

GED 11

Chapter 11: You Piece of Birdshit!

To Feng Wu, Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle's right ear was as big as a house.

"I don't have any spiritual energy, but I know what his weakness is." Feng Wu arched an eyebrow.

"Alright!" Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle lowered its voice. "Get rid of him and I won't eat you!"

Feng Wu drew in a deep breath. Such was the pathetic life of one who didn't have any cultivation power. "... Fine."

Sitting down in its ear, Feng Wu told the bird about Jun Linyuan's Achilles' heel. "Jun Linyuan is so talented that you'll never be his match. Trying to run away will be futile, too. But, there is one thing you can do that'll distract him briefly."

Feng Wu smiled a little at that thought. "He's a neat freak!"

She got the idea from the eagle's drool just then.

Feng Wu turned to look at the teenager in black as she talked to the eagle.

He had clenched his right hand into a fist and spiritual essence circled around it, warping the air around him!

A formidable energy shook heaven and earth!

"Go!" Feng Wu shouted, sitting in the eagle's ear.

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle had its doubts, but it still charged at Jun Linyuan, making this its last attempt!

Just before they clashed —

Gurgle —

A sticky white substance gushed out of the eagle's mouth and poured down toward Jun Linyuan!

The look on the elegant, otherworldly teenager's face changed noticeably —

His face turned livid!

His movements turned stiff!

He kept falling back, further back —

"Run!" Feng Wu shouted, sitting cross-legged in the eagle's right ear.

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle didn't expect it to work so well!

It turned around and fled right away!

The eagle spared no effort and increased its speed to the limit!

In its right ear, Feng Wu kept giving it directions. “Your ten o’clock, speed up. Quickly!”

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle hadn’t thought much of Feng Wu at first, but since her suggestion had turned out remarkably useful, it began to follow her directions involuntarily.

“Lower your height! Forward! Faster!” Feng Wu clenched her fists!

10,000 meters, 5,000 meters, 3,000 meters... Almost there! They were almost at the waterfall over the cliff!

At that moment, the eagle suddenly pulled Feng Wu out of its ear and held her in its talon.

Feng Wu’s stomach lurched as she saw its drooling beak. She cried out, “What are you doing?!”

The eagle then threw Feng Wu in the direction of its mouth!

Just like someone throwing a peanut into their mouth!

Feng Wu shuddered with fear!

The eagle had gone back on its word before they were even out of danger!

Infuriated, Feng Wu took out a most solid Dark Stone from her Dragon and Phoenix Spiritual Ring, then threw it out.

Meanwhile, she turned swiftly, grabbed the eagle’s beak, and jumped onto its forehead!

Crack!

There was a crisp sound.

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle bit down on the Dark Stone Feng Wu tossed into its mouth and almost cracked its teeth!

It cried out angrily.

The eagle ranted, “You heartless woman! You’re so cunning!”

Standing on its head, Feng Wu rested her hands on her waist and stomped her foot. “You’re accusing me now? You promised you wouldn’t eat me and you went back on your word almost right away! You piece of shit, no, birdshit!”

Chapter 12: Secret Agent Instinct

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle screamed furiously, “I’m only eating you because you’re a smart person! Eating you will probably make me smarter, too! Do you think I’ll enjoy eating you? You’re all bones and might crack my teeth!”

Feng Wu took a deep breath.

But her anger refused to subside. She snorted and said, “Fine, stay here and get killed by Jun Linyuan! I’m off!”

Feng Wu had long figured out her escape route and had chosen the spot she was going to take off from!
She had started a row with the eagle as a distraction.

At that moment, Feng Wu turned around and looked into the distance.

The black-clad and black-eyed stern teenager now had a murderous look in his eyes!

Tapping the tip of his foot in the air, he leapt up deftly, then charged at them across the sky!

Sky Destroyer slashed down!

The cold, merciless energy spread and tumbled out, aiming right for one of the giant eagle wings that was wide enough to cover mountains!

Feng Wu knew that it was the end of this dumb, adorable-ish Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle.

Five hundred meters...

Three hundred meters...

One hundred meters...

However, Feng Wu wasn't far away from that waterfall at the towering cliff now!

After once again going through factors such as height, wind speed, and the speed of her fall, Feng Wu let out a breath, leapt out, did a forward somersault in the air, and hurtled toward the waterfall!

When she fell past one of the eagle's eyes, Feng Wu even had the time to wave at it.

