

Little Girl 371

Chapter 371: The Sneaky Egg's Growth!

At this very moment, the Overlord Egg had transformed into an "ostrich egg".

Xin Lin felt irritable.

She's probably the most inept Summoning Master in all of Longteng.

"Come out."

Gui Hu beside her made a languid remark.

With the speed of Thunder Flash, the Overlord Egg promptly appeared in front of Xin Lin.

The Overlord Egg had an instinctual reverence for Gui Hu.

This was the result of the past few days of special training.

"..."

Xin Lin stared at the Overlord Egg.

Can you be any less principled?

Who's your real boss here?

The Overlord Egg looked downcast, sneakily glancing at Xin Lin with guilty eyes.

"You two, stand properly!"

The petite Xin Lin scolded, her face stern, commanding Gui Hu and the Overlord Egg.

As the saying goes, 'Like master, like servant.'

Such simple and crude Spirit Art, the Overlord Egg definitely couldn't have learned it by itself; it must be Gui Hu prompting from behind.

(It's not Mommy, it's Daddy; I must learn a Spirit Art, otherwise Mommy will abandon me.)

As an egg that's sneakily developing, the Overlord Egg hadn't learned many Spirit Arts, but it was quite adept at shirking responsibility, quickly pinning the blame on Gui Hu.

Xin Lin glanced at Gui Hu.

He was standing with his arms crossed, looking completely relaxed and at ease.

"I taught it, the Lianhua Technique."

The Lianhua Technique is one of the Fire Spirit Techniques, classified as an Eighth Rank Fire Spirit Technique.

After observing that the Overlord Egg seemed to contain a part of the Fire Spirit, Gui Hu decided to teach it this Magic.

The Overlord Egg was slow to learn Spirit Arts, having spent several days and nights without grasping it.

Gui Hu had almost given up on it, but fortunately, at the last minute, it finally mastered it.

However, the Lianhua Technique was supposed to produce a fiery lotus made of Spiritual Fire, scorching the opponent.

And yet, with the Overlord Egg, the lotus disappeared and turned into a mere spark-sized fire.

Thankfully, this tiny spark was powerful, bursting into an explosion with considerable force.

The only downside of this Spirit Art was that it consumed an alarming amount of Spiritual Power.

With the Overlord Egg's current strength, one spark was enough to exhaust its Spiritual Energy.

After witnessing the Lianhua Technique once, Gui Hu grudgingly agreed to bring the Overlord Egg back, not foreseeing the incident that would unfold.

"Well done, you've finally admitted it."

Xin Lin spread her hands, making a gesture as if losing money.

The whole Water Wraith Gang was leveled to the ground, and while the power of the Spirit Art was one thing, the disappearance of the Water Wraith Gang meant Xin Lin had to support the gang members from now on.

A whole bunch of men with their eating, drinking, and other needs—everything cost money.

"Do you want money, or do you want information more valuable than money?"

Gui Hu, already accustomed to Xin Lin's obsession with money, immediately threw out a statement that caught her attention.

"What do you mean?"

Xin Lin eyed Gui Hu, wishing he were Doraemon, possibly pulling out some more amazing things.

"Idiot, where'd you get the strength to use the Lianhua Technique this morning?"

Gui Hu lifted the Overlord Egg by the foot.

The Overlord Egg hurried to hug its backside, quickly darting behind Xin Lin.

(I don't know, I just drank the water Mommy gave me, there's only Mommy's goodness in the world~)

Mention of that bowl of water made the Overlord Egg drool again, drawing closer to Xin Lin.

(Mommy, I'm thirsty, I want water)

Xin Lin looked suspiciously between Gui Hu and the Overlord Egg, this big and this small, wondering what on earth they were plotting.

Chapter 372: Baby, the Jade Purification Tank

Xin Lin pointed at a well next to the entrance of the Chu Mansion.

"Go drink by yourself."

The Overlord Egg, having hidden inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman No.2 for a day, was both thirsty and hungry, so it rolled over to the well and took a big gulp of water with its little butt poked up.

As soon as the water entered its mouth.

With a "pfft" sound, the Overlord Egg spat out all the water.

(Bitter and salty, ptui ptui ptui)

The Overlord Egg, with a grimace, rolled back to Xin Lin's feet.

(Mommy, I want the morning water, the bowl on the table)

The Jade Purification Tank?

Could it be because of that?

But she herself had later drawn some water and drank a few sips without noticing anything strange,

Xin Lin took three steps in quick succession and headed towards the front hall.

She had gone to the Taichang Temple during the day, and the Jade Purification Tank was left with Silly Chu to be brought to the Chu Mansion.

As soon as Xin Lin entered the front hall, Silly Chu happily approached.

"My daughter~ drink, drink, drink."

Silly Chu was holding the Jade Purification Tank in his hand.

"Little Boss, your silly dad really loves you. The brothers said that the Silly Chu was sitting here with a bowl of water since early morning, not even eating, just waiting for you to come back."

