

Dragon King 271

Chapter 271: The First Date

Baffled, Hao Ren stood on the beach, looking up into the sky which had become quiet. "Strange. Is it possible that the lightning cultivation is no longer effective?"

Standing on either side of him, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili looked at each other and didn't understand the situation as well.

"Forget it. It's quite a feat to have unlocked one opening." Hao Ren withdrew his sword energies before looking at the Lu sisters. "It's done. Let's go home!"

"Ok, Gongzi!" They answered cheerfully, stepping up to hold his arm before walking with him toward the house by the seaside.

In pajamas, their bodies felt warm. Above the quiet beach, the clouds had scattered, revealing the bright moon and sparse stars in the sky.

Humming a song, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili skipped along, each holding one of Hao Ren's arms.

Hao Ren's clothes were torn, but he was pleased since tonight's cultivation proved the effectiveness of the lightning cultivation.

In the sea far from them, Oldman Zeng stumbled out of the water. His face was burned black by the lightning, and he had even lost half of his dragon horn. Looking at his torn robe, he exhaled a black breath and let out a furious roar!

He had cultivated hard for hundreds of years, but the efforts were all lost in one night.

The sudden Heaven Tribulation had cost him a small part of his realm, making him drop to low-tier Qian Level from mid-tier Qian Level!

"Who launched the sneak attack on me?" Oldman Zeng roared tragically while his burned hair and mustache began to fall from his head and face.

Oblivious to the fact that his lightning cultivation on the beach had cut a small part of realm off Oldman Zeng, Hao Ren took the cheerful Lu Linlin and Lu Lili back to the house.

Grandma was still soundly asleep in her room when Hao Ren tiptoed back to the second floor with the sisters.

"Gongzi..." at his door, Lu Linlin looked at Hao Ren and said.

"What?" Hao Ren looked at her.

"Forget it. It's nothing." Lu Linlin lowered her head, bringing the tip of the two forefingers together.

"Ok. Good night." Hao Ren smiled at her.

He turned and entered his room. When he was closing the door, he heard Lu Lili ask Lu Linlin outside the door, "Sister, did you want to sleep in Gongzi's room?"

"What are you talking about? I just wanted to chat with him."

"Auch! It hurts, Sis!"

Then, their voices disappeared.

Resigned, Hao Ren smiled and changed into his pajamas to sleep. Even when he was not cultivating, the dragon core was quietly absorbing the essence from nature.

The power he got from the bolts of lightning tonight was equivalent to what he got from one week's cultivation. Of course, this method was only available to cultivators like Hao Ren who were cultivating the five elements simultaneously and had masters like Lu Linlin and Lu Lili guarding him. Otherwise, even Zhen-level cultivators would have their meridians destroyed by such powerful lightning.

By cultivating five elements simultaneously, he had five elemental pillars in his body to counter the bolts of heaven lightning.

However, for cultivators who cultivated only one or two elements, the lightning power would break down to the five elemental essences, and only one or two aggressive elemental essences would be blocked. The other three or four elemental essences would severely damage their bodies.

The dangerous cultivation technique and strict restrictions were the reasons why the lightning cultivation had lost its appeal and was forgotten by cultivators.

After all, it was challenging to borrow the power of the Heaven Dao to elevate realms.

Quietly, Hao Ren straightened up his meridians before going to sleep.

The next morning, the sunlight shone on his bed, waking him up with its warmth.

"Sleeping in my own bed is indeed comfortable..." He yawned and stretched. Then, his hands bumped into two soft bodies.

Opening his eyes, he found Lu Linlin and Lu Lili sleeping on either side of him in their quilts.

The room was filled with their fragrance; they had slept with him for half a night.

Sunlight shone through the windows and spread in the room.

Convinced it was not a dream, he immediately sat up.

His movements woke Lu Linlin and Lu Lili up. Rubbing their eyes, they looked at Hao Ren and said. "Let us help you change out of your pajamas..."

"No! No! No!" Hao Ren jumped out of bed, clutching his pajamas tightly.

"We wanted to keep you company, but there are no mats in your room," Lu Linlin explained.

Hao Ren had been to the Dragon Palace and knew the so-called bedrooms all had small beds for maids. However, he was still panicking when he saw Lu Linlin and Lu Lili sleeping by his sides.

Seeing the alarm on his face, Lu Lili giggled, covering her mouth with her delicate hand in embarrassment.

“Go back to sleep. I have something to do today.” Swiftly, he took out his clothes from the closet and left the room.

After his escape, Lu Linlin pouted and looked at Lu Lili helplessly. “I just wanted to chat with him. Who knew that would sleep like a log?”

Lu Lili giggled and said, “Sister, the middle spot where Gongzi slept on is still warm. I’ll take the spot now!”

“Damn sister! It’s mine!” Lu Linlin rolled over and occupied the middle spot.

They messed with each other in their pajamas in Hao Ren’s room. Meanwhile, Hao Ren had changed out of his pajamas and walked into the living room. Seeing it was already nine o’clock, he went into the garage. He looked at the white Ford and the red Ferrari in hesitation before starting the Ferrari.

After the first formal lightning cultivation last night, he felt so good as if all the cells in his body had been reborn.

The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was a technique to cultivate sword energy through lightning cultivation, while the book of sword energy array formations that the old Grandma gave him recorded real sword techniques.

In the future, he would rest for several days before summoning the lightning again to temper his body. In this way, the five elements in his body would be replenished very quickly. After all, as long as he had built a solid foundation, the later stages of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll would get easier.

While he drove, he remembered that Zhao Kuo, who had lost all his cultivation strength, was also cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll. Suddenly, he was concerned about the current state of Zhao Kuo.

Thinking about it, if Zhao Kuo hadn’t disappeared, Zhao Yanzi wouldn’t have lost her source of income, and he wouldn’t have to go shopping with her.

The sky was clear, and the sun was bright.

When he came to the door of Zhao Yanzi’s home, it was ten o’clock.

Ding! Ding!

Hao Ren rang the doorbell.

Dressed in a tightly fit purple sweater, a pair of pale blue jeans, and white denim shoes, Zhao Yanzi rushed out of the door with her hair down.

In the sunlight, she looked young and bright. The thin sweater accentuated her elegant figure so well that Hao Ren suspected she was taking physique classes on the weekends.

Bang! She got into the car and wrinkled her nose at Hao Ren. “Let’s go!”

“Zi, you won’t come back for lunch, right?” Zhao Hongyu opened a window and asked her in a loud voice.

“No! We’ll eat out!” Zhao Yanzi turned her head to the window and yelled back.

“Ren, tonight, we’ll go to your Grandma’s place. You can go there with Zi directly,” Zhao Hongyu told Hao Ren.

“Ok!” Hao Ren started the red Ferrari which shined brightly in the sunlight.

Looking at them through the window, Zhao Hongyu smiled in satisfaction with a spoon in her hand. “It seemed to be Zi and Ren’s first date,” she thought.

Sitting in the passenger seat, Zhao Yanzi emitted a youthful aura.

Her straight hair gleamed a dark red color in the sunlight.

Her hair was fine and straight. While she looked down at her clothes, her hair fell forward and blocked her face, revealing her small ears.

“Where do we go?” Hao Ren asked her while driving.

“Nanjing Road,” Zhao Yanzi pursed her lips and answered in excitement.

As the center of East Ocean City, Nanjing Road was full of stores and malls and was the favorite shopping place for girls.

Hao Ren drove toward Nanjing Road.

While he looked at the right rear mirror, he sneaked a glance at her.

Zhao Yanzi was young, but she had inherited her mother’s slim figure and her father’s distinct facial shape. She was indeed pretty.

The limited version Ferrari attracted the eyes of the pedestrians.

Finally, they arrived at Nanjing Road, the center of East Ocean City.

He drove around and parked the car before walking with Zhao Yanzi to the car-free zone.

Strolling with Zhao Yanzi, Hao Ren found many young people doing a double take.

Zhao Yanzi in Grade 8, and she looked like a pretty girl-next-door. Her bright eyes and delicate face attracted many admiring glances.

Her fashionable sweater accentuated her lively and exquisite figure; it was not s*xy but very eye-catching.

At least six so-called ‘star scouts’ ran over to offer auditions for movies or commercials, but Hao Ren turned them all down.

Some journalists secretly or publicly took her pictures, and Hao Ren spotted their movements immediately.

However, he didn't care about the photographers as long as they didn't bother her. If her pictures were posted in fashion magazines, her vanity would be satisfied.

It was the weekend, and many young people were out shopping. There were many pretty girls and handsome guys among them, but none of them looked as dashing as Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren.

In a clean short-sleeved shirt and a pair of casual jeans, Hao Ren was one head taller than Zhao Yanzi while they strolled together.

Besides Zhao Yanzi's photos, he didn't know that the photographers were also taking pictures of him.

After reaching Zhen-level, he had a unique presence. In the eyes of the fashion photographers, it was laziness in simple clothes, an aura even a professional model couldn't mimic.

Of course, for the young people, their glances were mainly at Zhao Yanzi who was as pretty as a star. Hao Ren was quite handsome, but not devilishly dashing.

The sight of Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi walking together gave them an amazing feeling, making young couples look at them with amazement and envy.

Feeling their admiring glances, Zhao Yanzi, who had been walking with Hao Ren shoulder to shoulder, stepped closer to him.

After a few seconds of hesitation, she gently tucked her hand under his arm.

Hao Ren shivered and looked at her in surprise.

Zhao Yanzi pulled him forward until he caught up to her pace. She raised her head slightly and glanced at him. "Uncle, don't pretend to be dumb. I know you are smug."

With her arm around his, Hao Ren turned to look at her and couldn't help grinning; he was indeed enjoying this.

Chapter 272: The Sucker

The mall was inevitably crowded on the weekend.

The more expensive the area got, the fewer people shopped there. However, Zhao Yanzi specifically dragged Hao Ren to those areas.

Hao Ren's wasn't broke, but he was still astonished to see the tags that showed tens of thousands of yuan.

It was surely not easy to hold on to Zhao Yanzi's little hand.

Zhao Yanzi dragged Hao Ren around the marble area and set her eyes on a fabulous princess dress at last, "I want to try this one on."

Hao Ren went over to check out the price instead of the material.

"Geez, 6500 yuan."

"It's on sale now. Only 3500 yuan," the saleswoman came over and said to Hao Ren.

Zhao Yanzi took the hanger out and handed it to the saleswoman. "It looks gorgeous. I'll try it on."

"This dress... Can it even be worn in public?" Hao Ren looked at the fancy cake dress with so many layers to it. The royal palace style didn't seem like something that should appear on the street.

The saleswoman could tell that they were young, and she wasn't sure if they could afford it. But she still took the dress out for Zhao Yanzi since she wanted to try it on.

