

The Good-for-Nothing Seventh Miss

Chapter 21: Reaping What One Has Sown (3)

However, Shen Yanxiao, whom she had ridiculed all her life, stood in front of her and only looked at her as she shrieked miserably from within the flames.

Her usually confused and dreamy eyes were replaced with traces unfamiliarity and disdain that frightened Shen Jiayi.

Shen Yanxiao quietly stood in front of the bonfire and looked at Shen Jiayi's miserable appearance as the flames swallowed her. She knew that the fire couldn't burn the magic-trained Shen Jiayi to her death. It would only cause some superficial wounds, and so, she was not worried if Shen Jiayi would die in the fire. She just had to stand rooted at that spot and quietly appreciate the face that was distorted by pain.

Shen Jiawei, who still stood guard at the door, felt that something was amiss when he heard the anguished scream from the room. As the shouts from a familiar voice turned mournful, he suddenly realized what had happened and pushed the door open with a bang.

The instant he opened the door, he saw Shen Jiayi as she struggled in the angry flames. What shocked him was the scene where he saw Shen Yanxiao stand before the blaze with a smile.

"Jiawei, save me!" Since the burnt wooden table blocked her, Shen Jiayi couldn't free herself. The angry flames scorched her skin, and as fear gripped her, she could only cry for help from her little brother.

Only then did Shen Jiawei recover his senses. Without the time to ponder about the unfamiliar wicked smile on Shen Yanxiao's face, he hastily ran out to seek help.

Not long later, Shen Yue brought a group of men into Shen Yanxiao's room. After a few buckets of water, the fire was finally extinguished.

As for Shen Jiayi, she had already lost consciousness due to fright and her weakened state after she was tortured by the flames.

Shen Feng and Shen Siyu had also arrived in the room. They reached slightly later, and their expressions soured after they saw the mess in the room.

Shen Feng stood at the door and frowned as he watched a furious Shen Yue hugged Shen Jiayi. Before he had the chance to ask anything, Shen Siyu who originally stood beside him went up to Shen Yanxiao's side and pulled her to a corner to examine for injuries.

"Shen Yanxiao, this is all your doing!" Shen Yue's heart ached as he looked at the daughter in his embrace. If it were not for Shen Feng's presence, he would have pounced on Shen Yanxiao and tore her into pieces.

Shen Siyu pulled Shen Yanxiao to his back and shielded her as he questioned Shen Yue. "Why did Second Uncle say so? How is this related to Xiaoxiao?"

"How is this not related to her? Shen Jiayi was injured in her room, and evidently, this vile spawn harbored evil thoughts and wanted harm Jiayi!" No matter what Shen Feng thought, he had never once believed that Shen Yanxiao was part of their Vermilion Bird Family's bloodline.

To raise that kind of trash in their family was already a disgrace and then she caused troubles, one after another, and even injured his daughter. How could he possibly tolerate her existence?

Shen Siyu's usual gentle eyes narrowed, and a dangerous glint flashed in his eyes.

"Shut your mouth!" Shen Feng shouted and glared at Shen Yue for his irresponsible statement.

"I will only say this one more time. She is Shen Yu's daughter. If anyone else dares to disregard this fact, then you had better get lost!"

Shen Yue could only grind his teeth, then suppress his internal fury, and said, "Father! Jiayi is your biological granddaughter, and now that this trash had injured her. Don't tell me that you intend to disregard this?"

Shen Jiayi was Shen Feng's granddaughter, but wasn't she also his granddaughter? Shen Yanxiao stood behind Shen Siyu and inwardly sneered.

Chapter 22: Demanding an Exorbitant Amount (1)

"If my memory serves me correctly, Shen Jiayi's magic should have reached the fifth rank. Is Second Uncle trying to say that Shen Jiayi, who is a fifth-ranked magic user, was injured by Xiaoxiao, who does not have a single ounce of battle aura or magic?"

Shen Siyu's usually gentle face showed a hint of anger. That trace of anger gave the typically elegant and polite young man an imposing aura.

Shen Yue had also sensed Shen Siyu's powerful and oppressive aura, and that was why he was secretly a little apprehensive about the situation at hand.

How powerful was that kid to release such a powerful aura!

An idiot without any battle aura or magic could injure a fifth-ranked magic apprentice? If that information were to leak out, it would undoubtedly become the number one joke in Longxuan Empire for the next hundred years.

