

My Crown 501

Chapter 501:

I Can't Strike Up a Conversation with You

When Qiao Mu saw this display in front of her, with three to four hundred people lined up, she was simply speechless!

Wasn't it just hiring several servants? Yet it turned out to be on such a large scale.

"Line up! Do you all not freaking know how to line up? You're a woman? Line up over there! Men in one line, ladies in the other. Don't get mixed up!!" Several more boy servants came out from the Qin Estate and used wooden staffs to delineate the two lines.

"F*ck!"

"Why are you stepping on me?"

"Don't fricking push me, I'm telling you. If you push me again, I'll thrash you!"

The senior manager snorted angrily. "Those participating in the boy servants' test, on the left! Those participating in the maidservants' test, on the right! Line up properly for me. If you don't even know how to line up, you can scram!"

After a period of disorder, everyone finally lined up orderly.

The ladies and lads were separated into two lines and got tested one by one.

Behind Qiao Mu stood two girls, both about 17 to 18 years old, who were dressed gorgeously and wearing makeup. One of them was making orchid-shaped fingers[1] as she exclaimed, "Aiyah, what do you think of this look? Do you think it'll make Qin Estate's Senior Manager pick me?"

The other one replied in praise, "You're pretty enough, definitely pretty enough! Younger sister is endowed with natural beauty!"

Qiao Mu silently turned her small face aside, attempting to suppress her urge to throw up.

Wasn't this Qin Estate freaking hiring girls that knew a bit of martial arts? Why did it attract such a large flock of gaudy orioles and swallows, almost like it was operating a brothel.

"Aiyah, I forgot to paint my nails!"

"What do you think, will Qin Estate accept me?"

"I really want to enter the Qin Estate!"

"I heard that the Qin Estate gives a really high salary!"

"The estate's two young masters are the capital's well-known pretty boys!"

"That's right, that's right. I've heard, too! I heard that one time, Second Young Master Qin headed out in a carriage, having made plans with a friend for drinks at Thousand Cloud Cove. In the end, he was

intercepted, encircled, and chased by several dozen girls. He wasn't able to keep his appointment and hastily ran back to the estate. Kekeke..."

Everyone had come for the maidservant hiring test, but in the end, their conversation abruptly turned to the topic of the two young masters...

Qiao Mu speechlessly turned her head around and looked towards the girl that was chatting enthusiastically. "Why were they chasing?"

The two girls were confounded and stared back at this ordinary-looking yet cold girl, as if they were looking at an alien.

"What do you mean why were they chasing?" Of course it's because Second Qin is a feast for the eyes, causing all the girls to abandon their modesty!

"They'll get food if they catch him?"

Everyone: "..."

What to do, suddenly feeling like there's not much to chat about? When several fervently gossiping girls caught a glimpse of the little girl's icy gaze, they immediately felt like they had been doused with a bucket of cold water and promptly lost interest in chatting.

Seeing that the girls in front of and behind her ignored her and turned their butts and backs to her, our dear Qiao Mu humphed lightly.

"Every two people will engage in a duel!"

"I'm having you both duel! Not doing embroidery, so what are you doing with your orchid-shaped fingers?" The senior manager roared furiously.

The two young ladies that were currently partaking in the martial arts test suddenly abandoned their modesty and threw themselves at each other abruptly, engaging in an all-out fighting performance not limited to but including pouncing, scratching, and biting.

The manager was stupefied.

Qiao Mu was at a slight loss for words as she watched the two pretty ones scratch each other's faces until they were covered in red traces. They were even hurling all kinds of abuse while pointing at each other.

At last, the manager flew into a thunderous rage and pointed at those girls having a catfight, waving his hand at them. "Scram!!"

Before long, an attendant carried over a huge rock from inside the courtyard.

The manager shouted with a darkened face, "You don't need to fight with each other anymore!" It really scarred the eyes!

"Only those women able to lift this huge rock in one move will be hired."

"Ah, it's so heavy, how is it possible." The orioles and swallows started exclaiming.

Chapter 502: The Scene Was Too Beautiful

"That's right! Manager! Can you switch to another method!" A girl in the front called out daintily while twisting her handkerchief.

The senior manager darkened his face and glimpsed at that lovely lady. Seeing this, the lovely lady immediately winked flirtatiously back at him, but instead only incited one word from the scowling senior manager: "Scram—"

His shout was thunderous, even resonating afterwards.

It scared the females into yielding, and they hurriedly went forth to lift the huge rock one after another. That scene was too beautiful that she simply couldn't look at it directly.

Qiao Mu saw a young lady rub her fists and wipe her palms as she went up. She first used her handkerchief to wipe her sweat. Then, she stretched out her arms and sprawled on the huge rock with her entire body, shouting heave-ho for half the day...

