

Immortality Cultivation: I Farm in the System Space

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Chapter 401: Chapter 101: Jack of all trades

Afterward, Lin Jing and the man in black had another conversation.

Later, the two separated.

Over the next two days.

Lin Jing was in Bihai City, searching for Lin Jue's traces while refining the Shadow Escape Flying Boat.

With the introduction of that Jade Slip, Lin Jing had come to understand all the functions of the Shadow Escape Flying Boat.

Like other flying boats, the Shadow Escape Flying Boat also operated on Spirit Stones.

However, once the Shadow Escape Flying Boat was refined, its speed would increase, and it would become even easier to control.

This Shadow Escape Flying Boat, in fact, was much better than the one belonging to Lu Youjiu.

Aside from these features, many formations had been inscribed on the Shadow Escape Flying Boat, making its defenses extremely strong.

And furthermore.

The most important feature, which sets it apart from other flying boats, was its superb invisibility function.

Once the Shadow Escape Flying Boat entered its flying state and activated the invisibility function, it could evade the probing of most cultivators.

It could even avoid the divine sense investigation of Divinity Transformation Stage cultivators.

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Although refining the Shadow Escape Flying Boat went very smoothly, the process of searching for Lin Jue, was not.

In the past two days, Lin Jing had visited Lin Jue's home vicinity twice, yet had not seen Lin Jue.

He had even asked Lin Jue's former neighbors and the like, none of whom had seen him.

Moreover, over these two days, Lin Jing also made a round of the Fang Market but did not encounter that dark-skinned boy.

Apart from that dark-skinned boy, there were two other people who had also disappeared.

Those were the two cultivators who earlier had falsely accused and bullied Lin Jue.

The simultaneous disappearance of these two people and Lin Jue gave Lin Jing an uneasy premonition.

But Lin Jing had no good solutions.

Soon, the third day had already arrived.

Early in the day, Lin Jing set out.

This time, he didn't head to the 'slums' of Bihai City first, but went to the Fang Market.

The day before, as Lin Jing had passed by a tavern, he had inadvertently heard that near the Fang Market, there was an 'All-Knowing' who claimed to be aware of everything happening within Bihai City.

For this reason, Lin Jing had specifically inquired further.

Therefore, early today, Lin Jing came to the vicinity of the Fang Market, intending to meet this 'All-Knowing'.

Upon reaching the entrance of the Fang Market again, Lin Jing did not enter.

Instead, he bypassed the Fang Market and walked into a small alley next to the market.

After some inquiries, Lin Jing learned that the All-Knowing resided in this alley.

Proceeding inward all the way to the end of the alley, he finally saw a small courtyard with a door that was half-open.

Lin Jing then observed the small courtyard in front of him and muttered to himself:

“The door is half-open, painted red, with no signboard above; it should be this place.”

Next.

Lin Jing approached the courtyard and knocked on the door.

A hoarse, elderly voice soon came from inside:

“Please come in...”

Lin Jing then opened the door and walked in.

The courtyard was not large, containing only a single small house with its door also half-open.

That elderly voice came again from inside the house:

“I am inside, just come in directly...”

Lin Jing frowned slightly and walked in.

The lighting within the house was not good, a bit dim, but it did not affect Lin Jing at all.

Lin Jing then looked around.

The interior of the house was quite simple and plain, with only common household items and nothing superfluous.

Inside the bedroom sat an old man at the Foundation Establishment Stage.

The old man’s bedroom was different from others’.

Inside his bedroom, there was no bed but a shallow pit where the old man sat cross-legged.

That pit was not only occupied by the old man; various snakes, rats, insects, and ants crawled all over the pit and on the man himself.

In this place, what were usually natural enemies like snakes and rats, including various insects, all meekly surrounded the old man.

There was no aggression among them.

It seemed this old man was likely some sort of Beast Taming Master.

Yet, he was different from other Beast Taming Masters.

Because other Beast Taming Masters would command all sorts of powerful Demonic Beasts.

But he commanded creatures like snakes, rats, insects, ants, and small birds, these kinds of small animals and insects.

Seeing Lin Jing arrive, the old man spoke up:

“Forgive me, Senior, I am in the midst of cultivating and cannot offer my respects...”

Lin Jing spoke directly:

“No matter...”

He then continued, “Are you the All-Knowing?”

The old man replied:

“Yes...”

“I do not know, Senior, what would you like to inquire about?”

“As long as it is anything that has happened within Bihai City, feel free to ask, Senior, but please forgive me if it’s about matters outside the city...”

“Also, there is another matter I need to inform Senior of ahead of time...”

Lin Jing looked at the All-Knowing and asked, “What is it?”

The All-Knowing responded:

“That would be that no matter what news Senior wishes to inquire about, the cost is ten Midium Grade Spirit Stones.”

Lin Jing didn’t care about the charge; he directly took out ten Spirit Stones from his Storage Bag, tossed them over, and then spoke:

“What I wish to inquire about are indeed the matters that occurred within Bihai City.”

The All-Knowing took the Spirit Stones and put them away before asking Lin Jing:

“May I know which matter Senior wishes to inquire about?”

Lin Jing said,

"I want to find a young man who lives here, named Lin Jue, who often used to set up a stall in the Fang Market..."

Lin Jing then proceeded to describe Lin Jue's information.

Upon hearing this, Omniscient pondered for a moment before asking Lin Jing again,

"You're saying he disappeared, and it has been more than half a month, is that right?"

Lin Jing nodded and replied,

"Judging from the situation at his home, that seems to be the case."

Omniscient then said,

"Senior, please wait a moment..."

After speaking, Omniscient began to run his cultivation technique, and a distinctive aura emanated from his body.

The snakes, rodents, insects, and so on that had been surrounding him immediately quieted down.

Shortly after, Omniscient uttered some strange syllables, and the snakes, rodents, insects, and the like immediately crowded around him, as if they were listening intently.

It wasn't until a moment later that the strange syllables from Omniscient's mouth ceased.

These small animals and insects, whether burrowing into the ground, flying in the air, or crawling, all dispersed in different directions.

Even when passing by Lin Jing, these snakes, rodents, and insects made a point to detour around him.

Only then did Omniscient begin to speak again to Lin Jing,

"Senior, please wait a moment longer, my 'friends' are quite well-informed, and I estimate it won't be long before they bring back some news..."

Lin Jing nodded and then patiently waited there...

After more than an hour had passed, various small animals and insects began to return from the outside and from underground.

These creatures differed from the ones before, as their bodies bore traces of spiritual power to varying degrees.

Clearly, these were the 'scouts' that Omniscient had trained...

After their return, each animal and insect approached Omniscient.

Some used physical gestures, while others made noises to convey messages to Omniscient.

Once all the messages had been relayed, Omniscient knitted his brows in thought for a while, then raised his head and said to Lin Jing,

"Senior..."

"I have found out..."

Lin Jing turned his gaze toward Omniscient and asked,

"Where did Lin Jue go?"

Omniscient then spoke,

"I just got news from my friends..."

"The Lin Jue that Senior is asking about was most likely tricked and kidnapped by two men."

"Of those two men, one was somewhat fat, while the other was very sturdy, and they had distinctive features. One of them..."

"And the other one..."

...

...

As Omniscient described them, Lin Jing's frown grew tighter because he recognized the description of the two men.

They were the same two men Lin Jing had disciplined before.

But how could they dare to lay hands on Lin Jue, especially since Lin Jing had already tampered with their sea of consciousness. Unless.

The marks left by Lin Jing on their bodies had been erased by someone else...

To erase the methods used by Lin Jing, one would also need cultivation at the Golden Core Stage, just like Lin Jing.

“Could it be that those two men have the backing of a Golden Core Stage cultivator?” Lin Jing’s brow furrowed deeply as he pondered silently.

“However, even if there really is a Golden Core cultivator behind them, Lin Jing is not intimidated.”

A moment later, Lin Jing suddenly asked,

“Do you know where Lin Jue was taken?”

Omniscient nodded and replied,

“Their conversation was accidentally overheard by my ‘friends’...”

“Before they kidnapped Lin Jue, they mentioned a place...”

“Black Xing Island...”

“And this incident happened half a month ago.”

Black Xing Island was known for various human and slave trades, could it be Lin Jue was sold to Black Xing Island by those two men?

If that was the case, it wasn’t outside the realm of possibility...

“It seems I need to take a trip to Black Xing Island and hope everything is still in time.”

Afterwards, Lin Jing bid farewell to Omniscient and left.

Having left Omniscient’s place, Lin Jing decided not to delay any further and proceeded straight to Black Xing Island.

Both men were at the Foundation Establishment Stage, and if they truly intended to sell Lin Jue to Black Xing Island...

Given their speed, half a month would have them just arriving at Black Xing Island.

If he pursued now, he reckoned there should still be time.

Thus.

Lin Jing no longer hesitated and left Bihai City immediately, steering the Shadow Escape Flying Boat towards Black Xing Island.

The Shadow Escape Flying Boat truly was extraordinary.

Lin Jing had yet to fully refine it but was already able to control it to an extent.

Its speed was also extremely fast.

As soon as Lin Jing fed Superior Grade Spirit Stones into the flying boat and activated it, the flying boat had “swooshed” away, speeding into the horizon, disappearing out of sight.

At that moment, Lin Jing was in the cockpit of the flying boat, controlling it as it sped along.

Meanwhile, he extended his Divine Sense, monitoring the situation outside the flying boat.

At this rate, it wouldn't take a full day for Lin Jing to reach Black Xing Island.

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After flying non-stop for most of the day, Lin Jing was getting closer and closer to Black Xing Island.

Just before reaching the last distance to Black Xing Island, Lin Jing found a secluded, unpopulated area to land.

With his current low cultivation, driving the flying boat directly into Black Xing Island would be too conspicuous.

Lin Jing didn't want to draw attention, so he collected the flying boat well ahead of time.

After stowing away the flying boat, Lin Jing continued flying towards Black Xing Island on his sword.

Chapter 402: Chapter 102 Soul Search

As they neared Black Xing Island, the number of people increased, especially near the island itself. The cultivators were coming and going in an endless stream.

Lin Jing controlled his sword, skimming rapidly over the sea, and was about to arrive at Black Xing Island...

But at that moment, Lin Jing suddenly came to a halt, his eyes flashing with a trace of cold light.

Because.

Within the range of his Divine Sense, he had detected two people.

Two people Lin Jing had been longing to find...

These two were the very middle-aged cultivators Lin Jing had learned had kidnapped Lin Jue.

Right after, Lin Jing's thoughts moved, and he controlled his sword, flying straight towards the two cultivators.

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At this time, on a piece of sea not far from Black Xing Island, two middle-aged cultivators were flying on their swords while conversing.

One of them spoke to the other, saying:

"Brother Li..."

"Do you think, after we sold Lin Jue, that Golden Core Cultivator who came to Bihai City last time will come back to trouble us?"

The cultivator surnamed Li looked disdainful as he replied:

"Do you really think he will come back?"

"Haven't you considered how many years have passed?"

"Has he shown up even once?"

"Perhaps he has long since met his demise in some perilous Secret Realm."

"Rest assured, he definitely won't come back."

"But I still feel uneasy..." the first cultivator to speak said, his face laden with worry.

The cultivator surnamed Li tried to comfort him:

"You, you think too much..."

"Even if he isn't dead, so what?"

"The fact that he was willing to help Lin Jue back then must be because he coveted the Yellow Dragon Spirit Grass that boy possessed."

“Now that he’s got the Yellow Dragon Spirit Grass, how could he possibly still care about a little brat like Lin Jue...”

Yet, the first to speak still frowned deeply.

The cultivator surnamed Li could only shake his head helplessly, saying:

“You really...”

“Just scare yourself over nothing.”

“What’s there to fear? Don’t forget, we are now working for the Black Shark Gang. If he dares to attack us, that would mean going against the Black Shark Gang...”

“You’re just too sensitive...”

“Maybe...” the other replied, his brow still furrowed.

Actually, the reason he asked was that, starting from a short while ago, he had been restless, feeling as if some life-threatening crisis was about to occur.

But recalling how both he and Brother Li had joined the Black Shark Gang and were now peripheral members, he felt somewhat relieved.

After all, the Black Shark Gang was no ordinary force; within the whole maritime region, they were extremely notorious.

Even if the other person was a Golden Core Cultivator, he too would have to bow down in the face of the Black Shark Gang.

