

The Doctor 421

Chapter 421: Missing

“Rong Xiao, are you crazy!?” Situ Yan widened his eyes in shock. The Empress is the mother of the country. There should be a national funeral after she dies! As her son, Rong Jin should’ve refrained from marrying for three years! Even if there are pressing issues, he should’ve waited a year at least!

A month?! Isn’t that akin to holding the wedding at the Empress’s funeral? Do they still want their face and reputation?! If they really do this, the entire royal family of Country Yao Chen will get flak for it, not to mention Situ Xingchen and Rong Jin—who would be branded as unfilial!

“You’re shameless, but I’m not!”

How could he continue to follow through with the marriage agreement now that he knew that Rong Jin wasn’t the true Heaven’s Chosen Son?

Situ Xingchen was the apple of his eyes, his most beloved daughter! How could she marry a Crown Prince who had been stripped of his title?! She would be done for the rest of her life!

Emperor Jiawen found Situ Yan’s exasperation amusing. Despite all his calculations, this old fool has shot himself in the foot! No matter what, I have to gain the upper hand!

“You initiated the marriage alliance in the first place. Are you going back on your word now?”

Situ Yan felt like he was about to explode. “So what if I am?”

They would definitely attract criticism if they annulled the marriage agreement the instant something happened to Rong Jin. Even so, it was much better than sacrificing the rest of Situ Xingchen’s life!

Emperor Jiawen leaned back in his chair. The recent events had him exhausted, but Situ Yan’s reaction alleviated some of his exhaustion. “There’s no negotiating this matter; the marriage agreement stays! Situ Xingchen will get married in Imperial City in a month! Don’t worry, Rong Jin is my son after all. I’ll make sure that the wedding is a grand affair!”

“Rong Xiao! You! You...” Situ Yan felt his vision disappear as he staggered. He’s dead set on keeping Situ Xingchen here until she’s married to Rong Jin!

“Rong Xiao, don’t push it! Don’t think that Country Xing Luo is scared of you!” Situ Yan took a deep breath to calm himself down and said gloomily, “Elder Zong Ye is still in Xing Luo. If he knows you are doing this...”

“Who do you think you’re threatening?” A mocking expression appeared on Emperor Jiawen’s face. “Elder Zong Ye is formidable, but you think he’s your solution?”

“Don’t forget—Elder Zong Ye represents Mingyue Tianshan!” Situ Yan’s eyes were red.

“You think you’re the only one who can get people from Mingyue Tianshan?”

Situ Yan paused. It was only then that he recalled that Rong Xiu had spent many years at Mingyue Tianshan. Even though everyone believes that Rong Xiu is a sick person, I have heard Situ Xingchen say that Rong Xiu isn’t like the rumors. Most importantly, Rong Xiu will naturally be able to get ahold of

people from Mingyue Tianshan after spending so much time there! They might even be more formidable than Elder Zong Ye!

Using that as a threat clearly has no effect. Situ Yan felt his head throb; he had never been so belittled and insulted before.

“Rong Xiao, do you want the two countries to go to war?!” Situ Yan said sternly!

Emperor Jiawen looked up with a smile, his hands crossed before him. “Situ Yan, do you dare?”

...

“Your Highness, your tea.”

“Come in.”

Creak!

The door was pushed open, and a pageboy dressed in gray walked in with the tea and carefully set it down on the side.

Rong Jiu was wiping his knife. He was focused, taking each step very seriously.

This was just a regular knife, but he valued it very much. This was the knife he used the first time he killed someone in battle.

That was the first time he removed someone’s head personally. The blade instantly ended the person’s life.

Sticky, gooey blood sprayed all over him.

People reacted differently after they killed for the first time. Some threw up, and some had nightmares. But not him. Conversely, he found it exhilarating!

After so many years, the knife was still shiny.

“Your Highness, the tea will not taste good if it’s cold.” The pageboy reminded him politely.

Rong Jiu paused and glanced at him.

“Please take your time with it. I’ll take my leave first.” With that, the pageboy left quietly, closing the door behind him.

Rong Jiu’s gaze landed on the teacup.

He set his knife aside and picked up the teacup. He then walked over to a potted plant and poured all the tea into it.

After that, he reached for the bottom of the cup and dug.

Kacha!

A thin layer popped out, and a piece of paper fell out.

There was a hidden mechanism at the base of the cup!

Even if that piece of paper was small, the words on the paper were clear: “Everything is prepared!”

Rong Jiu steadied himself as he moved his fingers. The paper turned into fragments before it turned into powder.

He lifted his hand, and the powder disappeared in the wind.

...

Chu Ning was so busy that he didn’t even have time to return home.

Chu Liuyue stayed home instead of returning to the academy. She had an inkling when she received news of the Empress’s death and the deposing of the Crown Prince.

Situ Yan’s arrival confirmed her suspicion.

Emperor Jiawen knew that Rong Jin and Situ Xingchen had secretly followed him into the imperial mausoleum that day. That became the last straw that pushed Emperor Jiawen to act.

The Si family seemed to have been implicated. Many were removed from their positions, and some were even thrown into jail.

Anyone could see that the Empress had something to do with this.

The Si family didn’t fight back. They accepted everything quietly, staying low-profile.

The Si family’s position as the leader of the four families was hanging in the balance, but this wasn’t what Chu Liuyue was concerned about.

She just found one thing strange—Since Emperor Jiawen knows that Rong Jin and Situ Xingchen had been to the imperial mausoleum, he would’ve found something by tracing that line of thought. It’s highly likely that Situ Xingchen had something to do with the Empress’s death, but there hasn’t been any news till now.

Instead, Rong Jiu—the Third Prince—was implicated, and the rumors seemed to be growing in fervor.

Everyone seemed convinced that he played the biggest role.

Emperor Jiawen wasn’t stupid. If he really wanted to look into it, he would’ve found something. However, he actually let things develop...

It was also rumored that Rong Jiu had been grounded.

Chu Liuyue found everything to be very strange.

And that golden pyramid... Even though it was on her right now, she didn’t know what it was. She had no clue at all.

In the end, Chu Liuyue decided to take another trip to Heptagon Alley herself.

The Empress had to have known something. She was dead, and there was no way of asking Situ Xingchen and Rong Jin. It was easier for her to look into it herself.

However, she saw a floor full of corpses when she arrived at Heptagon Alley.

Those were the imperial guards charged with guarding the place!

Chu Liuyue's heart sank as she pushed the door open!

The red-bronze cauldron that had been in the middle of the courtyard was gone!

Chapter 422: News

The body that she had previously seen was still dangling in the air, but everything beneath was gone!

There were signs of fighting in the courtyard, along with a number of imperial guard corpses.

The barrier in Heptagon Alley had been broken. Clearly, someone had forced their way in.

Chu Liuyue immediately looked around the courtyard, but she didn't find any useful clues. The only thing she was sure of was that these people had been dead for less than a day.

No matter the ones outside or inside, the dead imperial guards didn't have many wounds on them. They all died by a fatal blow to their throats.

This was clearly a one-sided massacre!

Chu Liuyue examined their bodies and frowned. It looks like the imperial guards didn't even have the chance to fight back.

Even though they weren't the best, they were trained. Being able to take care of so many people without giving them the chance to send any messages... Either they were overwhelmed in numbers, or... the other party was really strong!

Chu Liuyue was inclined to believe it was the latter.

