

F Disciples 171

Chapter 171 Side Story: Black Rock Report II

Zhou Ziyun's approach to Black Rock City was completely different from Lin Qingcheng's efforts in Moonlight City. Zhou Ziyun did not hesitate to use Chen Wentian's authority to directly take control of all offices of power and kick the nobles to the side. This worked partly because of the wartime nature of the province as well as the fact that the city was simply an ant compared to the entirety of Bright Moon Kingdom.

Black Rock City's change in power also meant there were gaps in the social structure which caused a certain level of chaos. This and the increase in population led to the crime and punishment department being overwhelmed with cases and backlogs.

Zhou Lai explained everything in detail as he led Wu Qianyu toward the department headquarters. When they arrived, they were met with a curious sight. There was a crowd of citizens gathered around a platform where tens of guards stood, carrying large wooden poles taller than themselves. One of the guards led an emaciated young man up to the stage.

That person had committed murder and this was a public execution. The sentence was to be beaten until death. The crowd was excited and clamoring for blood. There was no mercy for murderers and they were eager to see a good show.

The execution soon started and the guards took turns slamming the heavy poles on the man who was tied face down on a stone table. Wu Qianyu was no stranger to human tragedy and she should not have found interest in such sights but she found this scene strangely fascinating. Screams of pain and despair filled the street as the guards first drew blood, then crushed bone, and finally completed the punishment.

Even after the bloody body was dragged off the platform and the crowd had dispersed, Wu Qianyu still stayed. The energy of the man's pain in his last moments was strangely powerful and it still remained in the air all around her. Her acute sensitivity to pain was acting like a lodestone, resonating with that pain.

Zhou Lai stood beside her in complete confusion until she finally opened her eyes. "Mistress Wu, are you okay?"

"I'm fine. Let's continue."

Zhou Lai wasn't convinced but it wasn't his place to question her. He led her into the crime and punishment headquarters, a stern building carved into the side of a small cliff. Inside contained the offices and housing for the guards as well as dungeons, now overcrowded with prisoners. The male guards looked at them curiously, their eyes helplessly drawn towards the sword wielding beauty that seemed out of place in such a dirty and dingy building.

The head guard was an elderly man and a local citizen named San Huming. He explained the situation briefly before bringing out a huge stack of case documents, more detailed versions of the reports sent to Zhou Ziyun. There were over a hundred capital crimes, many hundreds of serious crimes and thousands upon thousands of minor crimes. It was simply too much for the guards to handle. The backlog for just capital crime was over a month and the backlogs for the others were even greater.

"Mistress Wu, Elder Zhou, we simply are overwhelmed. We requested additional guards and an increase to the prison size but we still have not gotten anything." San Huming said. "It's a vicious cycle. Not having law and order means criminals become bolder and more crimes are committed!"

"Mistress Wu! While the head guard's words are true, the Zhou Clan has also agreed to his requests. It's simply a matter of time. Other projects are taking priority right now." Zhou Lai countered. "I know it's difficult but you simply have to do more with less!"

"That's what you said a month ago!" San Huming exclaimed.

The two men argued back and forth while Wu Qianyu stood by and listened. She grasped their differing positions and they both were not wrong. It was indeed a difficult problem which would cause more issues for the city in the future. At the same time, money did not grow on trees and suitable and talented people did not magically pop out of the ground.

Wu Qianyu still wanted to help even if she could only lighten their work a little.

San Huming readily agreed and pulled out a case file. "This particular criminal named Nan Wankang is accused of extortion and **** by seven different women. He is a very strong loose cultivator at the 6th Level of the Spirit Initiate Realm. We are currently trying to get a confession out of him. Strong

cultivators are difficult as they are even stronger than the guards. We have to commit a lot of men to make sure he doesn't escape or hurt us. We could really use your power here."

"Okay, that should be fine. Zhou Lai, you can return." Wu Qianyu said confidently.

Zhou Lai bowed and left.

San Huming then led Wu Qianyu through the building to a stone interrogation room. There was an open window and they could see a mob of at least ten guard taking turns whipping and beating a prisoner.

The scruffy looking Nan Wankang was tied up securely to two stone pillars with steel chains. His naked torso had many red welts but he was still energetic and defiant.

"I'm innocent! Fuck your mother. I'm innocent!" He yelled out after each strike.

Wu Qianyu looked at San Huming questioningly. "Is he actually guilty or innocent?"

"Mistress Wu, in matters of crime and punishment, unless you yourself witness the crime, there is always two sides to the story. However, the story here is one man's word against the combined grief and suffering of seven women and their families. We are sure he is guilty and we only need his confession to proceed with execution." He explained.

Wu Qianyu was not a naïve little girl. She understood the cruelty of the world and of human nature. San Huming's words made sense and she agreed with his methods.

"Since the guards aren't strong enough, I will do it." She said.

The guards were ordered to leave. Wu Qianyu went into the room while San Huming stayed outside to observe.

Inside the room, there was a table with an array of rods, paddles, and whips of different sizes. She felt a thrill course through her as she realized that those instruments were very similar to the ones Chen Wentian used on her. She eagerly picked up a heavy metal paddle and stroked the smooth flat surface.

Nan Wankang finally noticed Wu Qianyu and burst into laughter. "Are you my reward for being innocent and falsely imprisoned?" He eyed her sexy body without regard. "You're just my type of woman, hahaha!"

Wu Qianyu did not dignify him with a response. Instead, she swiftly brought the paddle down on his back.

Slap!

"Aaaarrrgg!" Nan Wankang screamed for real.

The power of the strike was nothing like before. It was like his entire skin had shattered into a thousand pieces. He panted and groaned in pain; his mind completely shocked by the power the woman wielded.

"Who... who are you?" He cried out.

"Do you confess to your crimes of raping seven women and extorting their families?" Wu Qianyu asked placidly.

"N... no... I'm innocent."

Nan Wankang had lost his prior arrogance but he was still stubborn. Wu Qianyu didn't hesitate to give another strike, this time on the side of his right leg.

Bam!

"Kyyaaaaaahhh!"

Nan Wankang's leg gave way. The skin was broken and bleeding in multiple places.

"No..." He muttered weakly.

Bam!

Another bloody scream and the other leg collapsed. He was now held up only by his arms, dangling from the chains around his wrists. He panted heavily; crying and moaning. The strikes were filled with spiritual energy and they directly shattered his defenses, sending shockwaves of agony through his body.

With this crazy woman here, there was no escape. There was no chance to escape his punishment... After a few more strikes his body was broken, the pain became simply unbearable, and his will finally shattered.

"S... stop... cough, please..." He begged softly, "I... I confess."

San Huming immediately entered the room with the guards. They hauled the battered prisoner away while San Huming thanked Wu Qianyu over and over again.

Wu Qianyu, on the other hand, was quite shocked by her actions. She remained in the empty interrogation room for a long time, trying to figure out what had happened. The room was still filled with painful energy which was reverberating around the walls and through her own body. She was stunned and her mind was in turmoil. She knew this experience had fundamentally changed her but she was still unsure what that change was.

Chapter 172 Side Story: Black Rock Report III

Wu Qianyu spent two days helping the crime and punishment department interrogate and get confessions out of the most troublesome criminals. Her efforts helped clear almost a week's worth of work for everyone. By the end, head guard San Huming and the other guards were bowing and praising her as if she was a goddess that descended from the heavens.

