

The Doctor 541

Chapter 541: Stand Up

The few of them turned around and saw a beautiful woman in red—it was Chu Liuyue.

A smile was plastered on her face as if she was asking casually, but everyone could tell that this quarrel was just the disciples fighting for a seat on the surface. In actual fact, it was the Jiu Xing Alliance challenging Chong Xu Cabinet's position as one of the four largest clans.

Whoever intervenes at this point will be dragged into this war. Why would Chu Liuyue suddenly start caring about this?

When that young man saw that it was Chu Liuyue, he restrained his anger slightly. Rumors have it that she, Jian Fengchi, and Mu Qinghe have an extraordinary relationship. I can't offend either of the latter two.

He stiffly changed his fierce expression into a smile. "Ms. Chu, what does this mean?"

With a smile on her face, Chu Liuyue asked, "Ah. Young Master, please don't misunderstand; I was just curious. If this seat belongs to them, why do you want to fight with them?"

Chu Liuyue's words were too direct, and she directly made the man cough. "If I don't remember wrongly... This lady seems to be someone that your Jiu Xing Alliance brought back from outside Heaven's Canopy. She hasn't entered your clan yet, so why did you start calling each other Senior Brother and Junior Sister?"

At this moment, the woman in purple's face turned ugly. Isn't she outright scolding me?!

Chu Liuyue looked at the woman with a round face as she smiled and asked, "I heard that only the disciples from the four biggest clans could stay here, right?"

The woman with a round face didn't expect that Chu Liuyue would suddenly help, so she nodded her head dazedly. "That's right; the four biggest clans are the strongest existences in Xi Ling. They're Dragon Teeth Mountain, Sky-Soaring Clan, Purple Xiao Sword Sect, and our Chong Xu Cabinet, respectively. When we came in just now, the pageboy had already stated that the position was left for us."

They were talking about seats, but it was actually about status.

Chu Liuyue nodded and looked at the two people from the Jiu Xing Alliance. "Since this seat is left for the four biggest clans, then may I know whether... Jiu Xing Alliance is one of them?"

The two of them instantly became awkward. Isn't Chu Liuyue asking the obvious? It's precisely because we currently aren't that we purposely did this to replace Chong Xu Cabinet. She just asked so directly. What should we say?

The woman in purple said indignantly, "Chong Xu Cabinet isn't the previous Chong Xu Cabinet anymore! Just like her—her ranking in the Wan Zheng Competition was behind mine! Just based on this alone, she has no right to sit here!"

Chu Liuyue asked, "What's your ranking?"

The woman in purple lifted her chin. “Thirty-fifth!”

Chu Liuyue looked at the woman with a round face. “What about you?”

The round-faced woman lowered her head in embarrassment. “Forty-first...”

These two people’s rankings actually weren’t that much different, but the round-faced woman was considered young amongst these people. Hence, it wasn’t bad that she could get such a ranking.

The woman in purple sneered. “Even though I just came to Xi Ling, I know that Xi Ling has one rule—the strong are respected! Since my ranking and capabilities are better than hers, why can’t I sit here?”

The round-faced woman flushed red, and her lips trembled as tears filled her eyes. It’s all because I was useless! If I had performed better in the Wan Zheng Competition, we wouldn’t be humiliated like this. I also wouldn’t implicate the entire clan’s reputation!

“What about me?” said Chu Liuyue.

The woman in purple was suddenly dazed. “What?”

Chu Liuyue smiled slightly. “I’m first. Don’t I have more rights to sit here?”

The woman in purple was stumped as she stuttered, “B-but... You’re not even interested in this seat! Why are you purposely making it difficult for us?”

“It’s my business if I’m interested or not. You just have to answer my previous question.” Chu Liuyue looked at her nonchalantly.

“You...” The woman in purple was enraged as her voice became sharp and piercing. “Chu Liuyue, are you determined to stand up for Chong Xu Cabinet today? You need to think this through carefully. You’re going against our entire Jiu Xing Alliance!”

Chu Liuyue smiled. “It’s just a seat. Is there a need to speak so seriously? But if you really want to say this... Whatever you say then.”

Her nonchalant behavior enraged that purple-robed woman.

She was very impulsive and took a step out, but she was immediately stopped by the man beside her. “Junior Sister!”

One Chu Liuyue isn’t terrifying, but she has Jian Fengchi and Mu Qinghe behind her! The entire Xi Ling is spreading the news that the two of them are very devoted to Chu Liuyue. No matter who Chu Liuyue chooses, her future position and power shouldn’t be underestimated. If we go against her, won’t we be digging our own graves?

“Senior Brother!” That woman was furious. When she met with the man’s warning gaze, she finally swallowed her remaining words as she turned away indignantly.

That man said, “Since Ms. Chu wants this seat, we won’t fight with you. Ms. Chu, please—”

He then pulled the woman in purple to the side.

That woman with a round face looked at Chu Liuyue thankfully and with much conflict.

Chu Liuyue glanced at that round-faced woman, and her lips curved up. "You can continue sitting on this seat."

"But this is your—"

"I'm not very interested in this. I just don't like them, so you don't have to take it to heart." Chu Liuyue patted the round-faced woman's shoulder gently.

The round-faced woman stared at her dazedly. From start to end, Chu Liuyue did it because she really wanted to help me? Ever since Chong Xu Cabinet met with mishaps, we have met with all sorts of eye rolls and mockery. Many people even kicked us when we were down. This is the first time that someone stood by our side in front of everyone and helped us speak up. This person is also Chu Liuyue, who we don't even know.

"T-thank you..." The woman with a round face didn't know what to do. "I... I don't know how to thank you..."

Chu Liuyue asked, "What's your name? How old are you?"

The round-faced woman honestly said, "My name is Ye Ranran, and I'll be 14 in a month."

Chu Liuyue was a little surprised. This woman looks like she's 15 or 16. I didn't expect her to be a few months younger than me.

As if she had guessed Chu Liuyue's thoughts, the round-faced woman blushed. "I eat too much normally, so... So I look stronger than an average girl..."

Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears. She's clearly still a child. Does Chong Xu Cabinet really not have any people? Why did they send her over?

"It's fine; you're very talented. If you cultivate properly, you will be very strong in the future," said Chu Liuyue seriously.

Ye Ranran's eyes lit up, and she said in embarrassment, "Master said that too, b-but... I always thought that he was coaxing me..."

Chu Liuyue sighed in her heart. "This is true. Also, remember to take revenge if someone bullies you in the future."

Ye Ranran nodded her head readily. Just as she was about to ask more questions, she heard a voice. "The Purple Xiao Sword Sect's Master is here!"

Chapter 542: Ingrate

Everyone was shocked. The Purple Xiao Sword Sect has a very high status, so we thought the people who would come would be their elders. Why is it the sect master?

After some commotion, the burly middle-aged man walked over. It was Purple Xiao Sword Sect's master, Song Luan!

Following this, all the other clans' masters respectively appeared in front of the crowd.

Dragon Teeth Mountain's Jian Shuye!

Sky-Soaring Clan's Cheng Lifeng!

Chong Xu Cabinet's Weichi Song!

All of the four biggest clans' elites were actually gathered here.

Then, the masters of the clans ranked after the four biggest clans all appeared.

The yard had long quietened down.

The crowd silently looked at each other in private as they clearly didn't expect such a prominent lineup today.

In no time, quite a few people became nervous. They are all the top warriors in rumors. No matter if it's their identity, status, or individual capabilities, they are undoubtedly the most powerful existences in the entire Xi Ling, or even the entire Tianling Dynasty!

Normally, it was very rare to see even one of them. Nobody expected all of them to appear at the same time!

Chairs had already been prepared in the yard, with four chairs on both sides and two at the front.

The eight people sat down respectively, and they were a distance away from Chu Liuyue and the rest.

Chu Liuyue's gaze landed on the two empty chairs. The people who can sit on those chairs...

"The Third Princess and her husband are here!" A sharp voice sounded!

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat, and she immediately looked up.

She saw a young woman wearing intricate and beautiful palace clothes walking over.

