

## Little Girl 261

Chapter 261: Poor Delinquent

"Xuanwu Practitioner First Level, Mid-grade Talent."

"See, I told you..."

Jin Chen, pointing at the Longteng Stele, was stunned as he read the words on it.

Xuanwu Practitioner First Level, Mid-grade Talent? What's going on here!

In just a moment, why did his cultivation plummet so drastically?

A twitch formed at the corner of Xin Lin's mouth.

(Well done, Little Worm)

The Overlord Egg chuckled twice.

The examinees in the North Square exploded into discussion, everyone talking at once.

"Who's cheating after all? How did Jin Chen's cultivation suddenly become so much worse?"

"Xin Lin earned a Superior Talent rating twice, while Jin Chen's results are inconsistent, very suspicious."

"Exactly. The Longteng Stele must be accurate. My own cultivation level is the same as always."

"Impossible, impossible! I truly am at the Third Level of Xuanwu Practitioner; my father can vouch for me. That broken stele, it must be faulty."

Jin Chen turned red with agitation.

"Jin Chen, today's chief examiner is this general, not Grandmaster Jin."

General Zuo rebuked loudly.

General Zuo ordered someone to examine the Longteng Stele. Other than an unknown handprint that had appeared, there were no abnormalities; several soldiers confirmed it was normal.

He had long harbored discontent towards the arrogant behavior of Grandmaster Jin and others at the court.

Today, Jin Chen walked right into the line of fire, so he couldn't blame him for being ruthless.

"Results are based on the last assessment. Change Jin Chen's result and record it in the register."

With a swift stroke of General Zuo's pen, Jin Chen's Martial Arts Examination score was sharply downgraded.

"General Zuo, this is personal vendetta! The one who should be investigated is Xin Lin. Why change my results? I refuse to accept this! I want to see the Emperor!"

Jin Chen was furious.

"Jin Chen, you will see the Emperor during the Imperial Examination. This general only knows that if you make any more noise, you might not even keep this score."

General Zuo's glare was full of raging fury.

Such men as General Zuo were bloodied soldiers of the battlefield, who had killed countless enemies. With just one ferocious look, Jin Chen felt terrified.

A bunch of pampered young masters quickly stepped forward to restrain Jin Chen, consoling him with kind words.

And so the scores of both Xin Lin and Jin Chen were confirmed.

The Martial Arts Examination continued.

Half an hour earlier, outside North Square, Chu Tianyi and Grandmaster Jin of the Alchemy Hall were waiting for Chu Miaoyun and Jin Chen's scores.

"Grandmaster Jin, congratulations. I have heard that Young Master Jin ranked third in the Written Examination."

Chu Tianyi said with compliments.

"Imperial Physician Chu, you flatter me. I heard that Miao Yun is extraordinarily intelligent and also possesses significant cultivation. It seems the role of Third Prince's Consort can belong to no one else but her."

Both Grandmaster Jin and Chu Tianyi held considerable power within the court.

However, one was backed by Empress Feng and the other had the support of Emperor Longteng.

Moments later, there was a commotion at North Square.

Chu Miaoyun walked out with a pale face.

"Miao Yun, the Martial Arts Examination results haven't been announced yet. Why are you out here?"

Chu Tianyi's face was filled with joy as he took his daughter's hand.

"Father, what exactly did you make me take? I've lost all my True Qi! I'm not even a Martial Arts Apprentice anymore!"

Chu Miaoyun cried hysterically.

It was all over. She had become a cripple.

Upon hearing this, Chu Tianyi's face drastically changed, immediately checking her pulse.

He trembled all over; not a trace of True Qi remained in Chu Miaoyun's body, and even her extraordinary meridians were in disorder!

It must have been the Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder!

"Damn Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall, I will make them pay for this!"

Enraged, Chu Tianyi stormed off, dragging Chu Miaoyun with him.

Chapter 262: An Unexpected Outcome

Chu Miao Yun's cultivation has been destroyed; this is not a trivial matter.

The Chu Mansion, it seems, has not been very peaceful lately.

Grandmaster Jin listens from the side, slightly moved.

However, he wouldn't actually lose his reason in a fit of rage and go settle accounts with the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall, would he?

The rule of the Alchemy Hall is clear: once the medicine is sold, there is no responsibility taken.

The individual at the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall is not so simple; even the Emperor does not dare to provoke...

Grandmaster Jin appears leisurely; it seems Chu Miao Yun will not become the Princess Consort.

Looking at the hour, it is already nearing evening; the Martial Arts Examination is close to its end.

With Jin Chen's strength, he should be able to squeeze into the top three; the only threat, perhaps, is that girl named Murong Ziyue.

