

The Doctor 611

Chapter 611: Heart of the Sword

The yard fell into dead silence.

Jiang Yuzhi was shocked and anxious. Why did Brother suddenly come? Didn't he say that he was going to be busy these few days? How long has he been waiting here? The most important thing is... Does he know what happened to me today?

Countless thoughts flashed across Jiang Yuzhi's mind at that moment, and she didn't know how to face the situation.

"Speak!" Jiang Yucheng yelled in frustration, "Where did you go today?!"

Jiang Yuzhi heaved a sigh of relief. It seems like he still doesn't know...

She stood in the yard and tried her best to hide her figure and face under the dark night sky. As long as Brother doesn't see what I look like now, I still have hope of muddling through...

"I... I went to Hundred Herbs Building today..." said Jiang Yuzhi hesitantly.

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows. "Why did you go there?"

"I just wanted to buy some herbs... I didn't get to buy the Jizo coral I liked the previous time, so I wanted to go there again and see if there was anything else I liked..." said Jiang Yuzhi in fear.

Upon hearing this, Jiang Yucheng's anger was slightly appeased. "You just need to say what you want. You shouldn't have secretly gone out like this, but I'll let you off this time around. There shouldn't be a next time!"

Jiang Yuzhi hurriedly said, "Thank you, Brother."

Jiang Yucheng looked at her and squinted his eyes. "Why are you standing so far away? Come up to speak."

Jiang Yuzhi didn't move.

Jiang Yucheng originally wanted to scold her, but upon seeing his sister's terrified behavior, he thought that she was still upset about the slap. Thus, he walked toward Jiang Yuzhi and said softly, "Don't worry... Next time, I won't hit you anymore. As long you're obedient—"

Jiang Yuzhi suddenly moved a step back.

Jiang Yucheng finally realized that there was something amiss as he knitted his brows and walked forward. "Listen to—"

A bruised and scarred face appeared in front of him.

Shock overwhelmed Jiang Yucheng's face. "W-what happened to you?! Who beat you up like this?!"

Seeing that she couldn't hide this incident any longer, Jiang Yuzhi could only tell Jiang Yucheng about the masked man trapping her in the alley and beating her up into this state. However, she had left out the

quarrel with Yue Ling at Hundred Herbs Building and only said that she was beaten up when she came out and walked around the building.

Jiang Yucheng's face was so dark that one could squeeze water out from it, and his eyes were burning with anger. This is my—Jiang Yucheng's biological sister! Who doesn't know this in Xi Ling City? It's fine if I punish her myself, but if other people bully her, I definitely won't agree to it! Besides, the other party wore a mask, and it's clear that he didn't want to reveal his identity. This means that he came prepared!

"How tall is that person? Has he ever spoken to you? Are you familiar with his aura?"

Jiang Yuzhi wiped her tears and shook her head. "That person purposely changed his voice, and I can't recognize it at all. Also, judging by his figure, I don't think I've seen him before..."

She really didn't know who that person was.

Jiang Yucheng stared at her for a while. "Why would someone target you out of nowhere? What exactly did you do when you went out today?"

Jiang Yuzhi guiltily averted her gaze and cried even more fiercely. "W-what else could I have done... I just came out to talk, and I was bullied like that... Besides, that person even said... He even said that this was only the beginning... Brother, I'm terrified!"

Seeing her like this, Jiang Yucheng felt compassionate and suppressed his doubts.

Hearing the latter half of her sentence, he was even more furious. What kind of person is so arrogant?! He actually dared to attack my—Jiang Yucheng's biological sister in Xi Ling, and he actually dared to threaten her like that...

"Yuzhi, go back and recuperate first. I'll go and investigate this incident myself. When I find that person, I won't let him off so easily!" He paused, glanced at Jiang Yuzhi's miserable face, and boomed, "Don't go out during this period."

Jiang Yuzhi wanted to cover her face, but it was tremendously painful once she touched it. Thus, she could only endure her embarrassment and grievances as she nodded.

After comforting Jiang Yuzhi, Jiang Yucheng then left.

The moment he exited the yard, he said, "Sun Qi, immediately go and investigate what exactly happened today."

"Yes!"

"Remember, the key is Hundred Herbs Building."

"I understand, Eldest Young Master!"

...

Night.

Yan Lin Peak.

Kacha!

Kacha!

The sword grinding sound was abnormally clear in the quiet night.

Chu Liuyue sat cross-legged on the star stone as she grinded the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword bit by bit. After a few days, her movements clearly became much more well-practiced, and she was more sure about how to use her force.

This way, the process was much more efficient.

The more important point was that her physical strength had indeed increased. On the first day, she had to rest once almost every hour. The second day, her arms and shoulders were aching. But now, she basically only rested for a while after more than an hour, and the pain on her body had dissipated quite a fair bit.

This made her more certain as she patiently grinded the sword in her hands.

The round moon was shining brightly in the night sky as the cold moonlight cast a giant shadow on the ground.

This was the star stone's shadow.

Above the shadow was a tiny figure that kept repeating the same movement over and over again.

A slight breeze came over, and it blew up Chu Liuyue's long hair.

Suddenly, sparks flew.

Chu Liuyue was dazed. That spark just now was...

She pressed her lips against each other and held her breath. She then held the longsword tightly and grinded it against the star stone once more.

Huala!

The moment the sword body made contact with the star stone, a bright spark flashed once again.

"Haha! Girl, congratulations! You finally grinded until the heart of the sword came out!" Shangguan Jing's voice suddenly sounded.

Chu Liuyue looked at the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword in her hands and muttered, "...Heart of the sword?"

"That's right! A portion of the heart of the sword has already been revealed, so you just need to grind and reveal the remaining portion of the heart of the sword now. Then, you can officially trigger the lightning bolts and refine this sword!" Shangguan Jing couldn't conceal the happiness in his voice. "I originally thought you could only do it in another two days, but I didn't expect it to be so successful!"

Chu Liuyue was very smart and determined, and she did it tirelessly these few days. No wonder I grinded out the heart of the sword much earlier!

Hearing her ancestor's voice, Chu Liuyue was also influenced as she felt faintly excited. Even though this isn't considered as me grinding it successfully, it's still a good start. This makes me much more hopeful. I wonder what it will look like when I actually refine the sword.

She raised the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword in front of her and looked at it closely.

A clear peacock-blue color could be seen from the sword tip to its midpoint. The color of the sword tip was especially pure as it vaguely shone brightly with a silver light.

Chu Liuyue suddenly had a strong feeling in her heart. I will definitely refine a top sword successfully!

Chapter 612: It's a Gift From a Friend

Just then, Chu Liuyue felt a strange movement in her dantian. Focusing her senses, she realized that it came from the black pyramid. It, however, only lasted for a short moment and soon dissipated as if nothing had happened.

"That's strange..." She frowned. Other than the time in the Tianling God Realm, the pyramid has remained quiet all the while. What I sensed earlier surely isn't a mistake.

Upon realizing something, she quickly scanned her surroundings. However, there was nothing on the razed mountaintop except for the wind and the fluttering leaves.

She let her gaze linger a little longer and retracted it after making sure that there was nothing unusual in her surroundings. "Did I overthink it?"

For a moment, I thought that Zhen Bao Pavilion's big boss was here... Otherwise, I really don't know how to explain that fluctuation of force. However, the forest is all quiet again. After mulling over it for a while longer, she decided to put the matter aside and continue to focus on refining the sword.

A bright spark would fly out from the sword each time she polished it, which illuminated her face. Her eyes shone as a gentle breeze blew over.

...

The next day, Chu Liuyue went down the mountain and walked to Hundred Herbs Building to collect the herbs she ordered.

