

The Useless Consort Suddenly Makes A Comeback

#Chapter 21: Prodigy Convention! - Read The Useless Consort Suddenly Makes A Comeback Chapter 21: Prodigy Convention!

Chapter 21: Prodigy Convention!

Finishing her words, Ye Qianli suddenly leaped and passed through that huge crowd of people before turning in an alley and disappearing from sight.

All of this happened too suddenly. From the sudden disappearance of the things that were hurled at Ye Qianli, to her words, to her sudden leap and departure... Everything was too unexpected.

As a result, although she did not speak quickly or leave in a hurry, everyone present was still in a daze after she had left for a while.

Even the scouts from those various large factions did not understand the situation...

Why did those things that were hurled at Ye Qianli disappear into thin air? They did not hit her.

Why did she suddenly say those words? What was she planning to do by participating in the Prodigy Convention?

Why was she able to leap up and fly like a powerful martial artist? Could it be that she wasn't crippled?

As Ye Qianli entered the capital city, many scattered questions—one by one—began to surface in the minds of the people who were still paying attention to her—or should they say, the Ye family.

Among them, the Su family—who was paying the most attention to Ye Qianli—had the biggest reaction!

"You didn't find any traces of her afterward?"

"Reporting to Madam, no," Family Steward Su, who was in charge of this incident that the Su family had orchestrated, knelt on the ground with an ugly expression and replied. He also felt very embarrassed that he had actually lost a cripple while chasing her.

However...

"I'm afraid Eldest Young Lady Ye hasn't become crippled. Moreover, since she announced that she's participating in the Prodigy Convention in the name of the Northern Territory King's granddaughter, this subordinate guessed that the old Northern Territory King could be supporting her from the dark," Steward Su defended himself without leaving a trace.

"Impossible! Who is Doctor Jiang? How could his judgment be wrong?" Cheng Meihua—the mother of Su Lianhua, who was honorably addressed as Madam—retorted vehemently.

"This subordinate is incompetent," Family Steward Su hurriedly kowtowed and said.

"Hmph! But a point that you mentioned is possible. The old Northern Territory King values this granddaughter of his very much. Every year, he sends her many good things from the border of the Northern Territory."

Cheng Meihua narrowed her eyes—which were raised charmingly—and thought about her husband's older sister who had married into the Ye residence and had always been embezzling the good stuff and moving them back to her parents' home. The former then felt much better.

"How about this? Continue to investigate. That useless girl must still have some good stuff on her. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been able to fly past the crowd like that. Keep a close eye on her! But don't make any more moves. Let's see what she can do," Cheng Meihua instructed.

"Yes, Madam!" Family Steward Su hurriedly nodded and went to carry out her instructions.

Cheng Meihua, on the other hand, rubbed the center of her eyebrows lightly after her trusted steward left. She actually did not dare to agree blindly to her daughter's letter, telling her to humiliate and trample on Ye Qianli's conduct for sure.

It was not that Cheng Meihua felt outraged by the injustice for Ye Qianli. It was just that she considered things from the long run. When she thought of that old Northern Territory King who was very famous for his prowess even though he was far away at the border of the northern frontier, she still felt a little fearful.

However, after thinking about it carefully, she felt that what she did with her daughter did not leave any evidence against her so she did not take it to heart. Thinking about how her daughter had also awakened her talent, she smiled.

...

At this moment, Ye Qianli—who had disappeared from everyone's sight—was in a certain small tavern outside the Su Residence. She was looking at Family Steward Su

who had rushed into the alley of the Su Residence previously and then came out again in a hurry.

"Young Master, do you have a grudge with Steward Su?" The manager of the tavern who had just reported the information to Ye Qianli could not help but ask when he saw the pink-faced young man staring at Steward Su.

"Of course. He stole my little lover from the Drunken Flower Shop. Thank you for telling me everything, Manager. This Young Master will take his leave first." As Ye Qianli finished speaking, she tossed a piece of silver and left.

Dressed in a white robe with wide sleeves and a thick layer of fragrant powder on her face, she looked like a degenerate playboy. As she walked through the crowd, no one recognized her as Ye Qianli.

After all, not only did she disguise herself well, but her aura was also very realistic. In addition, with the help of the magic box to hide her aura, no one in this capital city would be able to track her unless she revealed herself.

When she appeared again, it was naturally three days later.

The Vermilion Bird Dynasty's Prodigy Convention—that took place once every five years—would convene on the Vermilion Bird Platform in the royal capital today. The talents selected from all over the dynasty would ascend the Vermilion Bird Platform to display their strength.

However, it was said that the Vermilion Bird Platform was divided into two parts: one was the main platform, and the other was the secondary platform. According to the rules of the previous Prodigy Convention, only talent cultivators could ascend onto the main platform.

If there were no talent cultivators, then the Vermilion Bird Platform's main platform would not be opened, and on the last two occasions of the Prodigy Convention, the main platform had never been opened! In other words, within the previous ten years of the Vermilion Bird Dynasty, no new talent cultivators had appeared.

From this, it could be seen just how rare talent cultivators were! It was no wonder that the former Ye Qianli thought that the current Vermilion Bird Dynasty did not have any talent cultivators.

"However, these are only the numbers on the surface. After all, talent cultivators are all super-geniuses. They are specially protected by the dynasty and are also the main targets of assassinations from enemy kingdoms. Therefore, although talent cultivators might exist, they are secretly protected by the Imperial Court."

"Tch, please read more books. How did you survive to such an old age without any common sense? Who doesn't know that, when talent cultivators awaken their talents, there will be natural phenomena that cannot be concealed?!"

"Oh, that's right! Anyone with innate talent will be exposed for sure! That's why truly no new talent cultivators have been born in the past ten years. No wonder I heard that the fighting on the frontier is in a dire situation."

"..."

Ye Qianli walked through the crowd that had gathered in front of the Vermilion Bird Platform early in the morning. As she listened to the discussion, her understanding of the entire dynasty and the talent cultivators increased.

Don't blame her for being ignorant either. When she was in her residence—other than cultivating, playing with her sc*mbag younger cousin, and cultivating; she really didn't know anything else.

The teachers that Ye Fengtian hired for her were all very strict and serious people. Other than giving her pointers on her cultivation of profound energy, they would not talk about anything else.

Of course, it was also possible that other than cultivating profound energy, the teachers did not know anything else as well...

All of Ye Qianli's knowledge of talent cultivators came from the story of her second uncle, from the old granny who used to serve her. However, that old granny was no longer around either. The incident at Clear Wind Palace had ended the lives of all the servants around her.

Clang!

Clang! Clang!

At this moment, the ringing of an ancient bell that shook one's soul suddenly flowed out from the direction of the Sacred Palace, causing everyone to subconsciously stop their discussions.

Clang!

Clang! Clang!

The sound of that bell rose once more, accompanied by the sound of drums and chimes. It sounded grand and majestic! It swept into the hearts of everyone in the Vermilion Bird City, giving off an ancient feeling! It felt dignified yet strangely hot-blooded.

Such ringing music indicated that the Prodigy Convention of the Vermilion Bird Dynasty—which took place every five years—had begun! The Holy Emperor of the Dynasty from within the Sacred Palace and all the high-ranking officials and nobles in the dynasty were about to enter.

"Quick, look!"

Amidst the passionate rhythm of this ancient music, the originally dull-looking Vermilion Bird Platform suddenly shook its heavy bronze feathers like a living creature.

Immediately after, Ye Qianli's eyes lit up!

Chapter 22: I, the Crown Prince, Don't Agree!

Swoosh!

The Vermilion Bird rose with its feathers raised upright. The ancient bronze color faded away, gradually revealing a splendid scarlet red color! The redness of the vermilion bird was like fire and blood.

Vermilion Bird!

Vermilion Bird...

This was the ancient divine beast, the Vermilion Bird! It was vivid and lifelike as it stood tall and proud! It was the center of this world, the source of the reverence of a great number of people.

Crash...

All of a sudden, everyone in front of the Vermilion Bird Platform spontaneously prostrated on the ground and worshiped it with utmost sincerity. That pure expression of faith deeply touched Ye Qianli.

Therefore, she also knelt down with the crowd. It was not because she had also begun to hold the same kind of faith as the crowd of people, but it was just out of respect for this devotion.

Swoosh—

At the same time, the Vermilion Bird Platform—which was radiating the true colors of the Vermilion Bird—had already withdrawn its feathers and stood there. In front of it was an ancient circular copper platform that was slowly being raised into everyone's sight.

This was the Vermilion Bird's secondary stage.

In a short while, there would be mystic cultivators from all over the dynasty, who would ascend this ancient round platform and determine their rankings through competition. Those with outstanding performances would receive the admission notice of an excellent institution on the spot, or they would be given an exception to enter the court as a government official and start their journey into a lifetime of success.

Therefore, to every cultivator, the Prodigy Convention was definitely the best stage to display their abilities. As long as they had the ability, they would rely on this platform to spread their wings like a bird! With one step, they would soar into the sky.

"Eh? Why didn't the main platform open? Weren't there two talent cultivators who awakened a few days ago?" However, the Vermilion Bird Platform only opened the secondary platform—not the main platform, and it greatly disappointed the crowd that had already stood up.

"That's right, aren't there two talent cultivators? I heard that that Jade Rabbit talent cultivator is the daughter of the Eldest Son of the Su Residence, whose family belongs to the Western Wilderness King. She is also the niece of the Northern Territory King's heir, Miss Su Lianhua."

