

The Doctor 571

Chapter 571: Suspect

Tianling Imperial Palace.

Jiang Yucheng came to Huayang Palace in a hurry.

When the palace maids saw her, they bowed respectfully. "Greetings, Prince Consort."

Jiang Yucheng asked in a low voice, "Where's the Third Princess?"

A palace maid said, "The Third Princess was just resting at the side palace..."

When Jiang Yucheng heard this, he immediately went to the side palace.

The few palace maids immediately stopped him. "Prince Consort, the Third Princess hasn't been sleeping well for the past few days. Now that she has managed to fall asleep with much difficulty, why don't you wait first?"

Jiang Yucheng's gaze turned cold. "I have things to discuss with the Third Princess. If you delay it, can you take responsibility for it?"

The few palace maids were taken aback, and they looked at each other awkwardly. Chan Yi has instructed that we have to stop whoever wants to see the princess these two days, but this person is the Prince Consort after all...

Jiang Yucheng raised his legs and walked forward.

Just as he was about to reach the door, Chan Yi—who was standing at the door—bowed. "Prince Consort, the Third Princess is resting now. I hope you'll rest first."

Jiang Yucheng sneered. "I am the Third Princess's Prince Consort. Do I really need to ask you about whether I can see the Third Princess?"

Chan Yi knew that he was really enraged, so she immediately kneeled down. "I wouldn't dare! But the Third Princess—"

"I will naturally take responsibility for everything!" As Jiang Yucheng talked, he had already walked around her and reached the door as he pushed it to enter.

Chan Yi watched on nervously.

Jiang Yucheng glanced at her coldly and opened the door.

He walked straight in, and after circling past the screen, he saw Shangguan Wan sleeping on a bed.

Hearing the commotion, she furrowed her brows and opened her eyes. "...Yucheng? You're here?"

Shangguan Wan looked exhausted with two eyebags below her eyes; she clearly hadn't been resting well lately.

When she realized that Jiang Yucheng had barged in, slight anger flashed across her face. "Chan Yi, what did I tell you!"

Chan Yi looked down. "I was useless. Third Princess, please punish me!"

Jiang Yucheng walked over. "Don't blame her. I was too worried about you and forced my way in. You know that they can't stop me either."

Shangguan Wan's expression looked better. "Go and kneel outside for four hours."

"Yes!" acknowledged Chan Yi as she obediently kneeled down.

Jiang Yucheng sat down beside Shangguan Wan and tidied her slightly messy hair. "Have you not been sleeping well lately? Why didn't you light some incense?"

Shangguan Wan lay back down again. "I did, but it didn't work."

She hesitated for a moment before she whispered, "For some reason, I've just been very distracted... I even had nightmares a few times..."

Jiang Yucheng reassured her.

Shangguan Wan willingly asked, "Speaking of which, why did you come here today?"

Jiang Yucheng's eyes flashed slightly. "I was quite free today, so I wanted to come over and see you. Also, I heard that you summoned Yang Qin'er into the palace?"

Shangguan Wan's lips curved up without much smiling intent. He really came here for this.

"That's right."

Jiang Yucheng saw her honest face and didn't know how to ask. After some time, he said, "Did you not send her back yet?"

Shangguan Wan smiled with even deeper meaning. "Yeah. I asked her to come over and told her that everything was fine in the Tianling God Realm and that the Long Yuan Sword was still there. Everything she said previously was false."

Jiang Yucheng had actually already guessed this, so he wasn't shocked. "Isn't this the best outcome? As for Yang Qin'er... She lied to us and is in the wrong, but I believe she just misunderstood and didn't do it on purpose. After all, nobody would take their lives as a joke, right? You should just punish her lightly and let her off."

Shangguan Wan laughed. "What are you worried about? I saw that she still admitted her mistakes, so I didn't pursue the matter and asked her to stay in the palace for two more days. What, is there a problem?"

Jiang Yucheng's face finally became cold. "Wan'er, you're too impulsive. She does have a Dijing Yuan meridian, but we've previously already agreed not to make risky moves. How can you lock her up in the palace? Do you think I don't know what you're planning to do?"

Shangguan Wan looked at him coldly, and her gaze became cold. "You came here just to tell me this?"

Jiang Yucheng saw her stubborn attitude and was furious as he suddenly stood up. "You..."

Knock, knock...

A knocking sound was heard.

“Third Princess, I heard that you have already woken up. I prepared some longan lily porridge for you. Do you want some?”

Hearing this voice, Jiang Yucheng was stunned as he turned around to look. This is clearly Yang Qin’er’s voice!

He looked at Shangguan Wan with many doubts. “You didn’t—”

But Shangguan Wan didn’t look at him as she lazily said, “Come in.”

Creak!

The door opened, and the woman walked in with a bowl of porridge. It was actually Yang Qin’er.

Jiang Yucheng rapidly scanned her body and realized that she looked normal.

“Greetings, Prince Consort.” Yang Qin’er bowed to him again before she placed the porridge down.

“I already said a few times that I let you stay here because I like you. You can just leave the servants to do these things.”

Yang Qin’er smiled curtly. “I know.”

Shangguan Wan waved her hands. “I still have things to discuss with the Prince Consort. You can go down first.”

“Yes. Remember to eat this porridge; it won’t be good if it gets cold.” Then, Yang Qin’er respectfully exited and remembered to close the door.

After she left, Shangguan Wan raised her chin at Jiang Yucheng. “If you still doubt me, why don’t you check the porridge?”

Her words were filled with thorns, and her gaze was sharp.

Jiang Yucheng felt awkward for some reason. Perhaps I really misunderstood... But her emotions has always been unstable previously, and with Yang Qin’er’s incident now, I can’t help but be worried and think that she—

“I thought wrong.” Jiang Yucheng put his fists near his lips and coughed. “Wan’er, don’t be angry. I was wrong.”

Shangguan Wan didn’t say anything and just looked at him like that.

Jiang Yucheng felt very uneasy under her gaze and could only say, “You haven’t been resting well lately, so I won’t disturb you. Rest well. If there’s anything else, I’ll be here; you don’t have to worry.”

Then, without waiting for Shangguan Wan to reply, he turned around to leave.

After his figure disappeared outside the palace for some time, Shangguan Wan lightly grunted and picked up the bowl of porridge.

She gently stirred it with the spoon and saw some traces of blood. Without a change in expression, she finished the porridge.

After some time, Yang Qin'er silently came back. Seeing that Shangguan Wan had already finished the porridge, she quickly retracted her gaze.

Shangguan Wan thought for a moment and said, "You can go back today."

Yang Qin'er was a little shocked. "Didn't you previously say that it would take five days—"

"You just stayed in the palace for a day or two, and he came here with a lot of suspicions. It's not suitable if you stay any longer." Jiang Yucheng might've believed me today, but this person has always been doubtful. It's very possible that he will continue checking.

Yang Qin'er hesitated for a moment. "Yes."

Chapter 572: Jade Token

Chong Xu Cabinet.

Chu Liuyue, Qiang Wanzhou, and Weichi Song arrived at the old medicinal garden.

Standing outside, Weichi Song cast a huge barrier over the garden. He looked worried as he told Chu Liuyue, "As long as I'm around, nobody will disturb you."

"Thank you, Master." She nodded and stepped into the medicinal garden thereafter.

When she sensed that Qiang Wanzhou was following closely behind, she turned around and looked at him in puzzlement.

"I told you that I'd help to protect you," explained Qiang Wanzhou.

Chu Liuyue raised her chin. "You can do that outside the barrier. Isn't Master right there too?"

