

The Doctor 1591

Chapter 1591: High and Low

Elder Yi Gong's voice was cold and stern, and every word was powerful.

Quite a few people glanced at each other awkwardly.

Actually... what he said made sense. It was indeed powerful that the red-gold heavenly phoenix could open its meridians continuously, but it was also a fact that it had interrupted Yi Ran's opening of his meridians.

Yi Ran had always been very talented and was number one among the younger generation. The damage to him this time was really not small, and this was undoubtedly the loss of their entire race.

Moreover, the red-gold heavenly phoenix was still young. If it forcefully opened the third meridian like this, it might indeed have the opposite effect... Wouldn't that be worse?

One was a genius who hadn't yet grown up, and the other was a seedling who was already quite powerful. It was indeed a difficult problem to decide.

Yi Zhao glanced at the dejected Yi Ran and frowned. "As I said just now, Yi Ran's injuries inside and outside his body aren't serious. And just now, I personally took action to help him recover. As long as you go back and rest for a few days, you can heal. The matter isn't as serious as you said. Yi Gong, why are you so aggressive?"

"It's not that I'm aggressive, but Shangguan Yue's behavior is really too bad!" Elder Yi Gong immediately refuted. "Clan Leader, Yi Ran's flesh injuries can indeed recover quickly. However, what if this matter leaves a mental barrier for him?! That will severely affect his future cultivation!"

That would be an even greater hidden danger!

Elder Yi Shang frowned. "First Elder, are you questioning the clan leader?"

Elder Yi Gong's heart skipped a beat, and he felt a little uneasy. But after thinking about it, he did not retreat. *I can't retreat! Today, Yi Ran failed to open his meridians. There is probably no hope of him becoming the young master. I have to obtain the greatest benefits!*

"Clan Leader, I just want an explanation!"

The atmosphere was cold.

The cold atmosphere frightened everyone, and they didn't dare to say anything.

However, just as everyone thought that Yi Zhao would be angry, he suddenly laughed.

The smile was very short and didn't spread to the corners of the eyes and eyebrows.

Elder Yi Gong's heart turned cold.

"If that's the case—Yi Ran is too useless." Yi Zhao's voice was indifferent with a trace of cold dignity that could not be disobeyed. "Such a weak person has no right to continue competing for the position of young master."

...

Elder Yi Gong was stunned for a moment. He never expected Yi Zhao to say such a thing!

"...Clan Leader!? What do you mean..." His lips trembled slightly, and there was urgency and worry in his voice.

Yi Zhao's smile faded, and he said indifferently, "There's no hidden meaning to it."

His answer was cold and heartless, instantly causing Elder Yi Gong and Yi Ran to feel as if they had fallen into an ice cave!

"I-I'm not..." Only then did Elder Yi Gong realize what a stupid mistake he had made! *I said that Yi Ran's future cultivation might be affected. Isn't this pushing him away from the position of young master? Not to mention us, no clan in this world would allow an incompetent person to take over!*

Elder Yi Gong regretted it. *Of all the things I could've said, why did I have to leave such a handle for others?!*

Yi Ran was also stunned, and his face turned pale. At this moment, it was as if a string that had been tense in his mind had snapped!

He opened his mouth and couldn't help but defend himself. "Clan Leader, am I inferior to that b*stard who came back from outside?!"

There was a sudden silence.

Some people couldn't help but cover their mouths. *Yi Ran is really crazy! It's fine if he said some things in private, but how could he say it in public?!*

Even Elder Yi Gong glared at him in shock and anger. "Yi Ran! Shut up!"

"I'm just telling the truth!" Yi Ran had indeed lost his mind.

Nobody knew how long he had waited for this day and how much he had sacrificed. He had always thought that the position of young master was his and could not be changed! But today, he had been forcefully robbed of the Ancestral Golden Feather and failed to open his meridian.

It was obvious that he had suffered a loss, but the clan leader and the others had always been biased toward that b*stard!

Now, the clan leader said that he wasn't qualified to compete for the position of young master? How could he tolerate this?!

"No matter how powerful it is, it has only opened the third meridian now. I was opening my fourth meridian when I was interrupted by it, but you don't care at all?! How can there be such a reason in the world?!" Yi Ran was filled with anger.

He refused to accept it!

He was indignant!

“Sigh—Yi Ran, watch your words. Tuan Zi is already of the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan’s bloodline. Regardless of whether it has continuously opened its meridians, it can’t be humiliated like this,” Elder Yi Yu reminded.

There was no longer his usual smile on his face. It was obvious that he was very dissatisfied with Yi Ran’s words.

Yi Ran was used to being arrogant and had never taken others seriously. However, he would more or less restrain himself and would never be so impudent.

“Clan Leader, Yi Ran is confused from anger. I’ll bring him back now! I—” Elder Yi Gong hurriedly tried to save Yi Ran.

However, Yi Zhao raised his hand. “There’s no need. What you said isn’t unreasonable. We should give Yi Ran an explanation.”

Elder Yi Gong’s voice stopped abruptly. For some reason, he didn’t feel happy at all when he heard this. Instead, he felt uneasy!

Yi Ran clenched his fists with a furious expression.

Yi Zhao sized him up and suddenly asked, “Are you unconvinced that a junior who has opened the third meridian has snatched your chance to break through? Do you think you’re superior to it?”

Yi Ran didn’t say anything, but it was obvious that he had tacitly agreed.

Yi Zhao suddenly raised his eyebrows. “Then... what if it also opens the fourth meridian?”

Yi Ran was suddenly stunned.

Yi Zhao raised his chin.

Yi Ran turned around and abruptly widened his eyes.

The Ancestral Golden Feather had yet to disappear!

Chapter 1592: Let Me Help You

At this moment, dark clouds were thick in the sky above Phoenix Valley, surging with the wind.

All the lightning had already fallen. At this moment, it was clean, leaving only darkness.

Only the ball of golden flames in midair was still burning silently.

Vaguely, a blurry outline of the Ancestral Golden Feather could be seen.

The Ancestral Golden Feather hung on the opposite side as if waiting for something.

This...

The meridians are continuing to open?!

In the square in front of Godly Phoenix Hall, everyone's faces were filled with shock again. *?It's fine if it opens its meridians consecutively, but it actually wants to directly break through to the fourth meridian... Isn't this too abnormal?!*

It was rare for Elder Yi Gong to be in a daze. Looking at the scene in the distance, his mind was completely in chaos.

"This... this... Didn't it just break through to become a red-gold heavenly phoenix?!"

Logically speaking, it would take at least a hundred years to open the third meridian. As for the fourth meridian, there was no need to mention it!

