

Little Girl 281

Chapter 281: The Foolish Father Takes the Stage

Jin Chen's words had just finished when an eagle spread its wings, and he had already landed on the arena, pointing at Xin Lin with a provocative gesture.

Xin Lin, unhurried, strolled onto the arena.

On the arena, there was still a puddle of blood that had not yet dried.

That bloodstain, however, was left by Little Xinzhuo just before.

Xin Lin's eyes narrowed, her hands tightly clenched together.

"You claim to be an Advanced Spirit Master, I'd like to see how much stronger you are than that little ghost just now, use your most powerful Spirit Art, let everyone see."

Jin Chen shouted loudly.

"To deal with someone like you, I don't need any Spirit Art at all."

Xin Lin hooked her lips in response.

Knowing very well that Grandmaster Jin would intervene with Spiritual Energy, why would she foolishly use Spiritual Energy in battle again?

"I think you're so scared you've even forgotten your Spirit Art, I've always said, the Longteng Stele was wrong, you're not an Advanced Spirit Master, you're just trash!"

Jin Chen laughed loudly.

Jin Chen's body, golden Protective True Qi, rapidly spread out.

At this moment, there was a disturbance outside the North Square.

Jin Chen's laughter had not yet ceased.

But before his eyes, a blur occurred, and the previously inconspicuous Xin Lin's gaze suddenly changed.

The temperature on the entire arena suddenly dropped a few degrees.

Just when the two were about to clash, a sudden disturbance occurred outside.

"What's happening? Who's causing such a commotion?"

Emperor Longteng said displeasedly.

"Reporting to the Emperor, Grand Doctor Chu... Young Master Chu is causing a disturbance outside, wanting to rush in."

The Imperial Guard, sweating profusely, hurried to report.

"Bei Qing, how did he get here? Tianyi, didn't you say your elder brother caught a cold and could not come to watch the Zixiao Palace Exam?"

Upon hearing that Chu Beiqing had arrived, Emperor Longteng got up hurriedly, losing interest in the ongoing competition.

Emperor Longteng valued his sworn brother Chu Beiqing greatly; the favor the Chu Mansion enjoyed today was all due to Chu Beiqing's influence.

Knowing Chu Beiqing loved excitement, he had asked Chu Tianyi to bring Chu Beiqing along before the Imperial Examination started, but Chu Tianyi had made an excuse to decline.

"Reporting to the Emperor, my elder brother felt slightly better yesterday, but he hasn't fully recovered. I was worried about his inconvenience, so I let him rest at home. But he followed here unexpectedly, I will send him back right now."

Chu Tianyi cursed inwardly.

"This fool, I asked him to wait outside, how could he rush in here."

Early this morning, he came to the North Square to watch this session of the Zixiao Palace Exam, only to find Chu Beiqing followed him right at the mansion's gate.

Chu Beiqing, for some unknown reason today, insisted on following him.

Chu Tianyi was reluctant, but Chu Beiqing lay in front of the carriage and wouldn't budge. Afraid it would attract onlookers, Chu Tianyi could only bring him along.

After arriving at the North Square, Chu Tianyi left him in the carriage with orders to his subordinates to watch him, yet Chu Beiqing still managed to break in.

"Let him in. Bei Qing has always enjoyed watching the Zixiao Palace Exam the most."

Emperor Longteng commanded someone to move a chair next to him; Empress Feng's face darkened slightly, and reluctantly, she moved her royal seat to the side.

But then, a man causing a disturbance ran into the North Square; it was indeed Chu Beiqing.

"Silly Chu, how did he get here?"

Seeing Chu Beiqing, Xin Lin was also slightly surprised; she hadn't seen Chu Beiqing for several days and somewhat missed the foolish father.

"Daughter... daughter..."

As Chu Beiqing rushed into the North Square, looking around, he immediately spotted the small figure on the arena.

He made a move to climb onto the arena but was pulled down by Chu Tianyi and several Imperial Guards.

Behind Xin Lin, a flurry of punches whistled, and without looking back, she knew it was that shameless Jin Chen, sneakily launching a covert attack.

Chapter 282: Simple and Brutal, Beat Down!

Jin Chen channeled energy throughout his whole body, clenching both fists and striking towards Xin Lin.

He had been somewhat cautious around Spirit Masters before.

But ever since "defeating" Little Xinzhuo, his confidence had soared.

In his eyes, Xin Lin was not much stronger than Little Xinzhuo.

He had only secured eighth place in the Martial Arts Examination, while Xin Lin had gotten second. He aimed to cripple this so-called runner-up and show everyone who the real master was.

"Woman... woman..."

Controlled by Chu Tianyi and brought next to Emperor Longteng, Silly Chu, seeing someone trying to bully his beloved daughter on the stage, suddenly leapt up with a shout and attempted to dash onto the stage.

"Bei Qing, what's gotten into you?"

