

Three-Time 481

Chapter 481: 481. No one can leave

The fake Elder Song, Lao Mu, followed Mo Yan's orders and found Elder Pang, but he didn't tell him not to leave the forbidden area; instead, he told Elder Pang to go look for Gu Ling outside.

"The master wants us to search the City Lord Mansion first and find where Gu Ling is hiding." Lao Mu looked serious and pointed in one direction. "You go that way, I'll go the other. We'll meet here in half an hour, regardless of whether we find anything."

Elder Pang didn't realize Lao Mu's disguise and left the forbidden area without hesitation, heading towards the garden.

Meanwhile, Lao Mu turned back and approached the cave again, standing outside, listening for any sounds from inside. However, the cave was so deep that he couldn't hear anything from the outside.

Lao Mu was considering finding an excuse to go back in and take a look, but he couldn't come up with a good reason.

On the other side, guided by Lao Mu, Elder Pang entered the City Lord Mansion's garden alone and quickly approached the Bajiao Pavilion. He saw the curtains on the third floor were down, so he leaped up, grabbed the pillar with one hand, and lifted the curtain with the other.

What he saw was a cold silver mask and a pair of emotionless eyes, very close to his face.

Elder Pang's eyes widened in horror, and he tried to let go and jump down. His hand did let go, but at the same time, his neck was grabbed by a pair of hands and dragged into the pavilion!

Even the most skilled masters could do nothing when their throat was held by the enemy before they had a chance to move. They wouldn't dare to struggle in order to stay alive, as that would only make them die quicker.

Gu Ling didn't intend to waste time talking to Elder Pang, and she forced him to open his mouth and shoved a truth-telling drug down his throat. This drug was created by Su Liang and her two masters, and Gu Ling brought all of her family's stock with her on this trip to deal with the people on Xingluo Island.

Gu Ling let go of Elder Pang and let him fall to the ground.

As the drug took effect, the questions Gu Ling asked were the same as those she asked Elder Song not long ago.

Elder Pang held the same position as Elder Song, and the information they knew about Mo Yan and the magic treasure was almost identical. Under the effect of the truth-telling drug, he gave nearly identical answers.

Gu Ling was not surprised but still somewhat disappointed. She didn't dare to reveal herself recklessly. Sheng Yue was untrustworthy, but he was the only one who had a chance to get close to Mo Yan and do something. Gu Ling couldn't predict the outcome of the truth-telling drug she gave to Sheng Yue yesterday because the key to the situation still lay in Mo Yan's magic treasure.

Whether it was an object or something that existed only in his thoughts and couldn't be transferred to others would directly determine Sheng Yue's actions and how Gu Ling should respond.

For safety reasons, Gu Ling couldn't know when the truth-telling drug would take effect, so she couldn't be there. She couldn't let herself fall into Mo Yan's hands and lose her freedom, as doing so would mean losing everything.

"Throw him in the dungeon too," Gu Ling ordered Feng Ming. By now, the real Elder Song had already been locked up in the City Lord Mansion's dungeon.

Although Elder Song had mentioned that there was a secret passage in the dungeon that led to the seaside, they were locked in there as prisoners and were chained. There was no chance of escape.

Gu Ling decided not to kill them for the time being and wanted to wait and see how the situation would develop.

Feng Ming took the unconscious Elder Song away, and the pavilion became quiet again, with only Gu Ling left inside. Lao Mu pretended to be Elder Song, and Cheng Yun pretended to be Gu Ling, both infiltrating the forbidden area.

The mute servant brought hot tea to Lao Mu, who took it and told her he was about to enter the cave to report an important matter and would take it in with him.

After the mute servant left, Lao Mu carried the tea and stepped into the cave, only to see Sheng Yue hurriedly coming out from inside.

Lao Mu's eyes narrowed, "Young Master Sheng, this is hot tea for the master."

"I know you're not Elder Song," Sheng Yue frowned deeply, "Hurry up and tell Gu Ling that I've used the truth-telling drug she gave me on Mo Yan. The ring is not the magic treasure; the magic treasure is in his mind and can't be transferred. I don't know when Mo Yan will wake up."

Lao Mu's expression changed, and he no longer pretended, "Damn it! Didn't you make him release the hostages?"

Sheng Yue sighed, "I tried. I asked him how to use the magic treasure and wanted him to demonstrate it, but he only described it and wouldn't follow my commands. You know that the drug can only control people to tell the truth. Don't waste any more time; go tell Gu Ling. After this incident, my relationship with Mo Yan has completely broken down, and I need to stay away."

Lao Mu instinctively reached out and grabbed Sheng Yue, "We agreed to cooperate; you can't leave! You have to go find Xiaogu with me!"

Sheng Yue sighed, looked back at the depths of the cave, and said, "Let's go quickly!"

All Lao Mu regretted now was not having any explosives on him. If he had, he could have taken the opportunity to move Mo Yan and blow up the cave. The reason he couldn't move Mo Yan was that Mo Yan still had hostages, including Yan Shiba, in his hands, and he might wake up at any moment.

Just as Lao Mu stepped out of the cave, he paused, "You didn't give him some more sedatives to make him unconscious for a while longer, so we have more time to figure something out?"

Sheng Yue shook his head, "It's not that I didn't want to, but I didn't have any. I've been living in the cave for a long time and had no use for those."

Lao Mu took out a bottle of sedatives, "Here, go now!"

Sheng Yue didn't hesitate to refuse. "It's too dangerous! I won't go back!" With that, he quickly moved away from the cave.

Lao Mu frowned, "Go inform Xiaogu!" After saying that, he turned around and rushed back into the cave. Although he knew it was risky, there was no time to waste. If Mo Yan was still unconscious and he could successfully drug him to make him lose his ability to act, the situation might improve significantly.

Lao Mu arrived at the usual spot, slowed down, and cautiously peeked in, but there was no one by the water. He only saw the small bed where the little girl had slept before and a small square table.

Sensing that something was wrong, Lao Mu was about to leave when a powerful palm attack came his way!

Lao Mu dodged quickly but was still hit on the shoulder. He let out a muffled grunt and tried to run, but he was forced back to the depths of the cave...

Just as Sheng Yue was about to leave the forbidden area, he ran into "Gu Ling" impersonated by Cheng Yun.

Cheng Yun had also been hiding near the forbidden area earlier and overheard Lao Mu and Sheng Yue's conversation. He didn't trust Sheng Yue and decided to confront him as Gu Ling's substitute, just to see how things would unfold.

"Gu Ling, perfect timing!" Sheng Yue's eyebrows were knitted tightly. "The magic treasure is not the ring, nor any other object. It can't be transferred. What should we do next?"

"What about Mo Yan?" Cheng Yun asked in Gu Ling's tone.

"He's still in the cave. He wasn't awake when I left, and he has hostages in his hands, so I don't dare to do anything to him. If I stay and wait for him to wake up, I'll either be killed or captured." Sheng Yue frowned, "Your master insisted on going in to give Mo Yan some sedatives."

Cheng Yun looked toward the back of Sheng Yue, where the towering ancient trees and the strange rocks of the low mountain where the cave was located could be faintly seen.

"What do you think we should do next?" Cheng Yun asked Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue shook his head slightly, "I can't get the magic treasure, so I plan to leave. I won't interfere with what happens next. You can figure it out. Farewell!"

As Sheng Yue was about to leave, Cheng Yun blocked his way, and pressed on his shoulder, "The matter is not over. You can't leave."

Sheng Yue's eyes narrowed, and he struck a palm towards Cheng Yun's chest!

Cheng Yun dodged, and they began fighting. Sheng Yue snorted coldly, "You're not Gu Ling! You shouldn't stop me! I'm not your enemy!"

Cheng Yun's face was cold, "I will not let you leave unless Gu Ling agrees!"

"Cheng Yun? I thought it was Qiao Jing." Sheng Yue stared, "You are my brother, I don't want to make things difficult for you. I just want to leave as soon as possible and I won't do anything to harm you all! Let me go!"

"You're not my brother!" Cheng Yun replied coldly, his attacks becoming fiercer.

However, even with only one hand left, Sheng Yue was more than a match for Cheng Yun. They were surrounded by dense trees, so their fight could not be seen from the garden's direction.

Just after Cheng Yun was hit by Sheng Yue's palm and spit blood, Sheng Yue was about to leave when Cheng Yun grabbed tightly onto his leg as he lay on the ground.

Sheng Yue dragged Cheng Yun for two steps, looking impatient, "Let go!"

Cheng Yun remained silent, refusing to let go even in death.

Sheng Yue glanced in the direction of the cave, "Your master... Gu Ling's master hasn't come out yet. Mo Yan might have already woken up. If you continue like this, you'll get us all killed! Let's leave here first!" As he spoke, he stooped down, pulled Cheng Yun up, and quickly headed outside of the forbidden area.

After leaving the forbidden area, Sheng Yue didn't ask where Gu Ling was but just took Cheng Yun and ran towards the City Lord Mansion. He was very fast.

"You..." Before Cheng Yun could speak, he was knocked out by Sheng Yue, who then carried him on his back.

Not long after Sheng Yue left the City Lord Mansion with Cheng Yun on his back, Gu Ling's voice echoed nearby, "Stop."

Sheng Yue's face darkened as he stopped, laid Cheng Yun on the ground, and looked up to see Gu Ling not far away.

Sheng Yue took a deep breath, "Yan Shiba was forced into the water for the third time today, and after coming out, he quarreled with Mo Yan. I took advantage of Mo Yan's distraction and put the sedatives in his tea. He drank it without realizing it. Unfortunately, the magic treasure is not a ring or any object. As he once told me, it is a gift from heaven for him to travel through time and is in his consciousness. No one can steal it. If he dies, those trapped inside will be doomed too. Yan Shiba betrayed me today, and Mo Yan's trust in me was already in jeopardy. He kept me alive, knowing that no one could steal the magic treasure, and couldn't do anything to him. I don't want to be killed or captured, so I have to leave. Your master insists on going in to drug him, and she may have been captured by now. Cheng Yun showed up and blocked the road. I've gone too far not to care about him, but he is my brother. I can't kill him. Honestly, I think your chances in the next events are slim. Mo Yan's magic treasure is invincible. You don't even dare to get close to him, let alone do anything to him. Once he finds out that Yan Shiba is fake, he will be furious and may even go on a killing spree to teach you all a bloody lesson! His patience is already wearing thin! I plan to

take Cheng Yun with me, just to keep him from losing his life for you! This has nothing to do with him! He is too naive, willing to protect you even at the cost of his own life!”

Gu Ling looked at Cheng Yun and emotionlessly asked Sheng Yue, “Didn’t you always say you wanted to travel through time?”

Sheng Yue shook his head, “The premise of everything, is to stay alive. Our original plan was to steal Mo Yan’s magic treasure, or at least prevent him from using it. But now that there are living people in his space, we can neither kill him nor control him, and we certainly can’t force him to go to the pool to explore. He will never release everyone inside. It’s his lifesaver, but we have no means to deal with him. If you insist on keeping Cheng Yun here, I can ignore him. I believe you won’t let anything happen to him. But I can’t help with what comes next. Let’s part ways now.”

“You can go.” Gu Ling said, taking out a bottle of medicine. “First, eat a truth-telling drug to prove that what you said is true.”

Sheng Yue frowned, looked back towards the forbidden area, “You’re wasting time. Aren’t you afraid that your master might be killed by Mo Yan?” He then took a step forward, accepted the pill from Gu Ling, and put it into his mouth, “You know, I’m immune to poison. This drug might not work on me.”

Gu Ling bent down and pinched Cheng Yun’s acupoint, waking him up.

As Cheng Yun stood up, he instinctively wanted to hit Sheng Yue but was stopped by Gu Ling, “Wait.”

By this time, the truth-telling drug should have taken effect, but Sheng Yue still stood there calmly without any changes. He even opened his mouth to show Gu Ling that he had swallowed the pill.

“Gu Ling, thank you for the drug. It made me give up on Mo Yan’s magic treasure.” Sheng Yue then turned and ran in another direction, “Let’s part ways now. Take care of yourselves!”

“Should we let him go?” Cheng Yun turned to ask Gu Ling, but saw that he had already chased after Sheng Yue.

Cheng Yun immediately followed suit.

It wasn’t until they reached the dense forest by the seaside that Gu Ling finally caught up with Sheng Yue and began fighting without a word.

Soon after, Cheng Yun also caught up and joined the battle.

Sheng Yue, with a helpless look on his face, fought while saying, “Have you both gone mad? Why do you insist on entangling with me? Gu Ling, do you really suspect that I’ve deceived you? You can’t possibly think that I’ve already stolen the magic treasure, can you? If that were the case, why would I need to fight you at all? I’d just snap my fingers and capture you all!”

Cheng Yun hesitated for a moment, “That makes sense.”

“There’s no point in you holding me back! Even if I stayed, would you actually believe that I would sincerely help you?” Sheng Yue asked coldly.

Cheng Yun then proposed, "Why not kill him? Then we won't have to worry about him causing any trouble."

Sheng Yue's face darkened, "I am your brother!"

Gu Ling's face was icy cold, and his sword was sharp. He showed no mercy.

Moreover, in terms of Martial Arts, Sheng Yue was no match for Gu Ling, especially since he was now short of one hand which had been cut off by Gu Ling.

Together with Cheng Yun, it didn't take long for Sheng Yue to be forced to retreat and be defeated.

Sheng Yue threw down his knife, took a deep breath, and looked coldly at Gu Ling, "What do you want from me?"

"In any case, the matter is not over, and no one can leave." Gu Ling's expression was indifferent. He took out a thin rope from his chest and walked towards Sheng Yue, ready to tie him up.

Knowing that he couldn't escape, Sheng Yue obediently surrendered and allowed Gu Ling to tie his arms behind his back with complicated knots.

Cheng Yun looked towards the forbidden area, "If Elder Shu still hasn't come out, I'm afraid something must have happened."

Sheng Yue's face was calm, "I did warn you. Gu Ling, I know you won't give up, but my advice to you is that when you have no other choice, don't worry about unrelated people and get back home as soon as possible. Take your wife and children to a place where Mo Yan can't find you and don't concern yourself with worldly affairs. That's the only way to have peace."

Chapter 482: 482. I have a guess, it may not be correct

Gu Ling ignored Sheng Yue's advice and returned with him to the Bajiao Pavilion in the garden.

Leaving Sheng Yue behind, Gu Ling glanced in the direction of the forbidden area, but there was no movement.

Cheng Yun's expression was worried, "I'm afraid Senior Mu has been captured. What should we do next?"

Gu Ling didn't answer, retracted his gaze, looked at Sheng Yue, and then said to Cheng Yun, "Take off his clothes."

Sheng Yue frowned, and Cheng Yun was stunned, "Huh? What?"

"Take off Sheng Yue's clothes and search him," Gu Ling said.

Cheng Yun looked confused, and Sheng Yue sighed slightly, "You still think I'm lying to you, thinking the magic treasure is an object, and I've already snatched it? If I really snatched it, could you still stop me?"

Gu Ling stared at him, "Snatching it and being able to use it are two different things."

Sheng Yue shook his head slightly, "I really admire your caution and thoroughness. Indeed, if I snatched it but couldn't use it, I would do this too. Unfortunately, this time you're overthinking it. If you insist on wasting time on me, go ahead."

Cheng Yun listened to Gu Ling and began to search Sheng Yue's body. He first frisked Sheng Yue up and down and found a jade pendant and a hairpin, but no other items.

"These two items are left to me by my mother, and I have worn them for many years." Sheng Yue's face was calm, "Gu Ling, you've seen them before."

Gu Ling looked at Sheng Yue's hairpin and jade pendant, and indeed, they were his original belongings. Gu Ling had seen them before when Sheng Yue went to the capital city's Su Mansion.

Afterward, Cheng Yun untied the rope binding Sheng Yue, and following Gu Ling's instructions, began to undress him.

Sheng Yue didn't resist and let Cheng Yun do as he pleased.

After removing his outer clothes and shoes, Cheng Yun searched him thoroughly and then told Gu Ling, "There's nothing else."

Gu Ling looked at Sheng Yue and said with a thin-lipped, "Keep taking it off."

Cheng Yun was about to proceed when Sheng Yue unbuttoned himself, "I'll do it myself. Although you are my younger brother, this is really strange."

Before long, Sheng Yue had stripped down to nothing but his underpants, standing barefoot and disheveled in front of Gu Ling and Cheng Yun, revealing numerous old scars on his body.

Sheng Yue voluntarily explained, "Some were left from martial arts training, and some were injuries from fighting with others." The biggest injury came from Gu Ling when he directly broke one of Sheng Yue's forearms.

Cheng Yun walked a circle around Sheng Yue and said to Gu Ling, "It seems there's really nothing. Though I don't believe him, what he said should be true. We should find a way to save them as soon as possible. If Mo Yan goes crazy and hurts Senior Mu, it would be terrible."

But Gu Ling said, "Take off the last one, too."

Sheng Yue's face darkened a bit, "Gu Ling, it's not really unscrupulous for me to want to escape today, right? We were never on the same side, and you've never trusted me. All this is the proof. If it weren't for my usefulness, you would've killed me long ago. I don't think it's too much for me to want to protect myself at this point. You want to search me, I cooperate, but do you really have to humiliate me like this?"

"I don't have time to humiliate you. You wouldn't be ashamed of such a thing anyway." Gu Ling's expression was indifferent, "Take it off."

Sheng Yue put his hand on his waistband and Cheng Yun silently turned his head to look outside the pavilion. Although they were both men, this situation was indeed awkward.

After a while, Cheng Yun heard Sheng Yue say, "Did you see clearly?"

"Turn around." Gu Ling said.

Cheng Yun touched his forehead, admiring Gu Ling's strong mentality, he still had a lot to learn.

"Did you see clearly?" Sheng Yue asked again.

This time, Gu Ling said, "Put your clothes on."

Cheng Yun sighed with relief, waiting a while longer before turning back, only to see that Sheng Yue had already put on his outer clothes.

The atmosphere in the pavilion at this moment reminded Cheng Yun of a phrase Su Liang once said, "As long as you're not embarrassed, the embarrassed person is someone else."

Gu Ling, who forced Sheng Yue to strip naked, wasn't embarrassed. Sheng Yue, who was forced to strip, didn't look too embarrassed either. The most embarrassed one was Cheng Yun, who was watching.

"You've searched me. Can I go now?" Sheng Yue fastened his belt and calmly asked Gu Ling.

Gu Ling shook his head. "I told you, until this matter is over, no one can leave."

Sheng Yue's expression turned somewhat helpless. "I can't beat you, nor do I want to argue with you. But isn't it a bit too much to force me to stay? In the past, I was against you because of my position, but I haven't caused you any substantial harm. On the contrary, you made me a cripple. Are you not afraid that I'll stab you in the back if you keep me here to help?"

Cheng Yun frowned, "You kidnapped our children before. How can you say you haven't done anything? We wouldn't be crossing the line even if we killed you!"

Sheng Yue's face stiffened. "Cheng Yun, I didn't expect you to become so secular now, talking about killing so easily. I'm glad, but you're being too harsh on me. When I did those things, it was just a means, not an end."

"Regardless of the means or the end, it shows that you have no moral bottom line. Anyone who harms a child is scum! You even kidnapped three children and hid them in a cave, causing one of them to become permanently separated from their family." Cheng Yun accused Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue shook his head, "I admit, I don't have as high a moral bottom line as you do. But that child who was separated from their family should thank me. I freed her from her selfish, uncaring family at such a young age. I believe she'll have a better family in the future, won't she?"

"Enough." Gu Ling spoke up, stopping the argument between Sheng Yue and Cheng Yun.

"Since you won't let me leave, what do you want me to do? Just say it." Sheng Yue looked impatient.

Gu Ling shook his head. "I haven't figured out how to proceed safely, and I want to hear your opinion. Don't give me any nonsense about leaving with your wife and living in seclusion. I want to save people. If anything happens, I'll make sure you die with me."

Sheng Yue stared at Gu Ling. "I used to think you and your spouse were always reasonable, but I guess I was wrong."

Standing on the side, Cheng Yun felt Gu Ling's words weren't in line with his usual style. However, Cheng Yun had no complaints about how Gu Ling treated Sheng Yue, as he found him to be a scumbag.

Before Gu Ling could speak, Cheng Yun picked up the rope on the ground, grabbed Sheng Yue's arm, and started to tie him up again.

"You really are my dear younger brother." A self-mocking smile spread across Sheng Yue's face as Cheng Yun bound him.

