

The Doctor 671

Chapter 671: Connect Five Organs!

The silver barrier felt the impact, and it rippled in a slightly strange manner.

36 Respected Elder Ming was quite shocked. “Is she... about to break through as a stage-five warrior?”

Rong Xiu nodded.

36 Respected Elder Ming looked at the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force, and he became increasingly shocked in his heart. “This... This commotion doesn’t seem like it...”

When cultivators were breaking through to the fifth warrior stage, they normally wouldn’t cause such a huge commotion. Let alone them, even average cultivators in Xi Ling City wouldn’t pay extra attention to it.

They were all used to it.

Rong Xiu raised his sharp brows. If she really broke through like an average person, why would I do this?

Seeing Rong Xiu’s expression, 36 Respected Elder Ming’s heart skipped a beat.

Buzz!

Another wave of commotion came over. This time, it was even more obvious than previously.

The Heaven and Earth Force started flowing inside at an even faster speed.

36 Respected Elder Ming watched on for a while and was interested. It seems like this girl is unusual... I do want to see how capable the woman that can make Rong Xiu so in love with her is.

...

In the room, Chu Liuyue’s shoulders dropped slightly. Her hands were on her knees with her palms facing upward.

The energy spiral above her head became increasingly large, and it started spinning faster and faster.

Chu Liuyue could even vaguely hear the noise of the waves moving—that was the noise of rich Heaven and Earth Force flowing into her body.

The waves of thick force flowed throughout her body and kept washing through her Yuan meridian before flowing toward the water droplet. But even with such a huge amount of force entering, the water droplet still didn’t move.

The invisible wall was within Chu Liuyue’s reach, but when she started the breakthrough, she realized she needed a larger amount of strength than she had imagined to take this step forward.

Huahua—

Force moved intensely inside and outside her body, causing her ears to ring incessantly.

Suddenly, a bright, red fire appeared on her left palm. This fire was like a little elf dancing around as it started to attract even more force toward her.

Chu Liuyue's body was like a bottomless pit as it kept crazily absorbing the Heaven and Earth Force.

The red fire nourished the force, which then entered the dantian with an extra tinge of scorching aura.

Half of Chu Liuyue's body started burning up.

Force then floated out of the water droplet. Like smoke and mist, it gradually extended toward her five organs.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly.

Whoosh!

A colorless fire rapidly emerged on her right hand—it was the karmic fire from the Heavenly Square Cauldron.

As it burned silently, it started to snatch the Heaven and Earth Force at the same time before rapidly nourishing and inserting it within Chu Liuyue's body.

Different from the previous force that was nourished by the red fire, the force coming out of the transparent karmic fire had a tinge of coldness to it.

It was like ice-cold snow water that gradually expanded and made half her body cool. However, this cold air was very different from the harsh, sinister coldness within Qiang Wanzhou's body. This was because this cold air was very pure and positive.

Very quickly, cold force flowed out of the water droplet and spread to her organs and limbs at the same time.

Chu Liuyue sat there quietly, but there seemed to be two extremely different energies merging and intersecting in her body.

Ice and fire were always on the opposite ends of the spectrum, but Chu Liuyue's body seemed to be a gigantic, tolerant, and magical container that could merge all of it together.

Half was fire, and the other half was icy coldness.

In Chu Liuyue's body, the scorching heat and the sinister coldness kept intersecting continuously. During this process, the forces that were used up and swallowed were extremely terrifying.

...

Outside the door, 36 Respected Elder Ming and Yan Qing looked at the energy spiral in the yard with stunned faces.

This energy spiral was formed because Chu Liuyue had absorbed too much Heaven and Earth Force. Until now, the amount of energy that she had absorbed was enough for two stage-four warriors to break through and reach the fifth stage.

However, she had no intention of stopping.

Buzz!

Buzz!

Buzz!

Waves of force spread over.

Rong Xiu set up the silver barrier, and it kept rippling continuously.

If it weren't for his barrier blocking it, the yard would've been swept and leveled by the strong force.

36 Respected Elder Ming quietly glanced at Rong Xiu. "You guessed it earlier?"

Rong Xiu smiled and didn't say anything.

"This girl is causing quite a commotion as she breaks through to become a stage-five warrior... If this continues, she could almost be compared to a stage-six warrior..."

Cultivation had nine stages in total, and every three stages were a stumbling block. When cultivators broke through the third, sixth, and ninth barriers, it was extremely important to their cultivation life.

Chu Liuyue is...

Boom!

A large sound suddenly came out from the room.

36 Respected Elder Ming immediately looked over and widened his eyes in shock. "Is she going to connect her five treasures?"

'Five treasures' were also known as the five organs. This referred to her heart, kidney, liver, spleen, and lung.

After cultivators reached a certain stage, the so-called five treasures could connect with each other with the dantian as the center. This was done by using Heaven and Earth Force to connect the five organs and the dantian.

In this way, the dantian connected with the five organs were akin to another pearl of essence on another level.

The more one connected, the faster cultivators trained. But in actual fact, the requirement for cultivators to connect all five organs was very high. Average cultivators would try to do this when they broke through and became a stage-six warrior.

They might not even succeed.

According to the differences in one's talent and physical quality, the number of treasures they connected would be different. Some could connect a few at once, but others only one.

Many cultivators hadn't even connected all of the five treasures even when they became a stage-seven warrior.

But Chu Liuyue is only becoming a stage-five warrior. Why would she connect her five treasures?

Chapter 672: Can She Do It?

Normally speaking, the more talented one was, the earlier they would connect their five treasures. The chances of succeeding on the first try were also higher.

But other than Rong Xiu, 36 Respected Elder Ming had never seen someone try to do this when they were breaking through to become a stage-five warrior. This could only prove that Chu Liuyue's abilities had far exceeded her cultivation level.

Rong Xiu turned around and looked at the room where the force kept coming out of, and his gaze deepened.

At the start, he actually didn't expect this either. But when he brought her back the day before, he shockingly discovered that she had thick force within her body. Once she started to break through, it would very likely cause a huge commotion.

It really turned out to be so!

36 Respected Elder Ming was stunned and did not speak for quite a while.

The silver barrier started shaking even more violently.

...

Actually, Chu Liuyue had already expected this scene before she broke through. But when she detected that the two waves of ice force and fire force started extending toward her organs, she was still shocked.

She had a Tianjing Yuan meridian in her previous life, and she did indeed start connecting her five treasures when she broke through to become a stage-five warrior.

However, her current body only had a Dijing Yuan meridian. Logically speaking, she should've been like other cultivators and only started the connection of five treasures when she became a stage-six warrior.

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind. Could this be related to the water droplet in my body?

However, this thought disappeared in no time.

She was stunned for a while before she swiftly gathered her focus and continued to absorb the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes and checked herself.

Within the dantian, her water droplet slowly turned. Waves of force flowed out, and they kept extending toward her five organs, attempting to connect with them.

The surroundings seemed like never-ending darkness, where one would never know how to find the exit.

But Chu Liuyue was extremely patient as she tried bit by bit.

After some time, stars began to form in the water droplet. Almost at the same time, a strange connection was felt!

The heart was connected!

Bang bang!

Bang bang!

Her heart beat strongly, and the star within her water droplet also sparkled.

The force circulated two times quicker in Chu Liuyue's body, and the fire in her hands burned even more intensely.

...

"Pfft, did she really do it?" Noticing the strange waves, 36 Respected Elder Ming finally couldn't help speaking out. As a respected elder, he was undeniably an elite, and he had also seen thousands of talented cultivators.

On the surface, 36 Respected Elder Ming was always laughing. But in actual fact, he was an extremely picky person. One could just think to know how high of an expectation such a person had.

And at this point, even he couldn't help but glance at Rong Xiu. "No wonder... Kid, you really have good taste!"

Didn't they say that Chu Liuyue had an ordinary background? Didn't they say that she used to be a good-for-nothing in terms of cultivation? Then, what's happening now? From what I know, Rong Xiu was interested in the lady when she first started cultivating. Back then, I thought that it was rare for Rong Xiu to like a girl in such a manner. Hence, it didn't matter much even if her background or talents were weaker. I didn't expect that after so long, this kid brought back a true talent! To think I still considered so much before! It's really a waste of feelings!