She deflected their praise out of modesty but secretly she was quite pleased with her contribution. The strange feelings she had at first disappeared as she got used to everything and she felt mostly satisfaction by the end for bringing these criminals to justice.

Her mood improved the following week during her duo hunting mission with Long Yifei. They found a natural synergy between their combat styles. Long Yifei had a strong mastery of ice attacks that controlled large numbers of enemies and the flow of battle. Wu Qianyu herself still prioritized her sword art and the simple but raw killing power that came with it. The mission ended very successfully and Long

Yifei finally broke through the top fifty. It was becoming more and more certain that she would get to the top ten by the end and both women were happy as a result.

The third joyous occasion met her when she returned to Black Rock City. Chen Wentian had finally finished his closed-door cultivation. He held another party to celebrate and all the disciples gathered once again, this time in their temporary home away from home.

Wu Qianyu was proud of his success but as usual, she was a quiet and reserved during dinner. Lin Qingcheng and Zhou Ziyun tried to monopolized Chen Wentian's attention but this time Xu Lanyi and Jasmine didn't want to be outdone. There was a lot of commotion, playful arguments, and plenty of laughter for everyone.

As Wu Qianyu returned to her room after dinner, she felt a sudden pang of melancholy. She had also wanted to seek his attention but had been too afraid to compete against the others, especially Jasmine who tended to dominate everyone's focus with her personality.

She should have talked more during dinner. She should have shown him more happiness, like her sisters. She should have been more assertive so she could show him that she loved him the most...

Yet her silent wish was wonderfully answered when she opened the door to her room. Chen Wentian had snuck away from his other disciples and was waiting for her.

"Master..." Wu Qianyu whispered. A smile appeared, bright and filled with adoration. "I wasn't expecting... I missed you."

"I missed you too, love." He said and pulled her in for a heartfelt kiss.

He hugged her tight, letting his hands roam unfettered across her backside. "Qianyu, you've forgotten again. You don't have to call me master when we're alone."

"Yes..." She moaned, feeling her desires rise from his touch and the hardness pressed against her stomach. "Wentian..."

"You thought you were being sneaky, but I saw the looks you were giving me during dinner." He teased her, "Now, say it. What do you want?"

"Wentian, I... I want you." Her face turned crimson; it was still embarrassing to say that.

Chen Wentian took her lips once more in response. The way she said his name was so sexy, it instantly drove him crazy. Raw animalistic passion consumed him and he picked her up and immediately went for the bed.

Wu Qianyu moaned and squirmed under his touch as her clothes were removed one by one. When he was in this state, his passionate energy was overflowing and it overwhelmed her. But then again, she willingly accepted it and let her worries and stress be washed away by his powerful desire.

"Ahhhh!!" Wu Qianyu cried out as she felt his dick finally enter her very moist tunnel.

It hit her deepest parts in one smooth and powerful thrust, grinding against her soft and sensitive walls. She felt so unbelievably full, he stretched her pussy in all sorts of wonderful ways.

The room soon filled with his grunts of pleasure, the slapping of their hips as he pounded into her, and her own uncontrollable moans.

"Ohhh!"

"Ohhh!"

She cried out each time he bottomed out. Her body begged for more each time he pulled back. It was like they were a perfect fit.

She was still in a haze but suddenly found her legs had been pushed up above her head and he had his full weight on top of her. This angle allowed him to go even deeper into her pussy. This was her favorite position!

"Wentian! Yesss!" She screamed incoherently.

He was driving her crazy, her orgasm was approaching hard and fast. Each time he bottomed out inside her; it drove her closer to the edge.

"Yes! Ahhhhh!"

One final scream, one final thrust. Her pussy shuddered. Her body shook. She was pinned to the bed and she could do nothing but ride out the waves of glorious sensations.

In the midst of her passionate high, she felt his scalding hot cum blast into her. He collapsed on top of her and ravaged her lips while he filled her until she overflowed.

They eventually disconnected their hips and cleaned up the resulting mess. Wu Qianyu then snuggled beside him, caressing his chest lazily while wrapping her legs around his. He turned to her with a wide smile and their eyes connected.

"I love you, Qianyu."

"I love you" She said and drew him in for another kiss.

She was always thrilled every time he said he loved her. His words washed away her nagging insecurities and left her in a state of complete bliss.

The kiss quickly devolved into a heavy make out session which of course led to another round of love making...

Eventually, they were both satisfied and their passion subsided. While still entangled in his arms, Wu Qianyu took the opportunity to describe her latest progress and the interesting experiences with pain in the crime and punishment department.

She was worried that it would seem weird and distasteful but Chen Wentian didn't feel that way at all. He was actually quite happy that her affinity for pain had undergone another change. This was a great sign that she should be able to enter Spiritual Growth smoothly.

"Your words reminded me of something" Chen Wentian said.

"What is it, dear?" She asked.

"When I was searching for research on pain cultivation in the Immortal Association's library, I found a painting of a woman claiming to be the goddess of love." He explained, "There were a few strange phrases in the painting that I did not understand. But I think I understand them a little more now. The words were 'Love yourself and you'll be able to love others. Let them love you and you shall understand their heart. Embrace love and turn it into the source of your power.'"

Wu Qianyu was astonished by those words. She sensed a familiarity with them when she thought about her connection to pain. She stared at him and they both seemed to be thinking of the same time.

He chuckled and kissed her lightly, "Qianyu, I think pain for you will be similar. In order to understand pain, you have to go through pain yourself. You also have to understand pain in others as well as be the cause of that pain. And then, sometime down the road, I think you'll be able to use all kinds of pain as your source of power."

"Wow... that sounds incredible." She muttered.

"Of course, because Qianyu, you're incredible."

Chapter 173 Valuable Shipment I

It was the dead of night. The waning moon struggled to illuminate the foggy rice fields and green forests outside of Moonlight City. The guards on the tall city walls were asleep, the night watch was simply a formality for the city that had not seen battle for many decades. Mounted scouts that were supposed to be patrolling the surroundings were instead in their tents, enjoying the company of the prostitutes they weren't supposed to bring with them.

It was under these circumstances that kidnapped women were often smuggled into the city. Human traffickers had to resort to such measures for high value goods because they didn't want to attract attention from neighboring kingdoms or duchies. And on this ordinary night, there was a particularly high-class and valuable shipment...

A heavy horse carriage rolled down the winding road from the northern hills, pulled by two grey draft horses and driven by a nervous looking bearded old man. He checked the surrounding constantly, as if expecting nonexistent city guards to jump out at them. The carriage proceeded down the hills and into the trees before going off the road. It struggled through the brush and finally stopped in a hidden clearing.

A burly man emerged from the carriage and said gruffly to the driver, "Old Hu, we're here? Where is our client?"

Old Hu looked at his partner and shook his head, "We are right on time but it's strange. He is usually early... let's wait a little bit."

He took a whiff of the air and scowled, "There's perfume on your hands. If you did anything to the goods..."

His partner chuckled and waved his hands dismissively but Old Hu didn't trust him and went into the carriage to check. He came back out and slapped his partner upside the head.

"You sick bastard, your job was to watch her incase she woke up, not fondle her body and masturbate!" He hissed. "How did my brother raise you like this?"

"Haha, don't be so uptight. She's still a virgin. I'm not that dumb. The trip was just too long and too boring..." Xia Kang suddenly became alert, "Who?"

A shadowy silhouette emerged from the foggy forest and both men tensed. The person was not their client, who would usually bring a squad of bodyguards. From the spiritual energy billowing from the person's body, the two men could tell this lonely visitor was strong...

