

The Doctor 1401

Chapter 1401: His Grace Said that it was Hard on Him

She sat up and looked in the direction of the sound.

The door was pushed open to reveal a gap as a furry head stuck in.

It suddenly stopped in its movements and looked at the teacup that suddenly dropped in front of it helplessly. It clearly didn't expect that such a 'small' movement would cause such a huge commotion. *?Who would actually put a teacup on an unlatched door?! Pfft! That person is outrageous!?*

As if detecting her gaze, it slowly turned its stiff neck and looked over.

The human and the fiend stared at each other.

A pair of ice-blue eyes widened slightly with hints of nervousness in them. Then, the fiend blinked. *?S-she's awake?!?*

Looking at Xue Xue's dazed appearance, Chu Liuyue couldn't help but laugh and wave toward it. "Xue Xue, why are you in a daze? Come here."

"Ow!" Xue Xue roared excitedly and hurriedly flew toward Chu Liuyue! It jumped with its muscular body and directly went for Chu Liuyue's arms from the door!

It was just about to be hugged!

"Hm?" A clear and low voice came from the door.

Xue Xue instantly became alert and stepped on the brakes! It stopped just half an inch before Chu Liuyue!

Its large forehead almost hit Chu Liuyue's face.

The scene seemed to be frozen.

Looking at the wet nose before her eyes and the pair of panicked and guilty ice-blue eyes, the corner of Chu Liuyue's lips twitched.

A well-defined hand appeared on the door and slowly pushed it open. Rong Xiu then walked in.

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It seemed to be evening now as the remaining glow of the setting sun shone on him. He glowed with a faint gold, causing his entire person to look like he had just walked out of a holy paper.

His deep and clear phoenix-like eyes looked straight at Chu Liuyue as his thin lips curled up slightly.

"Yue'er, you're awake?"

Hearing the noise, he had already guessed it as he immediately came in.

Chu Liuyue gazed at his face.

The light from behind shone on his face, which was as clear as jade, but it also seemed like there was a veil she couldn't see through above it.

"Rong Xiu." She tilted her head. "I seemed to have... dreamed of you."

Rong Xiu's gaze flickered as he walked over. His steps were calm, and he exuded a cold elegance. "Did you?"

Standing beside the bed, the side of his eyes slightly swept past Xue Xue at the side.

Xue Xue shuddered and sensibly turned to walk away before it escaped.

Chu Liuyue was speechless.

"What did you dream of?" Rong Xiu sat down by the bed, held her hands, and asked lightly.

Chu Liuyue gazed into his eyes with much focus as if she wanted to see something through them. Then, she smiled. "I dreamed that... you brought me to see the peach blossoms that bloomed in winter."

Rong Xiu's expression didn't change. Only the depths of his eyes seemed to have a ripple that quickly flashed across. "Was it nice?"

He held her face up with one hand, and the corner of his lips curled up slightly. A warm aura came from his palms with deep reminiscence and gentleness.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled as she suddenly felt heavy lethargy overwhelming her.

She held Rong Xiu's hand and gently stuck her face on it.

Rong Xiu was dazed slightly.

The next moment, Chu Liuyue looked up at him. Perhaps it was because she had just woken up, or perhaps it was because she had a very long and complicated dream that made her tired, but her voice became lazy. She dragged on her last syllable in a soft and whiny manner. "Rong Xiu..."

She spoke softly, but it seemed to be an elongated string that gently and lightly encircled his heart.

Rong Xiu's heart instantly became a soft mess. He leaned in closer, hugged her, and kissed her brows.

"It's nice when I see it with you," said Chu Liuyue.

The volume wasn't loud, but he heard it clearly. This caused him to smile, and even his eyes and brows had hints of happiness. "Really?"

Chu Liuyue leaned on his shoulders and nodded lightly. "But I don't know why I always can't see your face clearly in the dreams."

Rong Xiu paused and pinched her soft earlobes. "I'm right here. You can see me however much you want."

Chu Liuyue leaned in his arms for a while. Only after she felt that she had recovered most of her physical strength and mental energy did she support her body.

She stared at him, and her eyes were like stars. Suddenly, she moved forward and quickly landed a kiss on his lips. "You're right!"

He is mine, and he is right here. What is there to be conflicted about??

Rong Xiu's eyes darkened instantly.

But when he wanted to continue, Chu Liuyue suddenly asked, "Rong Xiu, can you do me a favor?"

Rong Xiu paused in his actions. "What favor?"

"I want..." Hesitation appeared on Chu Liuyue's face. "I want... to go to Fengmin Mountain."

Rong Xiu raised his sharp brows slightly. "Reason?"

"There is no reason," Chu Liuyue replied as she moved half a step back, planning on getting up after removing the blankets.

Halfway through removing the blankets, she suddenly stopped in her movements. Then, she slowly raised her head and stared at Rong Xiu with a dazed expression. "How long... have I slept for?"

She vaguely knew that she was carried back to Jiuheng Peak by Rong Xiu from the Flood-Desert Northern Region, but she couldn't remember how long it had been since then.

Rong Xiu was calm. "Seven days."

The corner of Chu Liuyue's eyes twitched crazily. She swallowed a mouthful of saliva with much difficulty and asked clearly, "Then... these seven days... clothes..."

"I helped you change your clothes, and I fed you the pills and water." As if knowing what she wanted to ask, Rong Xiu answered smoothly.

He suddenly went in close, and his two palms went to Chu Liuyue's sides.

Chu Liuyue instinctively moved backward and only stopped when her back hit the head of the bed.

Rong Xiu silently approached her, and the duo's distance rapidly shrunk. Finally, they were breathing the same air.

There seemed to be millions of rays of light swimming inside his eyes, causing one to be charmed. In this world, it would be hard for any woman to escape when such eyes were deeply gazing at her.

"T-then..." Chu Liuyue's face suddenly burned, and her entire body heated up. "The blood on my body..."

"We naturally have to clean those messy bloodstains as soon as possible. If not, the wound will be infected, and it will even rot, right?"

Rong Xiu continued, "In the academy, there's nobody else who can do this to do it personally. There's only me.... You wouldn't want your identity to be exposed, right?"

He leaned in very closely. When he spoke, the warm air blew to her thin neck and ears.

It seemed like comets were burning.

At that time, Chu Liuyue didn't really hear his words clearly. She felt that something lightly scratched her heart, causing her to be rather distracted.

"Yue'er, don't worry. To allow your wound to heal as soon as possible, every single day for the past few days, I had—"

Chu Liuyue finally couldn't continue listening, and she grabbed the clothes in front of his chest, dragged the person over, and kissed him.

There seemed to be fires burning in her eyes in a passionate and intense manner.

Let's see if you want to talk!?

Rong Xiu suddenly sighed softly, and his syllables were unclear. "Yue'er, actually... It has been very hard on me too..."

Chapter 1402: Bill

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

It's been very hard on me too...

Chu Liuyue's face seemed to be on fire, and it was so hot that it burned. *Was it because I was in too deep a sleep the past few days, or were Rong Xiu's actions so light that I didn't even notice?*

"Rong Xiu!" Chu Liuyue felt embarrassed for once.

Seeing that he had teased her until her entire face flushed red, Rong Xiu didn't continue any longer and reluctantly moved back.

He held her hand tightly, and their fingers intertwined. "We already have a marriage agreement, and we're just missing a wedding, right? If you think it's wrong, then... Why don't you help?"

Chu Liuyue literally didn't know how to continue this conversation. *This man's heart, lungs, liver, and other organs are completely black, and his skin is getting thicker by the day!*

She took a deep breath in, lightly snorted, and glared at him. "Dream on!"

Then, she finally could stand up.

At this point, she realized that the white inner garment wasn't her clothes.

As if seeing through her doubts, Rong Xiu kindly explained, "I have some of your spare clothes here, but... They were from a few months ago. Now... It seems like they don't fit you very well."