Qiang Wanzhou was recovering faster than expected, so the herbs were naturally consumed at a faster rate as well. What she had previously bought could only last for a short while, so she came here today to get more.

As soon as she arrived at the building's entrance, the pageboys went up to her and greeted her warmly. "You're finally here, Ms. Chu! Please, come in!"

She raised her eyebrows in puzzlement. Why do they seem even more enthusiastic than before? I'm just here to collect the herbs, so why are they making it seem like some sort of huge affair? While I might be a black gold card holder, aren't they overdoing things?

The pageboys bowed to her and asked in unison, "General Manager Yue happens to be upstairs right now. Would you like to meet him?"

She shook her head smilingly. "No need; I'm just here to collect the herbs I ordered. General Manager Yue is a busy man, so let's not waste his time."

After buying all of Weichi Song's belongings, she didn't spend much at Hundred Herbs Building and basically only bought the herbs that she liked in general. Although those herbs added up to quite a fair sum, it was nothing when compared to her previous expenditures.

She had no sooner said that than a familiar voice floated down from above with a smiling Yue Ling walking down the stairs. "I'm more than happy to welcome Ms. Chu's arrival, so how can I possibly find it a waste of time?"

I failed to get a good night's sleep last night, and I came right here early this morning just to await her arrival! Now that she's finally here, how can I possibly let her go just like that?

"The herbs you want have been all prepared and will be brought to you shortly," said Yue Ling, his gaze inadvertently sweeping over Chu Liuyue's hand. Isn't that... Master's Cosmic Ring?!

The corners of his eyes twitched hard. Last time, I saw her wearing Jian Fengchi's Cosmic Ring. It hasn't been long since I sent word of it, yet she's already wearing Master's Cosmic Ring...

However, Yue Ling had no idea that as soon as the news reached his master's ears, the latter immediately dispatched Yan Qing to deliver said Cosmic Ring to Chu Liuyue.

Good thing I found out about her identity yesterday, so I'm somewhat able to maintain my composure when I see that ring. Otherwise, there's no telling how I might lose control of my emotions right now...

Sending him a questioning look, Chu Liuyue asked, "Word has it that you're always hardly around, but you seem to be here pretty often these days." This is the second time I'm seeing him around out of the three times I came.

"I'm Hundred Herbs Building's general manager after all, so where else can I be but here?" Yue Ling brushed her question off, laughing. After that, he looked behind her and asked curiously, "Why are you here alone today? Where's that young man from before?"

"Wanzhou? He's in the middle of cultivation." She raised her brows. "Why does it seem like you're curious about him?"

He quickly waved his hands, laughing. "No, no. Don't be mistaken, Ms. Chu. It's just that you came here with him previously, but you're alone now. Hence, I can't help but be a little curious."

Chu Liuyue smiled but said nothing in response.

Thus, Yue Ling tentatively asked, "Are those herbs for him?"

The question, however, earned him a meaningful look from the young lady.

Yue Ling seems to be particularly curious about me—no, Qiang Wanzhou's affairs today... She gave him an ambiguous reply. "A portion of them."

Yue Ling grew anxious at this point. He wanted to seize the opportunity to find out some stuff from Chu Liuyue, but it was to no avail since she stayed tight-lipped. Knowing that he'd only arouse her suspicion if he continued questioning her, he changed the topic altogether. As he glanced at her hand, he revealed a look of surprise and said somewhat nonchalantly, "That Cosmic Ring you're wearing... seems extraordinary..."

Chu Liuyue lowered her gaze. The ring was rather eye-catching. Those with good eyesight would be able to tell that it was no ordinary item, but she still chose to wear it out.

Upon hearing Yue Ling's question, her lips curled upward. "Someone gave it to me."

Yue Ling chuckled. "The person who gave you this must be of extraordinary status as well. I suppose that person... is also very close to you?"

She rubbed the Cosmic Ring on her finger, which felt cool and smooth to the touch.

"It's my fia—" She suddenly stopped. Yue Ling is obviously inquiring about my affairs... Did he hear something, or is he after something else?

She quietly glanced at him, feeling rather uneasy as she recalled his unusually peculiar behavior today. A question came to her mind and was just at the tip of her tongue, but she swallowed it down and instead smilingly repeated, "It's a gift from a friend."

Meanwhile, in a certain room on the third floor, Rong Xiu slowly released his hand. In it was a teacup with spiderweb-like lines all over it. For some reason though, the teacup didn't fall apart and appeared to remain in its intact form.

Tea slowly trickled out from the cracked lines and soon spread all over the table surface, forming a puddle.

Standing at the side, Yan Qing shuddered and couldn't help but wish to disappear from here right away.

After a moment, Rong Xiu's lips slowly curled upward into a faint smile. "...Friend, huh?"

Yan Qing closed his eyes in despair. Oh no!

Chapter 613: Reply

Never mind that she has Qiang Wanzhou serving her, but Master has even lost his status as her fiancé now... Yan Qing lowered his gaze, hoping that his master would treat him as invisible. I heard nothing... I heard nothing...

"Yan Qing," called Rong Xiu coldly.

Yan Qing hurriedly responded, "Yes, Your Highness?"

"How long has it been since I left the Imperial City?"

"27 days, my lord."

Rong Xiu frowned slightly at that. "I left the Imperial City the same day as Yue'er, which means that it's been 27 days since we last met."

Although his tone was calm as if he was just talking about an ordinary matter, Yan Qing felt the temperature around him drop. The latter quickly scanned his surroundings, only to realize that the puddle of tea on the table had actually frozen. He then stiffly replied, "...Yes."

...

Downstairs.

...F-friends?! Didn't Master say that she's our Madam?! Why did their relationship become only friends on her end? Shocked to hear what Chu Liuyue had said, Yue Ling found himself struggling to ask, "It shouldn't be an ordinary friend, right? It's such an expensive item..."

"Why are you so curious about my affairs today, General Manager Yue?" interrupted Chu Liuyue with a smile.

One glance at her somewhat wary look, and Yue Ling knew that she must've misunderstood him. I just wanted to ask those questions on Master's behalf and had no other intentions.

Despite his wish to clear things up, he was afraid that he might make things worse in this situation. Thus, he could only force himself to smile and reply, "Don't be mistaken, Ms. Chu. It's just a random question."

Right at that moment, a pageboy brought over the herbs Chu Liuyue had ordered.

Chu Liuyue had no intention of pursuing the matter, so she just took the herbs from the pageboy and put them in her Cosmic Ring. "Oh right, there's another reason for my visit. I'd like to seek your help on a certain matter. The herbs I ordered previously aren't enough, so I'd like to... double my order. I wonder if you can—"

"Of course! No problem at all!" Yue Ling agreed to it right away.

Seeing that her purpose of visit was accomplished, Chu Liuyue didn't linger around any longer and quickly left soon after.

It was only after watching her figure disappear from his sight that Yue Ling turned around and proceeded upstairs. But the moment he walked to a certain room's entrance, he could sense an icy aura even before he could enter it. He quickly looked up and exchanged a brief look with Yan Qing.

There were hints of sympathy in Yan Qing's eyes. Out of all things to talk about, Yue Ling just had to talk about the Cosmic Ring and even ask who the giver was. Now look at what he's done! Look at the answer he received from her!

Yue Ling became even more apprehensive. Just as I guessed—Master heard the entire conversation! But I really didn't expect her to give me such an answer! I really shot myself in the foot this time.

"...Master..." said Yue Ling in trepidation, his back drenched with cold sweat.

Rong Xiu lightly asked, "She asked for more herbs just now?"

