

The Doctor 1421

Chapter 1421: Trump Card

The Sky-Cloud Empire.

Wan Zhong Mountain.

On the tall mountain peak, there was lush greenery that decorated the area in a lively manner.

As the sun shone down, it cast a light shadow on the forest.

Thick leaves were gathered on the ground. When one stepped on them, crackling sounds could be heard.

A light breeze blew over, and the leaves rustled. It was a rare peace and harmony.

Only when one was within could one feel that every single plant and flower in the surroundings had a shocking strength to it, causing one to feel pressured unwittingly.

The three figures cut through the forest, and they went toward the peak of the mountain.

They were 36 Respected Elder Ming, Respected Elder Yu Jing, and Jiang Zhiyuan

On the way, the three of them did not talk much, and they were overly quiet.

36 Respected Elder Ming—who was walking at the front—had no expression on his face.

In comparison, Jiang Zhiyuan and Respected Elder Yu Jing, who were behind, were much more relaxed. They naturally were in a good mood to be able to gain the upper ground against 36 Respected Elder Ming, not to mention that Jiang Zhiyuan had managed to break free from that hopeless situation.

Now, everything was refreshed, and her steps were much lighter and quicker than before.

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She clenched the item in her hand tightly, and she lightly breathed out. ? Luckily... Luckily, the clan leader had left me with such a trump card! Now, I have already entered the Sky-Cloud Empire, and it is to accompany the clan leader. Without a special situation, nobody can casually chase me out!

36 Respected Elder Ming walked at the front. Even if he didn't turn around, he could imagine how delighted Jiang Zhiyuan looked at this moment.

His brows quickly knitted for a moment. He really didn't understand what the clan leader was thinking and actually passed such an important token to an outsider like Jiang Zhiyuan! *? Does he really treat Jiang Zhiyuan as his own biological granddaughter?! I wonder if His Grace knows about this...?*

Very quickly, the three of them quietly came to the top of the mountain.

In the middle of the mountain was a gigantic, floating statue made of white jade. If one looked down from above, they could tell that it was a circular-shaped door engraved with the Sky-Cloud Empire's totem.

36 Respected Elder Ming stood at the side and cupped his fists to bow.

Jiang Zhiyuan and Respected Elder Yu Jing followed him respectively.

The totem was completely silent. Clearly, the clan leader had no intention of coming out of seclusion.

36 Respected Elder Ming turned around, looked at Jiang Zhiyuan, and nonchalantly said, "Since you have the clan leader's token in your hands, you have the right to stay here. But from today onward, you must guard this place. Unless the clan leader comes out of seclusion, you aren't allowed to take another step out of Wan Zhong Mountain!"

His voice was low and powerful, like a heavy hammer that smashed one's heart.

Jiang Zhiyuan gathered her focus and looked down. "Yes. I will definitely abide by the rules and won't dare to go against them."

36 Respected Elder Ming felt stifled. However, he could not rage again at this stage, so he didn't speak further.

Respected Elder Yu Jing's attitude toward Jiang Zhiyuan was much better. "Zhiyuan, it'll be hard on you during this period."

Jiang Zhiyuan pressed her lips against each other and smiled. "It's not hard. It's what I should do."

Respected Elder Yu Jing nodded in admiration. Originally, he thought that Jiang Zhiyuan would be finished and that Fairy Water Mound would be the same. Who knew that she had such a trump card!

Since the clan leader is willing to give that token to Jiang Zhiyuan, it proves how highly he thinks of her! If he can come out of seclusion earlier, he might be able to stand up for Jiang Zhiyuan. At that point, nobody can say for sure what the situation will be like.

He was deeply connected to Fairy Water Mound. Of course, he wished for them to be well.

As long as Jiang Zhiyuan can endure this...?

"With your filial piety, it's right for the clan leader to treat you in this manner." Respected Elder Yu Jing instructed her a while more before he left with 36 Respected Elder Ming.

The duo's figures quickly disappeared into a distant place.

Jiang Zhiyuan stared at their departing backs for a while. When she made sure that they had completely left, the humble and respectful smile then gradually subsided.

"Pfft." She lightly snorted, put away the token, and turned around to glance at the gigantic totem in the middle of the mountain peak. "Clan leader, it's all thanks to you this time."

She stood rooted to the spot for some time. After calming her thoughts, she kneeled at a position at the side.

Her movements were careful, and her posture was respectful. It seemed like she was indeed sincerely waiting for the clan leader to come out of seclusion.

Anyone who saw it wouldn't be able to pinpoint any errors.

After such a struggle, quite a few wounds on Jiang Zhiyuan's body had opened, and quite a few parts on her clothes were stained with blood. However, she purposely ignored it and left it in that manner.

Even though Wan Zhong Mountain had a distinguished status, was heavily guarded, and people rarely could come on a normal basis, there were still people who came in and out of this place normally.

They were basically people of important status in the Sky-Cloud Empire.

Since she was here, she had to build her reputation. She temporarily couldn't make a name for herself outside, so she had to grab this last straw!

The more important thing was that Wan Zhong Mountain was in a good location, and one could see quite a few sceneries by staying here.

One could even see Suming Peak from afar!

Jishen Palace was on this Suming Peak, which was also His Grace—Rong Xiu's bedroom. Of course, it was also the residence for that Princess Consort!

After kneeling for a while, Jiang Zhiyuan looked over.

A rather familiar figure suddenly flew out of the Suming Peak.

Jiang Zhiyuan squinted her eyes. *That person seems to be... Yan Qing? Oh right, during the period Rong Xiu returned to Ling Xiao Academy, there didn't seem to be people around him.*

Yan Qing seems like he's in a hurry. Where is he going?? Jiang Zhiyuan looked at the side and slowly clenched her fists. *Shangguan Yue... Is she there too?!?*

Chapter 1422: So This is So

I've heard that ever since Shangguan Yue became the princess consort, she has been in Jishen Palace. After Rong Xiu went to Ling Xiao Academy, Shangguan Yue focused on her cultivation and didn't really come out. However, who knows if that person is really there?

In actual fact, Jiang Zhiyuan had never dispelled her doubts. She wanted to go over to find out about it, but it was a pity that she could only station herself at Wan Zhong Mountain and not leave.

With the barrier right outside Suming Peak blocking everything, one couldn't even see the situation inside clearly.

Jiang Zhiyuan looked over for a while and relaxed her straight body in disappointment. She was rather frustrated.

With the crowd watching her, she couldn't go check on it personally. If she wanted to know the truth, she had to find someone else to go over and see what was going on.

Jishen Palace was Rong Xiu's bedroom, and it was always guarded strictly. Even the venerables had to submit a request and gain Rong Xiu's approval before entering, let alone the others.

This was especially so after she suddenly trespassed and caused Rong Xiu to rage, where he harshly punished the guards for letting her in.

One just had to think to know that it would be as hard as ascending the heavens if they wanted to go over.

Jiang Zhiyuan thought to herself. *I have to find a suitable person...*

...

Jiang Zhiyuan's arrival had caused an average commotion in the Sky-Cloud Empire.

The incident of her being expelled from Ling Xiao Academy had spread far and wide in the God Residence Realm. Her reputation could be considered completely tarnished, and she seemed to have offended the Liang family, which had much trouble with her.

Everyone knew clearly that accepting the current Jiang Zhiyuan again would only harm the Sky-Cloud Empire with no benefits. Yet, she still came in and really went to Wan Zhong Mountain to wait for the clan leader to come out of seclusion.

Not only did the subordinates not understand, but even many important characters in the Sky-Cloud Empire didn't know why 36 Respected Elder Ming and Respected Elder Yu Jing had let her in.

As it implicated the clan leader's token, the two venerables didn't announce much to the public. Hence, after much thinking, the crowd felt that the Sky-Cloud Empire was only willing to do this in consideration of how Fairy Water Mound's Jiang family had been loyal to the Sky-Cloud Empire for so many years.