However, Sheng Yue quickly regained his composure, sat down, and saw that there were tea and water on the table. He said he was thirsty.

"Bear with it." Cheng Yun coldly said.

"Gu Ling asked me for advice. My throat is dry, and I need to moisten it to continue." Sheng Yue insisted on drinking water first.

Cheng Yun poured a cup of tea, grabbed Sheng Yue's hair to make him tilt his head back, and forcibly poured it down his throat with a very rough motion.

"Cheng Yun, you've really been corrupted by them." Sheng Yue said in a melancholy tone, wiping the tea from his face with his shoulder.

"Didn't you want to talk? Speak up nicely, or I'll hit you so hard you vomit up whatever you just drank." Cheng Yun didn't treat others like this, but for some reason, he was particularly repulsed by Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue shook his head slightly and stopped talking to Cheng Yun. Instead, he looked at Gu Ling, who was quietly standing on the side and looking in the direction of the forbidden area. "You're determined to save people, but I can't think of any good methods either. If there were, with your intelligence, you would have thought of them by now and you wouldn't have to ask me. However, I do have some serious words for you."

"Hurry up and speak!" Worried about Elder Mu, Cheng Yun couldn't help but urge him.

"Before I drugged Mo Yan, he had already forced Su Liang, who was impersonated by Yan Shiba, to go into the water three times. You and I both know that Yan Shiba is not a Transmigrator. She lied about seeing something underwater to deceive Mo Yan. However, Mo Yan's patience is limited. Coupled with today's events, once Mo Yan lets Yan Shiba go into the water again, it may not be easy for her to come out." Sheng Yue said, "However, it is more likely that Mo Yan will threaten you with the lives of Yan Shiba and your master to lure you out, and then threaten the real Su Liang with your life. It all depends on whether Yan Shiba's disguise has been exposed. If it has, Mo

Yan might kill Yan Shiba in a fit of rage and use your master's life to force you to bring the real Su Liang to him in person. Or perhaps, he'll capture you first and let Cheng Yun go back to the capital city to bring Su Liang."

Cheng Yun's expression grew uglier as he listened. Sheng Yue continued, "No matter which situation occurs, do you think you can win? From my point of view, there's no chance of winning, and that's why I want to leave this place as soon as possible."

Gu Ling stared at Sheng Yue, "Are you done?"

Sheng Yue nodded. "That's all I have in mind for now. By the way, I just thought of another idea. How about we all leave together, leaving only Mo Yan here? With no way out, he'll have to leave Xingluo Island once again to capture people in the capital city. At least that would give you more time to find a better solution."

Cheng Yun shook his head, "As you said, he would get angry and kill someone. As long as he has more than one hostage, he might start killing people next. If we can't deal with him this time and let him run back to the capital city to capture our people, the situation will get worse."

"I'm just making suggestions, it's definitely not stable, because there's no stable way," Sheng Yue shook his head, "How to do it is up to Gu Ling."

"Are you done?" Gu Ling asked Sheng Yue again.

Sheng Yue nodded, "Finished."

"Good." Gu Ling nodded slightly and turned his head back towards the forbidden area.

The atmosphere in the pavilion became silent, Sheng Yue closed his eyes, and Cheng Yun looked inexplicable, feeling that Gu Ling seemed to have a way, but was unsure and didn't know what Gu Ling was waiting for at the moment.

Cheng Yun, avoiding affecting Gu Ling's thoughts, didn't ask any more and just leaned against the pillar, staring at Sheng Yue.

After a while, Cheng Yun learned what Gu Ling was waiting for: Feng Ming.

When Feng Ming appeared, he was not surprised that Sheng Yue was captured, and reported to Gu Ling that he had been waiting around the forbidden area for a long time and had not seen any sign of Old Mu.

"It seems that something has happened to Senior Mu, otherwise if he had escaped, he would definitely come here to find the prince," Feng Ming said with a sigh.

"You go find a rope." Gu Ling ordered, "The longer the better."

Feng Ming nodded, "There should be one. Apart from the length, is there any requirement for the thickness?"

Gu Ling shook his head, "Any thickness is fine."

"Alright, I'll go get it now." Feng Ming quickly left.

There was silence in the pavilion again for a moment, and Sheng Yue asked Gu Ling what his plan was.

Gu Ling didn't answer, only saying that he was hungry and asked Cheng Yun to find some food.

After Peng Wu left, the task of cooking fell on Cheng Yun. He had experience living alone and could cook some simple meals.

"Then you watch him closely. I'll be back as soon as possible." Cheng Yun left after speaking.

When Feng Ming returned to the Bajiao Pavilion with a bundle of thin ropes, Cheng Yun also came over with a basket. The steamed buns in the basket were made yesterday, and the filling was specially made by Gu Ling. In any case, eating a full meal was necessary to have the Internal Strength to do the right thing.

Gu Ling ate three cold steamed buns and drank a cup of cold tea, while the other three watched him.

Both Cheng Yun and Feng Ming didn't know what Gu Ling planned to do with the rope. Sheng Yue's eyes fell on the bundle of rope placed in front of him, and his gaze flickered for a moment.

Afterwards, Gu Ling got up, picked up the rope, and began to wind it around Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue frowned, "What are you doing?" He was already bound at both shoulders, and his only remaining hand couldn't move at all. Now he was bound several more times, but only used up a little rope, leaving a long length.

"I thought of a use for you." Gu Ling said, "You go to negotiate with Mo Yan."

Sheng Yue was stunned for a moment, "What should I say?"

"You think about it yourself." Gu Ling said as he looped the rope around Sheng Yue's neck once more, tying a loose knot, and holding the other end in his hand. In this way, Sheng Yue was his "grasshopper" on the "line", which could be let out to a great length, but as long as Gu Ling's hand tightened, Sheng Yue could be strangled in minutes.

Sheng Yue's face showed anger, "You're asking me to go see Mo Yan, you're basically asking me to die!"

Gu Ling suddenly said something inexplicable, "I have a guess, which may not be necessarily correct."

Sheng Yue asked back, "What guess?"

"If you don't go, I'll strangle you now. If you go, Mo Yan won't kill you. He knows you're on my side, and he'll definitely ask you to pass on the message. As you said, Mo Yan wants to use hostages to catch me," Gu Ling said.

Sheng Yue frowned, "What do you mean? He told me to let you meet him, and I pass the message onto you. Then what? You won't actually go!"

"I can go, with conditions. Let him release all the hostages in exchange for me," Gu Ling said.

Upon hearing this, both Feng Ming and Cheng Yun frowned. Cheng Yun shook his head, "That won't work! You can't fall into Mo Yan's hands!"

"There's no other way now," Gu Ling said, "I have to settle it somehow. As long as he releases the hostages, I'll find an opportunity to kill him."

"It's too risky, and he may not agree," Feng Ming tried to dissuade him, "Your Highness, please reconsider."

"Only by negotiating can we find out. Sheng Yue, what do you think?" Gu Ling held a bundle of rope in his hand, with one end tied around Sheng Yue's neck.

"If it's a negotiation, why tie me up? Are you afraid Mo Yan will kill me and I won't die fast enough?" Sheng Yue asked coldly.

Gu Ling countered, "Are you scared?"

"You ask me to help you, and then you treat me like this. It makes no sense!" Sheng Yue snapped coldly.

"As I said, I have a guess, which may not be correct," Gu Ling said, "As for what it is, you'll know once you get there. I'll watch you go in and keep a safe distance."

As the words fell, Gu Ling dragged Sheng Yue, who could only move his feet, and leaped out of the pavilion, landing in the garden.

Under the sunlight, the lake's water shimmered with ripples. Following them out, Feng Ming and Cheng Yun both felt that something was off in the atmosphere.

"Remember, when you see Mo Yan, speak nicely, use your intelligence, and our cooperation can continue smoothly," Gu Ling said as he pulled Sheng Yue forward, his tone gentle.

The dappled shadows of trees fell on Sheng Yue's overly pale face, revealing his fluctuating emotions.

As they were about to leave the garden, Sheng Yue suddenly stopped, and Gu Ling halted as well, "What's the matter?"

Sheng Yue stared intently at Gu Ling, "What exactly is your guess?"

"What do you think?" Gu Ling asked in return.

Sheng Yue took a deep breath, "I can't go see Mo Yan."

"Afraid of death? I told you, he won't kill you," Gu Ling said.

Sheng Yue was silent.

The next moment, Gu Ling's rope tightened in his hand, and he looked coldly at Sheng Yue, "It seems, my guess, is correct?"

Sheng Yue clenched his lips and said nothing.

"You're so eager to escape because you stole Mo Yan's magic treasure, didn't you? Just because I didn't find it on you doesn't mean it's not there. Perhaps you hid it somewhere we wouldn't search, or maybe, you swallowed it. Whatever it is, it must be small, and you can retrieve it once you're in a safe place," Gu Ling said.

Sheng Yue showed no expression, "You really think a lot."

"You tricked my master into the cave for fear that he would stop you. You took Cheng Yun, who was blocking the road, instead of directly killing him. You didn't care about him, but rather wanted to use him as a hostage to ensure your escape when necessary," Gu Ling said indifferently, "The reason is that although the object is in your hands, you can't control it and can't use it right away. In this case, you want to leave with the treasure as soon as possible and slowly figure out how to make it recognize you as its master. Mo Yan is a Transmigrator, and that object may recognize him as its master even if he did nothing. It might have belonged to him from the beginning. Even if it's an independent item, it may not be easy to change its owner."

"It's a pity that you don't tell stories," Sheng Yue scoffed.

"If, as you said, Mo Yan's magic treasure is in his head and cannot be transferred to another, it's not strange for you to want to leave. But you're running too fast. You didn't take the opportunity to kill Mo Yan to deceive us and let him continue to restrain me. After Mo Yan's magic treasure was taken away, he would pretend his space was still there; otherwise, he would die quickly. You're afraid to go back because you fear Mo Yan will snatch the magic treasure back from you, and then, you will undoubtedly die. But helping me negotiate is not something you should fear with your personality; you've been dealing with Mo Yan for years," Gu Ling said calmly, "Your so-called desire to transmigrate isn't real and is just a cover for your true intentions. From the beginning, your purpose in coming to Xingluo Island was Mo Yan's magic treasure. Only that item would attract you. Knowing you couldn't handle it on your own, you pretended to cooperate with us, using me, and today, you finally achieved your goal of seizing the treasure."

As Gu Ling finished speaking, a faint smile appeared on the corner of Sheng Yue's lips. He stared at Gu Ling for a while before sighing, "I didn't expect that after stripping naked for you, you still wouldn't believe me. Don't say I used you; we used each other. Unfortunately, in the end, I made one wrong move."

Chapter 483: 483. Neither works

Feng Ming and Cheng Yun didn't understand Gu Ling's intentions until they heard Sheng Yue admit that he had obtained the magic treasure. They couldn't help but admire Gu Ling's caution and meticulousness, especially Cheng Yun, who had actually believed Sheng Yue's fabricated lies.

"Where is it hidden?" Cheng Yun grabbed Sheng Yue's chin, forcing him to open his mouth, "Wouldn't you choke if you swallowed it? And how will you get it out?"

Gu Ling's expression remained indifferent, "It's not necessarily swallowed by the mouth on the face."

Cheng Yun was an innocent child and didn't quite understand what Gu Ling was implying. Feng Ming, who had experienced the martial arts world before coming to Xingluo Island, had an ambiguous look on his face. He glanced at a certain part of Sheng Yue's body, then whispered something in Cheng Yun's ear.

Cheng Yun immediately let go of Sheng Yue's chin and looked at him as if he were some inconceivable filthy thing, without trying to hide his disgust, "That's disgusting."

Sheng Yue had already confessed openly, so he stopped pretending. His face became tense, and he bit out, "It's not what you think! I ate it!"

Cheng Yun subconsciously asked, "How do you take it out then?"

Gu Ling spoke in a mysterious tone, "Cut the stomach open."

Feng Ming whispered in Cheng Yun's ear again, "Or maybe it is ..."

Cheng Yun shivered and took two steps back, "That's really disgusting."

Gu Ling dragged Sheng Yue, not returning to the Garden's Bajiao Pavilion but to the mansion where they had stayed after coming to the island.

"So, will you cut open his stomach or let him... expel it himself?" When Cheng Yun mentioned the latter option, his face became awkward.

"You decide." Gu Ling said in two words.

Cheng Yun shook his head hurriedly, "I don't know what to do next, you should decide."

Sheng Yue sneered, "Gu Ling, you won't kill me. Otherwise, you would have done it already."

Gu Ling shot Sheng Yue a cold glance, "Then you choose."

Sheng Yue, with a dark face, said, "Get me some laxatives!"

Feng Ming and Cheng Yun watched as Sheng Yue ate the green grass Gu Ling brought back two moments later. He chewed the muddy grass and swallowed it painfully. At the same time, Gu Ling untied the rope on Sheng Yue's body.

Immediately afterwards, Sheng Yue clutched his stomach and ran outside. At the door, Feng Ming reminded him, "Remember to use the chamber pot."

Then, Cheng Yun pinched his nose and joined Feng Ming to guard the toilet.

Not long after, Sheng Yue roared, "Send two buckets of clean water!"

Feng Ming had already prepared and handed the clean water in.

After waiting for another two moments, Sheng Yue came out with a dark face, sleeves rolled up, holding something in his hand, and walked straight toward Gu Ling.

Gu Ling glanced at the table in front of him, "Put it down."

Sheng Yue loosened his hand, and a small object fell on the table, rolling for a distance before stopping.

Feng Ming and Cheng Yun both leaned over to take a look.

The jade piece was about the size of an adult thumb and shaped like a water droplet. The opaque jade looked ordinary, and there seemed to be seams of joining in the middle. There was even a small hole for a string, which was crooked and not symmetrical.

Both Gu Ling and Feng Ming thought that its quality and workmanship were so poor that it would be ignored even if it were put on sale at a street stall.

The appearance of this magic treasure was vastly different from what they had imagined. But upon further thought, they felt that perhaps a true magical artifact was indeed plain and unassuming in appearance.

Sheng Yue's eyes were full of complex emotions as he looked at the small jade stone. "Mo Yan said he didn't use his blood to recognize the master. He could use it as it was when he transmigrated. He took a truth-telling drug, so it's impossible for him to lie. I brought it over, and I didn't find anything. Even after dripping a drop of blood, it wasn't absorbed—it just slid down. I didn't expect it to be so difficult to leave Xingluo Island with this thing. Just like you said, Mo Yan might know about the danger when he wakes up and finds that the magic treasure is gone, but he still wouldn't leave the forbidden area. He would pretend to have the magic treasure and continue guarding the forbidden area to confront you. He probably assumed that I'd be far away from the island by now."

Cheng Yun furrowed his brows. "Since it's an object rather than something Mo Yan personally carries, he wouldn't be able to use it himself. Senior Yan was not captured and is still in the cave, but Yan Shiba is inside."

Sheng Yue hummed softly. "That's right. You do have people inside. Gu Ling, why don't you give it a try? Perhaps you're even more special than me. After all, you were born with special abilities."

The last sentence clearly carried three parts mockery and seven parts unwillingness. Sheng Yue didn't want to see Gu Ling recognized as the magic treasure's master—since he couldn't use it, he hoped that Gu Ling couldn't either. Otherwise, his years of hope would become a bigger joke.

"Give it a try." Cheng Yun said to Gu Ling. "You never know."

Gu Ling nodded, took out a silver needle, pricked his finger, squeezed out a drop of blood, and dripped it onto the jade stone on the table.

All four of them stared intently as the drop of blood slid down from the jade stone and onto the table, leaving the jade stone unchanged.

"Could it be that it will only react when held in your hand?" Feng Ming suggested.

“Dirty.” Cheng Yun said, taking out a handkerchief and signaling Gu Ling to pad his hand.

Sheng Yue’s face darkened. “I already washed it clean!”

Seeing that the blood was not absorbed, Gu Ling didn’t pick up the jade stone. Instead, he looked at Cheng Yun and Feng Ming. “You both should try.”

Sheng Yue’s eyes flickered briefly before he hummed softly. “Gu Ling, if one of them succeeds, your face will be quite unsightly.”

“Coming from a shameless person like you, it’s pretty amusing.” Gu Ling retorted at Sheng Yue.

Feng Ming picked up the jade stone, washed it with water a few times, wiped it clean, and handed it to Cheng Yun. “Young Master Yun, you go ahead and try.”

Cheng Yun frowned, took the jade stone in his hand, pricked his finger with the silver needle Gu Ling gave him, and let the blood drip onto the jade stone.

But the drop of blood simply flowed into Cheng Yun’s palm, leaving a trace on the jade stone but showing no signs of being absorbed.

Cheng Yun sighed and handed the jade stone back to Feng Ming.

Soon, Feng Ming tried and, unsurprisingly, still failed.

Feng Ming suggested that Gu Ling hold the stone in his hand and try again. Gu Ling did so, but it still didn’t work.

Sheng Yue laughed coldly. “It seems that you, the so-called chosen one, aren’t that special.”

Cheng Yun lifted his foot and kicked Sheng Yue. “Shut up, you scumbag!”

Suppressing his anger, Sheng Yue gave Cheng Yun a cold glance, which was met with a fierce glare from Cheng Yun. “What are you looking at?”

Sheng Yue shook his head. “You’re becoming more and more like your mother.”

Cheng Yun frowned. “I don’t know her.”

With a slight sigh, Sheng Yue looked at Gu Ling. “We’ve obtained the magic treasure, but not only can we not use it, there are also people trapped inside. It seems that to free the people inside, we can only seek Mo Yan’s help. However, once the magic treasure is returned to his hands, everything will go back to how it was, or even worse. The events that occurred today will certainly make him lose his rationale, and he might have gone mad by now. For your master’s safety, I suggest you decide quickly on what to do.”

“We must not let Mo Yan get his hands on this object again. If he has hostages, we wouldn’t dare approach him.” Cheng Yun frowned. “But if we don’t do that, the people inside... won’t be able to come out.”

Gu Ling brought the jade stone close and stared at the obvious joint gap, shaking it near his ear as if deep in thought.

“Did you discover something?” Sheng Yue asked.

The next moment, they saw Gu Ling break off the crooked little hole on the jade stone.

Sheng Yue’s face changed drastically, “Have you gone mad?” Even though he couldn’t use it, he wasn’t completely giving up just yet.

Cheng Yun and Feng Ming thought that Gu Ling would not destroy the jade stone rashly. They moved closer and saw that after Gu Ling broke off a piece, a hole appeared on the jade stone, revealing a faint glow from within.

Feng Ming exclaimed in surprise, “There are two layers!”

Sheng Yue’s face couldn’t help but twitch as he saw Gu Ling breaking the low-quality jade stone into two halves and throwing it on the table.

In Gu Ling’s hand was an extremely perfectly-shaped, smaller green jade droplet, which looked extraordinary at first glance. This “droplet” had no flaws, and the jade quality was pure and clear, completely corresponding to their imagination of a magic treasure.

“Was Mo Yan afraid that the magic treasure would break or be touched by someone else’s blood, so he specially made a shell? But if so, wouldn’t he be able to use it without directly touching it?” asked Cheng Yun.

Feng Ming shook his head, “Even if it doesn’t need to touch the skin, it must be kept close to the body. If it could be used from a distance, this ‘droplet’ would lose its significance.”

Cheng Yun nodded, “You’re right. If Mo Yan could still control this object, we would have been caught by now.” He urged Gu Ling, “Hurry up and try it with another drop of blood, maybe this time it will succeed. The previous one was just a fake shell.”

Sheng Yue’s face looked amusing. He had used the truth-telling drug given by Gu Ling to interrogate and find out that Mo Yan had the portable space within the jade stone, and he had also noticed the stitching marks on the jade stone. However, he didn’t have the courage to destroy it like Gu Ling, fearing that something would go wrong.

Sheng Yue couldn’t help but ask, “Aren’t you afraid that your careless move might destroy the magic treasure and cause Yan Shiba to vanish?”

Gu Ling calmly replied, “If it can be easily destroyed, then it’s not a magic treasure.”

Sheng Yue: ...

Watching Gu Ling use a silver needle to draw blood again, Sheng Yue felt like vomiting blood. It was originally his to obtain, but in the end, did he prepare everything for Gu Ling?

Cheng Yun and Feng Ming looked expectant, thinking that this time it must succeed.

Gu Ling also hoped for success so that all the troubles could be resolved easily.

Unfortunately, as Gu Ling’s blood flowed over the smooth surface of the “droplet,” it trickled into his palm, and he closed his eyes but didn’t feel any anomaly.

