

I Just Won't Play By The Book

Chapter 71 When Did the Sect Have So Many Go Lovers! ?

After taking care of the flowers and feeding the little cuties some food, Jiang Beiran had just returned to the Purple Bamboo Garden when he saw Wu Qingce had already arrived.

“Are you ready?” Jiang Beiran put down the two pots in his hands and asked. “Yes.” Wu Qingce nodded solemnly. “Then follow me.”

Jiang Beiran took Wu Qingce into the storage ring and took out two dark red crystal tusks and placed them in the center of the room.

As the items to support the formations, the crystal tusks of the Flame Sealing Beast had abundant spiritual energy, which could continuously produce the mystic energy needed for the formation.

Then, he put on the golden red paper, crimson cloud crystal, flame lion skin, and other talismans. Then, the spirit-gathering formation took shape.

“Come in.” Jiang Beiran shouted at Wu Qingce who was outside the door.

“Yes.” Wu Qingce cupped his hands respectfully towards Jiang Beiran and slowly walked into the formation room. He knew that these talismans were all very valuable, and his senior brother had arranged them so skillfully. It seemed that Jiang Beiran had long been prepared for his breakthrough.

“I was born to be Brother Jiang’s junior, and I will die...”

“What are you thinking about? Hurry up and sit down.” Seeing Wu Qingce standing there in a daze, Jiang Beiran pulled him over.

After Wu Qingce sat cross-legged in the center of the formation, Jiang Beiran sensed the distribution of the surrounding spiritual essence and said, “Circulate your energy.”

Upon hearing the order, Wu Qingce immediately closed his eyes and began to use the Rhymed Formula of Returning Hearts.

After waiting for a moment, the distribution of the spiritual essence had changed. Jiang Beiran took out five low tier earth spiritual stones from his storage ring and buried them in the five “spiritual springs” of the spirit-gathering formation. At the same time, he arranged the three yellow earth formation flags in a three-flower-shaped formation.

“The formation has been set up. The rest is up to you.”

“Thank you, Brother Jiang.”

After thanking Wu Qingce, he opened his eyes and saw that his senior brother had already closed the door and left.

“I must not let Brother Jiang down with his meticulous preparations. I must succeed in breaking through this time!”

Having made up his mind, Wu Qingce closed his eyes and used the Rhymed Formula of Returning Hearts with all his might once again.

Although Jiang Beiran had not slept for the whole night, he did not feel very sleepy. Therefore, after tidying up the pill room a little, he returned to the Order of Blue Heart, which he had not been back for some time.

“Where... is this?”

Looking at the Order of Blue Heart, which was crowded with people and filled with loud noises, Jiang Beiran was dumbfounded. The entire Huiyan Peak was so crowded that it reminded Jiang Beiran of the Great Wall he had climbed on national day. He could not move, nor could he retreat.

After crossing the Huiyan Peak, which was filled with disciples from other orders, Jiang Beiran finally found a junior brother of his own order. He quickly pulled him over.

“Greetings, Brother Jiang.”

When he found out that it was Jiang Beiran who pulled him over, Liu Yuezhang bowed and greeted him.

“Why are there so many people on Huiyan Peak today?”

“These people are all here to spar with the Order of Blue Heart.”

“What the f*ck...” Jiang Beiran almost swore it out loud. He calmed down for a moment and smiled. “I’ve been in the Order of Blue Heart for five years, but I didn’t know that the Sect of Returning Hearts had so many Go lovers.” Liu Yuezhang also smiled and replied, “Ever since the Order of Blue Heart and the Order of Water Mirror collaborated, the number of disciples who like to play Go has suddenly increased.”

“Okay, I got it. You can go.”

After Liu Yuezhang left, Jiang Beiran couldn’t help but shake his head and sigh.

He could almost imagine why this situation would happen. First, playing Go was much easier to learn than musical instruments. After all, no matter how high one’s level was, as long as one knew the rules of Go, they could say that they knew how to play it. Thus, they had a reason to come to the Order of Blue Heart.

However, if they went to the Order of Water Mirror, it would be very awkward if they did not understand music theory or musical instruments.

Secondly, the Order of Water Mirror had its own rules. There was a limit to the number of visits by male disciples, so it would not develop into such an exaggerated situation.

“Sigh, don’t these people need to practice? The higher-ups in the Order of Water Mirror also don’t care...”

Just as Jiang Beiran finished thinking, he saw a blue flag from the Order of Ink and Language pass by him.

“Sigh, the leaders set a bad example and their followers follow suit blindly. This Sect of Returning Hearts is going to be doomed.”

After cursing in his heart, Jiang Beiran returned to the dormitory area. Compared to the crowded outside, this place was much more deserted. Or rather, it was the only place that had not changed at all.

After returning to his own hut, Jiang Beiran opened the door and saw two pieces of paper on the floor.

Bending down to pick it up, Jiang Beiran first looked at the first letter.

[Gentle wing blow away the heat, luxuriant willow connect the shade]

Seeing the beginning of the letter, Jiang Beiran knew that Lin Yuyan must have stuffed it in. Using seasonal greetings at the beginning was her usual style.

The content at the end was basically thanks, praising how exquisite the weaving of the straw hat was. Then, she wrote some appreciation in a very formal fashion to him in letter. Jiang Beiran was not used to such formal words.

When he finished reading the last sentence, Jiang Beiran opened the lid of the water tank beside him and took out a sewing book.

Since she chose the Order of Ink and Language when she joined the sect, Lin Yuyan naturally yearned for literature, so she would often give her articles and essays to Jiang Beiran for evaluation.

However, from Jiang Beiran's point of view, she was simply sending her diary to him to read every once in a while.

After putting away the sewing book, Jiang Beiran looked at the second piece of paper. This piece of paper was not as elegant as Lin Yuyan's.

[I failed to find you, so I left this note.]

It was signed by Lu Bogui.

Jiang Beiran knew that Brother Lu would not come looking for him for no reason, so after putting away the note, he closed the door and went to Order of Flying Feather.

He came to the door of Brother Lu's house and knocked twice.

"Who is it?" Lu Bogui's voice came from inside the house.

"It's me, Beiran."

“Oh, Beiran.”

As soon as he finished, he heard footsteps.

With a click, the door was opened.

“Greetings, Brother Lu.” Jiang Beiran bowed and greeted.

“Come in and have a seat.”

After pouring a cup of hot tea and placing it beside Jiang Beiran, Lu Bogui asked, “Did you see the note?”

“Yes, I’ve been at the Order of Water Mirror for the past few days, so I was not around.”

“Oh, I heard about the cooperation between the two of you. I also realized that the Order of Blue Heart is indeed much livelier than usual.”

Jiang Beiran laughed bitterly and asked, “May I know why you’re looking for me this time...?”

“It’s a little hard to say. I almost finished the Pill of Lingering Fragrance you gave me last time, but I couldn’t find a substitute for it. So, I have to trouble you again.” “It’s not a problem at all.” Jiang Beiran took out two bottles from the storage ring and put them on the table. “Keep these two bottles for now. I’ll go back and get some more later.”

“It’s enough, it’s enough.” Lu Bogui took out a book from his storage ring and pushed it in front of Jiang Beiran. “I won’t take your pills for free. This is an internal cultivation method book that I found by accident. Take it back and read it, see if you can gain some insights.”

Chapter 72 Order Master Shi Is Different Today

Looking at the book of internal cultivation method on the table in front of him, how could Jiang Beiran not understand it.

He wondered why his senior brother would suddenly ask him for the pills. It turned out that his purpose was to have a legitimate reason to give the internal cultivation method to him.

Jiang Beiran didn't reveal his strength to his senior brother. In Lu Bogui's eyes, Jiang Beiran was still the weak junior brother who had entered the sect five years ago and was only at level five of the Qi cultivating stage.

Therefore, as the senior brother who had brought Jiang Beiran into the sect, he had to do something. Jiang Beiran did not reject Lu Bogui's good intentions. He directly accepted the internal cultivation method book and bowed. "Thank you, senior brother."

"What are you thanking me for? It's an equivalent exchange." Lu Bogui finished speaking and drank a mouthful of hot tea. "In addition, I will be in closed-door cultivation for a while. If there's anything, you can go and look for Brother Qu."

Jiang Beiran, who had just picked up the teacup, immediately asked, "Brother Lu, are you going to break through?"

"Not really. I just have a new understanding of the moves and want to focus on practicing them for a while."

"Then I wish you a successful comprehension."

If it was a breakthrough in cultivation, Jiang Beiran could still think of ways to help, but there was nothing he could help with in terms of moves. This was basically something that could only be learned by Lu Bogui himself.

After the two of them chatted for a while more, Jiang Beiran stood up and took his leave.

"Brother Lu should not be far from breaking through after this closed-door training. It's better to make preparations as soon as possible."

Jiang Beiran remembered that he still needed the phoenix flower for the materials, Jiang Beiran decided not to return to the Order of Blue Heart that had changed greatly. He walked straight to the Order of Water Mirror.

"Order Master, someone is visiting."

