

The Doctor 211

Chapter 211: Apology

Yu Qing kept moving backward and accidentally fell onto the floor. She looked at the black shadow charging toward her fearfully. Only then did Yu Qing clearly see that it was a bear cub with brown fur. Only its neck area was light gray, vaguely glowing with a golden light.

Fourth-grade fiend—golden mane bear.

Yu Qing felt frightened. This is Mu Hongyu's fiend? It is already very hard for an average person to get a third-grade fiend. Even people from the royal family might not have a fourth-grade fiend. Not only did Mu Hongyu have one, but it is even a cub.

Cubs were not as guarded against humans, and they were very easy to discipline. It seemed like this golden mane bear cub truly listened to Mu Hongyu.

Just when Yu Qing was petrified, Congcong had already pounced over and bit Yu Qing's neck.

Fiends grew up very quickly. This golden mane bear cub was only a small ball of fur when they first discovered it, but it had already grown a lot in less than a month's time. Even its claws and teeth were sharp.

The golden mane bear cub had a fourth-grade fiend's bloodline, so it naturally had immense combat power. When Congcong sensed that Mu Hongyu was in danger, it was furious and naturally charged toward Yu Qing without a care in the world.

Its sharp jaws reflected a fearsome gleam.

Yu Qing's entire person completely froze.

It would be dangerous if Congcong actually bit her neck.

Without thinking, Yu Qing raised her arm to stop the golden mane bear cub, planning to fling it away. However, this move did not leave any marks on the golden mane bear cub.

Congcong merely moved its body slowly and directly bit Yu Qing's arm.

"No... Ah!" When Yu Qing saw the golden mane bear cub's actions, she sensed that something was wrong and planned to retreat. However, it was too late.

The golden mane bear cub had already harshly bit her arm. Congcong's sharp teeth directly pierced through her skin.

Blood spurted out.

The excruciating pain made Yu Qing's face turn white. She instinctively used her strength and kicked the golden mane bear cub away.

Sila!

Her clothes were torn, revealing her white arm. However, an entire piece of meat was ripped off her forearm.

The wound was so deep that one could see her bones.

Upon seeing her bloodied wound, Yu Qing almost fainted, and her heart trembled. This wound will definitely leave a scar!

When the golden mane bear cub was kicked into the air, Mu Hongyu hurriedly went forward to catch it, and she hugged it tightly.

After returning to a familiar embrace, the golden mane bear cub finally spat out the piece of meat. But Congcong still stared at Yu Qing ferociously, planning to charge at her at any time.

Chills were sent down Yu Qing's spine when she saw its gaze. Her originally arrogant and delightful expression had completely disappeared; it was replaced with immense hatred and indignance.

She held her arm, and tears quickly welled up in her eyes as they fell down like rain. "Mu Hongyu, I have nothing against you! Why did you treat me like this?"

Her pitiful look immediately made people's hearts ache.

But Mu Hongyu did not buy Yu Qing's tactic as she sneered and said, "You should admit your defeat in a competition. I just treated you however you treated me. You're very scheming and manipulative. How will it be so easy for you to win against me without using much effort?"

She touched the golden mane bear cub's ears and smiled. "Is there a rule that says that I can't summon my own fiend during the Qing Jiao Competition?"

Yu Qing was stumped and looked terrible.

Mu Hongyu was right; there was indeed no such rule. There were even times when the person with an advanced fiend would be the target of everyone's envy. Thus, nobody could say that Mu Hongyu did a forbidden thing when she summoned her golden mane bear cub.

However... Yu Qing's arm!

"You can't fight anymore. Do you want to continue?" Mu Hongyu looked down at Yu Qing from above. "Congcong hasn't played in a long while. Do you want it to accompany you?"

"No! No!" screamed Yu Qing as she widened her eyes in horror. If I continue, who knows what this beast will do to me? If it bites my face...

Many thoughts flashed across her mind. Yu Qing suppressed her anger, but she still looked pitiful. She choked on her tears and said, "I-I admit defeat!"

Originally, she was well prepared to get a good ranking in the Qing Jiao Competition. Hence, she decided to minimize her force wastage during the competition's early stages. She wanted to save her force for the competition's later stages.

However, she did not expect Mu Hongyu to come out of nowhere and directly cut her journey short. If she knew about this earlier, she would've ended the battle earlier on and not leave any chances for Mu Hongyu.

But it was too late now.

Mu Hongyu grumbled. This woman really knows how to attack and hide appropriately. She knows that she has no chance of winning, so she decisively admitted defeat. An extra look at this sort of scheming person will dirty my eyes.

“Congcong, let’s go!” Mu Hongyu then hugged Congcong and turned around to leave.

When she walked two steps out, a gentle yet strong voice suddenly sounded. “Ms. Mu, at the end of the day, this competition is for everyone to learn from each other and improve. It’s too overboard for you to be so harsh toward Yu Qing, right?”

Mu Hongyu followed the voice and looked over.

Situ Xingchen had stood up at some point. She looked calm, but her words had deep meaning. This move of hers immediately hushed the entire arena.

Everyone’s gazes gathered on her.

Mu Hongyu knitted her brows. “I’m overboard? Did you see that she was the one who played tricks first? I just retaliated. Can’t I do even that?”

Situ Xingchen gently smiled. “Ms. Mu, please don’t misunderstand. I’m just stating facts. Yu Qing was too bent on winning, so she used some tricks. However, this isn’t a major issue. After all, you weren’t exactly harmed, right? On the other hand, she... She’s a girl after all, so it’s not nice to leave such a scar on her arm.”

Mu Hongyu found it ridiculous. “What has her having a scar got to do with me? We are comparing our abilities in this arena. Do you mean that I need to carefully consider if I will hurt her when I make a move? What’s the point of competing then? Everyone should just go home now.”

Mu Hongyu was very straightforward and honest with her words, which made Situ Xingchen difficult to back away from the situation. However, she had always been on good terms with Yu Qing. If Situ Xingchen just let this slide, Yu Qing would’ve suffered for nothing.

The smile on Xingchen’s face faded. “However, if Yu Qing didn’t take the initiative to admit defeat just now... Ms. Mu, you looked like you were going to let the golden mane bear cub take her life. I believe everyone clearly saw that you had no intention of stopping it. So you should at least apologize to Yu Qing, Ms. Mu.”

Mu Hongyu was so angry that her face flushed red. Why does Situ Xingchen make it sound like it’s my fault?

“Eldest Princess Situ, your words are a little too extreme.” Chu Liuyue suddenly stood up and spoke in a seemingly smiling manner. “Hongyu was bent on winning, so she summoned her fiend. Even though she didn’t stop it in the end, it’s not a major matter. After all, Yu Qing has willingly admitted defeat, and Hongyu didn’t even cause any more severe injuries, right?”

“It’s hard to discipline golden mane bear cubs. When the cub saw that its owner was being attacked, its natural instinct was to fight for her life, yet it had to swallow this anger. I don’t think this is very good for its development, so shouldn’t Yu Qing apologize to Hongyu and the golden mane bear cub as well?”

Chapter 212: Debate

Situ Xingchen did not expect anyone to stand up for Mu Hongyu, not to mention that it was even Chu Liuyue who stood up for her!

Looking at the young and pretty face, Situ Xingchen thought of the dagger and felt very uncomfortable. This caused her not to have any friendly feelings toward Chu Liuyue. “Ms. Chu, I was just speaking the truth. I don’t have any ill intentions toward Ms. Mu.”

Situ Xingchen’s words implied that Chu Liuyue purposely said those words because she could not stand seeing her friend being bullied.

Chu Liuyue was neither angry nor frustrated.

What kind of people had she not seen? She had already seen so many manipulative and scheming people when she became the Heavenly Princess and held power in the Tianling Dynasty.

Currently, Chu Liuyue really did not want to waste any effort on Situ Xingchen’s small trick.

“Eldest Princess Situ, I didn’t say that you were wrong, but everyone has seen the previous situation very clearly. If it’s not wrong to use tricks in the arena, is summoning one’s fiend wrong? Even if Yu Qing is left with a scar, she can only blame herself for not being as strong as others. Many matches have passed during the competition, and many people have gotten injured. However, this is the first match where one requested the winner to apologize.”

She smiled, and her eyes curved up like crescent moons. “The winner is king, and the loser is nothing. This is the simplest logic and fairest principle. If Hongyu needs to apologize for her fiend being too strong, then I think there’s no point in the Qing Jiao Competition carrying on.”