"That's right. I heard about it, too. This Third Young Lady Su has always been very talented. However, the limelight on the former Eldest Young Lady Ye's was stronger. Now, it fits the old saying that the wheel of fortune takes turns. Miss Ye is crippled, and Miss Su is shining now."

"Let's not talk so much. I just want to ask, since a talent cultivator has awakened, why aren't they opening the Vermilion Bird Main Platform?" The crowd was full of doubts and heated debate.

However, even Su Lianhua, who was about to arrive at the scene—after the Holy Emperor, did not understand why.

"Aunt, why isn't the Vermilion Bird Main Platform open?" Su Lianhua couldn't help but look miserably at Su Qin, who was in the same carriage as her. The latter was also clearly confused.

"Granny Nan, send someone to ask the prince why the Vermilion Bird Main Platform isn't open. Is Hua'er not qualified to step on the Vermilion Bird Platform?" Su Qin immediately sent someone to ask.

At the same time, Ye Fengtian—who was similarly puzzled—had already ordered his trusted aide to ask the dynasty's Senior Grand Secretary, Lord Bai. The latter was precisely that white-haired, silver-browed elder.

"Tell Prince Ye that this is the Crown Prince's order." The Grand Secretary, Lord Bai, replied to Ye Fengtian, treating it as doing the latter a favor at little cost to himself.

However, he himself couldn't figure out why the Crown Prince didn't allow the Vermilion Bird Platform to open.

"Why aren't you allowing the Vermilion Bird Platform to open? Even if that Nine Mystical Extraordinary Fire talent cultivator cannot be found, isn't there still the Su family's daughter with Jade Rabbit Talent?" In reality, Holy Emperor Rong Feng—who was in the carriage at the very front—expressed that he didn't understand either.

"I'm not happy," Rong Mo answered willfully when he was asked.

Rong Feng: "... " What else could he say? Although this was his son without mistake, he really couldn't control this child. As a father in such a position, he felt a little stifled, too.

"Do you not like that daughter of the Su family that much, or are you taking your anger out on her?" Rong Feng thought about the report he had received a while ago. He still wanted to know what this genius son was thinking.

Was it because he was dissatisfied with the Ye family of the Northern Territory that he was taking his anger out on this niece? Or was there something else going on?

However, before Rong Feng could inquire about the actual situation, a confidant came to report, "Your Majesty, the Gifted Academy's Lord Feng requests the Crown Prince's presence."

Rong Feng immediately knew that this invitation was related to the incomplete opening of the Vermilion Bird Platform. He couldn't help but glance at the instigator, who was still calm and composed, and felt a headache coming on.

"Your Majesty?" The confidant pressed on somewhat anxiously. That person was a teacher from the Gifted Academy, for goodness' sake.

"I'm not here," Rong Mo responded without waiting for Rong Feng's reply.

Uh...

To be the one to state that he wasn't present... The person who came to make the report didn't know what to say anymore. However, he still had to return and report to Feng Lihuan. "Crown Prince said that he isn't around."

"..." Feng Lihuan's face darkened completely when he heard that. He almost broke out of the carriage to settle his scores with that brat, Rong Mo. Why did he stand him up?

However, just when he stood up on impulse, his body suddenly stopped moving. In the next moment, he lifted the curtain of the carriage, and his sharp eagle-like eyes stared straight at a person in the crowd far away. A...

Young girl?!

An ordinary... Oh, not at all! She was a very pretty and elegant young lady.

"..." Feng Lihuan's face turned even darker instantly. So why was his Gifted Academy enrollment token with this girl?

"Rong Mo, this d*mned brat. Don't tell me, he's using my enrollment token to please this pretty young lady?" Feng Lihuan felt uncomfortable all over.

He did not want to think that way either. However, no matter how he looked at it, he could not detect a trace of the aura of a talent cultivator from this girl, let alone the aura of the Nine Mystical Extraordinary Fire.

When he thought about how willful and preposterous Rong Mo behaved in the academy, he felt that it was very possible. He might have been fooled, hmm... Not perhaps, but that he had definitely been fooled.

With this in mind, Feng Lihuan had already decided to beat that d*mned kid to death! However, just when he had made his decision, he changed his mind the next moment.

Swish!

Right at this moment, Ye Qianli—who was amidst the crowd—acutely sensed that a probing gaze was focused on her like an eagle. She subconsciously looked over.

"!"

With just a glance—when Ye Qianli's gaze met with Feng Lihuan's, the irritable aura from the latter's entire body faded. It was her! The talent cultivator of the Nine Mystical Extraordinary Fire.

Feng Lihuan immediately smiled, and his gaze also changed from investigative probing to gentle kindness. This made the vigilant Ye Qianli narrow her eyes slightly, not knowing what he meant.

"It's him." The magic box sent a message to Ye Qianli right then.

"You know him?" Ye Qianli's right eye had good accuracy so, even though they were far away, she could still see the other party's face clearly. However, she didn't even recognize that person while the magic box actually knew him? This couldn't be right.

"When you were about to awaken your talent, his gift of clairvoyance was near the temporary imperial residence you lived in before. I hid you away afterward. I didn't expect him to be here. It seems like he has recognized you," the magic box said.

"He knows that I'm a Nine Heavens Mystical Fire talent cultivator?" Ye Qianli frowned and asked.

"No, that's not it. After all, you hadn't awakened at that time. He was unable to determine what kind of talent cultivator you were. However, he should have determined that you were that Nine Mystical Extraordinary Fire's talent cultivator." The magic box flashed words on the screen.

"So that's how it is," Ye Qianli nodded her head. Then, she saw that the vast and mighty group of carriages from the Sacred Palace had already arrived in front of the Vermilion Bird Platform. However, the first person to walk out was the one she was extremely familiar with—that beautiful crown prince!

Chapter 23: You Go! No, You Go First

He was dressed in a luxurious embroidered robe, wearing a high hat and a belt. His aura was cold and lofty! Just like the wintry moon, he stood there in such a grand and clear manner. As such, it was an exceptionally heavenly appearance that was unmatched by anyone else.

Looking at him, Ye Qianli wanted to squeeze into the crowd quietly, but alas! The pretty crown prince refused to let her hide even if she wanted to. More so, he even lowered his honorable and elegant neck to look towards her.

That's great!

At this moment, everyone was paying attention to the pretty crown prince; they were all attracted by his heavenly charms. When he suddenly looked over, everyone subconsciously followed his line of vision.

Ye Qianli: "..."

"Who is this? She's so pretty."

"Pui! Are you blind? This is that shameless, useless Eldest Young Lady of the Ye family! Pretty, my *ss! Her character is really inferior, and she has no class."

Shaa, shaa...

The crowd erupted in an instant. Many people, who were standing beside Ye Qianli, seemed to be afraid of her tainting them as they retreated in all directions.

"Elder Sister!"

At the same time, a surprised voice—that sounded very different from the others—rang out from that vast crowd of carriages. Following that, a young girl wearing a splendid white embroidered dress walked out of a carriage.

"Elder Sister, it's really you. Come over quickly. Aunt and Uncle have been very worried about you." Su Lianhua's expression was filled with surprise and concern. She acted really well.

Inwardly, Ye Qianli wanted to say that this drama queen really popped out everywhere...

"Oh! So this is the granddaughter of the Northern Territory King. It's said that she's the most talented noble lady in the dynasty and that she's born with the body of a goddess. Oh, apparently, she said that she's going to make a big move today and blind us."

"Pfft..."

"Hehe..."

After a peculiar female voice drifted out, reserved laughter was released mockingly from many carriages belonging to the nobility and high-ranking officials in the dynasty.

Acting in concert with them, the onlookers in front of the Vermilion Bird Platform even jeered and looked down on her... How many eye rolls, how much contempt... All of these were displayed at this moment.

"So, am I going to be the first to go on stage?" Even facing all of this, Ye Qianli still asked in a clear voice. Her voice was not loud, but it was not soft either. At least, everyone who should have heard her could hear her.

"..."

These words—which showed her 'overestimating herself'—made the ridicule, abusive language, and noisy chatter stop for a moment. Many people even looked at her in distinct shock, thinking that perhaps, this person was a fool.

"Do you want me to be the first to go on stage?" Once again, Ye Qianli asked calmly in this silence. "If that's the case, then I'm going up."

"Ha!"

"Ha! Ha! Ha, ha..."

Ye Qianli had just finished speaking when exaggerated mocking laughter traveled out from a certain carriage. This carriage came from the Su Residence, and that person who walked out laughing heartily was someone Ye Qianli knew.

His name was Su Sheng, and he was Su Lianhua's biological elder brother and Ye Qianli's own older cousin. As of this moment, he was standing in front of his coach and pointing at Ye Qianli as he guffawed. "Younger Cousin Qianli, you're truly becoming more and more brainless. Don't you understand that they're mocking you? Are you making an ironic remark? Hahaha..."

"Elder Brother...!" When Su Lianhua—who was not far away—heard this, she hurriedly shouted.

"Compared to your Su family, my Ye family truly does not have any brains. Otherwise, why would my Ye family's most precious Innate Talent Pill be eaten by an outsider from your Su family?" Ye Qianli mocked.

At the same time...!