The huge rock didn't budge one bit!

The senior manager that was looking down from the steps, as well as the estate's servants, were simultaneously drenched in sweat that flowed down their foreheads like a waterfall.

"Next!" Simply a waste of time!

"Senior Manager, let me try again!" That young lady cried out as two servants dragged her away on her heels.

Qiao Mu was completely at a loss for words.

The young lady who went up this time was dressed in black, with agile and graceful movements. She steadily lifted up the huge rock on her first try, which earned her the senior manager's look of approval.

"Excellent! Go over there to register your name. Next one!"

After several weak and delicate girls in a row got dragged away by the servants, the remaining females were on pins and needles.

They really wanted to lift up this huge rock so that they could successfully enter the Qin Estate. But unfortunately, out of the few hundred females that had tested so far, only that black-clothed young lady had valiantly lifted up the huge rock and was hired on the spot.

After this black-clothed young lady finished her registration, she stepped to the side and crossed her arms. She collectedly watched the orioles and swallows' attempts with an air of slight arrogance.

"Dong dong dong dong dong!" Booming footsteps suddenly attracted the crowd's attention. When they turned their head to look, they were all stunned speechless, their eyes straining so much that they were about to pop out of their sockets.

The woman who walked up was about 25 or 26 years old. She had a robust and pudgy physique that was at least three to four times wider than that of other girls.

Her two arms wrapped around that huge rock that was half a person's height, and with a sudden stomp and heave, she instantly raised the huge rock above her head.

"Good!" The old manager shouted. He waved at the robust woman and then pointed at the black-clothed female standing to one side. "Go register, and then stand next to that young lady."

"Dong dong dong dong dong!" As the pudgy woman took earth-shaking footsteps, the surrounding females' jaws were about to drop to the ground.

"F*ck. Even this d*mn fatso can enter the Qin Estate!"

"Manager! Won't hiring this fatso be too much of an eyesore for the estate!?"

"That's right, that's right. She's so fat and ugly. Even if she just stands in the courtyard, it'll feel like she'll have snatched away most of the fresh air there!"

The manager glared fiercely at them. "Stop prattling! Step up if you want to test. If you don't, make way and leave immediately!"

Those young ladies who were clamoring the most vehemently instantly deflated. After they failed to budge the hug rock, they gloomily retreated to the back with their tails between their legs.

At long last, it was our dear Qiao Mu's turn to test. Under the senior manager's rather formidable gaze, Qiao Mu walked up and lifted up the huge rock with two hands while putting on an act. She pretended that her strength was exhausted not long afterwards and dropped the huge rock back onto the ground.

The senior manager gave a "mhm," then nodded and said, "Go over there to register! Even though you're young, you're quite strong. Not bad, you're a useful one."

Qiao Mu nodded with her stoic face and walked up to the table on the side. Without even pondering, she wrote down three characters: Mu Xiao Bao[1].

Chapter 503: Second Qin

Just as she put down the brush and straightened her body, she heard someone in the back of the crowd squealing in pleasant surprise, "Aiyah, Second Young Master has returned."

Thereupon, all the females immediately got hyped up and ran up to surround a carriage.

The servants hastily ran over to disperse the crowd, even rudely shoving the young ladies to the sides of the road, but they could only clear out a narrow path.

The senior manager strode forth and bowed in greeting, personally lifting up the carriage curtain for the second young master.

As the Qin Estate's Second Young Master, Qin Xin, descended slowly from the carriage, the surroundings were instantly silenced as the swarm of love-struck fools gazed at Second Young Master Qin, practically about to drool.

The second young master was dressed in a pale silk cheongsam and wore a greenish-black jade belt with a black bamboo pattern around his waist. He paired this on the exterior with an ink-colored long robe

with wide sleeves. His long, flowing hair was slightly disheveled from the chilly wind, but it didn't mar his gorgeous beauty that was as flawless as silk and jade.

He really was elegant and graceful, with an outstanding disposition. With each turn of his gaze, a forest-green fluorescence would flicker in the depths of his eyes.

Upon casting a glance over in his direction, Qiao Mu was immediately stunned.

It was as if her entire being was possessed; her eyes bulged slightly, and she inadvertently clenched her fists silently, her entire body quivering inexplicably.

Him, it's him?

How was it him?

Qiao Mu resolutely suppressed her urge to immediately turn around and run away. Her entire body was stiff as she stood with her stoic face next to the black-clothed female. She stared blankly at Second Young Master Qin, who was walking closer and closer to her.