Just now, when Ma Jingtian entered the house, he was extremely thirsty and couldn't find a teacup. He almost had his head exploded by Silly Chu for wanting to drink a few sips.

This Silly Chu has some real strength.

Only then did Xin Lin realize that her silly dad had been waiting for her for six or seven hours.

Looking at the water in the Jade Purification Tank, Xin Lin smiled and took a sip.

Just one sip, and Xin Lin's eyes changed.

The water tasted sweet and delicious, surpassing any of the divine water brands and state banquet waters she had drunk in her previous life.

Not only that, Xin Lin had used up a lot of energy at the Taichang Temple, but as soon as she drank this water, the nearly depleted energy within her Dantian surged upwards with the force of Fu Xi's Energy.

(Mommy, I want to drink too)

The Overlord Egg sneaked behind Xin Lin, and upon seeing that familiar bowl, it darted over with a swoosh.

Who knew that Gui Hu, with quick and decisive action, stepped on the Overlord Egg. Unable to move, the Overlord Egg could only cry softly and sorrowfully.

(Daddy is a big baddie)

"If I'm not mistaken, this bowl is special; it's a Spiritual Artifact."

Gui Hulan's blue eyes narrowed slightly, examining the Jade Purification Tank.

He had experienced much but couldn't figure out the specific origin of the tank, or even define its grade—similar to the Dan Wood Furnace that Xin Lin saw earlier.

Without Xin Lin saying anything, Gui Hu guessed that this tank most likely was a product of the Heavenly Destiny Book.

That mysterious and extraordinary Heavenly Destiny Book within Xin Lin's body produced items beyond Gui Hu's understanding for the moment.

Xin Lin thought for a bit, poured out the water in the bowl, and refilled it with more water.

"Little Boss, what are you doing? Little Boss, you haven't been possessed, have you? I always said, this Haunted House is unlivable!"

Ma Jingtian watched, dumbfounded.

Xin Lin ignored him, continued pouring water into the tank, drank a few sips, shook her head, poured out the water, and refilled it.

Each time, Xin Lin would add some fresh water, take a few sips, shake her head, and pour in the water again.

After several repetitions, Ma Jingtian was almost convinced that Little Boss had been possessed.

"The Heavenly Destiny Book suggests, Jade Purification Tank, an unclear Spiritual Treasure, size undetermined. It has been enshrined before Namo Bodhisattva for a century and has absorbed unique spiritual properties. Ordinary water poured into it, after being purified over six hours, turns into Jade Purifying Water. Jade Pure Spring has many uses and is essential for home or travel."

Perhaps owing to Xin Lin's nonsensical actions that were hard to watch,

the Heaven-defying Book finally offered a few rare hints.

Chapter 373: A Letter from the Palace

Xin Lin blinked a few times, then finally stopped what she was doing.

Ma Jingtian wiped away his cold sweat, thinking that Little Boss had finally returned to normal.

Originally, it took more than six hours for it to become a Spiritual Spring.

Drinking a mouthful could restore quite a bit of strength; no wonder the Overlord Egg could immediately use Lotus Bomb after drinking a big bowl.

"The Life Book, what does the size mean?"

"The Life Book hints that it only provides initial attribute explanations. Extra questions will deduct 10 Heaven-defying Value points."

The Heaven-defying Book dryly stated.

Only a fool would spend additional Heaven-defying Value to ask questions.

Xin Lin glanced at the Jade Purification Tank and picked up more water to pour into it.

"Little Boss!"

Seeing that the teacup was already full, but the boss continued to pour, Ma Jingtian became anxious again.

Little did he know that as Xin Lin poured water into it, it didn't overflow.

Ma Jingtian was stunned.

Gui Hu remained impassive, quietly observing from the side.

Silly Chu laughed hehe, sitting beside them.

The Overlord Egg's eyes glazed over, staring intently at the Jade Purification Tank, full of longing.

After experimenting, Xin Lin found that the current size of the Jade Purification Tank could hold about one teapot of water at most; any more and it would not take it in, meaning in six hours, she could obtain a pot of Spiritual Spring.

Xin Lin's mood suddenly improved greatly.

If this Spiritual Spring were sold, it would surely fetch a high price.

Yet immediately after, Xin Lin thought again.

The Spiritual Spring was very rare; if it were to leak into the market, it would likely attract covetous eyes. It was better to keep it for her own people to use first.

Seeing that Xin Lin had finally returned to her normal state, Ma Jingtian also breathed a sigh of relief.

"Little Boss, when we went to the Taichang Temple during the day, a letter was sent from the Imperial Palace. It was sent by Noble Lady Shi and her son."

Ma Jingtian took the letter from his subordinate and handed it to Xin Lin.

Ah Zhuo's letter.

When Xin Lin heard this, she immediately opened the letter.