The eagle was dazed for a brief second.

Just as Feng Wu leapt out —

Jun Linyuan had arrived with his slashing Sky Destroyer!

A vast wing was cut right off the mountainous body of the eagle!

" Roarrrr !"

Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle's face twisted in pain and it screamed in a forlorn and bitter voice!

Blood gushed out from where its right wing used to be and it trembled violently in mid-air!

Jun Linyuan saw a figure jump out of the eagle's right ear and plummet.

However, he never took any interest in those he deemed unimportant.

He was about to look away when, out of the corner of his eye, he saw that figure nimbly wrap her arms around her bent knees and tuck her head in, curling into a ball.

Then, she landed in the waterfall where the cliff ended at an angle, in a position to offset the impact.

Immediately after that, she let the current carry her all the way down!

She was washed into the bubbling small lake under the waterfall.

An indecipherable look flickered in Jun Linyuan's eyes, which were usually nonchalant and emotionless. One could even detect a look of surprise on his handsome face.

That person had jumped out of the eagle's ear, fallen, bumped into the edge of the cliff, and was then carried down by the current.

Too many factors had to be taken into consideration during that process: the height, the speed and direction of the wind, gravity, the force of impact, the cliff angle, and the unpredictable Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle... Only one thing needed to go wrong for everything to fall apart.

He never expected to see that from an ordinary girl with zero spiritual essence. Interesting.

However, "interesting" was as much as Jun Linyuan thought of Feng Wu. He didn't intend to try and save her at all.

If he knew that one day he would fall head over heels for the girl, Jun Linyuan, His Royal Highness, wouldn't have turned a blind eye to her now. However... that was exactly what he did to Feng Wu on this occasion.

Feng Wu fell swiftly from the cliff, carried along by the rushing torrent!

She then fell right into the deep small lake in the valley below!

Bang!

Feng Wu had calculated everything, apart from the fact that there was a giant rock at the bottom of the lake.

Hence, she landed at the bottom of the lake and banged her forehead on the rock with a thump.

Ouch!

Chapter 13: Serendipity

Rubbing her forehead, Feng Wu was almost in tears from the pain.

However, it wasn't time to cry yet, for a dark, powerful whirlpool at the bottom was trying to suck her in.

Feng Wu had just escaped death after much maneuvering; she wasn't going to be killed like this now!

With whatever strength she had left, she struggled toward the surface!

Finally, before she was drained of energy, she grabbed a withered branch on the surface and pulled herself up onto it. Once out of the water, she gasped for air and didn't want to even move a finger.

Such a task would have been nothing for her old body, but now... Feng Wu smiled wryly. That series of events had worn her out.

Luckily, despite her lack of spiritual essence, she still had her secret agent instinct, which was enough to keep her alive.

Feng Wu lay on the floating branch and rested. Once she recovered some of her strength, she began to examine her surroundings.

This was the eastern region of the fourth ring of Frozen Forest, an area that Feng Wu was quite familiar with.

Back then, Feng Wu had gone in and out of Frozen Forest multiple times for that Immortal Spiritual Fruit, as well as studied countless materials and maps. Hence, she knew that a short distance ahead of her was Great Frozen Canyon.

Great Frozen Canyon was filled with a cold poison, which was more than her current body could handle. She had to get ashore first.

At a bend in the river, Feng Wu found the opportunity she was looking for. Rolling nimbly off the branch and into the river, she swam to the riverbank.

It still wasn't far from the waterfall, so the current was still very rapid. Moreover, Feng Wu was swimming across the flow, so she was almost carried away by the current more than once.

Feng Wu finally managed to reach the bank before exhausting herself, though she was panting and pale now.

She looked up and took in her surroundings.

The ground was covered in colorful flowers and their fragrance filled the air.

This place was...

Feng Wu searched the map in her head and soon fixed on an area. She grew a little paler from the effort.

She was in Bighorn Blood Wasp territory now! Someone up there must hate her to bring her to this place!

Frozen Forest was riddled with danger, and this was the most dangerous area in all of the fourth ring!

Feng Wu had seen with her own eyes how a team who had entered this area was turned into a pile of bones in less than a minute! It was so horrifying and gory!

Bighorn Blood Wasps had a queen whom Feng Wu had been trying to get her hands on for the longest time, for it would shorten the time needed to refine the Nine Transformation Spirit Restoration Pill by half. However... Feng Wu shook her head involuntarily at the thought of swarming wasps.