This woman had tied up her hair with a phoenix hairpin, and when she slowly walked over, her steps were light. She also had a faint and elegant smile on her face as her makeup made her look even more graceful.

When Chu Liuyue saw that very familiar face, her fingers trembled slightly. Shangguan Wan! More than a year has passed, and she looks like she didn't really change. It's as if whatever had happened didn't leave any marks on her.

No, she has still changed. Chu Liuyue's gaze swept past every inch of Shangguan Wan's body.

The previous Shangguan Wan didn't have a good life in the palace as her birth mother's status was lowly, so she always had a flattering smile on her face. She was as weak as a cuscutha that swayed with the wind, without anything to depend on. Whoever saw her watery and deceitful eyes would pity her. Even if she did something wrong, it was very hard for people to scold her harshly. Chu Liuyue chuckled in her heart. This included the previous me.

At that time, I was born with a Tianjing Yuan meridian, and I had everything other people desired since I was young. I didn't feel that way at the start, but Shangguan Wan always intentionally and 'accidentally' revealed envious expressions in front of me afterward, so I gradually thought that she was very pitiful.

Not to mention that I regularly helped her, but I was also always very lenient toward her on many occasions. This extra and useless sympathy made me cut my own life short!

Upon seeing the current Shangguan Wan, I know she's arrogant and prideful now. Her eyes have a sense of superiority, as well as harshness and ferociousness. She seems high and mighty; she doesn't look like the previous her at all. After more than a year of being in control, she must be very happy and satisfied. Thus, she became the way she is now.

A young man followed half a step behind her—Jiang Yucheng!

He was wearing a watercolor-green cotton robe, with a piece of white jade around his waist to elongate his tall figure.

He didn't have any other extra accessories on him, but one could see that he was elegant from head to toe with just one look at him. Whoever saw him would guess that his status was extraordinary.

Today, he wasn't wearing his mask, and he revealed his original appearance.

His brows were sharp, and he was very handsome.

He did have his skills to be able to be called the most handsome man in Xi Ling. Compared to someone flirtatious like Jian Fengchi, Jiang Yucheng had a pair of emotional eyes.

When he looked straight into someone's eyes, it very easily looked like his eyes were filled with love. Hence, other people mistook it as him being very gentle.

It was exactly this pair of eyes that lied to me and pushed me to my death. Looking at them again under the faint light, his eyes are very cold and vicious now. Back then, I was really possessed to have been pushed to that state by this duo. Chu Liuyue clenched her fists tightly, and her knuckles turned white.

She closed her eyes and took a deep breath. A demonically handsome face suddenly appeared in her mind.

Chu Liuyue's heart faltered—it was Rong Xiu.

For some reason, the overwhelming anger and hatred in Chu Liuyue's heart were gradually appeased. It was as if there was a pair of invisible hands gently comforting her.

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes, and reminiscence flashed past them. She then realized how much she missed Rong Xiu.

It'd be great if he was here... Chu Liuyue thought silently as she looked up and saw Jiang Yucheng. Now seeing this face again, he seems much more ordinary. His nose isn't high enough, his eyes aren't deep enough, and his lip shape isn't good-looking enough. His bodily aura is also a few worlds apart from that of Rong Xiu.

The moment Chu Liuyue saw Rong Xiu, she knew that he was a rare beauty in this world. But with comparison, this feeling was even more intense.

Now, I truly understand what it means by ‘worlds apart.’ Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue suddenly felt much better. Not mentioning other things, but at least I won against Shangguan Wan in one thing—I have Rong Xiu!

...

Somewhere miles away.

The skies were blue, and the water slowly flowed as a gigantic island floated in midair.

The intense force joined together and became a white mist that spread around.

A tall and straight figure in white was walking along the water. Suddenly, he stopped and placed his hand on his heart.

“Your Highness, what’s the matter?” asked Yan Qing from behind.

Rong Xiu looked down, and his lashes trembled slightly before his thin lips curved up. “That little ingrate finally thought of me.”

Chapter 543: Who Are You

Of course, Chu Liuyue didn’t know what her man was thinking. In the countless imagined scenarios, she always thought that she would have to cut and shred the duo into pieces once she saw them again before being able to resolve her hatred.

But when everything really happened now, she realized that something was different.

The hatred was as usual, and the anger was the same as before. She also would never forget the heartbreaking pain of being betrayed, but there seemed to be armor around her heart, carefully and properly protecting it.

It was the armor that Rong Xiu gave her.

The hostility hidden at the bottom of her heart seemed to have faded away gradually. This was because she knew that no matter what, there would always be someone in this world who would tolerate her and trust her with love and care.

She gently sighed and never felt this relaxed ever since she was reborn.

At this moment, a thought suddenly popped into her mind. When I resolve all of these grudges, I must personally tell Rong Xiu that I miss him and that... I love him.

Qiang Wanzhou was standing right beside Chu Liuyue. He sensitively noticed that Chu Liuyue’s emotions seemed to be continually changing before finally returning to peace.

Also... the vibe that she gave off as a person seemed to be different.

He couldn’t pinpoint what was different, but he was certain it had changed—a good change at that.

Previously, he always felt that Chu Liuyue seemed to be burdened by something. Even when she smiled, there was something gloomy about it.

But things were different now.

...

Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng respectively sat on the last two seats. Even though they hadn't officially gotten married, their marriage agreement was already in place. Recently, they were also discussing their wedding date while starting preparations. Hence, there wasn't much of a difference to the crowd.

After all, Jiang Yucheng was helping to deal with court matters now, and the duo's very intimate relationship succeeded the formality of a wedding.

The eight people sitting around were about to bow, but they were stopped by Shangguan Wan.

These eight people had distinguished statuses. Even though she was in power now, she was still very careful and polite when facing these people.

Purple Xiao Sword Sect's master—Song Luan—smiled and said, "Old Song, I didn't expect your current disciples to be so stubborn. Like before, I think you really have a way of teaching your disciples!"

The crowd grew increasingly quiet once he said this, and they looked at each other awkwardly. It seemed like all these masters saw whatever happened here earlier.

The round-faced woman instantly became nervous. If it weren't for me, Master wouldn't be treated sarcastically now...

Weichi Song's face appeared to be even frailer than before, but his eyes didn't change after he listened to Song Luan's words. "Of course. My Chong Xu Cabinet's disciples are good."

Jiu Xing Alliance's master, Zhang Hua, sneered at the side. "Old Song, is there nobody else in Chong Xu Cabinet? How can you send such a young girl—who can't even uphold her own clan's reputation and needs to depend on others for help—over... Even when she's like this, she still wanted to snatch the seat forcefully. Don't you think it's a little inappropriate?"

Weichi Song lightly glanced at him. "It's better than those people who don't know their place and try to overrule the ones above them."

Zhang Hua was stumped. My Jiu Xing Alliance's status indeed can't compare to that of Chong Xu Cabinet. Even if Chong Xu Cabinet is about to fall, their reputation as one of the four biggest clans hasn't been removed. Hence, they do have some backing.

He was so angry that he smiled and turned the ring on his finger. "Old Song, your words make sense, so it's my Jiu Xing Alliance's disciple that offended you. But... I wonder if you've heard of this before, Old Song? When you bite off more than you can chew, you will eventually choke to death!"

The air in the surroundings seemed to freeze.

Saying this in front of Weichi Song was akin to pointing at his nose and scolding him!

This wasn't just subtle—this was true mockery!

“You need a young girl who has just matured to help you... Did Chong Xu Cabinet really fall to this step?” said Zhang Hua as his face was filled with mockery.

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows a notch. In the past, Zhang Hua was very nice to Weichi Song as he tried to flatter and please him in all sorts of ways. Once, in order to beg for a pill, he personally went to Chong Xu Cabinet and waited outside for half a month. This was because Weichi Song was cultivating in seclusion, and he didn't want to send someone to inform him.

In the end, after Weichi Song came out himself and saw Zhang Hua, he then knew that Zhang Hua had come. It was also because of this that Weichi Song treated Zhang Hua very well as if he was his own junior. Jiu Xing Alliance and Chong Xu Cabinet's relationship was also very close.