Jin Chen suffered a setback in the Written Examination and was severely humiliated by Murong Ziyue. After returning to the Grandmaster Mansion, he vowed to find someone to deal with Murong Ziyue.

Grandmaster Jin severely scolded him.

Murong Ziyue is currently in the limelight. To deal with her, the Grandmaster Mansion cannot be seen taking action.

Poisoned by the Third Prince, Murong Ziyue's fate will not be much different from Chu Miao Yun's.

The only obstacle affecting Jin Chen's victory in the Martial Arts Examination, I'm afraid, is that old fellow Zuo Zong.

If Zuo Zong really dares to suppress his son, with a report to the Emperor, Zuo Zong would definitely be in deep trouble.

"The Martial Arts Examination results are out."

In the North Square, several soldiers responsible for posting the results emerged.

They attached the Martial Arts Examination results one by one.

The Martial Arts Examination rankings are determined by the Longteng Stele, hence they are public, just, and fair.

A crowd of candidates' relatives waiting outside crowded forward.

Inevitably, some officials' children participated in the Martial Arts Examination, and upon seeing the results, they came to congratulate Grandmaster Jin.

"Young Master Jin has surpassing talent, he will surely be first in the Imperial Examination."

"It is said that Young Master Jin has broken through to the Third Level of the Xuanwu Practitioners, possessing such talent at fifteen years of age, truly a case of like father, like son."

Grandmaster Jin smiles and returns the greetings one by one.

The complete list of the Martial Arts Examination results is not yet fully published, leaving only the last top fifty names.

Jin Chen was thought to have no trouble entering the top three.

"The results are out, the first place is indeed Murong Ziyue!"

Someone in the crowd exclaimed.

What!

The smile on Grandmaster Jin's face could not persist; he pushed through the crowd and glanced at the list.

Starting from the very top of the list.

First place, Murong Ziyue, Xuanwu Sixth Realm, Superior Talent.

A slip of the hand, Grandmaster Jin resentfully thought.

It seems that even the Empress's people can make mistakes.

If not Jin Chen in first place, then the second place must be...

Grandmaster Jin's gaze moves downward.

Second place, Xin Lin, Advanced Spirit Master, Superior Talent.

Xin Lin, who is this that has sprung out of nowhere?

Right, seems like the one who fortuitously won second place in the Written Examination using the name of the Ancestral Emperor.

It can't be the third place as well...

Third place, Xin Zhuo, Basic-level Spirit Master, top-grade talent.

Xin Zhuo, fourth in the Written Examination.

The fourth name... still an unfamiliar one.

The more Grandmaster Jin reads, the darker his expression becomes.

That wretched Jin Chen, what sort of trick is he up to.

Even if he underperformed, it shouldn't be this bad.

Only at the eighth place did he finally see his son's name.

Eighth place, Jin Chen, Xuanwu First Level, Mid-grade Talent.

Impossible!

How could his son be in the eighth place?

Grandmaster Jin barely kept himself from spitting out a mouthful of old blood.

Behind him, those officials who glimpsed the Martial Arts Examination results were all exchanging glances of disbelief.

Chu Miao Yun, having no True Qi, fell directly to the very end of several thousand candidates, becoming the tail-ender.

"There's a problem with this Martial Arts Examination; I demand an audience with the Emperor."

Grandmaster Jin flung his sleeve and strode briskly; he was going to seek justice from Emperor Longteng.

Chapter 263: Empress Feng's Wrath

Grandmaster Jin was on the verge of exploding.

Before the Zixiao Palace Exam, he had already declared that Jin Chen would rank first in the exam.

Ranking third in the Written Examination and eighth in the Martial Arts Examination, it was very unlikely for Jin Chen to even make the top three unless he performed exceptionally during the Imperial Examination.

Grandmaster Jin could not afford to lose this face.

"Hold on, Grandmaster Jin, if you wish to seek an audience with the Emperor, you might as well bring the Longteng Stele."

General Zuo strode out from the North Square.

"Zuo Zong! You are showing favoritism and committing fraud! My son is a Xuanwu Triple, how could he be recorded as a First Layer Cultivation with Mid-grade Talent?"

Grandmaster Jin's eyes blazed with fire when he saw General Zuo.

Their kind, the children of officials, are meticulously nurtured from birth, none lacking in cultivation talent.

Jin Chen is the son of Grandmaster Jin, who himself is exceptionally talented. Although Jin Chen is not as gifted as his father, he was identified as having top-grade talent in his youth.

"Grandmaster, you are overestimating me too much. Thousands of eyes were watching; your son was tested twice and ultimately determined to have Mid-grade Talent. If you disagree, take it up with the Longteng Stele."

