DUAL CULTIVATION

Chapter 91 Reunion Between Master and Slave

Nearly every disciple within the Outer Court stopped whatever they were doing and stared at the handsome young man in a set of green robes casually strolling towards the Medicine Hall.

"Fuck! The rumors are true! Su Yang really became an Inner Court disciple! He is actually at the Profound Spirit Realm!"

The disciples expressed disbelief and shock upon seeing Su Yang in his new Sect clothes. Although the news of Su Yang becoming an Inner Court disciple was already widespread, there were plenty of people who did not believe the news.

However, now that they witnessed for themselves Su Yang in his Inner Court disciple robes, they could only bite their lips and recognize his new standing within the Sect.

"N-No way..."

"Damn it! How did that cripple reach the Profound Spirit Realm before me?! This must be the Heavens playing a sick joke on us!"

The disciples complained inwardly, thinking that it was a big mistake to promote Su Yang, but none of them spoke out loud, as they were all afraid of his new profound status as an Inner Court disciple.

Meanwhile, Su Yang didn't even bother paying attention to the gazes being directed at him, only focusing on the road.

A few minutes later he arrived at the Medicine Hall, and the moment he entered the doors, many shocked cries resounded inside the place.

"Junior apprentice-brother Su!? Y-Your robes! They are green!"

The news of Su Yang becoming an Inner Court disciple did not appear here in the Medicine Hall yet, hence the shocked reaction from the disciples there.

"Of course, they'd be green. I have passed the examination and became an Inner Court disciple," he said with a smile.

"W-Wow! Congratulations, junior apprentice-brother Su!"

"What junior apprentice-brother? He's our senior now, even if he is younger than us!"

The girls at the Medicine Hall all crowded around Su Yang, each giving him their congrats without thinking too much as to how he'd managed such a feat.

Meanwhile, Disciple Xiao, who was the only one out of the group of sisters to have disliked Su Yang since day one, stared at him with a dumbstruck expression, seemingly in a daze.

Although she still found him unpleasant, there was a sense of regret in her heart— regretting that she didn't try to get closer to him when she had the chance.

"Is Elder Lan here? I'd like to speak to her," Su Yang asked them a moment later.

"Master? She went to some sort of meeting this morning along with many other Sect Elders and have yet to return."

"Meeting?"

"It seemed urgent, so Master left without leaving any words behind."

"Is it because of that?" Su Yang wondered if this meeting had anything to do with Li Qiang's death, as such a possibility seemed very likely.

"Very well, then I will return later. It's not anything important, so it can wait," he said to them before leaving.

After leaving the Medicine Hall, Su Yang walked to towards the Inner Court of the Sect, where all the Inner Court disciples dwelled.

This was his first time entering the Inner Court, and his first impression of the place was more or less disappointment.

Compared to the lively and always active Outer Court with disciples commonly seen chatting and relaxing outside their houses, this Inner Court was more of an abandoned area with not even a single disciple outside.

After standing there for a short moment to look at the place, Su Yang resumed his steps, walking straight to a large area within the Inner Court, where a few disciples could be seen gathered in the center.

There were at least twenty disciples standing around, and all of them wore green robes, meaning that they were all Inner Court disciples like him.

When Su Yang noticed the disciples there, they also noticed him, and they all looked at him simultaneously.

"Who's that? This is my first time seeing his face here."

"I have never seen his face before, too."

"A new Inner Court disciple?"

"Eh? How is it possible that none of us have heard of him when he's obviously talented enough to become one of us?"

The Inner Court disciples all looked at him with their interests piqued.

Normally, before any Outer Court disciple becomes an Inner Court disciple, their name would've already been known by the Inner Court disciples, as only those who are talented enough could possibly become one of them, and such talented individuals would naturally enter their ears before he or she becomes one of them.

Su Yang, however, became an Inner Court disciple out of the blue, and he was known for being a useless cripple within the Outer Court, so it wasn't weird that these Inner Court disciples— people that only care about the talented— didn't know of him.

"Hm...? He's... Su Yang!?"

However, not everybody there didn't know Su Yang's face since there was clearly someone there that was aware of his identity.

"Huh? You know him?"

The Inner Court disciples there turned to look at the young lady who exclaimed very loudly in a surprised voice just now.

"Eh?" The young lady just realized that she'd said his name out loud by accident, and her face reddened. "I... uh..."

