

Little Girl 331

Chapter 331: Divine Intervention

With Emperor Longteng as her towering support, nobody in the Chu Mansion dared to utter a word against it, Xin Lin acted without restraint or fear.

When Ma Jingtian struck, he showed no mercy whatsoever.

Within the Chu Mansion, it was a scene of misery and devastation.

That day, five servants were driven out of the Chu Mansion, four had their arms crippled, and three had their legs broken.

All the servants of Chu Mansion witnessed this; everyone was so scared that they remained silent and dared not breathe a word.

Chu Tianyi was shaking with anger, whereas Chu Zhaonan appeared to smile but not really, casting a sidelong glance at the newly acknowledged little niece.

Looking at the newly recognized daughter of the patriarch sitting in the grandmaster's chair, she watched the scene unfold with an unchanged expression.

"Settle the accounts of those who bullied my father, then we can start discussing how to divide the family assets."

Having taught the underlings a lesson, it was time to deal with those above.

Xin Lin patted her Silly Chu father, who promptly nodded along, repeatedly echoing.

"Divide the assets, divide the assets!"

"All the properties, lands, and shops of Chu Mansion are documented in these ledgers. Early on, my father already mentioned dividing the assets, and it was largely settled. The eldest brother was also there and he agreed, the third brother, right?"

Chu Tianyi, suppressing his burgeoning anger, ordered the accountant to present a hefty ledger to the several uncles and gentlemen present.

Chu Zhaonan also repeatedly expressed his agreement at their side.

Xin Lin sneered inwardly.

What a pair of brothers in cahoots, taking advantage of the fact that my father is a fool, colluding in secret.

However, since Xin Lin dared to initiate the division of assets, she also anticipated that the two brothers of Chu Mansion would employ schemes, so she kept silent.

"The accounts are very clear, with Bei Qing's handwriting on them, fifty acres of medicinal fields, a house in the north of the city, a Medical Hall, and a Spiritual Food Restaurant. As for the monthly allowance, Bei Qing has yet to start a family, his allowance is 500 taels per month, to be withdrawn from the accounting office," said the Grandmaster after flipping through the ledger.

The Chu family had substantial wealth, but the expenses over the years were not small either.

Especially after Chu Bei became a fool, and Chu Tianyi went to the Imperial Hospital, much of the mansion's business affairs fell into the hands of Chu Zhaonan, so the property wasn't considered abundant.

Medicinal fields, Medical Halls, Spiritual Food – it seemed there was quite a lot at first glance.

Xin Lin glanced at Chu Tianyi and Chu Zhaonan, the brothers appearing nonchalant.

"Granduncle, this account isn't right," Xin Lin shook her head.

"What's wrong with it? This is already one-third of Chu Mansion's assets. Bei Qing, being the eldest, was sympathetic to his two younger brothers and voluntarily gave up an additional tenth of his assets to share with them," thought Granduncle. In his mind, these thirty percent of the assets were already substantial, since Bei Qing only had one daughter of questionable origin, and who knows which young man might end up benefiting from these assets in the future.

"Granduncle, there's nothing wrong with the fields and houses, and even the monthly allowance is passable. But what about the furnishings and jewels within Chu Mansion, including my father's annual salary from over the years? And what to say of the Imperial Gifts bestowed by the Emperor to my father every year? Those are exclusively his personal belongings; I will claim all of them," Xin Lin said, her face not blushing and her heart not skipping a beat.

"Preposterous!" Chu Tianyi burst into anger as he heard this.

This wretched girl really dared to ask for the moon. The Granduncle quickly calmed Chu Tianyi down.

"Tianyi, don't act rashly. Let her take the Imperial Gifts. What harm is there if she takes them? They can't be eaten nor sold. Besides, what can a country bumpkin like her recognize of the Imperial Gifts?" said the Granduncle.

Upon hearing this, Chu Tianyi also felt there was some truth to it.

"To inform the Second Master, Master Jiang of the Purple Mist Alchemy Hall is requesting an audience outside," reported a guard suddenly while they were speaking.

Chapter 332: We Will Come Back!

Jiang Qing, what is he here for?

Upon hearing Jiang Qing's name, Chu Tianyi's face changed again.

Ever since Chu Miaoyun had taken the Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder from Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall and lost all her cultivation, Chu Tianyi had developed a deep resentment toward the people of the Alchemy Hall.

Could it be that Jiang Qing has come to apologize?

"Inform Hall Master Jiang that the mansion has urgent matters and we will not receive outside guests."

Chu Tianyi waved his hand dismissively, full of arrogance.

"Please let Hall Master Jiang in, as I'm the one who invited him."

To his surprise, Xin Lin interrupted Chu Tianyi's words.