I didn't expect... Once Chong Xu Cabinet met with its demise and was heavily impacted, the one that couldn't hold back the most was Jiu Xing Alliance.

“If you're in the right, people will help you. If you're not, you'll be left alone. How is it my fault that nobody wants to help your Jiu Xing Alliance?” Weichi Song didn't budge. Even though things were different from the past, I definitely won't let other people bully my disciple as long as I'm still Chong Xu Cabinet's master!

“You...” Zhang Hua panicked.

But Weichi Song already turned to Chu Liuyue.

They were a distance away, and Chu Liuyue was sitting quite behind in the crowd, so it wasn't easy to look for her.

However, Weichi Song still managed to see her at first glance.

Suddenly, he was slightly stunned. T-this girl looks kind of familiar. It's as if I've seen her before.

Chu Liuyue met with Weichi Song's gaze and nodded slightly.

Light instantly flashed across Weichi Song's mind. Yes! I saw this girl at Hundred Herbs Building before! At that time, I focused most of my attention on the seal, so I didn't really care about what was happening around me. But as this girl was very generous with her money, I noticed her a little more. I didn't expect her to willingly help us after meeting us again today.

Chong Xu Cabinet's status is very dangerous now, and people in Xi Ling City try to avoid us as much as they can. Nobody is willing to be related to us. This Chu Liuyue... She should know about this, but she was still willing to stand up for us... It's indeed puzzling.

Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng weren't with these people beforehand, so they did not see the fight scene.

But before they came, their subordinates had already explained the situation here to them.

So even though Shangguan Wan looked very calm, her heart was filled with curiosity.

She searched the crowd as she smiled and said, "Thank you, Seniors, for taking the time to come down today. I'm really surprised and thankful. All your time is very precious, so let's not talk much. We'll start directly, alright?"

Her words had given them an out, so the few of them nodded in agreement.

Shangguan Wan nodded at Chan Yi beside her.

Chan Yi walked forward with a straight back, and her hands overlapped in front of her stomach. Though she was wearing a palace maid's clothes, she was very solemn.

The crowd saw her aura and quietened down.

Chan Yi surveyed her surroundings and said loudly, "Top ten of the Wan Zheng Competition, please step forward."

Some people from the crowd walked out and stood in the center according to their ranking.

Shangguan Wan sat up straight. "Who is Chu Liuyue that came in first?"

Chapter 544: Accompany You Everywhere

Here it comes! Chu Liuyue thought to herself. After my rebirth, this scene has played countless times during my dreams. Every time I think of it, I vaguely feel like the fire in the royal family's ancestral hall is still burning in my heart as if it was going to destroy me completely.

The bright sunlight shone down lightly, and the wind gently blew as a familiar tinge of medical fragrance wafted through the air.

Everything is as clear as if it happened yesterday. I'm Shangguan Yue now and also Chu Liuyue! I painstakingly spent so much effort to come back. Now that I get to see these people from my past again, how will they react?

Everything in the surroundings seemed to blur, and only the two people in front of her were as clear as ever! It even made her eyes hurt slightly!

Chu Liuyue stepped forward. "Country Yao Chen's Chu Liuyue greets the Third Princess."

Shangguan Wan looked over curiously.

That young girl stood in the middle, and her red clothes were like fire. Her figure was petite, and her hair covered her face while she had her head slightly lowered. Due to this, one couldn't see her entire face, but one could already tell that she was a rare beauty.

"Raise your head," said Shangguan Wan.

Chu Liuyue's eyes dazzled as she slowly raised her head.

The young girl had a face that resembled the shape of a goose egg. Under the sunlight's glow, her white skin seemed to shine, and her brows were lightly brushed. It was as if they were a falling feather. Her nose was also high, and her cherry lips were on point.

Then came her pair of black gem-like eyes that sparkled as if they contained a whole galaxy of stars.

Breathtakingly beautiful was used to describe this type of person.

Shangguan Wan was dazed. The Tianling Dynasty has never lacked beauties. Besides, I, myself, am also quite pretty. But after this woman appeared, everything in the surroundings seemed to have lost its color as she naturally absorbed everyone's gazes.

Shangguan Wan felt quite uncomfortable, but what made her feel weird was that this face was a little familiar for some reason.

Jiang Yucheng was sitting right beside Shangguan Wan, so he could clearly see Chu Liuyue's appearance. Even though he had already seen her before, the impact seemed to be greater now that they were facing each other at such a close distance.

He slightly moved his fingers in his sleeves and didn't say anything.

"I heard that you're only 14 this year? Your capabilities and talent are indeed outstanding," said Shangguan Wan with a smile as she suppressed her inner turmoil.

Even though it was a compliment, her tone sounded high and mighty. It was as though she was commenting on something from above.

Chu Liuyue didn't care as she smiled. "Thank you for the praise, Third Princess."

She smiled until her eyes curved up; it was like the first day of spring when snow melted—sweet and lively. Her face also had a tinge of elegance.

Even though she was facing the person in power in the Tianling Dynasty, she was still as calm and composed as ever.

Shangguan Wan's heart suddenly skipped a beat, and she almost stood up from the chair. These eyes! This smile! S-she's clearly...

Jiang Yucheng suddenly coughed.

Shangguan Wan immediately woke up, but her eyes were still glued to Chu Liuyue. At that moment, she almost wanted to rush over and tear open that face to see if there was another face hidden underneath.

The surrounding elders all noticed something amiss with Shangguan Wan as they looked over.

Shangguan Wan immediately adjusted her expression as she relaxed and leaned against the chair. But only she knew that her hands were clenched so tightly that her nails were digging deep into her palms.

"Since you've won over the rest, it proves that you are capable. In the Tianling Dynasty, the strong are respected. You deserve this praise." Shangguan Wan forced a smile. "Besides... When I first saw you, it seemed like I'd seen you somewhere before. Your appearance... It's rather similar to someone I knew before."

This sentence kind of explained her previous loss of composure.

Only the heavens knew that she almost thought Shangguan Yue had become a harsh ghost and came back to take revenge on her at that moment.

Weichi Song and the rest were dazed, and they couldn't help but look at Chu Liuyue again.

The next moment, some of their expressions changed. At the start, they didn't think so. But after hearing what Shangguan Wan said, they could all tell.

Chu Liuyue's expression is similar to the late Crown Princess's appearance! It's fine when she doesn't move or smile, but once she does...

Chu Liuyue's smile became even deeper. Look alike? Of course, I do. Inside this body is Shangguan Yue's soul! Previously, I purposely tried to test the waters and almost scared Shangguan Wan until her soul flew away.

She could clearly see that Shangguan Wan's entire face had become distorted at that moment.

"Lieutenant Mu and Young Master Jian have said this before as well." Chu Liuyue pretended not to see the abnormality in Shangguan Wan as she retracted her expression and smiled.

This smile didn't look similar to her now.

Shangguan Wan's wildly beating heart finally calmed down. Hallucination... It should be a hallucination... There are many people who look alike in the world, so this should just be a coincidence.

But she still couldn't help but glance at Jiang Yucheng.

Jiang Yucheng gave her a reassuring gaze as he converted his force for a voice transmission. "I've already sent someone to investigate. There's nothing wrong with Chu Liuyue's identity."

Shangguan Wan then relaxed. Jiang Yucheng definitely thought that they looked alike, so he purposely sent someone to investigate. I've always trusted his capabilities. Since he said there's no problem, there definitely isn't a problem. After more thought, this is true. Shangguan Yue used her Tianjing Yuan meridian to burn herself back then, and she died in the most horrible way. How could she still return?

But her back still broke out into a cold sweat, and her entire body shuddered when the wind blew.

"Yes... Actually, it's not that similar..." Shangguan Wan seemed exhausted, and she looked much paler.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows and lightly asked, "Third Princess, is there anything wrong?"

Shangguan Wan forced a smile, but her smile didn't reach her eyes.