In the Tinglan Waterside Pavilion, Shi Fenglan, who was bored out of her mind, immediately pricked up her ears and asked, "Is Little Beiran here?"

"No... It's the law protector of Sect of Chaos Star, Tan Yinghao."

Shi Fenglan pouted and replied, "Just tell him that I'm not here."

"But Law Protector Yu said that if the higher-ups of the Order of Blue Heart come to visit, even if it's just a formality, it's best to..."

"Alright, alright, I got it. Tell him to wait for me in the main hall."

"Yes." Xiao Duo replied happily and left.

When they arrived at the main door, Xiao Duo bowed to Tan Yinghao and said, "Law Protector Tan, please follow me into the main hall first. Order Master will come later."

"Thank you."

Tan Yinghao nodded and followed Xiao Duo into the main hall.

"Oh? Are these flowers much more beautiful than the last time I came?"

Tan Yinghao asked in surprise as soon as he stepped into the main hall.

"Well, I've read some books about flowers recently. I know how to take care of these flowers better than before."

"Then you're really talented. These are all strange flowers. They're very difficult to take care of."

"Well, I'll try my best to take care of them."

While Tan Yinghao was admiring the flowers and chatting with Xiao Duo, a voice suddenly sounded.

"Law Protector Tan, what business do you have with me today?"

Hearing Shi Fenglan's voice, Tan Yinghao turned around and was about to bow, but he found that Shi Fenglan was a little different from before.

Shi Fenglan was still incredibly beautiful. She was walking on silk, her hair was shining like tortoiseshell, and her waist was smooth like silk. Her pair of peach blossom eyes were still as charming as usual, but...

"Why aren't you wearing your loose-fitting, deep-cut clothes today?" "Order Master Tan?"

Hearing Xiao Duo's reminder, Tan Yinghao knew that he had been rude. He quickly bowed and said, "Today, I'm here on my Order Master's order to discuss some important matters with Order Master Shi."

"Could it be... Order Master Li is looking for a cooperation with my Order of Water Mirror?"

"Uh..." Tan Yinghao was stuck for a moment, but he quickly nodded and said, "I am indeed here for this matter."

"Then I'm afraid that Law Protector Tan has come all this way for nothing. For the time being, our Order of Water Mirror has no intention of cooperating with the other orders."

"Please, Order Master Shi, you can consider our conditions first."

"There's no need to. I've already heard many of the conditions. I really have no intention of cooperating with other orders now, so please don't waste your time, Law Protector Tan."

Hearing Shi Fenglan's refusal, Tan Yinghao had no choice but to give up. He chatted with her for a while more before leaving.

When Xiao Duo returned from sending off the guests, she saw that Shi Fenglan, who had been trying to persuade Tan Yinghao to leave, was now lying on the table in boredom. She could not help but chuckle, "If Law Protector Yu saw your imposing manner just now, she would definitely praise you."

"Sigh... I'm too tired. Why isn't Little Bei here today? I want to eat fish... Oh, no, I want to play games!"

"Didn't Brother Beiran say yesterday that there was..."

Xiao Duo was halfway through her sentence when she heard a series of knocks on the door.

"I'll go open the door."

"Sigh... go... go..." Shi Fenglan replied weakly. She was fatigue of the higher-ups of the other orders that kept coming here to ask for a cooperation. However, just as she was about to stand up again to restore the imposing

manner of an Order Master, she suddenly heard a voice that she had been looking forward to for a long time.

At the door, Jiang Beiran had just finished greeting Xiao Duo when he saw a fiery red figure rush out.

“Little Beiran ~”

Jiang Beiran hurriedly dodged to the side and then bowed to Shi Fenglan who had rushed over. “Greetings, Order Master.”

Shi Fenglan, who did not pounce on Jiang Beiran, pouted and said, “Why didn’t you come and play with me yesterday?”

“Order Master, I told Xiao Duo that I had something to do yesterday, so...”

“I don’t care! You told Xiao Duo, but you didn’t tell me! Today you have to play with me for half a day to make up for yesterday.”

“No problem, but I have to take care of the flowers first.”

“Play first! Let’s play first! Xiao Duo has already watered the flowers in the morning.”

“No, I have to finish my job first. This is what we agreed on.”

“Alright then, hurry up.”

Therefore, under Shi Fenglan’s expectant gaze, Jiang Beiran took care of the flowers in the courtyard, especially the bright red phoenix flower.

“Hmm... it looks like I can pollinate it soon. Sigh, these strange flowers are really precious, None of them can be cut and propagated. It’s really troublesome.”

Seeing Jiang Beiran stand up, Shi Fenglan, who had been following behind him for a long time, quickly asked, “Are you done? Are you done?” Jiang Beiran patted the mud on his hands and turned around. “Yes, I’m done. Also, I brought you a new way to play dice today.” “A new way to play dice!” Shi Fenglan’s eyes immediately lit up. “Teach me, teach me!”

Walking to the table, Jiang Beiran waved at Xiao Duo and said, “Come, Xiao Duo, it’s more fun with three people.”

“Me?” Xiao Duo pointed at herself and asked.

“Yes.”

As Jiang Beiran spoke, he took out a square cardboard from his storage ring. At the same time, he took out twelve figures of different shapes. Looking at the exquisite little figures, Shi Fenglan exclaimed, “Wow, did you carve these yourself, Beiran?”

“Yeah, I can give you a few if you like them.” “Really!? I want, I want!” Shi Fenglan grabbed a female warrior who was holding a chain. She looked at the colorful cardboard and asked Jiang Beiran, “What’s the name of this game?” “It’s called... Chivalrous Heroes.”

Chapter 73 If You Keep Talking, I'll Run Away

“Six! Six! Six! Six! Give me a six!!!”

Yu Manwen, who had just returned from her night patrol, heard an extremely excited voice coming from the main hall as soon as she entered the courtyard. The veins on her head popped up.

“No... this voice seems to be Xiao Duo’s? No wonder the gatekeeper was a different person today. This Jiang Beiran! I thought he was leading the Order Master in a good direction! Why did he bring Xiao Duo along to gamble!?”

Thinking that Xiao Duo had finally been led astray, the blue veins on Yu Manwen’s forehead instantly popped up into two.

Bang! The door was pushed open with a bang, and Yu Manwen walked in with a cold face.

Xiao Duo, who was about to roll the dice, immediately stood up and saluted, shouting, “Greetings, Law Protector Yu.”

“Xiao Duo! Why are you fooling around with them too?!”

Xiao Duo was about to answer when Jiang Beiran stood up first and said, “Why don’t Law Protector Yu join us too? We need one more player.”

“Jiang Beiran, your courage is really getting... Huh? What is this?” Looking at the square and colorful wooden board on the table and the twelve mini figures on it, Yu Manwen asked in puzzlement.

“This is called Chivalrous Heroes. It’s the folk gambling game in Fu An. Law Protector Yu, do you want to try it?”

Seeing Jiang Beiran explain while blinking his eyes, Yu Manwen immediately understood.

Actually, from a few days ago, Yu Manwen had discovered that the “bad habits” of Shi Fenglan had slowly changed. Shi Fenglan didn’t paint her arms with flower painting anymore. Also, it had been a long time since she last saw Shi Fenglan smoking a pipe. Moreover, she did not even wear clothes with open collars.

This made Yu Manwen very surprised. After all, she had tried so hard to persuade Shi Fenglan to get rid of these habits several times. However, to Shi Fenglan, these habits were like her lifestyle, her principle. Just like how they could ask her to play less but couldn’t completely stop her from gambling. They couldn’t cure the roots of her “bad habits”.

Recently, the only change that had happened around Order Master Shi was the appearance of Jiang Beiran. Therefore, even though Yu Manwen did not know what Jiang Beiran had done, she knew that Order Master Shi’s change was definitely because of him.

Now that she saw Jiang Beiran blink his eyes, Yu Manwen understood that this time, Jiang Beiran was going to help the Order Master “quit gambling”.

“Cough cough!”

After two light coughs, Yu Manwen roared, “No! No matter where the gambling method is, it’s still gambling! It’s not allowed!”

“Alright then.” Jiang Beiran shrugged and was about to pack up, she saw Shi Fenglan protect the board and said, “No, no! My hermit and iron beggar have already landed on Vigilante Island! Gust and the Chain Fairy have already fought side by side and are about to defeat me.”

Jiang Beiran could only spread his hands after hearing that, meaning that it was useless no matter how she complained.

Therefore, Shi Fenglan stood up and grabbed Yu Manwen’s arm and said, “Manwen! Just let me finish this round! Just one round!”

Taking a deep breath, Yu Manwen glanced at Shi Fenglan and said, “Just one round?”

“Yes, yes! Just one round! I promise!” Shi Fenglan raised her index, middle, and ring fingers and pointed to the sky.

“Okay, just this one.”

“Yay! I knew you were the best, Manwen!” Shi Fenglan sat back in her chair and shouted, “Come, come, Xiao Duo, hurry up and roll the dice. I will catch up with your Little Flying Hero soon, hehehe.”