She would use the White Jade Bee queen instead. The Bighorn Blood Wasp queen was more than she could chew.

In order to stay out of the way of the terrifying Bighorn Blood Wasps, Feng Wu decided to make herself as unnoticeable as possible and slip out of this area.

In fact, that was exactly what she did.

The buzzing of Bighorn Blood Wasps came from a short distance away. Feng Wu hid behind a tree, then stuck her head out to watch.

She spotted a figure wearing a red robe!

What?!

There was someone here?

And they were wearing red?!

That person had some balls!

Grabbing the trunk, Feng Wu climbed to the top of the tree in a few jumps. From there, she looked down, and what she saw made her beam with delight!

For she saw that the red-clad figure had lured most of the wasps away!

Chapter 14: Frustrated, Again

It was a bigger and more pleasant surprise for Feng Wu when she saw that the hive of the Bighorn Blood Wasps was within sight!

Her long-gone hope was reignited instantly and she burned with eagerness!

The wasp queen was right there... defenseless!

Feng Wu knew perfectly well that it was now or never! She would never run into such an opportunity again!

“Nothing ventured, nothing gained!” Feng Wu made up her mind there and then. She was going to have that wasp queen!

Although this body was void of spiritual essence, Feng Wu was in great shape physically. Jumping from one branch to another like a slim civet, Feng Wu soon went round the hive.

Feng Wu had been making knots with twigs as she went. Hence, when she reached the hive, she was holding something resembling a wooden stick with a hook on one end in her hand!

What happened next was quicker than words could describe!

She reached into the hive with the hook!

The next second, an ear-splitting scream reverberated through the forest!

It was the sound of the queen summoning her subjects!

There was no time for Feng Wu to ponder. Tossing this wasp queen into her Dragon and Phoenix Spiritual Ring, she sprinted in another direction!

Keeping highly focused and her breathing quiet, Feng Wu hunched her back and raced through the forest, making as little noise as possible.

Almost there. She was almost out of Bighorn Blood Wasp territory.

Just when Feng Wu was going to let out a sigh of relief, an ostentatious voice came from behind.

“Hey, you, this is such a happy coincidence!”

That was a familiar voice!

Feng Wu involuntarily turned to look, and recognized the guy right away. It was Feng Xun.

The teenager had well-defined features and the fairest face. He always seemed to be in good spirits and his breezy smile reminded one of the sun at noon, which could cheer anyone up right away.

However, his presence brought no smile to Feng Wu’s face this time.

For behind Feng Xun was a swarm of Bighorn Blood Wasps. There had to be tens of thousands of them, blocking out the light in the woods!

The buzzing was coming from behind him.

So, it was Feng Xun who had attracted the wasps’ attention just then!

After she had finally steered clear of the colony and furtively stolen their queen... Feng Xun had somehow brought the entire hive to her!

They would recognize the smell of their queen on her!

Feng Wu’s face almost turned green at that thought!

She pretended she didn’t recognize Feng Xun and kept dashing forward as fast as she could.

Don’t come near. Don’t come near. Stay away from me, dude! Feng Wu repeated those words in her head, hoping that somehow, Feng Xun could sense her desperation.

Apparently, Feng Xun and her weren’t on the same wavelength at all. With the swarming wasps chasing after him, Feng Xun ran toward Feng Wu, glowing with enthusiasm. “Hey, you’re still up and running! I thought you’d be dead by now.”

Feng Wu made no comment.

With what was happening, there was no way she was going to stick around! She took to her heels and scampered.

Feng Xun called after her, “Hey, lassie, slow down! Wait for me!”

He even tried to grab Feng Wu as he shouted.

Meanwhile, the swarm of Bighorn Blood Wasps suddenly stirred and went into a frantic state. The wasps turned violently restless and the buzzing grew louder!

The wasps that had been chasing after Feng Xun now all turned toward Feng Wu with a domineering thirst for blood!

The hair on Feng Wu’s back stood up immediately.

Shit... They must have found out about their stolen queen!

She. Was. Doomed!

Feng Wu glared at Feng Xun at that thought.

Feng Xun was completely at a loss at her resentment. "What's wrong? Are your eyes not feeling well? Why are your eyelids twitching?"

