

Little Girl 701

Chapter 701: Heaven-Defying Pawnshop

Thinking of a good thing, Xin Lin couldn't help but think of the Opportunity Pawnshop in the Heaven-defying Book!

That thing appeared out of nowhere, and she still didn't know its specific use.

"Life Book, open the Opportunity Pawnshop."

Xin Lin thought about the upcoming journey, gritted her teeth, and spent 100 Heaven-defying Value to open the Opportunity Pawnshop. After all, she had just earned 100 Heaven-defying Value from leveling up.

Xin Lin consoled herself.

"Life Book prompt: Congratulations life master on starting the Opportunity Pawnshop, deducting 100 Heaven-defying Value. The Opportunity Pawnshop is now open."

In Xin Lin's mind, a quirky window appeared.

That window, similar to a game's inventory, had about three black frames.

Beneath each frame, there were different numbers.

For example, the first frame said 50, and the second frame also said 50.

Xin Lin then looked at the third frame, and under it was "???"

In the top right corner of the window, it displayed 309 Heaven-defying Value.

Xin Lin roughly guessed that this number should represent the Heaven-defying Value.

It seems that the consumption at the Opportunity Pawnshop is indeed based on Heaven-defying Value.

But all three windows are pitch black, not making any sense, and she didn't know what she could get after spending the Heaven-defying Value.

Xin Lin followed her earlier understanding of the Opportunity Dice.

"Exchange 50 Heaven-defying Value for the first frame? Life Book, I'll exchange once."

Xin Lin decided to try out the use of the Opportunity Pawnshop.

"Life Book prompt: To use the first window of the Opportunity Pawnshop, the life master needs to reach the Xuan Transformation Realm. To use the second window, the life master needs to be an Advanced Spirit Master."

The response from the Heaven-defying Book nearly made Xin Lin spit out a mouthful of old blood.

So, you deduct my 100 Heaven-defying Value without any prior notice, and now you're telling me I'm not qualified to use this broken pawnshop?

Xin Lin rolled her eyes.

She had just broken through not long ago, and she didn't know how long it would take until her next breakthrough.

So, she could only look at this pawnshop?

Xin Lin looked at the third black frame, pointed at the "???" and said unwillingly.

"Is there a usage limit for the third frame?"

"The third window is an item-for-Heaven-defying Value exchange. Considering the life master's limited Heaven-defying Value, the third window can recycle the life master's unwanted items in exchange for a certain amount of Heaven-defying Value. However, the items for exchange in the third window must be at least Jade level or an equivalent price to be eligible for use."

The Heaven-defying Book said at a leisurely pace.

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin was somewhat satisfied. Both the first and second windows had usage limits, but the third window did not have any restrictions.

No wonder it's called the Opportunity Pawnshop; it's somewhat more humane than before, knowing to engage in barter in exchange for Heaven-defying Value.

From now on, if she has anything she doesn't need, she can just throw it into the Opportunity Pawnshop to quickly accumulate Heaven-defying Value.

What Xin Lin wanted the most right now was to quickly increase the size of the Jade Purification Tank, so that she could produce more Jade Pure Spring.

She looked at the Heaven-defying Book again and found that the information about her had changed.

"Life master: Xin Lin

Identity: Daughter of Chu Beiqing, co-owner of the Taoyao Pavilion, apprentice at the School Clinic.

Cultivation

Dark Power: Xuanwu Practitioner Fifth Rank

Martial Arts: Fire God Fist

Spiritual Power: Basic-level Spirit Master

Spirit Art: Ghost Escape Technique

Fire Explosion Technique

Heaven-defying Value: Over 409 points

Job: Two-star Spirit Cuisine Master

Ordinary Doctor

Special Skills: Gathering Skill Introduction (1/100)."

Compared to before, her data was more complete after leveling up.

Xin Lin withdrew her consciousness, and with a Ghost Escape Technique, she left the Qingtian Academy.

Before setting off, she needed to prepare, furthermore, she had to instruct Ma Jingtian to keep an eye on the situation in Purple Cloud City.

Chapter 702: Walking Rations

Xin Lin had barely left Qingtian Academy when Murong Ziyue came looking for her.

Learning that Xin Lin "fell ill," Murong Ziyue was somewhat surprised.

"What illness could Xin Lin have? Her medical skill is so brilliant, how could she fall ill?"

Murong Ziyue was full of disbelief.

"Well, doctors cannot heal themselves. If you want to see her, come back after five or six days."

Master Mo used the lamest excuse to send Murong Ziyue out of the School Clinic.

"So secretive."

Murong Ziyue frowned.

However, seeing that Chu Beiqing was still in the School Clinic, she felt relieved.

If something really had happened to Xin Lin, her dim-witted dad surely wouldn't have let the matter rest.