Gu Ling was a bit disappointed, and so were Cheng Yun and Feng Ming.

But Sheng Yue was overjoyed. He had never shown such emotional fluctuations before, but now he couldn't help but laugh and mockingly said, "It's such a shame. Why don't you let me try? Just in case? I swear, if I succeed, I will release the person inside and not give you any trouble."

Cheng Yun kicked Sheng Yue again, then squeezed out a drop of her blood and tried, but still failed.

Although they knew there was no hope, Gu Ling insisted that Feng Ming try again, with the same result.

When Gu Ling suggested letting Sheng Yue try, Sheng Yue was stunned for a moment, "You're not just messing with me, are you?"

Gu Ling calmly replied, "I don't think you can do it. Give it a try if you don't believe me."

Not expecting Gu Ling to give him the chance, Sheng Yue didn't hesitate to reach for the "droplet" handed to him by Gu Ling, but Cheng Yun intercepted it, "You only have one hand, so it's inconvenient. I'll hold it first."

Sheng Yue didn't say anything, took the silver needle, pricked his finger, squeezed out a large drop of blood, snatched the "droplet" from Cheng Yun's hand, and pressed it directly onto his wounded finger.

Cheng Yun and Feng Ming silently blocked Sheng Yue's escape route, preventing him from fleeing with the treasure. But in fact, they were not worried about Sheng Yue's success. If one of the four could become the master of the magic treasure, it had to be Gu Ling.

Because of Sheng Yue's actions, it seemed as if the droplet had absorbed his blood, but Cheng Yun exposed the truth, "No matter how much you rub it on, it's still only on the surface."

Sheng Yue clearly didn't give up, closed his eyes, and tried to feel if there was anything.

Gu Ling didn't rush him. After a while, Sheng Yue opened his eyes, looked at the "droplet" in his hand, and appeared extremely disappointed, "Ever since I learned from my mother in my childhood that such a magic treasure exists in this world, it has been my greatest dream. I did not pursue power, but only wanted to possess it. To me, it symbolizes a new world. In the end, I got it, but my dream was shattered."

Sheng Yue closed his eyes and opened them again, holding the "droplet" tightly in his palm and then suddenly releasing it, tossing it back to Gu Ling, "I give up, it's yours now. Can I go?"

Gu Ling wiped the bloodstains off the "droplet" and shook his head, "No, you can't."

Sheng Yue didn't insist, as if he had lost all the meaning of life in an instant. He sat dejectedly in the chair, smiling bitterly, "At this point, it doesn't matter. Whether you want to kill me or make me do something, it's up to you."

The atmosphere fell silent, and Gu Ling walked to the window. Pinching the "water drop" between his fingers and stretching it out of the window, it looked even more crystal clear and exceptionally beautiful under the sunlight.

When Gu Ling turned around again, he handed the "water drop" in his hand to Cheng Yun.

Cheng Yun was confused, but Gu Ling said, "Hold this for now."

Cheng Yun took it and asked Gu Ling, "What should we do next?"

Gu Ling picked up the Cold Moon Sword on the table and looked at Sheng Yue. "We go to the forbidden area."

Sheng Yue slowly stood up, "You want to capture Mo Yan? Then what? Without giving him the magic treasure, no one can open it to release the hostage. If you give it to him, everything will return to the beginning."

Gu Ling's expression was indifferent, "We'll capture him first and talk later."

Sheng Yue snorted, "Are you sure you want me to go with you? Aren't you afraid I'll stab you in the back?"

Gu Ling shook his head, "The one who wants to kill you more is Mo Yan, not me."

Sheng Yue pursed his lips, stood up straight, "Anyway, I have nothing I want to do right now. Since it's cooperation, I'll help you one more time."

"You're helping yourself get rid of the threat. Otherwise, once Mo Yan escapes, he will hunt you down until the ends of the earth," Cheng Yun shook his head.

Sheng Yue shrugged, "Whatever you say." He picked up the broken Jade Stone shell on the table. "I'll go in first, act as bait, and distract Mo Yan. You seize the opportunity to save your master."

Gu Ling instructed Feng Ming and Cheng Yun to stay here and not to approach the forbidden area.

Cheng Yun knew that Gu Ling had given him the "water drop" to eliminate the possibility of it falling into Mo Yan's hands, but warned Gu Ling to be careful of Sheng Yue.

"My dear brother, what else could I do now after such a heavy blow? If we all leave safe and sound this time, how about we kill our father together? You should hate him more than I do," After the heavy blow, Sheng Yue seemed to suddenly change his temperament, no longer as cold and deep as before, talking a lot and even speaking nonsense.

Cheng Yun gave Sheng Yue only a cold glance and then watched Gu Ling and Sheng Yue walk out side by side.

As they were about to enter the forbidden area, Sheng Yue suddenly laughed. "Hey! If I actually betray you in the cave and join Mo Yan in capturing you, then force Cheng Yun to hand over the treasure, it would be an easy victory for Mo Yan and me. What do you think?"

Gu Ling glanced at Sheng Yue indifferently, "Then Mo Yan would tear you apart and feed you to the dogs? It's a good choice, I support you."

Sheng Yue's face stiffened, and he snorted softly, "I admit, I'm not very clear-headed and rational right now. You better be careful. Mo Yan is not weaker than you, and he holds your master's life in his hands. It won't be so easy to capture him."

Soon, the two approached the entrance of the cave, which was quiet all around.

Just as Sheng Yue was about to enter, he saw Gu Ling take out a bamboo tube, light it, and throw it into the cave.

White smoke quickly filled the cave. Gu Ling shifted his position to avoid being affected by the wind.

Sheng Yue looked at him strangely, “You’ve been planning to use the poisonous smoke? Why didn’t you use it earlier?”

“I wanted the magic treasure to leave Mo Yan first, or else everything would be in vain,” Gu Ling said indifferently.

“Then why did you ask me to come? You don’t need me at all,” said Sheng Yue.

At the next moment, Gu Ling pushed Sheng Yue into the cave filled with poisonous smoke, “You go and bring my master out.”

Sheng Yue, who was immune to all poisons, looked at Gu Ling speechlessly, then slowly walked deeper into the cave amidst the poisonous smoke...

Chapter 484: 484. Go home!

The sun shone brightly, as Gu Ling stood outside the mountain cave, looking up at the sky.

At this point, Sheng Yue had already neared the deepest part of the cave. His steps grew lighter and slower, as he listened intently to the sounds within.

The white poisonous smoke still filled the air, but it had no effect on Sheng Yue. The truth-telling drug he had used earlier had confirmed that Mo Yan was not immune to all poisons. However, Sheng Yue couldn’t be sure if the poisonous smoke could bring him down.

Standing at the corner, Sheng Yue tentatively called out, “Master?”

Receiving no response, Sheng Yue’s eyes flickered, and he continued, “Master, are you there? I can’t use the magic treasure, and Gu Ling’s people are watching the boat, so I can’t leave either. The earlier incident was all my fault. Please forgive me, Master. Now, if you need the magic treasure and I need your support, only by working together can we resolve the current situation and defeat Gu Ling. What do you think, Master?”

After waiting for a while, still without any response, Sheng Yue moved forward. After a few more steps, he saw the familiar pool of water.

The white smoke filled the air, Sheng Yue scanned the surroundings with a vigilant gaze, but he didn’t see Mo Yan or Lao Mu’s shadow.

Sheng Yue frowned. Could it be that he misjudged? Did Mo Yan actually leave this place?

The next moment, the calm water surface suddenly rippled, and a long sword pierced through the water, aiming for Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue’s eyes narrowed, as he dodged and drew his sword to fight back. He hadn’t guessed wrong, Mo Yan was still unwilling to give up the Transmigration Road after losing the magic treasure and did not leave. After discovering the poisonous smoke in the cave, Mo Yan hid in the water.

Sheng Yue wasn't worried that Mo Yan could kill him. The poisonous smoke in the cave was hard to disperse, and it was now almost filling every corner. It had no effect on Sheng Yue, but there were no safe places for Mo Yan.

Whether Mo Yan had heard Sheng Yue's words earlier or not, there was no possibility for any reconciliation between master and apprentice, not even a superficial one for mutual benefit.

That was because Sheng Yue saw the murderous intent in Mo Yan's eyes, his anger like a volcano ready to erupt, eager to swallow him whole.

Sheng Yue moved toward the exit, trying to buy time and wait for Mo Yan to inhale more of the cave's air before succumbing to it.

However, Mo Yan's sanity suddenly returned the next moment, and he turned and rushed to the other side of the pool!

Sheng Yue's eyes narrowed, and he immediately charged up to block Mo Yan. He knew exactly what Mo Yan was looking for. Lao Mu, Gu Ling's master, must be behind the stone screen and still alive. But when Mo Yan discovered the poisonous smoke, he went into the water himself, barely making it back alive, let alone bringing Lao Mu with him.

Mo Yan's anger towards Sheng Yue prevented him from immediately seizing Lao Mu as a hostage. The window of opportunity was fleeting.

Sheng Yue entangled Mo Yan's footsteps, while Mo Yan tried to hold his breath. However, after holding his breath to the limit under the water, Mo Yan inevitably inhaled the poisonous smoke when he came ashore, and his breathing became uncontrollable as their fight ensued.

Sheng Yue was well aware of all this. All he needed to do was to prevent Mo Yan from seizing any more chances of turning the tables. Though disappointed that he couldn't obtain the magic treasure, Sheng Yue wasn't resigned to his fate. He was indeed worried that Gu Ling would later kill him due to his dark past and possible loss of freedom in the future. But Sheng Yue had always been someone who either didn't do things, or did them to the best of his ability. Hence, he desperately needed this opportunity to subdue Mo Yan, protect Lao Mu, and score a merit in front of Gu Ling.

Driven mad, Mo Yan spent his last ounce of strength on his killing move, intending to kill Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue was slightly injured, but it wasn't severe.

In fact, not long after, Mo Yan finally collapsed into the water due to the effects of the poisonous smoke.

Sheng Yue stood by the pool with his sword, watching Mo Yan, who was struggling in the water, soon losing his strength and about to sink. Sheng Yue said indifferently, "Perhaps this time you'll get what you want and return to your so-called real home. Would you like to try it?"

After saying that, Sheng Yue didn't bother with Mo Yan anymore and went around the pool to the other side of the stone screen, where he indeed found Lao Mu unconscious on the ground.

Sheng Yue sheathed his sword and hoisted Lao Mu onto his back with one hand, carrying him out of the cave. During this process, blood seeped from the wound on his arm.

Upon hearing footsteps, Gu Ling gripped his sword hilt, and the next moment, he saw Sheng Yue rushing out of the smoke-filled cave with a person on his back.

“Your master.” Sheng Yue exited the cave and set Lao Mu down. “Mo Yan is inside, poisoned by you and fell into the water. You better go check on him; he might drown soon.”

Gu Ling’s expression was cold. “Bring Mo Yan out alive, or you’ll accompany him in death,” he commanded.

Sheng Yue’s face stiffened. Indeed, when he rushed out of the cave earlier, he had the idea of taking advantage of Gu Ling’s entrance to escape. After all, being by Gu Ling’s side posed risks, and his freedom might be compromised in the future.

However, it was apparent that Gu Ling was well aware of Sheng Yue’s thoughts and didn’t give him any chance at all.

Sheng Yue didn’t have much to say, knowing that Gu Ling would definitely keep his word. If Mo Yan died, it might mean that the people trapped in the space would disappear forever, and some of the blame would fall on Sheng Yue. Killing him would only be more satisfying for Gu Ling...

So, Sheng Yue immediately turned around and rushed back into the cave.

The pool had returned to calm once again. Sheng Yue frowned and jumped right in.

It wasn’t Sheng Yue’s first time in the pool, so he was familiar with the environment. He quickly found Mo Yan, and dragged him back to the shore.

First, he pushed Mo Yan up, then Sheng Yue climbed up, wiped his face, and immediately checked Mo Yan’s breath. His face changed: Mo Yan wasn’t breathing!

“Gu Ling! Damn it, Gu Ling! Get over here!” Sheng Yue yelled towards the entrance of the cave, while turning Mo Yan over and patting his back.

At this time, Gu Ling had given the antidote to Old Mu. Once assured that Old Mu would be fine, he entered the cave in response to Sheng Yue’s shouting. Having taken the antidote himself, the poisonous smoke wouldn’t affect him for a while.

Old Mu had initially fought against Mo Yan and suffered serious internal injuries. Worried about Sheng Yue’s deceptiveness, his pale face stood up from the ground and hurried into the cave.

When Old Mu arrived at the depths of the cave, Gu Ling was performing CPR on Mo Yan, as taught by Su Liang.

Sheng Yue frowned as he sat on the ground, soaking wet. Gu Ling’s movements seemed both unfamiliar and familiar to him. Many years ago, he had seen his mother perform CPR to save a drowning child. Later, his mother taught him how to do it as well, saying that it could save lives at crucial moments. Sheng Yue still remembered the techniques, but he had never used them.

Sheng Yue didn’t suspect that Gu Ling was a Transmigrator because of this. He knew that it must have been taught by Su Liang. It wasn’t strange for Gu Ling to know special skills and knowledge.

At the moment, Old Mu didn’t know what happened after he was captured. He had thought that the magic treasure was still with Mo Yan, and Gu Ling saved him to make Mo Yan release the people.

However, he soon realized it didn't make sense. If Mo Yan still had the magic treasure, capturing Old Mu would have been too easy and there would have been no need to fight or even injure him before leaving him in the cave.

Old Mu immediately realized that the magic treasure must have been taken by Sheng Yue, who had deceived him at that time!

Sheng Yue looked up and saw Old Mu's angry gaze. He took the initiative to explain, "I was wrong. However, Senior Mu, you don't need to worry. Cheng Yun now has the magic treasure and nobody can harm your apprentice."

Old Mu snorted coldly, "I'll settle the score with you later!"

Mo Yan hadn't regained consciousness, but he was alive. The reason he wasn't awake was because of the poisonous smoke.

Gu Ling dragged Mo Yan out of the cave by his arm, with Old Mu following behind. Sheng Yue walked in the rear, glancing back at the pool before shaking his head and refocusing.

The outside air was fresh, the sun warm, and the greenery abundant. Birds sang and flowers bloomed – a stark contrast to the dark, gloomy cave.

When Sheng Yue came outside, he took a deep breath and exhaled slowly. Looking up at the sky, he saw several birds flying overhead. A strange feeling arose in his heart – as if something had changed...

Gu Ling made sure that Mo Yan's breathing had stabilized. He hadn't given Mo Yan the antidote, but he left him there and went to check on Old Mu's injuries.

Old Mu shook his head, "It's fine. I won't die. Just need to rest. Focus on more urgent matters, don't worry about me."

Gu Ling's expression didn't change. "There's nothing particularly urgent right now." He insisted on making Old Mu sit on a nearby rock and checked his pulse.

Sheng Yue stood to one side, quietly watching the scene, suddenly thinking of his father, Pu Cheng. But all his memories of Pu Cheng lacked warmth.

Gu Ling spoke again, this time to Sheng Yue, "Go check on the others in the forbidden area to ensure no more chaos ensues." There was still a mute servant and a cook, who might be skilled fighters for all they knew.

"Kill them?" Sheng Yue asked.

Gu Ling didn't reply, and Sheng Yue left without getting an answer. He knew what would please Gu Ling, and at this point, he had given up on the idea of running away. With only one boat left, Sheng Yue wasn't confident he could escape successfully.

After checking Old Mu's pulse and giving him some medicine to treat his injuries, Gu Ling told him everything that had happened since his capture.

Old Mu frowned as he listened, "What the hell! How can a scumbag like Mo Yan control the magic treasure and you can't? What's wrong with the world?" He couldn't help but complain, just like Qiao Cong used to do.

Gu Ling shook his head. "There's no logic to that thing."

Just as Old Mu was about to ask what to do next, Sheng Yue brought the mute servant and the cook over. Both had their heads lowered and silently followed him.

"These two were mentioned by Mo Yan. Many years ago, when he travelled around Qian Country, he found a small shop serving a dish that resembled the taste of his lover's cooking from his previous life. He captured the couple who ran the shop and brought them back to serve him." Sheng Yue said.

The cook standing behind Sheng Yue, hearing the words, shed tears and knelt down with the mute servant, knocking their heads on the ground. "Please, let us go... We still have a son, we don't know if he's alive or dead..."

Old Mu sighed deeply and kicked Mo Yan in the chest, "How much evil has he done?!"

Cheng Yun and Feng Ming waited and waited, but Gu Ling didn't return.

"Could there be any problems?" Cheng Yun was a bit worried.

Feng Ming shook his head, "No, it's not meant to be. The prince is very cautious, and Sheng Yue can't stir up any trouble now."

"Why hasn't he come back yet?" Cheng Yun looked outside and suddenly brightened up, "Elder Mu!"

Old Mu entered the courtyard. Feng Ming saw that his face was wrong and quickly came forward to support him.

"I'm fine, I can walk on my own." Old Mu shook his head, "Xiaogu has already captured Mo Yan. He said for safety reasons, don't let the magic treasure get close to Mo Yan. We should just stay here."

The cook and her husband also followed Old Mu. Old Mu helped them pack some simple luggage, telling them that they would be able to leave soon, and someone would escort them back to their original home and help them find their child. They tearfully thanked Old Mu, sobbing uncontrollably.

In order to calm the cook and her husband, Old Mu asked them to prepare food before leaving. The couple nodded their heads and went to find the kitchen after putting down their luggage.

"Elder Mu, you'd better lie down and rest for a while." Feng Ming said to Old Mu.

Old Mu lay down and took a deep breath, "Xiaogu and the others are in the pavilion in the City Lord Mansion's garden. If any of you want to go there, just don't take the magic treasure."

Cheng Yun and Feng Ming let Old Mu rest, and the two in the courtyard decided that Feng Ming would go and check the situation.

The curtains on all sides of the Bajiao Pavilion on the third floor were drawn up. There was no need to hide now.

Mo Yan, who was in a coma, lay on the ground. Sheng Yue again asked Gu Ling what her plans were.

Gu Ling ignored Sheng Yue, took out the antidote for the poisonous smoke and stuffed it into Mo Yan's mouth, and then took out another pill.

Sheng Yue recognized it as a truth-telling drug.

When Gu Ling put the truth-telling drug into Mo Yan's mouth, Sheng Yue voluntarily confessed, "Actually, when you gave me the truth-telling drug, I secretly ate a small half of it first, then gave the rest to Mo Yan. Because I wasn't sure if the drug would work on me, I was afraid you would easily see through my disguise afterwards with this drug." As a result, the truth-telling drug had no effect on Sheng Yue, and he had no reaction after eating it.

Soon, Mo Yan on the ground opened his eyes.

Gu Ling asked the first question, "How many people are in the space?"

Mo Yan unconsciously replied, "Eighteen..."

"Who are they?" Gu Ling asked.

Mo Yan answered, "Su Liang... and those I encountered when I went out last time... those who displeased me..."

Sheng Yue frowned: Just because he didn't like them, he made them disappear? This was Mo Yan's style indeed. Although he had acted secretly that time, he would have to eat and dress in the process, so he would inevitably come into contact with people.

"Is there any food and drinkable water inside?" Gu Ling asked.

Sheng Yue raised his eyebrows slightly, realizing what Gu Ling was going to do next.

Mo Yan nodded slightly, "Yes... lots of food... water."

Gu Ling was not surprised that there was a lot of food inside. It was still left over from the previous war.

"Without sending food to them, the people inside can still survive for a long time, they won't starve to death, right?" Gu Ling asked the key question she really wanted to know.

Under the influence of the truth drug, Mo Yan nodded again, "Yes... they won't die..."

"What treasures are on Xingluo Island?" Gu Ling asked.

Mo Yan replied, "All in... the space..."

Sheng Yue sighed regretfully, "It's a pity, we can't open that space."

Mo Yan fell unconscious again. Gu Ling stood up, and Sheng Yue said, "If I'm not mistaken, you plan to take Mo Yan and the magic treasures back home, let your wife try? Maybe she can successfully own that space, and then you can kill Mo Yan. If not, find a way to control Mo Yan to release the people."

Gu Ling neither confirmed nor denied, looking again towards the direction of the forbidden area.

Sheng Yue walked up to Gu Ling, “Are you planning to blow up the forbidden area? In fact, I went in there once before and saw a white light. Does this represent the possibility of me time-travelling?”

Gu Ling nodded, “You reminded me, you should give it a try.”

Sheng Yue’s face stiffened, “Are you trying to be like Mo Yan?”