These past few days, she was busy quarreling with the Chu Mansion. Now that she had moved into the Chu Mansion, life was temporarily settled, and Xin Lin missed Noble Lady Shi and her son quite a bit.

Inside the letter, there was also a silver note for one thousand taels, which was what Xin Lin had given to Noble Lady Shi earlier.

Xin Lin looked over the letter several times, her eyebrows knotted together.

"Little Boss, how is it? Is Noble Lady Shi doing well in the palace?"

Ma Jingtian leaned in, asking in a rush.

Since Noble Lady Shi and her son entered the palace, Captain Yang, as one of the Imperial Guard's captains, was responsible for the Outer Palace, so it wasn't easy for him to inquire about news.

Xin Lin also had no other channels to learn about the wellbeing of Noble Lady Shi and her son.

The only thing that made Xin Lin relatively at ease was that Noble Lady Shi and her son had just returned to the Imperial Palace, and Empress Feng would not choose this sensitive time to act against them.

"Emperor Longteng's woman, what are you so concerned about?"

Xin Lin glanced at Ma Jingtian, tucked away the letter, but her brows were still tightly furrowed.

After reading the letter, Xin Lin also knew that Noble Lady Shi and her son were having a difficult time in the palace.

Noble Lady Shi and her son in the palace also missed Xin Lin greatly and Noble Lady Shi subtly found out about Xin Lin and her daughter's separation from the Chu Mansion, and that they now had nowhere to live.

She sent some of her limited supply of silver, hoping it could help Xin Lin.

Just for this friendship alone, Xin Lin would not allow Noble Lady Shi and her son to continue being suppressed by Empress Feng.

Ma Jingtian hung his head in silence.

Before him, there was now a small stack of silver notes.

"Here are twenty-one thousand taels. Ten thousand taels for Captain Yang; tell him to communicate and arrange a transfer to the Inner Palace. Another eleven thousand taels, find a way for Captain Yang to bring to Noble Lady Shi and her son."

Ma Jingtian immediately took the silver notes and left, but Xin Lin glanced at Gui Hu, wanting to say something but hesitated.

PS: Pictures of Xin Lin are here(◡‾‾▽‾‾)◡

Cute as a young girl, beautiful as a teenager, fairy-like in adulthood!

Hurry up and search "MS Fuzi" on WeChat to follow my public WeChat account, reply with "Xin Lin," and you can see it!

Chapter 374: Negotiating Terms

Gui Hu didn't read the letter, but he could tell its content just by looking at Xin Lin's face.

"I need two ghost soldiers."

Xin Lin thought it over and finally spoke up.

She had thought that Pride Corpse would once again extort something like Fu Xi's Energy, but to her surprise, Gui Hu waved his hand, and two ghost soldiers presented themselves in front of Xin Lin.

"Aren't you going to ask what I'm going to use them for?"

Xin Lin was very puzzled, as Gui Hu was being unexpectedly generous this time.

These few Yin Sha had stayed in the Chu Mansion for several years. Different from ordinary ghosts, they could be exposed to sunlight, and now that they had been cleansed of Ghost Energy by Monk Jun, they were indistinguishable from ordinary people—even some highly skilled Cultivators wouldn't be able to detect them.

Unless, of course, they encountered someone of the Minister of Imperial Sacrificial Worship's caliber.

However, Monk Jun said the Taichang had gone traveling and was not expected to return to Purple Cloud City for a while, let alone enter the palace.

"Entering the palace."

If it were a little hen entering the palace, she could easily protect herself.

But it was Noble Lady Shi and her son going into the palace—two typical little white rabbits, akin to lambs walking into a tiger's den.

"How come you're so kind-hearted? Don't you need any Fu Xi's Energy?"

Xin Lin was still full of disbelief. A Pride Corpse being so amicable, was it still really a Pride Corpse?

"Provide three servings of Spiritual Food a month, and I'll provide two ghost soldiers."

Gui Hu didn't beat around the bush and directly stated his demand.

Gui Hu had previously tasted Xin Lin's Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly; its flavor was quite good.

Gui Hu had a Corpse King Body and a peculiar constitution; besides alcoholic drinks, he couldn't digest or absorb normal human food, so he didn't care much for eating.

But the Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly was different. After consuming it, Gui Hu felt that the cold ghostly energy within his body weakened slightly, slowly improving his constitution.

Though the effect was not significant, it was nonetheless effective.

Of course, Gui Hu wouldn't tell Xin Lin that this was a scheme to kill two birds with one stone.

Once the ghost soldiers entered the palace, they could come into contact with many Imperial Family items, among which many were likely to be hiding the Emperor's Fortune.

Upon hearing this, the Overlord Egg at Gui Hu's feet immediately clamored.

(Mommy, I want some too, eat eat eat, drink drink drink, I'm still growing, need to eat meat meat)

The Overlord Egg had nearly been tortured to death at Qin Mountain before; it was only saved by a piece of Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly from Mommy.

That piece of meat, it was just too delicious!

