

G E D 491

Chapter 491: The Proud Crown Prince (34)

"I've drained it already and Uncle Qiu told me that the stone was really expensive... Sister, I don't think I should go on cultivating anymore. We can't afford it..."

Xiaoqi grew sadder as he spoke and he was almost in tears. He was ashamed of himself for costing his family so much.

Looking at her younger brother, Feng Wu was amused. She then rubbed his head the way one would a puppy. It felt really nice to touch.

She then said confidently, "It's just one top-grade spiritual stone. Don't worry. We can afford it."

"But Sister, I used up one stone in a day —"

Top-grade spiritual stones were so expensive!

"Uncle Qiu said that one top-grade stone can cost as much as ten years' worth of expenses for a household of three! I spent all that money in one day..." Feng Xiaoqi was contrite.

"But you're making rapid progress at the same time. I've found a place that can provide us with limitless top-grade spiritual stones. Soon, we won't have to worry about spiritual stones anymore." Feng Wu reassured him.

Feng Xiaoqi almost jumped up in excitement. "Really? Sister, really?"

Feng Wu rubbed his head again. "Of course. Have I ever lied to you?"

Feng Xiaoqi couldn't recall even one occasion where his sister hadn't told him the truth, and she always kept her promises. He beamed at that thought.

"Little Feng Wu, am I that easy to overlook?"

There was a wistful voice from a shaded corner.

Feng Wu turned around and saw that it was Yu Mingye.

He wore a dark purple robe today, which gave him an unruly and haughty look. He actually looked the way a superior cultivator should look.

Feng Wu was reminded that Yu Mingye was incredibly capable himself. After all, he was as famous as Jun Linyuan. However, Yu Mingye seemed to be rather silly around her, which made her constantly ignore his capabilities.

Feng Wu frowned. "What are you doing here?"

"Gosh, little Feng Wu, how forgetful can you be?" Yu Mingye glared at her.

"What?"

“Didn’t you ask me to get that job for your uncle? I’ve been running back and forth the whole day to get it done. And not only didn’t you offer me anything to drink, you asked me what I’m doing here? That’s just not acceptable,” Yu Mingye protested in an aggrieved tone.

Feng Wu was embarrassed...

“Exactly what am I to you?!” Yu Mingye complained.

Feng Wu said, “Well — I’m so sorry. So much happened today and I’m still trying to digest everything. Do forgive me. Right, the job?”

Feng Wu didn’t find Yu Mingye all that reliable and she hadn’t placed much hope in his promise. However, it seemed that he had gotten it done when he had been out for a stroll.

Yu Mingye gloated at the mention of it. Sticking out his chest and lifting his chin, he said, “Of course. It was a piece of cake.”

He then took a note out of his chest pocket and waved it in Feng Wu’s face.

“What is it?” Feng Wu asked.

“What do you think?”

“Show me.” Feng Wu reached for the note, but Yu Mingye raised his hand over his head.

“Beg me and I’ll give it to you —” said Yu Mingye arrogantly.

Feng Wu took a deep breath. What was wrong with these men? As if one Jun Linyuan wasn’t enough, Yu Mingye was saying that, too?

Feng Wu cast a stern look at Yu Mingye, then turned to leave.

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“Hey —”

Yu Mingye took Feng Wu’s arm right away. “Where are you going?”

“I’m not begging you.” Feng Wu grunted.

“Fine, fine. Your Majesty, I’m begging you, okay? Please take this note, or my whole day’s work will have been for nothing.” Yu Mingye stuffed the note into Feng Wu’s hand.

That amused Feng Wu and she tittered.

Seeing that Feng Wu had cheered up, Yu Mingye said grumpily, “You’re unbelievable. You asked for my help and you’re giving me attitude? I have to be the only person who will put up with you.”

Feng Wu made a face at him.

Seeing how happy the girl was, Yu Mingye felt that all his efforts had been worthwhile.

"It really is a note for the transfer. Yu Mingye, well done —" Feng Wu gave Yu Mingye's chest a fist bump. "I didn't think you could do it."

"What?" Yu Mingye stared at Feng Wu, but he couldn't hide his smugness. "When I want something, I make sure I get it. This note is nothing. I can even make your uncle the minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel if you want."