"If anything goes wrong, I can help you right away since I'm closer to you," said Qiang Wanzhou stubbornly. Then, as if he was afraid Chu Liuyue might voice her objection, he hurriedly added, "Nobody here knows more about Messed Yuan Gravel than I do."

Chu Liuyue chuckled when she saw how determined he looked. "Alright."

The two of them thus headed to the middle of the garden. When their gazes met, Qiang Wanzhou nodded his head slightly.

Taking a deep breath, Chu Liuyue took out her dagger and made a shallow cut on her left palm. A bloody slit appeared immediately, and fresh crimson blood began oozing out of the wound. She then sat cross-legged and placed her left palm on the ground.

A concentrated blood droplet silently seeped out from her hand and into the ochre ground.

A moment later, the withered herbs in their surroundings suddenly moved, and the Suchi plum flower—which was closest to them—started disintegrating from its roots. Flowing out from it were tiny Messed Yuan Gravel particles, and they were moving in Chu Liuyue's direction.

Soon, the same thing happened to the other herbs...

One by one, the withered herbs in Chu Liuyue's surroundings silently disintegrated as the Messed Yuan Gravel inside them began moving toward her at high speeds. They looked like countless strands of blood-red hair fluttering in the wind and also fine streams of sand flowing toward her.

Although the amount of Messed Yuan Gravel in each herb was minute, they quickly added up when gathered together. It didn't take long—just 15 minutes—before countless red streams appeared on the ground around Chu Liuyue. They were all heading toward her as if there was an invisible hand controlling everything.

As time passed, Chu Liuyue could clearly feel that the blood in her body was speedily flowing out of the cut on her palm. She looked down and noticed that the ground beneath her left hand was gradually becoming red and that the blood color was slowly spreading out into her surroundings.

More than that, her force was being consumed at an even faster rate than that of her blood loss. A slight frown settled between her brows as she thought, It's no wonder that Qiang Wanzhou was so opposed to this idea. Messed Yuan Gravel really does consume force to a terrifying extent.

I've just cleared the Messed Yuan Gravel within a 20-step radius, but I can already sense that I'm starting to lose my force at an extraordinary speed. The medicinal garden alone is huge enough, but it's highly likely that the Messed Yuan Gravel has spread to the entire Qing Yuan Mountain. I can't even imagine the amount of force that would be needed to clear everything. Nevertheless, it's a good thing that there's still no movement from the water droplet.

The thought of that made Chu Liuyue feel more assured and confident. She then started gathering her focus and circulating the force in her body.

The Messed Yuan Gravel located further away began heading in her direction as well.

As Qiang Wanzhou watched from the side, he dared not relax at all. After all, despite the smooth progress so far, this was only the beginning.

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Tianling Imperial Palace.

After leaving Huayang Palace, Jiang Yucheng intended to leave the palace straight away. But halfway there, he turned around and headed for Qingfeng Palace instead.

Qingfeng Palace was still as heavily guarded as before. Ordinary people weren't even allowed to step close to this place, but Jiang Yucheng was no ordinary person. Due to various reasons, he basically could come and go as he pleased.

The palace guards were rather surprised to see him here again. They couldn't help but wonder about the purpose of his visit, for he had just dropped by a few days ago. Although he did come by often, the frequency of his visits had increased lately.

Nonetheless, despite their curiosity, the palace guards dared not let their emotions show, much less question the man. These guards—who had been specially selected to guard this place—wouldn't make such foolish mistakes.

Jiang Yucheng was just about to enter the room when he noticed a familiar-looking pageboy standing outside, seemingly waiting for someone. Upon a closer look, he realized that it was imperial physician Zuo Mingxi's subordinate. Among the three imperial physicians selected by Shangguan Wan to take care of His Majesty, it's indeed Zuo Mingxi's turn to see His Majesty today.

The pageboy paid Jiang Yucheng a deep bow the moment he saw him.

"Is Physician Zuo inside?" asked Jiang Yucheng.

The pageboy respectfully answered, "Yes."

"How long has it been?"

"Fifteen minutes."

He should be almost out soon. Jiang Yucheng nodded, giving up the idea of entering the room after giving it a thought. Instead, he stood in place and waited outside with the pageboy.

The pageboy dared not ask any questions and could only carefully accompany him.

Soon, a middle-aged man emerged from the room—it was Zuo Mingxi.

Jiang Yucheng moved forward a little. "Physician Zuo."

Zuo Mingxi was surprised to see Jiang Yucheng around. "What is Eldest Young Master Jiang doing here?"

"The Third Princess hasn't been sleeping well lately, so I came to visit her. I thought I should come over and take a look at His Majesty's condition at the same time," answered Jiang Yucheng with a smile.

Looking relieved, Zuo Mingxi nodded in understanding as he stroked his beard. "You really are concerned about His Majesty."

"Did His Majesty show any signs of waking up, Physician Zuo?" asked Jiang Yucheng as he glanced at the tightly closed door.

A trace of disappointment flashed across Jiang Yucheng's eyes when the physician shook his head despondently. "Why hasn't his condition improved?" We've long stopped the use of drugs and have been providing him nourishment. Logically speaking, His Majesty should be awake by now, but there's no sign of him rousing at all.

"We can understand your worries, Eldest Young Master Jiang, but... There's no certainty when it comes to matters like this at times. Who knows? His Majesty might wake up tomorrow. Don't worry too much about it."

Jiang Yucheng could only nod in response. "Thanks for the trouble, Physician Zuo."

"How is it any trouble when this is my duty? Regardless, we'll do our best to make sure that His Majesty wakes up soon. If you don't have any more questions for me, I'll go write a prescription for His Majesty now."

"Please go ahead," said Jiang Yucheng as he took half a step back.

Zuo Mingxi cupped his hands in obeisance and then moved to leave together with the pageboy. He hadn't walked far when he suddenly heard Jiang Yucheng calling him.

"Just a moment, Physician Zuo."

Zuo Mingxi stopped and turned his head back. "Is anything the matter, Eldest Young Master Jiang?"

All imperial physicians are supposed to hang their jade token at their belts, but Zuo Mingxi's jade token is missing. Slight suspicion arose in Jiang Yucheng's heart as his gaze landed on the physician's belt.

"May I know where your jade token is, Physician Zuo?"

Chapter 573: Who's Tricking Who?

It dawned on Zuo Mingxi what Jiang Yucheng was talking about when he followed his gaze. "Oh, you're talking about that! I lost it some time ago, but I haven't found it. A new token will be delivered to me in a couple of days."

Jiang Yucheng nodded in understanding. "I see."

Zuo Mingxi tried to sound him out as he looked at him. "I know that imperial physicians are supposed to carry their jade tokens with them when they enter the palace, but... There can't be any delay with His Majesty's condition, so I ultimately decided to come here after much consideration."

"Don't worry, Physician Zuo. I have no intention of reproaching you. I just happened to notice it, so I was a little curious. But you're right—His Majesty's health takes priority. Besides, your new token is almost ready. There's no need to pursue this matter at all," said Jiang Yucheng with a smile.

Zuo Mingxi heaved a sigh of relief.

"However, it's a token of your identity after all. Please be more careful in the future."

"Of course, of course."

After chatting for a little longer, Zuo Mingxi finally left.

Jiang Yucheng, on the other hand, turned to look behind before leaving as well.

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Chong Xu Cabinet.

Chu Liuyue was still sitting in the same spot with her left palm on the ground and a lot of Messed Yuan Gravel gathered around her. Her lips were a little pale, but she was thankfully still in a rather good condition.