When he walked over, he was like how he had been in the past. His jadeite-green eyes were tinged with a faint luminous smile, and it felt as if his deep eyes were brimming with a fantastical magical power that could suck your soul in bit by bit into its abyss.

Qiao Mu turned a deaf ear to the love-struck fools' screams of "Second Young Master" behind him. Her brain was buzzing as she watched that slender figure approach.

He suddenly stopped before her.

To say more precisely, he stopped to her left side, right in front of that black-clothed young lady.

Even though the black-clothed young lady looked just like a valiant tomboy when she lifted the rock earlier, her entire body was weak in the knees at this moment, being stared at by Second Young Master Qin. She immediately hung her head bashfully.

"Cheng Yuezhu greets Second Young Master." After the black-clothed young lady recovered from her spell of shyness, she greeted Second Qin naturally and at ease.

After Second Qin glanced at her for an instant, he then turned to meticulously size Qiao Mu up.

When Qiao Mu felt his gaze on her, all the hairs on her body immediately stood on end. Her little hedgehog state was fully exposed, and although she was hanging her head slightly, all the pores on her body were on full alert against this man before her.

When Second Qin suddenly took a step closer to her, our dear Qiao Mu immediately shrunk backwards on reflex. Practically instantaneously, she hid her entire body behind the wide and chubby sister.

The chubby girl bashfully bowed in greeting towards Second Qin. "Second Young Master."

"Step aside." Second Qin swept the chubby girl a displeased glance. Although his eyes were smiling, it pressured people into feeling a chill for no reason.

The chubby sister hastily retreated to the side, but how could she have imagined that our dear Qiao Mu would be like a small tail. Qiao Mu followed her in retreating to the side and still blocked herself by borrowing the chubby girl's huge figure!

The second young master was involuntarily angered into laughter. He pointed at Qiao Mu, hiding behind the chubby girl. "Who is she?"

The senior manager hurriedly brought over the roster on the side and flipped to the last page, saying, "She is a maidservant that we hired in Eldest Young Master's open recruitment for maidservants that know a bit of martial arts. Her name is Mu Xiao Bao."

Chapter 504: I'll Choose Her

"I'll choose her." Second Qin nodded and said dryly, "It just so happens that this young master killed one of my quarters' servant girls that overstepped her boundaries two days ago. She'll take her place."

The senior manager's jaw was about to drop to the floor. "This? Young Master, I fear this may not be appropriate. She just entered the estate, so she doesn't understand anything. How can she go serve in the young master's quarters? She's better suited as a watering and sweeping maidservant in the outer yard!"

Your entire family are watering and sweeping maidservants! Qiao Mu poked her head out from behind the wide, chubby girl and glared icily at the senior manager.

The senior manager: ...

"I choose this stoic face. Send her to my court later." After giving this order, Second Qin turned around and walked into the interior of the estate.

Phooey! Who wants to go to your bullsh*t court!

Qiao Mu shivered inwardly and was about to slip away outside, but two servants ran up and said to her with eyes full of benign envy, "Little Miss, follow us inside!"

I don't want to!! She only came to the Qin Estate to secretly investigate the exact relationship between this Qin Estate and the Holy Water Sect incident back then.

But now, she actually bumped into that terrifying person!

She of course didn't want to continue staying in this hellhole, not to mention running away. Who wanted to go to that whatever young master's court!

However, if she left just like this, wouldn't all her efforts of standing in such a long line and taking that d*mn test all go down the drain!

Was the Qin Estate connected to the Shuntian Prefecture or not? Did that Liu Yizhi have some relation to the Qin Estate?

"Please, Little Miss!" The servants gazed in puzzlement at this indecisive little lady that had anchored herself to the entrance.

This really was a strange girl.

In the Qin Estate, which little lass wouldn't be ecstatic from being informed they had been chosen by Eldest Young Master or Second Young Master? Why was this person's reaction so peculiar? It almost felt like she was about to run away any second now?

The servants quickly and deftly blocked our dear Qiao Mu's way out, and they invited her into the Qin Estate with both the carrot and stick approach.

Qiao Mu was led to Second Qin's court in bewilderment.

When she entered the garden, she saw quite a few red-crowned cranes fluffing their feathers with lowered beaks. They strolled leisurely through the courtyard, as if there were no one else present.

Qiao Mu looked up overhead at the lacquered plaque: Crane Garden.

She recalled those large cranes on the Holy Water Sect's snowy peaks. When the Holy Water Sect was exterminated, those large cranes had either died or fled.

Qiao Mu automatically walked up to a red-crowned crane and stretched out a small hand, wanting to stroke that crane's feathers, when she heard a crisp, ill-mannered, and angry rebuke enter her ears abruptly. "Insolent!"

