

R Woman 721

Chapter 721: The Bigger the Stir, the Better

Mo Zhixuan simply stood there and spoke with steadfast composure, "Rest assured, I will not regret it, and I hope the second Elder will not go back on his word when the time comes."

Mo Zhixuan was aware of Chu Jin's strength.

He also knew that Chu Jin would not lose in this trial competition.

It's not bragging to say that in all three realms, nearly no one could rival Chu Jin, except for him.

Therefore, Mo Zhixuan was very assured of Chu Jin.

The second Elder chuckled, then turned to look at Chu Jin, his tone mocking, "Miss Chu, I hope you won't disappoint us, for Zhixuan has placed great expectations on you."

The greater the expectations, the greater the disappointment.

The second Elder was currently feeling very smug.

In the end, Mo Zhixuan still could not escape the fate of marrying Xi He.

Once Mo Zhixuan married Xi He, for the rest of his life, he would not be able to leave the Superpower World at will.

In the Superpower World, there was no such thing as divorce.

Chu Jin was not angry either, she slightly turned and stared directly into the second Elder's eyes, smiling lightly, "Whether there will be disappointment, the trial ground will naturally reveal the truth."

Her tone was light, yet it carried an inexplicable pressure, each word resounding clearly as they were uttered.

In that moment, Chu Jin's presence erupted with a powerful aura.

Chu Jin didn't care much for this second Elder.

From the eyes of the second Elder, she saw endless greed.

The second Elder narrowed his eyes; people seldom met his gaze due to his status, and since the eyes are the windows to the soul, he did not expect Chu Jin to be so calm and collected while looking him in the eye.

Most importantly, the second Elder couldn't find a trace of fear in her eyes.

From start to finish, her demeanor was unlike that of an ordinary person.

Indeed, there was a difference between the reincarnation of an empress and the common folk.

The second Elder suppressed his surprise, smiling, "I hope Miss Chu can still smile so freely when the time comes."

"Certainly," Chu Jin replied, without a hint of modesty.

Although the second Elder was an elder, he had provoked her time and again, and thus, she saw no need to give him any face.

Respect is mutual.

The second Elder was taken aback and held his tongue, not expecting Chu Jin to speak so disrespectfully!

After all, he was an elder!

Couldn't she be more humble?

Chu Jin dared to speak so arrogantly, probably because she relied on her identity as the reincarnation of an empress.

Among ordinary people, indeed, the reincarnation of an empress was outstanding, one in ten thousand.

But the trial ground was not an ordinary competition ground, did Chu Jin think just by being the reincarnation of an empress she could win effortlessly?

Impossible!

Chu Jin was too arrogant!

Contemptuous of everyone around her!

This was probably, aside from Mo Zhixuan, the only person who dared to contradict the second Elder so boldly.

Xi He, standing to the side, looked at Chu Jin with admiration shining in her eyes.

She had always liked beautiful things.

She could see that Chu Jin was not as simple as the Elders imagined; if she were merely an ordinary person, she wouldn't have stood by Mo Zhixuan until today, nor would she have come to the Superpower World so easily.

The Elders only saw Chu Jin's secular background, but failed to notice her advantages.

The person before them, in appearance, temperament, and cultivation, was someone not just the secular world but also the Superpower World could not produce.

All in all, Xi He had 99% confidence in Chu Jin.

She believed that Chu Jin would definitely stand out in this trial competition.

With that thought, Xi He proactively walked up to Chu Jin, extending her right hand and said in a very friendly manner, "Hello Miss Chu, my name is Xi He, 'Xi' from Fuxi, and 'He' from harmonizing the world. You can just call me by my name."

Xi He had a favorable impression of Chu Jin.

Most importantly, Chu Jin could help her break free from the Elders' constraints.

With Chu Jin's help, she could gain her freedom.

The name Xi He was chosen to symbolize harmony and peace in the world.

Originally, the third Elder took her as his disciple because of her name as well.

What kind of family would give their child a name that carries the meaning of harmonizing and bringing peace to the world?

Clearly, Xi He's background was extraordinary.

"That's a beautiful name," Chu Jin shook her hand, her tone light, "I am Chu Jin, 'Chu' from the Chu River and Han Border, 'Jin' from the splendid rivers and mountains."

Like Xi He, Chu Jin greatly appreciated this 'love rival.'

Just like her name, Xi He gave off a very auspicious and serene vibe, as if any annoyance could be instantly forgotten upon seeing her.

Moreover, Chu Jin could tell that Xi He had no special feelings towards Mo Zhixuan.

She was simply compelled by circumstances.

In Xi He's heart, there was someone else.

"Thank you," Xi He said with a joyful smile, "Miss Chu, your name is also very pleasant to hear."

Xi He was surprised by Chu Jin's attitude towards her.

Any other person, upon meeting their 'love rival,' would surely assume a cold demeanor and mock each other.

But Chu Jin was different; she was amiable, beautiful, like a fairy.

Xi He still had not encountered someone so stunning.

Moreover, Xi He could see that Chu Jin's attitude towards her was genuine.

She harbored no hostility towards Xi He at all.

Chu Jin slightly curled her lips and continued, "If you don't mind, you can call me Jin."

"Okay, Jin, then you can call me Xi He," Xi He said cheerfully.

Mo Zhixuan and the Elders standing by were all stunned.

Could it be that their eyes were deceiving them?

It was truly the first time they had seen such a harmonious relationship between rivals!

Originally, the Elders thought that Chu Jin would curse out Xi He or resort to physical violence upon seeing her, and they were prepared to use this opportunity to give Chu Jin a lecture.

Such a person wouldn't even qualify to enter the trial grounds.

But despite all their calculations, they never anticipated that Chu Jin would become friends with Xi He.

And even call each other by their first names.

Chu Jin had even exchanged social media contacts with Xi He.

Xi He was no better.

Didn't she know her own status? How could she be so friendly towards an ordinary person! This was simply bringing shame to the Superpower World.

However, due to Mo Zhixuan's presence, the Elders didn't say much.

It took the Second Elder quite some time to gather his wits, and then he continued, "Since Miss Chu has already signed the document, we will not bother you any longer, farewell."

"Elders, please take care," Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan stood up to see them out.

Even if they didn't like the Elders, they still had to put on appearances.

So as not to provoke gossip.

"Goodbye, Jin," Xi He whispered, turning back to say farewell to Chu Jin after walking a few steps.

"Goodbye," Chu Jin also waved to her.

Mo Zhixuan, standing aside, was somewhat speechless. He even began to doubt whether Chu Jin loved him anymore! Otherwise, how could she get along so well with her rival?

Only indifference could account for such calmness.

Chu Jin turned and started walking back, but Mo Zhixuan blocked her path, "Jin, Xi He is your rival! How can you be friends with your rival? Tell me, have you fallen for someone else? Who is it? Mo Qianjue or Song Shiqin? Or some other man?"

In Mo Zhixuan's heart, Mo Qianjue and Song Shiqin would always be his greatest rivals.

Chu Jin looked up indifferently, "Mr. Mo, may I ask, aren't you a bit too conceited? Do you think you are renminbi, beloved by everyone?"

If Xi He doesn't even like Mo Zhixuan, can she really be considered a rival?

Mr. Mo is just too full of himself!

Hearing this, Mr. Mo was somewhat unable to react.

Chu Jin simply reached out to move him aside and walked straight into the house.

Once inside, Chu Jin poured herself a glass of water and looked at Mo Zhixuan, asking, "So what's the deal with this trial ground, anyway?"

Want to know?" Mo Zhixuan raised an eyebrow, "Beg me."

Chu Jin found that Mr. Mo had been getting cheekier lately.

"I'm begging you," Chu Jin complied readily, her fingers curling in a mock 'kneeling' gesture, "Please, I beg you."

Mr. Mo immediately said with satisfaction, "Come here, let me give you a tutorial."

In fact, Mo Zhixuan wasn't worried at all that Chu Jin would lose.

With her strength, nobody could make her lose.

Chu Jin carried a glass of water over, and Mo Zhixuan extended a hand to wrap around her waist, pulling her into his embrace to sit firmly. He rested his chin on her shoulder before he slowly began to speak, "The trial grounds are essentially a competition. During the competition, the arenas are divided according to the number of participants..."

He spoke at a measured pace, and just as they were reaching a critical part of the explanation, Chu Jin felt a sudden surge in her stomach, a wave of acidity rising from within. Quickly covering her mouth with her hand, she struggled out of Mo Zhixuan's arms and dashed toward the bathroom, leaning over the sink and retching.

It was as if she wanted to vomit out her entire stomach.

Mo Zhixuan followed right behind her, not detesting the sight of her vomit. He patted Chu Jin on the back with concern, "What's the matter? Does your stomach hurt? Do you want to go to the hospital and have it checked?"

Chu Jin turned on the faucet, took a mouthful of tap water, moistened her throat, and then spat it out. "It's nothing, just feeling a bit nauseous. I'll be fine in a moment." She wasn't sure what had been going on with her body recently. First, she was experiencing overall weakness and sleepiness, and just when she thought she had gotten past the sleepiness, she started feeling nauseous.

However, these were all minor issues, and she didn't give them much thought.

Who doesn't fall ill from eating grains?

"Are you sure it's nothing?" Mo Zhixuan looked at her pale reflection in the mirror, a hint of worry evident in his eyes.

"I'm sure it's nothing." Chu Jin smiled and pulled out a tissue to wipe her face.

"But you've gone so pale! Let's still visit the hospital to be safe," Mo Zhixuan said, still worried.

"I'm naturally pale, unlike you, so dark!" Chu Jin raised an eyebrow slightly, "Besides, I'm a doctor myself. I know my body well. Really, there's no need for you to worry about me."

Chu Jin knew her own body well enough to be aware that there was nothing wrong without even taking her pulse.

Seeing this, Mo Zhixuan touched her forehead, then his own, confirming there was no issue with her temperature. He continued, "If there's anything that feels wrong, you must tell me immediately. You might be a doctor, yes, but remember the saying, 'Doctors can't treat themselves.'"

Mo Zhixuan still had some concerns. After all, Chu Jin had been missing for a year, and he feared that this might be a repercussion from that event.

Lately, it seemed Chu Jin had gotten thinner.

Her delicate waist looked as if it could break with the slightest gust of wind.

It appeared she was in need of some serious nourishment.

Mo Zhixuan stroked his chin in thought.

"I understand, there won't be any problems." Chu Jin looped her arm around Mo Zhixuan's, "Now, continue to enlighten me about the trial grounds, will you?"

Seeing her like this, Mo Zhixuan had no choice but to continue briefing her on the trial grounds.

Just as the Elder had said, the leading ladies of the Superpower World from generations past had all been tested in the trial grounds.

Only by passing all the trials could one stay by Mo Zhixuan's side.

And only then would they truly command the reverence of the masses under their feet.

This time, with the Elder involved, the news of the Chief's selection of a wife had spread throughout the entire Superpower World. When the time came, all eligible unmarried women with abilities in the Superpower World would come forth. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and by any means necessary, being the last one standing in the trial grounds would make one the most revered woman in the Superpower World. Once Mo Zhixuan unified the Three Realms, she would become the most honored woman across all three.

But, how could this news be confined just to the Superpower World?

The bigger the commotion, the better.

Preferably, it should spread to the other two realms as well.

Mo Zhixuan stood in his office by the floor-to-ceiling windows, his eyes slightly narrowed, a spark of light flashing through his deep, phoenix eyes.

"Xun En," he called out in a low voice.

"Yes, sir," Li Xunen entered the room upon being summoned.

Mo Zhixuan flicked the ash from his cigarette and then said, "Spread the news about the lady's participation in the trial grounds. The further, the better. Ideally, it should reach the ears of the other two realms."

Chapter 722: waiting for you outside

"Good sir, I will see to it right away," Li Xunen bowed slightly and turned towards the door to leave.

Li Xunen was very efficient in handling tasks.

Soon, the news of Mo Zhixuan opening the trial grounds to select a wife spread throughout the three realms.

All the unmarried girls in the three realms were restless with excitement.

After all, that was the glittering position of the Ninth Lady.

Once one claimed that position, it was no different from ascending to the heavens in one step.

Upon receiving this news, all the inns, big and small, in the Superpower World were filled with girls who had come to participate in the competition.

This move also stimulated the economy of the Superpower World.

Ancient Martial Arts World.

In the splendid and magnificent council hall.

"Outrageous! This is absolutely intolerable!" Mu Fengshan, the esteemed master of the Ancient Martial Arts World, didn't know what document he had read, but he slammed his fist on the table and stood up, fuming with anger as he glared and snorted.

The sudden outburst frightened the surrounding Elders into a cold sweat, and none dared to speak.

"Grandfather, what's wrong? What has got you so enraged?" Mu Changchen approached and asked.

The other Elders all listened attentively, fearing they would miss a syllable.

At a time like this, the only person who dared to speak to Mu Fengshan was probably his direct grandson Mu Changchen.

Without directly answering Mu Changchen's question, Mu Fengshan glanced at the crowd and then said, "Do you know about the matter of Mo Zhixuan, the chief of the Superpower World, opening the trial grounds to choose his wife tomorrow?"

Upon hearing this, the Elders looked at one another, with one elderly member stepping forward to say, "We have heard of this matter, but it is an affair of the Superpower World; why should the Master be so infuriated?"

They didn't understand what the chief of the Superpower World selecting a wife had to do with the Ancient Martial Arts World?

Could it be that Mu Fengshan wished to introduce his granddaughter to Mo Zhixuan?

"Do you know that Mo Zhixuan already has a fiancée? And moreover, they're to be wed in five days. With the wedding so close at hand, he's now opening the trial grounds. Isn't this act excessively humiliating?" Mu Fengshan's anger rose as he spoke, and the tea cup in his hand crumbled into powder.

He was truly furious!

Wasn't the Superpower World blatantly humiliating them?

"Master," a young man stepped forward steadily, then said, "Forgive my straightforwardness, but it seems this matter has nothing to do with our Ancient Martial Arts World."

"Nothing to do with us? Would I be this angry if it had nothing to do with us?" Mu Fengshan forced himself to calm down, stroked his beard, and looked towards everyone, "Do you know who Mo Zhixuan's current fiancée is?"

"We don't know..." The crowd shook their heads in unison.

Mu Changchen, however, looked shocked, narrowed his eyes, and blurted out, "She is the reincarnation of the Phoenix Empress, our sovereign!"

The Phoenix Empress!

Hearing these four words, the few aged elders immediately kneeled in panic, muttering, "Our sovereign..."

The younger members stood amidst the turmoil, not understanding what was happening.

In the current three realms, the ritual of kneeling had long been abolished; even in the presence of Master Mu Fengshan, no one needed to kneel.

But what was happening today?

Just the mention of a name made these experienced Elders kneel.

The Phoenix Empress.

Who exactly was that?

They held such commanding respect and authority.

A few young people were slightly startled, watching those who had kneeled with a look of confusion in their eyes.

It was precisely because he knew that Chu Jin was the reincarnation of the Phoenix Empress that Mu Fengshan was so angry.

The Empress, to these people, was light, faith, something so sacred as to be inviolable! But, Mo Zhixuan had her join a group of people in some trial field, having the dignified Phoenix Empress vie for a man with a group of women! Wasn't this an insult to the Empress?

Moreover, it was right before her grand wedding!

"Sovereign, are you certain, you're not mistaken, that the Miss of the Chu Family truly is the reincarnation of our Phoenix Sovereign?" one of the elders lifted his head, his gaze filled not only with doubt but also excitement—they had been waiting for this news for a very long time.

As long as the Empress returned, stability for the three realms was assured.

Even though a thousand years had passed, the majesty of the Empress remained.

"Rise, all of you. I am certain, I have not made a mistake, she is indeed our Phoenix Sovereign," saying this, Mu Fengshan turned his gaze towards Mu Changchen, and continued, "Changchen, go get my Shadow Shell."

"Yes, Grandfather." Mu Changchen turned and left the hall.

The elders kneeling on the ground then stood up.

Mu Changchen returned swiftly, holding a beautiful shell in his hand, a shell that could collect all the images in the world.