Zhao Yanzi hugged the fluffy dress cheerfully and walked into the fitting room.

Hao Ren saw how excited she was and remembered that he never bought her a lot of gifts before; he even forgot to buy her a birthday gift. He decided to buy the dress for her if she really liked it although it was pretty expensive.

Zhao Yanzi changed into the dress from her jeans after a few minutes and walked out of the fitting room.

The long princess dress almost reached the marble floor, and the bright light shined on the dress, making Zhao Yanzi look even more glamorous.

"Attending a ball? So pretty..." the saleswoman praised sincerely.

Zhao Yanzi spun in front of the mirror two times, looking satisfied as well.

Her tight, thin sweater made her youthful shape stand out, and the long elegant dress made her look taller.

"Ok, I'll take it!" Zhao Yanzi was very assertive.

"I'll pay with my card." Hao Ren took his credit card out of his wallet and handed it to the saleswoman.

She didn't expect them actually to purchase the dress. She was stunned for a bit before taking the card and smiling. "Hehe, you are so nice to your little sister."

"Little sister..." Hao Ren didn't know what to say.

"One second, we need to pick a jacket." Zhao Yanzi's eyes scanned between the racks, "A western-style jacket."

Hao Ren got nervous. "One more?"

The saleswoman got excited again. "Western-style jacket? For what kind of event?"

Zhao Yanzi bit her finger as she scanned. "I need a costume for my play..."

"Romeo and Juliet?" the saleswoman asked.

"Um..." Zhao Yanzi nodded shyly.

"Oh, I was wondering why you wanted to get a Western-style jacket," she led Zhao Yanzi into the fancy formal clothes area.

Hao Ren followed closely after Zhao Yanzi. "Romeo and Juliet? How come you didn't tell me about it?" he asked.

"Why do I have to tell you?" Zhao Yanzi glimpsed at Hao Ren.

"Um..." Hao Ren didn't know how to answer.

"This jacket matches the dress perfectly," the saleswoman said to Zhao Yanzi in front of a gorgeous formal jacket.

Hao Ren once again was shocked when he saw the price tag. "8300 yuan..."

"This one is on sale as well. It's only 6800 yuan now." The pretty saleswoman smiled at Hao Ren cheerfully.

"I'll try it on." Zhao Yanzi wasn't worried about the money at all. She grabbed the jacket and walked to the fitting room.

Soon enough, when Zhao Yanzi got out of the fitting room in the formal jacket, her entire temperament changed again; a bit of mystery was added.

"Haha, so pretty," the saleswoman struck while the iron was hot. In other words, she was looting a burning house. She stared at Zhao Yanzi's sneakers and said, "It seems like we haven't got a pair of matching shoes yet. Why don't you get a pair of pretty milky white high heels? It would look so beautiful on you, and it is only 3999 yuan now!"

Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren and thought for a bit before she said to her, "It's ok. This is good enough for now. I'll go get changed while you wrap it up for me."

After half a minute, she got out of the fitting room in her original outfit.

Hao Ren didn't expect to spend over ten thousand yuan by going shopping with Zhao Yanzi; her spending ability was absolutely horrifying.

"It's ok! I already saved you from a pair of shoes!" Zhao Yanzi stuffed the bags of her dress and jacket into Hao Ren's hands after she noticed his sorrow face. Then, she held onto his arm and left this high-end store on the top floor of the mall; a store whose name Hao Ren hadn't even heard of.

"Hey! When is the play you mentioned?" Hao Ren pulled on her smooth hand a little to slow her down.

"Tuesday evening," Zhao Yanzi said lightly.

"Next week?" Hao Ren asked.

"Of, course!" Zhao Yanzi said slowly but sternly as she stared into Hao Ren's eyes.

"Can I come and watch?" Hao Ren inquired again.

"Whatever you want," Zhao Yanzi answered absentmindedly as she walked in front with one hand lightly dragging Hao Ren.

Hao Ren looked at her as she walked. He knew that she was only too shy to invite him to see her play. However, she secretly wanted him to come, so she dragged him to shop for stage costumes. It was just a different way of delivering the message.

Zhao Yanzi sure wouldn't spend other people's money randomly; she only took the allowance from her uncle. As for the gifts from the guys who were interested in her, she threw them all away. Otherwise, as popular as she was, she could have had many rich guys spending their money on her as long as she told them to.

She walked cheerfully in her sneakers, skipping from step to step.

Since Zhao Yanzi said so, Hao Ren definitely would be going to see her play. He knew that all the top-tier middle schools would arrange for plays, and Romeo and Juliet was the most common play.

The girl who played Juliet would usually be the most popular and prettiest girl in school. Zhao Yanzi was chosen to play Juliet, and it demonstrated how popular she was at school.

"The school's costumes are dirty and ripped, so I wanted to buy a new one," Zhao Yanzi explained quietly as they walked.

Hao Ren could imagine how beautiful Zhao Yanzi would look in the brand-new outfit on the stage in front of the entire school.

He now understood why Zhao Yanzi was pretty tired lately; it turned out that she had been practicing for the play.

"Who is playing Romeo?" Hao Ren asked in a low voice as he squeezed her hand.

Zhao Yanzi turned around and rolled her eyes at Hao Ren. "You don't know him."

However, when she turned back around to hold the handrail of the escalator, she felt the sweetness in her heart.

Chapter 273: I Don't Even Mind

They took the escalator down to the first floor of the mall, and Zhao Yanzi suddenly covered her tummy with her hand to let Hao Ren know that she was hungry.

"What do you want to eat?" Hao Ren asked her.

"KFC."

Hao Ren asked her, "You are not a kid anymore, and you still want KFC?"

Zhao Yanzi suddenly turned to Hao Ren and said, "I wanted to save money for you!"

Hao Ren didn't know what to say, so he accompanied her into KFC.

It was lunchtime, and Nanjing Street was located downtown. Therefore, there were many people in this KFC location. Not only was there a long lineup, but all the tables were taken.

Hao Ren stopped Zhao Yanzi when he saw the crowd. "There are too many people here. Let's go somewhere else. I'll buy you something more expensive."

"It's ok! Here is fine!" Zhao Yanzi was too lazy to go somewhere else, so she went straight into this KFC. She waited beside a table; the people sitting there were about to finish their lunch.

Seeing how stubborn she was, Hao Ren went to the back of the line with the bags in his hands. She bought clothes over thousands of yuan, yet she wanted to save him money on food. Hao Ren truly couldn't understand girls' thoughts.

He waited in line for over five minutes. Hao Ren got a burger combo and a wrap combo. Then, he went back into the crowd to look for Zhao Yanzi.

"Here! Here!" Zhao Yanzi raised her right hand.

She had already snagged two seats. She was in the thin purple sweater, waving her arm. Her small mouth and nose reminded Hao Ren of the sparrows in the spring.

"Here. Just waiting in line made me sweaty." Hao Ren put the tray on the table.

Since there were many customers, they had to share the table with others; they couldn't sit in front of each other as usual. Therefore, they had to sit side by side at the table, and it brought them even closer.

Zhao Yanzi almost leaned onto Hao Ren's shoulder. She held on to the chicken wings in excitement as her smooth arm rubbed Hao Ren's arm recklessly.

Hao Ren could even feel her body heat through her thin sweater. Her youthful and charming look attracted the guys' attention around them; they were all jealous of Hao Ren.

"The fries are mine! The ice cream is mine too!" She kept scrambling at Hao Ren's food after having finished her own.

Hao Ren was complaining in his mind, but it was very lucky for him to be 'bullied' by such a pretty little girl in other people's eyes.

"Hey! I already drank that!" Hao Ren shouted when she took his bottle of coke.

"So what?" Zhao Yanzi put her orange juice in front of Hao Ren. "Here! Mine doesn't taste good, so you can have it."

Hao Ren looked at her, stupefied. If he remembered correctly, she would have killed him if he touched anything of hers a month ago. And now she would let him drink the orange juice she just had?

"Go ahead! What's your problem? I don't even mind!" Zhao Yanzi put the cup into his hand after seeing him not responding.

There were tiny water drops all over the plastic cup along with Zhao Yanzi's handprint. There was even her lip print on the straw.

Hao Ren took a sip of the orange juice. It was sweet.

At the same time, Zhao Yanzi took large gulps of the iced coke Hao Ren just had.

Zhao Yanzi put the empty coke bottle down when she realized that Hao Ren was staring at her. Her face blushed, and she appeared to be angry again. "What are you looking at? I'm full! Let's get out of here."

She dragged Hao Ren up. Then, she lightly patted a little boy, who was standing beside them waiting for the seat, on the head and said, "These seats are yours, little guy!"

The boy immediately cheered up.

Zhao Yanzi walked out of the crowded KFC with Hao Ren.

"Alright, where do you want to go next?" Hao Ren took in a deep breath of fresh air after they got outside.

"Go where? You are such a little kid." Zhao Yanzi stared at Hao Ren. "Let's get back earlier to see Grandma!"

"Um..." Hao Ren was utterly speechless. "Zhao Yanzi called me a little kid..."

She dragged Hao Ren toward the parking lot forcefully. However, Hao Ren didn't feel a slight hint of 'murderous intent' in the entire process.

Zhao Yanzi looked as aggressive as usual, but she was actually very gentle; she would only act like this if she were with someone she could rely on.

Hao Ren was dragged to their vehicle by her. He put the bags of clothes in the back seat, started the car, and drove to his house.

It was a sunny day, and it was the perfect weather to drive a convertible. The Ferrari arrived at the beach steadily.

The golden sunshine, the blue ocean, and the clear sky put them in a pleasant mood.

Zhao Yanzi kept her mouth and eyes closed as she breathed in slowly, enjoying the breeze.

The wind blew into her light sweater and swept her hair to the back of her head. She looked pretty and graceful.

There was no need for any word or music as the very situation was relaxing and comfortable.

The sports car drove forward at high speed. Zhao Yanzi suddenly opened her eyes and turned to look at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren got nervous. "What... what's the matter?"

"You look a little handsome from this angle," Zhao Yanzi said quietly.

"Not good enough for a princess like you..." Hao Ren said back to her.

"Humph!" Zhao Yanzi turned to her right where the ocean view was.

After half an hour, they arrived at the house. Zhao Guang's black Chevrolet was already parked outside.

"Dad! Mom!" Zhao Yanzi went inside with her new clothes as if she was entering her own house.

“Zi...” Grandma came to the door cheerfully and held Zhao Yanzi in her arms.

“Grandma!” Zhao Yanzi called out in a sweet voice; it was so sweet that one could make honey out of it.

Hao Ren parked the car in the garage and came in the house.

It was very lively in the living room.