"Xin, the gentlemen of the Chu Family."

Jiang Qing, dressed in a green robe, walked in. His gaze casually swept over the members of the Chu Mansion and settled on Xin Lin, his eyes brimming with a smile, making him appear quite delightful.

"What business does the Chu Family have that involves bringing in an outsider?"

Chu Tianyi said dissatisfied.

"Brother Jiang is not an outsider; he's my friend."

Xin Lin brushed it off, and Jiang Qing, hearing this, felt quite pleased, the smile on his face growing even wider.

A scoff came through the cold air.

Xin Lin heard it clearly, thinking to herself, 'The Pride Corpse is at it again, being temperamental.'

Pretending not to hear it, she continued,

"Brother Jiang, I've invited you to help me identify some of the Imperial Gifts given to my father by the Emperor."

Chu Tianyi and Chu Zhaonan were taken aback, while several uncles and gentlemen of the Chu Family were also stunned.

"You've found the right person, Xin. I'm familiar with almost eighty to ninety percent of the procurement for the Imperial Palace."

Jiang Qing said with a beaming smile.

Apart from Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall, Jiang Qing controlled numerous businesses, and he had a close private relationship with the Emperor Longteng. He had a mental account of everything coming in and out of the Imperial Palace.

"Uncle, could you please lead the way?"

Xin Lin gave Chu Tianying a sidelong glance.

With rigid steps and a great reluctance, Chu Tianyi led the group forward.

Inside the main hall hung a landscape painting.

Before Xin Lin could speak, Jiang Qing smiled and said,

"This 'Tang Rhythm Mountains and Rivers' painting is the work of the famous Chu Daozi, gifted to Young Master Chu by Emperor Longteng five years ago."

"Take it!"

Xin Lin waved her hand, and Ma Jingtian hurried forward to remove the painting.

Chu Tianyi's breath caught in his throat.

After a few more steps,

Jiang Qing paused again.

"This Purple Sand Tai Sui Pot, one pot with six cups, was crafted by the renowned Wu Yong of Longteng Country, and a year ago, Young Master Chu found it appealing during his audience with the Emperor Longteng and got it from him."

"Take it."

Xin Lin motioned, and Ma Jingtian quickly stepped forward again, collecting the tea set.

In this manner, Jiang Qing would stop every three steps and pause every five, and after two hours, Ma Jingtian had already gathered several large boxes of antiques.

The faces of the Chu brothers had turned as dark as the bottom of a pot, and just seeing this was incredibly satisfying for Xin Lin.

"Does the Chu Mansion have a hidden treasure chamber?"

Xin Lin pondered.

"The items in the treasure chamber are untouchable; they are the ancestral heirlooms of the Chu Family."

Chu Tianyi said through gritted teeth, clearly implying that unless Old Master Chu passed away, Xin Lin shouldn't even think of touching the items in the treasure chamber.

However, simply seeing the several large boxes behind Xin Lin, Chu Tianyi was already trembling with anger.

"Thank you for your efforts today, uncles. I would appreciate it if my second and third uncles could bring the house and land deeds to the residence at the far end of Xining Street in the next few days."

Having achieved her goal, Xin Lin thanked the elders and, without paying any heed to Chu Tianyi's murderous glare, ordered Ma Jingtian to push a cart, took her 'Silly Chu' father, and left the Chu Mansion.

As she stepped out of the Chu residence, Silly Chu hesitated.

Xin Lin patted Silly Chu's hand, as if talking to herself but also comforting him,

"Daddy, we will come back."

Chapter 333: An Unreasonable Request

"Outrageous!"

After seeing off several uncles and cousins, Chu Tianyi erupted in great fury in the main hall.

"There's no need for you to be angry, second brother. In this family division, both of us have gained advantages."

Chu Zhaonan sat down leisurely and took a symbolic sip of tea.

Xin Lin's performance today was truly an eye-opener.

This made Chu Zhaonan reconsider his assessment of his niece.

But after all, children will be children; they only know how to take advantage of the obvious benefits. The truly valuable things in Chu Mansion are not just the bottles and jars.

"Those shops, even if we keep them, are just money-losing ventures. It's fine if she took them."

Neither he nor Chu Zhaonan spoke up.

The two brothers tacitly understood that in Chu Mansion, there were only two things of utmost value. One was the favor of Emperor Longteng, which would persist as long as Chu Beiqing remained.

The other was Chu Beiqing's "Mystical Medicine Book", which had been missing since Chu Beiqing lost his wits.

Chu Zhaonan left, and Chu Tianyi summoned several Protectors.

"Send some men to handle the Imperial Gifts..."