Rong Xiu raised his brows, and his lips curved up into a smile. "Thank you for the compliment."

The delight in his eyes was unconcealable.

36 Respected Elder Ming was speechless. How shameless!

Boom!

They heard repeated booms.

"She's actually still continuing?" 36 Respected Elder Ming was shocked and hurriedly looked over. "Can she continue connecting her second treasure?"

...

Within the room, Chu Liuyue's eyes were tightly shut.

With the first success, the later process became much simpler.

Very quickly, the second star appeared in the water droplet. This time... it was the liver!

After connecting two treasures one after another, the force within Chu Liuyue's body kept flowing crazily without any intention of stopping.

Chu Liuyue made up her mind and decisively wanted to connect all five treasures at once.

Her entire person seemed to have slipped into a mysterious and magical place, where she had completely forgotten the flow of time in the outside world. This all happened as she kept absorbing the energy from outside to convert into her own force before trying to connect the remaining three organs again and again.

The water droplet turned slowly, and the force that flowed out increased.

Finally, there was a light sound.

Lungs—the third star gradually sparkled!

...

36 Respected Elder Ming's expression gradually became serious. It's very rare to see such a talent! Normally, it's actually very hard for cultivators to succeed in connecting their five treasures on the first try. Only a small group of people are able to connect three of them in one shot, and this—to a certain extent—also shows the cultivator's potential. If Chu Liuyue can continue...

Boom!

As if to confirm his thoughts, another boom came from the room as a wave encompassing immense strength spread in all directions.

The barrier started shaking even more violently.

This was already the fourth treasure!

36 Respected Elder Ming—who originally didn't care about this incident—had his entire heart hanging high at this point.

Yan Qing's usual ice-cold face also looked shocked.

Only Rong Xiu had his hands behind his back and looked very calm and nonchalant. It was as if he had already predicted this outcome.

...

After connecting four treasures, four stars shone brightly in the water droplet within her dantian.

At this point, Chu Liuyue force absorption speed was four times faster than the initial stage. It was lucky that her Yuan meridian was spacious and tough enough. If not, it would be hard for her to endure such ferocious strength.

Waves of force kept rushing toward her body, and Chu Liuyue could clearly feel that her bodily aura kept strengthening.

Even though her eyes were closed, her five senses were much sharper than before.

Chu Liuyue held her breath in, and heat flashed across her heart. If I can connect the last treasure, it'll definitely bring about a huge advantage to my future cultivation. Hence, I have to succeed no matter what.

...

The last treasure was unquestionably the key and the hardest to unlock. Amongst 1,000 stage-six warriors, there might not even be one who had connected all five treasures.

One could just imagine how difficult it was.

Chu Liuyue kept trying again and again.

When the first time failed, she tried twice.

The second time failed, she tried thrice.

After some time, the fifth treasure still didn't budge at all.

Chu Liuyue's bodily force was continuously being used up, but she still didn't stop as she put in her all every single time.

She was as stubborn and persistent as ever.

...

"It has already been so long. She shouldn't be able to connect the fifth treasure..." muttered 36 Respected Elder Ming as he glanced at the sky. "Actually, it's already very outstanding for her to connect four treasures at once... It's fine if she really can't connect the fifth one..."

Rong Xiu didn't move. It seemed as though he was still waiting.

After a while, his gaze moved.

Boom!

Chapter 673: Very Worth It!

The last treasure was successfully connected, and the fifth star finally appeared in the water droplet.

Almost at the same time, Chu Liuyue heard something cracking.

Bang!

It was the barrier to become a stage-five warrior finally breaking.

It was as if a gate opened and water rushed out. The winds howled and brought along countless waves.

Chu Liuyue retrieved her hands, and the two balls of fire swiftly returned to her body.

A strong aura then spread from her body as the fifth line gradually appeared on the water droplet.

Buzz!

Chu Liuyue suddenly widened her eyes. Within them, there seemed to be two balls of fire burning intensely.

They sparkled more than ever.

A true stage-five warrior! She extended her hand and drew a wave of force with her hands.

Five stars vaguely appeared in her palms.

Within that force was an extraordinarily strong aura—her abilities had improved by a few times compared to before.

This... is the ability of a stage-five warrior that has connected all five treasures. Even the calm and composed Chu Liuyue couldn't help but be excited. She never thought that not only could she reincarnate, but she could even cultivate to this extent once again.

Even if she still couldn't compare to her previous self, Chu Liuyue could still clearly feel that she was reaching her previous self step by step as her abilities strengthened.

One day, I will return to the peak again! I will take back everything that belongs to me!

...

When the surrounding ripples gradually faded away, Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in to calm herself down. She then stood up and walked outside.

When the door opened, a few gazes shot over in unison.

Chu Liuyue followed those gazes and looked over.

She first saw Rong Xiu—the person behind him was Yan Qing. Beside him was a white-haired elder in a light-green robe, and he was smiling at her happily.

This is... Chu Liuyue was wondering who he was when Rong Xiu waved his sleeves, and the silver barrier silently went away.

Chu Liuyue then realized that he seemed to have set up a barrier outside the room. Is he... guarding for me? That's true. I did cause quite a commotion earlier, and it would be troublesome if I attracted some other people over. I've been in Xi Ling's limelight too much recently, and there are many pairs of eyes watching me openly and secretly. Even though I'm not afraid, I understand that it's harder to guard against a secret sword than one out in the open. Thus, it's better if I'm more careful. Besides... If the news of me connecting all five treasures as a stage-five warrior gets out, it will cause another storm to occur.

Thinking of this, a smile surfaced on her face as she was about to walk over.

However, that elder had already stepped toward her. "You're Little Prin... Little Liuyue, right?"

Even though the elder's face was wrinkled, his eyes were very clear, and he looked very energetic.

When he walked over, it was silent as if he didn't move much, but he was already in front of her. Besides, his body had no movement of any force.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled. This elder's abilities... are probably much better than I had predicted.

At this point, he was smiling happily at Chu Liuyue with a curious and concerned face.

Chu Liuyue glanced at Rong Xiu. Seeing a smile in his eyes, it was obvious that he was on good terms with this elder, so she obediently smiled and bowed. "Greetings, Senior. I'm Liuyue."

36 Respected Elder Ming looked at the girl in front of him elatedly. Her face is porcelain white, her gaze is clean, and there is a faint elegance in her eyes. How likable! Not bad, not bad! Rong Xiu indeed has good taste! I liked her once I saw her!

"You don't need to be this polite! I'm referred to as 36 Ming at Mingyue Tianshan. You can just call me 36 Resp—Elder!"

Oh, so he's an elder from Mingyue Tianshan. Chu Liuyue understood and obediently called him.

"36 Elder came to Xi Ling this time for something important, and he took the chance to come over and take a look," explained Rong Xiu when he walked over.

Chu Liuyue nodded and said apologetically, "Sorry for being unable to host you properly after you've traveled such a long time to get here. Please forgive me, 36 Elder."

"It's fine, it's fine! I know that you were cultivating just now! I always come and go in a carefree manner, and I don't care about such formalities! Besides, Rong Xiu is here! Also, it's more important for you to break through!" As he spoke, his eyes shone with admiration. "Little Liuyue, your talent is indeed outstanding..."

It seems like he already knows about what happened earlier. A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's head. It's hard for a strong warrior of such standards not to know when he was literally standing here. Besides, given Rong Xiu's behavior, it seems like he is on very good terms with this elder and should trust him a lot. Then, there is nothing for me to hide.

"Thank you for the compliment, 36 Elder. I'm just a little lucky."

36 Respected Elder Ming chuckled. "Some people might not even be able to do this even if they used up all their luck in the world. Little Liuyue, you don't have to be humble! It's this kid—Rong Xiu's blessing to be able to find you!"

Rong Xiu raised his brows. Hm? It seems like someone jumped sides?

Chu Liuyue's face reddened slightly. It's the first time I've heard such words from an outsider... It feels strange...