The Imperial City had been under strict security recently. If that many people did arrive, the commotion of the fight would have attracted attention. There wouldn't have been a floor full of corpses like now.

If I hadn't rushed over today, I don't know when someone would discover the situation here. Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment as she headed straight for the palace.

...

The palace was under strict security, but Chu Liuyue was immediately granted entrance since she was Prince Li's future Princess Consort.

Chu Liuyue didn't go to Emperor Jiawen. Instead, she headed straight for the Empress's quarters. While walking, she shrewdly noticed that the atmosphere in the palace was eerily stiff.

Everyone was being extremely cautious. Clearly, the Empress's and Rong Jin's matters had terrified everyone.

Halfway there, Chu Liuyue met a troop of people.

At the front was Chu Ning!

She hadn't seen him for days, but he looked rather haggard and tired. He had clearly been busy worrying.

"Father!" Chu Liuyue rushed forward.

Chu Ning immediately looked up when he heard the familiar voice. Surprise flashed across his eyes, but he then frowned. "Yue'er, why are you here?!"

Chu Liuyue walked over to him. "Father, I have an important matter to tell you."

Upon looking at her expression, a sense of uneasiness welled up in Chu Ning's heart. Yue'er has always been rather careful and understanding. If nothing urgent has cropped up, she never would've come looking for me in the palace at this juncture.

He turned and gave some instructions to the person behind him before he led Chu Liuyue aside. "What's going on?"

Chu Liuyue pursed her lips. "Father, the imperial guards at Heptagon Alley have all been killed! Also, the cauldron has been stolen!"

"W-what?" Chu Ning was stunned. He had guessed that something bad had happened, but he did not expect that... "When did this happen?!"

Chu Liuyue recounted everything to him.

Chu Ning's expression turned for the worse. "So... we don't know who, and we don't have any clues?"

Chu Liuyue nodded. "I know that His Majesty placed a lot of importance on the matter of Heptagon Alley and that you're in charge of these things recently. Thus, I rushed over the instant I found out."

Chu Ning's expression was stiff; it was like it had frozen over.

He had been busy dealing with the Empress's matter in the palace, so he passed the matter of Heptagon Alley to a subordinate. However, he didn't expect something like this to happen!

Even if His Majesty ordered him to remain in the palace and solve the problems here first, he was still responsible!

"Okay, I understand. I'll go report this to His Majesty now." Chu Ning swiftly made a decision. It was only a matter of time before His Majesty found out. Even if he would be punished, he had to face it.

"Yue'er, you head back first."

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "I'll come with you. I'm the first person to find out about it. It doesn't make sense for me not to go."

But Chu Ning was a little hesitant. "This matter has important implications. I don't want you to get involved."

Based on his investigations over the last few days, he had sensed that the Empress was playing a huge game of chess. Even with her death, things were far from over, especially since... the bronze cauldron at Heptagon Alley had disappeared!

No matter how he looked at it, he hoped that his daughter would be able to stay out of the matter.

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly. "From the moment I went to Heptagon Alley, it became difficult for me to stay out of this. But don't worry, Father. I know what I'm doing; I know what to do and what not to do."

Chu Ning looked at her. How can I not know that these are all excuses? The real reason is that her appearance will help to decrease the punishment that I would receive from His Majesty.

Chu Ning was touched and finally nodded. "Okay, we'll go and see His Majesty together."

...

As Chu Ning walked next to Chu Liuyue, all the imperial guards wisely stayed a short distance from them.

Chu Liuyue wanted to inquire about the Empress's matters but decided against it after some pondering.

After walking for about 15 minutes, they finally arrived at Zhaoyang Palace.

Strangely, the palace doors were shut tight even though it was the middle of the day. There were also twice as many guards as usual.

Chu Ning stopped walking.

Eunuch Min—who was standing guard outside the door—saw Chu Ning and knew that he was here to report the matter to His Majesty. But in the next second, he saw Chu Liuyue standing by her father.

His heart skipped a beat. What is she doing here at this time?!

He shuffled over hurriedly. "Lord Chu Ning, His Majesty is attending to important matters right now, so you'll have to wait a little."

He then turned to Chu Liuyue. "Ms. Liuyue, what brings you here today?"

Chu Liuyue's reply was brief. "I have something to report to His Majesty with my father. Don't worry, Eunuch Min; we'll just wait here."

Eunuch Min was shrewd, so he could tell that something was wrong from Chu Liuyue and Chu Ning's expressions. He didn't ask any further and stepped back into his position after that.

But just as he was walking back, the door was suddenly pulled open from inside!

Bang!

A middle-aged man dressed in black walked out! His expression was gloomy, and a murderous aura emanated from him.

Eunuch Min respectfully stepped aside when he saw the man, but the man paid no heed and continued walking outward.

Looking at the face, Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. This face... looks a little familiar...

Suddenly, her eyes lit up. This man shares half of Situ Xingchen's features!

Chapter 423: I want him to win

This person has to be Emperor Xiankang of Country Xing Luo—Situ Yan. Judging from his expression, his conversation with Emperor Jiawen hasn't been particularly pleasant. There's a high chance that he was at a disadvantage. Otherwise, he wouldn't have revealed such an expression before so many people. No matter what, he is an emperor. He wouldn't have reacted in such a way unless he had encountered something unbearable. Chu Liuyue was rather curious what the matter was. She wondered what Emperor Jiawen could've said or done to make Situ Yan this mad.

Situ Yan walked past them, but he suddenly paused and turned toward Chu Liuyue. "You're Chu Liuyue?"

Chu Liuyue's eyes sparkled slightly. That's strange. He knows me?

She looked down slightly and bowed.

Situ Yan's sharp eyes scanned her body like they were knives.

Chu Liuyue froze. It seems like Situ Yan doesn't have a very good impression of me.

Chu Ning stepped forward and shielded Chu Liuyue from Situ Yan's gaze.

Situ Yan scoffed before he turned and left.

It was only when Situ Yan's shadow had completely disappeared that Chu Ning turned to look at her and asked worriedly, "Yue'er, when did you offend him?"

Chu Liuyue chuckled but shrugged. "This is my first time meeting him. How would I have the chance to offend him? However... I did offend his beloved daughter."

Situ Xingchen? Chu Ning nodded.

Chu Liuyue looked at his relaxed expression and asked curiously, "You're not worried?"

"What's there to be worried about?" Chu Ning laughed. "How can his daughter compare to mine?"

He was vaguely aware that Situ Xingchen was interested in Rong Xiu, but Rong Xiu was engaged to Yue'er. It was rather clear why Situ Xingchen treated his daughter that way then, was it not?

In Chu Ning's eyes, all of the girls in the world combined could not compare to his precious Yue'er. If nothing, Rong Xiu had good taste.

Chu Liuyue: "..."

Why am I feeling a sense of pride from him...

"Chu Ning's here? Let him in!" Emperor Jiawen's voice came from inside Zhaoyang Palace.

Eunuch Min hurriedly added on: "Your Majesty, Ms. Liuyue is here as well. She said that she has something important to report."

It was silent for an instant.

"Then, ask her to come in too!"

Chu Liuyue and Chu Ning looked at each other as their expressions turned serious before they headed into Zhaoyang Palace.

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Once she was inside, Chu Liuyue saw Emperor Jiawen seated at the end of the palace.

Emperor Jiawen looked much better than he did a few days ago. Clearly, he had found some comfort from his confrontation with Situ Yan.