"It'll have to do, just have to wait for Xin Lin to return then."

Murong Ziyue was somewhat regretful; she had wanted to tell Xin Lin that there were some leads on the aggressive Xuan Spirit Beast, and she had wanted to drag Xin Lin along to confirm it.

She shook her head and walked away.

In the city, Xin Lin prepared some basic supplies and only by the afternoon did she arrive at the gates of Purple Cloud City, waiting with the Overlord Egg for "Xuanyuan" duo to show up.

At noon, Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan appeared on time.

Xin Lin had already absorbed a Qi Stone and transformed into a young girl's appearance.

With this look, even Master Mo probably wouldn't recognize her.

"Goodness, Xin Lin, what in the world is that egg? Don't tell me it's your own food supply?"

Wu Yuan was still the same, staring open-mouthed at the Overlord Egg behind Xin Lin.

An egg, a giant egg comparable to an ostrich egg.

To avoid drawing attention, Xin Lin had waited until she was outside the city gates in a secluded area before revealing the Overlord Egg.

It was Pride Corpse who had reminded Xin Lin to bring along the Overlord Egg.

Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan simply mentioned that they were going to Qin Mountain for a task.

Though they didn't specify what the task was.

But Qin Mountain was the Overlord Egg's old haunt; bringing it into the mountain would definitely be a big help.

Xin Lin had been absent from Qingtian Academy for several days, and with the ongoing investigation of fierce beasts, she was also worried about leaving the Overlord Egg in Qingtian Academy as it might lead to trouble.

"That is my summoning."

Xin Lin explained.

"You're a Summoning Master too? No way, these days, a Spiritual Practitioner can summon as well? Wait a second..."

Wu Yuan was surprised, scrutinizing Xin Lin.

My goodness, just a few days apart, and Xin Lin's cultivation had improved.

"Spirit Master."

Wu Xuan, less talkative than Wu Yuan, had also noticed early on that Xin Lin was now a Spirit Master.

"I just advanced yesterday."

Xin Lin nodded.

She didn't know much about these two, and Xin Lin was even convinced that they had both forged their identities.

Whether "Xuanyuan" would still exist after this mission was an unknown.

However, relying on her experience from her past life, Xin Lin instinctively felt that the two of them were probably not bad people.

"That's good then. The higher the cultivation in this mission, the lesser the danger. Your current cultivation is just right. Wu Yuan and I are mostly at the Xuan Transformation Realm."

Wu Xuan seemed to say casually.

The three, along with the Overlord Egg, headed towards the mountains in the outskirts.

Wu Xuan was still curious, circling the Overlord Egg and continuously asking Xin Lin about the breed of her summoning.

Upon seeing that Xin Lin also didn't know the breed of the Overlord Egg, he sheepishly walked away.

By the time they reached the foot of Qin Mountain, it was just around dusk.

"It's bad to find a path when it's dark. Let's rest for the night and set out when it gets light."

Wu Xuan, the spokesperson among the three, said this, and both Xin Lin and Wu Yuan had no objections.

Little did they know, as Xin Lin was about to sit down, she received a prompt from the Heaven-defying Book.

Chapter 703: Little Tyrant

"Life Book notification: Random task issued, collect twenty varieties of Mortal-grade or higher Medicinal Herbs within 24 hours. Reward for task completion: 50 Heaven-defying Value; Penalty for failure: deduction of 100 Heaven-defying Value."

Xin Lin sighed at the thought of the Jade Purification Tank, and got up to search for Medicinal Herbs.

It has to be said that with the Collection Skill, targeting the search became much easier.

Xin Lin did a rough search and found a number of usable Medicinal Herbs.

Common ones like Poria, Ma Huang, and goji berries were everywhere, but many of the herbs were just ordinary and didn't even count as Mortal-grade.

After searching for two hours,

(Mommy, I know this area very well, just tell me what you're looking for!)

As soon as the Overlord Egg entered Qin Mountain, it began frolicking, hopping all over the place.

Previously, following the terrifying Daddy into the mountains, Daddy would always throw it to the mountaintop.

Luckily, after it rolled down the mountain last time, Daddy realized it could no longer be trapped in that area, and didn't carry it there anymore.

"I need to collect some Medicinal Herbs, the rarer the better."

(Medicinal Herbs, are those the smelly grass?)

After getting confirmation from Xin Lin,

(I know where to find some. Wait for me, Mommy!)

The Overlord Egg dashed off in a puff of smoke and was gone.

Xin Lin also knew that the Overlord Egg was the Little Tyrant of this area, so she didn't interfere, just letting it bounce away by itself.

While Xin Lin was searching for Medicinal Herbs, Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan were hunting.