36 Respected Elder Ming already disregarded Rong Xiu at this point, and he only cared about Chu Liuyue.

He had no family members his whole life, and he had no children. In the past, he had always treated Rong Xiu as family. Not only did he help him a lot, but he also regularly thought and planned for the other.

One could say that without him, Rong Xiu wouldn't be able to sit at his position as Your Grace stably.

But there was one point—he had high expectations of Rong Xiu, so he always treated him stricter.

But once he saw Chu Liuyue, his entire heart melted. Such an adorable and pretty girl must be doted on!

“Little Liuyue, you’re already a stage-five warrior now, and you connected all five treasures. Therefore, you must now train your foundation well and stabilize your growth. I coincidentally have some Earth-grade warrior skills with me. Why don’t you come and choose what you like?” Then, 36 Respected Elder Ming waved his hand.

Clang!

Many jade boxes instantly dropped out of the Cosmic Ring.

Those jade boxes were crystal clear, and they had a faint aura to them. It was obvious that extraordinary things were contained within them.

He coughed. “Elderlies’ things are messier—please bear with it. Take your pick! You can take whatever you like! If you don’t like them, I still have some here!”

Chu Liuyue was dazed for a moment. W-what does this mean... Why would there be a person who casually gives out Earth-grade warrior skills to a person they just met?

But seeing Chu Liuyue’s expression, 36 Respected Elder Ming misunderstood and thought that she didn’t like any of them.

He paused for a moment, pulled Chu Liuyue’s wrist to the side, lowered his voice, and said, “Little Liuyue, if you don’t like any of these... Then... I actually have better ones, but those can only be passed down to those in the same clan. I’m afraid I can only give you those after your wedding with Rong Xiu...”

Chu Liuyue’s brows twitched harshly.

He means that... If I marry Rong Xiu, he’ll give me Heaven-grade warrior skills?

Chapter 674: Cozy Up to Someone Powerful!

Rong Xiu—who was as if betrayed—was speechless.

Facing the ever so passionate 36 Respected Elder Ming, Chu Liuyue really couldn’t handle him as she coughed and said, “Thank you so much, 36 Elder. I appreciate your kind intentions, but the present is too valuable...”

“Choose one! Choose one!” pestered 36 Respected Elder Ming. “How is this small thing valuable? I’ll give you a better one in the future!”

Chu Liuyue was speechless. Small thing... Is he talking about these Earth-grade warrior skills? Are top elites all so generous?

Chu Liuyue still wanted to reject courteously when Rong Xiu came up with his gaze sweeping across those boxes. Then, he chose one and passed it to Chu Liuyue. “This is 36 Elder’s kindness. Just accept it.”

If not, he might really pester Chu Liuyue about this for half a month according to his personality.

Chu Liuyue hesitated for a moment and could only accept the jade box. “Thank you, 36 Elder.”

36 Respected Elder Ming saw that box, and his eyes lit up. He looked at Rong Xiu and chuckled. “You really know how to choose, eh? I wanted to give Little Liuyue something, and you didn’t forget to intervene.”

Chu Liuyue looked at the duo in confusion.

Rong Xiu smiled. “It was just done conveniently.”

Then, he took out another identical box from his Cosmic Ring and handed it to Chu Liuyue. “The one that 36 Elder gave you was the upper scroll, and this is the lower scroll.”

Chu Liuyue was confused. Why would a warrior technique be split into upper and lower scrolls?

Wait, this upper scroll is an Earth-grade warrior skill. Then, this lower scroll... Won’t it very possibly be a Heaven-grade warrior skill?! She suddenly widened her eyes. “Rong Xiu, this lower scroll—”

As if guessing her thoughts, Rong Xiu’s lips curved up slightly. “You’re my fiancée. 36 Respected Elder Ming temporarily can’t give you this kind of thing, but I can.”

I knew it! Chu Liuyue immediately confirmed her guess. Putting the upper and lower scrolls together, it’s definitely a Heaven-grade warrior skill. What did Rong Xiu just say? It was just done conveniently?

36 Respected Elder Ming said sourly, “Pfft, you only know how to bully the elderly! When you get married, I’ll give whatever I want. It won’t be your turn!”

Chu Liuyue was speechless. Is this something they need to compare to see who’s more proud? Most of the cultivators in the world might not be able to peek at a Heaven-grade warrior technique their entire life, yet they can give it out so casually... Besides, I just broke through and became a stage-five warrior, yet I somehow received such a precious gift?

Chu Liuyue glanced at Rong Xiu with deep meaning. Now, I can confirm more than ever that the distinguished Prince Li—oh no, His Grace, is indeed someone wealthy!

Holding the two heavy boxes in her arms, Chu Liuyue silently felt that this was the feeling of cozying up to someone powerful. It feels great!

“Oh right! Little Liuyue, I heard Rong Xiu say that you’re also a Xuan Master and a heavenly doctor? Even though I don’t train in these two aspects, I still have quite a few things with me...” said 36 Respected Elder Ming as he poured out another bunch of items and started picking from them.

“Oh... This is an eighth-grade Xuan formation—for you! And this too; it’s for you! Hm? This seems like a medicinal formula. Back then, I took it from a nine... a heavenly doctor. Take it!”

Chu Liuyue—who could still pretend to be calm initially—had her eyelids twitching harshly. H-he’s too generous!

“36 Elder, your items are too valuable. I—”

Rong Xiu had already accepted all those items and shoved them into her arms without letting her reject them. He then said nonchalantly, “36 Elder has a lot of random things, and it’s also a waste to leave them by his side. If you accept them, you can use them to their full potential. Therefore, just take them.”

As he spoke, he looked at those items as if he was choosing. “36 Elder, I remember you previously saying that you had a teleportation Yuan instrument?”

“Oh! Yes, yes! That’s good too!” 36 Respected Elder Ming searched for a while again and took out a round, palm-sized copper plate after some time and shoved it to Chu Liuyue. “Little Liuyue, you just reached the standard of traveling through air, so this thing is the best for you!”

Chu Liuyue was dazed.

At the start, she still tried to stop them. But in the end, she realized that she couldn’t even stop the two of them, so she swiftly gave up.

How should I put it? This feeling of being buried in money... It still feels good!

After all the shoving, Chu Liuyue’s entire person was almost buried by gifts before 36 Respected Elder Ming finally stopped.

He sized Chu Liuyue up and shook his head regretfully. “Sigh, it’s still lacking a little... Rong Xiu, you two must get married as soon as possible! If not, I can’t give many of the good items.”

As long as Chu Liuyue becomes Rong Xiu’s Princess Consort and reaches that level of relationship, I can continue then.

Rong Xiu’s lips curled up slightly. “I’ll try my best.”

Chu Liuyue: “...”

What does that mean? Why do I feel that something is wrong?

Rong Xiu then glanced at her, smiled, and said, “Keep these things first. There’s something you still don’t know yet. We can talk inside the house.”

Facing this forceful giving of gifts, Chu Liuyue just felt small, weak, pitiable, and helpless as she could only put all those items inside her Cosmic Ring obediently.

Even though the Cosmic Ring wasn’t heavy, Chu Liuyue—for some reason—felt that she would hear countless coins clashing against each other once she moved it.

Hm? Thinking of this, even though I had nothing when I was reborn, it seems like my luck in everything seems ridiculously good...

When everything was packed, the few of them finally entered the house.

Chu Liuyue personally brewed some tea, and it garnered a bunch of praises from 36 Respected Elder Ming again. “Little Liuyue, you brew really good tea!”

Chu Liuyue curiously asked, “Do you like Jin Jun Mei black tea?”

36 Respected Elder Ming was dazed for a moment and immediately nodded.

Rong Xiu stood at the side and calmly smiled as he looked at this scene. Who doesn't know that 36 Respected Elder Ming only likes to drink his own icy mountain snow water? It was especially when he reached such a cultivation level that he disregarded this kind of thing even more. Even though his acting skills are sloppy, he is sincere.

Chu Liuyue could also guess what was going on and felt it laughable and slightly warm in her heart. She could tell that he really liked her and thought highly of her.