Xiao Duo first glanced at Yu Manwen. When she saw Yu Manwen nod at her, she happily picked up the dice again and shouted, “If I get a six, my Little Flying Hero will get to the checkpoint and fly away. Give me a six, give me a six!”

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Yu Manwen turned her head and looked at the 12 lifelike little people on the board. She could not help but sigh at how good Jiang Beiran’s crating skill was.

An hour later.

With Shi Fenglan’s shout, “Give me four!” The dice rolled a few times on the table and finally stopped at the side of the four points.

“Hahahahaha! Four! It’s four! It’s finally here!”

With wild laughter, Shi Fenglan picked up her own Chain Fairy and Gust, and boarded Vigilante Island. “I won! Haha, I finally won!” Shi Fenglan shouted as she took out a piece of paper and stuck it on Jiang Beiran’s forehead.

Jiang Beiran nodded with a sad face and sighed, “I didn’t expect Order Master to be so talented in Chivalrous Heroes.”

“Hahaha! Of course! What am I not good at? I’m just go easy on you in the previous game.”

“Yes, you are really wise.”

“Come, come, let’s have another round!” Shi Fenglan had just finished speaking when she saw Yu Manwen looking at her with a kind gaze.

Immediately, the arrogant Shi Fenglan fawned on her, “I still want to play...”

“No!”

Hearing Yu Manwen’s firm tone, Jiang Beiran also stood up and said, “I’ll leave now. I haven’t done my work for today.”

However, Shi Fenglan grabbed Jiang Beiran and said, “No, you promised to play with me for a little longer today.”

“Order master, it’s almost past 11 pm.”

“Ah? It’s so late already?” Shi Fenglan asked in surprise.

“Yes, Law Protector Yu is back from his night patrol.”

“Okay, then you have to come early tomorrow.”

“I’ll try my best.” After saying that, Jiang Beiran put the Chivalrous Heroes back into his storage ring, leaving Shi Fenglan’s favorite Chain Fairy behind.

“Brother Jiang...” Xiao Duo suddenly said.

“Hmm?” Jiang Beiran looked at Xiao Duo. “If it’s possible... Can you put Little Flying Hero here as well, as a tempor...”

“Here, it’s yours.”

Jiang Beiran put Little Flying Hero on the table and cupped his hands to Shi Fenglan and Yu Manwen, “Then I’ll take my leave.”

Then, he turned around and left.

Not even two steps out of the Mirror Garden, Jiang Beiran heard Yu Manwen’s voice beside him.

“Thank you for your help.”

“You’re too kind, Law Protector Yu. I was just accompanying Order Master Shi to cause a ruckus.”

“Do you really think I can’t see through your ruckus?” Yu Manwen said with a smile, “Besides, do you really think that any random disciple can cause a ruckus with Order Master of Order of Water Mirror?”

“Then I really have to Law Protector Yu for giving me this opportunity.” “Then do you know why I agreed to let you stay by our Order Master’s side?”

Just as Jiang Beiran was about to speak, three options popped up.

[Option 1: Say your guess. Reward for completion: Linfeng Slash (black grade low tier)]

[Option 2: I’d like to hear the details. Reward for completion: Earth Order (yellow grade high tier)]

[Option 3: “I don’t want to know.” Reward for completion: Random basic attribute points + 1] After choosing option 3, Jiang Beiran immediately replied, “I don’t want to know.”

[Chosen quest completed. Reward: Physique +1]

Yu Manwen almost choked on air when she heard Jiang Beiran’s reply. She couldn’t help but glare at Jiang Beiran and said, “Why do you refuse to listen to me every time I want to talk about this?”

“Because it feels very dangerous. I don’t want to get involved.”

After a moment of silence, Yu Manwen sighed and said, “You are as honest as ever, but this is actually not a very dangerous topic.”

“Law Protector Yu, please don’t make things difficult for me.” Jiang Beiran cupped his hands and spoke.

Looking at Jiang Beiran’s firm attitude of refusing to listen to her, Yu Manwen could only sigh again. She knew if she kept talking, he would run away without looking back.

Chapter 74 Such a Big Commotion for a Birthday

Seeing that Yu Manwen had fallen silent, Jiang Beiran cupped his hands and said, “Then I’ll take my leave first.”

“Wait, there’s something else. Order Master Zhang wanted me to tell you that he wants you to go find him when you have time.”

“Alright, got it.”

“Mm, there’s nothing else. You can go back now.”

“I’ll take my leave.”

After saying that, Jiang Beiran walked towards the Order of Blue Heart.

On the way, Jiang Beiran could not help but recall the system notification. He could now confirm that Shi Fenglan already had a very troublesome background. If he were to get involved, more troubles would definitely come looking for him. However, the soul baby fruit was too tempting, which was why Jiang Beiran did not flee. Even if there was a risk, he would be prepared. Currently, Jiang Beiran’s analysis revealed that Shi Fenglan had a powerful force behind her. At the same time, there was a high probability that she had a powerful protector by her side.

With these guesses, he made a few attempts, including changing Shi Fenglan’s bad habits, which were similar to guiding a rebellious girl.

Since this series of actions didn’t trigger the system option, it meant that these interactions with Shi Fenglan would not cause trouble to him.

There was a reason why he did all these. He thought that this “runaway daughter” had a really strong father. Her father might be so strong that the sect master of the Sect of Returning Hearts had to tolerate with her attitude in order to not offend her father. So, Jiang Beiran could do a favor for Shi Fenglan’s father by helping her daughter to get rid of her bad habits.

This way, even if he could not have a new backer, even if he really knew something that he should not know in the future, he would not directly resort to violence, right?

Jiang Beiran imagined Shi Fenglan’s various “strange backgrounds” and slowly walked back to the Order of Blue Heart.

It was already midnight, and the Order of Blue Heart had finally returned to its usual peace and tranquility. It made Jiang Beiran felt more comfortable when walking on the gravel road.

All the way to Zixi Garden, Jiang Beiran noticed that there was still candlelight flickering in the room of Order Master, so he knew that he shouldn't be asleep yet.

Arriving at the gate of the courtyard, Jiang Beiran looked at Order Master Zhang, who was guarding the gate, and said, "Please inform Order Master that I, Jiang Beiran, would like to see him."

Moman was an existence at the lowest level of the sect. They were like a brick in the sect. They would do any task in the sect. Most of them were just ordinary person. The Moman, who was guarding the gate, had seen Jiang Beiran before. He cupped his hands in return and said, "Please wait for a moment, Senior Brother Jiang. I will inform Order Master right away."

After a short while, Moman ran back and bowed to Jiang Beiran, "Order Master will let you go in on your own."

"Thank you." Jiang Beiran cupped his hands to the Moman and walked into the courtyard. He stepped on three stone steps. Jiang Beiran was about to knock on the door when he heard Zhang Heqing's voice from inside.

"No need to knock. Just come in."

Therefore, Jiang Beiran retracted his right hand that was about to knock on the door. He pushed the door open and walked in. "Greetings, Order Master."

"Beiran, it's really not easy to see you now."

Jiang Beiran heard the reproach in Order Master's words. He stepped forward and bowed in response. "Order Master, since even you have misunderstood me, I can only tell the truth."

"The truth?" Zhang Heqing, who was sitting behind the old Tong Wood Square table, raised his eyes and asked.

"In order to promote the cooperation between the Order of Blue Heart and the Order of Water Mirror, I also agreed to Order Master Shi's condition, which is that I must help her take care of the flowers in her courtyard. That's why

I..."

“Hahaha.” Before Jiang Beiran could finish his words, Zhang Heqing stood up from behind the table and said, “Look at you, I was just teasing you. Why are you so serious? I have seen all your efforts to our order.”

“Thank you for your understanding, Order Master.”

“You had worked hard. Come, let’s have some tea first.”

As Zhang Heqing spoke, he pulled Jiang Beiran towards the tea table. When Jiang Beiran sat down and raised his eyes, the corners of his mouth could not help but twitch.

“There are... more cups on the shelf...” Jiang Beiran was shocked in his heart.

Without looking at it for too long, Jiang Beiran cupped his hands towards Zhang Heqing and said, “When I came back this morning, I saw that the Order of Blue Heart was exceptionally lively. Order Master’s strategy of developing together is indeed very effective. I am impressed.”

Zhang Heqing, who was selecting tea leaves, was stunned at first before he laughed out loud in a heroic manner and said, “Of course, why do you think I am so desperate to ask you to help me?”

“Order Master is wise!”

“It’s good that you know my painstaking efforts. In the past few years, there have been fewer and fewer new disciples in the Order of Blue Heart. Our resources from the sec have decreased by a lot as well. I have been worrying about this matter every day. Fortunately, I have a genius like you to help me solve my problems. Don’t worry, I will not mistreat

you.”

“Thank you, Order Master!”

He placed the tip of the feather into the teapot, Zhang Heqing said as he heated up the water in the teapot, “Although it’s a good thing that the Order of Blue Heart is lively, there are also a lot of disputes that come along with it. Each and every one of them is young and impetuous, and they always want to compete in martial arts. It’s fine if they fight openly, but I’m afraid that they will secretly and cause a lot of troubles. Beiran, what do you think about this?”