Chu Tianyi whispered a few words, and the Protectors obeyed the command, hurrying out.

"Thinking of competing with me? Even your father couldn't outwit me back in the day, let alone you, a mere girl. This time, I am going to see your head fall to the ground."

Imperial Gifts cannot be sold, nor can they be mishandled.

Xin Lin took away many Imperial Gifts, and it seemed she had won the face. In reality, she was sending herself and Chu Beiqing on a path to doom.

Chu Tianyi was truly pleased with himself, but it wasn't long before the Protector rushed back.

"Second Master, it's impossible to make a move."

The Protector looked distressed.

"Useless! A fool and a girl, how could they not be easy targets?"

Chu Tianyi scolded.

"Second Master, she has moved all the Imperial Gifts to Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall."

The defenses at Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall were incredibly tight; not a fly could get in, let alone anything else.

Outside the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall, Ma Jingtian was shouting orders.

"Be careful, all of these are Imperial Gifts, any damage and heads will roll."

After leaving Chu Mansion, Xin Lin proposed to pawn these Imperial Gifts.

"Imperial Gifts cannot be sold, nor are they easy to keep safe. My father and I currently have no stable home, and these Imperial Gifts are a burden to us. I am willing to pawn them to Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall for just ten percent of their value, and within a year, I surely will redeem them. If, after a year, I'm unable to redeem them, then consider these Imperial Gifts as forfeited."

A man without guilt, often incurs guilt by carrying jade. Xin Lin couldn't understand this reality any clearer.

The two brothers from Chu Mansion would certainly not let things rest easily. Xin Lin pondered over and over again, concluding that leaving them with Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall was the best option.

"The pawn is acceptable, but I have one request."

Jiang Qing, being a businessman, quickly realized the profitability of this deal.

The items bestowed by Emperor Longteng to Chu Beiqing were of immense value. Should Xin Lin fail to redeem them on time, Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall would make a fortune.

At least in Jiang Qing's view, considering the current situation from the division of the family assets, Chu Beiqing and his daughter still faced a myriad of problems. The likelihood of them being able to redeem the gifts within a year was exceedingly small.

Xin Lin may be clever and cunning as a child, but ultimately she's new to Purple Cloud City and not very familiar with the affairs of the city or Chu Mansion. The fields, houses, and shops allocated to Chu Beiqing might seem ample in number, but as for the quality...

Chapter 334: Yet Another Master

Xin Lin intended to build a good relationship with Jiang Qing, waving her little hand.

"Master Jiang, please feel free to speak."

"I am six years your elder in age. If you don't mind, you can call me Brother Jiang."

Jiang Qing said with a smile.

"Brother Jiang, feel free to say whatever you want to say."

This "Brother Jiang" from Xin Lin sounded quite pleasant, and Jiang Qing's already smiling face brightened even more.

However, within the Sealing Spirit Talisman, Gui Hu's handsome face was stretched long, emitting a cool air.

"I need a batch of Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder, the same kind you sold to the Alchemy Hall before. At that time, I had no idea you were the daughter of Grand Doctor Chu."

Jiang Qing threw a glance at Xin Lin.

Xin Lin felt a little awkward and scratched her head.

After Chu Beiqing, no one in Longteng Country could produce Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder of such fine quality.

Originally, Jiang Qing was somewhat skeptical of Xin Lin's explanation.

After the incident with Chu Miaoyun, Jiang Qing specifically found the remaining Alchemy Powder produced by Chu Beiqing years ago in the Imperial Hospital. Upon comparison, although the colors were similar, the efficacy of the Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder sold to Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall was even higher.

It was clear that the Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder was not crafted by Chu Beiqing, but by someone else.

Jiang Qing boldly assumed that the medicine might have come from Xin Lin's hand.

Jiang Qing awaited Xin Lin's response with a smile.

Jiang Fox.

Xin Lin cursed inwardly.

It's often the smiling fox like Jiang Qing who is the hardest to deal with.

She couldn't admit that she made the medicine herself, otherwise it would lead to endless troubles in the future.

"Brother Jiang, since you asked me to call you elder brother, I won't hide it from you. Actually, that medicine was not made by my father, but by my master, Hu Lian."

As Xin Lin spoke, Ma Jingtian beside her nearly lost his eyeballs.

What, the Little Boss is not just that, that?

Suddenly her master becomes that, that?

Isn't this forbidden and thrilling!

Within the Sealing Spirit Talisman, Gui Hu frowned tightly.

Good little hen, getting bold.

The Pride Corpse at least taught her the Ghost God Fist; calling him master is passable.

"Master Hu?"

Jiang Qing had already experienced Xin Lin's verbal skill, and he didn't fully believe her words.

He mulled over it in his mind.