However, the Sky-Cloud Empire was a top-tier aristocratic family after all, so they didn't take much of this to heart. In another two days, the popularity of this incident had slowly faded away, and almost nobody talked about it again.

Jiang Zhiyuan quietly waited at Wan Zhong Mountain as if she were hidden.

...

Red Moon Desert.

In the night sky, the blood-red moon hung in mid-air. The bright moonlight shone on the ground and covered everything in a faint layer of crimson.

It was completely silent in the wide desert.

Behind a sand ball, Mu Hongyu was sitting down cross-legged.

Every night, the Red Moon Desert was always very cold. Even if it looked no different from the day, the temperature difference was great, and it was chilling to the bones.

Mu Hongyu closed her eyes tightly, and there was a layer of frost on her body and face. Luckily, the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force kept entering her body, causing her aura to continuously strengthen.

The rushing force warmed her body up, which coincidentally helped her fight the frost.

After staying in the Red Moon Desert for so many months, she could already find this balance perfectly.

Time slowly trickled by in a peaceful and quiet manner.

Under a nearby lake, it was a completely different scene. Within the dark and gloomy cage, the crimson moonlight shone in at some point.

The intersecting and overlapping rays of light seemed like frost that had just met fire as they rapidly melted. In ten minutes, these light rays disappeared without a trace.

When the last ray of light pierced through his body and disappeared, Lan Xiao finally couldn't hold on any longer as he fell toward the side.

Dugu Mobao and Diwu Zhangze—who had been waiting for a long time at the side—immediately rushed forward.

Whir!

With a flick of Dugu Mobao's finger, a purple ray of light flew out and formed a strange totem on the top of his head.

Lan Xiao's body was instantly wrapped in this demonic and distinguished purple color. His translucent apparition gradually started to become more corporeal, and his aura started becoming better.

But at this moment, the lines on the surrounding walls seemed to have felt something as they started to waver.

Diwu Zhangze stood at the side with his hands crossed, and he kept reciting something. His syllables were slurred as though he had come from a distant ancient time, sounding low sometimes and loud during other times.

This came with shocking strength and suppression!

Under the situation of this mysterious force, the surrounding noises started to slowly ease away.

That purple totem had also gradually lost its color at this moment and totally became transparent. Finally, it formed millions of sparks and merged with Lan Xiao's body.

After a long while, Lan Xiao finally opened his eyes slowly.

Seeing Dugu Mobao standing in front of him, he knitted his brows slightly. "...Big Baby? Why did you come back?"

Dugu Mobao squinted his eyes. "If I didn't come back, I wouldn't have seen you for the last time, right?"

"Pfft." Lan Xiao chuckled softly. Even though it was still slightly weak, it was much better than before. "Can't you speak nicely?"

He clearly did it out of concern, yet he spoke in such a harsh manner.

Lan Xiao lazily wiped his face. When he touched the frightening scar, he shook his head rather regretfully, sighed, and said, "It's a pity I have to live with this face for the next period of time..."

Thinking of this, he felt terrible and couldn't even sleep well during this period of time.

Diwu Zhangze's eyelids twitched. He held it in and didn't yell out loud. *He almost lost his life, yet he's only concerned about his skin?! If I knew that Lan Xiao would behave in this manner earlier on, I would've harshly beat him up.*

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Dugu Mobao coldly said, "If you don't want the other half of your face to rot, stay still obediently! It's enough if you do a dumb thing once. If you do it again—"

Lan Xiao nonchalantly waved his hands. "Aiya, what does that count for? Am I not doing fine here?"

As he spoke, he couldn't help but glance at Dugu Mobao and smile boldly. "However, I don't have much hope in you speaking properly. In this world, only Yue'er Girlie can handle you."

Speaking of this, his voice became much softer and had a few hints of silent insolence. "Oh right, where is she?"

Speaking of this, Lan Xiao looked around. "She didn't come back with you?"

Dugu Mobao coldly said, "She's at Fengmin Mountain."

Lan Xiao paused in his actions and had an incredulous expression. "That place... Forget it; let's not talk about her first. As for you, why did you suddenly fight with others?"

Even though Lan Xiao's tone was as relaxed as normal, his eyes looked more serious. *With their current situation, Dugu Mobao should definitely know what kind of trouble taking action in the God Residence Realm would bring. This is also the reason why I risked my life to reform my Holy Body after knowing of this incident.*

Dugu Mobao kept quiet for a moment and briefly narrated the incidents that happened in the Flood-Desert Northern Region.

After a temporary silence, Lan Xiao touched the corner of his eyes and sighed in a seemingly smiling manner. "So Ling Xiao Academy was implicated. It's no wonder you behaved in that manner."

Chapter 1423: Give

Dugu Mobao looked down slightly, and his long and thick lashes cast a faint shadow below his eyes, causing one to be unable to see his emotions.

Diwu Zhangze could not help but sigh. "Since this has already happened, there's no use if you say anything else. Let's think of how to handle the remainder of the situation. Big Baby, have you already sealed the news?"

Dugu Mobao nodded. "Within a short period of time, there shouldn't be any problem."

“One can never be too careful.” Diwu Zhangze thought carefully for a moment and said rather hesitantly, “For safety precautions, it’s better if you continue staying at the Red Moon Desert. For the God Residence Realm’s side, don’t go back first.”

Dugu Mobao knitted his brows slightly. “Then, Girlie Yue’er—”

“Didn’t you say just now that Rong Xiu is there? With him looking after her, you can relax.”

It was rare for Diwu Zhangze to be so insistent. Normally, Dugu Mobao was the core of their trio, and most decisions were made by him. Occasionally, Lan Xiao would chip in a little.

Diwu Zhangze was the neutral one that papered something over.

But now that Dugu Mobao had taken action in the God Residence Realm, those people would definitely discover it and investigate it. Additionally, Lan Xiao was also severely injured, and he couldn’t fight.

At this point in time, he naturally had to stand up.

Dugu Mobao didn’t say a word.

He naturally knew that this was the best way in the current situation, but... He still couldn’t relax regarding Yue’er Girlie’s side.

“Originally, I wanted you to bring Hongyu to the God Residence Realm. Now, it seems like I have to think of another way.” Diwu Zhangze stroked his beard.

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After interacting with her during this period of time, he liked Mu Hongyu very much. Even though this girl wasn’t old, her personality was active and very determined. No matter how much she suffered, she would never say that she was tired.

With her personality, her future would definitely be bright.

“If she goes to Ling Xiao Academy, she can be a good partner with Yue’er Girlie.”

Dugu Mobao paused for a moment. “I’ll send her there.”

...

The night sky slowly faded away, and a spark of golden appeared in the skies.

Mu Hongyu slowly opened her eyes. Her surrounding frost melted rapidly, and the temperature started to rise again.

The sky slowly turned bright. Everything was the same as before.

She stood up and stretched lazily. The next moment, her figure instantly disappeared from the ground.

Whoosh!

On a sand ball in another part of the Red Moon Desert, a black crack appeared in the air.

A thin and tall figure flashed and appeared within—it was Mu Hongyu!

"It seems like I'm not too far from teleporting 50,000 meters..." She smiled. *Senior Diwu said that once I broke through and reached the Apotheosis Realm, my abilities would be greatly strengthened. I wonder when that day will come...?*

"Hongyu." A low and familiar voice sounded.

Mu Hongyu was stunned and looked over.

There was nobody in front of her, but the yellow sand started flowing slowly.

"Senior Diwu?" Mu Hongyu was rather confused. *Is this another test??*

"Today, I'll send you to the God Residence Realm's Ling Xiao Academy. When you're there, you can directly take the admission test. Yue'er Girlie will be there."