Feng Wu was speechless. "You do realize that the Ministry of Official Personnel has a minister now, right?"

Yu Mingye casually said, "It won't if I kill him."

Feng Wu's mouth fell open. "You're joking, right?"

"You'll be the one to decide if I'm joking or not." Yu Mingye moved closer and winked at Feng Wu. His amorous eyes twinkled.

Feng Wu was speechless.

While Feng Wu and Yu Mingye were bickering, Feng Yanfeng, Feng Wu's uncle, was on his way back home, feeling utterly defeated.

He could still recall the severe and indignant look on Sir Yan's face.

"Mr Feng, I see that the Feng family has a brilliant daughter. I bet with her around, you'll have a very promising future.

"The position of the assistant minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel is filled. Please leave.

"Tell Mr Feng I'm not in when he comes back."

Feng Yanfeng felt despair at Sir Yan's cold, merciless tone.

To get that position, he had already offended the official in the Ministry of Rites. But now, the Ministry of Official Personnel had disqualified him for that post... He feared that he couldn't even go back to work as the assistant minister of the Ministry of Rites anymore.

Feng Yanfeng harbored much bitter resentment against Feng Wu for that.

It was all because of her!

None of this would have happened if it hadn't been for her, and he would have become the assistant minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel by now!

At that thought, Feng Yanfeng headed for Fallen Star Yard.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Feng Yanfeng banged on the door to the yard.

Before Granny Zhao could answer the door, Feng Yanfeng kicked it, trying to force his way in.

However —

Feng Wu had learned a few things since the last time the door was broken twice in a row.

She had set up a simple reactive force formation on the door.

The force which rebounded on a person when they knocked on the door was equivalent to the power they exerted.

Hence, when Feng Yanfeng kicked with all his strength —

“Ahhh —”

He flew back and hit the big pagoda tree behind him!

Feng Wu had set up something on that tree as well, as the second part of the mechanism she had designed.

“Ah!” Feng Yanfeng cried out in pain.

Feng Wu had smeared a special potion on the trunk of that tree. Hitting it would cause one excruciating pain.

With a wave of her hand, Feng Wu switched off the third part of the mechanism.

She didn't want to show all her cards so early.

“Uncle?” Feng Wu ran out of the yard and looked at Feng Yanfeng innocently. “What are you doing here? And how did you run into a tree in broad daylight?”

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Feng Yanfeng didn't know how to explain the fact that he had smashed into the tree because he tried to kick the door open. It would sound ridiculous...

“Feng Wu!” Feng Yanfeng switched to an authoritative tone. “Do you have any idea of the consequences of what you did in the Yan manor?! Sir Yan holds a lot of grudges against us now, and I'm going to lose my job! Do you know how hard it is to work as a government official nowadays? The entire Feng clan has been implicated because you wouldn't swallow your pride!”

Feng Yanfeng had already been drunk on his way back, or he wouldn't be so talkative.

Cheeks flushed, he pointed at Feng Wu. “You should never have come back! What were you thinking? Go pack your things and go back to Northern Border City now!”

What was happening in Fallen Star Yard soon got out.

Flying Snow Building had been rebuilt and Lady Wang was instructing the servants to put things back in the building when she got the news.

“My lady! My lady! Great news!”

Ruyu went up to Lady Wang in a hurry, sounding exhilarated. “My lord went to Fallen Star Yard and he's telling Miss Feng Wu to pack her things and get out!”

Lady Wang couldn't bear the sound of Feng Wu's name, but her face lit up when she heard the report. "Really? He really said that?"

"Yes! Very loudly. We heard it ourselves, every word of it." Ruyu nodded in excitement.

"That's great —" Lady Wang tossed aside the things in her hands. "Let's go have a look."

Granny Gui followed Lady Wang out immediately.

Feng Yiran and Feng Sang had gone back to Imperial College, but Feng Liu was at home. She was just as thrilled and went along with her mother.

The idea of seeing Feng Liu getting kicked back to Northern Border City was so uplifting! Feng Liu was overwhelmed with excitement.

She arrived at Fallen Star Yard to hear her dad ranting at Feng Wu. "Pack your stuff! Go back to Northern Border City! Don't come back ever again!"