“Liuyue, you don’t come to the palace often. What brings you here today?” His tone was casual; he clearly didn’t place much importance on Chu Liuyue’s arrival.

Chu Liuyue exchanged glances with her father before she stepped forward. “Your Majesty, I’m here because of Heptagon Alley.”

Emperor Jiawen’s expression froze when he heard the words ‘Heptagon Alley.’ He subconsciously sat up straight and stared straight at Chu Liuyue. “What did you say?”

Chu Liuyue paused before she told him everything. However, she told him that she had passed by Heptagon Alley instead of telling him that she headed there intentionally.

She didn’t want Emperor Jiawen to know that she was investigating this matter.

Emperor Jiawen was stunned from the very first sentence. It took him an immense amount of energy to refrain from flipping the table, but his hand that was gripping his chain had veins popping out.

Also, his face was a mix of green and white.

Chu Liuyue had expected him to react this way. She ignored it and explained everything slowly. “...Because of the importance of the matter, I dared not hesitate and rushed over here immediately.”

Chu Ning knelt down. “This happened because of my negligence. I’ll accept any punishment!”

Emperor Jiawen moved his hands to prop up his forehead as he remained silent for a while.

Chu Ning and Chu Liuyue waited quietly.

Emperor Jiawen was experiencing a tidal wave of emotions, and his thoughts were in chaos. He thought that everything would be figured out after the Empress died and Rong Jin was removed from his position as Crown Prince.

But something like this happened now!

His first reaction was to suspect Situ Xingchen. After all, he was sure that Situ Xingchen had met the Empress and found out a number of things from her in secret. She had even managed to get the Golden Inheritance Peak key that the Empress had secretly replicated, which allowed her to help Rong Jin sneak in.

She was ambitious, and it wasn’t strange for her to do something like this, but the key was that Situ Xingchen was trapped somewhere! Hence, she was clearly not the one behind the theft of the bronze cauldron.

And Situ Yan... That did not seem likely either.

This matter happened quickly, and Situ Yan rushed here at the first instance. He only brought a few bodyguards with him.

"The other party is strong, and they came prepared, so it's not entirely your fault..." said Emperor Jiawen slowly after he suppressed his emotions. "Bring someone to Heptagon Alley right away and see if you can find any clues. Report back immediately after."

"Yes!"

"As for Liuyue... Since you're the first one to see it, I'm afraid you'll have to take another trip there again."

Chu Liuyue said, "Don't worry, Your Majesty. I'll do everything I can."

Emperor Jiawen nodded and then suddenly asked, "This won't take up too much of your time and energy, right? Lieutenant Mu's side... He takes priority, okay?"

Chu Liuyue nodded, but she was laughing to herself. Even if they are swarmed right now, they dare not offend Mu Qinghe.

She wondered whether Emperor Jiawen knew that the two people who entered the imperial mausoleum were Mu Qinghe and her.

"I'm a little tired; you all can leave now." Emperor Jiawen dismissed them with a wave, and Chu Ning left with Chu Liuyue.

After they left Zhaoyang Palace, Chu Liuyue suddenly asked him, "Father, can I take a look at the Empress's quarters?"

Chu Ning was very surprised. "What are you going to do there?"

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment and smiled. "I might be able to find a useful clue that would be of help to you, Father."

Chu Ning shook his head solemnly. "The Empress's funeral is tomorrow. It's not appropriate for you to go now."

He still wanted Chu Liuyue to steer clear of this.

Chu Liuyue didn't insist since he seemed certain. She then changed the subject.

The group left the palace and headed straight for Heptagon Alley.

...

Prince Li Mansion.

"Master, part of the Northwest Army has set off for Imperial City," reported Yu Mo in a low voice. "They'll reach here within three days. You see..."

Rong Xiu turned a page calmly. "How many are coming?"

“Not many, just 5,000. However, these are the elite soldiers of the Northwest Army. They’ve been tested in battle, and one of them is as good as ten regular soldiers. Even though Imperial City has more imperial guards, I’m not sure which side will win in a fight. Besides, there are reinforcements...”

Rong Xiu curled his lips into a half-smile. “Rong Jiu doesn’t start a battle that he’s not prepared for. Besides... I want him to win.”

Chapter 424: Signs

Mu Qinghe and Jian Fengchi returned to Imperial City without attracting any attention.

The moment he returned, Mu Qinghe locked himself in his room.

Jian Fengchi wanted to examine his wound but was shut outside the door. He didn’t have a good temper himself, and his patience had run out due to Mu Qinghe’s reaction. Thus, he couldn’t be bothered and busied himself with other things.

Mu Qinghe dealt with his wound himself in his room. There was no expression on his face, and he looked like a block of wood. But everything that happened in the imperial mausoleum was replaying in his head.

Especially... that illusion. Even though he knew that it was an illusion, it still made waves in his heart whenever he thought about it, especially when he was alone. All sorts of images and sounds flooded his mind.

Mu Qinghe closed his eyes frustratedly but found that that person’s face grew increasingly clear in his mind.

There was still a smile on her face.

“Qinghe, why did you call me?” Her clear and gentle voice echoed in his ears.

Mu Qinghe felt like his heart was being poked at; it felt sore.

However, her smile quickly disappeared. It was replaced with shock and disbelief. “Qinghe, you betrayed me?”

The sparkle in her eyes dimmed as they were flooded with despair and sadness.

Mu Qinghe’s eyes flew open! In such a short time, he was covered in cold sweat.

The mixture of his sweat and blood stung.

He stood up, intending to clean himself up, but his expression changed when he took a step. Then, he froze.

A green bronze mirror flew out from him and blocked his way!

Mu Qinghe felt his blood churn, and a terrifying aura enveloped him!

Mu Qinghe staggered and fell to his knees. Crippling pain came from his heart.

He gripped the front of his shirt tightly and pressed down hard, but it did nothing to relieve the pain.

“Where’s the thing?” A cold but authoritative voice came from the mirror.

Mu Qinghe gritted his teeth as sweat trickled down his forehead. His lips were quivering, and his face was pale. “I was incompetent... I was unable to get the item...”

“Imbecile!” The pain multiplied and overwhelmed him!

Mu Qinghe finally couldn’t stifle himself. He spat out a mouthful of blood and collapsed to the ground!

He could barely speak now.

“I asked you to do one thing, but you couldn’t even do it! Mu Qinghe, when did you deteriorate this badly? Or... are you doing it on purpose?”

“I... I didn’t...” Mu Qinghe struggled to speak as he trembled. Just saying that alone used up all of his remaining energy.

“You’ve been outside for long enough. You’ll raise suspicions if you don’t return soon. You have to return soon!”

Even though Mu Qinghe was in immense pain, he heard the words clearly. “But... but that thing...”

“Since you didn’t have the ability to get it back, it’s just a waste of time for you to stay! You don’t have to deal with this anymore!”

No... I finally got this chance, so how can I give it up?! Mu Qinghe’s lips quivered. “I... I know that a mystery person took it...”

“What mystery person?” Mu Qinghe’s words clearly attracted the person’s attention.

“I... didn’t see what that person looked like... but... If I see him again... I will be able to recognize his aura...” Mu Qinghe managed to say this sentence. “P-please... let me continue... I won’t... disappoint you...”

Mu Qinghe was so weak that his voice was barely audible by the end of the sentence. However, that statement was clearly very useful.