Twitching? Punch you in the face — that's what I want to do at the moment! Feng Wu was utterly frustrated. Had it not been for Feng Xun, she would have gotten away with it already...

Chapter 15: Let Go of Me!

"Let go of me!" Feng Xun had grabbed Feng Wu by the back of her collar and she waved her hands around like a drowning person.

There was a look of resignation on Feng Xun's handsome face. "Why the rush, young lady? These wasps aren't idiots. They didn't once sting me after chasing me all this time."

Feng Wu was crying inwardly. *Of course they wouldn't sting you. That would get themselves killed as well!*

The problem now was that they had detected the smell unique to the queen on her after she had stolen the latter. It was only natural that they would go berserk!

"Why, that's strange. Why are they all over you now and trying to sting you?" Feng Xun found that very unusual.

Feng Wu rolled her eyes. *Seriously? You're only noticing that now?*

"Ah!" A wasp stung Feng Wu when she wasn't looking and she cried out in pain.

Feng Xun smacked his forehead anxiously. "Sorry, my bad. You'd be long gone if I didn't stop you. You're one of those people that attracts Bighorn Blood Wasps more than others, aren't you?"

There was no way Feng Wu would tell him about stealing the queen, so she nodded repeatedly. *Yes. You're so right.*

Feng Wu couldn't see herself, but she looked absolutely adorable, nodding her head innocently like that.

Feng Xun chastised himself for her predicament. Picking Feng Wu up in one hand, he dashed out at lightning speed the next moment.

When he put his mind to it, Feng Xun was able to reach unbelievable speeds. They flitted past the trees like a flash of light.

Feng Xun stopped about five minutes later and put Feng Wu down. "There. The wasps won't be able to catch up with us. Don't worry, I promise you everything is alright now."

Feng Wu couldn't help it as her gaze lingered a little longer on Feng Xun. She was surprised to see that Feng Xun had grown so much in five years. If her True Phoenix Blood hadn't been destroyed by Zuo Qingyun five years ago, would she...

Feng Wu stopped that train of thought right away and focused on changing the subject instead.

Because she had been trying to find out Jun Linyuan's real purpose for entering Frozen Forest, she asked tentatively, "This forest is riddled with danger. We've narrowly escaped death once, so how about we leave now?"

Her suggestion to retreat achieved the opposite effect, exactly as Feng Wu had planned!

Feng Xun darted a bemused glance at Feng Wu. "Leave? My buddies and I traveled thousands of miles to get here from the imperial capital. We won't leave until we get what we came for!"

Feng Wu's stomach lurched!

She knew it!

Forget about the inspection tour of the border cities; that was only an excuse given by the crown prince Jun Linyuan! His real destination had always been Frozen Forest!

Gritting her teeth, Feng Wu feigned a curious and naive expression, asking gingerly, "You've come all the way from the imperial capital? What are you looking for here? I've seen some maps of Frozen Forest before. Maybe I know where the thing you're looking for is."

Feng Xun laughed heartily at those words. "Gosh, young lady, you're hilarious. I promise you that you won't know where to find it. What we're looking for is the crown jewel of the forest!"

The crown jewel? Only a handful of treasures in the forest could be called that... and Immortal Spiritual Fruit was one of them!

Feng Wu suddenly had a very bad feeling about this.

She was going to ask another question when a cold voice came from a few steps away. "Feng the Third, I see you're in no hurry at all."

With those words, a teenager wearing a blue robe descended from above, holding a sword between his folded arms.

He had deep-set features and his fluttering robe set off his slender body. He looked haughty and arrogant and there was no warmth in his eyes.

Chapter 16: What Was He Thinking?!

It was especially the case with his eyes, which put one in mind of sharp, cold blades piercing one's flesh. His overpowering aura was second only to Jun Linyuan.

"Why, Xuan the Second, you're here?!" Feng Xun patted the blue-robed teenager on his shoulder.

Feng Wu grew up in the imperial capital. Although she had been away from the city for five years, these teenagers had all been over ten years old when she left, so she was able to recognize this one right away.

That was Xuan Yi, the second son of the Xuan family and one of Jun Linyuan's childhood friends, who had been a poker-faced kid since he was little. As it turned out, his haughtiness had only magnified with age.

Xuan Yi examined Feng Wu for a brief second with his sharp eyes, then knitted his straight eyebrows. "Who's she?"

