

The Doctor 411

Chapter 411: Bring Him Away

“Yes, if you and your wife don’t mind, we can go out and talk about it. Everything can be discussed, right?” Chu Liuyue was always very sensible. When she had to be polite, she would never be harsh.

The other party seemed to be rather interested in this suggestion as he lightly laughed. “Interesting...”

Chu Liuyue hurriedly glanced at the dagger that was about to come loose. She felt very anxious and wanted to chase Zhen Bao Pavilion’s Master again, but she held it in.

In this situation, she was at a disadvantage. How could she have the right to negotiate with the other party on equal grounds?

“If you promise not to touch that thing, I’ll accede to your request.” After a moment, that man’s voice sounded again.

“Master, what does this... mean?” Chu Liuyue was dazed. What does it mean to touch or not touch? Who knows what will happen to this thing in the future?

She didn’t dare to casually promise this.

A ray of black light suddenly flew out from the red dragon head toward Chu Liuyue.

Upon detecting the formidable aura on it, Chu Liuyue’s heart jumped. Just from this move, she could tell that this man’s capabilities were superior to Mu Qinghe’s.

Even when outside of Heaven’s Canopy and Mu Qinghe’s cultivation and abilities were suppressed to below those of a stage-seven warrior, the aura that belonged to a strong warrior wouldn’t be diminished.

If Mu Qinghe fought with a stage-six warrior that had never entered Heaven’s Canopy before, even if both of them were of the same cultivation level, he could definitely handle the other party easily.

This man gave her the same feeling.

Chu Liuyue felt suffocated. No wonder Zhen Bao Pavilion is so arrogant—they had such a major character backing them up! Emperor Jiawen probably knew something too, and that was why he’s so fearful of Zhen Bao Pavilion.

Even though the ray of black light was very formidable, Chu Liuyue didn’t feel threatened when it was in front of her face. Hence, she let down her guard slightly and stayed at the spot honestly.

If the other party really wanted to kill her, he would’ve done so long ago. He wouldn’t have wasted so much effort.

Then, she saw the black light fly to her hands and silently land on the silver pyramid, passing through the fire in her palms.

Chu Liuyue's eyes shrunk. The strength of the fire came from the water droplet in my dantian, and it has always been domineering. It also wants to gain the upper hand all the time, but... Why is it so calm today and directly let the other party pass through?

Originally, she thought the water droplet would automatically stop it, but...

The next moment, the silver pyramid completely became black.

All the light was covered. When one glanced at it, it looked like a very ordinary black stone. Even the aura and suppression inside were completely locked within.

The fire in Chu Liuyue's palm gradually faded away.

The pyramid gently landed on her palm, and it was cold to the touch. Other than this, nothing was different. Even the previous intense calling had intensely disappeared.

Only when she touched it would she vaguely feel that strange feeling.

Chu Liuyue was dazed for quite a while.

"I've already locked it. Other than me, nobody can break it open. This will save a lot of trouble," said the man nonchalantly.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. This did save a lot of trouble, but it had also completely destroyed any of her intentions to play tricks.

From now on, this item with her was nothing different from a useless rock.

"With this barrier layer, you can bring it anywhere, and nobody will discover it. When you see my wife, I'll automatically remove the barrier."

Upon hearing the other party's casual tone—which sounded as if he were talking about how great the weather was—Chu Liuyue held it in, clenched her teeth, and spoke. "I must thank you then, Master!"

How is this helping me? He's clearly guarding against me! But I can't say anything in retaliation!

The man on the opposite end chuckled lowly. "It's nothing; you don't have to thank me."

Chu Liuyue quietly grinded her teeth. When the time comes, I must show you how good I am!

Kacha!

A sound suddenly rang in her ears.

Chu Liuyue's body suddenly dropped—the wall couldn't hold on anymore, and a gigantic piece fell off!

Chu Liuyue—who was only hanging onto the dagger—naturally fell as well.

Her heart sank.

She looked down and saw new ice starting to form on the lake surface.

One glance at it, and one could see the area below dazzling like a galaxy—very bright and eye-catching.

However, Chu Liuyue's entire body tensed up.

Just as she was about to land in the lake, a soft force suddenly came over. It was as if a pair of invisible hands easily held her up.

Looking at the ice surface inches away from her, Chu Liuyue heavily heaved a sigh of relief. "T-thank you..."

It was obvious who helped her.

The other party didn't say anything.

The next moment, a black bridge suddenly appeared in midair. One end of the bridge slowly extended to her legs, while the other end extended into the darkness that she couldn't see into clearly.

"Follow this path, and you can leave successfully."

That man's tone was very calm, but it made Chu Liuyue knit her brows. Why does this person seem to be very familiar with this place? Isn't this the first time the imperial mausoleum has been activated in many years? Why would he be so clear about everything inside?

Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn't move, that man said again, "Don't worry. If you follow this path, you can directly leave Golden Inheritance Peak, and you won't be found out."

Chu Liuyue was increasingly shocked. Even if Emperor Jiawen were here, he wouldn't know any of this! This Master indeed has his ways...

"Thank you so much then, Master!" Chu Liuyue wasn't stupid; she wouldn't give up on something that had been sent to her mouth.

One just had to think to know that the outside was in a mess. If she returned from the same way, she would probably be skinned alive by that group of people.

It was better than ever if she could leave silently.

She genuinely meant this word of thanks.

Then, without any hesitation, she stepped on the black bridge.

This long bridge was clearly made from the other party's force. Chu Liuyue walked on it like she was walking on normal ground.

She raised her brows. This person's ability is indeed unfathomable...

After walking a few steps, she suddenly remembered something, looked back, and asked, "Master, aren't you leaving?"

"This has nothing to do with you," said the other party lightly.

Chu Liuyue felt that it was true. The other party doesn't even want to meet me, so he naturally wouldn't want to leave with me. He's so powerful. Why would he need to fret about going out?

Thinking of this, she didn't say anything more and continued to walk. However, she stopped again when she reached the midway point.

Her face was calm, but she looked down slightly, making one unable to see her expression.

The hands in her sleeves clenched slowly. Finally, as if she made a huge decision, she asked lightly, "Master, can I bring someone with me?"

Chapter 412: Pair Made in Heaven

The other party was silent for a moment. "Who?"

His tone was light and calm, and it sounded a bit airy as if it came from a distant place.

For some reason, Chu Liuyue actually sensed a tinge of displeasure in his tone.

It didn't seem like displeasure, but it just made one feel uncomfortable...

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other and tried to say, "Just... the person that came in with me."

She believed that the other party would definitely know who she was referring to, given his abilities.

"He doesn't treat you very nicely, yet you want to help him now?" That man didn't directly agree or reject, but he asked a question instead.

Chu Liuyue was dazed. "How do you know how he treats me?"

That man paused for a while and almost sneered.

Chu Liuyue immediately understood—since he was so familiar with this place, he naturally knew what happened here like the back of his palm.

For a moment, Chu Liuyue almost thought that this Master stayed in the imperial mausoleum the entire time. Of course, she knew that this was impossible.

However... it was clear that he had been here more than once.

Chu Liuyue clenched her fists tighter, and something seemed to be stuck in her throat. In actual fact, even she didn't know why she suddenly said that.

No matter how she looked at it, Mu Qinghe didn't deserve to be saved by her. But... the image of him kneeling down, filled with tears, would always appear in front of her eyes.

And that 'Your Highness.'

She didn't know how genuine his sorrow was, and she didn't even know why exactly he had betrayed her. But...

"His identity is special. If he dies here, I will get into trouble as well," said Chu Liuyue as she looked down.

Jian Fengchi knew about Mu Qinghe going out with her. If Mu Qinghe really died here, she would definitely be dragged down.

According to Jian Fengchi's personality, he wouldn't take it lying down.

Besides... She still needed Mu Qinghe to bring her back to the Tianling Dynasty!

"...So, no matter what, I hope you'll help me. But if it's inconvenient, then..."

"Other than this, are there any more reasons?" asked that man suddenly. "Are you pleading for him or for yourself?"

His tone was calm, but when Chu Liuyue heard it, she felt a chill shoot down her spine for some reason. Why does this sentence sound so weird?