After spending a few days in Purple Cloud City, they had tried all the delicacies and found them tasteless, deciding to hunt some Dark Spirit Beasts to prepare some Spiritual Food and satisfy their cravings.

Both of them were picky and didn't like bringing dry rations.

"Damn it, how come there's not a single bird or beast in this area? I wanted to catch some game for a change of taste."

Wu Xuan was visibly frustrated; an hour had passed and he hadn't seen a single wild chicken or boar.

Last time he was here, there were quite a few Dark Spirit Beasts.

Little did Wu Xuan know, times had changed since then.

Last time he came, he didn't bring the Overlord Egg.

It should be known that the Overlord Egg was used to dominating Qin Mountain. The slighter Dark Spirit Beasts, at the scent of the Egg, would all flee far away.

The more advanced Dark Spirit Beasts would obediently hide in their dens; none daring to wander outside, in case the Overlord Egg was hungry and might gulp them down in one bite.

As a result, Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan searched for two hours and ended up finding nothing.

Even the fish in the streams had disappeared without a trace.

Out of options, the two had to return to their temporary camp, munching on dry food with cool water, their faces the picture of gloom.

After Xin Lin had found a dozen or so Medicinal Herbs, she came back as well.

The Overlord Egg had yet to return, but Xin Lin was unhurried and pulled out some steamed buns from her Tuling hairpin.

Seeing Xin Lin produce food with her bare hands, the two brothers beside her simply took an extra glance and didn't say much.

Both came from distinguished backgrounds, so seeing a Spiritual Treasure like the Tuling hairpin wasn't new to them.

If they were in their own country, they could easily produce a few as well, but it was noteworthy to see a Little Spirit Master bring out one in small Longteng Country, so they gave it an extra look.

However, the next moment, Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan became a bit unsettled.

After Xin Lin took a bite of the bun she pulled out,

The aroma wafted over.

"Damn! Xin Lin, what kind of buns are those? Give me one to try."

Smelling the fragrance, which was far better than the buns he usually ate, Wu Yuan, with his thick skin, approached and begged for a bun.

Chapter 704: Death of the Emerald Python

Xin Lin didn't refuse and handed one to Wu Yuan, followed by giving one to Wu Xuan.

After acquiring the Tuling hairpin, she specifically made some Delicious Spiritual Food Buns and White Jade Steamed Buns before departing, placing them in the Tuling hairpin, which could retain the heat for a long time.

"Delicious, these buns are really good. Are they for sale in Purple Cloud City? Why have I never tasted them before? That bunch of servant dogs, I told them to find out, and all they found was something awful to eat."

Wu Yuan nearly burst into tears of joy while eating.

Wu Xuan coughed lightly and gave Wu Yuan a side glance.

Wu Yuan then realized he had almost spilled the beans.

Wu Xuan nodded in agreement with Wu Yuan's statement.

Both have been adventuring south and north since childhood and have tasted all kinds of Spiritual Food at home, but this was the first time they had ever eaten such delicious buns.

Wu Xuan also found it strange because he had inquired before coming, and there were no particularly special products inside Purple Cloud City of Longteng Country.

As for Spiritual Food Restaurants, there were only De Yue Building and Taoyao Pavilion, which are Four-star Spiritual Food Restaurants.

They had already tasted the Spiritual Food from De Yue Building, which they found average at best.

As for Taoyao Pavilion, their head chef was said to have been unwell these past few days, so they had not had the chance to taste their buns.

He wondered which restaurant the buns before them had come from.

Wu Yuan devoured the bun in one bite and then looked at Xin Lin.

"I made them myself."

After finishing two buns, Xin Lin looked up at the sky again. The Overlord Egg hasn't returned yet?

"What, you can make buns too? Are you a Spiritual Delicacy Master?"

An astonished expression appeared on Wu Yuan's face, which was as beautiful as a woman's.

"Not yet certified, roughly a One-star level."

Xin Lin replied modestly.

"Really? You're in luck. Perform well these next few days, make a few more buns for us, and if you serve us well, regardless of whether you're a One-star or Two-star Spiritual Delicacy Master, even three stars, we can sort it out for you."

Wu Yuan patted his chest confidently.

"Wu Yuan, how many times have I told you, we are in Longteng Country."

Wu Xuan warned.

Upon hearing that, Wu Yuan's eyes went blank, and he muttered,

"What's wrong with Longteng Country? Just one word from us..."

"I brought quite a number of buns, but my egg has a big appetite. If there are extras, I might share some with you."

Xin Lin didn't take Wu Yuan's words too seriously.

Although she could roughly guess that Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan must have some powerful backgrounds.

But she was not one to flaunt power – the authorities of others were irrelevant to her.

For now, she just wanted to cooperate with the two of them to complete the task and find out where the Golden Crow Egg Shell was.