In terms of alchemy skills surpassing Chu Beiqing, setting aside those inside Longteng Country, even those outside, unless it's those from Sects or Holy Institutes of Heaven, there seemed to be no one called Hu.

But if there wasn't someone guiding her in secret, given Xin Lin's age and experiences, the likelihood of her producing such Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder was also quite improbable, unless she had a heaven-defying talent.

Additionally, Xin Lin's unique actions and completely unconventional kung fu styles all revealed oddities.

If she truly had such talent, she and her father wouldn't have ended up homeless.

Seeing Jiang Qing's skepticism, Xin Lin continued.

"When I was in Qian Village, I met my master by chance. Seeing me in distress, he taught me some medicinal skills. However, my master is a reclusive expert, only contacting me occasionally to give guidance. The last batch of Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder was given to me by him. If Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall really wants this batch of Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder, I can mention it to him the next time I see him."

"That sounds good, I definitely must meet Master Hu someday."

Jiang Qing did not force Xin Lin.

Inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman, Gui Hu snorted coldly. Meeting? This boy sure isn't afraid of death.

If they really met, he would definitely have to kill this boy.

Chapter 335: Life Book's Perks

In the middle of the night, Xin Lin finally returned to the Water Wraith Gang, with an extra one hundred thousand silver taels in her arms.

The amount seemed significant, but it wasn't a lot.

In Purple Cloud City, where the cost of living was high, and every inch of land was worth its weight in gold, ever since Silly Chu was incapacitated, he had been suspended from his duties without reporting to the Imperial Hospital, and his salary was cut in half. Including the money spent on his treatment, finances were hardly ample.

This sum of silver was to serve as the foundation for Xin Lin and Silly Chu's father to establish themselves in Purple Cloud City.

The Water Wraith Gang, after all, wasn't a place to stay for long. There was a house in the separated family estate, and Xin Lin, eyeing the location as quite decent, planned to check it out with Silly Chu the next afternoon.

Shi Guiren and Little Xinzhuo had returned to the palace for a day and night; by noon, Captain Yang had sent word over that the mother and child were for the time being safe and sound.

Xin Lin and Little Xinzhuo would only be able to see each other again when Qingtian Academy began its new term.

After a day of squabbling, Xin Lin was exhausted, and in the past few days, the Fu Xi's Energy inside her body had not acted up.

Xin Lin didn't dare to be careless, and after some thought, she took out the Dan Wood Furnace.

"10 Heaven-defying Value, one serving of Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly..."

After practicing martial cultivation and spirit cultivation, each time Xin Lin used Fu Xi's Energy, it would consume a lot of her physical strength, and she would get hungry quickly. The supper she just had a while ago had already vanished into thin air.

"Three servings."

Little did Xin Lin know, just as her words were spoken, a pair of long legs appeared in front of her, along with a shiny, bald Overlord Egg.

The Overlord Egg, which had been tormented all day, upon seeing Xin Lin, zoomed towards her, latching onto her leg and bursting into tears.

(Mommy, save your baby please)

The Overlord Egg was sleeping soundly within the Sealing Spirit Talisman; who knew that as night fell, it would be picked up by the dreadful Daddy, and without having to think about it, the Overlord Egg knew what it was about to face.

Xin Lin had not yet regained her composure when a fragrant aroma wafted over; in the Dan Wood Furnace, three pieces of red, aromatic Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly were ready.

Xin Lin was still distressed over her 20 Heaven-defying Value, when Gui Hu unceremoniously took two pieces of the Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly.

Upon seeing the braised pork belly, the Overlord Egg, which had been sobbing uncontrollably just a moment ago, dartedly flew to Gui Hu's feet, a classic example of whoever nurses is the mother.

"Pride Corpse, are you robbing me?! That's my meat and my Heaven-defying Value!"

Xin Lin stared at the Dan Wood Furnace, filled with resentment.

Why should it be so, it's her furnace, yet with just one word from Gui Hu, the darn furnace obediently complies—just who is the real life master here!

"Use them to counteract Fu Xi's Energy."

It was only after eating the Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly that Gui Hu realized how beneficial it was for his body.

Xin Lin had nothing to offer, the only thing valuable she had was the Spiritual Food that was concocted in that worn-out furnace.

Having said that, with a kick of his long legs, he sent the Overlord Egg flying out, leaving its whereabouts unknown.

Xin Lin, with a painful look on her face, glanced at the Heavenly Destiny Book.

But then, she saw a few additional lines on the Past Book of the Heavenly Destiny Book.

"Teaching a lesson to the poison physician apprentice Chu Miaoyun, Heaven-defying Value +10,

Irritating Chu Tianyi, Heaven-defying Value +5,

Irritating Chu Zhaonan, Heaven-defying Value +2,

Acquired ally Jiang Qing, Heaven-defying Value +5.