But this sentence indeed woke her up.

She seriously thought for a while and finally shook her head. "For myself."

After being reborn, the most important thing she learned was to think for herself. Most of the time, all that so-called sympathy and pity wouldn't benefit her. They would even bring about a series of troubles.

Mu Qinghe was no longer the Mu Qinghe from before, and she was no longer the Shangguan Yue from before!

"A favor." That Master finally spoke, and his tone was slightly warmer than before.

Chu Liuyue unknowingly heaved a sigh of relief and knew that he had agreed. "Thank you, Master!"

For some reason, I seem to be easily influenced by his words. Could it be because he's very formidable? Chu Liuyue actually really wanted to meet the mysterious Master at this point, but it was already very rare for the other party to agree to her request. Hence, she naturally didn't want to offend the other party.

Suddenly, she thought of a problem. Ever since I snatched the pyramid, I didn't have the time to look at it. Thus, I don't know what kind of situation Mu Qinghe is in.

Bang!

A low sound came from behind.

Chu Liuyue was taken aback and immediately turned around to look.

Mu Qinghe was covered in blood, and he lay on the black bridge motionlessly. It was as if... he fainted.

When he fell down, he seemed to have fallen rather hard as his chest vibrated, and he vomited blood again.

It seemed like he was very pathetic...

Chu Liuyue's eyes twitched. H-he appeared too suddenly!

Chu Liuyue looked at Mu Qinghe's injuries—which seemed to be even more severe than before—and she couldn't help but ask, "What's... going on with him?"

"Oh, he just fainted. He won't die from the fall," said that person calmly as if he didn't care.

Chu Liuyue was speechless.

“...Or do you want him to know that you saved him so that he’ll be even more grateful toward you?” The speaker had no intentions, but the listener understood.

Chu Liuyue’s heart seemed to be harshly stabbed by a knife. “No need; this is the best. Thank you.”

She quickly gathered her thoughts, and when she checked on Mu Qinghe again, her heart was calm. That Master is right; this is the best choice. I had once saved him, and he was very grateful toward me, but what happened in the end? It ended as a joke! This time, I’ll do it for myself!

Thinking of this, she walked over and planned to carry Mu Qinghe out. But the moment she lowered her body, something flashed in the corner of her eyes as something flew over.

Chu Liuyue immediately raised her hands and caught the item. Then, she took a closer look and realized it was a Yuan instrument.

“Use this to bring him out. Don’t dirty my path.” That man’s tone was cold.

Chu Liuyue couldn’t help but mutter in her heart. So, this Master is also very... particular, to put it nicely. If I phrased it in a bad way... Mm, he’s pretty similar to that wife of his. This bridge is made from force. How can it be dirtied? Besides, it’s black! How dirty can it get?

However, she was at a disadvantage for receiving his help. Hence, she definitely wouldn’t say this in front of him. Besides, this Yuan instrument could save her efforts.

“What are you saying?”

Chu Liuyue was shocked. Just now, I had my mouth closed tightly and didn’t make any sound at all. Does this man know how to read minds? He could actually guess this!

She immediately smiled and looked up. “Nothing! Nothing! I was just thinking that you and your wife are a pair made in heaven!”

This sentence had clearly pleased the difficult Master. He smiled, and his tone and attitude were much better than before. “My wife and I think the same way.”

Chu Liuyue was stumped. She had seen confident ones, but she never saw someone praising himself and his wife in front of others...

“T-then, I’ll wish you and your wife to have a blissful marriage and hope you two will grow old together! I-I’ll leave now?” said Chu Liuyue kindly.

The other party chuckled and didn’t say anything more.

Chu Liuyue then relaxed and injected her force into the Yuan instrument.

Choo!

The Yuan instrument expanded and floated in midair like a hexagonal flying disc. Then, the flying disc suddenly dropped a gigantic net that easily enveloped Mu Qinghe.

Upon seeing Mu Qinghe—who curled into a ball and was squeezed within the net—Chu Liuyue’s eyelids twitched.

It's not wrong to help, but... this scene is interesting... She coughed and turned around.

Suddenly, stifled laughter sounded. "I wish you and your future husband a blissful marriage."

Chapter 413: Real and Fake

Chu Liuyue turned around weirdly. Why does he sound particularly sincere...?

Her lips curled up, and she thanked him. No matter what, this blessing sounded very pleasing.

Besides, she also wanted to be on good terms with this Master.

Seeing that Mu Qinghe doesn't seem to be his opponent, won't things be a lot more convenient if I can successfully pull him in to be my backer... Chu Liuyue continued walking outside and kept finding it weird in her heart. Even though this Master's working style and attitude are strange, it seems like he trusts me for some reason...

She rarely felt this way about people, especially when the other party helped her multiple times.

Usually, the other party wouldn't help her for no rhyme or reason, but in front of a person with such heaven-defying methods, Chu Liuyue really couldn't relate him to that logic.

Perhaps he did have other intentions, but Chu Liuyue didn't seem to feel worried or uneasy. Perhaps this is also fate to a certain degree?

The surrounding light gradually dimmed.

Chu Liuyue knew that she had already walked to the edge of the imperial mausoleum.

She couldn't help but turn around again.

Passing through Mu Qinghe—who was hanging in mid-air—she could no longer see what was going on inside. Only the continuously freezing and toppling ice layer and the silently glowing lake water were especially clear.

The centermost room had already been completely frozen with soft icy light that gradually spread in all directions.

Chu Liuyue watched on quietly. She knew that this was the power of that person's seal.

It was clear that he planned to continue freezing and sealing the entire imperial mausoleum.

After a long while, Chu Liuyue lightly heaved a sigh of relief. How much strength must this person waste... Outside Heaven's Canopy, won't this person be restricted if he uses such immense powers?

After a moment, Chu Liuyue's lips slightly curved up. The current me still has a long way to go to reach that cultivation level.

Originally, she wanted to ask that person how he planned to deal with the other few people in the imperial mausoleum. However, she hesitated for a long time and did not speak up.

Helping one Mu Qinghe has already made me owe him a favor. If it includes other people... Mentor, you can definitely forgive me, right? thought Chu Liuyue quietly in her heart.

Other than Elder Ye, she didn't care about the other people's survival.

With Elder Ye's abilities, it wouldn't be a problem if he wants to leave here... right? Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue couldn't help but take out the pyramid and carefully observe it in her palm.

It had completely turned black now, and she couldn't see anything on it.

If I knew this earlier, I should've seen Mentor and the others' conditions first... Chu Liuyue put away the pyramid, took a deep breath in, and continued walking to the other end of the black bridge with Mu Qinghe.

...

When Chu Liuyue left with much difficulty, the other few people that had already entered the imperial mausoleum didn't have an easy time.

With Elder Ye's protection, Emperor Jiawen wasn't in too much trouble for now. However, that black shield couldn't last for long as it quickly got covered by the golden ice layer, becoming as weak as ever.

The later gold sand that oozed out piled up and completely destroyed the black shield.

Elder Ye continued to evacuate with Emperor Jiawen. Luckily, with the glow from the golden ice layer, they could vaguely see their surroundings, and their speed was much higher than before.

Emperor Jiawen was really angered and indignant. Those people are still inside the imperial mausoleum! But I—Country Yao Chen's legitimate emperor—have to be chased out of the imperial mausoleum in such an unkempt manner.

Without a mirror, he also knew how he currently looked. Luckily, there was Elder Ye around. If not, his reputation would be tarnished.

After escaping for some time, the speed of the golden sand flowing out finally slowed down.

Elder Ye then stopped and looked at Emperor Jiawen. "Your Majesty, are you okay?"

Emperor Jiawen's face was pale as he waved his hands. "I-I'm fine... Just... just..."

He said 'just' for a long time but couldn't finish his sentence.

Elder Ye coughed and averted his gaze.

However, Emperor Jiawen still felt very humiliated. "...Elder Ye, can we only watch on like this?"