There were Zhao Yanzi’s family of three, the Lu sisters, Grandma and Hao Ren himself. The house had never been as lively as this moment.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili were busy bringing everyone tea and water, and Zhao Hongyu helped them with the glasses. Obviously, she had just arrived as well.

The twin sisters looked like two little butterflies in their light pink laced shirts, plage short skirts, and leggings. They didn’t seem overbearing at all even though they were both Qian-level masters. On the contrary, they looked more like two patient maids.

Zhao Guang stood on the side silently, watching Lu Linlin and Lu Lili take care of Grandma. He wondered if they were the ones who restricted the cultivation techniques of West Ocean’s 16 elders and threw them into the East Ocean.

“I bought a dress and a jacket today, Grandma!” Zhao Yanzi took out the clothes as she leaned on grandma.

“Ah! They are so beautiful!” Grandma praised and asked, “How much are they?”

“Not much! The dress is 350 yuan, and the jacket is 380 yuan,” Zhao Yanzi answered without blushing or blinking.

Hao Ren had his eye wide open, and he almost choked himself. Zhao Yanzi lightly cut the price by skipping a “0”!

“Hehe, that is not expensive at all! Zi is so good at getting the good deals!” Grandma said as she ran her hand through Zhao Yanzi’s smooth hair.

Only Zhao Hongyu, who studied design and architecture knew that the price of the clothes would not be cheap as soon as she saw them. “Since Zi has a limited allowance, Ren must have paid for all of them,” she thought.

“Here is your Longjing tea, Grandma,” Lu Lili brought a cup of hot tea to Grandma.

“Hehe, good, take some rest yourself,” Grandma pulled her down on the couch.

The tea gave out a strong fresh aroma. Zhao Hongyu took a glimpse at the tea leaves in the cup and realized that it was actually top-tier Greenwood leaves instead of Longjing tea leaves.

Even cultivators on and above Fifth Heaven couldn’t have easy access to Greenwood leaves. Greenwood Trees were of pure wood element, and its leaves contained nature essence. It could definitely help Grandma to live a prolonged life.

In fact, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili traded 250g of top-tier Greenwood leaves with the piece of a mid-tier Spirit Stone when they went to the Trading Convention on Fifth Heaven with Hao Ren last time.

The dragon cultivators and human cultivators seldom communicated since they were cautious toward each other. Therefore, the Spirit Stones, which weren't so important to dragon cultivators, could be used to trade for some rare items that weren't commonly seen in the mortal world.

Zhao Yanzi took her new dress and jacket upstairs to get changed while Hao Ren stayed in the living room to entertain the guests as the host.

Grandma was in high spirit. She chitchatted with Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang and told them stories about her stay in Zhejiang.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili sat on the couch, combing each other's hair lovingly after serving everyone their drinks.

"Do I look pretty, Grandma?" Zhao Yanzi suddenly appeared on the stairs in the dress and jacket she just got.

There was a small platform on the stairs when the stairway turned, and it looked like a natural stage for Zhao Yanzi. Her appearance in her new outfits was beautiful.

"Little Zhumu is so pretty!" the twins couldn't help but praise her.

Zhao Yanzi was very satisfied with their compliment, and her impression of the girls had improved. She never saw them as opponents. On the other hand, Zhao Yanzi only saw Xie Yujia as a serious threat.

Grandma gave Zhao Yanzi's outfits a lot of compliments as well, although she mostly complimented Zhao Yanzi.

Zhao Yanzi was so happy. She held the railing and spun twice before hopping back onto the second floor to get changed.

Hao Ren saw how cheerful she was. He knew that she wasn't very confident on stage, so she was looking for some encouragement.

Hao Ren's expectation for Tuesday suddenly got very high at this thought. He imagined Zhao Yanzi, who had always been good with her words, stuttering on stage and making a fool of herself.

"I got a lot of groceries on the way here. We can enjoy hot pot tonight!" Zhao Hongyu smiled at Grandma gently after Zhao Yanzi disappeared at the end of the stairs.

"Yeah, we have a good number of people for hot pot!" Grandma nodded in agreement.

Didididi... Zhao Guang's cell phone suddenly rang.

He slowly picked it up.

Hao Ren, with his acute hearing, immediately heard Elder Lu's worrisome voice through the phone, "Bad news, Dragon King. The 16 elders from West Ocean have escaped from the Dragon Palace!"

Chapter 274: Kicked an Iron Board

“How did it happen?” Zhao Guang asked immediately.

“Oldman Zeng came to the Dragon Palace in a fury. He broke into the palace and unlocked the acupoints of the 16 elders. Then, they rushed out of the palace together,” Elder Lu told him over the phone.

Hearing the news, Zhao Guang’s face turned livid with rage. Oldman Zeng was so outrageous that he broke into the East Ocean Dragon Palace!

He didn’t know that Oldman Zeng was struck by lightning last night, and half of his dragon horn was cut off. Thinking of West Ocean’s masters who were imprisoned in East Ocean, Oldman Zeng went insane with rage, and that drove him to break into the East Ocean Dragon Palace to free the 16 elders.

While Elder Lu was reporting to Zhao Guang, ferocious Oldman Zeng led the 16 recovered elders toward Hao Ren’s house by the seaside.

“A mere mortal dared to set traps for our West Ocean Dragon Clan!?”

Oldman Zeng understood the whole incident from his elders and decided to capture Hao Ren’s grandma in person. He couldn’t find Zeng Yitao in the East Ocean Dragon Palace, so he didn’t dare to stay longer in the palace and left in a hurry.

After flying out of the sea, he thought for a while and decided to capture Hao Ren’s relative and trade for Zeng Yitao. It would be an easy solution.

The 17 people formed a triangular formation while they flew swiftly above the sea surface toward the seaside villa.

Meanwhile in the house, seeing Zhao Guang put down his cell phone with a heavy expression, Grandma smiled genially. “It’s ok. You can go and handle your business.”

Zhao Guang hesitated and wasn’t sure if he should go back to the dragon palace to check up on the people in there. Oldman Zeng had high status in the Dragon Tribe, and the elders guarding the East Ocean Dragon Palace wouldn’t dare to hurt him without Zhao Guang’s permission.

That was why Zhao Guang was afraid that Oldman Zeng had caused casualties in the dragon palace. Since Elder Lu got the news from Premier Xia, he didn’t know about the details of the conflict himself.

Meanwhile, Oldman Zeng and 16 elders were getting closer to Hao Ren’s house by the seaside.

Oldman Zeng was experienced and knew that the Lu sisters used a pair of powerful dharma treasures. However, he would arrange the 16 elders in an array formation and use it to counter the pair of dharma treasures.

In the house, Zhao Guang was silent for a short moment. “Well, I’d better go back and have a look.”

The moment he stood up, thunder crackled outside.

He walked to the window and looked out but could see nothing unusual.

While they were flying above the sea surface, Oldman Zeng and the 16 elders also heard the thunder. Oldman Zeng, who had just been struck by lightning last night, shivered involuntarily.

“I will say this one last time; don’t make a move against mortals!”

A majestic voice came from the white clouds in the high sky.

Swoosh!

Then, 16 bright shooting stars shot down from the sky and landed on the spines of the 16 elders.

With muffled grunts, the 16 elders all fell into the sea and created 16 splashes.

Oldman Zeng immediately paused in mid-air.

Swoosh! As if they were water-skiing, the 16 elders slid onto the beach by momentum.

When they stood up, they were horrified to find that their cultivation strengths of Qian-level and Kun-level were all destroyed.

They were turned into mortals!

Their cultivation strengths were all burned up, and they couldn’t activate even one trace of nature essence.

Their cultivation strengths were not locked but destroyed! The hundreds of openings in their dragon cores unblocked, and their hundreds of years of cultivation were gone.

“You tried to make moves against mortals repeatedly. This time, the punishments are just reminders. If you do it again, both your bodies and souls will be destroyed!” The stern voice resonated in the high sky.

“Who is it?” Stunned, Oldman Zeng flew up into the sky.

“Look up; the gods are watching!” The voice answered him while a dazzling shooting star shot down.

It struck Oldman’s Zeng’s back, making him fall half a meter.

Oldman Zeng tried to fly up again, but another shooting star hit his head.

Then another, and another...

There were seven of them in total.

They struck him down meter by meter until he fell into the sea!

When he got out of the sea, he was horrified to find that his cultivation strength had been lowered from Qian-level to Zhen-level.

His tough dragon core seemed to be blocked by cement, and only 40 small openings were left.

The sky was again peaceful.

The white clouds floated leisurely as if nothing had happened.

“Grand Dragon King, what should we do?” Soaked, the elders stumbled to Oldman Zeng’s sides.

Oldman Zeng gritted his teeth and looked up at the sky. "In 100 years, we will never bring up the topic of taking East Ocean's territory!"

Having lived hundreds of years, he wanted to cry at the current pathetic situation.

He had taken West Ocean's elites to East Ocean City, intending to exert pressure on the East Ocean Dragon Clan. However, before the battle began, his force was destroyed.

Not only did the top 16 elders lose all their cultivation strengths in one instant, but he himself had dropped from the powerful Qian-level to the insignificant Zhen-level!

This loss didn't include Black Wolf who had been captured by the Dragon God Shrine.

The force that West Ocean had spent hundreds of years nurturing was turned into dust in the blink of an eye.

Right now, Oldman Zeng only wanted to go back to the West Ocean Dragon Palace and end this nightmare.

Although notorious for his cunning and viciousness, Oldman Zeng was suddenly filled with fear. He waved his hand, saying, "Go home! Go home!"

East Ocean was deceptively powerful, and he could never defeat it.

Oldman Zeng finally "understood" the deceptive game the East Ocean Dragon Clan had been playing. Obviously, it had shown its weakness to lure him into their trap!

The elders who had lost their cultivation strengths had never seen Oldman Zeng in such a panic. They looked at him with the same panic, asking, "Grand Dragon King, what about the Crown Prince?"

"We can't help him now. We'll talk about it after we get back!" Oldman Zeng fled toward the road on the seashore.

Since he was lowered to Zhen-level, he could be killed easily by a Dui-level cultivator. Besides, he was leading 16 elders who were literally mortals!

Oldman Zeng could think of nothing but to get back to the West Ocean Dragon Palace and hide there for two or three hundred years.

He was arrogant and aggressive and thus had made many enemies. If his enemies knew that he had been lowered to Zhen-level and lost most of his elders, they would undoubtedly hunt him down for revenge.

He could only be saved inside the Dragon Palace under the protection of the palace's defense array formation. It would be a disaster if he met any of his enemies on his way back to the Dragon Palace.

Oldman Zeng lost all of his previous arrogance, and in its place was fear.

