

The Doctor 221

Chapter 221: Chinese Trumpet Flower Fall

The bright red force exuded out of Chu Liuyue's body, wrapping around her like an intense fireball. The aura surrounding her had already reached its peak.

Chu Liuyue saw an invisible hand on top of the water droplet, and it stably engraved the second line.

Bang!

A tiny but clear sound reverberated throughout her mind.

Her body's internal and external injuries quickly got better, and the force in her dantian was even richer than before.

The next moment, Chu Liuyue suddenly opened her eyes. and the faint red light flashed across her clear and sharp eyes.

Stage-two warrior!

As she stared at her palm, Chu Liuyue sensed the force circulating throughout her body, and she could not help but smile. I finally broke through! After such a long wait, my initial efforts finally did not go to waste!

Even though she did not know why she suddenly broke through today, it was a good thing for her at this point.

Seeing that Chu Liuyue had broken through, the originally quiet arena started to burst into discussions.

Chu Liuyue raised her hand and dispelled the crystal barrier. She then raised her brows and looked at Situ Ziyue while smiling and saying, "Sorry for the wait."

Situ Ziyue quietly sized Chu Liuyue up and unwittingly knitted his brows. Chu Liuyue did not spend much time on this breakthrough, only about an hour or so. However, she is clearly different from before after breaking through. The most obvious thing is that her body's aura is much stronger than before.

The injuries on her body also seemed to have recovered by quite a fair bit due to her earlier breakthrough. She only broke through and became a stage-two warrior from a stage-one warrior. But why does it seem like Chu Liuyue's body has undergone a huge change...?

He raised his Ling Xiao Broadsword, and an icy-blue force immediately enveloped it all over. A strange pattern then seemingly appeared on the broadsword. "There's no other reason for you to delay the match now, right? It shall end now!"

Chu Liuyue slightly smiled. "What a coincidence. I think so too."

She then picked up her black Xuan formation crystal and gathered her thoughts, infusing her force into the crystal and accumulating it.

Weng! Weng!

The black Xuan formation crystal produced bright rays of light.

Very quickly, a ray of light flew out from the crystal and formed a gigantic Xuan formation under Chu Liuyue's feet.

The originally dimmed Buddha Lotus slowly started to bloom again.

Situ Ziyue sneered. "Do you think you can win by using the same trick twice?"

His Ling Xiao Broadsword slashed downward. "Chinese Trumpet Flower[1] Fall!"

With this roar, the pattern on the broadsword suddenly moved. Almost immediately, it bloomed and became a small Chinese trumpet flower.

That Chinese trumpet flower gradually started moving according to the sword crevices. Every inch it moved, the Chinese trumpet flower would grow by a little.

When it reached the broadsword's blade, the Chinese trumpet flower was almost the size of a lantern.

"Go!" hollered Situ Ziyue.

The Chinese trumpet flower flew into the air and went straight for Chu Liuyue.

Compared to the Buddha Lotus under Chu Liuyue's feet, the Chinese trumpet flower was indeed a lot smaller. It wasn't even the size of the Buddha Lotus's petal, but nobody dared to underestimate this Chinese trumpet flower.

It gradually flew forward. The ground it passed by actually started cracking. This proved how strong and formidable it was.

Chu Liuyue looked up. Even though she was a distance away from the flower, she could still distinctly feel the frightening strength incorporated in the flower.

The indescribable suppression made her entire body tense up and caused her to have difficulty breathing.

...

"Chinese Trumpet Flower Fall? Isn't that one of the Ling Xiao Broadsword's top three killer moves? Situ Ziyue can actually execute it now!?"

"It seems like he's indeed going to break through and become a stage-five warrior. The force in his body is so rich..."

"I think he's only 21 this year. He's even younger than Rong Jin, but he's only a step away from becoming a stage-five warrior. If he breaks through, I think he can become the youngest stage-five warrior!"

The crowd could not hide their shock when they saw the Chinese trumpet flower in the air. They then partook in heated discussions.

Rong Jin—who was quietly watching the match at the side—had a cold gaze when he heard all of this. He was the most famous talent in Country Yao Chen, but he was always lacking when compared to Situ Ziyue.

In the past few years, the two of them had battled several times, but Rong Jin lost more than he won. He had also completely lost during last year's Qing Jiao Competition.

Originally, he thought that he could catch up and even surpass Situ Ziyue after one year of training. However, it seemed like the difference between the two became even bigger.

Not to mention others, even Rong Jin had to spend quite a bit of effort to handle the Buddha Lotus Formation that Chu Liuyue executed.

Thinking of this, he felt even more indignant. His chin became tight, and his surrounding aura became as cold as ice.

...

The Chinese trumpet flower kept coming closer. However, the surrounding people would notice that Chu Liuyue wasn't anxious at all if they took a closer look.

Chu Liuyue retracted her gaze and silently looked at the black Xuan formation crystal in her hands.

"This move determines if I win or lose..." muttered Chu Liuyue softly before she infused all her force into the crystal.

Hong!

A loud noise was suddenly heard from the black Xuan formation crystal.

Situ Ziyue chuckled. "You still don't regret it even before your death."

Suddenly, his mocking smile stiffened, and shock filled his eyes.

The originally blossomed Buddha Lotus under Chu Liuyue's feet started to accumulate countless rays of light. In the blink of an eye, it even formed many flower petals.

Chu Liuyue had actually activated the Buddha Lotus's second level in the black Xuan formation crystal. In other words, she had used her strength alone to activate this fourth-level Xuan formation's full strength.

As he stared at the blossoming Buddha Lotus and its layers of petals, Situ Ziyue felt very uneasy. He knew how formidable Xuan formations were.

At this time, the Chinese trumpet flower had already flown to Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue suddenly waved her hands, and the Buddha Lotus instantly followed her wishes, moving forward.

It did not travel fast, but the distance between the Chinese trumpet flower and Chu Liuyue was very short. Hence, without wasting much time, the Buddha Lotus was directly opposite the Chinese trumpet flower.

Buzz!

The Buddha Lotus's petals started shaking gently, and the Chinese trumpet flower suddenly flew a lot slower.

Buzz!

The petals moved against the wind.

The Chinese trumpet flower completely stopped in front of the Buddha Lotus.

Chu Liuyue's clear voice echoed throughout the square. "Close up!"

With her command, the Buddha Lotus's petals started to close up gradually.

The Chinese trumpet flower started to drop uncontrollably.

The layers of flower petals closed up and covered the Chinese trumpet flower completely.

Situ Ziyue's face suddenly turned white.

After some time, the Buddha Lotus started to bloom again. Its petals were pretty damaged, clearly showing that it was harmed during the previous block.

The originally ferocious Buddha Lotus defeatedly landed on the floor lifelessly.

Situ Ziyue suddenly spat out blood and knelt on the floor.

[1] 'Chinese Trumpet Flower' in Chinese is 'Ling Xiao Hua', where the first two words are the same as the name of Ling Xiao Broadsword

Chapter 222: Temporarily First!

At the same time, his surrounding aura started abating rapidly.

He and the Ling Xiao Broadsword shared the same pulse, so he would naturally be implicated now that its attack had been halted.

Situ Ziyue felt furious and indignant. He wanted to stand up immediately, but he was too anxious, so the anger attacked his heart.

This move made him collapse on the floor and spit out blood again. His face looked as white as a sheet.

"Brother!" Situ Xingchen anxiously stood up and rushed toward the arena.

A voice was suddenly heard when she reached the side of the arena. "Eldest Princess Situ, it'll be counted as his defeat if you go into the arena now."

Situ Xingchen's body froze as she stopped in her tracks and looked up.

Chu Liuyue was standing in the arena and seemingly smiled at her lazily.

Situ Xingchen slowly clenched her fists in her sleeves. "Chu Liuyue!"

