

Little Girl 431

Chapter 431: There's No One Like Daddy

"Master Chef, we can't catch up, that thing is zipping around inside the building with startling speed."

A dozen Assistant Chefs and workers chased until they were out of breath, yet they couldn't even touch a hair on the Overlord Egg.

"A bunch of useless trash, looks like I'll have to take action myself."

Master Chen's face was grim as a fan-sized hand produced an object—it was a rope.

This rope was no ordinary hemp rope; it exuded an air of chill.

Jade Upper Stage Profound Treasure, Ice Cold Rope.

Master Chen was De Yue Building's head Spiritual Delicacy Master, and he was wealthy. He was also a Xuanwu Practitioner at the Xuan Transformation Realm.

He strode out of the dining area.

"Close all doors and windows, I refuse to believe we can't catch that demon egg today!"

Then, with several bangs, the doors and windows of De Yue Building were shut tight.

The Overlord Egg had just shot out of the dining area when it slammed against a window.

Stars burst before its eyes; the window was constructed from extremely durable Iron Xuan Wood, very tough.

(Ow ow ow, that hurts)

The Overlord Egg saw stars as it turned its head, looking for another way out.

All at once, a rope fell from the sky.

The Overlord Egg realized something was off, it tumbled its body around, dodging the rope.

But as if the rope had eyes, it changed trajectory mid-air, took a turn, and firmly ensnared the Overlord Egg.

As soon as the rope touched it, the Overlord Egg felt a bone-chilling cold.

Hissing noises came from the rope as a great deal of cold air drilled out.

(So cold, ow ow ow, Mommy, come save your baby)

In just a moment, the Overlord Egg was encased in ice, frozen stiff.

The Overlord Egg could spit fire, but this rope was quite peculiar—it even managed to suppress the Fire Spirit within the Overlord Egg.

"Caught it! Stew this demon egg for me!"

Over there, Master Chen, followed by seven or eight Assistant Chefs looking fierce and murderous, was rushing over.

(Ow ow ow, if not Mommy, at least Daddy, come save your baby)

The tears shed by the Overlord Egg quickly froze.

"Stupid egg, what an embarrassment."

Just when the Overlord Egg was in despair, a black mist spread throughout De Yue Building.

The Overlord Egg felt the icy chill on its body suddenly disappear.

A hand appeared before it, lifting it up.

The eyes of the Overlord Egg lit up with a ding!

(There's still a Daddy in the world)

Master Chen and the others were enveloped in darkness, and by the time the black mist dissipated, there was no trace of the demon egg.

When Master Chen saw the Ice Cold Rope broken into several segments on the ground, he finally couldn't hold back, and a mouthful of blood spurted out.

The sky was just beginning to light up.

In the new, small dining area of the Chu Mansion, billowing white steam filled the air.

Ma Jingtian was so exhausted that he lay beside it, unable to move.

He was the one kneading the dough, chopping the filling, while Little Boss claimed to make buns, but in the end, he was merely wrapping them.

Xin Lin glanced at the fire and commanded.

"Pack up, it's time to sell buns."

Xin Lin deliberately chose a time close to when De Yue Building sold their buns to sell his own.

"What, you want me to sell buns! Little Boss, you're really humiliating me, I'm the boss of the Water Wraith Gang, after all!"

Ma Jingtian finally got angry and was about to pound the table and get up.

But just then, a black shadow accompanied by a grey shadow appeared in the dining area.

The already cramped dining area became even more crowded.

"Boss?"

Gui Hu squinted his azure blue eyes.

"No no no, I'm just a gofer."

Ma Jingtian nodded and bowed, picked up a few steamers of buns, and scurried out.

"One silver per bun! Ah, I better follow."

Xin Lin quickly chased after him.

Chapter 432: A Satisfactory Review

In the dining area, Gui Hu's handsome face was utterly darkened.

Little Hen, for just a few buns, didn't even cast a proper glance his way?

(Mommy, I... I want to eat buns too, the buns smell so good)

The Overlord Egg left a long trail of drool.

The buns that Mommy made, they're really fragrant, aren't they!

Early morning, most of the shops in Purple Cloud City hadn't opened yet.

Through the thin morning mist, on the bluestone-paved streets, a small Spiritual Food Restaurant had opened its doors.

Next to the Spiritual Food Restaurant, there were several coffins covered with dew.

"Little Boss, are you really selling these buns for one silver each? Will people actually buy them? Although it's half the price of those at De Yue Building."

Ma Jingtian, who temporarily acted as the waiter for Chu's Restaurant, looked all around but didn't see a single soul.

The meat buns on the market are all five copper coins each, and the slightly better ones are no more than ten copper coins.

After waiting for half an hour, still not a single person was seen.