Elder Ye was helpless. "Then, what do you think we can do now? The people inside have already taken the opportunity and—"

"I don't understand." Emperor Jiawen stretched out his hands and held his forehead. "I really don't understand... How can the imperial mausoleum casually allow other people to enter? Only a few people know about the secret here. Other than Elder Ye and me, logically speaking, nobody else should know about it! But... they clearly came prepared!"

If not, how can they do it so smoothly?

Elder Ye paused and comforted him. "Your Majesty, don't be anxious first. After all, the item inside should—"

Before he could finish his sentence, he suddenly looked up. However, the golden sand—which kept flowing out just now—suddenly stopped and retracted.

In the blink of an eye, the sand had retracted to more than ten steps away.

Emperor Jiawen was stunned. "W-what's going on?!"

Shock flashed across Elder Ye's eyes. "Someone is restoring everything in the imperial mausoleum!"

"What?!" Emperor Jiawen was also taken aback. "How is this possible? The imperial mausoleum's structure is very complicated, and the entire arrangement inside is extremely intricate. If one wants to restore it... they need at least ten outstanding warriors to work together! But weren't there only two people who entered?!"

Elder Ye's eyes were glued to that direction. "No, you've forgotten that there's still a possibility..."

Emperor Jiawen's expression froze. "Could it be..."

Huala!

A very soft and strange sound suddenly came from behind the duo.

Elder Ye immediately turned around alertly. "Who's there?"

When he finished his sentence, he suddenly waved the fan in his hands.

Bang!

His force harshly slammed against something. Then, a painful moan could be heard.

Emperor Jiawen and Elder Ye exchanged a glance. There's someone else here? We didn't even notice this before!

Elder Ye's expression changed as he quickly walked forward and raised his fan again.

The tremendous suppression immediately overwhelmed that person.

At this point, a familiar gasp finally sounded in the darkness. "Elder Ye, please show mercy!"

Elder Ye paused.

However, Emperor Jiawen's face completely changed. "Rong Jin?!"

Elder Ye snapped his fingers, and a bright light appeared in his palm.

The surroundings immediately became illuminated due to the fire.

Previously, he was worried that the fire would attract unnecessary trouble, but this was clearly unnecessary now.

A nervous and anxious face appeared in front of the duo.

It is indeed Rong Jin! Emperor Jiawen's blood boiled as he hollered, "Rong Jin! You have so much guts! How dare you secretly escape from Crown Prince Mansion and come here? Speak! Did you follow Elder Ye and me all the way in?"

Rong Jin was originally terrified, but his mindset changed. Since things have already ended like this, what else is there to be afraid of?

He clenched his fists, straightened his back, and tried hard to make himself sound righteous. "Father, I'm Heaven's Chosen Son! How am I in the wrong?!"

Elder Ye suddenly laughed. "Crown Prince, Your Highness, the true Heaven's Chosen Son can directly enter Golden Inheritance Peak and control everything in the imperial mausoleum. There's already one inside, so how did your Heaven's Chosen Son come about?"

Chapter 414: Mangled Mess

"W-what?" Rong Jin was stunned. I understood every word in Elder Ye's sentence, but why don't I understand when they're joined together?

Upon hearing this, Emperor Jiawen's gaze darkened. "So you discovered it too..."

Elder Ye helplessly laughed and shook the fan in his hands. "Even if I couldn't guess it before, I would also know when I saw the scene previously!"

Emperor Jiawen closed his eyes. No wonder... If this is the answer, everything that happened before would have a logical explanation.

Rong Jin heard the duo's conversation at the side, but he was very confused. The more he heard, the more anxious he became.

"Father? Elder Ye? What does that mean? Am I not... Heaven's Chosen Son? How can there be another one inside?! That person inside must be fake! I'm the true Heaven's Chosen Son!"

Pak!

Emperor Jiawen went forward and harshly slapped Rong Jin.

This slap was very intense, and it directly made Rong Jin fall on the floor.

An intense, bloody taste swarmed up to Rong Jin's lips. Half of his face was numb, and his ears were ringing.

His lips stiffly moved as he spat out saliva and blood, together with a crushed tooth. Rong Jin's face was in complete disbelief. Father has always been proud of me, and he has always thought highly of me. Not to mention hitting me, but he also rarely scolds me! Now that one of my teeth has fallen, how can I hold this in?!

The next moment, everything he experienced in the past few months flashed across his eyes.

Being humiliated, being stripped of his authority, being grounded...

I almost lost my Crown Prince position. What exactly happened? Wasn't it going fine at first? Why did it gradually become like this?

"Rong Jin! You're crazy!" At this point, Emperor Jiawen had already lost control of his emotions as he pointed at Rong Jin's nose and furiously reprimanded him. "Who do you think you are?! Heaven's Chosen Son? How can Heaven's Chosen Son be so cowardly? You're just a good-for-nothing. Back then, I was really blind to have chosen you as the Crown Prince!"

Too many things had happened on this day, and Emperor Jiawen had been very tense and stressed. At this point, the last straw was finally pulled when he saw Rong Jin's unteachable and arrogant attitude.

Rong Jin was scolded so badly that his entire person was stunned. He panicked and didn't know what to do as he started saying things without thinking about them. "Father, how can you confirm that I'm fake? I know that you just look down on me, but Mother was the one who personally told me about this! Mother definitely won't lie to me! I am definitely Heaven's Chosen Son! It can only be me!"

Elder Ye looked at Rong Jin's close to manic appearance, and he furrowed his brows.

Before he could say anything, Emperor Jiawen suddenly laughed out loud. "Hahahaha! What a joke! Whatever your mother tells you must be true?! Rong Jin, how brainless must you be to say that?!"

Rong Jin clenched his teeth and said, "We can just confront Mother and—"

"Confront?" Emperor Jiawen's expression suddenly turned sinister. "You probably don't know that your mother is already dead, right?"

This light sentence was like countless sharp knives that stabbed into Rong Jin's body.

His entire body trembled, and blood swarmed up his chest. Finally, he couldn't take it and spat out blood as he collapsed on the floor defeatedly. "I-impossible..."

Mother just told me the secret today. How can she die?!

"It seems like she did spend all her effort to make all sorts of arrangements for you before she died, but it's a pity. It's a waste to wash a pig with both water and soap." Emperor Jiawen finally understood the Empress's series of actions. From start to end, she was doing it for Rong Jin. "Heaven's Chosen Son? Hah, I think you still haven't recognized your current status!"

Like what Elder Ye has said, the true Heaven's Chosen Son is destined. Rong Jin is still dreaming that he is that person?! Even if he had previously imagined it, he should've completely woken up at this point!

"Who is it... If it's not me... who is Heaven's Chosen Son?" muttered Rong Jin in a hoarse voice as he looked completely disappointed. Originally, he thought it was prime time for him to make a comeback, but... He didn't expect it to be only a dream.

Even if it was just the start, it had been mercilessly shattered countless times.

Emperor Jiawen's face darkened, and he didn't say anything for a while. In actual fact, he wanted to know this answer even more than Rong Jin. But with their current abilities, how could they enter?

“Your Majesty, we should talk about this after we leave this place. Every single one of our actions here can be seen by that person,” advised Elder Ye softly.

Emperor Jiawen harshly rubbed his face. “Okay! Let’s go out first!”

Elder Ye nodded and looked at the dark corner as he tugged at his lips without smiling intent. “The two people watching, you can come out now, right?”

...

After walking for a long time, Chu Liuyue finally saw the light in front of her.

She was elated as she knew that it was the exit.

She speedily walked forward, and the flying disc behind her immediately followed. Mu Qinghe was shaken quite a bit, but he hadn’t woken up since the start.

In this manner, the duo finally walked out of the exit and completely escaped from the imperial mausoleum.

The sky was bright in front of them!

Chu Liuyue turned back to look and realized that they had indeed left Golden Inheritance Peak as they arrived at another end of the forest.

The thing that sent us out... is also a transportation formation, but that transportation formation is very ordinary. One wouldn’t be able to tell if they didn’t look at it closely.

Clang!

The flying disc’s net suddenly expanded, and Mu Qinghe was thrown to the ground again.

Chu Liuyue looked at him from the corner of her eyes and saw that his eyeballs were moving.

Mu Qinghe was about to wake up!

