, another advanced fiend appeared and fought with the black flying python. That is why the entire mountain has been leveled. If we came out any later, we might not have even survived.”

“What? Another advanced fiend appeared?”

The crowd looked at each other, shocked.

“Didn’t Elder Sun say that this place is the black flying python’s territory? What was the advanced fiend that appeared later? It actually dared to fight with the python?”

“We couldn’t see it clearly, but it was very powerful. It was even stronger than the black flying python.”

The crowd was speechless.

The black flying python was a seventh-grade fiend and had formidable might. What could the fiend more powerful than it be...?

It seemed like such fiends only existed in rumors.

They were really unlucky to have met with such trouble this time.

“Where’s Elder Sun? Did he not come out with you?” asked Bai Chen when he surveyed the surroundings and did not see Elder Sun around.

The few teachers looked terrible. After a while, someone said, “... Exalted One went to save the people on that mountain alone. We can’t contact him.”

“Why did he—Isn’t that too dangerous?” Bai Chen knitted his brows tightly, and something popped up in his mind. *Hang on! Save people? Other than Mu Hongyu and the rest—who have already returned—there is...*

“Where’s Chu Liuyue and Gu Mingzhu?”

“They’re both on the mountain. Mentor went to save them,” said Si Ting suddenly.

The crowd quietened down.

Elder Sun was the strongest amongst them, but even he wasn’t the python’s match.

Going there alone was akin to—

“Elder Sun!” A teacher unintentionally looked up and coincidentally saw a familiar figure walking out of the woods.

The crowd hurriedly looked over.

Bai Chen heaved a sigh of relief in his heart and saw that Elder Sun was stained with blood. Bai Chen’s face darkened, and he quickly went forward. “Elder Sun, are you injured?”

Elder Sun waved his hands. “Just minor injuries.”

Upon seeing Elder Sun’s dejected face, Bai Chen felt uneasy. *Elder Sun came back alone!*

“Elder Sun... Liuyue and Gu Mingzhu...”

Elder Sun tiredly shook his head and sighed. "I'm useless. I couldn't save them... They both flew into the black flying python's killer move..."

Once he said this, the surroundings fell into a silence where one could hear a pin drop.

Even Elder Sun had said this, which meant that the duo's deaths were almost confirmed. How could they be the match for a black flying python?

Mu Hongyu suddenly stood up and quickly walked forward as she said, "I don't believe it! I want to see her body, dead or alive! I'll go and find her!"

After taking two steps forward, her vision turned black, and she fainted.

The teacher immediately checked on her. "Her internal and external injuries are very serious. It's already very hard for her to last until now, considering her excessive blood loss. She fainted because she suddenly became agitated. Elder Sun, don't worry. I'll make some medicine for her later. She'll recover after she recuperates."

Elder Sun nodded, but his gaze was blurry. He was still blaming himself for not being able to save the last two people. "I should've properly checked before we came..."

If he had a better understanding of Wan Ling Mountain's situation and noticed that something had changed, then he wouldn't have brought so many students with him and caused so many deaths.

This was the most tragic hunt in Tian Lu Academy's history.

“Elder Sun, don’t blame yourself. Nobody can predict these things accurately. Who would’ve known that the black flying python would go crazy...” Bai Chen comforted him, but he also felt terrible in his heart.

He always had a good impression of Chu Liuyue. Besides, he was the one in charge of her entrance examination into the academy. Even though he was not her teacher, he always cared about her. He did not expect...

“Elder Sun, Wan Ling Mountain is already in chaos. We should return to the academy as soon as possible,” said a teacher.

Elder Sun also knew what to do at this point. *However, how am I going to explain to Uncle-Master when I get back? Even if it was for myself, I didn’t want to see Chu Liuyue die here.*

After a momentary silence, he closed his eyes and finally said, “Tell the rest: Everyone from Tian Lu Academy is to head back right away!”

The elders and teachers hurriedly took action and left in groups. Even Cen Hu and Mu Hongyu were dragged away while they remained unconscious.

Gradually, most of the people from Tian Lu Academy had left.

Si Ting walked to Elder Sun. After hesitating slightly, he asked, “Mentor, is what you said true?”