Mu Fengshan took the Shadow Shell, uttered a string of incantations, and immediately a screen appeared in the air.

On the screen, a maiden in white sat before an ancient konghou, her fingers plucking at the strings, the pleasant celestial music penetrated through the screen, echoing in everyone's ears, their eyes growing wider and wider.

This was the scene of Chu Jin playing the konghou at the Mo family's residence that night; all of it had been recorded with the Shadow Shell.

A few of the younger people were still puzzled, wondering what was so special about a video of someone playing the konghou.

After all, any musician could play the konghou.

However, the musician on the screen was indeed different from other musicians. Not only was she beautiful, but the music she played was also so pleasing to the ear that even those who didn't understand music would find it enjoyable to listen to.

Using a popular phrase, it was like making one's ears pregnant.

Before these young people could react, suddenly from the passionate music, a beam of golden light burst forth, and a pair of dragons and phoenixes emerged from the light, circling above the musician's head.

The scene was incredibly shocking and magnificent.

The young people all opened their mouths in disbelief.

Someone had actually managed to draw out the dragons and phoenixes.

It was at this moment that several older elders and Mu Fengshan all knelt down in unison toward the east, performing a nine bows and three kowtows ritual, and said in unison, "May peace be upon our Sovereign."

The young people also felt their legs give way and knelt down as well.

It was as if an irresistible aura had erupted from the screen.

Minutes later, the video gradually faded into the air, and everyone stood up from the ground.

Mu Fengshan furrowed his brows, "After her reincarnation, our Phoenix Sovereign's name is Chu Jin, the eldest miss of the secular Chu Family. Because she has been living in the secular world for a long time, that's why she's looked down upon by the Second Elder of the Superpower World, Gu Qinian. The reason our Sovereign is partaking in the trial competition is all due to this old coot, Gu Qinian!"

When speaking of Gu Qinian, a hint of murderous intent flashed in Mu Fengshan's eyes.

Those who dare to disrespect the Empress do not deserve to live in this world.

Right then, the door was pushed open, and an immortal-like elderly figure entered from outside.

"Gu Qinian has his heart set on marrying Xi He, the adopted daughter of Gu Cuiling, to Mo Zhixuan, hence he's deliberately plotting to ruin the wedding between our Sovereign and Mo Zhixuan,"

"Even though our Sovereign's reincarnation grew up in the secular world, she's many times stronger than that so-called Xi He! This Gu Qinian really has a dog's eye view of people!"

"We cannot let our Sovereign suffer humiliation in vain! Since the Superpower World fails to recognize the face of Mount Tai and dares to slight our Sovereign, why don't we bring our Sovereign back home? On the day our Sovereign grows powerful, we must flatten the Superpower World!"

"Yes! The day when our Sovereign safely returns, the reclamation of the three realms will be within reach!"

"That old coot, Gu Qinian! He dares to treat our Sovereign this way! He really doesn't take the Ancient Martial Arts World into account at all!"

"Sovereign, this is a good opportunity, we mustn't miss it."

Listening to the opinions of the elders, Mu Fengshan frowned deeply and remained silent.

This matter was easy to speak of, but not so easy to accomplish.

Mu Fengshan had previously investigated Chu Jin.

He knew that Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan truly loved each other, having been through life and death together. Now, probably no one could separate them, which is why he had delayed announcing the empress's return to the world.

The recent event had nothing to do with Mo Zhixuan; it was all orchestrated by Gu Qinian.

Therefore, there was no misunderstanding between Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan. Since there was no misunderstanding, how could Chu Jin possibly return to the Ancient Martial Arts World with them?

Seeing Mu Fengshan hesitate, Mu Changchen also spoke up.

"Grandfather, I think the elders are right, we must not let this opportunity slip by, we must seize it."

The elders of the Superpower World have treated Chu Jin so poorly, she must be very disappointed.

Being extremely disappointed with the Superpower World, she will surely return to the Ancient Martial Arts World with them.

It's their loss for not recognizing a gem among them in the Superpower World!

In the future, they will regret it.

There has always been a legend among the three worlds.

The Phoenix Empress can unify all three worlds.

At that moment, a guard came in, bowed slightly, and said, "My lord, the King of Hades has arrived."

"Please, let him in quickly," Mu Fengshan stood up hurriedly.

Without thinking, he knew the old King of Hades must have come for this matter too.

Mu Fengshan and the old King of Hades, along with many capable people, were followers of the empress. In particular the old King of Hades, who had followed the empress since Ancient Times. After her fall, he had been in slumber until now.

It wasn't until four years ago, when Chu Jin played the Konghou for the first time, summoning the Dancing Dragon and Phoenix, that the old King of Hades was awakened.

In fact, the Ancient Martial Arts World and the Underworld had always been at odds, each wishing the other would submit, but they were evenly matched, hence no victor had emerged over the years.

However, in times like these, there was no need to distinguish friend from foe, for everyone was for the empress.

With the empress, the three worlds would inevitably be unified sooner or later.

"Brother Mu, you must already know about the matter, right?" the King of Hades said directly to the point after his arrival.

Stroking his beard, Mu Fengshan nodded slowly. Without hiding anything, he said directly, "Yes, we already know, and we were just discussing it."

The old King of Hades was as angry as Mu Fengshan, uttering indignantly.

"Brother Mu, we cannot let our lord suffer this humiliation in vain. It was a blessing from his previous life for the chief of the Superpower World to marry our lord. It would be one thing if he didn't show gratitude, but now he even forces our lord to take part in that trial! Isn't that bullying? Bullying our lord who stands alone and unsupported! Does Gu Qinian really think our lord is so easily bullied?"

With Mo Zhixuan in the Superpower World, the old King of Hades, with only the power of one realm, dared not venture into the Superpower World, but if two realms joined forces, they could certainly seek justice for the empress.

In any case, they couldn't let the empress suffer this humiliation.

Even if the empress was reborn as a commoner and raised in the mortal world, she was still their empress! The supreme empress.

Even if the empress had not a trace of Spiritual Power, they were willing to continue serving her.

A thousand years ago, the Phoenix Empress gave them hope.

So now, a thousand years later, they could not let the Phoenix Empress be disappointed.

"Then, according to you, what should we do?" Mu Fengshan looked over at the old King of Hades.

Since the old King of Hades came, he must have come prepared.

The old King of Hades shared his plan directly, "Let's take some people and go to the Superpower World in person, to show support for our lord. If Gu Qinian dares to trouble our lord, we'll personally take him down to avenge our lord!"

Mu Fengshan narrowed his eyes, a flicker of light passing through them.

Seeing Mu Fengshan's reaction, the old King of Hades frowned, "What? Don't you trust me? When will you change this old habit of suspicion?"

With things being as they are, why does Mu Fengshan still have such high guard?

The empress has returned; of course, it's time to turn hostility into an alliance. What's the point of fighting amongst ourselves anymore?

After all, the three worlds will eventually belong to the empress. We're all followers of the empress, so why bother with this?

"I don't distrust you," Mu Fengshan slowly turned his gaze to the side, continuing, "I just feel that this might be somewhat inappropriate. Mo Zhixuan is always meticulous in his thoughts; can he really let us enter the city so easily? This matter... still requires discussion."

Mo Zhixuan's methods are shocking, and his abilities should not be underestimated. This is precisely why, when he wanted to marry Chu Jin, both the Ancient Martial Arts World and the Underworld dared not obstruct him.

However, once Mo Zhixuan marries Chu Jin, he will no longer be their enemy.

Mo Zhixuan is a person of clear gratitude and grudges, not one of those narrow-minded, petty people. If he could manage the Three Realms together with the Empress, it would indeed be a good thing.

At the very least, no one would dare to covet the dominion of the Three Realms thereafter.

As long as the Three Realms could become stable, they would be at ease.

"What's there to discuss? For our sovereign, the Phoenix Empress, even if it costs this old life, it would be worth it. If you are too scared to go, then I will go alone!" The King of Hades stood up directly. He couldn't just watch the Empress being bullied.

The Phoenix Empress had reincarnated through several lifetimes; it was normal that her foundation was somewhat weakened. Even so, that didn't give these people the right to look down upon the Empress!

Even if the Empress had now turned into a three-year-old child, she was still their Empress.

They would never allow anyone to bully the Empress.

"Father, you are not alone." Gan Yuying walked in from outside, cheerfully hooking onto the King of Hades' arm.

"Yuying, let's go!" The King of Hades, holding onto Gan Yuying, headed for the door, and on his way out, he turned his head to leave Mu Fengshan with a parting shot. "Coward!"

He had misjudged Mu Fengshan. Timid and hesitant, he was not worthy of following the Empress.

"Brother Gan, wait!" Mu Fengshan also stood up and caught up with the King of Hades' steps.

"What is it?" The King of Hades turned back impatiently, "If you're trying to persuade me, then shut your mouth! In any case, I cannot just sit by and let my sovereign be schemed against by those dogs!"

For the Empress, even if it meant rolling the entire Underworld, it would be worth it.

The King of Hades was absolutely loyal to the Empress.

A thousand years ago, he regretted not being able to protect the Phoenix Empress.

A thousand years later, he definitely wouldn't allow such a thing to happen.

As long as the Empress was still there, no matter when or where, he would follow the Empress.

"Brother Gan, you misunderstand me," Mu Fengshan spoke calmly, "I've made up my mind, I will go with you, just like you said, no matter what, we cannot let our sovereign be bullied by Gu Qinian and his people."

Hearing this conversation, Mu Changchen scratched his head in some confusion.

The way the Superpower World handled things was indeed annoying.

But would the Empress really be bullied?

The magnificent Phoenix Empress from Ancient Times, even after reincarnating N times, the blood flowing in her veins was still that of indomitable spirit.

It's not yet certain who would bully whom.

Mu Changchen believed that Chu Jin would definitely win this trial beautifully.

The Empress is a unique woman through the ages.

Not just anyone can be compared to her.

Upon hearing this, the King of Hades felt somewhat relieved in his heart, "Then let us go together. What are you waiting for? Waiting for our sovereign to be bullied?"

Compared to the King of Hades, Mu Fengshan was much calmer, and his thinking was also more meticulous.

The two of them together were the perfect complement to one another.

"Brother Gan, please wait a moment..." Mu Fengshan hurriedly followed, continuing, "There is still some time before the trial competition. Allow me to select a few capable young people and the Hidden Guard to join us. We must show our support for our sovereign, so those people cannot look down upon our sovereign!"

Mu Fengshan wanted to show the people of the Superpower World that the Empress had her supporters.

Those who disrespect the Empress's authority will not end well.

"Then bring more people," the King of Hades glanced at Mu Fengshan, "In that case, Yuying and I will wait for you outside."

Chapter 723: is for the Chu Family's young miss

As he spoke, the old King of Hades left with Gan Yuying.

Soon after, Mu Fengshan led a group of people out and met up with the King of Hades and his daughter.

The group had disguised themselves before entering the Superpower World.

However, this impressive procession still caught the attention of others in the Superpower World.

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Superpower World.

Mo Zhixuan was sitting in his office, looking through documents.

Li Xunen entered to report, "Sir, our people have noticed that the old King of Hades from the Underworld and the Ancient Martial Arts World's supreme leader have entered the city in disguise together, accompanied by a large entourage. They are currently staying at an inn. Should we capture them?"

For both leaders of their respective worlds to appear simultaneously in the Superpower World, acting quite close, they must surely be plotting something significant.

Good that they've come.

Mo Zhixuan slowly lit a cigarette, holding it at the corner of his mouth, and began to speak, "No need, let them be. Also, pull back all the people who are watching them."

Li Xunen was taken aback, questioning Mo Zhixuan's order for the first time.

Mo Zhixuan was not only indifferent to these two individuals but was also asking to withdraw the people monitoring them?

Li Xunen almost thought he was hallucinating!

It was obvious that the old King of Hades and Mu Fengshan had come to the Superpower World with a purpose; otherwise, they could have entered openly, instead of sneaking in disguised.

"Sir?" Li Xunen adjusted his glasses, his voice tinged with uncertainty.

"Do as I said," Mo Zhixuan exhaled a thin stream of smoke, his gaze towards Li Xunen brimming with a cold light, "What, do you have any questions?"

"No, nothing more," Li Xunen stammered, frightened, and headed towards the door.

No sooner had Li Xunen left than another assistant came in with Elder Gu Qinian.

"Zhixuan," the Elder sat directly opposite Mo Zhixuan.

"Does Elder have a matter to discuss?" Mo Zhixuan looked up at the Elder.

The Elder showed a gentle smile and spoke slowly, "Zhixuan, you must be well aware of what brings me here, aren't you?"

While organizing the documents, Mo Zhixuan replied, "I'm not aware, please speak directly." This attitude was somewhat arrogant in the presence of an elder.

But this was typical for Mo Zhixuan who found it difficult to show a friendly face to those he disapproved of.

The Elder had dared to gamble with his life; had Mo Zhixuan not respected that the Elder was his senior, he would have already sent him to meet Yama.

Chu Jin was his life.

This Elder had repeatedly challenged his limits; this time, he must make the Elder realize that his wife was not to be trifled with.

The Elder's complexion changed, beauty truly leads astray; even someone like Mo Zhixuan could not resist the temptations of a beautiful woman.

He remembered the Mo Zhixuan of old, never giving such curt responses.

Chu Jin would only hold Mo Zhixuan back.

Mo Zhixuan was being foolish, how could he fall for a commoner?

"Zhixuan, I have come regarding the matter of the Chu Family's young miss," the Elder fostered his lines internally and continued.

"I won't deny that the young miss of the Chu Family has a beauty that can overturn cities, but since ancient times, beauty has only led to trouble. There's the example of King Zhou of Shang above and Emperor Yang of Sui below; you must not be confused! I've thought about it, and Miss Chu is, after all, just a commoner who does not belong in the Superpower World, nor is she qualified to participate in the trial competition. It would be better to send her away to prevent any accidental harm during the trial competition; the swords and sabers there do not have eyes. We should cancel the trial match, and in four days, you should just welcome Xi He as your bride."

The Elder gave the appearance of considering Chu Jin's well-being, but in reality, he was worried for Xi He.

Until today, the Elder had not imagined that the matter would spread to the other two worlds.

Now, more and more Ability Users are entering the city; they are all competitors against Xi He.

Chapter 724: why not dare?

In the Superpower World, the Second Elder was confident that no woman could be Xi He's match, but now with people from the other two realms joining in, the Second Elder no longer held such confidence!

After all, there are skies beyond skies, and people beyond people.

What should they do if someone else snatches away the position that rightfully belongs to Xi He?

So, the Second Elder was extremely worried.

If Xi He couldn't win the competition, what would he rely on to restrain Mo Zhixuan?

But the current situation was becoming more and more unfavorable for Xi He.

No matter what, Xi He must take the seat of the Ninth Madam.

Therefore, the Second Elder now needed to find a way to make Mo Zhixuan cancel this trial competition.

In contrast to the Second Elder's tense expression, Mo Zhixuan was calm and collected as he spoke slowly,

"You were the one who proposed the trial competition, and now, you are also the one who wants to cancel it, Second Elder. 'A man's word is his bond, as fast as the steeds that draw the chariot.' Going back on your word is not the act of a nobleman."

"I...," the Second Elder was choked for words, then continued, "Isn't this for your and Miss Chu's sake as well? Zhixuan, think about it, Miss Chu is just a mortal, and if she were to die in the trial ground, how heartbroken would her family be, and you wouldn't be able to explain it to them! Xi He has been training behind the Third and Fifth Elders for many years, you know her capabilities, not just any woman in the entire Superpower World can be her opponent, so, the one who can win in the end, will surely be her..."

The Second Elder put on an appearance of considering Chu Jin's wellbeing, repeatedly stating that Chu Jin would lose her life because of this trial competition. Mo Zhixuan cared about Chu Jin, so he wouldn't just watch her die, right?

"Zhixuan," the Second Elder continued, "I really am thinking of your best interest, since the outcome of this trial competition will definitely be Xi He's victory. Why sacrifice Miss Chu's life for nothing?"

Upon hearing these words, Mo Zhixuan hooked his lips into a faint smile and spoke indifferently, "Second Elder, are you so confident that Xi He would surely win? You must not have heard the saying 'there are skies beyond skies, and people beyond people,' right?"