Yue Ling hurriedly answered, "Yes, Ms. Liuyue wanted twice as much as before..."

"Do we have so much stock in Hundred Herbs Building?"

"Uh... Yes, for now. But in order to keep supplying them to her, we have to quickly get people to find more herbs."

Most of the herbs Chu Liuyue wanted were inexpensive and common, save for a few particular ones. Still, it wasn't easy even for Hundred Herbs Building to supply so many herbs continuously.

“Don’t worry though. I won’t dare to delay Madam’s orders and will make sure to fulfill her requests!” said Yue Ling with conviction.

Rong Xiu’s smile deepened slightly. “Oh?”

Yan Qing closed his eyes once more. How did I not realize before that Yue Ling is somewhat of a dimwit in this aspect?

By now, Yue Ling finally sensed that something was wrong, and a thought hit his mind all of a sudden. Most of those herbs are prepared for Qiang Wanzhou. Her doubling the order means that she’s helping him even more than before!

Upon comparing Qiang Wanzhou’s situation to his master’s—where the latter didn’t even have a proper title as her fiancé—Yue Ling swallowed his saliva with much difficulty. I think... I just dug my own grave even further...

Rong Xiu then stood up and left the room.

...

As Chu Liuyue walked out of Hundred Herbs Building, she kept thinking about what happened earlier. She had a rather good impression of Yue Ling so far, but she found him behaving really oddly today, asking questions that people usually wouldn’t ask. As Hundred Herbs Building’s general manager, he surely knows that it’s inappropriate to ask such questions, yet he did it anyway... If I hadn’t stopped myself in time, he probably would’ve asked more. I wonder what he’s up to...

Deep in thought, she soon arrived at the place where she requested her letter to be delivered. She walked in and immediately spotted the person she had asked to help deliver the letter previously.

Delight sprouted in her heart as she thought that there might be a reply letter. Thus, she quickened her pace and walked over to that person, asking, “Hello, may I ask if there’s any reply letter to the message that was sent to Country Yao Chen?”

The man ceased what he was doing and looked over at her.

The smile on her face instantly stiffened when she met the other’s gaze. His eyes... This is—

The man seemed to know what she was thinking, and he said calmly, “I just returned and haven’t sorted out my things. I’d like to trouble you to wait by the side first.”

That pulled Chu Liuyue back to her senses, and she nodded. “Sure.”

After that, she walked to wait by the side.

The man then skillfully sorted the pile of letters in his hands and handed them to different people.

A man broke into laughter, roaring loudly, “Qin Qi, your efficiency has increased by a lot since you came back!”

When Qin Qi merely smiled in response, the man chuckled and retracted his gaze as if he was used to this display.

The other people were all doing their own things, and the man named Qin Qi worked in silence.

About 15 minutes later, he finally walked over to Chu Liuyue's side with a letter in hand. "This is the reply letter."

Chu Liuyue took a look at the envelope, which had Mu Hongyu's name written on it. Hongyu's parents must've written a reply letter to her.

She then turned her gaze to Qin Qi. "Thank you."

Chapter 614: You Have a Friend Looking for You

Qin Qi replied, "You're welcome, Ms. Chu."

Chu Liuyue then put the letter away and turned around to leave. Though after taking two steps, she stopped upon recalling something and turned her head backward to look at Qin Qi. "Oh right, I have some things that I want to send back after packing. However, I heard that some things aren't allowed to cross Heaven's Canopy. Could you go back with me to take a look at them?"

Qin Qi looked at the man who had spoken earlier.

The man waved his hand coolly, saying, "You've completed all your tasks for the day anyway. Just go with Ms. Chu to take a look at the items!" Chu Liuyue is the most popular figure in the entire Xi Ling right now! According to hearsay, she's extraordinarily wealthy! Everyone wants to claim some sort of a connection with her now. Who knows? She might pay us much more than other people!

After thanking him, Qin Qi walked over to Chu Liuyue's side. "Let's go, Ms. Chu."

...

The two of them said nothing throughout the journey. When they arrived at Chu Liuyue's residence, she invited Qin Qi into the front hall.

It was only after making sure that the coast was clear that she turned around and briskly walked over to him, whispering, "Qi Han?"

Qin Qi's eyes moved slightly as he bobbed his head. "Your Highness."

It's really him! Surprise surfaced on Chu Liuyue's face. "What are you doing here?"

Right from the start, she could tell that this person wasn't the Qin Qi she had met previously. When their gazes met, she became certain that he was none other than Qi Han, who was supposed to be stationed at Yao Chen.

"I can't help but worry about you being alone in Xi Ling. After receiving your letter, I took Qin Qi's place and returned as him."

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. "W-what you're doing... is too risky!"

Qi Han immediately said, "Don't worry, Your Highness. I came after doing all the necessary preparations. They won't notice anything unusual."

The reaction of the man who praised him earlier said everything.

"I know you're well-versed in this, so I'm sure there won't be any problems. But what I'm worried about is..." Chu Liuyue rubbed her glabella. "Didn't you say that Jiang Yucheng gave the order to capture you guys at all costs? If they find out—"

The Thirteen Yue Guard members have unique auras, so it's very easy for those who are familiar with them to recognize them. It's too dangerous for Qi Han to appear in Xi Ling and move about right under Jiang Yucheng's nose!

"Your Highness, I concealed my aura before I came. Even if I stand in front of him with this appearance right now, he may not be able to recognize me." There was absolute confidence in Qi Han's aloof voice.

Chu Liuyue was surprised to hear that. It was only then that she realized there were indeed some changes about him. Although they were very subtle, it was enough to make his aura seem completely different. If it wasn't because she was very familiar with his eyes, she might not have been able to recognize him so quickly.

"H-how did you do it?" she asked in surprise as she sized him up. Due to their own respective cultivation and stuff, all cultivators exude a different aura. It's because of this that Jiang Yucheng dared to order a full-scale pursuit of the Thirteen Yue Guard and forced them out of Heaven's Canopy. It was also exactly because of this that I didn't allow Qi Han to accompany me here, but I didn't expect that... He seems like a totally different person now.

Qi Han explained, "Actually, Xiao Ba has been studying this problem in the past year or so. He recently said that he had come up with a new formula that might work, so I sought him out to get a pill from him to test it out. As it turns out, it really works!"

Each of the Thirteen Yue Guard members is talented in different aspects, so it's actually not much of a surprise that Xiao Ba managed to accomplish this. Chu Liuyue fell deep in thought for a moment before asking, "Are you sure that this thing will always be effective?"

Qi Han nodded and then added, "Xiao Ba thought I was just testing it out. He doesn't know that I've already found you and have, in fact, come to Xi Ling." If he knew, he'd surely want to tag along.

"Well done. It's indeed not the time to tell the rest yet." Chu Liuyue crossed her arms in front of her chest as she fell deep in thought for a long time. "Since you're already here, then just stay in Xi Ling. It's much easier to do things with Qin Qi's identity anyway."

Qi Han nodded in acknowledgment.

Feeling much more settled now, Chu Liuyue sat down and asked, "What's the situation like in Country Yao Chen?"

Qi Han solemnly replied, "Everything is fine there. It's just that... Tai Yan Academy suffered heavy casualties from an attack two weeks ago. Many students have left to go to the other schools instead."

This piece of news came as a great surprise to Chu Liuyu as nobody dared to offend Tai Yan Academy—the top school in Country Xing Luo—easily. Hence, it was a wonder how it came under attack and got reduced to such a state.

She instantly looked at Qi Han. "How did that happen?"