After a slight pause, she said, "Truth be told... you actually look quite similar to my elder sister that has already passed away. The moment I saw you, I thought of her and... I can't help but feel sad."

As she spoke, tears built up in Shangguan Wan's eyes. It looked as if she was really devastated because of this.

Jiang Yucheng lightly patted her shoulders. "Wan'er, she always doted on you. If she saw you this sad, she wouldn't be happy."

Shangguan Wan wiped away her tears. "Thank you, Yucheng. I just... miss my elder sister too much..."

She took a deep breath in as if she was trying hard to suppress her emotions. "Sorry for embarrassing myself."

The crowd expressed their understanding. "Is the Third Princess's elder sister the legendary princess?"

"Who else can it be other than her? She was previously the most distinguished existence in the Tianling Dynasty!"

"That's impossible... Isn't there His Majesty above her? Could the Princess beat him?"

"Hah, you don't know about this. When she was born, she had a Tianjing Yuan meridian and was destined to be the princess. Legend had it that she would be the person most likely to inherit the ancestor's treasures, so even His Majesty would consult the Princess. It's a pity that..."

Chu Liuyue pretended she couldn't hear these discussions. She smiled and said, "Third Princess, if your elder sister's soul was still around and she knew that you miss her so much, she will definitely be comforted and accompany you all the time to protect you."

Chapter 545: Choice

Chu Liuyue's simple sentence successfully agitated Shangguan Wan's emotions that she had appeased with much difficulty. However, she couldn't act up in front of so many people either.

Besides, to those people, Chu Liuyue's words had no mistake at all.

Shangguan Wan could only swallow her anger as she forced a smile, but her face was pale.

Jiang Yucheng knew that if he didn't say anything, things would reach an irreversible stage. Thus, he hurriedly changed the topic. "I'm sure all of you very clearly know why you're here. Chu Liuyue, you're from outside Heaven's Canopy. According to the rules, you can join any of these clans. Have you thought about it?"

Weichi Song and the rest all looked over.

The crowd that was waiting on the other side was very curious. Who will Chu Liuyue pick? She has the best results here, so she's definitely capable and talented.

"She can randomly choose whichever one she likes, right? Who doesn't want a talent like her?"

"Maybe not. She helped Chong Xu Cabinet's disciple speak up just now. Isn't that clearly going against Jiu Xing Alliance? Look at how Jiu Xing Alliance's master is looking at Chu Liuyue. I don't think he thinks highly..."

"Don't you know? Chu Liuyue has previously offended the Sky-Soaring Clan's people! Elder Qiuxi hates her to the core, so she definitely won't go there."

"I think she offended Purple Xiao Sword Sect and Xuan Feng Hall's people in the Tianling God Realm..."

As they spoke, the crowd couldn't help but exchange glances. How did Chu Liuyue offend so many people? How did she do it in such a few days?

"If this is all true, there's only Dragon Teeth Mountain left of the four biggest clans... Oh right, didn't they say that Jian Fengchi likes her? She'll choose Dragon Teeth Mountain, right?"

...

Originally, Chu Liuyue didn't really care about what those people were saying, but she very quickly felt a solid gaze landing on her.

She looked up.

Dragon Teeth Mountain's master—Jian Shuye—was looking at her with a scorching gaze.

Curiosity, excitement, happiness, comfort, bliss...

Chu Liuyue's lips twitched. Why do I feel that Jian Shuye is looking at me as if he's looking at his daughter-in-law? Is he mistaken?! Jian Shuye can be considered as one of the most handsome gentlemen out of all these elders. Jian Fengchi's face that had attracted too many romances was inherited from his biological father—Jian Shuye!

Both father and son have the exact same ice-cold eyes and intricate face with sharp jawlines. But compared to Jian Fengchi's flirtatious nature, Jian Shuye is famous in Xi Ling for being devoted. Back then, he didn't care about his family's objections and married a very ordinary woman. Even when outsiders didn't approve of them, they always had a very good relationship and loved each other very deeply. Even until this day, he doesn't even have a concubine.

One of the reasons why Jian Fengchi can be this arrogant is also because of this. In the entire Dragon Teeth Mountain, there's only this one young master. How can they not dote on him?

Jian Shuye sized Chu Liuyue up and became increasingly satisfied as he looked at her. He was really short of just slamming the table and yelling, 'My son really takes after me and has such great taste!'

After seeing this appearance, aura, and talent... I'm satisfied no matter what! My wife and I have been devoted to each other our whole lives, yet we have a flirtatious son for some reason.

Due to this, he and his wife had a major headache, and they thought more than once that this son was adopted.

Whose good son would hide at Chun Feng Restaurant all day long and be surrounded with all sorts of butterflies?

He had lectured Jian Fengchi countless times because of this, but it was to no avail.

Recently, rumors were going around Xi Ling City that Jian Fengchi spent a lot of his money on a woman. In the beginning, Jiang Shuye thought his son was playing around. But when he heard how much Jian Fengchi had bet, he instantly felt that Jian Fengchi genuinely liked her.

He then heard that Jian Fengchi even specially went to Xuan Ji Square to congratulate Chu Liuyue on the day the Wan Zheng Competition ended.

This was solid evidence! Thus, he came here today not to pick disciples but to see what kind of woman the rumored Chu Liuyue was.

This one glance made him over the moon.

Even though this Chu Liuyue has an ordinary background, I won't care about this. Besides, Chu Liuyue is very elegant. Ignorant ones might even think that she's an elegant lady meticulously brought up by an aristocratic family in Xi Ling City. My son finally picked the right person.

Chu Liuyue's hair stood on end as Jian Shuye stared at her with overly passionate eyes. If I really go to Dragon Teeth Mountain, and he stares at me like that every day...

Once she thought of that scene, her entire person was uncomfortable. Hence, Chu Liuyue swiftly made a decision. "I choose Chong Xu Cabinet!"

The moment she said this, the commotion immediately stopped.

The surroundings were very quiet as if everything came to a standstill.

Weichi Song slightly widened his eyes. As things had happened too suddenly, he didn't even have the time to be shocked as he was filled with doubts and confusion. Did Chu Liuyue just say that... she chose Chong Xu Cabinet?

"How can this be?" Jian Shuye was the first to stand up and object. "Absolutely no way!" How can my own daughter-in-law go to some other clan?

"Liuyue, you should come to our Dragon Teeth Mountain!"

Chu Liuyue was taken aback. Is Jian Shuye... openly snatching people? Why did he even call my name directly? This should be the first time we're meeting, right? No matter what, Jian Shuye is a distinguished person in Xi Ling. Is this really appropriate...

Weichi Song immediately said, "Jian Shuye, what does this mean?"

Jian Shuye cupped his fists and bowed toward Weichi Song. "Old Song, sorry. However, I don't mean to offend you. It's just that my son—I really like Chu Liuyue, so why don't you let her join Dragon Teeth Mountain? Don't worry; I won't fight with you for the other people!"

Quite a few people thought to themselves mockingly, He wants to fight for the best, and the remaining ones aren't as good as Chu Liuyue. Thus, he doesn't need to fight for them anymore.

Weichi Song stroked his beard. "She should decide this herself."

As he spoke, he looked at Chu Liuyue. "Liuyue, I'm very happy and welcoming that you want to come to our Chong Xu Cabinet. But Jian Shuye wants you to go to Dragon Teeth Mountain. Since he spoke up, I don't want to force you. You can think for yourself which one you want to go to."

Dragon Teeth Mountain and Chong Xu Cabinet always had a good relationship, and he could tell that Jian Shuye genuinely wanted Chu Liuyue to go to Dragon Teeth Mountain. If not, he wouldn't have spoken up so directly.

From his perspective, he naturally wanted Chu Liuyue to join Chong Xu Cabinet. After what happened last time, Chong Xu Cabinet wasn't like before. They urgently needed to develop a batch of outstanding disciples to continue on.

But on the other hand, Dragon Teeth Mountain had better status and resources, so it was a better choice for Chu Liuyue herself.

Chu Liuyue bent her knees and bowed as she said determinedly, "Thank you for your kind intentions, Master, but I've made up my mind."