And everything was because he cared about Rong Xiu.

Even though she had never heard Rong Xiu talk about him, she felt that this elder was also very important to him.

"A piece of news came out from the palace today." Rong Xiu sipped on his tea, and the refreshing fragrance filled his mouth. "The wedding between the Third Princess and the Eldest Young Master is set on the 6th of July."

Chu Liuyue was dazed. This is... Shangguan Wan finally can't take it anymore and is about to ascend the throne?

While she was in a daze, she realized that Rong Xiu was looking at her intently.

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat. He seems to... care about my reaction a lot?

Chapter 675: Accompany You

Actually, this incident was within her expectations.

She was even surprised that the duo had dragged to this day to settle on the date. After all, the duo seemed very intimate and in love on the night that she committed suicide and burned herself to death.

She thought that the duo could randomly find a reason to get married quickly after she died and they took charge of everything.

To her, the two of them were absolutely irreconcilable enemies. Other than this, sisters, fiancé... All these relations had long vanished into thin air. So after hearing this news, she didn't feel affected at all.

She even wanted to laugh. The two of them are simply asking for it to get married when both are severely injured. Sixth of July... Calculating the time, there is only about three months left. Actually, this length of time isn't long. Other than this marriage, there would definitely be Shangguan Wan's ascension ceremony. It will take a lot of time and effort to prepare for these things. I wonder why the duo chose to hold it at this time...

Besides, even if they really get married... Let's not talk about Jiang Yucheng and focus on Shangguan Wan. How can a good-for-nothing with a damaged Yuan meridian hold up the Tianling Power Staff? It's fine if she pretends with some special methods on normal days, but on the wedding day... If she can't hold up the Tianling Power Staff in front of the crowd... That scene would be amazing!

Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue was even faintly excited. Tsk, my habit of watching people be laughingstocks has become increasingly serious.

Seeing the changes in Chu Liuyue's expression and her eventual cunning smiling intent in her eyes, Rong Xiu's eyes dazzled as he smiled with even deeper meaning. He leaned against the chair lazily. It seems like my certain worries were unnecessary...

"That's pretty good."

Chu Liuyue smiled. "The Tianling Dynasty's Emperor had been unconscious for two years, and there's nobody heading the empire. It's time that this problem gets settled."

No, I wonder if it'll really be settled. Since Shangguan Wan dares to do it, she must have something up her sleeves.

As expected, she heard Rong Xiu continue. "Also, there's something else. The Third Princess said that since the Emperor had been unconscious for a long time, she needs to find a few special herbs and the blood of a legendary fiend to wake him up. For this, she plans to head to Dahuang Swamp."

Chu Liuyue was really shocked this time. "Dahuang Swamp?"

That place is in the western region of the Tianling Dynasty, and it is extremely far with disastrous climates. Why would Shangguan Wan want to go there personally and cause trouble for herself? Back then, Mu Qinghe entered the Black Guard and battled in Dahuang Swamp for years before he could finally appease the rebels. This allowed him to get to his current position. One can imagine how dangerous it is.

Chu Liuyue did go to Dahuang Swamp in her previous life. Even though it wasn't as mysterious and dangerous as Nan Jiang, Dahuang Swamp was also a perilous place compared to the rest—Mystic Forest, Mirror Lake, Red Moon Desert...

Even when I went there back then, I met with danger a few times. In Shangguan Wan's current state, why would she dare to take such a risk? Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment. "She's bringing the elders from the royal family with her?"

"And a thousand Black Guards. If the rumors are right, Mu Qinghe will be leading them." Rong Xiu touched the teacup and looked calm. "Also, she still plans to move ten people from each of the eight clans that participated in the clan competition. She said that... it's to provide an opportunity for them to train. I heard that they'd start picking people from today. They'll set off in three days."

Chu Liuyue almost burst out laughing. Provide an opportunity for them to train? Shangguan Wan actually dared to say such words? Dahuang Swamp is very dangerous, and many people go there without being able to come back! Nobody can question her for bringing the elders from the imperial family and the Black Guard, but she still wants to choose people from the four biggest clans... She clearly has other intentions!

"This is related to the royal family. Why would the four biggest clans agree so easily with her words?"

“She didn’t say it herself, but... The Master of Purple Xiao Sword Sect—Song Luan—willingly suggested it. It seems like... If other outstanding aristocratic children want to go, they can follow as well. This news has already spread far and wide throughout Xi Ling.”

How ridiculous! What a joke! Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears.

“Why would they be this passionate about Dahuang Swamp? Isn’t that place very dangerous?”

“Dangerous—yes. However, it may also hide countless treasures. People die for money, and birds die for food. It has always been like this since the ancient days,” said Rong Xiu calmly as if he didn’t care.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. All this while, Dahuang Swamp has been mysterious and dangerous but also filled with temptations to everyone in the world. This is because a shocking battle had erupted there thousands of years ago. Rumors have it that during that battle, countless strong warriors were slaughtered and died together.

All sorts of treasures and heirlooms that they had dropped there undoubtedly became what the crowd wanted very badly. Hence, many people still keep entering Dahuang Swamp even after so many years. Back then, it was also because someone discovered extraordinary items in Dahuang Swamp that they even gathered a bunch of poor and extremely ferocious rebels. Said people wanted to dominate Dahuang Swamp, but they were eventually suppressed.

That group of rebels has completely disappeared, but it’s coincidentally them who made countless people realize how amazing the many treasures hidden in Dahuang Swamp were. This is the reason why more and more people went there later on. Other than this, there is an even more important point: legendary fiend!

A legendary fiend hadn’t appeared in the Tianling Dynasty for many years. Even the late Shangguan Yue had only met a ninth-grade fiend and not a legendary fiend.

Some time back, rumors about legendary fiends appearing in Dahuang Swamp started spreading. In this world where the strong was respected, all of these factors proved a lethal temptation toward cultivators.

Hence, after Shangguan Wan brought this up, many people wanted to follow her immediately.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while. “...That’s true.”

Rong Xiu looked at her. “Then... Do you plan to go?”

Chu Liuyue was Chong Xu Cabinet’s disciple and naturally had the chance to go. Besides, she had just won three matches, and her strong capabilities had saved Chong Xu Cabinet’s position as one of the top four clans. Thus, she would definitely be in the spotlight.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while. “I’ll go! Why wouldn’t I?”

It’s not like I haven’t gone there before. Besides, I want to see what kind of tricks Shangguan Wan has up her sleeves. Suddenly, she knitted her brows slightly. “But... If I go, what about you?”

Rong Xiu smiled. “I’ll be leaving tomorrow, so I’ll be even earlier than you.”

Chu Liuyue was quite shocked, and disappointment filled her heart. "...So soon?"

"I've already rested here for quite some time, so it's time for me to leave."

Chu Liuyue then realized that Rong Xiu had stayed in Xi Ling for more than a month. It was just that she had been busy with many things, so the two of them didn't have many chances to spend time alone together.

Chu Liuyue was silent for a moment.

Rong Xiu calmly glanced at Yan Qing.

Yan Qing immediately understood. "Master, I suddenly remembered that I have something to do. I'll take my leave first?"

Rong Xiu lightly nodded.

Yan Qing left quickly.

Rong Xiu glanced at 36 Respected Elder Ming again, but the latter kept looking at Chu Liuyue as he asked with much worry and concern, "Um... Little Liuyue, the place you mentioned is very dangerous. Do you want me to go with you?"

Chapter 676: Armor

Rong Xiu was bewildered. 36 Respected Elder Ming, I think you said the wrong lines. You only met Yue'er for the first time today. Is it suitable to say such words?

As if Rong Xiu's gaze was too cold and filled with grumbles, the slow 36 Respected Elder Ming finally realized something as he quickly turned around and glanced at him. "Sigh. See, Rong Xiu is also very worried about you! It'll be more assuring if you let me follow you!"

Rong Xiu was speechless.

He suddenly felt thankful that he didn't let 36 Respected Elder Ming see Chu Liuyue the previous month. If not, he wouldn't have had a good time during this period.