“Country Xing Luo has classified this matter as strictly confidential, so I can’t find out much about it. They’ve been trying to find the mastermind, but it doesn’t seem like they’ve found any useful clues thus far,” said Qi Han with a shake of his head.

A thought suddenly came to Chu Liuyue’s mind, and she asked, “What about that matter regarding Yang Jianqing and Heng Jingchuo? How is the investigation going?”

Qi Han shook his head once more. “After what happened, everyone is concerned about their own safety. Thus, the investigation of that matter naturally came to a halt.”

Chu Liuyue’s heart sank at the news. Just as I expected... Someone is trying to stop the investigation. I’m currently based in Xi Ling, so there’s no way I can find out more.

Qi Han staying here for too long would inevitably attract unwanted attention, so she only asked him a few more questions before quickly sending him back and returning to Chong Xu Cabinet.

But upon reaching the mountain peak, she saw Ye Ranran running over to her with her eyes sparkling with excitement. “Liuyue, you have a friend looking for you!”

Friend? I don’t have many friends in Xi Ling, so who could that be? wondered Chu Liuyue in surprise. “Who is it? Jian Fengchi?”

Ye Ranran shook her head hard. “No, no! We’ve never met him before! He’s waited for you for quite some time already!”

Feeling puzzled, Chu Liuyue walked ahead.

Chapter 615: Don’t Look at Me Like That

As Chu Liuyue returned to her residence, she met many of her seniors along the way. All of them were looking at her strangely, their gazes filled with curiosity and excitement.

“You’re back, Liuyue!”

“Liuyue, someone’s looking for you!”

She raised her brows slightly when she saw their reactions. What a familiar scene. Didn’t they react the same way when Yan Qing came previously? If not for the fact that everyone is busy with the preparations for the upcoming clan competition, I’m afraid there would be even more people than before.

She greeted each and every one of her seniors and made her way back to her room under their watchful gazes.

The door was wide open, and she stepped in to see three men in the room. One of them was Yan Qing—who she had just met a few days ago—and he was standing straight in respect. The second was Qiang Wanzhou, who stood stiffly in the middle of the room with his eyes coldly fixed on the man standing next to the bookshelf.

She looked over to see the third man, who had a tall and broad figure and was dressed in white, fluttery clothes. Although his back was facing her, she could still sense the cold air of nobility around him.

Her heart thumped and started racing as her eyes widened slightly in surprise. “Rong Xiu?”

Upon hearing her voice, Rong Xiu turned his head around and hooked his thin, scarlet lips up. “Yue’er.”

Chu Liuyue couldn’t help but be mesmerized by the faint yet gentle smile on his chiseled, jade-like face and his deep eyes that shone like the starry sky.

It’s really him! She was pleasantly surprised by his appearance, and she could hardly believe her eyes. “Why are you here?”

Didn’t he return to Mingyue Tianshan? But he showed up here in the blink of an eye! So the ‘friend’ Ye Ranran was talking about is him?! No wonder the seniors looked so curious... A man with such good looks like him will naturally become the focus of attention wherever he goes!

Rong Xiu put down the book in his hand and said smilingly to her, “I’ve been busy with a certain matter recently. It just so happens that I’m passing by here, so I thought I’d come to see you.”

What could he be busy with that requires him to pass by Xi Ling? A hint of suspicion arose in her, but it quickly faded and was soon replaced by the joy of reunion.

It hadn’t been a month since they parted, yet she felt as if a long time had actually passed. Her longing for him that was buried in the deepest part of her heart gushed out like a torrent.

When Rong Xiu saw her twinkling eyes, emotions welled up in his heart as he moved toward her. Standing in front of her, he looked down and carefully studied her face before wrapping an arm around her slender waist and pulling her into his embrace.

Qiang Wanzhou’s face instantly turned cold. He was just about to step forward when he sensed someone staring daggers at him from the side.

He looked over to see Yan Qing shooting him a warning look with his brows slightly raised.

What a joke! My master came all the way to Xi Ling just to see the woman he’s been missing dearly, so who would dare to go up and stop him?

“Master, I’ll take my leave.” Yan Qing bowed respectfully to Rong Xiu before moving toward the exit. When passing by Qiang Wanzhou, he stopped and lifted his chin. “Qiang Wanzhou, huh? I heard that you’re quite capable. Why don’t we go out and have a little sparring session?”

However, Qiang Wanzhou gave him a cool look and remained stuck to the spot.

Rong Xiu had introduced himself as Chu Liuyue’s friend when he first arrived. But upon seeing Yan Qing, Qiang Wanzhou realized that Rong Xiu must be the person who had previously given her the Cosmic Ring. It was clear that they were more than just friends.

Why are kids so tactless these days? wondered Yan Qing with his eyes closed. After that, without giving any warning, he clamped down on Qiang Wanzhou’s arm and dragged him out.

Qiang Wanzhou immediately tried to put up a struggle, but he found himself unable to break free from Yan Qing’s grip. It turned out that he was no match for the other at all.

And just like that, Yan Qing dragged him out of the room without giving him any chance to even retort. He even thoughtfully closed the door behind him once they were out of the room.

...

Chu Liuyue encircled her arms around Rong Xiu's waist. When she pressed her face against his chest, she could hear the regular thumping of his heart loud and clear, and that sound seemed to be transmitted from her eardrum to her heart.

A familiar cool fragrance wafted to her nose, and the places where they touched each other turned warm. A spot in her heart seemed to be instantly filled.

She only lifted her head and turned to take a look at the door when she heard it closing. "Why did Yan Qing suddenly want to spar with Little Zhou?"

Rong Xiu's long eyelashes fluttered. "Little Zhou?"

Chu Liuyue looked up at him. "Yeah, the kid with short blond hair. That's Qiang Wanzhou."

He rested his chin on the crown of her head for a moment before whispering into her ear, "Don't think about the irrelevant people... For now, just think about me..."

"Rong Xiu..." Her voice sounded so soft as if it would be gone with the wind.

It was only when Rong Xiu felt as if he was burning with emotions that he finally let Chu Liuyue go. One hand remained on her waist while his other hand gently stroked her long, dangling hair.

When Chu Liuyue looked at him with much tenderness, he kissed her eyes in a bid to cover them. "Don't look at me like that, Yue'er."

Chapter 616: I Have My Own Plans

Chu Liuyue blinked her eyes. When she saw the impenetrable depths of his eyes, she wisely decided not to tease him any further.

The two of them hugged a little longer, and the amorous atmosphere between them finally faded away slowly.

Rong Xiu lightly heaved a sigh of relief. I miss her when she isn't around, but now that she's here in front of me... I think I miss her even more...

He then sat down and pulled her into his arms, hugging her from behind as he rested his chin on her shoulder.

She cast a side-glance at him. Why does it seem like he has lost weight in the short time we were separated from each other? I wonder what he's been up to lately...

"Rong Xiu... How long do you plan to stay in Xi Ling this time?" asked Chu Liuyue as she played with his fair and slender hands.

He pondered for a moment before speaking somewhat lazily in a hoarse voice. "...I haven't decided..."

Haven't decided? She found it strange to hear this answer.

She was just about to follow up with another question when he asked, "Did you know... Qiang Wanzhou before this? It looks like he values you a lot."

"What makes you say that?" she asked.

Rong Xiu raised his eyebrows. "The moment he heard that I was here to look for you, he treated me like his enemy... throughout the entire wait until you returned. If it weren't for Yan Qing earlier, he looked as if he was going to continue staying in the room..."

Chu Liuyue chuckled at that. Despite his calm and nonchalant appearance, it looks like someone's jealous!