Three servings of Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly would cost 30 Heaven-defying Value. If the Overlord Egg was included, the cost would range from 30 to 50 Heaven-defying Value.

Xin Lin did some mental calculations.

It seemed she had to find a way to increase her Heaven-defying Value.

The question was how to quickly accumulate Heaven-defying Value.

Relying on daily events to gain Heaven-defying Value was far too slow, and she couldn't afford it. Xin Lin was even cautious about using the Dan Wood Furnace once, not to mention exchanging money for Heaven-defying Value—it was a massive pitfall.

Xin Lin thought to herself.

"Heavenly Destiny Book, 10 Heaven-defying Value, tell me how can I earn Heaven-defying Value faster and in greater amounts?"

Xin Lin could only wince as she asked the question.

Although she had owned the Heavenly Destiny Book for a few months, Xin Lin's understanding and usage of the Life Book were still at a basic level.

Especially after she discovered that the Life Book had hidden features like random tasks waiting to be unlocked.

"The Life Book suggests that Heaven-defying Value can be acquired through Heaven-defying events, such as defeating enemies, infuriating opponents, trading, random treasure boxes, etc. For example, the Spiritual Food prepared by the life master can be sold: depending on the customers' ratings and the star level of the Spiritual Food, you can obtain varying amounts of Heaven-defying Value."

After quickly deducting 10 Heaven-defying Value from Xin Lin, the Life Book provided the answer.

Chapter 375: New Methods for Earning Heaven-defying Value

Trade mode can also earn Heaven-defying Value!

Xin Lin's petite face brightened visibly upon hearing this.

Xin Lin always thought that only combat mode and scolding mode could earn Heaven-defying Value.

Currently, Xin Lin could only make One-star Spiritual Delicacy Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly.

But producing a single dish would cost 10 Heaven-defying Value or ten thousand taels of silver.

Xin Lin had inquired before; in the Zhenxiu Restaurant outside, a One-star Spiritual Delicacy was generally priced between three thousand and five thousand.

Although her Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly could detoxify, it couldn't sell for ten thousand taels to ordinary people, which meant Xin Lin would definitely be at a loss.

Thus, Xin Lin never thought about selling Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly before.

But today, hearing what the Heavenly Destiny Book said, Xin Lin felt reassured.

Tomorrow, she would sell the Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly.

She vividly remembered that when the Chu Mansion was divided, besides the Haunted House, there were two more shops; one was a Medical Hall and the other was a Spiritual Food Restaurant.

The Medical Hall was founded by Chu Beiqing, reportedly where he began his medical studies when he was young.

The Spiritual Food Restaurant became part of Chu Mansion when a patient of Chu Beiqing, unable to pay his medical fee, handed it over, and since no one in Chu Mansion was adept at running it, it was sporadically operational for decades.

Xin Lin had been busy with the matters of the Haunted House early in the morning and hadn't had time to check on the two shops yet.

"Why didn't I earn any Heaven-defying Value when I sold the Ultimate Marrow Cleansing Powder?"

Xin Lin recalled something and started questioning fiercely.

"The Heavenly Destiny Book indicates, level too low, this feature unlocks at Xuanwu Level."

The Heaven-defying Book mechanically replied, but its subtext was,

You're weak, blame me then.

Xin Lin choked, laughing awkwardly twice.

With the additional Heaven-defying Value, Xin Lin felt that keeping Gui Hu and the Overlord Egg should be no problem.

"Deal. Overlord Egg, you are not allowed to steal my food or drinks anymore; otherwise, if caught once, I'll hand you over to him for training."

Xin Lin made a stern face, threatening the Overlord Egg.

The poor Overlord Egg, upon hearing it might end up in Daddy's hands again, trembled in fear and instantly lost any appetite for theft.

Gui Hu's brow also twitched, showing no opposition.

He felt that playing the 'bad cop' to her 'good cop' wasn't too bad.

Gurgle—

A discordant sound emanated.

Xin Lin instinctively looked towards the Overlord Egg.

(It's not me, although I'm quite hungry too)

The Overlord Egg wore an innocent look.

"Daddy's girl, hungry, hungry."

Beside her, Silly Chu lay on the table, watching his precious daughter with a pitiful expression, no different from a three or four-year-old child.

Xin Lin sighed, rubbing her silly father's head.

The antidote for the poison inside Silly Chu was missing the last ingredient, the Golden Crow Egg Shell.

She had thought that the Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly created by the Dan Wood Furnace could cure all poisons and would be able to detoxify Silly Chu as well.

But upon investigation, she found out that the Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly could only cure ordinary poisons, those at a Mortal grade.

However, the Three Corpse Poison inside Silly Chu was a rare poison.

Only the appropriate antidote could detoxify him.

Xin Lin ordered someone to prepare food, pondering to herself how to make a quick visit to the Imperial Palace and find out the whereabouts of the Golden Crow Egg Shell.