But now, all these things actually happened together?! And this happened when it had an agreement with a mere true god!

How did it do it!?

Not only him, but even Elder Yi Shang and the others couldn't help but gasp.

They had long thought that Tuan Zi should be quite talented and should be stronger than many people in the family. However, they did not expect the outcome to be so shocking!

Continuous opening of meridians was already extremely rare, let alone directly opening the fourth meridian from the first meridian! It was almost unheard of!

Yi Ran gritted his teeth as if something was surging crazily in his heart. "...It's still unknown if it will work! If we force it, it might be in vain in the end!"

In the past, there had been cases of people forcefully opening their meridians, but without exception, none of them had a good ending.

It wasn't that simple to open meridians. Without accumulation or preparation, this was considering acting rashly...

How could it be that easy?!

Hearing this, Elder Yi Yu glanced at him and could not help but laugh. *?Some people really don't give up until it is over.*

Yi Gong's face was already ashen, and only Yi Ran was still holding onto his last hope.

Regardless of whether Tuan Zi could continue to open its meridians, it had already displayed talent that exceeded everyone in the younger generation.

Elder Yi Yu shook his head. *?If Yi Ran became the young master of the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan... that would be the clan's misfortune.*

He quickly looked away and set his gaze back on Phoenix Valley.

...

Time passed slowly, and it seemed to be exceptionally long.

Countless pairs of eyes were looking in the same direction. They were all waiting for the Ancestral Golden Feather to move.

But after a while, the Ancestral Golden Feather still hung quietly in the air, motionless.

Yi Ran sneered in his heart. *?I knew it—the fourth meridian won't open so easily! If there is still no reaction from the Ancestral Golden Feather after a while, it will definitely lose this time!*

Sure enough, not long after, everyone saw the Ancestor Golden Feather begin to tremble slightly.

Some people secretly looked at each other and heaved a sigh of relief. *?If the red-gold heavenly phoenix really opened the fourth meridian, we would really lose all face. To think that we looked down on them previously. In the blink of an eye, the other party has stepped on us all.*

Even if it couldn't open the fourth meridian, such age and talent... were already beyond their reach.

Yi Zhao frowned imperceptibly and felt a faint sense of disappointment.

Initially, he didn't have much hope, but Tuan Zi's performance just now surprised him. Naturally, he thought that it could continue to break through and open the fourth meridian.

However, it did seem a little difficult now.

Everyone was like that. There was no hope, no disappointment.

However, everything had exceeded his previous expectations. After a short period of depression, he regained his composure. *?Even if Tuan Zi has only opened its third meridian, it is still very competitive in today's ancestral ceremony—*

Thump!

Right at this moment, another strange cracking sound came from the depths of Phoenix Valley! Then, a slender and exquisite figure leaped out of the rolling mountains!

Yi Zhao and the others were shocked. "Shangguan Yue!?"

They had been so focused on looking at Tuan Zi that they had forgotten that Shangguan Yue was also there.

The wind howled, sweeping up the corners of her fluttering clothes and making them flutter. Her black hair danced in the wind, valiant and chic.

Her figure moved, and she actually ran directly to the ball of golden flames. Hence, it became the scene of the Ancestral Golden Feather floating in front of Tuan Zi, and her after Tuan Zi.

"Why did she go over!?" Elder Yi Shang's expression tightened. *?Tuan Zi is at the critical moment of opening its meridians and can't afford to make any mistakes. If she goes over now, it is hard to guarantee that she won't disturb it...*

"Should we ask her to come over?" Elder Yi Shang turned to look at Yi Zhao.

As the clan leader, Yi Zhao's authority and ability were undoubtedly the greatest here. If he was willing to help, he could bring Shangguan Yue back without disturbing Tuan Zi.

Yi Zhao thought for a moment when he heard this, but he shook his head. "Let's wait and see."

Elder Yi Shang was a little surprised. *Why does the clan leader... seem to be quite at ease with Shangguan Yue?*

Elder Yi Yu elbowed him and lowered his voice. "Aiya, in my opinion, Tuan Zi is still Shangguan Yue's contracted legendary fiend at the moment. She won't do anything harmful to Tuan Zi! Don't worry!"

Hearing this, Elder Yi Shang nodded hesitantly. *From what had happened previously, Shangguan Yue is indeed good to Tuan Zi. But... Does the clan leader think so too? When did he... trust Shangguan Yue so much?*

...

"Tuan Zi!"

Strong winds swept around, and violent energy surged everywhere.

Chu Liuyue barely stabilized herself and looked at the flames burning in front of her with a solemn gaze. "Tuan Zi, let me help you!"

Earlier, she had been waiting and watching from below.

Seeing that Tuan Zi had successfully opened its third meridian, she was naturally very happy.

She thought that this would be the end of the matter. Unexpectedly, Tuan Zi still wanted to try to open the fourth meridian!

It had never discussed this with her before!

But now wasn't the time to talk about this.

Sensing that Tuan Zi's strength seemed to be a little overwhelmed, she rushed up without thinking.

Tuan Zi did not respond.

She pursed her lips and closed her eyes.

Rumble!

A reddish-gold flame surged out of her palm!

She had a contract with Tuan Zi, so she could naturally transform the force in her body into the flames of the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan.

Then, she raised her hand, and the flame quickly flew out and fused into the ball of fire!

The power in her body began to deplete crazily, and the red-gold feather—which had been trembling but couldn't move—finally moved! Slowly but firmly, it drew the third line!

Chapter 1593: Tuan Zi!

This time, the red-gold feather moved very slowly. It was completely different from the previous two smooth movements, but it still moved in the end!

Seeing it gently paddle in midair, the square in front of Godly Phoenix Hall fell into a short silence. Then, all kinds of noisy discussions erupted!

“The Ancestral Golden Feather actually moved! Shangguan Yue really helped!?”

“Yes, yes... I think it was only after she made a move that the Ancestral Golden Feather officially began to open that red-gold heavenly phoenix’s meridians again... Just now, I thought that this fourth meridian wouldn’t open!”

“Didn’t they say that she’s only a true god now? Logically speaking, she shouldn’t be that capable, right?”

!!

“This... Who knows! Most importantly, a human helped open its meridians. What’s going on?”

Everyone discussed animatedly, clearly stunned by this scene.

No matter how they thought about it, they didn’t expect that the Ancestral Golden Feather would actually continue to open Tuan Zi’s meridians with the help of a human!

No one would believe it!

Yi Ran was stunned on the spot with a dazed expression. The mocking smile on his face had yet to dissipate, and he looked very awkward and strange.

