

The Doctor 591

Chapter 591: Secret Signal

Speaking of which, there is indeed someone who can take out so much money at once, and that person would definitely think of all sorts of ways to bid for Mu Hongyu. This person is Chu Liuyue! However, I don't know if the person bidding is her.

"What, did you think of something?" asked Shui Liu'er weirdly.

Jian Fengchi's fingers unintentionally caressed the cold fan slowly. "There's no way to find out who is in the third-floor rooms, right..."

Shui Liu'er immediately understood. "You want to find out the other party's identity?"

Jian Fengchi nodded and shook his head. "No, I just want to confirm if it's her."

If it were really Chu Liuyue, he could give up on the bidding. But if it wasn't... then he had to win this auction no matter what!

"Do you have a way?" He looked at Shui Liu'er.

"Do you really think I can do anything? Yu Xiang Hall's defenses are so tight. It's as hard as ascending to the sky to find out who are the people in the third-floor rooms." Shui Liu'er glared at him.

After some thought, Jian Fengchi's eyes suddenly lit up. Got it!

"6,600,000!" He spoke once again!

...

Chu Liuyue rubbed her glabella. The other party indeed increased the price again. If this continues, I wonder...

"I must win the last auction for today! Whoever continues increasing the price, I'll add one-tenth to your bidding price!" added the other party in a hurry.

Chu Liuyue was suddenly dazed, and an idea popped up in her mind. This is... Jian Fengchi? Other than him, there wouldn't be another person who would say this!

Chu Liuyue was surprised and elated. Jian Fengchi's words are obviously testing her.

She paused for a while and said, "Since this is so, I'll back out!"

...

"It is her!" Jian Fengchi suddenly heaved a sigh of relief, and a chill went down his spine. He then realized that his back was filled with cold sweat. It's probably because I was nervous...

He pressed his lips against each other and found it strange. I've never felt this way before... I didn't realize it earlier, but thinking about it now, my reaction is indeed overboard...

"You can relax now, right?" Shui Liu'er couldn't help but tease him at the side, "After we go back, you must honestly tell me what the relationship between you and that woman is!"

Jian Fengchi has always walked through the gardens without involving himself. This should be the first time he's so nervous over a woman...

Jian Fengchi's lips curved up. "What relationship can we have? We're naturally friends."

Shui Liu'er didn't believe him. "I'm also your friend, but why don't I see you so nervous over me?"

Jian Fengchi looked at her coldly.

Shui Liu'er raised her brows. "It's fine if you don't want to say it. I'll ask her myself later! Faint Yuan Body... You have good taste..."

Jian Fengchi was speechless. I didn't know this earlier!

But since Shui Liu'er seemed to have set her mind on it, he was too lazy to explain as there was no use.

Now, the most important thing was to bring Mu Hongyu away as soon as possible.

At this point, Song Zheng had already yelled twice, and nobody answered.

He surveyed the surroundings. "6,600,000 going thrice! Deal!"

...

After the auction for Mu Hongyu ended, a weird sound was suddenly made in Chu Liuyue's room.

She turned around and saw a black hole suddenly appear in the ground.

A squarish, white marble stone slowly rose.

This was the tool Yu Xiang Hall specifically used to accept money.

Chu Liuyue placed her Cosmic Ring on top. A thought flashed across her mind, and 10,000 white crystals were placed atop of the stone.

Then, that item landed.

After a moment, a longsword was sent up—it was the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword!

Chu Liuyue felt energized as she easily lifted the sword.

The sword was totally copper, and only the sword tip was seemingly glowing in a peacock-blue color.

She was a distance away previously and couldn't see it clearly. Now that she held it in her hands, she could clearly feel how substantial this sword was.

Chu Liuyue had a feeling that spending these 10,000 white crystals was worth it! She admired it for a while before putting it away.

The black cage in the middle of the auction venue had disappeared.

It should've been sent to the person who bid for Mu Hongyu. Thinking of Mu Hongyu's miserable appearance, Chu Liuyue felt something harshly prick her heart.

She rapidly went out of the room. Even though there were quite a few rooms on the third floor, they were all on their own.

Every room could directly connect to the bottom two floors. So no matter if one went up or down, in or out, they could protect their privacy to the greatest extent.

Chu Liuyue directly chose to leave Yu Xiang Hall.

...

When she walked to the door, there were quite a few people who were leaving.

Chu Liuyue mixed into the crowd and attracted some gazes from time to time. But those people only took a few glances before retracting their gazes.

Chu Liuyue clearly heard them still discussing what happened in the auction and... the legendary Faint Yuan Body!

In less than a day, the entire Xi Ling City will know about this!

Chu Liuyue also exited and waited quietly at a place not far away.

After much time, most of the crowd had departed, and Jian Fengchi's figure finally appeared in Chu Liuyue's line of sight.

Shui Liu'er was beside him, as well as... Mu Hongyu!

She looked pale, and she was limping beside Jian Fengchi. But she looked very excited, and she was talking enthusiastically with Shui Liu'er. "Is this really the Tianling Dynasty? Then... Where's Liuyue? Is she here too?"

Chu Liuyue immediately went forward! "Hongyu!"

Chapter 592: Guess

Mu Hongyu heard this and immediately looked up. "Liuyue!"

Her face bloomed into a surprised smile as she quickly lunged toward Chu Liuyue. However, she staggered forward and almost fell onto the ground.

Chu Liuyue hurriedly went forward and helped her up. "Hongyu, you're injured now. Be careful—"

"Liuyue! Liuyue, it really is you!" Mu Hongyu didn't care about her injuries as she elatedly sized her friend up before tightly hugging her. "This is great!"

As she hugged the latter, her tears started to fall. "I thought I wouldn't be able to see you ever again..."

She thought that she was done for. However, she didn't expect that not only did she escape from the cage in the blink of an eye, but she even met her closest friend!

Chu Liuyue gently patted her back. "It's okay. I'm here."

She comforted Mu Hongyu as she gave Jian Fengchi a grateful smile. "Young Master Jian, thank you so much for this."

Jian Fengchi's lips curled up. "No need. Just remember to give me back the money later."

Shui Liu'er glanced at him. Pfft, he was clearly so anxious when trying to save her earlier. But now, he's putting up a front again.

Chu Liuyue smiled brightly. "Sure."

Jian Fengchi was dazed because he didn't expect Chu Liuyue to agree to it so swiftly.

Shui Liu'er lowered her voice and reminded, "Have you thought this through clearly? If she returns the money to you, Little Hongyu will have nothing to do with you anymore."

When they went to fetch Mu Hongyu earlier, Shui Liu'er had heard about Mu Hongyu's happenings in a short amount of time.

Jian Fengchi raised his brows slightly. Hm? This sentence sounds alright, but why does it feel weird? Thinking about it seriously, exchanging over six million white crystals for Mu Hongyu's Faint Yuan Body actually isn't a loss...

Mu Hongyu's emotions came and went quickly. After crying for a while and releasing all her indignation and reminiscence from the past few days, she felt better.

Noticing that she had calmed down, Chu Liuyue gently said, "Hongyu, we'll go home first, okay?"

I really need to treat her wounds as soon as possible.

Mu Hongyu finally let go of her, but she still clutched the other's hands tightly. She rapidly wiped her tears away and nodded forcefully. "Okay!"

...

The few of them left together, and Jiang Yuzhi coincidentally came out.

Seeing the few of their back views, Jiang Yuzhi knitted her brows in confusion. Isn't that Jian Fengchi? The person beside him seems to be Chun Feng Restaurant's Shui Liu'er.

She was previously following behind them and coincidentally saw the woman with the Faint Yuan Body walking out. Could the person who bid for that woman earlier be Jian Fengchi?