Chapter 415: Return

Mu Qinghe felt that he had fallen into a deep dream, and he felt displaced and distant as he couldn’t wake up no matter what.

For a moment, an idea flashed across his mind. It’ll be great if I can sleep forever and not wake up to face everything.

But this thought only flashed across his mind. He tried many times and finally forced his eyes open.

The bright light shone down, and it was a little sharp, causing him to close his eyes again. He had to wait for a while to adjust to the brightness.

The blurry scene gradually became clearer.

This seems to be... a forest? Mu Qinghe moved, and he immediately felt sharp pains all over his body, which made him frown.

He lowered his head and realized that his body was badly mangled with blood and that he was filled with injuries, without a good spot anywhere. However, it was lucky that most of them were superficial injuries, and he could recover after cultivating for a while.

Mu Qinghe felt assured, but he suddenly realized something, and his expression gravely changed. That's not right! I was clearly in the imperial mausoleum previously. How did I appear here?

He immediately turned around to look.

Golden Inheritance Peak—which looked like a sharp sword—was standing not far away.

I-I'm already outside of Golden Inheritance Peak? Mu Qinghe became even more doubtful, but no matter how hard he tried to recall, he couldn't remember what had happened.

His last memory was of the wilting vines. He almost barged out back then, but... But he couldn't recall what happened after that.

Suddenly, he saw a figure lying on the nearby ground from the corner of his eyes.

It's Chu Liuyue! He focused on her, endured the pain in his body, and slowly walked over.

Chu Liuyue seemed to have fainted as her eyes were tightly shut, and her lips were pale. But compared to his unkempt appearance, Chu Liuyue seemed much better since she didn't have many bloodstains or injuries.

Mu Qinghe stared at Chu Liuyue for some time with an investigative look. Was that voice my imagination or...

As if she had felt his gaze, Chu Liuyue gradually woke up. She instinctively used her hands to block the sharp sunlight as she finally opened her eyes.

At the same time, she saw Mu Qinghe standing in front of her. "...Lieutenant Mu?"

After a temporary pause, she suddenly seemed to realize something as she stood up and scanned her surroundings. "This is... Where are we?"

Looking at her eyes filled with shock and confusion, Mu Qinghe said expressionlessly, "Outside Golden Inheritance Peak."

Chu Liuyue stared at him in shock. "You're saying that... we're already out?"

Mu Qinghe looked at her with a deep gaze as if he wanted to see through her. "You don't know what happened?"

Chu Liuyue shook her head.

"Didn't you pass through the obstacle and enter the middle of the imperial mausoleum? Why wouldn't you know?" Mu Qinghe suddenly lowered his body, stared straight into Chu Liuyue's eyes, and interrogated her.

Chu Liuyue was stunned by his actions as she instinctively moved backward and frowned with a confused expression. "Lieutenant Mu, what exactly are you saying? I-I just remember that I seemed to be stuck in this weird room with golden sand everywhere... I... I can't remember anything else..."

Suddenly, her gaze landed on him, and she gasped. "How did you get so severely injured?"

Mu Qinghe pressed his lips against each other tightly. Chu Liuyue's behavior doesn't seem like she's acting... However, I still feel that there's something wrong.

"You really can't remember?"

Chu Liuyue looked helpless and was about to stand up.

The moment she stood up, she yelled, "Si!" and held her head.

"My head hurts!"

Mu Qinghe's gaze wavered. Actually, the back of my head hurts too... Did Chu Liuyue not lie? Were we sent out together?

Seeing her rubbing her head and baring her teeth, Mu Qinghe believed in her more and suppressed his dangerous aura.

He turned around and stared at Golden Inheritance Peak again. If Chu Liuyue really took it, she didn't need to come out with me. Besides... there isn't that thing's movement on her. Considering this, a third person should've obtained it.

"Did you see anyone else in the imperial mausoleum?" asked Mu Qinghe suddenly.

Chu Liuyue denied it similarly. Other than that mysterious Master, she did see everyone else that entered very clearly. However, she naturally couldn't tell Mu Qinghe this.

Mu Qinghe didn't hope to get any clues from Chu Liuyue. After much thinking, he raised his legs and walked forward.

Chu Liuyue was shocked. "Lieutenant Mu, what are you doing!? Do you still want to go back?"

Mu Qinghe coldly said, "You can stay here or go back yourself."

Chu Liuyue said, "...But you're so severely injured! It isn't good if you go back now, right? Besides, I think we were discovered by the people around Golden Inheritance Peak when we entered. If you go back now..."

Anyone with a brain knows that they can't go back in these circumstances. What's wrong with Mu Qinghe?

Mu Qinghe seemed to ignore her words as he continued to walk forward.

"That girl is right. Why are you so anxious to send yourself to your grave?" A teasing voice lazily sounded.

Mu Qinghe stood still.

Chu Liuyue was slightly taken aback as she looked up.

A big figure gradually walked over from the neighboring trees as it leaned against a trunk. He hugged his arms and looked at the duo in a seemingly smiling manner.

It was Jian Fengchi!

Something flashed in Chu Liuyue's eyes as she politely greeted him. As if nonchalant, she also asked, "I wonder when you came, Young Master Jian. Lieutenant Mu and I actually didn't notice you."

Jian Fengchi seemed to remember something upsetting, and his face turned cold. "I planned to come earlier on, but I didn't expect to meet with some trouble on the way... Hence, I walked a huge round around Golden Inheritance Peak and came here when I felt Mu Qinghe's aura. When I came here, he just woke up."

Then, he looked at Mu Qinghe and sized him up with contempt. "It looks like you were beaten silly. You actually didn't notice that I had come here after so long. You've only been here for a while, but your standards have gone down by so much."

Chu Liuyue felt slightly more assured as it seemed like Jian Fengchi didn't know what had happened earlier.

Mu Qinghe was too lazy to care about Jian Fengchi as he continued walking forward.

Jian Fengchi raised his brows and looked at Chu Liuyue. "If he doesn't want to talk about it, you can do so. Why did the two of you come here?"

"Jian Fengchi!" Mu Qinghe shot him a look of warning.

Jian Fengchi shrugged his shoulders and sensibly drew a line across his mouth, indicating that he would keep quiet. However, he walked over to Chu Liuyue while smiling. "Ms. Chu, it seems like you're injured too. Why don't I send you back? Don't worry. Even if he's dead, I'll help to send you back to the Tianling Dynasty!"

Choo!

A longsword cut through the air.

Jian Fengchi easily evaded it.

Mu Qinghe closed his eyes and finally turned around. "You better not land in my hands next time!"

Jian Fengchi raised his brows at Chu Liuyue delightedly.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. Why don't I know when the two of us become this close?!

Chapter 416: Seal

In the forest, the three of them quietly walked forward, and the atmosphere was awkward.

Mu Qinghe's expression didn't look good from the start, and his entire person looked like a mobile ice mountain.

On the other hand, Jian Fengchi focused on thinking about how to get information out of Chu Liuyue and Mu Qinghe.

As for Chu Liuyue... She was thinking about when the two of them started interacting.

In her previous life, she and Jian Fengchi were definitely not on good terms. She hated Jian Fengchi's frivolous behavior, and Jian Fengchi mocked her for her traditional and old-fashioned ways.

Anyway, when the two of them met, they would always have an unpleasant ending.

As for Mu Qinghe... He either accompanied beside her or was busy handling military affairs. Thus, he rarely interacted with other people, let alone Jian Fengchi.

Sometimes, when Jian Fengchi was too overboard, Mu Qinghe would even willingly request to teach him a lesson, but Chu Liuyue stopped him most of the time. This wasn't because she didn't want to do so, but that she was purely worried about Mu Qinghe not being able to control himself and beating the other party to death.

Jian Fengchi held some status, so it was quite troublesome to beat him to death.

She didn't expect that the two of them would become friends a year after her death. It was very obvious that they had become trustable and dependable friends.

Chu Liuyue could confirm that the duo didn't interact much at first, and she wondered what had happened a year after her death.

However... Something popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind. I don't even know why Mu Qinghe betrayed me, so it's natural for me not to know these things.