"Really?" Mu Hongyu was surprised and elated. *I have waited too long for this day!?*

A ray of light flew over.

Mu Hongyu hurriedly caught it with both hands. She looked at it and then realized it was a palm-sized jade box.

She hesitated for a moment before opening the jade box.

A roll of paper was lying inside quietly.

"This is the map to Ling Xiao Academy. After you go there, just follow the directions on it."

Mu Hongyu wanted to pick that roll of paper up, but after she approached it, she felt a strong suppression!

"There's a layer of barrier on it. It will automatically open when you reach the God Residence Realm," explained Diwu Zhangze.

Mu Hongyu nodded continuously and glanced at it curiously before she carefully put away the box. At this point, she then realized that the yellow sand in front of her had formed a huge Xuan formation!

A thick, cold, and strong aura slowly exuded from within!

Mu Hongyu was stunned.

"Hongyu, go on."

Mu Hongyu nodded and walked over step by step.

The moment she stepped on the special Xuan formation, she immediately felt that she was wrapped by some force. But luckily, this force seemed to be controlled, so it didn't affect her greatly.

She walked to the middle, and a spark of light suddenly reflected in her eyes.

She squinted her eyes, looked over, and then realized that there was a tiny purple scale in the middle of the Xuan formation below her feet.

At first glance, it was very ordinary. Only after approaching it could one feel that the purple was very pure. Under the reflection of the sunlight, it revealed a charming brilliance.

This gigantic Xuan formation seemed to be controlled by this scale.

“Oh right, Yue’er Girlie has changed to another identity in Ling Xiao Academy; she’s called Chu Yue. You’ll know when you get there,” reminded Diwu Zhangze.

Mu Hongyu was rather surprised, but she still nodded seriously. “I understand.”

Whir!

The next moment, purple light suddenly exploded from that scale and wrapped Mu Hongyu!

The Xuan formation had a heavy sense of suppression! Very quickly, the surroundings started to collapse!

The wind howled crazily!

Mu Hongyu’s figure rapidly disappeared!

...

Ling Xiao Academy.

After those people left, the academy seemed to have regained its usual peace. As if everyone had made an agreement, nobody brought that incident up anymore.

They didn’t even talk much about everything that happened in the Flood-Desert Northern Region.

When Yan Qing reached the academy, he felt that the atmosphere here seemed different from before. He guessed that it should be related to recent events.

After all, such a huge commotion was made, and almost the entire God Residence Realm knew about it.

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He didn’t ask further. After stating his intentions to the elder standing guard at the barrier, he looked down and waited at the side.

All the elders basically knew that Yan Qing was Rong Xiu’s confidant, so their attitude was very polite.

In no time, someone reported to let Yan Qing in. The person in charge of bringing him in was a student from the academy, and he was brought directly to Jiuheng Peak.

“According to the rules, outsiders can’t stay in the academy for more than a day. Please—” That student was very courteous toward Yan Qing.

Yan Qing immediately said, “I know all of this. Don’t worry; I’ll leave immediately after I’m done.”

That student heaved a sigh of relief. “Then, I won’t disturb you further. Go ahead—”

It was very hard for people not from Ling Xiao Academy to enter. But with Rong Xiu around, it was smoother for Yan Qing.

After that student left, Yan Qing looked toward Jiuheng Peak in front. Just as he was about to speak, the barrier before him opened slowly.

Yan Qing flew in without hesitation.

After coming in, Yan Qing saw Rong Xiu playing chess in the room.

He immediately kneeled down and greeted, "Greetings, Your Highness!"

Chapter 1424: Collusion

"Get up." Rong Xiu placed a piece down and turned around to glance at him. "Have you brought the items?"

Yan Qing stood up and hurriedly said, "Yes. According to your instructions, I prepared an extra portion."

As he spoke, he presented a Cosmic Ring with both hands. "Don't worry. The materials used were the ones you picked earlier."

Rong Xiu lifted his long fingers, and the Cosmic Ring flew into his hand. After looking into it and briefly checking, he then nodded slightly. *When she comes out of Fengmin Mountain, she can wear these clothes. But...?*

"Yan Qing, you're a day later than expected. Were you delayed by something?" Rong Xiu put away the ring and asked lightly.

Yan Qing held in his breath to focus and cupped his fists. "Your Highness, I discovered that there are strange movements at Fairy Water Mound, so I specifically sent people there to investigate. I was late because I was waiting for their news to come back."

Faint light flashed across Rong Xiu's phoenix-like eyes. "Start talking."

Yan Qing paused for a moment, looked at Rong Xiu. and said every word carefully, "I discovered that Fairy Water Mound's Jiang Hetian seems to be contacting a person from outside the God Residence Realm quite frequently."

"Outside the God Residence Realm?" Rong Xiu raised his brows.

"Yes. According to my investigations, that person from outside the God Residence Realm seems to be..." Yan Qing hesitated for a moment and continued, "It seems to be Taiyu Dynasty's Dantai Chen!"

Dantai Chen?? Rong Xiu had heard of this name before.

He paused for a moment and suddenly laughed nonchalantly. "So it's him."

Even though he was laughing, his tone was cold and thin.

.....

Yan Qing recalled Dantai Chen. Back then, Jun Jiuqing had set up a scheme that gathered a few dynasties, including the Tianling Dynasty, at Beiming. Among those people was Dantai Chen as well.

And at that time, a grudge appeared between him and Chu Liuyue. According to some of the clues he investigated, his precious daughter, Dantai Ruoli, also died in Chu Liuyue's hands at that time.

Even though he had no evidence to prove this, Dantai Chen had great enmity toward Chu Liuyue, so he insisted on this from the start.

It wasn't a day or two that he wanted to take revenge.

"I don't know how he managed to contact Fairy Water Mound. During this one month, they keep exchanging messages frequently. Perhaps they're discussing something." Yan Qing knitted his brows slightly. Murderous intent surfaced on his harsh appearance that was like an ice mountain. "Your Highness, do you want me to—"

He made a 'kill' gesture.

There wasn't much to consider about a mere Taiyu Dynasty emperor. He could just directly kill him!

Rong Xiu raised his palm and raised his brows slightly, looking rather interested. "No hurry. I want to see exactly what Fairy Water Mound is planning."

Actually, upon deeper thought, it isn't strange that Dantai Chen can find Fairy Water Mound. Back when I announced Chu Liuyue's identity in the Sky-Cloud Empire, I used the name 'Shangguan Yue.' As long as one wants to investigate, it isn't hard to find out that she is from the Tianling Dynasty.?

One doesn't have to think to know what Dantai Chen wants, and he clearly has impure intentions in regards to getting close to Fairy Water Mound. When these two parties come together...

"Dantai Chen wants to kill the Princess Consort. The people from Fairy Water Mound definitely know this, yet they still talk to him so closely. Their intentions..."

Yan Qing knitted his brows, and his expression was solemn. *?The Jiang family is indeed crazy! Do they really intend on doing something to the Princess Consort?! They have to know that the Princess Consort is now their superior and that they are her subordinates! Such behavior is acting against their superiors! It is akin to reason!?*

However, Rong Xiu didn't seem to be enraged. A light curve flashed across his lips in a seemingly smiling manner. "Even without Dantai Chen, there will still be other people."

During the previous few years, Fairy Water Mound had always been the only biggest one out of the 28 divisions. Additionally, with the clan leader being biased toward them, it caused Fairy Water Mound to repeatedly forget their identity and want to be on par with the Sky-Cloud Empire.

Originally, everything was planned well. But now, the position of princess consort—which they had planned a long time for—had landed in someone else's hand. They had no more chances of going up the ranks, so they were naturally furious.

It could be possible that they resorted to desperate measures.

Hearing Rong Xiu say this, Yan Qing couldn't help but ask, "Your Highness, what do you plan on doing then? When I came out, Jiang Zhiyuan had already gone up Wan Zhong Mountain."