Xin Lin was getting a bit impatient and simply took a basket with Ma Jingtian to the morning market to sell.

The morning market wasn't far from Chu's Restaurant; by now, it was filled with fishmongers and vegetable vendors.

Xin Lin was petite and maneuvered easily through the crowd.

Initially, there were a few people who came to buy buns, but once they heard Xin Lin's meat buns were one silver each, they shook their heads and walked away.

What a joke, most people at the market are ordinary folks, who has the spare cash to buy meat buns for one silver? With that money, they're better off buying Spiritual Delicacy Buns from De Yue Building and bragging about it for days.

Xin Lin wasn't in a hurry, carrying fifty large meat buns back and forth through the market.

"Uncle, buy a bun, will you? Freshly baked large meat buns, made and sold on the spot, so delicious."

Xin Lin saw a man who looked like a merchant passing by in a horse-drawn cart and cleverly jumped aboard.

The merchant asked for the price and was also taken aback, then took another look at the large meat buns in Xin Lin's basket.

The large meat buns looked steamy hot, enticingly white, tempting one to drool.

"Alright, give me two."

Seemingly hungry, the merchant took out two silver taels and handed them to Xin Lin.

"I went to De Yue Building early in the morning to queue up for buns, but they said they were sold out. Just as I was wondering where to buy large meat buns, well, seems like I'm giving you the business, kid."

The merchant-looking man was an out-of-towner, who came to the city to deliver goods early in the morning. He wanted to try something new but was met with disappointment.

Grumbling, he bit off more than half of the bun in one bite.

After a few bites, the merchant suddenly widened his eyes and looked at the bun in his hand.

The bun had layers of white and green cabbage, tender with meat juice, and the bun's skin was perfectly chewy, harmoniously blending meat and vegetable.

It was more succulent than De Yue Building's meat filling, not to mention the cabbage which had a superb texture. The cabbage from De Yue Building was limp and bland, and don't get started on the skin – the skin here had a strength to it and a sweet wheat flavor.

This bun was delicious!

Compared to this, what had he been eating all this time!

The merchant was dumbfounded for a moment, then gobbled the rest of that half into his stomach and picked up another bun to stuff in his mouth.

"What in heaven's name is this? It's so fragrant."

The other vendors nearby also caught the scent and turned to look over.

The bun didn't look like anything special, so why did it smell so amazing?

"Give me five more, no, ten more!"

The merchant stopped Xin Lin and directly bought another ten.

"Congratulations life master, you've received a satisfied review, Heaven-defying Value +2."

Chapter 433: Astonishing as a Heavenly Person

As Xin Lin received the ten silver taels, the monotonous voice of the Heaven-defying Book echoed in her mind.

Xin Lin's eyes lit up.

A serving of Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup, which used 50 Heaven-defying Value, earned a satisfied evaluation and 2 Heaven-defying Value in return.

But a meat bun, which couldn't even count as a One-star Spiritual Delicacy, amazingly earned a reward of 2 Heaven-defying Value.

Such a bargain!

Xin Lin looked at the large meat buns in the basket and saw them practically bursting with Heaven-defying Value.

"Little kid, I want a meat bun too."

"Give me two."

"I'll take one as well."

The aroma of the meat buns was irresistibly tempting, and many passersby couldn't help but gather around.

Among them were those who couldn't buy meat buns at De Yue Building, each taking one in turns.

The voice of the Heaven-defying Book in Xin Lin's mind went off one after the other.

"Congratulations life master, you have received a satisfied evaluation..."

"+2."

"+2."

"..."

In about half an hour, Xin Lin had sold out all the large meat buns.

Xin Lin did a quick tally, she had surprisingly harvested 52 points of Heaven-defying Value.

Her record of Heaven-defying Value had suddenly jumped to 88 points.

By the time Xin Lin returned to Chu Mansion, the day had already broken.

"Congratulations life master, you have received 10 satisfied evaluations, Heaven-defying Value +10."

"?"

Xin Lin was taken aback.

These 10 evaluations must be for the large meat buns sold by Ma Jingtian.

But why did he only earn 10 Heaven-defying Value?

"Life Book, you're skimming off the top."

Xin Lin complained discontentedly.

"Life Book notice, this is a warning; please do not slander the Life Book, or corresponding Heaven-defying Value will be deducted. Sales through another's hands only count for half the Heaven-defying Value. Additionally, for daily evaluations, the Heaven-defying Value can only be counted once per person."

The Life Book stated the facts objectively, and in Xin Lin's mind, an image of a stodgy old man, wearing flat glasses and lecturing in a measured tone, immediately appeared.

Inside Chu Mansion, Ma Jingtian was downcast.