Not even Shen Yue could accept such a fact, let alone Shen Feng. If that were true, wouldn't that mean that the daughter that he had been so proud of was inferior to an idiotic trash?

Shen Yue's face paled, and then it turned green, and lastly, purple.

"Jiawei, tell us exactly what happened." Shen Feng questioned as he furrowed his brows. The incident had happened in Shen Yanxiao's room and the most logical outcome of Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei's appearance in her room was that she'd be the one in trouble. However, the opposite of that reasonable hypothesis had happened, with an unconscious Shen Jiayi and a pale-faced Shen Jiawei.

Shen Jiawei was quite fearful of the usually reserved Shen Feng. Even though he was his grandfather, they were not very close.

When his grandfather called him by his name, Shen Jiawei gulped and unconsciously looked at Shen Yanxiao who stayed hidden and protected behind Shen Siyu. That Shen Yanxiao seemed to have returned to her former ignorant self, and that previous wicked appearance had disappeared entirely. Even so, that brief scene was firmly imprinted in his mind, and he didn't know why he didn't feel any contempt or disdain when he looked at Shen Yanxiao then. Instead, he felt only an overwhelming sense of unwillingness.

"Say something!" Shen Yue got extremely angry when he saw his son stared ahead blankly like a fool.

Shen Jiawei quivered and hastily said, "I-I don't know anything. It was sis who tasked me to guard the door from the outside, so I don't know what had happened inside the room."

If it were a regular occasion, Shen Jiawei would frame Shen Yanxiao without a moment of hesitation. Even if he weren't a witness to the situation, he would still shift the blame onto her. However, there seemed to be a huge weight that pressed upon his heart, and he did not dare to slander her.

He did not wish to see that horrible smile on her face again.

“Guard the door?” Shen Siyu shot an angry glance at Shen Jiawei, and he immediately shrunk his neck like a frightened quail and hid to the side.

Shen Feng’s frown deepened. They still had no clue as to what had happened, and Shen Yanxiao’s wisdom was only like a four-year-old child. He knew he would not be able to get her to divulge any useful information, and Shen Jiayi was still unconscious.

“Let’s bring her back for now and have Shen Qiu to check up on her. Do you all think that the recent happenings aren’t enough? Why are you all still standing here? Go and do what you should be doing!” Shen Feng had a headache. At that time, he was supposed to put all of his focus to awaken the Vermilion Bird, but who would have thought that he also had to care about pointless arguments between unruly kids?

With Shen Feng’s orders, everyone had no choice but to do as he said.

Shen Yue was extremely unsatisfied, but he decided to leave with Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei. Shen Feng had also left after he gave out a few more orders.

Chapter 23: Demanding an Exorbitant Amount (2)

In the end, only Shen Siyu and Shen Yanxiao were left in the room.

“Don’t be afraid.” Shen Siyu patted her shoulders and then looked at the pile of presents that were burnt to ashes. He then said, “I’ll have someone send these over again tomorrow. Xiaoxiao, don’t worry.”

Who would worry about those toys? Shen Yanxiao inwardly rolled her eyes. Other than the slight regrets about the pastries, she did not care for those beautiful, yet useless toys that were meant for ‘children before schooling age’ at all.

After Shen Jiayi’s unfortunate incident in Shen Yanxiao’s room, the two unruly twins no longer harassed her in the subsequent days. Shen Siyu rarely had the time to accompany Shen Yanxiao because Shen Feng had other orders for him. As a result, Xiu forced her to continue with the spartan training again.

The training for magic and battle aura had a speedy progression at the beginning. However, the speed slowed down when they approached the sixth rank. They trained for four consecutive days, but Shen Yanxiao’s battle aura and magic only managed to reach the fourth and fifth rank respectively. That kind of speed was unimaginable for the

ordinary folks, but it was extraordinarily slow for Shen Yanxiao who managed to advance one rank each day during her previous training.

“Damn it, why am I not improving?” Shen Yanxiao ended her training for the day when night fell. However, it seemed that her training had reached a bottleneck. There was slight progress in her battle aura training, but it was still quite a distance to advance to the fifth rank. Her magic training, however, had come to a complete stop.