The stranger wore a light-yellow hooded robe and a flower mask that covered everything except their eyes. However, the two human traffickers instantly recognized the telltale flare of the hips as well as the slight bulge around the chest area. From the physique, this was obviously a woman!

Xia Kang relaxed and chuckled; he sensed she was only at the 2nd Level of the Spirit Initiate Realm. She would be no problem for him, who was already at the 4th Level. He jumped down and walked towards

the woman. Old Hu stayed on the carriage since he was still at the Mind Focusing Realm and useless against such an opponent.

Xia Kang and the woman stopped around ten meters from each other. There was a brief silence and then the woman spoke up.

"Leave carriage behind and flee, and I will spare you." The female voice was sweet and melodic but it was also filled with strength and left no room for negotiations.

Xia Kang snorted, "Little lass, you shouldn't have tried to play hero. It's a dangerous world, hahaha. You'll pay with your body!"

His spiritual aura erupted as he charged. He was a loose cultivator that had reached his level through constant life or death struggles. He was an expert against all types of opponents and he did not underestimate the woman in front of him. A pair of steel gauntlets appeared on his fists as he launched a powerful one-two punch.

Bam! Bam!

His fists were blocked by her arms while she was pushed back several meters. She dusted her sleeves and stared at him mockingly, completely fine after the exchange.

Xia Kang was taken aback. She was two levels weaker and she didn't have weapon. How could she block him just like that?

"Okay, take this then. Steel Tornado!" Xia Kang yelled and attacked once more.

He became a blur as his spiritual energy gathered a cloud of dust around his body. His steel fists would then shoot out from the brown dust cloud at random angles and directions. This combined with the low visibility under the moonlight made dodging difficult.

It was truly a powerful attack. The woman could not keep up with the pace. She did her best to block with her arms and her legs, but some wayward punches landed on her body. Yet those blows seemed to have no effect as she would always recover quickly and continue as if unaffected.

Xia Kang's attack finally ran its course and the pair of fighters separated again. His heart was filled with frustration. He had expended a lot of energy for the last attack and yet it didn't seem to have done anything.

"My turn." The woman said and leaped into the air. "Fifth Palm, Flight of Demons!"

She twirled several times before a heavy leg chop came down, aimed straight for Xia Kang's head.

Boom!

Xia Kang wasn't a pushover and he blocked the strike like a man. His steel gauntlets took the brunt of force but the residual shockwave raced through his body, shattering blood vessels and shaking his organs. She repeated the same attack two more times, leaving him with more and more serious internal injuries.

"You bitch." He growled after swallowing a mouthful of blood. The woman's power was completely abnormal!

"Oh yeah? Take this; First Palm, Demon Subjugation!"

She charged forward and a flurry of attacks came his way. The pace was fast, as fast as his Steel Tornado. It was a devastating combo but he somehow survived with experience and his weapon. However, the woman did not give up and continued her furious attacks with no sign of stopping.

Defending against such an abnormal opponent was impossible. The first to give way were his steel gauntlets. His Pretorian Steel Gauntlets were a mid-level Spirit Initiate Realm weapon that was his most prized possession. It accounted for a large portion of his combat power. His heart filled with fear as the first cracks formed along the surface. Those cracks grew in size until flecks of steel came off with each blow. And then, the gauntlets finally shattered in front of his eyes.

While his precious weapon crumbled and fell from his fists, the woman's attacks continued. The first blow that he tried to block with his bare hands cracked bone. The second blow directly broke his right

hand. Every strike was supremely powerful and destructive. Without his Spirit Initiate Realm weapon, he stood no chance.

He no longer had no more will to fight. His spiritual energy was in completely turmoil. He wanted to flee, but it was too late!

"Ahhhh!" Xia Kang cried miserably.

The last kick landed squarely against the side of his head and sent his broken body into the ground. He landed in dusty heap, unmoving and already unconscious.

The woman stood up and looked around. The other man was nowhere in sight. She extended her spiritual sense and managed to locate him. She took off and quickly caught up to the fleeing Old Hu.

With just her spiritual force, she knocked him tumbling to the ground.

"Please, mercy" Old Hu cried.

He should have run earlier but how could he have predicted Xia Kang would lose? He cursed his perverse nephew for being so useless.

"Mercy? Did you ever show the women you kidnapped mercy?" The woman said hatefully.

Another blast of spiritual force sent him rolling on the ground until he slammed into a tree trunk.

"Cough... cough... uhhh... who... who the devil are you?" Old Hu wheezed, looking up his attacker in pure terror.

"My name is Lin Qingcheng, remember it!" The woman said and knocked him out with a punch to the face.

Chapter 174 Valuable Shipment II

Lin Qingcheng stood up and sighed heavily. The battle had been more difficult than she expected. The burly steel fisted warrior was very crafty and if she did not have the Golden Serpent Robes she would have definitely lost. His moves were strange and she could not counter all of them. She had suffered quite a few blows that were all blocked by her armor. It even helped crush her opponent's weapon.

"Could Sister Ziyun win against him without assistance? Probably..." She muttered.

She was still disappointed by her most recent loss to Zhou Ziyun during training. Her progress in the Spirit Initiate Realm was stagnant and her sister had caught up. She was not the type to get jealous and she was sincerely happy for Zhou Ziyun. At the same time, she was also frustrated in herself. She was master's first disciple after all and she needed to work hard to make him proud of her.

These thoughts weighed on her mind. It was the main reason why she went out of her way to get involved in this mission tonight. Her disciples had overheard bits and pieces during their work and finally pieced together the intel on this valuable shipment. By rescuing the woman in the carriage, she would be able to make one of Moonlight City's high-class brothels take a heavy loss.

Lin Qingcheng grinned and focused her mind back on the task at hand. She grabbed the unconscious old man's leg and started dragging him back toward the carriage. The fog was getting thicker but she knew which way to go.

When she finally saw the outline of the horses and the carriage, she became alarmed. There were multiple figures moving around... she counted more than twenty! How could she let others steal her target after all the effort she put in?

Lin Qingcheng dropped the leg she was holding and dashed forward. As the fog cleared, she saw the glitter of armor, shields, and the weapons in their hands. A noble and elegant young man emerge from the carriage, carrying a limp body wrapped in a white cloth.

"Drop that woman!" She yelled and leaped towards the carriage.

"Guards!"

"Sir!"

"Stop!"

A chorus of yells met her advance. A squad of five armored soldiers immediately formed a wall of shields. They were all at the 1st or 2nd levels of the Spirit Initiate Realm and combined their spiritual energy to negate her attack.

Lin Qingcheng was blown backwards and landed in a heap on the forest floor. She immediately rolled to the side, avoiding a volley of throwing spears that landed where she was a moment before. She twirled and blocked with her legs and arms until the soldiers ran out of missiles.

She finally exhaled and glared at her new opponents, "Bastards, hand me that woman or else suffer the consequences!"

She tried to be menacing but she was met with a bout of laughter. It came from the noble with a handsome and clean-cut face. He already on his horse, with the unconscious prize laying across his lap. He rode over confidently, flanked by ten riders and even more foot soldiers.

"It is a treat to finally meet the Golden Madam. You are every bit as impressive as the rumors." The man said and bowed his head slightly.

"I don't want to be your enemy. I think we have a lot in common. We can be good friends." He chuckled and winked at her.