At the start, she was still shocked. But a thought popped up in her mind, and she realized that Jian Fengchi did have such financial power and charm.

He was always carefree and only did the things that he liked.

There were many aristocratic children in Xi Ling City, and most of them were controlled by their families. But only Jian Fengchi... was living his life in a very carefree manner.

Besides, who didn't know that he bet on Chu Liuyue to take first place and earned a huge sum of money a few days ago?

But the girl he bumped into later... As she was a distance away and Jian Fengchi and Shui Liu'er blocked her vision, Jiang Yuzhi couldn't see that person's appearance clearly. However, she is obviously a woman. Not only does that woman know Jian Fengchi, but it also seems like she knows the woman who

was auctioned... If not, the two of them wouldn't be this close. Besides, I feel that the back view is a little familiar as if I've seen it before...

"Yuzhi, what are you looking at?" Xiahou Tingan walked out and followed her line of sight, but there was nobody there. Hence, he curiously asked that question.

Jiang Yuzhi fell into deep thought. "The previous six million-plus bid was made by Jian Fengchi."

"It's actually him?" Xiahou Tingan was stunned. It's no wonder it was so much money...

Xiahou Tingan instantly felt jealous and unfair. We clearly have similar statuses and identities, but it's already very hard for me to spend 10,000 white crystals to buy a sword. On the other hand, Jian Fengchi can just casually throw out a few million. This difference is like heaven and earth.

Xiahou Tingan forced a smile and said, "You also know that he's always like this. Just because he's Dragon Teeth Mountain's young master, he does whatever he pleases..."

Jiang Yuzhi lightly grunted. "That's because he can earn money! If not, do you really think Jian Shuye will let him be?"

Xiahou Tingan was stumped, and his expression was ugly. What does Jiang Yuzhi mean? Does she look down on me?

But Jiang Yuzhi didn't notice the change in his expression as she unwittingly muttered, "But that woman..."

"Which woman?" asked Xiahou Tingan.

Jiang Yuzhi briefly described the scene she saw just now.

Xiahou Tingan kept quiet for a moment and suddenly thought of something. "Oh, yes. I previously went to ask around, and guess who came here today?"

"Who?"

"A girl with the last name Chu!" Xiahou Tingan pulled Jiang Yuzhi to the side. After ensuring that nobody was around, he lowered his voice and said, "The people from Yu Xiang Hall have tight lips. No matter how we ask, they'll definitely not reveal the VIPs' identities. However, we can ask the pageboys at the front!"

This was the method he brought up to Jiang Yuzhi previously.

"Whoever comes here has to enter from the main entrance, and the pageboys remember them clearly. We have seen all the people on the first and second floors, so the remaining ones not seen have to be in the rooms."

"I previously went to ask, and there was indeed a new customer today! If I haven't guessed wrongly... It should be Chu Liuyue!" Xiahou Tingan couldn't conceal his excitement.

Actually, it was quite hard for him to find out about this, and he had spent a lot of effort. But now, it seemed like it was worth it.

Jiang Yuzhi found it weird at first and was shocked later on. After piecing everything together, she could basically guess what happened. "So it means that the woman I saw earlier was Chu Liuyue?"

She indeed has an extraordinary relationship with Jian Fengchi. Besides... she also came from outside Heaven's Canopy! Perhaps... they already knew each other earlier on?

"Not only this, but I also suspect that the person who snatched the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword was her." Xiahou Tingan boomed, "She did similar things previously. Who knows if she'd do it a second time? I knew that the sword wasn't worth 10,000 white crystals. Why would someone fork out so much money... She was clearly targeting us!"

No matter if it was targeting Jiang Yuzhi and me... She is too arrogant!

"You're right... It must be her!" Jiang Yuzhi's expression changed, and she clenched her silver teeth. Most people in Xi Ling City would give in to me because of my brother, except for that Chu Liuyue!

"I want to look for her!" Jiang Yuzhi's blood boiled as she turned around and was about to chase them.

Xiahou Tingan hurriedly pulled her back. "Yuzhi, we can't go there now! Did you forget about what I told you earlier on?"

Jiang Yuzhi paused in her tracks.

"Besides, she did spend money and legitimately bid for that sword today. If we go over like that, we're not in the right..."

Jiang Yuzhi's chest rose and dropped rapidly. After a while, she said with much hatred, "I won't let her off so easily next time! I'll find my brother right away!"

Chapter 593: Favor

Chu Liuyue brought Mu Hongyu back to her residence. Jian Fengchi and Shui Liu'er also followed them.

Chu Liuyue first let Mu Hongyu take a shower before carefully treating her wounds, applying medicine, bandaging them, and giving her a new set of clothes to change into.

She even helped treat the golden mane bear cub's wounds. It was good that its skin was thick and that it could recover very quickly.

After Mu Hongyu assured Chu Liuyue several times that she was okay, her heart finally settled down.

After cleaning up, the master and fiend subordinate didn't seem as unkempt and pitiful as before.

Chu Liuyue took her friend's pulse and confirmed that most of her wounds were superficial and that she didn't have any internal injuries before being assured.

Also, Mu Hongyu looked like she had slimmed down quite a bit, but there was an additional strong force in her body. This was probably why she could break through and become a peak stage-five warrior in such a short amount of time.

Chu Liuyue wanted to ask in detail about her recent happenings, but she suppressed her questions upon thinking about how Jian Fengchi and Shui Liu'er were still waiting outside.

After cleaning up, the duo finally returned to the living room.

Jian Fengchi's gaze swept across Mu Hongyu, and he raised his brows slightly.

Surprise flashed across Shui Liu'er's eyes. So Mu Hongyu is this pretty. After washing away the dirt and bloodstains and tidying herself up, she looks completely different.

She looked bright, lively, and energetic, and her pair of almond-like eyes were sparkling. She was as passionate and pure as a fire.

Mu Hongyu walked in and curiously sized up her surroundings. "Liuyue, your residence is so clean and pretty!"

Even though it wasn't big, it was clean and elegant, which made people feel comfortable.

Chu Liuyue teased, "Someone helped me clean this place up. I'll introduce you to him later; sit first."

Mu Hongyu casually found a spot to sit down as she couldn't help but curiously ask, "Liuyue, didn't you just reach here not long ago? Why do you have your own house already?"

This was the Tianling Dynasty's imperial capital—Xi Ling! An average person might not even be able to come here in their lives, yet Liuyue found her own footing here in such a short amount of time.

"Did Lieutenant Mu help you find this house?"

Chu Liuyue curled her lips slightly. "Lieutenant Mu did help me quite a bit, but this house has nothing to do with him. He previously told me to stay at his Mu Residence, but I didn't want to bother him, so I found another place to stay on my own. I'm now a disciple of Chong Xu Cabinet, and this house used to be my master's. Now, he has given it to me."

Mu Hongyu was astonished. "Then, your master must be a good person!"

Chu Liuyue smiled with deep meaning and nodded. No matter if it is now or in the past, Weichi Song has treated me very nicely.

"Talking about it in detail, I actually must thank Young Master Jian for helping me to settle down in Xi Ling," said Chu Liuyue as she glanced at Jian Fengchi in a seemingly smiling manner. "If not for him, I wouldn't even have the right to step into Yu Xiang Hall today."

Eating, drinking, and staying all cost money.

Jian Fengchi's face instantly darkened. How dare she bring it up?

Mu Hongyu didn't understand why as she glanced at Jian Fengchi strangely. I didn't realize it before, but it seems like Jian Fengchi is quite good to his friends.