“If that’s the case, I’ll give you a few more days. If there’s still no progress then... You know what the consequences are!” With that, the mirror quickly disappeared.

Mu Qinghe was the only person left in the room again. He lay on the floor, his clothes soaked through.

He looked a mess.

A blue shadow appeared next to him; it was Hong Yao. It closed in next to him and rubbed itself against his face as it buried its face.

Hong Yao had always been proud and lively, but it was unusually quiet at this moment, staying quietly next to Mu Qinghe.

“I’m fine,” Mu Qinghe said lowly.

Hong Yao flapped its wings and looked up at him, but it didn't say anything. In the end, it chose to keep silent.

...

Chu Liuyue followed Chu Ning back to Heptagon Alley, but they didn't find anything.

When they were done, the sky was dark, and Chu Ning asked her to return home.

Chu Liuyue knew that her father was going back to investigate further and that it wasn't appropriate for her to follow him, so she did not insist.

The skies were dark, and the moon was hanging high.

Chu Liuyue sat in her room with her legs crossed as she absorbed the Heaven and Earth Force from around her.

After breaking through to the third stage in the Imperial mausoleum, her abilities had improved tremendously. However, her advancement was too sudden this time, and she was afraid that it might destabilize her foundation. Therefore, she began cultivating again.

After feeling the force in her body become more stable, Chu Liuyue looked toward her palm.

After her Yuan meridian leveled up, her absorption of Heaven and Earth Force increased significantly.

If that's the case, this will greatly aid my cultivation in the future. What I lack the most now is time. Chu Liuyue wanted to head to the Tianling Dynasty to seek her revenge after she had regained enough of her ability.

She didn't expect to be going when she was only a stage-three warrior.

Given her ability and level, it was just going to be trouble once she arrived there...

Suddenly, she felt a ripple in her dantian.

Chapter 425: Hand Signal

Chu Liuyue paused, but she found that the ripple came from the black pyramid!

A strong but nurturing force spread toward her limbs!

Chu Liuyue was shocked. For some reason, she found the aura within the force rather familiar!

She concentrated but found that the seal was unbroken. Then, she felt it thoroughly again and confirmed that the power didn't come from the pyramid itself but from the black seal covering it.

Chu Liuyue was stunned. I've only seen seals being used to seal energy. I've never seen seals that give off energy! And a force this pure and strong... It's extremely rare!

Even as someone who had the Tianjing Yuan meridian in her past life, she hadn't been able to refine her force into such a pure form! However, such pure energy was seeping into her body now!

Chu Liuyue paused for a while before she returned to her senses. The seal on the pyramid is actually helping me heal and cultivate!

Having thought that through, even Chu Liuyue was stunned. Wh-what exactly is going on?! Didn't that Master forcefully place a seal because he didn't want me to touch the pyramid? However... What is this power that's flowing out?

A silhouette suddenly flashed across her mind—it was a man in a black robe! Even though his figure was hazy, he was tall and slender.

Chu Liuyue's heart started beating rapidly. I have seen this man's back before! It was in the imperial mausoleum—the man in the pavilion on the cliff that appeared in the illusion! But this time, he isn't standing there. Instead... he is standing by a lake.

The scene flashed by really quickly and disappeared before Chu Liuyue could get a clear look.

Chu Liuyue thought through it again but disappointedly found that she didn't remember anything. However, that sense of familiarity was growing stronger!

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes as her heart beat wildly.

She finally couldn't hold it in any longer. She walked over to the window and pushed it open frustratedly.

The night breeze cleared her mind.

I'm beginning to suspect that it wasn't an illusion. Otherwise, I never would've developed such a strange feeling... Could it be... that the black-robed man is the Master of Zhen Bao Pavilion?! Chu Liuyue knitted her brows tightly. If that is the case, then... Why do I have no recollection of this person's existence?!

She pinned her hair behind her ears, and a sense of heaviness tinted her eyebrows. Something seems off...

Shua!

Suddenly, a strange sound came from afar!

Chu Liuyue immediately looked up.

In the dark of the night, a dark figure appeared in the courtyard!

The figure was elongated by the moonlight, but she couldn't see the person's looks underneath all the shadows.

A terrifying aura enveloped the entire courtyard.

Chu Liuyue tensed up! This person is extremely dangerous!

The surrounding space seemed to freeze, and all sound seemed muted in the silence that sent chills down one's spine.

Suddenly, that person stretched out their hands and beckoned with their index finger.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled.

That was a badly burnt hand. Even with only half a palm under the moonlight, Chu Liuyue could see the startling scars on it.

In the next instant, the person leaped up and headed for afar!

He wants me to follow? Chu Liuyue clenched her hands. She wasn't sure if it was an invite or a taunt. No matter what, the other party knew who I was and came prepared!

Just as that person was about to disappear, Chu Liuyue saw him turn suddenly. This time, they stuck out their hand and made a sign.

Chu Liuyue's eyes widened! That's a sign known only by the Thirteen Yue Guard!

...

Blessing Palace.

This was Rong Jin's residence in the palace. After being crowned, he moved into Crown Prince Mansion and rarely returned.

Because of that, Blessing Palace was a lot quieter than other places, and people rarely came here.

Hardly anyone knew that Rong Jin—the deposed Crown Prince—was imprisoned here.

Imprisoned along with him was Situ Xingchen.

It was nighttime, and Blessing Palace looked as quiet as it usually did in the dark. However, hidden auras hinted at the ripples beneath the surface.

A figure entered quietly. He entered the side palace, walked to a bookshelf, and turned the ink slab on it.

Ka!

There was the sound of cogs moving.

A smooth and heavy slab of jade opened slowly, and a small entrance appeared!

From the moonlight, one could tell it was a staircase.

The person walked down without hesitation.

After the person disappeared, the jade slab closed up.

The room was silent again, like nothing had ever happened.

...

Chu Liuyue was stunned and emotional! The Thirteen Yue Guard was her personal guard team that she founded herself. She handpicked and trained each and every one of the 13!

Different from Mu Qinghe—who had control of the military—the Thirteen Yue Guard had no affiliations to any of the other forces in court. They were more like her hidden sword; they would strike and eliminate every obstacle wherever she pointed!

Most importantly, she was their only master! Any time, any place, and any situation—they only took orders from her!

Even her father had no right to interfere!

When she was in her desperate state, the Thirteen Yue Guard wasn't by her side, and all her signals for help received no reply.

Until her death, she had never seen any of them.

After meeting Mu Qinghe, she had the same guesses: Did the Thirteen Yue Guard betray her too?!

She dared not think any deeper. Every time she thought of this, she would skip over it instinctively, like she was avoiding something.

Therefore, heaven knows how shocked she was when she saw the familiar sign.

Chu Liuyue was frozen stiff, and her blood churned as her heart pound wildly!

Badump!

Badump!

It was practically leaping out of her chest!

Countless thoughts flew across her mind!

"You..." Just as she opened her mouth to ask, the other person turned and left!

Chu Liuyue gritted her teeth as she flipped out of her window and followed after that person!

Chapter 426: Threat!

Creak!

The sound of the door opening resonated throughout the dim room.

Situ Xingchen—who was locked in a cage—suddenly raised her head. Her intricate hairpin had already fallen, causing her hair to droop down messily. She looked very despaired.

The messy stains on her face made her look even more unkempt.

She had lived for so many years but had never fallen into such a situation.

The footstep sounds gradually came nearer.

A man came in and stood three steps away from the cage.