Lin Qingcheng's temper flared and she charged straight at him, intent on punching his face into a bloody mess. How dare he mock her?

The wall of soldiers met her again but she was ready this time. With a powerful leap, she vaulted over the foot soldiers and landed in front of the cavalry. Another storm of blades stopped her advance and she suffered multiple blows and cuts that glanced off her armor. While she was distracted, the noble retreated to the rear. The foot soldiers also caught up and reformed their defensive line.

Her furious attack finally ran out of steam, unable to overcome the difference in numbers. They were all strong and well trained. Fighting against all of them was ten times tougher than fighting against Xia Kang

alone. Her yellow robes were torn to shreds, revealing the glittering golden armor beneath. Thankfully, her mask was still intact but it was barely holding together.

Her opponents were still full of fighting spirit. She could also keep fighting but it would take a long time for her to beat these men. In that time, even more city guards might show up...

The noble seemed to sense what she was thinking and spoke up once more. "My lady, please do not be angry with me. I am merely protecting my investment. You should understand, we are in the same business after all."

"Don't rope me in with the likes of you." Lin Qingcheng answered spitefully.

"Fine, fine, I'm sorry. But this woman, I absolutely must obtain. As compensation, I hereby formally invite you to the Full Moon Revelry." The man said. "I'm sure you've heard of it? It is the gathering of the foremost brothel owners in the whole kingdom."

He extended a hand and a silvery badge floated forward.

Lin Qingcheng caught it and examined it. It was real!

"How can you hand out this card? Who are you?" She asked.

"Oh, come on, can't you guess?" He said with a smirk.

She knew there was only one reasonable answer. "Bright Moon royal family..."

"That's right. Third Prince Mingyue Jian at your service. I hope you come and I hope we can have a good chat then. My dear Golden Madam, until then, farewell." He bowed once more and gestured to his troops, "Let's go!"

"..."

Lin Qingcheng stood and watched silently as her enemy disappeared from the scene. Mingyue Jian by himself was only at the 3rd Level of the Spirit Initiate Realm but he had come with his royal guard. She had ambushed a group of men before the two kidnappers arrived but they were a decoy. The royal guard was much more powerful than the riff raff she beat up.

She never expected to fight such opponents in the first place. These covert transactions usually involved mercenaries and gangsters. She didn't realize this kidnapped woman's status was so high it even implicated the royal family!

She looked around for the two kidnappers but discovered to her great disappointment that they were already dead. While she was distracted during the heat of battle, Mingyue Jian had the unconscious Old Hu and Xia Kang killed so they could not reveal anything about the woman or the underlying plot.

Lin Qingcheng felt extremely vexed. She had been completely outplayed by the enemy. Still, the invitation could be a blessing in disguise. It was time for her little enterprise to enter the big leagues. She would be able to study these nobles and royals up close and find their weaknesses.

There was still a week until the full moon and she had to prepare...

Smash!

A precious jade wine glass exploded against the white marble floor. A richly dressed man was the culprit. He had a handsome and high-class appearance but his lips quivered and his hands shook in uncontrollable anger.

"Who did it? Who took my merchandise!!" He yelled across the table at the squad of elder nobles on the other side.

"My lord, the reports from the gate guards are not conclusive but a woman named the Golden Madam was the only one that left the city last night. It could be her. She owns a mid-level establishment named the House of Paradise." One of his advisors said.

"I've heard of that shit hole. Capture her, I will make her pay!" He slammed the table furiously.

The man was Mingyue Tian, second prince of the Bright Moon Kingdom. He had the same blood as Mingyue Jian but it was obvious that his temperament was completely different compared to his younger brother. He and his faction had been completely deceived and they didn't even know the culprit!

"My lord, we can't! We absolutely can't. Her background is unfathomable." Another advisor said in a rush. "The true owner of that brothel might actually be the ruler of this province, Immortal Blue Dragon Chen Wentian!"

"What do you mean? I thought that was just a rumor!"

"It's never been confirmed but whenever the immortal visits our city, the House of Paradise is the only place he visits. That is absolutely fact. We cannot touch that brothel; the risk is too great!"

All of his advisors nodded and spoke up in agreement. Seeing them so adamant, Mingyue Tian could only give up. He sighed heavily and collapsed back in his chair.

"Uncle Duo, what should we do?" He asked.

Uncle Duo, the first advisor, stood and saluted, "We can only go with our original lineup. But rest assured, my lord, they will be ready to perform at the Revelry. They will not let you down, I promise!"

"We promise!" The other advisors also chorused and saluted.

"Fine..."

Chapter 175 World of Pimps

Lin Qingcheng returned to the House of Paradise and studied the invitation badge closely. When she injected a bit of spiritual energy, the badge displayed additional information including the time and location as well as the option to bring guests.

The next morning, she convened a meeting with her core disciples to discuss the matter. Some of them were more experienced in the business and knew about the event. Qin Yan in particular had overheard her clients talk about the Full Moon Revelry many times over the years.

The event was known throughout the city as the most exclusive and prestigious gathering for pimps and brothel owners. Membership meant supreme status among the elite of the city and the entire kingdom. Members had access to the highest quality auctions as well as the prestige of having the royal family and high-class nobles as their customers.

Lin Qingchen mentioned that the third prince was also a pimp but her disciples were not surprised. The fact that royals ran their own brothels was an open secret. The entire prostitution industry was tightly intertwined in the power structure of the kingdom. Only those with the greatest power could operate the best brothels after all.

"The invitation allows me to bring an unspecified number of guests." Lin Qingcheng said, "What do you all think I should do? Who will accompany me?"

Her disciples were silent for a while until Mo Yanmi spoke up, "Madam, my opinion is that you don't need to bring a lot but nothing bringing any is also not acceptable. Since it is the third prince who invited you, you don't need to worry about losing face. I think if Ruyan and I accompanied you, it will be fine."

"Madam, I concur." Huang Ruyan said while the others nodded in agreement.

Lin Qingcheng studied her disciples. They had all grown a lot in the past few months. They bonded through their common goals and became a wonderfully united group. With a steady diet of rich food and pill supplements, their body and complexion improved drastically. Assets were visibly enhanced while their prior weaknesses gradually melted away.

Huang Ruyan and Mo Yanmi were her best and they even broke through to the 3rd Level of the Mind Focusing Realm. They were both twenty-five this year. While they could not be compared to disciples of immortal sects, their progress was still quite good in the mortal world.

Lin Qingcheng nodded and smiled. "Alright. We don't have much time left, we should prepare."

"Yes Madam!"

A week passed quickly and as the sun fell, it was finally time for the Full Moon Revelry. Lin Qingcheng and her two disciples walked out of House of Paradise, ready for whatever challenges they could face tonight.

A massive blue moon illuminated the streets of the city which was busy with citizens partaking in their own festivities. The entire kingdom worshipped the moon and every full moon was an opportunity for commoners to celebrate.

Huang Ruyan and Mo Yanmi were like resplendent flowers in full bloom. Their elegant hair buns were adorned with ornaments made of gold and precious gems. Their makeup was expertly done and flawless. Their sexy outfits, one pearl white and one pale pink, accentuated their curves perfectly. Deep necklines showed off their impressive cleavage. A thigh high leg slit made plenty visible but hid enough from view. Just for tonight, they had turned into ravishing beauties capable of stealing the hearts of any mortal.