Her tone was calm—neither slow nor fast—but her words were very convincing.

Quite a few people secretly nodded their heads.

“Chu Liuyue makes sense! This is a competition after all! Victory or defeat happens in one moment. What’s the point of apologizing?”

“Yeah! Yu Qing’s opponent also accidentally fell and broke her leg yesterday, so shouldn’t Yu Qing apologize to her too?”

“Don’t you know that Situ Xingchen and Yu Qing are on good terms? That’s why Situ Xingchen is standing up for Yu Qing.”

“Hah, even if she’s Country Xing Luo’s eldest princess, she can’t act all high and mighty here, right? After all she has said, she just wants to stand up for her own people? I think this Situ Xingchen isn’t as perfect as what the rumors say. I also feel like she can’t even differentiate between right and wrong.”

Hearing these comments, Situ Xingchen unknowingly clenched her hands in her sleeves in anger and slight regret.

Seeing that his disciple could not ease out of the situation, Cheng Han could not take this lying down and said, “Xingchen isn’t helping someone out of biasness. She just wanted to say that even though the Qing Jiao Competition is a competition, people should be fair to each other. I feel that we do need to pay

attention to this point. If anyone has ill intentions and beat someone up until they're half-dead, yet they said that it was accidental, what should we do then?"

Cheng Han looked at Chu Liuyue and grunted. "Xingchen is too kind, and she said this while thinking about everyone. She's a heavenly doctor, and she is going to compete on the last day of the competition. At the end of the day, the warrior competition has nothing to do with her. She didn't stand up for Yu Qing because of herself. Unlike someone else, who took the chance to defend her ruthless actions."

The crowd was silent.

Isn't he obviously referring to Chu Liuyue?

After all, Lei Mingwei—who Chu Liuyue had battled the day before—was severely injured. They heard that he was still lying in bed.

Chu Liuyue wanted to clap her hands. Indeed, the older the ginger, the spicier it is.

It didn't matter when Cheng Han did not speak, but he directly accused Chu Liuyue of being ruthless once he did.

If I injure anyone in the later battles, won't I just prove his point of me being ruthless?

Before Chu Liuyue could speak, Sun Zhongyan laughed out loud. "Hahaha! Brother Cheng Han, you really know how to crack a joke! The Qing Jiao Competition has been held for many years, and I always thought that everyone knew the rules very clearly. I didn't expect Brother Cheng Han to make a new rule today."

Even though Sun Zhongyan smiled when he said those words, anyone could tell that he was not joking. His words were filled with dissatisfaction and even sarcasm.

The atmosphere in the arena immediately stiffened.

Everyone unwittingly quietened down and carefully observed the scene.

Is Tian Lu Academy and Tai Yan Academy about to go against each other openly?

Nobody would have expected that a battle between Yu Qing and Mu Hongyu would cause the two academies to go against each other.

Cheng Han also did not expect Sun Zhongyan to jump out directly and speak for Chu Liuyue. According to Sun Zhongyan's character, he might not even talk in that manner even if the disadvantaged one is his own disciple. What kind of status does Chu Liuyue have that makes her so important?

Cheng Han originally wanted to ease Situ Xingchen out of the situation and conveniently unleash his anger from losing the first match yesterday. He did not expect Sun Zhongyan to jump out, and he was stuck in the situation for a moment.

Sun Zhongyan did not think that much. My own student won, yet she's being bullied. What kind of grievance is this?

Looking at the tense atmosphere, Mu Hongyu was dazed. Didn't I just win one match? Why did this happen?

Even Yu Qing was frightened. She did not dare to say a word, afraid that she would be dragged into the mess.

Chu Liuyue suddenly giggled. "Elder Sun, even though Hongyu won, she used a lot of energy in this match. You should hurriedly bring her down and let her recover as she might participate in other matches later! Besides, Yu Qing is also injured, and she hasn't been taken care of yet. Even if we want to argue, we shouldn't delay her treatment, right?"

Those simple sentences immediately broke the tense atmosphere. They emphasized that Mu Hongyu was the winner, and they had also comforted the injured Yu Qing. By saying this, Elder Sun could also go with the flow and not pursue the matter. It would even show that Cheng Han and the rest did not even care about their own students when overwhelmed with anger.

Cheng Han's face looked even worse. "Quickly, bring Yu Qing back! What if her treatment gets delayed?"

"Y-yes!" answered the people below as they hurriedly helped Yu Qing back.

Sun Zhongyan laughed and looked very concerned, instead of his initial confrontational attitude. "Only Liuyue is so considerate. We can slowly discuss this later. It won't be good if Yu Qing's treatment is delayed. Brother Cheng Han, the students' health is the most important thing. Don't you think?"

Cheng Han's face turned green. This just shows that I'm inhumane!

Chapter 213: Dirtied My Ears

After Yu Qing was brought down, Mu Hongyu happily left the arena and walked to Chu Liuyue. She then winked at Chu Liuyue. Liuyue is indeed dependable. Not only did she stand up for me, but she even embarrassed the people from Tai Yan Academy.

Chu Liuyue pinched the golden mane bear cub's ears. "Rest well. You still have more matches later."

"Okay, I know!" answered Mu Hongyu as her eyes turned, and she purposely heaved a sigh of relief. "Congcong, you can't do this anymore! If not, your Master will be labeled as ruthless. Do you understand?"

The surrounding people immediately burst into commotion.

"Yeah! Hongyu, you must watch this fella very closely when you battle again later!"

"Hah! Originally, I was pretty envious of you having such a young golden mane bear cub, but now... Haha, you just won a match, yet you were lectured. I really don't envy that."

Mu Hongyu pulled a face. "You guys should be envious to death! If you have the abilities, go find your own fourth-grade fiend."

The crowd burst into laughter.

Cheng Han's face was green as he harshly flung his sleeves and sat down.

Only then did Situ Xingchen realize that she had brought trouble for her mentor. She bit her lips and apologetically said, "Sorry, Mentor... I-I was too impulsive..."

Cheng Han took a deep breath in, knitted his brows, and asked, "Xingchen, what's the matter with you? You have been very distracted from yesterday until now. You're very intelligent, so why would you do such a brainless thing? I know you're on good terms with Yu Qing, but she indeed lost. Why must you argue for her?"

"I-I..." Situ Xingchen looked down in remorse and did not know what to say. Actually, she just could not stand Tian Lu Academy—no, Mu Hongyu.

Situ Xingchen's heart felt like it was crushed by something, and she felt terrible. Actually, she knew that she was not speaking for Yu Qing. The past two days, she had clearly seen that Mu Hongyu was on good terms with Chu Liuyue.

Hence, Situ Xingchen felt very uncomfortable when she saw how arrogant Mu Hongyu was. Mu Hongyu's arrogant look is so similar to that of Chu Liuyue! If Mu Hongyu is delighted, won't Chu Liuyue be happy too?

But Situ Xingchen could not voice out her secret thoughts.

Upon seeing how Situ Xingchen could not explain herself for a long time and looked very apologetic, Cheng Han could not bear to continue lecturing her. "Forget it. You should calm down first. Why don't you stop coming here for the next two days, and—"

"Mentor!" Situ Xingchen immediately spoke. "I want to stay here!"

"You just need to participate in the last day's heavenly doctor competition. The earlier matches have nothing to do with you, and you'll just be wasting your time here. Why—"

"I-I just want to see how strong they are. Mentor, didn't you say that I must know my enemies before I can become successful? Even though I'm a heavenly doctor, my future opponents might not only be heavenly doctors."

Cheng Han thought for a while and finally nodded. "Okay, but you need to promise me that you won't do this anymore! I'm still waiting for you to take first place in the heavenly doctor competition!"

Situ Xingchen heaved a sigh of relief and felt much better when she heard the last sentence. "Yes!"

...

It was still very lively on Tian Lu Academy's side.

Everyone's discussion topics slowly shifted from Mu Hongyu to Chu Liuyue.

"Don't you think that Chu Liuyue was very charismatic previously? She actually stumped Situ Xingchen and even forced their director to speak up personally."

"She didn't say anything wrong! Our people won this match, so what's there to apologize for? I feel that Chu Liuyue is very righteous!"

“Actually, I felt that she was only a little braver than the rest when she first retorted them. But I later realized that her words actually had standards. She easily allowed Elder Sun to ease out of the situation, and she even embarrassed the other party. This isn’t something that a person who only has guts can do! The person has to have brains too!”

“Haha! To say something offensive... Being able to retreat unscathed after offending the Crown Prince and the Chu family and even vaguely taking the lead... This Chu Liuyue isn’t someone you can trifle with!”