Without another word, General Zuo ordered the Longteng Stele to be brought forth and placed in front of Grandmaster Jin.

"How preposterous, Empress, you must stand up for my son."

With a face laden with anger, Grandmaster Jin recounted the events to Empress Feng.

Grandmaster Jin is an old fox; he wouldn't really question the judgment of the Longteng Stele, nor could he afford to carry it to seek an audience with the Emperor.

Still, if he didn't assertively argue his case, this year's Imperial Examination would be hopeless for Jin Chen.

Inside Fulu Palace, curls of incense smoke wafted through the air, where Empress Feng sat upright and dignified.

A young man quickly stepped forward to offer her a cup of fragrant tea. Empress Feng took a sip and glanced at the youth.

Garbed in a silver-white robe with embellished edges of gold, the youth was strikingly attractive, with clear eyes like springs, long flowing eyebrows, and standing as elegant as a jade tree. He wore a jade crown in his hair and was none other than the Empress's second son, Long Qingchen.

A mix of green and red washed over Jin Chen's face.

Securing only the eighth place in the Martial Arts Examination was undoubtedly a severe blow to him.

"Mother, Zuo Zong is acting so recklessly, disrupting the Zixiao Palace Exam. If you do not handle him, wouldn't he become even more lawless in the future?"

Long Qingchen and Jin Chen grew up together, as close as brothers.

He was also the top scorer of last year's Zixiao Palace Exam, inheriting Empress Feng's looks and Emperor Longteng's might, now a top scholar at Qingtian Academy.

"Lawless? Who exactly is being lawless? I have heard that someone made use of a forbidden palace elixir."

Empress Feng's beautiful eyes narrowed.

Yet, Long Qingchen replied with a playful grin.

"Mother, indeed nothing can be hidden from you. It's just that the one called Murong Ziyue was too arrogant; she attacked Jin Chen and humiliated him in public. Since Jin Chen is a brother to me, her actions against him are as if she slapped me in the face."

"How foolish! 'If the root is not removed during weeding, the spring breeze will bring it back to life.' My son, how many times must I teach you?"

Empress Feng's face darkened, and she forcefully placed her teacup onto the table.

Both Long Qingchen and Jin Chen, seeing Empress Feng's real anger, shrank their necks and dared not make another sound.

Grandmaster Jin pondered for a moment.

"Empress, your teachings are correct; it is my failure in disciplining him. But Zuo Zong's injustice as an official is also a fact. Empress, you've seen it yourself, my son truly possesses the Xuanwu Triple cultivation, yet he insists it's only a Xuanwu First."

Jin Chen and the Third Prince had studied and practiced martial arts together; Empress Feng was certainly aware of his abilities.

"The results of the Martial Arts Examination have already been announced to the public; unlike the Written Examination, they can no longer be tampered with. Fortunately, there's still one more chance in the Imperial Examination. If you wish to excel, this Imperial Examination is crucial, and you and your son can seize this opportunity to point out Zuo Zong's misconduct."

Empress Feng spoke in a calming tone.

Chapter 264: An Even Greater Conspiracy

"Empress, Murong Ziyue is indeed a Sixth Realm Xuanwu Practitioner."

Jin Chen was apprehensive.

He indeed wished to be the first in the Imperial Examination, but facing a Sixth Realm Xuanwu Practitioner was terrifying; against Murong Ziyue, Jin Chen could only expect a beating.

"Sometimes, strength isn't the absolute key to victory. I have already ordered someone to recruit Murong Ziyue. After recruiting her, I will recommend her to study under Elder Chen at Qingtian Academy. The only condition is that she must lose to you during the Imperial Examination."

Empress Feng rose, her beautiful face filled with schemes.

Grandmaster Jin and his son were overjoyed.

With Empress Feng's influence, Murong Ziyue was bound to submit.

This move would not only allow Jin Chen to regain his pride but also discredit General Zuo. Empress Feng's strategy was exceedingly vicious.

"Mother is truly formidable."

Long Qingchen looked on admiringly.

"If only you had half of your elder brother's capability, I wouldn't have to worry."

Mentioning her eldest son, Crown Prince Long Teng, a hint of pride appeared on Empress Feng's face.

Long Qingchen scratched his head, showing an expression of being taught a lesson by his mother, yet a flash of jealousy quickly passed through his eyes as he lowered his gaze.

An eunuch walked in.

"Your Highness Empress Feng, something terrible has happened; Eunuch Chen has had an accident."

"What happened?"

Empress Feng's expression changed.

Eunuch Chen was exactly the person Empress Feng had sent to recruit Murong Ziyue.

"He... he was crippled by Murong Ziyue. He is now lying outside the palace in pain. Murong Ziyue refused your recruitment, saying, 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Empress, you fail to discipline your subordinates, so I, Murong Ziyue, have disciplined them for you.'"