Thus, he comforted himself inwardly and then continued flying towards Bihai City with Brother Li...

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However, they had not flown far when an overwhelming Divine Sense pressure suddenly enveloped them.

The two exchanged glances, sensing something was amiss...

In each other’s eyes, they saw fear and panic.

The two did not understand which senior they had inadvertently provoked, as the pressure of this Divine Sense was bearing down on them even though the person hadn’t even arrived yet.

Clearly, this 'senior' was specifically targeting them.

Before they could think any further, a figure swiftly appeared before them.

The arrival of this figure brought an even more intense pressure, and the two were so overpowered they couldn't even lift their heads.

They could even feel the barely contained rage within this terrifying pressure...

Their hearts skipped a beat.

The cultivator surnamed Li promptly spoke up, saying:

"Senior..."

"We are unaware of any offence we might have caused senior, please enlighten us..."

At that moment, the two dared not even lift their heads.

However, a voice from above soon made them feel as if they had fallen into an ice cavern.

"Where is Lin Jue..."

This voice came over, and the two were stunned for a moment, quickly recalling that nightmare that had haunted them for a long period.

In the end, it was a Golden Core Cultivator from the Black Shark Gang who had taken action, curing them of this nightmare and recruiting them as peripheral members of the gang to help collect boys and girls who were without any backing.

It was then that the two learned that someone had manipulated them.

And that 'senior' who had manipulated them was now standing right in front of them.

They had thought this 'senior' would never appear again, even mentioning him just a little while ago.

But unexpectedly, in less than a quarter of an hour's time, he had reappeared before them.

Upon realizing it was that 'senior,' the cultivator surnamed Li hastily said:

"Senior..."

“Ever since being reprimanded by senior last time, we brothers have not troubled Lin Jue again...”

Yet as soon as he finished his sentence, he felt the pressure from in front of him growing stronger, and he could distinctly sense the seething anger within it.

Lowering his head, the cultivator surnamed Li didn't dare to look up at Lin Jing, but his mind raced...

In Bihai City, the two truly didn't take any actions that were detrimental to Lin Jue. Instead, they lured Lin Jue away before proceeding with their plans.

And this plan had only been discussed between the two of them privately; aside from themselves, there was not a third person who knew about it.

Thinking of this, the monk surnamed Li immediately cupped his hands in salute and said to Lin Jing,

“Really, senior...”

“Many people within Fang Market can testify to this matter.”

However, the explanation given by the monk surnamed Li did not reduce Lin Jing's rage. On the contrary, it brought an even stronger pressure of Divine Sense.

Under this pressure, the monk surnamed Li could see that he was about to collapse...

But just then, suddenly, the pressure on him lightened significantly, yet before he could feel relieved,

He heard Lin Jing's voice again:

“Did you really think that no one knew about what you did?”

“And do you know, in Bihai City Fang Market, there is a know-it-all...”

As soon as they heard the three words 'know-it-all', the two of them were greatly startled and turned pale in an instant.

The name of the know-it-all was indeed something they had heard before, but they were not familiar with the know-it-all, nor did they understand his capabilities.

Now it seemed that all of their actions had already been exposed under the eyes of the know-it-all.

And the absurd thing was, the monk surnamed Li even attempted to conceal it from Lin Jing...

Seeing that there was no hiding it from Lin Jing, the monk surnamed Li hastily bowed and clasped his hands, saying to Lin Jing:

“Senior...”

“Our actions were actually under the orders of the Black Shark Gang, it was the Black Shark Gang who instructed us to do this. We hope that senior will consider the Black Shark Gang’s face and spare the two of us.”

“We will take you to Black Xing Island right away and help senior bring Lin Jue back.”

However, Lin Jing simply uttered indifferently:

“No need...”

While the two were still in shock,

Lin Jing suddenly vanished, reappearing in the blink of an eye right in front of the monk surnamed Li.

Afterward, Lin Jing extended his hand, reaching towards the head of the monk surnamed Li.

The monk surnamed Li looked up and saw the terrifying aura emanating from Lin Jing’s hand, and he instantly realized what was happening and cried out in alarm:

“Soul Search...”

Then, he hurriedly tried to retreat in terror, only to find that at some point he had been controlled by countless streams of Wǔ Cǎi light, and now he couldn’t move at all.

At this moment, the monk surnamed Li urgently said:

“Senior...”

“We are men of the Black Shark Gang. Aren’t you afraid of offending the Black Shark Gang by treating us this way?”

However, the words of the monk surnamed Li did not slow Lin Jing’s movements in the slightest.

The monk surnamed Li watched helplessly as the hand descended towards his head, the fear spreading to every part of his body.

The monk surnamed Li then begged for mercy:

“Senior...”

“Please spare us this once; we will never dare again. I can swear an oath on my Soul Spirit, truly...”

“Please spare us...”

However, Lin Jing appeared not to have heard the monk surnamed Li’s words, and without any hesitation, placed his palm on the man’s crown.

And he activated his Divine Sense, probing towards the man’s sea of consciousness...

As soon as Lin Jing’s Divine Sense entered the man’s sea of consciousness, immediately excruciating pain coursed through his mind, as if thousands of needles had been thrust into it, causing him to emit a series of blood-curdling screams:

“Ah...”

“You are so ruthless, one day, someone will treat you in the exact same way...”

But...

Lin Jing did not pay heed to the man’s words but carefully controlled his Divine Sense, meticulously searching through the memories in the man’s sea of consciousness.

The Soul Search process is not something ordinary people can endure, and the slightest carelessness could cause the man to succumb to the pain, leading to soul disorder and turning him into an idiot.

And Lin Jing had no sympathy for this man, so while searching through his memories, he did not consider his feelings, and the whole process was even rather rough.

As a result, throughout the process, the monk surnamed Li continuously screamed in agony.

And the other cultivator, who had already been controlled by Lin Jing, could only watch with wide eyes, full of horror, as the scene unfolded before him...

It wasn’t until a long while later that Lin Jing finally retrieved the information he wanted from the man’s sea of consciousness.

It was after the Soul Search was completed that Lin Jing learned that the monk surnamed Li had indeed not lied; they had really pledged allegiance to the Black Shark Gang, becoming peripheral members of the gang.

Moreover, the methods Lin Jing had previously used on them had been removed by someone from the Black Shark Gang.

Apart from that, Lin Jing also found out from the memories of the monk surnamed Li about the whereabouts of Lin Jue and the dusky-skinned youth.

Both had been captured by them and sold to the Black Shark Gang.

The Black Shark Gang had always been engaged in such dealings, utilising some peripheral members to capture youngsters and other lower-tier cultivators for trade.

These two people were recently recruited peripheral members of the Black Shark Gang.

Knowing Lin Jue's whereabouts, Lin Jing would certainly find a way to rescue him.

At this moment, upon looking at the monk surnamed Li who had undergone the Soul Search, his eyes were lifeless and his entire being had become dull.

Lin Jing merely glanced at him, then with a wave of his hand, countless streams of Wǔ Cǎi light surged into his body and subsequently exploded within...

As the Wǔ Cǎi light exploded, the body of the monk surnamed Li was slowly consumed by the light, eventually leaving not even a speck of residue behind, completely vanishing into thin air.

Having dealt with the monk surnamed Li, only the other person, full of horror, remained.

Then, Lin Jing released his control over this person.

The person, still in a state of fright, paused for a moment before trying to flee desperately.

But his speed, in front of Lin Jing, really was like that of an ant.

With a simple wave of his hand, Lin Jing sent a stream of Wǔ Cǎi light shooting out, chasing after the middle-aged cultivator at a tremendous speed.

In no time at all, the Wǔ Cǎi light entered the body of the middle-aged cultivator.

Suddenly, the middle-aged cultivator lost all vitality, falling straight from the sky and plunging into the sea.

Following this, the two had fallen...

Chapter 403: Chapter 103: Reunion with the Dark-Skinned Youth

After dealing with the two men, Lin Jing picked up the Storage Bags they had left behind and continued flying towards Black Xing Island.

Before landing on Black Xing Island, Lin Jing changed his appearance and used the Changyun Hidden Technique to disguise himself.

He didn't intend to rescue Lin Jue using his real identity.

Although the deaths of those two men might not be discovered immediately, they would eventually create hidden dangers.

Moreover, the Black Shark Gang now wasn't a force he could afford to provoke.

Therefore, it was better to avoid trouble by changing his identity and simply buying Lin Jue back.

Furthermore, with his current level of cultivation, he couldn't possibly create a big disturbance on Black Shark Island; buying Lin Jue back was the most cost-effective strategy.

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Soon, Lin Jing arrived at Black Xing Island.

As he entered Black Shark City again, the place was as bustling as ever.

Various cultivators came and went, and most of them did not look like good folk.

Lin Jing then directly made his way to the trading market.

Upon reaching the market, he walked in all the way to the center and entered a rather large shop.

From the memories of the Liu surname cultivator, Lin Jing was aware that the two of them had sold Lin Jue here.

As soon as he entered, a sly-looking old man approached him. Upon seeing Lin Jing, the elder immediately greeted him with a fawning smile,

"Esteemed senior, may I know what kind of merchandise you're looking for? Whether it's a noble family's daughter or a demon tribe's maiden, our shop has it all..."

Lin Jing glanced at the old man and said bluntly,

"Where do you keep your merchandise? Take me to see it..."

“Certainly, senior, please follow me...” said the old man with a sly eye, leading Lin Jing inside.

After entering the shop, they found themselves in a large courtyard.

At this moment, many cages were placed in the yard, containing various ‘items’ whose cultivation had been sealed.

These ‘items’ included men, women, elderly, and children, but most were young men and women, as they were the most saleable and in highest demand.

Their purposes varied greatly upon purchase.

Some were used as vessels for possession, some as alchemical catalysts, and even more were used as cauldrons for dual cultivation, or as necessary mediums for practicing certain Demonic Techniques.

The fate of these people was generally very grim.

Only a very few might fare slightly better, but the best outcome was merely keeping their lives, rather than dying outright.

At this moment, there were various ‘items’ with clearly marked prices, and even several cultivators, led by attendants, were selecting merchandise.

“I wonder what kind of merchandise senior needs, I can make recommendations for you.”

Lin Jing then said,

“I need one or two youths around twenty years old, to serve as catalysts for my Alchemy.”

“Take me to see them now...”

Upon hearing this, the sly-eyed old man seemed to have an epiphany and said with a smile,

“So it turns out the senior is here for alchemy...”

“We may not have much of many things, but we certainly have plenty of young men and women. They will surely satisfy the senior.”

“Senior, please follow me...”

With that, the sly-eyed old man led Lin Jing deeper into the yard.

Along the way, Lin Jing saw that most of the 'items' in the cages were listless, like walking corpses, and some were even tied up.

However, from their angry eyes, one could see their humiliation and unwillingness to accept their fate...

Lin Jing followed the old man with the sly eye all the way to the very back of the yard.

Then, the old man pointed to several neat rows of cages against the wall and said,

"From here, all the way to the cages against the wall, are young men. The senior may choose at will..."

Lin Jing nodded and began to search...

These cages, stacked in two levels, housed the young men like farmed animals, locked within.

Many were ragged, their faces dirty.

This created no small trouble for Lin Jing in his search.

However, fortunately, Lin Jing had met Lin Jue twice before and was quite familiar with some of his characteristics.

Using his Divine Sense, Lin Jing could immediately confirm whether the person was the one he was looking for, which made his search go quickly.

And so, Lin Jing proceeded with his search, while the sly-eyed old man watched him shaking his head ceaselessly.

Finally, as he was nearing the end,

Lin Jing finally caught sight of a familiar figure.

This person was the dark-skinned youth who had been sold together with Lin Jue.

From the memories of the Liu surname cultivator, Lin Jing knew that this dark-skinned youth had been sold together with Lin Jue.

At this moment, the dark-skinned youth was bound all over, but his eyes still had a stubborn look.

Clearly, he was an undaunted individual.

Lin Jing approached him and observed the dark-skinned youth, who stubbornly turned his head away.

After observing for a while, Lin Jing nodded slightly.

The sly-eyed old man, who had been by his side the whole time, immediately asked eagerly,

“Senior...”

“Have you taken a liking to this ‘item’?”

“Although it doesn’t look like much, it’s quite suitable as a catalyst for alchemy...”