One-third of the Messed Yuan Gravel in the medicinal garden had basically been gathered here, and the particles were gradually coalescing into larger grains. Despite that, they could still move around freely like liquid.

When the force in Chu Liuyue's limbs was almost depleted, she started channeling the force from the water droplet.

The feeling of exhaustion instantly disappeared the moment a rich force surged out. Feeling energized, she started speeding up the process once more.

Like Qiang Wanzhou—who was nervously watching her from the side with tightly pursed lips—Weichi Song was equally worried when he saw this scene from outside.

Slowly, more and more Messed Yuan Gravel gathered around Chu Liuyue's palm.

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At nightfall, Chu Liuyue finally gathered all the Messed Yuan Gravel in the entire medicinal garden. After adjusting her breathing, she looked up at Weichi Song. "Master, I'm afraid you'll have to remove the barrier." Otherwise, it'll affect my ability to lure the rest of the Messed Yuan Gravel here.

Despite his worries, Weichi Song nodded in understanding. "Alright."

The next moment, the barrier disappeared with a wave of his hand.

Now, other than Qiang Wanzhou and Weichi Song, Chu Liuyue no longer had any form of protection.

Closing her eyes, Chu Liuyue gathered her focus as force gushed out from the water droplet endlessly.

Although nothing could be seen clearly since they were in the thick of the night, a faint rustling sound could be heard from all directions. The closer it got to Chu Liuyue, the clearer the sound became.

Needless to say, the sound came from the Messed Yuan Gravel that had previously spread to the entire Qing Yuan Mountain.

Weichi Song was horrified to hear this sound. Just how much Messed Yuan Gravel is there? Was Qing Yuan Mountain completely covered with this thing since a long time ago? If it weren't for Chu Liuyue, we could only allow it to continue to spread throughout the mountain. Before long, the entire mountain would be ruined!

The thought of this left lingering fear in him. If this really was Jiang Yucheng's doing... What's the reason for him doing so?!

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The night passed quickly as Weichi Song and Qiang Wanzhou guarded and kept their eyes on Chu Liuyue for the entire night. Also, the rustling sound only finally stopped when the sun appeared in the morning.

Despite being mentally prepared to a certain extent, Weichi Song couldn't help but be shocked when he truly saw this scene.

As if wrapped up in a transparent film, the Messed Yuan Gravel practically formed a small stream that quietly floated in the air around Chu Liuyue. The aura it contained was so strong that it struck fear in people.

Chu Liuyue's face had lost all its color, and her eyes were bloodshot. Fortunately though, the aura around her seemed relatively calm.

Heaving a sigh of relief, she looked at the Messed Yuan Gravel floating around her. All of a sudden, a tiny crystal slowly formed on its surface.

Her heart thumped in excitement. It's starting to crystallize! All of the Messed Yuan Gravel on Qing Yuan Mountain has gathered together!

Qiang Wanzhou—who had also noticed this scene—immediately warned her, “Any time now!”

Chu Liuyue lifted her left hand, shooting out a strong force that instantly surrounded the Messed Yuan Gravel.

The Messed Yuan Gravel then began crystallizing at an even faster rate. In just the blink of an eye, it became a large piece of red crystal.

But just when Chu Liuyue was about to destroy it, the red crystal suddenly started shrinking. She frowned and quickly glanced at Qiang Wanzhou, asking, “What's... going on here?”

There was a grave expression on Qiang Wanzhou's face. “This shouldn't happen... It's your force that's compressing it!”

“What?” Chu Liuyue was confused. But I didn't do anything! According to Qiang Wanzhou, I just need to quickly destroy the Messed Yuan Gravel when it's fully crystallized. I was just about to do as told, but it—

Before she could react, Qiang Wanzhou had already rushed over and threw his fist out, intending to take the matter into his own hands.

“Wait!” cried Chu Liuyue all of a sudden.

“What's wrong?” Qiang Wanzhou froze. This thing is highly dangerous. If we don't quickly destroy it...

“Just a second!” Chu Liuyue—who had seemingly detected something—shook her head as an indicator for the other to step back first.

Standing outside, Weichi Song had also realized that something was amiss. He asked worriedly, “What's wrong? What happened?”

Frowning, Qiang Wanzhou shook his head, only to receive a ‘be patient’ look from Chu Liuyue.

Silence reigned as the trio quietly stared at the shrinking red crystal.

It only finally stopped shrinking when it shrunk to the size of a palm. Due to its dark color and smooth and bright surface, it looked like a ruby as it quietly floated in front of Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue hesitantly stretched her hand out and took the red crystal in her hand. Although it felt cold to the touch, she could vaguely sense the surging energy in it. The next moment, the red crystal entered her body through the cut on her left palm.

“Liuyue!” Fear and shock gripped Weichi Song's and Qiang Wanzhou's hearts when they saw this scene.

However, Chu Liuyue was just surprised that the crystal had seemingly dissolved in her blood. It flowed through my Yuan meridian and all the way to... My dantian?

There wasn't a single ripple in the water droplet as it quietly floated in her dantian, but the red crystal was completely swallowed in the next second. Warm energy then flowed out from it and extended to her four limbs, nourishing them.

Chu Liuyue was dumbfounded. After a while, she questioned the water droplet in disbelief upon realizing something. "D-did you... deliberately swallow the Messed Yuan Gravel's powers?"

Chapter 574: Backlash

A faint ripple formed on the water droplet.

T-that's an affirmative answer! Chu Liuyue came to her senses after a long while. My guess is correct... The water droplet kept releasing force earlier, but it chose to launch a counterattack once the Messed Yuan Gravel crystallized! Not only can it recover the force it lost this way, but it can also swallow the Messed Yuan Gravel's force for itself!

After staying silent for a while, Chu Liuyue said with much difficulty, "Y-you really refuse to take any losses..."

"Liuyue? Liuyue!" called Weichi Song anxiously when he saw no movement from Chu Liuyue.

Snapping back to her senses, Chu Liuyue opened her eyes and realized that both Qiang Wanzhou and Weichi Song were standing right in front of her, their faces filled with worry.

"How are you feeling?" asked Weichi Song as he carefully examined her condition out of fear that something had happened to her.

Although Qiang Wanzhou said nothing, his eyes remained fixed on Chu Liuyue throughout. He didn't know what went wrong with the Messed Yuan Gravel at the last stage, for he had never encountered such a situation back when he was in Nan Jiang. But if something really had happened to Chu Liuyue earlier, he'd never be able to forgive himself.

"I'm fine." Chu Liuyue hurriedly assured them before standing up and taking a look at her palm, where a scab had already formed over the bloody cut. She then spread her arms open, allowing them to examine her all over. "No need to worry. See? I'm all fine."

"What was that about just now? W-why did that thing... enter your body?" Weichi Song dared not relax just yet as he turned to face Qiang Wanzhou, asking, "Wanzhou, you mentioned that although Messed Yuan Gravel isn't poisonous to people, it can rapidly sap one's force. What should we do now that it's in Liuyue's body?"

A warm current flowed through Chu Liuyue's heart when she saw the stricken expression on Weichi Song's face, which was always calm and composed. She tugged at his arm, saying, "I'm really alright, Master. If you don't believe me, you can always take my pulse to check."

Looking skeptical, Weichi Song placed his fingers on Chu Liuyue's wrist. But the next moment, he glanced at her with uncertainty and surprise. W-why does it seem like she's gotten stronger when she lost so much force earlier?

Chu Liuyue beamed at him. "Well? Is your mind at ease now?"