The eunuch stammered out.

"How dare she!"

Empress Feng was furious, waving her sleeve violently. The cups on the desk fell to the ground and shattered.

Murong Ziyue also ever insisted on settling scores. A little eunuch had poisoned her, and she demanded the palace eunuchs to pay back in blood.

But even when beating a dog, one should look at its owner. Murong Ziyue, a mere commoner, dared to defy Empress Feng. How could Empress Feng not be infuriated?

"Murong Ziyue is too unreasonable, she even dares to attack your people. Such a person must be killed, otherwise, she'll become a future threat."

Jin Chen had not anticipated Murong Ziyue's disrespect.

If she isn't killed now, who knows what she might do during the Imperial Examination.

After all, the poisoning had been secretly orchestrated by Jin Chen.

Thinking of this, Jin Chen felt a chill up his spine.

"She can't be killed. Murong Ziyue is a top scholar in both literary and martial exams; she's figured that the Empress won't kill her."

Grandmaster Jin's eyes deepened.

Empress Feng's covert recruitment was indeed not something that could be publicized; if known, it would tarnish her reputation.

"So she's just allowed to continue her misdemeanors?"

Jin Chen looked distressed.

"If she refuses to submit to me, she's digging her own grave. I can't touch her right now, but eventually, someone will be able to."

Empress Feng smiled, a smile that was frosty with a sudden emergence of murderous intent.

"Jin Chen, don't worry. You will still win this Imperial Examination. I will arrange for someone to teach Murong Ziyue what 'blood for blood' truly means."

Empress Feng gently touched a pot of azaleas on the desk. The blossoms were exquisite, yet with a sudden force from her slender jade fingers, the thriving azaleas swiftly withered, turning instantly dark.

Outside North Square, having just parted from Murong Ziyue, Little Xinzhuo and Xin Lin, the siblings, were unaware of the greater conspiracy awaiting them on their way back to the Water Wraith Gang.

Chapter 265: Body-Bursting Crisis

"Sister, you're so amazing, you've even become an Advanced Spirit Master. Mother would be so happy if she knew."

Little Xinzhuo chattered nonstop, but Xin Lin beside him had been quiet for a long time.

He turned his head, only to see Sister's complexion looking awful, her cheeks flushed red.

"Sister, what's happened to you?"

Little Xinzhuo exclaimed in alarm.

Xin Lin only felt the True Qi in her body chaotically surging.

It was indeed greed that brought trouble; Xin Lin had obtained a substantial amount of True Qi from the Longteng Stele, thinking she could suppress it slowly, just like Fu Xi's Energy.

But the True Qi had been surging inside her body for half an hour with no sign of improvement.

Xin Lin felt her limbs stiffen; she couldn't hear a word Little Xinzhuo was saying.

Barely making it to the Water Wraith Gang's doorstep, her vision darkened, and she fainted.

In the moment before she lost consciousness, Xin Lin seemed to see Gui Hu's deep blue eyes, a hint of irritation mixed with concern in them...

Concern, huh, she must have seen it wrong.

How could the cold Corpse King care about her...

Once Xin Lin fainted, she remained unconscious for several hours.

Ma Jingtian brought in the best Doctors in the city to examine her in turns, but all of them just shook their heads after their examination.

"These are nothing but Mongolian quacks, liars. Saying the young girl has nothing wrong, just overly vigorous blood and energy. Blood and energy so vigorous it knocks her out for hours?"

Ma Jingtian sent another Doctor away, cursing.

Noble Lady Shi and Little Xinzhuo kept vigil by the bedside.

Seeing Xin Lin on the bed with her eyes tightly shut, motionless, both mother and son were deeply worried.

Little Xinzhuo softly sobbed a few times, trying hard to hold back his tears from falling.

Sister had said, real men do not easily shed tears; he could not cry.

"Mother, what exactly is wrong with Sister? Why isn't she moving at all? She won't be in trouble, will she?"

Little Xinzhuo clung to Xin Lin's hand.

Sister's hand was scorching hot, alarmingly so.

"My son, don't worry. You go and rest first; your mother will watch over her."

Noble Lady Shi dabbed at the corner of her eyes.

This child Xin Lin truly faced one misfortune after another.

It was not easy to achieve second place in both the literary and martial exams, but now, this had happened.

In such a state, how could she participate in tomorrow's Imperial Examination?

If only Grand Doctor Chu were here, if only he hadn't lost his mind, he would surely have been able to cure Xin Lin.

"Hey, stop crying, you two, please. I'll watch over her; you both go rest. As soon as she wakes up, I'll let you know immediately."