Gu Ling countered, “Isn’t it what you want to do? You still have the idea.”

Sheng Yue shook his head, “I was just saying casually. White light, black light, I was just trying to show my loyalty to Mo Yan. If time travel was so casual, there would be transmigrators all over Xingluo Island by now. What Transmigration Road? Haven’t seen anyone come out of it in so many years. Going in is just stupid and courting death. I said I once wanted to see a new and different world, and I didn’t make a mistake, but I wasn’t talking about traversing time, I was talking about Mo Yan’s spatial magical treasure. From beginning to end, I wanted it. As for that pool, if you decide to blow it up, I can do it for you.”

“No need.”&Gu Ling said, “There’s another task for you to do.”

Sheng Yue asked what it was, and Gu Ling told him to cut trees, “We don’t have enough boats to leave.”

Sheng Yue raised his broken arm, “You already did this to me, and you still want me to do hard labor?”

“Otherwise, I’ll blow you up along with the forbidden area.” Gu Ling said calmly.

Feng Ming arrived and heard this and saw Sheng Yue’s face look bad, “Aren’t you afraid I’ll run away?”

“If you can swim to another shore on your own, I’ll be impressed.”&Gu Ling said.

Sheng Yue: Without a boat, we can’t go anywhere. We are all mortal, and once we’re in the water, we’ll be exhausted in no time.

Gu Ling saw Feng Ming come over, told him to lock up Mo Yan in the dungeon, and then went to cut trees and build a boat with Sheng Yue.

When Sheng Yue was about to leave, he turned back and asked Gu Ling, “Will you really let me go?”

Gu Ling countered, “What do you think?”

Sheng Yue glared and followed Feng Ming out.

At dusk, the magnificent sunset painted the entire sky of Xingluo Island red.

Cheng Yun saw Gu Ling appear in his sight and immediately came forward, “How is it?”

Gu Ling stretched out her hand and knocked on Cheng Yun’s forehead. A faint smile appeared on the corner of her lips. It was her first smile since leaving home.

Then, Cheng Yun heard two words that made him instantly happy, “Go home.”

Chapter 485: 485. The heart’s yearning to return is like an arrow

“Really? Is it true? Can we really go home now?” Cheng Yun hugged Gu Ling’s arm, her laughter child-like, “That’s great! I really hate this place, I can’t wait to go home!”

Dinner was made by a couple, who were turned slaves by Mo Yan when they were captured and brought to the island years ago. They were of the same age as old Mu, the wife was born mute, not made mute by Mo Yan’s poison.

The couple lived in isolation, without interaction with people from outside, had no concept of what year it was now. They could tell Gu Ling was an important figure, but didn’t know him before. Because when they were brought here to Xingluo Island, Gu Ling wasn’t born yet. They were originally from Qian Country, so they did know about the Gu family.

When Gu Ling invited them to sit and dine together, both of them were somewhat apprehensive.

“Don’t be so formal,” Cheng Yun comforted them, “Although he seems like a big shot and appears lofty, he is actually very nice.”

Sheng Yue chuckled, “That’s true, he has only made four death threats to me today. Even though I saved his master’s life, he made me hew trees, threatening to blow me up if I didn’t.”

Hearing this, the cook couple shot angry glances at Sheng Yue. They lived a repetitive life to survive, unaware of what had happened in the outside world, but they had witnessed everything that happened in the forbidden area. They had a deep dislike for Sheng Yue capturing three children in the cave and knew, as Mo Yan’s confidant, Sheng Yue could not be a good person.

Cheng Yun, on hearing Sheng Yue’s words, kicked him under the table, “Do you have no shame to speak? Why don’t you speak about the immoral things you’ve done?”

Knowing that Cheng Yun strongly disliked him, Sheng Yue dared not antagonize her. He said to the cook and the mute, “Let me introduce, he is my little brother, we share the same parents, he’s my real brother”

The cook and the mute were both stupefied. Gu Ling glanced at Feng Ming, who understood immediately and smiled, “Both of you can start eating. Afterward, I will tell you about the outside situation so that you will all be prepared when you finally leave.”

Sheng Yue added, “After eating, we still need to go back to building the ship.”

Feng Ming also wasn’t polite, “Then we will have to trouble Master Sheng.”

Sheng Yue: ...Once, he was second only to one person on this island, but now, he has a higher status than just Mo Yan and two elders locked in the dungeon, but lower than the cooking couple.

After finishing the meal, Gu Ling praised it as the most delicious meal he had eaten since he left home.

The cook and the mute both smiled, looking less nervous than before.

After dinner, Cheng Yun cleared the table while old Mu took the initiative to say that he had rested enough and volunteered to go build the boat with Sheng Yue as he had experience in that area.

Gu Ling shook his head, “Master rest.”

Sheng Yue frowned, "I only have one hand, if you don't mind wasting time, then everyone rest and wait for me to finish who knows when."

Gu Ling glanced at him indifferently, "I'll go."

Feng Ming quickly said, "Why don't I go instead. Your Highness, you can chat with our two seniors."

But Gu Ling had already gone out.

Sheng Yue quickly caught up and walked side by side with Gu Ling. The sky had already grown dark, and the moon had risen. Today was the fifteenth, so the moonlight was very bright, casting long shadows of the two of them.

Gu Ling didn't say anything. Sheng Yue couldn't help but speak, "If you go back and Su Liang can't make the magic treasure acknowledge a master, what will you do? I've thought about it, and there seems to be no good solution. Once Mo Yan touches the magic treasure, he will have a bargaining chip to threaten you guys again. He is not afraid of death, as long as he knows that he will die, he is not afraid. It's really unsolvable."

Gu Ling's expression was still indifferent, "That problem will be up for you to solve. If you can come up with a good solution, I can spare your life."

Sheng Yue chuckled softly, "You don't think I can't leave now, do you?"

"If you could escape and you choose not to, it shows that you don't want to leave." Gu Ling hit right on the mark.

Sheng Yue's eyes hardened, he paused his steps, shaking his head before catching up with Gu Ling, "You're right. After today's endless twists and turns, I really don't want to leave. No, I plan to go with you guys. Not for anything else, I just want to know if the magic treasure can change its master or not. If not, then forget it. But if Su Liang can, I..."

Gu Ling asked, "What will you do?"

Sheng Yue sneered, "Then I have nothing else to say. It seems that the magic treasure only recognizes transmigrators."

By the time they reached the seaside, the moonlight was bright enough that they didn't need lanterns. The wood that Sheng Yue and Feng Ming had chopped down during the day was piled on the ground.

Gu Ling picked up the tools and immediately started working. His movements were very skilled and professional.

Sheng Yue muttered, "What life did you lead before, that you seem to have been a carpenter all your life?"

"I had a master who was the village's old carpenter," Gu Ling answered, his mood so good he actually replied to Sheng Yue's comment.

While working, Sheng Yue asked, "I've always wondered, with the status and position that you and your wife have, why do you insist on doing so many things yourselves? Like cooking and washing the dishes, is this really that enjoyable?"

Gu Ling retorted, "What do you think we should be doing?"

Sheng Yue was taken aback by the question. Though he'd never been a noble himself, he had seen many and thoughtfully replied, "Be emperor? Review memorial tablets every day, sleep with different women, have children? That doesn't suit you. But at least other families have hordes of servants, leisure time to play musical instruments, chess, calligraphy and painting, and similar activities."

"Do you think I can't do those things?" Gu Ling countered.

Sheng Yue lightly snorted, "Is there anything you can't do?"

"Are you resentful?" Gu Ling asked.

Sheng Yue nodded, "Yes. Just the fact that the world has a genius like you is enough to cause jealousy. Then you met Su Liang, and now you're capable of anything."

Gu Ling shook his head slightly, "There is one thing I can't do."

Sheng Yue raised his eyebrows, "What is that? You have to tell me so I can find some peace of mind."

The result was Gu Ling calmly saying three words, "Give birth."

Sheng Yue almost chopped his leg with the axe in his hand, he was speechless, "Are you sick..."

Feng Ming relayed what he knew about the outside world to the cook and the mute servant, and it didn't take too long. As Feng Ming wasn't very clear about the details himself, all he needed to tell them was that now there were no longer any Liang or Yin countries, the world was unified by the Duanmu royal family of the former Qian country, the emperor being Duanmu Chen, a close friend of Gu Ling and Su Liang who had helped him to the throne. Now, Gu Ling is the Regent King, and Su Liang is the Martial Arts Champion, Divine Doctor, and female general.

After listening to him, the cook and the mute servant were even more grateful and touched by Gu Ling's kindness to them and looked forward to going home to find their families even more.

Feng Ming suggested they take the rest of the day off, saying that if there were no storms tomorrow, they should be setting off. The cook and the mute servant were both very excited.

After that, Feng Ming went to the dungeon to deliver food, where both Mo Yan and the two elders who were imprisoned before him were alive and awake.

Mo Yan sat on the ground, bound by iron chains, looking disheveled and in pitiful plight. Hearing someone approach, he fixed a penetrating gaze on Feng Ming, like a wolf ready to pounce in the dark night.

As Feng Ming put down the food and water and was about to leave, he was stopped by Mo Yan, "Little Feng, you should know, no one else can use my magic treasure. As long as you devise a plan to get it back for me, I'll adopt you as my honorary son. You can have whatever you want, even the world if you wish, and I can help you get it. Are you willing to be Gu Ling's servant all your life?"

Hearing this, Feng Ming showed a mocking smile, "Honorary son? You have no affection even for your own granddaughter and grandson-in-law, you'd rather harm them to achieve your ends. Let

alone an honorary son. Even if you were to recognize me as your honorary father, it would be in vain. What my future holds is none of your concern.” Then he strode away.

Having spent nearly half his life as the emperor of Xingluo Island, Mo Yan now nearly spat blood from the humiliation and mockery by a man he had formerly believed to be beneath his notice. But now he was trapped here, unable to move, even though he knew there was a way out nearby, and just couldn’t reach it. This torment had plagued Mo Yan all his life.

After Feng Ming left the dungeon, he joined Cheng Yun to help at the seaside. Although things weren’t completely settled, they hoped to return to the capital soon.

Old Mu, who had been ordered to take a good rest by Gu Ling due to his injuries, awoke only after the day had fully brightened. Having not rested well for the past few days, he felt much better after taking the medicine Gu Ling had given him.

After Old Muru bathed and changed into clean clothes, the cook brought over the meal she had kept warm for him. She said that Gu Ling and the others didn’t come back last night, so this morning she prepared food and had the mute servant deliver it to the beach.

Old Muru quickly finished eating and also went to the beach.

They had two boats when they arrived. Qiao Cong and Qiao Jing escorted Peng Wu and three children on one boat and the other one had been pulled out from the pool cave under the cliff by Feng Ming and Cheng Yun last night and was now docked by the beach.

On the shore, a new boat had basically been built. Gu Ling was doing the final touches. Sheng Yue was asleep, leaning against a tree not far away, Feng Ming was assisting Gu Ling, and Cheng Yun was picking up nails that had fallen on the ground for fear of someone stepping on them.

Seeing Old Muru coming over, Gu Ling asked him how he was feeling.

Old Muru cheerfully said, “Much better, no need to worry.” As he walked around the new ship he nodded, “Not bad”.

“Given the time constraints, it’ll have to do,” Gu Ling said.

Old Muru looked towards the vast and boundless sea, facing the direction of the capital and let out a long sigh of relief. “Finally, this major trouble is done, I can go home now.” Although there were still remaining issues, Old Muru believed that once Gu Ling and Su Liang reunited, they would have a way to handle them.

In fact, Old Muru, Cheng Yun, and Feng Ming all believed that Su Liang could become the master of the space, and rescuing the people inside was just a matter of time.

By noon, both boats were ready to set sail.

The cook and the mute servant couple also hastened in preparing a lot of dried food.

After having their last meal on the island, Sheng Yue asked Gu Ling what his plan was for the Forbidden area, “To bomb or not to bomb?”

Old Muru felt that they should bomb it to rid all hazards, prevent Mo Yan from having more ill thoughts, and also prevent transmigrators like Mo Yan from stirring up trouble after they cross the road to this place.

Cheng Yun and Feng Ming both agreed with Old Muru's view.

Sheng Yue, however, stated, "It doesn't matter if we keep it. After all, Mo Yan lost his magic treasure. Once he leaves, you guys definitely won't let him return alive. In the future, Gu Ling, you can bring your wife and daughter here for a visit, perhaps Su Liang may even be interested in going for a swim."

Back when Gu Ling and Su Liang had just gotten married, Gu Ling had stated that he'd wanted to travel with Su Liang, to find the legendary Immortal Island. However, Xingluo Island, with its beautiful scenery but full of evil people, wasn't the place he was referring to.

"We should destroy it," Gu Ling said. He believed that Su Liang might be interested in visiting Xingluo Island, but certainly would have no interest in the deadly Transmigration Road and undoubtedly would not try it.

Gu Ling, who once showed interest in transmigration, now just wanted to spend his entire life with Su Liang and watch their children grow.

Old Muru immediately took out the explosives he had prepared, "I'm on it!"

Cheng Yun followed up, "I'll help."

Sheng Yue leisurely followed along as well, "I'll go witness whether a miracle will happen."

Gu Ling didn't go to watch but only reminded them to be careful.

Feng Ming asked Gu Ling if he was trying to prevent Mo Yan from knowing about the bombing of the Forbidden area. In case the magic treasure needed to be opened again by Mo Yan, knowing that the Forbidden area was gone, he might either give up on life or go mad, making him harder to control.

Gu Ling shook his head calmly, "Don't worry about him taking his own life, he values his life the most."

Mo Yan in the dungeon, who was sluggish and had his eyes closed, was suddenly awakened by a loud noise from outside which made the stone walls vibrate.

Elder Song sighed resentfully, "The Forbidden area has been bombed."

"Impossible!" Mo Yan kept shaking his head, "They can't open the magic treasure, there are still people inside, they need me!"

Elder Pang sneered, "At this point, what's improbable? How do you know they have not opened your magic treasure yet? We don't know if you will be able to survive, but Elder Song and I are definitely dead, because of you."

Meanwhile, Sheng Yue watched from a distance as the mountain in which the pool was located collapsed, and the cave was filled with rocks that fell in the heavy smoke. There was no sight of water flowing out.

Old Mu did not feel reassured, "What if we dig out the stones and that cursed place is still intact?"

With many explosives still at their disposal, Old Mu returned to the location of the pool, using up all the explosives to blast a large hole.

When things finally settled, Sheng Yue and Cheng Yun went back for another look, but they didn't find anything special, not to mention a miracle.

Cheng Yun clasped his hands together and chanted, "May Buddha bless us. We do this to uphold justice and alleviate disasters and hidden dangers."

Sheng Yue scoffed, "You've let your hair grow so long yet you are still chanting scriptures?" But as he finished speaking, he was kicked by Cheng Yun.

Since Gu Ling wanted to keep Sheng Yue, Old Mu didn't bother to settle the scores with him and was now in a hurry to go back home.

Sheng Yue testified that Elder Song and Elder Pang were not good people and had harmed countless people over the years.

At present, there was no use in keeping them. Gu Ling ordered Sheng Yue to get rid of the two, then knocked Mo Yan unconscious and took him out from the dungeon.

Finally, everything was set and they were ready to set off.

To avoid Mo Yan from wielding the magic treasure again, the arrangement was for Gu Ling and Sheng Yue to leave on a small boat first, while Old Mu, Cheng Yun, and Feng Ming, together with Mo Yan and the mutes and the cooks, would follow on a larger boat.

Cheng Yun frowned, "Why can Sheng Yue leave together with you?"

Sheng Yue chuckled, "Gu Ling is in a hurry to get home, he doesn't want to waste time with you. But he has to take me with him, otherwise, if I'm left with you, there's a chance I might sell you all."

Gu Ling slapped Sheng Yue onto the boat, "He'll be the boatman."

Old Mu agreed with Gu Ling's arrangement, "That's a good plan. You should go home and reassure everyone soon, so Xiaoliang can try to use that magic treasure as soon as possible. We'll rush back after. When we reach Jiaye City, we can arrange for someone to escort the cooks and the mutes home, we won't be too far behind Gu Ling."

The boat set sail, and Gu Ling looked back one last time at Xingluo Island, which was left behind.

Looking straight ahead, Sheng Yue half-joked, "You've been away for so long, will Nuannuan still recognize you when you get home?"

Gu Ling sat down calmly and closed his eyes, "If you keep talking nonsense, I'll throw you into the sea to feed the fish."

Sheng Yue coughed lightly, "One last question. You kept me for another purpose, right? I always feel like you're not doing this out of kindness."

Gu Ling responded, "Once we reach the shore, you are responsible for tracking down those scumbags who initially left Xingluo Island, kill those that must be killed, rescue those that need help. You should know them well."

Sheng Yue paused, he'd long forgotten about those people, and he didn't expect Gu Ling to still care about them, "Indeed, I do know quite a lot about those people, including where they caught their women from. I've conducted secret investigations. There's no one on Xingluo Island who

knows more about this than I do, including Mo Yan, who didn't care about the women who were captured at all. I also know that the twins who were with me in the mountain cave are the great-grandsons of General Peng Wei from the original Liang Country. I know your family has a close relationship with the Peng Family."

Sheng Yue had collected that information in case it might be useful someday, but he never thought about rescuing those poor women at that time.

"That's good," said Gu Ling.

Sheng Yue's eyes gleamed slightly, "You think I'm going to do good deeds when I'm out of your control? Why are you so confident?"

"I can't control your actions right now, you may leave," Gu Ling said, closing his eyes.

Sheng Yue looked out at the vast sea. Where could he go? But what about when he reached the shore? It seems there was nothing he wanted to do and nowhere he wanted to go...

Only after a long time, did Sheng Yue answer Gu Ling, "Since you're not afraid of me running away, what should I be afraid of? As for what you mentioned, we'll see how things go."

Chapter 486: 486. Try it.

At the moment when the sun began to rise, Qiao Jing saw the land in the distance and breathed a sigh of relief. At this time, he didn't know the situation on Xingluo Island after he left, but he was responsible for escorting Peng Wu and the three children back home. He was worried that there would be wind and rain during their journey, but they were lucky. The weather was very good for several days in a row without encountering any storms.

Peng Wu's two sons originally had the surname Zhong, but she had changed their names to surname Peng, including the little girl she decided to adopt. The older of the twin brothers is now called Peng Jiaxin, the younger brother is called Peng Jiale, and the little sister is called Peng Jiayue. "Jia" was the middle name that Peng Wei had originally decided on for their generation of children.

Qiao Jing looked back and saw a little boy coming out of the cabin, smiled, and called out to him, "Lele, look, we'll be there soon."

The little boy shook his head earnestly, "Uncle Jing, I am Xin'er."

Qiao Jing was stunned for a moment, and then saw the little boy break into a grin, "Haha, I tricked Uncle Jing again!"

Qiao Jing touched his forehead. After the two children became familiar with him, they became very keen on playing the game of "guess who I am." In all honesty, the twins looked the same, dressed the same, and deliberately tried to make it difficult to tell who was who, so it truly was difficult for Qiao Jing to tell them apart.

Axin ran to Qiao Jing's side and looked at the distant land in amazement, "Are we almost home?"

Ale also heard the news and ran out, "Are we there yet?"

Peng Wu held Xiaoyue in her arms, looking into the distance, and sighed deeply. Finally, they were leaving the vast ocean. Ever since she was taken to the island many years ago, her nightmares had

always been filled with the boundless sea. There was no direction, no boats, not even a piece of driftwood, and the constant feeling of being swallowed by the endless sea. After leaving this time, she never wanted to see the sea again in her life, as it was a terrible nightmare for her.

Qiao Cong cheerfully pointed out the direction to the children, saying that once they passed the ocean, they would reach a river connected to the sea. On either side of the river were two cities of the former Qian Country, one called Nanshan City and the other called Jiaye City. They would go to Jiaye City to rest for the day and then set off for the capital the next day.

“Are our grandfather and maternal grandfather in the capital?” Ale asked.

Qiao Jing smiled, “They’re not in the capital, but our home is in the capital. When we go to your maternal grandfather’s house, we will pass by our house first.”

“Are there horses in Jiaye City?” Axin asked curiously. There were no horses on Xingluo Island, only a few types of wild animals. They had never seen many common things before.

“Of course,” Qiao Jing ruffled their hair, “Once we get to the shore, we’ll have everything. Whatever you want to see or have, just let Uncle know. I’ll take you horseback riding as soon as we get ashore.”