What was happening was beyond his expectations.

A moment ago, he was still waiting to see Shangguan Yue and that b*stard make a fool of themselves. Unexpectedly, in the blink of an eye, the situation changed!

He naturally couldn’t accept it, and he wasn’t willing to. Hence, he could only stand stiffly in place as if his soul had been taken away.

Elder Yi Gong was no better than him. At this moment, there was only one thought in his mind: *It’s over!*

Only Yi Zhao stared fixedly in that direction, his eyes seeming to glitter.

...

It was indeed much more difficult to open the fourth meridian than before.

The energy in her body was being expended crazily, but there was still no movement from Tuan Zi. If not for the fact that Chu Liuyue could sense its aura, she would’ve thought that something had happened to it.

Her eyes burned as she stared at the fire.

Red-gold light splattered. Only a vague outline could be seen, but it was impossible to see the exact shape.

It must be waiting for an opportunity to change into its human form... she thought to herself.

Actually, she was also very curious. Tuan Zi had been with her for many years and was already like family. But before this, she had indeed never thought about what Tuan Zi would look like in human form.

After continuously opening its meridians, it was about to transform into a human. In a single month, Tuan Zi had done almost everything others needed hundreds of years to do. It naturally consumed more time and energy.

Suddenly, a faint sound came from the flames.

A thought flashed through her mind, but she suddenly felt a gentle force coming from it and pushing her away.

This was Tuan Zi's aura!

Chu Liuyue only hesitated for a moment before obediently retreating with the force. It wasn't until she was a distance away that she finally stopped.

She retracted her strength and looked up at Tuan Zi.

Right then, the red-gold feather finally finished drawing the complete line!

The fourth meridian was opened!

...

At this moment, everyone in front of Godly Phoenix Hall fell silent.

Yi Ran's legs went weak, and he fell to the ground, his face pale.

Elder Yi Gong swayed, and his vision darkened.

Elder Yi Yu couldn't help but take a few steps forward. His face was filled with excitement as he punched his palm. "It's done!"

Although Yi Zhao didn't move or speak, the expression in his eyes had changed greatly.

The usual indifference and disdain had disappeared. At this moment, it was replaced by unconcealed joy and excitement!

Elder Yi Shang was stunned for a moment before he couldn't help but shake his head and smile. "It actually... It really did it... The purest bloodline is indeed extraordinary."

He didn't deliberately lower his voice, so many people around heard him.

For a moment, countless pairs of eyes looked over in disbelief. *Did we hear wrongly?!*

Yi Ran also seemed to have been struck by lightning. He raised his neck stiffly and said in a hoarse voice, "...Purest... bloodline?"

Elder Yi Shang smiled and glanced at him in surprise. "What, didn't your master tell you before? The day Tuan Zi returned, we already knew that it had the purest bloodline."

Yi Ran's ears rang, and his vision turned white. It was as if a sharp hammer was repeatedly hammering his head, causing him immense pain and dizziness.

He glanced at Elder Yi Gong.

Elder Yi Gong no longer had any expression on his face and only slowly closed his eyes.

This was the last straw.

Yi Ran lowered his head and was silent for a long time. Then, he actually laughed softly.

He was laughing at himself! *Ridiculous! Hilarious! Embarrassing! I thought that I would sit firmly in the position of young master. It turned out that they already had another candidate!*

Purest bloodline... What could I use to fight the other party? My only advantage has already been overtaken at this moment!

As he smiled, blood seeped from the corner of his mouth rapidly, quickly staining the front of his shirt.

But at this moment, nobody cared about him. Everyone's attention was on Tuan Zi. *Purest bloodline—that is an existence that only exists in legends!*

They did not expect it to appear today!

No wonder it could open its meridians consecutively. No wonder it could open its fourth meridian!

After this, who can compete with it?!

...

The burning flames were gradually engulfed by the ball.

Tuan Zi's figure gradually appeared.

Chu Liuyue subconsciously clenched her fists in her sleeves and didn't even blink, afraid that she would miss something. *Tuan Zi... what will it look like?*

At this moment, a chubby and tender hand suddenly stretched out from the flames!

Chapter 1594: Pampered

Immediately after, a small figure broke free from the flames!

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes slightly.

It was a doll that looked to be three or four years old. Her skin was snow-white, and her eyes were as black as black grapes. Her eyelashes were long and thick, and her lips were as red as the most delicate rose petals.

She was extremely cute.

She had two round buns on her head, tied with scarlet hair ties with two golden bells each. As she shook her head, there was a crisp ringing sound.

And she was wearing an exquisitely tailored lotus leaf dress. The entire lotus leaf dress showed a gradual change in color. It was scarlet below and gradually turned golden above.

The colors were strong and bright. There were even sparkles of starlight in the sunlight.

From afar, it looked like a burning flame.

“Ha—” She raised her chubby little hand to rub her eyes and yawned as if she had just woken up.

It was dead quiet between heaven and earth.

Chu Liuyue was also stunned. *?A girl!? The key is that she is so small!*

As if sensing Chu Liuyue’s gaze, Tuan Zi lowered her hand and looked in her direction.

When she saw the latter’s face clearly, a big smile bloomed on her round, snow-white face. “A’Yue!”

Her eyes were bright, her voice was clear, and her eyes seemed to be filled with stars. Then, she opened her arms and ran over quickly.

Her little feet were bare, and she looked clean and cute. However, she was extremely fast and arrived in front of Chu Liuyue in the blink of an eye.

She threw herself into the latter’s arms.

Before Chu Liuyue could react, she subconsciously reached out, and a meaty little thing appeared in her arms.

“A’Yue~” Tuan Zi dragged out her name, sounding coquettish.

Chu Liuyue’s heart instantly softened. She looked down into her arms and couldn’t help but smile. *?Tuan Zi has always been tough, so I had always thought... I didn’t expect Tuan Zi to be such a beautiful and cute little girl!*

“Tuan Zi?” She tried to call out, but her voice was unconsciously much gentler than before.

It was clearly the same name, but seeing this small one, it felt completely different.

Hearing her voice, Tuan Zi looked up and blinked. “Ang?”

Chu Liuyue couldn’t help but hold Tuan Zi’s face and kiss it. Instantly, she felt comfortable. *?She is so soft!*

She smells so good!

So cute!

Tuan Zi blushed, and she was so overjoyed that she almost jumped up in Chu Liuyue’s arms happily.

She stretched out her two short arms and tried her best to wrap them around Chu Liuyue’s neck. Then, she quickly kissed the latter’s cheek and buried her head in her shoulders even faster.