Turning her head around, Qiao Mu saw a female draped in a white ferret-fur cloak. Half of that woman's small and glossy face sunk into her white fur collar, revealing only a small, exquisite nose and animated eyes.

"Greetings to Miss Song." Two servants hastily bowed in greeting towards the miss, not daring to slight her at all.

Qiao Mu's movement halted only momentarily before she continued and stroked that red-crowned crane's feathers. She kept a stoic face and didn't bother one bit with the fuming Miss Song by the side.

"Who allowed you to touch it? Someone, come and chop off both her hands for me!" Miss Song's darkened face emitted a dense and dangerous scent.

Just as she spoke, two body cultivators immediately stepped out from behind her and promptly reached for Qiao Mu's shoulders.

"Song Yingxiu, you're too full of yourself! Who gave you the guts to act so wantonly in my garden?" Second Qin's frigid voice sounded from his quarters, and a chilly wind assaulted the two body cultivators, immediately toppling them to the ground.

Chapter 505: Didn't You Want to Draw My Attention?

Qiao Mu picked up a round fruit from a nearby wooden pail and fed it to the red-crowned crane. She was playing happily with the large crane and naturally ignored the servants' fearful gazes.

Truthfully, she hadn't even seen how Song Yingxiu ran away in tears after being severely reprimanded by Second Young Master Qin. She just stroked the crane's feathers, oblivious to everyone around her.

"Hah." Second Young Master Qin snickered.

Qiao Mu suddenly felt an icy presence nearing her. She reflexively patted the crane's head and then leaped backwards, dodging the second young master's outstretched palm.

Second Qin's hand froze in mid-air. It unexpectedly missed the little fellow by more than an inch, not even grazing a hair on her body.

How preposterous!

"If you're attempting to draw this young master's attention with your peculiar actions, then you've succeeded!"

The second young master was so furious that he flung his sleeves while turning around. He reprimanded coldly, "Come with me!"

The red-crowned crane next to her was extremely intelligent and ran to the other side while flapping its wings. Qiao Mu stood all alone in the garden and looked left and right.

She saw the estate's servants all glowering at her.

When Qiao Mu didn't budge at all after quite a while, one of the servants couldn't stand it any more and roared angrily at Qiao Mu, "Go!"

Oh, so Second Qin was bellowing at her just now...

It really was an unfathomable mystery how he was so temperamental and got angry whenever, just the same as in her previous life!

If it was not because she wasn't resigned and wanted to infiltrate and search his study, she wouldn't bother with staying here and suffering this mistreatment!

Qiao Mu walked to the entrance of Second Young Master Qin's wing and abruptly raised her leg to give it a kick.

The group of servants standing far away all felt their eyelids twitch...

"Bang!" A certain someone was like an Omega Supreme Girl, breaking down the second young master's door with one kick.

Everyone was rendered speechless...

Inside the Drizzle Court's drawing room.

A group of sing-song girls were presently singing and dancing handsomely to accompanying wind and percussion instruments. Lyrical melodies drifted about in the air.

A slender, dark purple figure reclined in the seat of honor. His long and loose hair seemed like splashed ink as it hung to his waist, cascading like a natural waterfall.

With a cup in one hand and his jaw in the other, a faint smile hung on the corner of his lips. He had a natural vermillion dot between his brows, and his beautiful and seductive pair of captivating and enchanting eyes was flickering with all kinds of flirtatious looks.

"Eldest Young Master, is Jade Hue Parlor's Miss Ran actually dancing that well? Look at you, you didn't even blink while watching her performance!" A woman draped in a red sheer shawl called out coyly while snuggling her half-exposed bosom against Eldest Qin's arm, her eyes filled with jealousy.

As Eldest Qin's gaze followed the swiftly twirling woman in her magnificent, billowing pleated skirt, his eyes gleamed faintly.

"It is indeed pretty good." He answered unhurriedly in a deep and low voice.

"Young Master, the second manager is here."

Eldest Qin beckoned to the person standing outside the door. The second manager hurriedly jogged inside while bending at the waist. He respectfully bowed in greeting. "This humble one, Cui Deji, greets Eldest Young Master."

"I heard that my second brother's Crane Garden has been calling in a door craftsman every day for the past two days. What's going on?"

The second manager's mouth twitched, and then he coughed lightly, saying, "Eldest Young Master, there is indeed such a matter. It's all that darn unmannered girl's fault. She hasn't even entered the estate for two days, but she's sent Crane Garden into total chaos. She's infuriated Second Young Master quite a bit."

"Oh?" Eldest Qin narrowed his eyes slightly. "What little girl?"