Soon, rustling noises were heard not far away, and Xin Lin recognized them as the Overlord Egg's sounds.

(Mommy, I'm back.)

Sure enough, the Overlord Egg emerged.

It was dragging a long serpentine corpse behind it.

"Wow! Isn't this a Two-star Dark Beast, the Jade Python? Such a big one must have lived for forty to fifty years."

Wu Xuan walked up to take a closer look at the Jade Python.

The python seemed familiar to Xin Lin, too. Upon recollection, wasn't this the python brother? She had met it once before when looking for Wind Breath Grass.

If it hadn't been for the familiar patterns on its body, Xin Lin would have almost failed to recognize it.

The python's head had been flattened, and all its bones were crushed, none intact.

It looked as if it had been rolled over by something.

"Are you kidding me, you killed this beast?"

Wu Yuan stared with his mouth agape.

Just as Wu Yuan finished speaking, the Overlord Egg's body started to gather Fire Spirit energy more intensively than the Bo Bo sound.

"Yikes! Okay, okay, my apologies, can't I be wrong? That egg has some temper."

Wu Yuan chuckled awkwardly, hiding behind Xin Lin.

(It wasn't me, Mommy, you have to avenge Xiao Cui, it's been killed.)

The Overlord Egg whimpered a few times.

Chapter 705: Mountain Secrets

The Overlord Egg is the Little Tyrant of Qin Mountain.

Before meeting Xin Lin, it often couldn't get enough food in the Mystic Bird Nest, so it would go out to find food when the Xuan Bird was not around.

Over time, it came to recognize some of the slightly more formidable Xuan Spirit Beasts in the mountains.

Xiao Cui was one of them.

The Overlord Egg originally planned to ask Xiao Cui for some stinky herbs, only to find it dead near the stream stone beach.

That area, not far from Xiao Cui's snake cave, was not only where Xiao Cui was killed but also where people entered its cave and emptied it of all medicinal herbs.

(Whimper, all the stinky herbs are gone.)

The Overlord Egg cried bitterly.

"What's your egg saying, sobbing like that?"

Wu Yuan couldn't help but ask.

"It's saying this snake was its good friend and was murdered. It wants me to find a way to discover the real culprit, and it happened near the stream."

Only Xin Lin and people like Gui Hu could understand what the Overlord Egg said.

Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan also felt completely confused.

But as soon as Xin Lin mentioned near the stream gulley, both of their faces changed color.

"Is it the Black Water Creek halfway up the mountain?"

The usually reticent Wu Xuan asked.

"Exactly. Why, do you know that area?"

Xin Lin was somewhat surprised.

"That area is the site of our mission this time."

Wu Yuan also put away his joking demeanor.

Wu Xuan went forward to examine the wounds on the emerald python.

"Tiger Roar Fist and Yue King Strike, it's the work of people from Fengxing Country."

Wu Xuan looked at Wu Yuan.

"It looks like they've already infiltrated, tsk, I knew the news would leak sooner or later."

Wu Yuan pursed his lips.

"It's too late in the day now; even if we rush there, we wouldn't make it in time. Let's head down first thing tomorrow morning."

Wu Xuan said solemnly.

He looked again at Xin Lin and the Overlord Egg.

Xin Lin was comforting the Overlord Egg, seemingly oblivious to what the two were talking about.

It took ten Spiritual Delicacy Buns for Xin Lin to finally console the Overlord Egg.

"Poor Xiao Cui."

Xin Lin sighed.

"But don't worry, I'll make sure to cook it nicely."

Little did Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan know, her next words nearly made them drop their jaws.

When Xin Lin said she'd make Xiao Cui tasty, she truly meant it.

By evening, she had gutted Xiao Cui and obtained a fifty-year-old snake gallbladder, a medicinal ingredient of Mortal quality.

After draining the snake blood and skinning it,

The emerald python's body was thick with meat, extremely smooth in texture. Xin Lin remembered a two-star Spiritual Delicacy "strange-taste snake" from the Spiritual Delicacies.

While gathering herbs, she also picked some wild garlic and mountain pepper.

With a set of pots and pans taken from her Tuling hairpin, Xin Lin had Wu Xuan help her cut the emerald python into pieces.

In less than two hours, a rich aroma wafted through the woods.

It made Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan involuntarily glance sideways.

Despite their initial distaste, they couldn't resist the temptation of the fragrance and tried a bite.

With that bite, both felt a renewed spirit.

The wild garlic and mountain pepper removed the gaminess of the snake. Xin Lin's excellent roasting skills made the snake meat crispy and fragrant, smooth and sweet, spicy and numbing on the tongue with each bite.

Their faces reddened as they ate, both astonished by Xin Lin's culinary skills.