"He's my subordinate now, so he naturally pays extra attention to my affairs. That kid's a blockhead, so you don't have to worry," she said before giving Rong Xiu a peck on the lips. "He doesn't know you, so of course he's wary of you. Once he knows who you are, he won't treat you like that anymore."

Rong Xiu lifted his eyelids and smirked at Chu Liuyue. "Oh? So what's my identity?"

As she looked at his face, she stammered somewhat guiltily, "Uh... Y-you're my fiancé..."

The smile on Rong Xiu's face deepened. "Is that so? But I think I heard some rumors upon arriving at Xi Ling..."

Just as I guessed... thought Chu Liuyue. "Like you said, they're just rumors... I don't even know how the rumors came about..."

One moment, I'm rumored to be together with Mu Qinghe. The next moment, I'm rumored to be together with Jian Fengchi. I didn't even pay attention to the rumors because they're just so ridiculous. However, it looks like someone minds it a lot... Turning around, Chu Liuyue hooked her arms around Rong Xiu's neck. "If the rumors upset you so much, should I go and clear things up?"

Holding his breath, Rong Xiu pressed her waist and shot her a warning look. "Don't move around."

"Okay," answered Chu Liuyue obediently.

Thereafter, Rong Xiu replied to her earlier question. "There's no need for you to clear things up."

Surprise surfaced on Chu Liuyue's visage. It's clear that he minds this a lot, so why did he say that there's no need? It won't take me much effort to clarify things anyway.

Rong Xiu gently rubbed his thumb over her slightly red and swollen lips. "I have my own plans."

While he did mind a lot about this matter, he was well aware of the situation she was currently in as well. Although she had established her reputation and had a bright future, she had also attracted the envy and jealousy of many people in Xi Ling.

There were many people eyeing her in the dark right now, and the slightest action might attract a series of unnecessary trouble for her. Besides, her status in Xi Ling wasn't high. To clarify things specifically would only make it seem like she was taking the lead. He couldn't bear to see that happen to her, so it was better for him to handle these things instead.

Chu Liuyue didn't know what he was planning, but when she saw his lackadaisical look, she no longer troubled herself over this matter. She then told him about the series of events that she encountered after coming to Xi Ling, which he patiently listened to with interest.

Although he already knew all about those matters, hearing them from her mouth was a completely different experience. It was as if each word suddenly contained warmth and strength, and they left behind marks of various depths in his heart.

After she finished telling her stories, she said, "I've been talking about my affairs nonstop. Why don't you tell me yours for a change? Did you encounter anything interesting?"

Rong Xiu smiled slightly. "It's the same old on my end. Nothing is interesting when you're not around, so there's nothing to say."

A warm current surged within Chu Liuyue's chest. Doesn't that mean... he only finds the things that are related to me interesting? T-this person...

"That reminds me. There's something that's troubling me a little..." Rong Xiu frowned and appeared slightly troubled.

"What is it?"

"I came to Xi Ling in such a hurry that I haven't found a suitable place to stay in... I don't know how long I'm going to stay here either, so that's what makes things tricky..." He then rubbed his glabella.

"Come stay in my residence then! Didn't I tell you that Cabinet Master gave me a mansion? Although it isn't big, it's enough to accommodate you. It's just that the place is rather plain and simple, so I don't know if you'll be comfortable staying there..."

A wide smile spread across Rong Xiu's face. "Of course, I'll be comfortable staying at your place. I thank you in advance then, Yue'er."

...

Outside the courtyard, Yan Qing and Qiang Wanzhou stood facing each other. From the holes in the latter's clothes, messy hair, and panting, it was clear that Qiang Wanzhou had just been through a tough fight.

But opposite him, Yan Qing appeared all calm and composed, neither panting nor showing any signs of flush on his face. He crossed his arms in front of his chest and looked somewhat condescendingly at the other. "Boy, you have some talent. It's just that... you're still a little inexperienced."

Qiang Wanzhou fell silent for a moment before saying, "One day, I'll defeat you!"

Instead of being provoked, Yan Qing nodded his head with much interest. "That'll depend on whether you have that capability and luck."

Although he wasn't too fond of Qiang Wanzhou, after their sparring session, he had to admit that the young chap had absolute talent. As long as he was groomed properly, he would definitely become someone formidable in time to come. While he was indeed worthy to stay by Chu Liuyue's side and become her trusty subordinate, his master...

The room's door suddenly opened right then, and both Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu walked out.

Yan Qing and Qiang Wanzhou looked over at once.

"Master, Ms. Liuyue," greeted Yan Qing with a bow.

Qiang Wanzhou swept his eyes over at the couple, his gaze eventually landing on their tightly clasped hands.

Chu Liuyue then waved him over. "Come here, Little Zhou."

He obediently walked up to her.

She let out a cough before saying, "Rong Xiu is my fiancé, so you don't have to be so wary of him in the future. If he comes again, just let him enter."

When Qiang Wanzhou said nothing, she raised her voice a little, calling, "Little Zhou?"

That was when he finally stiffly answered, "Understood."

Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief. Although she knew that Qiang Wanzhou was just concerned about her, it was sometimes inevitable that misunderstandings might arise due to his aloof and untameable personality. She could only slowly teach him all that later on.

"By the way, Rong Xiu is going to stay in our residence in Xi Ling City for the time being, so I'm going to take him there to take a look at the place." She planned to leave right away with Rong Xiu.

Qiang Wanzhou hesitated a little, but he didn't follow them. Instead, he looked up at the sky and turned around to return to his own room. He emerged again a moment later, only to head toward Chu Liuyue's room.

Yan Qing was aghast to see this. The alarm bells were going off in his head, but a look of confusion appeared on his face the next moment. Is that... a rag in Qiang Wanzhou's hand?!

Chapter 617: Younger Brother-in-Law

Yan Qing rubbed his eyes, and it took him a few looks to realize that he wasn't mistaken! It's indeed a rag!

After a while, Qiang Wanzhou brought in another pail of water and never came out again.

This is... Yan Qing looked in his direction in shock. "Ms. Liuyue, he..."

Chu Liuyue glanced over and waved her hand nonchalantly. "Don't worry. He cleans everything at this time every day. He'll return after he's done."

She rejected him initially because Qiang Wanzhou was really good at it, and it wasn't necessary for him to do so every day. She had tried to stop him before, but it was to no avail.

To Qiang Wanzhou, this was something that he had to do. Thus, he took it very seriously.

If she didn't let him clean, he would ask Chu Liuyue if she felt that he wasn't doing a good job. After several tries, Chu Liuyue gave up and let him be.

Yan Qing was speechless. What is wrong with this boy?

On the other side, Rong Xiu felt countless people watching him in the dark. He frowned slightly and gripped Chu Liuyue's hand tighter. "Yue'er, let's go."

Chu Liuyue retracted her gaze and nodded. But after taking a few steps, she stopped and said speechlessly, "Senior Brothers, Senior Sisters, please come out."

The moment she said that, the surroundings fell silent. A crowd of people then emerged from the surrounding corners and the room next door.

Lu Zhiyao—who was standing at the front—scratched his head. "What a coincidence, haha! We..."

"This is Rong Xiu," Chu Liuyue said bluntly.

Lu Zhiyao coughed awkwardly and quickly exchanged glances with everyone. We want to explain things to Junior Sister, but Junior Sister has too good an eye...

However, her next sentence made everyone's eyes light up! "He's also my fiancé."

Her tone was even, but she stunned everyone!

Everyone was curious about Rong Xiu's identity, but they didn't expect Chu Liuyue to acknowledge it directly!

"So Junior Sister already has a fiancé?"

"Haha! Since he's Junior Sister's fiancé, he counts as one of us! Just let us know if there's anything he needs in the future!"