“What else can I do? I can just lie down and watch.” Jiang Beiran thought.

Jiang Beiran had already expected what Zhang Heqing had said. It was natural for males to show off their beautiful feathers in front of females, and it was also natural for males to fight in order to find a mate. Right now, the hormones of the male disciples in the Order of Blue Heart Hall were almost off the charts. Male disciples with a little bit of strength would probably do irrational things to impress the girls.

However, since Order Master Zhang had already asked, Jiang Beiran could not just brush it off. Thus, he replied, “Since Order Master has such foresight, it’s better to limit the number of disciples who come to visit every day like the Order of Water Mirror. It’s best to set up another checkpoint and remember the names and the orders of the disciples who come to visit. That way, if anything really happens, we can optimize the investigation effort.”

Nodding his head in satisfaction, Zhang Heqing shook the teapot and smiled, “That makes sense. I’ll instruct someone to do it tomorrow.”

“Order Master called me back just for this matter?”

“Oh, this is only one of the reasons. There is still an important matter to tell you.” He poured some tea into the cup, Zhang Heqing continued, “The sect master of the Sect of Masked Moon recently came out of closed-door cultivation and successfully broke through to the mystic master. It also happened to coincide with his hundredth birthday, so he decided to hold a feast and invite all the people from the major sects of Fengzhou to participate.”

“Oh my god... mystic master. This is the key threshold to becoming a supreme expert. This time, the Sect of Masked Moon’s status will probably rise quite a bit.”

“I wonder how I can help?”

He handed the teacup to Jiang Beiran, Zhang Heqing replied, “It’s just showing off. Just holding a feast will definitely not satisfy them, so they also decided to hold another gathering of young heroes. After all, the fighting between veterans would cause too much commotion, so they let the younger ones fight. Moreover, they invited the major sects of Fengzhou to come together. When that time comes, it will definitely be extremely lively.”

Jiang Beiran was even more confused after hearing this. He was just a mere level five Qi cultivating stage disciple. Why would Order Master asked him to participate the competition?

Looking at Jiang Beiran's inexplicable gaze, Zhang Heqing smiled and said, "I know what you're thinking. The reason why I'm looking for you is because this year's gathering of young heroes is not just a martial arts competition."

Chapter 75 The Sect Is Going to Be Doomed

"This year's gathering of young heroes includes other events. Apart from sparring with martial arts, music, calligraphy, drawing, and go playing are also included. In the end, the sect with the highest total score wins. Moreover, in order to show off this time, the Sect of Masked Moon has spent a huge amount of money. They have prepared a very tempting reward for the champion of each event."

"Others may not know, but in the field of Go playing, there is no other young disciples who can compete with you in Rivernorth District, or even the entire Fengzhou. So this time, I've decided to let you represent our Sect of Returning Hearts to participate in this competition."

Jiang Beiran was just about to speak when the system option popped up.

[Option 1: Directly reject Zhang Heqing. Reward for completion: Red Cloud Sacred Seal (earth grade high tier)]

[Option 2: Convince the sect master not to participate in this competition. Reward for completion: Eight Senses Technique (black grade high tier)]

[Option 3: Leave the Sect of Returning Hearts. Reward for completion: Treasure Records of Mirage Sea (black grade low tier)]

[Option 4: Agree to participate. Reward for completion: Random basic skill points + 1]

"Damn it! Are you kidding me?" Jiang Beiran cursed in his heart.

Looking at the four options in front of him, Jiang Beiran was instantly stunned. How long had it been since he had encountered the option of earth grade high tier? Combined with the two options below, if he didn't return this time, it was

very likely that the Sect of Returning Hearts would be directly exterminated!
“Could it be that this Sect of Masked Moon is setting up a trap?”

However, Jiang Beiran didn't let his shock show on his face. After choosing option 4, he agreed, “I accept the order.”

“Don't be in a hurry to refuse. This matter... Eh!? You agreed?” Zhang Heqing looked at Jiang Beiran with a shocked expression and asked.

Zhang Heqing had already thought of a few excuses and swore that no matter what excuse Jiang Beiran came up with this time, he would force him to go. However, he didn't expect Jiang Beiran to agree just like that.

“Yes, it's my honor that Order Master is willing to entrust this important task to me.”

“Hahaha!” After hearing that, Zhang Heqing immediately got up and walked around the table to Jiang Beiran's side, patting his shoulder and saying, “I knew you were a sensible disciple! You know when to stand up for the sect, I am very gratified!”

“Order Master, you flatter me. I have been groomed by the Sect of Returning Hearts for many years. I should have done my best for the honor of the sect.”

“Beiran, I didn't expect you...”

Hearing Zhang Heqing's voice suddenly choked with sobs, Jiang Beiran quickly looked up and saw that Zhang Heqing was actually wiping his tears.

“For real? Do you need to be so touched?” Jiang Beiran ridiculed Order Master in his heart.

Jiang Beiran hurriedly stood up. For a moment, he really didn't know what to do. He tried to comfort Zhang Heqing, but he felt that it was weird. If he could help Zhang Heqing wipe away his tears, it would feel even weirder.

Seeing that Jiang Beiran was at a loss, Zhang Heqing wiped away his tears and said, “Sorry, I lost my composure for a moment. I used to think that you were a disrespectful, unruly, and talented person...”

“Order Master. Can we skip the derogatory remarks and praise me instead? I know that I was wrong.”

“Good, good, good.” Zhang Heqing nodded and said with emotion, “It seems that I have misunderstood you in the past. In fact, you still treat our sect as your home in your heart.”

“Of course. If it weren’t for the Sect of Returning Hearts, I would have died outside long ago. For the sect, I am willing to go through fire and water!”

“Very good. I’m really touched that you have such a heart. Sit down please.”

Returning to his seat, Zhang Heqing drank a mouthful of hot tea, after calming his mind for a while, he continued, “This time, the Sect of Masked Moon’s sect master’s birthday banquet is scheduled for the middle of September. Although I know that your Go skill is superb, I still hope that you can practice properly for a while during this period of time. It’s never wrong to treat it seriously.”

“Yes.”

“The middle of September... that means that there’s still nearly two months of time, so I have to make some more preparations. Judging from the difficulty of this option, if I don’t make sufficient preparations, it’s very likely that I’ll encounter an option that’s at least yellow grade, or even black grade.” Seeing Jiang Beiran was thinking deeply, Zhang Heqing simply stood out and felt deeply comforted.

After pouring himself another cup of tea, Zhang Heqing said, “Beiran.”

“Yes.”

“Did you just say that you were helping Order Master Shi to take care of the flowers and plants?”

“Yes.” Jiang Beiran nodded.

“Actually, I’m quite knowledgeable about flowers and plants. Why don’t I go with you another day? We can’t just let you do all the hard work alone, right?”

“You also like flowers?”

“Do I look like a flower lover?” Zhang Heqing posed and asked. “Yes, you do! I’m deeply touched that Order Master is so considerate.”

“It’s my duty. Then you go and talk to Order Master Shi about this tomorrow. If she agrees, I’ll go with you.”

“Agree...? Agree to what?” Jiang Beiran was puzzled.

“Well...” Zhang Heqing hesitated for a moment before replying, “Since you’ve met Order Master Shi, you should know that she’s a little special. That’s why the sect master has set a rule to limit the number of times for us higher-ups to go to the Mirror Garden. However, if we get Order Master Shi’s permission, we can go there freely.” “I see...”

Jiang Beiran immediately thought of those disciples who lined up at the gate of the Mirror Garden every day.

“So tragic...”

Sighing in his heart, Jiang Beiran cupped his hands and agreed, “I understand.”

Nodding with a smile, Zhang Heqing continued, “Are you satisfied with the cultivation place that I gave you in the back of the mountain?”

“Yes, I’m quite satisfied. The spiritual essence in that piece of land is very abundant. Order Master, thank you.”

“You’ve done so much for the Order of Blue Heart, you earned it. Also, I remember that you said that you wanted some of the Thunder Lord Charcoal, right?”

“Order Master, you’re abusing your power again!” Jiang Beiran ridiculed Zhang Heqing in his heart.

Whether it was forging or alchemy, they could not be done without the heat. The Thunder Lord Charcoal was a very good fuel. Not only could it produce a high temperature that ordinary charcoal flames could not reach, but it could also make the spiritual essence in the surroundings more active. Thus, the effects of the refined pills would be better.

However, a good thing like the Thunder Lord Charcoal was considered a rare item in the entire Sect of Returning Hearts. Moreover, most of it had been divided up by the Order of Kindness and the Order of Baizhang. Therefore, it was hard to get one Thunder Lord Charcoal as a disciple of the order of Blue Heart Hall.

But now... A certain Order Master was obviously going to use his authority to get one for him.

Sighing in his heart, Jiang Beiran nodded and said, "Yes, I have wanted this item for a long time."

"Alright, since you still want it, then I'll help you think of a way."

"Thank you, Order Master."

"Mm, then that's it. Come, drink some tea, drink some tea, it's already cold."