Inside the empty room, only two candles were dimly lit on the spotted wall.

Situ Xingchen couldn't see the incoming person's face, but once she saw his figure, she immediately recognized the other party's identity.

It was Emperor Jiawen!

She almost instantly stood up, rushed over to grab the cage, and harshly shook it. "Let me out! Let me out! My father is already here, right?"

Emperor Jiawen took a step back and fanned his nose.

Situ Xingchen instantly felt humiliated as her face burned. She unwittingly released her hands and wanted to dig a hole in the ground to bury herself.

After she was locked, she ate, drank, and did all her business in this small space. She couldn't even leave the cage.

One could just imagine how she looked like now.

She didn't know how long she had been locked up for as every day felt like a year.

Every second she stayed here, Situ Xingchen felt that she was a step closer to breaking down. Ever since she was born, she was the most distinguished eldest princess of Country Xing Luo. When did she ever suffer such torture?

She had already cursed Emperor Jiawen countless times in her heart. If she had the chance, she would definitely cut him up into thousands of pieces.

But at this point, she was still on the other party's cutting board. Thus, she naturally didn't dare to be too arrogant.

Emperor Jiawen sneered. "He did come, but I think he's on his way back now."

Situ Xingchen's expression froze. It was as if a bucket of cold water was poured over all her hopes and desires, extinguishing them.

"Impossible! My father would never leave me alone! You're lying!" yelled Situ Xingchen in disbelief. Father has always loved me. Why would he just leave?

"Don't worry. He's going back to prepare for your wedding with Rong Jin. You're his most beloved daughter, so, of course, he won't leave you alone. Oh right, the date is set to be half a month later," said Emperor Jiawen slowly. "When the Empress's funeral is over, we'll hold your grand wedding. It was originally set to be a month later, but your father seems to be very anxious and pushed it forward by half a month."

"W-what?" Situ Xingchen was utterly stunned. My wedding with Rong Jin? I've already told Father that Rong Jin is the fake Heaven's Chosen Son! Father came here to dissolve my marriage agreement with Rong Jin and to bring me out of here! But what's going on now?

"It's too rushed, so some aspects will be neglected. But luckily, Rong Jin is no longer the Crown Prince, so we can save on a lot of unnecessarily long procedures." Emperor Jiawen sounded relaxed as if he were really happy for them.

Situ Xingchen was so angry that her entire body shook. On purpose! Emperor Jiawen is clearly doing it on purpose! He wants to use this chance to humiliate us completely!

“You! You!” Since things had ended up in this state, Situ Xingchen finally ripped off the last of her disguise. Her shrill voice echoed throughout the dark room, and she sounded like a female ghost crying miserably.

She shot Emperor Jiawen a deadly glare, wanting to see something through his blurred appearance.

But—nothing! Emperor Jiawen did not look like he was lying!

Situ Xingchen’s heart finally sank. She knew that Emperor Jiawen was forcing her.

...

The moon was shining brightly, and the night wind blew lightly.

The Imperial City seemed to have fallen into deep sleep at night as everything was quiet.

Chu Liuyue followed that mysterious person the entire way. Very quickly, she discovered that this person was heading for the palace!

Her heart skipped a beat, and she hesitated. It wasn’t that she didn’t come to the palace before, but she clearly knew that the entire palace was actually a gigantic Xuan formation.

There was an invisible barrier outside the palace. With her current abilities, it would be too hard for her to enter silently.

However, that man in front seemed to not care as he quickly rushed forward.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and followed. No matter what, I have to get to the bottom of this today.

After an estimated 15 minutes, the two of them finally arrived outside the palace.

This place was rather isolated. Other than some patrolling imperial guards, there were no other people guarding here. But when Chu Liuyue stood under the wall, she could clearly feel the suppression from the barrier.

She looked up and saw the mysterious person.

She saw that person stretch out his hand, and starlight flashed across his fingertips.

A tidy cut immediately appeared on the barrier. Also, it didn’t trigger anything!

Chu Liuyue’s eyelids twitched. I have seen this move before! It has helped me countless times before. I didn’t expect...

Shua!

The barrier opened, and that man had already jumped across the wall to enter the palace.

Chu Liuyue could only see the corner of some black clothes flashing across the wall.

She took a few steps back and rushed forward as she stepped on the wall. Then, her body was parallel to the ground as she directly rushed for the wall.

Her figure easily flipped over it as her legs bent slightly. After that, she relaxingly landed on the ground.

She looked up and saw that the person had already continued walking.

Chu Liuyue pursed her lips. Is this person not at all worried that I can't follow him...?

But she couldn't think much as she rapidly chased after him.

The two of them were like night cats as they completely disguised themselves in the darkness. However, Chu Liuyue quickly discovered that this person seemed to be very familiar with the palace's structure.

Under that person's leadership, they easily avoided all the patrolling guards and directly entered the palace.

Chu Liuyue was increasingly confused. Why is this person so familiar with the palace? It's like he's been here countless times... Especially toward the back. The more we walked, we went into the quieter corners. However, that person's speed was still the same, and he didn't travel with any hesitation.

After around ten minutes, that person finally stopped.

Chu Liuyue stood still, hid in the shadows, and looked over. When she saw the two words 'Blessing Palace' on the plaque, she knitted her brows. Why did he come here? It looks like... but it doesn't—

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue's gaze focused! That's not right! This Blessing Palace's surroundings have quite a few hidden auras! There are people inside!

While she was thinking about who would be here at night, that mysterious man suddenly went forward.

Chapter 427: Use

Chu Liuyue originally thought that he would directly go over, but when the person moved the next moment, something dropped from his hands.

Under the moonlight, that item reflected a light glow.

A light fragrance wafted over.

Chu Liuyue was shocked. This is phosphorus powder! One just has to light it gently to ignite a large fire! Is this person... planning to burden down Blessing Palace? However, this is only the exterior of Blessing Palace. If he pours phosphorous powder here, it won't burn to the interior. What does he want?

Suddenly, the side door to Blessing Palace opened.

Chu Liuyue immediately looked up.

A figure came out from inside.

Chu Liuyue's gaze focused.

It was Emperor Jiawen! After much thought, the only person who could make such a big move in the palace was him.

As she was far away and a big part of his face was hidden in the darkness, Chu Liuyue couldn't see his expression clearly.

Emperor Jiawen raised his hand and pointed before turning back to leave.

When his figure disappeared, there were still two auras amongst the few auras earlier. It was clear that the remaining people were left to guard the place.

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. There aren't many people in the palace. Who can make Emperor Jiawen waste so much effort to lock them up meticulously?

When she thought of Situ Yan—who she had seen earlier—and his terrible expression: The person locked here should be Situ Xingchen! Emperor Jiawen clearly wants to get something out of her, but judging from his appearance, there shouldn't be much progress.

Chu Liuyue looked at the mysterious person in front. He must've known that Situ Xingchen was locked here, so he purposely attracted me over! But why did he do this?

Without waiting for Chu Liuyue to ask, that person silently walked in another direction. His steps looked slow, but his speed was high as he perfectly hid his tracks.

If it weren't for Chu Liuyue following him closely, she wouldn't be able to recognize his movements.

For some reason, she seemed to guess that person's thoughts. So when he gradually got nearer to Blessing Palace, she stayed rooted to the ground instead.

With her current cultivation level, she would only become a shield if she went over. She would also definitely attract those hidden warriors' attention. Hence, she rather not do anything and silently observe the situation.