"Ye Clan's Ye Qianli, of the Northern Territory King, pays her respects to Your Majesty. May I ask Your Majesty if this commoner girl can be the first to go on stage and display her talent?" Ye Qianli, who was unwilling to speak any more nonsense, had already walked towards the carriage where Holy Emperor Rong Feng was at and asked with a bow on one knee.

"Insolence!" Ye Fengtian, who was still pretending to be dead inside the carriage, had no choice but to walk out of his carriage when he heard this. He shouted angrily, "We can let you behave atrociously within the family, but how can you be allowed to do as you please on the Vermilion Bird Platform? Back off now!"

After this lecture, Ye Fengtian quickly bowed in shame towards the front as well and said, "Your Majesty, I, Ye Fengtian, am ashamed for not teaching my daughter properly."

"Eh, Prince Ye, since your daughter is interested in going on stage, how can we stop her? In our dynasty's Prodigy Convention, those who are confident can go on stage. Moreover, your daughter is going to be the Arena Lord and challenge all the geniuses in the world. She really has the conduct of the Northern Territory King. She should be encouraged. What does His Majesty think?"

However, just as Ye Fengtian finished speaking, a voice rebutted him lazily. After that, an elderly man walked out from a carriage in front of Ye Fengtian's.

As soon as this person appeared, the high-ranking officials and aristocrats—who were listening to the commotion—knew that there was going to be a big show because this old man was the Northern Territory King's sworn enemy, the Eastern Sea King.

"Your Majesty, this old man is willing to request for Old Brother Ye's granddaughter to ascend the stage and become the Arena Lord. Let's see who can defeat my Old Brother Ye's biological granddaughter." The Eastern Sea King bowed as he requested.

"As a minister, I second that."

"As a minister, I second that..."

One by one, several bureaucrats from the Eastern Sea King's faction also agreed.

"Eastern Sea King, as part of the older generation, how can you pretend to be ignorant to trick a junior? Isn't your character somewhat lacking?" At this time, another leisurely elderly voice sounded from beside the Eastern Sea King's carriage.

Subsequently, the Western Wilderness King—who had the same status as the Eastern Sea King and was also Su Lianhua's biological grandfather—stepped out of the carriage and spoke up for the Ye family. After all, the Su family and the Ye family were in-laws so they would definitely extend mutual help to each other on the surface.

"Your Majesty, this old official has a suggestion. Since Brother Eastern Sea King wants to watch a group challenge, why don't you let that lacking granddaughter of mine go on stage? I believe that she will live up to everyone's expectations," Western Wilderness King suggested.

"I second that motion," Ye Fengtian immediately agreed when he heard that.

"I second that..."

The bureaucrats of the Western Wilderness King's faction naturally agreed.

"..."

Due to the fact that the two pillars of the imperial court had spoken beforehand, most people stopped talking. They knew that the two sides were taking advantage of the situation to attack each other. They didn't want to be implicated.

"This commoner girl, Su Lianhua, requests for permission. I am willing to represent Elder Sister Ye Qianli to ascend the stage and become the Arena Lord of this tournament to challenge all the heroes of the realm. May the Emperor make a wise judgment?" However, at this quiet and solemn moment, Su Lianhua spoke with an especially soft yet firm voice.

"Now, I don't agree with you saying that. What do you mean by representing me on the stage? You should be saying that you're throwing a brick to attract jade, okay? If you want to be the first to go on stage, I won't fight with you, but please use your words properly," Ye Qianli retorted after hearing that. She was in a bad mood.

"Tch..."

Ye Qianli's words immediately caused a commotion once more.

Ye Fengtian even wanted to strangle this evil girl to death. His trusted subordinate, who was signaled by his meaningful gaze, squeezed into the crowd at lightning speed. He wanted to drag this brainless Ye Qianli away quickly to prevent her stirring up trouble again.

However—

"Elder Sister is right to lecture me. Hua'er is throwing a brick to attract jade now. Please appear on stage to give guidance after Hua'er, Elder Sister," However, Su Lianhua replied gently.

"Permission granted."

As soon as Su Lianhua finished speaking, Rong Feng made his decision. In other words, he had permitted Su Lianhua to be the first to enter the stage, and Ye Qianli would be the second?!

What was going on?

He clearly knew that Ye Qianli was a cripple, and yet he still allowed her to ascend the stage? He even allowed her to ascend the stage after Su Lianhua. Could it be that the emperor also felt that Ye Qianli was not a piece of trash and could really guide that talent cultivator, Su Lianhua?

It was impossible. Doctor Jiang's judgment could not be wrong! Then, there was only one possibility. The current emperor was dissatisfied with the Ye family and wanted to use this to teach the Northern Territory King a lesson.

Chapter 24: Who's Trampling on Who Exactly?

No matter how the different parties speculated about the emperor's intentions, the Prodigy Convention still began on time. Moreover, Holy Emperor Rong Feng and Crown Prince Rong Mo ascended to the foremost front of the Vermilion Bird Platform under everyone's expectant gazes. Behind them, all the high-ranking officials and nobles also took their seats along that row best for observing the matches.

"Prodigy Convention!"

"Prodigy Convention!..."

When the Minister of Confucian Rites—Luo Xingping—finished reading out the rules of the convention, the crowd immediately erupted into loud cheers. Even though there had been some baffling situation earlier—where a fool had messed with the stage, this did not hinder people's expectations for the assembly. Instead, it could be said that it heightened people's anticipation.

Due to Su Lianhua's imminent appearance, many people had already heard from various sources that Miss Su Lianhua of the Su Residence was the Jade Rabbit talent cultivator. She had awakened a third-level innate talent.

"Next, we invite the challenger of this year's Arena Lord, Su Lianhua, to ascend the stage. She will first display her strength before accepting the challenges from the heroes of the world." As the Minister of Rites, Luo Xingping was also the host of the Prodigy Convention.

However, just as he finished his announcement, the crowd below the stage could not help but ask loudly, "Aren't you going to open the main stage?"

"That's right, that's right! Aren't you going to open the Vermilion Bird Platform? Isn't Miss Su a talent cultivator?"

"That's right, talent cultivators should display their talent on the Vermilion Bird Main Platform, right? This has been the rule of the previous Prodigy Convention gatherings!..." Because they hadn't opened the Vermilion Bird Main Platform for two consecutive times, many people expressed their desire to see it.

Those who had seen the graceful bearing of the Vermilion Bird Main Platform wanted to experience it again; those who had never seen it before naturally wanted to experience it even more. They had all heard that the Vermilion Bird Main Platform was very spectacular, like a heavenly stage.

Unfortunately...

His Highness, the Crown Prince, disagreed.

Luo Xingping could only give a dignified cough and pretend that he did not hear anything. "Su Lianhua, please come on stage."

"How can this be? Hua'er, if they don't open the Vermilion Bird Main Platform, you won't go up," Su Qin said as she pulled onto Su Lianhua with a very ugly expression.

"Sister-in-law, I don't think this is a good idea, right?" After they were seated, Su Qin and Su Lianhua had sat together with the ladies of the Su family. Hence, Cheng Meihua could speak from the side.

"What's wrong about it? Let your brother-in-law object to it! No one can bully our Hua'er. Hua'er is a talent cultivator so what right do they have to not allow her to ascend the main stage?" Su Qin said protectively.

Hearing that, Cheng Meihua didn't say anything else. Anyway, she didn't need to be in the limelight and someone would automatically stand up for her daughter. What would she be unhappy about?

"Aunt, I think I'd better go up. Otherwise, it won't be good for Uncle either. After all, there is Elder Sister's matter on top of this," Su Lianhua claimed considerably nevertheless.

"This evil creature! Don't bother about her. If I had known that she would cause so much trouble, I should have strangled her to death when she was born. How infuriating."

As soon as Su Qin thought of Ye Qianli's foolish behavior just now, she was so angry that her entire body hurt. How did she give birth to such a vile creature? Even if she had to give birth to a piece of barbecued pork back then, it would have been better than giving birth to this evil creature.

"Su Lianhua, please come on stage," At this point, Luo Xingping was already furrowing his brows as he spoke again, even raising his voice.

When she saw this, Su Lianhua inwardly knew that she could not delay any longer. Even if she delayed any longer, she would not be able to get to the Vermilion Bird Main Platform. She could only stand up decisively and appear before Luo Xingping—like a streak of white light rising from the audience—under everyone's astonished gazes.

Whoosh—

"Did she display Jade Rabbit's talent just now? Her speed was so fast that I didn't even see her exact movements clearly?" As a result, the present crowd erupted into an uproar.

"Lord Luo." After Su Lianhua went on stage, she bowed to Luo Xingping apologetically. The latter nodded then and followed up with, "Since Miss Su has already come on stage, please exhibit your strength. You know all the rules, right?"

Knowing that Su Lianhua was a talent cultivator, Luo Xingping still expressed his goodwill. That was because everyone hoped to form a good relationship with talent cultivators. After all, they held a lot of potential.

"Yes, Lord Luo." Su Lianhua nodded. Luo Xingping left the stage, and the entire Vermilion Bird Platform became Su Lianhua's territory.

This feeling of being the center of attention made Su Lianhua—who was standing alone on the stage, no longer a supporting character, and had no one to steal her limelight—feel excited, delighted, and proud of herself.

She subconsciously looked below the Vermilion Bird Platform at Ye Qianli—who could not even go up to the spectator seats and could only squeeze among the dirty citizens—and could not help but reveal an even more satisfied smile.