...

The people beside Rong Jin broke out into a cold sweat. These people are too outrageous! They completely ignored the Crown Prince, who is sitting right there!

Rong Jin could hear every single word the people around him said very clearly.

Finally, one of them could not help but turn around and warn, “What are you doing? Keep your voices down!”

The crowd was silenced.

Oh, I almost forgot that the Crown Prince—Rong Jin—was in front.

The people—who had been speaking the most enthusiastically—looked at each other awkwardly.

Oh no! Did the Crown Prince hear all that we said previously? He and Chu Liuyue are on very bad terms! Isn’t this akin to offending the Crown Prince completely?

One of them put up a brave front and laughed in a flattering manner. “Um... We’re just casually talking. Cro—Please don’t mind us. We’ll stop talking! Stop talking!”

The other few people hurriedly added, “Yeah! Yeah! We were just talking for fun.”

“A-actually, Chu Liuyue isn’t that amazing...”

“Yeah! How can she be compared to you guys? Just take it as if we were speaking nonsense. We—”

“You were just speaking the truth. Why can’t you say it?” said Rong Jin—who had been quiet all along—all of a sudden.

The surrounding people felt like lightning had struck them, and they thought they had misheard the Crown Prince.

W-what did the Crown Prince just say? What does he mean?

Even the people—who had been following beside Rong Jin all along—were dazed and could not understand the situation.

In the awkward, dead silence, Rong Jin finally turned around and looked behind him. His gaze quickly darted past those few people and landed on Chu Liuyue—who was currently closing her eyes to rest.

The other people were enthusiastically talking about her, but she was not affected at all and was very stable.

Why didn't I notice this earlier?

Rong Jin slowly said, "She's indeed outstanding."

Complete silence then ensued.

What does the Crown Prince mean?

He actually praised Chu Liuyue?

Did the Sun rise from the west? He actually said that personally?!

Everyone was stunned and did not know how to react.

Chu Liuyue—who was currently meditating—suddenly opened her eyes. "Si Yang, is there anywhere I can dig my ears in the Imperial City?"

"Huh? Why would you ask about that?" asked Si Yang slowly.

Chu Liuyue was expressionless. "My ears have just been dirtied."

Chapter 214: Invite

Chu Liuyue purposely didn't lower her voice when she said that sentence. Not only did Si Yang hear it, but even Rong Jin and the rest had heard her clearly.

Everyone instantly held their breaths.

Chu Liuyue is really gutsy to say such a thing in front of the Crown Prince!

But Rong Jin, unexpectedly, only furrowed his brows when he heard it; he did not rage. He looked at Chu Liuyue with deep meaning before turning away.

The crowd was dazed. The Crown Prince is actually not intending to cause trouble for Chu Liuyue? How can he actually tolerate Chu Liuyue's humiliating words?

Rong Jin was really tolerant. Since he had already made up his mind to get Chu Liuyue back, a minor thing like this did not count for much. After all, Chu Liuyue had suffered quite a lot of grievances from his side in the past. Hence, it was normal for her to hate him.

Doesn't this also prove that she still cares? Thinking of this, not only was Rong Jin not angry at all, but he was even faintly hopeful. He knew that Chu Liuyue had liked him for many years.

He was seduced by Chu Xianmin at the start, which caused him to dissolve the marriage agreement between him and Chu Liuyue.

How can feelings that have lasted for so many years disappear just like that? As long as I put down my pride, Chu Liuyue will definitely come back to me. Father is currently very upset with me, but if I can get Chu Liuyue back, Father will definitely change his view of me.

Even though Rong Jin initially regretted dissolving the marriage agreement with Chu Liuyue, he did not want to do anything about it in consideration of his status and reputation. However, Chu Liuyue was very famous now, and she had become a genius that everyone envied.

Even if he reconciled with her, it would not harm his reputation. The only thing he had to do now was find a suitable time to express his intentions toward Chu Liuyue.

...

Chu Liuyue naturally did not know that Rong Jin had thought so much in such a short period of time. She just felt disgusted by Rong Jin.

This man is manipulative and selfish. He initially felt that the original owner was a good-for-nothing that tarnished his reputation as the Crown Prince. Hence, he dissolved his marriage agreement with her. After Chu Xianmin's face was disfigured, and she lost her worth, he ditched her without hesitation. Another look from a person like this will cause my stomach to flip over.

"Hey, Liuyue, why do I feel that the Crown Prince is a little bit... weird toward you?" Si Yang softly questioned as he looked at Rong Jin and glanced at Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue looked at him strangely.

Si Yang obediently drew a line across his lips and kept quiet.

Si Ting—who had been closing his hands and memorizing Xuan formations—opened his eyes and glanced at Rong Jin before looking down and hiding the look in his eyes.

Actually, he had already stopped memorizing Xuan formations long ago, so he had heard the commotion around him very clearly.

Rong Jin was very selfish and petty. Now that his attitude had changed, it proved that he had some ill intentions toward Chu Liuyue.

Si Ting originally wanted to remind Chu Liuyue to be careful of Rong Jin, but he swallowed the words back in just as the words were at the tip of his tongue.

She's so intelligent; she can definitely handle this. I shouldn't think so much about it. Si Ting took a deep breath in, closed his eyes, and suppressed his messy thoughts.

...

As time passed, the competition became increasingly intense.

The names inside the warrior boxes in front of the three academies were gradually decreasing.

In the afternoon, Chu Liuyue was once again picked. This time by a young girl from Nan Feng Academy.

This young girl was a stage-three warrior, but she just decided to surrender. Perhaps it was because she knew that she was not Chu Liuyue's match.

She was the first person that gave up on fighting since the start of the Qing Jiao Competition. Before this, nobody would have expected a stage-three warrior to give up when they picked a stage-one warrior.

However, this person was Chu Liuyue, so everything seemed to make sense. Chu Liuyue had already beaten two stage-four warriors consecutively—which was more than enough to prove her abilities.

A stage-three warrior was not worth anything in front of Chu Liuyue.

From a certain point of view, choosing to surrender was a good choice. After all, Chu Liuyue was extremely decisive with her moves, and every move of hers was merciless. What would happen if she got injured and fainted like Lei Mingwei?

Even though Nan Feng Academy's people felt uncomfortable, they did not say anything. This was because they were very clear that they might not have the courage to fight with Chu Liuyue if it were themselves.

Thus, Chu Liuyue advanced to the next stage again.

...

When the second day of the Qing Jiao Competition ended, only the last ten warriors were left.

Sun Zhongyan picked up the last few paper balls in the three boxes and read out their names respectively.

Amongst the ten, Tian Lu Academy had three people, Tai Yan Academy had three people, and Nan Feng Academy had four.

Chu Liuyue's name was also on the list. She was the only freshman in the group of ten.

When they heard Chu Liuyue's name, the crowd burst into commotion. Everyone was shocked, but they felt that it was reasonable.

Even though Chu Liuyue only competed in two matches, she was really capable. Hence, nobody would doubt her abilities.

Chu Liuyue indeed had the right to be in the top ten.

Sun Zhongyan looked at his surroundings. "These ten people will battle tomorrow, and the top combatant in the warrior competition for this year's Qing Jiao Competition will also emerge amongst them. Everyone, please rest well when you go back today and prepare for tomorrow's exciting matches."

The crowd answered in unison as they were unwittingly excited. It was as if they could imagine how intense tomorrow's battles would be.

Chu Liuyue stood up with the crowd and planned to return to the academy. However, someone blocked her path after she took a few steps.

It was Rong Jin.

When the surrounding people saw the situation, they wisely avoided him and made way for him. However, their eyes were glued to the two of them, afraid that they would miss out on something.

Chu Xianmin—who was walking with the crowd—also saw this scene, and her heart hung high. She could not help but walk two steps forward to hear what they were talking about.

Rong Jin looked at Chu Liuyue. His voice was unusually gentle as he said, "Liuyue, I have something to talk to you about."

Chu Liuyue looked nonchalant. "I don't think there's anything to talk about between Your Highness and me."

Rong Jin did not mind being ignored by her and took it as if Chu Liuyue was throwing a tantrum. He smiled and said, "I won't take up too much of your time."

Chu Liuyue lazily looked up. "Your Highness, my time is very precious, and I don't wish to waste my time on you."

Her words were harsh.

Rong Jin was embarrassed.

Chu Liuyue then tried to walk around him and leave.