Weichi Song checked her pulse again, only to realize that there was indeed nothing wrong with her body. In fact, she was brimming with force.

He slowly released his hand as he muttered, "Yes..."

Chu Liuyue then looked in Qiang Wanzhou's direction. "Are you relieved now, Little Zhou?"

Although Qiang Wanzhou wasn't a heavenly doctor, he had extremely keen senses. Thus, he could tell that Chu Liuyue didn't have the Messed Yuan Gravel's strange aura on her and that she had, in fact, become a little stronger.

Weichi Song couldn't help but ask, "W-what's going on?"

How should I explain it to them? I can't possibly tell them that not only am I unhurt, but I also swallowed the Messed Yuan Gravel's force for myself, can I? Chu Liuyue's head throbbed in pain as she opted for an ambiguous answer. "Uh... Speaking of which... I'm not too sure either..."

Weichi Song appeared enlightened though. "Perhaps the force in your body dissolved it?"

"I guess... That might be the case..." Chu Liuyue bobbed her head in rumination. There's nothing wrong with this explanation since the crystal really did dissolve in my body. It's just that its force became mine.

"Now, even without looking at Jiang Yucheng's palm, we might be able to determine if this was his doing," said Qiang Wanzhou all of a sudden.

Chu Liuyue asked curiously, "Why is that so?"

Qiang Wanzhou nonchalantly explained, "Because he'll receive backlash from the force he gained from the Messed Yuan Gravel since you've destroyed it. At best, his cultivation might regress. At worst... His Yuan meridian might be destroyed!"

Chapter 575: No Need to Pass It to Me

Jiang Yucheng's cultivation might regress, and his Yuan meridian might even be destroyed? There was a subtle change in Chu Liuyue's expression as the corners of her lips lifted in plain excitement. "Are you sure?"

Why does she seem so happy? Qiang Wanzhou frowned in confusion, but his mood considerably improved when he saw her twinkling eyes and slight smile. As he nodded, he said, "As long as it was his doing, he'll definitely suffer from the backlash."

Woohoo! yelled Chu Liuyue inwardly. Never had she ever had a moment when she desperately wished that the mastermind of this matter would be Jiang Yucheng. Although I can't go head to head with him yet, it's pretty good that I can take this chance to give him a little punishment!

Thinking that Chu Liuyue was excited about uncovering the truth, Weichi Song didn't read too much into her reaction and instead thoughtfully said, "Things will be easier for us if that's the case."

Jiang Yucheng has a high status, especially since he's helping Shangguan Wan to handle a lot of the Tianling Dynasty's affairs. Still, it shouldn't be too difficult for me to meet him and check his cultivation. "I'll make a trip to the Jiang residence today. We'll know for sure once I meet him!"

“You’re going there now?” asked Chu Liuyue in surprise.

“Yes. Since things have reached this stage, he’ll definitely know about it already if this matter concerns him. Besides, there’s no point in dragging it out further. I might as well go there straight away.”

Chu Liuyue fell into deep thought. She, too, thought that Song Weichi Song’s words made some sense. It looks like he intends to deal with this matter head-on! Since Chong Xu Cabinet—the victim—intends to investigate this matter, the ones who committed those evil deeds ought to be worrying instead!

Just as Weichi Song was about to leave, Chu Liuyue hurriedly shouted, “Master, you forgot about something.”

“I did?”

Chu Liuyue blinked. “Since the medicinal garden has been restored to normal, can you... get the seniors to help manage the garden?”

“Oh, dear me! How did I forget such an important matter?!” Weichi Song laughed. “Alright, I’ll order everyone to do it together!”

Although it’d take an extremely long time before the newly planted herbs could be harvested, it was a promising start for Chong Xu Cabinet. Since the problem of Messed Yuan Gravel had been resolved and Qing Yuan Mountain was back to normal, they no longer had to worry about the herbs being unable to grow. That was the most important thing of all!

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News spread rapidly like wildfire among the disciples when they heard that the previously abandoned medicinal garden was officially opened once more and that new herbs could be planted there again.

At first, everyone was quite skeptical about it. But upon hearing from the Cabinet Master that the medicinal garden had been restored to normal and that planted herbs could be grown and harvested, they jumped in joy.

Everyone wanted to give it a try. Thus, almost the entire medicinal garden was planted with various herbs that afternoon. Although it still looked bare from afar, the Cabinet Master’s words had given the disciples a glimmer of hope.

Chu Liuyue planted a few herbs as well, and at Weichi Song’s insistence, she was given the right to manage the medicinal garden. Despite her initial subtle rejection, she was ultimately persuaded by Weichi Song and thus finally agreed to it.

She did like taking care of the herbs after all. Plus, Weichi Song had promised her that she could freely use whatever herbs they had in the garden. Touched by his kind gesture, she thus agreed to manage the garden.

At first, there were actually many disciples fighting for the management rights when they were deciding who should manage the garden. But when Weichi Song selected her to be the person-in-charge, everyone else unexpectedly agreed to his decision, which was much to her surprise.

She thought that they would express their doubts about her ability and qualifications.

Since Liuyue wants to manage the garden, she can do it then! After all, nobody else is more suitable than her for that position! Everyone expressed their strong agreement and then started to worm their way into being friends with Chu Liuyue and Qiang Wanzhou.

While Chu Liuyue could understand why the seniors wanted to get close to her, she was really confused when she saw them trying their best to talk to the aloof Qiang Wanzhou. It was only after asking that she learned that Lu Zhiyao had told the rest of them something the day before. That was: 'Although Wanzhou seems a little aloof, he listens to Liuyue really well! On top of that, Liuyue treats him really well!'

Hearing that, the seniors realized that things would be well for them no matter which of their two new juniors they got along well with. Thus, after everyone came over to greet them again, Chu Liuyue's and Qiang Wanzhou's rooms became filled with all sorts of gifts.

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but be amused as she looked at the gifts. Isn't it a little too early for them to show their goodwill when the herbs were just planted several hours ago? They were clearly just using the medicinal garden as an excuse to see us and give us gifts.

There were very few disciples in Chong Xu Cabinet now. Those who stayed behind had deep feelings for the sect, and after going through so much together, the bonds between them were naturally much stronger and more sincere than that of the disciples from other sects.

Even though they said nothing about it, they were overjoyed and touched to hear that Chu Liuyue and Qiang Wanzhou had chosen to join Chong Xu Cabinet. Hence, they naturally wanted to take special care of them and not let them suffer even the slightest grievance.

Chu Liuyue unconsciously lifted the corners of her lips as she recalled the earlier scene while leaning against the door frame. Although she never liked crowds, she was very pleased to see the room filled with bustle earlier.

A long time ago, she was in an exalted position, high above the rest. Everyone respected, worshiped, envied, and was even jealous of her, so she never had such an experience before.

After that, she was reborn as a humble and lowly commoner who even struggled to live. Everyone bullied, insulted, scorned, and ridiculed her, so she also never experienced anything like this during that time.

It had mainly been on Weichi Song's account that she chose to join Chong Xu Cabinet, but now, she was starting to feel glad that she made that choice.

Just then, Qiang Wanzhou stood up from the small mountain of gifts with a small stuffed toy dangling off of him.

Chu Liuyue grinned at him. "Little Zhou, there's no hurry. Take your time to open the presents."

Qiang Wanzhou's face darkened.

Chu Liuyue then walked to the side and spread open a Xuan paper. "These are the seniors' gifts for us. They represent their goodwill, so you have to keep them properly. Slowly put them away one by one while I make an inventory of the items."