It turned out that a cute child selling buns was much easier than a thug selling them.

On his part, only fifteen buns were sold.

Looking at the remaining meat buns, he thought he absolutely couldn't let Little Boss know he was so ineffective.

He could only fish out thirty-five silver taels, preparing to make up for it.

"After all, I've paid for them, might as well try and see how these buns taste."

Ma Jingtian grabbed a bun with a righteous look, about to stuff it into his mouth...

Who could have known that with a whoosh, a grey shadow suddenly leapt out, swift and accurate, growling and snatching away Ma Jingtian's bun.

"!!!"

Ma Jingtian was stunned, about to explode.

The next moment, however, he saw the grey egg swallow more than thirty buns at lightning speed, as if a starved ghost had been reincarnated.

Ma Jingtian almost fainted from anger.

It was that thing again!

This creature, he had seen it before.

(So good~)

With dozens of large meat buns in its stomach, the Overlord Egg's eyes almost turned into hearts.

"Ah ah ah, you damned egg, give me back my buns!"

As Xin Lin stepped into the dining area, she found Ma Jingtian and the Overlord Egg rolling into a tangle.

"Stop it."

With a swish, the Overlord Egg clung tightly to Xin Lin's leg.

"It's called the Overlord Egg, it's my summoning."

Summoning?

Ma Jingtian hadn't yet recovered, summoning!

The next moment, the Overlord Egg disappeared from in front of Ma Jingtian's eyes.

So to say, Little Boss is a Summoning Master!

Ma Jingtian's face displayed utter amazement.

But is there such a gluttonous summoning creature without brains?

Chapter 434: The Unluckiest Summoning Master

Xin Lin considered herself the most unlucky Summoning Master in history, bar none!

Xin Lin took back the Overlord Egg, deciding to give it a good lesson.

"Overlord Egg, remember this, as a summoner, you should have the awareness of being a summoner!"

Xin Lin rubbed her temples.

(Mommy, Daddy already taught me! In the future, I can only come out when someone bullies Mommy!)

After being trained by Gui Hu for a few days, the Overlord Egg finally got the hang of it!

The Overlord Egg obediently returned to the Sealing Spirit Talisman No.2.

Inside Sealing Spirit Talisman No.1, Gui Hu nodded in satisfaction.

This silly egg finally hasn't wasted his days of "punching and kicking" style education.

"Oh?"

Xin Lin forced a laugh.

Like magic, she pulled out a large meat bun from her bosom.

Whoosh—

The large meat bun had disappeared.

The Overlord Egg howled and swallowed the large meat bun in one gulp, completely forgetting Gui Hu's warning.

"..."

Gui Hu frowned.

Xin Lin thought for a moment.

"Overlord Egg, if you listen to me in the future and don't come out on your own, I'll give you ten buns and a small bottle of Jade Pure Spring every day."

Without sacrificing the buns, you can't catch the wolf.

Upon hearing this, the Overlord Egg thought:

Ten buns? That's not even enough to stick in my teeth.

"If you don't behave, I'll throw you back to Qin Mountain immediately, no negotiations."

After much persuasion, the Overlord Egg obediently returned to the Sealing Spirit Talisman No.2 and fell into a deep sleep.

Xin Lin did this as she had no other choice.

If the Overlord Egg grew up similar to ordinary Spiritual Beasts, even becoming a cat, dog, or snake would be fine, but it just had to be an egg.

It had caused a huge disaster in the De Yue Building.

The people of the De Yue Building would definitely not let it go.

"Just to remind you, the people from De Yue Building are looking everywhere for it. Also, De Yue Building is hosting a banquet today, entertaining people from the Xuantian Sect."

Inside Sealing Spirit Talisman No.1, Gui Hu suddenly spoke.

He had accidentally heard a few waiters talking about it while he was looking for the Overlord Egg.

Xuantian Sect.

Xin Lin's heart stirred, recalling the promise she made with Sikong Ran.

It couldn't be Sikong Ran coming, could it?

Probably not, Sikong Ran had only joined the sect a few months ago and was likely still in cultivation.

The only thing Xin Lin cared about was the Xuanwu Ring in Sikong Ran's hand.

Xin Lin, having been busy all morning, was also a bit hungry, so she took out a large meat bun she had hidden away earlier and took a bite.

Just as it entered her mouth, she couldn't help but stick out her tongue.

So hot!

The scorching aroma hit her face.

As she opened the bun, the rich meat juice burst into her mouth, along with the fresh and tasty cabbage, and the sweet, chewy bun skin, which was far better than the Spiritual Delicacy Buns she had bought from De Yue Building yesterday.

Xin Lin's eyes brightened slightly, this bun was much tastier than the ones she had made at Taoyao Pavilion.