Elder Sun looked at him with a complicated gaze. He could clearly see through Si Ting’s thoughts.

However...

He sighed and patted Si Ting's shoulders.

The last bit of hope in Si Ting's eyes was dashed.

"Gu Mingfeng, let's go," said a teacher when he saw Gu Mingfeng rooted to the ground.

Gu Mingfeng meaningfully stared in the direction of the mountain.

The originally tall mountain peak was missing. Even though he was standing here, he could still seemingly see the scary scene of the mountain collapsing.

She said that we would meet outside the mountain, but the mountain isn't even here now. Perhaps I may never see that pair of clean and trusting eyes for the rest of my life.

That teacher walked to him. "I know that you feel terrible because your sister met with an accident, but things..."

Gu Mingfeng took a deep breath in and turned around to leave with the teacher.

As the sun set, everyone's figures disappeared.

Only the lush greenery shone under the evening light.

A stream—which extended from the forest—reflected the sunlight and shone brightly.

That stream was gradually stained red, looking very pleasing.

The red then intensified, and the stream almost became a blood river.

A golden-eyed demon's corpse mysteriously appeared there.

Chapter 150: Blood Ferret

Darkness covered the sky, and a bright moon hung high as moonlight shone down like water. The leaves and branches shook alongside the wind, and the shadows cast by them were like seaweed gently moving in the water. It was a very peaceful scene.

Chu Liuyue leaned against a thick tree, and Rong Xiu sat beside her since he planned to clean her wounds.

Chu Liuyue's most severe injury was the crushed shoulder blade. If it didn't get treated in time, it would never get better. Luckily, Rong Xiu seemed to be familiar with these things, so she didn't need to teach him. His actions were gentle and swift.

Rong Xiu softly spoke as his detailed finger gently pressed on her shoulder. "I'll help you push your bones back. Endure it."

Chu Liuyue nodded. She had suffered countless similar injuries in her previous life, so they did not mean much to her.

Rong Xiu gently placed his hand on Chu Liuyue's shoulder and pushed with his palm.

The pain caused Chu Liuyue's entire body to tremble.

Rong Xiu looked at her and saw that the young girl's face had gone pale and how sweat covered her forehead due to the pain. However, Chu Liuyue did not utter a single sound from the start till now as she endured the pain.

Rong Xiu's eyes turned slightly cold, and he slightly regretted not properly torturing that beast before killing it. His actions were even lighter as he took off his outerwear. "Si!" He ripped it into long pieces of cloth and used them to wrap Chu Liuyue's injury.

When Chu Liuyue heard the ripping sounds, she turned her head to the side and could not help but chuckle. "Your Highness, your clothes are very precious. Isn't this very wasteful?"

Rong Xiu smiled because he knew that she was teasing him. "It's okay. It's just a piece of clothing. You can compensate me when we go back."

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. "You're really not willing to suffer any losses. Your Highness, you're so petty."

Rong Xiu paused in his actions, and he smiled with even deeper meaning. "I've always been generous, but I'm only petty towards you."

Chu Liuyue's heart seemed to be gently tickled.

After this incident, the invisible barrier between her and Rong Xiu seemed to have been broken. Even though they did not say anything, they were indeed much closer than before.

"I'm used to Your Highness's petty ways. However, I am curious about something; how come you are here so coincidentally?"

This place was a two-day journey from the Imperial City. It was impossible for Rong Xiu to come here instantly, which meant that he was at Wan Ling Mountain a long time ago.

Rong Xiu's expression did not change. "Rong Shu said she wanted to hunt for a fiend, so I personally came here to take a look since the Fiend Tidal was going on. I planned to find a suitable fiend and bring it back for her."

Rong Shu was the Eighth Princess. She was already 13, the age when one could make a pact with a fiend.

However... Rong Xiu could've just instructed a subordinate to do it. Why did he come here personally?

In a seemingly smiling manner, Chu Liuyue said, "You're really nice to Eighth Princess."

Rong Xiu did not care that she saw through him. He turned around and looked at her seriously instead. "Yes, I'm indeed very nice to 'her.'"