Actually, Mo Zhixuan was very clear about what the Second Elder was really thinking.

Hearing this, the Elder chuckled and replied, "Zhixuan, I'm just speaking the plain truth. Listen to my advice, cancel the trial ground. Don't just give away Miss Chu's life for nothing. Even if there are people beyond people, and skies beyond skies, neither that person nor that sky will be Miss Chu."

Knowing that Mo Zhixuan really cared about Chu Jin, this Elder kept using Chu Jin's life as a bargaining chip.

No matter how legendary the former Chu Jin was, that was only in the mortal world; this is the Superpower World, which is much higher level than the mortal world, by more than tenfold. The standout figures in the mortal world could only barely serve as servants in major Superpower World households.

The Second Elder sighed deeply and said with sincere emotion, "Zhixuan, I truly have your best interests at heart."

"My affairs need not trouble the Second Elder," Mo Zhixuan exhaled a beautifully shaped smoke ring, before saying, "Don't you love to watch the drama? This time, you only need to sit back and enjoy the show."

Upon hearing this, the Second Elder's expression became subtly complex, but he quickly responded, "Zhixuan, although Miss Chu is only a commoner, she still has a life! Can you bear to watch her die in vain? If she dies on the trial ground, she may not even have a complete corpse left. There won't be miracles in this world, don't be delusional!"

In the Second Elder's mind, Chu Jin was already doomed.

Everyone wanted to take the position of the Ninth Madam, and what kind of tactics wouldn't those women use when the time came?

Even Xi He might not make it through.

The Second Elder had calculated everything but failed to foresee that news of the event would spread to the other two realms! He also could not understand how, in just one short day, the information reached the Ancient Martial Arts World and the Superpower World.

Now that it had turned out this way, there was no way to wrap things up.

Xi He had lost the advantage.

The Second Elder really regretted that decision back then.

He should not have suggested opening up the trial ground.

Wasn't this just lifting a rock only to drop it on his own foot?

"Second Elder," Mo Zhixuan suddenly stood up, his presence commanding as he looked down upon the Second Elder, and then he spoke, "Let's make a bet."

The Second Elder was stunned for a moment, and then asked, "What bet?" Young people are indeed young; their minds work too fast, and an old man like him simply couldn't keep up.

How had Mo Zhixuan shifted the conversation to gambling so quickly?

The corners of Mo Zhixuan's mouth curled into a faint smile as he said confidently, "I bet that Jin will definitely win first place, take the position of the Ninth Madam, and furthermore, will help me reclaim the three realms."

As he spoke these words, a look of unwavering conviction flashed in his eyes.

Hearing this, the Second Elder laughed out loud, his voice full of disdain as he said, "Zhixuan, are you out of your mind? She's going to win first place? Heh, stop dreaming; I think she won't even get past the first round."

Mo Zhixuan really was making a bold statement, uttering such a thoughtless claim.

Who was Chu Jin?

Chu Jin was just a mere commoner.

Could she win first?

"Second Elder, do you dare to bet?" Mo Zhixuan's face showed no hint of a smile as he continued, "If I win, you and the other Elders must personally apologize to Jin. If I lose, do with me what you will."

Realizing that Mo Zhixuan was not joking, the Second Elder said, "Zhixuan, let's not talk about Miss Chu. Even Xi He would find it difficult to do what you claim. What makes you so confident?"

In other words, who gave you this confidence?

In the trial ground teeming with experts, could a commoner from the mortal world truly stand out? Was it that simple?

Mo Zhixuan looked at the Second Elder and spoke slowly, "Because she is Chu Jin, because she is the reincarnation of the ancient Empress."

This also served as a reminder to the Second Elder: the might of the Empress is not to be taken lightly or disregarded so easily.

"Just because she is the reincarnation of the Empress?" The Second Elder shook his head in disdain.

"Zhixuan, oh Zhixuan, you are just too young! Even if she is the reincarnation of the Empress, it's useless without strength. The Empress has reincarnated many times, but when have the three realms ever truly been united? That so-called prophecy is nothing more than empty words, a thousand years have passed, who still acknowledges her as the Empress? You, you are just too deluded! Young man, it's better to be down-to-earth. You reap what you sow, so stop obsessing over fantasies," said the Second Elder.

The Second Elder believed that Chu Jin was the reincarnation of the Empress, otherwise, she wouldn't be able to play the Konghou.

However, the Second Elder did not believe Chu Jin would achieve anything significant, especially in the Superpower World teeming with talented individuals. There were plenty of people more capable than Chu Jin, so why hadn't anyone else managed to unite the three realms?

Chu Jin may indeed be the reincarnation of the Empress, but, having grown up in the secular world since she was young, she never cultivated any special abilities, nor did she possess Spiritual Power. She has been utterly spoiled.

Now, what can she possibly achieve?

If she really aspires to accomplish something, I'm afraid she'll have to wait for her next life!

Upon hearing this, Mo Zhixuan wasn't angry; instead, he continued, "Second Elder, would you dare to make this bet?"

The Second Elder sneered, "Dare? Why wouldn't I dare?"

"That's good," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, "A gentleman's word is as good as his bond."

"A word is a bond!" Halfway through speaking, the Second Elder sensed something was amiss and added, "Hey, wait, Zhixuan, are you saying you're absolutely set on conducting this trial?"

He had come with the intention of persuading Mo Zhixuan to cancel the trial, but how had he ended up falling into Mo Zhixuan's trap?

And even made a bet!

The Second Elder himself was confused.

Mo Zhixuan continued, "The trial must be held, and it's also time for you all to witness Jin's strength."

The Second Elder shook his head reluctantly, "Since you're so insistent, I won't say anything more, Zhixuan. Consider carefully before you act; I hope you won't have any regrets."

Mo Zhixuan looked up at the Second Elder, "The same advice goes for you: don't judge a book by its cover, think before you leap."

Seeing that Mo Zhixuan remained impervious to persuasion, the Second Elder spoke with some annoyance, "Then I'm leaving."

Mo Zhixuan didn't prolong the conversation, and with a tone of indifference, said, "Xun En, see the Second Elder out."

"Yes." Li Xunen stepped forward, stood beside the Second Elder, and gestured politely, "Second Elder, this way, please."

The Second Elder's face looked very displeased. He felt that Mo Zhixuan was showing him less and less respect!

In the past, Mo Zhixuan himself would see him out, but now, he was being dismissed with a mere aide!

Wasn't this an outright snub?

And the root of all this was Chu Jin.

There's a saying: "Women are the root of all evil," which seemed to be true indeed.

"What's wrong with you, Zhixuan!" Just after seeing the Second Elder off, Mo Feixue hurried in, her expression looking very sour.

Mo Zhixuan, clueless, looked toward Mo Feixue, "What's wrong, sister? Who has upset you again?"

"Who else could it be but you?" Mo Feixue, like the Second Elder, sat directly across from Mo Zhixuan.

"Please enjoy the tea, Miss Mo." A servant brought a cup of tea.

Mo Feixue politely said thank you, then looked at Mo Zhixuan and questioned, "What's this about the trial? I've heard all about it! By doing this, where do you leave Jin? Are you trying to prove how sought-after you are?"

As she finished speaking, Mo Feixue drank most of the tea in her cup, but still felt a stifling unease, as if swallowing a breath that would neither rise nor fall.

No matter how you looked at it, Mo Zhixuan's actions were a form of disrespect toward Chu Jin.

Since there was talk of marriage between him and Chu Jin, he shouldn't stir up so many issues, making her compete on stage with so many other women. Doing so, wasn't he insulting Chu Jin? It also seemed as if Chu Jin were the one eagerly chasing after Mo Zhixuan.

Overall, this made Mo Feixue quite unhappy.

She had already come to think of Chu Jin as one of her own!

"Sister, things aren't what you imagine," Mo Zhixuan personally refilled Mo Feixue's tea, "Jin herself requested this, and besides, it may well be a good thing. Right now, many people look down on her because she appeared in the secular world first. Even if she successfully becomes the Ninth Lady, in the future, she'll still likely face censure. Idle talk breeds trouble, and people's words are often to be feared.

It's better to take this opportunity to let everyone see Jin's strength. Only by doing so can we truly convince everyone."

In fact, this was also what Chu Jin wished.

If Chu Jin hadn't insisted on participating in this trial, Mo Zhixuan would rather not be the chief of the Superpower World than let her suffer this indignity.

"Besides, sister, you know Jin's strength. She won't lose," Mo Zhixuan added.

With those words, Mo Feixue felt a lot more relieved. Indeed, what Mo Zhixuan said made sense.

For Chu Jin to be accepted by the people of the Superpower World, she must rely on her strength to win everyone's genuine approval. Luckily, Chu Jin had such strength, so there really wasn't anything to fear.

So, Mo Feixue just needed to sit back and enjoy the show.

In all three realms, there were few who could rival Chu Jin.

"With that said, I'm relieved. I'm off, bye." Mo Feixue got up, showing no semblance of nostalgia as she headed for the door. Now that she had a clear picture of the situation, she had to go and explain it to others.

To prevent the family from worrying unnecessarily.

"Aren't you staying a bit longer, sister?" Mo Zhixuan asked.

"I won't stay." Mo Feixue waved her hand.

In the inn.

The Hidden Guard reported some matters to the old King of Hades and Mu Fengshan.

"What?" Mu Fengshan narrowed his eyes, "They've all pulled out? Are you sure?"

"Yes," the Hidden Guard nodded, "the ones who were previously following us have indeed all retreated, and moreover, those who were in charge of surveilling us in secret are no longer to be seen."

Almost as soon as they entered the city, the old King of Hades and Mu Fengshan knew someone was stealthily following them.

And when they settled into the inn, a pair of eyes had been constantly watching them from above.

Chapter 725: Apologize

Generally speaking, when a large group of people enter the city, it is quite normal for them to attract a lot of attention.

After all, these people could very well influence the safety and security of a city.

But now, all that attention has disappeared, which is a bit unusual.

"Have they all gone?" The old King of Hades stroked his beard and looked towards Mu Fengshan, asking, "Old Mu, what do you think Mo Zhixuan is up to? Is he really that confident in us?"

Mu Fengshan squinted his eyes and continued, "Speaking of which, the matter of the trial competition is also quite strange. It was originally just something concerning the Superpower World, so how did it spread to other places?"

Moreover, it even reached his and the old King of Hades's ears.

This was somewhat odd.

Everything seemed as if it had been meticulously planned by someone.

Could this be a trap set by the Superpower World?

To deliberately lure them in and then annihilate them all at once?

The old King of Hades furrowed his brow tightly, "But the matter is indeed true, along our way here, almost everyone was talking about this..."

Based on what was heard and seen along the journey, it was clear that the matter of the trial arena was indeed real.

Mo Zhixuan had no reason to joke about such matters.

"Grandfather, old King of Hades, do you think this could be Mo Zhixuan's trap? Did he intentionally draw us here to then annihilate us all in one fell swoop?" Mu Changchen also asked.

Now, the situation was becoming increasingly unclear.

The intentions of Mo Zhixuan were utterly inscrutable.

Upon hearing this, the old King of Hades also said, "I think Changchen makes sense, Old Mu, we couldn't have fallen into this kid Mo Zhixuan's trap, could we?"

Think about it, there are many suspicious aspects to this matter.

How could the people of the Superpower World be so foolish as to ignore the reincarnation of the Empress and instead open a trial arena?

In this world, who is more exalted than the Empress?

Perhaps, this is indeed a setup.

A set up designed to capture them all.

"You are overthinking it," Mu Fengshan said slowly. "If this matter was really as you imagine, we would have been restrained by Mo Zhixuan's men the moment we entered the city. Why would he need to wait until now?"

Mu Fengshan continued, "Moreover, Mo Zhixuan is about to marry our sovereign Phoenix. Once their union is successful, the three realms will sooner or later be jointly managed by them both; why would Mo Zhixuan bother harming us unnecessarily?"

As soon as the Empress returns, Mu Fengshan and the old King of Hades would hand over the management of the realms to Phoenix.

That is also why the Empress could unify the three realms.

Listening to Mu Fengshan's words, the old King of Hades nodded as well, and because Mu Fengshan's words made a lot of sense, under these circumstances, Mo Zhixuan indeed had no need to make a move against them.

So if Mo Zhixuan deliberately spread this news to their ears, he must have an ulterior motive.

As for what that motive was, no one knew.

The thoughts of the old King of Hades ran deep.

"Since Mo Zhixuan is doing this, he must have his own reasons," Mu Fengshan stood up and continued, "Brother Gan, you take Lady Ling to the registration area for a look. If she is successfully selected, she can then help our sovereign Phoenix in the arena."

Now that the situation had reached this point, they could only proceed with the original plan.

As long as Phoenix was there, there was hope.

"Alright," the old King of Hades got up immediately, "I'll take Yuying there now, and you wait here for our news." With those words, the old King of Hades went next door to find Gan Yuying.

The old King of Hades was extremely confident in his daughter.

Gan Yuying's beauty was certain to secure her selection.

Mu Family.

Mu Xianxian also learned about Mo Zhixuan's opening of the trial arena and sat alone in front of her dressing mirror, her lips curving into a clear arc.

Logically, Mo Zhixuan could have just married Chu Jin and been done with it, given that the two were already husband and wife in the secular world – no one expected Mo Zhixuan to come up with a trial arena.

Does this mean that Mo Zhixuan has grown tired of Chu Jin? Is he trying to get rid of her by opening the trial arena?

Because once in the trial arena, Chu Jin must emerge as the top contender to marry Mo Zhixuan; otherwise, everything is moot.

By then, with the arena filled with masters, winning won't be so easy for Chu Jin.

After all, who doesn't want to claim that supreme position?

Yes, it must be so – Mo Zhixuan has grown tired of Chu Jin, and that's why he has opened the trial arena. Other than this explanation, Mu Xianxian could not think of any other, and only this one made the most sense. If Mo Zhixuan truly intended to marry Chu Jin sincerely, there was absolutely no need for him to add such risk. If Chu Jin lost, then the position of the ninth lady would be snatched away by someone else.

Rather than having someone else take it, she might as well claim it for herself.

She was the number one beauty, after all, and wasn't Mo Zhixuan's former fiancée also the number one beauty? It was only fitting that she take up this position.

Mu Xianxian was very pleased with her thoughts.

"Do you know who from our side will be participating in this trial arena?" Mu Xianxian looked towards the servant beside her.

Upon hearing those words, the servant smiled cheerfully and said, "Miss, I'm not sure about the others, but I do know that Miss Xi He will definitely be participating."

"Xi He?" Mu Xianxian frowned slightly, "Why is she joining in the commotion? Doesn't she live on the mountain with the Elders all year round? Could you be mistaken?"

Xi He had always been someone with a very inconspicuous presence.

She lived on the mountain year-round with the Elders and rarely descended without cause.

If Xi He were truly to participate, then she would surely become Mu Xianxian's number one adversary; hence Mu Xianxian's anxiety.

From childhood, Xi He had been with those five Elders and even became a disciple of the third and fifth Elder, learning a myriad of martial arts and Spiritual Power, her skills immeasurable. In the entire Superpower World, there probably wasn't a single woman who could match her, let alone herself.

Regarding this, Mu Xianxian was quite self-aware.

Not only was Xi He powerful, but she was also very beautiful.

She could almost share the beauty limelight with herself.

With that thought, a look of worry flashed within Mu Xianxian's eyes.

Xi He was a significant obstacle.

"Are you certain Xi He will participate in this trial competition?" Mu Xianxian continued to ask.

The servant nodded hurriedly, "Miss, it's absolutely true. My aunt's daughter's cousin's friend serves by Miss Xi He's side. My aunt told me herself; there's no mistake. Moreover, I just saw Miss Xi He this morning when I was outside."

Her brows furrowing even more deeply, Mu Xianxian's hardly-found hope turned once again to despair!

What should she do?

With Xi He around, that position might be snatched away by Xi He!

It was hard enough that Mo Zhixuan had grown tired of Chu Jin, and now another Xi He appeared, her romantic rivals seemed endless!