Lin Qingcheng's outfit for tonight was the polar opposite. She wore a multi-layered gold threaded battle dress that was very conservative and hid every inch of skin from view. She also had on a hood and her flower mask. The entire ensemble gave her a powerful yet enigmatic aura and it was exactly what she wanted. She was the madam after all.

The trio entered a horse carriage and set off. The Revelry was held in the Royal Lunar Hall, deep in the city center. Along the way, they passed many inner walls and check points. Lin Qingcheng showed her invitation each time and they were allowed to pass without issue.

They eventually arrived in front of a massive stone and marble building several stories tall. The front of the building was already a lively affair. Carriages formed a long line, waiting to drop off their occupants. Each carriage would stop by the entrance that was lined with hundreds of royal guards. Richly dressed men would exit followed by their retinue of women and disappear into the building.

"Welcome, esteemed guest!"

The guards saluted as Lin Qingcheng stepped down from the carriage. These guards wore the same armor and carried the same weapons as the ones she fought in the forest. Their cultivation was even slightly stronger. She grimaced inwardly. She reminded herself that she couldn't solve her problems with her fists tonight...

"Madam, let's go." Mo Yanmi nudged her.

Lin Qingcheng nodded and walked up the entrance staircase.

Another set of guards at the top saluted and opened the wide double doors for them. Bright light flooded out into the night and she stepped through determinedly.

The first sight that greeted her was a luxurious entrance hall was filled with people. Well-dressed men of all ages stood around and chatted animatedly with each other. They gave her strange looks as she passed; she was the only one that wore a mask and it seemed extremely out of place.

There were also women and they outnumbered the men. They congregated in flocks and talked quietly among themselves. They were all like Huang Ruyan and Mo Yanmi, dressed to impress and dolled up to seduce. Their outfits varied greatly. Some were classical and reserved, many were daring, and a few left almost nothing to the imagination.

Lin Qingchen weaved her way through the crowd and entered the grand ballroom. Her eyes immediately widened in surprise as she took in the remarkable sights.

She knew this kingdom enjoyed prostitutes and sex above all else but tonight was the first time she grasped the full extent and scope of their obsession.

The grand ballroom would normally be used for regal ceremonies and stately events. But tonight, it was transformed into a world of wickedness and debauchery...

What lay in front of her... was the world of pimps!

Chapter 176 The Tear of Chang Xi

The grand ballroom was spacious. It was filled with wonderful decorations celebrating the full moon. The floor was packed with men and women, their different outfits forming a colorful sea. Some of the nobles were seated in at round tables with their women while others sat with their allies or friends. Wine and liquor flowed like water. The Revelry was already in full swing!

Lin Qingcheng looked around and noticed several things that seemed out of place for a normal party. There were booths set up at odd intervals with silk curtains. She could see silhouettes of people within

who were intertwined with each other. Soft moans of pleasure drifted out, enticing the people around the booths who watched the scene with rapt attention.

In contrast to the secretive booths, numerous raised stages dotted the floor. A beautiful woman danced on each one with unique and different styles, each with a group of men watching intently. They were in various stages of undress and a few were already completely naked. Lin Qingcheng had never seen such moves from her employees at the House of Paradise. These women were absolute gems and extremely talented.

There was also was a large and wide stage that occupied one end of the room. There was some sort of fight going on with four half-naked women exchanging punches and kicks while a large crowd watched. They cheered and yelled raucously to support the fighters they liked.

Wasn't this supposed to be a celebration? Why was there fighting? Lin Qingcheng thought in confusion.

Yet compared to all of this, the strangest thing was the huge white-marble monument at the center of the room. It was taller than three meters and pulsed with a strange aura. She couldn't see clearly but there was a small gem at the top that emitted a soft pale-white glow. The spiritual energy from the gem felt so familiar yet she could not figure out why no matter how hard she tried.

While Lin Qingcheng was distracted, a certain person had found her...

"Welcome to the Full Moon Revelry, my dear Golden Madam and her beautiful guests." The man's voice was filled with merriment.

Lin Qingcheng whirled and glared at the perpetrator who was none other than Third Prince Mingyue Jian.

"Oh, it's you." She muttered, as if trying to spit out something distasteful.

Mingyue Jian didn't react to her attitude. With the intel available to the royal family, he understood that Lin Qingcheng had some sort of relationship with Chen Wentian. A person with an immortal backer was simply a massive bomb that could go off at any time. He knew to treat her with respect and he continued to stare at her with a slight smile on his face.

Normal people would cower and flee but he dared to approach Lin Qingcheng. This was because he simply wanted to turn such a dangerous person into his ally.

"Golden Madam, this is your first time at the Revelry so you aren't familiar with some of the features. If you will allow me, I shall be your guide and explain everything to you." He said.

Lin Qingcheng had to admit that would be helpful and acknowledged with a grunt.

He bowed and beckoned her to follow, "Come with me."

The two of them formed an eye-catching pair as they made their way through the grand ballroom. Every so often, nobles would stop and greet their royal prince while also offering a few nervous words for the enigmatic and dangerous Golden Madam. Mingyue Jian walked slowly and explained what the Full Moon Revelry was about.

Bright Moon Kingdom had an obsession with sex and prostitutes since forever and even he wasn't exactly sure why. In the beginning, business was fierce as royals and nobles formed factions and competed against each other to obtain the best women and get the most business.

However, a wise king quickly put an end to such bloody infighting and instituted the Full Moon Revelry. This monthly event was for all the best brothel owners in the kingdom to come together and determine who could provide the best service to their customers. Simply put, it was to see which pimp was the best.

Six of their women would be crowned as a Holy Lunar Priestess after winning various competitions during the Revelry. They would each receive the blessing of the moon goddess and be the most desirable women for the following month. It was needless to say the astounding amount of fame and money a single Holy Lunar Priestess meant for their pimp!

"Wait a moment... what moon goddess?" Lin Qingcheng asked in confusion.

"Ah, I apologize for skipping over this important fact. The official religion of Moonlight Kingdom involves worshipping the moon goddess, Chang Xi." Mingyue Jian said, "Our scripture states that she gifted the first king a single tear. This single tear was so powerful, it gave him strength to conquer the wild lands

and establish the kingdom. Look at the center of the room, that gem is the fabled tear. We call it the Tear of Chang Xi."

"Oh, I see... It's quite strange, I can sense some spiritual energy from it."

Mingyue Jian was delighted, That is actually quite wonderful. The Tear of Chang Xi only resonates with women and in particular, the most beautiful and talented ones. You may hide behind your mask Golden Madam, but I always knew that you are an exceptional woman."

"..." Lin Qingcheng was left speechless.

She could not find anything to say in the face of his shameless praises and brazen flirting. Of course, she didn't have any good thoughts about Mingyue Jian. It's just that her experience with men was limited to Chen Wentian and she didn't know what to do in this situation.

Mingyue Jian didn't seem to notice and continued his explanation, "At the end of the Revelry, the tear gifts each Holy Lunar Priestess a little bit of its divine power. Any cultivator that sleeps with a priestess will experience a drastic improvement of their physical condition. Temporarily, their strength will increase, they can comprehend their secret arts much faster, and even their wounds will heal quicker. This is why each priestess and her pimp is able to instantly become rich and famous overnight!"

Chapter 177 Standard Service

Lin Qingcheng had doubts whether the Tear of Chang Xi was a real treasure. How could a weak mortal kingdom have a heavenly treasure gifted by a goddess?