Lin Jing nodded lightly and said,

“So far, this one seems to be the most satisfactory, but I would still like to see if there are any others that are better...”

The old man with the sly eye responded,

“Senior, please take your time...”

Before long, Lin Jing had examined them all.

However, he had not seen any trace of Lin Jue.

Thus, Lin Jing frowned and said to the squint-eyed old man:

“The ‘goods’ you have here, is that all?”

“The quality is really not that great. Don’t you have anything else?”

The squint-eyed old man smiled sheepishly and then spoke up:

“Replying to the senior...”

“Indeed, these are all we have here.”

“If the senior isn’t satisfied, the only option would be to go to the Black Shark Auction House.”

“We’ve always cooperated with the Black Shark Auction House; any relatively high-quality ‘goods’ are sent there for auction...”

“Oh?”

“Is that so?”

Lin Jing asked the squint-eyed old man.

The squint-eyed old man nodded repeatedly and said:

“Without hiding anything from the senior...”

“Our little shop has an extraordinary relationship with the Black Shark Gang, so any quality ‘goods’ are sent to the Black Shark Auction House for auction.”

“Just like a couple of days ago, a young man, who was a Second-Grade Alchemist, was deemed high-quality ‘goods’ and was sent to the Black Shark Auction House.”

“The young man sent to the Black Shark Auction House is the same one you showed interest in just before, along with that dark-skinned youth...”

Upon hearing this, Lin Jing immediately tensed up.

The Second-Grade Alchemist mentioned by the squint-eyed old man must certainly be Lin Jue.

Who else could it be, sent alongside the dark-skinned youth, except him?

“A Second-Grade Alchemist...”

“The Second-Grade Alchemist you mentioned, has he already been sold at auction?”

Seeing Lin Jing’s reaction, the squint-eyed old man also hurriedly asked him:

“Could it be that the senior is very interested in that Second-Grade Alchemist?”

Lin Jing then spoke bluntly:

“Nonsense...”

“I often refine medicine, and having a Second-Grade Alchemist skilled in alchemy to assist me would save me a lot of trouble.”

“Hurry up and tell me, has that Second-Grade Alchemist been sold at auction or not?”

Lin Jing appeared somewhat eager, but his reason was quite sound and reasonable.

The squint-eyed old man had no doubts; after all, he had spent decades here and had seen all kinds of people.

He'd seen many like Lin Jing, of course.

In his view, Lin Jing was certainly a demon cultivator who practiced demonic techniques and was the kind who disliked interacting with others.

That's why he would come to Black Xing Island to buy the medicinal primers he needed.

With this in mind, the squint-eyed old man said:

"Senior, that Second-Grade Alchemist probably hasn't been sold yet."

"He was brought here just a couple of days ago, and the next auction at the Black Shark Auction House is scheduled for tomorrow."

"If the senior wishes to buy that Second-Grade Alchemist, there should still be time."

Lin Jing then laughed heartily, saying:

"Haha... good!"

"I'll take that Second-Grade Alchemist."

The squint-eyed old man, seeing how intent Lin Jing was on the Second-Grade Alchemist youth, immediately felt a burst of nervousness.

He was responsible for guiding Lin Jing, and if Lin Jing bought 'goods,' he would receive a reward of Spirit Stones.

If Lin Jing didn't buy any 'goods' here, then he would get nothing at all.

Therefore, he spoke carefully and swiftly asked Lin Jing:

"Senior..."

"That 'good' you were just looking at, do you still want it?"

Lin Jing then said:

"Yes, of course..."

"How much are you selling that 'good' for in Spirit Stones?"

Upon hearing Lin Jing's affirmation, the squint-eyed old man was instantly delighted, reinvigorated, and quickly said:

“Senior, although the youth isn’t very old, he has reached the Foundation Establishment Stage.”

“Originally, with his cultivation, he could have been sold for at least five thousand Mid-Grade Spirit Stones; however, his talent isn’t very good, and his dark skin is disliked by many, so the selling price is three thousand Mid-Grade Spirit Stones.”

“That price is a real bargain.”

In order to close a deal, the squint-eyed old man explained the price of the dark-skinned youth with both description and rationale.

Lin Jing nodded and said:

“Fine then, three thousand Mid-Grade Spirit Stones it is.”

Seeing Lin Jing agree readily, the squint-eyed old man nodded repeatedly and said:

“Senior, please wait here for me.”

“Buying goods here requires going through some procedures. I’ll go handle it for you. When I return, we can exchange money for the goods, and the deal will be complete.”

Lin Jing nodded and said:

“Ok...”

“I’ll wait for you here, but make it quick. I still need to go to the Black Shark Auction House to inquire about that Second-Grade Alchemist.”

The squint-eyed old man hurriedly replied:

“Senior, rest assured, I’ll be right back!”

“Additionally...”

“We have a copy of the Black Shark Auction House’s auction list here. I’ll bring a copy for the senior in a moment, so you won’t have to go through the trouble of inquiring at the Black Shark Auction House...”

Chapter 404: Chapter 104 Ye Yun

After the squint-eyed old man left, Lin Jing went directly to the cage that held the dark-skinned youth.

Lin Jing looked into the cage, and the dark-skinned youth still turned his head to one side, not looking at Lin Jing.

Lin Jing first glanced to the left and right, and seeing that no one was around, he directly reached out with his Divine Sense and transmitted his voice:

“Don’t say anything, and don’t do anything later, I’ll take you out when it’s time.”

The dark-skinned youth, upon hearing Lin Jing’s voice transmission, was initially stunned, then suddenly looked up, his eyes filled with surprise, and looked towards Lin Jing.

Since his entire being was bound, not only his Cultivation, but even his Divine Sense, had been sealed, and he couldn’t even transmit his voice with Divine Sense.

He could only widen his eyes in disbelief, looking at Lin Jing as if to confirm something.

And Lin Jing simply nodded slightly in response.

After receiving Lin Jing’s response, the dark-skinned youth, although unable to speak, had an excited look in his eyes, nodding repeatedly.

Then, Lin Jing transmitted his voice again to the dark-skinned youth,

“Be careful later, don’t give yourself away.”

After hearing this, the dark-skinned youth blinked and then nodded lightly.

...

...

It wasn’t long before the squint-eyed old man returned.

Seeing this, the dark-skinned youth resumed his previous demeanor, turning his head to one side, not looking at both Lin Jing and the squint-eyed old man.

The squint-eyed old man looked at the dark-skinned youth, saw nothing unusual, then took out a token and a booklet.

After that, the squint-eyed old man handed the booklet to Lin Jing, and then said:

“Senior...”

“This is the auction list you requested.”

Lin Jing looked at the booklet with some confusion, not expecting it to be an auction list, and this list was not thin at all.

Seeing this, the squint-eyed old man hurriedly explained:

“Senior...”

“The ‘lots’ at Black Shark Auction House are different from other auction houses; in this auction list, specialized artists have drawn the appearance of the ‘lots’ for the seniors to choose from.”

“Each page of this list corresponds to a ‘lot,’ so this auction list is somewhat thicker.”

Hearing the squint-eyed old man’s explanation, Lin Jing had an epiphany and then nodded, casually taking the list.

After handing the auction list to Lin Jing, the squint-eyed old man held the token, pointed to the dark-skinned youth, and told Lin Jing:

“This token is used for controlling him, and once Senior refines this token, his life will be completely in your hands.”

“If you tell him to go west, he wouldn’t dare go east.”

“If this token is destroyed, the restraints inside him will stop functioning, and that’s when, Senior, you should be a bit more cautious.”

No sooner had the squint-eyed old man finished speaking than he saw that the Senior across from him seemed somewhat displeased, his complexion also growing darker.

Then, Lin Jing said:

“What?”

“Do you think that with my Cultivation, I still need to rely on this restraint to control him?”

The squint-eyed old man’s heart skipped a beat, realizing his mistake, and he promptly apologized:

“Senior, my apologies...”

“It was my mistake. With Senior’s Cultivation, even without any restraints, he wouldn’t be able to escape.”

After the squint-eyed old man finished speaking, Lin Jing’s expression eased significantly.

Then, Lin Jing directly asked:

“Is it true that if this token is destroyed, the internal restraints will be completely removed, and there will be no residual effects within his body?”

“You know, I intend to use him in a concoction, and if the restraint you’ve placed causes any accidents with my medicinal primer, leading to the ruin of my batch of elixir, I shall hold you accountable.”

The squint-eyed old man quickly said:

“Senior, rest assured...”

“We conduct business with integrity and never leave any trouble inside the ‘merchandise.’”

“Before using him for your concoction, Senior only needs to destroy this token, and then the restraints in this primer’s body will automatically dissolve without causing any harm.”

“Should there be any issue with the restraint from our store, Senior can come to us, and we will definitely provide a satisfactory explanation.”

After hearing this, Lin Jing nodded in satisfaction.

Subsequently, Lin Jing pulled out a bag of Spirit Stones from his Storage Bag and passed them over.

“There are a total of three thousand Midium Grade Spirit Stones, all here.”

The squint-eyed old man happily received the Spirit Stones, then opened the bag and counted them.

After a moment, having counted the Spirit Stones, the squint-eyed old man promptly put them away.

Then, he respectfully handed the token to Lin Jing.

Next, Lin Jing spoke to the squint-eyed old man:

“Alright...”

“Now you can release him.”

The squint-eyed old man hastily replied:

“Of course...”

“Please step back, Senior.”

After hearing this, Lin Jing immediately took a step back.

Then, the squint-eyed old man took out a token and placed it on the lock of the cage’s door.

Right after that.

A Formation rose from the bottom of the cage, enveloping the entire cage within, and then the Formation Patterns started to change, causing the Formation to split open in the middle and create an opening.

Subsequently, the squint-eyed old man opened the cage and walked in.

After entering, the squint-eyed old man chanted a spell, and the shackles that bound the dark-skinned youth automatically fell off.

Even a Talisman floated out from behind the dark-skinned youth.

Only at this point did the sealed Cultivation of the dark-skinned youth begin to recover.

Afterward, the squint-eyed old man put away the Talisman, and led the dark-skinned youth out of the cage.

Once the squint-eyed old man was out, Lin Jing frowned and asked:

“Why is it so troublesome to imprison these people?”

The squint-eyed old man said:

“The senior may not know this...”

“Previously, our store had an accident where someone broke the cage from the outside and kidnapped all the ‘goods’ we had imprisoned inside.”

“That incident caused our store heavy losses...”

“Ever since then, we fortified the cage with heavy defenses, in order to prevent this from happening again.”

Upon hearing this, Lin Jing nodded and said,

“No wonder...”

Then, Lin Jing said to the squint-eyed elder,

“Alright...”

“Just hand the young man over to me.”

“Yes, senior...” replied the squint-eyed elder.

He directly transferred the dark-skinned young man to Lin Jing.

Afterward, Lin Jing directly said to the dark-skinned young man,

“From now on, you belong to me. Just follow me, and if you don’t obey, you know what the consequences will be...”

The dark-skinned young man nodded, then silently followed behind Lin Jing with his head down.

Seeing this, the squint-eyed elder quickly expressed his admiration,

“When the senior makes a move, it truly is extraordinary.”

“This kid was always obstinate and unmanageable, but now he’s behaving properly with just one sentence from the senior.”

Lin Jing raised his hand to stop the squint-eyed elder from continuing and then said,

“That’s enough...”

“That’s all for today. I need to prepare to attend the auction tomorrow.”

After speaking, Lin Jing took the dark-skinned young man and walked outside.

Just before leaving, the squint-eyed elder made an extra effort to escort Lin Jing out.

After escorting him out of the shop, the squint-eyed elder looked at Lin Jing’s retreating figure and couldn’t help but sigh,

“Golden Core Cultivator...”

“When will I be able to reach the Golden Core...”

.....

After Lin Jing left, he took the dark-skinned young man and departed the trading market.

The two of them found an inn called Guest Residence in Black Shark City and checked in.

Once the two entered their room in the inn, Lin Jing used his spiritual power to envelop the entire room.

He then said to the dark-skinned young man,

“Alright, now you can tell me exactly what’s going on.”

The dark-skinned young man was visibly excited and quickly bowed deeply to Lin Jing, saying,

“Thank you, senior, for saving my life.”

Lin Jing waved his hand and said,

“No need...”

After finishing, he continued,

“Right...”

“I still don’t know your name.”