Glancing at Qiang Wanzhou, she began writing. "Ye Ranran, one stuffed toy."

Actually, Ye Ranran had made a stuffed toy for each of them.

Qiang Wanzhou's countenance darkened even more at that. He wanted to yank the doll away from his body at first, but upon touching its soft fabric and fine stitches, his hand froze and moved to remove it by its hook instead.

Why is this kid wearing a poker face when he clearly likes the toy a lot as well?! Chu Liuyue's eyes curved in satisfaction as she flashed him a smile. "Once I'm done writing the list, you better keep it properly and take a look at it every now and then. You have to remember to return the seniors' goodwill."

However, Qiang Wanzhou turned his face away. "No need to pass it to me."

Chapter 576: A Visit

Qiang Wanzhou's reply confused Chu Liuyue for a moment, but she soon understood why he said that. He mentioned before that he's illiterate. I had so much fun teasing him that I completely forgot that he couldn't read the words on this list.

With his face tilted away and his soft blond hair covering his eyes, all she saw was his clear and smooth jaw, sharp nose, and slightly pouty lips.

He... actually minds a lot about it, right? Her heart throbbed in pain as if it had been pricked with a sharp needle. But when she opened her mouth to say something, the words just wouldn't come out. It was as if there was something stuck in her throat. I-it's like *déjà vu* all over again. Wasn't Mu Qinghe just like him back then? That's why I taught him how to read, write, cultivate, and the way of the world...

Mu Qinghe was very smart, so he picked up anything he learned really quickly and did them very well. That was the reason for his speedy growth in becoming a pivotal figure in the Tianling Dynasty in just a short decade. The entire Dahuang Swamp would shake with just a stomp of his foot!

But... What happened after that? There's no after that.

When Qiang Wanzhou heard nothing from Chu Liuyue for a while, he turned his head back to look at her, only to see that she was staring blankly at him. No, she's not looking at me.

He walked over with a frown. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing," answered Chu Liuyue after coming back to her senses.

Qiang Wanzhou met her gaze with a serious expression. "There's a melancholy look on your face."

Chu Liuyue sighed. He can be a little too smart at times.

Pausing for a moment, Qiang Wanzhou said, "I'll keep the list well."

Does this kid... think that he can cheer me up by doing this? Chu Liuyue looked at him blankly for a moment. Something seemed to be slowly melting in her heart as she said, "I'll teach you."

Qiang Wanzhou was baffled. "What?"

As Chu Liuyue wrote some words on the paper with a brush, Qiang Wanzhou finally understood what she was talking about. He pressed his lips tightly together as he fell deep in thought.

Chu Liuyue then stroked him on the head. "I won't be teaching you for free. As payment, you have to help me do things in the future."

"Okay." Qiang Wanzhou nodded his head seriously.

...

Jiang residence.

Jiang Yucheng was lying on the ground in pain. His face had lost all of its color, and big droplets of sweat were falling from his forehead.

The force in his body had suddenly split into two, and each portion was currently fighting and trying to kill off the other.

The excruciating pain coursing through his entire body almost made him pass out. Worried that he might make some sort of noise and attract the attention of the people outside, he clenched his teeth tightly as he bore with the pain and checked his palm.

There was an extremely thin blood line that extended from the middle of his palm to his wrist. However, it was currently rapidly disintegrating from the end at his wrist.

Jiang Yucheng was shocked. W-why is this happening? Wasn't it fine all this while? Don't tell me that... Chong Xu Cabinet has discovered something?!

He desperately pressed hard on that blood line, trying to stop it from disintegrating, but it was to no avail. As the blood line slowly faded away, the force in his body quickly dissipated into the surroundings as well.

He tried using his other force to suppress it. However, not only was it useless, but it even sped up the loss of his force. Horror flashed across his eyes. "N-no..."

It wasn't easy for me to reach my current cultivation level, so how can I possibly just watch this force slip away from me? A trace of deep panic flashed across his eyes. Something must've happened to the Messed Yuan Gravel! But that thing is only available in Nan Jiang. Few people in Xi Ling know about it, much less know how to deal with it! So who could that person be?!

Jiang Yucheng stood up with much difficulty, but just as he took two steps forward, he bumped into the table next to him.

Clank!

A porcelain item fell from the table and crashed onto the ground.

"Eldest Young Master, what happened?" asked a servant from outside. The door then rattled as if they were about to burst into the room.

"Nobody is allowed to step in here!" yelled Jiang Yucheng.

Startled, the servant outside hurriedly backed away. "Yes, Eldest Young Master!"

Taking a deep breath, Jiang Yucheng supported himself with the table's help and sat down on the chair next to it. He felt as if countless knives were slashing at his internal organs.

The suffocating pain spread throughout his body, making him arch his back as he propped himself up by holding the table. Bulging veins were visible on the hand that was gripping the table.

Not only did the pain not fade away as time passed, but it even became more intense. However, what worried Jiang Yucheng most was that he was losing his force so quickly that his cultivation level was about to drop. He looked down at his wrist and saw that most of the blood line had already faded away. If this goes on, the consequences will be unthinkable! I'll definitely suffer greatly from the clash of the forces in my body.

Before long, there was a surge of a thick, bloodthirsty aura.

Spurt!

He finally couldn't take it anymore and coughed up a mouthful of blood. At the same time, his cultivation level dropped to the intermediate eighth stage before dropping further to the beginner stage.

He then collapsed to the ground with a dull thump, but he wasn't concerned about it. All he thought was: My cultivation level has fallen!

One should know that at this level, even a difference in stage could mean a tremendous difference in strength. On top of that, a regression in cultivation didn't only mean losing one's force. The damage to their Yuan meridian and state of mind was immeasurable.

Jiang Yucheng had spent an entire year raising his cultivation level, yet it was all going to waste now. Worse still, he had no idea how much more time it would take for him to get to where he was. There was even a possibility that he might never be able to improve his cultivation!

When the servants outside heard the commotion, they dared not enter the room even though they were worried about him. They remembered his order and thus could only wait outside anxiously.

It was quiet both inside and outside the room. All Jiang Yucheng could hear was his own breathing and his thumping heartbeats as he sat dumbly on the ground. The two forces surging in his Yuan meridian seemed like they could burst out at any time.

After a long time, he had seemingly gotten used to the intense pain. However, he quickly realized that it wasn't that he had gotten numb to it, but that the pain in his body was indeed fading.

He showed no sense of relief, however. Instead, it seemed as if he had foreseen something.

He slowly looked down at his wrist. The blood line had completely disintegrated and left behind a bloody wound only, which was evidence of what had happened earlier. If it doesn't stop, my cultivation might fall below the eighth stage!

A belated sense of fear and helplessness hit him right there and then. Everything happened so abruptly that his mind had been rendered blank. He only returned to his senses sometime after the blood on him started drying up. This is definitely no coincidence...

Knock, knock...

“Eldest Young Master, Chong Xu Cabinet’s Cabinet Master is here!”

Chapter 577: Someone’s Here!

Aggression flashed across Jiang Yucheng’s eyes. He actually came so quickly! This means that Weichi Song definitely knows something, so he purposely came over to verify it! If I go out now and Weichi Song sees my current state... I can’t explain anything!

Not hearing any movements, the subordinate called again, “Eldest Young Master?”

Jiang Yucheng forced himself up. At this point, the terrifying pain had actually already subsided, but because his cultivation level suddenly dropped and that red line...

He looked down and glanced at his wrist.

The opening appeared as the blood line broke. Even though it wasn’t deep, it could be seen clearly.