Rong Jin hurriedly blocked her again and did not care about anything else as he said, "Since this is so, I'll just say it here. After the Qing Jiao Competition, the osmanthus flowers in Golden Osmanthus Garden will blossom. Do you want to come and admire the flowers?"

Golden Osmanthus Garden was a garden under Rong Jin's name. It was given to him by Emperor Jiawen when he turned 16.

There were countless osmanthus trees in the garden, and the flowers would bloom around this time every year, allowing its flower scent to permeate the yard. The park was a famous scenic location in the Imperial City.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly. Golden Osmanthus Garden? Isn't that where the original owner went to attend the Crown Prince's banquet and was eventually chased out because she was mocked for her torn and tattered clothes?

What is Rong Jin thinking? How dare he have the cheek to invite me to the place where I was humiliated?

"I'm not going," rejected Chu Liuyue decisively.

"Why?" Rong Jin did not understand. "Didn't you really like that place in the past? You said that the osmanthus flowers were very fragrant, and it was perfect—"

"It must have been hard for you to remember this, but do you remember what you said back then?"

Rong Jin was stumped, and he looked terrible.

"You said that golden osmanthus had a meaning of elegance and that a poor beggar like me had no right to enter." Chu Liuyue smiled lightly, but the smile did not reach her eyes.

Of course, Rong Jin remembered. At that time, he felt that Chu Liuyue was very lowly. He felt terrible when taking even another look at her, let alone let her step into Golden Osmanthus Garden.

After that, he had never invited Chu Liuyue again.

"T-that was all in the past... There's no point in saying these things anymore... Liuyue, times have changed, and I really am genuinely inviting you over."

Chu Liuyue enunciated every single word properly and said, "Your Highness, I genuinely don't want to go. How many times must I reject you for you to understand?"

Rong Jin felt as if he had been slapped in front of the public, and he felt humiliated.

"The marriage agreement between you and me has already been dissolved. Hence, we have no relations with each other anymore. We never were and never will be related, so please find someone else for this matter." Chu Liuyue's gaze lightly swept across Chu Xianmin—who was nearby. "After all, there are people still waiting for you to dote on them."

After saying this, Chu Liuyue did not look at Rong Jin and walked away.

This time, Rong Jin did not stop her. He had already reached his limit for talking so much in front of so many people.

He was even mercilessly rejected by Chu Liuyue, putting him in an awkward position.

Chu Xianmin bit her lips and suppressed the jealousy and hatred in her heart with much difficulty. She walked up and softly asked, "Your Highness, should we go back first?"

Rong Jin glanced at her and felt hatred when he saw the veil Chu Xianmin wore. If it weren't for Chu Xianmin instigating me, my relationship with Chu Liuyue wouldn't have ended up like this.

Rong Jin harshly whipped his sleeves, flung Chu Xianmin's hand away, and left in big steps. He didn't say any comforting words at all.

Chu Xianmin staggered backward and fell on the ground.

"Si-ah!" Excruciating pain came from her hand, which caused her to groan in pain instinctively. Today, she was unlucky during the competition and went against a stage-four warrior. Needless to say, she lost the match and was even injured.

This fall had also coincidentally scratched her wound.

The crowd watched her silently and had all sorts of weird expressions.

If it were in the past, quite a few people would immediately go forward and help Chu Xianmin up when they saw her in this state. But now that her face was disfigured, was an unloved concubine after marrying the Crown Prince, and her parents were in a whole lot of trouble...

Who would dare to risk offending Chu Liuyue and the Crown Prince to help Chu Xianmin?

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Chapter 215: Surge

The incident of Chu Liuyue rejecting the Crown Prince's invitation secretly spread.

The crowd had different reactions, and all engaged in various discussions.

Considering Chu Liuyue's attitude, she obviously did not want to give the Crown Prince any face.

That was true. She dared to offend the Chu family and the Crown Prince when she had nothing, let alone now. The current Chu Liuyue was no longer the good-for-nothing that anybody could bully.

...

Rong Jin felt depressed when he went back to the mansion.

Song Yuan carefully served him by the side. "Your Highness, I've already sent someone to seal the news from today. The people in the Imperial City..."

Rong Jin suppressed the anger in his heart and coldly glanced at Song Yuan. "Seal what news? Just let them spread the news. The further it spreads, the better."

Song Yuan was dazed. "Your Highness, you mean..."

"It'll be best if all the aristocratic families in the Imperial City know about this." Rong Jin's voice was cold.

Song Yuan was Rong Jin's trusted subordinate, so he quickly guessed what Rong Jin was thinking. "Do you mean that other people won't do anything to her if they know that you... are interested in Ms. Liuyue?"

Rong Jin did not say anything, but his gaze looked like he silently agreed.

Even though Rong Jin was not in a good situation, he was the Crown Prince in the end. Hence, the people in the Imperial City had to care about and give face to him.

If word about today's incident goes out, everyone will know that I want Chu Liuyue very badly. Then, all the wise people will naturally avoid her.

After Chu Liuyue reached marriageable age, not many people proposed to marry her even though she had entered Tian Lu Academy. This was because she had offended the Chu family and the Crown prince. All of those people were also rejected.

After the Qing Jiao Competition ended, a lot of people would definitely become interested in her. However, the others naturally wouldn't fight with Rong Jin if he made a move first.

Even though Chu Liuyue is still upset with me, she will definitely return to me after a while. I have more than enough patience to wait. Thinking of this, Rong Jin looked much better.

Song Yuan's eyes turned, and he carefully asked, "Your Highness, that person won't be happy..."

'That person' naturally referred to Chu Xianmin.

Chu Liuyue and Chu Xianmin had already severed all ties, so Chu Xianmin definitely wouldn't accept Chu Liuyue marrying the Crown Prince. Chu Xianmin might even stir up some trouble at that time.

Rong Jin rubbed his brows, and hatred flashed across his eyes. "Who does she think she is? Must I care about her when I want to do something? If she dares to cause trouble, just punish her according to Crown Prince Mansion's rules."

Song Yuan's heart skipped a beat, and he hurriedly agreed. "Yes!"

Later on, Rong Jin instructed Song Yuan about a few tasks—all of which he agreed to—before Song Yuan came out of the mansion.

While walking to the yard, Song Yuan finally heaved a sigh of relief and secretly shook his head. Last time, I thought that Chu Xianmin would finally be doted on. However, she lost favor before she could even do anything. The Crown Prince obviously doesn't care about her. It seems like I don't need to suck up to her anymore.

As for Chu Liuyue... I don't even know what the Crown Prince is thinking. Does he really want to win her back? It even seems like he's bent on doing it.

Upon thinking about what Chu Liuyue had done in the past few months, Song Yuan couldn't help but feel worried. Chu Liuyue could even sever all ties and become heartless toward the Chu family—who brought her up—let alone the Crown Prince. The Emperor is very upset with the Crown Prince now. He has even grounded the Crown Prince and confiscated the previous power he gave the Crown Prince.

Now that the Crown Prince managed to avoid the punishments with much difficulty, he wants to do this... I really don't know how the Emperor will react...

...

Chu Liuyue did not even take Rong Jin's words to heart. She only felt that Rong Jin was crazy for acting in that way.

After she returned to the academy, she briefly tidied up her items and went to the second floor to cultivate. She sat cross-legged, gathered her focus, and quickly absorbed the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force.

Time passed bit by bit.

Chu Liuyue gathered an increasingly nourishing force.

In her dantian, the water droplet—which was quietly floating—seemed to have some movements.

Chu Liuyue was elated. She had already felt that she was going to break through and become a stage-two warrior, but the water droplet refused to draw the second line.

She gathered all her focus and pushed the force in her body toward the water droplet.

Finally, a light ripple appeared on the water droplet's smooth surface.

Chu Liuyue was very nervous as she directed her force to the water droplet.

Ripples gradually appeared on the water droplet.

Even the first line engraved on the water droplet seemed to move slightly.

Chu Liuyue waited nervously. If I can break through, I will be a lot less stressed about tomorrow's competition.

The main point was that Chu Liuyue felt that a stage-one warrior was of too low a grade.

She stared at the water droplet closely. However, the ripples started to quieten down after a while.

Chu Liuyue was stunned and carefully examined the water droplet. Indeed, Chu Liuyue saw that the water surface became as smooth as usual.

Only one mark could be clearly seen.

She did not become a stage-two warrior.

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes in disbelief. She did not expect to be stuck at this stage—unable to become a stage-two warrior—even after living two lives.