Why was the bun still scorching hot after more than an hour?

Xin Lin pondered thoughtfully, looking at the bun skin.

Apart from the merits of Purple Cloud Cabbage, it seemed to be because she had added a bit of Jade Pure Spring while kneading the dough with Ma Jingtian.

Although it was just a few drops of Jade Pure Spring, she hadn't expected it to be so effective in enhancing the taste of the meat buns.

Xin Lin had been worrying earlier that the uses of Jade Pure Spring were limited, but now it seemed that its potential uses were far from fully developed.

Xin Lin quickly gobbled down the bun, finding that it was much more filling than ordinary buns.

However, Xin Lin had no plans to raise the price of the buns; these buns were a great way for her to earn Heaven-defying Value.

"Since De Yue Building's buns are called Spiritual Delicacy Buns, and mine are even better, from now on, let's call you Delicious Spiritual Food Buns."

Chapter 435: Diagnosis

A packet of delicacies swallowed, Xin Lin felt utterly comfortable throughout her body.

However, regrettably, despite her satisfaction with her own cooking skills, Xin Lin's Heaven-defying Value did not increase.

It seems that what she eats cannot be used to increase the Heaven-defying Value.

Including the several dozen Overlord Eggs consumed earlier, they were no different than water under the bridge.

It appears that the Heavenly Destiny Book only accepts reviews obtained from selling buns. Xin Lin seriously suspected that the creator of the Heavenly Destiny Book was a miser, the kind that eats without spitting back anything.

Xin Lin checked the time; it was not yet the hour to go to Taoyao Pavilion.

She remembered another random mission released by the Heavenly Destiny Book earlier.

Diagnose ten patients using the Four Examination Method within twenty days.

"First, let's examine myself."

Xin Lin thought for a moment and touched her own body...

Unlike before, upon self-examination this time, Xin Lin found out that although her stature had not changed, her bones and muscles had toughened a lot.

As for the inside of her body, Fu Xi's Energy had also become much stronger than before.

Unfortunately, the Unrivaled Ghost Vein was still the same as before, just slightly longer than when it was in the state of bean sprouts; her viscera were all very normal.

After a self-examination, Xin Lin still felt unfulfilled and decided to try her luck at the Old Medical Hall she had obtained from the division of the family assets.

Xin Lin left the Chu Mansion, and there was no longer that sense of being secretly watched outside the door; it seemed that the person shadowing her had finally given up.

A little more than a quarter of an hour later, Xin Lin walked out of the Old Medical Hall disappointed.

Inside the Old Medical Hall, the old doctor who had been practicing there for years had not yet returned from his hometown, and he was already seventy to eighty years old; it was uncertain whether he could return.

If he couldn't make it, she would let Ma Jingtian call over the gang members of the Water Wraith Gang for a free clinic.

While Xin Lin was pondering this, she heard a carriage stop in front of her.

"Sister."

From the carriage, Little Xinzhuo peeked out and upon seeing his sister, he hurriedly jumped down.

Shi Guiren also stepped down from the carriage with a beaming smile.

"Why have you come? Ah Zhuo, I've told you, you're now the Seventh Prince and, by rights, shouldn't call me sister."

Xin Lin touched Little Xinzhuo's face, which had grown even rounder, seemingly making his life in the palace quite comfortable.

"Sister, did you forget? In just another two or three days, Qingtian Academy will commence. Mother took this opportunity to ask Father Emperor, allowing us to go out and purchase some necessary items."

Little Xinzhuo stuck out his tongue.

He had missed his sister terribly.

"I thought you might also need to buy some things, so I went to Chu Mansion looking for you. Ma Gang Leader said you had come to the Medical Hall. This Medical Hall still exists, eh? Back when my father was alive, he often came here."

Shi Guiren spoke, looking up at the Medical Hall not far away with a hint of nostalgia in her eyes.

"Congratulations, Noble. It appears that Emperor Longteng has finally accepted you and your son."

Xin Lin smiled.

At this moment, her gaze fell on Shi Guiren's face, and Xin Lin furrowed her brows.

"Noble, please come with me to the Medical Hall. I will take your pulse."

Shi Guiren hesitated but still followed Xin Lin into the Old Medical Hall.

Inside the Old Medical Hall, there were a few medicine cabinets on display, an apprentice who helped fetch the medicines, and an ancient style desk with a long bench.

Xin Lin observed Shi Guiren's complexion, checked her tongue, and took her pulse.

"Noble, you have a sallow appearance under your eyes, a pale tongue coating, and a chill inside your body. Have you recently felt any physical discomfort, or perhaps slept restlessly?"

Xin Lin inquired.

Chapter 436: Palace Intrigue

Noble Lady Shi was startled.