Chapter 506: Meeting an Old Acquaintance

The second manager recounted the chaotic mess that happened in Crane Garden during the past two days. Yet contrary to expectations, Eldest Qin burst out into loud laughter.

"What an interesting little girl. This young master really wants to summon her over for a look!"

The pink-lipped woman leaning on Eldest Young Master Qin bit her lower lip. She suppressed the jealousy in the depths of her eyes and said coquettishly, "Eldest Young Master, what is there to see in a darn little girl?"

At this time, the music and dancing had already ended. Jade Hue Parlor's lead courtesan, Miss Ran, strolled forward in her red dress and bowed to Eldest Young Master Qin.

Eldest Qin smiled. "As Miss Ran had come, I originally thought that Second Brother would definitely answer my invite and come take a look, but I didn't expect him to be preoccupied by some mundane affairs."

Zhao Qiran bowed to the eldest young master once again and said faintly, "Qiran is only a courtesan and is not worthy of Second Young Master's generous affection."

"Miss Ran truly is excessively modest. Who isn't aware of how many aristocrats have been stunned by your celestial bearing in your moon dance performance." The eldest young master said with a smile.

Zhao Qiran's lips were turned up into a faint smile, but the depths of her eyes couldn't hide her slight disappointment.

Eldest Qin observed this, and a profound smile crept onto his lips.

Tsk, this charming Miss Ran, the leading courtesan of Jade Hue Parlor, was purported to be so lofty and unyielding in character that none of the nobles and aristocrats could deflower her. However, it really was very intriguing how she actually developed a crush on his second brother after a chance encounter.

The recent days have been quite boring, so he should find something for his second brother to do...

Inside the study of Crane Garden.

The eldest young master thought that his second brother was idling away, but how could he have known—

That handsome and elegant Second Young Master Qin was currently glaring with a darkened face at a certain someone standing before the desk. He reprimanded, “You can even cause such pandemonium by grinding ink. Look at how the entire room is splattered in your ink!!”

Was this darling the type of person who performed these kinds of menial tasks? You’ve got to be kidding me!

“The senior manager said I’m suited for watering and sweeping in the outer courtyard. Young Master should transfer me out there.” The little lady said without much of an expression.

The senior manager who just entered almost bumped his head into the door frame. The corner of his mouth twitched repeatedly, and then he announced with a light cough, “Young Master, this old servant has brought over Miss Caiwei.”

“Perfect timing.” Second Qin massaged his swelling temples. “Caiwei, bring her back to your place and instruct her properly. Send her back over after two days.”

Don’t do those incongruous things all the time!

It should have been like this from the beginning! How sensible could this girl be, having just entered the estate? The senior manager smiled so widely that his eyes were imperceptible, and he gestured for Caiwei to bring Qiao Mu away with a wave of his hand.

Caiwei gave a curtsy, and just as she started walking towards Qiao Mu, Qiao Mu turned around and walked outside. She didn’t give a backwards glance nor extend so much as a farewell.

Second Qin was so irritated that he smashed his teacup. He kept feeling that his condition was off these past two days, almost as if he was being masochistic. He hadn’t had one uneventful day ever since he brought back this stoic face.

Nevertheless...

He didn’t know why, but when he first saw the little stoic outside the gate, there was an especially fervent voice in his heart that kept saying: Bring her back, bring her back, bring her back!

“Stand there!” After exiting the young master’s study, Caiwei shouted angrily.

Qiao Mu rubbed her arms with both hands. After leaving that person’s study, she only felt a bit of warmth after being enveloped by the warm sunlight.

That person... actually turned out to be the second young master of the Qin Estate.

Her trauma from her previous life was still vivid in her mind. She didn't expect to encounter him so quickly in this lifetime.

She didn't even visit Guanlan City at all in her previous life...

Back then, when Fan Qiuhe had tormented her so that she was barely clinging on to her last breath, she was carried out from the dark room by this Second Young Master Qin.

Chapter 507: Taming Her?

Her consciousness was muddled for a good several months, and she only improved slightly after a long period of nourishment.

At that time, this Second Qin was the 'master' who treated her like he was raising a little pet. When he was in a cheerful mood, he would come to tease and play with her. When he was moody, it was possible for him to give her the cold shoulder for two days and three nights, practically starving her until the eyes of her whites showed.

In order to tame her, this tiny pet, this 'master' of hers once tried to starve her for five days, not even letting her drink a drop of water.

He wanted her to call him "Master!"

She snubbed him from beginning to end, obstinately refusing to yield to this form of address.

At that time, her four limbs were completely incapable of moving. Hence, after five days, not only was her body emaciated, but she was also so filthy that her original appearance practically could not be discerned.

When she recalled this incident, Qiao Mu shuddered intensely.