Both children cheered and jumped for joy. Peng Wu watched this scene with a slightly stuffy nose, but she didn’t cry. She had left the sea of suffering, and from now on, only good days awaited her.

By noon, the boat reached the shore.

When the guards on the coast spotted them, they thought they were enemies and quickly went on alert. Then they heard Qiao Jing’s shouting.

“It’s General Qiao Jing returning!”

Hearing the voices from the shore, the twin brothers looked up to Qiao Jing with admiration, “Uncle Qiao is the great general! So amazing!”

Qiao Jing thought that being praised by innocent children was indeed very satisfying. He was also looking forward to becoming a father and missed Min Rou more than ever.

Once they safely went ashore, the general stationed in Jiaye City rushed over, and Qiao Jing asked him about any recent suspicious people along the coast.

“Some days ago, there were a few ships that wanted to come ashore. There were women and children on board, claiming to be captured by the people of Xingluo Island and escaped.” The junior officer reported seriously.

Qiao Jing’s eyes narrowed slightly, “Did you let them through?”

“They said they had no food and the children were crying. So, I ordered the men on the ship to be tied up, and only then did I allow the ship to come ashore.” The junior officer said, “As soon as they came ashore, I captured the men and gave them the

soft tendon powder that the prince had provided, and locked them in prison. The women and children were placed separately.”

Qiao Jing’s eyebrows relaxed, “Good job.” He had instructed his subordinates to treat any adult men coming from the sea as enemies. However, they couldn’t just ignore the women and children. Drifting at sea without food and fresh water, they had no choice but to risk coming ashore at Jiaye City, knowing there were risks. If they went any further, they might not even make it to the next place where they could go ashore.

“Has there been any news from the capital recently?” Qiao Jing asked.

The junior officer nodded, “At the beginning of the month, the Divine Doctor Su sent someone with a letter for the prince.” He took out the letter and handed it to Qiao Jing.

Although the letter was addressed to Gu Ling, it was impossible that it was a love letter. Qiao Jing could read it. He directly opened it, and as expected, Su Liang informed him in the letter about Yan Shiba pretending to have captured her. Gu Ling and Qiao Jing had been previously unaware of this situation and only learned of it from Sheng Yue.

There were no other messages after that, and Qiao Jing felt that everything should be fine in the capital, with no other incidents.

After waiting for a while, the carriage arrived.

The twins, having never seen a carriage before, stared at the tall horses with bright eyes.

Peng Wu held Xiaoyue in her arms and got into the carriage, while Qiao Cong and Qiao Jing rode horses, placing Axin and Ale in front of them respectively, taking them along.

At first, the two children were a little scared, but soon became excited.

Peng Wu listened to the children exclaiming in wonder at the new and interesting sights they saw along the way from inside the carriage.

As they entered Jiaye City, the children felt as if they had discovered a whole new world. They had only heard of such bustling and prosperous markets in stories. Qiao Cong even bought the children candied hawthorns and lamb skewers along the way.

When they arrived at Lin’s Family’s gate, Axin asked, “Whose house is this Lin Mansion?”

“It’s my friend’s house; they’ve all moved to the capital. We’ll stay here for one night.” Qiao Jing got off the horse, holding Axin in his arms.

Peng Wu got off the carriage and looked at the plaque of the Lin Mansion with some emotion, “I know Lin’s Family, the Lin Family used to be the most famous military family in Qian Country. When my grandfather was young, he had fought with Old General Lin.”

After settling Peng Wu and the children in the Lin Mansion, letting the steward prepare what they needed, Qiao Cong and Qiao Jing, the grandfather and grandson, also went to rest.

By dinner time, the children had bathed and put on beautiful new clothes, looking fresh and neat. Peng Wu also tidied herself up properly, coming from a military family, she still had an unyielding spirit evident between her brows.

Peng Wu said to Qiao Jing, “Now that we are safe, if the two of you want to return to the island to help the prince, feel free to do so. It’s fine for us to wait here.”

Qiao Jing knew that Peng Wu felt that they had caused trouble for them, so he shook his head, “We don’t know the situation on the island now, and our return would be of little use. We should be going home too, as my grandfather nags every day about the children at home.”

Qiao Cong laughed, “Yes, I really want to fly back with wings. You don’t need to overthink, Peng girl. Just follow us to the capital city with peace of mind.”

“Thank you, senior, and thank you, General Qiao,” Peng Wu thanked them again solemnly.

After dinner, Qiao Jing told Peng Wu, “Come with me to identify the people who were captured before.”

Peng Wu immediately agreed. Qiao Cong noticed that the children were curious about the outside world, so he said he would take them out for a walk. Many shops on the street outside were still open at this time.

When the junior officer took Qiao Jing and Peng Wu there, he talked about the time when someone was unwilling to be bound hands and feet and tried to jump ashore relying on martial arts to break through the checkpoint. He was shot dead by random arrows, and the others learned to behave. You see, the checkpoints near Jiaye City and Nanshan City were both created by Qiao Jing and Old Mu, and they had guarded them for a long time, waiting for the powerful villains from Xingluo Island.

These people originally thought that relying on their martial arts, as long as they got ashore, they could rise again wherever they went, have everything they wanted, but as soon as they came ashore, they became prisoners, naturally extremely unwilling.

When Qiao Jing appeared and Peng Wu was beside him, an old man in the prison immediately shouted, “Mrs. Zhong, you must testify for us, we haven’t done anything against heaven and humanity! We used to live on the island in seclusion, and now that the world is peaceful, can’t we just come out and live our lives?”

“Exactly! On what grounds are we being arrested? Is there no law anymore?”

“I was also caught by Mo Yan and taken to Xingluo Island before. I finally escaped, what did I do wrong? What happened to my wife and child? What did you do to them?”

Qiao Jing ignored those people and asked Peng Wu to tell him whether there was anyone among these people who had been captured on the island and had not done evil.

Peng Wu looked around and finally shook her head at Qiao Jing, saying only four words, “There are no good people.”

There were some who were captured like Feng Ming, but the ones in prison now had been assimilated by Xingluo Island. The youngest of them, Peng Wu knew him; he used to be a lackey of He Wei, relying on the He family’s power on the island to bully and oppress people. He often harassed young married women in secret. Because the latter were bullied and dared not speak out, it

made people like him fearless. He once tried to harass Peng Wu, but she was alert and knew some martial arts, so she didn't let him succeed in the end.

As soon as Peng Wu's words were spoken, it immediately led to a torrent of attacks and insults against her.

Qiao Jing walked out expressionlessly and instructed the junior officer, "Kill them all, not leaving a single one."

Peng Wu quickly walked out also. Just now, the eyes of those people looked at her like wolves and tigers, stirring up her nightmarish memories of her time on the island for a moment.

Qiao Jing went with Peng Wu to check on the women and children who had been rescued. Peng Wu recognized them, comforted them, and told them not to worry, someone would send them back to their original homes.

Qiao Jing handed the matter over to the capable junior officer, telling him to first find out where the women's homes were and whether they wanted to take their children back. If their original homes were gone or they didn't want to go back, they would be sent to the capital city together later, where someone would arrange a place for them.

The next day, the children woke up early, wearing new clothes, eating delicious and hearty breakfasts, and waiting to set off.

Before leaving, Qiao Jing asked Qiao Cong if he wanted to go ahead. There should be no danger on the road now, and Qiao Jing himself would escort Peng Wu and the others, so Qiao Cong could return home earlier.

Qiao Cong was somewhat tempted but still refused, "I came initially for you, so I won't mind a few more days. After all, there are still Peng's girl and the three children; we can't let anything happen to them."

The group set off, and the children were like happy birds, with endless questions and endless conversations, making the journey lively.

Xiaoyue couldn't remember her original parents and was very attached to Peng Wu, treating her as her own mother. Peng Wu also loved this child very much, and the twins took good care of their younger sister.

Axin asked Peng Wu, "Mom, will we never go back to that island again?"

Peng Wu smiled, "I won't be going back in the future. When you grow up, if you want to visit the place where you lived when you were young, you can go."

Axin shook his head, "I don't want to go back either."

Ale grinned, "I'm just like my brother!"

Qiao Cong watched them and felt even more homesick. These three children were really a lot like the three treasures in their family.

Gu Ling set off only three or four days later than Qiao Jing and traveled faster, so two days after Qiao Jing and the others set off for the capital city, Gu Ling and Sheng Yue arrived in Jiaye City.

The junior officer reported the situation, and Gu Ling asked Sheng Yue to check who among the people who had been captured and killed so far, while the rest were his mission. Of course, he also had to judge who should be killed and who didn't matter.

"You're not asking me to start working on this right now, are you?" Sheng Yue frowned.

Gu Ling nodded, "Right now."

Sheng Yue was reluctant, "I came here with you to go to the capital city to find Su Liang, and to see for myself if the magic treasure can recognize her as its master, not to be your servant."

Gu Ling's face was indifferent, "You're not my servant, this is something you should do."

Sheng Yue frowned, "You mean, to atone for my sins?"

"Shouldn't it be?" Gu Ling asked back.

Sheng Yue snorted lightly, without refuting.

"I need money and people," said Sheng Yue.

Gu Ling expressed that money was no problem, but he didn't have any people, "You can do it by yourself."

Sheng Yue was speechless. Indeed, he didn't care about the people who had run away on Xingluo Island, as he could solve the problem in the dark without any trouble, just a bit of a hassle, as he would have to go find them first. But finding them wouldn't be difficult; those who wanted to survive wouldn't dare to come to Jiaye City, nor would they go too far from here, lest they encounter storms at sea or run out of food.

"You let me go just like that? Are you not afraid that I'll just run away?" Sheng Yue even began to suspect that Gu Ling had done something to him so that he could be tracked.

"You won't run." Gu Ling spoke with certainty. He gave Sheng Yue enough money, not only for him to spend but also for him to help others in need, like Peng Wu and her son, to ensure that they could survive or find their original families.

Sheng Yue frowned, stuffed the silver note into his bosom, "After finishing this matter, I'll go to the capital city to see the final answer. To be honest, I really want to kill someone now. I'm leaving."

With that said, Sheng Yue left.

Gu Ling didn't plan to stay in Jiaye City either; he just came to check the situation and make sure Qiao Jing and the others had safely reached shore and left.

After eating something and taking a brief rest, Gu Ling continued on his journey home, all by himself.

Capital city.

It was the end of March in the blink of an eye.

Su Liang still recorded daily on her calendar what Gu Ling might be doing and the progress of his tasks, but as the number of uncertainties increased, she couldn't write anymore.

Gu Xiaonuan was carefree, and she was happy every day. Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu knew that Su Liang was worried, so they tried various ways to make her happy, but to little avail.

Today, seeing Su Liang wearing a skirt that she would usually wear only when going out, Zhengzheng asked curiously, "Master, are you going out?"

Su Liang nodded, "I'll take you out to pick someone up."

"Who?" asked Ji Xiaoshu.

"A friend from the north," said Su Liang.

In a while, Su Liang took her two disciples out of the city. Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu were each riding their horses, looking quite stylish.

They didn't wait long before a group of people on horseback appeared in their sight.

It was the Peng Family. Last year, Peng Wei told Su Liang that they planned to move their entire family to the capital city. Nowadays, there was peace in the world and Liang Country didn't need them to fight anymore. The climate in Yao City was also terrible. Peng Wei was getting old and couldn't stand the extreme cold of winter, so his children and grandchildren persuaded him to move. They finally decided to leave this spring.

Just after the new year, a steward from the Peng Family came to buy a house, and Su Liang had Qi Yan help out in choosing. They received news earlier that the Peng Family was arriving today. Nobody asked Su Liang to pick them up; she was just worried about Gu Ling and wanted to go out for a walk, as she had been feeling restless at home for days.

From afar, Peng Wei saw Su Liang coming to pick them up and was extremely happy. He urged his horse forward and rushed over, "Little Liang!"

Su Liang greeted him with a smile, "Grandpa Peng, I'm glad you made it."

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu both politely called out to Grandpa Peng. Peng Wei knew their identities and greeted them happily, also asking about Gu Xiaonuan.

Peng Fan had already gotten married, and his wife was a lady from the Peng Family's longstanding friends. His wife was now pregnant, so they didn't travel fast on the road.

After greeting everyone, they headed into the city.

On the way, Peng Wei asked about Gu Ling. Su Liang said he had gone to the south to handle some matters and hadn't returned yet. Peng Wei knew that it must be the mysterious force from the south seas, whose leader had colluded with Situ Xie previously. Seeing that Su Liang didn't say much, Peng Wei didn't ask further, knowing that the situation must be challenging, but he believed in Gu Ling's ability.

Su Liang took her two disciples, saw Peng Wei home, talked with the Peng family for a while, and then took her leave, inviting them to visit Su Mansion the next day, as Peng Wei wanted to meet Gu Xiaonuan.

After Su Liang left, Peng Qian returned to his room, and his wife was taking clothes out of the trunk.

There was a handkerchief on the table with a small “Wu” stitched in the corner, which had faded a bit. Peng Qian knew that his wife kept many belongings from their deceased daughter, and he didn’t stop her, quietly putting the handkerchief back on the table. Peng Wu was the unspeakable subject between them for many years.

On the new day, Su Liang dressed Gu Xiaonuan in the new clothes sent by Yang Yu yesterday, making her look like a festive New Year’s painting doll, very joyful.

“Sister looks so pretty!” Ji Xiaoshu leaned in and kissed Gu Xiaonuan’s cheek.

Su Liang thought to herself, if Gu Ling were at home and saw this scene, he would definitely pick up Ji Xiaoshu and teach him what it meant to respect the boundaries between men and women.

Seeing Su Liang daydreaming, Zhengzheng knew she was thinking about Gu Ling again. Ever since Gu Ling left home, Su Liang’s “wandering mind problem” had become more and more serious.

Peng Wei brought his whole family, including his pregnant daughter-in-law.

Gu Xiaonuan sweetly called out to Peng’s Grandfather, making Peng Wei smile from ear to ear. Peng Qian wanted to hold Gu Xiaonuan, but Peng Wei wouldn’t let him.

Peng Fan noticed that his mother seemed to pay special attention to Weng Ran and looked at her several times. When he saw Weng Ran’s side profile, he realized it’s because her face, without the birthmark, looked a lot like his late sister Peng Wu, both having a heroic appearance.

Regarding the move to the capital city, Madame Peng didn’t object for the sake of the elderly and children, but Peng Fan knew that his mother didn’t really want to leave because the former home had traces of the daughter who had lived there. Over the years, she had insisted on cleaning Peng Wu’s room and not letting any weeds grow in her courtyard, as if she would return.

Today, Yuanming Pavilion was exceptionally lively. After saying hello to the guests, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, as usual, went outside to practice swordsmanship. With Gu Ling not around, they were even more diligent in learning than when Gu Ling was here. Ji Xiaoshu said he was afraid that Gu Ling would return and beat him, but Su Liang knew that they actually wanted to make Gu Ling happy.

As the two children were practicing, Ji Xiaoshu accidentally caught a glimpse of a figure darting across the opposite bank of the lake and shouted, “Mother! Bad people are coming!”

Both children, well-trained, ran towards Yuanming Pavilion, knowing they should keep their distance from any danger.

As they were running, Ji Xiaoshu looked back and shouted while running back, “Master! Master! Master is back!” The handsome man flying over the lake was none other than Gu Ling.

At the sound of the commotion, Su Liang rushed out and saw Gu Ling carrying Ji Xiaoshu, embracing her tightly in disbelief.

Gu Ling put down Ji Xiaoshu and hugged Su Liang tightly.

Ji Xiaoshu happily hugged Zhengzheng, who had run over, “Master is finally back!”

As their eyes met, Gu Ling had a lot to say to Su Liang, but in the end, all he said was, "Everything is fine."

Su Liang breathed a sigh of relief, "As long as it's fine." The others must be behind them.

Gu Xiaonuan ran over on her own, waving her little hand and calling out "Daddy!" Gu Ling bent down to pick her up and gave her a kiss. After so long a time of longing and concern, his suspended heart finally settled down.

Gu Ling held Gu Xiaonuan, held Su Liang's hand, and walked back to the Yuanming Pavilion with the two little apprentices. He looked somewhat exhausted, having traveled day and night from Jiaye City without rest. Since he was faster, he had caught up with Qiao Jing and his group on the way, greeted them, and set off again.

When he saw Peng Wei's family upon entering, Gu Ling was somewhat surprised.

Peng Wei smiled broadly, "Little Gu, now that we've moved to the capital city, we can see each other more often."

Gu Ling nodded, "That's great." He then looked at Madame Peng who was sitting not far away.

Madame Peng smiled and nodded in greeting when Gu Ling looked at her.

However, the next moment, Gu Ling surprised everyone by saying, "Your daughter is not dead. She was captured and taken to Xingluo Island before, but she has been rescued and is now on her way to the capital city."

Madame Peng was stunned, as were the rest of the Peng Family who couldn't believe their own ears.

Peng Wei recovered and rushed to Gu Ling, grabbing his arm and looking into his eyes, "What did you just say?"

"Peng Wu is still alive," Gu Ling repeated with certainty, word for word. He knew that Peng Wu's disappearance must have been the most painful for her mother, so he told Madame Peng first.

Madame Peng's face was covered in tears, Peng Wei couldn't help but cry with joy, and Peng Qian clasped his hands together with excitement.

Su Liang didn't expect such a happy surprise to happen, especially since the Peng family had just moved to the capital city and were here today.

After a while, when the Peng family had somewhat calmed down, Gu Ling revealed another piece of exciting news about Peng Wu's situation: Peng Wei had twin great-grandchildren, who were also on their way back with Peng Wu.

Madame Peng was both happy and heartbroken, unable to imagine what her daughter had gone through.

Su Liang comforted Madame Peng, "It's all in the past, things will get better."

Gu Ling called Su Liang, and the two went up to a separate room to talk.

As soon as the door closed, Gu Ling embraced Su Liang in a long kiss. After a while, he let go of Su Liang and sighed, "Let's never be apart again."

Su Liang nodded, "I've missed you too." Then she asked, "Is Mo Yan dead?"

Gu Ling shook his head, then took out the droplet-shaped jade stone in response to Su Liang's puzzled gaze, "This is Mo Yan's space, and there are still people inside. We can't open it, so we're keeping him alive for the moment. You try."

Chapter 487: 487. Little sister, please accept me.

The small jade stone resembling a droplet of water fell into Su Liang's palm. It wasn't cold, as it was originally in Gu Ling's embrace.

"It actually looks like this." Su Liang looked surprised, pinching the "droplet" with two fingers, placing it close to her eyes, and examining it closely.

In the end, Su Liang could only sigh, "It's truly flawless." The emphasis was not on the quality of the jade, although the jade was extremely beautiful and exquisite. What Su Liang found amazing was the shape of this jade stone. It didn't seem to be naturally formed, and it was so perfect that it couldn't have been made by human hands.

As for the fact that there was a world hidden inside this jade stone, Su Liang still found it unbelievable, just like when she first learned that Gu Ling could foresee the death of people.

"How did you test it? By dripping blood?" Su Liang pulled Gu Ling to sit by the table, her gaze shifting from the jade stone to Gu Ling's face, and sighed, "You've lost a lot of weight."

Gu Ling put his hands on his face, "Do I look bad?"

Su Liang leaned over and kissed him, "You are the most beautiful, I'm just heartbroken."

Su Liang had never spoken such words of love before. Gu Ling didn't find it cheesy at all. Being back home and seeing Su Liang and the child safe and sound made him feel full of warmth. As for the unresolved problems they left behind, they would find a way to deal with them together.

Gu Ling answered Su Liang's previous question, saying that he, Cheng Yun, Feng Ming, and Sheng Yue had all tried it, and even had Elder Mu try as well, but it didn't work.

At this moment, Su Liang still didn't know what Gu Ling experienced after going to Xingluo Island. Hearing that Sheng Yue had tried as well, she speculated, "So Sheng Yue gave up because he knew he couldn't control this magical treasure?"

Gu Ling nodded, "Pretty much. He went there specifically for this item."

"Alright, let me give it a try first, and then we'll discuss other things." Su Liang took the silver needle handed over by Gu Ling, and pricked her fingertip.

A drop of bright red blood fell onto the "droplet," and Gu Ling grabbed Su Liang's pierced finger, putting it in his own mouth. They both watched the "droplet" intently for any changes.

As a result, the outcome was clear very quickly: Su Liang's drop of blood slid off the surface of the droplet, leaving a shallow trace, but couldn't infiltrate the droplet at all.