Very quickly, that person's figure disappeared behind one of the pillars at the edge of Blessing Palace.

Chu Liuyue held her breath.

Suddenly, a formidable suppression quickly came from midair.

Chu Liuyue immediately looked up, and she saw a man in gray walking over through the air.

The man wore a hat that covered his face, so she couldn't see his appearance. But judging from his slightly crooked back, he seemed to be quite old.

When he appeared, three figures immediately appeared around Blessing Palace, surrounding the elder in gray in the middle. "Who are you? How dare you trespass into Country Yao Chen's palace!"

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. The trio was clearly sent over by Emperor Jiawen to guard this place, and the three of them are all stage-five warriors.

One could count the number of stage-five warriors in the entire Country Yao Chen, yet Emperor Jiawen left three of them here. This clearly showed how sternly he wanted to guard Situ Xingchen.

This stance was enough to block most of the trespassers, but... that elder in gray was a stage higher than them.

The higher one's cultivation level, the larger the difference between the two parties. Even if the three of them joined hands, they might not be this elder's match.

"I came here today just to bring one person away. If you're sensible, I won't make it difficult for you," said the elder in gray lightly. His voice was hoarse, but his tone was calm with an almighty aura as if he was commanding them.

He clearly came to snatch the person away, but he arrogantly said that he wouldn't make it difficult for the other party.

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's head. This person clearly came for Situ Xingchen, but his identity is quite difficult to guess.

"How dare you? Where do you think you are? How can you come and go as you please!" The trio was clearly enraged by the elder's words as they looked at each other and rushed over.

"I'll teach you a lesson today!"

Facing the trio's simultaneous explosion of attacks, the elder in gray seemed not to care. He chuckled lowly with unconcealable mockery. "Just based on you?"

Seeing the trio getting closer and closer, he still didn't move.

"Kill!" Three forces were sent out in unison.

Just as he was about to be hit, the elder finally raised his hand. His palm was especially big and thick; it was like a fan that landed silently.

A gigantic silver palm print appeared in front of him.

"Mountain River Print!" hollered that elder.

The silver palm print immediately came down.

The next moment, the three forces split apart and completely disappeared.

The terrifying forces spread in all directions. At this time, the elder's hand slowly curved as he contained all the crazy forces.

Everything happened silently, which made the trio's faces change. How can a stage-six warrior be so strong?!

"Go!" The elder in gray waved his palm lightly, and a horrifying force shot out from it.

That giant palm print gradually disappeared, leaving behind a silver ring that kept expanding toward the surroundings.

"Flee quickly!" The trio sensed that something was amiss and immediately wanted to escape.

However, it was too late!

The silver ring was very formidable, and it suffocated them as all of them were respectively frozen to the spot.

No matter how much they struggled, they couldn't move and could only allow the silver ring to suppress them.

Poof!

One of them couldn't take it anymore and spat out a mouthful of blood.

The other two were no better as their faces were pale, and they couldn't say anything.

"You don't know your limits!" The elder in gray laughed coldly and moved his palm.

"You! Don't—Ah!" Before the person who struggled to speak could finish his sentence, a strange light glowed on the ring and pierced through his chest.

Following a low sound, his body flew toward the back and harshly landed on the ground.

Chu Liuyue meticulously controlled her aura as many guesses surfaced in her mind. This person is very arrogant to come over so boldly. It was one against three, yet he won so easily!

That elder in gray clearly didn't care about those few people. After settling them, he directly went for Blessing Palace's main entrance.

But just as he was about to enter, a gigantic Xuan formation suddenly appeared above Blessing Palace and covered it.

The elder in gray finally stopped. This was because this Xuan formation was very hard to deal with!

But Chu Liuyue—who was hiding in the dark—had her eyes light up. I can use the Xuan formation to enter Blessing Palace!

Chapter 428: Exchange

The gigantic Xuan formation dazzled brilliantly, and the entire Blessing Palace was hidden under its glory.

In this situation, I would definitely be discovered if I directly went over. But... if I merge myself with the Xuan formation, I can hide my figure. Chu Liuyue stared at the Xuan formation closely and gently slid her finger in midair, drawing out a rough outline.

She hadn't seen this Xuan formation before, and this Xuan formation's level was not low. Thus, she couldn't immediately replicate an exact one according to its original appearance. However, she could easily break it apart.

A sharp whistling sound could be heard coming from midair.

Bang!

Fireworks exploded in the black night sky—it was a warning signal.

With this commotion, it would definitely attract the attention of everyone in the palace.

The elder in gray was still thinking of how to solve the Xuan formation when he suddenly heard the noise and immediately turned back.

When he realized that it was the trio who sent out the help signal, he couldn't help but sneer. "Hah! You're really not afraid of making a commotion out of this."

The man—who was initially hurled to the floor—crawled up with much difficulty and spat out a mouthful of blood.

He was still holding a cylinder in his hands; it was obvious that he had lit the previous fireworks.

When the other two saw this, they looked at each other and saw the deep worry in each other's eyes.

They rushed to that man and anxiously said, "Did you forget what His Majesty instructed before?"

This Blessing Palace contained the locked-up Situ Xingchen. His Majesty cared about this a lot and had even invited them to guard her together.

Even the Empress that was previously grounded didn't have this treatment! This showed how much His Majesty cared about this.

Previously, His Majesty had repeatedly instructed that outsiders could not know that Situ Xingchen was hiding here.

But once this news was released, everyone would know about it.

In less than 15 minutes, all the experts in the palace would gather here.

The man that spat out blood slowly wiped the bloodstains off the corner of his mouth and stared at the elder in gray. "His Majesty also said that the most important thing is to guard the person. If she gets taken away, we can't bear to face the consequences!"

The other two exchanged glances and finally didn't say anything after much conflict. Then, they dispersed and surrounded the elder in gray again.

Since things had ended up like this, they could only do their best.

Seeing the stance the trio put up, the elder in gray was stunned before he laughed out loud. "It looks like you won't cry until you see the coffin! Don't blame me for being merciless then!"

"Stop him!" The trio seemed to be determined as they rushed up together.

The four of them immediately started battling.

At this point, Chu Liuyue hid her aura and rapidly rushed toward Blessing Palace!

At this moment, a few incomplete Xuan formations appeared on her body. Next to the gigantic Xuan formation, these small Xuan formations didn't have much sense of existence. However, their patterns and light were just enough to hide Chu Liuyue's body.

Chu Liuyue walked forward and completely hid her figure within the countless rays of light.

The key was that when she replicated the few Xuan formations, even though they weren't complete, there were some parts that complemented the above Xuan formation.

This strange complement caused the Xuan formation to directly ignore Chu Liuyue barging in.

Without any resistance, Chu Liuyue's journey was smooth as she arrived at the side door.

Previously, Emperor Jiawen had entered from this unassuming location. Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue quietly slid in.

Her movements were very quick, and she disappeared behind the door in the blink of an eye, not attracting the elder in gray and the other three's attention.

...

After entering the palace, Chu Liuyue immediately started looking for Situ Xingchen's whereabouts.

As the outside Xuan formation shone in, everything in the palace became much clearer. However, Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings and didn't see anyone's figure.

The entire palace was completely cold and quiet, with a thin layer of dust gathered on the table.

This place had clearly been empty for a period of time.

Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings. Suddenly, she gathered her focus and stared at the bookshelf at the wall.