Since Weichi Song has already come to the Jiang residence, there’s a very high chance he already knows about this blood line... I have to think of a way to hide it!

“Invite Master Weichi to the study first! I’ll go there in a while!” He took a deep breath in and tried hard to make his voice sound calm and normal.

“Yes!”

Hearing the hurried departing footsteps outside, Jiang Yucheng held his forehead and thought deeply. Weichi Song came prepared, and it isn’t that easy to lie to him...

...

Weichi Song was originally following the subordinates into the study, but he coincidentally met with Jiang Lizuo, who had just come back.

Seeing Weichi Song appearing at the Jiang residence, Jiang Lizuo was very surprised. We’ve never had much interaction with Chong Xu Cabinet. Besides, the current Chong Xu Cabinet... Basically nobody in Xi Ling City wants to interact with them willingly.

But Jiang Lizuo still did his perfunctory work and personally entertained Weichi Song.

After the duo sat down in the study, Jiang Lizuo asked Weichi Song his motive for coming to the Jiang residence.

Upon hearing that Weichi Song specifically came to find Jiang Yucheng, he felt even stranger. But seeing that Weichi Song didn’t seem to want to reveal anything further, he sensibly didn’t continue asking and made casual talk.

"I heard that Chong Xu Cabinet recently accepted two outstanding disciples. I haven't had the chance to congratulate you yet." Jiang Lizuo smiled politely.

He had heard a little about what happened in the Wan Zheng Competition earlier. Many people didn't understand why the Chu Liuyue duo chose Chong Xu Cabinet, and he was equally curious.

I wonder if Weichi Song secretly used some method, or...

When he heard about the Chu Liuyue duo, Weichi Song's smile became much more genuine. "Yeah! It's really my Chong Xu Cabinet's luck to be able to have the two of them!" Without them, the Messed Yuan Gravel on Qing Yuan Mountain would still be spreading everywhere!

Jiang Lizuo raised his brows slightly at Weichi Song's extremely proud and happy manner. Actually, I just casually mentioned it earlier. At the end of the day, it's just two children. How much can they help? Besides, I heard that the duo's family background isn't very good. Even if they are outstanding talents, they might not really become elites in the future.

For more than a year, Weichi Song has always been dejected and hasn't revealed such an expression in a long time. It seems like he's really happy? Upon closer thinking, it can actually be understood. Given Chong Xu Cabinet's current situation, it's indeed pretty hard for them to accept new disciples. It's no wonder Weichi Song is like this. Jiang Lizuo kept mocking the other in his heart, but he still showed looks of approval. "I bet they must be amazing people for you to praise them like that! In the future, I must meet them if I have the chance! Haha!"

Weichi Song gave him a deep and meaningful look as he smiled and said, "Definitely!"

He could naturally tell that Jiang Lizuo looked down on their Chong Xu Cabinet and everyone inside. He had already seen too many of such gazes within this year. If it were in the past, I would still feel terrible every time I see this. Thus, I gradually didn't interact much with the crowd. But things are different now. I've already completely disregarded how those outsiders see me and whatever they think of me. When they really see Liuyue and Wanzhou's abilities in the future... Tsk, I look forward to it for some reason.

The two of them talked for quite some time and played Taichi.

Weichi Song gradually became frustrated because of the waiting and was even more sure of his suspicions. Jiang Yucheng is inside his own residence, yet he has to take such a long time before he can go out to meet people. Nobody would believe it if they say nothing is wrong.

After some time, a voice finally sounded from outside the door. "Greetings, Eldest Young Master!"

Weichi Song looked at the door.

...

After Chu Liuyue arranged the gifts, she chased Qiang Wanzhou back and quietly cultivated in her room.

After the water droplet in her dantian absorbed the Messed Yuan Gravel, her bodily aura seemed to have been strengthened.

She circulated the force in her body, but she didn't try to break through.

To other people, her improvement speed was considered normal even though it was fast. After all, she had a Dijing Yuan meridian. But Chu Liuyue clearly knew herself that her 'pearl of essence' was different from everybody else's.

Her breakthrough speed was a little fast.

"Girl, you're really careful." The ancestor's voice suddenly sounded, and his tone had a tinge of admiration.

After this period of interacting with her, he could confirm that Chu Liuyue had even more potential than he thought. The even rarer thing was that she had extreme determination and strong control.

Not many people in the world could withstand the temptation of breaking through, but Chu Liuyue did it very well.

Her vision and ambition for the future were indeed different.

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly. The ancestor doesn't know my situation and can only forcefully feel the ripples of my surrounding strength. But based on this alone, he could guess quite a few things.

He was her ancestor after all, and Chu Liuyue had no intentions of purposely hiding from him. "Thank you, Ancestor!"

Compared to her breaking through, she wanted to try practicing her Jingshen Palm.

But just as she had circulated her aura, she heard Lu Zhiyao's voice from outside. "Junior Sister, someone is looking for you!"

Chapter 578: Give Something

It's already close to evening. Who would look for me at this time? Chu Liuyue stood up and walked to the door, where she saw Lu Zhiyao standing. "Senior Brother Lu, you're looking for me?"

The senior brothers and senior sisters have just met us in the afternoon, so they shouldn't come again.

Lu Zhiyao's expression was strange. "He's a... man from outside. He said that he was looking for you, so I told him to wait at the bottom of the mountain."

Qing Yuan Mountain was guarded very strictly. Even though there weren't many restrictions on the Chong Xu Cabinet disciples going in and out, they were very strict toward outsiders.

A man? Chu Liuyue rapidly thought for a while. I've just come to Xi Ling not long ago. Other than this group of people in Chong Xu Cabinet, I didn't interact much with the rest. It shouldn't be Jian Fengchi or Mu Qinghe. The two of them have a large reputation in Xi Ling, and Lu Zhiyao has seen them before. Could it be someone they sent over?

"Did he say his identity?"

Lu Zhiyao nodded. "He said his name was Yan Qing and that he specifically came to see you."

Chu Liuyue was stunned. Yan Qing?! Why is he here?! Shouldn't he be accompanying Rong Xiu at Mingyue Tianshan now?

Seeing Chu Liuyue's expression change, Lu Zhiyao tried to ask, "Junior Sister, you know this man?"

"It's my... friend. Can I trouble you to bring him up?" Chu Liuyue nodded. If it wasn't anything urgent, he definitely wouldn't come all the way here. Did something happen to Rong Xiu?

Upon thinking of this, Chu Liuyue's heart hung high.

Lu Zhiyao looked at her anxious and worried expression and couldn't help but think more. That Yan Qing looked like a talent. Does he have an extraordinary relationship with Junior Sister? If it really is so... We have to help Junior Sister check him out!

Thinking of this, Lu Zhiyao suddenly felt burdened with responsibility. "Junior Sister, wait for a while. I'll bring him up!"

Then, he quickly left.

Looking at his quickly disappearing back view, Chu Liuyue couldn't help but be dazed. For some reason, why do I feel that... Lu Zhiyao seemed to really want to meet Yan Qing?

"Liuyue, did you hear that someone came to the mountain to look for you?" Chu Liuyue was in deep thought when she saw Ye Ranran suddenly appear with a curious look.

Seeing Chu Liuyue's doubtful gaze, Ye Ranran hurriedly explained, "Lu Zhiyao didn't tell me! I heard it by accident! The other senior brothers and senior sisters don't know about this either!"

Chu Liuyue: "...Where are the senior brothers and senior sisters?"

Ye Ranran's face suddenly flushed red, and she didn't say anything.