That night, after some cleaning up, Chu Mansion was barely inhabitable, providing Xin Lin and Silly Chu a place to stay.

The following morning, in the Imperial Palace, Noble Shi Guiren took Little Xinzhuo to Fuluan Palace.

Chapter 376: The Clever Little Fellow

Inside Longteng Palace, hierarchy was clearly defined.

Noble Lady Shi and Little Xinzhuo had returned to the Imperial Palace thanks to Xin Lin's help, but their status had not improved in the slightest.

Even after the Zixiao Palace Exam, Little Xinzhuo had yet to meet Emperor Longteng, and Noble Lady Shi was far from serving in his bedchamber.

Although mother and son had returned to the palace, the staff, from the highest eunuchs to the lowest palace maids, had completely changed from before.

Noble Lady Shi didn't even have a servant she could order around, and had to be cautious and careful in every way, so as not to attract trouble, truly living a life worse than that of palace maids and eunuchs.

She did not reveal these circumstances in her letters to Xin Lin, only mentioning that she and Little Xinzhuo were doing well.

Yet, it was exactly this insincere statement of "all is well" that allowed Xin Lin to see the flaw in her words.

The mother and son had been tense and wary for several days, and today, early in the morning, an eunuch reminded them it was time to pay respects to Empress Feng.

According to the rules of Longteng Palace, every morning they must go to Empress Feng, the mistress of the harem, to show their respects.

In the past few days, Empress Feng's health was not good, so they had been exempted from greeting her, but today her health was slightly better, and she "thought" of the mother and son.

"Mother, do we really have to pay respects to that bad woman?"

Little Xinzhuo had an unwilling look on his face at the thought of his mother bowing down to Empress Feng.

There were many rules within the palace, and Little Xinzhuo, used to being a wandering ghost, was not quite accustomed to them.

"My Prince, this is the Imperial Palace, where status is strictly upheld. She is the Empress, and it's proper for us to pay our respects. Remember, apart from when Empress Feng speaks to you, do not utter a word at other times," reminded Noble Lady Shi affectionately, as she patted Little Xinzhuo's head.

Empress Feng must have some scheme this time, and though Noble Lady Shi was aware of the deviousness, she couldn't refuse.

All Noble Lady Shi could do was proceed with caution, guarding against Empress Feng's manipulations.

She thought to herself that by speaking less, naturally she would make fewer mistakes.

Mother and son, heavy-hearted, followed the eunuch towards Fuluan Palace.

Upon arrival outside of the palace, the eunuch asked Noble Lady Shi and her son to wait.

A quarter of an hour passed, then half an hour, yet there was still no movement from inside Fuluan Palace.

Noble Lady Shi, frail in body, could not stand for too long, and after standing under the blazing sun, beads of sweat appeared on her forehead.

She softly inquired with a palace maid, who simply replied that Empress Feng was having breakfast with the Third Prince, and they were to keep waiting outside.

"She's doing this on purpose!"

Anger was evident on Little Xinzhuo's face.

"My Prince."

Noble Lady Shi quickly covered Little Xinzhuo's mouth, her anxiety clear as she glanced around.

After another quarter of an hour, there was still no movement from within Fuluan Palace.

Little Xinzhuo was getting anxious.

That bad woman was up to no good again, and his mother, with her meek temper, would surely be bullied dreadfully.

If Sister were here, it would have been great. Sister would certainly know how to teach that bad Empress Feng a lesson.

Little Xinzhuo blinked, imagining what Sister would do in this situation, and turned to look at the palace maid beside him.

"Miss palace maid, I'm thirsty. Could I have a cup of water?"

Even if Little Xinzhuo was no longer favored, he was still a Prince, and the palace maid quickly brought him a cup of tea.

Little Xinzhuo gulped it down, but after drinking, his complexion suddenly changed, and he clutched his stomach.

"My stomach hurts, Mother, my stomach really hurts."

Startled, Noble Lady Shi hurriedly embraced Little Xinzhuo, panic-stricken.

The nearby palace maid was also shocked and froze.

After a short while, the eunuch came out.

"Noble Lady Shi, Empress Feng has heard that the Seventh Prince is unwell, and she orders you to enter the palace to seek treatment from the Imperial Physician."

Chapter 377: Calamity of Mother and Son (Part 1)

Fifteen minutes later, the Imperial Physician let go of Little Xinzhuo's wrist.

"Empress, Noble Shi can rest assured, the Seventh Prince is not ill. He merely has an upset stomach. Taking one tael's worth of medicine will suffice."

Noble Shi breathed a sigh of relief, expressing profound thanks.

Empress Feng gave a smile that was not quite a smile, eyeing Little Xinzhuo but not exposing anything.

"Many thanks, Empress."

After the Imperial Physician left, Noble Shi hurriedly thanked the Empress.

"No need for formalities, Sister. The Seventh Prince got a stomach upset under my care; I am also responsible. Now that he is better, I am relieved. I felt unwell these past few days and couldn't properly attend to you and the Seventh Prince. Today, feeling a bit better, I thought of you. How have you been adapting to palace life these past few days?"