She thought it had to be a hoax at first. From the stories her master told her, immortals constantly searched the world for anything that could help them advance. If the gem a true treasure, it would have definitely been taken by a wandering immortal long ago.

On the other hand, if the gem was a hoax it could have never enthralled the ruling class of Moonlight Kingdom like this. Mysterious and unexplained phenomena that seemed fake often had extraordinary causes. For example, the talking ghost that liked to befriend children was actually Chen Mo who had gained wisdom. There was also herself and her unique power that even Chen Wentian could not explain.

She could not come up with any other explanation to refute Mingyue Jian's words and she could only follow along silently.

Mingyue Jian led the three women through the crowds while enthusiastically described the effects of tear's blessing. As a prince, he had his fair share of opportunities with priestesses and the aid they provided to his cultivation was incredibly effective. He was twenty-eight years old and already at the 3rd Level of the Spirit Initiate Realm. This kind of progress was comparable to average disciples in an immortal sect and it was all due to the blessing.

The priestess positions were also directly tied to the power dynamics of the kingdom. It just so happened that the three princes each held onto one priestess each for the last few years. The other three priestesses switched between various noble clans but the fact that all three princes were deadlocked meant a complicated political battle was brewing. The king was old and would die soon. The three princes had already started to jockey for support and influence among the nobles for in the inevitable battle for the throne.

Lin Qingcheng suddenly realized something and asked, "That woman in the carriage, is she part of your plan?"

"Indeed, my lady has a sharp intuition!" Mingyue Jian praised her, "I apologize once again for that evening. That woman is extremely important to me. But let's not talk about that. Look here, we've are at the first competition event."

They had arrived in front of the strange booths that were covered by thin curtains. Close up, Lin Qingcheng could distinguish silhouettes of the people inside. There were two people inside each booth. The booths also had crowds of men standing around, like they were all waiting for something.

Mingyue Jian led them over to the nearest one in which a woman with a thin and limber body was wildly riding on top of a heavyset man. Both of them let out an abundance of erotic sounds as they fucked without regard for their surroundings.

Mingyue Jian pointed out the sign hanging on the wooden frames of booth. It showed her name as well as some markings showing the number fourteen.

"This one is named Nanfeng Qingruo from the Joyous Union. She is quite good and has been a priestess in the past. It says here that her score is currently fourteen. That is an impressive number for this event, which is called 'Standard Service'. She might even be able to win again." He said.

"What do you mean?" Lin Qingcheng didn't understand what he was implying.

"This event is about who can provide the best standard prostitution service which is using their pussy, ass, or mouth to pleasure their customers. As a madam, I'm sure you are familiar with this?"

She wanted to punch his smug face but held back and said through gritted teeth. "Yeah... so?"

"Well, the aim of the first competition is to see who can service the most men in a certain amount of time. In this case it is one hour. Winning this event means they have the skill and ability to spread the goddess' blessing to the greatest number of men in the following month."

He then moved over to an elderly woman in an eye-catching white robe who stood nearby.

"Honorable judge, how long does Nanfeng Qingruo have left?" He asked respectfully.

The woman bowed and said with a raspy voice, "My prince, she has eleven minutes left."

Soon after she said this, the fat man emerged from the booth with his clothes worn haphazardly and a silly grin on his face. He went over to the sign and added a mark to make it fifteen. At the same time, another man entered the booth and quickly embraced Nanfeng Qingrou.

Lin Qingcheng watched half in shock and half in amazement as that woman pushed down the second man and started to ride him without a moment of hesitation. She was indeed a fierce competitor...

While Lin Qingcheng was in a daze, Mo Yanmi took the chance to speak up. "Lord Prince, if I may ask, it is already extremely difficult and tiring for a woman to serve so many men in one night. Will she have to work like this for a month? She will kill herself from exhaustion."

"Miss Mo, do not worry. The priestesses are prized and cherished above all else." Mingyue Jian said, "They can accept as many or as few customers as they want. They are allowed ample time to rest and

they are well compensated. I believe that on average, the winner of this event can make five thousand gold in one month."

Now it was Mo Yanmi and Huang Ruyan's turn to be shocked. What concept was five thousand gold? Even if the pimps took half of that or even three quarters, it was still thousands of gold in total. With that amount they could buy a mansion and comfortably retire as a rich lady!

Prostitutes like them could only make around one gold per month in the middle district, and this was with the improved salary from the House of Paradise. Their eyes shined as they daydreamed about what it would be like to have so much money...

Mingyue Jian noticed their wistful looks and chuckled, "Miss Mo, Miss Huang, are you are interested? I can give you two booths to compete. There's still plenty of time. If you don't try, you won't know if you can win."

"Really?" They both cried excitedly.

"Ahem!" Lin Qingcheng coughed loudly and pinched their arms.

"Ow, ow! Madam... we're sorry!" They yelped and retreated behind her obediently.

Lin Qingcheng gave them a stern glare before rounding on the prince, "And you, don't try to corrupt my people. They are prized members of the House of Paradise, understand?"

Seeing the fire in her eyes, Mingyue Jian knew he had overstepped his bounds.

"Golden Madam, I sincerely apologize." He said quickly, "Please, follow me to the next event..."

Chapter 178 Virginity Cult I

Mingyue Jian was much better behaved as he showed Lin Qingcheng around the rest of Revelry party events. He described the other selection events for priestesses and thankfully, those were not as salacious as the first event.

There was a total of five events that determined five of the six Holy Lunar Priestess spots. These included general services, cultivation, art, beauty, and virginity. The sixth position was a strange one that was chosen directly by the tear so it was left until the end.

The cultivation event was the reason there was a fighting platform. There, women lined up to fight each other to determine who was the strongest. The one with the highest cultivation and combat power would in theory be able to absorb the most amount of blessing and be more effective at transferring it to her clients. A strong priestess was popular among those trying to breakthrough or seeking a quick boost to their own cultivation.

Art involved many different specialties such as playing musical instruments, painting, singing, and poetry. Having these skills showed that a woman was elegant and refined despite her job serving men. Such women were adored and cherished and held in higher regard than ordinary women. Men viewed them as having the epitome of womanly qualities and simply being around them brought joy and relaxation.

Beauty didn't need much explanation. Everyone, man or woman, valued physical beauty. The most beautiful woman was voted on by all the members of the revelry. This event had the least number of contenders because a single woman would often win consecutively for many months. Those that still chose to compete paraded around the party floor in sexy and revealing outfits, socializing with the attendees and trying to win their votes.

Virginity was different from beauty and it was prized by men above all. There was something about claiming a woman's first time that made a man's ego soar to the heavens. Certain women had a special air of innocence and purity. Every man had a sense for such special qualities; the bashful smiles, the coy glances from their nervous eyes, and their tender bodies that retained their baby fat... The virgin priestess was highly prized and drove men wild with desire. After the Revelry, she would sell her first time to the highest bidder and every time the price would be astonishing!

"Golden Madam, we have arrived at the virgin priestess selection." Mingyue Jian said as they arrived in front of an interesting setup.

Lin Qingcheng saw that there was a large circular pen with women seating inside in rings of chairs. The first large ring had twenty or so women. The following ring of chairs were placed on a raised stage and the ones after on an even higher stage. In total there were close to a hundred women.

They each had a sign on their chair that stated their name and which pimp or brothel they belonged to. The attendees would walk around the perimeter, see which one was their favorite, and cast their votes. She could see that some of the women looked very scared and a few were even chained to their chairs.