Jiang Beiran left after about an hour. He had heard enough Zhang Heqing's repeatedly saying "Be more attentive". He turned around and looked at the bright starry sky. Jiang Beiran could not help but shake his head.

"Sigh, this Sect of Returning Hearts is going to be doomed."

Chapter 76 You're Misunderstanding Me

"Brother Jiang, thank you so much for saving me in Luoxia Town last time. This is a gift for you. Please accept it."

In front of a bronze mirror, Fang Qiuyao, who was bowing, slowly raised her head. She looked at herself and the gift in the mirror and sighed. It had been almost two weeks since the two orders had collaborated, but they had not seen Brother Jiang once, as if he was not a disciple of the Order of Blue Heart.

"Sigh..."

Sighing, Fang Qiuyao lay down on the round willow table. She couldn't help but recall the side profile of her Brother Jiang when he checked her pulse.

She couldn't help but smile. Then, Fang Qiuyao took out a small red porcelain bottle and poured out a green pill from it.

At that time, Jiang Beiran gave her three heat-clearing pill to recover. When she was about to eat the last one, Fang Qiuyao couldn't bear to put it in her mouth, so she secretly hid

She put it to the tip of her nose and smelled it. The fresh fragrance was still there.

“I wonder why Brother Jiang’s medicine is so different.”

“Dong, dong, dong.”

Just when Fang Qiuyao was intoxicated by the familiar fragrance, there was a knock on the

door.

Fang Qiuyao hurriedly stuffed the heat-clearing pill back into the porcelain bottle and raised her head to ask, “Who is it?”

“It’s me. Qiuyao, are you asleep?”

“Sister Zijin. I’m not asleep yet.” Fang Qiuyao stood up and walked over to open the wooden door.

Liu Zijin held the food box in her hand and smiled. “I couldn’t sleep either, so I brought some snacks to chat with you. I didn’t disturb you, did I?”

“Of course not, Sister Zijin. Come in.” Fang Qiuyao said as she pulled Liu Zijin into the small room.

Sitting in the small house, Liu Zijin opened the food box and took out a plate of pea cake.

“I just made it. Try it.”

“Wow, Sister Zijin, you really know how to make all kinds of desserts.” Fang Qiuyao couldn’t wait to pick up a piece and put it into her mouth. After chewing for a few mouthfuls, Fang Qiuyao nodded. “It’s so delicious.”

“I’m glad you like it.”

Looking at Liu Zijin’s gentle smile, Fang Qiuyao, who was in the middle of eating, asked, “Sister Zijin, you came to comfort me, right?”

After the daily examination at Leisure Heart Square, the etiquette protector announced the disciples who were going to participate in the gathering of young heroes. Fang Qiuyao and Liu Zijin thought that they had just entered the sect less than a year ago, so it was impossible for them to be selected. However, they did not expect that not only Liu Zijin was selected, but also the three Yu sisters. Only Fang Qiuyao was not on the list.

Regarding such a result, Fang Qiuyao was indeed a little disappointed.

She put the remaining half of the cake into her mouth, Fang Qiuyao swallowed it and said with a smile, "I am a little disappointed, but I am more happy for you guys. Sister Zijin, you play the lute so well. It's not surprise that you're selected."

Seeing that Fang Qiuyao didn't seem to be putting on a brave front, Liu Zijin replied with a smile, "Actually, you play the zither very well. Otherwise, Law Protector Yu wouldn't have specially come to give you pointers. You're really talented."

"Sister Zijin, you don't have to worry about me. In fact, I prefer practicing martial arts to playing the zither. But now..."

Fang Qiuyao's expression suddenly became a little disappointed. Ever since she met the "Night Cry Elder," she lost the passion of becoming a sword-wielding heroine. Her "life plan" that was originally clear had now become blurry.

"I really want to ask Brother Jiang what his dream is..." Fang Qiuyao thought as she stuffed another piece of pea cake into her mouth.

The next morning, Jiang Beiran quietly came to the Tinglan Waterside Pavilion as usual. After greeting Xiao Duo, he walked into the main hall.

Shi Fenglan, who had already heard Jiang Beiran's voice, immediately ran out. As she ran, she shouted, "Little Beiran, Little Beiran"

"Greetings, Order Master Shi." Jiang Beiran cupped his hands.

She ran in front of Jiang Beiran and stopped. Shi Fenglan coughed lightly and said, "I have great news. Do you want to hear it?"

As soon as Shi Fenglan finished speaking, two options appeared in front of Jiang Beiran.

(Option 1: "May I know what Order Master is referring to?" Reward: Red Rainbow Palm (black grade low tier)]

[Option 2: "I don't want to." Reward: Random basic skill points + 1]

After choosing option 2, Jiang Beiran shook his head and said, “I don’t want to.”

[Chosen quest completed. Reward: Tea Ceremony+ 1]

“Oh!” Shi Fenglan immediately pouted, “Just say that you want to hear it!”

“If Order Master really wants to say it, then I’ll take my leave first.”

Shi Fenglan was about to speak again when she heard Yu Manwen’s voice from behind.

“Order Master, it’s better if you don’t say it. Otherwise, he’ll really turn around and run away.”

“But it’s obviously a good thing.” Shi Fenglan pouted and said unwillingly.

“Everyone have their own little quirk, right, Jiang Beiran?” Yu Manwen looked at Jiang Beiran and asked.

“Thank you for your understanding, Law Protector Yu.” Jiang Beiran cupped his hands towards Yu Manwen. After being retorted by the two of them, Shi Fenglan lost the excitement. She gave up and said resentfully, “Alright, then let’s play Chivale...” halfway through her words, Shi Fenglan remembered that Yu Manwen had not left yet, she quickly changed her words and said, “I mean go fishing.”

Yu Manwen did not expose her. She said, “Don’t fool around” and left.

As soon as Yu Manwen left, Shi Fenglan immediately “revolted.” She took out the Chain Fairy that she had been hugging for the whole night and shouted, “Little Beiran, quickly take out the gambling table! I’ll definitely be the winner!”

“I need to do my job first.” Jiang Beiran said and walked towards the greenhouse.

At night, Shi Fenglan had just rolled a six and let her Iron Beggar out of the sect. When she raised her head, she saw Yu Manwen quickly walking in.

“We just started playing...” Shi Fenglan hurriedly explained.

However, this time, Yu Manwen did not speak to her first. Instead, she looked at Jiang Beiran and asked, “You agreed to participate in the Masked Moon Sect’s gathering of young heroes?” “Yes.” Jiang Beiran calmly nodded.

“You... how could you agree to this kind of thing!?” Yu Manwen asked in astonishment.

“As a disciple of the Sect of Returning Hearts, shouldn’t I fight for the honor of my sect?”

“If it were other disciples, then I’ll be convinced. But you... unless the Sect of Returning Hearts is facing the danger of being exterminated, you definitely won’t participate such event!”

“Hmm!?! Is this the sixth sense of a woman? She actually guessed it correctly.” Jiang Beiran was amazed by Yu Manwen’s instinct.

However, on the surface, Jiang Beiran still said calmly, “Law Protector Yu, you have a deep misunderstanding of me. I don’t participate many other things because my strength is too low. But that’s a Go competition, so I won’t miss the opportunity.” Although Yu Manwen still had a look of disbelief, she could not find any words to refute Jiang Beiran. Shi Fenglan saw that Yu Manwen did not say anything, she interrupted, “Eh? Little Beiran, you are going to participate in the gathering of young heroes? Then, with your small body, it is indeed dangerous to go there. Do you want me to give you a protective magical item?”

Chapter 77 The Obvious Trap

[Option 1: Directly reject Shi Fenglan. Reward: Spirit Serpent Scripture (black grade middle tier)]

[Option 2: Tactfully reject Shi Fenglan. Reward: Star Illusion Book (yellow grade low tier)]

[Option 3: Accept the gift. Reward: Random basic skill points + 1] “Eh!?”

Looking at the three options in front of him, Jiang Beiran couldn’t help but feel a headache. “Something’s wrong...”

After spending so much time with the system, Jiang Beiran knew that avoiding shady things was the highest priority of the system when it gave options, and now there were already two options that didn't allow him to avoid it.

Jiang Beiran still remembered the last time when the system "didn't play by the rules" like this, he almost fell into a big trap, and now it was obvious that another big trap was waiting for him.

"It definitely has something to do with that stupid competition of the Sect of Masked Moon...'

However, the system still let him go around that Big Pit in the end last time, so Jiang Beiran believed that he should be able to avoid danger this time.

'Mm, I have to be careful enough.'

After choosing option 3, Jiang Beiran cupped his hands towards Shi Fenglan and said, "If Order Master Shi has given me a defensive magical item, I will be eternally grateful."

Seeing Jiang Beiran's reaction, Yu Manwen was very surprised. She was surprised that Jiang Beiran would ask for the treasure. "Such a mysterious disciple..."

On the other side Shi Fenglan heard that Jiang Beiran did want some items, she could not help but grin.

"Hey! Little Beiran you want a protective magical item right ~" Shi Fenglan said jumped down from the chair excitedly rubbed her hands, "Then you have to make me happy."