"Yes, I haven't been sleeping well, but my body doesn't feel uncomfortable. I think I'm sick, yet I just had Doctor Chen check my pulse this morning."

After Noble Lady Shi and her son returned to the palace, Xin Lin repeatedly reminded them to be cautious with their food and even their clothing needed to be carefully checked.

With Captain Yang and the ghost soldiers guarding them, and Empress Feng not troubling them recently, the mother and son had been living rather peacefully.

"It's not an illness, nor does it seem like poisoning, but rather a chill has entered your body. This kind of ailment is something the Imperial Physician might not be able to discern. Think about it, have you encountered anything unusual these days?"

Xin Lin had just finished speaking when Little Xinzhuo said,

"The day before yesterday, Consort Zhao from the palace came to visit my mother and also gave her a handkerchief."

"Prince, don't make wild guesses. Consort Zhao was a close friend from my childhood. She wouldn't harm me,"

Noble Lady Shi said angrily.

This Consort Zhao is the mother of the Eighth Prince. She and Noble Lady Shi entered the palace together when they were young. Due to her father's lower status compared to General Shi, she used to have a lower status than Noble Lady Shi.

However, soon after Noble Lady Shi was expelled, Consort Zhao gave birth to the Eighth Prince and soon became a concubine.

After Noble Lady Shi returned to the palace, she hadn't interacted much with people in the palace. When Emperor Longteng favored her again, Consort Zhao was the first to congratulate her.

"Noble Lady, one must always be cautious. Could you show me that handkerchief?"

After Xin Lin spoke, Noble Lady Shi hesitated but still took out the handkerchief and handed it to Xin Lin.

Xin Lin looked at it a few times, with a hint of playfulness in his eyes.

"There's nothing wrong with the handkerchief, right?"

Noble Lady Shi anxiously asked.

"The handkerchief has no poison or fragrance, and the embroidery is very exquisite. However, the material is somewhat problematic,"

Xin Lin felt it a few times.

"The silk threads on it shimmer and shine even more brightly at night, dyed with Red Toad Powder, which comes from the Water Spirit Beast. Unfortunately, the base material of this handkerchief is woven from Fire Fox Fur. Water and fire are incompatible; when these two are combined, it causes a clash of Spiritual Energy. If you were strong, the handkerchief would at most cause some restlessness. But Noble Lady, you've narrowly escaped death's door at Ghost Gate, and your body is weak. If you keep this handkerchief on you, it will cause incessant nightmares and lead to anxiety-induced illness,"

Xin Lin said soothingly.

Fu Xi's Energy can reveal injuries, but it cannot diagnose illnesses.

Had Xin Lin not recently learned the new technique of the Four Examination Method, observing the complexion, checking the pulse, tongue, and breathing of Noble Lady Shi, he wouldn't have detected the covert scheme laid against her.

The Imperial Physician certainly couldn't have seen it.

Upon hearing this, Noble Lady Shi turned pale.

"That despicable Consort Zhao, she actually plotted against my mother's life!"

Upon hearing this, Little Xinzhuo banged the table and rose, his little face flushed with anger.

"How could this be, she and I have been close sisters since childhood."

Noble Lady Shi's voice trembled slightly, her eyes filled with disbelief.

"Noble Lady, you said yourself she was a friend from childhood, but people change. Back then, General Shi was still around, and you weren't the Emperor's new favorite, nor did you have a son who ranked third in the Zixiao Palace Exam,"

Xin Lin explained.

In the harem, it is normal for women to engage in intense rivalries.

Apart from comparing looks and favors, everything from family background to offspring is a target of comparison.

In comparison, Noble Lady Shi is simply a blank slate.

As for whether Consort Zhao was truly motivated by jealousy or was instructed by someone else to harm Noble Lady Shi, that remains unknown.

Chapter 437: Scumbag Man Makes His Entrance

Xin Lin tucked away the handkerchief.

This handkerchief, being imbued with spiritual energy, naturally couldn't be left by Shi Guiren's side.

"Noble, do not panic. Fortunately, you haven't had the handkerchief for long, a little recuperation should suffice. Here, I have two bottles of mountain spring water, which are quite beneficial to the body. You and Little Xinzhuo should take some daily. Remember in the future, one must not carelessly use items given by others."

Saying this, Xin Lin brought out two bottles of Jade Pure Spring Water.

Xin Lin's Jade Pure Spring Water was used one day for planting and one day kept for personal use, hence there was some surplus on hand.

Shi Guiren's constitution was weak; using the Jade Purifying Water over long days and months could strengthen the body and improve health.

Upon leaving the Medical Hall, seeing that there were no customers, Xin Lin instructed the apprentice to close the door.