While stumbling on the beach, something dawned on him, and he paused and yelled, "I was tricked! Tricked!"

"What's it, Grand Dragon King?" The 16 elders asked him anxiously.

“I took one wrong step and lost everything!” Oldman Zeng said with sudden understanding, “Zhao Kuo must have passed the Heavenly Tribulation and flown into the heaven as a Heavenly Dragon! It is Zhao Kuo who had been messing with us!”

Thinking of the shooting stars and meteor shower, Oldman Zeng was still afraid. He murmured to himself, “The Realm of Heavenly Dragon! It must be Zhao Kuo! We were all tricked by East Ocean!”

He stomped hard on the sand. “In the next 500 years, no one talks about taking East Ocean’s territory! Since they have a grandmaster on the Heavenly Dragon Realm, we West Ocean will never gain the upper hand in the battle with East Ocean!”

In his mind, only grandmasters on the Heavenly Dragon Realm were capable of such power.

The more he thought about it, the more fearful he got. “Since Zhao Kuo has reached the Heavenly Dragon Realm, from now on, West Ocean will have to give ways to East Ocean!” he thought.

In his panic, he would never have imagined that Zhao Kuo had failed the Heavenly Tribulation. In fact, the one who struck them was a grandmaster on the Soul Formation Realm!

Meanwhile, in the house by the sea, Zhao Guang thought for a while and decided to go back to the dragon palace to have a look.

Digging out his car key, he walked toward the door. “Auntie, I have to deal with some urgent business matters. I will come back later.”

“It’s ok. Get on with your business first!” Grandma said with understanding.

Zhao Guang walked out of the house and passed the door, driving away in the black Chevrolet shortly.

Zhao Hongyu was worried about Zhao Guang, but she remained calm and continued to chat with Grandma. Hao Ren knew something was wrong, but since Zhao Guang was already dealing with it, he settled down and kept his Grandma company.

After about ten minutes, Zhao Guang returned.

“What’s wrong?” Seeing he returned so soon, Grandma asked.

“Nothing. The problem is solved!” Zhao Guang looked relaxed and cheerful, entirely different from the look he had when he left a moment ago.

Even Zhao Yanzi had never seen her usually stern father so cheerful.

Zhao Hongyu was curious, so she bumped Zhao Guang lightly. “What happened?”

When Lu Qing called Zhao Guang, she had heard the conversation. It didn’t sound like good news since Oldman Zeng broke into the East Ocean Dragon Palace and rescued 16 West Ocean elders.

“Hehe, Auntie, it was just a business issue. It’s all solved!” Zhao Guang’s tone was upbeat, and his face was flushed with excitement. He looked different.

“It is good to hear that your problem is solved!” Grandma didn’t probe. Seeing the cheerful expression on his face, she was relieved.

However, Zhao Hongyu was not satisfied. Pinching his arm lightly, she asked in a low voice, "What happened?"

Hao Ren was also curious, and he listened attentively to their conversation.

Zhao Guang looked back at Zhao Hongyu before glancing at Hao Ren and answered in a whisper, "West Ocean just sent a peace treaty through their premier. They will trade the life of Zeng Yitao with 25,000 kilograms of gold, 50,000 kilograms of silver, 300 10,000-year deep ocean corals, 800 top-tier nightly pearls, 500 Foundation-Building Pills, and 12 West Ocean Mystic Ice! Besides, they offered a peace period of 500 years between the two oceans!"

Chapter 275: A Big family

Updated by AllNovelFull.Com

"Really?" Zhao Hongyu had been calm in every emergency, but this time she was astonished.

"I don't know if it's a trick of theirs. Tomorrow evening, the premiere of the West Ocean Dragon Palace will come to the East Ocean Dragon Palace with the gifts and pick up Zeng Yitao," Zhao Guang said.

"But West Ocean's style is not to play tricks. They don't think they need schemes with their greater strength," Zhao Hongyu analyzed in a low voice.

Standing next to them, Hao Ren didn't understand the 180-degree change in the West Ocean's attitude.

"Mom! The pot is taken out. Shall I wash it?" Standing on the other side of the living room. Zhao Yanzi asked with a dusty electric hotpot pot in her hands.

Zhao Yanzi glanced at Zhao Guang. "We'll talk about it when we get home."

She turned to face Zhao Yanzi. "Of course, you must wash it. It's dusty!"

"Ok!" Nodding, Zhao Yanzi walked to Hao Ren and placed the pot into his hands with a frown. "Hurry up and wash it!"

"Zi, you wash it!" Zhao Hongyu glanced at Zhao Yanzi in exasperation.

"The pot belongs to him, and I don't know how to wash it! It took a great effort of mine to dig it out from the storage room!" Zhao Yanzi said, widening her bright eyes

Hao Ren saw threads of spider webs on her arm, knowing that she had indeed dug out the hotpot from under the pile of rarely used objects. Without talking back, he took the pot to the kitchen to wash it.

"Linlin, Lili, come with me to rinse the vegetables!" Zhao Hongyu beckoned to the sisters.

"Ok!" The Lu sisters answered in unison.

They needed to wash and rinse the vegetables and chop the meats for hotpot.

Obediently, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili followed Zhao Hongyu to the backyard and helped her.

This left Zhao Yanzi with nothing to do. While Grandma talked with her dad, she stood in the living room and found it quite empty.

She thought for a while and ran into the kitchen to stand beside Hao Ren.

Hao Ren was rubbing the pot with a piece of cloth, and he ignored her when she came in.

Zhao Yanzi didn't speak; she just watched him by his side.

"What are you doing here?" Hao Ren turned his head slightly and looked at her.

"Nothing." Zhao Yanzi curled her lips.

Hao Ren rinsed the pot with hot water before scrubbing the stubborn stains with a tougher scrubby.

"Hey!" Zhao Yanzi yelled abruptly.

Ignoring her, Hao Ren continued scrubbing.

"Hey!" Zhao Yanzi yelled again.

When Hao Ren continued to ignore her, she said, "Do you want me to call over your Class President?"

"Are you trying to mess with me?" Hao Ren looked at her in exasperation.

"Not at all. You miss her, right?" Zhao Yanzi glanced at him and said in a provocative tone.

Ignoring her, Hao Ren scrubbed the pot more thoroughly.

"Give me your cell phone; I'll call her." Zhao Yanzi reached out her hand.

"I have no time for your nonsense." Hao Ren took the pot to the other sink.

However, Zhao Yanzi followed him. While he was busy scrubbing, she stuck her hand into his pocket for his cell phone.

Hao Ren tried to dodge, but her hand kept wriggling in his pocket. Hao Ren panicked.

Finally, she grabbed the cell phone and took it out of his pocket.

"Hey! Give it back!" Hao Ren chased her with the pot in his hand. However, she had run out of the kitchen and then out of the house, making the call.

With the pot in his hand, Hao Ren could only watch her.

Minutes later, Zhao Yanzi returned to the kitchen with his cell phone.

"Did you finish the call?" Hao Ren looked at her.

"No! I lied to you. I didn't call her." Zhao Yanzi slipped the cell phone back into his pocket before running out of the kitchen to join Zhao Hongyu and the Lu sisters in the backyard.

Hao Ren didn't believe her.

After drying his hands, he took out the cell phone and pulled out the recent calls. Sure enough, there was a call made to Xie Yujia a few minutes ago.

He dialed her number, and it was answered after two rings.

"Yujia?" Hao Ren said immediately.

"Yeah, it's me," Xie Yujia answered.

"Did Zhao Yanzi call you?" Hao Ren asked.

"Yeah. She called me," she answered lightly.

"What did she say?" Hao Ren asked cautiously.

"Nothing important. She just invited me over for hotpot," she paused for a few seconds before asking, "Is she with you right now?"

"Yeah. She's at my home with her parents."

"Oh..."

Silence.

To break the silence, Hao Ren asked her, "What are you doing?"

"Reading."

"Are you home alone?"

"Yeah," she answered in a gentle and lazy voice.

"Do you... do you want to come over and have hotpot with us? Lu Linlin and Lu Lili are here as well."

"No. I'll cook something for myself."

"Oh..." Now, Hao Ren didn't know what to say.

"Have fun. I'll go back to my book." Xie Yujia's words signaled her intention to end the conversation.

"Ok. And... Grandma hopes that you can come over when you have time," he said.

"Got it," she answered before hanging up.

Hao Ren was suddenly at a loss.

He could imagine Xie Yujia sitting in the small windowless room, reading under a yellow lamp.

Seeing Zhao Yanzi playing with Zhao Hongyu outside, Hao Ren wondered if Zhao Yanzi had called Xie Yujia for fun or to meddle with her.

"Ren! Are you done washing the pot?" Grandma called him from outside.

"Yeah. It's done!" he answered immediately before taking the pot out of the kitchen.

Then, a boisterous and lively hotpot meal began. With Grandma in the center, everyone talked, laughed, and got closer to each other in the process.

Zhao Guang was in a great mood, eating, drinking and talking a lot. Grandma rarely had so many people eating a meal with her in recent years, so she was delighted.

When the night came, Zhao Hongyu and the Lu sisters helped Hao Ren to clean the table, and then it was almost time to leave.

Grandma stood in the doorway, seeing them off reluctantly.

There were two vacant spots in the car, so Zhao Guang would drive Lu Linlin and Lu Lili back to downtown. Since Lu Linlin and Lu Lili were 'granddaughters' of Lu Qing, they were also part of Zhao Guang's big family in a way.

While the black Chevrolet drove away slowly, Grandma sighed slightly.

Loneliness always came after the party.

Knowing Grandma's sentiments, Hao Ren helped her back to the house.

"I called Yujia today, but she said she is busy and can't come," Grandma said while walking into the house.

"She... I guess she's busy," Hao Ren said helplessly.

"Well, well! Nothing is perfect in the world!" With a wave of her hand, Grandma walked into the brightly lit house slowly.

While Hao Ren sighed together with his grandma, in her small room, Xie Yujia rubbed her head and closed a thick book.

After checking the clock on the desk, she rolled her shoulders and stood up. "Well, it's time for me to go to the old Grandma's place and cultivate."

Chapter 276: Grandma Cherishes You!

Xie Yujia cooked a couple of dishes and packed them in separate boxes before going to the nearby shanty town.

After arriving in front of the old Grandma's rundown little house, Xie Yujia knocked, and the old Grandma opened the door.

"Grandma, I cooked these dishes and they are still warm." Xie Yujia walked in and placed the boxes on the black wooden table.

The old Grandma nodded and sat at the table.

Xie Yujia sat next to her and took out two pairs of chopsticks. Today, she was alone at home, so she cooked the meal to eat with the old Grandma.

The old Grandma ate slowly without a word.