Emperor Longteng was also bewildered.

"Emperor, my elder brother has been quite unstable lately, I will take him back now."

With a signal from Chu Tianyi, a few members of the Imperial Guard restrained Chu Bei.

The ministers nearby, upon seeing Chu Bei's behavior, shook their heads, some even gloating over his misfortune.

Especially Grandmaster Jin, who gazed at Chu Bei and sneered.

"Chu Bei Qing, Chu Bei Qing, back then you stole the title of Longteng's number one talent from me, and now, you've become a fool, while I, Jin, have become a Grandmaster second only to the Emperor. In this lifetime, you'll never turn things around."

On the stage, Jin Chen's punches were almost upon her.

Xin Lin withdrew her gaze, her figure flickered in an instant.

"Paltry tricks, you think I would fall for those again? Xin Lin, if you have the guts, face me one-on-one! Hiding and sneaking, what kind of skill is that?"

Jin Chen, having witnessed Little Xinzhuo's Ghost Escape Technique, stayed alert and surveyed his surroundings cautiously.

"As you wish."

Suddenly, a figure appeared before Jin Chen.

Xin Lin emerged in front of Jin Chen, merely three steps between them.

"Has Xin Zhuo lost her mind? She's a Spirit Master yet she's engaging in close combat with Jin Chen?"

Among the remaining candidates, Chen Nian muttered.

Murong Ziyue did not say much, her gaze closely following Xin Lin, she suddenly spoke.

"Her forte is not Spirit Art."

An Advanced Spirit Master whose forte isn't Spirit Art?

Zhang Zhiqing next to her scoffed lightly, belittlingly incredulous.

Grandmaster Jin also narrowed his eyes, watching the situation on the stage.

The opponent was an Advanced Spirit Master, and Grandmaster Jin thought that they would have a more refined Spirit Art than Little Xinzhuo. If the opponent were to gather Spiritual Energy, he planned to suppress it forcefully.

A Superior normally completely suppresses an inferior.

Yet, Grandmaster Jin waited for a moment and felt no fluctuations of Spiritual Energy at all on the stage.

After deploying the Ghost Escape Technique to avoid Jin Chen's first wave of attacks, Xin Lin had shown no intention of using Spiritual Energy.

In fact, Xin Lin's expertise indeed wasn't Spirit Art.

On the stage, once Jin Chen saw Xin Lin appear, he sprung up like an arching bow, fists striking forcefully, the ferocious wind of his punches sweeping across.

And Xin Lin in front of him barely moved.

She lifted her right hand, her left behind her back, posing as a grandmaster.

That slender arm casually swung, the motion slow then fast, delivering a punch without any fanciful maneuvers.

"This..."

On the Dragon Throne, Emperor Longteng involuntarily leaned forward.

A horrific collision resounded, and Jin Chen, who had been as ferocious as a tiger attempting to pounce on Xin Lin, felt his face twist.

His teeth clashing harshly in his mouth, tasting nothing but blood.

Chapter 283: Math Isn't Taught by the Gym Teacher

On the arena, Jin Chen's body was viciously flung to the side, sprawling like a dog, a terribly unsightly sight.

He was stunned.

Not only Jin Chen, but everyone below the arena was also staring with widened eyes.

Jin Chen propped himself up with both hands, trying to rise.

But just as he was getting up, Xin Lin threw another punch.

Likewise, with no technique to speak of, what seemed like a casual punch, this time Jin Chen felt the force of his opponent's fist wind.

That seemingly frail punch, in mid-air, actually produced a terrifying howl, like a fierce wind and huge wave rushing towards him.

Jin Chen was punched to the edge of the arena, and beneath him, the solid bluestone arena shattered into pieces.

After a bout of violent coughing, Jin Chen's mouth was filled with a mix of broken teeth and fresh blood.

"Jin Chen, come on, fight back!"

Grandmaster Jin snapped out of his shock.

His son, had been beaten up by a little girl!

Yet at this moment, Jin Chen was like a deer in headlights, completely unable to retaliate.

It wasn't that he didn't want to fight back, but no matter how he tried, his opponent's punches were always one step faster.

The third punch, the fourth punch, each time, his opponent's punches were just that little bit faster.

From the center of the arena to its edge, Jin Chen was like a child being beaten up by a taller and stronger "adult" without the ability to fight back.

Grandmaster Jin was so furious his beard bristled and his eyes bulged, his hands under his sleeves clenched and relaxed repeatedly.

It was done on purpose, absolutely on purpose!

She didn't use any Spirit Art, only her fists, and she used only her right hand to brutally beat Jin Chen until he was looking for teeth all over the ground.

This was humiliation, a stark humiliation.

In one breath, Xin Lin threw fifteen punches at Jin Chen.

Jin Chen, once neatly dressed, now had a face swollen like a pig's head, his body was covered in bruises, with hardly a spot left unscathed.