“Tuan Zi likes A’Yue the most!” She arched her head and rubbed her face against her master.

Chu Liuyue couldn’t help but laugh. *“Although her appearance has changed drastically, her habit of nesting on my shoulder is exactly the same as before.”*

Changing her position, she hugged Tuan Zi more comfortably and couldn’t help but sigh. *“Girls are indeed different from boys. If this was Big Baby... Tsk.”*

“Shall we go back and see the clan leader?” As Chu Liuyue asked this, she glanced in the direction of Godly Phoenix Hall.

Although they were still some distance away, it was obvious that those people were definitely looking over.

Tuan Zi had finally transformed into human form and opened her fourth meridian. Logically speaking, she had to go.

Tuan Zi hugged her and nodded vigorously. “I’ll go with A’Yue!”

...

The dark clouds in the sky gradually dissipated, and the wind subsided.

After a month of rioting, peace finally returned to Phoenix Valley. It was naturally better to ignore the mess.

Looking at the charred mountain wall that had been struck by lightning and the scattered light balls that had been swept away by the violent energy, Chu Liuyue coughed guiltily. *“It is my fault. I’ve smashed the place where others sleep. I hope they’ll let this matter go on account of me helping Tuan Zi.”*

She hugged Tuan Zi even tighter and ran straight to Godly Phoenix Hall.

...

Seeing the person—no, the adult and the child—arrive, the countless people waiting in the square seemed like they had yet to react.

When Chu Liuyue landed with Tuan Zi in her arms, she didn’t care about the surrounding gazes and greeted Yi Zhao with a smile. “Clan Leader Yi Zhao.”

Yi Zhao stared intently at Tuan Zi, his emotions surging.

Because she was still young, Tuan Zi was also like a doll when she transformed into human form.

Almost the entire red-gold heavenly phoenix clan transformed into human form after the age of 100 and looked at least ten years old.

Tuan Zi was the first to transform into human form at such a young age. It was no wonder that everyone was so shocked.

“...Tuan Zi?” Yi Zhao spoke carefully. His voice was rare and gentle as if he were afraid of scaring Tuan Zi.

Hearing this, Tuan Zi looked up from Chu Liuyue's shoulder and glanced back. She tilted her head, her big black grape-like eyes blinking.

An indescribable feeling immediately surged in Yi Zhao's heart. He waved her over, his expression even gentler and almost imperceptible. "Tuan Zi, come over."

Tuan Zi snorted and turned around to hug Chu Liuyue. *?I don't want to go over! I only want to be with A'Yue!*

Being rejected by Tuan Zi in public, Yi Zhao was embarrassed.

However, there was no anger on his face. He only rubbed his hands helplessly, as if he didn't know how to deal with this situation.

Chu Liuyue laughed inwardly and gently patted Tuan Zi's back. "Tuan Zi."

No matter what, he's the clan leader of the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan. Aren't you being too disrespectful?

Tuan Zi glanced at her and pouted, but she couldn't dissuade Chu Liuyue. She could only jump down from the latter's arms and take a few steps forward.

As she moved, the bells on her two round buns tinkled. The hem of her lotus leaf skirt swayed, and her fair, chubby feet were faintly discernible, looking incredibly cute.

She walked to Yi Zhao and stood still, but she couldn't help but turn back to look at Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue lifted her chin.

Only then did Tuan Zi cross her hands in front and bow obediently. "Greetings, Clan Leader."

She was very small and round, making her look even more silly when she bowed so seriously.

Yi Zhao hurriedly took a step forward and reached out to help her. "Yes! Yes! Good! Get up—"

Before his hand could reach her, Tuan Zi quickly straightened up when she heard him. Her movements were smooth and natural.

Yi Zhao's hand froze in midair. He smiled sheepishly and withdrew his hand.

"That... Tuan Zi, you..." He paused hesitantly, as if he didn't know what to say.

There was an awkward silence.

Upon seeing this scene, Chu Liuyue slowly raised her eyebrows. *?Clan Leader Yi Zhao is actually... a little afraid that Tuan Zi will lose her temper?*

Chapter 1595: The Best Candidate

This was really strange.

One had to know that the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan leader was very unyielding and arrogant. Not to mention humans, even the surrounding elders and juniors were as obedient as quails in front of him.

She had dealt with the other party before.

To put it nicely, he was a man of his word and was extremely proud.

To put it bluntly, he was self-important and cared a lot about his reputation.

But at this moment, such a person is actually... not angry after being disrespected by Tuan Zi? Not only is he not angry, but he also seems to be thinking about how to make Tuan Zi happy?? Chu Liuyue quietly sized up Yi Zhao and almost laughed out loud when she saw his nervous clenched hands and tense smile.

"Then..." Yi Zhao held it in for a long time before finally speaking.

But just as he said a word, Tuan Zi said crisply, "Since there's nothing else, I'll go back first?"

Yi Zhao's remaining words were stuck in his throat.

Everyone held their breaths.?Tuan Zi is too arrogant! The last person who dared to be so rude to the clan leader has long died. She... will probably be punished!

But just as everyone was waiting to see how Yi Zhao would punish her, he coughed and said slowly, "Then... Go then..."

"Thank you, Clan Leader!" Tuan Zi thanked him and hurriedly turned around before running back to Chu Liuyue.

Everyone was stunned.?He just... just let it go?! The clan leader actually has no intention of punishing her at all?

Yi Zhao was thinking about something else.

When Tuan Zi faced him just now, her face was cold. But as soon as she turned around, a big smile bloomed on her lips.

It was obvious that her smile was only for Shangguan Yue.

Looking at the bouncing little figure, Yi Zhao actually felt very upset.?Logically speaking, now that Tuan Zi has transformed into a human and has already opened its fourth meridian, its feelings for the clan should've deepened. But... From the look on her face just now, it's obvious that she is still brooding over what has happened.

At this moment, he was more or less regretful.?My attitude and methods toward Shangguan Yue and Tuan Zi back then seemed to be too unyielding... If we had sat down and talked nicely from the beginning, Tuan Zi wouldn't be so resistant to us now. However, it is too late to understand this now.

...

"A'Yue!" Tuan Zi ran back and grabbed Chu Liuyue's hand.

Chu Liuyue held her chubby and soft hand, but her eyes were still on Yi Zhao as she smiled. "Clan Leader Yi Zhao, consider the bet... my win, right?"

Yi Zhao came back to his senses and looked at her with a complicated gaze.

Even if he didn't want to admit it, he knew it was the truth. The woman in front of her had indeed helped Tuan Zi transform into human form in a month.