Yan Qing didn't know why 36 Respected Elder Ming allowed Jiang Zhiyuan to enter the Sky-Cloud Empire, but he believed there had to be a special reason. And that reason probably gave Jiang Zhiyuan the confidence and courage to run to the Sky-Cloud Empire for shelter at such times.

"Just let her stay there." Rong Xiu squeezed a chess piece from the chess bottle, touched it for a while in his hands, slightly smiled, and said, "The clan leader is about to come out of seclusion. If he can see her at first instance, he will definitely be elated."

Yan Qing was shocked and immediately looked up to see Rong Xiu's calm expression. "You're saying..."

But wasn't the clan leader...?

Piak!?

The chess piece landed on the chessboard with a crisp sound.

"Send people to watch Jiang Zhiyuan. Also, before I go back, nobody else is allowed to go to Wan Zhong Mountain." As he spoke, Rong Xiu waved his wrist.

A thin piece of paper flew to Yan Qing. He immediately held it with both hands.

That piece of paper was white without any words, but there was an extremely faint golden ray of light that covered it with a strong suppression that stunned others!

"If anyone dares to go against me, take my written edict and stop them no matter who they are! Kill them if you need to!"

Yan Qing's heart skipped a beat. "Yes!"

...

Yan Qing quickly came out of Jiuheng Peak.

He didn't continue staying in the academy and directly flew back to the barrier. After talking to the elder in charge, he rapidly left.

The entire process was swift and smooth, without any delays.

The crowd only thought that he came to Rong Xiu to report about some issues in the Sky-Cloud Empire, so they didn't take it to heart. After a few people talked about it in private, they forgot about this issue.

...

Fengmin Mountain.

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Within the pagoda, Chu Liuyue sat quietly cross-legged. After merging that holy force, her aura became much stronger.

As time trickled past, she got increasingly closer to that invisible barrier. She vaguely felt that she just had to lift her leg to step into a higher stage!

Within her dantian, that water droplet was as calm as before.

Force kept gathering from the surroundings like tidal waves that wrapped around her. It was as if it were waiting for an opportune time to completely overcome it!

The seal on that black pyramid was also flushed time and time again by the force, gradually loosening.

Faint rays of light seeped out from within, and that extremely familiar feeling kept intensifying. It seemed as if something would break out from within at any moment!

On the top floor, Elder Meng had sat back down on his seat.

At one moment, he suddenly opened his eyes and focused on the door in front of him. For some reason, he faintly felt that this door seemed to have strange movements.

He stood up, walked to the door, stretched out his hand, and placed it against the door.

It was slightly cold to the touch. Other than this, it was calm and peaceful.

I must've been overthinking...? Elder Meng retracted his thoughts, shook his head, and walked back, not wanting to think further.

Chapter 1425: Faint

After sending Jiang Zhiyuan to the Sky-Cloud Empire, Jiang Hetian directly returned to the Jiang Residence.

Perhaps with the Sky-Cloud Empire as their backer, some of the elders who wanted to interrogate the father-daughter duo all chose to sit back first.

Jiang Hetian superficially rejected all those who occasionally wanted to ask why exactly Jiang Zhiyuan was expelled from Ling Xiao Academy.

The matter about her betraying the mentor and academy naturally couldn't be said. If it were known... Even if Jiang Zhiyuan could hide in the Sky-Cloud Empire for this period of time, she would still be ridiculed when she came back in the future.

Jiang Hetian didn't want to see that. He had spent a lot of effort developing Jiang Zhiyuan over the years. How could he let all of that go to waste?

Hence, when he came back, he didn't relax and kept thinking of ways to solve the problem before him.

In the study.

After Jiang Hetian sat behind the desk, he flipped through the booklets and letters he didn't have the time to read during this period of time.

When he saw one of the letters, his gaze focused as he instinctively straightened his body and surveyed the surroundings.

After confirming that nobody would come in to disturb him, he carefully opened that letter.

A slightly yellowish rough letter was pulled out, and a faint bitter fragrance exuded from that letter.

Jiang Hetian retrieved a jade bottle from his Cosmic Ring. His fingers moved, and the seal immediately popped out.

A faint layer of white mist floated out.

Jiang Hetian picked up the letter and placed it on the mouth of the jade bottle, using the white mist to smoke it.

A few lines of words gradually appeared.

He stared at the letter closely and in much detail. Then, he tightly furrowed his thick brows and looked confused.

In no time, that letter suddenly burned on its own!

Rumble!

An orange fire rose and immediately swallowed that letter cleanly! It didn't even leave a trace of ash behind.

Other than the extremely faint burning smell lingering in the air, that letter didn't leave behind any traces.

However, Jiang Hetian fell into deep shock and thought. "Shangguan Yue... actually has such an experience..."

Previously, a man named Dantai Chen somehow sent a letter stating that he knew many things about the Sky-Cloud Empire's princess consort—Shangguan Yue.

Jiang Hetian was originally worried that the other party was scheming something. But in the letter, the other party directly stated that Shangguan Yue had killed his daughter and that they had a deep grudge between them. Yet, Shangguan Yue's status rose, and he couldn't handle her alone, so he found Fairy Water Mound and hoped that the two of them could cooperate.

Jiang Hetian always had a doubtful attitude toward this.

He originally wanted to ignore it, but he was terrified that he would really miss a chance to handle Shangguan Yue, so he secretly sent people to investigate. Later on, he realized that the other party was not lying.

He then believed it and replied to the other party, hoping that Dantai Chen could explain Shangguan Yue's matters in detail.

One had to know their enemies to win every battle.

The people he previously sent to investigate Shangguan Yue all disappeared without a trace. This caused him to have no understanding of Shangguan Yue until now.

Even though he didn't know how Dantai Chen found him, this wasn't important to Dantai Chen. He just wanted to know how to defeat Shangguan Yue!

However, Dantai Chen had his own motives as well. Every time he sent a letter, he would write about some matters regarding Shangguan Yue, but he wouldn't reveal them completely, causing Jiang Hetian to be so anxious and nerve-wracked.

If the two parties hadn't initially agreed not to make contact in real life to prevent causing unnecessary trouble, he would definitely not hold back and go up to him.

Even though there weren't many words in the letter, it contained rich information! That was because it clearly stated that after Shangguan Yue was 'harmed and died' because of that person, she didn't truly die.

She used another identity to go back to the Tianling Dynasty—Chu Liuyue! And this Chu Liuyue's birthplace was precisely Country Yao Chen!

That was also Rong Xiu's birthplace!

It was a pity that the letter didn't explain how Shangguan Yue became Chu Liuyue.

Was it stealing one's soul, or...

Additionally, regarding 'Chu Liuyue's' everything, Dantai Chen said that he had once sent people to investigate but could only find very superficial items.

He couldn't find out anything more.

Jiang Hetian was the same as well.

There faintly seemed to be a pair of invisible hands that protected Shangguan Yue tightly. No matter what, one couldn't find out anything about her.

"Could His Grace be involved in what happened to Shangguan Yue back then..."

If not, I really can't figure out why Shangguan Yue went back with Chu Liuyue's identity. If Rong Xiu really knew of all of this before, then... Does that not prove that he already loved Shangguan Yue from an even earlier period of time? However, this was never heard of before... Jiang Hetian slowly leaned back against his chair, fell into deep thought, and didn't talk for a long time.

How many secrets does Shangguan Yue have? He thought to himself and was hesitant about Dantai Chen's last suggestion. If I really do it, and someone finds out, then—

After some time, his expression changed. As if he had made a huge decision, he picked up the brush beside him, spread the paper, and started on his reply.

...

Fengmin Mountain inside Ling Xiao Academy.

The outside seemed peaceful, yet Chu Liuyue faced a huge rush of force inside the pagoda! Heaven and Earth Force quickly gathered and formed a force vortex above her head!