"36 Elder, I'm afraid we can't do this..." Chu Liuyue smiled helplessly. Shangguan Wan has caused quite a bit of commotion regarding this, and it's clear that the choosing criteria of people is very strict. Eight clans, and each clan has to send ten. Those who don't understand might really think that this is an absolutely great opportunity, and they would fight to get chosen. Since she's so strict with her control over these clans, she definitely won't allow 36 Respected Elder Ming to follow us.

Upon hearing this, 36 Respected Elder Ming's face was filled with disappointment. I still thought I could protect Little Liuyue a little...

"But don't worry. I'll be very careful and watch my safety," said Chu Liuyue again.

“Sigh, okay.” 36 Respected Elder Ming sighed deeply again as he started to search for things in his Cosmic Ring. “If this is so, then I can’t help you with anything else. I can only give you some items to protect yourself. Here, this, and this. Ah, there’s this too! Take all of them!”

Then, he passed another bunch of things.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. It’s really hard to guess how many treasures are hidden in the boss’s Cosmic Ring...

“You can’t disappoint 36 Elder.” Rong Xiu raised his hand, and everything shifted to Chu Liuyue’s side. Then, he took out a bunch of items himself and similarly shoved them to her. “These are from me to you.”

Chu Liuyue was speechless. Why do I smell a faint murderous aura...

Chu Liuyue felt really embarrassed as she kept rejecting them. Hence, she successfully put all of them into her Cosmic Ring.

The three of them were elated and happy.

...

As Chu Liuyue was busy receiving gifts until her hands were sore, she didn’t know that Xi Ling City had already become very lively due to these two incidents.

The wedding between the Third Princess and the Eldest Young Master! The Third Princess was also going to lead troops into Dahuang Swamp personally, in search of medicine for His Majesty.

The disciples from the few major clans were all excited.

That was Dahuang Swamp! Even though it was filled with danger, countless treasures were also hidden within.

If they could find some treasure or even... receive the heirloom of a certain strong warrior... That would be a heavenly opportunity.

In this world, all cultivators wished that they would become stronger. Hence, even if they knew that Dahuang Swamp was very dangerous, it couldn’t stop them from wishing to go there.

As a result, the few clans had already started their selection.

...

Dragon Teeth Mountain.

“I don’t want to go!” Jian Fengchi shook his leg and waved his fan as he looked lazy and was filled with nonchalance. “Who wants to go to that kind of deserted place!”

Jian Shuye looked at him in disagreement. “What deserted place?! That place is somewhere where a legendary fiend has appeared!”

“Let’s not talk about whether the rumor is real or fake. Even if it’s real, do you think that legendary fiend can be mine?” Jian Fengchi chuckled. “If only it was so easy to have a legendary fiend!”

Jian Shuye also knew that his words made sense, so he didn't argue with his son on this. "Even if you can't find a legendary fiend, it's also good if you can go train yourself. You've grown up in Xi Ling since you were young, and you almost never go outside... This opportunity is very rare, and you should go out to experience it! Besides, the Third Princess is going to find herbs for His Majesty. If you're not interested in legendary fiends, you should be interested in herbs, right?"

Jian Fengchi glanced at his own father. "Father, I'm doing quite well in Xi Ling. Why do you insist on me going? Even if I didn't experience those... Am I not doing well now? I'm a heavenly doctor, and you're also a heavenly doctor. Why are you still forcing me to fight with that bunch of warriors and Xuan Masters?"

Jian Shuye really couldn't do anything about his son. He only cares about being free and wants the best for everything, but he isn't willing to experience any hardships at all.

Jian Fengchi glanced at him and continued, "Besides, Mu Qinghe is the one who discovered that place. Can there be someone who understands Dahuang Swamp better than him? With him around, the many other people following are just joining in for fun."

I simply don't like it. Shangguan Wan will be there, and I'm afraid it'll ruin my good mood. Besides... Shangguan Wan's words are just used to bluff other people. Only she herself knows what she really wants to go there for! Why don't I stay in Xi Ling and do what I need to?

Seeing that his child really couldn't be convinced, Jian Shuye could only give up.

"Mentor, can I go?" At the side, Mu Hongyu suddenly spoke up.

Jian Shuye was dazed and immediately nodded. "Of course!"

Even though there were only ten spots, Mu Hongyu had the Faint Yuan body. She had been greatly improving these few days, so she definitely could go if she wanted to.

"That's great! Thank you, Mentor!" Mu Hongyu's eyes lit up. That place sounds very interesting! And if I'm not wrong, Liuyue will definitely go too!

Jian Fengchi knitted his brows slightly and was about to stop her, but he swallowed his words when he saw Mu Hongyu's excited expression.

Jian Shuye shook his head at Jian Fengchi. "Since you're not willing to go, suit yourself. There are many disciples on the mountain who want to go!"

Jian Fengchi wasn't convinced as he stood up, stretched, and leisurely walked outside. When he walked past Mu Hongyu, he used the fan to knock Mu Hongyu's head and whispered, "You really don't know that you're walking toward death."

Mu Hongyu blinked and wrinkled her nose. Who is walking toward death?

Just as she was about to retort, Jian Fengchi had already walked far away.

...

Imperial Palace, Huayang Palace.

Shangguan Wan sat there thinking of something.

Chan Yi was tidying things by the side.

They were going to set off for Dahuang Swamp three days later, and this trip would probably take more than a month. Hence, she had to bring quite a few items.

Dahuang Swamp was a very dangerous place. If it were in the past, Shangguan Wan did have the guts to go there. But now... her body...

She was quite uneasy. It's lucky that I'll be bringing quite a few people along with me this time.

"Your Highness? Your Highness?" Chan Yi called Shangguan Wan twice before the latter recovered her senses.

"What's the matter?"

Looking at her gaze, Chan Yi asked hesitantly, "Third Princess, are you worried about something? Lieutenant Mu is going to lead the troops this time, so it should be fine."

"Him?" Shangguan Wan snorted. "He won't listen to me anyway."

Even though she knew that Mu Qinghe was Jiang Yucheng's person, she still couldn't fully trust him—probably because he had followed Shangguan Yue for years.

If we weren't going to Dahuang Swamp this time and only Mu Qinghe was suitable, I really wouldn't bring him along.

"Your Highness, don't worry too much. Isn't Eldest Young Master going with you too? If you're really worried... Why don't you bring that item along?"

Shangguan Wan turned around. "What?"

Chan Yi bowed and whispered, "Did you forget that that person left armor behind?"

Chapter 677: Spy

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

"You're talking about... the pure gold armor?" Shangguan Wan knitted her brows. "That thing is good, but it has always been put at Shaoyue Palace... Also, everyone in the entire Tianling Dynasty knows that it belongs to Shangguan Yue. If I use it..."

"That person has already passed on, and it's a waste if you just leave the holy items hidden in the palace. If you can use it, and it can protect your safety, you are making good use of it." Chan Yi seemed to be nonchalant as she advised, "You're already above millions of people now, and you're officially getting married in a few months. Nobody else in the world is better suited to be the pure gold armor's new master."

These words made Shangguan Wan's heart falter.

This pure gold armor had quite a bit of history.

Back then, Shangguan Yue had just become of marriageable age and had led the Black Guard to check on the other territories. During this journey, she unintentionally entered the ruins of an old battlefield and received that pure gold armor. Afterward, she had only openly worn it once, which was during the last battle to calm Dahuang Swamp down.

Rumors had it that she wore the pure gold armor and had battled three stage-eight warriors on her own, eventually killing them all. Ever since then, this pure gold armor had become famous after that one battle.

As the Heavenly Princess, Shangguan Yue had seen countless good items. However, this pure gold armor definitely ranked in the top three of all the Yuan instruments she had.

It just showed how formidable it was.

Shangguan Wan was, of course, tempted to have it. She had even wanted to occupy it for herself after she got rid of Shangguan Yue, but in the end, her Yuan meridian was burned. She also didn't recover in the end, so she had forgotten about this incident. Now that Chan Yi brought it up, she then suddenly remembered.

"Your words do make sense..." Shangguan Wan squinted her eyes, and her mind started whirring. "I'll go right now!"