Biting her lip, a glimmer shone through within Mu Xianxian's eyes as she instructed the servant, "Go outside and register for me; I too wish to participate in the trial competition."

"Of course, Miss," the servant responded with a smile, trying to please her, "Miss, no offense, but with you there, the other ladies from prominent families won't stand a chance! You are the number one beauty in our Superpower World!"

Mu Xianxian's lips curled into a slight smile. Aside from Xi He being her rival, Chu Jin was not to be underestimated either; therefore, she couldn't let her guard down just yet.

No matter what, Chu Jin was the reincarnation of an Empress. Her aura was incomparable to ordinary people.

Xi He on one hand, Chu Jin on the other—even if she didn't make it to the end, she had to be part of the excitement.

Isn't there a saying?

While the mantis stalks the cicada, the oriole lies in wait.

She might not rely on strength, but she could rely on luck.

Mu Xianxian stood up and said to the servant, "Never mind, I shall go and register myself."

It was a good opportunity to see who her opponents were.

The trial grounds were set up in the Central Square of the Superpower World.

This was also the registration site.

This place was the busiest district in the Superpower World.

Because the event was organized by the Chief to select a wife, the entrance for registration was crowded with many people, making it very lively.

However, registration came with conditions.

Not everyone could successfully register.

It was like casting models.

Facial features, height, measurements, skin tone, physique—all had to meet the benchmarks for eligibility to register.

The queue of applicants had formed a long line.

There were all sorts of people.

Plump or slim—it was like a scene from the Emperor's concubine selection.

Clearly, Mu Xianxian had not anticipated such a large turnout for registration, and the entry standards were so strict.

The standard for the measurements was: 86 cm, 54.4 cm, 88.72 cm.

These corresponded to bust, waist, and hips, respectively.

The height requirement was over 170 cm.

Moreover, the precision reached millimeters; even one millimeter less disqualified one from selection.

Most importantly, the selection site was equipped with high-tech devices that could distinguish between innate and acquired features with a single scan.

In an era rife with cosmetic surgeries, the Superpower World was no exception; many people had achieved their looks through artificial means.

Therefore, numerous people entered with smiles but exited in tears.

For the Chief's wife selection, how could they choose someone with cosmetic enhancements?

Basically, out of a hundred people, only one or two suitable ones might be chosen.

However, only the cream of the crop remained in the end.

Whether it was appearance, figure, or abilities, each was one in a hundred.

Mu Xianxian glanced around the crowd and did not see Chu Jin's figure. She frowned slightly. Could it be that Chu Jin had given up? Did she not even have the courage to sign up?

What was strange was that she had not seen Xi He's figure either.

What was going on?

These two people didn't even sign up!

Could they have gotten cold feet?

Mu Xianxian narrowed her eyes slightly.

"Miss," just then, a servant squeezed out of the crowd, wiped the sweat from his forehead, and continued. "Miss, I got a number. Let's go over there and line up."

Mu Xianxian collected her thoughts, took the slip of paper from the servant's hand, and opened her mouth in surprise, "Number 2880? Why are there so many people?"

The servant propped the parasol over Mu Xianxian's head and followed up, "Miss, this is actually considered being near the front. I just saw someone who got over five thousand!"

Over five thousand?

What did that mean?

Even the Emperors of ancient times had no more than three thousand beauties.

Mu Xianxian frowned slightly. "Did you tell them who I am?" Mu Xianxian had never had to line up from childhood up! Whether going to a restaurant, withdrawing money from the bank, or boarding a plane, there had always been a VIP channel reserved for her. The word 'queue' didn't even exist in her dictionary.

"I did tell them!" The servant said with a hint of grievance. "I specifically mentioned that you are the third young lady of the Mu Family, the number one beauty of the Superpower World, but the person at the registration desk said that even if the King of Heaven himself came, he would have to line up."

In such a situation, no matter how influential one's backing was, rules had to be followed.

Thinking of not lining up?

That was impossible.

Mu Xianxian realized this and scowled deeply, "Never mind then, you go and line up for me. I'll find a place to sit for a while. This blazing sun is killing me."

The June sun was particularly scorching, and a few beads of sweat were already forming on Mu Xianxian's forehead.

"It won't work, Miss!" The servant quickly shook his head. "The person at the registration desk also said that the registrant must line up in person, or else their registration would be canceled."

Mu Xianxian was speechless! It was just a registration, why were there so many rules?

But, for the position of the ninth wife, she would have to bear it.

For the title of the ninth wife, what was queuing in comparison?

Gan Yuying, in disguise, and the old King of Hades also appeared here. Looking at the endless crowd, Gan Yuying couldn't help but lament. "Wow! There are so many people! I didn't expect the position of the ninth wife to be so attractive!"

So many people, if this were in the secular world, there likely would have already been a stampede.

The old King of Hades stroked his beard and spoke slowly. "Mo Zhixuan is a hero who exterminated a city, and now he is esteemed as the chief of the Superpower World. Of course, his wife selection trial will be overcrowded! Once you pass the trial, you will become the most prestigious woman in the Superpower World, who wouldn't want to rise to the top as a phoenix?"

People climb to higher places, and water flows down to lower spots.

With such an excellent opportunity ahead, who wouldn't want to give it a try?

What if it was successful?

"Father, you make some sense," Gan Yuying touched her chin.

"Okay," the old King of Hades looked at Gan Yuying and continued, "go line up and get your ticket quickly."

By the time Gan Yuying came back with the ticket, she was about to cry.

Number 3005.

This meant that there was an army of three thousand ahead of her!

Terrible, truly terrible!

The old King of Hades did not comment but said, "Yuying, go ahead and line up. I'll look around for signs of our Lord Sovereign Phoenix. Let's keep in touch at all times."

With so many people at the registration site, it was possible that Chu Jin was among them.

"Okay," Gan Yuying gave the old King of Hades an 'OK' hand signal.

Gan Yuying slowly entered the queuing masses.

She watched as the line in front of her gradually shortened, while the lineup behind her kept growing.

People continuously emerged from the inspection room.

However, most of the people were crying as they came out.

Among them, some had nearly met all the criteria but were eliminated because of a few millimeters' difference in some body part.

They had all come with the dream of soaring to the heavens, only to find how difficult it was to ascend.

Others, during the examination of whether they had gone under the knife, had their chests suddenly burst open! This scared several girls to tears, and some, upon witnessing this, didn't even dare to enter the inspection room and gave up their right to participate out of fear.

They were unwilling to deceive themselves.

The audition process was fast, with almost one person interviewed every minute.

There were a total of twenty groups.

Therefore, it didn't take long before it was Gan Yuying's turn.

Gan Yuying's own conditions were not poor; a classic beauty, so she easily passed the round.

When everyone saw her holding the entrance jade plate as she came out, they all displayed looks of envy.

Not to mention whether one could stay until the end on the trial grounds, just having this entrance jade plate represented an enhancement to one's own value.

After all, this jade plate symbolized beauty.

And it was the beauty chosen from among hundreds.

The jade plate could also serve as capital for showing off in the future.

Gan Yuying, while looking at the jade plate, walked outside. Perhaps too excited, she didn't notice someone walking towards her and bumped into them directly, a strong fragrance of flowers instantly filling her nostrils.

Realizing she had bumped into someone, Gan Yuying immediately apologized, "I'm sorry, truly sorry, I didn't do it on purpose." As soon as she finished her sentence, she couldn't help sneezing.

Because she was allergic to the scent of flowers.

"Ah!" A shrill scream echoed through the air.

"I'm really sorry, miss, I truly didn't mean to!" Gan Yuying rubbed her nose, apologizing profusely.

"Kneel down and apologize to me!" Mu Xianxian raised her head in rage.

Having queued for so long already had made Mu Xianxian very irritated! And now, some idiot had not only run into her but also sneezed in her direction! What's worse, this idiot was also incredibly pretty! Most importantly, this idiot was holding the pass-through jade plate in her hand.

This meant that this idiot was her rival! Since she was the rival, there was no need for her to be polite to her!

One less person participating in the trial meant one less competitor for herself and a greater chance of winning.

As long as she knelt, she would be immediately disqualified.

A potential future ninth wife should have pride! How could she kneel to someone else? Wouldn't that be too servile?

Kneeling to apologize?

Gan Yuying looked at Mu Xianxian incredulously.

It was true she was at fault, but Mu Xianxian was also to blame. She wasn't the only one who wasn't watching where she was going! Moreover, she had already apologized for her actions! Mu Xianxian was being unreasonable! To demand that she kneel?

Perhaps Mu Xianxian had never died before?

Gan Yuying was not someone to be bullied so easily; she was the most beloved Little Princess of the Underworld! It was already quite something that she had apologized to Mu Xianxian proactively! Since Mu Xianxian was being unreasonable, there was no need for her to reason with her either.

"Kneel down and apologize? Heh, who do you think you are, a Prince or a Princess?" Gan Yuying challenged Mu Xianxian with a taunting look.

Gan Yuying was not someone who feared trouble, and she was also a person of reason. If others didn't provoke her, she would let bygones be bygones. But if someone did provoke her, she wasn't about to give them an easy time!

So what if she's called the most beautiful? Does being the most beautiful give her the right to act above the law?

She, too, was the First Princess of the Underworld! Had she said anything?

"Impudence!" A servant stepped forward from behind Mu Xianxian, speaking haughtily, "Our young lady is the number one beauty of the Superpower World, Mu Xianxian! How dare you speak to her like that! Get down on your knees for our lady now!"

This statement caused the waiting crowd around them to turn their heads and look at Mu Xianxian.

Among them, many were from the other two worlds; they had only heard of Mu Xianxian's fame and did not recognize her. Now, they started to comment freely.

"Look, look, that's the number one beauty of the Superpower World."

"Wow, Miss Xianxian has arrived too."

"This is the number one beauty of the Superpower World? I don't see what's so great."

"Pfft, I find a common person I know to be much prettier than her!"

"Hollow fame."

"Exactly, this so-called number one beauty of the Superpower World is completely overrated."

"She's so ugly."

"..."

The murmurs grew louder and more numerous.

It wasn't that Mu Xianxian wasn't pretty, but because this place was filled with beauties from all worlds, and when they looked at Mu Xianxian, they naturally found her to be just average.

Mu Xianxian's face turned pale with anger; they were discussing her looks dismissively right to her face, where could she, the top beauty, put her face now?

Anyone would be unhappy hearing such comments.

Gan Yuying crossed her arms, laughing joyously, feigning surprise, "Oh, so you're the number one beauty? It seems that the beauty standards of the Superpower World aren't so impressive after all. You, tsk tsk tsk, lack character, figure, and looks. All you know is to demand kneeling; you have no regard for human dignity whatsoever. In my opinion, someone like you simply cannot bear the title 'number one beauty.'

No sooner had she spoken than a murmur of agreement rose from the crowd.

"So that kind of person can be the number one beauty?"

"It looks to me like Mu Xianxian's quality is just so-so."

"Haha, she's just the number one beauty in name alone! Does she really think she can disdain everything under the heavens?"

Chapter 726: as long as there is faith, there is hope

"How disgraceful."

"Bringing shame to the Superpower World."

The surrounding crowd was all looking forward to the drama, with almost no one willing to extricate Mu Xianxian from her predicament.

Some people are just like that.

Climbing high and stepping low.

Listening to the discussions around her, Mu Xianxian's face got paler and paler, and if it weren't for the servant behind her holding her up, she would have probably collapsed!

This was truly the first time she had encountered someone like Gan Yuying!

Not only did she bump into someone and not apologize, but her words were even more intense, more arrogant than the victim herself! She couldn't understand who had given her such gall! Didn't she know the Superpower World was her turf?

"How dare you speak to my mistress like that, careful or you'll regret it!" the servant threatened again.

Like master, like servant. This servant had grown accustomed to swaggering around by Mu Xianxian's side and, for a moment, forgot that anyone who could come here to register and get a jade plate was certainly no ordinary person.

Since Gan Yuying could say something like this, it meant she was definitely not someone ordinary who could be harassed by Mu Xianxian.

"Oh my, oh my," Gan Yuying cupped her ear, raising her voice, "I'm so scared, oh! A great beauty indeed, huh? Can a top beauty bully people just because of her status? Then how do you want to make me regret it? Let everyone see how the top beauty bullies others!"

Though she spoke of fear, there wasn't a hint of it in Gan Yuying; instead, she had a mocking and smug look that was utterly infuriating.

Moreover, every sentence pushed Mu Xianxian further into controversy.

If word got out that the Superpower World's top beauty bullied others using her status, it wouldn't be a good reputation.

The crowd around them grew, and the chatter became louder, especially since both of them had successfully obtained the jade plate. Having the plate meant they were competitors, and competitors were there to be suppressed.

Thus, when the crowd got a hold of Mu Xianxian's weakness, they, of course, pulled it tight.

One less competitor meant one less source of pressure.

The position they coveted seemed ever closer.

Some even said, "Someone like Mu Xianxian has no qualification to be selected!"

"A person like this has no right to enter the trial competition."

"No manners! No cultivation! And ugly too!"

"..."

Similar opinions grew in number.

Angered, Mu Xianxian clenched her fists tightly, with her whole body shaking, yet, she had to maintain a smile and a graceful demeanor to avoid attracting criticisms and leaving a bad impression in everyone's minds.

Apart from that bitch Luo Yu, it had been a long time since anyone had made her this angry!

Mu Xianxian bit her lip, turning her glance to the servant, and said sharply, "Zhen, who allowed you to be so insolent to this lady? Apologize immediately!"

The only strategy at this point was to blame the servant.

The Superpower World was a world of advanced information.

Being selected as chief concubine was a rare opportunity that only came once in a hundred years, and there were certainly many journalists from the media amidst the crowd; she couldn't let them report anything negative about her. Mu Xianxian came here to register for the competition to elevate her name, not to tarnish it.

She was well aware of her situation, in such a case, she had to apologize first.

Otherwise, the media would certainly exaggerate the story.

Mu Xianxian swallowed this bitter pill, but in the trial competition tomorrow, she would definitely look for an opportunity to get her revenge!

Did they really think she, Mu Xianxian, was so easy to bully?

"Mistress?" The servant looked incredulously at Mu Xianxian; she was speaking for Mu Xianxian after all. Mu Xianxian didn't reward her but instead asked her to apologize! Where was the justice in that?

"I said apologize, so apologize!" Mu Xianxian's gaze hardened, her words icy.

The servant was startled and immediately bowed to apologize to Gan Yuying, "I apologize, miss. I was blind and failed to recognize an important person. Please forgive me."

Gan Yuying was not the kind of person who couldn't let things go after winning an argument. Seeing this, she waved her hand generously, "Forget it, I don't want to stoop to arguing with someone like you. Just remember to be more modest next time. Do you really think you can bully anyone you like, just because you think the world belongs to you?"

One sentence, two meanings.

The first meaning was aimed at the servant's arrogance, stating she wouldn't bother with such a person.

The second meaning was a lesson to Mu Xianxian, to be more modest in the future, if there's a next time, she might not be so easy to talk to.

Mu Xianxian was very angry, but reason told her she must endure.

Preserving her image was most important.

Watching Gan Yuying walk further away, Mu Xianxian said to the servant, "Go and check for me, who that bitch was just now!"

"Yes." The servant hurried toward the registration entrance.

It wasn't difficult for someone with Mu Xianxian's abilities to look up a contestant's information.

Gan Yuying, holding the jade plate, stepped out of the crowd, just as the old King of Hades emerged from one side. He wasn't surprised that Gan Yuying was selected, and hastily asked, "Yuying, have you seen my lord, the Phoenix Empress?"

"Father, what kind of question is that? I don't know the Chu Family's young lady. Even if I'd seen her, I wouldn't have known," Gan Yuying pocketed the jade plate, then continued, "However, during the interview just now, I asked indirectly, and it seems the Chu Family's young lady has already been predetermined and does not need to go through the open audition. So, I think, she probably didn't come."

Old King of Hades had followed the Empress since Ancient Times, so he habitually called her 'my lord', but Gan Yuying was different. She didn't have such deep obsessions with the Empress, so she referred to her as "the Chu Family's young lady."