"Junior Sister, you never mentioned that you had such an outstanding fiancé..."

Everyone was stunned and full of praise. The man dressed in white is easily one of the most good-looking men we've ever seen! Judging from his aura, he doesn't seem like an ordinary person either... Most importantly, we can still sense pressure from him even though he has concealed his aura. He definitely isn't weak! Someone like this is definitely good enough for our junior sister!

Chu Liuyue knew that her senior brothers and sisters would be hung up over it if she didn't say anything today, so she decided to make Rong Xiu's identity public. She then introduced everyone to Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu greeted everyone with a polite smile the entire time. It was clear from his demeanor that he came from a distinguished family.

Everyone's curiosity was satiated, but their suspicions grew. Didn't they say that Junior Sister had an ordinary background? But no matter if it's Rong Xiu or Junior Sister, they don't seem like ordinary people... Their demeanor and aura definitely don't come from people raised in common families.

"I was in a rush today, so I didn't have time to prepare much for everyone. Please take this as a token of appreciation for taking care of Yue'er." With that, he raised his finger. "Yan Qing."

Yan Qing stepped forward, walked over to Ye Ranran, and presented something to her. "Ms. Ye, please accept this."

Chu Liuyue looked over and found that it was a Cosmic Ring. However, it seemed like an ordinary Cosmic Ring, different from the one Rong Xiu gifted her.

"This this this..." Ye Ranran was stunned and looked at everyone panickedly. This doesn't seem appropriate.

Lu Zhiyao laughed out loud. "You are too kind! Liuyue is our junior sister, so it's only right that we take care of her. By right, we're the ones who are supposed to gift you things..."

Before he could finish, Yan Qing had already placed the Cosmic Ring in Ye Ranran's hand and walked over to Lu Zhiyao with a second Cosmic Ring. "Young Master Lu, please..."

Lu Zhiyao paused. He glanced at the Cosmic Ring in Ye Ranran's hand and looked in front of him again. So... Everyone is getting one?

Rong Xiu said, "It's nothing too expensive, so please accept it."

It wasn't appropriate for them to reject them any further, so Lu Zhiyao could only reply, "Then... Thank you, Younger Brother-in-Law..."

Chu Liuyue felt the corner of her eyes twitch as she had a rising urge to escape. Younger... brother-in-law?!

She glanced at Rong Xiu, but he had a smile on his face. He seems... rather happy about it?

"Senior Brother Lu, you're too kind. Yue'er is my fiancée, so this is what I should do."

Chu Liuyue shuddered. Why is he using the term 'senior brother?!' Rong Xiu, is it really appropriate for you to behave like this?!

Chu Liuyue quietly pinched the back of Rong Xiu's hand. What does he intend to do? I only intended for this to be a brief introduction, but why is this looking a little like...

Rong Xiu was unfazed by Chu Liuyue's accusations. He held her hand and scratched her palm lightly.

Chu Liuyue was speechless.

Under Chu Liuyue's stunned eyes, Yan Qing quickly handed each person a Cosmic Ring. Also, he didn't get a single name wrong.

After that was done, Rong Xiu spoke again. "I can't stay any longer. Senior Brother Lu, please pass on my gift for Cabinet Master, Elder Xia Yi, and the absent senior brothers and senior sisters.

With that Yan Qing handed him a few more things.

Lu Zhiyao could only nod dazedly. "...Don't worry, Junior Sister, Brother-in-Law! I'll be sure to pass these on!"

Rong Xiu smiled and said, "In that case, Yue'er and I won't hold anyone back. Goodbye."

With that, he left together with Chu Liuyue and Yan Qing.

Stunned, everyone watched them descend the mountain.

"Damn..." cried out someone in the crowd in shock.

Everyone turned to look and saw a man holding a Cosmic Ring, his face full of shock.

"This this this..."

Ye Ranran asked confusedly. "What's wrong?"

The man swallowed his saliva with difficulty. "Junior Sister's fiancé... is more than a little rich..."

Chapter 618: Offended

Chu Liuyue finally couldn't restrain her curiosity as she descended the mountain with Rong Xiu. "What did you put in the Cosmic Rings that you gave to Senior Brothers and Senior Sisters?"

Rong Xiu smiled. "It's just stuff that they can use."

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment. "White crystals?"

Rong Xiu smiled but didn't say anything.

Chu Liuyue knew that she was right. White crystals were the simplest and most foolproof gift.

"But... Why did you prepare so much? Could it be that before you came, you..."

"You're well-known in Xi Ling, and Chong Xu Cabinet is a major clan. It's not that tough to find out some things."

"...But you gave out so much in one go..."

"It seemed like they were treating you well, so it's just right to give them a little something."

Judging from Rong Xiu's nonchalant behavior, Chu Liuyue tugged at his sleeve. "Rong Xiu... be honest with me. Where did you get so much money? You've given me so much money. What about yourself?"

Based on her understanding of Rong Xiu, she knew the gifts weren't a small sum. Not to mention the gifts that he gave her...

Rong Xiu smiled at her. "If Yue'er is worried that I'll run out of money, you can relax. I... can still support you."

Yan Qing felt the corners of his mouth twitch as he trailed behind. Ms. Liuyue is actually doubting Master's wealth...

Hearing Rong Xiu's response, Chu Liuyue felt a little more at ease. In truth, she knew that the former was definitely not short on money since he was this generous. She was just curious how he managed it... Could it be due to his status as 'Your Grace'?

...

The few of them arrived at the mansion in Xi Ling City.

Chu Liuyue led them in. "I just moved here not long ago, so it's just been tidied up. There are a few rooms that you can look at. Pick one that you like..."

Rong Xiu looked at them lazily. "Yue'er, don't bother. This one is great."

Chu Liuyue turned and followed his gaze. "That's my... You want to stay in my room?"

Rong Xiu raised his brows. "Didn't we do that before?"

Chu Liuyue's eyes twitched. In the past... That was him coming up with all sorts of excuses to not leave!

Having seen right through Rong Xiu's thoughts, Chu Liuyue gave in. "If that's what you'd like, that's fine. I don't spend much time here, so we won't be disturbed."

Rong Xiu didn't mind. If she doesn't come, I could go over.

Chu Liuyue stayed with him a little longer before she left.

...

Jiang Residence.

"Fourth Missy, this is a cold skin cream that Eldest Young Master brought back for you from the palace. It's said that if you use it for half a month, none of your wounds will leave scars..." said the servant girl as she carefully dressed Jiang Yuzhi's wounds.

Jiang Yuzhi sat up on her bed with her eyes closed and didn't say a word.

The servant girl took out one scoop of the paste and gently applied it to Jiang Yuzhi's face.

"Ss... Ah!" Jiang Yuzhi cried out as she felt a sharp, cooling pain. She jumped up and slapped the servant girl across the face.

Smack!

"That hurts! What are you doing!?"

The servant girl was knocked to the floor as her face quickly swelled up, and she skinned her arms. But she still held the jar of cream carefully in her hands, afraid that it might be broken.

Her life wasn't even worth as much as the jar of cream if she broke it!

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry!" She immediately got up, kneeled by Jiang Yuzhi's bed, and kowtowed.

Jiang Yuzhi looked at her frustratedly and snatched the cream over. "Get lost!"

The servant girl left, still on tenterhooks. "Y-yes!"

Just as the girl was about to leave, Jiang Yuzhi glanced over and saw tears streaking down the girl's porcelain face, looking rather pitiful.

This only fueled her anger. "Kneel outside and slap yourself! Stop when your face is bleeding!"

The servant was taken aback. "Fourth Missy..."

"Get going now!"