...

Shaoyue Palace.

This place used to be the most distinguished place in the entire palace, excluding the Qiankun Palace that the emperor was staying in now. This was because the Princess used to reside here.

The past hustle and bustle had all faded away, and the current Shaoyue Palace became very cold and quiet. Other than the palace people who were sent to guard this area, almost nobody came.

This was because the Princess had died after going crazy during her cultivation, and it sounded very bad. In addition, the Third Princess was the one in power now, so the crowd very rarely talked about the old happenings.

In this palace, it was really a batch of officials following a ruler.

Even though the Third Princess and the Princess seemed extremely close and were on very good terms to the crowd, those who stayed in the palace for an extended period of time had sensitive feelings and somewhat knew of the differences within. Hence, the palace staff at Shaoyue Palace were shocked when Shangguan Wan came here.

"Third Princess, may you live a thousand years!"

Shangguan Wan casually waved her hands and stepped into the court, going straight for the bedroom. "I just came here to look around casually. Just do what you have to do."

After the crowd answered in unison and Shangguan Wan entered the bedroom, they then respectively exchanged looks and slowly dispersed.

Ever since the Princess had gone down, the Third Princess had come a few times. She also came with tears in her eyes and left with them. However, she didn't really come anymore this year.

This trip was really a little strange. But no matter what, they still had to serve her carefully.

...

Shangguan Wan walked into the bedroom.

It was obvious that nobody had come to this place for a very long time as a faint smell of being left behind for a long time permeated throughout the air.

The sunlight shone in, and one could see the dust flying around.

Shangguan Wan knitted her brows, took her handkerchief, and covered her mouth and nose, feeling that it was laughable and infuriating in her heart. Who would've expected that the once ever so glorious Shaoyue Palace would one day end up in this state?

If it were any other day, she would definitely go out and lecture the palace staff immediately to express how close the two sisters were. But she really wasn't in the mood for that today, so she was too lazy to do it.

She walked to the side and gently caressed the bed.

After feeling a bump, she pressed her finger. The diagonal-facing wooden cupboard then silently opened.

A secret compartment appeared in front of her.

Shangguan Wan walked over and knocked against it a few times.

Kacha!

The secret compartment opened.

A pure gold armor was right inside.

Even in this silent and dark space, this pure gold armor still exuded a faint glory that couldn't be ignored as its entire body revealed an unspeakable elegance and a high and mighty aura. One glance at it, and she seemed to be able to feel the ferocious and bloody aura from the armor.

This wasn't the first time Shangguan Wan had seen this pure gold armor, but every time she saw it, her heart would be shocked once.

It was a true holy item that had been passed down for many years since the ancient days, and it was an incomparable legendary existence!

Shangguan Wan was agitated as she couldn't help but slowly stretch out her hand and touch it.

It was cold and hard to the touch, but it exuded a strong suppression.

If I really wear it... I wonder what it will look like? Shangguan Wan took a deep breath in and carefully took the pure gold armor as she held it in her arms and felt it for a while. This... is the true aura of being strong!

This armor recognized its master.

It was a pity that her Yuan meridian was damaged, so she could only stare at it helplessly.

When my body recovers to normal... All of this will be mine! Shangguan Wan meticulously put away the pure gold armor within her Cosmic Ring and then returned everything to normal before leaving.

Chan Yi was waiting outside the door.

Shangguan Wan walked outside as she lightly said, "Sister's bedroom hasn't been cleaned in a long while. The people in Shaoyue Palace haven't discharged their duty, and they should all be chased out of the palace."

Chan Yi bowed. "Yes."

...

Jiang Residence.

"Eldest Young Master, you can't go with the Third Princess this time! If this goes on, I'm afraid that your body..." advised Feng Shanyuan kindly when he came to the study again.

"You don't have to tell me all of this. I must go on this trip." Jiang Yucheng sat on the chair expressionlessly. The reason why I'm going is not for any other, but... I'm worried about Shangguan Wan. Shangguan Wan wants to heal her Yuan meridian as soon as possible, and I agreed. However, I didn't expect her to directly do this once she made a move! It's fine that she's bringing the royal family elders and 1,000 Black Guards, but what's with the other clans sending out ten disciples each to go together?

Others didn't know, but he knew the best! Shangguan Wan is too anxious!

Feng Shanyuan knitted his brows. "But if you and the Third Princess both go to Dahuang Swamp, what's going to happen to Xi Ling?"

"I'll just leave it to the subordinates to handle. Most of the problems have already been settled. In such a short one month, nothing much will happen." Jiang Yucheng was nonchalant.

Within these two years, he had insisted on the philosophy of 'let those who comply with me thrive and those who resist me perish' to suppress the rest forcefully.

Those who should be killed were killed, and those who should be captured were caught.

He had already handled most of the people that would pose a threat to him, and he wasn't worried that the remaining lame shrimps would do anything.

"But as for His Majesty—"

“It’s precisely because I need to investigate that matter that I need to leave Xi Ling,” said Jiang Yucheng with deep meaning.

Feng Shanyuan did not speak further.

Knock knock...

“Eldest Young Master, Lieutenant Mu requests to see you!”

Chapter 678: Let’s Forget About It

Upon receiving a look from Jiang Yucheng, Feng Shanyuan wisely took his leave.

Mu Qinghe entered the room moments later.

Jiang Yucheng leaned back against the chair. “Spill it. What’s wrong?”

Mu Qinghe cupped one fist in the other hand. “Eldest Young Master, I’ve been secretly investigating Hundred Herbs Building, but I wasn’t able to find out much due to their tight security. The one thing I accidentally came to know about is that although Yue Ling is running Hundred Herbs Building, someone else is actually calling the shots behind the scene. That person must be Hundred Herbs Building’s real owner.”

“The real owner? Who’s that?” Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows. I only know that there must be someone backing Hundred Herbs Building for it to reach its current scale, but I don’t know who that person is. Besides, they have been running their business quietly all along and have never done anything to affect my interests. Hence, I didn’t send anyone to conduct a thorough investigation on them.

Mu Qinghe shook his head. “That person is very secretive, and there’s no clue leading to him. Although I did hear about him being very doting toward his wife—that’s all to it.”

Everything about Hundred Herbs Building’s real owner and his wife was just hearsay. When Mu Qinghe really tried looking into things, he realized that the other party was much more powerful than he thought.

They left no trails behind, thus leaving him with no clues to act on.

“If Chu Liuyue really has someone from Hundred Herbs Building backing her up, it’s likely to be that person.” Otherwise, there’s no way to explain the recent bout of events.

“Chu Liuyue came from an ordinary background and has never stepped foot into Xi Ling before, so how could she possibly know a bigwig like him?” Jiang Yucheng was skeptical about this though.

Mu Qinghe lowered his head slightly. “Word has it that Yue Ling treated Chu Liuyue with utmost respect and even personally served her during her last visit to Hundred Herbs Building. I believe only a handful of people in the whole of Xi Ling would receive such treatment.”

That caused a slight change in Jiang Yucheng’s expression. “...That makes more sense now... Did you really not manage to find anything about the so-called boss? Do you know if he’s from Xi Ling, or perhaps his age?”

Mu Qinghe shook his head once more before hesitantly saying, "We were discovered, actually. And... they even gave us a warning."

Jiang Yucheng's eyes widened in shock. "What?!"

Mu Qinghe spread his palm open, where a deep, bloody slit spanned across it. Seeing how his hand was almost sliced off, it was clear what the other party was warning them: Stick to your own business!

"You exchanged blows with them?" asked Jiang Yucheng coldly.

"Yes, with a masked man. His cultivation... isn't inferior to mine." What Mu Qinghe actually wanted to say was that the other party's cultivation was very likely to be higher than his. Otherwise, it was impossible for that person to leave such a deep cut on his palm so easily.

Feeling immensely resentful, Jiang Yucheng fell silent for a long time. I have never met anyone as arrogant as the other party in the past two years, but I don't even know who that person is. It's clear from how they dealt with Yuzhi and Mu Qinghe that the other party has no intentions of letting things slide.