"I... I... conceded..."

Jin Chen had been beaten to the point he couldn't tell north from south, and he had only one thought – to flee, to quickly escape from the arena.

Otherwise, Xin Lin would kill him!

Boom— Another solid punch landed.

Jin Chen's jaw was directly shattered.

At this point, even wanting to admit defeat was no longer possible.

"Young Master Jin, there are still fourteen punches to go, why the hurry? I said thirty punches and I meant thirty punches, my math wasn't taught by a physical education teacher."

Xin Lin's voice sounded cold and frightening by Jin Chen's ear.

A devil, she must be a devil.

In Jin Chen's eyes, only terror remained, and he looked at his father pleadingly.

"Stop it! He admits defeat!"

Grandmaster Jin roared angrily.

The opponent had not used any Spirit Art, so he could not intervene directly, but each of Xin Lin's punches felt as though they were hitting Grandmaster Jin's own face, acutely painful.

"Leaving the arena or admitting defeat in person counts as a loss, Grandmaster Jin, you can't represent Young Master Jin. Besides, the Emperor hasn't ordered a stop, what right do you have to call for one?"

Murong Ziyue coldly spoke from the side.

Grandmaster Jin snorted coldly, but the moment he stepped down, the entire arena shook violently, and Xin Lin's expression changed as she looked towards Grandmaster Jin.

This damn old codger, finally unable to restrain himself, wanted to take action.

(Mommy, this person is really fierce)

Inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman, the Overlord Egg was restlessly jumping up and down.

"Your Majesty, this..."

Zuo Zong looked somewhat dissatisfied and turned towards Grandmaster Jin.

"This Xin Lin is indeed a bit too arrogant, and her actions are really not quite right."

Empress Feng spoke softly from the side.

Emperor Longteng frowned, his gaze fell on Xin Lin, and just as he was about to open his mouth to stop the fight.

Chapter 284: Overprotective Father Unleashed

At that moment, a figure dashed towards Grandmaster Jin.

"Big brother!"

The alarmed voice of Chu Tianyi came from behind.

As Grandmaster Jin was about to summon his Spiritual Energy to teach Xin Lin a lesson,

he suddenly felt a twitch in his eyelids.

With a smack, a bright red handprint appeared on Grandmaster Jin's old face.

"Chu Beiqing!"

Upon closer inspection, Grandmaster Jin saw that it was indeed Chu Beiqing who had pounced in front of him.

Chu Beiqing, who had been dragged away by Chu Tianyi just moments earlier, had unexpectedly doubled back.

"Bullying! No bullying allowed!"

Chu Beiqing's handsome face was filled with anger. Without a word, he began to ferociously attack Grandmaster Jin's face.

"How dare you hit me!"

Grandmaster Jin was immensely angered, a surge of Spiritual Energy gathering in his hands.

"Grandmaster Jin, stop, you must not harm Bei Qing!"

Emperor Longteng shouted sternly.

The Emperor was intensely protective of his brother, fearing that Grandmaster Jin would hurt Chu Beiqing by accident.

The Imperial Guards also looked at each other in confusion, none daring to step forward to stop Chu Beiqing.

"Chu Tianyi, what are you waiting for? Get that idiot away from here!"

Grandmaster Jin was irate.

He could not defy the Emperor's command, trying to fend off Chu Beiqing, but although Chu Beiqing may be called a fool, he still had the foundation of a Martial Artist.

The strength in his hands was astonishing. Grandmaster Jin, a Spirit Master, was nothing compared to him. Chu Beiqing's every hit was targeted and precise, his aim moving from eyes to nose.

Every prominent feature on Grandmaster Jin's face was viciously "visited" by Chu Beiqing.

Chu Tianyi tried to pull Chu Beiqing away but was kicked aside by the furiously raging Silly Chu.

Chu Beiqing had turned into a whirlwind of fury, swinging his hands left and right, grabbing onto Grandmaster Jin's beard and hair, yanking out large chunks.

In a flash, up on the stage, Jin Chen was beaten by Xin Lin beyond recognition.

Down below, Grandmaster Jin was being throttled by Chu Beiqing, his face turning sauce red.

The surrounding officials were at a loss for what to do.

"Your Majesty, please save this humble servant."

Grandmaster Jin, too, was battered and bruised but unable to fight back, feeling a world of misery inside.

"Bei Qing, please stop."

Emperor Longteng was also visibly anxious; he knew full well Chu Beiqing's temperament, that once he set his mind to something, he would not stop.

It was unclear what had provoked him, but by his manner, it was evident that he would not stop until he was satisfied.

With a loud bang, Jin Chen was kicked off the stage.

Because of Chu Beiqing's actions, everyone's attention was on Grandmaster Jin and Chu Beiqing; no one paid any mind to the battle happening on the stage.

Jin Chen had truly endured thirty punches from Xin Lin.

Every bone in his body was broken.