Xie Yujia glanced at her and said after a few seconds of hesitation, "Grandma..."

"Yes?" The old Grandma looked up.

"One of my friends wants to make Beauty Pills. She... wants you to help her," Xie Yujia said cautiously while observing the old Grandma's expression.

"What's her name?"

"Su Han."

"The Dragon Tribe's inspector in East Ocean City? I won't help her," the old Grandma said.

Xie Yujia was a little surprised, but she didn't pursue the topic since the old Grandma had refused to help Su Han.

"However, I can teach you how to make the pills," seeing Xie Yujia's awkward expression, the old Grandma softened and changed her tone.

"Me?" Xie Yujia looked at her with doubt and excitement. "Can I do it?"

"Why not? You are my disciple!" The old Grandma's face fell a little.

She couldn't bear to see Xie Yujia in such a hesitant and self-doubting way. She was a lively and confident girl, but she had become so hesitant and indecisive due to her love life. The old Grandma's heart ached for her.

A moment later, the old Grandma's expression softened. "The Life-Death Note I taught you is not a simple technique of attack and defense. It can control the changes of the nature essence. Naturally, it can make elixir pills."

Elixir creation, after all, extracted the five-elemental essences from the materials before combining them in proper proportions with special techniques in a furnace.

The Five-Elemental Life-Death Note could use the five-elemental essences in nature, so it could control the flows of the five elemental essences in the furnace. By extracting the purest elemental essences from the materials, it could greatly enhance the success rate.

"But you can't make elixirs with mortal fires. You need to borrow the snow lion from that kid," the old Grandma continued.

She called Hao Ren "that kid" instead of his name, showing her disapproval of him.

"Ok, Grandma," Xie Yujia, who lowered her head to focus on her meal, answered gently.

The old Grandma stopped talking and began savoring the dishes cooked by Xie Yujia.

After the meal, Xie Yujia cleaned the table, and the old Grandma rested for a while before teaching Xie Yujia how to make elixir pills with the technique.

The Five-Elemental Life-Death Note was the technique that earned old Grandma her reputation in the world of cultivation. The Five-Elemental Note controlled life, death, and nature. She had used this technique to take essence from nature by force, leaping from the top-tier Nascent Soul Realm to the Soul Formation Realm.

By learning the Life-Death Note, Xie Yujia had undoubtedly become the direct disciple of the old Grandma. However, due to her poor cultivation talent, the old Grandma had no hopes of her reaching the Nascent Soul Realm.

Here is the key; the Five-Elemental Life-Death Note was the perfect counter for the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

While the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll could activate the five-elemental essences and turn the essences into sword energies, the Five-Elemental Life-Death Note could control and collect the five elemental essences in nature and thus became the nemesis of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

The old Grandma taught Xie Yujia this technique, not in the hopes that she would sweep over the mortal world. Instead, the old Grandma hoped that Xie Yujia could use it against Hao Ren if the latter dared to 'bully' her.

No matter how many sword energies or sword energy array formations Hao Ren released, Xie Yujia could absorb them all with the Five-Elemental Note.

If the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was a sword, then the Five-Elemental Life-Death Note was the scabbard.

"I would never allow my disciple to be slighted!"

Seeing Xie Yujia practicing the elixir making technique with Five-Elemental Note, the old Grandma beckoned to her.

"Grandma, is there anything wrong?" Xie Yujia got anxious since she hadn't made any progress after cultivating for a long while. Although she was smart in studying, she was quite obtuse in cultivation.

"Last time, I gave you the Life Note, and now I'll plant in you the Death Note." The old Grandma placed her hand on Xie Yujia's shoulder, and a surge of pure nature essence entered the center of her left palm after passing through her meridians instantly.

With a burning sensation in the center of her left palm, a faint silver note was printed in Xie Yujia's palm.

Golden was life while silver was death. One was the Life Note, and the other was the Death Note.

The two notes the old Grandma injected into Xie Yujia's body with her cultivation strength of the Soul Formation Realm were 'Source Notes.' After she could circulate them proficiently, she could create limitless Life-Death Notes.

The Life Note could absorb the essences of nature and other people's cultivation strength; the Death Note could shoot condensed energy beads into enemies' acupoints, blocking their meridians and exploding their bodies.

The Life-Death Note was a very aggressive technique both in cultivation and combat.

“Death and Life correspond to Yin and Yang respectively, but it’s not a fixed rule. Since you are still at the Qi Refinement Realm, you can’t understand the greatness of the Life-Death Note...”

The old Grandma straightened up the nature essence in Xie Yujia’s body, and she explained to her the concepts of the notes at the same time.

Xie Yujia cultivated while she listened, feeling one cold energy current and one hot surge of energy current moving in her body. It was an exquisite sensation.

“Grandma, did you say that Hao Ren is already at the Core Formation Realm?” Xie Yujia asked abruptly.

“He has better cultivation talent than you. With that little help from me, he is now at the Core Formation Realm,” the old Grandma said genially.

“Core Formation Realm...” Xie Yujia murmured to herself.

According to the old Grandma, she was now only on level 2 of Qi Refinement Realm. After reaching level 10 of Qi Refinement Realm, she would have the opportunity to advance to Foundation Establishment Realm. After she reached the top-tier of Foundation Establishment Realm, she would have the chance to form an internal core... There seemed to be a long way ahead of her before she could catch up to Hao Ren.

“Grandma, you can speak well. Why did you pretend to be mute?” Xie Yujia asked suddenly.

“What can I say to these mortals around me? It’s enough for me to sit in the mortal world and watch the vicissitudes of the world,” the old Grandma answered.

Xie Yujia didn’t quite understand the thoughts and the mind of the old Grandma who was already a Soul Formation Realm cultivator. However, she knew that she was quite fortunate that the old Grandma talked to her.

Time passed quietly, and the moon rose and fell.

Without noticing it, Xie Yujia had cultivated for a whole night in the old Grandma’s place.

The house looked broken, but the essence intensity in it was dozens of times more potent than the outside. After one night’s cultivation, Xie Yujia felt like her realm had elevated.

“Grandma, it seems like I got a small breakthrough,” Xie Yujia, a new cultivator, said with pleasant surprise.

“Well, you are at level 3 of Qi Refinement.” The old Grandma, who was sitting cross-legged on her wooden board bed, opened her eyes slowly and nodded.

“Hehe, thank you, Grandma!” Xie Yujia was pleased.

A smile appeared on the old Grandma’s wrinkled face.

In fact, she was a little exasperated. Xie Yujia possessed the ‘Stone Body Type’ that was the most unsuitable for cultivation. After cultivating with a Nascent Soul Realm Life Note, she only broke through one level in the Qi Refinement Realm...

“Grandma, I have some errands to run today. I’ll buy you breakfast, and then I’ll head back,” Xie Yujia stretched and said.

“You don’t have to buy me breakfast. You’ve cultivated for one night, so you must be tired. I’ll give you a lift.” The old Grandma waved her arm.

Xie Yujia felt her body was lifted suddenly. When she opened her eyes again, she was in the clouds.

“That kid doesn’t cherish you, but I cherish you. Don’t worry, Yujia, as long as I have a breath in me, I’ll never allow you to suffer,” the old Grandma held onto Xie Yujia’s hand lightly and said while they traveled in the clouds.

While feeling the moist mist rushing against her face, Xie Yujia heard the old Grandma’s words; she suddenly felt like crying.

“Go! You are too soft-hearted. You don’t want to fight for yourself, but I’ll fight for you!” The old Grandma released her abruptly.

Xie Yujia fell toward the ground. When she was close to the ground, beams of light appeared under her feet and steadied her body.

She looked around and found that she was standing in front of Hao Ren’s house!

“Grandma even knows that I wanted to come here...” Xie Yujia looked up at the sky but couldn’t see the old Grandma in the thick white clouds.

No one could see the whereabouts of a grandmaster of the Soul Formation Realm! In the whole world, who would have the audacious to block a Soul Formation Realm cultivator?!

“Grandma! Grandma!” Xie Yujia stood in the doorway and called out in her clear voice.

Hao Ren’s grandma was an early riser. Hearing the voice, she immediately opened the window to check who it was.

“Well! It’s you, little Yujia.”

“I’m free today, so I came to see you,” Xie Yujia said, blushing.

“I was wondering why you haven’t come yet!” Hurriedly, Grandma walked downstairs and opened the door for her.

“Where’s... Hao Ren?” Entering the house, Xie Yujia whispered shyly.

“Him! He’s still in bed! He told me that he was going to the beach for a jog, and he came back very late. He must be tired.” Grandma walked toward the stairs. “I’ll go and wake him up.”

“Don’t! Grandma!” Xie Yujia stopped Grandma immediately. “Let him sleep.”

“Ok, ok!” Grandma looked back at Xie Yujia’s flushed face. “Yujia, you are even prettier than a couple of days ago!”

“I wasn’t planning to come here, but I still wanted to see you.” Xie Yujia tiptoed onto the second floor.

“You must come every weekend!” Grandma held onto Xie Yujia’s hand and said warmly.

When Xie Yujia began to carry her heavy beddings to the balcony, she immediately said, “You are here to keep me company, not to do these chores!”

“The sunlight is great today; I’ll help you put the beddings in the sun!” With smooth movements, she spread the bedding out on a string in the balcony. “Hao Ren is a guy, so he doesn’t know how to do these things.”

“Just like his father, he cares for me but doesn’t know how to do these things properly. Neither does his mother; she doesn’t know how to do house chores too,” Grandma complained while shaking her head.

“They are busy,” Xie Yujia helped their defense before asking, “Is there any laundry that needs to be done?”

“I can’t let you do such things for me,” Grandma said.

“Grandma, don’t take me as an outsider. I will just do it while I’m here,” Xie Yujia said with a smile.

“I washed the laundry in the washing machine and planned to let Ren hang them to dry outside when he gets up,” Grandma yielded after a moment of consideration.

“Let me do it!” Xie Yujia walked into the laundry room, took out the damp laundry, and put them into a basin.

The damp clothes were heavy; no wonder Grandma had left them in there and waited for Hao Ren to get them out.

In Xie Yujia’s hands, such chores were a piece of cake. Although she had little talent in cultivation, she was a master in housekeeping.

Watching Xie Yujia hanging clothes on her tiptoes, Grandma watched her and murmured to herself, “The girl is going to be a great wife...”

On the balcony, Xie Yujia found a couple of Hao Ren’s washed underpants at the bottom of the basin.

She picked them up and secured them on the hangers while flushing.

When she carried the empty basin back to the house, it was already past ten o’clock.

Without a word, she rolled up her sleeves and went into the kitchen to prepare lunch.

Grandma was pleasantly surprised. She smiled in satisfaction while remembering the cute face of Little Carrot when she was little and played around her.