Empress Feng's exceedingly radiant face bore a flawless smile, appearing very amiable and approachable.

Empress Feng wasn't truly unwell; it was simply because of the Zixiao Palace Exam, as both Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue had infuriated her, causing her days of chest pain.

As she spoke, she held Noble Shi's hand, asking about her well-being warmly, and occasionally threw caring glances at Little Xinzhuo, presenting a harmonious atmosphere.

If Little Xinzhuo did not know of her plot behind to harm him and his mother, he would have been deceived by her.

Little Xinzhuo scoffed inwardly.

"Little brother, although you are a Spirit Master, you appear quite frail. But it's not your fault, since you grew up in the countryside without proper guidance, almost like a girl."

Third Prince Long Qingchen stood by, sneering.

Little Xinzhuo's face flushed slightly.

"Third Son, how can you speak so to your younger brother? He is still young. In the future, under the guidance of the military supervisors in the Imperial Palace, he will surely become strong."

Empress Feng pretended to be displeased and scolded.

"Mother speaks rightly; it was I who was impudent. Little brother, please do not mind it."

Long Qingchen quickly changed his demeanor, bowing to Little Xinzhuo.

That obedient appearance almost made Little Xinzhuo believe that the one who had harmed him earlier was not this person before him.

"You teach me well, Third Imperial Brother; I will surely work harder on my cultivation."

Little Xinzhuo felt something was amiss, yet he could only respond accordingly.

"Little brother, since you are new to the Imperial Palace, you mustn't be familiar with its layout. How about I take you around and also introduce you to the military supervisors for some guidance?"

Long Qingchen offered this kindly invitation with a humble and brotherly demeanor.

"Little Xinzhuo, always remember, when things seem abnormal, there must be demons at work."

Sister's teachings echoed in his ears.

Little Xinzhuo became vigilant.

"Nicely said, Sister Shi, you stay here and chat with me. Third Son, you show Little Qi around the palace. Remember, don't neglect Little Qi."

Empress Feng said cheerfully.

Noble Shi, hearing this, twisted her fingers nervously, her lips parting slightly, wanting to politely refuse Empress Feng.

"Mother, don't worry, I will return shortly."

Little Xinzhuo knew that if he did not agree, Empress Feng would definitely trouble his mother.

With Sister not around and being just a little boy, he needed to protect his mother.

Whatever the Third Prince might do, he would certainly not dare to harm him within the Imperial Palace.

Little Xinzhuo also wanted to see what kind of tricks he was planning.

Long Qingchen smiled, a venomous glint flashing briefly in his eyes, as he led Little Xinzhuo out of Fuluan Palace.

Noble Shi's heart hung in her throat, unable to rise or settle, to the extent that she couldn't even hear Empress Feng speaking to her.

Until she heard a sentence.

"Sister Shi, has General Shi left anything for you?"

Chapter 378: Calamity of Mother and Son (Part 2)

Noble Lady Shi's heartbeat suddenly stopped, then she came back to her senses.

"Empress, my father, he is innocent..."

Noble Lady Shi started to argue, but halfway through her sentence, she remembered Xin Lin's earlier admonition.

Noble Lady Shi's complexion turned pale, and she hurriedly rose to kneel.

"Empress, my father is already dead, he committed a grave sin, if His Majesty can leave him with an intact corpse, I am already very content. Not to mention leaving me with anything, even if he did, I would not dare to hide or cover it up. Please, Empress, see the truth of the matter."

Empress Feng was slightly surprised, but it was because of Noble Lady Shi's attitude.

In earlier years, Noble Lady Shi had refused to admit General Shi's injustice to the death.

It seems, after several years outside, this woman has learned a bit about discerning the times.

In fact, Empress Feng had already ordered a thorough search of the Imperial Palace where Noble Lady Shi and her son had once lived, as well as the former Shi Mansion, but nothing was found.

"Sister Shi, please rise, you are frightened. I was merely asking casually. You and the Seventh Prince have just returned to the palace and don't have many personal aides; my palace has many people with complicated hands, so I have selected a few for you, who will from now on serve you and the Seventh Prince exclusively."

After saying this, a few palace maids and eunuchs waited on the side.

Noble Lady Shi looked up, her complexion even paler...

Leaving Fuluan Palace, Long Qingchen led in front, with Little Xinzhuo following.

As promised, Long Qingchen took Little Xinzhuo around the Imperial Palace.

Longteng Palace had small bridges and flowing water, and everywhere, there were delicate and elegant bonsai pavilions, leaving Little Xinzhuo dazzled.

"Little Seventh Brother, ahead is the Royal Training Ground, specially built by our father so that we can be strong and sturdy, to become pillars of the state. Inside, there are numerous military supervisors with cultivation at the Xuan Transformation Realm's Perfect level."