Seeing this, Gu Ling frowned immediately. Though he had anticipated this possibility, like everyone else, he was hoping that Su Liang could control this unique magical treasure.

Su Liang held the "droplet," closed her eyes, felt it for a while, and shook her head, "I don't sense anything. It seems that this is not an exclusive item for transmigrators either." Furthermore, Su Liang always believed that there was a significant difference between her soul transmigration and Mo Yan's physical transmigration. The blood flowing through her body, strictly speaking, was not from her transmigration.

"Never mind," Gu Ling shook his head without being too disappointed, "This matter is left to fate, and we cannot force it. In any case, Mo Yan is still alive, and he will be here in a few days."

Su Liang was quite disappointed, not because she desperately wanted the space, but because she really wanted to solve the last lingering trouble, rescue Yan Shiba and the other hostages, and truly feel at ease.

Su Liang put away the "droplet" and let Gu Ling rest, "What do you want to eat? I'll make you a bowl of hot soup noodles."

"I'm not tired," Gu Ling shook his head, "but I'm hungry. Let's go together."

As Gu Ling took Su Liang downstairs, she remembered that they had guests in the house today. Focusing on the spatial magical treasure earlier, she had temporarily forgotten about the Peng Family.

Approaching noon, they still hadn't eaten. Seeing Su Liang and Gu Ling coming downstairs, Peng Wei got up, preparing to leave.

It was because they had learned about Peng Wu's situation; the Peng Family was very agitated, and they were also worried about her and the two children. When Su Liang and Gu Ling went upstairs earlier, Mrs. Peng mentioned that she wanted to fetch her daughter, and the Peng Family quickly came to a consensus that they should set out to fetch Peng Wu as soon as possible.

"We owe Wu'er an apology. When she was captured and they made a fake corpse, we didn't even recognize her..." Peng Wei's eyes reddened, and tears streamed down his face.

Su Liang comforted Peng Wei, "Grandfather Peng, don't overthink it. That gang is ruthless and has countless masters; it's not your fault. Now that Sister Peng is fine and will be reunited with you soon, you should be happy."

Peng Wei nodded, "I am happy! I have to go fetch Wu'er and the children! I can't wait any longer!"

"That's fine," Su Liang didn't try to keep them, "When Sister Peng and the children come back, Gu Ling and I will make it up to you at a proper banquet."

With tears streaming down her face, Mrs. Peng said, "We should be the ones to treat you. You have helped our Peng Family so many times, and now the prince has saved my poor daughter..."

Gu Ling informed Peng Fan that it was Qiao Cong and Qiao Jing who escorted Peng Wu and the three children back. They should be somewhere around now, and if they set out now, they should catch up with them within two days.

“Three children?” Peng Fan was stunned for a moment.

Gu Ling hadn’t told the Peng family exactly what Peng Wu had gone through yet, since he only knew the gist of it. Peng Wu’s true ordeal was only clear to her, and how to inform her family should be her decision.

Gu Ling explained that Peng Wu had adopted a little girl who was abandoned on the island, who was about the same age as Gu Xiaonuan.

Gu Ling and Su Liang sent the Peng family members to the entrance of Yuanming Pavilion, but Peng Wei would not let them send them any further. Su Liang arranged for Qi Yan to go with the Peng family members out of the city to pick up the people.

After bidding farewell to the guests, the kitchen became lively.

Su Liang was cooking, Gu Ling was sitting on a small stool stoking the fire, with three kids snuggled up beside him.

“Little sister, sing a song for Master!” Zhengzheng shook Gu Xiaonuan’s little hand.

Gu Ling looked forward to it, as his precious daughter could actually sing?

Su Liang chuckled lightly, promising Gu Ling a surprise.

Then, sitting on Gu Ling’s lap, Gu Xiaonuan stretched out her tender little hand, gently stroked Gu Ling’s cheek, and sang in her baby voice, “Sleep, sleep, my dear baby...”

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu both laughed, and Su Liang was also amused. Gu Xiaonuan could only sing these two lines, which were the lullaby Su Liang occasionally hummed to coax her to sleep.

Gu Ling thought his own baby was adorable, invincible, intelligent, and interesting. He played along by closing his eyes and pretending to be asleep.

Gu Xiaonuan knew that Gu Ling was pretending and leaned over to kiss his face.

Ji Xiaoshu said solemnly, “Master has become Sleeping Beauty, let’s all go and kiss him.”

The next moment, Gu Ling dumped Ji Xiaoshu at the door, laughing with his eyes open, holding his precious daughter’s forehead, father and daughter both looking extremely warm and loving.

Ji Xiaoshu reached out, “Big brother, come on, we can do it too!”

Zhengzheng silently added firewood to the stove, showing that he was a capable fire-stoker and had no interest in strange bonding with his junior brothers ...

Su Liang made a pot of steaming hot Vegetable and Shredded Pork Noodles, gave Gu Ling a big bowl, and gave the two little disciples a small bowl each, letting them eat first and saying there would be lunch afterward.

“Mom, what about me!” Gu Xiaonuan “protested” and said she wanted some too.

Su Liang shook her head, "Ask your dad to feed you." As she couldn't eat by herself, there was no need to take up another bowl.

Gu Ling sat with the three children by the window of the Yuanming Pavilion, eating noodles amidst laughter and joy.

The other family members were relieved knowing that everyone was safe and they would be back soon. As for the specific details, Su Liang still didn't know and planned to discuss it with Gu Ling after his meal.

After lunch, Gu Ling put Gu Xiaonuan to sleep, took a hot bath, changed into clean clothes, and leaned back on the recliner.

The sunlight shone through the window onto Gu Ling's jade-like face. Su Liang sat next to him, wiping his hair with a dry cloth, as Gu Ling recounted his experiences after arriving at Xingluo Island.

Zhengzheng, who was supposed to be taking a nap, was dragged by Ji Xiaoshu to eavesdrop outside the door.

Both Gu Ling and Su Liang heard the two little disciples gossiping outside, pretending not to notice them, neither of them drove the children away nor called them inside.

After Gu Ling finished speaking, Su Liang sighed, "The root of all problems lies in that magical treasure. But don't think about it right now; you need a good rest. Once you've had enough rest, we'll discuss the matters later on."

The family of three lay together. Su Liang seldom took a nap during the day, but this time she accompanied Gu Ling, and their daughter slept sweetly beside them.

Gu Ling held Su Liang's hand, brought it to his lips, and gently kissed the back of her hand. Then, he pressed her hand onto his face, relaxed his body and mind, and soon fell asleep.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu listened to the room quieting down and returned to their own bedrooms.

Closing the door, Ji Xiaoshu complained angrily, "That big bad Mo Yan and big bad Sheng Yue are both still alive!"

"Master spared Sheng Yue and allowed him to atone for his sins. It's a good thing, isn't it? Mistress once said that he was very capable and that some things needed him to do." Zhengzheng analyzed, "As for Mo Yan, he still has his uses. Master and Mistress couldn't use that magical treasure, which is such a pity."

"Yeah." Ji Xiaoshu took off his shoes, lay down on the bed, rolled around, and sighed, "I was hoping that Master and Mistress would get the magical treasure so that they could take us with them to play outside. That would be so much fun! But now there's no chance!"

"The most important thing now is to figure out how to open the space to let Aunt Yan return safely." Zhengzheng's little face was serious.

"I know." Ji Xiaoshu rolled again, "It's so worrying! Master and Mistress have it so hard! They finally reunited, but there are still troubles! Master doesn't even have the heart to punish me anymore!"

Zhengzheng shook his head, "It's just that Master hasn't rested well yet. This is not urgent."

Ji Xiaoshu: ...

The room quieted down, and Zhengzheng fell asleep. Ji Xiaoshu, who was lying on his stomach, turned over suddenly, sat up, and yelled at Zhengzheng, "Big brother?"

Not hearing Zhengzheng respond, Ji Xiaoshu scratched his head, "Never mind, I'll sleep too."

When Gu Ling woke up, it was already sunset. Su Liang usually didn't let Gu Xiaonuan sleep so long during the day, as it would make her too energetic and unwilling to sleep at night, but today she didn't mind.

The three of them woke up almost simultaneously. Gu Ling took his daughter to relieve herself, while Su Liang slowly got dressed and sighed as she got out of bed. However, the troubles they were facing immediately weighed on her mind. Though Gu Ling said that Yan Shiba should be able to survive for a long time in the space and shouldn't be in danger, they still needed to solve the problem sooner rather than later. It would be best if they could find a reliable method before Mo Yan was brought to the capital city. But due to the nature of the magical treasure, it was really difficult. Otherwise, Gu Ling would have already resolved the situation back on Xingluo Island.

The sunset was beautiful, and Gu Ling, holding Gu Xiaonuan, watched Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu practice their swordsmanship.

Gu Xiaonuan imitated her brothers, waving her little hand and yelling, "Hit!" Then she shouted crisply, "Kill!"

Gu Ling's smile was warm and gentle. His baby daughter, so young, already knew about fighting and killing; she would surely be courageous when she grew up.

The sparring session ended in a tie.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, holding their wooden swords, ran over and asked Gu Ling if their swordsmanship had improved.

Gu Ling nodded, "Zhengzheng has improved."

Ji Xiaoshu eagerly awaited Gu Ling's evaluation, but Gu Ling turned to leave.

Ji Xiaoshu hugged Gu Ling's leg, "Master, what about me?"

"Oh, you." Gu Ling appeared indifferent, "You're doing alright."

Ji Xiaoshu was dissatisfied, "Just alright? But I've been working hard!"

"Yes, Xiaoshu is very serious in practicing the sword." Zhengzheng testified for Ji Xiaoshu.

"Well, Xiaoshu, your progress is even more obvious than Zhengzheng's." Gu Ling finished speaking, picked up Gu Xiaonuan, and left.

Ji Xiaoshu jumped up happily, "I knew it! Master is just teasing me!"

Zhengzheng laughed, "Of course."

The next moment, Ji Xiaoshu's face stiffened, and he suddenly furrowed his brow.

Zhengzheng asked what was wrong, and Ji Xiaoshu covered his face, "We tied in the match, but Master said that my progress was more obvious. Doesn't that mean I was not as good as Big Brother before? Was I really that bad in Master's eyes?"

Zhengzheng was taken aback, "No, Master didn't mean that... Xiaoshu, you're overthinking it. It's just that... it's just that when we competed before, I had a slight advantage because I began learning from Master earlier than you did. But you've learned faster than me, haven't you? In fact, you're more talented in martial arts than me..."

As Zhengzheng spoke, he suddenly realized something was off. Ji Xiaoshu covered his face, with his shoulders shaking. Was he crying? Or...?

Zhengzheng pulled Ji Xiaoshu's hand away to reveal him laughing heartily, "Hahaha! Big Brother, you're so easy to fool! I'm not sad at all!"

Zhengzheng: ...Being a big brother is really hard. Suppressing the urge to beat up his younger brother...

At dinner, Ji Xiaoshu asked if he could sleep with Gu Ling tonight. Gu Ling shook his head, "Go back to your dad."

"My dad went to the north to plant crops again." Ji Xiaoshu shook his head, "Master, can we go to the north to see the snow together this winter?"

Zhengzheng's eyes lit up. He was looking forward to it too.

Gu Ling nodded, "Yes."

After dinner, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu were both in Gu Ling and Su Liang's room, playing with Gu Xiaonuan.

As they played, Ji Xiaoshu ran over to Su Liang. "Mistress, can we see that magical treasure?"

Su Liang nodded, "Of course." She took out the water-drop-shaped jade stone and handed it to Ji Xiaoshu.

Ji Xiaoshu and Zhengzheng huddled together and stared at it, marveling at its magic.

"Is Aunt Yan inside this?"

"Yes, Uncle Zhu Zan said that it's very big inside and can hold many people. There's even a lake."

"Master and Mistress can't open it, but why does that big baddie Mo Yan get to have such a treasure? It's so unfair."

At this moment, Gu Xiaonuan, who was sitting next to them playing with blocks, saw that her two brothers were ignoring her. She ran over and grabbed the "water drop" in Ji Xiaoshu's hand.

Zhengzheng quickly warned her, "Little sister, that's not for eating."

"Xiaonuan never eats random things." Ji Xiaoshu shook his head and suddenly had an idea. "Master, Mistress, we can let Xiaonuan try. Maybe she can make the magical treasure recognize her as the owner?" He had thought about it during the day, but had forgotten after waking up from his nap.

The next moment, Gu Ling and Su Liang looked over and saw the shocking scene: Gu Xiaonuan held the "water drop" in one hand and a block in the other. Children often liked to touch the objects in their two hands together, and Gu Xiaonuan was no exception. Then, as the block neared the water drop, it vanished into thin air!

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu both clearly saw it and were astonished.

"Little sister really can do it!"

"She doesn't even need to use a drop of blood to do it!"

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu rushed over to Gu Xiaonuan and excitedly said in unison, "Little sister, take me in!"

Chapter 488: 488. Second brother comes out

Before the three children could huddle together, Gu Ling and Su Liang quickly rushed over, grabbing Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu into their arms.

Gu Xiaonuan's little face was puzzled, waving her small hand in confusion, wondering where her toy blocks had gone.

"Master, my little sister can control that magic treasure!" Zhengzheng thought Gu Ling hadn't seen it.

Ji Xiaoshu was very excited, "Master's wife, just now my little sister made a toy block disappear out of thin air! That magical treasure doesn't even need blood to recognize her as its master! I knew my sister could do it! I want her to take me inside the magical treasure to play!"

Su Liang and Gu Ling exchanged a glance. They had both seen it, and the reason they were holding the two children back from interacting with Gu Xiaonuan was to prevent them from disappearing into thin air.

Seeing Gu Xiaonuan make the toy block disappear, Gu Ling and Su Liang were actually quite excited as well, but they quickly calmed down, realizing there was a new problem: Gu Xiaonuan was too young to understand what was happening and didn't know how to use the space. What just happened was purely accidental.

Of course, the fact that Gu Xiaonuan was able to use the magical treasure was a great thing, a major turning point for the problems they were facing at the moment.

However, Gu Ling and Su Liang needed to guide Gu Xiaonuan first and have her release the people trapped in the space before they could allow more people to enter.

“Great God, if I hold her, will she make me disappear too?” Su Liang asked Gu Ling.

Gu Ling nodded, “It’s possible.”

“Little sister still doesn’t know what’s going on. Master and Master’s wife, please tell her how to let Auntie Yan out!” Ji Xiaoshu said happily.

Su Liang shook her head, “How could we possibly know that?”

“So we can only let my little sister discover it for herself?” Zhengzheng frowned, “But my little sister is too young to understand this.”

“I’ve got it!” Ji Xiaoshu’s eyes lit up. “Since my little sister doesn’t know where Aunt Yan is, let her take me in, and then she’ll look for me. When she finds me, she’ll let me out!”

Zhengzheng shook his head, “But what if she can’t find you, or it takes a long time to find you? It’s not appropriate.”

“Anyway, Auntie Yan is inside, and Master and Master’s wife said there’s food there, so I’m not scared!” Ji Xiaoshu expressed his faith in Gu Xiaonuan.

Gu Ling rubbed Ji Xiaoshu’s head, “There are no vegetables inside, only coarse grain porridge.”

“Ah? Then I’ll bring some vegetables and meat with me to eat with Aunt Yan! Aunt Yan has learned how to cook before!” Ji Xiaoshu said, thinking it was a simple solution.

Su Liang received Gu Ling’s eye signal and took the two young disciples to sit at the table.

Gu Ling went over by himself, sat next to Gu Xiaonuan, and held her in his arms.

By now, Gu Xiaonuan had found a new game: making toy blocks disappear. When she discovered her toy block had gone missing, she played around with the process of making it disappear, finding it quite magical. She grabbed the toy blocks, touched the “water droplet”, and when the toy blocks disappeared, she shook her small hand, showed Gu Ling, and laughed happily, saying in a clear voice, “Magic!”

Zhengzheng held his forehead, “My little sister thinks she’s playing magic tricks.”

Ji Xiaoshu’s eyes widened, “I think Master could disappear at any moment.”

Gu Ling had learned a few magic tricks based on Su Liang’s description, occasionally amused the children with them, and even taught the two little disciples how to play. The most common trick involved making objects in their hands disappear.

Gu Xiaonuan had seen her two brothers play many times, but she hadn’t remembered the name of the trick – just the word “magic.” At this moment, she thought she could do magic tricks too.

Gu Ling didn’t stop her, and Gu Xiaonuan continued to play with the toy blocks, happily making them disappear one by one.

Every time she succeeded, Gu Ling would kiss Gu Xiaonuan's cheek to praise and encourage her, which made her play even more enthusiastically.

Watching the items disappear in Gu Xiaonuan's hand, Su Liang suddenly had an idea, and took out her writing materials.

"What does Master's wife want to write?" Zhengzheng skillfully ground ink for Su Liang.

Ji Xiaoshu glanced at them and continued to stare at Gu Ling and Gu Xiaonuan, wanting to see if Gu Ling would disappear.

Seeing Su Liang start writing, Zhengzheng suddenly understood, "I get it. Master's wife is writing a letter to Aunt Yan, so my sister can take it in, and Aunt Yan can see it. This way, she'll be reassured that we'll be able to rescue her soon."

Ji Xiaoshu said in response, "Master's wife can write it in the letter and ask Aunt Yan to call out to the little sister in the space, maybe she can hear it. I think for now the little sister can only take things in, but we haven't seen where those things have gone."

"Right!" Zhengzheng nodded.

Su Liang quickly wrote a letter to Yan Shiba, not bothering to put it in an envelope, and directly handed the paper to Gu Ling.

Gu Ling then gently passed the paper to Gu Xiaonuan with a smile.

Gu Xiaonuan took it and continued her previous action, successfully making the paper disappear.

"Nuannuan, close your eyes, do you see anything?" Gu Ling guided her kindly.

But Gu Xiaonuan wasn't sleepy, and seeing Gu Ling close his eyes, she didn't imitate him but leaned in to kiss him instead.

Gu Ling reached out and covered Gu Xiaonuan's eyes.

Gu Xiaonuan thought they were playing hide and seek, temporarily lost interest in the "magic tricks", loosened her grip on the "drop", threw it to the side and laughed, "Where is big brother?"

"Big brother is here."

"Second brother is here too."

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu sighed in unison.

Making a one-year-old child understand what they are saying and follow through is not easy. Gu Xiaonuan is very smart, but spatial magical treasures are beyond her comprehension, let alone that of an adult. Moreover, Gu Ling and Su Liang's understanding of the magical Jade Stone is very limited, and they don't know the principle behind it and how to operate it.

Gu Ling took out a building block and performed a magic trick for Gu Xiaonuan by making the block disappear. Gu Xiaonuan clapped her hands happily, indicating that she could do it too.

But the focus was on the second half. The building block Gu Ling made vanish reappeared.

Gu Xiaonuan picked up two building blocks and bumped them together like before, but they didn't disappear. She tilted her little head and was lost in confusion looking at the blocks.

Gu Ling then picked up the "drop" and replaced the building block in Gu Xiaonuan's hand, asking her to try again.

Soon, Gu Xiaonuan made the building block disappear again. This time she realized that it was the piece of jade that was incredibly powerful.

Gu Xiaonuan held up the "drop" in her little hand and handed it to Gu Ling, then grabbed another building block and passed it to him, indicating for Gu Ling to play her magic trick too.

Gu Ling:... He couldn't do it!

Gu Ling played a round of "traditional magic" again, encouraging Gu Xiaonuan to look for the disappeared building block.

But Gu Xiaonuan lost interest in magic tricks and reached out to call her two brothers, "Brother, Brother! Let's go out and play!"

Gu Ling looked helpless, Gu Xiaonuan hadn't really learned how to use her mind to control the space, she was just playing the game she played every day, capturing things in her hands and bumping them together, making a magic trick to make things disappear while the space received her instructions.

"Master's wife, let us try!" Ji Xiaoshu volunteered, "We are kids too, and we know better how to communicate with the little sister."

Gu Ling thought about it for a moment. Gu Xiaonuan probably didn't have any intention of making her two brothers disappear in her mind, so there shouldn't be any issues, and he agreed.

However, it was night time so it wasn't suitable to go outside. Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu took Gu Xiaonuan to their room next door to play. There were many toys there, like a mini amusement park.

Gu Ling and Su Liang leaned against the doorway watching, not going in but also not letting the children out of their sight.

"Should we let Nuannuan try dripping her blood on it?" Su Liang suggested.

Gu Ling shook his head, "It shouldn't be a blood-master recognition, the magic treasure chooses its own master."