She even opened the fourth meridian for Tuan Zi.

Under everyone's watch, it was absolutely true.

He had to admit to what she had done no matter what.

Seeing Tuan Zi leaning against her dependently, Yi Zhao could not help but sigh. "You win. I... admit defeat. There's no need to break the contract between you and Tuan Zi. If Tuan Zi wants to follow you in the future, then... let her be."

Yi Zhao spoke word by word, his voice seemingly deeper than usual.

These words were like thunder that exploded in everyone's ears!

Almost instantly, everyone widened their eyes in shock and gazed at Yi Zhao in disbelief.

Apart from Yi Zhao and the five elders, the rest of the people didn't know about this bet. Therefore, when they heard this, their reactions were naturally huge. *?Hasn't the clan leader always hated the human race? Now, he actually agreed to let Tuan Zi follow Shangguan Yue in the future without breaking the contract?!*

This...

Only Elder Yi Gong seemed to have suddenly thought of something, and his eyes lit up. "Clan Leader—"

When Elder Yi Shang heard this, he finally couldn't help but speak. He frowned slightly with worry. *?How can this matter be settled?! Tuan Zi has the purest bloodline, and she directly opened her fourth meridian today! With such talent, she is destined to be the best choice as the young mistress! If she still maintains the contract with Shangguan Yue, how can she sit in the position of young mistress?*

When they set up the bet previously... On the one hand, they didn't expect the purest bloodline to be so powerful. On the other hand, they didn't expect Shangguan Yue to really do it!

Now...

Tuan Zi had successfully transformed into a human and opened her fourth meridian. It could be said that nobody in the younger generation could compare to her. However, she wanted to continue following Shangguan Yue!

To them, the losses were too great!

Yi Zhao frowned slightly, his eyes dark. "My clan honors their promises. We will never go back on our words."

“Clan Leader is right.” Elder Yi Gong, who had been silent for a long time, suddenly spoke. “Back then, the clan leader personally proposed this bet. If we forget it now because the other party won, wouldn’t it be... too embarrassing? If word gets out, where will our red-gold heavenly phoenix clan put our face?”

Elder Yi Shang glanced at him coldly. *Does he see hope, which is why he comes out to make trouble again? As expected, he did not give up!*

Elder Yi Gong did not care about his disdain. He was in a very good mood now!

Originally, when he saw that Tuan Zi had successfully opened the fourth meridian, he also thought that the position of young mistress would definitely be hers. But when Shangguan Yue mentioned the bet, he remembered that it was precisely because Tuan Zi had succeeded that she wasn’t qualified to take over!

My previous worries and despair were really a waste of feelings! It is impossible for the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan to accept a bloodline that has contracted with the human race as the young mistress! Thinking of this, Yi Gong’s gaze turned slightly, and he glanced at Yi Ran.

Disappointment and disdain flashed across his eyes. *There is no turning back. To think that I had spent so many years nurturing him. In the end, he was actually useless.*

From now on, Yi Ran is basically useless. It seems that I have to find another person... However, the most important thing now is to delay the selection of the young master.

“Clan Leader, too many things have happened today. I think... we won’t choose the young master for the time being, right? Why don’t we wait for a while and everyone to calm down? Then, we can prepare to come back in the future. Or, we might as well wait for the next ancestral ceremony before—”

Elder Yi Shang said in a low voice, “The ancestral ceremony happens once a hundred years. Moreover, everyone in the clan has put in a lot of effort for today’s young master selection. How can we postpone it just like that?”

Elder Yi Gong smiled indifferently. “What else? In this situation, Yi Shang, do you think we can continue?”

“You—”

“There’s no need to continue.” Yi Zhao suddenly spoke, interrupting their argument.

The corners of Elder Yi Gong’s lips curled up slightly. “Clan Leader is wise.”

However, Yi Zhao’s next words froze his proud expression. “Because I already have the best candidate.”

Chapter 1596: Stalemate

Yi Zhao looked up slightly at Tuan Zi calmly.

Detecting his gaze, everyone was stunned.

Elder Yi Gong’s heart oozed with stronger uneasiness. “Clan Leader—”

Yi Zhao ignored him and continued, "Although Tuan Zi is young, she has the purest bloodline power. Also, she already has her human form and opened the fourth meridian. She deserves to be the young mistress!"

Once he said this, the entire square fell into deadly silence.

Even Chu Liuyue raised her head in unconcealable shock and stared at Yi Zhao. *?He actually appointed Tuan Zi as the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan's young mistress?! This... really isn't a joke, right?!?*

Actually, it wasn't that Chu Liuyue did not think of this.

To be fair, the bloodline power and talent Tuan Zi showed could definitely crush all the competitors present. But even if others didn't mention it, Chu Liuyue herself knew that because Tuan Zi had an agreement with her, the young master position was just an illusion.

Thinking from another perspective, if she were the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan leader, she would also directly kick Tuan Zi out of the candidate list.

She didn't expect Yi Zhao to make such a shocking decision! *?Is he... not worried that the people will mock and ridicule him and that I might instigate Tuan Zi to do something against the clan? And many, many more...?*

His actions brought about way more problems! However, his expression was nonchalant and calm as if... there was no hesitation at all.

Tuan Zi grabbed her hands and blinked as if she didn't quite understand what was going on.

Seeing that the atmosphere was rather strange, Tuan Zi didn't care either as she touched her hair in boredom. *?I'm not interested in the young or old mistress thing. I just want to be with A'Yue. When exactly can I leave...?*

When Chu Liuyue detected Tuan Zi's thoughts, her eyelids twitched. *?Leave? I'm afraid we won't be able to leave today!?*

...

"Clan Leader, you must think twice about the young master selection!" Elder Yi Gong took a deep breath in and calmed his feelings down with much difficulty. However, his anxious expression and tone revealed that he wasn't as calm as he seemed on the surface. "Tuan Zi is talented, but don't forget that she has made an agreement with a human! How can she take on the huge responsibility of being the young mistress?!"

Isn't that akin to our entire red-gold heavenly phoenix clan being that Shangguan Yue's slave?! I will never agree!?

Even Elder Yi Shang—who usually went against Elder Yi Gong—had his brows tightly furrowed. After thinking for a long while, he said, "First Elder is right. Clan Leader, this matter is of importance. Why don't you consider it further?"

However, Yi Zhao's attitude was very persistent.

He glanced at the duo. "The so-called young master means choosing the most outstanding one out of the younger generation. Is there a candidate more suitable for this than Tuan Zi? If you can find someone that's more capable than her today, I'll change my mind."