Ma Jingtian found the tears of women and children most annoying, and he forced Noble Lady Shi and her son out.

As soon as he turned around, a shiver ran through him.

"Great One! Is it really you?"

Ma Jingtian saw a tall figure standing beside the bed.

With gray-white hair cascading down to the ankles, dressed in a black robe with gold trim, amber eyes, an incredibly cool side profile—it had to be the Great One!

Since the incident at Taoyao Pavilion, Ma Jingtian had not seen Gui Hu again.

According to the young girl, the Great One had gone out on a mission.

The Great One indeed lived up to the name!

Only coming back upon learning the young girl was in distress.

That said, the young girl and the Great One must certainly share a deep connection!

Ma Jingtian made up his mind; from now on, the young girl would be the sky of the Water Wraith Gang, her word, the final say.

"Get out."

Gui Hu looked at Xin Lin on the bed, her face flushed but lips devoid of color, a frustration growing more intense within him.

Ma Jingtian dared not linger, scrambling out with haste, leaving only Gui Hu to keep watch over Xin Lin.

Chapter 266: You Must Be the Legendary Daddy!

Staring at Little Budian on the bed, Gui Hu's face elongated.

(Whimper, Mommy wake up)

A faint sobbing sound came over.

"Come out."

Gui Hu's thin lips moved slightly, and he barked softly.

He raised his hand, and a Sealing Spirit Talisman fell out from Xin Lin's embrace.

The Sealing Spirit Talisman moved, and a round and chubby egg rolled out.

(Mommy, wake up quickly, this dark-faced monster is so scary, I'm really scared)

The Overlord Egg struggled to move its body, trying to get far away from Gui Hu.

(I'm escaping, I'm escaping)

Gui Hu snorted coldly, a wisp of black Ghost Energy wrapped around the Overlord Egg, pulled it, and the Overlord Egg rolled to Gui Hu's feet.

The Overlord Egg tried to shrink smaller and smaller, but with the body the size of an ostrich egg, it couldn't shrink much.

A long leg waved in front of it, and with a smack, it stepped on the Overlord Egg.

(Whimper, so scary, Mommy~)

Gui Hu glared angrily at the Overlord Egg.

The Overlord Egg immediately cowered.

This dark-faced monster, could it be the terrifying creature known as Daddy!

The Overlord Egg dared not cry.

"If you do something wrong, you must admit it. Big or small, all cause worries. Tell me, what did you do wrong?"

Gui Hu stepped on the Overlord Egg below him; it didn't even dare to whimper anymore.

Unable to discipline the elder, he could well discipline the younger.

This egg was also worrisome.

Gui Hu decided to take this opportunity to properly train this egg.

(I did nothing wrong, I am a good egg)

The Overlord Egg didn't know where it went wrong; it had always listened to Mommy.

(Mommy, please wake up, judge this for me)

Bang—The Overlord Egg was kicked away, hitting a table leg.

The Overlord Egg saw stars, with a big footprint left on its shell.

"Being greedy leads to insufficient achievement and excessive failure. Her martial master's body is loaded with large amounts of True Qi, ready to explode at any moment."

Gui Hu's face turned grave.

To explode!

The Overlord Egg shivered.

Ignoring the pain, it swiftly moved next to Xin Lin.

(Mommy, I didn't mean to)

It never knew that Mommy's body was so weak, that such a bit of True Qi could overwhelm her.

Back in Qin Mountain, when it was hungry and couldn't find good food, it would absorb some spirit or eggs' True Qi, not even sparing the Xuan Bird, filling itself up each time, only to be hungry again the next day.

Exploding was a terrifying thing.

The Overlord Egg had seen in Qin Mountain unaware beasts that, after consuming herbs, had a backfire of medicinal effects and exploded messily.

(Mommy, I don't want to become an orphan; please don't die)

"Person's not dead yet, stop crying your ass off."

Gui Hu lifted his foot, and with a swoosh, the Overlord Egg flew over and hugged Gui Hu's thigh, desperately rubbing against it.

(Daddy, please save Mommy)

The Overlord Egg was clever, it figured out that Gui Hu was a formidable person, he surely could save Mommy.

"What did you call me?"

Veins throbbed in Gui Hu's temples.

What kind of strange creature was this, seeing it only revealed a black mass inside the egg, still unclear what species it was.

(Daddy, your aura is the same as Mommy's, you must be family, so you are my Daddy)

The Overlord Egg continued to rub.

Gui Hu was speechless, the egg lacked brains, but its instincts were quite accurate.

Xin Lin and he had Fu Xi's Energy in them, therefore, although the Overlord Egg was afraid, subconsciously, it naturally took a liking to Gui Hu.

