

Overbearing 101

Chapter 101: Master Nalan Had a Breakthrough I

Qin Feiyang and the others were stunned.

Go and ask for the spirit wine from His Majesty? They were not as daring as that.

“Qin Feiyang!” Wei Fang turned his angry stare upon Qin Feiyang. “You’re so bold to snatch our spirit wine from us! You’re really tired of living, aren’t you? We’ll definitely make you pay for it today even if His Majesty comes and helps you.”

Beads of sweat formed on Qin Feiyang’s forehead. He laughed in embarrassment. “Actually, I can explain...”

Boom!

Jiang Qing was furious. He aimed a lightning-speed punch at Qin Feiyang. Suddenly, a strong wind blew in the backyard. The leaves scattered, and there was sand everywhere.

Qin Feiyang was angry too. He had only drunk a few sips of wine. How come these old men were so furious? Did they really think that the Qin family could be treated as such?

Suddenly, Qin Feiyang jumped and came to stand in front of Jiang Qing.

Master Nalan had ordered the imperial guard to bring a bowl of wine and some dishes to go with the wine. Now, he was waiting to watch the scene in front of him unfold. He smiled and looked at the three of them in a fight.

Boom!

Suddenly, a strong gush of power came from Master Nalan. It broke the stone chair in front of him.

This strong movement stopped the fighting among the three old men. All of them looked at Master Nalan suspiciously.

Was the power just now... a breakthrough?

Everyone knew that the stronger the warrior was, the more difficult it was for the warrior to make a breakthrough. Moreover, Master Nalan was old. He had been grieving for a few years now because of Empress Nalan’s death. He even had a few ailments because of Feng Ruqing’s actions. He was no longer young or energetic.

He had not had any breakthrough since he reached True Warrior tier. Now... he had broken through and made it to Spirit Warrior tier.

“Master Nalan, did you just make a breakthrough?” Qin Feiyang looked at Master Nalan suspiciously. There were bewilderment and surprise in Qin Feiyang’s eyes.

These old men had nearly reached the impasses in their training. Master Nalan was the weakest among them because he was unable to train these past few years. Even so, Qin Feiyang still could not bear it when Master Nalan had a breakthrough.

How was it that he could make a breakthrough all of a sudden?

Master Nalan was shocked as well. He looked at the wine glass in his hand.

He had been drinking the spirit wine these past few days. He could feel the improvement in his spiritual qi, but he never thought that he could make a breakthrough just like that.

Of course, Master Nalan did not know that the spirit herbs used for the brewing of the wine were of low grade. He would be able to make a breakthrough right away if the spirit herbs used were of higher grade if he takes the first sip of the wine. He would not have to wait for a few days like this.

“The power of this spirit wine is marvelous!” Master Nalan held onto his wine glass tightly and fell into deep thought.

“Master Nalan, are you trying to say that you have made a breakthrough just because of the spirit wine?” Wei Fang was having trouble breathing. Spirit wine which could help people breakthrough. How powerful was the spirit wine?

The whole of Liu Yun Kingdom could be improved if the amount of this spirit wine was large.

“Master Nalan, may I know where you got this spirit wine from?”

Qin Feiyang was silent for a while. He raised his head and looked at Master Nalan.

Master Nalan turned to look at Qin Feiyang. His thoughtful eyes were suddenly filled with pride. He replied satisfactorily, “It’s all because of my granddaughter.”

Chapter 102: Master Nalan Made a Breakthrough II

“Granddaughter? Master Nalan, did you mean Princess Feng Ruqing?”

“That’s right. It’s all because of Feng Ruqing’s wisdom. She bought this wine from a vendor, and that’s the reason that I had a breakthrough.”

The number of people who made it to Spirit Warrior tier was not high among the four kingdoms. Those who made it to above the Spirit Warrior tier came from those families who lived apart from the world. Empress Nalan was the first who reached the Spirit Warrior tier.

However, Empress Nalan had died young. His Majesty was the only one who had reached Spirit Warrior Tier in the imperial family. Now, the other kingdoms were not so daring as to challenge Liu Yun Kingdom because Master Nalan had reached Spirit Warrior Tier.

Qin Feiyang’s eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

This spirit wine... was bought from a vendor? Moreover, it was that good-for-nothing Feng Ruqing who bought it for Master Nalan.

“Master Nalan, is this wine really given by the princess?”

“It’s indeed given by her.” Master Nalan fell into deep thought. After a while, he said, “Qin Feiyang. Now, the three of you can come to my manor and drink my wine every day until you make a breakthrough.”

This old man was so stingy just now. Why was he so generous now?