"Why are some of them tied up? You are forcing them against their will!" She said, "You should know I despise such things; did you bring me here to taunt me?"

"No, no, no." Mingyue Jian quickly said, "Those are just slightly misbehaved... and some are criminals and this is their punishment."

"You..."

Lin Qingcheng felt angry enough to punch his face but before she could do so, somebody else decided to cause a scene.

"Make way!"

"Prince Tian!"

"Get out of the way!"

A scuffle broke out nearby as several large body guards shoved aside the attendees and headed towards their direction. There was another princely young man in between the body guards with a furious and distorted face who was staring straight at Mingyue Jian.

This man finally made his way in front of Mingyue Jian and pointed a finger accusingly at him, "Jian, you asshole! You dare steal my woman; I'll have you locked up!"

His yell attracted a lot of attention and the crowd instantly looked in their direction. Lin Qingcheng's own anger dissipated and she quickly moved away from the third prince, hoping she wouldn't get lumped into whatever problem he was having.

"Second Prince Tian, I don't know what you are talking about." Mingyue Jian said innocently.

"Don't pretend." Mingyue Tian spat, "Look at number thirty-seven. She was originally my woman. But she was stolen from me a week ago. And now she is here, under your name!"

"Woah!" The crowd gasped in surprise and everyone looked towards the woman in question.

Her name was Hua Yulan and she was sitting in the third row. Out of a sea of faces, hers was especially charming and innocent compared to the rest. She looked quite young and her cherubic image tugged at all the men's heartstrings. She was a strong contender... She could very well be the next virgin priestess!

The crowd instantly became noisy as many that had been on the fence rushed to cast their vote for Hua Yulan. Mingyue Tian stared in absolute shock as his anger had ended up benefitting his brother!

"Stop, stop. Everyone, stop!" He screamed at the top of his voice.

A hush fell upon the surrounding as the attendees cowered from the fury of the royal prince.

"She belongs to me! Those votes belong to me! Everyone, I have always been known as the prince who delivers the best virgins. I have won the virgin priestess event for the last two years. Hua Yulan is mine!"

"So what? Does that mean others can't compete in this event?" Mingyue Jian shot back, "She is obviously my woman and has a great chance of winning yet you want to claim her? Rubbish. What proof do you have that she is yours?"

"Oh, you want proof? You can ask your partner in crime, the Golden Madam. Ask her where she was seven nights ago and why the city guards saw her leave the city and come back after two hours. Those two hours were exactly the time when my men were going bring Hua Yulan into the city. Yet all of my men died mysteriously and Hua Yulan disappeared. Now she is here and the Golden Madam is also here accompanying you. Anyone can connect the dots when you make it so obvious!"

Lin Qingcheng cursed inwardly as every pair of eyeballs landed on her. Her infamous reputation was well known among the ruling class and her outfit was more than conspicuous. She had no where to hide now and it looked like trouble.

"Madam, let's call Grand Master Chen!" Mo Yanmi whispered urgently at her side.

Huang Ruyan also tugged at her sleeve and looked scared.

Lin Qingcheng patted their arms to calm them. Her armor had protected her against immortals like He Xinghan so she wasn't afraid at all. There was nothing these people could do to her.

Mingyue Jian glanced at her, as if expecting her to say something.

But Lin Qingcheng remained silent and stared back at him defiantly. He played her and he also played his elder brother so she wasn't about to help him in anyway. She didn't like being taken advantage of and she wanted to see what he would do to extricate himself from this situation. She also wanted know what his plan was and why she had been invited to the Revelry.

Mingyue Jian sighed lightly and finally responded. "Honored members of the Full Moon Revelry, the matter is much simpler than you think. We can simply ask Hua Yulan. Yulan, tell them where you are from and how you got here."

"Yes, my lord." Hua Yulan spoke up for the first time. Her voice soft and pure and yet complete irresistible, "My name is Hua Yulan and I am a Sacred Daughter of the Virtuous Order of Kunli."

"Woah!!"

The gasp from the crowd this time was loud and filled with shock. Even Lin Qingcheng was taken aback.

The Virtuous Order of Kunli was a widespread mortal cultivation sect and religious cult that had branches across many provinces in the Eastern-Sanmu Subcontinent. Its members worshipped virginity and had many secret arts that used cultivated their virginity in unique ways.

They were well known across the lands... they were desired by all men and the envy of all women!

Chapter 179 Virginity Cult II

All eyes were on Hua Yulan who had to calm her nervousness before continuing with her story. She described how the Virtuous Order of Kunli was a highly selective order with stringent requirements for accepting disciples. The Sacred Daughters, as they were called, came from all walks of life but they all had unique compatibility with secret arts that cultivated virginal powers. She didn't not elaborate what those were but they sounded mystical and amazing. It made totally sense that these women would always win the virgin priestess position in the last two years.

The Virtuous Order, unlike completely celibate sects like the Glacier Sect, allowed their members to get married and even expected most ordinary members to do so eventually. Sacred Daughters only remained pure until they met and fell in love with someone. Then, they would leave the order, marry and devote the rest of their lives to that person.

All men desired Sacred Daughters because they were unwavering in their love and loyalty. They would never betray the one they have chosen. This benefitted the order as well, which survived throughout the years because of the reputation of producing great wives and the subsequent financial support from many happy husbands.

"Honored nobles of Moonlight City, the reason I am here today is because Second Prince Tian has been committing unforgivable sins against our order." Hua Yulan said solemnly, "He has been kidnapping Sacred Daughters from the Virtuous Order to supply this Revelry with virgins. I come from the neighboring province of Great Basin. The branch of the order in that province has suffered his terror for the last two years. He has taken hundreds of us and we are all but finished."

The audience glanced at each other, not really knowing what to think. There were some that looked sympathetic while others couldn't care less. Everyone knew of the open secret of kidnapping women from afar to satisfy the kingdom's appetite for fresh young women. Could a single woman change their minds? Would a powerful kingdom let such a trashy cult influence their way of life?

"So what? You just admitted that my virgins come from your sect. That proves you are also my slave." Mingyue Tian said, "Everyone, you've heard already! Am I wrong or is my younger brother wrong for stealing what is mine?"

"Are you an idiot?" Mingyue Jian interrupted him, "Shut up if you have nothing intelligent to say! Yulan, do you belong to Prince Tian? Did I steal you from him?"

Her eyes shined with determination. "No, my lord... I, Hua Yulan, came to this city willingly to search for my fellow sisters and Prince Jian is the one who agreed to help me. In exchange, I have chosen him; my body, mind, and spirit belong to him forever. How can my lord steal something that is already his?"

Lin Qingcheng was the only other person to witness that night and she knew that Hua Yulan's words were half true and half false. However, the second prince wasn't there and he had no way to prove anything. She didn't speak up either since she found this second prince even more detestable than Mingyue Jian.

The audience's opinion seemed mixed as well. Those that supported the second prince couldn't do anything unreasonable while those that supported the third prince all hurriedly cast their votes for Hua Yulan. All in all, there seemed to be more supporters of the third prince than the second prince...

"Jian... you... Are you openly declaring war on me? Are you not afraid of big brother or royal father?" Mingyue Tian said angrily.

"No, don't be dramatic. I am simply offering a helping hand in exchange for greater long-term benefits for our kingdom." Mingyue Jian said, "The Virtuous Order is spread out far and wide and each branch does not have a lot of members. Your actions are too clumsy and it's already caused the order in Great Basin Province to be on the verge of collapse. While we don't know much about the order, haven't you wondered where they came from and why they have such special powers? The order has been around longer than our kingdom, how has it been able to survive for so long?"