What she didn't yet know was that this Chu Family's young lady was the same person who, back in the secular world, became known for her prophetic words—Master Chu.

"So it is," the old King of Hades narrowed his eyes, "it's good that Mo Zhixuan still has some conscience left!"

If Mo Zhixuan had made Chu Jin come to this so-called registration, then he would have been truly humiliating her.

"Make way, please, everyone move aside," a commotion spread through the crowd.

Five or six burly bodyguards escorted a young and beautiful woman their way.

Around them were young women in line, none willing to give way, protesting, "Who does she think she is! Doesn't she know how to line up?"

"Right, we've all been waiting in line hard, why should we make way for her?"

"Some people have no decency!"

"If everyone started jumping queues like you, wouldn't that lead to total chaos?"

"Fools abound year after year, but this year they are especially numerous. Don't they even look at where they are, daring to run wild here?"

Those lining up were all ladies from prominent families, each with a status more distinguished than the last, so seeing a woman accompanied by five or six bodyguards wasn't surprising. Of course, queue-jumpers had to be severely condemned.

Hearing the criticisms around her, the young woman felt not a shred of remorse; instead, she looked up furiously and snapped, "Rebellious, all of you! You're all rebelling, aren't you?"

As she spoke, her attendants tiptoed and whispered a few words into the ear of the young woman.

Whatever they said, the young woman's expression gradually softened. She walked to the very front of the queue and, with her nose in the air, said to the long-haired woman at the front, "One million Gold Coins. Leave this spot to me."

One million Gold Coins!

That was no small sum! It could buy a villa in the most luxurious area of the Superpower World. An ordinary person could work their whole life and not earn that amount.

However, the long-haired woman at the front remained unmoved, as if she hadn't heard a word.

What a joke!

The spot of Madam Nine is priceless; a mere million Gold Coins would buy it? Impossible.

"Two million," the young woman spoke again.

The long-haired woman at the front continued to ignore her, playing with her phone, as if she hadn't heard the young woman.

"Five million!" The young woman bit her lip.

Still, the woman was unmoved by the money, as if it were not five million but a speck of dust.

Around them, exclamations of amazement filled the air. Everyone was willing to give up their spot to the young woman.

That's 5 million there!

Whether they could secure the position of Madam Nine was still uncertain! So many talented individuals in the trials! Who would eventually triumph was unknown! Moreover, by giving up a front spot to her, one could just join the queue again. Other than losing some time, there would be no other loss.

Joining the queue again would only take two or three hours.

Two or three hours for 5 million! Such a bargain!

"Miss, I'll give you my spot. Three million will do," the short-haired girl behind the long-haired woman said eagerly.

But the young woman didn't even glance at her and coldly said, "I don't like having people in front of me, so I just want her spot."

The short-haired girl pouted. There were many oddballs around, especially this year.

"Ten million!" The young woman raised her bid again.

The long-haired woman acted as if she hadn't seen the young woman at all, taking out a small mirror and beginning to apply lipstick, touching up her makeup.

The young woman was about to explode from anger. "Hey, don't overstep your bounds. Fifteen million, no more!"

Then, the voice from the loudspeaker said, "Number 3108, please come to No. 5 Lateral Spirit Room."

The Lateral Spirit Room was for checking the physical appearance of everyone.

Only those who met the Lateral Spirit Room's standards could be successfully selected to enter the trial field.

The long-haired woman ignored the young woman, casually flipping her hair before heading to the Lateral Spirit Room.

"Twenty million!" The young woman could no longer stand it and reached out abruptly to grab the long-haired woman's wrist.

When everyone thought the long-haired woman would reject the young woman again, she instead smiled and asked, "Deal. Cheque or cash?"

Twenty million for a spot in the queue, only a fool wouldn't sell!

Seeing the long-haired woman compromise, the young woman finally breathed a sigh of relief and turned to her attendant, "Bring the cheque."

"Miss, your cheque," the attendant presented the cheque respectfully.

The long-haired woman took the cheque, handed over her waiting number to the young woman, thanked her, and walked away.

The onlooking crowd was dumbfounded. Although they were all of considerable status, they could not frivolously spend twenty million Gold Coins!

In the Superpower World, money was divided into two levels.

The lower level was ordinary paper money.

The higher level involved Gold Coins.

Gold Coins were a symbol of high society. For an average family to have two or three hundred Gold Coins was already quite remarkable!

Yet this woman had so casually spent twenty million.

Twenty million Gold Coins for a place in the queue.

A poor bargain.

Moreover, the long-haired woman had obviously been bidding up, deliberately dragging out the time to the very end.

No one expected the young woman to actually fall for it.

She was indeed foolish.

However, the young woman didn't care about all that and went straight into the Lateral Spirit Room with her number.

A minute later, with a jade plate indicating her pass in hand, she emerged from the Lateral Spirit Room with a beaming smile, the triumphant look in her eyes quite apparent.

"Who is this person, being so willful?" Gan Yuying, who had witnessed all this, said with some curiosity.

Splurging twenty million Gold Coins so carelessly, her identity must be anything but ordinary. Moreover, Gan Yuying had sensed intense fluctuations of Spiritual Power from this person, a formidable opponent not to be underestimated.

The old King of Hades squinted his eyes, "If I'm not mistaken, that woman just now is the current Leader of Spirit Nation, Shangguan Lingluo."

"The current leader?" Gan Yuying raised an eyebrow, "No wonder she's so willful, she's at the level of an Empress! It's still uncertain whether this present Empress will be more powerful than the Ancient Empress of the Ancients reincarnated or not?"

"Of course, my lord Phoenix is more powerful!" declared the old King of Hades without hesitation. "My Phoenix Empress united the Nine States, commanded respect from all over, created an age of peace and prosperity; how could she be compared to a mere Leader of Spirit Nation?"

No matter the time or place, the Phoenix was the old King of Hades' faith!

As long as faith remained, hope endured.

Chapter 727: keep it

"Father, don't be too confident," Gan Yuying casually said, "The Phoenix Empress is already a thing of the past, after reincarnating through so many lifetimes and growing up in the mundane world, she has probably become an ordinary person by now! Otherwise, would Gu Qinian dare to challenge the Empress's authority?"

In fact, what Gan Yuying said had its own logic.

No matter how formidable the Empress used to be, that was all in the past.

Now, she was merely Chu Jin.

This trial competition had attracted so many talented people with special abilities, whether Chu Jin could win was still an unknown.

If Chu Jin were really that powerful, it's likely that Gu Qinian wouldn't dare to be so arrogant.

The Phoenix Empress was just a former Empress, whereas Shangguan Lingluo was an Empress of the present.

If these two stood opposed to each other, Shangguan Lingluo would definitely be more formidable.

"Nonsense!" the old King of Hades's face turned cold, "The majesty of our lord is not something you younger generations can presume to speculate about! If I hear you speak disrespectfully about our lord again, I will no longer acknowledge you as my daughter!"

The old King of Hades had followed the Phoenix Empress from the beginning and knew how difficult and challenging her path to becoming Empress had been!

Without the Empress's pioneering and arduous efforts, how could there be a prosperous and peaceful future for the people to enjoy?

Thus, he wouldn't allow anyone to slander the Phoenix Empress, not even his own daughter.

"Is it really that serious?"

Disowning her as his daughter? Gan Yuying pouted, somewhat confused, thinking that the old King of Hades was being hyperbolic. How long had the era of the Phoenix Empress been over for him to still be taking it so seriously?

The Phoenix Empress became who she was with the support of many people. Without it, could she have united the Nine States by herself and established a golden age of peace?

Why did people of later generations only remember the Phoenix Empress and forget the others?

This wasn't fair to those other people.

In any case, Gan Yuying could not understand the old King of Hades's emotions.

"Do you know why the Phoenix Empress became Empress?" the old King of Hades's eyes were downcast, his expression very serious.

"I don't know," Gan Yuying touched her nose.

She really didn't understand, since the founding of mainland China, not to mention ancient times, even in modern society, the phenomenon of male superiority over females existed.

In the distant past, this mindset was even more deeply ingrained.

Yet the Phoenix Empress, just a woman, managed to stand out among many women, achieving parity with men, and willingly submitting to her, finally reaching the zenith of power. This precisely demonstrated her extraordinary ability!

The old King of Hades suddenly stopped walking, raising his eyes towards the horizon, slowly exhaling four words, "Because of belief."

His tone was even, neither fast nor slow, yet it struck a chord, immersing one in a complex mood that was hard to escape.

Gan Yuying was stunned, just staring at the old King of Hades, half-understanding.

Perhaps, some things could only be fully understood after one had personally experienced them.

"But..." Gan Yuying hesitated and then expressed the thoughts in her heart.

"The Empress is indeed noble, but without the support of her loyal ministers, she couldn't have built a prosperous and peaceful realm. This vast territory, without the soldiers charging into battle, could she have conquered it by herself? Yet, later generations only remember the majesty of the ancient Empress, forgetting those who shed blood and tears for it, isn't that a little unfair?"

A great general is made at the expense of many soldiers.

The Phoenix Empress united the Nine States, but in the process, countless lives were lost. However, subsequent generations only remembered the Phoenix Empress!

Those who died for it were forever buried underground.

Even after a thousand years.

No one knows them.

The old King of Hades stroked his beard, looking at Gan Yuying with a far-reaching gaze, "Throughout history, which sovereign's realm wasn't secured through blood and tears? Which era didn't involve soldiers' sacrifices? What's dreadful is not their sacrifices, but that those sacrifices do not result in a wise ruler."

Gan Yuying frowned slightly, her gaze full of confusion, "I don't quite understand."

She only knew that many soldiers had died to achieve the Empress's prosperous Nine States, and that this was inherently unfair.

She was just a young girl and didn't understand the profound truths the old King of Hades was speaking of.

The old King of Hades sighed and continued, "You're young, it's normal for you to not understand these grand principles. Let me give a simpler example, do you know the story about the three visits to the thatched cottage?"

"I know that," Gan Yuying said with a smile, "Three visits to the thatched cottage, a strategy for uniting the realm, and devotion of an elder minister's heart, it's the story of Liu Bei inviting Zhuge Liang to assist him."

Although Gan Yuying was mischievous, she still loved to study.

Especially classical Chinese literature.

"That's right," the old King of Hades nodded in approval, "Take Zhuge Liang, for example. He was full of talent, but if Liu Bei hadn't recognized it and invited him to come out of seclusion, he would have just been an ordinary countryman dying in the mountains."

Zhuge Liang is praised by generations because Liu Bei discovered his talent.

If not for Liu Bei, how could Zhuge Liang become world-famous and remembered by future generations?

A steed needs a Bole to realize its potential.

To the old King of Hades, the Phoenix Empress was not just a belief, but also a Bole, a guide to brightness.

A Bole is nothing without a steed.

But, if a steed never meets a Bole, everything is in vain!

Before meeting a Bole, no matter how talented a steed is, it's all for naught without recognition.

There are always fine steeds, but the true horse connoisseurs are rare.

In that chaotic era of war and strife, only those of high birth with ample food and wealth could stand at the top of the food chain, relying on mutual protection among officials, running for office, peddling posts, using money to pursue officialdom, and inheriting positions from fathers—who would care about your inner qualities after being well-fed and secure in their own positions?

The children of officials would follow in their fathers' footsteps, assured a career in governance, an unending cycle of officialdom.

Those at the bottom of society could only lead lives of toil, farming and tilling the land.

But the Phoenix Empress was different.

The Phoenix Empress looked not at one's birth or wealth, but only at one's ability.

Whether they were adept in literature or martial arts,

as long as they were truly talented, they could fully utilize their capabilities under the Phoenix Empress's leadership.

Those with ability, rise to the top.

The appearance of the Phoenix Empress gave hope to those oppressed people.

She abolished the old systems and created a brand new Nine States.

An era of great prosperity under heaven.

The Phoenix Empress won the hearts of the people.

This is also why the Phoenix Empress was so supported by everyone.

Even after a thousand years, the Phoenix Empress still remained the Empress in their hearts.

Moreover, the Phoenix Empress's own abilities made many men feel inferior.

The position of Empress was not inherited, but fought for and established by the Phoenix Empress herself.

She was virtuous and benevolent.

With a heart that embraced the entire world,

thus, she could secure an era of prosperity for the Nine States.

Hearing this, Gan Yuying seemed to understand something. She nodded and summarized, "There are fine steeds because there are horse connoisseurs. Father, you're saying, you're the fine steed, and the Empress is the horse connoisseur, right?"

Even in the new era, not every woman could sit in the position that the Phoenix Empress did, and in the male-dominated Ancient Times, for the Phoenix Empress to make the men willingly submit and remain faithfully devoted—indeed, it was something miraculous.

Such a woman was truly extraordinary.

"Correct," the old King of Hades continued, "Yuying, you just need to remember, that our lord Phoenix Empress's sacrifices were far greater than you could imagine, and that would suffice."

It wasn't without reason that the Phoenix Empress remained unforgettable and loyally admired by them over a thousand years.

Only those who lived through the Phoenix Empress's era could understand.

That era.

Everyone held a common belief.

It was.

The Phoenix Empress.

Immortal and eternal.

"Oh," Gan Yuying nodded and then said, "That Empress from the Spirit Country seemed quite formidable just now. Father, do you think I stand a chance against her?"

Since she became an Empress, her strength was undeniably real. Gan Yuying was somewhat worried; she didn't want to confront the Empress and be swiftly defeated.

That would be too embarrassing.

The old King of Hades spoke with an air of indifference, "The Leader of Spirit Nation is young and inflated with pride, just a facade with no real substance; you don't have to worry." He didn't take Shangguan Lingluo seriously.

Shangguan Lingluo's style of conduct revealed that she was too arrogant, and when arrogance goes too far, it becomes conceit.

"Then I'm relieved," Gan Yuying watched as the Spirit Country Empress walked out with the qualifying jade plate then slowly retracted her gaze, adding, "Let's head back to the inn first, I bet Uncle Mu and the others are getting anxious."

"Mhm," the old King of Hades turned and stepped forward.

In truth, he was somewhat concerned.

In the trial competition, aside from the Spirit Country Empress, there were also many high-status individuals who had passed. It would be a significant challenge for Chu Jin the next day.

If she won, her reputation would be well-deserved.

If she lost, her previously assumed wisdom could be ruined in an instant.

That's why the old King of Hades must find a way to help Chu Jin.

Meanwhile, at the Chu Family residence.

Chu Jin showed no signs of anxiety as she sat cross-legged beside the low tea table, leisurely brewing tea, her fair hands moving ceaselessly among the verdant tea wares.

The sound of the tea ware clinking was crisp and melodious, soothing to the body and mind.

Tea smoke curled up, adding an air of mystery to her clear and distinct features as if she were a fairy perched on the clouds.

The air was fragrant with a light aroma of tea, refreshing to the senses.

Delightful to the nose.

"Sis, what exactly does brother-in-law mean by this? Does he truly wish to marry you? To stir up a trial event like this—isn't that just causing trouble?" Chu Xiu grimaced as she gulped down a cup of tea, expressing her annoyance.

Thinking of tomorrow's trial competition, Chu Xiu felt extremely indignant.

The little loli chimed in, "Right, Jin-ge, what exactly does uncle mean by this? If he doesn't want to marry you, then there's a whole queue of people waiting behind! What trial competition? This is really disrespectful! Is he doing this on purpose?"

If Mo Zhixuan didn't want to marry Chu Jin, Mo Qianjue would be very pleased.

If Chu Jin couldn't become Madam Jiujun, being a City Lord's wife was also quite good.

No one could understand what was really going on. To outsiders, it all seemed as if Mo Zhixuan intentionally created a problem because he didn't want to marry Chu Jin.

With Mo Zhixuan's abilities, he could easily ignore the rumors and just marry Chu Jin.

However, they only saw what was on the surface.

But they failed to see the underlying issues.

If Mo Zhixuan married Chu Jin against everyone's wishes, he would only sink Chu Jin deeper into dire straits.

"What's the matter?" Chu Jin raised an eyebrow slightly, speaking in a subdued tone, "Are you afraid I'll lose?"

"It's not that," Chu Xiu shook her head, "I just feel that what my brother-in-law is doing is wrong."