"Daddy~"

A sweet voice floated down from the stage.

The moment he heard the call, Chu Beiqing, who had been passionately attacking Grandmaster Jin, froze as if hit by an immobilization charm.

He looked up to see his darling daughter smiling at him.

"Daughter~"

Chu Beiqing grinned, showing a big smile.

Daughter...

From Emperor Longteng to all the candidates, everyone was stunned in that moment.

"He bullied you... I bullied him..."

Chu Beiqing muttered incoherently.

Xin Lin jumped down from the stage, walked to her foolish father, squatted beside him, and wiped the sweat and dust from his face.

"What you're saying is, he bullied me, so you're fighting back for me, right?"

Xin Lin said with a beaming smile, feeling incredibly heartwarmed.

Her silly father was truly a maniac when it came to protecting his daughter.

Chapter 285: Obedient Silly Chu

Father and daughter looked at each other and burst into laughter.

"What exactly is going on? Bei Qing, she is?"

Emperor Longteng was astonished, since when did Bei Qing have a daughter?

"Your Majesty, my elder brother is being foolish again, how could this wild girl possibly be his daughter?"

Chu Tianyi was also both shocked and baffled, and he stepped forward, wanting to pull Chu Bei Qing back.

But Chu Bei Qing dodged behind Xin Lin, ignoring Chu Tianyi, and held onto Xin Lin's hand tightly.

"Daughter, daughter."

He murmured non-stop.

"Reporting to Your Majesty, Chu Bei Qing is indeed my father."

Xin Lin made a silencing gesture, and sure enough, Chu Bei Qing obediently stood still without moving.

"You're talking nonsense! How old are you? As everyone knows, seven or eight years ago, my elder brother went mad and has been in Purple Cloud City ever since. His every move has been seen by the guards of Chu Mansion."

Chu Tianyi recalled the recent incident of someone coming to Chu Mansion claiming kinship.

So, this wild girl in front of him was that imposter.

"Your Majesty, as Imperial Physician said correctly, ten years ago, Bei Qing was severely wounded while saving you, how could he possibly have the ability to father children."

Empress Feng glanced at Xin Lin and spoke unhurriedly.

"Xin Lin, what can you explain? Deceiving the emperor is a grave crime."

Emperor Longteng knew well that Chu Bei Qing could no longer live a normal life, and it was impossible for him to suddenly have a daughter about seven or eight years old.

Yet, the intimacy between Chu Bei Qing and Xin Lin didn't seem feigned.

Ever since Chu Bei Qing lost his wits, he behaved erratically and recognized no one.

Even his sworn brother Chu Tianyi never received a kind look from him, except for Xin Lin, towards whom Chu Bei Qing showed...

"Your Majesty, need we say more, she is clearly an imposter; she previously caused trouble in Chu Mansion and was driven out by my men."

Chu Tianyi was furious.

As if she was worthy of crossing the threshold of Chu Mansion!

"Your Majesty, common girl Xin Lin, aged fourteen. May I ask Lord Chu, did my father disappear for a period fifteen years ago?"

In the face of everyone's criticism, Xin Lin showed no fear.

Fifteen years ago!

A hint of astonishment flashed in Emperor Longteng's eyes.

"Utter nonsense, how dare you claim to be fourteen?"

Chu Tianyi scoffed.

"Imperial Physician, she registered for this year's Zixiao Palace Exam as fourteen years old. I can attest to this."

General Zuo stated solemnly.

Chu Tianyi was speechless, and a buzz filled the square.

This youngster was actually fourteen years old?

Jiang Qing was also astonished; he had thought she was just a little girl.

"Fifteen years ago, in Qian Village, my mother accidentally saved the injured Chu Bei Qing... If there is any falsity in my words, Your Majesty is welcome to investigate in Qian Village."

Xin Lin's face was solemn, her words clear as dropping pearls and jade, distinctly reaching Emperor Longteng's ears.

"Fifteen years ago, I was still the Crown Prince, and Bei Qing accompanied me through Luoyin Mountain. There, I was attacked by an unknown beast, and it was Bei Qing who led the beasts away. After that, he indeed disappeared for more than two months..."

Emperor Longteng looked at Xin Lin, finding some resemblance between the child and Chu Bei Qing.

"Daughter~ a hug."

Chu Bei Qing embraced his own daughter, having been stifled staying in Chu Mansion.

Fortunately, he remembered clearly, his precious daughter told him when she left Chu Mansion,

"Silly Chu, if you want to see me, come to North Square and participate in the Zixiao Palace Exam in five days, remember, you must come, then we can be reunited, father and daughter."

P.S. Little Xinzhuo's beautiful mother has arrived~~ Shi Guiren is truly breathtaking!

Everyone hurry up and search "MS Fuzi" on WeChat to follow my public account, reply "Shi Guiren" to view~

Chapter 286: The Biased Emperor Longteng

He is a good father who listens well, so he came to find his daughter.