Speaking of this, his gaze lightly swept across her body.

Even though this was done by fabricating men's clothes, the inner garment was looser, and it was still hard to conceal the curvy young woman's figure.

Her silent movements charmed his heart.

He faintly felt hot again as he moved his gaze on his own, and one of his hands unknowingly loosened his collar. "Just bear with it first. I'll get them to send some new ones over in a few days."

Chu Liuyue: " ...You have been preparing clothes for me the whole time?"

Even inner garments!

Rong Xiu didn't deny it and said in a straightforward manner, "You're at a stage where your body is growing, so you naturally need to change your clothes often. Originally, I changed them once a month, but you have been in the academy the whole time recently. Hence, I temporarily didn't get them to send it over."

After all, she was around 16 or 17 years old, and shocking changes would happen during this short period of time.

Rong Xiu silently touched his fingers, and the tips of them still had the remaining fragrance of her warmth.

Chu Liuyue felt that she couldn't stay in this room any longer!

She searched around and realized that her previous clothes were gone. Thinking about it, this would indeed be the case because those clothes were stained with blood. Thus, she couldn't want them anymore.

She retrieved a red robe from her Cosmic Ring and changed into it, with a black jade belt around her waist.

In addition to her tied-up hair, she looked like a mature young man from afar—other than her overly good-looking appearance.

Chu Liuyue looked into the copper mirror and sized herself up.

"It's not good if you keep wearing that mask, so I'll only help you wear it for a while when Elder Wan Zheng comes," said Rong Xiu as he lightly flung his wrist.

The thin mask flew before Chu Liuyue and gently landed.

Chu Liuyue stretched her hands out and grabbed it. She wanted to wear it on her face but stopped in her actions after some thinking.

She looked up again at herself in the copper mirror. She hadn't seen this face so meticulously in a long time.

A few months had passed, and slight changes had taken place on her face again. Her eyes were even more intricate and brighter, and the outline of her cheeks was clearer. In other words... She was becoming increasingly similar to the previous Shangguan Yue.

She recalled that her face seemed to be 70% to 80% similar to this one when she was around this age in her previous life. Her stature was even more so.

A thought quickly flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind. *I wonder if I'll be exactly the same as the previous me in a few years? But how could there be someone who looks exactly the same in the world?*

Chu Liuyue looked down slightly and hid the emotions in her eyes before she wore her mask properly. *Whether it will be the case or not... I will find out myself by then.*

After checking her body once and ensuring that there was no problem, Chu Liuyue then turned to look at Rong Xiu. “Will you help me regarding what I said earlier?”

She was referring to Fengmin Mountain.

Rong Xiu’s aura focused slightly, and he smiled as he gazed at her. “Whatever you want, I will do my best to fulfill it.”

...

After Chu Liuyue tidied up, she directly went to find Elder Wan Zheng. After all, the latter was her mentor and had spent so much effort and time on her during this period, so she had to greet him first.

Elder Bo Yan also found out the news of her waking up at the same time. This was because Rong Xiu personally came forward to tell him.

“What? You want Chu Yue to go to Fengmin Mountain?” Elder Bo Yan paused in his actions and closed the thick book in confusion. “His body should still be very weak since he just woke up, right? Would it be rather inappropriate for him to go to Fengmin Mountain now? Besides... that place has always been where students who made mistakes would stay. He’s doing fine now, and there’s no reason—”

“You don’t have to worry about this. He has just broken through to become a stage-nine warrior—you know that. Also... it’s rather forceful to say that he didn’t make any mistakes at all. During this trip to the Flood-Desert Northern Region, he had no right to follow Elder Hua Feng, but in the end, he still went. And after he went, he got into quite a lot of trouble... It’s not a punishment to lock him up in Fengmin Mountain; it’s a warning.” Rong Xiu had long known that Elder Bo Yan wouldn’t easily agree to this, so he had long prepared a speech.

Elder Bo Yan fell into deep thought and was still rather hesitant. “But... At the end of the day, this should be considered Hua Feng’s fault. After all, without his permission, Chu Yue wouldn’t be able to go. As for the incidents that happened later on... Actually, Chu Yue wasn’t willing for it to happen...”

Elder Bo Yan didn’t really want to push all the blame on Chu Liuyue alone. He knitted his brows and looked at Rong Xiu with some uncertainty. “Rong Xiu, there should be another reason for him going there, right?”

According to how Rong Xiu treats Chu Yue, he definitely isn’t coming for a punishment.

Rong Xiu paused for a moment. “Yes. Fengmin Mountain is dangerous, but... The most dangerous place is usually the safest place.”

A faint smile appeared on his face. “Just for... a period of time.”

...

On the other side, Elder Wan Zheng was overjoyed to see Chu Liuyue. He pulled her over and sized her up for a while.

After confirming that she had really recovered and that there was nothing wrong with her, he finally felt relieved. “Bad kid! Your sleep had scared me to death!”

Elder Wan Zheng was normally a rather stern person. Now that he said such words, it could be seen that Chu Liuyue had deeply frightened him.

There was no choice. Thinking of her pale and frail look when she lay in Rong Xiu's arms, his heart tightened uncomfortably.

All these years, he had searched far and wide and finally found this disciple. When said disciple got into trouble, how could he not be worried?

Chu Liuyue's heart felt warm. "Mentor, you don't have to worry. I'm doing fine!"

"Wan Zheng!" At this point, a rather familiar voice sounded.

The two of them turned around.

A barefoot elder waving his fan came from midair—Elder Meng Ye!

Chu Liuyue's heart suddenly skipped a beat. *If I haven't recalled it wrongly, Elder Meng Ye previously said that he would pass the bill to Elder Wan Zheng when he came back...*

Chapter 1403: That Place is Pretty Nice

"Meng Ye, why are you here?!" Elder Wan Zheng was in a good mood, so he was even laughing when he looked at Elder Meng Ye.

"Of course, I'm here to give you something!" yelled Elder Meng Ye confidently. While he spoke, he already walked to the front. He looked closely and saw that Chu Liuyue was standing beside Elder Wan Zheng.

He was first surprised. Then, he suddenly thought of something, and his smile had a deeper meaning to it. "Hoho! Chu Yue, you're here too? How are you? Are you feeling better?"

Chu Liuyue sighed in her heart. *It seems like the entire academy knows about me sleeping for such a long time.?*

"Thank you for your concern, Elder Meng Ye." Chu Liuyue bowed obediently.

"I just woke up today, and my body is much better, so I thought of paying my mentor a visit. I didn't expect to meet you so coincidentally. Elder Meng Ye, how have you been doing lately?"

"Good! Of course, I'm good!" Elder Meng Ye flipped his fan and laughed out loud. *I stayed in the academy and looked after Medicinal Valley safely. How can I not be good? Those who aren't good are probably those that went to the Flood-Desert Northern Region!?*

"Oh right, Wan Zheng, I came today to give you something." Elder Meng Ye chuckled.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly and instantly wanted to leave. "Mentor, Elder Meng Ye, I won't disturb you if you two have things to talk about."

Elder Wan Zheng hurriedly said, "Hey, why are you leaving when you just came? We haven't even had a good talk!"

The corner of Chu Liuyue's lips twitched. *If this continues, we probably can't talk properly.?*

Elder Meng Ye chuckled. "If the child wants to leave, let him go! His body has just recovered, and he has many things to do! Am I right, Chu Yue?"

Chu Liuyue seriously nodded. *?It seems like Elder Meng Ye has no intentions of pushing me to my death.?*

However, Elder Wan Zheng still refused. "Even if he has something on, he has to postpone it!"

This is my precious disciple! Anyone else has to take a back seat!?

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"Meng Ye, what did you say you wanted to give me?"

Elder Meng Ye clenched his fist and coughed dryly. "Actually, it's nothing much..."