A little more than half an hour later, the aroma of dishes floated from the kitchen. The alluring smell of the stewed pork ribs she cooked was especially mouth-watering.

“Grandma! The lunch is ready!” With some sweat droplets on her nose, Xie Yujia walked out of the kitchen.

“Ok. I’ll call Ren downstairs for lunch! The lazy boy is sleeping in so late today!” Grandma ‘scolded’ her grandson with a smile.

“Well, if there’s nothing else you need me to do, I’ll head back!” Xie Yujia waved at Grandma and walked toward the door.

“What? Why are you leaving so early?” Grandma asked anxiously.

“I have some homework to finish this afternoon. I came here in the morning to see you.” Xie Yujia walked out of the door, declining Grandma’s invitation to stay a bit longer.

Meanwhile, Hao Ren sat in his room cross-legged facing the sea.

Gradually, he returned from the state of oblivion.

Last night, he tried the lightning cultivation again and unlocked two more openings.

The progress was extremely fast with lightning cultivation.

After reaching Zhen-level, the dragon cultivators would find the cultivation progress slower than before, and the unlocking of openings would get even more difficult.

The early stages were easy, but the later stages were challenging.

However, the lightning cultivation could not only temper his body but also unlock the openings in the dragon core. It almost broke all the cultivation rules for the dragon cultivators.

Since the newly unlocked openings were not stable, he had emerged himself in cultivation until noon.

The moment he regained his senses, he heard Grandma knocking loudly on his door.

“Ren! What are you doing in there?”

“What is it, Grandma?” Hao Ren immediately walked over and opened the door.

Seeing the bafflement on his face, Grandma said helplessly, “Lunch is ready.”

“It smells so good!” Hao Ren inhaled deeply, and his eyes lit up. “Haha, Grandma, you cooked today? They are all my favorites!”

Grandma glared at him, “Go down and eat!”

She didn’t plan to tell Hao Ren about Xie Yujia’s visit. To her, this boy was dull and oblivious to his peach blossom, and she didn’t want to change her grandson.

Chapter 277: Tragedy...

In the East Ocean Dragon Palace, 60 elite soldiers were guarding the main gate with weapons.

Five meters from the gate stood a respectful man in his 60s. He was wearing a bright red robe with a belt and a pair of black boots.

Behind him was a luxurious carriage full of treasures.

With his bent hunched, Premier Xia strolled from the gate in the company of a young general of the Palace.

“Premier Xia, how are you doing?” The man in the bright red robe immediately stepped up to greet him, Premier Xia looked at this man and said, “Premier Lu, the dragon king is not in the palace. Your unexpected visit to our East Ocean Dragon Palace with treasures put me in a difficult position.”

Premier Lu’s fawning smile turned to bitterness. “It has been three days, and you still can’t find the dragon king?”

“The dragon king is very busy. Could you wait a few more days? I can’t let you in without the dragon king’s permission.” Premier Xia seemed to be in a dilemma.

Premier Lu, who had traveled from the distant West Ocean Dragon Palace, felt like crying at this answer.

At Oldman Zeng’s order, he came to East Ocean with precious gifts as the extension of an olive branch. However, East Ocean only sent out Premier Xia to deal with him, and he received a cold treatment and wasn’t allowed into the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

He waited for three days outside the gate of the dragon palace, eating and sleeping in the open.

However, it was what West Ocean deserved. Since Oldman Zeng had rudely broken into East Ocean by force, East Ocean was just returning the favor.

With their Crown Prince still imprisoned in the East Ocean Dragon Palace, they had to keep their heads low despite East Ocean’s cold attitude.

“Sorry, but I have business to tend to. Premier Lu, I’m afraid that you will have to wait here a little longer.” Premier Xia cupped his hands and slightly bowed at Premier Lu before turning around and walking toward the palace.

Premier Lu gritted his teeth.

Giving up his dignity, he hurried over and stopped Premier Xia with a hand on his arm. “Brother Xia! Brother Xia!”

“We’ll offer five more pieces of West Ocean Mystic Ice. How about that?” He begged with a bitter expression on his face.

Premier Xia shook his head and lightly removed Premier Lu’s hand from his arm. “I’ll report it to the dragon king..”

Premier Lu gritted his teeth. “Eight pieces!”

They were offering 20 pieces of West Ocean Mystic Ice! When Premier Xia’s expression softened at this offer, Premier Lu immediately said, “We are offering these treasures as a thank-you for the excellent care the East Ocean Dragon Clan has given to our Crown Prince. However, we’re afraid that we have troubled you guys for too long and hoped that he would return to West Ocean to recover from his injuries.”

He skipped the part about Oldman Zeng’s intrusion into the East Ocean Dragon Palace as if these unpleasantries had never happened.

20 pieces of West Ocean Mystic Ices were the bottom line that Oldman authorized to him in this negotiation. Including many other treasures, West Ocean was indeed offering a fortune to get Zeng Yitao back.

“Premier Lu, please wait here while I talk about it with the other elders. If they are just thank-you gifts, I think we might be able to accept them.” Premier Xia relented.

Zhao Guang had ordered him to make West Ocean’s envoy wait for three days before seeing them.

If West Ocean got more anxious and offered more gifts, then this whole thing wouldn’t be a trap.

When West Ocean offered 20 pieces of West Ocean Mystic Ice which were important strategic resources, it showed that they were at their limits.

Premier Xia returned to the dragon palace and reported West Ocean’s offer to Zhao Guang. He finally nodded. “Release him!”

“Yes, Your Majesty!” Premier Xia immediately walked out with Zhao Guang’s order and went to the rear of the palace.

Since West Ocean and East Ocean were not officially at war, it was troublesome for East Ocean to keep the Crown Prince of West Ocean captive. It was a good deal for them to trade off the burden for many treasures including 20 pieces of West Ocean Mystic Ice.

The only thing that Premier Xia didn’t understand was why Oldman Zeng suddenly submitted to them. Just a few days ago, he had broken into the East Ocean Dragon Palace and took away 16 elders by force.

He mulled over it and couldn’t think of anyone who could have changed the situation. In the entire East Ocean Dragon Clan, there was only one person he was not certain about, and that person was Hao Ren, the Fuma.

Because Zeng Yitao had been cussing Hao Ren all day long since he was imprisoned in the palace, Premier Xia knew that it was Hao Ren who had beat Zeng Yitao and threw him into the sea.

Obviously, the 16 elders who fell into the sea with Zeng Yitao were also the victims of Hao Ren.

Besides, Hao Ren had forced Qin Shaoyang back at Zhao Yanzi’s birthday party, got the trust of Inspector Su Han, and even absorbed the last lightning power in Zhao Kuo’s Heavenly Tribulation... In Premier Xia’s eyes, the Fuma had given them lots of surprises.

Even Zhao Kuo had told him this before leaving the dragon palace, “Keep an eye on Hao Ren. I’ll count on him when I charge at the Heavenly Dragon Realm next time!”

“Indeed, the dragon king has sharp eyes.” Premier Xia smiled while he walked to the back of the palace.

Zeng Yitao had been fed simple meals each day in the East Ocean Dragon Palace, and he was grumpy when he was released from the palace. He shouted immediately when he walked out.

“East Ocean Dragon Palace, you dared to imprison me?! One day, I’ll dismantle the whole place!”

“My grandpa will come with troops and trample you!”

“Yuck! What garbage did you feed me each day?!”

While he walked out, he cursed with the hatred that had been accumulating in his mind over the past few days.

The guards of the dragon palace were angry at his arrogance. However, they had to keep their anger in check since Premier Xia was with him.

“Who’s making such noises?!”

Little Daoist Zhen, who had been collecting herbs in the nearby Hundred-flower Palace, couldn’t bear the noises and jumped out.

He had been slapped in the face by Oldman Zeng a few days ago, and the handprint on his cheek had finally receded a bit. Today, he went to the Hundred-flower Palace, getting some herbs to heal the swelling. After that, he was planning to go to the West Ocean Dragon Palace and make trouble for that old *ss.

Now, he ran into the Crown Prince of the West Ocean Dragon Palace who was just released.

“Where did you come from, dirty urchin? How dare you block my way?” Zeng Yitao was burning with rage. Since he couldn’t defeat Premier Xia, he decided to vent his anger on Little Daoist Zhen. He immediately kicked Little Daoist Zhen.

Bang!

Unprepared, Little Daoist Zhen was kicked hard on the chest. He fell back and slid half a meter on the stone path; the herbs in his hands flew into the air.

Not expecting such viciousness from Zeng Yitao, Premier Xia wasn’t quick enough to block for Little Daoist Zhen. He gasped at the sight.

In the past 100 years, Little Daoist Zhen had been making fires for Qiu Niu, but his status as Qiu Niu’s only disciple was extraordinary.

He was a demon beast who had transformed into the human form 100 years ago. He restarted the cultivation since then, and he was now only at Li-level despite his arrogant attitude.

Qiu Niu had not taught him any cultivation techniques, ordering him to focus on the fields of making elixirs and dharma treasures since this ancestor of Dragon Tribe didn’t think that anyone would dare to mess with his disciple.

While Little Daoist Zhen tried to get up, Zeng Yitao walked over and gave him two more stomps. “These are what you get for your big mouth!”

Chapter 278: Who Is More Powerful?

Instantly, the Taoist robe that Little Daoist Zhen was wearing was covered with footprints.

The guards rushed over to stop Zeng Yitao while Premier Xia pulled him back to prevent him from giving Little Daoist Zhen more kicks.

Bruised all over, Little Daoist Zhen struggled and finally got up from the ground.

Zeng Yitao snorted and said, "That's what you get for messing with me!"

In his mind, his grandpa must have come with troops, and the East Ocean Dragon Clan was forced to release him due to the pressure.

When the guards kept Zeng Yitao in control, Premier Xia hurried and helped Little Daoist Zhen who was still dizzy. "Little Daoist Zhen..."

He reached out to Little Daoist Zhen

"Humph!" Little Daoist Zhen slapped away Premier Xia's hand angrily.

Premier Xia was anxious. After all, it wouldn't reflect well on East Ocean when Grandmaster Qiu Niu's disciple got hit in the palace.

Now, he only hoped that Little Daoist Zhen would turn all his anger on the West Ocean Dragon Palace instead of the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

"You'll get 100 times what you did to me today!" Glancing at the trampled herbs on the ground, he limped to the southeast corner of the palace.

Although his cultivation strength was weak, he had lots of ways to retaliate on the West Ocean Dragon Palace. He would make them cry!

"Come at me! Come at me!" Furious, Zeng Yitao provoked even more.

Premier Xia looked at Zeng Yitao with pity in his eyes and thought, "This kid is asking for death. The dharma treasures in Little Daoist Zhen's room are more than enough to kill him."