Chapter 267: Memories from a Hundred Lifetimes Ago

Gui Hu had absolutely no fondness for the Overlord Egg.

The big one is dumb, the small one is an egg, both are troublemakers, together they're a dumb combination!

On the bed, Xin Lin uttered a faint sound.

Gui Hu paused, then turned and walked toward the bed.

He had only taken a few steps when he felt something heavy on his foot; looking down, he saw the Overlord Egg stubbornly clinging to his leg, completely dedicated to hugging his thigh.

(Daddy, save Mommy~)

"Since you're calling me... Daddy, from now on, whatever I say, goes."

Gui Hu thought, Little Budian is disobedient, anyway, he had to discipline this egg to prevent more mischief.

The Overlord Egg, conflicted, glanced at Xin Lin on the bed.

Between Daddy and Mommy, Mommy is more important!

Mommy can do many nice things, and her presence feels more comfortable.

(Mommy is the boss, you can be second.)

After some inner conflict, the Overlord Egg internally determined the hierarchy between Xin Lin and Gui Hu.

Gui Hu, having lived for so long, to be ranked second by someone?

In response, another kick followed, thump—

This time, the Overlord Egg was kicked directly out of the room, leaving a huge hole in the door.

The room finally quieted down.

Gui Hu stared at Xin Lin, her little face sweaty; True Qi was chaotically surging inside her, putting her in grave danger.

"Feeling the pain now, since you didn't listen to me."

Gui Hu spoke harshly.

On the bed, there was no response.

Gui Hu coldly observed, suppressing his urge to intervene.

Little Budian always forgets the pain once the wound heals.

Without pain, there's no learning; she must be taught a lesson.

On Xin Lin's forehead, her delicate brows were tightly knitted, her arms tightly embracing herself, yet despite this, she barely moved, curling up tightly.

Compared to the last outbreak of Fu Xi's Energy, this time, excessive True Qi was backlashing throughout her body, the pain multiples times more intense.

"Little Lin, from today onward, we part for a year. You must take good care of yourself, if no one is there to hold you, hold yourself, and tell yourself you must stay strong, a hundred generations will pass in the blink of an eye."

A gentle female voice lingered by Xin Lin's ear.

"Ling... Ling..."

In extreme pain, Xin Lin repeated the name over and over.

The scent of fresh blood spread.

Gui Hu was startled, stepped forward, and pried Xin Lin's hands open.

Her tightly clenched hands were blood-soaked, as her nails had pierced her palms due to extreme pain.

Gui Hu grunted.

In her pain, Xin Lin bit down hard on his shoulder and held on.

With long strides, Gui Hu held Xin Lin in his embrace.

At this moment, all thoughts of making her remember her lesson, all thoughts of making her obey, all disappeared without a trace.

Xin Lin biting hard on Gui Hu's shoulder, Gui Hu held her small body tightly.

The two of them, together, had an indescribable harmony.

From within Gui Hu's body, Ghost Energy slowly emerged, integrating into Xin Lin's body.

Like entering no man's land, the True Qi rampaging inside her felt the scent of Ghost Energy, became as docile as a cat seeing a mouse.

In Xin Lin's body, that unique Unrivaled Ghost Vein quickly absorbed all the True Qi.

As seconds and minutes passed, Xin Lin's breathing gradually stabilized.

Gui Hu also let out a sigh of relief.

But then, he suddenly felt something was not quite right.

The weight on his body increased, and more crucially, he felt something abnormal on his body.

Chapter 268: All Grown Up

As a Rascal Corpse, Gui Hu certainly knew what those two soft masses meant for a woman.

But the question is, how could such things appear on Little Budian's body.

Gui Hu remembered clearly, her front and back were the same; except for whiter skin, there was no hint of femininity.

But the touch in front of him could not be fake.

The night was hazy.

A glimmer of confusion flashed through his blue eyes, and Gui Hu's gaze moved downward.

Her clothes were soaking wet, the thin fabric clinging to her skin, revealing two bright, white bulges due to the collar torn open in struggle.

The girl's skin was as white as snow, tinted with a faint rosy hue.

Below her tightly closed eyes and pert nose were petal-like pink lips; although her face had not fully matured yet, it already displayed a nation-toppling beauty, promising to bend countless men to their knees as time passed.

The girl was deep asleep, her lips slightly raised, revealing a touch of cuteness; her fluffy hair slipped under her collar, creating an indescribable ultimate temptation.

Gui Hu's throat tightened, and his blue eyes deepened.

This was not his little hen; she was clearly a charming young girl.

"You!"

Gui Hu made a motion to pick up the girl, intending to throw her out.

But soon after, he suspiciously looked at the girl again, finding her more and more familiar.