"Cough!" Yu Manwen coughed heavily when she saw Shi Fenglan's undignified look.

Her shoulders trembled slightly. Shi Fenglan then restrained her expression and said, "How about this? If you can teach me more interesting gambling games, I'll give you a good one."

Jiang Beiran nodded and replied, "Alright, then it's a deal."

[Chosen quest completed. Reward: Carving + 1]

“Alright! Come, come, come, watch me. Iron Beggar, slaughter everyone! Give me another...” Shi Fenglan was about to roll the dice when she saw Yu Manwen’s gaze sweeping over.

“Hehe, just one round, just one round.”

Even though Yu Manwen knew that Chivalrous Hero was not a gambling game, she had to keep criticize Shi Fenglan so that Shi Fenglan would be convinced that Chivalrous Hero was gambling game. “One last round.” Yu Manwen raised an index finger and pointed it at Jiang Beiran. “And you, Jiang Beiran, don’t you dare to continue to corrupt our Order Master.”

“Yes, I understand.” Jiang Beiran cupped his hands and spoke. But after saying that, he secretly winked at Shi Fenglan with his left eye, making her laugh.

At night, when he returned to his own room in the Order of Blue Heart, Jiang Beiran first took out the internal cultivation method that his senior brother had given him.

When he came back last night, he was really too tired, so he fell asleep without even looking at it.

“Abstruse Stars Technique...” After lightly reciting the name of the internal cultivation method, Jiang Beiran slowly opened the first page.

After about five minutes, Jiang Beiran had roughly understood this internal cultivation method. He discovered that the internal cultivation method described in this book was completely opposite to the Rhymed Formula of Returning Hearts.

The main function of the Rhymed Formula of Returning Hearts was to absorb the spiritual essence of all living things to convert it into mystic energy to nourish the body. On the other hand, the Abstruse Stars Technique was to train the body with all its might, training the body to the point where it could absorb the spiritual essence, or to even produce the spiritual essence on its own.

“I didn’t expect there to be such an internal cultivation method...”

The Land of the Black Dragon was filled with many sects, big and small. Regardless of the size of their territory or their strength, every person who

could establish a sect had some self-created internal cultivation method or move. To put it nicely, all of these sects were diverse was like a hundred flowers blooming at the same time. To put it in rudely, it was like a pot of poor stew mixed of everything.

There were some internal cultivation methods that were easy to learn at the beginning, but after a long period of practice, one's meridians would be broken. There were also some internal cultivation methods that were even more ridiculous. There was a total of nine levels, but only the first tier of the internal cultivation method was the most powerful. If one practiced this kind of internal cultivation method longer, the weaker it became.

Therefore, many people didn't dare to practice it even if they jumped off the cliff and obtained a secret manual. They were deeply afraid that the person in the cave was die from practicing this internal cultivation method.

However, Jiang Beiran trusted Brother Lu very much. He believed that the internal cultivation method that Brother Lu had given him must have been verified by someone else, so he would definitely be able to practice it without worry. "Senior brother is so thoughtful. He actually managed to find a completely different internal cultivation method from the Rhymed Formula of Returning Hearts because he thinks that the Rhymed Formula of Returning Hearts is unsuitable for me. In that case, the completely opposite internal cultivation method will definitely allow me to make a breakthrough..."

Closing the book, Jiang Beiran put the Abstruse Stars Technique back into his storage ring. He felt a warmth in his heart.

Then, Jiang Beiran took out a wooden board from under the bed. Jiang Beiran began to think about what new "gambling game" he should design.

Dong!

Just as Jiang Beiran was about to come up with the prototype of the "new gambling game", he suddenly heard a crisp knocking sound coming from the wooden door. It was not someone knocking on the door, but someone throwing pebbles at the door. And the only person who would do that was Lin Yuyan. After putting the wooden board away, Jiang Beiran walked over and opened the door.

"Good evening, Brother Jiang. Sorry to bother

you.”

As soon as she saw the door open, Lin Yuyan immediately sent a voice transmission to Jiang Beiran.

Jiang Beiran nodded in the direction of the opposite hillside.

In the darkness, she saw her senior brother’s face, which she had not seen for a long time. Lin Yuyan tried hard to control herself so that she did not lose her composure. During this period of time, she could be said to be extremely depressed. The Order of Blue Heart somehow had cooperation with the Order of Water Mirror, which made the Order of Blue Heart extremely lively all day long. It made it impossible for her to sneak in and greet her senior brother like she usually did.

It was not easy for her to find an opportunity to sneak in at night, but she found that her senior brother had not been around. However, she figured it out after thinking for a while. Her senior brother had always hated crowded places. Therefore, he must have found another place to relax.

Although this discovery made Lin Yuyan feel upset, she was also a little relieved. After all, the female disciples of the Order of Water Mirror were well-known throughout the whole sect. If her senior brother, a perfect man like him, was discovered by those women, she would have a lot of competitors then.

“Hu...” suppressing the joy of finally seeing her senior brother, Lin Yuyan continued to transmit her voice, “No... I wonder where Brother Jiang has been staying for the past few days?”

After hearing this, Jiang Beiran stood inside the door and shook his head.

Knowing that her senior brother didn’t want to answer this question, Lin Yuyan sighed in her heart and asked again, “Then do you know about the gathering of young heroes organized by Sect of Masked Moon?”

“It seems that this matter has already become the hottest news in the sect.” Sighing in his heart, Jiang Beiran nodded at Lin Yuyan.

“Here’s the thing, I’ve been selected as a representative disciple by our Order Master. Not only do I have to compete in martial arts, but I also have to participate in a calligraphy competition, so I have a request... oh no, I sincerely hope that you can give me some pointers, I wonder if it’s possible?”

As soon as Lin Yuyan finished speaking, Jiang Beiran picked out three options in front of him.

[Option 1: Directly reject Lin Yuyan. Reward for completion: Cleansing Treasure Technique (black grade middle tier)]

[Option 2: Express that you want to consider it. Reward for completion: Fallen Leaf Sword Manual (yellow grade low tier)]

(Option 3: "What reward can you give me?" Random basic attribute points + 1]

Chapter 78 She Was Indeed a Dangerous Person

"System... Something is wrong with you."

Seeing that the safest option was not to reject Lin Yuyan, Jiang Beiran was completely sure that his guess was correct. He had to put in 1,200% effort to participate in the gathering of young heroes this time. After choosing option 3, Jiang Beiran transmitted his voice to Lin Yuyan, "What reward can you give me?"

"What reward can you give me?"

This sentence was like a sharp arrow that pierced through Lin Yuyan's chest.

"Brother Jiang, he... he... he actually agreed!?"

"And he said six words!"

When Lin Yuyan asked this question, she had never thought that Jiang Beiran would agree to her, so she was stunned. After a long while, she finally reacted and sent a voice transmission, "I will definitely give you a reward that suit your need, but can you give me some time to think about it?"

Seeing Jiang Beiran nod in the room, Lin Yuyan suddenly stepped on the small stone beside her feet and crushed it. Only then did she suppress her excitement.

Just as Lin Yuyan was thinking about what to say next, a small black shadow shot towards her.

Lin Yuyan caught it quickly and found that she had grabbed a small bamboo tube. She opened it, and inside was a note written by her senior brother.

(Wait at the pavilion outside of Anliang Village at 5-7am the day after tomorrow.)

Controlling her slightly trembling body, Lin Yuyan transmitted her voice, "Thank you, Brother Jiang. I will definitely be there on time."

Jiang Beiran nodded after listening and closed the door.

After reading the words on the note again and again, Lin Yuyan confirmed that this was a date!

"Will he make a solemn vow next? Or will he propose to me? What should I prepare for the dowry? Will father... No, he must agree!"

Feeling her heart beating wildly, Lin Yuyan left the Order of Blue Heart with light steps.

The next morning, Jiang Beiran returned to the back of the mountain before the Order of Blue Heart became lively. When he passed by the formation room, he used his mind power to sense Wu Qingce inside. He discovered that the mystic energy in Wu Qingce's body had begun to transform, the purity had increased by a lot.

"Although he's a bit rough in handling matters, his talent is really not bad." There were very few people in the Sect of Returning Hearts who could become a great mystic practitioner before the age of twenty. Jiang Beiran could already foresee that the sect would definitely allocate more resources to him in the future.

After leaving quietly, Jiang Beiran went to the courtyard next to him to take a look at Yu Ling Long's condition.

After observing the color of the stamen for a while, Jiang Beiran was sure that it was almost ready to be pollinated.

Nodding his head in satisfaction, Jiang Beiran took out a diamond bottle from his storage ring and dripped two drops of dark golden juice into the stamen. This would allow it to absorb the spiritual essence more easily.

After doing some other daily work, Jiang Beiran went down the mountain and went to the Order of Water Mirror.

“Good morning, Brother Jiang.”

Xiao Duo, who was sweeping the floor at the door, immediately greeted Jiang Beiran with a smile when she saw him. “Good morning.”

After greeting him, Jiang Beiran was just about to walk in when he heard a conversation coming from the main hall.