The crowd was instantly stumped. *What are we supposed to do?!?*

Even Yi Ran couldn't fight against Tuan Zi. The remaining ones had no hope at all.

The purest bloodline... That only appears once in many years. How are we supposed to compete?!?

"But Clan Leader, as the young mistress, she has to bear great responsibility. Tuan Zi... can casually come in and out of the clan and do whatever she wants. When she opens her sixth meridian, she can directly be promoted to an elder. However, she's really not suitable to be the young mistress!" Elder Yi Shang advised with deep considerations.

Of course, he liked Tuan Zi too. After so many years, it was his first time seeing the purest bloodline.

In such a short month, the skills and talent Tuan Zi exhibited far surpassed their initial expectations.

It was indeed lucky to have the purest bloodline in the clan. However, she had an agreement with Shangguan Yue!

If she really became the young mistress and the clan leader later on, with Shangguan Yue still next to her... What did that count for?!

Elder Yi Gong took a step forward and argued, "Clan Leader, there are many outstanding juniors in the clan. Perhaps they can't compete with her now, but it doesn't mean that they can't do it in the future! It's too impulsive to select her as the young mistress directly!"

Anyway, he was already humiliated and had offended the clan leader several times. Then, this one more time didn't matter.

No matter what, he could not see the position of the young master being stolen!

Yi Zhao squinted his eyes.

The remaining two elders couldn't help but advise against him. Everyone basically said similar things about having objections.

Only Elder Yi Yu stood at the side with his arms crossed as if he were thinking about something.

Even though the other people in the square didn't say anything, their faces showed it clearly.

Of course, they weren't willing to agree. Even if they chose one that wasn't so amazing, they didn't want a young mistress that had an agreement with a human!

The large square fell into a stalemate.

...

Chu Liuyue looked down and glanced at Tuan Zi.

Detecting her gaze, Tuan Zi looked up as well.

“Tuan Zi, do you want to be the young master?” Chu Liuyue asked in her heart.

Tuan Zi stopped in her movements of brushing her hair and looked at her dazedly. “If I’m the young master, can I still be with A’Yue?”

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other. Looking into Tuan Zi’s clean berry-like eyes, she didn’t know how to answer.

However, an idea popped up in Tuan Zi’s mind. She had faintly understood a little. *As I have an agreement with A’Yue, these people refuse to let me be the young mistress. If I want to be the young mistress, I should have to break the agreement. Then why should I do it??*

Tuan Zi shook her head. “I don’t want to.”

Chu Liuyue sighed in her heart. “Then... you still have to participate in the ancestral ceremony according to the rules. I saw that they’ve all gone to test. Why don’t you go too? When the matters have ended here, we can then leave, okay?”

Chapter 1597: Complete Formalities!

She insisted on bringing Tuan Zi back because she wanted her to acknowledge her ancestors and have a family in the future.

Even though it seemed like it was unknown if this place could still be considered ‘home,’ Tuan Zi had to acknowledge her ancestors. If not, they would’ve made a wasted trip.

“Huh? Oh, okay, okay!” Hearing that she could leave, Tuan Zi instantly became elated. *There’s nothing much about completing formalities! It’s best if we can leave in the end!?*

Chu Liuyue stroked her head and looked at the few people in a stalemate. “Clan Leader, thank you for your kind praise. But Tuan Zi is still young now, and... she should be following me for a very long time in the future. I’m afraid she can’t bear the responsibility of being the young mistress. Please... take back your order.”

Countless gazes landed on her with complicated feelings.

Actually, other than Tuan Zi, the biggest beneficiary of this matter was Shangguan Yue.

She was Tuan Zi’s master. If Tuan Zi really became the young mistress, her status would naturally rise—not to mention when Tuan Zi became the clan leader in the future.

At that time, she could throw her weight around in Godly Phoenix Mountain!

Everyone listened to Tuan Zi, and she was extremely loyal to Shangguan Yue. That was akin to having the entire red-gold heavenly phoenix as her strongest backer!

Shangguan Yue would definitely understand this, yet she still swiftly and directly rejected it...

Yi Zhao knitted his brows slightly and looked at her. His impression of her changed silently.

This Shangguan Yue is indeed quite different from the other humans. With such a huge temptation before her, how many people in this world can resist it? According to how intimate and dependent Tuan Zi is on her, as long as she wants Tuan Zi to fight for it, Tuan Zi would definitely agree without a question. However, she didn't do it and rejected it for Tuan Zi.?

In the depths of her black gem-like eyes, it was clear. It was crystal clear without any hints of fakeness or reluctance.

She really looked like she didn't care about these things.

Yi Zhao eased his tone. "Does Tuan Zi think that way too?"

Chu Liuyue looked down and glanced at Tuan Zi.

Tuan Zi looked up and said crisply, "What's so good about being the young mistress? I want to follow A'Yue!"

Her expression was pure and carefree, and every single word was genuine.

Chu Liuyue was touched and lightly heaved a sigh of relief.

Tuan Zi seemed young, but it had actually followed her for many years. There were many things that she knew very clearly. However, she still made such a choice without hesitation. How could she not be touched?

Luckily, the matters here should be solved quickly, and I can directly leave with Tuan Zi then. In the future, we can be relaxed.?

Upon hearing this, the crowd had varying expressions.

Quite a few people secretly exchanged glances.

Some people found it a pity, others despised her, some mocked her, and the rest were nonchalant. Without a doubt, in their eyes, Tuan Zi was extremely stupid for willingly giving up on being the young mistress in order to continue staying with Shangguan Yue.

Something that many people begged and could not have was thrown away by her so easily.

She... can't be saved!?

...

Elder Yi Gong suddenly heaved a sigh of relief in his heart. "Clan Leader, Tuan Zi has already said so herself. Do you still want to insist?"

However, Elder Yi Shang glanced at Chu Liuyue deeply. *?I wonder what kind of skills this woman has to make Tuan Zi follow her so willingly and even... sacrifice such a precious opportunity... It's a pity that the purest bloodline can't be the young master.?*

Yi Zhao was silent for a long time and finally said, "Since you don't want to, so be it."

This was naturally said to Tuan Zi.

Quite a few people heard it and felt conflicted. *Clan Leader really likes this Tuan Zi... He even said such words.*

He wanted to present her with the position of young master, but Tuan Zi just said no, not giving him any face at all. Yet, he isn't angry and only retracted his thoughts regretfully.

If it were someone else present, could they receive such treatment??

However, they could understand—the purest bloodline was indeed different.

They originally really couldn't compare with Tuan Zi, so it was normal for the clan leader to be biased.