"Hm? I'm here." Chu Liuyue seemed unable to tell the anger in Situ Xingchen's words as she raised her chin. "I think your brother wants to continue fighting. It doesn't seem very appropriate if you come up now."

Situ Xingchen was so angry that her face distorted. She looked at Situ Ziyue again.

As Situ Xingchen now stood nearer to him, she could see his messy bloodstains even clearer. Her heart felt as if a knife had harshly stabbed it. "Brother!"

Situ Ziyue heard her voice and raised his head with much difficulty. As he forced himself to stand up, he said, "Xingchen... Go back..."

But his internal injuries were too serious, and he collapsed again after getting up halfway.

Tears welled up in Situ Xingchen's eyes. To her, her brother had always been the most outstanding warrior. He was always proudly standing on top, and he had never been so defeated before.

All of this was caused by Chu Liuyue!

"Brother..." Situ Xingchen wanted to persuade him to stop competing. Anyone could tell that he did not have the energy to continue.

Even though Chu Liuyue had also exhausted her energy, and her lips were white, she was not injured in the end. If the two of them continued to battle, the outcome would not change. It would also humiliate her brother even more.

However, she could not say any of this.

Her brother was a very prideful person. How could he admit to losing to a stage-two warrior?

Chu Liuyue looked at Situ Ziyue and smiled. "If you want to continue, I'll play along with you."

Her underlying meaning was that if Situ Ziyue did not willingly surrender, she would continue pushing him to his death.

Everyone looked at this scene with a complicated gaze.

Before the match—no, even an hour ago, nobody would have thought that Chu Liuyue would gain the upper hand in the end. Moreover, she even forced Situ Ziyue into this state.

Cheng Han finally could not watch it any longer. With a darkened face, he said, "Xingchen, help your brother down."

Situ Xingchen looked at him hesitantly, but she finally held up her skirt and prepared to walk up the arena.

"No... No..." Situ Ziyue shook his head and knitted his brows tightly. If I go down now, won't I completely lose?

"Bring him down!" Cheng Han's voice was much sterner than before.

Situ Xingchen paused in her tracks, but she still walked up in the end.

The crowd was silent.

This means that Situ Ziyue has lost!

"Brother, let's go," said Situ Xingchen with heartache as she held his hand.

Situ Ziyue was furious and irritatedly waved his arm, trying to push her away. However, his movements were too weak, and he could not even shake Situ Xingchen's hand away.

Situ Xingchen bit her lower lips and understood why her mentor wanted her to bring her brother down—he was actually very injured!

She quietly helped Situ Ziyue down. "Brother, we can talk about these things later."

Situ Ziyue did not want to leave in such a defeated state. This was an enormous humiliation to him. However, he was very clear about his body's condition. Even if he continued staying, he had no chance of winning.

He deeply glared at Chu Liuyue with anger and hatred in his eyes.

Chu Liuyue ignored his gaze and waved her hands with a smile. "Take care!"

Situ Ziyue spat blood out again.

Situ Xingchen knitted her brows and finally could not help but turn around to glare at Chu Liuyue. She pronounced every single word clearly as she said, "Mentor once told me that we shouldn't be depressed when we lose and that we shouldn't be arrogant when we win. If not, we will never know when we'll fall to someone's hands. When that happens, we'll definitely be hurt."

Chu Liuyue blinked. "Director Cheng Han is indeed highly respected, and his words are all logical. However..." She shifted her gaze, and it landed on Situ Ziyue. She then regretfully said, "It's a pity that your brother hasn't heard of this before. Look, didn't he fall to my hands?"

Situ Xingchen was stumped. She had never seen such a shameless woman that flipped right and wrong.

Situ Ziyue was about to faint in anger. He raised his hands as if he wanted to say something, but they drooped down weakly.

"I hope you'll always be this delighted." Situ Xingchen shot a profound look at Chu Liuyue. Without saying anything else, she turned around and left with Situ Ziyue.

Chu Liuyue watched the two people's leaving back views, and her lips curved up slightly. "Thank you for your blessings! I'll do my best!"

Situ Xingchen's heart was in turmoil. Why would that person interact with such a woman? Cunning, scheming, and manipulative! What is he thinking? Could it be... just because of her face?

Situ Xingchen's thoughts ran wildly. After she brought Situ Ziyue down, her heart could not be appeased for a long time.

But Chu Liuyue did not even care about them. She only cared about one matter.

"Elder Sun, according to the rules, I have already entered the second round, right?"

Shock alone could not describe what Sun Zhongyan was feeling. Chu Liuyue's series of actions had made him elated to no end. When he thought of that possibility, he couldn't help but like her even more.

“Of course!” He looked at his surroundings and confidently said, “Tian Lu Academy’s Chu Liuyue wins this round! Chu Liuyue temporarily is in first place with her successful challenge.”

Chapter 223: Someone She Liked

Chu Liuyue was actually successful in her challenge!

Sun Zhongyan’s words were like thunder that struck beside the crowd’s ears, causing all of them to wake up in shock.

Oh yes! She challenged Situ Ziyu—who was in first place—so she will naturally rank first now that Situ Ziyue has surrendered.

Even though they had seen the match personally, the crowd still could not believe the scene in front of them.

Not only did Chu Liuyue win, but she had even broken through in the middle of the battle!

This incident—which sounded like a fairytale—had actually unfolded before their eyes, and they had to believe it!

Even Tian Lu Academy’s people were shocked, and their mouths were agape. They were unable to recover their senses for a long time.

Chu Liuyue’s lips slightly curved up as she left the arena. However, she did not directly go back to her seat and went to Chu Ning instead. “Father!”

Upon seeing her come down, Chu Ning hurriedly walked forward and grabbed her arm with his hand. He then scrutinized her body as he nervously asked, “Yue’er! Are you okay?”

The previous match was very intense, and he was terrified when he watched them from the side.

Chu Liuyue stretched her arms wide open and smiled happily. “You’re a stage-five warrior. Can’t you tell if I’m injured?”

Chu Ning personally checked Chu Liuyue’s body and realized that she did not have any particularly severe problems other than force exhaustion. Only then did he relax.

Upon hearing her words, he could not help but laugh. “So what if I’m a stage-five warrior? My Yue’er can actually beat an advanced stage-four warrior! In no time, even I won’t be your match!”

He was worried, but he was equally proud and elated.

The previous match was indeed very risky.

Chu Ning knew very clearly that if it weren’t for Yue’er successfully breaking through in the end, she would’ve lost this match.

Luckily, it was just a farce.

Chu Liuyue winked playfully. “How is it the same? Father is always the strongest person in my heart! However, you can finally relax now, right?”

After the Wan Ling Mountain incident, even though Chu Ning did not say anything, she knew that it had left him with trauma. Even when both of them were at home, he would frequently call out her name. If he did not see her for a period of time, he would start to get anxious and scared.

After experiencing the feeling of losing his daughter once, Chu Ning became extremely fearful.

Chu Liuyue intended to assure him, so she did not play any unnecessary tricks in the arena today. She had put in her best effort instead.

Now that she won against Situ Ziyue, Chu Ning was clearly pretty reassured.

How could Chu Ning not know her intentions? His heart was full, and tears started welling up in his eyes.

He held Chu Liuyue's shoulders, and his lips moved, but something seemed to be stuck in his throat. After a while, he said, "... Yue'er is naturally the best!"

Chu Liuyue smiled obediently. "Then, I'll go back first. Maybe someone might even challenge me later on. You should go back and take a seat too."

Chu Ning acknowledged her words and rushed her to get some rest.

The two of them separated and went back to their respective seats. However, Chu Ning's eyes never left Chu Liuyue's body.

He saw her walk back. He saw the Tian Lu Academy crowd enthusiastically cheering for her, and he saw how everyone looked at her with much envy and surprise...