They could not believe that Master Nalan was without any conspiracy.

Master Nalan stared at Qin Feiyang. “I do like good wine. But, did you ever see me so stingy? I would not have done so if this spirit wine is only delicious and capable of improving your spiritual qi. But, now that I know that this spirit wine could help you breakthrough, I couldn’t help but think of the benefits to Liu Yun Kingdom.”

Liu Yun Kingdom was once protected by Master Nalan’s daughter with her life. He would definitely risk his whole life to protect Liu Yun Kingdom for Yan’er’s sake.

It was only a pot of spirit wine. It was nothing compared to Liu Yun Kingdom.

Princess’s manor.

Feng Ruqing opened a pot in the serene and quiet cellar. The smell of good wine made her very energetic.

“The second batch of spirit wine is completed. I have specially brewed three pots of spirit wine, and they will be sufficient to be distributed.”

Feng Ruqing carried the three pots of spirit wine and walked toward the entrance of the cellar.

Feng Ruqing saw the Four-Armed Ape who was guarding the entrance of the cellar just as she stepped out of the cellar. She tossed a pot of spirit wine at the Four-Armed Ape.

“Little Ape, I’ll give you leave today. You can go and drink as much wine as you want.”

The ape gibbered.

The Four-Armed Ape held the pot of wine happily, and it even bowed to Feng Ruqing like a human. Then, it rushed to the hill quickly.

Feng Ruqing could not help but look in the direction which the ape had disappeared. She then turned and walked away.

The atmosphere in the imperial study was majestic and solemn.

A man sat at the emperor’s throne. He was holding a memorial in his hand, reading through it carefully. His eyebrows sometimes tightened and relaxed. The palace maids and eunuchs around him were anxious because of the changes in his emotions.

The door of the imperial study room was pushed open at this time. Feng Tianyu's hard and serious face softened, and his eyes were filled with gentleness.

It was because there was only one person in the whole palace who could meet Feng Tianyu without any prior notice.

"Qing'er, are you free today to come and meet me?"

The man put down his imperial jade seal. His face showed great gentleness and care which made the servants more relaxed.

Chapter 103: Master Nalan Made a Breakthrough III

"Father." Feng Ruqing walked forward slowly and gave the pot of wine in her hands to a eunuch who was standing at the side. Then, she turned and looked at Feng Tianyu. "I bought this wine some time ago. I brought it for you to try."

Feng Tianyu smiled as he was pleased. "My daughter has finally grown up. I'm grateful. I do not like to drink wine. You can give this to your grandfather. He likes to drink wine."

The relationship between Qing'er and the General Manor was not intimate. Their relationship might be improved with this pot of good wine.

Yan'er would be glad now that she was in heaven.

"No need." Feng Ruqing smiled and shook her head. "I've given a pot of wine to my grandfather. This is for you. I've been to many places just to find a pot of good wine for you. Father, my effort would be wasted if you do not try it."

Feng Tianyu was helpless, but he also felt ecstatic deep down in his heart.

Qing'er had indeed changed so much after that day. It must be because of Yan'er.

"Okay. I'll try your wine after I have finished reading all the memorials."

"Good." Feng Ruqing smiled gently. "Moreover, I'm lucky enough that I could buy a Divine-Spirit Fruit. I'll give that to you too. This Divine-Spirit Fruit could help relieve your tiredness since you're always busy dealing with government affairs."

Feng Tianyu was stunned. Feng Ruqing put the Divine-Spirit Fruit in front of Feng Tianyu. He looked at the Divine-Spirit Fruit. There were tears in his eyes.

"Qing'er, you're really more thoughtful now."

His care and love for her all these years were not wasted.

"By the way..." Feng Tianyu suddenly thought of something. He then asked, "Did you retrieve the Iron-Blooded Token?"

Feng Ruqing smiled broadly. "I only let her look at the Iron-Blooded Token, but it has taken so many years. Now, it's time that I took it back."

“That’s good.”

Feng Tianyu could finally sigh in relief after all these years.

That Iron-Blooded Token was left behind by Yan’er, and it was also a thing which Feng Tianyu wanted to hold dear to himself for the rest of his life. However, Feng Ruqing had given it to Noble Consort Rong, and even he could not stop her.

Now he was relieved that the thing had been returned to its rightful owner and Feng Ruqing had indeed grown up.

“But, Qing’er, you need to eat more. You’ve clearly slimmed down a lot in only a month.” Feng Tianyu sighed. “Even if you want to slim down, you should not skip any meals. You can just eat less oily food. Do you understand?”

He was most worried that Feng Ruqing would skip meals just to slim down. If anything happened to her, he would not be able to meet the late Empress Nalan when he passed away one day.