In the past, weren't they especially kind toward Yi Ran as well? It was just that Tuan Zi had an agreement with a human.

"Clan Leader Yi Zhao, you know the best as to why I brought Tuan Zi over. Since the bet is already complete, then... I hope Tuan Zi can successfully participate in the ancestral ceremony and return to the clan." Chu Liuyue swiftly summarized her own requests.

Yi Zhao did not object to it. *Even though Tuan Zi can't be the young mistress, Tuan Zi is a rare purest bloodline that occurs once in every thousand years in the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan. No matter what, she should come back.*

"I think so too." Yi Zhao hid his regret and pointed toward the totem in the middle of the square. "Tuan Zi, everyone in front has finished their testing. You can directly go over."

Actually, everyone had already previously seen Tuan Zi opening her fourth meridian. This test was indeed just to complete the formalities.

Seeing that the clan leader planned to give up on this, quite a few people secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

The atmosphere finally became less tense.

Tuan Zi didn't care about these things as she walked over in small steps.

Her white feet directly stepped onto the totem. However, she lowered her head and glanced at it.

Yi Zhao reminded, "Just directly insert the fire in your body in it."

It seemed like he wanted to go up directly and guide her personally.

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but lower her head and almost laughed out loud. *A month ago, I would've never thought that this seemingly cold clan leader with a cold heart could actually be so... How should I put it... He clearly treats Tuan Zi as a big baby. It feels like he is afraid of dropping her if he holds her in his hand and afraid that she would melt if he kept her in his mouth.*

Thinking of how stern he was when she and Tuan Zi first came, it really became a stark contrast to what happened now.

Luckily, Tuan Zi is about to leave with me after the ancestral ceremony. If she really stays here the whole time, how would Clan Leader Yi Zhao spoil her??

Chu Liuyue felt mentally tired for the crowd when she thought about it.

Tuan Zi was very smart and understood immediately.

She raised her chubby hand.

Rumble!

A ball of red-golden fire instantly appeared! The surrounding temperature also rose at this moment.

Quite a few people looked shocked. *It seems like the purest bloodline fire is even purer and hotter than ours...?*

Whoosh!

Hearing a tiny sound, the first line on the totem quickly lit up!

Elder Yi Shang's expression couldn't help but change slightly. "So quickly?"

The totem's reaction seems much more sensitive than those tested previously.?

Once he said this, the second one was continuously lit up!

Then, it was the third!

The surrounding noises gradually disappeared. Everyone's gazes were unwittingly sucked over.

When Chu Liuyue looked up, she saw that the fourth fire was burning with a sound!

Chapter 1598: Chose Her?!

Chu Liuyue was also shocked. She thought the test would take a while, but she didn't expect it to be so fast. *I only lowered my head to stifle a laugh, and it is already over?*

Looking at the four burning flames, she fell into deep thought. *Did I take this too seriously just now? Hmm... To Tuan Zi, it seems to be a piece of cake...*

Tuan Zi seemed to be a little surprised as well. She lowered her head and stared at the flames ignited on the totem, then stretched out her small hand and counted seriously. "One, two, three, four—"

After counting, she retracted her hand. *It seems to be over?*

She looked up at Yi Zhao. "Clan Leader, can I leave now?"

!!

Yi Zhao was stunned. "What? Oh, oh, you... The test is over. You can be considered to have officially returned to the clan. If you want to leave, there's no problem."

Although he was reluctant, he had already said those words. Of course, he couldn't go back on his word.

Only then did Tuan Zi smile in satisfaction. With a thought, the flames burning on her little hand quickly dissipated.

She turned around and ran toward Chu Liuyue. "A'Yue—"

Thump!

Before Tuan Zi could take two steps, she suddenly bumped into a transparent barrier that had suddenly appeared.

Caught off-guard, she ran straight into it.

“Aiyo!” Tuan Zi fell on her butt and sat on the ground.

She frowned and instinctively rubbed her nose. “Ouch — it hurts!”

“Tuan Zi?!” Shocked, Chu Liuyue hurriedly went forward to bring Tuan Zi back.

But when she took a closer look, she saw that Tuan Zi was already enveloped by a transparent hemispherical barrier and was trapped inside.

The sudden scene stunned the others present.

Seeing Tuan Zi sitting on the ground pitifully, Chu Liuyue’s heart ached, and she immediately wanted to go over.

But ten steps away from the barrier, she had already sensed an indescribably powerful pressure descending on her!

Her heart skipped a beat. *It’s coming from the barrier! With my current strength, it would probably be difficult to go over.*

She frowned and glanced at Yi Zhao. “Clan Leader Yi Zhao, what’s going on?”

However, Yi Zhao’s expression was very strange. He didn’t answer her question and only stared at the transparent barrier that suddenly appeared in shock and disbelief.

Chu Liuyue suddenly realized that something was wrong. *To make Yi Zhao show such an expression... This matter is probably not simple.*

She subconsciously looked at the elders beside her and saw that their expressions were almost identical to Yi Zhao’s. It was as if they had seen an unbelievable scene.

Besides shock, there was also indescribable excitement on their faces.

Excitement? Agitation? What is there to—

Whir!

Before she could think clearly, she heard buzzing come from above the barrier.

She immediately turned to look.

A scarlet-gold stream of light suddenly flew out from the top of the transparent barrier. The stream of light scattered and quickly outlined a strange painting on the barrier.

The surrounding voices disappeared at this moment.

Chapter 1599: Conditions

A fingernail-sized, red-gold totem instantly appeared on Tuan Zi's smooth and fair forehead.

The golden light was dazzling. It made her chubby and fair face look even more exquisite and cute.

Although Tuan Zi was round and smooth from head to toe, she was actually very good-looking, especially her facial features.

When she grew a little older, she would definitely be a cute little person with picturesque features.

Now that there was a golden patch between her eyebrows, it added to her noble aura.

!!

When everyone saw Tuan Zi previously, their first reaction was that she was cute and likable; they wanted to walk over and rub her face. But now that they saw her again, they would definitely not have such thoughts again.

Of course, they still liked her. However, she had gained a hint of nobility, making people subconsciously revere her.

Tuan Zi raised her hand and touched her glabella. It was hot and a little scorching, but... Her entire body felt as if she was soaking in a hot spring, and it was very comfortable.

She thought for a moment, then reached out and tapped forward.

The transparent barrier—which was previously filled with shocking pressure—immediately dissipated silently and transformed into specks of light. They drew an arc in the air and finally surged into Tuan Zi's body.

Her lotus leaf dress seemed to shine even brighter.