Su Liang raised an eyebrow, "Now that you mention it, I think so too."

Mo Yan said that he got the treasure during the Transmigration process, so perhaps the magic treasure chose Mo Yan simply because it was originally lost on the magical Transmigration Road, and Mo Yan was the only one who appeared.

Gu Ling and Su Liang, as well as Sheng Yue Cheng Yun, had all come into contact with the magic treasure and had dripped their own blood onto it. Although none of them held something for the magic treasure to swallow like Gu Xiaonuan did, their blood inherently belonged to objects outside the magic treasure, and at that moment, they all thought about letting the magic treasure absorb their blood. If it worked, at least that drop of blood should have disappeared.

At this point, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu had already tried it, imitating Gu Xiaonuan's actions, holding a "droplet" in one hand and a building block in the other, thinking about making the building block disappear, but there was no change.

Therefore, there was only one answer, the spatial magical treasure chose Gu Xiaonuan.

"I am a Transmigrator, and you are a special ability user. From this perspective, Gu Xiaonuan's bloodline is indeed more powerful than both of us," Su Liang said, "even though she did not transmigrate nor has any special abilities."

Gu Ling's lips curved slightly, "Now Nuannuan has the ability. But I think it might be just because Nuannuan looks pretty."

Su Liang held her forehead, understanding the thought process of a crazy-mother for her daughter.

Thinking that they should find a larger object that Gu Xiaonuan liked, something that would make her want to search for it after it disappeared, Ji Xiaoshu set his sights on the treasure tree that he and Zhengzheng had made for Gu Xiaonuan.

It was made from the Jade stones and pearls in the gifts sent by Mo Yan before, taller than Gu Xiaonuan and looked shiny and beautiful. Gu Xiaonuan loved it so much that the three siblings often played together, plucking fruit from the treasure tree.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu moved the treasure tree in front of Gu Xiaonuan. Zhengzheng looked serious. As he spoke and gestured, he said, "Little sister, can you make this tree disappear with the treasure in your hand?"

Gu Xiaonuan tried to pluck the gemstones on the tree and didn't understand what Zhengzheng was saying.

Ji Xiaoshu grabbed Gu Xiaonuan's hand, guiding her to touch the treasure tree with the "water droplet" and said, "Little sister, make the tree disappear!"

Gu Xiaonuan finally understood and said cheerfully, "Little tree! Gone!"

The color of Gu Ling's face changed and he rushed over, but it was still a step too late. The treasure tree and Ji Xiaoshu, who was holding Gu Xiaonuan's hand, both disappeared...

Zhengzheng reached out to grab Ji Xiaoshu's hand but found himself holding onto thin air. He stared blankly at the spot, "Little tree...Little tree!" He turned to look at Gu Liang and Su Liang in a daze, "Master, Mistress, Little tree got trapped inside, what should we do?"

As Su Liang comforted Zhengzheng not to be nervous, she softly asked the bewildered Gu Xiaonuan, "Nuannuan, where is your second brother?"

Gu Xiaonuan looked left and right, ran to the corner where Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu used to play hide-and-seek, and then slapped the quilt on the bed, repeatedly calling "Second Brother", but still couldn't find Ji Xiaoshu. She threw herself into Su Liang's arms and burst into tears, "Second Brother...Second Brother won't come out...woo...Second Brother...is gone...I want Second Brother..."

Su Liang coaxed Gu Xiaonuan, "Don't cry, look for your second brother, see if he is calling you somewhere."

Gu Xiaonuan usually didn't cry, but this time she cried very sadly and couldn't hear what Su Liang was saying at all.

Gu Ling frowned and pondered for a moment, then picked up Gu Xiaonuan, wiped her tears, and coaxed her to say "Second Brother, come out."

"Second Brother...I want Second Brother..." Gu Xiaonuan sobbed.

"Be good, Nuannuan, say 'Second Brother, come out,'" Gu Ling patiently taught her.

Gu Xiaonuan then shouted out loud, "Second Brother...come out!"

Zhengzheng's small face was tense, but no miracle happened, and the room was still devoid of Ji Xiaoshu.

Gu Xiaonuan buried her face in Gu Ling's embrace, cried a few more times, and fell asleep after a while...

Zhengzheng sighed, "If Little Tree knew that he lost his little sister and could still sleep, he would definitely be heartbroken."

"Nothing will happen," Su Liang reassured Zhengzheng, and herself as well. "The droplet" is fine, so there shouldn't be any problems with the space, it's just maintaining its original state.

In just one day, the emotions of Gu Ling and Su Liang have risen and fallen. Gu Xiaonuan was already asleep, and they couldn't force her to wake up and continue to learn how to open the space and release people. She was just an innocent child, who couldn't understand or grow up to the point of being able to communicate instantly.

Gu Ling carried Gu Xiaonuan back to their room, placed her on the bed, gently wiped away her tears, covered her with a quilt, and sighed, "Let's deal with it tomorrow."

It was late at night, and Su Liang let Zhengzheng sleep in their room as well.

With both children asleep, Su Liang and Gu Ling sat on the bed, looking at each other in silence.

After a sigh, Gu Ling said, "It's all my fault."

Su Liang frowned, "Great God, what are you talking about?"

"If I had confessed my feelings to you earlier, Nuannuan would probably be three years old by now and we could communicate better," Gu Ling said.

Su Liang held his forehead, "What does that have to do with anything?"

Gu Ling held Su Liang's hand, pressed it to his face, "Is it a good thing? I mean, in the future." He didn't doubt that Gu Xiaonuan could definitely release the people inside. It was just a matter of time, and it shouldn't take too long. Gu Xiaonuan could actually understand many of their instructions, but the space was too mysterious, and there was no way to make her comprehend it intuitively. But maybe more time and patience would suffice.

Su Liang knew what Gu Ling was asking. After all the problems were solved, Gu Xiaonuan would possess that space, which would inevitably have a significant impact on her life.

“It’s a treasure. It’s a blessing to have received it, and Nuannuan has been chosen for it. Of course, it’s a good thing,” Su Liang said, “It will be interesting, and that space can also protect her.”

Gu Ling nodded, “You’re right.”

The two couldn’t sleep, discussing how to inspire Gu Xiaonuan to discover the space the next day. Suddenly, the sleeping Gu Xiaonuan raised her hand and slapped Zhengzheng’s face!

Zhengzheng woke up instantly, sat up, and subconsciously looked at Gu Xiaonuan, “Little sister.”

“Water Droplet” was under Gu Xiaonuan’s pillow. Gu Xiaonuan opened her eyes in a daze and called out to Zhengzheng, “Second brother..”

“I’m your big brother. Did you dream of your second brother?” Zhengzheng held Gu Xiaonuan and patted her gently.

“I saw... second brother...” Gu Xiaonuan rubbed her eyes.

Su Liang’s expression changed, Gu Ling quickly asked, “Nuannuan, where is your second brother?”

Gu Xiaonuan closed her eyes and called “Second brother,” then opened her eyes again. She couldn’t help but feel confused, “Huh... where is the second brother?”

Su Liang guessed that their daughter was currently experiencing a stage where the world she saw with her eyes open and the world she saw with her eyes closed were completely different. Perhaps Ji Xiaoshu was calling Gu Xiaonuan in the space?

“Little sister, close your eyes and say, ‘Second brother, come out,’ and he will,” Zhengzheng earnestly taught Gu Xiaonuan.

Gu Xiaonuan closed her eyes again, “Second brother! Second brother, come out!”

The next moment, Ji Xiaoshu fell head down onto the bed.

Gu Ling and Su Liang both heaved a sigh of relief and were delighted.

Ji Xiaoshu rolled over and sat on Gu Ling, looking at everything in front of him with a surprised and excited expression on his little face, “Haha! Success! I knew it, little sister would definitely find me!”

The three children happily rolled around together.

Gu Ling pulled Ji Xiaoshu over, “What about the others inside?”

Ji Xiaoshu nodded repeatedly, “I saw them! I saw Aunt Yan! But Aunt Yan didn’t get Master’s letter because the space is too big and the letter and blocks were too small. Little sister probably threw them somewhere. The treasure tree just happened to hit Aunt Yan on the head and gave her a big bump, haha!”

Unable to hold back his laughter, Su Liang said, “Good, Ji Xiaoshu has made a great contribution today. Now quickly teach your little sister and let her release the others.”

“Let’s go to the next room,” Gu Ling said. He couldn’t tolerate others falling on his and Su Liang’s bed.

“No problem!” Ji Xiaoshu patted his little chest, indicating that he had already experienced the new world.

Zhengzheng was envious, “When little sister is skilled, I want to go in and play too.”

The next moment, Gu Xiaonuan took out the “Water Droplet” from under her pillow and grabbed Zhengzheng with a smile, who disappeared from Gu Ling and Su Liang’s sight...

Then Gu Xiaonuan raised her little face and smiled brilliantly at Gu Ling and Su Liang, as if showing off her special ability.

Su Liang said in a faint tone, “Your daughter really knows how to do it now.”

Gu Ling nodded, “Let’s go in and play tomorrow.”

Chapter 489: 489. Great changes in living people

After Gu Xiaonuan released Ji Xiaoshu from the space, she figured out how to play the complete game of “changing a living person.”

So, Zhengzheng, who had just entered the space, came back in a moment.

Laughing, Zhengzheng praised Gu Xiaonuan, “Little Sister is so smart!” Then he whispered to Su Liang and Gu Ling, “I didn’t even see what it looked like inside, let alone Yan Auntie.”

Su Liang smiled, “You can go in again later. How did it feel?”

After thinking for a moment, Zhengzheng said, “It’s amazing... like a dream.”

The next task for Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu was to have Gu Xiaonuan release the other people from the space.

Ji Xiaoshu patted his chest and said, “Little sister will definitely have no problem! Auntie Yan was originally disguised as the master’s appearance, but I told her to remove the disguise and tie herself with a rope to the others! After all, little sister only recognizes Auntie Yan! Releasing them one by one would be too tiring for her!”

“I think it’ll work.” Zhengzheng nodded his head in agreement.

The two of them hugged Gu Xiaonuan and went to the next room, teaching her to close her eyes and look for Yan Shiba.

Ji Xiaoshu had already verified in front of Yan Shiba that calling out for Gu Xiaonuan was useful, so at this moment, Yan Shiba should be ready and calling for Gu Xiaonuan from inside.

Gu Xiaonuan held the “water drop” in her little hand and obediently closed her eyes. After a while, she opened her eyes, a surprised look on her face, “Aunt Yan!”

Zhengzheng nodded, “It’s Aunt Yan. Little sister, close your eyes and think about letting Aunt Yan out.”

Gu Xiaonuan closed her eyes again, and said with a giggle, "Aunt Yan! Come out!"

In the next moment, Zhengzheng hugged Gu Xiaonuan, afraid that the ceiling would drop people on her, and ready to dodge at any time.

As a result, the three of them looked left and right, and saw nothing.

Gu Ling and Su Liang at the door also found it strange, as Yan Shiba should have come out by now.

It turned out that there was a sound of heavy objects falling from the roof...

Su Liang and Gu Ling immediately rushed out and saw a string of people tied with ropes rolling down from the roof, screams rose and fell, accompanied by Yan Shiba's affectionate call to Gu Xiaonuan...

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu ran to the window and looked down. They saw Gu Ling catching the first person before he hit the ground, and Su Liang taking out a dagger and cutting the rope connecting the second person...

As Gu Ling caught them and Su Liang separated them, they cooperated quite seamlessly, with no casualties.

The last one to fall was Yan Shiba. However, she had already adjusted her posture on the roof and stood stably, so she jumped down herself, shouting, "Girl, catch me!"

Su Liang reached out and caught Yan Shiba, who fell from the sky.

Yan Shiba hugged her tightly, "I thought Mo Yan was dead and we could never get out!" After speaking, she let go of Su Liang, blinked, and asked, "Mo Yan is dead, right? Otherwise, how did the magic treasure end up in Nuannuan's hands?"

Su Liang shook her head with a smile, "Not yet dead. I was initially not sure if any of us could control that space, so I spared Mo Yan's life. He should be arriving in the capital city around tomorrow."

"You and Gu Ling can't use it?" Yan Shiba expressed surprise, "Only Nuannuan can use it? Haha! I knew it, my Nuannuan is the best!"

"She's mine." Gu Ling said indifferently.

Yan Shiba snorted, "I'll fight you again some other day!"

Seeing that Yan Shiba had lost a lot of weight and there were a group of strangers beside her, all looking haggard and uneasy, Su Liang suggested they rest first.

Gu Ling called Zhu Zan over and asked him to make arrangements for everyone who had come out of the space, except for Yan Shiba.

Entering Yuanming Pavilion, Yan Shiba continued to call for Gu Xiaonuan, "Baby, are you asleep?"

"Not yet!" Ji Xiaoshu's voice came from upstairs, "Aunt Yan, we're coming!"

Carrying Gu Xiaonuan in his arms, Zhengzheng ran down the stairs with Ji Xiaoshu.

Upon seeing the children, Yan Shiba's eyes instantly softened, "My baby Nuannuan is my lucky star."

Su Liang asked Yan Shiba if she was hungry, and Yan Shiba rubbed her thin face, “You still have to ask? Can’t you tell? If Nuannuan hadn’t saved me, I would have starved to death! I could only eat coarse grain porridge every day in there, it had absolutely no taste, not even salt! Now I feel so weak! I need meat!”

“I want to eat meat too, the one Master makes!” Ji Xiaoshu said to Gu Ling with a smile. He hadn’t been locked up for long and actually had dinner, so he wasn’t very hungry.

Gu Ling nodded, “Alright, wait for it.”

Yan Shiba and the children were playing in the Yuanming Pavilion. Zhengzheng brought some desserts for Yan Shiba to snack on, and Su Liang brought her a pot of hot tea before going to help Gu Ling start the fire.

The two were not sleepy either. The problem that troubled them was finally completely resolved tonight, bringing them indescribable relaxation and joy.

Yan Shiba had played an important role in pretending to be Su Liang, so Gu Ling decided to cook a few of her signature dishes as a reward for her.

The fire in the stove roared, casting a warm glow on Su Liang’s smiling face. “I bet Mo Yan’s face will be a sight to see when he finds out his space has been usurped.”

Gu Ling nodded slightly, “He will find out, as will Sheng Yue.”

“I don’t know if Sheng Yue will have the patience to complete the good deeds you asked him to do,” Su Liang said. “But it doesn’t matter, even if he runs away, it’s fine. We still have plenty of time to look into the rest.”

All was peaceful in the world, and the major crisis had been resolved.

In the Yuanming Pavilion, Gu Xiaonuan was too sleepy to keep her eyes open. Zhengzheng carried her to the nearby couch, tucked her in with a blanket, and placed the “water droplet” next to her.

“We need to find a way to have the jade piece attached to little sister, so she won’t lose it,” Zhengzheng said.

“Master will find a way,” Ji Xiaoshu thought it was a small problem. “Yan Auntie, when you were locked up for so long, were you worried that you might never get out?”

Actually, Yan Shiba was worried, even a bit desperate, but in front of the children, she bravely boasted, “Not at all! I believed that you would find a way to save me!”

“Yan Auntie wasn’t scared at all? So amazing. If it were me, I would definitely be scared,” Zhengzheng praised.

“Well, I was a little scared,” Yan Shiba said seriously.

Ji Xiaoshu immediately asked, “Scared of what?”

Yan Shiba grinned, “Scared that I’ll never eat meat again in my life; I would rather kill myself!”

Su Liang's voice came from the doorway, "The meat is here."

Gu Ling finished the first dish of sweet and sour ribs. Su Liang brought it over and placed it on the table. Yan Shiba immediately grabbed a rib and started to eat.

"No one is fighting you for it, eat slowly," Su Liang said. "There are still a few more dishes."

Ji Xiaoshu also picked up a rib with his fingers, "Meat tastes better when you snatch it."

Su Liang smiled, "You can all eat together; she can't finish it all by herself."

By the time Gu Ling brought the last soup, Yan Shiba was already full. She drank a bowl of steaming hot chicken soup and leaned back comfortably in her chair. Looking at the sweetly sleeping Gu Xiaonuan not far away, she sighed, "It feels so good to be home! When Mo Yan comes, I'll hold him underwater in the lake, let him taste the bitterness of drowning. As long as it doesn't kill him, I'll drown him until he almost dies!"

Su Liang had no objections, and would just follow Yan Shiba's lead.

Feeling sleepy after eating and drinking, Yan Shiba yawned, kissed Gu Xiaonuan, and walked out, "I'm going to find my bed... The bed in the space is too hard; my old back is about to break."

After Yan Shiba left, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu carried Gu Xiaonuan upstairs to bed.

Before closing the door, Ji Xiaoshu winked at Gu Ling, "Master, you and Master's wife should celebrate tonight. We won't disturb you! It would be great to have another little brother!"

Having a little brother was not in Gu Ling and Su Liang's plans, but a "celebration" was necessary.

The two had experienced one trouble after another since they first met. They hadn't had many truly peaceful and carefree days. Now, thanks to their daughter's blessing, they finally reunited after a long separation and can enjoy real peace. They could relax their minds and engage in activities they love.

The next day, when Gu Ling and Su Liang got up, the three children were already playing downstairs.

"Mom!" Gu Xiaonuan saw Su Liang and conjured a blanket, lifting her little chin with sparkling eyes, as if presenting a treasure.

Su Liang gave her a thumbs up, "So impressive. Give me back my blanket."

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu both laughed. Zhengzheng taught Gu Xiaonuan how to retrieve the blanket, and Gu Xiaonuan quickly succeeded. She had completely mastered the use of space manipulation.

Soon everyone in the family saw Gu Xiaonuan's "superpower" and praised her with astonishment. Gu Xiaonuan found that everyone enjoyed watching her "magic," so she showed off even more and took Cen Man, Lao Bai, and Weng Ming into the space to look around before releasing them back.

Gu Ling and Su Liang also planned to take a look inside the space, but they decided to first finish handling their current tasks. By now, they had a general impression of the space from what those who had entered told them.

Yan Shiba was hanging on Weng Ran's arm, resting her head on Weng Ran's shoulder like a boneless person, "I'm so tired, I haven't recovered yet."

The next moment, when she heard Gu Xiaonuan call her "Auntie Yan," Yan Shiba instantly revived and rushed over with a smile on her face. She kissed Gu Xiaonuan affectionately, and spoke gently, "Nuannuan, do you want to go out and play? Shall we go horse riding?"

Weng Ran asked when Cheng Yun and the others would be back, and Gu Ling estimated it would be in the next two or three days.

After a while, Yan Shiba suddenly approached Weng Ran again, whispering mysteriously, "Little Ranran, be honest, have you taken a fancy to Little Yun?"

Weng Ran immediately shook her head, "No, we're just friends. I'm just asking casually, don't overthink it."

"Really?" Yan Shiba expressed doubt.

Weng Ran nodded, "Really."

"What a pity." Yan Shiba sighed, "There's no chance for Little Yun and me. I've already come to terms with it since we're not compatible. I need someone who's handsome and likes excitement; otherwise, it's so boring! But Little Yun is so beautiful, we can't let outsiders benefit from him, I was thinking of matchmaking the two of you!"

Weng Ran held her forehead, "No need. You should worry about yourself."

"That's not acceptable, I'm your elder sister! I'll definitely keep an eye on your lifelong matters! While Cheng Yun is not back, think more about his cuteness." Yan Shiba was determined not to give up so easily. To be honest, her interest in Cheng Yun before was not only for his good looks, but also related to the fact that he was a monk. Although she claimed to want Cheng Yun to leave monkhood and be with her, what really attracted her was his pure and untainted demeanor as a monk – the opposite of her life. Plus, an assassin pursuing a monk was so thrilling!

Now that she was back home and thinking about Cheng Yun, Yan Shiba no longer found the male-to-female relationship aspect interesting.

Weng Ran smiled, "Yan sister, you're becoming more and more adorable."

Yan Shiba blinked, "We can live together as well."

There was a cough from the side, and Weng Ming cleared his throat, "You're both still young, there's no hurry for your lifelong matters. Take your time." He seemed worried that Yan Shiba would lead Weng Ran astray.

However, Yan Shiba had just been joking, so she laughed it off.

In the evening, Qiao Cong and Qiao Jing escorted Mother Peng Wu and her four children to an inn for a stay.

After dinner, seeing the lively atmosphere outside, Qiao Jing took the twins for a walk.

“Uncle Jing, will we reach the capital city tomorrow?” Ale asked.