Elder Wan Zheng found it strange. *?Meng Ye usually stays in Medicinal Valley and rarely comes out. Normally, he will only willingly leave that place if he has something important to do. What is with him today??*

At this point, another person came forward. "Chu Yue."

Chu Liuyue turned around and instantly heaved a sigh of relief. "Senior Brother Rong Xiu."

"Rong Xiu, why are you here too?" Elder Wan Zheng's gaze swept past the few of them. *?What kind of day is it? All these people who rarely step foot into this place actually all came over!?*

Rong Xiu seemed to be walking slowly, but he was very fast. He reached them in no time.

He first bowed to the two elders respectively before he slowly smiled and said, "Elder Bo Yan told me to come over and bring Chu Yue to Fengmin Mountain."

At this moment, both elders were taken aback. "Fengmin Mountain?"

"Again?"

There was a momentary silence.

Chu Liuyue rubbed her glabella.

"How can this do!? Chu Yue has just woken up, and his body hasn't recovered yet! He can't go!" Elder Wan Zheng protected his disciples greatly and wouldn't agree no matter what. To him, his precious disciple had literally just gotten out of suffering, yet he had to go to hell again!

"Mentor, this is Elder Bo Yan's command. We can't disobey it. I think—"

The moment Chu Liuyue said this, Elder Wan Zheng interrupted her. "Don't worry! This time, I will personally get an explanation for you! Has he become used to bullying our mentor-disciple duo?!"

Chu Liuyue felt her head ache even more.

"Elder Wan Zheng." Rong Xiu didn't seem worried as he smiled and said. "Elder Bo Yan has his reasons for doing so."

“Reason? What reason?” Elder Wan Zheng was extremely indignant. *My precious disciple has suffered quite a bit recently. How could he go to Fengmin Mountain at this time?!*

Rong Xiu slowly explained, “After the Flood-Desert Northern Region incident, the academy has been investigating the truth behind it. I heard that the other top-tier aristocratic families and clans have slowly been coming out these few days and have started doing this as well. A chaotic battle... might erupt.”

Elder Wan Zheng paused in his actions, and his expression became complicated.

“Chu Yue was the only one taken away by those people in public, not to mention that she had obtained some miracle at that place and continuously broke through to become a stage-nine warrior. She will definitely become one of the targets that the crowd is chasing after. If she enters Fengmin Mountain... On the one hand, she will be able to cultivate quietly. On the other hand, she can also avoid all those conflicts.” Rong Xiu’s tone was still very calm, but it had some strange convincing power to it, which caused others to believe him unknowingly.

Elder Wan Zheng was quiet for some time.

Chu Liuyue stepped forward. “Mentor, don’t worry. I think that... Fengmin Mountain is quite nice.”

She said this sincerely, but to Elder Wan Zheng, he just felt that his precious disciple didn’t want him to worry and thus purposely said this.

His heart ached even more, and he continuously sighed. “Forget it! If this is so... you can go over for a while. When this passes, you must come out as soon as possible!”

Chu Liuyue smiled. “Then... Mentor, I’ll leave with Senior Brother Rong Xiu now?”

Elder Wan Zheng waved his hands.

Chu Liuyue bowed again before leaving with Rong Xiu.

Looking at the two of them leave until their figures disappeared, Elder Wan Zheng then retracted his gaze reluctantly.

“Hey, don’t be so sad.” At the side, Elder Meng Ye nudged him with his elbow and passed something over.

“What is this?” Elder Wan Zheng took it in confusion.

Elder Meng Ye bared his teeth and smiled. “Actually, it’s nothing much. It’s... the bill incurred from the herbs that Chu Yue took from Medicinal Valley. Look, is it time to settle it?”

Elder Wan Zheng laughed. “I thought it was something else! Isn’t it just—”

His voice suddenly trailed off.

Elder Wan Zheng stared at the thing in his hand with his eyes wide open and mouth agape. He almost thought that his eyes were blurry. “D-did this kid pick the entire Medicinal Valley once?!”

Elder Meng Ye was rather unhappy. “Hey... that’s too much of an exaggeration! It’s clearly only three-quarters of it. Besides, don’t you have many points? It won’t be considered much to you, right?”

Elder Wan Zheng closed his eyes. He suddenly recalled what his disciple said: *“That Fengmin Mountain is pretty nice... Can avoid the crowd...?”*

He knew that this was waiting for me!?

“Naughty kid!” Elder Wan Zheng harshly shoved the bill back into Elder Meng Ye’s hands. “Settle it! I must develop a top heavenly doctor in the future!”

...

Chu Liuyue didn’t hear Elder Wan Zheng’s ambitious words.

She went forward with Rong Xiu, and they could be considered to know the path well as they quickly reached Fengmin Mountain.

Rong Xiu stepped forward. “Elder Meng, Rong Xiu has brought Chu Yue here to see you.”

Nobody answered, and it was completely quiet.

Rong Xiu knitted his brows slightly. “Elder Meng?”

Chapter 1404: A Door

After some time, some ripples finally appeared on the barrier in front as it opened slowly.

“Come in.” An old and low voice went into their ears.

Chu Liuyue was slightly dazed. *“This voice... sounds sterner, colder, and deeper than before, with a few hints of lethargy in it. It has only been a while since I haven’t been here. How—*

Rong Xiu squinted his phoenix eyes slightly, clearly noticing that something was wrong, and exchanged a glance with Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue moved her figure and went in with Rong Xiu.

...

The two of them walked forward and reached the pagoda.

With the previous experiences, Chu Liuyue also knew her way around now. She walked straight to the door.

Three steps away from it, the door opened slowly. Looking in, it was completely back.

Chu Liuyue’s heart tightened. She took a deep breath in and walked in.

“Yue—Chu Yue.” Rong Xiu suddenly called her.

Chu Liuyue turned around.

The two of them stared at each other. There seemed to be something slowly flowing.

.....

Rong Xiu moved his thin lips slightly, and there seemed to be ripples in his eyes, but they returned to normal in the end. "Have... a smooth journey."

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly. "Don't worry. I will."

Then, she turned around and walked in without hesitation.

Thump!

The door closed shut, and her figure totally disappeared from his vision.

Rong Xiu stood upright with one hand behind his back as he stared at that door for some time. After a while, he finally turned around to leave.

...

Coming to this place again, Chu Liuyue actually felt a sense of familiarity and that she hadn't come to this place in a while.

Step by step, she walked in. Suddenly, she paused in her tracks and stared at the scene before her in shock.

In the spacious and quiet room, the original seven floating doors were actually only left with six!

The six doors had different positions, and they were equidistant from each other. At first glance, one couldn't even tell that there were initially seven doors here.

Chu Liuyue hesitated for a moment and asked, "Elder Meng, why... is there a missing door?"

After a temporary silence, Elder Meng's voice then sounded softly. "Nothing much. There was some small mishap in between."

Small mishap? It doesn't seem like it at all. Chu Liuyue silently cursed to herself. There were a total of seven doors, and one is suddenly missing out of nowhere. If it weren't because I had come here before, I wouldn't have been able to notice this problem.

But hearing Elder Meng's words, he didn't seem like he wanted to talk about it in detail. Thus, Chu Liuyue sensibly did not ask further.

"Originally... I didn't want anyone to come in during this period, but Bo Yan and Rong Xiu spoke for you, so I could only agree..." boomed Elder Meng.

A strange expression flashed across Chu Liuyue's face. To others, being locked up here is one of the worst punishments, and they want to avoid this place with all their might. Only me... Not only do I want to come, but others are even helping me... This feeling is really... weirdly amazing! Rong Xiu and the others should've used the same words he used on Elder Wan Zheng to convince Elder Meng...

For some reason, Chu Liuyue felt guilty.

"Thank you, Elder Meng." She cupped her fists, respectfully bowed, and greeted him.