“There’s a guest?” Jiang Beiran looked at Xiao Duo and asked.

“Yes, he’s a disciple of the Sect of Crimson Afterglow.”

“A disciple of the Sect of Crimson Afterglow?”

Although Jiang Beiran was a little puzzled as to why Shi Fenglan would personally receive a disciple of another sect, he did not ask any further and directly walked into the courtyard. Since there was a guest in the main hall, he went to take care of the flower beds in the courtyard first.

Putting on his straw hat and holding a small shovel, Jiang Beiran squatted down in front of a red flower.

After about ten minutes, Shi Fenglan and the disciple walked into the parterre while chatting. At the same time, Shi Fenglan raised her voice.

“I’m sorry, Qiuyan. Originally, I wanted to ask a very reliable disciple to escort you back to your sect, but he was busy! He was so busy that even I, the Order Master, could not command him, so...” “Order Master, you’re too polite. It’s not my first time go to the Sect of Returning Hearts, why would I need any guards?”

Hearing Shi Fenglan deliberately raise her voice to emphasize the word “busy”, Jiang Beiran knew that she was mentioning him, so he raised his head and looked at her.

“Good lord... Looks like this is the one who triggered the low tier black grade option.’

A tall female disciple stood in front of Shi Fenglan. Her long black hair was tied up in a bun, and she used a jade hairpin to tie it up. She then inserted a

golden hair stick into the bun, and the long-beaded jewelry dangled down and swayed in the middle of her hair. Looking down to her face, one could see that her eyebrows were black without any trace, and her skin was as white as snow without the need to apply any powder. Her lips pursed, and she looked as beautiful as a flower. Her bright yellow dress was wrapped around her body, and her jade-colored ribbon was tied around her waist, revealing her elegant figure.

“She really is a dangerous person.”

Sighing in his heart, Jiang Beiran continued to lower his head and shovel the soil.

When Shi Fenglan walked out, her eyes had been looking in Jiang Beiran’s direction, so when she saw him raise his head, she immediately smiled and said, “Things are different now. Recently, the area at the foot of the mountain has been very chaotic. I’m worried to let a beauty like you travel to there on your own.” “Order Master, you must be joking.”

“I’m not joking. When I went to the door to pick you up, I saw the male disciples of our order didn’t even move their eyes when they saw you.”

“That’s because they saw Order Master, right?”

“How could I not tell who they were looking at? Sigh, it’s such a pity. If that disciple knew that he had lost such a good opportunity, he would definitely cry so much that he wouldn’t be able to sleep for several nights.”

As Shi Fenglan spoke, her eyes kept drifting towards Jiang Beiran’s direction. However, she discovered that the Jiang Beiran was undistracted as he fiddled with the flowers and plants. He didn’t even have the intention to look at her.

At this moment, the female disciple of the Sect of Crimson Afterglow also cupped her hands and said, “Order Master, please don’t make fun of me anymore.”

Seeing that Jiang Beiran didn’t respond, Shi Fenglan indeed didn’t have the intention of continuing to “provoke” him. She then said to Qiu Yan, “Then I’ll send you off here. You must be careful when you go back.”

“Yes. Thank you for your concern. I’ll take my leave now.”

After Qiu Yan said that, she cupped her hands and turned around to leave the Tinglan Waterside Pavilion.

When she was far away, Shi Fenglan ran all the way to Jiang Beiran and said, "You'll regret it, Little Beiran. I was going to ask you to escort Qiu Yan back. Oh, it's the female disciple that I sent away just now. But it's your fault for not wanting to hear my good news."

"Thank you for your good intentions, Order Master Shi, but I don't have the fortune to enjoy it." Seeing that Jiang Beiran did not show any signs of regret, Shi Fenglan did not feel any joy. She could only snort and say, "Today, Law Protector Yu is not here. Little Beiran, hurry up so that we can start playing earlier!"

Chapter 79 Wandering the World

"You met a group of demonic cult bandits and were robbed of 1 tael of silver... Ah!? How come! My Chain Fairy is very powerful, she can definitely beat them!"

After reading the description of the event on the (experience card) , Shi Fenglan was furious.

"This is the rule. How can you gamble if you don't follow the rules?" Jiang Beiran said as he expressionlessly prepared to take away a piece of blue paper in front of Shi Fenglan, but he was grabbed by her.

"Ugh... can't you take a little less?" Shi Fenglan said as she stared at Jiang Beiran with her big watery eyes.

"No, let go. Do you still want to gamble or not?"

"Okay..." Shi Fenglan let go of Jiang Beiran's hand with a sad face. Then, she hit the back of her right hand with her left hand and said, "I told you to roll a four! But you rolled a two! Stinky hand!"

"It's your turn." Jiang Beiran said to Xiao Duo.

Rubbing her small hands, Xiao Duo carefully rolled the dice in her hand.

"One."

Seeing the dice slowly stop on the side of the red dot, Xiao Duo picked up Little Flying Hero and moved one square forward on the board filled with landscape paintings.

“World of martial arts incident.”

As she said this, Xiao Duo took the card at the top of the stack of cards next to the “gambling table”.

“You have been named the Mighty Hero of the Year. You received two taels of silver and a Phoenix Feather Sword... Wow, the reward is so good.” Xiao Duo shouted excitedly.

“Here, this is your Phoenix Feather Sword.” Jiang Beiran took out a card from the tool card and handed it to Xiao Duo.

“Thank you, Brother Jiang.” Xiao Duo called out sweetly. She took the card and read it out softly, “It can kill people from the demonic cult on the way.”

“Ah!” Shi Fenglan slammed the table and looked at the card in Xiao Duo’s hand with envy.

Feeling Shi Feng Lan’s longing gaze, Xiao Duo handed the card to Shi Feng Lan and said, “If Order Master likes it, then I’ll give it to you.”

“Really!?” Shi Feng Lan’s face was filled with joy.

Jiang Beiran looked at it and coughed lightly, “Cough! Pay attention to the rules, don’t give it away.”

“I’m just joking, I don’t need such a tool to beat you guys. Hurry up, Little Beiran, it’s your turn.”

Jiang Beiran nodded and threw the dice. At five o’clock, Yu Manwen walked briskly back to the Mirror Garden. However, as she was walking towards the Tinglan Waterside Pavilion, an idea suddenly popped up in her mind.

“Since when did I go to Order Master’s Place instead to my own house after work?’ In the past, although Yu Manwen was also an inspector, she would only occasionally go to Shi Fenglan’s place to check up on her. However, recently, the Tinglan Waterside Pavilion had become her home.

“I guess it’s because I have to worry about more people.”

After explaining in her heart, Yu Manwen arrived at the Tinglan Waterside Pavilion and heard the familiar noise of the Order Master.

“Little Beiran, this is my last three silvers. Just let me owe you one. I beg you!”

“Eh? Why did they gamble with money?” Yu Manwen frowned and walked into the main hall.

“Greetings, Law Protector Yu.” Seeing Yu Manwen enter, Jiang Beiran, who was sitting at the front door, stood up and bowed.

Looking at the huge landscape board on the table, Yu Manwen asked, “Where did you come up with so many new tricks?” “When I was an iron seal, I had traveled far and wide, so I memorized some interesting gambling games.” “I’ve already told you several times don’t be a bad influence on our Order Master. Why did you ignore my order?”

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“I had no choice. You asked me not to teach her new gamble games, but Order Master asked me to teach her. Both of you are high-ranking officials, so it’s hard for me to be in the middle.”

When Shi Fenglan heard that Jiang Beiran “blamed” her, she quickly stood up and explained to Yu Manwen, “I didn’t ask Little Beiran to teach me how to gamble. It’s... It’s... It’s Xiao Duo who asked me to.”

“Huh?” Xiao Duo, who was calculating how much money she had left, was stunned. Just as she was about to accept the big and round black pot, she saw Yu Manwen frown and say, “Huh?”

“Okay... It’s me, it’s me.” Shi Fenglan lowered her head and admitted.

Sighing helplessly, Yu Manwen walked to the table and looked at the majestic game board. She asked Jiang Beiran, “What kind of gambling game is this?”

“The advanced version of the Chivalrous Hero. You can call it Wandering the World.”

“You really know how to name it.” Chuckling softly in her heart, Yu Manwen asked again, “I just heard outside that our Order Master owes you money?” “Oh, it’s this.” Jiang Beiran picked up a piece of paper with the words (one

tael of silver] written on it and handed it to Yu Manwen. "A few days ago, I heard that Order Master Shi needed one tael of silver for a plate of beef, so I thought of this method to teach her some concept of money." However, it was precisely because Jiang Beiran knew that Shi Fenglan was so lacking in common sense that he became even more certain of his previous guess, which was that Shi Fenglan had become the Order Master of Water Mirror out of nowhere.

Even if she were the eldest daughter of a certain family before joining the sect, she would still gain some life experiences after going down the mountain to train a few times, just like Fang Qiuyao and the others.