Given his usual personality, there was no way he would allow anyone to bully him, especially on his turf—Xi Ling. However, the current circumstances didn't allow him to stir up any trouble.

As he stared at the cut on Mu Qinghe's palm, he rubbed his temples and let out a long breath. "Forget it. Let's put this matter aside for now. We'll be going to Dahuang Swamp in a few days, so let's just should prepare for it first."

"Understood." Mu Qinghe had already expected this outcome, so he nodded unsurprisingly. Given how vexed Jiang Yucheng is lately, there's no way he would care about this matter now. We can only talk about it after we come back from Dahuang Swamp.

"If you have no other orders for me, I'll take my leave now."

Jiang Yucheng waved his hand, indicating to the other to leave.

But just as Mu Qinghe took a couple of steps, he called him to stop. "By the way... Were you the one who called a horse carriage for Rong Xiu the other day?"

"Yes," answered Mu Qinghe with a nod, albeit feeling a little surprised that Jiang Yucheng knew about Rong Xiu.

Jiang Yucheng's expression turned a little cold as he fell deep in thought. After a while, he asked, "What... is his background like?"

Mu Qinghe was even more surprised to hear this question. Why is he suddenly so curious about Rong Xiu? He's actually wasting his time and energy on someone unrelated to him despite the many things he has to deal with right now?

He pushed his questions aside and briefly told Jiang Yucheng about Rong Xiu. He didn't know much about Rong Xiu in the first place, so there was only so much he could tell him. While he spoke, he carefully studied Jiang Yucheng's face. "...That's about it. Are you suspecting him, Eldest Young Master?"

Jiang Yucheng parted his lips but didn't say anything in the end. He only shook his head and told Mu Qinghe to leave.

It was only after Mu Qinghe closed the doors that he shut his eyes in irritation. Why am I thinking about these useless things at this juncture? I haven't found the person who tried to assassinate me, nor uncovered the identity of Hundred Herbs Building's real boss and found out if he's a threat to me. Most importantly, I'll be going to Dahuang Swamp soon. I have to stabilize my condition as soon as possible and prevent Shangguan Wan from pulling any tricks. I really shouldn't be wasting my time and energy asking those questions, but for some reason... The scene from that day keeps appearing in my mind.

Snow was falling, and everything was blanketed in white. A man and a woman were snuggling against each other in the warm and spacious horse carriage.

The woman leaning against the man's chest had disheveled hair, flushed cheeks, and a pair of sparkling and alluring eyes. Her body was wrapped in the man's black cloak like how one would hold a precious treasure. Her shy smile was pure and clean, and it revealed a tinge of sweetness that couldn't be hidden.

Jiang Yucheng closed his eyes tiredly once more, but as he did that, another scene flashed across his mind.

It was a hot, sunny day when another woman revealed the same bright and sunny smile to him outside the zither room and by Thousand View Garden's lake. She shyly but honestly said to him, "Yucheng, I have someone I like. Let's forget about the engagement."

Chapter 679: Let Her Join Us

Early the next morning, Rong Xiu left Xi Ling along with Yan Qing, Yu Mo, and 36 Respected Elder Ming. Although Chu Liuyue was reluctant to part with him, there was nothing she could do about it except secretly hope that she could quickly settle matters here.

The snow on the pavement had been cleared. After sending them off, she made her way back to Chong Xu Cabinet.

Meanwhile, Weichi Song and Elder Xia Yi were currently discussing the Dahuang Swamp trip.

Unlike the other sects, Chong Xu Cabinet's members weren't exactly excited about this matter. Having luckily survived the series of attacks that occurred over the past two years, they preferred to cultivate in a slow but steady manner than to gamble their lives on an uncertain chance.

Besides, there were barely a hundred disciples left in Chong Xu Cabinet. It would be unwise of them to send so many people on such a risky trip. What if something happened to them?

Be it Weichi Song, Elder Xia Yi, or even the disciples themselves, all of them held very conservative views about this matter. Furthermore, they would be traveling with the Third Princess and the other sects. There was no telling what would happen on the trip.

"...This is a dangerous trip, and it may not be beneficial to us. In my opinion... it's better for us not to join them. Don't you agree?" probed Elder Xia Yi tentatively. "It's not mandatory for us to go anyway. The other sects might be more than happy to have us free up those ten slots!"

“That may be true, but tongues will surely wag if we’re the only ones not going... We’ve just preserved our position as one of the top four sects, so I’m afraid it’s inappropriate for us to pull out of this trip.” Weichi Song stroked his beard. Although this matter appears to be the result of a joint discussion between the royal family and the various sects, Song Luan never would’ve taken the initiative to propose this idea if he didn’t have the Third Princess’s permission. In other words, we have to send our disciples on this trip, or we’ll run the risk of offending the Third Princess.

Elder Xia Yi’s expression appeared grave as he furrowed his eyebrows. “Can’t we come to a compromise then? Let’s just pick a few people to go... It’s justifiable for us to send fewer people since we don’t have many disciples now.”

Weichi Song nodded in agreement. “That’s an idea, but the question is... Who should we pick?”

I don’t think many are willing to go. Just as he was feeling troubled over who to pick, he heard a clear voice coming from outside. “I’ll go, Master!”

The two of them looked up in unison to see Chu Liuyue, dressed in red, entering the room from the snow.

“You’re back, Liuyue?” Weichi Song was the first to speak. Surprise colored his eyes as he sized Chu Liuyue up. “You’re a stage-five warrior now?”

It’s only been two days since we last met, but she’s broken through again?!

Chu Liuyue blinked. “I learned a lot at the clan competition, which led to my successful breakthrough.”

Weichi Song and Elder Xia Yi were speechless. This talent... That breakthrough speed... What can we say about that?

A moment later, Weichi Song coughed and asked, “Did the Third Princess make things difficult for you?”

She shook her head smilingly. “No, she summoned me over just for a little chat. I intended to come back yesterday, but I decided to stay at my mansion instead due to the heavy snow.”

It was only after making sure that she was indeed safe and sound that Weichi Song heaved a sigh of relief. He had never had a good impression of Shangguan Wan and had always felt that she was scheming, petty, and narrow-minded.

Not only had she taken over Shangguan Yue’s rights, but she was also engaged to Jiang Yucheng. Now that their wedding date was set, he found her even more disgusting than before. He felt that if she really was close to Shangguan Yue, then she wouldn’t have gotten together with the latter’s ex-fiancé.

Although he didn’t speak much of it and rarely got involved with the royal family’s affairs in the past two years, he was upset with many of the things that Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng did.

“That’s good to hear.” He nodded and then asked, “Did you say you want to go to Dahuang Swamp earlier?”

Chu Liuyue nodded in all seriousness. “Yes.”

“Have you thought it through? While there may be countless treasures hidden at Dahuang Swamp, it’s an extremely dangerous place. There’s no telling what might happen on the trip. Liuyue, you’re a top talent, and your cultivation has been improving by leaps and bounds. There’s truly no need for you to go there. Are you sure you want to go?” Having seen how Chu Liuyue dealt with the Messed Yuan Gravel, Weichi Song knew that she had an extraordinary trump card hidden up her sleeves. In his opinion, she could easily break through and become a top warrior no matter where she cultivated, so there was no need for her to go to Dahuang Swamp.

Chu Liuyue smiled. “My mind is set. You don’t have to persuade me otherwise. Someone from Chong Xu Cabinet has to go anyway, and I’m the best candidate of all.”

Being Weichi Song’s disciple and the Wan Zheng Competition’s winner, she was indeed the most suitable person if Chong Xu Cabinet sent out only a few people.

“Besides, I can protect myself well. I’ll be careful at all times, so you don’t have to worry about me.”

Weichi Song and Elder Xia Yi exchanged looks with each other. They could tell that Chu Liuyue seemingly wanted to go to Dahuang Swamp, and the reasons she provided were quite valid.

Still, Weichi Song hesitated for a long time before he finally agreed to it. “Fine! I won’t stop you then. Just remember that your safety comes first! Don’t put on a brave front in the face of danger, and remember to call for help if necessary.”