The clothes on her, were Little Budian's clothes, and most importantly, she bore Fu Xi's Energy and had almost identical facial features.

All signs indicated that the girl was his Little Budian.

But the question was, how could she have grown so much in just a moment?

Gui Hu was puzzled.

Inside Xin Lin's body, her True Qi was stabilizing, and with Gui Hu's help, all the True Qi from the Longteng Stele had been absorbed into her Unrivalled Ghost Vein.

All of this happened without her knowledge.

After the True Qi integrated with the Unrivaled Ghost Vein, the Ghost Vein grew a tiny bit.

With the disappearance of the last trace of True Qi, Xin Lin's figure quickly shrank, and that stunningly beautiful girl vanished in the blink of an eye.

What now lay on top of Gui Hu was a little loli again.

Gui Hu, having witnessed all this, you can imagine the shock in his eyes.

He checked Xin Lin's pulse again; the pulse was steady now, and her Martial Realm...

Gui Hu raised his eyebrows.

It must be said, Little Budian also had an extraordinarily defiant fate.

Gui Hu remembered, Little Budian had said she was fourteen years old; could it be, that the girl just now was Little Budian's true appearance?

Gui Hu was astonished.

This is probably something even Little Budian herself was unaware of.

So it seemed, the look of Little Budian had only been seen by him?

Hmm... he didn't want others to see her that way either.

Humph, growing up like that, it would only bring more trouble.

Gui Hu privately thought it would be better if Xin Lin never grew up.

Let's just not tell her about this for now.

Gui Hu thought of the girl's appearance just now, secretly pleased.

This time, Gui Hu's Ghost Energy had also been largely depleted. With some time before dawn, Gui Hu simply pulled out some clothes and changed Xin Lin into clean clothes, then tucked her into his embrace.

As sleepiness hit, the two figures, one large, one small, squeezed together on the narrow bed and fell soundly asleep.

Outside the door, a rustling sound.

A sneaky egg, peeping and prying, lay at the door gap.

(Daddy and Mommy, how can they sleep together)

On Overlord Egg's forehead, a string of question marks.

(Bad Daddy, monopolizing Mommy, lonely and cold)

Overlord Egg thought for a while, feeling heartbroken, and simply crawled back into the Sealing Spirit Talisman, whimpering.

Chapter 269: Zixiao Palace Exam

The sky gradually lightened.

Xin Lin slept in a daze, and in her dreams, she seemed to hear a burst of voices outside.

"Your Highness Seventh Prince, you can't go in, it's too late, you should hurry to the Imperial Examination."

That seemed to be Ma Jingtian's voice.

The master had said, without his permission, nobody should disturb.

Ma Jingtian stood at the door, blocking Noble Lady Shi and her son.

"No, I want to see Sister, if Sister doesn't go, I won't go either."

Xin Zhuo's eyes were red and swollen, his little face full of stubbornness.

He didn't want to go to the Imperial Examination alone. If there were hardships, they should face them together; he couldn't possibly leave Sister behind.

"Ah, there's no use going in, the master has his own methods to save the little girl."

With no other choice, Ma Jingtian had to bring up Gui Hu.

Corpse King Brother!

As soon as Little Xin Zhuo heard that, his eyes immediately brightened.

He knew it, Corpse King wasn't such a cold-hearted person; with his intervention, everything dangerous would turn safe for Sister.

"Seventh Prince, if you don't go to the Imperial Examination, all the hard work by the little girl will have been in vain. Don't worry, with me here, both the little girl and your mother will be safe."

Ma Jingtian had to coax and deceive the mother and son to leave.

As the voice subsided, Xin Lin opened her eyes.

Recalling last night, she broke out in a cold sweat.

She had too much True Qi, she almost exploded and died.

After that, all she could remember were the panicked voices of Little Xin Zhuo and some sobbing sounds.

Hmm...there seemed to be the voice of Gui Hu teaching a lesson as well.

Xin Lin was about to think deeper when she suddenly remembered that today she was supposed to participate in the Zixiao Palace Exam!

There was no time to waste!

The door suddenly opened, Ma Jingtian was startled, turned around, and saw Xin Lin running out.

"Little girl, you're okay? The master..."

Before Ma Jingtian could finish asking, Xin Lin had swiftly walked past.

She paused for a moment, saw the Sealing Spirit Talisman on the ground, without a second thought, she stuffed the talisman into her bosom and quickly headed towards North Square.

In North Square, unlike normal days, it was already filled with the Imperial Guard.

Ordinary civilians couldn't get near North Square, today in North Square, the last test of the Zixiao Palace Exam would be conducted.

The chief examiner of this test was Emperor Long Ao.