She closed her eyes tightly, and her body was like a sponge that kept absorbing that force.

Detecting the commotion, Elder Meng had already come down from above and stood on the second floor, looking at her with shock in his eyes. “He’s actually... going to break through?!”

How long has this kid been here? Didn’t he just break through to become a stage-nine warrior at the Flood-Desert Northern Region? Why did he—

Hua!

Chu Liuyue heard the sound of the force in her body crashing like tidal waves.

Every inch of her bones—every part of her blood and muscles were rapidly strengthening! There seemed to be hot liquid coursing through her chest, wanting to spout out!

She gathered all her focus, accumulating all her force and rushing it toward the water droplet in her dantian! But at this moment, a crisp shatter was heard!

Her heart trembled. *My father is in trouble!*

At that moment, her mind was in a mess, and the tremendous force started rushing in all directions!

Excruciating pain was felt throughout her body, causing her to faint!

Shoo!

Her body shook, and she suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood! Then, she collapsed onto the floor!

The surrounding force was still torturing her body. Quickly, patches of blood could be seen.

Upon seeing this, Elder Meng widened his eyes and rushed down. “Chu Yue!”

Chapter 1426: Take Care

Elder Meng carefully helped Chu Liuyue up. He saw that her eyes were tightly shut, her face was pale, and there was blood on the corner of her lips. She looked very miserable and weak.

“Chu Yue? Chu Yue! How are you?” Elder Meng asked worriedly and anxiously, as he pressed Chu Liuyue’s wrist, and his old hands were placed on her pulse.

He wanted to separate out some force to see what was going on in her body when he suddenly felt a terrifying aura crazily rush out of Chu Liuyue’s body!

Rumble!

Elder Meng was stunned and immediately let go of Chu Liuyue’s hand.

Chu Liuyue’s wrist dropped down weakly.

Elder Meng panicked. *This kid met with a mishap when he was about to break through. All the force in his body has become chaotic and is barging around crazily! In such a short amount of time, it has caused quite a lot of damage to his body. If he can’t control it in time, I’m afraid—*

It is a small matter if he is injured. The key is that if this matter isn't handled well, it will very possibly hinder Chu Yue's future cultivation! That causes an even bigger headache!

"Chu Yue!"

The force in Chu Liuyue's body had already lost control. As an outsider, Elder Meng didn't dare to take action randomly, terrified that he would accidentally make matters worse. *In the current situation, I might cause secondary damage if I do it by force. The best way is to get Chu Yue to wake up as soon as possible and tidy his own aura! In this way, the damage will be lowered to the minimum!*

But no matter how he yelled, that young man was still unconscious and showed no signs of awakening.

As time passed, Chu Liuyue's surrounding force became crazier, and her aura was weakened yet again.

Just when Elder Meng was worried, an intense energy vortex was suddenly felt outside! He was shocked and looked up.

Even though he was within the pagoda, his consciousness wrapped around the entire Fengmin Mountain. Hence, he would instantly know whatever happened outside clearly.

After focusing for a moment, he widened his eyes slightly. "Rong Xiu? Why is he here?!"

Does he know that Chu Yue is in trouble? This thought quickly flashed across Elder Meng's mind. Then, he hurriedly raised his hand and wanted to open Fengmin Mountain's barrier.

Boom!

A loud sound was heard—Fengmin Mountain's barrier was directly slashed open by Rong Xiu!

Shock flashed across Elder Meng's eyes. *Since when did Rong Xiu become so strong that he could directly slash open Fengmin Mountain's barrier?*

Thump!

Without waiting for him to figure it out, the pagoda's door was forcefully opened from the outside!

A tall and large white figure walked in from outside with big steps—it was Rong Xiu!

The warm smile on his face had already disappeared without a trace, leaving behind harsh, cold intentions! It was as if a layer of ice was frozen, and it was chilling to the bone!

With just one glance, it made one's heart instinctively turn cold.

His speed was very fast, and he reached the hall in the blink of an eye.

The messy wind rolled up the corner of his sleeves, and they flew in the air.

Wherever he passed, there seemed to be cold wind hurling over!

"Rong Xiu—" Elder Meng opened his mouth and didn't know what to say at that moment.

"The situation is urgent, and I was forced to barge into Fengmin Mountain. Elder Meng, please forgive me." Rong Xiu's voice was low and cold. Even though he was talking to Elder Meng, his pair of deep, phoenix-like eyes were staring at Chu Liuyue.

There seemed to be ripples in the bottom of his eyes that could flip through everything at any moment!

Elder Meng was stumped and didn't know what to say. *It is really rare to see Rong Xiu in this manner. Is he... worried about Chu Yue?*

Just when he was thinking, Rong Xiu had already walked over. He rolled up his sleeves and kneeled down on one knee as he naturally stretched his hand over.

Elder Meng was dazed for a moment and instinctively passed Chu Yue over.

Rong Xiu carefully hugged her, with one hand on her back and the other encircling her waist, holding her hand tightly.

“Don't—” Elder Meng wanted to remind Rong Xiu that Chu Yue's current situation was extremely terrible and that one couldn't forcefully do it from outside. But the next moment, he shockingly realized that the unreasonable force around Chu Yue started to retract themselves rapidly after they met Rong Xiu.

The few rays of faint golden light escaped from the duo's tightly interlocked hands—bright, gentle, and strong!

Rong Xiu silently absorbed this force and later chose an opportune time to insert his own.

The violent and unreasonable force in Chu Liuyue's body was originally wavering, but once it met Rong Xiu, it didn't retaliate intensely and instead obediently accepted his aura. In this manner, Rong Xiu helped to tidy Chu Liuyue's force bit by bit until her breathing became stable.

At the side, Elder Meng watched as his mouth became agape. *T-this... What kind of situation is this?! Why did I meet so many obstacles when I wanted to help, but it was this successful when Rong Xiu helped?!*

But seeing that Chu Liuyue's face looked better, he heaved a sigh of relief in his heart. *He was cultivating in seclusion in my place. If something happened, how should I explain it when I go out? I have guarded Fengmin Mountain for so many years, but I haven't seen such a situation.*

The chaotic aura in Chu Liuyue's body finally calmed down. Only the blood on her body and the corner of her mouth reminded them that she had just been in a perilous situation.

Rong Xiu carried her up and looked at Elder Meng. “Elder Meng, she needs to recuperate now. May I know if we can go up?”

In the entire pagoda, every floor had a different meaning, and the requirements to go in varied greatly. The key was other than the first floor, each floor had its respective barriers, and they wouldn't easily open.

Only Elder Meng controlled all the barriers, and he was the only one who had the right to open the barriers to let people up.

The first floor was now filled with chaotic force, and there was debris everywhere, so it was really not suitable to stay there any longer.

They had to find another place.

Elder Meng was dazed for a moment and immediately said, "Okay, okay! There's a thousand-year cold jade bed on the second floor that can help him heal his body."

At this point, he didn't care if he could do it. It was more important to save the person.

Rong Xiu nodded. "Thank you, Elder Meng."

Elder Meng glanced at the person in his arms, shook his head, and sighed. "What's going on..."

As he spoke, he turned around and hastened his steps to go up the stairs.

He lightly flicked the ashes on his hand.

The barrier to the second floor was opened!

"Quickly come up! Elder Meng stood upstairs and waved toward Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu hugged Chu Liuyue even tighter and walked up.

...

The space on the second floor seemed much smaller than the first, but it was probably because Elder Meng didn't open up some of the areas. However, all of this wasn't important to Rong Xiu now.

He followed Elder Meng and went to the thousand-year cold jade bed.

It was a dark-green jade bed and was crystal clear. A strange symbol was even engraved on it mysteriously.