The dark-skinned young man said,

“Responding to the senior, my name is Ye Yun.”

Lin Jing nodded and said,

“Alright, Ye Yun, rest here for now. You surely understand that Lin Jue was sold off to the auction house, and I am going to check out the Black Shark Auction House, so I’ll be prepared for tomorrow.”

However, Ye Yun suddenly knelt down and said,

“Senior...”

“It’s all my fault. If it weren’t for my issues, Lin Jue wouldn’t have left Bihai City and wouldn’t have been captured by them.”

Lin Jing then extended his hand, lifting Ye Yun with his spiritual power, and said,

“You don’t need to do this...”

“You’re not to blame for this at all.”

"I already have a clear understanding of the whole story and the scheming of those two people."

"Even without your incident, they would have found other ways to abduct Lin Jue."

"It was only a matter of time..."

As he said this, Lin Jing suddenly changed his tone and continued,

"Furthermore..."

"I have already killed those two people, so you don't have to worry anymore."

Hearing that Lin Jing had killed those two, Ye Yun was momentarily stunned, and then realizing the implication, said,

"The senior killed them?"

"But weren't those two from the Black Shark Gang? If the senior just killed them like that, won't there be any trouble?"

Lin Jing replied,

"It's hard to say about this—those two were just peripheral members of the Black Shark Gang, so typically, killing them wouldn't matter much."

"But we are on Black Xing Island, which is practically the Black Shark Gang's stronghold. Killing their people will definitely cause some trouble..."

"However, no one knows about it yet."

"So, I must take this time to get all of you out. And, you must remember to keep this a secret."

Ye Yun nodded repeatedly and said,

"Don't worry, senior. I'll just wait here for you and not go anywhere. After you rescue Lin Jue, we can leave together."

Lin Jing nodded, then as if suddenly remembering something, he took out a token from his Storage Bag and tossed it to Ye Yun.

"This token is what controls the forbidden spell inside you. You take it and destroy it."

Ye Yun took the token, bowed deeply, and said to Lin Jing,

“Thank you, senior.”

Lin Jing waved his hand and then, after giving a few instructions to Ye Yun, left the Guest Residence.

Chapter 405: Chapter 105: Lot Number 1, Li Qingqing

It wasn't until after leaving the Guest Inn that Lin Jing suddenly remembered he hadn't yet looked at the auction list he had received.

So, Lin Jing immediately took out the auction list and began to look through it...

This Black Shark Auction House's auction list was indeed different from the auction lists Lin Jing had seen before.

Each page featured a 'lot' depicted in an image.

Moreover, the artist had used some special methods when drawing these images, making them incredibly lifelike. If one stared at them for a long time, it even felt as if the people depicted in the images could come to life.

Beyond these images, there were also some brief descriptions at the bottom of each page.

This included the person's cultivation level, age, and some special introductions, etc...

Holding the auction list in his hands, Lin Jing carefully flipped through the pages. He hadn't turned many when he saw Lin Jue, along with the introduction below.

Lot number sixty-two.

Age: nineteen

Gender: Male

Cultivation: Foundation Establishment second layer.

Special feature: Second-Grade Alchemist.

Auction starting price: To be determined at the auction.

Lin Jing frowned as he read the information on the auction list, pondered for a moment, and then continued to turn the pages.

The further back he went, the more precious the 'lots' on the auction list became. Although there were no prices marked, their descriptions made it very clear.

Aside from Human Cultivators, there were some rare beasts as well.

There was even one of the Fox Clan girls that Yan Wanfei had pretended to be.

It seemed that the Black Shark Gang was indeed not simple.

They did this without fear of retaliation.

Afterward.

Lin Jing continued to look further back, and clearly, the lots became more precious one after another, with some even having special bloodlines.

Lin Jing estimated that these 'lots' with special bloodlines would be worth at least several hundred thousand Spirit Stones each.

It was just unknown how valuable that last 'lot' must be?

Before long, Lin Jing had flipped to the last page of the auction list.

However, when Lin Jing saw the image of the last lot, he was stunned, and then an uncontrollable rage surged within him.

Because Lin Jing knew the person in the image...

Not only did he recognize her, but he was also very familiar with her.

Although he hadn't seen her for a long time and she had grown up quite a bit, looking more mature, Lin Jing could still recognize her at a glance.

She was Li Tangyu's sister, Li Qingqing.

For some unknown reason, she had become a 'lot' at the Black Shark Auction House.

And she was the final lot, no less.

Looking at the familiar and beautiful face of Li Qingqing on the auction list,

The rage in Lin Jing's heart kept boiling over uncontrollably.

Li Qingqing was not only Li Tangyu's sister but also his friend.

His friend had now been treated like merchandise, to be auctioned off to others.

How could Lin Jing not be angry?

Previously, Lin Jing had promised Li Tangyu to take care of his sister.

However, he encountered the incident with the Zhang Family Patriarch along the way, which led to his unexpected arrival in the Demonic Monster Sea.

Originally, Lin Jing thought that with the protection of the Li Family in the Nanming Domain, and Elder Master Li having good relations with the Qingyuan Sword Sect, nothing would happen.

But now, seeing her again on this auction list,

Lin Jing couldn't help feeling somewhat fearful. If he hadn't come to Black Xing Island because of Lin Jue's matters, Li Qingqing's fate would be hard to predict...

Although Lin Jing was furious, he also knew that this was not the time to act rashly.

So, he took a deep breath, calmed his anger, and slowly settled down.

Then, Lin Jing continued to look down...

Lot number one.

Age: twenty-six

Gender: Female

Cultivation: Foundation Establishment ninth layer

Special feature: Pure Yin Body, suitable for use as a cauldron. Also, this woman is a rare Third-Grade Alchemist.

Additional: This woman has a beast pet, a Black Kite, which is at the Golden Core Stage, can speak human language, and is exceptionally intelligent. It's suspected to have the bloodline of the Phoenix Clan and has extraordinary potential. It once escaped from a joint encirclement by three Golden Core Cultivators.

However, it is exceptionally loyal to its master and is always ready to rescue its owner. It has already launched several attacks on this auction.

If one can obtain this woman, with just a bit of manipulation, the beast pet will surely fall into their possession. With careful cultivation, it could become a top-tier great demon.

Black Kite, Little Sparrow...

This Black Kite must be Little Sparrow.

After reading the introduction, Lin Jing understood why Li Qingqing had become the final lot.

Most of this page was about Little Sparrow.

Clearly, Little Sparrow was their main target for the auction, and Li Qingqing was merely a lure to entice Little Sparrow.

Moreover, according to the description, Little Sparrow had not yet been caught and was still trying to rescue Li Qingqing.

Although Little Sparrow was intelligent, if others utilized Li Qingqing, it would be as if Little Sparrow was caught by the handle.

Moreover, it seemed that no Nascent Soul Cultivator had made a move yet; otherwise, it would not be certain whether Little Sparrow could escape.

There was also another matter that puzzled Lin Jing.

Why would Li Qingqing appear here?

Could it be that the Nanming Domain has already fallen entirely?

During this time, Lin Jing had been cultivating and had not inquired about any news from the Nanming Domain.

Moreover, why was Li Qingqing captured, and where had Elder Master Li and the other members of the Li Family gone?

Lin Jing didn't know any of this.

And to unravel these mysteries, the only way was to rescue Li Qingqing before discussing further.

As the final auction item, rescuing Li Qingqing would not be an easy task for Lin Jing.

Even if he wanted to win the bid for Li Qingqing, with the Spirit Stones on him, there might be some risk involved.

After thinking for a while, Lin Jing made a decision; one must always be prepared for every eventuality...

On one hand, he would attend the auction to see if he could win Li Qingqing. If successful, all would be well.

On the other hand, he also needed to prepare for the worst.

If he really didn't have enough Spirit Stones to win the bid for Li Qingqing, he would have no choice but to take her by force...

However, before doing so, Lin Jing still needed to ascertain the situation.

Afterward, Lin Jing headed towards the trading market.

Soon, Lin Jing arrived at the entrance of the Black Shark Auction House.

At this moment, the Black Shark Auction House's doors were tightly shut and not open to the public.

The auction hadn't started yet, and the 'auction items' should currently be stored inside the auction house, inaccessible to anyone.

Even though he couldn't directly access them, Lin Jing still had other methods.

Next, Lin Jing came to an uninhabited alley nearby the auction site, where he summoned the system, directly entering the System Space.

Upon entering the System Space, Lin Jing summoned the system once more and then spoke:

"Enter Observation Mode."

It had to be said, Observation Mode was an indispensable and practical feature.

As Lin Jing finished speaking, the scene before his eyes began to change, and soon his perspective appeared high above the Black Shark Auction House.

After entering Observation Mode, Lin Jing directly controlled the observation viewport and began searching.

This Black Shark Auction House, when it came down to it, wasn't very large; apart from the main auction hall at the front, there was just a moderately sized courtyard behind it.

In this courtyard, there were several rooms, and Lin Jing could clearly see that these rooms were all protected by formations, with several Foundation Establishment Cultivators guarding the entrance to the yard.

And the 'auction items' prepared for sale were presently locked inside these rooms.

Lin Jing directly controlled the observation viewport to peer inside the rooms. Though protected by formations, these formations were ineffective against Lin Jing's observing perspective.

Approaching one of the rooms, it was almost identical to the shop Lin Jing had previously visited.

It was simply a cage that locked up these 'auction items' prepared for sale.

Lin Jing controlled the observation viewport to explore inside the room.

Soon, he found Lin Jue.

At that moment, Lin Jue was curled up in a corner of the cage, his gaze carrying traces of fear and worry. He was pursing his lips, looking towards the door.

His cage was completely trapped by a formation, and on his body, there were several talisman seals confining him.

This showed just how strict the Black Shark Auction House was with their 'auction items'.

Lin Jing then looked over Lin Jue's body.

He seemed all right, apart from being bound up, and had no other injuries.

Actually, it was a rule of Black Shark Auction House that every 'auction item' prepared for sale was not allowed to have any injuries, naturally to fetch a better price.

Only, Lin Jing wasn't aware of this rule.

Seeing that Lin Jue was unharmed, Lin Jing relaxed a bit.

Then Lin Jing scanned around the room and saw many Cultivators who were about to be auctioned off. Most of them, like Lin Jue, were frightened and anxious.

After scanning the entire room, Lin Jing still did not find Li Qingqing.

It seemed that as the number one auction item, Li Qingqing's treatment must have been different from the others.

Therefore, Lin Jing continued controlling the observation viewport to scout out the other rooms.

After investigating two more rooms in succession, he still did not find Li Qingqing.

Lin Jing frowned, thought for a while, and then stopped the search, controlling the observation viewport to rise again above the auction house.

Lin Jing had apparently forgotten something during his previous search.

The main reason for auctioning Li Qingqing was certainly Little Sparrow.

According to the list, Little Sparrow should be at the Golden Core Stage by now and be quite troublesome...

Lin Jing had already experienced Little Sparrow's intelligence back in the Nanming Domain.

With several years of growth, Lin Jing estimated her intelligence would likely be even higher.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have attacked the Black Shark Auction House several times without being captured.

So, if they wanted to catch Little Sparrow, she certainly wouldn't be kept with the rest.

Therefore, the place where Li Qingqing was detained must be more secure, and there would definitely be Golden Core Cultivators, maybe even Nascent Soul Cultivators, guarding it.

After observing the auction house area, Lin Jing's gaze finally settled below the auction house.

The entire auction house was covered by an extremely powerful grand formation.

If there was a safest place, it could only be beneath the auction house.

After that.

Lin Jing controlled the observation viewport and delved beneath the auction house...

Chapter 406: Chapter 106: The Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang

Lin Jing controlled the Observation Mode and headed downward. After passing through the auction hall,

he finally found a fairly large underground chamber beneath the auction hall.

Within this chamber, Lin Jing at last saw Li Qingqing whom he hadn't seen for a long time.

Having not seen her for many years, Li Qingqing looked very different; the unique naivete that was once exclusive to a young girl was no longer there on her face.

Now, she appeared much more mature.

Moreover, there was a unique aura emanating from within her, adding even more charm to her demeanor.

The young girl from before had indeed grown up.

Even in such a situation, Li Qingqing didn't show any signs of panic or fear; instead, her expression was one of determination.

At this moment, Li Qingqing wasn't the only one in the chamber.