While speaking, Long Qingchen brought Little Xinzhuo to the front of the training ground.

At this hour, the training ground was not emitting "Hei Hei Ha Ha" sounds.

Instead, you could see a dozen boys and girls, ranging from eight to ten years old, striking martial arts poses as they trained.

They all wore light brown training uniforms, each of them with clear and handsome features, obviously royal offspring.

The children here, who mostly do not qualify to enter Qingtian Academy yet, therefore, train in the Imperial Palace.

Unlike princes from the main palace like Long Qingchen, Long Qingchen entered Qingtian Academy right at the age of six, so among this group of children, his orders were akin to imperial edicts.

Only those who were tested for outstanding talent, like Long Qingchen, would enter Qingtian Academy.

Upon seeing Long Qingchen, several military supervisors quickly came forward to salute.

Long Qingchen waved his hand.

"Xiao Liu, bring them over."

Upon seeing Long Qingchen, a tiger-headed and tiger-brained ten-year-old boy hurried over.

The other boys and girls also scrambled to gather around.

Calling out "Third Prince" nonstop.

The children in the Imperial Palace are all sharp-witted, and they know, as the son of the Empress, the Third Prince has the power to decide their fate in the Imperial Palace.

"Third Brother, is he the Seventh Prince, the top four in the Zixiao Palace Exam?"

Sixth Prince Long Rui was clearly the Third Prince's lackey.

He had long known about Little Xinzhuo's arrival, his face full of provocation as he looked at Little Xinzhuo.

Long Rui, just like Little Xinzhuo, was a Noble's nephew, but he had always been inconspicuous in the Imperial Palace, so seeing Little Xinzhuo able to enter Qingtian Academy and making a big name for himself, he felt a strong sense of jealousy.

"This is Xin Zhuo. He has come to the Royal Training Ground today to exchange pointers with everyone. Xiao Liu, you go and spar with Little Qi."

Long Qingchen smiled, gave Little Xinzhuo a gentle push, and forcibly pushed him to the middle of the training ground.

Chapter 379: Calamity of Mother and Son (Part 3)

All around, many gazes turned their way.

Several military supervisors wanted to step forward and intervene.

But upon seeing Long Qingchen's look, those military supervisors had no choice but to step back.

These were the Royal's prized individuals, among whom the sons of the Empress were the most esteemed.

With the Third Prince presiding, intending to discipline the Seventh Prince, if they interfered, they would definitely be resented by the Empress; not only would they lose their positions as military supervisors, but their lives might not be spared either.

Other princes and princesses gathered around, one by one mocking Little Xinzhuo.

Little Xinzhuo, who had never been surrounded by so many, felt unavoidably uneasy, not even knowing where to place his hands and feet.

"I am a Spirit Master, not skilled in fist and foot kung fu."

Little Xinzhuo said awkwardly.

"Little Qi, don't be humble. You're one of the top four picked by Father Emperor for the Imperial Examination. Father Emperor has praised you endlessly; just show us a couple of your moves."

Long Rui, full of envy, stared at Little Xinzhuo.

He was older than Little Xinzhuo, yet because he was in the Imperial Palace, he could not participate in this Zixiao Palace Exam.

But Little Xinzhuo, a bastard of unclear bloodline, actually achieved fourth place.

Father Emperor had praised Little Qi in front of his mother.

This made Long Rui extremely upset.

Saying he's powerful, isn't it? A top-grade talent, isn't it? Then let him learn a lesson today.

Little Xinzhuo was startled.

Long Rui bellowed, his movements swift as a flash. His finger joints popped several times, his ten fingers like the wind, stabbing towards Little Xinzhuo's throat.

The throat, one of the human body's vital spots.

As a Spirit Master, Little Xinzhuo's physique was far inferior to the martially bred Long Rui.

Being a Spirit Master, the need to gather spiritual energy, Long Rui hadn't given him any breathing space.

Fortunately, Little Xinzhuo had learned the Ghost Escape Technique and reacted faster than an ordinary person.

He quickly retreated on his feet, and due to his lightweight, narrowly dodged the throat lock move.

Just as he dodged one finger, a sharp pain struck his left cheek. Long Rui, failing with one finger, brought his five fingers together, striking towards Little Xinzhuo's solar plexus from behind.

This palm was a Ninth Rank Martial Arts, Iron Hook Palm, ferociously learned like a raptor seizing its prey.

A fierce glint flashed in Long Rui's eyes, harboring lethal intent.

Long Qingchen stood to one side, looking utterly relaxed.

Whether Little Xinzhuo lived or died, he didn't care; at worst, he'd be grounded by the Emperor for a few days. Who would care since he was the son of the Empress, and Little Xinzhuo was a rebel's grandson.

Little Xinzhuo, startled, his pale face dripping with sweat.

This situation wasn't a sparring match; it was clearly meant to inflict serious injuries.

But just then, Long Rui yelped, his palm twisting strangely and his face turning deathly pale.