A troubled expression appeared on this young lady's face— she clearly didn't want to associate herself with Su Yang, especially not when all her friends were there.

When Su Yang first saw her familiar-looking face, he instantly recognized her identity, and a grin appeared on his face.

He began approaching the group at a slow and steady pace, seemingly unfazed by their fearsome presence as a group.

Once he reached in front of the group of Inner Court disciples, or more precisely, the young lady that had called out his name, he bowed sincerely and said in a respectful voice: "It's been awhile, Master..."

"Huh?" The Inner Court disciples looked at Su Yang and the young lady, and after a moment of thinking, they finally realized the situation.

"So he's your servant all along, senior apprentice-sister Li?"

"Hahaha... Even though I have seen this plenty of times, it stills never fails to entertain me— your habit of turning others into your own slaves..."

The surrounding disciples began laughing out loud.

"Uhh... I... He... Uhh..." The young lady, who was precisely Li Xiao Mo, began sweating profusely at their words, and all of the memories of her trying to subdue Su Yang only to be conquered by him quickly returned to her head.

DUAL CULTIVATION

Chapter 92 Are You Regretting Your Actions Now?

"What's wrong, Master? Have you already forgotten about me?" Su Yang took the initiative to speak to Li Xiao Mo when she was seemingly speechless.

"W-What are you doing here, Su Yang? And your clothes... You are an Inner Court disciple now?" The tone Li Xiao Mo used when speaking to Su Yang was not anything like a Master speaking to her servant and instead sounded more reserved, almost as if she was talking to someone above her but didn't want to make it sound so obvious.

"It's all because of you, Master. If it wasn't for your help, I would've never made it here..." Su Yang continued treating her as though she was his master, even throwing in a few lies to make things difficult for her.

"Senior apprentice-sister Li, why don't you introduce this manservant of yours to us already?" someone suddenly said out loud, and the surrounding disciples nodded.

Li Xiao Mo looked at the surrounding disciples with a perplexed expression on her face, silently cursing each and every single one of them inwardly.

After another moment of silence, Li Xiao Mo showed a graceful smile and said: "Junior apprentice-brother Su, why must you tease me like this? You made everyone here believe you to be my servant, which is far from the truth..."

"Huh?"

The smiles on the surrounding disciples froze, and they glared at Su Yang with sharp eyes after realizing that he had played all of them.

"How boring... You really are no fun, Li Xiao Mo." Su Yang shook his head, feeling disappointed that she didn't play along with him.

"Li Xiao Mo?" A few disciples there frowned at the way Su Yang casually addressed her, even calling her by her full name. It gave the two a feeling of intimacy, and that secretly displeased a few people there that felt a certain way towards Li Xiao Mo, who was relatively popular within the Inner Court disciples.

"Who the hell are you, new kid? Do you not know Senior apprentice-sister Li's background here within the Inner Court?" A handsome young man with long hair and sharp eyebrows spoke out loud as he looked at Su Yang with an unfriendly gaze.

"Junior apprentice-brother Gu!" Li Xiao Mo narrowed her eyes at the individual who just spoke, which only made him feel even more irritated.

"Senior apprentice-sister Li protected the newcomer?"

When the disciples saw this, their interest in Su Yang skyrocketed.

Li Xiao Mo was known for her arrogant and overbearing demeanor, so for her to go out of her way to defend someone, that individual must have some sort of special background that even she has to respect.

"A-Anyway..." Li Xiao Mo cleared her throat and turned her attention back to Su Yang. "What are you doing here?"

Su Yang looked around at the surrounding disciples and said: "This is the gathering place for that, right? Why else would I be here?"

"What!? You are also participating in this event?!"

Not only was Li Xiao Mo shocked at the reveal, but even the other disciples were also dumbfounded.

"That's impossible! You are clearly a new Inner Court disciple! There is no way that you could've been chosen for this!" exclaimed the disciple surnamed Gu.

"Are you kidding me? How could someone who'd just become an Inner Court disciple participate this event that upholds the Sect's reputation? Based on what qualifications?"

"Junior apprentice-brother Su... Only those with a substantial amount of experience as an Inner Court disciple may participate in this event, yet you being here does not make sense..." Li Xiao Mo partially explained to him why everybody there was surprised.