The top ten candidates from the combined written and martial arts examination had gradually arrived before and around noon.

"How come you are alone, where is Xin Lin?"

Murong Ziyue was surprised.

The siblings were always inseparable, seeing Little Xinzhuo alone, Murong Ziyue frowned.

"Sister will be here soon."

Little Xin Zhuo gritted his teeth.

He believed, with the help of Corpse King Brother, Sister would definitely turn peril into safety.

"Little ghost, you better pray that your cheating sister doesn't show up, otherwise, I will definitely give her a good lesson."

Jin Chen walked over with a haughty face.

After being struck down twice consecutively and receiving Empress Feng's promise yesterday, his arrogance reignited.

Yesterday, he had specifically sent someone to follow little Xin Zhuo and Xin Lin; his man saw Xin Lin turn pale and collapse in front of a house.

This made Jin Chen even more certain that Xin Lin had cheated.

She must have used some special Elixir Pills, or a treasure, to fool the Longteng Stele and got second place.

Both Murong Ziyue's martial arts test and Xin Lin's martial arts test results were comparable, but as Murong Ziyue had performed better in the written examination, she was temporarily ranked first in the combined scores.

Chapter 270: Gui Hu's Warning

Jin Chen had an air of arrogance that could not be surpassed.

"Young Master Jin, I see your outfit today looks quite nice."

From behind, a leisurely voice drifted over.

Jin Chen felt a chill down his spine and swiftly turned around, only to see Xin Lin standing leisurely behind him.

"Xin Lin, don't be too smug, today Murong Ziyue can't help you."

Upon seeing Xin Lin, Jin Chen was reminded of the incident a few days ago when he had his clothes stripped off.

He glared fiercely at Xin Lin, fuming with anger, and entered the North Square.

"Sister, are you better? Big Brother indeed cured you."

Little Xinzhuo's mood lifted upon seeing Xin Lin.

Murong Ziyue nodded at Xin Lin.

"Don't worry, I am now full of strength, I can knock out ten Jin Chens with one punch."

Xin Lin looked around, pulled Little Xinzhuo aside, and took out the Golden Silk Robe hidden in her embrace, urging Little Xinzhuo to wear it.

"Sister, I won't wear it, you won it, you should be the one wearing it, Jin Chen has threatened to harm you."

Little Xinzhuo was reluctant to wear it, knowing how precious the Golden Silk Robe was, impervious to blades and somewhat protective against magic.

"You're being foolish, I am of Superior Talent. You're just top-grade talent, why be modest with me?"

Little Xinzhuo was still unwilling.

Without further discussion, Xin Lin put the Golden Silk Robe on Little Xinzhuo.

The robe, crafted from fine golden threads, was light and thin in hand, feeling like a layer of skin when worn.

As soon as Little Xinzhuo put it on, the Golden Silk Robe automatically adjusted to his size.

Today's Imperial Examination was extremely important for Little Xinzhuo.

But Xin Lin had woken up feeling a constant twitch in her eyelids, sensing that something was not right.

She tried to predict using her superpower, but only glimpses of Grandmaster Jin and Empress Feng flashed before her eyes, unclear of what exactly would happen.

Her only worry was for Little Xinzhuo, so she decided to have him wear the Golden Silk Robe.

The siblings spoke in hushed voices about all these matters, all observed by Murong Ziyue standing nearby.

Murong Ziyue looked at Xin Lin with an added hint of confusion.

Over the past few days, Xin Lin's actions had revealed a maturity beyond her age.

Yet her caring for Little Xinzhuo and her protective actions suggested she was not a malefactor.

There was also the faint trace of Ghost Energy around her, making Murong Ziyue both cautious and inevitably drawn to her.

Thinking about her master's earlier advice, she hesitated.

If Xin Lin really had connections with that person, what should she do?

"Let it be, the outcomes of today's Imperial Examination will reveal everything."

Murong Ziyue thought for a moment and decided to just observe for now.

The time for the Imperial Examination had come, Xin Lin, Murong Ziyue, and another entered the North Square together.

Upon entering, the trio was struck by the sight.

The eastern side of the North Square had been overnight transformed into a semblance of a small Golden Hall.

In the center of the North Square, a temporary platform had been constructed.

The top ten of the literary and martial exams had all arrived.

In accordance of their rankings, they stood in a row from left to right.

Xin Lin glanced at the crowd, recognizing only Jin Chen and one other examinee apart from the top three; the remaining five were four men and one woman.

Out of over six thousand participants in the Zixiao Palace Exam, only these ten would have the honor of an audience with the Emperor.

At this moment, apart from Xin Lin, the others were also discreetly sizing each other up.

"Be wary of that woman in the green dress."