Refined three servings of One-star Spiritual Delicacy Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly, Heaven-defying Value - 30.

Congratulations life master, cumulative record of Heaven-defying Value has reached 100, Life Book rewards you with one Wooden Treasure Box, will the life master accept?"

Xin Lin was taken aback, a Treasure Box?

The Life Book finally had some benefits to offer.

She mentally accepted, and a small treasure box appeared out of thin air on the ground.

With a click, the treasure box opened, and Xin Lin rubbed her eyes and took a good look.

"Congratulations life master, you have obtained one Jade Purification Tank."

Chapter 336: Forceful Breakthrough, Xuanwu Practitioner

"The Life Book indicates, the next accumulation of Heaven-defying Value needed to obtain a Benefit Treasure Chest is 500."

Thanks to the three pieces of Wind Breath Roast Pork, Xin Lin's current Heaven-defying Value has reached 34 points.

After the prompt, the small treasure box disappeared.

Xin Lin glanced at the tank.

This could also be considered a tank, Xin Lin picked up the Jade Purification Tank, which was about the size of a rice bowl. It looked clean and pure, worthy of the name Jade Purification.

But what could a bowl do, could it possibly be used for eating and drinking?

It would be more practical to get a bottle of Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder.

Xin Lin felt somewhat disappointed. She casually tossed the Jade Purification Tank onto a nearby table and poured some water into it.

Gui Hu and the Overlord Egg had already disappeared without a trace, Xin Lin sighed heavily as she picked up the remaining Wind Breath Roast Pork.

As soon as she took a bite, she almost bit her tongue off.

Xin Lin had lived for hundreds of lifetimes, and was once an international Female Soldier King in her previous life. She had tasted plenty of world-class cuisines, from Michelin-starred restaurants to street food stalls. None of them were a problem.

But all combined, they still couldn't compare to this piece of braised pork.

Her taste buds were instantly awakened. Sweet, tender, fragrant, and long-lasting. The fragrance of Feng Xi grass lingered in her mouth, the rich meat juice was fatty yet not greasy, generating a warm current in her stomach that spread towards her limbs.

The previously depleted Fu Xi's Energy began to recover bit by bit.

Her inner "bean sprouts" also started thumping nervously as Fu Xi's Energy rapidly proliferated. It came surging in like a mighty and overwhelming force, as if anticipating something. Xin Lin hurriedly sat down.

Inside Xin Lin, it was like a sea surface with rising waves, rushing forward.

A huge golden gate emerged from the sea surface, rising into the sky.

It was imposing, reaching neither the heavens nor the earth.

Waves formed from Fu Xi's Energy constantly battered the gate, making a deafening noise.

Knock, knock, knock—

It felt as long as a century, yet also like a blink of an eye.

The formidable waves forcibly broke through the gate.

With a loud boom.

Xin Lin felt something under her Dantian, only to hear a loud boom, something had been forcefully broken through.

Her inner "bean sprouts" trembled slightly, seemingly growing a bit longer, about two to three inches long now.

"The Xuan Gate has opened, Xuanwu Practitioner!"

Xin Lin's eyes snapped open, the True Qi inside her body shifted from restless to calm.

"Congratulations to the life master for advancing to the First Level Xuanwu Practitioner."

Once a Martial Artist's True Qi reaches a certain level, they will sense the existence of the Xuan Gate.

Breaking through the Xuan Gate, leading to its opening, thereafter a Xuanwu Practitioner can begin to condense Xuan Veins, from this point on, Xin Lin truly steps into the ranks of the Xuanwu Practitioners.

Surprise flickered in the depths of Xin Lin's eyes.

With the taste of meat still lingering between her lips, she sprang up with a leap, the Fu Xi's Energy condensing into her fist, and struck out with a boom.

The air instantly twisted; this punch, compared to her earlier punch, had at least tripled in strength. Not only that, the shadow of the fist had also multiplied from one to two.

One punch unleashed as if it were two, yet the consumption of Fu Xi's Energy was exactly the same as before.

A piece of Wind Breath Roast Pork had unexpectedly allowed her to break through from martial master to Xuanwu Practitioner.

"These 10 Heaven-defying Values are worth it!"

Xin Lin was overjoyed, her stomach rumbling again.

Looking at the sky, Xin Lin realized it was already broad daylight; her breakthrough had taken the entire night.

"Little Boss, breakfast is ready, it's time to visit the Chu Mansion."

Outside, the diligent voice of Ma Jingtian came through.

Chapter 337: Haunted House, Oh Haunted House

Chu Mansion, was the grand estate Chu Beiqing divided from the family's properties.