Shi Guiren still looked worried; Little Xinzhuo, seeing this, spoke.

"Mother, didn't you say earlier that you had some good news to tell Sister and me? What exactly is the good news?"

Last night, Emperor Longteng stayed in Shi Guiren's palace, and she attended him. The Emperor was in quite a good mood and, after their joyous time, he told Shi Guiren some good news.

Shi Guiren, forcing a smile, said,

"I almost forgot, you two will be entering Qingtian Academy in the near future. Your father the Emperor told me that Qingtian Academy is placing great importance on the new students this year and has specially invited someone to lecture on the first day of school."

"Invited whom?"

Xin Lin was also somewhat curious.

"It's a disciple from a Major Sect. Just look at my poor memory; the Emperor was very clear, but I can never remember these Sects and Academies."

Shi Guiren said with a wry smile.

"A disciple, could he be more formidable than the supervisors at Qingtian Academy, that they especially invited him to give lectures?"

Xin Lin was quite puzzled.

Wasn't it said that Qingtian Academy is the foremost academy of Longteng, and its supervisors should also be exceptionally outstanding?

"That disciple is no ordinary disciple; he has recently brought honor to Longteng. The Emperor invited him so that the students can learn from him and bring glory to Longteng as well."

Shi Guiren honestly couldn't recall the disciple's name and could only helplessly shake her head.

Xin Lin didn't press further; in any event, a few days later, the truth would be revealed upon entering the school.

Meanwhile, outside the city gates of Purple Cloud City.

The Third Prince, accompanied by Jin Chen and several elite youths, stood under the midday sun, eagerly awaiting.

"Third Prince, we've waited for an hour now; why is there still no sign of them? The other party really doesn't know what's good for them, making us wait here for so long for a mere commoner."

Jin Chen said with an arrogant demeanor.

"What do you know, that is a rare talent, destined to be the pride of Longteng Country."

The Third Prince unexpectedly put aside his airs to admonish.

As they were talking, a clatter of horse hooves was heard approaching, and a group of riders came galloping.

A handsome young man and a young girl, along with a few disciples in dark robes, hurried over.

The Third Prince's eyes lit up as he quickly stepped forward.

"Presumably this is Miss Bai and Young Master Sikong of the Xuantian Sect, a name I've long admired. I am Long Qingchen, the Third Prince of Longteng Country."

Sikong Ran and Bai You dismounted their horses; Bai You wore a look of arrogance, while Sikong Ran cupped his fists, glancing at Jin Chen and the others.

Seeing this, Jin Chen hastily spoke.

"I am Jin Chen, the son of Grandmaster Jin."

But then he heard a scoff beside him; Bai You pressed her lips together and smiled.

"So you are the one who placed first in this year's Zixiao Palace Exam?"

Jin Chen looked up at Bai You, instantly captivated by her charming appearance, his face flushing as he said somewhat reluctantly,

"I am not the one who placed first in the exam this year; the first place is..."

Chapter 438: His Objective

"If you're not first, then what qualification do you have to meet with us?"

Jin Chen had barely finished speaking when he was interrupted by Bai You.

Bai You spoke with sarcasm, full of disdain. Had Brother Sikong not agreed to Qingtian Academy's invitation, she would have never deigned to visit such a minor Longteng Country.

She had thought that Emperor Longteng would personally welcome them, or at the very least, the dean of Qingtian Academy and the top three candidates. Yet, only a Prince came to greet them.

Longteng Country is weak, it seems not just rumors. Their annual national-scale Imperial Examination, and the fourth-place competitor only reached the third level of Xuanwu Practitioners. Truly, Longteng Country is out of capable people.

Jin Chen's ears turned red with the urge to retort, for he is the son of Grandmaster Jin. But he was stopped by a look from Long Qingchen.

Grandmaster Jin might carry some weight in Longteng Country, but what is that in comparison to the Xuantian Sect?

"Miss Bai, how can Longteng Country compare to Xuantian Sect. Even if you combined the top ten from the Zixiao Palace Exam, they wouldn't match one of Miss Bai You's fingers."

Long Qingchen flattered.

Nobody dislikes compliments, and Bai You is no exception.

Her expression softened slightly upon hearing this.

"The Third Prince really has a way with words. No wonder Brother Sikong would agree to return to Longteng Country."

Bai You looked affectionately at Sikong Ran.

In these past months, her relationship with Sikong Ran progressed rapidly with their constant companionship.

Since Brother Sikong ranked in the top fifty on the Young Talents List a few days ago, their father has tacitly consented to their marriage.

Thus, Bai You outwardly claimed Sikong Ran as her fiancé, while Sikong Ran always remained noncommittal.

"Bai You, don't be impolite. Zixiao Palace Exam has always produced outstanding talents; the Third Prince and Young Master Jin are clearly among the elites."