Chu Ning sighed deeply. His eyes also turned red as he could not help but laugh. My Yue'er is no longer the cowardly young girl who can be bullied by anyone. The current her is like the sun in the sky, shining and dazzling brightly.

...

Chu Liuyue's return was once again welcomed by the academy's people. However, she sensitively noticed that the atmosphere seemed different from the day before.

How should I put it? It seems like everyone is kind of... respectful to me out of fear? No matter if it is their behavior or their way of talking, they seem more restrained than before. They are also looking at me with weird gazes.

Chu Liuyue touched her face. "Is there something on my face?"

The crowd was silent for a while.

Si Yang stuck out his thumb. "The glory of a genius."

Chu Liuyue was speechless. She really could not expect anything else from a hog but a grunt with Si Yang's glib tongue.

She decisively looked at Mu Hongyu. "What's with them?"

I just went to compete in a match, but why does everything seem weird after I returned?

Mu Hongyu hugged the golden mane bear cub, looked at Chu Liuyue, and swallowed her saliva with much difficulty. "Liuyue, d-did you hide your abilities previously?"

That's Situ Ziyue! She actually won! She even made him vomit blood!

Just think about how arrogant he was before. In the blink of an eye, he was thoroughly taught a lesson!

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment. "When?"

Mu Hongyu was at a loss for words. W-when?

"Take it as if I didn't ask." She closed her eyes. I'm really dumb for asking such a question. Ever since Chu Liuyue entered the academy, every single incident has proven her outstanding talent and abilities. To think I still believed the difference between us wasn't that big!

"I'll diligently cultivate in the future!"

Cen Hu strongly nodded. "Me too!"

Gu Mingfeng looked at Chu Liuyue with deep meaning.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. She returned to her seat and sat down. Her surroundings gradually quietened down, but the curious and surprised gazes did not decrease.

She did not really care about them and wanted to close her eyes to meditate.

However, Si Ting suddenly spoke. "That crystal barrier... Is it from that person?"

Chu Liuyue looked at him strangely. "Who?"

Si Ting squinted his eyes. "The person you like."

Chu Liuyue paused for a while and gently nodded. "Yeah."

Si Ting was silent for a moment. "It seems like you really like him." Then, he turned around.

Chu Liuyue was taken aback. Why are Si Ting's words so strange? I just used a crystal barrier.

But she did not ask any further as it seemed like Si Ting did not plan on continuing the conversation. She took out the small silver ball and started playing with it in her hands.

Si Ting sighed in his heart. I can finally put her down at this point. Originally, I thought she was just saying it as a courtesy. I didn't expect it to be true. Perhaps even she doesn't realize how mesmerizing her instinctive smile is when she talks about that person.

I wonder who is so lucky to win her heart.

Chapter 224: Heng Jingchuo

The situation in the arena changed after Chu Liuyue won the match.

The remaining few competitors looked in her direction from time to time with differing expressions. However, they all looked a lot more somber.

They thought that Chu Liuyue would be at the bottom of the top ten, but she went straight for Situ Ziyue and took the number one position!

They had to re-evaluate her now. She beat two stage-four warriors when she was a stage-one. Now that she was a stage-two warrior, she even defeated an advanced stage-four warrior!

Such results were enough for Chu Liuyue to make a name for herself.

If they wanted to take the number one position, they had to beat her!

Sun Zhongyan looked towards a young man from Nan Feng Academy. "Ye Chenjia, it's your turn to choose now."

He was number nine, ranked just one position in front of Chu Liuyue earlier. According to the rules, it was his turn to challenge someone in the top five!

Ye Chenjia seemed to have been prepared. He went straight for the arena and motioned towards a young man from Tai Yan Academy.

"Nan Feng Academy's Ye Chenjia challenges Tai Yan Academy's Su Tingfeng!"

After hearing about his choice, everyone nodded. They had clearly expected Ye Chenjia to choose Su Tingfeng.

Su Tingfeng was ranked fifth. He was clearly the easiest of the top five to beat.

Ye Chenjia's choice was a safe one.

Su Tingfeng laughed out loud and leaped onto the arena. "Please!"

There was a lot of chatter as the two battled.

"... That scared me. I thought all the new students were insane!"

"One Chu Liuyue is enough; otherwise, us older students are doomed..."

"Actually, I heard that Ye Chenjia is only 16 this year, yet he's a stage-three warrior. He can be considered the cream of the crop already. It's his first year taking part in the Qing Jiao Competition, and he's in the top ten. He's comparable to Jiang Yuan from earlier. It's just that Chu Liuyue outshone everyone else."

"Even if Chu Liuyue doesn't end up ranking first, I think her name will travel far and wide... She has a bright future ahead of her!"

...

With Chu Liuyue and Situ Ziyue's intense battle as a comparison, the battle between Su Tingfeng and Ye Chenjia was rather lackluster.

Even though Ye Chenjia was talented, Su Tingfeng was of higher rank. After a tedious one-hour-long battle, Ye Chenjia conceded.

Su Tingfeng motioned to him graciously. "You let me win."

Ye Chenjia laughed bitterly. "Fighting above your rank is definitely not easy. I wonder..."

He could not help but glance over at Tian Lu Academy.

Chu Liuyue was seated in her seat calmly. The people around her were still talking about her earlier battle, but she did not look arrogant or proud. It was as if she wasn't the one who fought that battle.

She fought people more than one cultivation stage above her... yet she is still so calm?!

In comparison, Ye Chenjia felt inadequate.

Su Tingfeng followed his gaze, and his expression changed as he rubbed his glabella. He had thought that he would be able to rank higher, but looking at things now, he was afraid...

...

The next two matches went by really quickly.

The third match—Tian Lu Academy's Qin Hua challenged Nan Feng Academy's Xi Wanwan and failed.

The fourth match had Nan Feng Academy's Li Ziyuan challenging Xiao Wenling from the same academy. But the challenge failed.

The three people after Chu Liuyue chose lower-ranked warriors to challenge, but all failed just the same.

Chu Liuyue closely watched the battles as she recuperated. One of them might become her opponent later, so she had to take the opportunity to observe them closely.

Both Xi Wanwan and Xiao Wenling were intermediate stage-four warriors. From their battles, Chu Liuyue could tell they weren't as strong as Situ Ziyue. That meant that nobody posed a threat to her for now.

Chu Liuyue turned and looked toward Rong Jin, who was in front.

Ranked second, Rong Jin was the last person to be chosen, and his opponent was Heng Jingchuo from Tai Yan Academy.

...

Heng Jingchuo was ranked sixth, and he was an intermediate stage-four warrior. If it were Xi Wanwan or Xiao Wenling from earlier, he would've had a chance to win. But Rong Jin was an advanced stage-four warrior, and he had stronger ability. Hence, Heng Jingchuo did not have much of a chance.

The two faced off in the arena.

Both were tall and rather good looking, so they attracted quite a few girls' attention just by standing there.

"It has always been a regret of mine that we did not get to spar last year. But my wish has now been fulfilled," said Heng Jingchuo with a smile. "I have much to learn."

Rong Jin nodded. "Just take it as a sparring match."

Even so, Rong Jin did not take Heng Jingchuo seriously. The two of them were of different abilities. He had watched Heng Jingchuo's earlier matches—they could only be considered safe.

He was aiming for the number one position, so he would probably have to challenge Chu Liuyue after winning against Heng Jingchuo. He felt a little frustrated by this thought.

"Let's begin."

The smile on Heng Jingchuo's face deepened as he watched Rong Jin's distracted manner. "Please!"

With that, he struck first! Heng Jingchuo moved and instantly disappeared.

Rong Jin suddenly returned to his senses and furrowed his brows together. When did Heng Jingchuo become so fast?!