Qiao Jing nodded, “If we’re fast, we should arrive before it gets dark.”

“How much longer till we reach Grandpa’s house?” Axin asked.

Qiao Jing thought for a moment and said, “Probably another month.” Yao City was too far away, and since the children were young, they couldn’t travel day and night, so the pace was slow.

“That’s so long. Mother must want to get home sooner.” Axin sighed softly.

Qiao Jing held one child in each hand, walking from one end of the street to the other. The children weren’t as curious as when they first arrived at Jiaye City, but they still enjoyed playing outside and even ate sweet fermented rice balls at a street stall.

Suddenly, they heard the sound of horseshoes from the direction of the city gate. Qiao Jing looked over and saw a group of horses coming their way.

Qiao Jing led the children to the side of the road. In the dim light, illuminated by the lanterns, he saw the people coming towards them.

As the leader approached, Qiao Jing saw his face, hesitated, then his expression changed to joy as he shouted, “Peng Fan!”

Ale’s eyes brightened, “Brother, it’s Uncle! Uncle is here!” They had heard Peng Wu mention the name Peng Fan several times in the past few days.

Peng Fan also saw Qiao Jing and spurred his horse to come closer. He dismounted and walked quickly towards Qiao Jing. “Is my sister alright?” he asked as soon as he approached.

Qiao Jing nodded, “Your sister is fine. She’s resting at the inn.”

Only then did Peng Fan notice the two children held by Qiao Jing, his expression momentarily taken aback, “So these are...”

“Uncle, I’m Axin!” Axin said seriously with his little face.

Ale rushed over and hugged Peng Fan’s leg, “Uncle!”

Peng Fan’s nose tingled for a moment, and he bent down to hug the two children. Holding one child in each hand, he picked them up and strode towards the carriage that had just stopped.

The Peng family didn’t arrive quickly because Madame Peng insisted on coming to pick up her daughter personally. At this time, Peng Wei, Peng Qian, and Madame Peng were sitting in the carriage. When they heard the noises outside and pulled the curtain aside, two children were shoved into the carriage.

“Grandfather, Father, Mother, these are my sister’s children.” Peng Fan’s voice was filled with an excitement he could not hide.

After a while, the procession moved forward again, with Qiao Jing leading the way to the inn. Soft cries and children’s voices came from inside the carriage.

At the inn, Peng Wu had just bathed Xiaoyue and put her to sleep before packing up her belongings.

Footsteps stopped outside the door, and Peng Wu, guessing that it was her son returning, put down the clothes in her hand and went to open the door.

As the door opened, Peng Wu was stunned and immediately embraced by Madame Peng, “My child...”

Qiao Jing entered Qiao Cong’s room and saw that he had already packed up. The Peng family was next door, sharing their heartfelt thoughts, so for the grandfather and grandson, it seemed inappropriate to disturb them.

“The Peng family girl has been picked up, so let’s just go now!” Qiao Cong got up, “We can be home before dawn!”

Qiao Jing nodded, “Alright. I’ll let Peng Fan know.”

Peng Fan escorted them to the outside of the inn.

“Do you know where the people who hurt my sister went?” Peng Fan couldn’t help but ask as he hated not being able to catch those villains immediately and tear them to pieces!

Qiao Jing shook his head, “There wasn’t time to deal with those people at the time, so we let them go. However, Gu Ling has already arranged for Sheng Yue to clear the remnants of Xingluo Island, and they will definitely not let them go. The ringleader is Mo Yan, and you should have the opportunity to stab him.”

Peng Fan took a deep breath, “Thank you!”

As dawn approached, Qiao Cong and Qiao Jing returned to the capital city.

Entering the house, Qiao Cong did not sleep but instead brought hot water to take a bath, changed into fresh clothes, and headed straight for Yuanming Pavilion.

Gu Ling and Su Liang hadn’t slept with their children these past two days, so they hadn’t gotten up yet. Qiao Cong quietly entered Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu’s room, gently closed the door, and went to the bedside. Watching the three children sleeping sweetly side by side, his eyes filled with tender love, he sighed a long breath of relief.

Gu Xiaonuan woke up first and didn’t open her eyes. Her little hand suddenly smacked Ji Xiaoshu awake.

Ji Xiaoshu, already used to this, rubbed his eyes, sat up, and patted Zhengzheng, “Big brother, it’s time to get up!”

Upon sitting up, Zhengzheng saw Qiao Cong squatting by the bedside with a smile, startled for a moment before becoming happy, “Master is back!”

Qiao Cong hugged Zhengzheng, and Ji Xiaoshu enthusiastically pounced as well.

After Qiao Cong had greeted his two disciples, Gu Xiaonuan sat up on her own and curiously looked at him.

“Nuannuan, do you still remember me?” Qiao Cong smiled and reached out his hand.

Gu Xiaonuan nodded her little head, "Master!" As she spoke, she crawled over and pounced into Qiao Cong's embrace, giving him a kiss.

Qiao Cong was overjoyed, "I knew Nuannuan wouldn't forget her master!"

After a while, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu had both dressed, and Qiao Cong suddenly remembered to ask them, "What about the magic treasure? How is that going?"

Ji Xiaoshu sighed, "Mother has no way of making the magic treasure acknowledge a master either."

Qiao Cong frowned at once, only to hear Ji Xiaoshu's tone lift, "But little sister is already the master of that spatial magic treasure! Little sister, quickly perform some magic tricks for Master!"

In the next instant, Qiao Cong disappeared from where he stood, not even having time to react before he returned.

Qiao Cong was stunned for a moment before bursting into laughter. He threw Gu Xiaonuan high into the air, "Heaven's eyes are open, and the treasure has found its rightful owner!"

Chapter 490: 490. Watch a good show tomorrow

Qi Yan, who accompanied the Peng family to fetch Peng Wu, did not return to the capital city with Qiao Cong and Qiao Jing after the reunion of the Peng family. Instead, he continued southward to pick up old Mu and Cheng Yun and their party.

The Peng family stayed at an inn for the night, and started their journey back to the capital city at dawn. They were caught up on the way by old Mu and Cheng Yun. Qi Yan successfully reunited with them, and Mo Yan was still alive, though he was unconscious most of the time.

The cook and the mute old couple from Xingluo Island were sent back to their original home by Feng Ming after they landed. Their home was in the southeast, not on the way to the capital city, so as not to delay sending Mo Yan to the capital. By this time, Feng Ming should have reached their destination with them.

After the greetings were exchanged, Peng Wei specifically looked at Mo Yan, with fury burning in his eyes, as if he wanted to tear him to pieces.

However, at this time, the Peng family, as well as Qi Yan, did not know that the magic treasure had already recognized Gu Xiaonuan as its master. This had not yet happened when they left the capital city. Therefore, old Mu and Cheng Yun naturally did not know either. They only learned from Qi Yan that Su Liang had not been successful in getting the magic treasure to recognize a master. They were somewhat frustrated, thinking that they would have to rely on Mo Yan to release the people trapped in the space.

For this reason, even though everyone in the Peng family wanted to stab Mo Yan more than once, they could not do so for the time being.

To avoid annoying the Peng family, the party led by old Mu bid them farewell and headed to the capital city first.

After old Mu's party had departed, Peng Wu lowered the curtain of the carriage.

Axin asked a question, "Will the big bad guy named Mo receive his retribution?" On their way back, under the guidance of Qiao Cong and Qiao Jing, they had come to have the correct perception of the Xingluo Island. They realized that the island master they used to know, as well as their deceased grandfather, father, and uncles, were all bad guys, and they were nothing but their enemies.

Both children looked at Peng Wu, who nodded affirmatively, "Of course, he will. He has committed too many evils and he will definitely receive his retribution." She believed that Su Liang and Gu Ling would find a way to solve the problem, and this would not give Mo Yan any chance to turn things around.

Lady Peng cried too much last night and her eyes were still swollen. She held Xiaoyue in her arms and looked affectionately at her two little grandsons. Axin and Ale closely resembled their Peng family, reminding Lady Peng of her own children's childhood. Xiaoyue was also very obedient, greatly fulfilling Peng Wei's wish to have a great-granddaughter.

Old Mu's party moved quickly and arrived back in the capital city in the afternoon.

Upon seeing Zhu Zan at the gate, Qi Yan immediately asked, "What about the magic treasure? Has there been any progress?"

Zhu Zan nodded, "It has been solved."

Qi Yan looked delighted, "Did the master succeed?"

Zhu Zan teased him with a smile, "Not the master, you'll find out soon enough."

The first one to enter was old Mu, who had dashed off to Yuanming Pavilion to hold Gu Xiaonuan as soon as they arrived. Cheng Yun, trailing behind, was pulling the bound Mo Yan off the horse.

Even though Cheng Yun was strong, he still dropped Mo Yan solidly on the ground.

Mo Yan was now awake, his hands and feet bound by ropes. Upon landing, his eyes narrowed as he recognized Zhu Zan.

After exchanging a few words with Qi Yan, Zhu Zan noticed Mo Yan and came over to help Cheng Yun, "Young Master Yun, you should go home. Leave him to us."

Cheng Yun nodded, "Alright. I'll go in first, and you guys can throw him into the dungeon."

After these words, Cheng Yun was gone. Qi Yan was leading his horse inside, with Zhu Zan dragging Mo Yan, pulling him off the ground and through the main entrance. Then Zhu Zan and Qi Yan carried him towards the dungeon together.

The two did not continue their previous conversation, leaving the decision of when to tell Mo Yan the "bad news" to Gu Ling and Su Liang.

"Little Zhu, I recognize you," Mo Yan of course wouldn't pass up the opportunity to talk to Zhu Zan. "You've been in my space, you know how powerful that treasure is. Gu Ling got to the house first, but the fact that I'm still alive at this point means that my granddaughter Su Liang also couldn't take my treasure! It's even less possible for anyone else! That is a gift from heaven itself, and it won't change hands easily! Inside

it are people that Su Liang and Gu Ling care about. They're sure to return the treasure to me next, and then, it's my turn to rise."

Mo Yan had originally thought that Su Liang had been sealed in his space, but on the way, he found out that that was fake, and the real Su Liang had always been at home. The one who went to Starfall Island was Yan Shiba. He almost vomited up blood from anger at the time.

But, for Mo Yan, that didn't make much difference. He believed Su Liang and Gu Ling would plead with him to release the people again, and he had no vulnerabilities.

Upon hearing Mo Yan's words, Zhu Zan frowned, "Dream on! Instead of fantasizing about turning the tables, you should think about how you're going to die without a proper burial!"

Mo Yan sneered, "I give you a chance, and you don't seize it. Don't blame me for being heartless later. You'll see, before long, your so-called victory will turn into a pipe dream. Some things are predestined by heaven. Your attempts to change that are nothing but delusions of madness."

Qi Yan kicked Mo Yan in the chest, "Keep dreaming about your comeback! Let's go!" He walked away with Zhu Zan.

Once outside the dungeon, Qi Yan sighed, "That old jerk is terrible, I really want to kill him!"

The two were walking to Yuanming Pavilion, Qi Yan asked, "If not for the master, then is it... the little master?"

Zhu Zan laughed, refusing to reply.

Qi Yan knew he had guessed correctly, and couldn't help but praise, "The little master is really powerful! It seems I might get a chance to see that magical treasure space!"

Zhu Zan nodded and asked why Feng Ming hadn't returned with them, "Did he have another task?"

"He's following behind us." Qi Yan explained to Zhu Zan what Feng Ming was going to do.

Zhu Zan sighed, "The Prince is truly benevolent. When Feng Ming returns, I must treat him to a good drink. If it wasn't for him leading me to make the correct choice, I'd probably be dead, not living well like this." With plenty of matters to handle at home, Zhu Zan didn't feel exhausted, only fulfilled and joyful.

Old Mu had already picked up Gu Xiaonuan and not far were his two young disciples, he couldn't help but laugh.

Old Bai, with Qiao Cong and Cen Man, were sitting by, as Old Mu couldn't help but ask Cen Man, "So, the matter with the magic treasure, it still can't be done?"

Except for Old Mu, the rest of Su Liang's masters all laughed without speaking.

The next second, Ji Xiaoshu gestured to Gu Xiaonuan, and Old Mu disappeared.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu high-fived. They really loved this game! Gu Xiaonuan not only completely controlled the use of space but also remembered the "magic trick" movements. The three siblings really were in perfect sync.

A moment later, Gu Xiaonuan cheerfully waved her little hand, "Master, come out quickly!"

Old Mu returned to the first floor of Yuanming Pavilion, falling sideways and stood steadied by Old Bai.

He looked blank, “Who was it? Who did it?” Because he didn’t hear Gu Xiaonuan speak, he still didn’t know who was controlling his adventure.

Ji Xiaoshu raised his hand, his tone triumphant, “Of course it was me!”

Zhengzheng also raised his hand, smiling, “Master guess, is it me or Xiaoshu?”

Old Mu looked at the three children who were grinning at him. His eyes sparkled, and he rushed forward to hug Gu Xiaonuan, “Of course it was Nuannuan! Hahaha! Heaven has eyes!”

Neither Gu Ling nor Su Liang were at home at the moment. They had gone into the palace. Duanmu Chen had already sent Chang’an to invite Gu Ling twice because he had learned that Gu Ling was back.

The Imperial Palace.

Duanmu Chen said that he wanted to have a few drinks with Gu Ling and Su Liang to celebrate the complete destruction of Xingluo Island. He had originally planned to visit the Su Mansion, but there were more and more people there, most of whom he was not familiar with, so it wasn’t as convenient as before.

Gu Ling and Su Liang were in a good mood, so they didn’t refuse when Duanmu Chen invited them to have dinner in the palace.

It was already summer, and the nights were not cold either. The imperial meal was set up in a pavilion in the Imperial Garden. The surroundings were beautifully architected with artificial mountains and flowing waters. The scenery was exceptionally beautiful.

Afternoon, Su Liang went to see Duanmu Zhen before entering the palace. Under her care, this little girl, who was weak at birth, was now quite healthy and was being pampered by the Empress Dowager. She was fair and adorable, speaking in a soft voice, and would laugh when she saw Su Liang and cry when Su Liang was about to leave.

Xing Yuyan’s son, who Duanmu Chen fathered, was much tougher. He had a good physique and was brave; Duanmu Chen was very satisfied. After he became the emperor, instead of having more women around him, he had fewer than before. Last month he had another son, and now he’s learned that the problem on Xingluo Island has been completely resolved, he was incredibly relieved.

The dishes were served, Duanmu Chen raised his cup with a smile, “This cup is to you both. You are my lucky stars and my best friends in this life. Thank you for everything you have done or not done for me.”

Su Liang raised her cup and clinked it with Duanmu Chen’s, “Here’s to a good collaboration.”

After a drink, Duanmu Chen said with a sigh, “I still remember the scenes when we first met in Bei’an County. In the blink of an eye, I became the only emperor in the world, and we have all become parents. Time really flies!”

After his sigh, Duanmu Chen found that Gu Ling had already started to eat, and he couldn’t help but laugh, “I also want to toast to Nuannuan.”

“Let’s talk about it when she can drink.” Su Liang shook her head.

Duanmu Chen wasn’t hungry and wasn’t interested in the food either. He didn’t care about the rule of not speaking during a meal and asked Gu Ling and Su Liang if they had been into that space before, “I am really curious about what it’s like?”

Su Liang shook her head, “Not yet. If his Majesty wants to experience it, just find Gu Xiaonuan.”

“What if Nuannuan locks me in and then ignores me while she plays?” Duanmu Chen asked with a smile.

Gu Ling nodded, “It’s possible.”

Unable to suppress her amusement, Su Liang added, “That won’t happen. Nuannuan is very adept at controlling the space now. If his Majesty is worried, you can bring some food and a quilt. Yan Shiba said the quilts inside are thin, and the bed is hard.”

Duanmu Chen cleared his throat, “Perhaps it’s best to wait until Nuannuan is a little older, there’s no rush. Actually, I’m not worried about Nuannuan, I’m worried about Gu Ling purposely teasing me.”

Once Gu Ling had finished eating, Duanmu Chen asked, “You guys are not going to leave suddenly without saying a word, are you?”

Gu Ling returned his question with another, “Do we need to inform his Majesty before leaving the capital?”

Duanmu Chen shook his head, “That’s not what I meant. We are friends, you guys can go wherever you want, just let me know at least. So that I know where to find you if I need to.”

Su Liang chuckled, “Let’s see in a few days. We’ve just solved the problem and need to rest. We’ll consider traveling after cleaning up the remnants. We will definitely take the children back to Su’s village this year. It’s time for me to see my old friends in the village.”

Duanmu Chen held his forehead, “I knew you guys would miss Su’s village. That place really is extraordinary and it’s also where you two met. If there’s a chance, I would like to go back and take a look again. It’s a pity that Zhenzhen and the others are still too young, otherwise I would be relieved to let you guys bring them along, to gain worldly experience.”

“There will be opportunities in the future.” Su Liang smiled.

“I’ll take that as a yes.” Duanmu Chen said hastily. Seeing how Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu have seemingly become Gu Ling and Su Liang’s children, Duanmu Chen was envious and regretted not having children earlier. His children are still too young, otherwise it would be beneficial to learn from Gu Ling and Su Liang.

When Gu Ling and Su Liang left the palace, they also brought a basket of rare fruits that were tribute from other places. Duanmu Chen said those were for his beloved goddaughter, Nuannuan.

By the time they returned home, it was already very late.

The children were all asleep. Old Mu and Cheng Yun were still sitting in the Yuanming Pavilion waiting for Gu Ling and Su Liang.

“Master, Cheng Yun.” It’s no surprise for Su Liang to see them both as she entered. They should be back according to the time.

Old Mu reported that everything went smoothly on the road, and Feng Ming escorted the cook couple home to settle them in. Then asked Gu Ling, “We can’t ignore the mobsters who ran from Xingluo Island, each of them is highly skilled in martial arts with nefarious intentions, they will become a problem sooner or later.”

Cheng Yun agreed, “We must find these villains and eliminate the remnants. Speaking of which, what happened to Sheng Yue? Have you killed him yet?”

Su Liang shook her head, “No, Gu Ling has let Sheng Yue handle the remnants of Xingluo Island.” Although Old Mu and the others also left Xingluo Island on the same day, Gu Ling hadn’t mentioned his plans for Sheng Yue yet.

Old Mu and Cheng Yun were both stunned.

Cheng Yun expressed his doubt about Sheng Yue’s character, “Wouldn’t he have run away?”

Old Mu also didn’t fully trust him, “He’s not reliable. I’d rather take action with Old Bai and Old Qiao, we old brothers can handle this!”

“Master has worked hard for so long and just got back. You should rest well. As for this matter, we have arranged for others to investigate it, and there will be news soon. The first step is finding these people, and then we’ll know if Sheng Yue is really doing what Gu Ling told him to. If Sheng Yue really did take action, he would be the most suitable person; he knows and understands the people of Xingluo Island.” Su Liang said.

Old Mu nodded several times, “If that’s the plan, then it’s all good. As a master, I don’t have to worry about it now. I do need to rest.”

Cheng Yun smiles, “We all went to see the space today, Nuannuan is really smart.”

When Old Mu and Cheng Yun were about to go back to rest, they remembered Mo Yan.

“How will he be dealt with?” Old Mu asked, “He is still boasting that you guys will beg him soon, it’s hilarious! We have not told him the ‘good news’ yet, we’ll wait for you guys to decide. While on the way today, we bumped into the Peng family, and they all wished they could tear Mo Yan apart!”

At this moment, Qi Yan came in with Peng Fan.

The Peng family left late, and they didn’t get back to the capital until the night. As soon as he got home, he came to inform Su Liang.

“I know, you go back quickly.” Su Liang said.

Peng Fan saluted and thanked Gu Ling and Su Liang once again, “It’s late already, I will accompany my sister to come and thank you properly another day.”

“No need to be so formal.” Su Liang smiles, “As long as everyone is safe, tell your mother to relax and cry less, and smile more.”

Peng Fan nodded firmly, “Yes!” Upon finishing speaking, he took his leave.

“Master, Cheng Yun, both of you have been working hard on the road, quickly go and sleep. As for Mo Yan, we will discuss it tomorrow.” Su Liang said with a smile, “We are tired, too, so we won’t go see him. Let him have more wonderful dreams in the dungeon, and tomorrow he will see with his own eyes how Gu Xiaonuan can resurrect the dead. We will prepare delicious food and sweets, and while eating the reunion feast, we will watch the good play.”

Upon hearing Su Liang’s words, Old Mu laughed out, “Very well, I am truly looking forward to it!”