Mingyue Jian paused dramatically and stared at Mingyue Tian, "Useless brother, I will tell you. If I don't stop your actions, you will bring ruin upon our kingdom! The order is an ordinary mortal sect but its roots are not simple at all. If they are pushed to extinction, they can appeal for assistance from their forebearers... forebearers who hold immortal power!"

The room immediately erupted in an uproar. The most important rule among the royals and nobles of the kingdom was that they must not offend an immortal. This was why Lin Qingcheng never faced any direct opposition for her actions. The noble clan heads and royal relatives immediately became furious at the second prince. How dare he endanger the kingdom to satisfy his own greed?

"But... impossible... it's a lie! How can you know for sure? What if that bitch is lying?" The second prince yelled.

"Hmph, didn't Hua Yulan already say she has devoted herself to me. Under the laws of the order, she is sworn to eternal loyalty and everything she says to me is the truth!"

Mingyue Jian then turned to the rest of the crowd, "But my fellow Revelry attendees, you do not have to worry. Hua Yulan and I have already made a deal that will satisfy both parties. The order will volunteer one Sacred Daughter every month for the Revelry and in return we will no longer kidnap their members and ensure that they can survive and thrive."

There was a moment of silence before discussions started once more. The second prince visibly deflated and had no more fight in him. It looked almost certain that he would lose his priestess position to his brother... What would happen to his supporters if he could supply them with women and money?

"Quiet!" A new voice boomed throughout the ballroom.

The crowd silently parted and a tall bearded man emerged. He looked quite similar to Mingyue Jian and Mingyue Tian. The two brothers immediately gave a bow.

"Elder Brother."

"Brother Qian."

Mingyue Qian, the oldest, stared at the two of them and sighed, "Brothers, tonight is supposed to be a night of joy and celebration. Look what you two have caused... Let's stop for now and discuss the matter in a few days."

"Yes!" They both said.

"Good," Mingyue Qian chuckled and patted their shoulders, "Everyone, I apologize for the distraction. Let us resume the Revelry!"

Chapter 180 The Sixth Priestess

The first prince Mingyue Qian had more authority and influence than his two brothers and the Revelry soon resumed its festivities. On the surface all three brothers acted respectful but this was merely one of many battles for power between them. While Mingyue Qian acted as the peace maker and showed off his leadership skills, more people were undoubtedly impressed by the third brother's ability to scheme and bring down the second brother's monopoly on one of the priestess positions.

Lin Qingcheng didn't pay attention to any of these matters as she finally managed to lose the annoying and clingy Mingyue Jian in the commotion. She took her disciples back to the artistic competition as she was impressed by their skills, especially at dancing. It was something that interested her a great deal and she wanted to learn more.

The remaining hours passed uneventfully and it was soon the finale of the Revelry. It was past midnight and the moon was at its most splendid in the night sky. It was so bright it even shined through the windows into the room, bathing the attendees in a soft white glow.

The five priestess selection events all finished and the five that were chosen stood on the stairs beneath the stone pillar. Hua Yulan ended up being selected, to no one's surprise. The princes, lords, and everyone else gathered around them and a sea of faces stared intently at the Tear of Chang Xi. Lin Qingcheng was curious as well, eager to see just what kind of power this treasure had.

And soon, the tear pulsed with energy...

It was unmistakable and mysterious. Even with her terrible spiritual sense, Lin Qingcheng could follow it as it swirled around the stone pillar. The five women didn't seem to sense anything at first because of their lower cultivation but soon the energy started to enter their bodies and they let out a sigh of comfort. Their bodies glowed a soft white and they seemed extremely happy and relaxed.

The energy did not linger for long and quickly disappeared. The tear went back to its original state and everyone cheered for the newly blessed Holy Lunar Priestesses.

The five were led off the platform by attendants in white robes while an elderly woman, much like the judges of the selection events, took to the steps. The yelling and clapping calmed down and she began to speak.

"The Full Moon Revelry is here. We worship the goddess and her heavenly bestowment. Praise our Goddess Chang Xi!"

Everyone bowed and chanted, "Praise Goddess Chang Xi! Praise Goddess Chang Xi!"

Their combined voices, fervor, and energy reverberated around the entire grand ballroom. The tear seemed to like it and Lin Qingcheng sensed it vibrate slightly.

"May the Tear of Chang Xi continue to lead the Bright Moon Kingdom to generations of prosperity! May our goddess bless us forever! Praise our Goddess Chang Xi!"

"Praise Goddess Chang Xi! Praise Goddess Chang Xi!"

Lin Qingcheng gawked at these people from the back, feeling very awkward and out of place. She didn't realize that Mingyue Jian really meant it as a religion. These people really took it seriously!

Her Lin Town also had supernatural beliefs and its citizens prayed to a variety of local gods. However, she had a decent upbringing as the mayor's daughter and knew of those things to be fake.

She only believed in one thing, immortals and their immortal powers. Having joined the world of immortal cultivation, her view of the world was no longer the same as these mortals who saw everything they could not comprehend as supernatural. She didn't need to bow to an object when her master was there by her side.

She smiled as her thoughts drifted to him, wondering where he was now. Chen Wentian had left on a two-week solo excursion and left his disciples to their own devices. She suddenly felt incredibly lonely in her heart and wished he could have taken her along.

Lin Qingcheng eventually felt a tug on her sleeves as Mo Yanmi brought her out of her daydream. The religious service had finally finished and the old priestess was talking about the sixth and final priestess selection.

"... The sixth priestess shall now be chosen by tear. All women here have an opportunity to be chosen. The goddess is kind and does not discriminate based on status or wealth. It can be any one of you..."

Lin Qingcheng suddenly had a bad feeling. She recalled what Mingyue Jian had told her about the sixth priestess and realized that he had omitted such details on purpose. It could be anybody? Then was possible it chooses her!

"... The goddess chooses her priestess based on her own heavenly reasons. Whether you are a princess or a servant, it doesn't matter. Whoever is chosen is always an extremely blessed woman! Now... the goddess speaks!"

A hush came over the congregation as the tear pulsed with white light once again. This time, it was much stronger, as if it had absorbed the strength of masses around it. The energy gathered in a cloud above the gem before spreading out. It washed down on every woman in the crowd, as if examining them at the same time. It only took a second before all of the energy coalesced together above the

woman that was chosen. A beam of white light came down, illuminating a certain someone wearing a yellow robe and a mask.

"Oh, crap..." Lin Qingcheng muttered.

Every head swiveled in her direction and every pair of eyes were immediately on her. They stared at her in shock, jealousy, fury, disbelief, worry, and a myriad of other emotions. Mingyue Jian looked giddy and about to jump for joy. She saw Mingyue Tian's ugly face filled with rage while Mingyue Qian's face was taken over by a queer smile. Her own disciples were looking at her in panic, uncertain of what to do.

Before she could do anything, the white spiritual energy suddenly gained intensity around her. It was not angry, more like extremely excited. The light became almost blindingly bright and everyone else had to look away.

Lin Qingcheng suddenly felt that this energy was extremely familiar and that she had felt it before. She tried to think but kept getting distracted by the swirling lights around her. She was still confused when she heard a soft voice by her ear.

"Little girl... you... your smell... You've met my daughter!"