Cold air came from behind him, and Rong Jin immediately turned to strike with his palms. "Lingyun palm!"

There was a gust of wind.

Just as Rong Jin was about to hit Heng Jingchuo's chest, the latter moved and dodged the attack.

Rong Jin's strike missed!

As he stared at Heng Jingchuo—who appeared in another location with a smile—Rong Jin's heart sank.

There is something off about this Heng Jingchuo!

...

Chu Liuyue—who was observing the match below—suddenly sat up straight and began watching Heng Jingchuo.

Si Yang noticed her interest and could not help but ask, "You think there's something wrong with that Heng Jingchuo too?"

Even though he did not really like Rong Jin, the latter's strong ability was known by all.

But Heng Jingchuo had just managed to avoid Rong Jin's attack easily!

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment. "He's an advanced stage-four warrior."

"Yeah, everyone knows he's... Hold up! You mean Heng Jingchuo?" Si Yang was stunned and could not help but take a few more glances. "It can't be? His aura is similar to Jiang Yuan's, so isn't he an intermediate stage-four warrior?"

Chu Liuyue did not explain, but her expression grew increasingly serious.

Si Yang wanted to say more, but he suddenly felt Heng Jingchuo's aura intensify exponentially.

In an instant, his aura was on par with that of Rong Jin!

From a disadvantageous position, Rong Jin and Heng Jingchuo were now an even match!

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. This Heng Jingchuo... will probably be a tough opponent for me!

Chapter 225: Eliminated!

A loud gasp came from the crowd. “Advanced stage-four warrior?! So this is Heng Jingchuo’s true ability?!”

“We couldn’t tell at all before... How did he suppress his strength?”

“I heard that mystic arts or having a Yuan instrument will allow one to hide their abilities... This is interesting! The battle of two advanced stage-four warriors!”

“I thought that he was the unluckiest to have to battle Rong Jin, but now... we won’t know who’s going to win!”

Rong Jin’s expression turned gloomy and stiffened when he heard the surrounding chatter. Even after such a long time, he did not even detect that Heng Jingchuo had concealed his strength!

Looking back at what Heng Jingchuo said, his words were ludicrous! Teach? We are on the same level, and it is clear that he said those words on purpose from the way he spoke!

“I didn’t expect you to improve this much in a year.” Rong Jin remembered that Heng Jingchuo was still a beginner stage-four warrior last year. He actually managed to break through and become an advanced stage-four warrior in such a short time!

Thus, it wasn’t surprising that everyone was astonished.

Heng Jingchuo’s smile deepened. “I just got lucky. I only broke through a few days ago.”

But that statement only made Rong Jin feel more uncomfortable because it took him almost two years to break through from a beginner stage-four warrior to an advanced stage-four warrior!

Heng Jingchuo’s words were clearly him showing off!

“If that’s the case, our fists can do the talking!” Rong Jin did not want to hear from Heng Jingchuo any longer. He circulated his force and struck first!

He only used 70% of his strength in that earlier strike, but he used his full force now!

Heng Jingchuo met Rong Jin head-on!

The two were quickly embroiled in an intense battle.

...

Even though they were both of the same cultivation stage, people thought Rong Jin would have the upper hand since he had broken through long ago.

But as time passed, the crowd found that this was not the case.

Faced with Rong Jin’s attacks, Heng Jingchuo received them calmly and even seemed quite at ease.

On the other hand, Rong Jin gradually realized that Heng Jingchuo was stronger than he had ever imagined after his string of unsuccessful attacks!

The match—which Rong Jin thought he was sure to win—was now at a stalemate!

Rong Jin grew increasingly anxious.

...

Sun Zhongyan knitted his brows as he watched the match. "I remember that this Heng Jingchuo could not be considered the best before, right? How did he improve this much in a year?"

Wen Yan nodded. "You're correct. He's ranked sixth because he was luckier than he was last year and did not meet any particularly strong opponents. It seemed like he was playing it safe and wasn't particularly outstanding... I don't know what happened this year."

Sun Zhongyan tugged at his beard. "Perhaps... he ran into an opportunity, for all we know."

Wen Yan and the others eyed each other and saw the worry in each others' eyes.

What they were most concerned about was not the leap of progress that Heng Jingchuo had made in the span of a year, but whether Rong Jin could win the match!

Rong Jin was recognized as one of Tian Lu Academy's strongest students. They were all hoping that he would come in first, and Rong Jin clearly shared the same idea.

If he lost this round... he would end up in the bottom five of the top ten! Then, the best ranking he could achieve would be sixth! That would be worse than his position as the fifth-ranked last year!

It was fine for others to lose, but Rong Jin's loss would make the academy look bad.

Bai Chen looked around but smiled. "Elder Sun, we don't have to be too worried. No matter what, we still have Little Liuyue!"

Chu Liuyue currently held the number one position! The honors would be theirs as long as they kept that position!

Sun Zhongyan was hesitant. He was still a little worried.

This Heng Jingchuo still seems to be holding back...

...

Unlike the gloomy atmosphere at Tian Lu Academy, the crowd at Tai Yan Academy was invigorated.

Cheng Han laughed out in surprise. "This fellow is tight-lipped! Even I didn't know that he broke through and became an advanced stage-four warrior!"

Situ Xingchen was feeling a lot better and smiled in response. "Master, you're so busy. It's normal for you not to notice something so insignificant."

Even though Cheng Han was the director, there were a lot of things that he did not keep track of. Most of his energy was placed on Situ Xingchen. Otherwise, he wouldn't have had the hopes of having Situ Xingchen become the number one heavenly doctor in her first Qing Jiao Competition.

"Haha! No matter what, this fellow has a bright future ahead of him! When the Qing Jiao Competition ends, we've got to put more resources and attention on him!"

The other teachers nodded in agreement. "The director is right."

Cheng Han stared at the arena contentedly. He had a sharp eye.

One look, and it was clear that Rong Jin was at a disadvantage!

As long as Heng Jingchuo persisted with his performance, winning the match was only a matter of time!

Even though they lost Situ Ziyue earlier, they had Heng Jingchuo now!

He wanted to see if the people at Tian Lu Academy would still be as arrogant when Rong Jin lost!

...

The number of wounds on Rong Jin grew. Even though they weren't severe, the blood on his clothes made him look extra pathetic.

Heng Jingchuo, on the other hand, seemed to be at ease.

The contrast between the two was strong.

The crowd's chatter faded away slowly, and they watched the scene closely.

Heng Jingchuo suddenly closed in!

Rong Jin was stunned and immediately backed away! But he was injured, so how could he possibly be faster than Heng Jingchuo?

The distance between the two decreased rapidly.

Heng Jingchuo finally struck again!

Rong Jin could not avoid it, so he had no choice but to meet it head-on by throwing a punch!

Hong!

The two forces ripped at each other, and bursts of energy rippled outward!

But at this moment, Rong Jin felt that something was off.

A cold sensation was making its way up to Rong Jin's arm from his palm! At the same time, the force in his body was thrown into disarray and quickly disappeared!

His heart skipped a beat, and he immediately looked up! "You..."

Something was wrong about Heng Jingchuo's strike!

"It's time for this to end." Heng Jingchuo met Rong Jin's gaze directly and gave him an ominous smile. His originally quiet and polite voice became much colder.

Rong Jin sensed the danger and immediately wanted to back away, but Heng Jingchuo was faster!

He reached out and gripped Rong Jin's wrist. He then exerted a scary amount of force, and Rong Jin's wrist instantly turned purple!

“How dare...”

Before Rong Jin could finish, Heng Jingchuo had grabbed him by the wrist and flung him away.

The crowd only saw Rong Jin’s body fly uncontrollably.

Bang!

Rong Jin landed on the floor. More importantly, he was outside the arena!