"Alright. You've been in the academy for a few months, and this is already your third time here. Others might not know, but do you think I won't know your playful nature?" Elder Meng lightly snorted.

Chu Liuyue coughed lightly and touched her nose rather awkwardly. *?It's really...?*

"Even though there's a door missing, it doesn't affect much. You just have to choose one and stay inside."

I really don't know what this kid has done again that caused Bo Yan and Rong Xiu to put in a few words for him together, just to send him over. If it were normal times, it would've been fine. However, it has to be now... If it weren't in consideration of those few people, I wouldn't let this kid in at this time! Forget it! It's just a small matter!?

Chu Liuyue acknowledged him and looked at the six doors before her.

These doors were still glowing with a faint light. They didn't seem any different from before.

Chu Liuyue hesitated for a moment before pointing to the door on the leftmost. "I want to choose this one."

"Go in," Elder Meng replied swiftly.

Chu Liuyue walked over. She put one hand on the door and pushed hard.

The door didn't move at all.

"Hm?" Chu Liuyue took a step back strangely and took a closer look. *?There's no problem, but why can't I open the door??*

She tried increasing her strength. She still couldn't open it.

This shouldn't be... my fault, right?? Chu Liuyue yelled with conflict, "Elder Meng, I can't... open the door?"

Elder Meng clearly didn't expect such a situation to happen. In the past, all of these doors could be opened casually.

"You really can't open it?"

Chu Liuyue pushed again and had an innocent look.

The door was like a wall of steel, and she really couldn't push it open.

"Try the others then," said Elder Meng.

Chu Liuyue nodded and walked to the second door.

With her push, her expression changed again. "...Elder Meng, I still can't open it."

"Impossible!" Elder Meng raised his voice.

"Could I still lie to you here?" Chu Liuyue laughed bitterly. *?It isn't like I haven't come before. I just pushed the door to enter every single time. Since when was it like this time, where I'm trying my best to open but it is to no avail? This door clearly has a problem!?*

Elder Meng was quiet for a moment. "Change again!"

Chu Liuyue held her breath in and walked to the third door.

Staring at the door before her, she suddenly had a strong prediction. *Perhaps...*

She reached out. After trying, she shook her head and gave up. "Elder Meng, I can't."

...

Then, under Elder Meng's instructions, Chu Liuyue tried all six doors once.

All of them couldn't be opened. All of the doors seemed to be locked tightly from the inside, and she couldn't open them at all.

Chu Liuyue rubbed her brows and felt her head ache.

Elder Meng couldn't help but ask, "Is there... a problem with you kid?!"

Chu Liuyue was confused. "Elder Meng, I haven't come in a while. This... shouldn't be my fault, right?"

Chu Liuyue felt like she had bumped into porcelain! *When I first came, there was a door missing. Therefore, something clearly happened here! How could this be my fault?!*

Elder Meng was stumped for once. Then, he coldly snorted, "Just stay in the hall then!"

This kid has some temper! Originally, I was already worried sick about that thing. Now, I still have to take care of this kid! It really is an uphill task!?

Chu Liuyue: "Oh..."

I'll stay in the hall if I have to. Anyway, all these doors can't be opened, so going anywhere will be the same. Then, Chu Liuyue directly sat down.

The jade ground was as cold as ice.

A gush of coldness overwhelmed her, and she unwittingly shuddered.

Chu Liuyue sat down cross-legged, and her shoulders naturally dropped down. She then placed her palm on her knees facing upward.

The surrounding Heaven and Earth Force slowly entered her body.

Chu Liuyue gradually calmed her heart. *Although the force density here isn't as high as inside the door, it still isn't bad...?*

Suddenly, a lightning-like thought flashed across her mind! *Hang on! Could the door that disappeared be.... The one I previously passed through?!*

Chapter 1405: Pursuit

Once this thought flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind, she felt that a faint ray of light quickly flashed across her eyes.

She closed her eyes. When she looked up again, there was nothing.

The space was still empty.

Her fingertips moved slightly. Then, she strangely discovered that the surrounding space seemed to be stickier.

This change was very subtle. If one didn't observe closely, they wouldn't notice it.

Confusion surfaced in Chu Liuyue's heart. *Why does this place... seem increasingly weird?*

She originally wanted to ask Elder Meng, but a thought popped up in her mind. *Everything here should be under Elder Meng's control. Since he has no reaction, it should be fine.*

She closed her eyes and focused on her cultivation.

...

Chu Liuyue stayed at Fengmin Mountain in that manner.

Outside, chaos ensued.

The Liang family's Third Young Master, Liang Shaokang, died ambiguously in the Flood-Desert Northern Region, and they didn't even know who the murderer was.

Liang Xiaoxiao hurriedly rushed back to the Liang family. When she reached home, the entire Liang family had already received the news.

From the inside to the outside, the entire Liang family had a stiff and stern atmosphere.

In the study.

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The Liang family head, Liang Yiye, had a face that was as still as water, and his brows were tightly furrowed. His bloodshot eyes and the two patches of black below them caused this extraordinary and capable character to look much frailer.

Even though he had quite a few sons, he doted on Liang Shaokang the most. Now that he had painfully lost his beloved son, how could he not be upset?

When Liang Xiaoxiao entered, she realized that the air seemed to be frozen.

"Father!" She opened her mouth, and the tears in her eyes had already fallen.

Liang Yiye immediately went forward. "Xiaoxiao! You're finally back!"

He stared at his daughter closely. "You followed the academy to the Flood-Desert Northern Region previously. Do you know what exactly happened to your elder brother there?"

Liang Xiaoxiao first wiped her tears before forcefully controlling her crying voice and asking, "Father, didn't you previously say that the clan was busy, so you won't be interfering with the Flood-Desert Northern Region matters? How did Third Brother appear there?"

Liang Yiye was dazed and averted his gaze. "He... He secretly went there behind my back—"

“Father, you say such words, but do you believe it yourself? Third Brother didn’t go there alone; he had brought quite a few elders with him! Without your agreement, how could Third Brother bring them along?”

Liang Xiaoxiao originally didn’t know about it, but this news had already spread throughout the entire Liang family. No matter how slow she was, she should know about it.

Liang Yiye let go of the hand that was clutching his daughter’s arm and turned away. He then took a deep breath in, closed his eyes, and said after a while, “...You also know that your Third Brother isn’t considered the most outstanding in all aspects. It would be hard to convince the crowd if he was to inherit the family assets... If he could gain credit at then Flood-Desert Northern Region, then—”

“Father, you were foolish!” Liang Xiaoxiao couldn’t help but interrupt her father, and there seemed to be fire burning in her chest. “Don’t you know best about how capable Third Brother is? The Flood-Desert Northern Region is so dangerous, yet you just let him go?!”

And he even hid it from me! No, this should’ve been done behind the backs of everyone in the Liang family! It was just for... Liang Shaokang to shock everyone in one move! It was so that he could take this chance to ascend!?

Liang Yiye couldn’t help but raise his voice. “I had already sent quite a few elders to follow him closely. Who would’ve known—”

His voice suddenly trailed off. The veins on his forehead popped up, and he slammed his fists against the table at the side.

Thump!

The superior black metal-wood engraved table was crushed until a corner almost fell off.

Liang Xiaoxiao’s body trembled, and her heart ached. Yeah! Father only did it for Third Brother’s good. With the current outcome, he should be more upset than anyone, right??

She took a deep breath in and uttered every single word clearly: “Father, even though I don’t know who the murderer is, I know where to start investigating.”

Liang Yiye suddenly turned around.

Liang Xiaoxiao clenched her fists tightly, and deep enmity exuded from her eyes. “Jiang Zhiyuan! If you want to find out the truth, you just have to find her!”

“Jiang Zhiyuan? Fairy Water Mound’s Jiang family? What has this got to do with her?” Liang Yiye was confused. Seeing his daughter’s gaze, he couldn’t help but ask, “Besides, weren’t you on very good terms with her? How—”

“Good? Hah! Father, you don’t know what that b*tch did!” Following this, Liang Xiaoxiao told her father everything that she knew.