When he finally remembered her and strolled over leisurely, she was strenuously pushing her head against the floor. She looked exactly like a dirty loach, slowly crawling in frustration.

She wanted to die! She didn't want to live like this!

However, at that time, even death seemed to be like an extravagant hope. He could thwart her efforts with a single finger, and everything would have been for naught.

She really didn't care to, didn't want to, live in such humiliation. Yet death, was that difficult.

Now, it won't ever be like this again! It won't—

He had resorted to such desperate measures back then, and yet he was still not able to tame her. Now, he wanted to arrange an insignificant maidservant to criticize her on how to conduct herself? He could go dream on!

"Did you hear me telling you to stand there!!" Caiwei shouted. When she saw the little lady giving no response, she involuntarily got angry and vexed, and she rushed forwards, wanting to tug at her.

Qiao Mu reflexively punched back with her fist, which smashed heavily into Caiwei's deformed face with a "bang."

By the time Caiwei brought Qiao Mu back to Blue Mountain Courtyard while covering her grossly swollen left eye, it was almost dusk.

The entire courtyard was filled with orioles and swallows that had gathered there to crack melon seeds and shoot the breeze. When they saw Caiwei enter, they quickly put on smiles and came over to greet her. "Sister Caiwei is back!"

"Hello, Sister Caiwei."

"Sister Caiwei, you came back so late tonight."

Blue Mountain Courtyard was responsible for all the maidservants that tended to the Qin Estate's outer courtyards. Caiwei was about 25 or 26 years old and was considered one of the Qin Estate's long-time servants. She was presently Blue Mountain Courtyard's Assistant Manager.

When Caiwei put down her palm, revealing a panda eye, everyone couldn't help but look at each other in bewilderment.

In the Qin Estate, besides those few personal maidservants of the Master, the Madam, and the Young Masters, practically all the girls treated Sister Caiwei with deference. Who in the world had such guts to have actually given Sister Caiwei a black eye?

Caiwei didn't say anything and only turned to Qiao Mu with a gloomy face, saying, "You'll stay on the north side, in the third room of the second row."

Everyone gazed simultaneously at the stoic-faced little lady. Their eyes contained smiles that didn't harbor good intentions and intended to watch the fun.

Qiao Mu didn't pester her either and promptly took the matching tile before heading to her lodging.

She didn't walk too far before halting her footsteps and glancing backwards, saying, "You can come out."

A large and plump figure toddled over in a jog. She was the chubby girl who had entered the estate the same day as her.

"You, you're really going to that room?" The chubby girl stared at her in slight horror.

"Hm?"

The chubby girl quickly ran closer and stood still before panting to catch her breath. "T-They say that on the north side, a strange sound can be heard from the third room in the second row when it gets late into the night. They say that a girl had hung herself in that room before, so it's very possible that it's... haunted."

"Oh." The little lady nodded. "Thank you for informing me."

"You're not afraid?" The chubby girl's eyes bulged out of their sockets.

Chapter 508: Want to Mess with Her?

Qiao Mu shook her head.

She even had the courage to once again confront the devastation and desolation in the Holy Water Sect. There was not much else in this world that could terrify her.

“M-My name is Yuanyuan[1]. How about you, Little Sister?” The chubby girl revealed a candid smile, gazing anxiously at this little lady who had a very ordinary appearance yet had a beautiful pair of extremely cold and cheerless eyes.

“Mu Xiao Bao.” Qiao Mu said softly.

“Oh, so your name is Xiao Bao.” Xiang Yuanyuan cracked a smile. “Then, then if you happen to get scared staying by yourself in that haunted room in the middle of the night, you can come find me! I stay in the fourth room, in the row before yours.”

Xiang Yuanyuan scratched her head, and then she said with a chuckle, “Our room has four sisters who are all pretty easy to get along with. If you sneak over to our place in the middle of the night, no one will tattle on you.”

Qiao Mu nodded slightly, indicating that she understood.

Xiang Yuanyuan pointed in the direction of her own room. “T-Then I’ll head back first. Right, we eat dinner in the cafeteria, so don’t get there too late, or else they’ll be out of food.”

“Thank you for your reminder.” After Qiao Mu replied, they parted and returned to their own rooms.

There were four rooms in the second row on the north side. Only the third room was reserved for her use, while the surrounding rooms were just empty storage rooms.

It seemed like no one dared to stay in any of the rooms in this row because of that ghost or something.

Yet upon opening the door, Darling Qiao nearly fainted from the putrid stench of dust.

How long had it been since someone lived here?

They wanted her to stay in this shabby room?

Humph, these people wanted to harm her and make her stay in this room with such poor air quality. She, of course, wouldn’t do as they wished.