"Is it really that surprising for me to be here?" Su Yang nonchalantly shrugged. "As for my qualifications..."

He looked at Li Xiao Mo and continued: "Li Xiao Mo here should know whether or not I am qualified to participate in this event based on her own experiences."

"Eh?" Li Xiao Mo instantly blushed once she realized the meaning behind his words, and even her body began reacting by feeling heated.

"What!?" As for the other disciples, their eyes widened with shock. Some of them even felt as though their heart was being hammered by an invisible hammer.

"Senior apprentice-sister Li! Surely, he must be farting! There's no way that you would've done 'that' with him!" The one surnamed Gu said in disbelief.

"That's right!" The other disciples also decided to join. "After all, you already have—"

"Shut up! Of course, he's just joking with you all!" Li Xiao Mo suddenly shouted.

The place immediately became silent.

And just as someone was able to curse at Su Yang for his untasteful jokes, the sound of someone clearing their throat resounded.

"It's the Matriarch!"

The disciples there quickly began bowing to the approaching Liu Lanzhi one by one.

"This disciple greets the Matriarch!"

"Un." Liu Lanzhi nodded.

However, when she noticed Su Yang, who was just standing there with a nonchalant expression on his face, Liu Lanzhi pointed at him and said: "I see that nothing about you have changed since we last met—still as disrespectful to your elders as always."

Su Yang did not say anything regarding her remarks and continued to stand there silently.

"..."

Liu Lanzhi frowned upon seeing no reaction from him. Did he not hear what the others there just called her? Or was his body along with his face frozen from shock after learning of her real status?

Because Liu Lanzhi did not expose her identity to Su Yang as the Matriarch at the Examination Hall, she believed that Su Yang only saw her as a mere Sect Elder with zero clues as to her true identity as the Matriarch.

"How's that, Su Yang? Are you so shocked that you cannot even react properly?" Liu Lanzhi laughed inwardly.

After the passionate session inside the Examination Hall, Liu Lanzhi has always been looking for a way to pay him back for what he'd done to her. And what better way to get her revenge than to show up suddenly as the Matriarch of the Sect?

But alas, too bad for Liu Lanzhi that Su Yang had long guessed her real identity the instant he saw her. Hell, if she knew that Su Yang was actually the current Patriarch, who knows how she'll react.

"Look at you, shocked speechless over something so small..." Liu Lanzhi suddenly said with a grin on her face, poking fun at him. "Are you regretting your actions at the Examination Hall now?"

DUAL CULTIVATION

Chapter 93 This is Not Prostitution!

When Su Yang heard Liu Lanzhi's words, he nearly burst out laughing from how ridiculously wrong she was in her guesses.

"After what happened at the Examination Hall, you still have the courage to speak with such arrogance? Do you have no face?" Su Yang shook his head, his words shocking the disciples there.

For him to use such a disrespectful tone towards the Matriarch of the Sect, does this guy have balls made of steel or something like that?

"The audacity!" The one surnamed Gu exclaimed loudly. "Who do you think you are speaking to!? Not only did you refuse to greet the Matriarch, but you also dared to show such disrespect towards her? Are you even a disciple of this Sect?"

Su Yang looked at the handsome young man surnamed Gu, and he lowered his head to look at the green robes on his body. "Are you stupid? Can't you see my clothes? If I am not a disciple here then what am I?" he said in a voice of ridicule, causing the young man to flush in anger.

"I swear to the Heavens that if I do not—"

"Enough!"

Liu Lanzhi interrupted the two and said: "We are already late to the event because I had a meeting to attend; there is no time for your little games right now! If you wish to argue, then do it afterward!"

"Che! You lucked out for now... but just wait until after all of this is over!" The disciple surnamed Gu gnashed his teeth at Su Yang before turning away to ignore him.

Hearing his threat, Su Yang didn't even lift an eyebrow, as such empty threat was just that insignificant to him.

A moment later, Liu Lanzhi continued: "Anyway, let me brief you all on the situation before we head to the Chamber of Embrace. First and foremost, all of you here were handpicked by either another Sect Elder or myself, so I am very confident that you will not disappoint the Sect, as a great deal of our Sect's resource and reputation depend on this event."

"The next thing is that the female to male ratio here is clearly uneven with two-thirds of the participants here being female. But as you all know, the overall majority of the guests that will be coming here today are males, so the guests will have no trouble in finding a partner for the day. As for the males... you all should already know what will happen, right?"