However, Shi Fenglan had already become the Order Master, yet she still lacked the common sense of the world, which meant that she definitely did not climb up to her position step by step. "I heard that the Mister Storyteller said so. In those stories, the mighty hero would bid a tael of silver to settle the bill after eating beef in the shop." After saying that, she immediately added, "But now I know that it's not like that. Manwen, look, gambling can also learn things."

"No matter how extravagant you say it is, gambling is gambling. Don't play for too long."

"Yes, I understand."

After agreeing, Shi Fenglan turned around and continued to beg Jiang Beiran, "Beiran, just let me owe you. I'll return you the money once I go to the pawnshop and sell my jade bracelet."

"No." Jiang Beiran still shook his head. "Humph, stingy! I'll just give it to you!" Shi Fenglan said as she handed the last three big bills to Jiang Beiran.

"Jade bracelet? Pawnshop?" Yu Manwen, who was watching from the side, suddenly became curious.

Seeing Yu Manwen leave, Shi Fenglan immediately revealed a sly smile.

In fact, when they were playing Chivalrous Heroes yesterday, Shi Fenglan had noticed that Yu Manwen was quite interested with the game. Yu Manwen would glance at them from time to time, she actually wanted to try it. However, she held herself back because of her position as a supervisor

“Hmm... no wonder so many people like to gamble. It’s really interesting.” They played until dinner time, and Shi Fenglan, who eventually overcame Xiao Duo and won the second place, was dancing with joy. Then, just as Jiang Beiran put away the “betting plate” and was about to leave, Shi Fenglan suddenly shouted, “Wait, this is for you.”

Jiang Beiran looked up and saw Shi Fenglan taking out a wooden box from under the table.

“This is...?”

“The defensive magical item that I promised you. Come and take a look. Are you satisfied?”

“Thank you, Order Master.”

After thanking her, Jiang Beiran went forward and opened the box. He found that there was a purplish-gold feather coat inside.

At the same time, two options appeared in front of his eyes.

[Option 1: “It’s too valuable. I can’t accept it.” Reward for completion: Hundred Feet Finger (yellow grade high tier)]

[Option 2: “What kind of magical item is this?” Reward for completion: Random basic skill points + 1]

Chapter 80 How Dare You Call It Ugly?

“It’s the Cloud Plate Armor...’

The moment Jiang Beiran opened the box, he recognized this treasure. Although it was as thin as a cicada’s wings, its defense was extremely strong. According to the book, it needed the tail feathers of various level five mystics beasts as the materials. It also required a special knitting technique to make it.

Not only that, but it also needed a mystic king level powerhouse to reinforce the Cloud Plate Armor. It was absolutely worthy of the black grade protective magical item.

“Although the grade of the Cloud Plate Armor isn’t very high, it’s very difficult to gather the rare feathers of all kinds of mystic beasts. This armor is

extremely rare in the entire Land of the Black Dragon. I didn't expect that one of them would be in Shi Fenglan's hands..."

"Looks like I'll have to reevaluate this runaway miss again."

After these thoughts flashed through his mind, Jiang Beiran chose option two. He looked at Shi Fenglan with a blank expression and asked, "I wonder what kind of magical item this is?"

Based on these two options, option one should be the same as before. Once he showed that he recognized this rare armor, he would be noticed by the expert behind Shi Fenglan.

"But the difficulty is getting lower and lower."

Jiang Beiran remembered that when he first met Shi Fenglan, if he revealed that he had a strong insight, he would obtain a middle tier black grade reward. But now, it had been reduced to high tier yellow grade.

"It seems I have made progress by teaching Order Master Shi. Have I gained the favorability from the person behind her?"

[Chosen quest completed. Reward: Cooking+ 1]

Hearing Jiang Beiran's question, Shi Fenglan said smugly, "It's called the Immortal Feather Robe. It's a black grade defensive magical artifact."

"Don't change its name" Jiang Beiran yelled in his mind.

Jiang Beiran was sure that this was the Cloud Plate Armor. It was probably because Shi Fenglan felt that this name was not pleasant to hear, so she just changed it.

However, he obviously could not say this out loud. After putting on a perfect surprised expression, Jiang Beiran said in shock, "Black grade!?"

"Hehe, amazing, right?" Shi Fenglan could not help but show off, but soon she pressed her fingers on her lips in embarrassment. "But... I can only lend it to you to wear it once, because..." "Order Master, if you say you're giving it to me, I don't dare to accept it. I'm already very grateful if you could lend it to me once to the Sect of Masked Moon."

“Okay!” seeing Jiang Beiran directly take over the conversation, Shi Fenglan nodded and continued, “In addition, how much power a magical item can unleash is closely related to the wearer’s own strength. Although this is a black grade magical item, with your Qi refining level strength, I’m afraid you can only unleash 10% of its power. But even so, it’s very difficult for cultivators with strength below mystic spirit to harm you, so you don’t have to worry that the disciples of the other sects can harm you.”

“Thank you, Order Master.”

“You’re welcome. You can go back first. Remember to come early tomorrow.”

“Yes, I will take my leave.”

After leaving the Order of Blue Heart, Jiang Beiran could not help but frown in puzzlement.

Of course, he understood what Shi Fenglan had said. In the world of cultivators, the effect of using magical item above one’s level was very poor. It was like giving a fighter jet to someone who had never learned how to fly a plane. These magical items were indeed powerful, but without the ability to use it, it was no different from scrap metal. An excellent pilot could fly a plane and perform all kinds of impressive stunts.

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The same was true for magical item. The more powerful a magical item was, the user must be even stronger. Otherwise, it would be a waste of a heavenly item.

There was no doubt that the Cloud Plate Armor was very powerful. But just as Shi Fenglan had said, with his own cultivation, he could only use one-tenth of its power at most.

Since the Cloud Plate Armor could only have this little defense effect, Jiang Beiran felt that he had more ways to do it better, and there was no need to owe Order Master Shi a favor at all.

“It seems that there’s a deeper meaning waiting for me to discover...”

Just like that, Jiang Beiran thought as he returned to the back of the mountain.

The next morning, Jiang Beiran went to a pavilion at the foot of the mountain outside Anliang Village. From afar, he saw Lin Yuyan in the pavilion, wearing the suit of blending in that he had given her previously.

The suit of blending in that Lin Yuyan was wearing was actually an enhanced version. Not only would it reduce her presence in the crowd, but even if she stood alone in the same place, it would blend into the surrounding environment and would not be noticed by others. Its effect was fairly good. After using his mind power to check that there were no abnormalities in the vicinity, Jiang Beiran slowly walked to the front of the pavilion.

“Greetings, Brother Jiang.” Upon discovering Jiang Beiran’s arrival, Lin Yuyan, who had been waiting here since Yin Shi, immediately stood up and greeted him. “Good morning.” Jiang Beiran greeted Lin Yuyan.

In order to complement the “plain and unadorned” suit of blending in, Lin Yuyan specially wore a linen shirt today. Her entire body emitted a fresh and idyllic scent.

“Brother Jiang’s gaze only lingered on me for a breath. He didn’t even take another look. Could it be that I matched it wrong?” Sighing in her heart, Lin Yuyan bowed and said, “I’m really very grateful Brother Jiang to come today. It has given me a lot of confidence in the competition in two months’ time.”

“Actually, your calligraphy has already reached the level of perfection. I can’t guarantee that I’ll be able to teach you anything.”

Hearing her senior brother say such a long sentence of compliment to her, Lin Yuyan immediately sucked in a breath of cold air.

“If it’s a dream, please don’t let me wake up.”

After praying in her heart, Lin Yuyan calmed down and replied, “Brother Jiang, you’re flattering me. Compared to your calligraphy, I’m still far from it.”

“Don’t be so modest.” After saying that, Jiang Beiran sat on the stone chair in the pavilion and asked, “Have you brought your calligraphy?”

“Yes, here they are.”

Lin Yuyan quickly spread out a piece of rice paper and placed it on the stone table in front of Jiang Beiran.

“Yes, they are indeed not bad.”

The Land of the Black Dragon respected the strong, but because there were still many ordinary people, and the cultivators all had some small hobbies in art. So, the development of zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting in this land was not bad, but it was only not bad. Take this word for example. Even some calligraphy masters only cared about the horizontal and vertical lines of the word, whether the structure was stable, and whether the strokes were even in thickness, the shape of the strokes, the chessboard-like patterns, and the most basic things.

It could be said that it greatly limited the richness of the aesthetic and the progress of the calligraphy techniques.

For example, even if you took Zhang Xu’s representative work “Stomachache Post” for those masters in this world to admire, they would definitely give comments like, “Unable to recognize the word”, “Scribbling”, “Not neat enough”, or even “Ugly calligraphy”.

Jiang Beiran had once thought of bringing the beautiful culture of seal script, semi-cursive script, and cursive script here, but he had never found an opportunity. “If Lin Yuyan can become famous in this calligraphy competition and gradually become a master calligrapher, I can let her write a cursive script. Then nobody would dare to criticize cursive script as ugly calligraphy?”

“Hmm... interesting.” “It’s the Cloud Plate Armor...”

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[Chosen quest completed. Reward: Cooking+ 1]

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