Upon thinking of this, her interest faded away as she curled her lips up in a mocking manner, pushing these thoughts to the back of her mind.

Suddenly, Jian Fengchi thought of something and asked curiously, "Oh, yes. Ms. Chu, your fiancé—Prince Li—seems to be here too. Didn't you see him?"

...

In the imperial mausoleum and the dimly-lit corridor, it was deadly silent.

After Elder Ye spoke, Emperor Jiawen and Rong Jin were taken aback as they looked in that direction together. There are still two more people here?!

Seeing that the other party didn't respond, Elder Ye lazily said, "It seems like they're people that we know, so they refuse to show themselves."

He then looked at Rong Jin. "Who did you come to Golden Inheritance Peak with?"

Rong Jin's heart sank as he instinctively denied it. "I-I came here myself."

With his tracks exposed, he originally felt guilty. Together with Elder Ye's suppression scaring him, he didn't even dare to address himself in a respectful manner.

Elder Ye shook his head and sighed. "Crown Prince, are you still unwilling to admit it at this point? Do you think His Majesty and I look gullible?"

Rong Jin guiltily looked down, clenched his teeth, and felt very conflicted.

Who followed me in? Only Situ Xingchen came with me, but I already told her to wait outside, and she agreed. It's fine if it wasn't here, but if it really is... Then, I'll definitely implicate her.

At that moment, Rong Jin suddenly remembered what Situ Xingchen had said. "...Your Highness, you can't let anyone else know about me helping you. This way, even if His Majesty finds something amiss, I can find ways to help you get out of it. After all, there's still my father. However, if I'm implicated in the situation as well... even my father can't do much. Anyway, just be careful..."

Rong Jin felt that her words made sense. Now that his mother was dead and he landed in such a situation, he could only depend on Situ Xingchen.

"I really came here alone!" said Rong Jin with clenched teeth.

Elder Ye looked at Rong Jin and felt that nobody could save him anymore.

Emperor Jiawen sneered. "Really? Just based on you alone, you can escape from Crown Prince Mansion and hide your aura all the way here?"

Rong Jin's face flushed red, but he refused to admit it.

Elder Ye was too lazy to talk to him as he spoke to the duo in the dark. "If you refuse to come out, then we'll just have to fight it out..."

Then, the fan in his hands suddenly flew out.

Choo!

One could hear it cutting through the wind.

The harsh, strong wind immediately swept across that area.

Hong!

A similarly powerful force met with it.

Both forces slammed against each other ferociously, and the entire corridor trembled.

A white mist suddenly spread out.

Elder Ye's expression turned cold as he immediately wanted to follow them, but the moment he stepped out, he furrowed his brows. "The gas is poisonous!"

Emperor Jiawen and Rong Jin were caught off-guard, so they had already inhaled quite a bit of the gas.

They started to cough violently.

"Cough, cough cough—"

Upon seeing the duo's reaction, Elder Ye looked terrible. If I run out alone, I can most likely catch the other party. But if I leave Emperor Jiawen and Rong Jin behind, they will definitely be in trouble. The most important thing now is to get them out of here and clear the poison in their bodies.

Elder Ye stared at the duo's escape route with much hatred. What a pity!

He took out a jade bottle and quickly poured out two pills, giving one each to Emperor Jiawen and Rong Jin. "Your Majesty, this poison is very dangerous. Use this heart control pill first. We'll get out as soon as possible."

Emperor Jiawen took the pill and swallowed it.

Rong Jin anxiously snatched the item over and quickly swallowed it.

Emperor Jiawen looked at him and felt disgusted. Rong Jin is really stupid and useless! When we return to the palace, I must severely punish him!

Elder Ye brought the two of them to go out.

"Elder Ye, why don't you chase after the two people first?! I can go out on my own!" Actually, Emperor Jiawen really wanted to know who the two people that just escaped were.

It was fine that the people who entered the imperial mausoleum had heaven-defying powers, but how could he let off the two people that sneakily followed them into the imperial mausoleum like rats?

Elder Ye sighed. "Your Majesty, they're very prepared, so it's too late to chase after them now. We can investigate this matter after we go out.

"However, the two of them didn't even show their figures. Won't it be looking for a needle in a haystack if we want to search for them after we go out?"

Rong Jin followed behind them and heaved a sigh of relief in his heart.

Elder Ye looked at Rong Jin with deep meaning. "Not really. Perhaps we might very quickly find out the duo's identities."

Rong Jin felt a chill run down his spine as he unwittingly hung his head lower.

The three of them continued to retreat in the same way.

Most likely because of the poisonous gas, Emperor Jiawen and Rong Jin's bodies quickly couldn't hold on any longer as they walked increasingly slower.

If it weren't for Elder Ye following them, the two of them might really be unable to get out of this place alive.

...

On the other end, Situ Xingchen and Elder Lian Ning had quickly run to the outside.

Situ Xingchen almost bit her lips until they broke, and her eyes were filled with vengeance. "The Empress, that old b*tch, actually lied to me!"

She never expected Rong Jin not to be Heaven's Chosen Son! She completely wasted all her efforts.

Elder Lian Ning didn't look too good, and he didn't say anything. He only heaved a sigh of relief when he saw the light ahead. "Your Highness, the entrance is ahead. We can talk about it after we've escaped."

But at this point, a large sound came from above the duo's heads.

The nearby circular plate actually started to close slowly!

Chapter 417: Where's His Highness?

"The exit is about to close!" Elder Lian Ning gasped and looked at Situ Xingchen as the two of them immediately rushed to the front. However, they were still late by a step.

Ka!

Just as the two of them were about to step out, the circular plate slowly but determinedly closed.

All the light was instantly shut away outside.

The two of them plunged into darkness once again.

Situ Xingchen tried hard to push the stone wall and tried to open it, but no matter how much strength she used, the circular plate wouldn't budge at all.

"This thing is tightly connected to the entire imperial mausoleum. You can't open it with brute force," said Elder Lian Ning with a darkened face.

"What should we do then? Are we just stuck here?" Situ Xingchen looked at him anxiously. "Even you don't have a way?"

Elder Lian Ning stepped up, placed his hands on the surface, and felt it in detail.

After a moment, he slowly shook his head. "Unless we have the key..."

Situ Xingchen's heart sank. "So only Emperor Jiawen and the rest can open it?"

Elder Lian Ning didn't say anything, but the silence had confirmed everything.

The surroundings fell into dead silence.

Situ Xingchen harshly hammered the surface and clenched her teeth. "The replicated key I took from the Empress is with Rong Jin, but he didn't even use it! If I knew earlier, I should've just kept it for myself."

After going through so much trouble, I didn't expect it to be all for naught. To think that I acted in front of Rong Jin for so long! Now that she recalled everything that happened scene by scene, Situ Xingchen was so disgusted that she almost vomited.

Elder Lian Ning sighed and advised, "No one could've expected this. Your Highness, don't waste your time and effort on these people. It's not worth being angry at him. Actually, not only you but even His Majesty..."

Situ Xingchen clamped down on her lips. Father has planned this for so long. If he knows that everything was just a farce and that Rong Jin isn't the so-called Heaven's Chosen Son, he would be furious.

“It’s clearly someone else that’s Heaven’s Chosen Son. But from what I see, I think Rong Jin only knew about this today. If I didn’t guess wrongly, it should’ve been mistaken on the Empress’s side,” said Elder Lian Ning thoughtfully.

Situ Xingchen was too furious at the start. Now that she calmed down and thought about it, there really was such a possibility.

The Empress had bitterly prepared for so many years because she must’ve treated Rong Jin as the true Heaven’s Chosen Son.

She knew how the Empress looked before she died. The Empress definitely didn’t know about this.

“She had it easy then...” muttered Situ Xingchen indignantly. If the Empress knew that her many years of effort amounted to a joke, I wonder how she would react. It’s a pity that I killed her after I took her replicated key.

“She can reincarnate earlier if she dies earlier. If we had let her live, she would definitely cause even more trouble. Your Highness, your decision was correct,” said Elder Lian Ning.

However, this didn’t make Situ Xingchen feel better.