Liang Yiye’s expression rapidly changed. In the end, it was left with frost.

"The academy has always had a neutral stance, so it's basically impossible to get any information from them. However... Jiang Zhiyuan is different! Besides, Third Brother asked her for help back then, but she still ignored him! She's really hateable!"

Liang Xiaoxiao wanted to shred Jiang Zhiyuan apart directly!

"I know..." Liang Yiye suppressed the anger in his heart and immediately sneered. "She just came from a mere Fairy Water Mound, yet she has such courage! I really want to see how they plan to give our Liang family an explanation!"

Then, he lifted his leg and walked outside.

"Father! Where are you going?" Liang Xiaoxiao was stunned and hurriedly followed.

Liang Yiye didn't even turn around. "I'm going to Fairy Water Mound personally to investigate the truth and take revenge for Shaokang!"

Liang Xiaoxiao pressed her lips against each other. "I'll go with you!"

...

The people from the Liang family went to Fairy Water Mound ferociously, but it was to no avail. Jiang Zhiyuan didn't even return to Fairy Water Mound—she directly went to the Sky-Cloud Empire!

"B*tch! She's so cunning!" Liang Xiaoxiao's blood boiled. *?If Jiang Zhiyuan has escaped to the Sky-Cloud Empire, it won't be so easy if we want to force her out again. After all, the Sky-Cloud Empire is also a top-tier aristocratic family, and their status is only higher and not lower than ours.?*

They directly rushed over to cause trouble for Fairy Water Mound, but they didn't dare to barge through the Sky-Cloud Empire's door directly!

Yet, Liang Yiye had a different attitude. "The Sky-Cloud Empire might not protect her... Xiaoxiao, didn't you previously say that Jiang Zhiyuan had once asked Rong Xiu for help, but Rong Xiu didn't care about her?"

Liang Xiaoxiao laughed in mockery. "Yeah! She still thinks she's the future princess consort of the Sky-Cloud Empire, and she thought Rong Xiu would treat her differently... In reality, Rong Xiu wouldn't even give her another glance!"

That day, Rong Xiu could be considered to have given Jiang Zhiyuan a tight slap in public!

"That's it then." Liang Yiye heaved a sigh of relief. "Rong Xiu is now in charge of the Sky-Cloud Empire. His attitude toward Jiang Zhiyuan determines the Sky-Cloud Empire's attitude toward her."

With such a huge problem, I don't believe that the Sky-Cloud Empire will really get involved!?

Liang Xiaoxiao's eyes lit up. "Father, you're right! Jiang Zhiyuan has been expelled from Ling Xiao Academy now, and her reputation can be considered to be tarnished in the God Residence Realm! Even if Fairy Water Mound is the leader of the 28 divisions in the Sky-Cloud Empire, they might not be willing to protect this clan!"

Liang Yiye nodded. "Then... we can directly go to the Sky-Cloud Empire. If Jiang Zhiyuan is rejected at the door, we can directly take action!"

...

The Sky-Cloud Empire.

Jiang Hetian and Jiang Zhiyuan stood outside the barrier for three days and three nights.

Chapter 1406: When is it Your Turn to be Worried

After experiencing all the previous incidents, Jiang Zhiyuan originally thought that she had already trained her mindset. Even if she faced a bigger problem, she could still face it freely.

But after waiting here for nothing for three days, she finally faced hopelessness once again. She had never expected that the Sky-Cloud Empire—a place she could come and go as she pleased since she was young—would one day reject her at the door! And it was so merciless!

Jiang Hetian's expression was even worse, but he was still someone experienced and could hold himself back better than his daughter.

Glancing at the sky, he stepped forward again and asked the guard stationed at the door, "Respected Elder Yu Jing hasn't come back yet?"

The guard cupped his fists, but his expression was cold and nonchalant. "Respected Elder Yu Jing is busy. We don't know when he will come either."

How could Jiang Hetian not tell that the other person was being perfunctory? If it were in the past, how would they dare to have such an attitude toward him? But the Sky-Cloud Empire's Princess Consort had now been settled. Jiang Zhiyuan wasn't chosen, so the guards naturally didn't have to treat them with so much respect.

Besides, the incident of Jiang Zhiyuan being expelled from Ling Xiao Academy had spread far and wide.

According to the Sky-Cloud Empire's sensitivity, they definitely would've long known about this. If it weren't because Fairy Water Mound still had a foothold amongst the 28 divisions, they might not even have the chance to wait here and would've been directly chased away!

Jiang Hetian glanced inside again. Of course, he couldn't see anything clearly from here.

He paused and couldn't help but ask, "Did you really report to them the news of our arrival?"

"Master Jiang, do you not trust us?" The guard knitted his brows. *Isn't this openly doubting us?!?*

Jiang Hetian's heart skipped a beat, and he immediately said, "It's a misunderstanding—misunderstanding! Maybe Elder Yu Jing is still busy... We'll continue waiting."

Then, he took two steps back and stood at the side.

.....

When Jiang Zhiyuan saw this scene, she almost crushed her silver teeth. *If it weren't for me... Father wouldn't be humiliated!?*

“What’s the noise about?” Right at this moment, a cold and stern voice sounded.

Jiang Zhiyuan and Jiang Hetian were elated, and they looked up!

An elder walked out from the barrier within. It was Respected Elder Yu Jing, who they had bitterly waited three days for!

“Respected Elder Yu Jing—” Jiang Hetian hurriedly went forward.

Just as he was about to speak, he saw Respected Elder Yu Jing hold up his palm. “You don’t have to speak further. I already know about this.”

His tone was much more nonchalant compared to the past, but it was already a surprise to Jiang Hetian and his daughter that he would come out, so why would they care so much?

Respected Elder Yu Jing looked at Jiang Zhiyuan with a harsh gaze. “You want to go into the Sky-Cloud Empire and cultivate on your own?”

Jiang Zhiyuan’s entire body shuddered from the gaze, and she softly acknowledged it. “I’ve done something wrong lately and have caused quite a lot of trouble for everyone, so... I hope to cultivate here and wait for the clan leader to come out of seclusion.”

“The clan leader has been in seclusion for many years, and nobody knows when he will come out. Once you go in... you don’t know when you can come out. Are you sure?” Respected Elder Yu Jing squinted his eyes.

Jiang Zhiyuan tightly wrapped her hands together over her stomach. After a moment, she said, “The clan leader has always doted on me, and this is what I should do. As long as the clan leader doesn’t come out of seclusion, I won’t leave Wan Zhong Mountain!”

Wan Zhong mountain was where the clan leader went into seclusion.

Respected Elder Yu Jing sized Jiang Zhiyuan up and down for quite some time. “Since this is so... From today onward, you will—”

“Hey, why is this place so crowded?” Before Respected Elder Yu Jing could finish, a voice containing laughter came from afar.

But hearing this voice, a few people’s expressions changed.

In the blink of an eye, that person’s figure had rapidly approached.

“Greetings, 36 Respected Elder Ming!” The guard bowed respectfully.

36 Respected Elder Ming laughed and waved his hands as his gaze quickly swept across the few of them. Seemingly surprised, he asked, “Hey, Master Jiang, since when did you come? Why did you not tell us in advance? Look, you came so far, but we didn’t even prepare anything for you in advance. It won’t be nice if we don’t treat you well!”

Jiang Hetian’s expression faintly turned green. *Why did this fellow come! Hearing his tone, he is clearly here to cause trouble! I purposely revealed the news to only Elder Yu Jing because I wanted to enter the Sky-Cloud Empire before the news spread. As long as the matter is settled, others can’t jump out to*

object to it. But now that 36 Respected Elder Ming is here, it will be hard for Jiang Zhiyuan to go into the Sky-Cloud Empire!?