"She's this girl I just saved. By the way, what's your name? And this is —" Feng Xun was as warm and lively as he always was, but Xuan Yi was none of that.

"I'm Feng Xiaowu —" That was all Feng Wu was able to say.

Xuan Yi raised a hand and stopped her abruptly in an indifferent tone. "I have no interest in her identity whatsoever. It's time. Let's go."

Xuan Yi was indeed as relentless as she remembered — Feng Wu expressed her amazement inwardly.

Feng Xun glared at Xuan Yi, snorted, then took Feng Wu's hand. "That guy and his temper, geeze. Xiaowu, come with me."

Xuan Yi only walked two steps before he looked over his shoulder with a frown, his sharp gaze brushing over Feng Wu.

Feng Wu could sense the animosity in Xuan Yi's eyes, which was clearly telling her to scram.

Feng Wu snorted inwardly. *As if I want to stay with you people!* If Feng Xun hadn't dragged her all the way here, she would have left on her own already!

At that thought, Feng Wu indignantly cupped her fists at Feng Xun. "Brother Feng, mountains cannot change and green rivers always flow, just like our friendship. I hereby bid you farewell and I'll see you when I see you."

Feng Wu turned to leave after that.

Feng Xun grabbed her by the wrist right away. "We're already so deep in Frozen Forest and you'll never get out alive, with you not having any spiritual essence and all. You're not going anywhere; you're staying with us!"

Xuan Yi ignored Feng Xun, and only stared at Feng Wu with his cold eyes. "Are you leaving on your own, or shall I make you?"

With that, he made it perfectly clear that he was getting rid of Feng Wu.

Your royal band is way too superior for someone like me! Feng Wu smirked. "Bye!"

"Xuan Yi!" Feng Xun snapped, his eyes spitting flames of rage. "How can you be so cold-blooded?! Xiaowu is no villain. She's only the most unlucky person I met today. She was collateral damage in Boss Jun's fight first, then got kidnapped by Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle. I put her in danger after that and she

was almost stung to death by Bighorn Blood Wasps! She's finally in safe hands now and you're shooping her away?!"

"Why should I care if she's a saint or a fiend?" Xuan the Second stared at Feng Xun, his gaze so razor-sharp that he seemed to spit icicles from his eyes. "Have you forgotten what Boss Jun is like when he loses his temper?"

His Royal Highness was the most unfriendly guy on earth to strangers. Once his face darkened, he could easily scare anyone into not making a sound. Moreover, he drew a very strict line between his friends and the rest of the crowd!

Feng Xun puffed out his cheeks and bit his lip!

Xuan Yi added, "Plus, we're on such an important mission here. What if she's a spy?"

Feng Xun almost broke into an angry chuckle. "Do you seriously think a defenseless girl like her will rob us of the Immortal Spiritual Fruit?!"

"Feng. The. Third!" Xuan Yi was genuinely angry now! How could Feng Xun just reveal the Immortal Spiritual Fruit so lightly?! What was he even thinking?!

Chapter 17: You're Not Dead?

While Feng Xun thought of Feng Wu as one of their own, Xuan Yi didn't. On the contrary, he made no effort to hide his disdain toward Feng Wu.

Feng Wu couldn't care less about Xuan Yi's enmity now. All she could think of was the Immortal Spiritual Fruit! The fruit that was essential to her pill that could enable her to cultivate again!

Feng Wu had been smirking inwardly before this, thinking, "I wouldn't follow you around even if you invited me to!" However, she had changed her mind.

With Jun Linyuan's intelligence and capability, together with the help of his friends, there was a 90% chance that he would obtain the fruit, if not 100%.

If she walked off like this, she might miss her only chance of getting an Immortal Spiritual Fruit in her lifetime. If that happened, she would remain this mediocre Feng Wu that was picked on and looked down upon.

Would she succumb to that fate? Never!

Hence, she had to stick around and act accordingly, grabbing that Immortal Spiritual Fruit at the first opportunity possible! She wasn't leaving, no matter what anyone said!

"Fighting again?"

A graceful yet emotionless voice broke the awkwardness.

"Boss Jun!" Feng Xun's eyes lit up as soon as he caught sight of the teenager descending from the air. He hopped toward the latter.

Feng Wu turned to look involuntarily.

The teenager had an impeccable face and an aura that was out of this world.

He was so overpowering that wherever he went, he was in the spotlight. Everything else was cast in shade in comparison.