“Father, I understand.”

Feng Ruqing was indeed slimmer than before. But, her face was still chubby. However, there was a glow on her face when she smiled now. Her cheekbones were also sharper and more noticeable now.

“I’ll not bother you further today. I’ll come and meet you again next time.”

Just then, Feng Ruqing looked at Feng Tianyu. She felt that there was something wrong with Feng Tianyu. But, she could not seem to put a finger on it. She saw that Feng Tianyu did not say anything, so she turned and walked out of the imperial study room.

Feng Tianyu’s face turned so pale that he vomited a mouthful of blood on the memorial when the door of the imperial study room closed .¹

His face was still serious and handsome. But, his actions made the palace maids around him nervous. All of them came forward and surrounded him.

Chapter 104: Master Nalan Made a Breakthrough IV

“Your Majesty!”

“It’s nothing serious. It’s only some old illnesses. It doesn’t matter.” Feng Tianyu wiped his mouth. “Make sure that no one knows about this, especially Qing’er. If not, you’ll be killed without mercy!”

“Your Majesty...” Eunuch Lin came forward worriedly. “You don’t have to be like this. There are so many good doctors in this world. We can hire them to treat your illnesses. Moreover, Your Majesty could buy a lot of spirit herbs. Your illnesses might be cured.”

Actually, Feng Tianyu had those illnesses because he had suffered from great misery and grief when Empress Nalan died that year.

Feng Tianyu's health was becoming worse every day after Empress Nalan's death. He never could have made it to this day if Feng Ruqing were more thoughtful and sensible. He was worried that Feng Ruqing would be bullied by the others when he died.

But now, he felt that his duty was fulfilled after seeing how far Feng Ruqing had changed and grown.

"I still need to hold Liu Yun Kingdom together. If the others know of my deteriorating health, they might take this chance to attack us." Feng Tianyu's eyebrows tightened. He sighed softly. "I just hope that I could uncover the truth to Yan'er's death and avenge her before I die. That way, I could eliminate all enemies for Qing'er."

"I won't die before eliminating all the enemies. So, don't worry."

His daughter had grown up, but she clearly needed his support and guidance. He would never leave her behind.

He would only go and meet Yan'er when everything was settled and peaceful.

"Furthermore..." Feng Tianyu laughed bitterly. "I have always wished that Feng Ruqing could amend her relationship with the General Manor. If I passed on the throne to her, the General Manor would support her willingly; not because of Yan'er and me."

"Your Majesty?"

Eunuch Lin was shocked. He looked up at Feng Tianyu anxiously. "If Your Majesty wants to pass your throne on to Feng Ruqing, all the people will never agree. There has never been a female emperor in the history of Liu Yun."

Feng Tianyu snorted. "The throne is mine. Anyone can be an emperor if I choose to pass my throne on to her. Moreover, the next emperor must be the child of Yan'er and I. There's no one else!"

Eunuch Lin was quiet. His Majesty had never been together with the other consorts these last few years. Those consorts were just there for show. So, His Majesty was left without a son now. If he continued to act stubbornly, he would never have a son.

So, this throne might just be passed on to the crown princess.

In a small garden at the palace.

A young girl was surrounded by a group from the Iron-Blooded Troop. There was a sweet and innocent smile on her beautiful face. "Tang Zi, I really came to meet all of you. It's because my concubine-mother knows that all of you have been training very hard recently. So, she has ordered me to bring you this 100-year-old ginseng for you to strengthen your bodies."

100-year-old ginseng was only an ordinary herb. It was not as powerful as a spirit herb.

Moreover, these people from the Iron-Blooded Troop were so aggressive. She would not have given them the spirit herbs even if she had bought them.

But, this 100-year-old ginseng was considered expensive in the market. So, these people would surely be grateful toward her.

“Second Princess, please leave now.” There was no emotion on Tang Zi’s face. Her expression was cold. “Just bring the 100-year-old ginseng back. We don’t need it.”

Feng Rushuang’s smile froze. She was furious. These people were just some of the royal family’s dogs. How could they be this rude? They thought that they were favored by His Majesty.

“I’m kind enough to come and meet you. Although the Iron-Blooded Token has been retrieved by my sister, but think about it... is it a good thing that she has taken it back? No! You’re wrong. She just wants to use it to harm the public. My concubine-mother took it away then for everybody’s sake. Now, you can’t even differentiate good and bad.”

Chapter 105: Conflict Resolved Over A Pot of Wine I

Tang Zi frowned slightly as her body was surrounded by a cold chill. She looked indifferent, and her face was taut the whole time.