Rong Xiu carefully placed the person down, and his actions were overly gentle. He then took out a pill bottle and gave it to Chu Liuyue before taking the jade pillow over to support her head so that she could maintain her stable breathing. Finally, he even took out a snow-white handkerchief to carefully wipe away the bloodstains on the corner of her mouth.

Elder Meng watched on from the side and increasingly felt something amiss. *Hiss—why does Rong Xiu look like he has taken care of Chu Yue meticulously many times?*

Chapter 1427: Punishment

Elder Meng found it strange.

Actually, it was normal for him to have such doubts.

Who was Rong Xiu? The Sky-Cloud Empire's His Grace!

He was above tens of thousands of people and held great power. He was extremely distinguished!

Even in the God Residence Realm, where many top-tier aristocratic families were strongly established and where strong warriors were like the clouds, he was also a top elite.

Such a person could determine one's life and death with a word. If he stomped his feet, the entire God Residence Realm would shake.

Previously, he was rather restrained in the academy. At most, his personality was cold, and it was hard for normal people to approach him as they felt distant from him.

But after leaving the academy, he changed at a shocking speed. He controlled the entire Sky-Cloud Empire and unified its factions. He held great power and was extremely strong and domineering!

All these years, many people had died in his hands.

His famous reputation was mostly built on the blood and corpses of his previous enemies!

Such a person could rule the world and control the weather. He was basked in a holy light that made people admire him.

And not, and not... Elder Meng looked at the scene before him and couldn't find a suitable phrase to describe it. *How should I put it? Rong Xiu seems to have become another person in front of Chu Yue. He has great patience and gentleness, completely different from the rumored violent, harsh, and decisive ruler.*

Elder Meng recalled how Rong Xiu previously barged in and held Chu Yue in his arms. *It was so natural and smooth. He didn't even care that he had to get down on one knee. In this world, who could make Rong Xiu kneel without any consideration and hesitation? And he did this just so that he could take better care of Chu Yue and not tear his wound.*

The more Elder Meng thought about it, the more shocked he was. His heart rapidly beat, and countless thoughts flashed across his mind.

He knew that the two of them had a good relationship, and from what Rong Xiu said, Chu Yue was most likely his younger brother. However... he never expected Rong Xiu to do so much for Chu Yue.

The even more shocking thing was that Rong Xiu's behavior looked rather strange on its own. But when the scene was both of them leaning together, it was weirdly harmonious.

There seemed to be natural chemistry between them. Invisibly, there seemed to be a magical current that surrounded the duo and separated them from the rest.

In that special realm, there were only the two of them. Nobody else could enter, and getting close was extremely hard.

Such a feeling was difficult to describe, but it was very strong.

Elder Meng watched for a while longer and couldn't help but mutter in his heart. *It isn't that I've never seen biological brothers before, but there don't seem to be many who are on such good terms...*

At this point, Rong Xiu had already put away the handkerchief stained with blood and switched to a new one as he carefully wiped the blood on Chu Liuyue's finger.

Previously, the force in her body barged around too ferociously, causing quite a few wounds on her body. Luckily, most of these were tiny wounds and weren't serious. She could quickly recover after resting for a period of time.

The corner of Elder Meng's eyes harshly twitched as he hurriedly averted his gaze. Even though he had already mentally prepared himself, he still couldn't accept seeing how Rong Xiu focused on taking care of Chu Yue seriously.

"Rong Xiu, how is Chu Yue's condition?" Elder Meng was previously afraid that forcefully helping would harm Chu Yue again, so he didn't even take the latter's pulse properly.

As Rong Xiu cleaned the wound on Chu Liuyue's hand, he said, "You don't have to be too worried. Even though she's injured, it's not fatal. As long as she recuperates properly, she can recover back to normal."

Elder Meng then heaved a sigh of relief. "That's great; that's great..."

Suddenly, he seemed to have recalled something and asked rather worriedly, "Oh right, even though this thousand-year cold jade bed can nourish her body, this isn't the best recuperation spot. Do you want to—"

Fengmin Mountain had a special status. To most students, this was a place of punishment.

No matter the density and purity of the force or other aspects, it actually paled in comparison to many other places outside.

Rong Xiu paused. "Thank you for your care, Elder Meng. However... this place is great. Besides, she has just been injured, and the situation is urgent, so she should just rest nearby. If she goes out now, someone might see her, and unnecessary trouble will be caused again."

Elder Meng thought deeply and felt that it made sense, so he nodded. "Then, you can stay here and take good care of him. I—ahem, I'll go fix the door and the barrier."

Previously, Rong Xiu barged in directly, so the door and the barrier probably had to be fixed.

Rong Xiu's thin lips moved. "Sorry for the trouble, Elder Meng."

"It's nothing, nothing. I was also taken aback by what happened to Chu Yue back then..." As Elder Meng spoke, he glanced at Chu Liuyue lying on the bed again.

Seeing that color had returned to her face slightly and that she wasn't as pale and disheveled as before, his heart eased slowly.

After saying a few sentences, Elder Meng turned around to leave.

Rong Xiu and Chu Liuyue were quickly left behind.

Rong Xiu looked down, and pain quickly flashed across his eyes. *Once I detected that something was amiss, I hurriedly rushed over. However, I didn't expect that I was still a step too late. Judging from her previous pulse, it should be because her mind was suddenly messed up when she tried breaking through to become an intermediate stage-nine warrior, which caused her force to smash against each other and*

fail. Additionally, the uncontrolled force crazily swarmed around and caused quite severe damage to her body.

However, she has always been determined. I wonder what exactly happened that caused her to be in this situation, especially at such a crucial juncture... It is a small matter to fail her breakthrough, but if it affects her cultivation...

Intense murderous intentions gathered in his eyes! *Someone must've used some tricks behind this!*

"Father..." Right at this moment, a soft moan filled with pain and struggle escaped from Chu Liuyue's mouth. Her brows were still tightly shut, and her eyes were closed as her expression was anxious and worried.

It was as though a ray of white light flashed across Rong Xiu's heart! *It was because of Chu Ning!*

...

Thousands of miles away, in a black deserted land without boundaries.

The pencil-gray sky was gloomy.

Weed filled the deserted land, and a stream curved around on the cold ground. A few black crows occasionally flew across the sky, letting out creepy shrieks.

A figure was walking on this deserted land. His clothes were torn and tattered, and he had a disheveled appearance. When he walked, one could see quite a few badly mangled wounds on his body.

He lowered his head slightly and quietly walked on step by step.

His hands and legs were locked up with black chains as they severely locked his freedom.

At some point, he suddenly stepped on something sharp, and intense, excruciating pain attacked him. He stumbled backward and fell onto the ground.

Thump!

A low sound was heard.

Sharp pain enveloped him.

He breathed heavily, and his dried and cracked lips trembled slightly as he spat out a few words with much difficulty. "...Y-Yue'er..."

Chapter 1428: Examination

That person was Chu Ning, who had disappeared for a long time.

He struggled to get up, but it was a pity that his strength seemed to be exhausted. He only managed to get up forcefully after trying a few times.

His hands and knees were covered in quite a bit of soil, but with his currently disheveled appearance, this did not count for much.

He straightened his body with much difficulty and breathed. As a result of this series of actions, his face became even paler, and there seemed to be a sharp pain circling in his chest, almost shredding his organs!

A few of his bones were broken, and he was overly exhausted. Now, he was just relying on his stubborn willpower to continue walking forward.

He lowered his head to take a look. There was a broken and sharp white bone on the dried grass.

Half of it was stuck in the ground, and the other half was hidden in the grass. As he didn't see it previously, he stepped right onto it.

Someone's corpse was just left here.

Chu Ning retracted his gaze and continued walking forward. The chains on his arms and legs seemed heavier as they suppressed him, and he couldn't breathe.

Every step he took seemed to be walking on the tip of a sword.