“...Yes.” The servant girl left the room while biting her lip. She then kneeled outside the door and began slapping herself. She used a large amount of energy with each hit.

Hearing the crisp sounds of the servant girl hitting herself, Jiang Yuzhi felt herself calm down. She then opened the jar of cream and prepared to apply it herself.

“What are you doing?” Before she could move, she heard Jiang Yucheng’s voice outside the door.

“Eldest Young Master, I have made a mistake.”

“What kind of behavior are you displaying outside Fourth Missy’s door? You are dismissed.”

“...Thank you, Eldest Young Master. I’ll take my leave first.”

Jiang Yucheng walked in after that. “This is already the fifth servant that you’ve punished over the last few days. When are you going to stop?”

Jiang Yuzhi slammed the jar of cream down on the table with a stiff expression. “Brother, are you here just to lecture me? I’m the Jiang family’s Fourth Missy, so what’s wrong with punishing a few servants?”

Jiang Yucheng scoffed. “Don’t think that I don’t know. The servants have done nothing wrong; you’re just nitpicking. It is exactly because you’re a missy that you must pay attention. If word gets out, people will only say that you’re willful and spoiled.”

Jiang Yuzhi leaped up and walked over to Jiang Yucheng. “My face is already like this! Am I not allowed to vent?”

Jiang Yucheng’s expression was cold. “Enough of that. I’ve sent someone to investigate what happened that day.”

Jiang Yuzhi felt guilty as she took a step back. “Brother, did you find something?”

Jiang Yucheng sneered. “You know very well what happened that day. I’ve asked you a number of times, but you never mentioned the mess you made at Hundred Herbs Building!”

Jiang Yuzhi instantly felt guilty. “I... I didn’t do anything...”

“If you didn’t do anything, why would Hundred Herbs Building blacklist you and put word out that they no longer welcome your business?”

A number of people saw things unfold, so it wasn’t difficult to find out what had happened.

Jiang Yuzhi was dumbfounded. “So what? So be it! They’re not the only place that sells herbs in Xi Ling City! What can they do about me?”

Jiang Yucheng was disappointed to see how stubborn his sister was. Even at this time, she is still so naive and arrogant!

“Hundred Herbs Building has a strong background. Even I’m not willing to clash with them, but you’ve got the guts? You really think that you’re somebody just because you’re Fourth Missy Jiang?”

Jiang Yuzhi’s face changed.

Her brother's words were brutal!

Before she could respond, Jiang Yucheng continued. "No wonder you were beat up shortly after you left... And you're still saying that you haven't offended anyone?"

Jiang Yuzhi finally connected the dots. "Brother, you're saying that... the masked man is from Hundred Herbs Building?"

Chapter 619: Fragrance

"I can't be sure now, but there aren't many people who dare to attack you so openly."

Jiang Yuzhi couldn't care about being wronged and angry as she hurriedly said, "Since you know it's them, go and catch them then!"

"How can it be this easy?" Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows and walked to the side. "There's currently no evidence which can prove that they did it, so how can we randomly catch someone? Besides, you didn't even see that person's face. How can we just take them away?"

Jiang Yuzhi was dazed. "T-then, go and check! Brother, don't you have a few capable subordinates—"

"The other party had such audacity, which meant that they weren't afraid of being checked. Besides, Hundred Herbs Building is so famous in Xi Ling, so how can I just check them as you wish?"

That is the biggest herbal store in Xi Ling! Even if it's me, I have to think about it before taking action.

Jiang Yuzhi pondered for a while before asking in disbelief, "A-are we just going to let this incident go then? So I'll just get beaten up for no reason?"

Jiang Yucheng kept quiet for a moment and said, "I heard that Yue Ling personally commanded someone to 'invite' you out that day. I have seen him a few times before, and he's very sensible and wise. If he didn't meet with a special situation, he wouldn't act so harshly. Besides, he clearly knew your identity, yet he still insisted on doing this. This just shows how severe the situation was. What... exactly did you do that day?"

Jiang Yuzhi clenched her teeth and felt conflicted for quite some time before saying, "I just scolded Chu Liuyue a little..."

Jiang Yucheng froze.

Seeing that she couldn't hide this matter anymore, Jiang Yuzhi could only tell her brother about whatever happened that day. "...If they didn't refuse to give me those herbs no matter what, I wouldn't do that either!"

After saying so much, it was still Chu Liuyue's fault!

Upon hearing this, Jiang Yucheng's face darkened. She really went to cause trouble for Chu Liuyue! The key is that she even went to Hundred Herbs Building! Even if she went to cause trouble for Chu Liuyue head-on, it would be better than this!

"How did I warn you previously? Did you forget about all of that?" Jiang Yucheng's voice was as cold as ice.

Jiang Yuzhi shuddered. An idea popped up into her head, and she hurriedly said, “No! Brother, this isn’t right! I scolded Chu Liuyue that day, but I didn’t say anything bad about Hundred Herbs Building. But after Yue Ling heard me scolding Chu Liuyue, he was instantly frustrated...”

She spoke as she recalled. The more she thought about it, the more certain she was. “...That’s right! It was like this! When I was buying the herbs previously, Yue Ling said that those were prepared for Chu Liuyue and that he couldn’t sell them to me. When he said this, he was still fine... I remember! I think there were a few women chased out of Hundred Herbs Building before that because they were insulting Chu Liuyue inside. Besides, it wasn’t only them. Even their entire family was implicated... They then went to cause a scene, but it ended up nowhere...”

As Jiang Yucheng heard her speak, his expression gradually became stern. “You’re saying that... Chu Liuyue is related to Hundred Herbs Building?”

“It must be so! Yue Ling still said that it was because Chu Liuyue was a black gold card member... Chu Liuyue isn’t the only customer at Hundred Herbs Building. Why did this never happen before? There must be something wrong here!”

Jiang Yucheng thought for a moment and was quite hesitant. “But Chu Liuyue... Didn’t she just come to Xi Ling...?”

Besides, it was Mu Qinghe and Jian Fengchi who brought her here. How did she manage to become related to Hundred Herbs Building in such a short period?

He paused for a moment and stood up to leave. “I will personally investigate this. Stay here quietly during this period. You’re not allowed to be willful.”

“Yes, I understand.”

...

After Chu Liuyue left, she went to Dragon Teeth Mountain.

Dragon Teeth Mountain was much bigger than Chong Xu Cabinet and much more livelier.

When Chu Liuyue arrived at the hall, she saw Jian Fengchi—who was waiting inside—at first glance. She rapidly surveyed the surroundings but couldn’t see Mu Hongyu’s figure.

Jian Fengchi lazily said, “Hongyu has already become my father’s personal disciple. Now, she’s still cultivating in the mountains. I’ve already sent someone to invite her over, but I think it’ll still take a while. You can sit and wait first.”

Chu Liuyue smiled and took out a letter. “Since Hongyu is busy cultivating, I shan’t disturb her anymore. This is a letter that her father wrote to her. Young Master Jian, may I trouble you to pass it to her later?”

Then, she walked over and was going to leave after placing the letter on the table beside Jian Fengchi.

Suddenly, a familiar scent wafted toward her.

Chu Liuyue wrinkled her nose and realized that the smell was coming from Jian Fengchi.

A dark color flashed across her eyes. I specifically provided this Long Xian Fragrance in the palace. To be more accurate, only my father and I could use it in the past.

Even though the scent on Jian Fengchi was very faint, she could confirm that it was the remaining smell of the Long Xian Fragrance. Moreover, if the smell could stay on him to this extent, it could only prove that Jian Fengchi had been at a place with burning Long Xian Fragrance for at least two hours.