Out of bounds; thus, Rong Jin was eliminated!

Chapter 226: Final Battle!

There was an uproar!

Nobody expected Rong Jin to be eliminated in this manner!

Up until that point, both Situ Ziyue and Rong Jin—the most promising candidates this year—had been eliminated.

Rong Jin only came to his senses after he heard the crowd. He then realized that he had been pushed out of the arena!

He had lost!

Rong Jin’s mind was blank! He had never imagined losing to Heng Jingchuo! Little did he expect to fall out of the top five!

His failure in this round sealed his fate of not surpassing his result from the previous year! He tried to prop himself up, but he realized that he did not have any force in his body. He looked up in shock but saw that Heng Jingchuo had returned to his former, harmless-looking self.

“You let me win, Crown Prince Rong Jin.” Heng Jingchuo said this with a smile, but he had a rather high and mighty attitude.

There was a hint of mockery in his expression. It was as if he were saying Rong Jin’s ability was only that much!

The burning rage in Rong Jin drove him mad. “You...”

Rong Jin spat out blood just as he was about to speak; he then collapsed to the ground. His organs seemed to be enveloped by cold air, which seemed to be spreading!

His body stiffened, and his mind turned cloudy before he blacked out.

“Go bring him back,” said Sun Zhongyan with a frown.

Soon, someone hurried forward and helped Rong Jin up.

Noticing that Rong Jin had passed out, Sun Zhongyan hurried forward. After checking on the former, Sun Zhongyan frowned.

Even though they had predicted that Heng Jingchuo would win, Rong Jin shouldn't have been so weak that he would pass out.

But after examining Rong Jin, everything seemed normal.

He quietly glanced at Heng Jingchuo, but he saw that the latter had returned to his seat and looked rather normal.

"Xuan Cang, come take a look."

Xuan Cang went forward, checked Rong Jin's pulse, and examined him. He then shook his head. "He has been feeling down and passed out due to the trauma of losing the match. It's nothing big."

Everyone eyed one another, at a loss for words. Everyone had heard that Rong Jin had been grounded by His Majesty a while back.

He only managed to come out because of the Qing Jiao Competition. He was counting on it to redeem himself, but little did he expect...

This string of events was enough to drive anyone crazy.

Sun Zhongyan nodded, feeling a little calmer. "That's good. Bring him back first and get Zuo Rong to take care of him."

Xuan Cang was a little hesitant. "In that case, isn't that as good as giving up the later matches..."

"How can he fight like this? Besides, is there a point in continuing at this point?" Sun Zhongyan sighed.

As the Crown Prince, Rong Jin had been rather prideful. He was aiming to be the top warrior, but he couldn't even rank in the top five now.

Forcibly continuing in the competition was just a waste of time.

Bai Chen coughed and said softly, "Yeah. See? Situ Ziyue can't continue either."

Even though Tai Yan Academy had not said anything, Situ Ziyue was clearly in no state to continue.

In that case, it was not as embarrassing since both sides faced the same situation.

Xuan Cang and the others did not have anything else to say.

Just like that, Rong Jin was quickly brought away.

Chu Liuyue took a good look when they walked past her. That's not right. Even though Rong Jin is petty, he has great capability. Heng Jingchuo is of the same cultivation stage as him, so how did Rong Jin end up fainting in the end?

"Liuyue, what are you looking at?"

The golden mane bear cub crawled out of Mu Hongyu's arms. She chased after it and saw Chu Liuyue staring in the direction that Rong Jin left in.

She widened her eyes in disbelief. "You're not worried about Rong Jin, are you?!"

Chu Liuyue speechlessly looked at her. "What are you thinking?"

She was just worried about herself.

Rong Jin's behavior is rather strange... Something is off with that Heng Jingchuo!

Mu Hongyu patted her chest. "I thought so! You're not blind! But then again, that Heng Jingchuo seems rather strong. If the two of you meet in the arena... you can win, right?"

Chu Liuyue retracted her gaze. "I've got to try before I know."

...

After the first round, a new ranking was released.

Chu Liuyue ranked first, followed by Heng Jingchuo, Xiao Wenling, Xi Wanwan, and Su Tingfeng.

Sun Zhongyan said loudly, "The rankings for the first round are out! If anyone isn't happy with their rankings, you can continue challenging opponents! If there are no challengers, the current ranking will be the final ranking for the Qing Jiao Competition!

He glanced around, looking at Chu Liuyue and the others."If anyone wants to challenge, step forward now!"

The whole arena was silent.

Everyone looked toward the candidates curiously, guessing who would continue to challenge.

At this stage, each battle would be a bloody one, but the glory of coming in first was alluring!

Chu Liuyue was at the center of attention! Without a doubt, her position was extremely tempting!

Finally, someone stepped forward!

Sensing something, Chu Liuyue looked up and met a smiling face.

Even though the face was smiling, the smile did not reach the person's eyes. Instead, they were filled with ambition!

"Tian Lu Academy's Heng Jingchuo challenges Tian Lu Academy's Chu Liuyue!"

Chapter 227: Schemes

As expected, Heng Jingchuo is aiming for first place!

In an instant, everyone was excited! The two could be considered the most eye-catching warriors at the Qing Jiao Competition.

Chu Liuyue was new to this, but her abilities were impressive. She was even able to defeat people above her cultivation stage!

Heng Jingchuo had developed stably and improved by leaps and bounds! He was a force to be reckoned with!

Everyone was curious about who would get the last laugh!

Under a countless number of watchful eyes, Chu Liuyue got up and nodded with a smile. "Please!"

...

"I didn't expect it to be a duel between the two of us." Heng Jingchuo shrugged.

Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a half-smile. "You should have expected it, no?"

Heng Jingchuo's smile froze, but he soon returned to normal.

"Ms. Chu is so humorous. We're all participating in the Qing Jiao Competition, so who doesn't want to win? But I didn't expect you to enter the finals, nor did I expect my final opponent to be you."

Chu Liuyue could not be bothered with him.

Heng Jingchuo clearly came prepared. He had intentionally hidden his strength, only revealing his true abilities when he fought Rong Jin.

She was almost certain that Heng Jingchuo had other tricks up his sleeve.

"Less talking; let's begin!" As Chu Liuyue spoke, she brought out the black Xuan formation crystal!

The corners of Heng Jingchuo's eyes jumped a little. This tactic of Chu Liuyue's is a little hard to deal with...

...

"Isn't it bad that Little Liuyue is using her ultimate move right at the beginning?" Bai Chen asked a little worriedly.

Sun Zhongyan laughed. "What else can she do? After all, Heng Jingchuo is an advanced stage-four warrior."

The strength difference between the two was huge. If Chu Liuyue did not put her best foot forward right from the start, this battle was bound to end quickly.

By then, she wouldn't even have the chance to use that move.

"But she used up so much energy earlier. She definitely hasn't recovered by now. This..."

"It's already outstanding for her to win against Situ Ziyue. Even if she loses this match, she's second place. Besides, she's not a warrior at the academy. There won't be any regrets as long as she puts in her best effort."

Bai Chen thought about it and did not say anything else.

...

"Buddha Lotus Formation!" Following Chu Liuyue's cries, the first layer of petals bloomed.

The second layer quickly bloomed as well.

The Buddha Lotus had fully bloomed once again!

An oppressive force spread across the arena.

Calling up the formation twice in a row practically drained Chu Liuyue of all her energy. But the power of a fourth-level Xuan formation was enough to fend off an advanced stage-four warrior!

As long as her single move was decisive and left Heng Jingchuo no room to fight back, she could win!

As Heng Jingchuo watched the Buddha Lotus bloom, he became even more somber.

He cupped his hands—which were behind his back—and force began to gather quickly!