Ye Qianli, Ye Qianli, it seems like you truly are hopelessly stupid. You still have to be used by me up till today. Sending yourself to me so that I can step on you.

Su Lianhua thought happily in her heart as she bowed towards the noble guests at the spectator seats.

Shortly after...

Buzz!

Without wasting any more words, Su Lianhua's entire body glowed with white light, and a snow-white and fluffy jade rabbit appeared out of thin air above her head.

The jade rabbit was not big; it was only the size of a house cat, but it was very agile. It was also emitting a mysterious, heavenly aura from head to toe.

"Up."

Su Lianhua formed a secret seal with one hand, and the white glow emitting from her body became increasingly dense. It was as if white fog had gathered around her, making her look even more beautiful and moving.

At the same time, the jade rabbit that was originally floating above her head slowly became rather illusory, and the white mist that lingered around Su Lianhua slowly condensed into the shape of a rabbit, enveloping her within.

At the next moment...!

Buzz!

Before many people could clearly see what was going on, Su Lianhua had already soared into the sky. She looked like a fairy as she stepped on white clouds and flew into the sky amidst the heavenly mist curled around her.

"Standing straight in the air without foundation! This is the Imperial Sky Realm that only a Mystic King can reach!" When this scene was revealed, there was an uproar among the people present. Then, more and more excited exclamations began to spread out.

That's right! Once a talent cultivator awakened their talent, they would already possess the power of a Mystic King, and a Mystic King's power was something that a mystic cultivator might not be able to achieve... even if they painstakingly cultivated their whole life.

For someone like Ye Fengtian who had a solid foundation and abundant cultivation resources, even he had only just stepped into the Mystic King Realm when he was in his 40s—close to half a century. This was already considered the fastest advancement among the practitioners of mystic energy.

"She is a talent cultivator indeed!"

At this moment, even the high-ranking officials and nobles in the audience were looking into the sky with excited expressions, at the gentle and beautiful Su Lianhua—who resembled a fairy patrolling the skies.

Although she had yet to display any other skills, just with this ability to fly, she had already thrown the heroes of the world hundreds of streets away. After all, which young genius could strike Su Lianhua who was flying in the air? No one.

Therefore, with just this ability alone, she was already fully deserving of the title of this tournament's Arena Lord in the audience's eyes. There was no need to show anything else, but...

"Is it over just like that?" Ye Qianli looked at Su Lianhua, who was still flying in the sky, and asked in a speechless manner. If that was the case, then she would be going up next.

Wasn't this display of talent too retarded? Was she here to show off her talent, or was she here for the beauty pageant? Ye Qianli wanted to hold her forehead. She regretted not going on stage first.

Chapter 25: Ye Qianli's Turn!

"How impudent!" Many people in the spectator stands who were enjoying this scene rebuked in anger. They only felt that this shameless piece of trash from the Ye Clan was so stupid to the extent of being disagreeable.

"I'm sorry. Hua'er didn't control her time well. Elder Sister, don't worry. I won't hold you up." On the other hand, Su Lianhua acknowledged and fell back onto the stage.

This time, she really had to thank Ye Qianli again. In truth, she had just cultivated the Jade Rabbit Divine Ability. Her control was not too good, and so she could not fly high in the air for a long time.

"Next, Hua'er will display the power of my talent for everyone," Su Lianhua said with a faint smile. Her warm and gentle demeanor easily made people have a good impression of her.

This was especially since the talent cultivators were usually all high and mighty so someone who acted this sensitive to the commoner's needs like Su Lianhua was naturally very popular.

"Go, Miss Su!"

"Miss Su is so beautiful!"

"Wishing Miss Su good health and longevity!..."

In an instant, many groups of people began to cheer, and amidst the waves of cheering that grew louder and louder, 18 enormous drums slowly rose behind the Vermilion Bird's secondary stage.

Everyone present was familiar with these 18 enormous drum platforms. They all knew that the drum surfaces of any one of them required 500 kilograms of force to make a sound.

The strongest practitioner of mystic energy in the previous Prodigy Conventions could at most use his mystic energy to sound two drums at the same time. Moreover, that was a first-rate mystic cultivator who was not even twenty-five years old.

It was said that an ordinary Mystic King could sound 12 drums. Reportedly, only a supreme powerhouse above the level of a Mystic King could sound 18 drums at the same time.

Therefore, in the previous years, no talent cultivator could sound 18 drums simultaneously. The highest record was said to be 14, which was already extraordinary.

After all, there was a strict rule in the Prodigy Convention—that the participants must be under the age of 25. Of course, the premise in which these records could be maintained was that the Crown Prince Rong Mo had never participated in the Prodigy Convention.

"Miss Su! Miss Su!" Seeing that the 18 drums had been raised to their respective positions, the crowd became even more excited! Numerous orderly chants rose and fell rhythmically.

At this moment, Su Lianhua had already walked over. She stood at the very center of the stage with 18 drums, and white light curled up around her once again.

"Jade Rabbit First Art, Illusory of Life! Quick attack." Su Lianhua formed seals with her hands and chanted in a gentle voice. Streaks of white light gathered from her body once again and shot out.

Swish! Swish! Swish...

The 18 vivid and lifelike jade rabbits were lined up in front of Su Lianhua just like that jade rabbit that had appeared at the beginning. They followed the direction of her palm and smashed towards the surfaces on the 18 drums.

"Wow, Miss Su wants to challenge pounding the 18 drums at the same time! That's awesome!"

"I'm so looking forward to it!" The crowd exploded upon seeing this. Even the spectators couldn't sit still. Even the Holy Emperor, Rong Feng, was a little excited at this moment.

Unfortunately...

Boom—

A series of colliding sounds rang out. However... Not a single drum had been sounded? Uh... this... This was freaking awkward.

"!"

Su Lianhua's face turned red from embarrassment, especially when it was so quiet behind her right now, and yet she could feel everyone's eyes focused on her. However, she did not even manage to ring a single drum?!

"Ahem... Miss Su, you can try hitting 14 drums instead." The host, Luo Xingping, had no choice but to rip open the awkward atmosphere and make an extremely embarrassing suggestion.

"That's right, that's right. Miss Su, don't be anxious." The onlookers were also very understanding.

However, Su Lianhua could not get past this hurdle in her own heart. Hence, after taking a deep breath, she conjured 16 jade rabbits again. Clearly, she wanted to take a step back and challenge 16 drums as the second-best option.

"Miss Su is amazing!"

"Miss Su, you can do it!" The crowd was also very supportive and cheered for Su Lianhua with all their might. However... After an awkward burst of banging sounds rang out, once again, the conclusion awkwardly announced that Su Lianhua had failed her challenge.

Uh...

This was no longer an ordinary kind of awkwardness.

"..." Luo Xingping did not know how to smooth things over anymore. He had just said that it would be fine to challenge 14 drums. In the previous years, everyone had started challenging from the minority to the majority. It looked like this lady from the Su Residence seemed to be a little too ambitious.

"Hua'er, hit 12 drums. After all, you were injured before." Ye Fengtian's voice sounded at this moment though, resolving this awkward situation for Su Lianhua perfectly.

Hearing this, Su Lianhua was touched. This time, she was really touched. Because of Ye Fengtian's explanation, the crowd suddenly realized and said understandingly, "That's right, how could we have almost forgotten about this? No wonder."

After that, Su Lianhua did not try to show off anymore. She directly rang 12 drums and won the applause from the entire stage.

After all, everyone was thinking that she was still injured, and yet she could still sound 12 drums. In that case, if she was not injured, the 14 drums would definitely not be a problem, and even the 16 drums could be successfully challenged.

"Lord Luo, the Vermilion Bird Stage should be opened next. Hua'er needs to go up to the main stage to display her talent and see if she can receive the Vermilion Bird God's commendation," Ye Fengtian stated clearly after the loud applause.

"That's right, it's time to open the main platform," said the Western Wilderness King at this moment, too.

"Not opening." However, Rong Mo—who had been silent since the start of the match and had not said a single word at all—slowly enunciated two words.

"..." Everyone fell silent instantly.

"..." Ye Fengtian and the Western Wilderness King, whose requests had been rejected straight away, only felt extremely embarrassed. Originally, they had thought that, at this point, the Vermilion Bird Main Stage should be opened.

After all, Su Lianhua had already displayed her talent, and her results were considered pretty good. Although she was not the best compared to the previous batches, she was still rather passable. However, why did he refuse to open the main platform?

"May I ask why, Your Highness?" Su Lianhua was even more indignant. Actually, she also knew that the most important function of the Vermilion Bird Main Platform was to reward talent cultivators.

Although this kind of reward wasn't necessarily guaranteed—once the Vermilion Bird God's favor was obtained, the power that the Vermilion Bird Platform would send back would bestow upon the talent cultivator unexpected benefits.

Furthermore, even if there were no benefits, as long as the Vermilion Bird God looked upon her with favor, it would definitely be a great honor. This was also the honor that all the talent cultivators in the dynasty yearned for, even in their dreams.

"Next." However, Rong Mo's answer immediately severed Su Lianhua's last hope. However, she simply could not understand why. Why?!

Could it be that just because that moron Ye Qianli offended His Highness, the Crown Prince, before that she, Su Lianhua, would have to meet with misfortune?! Did she have to be implicated? She was indignant and wanted to protest again.