Shen Yanxiao was used to her previous rocket-like speed in the progression of her training, and so she was not accustomed to the slow training speed that she seemed to have been stuck in.

“The unlocking of your first seal will only allow you to obtain the physique to train in battle aura and magic. As long as you still have the second seal, your subsequent advancement will be much slower, and when you reach a certain rank, it’ll come to a standstill.” Xiu’s voice timely said.

“What exactly is this seal?” Shen Yanxiao felt depressed. What about her plans to repay the grudge a hundredfold and to climb up the Family Head position of the Vermilion Bird Family? If what Xiu said were true, then she probably would not be able to progress further after a certain rank. It was quite enjoyable when they undid the first seal, but the follow-up issues that they encountered was quite problematic.

“Haven’t I already explained that it was to suppress your strength? Undoing the first seal is only a start, and if you wish to become powerful, you have to undo the subsequent seals. When that’s done, not only can you continue to advance, but your previously suppressed strength will also burst forth.” As always, Xiu’s voice was calm and without any fluctuations, and it also had some traces of aloofness in it.

“Then how can I unlock the second seal?” Shen Yanxiao asked.

Xiu turned silent for a brief moment before he said only two words.

“Demon beast.”

Demon beasts were evil creatures that hid in the shadows of the entire Brilliance Continent. They were neither humans, magical beasts nor normal animals, and they were an extremely evil existence that fed on livestock and humans. The more powerful they were, the stronger the strength they possessed. Ordinary demon beasts were savages while the higher-level beasts could morph into human appearances and conceal themselves in areas where humans lived while they sought for their next target.

A human’s internal organs were the demon beasts’ favorite food. It was similar to the temptation of gourmet food to a human. In the Brilliance Continent, many humans were either killed or eaten by those demon beasts, and there was even a period where their numbers had seriously endangered the survival of humans there. That situation forced

several empires within the continent to join hands for their armies to launch an offensive attack against those demon beasts.

Chapter 24: Demanding an Exorbitant Amount (3)

Although that collaborative attack had annihilated most of the demon beasts at places where humans lived, their numbers were still far more than that. The demon beasts illegally occupied lands outside of places where humans lived, and those places were then known as the 'Forbidden Region.' It was a desolate place that was unsuitable for humans.

The place where Shen Yanxiao and her family lived was cleared of most demon beasts, although there were still appearances from the occasional low-level ones. The high-level demon beasts could morph into humans and they had hid amongst humans in cities. It was difficult to hunt them because they were extremely crafty and would vanish from the crime scene after every attack.

The people in Longxuan Empire were terrified of the demon beasts. It would usually trigger a huge commotion if someone had heard of a demon beast attack.

To some extent, Shen Yanxiao understood the world that she was in. As for the demon beasts, she had heard of them too. However, she did not understand how a savage creature like a demon beast could be linked to the process to undo her seal.

"I need to absorb the energy from a demonic core to recover my strength. Once my strength recovers, I will be able to undo your next seal."

"..." Shen Yanxiao was briefly stunned with what Xiu told her.

When a magical beast died, they would leave behind their magical core that contained their powers. A demon beast would also have a core that held their powers, and it was aptly named as the demonic core. Magical cores were extremely popular because they could be embedded into weapons. Magic and battle aura users would then be able to use those weapons to release powerful energy bursts. The power inside a magical core would be increased proportionally to the power that the magical beast held before its death.

However, a demonic core and a magical core was not the same thing.

The power in a magical core was incredibly pure, and they could be directly utilized, but a demonic core contained exceptionally dense and dark aura. Even though a demonic

core was also very powerful, most people would not be able to withstand the sinister aura that radiated from it.

If someone used a weapon that was embedded with a demonic core for an extended period, their bodies would eventually be corroded by the sinister aura contained in the core.

There was a simpler way to explain what the demonic core could do to a person. In a less-than-good-case scenario, a person would lose all of their reasoning skills, and in a worst-case scenario, that person would die.

Only an expert with an extremely powerful mental energy would dare to utilize a demonic core. Furthermore, they would only dare to use a demonic core that was lower than their level.

In any case, demonic cores were like chicken ribs. They were tasteless, but it was also regrettable if they were thrown away.

She did not expect that the chicken-rib-like item was the key for Xiu to recover his strength. She could only file that as someone else's unique preference in life.