"This isn't Mo Zhixuan's fault, you've misunderstood him," Chu Jin picked up a cup of tea, about to take a light sip, but then seemingly remembered something, put down the teacup, and picked up the glass of plain water instead, taking a drink before continuing, "I myself want to participate in this trial competition."

She didn't elaborate further.

Fortunately, both Chu Xiu and the little loli did not press her for more details.

"Jin-ge, this tea smells so good, why aren't you drinking it but instead going for plain water?" the little loli asked offhandedly.

"My stomach isn't feeling too well, just smelling it is the same," Chu Jin replied, lifting the teacup and gently sniffing it.

Chu Jin was fond of tea, yet today she only drank plain water, which was indeed strange, but the two children, the little loli and Chu Xiu, didn't think too much of it.

"Jin-ge, Jin-ge!"

The voice arrived before the person did.

Mo Qingyi came running in hurriedly.

"What's wrong? Why all the rush?" Chu Jin put down her teacup and looked at Mo Qingyi with a light smile.

"Jin-ge, this is the list of participants for the trial competition, take a look." By then, the sky had already darkened, and so the registration time for the trial competition had ended, and the participants had been finalized.

There were more than 120 people in total.

The list of participants was very detailed.

The list was organized according to each person's strength.

Ranked first was the Empress of Spirit Country, Shangguan Lingluo.

Because she was an empress, Shangguan Lingluo's description was brief with only eight characters: a neighboring country's empress, a phoenix among people.

Although it was just four words, many people were already apprehensive.

The second place was Xi He.

Xi He's introduction was that he had Divine Race bloodline, a direct disciple of the third and fifth elders of the Superpower World, with unfathomable strength.

The third place went to the only female bounty hunter in the three realms, Su Yuqiao.

The fourth place was the Little Princess of the Underworld, Gan Yuying.

The fifth place belonged to the number one beauty of the Superpower World, Mu Xianxian.

Chu Jin looked at her own ranking.

Well...

She was ranked 120th.

Perhaps to contrast with Spirit Country Empress's introduction, Chu Jin's description was also eight characters: Reincarnation of the Phoenix Empress, from the mortal world.

Both of them were empresses of their countries.

One was ranked first.

The other was ranked last.

Now that was interesting.

Moreover, the list clearly stated that the rankings were based on the strength of the contestants.

That is to say, the higher the ranking, the greater the hope of winning.

Conversely, the lower the ranking, the less hope there was.

Those ranked after the one-hundredth place were just cannon fodder.

What was even more interesting,

was that the list clearly marked Chu Jin as a reincarnation of an Empress yet also specifically pointed out her mortal origins, which was an evident sarcasm directed at her.

Therefore, many people who saw Chu Jin simply smiled and passed her by.

In their eyes, a mere mortal person wasn't worth their attention; some even questioned the organizers as to how such a person was chosen to participate.

Others felt it was a pity.

The Empress reincarnated.

Indeed, a promising seedling.

A reincarnated Empress born in the secular world is no different from an ordinary person, but if she were born in the Superpower World or another realm, she'd certainly be a formidable character contending for power.

Without a doubt, I know this matter of the rankings was done by the second Elder and the others.

They deliberately placed Chu Jin last and specifically noted her identity as the reincarnated Empress.

This move was also deliberately made to draw hatred towards Chu Jin.

The ancient Empress was an existence many dreaded, possessing infinite glory.

If a person stands too high, they invite envy.

Now, the once illustrious Empress has become an insignificant commoner, and of course, many would want to step on her.

Chu Jin remained indifferent. Seeing this, she merely curved her lips into a smile and didn't take it to heart.

In this world, those who can bully her are probably yet to be born.

However, Mo Qingyi was not taking it lightly, worried that Chu Jin might misunderstand Mo Zhixuan, and quickly said, "Jin, don't be angry. My brother definitely doesn't know about this, and if he did, he certainly wouldn't let them do such a thing."

Actually placing Chu Jin at the very bottom of the rankings!

Are these people brainless?

Even Shangguan Lingluo, who is ranked first, may not be a match for Chu Jin!

Chu Jin chuckled nonchalantly, "I know, it's just a ranking without any real value. I'm not upset, and neither should you be."

Chu Xiu snatched the list and frowned, "Who are these people? They really have no vision! To rank my sister last!"

That's really underestimating someone too much!

Are people from the secular world all weaklings?

This bunch really is superficial.

In fact, people from the secular world aren't weak at all.

Chu Xiu stayed in the secular world for a while and still has several good friends there.

The people of the secular world value relationships and righteousness, and they are all incredibly intelligent.

Their wisdom surpasses all life in the universe.

It's just that they aren't as lucky as those from the Superpower World.

People from the Superpower World simply rely on their innate special abilities.

If you take away their abilities, they're not even as good as ordinary people!

Now, on what basis do they look down on the ordinary people of the secular world?

And to look down on Chu Jin simply because she comes from the secular world.

Truly shallow to the extreme.

It's time for Chu Jin to correct their perspectives.

The little loli then cheered Chu Jin on, "Go Jin, make them cry for their parents in tomorrow's trial!"

Mo Qingyi continued, "Jin, there's a total of 120 participants including you. I've investigated, and you don't have to worry about the others. Only Shangguan Lingluo requires caution. She is skilled with hidden weapons and poison. Be careful of her launching a sneak attack."

"Mhm, got it," Chu Jin nodded slightly.

After contemplating for a while, Mo Qingyi added, "And there's Xi He too. But since she comes from an upright sect, she won't resort to despicable tactics. Oh, and there are the bounty hunter Su Yuqiao and Gan Yuying, the Little Princess of the Underworld. Both are skilled at combat, and even when fighting alone, they're not to be feared. The biggest concern is if they team up against you..."

Barely skimming off the tea's foam, Chu Jin replied with a light tone, "If they really do team up, that would actually make things easier."

One against three, isn't that simpler?

"You've got a point," Mo Qingyi rubbed her chin and then said with a smirk, "Jin, suddenly I feel sorry for those in tomorrow's trial. They could never imagine the one they've completely overlooked from beginning to end would turn the tables and become the king."

With Chu Jin's skills, dealing with those people would just take a few seconds.

With the important matters discussed, Mo Qingyi, like a magician, magically produced four strings of candied hawthorns from behind her.

She handed one to each—Chu Jin, Chu Xiu, and the little loli. "Let me tell you, these candied hawthorns are delicious, both sour and sweet!" She said while unwrapping one and took a big, willful bite.

"Wow! It's so good!" exclaimed the little loli, her eyes shining with stars.

Even Chu Xiu, who was usually indifferent to culinary temptations, praised, "It's really delicious. Qingyi, where did you buy this?"

"Right on Ancient City Street!" Mo Qingyi spoke while munching.

When her gaze fell on Chu Jin, Mo Qingyi spat out the pit, puzzled. "Jin, why aren't you eating? It's really tasty, you should try it!"

Chu Jin also loved to eat. If this were any other day, she'd be feasting without restraint, but today, she simply drank water calmly, which seemed somewhat out of the ordinary.

Candied hawthorns are made of hawthorn.

Hawthorn contains a variety of organic acids, fruit acids, hawthorn acids, citric acids, and so forth, which are not suitable for certain individuals.

"My sister's stomach feels a bit uncomfortable." Before Chu Jin could speak, Chu Xiu had already begun to explain.

Chu Jin added, "Yes, perhaps it was something unclean I ate last night. My stomach's been a bit upset today so I have to avoid raw and cold foods. You enjoy them, I'll save mine for Mo Zhixuan."

Chapter 728:

"My brother?" Mo Qingyi looked around, "Did my brother also come?"

Just as Mo Qingyi finished speaking, footsteps sounded from behind her. She turned around and saw no other than Mo Zhixuan approaching.

"Brother-in-law."

"Godfather."

Chu Xiu and the little Lolita both greeted him properly.

Mo Zhixuan smiled, nodded, then sat cross-legged next to Chu Jin, casually picking up her cup to drink some water.

Chu Jin passed a candied haw to Mo Zhixuan, "Here, I saved it especially for you."

Mo Zhixuan took the candied haw, bit into it, and then praised, "Tastes good."

Mo Qingyi immediately seized the chance to seek praise, looking at Mo Zhixuan with a look that begged for commendation, "Brother, brother, I'm the one who bought it."

Mo Zhixuan used to dislike sweet things, but this time he actually praised the candied haws as delicious, which was incredibly rare, so Mo Qingyi was very excited.

"Oh, no wonder it tastes so bad." Mo Zhixuan instantly switched to a cold and haughty expression.

Mo Qingyi: "...". She was indeed his true brother!

"The trial race is tomorrow; how about staying at my place tonight?" Mo Zhixuan looked down at Chu Jin.

"Why?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly.

Mo Zhixuan took another bite of the candied haw and said calmly, "Because my place is closer to the trial site, it would be more convenient for me to take you there tomorrow morning."

Though he was eating a candied haw, the words he spoke were still remarkably clear.

Mo Qingyi looked at Mo Zhixuan with a speechless expression. Men are truly as unpredictable as a deep ocean! While his mouth complained of distaste, his actions were more honest than anyone's.

"I don't want to make the trip back and forth." Chu Jin looked down, stirring the plain water in her cup with a silver spoon, "And it's a long car ride, which is quite troublesome. I seem to get carsick lately."

"Since when do you get carsick?" Mo Zhixuan raised his brows slightly, somewhat puzzled, "Weren't you fine with it before?"

"I don't know," Chu Jin casually peeled an orange in her hand, "Just feeling a bit queasy, might be because I'm getting old."

When Chu Jin mentioned "old," Mo Zhixuan guiltily averted his gaze.

In front of all these people, he was the oldest one.

Chu Jin hadn't brought up the word 'old' in a long time; why today...

Mo Zhixuan raised his hand to touch his nose, preparing to stand still as a silent spectator.

Chu Jin didn't notice these details and continued peeling the orange in her hands.

Early in June, the oranges were not yet ripe, the flesh still a greenish-white color.

A sharp sourness spread through the air.

Chu Jin's taste buds burst into life, not minding the sourness at all, stuffing segment after segment into her mouth with a satisfied look.

This made Mo Qingyi's teeth feel tender; my, how Jin could eat sour food!

Are you sure this orange is edible?

"Is it sour?" Mo Qingyi looked at Chu Jin and couldn't help swallowing, sensing the sourness even several meters away.

"It's not sour." Chu Jin spoke casually, offering a segment of the orange to Mo Qingyi, "Try it."

"So sour! So sour!" Mo Qingyi's brows scrunched together as she excitedly got up from the swordgrass mat, spitting the orange into the trash can.

It was just unbearably sour!

So sour it could knock her teeth out.

"It's not sour," Chu Jin said, puzzled, "I think it's quite sweet."

Mo Qingyi was at a loss for words, "Damn it! Jin, you must've lost your sense of taste!"

That unbearably sour orange, Chu Jin actually called sweet!

Chu Jin's capabilities weren't just fearsome in combat; even her taste was frightening.

Such a terrifying woman.

"Let me try," Mo Zhixuan moved closer, biting away the last segment of orange in Chu Jin's hand.

It was indeed very sour.

Enough to make Mo Zhixuan's features scrunch up tightly.

"Is it very sour?" Chu Jin turned to look at Mo Zhixuan.

"Not sour, not sour," as soon as Chu Jin looked his way, Mo Zhixuan's expression instantly returned to normal, saying seriously, "Not at all sour, very sweet."

He had already lost common ground with Chu Jin on the issue of age, so he couldn't afford to have a disagreement about the sourness or sweetness of an orange.

"I also find it very sweet, have another segment." Chu Jin pushed the last segment of the orange into Mo Zhixuan's mouth.

Mo Zhixuan didn't dare to chew it and just swallowed it whole, then said, "If you don't want to make the trip back and forth, then I'll stay here tonight."

After eating the orange, Jin casually picked up a piece of green plum and put it in her mouth, "That works."

"Hey, hey, hey," Mo Qingyi interjected, unhappy with the exchange between the two, "Dear couple, under the broad daylight, could you please show some decorum? Don't you know to spare a thought for us single folks?"

These two were really something.

First feeding each other in front of a single person, then blatantly discussing their overnight arrangements!

Tsk, the smell of love was just unbearable.

Mo Zhixuan raised his eyebrows slightly, "Sorry, we're different species with no common language, so we don't understand what you're talking about."

Mo Qingyi gritted her teeth, "That's speciesism!"

Mo Zhixuan continued raising his eyebrows, "You've finally figured that out, haven't you?"

Mo Qingyi: "... Ah, so annoying!

Chu Jin laughed softly. Mr. Mo was getting more and more sarcastic.

That night, Mo Qingyi didn't leave either, but stayed over at the Chu Family's place.

The next morning.

Chu Jin woke up early. When she awoke, Mo Zhixuan was standing by the bed, dressing himself in front of the mirror.

He wore a noble and luxurious hand-made suit.

Because it was tailored to fit perfectly, it emphasized his already long and straight figure, making him look even more tall and statuesque.

The morning sun shone through the window, casting a faint glow on him, making it hard for one to look away.

This was the first time Chu Jin had taken such a serious look at Mr. Mo, and thus, those four words appeared in her mind—

A splendor of peerless beauty.

Just as she had seen him for the first time.

Dazzling beyond compare.

Back then, she thought that he was a man so powerful that his strength was immeasurable, and that she would do well to provoke him less.

Never did she imagine that in the future she would share a bed and be married to him.

Fate is just a word.

Intertwined in every aspect.

Some things seem to be arranged by destiny.

Chu Jin lay on her side at the edge of the bed, her left hand on her belly, staring at him, and for a moment, she was stupefied.

"How is it," Mo Zhixuan felt her gaze and slowly turned around, looking down at her from above with his thin lips parting slightly, "Is your man not very handsome, so handsome that you can't even extricate yourself?"

Despite uttering such self-loving words, Mo Zhixuan's expression could remain so serious, as if he were sitting in an office issuing commands with the utmost gravity.

Speaking such narcissistic words and still not blushing or batting an eye, probably only Mo Zhixuan could accomplish that.

"The mirror is right over there, why don't you go take a look yourself?" Chu Jin collected her thoughts and spoke with a light tone.

"What? Do you think I'm not handsome enough?"

"Do I need to spell it out? Don't you know in your heart?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly.

"Handsome or not, I'm yours now! All sales are final, no refunds..."

Chu Jin had already gotten used to Mr. Mo's shamelessness, and replied in a light tone, "Doesn't it support a 7-day return without reason?"

"Thinking of exchanging me?" Mo Zhixuan arched his eyebrows, "No way, not even a window."

The two dawdled in the room for a while before changing into their clothes and going downstairs.

"Brother, Jin Bro, you finally got up. Come over and eat." Mo Qingyi spoke with a bun in his mouth, his words muffled as he called out to them.

Zhao Yan, Chu Xiu, and the little loli were also there.

It was just after 6 am, and normally, they would get up after 7 am. However, they had risen early today to go to the trial grounds to cheer for Chu Jin.

After greeting everyone, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan came over to have breakfast.

"Eh, Jin Bro, how come you're not wearing a skirt today?" Mo Qingyi looked Chu Jin over and continued, "You should wear that embroidered skirt, I guarantee you'll outshine everyone and stun the crowd. But, you look super good in this too. The key is having a beautiful face that allows you to do whatever you want!"

Mo Qingyi concluded with her final assessment.

Usually, clothes complement the person, but in Chu Jin's case, it was the person who complemented the clothes. No matter how ugly the clothes were, once Chu Jin wore them, they would shine anew and reach new heights of beauty.

Chu Jin wore a white T-shirt with ripped jeans and white sneakers underfoot today, her long hair tied up in a bun. It was a simple outfit, yet it exuded an aura of noble ease.

Unworldly, serene, as if an orchid in a secluded valley, undisturbed by worldly affairs.

It was an innate quality that couldn't be concealed by any external factors.

And it corresponded to that phrase.

Born with nobility.

"I'm going to participate in the trial competition, not a beauty pageant. Why would I wear a skirt?" Chu Jin skillfully peeled the eggshell and casually placed the yolk into Mo Zhixuan's bowl before continuing, "Besides, it's not convenient to fight in a skirt."