Purple Cloud City, where every inch of land is worth its weight in gold, the value of a single mansion is exceptionally high, even more than the combined value of various farmlands and shops.

Thus, when Chu Tianyi and Chu Zhaonan agreed to give up that mansion, Xin Lin was somewhat taken aback.

After breakfast, Xin Lin, accompanied by Silly Chu and led by Ma Jingtian, went to find Chu Mansion.

The location of Chu Mansion was certainly not as good as Chu Mansion, it was a bit far from the bustling city, but it had the advantage of being quiet, nestled within a neighborhood alley.

After a slightly desolate tree-lined path, a courtyard occupying about four to five acres appeared before them.

White walls and blue tiles, the walls adorned with lush, leafy vines of *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*, bearing similarities to the Huizhou architecture Xin Lin had seen in modern times.

The greenish-gray wooden door was mottled with peeling paint, covered with several tattered seals.

Weathered by wind and rain, the seals had yellowed, and the ink had blurred beyond recognition, vaguely showing it's from the government, but the specifics were indeterminable.

Xin Lin was startled to see the partially hanging seals.

Ma Jingtian looked around, stopped a passing aunt, and after inquiring, his face changed.

"Little Boss, you've been fooled, this is a Haunted House!"

No wonder the Chu brothers were willing to give up such a grand mansion.

This mansion, speaking of which, also has some connections with Chu Beiqing.

He bought it about seven or eight years ago when a strange disease broke out in Purple Cloud City, affecting many civilians.

Under the control of the Imperial Hospital, the Imperial Palace and nobles were spared, but the civilians suffered, and to contain the disease, the Imperial Hospital drove the infected civilians to a desolate mountain near Qin Mountain.

At the peak of the strange disease, dozens of civilians died daily, and the mountain was littered with corpses.

Later, after Chu Beiqing learned of this, he petitioned Emperor Longteng, overriding the objections, and further purchasing this secluded mansion with a huge sum of money.

With the Imperial Hospital unwilling to treat the disease, Chu Beiqing ordered the sick from the desolate mountain to be brought into the mansion.

He also personally resided in the mansion, living and eating with the sick for two full months. Although some died in the mansion during that period, after two months, the remaining patients were cured.

The strange disease was also eradicated from Longteng Country under Chu Beiqing's treatment.

After the disease disappeared, the mansion was emptied.

For the first few years, the mansion remained intact.

But since Chu Beiqing became mentally incapacitated for some reason, the mansion began to be haunted.

"After Grand Doctor Chu became mentally incapacitated, Chu Mansion didn't want to waste the empty mansion and tried to sell it. Later, some people came to see the mansion, but it's said that those who visited got strange illnesses, and some even died. The rumors said it's the work of the patients who died in the mansion in the past. As time passed, the mansion became known as the Haunted House and no one has inquired about it since."

Ma Jingtian said indignantly.

The brothers of Chu Mansion are really too deceitful.

Such a Haunted House, there's no way Xin Lin and her father could live here.

As they were talking, the door creaked open.

A chilling wind blew out, cold to the bone.

Ma Jingtian shivered, and Xin Lin turned around to find Silly Chu had disappeared.

Xin Lin hesitated, just about to enter, suddenly, she felt a blur before her eyes, as something flashed past her.

Chapter 338: A Chance Encounter

"Ma Jingtian, did you see anything?"

Xin Lin hesitated for a moment and asked.

"I didn't see anything."

Ma Jingtian looked perplexed, his eyes suddenly widening.

"Little Boss, don't scare me. Could there really be something unclean in this house?"

Ma Jingtian said with a pained expression.

"Nothing, maybe I just saw things."

Xin Lin said, keeping her composure.

She was certain that something had flashed before her eyes just now.

Unlike Ma Jingtian, due to having swallowed a Fu Tian Pill, she could see some indistinct things, like Ah Piao and such.

It seemed that this mansion was indeed a bit strange.

Xin Lin was somewhat worried about Silly Chu and was about to step inside.

"Xin Lin, what are you doing here?"

Suddenly, the voice of Murong Ziyue came from behind.

Xin Lin was startled and saw Murong Ziyue and a middle-aged man standing not far behind her.

"I'm here to look at the house, Ziyue. What about you?"

Xin Lin hadn't seen Murong Ziyue since the Zixiao Palace Exam as she had been busy with her family affairs.

With a few days left before the Qingtian Academy orientation, there were extra tests before the enrollment, and generally, students were intensively cultivating to impress the teachers and get a master.

"You also want to buy this house? But aren't you living at Chu Mansion?"

Murong Ziyue knew that Xin Lin had returned to Chu Mansion after the Imperial Examination.