"Hm?"

Ye Ranran inched two steps forward, looked at Chu Liuyue carefully, and slowly said, "The mountain entrance."

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched. The mountain entrance? Isn't that where the door is? When Yan Qing comes up the stairs, they'll be able to see him at a glance.

The scene of her appearing in Chong Xu Cabinet on the first day surfaced in her mind again. After climbing countless flights of stairs, she saw countless faces overwhelming with enthusiasm the moment she reached the peak.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. Now, I really think that the main reason Chong Xu Cabinet landed in this state is that the disciples are way too nosy! If they don't properly cultivate, how can they become a strong warrior?

Ye Ranran hurriedly explained, "Um, we actually didn't do it on purpose. Just when Lu Zhiyao was coming up and was halfway up the mountain, he coincidentally met two senior sisters that just came back. Hence, he told them..."

"Then, with the time he took to climb the other half of the mountain, everyone knew about it?"

"Yeah..." answered Ye Ranran softly.

Even though she came earlier than Chu Liuyue and could be considered as the latter's senior sister, Chu Liuyue seemed to exude an elegant and strong aura herself. Additionally, Chu Liuyue had once taken the initiative to stand up for her, so it was hard for her to act as a senior sister in front of her.

As Chu Liuyue looked at her from the corner of her eye, Ye Ranran fearfully shrunk her neck and felt guilty.

Chu Liuyue walked forward.

At this point, Qiang Wanzhou heard the movements and came out from the neighboring room as he looked at Chu Liuyue in confusion. It seems like she's rather concerned about this man that suddenly arrived.

Ye Ranran inched toward Qiang Wanzhou and softly asked, "Wanzhou, do you know that Yan Qing?"

Qiang Wanzhou shook his head.

"Junior Sister, he's here!" Lu Zhiyao's loud voice sounded from afar.

Chu Liuyue's lips quivered. Is he afraid that others can't hear him?

She hastened her steps and quickly saw the crowd of senior brothers and senior sisters surrounding her.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. Just as she was seriously considering whether she should retreat, a senior sister coincidentally turned around and saw her.

She hurriedly gasped. "Junior Sister is here too!"

The crowd kept quiet for a moment, and they fled in all directions the next moment.

"Junior Sister, we still have something on, so we'll leave first!"

"You guys can slowly talk, slowly talk!"

They said they were going to leave, but their eyes kept drifting toward the bottom of the mountain.

At this moment, Lu Zhiyao had already come up.

Yan Qing was behind him. He was wearing black armor, and he had some bloodstains. Even though he had retracted his aura, he still had a faint murderous aura.

It was as if he had just come back from a rough battle.

This aura immediately made the crowd of senior brothers and senior sisters who hadn't left yet stop in their tracks. One look at this man, and one can see that he isn't simple! Why did he come to look for Junior Sister so anxiously?

Chu Liuyue had never seen him like this before and was shocked by his appearance. "Yan Qing?"

Before Yan Qing came up here, he had already detected the numerous auras near the entrance, so he wasn't surprised when he saw those people.

He looked up and expectedly saw Chu Liuyue with a face full of shock. He immediately walked forward and stood before Chu Liuyue as he kneeled on the ground with one leg. "Yan Qing greets Ms. Liuyue!"

The crowd exchanged looks among themselves. Oh... It seems like it's not what we thought before...

Chu Liuyue helped him up and rapidly scanned him before knitting her brows slightly. "Why did you suddenly come? And you're dressed like this. Did... something happen?"

Yan Qing shook his head. "Ms. Liuyue, don't worry; Master is fine. I came here today to give you something."

Actually, he had already come to Xi Ling earlier on. However, he wasted some time because he didn't know where Chu Liuyue lived.

He then recalled that she had already entered Chong Xu Cabinet, so she was most likely at Qing Yuan Mountain. Hence, he came over to take a look, and she was indeed here.

The crowd's gazes changed again. Master? His master? Who is he to Junior Sister?

Chu Liuyue felt slightly more at ease but was curious. "What did he ask you to bring?"

How important must the item be for him to be this anxious and for Yan Qing to rush over from miles away without even taking off his armor?

Yan Qing took out a small jade box and presented it with his hands.

Chu Liuyue took it—it was just the size of half a palm. What could it contain?

Kada!

She opened the jade box.

A faintly glowing ring was lying within quietly.

Chapter 579: Which Character

"This is... a Cosmic Ring?" Chu Liuyue asked with uncertainty.

Yan Qing nodded.

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched. Could it be... that Yan Qing rushed here just to deliver a Cosmic Ring?

As if sensing her confusion, Yan Qing said respectfully, "Ms. Liuyue, Master has asked me to deliver this into your hands personally."

Chu Liuyue picked up the Cosmic Ring.

It was simple but elegant. It was made from neither stone nor jade, but it had a faint glow to it that made it look a little translucent.

This seems to belong to... a man? Chu Liuyue Ring scanned the Cosmic Ring carefully and saw a small 'Xiu' engraved on the inside of the ring. This is Rong Xiu's Cosmic Ring?

"Did he say why he wanted you to deliver this?" Chu Liuyue asked.

Yan Qing hesitated and then shook his head. Actually... Even though I didn't see the works, I have a rough idea of what Master is up to. However, it's not my place to say anything.

“Perhaps you’ll know after you put it on.”

Chu Liuyue inserted some of her force into it and found that the seal on the ring had been wiped away.

With that, the Cosmic Ring was now hers.

Rong Xiu clearly did that intentionally, but why... As Chu Liuyue pondered, she used her force to peek inside.

She suddenly paused as her expression froze on her face. This Cosmic Ring is really advanced. It has the biggest storage space that I’ve ever seen! Compared to this one, the Cosmic Rings I have are like small pockets! More importantly... The inside... is filled with white crystals?!

Due to the large number of white crystals, they were piled together like a mountain. Hence, Chu Liuyue didn’t know how much money was in there.

In any case... It was a lot!

This was one of the rare moments when Chu Liuyue was dazed.

There was just a single question replaying in her mind: Why is Rong Xiu so rich?!

“Ms. Liuyue?” Yan Qing called when he saw that the other was in a daze.

It was only then that Chu Liuyue returned to her senses and stared at the Cosmic Ring on her hand with a complicated expression. I seem to have... no understanding... of my man at all... Now, I finally understand why he asked Yan Qing to make the trip personally. This Cosmic Ring is far too precious! Is Rong Xiu worried that I have no money to spend? I can’t think of another reason other than that...

“Ms. Liuyue, since the item has been delivered, I’ll have to return and report back,” Yan Qing said. I had come hastily. If I return too late, I will miss seeing Yu Mo’s pathetic state.

Chu Liuyue rubbed the Cosmic Ring on her hand as something welled up in her heart. Then as she hurried back into her room, she said, “Hang on. Help me bring a letter back.”

Yan Qing followed after her and waited respectfully outside the door.

This time, Lu Zhiyao and the others didn’t follow them. However, they communicated fervently with their eyes. So this Yan Qing isn’t Junior Sister’s beloved! His master must be, right?

Isn’t Junior Sister only 14? Why is she already engaged?

I wonder who’s so lucky... By the way, when can we meet that person? What if he’s not good enough for Junior Sister?

Didn’t you see that Yan Qing’s murderous aura? He has hidden his ability; his true ability is definitely stronger than ours! As for his master... Isn’t he only going to be stronger? Junior Sister is good at everything, so I’m sure her taste is great too!

What about Junior Brother?

Tsk, can’t you all tell that Junior Sister treats him like she’s raising a child?