"Let's invite Ye Qianli onto the stage." Except that Luo Xingping had already spoken.

When Ye Qianli—who had been waiting below the stage for a long time—heard this, she stood on her tiptoes and lightly soared onto the stage. Her speed was not considered fast, but it gave people a feeling of lightness and grace, like a feather floating in the air.

"Hmm? Why isn't there any mystic energy, or the aura of any other power?" At the same time, Lord Bai—the white-haired and silver-browed Grand Secretary—keenly caught the fact that this series of actions from Ye Qianli didn't actually rely on any power?

Could it be...?

Chapter 26: Their Faces Hurt!

"Elder Sister has quite a lot of treasures on her. However, according to the rules of the convention, I'm afraid she can't use external items. Elder Sister, look..." Su Lianhua could also tell that Ye Qianli's actions were not ordinary. However, she did not have Grand Secretary Bai's observation skills. She thought that Ye Qianli had borrowed external help.

According to the rules of the prodigy convention, participants could only use their own strength on the Vermilion Bird Platform. Once they borrowed the power of other external forces such as weapons, they would be eliminated immediately.

However, when Ye Qianli heard that, she looked at the self-righteous Su Lianhua with a gaze like she was caring for someone who was mentally retarded. The latter felt provoked by this gaze of hers.

"Miss Su, the Vermilion Bird Platform will judge for itself whether Miss Ye used external help or not. There's no need for you to worry." As soon as Luo Xingping saw that Su Lianhua's expression wasn't right, he already took the initiative to explain to her rather kindly.

"..." However, Su Lianhua was still embarrassed. It was still awkward! Furthermore... wait. Since she was not borrowing external forces, then how could Ye Qianli step onto the stage so elegantly?

"Miss Su..." Luo Xingping saw that Su Lianhua was still standing there motionlessly after he had finished explaining the rules. Now, it was his turn to be embarrassed, all right? Didn't she know the rules? Why was she still foolishly standing on the stage and not moving? She should get off the stage!

"Thank you for your explanation, Lord Luo. I've been in the Northern Region all year round, but I didn't know that the Vermilion Bird Platform had such a magical quality. In that case, please guide Hua'er, Elder Sister," said Su Lianhua instead.

Uh...

This time, Luo Xingping was really embarrassed!

"That's right, they can just fight right away. There's no need to give this useless person any time to show off. Besides, Miss Su will definitely accept the challenge!"

"That's right, that's right. Stop wasting time. Let Miss Su beat this shameless sc*m off the Vermilion Bird Platform immediately. Don't let her sully the Vermilion Bird Platform."

"Hit her! Hit her! Hit—"

When the watching masses heard that, they did not know that Su Lianhua actually did not understand the rules of being the Arena Lord. They simply thought that she was not taking Ye Qianli seriously so they started to cheer one after another.

In any case, they were not the least bit interested in having a useless person show off her strength! Even if her movement up to the stage seemed rather smooth—compared to Miss Su, it was like comparing fish eyes to pearls. They were on completely different levels.

"Silence!"

Luo Xingping saw that the situation was a little chaotic and had no choice but to shout out sternly. At the same time, he said bluntly, "Miss Su, as the Arena Lord, it is true that any person who comes onto the stage after you will become the challenger by default. However, they will also have to display their strength first before you decide whether to accept the challenge or not."

"I must remind you sternly that, as an Arena Lord, you have no right to change the rules of the competition. Moreover, if you do not accept the contender's challenge, it will be considered that you have given up on the competition. You will have no right to participate in any of the following matches. Now, please step down from the stage and wait."

He had already made it so clear. Su Lianhua wasn't a real retard as well so she naturally understood what he said. Hence, she had to leave the stage for real this time! She was extremely embarrassed, and her face nearly turned all red.

However, she—Su Lianhua—was a capable person after all. She quickly recollected herself and apologized, "I'm sorry, Lord Luo. I'm not very familiar with the rules of being the Arena Lord. I've embarrassed myself in front of everyone. Elder Sister, please don't mind me. I'll come up again later to ask for your guidance."

As soon as she finished speaking, Su Lianhua's figure blurred, and she was in a hurry to leave this awkward scene. However, she did not manage to leave because an invisible pressure had locked onto her.

"Hold on." Accompanying this pressure was Ye Qianli's voice.

Su Lianhua's heart skipped a beat. She looked at Ye Qianli in confusion and asked, "What can I do for you, Elder Sister?"

"Don't call me Elder Sister. You don't deserve it," Ye Qianli said. This was what she had always wanted to say. Every time she heard Su Lianhua call her these two words—'Elder Sister', she would feel nauseous.

"Elder Sis—"

"I said, don't call me that." Ye Qianli's voice lowered slightly, and a small cluster of flames had already flickered into her pair of glass-like eyes as she looked at Su Lianhua.

"Su Qin is not my mother, and you are not my younger cousin. Please remember this forever. Also, for everyone present in this day and age, please remember that I, Ye Qianli, have nothing to do with Ye Fengtian and Su Qin."

Ye Qianli enunciated each and every word clearly. Before anyone could react, she raised her hand and ignited a cluster of flames in her palm! A cluster of brilliant and astonishingly bright flames.

"My will is like this fire! It will accompany me for life and will never be extinguished," Ye Qianli said slowly. She had already flipped her hand over. In a split second, a prairie fire rapidly spread out in all directions with her as the center.

Swoosh!

The Vermilion Bird Platform was burning with wondrous flames, and those flames burned to a height of 10 meters! Within 10 miles of the Vermilion Bird Platform, it was all covered with strands of open flames! This was a true fire! Many people could clearly feel that the heat of this fire was so high. So hot and so real.

However...

Luo Xingping and Su Lianhua were still on the Vermilion Bird Platform because they were not able to get off the stage in time. Although they were engulfed by thousands of flames, they were not burned at all.

"Nine Mystical Extraordinary Fire!"

Grand Secretary, Lord Bai, slapped his thigh and stood up. He was completely stunned. This was the Nine Mystical Extraordinary Fire talent cultivator whom he had been looking for! It was actually her, the Eldest Young Lady of the Ye Residence, Ye Qianli!

"This..."

Ye Fengtian was also stunned, but his face was deathly pale! Ye Qianli's words had been spoken so clearly just now. She, Ye Qianli, had nothing to do with him, Ye Fengtian, and Su Qin.

"So, don't call me Elder Sister. You are not worthy at all. You were not worthy in the past, and you are even less worthy now." Ye Qianli looked at Su Lianhua, who was completely dumbfounded, and emphasized every word again.

You were not worthy in the past, and you are even less worthy now!

These words were like a curse that smashed into Su Lianhua's mind, causing her face to turn pale. Not only that, but her excitement, smugness, and ambition were also ruthlessly shattered.

Buzz.

Meanwhile, Ye Qianli—who had finished speaking—had already channeled all the flames on the stage back into her body as she wished. The high temperature in the entire venue also dissipated as if it had never appeared before.

"This..."

"This... That..."

The onlookers were also dumbfounded. This was because there had been too much information to absorb from the reveal of this skill from Ye Qianli! Their brains simply could not comprehend it quickly.

Didn't they say that the Eldest Young Lady of the Ye family was crippled? Furthermore, the results of the diagnosis of the imperial hospital's physician, Lord Jiang, were very authoritative! There shouldn't be any misdiagnosis.

Didn't they say that the Eldest Young Lady of the Ye family had low morals? She was discovered for having an affair with the guards and was even kicked out of the family? However... Eldest Young Lady Ye was a talent cultivator!

As a talent cultivator, why would she have an affair with a guard? How could she fancy an insignificant and lowly guard? How blind would she have to be? Besides... Which family would be that brainless as to kick a talent out of their house?

"I'm sorry, but I need to borrow the Vermilion Bird Platform to clarify this. After all, there are always people who think that I'm joking when I talk about it elsewhere." In the time it took Ye Qianli to withdraw her move and stand straight, she even gave an explanation.

However, at this moment, everyone's thoughts were no longer on her, but behind her! No, it should be said that they were beyond the Vermilion Bird's secondary stage.

Screech—

Chapter 27: Vermilion Bird God!

The vermilion bird, which had already lost its decaying bronze color and returned to its statue-like state, suddenly let out a long cry at this moment! Countless blood-red divine lights and countless flame-like divine auras erupted into existence like volcanoes from the vermilion bird.

At that moment...!

What was dazzling?

What was spectacular?

What was shocking?

Only then did the onlookers truly understand what they were! This scene before their eyes was a godly combination of those.

Screech—

That dynamic cry of the divine vermilion bird was like the descent of a clear song of the gods, and it shook the hearts of all those present. It threw away all their souls, filling them with reverence and piety!

At that moment...

Swoosh, swoosh—

Everyone in the audience had already stood up one after another. Even Rong Feng was not an exception. Even Feng Lihuan stood up with utmost respect. Only Crown Prince Rong Mo still remained seated, but there was also a strange light flickering in his eyes right then.

No one knew what he was thinking, and no one paid any attention to his gaze. This was because everyone was following the lead of Holy Emperor Rong Feng at this moment. They bowed respectfully and said in a reverent voice, "We pay our respects to the Vermilion Bird God."

At that moment...

Buzz.

Vermilion Bird—which was receiving prostrations—even opened its pair of divine and awe-inspiring eyes! Right now, this 180-foot-tall giant Vermilion Bird sculpture truly came to life.