Outside the cage that bound Li Qingqing, three people stood there.

Among these three people, the one in the middle, was a young man in purple clothing.

This young man in purple had an evil charm about him, and he was currently sizing up Li Qingqing, who was under control, with a malevolent gaze.

As for the remaining two, one was a black-clothed muscular man exuding a powerful murderous aura, his eyes cold, closely following the purple-clothed youth.

The other appeared to be an inconspicuous middle-aged man who was calmly looking at the purple-clothed young man.

He seemed to have grown accustomed to the behavior of the purple-clothed youth and had no other reaction.

A moment later, the purple-clothed youth withdrew his gaze and turned to the inconspicuous middle-aged man:

"Uncle Yin..."

"Can't I just take this woman away directly?"

"Having to participate in an auction is such a hassle."

The inconspicuous middle-aged man replied:

"No..."

"The Gang Leader had already stated long ago that, at this time, no one is allowed to interfere with the normal proceedings of the auction, including myself."

"If you were to take the final premium lot away directly, it would affect the reputation of the Black Shark Gang."

"If the Gang Leader finds out, not only will I be punished, but I suspect that you won't escape punishment either."

"Young Gang Leader..."

"You should know your father's temperament quite well."

After hearing this, the purple-clothed youth immediately started to complain in dissatisfaction:

"My dad is really something, setting up such a rule, even I need to participate in the auction to get what I want."

After complaining, the purple-clothed youth furrowed his brows and said to the middle-aged man:

"Is there really no other way? I really want that Black Kite."

"That Black Kite possesses the bloodline of the Phoenix Clan, if captured and properly raised, it could potentially add a formidable force to our Black Shark Gang."

After pondering for a moment, the middle-aged man known as Uncle Yin straightforwardly said:

"Actually, there is a way..."

"You can participate in the bidding process normally, just by bidding directly."

"After you win the bid, you only need to pay half the bidding price in Spirit Stones as a formality, and leave the rest to me, I'll take care of it for you."

"This way, it doesn't really break the rules and no one can have any complaints. If you don't have enough Spirit Stones, I can even help you cover the amount temporarily."

The purple-clothed youth, upon hearing this, joyfully said to the middle-aged man:

"Thank you, Uncle Yin..."

"Then, Uncle Yin..."

"Does this mean I can name any price I want?"

The middle-aged man replied:

"While that's true, you still can't be too outrageous. Just outbid the others within a normal range; you only need to offer a bit more than anyone else."

“Additionally...”

“You must control yourself during the auction and avoid getting into a spat with someone else. Otherwise, if the Gang Leader finds out, I’m afraid he’ll lock you up again.”

The purple-clothed youth grinned and said:

“Don’t worry, Uncle Yin, I have my limits.”

.....

Lin Jing listened to the entire conversation from beginning to end, shattering his initial plan to join the bidding.

It was clear that this purple-clothed youth was the son of the Black Shark Gang Leader, and the so-called ‘Uncle Yin’ was the actual manager of the Black Shark Gang’s auction house.

At the moment, the two were conspiring to secure Li Qingqing through the auction.

If things went as they said, Lin Jing wouldn’t have enough Spirit Stones, no matter how many he had.

Even if there were some unforeseen circumstances that allowed him to win the bidding, it could provoke the ire of the Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang.

Would he even be able to leave then?

Therefore, if he wanted to rescue Li Qingqing, there was only one option left.

That was to snatch her...

.....

As Lin Jing was pondering, the middle-aged man spoke up again, asking the purple-clothed youth:

“Have you made preparations to capture that Black Kite?”

The purple-clothed youth nodded and said:

“Of course, I’m prepared...”

“Before coming here, I convinced Hall Master Qin to set up a Formation on that Nameless Isle not far from Black Shark Island.”

“Additionally, at that time, Elder Jiang will be there to assist. Elder Jiang is a Nascent Soul True Monarch; with him overseeing, wouldn’t capturing the Black Kite be an easy task?”

After hearing this, the middle-aged man nodded and said:

“Your preparations seem sufficient...”

“However, I still have to tell you.”

“That Black Kite is very clever; with all your preparations, it might not even go near them.”

Nevertheless.

The young man in purple had a playful look on his face as he glanced at Li Qingqing in the cage, blatantly sizing her up without any attempt to conceal his lewd gaze.

Then, the young man in purple spoke directly.

“Uncle Yin...”

“Didn’t you say that the Black Kite is extremely protective of its master?”

“As long as it is willing to protect, I definitely have a way to make it submit.”

Upon hearing what the young man in purple said, Li Qingqing, who was bound, frowned immediately...

At this moment, a slight change appeared on her expression. Underneath her resolute eyes, Lin Jing saw a hint of worry.

Seeing Li Qingqing like this, Lin Jing’s brow furrowed deeply.

What had she gone through in these years to have changed so much?

Even in such an extreme situation, she remained steadfast.

In Observation Mode, Lin Jing could see clearly that from the beginning until now, Li Qingqing hadn’t shown any sign of fear.

Even when that young man in purple looked at her with his obscene gaze...

It was only when the young man in purple had mentioned capturing Little Sparrow that Li Qingqing had frowned.

Clearly, she was also concerned for Little Sparrow, worried that Little Sparrow might fall into someone else's trap while trying to save her.

.....

At this time, the middle-aged man spoke again:

"You want to take this woman to Black Shark Island?"

"The distance from Black Xing Island to Black Shark Island is not short."

"On that journey, it is very likely that the Black Kite will launch a sneak attack."

"Do you have a plan for that?"

The young man in purple smiled and said:

"Uncle Yin, rest assured, knowing that the Black Kite is fast and skilled at sneak attacks, I am naturally prepared."

"Hall Master Li and Hall Master Zhao just happen to be nearby handling some affairs and will return to Black Shark Island tomorrow. At that time, I will go back with them."

"Both Hall Masters are at the Golden Core Late Stage of cultivation, and it's possible that they could directly capture the Black Kite."

However, the middle-aged man shook his head:

"Unless a Nascent Soul True Monarch takes action, it is simply impossible to capture that Black Kite."

"We have already tried before."

The young man in purple's brows furrowed slightly before he spoke:

"Is that so..."

"What a pity that Elder Jiang has been busy these past two days and hasn't come along, otherwise, with Elder Jiang here, capturing the Black Kite would be a piece of cake."

At that moment, the middle-aged man comforted him:

"Actually, it's good to have both Hall Masters Li and Zhao with you; otherwise, you alone would be no match for the Black Kite."

“It’s very likely that this woman would be snatched away by the Black Kite.”

“That’s true...”

After finishing speaking, the young man in purple said to the middle-aged man:

“I’ll be troubling Uncle Yin to take more care at the auction.”

“Once I subdue the Black Kite, I am sure my father will be very happy.”

“By then, I’ll speak to my father, and if within the gang we refine Nirvana Elixir again, I’ll ask my father to save one for Uncle Yin, so you can break through to the Nascent Soul Stage as soon as possible.”

The middle-aged man clasped his fists and said:

“If so, I thank the Young Gang Leader.”

.....

The two continued their conversation afterward.

And Lin Jing, still in Observation Mode, listened to their talk.

However, their following conversation was all about the internal affairs of the Black Shark Gang.

Lin Jing didn’t collect any useful information.

It was only after an hour that the two had finished their conversation.

Seeing that he could no longer gather any more information, Lin Jing also exited Observation Mode.

Subsequently,

Lin Jing left the System Space and headed toward the Guest Visiting Residence.

Along the way, Lin Jing was contemplating what he should do to rescue Li Qingqing.

After learning that the son of the leader of the Black Shark Gang was planning to use the auction in an unconventional way to buy Li Qingqing,

Lin Jing gave up any hope for bidding.

To save Li Qingqing, he would have to find another way. The best approach would be to forcefully snatch her away through a raid.

However, the defenses on Black Xing Island were too strict; attempting to take back Li Qingqing there was definitely out of the question.

The only opportunity would be during their transport of Li Qingqing to Black Shark Island. He would have to make his move during that journey.

If they managed to take Li Qingqing to Black Shark Island, then he would have no chance at all.

After all, on Black Shark Island, there were Nascent Soul and even Divine Transformation Cultivators present.

.....

Yet even while on the way to Black Shark Island, any attempt to act would still be extremely dangerous.

From their previous conversation, Lin Jing learned

that on the journey to Black Shark Island, two Golden Core Late Stage cultivators from the Black Shark Gang would accompany the group.

Together with the young man in purple and his black-clad companion, there would be a total of four Golden Core Cultivators.

Four Golden Core Cultivators; just Lin Jing alone would hardly gain the upper hand over them, let alone attempt to rescue Li Qingqing.

This was compounded difficulty.

Lin Jing would need other means, or someone's help, to pull it off...

Chapter 407: Chapter 107: Tempting Little Sparrow

Following that, Lin Jing began to ponder.

Currently, aside from some elixir medicine, all he had were the Shadow Escape Flying Boat he had traded for at the small fair and those two magical treasures.

He practically had nothing on him that could be of help to himself.

For example, talismans, forbidden artifacts, array plates, and the like—those kinds of items that could be used temporarily to enhance one's combat abilities...

Lin Jing had none of those right now.

He was now immensely missing Holaw Three Rivers; had he known this would happen, he would've asked Holaw Three Rivers to prepare a set of formations for him to use at any time.

But Holaw Three Rivers had long left for the Inner Sea, and Lin Jing could only wish for such help.

Since he had no other means, he had to look for an ally.

But, where could he find an ally now on Black Xing Island?

Lin Jing then sank into deep thought.

To find a cultivator who could help out on this Black Xing Island was most likely not something he could achieve in a short amount of time.

Besides, Lin Jing didn't know many people to begin with.

Apart from Lu Youjiu and the others, there was only Zhang Jian left.

Lu Youjiu and his group had gone to the Inner Sea, and Zhang Jian should still be in the Thousand Islands Domain.

It was even less likely that he would come over.

Furthermore, snatching a person from under the hands of two Golden Core Late Stage cultivators, even if Zhang Jian were here, he probably wouldn't be able to do much.

Unless Lu Youjiu was here...

As he furrowed his brows and pondered, a sudden inspiration flashed in his mind.

It seemed he had thought of something...

Indeed, he did have an ally.

Little Sparrow...

They had said that Little Sparrow was now exceptionally powerful, and that not even two Golden Core Late Stage cultivators could necessarily catch it.

If he could get the help of Little Sparrow, and then plan carefully, perhaps he could truly rescue Li Qingqing.

The only problem now was.

Little Sparrow's whereabouts were elusive, and even Lin Jing himself didn't know where it was.

Little Sparrow, previously, was keen on rescuing Li Qingqing, and had even attacked the Black Shark Auction House several times.

Therefore, Lin Jing suspected that Little Sparrow might very well be hiding somewhere nearby.

If he wanted to rescue Li Qingqing, he must find Little Sparrow and cooperate with it.

But...

Now there was another problem, which was how to find Little Sparrow.

Reveal his true identity by dropping his disguise?

That seemed to risk exposure.

If he rashly exposed his true identity, with the influence of the Black Shark Gang, it was very likely they would find him.

If he didn't want to expose himself, then he needed to find something familiar to Little Sparrow.

He could completely rely on that item to attract Little Sparrow's attention and draw it down.

There weren't many things left on him that Little Sparrow would be familiar with...

The Hidden Dragon Pendant of the Azure Moon was one.

However, after being refined by him, he never let Little Sparrow see the pendant again, although it still carried some of his residual aura.

Whether it could recognize it was something Lin Jing wasn't sure about, but it was worth a try.

Apart from the Hidden Dragon Pendant of the Azure Moon, his Flawless Sword had also been re-refined into the Ling Yin Flawless Sword.

It seemed he didn't have anything else that would attract Little Sparrow's attention.

Lin Jing continued to ponder...

During this long period of time, he barely had any of his things from Nanming Domain left.

Especially those that Little Sparrow had seen and was familiar with, were even more limited.

If Huang Qingling were here, that would be great; as Little Sparrow's true owner, she had spent the longest time with it.

Little Sparrow would surely be most familiar with Huang Qingling's aura.

Lin Jing knew that he had a Divine Phoenix feather left by Huang Qingling within his body, and if he could stimulate the power of that Divine Phoenix feather, he believed that Little Sparrow would quickly come.