A white sphere gradually appeared in his palm! The sphere looked like it was burning bright, but it was cold to its core.

White fog formed around the sphere and covered it.

Even Heng Jingchuo's hands were covered in a thick layer of ice.

The two of them were both mustering their energy!

Immediately after, Heng Jingchuo struck first and flung the ball in his hand out! "Moon Devour!"

The sphere quickly flew toward Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue circulated the force in her body. "Close up!"

The giant petals shook gently and closed up!

As expected, Heng Jingchuo's sphere gradually slowed down as it entered the Buddha Lotus Formation. It was then covered by the petals—just like what happened in Chu Liuyue's battle with Situ Ziyue!

In the arena, only two intense forces were attacking one another!

Even though everyone could not see what was happening, they could still feel the ripples coming from the petals!

"Can Chu Liuyue still win... That Buddha Lotus Formation devoured Heng Jingchuo's force again..."

"I don't think it's that simple. Chu Liuyue battled one person earlier, and she doesn't have much energy left. The Buddha Lotus Formation's power will probably be weakened..."

"Same for Heng Jingchuo! If the Buddha Lotus Formation cannot stop Heng Jingchuo, then Chu Liuyue is destined to fail!"

...

Chu Liuyue stared at the closed Buddha Lotus.

She could clearly sense the force of 'Moon Devour' being broken down by the Buddha Lotus Formation!

As long as it continued, after a while, Heng Jingchuo would...

Bang!

Suddenly, a soft sound came from the Buddha Lotus Formation!

The sound could not be heard clearly by others, but Chu Liuyue was immediately wary of it!

She then saw a long cut on one of the petals!

The breaking sounds were because the flower petals had frosted over!

Chu Liuyue did not notice it earlier because it was in a small region and only on the inside!

The frozen petals were brittle and could easily be broken with a little bit of force!

Chu Liuyue looked over and saw that the flower petals' edges were tinted black.

Something is off! Warning bells rang in Chu Liuyue's mind, and she grew uneasy! Without thinking, she backed away!

She waved her wrist and flung out the crystal barrier!

The transparent barrier enveloped her! Almost at the same time, countless gashes appeared on the giant lotus!

Then, the Buddha Lotus broke!

Countless rays of light started spreading everywhere!

An air of violence spread toward the surroundings, and the sphere reappeared before everyone's eyes!

It looked smaller than before, but it was still powerful! When the Buddha Lotus broke, the sphere headed straight for Chu Liuyue!

The crowd was stunned!

"He actually broke Chu Liuyue's Buddha Lotus Formation!"

"Heng Jingchuo is bound to win now..."

"The difference in cultivation stage is still hard to bridge in the end..."

Upon seeing the situation in the arena, Cheng Han started smiling. "Jingchuo has really improved a lot! He can even break through fourth-level Xuan formations. Xingchen, even though your brother is hurt, Jingchuo is taking back the glory for our academy by taking first place!"

Situ Xingchen nodded. She wondered if Heng Jingchuo could deal with Chu Liuyue the same way he did with Rong Jin.

Even though killing was not permitted in the arena, serious injuries were allowed.

Since Heng Jingchuo wanted to take first place, then... he had to use full force when dealing with Chu Liuyue.

At this thought, she finally felt better.

As for that crystal barrier... Situ Xingcheng decided that she could always ask about it after everything was over.

...

Chu Liuyue looked up at the sphere that was closing in on her.

The strong force hit the crystal barrier, and the barrier started shrinking.

Chu Liuyue's heart was in her mouth! Even if the crystal barrier could protect her, she would fail if she got eliminated like this!

She steeled herself and suddenly jumped out of the crystal barrier, intending to avoid the attack!

At this moment, she saw a black liquid in the sphere! The cold air coming from it made one shiver uncontrollably!

Her heart skipped a beat! Heng Jingchuo actually...

Chapter 228: Tuan Zi is Formidable!

Just as Chu Liuyue was about to say something, Heng Jingchuo seemed to have sensed it. A cold light flashed across the back of his eyes, and he dashed quickly toward Chu Liuyue!

He moved extremely quickly; he arrived right in front of Chu Liuyue in an instant! Without hesitation, he waved his robe sleeves, and another burst of force came flying!

Choo!

The weakened sphere was injected with fresh energy. It began increasing in speed and closed in on Chu Liuyue.

As the oppressive force closed in on her, Chu Liuyue felt herself struggling to breathe, let alone speak.

Her face was pale, and she was rooted to the ground. She could only watch as the sphere was about to hit her!

"This is it! Chu Liuyue is probably going to lose!"

"Why did she suddenly come out of the crystal barrier? If she hid inside..."

"She can't stay inside forever. Heng Jingchuo is so strong that he can push her and the crystal barrier out of the arena! It's just... There's nothing she can do now..."

Almost everyone looked at the scene nervously.

Some were already shaking their head as if they had already seen the final result.

But at this moment, a crimson-red silhouette dashed out and appeared before Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue felt an itch on her cheek. She turned and realized that her blood ferret had suddenly appeared in front of her!

"Tuan Zi! Come back!" Chu Liuyue anxiously cried out as she gritted her teeth. Blood was trickling from the corner of her mouth!

If she dashed to the front right now, she would see that Tuan Zi's eyes were like they were on fire! It was furious! Its fur was standing on end, and it clearly intended to run forward!

Heng Jingchuo narrowed his eyes as he stared at the furry thing. "... Blood ferret?"

He could not help but burst out laughing when he saw the blood ferret's hostile manner. "Chu Liuyue, is this your fiend? You're not joking, right?"

Even though the blood ferret was a third-grade fiend, everyone knew that it was terrible in battle. It could be treated as a pet, but it was useless in battles.

To think that I believed Chu Liuyue to be a strong opponent. But it is clear that she is just an immature little girl who doesn't have a fiend. She probably keeps the blood ferret for fun—what a joke.

Tuan Zi's hostility grew when it heard Heng Jingchuo's words! Mocking Chu Liuyue was as good as mocking it!

In the next moment, it suddenly dashed out!

It moved extremely fast. Everyone only saw a red line in the air. It was heading straight for the Moon Devour!

Heng Jingchuo broke into a cold smile. "Futile."

Moon Devour was extremely strong! It would probably kill the blood ferret with one strike!

Chu Liuyue wanted to stop Tuan Zi, but she couldn't say a word because of the force's oppressiveness.

Tuan Zi is too rash! The Moon Devour contains...

"Ow!"

Tuan Zi leaped onto the sphere!

Chu Liuyue suddenly froze. That's not right! I'm struggling to breathe under that sphere's force, so how did Tuan Zi run there directly? It also doesn't seem affected by the force?! How did Tuan Zi get there?

Before she could figure things out, something even more surprising happened!

Tuan Zi opened its mouth and took a huge bite of the sphere!

Kacha!

Tuan Zi managed to bite a hole into the sphere!

Its cheeks were stuffed, and its face was as big as half of its body.

Kacha!

Kacha kacha!

Gulug!

Following the sounds, Tuan Zi chewed and swallowed the chunk that it bit off!

The large arena was instantly silenced!

Everyone widened their eyes as they watched in disbelief.

Even Chu Liuyue was stunned. What... just happened?! Tuan Zi ate that thing?! Ate it?! Even though it looks like a crystal ball, it really isn't! That's a ball of concentrated force!

Heng Jingchuo was stunned. He spent a lot of effort to refine this move, and he treated it as his trump card.

It had never been beaten! Something like this had never happened!

Just as everyone was stunned, Tuan Zi opened its mouth and bit off another chunk.

The gap in the sphere became even bigger.

Due to Tuan Zi's actions, the force within the sphere was rapidly depleted.

Soon, half of the sphere had been swallowed.

The uneasiness in Heng Jingchuo's heart grew. This cannot go on! Even though I don't know what is going on with the blood ferret, I have to stop it! Or else...