Mo Zhixuan unconsciously picked up the yolk and popped it into his mouth.

The two of them, one eating the yolk and the other the egg white, complemented each other well.

Mo Qingyi nodded thoughtfully, "That seems right, wearing a skirt could lead to mishaps in a fight."

After finishing the egg white, Chu Jin looked up at Mo Zhixuan with some puzzlement and asked, "Have you seen Zi?"

"No." Mo Zhixuan pulled out a napkin and elegantly wiped the corner of his mouth.

"Weird..." Chu Jin poked at the vegetables in her bowl with a spoon, "I feel like I haven't seen him for several days."

Upon hearing this, Mo Qingyi also spoke up curiously, "I haven't seen him for a long time either, Jin Bro, do you think something might have happened to him?"

Before Chu Jin could answer, Mo Zhixuan said, "What could happen to a grown man? Stop worrying over nothing. Now, he's the Great National Division, not some idle vagrant; he can't spend every day with you guys."

Zi, sent by Mo Zhixuan to a neighboring country on a goodwill mission, quietly shed two lines of bitter tears in his heart, "...". Bao Bao felt wronged, but Bao Bao wouldn't say a word.

Mo Zhixuan had been annoyed with Zi for a long time now.

With Zi, that troublemaker around, he had completely lost his presence in front of Chu Jin.

"Oh." Chu Jin nodded in understanding.

After all, Zi was not the same as he used to be.

It's normal for him to be busy.

After breakfast, the group took an extended luxury car and hurried to the trial competition venue.

The entrance to the trial grounds was filled with luxury cars.

The entire scene was bustling.

Everyone was there for the position of the ninth lady.

As soon as Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan got out of the car, Duanmu Zhe greeted them.

"Ninth Brother, Ninth Sister-in-law."

Today's competition was very important, so naturally, Duanmu Zhe couldn't be absent.

After a quick scan of the crowd and not finding that 'black ghost,' Duanmu Zhe quietly breathed a sigh of relief.

"Duanmu, you're here too." Mo Qingyi approached Duanmu Zhe unconsciously, her mood upbeat, so when calling him, she didn't even add the usual 'Little Four' to his name.

"Zhixuan, Jin." Mo's mother and Tong Zhi also got out of the car.

"Mom, Aunt Tong." Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan walked over.

"Jin."

"Ninth Sister-in-law."

Mo Feixue, Zhou Xunian, and Weiwei also came over.

Almost everyone was present.

"Jin, how come you've lost so much weight in just a few days?" Mo's mother grabbed Chu Jin's hand, full of concern.

Because of her poor appetite, Chu Jin did indeed look slightly thinner recently.

"It's fine." Chu Jin touched her face.

"Look at your little face, it's become the size of a palm," Mo's mother's face showed her distress as she turned to Mo Zhixuan, admonishing him, "Zhixuan, look how you're taking care of Jin."

Chapter 729: Nitpickers

"My fault, my fault," Mo Zhixuan immediately admitted his error, bowing his head.

After some idle chatter, the group began to make their way to the backstage area of the competition zone.

The contestants were all waiting backstage.

It was still early, but most of the contestants had already arrived.

Family members weren't allowed backstage, and even Mo Zhixuan couldn't break this rule. Since only a limited number of people could say farewell, Tong Zhi and Lady Mo took the rest to the audience seats, leaving Mo Zhixuan, Zhao Yan, Chu Xiu, and others to see off Chu Jin.

"Jin, remember to be careful in everything," Zhao Yan advised with concern.

"Mom, I can do it, don't worry," Chu Jin reassured her with a comforting look.

Mo Zhixuan hugged Chu Jin and whispered in her ear, "Nearly all the heroic women from the three realms have gathered here. Your physical strength is limited, so if you can't hold on, remember that I'm here for you. As long as I'm here, you don't have to care about what other people think."

"Hmm," Chu Jin nodded slightly.

"Nothing more to say, go for it, Jin!" Mo Qingyi gave Chu Jin's shoulder a hearty pat.

"Go Jin, I'll be cheering you on from the audience!" the little loli added.

Chu Xiu's gaze was firm as she looked at Chu Jin, "Sister, I believe in you!"

"Don't worry, everyone, I'll definitely come out on top. Head to the audience seats now; I need to go inside," Chu Jin said with a light smile, waving to the crowd.

Only after Chu Jin turned and disappeared did Mo Zhixuan lead Zhao Yan and the others towards the audience seats.

Given Mo Zhixuan's special identity, his presence naturally attracted quite a bit of attention.

Along the way, they even encountered Xi He and five other elders.

"Ninth Brother," Xi He greeted with a nod.

Mo Zhixuan also nodded slightly in response, politely greeting each elder in turn.

After all, the elders were his seniors, and in public, Mo Zhixuan owed them that much respect.

Mo Qingyi followed and greeted them as well.

After the greetings, Mo Zhixuan continued, "I'd like to introduce you to my mother-in-law and Jin's mother, this is my brother-in-law Chu Xiu, and this is my goddaughter, Pengpeng."

The other elders, out of courtesy, also greeted Zhao Yan and the others.

After Xi He and the others had exchanged greetings,

Xi He earnestly introduced herself to Zhao Yan, "Hello, ma'am, my name is Xi He and I'm very good friends with Jin."

Though she had met Chu Jin only once, Xi He had already come to consider her a very good friend in her heart.

Some people connect with just one glance, setting a lifetime's course.

The same goes for friendship.

The Second Elder cast a disappointed look at Xi He.

This child, is she being foolish? Why be so polite to an ordinary person?

And claiming to be good friends with Chu Jin.

Doesn't she know that 'worldliness' can be contagious?

Good influences are to be followed; bad ones, to be steered clear of!

Zhao Yan's impression of Xi He wasn't bad either. She reached out to hold Xi He's hand, saying warmly, "Hello."

With a forced smile, the Second Elder turned to Mo Zhixuan, "Mother-in-law? Zhixuan, isn't it a bit premature to say that before the trial's results are out?"

He saw Zhao Yan as nothing but an ordinary person, utterly worldly, without a hint of spiritual energy. He really couldn't understand how Chu Liyan had ever fallen for such a person!

What could the daughter of such a person amount to?

Mo Zhixuan stood there in his commanding presence, looking down at the Second Elder, his voice firm, "Jin's victory is inevitable, Second Elder, you just watch and see."

The Second Elder scoffed and shook his head, not saying another word, and led Xi He and the others away.

Knowing the Second Elder's nature, Xi He gave Mo Zhixuan and Zhao Yan an apologetic look.

"Who was that old guy just now? So annoying!" No sooner had the Elder and his entourage left than the little loli complained from behind.

"I don't really like him either..." Chu Xiu touched his nose and then added, "I don't know if it's just me, but it feels like he looks down on us."

Chu Xiu might be young, but he was no fool; he could tell from the Second Elder's words that he had very little regard for them.

That condescending look really deserved a slap.

"That's the Second Elder, age has its toll on vision, you should ignore it," Mo Zhixuan said, watching the Second Elder leaving, narrowing his eyes slightly, then turning to look at Zhao Yan, "I'm sorry, Mom, for the unpleasant experience."

"I'm fine, I just hope Jin can win the contest smoothly today." At this point, Zhao Yan finally understood why Chu Jin insisted on participating in this trial competition.

Zhao Yan was a reasonable person. Even without Mo Zhixuan's explanation, she could understand him.

The higher you are, the colder it gets.

It's not an easy seat to occupy.

"Hmm." Mo Zhixuan nodded slowly, his gaze firm, "I believe in Jin."

Chu Jin walked backstage, where all the contestants were sitting properly at their makeup tables.

A variety of beauties.

Plump or slender, lolita or mature woman, they had them all.

Seeing someone come in, everyone instinctively looked back, and when they saw Chu Jin, a look of amazement flashed in their eyes.

This girl, although dressed simply, was stunningly beautiful.

Among beauties, most are unwilling to concede to another's beauty, believing themselves more beautiful, but at the sight of Chu Jin, they had to admit that here was someone even more beautiful than themselves.

The appearance of Chu Jin instilled a sense of crisis in everyone present.

Not pleased with everyone's attention being drawn to Chu Jin, Mu Xianxian walked over, affectionately hooking Chu Jin's arm, raising her voice, "Sister Chu Jin, you've finally arrived."

Mu Xianxian's voice was neither loud nor soft, but enough for everyone inside to hear.

Upon hearing this, a dismissive look appeared in everyone's eyes.

Who in the room didn't know of Chu Jin?

Claiming to be the reincarnation of the Phoenix Empress, yet of ordinary world origins, without a trace of Spiritual Power, almost like a useless person, yet Mo Zhixuan's fiancée, despite being scorned by him. If they were Chu Jin, they would be ashamed to appear in this competition.

Mo Zhixuan didn't want her anymore, so why come to this event?

An ordinary person, entering such a prestigious competition, wasn't this seeking death?

But there was no denying that this Chu Jin was indeed very attractive.

However, in the competition, appearances were not enough; one needed to use their brain and show wisdom.

Chu Jin acted as if she did not see the disdain in people's eyes, gently pushing Mu Xianxian away, retracting her arm, and spoke indifferently, "I'm sorry, miss, do we know each other?"

Chu Jin didn't have a good impression of Mu Xianxian; on that night of the utmost Yin, she had saved her, only for Mu Xianxian to be ungrateful and turn against her.

Such a person with a seriously flawed moral compass.

Seeing the current situation, it seemed Mu Xianxian hadn't reformed.

So Chu Jin saw no need to give her face.

Mu Xianxian was known as the number one beauty in the Superpower World, a well-known fact, yet Chu Jin publicly declared she didn't recognize Mu Xianxian in such a setting, which was tantamount to slapping her face.

Before Mu Xianxian could speak, a girl nearby who wasn't fond of Mu Xianxian took the opportunity to mock, "Mu Xianxian is the beauty of the Superpower World; miss, do you not even know the top beauty?"

Mu Xianxian originally wanted to take the opportunity to ridicule Chu Jin and push her into the limelight, but she hadn't expected to be counterproductive and got herself into trouble instead!

How could she forget! Her standing as the number one beauty had prompted much jealousy!

Chu Jin slightly curved her lips, looking at Mu Xianxian with an indifferent tone, "This face is too unremarkable for me to recognize, and, I only hang out with good-looking people. This person... I really don't know her."

An arrogantly self-loving statement, coming from her, felt entirely harmonious.

Indeed, under such a stunning appearance, the charm of Mu Xianxian truly came across as unremarkable, bland to the extreme, without distinction.

With these words, the surrounding area erupted into laughter.

Mu Xianxian was furious; did Chu Jin not realize she was close to her doom?

She dared to say she wasn't attractive!

Even if she wasn't as outstanding as herself, at least, she was born in the Superpower World, a noble birth!

Unlike her, a mere wretch.

A lowly commoner.

The laughter drew Gan Yuying's attention, and she looked back in their direction. Suddenly seeing a familiar silhouette, she stood up excitedly and walked towards Chu Jin, "Master Chu!"

Seeing the newcomer, Chu Jin paused for a moment, then replied, "You are?"

She felt that Gan Yuying looked very familiar, but for the moment, she couldn't remember where she had seen her before.

Listening to this address, it must be someone she recognized from her fortune-telling.

It must have been during her time in the secular world.

Because Chu Jin remembered everything from two months ago very clearly, but four years ago, she had told fortunes for many people, and it was simply impossible to remember every single person's facial features.

"Master Chu, I'm Gan Yuying, don't you remember me?" Gan Yuying walked over, batting her large eyes at Chu Jin.

She had a naturally baby-faced look, and with her batting eyes, she seemed even more adorable.

Gan Yuying.

Chu Jin thought for a moment, and a sealed memory broke free.

Gan Yuying could be said to be the most special customer she had ever told fortunes for.

Because she was not an ordinary person at all, but came from the Ghost City, the Little Princess of the Underworld.

Chu Jin hadn't expected to encounter Gan Yuying here.

"Miss Gan, are you also here to participate in this trial competition?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly. Four years ago, through fortune-telling, Chu Jin had deduced that Gan Yuying had a man she was fond of.

That man was not Mo Zhixuan, so why would she appear here given that she had someone in her heart? Could it be that, like Xi He, she was also compelled against her will?

When this topic was mentioned, Gan Yuying sighed and continued, "It's a complicated story, not something that can be explained in a moment. Right, Master Chu, we agreed four years ago to be friends. You can just call me Yuying."

Seeing Chu Jin here made Gan Yuying extremely happy.

Ever since they parted ways four years ago, due to being entangled in trivial affairs, Gan Yuying had not seen Chu Jin. By the time she was free to look for Chu Jin, Chu Jin was no longer at that crossroad stall.

In the secular world, Chu Jin's status had reached its pinnacle.

Golden-mouthed Oracle, National Goddess, the youngest philanthropist, the youngest chief CEO were all her aliases.

In a nutshell, Chu Jin lived exactly as she had imagined.

When she first met Chu Jin, she was simply a fortune-teller with nothing else.

And in just a few years, she had achieved everything she wanted.

These deeds seemed simple, but in practice, they were extremely complicated.

To Gan Yuying, Chu Jin was simply a goddess.

Chu Jin smiled lightly and said, "Since that's the case, Yuying, just call me Jin."

Just then, someone emerged from the side.

She glanced up and down at Chu Jin and then turned to look at Gan Yuying, "Little Princess of the Underworld, I must remind you that this person here is the young lady of the Chu Family, a mere mortal from the secular world. If you befriend her, you'll be laughed at by everyone."

After mocking Mu Xianxian, she naturally had to switch her mockery to Chu Jin.

Although the identity of the reincarnated empress is noble, since she was born in the secular world, she was nothing, fit only to be bullied by others.

"Exactly, how can one befriend a mortal..." someone immediately echoed from the side.

"Who I choose to befriend is none of your business," Gan Yuying rolled her eyes at the crowd and said coldly, "Nosy parker!"

"Like a dog biting Lu Dongbin, not recognizing a kind heart!" The person stamped her foot in annoyance.

They had originally intended to isolate Chu Jin. After all, Chu Jin was nothing more than an ordinary mortal—what qualification did she have to share the stage with them? Such a person should be isolated to death! Yet there were those who did the exact opposite and deliberately sought to ingratiate themselves with Chu Jin!

And that person happened to be the Little Princess of the Underworld!

Among those present, there were very few who could afford to provoke the Little Princess of the Underworld.

After finishing her sentence, Gan Yuying then realized something was amiss and looked at Chu Jin incredulously, "Jin, who did they just say you are? The young lady of the Chu Family?"

The words "young lady of the Chu Family" were emphasized without her realizing it.

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Yes."

Upon hearing this, the light in the eyes of the person on the side flashed, and she immediately said, "Isn't she the young lady of the Chu Family? Little Princess, you might not know, but this young lady from the Chu Family comes from the mundane world and is just an ordinary mortal. Even our house's sweeping maid has a higher status than hers! This kind of trash..." before the word "die" came out.

"Smack!" A crisp slap echoed through the air.

"Smack!" Another followed.

Gan Yuying delivered two slaps left and right to the person's cheek, "Ill-mannered thing! Did you eat excrement for breakfast? Your mouth is so filthy! Has the entry bar for the trial competition lowered so much that they let anyone in? Disgusting!"

Gan Yuying was a very righteous young lady, and she was truly fond of Chu Jin.

Moreover, she had never imagined that the Master Chu she had been thinking about was the Phoenix Empress mentioned by the King of Hades.

Gan Yuying was truly overjoyed.

"You, you dare to hit me!" The woman who was hit covered her face, staring at Gan Yuying with eyes wide, venomous malice glinting in her gaze.

Who could have imagined Gan Yuying would strike the woman?

When she blurted out the words "Chu Family's young miss", everyone thought she intended to use the opportunity to mock Chu Jin! Unexpectedly, she actually stood up for Chu Jin!

Gan Yuying couldn't be insane, could she? She was the Little Princess of the Underworld! How could she associate with someone like Chu Jin? Wasn't that self-degradation?

Someone like Chu Jin should be pushed into the limelight and isolated to the point of questioning her existence, lacking even the courage to step onto the stage!