Feng Liu rushed to her mother's side and whispered, "Mum, what's going on? Why is Dad so mad?"

Instead of whispering back, Lady Wang raised her voice. "Your dad was implicated for what happened in the Yan manor and he may lose his job in the Ministry of Rites. That position he was trying to get at the Ministry of Official Personnel was given to someone else. None of that would have happened if it wasn't for a certain person. All was well before they came back. If they still have any consideration left for the clan, they should pack up and leave the imperial capital now!"

Lady Wang had at least pretended to be nice, but after Yu Mingye took Flying Snow Building apart, she couldn't be bothered anymore.

Feng Wu gave Feng Yanfeng a half-smile. "Uncle, I see that you've forgotten our deal."

"What deal? You mean that 100,000..." Feng Yanfeng smirked. "Don't be so naive. The political world is so much more complicated than you think. That 100,000 taels of silver —"

Feng Wu took out that note and tossed it at him before he could finish his sentence.

Feng Yanfeng's eyes lit up. He saw immediately that it was from one of the ministries, and the format indicated that it was a letter of appointment.

He took another look and was dazed on the spot.

Meanwhile, Feng Liu and Lady Wang were only getting started.

"Feng Wu, who the hell do you think you are? Shut your mouth and get out of the imperial capital now!"

"Smack —"

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Smack!

There was the crisp sound of a slap!

The others thought at first that Feng Yanfeng had slapped Feng Wu, but —

Lady Wang pressed a hand to her cheek and stared at Feng Yanfeng in disbelief. “You... you... you hit me?”

She thought she had said all the things he wanted to hear. What was wrong with that?

Lady Wang almost collapsed.

For she had always flattered herself to be Feng Yanfeng’s beloved wife, which was how she had always presented herself to others. However, he had just slapped her in front of everyone. She thought she was going to lose her mind!

Feng Yanfeng liked Lady Wang well enough, but only when it didn’t damage his interests.

Not to mention that Lady Wang was from an influential family herself.

The guy sat on the fence and was always after material gain. At the sight of that letter of appointment, Lady Wang was tossed aside.

Feng Yanfeng glared at her. “You’re just a woman. What do you know? Apologize to Xiao Wu now!”

Lady Wang’s eyes widened in disbelief!

Not only had she been slapped, she had to apologize to the girl?!

She wouldn’t have it!

Feng Wu darted a casual look at the letter in Feng Yanfeng’s hands. “I can give it to you, I can also take it back.”

Feng Yanfeng had examined it already. The letter was genuine, from the paper, the format, the seal — everything!

And it had bypassed Sir Yan. The order had come directly from His Majesty!

What did that mean?

When Sir Yan was outright against it, Feng Wu had still been able to get him an appointment from the emperor... whoever made this happen had to be very well-connected!

Feng Yanfeng broke into a cold sweat.

He shuddered and wiped his sweat.

He then glowered at Lady Wang. “What are you doing standing around? Apologize!”

Feng Yanfeng shoved Lady Wang; she had never seen such a fierce look in his eyes before.

Frightened, Lady Wang stared at Feng Yanfeng with a blank face.

Feng Liu was equally stunned. She watched in bewilderment and only came back to herself just then.

Rushing to her father, she screamed, “Dad! What’s wrong with you? Have you lost your mind? Why are you on Feng Wu’s side now? She should be kicked out! She’s such a bi-”

“Shut up!” Feng Yanfeng broke into a cold sweat again.

For he saw that Feng Wu was going to tear the letter in half.

No! That was his appointment letter and his way into the Ministry of Official Personnel! Moreover —

Judging by the part he had read —

Holy shit!

It wasn't a letter for the position of assistant minister.

It was for the minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel!

Feng Wu had to have done it on purpose!

Feng Yanfeng was obsessed with getting promoted and he would willingly trade his soul for a higher position.

If he had still hesitated a little over the position of assistant minister, the idea of becoming a minister swept away all his hesitation.

Feng Wu had taken that letter back; she wouldn't give it to Feng Yanfeng that easily.

Moreover, it was like Feng Wu said: she was able to get him the letter, and she could destroy that opportunity just as easily.