She paused in her actions, placed the letter on the table, and asked in a seemingly unintentional manner, "May I know how Hongyu has been doing at Dragon Teeth Mountain lately?"

Jian Fengchi shook his fan. "With me looking after her every day, she's naturally doing well."

Chu Liuyue seemed to look at him in shock. "Young Master Jian, you have been at Dragon Teeth Mountain and... taking care of Hongyu these few days?"

Jian Fengchi raised his brows. "Of course. I was the one who treated her wounds. Now, she's almost fully recovered. The medicine that I used is much better than the ones you used before."

Chu Liuyue was currently a fourth-grade heavenly doctor, and Jian Fengchi was of a higher grade. So naturally, the pills he produced were better.

"I see... I really have to thank you then, Young Master Jian," said Chu Liuyue with a smile. Suddenly, her expression changed. "Hm? What's this scent?"

Jian Fengchi froze.

Chu Liuyue sniffed. "Young Master Jian, do you smell a faint fragrance?"

Jian Fengchi looked at Chu Liuyue alertly, and a sharp gleam flashed across his ice-cold gaze. "Oh, my mother frequently plays with some herbs and fragrances, so perhaps it's that?"

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding before exclaiming, "Madam is really awesome. This fragrance is much nicer than ordinary scents. I really don't know how she does it."

Jian Fengchi relaxed and looked down. "It's just an ordinary scent—"

"Liuyue!" A happy shout came from outside.

Chu Liuyue turned around and saw Mu Hongyu coming toward her with a face filled with elation and excitement.

"Liuyue, you're here to see me?"

Chu Liuyue smiled, picked up the letter, and passed it over. "This is a letter from your father."

Mu Hongyu gasped and hurriedly took the letter to open it.

Chapter 620: Sword Refinement

Mu Hongyu carefully read the letter a few times, and tears started to well up in her eyes.

Chu Liuyue patted her shoulder gently. "Hongyu, are you okay?"

"I'm fine! I'm fine! When my parents knew that I was still alive and well and even came to Xi Ling to cultivate, they were over the moon. They kept reminding me to cultivate properly."

In this world, there was nothing happier than gaining something back after losing it.

Mu Hongyu passed the letter to Chu Liuyue. "Liuyue, look. My parents said that they have to thank you!"

Chu Liuyue took it over, and her lips blossomed into a beautiful smiling flower. "Yeah, they can completely rest assured now."

Jian Fengchi coughed.

Mu Hongyu immediately said, "Oh, yes! Young Master, my parents even thanked you specifically!"

Jian Fengchi leaned against the chair lazily, and his lips slightly curved up as he spoke in a seemingly nonchalant manner. "It's no big deal. What's there to thank?"

Chu Liuyue turned and glanced at him. Pfft. If you really didn't care, why would you cough?

"Hongyu, why do you call Young Master Jian 'Young Master?'"

Mu Hongyu explained, "Oh, that's because everyone calls him that in Dragon Teeth Mountain."

If she alone kept calling him 'Young Master Jian,' it felt a little strange somehow. Thus, she just changed her way of calling him.

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment and agreed. Mu Hongyu is already Jian Shuye's disciple now and has officially entered Dragon Teeth Mountain. She might need to spend a very long time here in the future, so it's a good thing if she can quickly join in with the rest.

Chu Liuyue smiled and said, "It seems like you've been having a good time at Dragon Teeth Mountain."

Mu Hongyu smiled brightly, and her almond eyes glistened. "Yeah! Master and the rest treat me very nicely! Besides, my current cultivation speed seems much faster than before... Master said that this is because of the nature of my physique. In a while, I should be able to continue breaking through."

Previously, she was quite talented in Country Yao Chen. However, she wasn't an elite, let alone in the rest of the world. Now that she had the Faint Yuan Body, she was worlds apart compared to her previous self.

Even in the entire Tianling Dynasty, she could be considered as one of the most outstanding people.

Chu Liuyue saw that she was elated and was happy for her too. "Since this is so, I feel much better. Now that I've already delivered the letter, I should go first."

Mu Hongyu was very reluctant. "I just came, yet you're leaving? Let me send you off then!"

An idea popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind. "Sure."

The duo left together, and the nonchalant smile on Jian Fengchi's face gradually faded away as he knitted his brows and hurriedly returned to his room.

After he went back, he quickly changed out of his clothes. Sparks flashed on his fingertip and immediately burned the clothes.

Even when the clothing was completely burned, he still felt that something was amiss. "Someone! I want to bathe!"

...

On the other side, Mu Hongyu accompanied Chu Liuyue, and they walked quite a fair distance. On the way, the two of them kept talking about what happened to them recently. Seeing that they were about to reach the foot of the mountain, Chu Liuyue then asked in a seemingly nonchalant manner, "Hongyu, during the days you were at Dragon Teeth Mountain, was Young Master Jian on the mountain the entire time too?"

"Yeah! I need to collect pills from him every day." Mu Hongyu asked curiously, "What's the matter?"

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "Nothing much. I just didn't expect him... to be so patient."

Speaking of this, Mu Hongyu laughed. "Actually, he didn't have a choice either. Master said that he was too unrestricted previously, so he had to properly cultivate in Dragon Teeth Mountain during this time. I heard that Master specifically found many medical books for him and that he has been reading all of them these few days."

"Medical books? There are quite a few people cultivating as heavenly doctors in Dragon Teeth Mountain, so there should be quite a lot of medical books, right? Your master even specifically helped him to find medical books to read?"

Mu Hongyu thought for a moment and said, "Yeah, I think it's some unique copy of a rare book or something... Anyway, it's quite awesome!"

Chu Liuyue lowered her eyes. Medical books... Jian Fengchi has always been very talented as a heavenly doctor, and he has been diligently practicing all these years. He has read tons of medical books. Now, he actually read a unique copy of a rare book...

"Liuyue? Liuyue?" Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn't respond after a long while, Mu Hongyu called her twice. "What are you thinking about?"

Chu Liuyue then recovered from her trance and smiled slightly. "Nothing. I was just thinking that since Young Master Jian is so talented and hardworking, I should work harder. You can go back first and cultivate properly. We'll meet during the clan competition."

Mu Hongyu nodded seriously and couldn't hide the excitement on her face. "Okay!"

...

When Chu Liuyue returned to Chong Xu Cabinet, the night sky had already arrived.

On the way, she met many senior brothers and senior sisters—who ran over and harshly praised her, saying that she had good taste and reminded her to spend more time with Rong Xiu. They even told her to marry him as early as possible.

Chu Liuyue was first dazed. Then, she later realized that Rong Xiu's bribery tactics were working. I wonder how much was exactly put within the Cosmic Rings...

Chu Liuyue agreed to them one by one before returning to her room with much difficulty.

Qiang Wanzhou had already cleaned the room as usual, but he wasn't around.

Chu Liuyue briefly tidied up and went to Yan Lin Peak again.

...

In the quiet forest, only the sound of the sword body and the star stone grinding against each other was especially clear.

Following her movements, the sparks gradually turned from the initial orange color to a dark-blue color every time she grinded.

When the spark color finally became the same as the sword heart that she had finally grinded out, Chu Liuyue finally chose another side and carried out the same process.

In the later period, Chu Liuyue did what she did before. She cultivated on Qing Yuan Mountain during the day and conveniently tidied up the herbs. At night, she refined the sword at Yan Lin Peak.

Rong Xiu seemed to be very busy too as he only came to see her once in between before quickly leaving.

Chu Liuyue didn't ask further as her heart was devoted to the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword.

A month quickly passed. In the blink of an eye, it was the day of the clan competition!