Behind him stood an upright middle-aged steward with deep-set features. However, he was almost easy to overlook because of Jun Linyuan's presence.

Feng Wu had no idea how long Jun Linyuan had been here or how much of their conversation he had heard.

Feng Xun turned to Jun Linyuan eagerly. "Boss Jun, Feng Xiaowu was thrown into Frozen Forest because of you and I brought her in deeper. She can't survive in or leave this forest on her own. How about we bring her along?"

Xuan Yi smirked as he held his sword between his folded arms, knowing that Feng the Third was bound to be disappointed. Of all people, he should know what Boss Jun was like. The guy didn't even blink when other people died in front of him. It would be ridiculous to try stirring up any sympathy in this guy.

Jun Linyuan darted Feng Wu an indifferent look. "You're not dead?"

From jumping out of the eagle's ear to hitting the cliff, then falling into a deep lake, she had carried out this impossible task with such smooth movements that Jun Linyuan couldn't help but be impressed.

Feng Wu drew in a breath.

She was right. Jun Linyuan had seen her back there. He just didn't care if she lived or died.

Feng Wu knew perfectly well that if she smirked now and retorted, "You seem to want to see me dead," Jun Linyuan would definitely reply in his cold voice, "Why should I care if you live or not?"

Hence, it wasn't time to act impulsively now! For the sake of that fruit, she had to play docile when necessary!

Feng Wu took a deep breath and forced a smile. "Great misfortune will bring good fortune. I believe I'll be a very lucky person from now on."

Jun Linyuan examined Feng Wu with his cold eyes and scanned her from head to toe.

His brooding look reminded one of a sharp blade out of its sheath, which could give one goosebumps.

The longer Jun Linyuan remained silent, the more grim everyone felt.

Xuan Yi snorted. He knew it; Boss Jun would never let an outsider in on their plan.

Just when Feng Xun thought all hope was gone, Jun Linyuan creased his nice, thick eyebrows and said to Feng Xun indifferently, "You brought her in. You keep her alive."

Chapter 18: You Don't Have to Be So Nice to Me...

Feng Xun almost jumped up. “Boss Jun! Did you mean it?! I can bring her along?! Really? OMG!!!”

“I advise against it,” said Jun Linyuan sincerely.

Xuan Yi, who had always been detached and nonchalant, opened his eyes wide!

This wasn’t right!

How could Boss Jun possibly have agreed to this? It wasn’t like him at all! He couldn’t help but dart a look at Jun Linyuan.

“Of course I’m bringing her along! I’m going to look after the girl!” said Feng Xun complacently. “I’m Feng the Third and she’s Feng the Fifth ¹ ; who else is going to take care of her if not me?”

Jun Linyuan ignored the gloating Feng Xun, and looked at Xuan Yi instead.

Xuan Yi took the hint without any verbal instruction. “I checked it out. That Immortal Spiritual Fruit grows in Black Ice Valley, but we’ll need to explore some more to find the specific location.”

Feng Wu’s heart raced!

Black Ice Valley... That was right! That was exactly where that Immortal Spiritual Fruit was!

Immortal Spiritual Fruit, her Immortal Spiritual Fruit! With it, she would be able to resume her cultivation and she wouldn’t be a good-for-nothing anymore!

On this continent where martial prowess was valued above everything else, one’s capability meant everything! Feng Wu clenched her fists at that thought!

Jun Linyuan nodded indifferently, then led the team out.

To get to Black Ice Valley, they had to climb over Flaming Ridge first. They were moving at a rather fast pace.

Creeks, bushes, mountain peaks... nothing could slow them down.

Feng Xun would attend to Feng Wu on the way every now and then, asking, “Hey, there. Are you sure you’re alright?”

Feng Wu was the only one in the team without any spiritual essence, and she struggled to keep up with her physical strength alone.

Staring at Jun Linyuan and Xuan Yi from the back, Feng Wu forced a sweet smile. “Of course I’m alright. Why shouldn’t I be? I’m doing great!”

Seeing her pale countenance and the brave and optimistic tone she used so as not to be ditched, Feng Xun pitied the girl greatly. “How about I carry you on my back?”

Before Feng Wu could say anything, Xuan Yi turned around all of a sudden.

“Leave now if you can’t keep up. You’ll be a burden on all of us.” Staring at Feng Wu, Xuan Yi said in a cold voice, “The magical creatures will only get more formidable as we go on. You won’t be able to leave then even if you wanted to!”