Looking at Little Daoist Zhen who was walking away, Zeng Yitao thought he was afraid of him.

After seeing that no guard dared to make a move against him, he got even more overbearing. He strode toward the main gate of the dragon palace.

To his surprise, there were no troops outside of the palace, and there wasn't even an elder from West Ocean. Only Premier Lu, alone, was standing by the carriage in a bright red robe.

Seeing Zeng Yitao walk out, Premier Lu hurried over to him. "Crown Prince!"

"Where's my grandpa?" Zeng Yitao asked in confusion.

"Old Dragon King, he..." Premier Lu was at a loss for words.

When Oldman Zeng returned to the West Ocean Dragon Palace a few days ago with half of a dragon horn, ragged clothes, and an ash-colored face, Premier Lu almost thought he was an imposter.

"I got it! East Ocean has surrendered, and Grandpa sent you to pick me up!" Zeng Yitao said immediately.

Speechless, Premier Lu bowed slightly. "Please get into the carriage, Crown Prince."

After getting into the carriage, Zeng Yitao looked back at Premier Xia. "I'll never forget the whole incident! And I'll never forget Hao Ren!"

Premier Xia shook his head slightly and turned to Premier Lu. "And..."

"Oh, yes!" Premier Lu beckoned, and a luxurious four-wheeled carriage moved to the main gate of the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

In it were shining treasures they had promised.

"These..." Zeng Yitao couldn't believe his eyes, wondering why they had to give East Ocean gifts when they had forced East Ocean to release him.

More astonishingly, Premier Lu took out 20 pieces of high-quality West Ocean Mystic Ice from his Xumi Ring and handed them to Premier Xia carefully.

Then, Premier Lu sighed with relief, got onto the front seat of the carriage, and drove it out of the territory of the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

"Premier Lu, why did we give them gifts! They imprisoned me for five days!" In the carriage, Zeng Yitao shouted.

While driving the carriage, Premier Lu tried to placate him, "Crown Prince, things have changed. The Grand Dragon King has ordered us to give ways to the people from East Ocean when we meet them."

"What?!" Zeng Yitao didn't understand.

"Besides," Premier Lu said in a placating tone, "We have finished the drop-out procedure in the school on land. Grand Dragon King has arranged six masters to teach you in the dragon palace."

"I can't continue my study in East Ocean City?" Zeng Yitao yelled, "We'll just forgive Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi? Where's my grandpa? What's he thinking?"

"Grand Dragon King has declared a seclusion cultivation period of 200 years. You can't see him."

"Didn't he tell me to provoke East Ocean so that we could use that as an excuse and take all the territory of East Ocean? How come he is suddenly in seclusion cultivation?"

"Well..." Premier Lu didn't know how to answer him. He whipped the demon horses that were pulling the carriage to make them run faster.

The two horses pulling the carriage were demon horses that could move fast in the ocean. At this speed, they would return to the territory of the West Ocean Dragon Palace in one day and one night.

At this moment, a beam of golden light dashed near the carriage.

As a cultivator of Xun-level, Premier Lu sensed the fluctuations of nature essence nearby and was immediately alerted.

In the dirty Taoist robe with footprints on it, Little Daoist Zhen appeared before the carriage, standing on a circular dharma treasure.

Seeing that he was only at Li-level, Premier Xia relaxed and lifted the pass token hanging on his belt. "I'm the premier of the West Ocean Dragon Clan. I'm passing on an emergency!"

Besides the four ocean dragon clans, the other dominant force in the ocean was the Demon Sea which was full of high-level demons. Outside of these five major forces were some small demon forces.

Premier Lu had brought the pass token of the West Ocean Dragon Clan with him. Once it was shown, the minor demon forces would back off even if they didn't recognize the carriage.

The small forces of five to six demon wouldn't dare to work against the dominant force of the West Ocean Dragon Clan.

"It's you that I've been looking for!" Little Daoist Zhen took out a small yellow flag and pointed it at the carriage.

"This Li-level demon couldn't even recognize the pass token! What dharma treasures could he have?" Premier Lu thought as he raised his hands and formed a blue light shield around him and the carriage.

Swoosh! Swoosh... Beams of golden light broke Premier Lu's light shield and instantly turned the steel carriage into a sieve.

Bang! The carriage collapsed, and Zeng Yitao tumbled out.

Astonished, Premier Lu thought he had entered the territory of Demon Sea by mistake. He was about to explain when Little Daoist Zhen waved the yellow flag again.

The two demon horses fled, and many beams of golden light overwhelmed Premier Lu.

His exquisite red robe was turned into rags.

Zeng Yitao was sent into unconsciousness when a few golden beams hit his head; he didn't even see who the attacker was!

Then, Little Daoist Zhen waved the yellow flag again!

Hundreds of golden beams shot toward Premier Lu and the unconscious Zeng Yitao like daggers.

Knowing he was no match for the golden beams, Premier Lu scrambled to one side.

Without Premier Lu's cover, Zeng Yitao's body was pierced by more than a dozen golden beams! Before the golden beams, his body was as fragile as a piece of cheese!

Little Daoist Zhen put the yellow flag away and drove the flying dharma treasure away after the revenge.

After he got kicked, he had returned to his small room in the southwest corner of the East Ocean Dragon Palace and dug out his fastest flying dharma treasure and the most powerful attacking dharma treasure. Without changing out of his dirty robe, he ran out of the East Ocean Dragon Palace to chase them.

With his weak cultivation strength, he could only use the powerful offensive dharma treasure three times. Otherwise, he would do more damage to Zeng Yitao.

Besides, this place was some distance away from the East Ocean Dragon Palace, and complex forces were lurking around. Little Daoist Zhen, a Li-level demon with great treasures on him, didn't dare to linger.

With several holes on his body, Premier Lu looked at Little Daoist Zhen, who was dashing away, in fear. Then, he scrambled to the side of Zeng Yitao and tried to help the Crown Prince to stand up.

Seeing the blood-stained body, Premier Lu didn't know if the Crown Prince was still alive or not. He looked around and couldn't find a trace of the two demon horses.

Then, he looked back at the shattered carriage and sighed heavily, "The West Ocean Dragon Clan is in bad luck this year; even the Demon Sea is working against us!"

While Premier Lu was crying over the bloody Crown Prince, Hao Ren had just finished all of his classes.

The setting sun was stunning; it dyed everything in gold.

He left his books in the dorm before walking out of the southern dorm area to take the bus.

"Hao Ren!" a clear voice sounded behind him.

He turned and saw Xie Yujia jogging toward him in a dress.

She dressed beautifully. Her pink jacket and deep blue dress matched each other perfectly, and the high waisted dress underneath the open jacket made her legs look longer and accentuated their elegant lines.

The dress was not fancy, but it was simple and elegant.

"Are you going out on a date?" Hao Ren looked at her and asked without thinking. He remembered that she was not dressed like this during class, so she must have changed into them afterward.

Xie Yujia pouted. "With whom!?"

Realizing his mistake, Hao Ren asked hurriedly, "Why are you dressed so beautifully today?"

Recently Xie Yujia indeed got more beautiful. According to Yu Rong's gossip, more and more guys have begun to pursue her.

Although everyone knew Xie Yujia had a "boyfriend" Hao Ren, the guys hoped they could win her over from him. After all, she and Hao Ren didn't stay with each other very much, which gave the guys hope.

"I'm going to LingZhao Middle School. Want to go with me?" Xie Yujia smiled lightly and asked him.

"What a coincidence!" Hao Ren was surprised.

"Are you heading to LingZhao Middle School, too?" Xie Yujia was also surprised. "I was invited by my former teacher to watch a play."

"Ugh, same with me, but it was Zhao Yanzi who asked me to see it." Hao Ren scratched his head. "Let's go together."

"I wonder who plays the heroine." Xie Yujia walked with Hao Ren toward the bus station and said casually, "I once played Juliet."

Chapter 279: A Competition Across Time

A bus came, and Hao Ren and Xie Yujia quickened their steps and got on it.

"You played Juliet before?" After sitting down, he asked Xie Yujia.

"Yeah. 'Romeo and Juliet' is the play that LingZhao Middle School does every three years." Xie Yujia nodded, playing with her hair.

She tried to catch her breath from the short jog before continuing, "My partner of that play was the most handsome guy in the school, so a lot of girls were jealous of me for playing Juliet."

Hao Ren smiled. "Yujia, you were the prettiest girl in the school, right?"

"No, that wasn't me!" Xie Yujia shook her head immediately.

Blushing, Xie Yujia continued, "The pictures of the play that I participated are still displayed in the Arts Hall in the school."

"I will go see them later." He did want to see the pictures of Xie Yujia in middle school. Last time when he was in her room, he didn't see the photos of her playing Juliet.

"Oh, how is your cultivation going recently?" Xie Yujia changed the subject.

"It's going steadily," Hao Ren answered.

Since he had unlocked three openings with lightning cultivation last weekend, his cultivation strength had grown. After he went back to school, he couldn't find a place to summon the lightning to temper his body; he had to absorb the five-elemental essences the regular way and tried to balance the elemental essences with the data Lu Linlin and Lu Lili provided him.

In the mornings, Hao Ren jogged around campus before going to the small forest to practice the fundamental boxing techniques. After classes, he would go to tutor Zhao Yanzi in the evenings and come back to his dorm on Little White.

His life had fallen into a routine.

On the second thought, he had not been with Xie Yujia except sitting behind her during classes. No wonder the guys outside of their program were beginning to pursue her.

"I reached-level 3 of the Qi Refinement Realm, and the old Grandma taught me how to make elixirs," Xie Yujia said.

Sitting on the bus, they talked about cultivation with such ease as if they were talking about homework.

"Making elixirs?" Hao Ren was curious.

“Yeah. The Life-Death Note the old Grandma taught me is capable of making elixirs.” Xie Yujia nodded. “After a few days’ practices, I’m familiar with the process and should be able to make the Beauty Pills.”

Hao Ren had a hard time believing it. After all, she was only at level 3 of the Qi Refinement Realm, and even the Core Formation Realm cultivators had to spend years practicing before they could master the techniques of making elixirs.

If Xie Yujia could make elixirs after a few days of practice, then the art of making elixir would be too easy.

Seeing the disbelief on Hao Ren’s face, she bit her lip. “I think making elixirs is almost the same as cooking; the key lies in the control of the fire. The Life-Death Note is like the spatula, and what I need now is fire.”

“Ugh... Making elixirs is almost the same as cooking?” Hao Ren thought; he almost choked.

However, on the second thought, none of the cultivators seemed to be able to cook.

“I’ll need to borrow Little White to make the elixir pills,” Xie Yujia said.