Suddenly, as if kicked away by someone, he flew out, falling face down.

All this happened so suddenly.

The surrounding princes and princesses wore faces of utter confusion.

Little Xinzhuo was dazed, then heard a calm voice by his ear.

"Seventh Prince, do not worry. I am Ghost, sent by Miss Xin to take care of you."

Hearing his Sister's name, Little Xinzhuo quickly composed himself.

A familiar aura filled the air around him.

That was Ah Piao's aura!

Little Xinzhuo secretly delighted, promptly channeling his spiritual energy.

On the ground, Long Rui, with a ghastly pale face, looked perplexed, wondering what had happened!

He roared angrily, jumping up and lunging towards Little Xinzhuo again.

Unknowingly, as he lunged, Little Xinzhuo disappeared with a swift movement.

The next moment, beneath Long Rui, the ground trembled.

Thud, thud, thud—sharp and incomparable Earth Spears burst from the ground, accurately piercing Long Rui's thigh.

Chapter 380: The Great Reversal

Long Rui's legs were suddenly riddled with two bloody holes.

He let out two agonizing screams, lying on the ground unable to get up.

Seeing this, several princes and princesses at the side were all terrified, their faces turning pale.

Looking at Little Xinzhuo, his delicate little face was a picture of indifference.

"Stop!"

A few eunuchs were seen rushing over swiftly, with a glimpse of bright yellow catching everyone's eyes.

"Father Emperor."

"Long live, long live the Emperor."

All the imperial heirs present knelt down one after another, and Little Xinzhuo also knelt.

His fists clenched involuntarily; he too knew that he had made a grave error today.

But Long Rui had been too overbearing. Had it not been for Ghost's help, he would be the one lying on the ground now.

"Seventh Prince, there's no need to panic. Miss Ye asked me to tell you, if you run into trouble, speak to Emperor Longteng like this..."

The voice of Ghost kept coming into his ears.

Little Xinzhuo's tightly clenched hands slowly relaxed.

"Father Emperor, it's good that you've come. Xiao Liu was gravely injured by Little Qi. No matter how I tried to persuade him, I couldn't stop him!"

Long Qingchen also appeared to be in a state of shock.

In fact, Long Qingchen was indeed caught off guard.

Among these imperial heirs, Long Rui had the strongest power, around the Xuanwu Triple level, which was even considered noteworthy among the scholars of Qingtian Academy.

Long Qingchen had ordered him to deal with Little Xinzhuo, counting on the fact that Little Xinzhuo was a Spirit Master who needed time to gather spirit.

Unexpectedly, Long Rui suddenly performed poorly, and was severely injured by Little Xinzhuo instead.

However, this gave Long Qingchen the perfect opportunity to kick a man when he was down and turn the blame on Little Xinzhuo.

Emperor Longteng happened to be passing by the training ground; he loved martial arts and placed great emphasis on the princes' practice.

Today, when one of his eunuchs mentioned that some of the princes were sparring here, he decided to go and see for himself, to evaluate the princes' kung fu.

Little did he know that he would witness the scene of Little Xinzhuo harming his own brother.

Emperor Longteng's expression was stern as he glanced at Little Xinzhuo.

"Xinzhuo, do you realize your wrongdoings!"

"This son acknowledges his fault, but I have something to say."

Xinzhuo said with his head lowered, his voice trembling slightly.

"Speak with your head raised."

Emperor Longteng said displeased.

"My son had no such intention. When I was younger, outside the palace, I relied on mother for survival. After reaching the age of three, I've been through numerous dangers. Just recently, I was almost strangled to death by evildoers and left at the burial mound. After that incident, though my life was spared, I contracted an illness, leading to fits of frenzy. Just now, brother six attacked me without waiting for me to gather spirit, aiming at my throat and heart, which inadvertently reminded me of that past event. I accidentally lost control due to my illness. I had already refused to spar, but brother six was insistent. I... acknowledge my fault."

Little Xinzhuo was still trembling slightly as he spoke.

After speaking, he even pointed to his own throat.

Upon hearing this, Emperor Longteng was greatly shocked.

He stepped forward and felt Little Xinzhuo's throat, finding an old wound at his Adam's apple.

Though there was no visible scar on the skin, with the wound penetrating deep into the bone, it was clear that the child had nearly been strangled to death.

Emperor Longteng's body shook, and feelings of self-reproach and guilt emerged.

A child of only six or seven years old, who clearly possessed imperial blood, had experienced such a terrifying ordeal.

"Long Rui, just now, did you indeed force Little Qi to spar with you?"

Emperor Longteng's gaze turned icy as he looked at Long Rui.

Under his father's intense gaze, Long Rui didn't dare to utter a sound.

"How preposterous! Little Qi has only recently returned; as his older siblings, how can you oppress him like this? From now on, unless Little Qi is willing, none of you may force him to spar."

Emperor Longteng reprimanded angrily.