Noticing Mu Hongyu's honest gaze, Jian Fengchi stiffly swallowed his words. Since Chu Liuyue has already stolen the money, it's useless to say anything now. Thus, I should just admit it and gain a good reputation for myself.

Shua!

He opened his fan and smiled handsomely. "It's no big deal."

Chu Liuyue agreed and said, "Yeah! Young Master Jian is always generous to his friends. If not, he wouldn't have spent so much money today to save you. Hongyu, you must thank him properly this time."

Mu Hongyu nodded seriously. She suddenly thought of something and asked weirdly, "Oh yes, those white crystals... Exactly how much are they worth?"

She hadn't even been to the Tianling Dynasty, so she naturally didn't hear any of this before.

Chu Liuyue smiled and said, "One white crystal is equivalent to 10,000 gold coins."

Mu Hongyu gasped and directly jumped up from her seat. "What?! T-then, Young Master Jian just spent 6.6 million—"

How much would that cost?! She widened her almond eyes and looked at Jian Fengchi. The face that had just become a little rosy paled faintly. I was previously still thinking that I couldn't let them help me for free. When I have money in the future, I must return it. But this astronomical figure...

"I, I... Even if you sell me, I won't be worth this much!" stuttered Mu Hongyu.

Chu Liuyue waved at her and gestured for her to sit down. "Silly kid, you were just sold for this price."

Ah, I think it did happen... Mu Hongyu looked dazed. "T-then, what should I do... I... I..."

Chu Liuyue comforted her and patted her hands. With a smile on her face, she said, "Hongyu, Young Master Jian helped you without a care because of your friendship. How can he still want you to return him the money? Otherwise, he'll become someone disloyal. Young Master Jian, don't you think so?"

Jian Fengchi's brows twitched harshly. I knew Chu Liuyue wouldn't let me off so easily! Even though I originally didn't want Mu Hongyu to return me the money, she is intending on letting me waste my entire 6.6 million white crystals!

However, he couldn't even say anything.

"...Of course... I can still fork out this amount of money..." said Jian Fengchi as he clenched his teeth.

Mu Hongyu felt slightly at ease, but she still felt bad. "B-but... this money is a lot to me... This time, I really owe you guys a huge favor..."

"Hongyu, you're being too polite. We're all friends, and we should help each other. Even without Young Master Jian today, I'd still save you."

Mu Hongyu heard her words, and tears welled up in her eyes. "Liuyue, you're so kind."

Jian Fengchi was stunned. Am I not the one who forked out the money? Why did she suddenly thank Chu Liuyue?!

Shui Liu'er watched on with much interest. Tsk tsk, Chu Liuyue is amazing! She can actually restrain Jian Fengchi to this extent! The young master of Dragon Teeth Mountain—who usually does whatever he wanted—has finally met his match. I haven't seen such an aggrieved expression on Jian Fengchi for a long time!

Jian Fengchi seemed to have detected her gaze that seemed as if she was watching a show, and he glanced at her coldly.

Shui Liu'er didn't say a word but smiled politely. Why are you looking at me? If you have the guts, you can go and fight with Chu Liuyue!

Jian Fengchi resigned himself to his fate and retracted his gaze. I knew none of you could be depended on! For some reason, I'm always at a disadvantage when I face Chu Liuyue. This feeling of being unable to do anything is really like...

"Hongyu, we kept talking about us, but let's talk about you now!" Chu Liuyue looked at her friend. "Why did you suddenly come to Xi Ling?"

Chapter 594: Stay Then

Mu Hongyu sighed. "This started half a month ago..."

Originally, after Chu Liuyue left the Imperial City, Mu Hongyu also took leave from the academy and planned to follow her mother home.

Ever since she went to the Imperial City to study, she had never gone home before. Her mother's body was recovering this time, so she wanted to go back and reunite with her family.

However, she didn't expect to meet with an ambush midway.

It turned out that Elder Wu Shan had betrayed them and attracted people to come and assassinate them.

Amidst the panic, Mu Hongyu used herself as bait and diverted those people's attention so that Elder Ji Chang could bring her mother away and leave.

But because her mother kept objecting, Mu Hongyu personally used her sword and knocked her out cold.

Mu Hongyu originally thought that she was done for, but she fell down from the cliff and landed in the rapid waves at the verge of death. She was severely injured then and floated in the river for three whole days.

If it weren't for the golden mane bear cub, she might not have made it to this day and would've died in the river.

After surviving those blurry three days, she finally saw a boat at the lower stream.

There were more than 20 people on the boat, and they all seemed to be strong warriors.

Back then, she vaguely felt something amiss. But she was hovering between the edge of life and death, so she couldn't care much when she saw a chance for survival. Hence, she tried her best to beg and used all her money on her to exchange for a chance to get onto the boat.

She thought that as long as she could make it to the shore, she would definitely have a way to go back.

In the end, she didn't expect that she arrived at the edge of Heaven's Canopy when the boat stopped once again.

When Emperor Jiawen previously summoned Heaven's Canopy, Mu Hongyu had seen it from afar. So when she saw the gigantic curtain-like Heaven's Canopy, she finally realized that the boat she got on wasn't an ordinary problem.

When the group of people was planning to get down from the boat, they were accidentally discovered and were chased and killed.

Amidst the messy battle, Mu Hongyu ran with all her might but fainted in the end as her body couldn't support her any longer.

When she woke up once again, she realized that she was alone and that she had arrived within Heaven's Canopy.

She and the golden mane bear cub were dazed and helpless as they continued to walk on.

When they were hungry, they would eat grass. When they were tired, they would lie directly on the ground to rest.

They suffered more than they ever did in the past decades.

She walked like this for another two days and met with a group of people, and those people were from Yu Xiang Hall.

They were originally passing by unwittingly, and they caught Mu Hongyu when they saw her walking alone at the edge of Heaven's Canopy.

Actually, they didn't think of Mu Hongyu as much earlier on. But when they later discovered that Mu Hongyu could teleport on the spot and freely travel from this place to another, they realized her uniqueness.

In the end, they brought her back to Xi Ling.

Mu Hongyu tried to escape two or three times in between, but she was quickly captured by them.

To make her become more obedient, they fed her some medicine. The next time she woke up, she was within the metal cage.

After Mu Hongyu finished talking, the room fell into a long silence.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and rubbed her brows. "...Those people on the boat should've been smuggling in."

There was indeed such a special existence outside of Heaven's Canopy. They hadn't attained the abilities of a stage-seven warrior, and they didn't know anyone within Heaven's Canopy. Hence, they couldn't legitimately enter Heaven's Canopy.

But they had all sorts of imaginations and expectations toward Heaven's Canopy, so they racked their brains and used all sorts of ways to smuggle into Heaven's Canopy.

Heaven's Canopy was very wide. Even if many countries had sent countless warriors to guard the place, they couldn't ensure that every area could successfully defend against these people.

Mu Hongyu should've coincidentally caught up with a batch of them. Chu Liuyue thought about all the experiences her friend had mentioned and couldn't help but sigh deeply. "...It's really the miracle of all miracles for you to be able to live until now..."

This journey was perilous and filled with all sorts of dangers. If she was careless during any part of the journey, she would've been finished.

Yet, Mu Hongyu was lucky enough to avoid all of them... and even coincidentally met with them! One could almost say that she had help from the heavens.

At the side, Jian Fengchi and Shui Liu'er also had conflicted expressions.

When they saw Mu Hongyu's injuries previously, they knew that she suffered during this period. But when she voiced out those matters, it still far exceeded their expectations.

Jian Fengchi slowly sighed and softly muttered, "This means that my six million-plus white crystals weren't spent in vain..."