It looked down on its people and this mortal world. It made everyone feel tiny and insignificant, as though they were a minute existence floating around on this earth.

Even Ye Qianli was no exception. Especially when she discovered that this Vermilion Bird that had opened its eyes and 'came back to life' bizarrely seemed to be mainly looking at her?

Ye Qianli didn't know if this was a misperception or if everyone else had the same feeling. However, she quickly understood that this shouldn't be a misperception... because this Vermilion Bird really was looking at her.

"Nine Heavens Goddess," it said.

That's right!

It talked!

It was talking to her?!

Ye Qianli was a little stunned, and her pupils constricted slightly as a result. However, even though she was extremely bewildered, she still knew that the voice currently sounding in her mind was coming from this Vermilion Bird in front of her.

However, she didn't know how to respond, and from what she was hearing from the Vermilion Bird's words, it seemed like the bird didn't need her to answer.

In fact, this Vermilion Bird truly did not need Ye Qianli to give a response. It had already shaken its feathers and sent a flaming-red feather directly to her.

This was an extremely beautiful feather that had originally grown on its tail. Of course, the crux of this feather wasn't its beauty... but the powerful Great Vermilion Bird's divine power contained within it.

It had given this to her as a greeting gift.

"..." Ye Qianli subconsciously reached out to catch it, but her hand burned up with a sizzling sound. The smell of cooked meat dissipated along with it, and she almost cried out in pain.

Swish! That vermilion bird feather transformed into a wisp of scorching energy that drilled into her meridians, almost burning her entire body.

Buzz!

If not for the Nine Heavens Mystical Fire in her body automatically protecting its owner, she would definitely be burned into ashes! This was truly a new way of giving a greeting gift. Did it have to torture her like this?

However, the Vermilion Bird—which had given its tail feather—did not feel that it was inappropriate. Its pair of divine eyes also closed once more after sending her the item. That blood-like divine light and the flame-like divine aura also slowly withdrew, and the statue returned to stillness.

"..."

After a long while, Rong Feng and the others finally managed to calm down their inner shock and looked at Ye Qianli with burning gazes. Because at that moment just now, although they did not see clearly what exactly happened, they all felt that maybe... Maybe...

Ye Qianli had been rewarded by the Vermilion Bird God!

"Ye Qianli, did you receive the Vermilion Bird God's commendation?" The Senior Grand Secretary, Lord Bai, asked bluntly—without the slightest bit of politeness.

Upon hearing his question, Ye Qianli was slightly stunned for a moment. She did not expect someone to ask her like this. However, she still nodded and replied, "I think so."

Although this award was a little like a punishment...

Ye Qianli felt a little sorrowful. She looked at her hand that was full of blisters and only felt a heart-wrenching pain. This was definitely a severe third-degree burn.

"Impossible!" However, Su Lianhua retorted sharply, causing everyone to look towards her subconsciously, only to see her face full of disbelief.

"That's impossible. Everyone knows that the Vermilion Bird God's commendation will only happen on the main platform. You're on the secondary stage right now so how could you receive the Vermilion Bird God's commendation? You're lying," Su Lianhua argued with conviction.

"It's fine if you want to think that way. I don't mind," Ye Qianli replied calmly as she tore a piece of cloth from her sleeve and wrapped it around her wretched hand.

"You..." Her nonchalant attitude made Su Lianhua feel terrible, as if she had punched cotton.

However, Ye Qianli did not care whether Su Lianhua was upset or not. After she finished bandaging her injured hand, she looked at Luo Xingping and asked, "Lord Luo, can I start showing off my strength?"

"..." Luo Xingping was still a little confused right now. He felt that today definitely had the highest frequency of unexpected situations since he became the Minister of Rites and started hosting the Prodigy Convention.

"Vermilion..." At the same time, Su Lianhua—who had suppressed her frustration—still wanted to say something.

However, Luo Xingping was not that polite this time. He directly said, "Miss Su, why aren't you stepping down yet? Don't you understand anything I said before?"

"..." Su Lianhua's face turned pale, but she had no choice but to leave the venue. However, she felt extremely indignant. She was that unwilling to accept it.

For what reason?!

Why would the Senior Grand Secretary think that Ye Qianli had received a commendation from the Vermilion Bird God? It looked like many people thought the same thing as well, but how could that be possible? Logically speaking, it wasn't right.

Although that scene just now was very mythical, Ye Qianli was not on the Vermilion Bird's Main Platform so it was impossible for her to receive the Vermilion Bird God's commendation! Through the years of the Vermilion Bird Dynasty, the Vermilion Bird God's commendations all happened on the main stage of the Vermilion Bird Platform, didn't they?

In reality, many people actually held the same thoughts as Su Lianhua. However, there was nothing wrong with Ye Qianli's answer either. She only said that it should be the case. It was fine even if the rest of them didn't think so.

However, regardless of what others thought, Luo Xingping—who was the host—had already continued, "Miss Ye, what you did previously was already a perfect display of your talent. Now, you just need to demonstrate your strength."

"All right." Ye Qianli nodded. Just as Luo Xingping retreated to the side of the stage, she walked over to those 18 drums.

"..."

At this moment, it was extremely quiet outside the arena. No one made a sound, be it the spectators in the stands or the commoners below.

Those who had been cheering for Su Lianhua with all their might and constantly insulting Ye Qianli earlier were most likely too embarrassed to speak up now. Those who were originally rational bystanders did not have a habit of making a ruckus so the scene was unusually quiet.

Buzz!

Ye Qianli stood firmly in front of those 18 drums in this strange and quiet atmosphere. She raised her uninjured hand, and her palm once again burned with an extremely bright flame. The flame grew brighter and brighter! It became more and more dazzling.

In the blink of an eye...!

Chapter 28: The Pride of a Genius! They can't Afford to Humiliate Her!

Many people could not withstand the luminosity of the flame and subconsciously closed both of their eyes. Only those whose cultivation levels were above Mystic Soldiers could still hold on and stare with much difficulty.

At the same time, Ye Qianli's hand finally moved!

Swoosh!

With a move of her hand, her body also leaned back slightly. The fire in her palm quickly rose, and a heavy breath of fire spread out towards the entire site with her as the center in a flash.

"In the name of your master, summon!"

Ye Qianli let out a clear shout, and her wrist pressed down in the position of a slam dunk. The flame in her palm exploded with a 'bang', causing the heaven and earth to tremble.

Immediately after—!

"Roar—"

"Roar—"

Everyone could clearly see that the sky above the Vermilion Bird Platform seemed to have cracked open! 18 streaks of cracks split abruptly, and 18 dragon-shaped flames of fury seemed to have fallen from the highest of the heavens! They shone brilliantly as they appeared.

At the next moment...!

Boom!

Boom! Boom!

In no particular order, these 18 dragon flames of fury neatly charged towards the 18 drums aggressively the instant Ye Qianli pressed her palm down.

For a moment...!

Dong!

An ultra-loud sound of drums shook the heavens as it exploded out. The powerful vibrating sound wave was like a continuous ripple of water. A tangible sound wave swept across the entire stage with the 18 drums as its center! It swept across the entire site! It even swept across the entire city!

Dong—

The aftershocks of this drumbeat continued to quake endlessly towards the Vermilion Bird Mountain on the south side of the Vermilion Bird Royal City. It jolted into the Vermilion Bird Temple on this divine mountain, startling a blood-red light to shoot into the sky.

18 drums!

Rang evenly!

Furthermore, because it was so orderly, everyone only heard a single ring.

It was also because it was too orderly that the might of this loud sound was magnified! Many onlookers at the scene couldn't help but feel a pain in their hearts. They had been severely injured on the spot, bleeding from their seven orifices from the quakes.

All 18 drum surfaces of the Vermilion Bird Platform were vibrating at the same time! This was unprecedented in history!

...

How many people stood up with widened eyes...

How many people became so excited that their eyes turned red...

How many people raised their hands and clapped vigorously...

...

Pa! Pa! Pa!

The venue was soon covered by thunderous applause. However, no matter how loud the applause was, it could not cover up the sound of the drum. From that, it could be seen how strong Ye Qianli, the person who had struck the drum, was.

This wasn't just a simple sounding of the drums; this was practically a conquest! The 18 drums were singing loudly for her, singing loudly for her regal bearing of a king!

Three days ago, she said, "Am I shameless, or am I being slandered? Am I a great waste, or am I a real genius? In the Prodigy Convention three days later, I—the granddaughter of the Northern Territory King, Ye Qianli—invite you to wait and see."

Three days later, at this moment!

She used her talent and her strength to silently but shockingly say: "I'm a genius. I'm the granddaughter of the Northern Territory King, Ye Qianli. How noble I am! How proud I am! Why do I need to degrade myself?"

At this moment...

Even Ye Fengtian knew that he had wronged his daughter as he had seen the ironclad evidence and solid proof. Why? There was no reason. This was the truth.

It was laughable that his daughter had asked him back then: "Father, do you think so, too?"

At that time, he really thought so. He thought that, because this daughter of his could not stand being turned into a useless person, she was willing to lower herself to... to do those things that he was even ashamed to talk about.

Thinking back carefully, how many times had his daughter cast hopeful glances at him, hoping that he would stand on her side? Trust her! Trust her.

However, what did he do? He had destroyed his daughter's hopes time and time again.