He hurried forward, but the instant he moved, he discovered that the blood ferret grabbed the remaining half of the sphere and ran.

As Tuan Zi ran, it ate the sphere at an even faster speed!

Kacha!

Kacha kacha!

Heng Jingchuo was almost driven mad by the sound! The blood ferret is chewing on my force! If it is all consumed like this, it will take me forever to recover!

"Stop right there!" But Heng Jingchuo quickly realized that he could not catch up to the blood ferret!

It was small, agile, and ran around the entire arena. He could not catch it at all!

He was exhausted after a while, but the blood ferret was still extremely energetic!

He could only watch as the sphere became smaller and smaller, until...

Gulug!

Tuan Zi stuffed the last piece into its mouth and swallowed it!

Heng Jingchuo suddenly froze and began to tremble! Gone... My force is gone just like that?!

"Tuan Zi, are you okay?" Chu Liuyue finally felt a little better. She hurried forward and looked at the blood ferret nervously.

Tuan Zi looked at her with wide eyes. It stumbled as if it could not stand by itself.

Chu Liuyue was even more worried. "I already told you not to..."

"Burp..." Tuan Zi burped loudly.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. Why does Tuan Zi look like it is drunk?

Before she could react, Tuan Zi turned around idly and looked at Heng Jingchuo.

Poof!

Tuan Zi suddenly spat out a black lump, which flew toward Heng Jingchuo.

Heng Jingchuo widened his eyes in fear! It actually spat out that thing?!

Chapter 229: Seven Coldness Poison

Heng Jingchuo immediately backed away without thinking to avoid that thing. However, ardor and zeal courses through Tuan Zi's blood after it ate the sphere of force, and its actions became too fast for Heng Jinchuo to even avoid it.

In a panic, Heng Jingchuo anxiously raised his arm to try to stop it.

Fizz!

The crowd saw the blood ferret spit out a small black ball, which later bore a hole through Heng Jingchuo's arm.

Bright red blood splattered everywhere.

A bloody hole immediately appeared in Heng Jingchuo's arm.

"Ah!" The excruciating pain made Heng Jingchuo's entire face turn white. Compared to being in pain, his face was filled with horror more!

His other hand lifted his injured one as his entire body greatly trembled from being petrified. No! No! I can't touch that thing!

A sinister cold aura started spreading from that wound.

Heng Jingchuo looked defeated. Then, he actually took out a flying dagger, directly pierced his wound, and harshly sliced it.

A piece of bloodied meat dropped out.

Everyone was stunned when they saw the scene unfold. Heng Jingchuo actually sliced off a part of his arm!?

"What is he doing?" Cheng Han suddenly stood up and saw that Heng Jingchuo did not stop in his actions. Instead, he continued to scrape off the meat around the wound.

He scraped off one chunk after another, and some of the chunks even had skin attached to it. It looked gory and disgusting.

If it were someone else, they would probably not be able to endure the pain. However, Heng Jingchuo kept repeating his actions without pausing as if he had gone crazy.

In the blink of an eye, a third of his originally fine arm was sliced off. One could even see his white bones clearly.

“Jingchuo, stop!” hollered Cheng Han, but Heng Jingchuo seemed unable to hear it. His body trembled, and he looked like he was going to scrape off all the meat in his entire arm.

The more cowardly people had already covered their eyes and refused to watch on.

Even taking his life in one shot seemed to be much better than this. Heng Jingchuo’s actions were even more frightening than killing somebody, sending chills down everyone’s spines.

Cheng Han furiously looked at Chu Liuyue and hollered, “Chu Liuyue! What is going on? What did you do to Jingchuo?”

Chu Liuyue spat out a mouthful of blood and later wiped away the stains around her lips.

Noticing that the messy aura seemed to have been appeased, she slowly looked at Cheng Han and smiled mockingly. Her eyes were filled with ice. “Director Cheng Han, you should ask Heng Jingchuo about this yourself. He knows what he did clearly.”

“What nonsense are you saying?” Cheng Han pointed at Chu Liuyue and looked terrible. “Everyone can see what you did to Jingchuo. How dare you try to push the blame on him? If you don’t give me a satisfactory answer today, don’t even dream about leaving!”

Sun Zhongyan nonchalantly laughed upon hearing that, but the suppression around his body gradually intensified. “Brother Cheng Han, why can’t you talk to her nicely? Why do you want to threaten the child?”

Cheng Han took a deep breath in, but he saw that Heng Jingchuo had no intentions of stopping from the corner of his eye. He eventually could not endure the anger boiling in his heart. “Sun Zhongyan, do you still want to protect Chu Liuyue?”

Sun Zhongyan’s smile faded. “Liuyue is a student of my Tian Lu Academy. How can I let her be bullied by anyone? Cheng Han, you’re an elder after all. Before you find out what happened, you shouldn’t talk nonsense.”

“Are you threatening me?”

“How would I dare to? I’m just stating facts.”

One after another, their conversation immediately made the square’s atmosphere stiffen.

Chu Liuyue hugged Tuan Zi, but she saw Tuan Zi stare at her.

Tuan Zi then tilted its head as it concernedly and dotingly rubbed its face on her palm as if it did not notice the shocking thing it had just done.

Her heart was warm. If it weren’t for Tuan Zi, I really would’ve been in trouble today.

Patting Tuan Zi, Chu Liuyue looked at the duo. “Elder Sun, I started this incident, so I should handle it.”

Cheng Han will definitely not take this lying down. How is she going to handle it? Sun Zhongyan looked at her hesitantly. “Okay, but don’t worry. The academy will never let its own students suffer any grievances.”

Chu Liuyue nodded. "Thank you, Elder Sun."

Cheng Han harshly whipped his sleeves. "I want to see what kind of explanation you can give me!"

Chu Liuyue did not immediately answer his question. She walked to Heng Jingchuo instead.

At this point, Heng Jingchuo's attention was all gathered on his arm. He did not even care about anything else; he didn't even know that Chu Liuyue was right in front of him. In actual fact, he wouldn't care about her even if he knew.

Chu Liuyue looked at him determinedly, and her gaze quickly swept past his badly mangled arm. She seemingly smiled. "Oh, it touched your blood. Then, I don't think there's any use even if you cut off your entire arm."

Upon hearing this, Heng Jingchuo's body stiffened, and his eyes looked hopeless. I know that too, but it's just my last strand of hope...

Bang!

Just as he was in a trance, Chu Liuyue suddenly raised her leg and harshly kicked him.

Heng Jingchuo had no defenses up, and he did not have any fighting intentions at this point. Hence, he directly flew back because of Chu Liuyue's kick.

Chu Liuyue had used all her force in this kick. Originally, the two of them were not very far away from the edge of the arena, so Heng Jingchuo was directly kicked out of the arena's boundaries and harshly landed on the ground.

His body left a line of blood on the path he had slid across, and it looked extra gory.

"Chu Liuyue!" hollered Cheng Han. "What are you doing?"

Chu Liuyue's eyes curved up, and she smiled politely. "Oh, nothing much. I was just thinking that it would be better to end the match first since things have already come to this stage."

After all, she really wanted to win.

Cheng Han's chest felt like fire was scorching it, and he almost uncontrollably went forward and taught Chu Liuyue a lesson.

But Chu Liuyue had already predicted what he wanted to do and spoke first. "Director Cheng Han, don't you want to know why Heng Jingchuo suddenly became like this? Take a look at him."

Cheng Han turned and looked over.

Heng Jingchuo had fallen down from the arena, but he still seemed to be immersed in his strange condition. Before Heng Jingchuo could even stand up from the ground, he hurriedly picked up the flying dagger beside him.