Feng Liu had no idea what was going on and was still screaming. “I don't understand! Why? What's so incredible about this woman? Dad, why are you on her side? You said you were going to kick her out yourself!”

“Why, Master Feng, you really are going to kick me out?” Feng Wu put the letter into her chest pocket and clapped her hands. “Alright. I'll take my family back to where we came from.”

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Feng Yanfeng was exasperated!

“No, please don't —”

The last thing Feng Yanfeng wanted now was for Feng Wu to leave, for she knew someone that was influential enough to take away Sir Yan's job!

Could it be Young Lord Feng? No, even that young lord wasn't important enough to do that.

Could it be His Royal Highness? Feng Yanfeng's eyes lit up.

So, Feng Wu had really hooked up with the crown prince.

He knew it. Feng Wu was so pretty that it would be such a waste if she didn't become the crown prince's concubine!

Great. With Feng Wu in the crown prince's bed, the Feng clan's future looked very promising!

Feng Yanfeng was over the moon.

He rushed to Feng Wu's side and said in an obsequious voice, "Xiao Wu, I was only joking. Don't take it too seriously. Hahaha. That was a drunk person talking. Men talk bullshit after a few cups. I'm sure you understand, right?"

Feng Yanfeng was indeed an experienced fence-sitter. Jumping ship came so naturally to him.

A moment ago, he had been roaring at Feng Wu, but he was all kind and smiling now.

Feng Wu wasn't going to cut him loose that easily. She stood there with her hands behind her back and raised her chin. "Uncle, was Feng Liu drunk as well? And what about my aunt? Did your whole family just decide to pick on me as a team?"

Feng Liu was furious. *Yes! That's exactly what we're doing! Bite me!*

Feng Yanfeng waved his hands. "Xiao Wu, my dear Xiao Wu, that was just a big misunderstanding. How can you think so lowly of me? I was only joking —"

He was thinking about the position of minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel!

Getting that job meant that he would be in charge of the appointment or transfer of all officials in the empire. With so much power, how lucrative was that position?

Seeing the greedy look in Feng Yanfeng's eyes, Feng Wu smirked inwardly.

If she told Feng Yanfeng that he had to kill Feng Liu to get the job, she was sure that he would do it without hesitation. Feng Wu said a silent prayer for Feng Liu.

"Well, Uncle, you might be joking, but Feng Liu and my aunt certainly don't look like it." Crossing her arms, Feng Wu darted a sidelong glance at Feng Yanfeng.

Did he think he could get away with it by saying that "it was a joke"? The position of the minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel was way more valuable than that.

"You lot, come here!"

Feng Yanfeng gave a wave of his hand.

His guards rushed in at the command.

"Feng Liu has been bullying her sister, and what she did to Feng Wu in the Yan manor almost led to a serious blunder. Lash her fifty times for her abominable behavior!"

Feng Liu was dumbfounded!

He was her own father!

If he couldn't stand up for her, the least he could do was not harm her!

"Dad!" Feng Liu cried out.

Feng Yanfeng's guards took Feng Liu down as easily as handling a chicken.

“Do you need a bench? I’ll get you one!” Feng Xiaoqi quickly ran into the room and took out a bench.
“Do you need a whip as well? We have that, too!”

Feng Yanfeng was speechless.

He was only putting up a show for Feng Wu, but now... At that thought, he couldn’t help but throw a dirty look at Feng Xiaoqi.

Feng Xiaoqi hid behind Feng Wu and said timidly, “Uncle, you’re so scary...”

On guard, Feng Wu narrowed her eyes.

Feng Yanfeng waved his hands in a hurry and forced out a laugh. “Xiaoqi, you’re so easily scared. Now, go get that whip for your uncle.”

“Sure —” That was a job Feng Xiaoqi liked. He returned in no time with a black whip.

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They had a few whips in the house, but the black one was the only one with barbs.

Feng Yanfeng’s face darkened when he saw the whip.

Feng Liu’s mouth fell open!

Lady Wang thought she was going to pass out!