"Ladies, this house is really nice, with a large and serene courtyard, and it's cheap too. Once it's gone, there's no other deal like this."

The middle-aged man was a merchant in town, tasked by Chu Mansion to sell the house.

Xin Lin had just split from her family, and Chu Mansion hadn't had the chance to send word about selling the house, which led to this misunderstanding.

"Boss, that's not fair. You're taking advantage of Ziyue being from out of town. This house is a haunted house; it's possessed."

Xin Lin said irritably.

If she hadn't bumped into Murong Ziyue today, Ziyue could have been tricked.

When Xin Lin mentioned the haunting, far from looking scared, Murong Ziyue's face lit up with intrigue.

Xin Lin noticed the change in her expression, yet remained composed.

"Young lady, how can you speak carelessly? How could this house be haunted? The Feng Shui of this house is excellent, a convergence of Triple Yang, a truly precious Feng Shui site."

The merchant glared at Xin Lin, cursing inwardly, wondering where this troublemaking little ghost came from to ruin his business.

"The house is mine, and I'm not selling it."

Xin Lin took out the deed and threw it in the merchant's face.

Seeing the deed, the merchant turned awkward and dared not speak further, promptly scurrying away.

"Xin Lin, this house is yours, how about selling it to me?"

Murong Ziyue looked over the "Haunted House," her eyes shining.

Just from Murong Ziyue's reaction, Xin Lin could tell this house was extraordinary.

Murong Ziyue usually kept a low profile, and it was the first time Xin Lin had seen her show clear joy and distaste; this house must have its peculiarities.

Regardless of whether it was bought by Bei Qing, Xin Lin was curious about the "things" inside.

"Unfortunately. However, I'd advise you, this house is not suitable for living. You and your dad should especially avoid entering it."

Murong Ziyue expressed her regret but did not insist.

Not enter?

Xin Lin was surprised.

Murong Ziyue's warning seemed a bit too late.

"Ah!"

A scream echoed from deep inside the house.

Chapter 339: This Place Is Uninhabitable

Hearing the scream, Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue exchanged a glance before both rushed into the mansion.

Inside the mansion, the greenery was lush and dense. Upon entering, they saw a thicket of cypresses.

Cypress, in folklore, is known as Yin Wood, often planted beside tombs. The ground was covered with layers upon layers of decaying leaves; it looked like no one had lived there for a long time.

Ma Jingtian's voice came from up ahead.

As Xin Lin walked forward, he saw Ma Jingtian with a pale face sitting on the ground, his ankle clamped by a sharp animal trap. The trap had penetrated deep into his flesh, to the bone.

Ma Jingtian had a mournful expression. He saw Silly Chu slip into the mansion and worried about the fool's safety, so he came to find him.

Who would have known, the moment he stepped in, a shadow flickered before his eyes. He thought it was Silly Chu and hurriedly chased after it, but carelessly got caught by the trap.

Xin Lin examined the injury and frowned.

"The injury is secondary, but there's poison on the wound, and Ma Gang Leader is a Xuanwu Practitioner."

In such a desolate mansion, how could an animal trap suddenly appear? Such devices are usually found deep in the mountains, and this one was even coated with poison.

Behind them, another strange noise sounded not far away.

Turning his head, Xin Lin saw Murong Ziyue flash by swiftly.

With a whoosh, a streak of silver light brushed past them.

A row of daggers, extremely sharp and gleaming with a cold light, stuck in the ground.

Even Murong Ziyue broke out into a cold sweat.

"Let's get out of this cursed place quickly. A Haunted House is a Haunted House; if we stay any longer, none of us will have our lives."

All this happened right before their eyes, without any warning.

There was not a breath of life in the surroundings.

Ma Jingtian grimaced in pain, highly apprehensive of this place.

"The Yin energy in this mansion is too oppressive. Ordinary people can't stay long; we must leave."

Murong Ziyue looked around and her expression was grave.

"You take Ma Gang Leader away first, send him to Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall, and find Master Jiang. I will go find my father."

Xin Lin looked at Ma Jingtian's injury.

"It's too dangerous."

Murong Ziyue shook her head.

"I am the first in the Zixiao Palace Exam."

Xin Lin smirked.

If someone else had said these words, Murong Ziyue would have thought they were boasting.

But this was coming from Xin Lin, so it was different.

Murong Ziyue fell silent for a moment, then helped Ma Jingtian up.

"Remember, people can't live in this place."

Before leaving, Murong Ziyue gave a stern warning, then left with the limping Ma Jingtian.

Not long after Murong Ziyue left.

Suddenly, the grand doors of Chu Mansion slammed shut.