Such culinary skills, yet she's still not a Spiritual Delicacy Master?

It looks like the Spirit Food World of Longteng Country is about to rise.

A fifty-pound emerald python was quickly stripped of meat and consumed by the group.

Among them, the Overlord Egg ate the most, having devoured half of the emerald python by itself.

(Whimper, Xiao Cui truly was a great buddy, so delicious.)

The Overlord Egg whimpered as it ate.

Chapter 706: Strange Dream

Xin Lin did not forget, while Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan were not paying attention, to secretly take the remaining large piece of snake meat.

Hmm, the Pride Corpse probably hasn't tried snake meat before; it wouldn't hurt to let him have some.

Xin Lin had gotten used to setting aside a portion for the Pride Corpse whenever eating; as the saying goes, one is soft-spoken when accepting others' food and short-handed when taking their gifts. Before, she had needed to extract the third form of the Ghost God Fist from Gui Hu.

During the night, Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan deliberately extinguished the campfire, taking turns to keep watch.

After sensing Gui Hu's presence, Xin Lin handed over a large piece of the strange-taste snake to Gui Hu.

Gui Hu glanced at the strange-taste snake and took it; a flicker of unusual color passed through his blue pupils.

However, that hint of blue light passed so swiftly that Xin Lin hardly noticed it.

"There's something on the rocky beach, it's better if you don't go down there."

Gui Hu said gravely.

Xin Lin then remembered, Gui Hu also frequently traveled to and from Qin Mountain and must be very familiar with the conditions within.

"What is it?"

Xin Lin asked curiously.

"Xuanyuan" both of them had been secretive and had not clarified things with her to date.

"That place, has been set with a special array. You need to go down to know, but it's probably some kind of ancient relic, very dangerous."

Gui Hu had not been to that area either.

His current state made it inconvenient for him to venture into many areas.

Like the area around the stream, he had previously noticed some anomalies, but hadn't ventured in.

He was not a curiously minded individual; easy to hang up matters that did not concern him.

"I need to go down, I promised Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan, only then will they tell me the whereabouts of the Golden Crow Egg Shell."

Xin Lin was speaking when Wu Xuan walked over.

"You can go down, but be careful."

Gui Hu did not say more and disappeared.

Xin Lin leaned on the Overlord Egg, and soon, sleep overcame her.

As sleep hazed her mind, a scene flashed through Xin Lin's brain.

Huffing and puffing, something was breathing heavily near her ear.

Xin Lin opened her eyes, trying to see clearly.

But she found herself surrounded by darkness.

Ahead was a patch of bright white light.

Instinctively, she walked towards the light, but just when she reached it, her vision flickered, and she suddenly woke up.

It was already daylight.

Xin Lin breathed a sigh of relief and quickly pulled out a Qi Stone, absorbing enough Spiritual Energy to prevent herself from shrinking.

The scene that had crossed her mind earlier, Xin Lin could not be sure whether it was a dream or a warning given by her superpower.

The Overlord Egg beside her was still sleeping soundly; Xin Lin woke it up.

Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan had already gotten up.

Although they had been patrolling all night, neither showed any signs of fatigue, instead, they were full of energy, clearly well-trained individuals.

The three of them and the egg ate some steamed buns, then headed towards the stream.

Inside Qin Mountain, the vegetation was lush and the water system well-developed.

There were mountain streams at both the waist and foot of the mountain; Black Water Creek was the most extensive in this area, attracting several Xuan Spirit Beasts to drink.

Clearly, the Emerald Python did the same.

Only this time, its luck wasn't very good; it had run into an opponent.

"Xiao Cui was found in this area,"

Xin Lin informed them following the Overlord Egg's words.

Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan searched through the bushes and stream stones, Wu Yuan said gravely.

"The footprints disappear into the creek. It wasn't one group, at least three or four groups. They must have come to this area after us."

Wu Yuan was somewhat annoyed.

The place was first discovered by them; if someone else got there first, he would be truly infuriated.

Chapter 707: Floating Corpse

"Don't rush yet, these footsteps only go in but not out, and after entering the water, they never came ashore again."

Xin Lin glanced around a few times.

After learning the Collection Skill, her power of observation was much stronger than that of ordinary people.

Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan were somewhat surprised, giving Xin Lin a few more looks, not expecting that Xin Lin would also have the skill of tracking.

"Those damn turtles must have also gone in without return."

Wu Yuan said gleefully.

Their last time, had their luck not been good, 80 to 90 percent would have also been lost down there.

"Let's go down and check."

Wu Xuan looked at Xin Lin, and seeing that she had no objections, he walked forward along the waterway.

It was only then that Xin Lin realized, the place Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan wanted to go was in Black Water Creek.

Who would have thought, there's more to Black Water Creek than meets the eye?