Everything on his body was either lost or damaged. Only his tortured body was living like a zombie.

He didn't know how he came to this place, and he couldn't recall how long he had been here. The only thing he could do was walk forward continuously, hoping that he could leave this place one day.

Chu Ning swallowed the bloody taste in his mouth and clenched his teeth tightly. *I... can never die! Yue'er is still waiting for me!*

...

Ling Xiao Academy.

Fengmin Mountain.

On the first floor, after Elder Meng repaired the barrier and the main entrance, he couldn't help but turn back, shake his head, and sigh. *Luckily, basically nobody comes to Fengmin Mountain, and very few people appear in the vicinity. If not, the commotion that Rong Xiu previously caused would... If word got out, many people would be shocked until their jaws dropped.*

Elder Meng flicked the dust away and stroked his beard, planning on going up to take a look. Suddenly, a strange commotion came from the six doors.

He knitted his brows and focused on the six doors floating in midair!

On the surface, these doors looked exactly the same as they normally would. However, Elder Meng had guarded this place for many years and was very familiar with everything. He could confirm that it was not an illusion!

He walked nearer to the six doors and meticulously examined them for a while. However, that ripple didn't appear again.

Everything was normal.

Elder Meng knitted his brows. *For some reason, these few doors seem amiss lately...*

Thinking of this, his heart skipped a beat, and he hurriedly went upstairs!

When he passed by the second floor, he stopped in his tracks and said to Rong Xiu, “Rong Xiu, take good care of him. You can tell me if anything happens!”

Rong Xiu lightly nodded. “Thank you, Elder Meng.”

Then, Elder Meng rode on the dust and continued going upward. His steps seemed hurried.

Rong Xiu squinted his phoenix-like eyes slightly. Then, he got up and walked a few steps forward.

Standing by the stairs, he looked down.

There should’ve been seven doors there, but only six were left.

His hand gently held the pole, and his slender and white fingers knocked against it twice before he looked up.

The stairs in the middle of the pagoda spiraled all the way up.

Looking up from here, the stairs of every floor intersected and formed a disciplined and illusionary image.

Elder Meng’s figure quickly disappeared into the top floor.

Rong Xiu seemed calm, yet his phoenix-like eyes were so deep that one couldn’t see the bottom of them, causing one to be unable to see through him.

The location of the last door... seemed to be understood without speaking.

A soft sleepy voice came from behind.

Rong Xiu looked over and tightly held the pole as veins vaguely appeared on the back of his hand. *Her failing to break through at such an important juncture will definitely cause some harm to her. But luckily, she failed when she tried to break through to become an intermediate stage-nine warrior—this can still be handled.*

If something happened when she broke through into the Apotheosis Realm... Rong Xiu’s eyes turned dark.

After a moment, he took out something from the Cosmic Ring. Then, he lightly extended his fingers, and a layer of faintly golden dust scattered in the air.

...

Outside Fangzhou City.

In the deserted land of a hidden place, the air rumbled. Following a ray of purple light, a tall and slender figure walked out from the dark space!

It was a young lady dressed in red. Her skin presented a healthy malt color, but it didn’t hide the youthfulness in her almond-like eyes.

“Hu... I’m finally here!” She lightly exhaled. *I felt like I was in the transportation formation for ages... But luckily the process was very stable, or perhaps because that person was too strong, so I didn’t feel any aftereffects at all.*

“Did he directly create a transportation formation...” She smacked her lips and guessed with some uncertainty, feeling even more shocked.

She wondered about the extent of that person’s strength...

A slight breeze attacked her and blew her hair, causing it to stick to her face and tickle her slightly.

Mu Hongyu pushed the loose strands of hair behind her ear and looked up.

A large and magnificent city lake was not far away! It was like a gigantic fiend with a shocking aura!

That should be Fangzhou City, right? Mu Hongyu took a deep breath in and clenched her fists to give herself courage before walking over.

...

Fangzhou City had no door, so everyone came in and out very freely.

Mu Hongyu walked over curiously, but after walking on the streets for a while, she realized that the situation seemed slightly different from what she had expected.

There didn’t seem to be as many people as she had predicted here. There were only a few pockets of people on the road, and it definitely was not considered crowded.

Didn’t they say that one has to pass by Fangzhou City to get into Ling Xiao Academy? As the top academy in the God Residence Realm, there should be countless cultivators rushing toward this place in hopes of getting a chance to cultivate, right? But now, why...

Mu Hongyu walked for a while and asked a passerby.

Before she came, Diwu Zhangze had already told her many things. Hence, she knew that after she came, she just had to find Ling Xiao Academy’s assessment venue directly and go through with the assessment.

Hearing that she was asking about Ling Xiao Academy, the other party guided her rather heartily. However, he looked at Mu Hongyu with a slightly strange gaze.

Mu Hongyu found it weird and touched her own face. “Big Brother, is there something wrong with me?”

The other party shook his head. “Hehe. Miss, it’s your first time here, right?”

Mu Hongyu nodded.

“Do you know what has happened to Ling Xiao Academy lately?”

Mu Hongyu shook her head.

“That explains it...” That man raised his chin and lowered his voice. “You don’t know, but previously, quite a few top-tier aristocratic families came to Fangzhou City together to go against Ling Xiao Academy! Even though the two parties didn’t fight in the end... there must be something that caused

them to do such a thing publicly! Now, many people want to silently observe the situation just in case they get into trouble. It has been more than half a month since anyone went to participate in Ling Xiao Academy's admission examination in Fangzhou City!"

Chapter 1429: Old Acquaintances

Ling Xiao Academy was powerful, but those aristocratic families weren't to be trifled with! If they really made an alliance, Ling Xiao Academy might not be their match!

At times like this, it was normal for people to be very careful. Only people like this lady who came from outside and didn't have much background would still be in the dark and want to go to Ling Xiao Academy with all their hearts!

"I see..." Mu Hongyu nodded thoughtfully. *It is no wonder I felt that the atmosphere here was weird after I came. So this had happened beforehand? However, this won't affect my decision.?*

"Thank you, Big Brother." She smiled brightly and sincerely bowed to the other party. He reminded her kindly, so she had to thank him.

"But I have a friend who's also in Ling Xiao Academy, so I have to go over and find her!"

"Hey, this kid—" On the opposite side, the big brother saw that she wasn't convinced and wanted to try again. But meeting the lady's bright smile, he couldn't finish his remaining words.

Suddenly, he chuckled. "Heh. Miss, the friend you're in such a hurry to find is a young man, right?"

Mu Hongyu wanted to say it wasn't, but an idea popped up in her mind, and she recalled that Diwu Zhangze had mentioned that Liuyue used another identity to go to Ling Xiao Academy. Hence, she nodded. "Yeap!"

The other party smiled in understanding and didn't ask further. "Okay, hurry over then! If you're any later, you won't make it in time for the assessment, and you will have to wait for tomorrow!"

Mu Hongyu thanked him again and ran in the direction the person pointed.

...

The person on duty today was Elder Wen Xi. He was still sitting in his usual spot as he leaned against the chair and looked very bored.

During this period of time, not many people came for the assessment. He was here every day and basically didn't have much to do, so he was very bored.

.....

He glanced at the sky. "Hm, I can go back in another hour..."

He wasn't very anxious about nobody coming for the assessment.

In actual fact, the entire Ling Xiao Academy didn't take this incident to heart.

Being able to be established in the God Residence Realm for so many years and not fall after weathering so many ordeals, Ling Xiao Academy naturally had its own strengths and foundation. They wouldn't be affected in such a short amount of time.

At this point, a young woman walked over. "Hello, Senior. May I know if this is where Ling Xiao Academy's assessment is held?"

Her voice was crisp, and it lightened one's mood instantly.

Elder Wen Xi looked up. It was a lively and charming young woman bubbling with energy.