At first glance, there seemed to be nothing wrong with the bookshelf. However, the books seemed to be placed messily.

Even if Rong Jin no longer stays here, everything inside should be tidily placed at the very least. Chu Liuyue walked over and started looking for clues on the bookshelf.

When she saw the inkstone, she knitted her brows. The inkstone is of ordinary quality, and its workmanship doesn't make it seem like something that would appear in the palace.

She felt around and tried to move it.

Ka!

The ground below her feet suddenly moved.

A staircase leading downward suddenly appeared.

Chu Liuyue paused and jumped in.

She walked down, step by step. Her surroundings were dark and humid, with only a dim light in the distance.

But other than her, there was no one else around.

She quietly walked forward.

After walking for some time, she finally saw an exit.

A locked place appeared in front of Chu Liuyue.

...

When Situ Xingchen heard footsteps again, she thought that Emperor Jiawen had returned. Thus, she said without raising her head, "I-I don't know... Even if you ask me more, I still don't know..."

“What do you now know?” A clear girl’s voice suddenly sounded.

Situ Xingchen was taken aback as she finally looked up. Even though the face was blurred, she wouldn’t recognize that figure and that voice wrongly.

Chu Liuyue! She actually came here?! Situ Xingchen’s mind was in a mess as she clenched her fists, and deep vengeance flashed across her eyes. “Chu Liuyue, what are you doing?”

Chu Liuyue walked toward her, and her eyes were like water as they lightly brushed past Situ Xingchen.

Chu Liuyue’s gaze was very calm, but Situ Xingchen felt like she had been skinned alive.

She felt terrible.

“You killed the Empress, right?” asked Chu Liuyue suddenly.

Situ Xingchen clenched her teeth. “What nonsense are you saying?!”

“You’re also the one that let Rong Jin out of Crown Prince Mansion, right?” asked Chu Liuyue again.

“I didn’t! I didn’t! Why? Did Emperor Jiawen send you over to interrogate me?” Situ Xingchen’s voice was filled with intense fury.

If eyes could kill, Situ Xingchen’s vengeful gaze would’ve murdered Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue’s expression did not change; it was as though she didn’t care about the other’s reply.

“Give me the thing you took from the Empress.” As she spoke, Chu Liuyue stretched out her hand.

Situ Xingchen suddenly widened her eyes. How does Chu Liuyue know about this?

Chu Liuyue’s eyes sparkled. “If you listen to me, I can tell you who the true Heaven’s Chosen Son is.”

Chapter 429: He Will Definitely Regret

The true Heaven’s Chosen Son? Situ Xingchen’s heart skipped a beat when she heard this. “How do you know this?!”

I thought only the Empress and Rong Jin knew about this? Did... Rong Jin tell Chu Liuyue in the past? No, how can Rong Jin tell someone about such an important thing so easily? Even if he liked Chu Liuyue, he wouldn’t do it. Besides... Chu Liuyue already clearly knows that Rong Jin isn’t the true Heaven’s Chosen Son. Other than the few of us at the imperial mausoleum that day, how would other people know about this? Situ Xingchen looked at Chu Liuyue alertly.

Suddenly, her gaze flashed, and she blurted out, “You were at the imperial mausoleum that day?!”

As she was too shocked, her hoarse voice became shrill.

Chu Liuyue shrugged and said nonchalantly, “There are no permanent secrets in this world. I’ll ask you one last time: Will you give me the thing or not?”

Situ Xingchen clutched the cage’s bars, and her eyes sparkled. “I... Since you know about this, there isn’t any reason for me to continue hiding. I took the replicated key for Golden Inheritance Peak from the

Empress. Even though the Empress secretly replicated it, it could still open the barrier. Besides, I've already passed it to Rong Jin. If not, how do you think he entered Golden Inheritance Peak?"

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. She had already guessed it when she saw Rong Jin and the rest following Emperor Jiawen into the imperial mausoleum, but this was not the point.

"You know that I don't want this," said Chu Liuyue lightly.

Situ Xingchen purposely acted calm and said without changing her expression, "The Empress only gave me this."

"Oh?" Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a half-smile. If it were this simple, why would Emperor Jiawen spend so much effort to lock Situ Xingchen up? Even coming here secretly to interrogate her in the middle of the night?

At first, she did not think of all of this. But when she saw Emperor Jiawen and the terrifying defense around the area, she guessed that Situ Xingchen had something that Emperor Jiawen wanted.

Judging from Emperor Jiawen's attitude toward Heptagon Alley, he must know the hidden secret. Therefore, he doesn't want to ask something out of Situ Xingchen. Instead... he wants to take something. Chu Liuyue had just randomly bluffed Situ Xingchen previously, but judging from the latter's reaction, she could almost confirm it.

Situ Xingchen felt guilty because of Chu Liuyue's stare. How can this be? From start to end, I hid myself really well, and nobody discovered it. If I wasn't caught red-handed by Emperor Jiawen in the imperial mausoleum, I wouldn't be stuck here.

She turned her back around as if she didn't want to continue talking to Chu Liuyue.

"It looks like we have nothing much to talk about."

When she turned around, she rapidly looked at the jade bracelet on her wrist.

The two lights had already overlapped.

When she left Mingyue Tianshan back then, Elder Zong Ye specifically gave her this. This jade bracelet had Elder Zong Ye's strength.

With this, he could quickly find her no matter where she was.

When she was locked here, she immediately asked Elder Zong Ye for help.

Now that these two lights overlapped, it meant that Elder Zong Ye was nearby.

But he didn't come after a long while, yet Chu Liuyue came.

Hong! Hong! Hong!

Explosion sounds could be heard outside. This caused the entire space to shake.

Situ Xingchen suddenly raised her head. This... Elder Zong Ye is fighting with people outside?!

She was elated. Elder Zong Ye is very strong, so it won't be a problem for him to deal with the people in Country Yao Chen. If he can get me out of here...

"Situ Xingchen," said Chu Liuyue suddenly.

Situ Xingchen instinctively turned around.

Hua!

Something flew toward her head.

The alarm in her heart rang loudly, and she immediately wanted to retreat. But she was stuck in the cage, and the space was extremely small.

The moment she took a step back, her body hit the bars.

She waved her sleeves and harshly slammed that thing down.

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows. Situ Xingchen's force has indeed been suppressed as she can't even send out a single bit of force. Emperor Jiawen really did all sorts of preparations to teach her a lesson, but this will just benefit me.

"Chu Liuyue, don't think that I can't do anything to you just because I'm stuck here!" Situ Xingchen quickly looked at the floor and discovered that there was a jade bottle.

It directly shattered after it landed on the floor, and green liquid slowly flowed out.

Smelling that strange scent, Situ Xingchen sneered. "You want to poison me with just a small bottle of Qingshui Yang?"

Qingshui Yang was very poisonous, but she didn't touch it at all earlier. Thus, it had no effect.

Chu Liuyue's lips suddenly curved up. "You've misunderstood; I haven't taken action."

Situ Xingchen was stunned.

A ray of silver light suddenly flew out of Chu Liuyue's fingertips and landed on the puddle of Qingshui Yang.

Peng!

With a light sound, a greenish-purple mist rose up.

Situ Xingchen's face changed.

The next moment, the greenish-purple mist rapidly rushed toward her.

She anxiously covered her nose.