Even the oldest hunter in Purple Cloud City, might not know of this water path.

Xin Lin thought to herself in surprise.

The water channel was in the stream, the water in Black Water Creek flowed rapidly, with Wu Xuan leading, Wu Yuan at the rear, and Xin Lin in the middle.

After walking half a mile, Xin Lin felt a sudden soreness in her legs and had difficulty lifting them.

This surprised Xin Lin quite a bit.

After all, she was now a Xuanwu Fifth Realm practitioner, and clearly, something was wrong with her leg strength.

Especially since Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan, as well as the Overlord Egg, all walked effortlessly.

Noticing that Xin Lin had slowed down.

"Look ahead, quick!"

It was at this moment that Wu Yuan pointed to the front.

A drowned body floated over.

Wu Yuan dived into the water and swam over.

"He's been dead for at least a few days. Looks like he drowned."

Wu Yuan turned the corpse over and shook his head.

He then searched and found a token from the body; Xin Lin did not recognize the characters on the token, but Wu Xuan understood at a glance.

"I almost forgot, this stream is quite special, containing a rich presence of Water Spirits. We are currently swimming upstream, which consumes many times more physical strength than normal."

Only after seeing the body did Wu Xuan remember something and offered an apologetic explanation to Xin Lin.

As Xin Lin was a delicate young lady and a Spirit Master, she naturally had less physical strength than the average man.

This drowned body was that of a Martial Artist of the Eighth and Ninth Layer, likely a guard from some power.

He probably exhausted all his strength on the way and accidentally drowned.

"Heh heh, if you don't mind, I could carry you."

Wu Yuan said with a grin, stroking his chin.

Thanks to the Spiritual Delicacy Buns and strange-taste snake, Wu Yuan's impression of Xin Lin had improved a lot.

Before this, he had merely regarded Xin Lin as a pretty, but useless, vase.

Before Xin Lin could answer, she heard an all-too-familiar cold snort from Sealing Spirit Talisman No.1.

Without guessing, she knew it was Gui Hu.

Xin Lin shook her head without hesitation.

"I can walk by myself."

Seeing Xin Lin insisted, Wu Yuan did not say more, shrugged his shoulders, and continued onwards.

She noticed the surroundings, just as Wu Xuan had said, the deeper they went into Black Water Creek, the richer the Water Spirits became.

Moreover, these were Single Water Spirits, much richer than those in Qingtian Academy.

These Water Spirits, seem to have sensed the presence of outsiders, causing mischief in the water, making the flow go against them, imperceptibly exhausting people's physical strength.

When they first entered the creek, the water was only ankle-deep, but after walking for half an hour, the depth reached the knees.

A few more steps and the water was to the waist, Xin Lin looked ahead at the endless water path, and understood.

If one's physical strength was exhausted and they were careless, they could potentially drown.

"Water Spirits, huh?"

Xin Lin focused and looked at the water reaching her waist.

She remembered that when Gathering Spirit, she was best at condensing Fire Spirits; she wondered if she could condense Water Spirits.

Chapter 708: Legend of the Dragon

Xin Lin carries with her the Dragon Taming Technique passed down by the Longteng Ancestor.

Before, her body was devoid of Spirit Veins, so she knew very well not to bite off more than she could chew and focused solely on the Fire Spirit.

But now, she has developed Spirit Veins, although they are just Earth Fire Spirit Veins, but at least she has them.

She wonders if this would be beneficial when she concentrates on other Spiritual Powers.

With a stirring in her mind, Xin Lin begins Spirit Control.

Water Spirits are the most abundant nearby, nearly imperceptible were the other Spiritual Powers.

Xin Lin recited the mnemonic for Spirit Control.

Only to see that in the water, the light blue Water Spirits slowly increased in number.

The Water Spirits swiftly left the creek, surging toward the inside of Xin Lin's body.

Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan, being Martial Artists, failed to notice any anomalies.

Indeed, she could consolidate them.

Xin Lin consolidated some Water Spirits within her, then looked back at the creek – the water's resistance at her feet was significantly reduced as Water Spirits diminished.

The creek gradually deepened, yet Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan discovered that Xin Lin's pace behind them had become considerably lighter.

Both were secretly amazed and found Xin Lin to be a very special person.

Along the way, they encountered several floating corpses, all drowned, wearing different attire; Xin Lin noticed and thought they did not resemble Longteng people.

She didn't ask further, simply kept following the two.

The Overlord Egg, on the other hand, was the most effortless.

It only took a few steps before it simply floated up once the water deepened, swimming around in the water, quite at ease.

"I'm saying, is there a duck inside that egg of yours?"

Though not as affected by the Water Spirits as Xin Lin, Wu Yuan's energy was significantly drained from the journey.