Silly Chu chuckled foolishly, gazing at his own daughter, the more he looked, the more he liked her.

His daughter is simply adorable, even when she is beating someone up, she looks exceptionally cute!

"Emperor, this is impossible, how could she be my elder brother's daughter, my big brother has never mentioned her!"

Chu Tianyi's face was filled with disbelief.

Fifteen years ago, Chu Beiqing did indeed disappear for a few months.

But when he came back, he mentioned nothing, if he truly had a daughter, how could he have never brought her up in all these years.

"My mother knew she was of lowly status, she didn't tell my father that she was pregnant, a month ago, my mother unfortunately passed away, only then did she tell me everything, and asked me to go to Purple Cloud City to recognize my relatives, who knew, I would be driven out of Chu Mansion by Chu Tianyi."

Xin Lin glared at Chu Tianyi.

"She is lying! She's a murderer! Emperor, I can decide on this matter!"

Only to see Lin Zhong being supported by a few guards, clamoring aloud.

"Emperor, this woman is cunning, it was already evident during the Written Examination. Just now I happened to recall that this examinee named Lin Zhong is from the Ping'an region. Upon inquiry, I learned that Xin Lin killed someone in Ping'an and fled to Purple Cloud City. Her so-called recognition is clearly intentional. Chu Beiqing is a simpleton, he must have been deceived by her, hence the mistaken recognition."

Grandmaster Jin's face still bore the evident slap marks, his beard, eyebrows, and hair were scratched off by a large margin.

He suppressed the fiery anger in his heart, and ordered people to wake Lin Zhong up.

Lin Zhong had just taken a punch from Xin Lin, the first thing upon waking up was to point the finger at Xin Lin.

"She is actually a murderer."

"I said it, this child is a little ghost, not a good sort."

The ministers discussed noisily amongst themselves.

Emperor Longteng's eyebrows furrowed tightly.

"Daughter, good girl, don't be afraid. Whoever bullies you, I will bully them back!"

Seemingly sensing the unfriendly gazes around, Chu Beiqing was quite irate, glaring at the people around who spoke ill of Xin Lin, hugging his own daughter tightly, as if he feared someone would snatch her away.

Emperor Longteng saw this protective demeanor thoroughly.

"Come here."

Emperor Longteng shouted.

Chu Tianyi's face lit up with joy, and Grandmaster Jin also glanced at Xin Lin with disdain in his eyes.

Thinking of contending with him, this wild girl is still too green.

Murong Ziyue walked up to Xin Lin and Chu Beiqing without a sound.

"Lin Zhong slandered the examinee, deceived the Emperor, a crime unforgivable, to be executed immediately."

As soon as Emperor Longteng's words fell, several of the Imperial Guards rushed forward, took Lin Zhong, and dragged him away.

"Emperor! Your Majesty please see clearly, everything I've said is the truth, she really is a murderer!"

Lin Zhong's screaming echoed within North Square.

Grandmaster Jin's face was stiff, Chu Tianyi was also dumbstruck, only Empress Feng hummed lightly, seemingly unsurprised by this outcome.

"Thank you, Emperor. Father, you should thank the Emperor too, it's thanks to him that we father and daughter could reunite."

Xin Lin's little face bloomed with a smile, pulling Chu Beiqing into bowing to Emperor Longteng.

"Bei Qing is my sworn brother, and you are my niece, we are all family, no need for formalities. The bond of blood is thicker than water, I did hear about the incident fifteen years ago from Bei Qing. Never did I expect that Bei Qing would have a descendant, seeing that Bei Qing has an heir, I am also relieved."

Emperor Longteng had tears in the corners of his eyes as he helped up Xin Lin and Chu Beiqing.

Emperor Longteng's words were tantamount to legitimizing Xin Lin's status, who would dare to question the words of Emperor Longteng!

Chapter 287: The Empress's Jealousy and Hatred

Emperor Longteng waved his hand, indicating for everyone to step back.

"Your Majesty, you must do justice for your humble subject! Although I begged for mercy, she deliberately shattered my jaw."

Jin Chen, his face completely disfigured from the beating, was carried before Emperor Longteng and Grandmaster Jin.

Trembling, he wrote a line on the ground.

"In the arena, fists and kicks know no eyes, right, Jin Aiqing?"

Emperor Longteng said indifferently.

"What His Majesty said is right, it is my failure in discipline. I will certainly discipline my son properly when we return."

Grandmaster Jin gritted his teeth and nodded in agreement.

Upon hearing this, Jin Chen felt both hatred and rage, choking with frustration, unable to breathe, vomiting blood intermittently until he eventually passed out and had to be carried away.

It was clear to everyone that the Emperor's favor towards Chu Beiqing had reached an infuriating extent.

At this time, whoever dared to speak against it was defying an imperial decree.