“But we don’t have any ways of escaping now! If they catch up—” Before she could finish her sentence, a harsh aura suddenly came from the back.

Elder Lian Ning looked solemn as he immediately blocked Situ Xingchen and retaliated at the same time.

Hong!

A fireball suddenly burned.

Elder Lian Ning’s eyes and nostrils shrunk.

Elder Ye’s previous force hid a fireball, so when the two parties’ forces harshly slammed against each other, it illuminated the place.

The fire sparks flew everywhere and brightened up the area.

Elder Ye and the rest finally saw the duo’s appearances.

That elder’s appearance is very unfamiliar, but the young girl behind him that couldn’t hide in time... Who else can it be other than Situ Xingchen?!

Emperor Jiawen was utterly shocked. “It’s actually you?!”

Elder Ye didn’t look shocked, and he laughed instead. “I guessed correctly.” After much thinking, she was the one most likely to do this.

Rong Jin opened his mouth but did not say anything. Situ Xingchen really lied to me! Not only did she secretly follow me in, but she even brought someone else along! She had clearly planned all of this in advance!

Situ Xingchen looked terrible. The others aren’t that bad, but this Ye Zhiting is very hard to deal with! It’s impossible to lie to him!

The two parties fell into an awkward silence, and the atmosphere was tense.

At this point, something turning sounded.

Situ Xingchen instinctively turned around, and her eyelids twitched.

The exit that previously refused to budge actually started to turn slowly.

A white light shone in from outside.

“Situ Xingchen, shouldn’t you give me an explanation?” hollered Emperor Jiawen as he suppressed the anger in his heart. If he didn’t even understand Situ Xingchen’s intentions at this point, he didn’t need to sit on the throne anymore.

Situ Xingchen’s hands in her sleeves slowly clenched into fists as she almost broke her teeth off.

...

While Golden Inheritance Peak was in a mess, Chu Liuyue and the other two had already silently left.

Hearing Jian Fengchi’s words, she stopped in her tracks. “You’re saying that Rong... Prince Li is also here?”

Jian Fengchi’s lips curved up into a sinister smile. “Your fiancé is very worried about you. The moment he heard you left with Mu Qinghe, he immediately came over to find you. He came here even earlier than me. Why? Did you not see him?”

An idea popped up in Chu Liuyue’s mind, but she didn’t show it as she smiled slightly. “Prince Li has always been weak, so it’s normal for him to be a little slow.”

Jian Fengchi suddenly chuckled. “You really think so? I think his body is in superb condition!”

Chu Liuyue looked unaffected. “Prince Li is my fiancé. I know his body the best.”

Jian Fengchi just laughed as he supported his head in a nonchalant manner.

Chu Liuyue suddenly became very anxious, but it wasn’t because she was worried that Rong Xiu’s abilities were exposed.

Jian Fengchi had always been sensitive, so it was no surprise that he could detect something amiss with Rong Xiu.

Instead, she was thinking about something else. According to what Jian Fengchi said, Rong Xiu arrived at Golden Inheritance Peak even earlier than him, but I haven’t seen him at all up till now. This is definitely not normal.

She vaguely felt that something was wrong, but her mind seemed to be in a mess as she could not think straight.

After walking for a while, she suddenly heard some sounds from the front.

The trio looked up in unison.

A horse carriage appeared in front of the three of them.

At one glance, Chu Liuyue saw Yu Mo sitting at the front of the horse carriage.

That was Prince Li Mansion's horse carriage.

Chu Liuyue's uneasy heart finally relaxed as she stared at the curtain of the horse carriage.

Yu Mo saw her and immediately jumped down the horse carriage elatedly. "Ms. Liuyue, you're really here!"

Chu Liuyue's eyes sparkled as she asked, "Where's His Highness?"

A white and intricate hand suddenly stretched out from behind the curtain and lifted it slightly.

A distinguished and handsome face suddenly appeared in front of her.

He looked at her with a smile, and his eyes were clear and deep like the night sky, which made one fall deep into them.

"Yue'er."

Chapter 418: Reject

Looking at the face that suddenly appeared in front of her, Chu Liuyue was dazed. "Your Highness?"

Rong Xiu is really in the horse carriage?

Rong Xiu quietly sized her up and saw her slightly messy and dirtied appearance. Then, he raised his brows. "You're injured?"

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "Don't worry, Your Highness. I'm not injured. The one who is injured... is Lieutenant Mu."

Rong Xiu then seemed to notice the two men beside her as his gaze was quiet. He nodded to acknowledge them. "Lieutenant Mu, Young Master Jian."

Mu Qinghe didn't react, but Jian Fengchi gave a meaningful smile. "Your Highness, you didn't come very quickly."

Rong Xiu clenched his fist and coughed. "It's currently late autumn, and the weather is chilly. Hence, it's more troublesome for me to go out."

Jian Fengchi did not care for his words. Rong Xiu's body is clearly fine, and his abilities aren't weak. If he wanted to come, he would've reached here long ago. Speaking of that, it's pretty weird. When I saw Rong Xiu's worried appearance earlier, I thought he would immediately come to Golden Inheritance Peak, but I didn't expect him to take so long. I wonder what exactly Rong Xiu was doing...

But the two parties didn't have much conflict, and Jian Fengchi was secretly a little fearful of Rong Xiu. Thus, he didn't say much.

Chu Liuyue walked toward Rong Xiu, passed by Yu Mo, and lightly glanced at him. "His Highness hasn't recovered yet. Why didn't you bring a hand warmer for him?"

Even though her tone was light, it sent chills down Yu Mo's back. "I admit my mistake!"

His Highness had always claimed to be ill toward the public, so he would always be adequately prepared every time he went out. However, they came out in too much of a hurry this time, so he forgot about it.

Besides, given this weather, there really wasn't a need for a hand warmer...

Yu Mo lowered his head and thought about it, but he didn't dare to express it on his face as he hurriedly backed away in respect.

Chu Liuyue walked to the horse carriage. "Your Highness, are you okay?"

Rong Xiu lightly coughed. "I'm fine."

Chu Liuyue then nodded in a seemingly assured manner. "That's good. If your illness relapses because you came to find me, I'll feel very guilty."

When Jian Fengchi—who was standing behind them—heard the duo's conversation, his mouth and eyes became wide open as his eyelids twitched. W-what are these two people doing? Who here can't tell that Rong Xiu is acting? Why must the two of them act so seriously? They're too immersed in their drama, aren't they?!

Rong Xiu stretched out his hand. "Come on up."

Chu Liuyue nodded lightly and placed her hand in his palm as she casually leaped up to the horse carriage.

Rong Xiu then looked at Jian Fengchi and Mu Qinghe. "I've been out for too long, and I feel uncomfortable, so I'll take my leave first."

Chu Liuyue—who had just sat properly in the horse carriage—paused in her actions and quickly looked at him. It seems like Rong Xiu doesn't plan to let Mu Qinghe and Jian Fengchi board the carriage.

Jian Fengchi's lips twitched even more harshly. "W-what did you say? You want to abandon the both of us here?!"

Rong Xiu slightly raised his brows and smiled amiably. "Young Master Jian and Lieutenant Mu have distinguished status. It would be beneath you if you were to sit in my horse carriage."

At this point, even Chu Liuyue couldn't carry on listening. She covered her lips and coughed. "Your Highness, Lieutenant Mu is injured. I think it's more convenient if we bring him back."

A smirk appeared on Rong Xiu's lips, but Chu Liuyue suddenly felt that the surrounding air instantly became colder.

"If Lieutenant Mu doesn't mind, I would be more than willing."

However, Mu Qinghe knitted his brows and walked in another direction.

Jian Fengchi was stunned and hurriedly followed him. "Hey, why are you leaving?"

Mu Qinghe's eyes seemed to be covered by a layer of frost as he continued walking without a word.

"Why are you acting—" Before Jian Fengchi could finish his sentence, he suddenly thought of something and stopped. Then, he rubbed his brows and felt rather helpless.

"I really don't know what sins I've committed in my past life to meet with you master and servant in my current life."