Sikong Ran spoke much more humbly and was far more friendly towards Long Qingchen and Jin Chen.

"Both of you, please, let's continue our conversation inside the city. May I know where you'll be staying in Purple Cloud City? If it's convenient, you can stay at the Royal Mansion."

Long Qingchen probed.

Once the news that Qingtian Academy had invited Sikong Ran spread, Long Qingchen started making his plans.

He originally wanted to invite Sikong Ran to the palace but worried that his father, Emperor Longteng, would not agree.

"There's no need to trouble the Third Prince. I am merely a commoner; it would not be proper for me to stay at the Royal Mansion. However, there is a matter for which I would like to ask the Third Prince to uphold justice."

After Sikong Ran finished speaking, he clasped his hands in a gesture of respect.

"Young Master Sikong, please feel free to speak."

Long Qingchen was worried he wouldn't find an opportunity to establish a good relationship with Sikong Ran. As long as Sikong Ran's request wasn't excessive, Long Qingchen was ready to agree.

"A disciple from the Outer Sect of the Xuantian Sect was attacked and severely injured yesterday within Purple Cloud City. Purple Cloud City is not under the jurisdiction of the Xuantian Sect. Thus, I ask the Third Prince to help investigate this matter thoroughly and apprehend the true culprit."

The lodging and meals of Bai You and Sikong Ran in Purple Cloud City were originally the responsibility of Zheng Xiong.

Now that Zheng Xiong was injured, they had no choice but to reside at Qingtian Academy.

"Such a thing has happened! Miss Bai and Young Master Sikong, please be assured, I will surely catch the assailant and deliver them to your Sect."

Long Qingchen promised earnestly and then welcomed the two into the city.

After treating them to fine wine and food, Long Qingchen escorted them to Qingtian Sect before taking his leave.

"Brother Sikong, I really can't understand why you would want to associate with such people. Just looking at the faces of those two is enough to make one sick."

Bai You said contemptuously.

"Youyou, what do you think is the reason I came to Purple Cloud City?"

Sikong Ran smiled, but his brows betrayed an underlying heaviness that couldn't be dispersed.

Chapter 439: A Cut Above the Rest

Bai You curled her lips, unable to articulate a proper reason.

In her eyes, Longteng was nothing more than a tiny nation.

Xuantian Sect is located on the border of Longteng Country and has taken care of Longteng Country over the years, it would be strange if Bai You actually respected Longteng Country.

Brother Sikong is back, could it not be because of cherishing the old times while also checking on his homeland?

"Back then, I also wanted to participate in the Zixiao Palace Exam, but was excluded due to my lack of status and forced to give it up. My purpose this time is twofold. One is to follow the Sect Leader's wishes to see if there are any promising youths in Longteng Country, to recruit if possible, and if not..."

Sikong Ran didn't continue.

Xuantian Sect did not want to see a powerful Longteng Country.

"As for the other purpose, Brother Sikong, you want to raise your eyebrows and teach a harsh lesson to the top scorer of the Zixiao Palace Exam, to show those who once looked down on you what 'time brings great changes' means."

Bai You quickly added.

"He who understands me, Youyou does."

A smile appeared on Sikong Ran's lips.

Back then, he was forced down to Ping'an County, enduring bullying, but now, he is a Heavenly Chosen Son.

After Sikong Ran said this, his fingers inadvertently stroked the white jade ring on his right hand. As long as he had the Xuanwu Ring, he would eventually rise above others. What happened now was just a beginning.

The two entered Qingtian Academy with laughter and talk.

Long Qingchen and Jin Chen left Qingtian Academy.

"Third Prince, you are too polite to those two from Xuantian Sect. How arrogant they are, as if Xuantian Sect is something remarkable."

Jin Chen cursed under his breath.

Xuantian Sect is just a middle-ranking sect among the Thirty-Six Sects, with countless main countries and the Eight Great Families above it, and the first-rate sects as well.

Sikong Ran is just in the Xuan Transformation Realm.

He could reach the Xuan Transformation Realm after a few more years of cultivation.

"A frog in a well, what do you know. Sikong Ran is indeed in the Xuan Transformation Realm, but why do you think he was able to enter the Ying Chu Conference and the Young Talents List, yet you couldn't even win first place at the Imperial Examination?"

Long Qingchen said.

Putting aside Xuantian Sect.

The fact that Sikong Ran could become famous at the Ying Chu Conference speaks volumes.

The Ying Chu Conference is attended by representatives from the Seventy-two Domains, the Eight Great Families, the Thirty-Six Sects, and even some main countries.

This year's Ying Chu Conference is even more competitive, it is said that without the Xuan and Spirit Bridge's top level, one can't make it into the top fifty.