Shui Liu'er glared at him. Do you know how to talk? Isn't he always gentle, sensitive, and understanding when facing girls? Why does he only know how to say this in front of Mu Hongyu?

Jian Fengchi also seemed to have felt that it was inappropriate, so he coughed. It's good that Mu Hongyu doesn't seem to care about this.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while and said, "Your Faint Yuan Body... What's up with that?"

Mu Hongyu shrugged her shoulders and looked innocent. "I don't know either. I think I suddenly became like that. After Yu Xiang Hall's people caught me, I accidentally heard that they wanted to sell me, so I was scared and kept thinking of escaping. In the end, I somehow managed to end up in another place."

"They found me quite quickly after that, so I took advantage of the time when they weren't paying attention and tried again. And I succeeded! I then realized there was something wrong with my body."

Chu Liuyue curled her lips slightly. How is this something wrong? This is an enormous opportunity! The Faint Yuan Body hasn't appeared in the world for the past thousands of years. It's no wonder that Yu Xiang Hall's people wanted to find her no matter what and even specifically sent her to Xi Ling.

Mu Hongyu thought for a moment and said, "Oh, yes. When I floated in the river for three days and boarded the ship after, my abilities seemed to strengthen slowly. When Yu Xiang Hall's people found me, I finally stopped at the standard of a peak stage-five warrior. I think... It's related to that river water? But none of the people on the boat were the same as me..."

Her body came without rhyme or reason, and she didn't even know how she managed to break through.

Chu Liuyue smiled. Now, we can't find out when and how Mu Hongyu suddenly gained the Faint Yuan Body. But this isn't important. The important thing is that she has the Faint Yuan Body!

This was something that countless people begged for but couldn't get, yet Mu Hongyu managed to gain it suddenly.

If they talked about it out loud, they would cause a lot of people to be envious to death.

"Hongyu, since those matters have already passed, you don't have to think about them anymore. Since you're already in Xi Ling now, then you should just stay here. You already have the Faint Yuan Body, so your talents are astonishing, and your potential is unlimited. If you go back to Yao Chen again, your progress will just be delayed. Only by staying here can you become a top warrior!"

Chapter 595: I Disagree

Mu Hongyu's eyes lit up.

None of the cultivators in the world wouldn't want to become stronger—Mu Hongyu was no exception.

In the past, she didn't know what the Faint Yuan Body was. She only gradually understood that she had gained a rare body type after she heard Song Zheng talking to the crowd below when she was trapped in the metal cage.

Hearing Chu Liuyue say this, she felt tempted too. "Can I really stay here?"

Tianling Dynasty, imperial capital Xi Ling... These were places that she didn't even dare think about in the past.

Chu Liuyue said affirmatively, "Of course, you can. Even though you smuggled over at first, Young Master Jian has already bid for you. You have become his man, so naturally, you can stay legitimately."

Jian Fengchi's wrist moved, and the fan gently hit his brow bone. He looked down, and nobody could see his expression. My man... This sounds...

Mu Hongyu nodded in deep thought. "Does this mean that I always have to be beside him in the future? Didn't those people say that I'm a... slave..."

Mu Hongyu said the last word very hesitantly.

She didn't know how she suddenly became a slave. In the past, she was still a princess in Country Yao Chen no matter what. Yet, she suddenly became a slave in the blink of an eye when she reached here.

Anybody would find it hard to accept.

Chu Liuyue explained the Tianling Dynasty's law to her. "...Though you didn't do it on purpose, you did smuggle over. Besides, Yu Xiang Hall's people have already openly auctioned you, and this incident will spread very quickly. Thus, everyone will immediately think that you're a..."

Every word that Chu Liuyue said caused Mu Hongyu's face to darken one shade further.

Jian Fengchi suddenly said, "Actually, there is a way to get rid of your slave status."

Mu Hongyu's eyes lit up. "Really? What way?"

But Jian Fengchi didn't immediately continue his sentence.

An idea popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind, and she looked at him with doubts.

In the Tianling Dynasty, even the slave's master had no right to cancel one's slave status secretly.

There are only two ways to get rid of this status.

One: the slave had to achieve a big accomplishment and receive immunity from the emperor. But this type of situation was very rare, and its number of occurrences could be counted with one hand in the Tianling Dynasty's thousand-year history.

The second was... marriage. If the master and slave got married, the slave's status would naturally be canceled.

This was the way most slaves used to change their status.

This way wasn't actually that simple either because a slave's status was very lowly amongst the Tianling Dynasty's crowd. If one married a slave, they would always receive all sorts of mockery and contempt. Normally, the master wouldn't be willing to suffer all of this just for a slave.

This was unless the slave had strong powers. After all, this was a world where the strong were respected.

But comparatively, this was much simpler than the first way.

Mu Hongyu definitely couldn't go for the first method, so Jian Fengchi was most likely talking about the second method.

Shui Liu'er seemed to have noticed something as she suddenly looked at Jian Fengchi, and shock flashed across her eyes. What exactly is Jian Fengchi thinking? He's Mu Hongyu's master now! Does he plan to disregard his status as Dragon Teeth Mountain's young master and marry Mu Hongyu?

Shui Liu'er did like Mu Hongyu, but she was still closer to Jian Fengchi after all.

If Jian Fengchi really did this, even if his parents agreed, the entire Dragon Teeth Mountain would not! How could the young master's wife have such a background?!

Even though Jian Fengchi's mother had an ordinary background back then, she wasn't a slave!

The few people in the room fell into an eerie silence.

Mu Hongyu glanced at each of them and was very confused. What's... going on? Weren't we talking nicely just now?

She said hesitantly, "If this incident will put you in a difficult spot, then we shouldn't do it. I'll think of another way myself! You guys have already helped me a lot, and I can't trouble you anymore."

Chu Liuyue glanced at Jian Fengchi with deep meaning. He wouldn't have said that previous sentence unintentionally, right...

Jian Fengchi felt guilty from her glance and averted his gaze. To be honest, he himself was stunned when he said that.

But hearing Mu Hongyu say this now, he felt an unknown sense of discomfort.

“Hongyu, we can’t settle this matter so quickly. But if you properly cultivate and become a strong warrior, all these problems can be resolved,” said Chu Liuyue seriously.

Mu Hongyu saw her definite and reassuring expression, and the uneasiness in her heart gradually dissipated.

Chu Liuyue seemed to have the power to reassure people. It seemed like everything wasn’t a problem as long as she was here.

Mu Hongyu curved her almond-like eyes and nodded forcefully. “Mm, I’ll listen to you!”

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and said, “You have two choices now. One: you follow me and enter Chong Xu Cabinet. The other choice is to follow Young Master Jian to Dragon Teeth Mountain. According to your current capabilities, you can casually pick whichever clan you like in Xi Ling.”

Mu Hongyu said without hesitation, “I’ll go with you to Chong Xu Cabinet!”

Jian Fengchi raised his brows and finally knocked on the table. “May I know if you forgot about one person? Mu Hongyu, I redeemed you, so you naturally should go to Dragon Teeth Mountain. Why would you go to Chong Xu Cabinet with Chu Liuyue?”

Dazedness and weirdness flashed across Mu Hongyu’s eyes. “But... I’ve always been with Liuyue!”

It was like this back in the academy. Since there was the chance now, it would naturally be this way too.

She had never thought of following Jian Fengchi...

Chu Liuyue’s lips curved up, and she lazily said, “Young Master Jian, didn’t you tell me to return the money to you earlier? I’ll do it, and Hongyu will follow me from now on. I’ll naturally take care of her.”

Jian Fengchi blurted out, “I disagree!”

Chapter 596: Back of the Mountains

“You suggested this yourself just now. Why do you disagree with it now?” asked Chu Liuyue with raised brows.