Therefore, she left—severing her father-daughter relationship with him without hesitation—and resolutely walked out of the residence! At that time, he still thought that this evil girl was just being muddled for a moment and would return after she went out and ran up against a snag. She could only come back, too. Otherwise...?

However, right now, he knew that it was impossible. She would never come back.

From now on, in this huge Ye family, she only had one family member in her heart—her grandfather and his father. No one else.

At such a moment, Ye Fengtian finally realized that, although this daughter resembled her grandmother very much in looks, her personality was very similar to her grandfather's. She was very similar to their Ye family—proud and unyielding!

Pa, pa, pa...

At that moment, Ye Fengtian clapped as well. Tears rolled down the corners of his eyes as he clapped. He did not know why he had been so blinded that he lost such a good daughter. He only knew that, as a member of the Ye family, she was that outstanding! And that dazzling.

I'm sorry.

Father was wrong.

Ye Fengtian was filled with intense regret. It was a pity that he himself knew it was too late...

As a father, he had abandoned his daughter when his daughter needed support, understanding, and trust the most. Now that she was the center of attention, how could he have the face to ask for her forgiveness and enjoy her honor?

"Ye Qianli, I'm the headteacher of the Gifted Academy, Feng Lihuan. I'm also the one who issued that genius enrollment token on you. I want to take you in as my student personally. Are you willing?"

At this moment, while the earth-shattering applause continued to erupt, a loud and clear voice rang out. This voice was like a ceasefire, instantly extinguishing the applause in the entire place.

"Gifted Academy?"

"Is that the number-one academy in our Four Divisions Continent that only accepts talent cultivators?" Many people were a bit confused when they heard about the 'Gifted Academy' because this institution was too prestigious and mysterious.

Most importantly, in the previous years of their Vermilion Bird Dynasty's Prodigy Convention, there had never been a situation where a teacher from the Gifted Academy specially came to recruit students.

Therefore, even Ye Qianli looked at Feng Lihuan somewhat suspiciously. Could this be a swindler? However, no one would dare to steal the name of the Gifted Academy, right?

"If you don't believe me, you can ask the crown prince of your dynasty, Rong Mo. He is also a student of our academy. I was also the one who asked him to give you that enrollment token." Facing Ye Qianli's suspicious gaze, Feng Li Huan wasn't angry at all and even explained in a good temper.

Upon hearing this, Ye Qianli indeed looked at Rong Mo suspiciously and thought. *Wasn't he the one who gave me this enrollment token? How did it become this teacher who asked him to give it to me?*

"Yes." Seeing Ye Qianli looking over, Rong Mo did not feel guilty at all and nodded.

"!" Ye Qianli's eyes turned sharp instantly, and she almost blurted out angrily: "Then, why did you say that the other day? That this is my betrothal gift!"

Shameless!

How shameless!

...

"See, with your dynasty's crown prince as my witness, you should believe me now. I wonder, what do you think about what I just said?" Feng Lihuan, who didn't know the inside story, said happily. He even thought that Rong Mo had been cooperative enough. Not bad, not bad.

However, he did not know that it was precisely because of Rong Mo's cooperation that Ye Qianli, who was suspicious of Rong Mo's character, became even more suspicious of this Gifted Academy's teacher.

"It's not impossible to get her to agree, but there's a prerequisite. You have to accept her younger female cousin as your student as well. Otherwise, it's out of the question." However, just when Ye Qianli stayed silent, a voice that no one could have imagined uttered ridiculously.

"Ye Qianli pays her respects to Teacher Feng." Ye Qianli did not need to look to know that this retard who had spoken was Su Qin. As a result, she simply bowed and acknowledged him as her master.

Chapter 29: Crazy Genius! I'll Kick You

Just a moment ago, Feng Lihuan was still wondering who this retard who spoke was. Yet, in the next moment, he was acknowledged as the master of an outstanding student. Immediately, he became so happy that he laughed heartily. "Hahaha... Good, good! Quickly stand up."

"Congratulations, Mr Feng," Rong Feng also congratulated him happily. After all, Ye Qianli was a member of their Vermilion Bird Dynasty, and she was personally recruited by the Gifted Academy at the dynasty's Prodigy Convention. How reputable and how honorable this was!

"Congratulations to Mr. Feng for gaining a good disciple." The officials and nobility of the dynasty all congratulated him. It was only at this moment that they also found out that this mysterious figure was actually the head teacher of the Gifted Academy.

"I still have to congratulate Nephew Ye. Congratulations to the Ye Residence." Amidst the congratulations, the Eastern Sea King's timely congratulations—full of vigor—made Ye Fengtian's already pale face turn even paler.

When the other officials and nobles heard this, they all looked at Ye Fengtian with strange expressions. They all wanted to know what this Prince Ye was thinking.

After all, they were just spectators who didn't know the truth. However, as Ye Qianli's father and the commander of a million-strong army, how could he be so muddle-headed that he couldn't differentiate the pearl from fish eyes and even forced such a wonderful daughter to leave? Instead, he kept grooming and taking care of an outsider. It was really unbelievable.

"Congratu—" At this time, Su Qin—who had just been yelled at to stop with Ye Fengtian's inner voice transmission—was clearly about to open her mouth again! However, Ye Fengtian did not let her grab the thread of conversation this time round.

"Thank you, Eastern Sea King. This is indeed a joyous occasion for our Ye Residence. Qianli is the pride of our Ye Residence. The ancestors of our Ye Residence will be proud of her," Ye Fengtian said from the bottom of his heart.

However, when he said those words, he did not dare to look at his daughter. He was too ashamed to look...

"It's good that Prince Ye understands. Qianli is a good child. It's normal for her to throw a slight tantrum after being wronged. You have to teach her well and be more patient." Rong Feng nodded slightly when he heard this. He was obviously a little satisfied that Ye Fengtian wasn't muddle-headed to the end, but he still gave him a warning.

"His Majesty is right. It's this subject who lacks the skills to teach my daughter and is not worthy of being a father." Ye Fengtian was extremely ashamed.

"The Ye Clan's heir speaks too seriously. Beloved Official Luo, please continue." Up to this point, Rong Feng didn't interfere with the Ye Clan's household affairs. He changed the topic back to the Prodigy Convention.

As for the moronic words that Su Qin had voiced earlier, the people in the spectator seats tactfully did not mention it. After all, everyone was smart. However, the people outside the spectator seats were not that smart.

"Who is that woman? She has such a big face. How dare she negotiate with a teacher from the Gifted Academy? Furthermore, she even dares to make decisions for Ye Qianli?"

"That's Su Lianhua's mother, right? Didn't you see the two of them holding hands, looking like they had such an emotional mother-daughter relationship? She's also Ye Qianli's maternal aunt, right? It's also the first time I've seen such a weird maternal aunt."

"Don't even mention it. It seemed that Ye Qianli previously said that Su Lianhua ate the Ye family's Innate Talent Pill. Wow! Why do I feel that there's a conspiracy..."

Gossiping furiously, everyone in the broad masses kept saying that Su Qin, who had spoken, was Su Lianhua's mother. They firmly believed it unanimously. They even came up with a major drama about a struggle among cousins in the residence, and they were all talking excitedly.

However, Luo Xingping raised his voice and said, "Next, I invite Miss Su onto the stage."

"..."

The sounds of discussion suddenly stopped, and everyone looked at Su Lianhua in unison. At this moment, Su Lianhua's face was as white as paper, and one of her hands was tightly held by Su Qin.

"Hua'er, don't worry, she won't dare hurt you. At worst, you just don't have to accept the challenge. It's just the title of Arena Lord so it's fine if you don't want it. In any case, you've already displayed your talent," Su Qin consoled repeatedly.

Su Lianhua's expression turned even uglier when she heard that. Inwardly, she hated it so much! Even her aunt was certain that she would lose to Ye Qianli before she even went on stage! Su Qin wanted her to retreat without a fight.

But...

Unfortunately, no matter how much she hated Ye Qianli, Su Lianhua had to admit that she truly was not as good as Ye Qianli. However, she still went on stage. After she went on stage, her tears fell on the spot.

"Do you hate me that much? Do you hate me so much that, when I awakened my innate talent, you had to use the fire of your innate talent to burn me, causing my elixir field to

be damaged and making it impossible for me to awaken my second innate talent in the future?! Are you satisfied now?" Su Lianhua questioned her heartbrokenly while crying.

This time, she did not dare to call Ye Qianli 'elder sister' anymore. However, she still stood on the moral high ground and accused Ye Qianli of being malicious and making herself look like a weakling.

"Ask yourself honestly... Have I ever let you down? Because you're the only daughter, Aunt was afraid that you would be lonely so she brought me, who was only five years old, to the Northern Territory to accompany you. All these years, I've always been far away from my parents and stayed by your side in a foreign land. When have I let you down? Even if I ate the Innate Talent Pill that originally belonged to you..."

"Only when you were diagnosed as a useless person did Aunt give it to me. If you were just fine, how would I have a share? I have always been just the little sister behind you. Do you hate me so much just because of a single Innate Talent Pill? But it's clearly a pill that you don't need. Can't I even eat it?" Su Lianhua cried woefully pitifully.

"How tragic..."

"That's right. This Ye Qianli is indeed talented, but she seems to have a tyrannical personality. It is a little unreasonable for her to bully her younger female cousin like this." There would always be some people who like to parrot other people's words to express how kind-hearted they were. As a result, they started to condemn her.