Chapter 546: I Didn't Choose You

Jian Shuye still didn't give up. "Liuyue, do reconsider..."

Chu Liuyue smiled. "I really don't deserve your care, Master. Please don't put me in a difficult spot."

Seeing her serious expression, Jian Shuye knew that whatever he said would be useless. Thus, he could only sigh heavily.

"Aish! Fine! Since you must choose Chong Xu Cabinet, then..." said Jian Shuye when he suddenly looked serious.

I had already invited Chu Liuyue to Dragon Teeth Mountain so enthusiastically and sincerely. Anyone would know which choice is better for their future development, but she still rejected me so swiftly. Could it be... because of something else? Could it be that my own son hurt her heart? Jian Shuye's thoughts changed, and he increasingly felt that this was the case. It must be so!

Chu Liuyue only saw Jian Shuye's expression quickly changing before he threw out a sentence harshly. "This brat!"

See how I'll handle him when I go back!

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched. Is... he talking about Jian Fengchi? It seems like Jian Shuye has truly misunderstood big time... But it clearly isn't a good time to explain this now.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while and planned to find a chance to explain to him personally. "Thank you for your consideration, Master."

Then, she turned to Weichi Song and bowed. "Greetings, Master."

Seeing the woman respectfully bowing toward him, Weichi Song was emotional as he was suddenly stumped. Until this day, I didn't have much hope. Everyone knows that Chong Xu Cabinet's days are numbered. All these young people have risked everything to come to Xi Ling to fight for a future. Those who are smart wouldn't choose Chong Xu Cabinet, yet Chu Liuyue made this choice without hesitation!

"Great... Great! Quickly, stand up!" Weichi Song stood up and walked over as he personally helped Chu Liuyue up.

His originally frail appearance looked more energized as he said solemnly, "Don't worry. In the future, Chong Xu Cabinet won't treat you badly!"

Chu Liuyue nodded. "Thank you, Master."

She knew that Weichi Song kept his promises and that he was very good to her. It had always been so in the past until now.

Other than Jian Shuye being very grateful toward this, everyone else had the same attitude toward this matter.

They were shocked at first, then curious, and finally...

Some felt that it was a pity, and others mocked her. But no matter what, Chu Liuyue had already made her choice, and it was final.

Jiang Yucheng looked at Chu Liuyue and slightly knitted his brows. It turns out that Chu Liuyue had already made a decision when she spoke up for Chong Xu Cabinet's disciple earlier. But I really can't figure out why Chu Liuyue is doing this.

"Next. Where's Qiang Wanzhou?"

Qiang Wanzhou stood out.

Quite a few gazes landed on him, including that of Song Luan and the rest.

This young man with golden hair had an aura of being hard to discipline all over him.

But different from the controversial Chu Liuyue, he was already a stage-six warrior! This was an observable capability!

The crowd might doubt Chu Liuyue's first place, but nobody would doubt Qiang Wanzhou's second place.

He was indeed the top existence out of all these talents. The more important thing was that he was like a stone that hadn't been polished. With some guidance, he would definitely shine more brightly than ever.

The few big clans present were all tempted as they looked at Qiang Wanzhou with friendlier gazes than they did with Chu Liuyue.

Jiang Yucheng asked, "You can choose too. These—"

"Chong Xu Cabinet," said Qiang Wanzhou without hesitation.

Jiang Yucheng instinctively asked in return, "What?"

Qiang Wanzhou pointed at Chu Liuyue. "She chose Chong Xu Cabinet. I'm the same as her."

Chu Liuyue blinked. I actually didn't discuss this with Qiang Wanzhou earlier on as I felt that he would follow my choice. As expected. Most of the time, this kid is still very obedient!

"You want to choose Chong Xu Cabinet too? Are you sure?" The person who spoke was Sky-Soaring Clan's master, Cheng Lifeng. I originally thought highly of Qiang Wanzhou, but who would've expected him to make the same choice as Chu Liuyue?

I already made myself very clear. Why are they still asking? Qiang Wanzhou knitted his brows. "I'm sure."

After that, he directly walked toward Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue ruffled his hair. “Kid, I knew you’d stick with me!”

Qiang Wanzhou’s soft golden hair was once again ruffled into a messy state, but he wasn’t as angry as before this time.

Ever since Chu Liuyue protected him in the Tianling God Realm and called him Little Zhou, it seemed like it was very hard for him to get angry at her.

Besides, after getting along during this period, he knew that Chu Liuyue would mostly joke with him, but she treated him really well in reality. Therefore, he could forcefully accept her ruffling his hair.

Seeing the duo’s close manner, the crowd could guess the reason for Qiang Wanzhou’s choice. He clearly chose Chong Xu Cabinet because of Chu Liuyue! If Chu Liuyue chose another clan, he would clearly do the same! These two people clearly came from different places, but how did they become so close in such a short amount of time?

“I originally thought you were a decent chap. I didn’t expect a big man like you to be led by a woman. It’s really... Hah, it’s fine if I don’t want you!” Cheng Lifeng chuckled. I bet this kind of person won’t have a bright future!

Chu Liuyue’s gaze turned cold.

Without waiting for her to speak, Qiang Wanzhou looked at Cheng Lifeng as he coldly and clearly said, “It was clearly us who didn’t choose you, so why did you say that you don’t want us?”

Chapter 547: Good Show

Cheng Lifeng’s face instantly flushed red. As he couldn’t ease himself out of the situation, he could only point at Qiang Wanzhou. “Y-you! You—You have a bad upbringing! Did your parents teach you how to rebut your elders like this?!”

Qiang Wanzhou looked at him coldly. “I don’t have parents.”

Ever since he could remember, he was alone. He ate wild grass and slept in the wilderness. Not only did he have to escape the attack of wild beasts, but he sometimes even had to fight with them for survival resources.

In his knowledge, there was no concept of parents.

Cheng Lifeng was stumped, and he was so angry that his entire body shook. “You! How dare you!”

Qiang Wanzhou knitted his brows. I just stated facts, so why is this person so agitated?

Chu Liuyue gently pulled his sleeves.

Qiang Wanzhou turned around and glanced at her as he swallowed his remaining words.

Chu Liuyue’s lips curved up slightly as she pulled Qiang Wanzhou over. Then, she walked up and loudly said, “Master, please forgive him. Little Zhou grew up in Nan Jiang, so he doesn’t know a lot of things. If he offended you, I hope you’ll be magnanimous.”

Cheng Lifeng scolded, “A true barbarian!”

The smile on Chu Liuyue's face didn't change, but her gaze turned colder. "Master, even though he doesn't really know how to socialize, it's not his fault, right? You're a clan's master, and you have a distinguished status. I'm sure you won't hold it against a teen, right?"

She implied that with Cheng Lifeng's identity, he would be petty if he really held onto Qiang Wanzhou's words.

Cheng Lifeng harshly waved his sleeves, avoided her gaze, and said after a while, "He doesn't know the way of life, and you really have a sharp tongue."

Chu Liuyue slightly smiled. "Thank you for the compliment."

Cheng Lifeng felt like all his organs were squeezed into a ball, and he was extremely uncomfortable. Does this Chu Liuyue think that she can be this arrogant and unruly after joining Chong Xu Cabinet?

Chu Liuyue calmly returned and gave Qiang Wanzhou a reassuring gaze. Anyway, I have long offended the Sky-Soaring Clan. According to Elder Qixi's personality, he won't let me off even if I kneel down and beg him. He might even become angrier and more arrogant instead. Since this is so, what else should I be afraid of? At the very least, Cheng Lifeng still doesn't dare to do anything on the surface.

Weichi Song patted Chu Liuyue's shoulders.

Chu Liuyue knew this meant that he supported her, so she smiled at him.

When the crowd saw this scene, they had all sorts of weird gazes.

Chu Liuyue pretended as if she didn't see any of them as she quickly went back with Qiang Wanzhou.

The people behind continued.

Those with better rankings basically wouldn't get rejected, and quite a few of them had some background beforehand. Thus, it was smoother for them to enter the clans.