Jian Fengchi was stumped. “I was only casually talking just now...”

“Oh... I thought so too. How is it possible for Young Master Jian to calculate this amount of money with us, right?” said Chu Liuyue with a smile.

Jian Fengchi almost spat out blood. Chu Liuyue wants to snatch her away without paying a single cent!

At the side, Shui Liu’er finally couldn’t watch on and helped Jian Fengchi say, “At the auction, quite a few people have seen Hongyu. We were also seen by some people when we brought Hongyu out. The news of Young Master Jian bidding for Hongyu must’ve spread throughout Xi Ling now... If Hongyu joins Chong Xu Cabinet, people will inevitably overthink.”

Jian Fengchi heaved a sigh of relief.

Chu Liuyue looked at Mu Hongyu. “Hongyu, Sister... Little Liu’er, makes sense. What do you think?”

Mu Hongyu was conflicted. She had heard them talk so much, and she was generally clear that these two options would result in different consequences.

In her heart, she naturally wanted to choose Chu Liuyue. But if this would bring the latter trouble... it wouldn't be good.

Shui Liu'er smiled slightly and softly said, "Ms. Chu, you also might not like what I'm going to say next, but I still need to. Chong Xu Cabinet is still one of the top four clans in Xi Ling on the surface, but everyone knows what their actual situation is. You and Qiang Wanzhou have your own reasons for joining Chong Xu Cabinet, but this might not be the best choice for Mu Hongyu."

Chu Liuyue didn't get angry and nodded instead as if she agreed with this.

Shui Liu'er relaxed a little and continued, "Mu Hongyu now has the Faint Yuan Body, which is a top cultivator body. She's one in a million—compared to other cultivators, she's much stronger. The more this is so, the more she needs a famous mentor to guide her along. She also needs an optimal environment... Dragon Teeth Mountain is the most appropriate one!"

No matter what area it was, Dragon Teeth Mountain was completely better than Chong Xu Cabinet.

"Mu Hongyu's abilities will definitely attract many people's contempt. Even though she has already left Yu Xiang Hall, there still might be people who will attack her in the future. But if she joins Dragon Teeth Mountain... it will indubitably be much safer. At the very least, people will have to take an extra layer of consideration into account." Shui Liu'er spoke gently and curtly and analyzed all the pros and cons very clearly.

After Mu Hongyu heard this, she lowered her head in deep thought for quite some time before looking at Chu Liuyue. "Liuyue, I plan to go to Dragon Teeth Mountain. As long as I become a strong warrior, I won't be your burden anymore. I can even help you instead."

Chu Liuyue's heart felt warm. "Since you've already thought of it, just do it."

Mu Hongyu nodded seriously and revealed a gloomy smile. "It's good if I stay here, but... What about Yao Chen? My parents don't know where I am now, and they don't know my current situation. They'll definitely be super anxious."

Chu Liuyue asked, "Do you have a way to contact them?"

Mu Hongyu's expression darkened. "I originally did, but I escaped the whole way here and have long dropped everything on me..."

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment and agreed. "I'll help you send the news back later."

Mu Hongyu then relaxed.

The few of them talked for a while longer, and Chu Liuyue briefly explained her experiences in this period before telling Mu Hongyu about the many situations in Xi Ling. This was so that the latter paid more attention in case she attracted trouble.

In the end, Mu Hongyu left with Jian Fengchi and Shui Liu'er reluctantly.

Luckily, Jian Fengchi had good medical skills, so Chu Liuyue wasn't worried about her friend's injuries.

As long as Dragon Teeth Mountain could protect her, nothing else mattered.

After sending the few of them away, Chu Liuyue sat down and started to write the letter.

Normally, people couldn't casually exit Heaven's Canopy. So if one wanted to send letters, the safest and most convenient method was to pay money to someone to send the letter. But this was a little pricey, and normal people could not afford it.

However, this wasn't a problem for Chu Liuyue. After she finished writing, she sent the letter out.

This letter was for Qi Han, who was still at Yao Chen.

This kind of business valued trust the most, so Chu Liuyue wasn't worried that someone would open her letter halfway. Besides, even if one opened it, nobody else could understand it except the Thirteen Yue Guard.

After doing all of this, Chu Liuyue returned to Chong Xu Cabinet.

...

At the mountain entrance, she met Ye Ranran.

Before Chu Liuyue could speak, Ye Ranran asked, "Liuyue, why did you only come now?"

Chu Liuyue looked at her amiss expression and asked, "What, did something happen?"

Ye Ranran walked to her side, and her small, round face was filled with worry. "Cabinet Master just returned, and he looked a little weird. He then went to the back of the mountains alone and stayed there for a very long time... You might not know, but the Cabinet Master's son is buried there... Actually, Cabinet Master rarely goes there, but I don't know what's with him today..."

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. Weichi Song should've seen something in the zither room today and realized that my death back then had something to do with Jiang Yucheng. Thus, he had such a reaction. But I can't expose my identity now, so I can't advise him. There is no use in convincing him at this point, so I can only wait until he gets over it himself.

"Mentor said that you left with Cabinet Master today. Do you know why?" asked Ye Ranran again. Cabinet Master was still much more energized the day before because of the medicinal garden's happenings. But only this amount of time has passed, and he became like that... We worry so much about him.

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other. "I'm not too sure either, but... I think he became like this after I accompanied him to Xin Li Garden."

Chapter 597: At Least Nine Bolts

"Xin Li Garden?" Elder Xia Yi coincidentally walked over at this point. He overheard Chu Liuyue's words and knitted his brows tightly. "Didn't Cabinet Master say that he wanted to go to Thousand View Garden's zither room to take something?"

Chu Liuyue nodded. "Back then, Eldest Young Master Jiang followed Mentor in while I waited outside, so I don't know what happened. When Mentor came out, he was still fine. After we left Xin Li Garden, he said he wanted to have some alone time... so I didn't follow him back."

Elder Xia Yi was filled with confusion. "Did he see the item and was reminded of the past? But it doesn't seem like it..."

That zither room used to be the place where the Princess loved to go, so she naturally left her mark there. Since Cabinet Master planned to go there and take his items back, he definitely would've been mentally prepared and wouldn't end up like this. When Cabinet Master returned today, he glanced at me hurriedly, and I felt that something was wrong. I originally wanted to go up and ask, but Cabinet Master went to the back of the mountains. Hence, I didn't follow him.

"Forget it. Let's not worry about this first. Cultivate properly during this period of time. The timing for this year's clan competition has already been set to a month later, so you have to prepare for it properly," said Elder Xia Yi.

Ye Ranran said in shock, "It has always been held in February. Why did they advance it this year?"

Elder Xia Yi smiled bitterly. "The timing was set after all the clans discussed."

Ye Ranran immediately understood why and curtly kept quiet.

Chu Liuyue thought to herself, As expected. Xi Ling holds the clan competition once a year to test everyone's abilities and settle on their status. The competition date is almost the same every year, but this year, it was suddenly brought forward by so much. Some people clearly don't want to wait any longer. Not only Jiu Xing Alliance wants to replace Chong Xu Cabinet.

Elder Xia Yi kindly said, "No matter if it's earlier or later, this competition will come. Ranran, tell the cabinet's disciples about this and make everyone prepare to put their best foot forward."

"Yes."

After Elder Xia Yi was done talking, he left.

Chu Liuyue and Ye Ranran didn't say anything much, and they left respectively.

...

When Chu Liuyue went to her room door, she coincidentally saw Qiang Wanzhou walking out of his room.

The latter's aura seemed to be much stronger than before.

Chu Liuyue asked in shock, "You... used another pill?"