“We, Iron-Blooded Troop, submit ourselves only to the empress in our whole lifetime. After the empress’s death, it’s only natural for the Princess Royal to assume command over us. Second Princess, please leave now.”

“Tang Zi!” Feng Rushuang’s smile ceased. “Are you sure you want to help a villain do evil? Won’t your decision today damage the military’s glory and prestige which Empress Nalan had fought for so many years? My concubine-mother is just concerned about the whole nation, but you choose to be loyal to somebody who has committed countless crimes!”

If not because of the troop commander, Tang Zi, who was steady and firm, Feng Rushuang would have succeeded in her attempt to bribe and win the troop members’ heart. Then, they would have gotten the troop’s acceptance much earlier which they did not get even after holding the Iron-Blooded Token for so many years.

“You shut up!” Ling Yun shouted in anger as her expression changed. “You are nobody to interfere with whatever decisions made by the troop. Don’t poke your nose into our business!”

Feng Rushuang sneered and turned to look at the rest of the troop members who were there.

“You can ask these people, how many of them are willing to submit themselves to Feng Ruqing?” She mocked.

Everyone was taken aback and looked at each other without saying anything.

After a moment of silence, someone from the back suddenly spoke. It could be heard clearly in the quiet courtyard.

“Commander, actually what she said is not totally wrong. We are the army of Iron-Blooded Troop who are supposed to fight for our homeland and protect our people. All of us are aware of how the Princess

Royal has behaved previously. If she wants us to oppress and bully people, wouldn't it tarnish our reputation?"

Nevertheless, Feng Ruqing had done countless of crimes and misdeeds.

She did bully the weak and oppress poor people.

Due to her status, nobody in Liu Yun Kingdom dared to go against Feng Ruqing. Imagine if she had the military troop behind her, who else would be bold enough to resist her command?

Empress Nalan had been striving hard through the war for many years before they had managed to build their reputation today. They would never let the princess tarnish it.

"All of you shut up!" Tang Zi glared sternly at the group. She reprimanded sternly, "No matter what happens, the Iron-Blooded Troop will only submit to one person! Unless we die in the war, I will never leave!"

Everyone went silent. They never thought of betraying the empress, but the princess's attitude had disappointed them.

They would rather live without any accomplishment their whole lives than following her around to bully the people.

Tang Zi diverted her cold glance to Feng Rushuang. "You better leave now. I will pretend that you never came here today. Please bring your ginseng along, we do not need it."

"You..." Feng Rushuang clenched her palms tightly in annoyance.

As the princess of Liu Yun Kingdom, she had never been humiliated in front of others except for Feng Ruqing. How dare this bloody Tang Zi belittle her!

"Tang Zi, do you think I came here for fun?" Feng Rushuang suddenly laughed. Her eyes were beaming with delight and tenderness. "I accidentally heard about her conversation with a palace maid. She personally said that she took back the Iron-Blooded Token to oppress and slaughter the innocent civilians. You will end up as her partner in crime eventually. Why do you want to be a sinner and be condemned by history?"

Tang Zi knitted her brows again. She glared at Feng Rushuang coldly.

"The Princess Royal has just dropped by to show her solitude to us not long ago. She has personally sent us some the Divine-Spirit Fruit."

Feng Rushuang was stunned. That good-for-nothing rogue was willing to buy precious spirit herbs for the Iron-Blooded Troop?

This time, she was serious and seemed to have put in her blood and sweat.

"I have heard of the Divine-Spirit Fruit from the imperial physician. They are just Grade-1 spirit herbs which are not extremely expensive despite its small amount available in the market. Never thought that the commander of the Iron-Blooded Troop could be bought by a mere Divine-Spirit Fruit. Can't you see that she's just trying to win you over?"

Chapter 106: Conflict Resolved Over A Pot of Wine II

She sighed helplessly and said with mixed emotion, "I pity my concubine-mother. Her painstakingly effort was misunderstood by the whole nation that year. Everyone thought that she had snatched other people's possession for herself when it was actually her concern for the civilians."

Tang Zi remained silent, but she could feel the burning flame of anger in her heart.

No matter Feng Ruqing had changed or not, the Iron-Blooded Troop would never betray her and submit themselves to another person!

Why won't she understand after so many years?

The rest of the troop members' military morale had shaken except for Tang Zi's.

After all, everyone had witnessed and was aware of Feng Ruqing's bad behavior and misdeeds these past few years. She was capable of doing things mentioned by the second princess.

Looking at the signs of anxiety on their face, Feng Rushuang seemed rather grimly delighted. She sneered at them.