“My lord! Don’t! Please don’t do this!” Lady Wang rushed to Feng Yanfeng and burst into tears. “My lord, didn’t you say that Feng Wu was to be blamed for everything that happened at the Yan manor and that Liu Er only did what she did because Feng Wu was a bad influence? If you’re really going to punish our daughter, you have to punish Feng Wu as well! Otherwise, I won’t let you do this to our daughter!”

Punish Feng Wu as well? Feng Yanfeng smirked!

He couldn’t shower Feng Wu with enough compliments at the moment. Punish her? Was she joking?

“You lot, escort the lady back to her room. As for Feng Liu, she’s not going anywhere until she gets those fifty lashes! No mercy! Do it now! Whip her as hard as you can!”

Lady Wang passed out from her fury.

As for Feng Yanfeng’s guards...

The head of the clan had made the decision and they would follow his orders to the tee.

Hence, they spared no effort with the whipping.

“Ahh! Ahh!”

Feng Liu burst into tears.

It wasn’t just from the physical pain, but from her frustration and disappointment in her father as well.

“Xiao Wu, the letter...” Feng Yanfeng eyed the letter in Feng Wu’s hands eagerly.

Since Feng Yanfeng was being rather cooperative... Feng Wu casually handed over the appointment letter.

Feng Yanfeng unfolded it immediately!

Reading the gilded words on the paper, which included “minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel,” Feng Yanfeng was overwhelmed with excitement!

He had hoped for the assistant minister post, but had gotten the minister position instead. That was completely unexpected!

Holding the letter, Feng Yanfeng turned to leave. He couldn’t hide the excitement on his face.

His head was swimming.

Feng Wu stopped him grumpily. “Uncle, haven’t you forgotten something?”

“What?” Feng Yanfeng couldn’t think straight; all he knew was that he was thrilled!

Feng Wu made a money-counting gesture with her fingers.

Feng Yanfeng almost rolled his eyes. “Seriously? That’s what you’re thinking about now?”

She was able to get him this job and she had hooked up with His Royal Highness. 100,000 shouldn’t be a problem for her at all!

Feng Wu smiled. “Uncle, are you going to renege on your debt now?”

As a matter of fact, that was exactly what Feng Yanfeng was thinking. In his mind, Feng Wu’s money was the Feng clan’s money, which in turn was equivalent to his own money. Why bother transferring it?

However, seeing that Feng Wu looked displeased, Feng Yanfeng said, “Don’t worry. I’ll give you the money. Once I start this job, I’ll have more money than you can imagine.”

After that, Feng Yanfeng left happily with the letter.

Yu Mingye came out to the yard and saw that Feng Wu was watching Feng Yanfeng leave with a wicked smile on her face.

“Aren’t you worried that he won’t keep his promise?” Yu Mingye asked.

Feng Wu smiled. “I’m counting on it.”

She then asked Yu Mingye, “I asked for an assistant minister position; why did you make it a minister?”

The heads of the six ministries were such important positions that the appointment of these officials should be carefully evaluated. What was His Majesty thinking?

Yu Mingye gave her an enigmatic smile. “But you didn’t object to it, did you? What were you thinking?”

“Those whom God wishes to destroy, he first makes mad,” said Feng Wu indifferently.

“I thought the same thing.” Yu Mingye looked at Feng Wu affectionately.

Feng Wu found his gaze a bit too intense.

“It’s late. You should go back home.”

“You ungrateful girl. After everything I’ve done for you, you’re chasing me away without so much as offering me a glass of water,” Yu Mingye whined.

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Feng Wu could put her uncle aside for the time being.

After Yu Mingye left, Feng Wu lay down on her bed and went over the current situation in her head.

Her top priority now was to purchase Grand Secretary Fang’s manor next door. Her family was in urgent need of spiritual stones for their cultivation, and Feng Wu wanted to make use of the spiritual stone lode underground and turn the Fang manor into a spiritual formation, which would help their cultivation greatly.

The next thing on her list was to get into Imperial College. Only then would Jun Linyuan give her that broken star piece... Feng Wu was instantly motivated when she reminded herself that her beautiful master could wake up for a brief moment.

As for Little Phoenix, it had gone into hibernation after swallowing the abnormal flame bead and wouldn’t wake up for a while.