Chu Tianyi stood to the side, his eyes also filled with continuous anger.

Once Emperor Longteng acknowledged Xin Lin, the Chu Mansion had no choice but to acknowledge her too.

But as long as Chu Tianyi was around for a day, Chu Beiqing and his wild daughter would never turn the tables.

The farce finally came to an end.

Chu Beiqing stubbornly refused to leave, holding his precious daughter at his side to watch the battle.

With Xin Lin present, Chu Beiqing, unlike his prior mad appearance, became docile, looking like an innocent large white rabbit.

"Your Majesty."

Empress Feng frowned displeasely.

The Emperor's heart seems too biased.

"Empress, I have always been in debt to Bei Qing. Whether or not Xin Lin is Bei Qing's daughter isn't important; what's important is, Bei Qing likes her very much. We have known Bei Qing for so many years, when have you seen him like someone? Never, not once, not even Old Master Chu has seen many smiles from him. Xin Lin is truly one of a kind."

Emperor Longteng remarked emotionally.

A hint of haze flashed in Empress Feng's beautiful eyes.

She knew very well what kind of person Chu Beiqing was.

In the past, the only person Chu Beiqing was close to was Emperor Longteng, his sworn brother.

The two were inseparable. Chu Beiqing, with a good family background and handsome looks, was admired and pursued by many powerful and young ladies in Purple Cloud City.

However, Chu Beiqing did not care about them at all, and there were even rumors in the streets about the ambiguous relationship between Chu Beiqing and Emperor Longteng.

It was only after Emperor Longteng rescued Empress Feng during an outing, making the party of two into three, that the rumors of Chu Beiqing's sexual orientation were dispelled.

Just for this reason alone, Xin Lin must be Chu Beiqing's daughter!

Empress Feng glanced at Xin Lin, finding her increasingly unpleasant.

This girl, must be removed.

Previously, Empress Feng only intended to eliminate Murong Ziyue.

But since Jin Chen has already been defeated, and the cool-tempered Murong Ziyue may not truly pose a threat, the biggest threat now turned out to be the unexpectedly rising Xin Lin.

Empress Feng and Zhang Zhiqing exchanged a glance.

Zhang Zhiqing caught the hint.

Once she dealt with Murong Ziyue, the next one would be Xin Lin!

"Second group, Murong Ziyue, Zhang Zhiqing."

Murong Ziyue and Zhang Zhiqing leapt onto the arena.

The two women were similar in age, but Murong Ziyue surpassed in both cultivation and beauty.

Everyone believed that Murong Ziyue was bound to win this match.

Among the crowd, only Xin Lin secretly clenched her fists anxiously.

Pride Corpse had warned her that there was something wrong with Zhang Zhiqing.

Yet this person would only ever speak in halves, leaving everyone in suspense. What exactly was wrong remained unsaid, and Gui Hu did not mention a word.

Chapter 288: The Opponent's Superpower

Prejudice!

This guy is definitely biased against Murong Ziyue!

Xin Lin curled her lips in disdain, thoroughly disparaging Gui Hu.

On the platform, Zhang Zhiqing and Murong Ziyue each launched their attacks.

Initially, both were holding back and within the blink of an eye, after seven or eight moves, it was still difficult to determine the victor.

"You, you're holding back your strength."

With one palm, Murong Ziyue forced Zhang Zhiqing back, her eyes shifting slightly.

Zhang Zhiqing's strength had noticeably increased from the previous round.

It was not apparent to the casual observer, but Murong Ziyue had already noticed it.

"Murong Ziyue, you are very clever, but alas, smart people always make foolish mistakes, someone wants you to lose. If I were you, I would simply concede and avoid the humiliation of a clumsy defeat."

Zhang Zhiqing stroked her forehead, having shed her previous ordinary appearance from the crowd.

Her shoulders shook slightly, and a terrifying surge of True Qi faintly emerged from within her body.

That was!

Originally, Zhang Zhiqing was merely oscillating between Third Level as a Xuanwu Practitioner, but as that True Qi appeared, her cultivation rapidly rose!

"Elixir Pills? No, that power is her own. If it were Elixir Pills, they would have been stopped long ago."

Xin Lin's eyes narrowed, as Fu Xi's Energy within her seemed to stir restlessly.

Zhang Zhiqing's clothes disappeared, and through her skin and bones, Xin Lin saw the source of the increasingly intense True Qi.

It was the pulse!

The meridians within Zhang Zhiqing's body were burning at an astonishing rate!

Since arriving in Longteng, Xin Lin understood that the human body had the Five Meridians: heart, liver, spleen, lung, and kidney. At this moment, Zhang Zhiqing was burning her own heart and kidney meridians.

As those meridians burned, the powerful True Qi released allowed Zhang Zhiqing to instantly ascend by one level, two levels... all the way to the Fourth and Fifth Ranks!