It was difficult to influence Tang Zi, but she could manipulate and waver the rest of the troop members' minds. Once their morale was shaken, she would manage to have control over them. Then she would just change the troop commander, so it was not a big issue here.

"Stop talking nonsense!" Ling Yun flew into a rage out of embarrassment.

"Hehe!" Feng Rushuang chuckled in disdain and mocked, ""My concubine-mother has been the scapegoat for many years. Today, I am here to clear her name and let you all know who is the one who really cares for the people! Who is... the real master of the Iron-Blooded Token!"

That wretched fatty, Feng Ruqing was a good-for-nothing. She did not only snatch away her father and the affection that she deserved, but also the Iron-Blooded Token as well! She would never let this matter rest!

"The real master... of Iron Blooded Token?"

A giggling sound could be heard when the soft breeze blew at them. The sound was soft and gentle to the ear, but Feng Rushuang felt a chill run down her spine.

Feng Rushuang turned her head slowly to identify the source. Her eyes widened in shock.

It was almost sunset as the warm sunlight filled the small courtyard.

A young lady was standing at the entrance, and she was smiling sweetly. Her body was still considered fatter than the rest of the people. However, Feng Rushuang could not deny that she had lost some weight, and she looked prettier than before.

The young woman's smile was warm like the sunlight—contagious and graceful.

“Sister!” Feng Rushuang quickly hid her shock and greeted Feng Ruqing like nothing had happened. She smiled sweetly and walked toward Feng Ruqing.

Her black orbs looked mesmerizing, bright, and clear. However, when one took a second look at them, they made people feel like there was nowhere to hide from those eyes.

“Why are you here? You haven’t dropped by the imperial palace for so many days, so I thought you have already forgotten about our Father. You did not even pay him a visit.”

Feng Ruqing smiled until her eyes were almost like two lines. “I have no choice. To share His Majesty’s burden and to be able to solve his problems, I can only upgrade my ability. These few days, I have been too busy until I had no time to visit Father. Seems like I am not a filial daughter. But since Father loves me, I think he won’t mind about it.”

Feng Ruqing was indeed quite busy in her practice recently. At the same time, she was busy making herbal dishes as well. How was it possible for her to squeeze out time in between to pay her father a visit? She did not even step out of her princess manor these past few days.

Feng Rushuang’s smiling face turned stiff and awkward. “Sister, I did not mean that.”

“I did not mention anything.” Feng Ruqing looked shocked and confused. “Unless, I did say something that I shouldn’t have said just now? Rushuang, you’re just concerned about me, how could it be possible for me to misinterpret your words? Unless you do have such intention...”

Feng Rushuang felt she was going to explode soon and was about to hit her to death. However, she knew that she did not stand a chance against these people from the Iron-Blooded Troop, so she swallowed her anger.

“By the way, I heard you mentioning the master of Iron-Blooded Token just now?” Feng Ruqing suddenly asked solemnly. “Who told you that the Iron-Blooded Token has a master?”

Feng Rushuang’s face turned blank. She raised her head and looked at Feng Ruqing in confusion. “What do you mean, Sister?”

Chapter 107: Conflict Resolved Over A Pot of Wine III

“Every member of the Iron-Blooded Troop has their own rights. If they choose to be loyal to me, they can follow me to the battlefield throughout their lives. One day, if they feel tired and exhausted, they may choose to live in seclusion. Nobody is eligible to call herself master or force them into slavery!”

The whole Iron-Blooded Troop was dumbfounded.

One day, if they were tired of the battle life, they could request to retire and return to their hometown and live in seclusion. Could they do that?

She... would not force them to commit their whole life to her?

“So...” Feng Ruqing lowered her gaze at Feng Rushuang. She looked down at her with superiority. “Who are you... to claim yourself as the master of the Iron-Blooded Token?”

Feng Rushuang's face went pale white. She bit her lip hard and her petite body was trembling, "Sister, didn't you say earlier... that these people are your dogs?"

Why did she talk about human rights now?

Feng Ruqing chuckled coldly. "Because the old Feng Ruqing is already dead!"

"Feng Ruqing!" Feng Rushuang recovered from her surprise. Wickedness flashed through her eyes. She could not contain herself. "Don't pretend anymore! Who doesn't know your real face? The Iron-Blooded Troop members should have known your attitude better. You've taken back the token just to order them around to do your dirty jobs, haven't you?"

The Iron-Blooded Token was useless in their hands but if it fell into Feng Ruqing's possession, they had no choice but to obey her commands.

"The Iron-Blooded Token?" Feng Ruqing smiled a little and took out the token. Much to everyone's surprise, she suddenly broke the token into two halves with force. "Do you think I need to depend on this token?"