But if he were to stimulate the power of the Divine Phoenix feather within him, not just Little Sparrow, but probably everyone on Black Xing Island would be able to sense it clearly.

Then he would become the target...

If he really did that, he feared not only would he fail to save Li Qingqing, but he might even lose his own life as well.

Besides that, did he have any other items that could attract Little Sparrow?

Lin Jing pondered again...

A moment later, Lin Jing did indeed think of an item, which might really attract Little Sparrow...

...

...

After figuring out a plan, Lin Jing returned to the Gu Lai Ju Inn, where he explained some matters to Ye Yun before leaving again.

Tonight, he had important matters to attend to.

That was to continue going back to the vicinity of the Black Shark Auction House to stake out for Little Sparrow...

In fact.

Lin Jing wasn't too sure whether Little Sparrow would come for another sneak attack on the auction house tonight.

But with Little Sparrow hiding away, Lin Jing simply had no clue where it was.

Moreover, now that Little Sparrow had advanced to a Golden Core Demonic Beast, even Golden Core Late Stage cultivators couldn't catch it, let alone Lin Jing.

This time, to attract Little Sparrow, Lin Jing directly took out the Hidden Dragon Pendant of the Azure Moon and hung it at his waist.

Because he had refined the pendant with some of his previous aura still on it.

He only hoped that Little Sparrow would still recognize this aura.

Apart from the Hidden Dragon Pendant of the Azure Moon, Lin Jing also took out another item and put it into his pocket.

This item was the undergarment previously brought by Little Sparrow that belonged to Huang Qingling.

Until now, this undergarment was lying in a corner of Lin Jing's storage bag.

If it weren't for this incident, Lin Jing would have forgotten about it long ago.

Despite feeling embarrassed, there seemed to be no other way, so he had to take it out to lure Little Sparrow...

This undergarment must hold the scent of Huang Qingling; Little Sparrow will surely recognize it.

.....

Afterward, he visited the trading market again.

Lin Jing made a round through the entire trading market, most importantly, near the Black Shark Auction House, where he sent out his Divine Sense to scan the whole vicinity.

Except for the Black Shark Auction House itself.

Inside the Black Shark Auction House, there was a Golden Core Cultivator stationed, and should Lin Jing's Divine Sense penetrate inside, it would be detected by the other party.

Using Divine Sense carelessly in this manner would only bring trouble upon himself; if he truly wanted to investigate the inside of the Black Shark Auction House, he only needed to use Observation Mode.

Under Observation Mode, no one could detect him...

Soon.

The sky gradually darkened, and fewer and fewer people were left in the trading market.

Until nightfall completely descended.

The trading market then returned to silence once more.

Only an occasional few Cultivators would pass by this place.

It was at this moment, in a hidden corner, that Lin Jing entered the System Space and then reactivated Observation Mode to begin his search.

If Little Sparrow intended to ambush, the peaceful and dark night should be a perfect time.

Moreover, due to the characteristics of Little Sparrow's Black Kite, an ambush in the dark, concealed by the night, would be even more fitting.

Meanwhile, Lin Jing's entry into Observation Mode was meant for tracing Little Sparrow's whereabouts.

After all, inside Black Shark City, one could not easily utilize Divine Sense; there were too many restrictions.

It was no match for the straightforwardness of Observation Mode.

In Observation Mode, Lin Jing first re-investigated the Black Shark Auction House.

By that time, the defensive array of the Black Shark Auction House had been fully activated.

Clearly, this array was supposed to defend against Little Sparrow's attacks.

However, it did not impede Lin Jing's investigation.

Lin Jing directly controlled the observational viewpoint and reached beneath the Black Shark Auction House to a secret chamber.

Inside this chamber, Li Qingqing was still bound in place.

At that moment, although Li Qingqing was restrained, she was still sitting in meditation with her eyes closed.

In this secret chamber, besides Li Qingqing,

there were two others, one of whom was the middle-aged man from the daytime.

The other late stage Golden Core Cultivator was someone Lin Jing had not seen before.

Presumably, he was also from the Black Shark Gang, helping to protect the auction house.

As the actual manager of the Black Shark Auction House, that middle-aged Cultivator was personally guarding the place.

It seemed they feared some kind of accident might happen.

Such meticulous defenses made Lin Jing somewhat curious.

Just how formidable is Little Sparrow now?

So intensely guarded that two late stage Golden Core Cultivators were jointly stationed in this chamber.

It appeared that everything could only be verified upon meeting Little Sparrow.

Soon, Lin Jing completed his investigation of the auction house.

Seeing that both Li Qingqing and Lin Jue were without any abnormalities,

he then directed the Observation Mode to the outside.

Scouring the area for Little Sparrow's traces.

And so, Lin Jing searched for a long time...

Yet still found no sign of Little Sparrow.

Time hurried on, and soon it was deep in the night, even the hour of the ox had passed...

Just as Lin Jing was growing impatient, thinking Little Sparrow would not come tonight and was about to leave,

a faint whooshing sound of something cutting through the night suddenly rang out in the sky—the sound was very light.

At first, Lin Jing almost thought it was his own illusion.

But then, he began to investigate.

Under Observation Mode, Lin Jing quickly discovered a dark silhouette hidden within the night.

At this time, the dark shadow was circling the Black Shark Auction House, seemingly looking for the right moment, ready to attack at any time.

The moment he saw this dark figure, Lin Jing was instantly filled with joy...

This wait had indeed not been in vain.

Little Sparrow had indeed arrived.

Now that Little Sparrow had come, the next steps would be manageable.

Following that, Lin Jing exited Observation Mode and left the System Space.

He appeared in a deserted alley some distance from the Black Shark Auction House.

Lin Jing then took out the undergarment...

Though somewhat far from the Black Shark Auction House, Little Sparrow being a Demonic Beast was extremely sensitive to various scents.

Furthermore, its Cultivation was not low, despite the considerable distance, Little Sparrow could still sense it.

Next, all Lin Jing needed to do was to wait patiently...

As expected, Lin Jing's guess was correct.

It didn't take long for the sound of rapid movement to approach swiftly.

Lin Jing had just sensed that extremely familiar aura when he saw, on the wall ahead, the familiar figure.

Lin Jing looked up at Little Sparrow on the wall.

Though Little Sparrow had advanced to a Golden Core Demonic Beast, its size had not changed significantly.

At that moment, Little Sparrow stood on the walltop, staring intently at Huang Qingling's undergarment in Lin Jing's hand with its bright eyes.

After a moment, its gaze shifted.

Looking at Lin Jing, yet with Lin Jing in disguise, Little Sparrow's gaze was filled with confusion.

And moreover.

Within that confused gaze, there was also a hint of vigilance...

Chapter 408: Chapter 108: The Plan

“

Seeing this, Lin Jing smiled lightly before asking in a soft voice:

“Little Sparrow, do you still remember me?”

This time, Lin Jing didn't disguise his voice; he used his own.

Hearing Lin Jing's words, Little Sparrow cocked its head and looked at him as if pondering.

Then, Lin Jing took a jade bottle out of the Storage Bag and poured out an Elixir Medicine, tossing it to Little Sparrow...

Little Sparrow's eyes sparkled, and with a “swoosh,” it flew up, caught the Elixir Medicine with its beak, and swallowed it.

Following that,

Little Sparrow's eyes shone as it fixated on Lin Jing.

It flapped its wings ceaselessly, circling around Lin Jing without stopping.

“Jing...”

“It's you!”

As it spoke, Little Sparrow landed on Lin Jing's shoulder and then looked up at him with an excitement in its eyes that it couldn't hide as it said:

“Qing... Ling...”

“Master... where...”

Little Sparrow's speech was still choppy as before.

But Lin Jing understood perfectly what it meant.

Little Sparrow was asking where Huang Qingling was right now.

Lin Jing glanced around and then said to Little Sparrow:

“Follow me for now; it’s not safe here.”

After that, Lin Jing prepared to take Little Sparrow and leave.

However, Little Sparrow didn’t move and grabbed hold of Lin Jing, not letting him go.

Then, Little Sparrow gestured continuously toward the auction house and said to Lin Jing:

“Qing Qing...”

“Captured...”

Lin Jing then reached out and soothed Little Sparrow before saying:

“I know...”

“We need to leave for now, and tomorrow, I’ll take you to rescue Qing Qing.”

After hearing this, Little Sparrow cocked its head thoughtfully and then nodded.

Following this, Lin Jing continued in a low voice:

“Follow me and leave this place first.”

Little Sparrow nodded its head.

Afterward, Lin Jing did his best to conceal his presence as he walked out of the alley, leaving the area.

And Little Sparrow obediently stayed on Lin Jing’s shoulder.

Fortunately, it was late at night, and the streets were empty. Lin Jing’s journey was uneventful for now...

.....

Not long after Lin Jing left, the middle-aged man who had been meditating in the secret chamber of the Black Shark auction house suddenly opened his eyes.

He stood up, left the chamber promptly, and flew above the auction house.

Once above the auction house, the middle-aged man scanned his surroundings and, seeing no activity, spread out his Divine Sense to search the area.

As the middle-aged man was using his Divine Sense to investigate, another Cultivator also emerged from the chamber and flew up to the man's side.

"Brother Yin..."

"What's happened?"

"Could it be that you've discovered something?"

The middle-aged man shook his head and said:

"Nothing..."

"It just feels odd. Normally at this time, the Black Kite would have attacked under the cover of night."

"But today, for some reason, it hasn't shown up."

The other Cultivator spoke up and said:

"Perhaps it's afraid after nearly getting hurt yesterday?"

The middle-aged man furrowed his brow and replied:

"I don't think it's fear..."

"Considering its Phoenix Clan bloodline, its intelligence far surpasses that of other Demonic Beasts; it's probably smarter than we think."

"And, it is utterly loyal to its master. It's not likely to give up on a rescue mission over a minor incident like this."

The other Cultivator nodded and said:

"Could it be because it exhausted itself yesterday and is taking today to rest and recover, so it didn't come?"

"After all, the Black Kite, no matter how smart, couldn't possibly know that the auction is tomorrow and that after tomorrow, its master will no longer be here."

After hearing this, the middle-aged man nodded slightly and said:

“Perhaps...”

“Tonight, that Black Kite probably won’t come again; let’s go back.”

“After the auction tomorrow, we won’t have to stay on guard like this all day long.”

The other Cultivator said:

“Right...”

“After that, we’ll leave everything to the Young Gang Leader.”

The middle-aged man nodded and said:

“Alright, let’s go back.”

Having said that, the two of them returned to the secret chamber together.

.....

Meanwhile, Lin Jing, with Little Sparrow in tow, returned to the inn called “Guest’s Arrival.”

Even on entering, Lin Jing made sure to tuck Little Sparrow into his embrace to hide it.

Only after entering the room did Lin Jing let Little Sparrow out.

This room had been prepared by Lin Jing before he had left—it was located right next to Ye Yun’s room.

Upon entering the room, Lin Jing used his Spiritual Power to envelop the entire room in a protective barrier.

Then, Lin Jing dropped his disguise and reverted to his original appearance.

Seeing this, Little Sparrow’s eyes glittered as it fluttered its wings and landed on Lin Jing’s head, using its claws to mess up his hair into a bird’s nest—its way of expressing excitement.

Lin Jing was at a loss whether to laugh or cry and quickly said:

“Little Sparrow, calm down a bit...”

Upon hearing Lin Jing’s words, Little Sparrow settled down.

Afterward, Little Sparrow perched on Lin Jing’s shoulder,

and then, tilting its head while looking at him, asked:

“`

“Master... where?”

“Where...?”

Lin Jing’s thoughts immediately turned to Huang Qingling; she should still be in Qinghuang Palace now.

He just didn’t know if she was still asleep...

Lin Jing reached out his hand, stroked Little Sparrow’s head, and then spoke:

“Qing Ling, she’s not here...”

“Right now, she should still be in the Demon Race Secret Realm.”

After hearing this, Little Sparrow cocked its head, seemingly not understanding.

Seeing Little Sparrow’s confusion, Lin Jing continued:

“It’s the place where you absorbed the demonic energy just before.”

Little Sparrow obediently seemed to understand, and immediately hung its head, looking disheartened.

Lin Jing quickly consoled it:

“Don’t lose heart, you will see each other again one day.”

Little Sparrow looked up at Lin Jing and, after a moment, nodded its head.

After this exchange, Lin Jing also understood.