Tuan Zi smiled happily and ran toward Chu Liuyue. This time, there was no barrier to stop her, and she quickly rushed in front of the latter.

"A'Yue!" She threw herself onto Chu Liuyue's lap, looked up, and excitedly said, "A'Yue, look! My dress seems to have become prettier!"

Chu Liuyue: "..."

The crowd was speechless. *You summoned the Ancestral Soul and fused with the clan's totem, but this is the first thing you thought of?!*

Chu Liuyue resisted the urge to rub her temples and bent down to look at Tuan Zi.

The two of them stared at each other.

"Tuan Zi." Chu Liuyue reached out and pointed between her fiend's eyebrows. "What... is this?"

Tuan Zi shook her head. "I don't know. It flew over on its own."

Then she touched it again. "I don't think I can get rid of it."

The crowd was speechless. *Too much—this is too much! What kind of glory is this? If it were anyone else, they would've been grateful. Only you—you actually want to get rid of it?!*

Some people began to roll their eyes in agitation.

Some gritted their teeth, hating themselves for not having such luck.

In short, the atmosphere became very strange.

"That's the Ancestral Soul." Yi Zhao took a deep breath, calmed himself down, and finally spoke in a low voice.

Chu Liuyue looked up at him in confusion. *Ancestral Soul? That's...*

"Back when our ancestor died and left for the heavens, he left a soul behind. It was our family's ultimate treasure. All these years, it will only be summoned when the successive clan leaders take over."

Yi Zhao looked at Tuan Zi with a complicated gaze. "But... this has never happened before."

Not only did the Ancestral Soul appear this time, but it also landed between Tuan Zi's eyebrows and became her totem.

What did this mean? It was obvious!

Chu Liuyue was also shocked. *In that case, the red-gold totem that suddenly appeared is actually more powerful than I expected. Yi Zhao said that it would only be summoned when every clan leader took over. Then, Tuan Zi—*

The key is that this thing is still stuck to Tuan Zi. What should I do?!

Even someone as mentally strong as her was a little stunned.

This should've... already exceeded the scope of discussion for the position of young master...

Yi Zhao paused and finally said, "This is important. Come with me."

...

The ancestral ceremony was forcefully interrupted halfway.

In the square outside Godly Phoenix Hall, everyone gathered in groups of three to five to discuss something. Without exception, their gazes were all directed at the Godly Phoenix Hall ahead.

The front door was closed, and the atmosphere was solemn.

Chapter 1600: Compromise

Chu Liuyue's expression darkened. "Clan Leader Yi Zhao, do you mean that the bet from before doesn't count?"

Yi Zhao closed his eyes.

If not for this accident, he wouldn't have wanted the red-gold heavenly phoenix clan to have the reputation of not keeping their word. However, there was no solution to this matter.

"That's not what we originally wanted." Yi Zhao said, "Now that Tuan Zi has inherited the Ancestral Soul, it's bound to become our clan's young mistress. It's only right for it to inherit the position of clan leader in the future. Under such circumstances... it's indeed very inappropriate for her to continue maintaining the contract with you."

Actually, the key to this matter was still the Ancestral Soul.

!!

Initially, it was Yi Zhao who took the initiative to let Tuan Zi become the young mistress. At that time, he didn't force Chu Liuyue to break the contract with Tuan Zi.

However, the Ancestral Soul appeared and fused into Tuan Zi's body.

This whole matter changed then. If Tuan Zi continued the contract, wouldn't that be equivalent to the ancestor—

This was something they could not accept no matter what.

Yi Zhao looked at her steadily and said, "Actually, even if you break the contract, it won't affect your relationship with Tuan Zi, right? Moreover, other than her, our entire red-gold heavenly phoenix clan will become your helper from now on. You definitely won't lose out."

Chu Liuyue did not say a word.

Yi Zhao's words made sense. No matter how one looked at it, the compensation they gave had already shown enough sincerity. After all, according to their usual temperament, they didn't even want to speak to the human race. It was indeed rare for them to be willing to make such a concession.

Using Tuan Zi's contract to exchange for the help of the entire red-gold heavenly phoenix clan... It had to be said that this condition was indeed quite tempting.

However, this was not the most important thing to Chu Liuyue. She still cared about Tuan Zi.

Tuan Zi has obtained the Ancestral Soul—it is both an honor and a responsibility. If I really want to be stubborn and only let Tuan Zi follow me as a contractual legendary fiend... Is that really the best choice for Tuan Zi?

The hall was silent.

Chu Liuyue entered deep thought.

Yi Zhao and the others waited silently for her choice.

Suddenly, a soft hand waved in front of Chu Liuyue's eyes. "A'Yue..."

Tuan Zi looked at her nervously, her eyes filled with worry and unease. "Don't you want Tuan Zi anymore?"

When Chu Liuyue saw Tuan Zi's aggrieved and frightened expression, her heart suddenly softened.

She chuckled and patted Tuan Zi's head. "How could that be?"

Tuan Zi pounced on Chu Liuyue and wrapped her arms around the latter's neck, burying her face in her shoulders.

The originally clear and pleasant voice sounded muffled now. "...A'Yue, don't leave Tuan Zi behind... Tuan Zi will definitely be obedient..."

Worry, fear, and grievances seemed to surge in that moment.

Chu Liuyue's heart seemed to be clenched by something. She was about to say something when she felt a wetness on her shoulder.

She suddenly paused, and the words got stuck in her throat. She couldn't say them no matter what.

There was an imperceptible sob in Tuan Zi's voice. "A'Yue has already abandoned Tuan Zi once. Don't do it again."

Chu Liuyue's heart instantly ached. *Yeah, how could I forget? Back in the Tianling royal family's ancestral hall, I chose to abandon Tuan Zi and die alone. Later, I finally found her in the Mystic Forest.*

Now, I'm faced with such a choice.

Perhaps to her, the situation and the original intention were completely different.

But to Tuan Zi, she was the one who was abandoned.

Tears welled up in Chu Liuyue's eyes. She took a deep breath, hugged the little girl tightly, and kissed her cheek. "Don't worry. A'Yue will always like Tuan Zi and will always be with you."

Tuan Zi's small body trembled before she looked up.

Her small face was covered in tears, and there were two crystal-clear teardrops on her thick and long eyelashes.

Her nose and eyes were red, making her look very pitiful.

"Really?" she asked aggrievedly, as if she was not sure.

Chu Liuyue smiled and wiped the tears off her face. "Of course."

As she spoke, she looked up at Yi Zhao and the others and said word by word, "Seniors, please forgive me. I'm afraid... I can't agree to this request."

...