After shutting the door, Qiao Mu had the sapling pull her into Paradise Planet. She personally ran over to her vegetable field and plucked two large heads of cabbage, intending to make do with cooking a cabbage hot pot for her meal.

“Master, Master, set down the pot you’re holding! Let me cook!” The little treant darted over and shouted swiftly in a loud voice.

Last time when Master cooked noodles, she not only cooked through the bottom of the pot but also enshrouded the peach forest in smoke. This almost frightened the sapling into thinking that it had caught on fire.

Master clearly had that all-purpose food box that contained many dishes from various restaurants, but she just liked to cook food herself. It really was an enigma!

However, one time, Qiuqiu distinctly overheard its master murmuring to herself as she carried the small pot, saying, only by cooking something every day could she feel that there were signs of smoke and fire[2]...

This immediately tugged dearly at Qiuqiu's heartstrings. *So Master was missing home.*

At this time, Qiao Mu laughed sarcastically and threw down the small pot in her hands, knowing that she was in the wrong.

Nowadays, she found Qiuqiu more pleasing to the eye. It could cultivate medicinal herbs, plant vegetables, harvest vegetables, pick fruits, and now, it could even cook and make a simple stew. It indeed was a useful one.

In any case, it was better than having her cook through the bottom of the pot.

Sigh, when she observed Mother and Shaoyao cooking in the past, they could easily produce several dishes with a casual motion of the hand, but she felt it to be especially difficult when she did it!

She ran to the empty space behind the peach forest, where the sapling had constructed three large storehouses: one for medicinal herbs, another for harvested vegetables, and yet another one for peaches only.

There were two carriages fully loaded with fruit in front of the storehouse. These were the goods that Second Uncle had gathered with her guidance fee way back then. Even until now, they hadn't eaten much of the fruit, so these two carriages were still packed full.

Qiao Mu went to pick up a cluster of grapes and snipped off 20 to 30 individual grapes, throwing them into a small basket. Just as she was planning to go wash them by the lake, she halted her footsteps.

Chapter 509: Elixirs

She tilted her small head and looked at her palm. With a single thought, a glistening stream of water, as limpid as a clear spring, emerged from her fingers.

The little water child, Dottie, told her that she could easily manipulate a tiny brooklet with her current cultivation.

However, if she wanted to launch a large attack like what she did last time, she needed to mobilize all the mystic energy in her body. Besides, she would probably exhaust all her mystic energy with that one maneuver.

After rinsing the grapes with the brooklet in her hand, Qiao Mu popped one into her mouth.

The fruit was still fresh and succulent after sitting on Paradise Planet for such a long time. However, they were no longer normal grapes, since they now contained some traces of mystic energy. She could taste a juicy sweetness that directly cooled her heart.

That year, when she wanted to drive the little water child away, it had cried until the heavens shook and the gods wept. Its tears flowed unceasingly, and consequently, the little water child utterly improved the water quality on Paradise Planet...

The result was that all the peach trees planted on the lakeside simultaneously bore peaches, each larger and juicier than the other.

These two years, the peach trees had borne several batches of fruit, which the little treants stuffed into the storehouse after picking them.

Last time, Qiuqiu had even grumbled that there were so many peaches in the storehouse that it could barely hold any more.

But that was reasonable. She reckoned that the peach trees on Paradise Planet occupied nearly 100 mu[1] of land. They were also close to a water source, so they thrived especially luxuriantly.

Furthermore, the storehouse that Qiuqiu had constructed was very large. If this were anywhere else, one harvest would have been enough to fill the entire storehouse.

There was rather not much of a variety in medicinal herbs, so it didn't even yet fill up a fifth of the large storehouse with medicinal materials.

Qiao Mu strolled to her medicinal garden as she snacked. After inspecting it, she saw that all the medicinal herbs were flourishing in her seven to eight-mu medicinal field.

She had segregated the poisonous plants in a separate area to avoid ruining the other plants' medicinal effects.

However, she had very limited varieties of precious herbs, so the medicinal powders and solutions that she could concoct really were few.

Green radish poison solution and the green radish pill could be considered the same type.

She had also made an ample amount of poison-dispelling pills, which could basically cure all common poisons.

There was also a rarer pill, the longevity pill, that she had made using longevity flowers. By her speculation, mystic cultivators level-10 and lower could increase their life expectancy by at least two to three years after consuming it.

However, this longevity pill could only be consumed once; consuming it more wouldn't produce any effects. Consuming it long-term could at most nourish the person's body and thoroughly free them from sickness and pain for a period of time.

Speaking of which, its medicinal effects were quite incredible.