Feng Xun glared at Xuan Yi. "Xuan the Second, I know you're telling the truth, but can't you be more subtle about it?"

Feng Wu made no comment.

Xuan Yi snorted, quickly caught up with Jun Linyuan, and walked with the latter shoulder to shoulder.

Seeing that Feng Wu had lowered her head, Feng Xun thought that the girl was hurt by those words. Rubbing her head, he said, "Don't mind him. That's just the way he is. Ignore him. I'm here for you, alright? Come, hop on my back."

Feng Xun took pity on Feng Wu, given all her unfortunate encounters today, and before he knew it, he was looking after her.

Feng Wu, on the other hand, couldn't care less about what Xuan Yi said.

So what if he was cold and his tongue was vicious? As long as she could get her hands on that Immortal Spiritual Fruit and resume her cultivation, she could endure much worse things.

At that thought, Feng Wu darted a guilty look at Feng Xun.

The guy genuinely cared about her, but she had used that to join his team... She only hoped that what was to come wouldn't hurt this pure, kind teenager.

Feng Wu shook her head, smiling wryly. "You don't have to be so nice to me..."

"Dummy, who else am I supposed to be nice to? That stupid Xuan the Second? Speaking of which, you really had an awful day today." Feng Xun rubbed Feng Wu's little head again.

The team never stopped once for Feng Wu, and it was only when the moon was high above their heads that they made camp.

Feng Wu's eyes lit up when she walked into the campsite.

She saw —

Chapter 19: Tough Girl

Feng Wu's eyes lit up when she took in the surroundings.

Birds flew across the bright blue sky in flocks.

The terrain was flatter here and the ground was carpeted by a vast tract of grass that was soft as a cushion. A thin creek flowed slowly through it.

On the light green grass, an exquisite, soft woolen carpet had been laid out, which looked luxurious and elegant, and had a nomadic feel to it.

A quaint wooden dining table had been set up on the carpet. Despite its simple and unsophisticated style, one could tell at first glance that it was made from very expensive material.

Fine table mats and tableware had been set out at every seat.

Porcelain plates as smooth as white jade, amber-colored tall glasses, and shiny, well-polished silverware were laid out. It wasn't difficult to tell that they were taken great care of on a daily basis.

In the center of the meadow was an old tree with a trunk wide enough for three adults to join hands around. It grew straight up, and a thick branch reached out over the edge of the cliff.

However, right on that branch was a small tree house. From a distance, amidst the mist and fog, the tree house looked like it was suspended in mid-air, which gave it a quaint yet mysterious look.

Feng Wu was immediately taken!

This wasn't camping! This was a resort in a remote forest on a mountain.

Looking back at her experiences coming in and out of Frozen Forest, she had never once not scrambled around in the most sorry state. These guys, on the other hand, had turned it into the most enjoyable trip!

Just then, a figure in a plain robe appeared from behind the old tree.

Feng Wu shifted her gaze to the person. Wasn't that Feng¹, the steward, who had been with Jun Linyuan, but disappeared halfway?

Feng Xun was as cheerful and enthusiastic as ever, and raised a hand to greet the man. "Feng, we're exhausted. Luckily you got here first to get everything ready, or we'd be all cold, wet, and hungry."

Feng nodded at Feng Xun in a reserved and graceful manner. He then provided Jun Linyuan with a steaming hot white hand towel.

Just then, Feng Xun noticed that Feng Wu was limping. He frowned and patted a chair next to him. "Get over here."

Feng Wu shook her head.

The next second, Feng Xun had sat her down in the chair.

Crouching down next to Feng Wu, Feng Xun prepared to take off her black calfskin boots. "You're limping, you must be hurt. Take these off. Let me check your wounds."

Feng Wu cried out as soon as he tried to pull off her boot. She was almost in tears. That hurt a lot!

That looked very serious! Feng Xun stopped immediately and frowned. He then glared at Feng Wu and scolded her. "Why didn't you say anything when you got hurt? You don't have to keep it to yourself! That looks so painful!"

Apparently, the soles of her feet were stuck to her boots with blood, and she couldn't take her boots off now that the blood had dried.

Feng Wu darted a look at Jun Linyuan. She had used everything she had to join this team for that Immortal Spiritual Fruit, and she wasn't going to be eliminated because she wasn't physically strong enough.