Yet today, Gan Yuying struck out for Chu Jin!

"So what if I hit you! I, as the respected Princess of the Netherworld, striking you is already a blessing! It's your lack of upbringing! Consider yourself lucky not to be killed on the spot!" Gan Yuying declared arrogantly.

But unfortunately for them, her words were justified; had the woman not spoken disrespectfully towards Chu Jin, she wouldn't have resorted to violence.

Everything must be based on 'reason'.

Even in the Superpower World, reason mattered.

Originally, without Gan Yuying's interference, Chu Jin was doomed to be bullied today! Yet, inconveniently, Gan Yuying decided to step in.

Another woman beside her tried to persuade kindly, "Little Princess, please don't be confused. The Chu Family's young miss by your side is merely a commoner, and she isn't worthy of your friendship."

"What business is that of yours? Don't think that you come from somewhere noble!" Gan Yuying snapped back unapologetically, "Even your ancestors were commoners. Haven't you forgotten that you too are a descendant of commoners? What right do you have to look down on them?"

No matter whether it's the Superpower World, the secular world, the Ancient Martial Arts World, or any other realm, they all started from an ordinary person.

In Gan Yuying's eyes, everyone was equal, without distinction of rank and status.

"Unreasonable!" The woman turned away with a cold sweep of her sleeve.

This Gan Yuying was truly beyond help! To think she would defend a commoner! How could such a disgrace emerge from the Underworld!

How could a commoner be compared to their highborn selves?

"I think you're the real trash!" Gan Yuying retorted coldly.

Gan Yuying reached out to loop an arm around Chu Jin's shoulders, then continued, "Jin, don't worry. With me here, no one dares to bully you!"

Chu Jin smiled gently and looked up, "Yuying, thank you."

It had to be said, Gan Yuying's words just now had greatly won Chu Jin's favor; she could see from Gan Yuying's eyes that this was an understanding and good-natured girl.

"We're friends, no need for thanks!" Gan Yuying laughed, "Right, Jin, when we enter the trial field later, just follow behind me. Rest assured, as long as I'm here, I'll make sure you win easily."

This was Gan Yuying's true purpose in competing.

Her mission was to protect the Empress from harm, and ensure she won with ease.

"Ah?" Chu Jin said with some surprise, "You're protecting me to win? What about you?"

Gan Yuying led Chu Jin to a spot to sit down, then followed up, "Jin, to tell you the truth, you are the reincarnation of the Phoenix Empress that my father and the Lord of the Ancient Martial Arts World are searching for. I participated in this trial precisely to ensure your success without any injury. As you know, I have someone else in my heart. How could I possibly be interested in this tedious trial competition?"

"Both of them are here?" Chu Jin raised her eyes slightly.

Chu Jin's mind held memories from the Ancient Times, and she naturally remembered the existence of the former King of Hades and Mu Fengshan.

However, she did not expect this competition to attract attention from the other two worlds.

After a thousand years, they still remembered the Phoenix Empress.

"Yes," Gan Yuying nodded, then added, "If my father knows I've found you, he will be very happy. I'll go inform him now. Wait for me here."

Communication devices were not allowed backstage, so Gan Yuying could only go out herself.

No sooner had Gan Yuying left than the troublemakers arrived. The visitor was Empress Shangguan Lingluo from Spirit Country, who looked at Chu Jin haughtily and said sarcastically, "So you're the reincarnation of the Phoenix Empress?"

Shangguan Lingluo had been observing Chu Jin for a long time. She was the reigning Empress of Spirit Country, yet few knew of her.

Everyone was talking about the Phoenix Empress, but few knew that there was an Empress Shangguan Lingluo of Spirit Country.

Both being Empresses, why should the Phoenix Empress, a ruler of the past, be more famous than her, the current Empress?

One who had turned to dust, the other currently ruling the lands of Spirit Country.

Therefore, Shangguan Lingluo wished to compete with this legendary Konghou-playing reincarnation of the Phoenix Empress! To see if this Empress was really as formidable as rumored!

Just now, out of respect for Gan Yuying, she had not approached directly.

Though she was an Empress of a nation, Spirit Country was only a minor country. The smaller neighboring countries all depended on the three realms to thrive, and Gan Yuying was the Little Princess of the Underworld, a person she couldn't afford to provoke for the time being. She couldn't have a direct confrontation with Gan Yuying.

"Yes, I am. May I know if you have any advice?" Chu Jin slowly raised her eyes, the corners of her lips curving into a faint smile.

Chapter 730: small country

Empress Shangguan Lingluo narrowed her eyes, sizing up Chu Jin without inhibition.

A moment later, she reached a conclusion.

All this talk of a reincarnated empress, the Bloodline of Fire Bathing, is utter nonsense! This Chu Jin is nothing but a commoner, her aptitude not even matching up to her little finger. Such a person has no qualifications to stand as an enemy on the same stage as her.

Having come to this conclusion, Empress Shangguan Lingluo puffed out her chest and continued, "I wouldn't dare offer guidance. I am the Spirit Country Empress Shangguan Lingluo. I've heard that you are the reincarnated ancient empress, the bearer of the Bloodline of Fire Bathing, and that you can even play the ancient Konghou with considerable pride. As fellow empresses, we are similar, I've long admired you. I wonder if today you could let me witness the might of an empress?"

The last sentence was laden with provocation.

Although Empress Shangguan Lingluo spoke of admiration, there wasn't a hint of it on her face; instead, the scorn in her eyes was clearly visible.

This was well known throughout the Superpower World: the young miss of the Chu Family, reincarnated from the empress, had lived in the secular world since childhood. Not only was her bloodline ordinary, but she was also the mixed-race offspring of a special ability person and a commoner.

The so-called Bloodline of Fire Bathing was nothing more than a stunt Mo Zhixuan had concocted for her in the past.

Thus, when she spoke, many cast mocking glances this way.

Wherever you are, there's never a shortage of people who enjoy a spectacle.

Now that these two who were both titled empresses were confronting each other head-on, and without Gan Yuying present at the scene, there would be quite a drama.

So the crowd was exceptionally excited.

Without Gan Yuying's protection, Chu Jin was definitely doomed.

But facing the sarcasm of Empress Shangguan Lingluo, not a hint of impatience or anger showed on Chu Jin's face. Her clear and refined face remained utterly tranquil, her lips even curling into a faint smile.

Seeing this, everyone felt a sort of resonance.

An empress truly is an empress. Even if she has become an ordinary person now, the inherent pride in her bones cannot be changed.

In the presence of the current ruler, Empress Shangguan Lingluo, she could still remain so calm and collected.

Lucky for her that she's just an ordinary person. If she really possessed the Bloodline of Fire Bathing, the position of the ninth wife today would assuredly be hers.

Chu Jin knew that Empress Shangguan Lingluo meant her no good, so she responded with a light chuckle, the dimples on her cheeks shallow, the chill in her eyes deepening, "The same? The Spirit Country merely occupies 1.98 million square kilometers, but the ancient empress, Jun Huang, ruled over the entire Nine States continent. Even a mere vassal state is several times larger than the Spirit Country. Tell me, how are you and I the same kind of person?"

A Spirit Country Empress trying to find a sense of presence in front of her?

What a joke.

Chu Jin was not someone who sought trouble, but if someone provoked her, then, sorry, she wouldn't hesitate to beat that person until they couldn't tell north from south.

This was the legendary case when an attempt to humiliate backfires.

Empress Shangguan Lingluo was almost furious to death! She never anticipated that a mere commoner would dare to talk back to her! A commoner knew so much about the total area of the Spirit Country.

Yes, the Spirit Country is small.

But no matter how small, she was still its monarch, and she ruled it!

Chu Jin couldn't use the size of the Spirit Country to mock her.

Some things were well understood internally, but to put them out on the table was another matter.

Now, Chu Jin had blatantly mentioned the area of the Spirit Country, wasn't that inviting everyone to laugh at her?

Just you wait, today she, Empress Shangguan Lingluo, would surely triumph. Once she secured the position of ninth wife, her first step would be to expand the area of the Spirit Country. Sooner or later, Mo Zhixuan was going to conquer the Three Realms.

By then, the entire Three Realms would be hers, and she would see who would dare laugh at the small size of her Spirit Country!

Empress Shangguan Lingluo clenched her fist, glancing at Chu Jin, and spoke with a cold laugh.

"What's wrong with the Spirit Country being small? No matter how small, I am still the empress of Spirit Country, not a destitute family like yours, merely relying on being the reincarnation of Jun Huang. To put it nicely, you are the reincarnation of an empress. To speak unpleasantly, you're nothing but a pathetic half-blood, a phoenix that has fallen to the ground is inferior to a chicken! You don't even have a bit of self-awareness!"

Chu Jin was not angry, just looking at Empress Shangguan Lingluo, slowly rising to her feet. When she stood up, she towered a good half a head over Empress Shangguan Lingluo. It was an issue of race; the girls of the Spirit Country typically range in height from 1.5 to 1.6 meters.

Those heights are quite endearing and can trigger a man's protective instincts.

Empress Shangguan Lingluo's height was a standout in the Spirit Country. She was taller than all other women there, standing at 1.65 meters tall. But standing in front of Chu Jin, her height was clearly insufficient.

Chu Jin stood high above her, emanating aggressiveness, the scene reminiscent of an elder reprimanding a disobedient younger.

"Young person, I'll give you a piece of free advice. A phoenix will always be a phoenix, but a chicken..." she said, eyes slightly averted with deliberate intent, "will always be a chicken. Have you ever seen a chicken turn into a phoenix?"

Chu Jin half-closed her captivating and delicate peach blossom eyes, chin slightly raised, just gazing at Empress Shangguan Lingluo.

Such a posture, somewhat arrogant, and even a bit domineering.

She stood upright, like an unyielding bamboo in the wind.

A powerful aura burst forth from her, impossible to ignore, and even more impossible to look straight into her eyes.

This was a bit odd, after all, Empress Shangguan Lingluo was a cultivator. How could her aura not match up to that of a lowly commoner?

As the words were spoken, a bout of laughter erupted from the crowd.

Today, Empress Shangguan Lingluo was utterly disgraced, labeled a chicken by a mere commoner, and in front of so many people no less.

After all, Shangguan Lingluo was the monarch of a nation; when had she ever been mocked in such a way? Originally, she intended to use Chu Jin's status as the reincarnated empress to gain fame for herself.

And by the way, to show Chu Jin how formidable she was.

She wanted everyone to know that in front of her, an ancient empress was nothing!

But to her surprise, Chu Jin dared to mock her in return!

Unable to contain the rage within her, Empress Shangguan Lingluo curved her fingers, summoning a hidden weapon in her palm. She raised her right hand and viciously aimed a slap at Chu Jin's face.

A half-blooded creature dared to challenge her! Truly tired of living! When hitting someone, one must strike where it hurts the most! Hitting a woman where she cared most about.

Today, she was going to destroy Chu Jin's face!

She had found Chu Jin's face unbearable for some time now.

A half-blood, why should she possess such a delicate face that overshadowed everyone else? She was nothing short of an enchantress!

Seeing the commotion here, Mu Xianxian slightly curled her lips, her eyes brimming with triumph. Come, there was no need for her to take action herself; someone would take care of Chu Jin.

Dai Yu was sitting in front of the dressing table, drawing her eyebrows, and did not spare a glance toward this side.

That Empress of Spirit Country was quite foolish, to actually believe that Chu Jin was a mere commoner!

How could a reincarnation of an ancient empress possibly be just a commoner?

However, the real rival to Chu Jin here was not Shangguan Lingluo.

It was someone else.

If she could ally with that person, maybe she would have a chance to win.

This second Elder is useless! Asked to ruin the marriage between Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan, he ended up launching a trial field instead!

Watching Shangguan Lingluo's right hand fan toward her,

Chu Jin narrowed her eyes slightly, just about to counterattack, right on cue, a small ornament impregnated with internal force was flying rapidly toward this side.

"Bang!"

"Snap!"

The ornament, quite coincidentally, struck Shangguan Lingluo's right hand dead on.

The ornament fell to the ground and shattered with a sound.

Shangguan Lingluo's right hand was deflected, discharging a black object from her hand that embedded itself directly into a wooden column in the hall.

"Who is so cowardly, secretly wounding people! Stand out right now!" Shangguan Lingluo looked angrily towards the crowd.

"Empress Shangguan, I'm really sorry," a woman dressed in a warrior's outfit emerged from the crowd, clad in black clothes with delicate features. She looked at Shangguan Lingluo with an apologetic expression and said, "I simply can't stand it when someone bullies others because of their status, breaks the rules, and is self-righteous. Oh, and I like to return the favor. Speaking of the word 'despicable,' Empress Shagnnguan, you are my master in that regard. You play the game of wounding with secret arrows much better than I do."

The words spoken by the woman in black were sharp and heart-piercing. In the span of a short speech, she had mocked Empress Shangguan Lingluo to no end.

Laughter surrounded them.

No one expected this woman in black to stand up for Chu Jin.

A commoner of half-blood lineage, everyone else had tried to avoid her.

Yet, there were people, one after another, coming forward to help her.

"Thank you, miss," Chu Jin lifted her eyes to look at the woman in black.

The women in this room were all rivals to each other; one less would mean a greater chance of victory for the others. Everyone wanted to claim the position of the ninth lady, so they all watched the quarrel like it was a show.

It was unexpected to see someone step forward to do the right thing.

This came as a surprise to Chu Jin.

"Don't flatter yourself, I wasn't here to help you," the woman in black glanced at Chu Jin and said coldly, "I just can't stand Shangguan Lingluo! It has nothing to do with you at all."

Her words were as if she was afraid that Chu Jin would mistake her for a kind person.

The woman in black looked cold and cool, with a manner that resembled a man. From her words, it was clear that she was not afraid of defying authority and was not at all afraid of offending Shangguan Lingluo.

Hearing this, Chu Jin did not say more but simply smiled politely at her.

This was a girl who was cool on the outside but warm on the inside.

"Su Yuqiao, this is a grudge between me and the Chu Family's miss, what does it have to do with you! You'd better not meddle in other people's affairs!" Shangguan Lingluo warned Su Yuqiao.

Su Yuqiao was the third-ranked bounty hunter.

With formidable strength not to be underestimated, Shangguan Lingluo still harbored some fear of her before reaching the trial field.

"I just love to meddle. Not satisfied? Come, bite me." Saying so, Su Yuqiao even beckoned to Shangguan Lingluo as if calling a little dog.

Shangguan Lingluo trembled with rage, but luckily, she still had her wits about her. She looked at Su Yuqiao with disdain, "Su Yuqiao, I can't be bothered to stoop to your level today!"

Then, turning her gaze back to Chu Jin, Shangguan Lingluo said coldly, "You're lucky this time! But once we're in the trial field, your luck will run out! See who will protect you then!"

In the trial field, she would make Chu Jin suffer to the point of questioning her existence.

Her warning was blatant, but Chu Jin remained indifferent, looking at Shangguan Lingluo and said carelessly, "Then we'll meet on the trial field. There, I won't go easy on you because you are young."

While speaking, Chu Jin even blew on her knuckles, as if not taking Shangguan Lingluo seriously at all.

Such a result was beyond Shangguan Lingluo's expectations!

It was all Su Yuqiao's fault for interfering. If not for her, Shangguan Lingluo would have already beaten Chu Jin to a pulp!

"You!" Shangguan Lingluo clenched her fists. "Chu Jin! You're doomed!"

Chu Jin dared to challenge her authority time and time again!

Did she, a commoner of half-blood from the secular world, need to show any mercy?

How arrogant!

Su Yuqiao watched Shangguan Lingluo's retreating back, her lips curving into a mocking smile. Shangguan Lingluo, despite having some skills, was too proud and arrogant. In contrast, there was this legendary Chu Family's miss.

Although she seemed like a mere commoner, without any trace of spiritual power radiating from her, her demeanor, conduct, speech, and appearance were not at all inferior to Empress Shangguan Lingluo of Spirit Country.

Su Yuqiao was not without intellect; she knew that Chu Jin dared to participate in this trial competition, indicating that she was no ordinary person.