Like a roller coaster, Zhang Zhiqing's cultivation shot up from Third Level to Seventh Level in an instant!

She swept out with a leg, stirring up a whirlwind.

Such incredible speed!

Zhang Zhiqing, like a hurricane, became a blur, her figure hardly visible.

Ninth-rank Martial Arts, Vortex Leg.

Countless leg shadows enveloped Murong Ziyue, her eyes changing as her body shifted slightly.

Step, step, step—

Murong Ziyue was struck in multiple places right in front of her.

She staggered backward several steps, already at the edge of the platform.

Inside her, a surge of energy and blood roiled.

This was the first time Murong Ziyue had faced a setback since joining the Zixiao Palace Exam.

The scariest part wasn't the opponent's sudden surge in strength, but the fact that Murong Ziyue had no idea why her True Qi had spiked.

How long would this process last, and would her cultivation continue to rise?

Was it better to confront head-on, or to submit?

In Murong Ziyue's eyes, there was a flicker of thoughtfulness.

Different from others, Murong Ziyue's true purpose in coming to Longteng Country this time wasn't merely for the top spot in the Zixiao Palace Exam.

She had a far more important mission.

That person might also be in Longteng Country!

Seeing Murong Ziyue in a passive situation, Xin Lin was also secretly anxious.

Several times, she wanted to remind Murong Ziyue, but speaking up would surely reveal her ability to see the human Five Meridians.

After some thought, Xin Lin tugged at her Silly Chu father.

She whispered a few words into Silly Chu's ear.

Silly Chu seemed to understand, yet not understand, and looked towards the platform with a blank expression.

"Five Meridians... burning... Five Meridians."

Silly Chu suddenly clapped loudly, pointing at Zhang Zhiqing.

On the platform, Zhang Zhiqing had pushed Murong Ziyue to the brink, a flash of murderous intent in her eyes, ready to force Murong Ziyue to retreat.

Little did she know, with Silly Chu's shout from below, both Zhang Zhiqing and Murong Ziyue were taken aback.

Chapter 289: Counterattack!

Silly Chu's incoherent words seemed muddled to the bystanders, and thus, no one paid them any attention.

But there were those who understood Silly Chu's words.

This fool could actually see through the special Five Meridians within oneself?

Zhang Zhiqing was different from the ordinary Xuanwu Practitioners.

She was born with a unique meridian and cultivated a special technique called the "Undying Martial Meridian".

The greatest function of this technique was to burn the Five Meridians.

Her power did not seem prominent, but with the Five Meridians burning, her strength would greatly increase.

Once all five veins were ignited, her cultivation could improve significantly.

Afterward, her Five Meridians could be gradually restored with Elixir Pills, and such a unique meridian and feat, could not be found anywhere else in Longteng Country.

Empress Feng chose her for this very reason.

Strike when the enemy is unprepared, the weak are often overlooked, but if their strength surges unexpectedly, the opponent will be caught off guard!

Equally astonished was Empress Feng. Chu Beiqing could actually see through Zhang Zhiqing's condition.

Could it be that he has recovered!

Impossible, back then, she had personally witnessed him being afflicted by...

Empress Feng concealed the shock in her eyes, giving Zhang Zhiqing a meaningful look, signaling her to end the battle swiftly; delaying further could lead to Chu Beiqing pulling more tricks.

Empress Feng was skilled in strategy, and she had everything about today's Imperial Examination under control.

But with one issue after another cropping up, all because of the sudden appearance of Chu Beiqing!

Zhang Zhiqing understood implicitly; with one unique meridian burning within her, her True Qi surged once more.

Xuanwu Eighth Layer!

With this, the gap between her and Murong Ziyue's power widened to two whole layers!

A sharp glint flashed across Murong Ziyue's eyes.

As perceptive as she was, she discerned the trickery between Empress Feng and Zhang Zhiqing.

Quite the Empress Feng, repeatedly complicating matters for her, over and over again.

Although Murong Ziyue had a cold temper, it did not mean she lacked anger.

A flame of fury surged within her chest.

With Zhang Zhiqing's True Qi greatly enhanced, a loud "boom" sounded as her leg brought a whirlwind towards Murong Ziyue.

Murong Ziyue raised her arms to block; a "crack" sounded, and she let out a muffled grunt as her left arm broke.

"Power is everything, you are not my match at all. Rest assured, there's no shame in losing to me. After all, among the nine people here, not one is my match. Not only you, your dear friend will fare the same. Her fate will only be more miserable."

Zhang Zhiqing sneered.

She came from poverty and before her Abnormal Veins were awakened when she was young, she endured endless bullying; she hated those with heaven-defying talents like Murong Ziyue and Xin Lin the most.

Empress Feng merely wanted Murong Ziyue to lose, but harbored a killing intent for Xin Lin.

Therefore, Zhang Zhiqing would only severely injure Murong Ziyue, but for Xin Lin, once she stepped onto this stage, she had no chance to step down again.