He clenched his teeth as if he had made a huge decision, and he harshly chopped at his shoulders. It looked like he was planning to cut his entire arm off.

Cheng Han raised his fingers and sent out force, which hit Heng Jingchuo's flying dagger. If Heng Jingchuo cuts off his arm, his future cultivation path will be filled with difficulties.

However, Heng Jingchuo anxiously picked up the flying dagger and seemed like he was about to continue.

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly, and her tone was scary as she said, "Once the Seven Coldness Poison meets with blood, it will rapidly enter his limbs. If you stop him like this, you're actually pushing him to his death even though it seems like you're helping him on the surface."

Chapter 230: Evidence

Seven Coldness Poison?!

Quite a few people's faces changed when they heard these three words.

Cheng Han was stunned for a moment.

Seven Coldness Poison was a very strong poison. Once someone made contact with it, it would rapidly spread through the person's body, and they would freeze to death after seven days.

Is... Heng Jingchuo affected by Seven Coldness Poison? Cheng Han hurriedly walked toward Heng Jingchuo. When he was near Heng Jingchuo, he indeed saw a thin layer of black frost on Heng Jingchuo's arm. It was especially horrifying on top of the badly-mangled wound.

"This..." Cheng Han's heart skipped a beat. Heng Jingchuo has such a huge wound on his body. The Seven Coldness Poison has most likely entered his organs already, and he can't be saved. He... is completely ruined.

Cheng Han looked at Chu Liuyue, fuming with anger. "Chu Liuyue, you're so vicious! How dare you openly poison him in the Qing Jiao Competition?"

Chu Liuyue chuckled. "Director Cheng Han, you should take a closer look. Heng Jingchuo clearly brought this Seven Coldness Poison himself. When he attacked just now, his Moon Devour clearly contained the Seven Coldness Poison within. He wanted to take away my life silently, but my fiend saw through his plan and retaliated. He's just suffering from his own actions now. How can you blame it on me?"

She coldly glared at Heng Jingchuo. "I haven't even pursued the sin of him trying to kill me!"

"What nonsense are you saying?" A thought popped up in Cheng Han's mind, and he immediately recalled that the blood ferret had indeed spat out a black ball—which hurt Heng Jingchuo. After recalling this, Cheng Han knew that the black ball had to be the Seven Coldness Poison!

"That thing clearly came out from your fiend's mouth. It must be you..."

"Director Cheng Han, you're a really busy person; hence, you might have forgotten some things. Do you not remember that my fiend only spat out that thing after it consumed the Moon Devour?" Chu Liuyue casually spoke as she patted Tuan Zi. "Just as you've said earlier, everyone here saw what happened very clearly."

Cheng Han was stumped. Actually, he already noticed that something was amiss, so he started to feel guilty. However, how could he admit this at this point?

If Cheng Han admitted to it, not only would Heng Jingchuo be humiliated, but even he and the entire Tai Yan Academy would become the target of others' contempt. After all, it was a major taboo to use poison during the Qing Jiao Competition!

Sun Zhongyan quickly walked forward, and his gaze became cold after taking a closer look at Heng Jingchuo. "Even though I'm not a heavenly doctor, I do know about this Seven Coldness Poison. Cheng Han, you should give everyone an explanation about this."

Cheng Han's face flashed green and white, but he didn't know how to defend himself.

"Ah!" At this point, Heng Jingchuo had directly cut off his arm already.

Blood spurted everywhere, and his miserable cry made everyone's hearts shudder.

The square was silent.

Even the people who did not know what the Seven Coldness Poison was could not help but feel terrified upon seeing this scene. They did not dare to utter a word.

Under this awkward and tense atmosphere, a voice suddenly sounded. "Ms. Chu, you claim that Jingchuo brought the Seven Coldness Poison himself, but what evidence do you have?"

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. Why is this Situ Xingchen so nosy? What has this got to do with her?

Situ Xingchen stepped up and said, "Even though your blood ferret spat out the Seven Coldness Poison after it ate the Moon Devour, what if there was no poison in the Moon Devour? What if the poison came from your blood ferret?"

An unknown dim light flashed across her eyes. "If there's no problem between you and that blood ferret, why did you still risk your life to leave the crystal barrier when you know that the Moon Devour is very formidable?"

"Eldest Princess Situ, your question is indeed very interesting. I'm clearly the victim, yet you want me to produce evidence and prove my innocence?" Chu Liuyue knitted her brows.

Situ Xingchen lightly said, "Jingchuo is very strong, and he's more than one cultivation stage ahead of you. He can win against you no matter what. Why would he use such a despicable move?"

This sentence made Chu Liuyue burst out into laughter directly. "It seems like Eldest Princess Situ doesn't want to admit the fact that I won against Situ Ziyue earlier on? If I'm not wrong, he's still resting at the back, and he even has difficulty standing up."

Situ Xingchen's face changed.

It was okay to bring up any other thing, but Chu Liuyue clearly wanted to shame her by bringing up her brother.

"That's just..."

“If I can win against Situ Ziyue, why can’t I win against Heng Jingchuo? As for why he wants to use such a move, even though he’s so strong... Only he himself knows.”

Chu Liuyue’s lips curved up, and she revealed a meaningful smile. “After all, he has harmed Rong Jin too.”

This sentence was akin to lightning exploding beside everyone’s ears.

After a temporary silence, the crowd burst into an uproar. Chu Liuyue clearly means...

“Liuyue, are you speaking the truth?” asked Sun Zhongyan anxiously with furrowed brows. “He also has...?”

“If you don’t believe me, you can go forward and check on him. Oh, Director Cheng Han and Eldest Princess Situ should come along too. If not, you might say that we did something in secret.” Chu Liuyue magnanimously raised her chin. “He’s still there.”

Sun Zhongyan and the rest quickly walked over.

Zuo Rong—who was looking after Rong Jin—looked dazed. Seven Coldness Poison? I didn’t notice it.

With a very serious expression, Xuan Cang rushed over and took Rong Jin’s pulse again. He had previously taken Rong Jin’s pulse already, but he did not discover anything. This time was no different.

Why did Chu Liuyue say... Xuan Cang turned back hesitantly.

Sun Zhongyan hurriedly asked, “How is he?”

Xuan Cang and Zuo Rong were silent.

Sun Zhongyan’s heart sank.

At this point, Cheng Han had already walked over. He glanced at the unconscious Rong Jin and grunted. “Isn’t he doing okay? How is he affected by Seven Coldness Poison? Chu Liuyue, even if you want to lie, you should pick something that’s not easily exposed, right? What else do you have to say now?”

Chu Liuyue looked at Zuo Rong. “Mr. Zuo Rong, please cut Rong Jin’s finger.”

Zuo Rong did not understand why, but he still did it.

A silver light flashed across, and blood started coming out of Rong Jin’s finger. Very quickly, the blood droplets gathered together and formed a thin layer of black frost.

Zuo Rong was shocked. “He really is affected by Seven Coldness Poison!”

Everyone was stunned.

Cheng Han was stumped.

Xuan Cang leaned in closer and said after closer inspection, “It’s indeed the Seven Coldness Poison, but you can’t tell on the surface since it’s a very tiny dosage.”

As he talked, he could not help but feel guilty and remorseful. We actually couldn’t tell earlier on... If this Seven Coldness Poison continues to spread, I’m afraid Rong Jin will...

Zuo Rong hurriedly took out a pill and fed it to Rong Jin. Even though it was not an antidote, it could temporarily suppress the poison.

Even Sun Zhongyan was slightly traumatized. After all, Rong Jin was the Crown Prince. If anything happened to him, the academy would have to face the consequences.

Chu Liuyue looked at Cheng Han and Situ Xingchen. “Heng Jingchuo was the one who fought Rong Jin. Could it be that I poisoned him with the Seven Coldness Poison over space?”