At the back, some competitors weren't so outstanding, and they would get rejected sometimes.

Those people could only retreat and choose another clan. But even so, nobody chose Chong Xu Cabinet.

No matter if it were Weichi Song or Chu Liuyue, they didn't really care about this. Hence, they decisively just watched on quietly.

Chu Liuyue stood at the side quietly, but in actual fact, she was discussing the purplish-gold Buddha leaf with the legendary three-eyed eagle.

"So, how is it? Can you confirm the position?" Chu Liuyue asked in her heart.

"In the southeast direction," said the legendary three-eyed eagle certainly after she paused.

Southeast direction? Chu Liuyue looked up. That's my old music room. Why wouldn't I know if there's a purplish-gold Buddha leaf hiding in there?

"We must go over there to find out its specific location. The purplish-gold Buddha leaf's aura has basically been covered up, so there should be something heavy covering it. It won't be easy to get it."

Chu Liuyue rubbed her glabella. That's easier said than done. If it were in the past, I could naturally go there whenever I wanted. However, how can I go there now? Besides, the guards here are very strict. According to my current status, I wouldn't even have the right to get close to the music room.

After much thinking, she could only put this matter aside and find another chance.

...

After around an hour, everyone was done choosing.

Then, the people of the front few rankings all received a Cosmic Ring that contained their prizes.

After Chu Liuyue took hers, she checked it and indeed saw quite a few decent treasures. It seems like Shangguan Wan has indeed spent a lot on this Wan Zheng Competition. These things might be valuable to others, but to me, they aren't worth much. This is especially so when I still have the Long Yuan Sword with me. Whatever item I take out from the hilt would be better than all of this.

But on the surface, she still looked surprised and attracted quite a few envious and jealous gazes.

...

Shangguan Wan stood up, surveyed the surroundings, and said, "Everyone, the Wan Zheng Competition will officially conclude here. But to you all, your journey as a strong warrior might have just started. I hope that you will continue to work hard and cultivate after entering your respective clans and become a true top warrior!"

The crowd naturally agreed.

"I still have something on, so I'll leave first. The view in Xin Li Garden isn't bad, so you can look around if you wish." Shangguan Wan then turned around and planned to leave.

"Third Princess, please hold on!" A voice suddenly sounded.

The crowd looked in the direction of the voice.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes. It's actually Yang Qin'er.

Shangguan Wan turned around and glanced at her. "What, is there something else?"

Yang Qin'er quickly walked forward, bent her knees, and directly kneeled on the floor as she solemnly said, "Third Princess, I—Yang Qin'er—have something to report!"

Shangguan Wan had quite a deep impression of this Yang Qin'er, so when she saw this, she asked, "What's the matter?"

Yang Qin'er paused for a moment. "This is related to the Tianling God Realm... I wonder..."

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched. Is she... planning to deal with me? Previously, I was still thinking that Yang Qin'er wouldn't let me off after suffering. As expected. She silently waited in a corner for such a long time earlier because she was actually waiting for this.

Upon hearing that it was about the Tianling God Realm, Shangguan Wan's expression immediately became stern. She thought for a while and said, "Follow me inside!"

But Yang Qin'er didn't stand up as she said, "This is still related to quite a few other people..."

"You can say whoever it is," ordered Shangguan Wan.

Yang Qin'er looked up as if she had made up her mind. "The people related to this are... Chou Ding, Ning Jiaojiao, Qiang Wanzhou, and... Chu Liuyue!"

When the crowd heard this, they were taken aback. These few people are all within the top ten. Given Yang Qin'er's behavior, the matter must be very serious. Did something happen in the Tianling God Realm at the very last moment?

The same guess surfaced in Shangguan Wan's heart. She knitted her brows, and her gaze swept past the few of them. "The few of you, follow me in."

She then walked to the yard at the back first.

Jiang Yucheng was half a step behind her.

Yang Qin'er then stood up and followed her. When she walked past Chu Liuyue, she paused and said in a very soft voice, "There will be a good show to watch."

Chapter 548: Scolding

Chu Liuyue met with the unconcealable delight in her gaze as she smiled slightly. "Yes, I hope you can watch it happily this time."

The smile on Yang Qin'er's face froze. Why is Chu Liuyue still so calm?

She lowered her voice and said, "Be as arrogant as you want. We'll see how long you can last!"

Yang Qin'er didn't believe that Chu Liuyue could be this calm after the matter was exposed.

Chu Liuyue's eyebrows rose slightly. "Sure, you can watch." She turned around and planned to follow the two of them.

"Liuyue," Weichi Song called her worriedly. Yang Qin'er doesn't look friendly, and it seems like she's aiming for Liuyue. About the Tianling God Realm... What exactly happened?

Chu Liuyue comforted him. "Don't worry. Little Zhou and I will be fine."

Seeing the young woman's composed expression, Weichi Song felt more assured. "Be careful. I'll be waiting for you here."

Chu Liuyue nodded and left with Qiang Wanzhou.

When Yang Qin'er saw this, she was quite hesitant. Does Chu Liuyue have a way to deal with it?

"Why are you still standing around?" asked Ning Jiaojiao when she walked over and noticed that Yang Qin'er's expression was amiss. Didn't we already talk about this before?

Yang Qin'er glanced at Ning Jiaojiao and felt slightly assured. "Nothing much. Let's go."

...

In the quiet room, the faint sandalwood scent wafted through the air.

This was a type of sandalwood that Shangguan Wan really loved, and it was rejuvenating. Whenever she was anxious or couldn't sleep at night, she would feel much more at ease after she lit this sandalwood.

However, the smell didn't seem to help today.

Even though the smell kept wafting around her nose, her panicky mood wasn't appeased at all. It even became more intense as time passed.

She and Jiang Yucheng sat at the front, while Chu Liuyue and the rest sat around them.

Shangguan Wan looked at Yang Qin'er solemnly. "You can speak now."

Yang Qin'er took a deep breath in as if she exhausted a lot of strength before she finally made up her mind and said, "Third Princess, I want to report Chu Liuyue for using unscrupulous methods to gain the Long Yuan Sword in the Tianling God Realm."

Once she said this, Shangguan Wan suddenly stood up and was enraged. "What did you say?"

Jiang Yucheng was also stunned, and he didn't recover his senses for a long time.

Long Yuan Sword...

Long Yuan Sword?!

Isn't that the legendary weapon that the Tianling Dynasty's ancestor personally made back then?

Putong!

Yang Qin'er swiftly kneeled down once again. "Third Princess! Chu Liuyue came from a poor background, but she's very gutsy and stole the Long Yuan Sword that belongs to the Tianling Royal Family! Her actions are ridiculous! Every word I've is the truth, and I didn't lie at all! Third Princess, please investigate properly!"

This simple sentence was like lightning that struck the ground and started rippling.

Shangguan Wan knitted her brows tightly. Even if Yang Qin'er were very brave, she definitely wouldn't dare to joke about the Long Yuan Sword.

She shot a deadly stare at Chu Liuyue. "Chu Liuyue, is she speaking the truth?"

Chu Liuyue looked calm as she lightly said, "Third Princess, I don't agree with whatever Yang Qin'er said."

Yang Qin'er laughed coldly. "You don't agree? Chu Liuyue, do you dare to say that the person who charged out of the heavenly pit and took the Long Yuan Sword back in the Tianling God Realm wasn't you?!"

Back then, I could only see a vague figure as the light was too bright. Thus, I couldn't recognize who it was. It was only after I was eliminated and heard that Chu Liuyue came out after me and was the champion that I understood that the person back then was Chu Liuyue! This is because only Chu Liuyue rushed into the sea of golden fire in the heavenly pit before us. In this case, everything that happened

afterward has a logical explanation. It's without a doubt that the Long Yuan Sword has recognized Chu Liuyue as its master.

Chu Liuyue looked stunned. "What are you saying?"