Without explicitly saying it, they all could understand who the 'her' meant.

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat, and she did not know what to say momentarily.

Coincidentally at this point, Xue Xue finally came back. The lion walked to Chu Liuyue and put down the thing in its mouth.

It was the blood ferret.

When Xue Xue left earlier, Chu Liuyue asked it to help find the little fellow since Xue Xue was an advanced fiend and should be very sensitive to other fiends' auras.

After the mountain collapsed, she actually did not harbor much hope. However, she still remembered the little fellow as it had sacrificed its life for her. She didn't actually expect to find it.

At this point, the little fellow lay on the ground motionlessly.

Chu Liuyue carefully inspected it and noticed that the blood ferret was still breathing weakly. She instantly heaved a sigh of relief. *It is still alive.*

Upon sensing her touch it, the little fellow's tail suddenly moved, and it slowly opened its eyes. The blood ferret's pair of round eyes clearly reflected Chu Liuyue's face. It dazedly looked at her and blinked as if it had not recovered its senses.

Chu Liuyue carefully held it up and pinched its ears. "It's okay. We're all safe now."

The little fellow then realized that it was not dreaming. It widened its eyes and hugged Chu Liuyue's thumb as it cried. The little fellow thought it had already died! It thought it wouldn't see Chu Liuyue again!

Upon seeing its devastating cries, Chu Liuyue found it funny and touching. "Okay, then. You'll follow me back, and such things won't happen again in the future, okay?"

That little fellow was fated with her, and she really liked it. Since it was still alive, it was best for her to bring it back. Even though the blood ferret could not be a battle fiend, it could be a pet fiend and stay by her side.

When the little fellow heard this and realized that it could always stay by her side, it could not help but cry even louder. It only stopped after a long while, but its body still shuddered. Its eyes were also red, looking pitiful and cute.

The blood ferret spotted Chu Liuyue's injured shoulder and obediently stuck by her side.

Rong Xiu looked at it and suddenly said, "Its vitality is pretty good."

Chu Liuyue was in a good mood, and her eyes had curved up like a crescent moon. "Yeah, it was attacked by that black flying python when it tried to help me. The mountain then collapsed..."

As Chu Liuyue talked, she suddenly felt that something was amiss. *This little fellow is just a third-grade fiend and doesn't have much attacking power. How did it survive the fierce attack from the black flying python? It also survived after the mountain collapsed and everything became chaotic...*

Chu Liuyue held the blood ferret in her hands again and flipped it around to examine it.

The little fellow seemed to be tickled and rolled around in her palm.

Chu Liuyue was taken aback. *It seems like the little fellow hasn't suffered any serious injuries? Other than a few abrasions, its entire body is unscathed!*

When one saw its energetic and lively behavior, who could possibly imagine what it had been through?

The main point was that Wan Ling Mountain was the black flying python's territory. Thus, all the fiends there had to listen to its commands when they felt its suppressive aura. All the fiends that had surrounded and attacked her were the best evidence. However, this little fellow seemed... to be unaffected!

Not only did it not join the other fiends and attack her, but it also stood by her side and went against the black flying python.

Chu Liuyue felt increasingly weird when she thought about it. She then examined the little fellow closely, but she did not discover anything weird.

The little fellow hugged her finger dotingly and waved its furry tail around.

Just as Chu Liuyue was dazed, Rong Xiu suddenly extended his hands and picked the little fellow up. “You need to rest now. You can think about such things later on.”

Chu Liuyue agreed with him and nodded.

The little fellow was suddenly forced to leave a warm place. It instantly woke up and glared at Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu lightly glanced at it.

Hmph!

The little fellow was scared and immediately retracted its gaze as it turned around to wait.

“Why does there seem to be a bloody smell coming from Xue Xue?” asked Chu Liuyue weirdly.

Even though the smell was faint, she was certain it was there. It was even more intense than the scent that permeated after Xue Xue killed the black flying python.

Xue Xue’s body stiffened, and it turned around to lie on the floor, pretending that it did not hear anything.

Rong Xiu paused and casually changed the topic. “We’ll return to the Imperial City tomorrow, after your body recovers.”