"High talent, naturally. This kind of thing is gifted by birth."

Jin Chen said gloomily.

He always thought he was talented, but after encountering Xin Lin, Murong Ziyue, and Long Xinzhuo, he felt that he lost in terms of talent.

"I only say this, half a year ago, he was just discovered to be a Xuanwu Practitioner."

Long Qingchen snorted coldly.

This Ying Chu Conference, Sikong Ran indeed made a name for himself with one battle.

Once the news that he was a person from Longteng circulated, the Dragon Ascending Royal Family began investigating him.

The results were startling.

He only became a Xuanwu Practitioner half a year ago?

Jin Chen was also shocked.

That means, that guy had quite ordinary talent for the past decade or so.

"It doesn't make sense, how can talent change?"

Talent is something innate and supposedly set for life at the age of three.

"This is the real reason I invited Sikong Ran. He either encountered incredible luck with some blessings, or he discovered some special methods, obtaining the technique to cultivate the Xuan Bridge. This time, I want him to help with cultivating the Xuan Bridge."

Chapter 440: Calamity Descends from Heaven

Xin Zhuo and Shi Guiren returned to the Imperial Palace, and Xin Lin, just as usual, arrived at Taoyao Pavilion around dusk.

As soon as she entered the dining area, she saw Master Ji humming a little tune.

"Master Ji, what's made you so happy?"

With sweet words, Xin Lin approached him.

Having learned how to make the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns, she felt confident again and hoped to further improve her culinary skills.

"It's all about the trouble with De Yue Building, haha, do you remember Master Chen from Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall? That guy is nothing but a heartless scoundrel. What goes around comes around, and this time, De Yue Building has suffered a substantial loss."

Master Ji shook his mustache, his face brimming with schadenfreude.

How big can Zixiao City be? News of the incidents in Spiritual Food Restaurant spread across the entire place in less than a day.

The Overlord Egg devoured all of De Yue Building's food supplies. The promised Spiritual Banquet had to be canceled, and as a result, they had to compensate with a hefty sum of money.

"Not only that, but I've heard that 'Chen Heixin's' Spiritual Delicacy Buns were outdone. Apparently, there's a new kind of bun that's even tastier on the market now, and it's half the price. Too bad, it's only sold in the morning market, and I haven't had the chance to try it."

Master Ji sighed.

Although "Chen Heixin" is quite detestable, the Spiritual Delicacy Buns of De Yue Building are, in fact, exceptionally delicious.

This was something even Master Ji had to admit.

Buns are the most ordinary of foods, but making them delicious is not easy, especially since they are not Lingxiu. To make something tastier than De Yue Building's is even more extraordinary.

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin secretly stuck out her tongue.

If Master Ji knew that the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns he mentioned were actually taught by himself, who knows what he would think.

While Master Ji was chatting with Xin Lin, a commotion arose outside the dining area.

"Sirs, please speak kindly, she's just a mere general worker at our place and has nothing to do with Taoyao Pavilion."

Master Ji's voice could be heard.

Both Xin Lin and Master Ji were taken aback for a moment.

They then saw several saber-wielding government officers barge into the room.

As soon as they entered, they loudly inquired,

"Which one of you is Xin Lin?"

Seeing this, Master Ji slightly frowned and stepped forward to answer.

"Sirs, she is Xin Lin!"

In a rush, Master Ji popped out, pointing at Xin Lin.

"Ji Jie! What are you doing?"

Master Ji was quite angry.

"So you are Xin Lin. Master Chen of De Yue Building has accused you of secretly stealing and damaging De Yue Building's property. Do you confess to these crimes?"

The government officers asked with arrogance.

Theft and destruction of De Yue Building's property.

Master Ji's face changed drastically as he looked at Xin Lin.

"Yes, it's her. Xin Lin, hand over that troublesome egg, and I can still ask the County Magistrate for a lighter sentence."

Master Chen stormed in furiously, accompanied by De Yue Building's Shopkeeper and the anxious owner of Taoyao Pavilion.

Master Chen's head was bandaged, and he was limping, looking utterly wretched.

Thanks to the Overlord Egg, not only did De Yue Building lose their esteemed guests from Xuantian Sect, but they also lost a great amount of food and spiritual materials.

Especially those in the storage, which were the accumulation of many years.

The egg appeared and vanished without a trace.

After the incident, Master Chen remembered the scene when Xin Lin had asked for the egg earlier and the more he thought about it, the more he felt that something wasn't right.

That girl left as soon as she said she would, a stark contrast to her behavior back at Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall.

This was clearly not adding up!

She did it on purpose!

She deliberately let the egg be, to wreak havoc in De Yue Building!