"It doesn't matter if you don't admit it. The witnesses are here." Yang Qin'er looked at Chou Ding and Ning Jiaojiao. "Back then, after Chu Liuyue entered the heavenly pit inside the Tianling God Realm and went missing, we all thought that she was eliminated. Other than her, only the four of us were near the Long Yuan Sword. Chou Ding, when the Long Yuan Sword awakened, you were there too, right?"

Chou Ding nodded and boomed, "That's right. At that time, the Long Yuan Sword had indeed awakened. As its surrounding aura became stronger, I couldn't take it anymore, so I willingly left. I really don't know what happened later."

Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng were both greatly shocked. The Long Yuan Sword awakened?! The Long Yuan Sword that has been asleep for so many years actually awakened again?! However, we didn't know anything about this! If it weren't for Yang Qin'er willingly talking about it, we wouldn't even be in the know!

Shangguan Wan's heart was almost about to explode. The Long Yuan Sword has awakened, meaning that it's going to choose its new owner soon! It has been thousands of years, and the people in the Tianling Royal Family have always wanted to obtain the Long Yuan Sword, but it was to no avail.

I didn't expect that the Long Yuan Sword actually awakened after hosting the Wan Zheng Competition once. Shangguan Wan was filled with overwhelming regret. She clenched her teeth and said, "Go on!"

Ning Jiaojiao bent her knees, bowed, and said, "Third Princess, after Chou Ding left, Yang Qin'er and I discussed who would try to obtain the Long Yuan Sword. Hence, we moved together. We didn't expect Qiang Wanzhou to chase after us and fight with us once we started taking action."

"Back then, both of us were very confused. We had no grudge against Qiang Wanzhou, so why would he suddenly barge out and stop us? We then realized that it was because... the one who wanted to steal the Long Yuan Sword was Chu Liuyue!"

Both Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng looked at Qiang Wanzhou. That's right! Anybody can tell that Qiang Wanzhou and Chu Liuyue are on good terms. One could even say that Qiang Wanzhou listens to Chu Liuyue regarding everything. Other than Chu Liuyue, who else could make him take action?

"I then fought with Qiang Wanzhou and lost after some time, so I was kicked out of the Tianling God Realm. After I came out, I unwittingly saw Chu Liuyue's name still on the black marble board, so I vaguely guessed that the person was Chu Liuyue."

Shangguan Wan's face darkened.

Seeing this, Yang Qin'er was much more relaxed. I guessed correctly. The Tianling God Realm's Long Yuan Sword is indeed the Tianling Royal Family's Achilles' heel. Whoever touches it will die. Since Chu Liuyue dared to take the Long Yuan Sword, then she will have to bear the Tianling Royal Family's wrath.

She quickly said, "After Ning Jiaojiao was eliminated, I wanted to fight with that person. However, that person sent a legendary fiend to deal with me. If I didn't see wrongly, it should be the rumored legendary fiend—legendary three-eyed eagle!"

"I couldn't go against that legendary fiend, so I was on the losing end. Besides, Qiang Wanzhou also chased after me. I couldn't handle them alone, so I was quickly eliminated. Qiang Wanzhou pierced through my chest with one knife, and the wound is still here." Upon talking about this, Yang Qin'er's voice started trembling as intense hatred flashed across her eyes. "When I was leaving the Tianling God Realm, I coincidentally saw that person pulling out the Long Yuan Sword!"

Chapter 549: It's Still There

This proves that the Long Yuan Sword has taken on a new master! Shangguan Wan was confused and panicked as she stared straight at Chu Liuyue. "All these people are accusing you of taking the Long Yuan Sword. What do you have to say?"

Chu Liuyue was calm. "I didn't do it. Even if you ask me a thousand times, my answer remains the same—I didn't do it."

She looked confident and not like she was lying.

Shangguan Wan didn't know who to believe. On the one hand, there has to be evidence of it since Yang Qin'er and her pals had the guts to bring it up in front of me. Besides, everything they've said adds up.

On the other hand, the Long Yuan Sword was left behind by the founder of the dynasty. Logic dictates that only someone with the Tianling bloodline has any chance of awakening it. Chu Liuyue stood no chance.

Yang Qin'er was so angry that she almost laughed. "Chu Liuyue, even with all the evidence, you still refuse to admit it? When are you going to stop lying?"

Chu Liuyue kept her cool. "Why would I admit to something that I never did?"

Yang Qin'er was about to rebut when Chu Liuyue continued speaking. "Your so-called evidence is just testimonies from you all. You don't have actual evidence, do you? To be exact, Chou Ding only saw the Long Yuan Sword awaken. As for the claim that someone had taken the sword... Only you and Ning Jiaojiao saw it, no? Oh wait, there's Qiang Wanzhou too."

Qiang Wanzhou suddenly said, "I didn't see the scene that they spoke of."

"You say that you didn't see it? Then, why did you fight with us?" Yang Qin'er cried out angrily. The wounds on my body are real!

Qiang Wanzhou pointed at Ning Jiaojiao. "You eliminated people through despicable means but pushed the blame for it onto Liuyue."

Ning Jiaojiao froze.

Qiang Wanzhou pointed at Yang Qin'er. "You joined hands with two senior brothers from the Purple Xiao Sword Sect to try and take her treasure. You attacked her out of frustration after she rejected you all."

Yang Qin'er's eyelids twitched.

"You all are clearly in the wrong, so why can't we fight back? As for your injuries... it's because you're weak." Qiang Wanzhou spoke coldly and logically.

Yang Qin'er felt guilty, but she immediately rebutted. "You're close to Chu Liuyue, so of course, you'll take her side! Everything you've said is just your one-sided account. It shouldn't be taken into account!"

No matter what, the matter has indeed happened. There's no way Chu Liuyue can pretend it didn't happen!

Jiang Yucheng stared at Chu Liuyue with knitted brows. "Chu Liuyue, do you have anything to say for yourself on top of Qiang Wanzhou's account?"

Chu Liuyue remained silent.

Ning Jiaojiao scoffed. "Of course, she has nothing to say because she did do it!"

Shangguan Wan walked over, exuding immense pressure as she looked down at Chu Liuyue. "Chu Liuyue, if you can't prove your innocence, then... You're staying in Xin Li Garden today!"

Chu Liuyue looked up.

Shangguan Wan seemed calm, but Chu Liuyue saw the emotions buried behind her eyes. Shangguan Wan might be able to fool others, but not me. Shock, anger, jealousy... Shangguan Wan is probably frustrated just from looking at my face. Needless to say, she doesn't have a good impression of me.

In reality, Chu Liuyue could feel the animosity Shangguan Wan held toward her. Without a doubt, Shangguan Wan will come up with a way to get rid of me the first chance she gets! If I'm not able to prove my innocence now, I'm probably going to be put through hell later.

Chu Liuyue moved her lips slightly. "Of course, I can."

The room fell into silence.

Yang Qin'er narrowed her eyes. "Farce!"

"First of all, I have a fiend." Chu Liuyue raised her hand, and a red silhouette appeared on her palms.

That's a furry... blood ferret?

The atmosphere froze a little.

Given Chu Liuyue's ability and talent, she should've had high standards for her personal fiend. How did she... end up with a third-grade fiend? And it's the weakest kind as well?!

Yang Qin'er and Ning Jiaojiao's expressions changed.

"No way! How can you have a blood ferret as your fiend?" Yang Qin'er blurted out.

Chu Liuyue glanced at her.

Tuan Zi was upset as it bared its teeth at her. Who is she looking down on?! I'm really formidable too! Does she think I'm not good enough for my master?! Since when did people like her get to comment on our affairs?!

"I've had this blood ferret since I was in Country Yao Chen. Lieutenant Mu has seen it too; he can testify for me." Chu Liuyue brought up Mu Qinghe to shut Yang Qin'er up.

She could accuse Chu Liuyue of lying, but she couldn't do the same for Mu Qinghe!

"Cultivators cannot contract another fiend while they are in a contract with one. I believe you all know that, so I'm not going to elaborate. But thank you for thinking so highly of me, Miss Yang. You actually thought that I'd be lucky enough to contract with a legendary fiend. I'll take your word for it. If that ever happens, I won't forget you."