He forced a smile and said, “36 Respected Elder Ming, you’re very busy, and I wouldn’t dare to disturb you. We have... already spoken to Respected Elder Yu Jing beforehand...”

“I heard you talking about the clan leader earlier. What’s going on?” 36 Respected Elder Ming laughed and interrupted Jiang Hetian as he silently and decisively moved past this incident and looked at Jiang Zhiyuan. “It seems like... it’s related to you?”

He’s asking the obvious!? Jiang Zhiyuan secretly felt angry. *According to 36 Respected Elder Ming’s status and capabilities, he can immediately know whatever he wants to know. Openly asking us is just to purposely put me in a difficult spot and cause me to be humiliated!?*

But Jiang Zhiyuan didn’t dare to say much, so she could only repeat her previous words. Of course, she made herself sound very miserable, pitiful, and extremely sincere.

However, this method didn’t work on 36 Respected Elder Ming, and he directly asked, “...So it means that you’ll be staying in the Sky-Cloud Empire in the future?”

Jiang Zhiyuan was stumped. *Why does this sound so weird...*

“If the clan leader can come out of seclusion earlier, I can naturally—”

“The clan leader has been in seclusion for many years. If he needs another ten years or twenty years... If I haven’t recalled wrongly, Zhiyuan, you’re... already of marriageable age, right? Won’t it be a delay if you waste a major portion of your youth here?!” 36 Respected Elder Ming sighed emotionally.

Jiang Zhiyuan’s expression instantly changed incredulously! *Marriageable age? Is he purposely mocking me for not becoming the princess consort?! All these years, everyone thought that I would be the Sky-Cloud Empire’s princess consort, but I am nothing in the end!?*

Jiang Zhiyuan lowered her eyes, terrified that her emotions would show and that others would see them. Then, she clenched her teeth and said, “Such matters can’t be forced, and they all depend on fate. Besides, my individual matters are so small, and it’s not worth a mention compared to the clan leader exiting his seclusion. No matter if it is ten years, twenty years, or even longer, I can still wait!”

She said it very determinedly. This was because this was her only path now!

36 Respected Elder Ming raised his brows, and his smile became fainter. “You’re willing to do this, but you need to see if others are agreeable to it. After all, this Sky-Cloud Empire... isn’t your Jiang family, right?”

Jiang Zhiyuan’s heart skipped a beat, and she hurriedly explained, “36 Respected Elder Ming, I don’t—”

“Besides, the clan leader has an important and special status. In what name... would you go there?” 36 Respected Elder Ming stroked his beard. “The Sky-Cloud Empire has its princess consort stationed here now. Everything will be handled by her. You... don’t have to be worried about this!”

Chapter 1407: Personally

Is he not planning on letting me in!? How can this be? I have nowhere to go now, and... the Liang family will definitely cause trouble for me soon!? Jiang Zhiyuan could not help but ask, “I-is this... the Princess Consort’s idea?”

When Jiang Zhiyuan asked this, she purposely looked at 36 Respected Elder Ming, wanting to see any traces or hints from his face. That was because the thoughts in her heart weren’t fully dispelled until now.

She just felt that there was something wrong with that Shangguan Yue. *Could it be that she’s really not in the Sky-Cloud Empire??*

However, 36 Respected Elder Ming suddenly laughed. “This is my idea. After all, for such a small matter... there really is no need to disturb the Princess Consort’s cultivation, right?”

Jiang Zhiyuan’s body swayed. *Small matter... I’m now treading the line between life and death, yet to them, it is just a small matter that isn’t enough to affect Shangguan Yue. Hah—how laughable!?*

If there weren’t other people watching from the side, Jiang Zhiyuan wanted to burst out in cold laughter. She wanted to laugh at the high and mighty Shangguan Yue, and laugh at her insignificant self.

This was the first time she clearly realized that the position of the Sky-Cloud Empire’s princess consort had been occupied by that woman! And this brief address had completely decided the difference in the duo’s statuses. Even if she had all the indignation and vengeance in the world, she could only look up to the other party.

If she wanted to stand on the same level as the other party... It would be much more difficult in the future!

“She just wants to accompany the clan leader; she is filial after all. 36 Respected Elder Ming, why must you put a child in a difficult spot?” At the side, Respected Elder Yu Jing finally spoke.

He had very complicated feelings toward the Jiang family.

In the past, Jiang Zhiyuan was greatly doted on by the clan leader, and everyone thought that she would be the future princess consort. Additionally, Fairy Water Mound had always been the strongest and the one with the most background out of the 28 divisions. He wanted to pull them in, so he was closer to them.

However, who would’ve thought that the clan leader would go into seclusion for a few years, and Jiang Zhiyuan didn’t become the princess consort—not even a second consort.

Not to mention that she had come back with a load of trouble.

Originally, Respected Elder Yu Jing didn’t want to interfere in such matters, but he had interacted with Fairy Water Mound for so many years, and they were deeply connected. If he really just watched from the side, he would very likely be dragged down by the Jiang family.

Helpless, he could only help them.

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Originally, everything was fine. As long as he let them in first, the others couldn't say anything.

Who would've thought 36 Respected Elder Ming would come out of nowhere! And this attitude... He clearly disagreed!

"It's precisely because the clan leader doted on her the most in the past, so I feel that this matter is inappropriate!" 36 Respected Elder Ming seriously said, "When the clan leader comes out and knows that he delayed you because of this, won't his heart ache even more?"

"I..."

"In my opinion, you just have to take good care of yourself! If you're good, the clan leader will naturally be happy!

36 Respected Elder Ming was still laughing, yet the determination in his words didn't allow for any doubts.

The expressions of the few people present changed. *?In this current situation, how can Jiang Zhiyuan be good? Other than the Sky-Cloud Empire, she has nowhere else to go! 36 Respected Elder Ming is determined to push her to her death!?*

Jiang Hetian's blood boiled, but he didn't dare to confront 36 Respected Elder Ming openly. He could only take a deep breath in and look to Respected Elder Yu Jing for help.

Respected Elder Yu Jing was also very frustrated. "Even she herself—"

Jiang Zhiyuan suddenly took a step forward. "Since 36 Respected Elder Ming has said so, then... I would like to personally meet the princess consort and talk to her about this. If she's willing to let me stay, I'll stay. If she wants me to leave, I'll leave. I won't drag on my feet and be relentless. Respected Elder, what do you think?!"

Chapter 1408: Illusion

36 Respected Elder Ming glanced at her nonchalantly.

His gaze was extremely faint, yet Jiang Zhiyuan felt humiliated. It was an expression that would only be revealed when a strong, long-lived warrior faced a minute and insignificant ant.

Jiang Zhiyuan suddenly felt uncomfortable. Although she didn't come from a true aristocratic family, with the clan leader doting on her in addition to her pretty appearance and outstanding talent, she had always treated herself as a princess these past few years.

Every time she came to the Sky-Cloud Empire, she was proud, imperious, and mighty. There was never a moment she clearly realized that everything she had was lower than others.

She wasn't more distinguished compared to other people.

"I've already said it before. This kind of small matter shouldn't affect the Princess Consort. It's the same with me representing her," said 36 Respected Elder Ming slowly.

"But..." Jiang Zhiyuan still wanted to defend herself, but she met 36 Respected Elder Ming's gaze. She suddenly fell silent, and her remaining words were stuck in her throat. She couldn't voice them.

"In consideration of our reputation, there are some words that I didn't say directly at first. But if you continue to be stubborn... I won't have to be polite to you as well."

It was probably Jiang Zhiyuan's sentence that offended 36 Respected Elder Ming. His gaze became much lighter, and he said slowly, "Jiang Zhiyuan, the news of you being expelled from Ling Xiao Academy has spread all over like wildfire. As a result, do you really think we don't know why you came to the Sky-Cloud Empire...?"