Without any exaggeration, the Heaven and Earth Force she had absorbed during this period of time was enough for an average cultivator to become a stage-four warrior. If not, it would've been impossible for her to win the two matches.

However, her cultivation level refused to increase.

Chu Liuyue exhaled and weakly lay on the bed.

People with a Dijing Yuan meridian cultivated very quickly. Hence, Chu Liuyue originally thought that she could rapidly strengthen herself and return to the Tianling Dynasty to take revenge in a short period of time.

But considering her current cultivation speed, that day would never come...

“What is wrong with you? Other people cultivate really quickly, yet I’m so slow...” muttered Chu Liuyue to herself.

The water droplet in her dantian remained very calm as if it were a bottomless pit while it absorbed the remaining force.

#

Chapter 216: Challenge!

The third day of the Qing Jiao Competition.

The skies were clear and had a light breeze.

Compared to the previous two days, there were even more people in Jia Nan Square today. After all, it was the day of the warrior competition’s finals. Thus, everyone was very interested.

The people who rose to the top in the Qing Jiao Competition were usually all outstanding talents. Some aristocratic families liked to pick out young men or young women for their children to marry.

Once Chu Liuyue reached the square, she felt a familiar gaze on her. She turned around and saw Chu Ning in the crowd.

He was sitting at Tian Lu Academy’s spectator stands. He was wearing casual clothes, clearly showing that he did not want to attract anyone’s attention.

Upon seeing Chu Liuyue looking over, Chu Ning immediately waved excitedly.

Chu Liuyue smiled and walked over. "Father, why are you here today?"

"I'm here to see you!" Chu Ning looked at his daughter lovingly. He had not seen her for the past few days and missed her dearly. "I have a break today, and I heard that you entered the finals. Thus, I came here to see you."

He inspected her and asked, "They said that you won against two stage-four warriors. Are you injured?"

After seeing the worry in Chu Ning's eyes, Chu Liuyue felt warm in her heart. "Father, don't worry. I'm fine. Am I not standing here completely fine? Since you're here, just sit back and watch a good show. I won't disappoint you."

Chu Ning was elated yet worried. "Just do your best. Yue'er, your health is the most important thing, okay? It's your first time participating in the Qing Jiao Competition, and it's already amazing that you made it into the top ten. You must be careful in the arena."

After what happened at Wan Ling Mountain, Chu Ning's biggest wish now was for Yue'er to be safe and healthy. Everything else was not important.

Chu Liuyue patted his arm. "I know what to do."

Chu Ning then nodded. Since I'm here today, I definitely won't let other people bully Yue'er.

At this point, he unintentionally looked up and saw Rong Jin. His face was slightly cold as he asked, "Yue'er, did the Crown Prince disturb you yesterday?"

Chu Liuyue could not help but laugh.

Everyone talked about how the Crown Prince had changed his mind about her, but only her father talked about how the Crown Prince had disturbed her. He really was her biological father.

"He just has too much time on his hands. I didn't even care about him."

"That's great; that's great..."

Overnight, many people found out about Rong Jin's request and behavior toward Chu Liuyue.

Not only did Chu Ning not feel happy after he heard about it, but he even felt disgusted. How did Rong Jin treat my daughter back then? How dare he have the cheek to do this now?

"We shouldn't care about such things. If the Crown Prince backs away now, then forget it. If he dares to continue to act in this manner, I definitely will not let him off." Even though Chu Ning spoke softly, he looked very serious.

It was better to stay as far away as possible from a person like Rong Jin.

Chu Liuyue nodded. "I'm assured with Father around! You can just sit here first then. I'll come back after the competition ends."

Chu Ning hurriedly said, "Go on! Don't be late!"

...

Not long after Chu Liuyue sat down, the competition officially started.

The rules for the competition between the last ten people were simple.

There was a ranking between the ten people. People who had participated in the Qing Jiao Competition before would be ranked in front, and they would be lined up according to their best results in the last competition.

People who participated in the Qing Jiao Competition for the first time would stand at the back. They were ranked according to their cultivation levels.

The top three students from last year had all graduated, so they did not participate in this year's Qing Jiao Competition. Hence, the person who ranked first was Tai Yan Academy's Situ Ziyue—who had come in fourth place last year.

The person who ranked second was Rong Jin—who had come in fifth place last year.

The people ranked after the two had also gotten quite a good ranking in the previous Qing Jiao Competition.

Only two freshmen had entered the finals this year.

One of them was Chu Liuyue. The other was Nan Feng Academy's Ye Chenjia.

Ye Chenjia was a stage-three warrior, so Chu Liuyue was ranked tenth since she was a stage-one warrior.

The ten people walked up to the arena and took a wooden plaque with their rank written on it from Elder Sun's hands.

Chu Liuyue looked at her own wooden plaque with the word 'ten' written.

Sun Zhongyan's gaze swept past the few people. "All of you now have your own rankings. In the finals later, you will be split into two groups. The top five will be in one group, and the bottom five will be in another. In the first round, the bottom five can choose to challenge anyone from the top five. If your challenge is successful, you will exchange your rankings. If your challenge is unsuccessful, you will continue to hold onto your current ranking."

"When the second round starts, everyone can challenge anyone with a higher ranking than them. The competition will carry on until nobody wishes to challenge any longer and when everyone accepts their own ranking. The top warrior will then emerge in this manner."

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes.

The rules were indeed simple, but it was a little cruel. If one wanted to be the top warrior, not only did they need to win, but they also had to keep winning.

Whether it was in terms of physical or mental health, the competition for first place would be a long and torturous process.

"Liuyue, you're in tenth place, so you get to choose first." Sun Zhongyan looked at Chu Liuyue with a much gentler gaze.

Everyone looked over and began guessing who Chu Liuyue would pick to challenge first.

“Rong Jin and Chu Liuyue are both from Tian Lu Academy, so logically speaking, she won’t pick him from the top five. As for the remaining four people... It’s hard to say.”

“The person with the lowest cultivation amongst the top five is an intermediate stage-four warrior. I’m afraid Chu Liuyue isn’t their match...”

“That’s true. Even the warrior ranked fifth—Ye Chenjia—has capabilities that cannot be underestimated. Chu Liuyue has a very low chance of winning...”

“There’s no need to mention the front few people. Xi Wanwan—who ranks fourth—is also a Xuan Master!”

“These people all wish to come in first place this year, so Chu Liuyue doesn’t have a chance against them... But even if she loses, she’s still tenth place. Obtaining this kind of result in her first-ever Qing Jiao Competition is enough to shock everyone.”

“I agree! She’s only 14 this year, and she has a bright future ahead of her! If she waits for another year or two, she’ll definitely take first place in the Qing Jiao Competition!”

...

Everyone partook in heated discussions.

Chu Liuyue’s gaze swept past the few people in front of her. Finally, her eyes landed on one of them.

Her lips curved up to form a smile. “Tian Lu Academy’s Chu Liuyue challenges Tai Yan Academy’s... Situ Ziyue!”

Complete silence then ensued.

Chu Liuyue actually chose Situ Ziyue—who ranks first—directly? Is she crazy?

#

Chapter 217: Fight!

The crowd burst into an uproar after a temporary silence. The entire square was like oil being heated up in a pot.

“Chu Liuyue actually chose Situ Ziyue? He’s an advanced stage-four warrior!”

“Does she think that she has no chance of winning anyway, so she purposely chose the strongest one? By doing this, it won’t look bad on her even if she loses.”

“But she will also lose miserably! Did you forget? Situ Ziyue is Situ Xingchen’s elder brother!”

“Yesterday, Chu Liuyue quarreled with Situ Xingchen. Therefore, Situ Ziyue might even make it hard for her... What is she thinking?”

“Hah, I think that she forgot her limits after winning two matches! She’ll definitely fall down hard this time!”

...

Situ Ziyue knitted his brows and looked at the smiling young lady in front of him. "Are you sure?"

"I'm sure."

"Liuyue!" said Sun Zhongyan worriedly. "The first round of the competition is very important. Are you sure you want to challenge him?"

Actually, he felt that Chu Liuyue really wasn't the match of any of the top five people.

If she chose a weaker opponent in the first round, she could've saved her energy and challenged again in the second round to get a better ranking. However, she chose Situ Ziyue. After the first match, I'm afraid that she won't have any energy left.

Chu Liuyue calmly and determinedly nodded. "I've made my choice."

Upon seeing Chu Liuyue's resolute attitude, Sun Zhongyan knew that there was no point in persuading her, so he looked at Situ Ziyue. "Situ Ziyue, do you accept her challenge?"