Yan Qing was waiting outside the door when he suddenly saw a teenage boy walk past him and into the room.

He paused and then looked up.

The teenage boy was extremely skinny. He had a head of soft golden hair, and his skin was so pale that it was almost transparent.

Even though it was a brief glance, it was clear that his features were very... exquisite.

Even though this wasn't the best term for describing a teenage boy, it was the first word that popped up in Yan Qing's mind when he saw the other.

The boy looked to be in his teens, and he had both a youthful aura and a rebellious air. He was a contradictory combination of simplicity and complexity.

While he was thinking, the teen had walked over to Chu Liuyue and had begun to help her grind her inkstone.

The teenage boy didn't say anything from start to end, and his expression was plain. However, his actions were smooth and familiar. It was as if he had done this multiple times.

Chu Liuyue looked at Qiang Wanzhou in surprise. When did this child become so smart? Looking at his familiar manner, he must've done this often in the past...

She curled her lips into a smile and dipped her brush in ink. She then pondered for a moment before she began writing.

Yan Qing raised his eyebrows. Wh-what's going on? Didn't Ms. Liuyue follow Jian Fengchi to Xi Ling? Other than Mu Qinghe and Jian Fengchi, there shouldn't be any other people that she's familiar with. However, this teenage boy looks rather close to her. When did someone like this appear by Ms. Liuyue's side?

As Yan Qing scrutinized them, he began discrediting Yue Ling for not reporting something this big!

If Master finds out... Yan Qing felt chills run down his spine.

Chapter 580: Taking it Back

Chu Liuyue quickly finished writing the letter and placed it into the envelope. She then walked out and handed it to Yan Qing. "Yan Qing, please pass this letter to him on my behalf."

Yan Qing took it from her with both hands and replied respectfully. "Yes. Please rest assured, Ms. Liuyue. I'll make sure he gets it."

Chu Liuyue trusted Yan Qing. "I can tell you made this trip in a rush, so I won't hold you any longer."

Yan Qing cupped his fists. "Take care, Ms. Liuyue. I'll be taking my leave first."

With that, he carefully put away the envelope before turning and leaving.

The mountain peak was silent long after Yan Qing had disappeared from sight.

Chu Liuyue's eyes swept across the crowd. "Senior Brothers and Senior Sisters, is there anything you'd like to ask?"

Everyone immediately returned to their senses. "No, no! Junior Sister, you're busy, so we'll get going first!"

With that, they each left quickly, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Chu Liuyue was speechless.

Lu Zhiyao had more questions, but Ye Ranran pulled him away.

Qiang Wanzhou glanced at the Cosmic Ring on Chu Liuyue's hand. His eyes darkened, but he didn't say anything and returned to his room.

Chu Liuyue raised her hand. The Cosmic Ring was a little big for her, so she placed it on her thumb.

Light fell between her fingers, and the Cosmic Ring seemed to have turned clearer.

Kacha!

A small sound came from it, and then a crack appeared on the Cosmic Ring she was wearing on her other hand.

That was her first Cosmic Ring. Even though it wasn't of high grade and its space wasn't very big, she didn't remove it since she had gotten used to it.

However, it cracked? Chu Liuyue removed it and looked at the crack regretfully. It seems like there is no saving it.

She returned to her room and removed everything from the Cosmic Ring, tidied the items up, and placed them in the ring that Rong Xiu gave her.

Even though there were countless white crystals in it, there was still a lot of space within. It was more than enough to hold all of Chu Liuyue's things.

Suddenly, the sound of something cracking sounded again.

Chu Liuyue looked over.

There were a few more Cosmic Rings placed by her side. Those were still the ones she had gotten from Jian Fengchi.

There were a total of eight rings, each with large sums of money in them. Now, there was also a crack on one of them.

Chu Liuyue could only transfer everything into the new Cosmic Ring.

Just as she had done that, the third Cosmic Ring cracked as well!

Chu Liuyue stared at the crack, and she finally realized something as she stared at the Cosmic Ring with a faint glow. It seems like... it's because of this...

As if to confirm her hypothesis, the remaining Cosmic Rings cracked one after another! There were none left in the end!

By the time Chu Liuyue had transferred all the items into her new ring, the old rings had quietly turned into dust!

Chu Liuyue stared at the powder all over her table and then glanced at the Cosmic Ring on her hand before she curled her lips into a smile.

...

Jiang residence.

Weichi Song stared closely at Jiang Yucheng, and he narrowed his eyes. Jiang Yucheng... has entirely covered up his aura! He seems to have used a Yuan instrument that can conceal his level. By doing this, nobody can detect his true ability.

Weichi Song knew almost instantly that Jiang Yucheng was the culprit!

"Father, Master Weichi." Jiang Yucheng walked in with a straight face. He sat down next to Jiang Lizuo and across from Weichi Song after he greeted the two of them.

"Master Weichi, what brings you here today?" Jiang Yucheng had an impeccably polite smile on his face.

Weichi Song looked at Jiang Lizuo hesitantly.

Jiang Lizuo scoffed to himself but laughed out loud. "Since Yucheng is here, I'll take my leave to handle some matters!"

With that, he left resolutely.

When the door closed again, Jiang Yucheng turned toward Weichi Song again. "Master Weichi, can you tell me what the matter is now?"

Weichi Song didn't immediately reply to the other's question. Instead, he scanned Jiang Yucheng with a cold, sharp gaze.

After a while, he asked, "Eldest Young Master Jiang, why is there the smell of blood on you?"

Jiang Yucheng froze. I made sure to clean off the blood on myself before coming, and I even made sure to change. How did Weichi Song find out?

He forced himself to regain composure before he smiled. "Master Weichi is formidable. You even managed to detect this."

As he spoke, he raised his hand. "I accidentally cut my hand, and I dealt with it hastily. It's no wonder you smelled the blood."

There was blood seeping out of the bandage on his hand.

He had clearly just been injured, but nobody could see what the wound looked like.

Weichi Song's expression turned dark. Could there really be something so coincidental in this world? I wanted to check Jiang Yucheng's cultivation level, but it's concealed. I wanted to check Jiang Yucheng's arm, but it's cut and wrapped up. His wrist is also concealed by baggy sleeves and can't be seen clearly. He really put in a lot of effort...

Weichi Song laughed to himself coldly. By trying to cover things up, Jiang Yucheng is exposing himself!

"I see. But Eldest Young Master Jiang, you should be more careful. This time is a cut, but it might not be so next time..."

Jiang Yucheng's eyes widened. Weichi Song... is warning me?

"Today, I am here for one thing." Weichi Song seemed not to have detected Jiang Yucheng's change and decisively changed topics. "I believe that the key to Thousand View Garden is with you?"

Upon hearing 'Thousand View Garden,' Jiang Yucheng's heart skipped a beat.

He pulled his stiff face into a smile. "That's right. I'm keeping the key to that place safe. Master Weichi, why are you asking about this?"

Weichi Song sighed. "It's nothing major. It's just that while I was at Thousand View Garden the other day, I recalled that I had gifted the Princess a number of things before. She had placed them in the instrument room at Thousand View Garden. Now that she's gone, I was thinking of taking the items back as a memento."

Jiang Yucheng frowned slightly. "You're saying that there are items that belong to you in the instrument room?"

Weichi Song nodded before he began listing them out. "There was the roaming dragon wolf pen I carved for her on her tenth birthday, the instrument pick that I prepared for her on her thirteenth birthday, and the one I gifted before her marriage to you..."

He suddenly paused.

The room instantly fell silent.