Does she treat the other people as fools? Ling Xiao Academy is the top academy in the God Residence Realm. Even though it is hard to be admitted, they rarely expel a student so harshly. All these years, the people who were expelled had all committed unforgivable sins, so they were chased out of the academy.?

Ling Xiao Academy didn't announce the reason for Jiang Zhiyuan's expulsion to the public. However, one just has to think to know that it isn't a small matter! After all, she was thought highly of in Ling Xiao Academy in the past. One just has to think to know what Jiang Zhiyuan has done to cause Ling Xiao Academy to make such a decision. Yet, she still has the cheek to come to the Sky-Cloud Empire to seek protection??

Jiang Zhiyuan's body swayed, and the last bit of blood on her lips completely faded.

"36 Respected Elder Ming." Respected Elder Yu Jing knitted his brows. "It's normal for young people to make small mistakes occasionally. Besides, she—"

"Small mistake?" 36 Respected Elder Ming laughed out loud and didn't conceal his mockery. "I coincidentally wanted to ask what exactly is a 'small mistake?' One that could get Elder Dan Qing to take the initiative to break their mentor-disciple ties?"

One has to know that he specially took care of Jiang Zhiyuan all these years! Yet, he is willing to do this now... It is hard not to let one's imagination run wild!?

Jiang Zhiyuan bit her lips, and tears welled up in her eyes before they landed continuously.

It was a pity that she couldn't rebut at all.

She naturally couldn't announce the truth! If she did so, her life would be completely ruined!

"This..." Respected Elder Yu Jing was stumped.

"But she's part of the Jiang family after all, and the clan leader treats her extremely well. If he knows that she's in such a situation, yet we just watched on... How are we supposed to explain this to him in the future?" After much thinking, he could only bring up the clan leader.

36 Respected Elder Ming laughed. "Of course... they have to explain themselves!"

In this day and age, the people who make mistakes still have reason on their side?

"Besides, isn't the Jiang family... just one of the division clans under the Sky-Cloud Empire? Since when could they call the shots here? Yu Jing, you're helping them too excessively today, right?" As he spoke, 36 Respected Elder Ming squinted his eyes and sized him up with scrutiny.

Respected Elder Yu Jing's body went numb from his gaze, and he hurriedly changed the topic. "Am I not doing this for the Sky-Cloud Empire? The Jiang family is the head of the 28 divisions after all. Now that the clan leader is in seclusion and His Grace isn't here, if something really happens..."

"Whoever committed the mistake will bear the responsibility." 36 Respected Elder Ming's attitude was persistent.

After a temporary silence, the two parties fell into a stalemate.

Jiang Hetian became anxious. *?36 Respected Elder Ming's status is higher than Respected Elder Yu Jing's. If he insists on not letting us enter the Sky-Cloud Empire, then... There will be no hope even if more venerables come!?*

36 Respected Elder Ming turned around and wanted to leave. He didn't have much time to waste on these few people.

"Lock the barrier. Without my permission, nobody is allowed to enter."

"Yes!" the guard hurriedly answered.

"36 Respected Elder Ming! Please hold on!" Jiang Zhiyuan suddenly took a step forward. As she spoke, she retrieved something from her neck, clenched her teeth, and said, "I have the clan leader's token!"

The air froze for a moment.

36 Respected Elder Ming slowly turned around and looked at Jiang Zhiyuan in disbelief. "What did you say?"

Jiang Zhiyuan originally didn't want to reveal this as it had too many implications after all. However... She really had no choice!

She held that item tightly and said carefully, "I... want to go to Wan Zhong Mountain!"

...

Ling Xiao Academy.

Fengmin Mountain.

Inside the pagoda, everything was silent.

Time slowly trickled past, and even the soft sound of the wind was hidden. Everything in the surroundings seemed to thicken as a slight change seemingly took place.

At one moment, Chu Liuyue opened her eyes again!

Her black gem-like eyes seemed to be shining with a bright light. It was like the remaining spark that fell into the autumn waters, causing faint ripples. The shards of lights also intersected, charming one's heart.

She blinked in a daze. *?Just now... There seemed to be a ray of light that flashed before my 'eyes.' This saying isn't accurate as my eyes were shut previously. However, I did 'see' that faint ray of light. It*

seemed like... something had flashed across my mind! But when I opened my eyes, everything disappeared.?

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. *?I've never had such a feeling before, but after entering this place this time, I became like this for some reason. Besides... I vaguely feel that Elder Meng doesn't seem to know about this.?*

She tried hard to maintain her expression as her gaze slowly swept across the six doors.

Everything was normal. It seemed like... nothing happened.

Chu Liuyue silently closed her eyes.

In no time, that ray of light surfaced again. This time, Chu Liuyue was finally certain that the light had silently squeezed into her mind!

That ray of light seemed to be a fluttering butterfly, going back and forth before her 'eyes' and seemingly drawing something.

Vaguely, Chu Liuyue finally saw the outline of it. Then, her heart skipped a beat. That was because... the ray of light actually outlined a door in her mind!

With just one glance, Chu Liuyue was certain that this was the door she had previously entered!

Chapter 1409: You Took Action?

Didn't this door disappear? Why did it... appear here?? Chu Liuyue was dazed for a long time before she finally accepted this fact. She adjusted her breathing and maintained the expression of everything being normal.

Gradually, the outline of the door and the lines became increasingly clear. Finally, it just appeared before Chu Liuyue's 'eyes!'

If only this door could open...? Just as this thought flashed across her mind, Chu Liuyue realized that the door really opened!

At this point, she realized her consciousness seemed to be controlled by some force, which formed into a tiny figure.

That tiny figure was exactly the same as her, and it could move according to her wishes. Just as she was thinking of going in, that figure entered the door!

The scene before her 'eyes' changed, and something seemed to rapidly brush past in the surroundings! It brought a gust of cold wind with it!

After a while, the surroundings slowly fell silent.

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes. Then, she held her breath in. *?I really entered this door!?*

It was still the same squarish space with messy lines engraved all over. And... the density of the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force seemed exactly the same as before!

The invisible force that tumbled around started gathering in Chu Liuyue's body at high speed!

...

On the highest floor in the pagoda.

Within the quiet and empty room, an elder in a blue robe sat cross-legged. His hair was white, and his face had many wrinkles, which were the traces of the years that passed.

His aura was ethereal, and he seemed like a fairy.

The empty air before him floated quietly. The surroundings were so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Suddenly, his brows moved.

"Hm?" A low and hoarse voice came softly from his throat.

The next moment, he opened his eyes—it was a pair of extremely clean and pure gray-colored eyes! Like the purity of a newborn, his eyes also seemed like they had experienced many waves and were deep and filled with tolerance.

If one's gaze met with this pair of eyes, it seemed like all the secrets in the world would become visible.

At this point, he was looking at a door not far away.

That door seemed to look at him from afar, and the duo was in a stalemate.

Deep thoughts flashed across Elder Meng's eyes. *?There seems to be... something wrong with this door? But upon closer inspection, it seems rather normal, and I can't specify what is wrong. Am I thinking too much??*

Elder Meng calmed his heart. *?Recently, I have been tortured enough by this thing. Previously, it was rather unstable, and I spent a lot of effort moving it from the first floor to the top floor. I put it in front of me so that I could personally look at it. Nothing can happen again.?*

After staring at that door for quite some time and confirming that nothing was strange with it, Elder Meng then closed his eyes again. However, he still felt quite troubled.

"This girl... Does she really not want it anymore? Hmph... If I catch her when she comes back..." He muttered to himself before he meditated again.

Only that door floated quietly.

...