Situ Ziyue smiled. "Of course."

...

Very quickly, the remaining few people had respectively chosen their opponents. However, nobody cared about them at this time.

Everyone's attention was on the match between Chu Liuyue and Situ Ziyue.

The others left the arena one after another, leaving only the two of them in the arena.

Their battle was the first match!

"Hah, this Chu Liuyue is really arrogant to challenge Ziyue in the first round. She really doesn't know her limits." Cheng Han did not even conceal his contempt and disdain. He really disliked Chu Liuyue after the two days of competition.

He did not expect Chu Liuyue to offer herself up directly.

"Ziyue is about to become a stage-five warrior. Does she think that she can win against Ziyue after winning against Lei Mingwei and Jiang Yuan? What a joke! Xingchen, Ziyue always dotes on you. He'll definitely avenge you today."

Hearing this at the side, Situ Xingchen felt a lot better. But her brows were tightly furrowed as if she were slightly worried. "Brother has always been stubborn. It won't be good if he uses too much force later..."

"Chu Liuyue deserves it! She definitely knows about your relationship with Ziyue and his abilities, yet she still wants to challenge him. Even if she leaves the arena half-alive, she can't blame anyone for that!"

Such an arrogant person must suffer.

Situ Xingchen pressed her lips against each other.

The people behind could not help but say, "Xingchen, you're too kind-hearted! Why are you still thinking about her at this time? Did she even think about you when she criticized you yesterday?"

"That's right! This type of person needs to be taught a lesson!"

"She might not even appreciate your kindness!"

Situ Xingchen gently smiled. "I didn't think so much. I just heard that Chu Liuyue was naturally born lacking a Yuan meridian and that she finally cultivated with much difficulty. If Brother uses too much strength, it won't be good... But I trust my Brother."

...

In the arena, Chu Liuyue and Situ Ziyue were staring straight at each other.

"You're really courageous. If you chose other people, you might have gotten a better ranking, but it's a pity that you chose me. Your journey at this year's Qing Jiao Competition ends here." Situ Ziyue very calmly spoke as if he were narrating the truth.

In actual fact, his abilities did give him the right to say that.

Chu Liuyue held the dagger in her hands. "It's not too late to say this after you win against me!"

Then, she attacked first and went straight for Situ Ziyue.

Situ Ziyue sneered in his heart. It seems like Chu Liuyue still thinks that she can win against me. There is a humongous difference between an advanced stage-four warrior and an intermediate stage-four warrior. Moreover, I'm only inches away from becoming a stage-five warrior.

Seeing Chu Liuyue rushing toward him, Situ Ziyue rapidly circulated his force, but he did not move or avoid her.

In the blink of an eye, Chu Liuyue was already in front of him. With a whip of her dagger, it pierced through his chest.

The crowd was shocked.

But Chu Liuyue's gaze turned cold. There was not a single drop of blood on Situ Ziyue's body! This was just his shadow!

She quickly turned around.

Situ Ziyue was indeed behind her!

"Your reaction is not too slow, but there isn't much use for that," said Situ Ziyue lightly.

The crowd then saw that the 'Situ Ziyue' Chu Liuyue had stabbed earlier actually disappeared gradually!

"I didn't expect Situ Ziyue's Lightning Avoidance Technique to have reached this level. His shadow can really confuse people!"

"I remember that his shadow was just a blurry outline last year and that it would disappear by itself after some time. However, his shadow can actually last for so long now..."

“No matter how fast Chu Liuyue is, she can’t be compared to Situ Ziyue. This is a one-sided battle!”

“I don’t know how Situ Ziyue is going to fight this match... It’s not that bad if he’s willing to end the match as soon as possible, but if he wants to teach Chu Liuyue a lesson, then...”

Chu Liuyue’s gaze shifted and landed below Situ Ziyue’s feet.

When he moved, his feet would vaguely flash with a dark-blue light.

No wonder he moves so quickly. It seems like this won’t work on him.

“Since you’ve already attacked once, it’s my turn now,” said Situ Ziyue as he clapped his hands in front of him.

Icy-blue force gathered and finally accumulated on his right index finger.

One look at it, and it seemed like his finger was burning with a blue fire!

He immediately extended his hand forward and lightly tapped his finger.

Hong!

A finger—formed by a giant blue flame—was flying toward Chu Liuyue!

“Icy Flame Finger!”

The terrifying suppression instantly overwhelmed Chu Liuyue, making her unable to move.

#

Chapter 218: Retaliation!

Chu Liuyue would be injured by this finger, if not killed.

Chu Liuyue closely stared at the blue finger that kept coming nearer. She was very clear that the distance between both of them was too huge and that any small tricks or schemes would be useless at this point.

Hence, she also had to put in her best effort! If she wanted to win, then...

With a twist of her wrist, she took out two items from her Cosmic Bag.

At this point, the finger was already in front of her. It was about to crush her completely!

The crowd was silent. Everyone’s gazes gathered at one place.

Chu Ning suddenly stood up, feeling very anxious. If Situ Ziyue dares to kill Yue’er, I’ll definitely go up there and stop him!

Sun Zhongyan also knitted his brows tightly, planning to spring into action at any time. It doesn’t matter if Chu Liuyue loses this match, but it will be very grave if she is left with any severe injuries. Besides, how do I explain to Uncle-Master if something happens to Chu Liuyue?

Clang!

The fire burning on top of the giant finger suddenly flew forward, completely wrapping around Chu Liuyue.

Gasps could be heard from the crowd.

"It's over! Chu Liuyue is going to lose!"

"She's not only going to lose. That Icy Flame Finger is one of Situ Ziyue's killer moves, and it's extremely strong and formidable! I heard that someone wanted to kill him secretly in the past, but Situ Ziyue retaliated, and the culprit's body can't even be found! I'm afraid Chu Liuyue can't endure this fire!"

"If she surrenders now, she might suffer less—God! What is Situ Ziyue doing?"

In the arena, Situ Ziyue crazily injected his force into the Icy Flame Finger.

Hong!

The fire—which was originally burning brightly—burned even more intensely!

Chu Liuyue's figure completely disappeared!

Under the Icy Flame Finger, an obvious crack appeared on the white marble floor. The fire surrounded Chu Liuyue and even directly turned into a burnt black color!

Is he planning to push Chu Liuyue to her death?

Sun Zhongyan suddenly stood up. "Situ Ziyue! Are you trying to kill someone in the arena?"

Before Situ Ziyue could speak, Cheng Han nonchalantly said, "Brother Zhongyan, why are you so anxious? Chu Liuyue has the Qing Jiao Competition's wooden plaque. If anything happens, the wooden plaque will automatically break and give us a warning. However, it's still fine now, right? Why are you so worried?"

Sun Zhongyan's face turned white. Of course, I know that Chu Liuyue is still alive, but it'll be too late if I wait till the wooden plaque breaks! This girl is Uncle-Master's only disciple after so many years, and she's also someone that I have high hopes for. If anything happens to her, I will definitely not take this lying down!

"Cheng Han! You need to think this through. You can't compensate for it if anything happens to her."

Cheng Han did not care about Sun Zhongyan's words and laughed out loud instead. He said, "Didn't Brother Zhongyan say yesterday that the children have self-awareness during the matches? I watched Ziyue grow up, and he has always been mature. He will definitely not do anything outrageous."

Sun Zhongyan knew that Cheng Han was just stirring more trouble up, so he was too lazy to even care about Cheng Han. He planned to rush up directly.

Cheng Han also stood up, his face slightly cold. "Brother Zhongyan, are you breaking the rules?"

Sun Zhongyan did not say a word and was about to take action. Chu Liuyue has been trapped in the fire for a long time, and there are no movements at all. I'm afraid something has happened to her!

On the other hand, Chu Ning had already jumped out of his seat and was rushing toward the arena.

But the situation in the arena suddenly changed at this moment.

Countless silver rays of light started spreading out with Chu Liuyue's position as the center.

Buzz!

A strange buzzing sound was heard. It echoed throughout Jia Nan Square the next moment.

Sun Zhongyan suddenly raised his head, and Chu Ning also stopped in his tracks.

The number of silver light rays kept increasing, and they were also intertwining with each other!

Situ Ziyue knitted his brows, and he felt uneasy. For some reason, he felt like he was in danger...

Buzz!

The buzzing sound was even clearer!

Those intertwining light rays finally formed a shape!

"Fourth-level Xuan formation?" Fu Yunshan stood up in shock. This suppression, this aura, and that complicated drawing...