She had actually taken back the token from Noble Consort Rong because she did not want her to stain it. In fact, Feng Ruqing never had the intention to use the Iron-Blooded Token to control the troop.

She only wanted to depend on herself!

Every Iron-Blooded Troop member was stunned.

Even Feng Rushuang was taken aback and shocked.

If Feng Ruqing had this token in hand, none of the troop member could go against her command as it represented the empress herself. His Majesty would never allow anyone to disrespect Feng Ruqing!

Thus, even though the Iron-Blooded Troop members did not submit themselves to Feng Ruqing, they could not disobey her order. This was what they most afraid of at the moment.

However, they did not expect her to break the token... She destroyed it without any hesitation.

"Your Royal Highness..." Tang Zi stared at Feng Ruqing in shock. "Are you aware of the consequence behind your action right now?"

Feng Ruqing turned to Tang Zi and smiled back. "Of course, I do. Would you not obey my command if I don't have this Iron-Blooded Token anymore?"

"No, we won't do that..." Tang Zi quickly shook her head to show her loyalty.

"It's fine then. The Iron-Blooded Token does not have not many functions anyway. It only attracts those who eye it with bad intention. What I want is not the token, but your genuine loyalty. I want all of you to submit yourselves to me willingly." Feng Ruqing assured her with a gentle smile, "However, I promise that I will never stain the Iron-Blooded Troop's reputation and tarnish my imperial mother's reputation! I will only make our troop stronger and lead everyone into glory and more success!"

Tang Zi felt warmed and touched. Finally, this day had come. She had been waiting for this day for too long. She was glad that she managed to witness this day...

“I believe in you.”

This time, she was willing to trust her words again, just because of her motivating words just now!

Tang Zi knelt down on one knee, held her sword with both hands and said loudly, “The Commander of the Iron-Blooded Troop, Tang Zi, pays respect to Master.”

“The Vice Commander of the Iron-Blooded Troop, Ling Yun, pays respect to Master!”

“Pay respect to Master!”

As the sun set in the west, the high-spirited and dignified sound echoed under the sky continuously without a break.

Feng Rushuang’s face went pale. She stared at Feng Ruqing with intense hatred. She glanced at Feng Ruqing coldly then turned and walked toward the door.

Chapter 108: Conflict Resolved Over A Pot of Wine IV

She clenched her fists tightly. Her hands were at her sides, her fingernails dug into her palms until it bled without her realizing it.

‘Feng Ruqing, you cannot keep whatever that does not belong to you forever! One day, I’ll take the things you have snatched away from me back, and I will make you suffer and give you no chance to rise again!’

Feng Ruqing did not bother about Feng Rushuang’s leaving. For her, having fun and enjoying wine with the troop members were more important at the moment.

“Look here, I’ve prepared good wine for all of you. Let’s enjoy our wine heartily tonight!”

She had not gotten a chance to try her wine yet as she was busy giving it to others. So today she would drink it to her heart’s content. What an enjoyable night to drink wine with her fellow troop members!

“I... I don’t drink wine.” Ling Yun was stunned. So, she tried to decline the offer with a weak excuse.

Feng Ruqing was not pleased upon hearing that. “I have spent a lot of effort to get this wine. All of you must drink it!”

“But I cannot hold my liquor...”

“No, it cannot be. Are you a soldier? If you are a proud and strong soldier, how can you refuse to drink?”

If it were an ordinary wine, she would have let her go, but this was spirit wine. She must drink it!

Feng Ruqing lifted the wine jar without much effort and opened it.

The fragrance of the wine filled the air.

Even Ling Yun who was not a drinker subconsciously indulged in the fragrance and the sweet scent of the wine. She soon realized that her inner qi was fluctuating and seemed to be rising to the next level.

“This wine...” Tang Zi lifted her head in surprise.

“Don’t bother about this wine. Today, we must drink heartily! Ling Yun, get a wine bowl here!”

“Yes, master.”

Ling Yun had recovered from her surprise and quickly rushed to the little courtyard.

In actual fact, Feng Ruqing did not bring only one jar, but a few jars of wine which were already diluted with water.

She had no other choice. There were simply too many people in the troop. If she did not do this, it would not be enough for everyone! Later on, she would get more spirit beasts to help her with the wine-producing work.

By then, the troop members would be able to drink pure spirit wine instead of the diluted one.

“Master, is it really alright for us to enjoy such good wine?” Tang Zi looked at Feng Ruqing and asked in hesitation. “Shall we send it to His Majesty and the old generals...”