Mu Qinghe stopped in his tracks and coldly glanced at him, hiding murderous intent under his eyes. "Even if I'm injured now, it would be as easy as ABC for me to kill you."

Jian Fengchi immediately moved back and glared at him alertly. "Let me tell you! I came here to help you today! Don't think of repaying your gratitude with hatred!"

The moment Jian Fengchi finished his sentence, Mu Qinghe suddenly raised his hand. A green fire rapidly flew out from his palms and went straight for Jian Fengchi's head.

Jian Fengchi immediately waved his hands in front of his body as a barrier appeared and blocked the green fire outside.

Even though he did so, he was still quite affected by the terrifying impact, and his legs sunk into the ground.

Jian Fengchi couldn't help but scold, "You're doing it for real?!"

I just said 'master and servant' and yelled 'repay gratitude with hatred!' I didn't do it on purpose! Besides, how long has it been? What's there to mind? The worst thing is that this fellow is already so injured, but his combat skills are still so powerful!

It was the nth time that Jian Fengchi felt astonished in his heart. This fellow really didn't waste his time being tortured in the army for so many years... Once he makes a move, he wants to claim one's life.

Mu Qinghe's eyes flashed black as he staggered backward and almost fell to the ground. Previously, he was quite injured. Now that he had suddenly used his force, his body couldn't withstand it.

But he still clenched his teeth and pushed through as he continued walking with a pale face, letting the wounds continue tearing open and bleeding.

Jian Fengchi followed him with a headache. "Okay! Okay! My fault! It's my bad!"

It's inappropriate if I really get angered to death by Mu Qinghe.

Seeing the two figures gradually disappearing, Rong Xiu finally put the curtain down. "Go back to Prince Li Mansion."

"Yes!" Yu Mo acknowledged the order as he jumped back onto the horse carriage and swung his long whip. "Go!"

The wheels turned, and the horse carriage proceeded in another direction.

Rong Xiu retracted his gaze and saw the dazed Chu Liuyue as if she was in deep thought.

His gaze was deep. "Yue'er, Yue'er?"

He called her twice, and Chu Liuyue finally recovered her senses. "Hm? What's the matter?"

Rong Xiu's gaze looked unaffected as he lightly asked, "What are you thinking about?"

“...Nothing.” Chu Liuyue shook her head and averted her gaze. Actually, when she saw Jian Fengchi and Mu Qinghe quarreling, she suddenly thought of something.

Mu Qinghe really didn't sit on horse carriages. As for the reason...

Actually, there was once when the two of them departed on a journey together. They sat on two horse carriages for convenience. In the end, they met with an attack on the way, and because Mu Qinghe was in another horse carriage, he couldn't rush to her in time.

That time, she was only slightly injured, but Mu Qinghe knelt in front of the palace for a day and a night to atone for his sins.

Ever since then, he never sat on a horse carriage.

Rong Xiu suddenly held her hand.

Chu Liuyue was dazed as she looked up at Rong Xiu.

The two of them stared straight into each other's eyes.

Her heart tingled, and she slowly said, “Actually, I was thinking. Why did you come so late today, Your Highness?”

Chapter 419: Have an Appointment

With Rong Xiu's abilities, if he wanted to, he could definitely reach here at the fastest speed without attracting anyone's attention. But not only did he come so late now, he was even on a horse carriage. This doesn't fit his usual working style. Unless... There are other reasons for him doing so. The greatest possibility would be that he wants to... cover up something. Chu Liuyue looked at Rong Xiu, and her heart hung in her throat.

A vague guess surfaced in her heart, but it was too ridiculous and impossible, so she didn't even spend any effort to think about it.

But at this point, the late Rong Xiu in the horse carriage... Everything seemed to be signifying something.

Rong Xiu held her hand tightly. “I was delayed by some matters.”

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. “Oh? What was the matter?”

Rong Xiu calmly said, “The Empress committed suicide.”

The Empress is actually dead?! Chu Liuyue was shocked. “When did it happen?”

“The news came out today, but I'm not sure of the specific time. Lord Chu Ning is currently handling this matter in the palace, and Father seems to have sealed the news. But for some reason, the news still leaked out.”

Hearing that Chu Ning was in charge of this, Chu Liuyue knitted her brows even tighter. Currently, Emperor Jiawen hates the Empress to the core. I believed that he wanted the Empress to die, but definitely not at this moment. Besides, the Empress was still the nation's mother. Her sudden death will definitely influence many things.

Father is already implicated in the investigation of Heptagon Alley. If anything else happens to the Empress's matters, I'm afraid...

"Your Highness, do you know who leaked the news?"

Rong Xiu shook his head. "There are many guards outside the Empress's residence, so quite a few people know about this. When there's a lot of people, it's hard to control their mouths. It's not so easy to find out in such a short period of time. I've already sent people to suppress the news, but... it won't hold for long."

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding. There were no walls in the world that didn't allow wind to pass through, let alone such shocking news. "Why did the Empress pass away so suddenly?"

First of all, Emperor Jiawen grounded her to prevent her from doing anything outrageous. It was also to purposely let her live. There were many things that hadn't been cleared up, so her sudden death was extremely frustrating.

"It seems to be... related to Third Brother." Rong Xiu looked mysterious. "I heard that he was the last person who saw the Empress. Not long after he left, the Empress died."

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. "You're saying that... Someone framed Third Highness?"

Rong Xiu's thin lips curved up, and his deep eyes seemed to be filled with galaxies. "You've always known me the best, Yue'er."

Chu Liuyue suddenly tilted her head and asked with much interest, "Then, Your Highness, do you know what I'm thinking of now?"

Rong Xiu's gaze focused.

Chu Liuyue held his hand and moved forward.

The distance between the two of them was very short, and they could breathe in each other's breaths.

She could even see her tiny figure reflected in the depths of Rong Xiu's eyes.

"Mu Qinghe brought me to Golden Inheritance Peak today. Guess who I saw inside? Rong Jin!"

Rong Xiu smiled without any surprise. "He did leave Crown Prince Mansion today."

Chu Liuyue wasn't shocked that Rong Xiu knew this. After going through so much, she long realized that Rong Xiu was much more mysterious and powerful than she had imagined.

"But do you know why he came to the imperial mausoleum? Because... he thought he was Heaven's Chosen Son." Chu Liuyue slowed down when she said the last few words. "Actually, he knew of this earlier on, but he came to the imperial mausoleum today. At first, I still didn't understand why, but I realized something when you said that the Empress committed suicide."

"It must be because Rong Jin suddenly knew something after the Empress's death, so he didn't care about disobeying His Majesty's orders and came here secretly. But... According to what I saw, his 'Heaven's Chosen Son' doesn't mean much. On the other hand, I met someone else... that is very familiar with the imperial mausoleum."

Rong Xiu raised his saber-like eyebrows. "Oh?"

Chu Liuyue looked at him as if she wanted to see the innermost ripples in his eyes. "Like you, that person is very strong, and he isn't any weaker than Mu Qinghe. But it's a pity... I didn't get to see what he looked like," said Chu Liuyue in a seemingly smiling manner. "For some reason, that person didn't want me to see his face. Your Highness, don't you think this is weird?"

Rong Xiu looked calm and was about to speak when he suddenly felt a formidable aura approaching.

The horses suddenly screeched and raised their front hooves.

Yu Mo immediately pulled on the taut rope to stabilize them.

The horse carriage shook intensely before stopping.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows and was about to look over, but her body habitually flew to the front.

Rong Xiu held her thin waist, and the two of them turned.

Bang!

A low sound was heard.

Chu Liuyue felt that she had hit something. When she opened her eyes, she realized that Rong Xiu had half-fallen and that she was currently in his arms.

Only a few layers of clothes were in between the two of them.

Chu Liuyue could hear his powerful heartbeat and... even clearly feel his body warmth.

She was about to speak when Rong Xiu's fingers suddenly landed on her lips.

The moment they touched, the two of them were dazed in unison.

Actually, the two of them had slept together on the same bed multiple times, but for some reason, this close encounter in this narrow space actually made the environment flirtatious.

Rong Xiu almost instinctively used his fingers to caress her lips gently. They were unimaginably soft.