"It's not difficult to get a hold of a demonic core. When the empires joined hands to eliminate those demon beasts, they managed to get a large quantity of those demonic cores. Those cores aren't in high demand, and you can purchase them from auction houses." Shen Yanxiao made use of her recently acquired knowledge that she had crammed in her head. It did not matter to her if Xiu had a peculiar taste for those demonic cores since it was something that could be easily accomplished.

However, at that moment, it seemed like she had only one problem – she had no money!

Since she was an idiotic trash and a leech, the Vermilion Bird Family only provided her with food and clothing. Why would they give her 'pocket money'?

Other than the two pouches that she stole from those two servant maids, her hands had been clean, and her purse was almost non-existent. Even though the demonic cores were not as expensive as magical cores, they were not rotten cabbages either. With the amount of money that she had, one or two low-grade demonic cores should still be well within her budget.

Chapter 25: Thief God Strikes Out (1)

Of course, she doubted that one or two low-grade demonic core was sufficient for a certain someone to even fill the gap between his teeth.

Ever since Shen Yanxiao grew up and became sensible, it was the first time that she had encountered a monetary problem.

“How many low-grade demonic cores do you think you’d need to recover your strength to undo my second seal?” Shen Yanxiao asked.

Xiu paused briefly before he revealed a number that shocked Shen Yanxiao so much that she’d puke blood if she could.

“Thirty thousand.”

“Thirty thousand…” Shen Yanxiao then went silent. She couldn’t even afford three thousand, let alone thirty!

“High-grade demonic cores would be best because then, I’d only require around two thousand of those.” It was rare for Xiu to be ‘considerate.’

‘I’d only require around two thousand of those.’ Only around two thousand!

Shen Yanxiao facepalmed. The empires only managed to eliminate around ten thousand of high-level demon beasts that year, and those were then split equally between them. At that time, the total amount of high-grade demonic cores that Longxuan Empire possessed was probably no more than four thousand, and a certain lord had the audacity to ask for two thousand of those!

Unless she wore a crown decorated with precious gems and sat on a golden high throne, it was impossible for her to get such a quantity of demonic cores, even if her wealth was comparable to the other empires.

“Let’s discuss low-grade demonic core instead.”

There was no need to think about high-grade demonic cores because Shen Yanxiao would only be able to get her hands on the low-grade ones. After the wave of the military campaign ended, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of demon beasts would have been slaughtered. Thirty thousand demonic cores would not be impossible, as long as she had the money for them.

The Vermilion Bird Family was very wealthy, after all. They were publicly recognized as one of the five great aristocratic families in Longxuan Empire. Even if their wealth could not rival other countries, they were still considered as notably affluent.

If Shen Feng was in a good mood, to buy thirty thousand demonic cores was as simple as to obtain a stick of candied fruit. However, the problem was that Shen Yanxiao could

not ask for it, and she did not have any bargaining chip to request Shen Feng to fork out the money for that.

At that moment, Shen Yanxiao's only problem was a monetary one!

On a positive note, Shen Yanxiao rejoiced over her excellent selection of the 'profession' in her past life. She was a thief goddess, for goodness sake! To her, money was like stones that littered the floor. If she had chosen to be a killer or a spy, then she would have probably ended up rotting in a dark corner somewhere.

"Only thirty thousand demonic cores? Don't worry, with this lord's skill, you will certainly puke from overeating!" Shen Yanxiao was considerably confident of her skills. Furthermore, she was currently situated within the affluent Vermilion Bird Family, and any of their random second-generation or third-generation member would have at least ten thousand with them if not more. She would definitely take advantage of that situation.

A certain someone decided to overlook Shen Yanxiao's self-proclaimed 'lord' because of the words 'puke from overeating.'

Eventually, during one dark and stormy night, a skinny black silhouette appeared in the courtyards of the homes in the Vermilion Bird Family's compound. She found many opportunities to stretch her evil claws towards those full and dependable wallets.

The next morning, just as the first rays of sunlight shone down on mother earth, waves of mournful wails exploded within the quiet rooms of the Vermilion Bird Family.

"Fuck, where's my money!"

"Shit! Where did this reckless thief come from? How dare he to steal my money?"

"That's all the money for my marriage! I don't want to continue living anymore!!"

In just one night, more than twenty members of the Vermilion Bird Family suffered from her acts of thievery.