"Don't you know that when Qingshui Yang meets with Dadan San, its poisonous effects will instantly increase by ten-fold? Besides, the most convenient thing is that once this touches your skin even a little, it will instantly seep into your organs and limbs."

A horrifying scorching feeling came from her hands. Situ Xingchen looked down and saw that her originally white and supple skin suddenly became dry. It also had greenish-purple spots, looking very terrifying.

“W-what’s going on?! What did you do to me?” shouted Situ Xingchen in shock.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows and glanced at her hand. She smiled and said lightly, “Oh, so you really don’t know that the side-effect of this poison is that you will rapidly grow old from outside to inside. Right now, it’s your hand. Next, it will quickly travel to your face.”

As she said this, Chu Liuyue shook her head in pity. “This was mentioned in the footnote of page 582 in ‘Heavenly Doctor Basics.’ You don’t even know this as a heavenly doctor.”

Situ Xingchen’s blood boiled.

‘Heavenly Doctor Basics’ was a very basic medical book, and it was the entry book for all heavenly doctors. However, there were too many things to remember from it. Who would notice a small footnote?

Now, she was most afraid of her face.

“Chu Liuyue, you’re so scheming and cruel!” Situ Xingchen’s hands trembled. “If Rong Xiu knows that you’re this cold-blooded, he would definitely regret marrying you!”

Chapter 430: Opportunity

“You’re finally admitting it?” Chu Liuyue slightly smiled. From the start, Situ Xingchen has held great enmity toward me for some reason. No matter if it were the Qing Jiao Competition or when she later framed me for locking Rong Zhen up, one could tell that she didn’t simply dislike me. She actually hated me and was jealous of me.

Something seemed to be stuck in Situ Xingchen’s chest, and she felt so indignant that she was about to explode.

Finally, she couldn’t hold it back any longer and scolded, “So what?! I liked him for so many years, yet he doesn’t even remember who I am! What about you? You’re just an abandoned good-for-nothing from a useless family. How can you be compared to me?”

In terms of looks, I’m not worse than Chu Liuyue. In terms of background, I am so much better than Chu Liuyue! In terms of fate with Rong Xiu... I have accompanied him at Mingyue Tianshan for so many years. What can Chu Liuyue compare to?

“He was always high and mighty, and he stayed a distance away from other girls. But... you! For you, he actually knelt down in front of so many people to get a marriage certificate with you! I’m clearly the one who understands him the most! Only I am good enough for him in this world!”

Every time Situ Xingchen thought of this, her heart would ache. She didn’t understand what was so good about Chu Liuyue that Rong Xiu had to treat her like that. It was as if... all the warmth and love was left for her!

Previously, when Rong Xiu sent all those people to burn the clothes with the cloud embroidery, she still had some hope in her heart. But afterward, every single incident slapped her face.

Every single time, it made her realize that Rong Xiu cared more about that person than she had imagined. This caused Situ Xingchen's hatred toward Chu Liuyue to grow even deeper.

Chu Liuyue saw her face that contorted because of anger and vengeance, and her lips curved up slightly. "How do you know that he doesn't know?"

Situ Xingchen's expression froze.

"Since you claim to understand him, then... Do you know why he's doing this?" Chu Liuyue said slowly.

Every single word was like a sharp knife that stabbed into Situ Xingchen's heart deeply.

The blood-red color on her face slowly faded away, leaving a face of misery and indignance. That's right! How can someone like Rong Xiu not know what kind of person Chu Liuyue is? But... he still chose her! The only explanation is that... He's very devoted to Chu Liuyue, and he only wants her!

From a very long time ago, she knew that Rong Xiu wouldn't normally be charmed. But once he was... He would only love one person for the rest of his life and give her his all.

"Y-you... What did you do...?" Situ Xingchen clenched her teeth, and her joints became white as she gripped the cage bars with too much strength.

At this point, she unwittingly looked down and saw that her wrist had turned greenish-purple.

She was taken aback. If I really completely become a greenish-purple old lady, then next time... Then, there will be no next time!

Once she thought of that scene, chills were sent down her spine. I will never allow myself to become like that!

"As long as you let me out, I promise I will give you that thing!" Situ Xingchen said harshly. "However, you must also promise to give me the antidote. If not, even if I die, I'll become a violent ghost and come back to haunt you!"

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up with much interest. To be serious, she's the one who came back from the dead to take revenge. But Chu Liuyue did not become a violent ghost. Instead, it was me. Who is scared of whom?

"It seems like the person outside came to save you," said Chu Liuyue suddenly. "You want to go out with me and take the chance to escape?"

Situ Xingchen's heart beat wildly. "I don't know what you're saying!"

Chu Liuyue did not need her answer either. "I just came here to take that thing; I'm not here to save you. If you don't want to hand it over, then... so be it! I've already come in for a long time; I should get going."

Then, Chu Liuyue actually turned and left.

Situ Xingchen finally panicked. "Stand right there! Give me the antidote first!"

She could even feel that the poison had spread to her arms! Without long, her face would be completely ruined.

Chu Liuyue waved her hands.

Seeing the figure that was about to disappear from her sight, Situ Xingchen clenched her teeth and said, "I'll give it to you!"

Chu Liuyue stood still, turned around, and smiled at her. "You should've been this decisive earlier."

Situ Xingchen's face was filled with alertness. "Give me the antidote first!"

Chu Liuyue lightly flicked her fingers.

A palm-sized wooden box dropped down.

The greenish-purple mist suddenly seemed to be attracted by some force as it changed its direction and went toward the wooden box.

Situ Xingchen finally heaved a sigh of relief when the last of the mist entered the box.

"Take the thing out," said Chu Liuyue.

Situ Xingchen widened her eyes and raised her hands. "You haven't given me the antidote!"

Chu Liuyue smiled lightly and said, "I'll naturally give it to you if you give me the item."

Situ Xingchen was stumped and hated Chu Liuyue in her heart. This Chu Liuyue is so scheming! She's not willing to be taken advantage of!

She hesitated for a while and knew that Chu Liuyue was capable of doing anything. Hence, she didn't dare to be too arrogant as she touched her jade bracelet.

Then, a wooden box appeared in front of her.

Chu Liuyue's gaze gently swept across the jade bracelet. It's a Cosmic Bracelet. This thing is much more expensive than a Cosmic Bag. This is because a Cosmic Bag is easily recognizable, while a Cosmic Bracelet looks no different from a normal bracelet. This should also be the reason why Situ Xingchen could keep this item and not let it be snatched away by Emperor Jiawen.

"This is the box the Empress left behind." Situ Xingchen took a deep breath in and finally pushed the wooden container forward. "As long as you can open the metal cage, the item inside the wooden container is yours."

Then, she took a step back as if she genuinely wanted to hand the item over. However, she sneered in her heart. There's a strong lock on the cage. If Chu Liuyue wants to take the item, she has to solve this problem. If she can't solve it, the item will still be mine. If she solves it... then the metal cage will definitely be opened! I can then take the chance to escape!

Anyway, with Elder Zong Ye outside, I can definitely succeed.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes as if her head hurt.

Situ Xingchen stood quietly, but she secretly circulated her aura, waiting to deal a fatal blow.

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue said lightly, "Tuan Zi, bring the item over."

A red figure suddenly jumped out and lunged toward the wooden box.

Situ Xingchen knitted her brows and finally recognized it as Chu Liuyue's blood ferret.

The next moment, she heard 'kacha.'

A hole appeared in the cage.