Feng Wu visited the dry well in the Fang manor in the middle of the night, where she asked Feng Tutu to get a few spiritual stones for the others to use in their cultivation.

“Top-grade spiritual stones? Sister, I didn’t know we had them!” Feng Xiaoqi was exhilarated.

“Of course we have them. Use as many as you want.” Feng Wu was very free with other people’s money.

She gave five each to Feng Xiaoqi, Uncle Qiu, and Qiuling.

Uncle Qiu was thrilled. “Miss, I – I think I should stick with medium-grade spiritual stones. The top-grade ones are too valuable...”

Feng Wu stuffed the stones into Uncle Qiu’s hands. “We have more than enough. Feel free to do whatever you want with them. The most important thing is to improve your cultivation levels.”

Uncle Qiu was greatly touched.

Even the masters of other families couldn’t get their hands on top-grade spiritual stones, to say nothing of servants...

Qiuling was even more flustered. “Miss, I... I think low-grade spiritual stones are good enough for me.”

Qiuling was the only Level 1 Spiritual Master here and she thought she would be wasting the high quality stones... Just imagine how much gold they could trade these stones for. She couldn’t bring herself to use them.

Feng Wu shook her head. Spiritual stones filled the underground tunnels of the manor next door — there was an entire spiritual stone lode. Once she purchased that manor, it would be like a rocket for her and her family in their cultivation.

Therefore, she had to have that lode, regardless of the cost.

The following day.

Shortly after daybreak.

“Sister! Sister!” Feng Xiaoqi rushed into Feng Wu’s room in excitement.

“Yes?” Feng Wu was in the middle of getting dressed and she looked at her brother in bewilderment.

“Sister!!!” Feng Xiaoqi’s cheeks were flushed. “I made it to Level 4! I’m a Level 4 Spiritual Master! Sister, do you hear me?”

Feng Xiaoqi was trembling with excitement.

Level 4? Already? Didn’t she just get him back the day before yesterday? Feng Wu examined him and saw that he was right!

“How did you do it?” Even Feng Wu was curious.

“I don’t know.” Feng Xiaoqi was at a loss. “Remember those five spiritual stones you gave me yesterday?”

Feng Wu nodded. “Yup.”

“I didn’t want them to get stolen, so I put them under my pillow and slept on them.”

Feng Wu nodded. “Yup.”

“When I woke up this morning, I saw that all five stones were in tiny pieces —” Feng Xiaoqi’s eyes sparkled and his long eyelashes reminded one of two little fans. He said in an innocent tone, “Then, I realized that I had become a Level 4 Spiritual Master. I don’t know how I got there.”

Feng Wu was speechless.

“Sister, do you know why?” Feng Xiaoqi asked innocently as he tugged on Feng Wu’s sleeve.

Feng Wu rubbed her forehead and took a deep breath.

How unfair.

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“Sister? Sister?” Feng Xiaoqi tugged on Feng Wu’s sleeve.

Feng Wu said, “... What?”

“Why aren’t you talking to me? Why did the spiritual stones break and why did I make a breakthrough? Why?” The boy looked confused.

Feng Wu said grumpily, "Feng Xiaoqi, stop asking already. I'm feeling very defeated at the moment, so don't make it worse."

"Huh?" Feng Xiaoqi scratched his head. "Sister, I..."

Feng Wu chuckled.

"Sister, you're not mad! I was so scared." Feng Xiaoqi let out a breath of relief.

Feng Wu rubbed his head. "Xiaoqi, I kept you from cultivating for the past five years. and you followed my instructions without fail. You never tried to practice behind my back. It's time you earned your reward."

Feng Wu would have cultivated in secret if she were him.

But Xiaoqi was such an obedient boy. Feng Wu told him not to cultivate and he really hadn't for five years.

He deserved to make such rapid progress.

Just then —

"Xiao Wu, Xiao Wu —"

An excited voice came from outside.

Chaoge?

It was indeed her. Feng Wu turned around and saw Duan Chaoge rush into the yard.

"Xiao Wu —" Chaoge was still chubby, but she looked a lot more proportionate already. "I can finally see you! It's so hard to find you. I almost broke into a fight with them."

Feng Wu smiled. "Why are you here so early?"