His gaze suddenly darkened.

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat as she hurriedly stood up.

Rong Xiu felt pity in his heart, but he didn't show it as he held his body up and lifted the curtain with one hand.

Chu Liuyue's gaze turned away and followed his line of sight.

She saw a familiar figure standing near the horse carriage.

Seeing that person's face, Chu Liuyue gasped. "Second Master Yan, why are you here?"

The incoming person is actually Yan Ge?!

Upon seeing Rong Xiu beside Chu Liuyue, a chill was sent down Yan Ge's spine for some reason. Why... is there a murderous aura...?

His original enthusiastic smile froze. "Ms. Liuyue, um... um... Master said that he had something on today, so he left first. The promise made earlier counts. When the time is right, he will naturally come to find you. You don't have to worry about it."

Chu Liuyue was dazed. "Your Master... has already left?"

Yan Ge nodded. "Yeah! After I sent Master away, I rushed over to see you."

Chu Liuyue's brows twitched. Is whatever I previously guessed wrong?

Rong Xiu leaned back and sounded lazy. "So not only did Yue'er meet someone unexpected in the imperial mausoleum, but you even made a promise with that person?"

Chapter 420: The Beauty of Fulfilling Someone's Wishes

Chu Liuyue said to Yan Ge, "Thank you, Second Master Yan. When I see Master in the future, I'll definitely thank him personally."

Yan Ge laughed out loud. "T-then if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave first. I won't disturb Your Highness and Ms. Liuyue."

After saying his piece, he quickly left.

Chu Liuyue blinked. Why do I feel that Yan Ge's footsteps seem to be hurried... It's like he wants to leave as soon as possible?

Rong Xiu lightly glanced at Yu Mo.

Yu Mo immediately straightened his back and continued steering the horses.

Rong Xiu then put the curtain down and nonchalantly said, "So, you met Zhen Bao Pavilion's Master in the imperial mausoleum."

Chu Liuyue retracted her gaze. "Your Highness, do you know him?"

Rong Xiu curled his lips into a half-smile. "I can't say that I know him, but I have heard some rumors about him."

Chu Liuyue gave him a meaningful look but saw that he looked dazed. She couldn't discern anything from him. Perhaps... I really thought too much?

"This person has helped me multiple times, and it's also because of him that I can escape safely. But... Your Highness, how did you find me here?"

Rong Xiu paused in his actions, but he quickly returned to his senses. "Xue Xue knows that you're here."

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding.

Fiends naturally had very sensitive five senses. As Xue Xue normally looked to spend time with her, it was familiar with her aura. Thus, it was normal for it to find her here.

“I haven’t seen Xue Xue in a long time.”

“Why did Mu Qinghe bring you here?” asked Rong Xiu.

Chu Liuyue paused for a while and shook her head. “I think he’s looking for something.” In actual fact, she really did not know what Mu Qinghe planned to do.

He most likely came for the pyramid, but... What exactly is that thing? Why does he want it? The strange thing is: if it’s such an important and mysterious thing, why must he bring me along? Chu Liuyue felt that her gaze was clouded.

Rong Xiu said, “It caused quite a scene this time, so Father will definitely investigate urgently. The fewer the people who know about you and Mu Qinghe coming here, the better.”

Chu Liuyue recovered her senses and nodded.

...

When Emperor Jiawen and the rest came out of the imperial mausoleum’s passageway, Elder Ye immediately sent out news.

When Zhong Qi and the rest—who were waiting bitterly at the mountain peak—saw the signal, they immediately rushed over.

When they saw the few people standing behind Emperor Jiawen and Elder Ye, Zhong Qi and the rest were shocked. W-when did these people barge into Golden Inheritance Peak?

He didn’t really recognize the other two people, but he wouldn’t recognize Crown Prince Rong Jin wrongly. However, the usually arrogant Crown Prince looked very dispirited now.

The young lady and elder at the side didn’t look any better.

Elder Ye asked, “During this period, did anyone else come out from the imperial mausoleum other than us?”

Zhong Qi immediately nodded. “We sent more people to guard the outside of Golden Inheritance Peak, but... We didn’t see anyone’s traces.”

Due to the poison, Emperor Jiawen’s face was very pale. But as he was furious, his face turned quite green. “From now on, watch over them closely! If you discover anything amiss, immediately come and report to me!”

I don’t believe that the two of them can stay inside all the way!

Zhong Qi and the rest didn’t dare to ask why Rong Jin and the rest appeared here, and they could only nod readily.

At the side, Elder Ye turned around and shook the fan in his hands. The person inside has heaven-defying abilities. Isn’t it too simple for him to leave this place quietly? But Emperor Jiawen’s blood is boiling at this point, so there is no need to say all of this. Perhaps... the person inside has long left.

Elder Ye helplessly smiled and shook his head. Even though I didn't see them, such a powerful warrior isn't someone that a mere Country Yao Chen can afford to offend... I wonder how Situ Xingchen and the rest offended them. The exit didn't close any earlier or later but precisely when they wanted to escape, trapping them inside. This was clearly done on purpose!

His gaze swept past Situ Xingchen and the rest. Hehe, there'll be a good show!

...

Almost overnight, the entire Imperial City changed.

First, the Empress passed away. Then, as Rong Jin was disrespectful to his ancestors, he was removed from his Crown Prince position.

These two incidents happened one after another, overwhelming everyone.

In no time, all sorts of guesses surfaced.

Some said that the Empress and His Majesty had always been loving for the past years and that her body had always been well, so it was strange that she suddenly passed on.

Also, Rong Jin had been the Crown Prince for many years, and he had always been thought of highly. Even if he had made mistakes previously and was scolded in public, His Majesty had never removed him from his position. But at this point, right after the Empress died, Rong Jin was deposed.

This aroused many suspicions.

Some said that even though it looked like the Empress took care of the harem harmoniously, in actual fact, quite a few consorts and princes had died in her hands. His Majesty couldn't hold it in anymore, so he sentenced her to death. Rong Jin was implicated and was hated by His Majesty as well, so he eventually got his punishment.

However, the rumor that spread the most was that the Empress's death was related to the Third Prince.

As his mother, Noble Lady Yin, was harmed by the Empress back then, Rong Jiu long hated her and planned to kill her.

As for Rong Jin... He had been scolded and even grounded by His Majesty multiple times in the past months, so his Crown Prince position had long been in name only. It was just a matter of time before he would've been officially deposed.

Even though the superiors strictly banned the discussion of this and used all sorts of methods to suppress the news, the arrival of Country Xing Luo's Emperor Xiankang made the entire incident even more peculiar.

There seemed to be an invisible hand in the dark, which easily controlled everything, causing even more uproars.

...

At the royal palace.

In the main palace, Situ Yan and Emperor Jiawen were facing each other off.

Situ Yan looked stern. "I'll repeat it again—hand Xingchen and Lian Ning over and dissolve her marriage agreement with Rong Jin. If not, Country Xing Luo won't take this lying down!"

Emperor Jiawen seemed to have heard the world's biggest joke. "Hahaha! Situ Yan, you still have the cheek to say that? Do you need me to personally say what you and that precious daughter of yours did secretly? From start to end, you've had ill intentions. Now that your plan failed, you still dare to come and demand her return?"

It's no wonder Situ Yan kept bringing up the marriage alliance from the start. It's also no wonder that he thought highly of Rong Jin only and ignored the rest. Previously, I naively thought that Situ Yan was aiming for Rong Jin's position as the Crown Prince. But thinking about it, why would Country Xing Luo's emperor care about this? I was really blind back then!

When Situ Yan received the news earlier on, he knew that the matter had been completely exposed. Thus, he completely didn't care when he heard Emperor Jiawen say all of this. He came here just to bring Situ Xingchen away!

To think that I planned so bitterly for so long. I didn't expect Rong Jin to be a fake Heaven's Chosen Son! I don't even know where to unleash the fury and vengeance in my heart!

"So you refuse to hand her over?"

Emperor Jiawen sneered. "Hand her over? The two of them are a match made in heaven; I must fulfill their wish! After the one-month mourning period for the Empress, I'll let them hold a grand wedding!"