“Little White... ok,” Hao Ren agreed after a moment of hesitation.

Little White loved to eat and hated working; maybe it was time for it to do something useful.

“The Life Note the old Grandma gave me can gather essence, but I always find it difficult to circulate it. The trouble lies in the Zhangmen Acupoint. Did you encounter this problem when you first cultivated?”

Xie Yujia took the opportunity to ask him fundamental questions about cultivation.

The stuff the old Grandma taught her was too profound, and she explained the basics very little.

Xie Yujia was too bashful to trouble the old Grandma with such simple questions, so she turned to Hao Ren.

“The Zhangmen Acupoint?” Hao Ren thought back to when he first started cultivating. “It is a bit difficult. You must concentrate on breaking through the Qimen Acupoint before you can unblock the Zhangmen Acupoint.”

As a grandmaster of the Soul Formation Realm, the old Grandma couldn’t remember such small details in the early cultivation stage, just like great writers who sometimes had trouble remembering the spelling of some words.

However, Hao Ren had just reached Zhen-level and thus had a clear memory of the process when he cultivated and broke through the Spirit Concentration Scroll. Although he didn’t know about the cultivation technique Xie Yujia was practicing, the general idea of all basic cultivation techniques was unblocking acupoints and straightening out meridians with nature essence.

Kan-level was equivalent to the Foundation Establishment Realm, and the process of breaking through the Spirit Concentration Scroll was equivalent to the Qi Refinement Realm. The only difference between the human cultivators and dragon cultivators was that the latter had an easier time before Zhen-level

due to the existence of dragon cores. While human cultivators divided the Qi Refinement Realm into ten levels, the Spirit Concentration Scroll of the Dragon Tribe only had three levels.

Xie Yujia took the opportunity and asked him a few more questions. Hao Ren told her everything he knew from his experience since they only talked about the process of cultivation and didn't touch the specific techniques.

The exchange between low-level cultivators was beneficial to them. As the only disciple of the old Grandma, Xie Yujia had no peers, so talking to Hao Ren was very helpful to her.

While they talked, the bus arrived at LingZhao Middle School.

Many luxurious cars were parked on both sides of the school gate. Undoubtedly, they belonged to the parents who came here to watch the show.

It was almost time to start, so Hao Ren and Xie Yujia hurried into the school.

The night view of LingZhao Middle School was very pretty; lights shone on the lake and trees around it, giving people a peaceful feeling.

The venue of the show was the Arts Hall. Not familiar with the layout of the school, Hao Ren followed Xie Yujia.

The street lights highlighted the pretty views of the campus. Walking on the pebbled path, they felt like they had gone back to the time when Xie Yujia was still a middle school student in LingZhao Middle School.

The moment they entered the Arts Hall, lively crowds of students and parents came into their sights.

Pictures were displayed in showcases in the Arts Hall. Hao Ren walked along the exhibition and finally found Xie Yujia's picture.

In the picture, Xie Yujia was dressed in a beautiful Western dress, pure and pretty. Her smile looked as natural and beautiful as the white jasmine displayed on stage.

Looking at the picture, Hao Ren found it difficult to believe that Xie Yujia was not the most popular girl when she was in middle school.

"Yujia, here you are!"

Luo Ying, Zhao Yanzi's Class Advisor, suddenly appeared behind them.

"Hello, Ms. Luo!" Xie Yujia quickly greeted her, and Hao Ren bowed slightly as well.

Seeing them together again, Luo Ying was convinced that Hao Ren was Xie Yujia's boyfriend. She looked him up and down and felt like his temperament was much better than before.

"Who is playing Juliet this year?" Xie Yujia asked her.

"Hehe, you don't know?" Luo Ying glanced at Hao Ren and said, "It's Zhao Yanzi from my class."

"Oh, it's her!" Xie Yujia was surprised.

“The students voted for her in the school’s forum. She didn’t want to play at first; but after knowing that you had played the part before, she suddenly changed her mind,” Luo Ying explained.

Hao Ren smiled and finally understood why Zhao Yanzi wanted to play Juliet and rehearsed so hard.

She wanted to surpass Xie Yujia’s performance as Juliet!

It was a competition across time!

Zhao Yanzi, who was in middle school, wanted to defeat Xie Yujia when she was in middle school!

Chapter 280: Little Beauty in Costume

“It’s almost time. Let’s go in to watch the play,” Luo Ying said.

“Ok!” Xie Yujia nodded. After casting another glance at her picture displayed in the showcase, she walked into the auditorium.

Obviously, she missed her middle school days; it was the most peaceful time in her life, and she had missed Hao Ren the most during that time.

She had begun to understand love at that time, and her longing for her Little Older Brother got even stronger.

In the auditorium, the students and parents had all taken their seats, and the place was as lively as a movie theater ten minutes before the movie began.

The stage was all set, and the actors and actresses were backstage doing last minute preparations.

Hao Ren didn’t see Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu. Therefore, he could only sit with Xie Yujia and Luo Ying in the boisterous auditorium

Lights and music were all ready.

It was a full house, and it began to quiet down gradually.

With ballet dancers entering the stage, the play began.

Hao Ren was not familiar with Western plays. Instead, he had watched Beijing Operas on TV with Grandma and knew a lot of Chinese classical plays.

Under the spotlight, students who were playing aristocrats dancing at a ballroom.

As the music entered a small climax, Zhao Yanzi, in the stunning costume, slowly walked from the left side of the stage to the center.

She was wearing the dress and the jacket that Hao Ren bought for her. With makeup on her gorgeous face, she stunned everyone with her beauty.

“So beautiful...”

Hao Ren heard the admirations from the guys sitting behind him.

Very soon, a boy in a formal suit strolled onto the stage from the left with a wine glass in his hand.

Hao Ren looked at the boy closely and found that his looks were ok but not at all handsome.

“The boy who was going to play Romeo was Zeng Yitao, a Grade 11 student from the High School Department who had just transferred to our school. However, he skipped school for several days and was replaced by this boy. I heard that Zeng Yitao had dropped out.” Luo Ying said casually.

Hao Ren heard their conversation and finally understood why Zhao Yanzi had been in such a good mood when she found out that Zeng Yitao was imprisoned in the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

“Tonight, the moon looks especially lonely,” Zhao Yanzi looked up and spoke in the center of the stage.

She had a small microphone attached to the dress near her neck, so her clear voice spread to every corner of the auditorium.

From her voice, Hao Ren could tell that she was a little nervous.

“This lady... looks beautiful from behind...” the boy who was playing Romeo walked toward Zhao Yanzi while murmuring to himself.

The other students on the stage danced around them.

“A bit stiff,” Luo Ying commented.

“Maybe they didn’t have enough rehearsals,” Xie Yujia said.

“Yeah. Your group rehearsed for at least one month, and you were the most hard-working ones,” Luo Ying agreed.

Luo Ying had her comparisons, but for the students from both High School Department and Middle School Department, Zhao Yanzi’s beauty made up for all the minor issues in her acting skills.

While the play went on, and Hao Ren was amazed that the lazy Zhao Yanzi had memorized all the lines.

When the conversation on the balcony ended, the curtains closed slowly, signaling the intermission.

The students talked about Zhao Yanzi’s beautiful dress while they went out to the bathrooms or to buy drinks.

Hao Ren checked his watch and realized that one hour had passed! Even though he didn’t know much of Western plays, he was immersed in Zhao Yanzi’s performance for a full hour!

He carefully listened to all her lines, observed all of her facial expressions, and noticed all of her change in tones.

“With only one week of rehearsals, they are doing great,” Xie Yujia stood up and said as she took a deep breath.

“Well, yeah.” Luo Ying agreed reluctantly.

She only meant to give Zhao Yanzi a challenge by making her play the heroine and had not expected that Zhao Yanzi could give such an excellent performance.

“Maybe Zhao Yanzi isn’t as a lazy girl as I thought,” the Class Advisor thought to herself.

“Since you know Zhao Yanzi, why don’t you guys go see her backstage?” Luo Ying glanced at Hao Ren and Xie Yujia and suggested.

“Ok!” Excited, Xie Yujia pulled Hao Ren to the backstage; she was quite familiar with that place.

Behind the curtains, some students were arranging the set for the next scene. Hao Ren and Xie Yujia walked around them and went into the dressing room in the back where a young female teacher was freshening up Zhao Yanzi’s makeup.

Zhao Yanzi saw Hao Ren in the mirror, and she was pleased. Then, her lips pursed when she saw Xie Yujia.

While she frowned, the teacher missed her eyebrow and had to wipe it off before doing it again.

“You are doing great!” Hao Ren walked behind her and praised.

“Of course,” Zhao Yanzi answered coldly.

“Hey! Yujia!” The young teacher who was doing Zhao Yanzi’s makeup was pleasantly surprised to see Xie Yujia.

“Hi, Ms. Liu.” Xie Yujia smiled.

“Hehe, you are even more beautiful. Last time when you came to the school, I wasn’t in. You look the same as you were in the middle school except that your body is all grown! You were so thin at that time.” The teacher looked at Xie Yujia with fondness.

“Ms. Liu, there is still the second half of the play!” Zhao Yanzi looked at Xie Yujia in the mirror and urged the teacher.

Today, Xie Yujia was indeed dressed beautifully. The deep blue dress and the little pink jacket made her look elegant and fashionable.

“Ok, ok! I’ll do the makeup for you first!” The young teacher bent her back and resumed freshening up Zhao Yanzi’s makeup.

“I’m just here to look around. I won’t distract you any longer, Ms. Liu. Goodbye!” Not wanting to disturb the preparations backstage, she looked around the dressing room and walked out.

Hao Ren didn’t follow her out; instead, he stayed in the dressing room, looking at the displeased Zhao Yanzi in the mirror.

The young teacher finished the makeup and checked it. Then, she left the dressing room; she was probably looking for Xie Yujia to catch up.

Zhao Yanzi turned in the swivel chair and faced Hao Ren. She glared at him ‘viciously.’

“What? You’re not pleased that I’m here to watch your play?” Hao Ren asked her.

“Are you here to watch my play or to keep someone else company?” Zhao Yanzi retorted.

“Someone else?” Hao Ren asked.

“I don’t even want to say her name.” Zhao Yanzi rolled her eyes.

“Where are your parents? Did they come?” Hao Ren had to change the topic.

At that moment, another teacher walked into the dressing room. As she clapped her hands, she called out, “The second half is about to begin. Hurry up and get ready!”

“My parents are here. They are sitting in the second row and have saved you a seat!” Zhao Yanzi stood up and walked toward the door. On her way out, she rolled her eyes at him again. “Humph! You forget friends at the sight of beauty!”

“Forget friends at the sight of beauty 1?” Hao Ren didn’t know how to respond.