As for Ye Qianli?

She looked at this drama-queen younger female cousin expressionlessly. She stared to the extent of embarrassing Luo Xingping, who was about to relieve the tension in the air, when she answered with this instead: "Are you done speaking? Are you going to continue crying?"

"If you really hate me that much, please give me some pointers," Su Lianhua wiped her tears and said to Ye Qianli.

Ye Qianli laughed then. "Are you saying that, if I give you pointers and spar with you, that means I hate you? When did the competing stage of the Prodigy Convention have such rules?"

"Please give me some pointers," Su Lianhua said with her lips pursed, looking aggrieved.

"..." Luo Xingping felt that today was definitely the day he had hosted a Prodigy Convention that had the most number of awkward situations arise! How could he continue doing the hosting?

Ye Qianli asked him, "Lord Luo, why aren't you saying anything? Can we start sparring yet?"

"Sure, sure. Do as you please." After Luo Xingping said that, he left the stage straight away. He didn't care anymore.

After he left, only Ye Qianli and Su Lianhua were left on the stage. The latter had a weak and pitiful look on her face while the former had her arms crossed over her chest with unlimited vigor.

"Ye Qianli wouldn't really hit her, right? That would be too inhumane!"

"That's right, Su—" Below the stage, there were people with inflated morals discussing loudly. Who would have thought that, before these passionate condemnations of theirs could brew and reach their climaxes, Ye Qianli had already made a move!

Bang!

Moreover, Ye Qianli was still very straightforward. With a leg, she kicked Su Lianhua—who was acting pitifully in front of her—off the stage! She kicked Su Lianhua into the crowd without any civility or mercy!

Chapter 30: Your Crown Princess is Fine!

"Uh..."

The crowd was stunned. Regardless of whether they were outside or inside the observation stands, everyone was dumbfounded as they watched Su Lianhua being kicked off the stage ruthlessly. A violent shockwave even kicked up around her. They only felt pain.

Crack!

Some cultivators with sharp ears could even hear the sound of bones cracking clearly within this shockwave. It was obvious that Su Lianhua was really in pain. Even her bones had broken from the kick. It must be painful!

As for Su Lianhua?

She was indeed in a lot of pain, so much so that she almost fainted. Blood was flowing out of her mouth and nose, and her entire face was distorted from the pain. She didn't even have the strength to scream.

"Hiss... Hiss..."

After a long while, Su Lianhua—who had recovered a little—continuously hissed but did not even dare to move. She felt that if she moved even a little, her body would immediately fall apart.

It hurt! It really hurt. Surely, she was about to die...

"Su Lianhua, this is the disparity between you and me, Ye Qianli. To me, any of your tricks can be solved with one kick." However, Ye Qianli's indifferent voice suddenly pierced into Su Lianhua's heart coldly, causing her to feel even more pain! It was so painful that she could not breathe.

"Ye Qianli, how dare you!" At this moment, Su Qin—who was sitting in the spectator seats—could no longer tolerate it. Immediately, she stood up and pointed angrily at Ye Qianli as she reprimanded her.

"This is too much! This is really too much..." Some criticisms also erupted from the crowd, especially those who were standing near to where Su Lianhua had been kicked. They felt that Su Lianhua was really pitiful.

"So what?" In the face of Su Qin's accusation and the moral questioning of those who did not know the truth, Ye Qianli rebuked lightly, "To be honest, if not for the rules of the Prodigy Convention today, even if I had killed her, who can do anything to me?"

No one!

This was because she was Ye Qianli, a fifth-stage talent cultivator—the person who awakened the Nine Mystical Extraordinary Fire, Ye Qianli! In the entire Vermilion Bird Dynasty, other than Crown Prince Rong Mo, she was the first! The first talent awakened by this genius already belonged to the Middle Three Stages.

"Even if it's the Su family, what would you dare to do to me? Don't think that I don't know who threw sh*t water on me at the city gates and spread rumors about me being immoral throughout the city."

"Right here and now, this is just a warning! A warning to all of you! Don't provoke me. Don't treat everyone in the Ye Residence as fools like Su Qin!" Ye Qianli declared resoundingly as she stared at Cheng Meihua, her clear eyes filled with killing intent.

At that moment...!

As pure as the white clouds in the sky, her white clothes fluttered in the wind as she stood on that ancient Vermilion Bird Platform, admonishing the Su Residence in front of the majestic Vermilion Bird God's statue. How arrogant! Young and impulsive, her aura felt like it was soaring into the clouds.

"..." Cheng Meihua was so shocked by the current Ye Qianli that she broke out in a cold sweat all over. She only felt a chill run down her spine from her head. Moreover, a wet feeling spread from between her legs without her control.

She had peed her pants from fear...

Cheng Meihua was so frightened that she peed on the spot!

"Ye Qianli, you evil..." Su Qin was so angry that her entire body was trembling. The fingers that were pointing at Ye Qianli were trembling uncontrollably. However, before she could finish her furious cursing, Ye Fengtian interrupted her.

"Enough! Haven't you embarrassed yourself enough?" Ye Fengtian shouted with reddened eyes. Although he had yet to verify it, the current him believed that his daughter's words were not false.

In other words, that unforeseen incident at the city gate three days ago was planned by the Su Residence! It was Su Lianhua's mother, or perhaps that good brother-in-law of his, who did it on purpose and not a spontaneous act by the masses.

Throwing dung! Throwing manure at his Ye family, how dare they...!

"I..." However, Su Qin got even angrier. She did not understand why Ye Fengtian would reprimand her instead when her daughter had already called her—this mother of hers—an idiot in front of everyone.

"There's actually someone who dares to hurl excrement water on a student of my Gifted Academy. Your courage is commendable." When Feng Lihuan heard up to this point, he suddenly spoke in a leisurely tone.

This made the Western Wilderness King, who had planned to keep up with appearances by saying a few words, choke. He could not say anything else. He only felt that his eldest daughter-in-law was really a fool! She actually did such a despicable thing to a superb talent cultivator. It would be fine if that was all! Unfortunately, Ye Qianli even found out about it!

Pa! Pa! Pa!

At this time, the Eastern Sea King—who was watching the show calmly—clapped once again without caring about the chaos. "Splendid! Wonderful! As expected of the granddaughter of Old Brother Ye of the Northern Territory. This bullish temper is really similar to his."

"This uncle, you are right," Ye Qianli retorted lightly. However, the Eastern Sea King remained unperturbed and smiled. "As an uncle, I welcome you to my Eastern Sea King Residence as a guest."

"Then, the next time you see my grandfather, remember to call him Father." Ye Qianli nodded.

"..." The Eastern Sea King was speechless.

"Hahaha! Eastern Sea King, I do want to hear you call the Northern Territory King 'Father', too! Hahaha..." However, Rong Feng clapped his hands and laughed loudly. A number of people wanted to laugh but did not dare to. They could barely restrain a smile, too. After all, the Eastern Sea King was also considered very powerful.

"When the Northern Territory King returns to the capital in the future, I'm afraid he'll be frightened by such an elderly son," Grand Secretary Lord Bai also stroked his beard and teased, causing many people to be unable to hold back their laughter.

"Old Bai, can we not joke around? I still care about my face." The East Sea King felt helpless, but he was envious of his old opponent. When would he have such an outstanding granddaughter, too? It would be even better if the granddaughter became a grandson.

The audience over here had become peaceful and harmonious instantly because of this banter. Luo Xingping heaved a sigh of relief when he saw this. He quickly took the opportunity to announce, "Ye Qianli wins this match. Su Lianhua has failed the challenge of the Arena Lord and will be eliminated."

At this point, Luo Xingping only paused for a moment before looking at Ye Qianli and asking, "Miss Ye, according to the rules of the Prodigy Convention, you can become the new Arena Lord and take part in the defensive battles. You can also give up. May I ask, what would you like to do?"

"I give up," Ye Qianli replied. She had already achieved her goal so she was naturally not interested in the so-called arena defending battles.

"Very well. However, according to the rules of the Prodigy Convention, if there are any more talent cultivators after this, you will still need to go on stage and spar with them to determine your ranking," Luo Xingping explained. However, he was only mentioning it in passing—that was all. He knew very well that there were no more talent cultivators this year.

"Thank you for relaying this information, Lord Luo." Ye Qianli nodded her head in response and then left the Vermilion Bird Platform. She gave this area up to those young martial artists—who had diligently cultivated just for this day—to compete.

As for Su Lianhua, she had already been carried to the back and was being treated by the doctors from the Imperial Hospital at this moment. This was also the welfare of the wounded during the Prodigy Convention.

When Feng Lihuan saw that Ye Qianli had already left the stage, he also left from his seat. Seeing this, Rong Feng immediately gave Rong Mo a look, indicating that he should go and receive her well.

Rong Mo: "..."

"Give some better healing medicine in the palace to Miss Ye. She's your fiancée after all. You should express some of your intentions now," Rong Feng said in a low voice and waved his hand continuously, gesturing for Rong Mo to leave quickly.

Rong Mo: "..."

"What's wrong? You've already personally given the person an enrollment token. Doesn't this mean that you're still interested in her? This crown princess consort is fine; this emperor will allow it." Seeing that he was still sitting there without moving, Rong Feng spoke even more bluntly.

When Rong Mo heard this, it was obvious that he couldn't bear to listen any longer. Thus, before Rong Feng could say anything else, he already stood up and left...