Feng Ruqing raised her brows. “Don’t worry. Of course, I have kept some for them. Moreover, apart from relieving pain and maintaining good health, spirit wine helps to breakthrough your cultivation level as it contains sufficient qi. Since all of you want to submit yourselves to me, you must upgrade your cultivation level!”

Tang Zi felt moved as it tugged at her heartstrings. In her opinion, a change for the better in the princess had been an extravagant hope to them. Yet, who knew the princess would be so concerned about them.

“Then, I shall give no more excuses. Today, I will drink heartily with you.” She finally smiled. It was different from her usual confident and valiant smile, it was more gentle this time.

Within seconds, Ling Yun came out with the wine bowl. She poured a bowl for Feng Ruqing first and handed to her. She took the bowl and said it out loud, “Let me salute you with the first toast of wine. All of you must drink too!”

Once she finished her words, she swallowed every drop of wine in one shot.

Then...

Her body suddenly fell back with a ‘bang’ sound as she fell onto the floor just before Ling Yun managed to pour her second round of wine.

The wine bowl shattered on the ground beside her.

Tang Zi was left dumbfounded for a few moments, then she picked up the wine bowl and took a sip.

“This spirit wine... does not have high alcohol content. Why did Princess become unconscious after only one drink? Moreover, based on her current low alcohol tolerance, how bold it was of her to drink heartily with us!”

“Commander, let me bring Princess to rest somewhere.”

Ling Yun shook her head as she felt helpless. When she wanted to carry Feng Ruqing, suddenly a small storm appeared on the princess's body. That storm was so strong to the point where it pushed Ling Yun a few steps back.

"Is this a sign of cultivation breakthrough for the princess?" Tang Zi was stunned to see this strange phenomenon. She frowned at Feng Ruqing who was sleeping soundly on the ground. She muttered to herself for a few moments, "No, something is wrong. The breakthrough for Earth Warrior-tier won't cause this strong effect, but her fluctuating spiritual qi does belong to Earth Warrior-tier..."

Chapter 109: It Was A Huge Embarrassment I

Tang Zi fell silent. Her eyes showed that she was thinking hard.

After a while, the spiritual qi storm was still there, and it did not disappear. In fact, she felt her inner spiritual qi start to go out of control under the influence of the storm.

"Tang Zi, what happened?" Ling Yun was astonished. "How could it be possible for the Earth Warrior-tier breakthrough to cause such a strong effect to the people around? Moreover, our cultivation level is higher than the princess. How can she affect us...?"

Tang Zi raised her head. "A few years ago, I was able to witness the battle of two warriors from Dark Warrior-tier and the storm caused by their battle did affect my inner qi as well. Apart from that incident, I have never experienced the same feeling anymore."

Who knew how strong a Dark Warrior was? In the whole of Liu Yun Kingdom, Spirit Warrior-tier was already considered as the strongest among others.

What was the reason behind the princess's unusual breakthrough...

"Moreover, if I am not mistaken, Princess was still a Beginner Warrior lower-tier two months ago, but now she's reached the Earth Warrior-tier in one step. Don't you feel strange about it?"

Ling Yun bit her lip softly in hesitation. "Then this incident..."

"Nobody is allowed to talk about this matter. If this incident is spread out, get ready to face military punishment!" Tang Zi warned and glared coldly at the soldiers behind her. Her tone was stern when giving the command, "Send the princess back to her manor instantly. I will report to His Majesty now."

"Yes, Commander!" Everyone responded in full respect.

Tang Zi glanced at her people one more time before turning around. She disappeared like a gust of wind from the courtyard.

Zheng He Hall

Feng Tianyu leaned against the headboard while an imperial physician checked his pulse. After a moment, the imperial physician frowned deeper as time passed. His old and aged face seemed helpless.

When Feng Tianyu saw the imperial physician's facial expression, he had already predicted the outcome. His lip curved upwards a little. "Imperial Physician Liu, I know my own body. Just give me hawthorn berries later, then you may leave."

Imperial Physician Liu kneeled down with a thud. He sobbed, "Your Majesty, you must not consume hawthorn berries anymore. Although it can replenish your energy and make you healthy in a short time, it comes with side effects. Your health will eventually deteriorate."

Feng Tianyu frowned a little, but his voice remained indifferent. "It doesn't matter, I will hold on for her as long as I can. If the people get to know that I have fallen sick, it will bring disaster to Liu Yun Kingdom. I am not willing... to see Qing'er get hurt."

In these past few years, his health had been deteriorating. He was aware of it.

Everyone thought he was as fit as a fiddle, but it was only because of the hawthorn berries.