Elder Wen Xi looked left and right and couldn't help but laugh. "Yes. Do you want to enroll into Ling Xiao Academy?"

Mu Hongyu nodded forcefully.

Elder Wen Xi's gaze was fiery, and he could tell at one glance that Mu Hongyu was definitely not from a top-tier aristocratic family—not even a third-tier one. However, she was magnanimous, well-mannered, and cultured. She wasn't much different from the descendants of those aristocratic families.

A young lady coming here alone proved that she had guts.

Elder Wen Xi had a good impression of her and straightened his body. "What do you want to be assessed on?"

Mu Hongyu said, "Warrior!"

Her physique was special. To be more specific, it didn't belong to any of the three cultivation aspects—heavenly doctor, warrior, or Xuan Master. But if she had to choose one, she would be considered a warrior.

After all, she was indeed a stage-nine warrior now.

Elder Wen Xi nodded. "Okay! You don't look too old. As long as you're at least a stage-nine warrior, you can be admitted."

Mu Hongyu walked over and placed her hand on the black jade. Before she moved, she suddenly thought of something and couldn't help but raise her head to ask, "Elder, do you know Chu Yue?"

Chapter 1430: Is Everything Good?

"You know Chu Yue?" Elder Wen Xi was interested.

Chu Yue had been in Ling Xiao Academy for quite a few months, and his identity and background had always been a mystery. At the moment, everyone only knew he had an extraordinary relationship with Rong Xiu and that they were most likely brothers. However, they didn't get confirmation, and it was still a guess in the end.

It was rare to have someone who knew Chu Yue.

“We’re good friends!” Mu Hongyu pressed her lips against each other and smiled as her almond-like eyes shone.

“I see. What a coincidence—I was also stationed here when he had his entry assessment previously,” said Elder Wen Xi with a smile as he stroked his beard.

“Really?” Mu Hongyu’s eyes lit up. *It’s no wonder the other party had such a well-acquainted tone when he mentioned ‘Chu Yue.’ It turns out they had such a relationship!?*

“Come, give it a try! If you can successfully pass the assessment, you can go into the academy and meet him.” Elder Wen Xi’s initial impression of Mu Hongyu wasn’t bad. Now that he heard that she was good friends with Chu Yue, he naturally felt closer to her.

“Mm!” Mu Hongyu nodded and placed her hand on the black jade for assessment.

She held her breath in to focus. Her expression was serious as she carefully moved her force and inserted it in!

Whir!

A string of words gradually appeared!

“Seventeen years old, beginner stage-nine warrior!”

Elder Wen Xi widened his eyes slightly in shock and stared at that line of words for quite some time. It was only until that line of words gradually disappeared that he blinked and looked at Mu Hongyu with unconcealable praise. “Y-you’re just 17, and you’re already a stage-nine warrior?!”

.....

He knew that this lady shouldn’t be too old, but he did not expect her to be 17 only. *Oh right, Chu Yue should also be 17 now. With such talents, she is definitely considered outstanding in the entire Ling Xiao Academy! Could it be that all of Chu Yue’s friends are so strong??*

Mu Hongyu retracted her hand and looked at Elder Wen Xi expectantly and curiously. “Then... Elder, does this count as a pass?”

“Haha! Of course!” Elder Wen Xi was dazed for a moment and couldn’t help but laugh out loud. *If this isn’t considered a pass, many students in Ling Xiao Academy can be directly chased out!?*

As Elder Wen Xi laughed, he secretly thought that his luck was pretty decent. *There were Chu Yue and the rest initially, and now, a Mu Hongyu has come along. They are all?*

rare talents! This is especially so since many matters in the academy have been blown up recently, causing there to be very few cultivators coming for the admissions assessment in the recent half-month. Now that one has finally come, she is also very outstanding!

Tsk.?

This caused Elder Wen Xi’s originally depressed emotions—courtesy of the recent events—to become much better.

He immediately produced his black jade plaque.

A thought popped up in his mind, and a faint light quickly flashed across. Then, he passed it to Mu Hongyu. "Here. In the future, this is your pass to come in and out of the academy, and it's also a symbol of your identity here."

It's so simple and swift?? Mu Hongyu was also very surprised. She took the black jade plaque with both hands and flipped it around to take a closer look.

She cherished it more than ever. She knew that she could enter Ling Xiao Academy, but she didn't expect it to be so quick!

Touching the black jade plaque that was slightly cold, she still felt that it was a dream. *?So I'm directly enrolled into the top academy in the God Residence Realm??*

In actual fact, as she was close to Chu Liuyue, Mu Hongyu had always instinctively compared herself to Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue was known as a maniac. After being with such a maniac for so long, Mu Hongyu had become one herself, not to mention that her physique—which only appeared once in a thousand years—couldn't be compared with an average person.

Hence, even though she was already excellent, she never had such a clear and obvious recognition of herself. This caused her to have a pretty big misunderstanding of her own standards.

"Thank you, elder!" Mu Hongyu preciously touched the black jade plaque for a while before she put it away carefully.

Elder Wen Xi laughed and said, "Wait here first. I'll go back with you later on."

It was rare for such a student to come, and she even had great potential and talent. Of course, he had to bring her into the academy personally.

Mu Hongyu nodded obediently.

She walked two steps to the side, and just as she was about to sit at the position specified by Elder Wen Xi, she suddenly asked curiously, "Oh right, Elder, how has Chu Yue been doing in the academy recently?"

Elder Wen Xi's smile froze. He clenched his fists, brought one to his lips, and coughed. "F-fine... You'll know about it after going to the academy."

Seeing his reaction, Mu Hongyu was puzzled. *?It seems like she's not doing very well...?*

"Could it be that Chu Yue... got into trouble again?" asked Mu Hongyu tentatively. *?According to my understanding of Chu Liuyue, this should be the most plausible reason.?*

The corner of Elder Wen Xi's lips twitched. *?Again... It seems like that kid had this personality beforehand!?*

Actually, Mu Hongyu's question isn't wrong, but... It is even bigger trouble than expected!?Elder Wen Xi sighed in conflict. "Quite a few things have happened in the academy recently. You should've heard about them more or less, right?"

Mu Hongyu nodded.

"Chu Yue has some relation to these matters, but... His current situation is rather complicated and can't be explained in a word or two. You should ask him yourself when you go to the academy and see him."

Mu Hongyu was confused, but she could faintly feel that the situation was rather abnormal.

Her originally excited feelings became calmer. She acknowledged it and sensibly did not ask further.

...

Fengmin Mountain in Ling Xiao Academy.

When Elder Bo Yan reached here, the commotion at Fengmin Mountain had already calmed down. Fengmin Mountain had returned to normal, and it looked no different from before. However, his brows were still tightly knitted.

"Elder Meng." Elder Bo Yan cupped his fists and politely bowed toward the pagoda. Even if he currently controlled the entire academy, he still had to be respectful when he came here.

Elder Meng's seniority was much higher than his.

After a moment, a low and deep voice came. "Bo Yan, why did you come here today?"

Elder Bo Yan asked hesitantly, "Previously, I seem to have detected some strange movements here in Fengmin Mountain. What happened?"

It was fine if it were somewhere else, but this was Fengmin Mountain! With Elder Meng stationed here, such a commotion could still happen, which really shocked him.

He even directly abandoned all the matters he hadn't handled and came straight over.

Elder Meng's voice sounded rather calm. "It's just some small matter. I've already handled it; you don't have to worry."

Elder Bo Yan then heaved a sigh of relief. "That's good..."

"There's nothing much here. You can deal with your own matters," said Elder Meng lightly.

Elder Bo Yan nodded. Just as he was about to turn around and leave, he suddenly thought of something and turned back.

His gaze flickered hesitantly, and he purposely lowered his voice after some time to ask, "Elder Meng, the item that the girl left behind... Is everything okay with it?"