Yang Qin'er was dumbfounded.

Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng looked at each other; they saw the suspicion in each other's eyes. Chu Liuyue's words make sense. Even in the Tianling Dynasty, legendary fiends are extremely rare. Even Shangguan Yue managed to contract with a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant only, not a legendary fiend. To say that Chu Liuyue's fiend is a legendary three-eyed eagle... That's a little ludicrous.

Chu Liuyue pinched Tuan Zi's ears lovingly.

Tuan Zi leaped onto her shoulder, but its cheeks were still puffed up in anger. Being looked down on because of my small size is too much! If I weren't working with Chu Liuyue, I would've dashed over and scratched up Yang Qin'er's face!

Its raven eyes stared at Yang Qin'er menacingly.

Yang Qin'er felt chills run down her spine.

"Secondly, the Tianling God Realm is the place where the dynasty's founder was cremated. I've heard that it has never been opened up to outsiders before and that this was the first and only time that it had been opened up to non-members of the Tianling bloodline. The Long Yuan Sword is a legendary weapon. Even if it were to awaken and choose a new owner, it would be decided by the sword soul. Do you think that the Long Yuan Sword would choose a commoner who has no ties to Tianling's royal family like me? What kind of position are you putting the members of the royal family and me in?"

Chu Liuyue spoke slowly, but her words were like swords.

Yang Qin'er and Ning Jiaojiao sensed that something was amiss. They looked toward Shangguan Wan and found that her expression had turned rather stiff!

This was a complex of Shangguan Wan's. She had always wanted to enter the Tianling God Realm, but she never had the chance before.

But now that Shangguan Yue was dead and that it was finally her turn, her Yuan meridian had been destroyed. She would never be able to enter the Tianling God Realm!

Chu Liuyue touched her glabella. "Thirdly and most importantly: the Long Yuan Sword is still well and very much in the Tianling God Realm!"

Chapter 550: Pay No Attention

“Nonsense!” Yang Qin’er walked up agitatedly, her finger almost poking into Chu Liuyue’s face. “I saw you pull out the Long Yuan Sword with my own eyes!”

“You’ll know if I’m telling the truth if you send another into the Tianling God Realm.” Chu Liuyue raised her and swatted Yang Qin’er away. “Of course, Third Princess can go see who is really lying for yourself.”

Shangguan Wan gritted her teeth. Of course, I want to enter the Tianling God Realm! But now that my Yuan meridian is destroyed, I will die if I enter! I have been painstakingly keeping up the act for the past year so that nobody would find out that I had trouble cultivating. If I go into the Tianling God Realm, my lies will be exposed immediately!

Repressing her anger and indignation, she turned and walked over to Jiang Yucheng.

Sensing that her expression was off, he immediately spoke up. “I’ll send Elder Duanmu Chun to check now.”

Shangguan Wan nodded, but she couldn’t calm her emotions down.

Jiang Yucheng knew that she had been through a lot today. First Chu Liuyue, then the Tianling God Realm.

It isn’t wise to remain here. He looked toward Chu Liuyue and the others. “You all are dismissed. The Third Princess and I will make a decision when the results are out.”

Chu Liuyue had long wanted to leave; she was disgusted just by looking at their faces. It’s a miracle I’m able to put up with it for this long.

She turned and left without hesitation. “Little Zhou, let’s go.”

Yang Qin’er and Ning Jiaojiao looked at one another. That’s all? We put in so much effort to try and get rid of Chu Liuyue, but this is all we got?

Ning Jiaojiao pressed on. “Third Princess, you can’t let Chu Liuyue leave like this! She...”

“Didn’t you hear everything we just said?” Jiang Yucheng cut her off coldly.

Ning Jiaojiao was stunned. “No-nothing. W-we’ll leave now.”

Yang Qin’er wanted to say something, but she eyed Jiang Yucheng and swallowed the rest of her words. Even though she hadn’t been in Xi Ling for long, she had heard quite a bit about Jiang Yucheng.

He wasn’t to be trifled with.

Chou Ding had left first.

Ning Jiaojiao and Yang Qin’er stayed for a while before they left indignantly.

...

After leaving the room, Chu Liuyue saw Weichi Song waiting nearby.

Ye Ranran was by his side.

Upon hearing the commotion, the pair looked over with worry in their eyes. They wanted to go up and receive the duo, but there were guards around. Hence, they could only wait for Chu Liuyue to come over.

“Liuyue, Wanzhou, how are you?” Weichi Song eyed the two of them.

Chu Liuyue smiled. “What can happen to us? Third Princess just had some questions to ask us.”

“Really?” Weichi Song naturally didn’t believe them. Judging by Yang Qin’er’s behavior, it definitely wasn’t that simple.

“Of course. We’re fine, aren’t we? It’s getting late. Shall we head back?”

Weichi Song could tell that there were some things Chu Liuyue didn’t feel comfortable saying, so there was no point in asking.

He just nodded. “Okay! Let’s go back!”

...

Chu Liuyue and the others left peacefully, but things weren’t as pleasant on Yang Qin’er and Ning Jiaojiao’s end.

Right after the two of them left, Chou Ding stopped them outside.

He was muscular and looked like a tiny mountain, which gave him an oppressive presence.

“I don’t care what you all are trying to do, but don’t get me involved in all this in the future!” Chou Ding warned.

He didn’t understand what was going on in the beginning, but he figured it out later on. They clearly implicated me while they were trying to get rid of Chu Liuyue! This had nothing to do with me at the beginning, but I’m also tied to it now that I’ve heard everything! Even though I won’t be punished, it feels disgusting to be used by others like this!

Ning Jiaojiao was frustrated, so she couldn’t be bothered to deal with it. “Got it!”

Chou Ding glared at them again before he left.

Ning Jiaojiao was upset, so she could only vent her anger out on Yang Qin’er. “Didn’t you say it was foolproof?! What’s all this?”

Yang Qin’er wasn’t in a better state than Ning Jiaojiao. Chu Liuyue caught us off-guard. Even now, I still don’t understand how Chu Liuyue had the guts to ask Shangguan Wan to check the Tianling God Realm. I clearly remember that the Long Yuan Sword had been loosened! How could it still be there? Could it be that Chu Liuyue really didn’t take the Long Yuan Sword? But... that’s the Long Yuan Sword! How could Chu Liuyue not be moved by such a powerful legendary weapon?

Seeing that Yang Qin’er did not move, Ning Jiaojiao shoved her. “I’m talking to you! Did you hear me?”

Yang Qin’er swatted her hand away and replied impatiently, “I heard you! Don’t you think I’m upset?! If you have the energy to complain, why don’t you think of our next move?”

Ning Jiaojiao was a spoiled young missy and had rarely been treated this way, not to mention by a nobody like Yang Qin'er!

She hugged her arms and scoffed. "What do you mean? Didn't you bring this up first? You've implicated me, but you're trying to push the blame on me?! If you didn't see clearly, how would things have turned out this way?"

Yang Qin'er laughed coldly. "The way things are now, nothing you say will work. We can argue about this when the Third Princess has come to a conclusion!"

"If it really is like Chu Liuyue said... I'll show you!" said Ning Jiaojiao in a hushed tone before she left angrily.

Yang Qin'er remained composed on the surface, but she felt uneasy as she recalled Chu Liuyue's confident manner earlier.

...

After everyone left, only Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng remained in the room.

Shangguan Wan was seated in her chair with a vicious expression.

This was the scene Jiang Yucheng saw after he returned from giving orders to Chan Yi and Sun Qi.

He paused for a moment before he walked over. "Wan'er..."

"You already knew, didn't you?" Shangguan Wan said coldly.

Jiang Yucheng frowned. "What?"

Shangguan Wan looked up and into his eyes. "You've already seen Chu Liuyue before. Why didn't you tell me she looked like this?!"

It really was about that. Jiang Yucheng sighed to himself. "It's just a similar-looking face. Why are you this bothered?"

A strange laugh came from Shangguan Wan's throat. "Oh? That's really what you think?"