He envied the Overlord Egg upon seeing how joyfully it floated.

(You're the duck, your whole family are ducks!)

The Overlord Egg was furious, its inner Fire Spirits began to beep and shoot out, causing even the waters of Black Water Creek to boil.

"Say less, have you ever seen a duck covered in Fire Spirits?"

Wu Xuan was much steadier than Wu Yuan, he realized that the Overlord Egg was out of the ordinary.

The four of them unknowingly had arrived at the end of Black Water Creek.

Only then did Xin Lin discover that the end of Black Water Creek was a large lake.

The lake was not small, roughly half the size of Qingtian Academy. The lake was tile blue, and you couldn't see the bottom at a glance.

"The Tomb is located in a cavern across the lake; we'll swim from here, roughly fifteen minutes, and we'll arrive," Wu Xuan finally revealed their destination.

The Tomb?

Although Xin Lin had mentally prepared herself, she didn't expect that their journey's purpose was actually tomb raiding?

"There are tombs in the Qin Mountain area? How have I never heard of this?" Xin Lin asked in astonishment.

"You're from the Longteng people and you don't know? But that's not surprising. Your Royal Family would probably prefer that nobody knows this secret. The Tomb beneath is called the Dragon Ancient Tomb, the final resting place of the last Ancient Dragon on the mainland. The reason why your Longteng Emperor could ascend to the throne and dominate was also because of this Tomb," Wu Yuan said.

As a young Spirit Master, Xin Lin was recognized for her strength for having made it this far on her own. Wu Yuan already treated her as a teammate.

The dragon, since ancient times, has been an exceedingly mysterious entity.

In Xin Lin's contemporary times, dragons were regarded as mythical, non-existent creatures.

Yet, each year, there were numerous legends about dragons.

And within Longteng, were there truly dragons?

Xin Lin remembered the dragon on the Dragon Ascension Stele.

Strictly speaking, that was also not a True Dragon, but a manifestation of Dragon Breath.

Chapter 709: Dragon Vein

"Overlord Egg, are there dragons in Qin Mountain?"

Xin Lin quietly asked the Overlord Egg.

("Dragons? What is that? Is it better than Little Green?")

The Overlord Egg appeared clueless.

It had never seen a dragon in its life.

"Is it something that looks like Little Worm, that clawed Little Green?"

If there really were dragons under Black Water Lake, Xin Lin would have to seriously consider whether to go down or not.

A True Dragon and Dragon Breath were not to be equated.

Even the Overlord Egg might not be a match.

And it was broad daylight now; she couldn't ask Gui Hu for help either.

("I've never seen it.")

The Overlord Egg tried hard to recall, that clawed Little Green?

"So, our mission this time is to search for dragons?"

Xin Lin glanced at the Black Water Lake and tentatively asked.

"Pfft."

Wu Yuan beside her laughed.

"There have been no dragons in this world for a long time. We are not here to search for dragons, we are here to search for the Dragon Vein. Even if there were truly dragons, we three wouldn't be enough to get stuck in its teeth."

Wu Xuan explained with a smile.

In this world, dragons had long been extinct.

Even the most powerful Xuan Spirit Beasts were around nine stars.

That still was an extremely formidable existence. If there were real dragons, all the dynasties and powers of the mainland couldn't contend with it.

"Dragon Vein?"

Xin Lin was startled again.

"It's the Dragon Vein related to the fate of the nation and nature's spiritual energy. You might not know, dragons are powerful because they have on them the strongest Spirit Martial Meridian, the Dragon Vein. For cultivators, just acquiring a small segment of the Dragon Vein can bring about a revolutionary change in their inherent talents. More importantly, a segment of the Dragon Vein can enable anyone to form a Spirit Martial Root."

Wu Xuan spoke eloquently.

Whether it is a Spiritual Practitioner or a Martial Artist, their inherent talent is extremely crucial.

Previously, Xin Lin was despised precisely because her Five Meridians were all defective.

But the Dragon Vein mentioned by Wu Xuan had a terrifying effect that could change all this.

"That's just one aspect. For an individual, the Dragon Vein can change one's destiny, and for a nation, the Dragon Vein can also change the fate of the nation. Although Longteng is a small country, it has existed for thousands of years. Over these millennia, many wars of various scales have occurred on the mainland, numerous small countries have perished, but Longteng has always barely survived in cracks. Apart from your Emperor being somewhat brainless, there's another reason, which is because of this Dragon Vein in Black Water Lake."

Wu Yuan whistled lightly.

This secret, the Longteng Imperial Family had concealed for many years.

Only today was it discovered.

However, only a very few people know of this secret.

Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan were among them.

"Are you planning to steal the Dragon Vein? But if the Dragon Vein disappears, wouldn't Longteng..."