Qiang Wanzhou nodded. After a moment, he explained, "You said that I could continue eating more once that pill's effects were over."

Chu Liuyue walked over, took his pulse, and was even more shocked in her heart. The harsh, cold air in Qiang Wanzhou's body depleted at an even faster rate than expected. A portion of the force that was previously frozen has been released.

She knew that following this progress, Qiang Wanzhou's abilities would gradually strengthen. However, she didn't expect it to be so fast.

In actual fact, only a small part of his force had been melted. However, the strength it contained was immense...

It's no wonder he had to use the pill again. At this speed, his body will be well in about three months. Chu Liuyue glanced at him strangely.

Qiang Wanzhou's thin lips moved, and a question surfaced on his pretty face. "What's the matter?"

"Nothing... I was just thinking that it really costs a lot of money to raise kids..." teased Chu Liuyue with a smile.

Qiang Wanzhou pressed his lips against each other. "I'm not a kid."

Chu Liuyue didn't want to argue with him. Kids love to say that they're grown-ups, but luckily, I have money now. If not, I would go bankrupt just by helping Qiang Wanzhou nurture his body.

She caressed his head, waved her hand, and returned to the house. "Cultivate properly, and I'll give you a gift in a while."

Qiang Wanzhou stared at her back view, and a question slowly surfaced in his heart: Do I really cost that much money? If she wants to give me something, it seems like I need to give her something in return...

His eyes turned as he thought of something, and he returned to his room.

...

After closing the door and the windows, Chu Liuyue took out the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword, placed it in front of her, and scrutinized it carefully.

Upon standing near it, she could feel the sword's material even better. Even when it was just silently placed there, she could still feel its vague, sharp aura.

This sword was entirely copper, and only the sword tip was glowing in a peacock-blue shade.

"Queling Copper..." muttered Chu Liuyue softly. According to what Ancestor said, this item can become a top sword in the world after I refine it. Ancestor's eyes definitely won't be wrong, but the key is... How do I refine it?

Even though she was good in all three cultivation aspects, she had never personally refined weapons.

After thinking for a moment, she finally asked her ancestor for advice. "Ancestor, may I know how do I handle this Queling Copper?"

Ancestor's voice sounded very relaxed. "Haha, this is simple! You just need to find a star stone and sharpen the Queling Copper's heart against it before triggering lightning."

Chu Liuyue: "...What did you say?"

I understood the first half of the sentence, but did I hear the second half wrongly? Triggering lightning... This is only something a top warrior can do! Even though I'm not weak now, it would be a daydream for me to trigger lightning.

"Ahem, ahem... Actually, this thing isn't that hard... You should know that normal fire doesn't have much effect on this Queling Copper's heart, so you can only refine it using the power of lightning..."

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched. "I didn't know. I haven't even seen Queling Copper previously, so how was I supposed to know all of this?"

Shangguan Jing seemed to have noticed something as he changed his words. "Oh, is that so... Actually, it's fine that you don't know about this—"

Chu Liuyue was expressionless. "So you don't have any other way?"

"...Nope."

"..."

"Ahem, I can actually help you trigger the lightning..."

Chu Liuyue's eyes brightened up. "Really?"

Shangguan Jing paused for a while, and his voice suddenly sounded guilty. "As long as... As long as you can endure the lightning's strength..."

A bad feeling surfaced in Chu Liuyue's heart. "What do you mean...?"

"Um... So even though I can help you trigger the lightning... the Queling Copper's heart has a natural defense against it... So if you really want to refine a good sword, you must let the lightning's power pass through its surface thoroughly... The best way is to use your body as the bridge to endure the lightning's power and transmit it into the Queling Copper's heart..."

Chu Liuyue swiftly put down the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword, and it made a low sound.

The ancestor's voice suddenly stopped.

The atmosphere suddenly became very awkward.

Chu Liuyue's brows and eyes did not move. "Are you refining the sword or refining me?"

"Ahem... Girl, you can't say that... If it's other people, they naturally can't do this, but you're different. You're already the Long Yuan Sword's owner now. The Long Yuan Sword received a total of 81 bolts of lightning power, so you have a certain endurance toward the power of lightning."

Chu Liuyue slightly heaved a sigh of relief. "Then, do I succeed after enduring one lightning bolt?"

The ancestor suddenly paused.

Chu Liuyue's heart sank.

Shangguan Jing's voice floated to her ears weakly. "...At least nine bolts."

Chapter 598: Request for Help

“At least nine bolts.”

Chu Liuyue’s eyelids twitched harshly, and she almost suspected that she had heard wrongly. She seriously asked, “Are you serious?”

The ancestor fell into a temporary silence again. “...You need to do this to trigger the lightning and refine the Yuan instrument... But don’t worry. With your current abilities, nine bolts of lightning won’t be a problem!”

Chu Liuyue didn’t feel assured by that at all.

Shangguan Jing continued, “Actually, this is also extremely beneficial for you. If you can successfully endure the lightning’s power, it will definitely stabilize your foundation further. Your physical strength will also increase.”

It was naturally extraordinary to have lightning nourishing one’s body.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while before slowly saying, “Okay!”

Since the ancestor has already suggested it, he must think that I can do it. Since this is so, why don’t I give it a try?

The ancestor was clearly very happy as well. Back then, I personally triggered the lightning and refined the Long Yuan Sword. If Chu Liuyue can succeed now, it would mean that she has inherited and completed my legacy to a certain extent.

“There’s a star stone that I used before in the Long Yuan Sword. You can directly take it out to use it. It’s best if you can find a quiet and isolated mountain peak so that you won’t affect others when you’re triggering the lightning,” reminded Shangguan Jing seriously.

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and recalled that Qing Yuan Mountain’s surroundings had a few peaks that nobody would go to normally.

Additionally, after Chong Xu Cabinet met with that crisis earlier on, those few mountain peaks were damaged to different extents. Hence, they were even more isolated now. It would be the most suitable to pick that location.

“Let’s do it as soon as possible. It would be easier to divert the Heaven and Earth Force at night, so why don’t we go today?”

...

Night.

Chu Liuyue went to Yan Lin Peak—which was beside Qing Yuan Mountain—alone.

Even if more than a year had passed, it was still easy to see traces of the intense battle that took place on the mountain peak.

Countless trees were broken on the peak, and they were sprawled everywhere.

Chu Liuyue came all the way to the peak.

The mountaintop had been shaved, and it was very smooth and tidy, which was convenient for Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue surveyed the surroundings. After ensuring there was no problem, she stood still in the middle. Then, she searched within the Long Yuan Sword for a moment.

A thought flashed across her mind. With a low sound, a gigantic star stone appeared in front of her.

The star stone was as tall as a person, and it was presented in a cube form. On the surface, it was a dark black-blue color. Upon closer look, one could see the dots of stars on it, which looked as dazzling as the night sky.

There were countless clear sword marks on it. One could just imagine what this star stone had experienced before.

A faint suppression exuded from it.

“All these stars are the lightning power that has been left in it. After so many years, I thought it would be sealed forever. I didn’t expect for it to see the light of day again.” The ancestor sighed.

Chu Liuyue was amazed in her heart.

“Now, you just have to refine the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword against this until the heart appears.” Shangguan Jing’s voice became much more solemn. “The entire process will exhaust a lot of energy and strength, so you must be prepared.”

Chu Liuyue nodded; then, she jumped up and landed on the star stone.

Her wrist turned, and the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword appeared in her palm.

She looked up.

The night sky had fallen.

Dazzling stars gradually appeared in the black curtain. Slowly, they became a sea of stars that floated around.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and held the hilt with one hand as the other hand pressed the sword body against the star stone. Then, she began to refine it.