Chu Liuyue thought for a long while and was uncertain about what kind of state she was in. *?Am I inside the door, or... has the door entered my body? My body and everything in my surroundings seem so realistic, but I recall that I've stayed at the same spot from start to end and didn't do anything. Additionally, if there really was such a big movement, there is no reason why Elder Meng wouldn't come out...?*

Unable to make heads or tails of it, Chu Liuyue swiftly stopped thinking. *?Time is precious. I have to take all the chances I have to cultivate! After all, it's not easy to come here.?*

Calming herself down, Chu Liuyue started to focus on cultivation. *I'm now a beginner stage-nine warrior, so my cultivation speed is naturally much higher than before. Besides... After coming back from the Flood-Desert Northern Region, I've realized that my aura seems to be undergoing obvious changes every day.*

It seems like I've absorbed too much force in the tomb in one go. Now, it is slowly being released and is merging into every inch of my bone and veins. Therefore, my abilities are naturally strengthened. Besides, after I broke through to become a stage-nine warrior, there were way more changes.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while and 'looked' at her dantian again.

On the water droplet, the nine bright and eye-catching lines were energetic. Although the last line seemed to pale in comparison, it was also very clear.

And that black pyramid was now filled with cracks like a spiderweb—especially in the middle. There was a crack that went down from the tip of the pyramid, almost cutting right through it! Only the last portion of it connected the item together.

At first glance, it seemed extremely frail as if a random touch could totally break it!

After Chu Liuyue woke up, it was already in this state. Faint light seeped through the cracks with a few hints of illusion.

Even Chu Liuyue herself didn't know when the last part of the seal would be broken, but she could already feel a strong sense of familiarity.

Without a doubt, that was indeed her soul! Inside, there were naturally the memories she had forgotten!

Chu Liuyue suppressed the temptation in her heart and crazily absorbed the surrounding force.

Like river water that rushed down, it harshly passed through the dry riverbed. The dry ground met with spring, and everything was filled with life once again.

Chu Liuyue felt that perhaps the day of her soul returning wouldn't be too far away!

...

Jiuheng Peak.

Rong Xiu came back from Fengmin Mountain. The moment he reached the door, his expression changed, and his gaze paused on the tightly locked entrance.

After a moment, he pushed open the door and entered.

Dugu Mobao was waiting in the room. Hearing the sound, he turned around.

His exquisite and extravagant purple robe was stained with blood!

Rong Xiu knitted his brows. "You took action?"

Chapter 1410: Out of Seclusion

"I met with some trouble," said Dugu Mobao lightly.

Dugu Mobao spoke lightly, but Rong Xiu knew that it was definitely not a small matter that caused him to do this.

"I've already sealed the news and used some methods. Within a short period of time, there should be no problem," continued Dugu Mobao.

Hearing him say this, Rong Xiu swallowed his remaining words.

"Where's Yue'er Girlie?" Dugu Mobao paused. "She seems to have already broken through to become a stage-nine warrior, right? It shouldn't be long before she breaks through and reaches the Apotheosis Realm, right?"

Rong Xiu nodded. "She's at Fengmin Mountain."

Dugu Mobao squinted his eyes and didn't speak for some time. There seemed to be a faint light glowing in his demonic-like purple eyes. "She wanted to go there herself?"

"Yes. You guessed it."

Dugu Mobao didn't seem shocked as if he had long expected it. "How much did she recall?"

Speaking of this, he looked up slightly at Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu's thin lips slightly curled up as he walked over in a seemingly smiling manner. "Um... I don't know for sure. She was still unconscious for a period of time before. After she woke up, she said she wanted to go to Fengmin Mountain. Other than this, everything seemed normal. As for how much she has recalled and what she has recalled... She refused to reveal it, and I can't guess either."

He naturally knew that Chu Liuyue had recalled quite a few things. If not, she wouldn't directly request to go to Fengmin Mountain and ask for his help in such a confident manner. But... She seemed like she didn't want to reveal all her cards.

He swiftly did not ask.

.....

Dugu Mobao kept silent for a moment. "Let her be. There will be quite some trouble during this period of time, and she can coincidentally avoid it."

"That's what I thought too." Rong Xiu nodded. "With the academy supporting her, I believe those people can't cause any trouble, but... Are you sure your situation is fine? If not—"

Dugu Mobao knitted his brows.

The chubby and white face revealed a stern and serious expression, which made it easy for other people to act out of character. But luckily, other than himself, only Rong Xiu was here.

"No need." Dugu Mobao picked up the teacup from the side. "With this journey to the Flood-Desert Northern Region, Ling Xiao Academy has suffered quite a bit, and there will be trouble afterward. Look after them more."

"You don't have to worry about this." Rong Xiu smiled slightly. "No matter when, the Sky-Cloud Empire and I will stand by Ling Xiao Academy."

Hearing this, Dugu Mobao felt more relieved. Even though he was always very picky with Rong Xiu, in comparison, Rong Xiu was already the more dependable one out of all these people.

The room fell into temporary silence.

"I need to make a trip back to the Red Moon Desert," said Dugu Mobao. "There seems to be some problem with Diwu."

Calculating for a moment, he had already been out on this trip for quite some time. It was time for him to go back to take a look.

Dugu Mobao could almost imagine how Lan Xiao scolded him behind his back.

Originally, he was quite worried, but now that Chu Liuyue had gone to Fengmin Mountain, she probably wouldn't come out for a while. He could take this chance to make a trip back.

"Be careful with everything."

Rong Xiu nodded and asked, "When are you going?"

"Today." Dugu Mobao had always been a very efficient person.

Rong Xiu paused. "Then, as for Elder Bo Yan's side... He seems to have detected something."

Dugu Mobao sipped on his tea and nonchalantly said, "Let him be. You don't have to care about him."

Anyway, they won't be able to find out anything in such a short period of time.?

Hearing Dugu Mobao say that, Rong Xiu didn't ask further. "Then, be careful with everything."

Dugu Mobao placed his teacup down and walked forward. When he walked to the middle of the room, he stopped.

Thump!

A small spark suddenly burned on his clothes! Everywhere the fire passed, the bloodstains disappeared, and the robe became as good as new.

Under the accompaniment of the spark, the scale-like light shone faintly.

In no time, he had already recovered his normal appearance. Then, he raised his hand and drew.

The empty air shook, and a crack appeared in the air!

Dugu Mobao turned around to glance at Rong Xiu. "During this period, I'll leave Yue'er Girlie to you. You must take good care of her."

"I am responsible for her and won't shrink away from my duty. I will do my best." Rong Xiu smiled. *?/ naturally need to dote on my own princess consort.?*

Dugu Mobao grunted coldly and stepped in. His tiny figure disappeared from the room.

The space crack quickly recovered, and the energy ripples in the room were quickly appeased. Everything was still peaceful and quiet as if nothing had happened.

Rong Xiu stood quietly at his spot for a while. Just as he was about to turn around, he suddenly stopped in his tracks.

He raised his sharp brows slightly and looked at the window. Extremely faint and cold smiling intent seemed to flash across his eyes. "Interesting..."

It seems like those people have gone to the Sky-Cloud Empire and plan on... letting us be scapegoats together?

"Xue Xue," yelled Rong Xiu suddenly.

Xue Xue—who had automatically disappeared for a long time—finally appeared as it stuck its snow-white head out from behind the screen.

"Make a trip back to the Sky-Cloud Empire first."

Xue Xue's gaze, which was originally filled with intense hope, instantly darkened. *?Go back? What's so good about going back! My dear Yue'er is here! Even though I can't see her, I should at least be in the same place as her! If I go back, who knows when I can see her again??*

Rong Xiu glanced at it, and his gaze turned slightly cold. "The clan leader is finally coming out of seclusion... We must show some form of appreciation."

Shock flashed across Xue Xue's eyes. *?Coming out of seclusion? Back then, didn't—*

Meeting Rong Xiu's gaze, Xue Xue suppressed its inner doubts, sneezed, and obediently went away.

When the fiend's figure disappeared, the corner of Rong Xiu's lips then curved up slightly. *?He could actually come out of seclusion... That's... even more interesting.?*