He was referring to the whistle he had given to her.

Chu Liuyue’s heart tingled as she said, “Don’t worry, Master. I’ll do as you say.”

“I’m going too.” Another familiar voice floated in from outside.

Chu Liuyue looked back and saw Qiang Wanzhou standing at the doorway.

There was no expression on his good-looking face. Although there were a few soft golden locks partially covering his eyes, the determination and stubbornness in those eyes were unmistakable.

She smiled and was unsurprised by his decision since she had long guessed it. She turned her head back to look at Weichi Song and Elder Xia Yi. “Little Zhou is quite strong too, so it won’t be a bad idea for him to go with me. What do you think?”

“That kid will obviously follow you! Even if we don’t agree to it, he’ll definitely sneak out to follow you! Can we still say no to that then?” Elder Xia Yi burst out chuckling. Qiang Wanzhou is like Chu Liuyue’s hanging accessory. He goes wherever she goes and obeys her every word despite his aloof and unruly nature. It’s indeed not a bad idea to have him go with her since he’s quite strong too.

Weichi Song let out a helpless laugh. “You both may go then!”

“...Cabinet Master, Master, c-can I go too?” A small head poked out from behind Qiang Wanzhou—the owner of that chubby little face was none other than Ye Ranran.

“You want to go too, Ranran?” asked Elder Xia Yi in surprise. In his eyes, the young Ye Ranran was still a little kid. She had always been very obedient, so he didn’t expect that she’d want to go to such a dangerous place.

Ye Ranran shyly said, "I-I heard that many precious herbs can be found at Dahuang Swamp... Hence, I want to go and take a look..."

She truly wanted to go to that place. Although she didn't speak of it, she had always harbored great enthusiasm and perseverance when it came to pill refining. Thus, it was only natural that she wanted to visit Dahuang Swamp.

That place is really dangerous though... Elder Xia Yi frowned but didn't say anything for a long time.

Ye Ranran turned her puppy eyes to Chu Liuyue, who smiled and then looked toward Weichi Song and Elder Xia Yi. "Let her join us."

Chapter 680: Bronze Disc

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

"Ranran is very talented at refining pills, so I believe that she'll benefit a lot from this trip. Besides, Little Zhou and I will be around to protect her," Chu Liuyue told them earnestly.

"Cabinet Master, Master, I'll definitely cultivate well and be careful not to be a burden to Liuyue and Wanzhou!" added Ye Ranran as she hastily raised her hand. I do want to go to Dahuang Swamp, but I might as well not tag along if I were to become a burden to them.

When Chu Liuyue saw how the two elders remained a little hesitant, she said, "We can better look after each other with Ranran around too."

Weichi Song looked at Elder Xia Yi. "She's your disciple, so it's your call."

After a long silence, Elder Xia Yi finally gave his agreement. "Alright. You may go, but you have to keep your word, Ranran!"

Ranran isn't as good at fighting as Liuyue and Wanzhou, and her only merit probably lies in being a heavenly doctor. It'd be good if she can gain some experience from this trip. All I hope is that she doesn't become a burden to the other two.

Ye Ranran's face lit up in happiness as she thanked the elders. "Thank you, Master! Thank you, Cabinet Master!"

"You should thank Liuyue instead! You don't have much time left, so you should start preparing yourselves over the next couple of days," said Elder Xia Yi laughingly; to which, the three disciples responded with a nod.

Chu Liuyue then got up to leave together with Qiang Wanzhou and Ye Ranran to discuss the trip.

After they left, Elder Xia Yi looked at Weichi Song gravely. "Have you heard what happened at the Jiang Residence, Cabinet Master?"

"Are you talking about... the assassination attempt on Jiang Yucheng?" asked Weichi Song.

Elder Xia Yi nodded and then shook his head. "It's no surprise that someone would try to assassinate Jiang Yucheng since he's offended so many people, but... It's rumored that the assassin hid among the former underlings he summoned to his residence and nearly managed to kill him. Do you know that the people he summoned that day were actually the very ones who followed him to Nan Jiang back then?"

Weichi Song nodded. "Of course. Speaking of this, he's just doing a show for me. To be more specific, it's a show for Chong Xu Cabinet."

Elder Xia Yi's eyes widened slightly. "Do you mean that—"

"I looked for him and told him about the Messed Yuan Gravel, but he vehemently denied that it was his doing and said that he'd help to investigate this matter. That's why he gathered all those people. Although it appears to be a low-key affair, anyone can find out as long as they're determined to look into it."

"I see... That way, he can pretend to help you in the investigation without alerting anyone... He's quite a schemer, huh?!"

"He's always been like this. He refuses to take any losses," said Weichi Song lightly as a hint of sarcasm showed in his eyes. "Then again, the assassination attempt was probably an accident. He probably didn't expect it to happen in his own home."

Baffled, Elder Xia Yi asked, "I thought the assassin didn't manage to hurt him?"

"Would he have flown into such a huge rage that he sent his men looking for the assassin in Xi Ling City during the night otherwise? He's probably searched the entire city already over the past couple of days. If he wasn't hurt, he wouldn't have bothered looking for the assassin at this juncture." Weichi Song snickered. It's highly inappropriate for him to do this when his wedding date has just been set.

"...That's true." Elder Xia Yi laughed. "I wonder who the culprit is! That person must be someone extraordinary if they can get away with doing that! I'm curious to know how he got hurt!"

Weichi Song's eyes gleamed coldly as he said, "He deserves it."

...

When Chu Liuyue returned to her room, she started cultivating in peace and felt more energetic after circulating her internal force for one Heavenly Cycle.

Ever since she became a stage-five warrior, she could feel that her senses had become much sharper than before. Her cultivation speed had also increased after she connected her five treasures, which brought about a great relief to her since strength meant a lot.

She even looked forward to the Dahuang Swamp trip a little.

At the thought of this, she carefully took inventory of the items 36 Respected Elder Ming and Rong Xiu had given to her. She found plenty of good stuff in the pile, and she had enough items that could help save her life in times of danger.

Among the pile of items, she took out a bronze disc. If I remember correctly, this thing allows me to teleport?

She didn't think much of the disc at first, but now that she had taken it out and gotten a closer look at it, she recalled that this thing was worth a fortune. One might not even be able to buy it even if they had the money. Depending on its grade, the teleportation distance varied too.

Chu Liuyue looked at the bronze disc in her hand, which weighed quite a bit despite being only the size of her palm. One could easily tell from its dusty and rusty surface that it hadn't been used for a long time.

I wonder how far this thing can teleport me... Out of curiosity, she wiped off the dust and injected a little force into it.

It remained still though.

"Eh?" She found it strange that nothing happened to the bronze disc since injecting force into Yuan instruments ought to bring about some movements. However, it didn't even show a slight ripple.

She thus injected more force and used 50% of her force this time. When the bronze disc remained unchanged, it triggered her competitive streak. She refused to believe that she couldn't open the bronze disc, so she took in a deep breath before injecting her full force into it.

Crack!

Did I spoil the item? It was specially gifted to me. If it's spoiled... Chu Liuyue froze for a moment before hurriedly bringing the bronze disc close to her eyes to check it carefully.

Sure enough, there was a tiny crack in the middle of the disc.

She felt slightly troubled. Just as she was thinking how to fix this thing, a bright stream of light shone through the crack and quickly disappeared. If she wasn't staring so closely at it, she surely would've missed it. "Hm? What was that?"

With her brows knitted, she stared at the crack for a while. I think there's something wrong with this thing...

She ultimately decided to continue pouring her force into it.

Crack!

That crack line became bigger, and the flashing light appeared more frequently as well.

She continued injecting her force nonstop.

After some time, a piece of the bronze disc suddenly shattered and dropped to the ground, while something inside it rose.

When Chu Liuyue took a closer look at it, she was surprised to see a flower petal. Of course, that flower petal wasn't real and was carved out of a transparent crystal. Although it was transparent, it looked exceptionally beautiful with colorful lights reflecting it.

The bronze disc had crack lines running all over it as if a layer of bronze skin was peeling.

She injected more force into it again.

Bam!