Huala!

...

At the same time, in the Jiang Residence.

Inside the study, Jiang Yucheng put down the pen in his hands and looked at Jiang Yuzhi. “You came just to tell me this?”

After Jiang Yuzhi came home today, she had been clamoring to see him. But he was frustrated because of Weichi Song today, so he told her to wait outside first.

After handling his tasks and calming down, he then called her in. I originally thought that something that could make her willingly wait for so long must be something urgent. I didn't expect that... It was actually because of Chu Liuyue!

Jiang Yuzhi looked indignant. "Brother, that Chu Liuyue is such a bully! You must serve justice for me!"

Jiang Yucheng leaned against his chair and rubbed his brows.

He knew very clearly what kind of person his sister was. Normally, he always doted on her and gave in to her for everything. However, he didn't expect her to become worse and to become so relentless over a sword.

"Yuzhi, let's not talk about whether you can confirm if the person is her. Even if it really is her, there's no reason for you to cause trouble for her. No matter if it's this time or the previous time, the other party gave money and didn't forcefully steal from you."

Jiang Yuzhi angrily said, "It must be her! Other than her, who would dare to go against me in the entire Xi Ling? Besides, Tingan said that the sword isn't even worth 10,000 white crystals, yet she had to fight with me. Isn't she doing it on purpose?!"

Jiang Yucheng looked nonchalant. Jiang Yuzhi can't tell, but I've understood Xiahou Tingan very clearly. He wanted to use this chance to get into Jiang Yuzhi's good books, but he didn't expect someone to intervene. Not only did that person steal his chance to suck up to Jiang Yuzhi, but she even angered him. He is the Xiahou family's young master after all, and they are still raising him. Thus, he totally doesn't have so much 'extra money.' In the end, he pushed all of the blame to Chu Liuyue.

He looked down on Xiahou Tingan's actions and couldn't help but despise him. "Do you listen to whatever Xiahou Tingan tells you? Yuzhi, you must remember that he's chasing you and that he's not worthy of you. You mustn't let him lead you by the nose."

But how could Jiang Yuzhi listen to this at this point? Her heart was just filled with the humiliation she suffered twice. "I only listen to him when he's right! Chu Liuyue is clearly going against me. Brother, you must help me teach her a good lesson."

Jiang Yucheng was frustrated. "She has already entered Chong Xu Cabinet and has become Weichi Song's personal disciple now. She's even quite reputable in Xi Ling City... If I touch her at this point, it will definitely attract a lot of attention. This matter isn't as simple as you think."

Jiang Yuzhi widened her eyes. "Brother, you're the Third Princess's Prince Consort! Would anyone dare to say that you're wrong? What's there to worry about teaching a Chu Liuyue a lesson?!"

Jiang Yucheng's gaze instantly turned cold as his eyes turned into daggers as he stared at her. "Who taught you all of this?!"

Jiang Yuzhi shuddered and then recalled what Xiahou Tingan said previously. Brother is high in power, but he must be very careful now...

She shrunk her neck and immediately softened her tone. "Nobody taught me... Brother, I'm your biological sister, and I'm not stupid. I know what to do and what not to do... I didn't mean it previously. Please don't take it to heart..."

Jiang Yucheng's gaze turned warmer, but his voice was still cold. "Go back first. I'll take it as if you didn't mention this."

Chapter 599: Your Grace

Jiang Yuzhi was stunned. She didn't expect that she would be rejected by her brother when she specifically went to ask him for help.

He would never do this in the past!

"Brother?!" She quickly went forward and pressed on the table with both her hands as she looked at Jiang Yucheng in disbelief. "I was bullied by someone, yet you're just going to let it go like that? If she's targeting me, doesn't it mean that she disregards you too?!"

Brother has always minded this very much. Why did he suddenly change his stance today?

Jiang Yucheng looked up at her. "It's an extraordinary period now, so don't get into trouble. I know you have suffered in this incident. Later, you can go to the storeroom and pick a few items you like—"

"It's not about money!" Jiang Yuzhi didn't back down. "Right, didn't they say that Chu Liuyue's backer is Mu Qinghe? Brother, can't you just call Mu Qinghe over and tell him to teach Chu Liuyue a lesson?"

Not only will Chu Liuyue suffer this way, but we can even clarify Chu Liuyue's relationship with Mu Qinghe. This will let the entire Xi Ling know that she actually doesn't have a backer at all.

But Jiang Yucheng ignored her as he lowered his hand and did his own things. I really spoiled her rotten. If I don't properly discipline her, I don't know what other trouble she'll get herself into in the future. In the past, she could cause a scene as much as she wanted to. But how can she do this now? Once I marry Shangguan Wan, and she ascends the throne... There can't be any mishaps at all.

Besides, I've been very frustrated lately. The Emperor has been in a coma all along and shows no signs of awakening. The Messed Yuan Gravel on Qing Yuan Mountain has been cleared, and Weichi Song suspects me, so I have to find a way to cover this up. There is also Shangguan Wan, who has become very unpredictable lately...

All these things frustrated him. How would he still be in the mood to handle Jiang Yuzhi's matters?

"Brother, you're really not planning to help me, is it?" Jiang Yuzhi stepped back, and her eyes were filled with anger and indignation. "Isn't it just because of her face?"

Jiang Yucheng paused in his actions, slowly raised his head, and said expressionlessly, "What did you say?"

His tone sounded calm, but anger filled his eyes.

However, Jiang Yuzhi only cared about herself at this point. "I knew it! It's because of her face! Her eyes; don't they look extremely like the Princ—"

Smack!

Jiang Yucheng suddenly slammed the table and frightened Jiang Yuzhi until her entire body shuddered.

Looking at Jiang Yucheng's ice-cold face, she finally realized that she seemed to have said something wrong.

"Brother, you're actually throwing your temper at me because of a Chu Liuyue?" Her eyes quickly reddened as she teared up in grievance. Brother has never been like this all these years!

"Or... is it because of the Princess?!"

Jiang Yucheng suddenly said coldly, "Get out!"

Jiang Yuzhi's heart trembled. The next moment, it was as if she decided to go all out as she chuckled.

"Everyone thinks that you're on very good terms with the Third Princess. But if it really is so, why would you secretly paint a picture of the Princess?! Do you think I don't know—"

Smack!

A crisp slap sound was heard.

Jiang Yucheng looked at her coldly. "I think I have spoiled you too much! During this period, you'd better stay in the residence. You're not allowed to go anywhere!"

Jiang Yuzhi was hit until her head tilted to one side, and she hadn't reacted yet.

Jiang Yucheng had already left. "Also, I'll temporarily put your wedding with Xiahou Ting'an on hold."

Then, he directly left the study.

Very quickly, people came in and wanted to invite her out.

Jiang Yuzhi felt suffocated as her eyes turned black, and she directly fainted.

...

Tens of thousands of kilometers away.

Yan Qing rushed back the entire way, but he was still late.

Everyone in Peerless Palace had been killed, and Rong Xiu had already returned with his troops.

Yan Qing felt extreme regret in being unable to see Yu Mo's farce. However, he would still be comforted after seeing Yu Mo's swollen face.

"Where's His Highness?" He also had Ms. Liuyue's letter with him, so he naturally had to present it as soon as possible. However, Rong Xiu wasn't in.

Yu Mo's cheeks swelled up as he raised his chin and softly said, "The entire Peerless Palace has been killed, and all the different departments were affected. Quite a few people started attacking His Highness. All the elders have now come, and they're waiting in the main hall. His Highness just went over."

Yan Qing was taken aback. "All the elders are here? Why did they come so quickly?"