"After yesterday, how could I not come visit you? I would have come last night, but I was afraid they would think I was a thief." Chaoge beamed at Feng Wu. "Wait, why are you reading these?"

A few books were scattered around on Feng Wu's desk.

Chaoge flipped through them in passing and her eyes flickered. "Why, aren't they the reading materials for Imperial College's literacy test? What do you need them for?"

Feng Wu raised an eyebrow. "To take the exam, of course."

"But..." Chaoge paused, then said hesitantly, "But don't you have to be at least a Level 9 Spiritual Master to get into Imperial College?"

And Feng Wu didn't have any cultivation ability, did she?

She wasn't even qualified to apply.

Feng Wu smiled. "That won't be a problem."

"Huh?" Chaoge was confused.

Feng Wu gave a wave of her hand and a magpie on the roof nearby tumbled down... When it almost hit the ground, Feng Wu pinched her fingers together and the bird was suspended in mid-air.

Chaoge was astonished!

Turning around, she looked at Feng Wu in disbelief.

Feng Wu grinned.

Chaoge said, "Xiao Wu... are you telling me that... you actually can cultivate?"

Feng Wu's smile broadened.

"Ahhh —"

Chaoge's thrilled cry almost tore the roof off!

Covering her mouth with both hands, Chaoge burst into tears.

Oh god —

Xiao Wu wasn't a good-for-nothing. She was awesome. She really was —

Chaoge was dazed on the spot at the discovery. Her head went blank and she didn't know where to put her hands. It was more exciting than experiencing a breakthrough herself.

"Xiao Wu, you have your ability back, *sob* — You can cultivate... You're not useless... I knew it...."

Chaoge couldn't stop her tears and she almost passed out from crying.

Feng Wu had no choice but to calm her down.

Chapter 499: The Proud Crown Prince (42)

It was common knowledge that millions of candidates participated in Imperial College's entrance exam every year.

The exam consisted of a written test and a physical tryout.

The top one thousand candidates of the written test would qualify to take part in the physical tryout, and the one hundred students with the best scores in the latter would be admitted.

Feng Wu darted a look at Chaoge. "Chaoge, join me for the exam."

"Huh? Me?" Chaoge found the suggestion unbelievable. "But I can't, can I? I can take part in the written test, but to apply for the physical one, you have to be a Level 9 Spiritual Master at least. I'm only a Level 7 now."

And she had only made a breakthrough because Feng Wu had pointed her in the right direction with that Inky Rain painting.

Feng Wu rolled her eyes. "The exam is seven days away, isn't it?"

“Xiao Wu, are you saying that I can go from Level 7 to Level 9 in seven days? How is that even possible?”
Chaoge wouldn’t believe it.

Feng Wu smiled. “Why not? As a matter of fact, I think it’s doable.”

“Do you think I’ll be able to achieve that?”

“Yes,” Feng Wu said earnestly.

“Alright!” Chaoge smacked her hand on the table. “If Xiao Wu says I can do it, I can do it. You’re applying for Imperial College? Count me in!”

Feng Wu was doing it all for Chaoge’s good. If the girl could get into Imperial College, she would no longer have to go back to her loveless family. If she wanted, she could come live with Feng Wu.

Feng Wu made a mental note that after she bought the Fang manor, she would invite Chaoge over to cultivate there as well. The girl would be thrilled at the speed of her progress.

However, Chaoge wavered when she came back to reality. “But Xiao Wu, we only have seven days and we don’t even know what the written exam looks like. What are we gonna do?”

“What kind of questions do they usually have in the written test?” Feng Wu asked casually.

Chaoge felt like crying.

“Xiao Wu, from the way you put it, I thought you were ready for it, but in fact, you don’t even know the type of questions in the written exam? Are you trying to scare me to death?”

Feng Wu shrugged. “The idea of going to Imperial College never occurred to me before.”

“When did you come up with the idea, then?”

“Yesterday.”

Chaoge was rendered speechless.

Feng Wu said, “Why are you giving me that look?”

Taking Feng Wu’s hand, Chaoge said sincerely, “Xiao Wu, how about we give up?”

“Why?” Feng Wu was bewildered.