Jun Linyuan turned his gaze on Feng Wu at the same moment and their eyes met.

Feng Wu was anxious, but Jun Linyuan didn't even seem to see her. His gaze brushed past her like wind over water.

Feng Wu's stomach lurched. He wouldn't kick her out now, would he?

Hence, she stopped Feng Xun from attempting to remove her boot. "I'm fine, really. Don't worry about me."

But how could Feng Xun turn a blind eye to Feng Wu? The girl had such bad luck, which had only gone from bad to worse since they met. How tough did she have to be, to endure a wound like that?

Chapter 20: She! Wished!

Hence, Feng Xun looked over his shoulder and called out, "Feng, I need you here!"

Feng was the former general director in charge of palace affairs, who had been taking care of Jun Linyuan since the crown prince was little. He retired from his post after Jun Linyuan was born and had stayed by his side ever since. Therefore, Feng Xun and Jun Linyuan's other friends were also quite familiar with the steward.

No one knew what Feng's cultivation level was, for no one had seen him in action.

No one dared to mess with Feng, for those that tried were all dead.

Feng arrived at an unhurried pace, bringing with him some hot water and ointment.

Once the blood on the soles of her feet was dried off, her skin was stuck to the boots. Pulling her feet out by force would only tear her skin off.

Feng Xun was going to cut the boots apart, but Feng Wu rejected that plan affirmatively.

As a result, Feng Xun could only pour warm water into her boots first. He saw Feng Wu frown when the water went in.

"There, there. It'll be alright in a minute. If we leave the wounds untreated, you won't be able to walk at all tomorrow." Feng Xun comforted Feng Wu like a big brother.

Once the boots were soaked, Feng Xun carefully, and with much difficulty, removed Feng Wu's feet, which were wrapped in strips of cloth, from the boots.

It was so difficult because her feet were so swollen.

Everyone blanched a little when they saw Feng Wu's feet.

They were raw, bloody, and swollen. It was a ghastly sight.

Feng Xun pitied her greatly.

Xuan Yi, on the other hand, frowned. "She's never going to walk tomorrow. We should ditch her."

How could the guy say such things? Feng Xun turned around and glared at Xuan Yi. "Xuan the Second!"

“Yes?”

“Put your right hand over your heart and tell me if you can find any conscience there!”

Xuan Yi replied, “I won’t dignify that question with an answer. I’m going hunting!”

All this time, apart from that look he gave Feng Wu and a frown, Jun Linyuan showed no extra emotion.

Feng Xun attentively put on the ointment for Feng Wu, then ordered her to stay in the chair and go nowhere.

Just then, Xuan Yi came back with a Crying Elk, followed by a girl with a face as lovely as a deer.

“Fairy Muyao?” Feng Xun cried out when he spotted the girl and glared at Xuan Yi. “Why did you bring her back?!”

How could Feng Xun not recognize Fairy Muyao? Back in Yunlai Tower, Feng Xun had spotted her right away with his sharp eyes, despite the curtained hat she wore, which covered most of her face.

Xuan Yi took the elk to Feng, then darted Feng Xun a look. “So, you’re the only one here that can bring a girl back?”

Feng Xun almost choked at that. Gesturing at Xuan Yi with a finger, he said, “You! Get your ass here!”

Pulling Xuan Yi off to somewhere quiet, Feng Xun whispered through his gritted teeth, “Xuan Yi, are you out of your mind? You do know what Fairy Muyao is like, don’t you? She’s in love with Boss Jun! Don’t you know Boss Jun hates having a woman like that around?! How can you do this?!”

Xuan Yi said in resignation, “I nicked her hand accidentally when I was hunting that elk. Plus, she’s my cousin from my mother’s side.”

Feng Xun took a deep breath. “... You brought her in, she’s your responsibility now!”

While Xuan Yi and Feng Xun were absorbed in their secret conversation, Fairy Muyao had shifted her gaze to Feng Wu.

Because of their previous encounter in Yunlai Tower, Fairy Muyao remembered Feng Wu clearly. She believed this ordinary-looking girl to be exceptionally scheming — she had pretended to be taken by Giant Flaming Cloud Eagle first so as to lure Jun Linyuan away to save her; that way, she would have a perfect excuse to stick with him!

Did she think Jun Linyuan would treat her differently because of that? She! Wished!