As a Xuan Master, Sun Zhongyan had already realized something when the rays of light appeared.

At this time, a gigantic Xuan formation appeared in the arena.

Sun Zhongyan's heart beat wildly. That is indeed a fourth-level Xuan formation!

A clear woman's voice was suddenly heard. "Buddha Lotus Formation!"

The rays of light intersected in this Xuan formation like a lotus flower that bloomed brightly.

Hong! Hong! Hong!

A horrifying aura spread from the Xuan formation. At the same time, the Icy Flame Finger in front of Chu Liuyue also shattered into pieces.

The fire that originally overwhelmed her scattered in all directions like a meteorite landing.

A thin and upright figure appeared in front of the crowd.

The crowd gasped loudly.

Chu Liuyue didn't die!

She's even unharmed! She's not injured at all!

Chu Liuyue held a palm-sized black crystal in her hands. The countless rays of light were exuding out from that crystal.

Someone gasped. "It's a black Xuan formation crystal!"

After a momentary trance, everyone's faces were filled with shock!

“It’s normal that a Xuan Master can activate a black Xuan formation crystal, but... Chu Liuyue is clearly a stage-two Xuan Master! How did she activate a fourth-level black Xuan formation crystal?”

Situ Xingchen widened her eyes—not caring about her image—as she glared at Chu Liuyue’s other hand.

A small crystal had seemingly appeared in Chu Liuyue’s hand!

That’s... A crystal barrier!

#

Chapter 219: Wait Until I Break Through

The gigantic silver Buddha Lotus bloomed in the arena. When the petals moved slightly, it easily swallowed the blue fire and extinguished it.

Everything happened silently, but it made everyone’s hair stand on end.

Situ Ziyue originally thought that he was bound to win with this move, but Chu Liuyue actually avoided it in such a manner.

After seeing the unscathed Chu Liuyue, Chu Ning’s anxious heart finally calmed down. Even though he knew that Yue’er would not risk her life, he still could not control his worry as he personally witnessed the scene at the side.

Luckily... Luckily, she can always assure me at the most critical time!

Sun Zhongyan paused in his actions as he looked at the arena with his mouth agape. What happened just now? How did Chu Liuyue go against Situ Ziyue’s attack, and how did she activate a fourth-level Xuan formation?

However, a thought could not help but appear at the bottom of his heart. During the mid-semester assessment, I already felt that this girl had hidden her abilities. It seems like it’s true.

Cheng Han could not sit around any longer, but Situ Xingcheng had already stood up beside him before he could say anything. She rapidly walked two steps forward as disbelief was written all over her face.

“How can this be... How is this possible?” Situ Xingchen softly muttered since she could not believe her eyes. I wished I saw wrongly. However, the crystal barrier is indeed in Chu Liuyue’s hands! That’s also the only reason why Chu Liuyue escaped Situ Ziyue’s attack unscathed.

“Xingchen, what’s the matter?” asked Cheng Han when he noticed her weird behavior; it looked like she didn’t even care about anything else.

Situ Xingchen instinctively clenched her fists. It seems like I really neglected too many things... This Chu Liuyue is hiding so many secrets!

She took a deep breath in, suppressed her emotions, and shook her head. “Nothing much. I’m just a little worried about Brother.”

Cheng Han patted her shoulders. “Don’t worry. Chu Liuyue is just a stage-two Xuan Master and must have used up a lot of her energy when she activated the black Xuan formation crystal. She didn’t even

unleash the crystal's full potential. No matter what, Ziyue is still an advanced stage-four warrior. Chu Liuyue is definitely not his match. Ziyue just needs to put in more effort."

Situ Xingchen glanced at the arena and indeed saw that Chu Liuyue's lips were a little pale. She then relaxed and sat back down on her seat.

...

The others also quickly noticed this. The Tian Lu Academy people—who had just heaved sighs of relief—started to become anxious again.

"How did Chu Liuyue activate that fourth-level black Xuan formation crystal?"

"This isn't the most important thing. The main point is that she can't hold on much longer with her abilities. This match is dangerous!"

"Situ Ziyue is pretty strong. If Chu Liuyue were a true stage-four Xuan Master, she would have a high chance of winning. But now..."

Chu Liuyue blocked out all the discussions happening outside the arena. At this point, all her energy was in the black Xuan formation crystal.

After coming back from Wan Ling Mountain, she thought for a long while and felt that she was still in a perilous situation. She felt that she wouldn't be safe if she did not have any backup plans.

Thus, she decisively went to Zhen Bao Pavilion and bought this from Second Master Yan. Originally, she wanted to use it when she met with danger. However, this situation was urgent, so she could not care that much.

The fourth-level Xuan formations engraved on the Xuan formation did not require as much energy, so she could still forcefully activate it with her abilities. However, she really could not unleash the crystal's full potential.

The Xuan formation's Buddha Lotus had two levels. But Chu Liuyue could only activate one level with her current abilities; the remaining level did not even budge.

After a short while, Chu Liuyue could already feel the energy in her body quickly depleting. She would be exhausted in no time.

This could temporarily block Situ Ziyue, but it was very difficult for her to win.

"No wonder you dare to challenge me directly. You have this thing to back you up." Situ Ziyue's eyes darkened. "But you're too naive if you really think that you can win against me with this!"

Before he finished his sentence, he suddenly jumped up. At the same time, a broadsword appeared in his hands!

It was a greenish-black broadsword, but the blade was not considered sharp; it was even a little blunt.

A weird drawing was engraved on the blade.

Someone gasped. "It's the Ling Xiao Broadsword!"

Quite a few people suddenly took a deep breath in.

The Ling Xiao Broadsword was Country Xing Luo's precious Yuan instrument. Rumor had it that Country Xing Luo's founding emperor used this Ling Xiao Broadsword to create his kingdom.

Not only was this Ling Xiao Broadsword formidable, but it was also representative of one's status. With this item in Situ Ziyue's hands, it could almost prove that he was Country Xing Luo's next Emperor!

"It's your honor that you forced me to use my Ling Xiao Broadsword." Situ Ziyue coldly stated this as he held the broadsword with both hands and swung it down with all his might.

A frightening greenish-black blade rapidly flew out.

Choo!

At the next moment, the blade directly cut through the blossoming Buddha Lotus. The gigantic Xuan formation was instantly cut into two.

Hua!

This broadsword directly slashed the Xuan formation in half, causing boundless crazy energy to spread throughout.

Chu Liuyue quickly moved backward, but she was still affected by the energy.

The next moment, a terrifying force crashed into her body. Her organs seemed to be twisted into a ball.

Poof!

Chu Liuyue's chest shook, and she spat out blood. The blood splattered all over her clothes, and her aura instantly became dispirited.

Situ Ziyue moved so swiftly that Chu Liuyue did not even have time to activate her crystal barrier.

The originally dazzling Xuan formation started dimming at an observable speed.

Everyone watched the scene unfold silently. Everyone could tell that Chu Liuyue was bound to lose.

Even when she was unscathed, she might not even be Situ Ziyue's match, let alone now when she was injured.

Situ Ziyue held the Ling Xiao Broadsword and looked down at Chu Liuyue from above with a nonchalant gaze. It was as if he was looking at a small ant.

Almost immediately, his lips quivered, and he coldly spat out a few words. "You don't know your limits!" Then, he raised the broadsword once again. "It will end this time!"

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw the second blade rapidly flying toward her. She threw out the crystal barrier in her hands.

A transparent barrier faintly flashing with silver light immediately wrapped around her.

Bang!

A low impact sound could be heard when the blade hit the crystal barrier. However, the crystal barrier only slightly shook as it quickly absorbed the formidable power.

Chu Liuyue was not affected at all inside the barrier.

After seeing what it was, hatred flashed across Situ Ziyue's eyes. "You're so scheming! Do you really think that you can hide inside for the rest of your life?"

Chu Liuyue wiped away the blood from the corner of her mouth and glanced at him. "Don't worry. I won't make you wait for too long."

"What?" Situ Ziyue tightly knitted his brows when he saw Chu Liuyue sit down cross-legged in the crystal barrier.

In the next moment, she placed her hands on her knees and closed her eyes.

Situ Ziyue's eyelids twitched.

Chu Liuyue swallowed the strong bloody taste in her mouth as she said, "Wait until I break through."

My God! She actually wants to break through at this moment!

#

Chapter 220: Her Cultivation Level?

Chu Liuyue only realized that something seemed to be amiss with her dantian after Situ Ziyue used his Ling Xiao Broadsword to cut the Xuan formation.