Chaoge was very serious. “Xiao Wu, people usually take at least ten years to prepare for this entrance exam. Only after ten years of studying and practicing is one qualified to sit the exam. And we’re going to just walk in like this... The physical tryout aside, we’ll probably hand in blank sheets for the written exam...”

“That bad?” Feng Wu frowned.

“Yes! Xiao Wu, have you read any of the past exam papers that got out? The questions are so profound. They cover everything from literature, history, art, and geography to theories on elements, formation, and even medicine... basically anything you can think of. How are we even going to begin to answer any

of those without ten years of preparation? There's also a discourse on politics, which can be anything. We probably won't be able to even understand the question... So, how about we drop it now?"

"Can it be that difficult?" Feng Wu frowned.

"Yes, it can. Xiao Wu, the maximum score for the written exam is 300, which takes up 30% of the total score. Without any preparation, we might as well give up on those 300 marks now..." Chaoge said in resignation.

Chapter 500: The Proud Crown Prince (43)

"Can we get any sample papers?" Feng Wu asked.

Chaoge shook her head. "Only the teachers of Imperial College have those. I heard that Grand Secretary Fang is one of the guest advisors at Imperial College and he played a big part in the design of the exam papers. He's been head of the exam board for the past few years."

Feng Wu's eyes lit up!

Grand Secretary Fang?

Feng Wu didn't know many names in the imperial capital, but Grand Secretary Fang... She had been meaning to get in touch with him in the last few days.

She had her eye on Grand Secretary Fang's manor.

Feng Wu asked, "Are you referring to Grand Secretary Fang, the one that's retiring soon?"

Chaoge nodded. "That's him. It's said that Grand Secretary Fang is from the south and he's planning to go back to his hometown after retirement. I heard that he has already resigned from all his government positions. *Sigh*. I wish we knew Grand Secretary Fang. That way, at least we could borrow some past papers from him. We're running around in the dark with our eyes closed at the moment."

Feng Wu clapped her hands. "Let's go to Grand Secretary Fang, then."

In fact, Feng Wu was quite confident about the breadth and depth of her knowledge, but it would be safer to have access to some sample questions.

Moreover, Chaoge needed such sample questions even more.

And it just so happened that Grand Secretary Fang lived right next door to Feng Wu. It would be such a waste if she didn't take advantage of that.

Chaoge didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Xiao Wu, what are you thinking? You do realize who Grand Secretary Fang is, right? He's like a national treasure. We can't just walk in and talk to him. Plus, we can't even get near him even if we know where he lives."

"I'll think of something." Feng Wu sat down and tapped the table with her fingers. She then looked up at Chaoge. "Do you know who Grand Secretary Fang's close friends are?"

"I have no idea. But I've heard that Grand Secretary Fang specializes in formations and he's as competent in that field as Grandmaster Wu. Maybe Grandmaster Wu is his good friend?" Chaoge didn't sound very certain.

Grandmaster Wu, as in Priest Wu? Wasn't he that Master Bian's teacher?

An idea struck Feng Wu and she snapped her fingers.

"Priest Wu? Well, if he's the one, haha, I've left a hint for him already," said Feng Wu cheerfully.

"A hint?" Chaoge looked at Feng Wu in confusion. "When?"

"Yesterday in Elegant Ink Gallery. You were there as well." Feng Wu reminded her. "Do you remember that Master Bian?"

"Of course! What he said almost got us killed!" Chaoge flared up at the mention of that name and she clenched her fists angrily. That Master Bian certainly didn't impress her.

Feng Wu said, "I made that Master Bian purchase that Whistling Vase in the end."

"Right, Xiao Wu, you set him up in the end. Hahaha! That Master Bian's face almost turned green. Good job! He deserved that for working against us!"

Feng Wu said, "But I didn't set him up."

"Huh?" Chaoge was confused.

"I gave him an opportunity," Feng Wu said cryptically. "But it seems that he gave it away."

"What?" Chaoge was even more confused.

She understood every word Xiao Wu said, but put them together into a sentence and she was at a loss.

Feng Wu explained to her, "If he had been clever enough, he should have shown up outside Fallen Star Yard and begged for my forgiveness. But he didn't."

"Huh?" Chaoge was dumbfounded. What was that about? English, please?