Yu Mo lightly grunted. "Someone disliked His Highness from much earlier on, so why would they let go of this chance now?"

Yan Qing nodded and looked solemn. "This day must come. Since His Highness has already started taking action, he must have done sufficient preparation. This time... we should be able to clear quite a few dirty things."

...

Tai Yuan Hall.

All the elders were split into two sides and sat according to their ranks. The entire hall's atmosphere was solemn and cold.

"His Grace has been too wilful to suddenly kill the entire Peerless Palace!"

"Why did he suddenly do this out of nowhere? Even if the Peerless Palace really did something wrong, he shouldn't have done something so cruel!"

"Everyone is partaking in heated discussions now... They're all waiting for His Grace to give an explanation—"

"Even though His Grace holds power, his actions are too overboard..."

An announcement was suddenly heard, and it broke the suffocating atmosphere. "His Grace is here!"

The voice sounded, and everyone immediately looked toward the hall entrance.

A tall and bulky figure with a black cloak and a cold, bloody aura walked in.

Chapter 600: Iron-Fist Rule

His entire body was clean, but he was exuding an intense, bloody aura. He clearly had a fairy-like appearance, but he seemed more like the Grim Reaper that walked out of prison.

He walked over with huge steps as every step landed heavily in the crowd's heart.

Da.

Da.

Da.

He finally stood still in the hall.

The entire hall fell silent for a moment as they were stunned by this man's aura.

This man was very young, but he wasn't disadvantaged at all when standing in front of the many distinguished elders.

Quite a few people's hearts started beating wildly. Even though this person was young, he was already His Grace that stood at the top. His current aura was actually much different from before.

When he first ascended to the position of His Grace a few years ago, he was still green and inexperienced. But unknowingly, they all gradually started to fear him...

This was due to the confidence from being capable and powerful.

The crowd—which was still prepared to scold him earlier—didn't speak at all.

Rong Xiu was the one who broke the tense atmosphere first. "Distinguished elders, you are well-respected and normally don't leave your lovely abodes. Why did you suddenly come together today?"

The crowd recovered from their trances and looked at each other. Right, we came here to cause trouble for Rong Xiu! Why did we become cowardly once we saw him?!

An elder—who was seated nearer to the front—stroked his beard and boomed, "Your Grace, I heard that you just killed the entire Peerless Palace?"

Rong Xiu calmly nodded and nonchalantly said, "That's right."

His honest admittance made the crowd not know what to say next. Isn't he being too righteous? Even if he is His Grace, he's too overboard by being this unreasonable!

That elder's face became much solemn, and his voice turned colder. "Your Highness, Peerless Palace is one of the 28 divisions, and they don't commit many major mistakes normally. You doing so has disappointed the other divisions, and you're too wilful!"

Once he said this, many people immediately agreed. "Yeah! How are you going to explain to the rest for teaching them a lesson for no rhyme or reason?"

"Previously, you left for quite some time. The moment you're back, you killed the entire Peerless Palace, not leaving anyone behind... It will inevitably cause rumors..."

"Now, all the divisions have flocked over here like snowflakes. If you don't come out and give us an explanation, it would be hard to convince the rest..."

The hall started to bustle again. On the surface, it seemed like it was all for Rong Xiu's reputation and for the divisions' safety and peace. However, every single word and sentence was reprimanding Rong Xiu for being too impulsive and harsh with his actions.

Rong Xiu stood there quietly as if he was listening and as if he wasn't. In other words, he had no chance in expression at all from start to end.

His reaction naturally incurred many people's dissatisfaction.

The elder who first spoke up put on a harsh expression and asked, "...Your Grace? Your Grace, are you still listening? Now that things have come to this stage, are you not going to solve it?"

Upon hearing this, Rong Xiu's thin lips curved up into a smile that was extremely cold. "As His Grace, I oversee the 28 divisions. But now, all the divisions' reports have gone to Respected Elder Tong Chuan..."

The crowd was suddenly silent.

Respected Elder Tong Chuan's face also froze. He was thinking of taking this chance to properly teach Rong Xiu a lesson, but he forgot that the reports he took over were done illegitimately.

He paused for a moment and forcefully said, "Your Grace wasn't around previously, so all the reports came to me..."

Rong Xiu lightly said, "I've already been back for around half a month. Other than the day I brought troops to eliminate the entire Peerless Palace, I've been here for the remaining time. But from start to end... I've never seen you—Respected Elder Tong Chuan—bring the reports back. I almost thought that you were going to take power for yourself."

Respected Elder Tong Chuan's face became even uglier. If word gets out, it'll gravely affect my reputation!

His demanding stance softened by quite a bit. "Your Highness, you've misunderstood. I planned to pass everything to you after you came back... But all the divisions are now causing a huge commotion because of Peerless Palace's matter, so I couldn't care about it for now..."

Rong Xiu smiled nonchalantly. "That's what I thought. Respected Elder Tong Chuan, you're very respected, so why would you do such a thing? May I trouble you to return all those reports to me later on?"

Respected Elder Tong Chuan could only agree.

With the duo's interaction, secret waves were rippling beneath the calm water surface.

The crowd could detect the floating and intersecting murderous intent in the air, and they all kept quiet.

Rong Xiu surveyed his surroundings before slowly saying, "I naturally have my reasons for handling Peerless Palace. When I was out, Peerless Palace sent people to assassinate me. They naturally cannot be forgiven for this sin!"

The crowd exchanged looks among themselves. Some were shocked, and others were in doubt...

Respected Elder Tong Chuan hesitated for a moment and said, "Even if Peerless Palace really sent someone to go and assassinate you, you can just capture that one person and execute him. If not, you can deal with all of the people involved in this incident so as to warn them, and that would be sufficient. Why must you eliminate their entire division? Your Highness, your move is too..."

"That person has no grudge against me at all, yet he suddenly did this. It's clear that someone instructed him. If Zhang Youfang can't even handle this small matter properly, he should be punished. Besides, Peerless Palace kept offending their superiors previously, and I have been enduring it repeatedly. I originally thought they would admit to their mistakes, yet I actually raised a wolf beside me, which almost caused a huge trouble."

Rong Xiu's gaze became very cold and dagger-like as it swept past the crowd. "Peerless Palace's intent of betrayal is obvious, and they have already done it to this extent. Why should I show them mercy? Besides... saying that I'm harsh and heartless..."

He suddenly laughed and looked down on the rest. "I have always been like this. So what?"

He sounded calm and nonchalant, yet so righteous that it stumped everyone. That's right! If Rong Xiu was kind-hearted and benevolent, he never would've been His Grace.

Respected Elder Tong Chuan opened his mouth but didn't make a sound.

Rong Xiu continued, "I know that there are people in the divisions that don't respect me. I don't calculate your small antics normally, but that's just because I don't bother about them. If someone is really interested in my position, I don't mind fighting with them! Peerless Palace is the first example!"

The crowd was taken aback. Rong Xiu is clearly sacrificing one person to warn the rest.

Perhaps it was because Rong Xiu kept giving in for the past few years, so they forgot who exactly Rong Xiu was. It was only until now that they suddenly realized: How can the person who became His Grace be a pushover?

He means that... From now onward, he's going to be strict? Quite a few people thought of the scene where the river was flowing with blood, and they felt lingering fear. They all looked at Respected Elder Tong Chuan.

Respected Elder Tong Chuan took a deep breath in and said, "Your Highness, you're right. However, there are many people in the divisions. If you keep using an iron fist to rule over everyone, you will definitely incur a lot of wrath..."

Before he could finish his sentence, a swift burst of laughter resonated throughout the hall. "Haha, this is originally a world where the strong are respected. What's wrong with me doing this?"