"How dare you!"

A chilling light shimmered in Murong Ziyue's eyes.

"You can't even protect yourself, how do you have the time to worry about others? Get lost!"

Zhang Zhiqing shouted fiercely, her legs sweeping out mercilessly.

Murong Ziyue clenched her right fist; upon it, a light blue glow began to gather.

"Ice Formation Finger."

She struck out with one finger, a cold True Qi shot out.

"Poof", Zhang Zhiqing suddenly felt a chill on her leg, where a thin layer of frost formed on her skin.

"Beast's Struggle."

Zhang Zhiqing sneered; Murong Ziyue struck several more fingers, but Zhang Zhiqing dodged and avoided them.

However, just as Zhang Zhiqing was about to deliver the final blow, she suddenly felt something unusual within her body.

She looked down, and her face drastically changed!

Chapter 290: An Unexpected Outcome

Zhang Zhiqing's strength was astonishing, almost crushing in its dominance, just when everyone thought that Murong Ziyue, this dark horse, would undoubtedly fall at this moment.

On the stage, Zhang Zhiqing stood stiff, motionless.

Below her neck, she was completely sealed in ice.

Murong Ziyue!

Zhang Zhiqing's face showed annoyance, only now realizing she had been tricked by Murong Ziyue.

Her Finger Force seemed harmless but had the effect of ice sealing.

Even with her Xuanwu Eighth Layer cultivation, she was completely unable to move.

Murong Ziyue let out a long sigh of relief.

Ice Formation Finger, ordinary in killing power, but effective in ice sealing.

Sealing the body was just a part, most importantly, it also sealed along with the Five Meridians inside Zhang Zhiqing's body.

In this way, even if Zhang Zhiqing freed her body from the ice, she would not be able to reignite the energy within her Five Meridians.

To deceive Zhang Zhiqing, Murong Ziyue intentionally missed several fingers, finally threading the Finger Force through like veins.

However, by doing so, Murong Ziyue's True Qi was exhausted, and even if she remained undefeated in this match, she would be unable to fight another.

The two contestants reached a stalemate, neither able to make a move.

"How interesting. This Imperial Examination truly brings one surprise after another. Both Murong Ziyue and Zhang Zhiqing are geniuses, declare them tied."

Emperor Longteng was in high spirits, laughing loudly.

Both Murong Ziyue and Zhang Zhiqing were moldable talents.

A tie!

To the side, Empress Feng's ten fingers clenched, her elegantly painted little finger cracked in response.

What kind of result was this!

But soon, Empress Feng's hands relaxed.

Zhang Zhiqing would recover shortly, with her Xuanwu Eighth Layer, she had more than enough to deal with Xin Lin.

Murong Ziyue stepped off the stage and looked at Xin Lin.

"Take revenge for me."

"Huh?"

Xin Lin blinked her large eyes, her dark pupils filled with confusion.

"You said you would repay a favor to me."

Murong Ziyue's lips moved, revealing a hint of a smile.

She was always expressionless, but this smile, like a spring breeze over a tranquil lake, stirred ripples at the bottom of both their hearts.

Something between the two seemed to have melted away.

"I can't take your punches either. Only you can defeat her."

Murong Ziyue whispered.

In the remaining competitions, as expected, Murong Ziyue gave up her right and withdrew from the drawing, stopping before the top three, a result that Xin Lin had not anticipated.

In the third round of drawing lots, Xin Lin repeated her old trick, easily getting a bye, while Zhang Zhiqing faced Chen Nian. In this way, Xin Lin had a round to rest and recover.

Taking advantage of the break in the competition, Xin Lin found Captain Yang.

"Your brother has not woken up yet; his condition is somewhat critical. General Zuo has already sent for someone from the Imperial Hospital to check on him. I believe he will wake up soon, no need for you to worry."

Captain Yang assured.

"Captain Yang, I'm not at ease, please take me to see him."

Xin Lin pleaded with a saddened face.

Captain Yang hesitated for a moment.

"Let's go... we must go."

To the side, Chu Beiqing also clamored.

Nowadays, Xin Lin was Chu Beiqing's daughter, and Captain Yang didn't dare to offend Chu Beiqing, so he had to agree to let Xin Lin see Xin Zhuo, but Captain Yang also made a request that Xin Lin must return on time to participate in the final round of the Imperial Examination.

Little Xinlin had been settled in a Medical Hall outside the North Square, and upon learning the location, Xin Lin hurriedly sought it out.

Inside the Medical Hall, Little Xinzhuo was pale, lying on a mat.

Doctor Lu from the Imperial Hospital had just finished diagnosing Little Xinzhuo, written the prescription, and was about to send someone to get the medicine when he saw a person walking into the Medical Hall.

"Third Prince."

Upon seeing the visitor, Doctor Lu hurriedly knelt to give his respects.