At that time, she did not think of it much. However, the water droplet in her dantian seemed to be agitated, and it quickly stirred when the black Xuan formation crystal's strength was released.

In the blink of an eye, the water droplet started to consume the large amount of force saved up in Chu Liuyue's dantian. It had no intentions of stopping!

Chu Liuyue then realized that she was going to break through during a critical moment in the battle between Situ Ziyue and her! Previously, she had waited for a long time and tried all sorts of methods to break through and become a stage-two warrior, but they were all to no avail.

Who would have imagined that at this time...

Chu Liuyue herself was speechless.

This was a really rare chance... But luckily, she had Rong Xiu's crystal barrier, which could temporarily buy some time for her. If not, she would've had to surrender directly and leave the arena.

Removing all her unnecessary thoughts, Chu Liuyue closed her eyes as she started to absorb the Heaven and Earth Force from her surroundings as she tried to break through.

Very quickly, the intense Heaven and Earth Force came straight for her and entered her body through the crystal barrier.

...

Upon seeing this, the square was deadly silent. Some people even rubbed their eyes to ensure that they weren't seeing things.

Chu Liuyue... is actually trying to break through in the middle of the Qing Jiao Competition? What exactly does this mean?

Situ Ziyue was embarrassed and furious. Chu Liuyue doesn't even care about me by doing this.

He brandished his broadsword to attack once again, but the crystal barrier was very strong. Hence, it didn't even break.

Chu Liuyue sat inside like a mountain—motionless—as she focused her energy on breaking through.

Situ Ziyue was greatly humiliated. He held the broadsword handle tightly and wanted to slash the crystal barrier into two directly, conveniently teaching Chu Liuyue a lesson in the process.

...

Upon seeing this, Cheng Han could not stand it anymore. "Brother Zhongyan, isn't Chu Liuyue overboard for doing this? She's completely ignoring Ziyue and even disregarding the Qing Jiao Competition!"

Sun Zhongyan was also shocked by Chu Liuyue's actions. However, she was his student, so he had to protect her. He said, "Oh? Liuyue is just about to break through. She's not cheating or doing anything else. Brother Cheng Han, aren't you being too harsh on her?"

"I'm not being harsh at all!" Cheng Han pointed at Chu Liuyue—who was in the arena—with a terrible expression. "The Qing Jiao Competition is a competition, not a place for her to cultivate! If it wasn't on purpose, why didn't she do it earlier or later? Why did she choose this time to break through? Who knows how long she is going to take? I don't think there's any need in continuing with this battle!"

"Hah, all sorts of situations will happen during cultivation. Not to mention the young girl, but even I can't control when I break through. How can it be that she calculated her breakthrough timing on purpose? Besides, Ziyue can also use this time to cultivate, so he's not at a disadvantage, right? If we stop the competition now, then... who wins?"

"Of course, Chu Liuyue loses!"

"Hey... She hasn't lost yet, so why should she surrender? Besides, there might be an alternative ending to this match after she breaks through. At the very least, it might end in a tie!"

Cheng Han ground his teeth and cursed Sun Zhongyan for being shameless. Tie? Based on Chu Liuyue alone, she doesn't deserve to tie with Situ Ziyue.

Sun Zhongyan laughed and asked, "Why? Brother Cheng Han, are you worried that Liuyue will win after she breaks through?"

"You really think very highly of her!" Cheng Han chuckled. Win? She must have that ability first!

Situ Ziyue suddenly said, "Since the battle hasn't ended, I'll just wait for her." He really wanted to see how much Chu Liuyue would improve after breaking through in such an ostentatious manner.

Since Situ Ziyue had already said this, the others could not intervene. Hence, all quietened down.

...

Time passed bit by bit.

Cheng Han gradually became frustrated from waiting as he sized up Chu Liuyue's crystal barrier. "This Chu Liuyue really has many tricks up her sleeves, and she has so many treasures with her. No wonder she was so arrogant previously. It seems like she could avoid Ziyue's Icy Flame Finger with this thing as well."

His voice was filled with displeasure and jealousy. This was because even he could not find this precious crystal barrier. Chu Liuyue was also not of very distinguished status, yet she had quite a few good items with her.

"I wonder where she got these items from. She must have used some methods..."

Situ Xingchen heard him and did not say a word, but she was very upset. She had only seen one person with this thing. Also, that crystal barrier was clearly that person's if she didn't see wrongly. If not, the intricate engravings on the barrier wouldn't be exactly the same.

How can Chu Liuyue have such a precious item? Of course, someone gave it to her. However, what is that person's relationship with Chu Liuyue? How can he just give her the crystal barrier? Situ Xingchen could not think of anything that Chu Liuyue had which was worth exchanging for the crystal barrier.

Furthermore, based on that person's character, who could steal his things if he isn't willing to give?

Once she thought of this, Situ Xingchen's heart felt like it was being scratched, and she felt very comfortable. She had arrived at the Imperial City for quite a few days, yet she did not see that person at all. To avoid any gossip, she also purposely didn't send anyone to find out about his news.

However, she couldn't take it lying down anymore.

...

Chu Liuyue blocked out the surrounding noises as she gathered her focus and prepared to break through. But she quickly discovered that she did not need to do anything else.

The water droplet in her dantian rapidly spun as ripples started spreading on it. Even the line on the water droplet started moving about.

The surrounding Heaven and Earth Force kept entering and flowing into Chu Liuyue's dantian through her limbs, eventually being absorbed by the water droplet.

The ripples made very big movements.

Chu Liuyue started becoming nervous unknowingly. She did not know that a force spiral had appeared at the top of her head following this movement.

The spectators could clearly feel her force moving.

Some people started to whisper.

“Isn’t Chu Liuyue just a stage-one warrior? Even if she breaks through, she’ll just become a stage-two warrior, right? But why does she have so many energy waves?”

“You felt it too? I even think that there weren’t so many energy waves when I broke through and became a stage-three warrior. However, she’s pretty strong, so perhaps this is normal...”

Bai Chen glanced at Sun Zhongyan and whispered, “Elder Sun, what do you think?”

Sun Zhongyan looked serious. “The energy waves are indeed unusual. Normally, a force spiral will only appear when one is breaking through to become a stage-four warrior...”

Bai Chen was shocked. “Do you mean that she will continuously break through a few stages?”

Sun Zhongyan shook his head. “That’s not very possible. Continuously breaking through is just a rumor. In actual fact, normal cultivators can’t even do it. But it seems like there’s another reason behind her behavior...”

“What is it?”

Sun Zhongyan pressed his lips against each other tightly. After seeing Chu Liuyue’s actions in the arena, a vague thought flashed across his mind. As this thought was too shocking, he did not dare to believe it immediately.

After a long while, he finally looked at Bai Chen seriously.

“When this girl entered the academy, what was her tested Yuan meridian level?”

Bai Chen paused. “Yuan meridian level? She didn’t test for that! We didn’t do any testing since she entered the academy halfway through the semester, and there wasn’t enough time to prepare for her examinations.”

He felt guilty when he said the latter half of the sentence. Actually, it wasn’t that the preparations were not enough, but he felt that Chu Liuyue had no way of entering the academy. Hence, he did not even think about preparing it.

Sun Zhongyan could tell what Bai Chen was thinking with one look, but Sun Zhongyan did not expose him.

In actual fact, it wasn’t not only Bai Chen who thought in such a way. Everyone had thought in a similar fashion as well.

Who would have predicted that Chu Liuyue would actually become one of the academy’s stronger students in just a few months?

“Why? Do you think that there’s a problem with her Yuan meridian...?” asked Bai Chen. He suddenly realized something, and he widened his eyes in shock.

Hang on! Elder Sun is asking about Chu Liuyue’s Yuan meridian level! Could it be that he thinks Chu Liuyue has a... Dijing Yuan meridian?

“... Impossible!” muttered Bai Chen.

One had to know that not a single Dijing Yuan meridian had appeared in the entire Country Yao Chen for 100 years.

Sun Zhongyan was very focused, but his heart started rapidly beating uncontrollably. "Nobody can tell for certain without a test."

It didn't matter if he did not think of this. However, he could not dismiss it once this thought popped up in his head.

This is the only explanation why Chu Liuyue's cultivation speed is so high right after she recovered her Yuan meridian and started cultivating. If not, how can she win against so many warriors with higher cultivation just based on her stage-one warrior abilities?

When he was thoroughly confused by all of this, an uproar could be heard from the arena.

Chu Liuyue broke through!