After all... he could only live for a few more years. If he could hold on longer and do more work, perhaps he could avenge Yan'er. He was willing to sacrifice anything as long as it was worth it.

"Your Majesty."

Suddenly, a guard came in and reported to him respectfully, "Commander of the Iron-Blooded Troop, Tang Zi, requests to meet Your Majesty."

Feng Tianyu was startled. As he knew, Tang Zi had rarely left the small courtyard unless it was for a very important reason.

Was it... due to Qing'er?

"All of you can leave now. Let Tang Zi come in."

He tried to sit up by holding onto the bed for support. He coughed a few times. The hawthorn berry he had last eaten had already lost its effect. So, he was unable to look as healthy as he usually was.

Everyone bowed and left. Meanwhile, a person with a strong and heroic silhouette walked in from the entrance.

She clasped her fists and bowed respectfully. "Tang Zi has come to pay respects to Your Majesty."

"You can forgo the formality." Feng Tianyu raised his hand once. "Is there anything that you want to report to me?"

"Your Majesty, just now... Princess Royal managed to breakthrough Earth Warrior-tier and... I think her breakthrough situation was a bit unusual. That's why I have especially come to report it to Your Majesty in hopes that Your Majesty can advise me on this matter."

Chapter 110: It Was a Huge Embarrassment II

Soon after, Tang Zi mentioned a few changes in Feng Ruqing, especially the fact that she could make a breakthrough from Beginner Warrior-tier to the Earth Warrior-tier in as short as two months.

Nobody could be this talented as she was!

Feng Tianyu smiled slightly. "I see. I also did not know that a breakthrough from Beginner Warrior-tier to the Earth Warrior-tier could have this much impact. It might be because of the talent possessed by Qing'er. By the way, I've had her tested when she was young, and she did have exceptional talent... however..."

However, Feng Ruqing met Noble Consort Rong, who had a great influence on her for ten years when she reached the age suitable for training.

She became vile under the control of Noble Consort Rong. Noble Consort Rong even dismissed all the teachers sent by Feng Tianyu for Feng Ruqing. So, Feng Ruqing never did have any real training in all these years.

Everyone thought that she was a nobody without any talent, but they did not know that she was an exceptional genius. She had just never trained seriously.

"My daughter will never be weaker than anybody."

Feng Tianyu was filled with pride when he said this.

Tang Zi did not say anything more. "The princess is talented. She just never had any serious training, so nobody knows about her talent."

"The state preceptor, Nan Xian mentioned before that Qing'er is talented. It's just that her talent and potential have not been fully discovered. He even predicted that Qing'er could grow and improve only when she has encountered a great incident when she is sixteen years old. That's true. Qing'er nearly died when she turned sixteen. She has awakened now and became a different person. She's more sensible now."

Feng Ruqing would be able to understand the reason that she was not doubted if she was here. It was only because of what the state preceptor had said before.

"Your Majesty, may I ask bluntly of the background of the state preceptor?"

"The state preceptor? I don't know. He might be from a family which lives apart from the rest of the world. Of course, this is just my speculation. He came without any reason a few years ago." Feng Tianyu had great trust in Tang Zi, so he did not hide anything from her. "But, I just have a kind of feeling that he came specially for Qing'er."

Tang Zi was shocked and raised her head. "For the princess?"

"This is only a kind of feeling. I feel that he came for Qing'er. But, he did not have any contact with Qing'er these past few years. I thought that I was wrong until he took up Feng Ruqing as his disciple."

Feng Tianyu then understood that what the state preceptor did was all for Qing'er.

It was all for the princess who had changed when she encountered a great incident that year.

"Your Majesty, does the princess know about this?"

“Qing’er doesn’t have to know about this. I believe that the state preceptor means no harm.” Feng Tianyu smiled and shook his head. “But, the state preceptor said that Feng Ruqing’s body is a little special. There might be a big problem if she drinks any wine. So, I have never allowed her to touch any wine no matter how much I love her.”

“...”

Tang Zi’s face became so white.

‘The princess... Is it true that she will be in great trouble if she drinks wine?’

‘No way! I must go to the princess’s manor. The princess cannot get into any trouble.’

“Your Majesty, I need to return to continue my training. Please dismiss me.”

“Go ahead.”

Feng Tianyu waved his hand and looked at Tang Zi when she left the place. He soon fell into deep thought.

Tang Zi was in a rush the whole way to the princess’s manor. Her clothes were drenched in sweat and there was anxiety in her eyes.

She did not inform His Majesty about that incident. It seemed that His Majesty was unwell these past few days, and she could not worry him more. She just hoped that she could get to the princess’s manor quicker to avoid any harm being inflicted upon the princess.