Xin Lin instantly understood the two men's intentions.

Although she wasn't the real Xin Lin, she was still from Longteng, and couldn't possibly betray her own people to help foreigners steal the Dragon Vein.

"Don't put it so unpleasantly. We're just taking a part of the Dragon Vein for our own cultivation use, it wouldn't affect Longteng's national fate too much. Compared to that, your neighboring Luanyu should be your biggest concern..."

Wu Yuan casually said.

"Wu Yuan!"

Wu Xuan intervened.

Knowing he had spoken too much, Wu Yuan shrugged and fell silent.

"Xin Lin, we know you don't want to betray your own homeland, but you are also a cultivator, you should know the importance of the Spirit Martial Meridian. Whether you go down or not, we will still enter the Dragon Ancient Tomb. If you are willing to go down together, after obtaining the Dragon Vein, you can also get a share."

Wu Xuan spoke clearly and concisely, he also noticed that Xin Lin had some issues with her Five Meridians.

Chapter 710: The Whereabouts of the Golden Crow Egg Shell

Looking at the broad lake surface, and recalling the floating corpses on the journey here, Xin Lin already understood that whether she agreed or not, the matter of the Dragon Vein was a done deal.

She wasn't someone stubborn; she knew that pulling out at this moment would likely lead to Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan killing her to silence her.

In that case, it was better to go down and try, waiting for the opportunity to escape, while also attempting to find out the whereabouts of the Golden Crow Egg Shell.

"I can go down with you, but... I need to know the whereabouts of the Golden Crow Egg Shell first."

Xin Lin relaxed.

Wu Xuan and Wu Yuan exchanged a look, both seeing relief in each other's eyes.

If Xin Lin had refused, it would have been problematic.

They would have no choice but to make a move.

Having spent the day together, they had grown to appreciate Xin Lin, not in a romantic sense, but purely as a partner.

"As for the Golden Crow Egg Shell, I'll keep my word. Once we enter the Dragon Ancient Tomb, we might discover something. You should know, the Dragon Clan and the Golden Crow Clan are sworn enemies. Newly hatched little dragons from the Dragon Clan are delicate and hard to raise, requiring the nourishment from Golden Crow eggs. Deep inside the Dragon Ancient Tomb, there should be remains of the Golden Crows, possibly including Golden Crow Egg Shells."

Wu Xuan explained.

He had accepted the Hire Order for this reason.

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin was struck with awe.

If that was truly the case, she might be able to find the Golden Crow Egg Shell by entering Black Water Lake.

"We should hurry, let's get in the water. If we delay further, I'm worried those brats will steal my Dragon Vein."

Wu Yuan appeared confident.

Xin Lin nodded, called out to the Overlord Egg, and got ready to go into the lake.

But, the Overlord Egg stubbornly refused to enter the water.

("I hate this place, don't go down,")

After hopping around by the lake for a while, the Overlord Egg lay down motionless, pretending to be dead, refusing to go in.

It didn't understand why, but being near these waters made it uneasy.

Xin Lin tried cajoling and bribing it, even offering up the Overlord Egg's recently favorite treat, a skewer of candied hawthorns, but it still stubbornly refused.

Out of options, Xin Lin had no choice but to keep the Overlord Egg inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman No.2.

"Xin Lin, could I take a look at that talisman?"

As Xin Lin collected the Overlord Egg, Wu Xuan took a longer glance at her talisman.

Xin Lin handed the Sealing Spirit Talisman to Wu Xuan.

"This can hold Xuan Spirit Beast?"

Wu Xuan marveled.

There aren't many Spiritual Treasures capable of holding items on the mainland, but those that do aren't exactly rare.

However, most such treasures cannot hold living beings; Xin Lin's talisman is clearly different.

"It doesn't look like it's from the mainland. Where did you get it?"

Wu Yuan also leaned in for a closer look.

"It was something I randomly bought at the Black Brilliance Market. It wasn't expensive."

Xin Lin gave a noncommittal answer.

The two didn't press further.

"The water is very cold, and the ancient dragon inside must be an Ice Horned Dragon. Before we go down, let's each take a Fire Ganoderma Pill."

Wu Xuan pulled out a bottle of Elixir Pills, handed two to each person, and instructed, "It's necessary to take one every three hours."

The three slowly entered the water.

The water was indeed chilling. Xin Lin held a Fire Ganoderma Pill in her mouth, and only with the slow activate of the Fire Spirit inside her body did she feel somewhat better.

After diving for about fifteen minutes, a cliff wall indeed appeared ahead.

In the cliff wall, there was a hole just big enough for one person to pass through.

Examining the hole closely, it did somewhat resemble traces left by a serpentine creature.

However, with the entrance hidden under the water, it would be impossible to find without guidance.