If some level-nine mystic cultivator stuck at a bottleneck happened to use this pill to prolong his life by two to three years and hence broke through to become a level-10 great mystic cultivator, then his limit of a 100-year life span would increase by leaps and bounds.

As long as the person didn't have a death wish, a level-10 great mystic cultivator could live to at least 120 to 130 years old without any problems.

Normal people's life expectancies were basically 70 to 80 years, and this was already considered a long life span.

Most importantly, this longevity pill of Qiao Mu's was also effective for normal people.

Qiao Mu was basically building a cart behind closed doors, so she wasn't too informed. In her previous life, she had heard that pill alchemists were differentiated by rank and that they also produced pills of varying quality.

She didn't know what rank this longevity pill of hers would be considered.

Last time when she fed it to Qingluan for a taste, that fellow only told her with shining eyes that it was very tasty...

Was she asking it about the flavor? What a baffling fellow!

Chapter 510: Setting Qiaoqiao on Fire

She had also made a hemostatic ointment, created from the herbs nurtured from the hemostatic seeds that Second Uncle had procured.

However, her hemostatic ointment was different from the type available on the market. The hemostatic ointment on the market could only fully stop the bleeding after five minutes.

Meanwhile, hers could basically stop the bleeding upon application.

Its effects were more or less similar to the secret ointment that the crown prince had smeared on her hand the first time they met. Or perhaps, its effects were even superior.

However, after experimenting and producing two small jars of this hemostatic ointment, she was disinclined to make any more.

As for medicinal powders, she produced a few poison powders with a stone mortar and pestle, but they were so-so and were only effective towards mystic cultivators level-seven and below. She didn't even bother to give them names.

At her current level, these kinds of poison powders weren't too useful to her. Her opponents now were great mystic cultivators level-10 and above, so she was basically making them for nothing.

When all was said and done, it was all because she had too little variety of herbs. Only seven to eight mu[1] of her 30 mu medicinal field, not even a third, had been planted with herbs so far.

After a round of inspection, she was quite satisfied wherever she looked. Afterwards, she went to the treehouse and fed the little white squirrel several mouthfuls of the life-prolonging medicinal solution. After holding it in her arms for a while, she retraced her steps to the front of the peach forest.

This kind of life-prolonging medicinal solution guaranteed that Chirpy wouldn't lose its source of life in those two to three days, and its little life wouldn't be endangered even if it didn't ingest a grain of rice.

Oh, she wondered when her pitiful little squirrel would awaken.

When she returned to the empty land before the peach forest, she saw the little treant bouncing over slowly in her direction while carrying a moderately-sized pot of cabbage and meat slice stew.

Qiao Mu reflexively took a sniff when she saw the steaming pot of cabbage and meat slice stew. Her eyes sparkled slightly, and she jogged over to Qiuqiu, lifting it up in her hands, as well as taking over the pot while she was at it.

"Thank you, Qiuqiu." Thank you for humoring me so and accompanying me this entire time; you are a companion I cannot do without in my life...

"Master, what are you saying. You don't need to thank me for something so simple!" Qiuqiu blinked its black and beady eyes, gazing at her cutely.

Qiao Mu twitched her mouth slightly as she sat down cross-legged. She then picked up her chopsticks and started eating in small mouthfuls.

In actuality, she didn't eat too much, as it wasn't possible for one person to finish off an entire pot of food. It was only that she liked smelling the aroma of and seeing that gradually rising steam and smoke from cooking on Paradise Planet. It was just like, like... home was right before her eyes.

"Master, is it tasty?"

"It's tasty." Qiao Mu nodded. She didn't say that this fellow Qiuqiu forgot to put in salt again. Mhm, after all, it was better than her cooking through the bottom of the pot!

"Master, someone's outside." Qiuqiu's perception had now already advanced a lot and could immediately catch on to any danger nearing her within a few kilometers.

Qiao Mu sneered and picked up two slices of meat with her chopsticks, stuffing them into her mouth. "Don't mind them. Let them be."

She hadn't even finished a third of the pot of cabbage and meat slice stew, but Darling Qiao wasn't willing to throw out the rest either. Wasting food was shameful after all!

Since it wouldn't spoil inside the paradise, she covered it with the lid and climbed up to the treehouse, falling asleep soundly while hugging the little white squirrel.

The next day.

When Second Qin received news saying that a block of rooms inside Blue Mountain Courtyard had caught on fire and burnt a maidservant to death, his heart couldn't help jolting slightly.

He immediately brought someone with him to Blue Mountain Courtyard in all urgency. Upon summoning Caiwei over, he lashed out at her and castigated her harshly. His complexion sunk as he asked, "Where is she?"