"Yes, Matriarch!" The male disciples there looked at each other with intense gazes, looking as though everyone there had turned in rivals.

Because there will only be a few females attending this event, these male disciples will have to use their own abilities to outshine the next if he wants to attract attention.

As for the event itself...

"Matriarch." Su Yang suddenly raised his hand.

"What is it?" Liu Lanzhi looked at him and asked.

"Although I have an idea of what this event entails, the invitation was not exactly clear in the details..."

"Oh, right, this should be the first time you've heard of this event, as the previous one happened a year before you joined." Liu Lanzhi nodded, and she continued: "Our Profound Blossom Sect would organize this event every one to two years in order to raise resources and create connections with Sects and families near our Sect, and these Sects and families that we have invited may bring along with them at most two prominent disciples or descendants that still has their Essence intact to cultivate with disciples from our Profound Blossom Sect."

Hearing her explanation, the only thing Su Yang could think of was prostitution, as one party was required to pay the other for services that involve sexual activities.

"You actually dare to prostitute me to others?" Su Yang was dumbfounded. The jade slip he received only mentioned about the chosen ones improving the Sect's reputation by showing off their techniques and said nothing of prostitution.

Liu Lanzhi frowned at his choice of words, and she said: "This is not prostitution! This is the Sect assisting its disciples by giving them Yin and Yang Essences from talented individuals! Not only will our disciples grow, but our Sect will also become richer! Additionally, nobody will be forcing you to chose a partner! If you do not like the individual requesting for your time, then you may refuse it!"

Su Yang was speechless at her logic. No matter how she explained it, this method of exchanging their bodies for resources is fundamentally defined as prostitution. Even if she disguised its true intent by saying it benefits the disciples, they are still being paid to cultivate!

This is basically Cultivator prostitution!

"This is ridiculous. I will be damned if I am going to participant in this farce." Su Yang turned around and began walking away.

He was someone with great pride and dignity, and the thought of selling his body was unthinkable for someone like him. However, it was not as if nobody has offered him wealth in exchange for his time in bed before. Hell, in his previous life, there were countless times when someone would offer him heavenly treasures and divine herbs for his services!

This is also one of many reasons as to why Su Yang didn't go beyond massaging his clients during his earlier days, as he despised anything that resembled prostitution.

"Su Yang!?" Liu Lanzhi did not expect such a reaction from him and was shocked when he turned to walk away.

Although his presence was not necessary for this event, his god-like techniques would surely cause the Sect's reputation to soar, and Liu Lanzhi was not willing to ruin such a chance for her Sect to rise.

"Wait a moment!" Liu Lanzhi quickly chased after Su Yang, who was already far away from the group.

The disciples were dazed at the situation. Why would the Matriarch chase after such a rude kid? If he wanted to leave and miss out on the easy harvest, then she should just let him leave! This would mean less competition for the males, too!

DUAL CULTIVATION

Chapter 94 Root of Vitality

"Where do you think you are going, Su Yang!?" Liu Lanzhi blocked Su Yang's path by standing in front of him, and she looked at him with a displeased expression.

"I will not be taking part in this event— my dignity will not allow it," he said with a nonchalant expression, yet his voice was as cold as ice. "If there weren't any payments involved, there wouldn't be a need for me to turn around."

"Aiya!" Liu Lanzhi sighed loudly. "Why are you being so stubborn? I am telling you that this is not prostitution! Of course, we are being paid by our guests for this event and that may make it seem as such, but they are the ones offering these payments, and it has always been like that since the founding of the Sect!"

"I have no problems with the Sect participating in such activities, as that is its nature. However, that has nothing to do with why I refuse to participate." Su Yang said as he walked around Liu Lanzhi.

Liu Lanzhi could feel her body trembling from anger at this moment. How could he be so disrespectful towards his seniors, much less the Matriarch of this Sect? She has never seen a disciple as troublesome as him.

However, as much as she hated dealing with Su Yang, she also admired his techniques as much if not even more.

"Hold it!" Liu Lanzhi blocked his path again and began persuading him again. "Then how about this? You are not participating this for the Sect and instead will be participating for me!"

Su Yang looked at her as though he was looking at an idiot, and he continued to walk.