Little Sparrow’s intelligence had indeed become much stronger than before.

The Little Sparrow of now had already grasped most of what Lin Jing meant in his words.

Even more, it could express its own emotions.

Lin Jing had every reason to suspect that Huang Qingling might have used some special method to train Little Sparrow.

After all, a normal Demonic Beast at this stage, though it might develop some intelligence, would definitely not be as advanced as Little Sparrow was now.

Then, Lin Jing said to Little Sparrow:

“Little Sparrow, I want to rescue Li Qingqing, and I need your help...”

After hearing this, Little Sparrow fluttered its wings in a hurry and said with its beak:

“Rescue Qing Qing...”

“I go...”

Lin Jing then began to explain his plan to Little Sparrow.

...

...

According to Lin Jing’s plan, they would participate in the auction, win Lin Jue, and after securing Lin Jue, Lin Jing would immediately leave with Lin Jue and Ye Yun.

Little Sparrow, left behind, would continue to monitor the Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang.

Lin Jing had already seen Little Sparrow’s surveillance capabilities.

Plus, with its current improvements in strength, if it was just responsible for monitoring, there shouldn’t be any unexpected incidents.

After sending Lin Jue and Ye Yun away, Lin Jing would need to quickly find an island to secure them, then pilot the Flying Boat back to reconvene with Little Sparrow.

After reuniting, Lin Jing and Little Sparrow would secretly follow the Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang and find a way to rescue Li Qingqing.

In this process, Little Sparrow would play a very significant role.

Lin Jing needed Little Sparrow to lure away the two Hall Masters from the Black Shark Gang.

With those two out of the way, the rest would be easy.

Lin Jing could directly intervene and snatch Li Qingqing from their custody.

Even, killing the two of them was not out of the question.

However, although Little Sparrow was extraordinarily intelligent, this matter was quite complex.

Lin Jing took quite a while to explain it to Little Sparrow to make sure it understood clearly.

After explaining everything to Little Sparrow, dawn had already broken.

Then, Lin Jing gave some further instructions to Little Sparrow and, seeing that it was about time, he left the Ke'lai Inn.

And Little Sparrow had already left through the window before Lin Jing departed.

After leaving the Ke'lai Inn, Lin Jing made his way straight to the Black Shark Auction House.

By the time he arrived at the Black Shark Auction House, many people had already begun to gradually show up at the auction house.

Before entering, Lin Jing saw the Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang standing at the entrance of the auction house.

At that moment, he was walking toward the auction house with the middle-aged man 'Uncle Yin' and that cold-faced burly man in black still following closely beside him.

After the Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang entered the auction house, Lin Jing followed and entered as well.

The rules of the Black Shark Auction House were different from other auction houses.

To enter the Black Shark Auction House, one needed to pay with Spirit Stones.

And it wasn't cheap, costing ten Spirit Stones per person.

Moreover, there were luxury private rooms that one could use to participate in the auction with the payment of more Spirit Stones.

Of course.

Lin Jing only needed to win Lin Jue, so naturally, he had no need for a private room.

Though a private room had the feature of concealment, Lin Jing did not plan to bid for Li Qingqing and thus didn't need to stand out or have concealment.

After paying the Spirit Stones, Lin Jing went directly into the lobby.

There was something different about the lobby of the Black Shark Auction House.

The whole lobby was slightly dim, with the only brightness focusing on the auction platform.

Besides that, dozens of scantily clad maidservants were shuttling through the hall, serving all the people present...

Lin Jing found a seat inside the hall, and immediately a maidservant brought up an auction list for him.

This list was somewhat different from the one Lin Jing had gotten before.

This list included a starting price for each item.

Lin Jing then opened the auction list and began to read.

Soon, he found the page for Lin Jue.

The listed starting price for Lin Jue was ten thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones.

The price was standard.

During the actual auction, the price was sure to be higher. Lin Jing estimated it would reach between twenty to thirty thousand and above.

The probability of it going above forty thousand wasn't very high.

After checking Lin Jue's price, Lin Jing continued to look further.

On the last page, Lin Jing finally saw the price for Li Qingqing.

The price for Li Qingqing was much more expensive than for Lin Jue.

The listed price for Li Qingqing was a whopping one million Spirit Stones.

A hundred times that of Lin Jue.

Actually, this price made sense.

Most of those interested in Li Qingqing were mainly due to Little Sparrow.

After all, a beast companion with Phoenix Clan blood was not something one could come across every day.

Chapter 409: Chapter 109: Successful Auction

Before long, all the participants of the auction had arrived one after another, and the entire auction hall was filled to capacity.

Just at that moment, a beautiful female cultivator, clad in a tight-fitting red dress and of a tall stature, stepped onto the auction stage.

This woman knew how to play to her strengths; her red dress clung to her body, perfectly showcasing her figure.

Furthermore, she seemed to possess a special aura that made anyone who glanced at her feel an impulsive desire.

However.

After giving the woman a single look, Lin Jing immediately realized something.

She must be practicing some kind of enchantment technique, which explained the effect she had on them.

As the beautiful cultivator stepped up, a buzz of excitement ran through the crowd below.

She then faced the audience with a smile and said:

“Fellow Daoists, welcome to our Black Shark Auction House’s auction.”

“I will be presiding over this auction. If there are any shortcomings, I hope fellow Daoists will forgive me.”

The voice of the woman also seemed to have its own magic, as it excited many of the cultivators in the audience.

Smiling charmingly at the crowd below, the beautiful host went on to say:

“I’m sure everyone has already perused the auction list and is eagerly anticipating the items they wish to acquire...”

“So, without further ado, I will not dwell on any more trivialities.”

“This auction will now begin.”

“We now invite the first item for this session of the auction to the stage.”

As soon as the host finished speaking, a specially made cage was rolled out onto the stage.

This cage was different from the others.

It was only half the size of the other cages, and the half facing the audience had been removed and sealed with a formation instead.

The purpose was to present the auction item to the crowd better.

At this moment, in the cage, a young girl sat in terror and confusion, hugging herself tightly and curling up in one corner of the cage.

Then, the beautiful host continued:

“The starting bid for this first item is five thousand Spirit Stones, with each increment not less than one thousand Midium Grade Spirit Stones.”

“Additionally, this item, much like myself, is of the Yin Body constitution.”

“Whoever successfully bids for this item must cherish it greatly.”

“Now, the bidding for this first item begins...”

The words of the beautiful host on the stage undeniably ignited the entire auction hall, sending the multitude of cultivators below into an uproar.

“Six thousand Midium Grade Spirit Stones...”

Someone immediately started to bid.

However, before this person could finish speaking, another called out:

“I bid eight thousand Midium Grade Spirit Stones...”

At this point, the beautiful host judiciously spoke up, fanning the flames:

“Eight thousand Midium Grade Spirit Stones, any further bids?”

“Nine thousand, Midium Grade Spirit Stones...”

No sooner had this person spoken than someone else shouted:

“I bid ten thousand...”

And so, under the influence of the beautiful host, the bid for this first ‘item’ quickly whipped the atmosphere of the entire place into a frenzy.

After a period of ferocious bidding, this 'item' was finally sold for the price of forty thousand Midium Grade Spirit Stones to a brawny man.

Indeed, driven by the beautiful host, the price of the item skyrocketed.

Otherwise, this first 'item' might not have fetched even twenty thousand Spirit Stones.

After the sale of this item, another item was quickly brought up for auction.

This item up for auction is still a woman.

Thus, with the beautiful host setting the stage, the second round of bidding soon began.

Others would bid more or less.

While Lin Jing, from beginning to end, never spoke up, just watching others incessantly place bids...

Most of the auction items were female Cultivators; male Cultivators like Lin Jue were even less than the number of fingers on one's hand.

There was no helping it, the value of female Cultivators, as a whole, tended to be higher than that of male Cultivators.

Therefore, most of the 'items' at this auction were female Cultivators.

Only male Cultivators with special attributes were sent to this auction.

Presumably, this was why the Black Shark Auction House had arranged for such a beauty, skilled in the arts of charm, to stir up the atmosphere in the venue.

In any case, after several auctions, there were those who were joyful and those who were annoyed.

Once an item was successfully bid upon, a maidservant would immediately bring the 'item' directly to the middle of the venue to transact with the bidder.

Hand over the Spirit Stones, hand over the person...

And with that, the auction was considered complete.

It wasn't long before the bidding for the first few items had ended.

The prices for these items all exceeded expectations.

.....

Next.

A maidservant then wheeled out a cage from backstage, and inside it, looking fearful and at a loss, was Lin Jue.

Seeing Lin Jue being wheeled up onto the stage, Lin Jing immediately straightened up, ready to seize the moment and bid for Lin Jue.

However, unlike Lin Jing, when they saw the 'item' pushed onto the stage was a male Cultivator, the atmosphere in the venue suddenly cooled down.

Seeing this, the beautiful host quickly spoke up with a smile, attempting to warm up the atmosphere again:

"Ladies and gentlemen, it seems that you are not very interested in this Cultivator..."

"This item is a Second-Grade Alchemist. If anyone has plans for him, you can actually buy him to cultivate for a while. Who knows, he might advance to a Third-Grade Alchemist. By then, the value of this item will be incomparable to today's."

However, the host's words failed to stir up the mood among the audience.

Some in the audience even began to shout out:

"Host, let's start the auction quickly..."

"Let's see who needs him and quickly auction this male Cultivator off to avoid dampening our spirits here."

The one who spoke was enveloped in Demonic Qi, his eyes greedily fixed on the beautiful host, obviously a Demon Cultivator.

As soon as the Demon Cultivator's words ended, another voice quickly spoke up:

"Indeed..."

"You speak of advancing to a Third-Grade Alchemist, but is that so easy?"

"Do you know how much effort and how many Medium Grade Spirit Stones that would cost us?"

"Goods will always just be goods. Using Spirit Stones on them is a waste. Let's just get on with the auction."

Seeing that many in the crowd were getting impatient, the host promptly said:

“If that’s the case...”

“The starting bid for item number sixty-two is ten thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, with each bid increase not to be less than one thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones.”

“Now the auction begins...”

As the host’s words fell, there was complete silence in the venue; for a moment, no one made an offer.

Faced with this situation, Lin Jing was a bit stunned as well.

But more flustered than him was the beautiful host on the stage.

She had thought that her cultivation in the art of charm would help to manipulate the atmosphere, but she hadn’t anticipated that when auctioning a male Cultivator, it would have the opposite effect.

The beautiful host then regained her composure and asked again:

“Ladies and gentlemen, is there no one placing a bid for item number sixty-two?”

As the host finished speaking, Lin Jing glanced around, noticing that some people were starting to get restless.

So he quickly took the initiative, saying:

“Ten thousand, Medium Grade Spirit Stones...”

As Lin Jing’s voice fell, the beautiful host immediately said:

“Someone has offered ten thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, any other bids?”

After waiting a while and seeing no one else raising the bid, the beautiful host couldn’t help but feel somewhat disappointed, so she began to call out:

“Ten thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going once...”

...

“Ten thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going twice...”

...

...

Just as Lin Jing thought he was about to win, and the host on stage was preparing to make the next call.

Suddenly.

A voice came from a luxurious private box upstairs.

“Fifteen thousand, Medium Grade Spirit Stones...”

This voice, reaching Lin Jing’s ears, immediately caused his brows to furrow.

Because the one who made this bid was none other than the Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang.

After this bid was called, many people downstairs looked up at the luxurious box upstairs.

The beautiful female cultivator on the auction stage seized the opportunity, quickly saying:

“There’s already a bid of fifteen thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, any higher offers?”

.....

At this time, inside that luxurious box upstairs...

The Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang and ‘Uncle Yin’ were sitting side by side, looking down at the auction hall below.

And the black-robed cultivator, still with a cold expression, stood silently beside the purple-clothed youth.

“Young Gang Leader...”

“You actually shouldn’t have bid just now...”

The middle-aged man began.

The Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang appeared somewhat dissatisfied:

“Uncle Yin, the item below could be worth at least thirty thousand Spirit Stones, so should we just let him take it for ten thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones?”

“That would be too much of a bargain for him.”

The middle-aged man explained:

“That’s how auctions work. Even though it is estimated to be worth thirty thousand Spirit Stones, the real price still depends on the specific circumstances at the time.”

“You see, in the current auction, it’s quite obvious that female cultivators are more popular.”