A succession of cold winds blew, sending shivers down one's spine.

But Xin Lin was indifferent to all of this.

Haunted House, ghosts?

Could they be as formidable as the Pride Corpse?

Xin Lin muttered to himself, used to daily company with "corpses"; this Yin Mansion was nothing to him now.

Fu Xi's Energy gathered in his eyes.

Xin Lin remained vigilant of his surroundings.

The ground covered in rotting leaves began to change before Xin Lin's eyes.

Disordered footsteps emerged.

These footsteps were invisible to the ordinary human eye, which is why Ma Jingtian had been caught off guard.

Yet before Xin Lin, who possessed Fu Xi's Energy, nothing could stay hidden; each step was revealed one by one.

Subsequently, Xin Lin spotted some animal traps and other mechanisms.

Clearly, they had all been set by someone.

Xin Lin's brows knitted tighter and tighter.

It seemed that this mansion was not simply haunted as one might believe.

Chapter 340: Ah Piao and Yin Sha

Xin Lin could be certain that earlier, she had felt Ah Piao's presence in the mansion.

So, she thought that there should be Ah Piao in this house.

If it were only Ah Piao, Xin Lin would not be afraid.

After all, she already had experience dealing with Ah Piao and thought that she would have more than enough to handle the one here.

But now it seems, things may not be so simple.

"Generally speaking, after a person dies, they become one of two existences: one is Ah Piao, and the other is Yin Sha. Ah Piao, also known as ghosts in the traditional sense, are mostly Wandering Ghosts who bear no real intent to harm humans. The other kind is Yin Sha. Yin Sha are more formidable than Ah Piao; because of reasons in life or after death, they accumulate a substantial amount of Evil Qi, and Yin Sha do harm to and even kill people."

This was what Little Xinzhuo had told Xin Lin earlier.

From the situation that Ma Jingtian and Ziyue encountered earlier, it's very likely that there is Yin Sha in this mansion.

At this moment, a gray shadow floated past her eyes, and Xin Lin's gaze deepened as she quickly followed...

In Grandmaster Jin Mansion.

The cup in Grandmaster Jin's hand fell to the ground and shattered into seven or eight pieces.

"You say someone has taken over Chu Mansion?"

"Reporting to the Grandmaster, the other party is a little girl, about seven or eight years old. She says she is from the Chu family."

The merchant who had earlier taken Murong Ziyue to view Chu Mansion had left and gone straight to Grandmaster Mansion.

"Reporting to the Grandmaster, it is said that Xin Lin caused quite a scene at Chu Mansion yesterday, and the three Chu brothers have split the family property. Chu Mansion was divided and given to Chu Beiqing."

One of the Grandmaster's staff reported from the side.

"It's her again."

Grandmaster Jin stood up and walked back and forth in the room.

"Grandmaster, should we send someone to take a look, just in case the thing we left inside is found?"

That staff reminded.

"With her little Spiritual Power, it's impossible for her to discover that thing, and even if she does, those Yin Sha inside are more than enough to claim her little life. Good, I was just thinking about how to kill that father and daughter, and Chu Tianyi has done me a big favor."

A sly smile appeared on Grandmaster Jin's face.

The Yin Sha in that Haunted House are no ordinary evil spirits; these are Yin Sha that have been cultivated for many years. Once someone enters, they are likely only to leave behind a skin.

That gray shadow ran ahead, with Xin Lin following behind.

From the front yard, all the way to the back.

"Daddy!"

Turning around a floral archway, Xin Lin saw Silly Chu standing by a well.

Behind Silly Chu, several gray shadows were shoving him, trying to push him into the well.

The appearances of those gray shadows were gradually becoming clearer.

They were a group of green-faced and sharp-toothed Evil Souls, and compared to the Yin Sha Xin Lin had encountered in Luoyin Mountain Ghost Cave, they looked even more sinister and terrifying.

A thunderous roar resounded in Xin Lin's mind, and she threw a punch at those Yin Sha.

The Yin Sha were intent on dragging this new "prey" into the well.

Suddenly hearing a cold shout and a pounding fist wind approaching.

Xin Lin's punch was powerful, but as it struck down, she grasped at nothing. Her Fist Power only scattered the Yin Sha, and her punch couldn't hurt them at all.

Behind her, she was forcefully pushed.

Xin Lin felt darkness before her eyes and tumbled into the well along with Silly Chu.

"Jie Jie—"

The seven or eight Yin Sha, seeing both father and daughter fall into the well, showed a flicker of surprise on their faces.

Compared to the Yin Sha from the Ghost Cave, this group of Yin Sha was clearly more Advanced; they knew how to think.

They murmured amongst themselves and dived into the well together.