However, Liu Lanzhi blocked him off again before he could really go anywhere, and she continued to persuade him: "Fine! Then I will return to all the guests their payments! Will you stay now?"

"..." Seeing her odd behavior, Su Yang remained silent, causing Liu Lanzhi to feel apprehensive.

The only reason she was going this far to satisfy him was because of what happened during the meeting she attended prior to coming here.

The meeting consisted of nearly every Sect Elder within the Sect, and it was there that Liu Lanzhi revealed to everybody Li Qiang's death, which greatly shocked everybody there with ease.

And although it took some time, after everyone there organized their minds and calmed down, they began analyzing the situation of having a new and unknown Patriarch.

At the end of the meeting, long story short, the Sect has decided to start the processes of grooming a new Patriarch a few years earlier than planned.

And naturally, after Liu Lanzhi experienced Su Yang's god-like techniques, he became one of the highest priorities in her list of talented individuals that are worthy enough to be groomed as a future Patriarch.

"You really want me to participate in this event, huh? Is there a specific reason as to why you are so determined to have me stay— No, forget it." Su Yang decided to remain silent instead, as he could already guess her inner thoughts. "Since you are this adamant on having me participate this little event, to the point where you are willing to throw away so much resource, I guess I could spare some time to check it out."

"Eh? Does this mean..."

"However, I have another request," he suddenly said.

"You still want more from me? Surely, this must be the famous saying 'give an inch and they'll take a mile'!"

"It's not much, really. I only want to use the Yin Yang Pavilion to cultivate for a few days."

"What? You want to use the Yin Yang Pavilion? That's impossible. Even if I ignore the fact that only the Sect Masters are allowed to use the Yin Yang Pavilion, the Patriarch would never allow it," said Liu Lanzhi.

Although she personally wouldn't mind lending him the Yin Yang Pavilion, she didn't want Su Yang—who was known for being disrespectful to his elders— to bother the new Patriarch, someone with an eccentric nature.

Who knows what the Patriarch would do if Su Yang offended him. Not to mention that Su Yang was also a candidate for the next Patriarch, and it'd be a tragic event if he'd died because of something like this.

"However..." Liu Lanzhi then continued: "I can give you the privilege to use the Chamber of Embrace for as long as you'd like— all free of charge, of course."

"You're being awfully generous today, Matriarch. Did you wake up on the right side of the bed this morning?" Su Yang chuckled.

"..." Liu Lanzhi became speechless. She didn't know how to respond to him, so she decided to end their conversation there.

Meanwhile, the disciples all wondered what they were talking about for it to take so long. If recalled correctly, weren't they already pretty late to the event? The guests might just forget about today and leave if they are kept waiting for too long.

When Liu Lanzhi finally left Su Yang's side and returned to the other disciples, she began leading them to the Chamber of Embrace.

The Chamber of Embrace was located in a small valley near the center of the Inner Court. Once they arrived at the place, the group of disciples was greeted by a small mountain the size of a nine-story-tall building with five cave entrance spread around the mountain.

"So this is the Chamber of Embrace..." Su Yang narrowed his eyes at the small, unremarkable mountain before him. If one looked at it normally, the mountain looked no different than any other mountain beside its abnormal small size.

However, when Su Yang used his All-Seeing Celestial Eyes to look at the place, he was pleasantly surprised by what he'd found within this Chamber of Embrace.

"The Root of Vitality... it's bigger than I'd expected..." he mumbled to himself.

Beside the small mountain and its five entrances, there was also a few dozens of people standing around in the large open area beside the Chamber of Embrace.

And once Su Yang and the others arrived at the place, they all turned to look at them with sparkling eyes, clearly excited to see so many handsome young men and beautiful young ladies.

DUAL CULTIVATION

Chapter 95 Chamber of Embrace 1

When the guests noticed the group of disciples approaching them, their hearts throbbed profusely, as they will be embracing someone within that group today.

"As expected of the Profound Blossom Sect—their appearances are truly the best within the Eastern Continent!" One of the guests praised.

"I have never seen so many top-notch beauties in one place at once!" A young man within the group could already feel blood rushing towards his little brother.

As a matter of fact, the majority of the guests there were already feeling arousement just from looking at the group of disciples.

"I apologize for the late arrival," said Liu Lanzhi upon seeing the guests. "And since we are already behind schedule, I will be skipping the basic introductions."