“We only need to stir up the atmosphere a bit when the female cultivator is being auctioned. As for this male cultivator, there is no need to get involved at all.”

The Young Gang Leader glanced at the auction stage and Lin Jue inside the cage, then said:

“Uncle Yin, I understand...”

“Next, I won’t bid anymore.”

The middle-aged man nodded, replying:

“Young Gang Leader, in fact, even if it sells for ten thousand Spirit Stones, we wouldn’t be at a loss, so you really don’t need to worry.”

The purple-clothed youth nodded, saying:

“Alright...”

“I get it, Uncle Yin.”

After the bid from the luxurious box, the cultivators below were even less inclined to bid.

Seeing this, the host on stage started the countdown:

“Fifteen thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going once...”

After finishing, the host surveyed the audience, seeing no one moving, she then looked toward the cultivator who had bid earlier.

At this moment, that cultivator was frowning, seemingly deep in thought.

Seeing the atmosphere in the room dip, the host had to speed up the process, wanting to sell off Lot number 62 as quickly as possible.

“Fifteen thousand Spirit Stones, going twice...”

As the host finished speaking.

Lin Jing also lifted his head at this moment.

Seeing this, the host quickly halted her decision to finish the auction, looking towards Lin Jing...

"Fifteen thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going twice now, any more bids? If not, then Lot number 62 will be sold."

While saying this, the host's eyes were fixed on Lin Jing. At this very moment, his brows were still furrowed.

However, what came next.

Lin Jing spoke up again:

"Then, I bid sixteen thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones..."

Lin Jing looked somewhat hesitant.

Actually, the reason for Lin Jing's hesitation.

Was the Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang. Lin Jing wasn't sure what his intentions were.

But bidding against him was clearly unwise.

Lin Jing dared not let Lin Jue fall into his hands.

After all, Lin Jue and Li Qingqing were not the same.

Li Qingqing had value as a tool, while Lin Jue did not.

If the Young Gang Leader were to win Lin Jue, Lin Jing wasn't sure what would happen next.

So.

He was definitely not going to let Lin Jue go.

But he also couldn't show how determined he was to win Lin Jue.

Therefore, Lin Jing appeared somewhat hesitant while bidding.

Meanwhile, in the luxurious box upstairs.

The middle-aged man said to the Young Gang Leader:

“Young Gang Leader, you see...”

“Just for a bit more than ten thousand Spirit Stones, this person already seems so hesitant.”

“If you were to raise the bid again, I have no doubt that the fellow below would immediately stop bidding.”

The Young Gang Leader also nodded in agreement, saying:

“Uncle Yin is right...”

“Indeed, I also noticed that ever since this male cultivator was brought up, the atmosphere in the hall has cooled down significantly.”

“Next, I won’t raise the bid anymore, let’s just let the item be sold quickly.”

.....

Then, the beautiful host began the countdown.

“Sixteen thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going once...”

“Sixteen thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going twice...”

“Sixteen thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going thrice...”

“Sold!”

“Congratulations, fellow daoist, on winning Lot number 62.”

Chapter 410: Chapter 110 Settling Lin Jue

After the successful bid, two maids immediately came to the auction stage and pushed the cage down.

At this time, the auction was still ongoing.

The next ‘lot’ was another female cultivator.

And she was a cultivator with a special physique, extremely beautiful at that.

Following the beautiful host’s stirring speech, the atmosphere in the venue once again became agitated.

Yet, Lin Jing no longer paid attention to these matters.

He was just waiting for the maids to bring Lin Jue over so he could leave.

It wasn't long.

Before two maids arrived with a pale-faced Lin Jue and approached Lin Jing.

Lin Jing then took out the Spirit Stones he had prepared in advance and handed them to one of the maids.

After the maid had counted the Spirit Stones and confirmed the amount was correct, she took out a Token and handed it to Lin Jing.

After Lin Jing received the Token, the maid explained how to use it to him before leaving.

The use of this Token was the same as the one that controlled Ye Yun; destroying it would completely restore Lin Jue's freedom.

After the two maids left, Lin Jing did not linger. He didn't say a word but directly took Lin Jue and left the auction venue.

Upon exiting the auction venue, Lin Jing immediately said to Lin Jue:

"Let's go, we are heading back..."

"I have already rescued Ye Yun, and he's waiting for you at the inn."

"After we get back, I'll take you both and leave."

Lin Jing's words took Lin Jue, who was in despair, by surprise.

Then looking at Lin Jing with a puzzled face.

Lin Jing's voice sounded very familiar to him.

But he didn't dare to be certain.

Thereupon, Lin Jue cautiously asked:

"Are you... "

"Senior...?"

Lin Jing nodded gently and then said:

"Knowing is enough, now is not the time to make a commotion."

“Let’s talk after I get you guys out of here.”

Lin Jue was extremely excited, with tears involuntarily sliding down from his eyes.

Lin Jue choked up as he said:

“Yes...”

“Senior...”

This period could be considered the darkest moment in his life; how many times he had hoped for someone to save him.

As the auction began, Lin Jue’s heart had sunk; he held no more expectations.

Especially when at the auction, being treated as a ‘lot’ and bid on by others, he fell into a helpless despair.

Yet unexpectedly, just when he thought everything was settled and his fate had hit rock bottom, there appeared a turning point,

And the person who bid on him turned out to be the senior who had once helped him...

In that instant, from darkness to light,

Lin Jue’s heart revived, and he couldn’t help letting his tears fall.

Seeing this, Lin Jing sighed and comforted:

“Alright...”

“Now that I’m here, there’s nothing to worry about.”

Lin Jue, with tears in his eyes, nodded profoundly.

Afterward.

Lin Jing took Lin Jue and left the trading market.

In a short while, the two returned to the inn.

Upon seeing Lin Jue, Ye Yun immediately became excited and hurried over.

He first inspected Lin Jue up and down, only after seeing no injuries did he breathe a sigh of relief.

Then, Ye Yun said:

“You... you’re alright?”

Lin Jue looked at his good friend and shook his head:

“All good, thanks to the senior...”

“And you?”

Ye Yun turned to Lin Jing and said:

“Thanks to the senior, I’m fine...”

Then the two stared at each other...

This experience could be considered a trial or perhaps an opportunity for growth for both of them.

.....

It was at this moment that Lin Jing interrupted them, saying:

“We should leave now.”

The two looked up, turned to Lin Jing, and asked:

“Senior...”

“Are we in danger now?”

Lin Jing then spoke:

“I have something to do later. For now, we should leave and I’ll take you to a safe place. Once I’ve taken care of my business, I’ll come back for you.”

After hearing this, the two nodded.

Then.

Lin Jing led the two out, checked out of the inn, and left.

After leaving the inn, the trio didn’t linger and directly departed from Black Xing Island.

Not long after leaving Black Xing Island and taking advantage of a moment when no one was around, Lin Jing immediately called forth the Shadow Escape Flying Boat.

Seeing the Shadow Escape Flying Boat, both Lin Jue and Ye Yun were astounded.

“Senior, you actually possess a flying boat...”

Lin Jing nodded then directly said:

“Get on first, we’ll talk about the rest later.”

The two nodded as well and followed Lin Jing aboard the flying boat.

After entering the flying boat, Lin Jing went straight to the cockpit and embedded a Superior Grade Spirit Stone into the slot for Spirit Stones.

Immediately afterwards, Lin Jing activated it.

The Shadow Escape Flying Boat “swooshed” and shot out.

At that moment.

Aboard the flying boat, Lin Jue and Ye Yun, came over to Lin Jing, bowed, and said:

“Thank you, Senior, for saving our lives.”

Lin Jing, at that moment, was partly using his Divine Sense to control the flying boat, speedily soaring over the sea.

Meanwhile, he observed the two of them.

Lin Jing then spoke:

“Lin Jue, it’s just you left in your family now, isn’t it?”

Hearing this, Lin Jue seemed to recall something sad, his eyes downcast, revealing a hint of sorrow in his expression.

“Yes, Senior...”

“Since grandfather passed away, I’ve been on my own.”

Lin Jing nodded and then turned to look at Ye Yun:

“What about you?”

“Do you have any relatives left in Bihai City?”

Ye Yun replied:

“Replying to Senior...”

“My situation is quite similar to Lin Jue’s.”

“Several years ago, after my parents left for a trip, they never returned, leaving me alone.”

Lin Jing immediately fell silent.

After pondering for a while, Lin Jing asked the two:

“I own a small island in the Thousand Islands Domain, would you two be willing to follow me?”

“If you are willing, I will take you to the island, if not, I can also return you to Bihai City.”

Upon hearing this, they turned to look at each other and then nodded in unison:

“Senior, we are willing.”

Lin Jing nodded slightly and said:

“Good...”

“Then from now on, you will follow me.”

Both of them, visibly excited, bowed hastily and thanked Lin Jing:

“Thank you, Senior...”

...

...

The Shadow Escape Flying Boat was incredibly fast. In less than four hours, Lin Jing arrived at the destination he had long decided upon.

It was the uninhabited small island where he had encountered Lu Youjiu during the auction of Yan Wanfei.

This island was situated between Black Xing Island and the Thousand Islands Domain, making it an ideal place to temporarily settle the two.

Because Lin Jing was soon to fight a major battle, it was not suitable to take them with him.

Nor was it fitting to continue keeping them on Black Xing Island.

So temporarily setting them up here was just right.

After settling Lin Jue and Ye Yun on the uninhabited island, Lin Jing left them with some instructions. He then boarded the Shadow Escape Flying Boat and flew back towards Black Xing Island.

This time.

He had to return to Black Xing Island before the auction ended.

Then, find a way to track down that Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang.

In less than four hours, Lin Jing returned to Black Shark Island.

And, before re-entering Black Shark Island, Lin Jing once again activated the Changyun Hidden Technique to alter his appearance.

This time, he transformed into a pale, frail-looking man.

When Lin Jing got back to the trading market, the auction was still not over.

Then, with this new identity, Lin Jing paid the Spirit Stones again to enter the auction house.

Fortunately, the auction house had no entry restrictions, one could enter as long as they paid the Spirit Stones.

After entering, Lin Jing discovered that the auction house was as crowded as before. Luckily, there were still some empty seats at the very back of the auction hall.

Lin Jing directly found an empty spot in the back corner and sat down.

The auction was nearing its end, and the atmosphere had reached its climax.

Right now, the auction stage presented a girl with a special constitution, whose bidding price had been raised to one million Medium Grade Spirit Stones.

This girl's constitution was extremely rare. If a cultivator dual-cultivated with her, it could increase their cultivation speed.

That's why the bidding price for this girl was so high and why the auction house was in such a frenzy.

Moreover, not only the people in the auction hall, but even the cultivators sitting in the private boxes on the second floor had joined in the bidding.

Thus, the price for the girl was raised step by step until it finally reached an astonishing two million.

This price of two million Medium Grade Spirit Stones was called out by someone from the fifth box upstairs.

After the two million Medium Grade Spirit Stones bid was announced, the hall fell silent for a moment.

Clearly, this price had exceeded the limit many people could afford.

The auctioneer on stage then began to entice the crowd:

“The patron in box five has bid two million Medium Grade Spirit Stones, is there a higher bid?”

“This ‘lot’ is something you might not encounter even once in a hundred years. If you miss this chance, there won’t be another. Those who desire it should bid quickly...”

After waiting for a moment and seeing that no one else was bidding, the beautiful auctioneer began the countdown.

“Two million Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going once...”

...

“Two million Medium Grade Spirit Stones, going twice...”

The beautiful auctioneer scanned the room, noticing the total silence in the auction hall, probably no one would offer a higher price.

So.

She was just about to speak the final words...

But at that moment.

A voice suddenly rang out from another luxurious box:

“I bid two million two hundred thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones.”

As this voice fell, everyone in the auction hall gasped in shock.

The additional twenty thousand was thrown out as though it was nothing.

However, Lin Jing recognized the voice; it was indeed that of the Young Gang Leader of the Black Shark Gang.

Then, the auctioneer on stage looked towards the box on the second floor and eagerly said:

“Box one bids two million two hundred thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones, is there any higher bid?”

But this time, no one else started to bid.

Even the person from box five, who had bid two million Medium Grade Spirit Stones, fell silent.

Clearly, two million two hundred thousand Medium Grade Spirit Stones had surpassed his limit.