"The disciples I have brought today are all masterful in the art of pleasure and the most experienced within their ranks. If you see one to your liking, you may go up to the individual and request for their time."

"However, keep in mind that I cannot force them accept your proposal and that there is a chance for refusal."

After saying her piece, Liu Lanzhi stepped back to allow the crowd for a better look at her disciples.

As for the disciples themselves, they began moving away from each other in order to distinguish themselves from one another.

The only one that didn't move was Su Yang. He just casually stood there, looking as though he was just a spectator.

The guests immediately began speaking to one another.

"Young Master, how about that beauty all the way to the right? I believe her to be fitting of your taste."

Of course, there were also guardians and Sect Elders within the guests as representatives just in case something happens.

"Senior apprentice-sister Mai, what do you think about that young man with the long black hair in the back? He's clearly the most handsome out of them all..."

The females within the guests immediately noticed Su Yang that stood out like a sore thumb due to his overwhelmingly superior appearance when compared the to rest.

"I would love to choose him as my partner... but there's something frightening about him..."

"Eh? You think so, too?"

"Un..."

While many within the guests wanted to pick Su Yang, there was something about him that prevented them from approaching him. It was as though there was an invisible barrier around him that warded off others.

A few minutes after the event started, the first person stepped forward.

He was a young man with a large figure and a slightly above average face, and unlike most of the males from the Profound Blossom Sect, his muscles were bulging with veins.

"A Body Refiner?" Su Yang instantly recognized the young man's cultivation technique.

Because of the rigorous and heavy training Body Refiners must go though, they are all usually built bigger than common Cultivators.

As for Su Yang, whose body was too slim and elegant for a Body Refiner, it was all because of his unique cultivation technique.

This young man with large muscles proceeded to approach the female disciple with the smallest physique within the group, dumbfounding many people there.

"I am a Body Refiner at the peak stages of the Elementary Spirit Realm. May I request this beauty for her time today?" The young man bowed elegantly despite his stiff-looking body.

The female disciple looked at him for a moment before nodding her head with a smile.

Seeing her approval, the young man's face bloomed with smiles.

Liu Lanzhi nodded at the two and said: "The two of you may enter any one of the chambers. You are allowed only one session inside, but there is no time limit for the session. Whether you last a minute, an hour, or an entire day, it is considered one session when the both of you release the Qi within your body once. Do you have any questions?"

"What if only one of the two manages to... uh... 'release'?"

"Then it will be continued until both of them releases their respective Qi," said Liu Lanzhi.

"And although I have already laid out the rules during the invitations, I will repeat it again here. You are not allowed to harm my disciples in any way, shape, or form. As for rough plays... that'll be at my disciples' discretion."

The guests nodded at her words, and the first two began making their way to one of the five available chambers.

After the first pair entered the Chamber of Embrace the other guests immediately approached the other Profound Blossom Sect disciples in fear that she may be snatched by another.

The second person to step forward was a young man with average appearances. Though, his average looks was rated by the outside world. If he was graded under the Profound Blossom Sect's standards, then he'd be way below average, even ugly.

"My name is Meng Lee, and I am at the second level of the Profound Spirit Realm—"

"No thank you."

The female disciple the young man was trying to court refused his offer before he could even finish his sentence, causing him to feel not only dumbfounded but embarrassed as well.

"For him to think that he could court our senior apprentice-sister Li with his trash looks, what a fool."

The Profound Blossom Sect disciples snorted coldly inside their heart at the young man's attempt.

After hearing Li Xiao Mo's refusal, the young man walked back with his head lowered in shame.

Although Liu Lanzhi did not mention it, there would naturally be a few guests that may not be able to find a cultivating partner today.

Meanwhile, Li Xiao Mo glanced at Su Yang with the corner of her eyes after refusing the young man.

"I may not be able to participate in this event with his presence here..." she inwardly sighed to herself.

Although it was common for disciples of the Profound Blossom Sect to cultivate with more than one individual throughout their life in the Sect, there are still individuals that did not like the idea of sharing their partners, with some even going as far as rejecting anyone that has already been taken.

Li Xiao Mo clearly felt some way towards Su Yang after their first encounter, and afraid that he may be one of those individuals that dislikes the idea of sharing, she decided to sit out on this event despite already showing up.