

251 CHEN ZUAN

"Let me see your proof," The soldier at the border said calmly.

At the border, there were more than a dozen large searchlights and some soldiers were setting up temporary sentry posts. Lu Shu flashed his officer pass as the soldier held up something that looked like a POS terminal and keyed in Lu Shu's serial number.

Only after he had checked the validity of Lu Shu's identification pass, he finally let him pass. But just when Lu Xiaoyu was about to pass, the soldier said calmly, "I'm sorry but this child has no identification proof so I can't let her pass."

Lu Shu was stunned for a moment. He had forgotten that Lu Xiaoyu wasn't a member of the heavenly network.

252 MR. LU XUN

Chen Zuan turned his gaze to Lu Shu. This youth is actually a lieutenant too, and an Class C lieutenant at that! Seems like his military achievement is beyond question.

But there is only one question ... if he is already promoted to a lieutenant, why only a Class C? Is his aptitude not up to mark?

The fact is, if a person is able to distinguish oneself in the family, surely, he or she would not be an easy character to be reckoned with. No family would want to disgrace themselves by letting out those who were too dumb.

To tell the truth, Chen Zuan was a little envious of Jiang Shuyi and Lu Shu. Not envious because Jiang obtained the method to promotion, but that he was at where the remains were being opened.

Chen Zuan felt that had he entered the remains, he would have succeeded too. Hence, his presence here now.

253 NOT FULL

How Lu Xiaoyu entered the remains still required continued observation. At the same time, Lu Shu pondered another question: If Lu Xiaoyu entered the remains, she might be the only child left inside. Even if Lu Xiaoyu was wearing the celestial cloak, the features might be too obvious.

There was a stark difference between the physique of a child and an adult. If the entire camp only comprised a child who was 1.5 meters tall, wouldn't it be deceiving for Lu Xiaoyu to put on the celestial cloak to hide her identity from everyone...

Recently, Lu Xiaoyu's growth had been remarkable after keeping with her nutritional needs. Although Lu Xiaoyu had always been watching her diet, there was a stark contrast between having the monetary means and the lack of it. In the past, it meant having one to two eggs daily, with the addition of meat occasionally.

254 LAYOU

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Jiang Shuyi was speechless after hearing Lu Shu's words. He suddenly said, "I'm not too sure whether my words are too presumptuous but there is no hidden meaning in them... I simply want to ask whether you're willing to work for the team. I'm not asking you to leave the Heavenly Network. That simply means... a faction. In this case, you will face lesser work pressure."

Frankly speaking, Jiang Shuyi was a relatively simple person. Therefore, she might occasionally bring up the word "faction" when speaking, rather than subtly mentioning it as a conceal corporation and coercion.

Lu Shu was astonished. He then smiled and said, “Do not worry that I will misunderstand you. We have been interacting for so long and it isn’t in my interest to misunderstand you. Frankly speaking, perhaps at Luo Cheng International School, Cao Qingci is more valuable than me. Or even, in the long run, Liu Li also has more value than I do. I’m thankful for your kind gestures. I understand that you’re doing this out of kindness, but I do not like to be restricted...”

Lu Shu would be more willing to join Li Xuan’s side if it was mandatory to pick a side even though ambition could be something dangerous. Moreover, even till now, Lu Shu had not understood the ambition of the people in the foundation.

However, it would be better to be less complicated and more enriching when interacting with ambitious individuals.

However, this was just an assumption. Lu Shu wouldn’t join any force if conditions permitted.

Jiang Shuyi was slightly quiet, “I’m sorry.”

He clearly knew how Lu Shu was as a person. Therefore, he was more concerned that the other party would think that such a tactic was an insult.

Lu Shu then smiled and patted his shoulders, “Don’t fret over it, I will not misunderstand your good intention as an ill intent. So has your clan started to reach out to the Heavenly Network? Did Nie Ting agree?”

Jiang Shuyi shook his head, “We’re doing it discreetly. It’s not just us, but the majority of the clans has set their sight on the Heavenly Network.”

Initially, a lot of businessmen wanted to hire Daoyuan Class students or the awakened people but it was probably some small commotions.

Business and clan were two types of concept.

The clans had been discreetly probing the Heavenly Network's bottom-line. Or to be more precise, the Heavenly Kings' bottom-line.

To everyone's disappointing realization, it was impossible to obtain the Heavenly Network as a personal weapon.

Yet, therein also lay the reason to why a clan could be so long-standing. Then, the think-tankers decided to shift their attention to the internal department of the Heavenly Network since exerting external strength was difficult to impact the Heavenly Network. Everyone should, therefore, start effecting change from within.

Nie Ting, although the Heavenly Network you had been ruling was untouchable, it was because you were the first master of the Eastern Mainland. Perhaps someone would go beyond that in the future?

Even if no one managed to overtake you, there would be a day when you would be embroiled in an accident or the cycle of birth, aging, illness, and death.

In the clans' opinion, human longevity was no longer a limiting factor to their vision. They wanted to pursue evergreen in everything.

To be able to do it was one thing. However, one would not be able to do it without starting.

This was the vision of the clans. In fact, they were not in pursuit of short-term interests. They were more interested in the fruits of their management.

They were transforming their comparative advantage in the field of economics to a potential strength for the future. It did not mean that they ought to receive the largest share of the pie but at the very least, they did not want to achieve lesser than their counterparts.

This was probably the reason why when a disaster struck, those businessmen, of whom gained ascendancy in a short period of time, were facing turbulence as compared to clans which remained stable.

When the businessmen were pursuing short-lived interests, the clans had already stood at the widest area of the mountaintop to plan their layout and take precautions.

Moreover, this thing wasn't aimless. The seven Heavenly Kings were currently housed around the entire town. It might be difficult to rope in the Heavenly Kings. However, it would be relatively easier to rope in a Class C top practitioner. The difficulty of roping in a Class D practitioner was further lowered by a level. There was no need to mention about Class E and for Class F, it couldn't qualify for the clan's vision.

In actuality, the majority of the trivial matters in the internal department of the Heavenly Network was handed by those Class C top practitioners. Apart from Nie Ting, other Heavenly Kings were rarely involved in handling affairs as they were either avoiding suspicion or concentrating on their practice.

Of course, the two reasons might be associated with other Heavenly Kings. But Li Xiaoyi was certainly lazy...

Amongst all the Heavenly Kings, the clans had the hardest time dealing with Li Xiaoyi. This fellow was milking all the benefits but after receiving all the benefits, he couldn't be bothered with anyone just like a hob meat.

Everyone initially thought that this fatty was a little silly. In the end, they realized that he wasn't silly at all.

Lu Shu was curious all of a sudden, "Conceptually speaking, the burden of acquiring a talent by your clan is already on you. Why are you still so cold?"

"There is no need for me to do it. Someone else will naturally go-ahead to negotiate," Jiang Shuyi shook his head.

"I'm very curious. Which clan recruited Cao Qingci?" Lu Shu was constantly curious and observing Luo Cheng's one and only Class A highly able talent. If Cao Qingci was initially afraid of death like other students in the remains, Lu Shu wouldn't ask this question.

Yet, at the outset, the girl was able to make a killing in the remains even though she had never participated in any form of battle. She individually got rid of a small team of skeletons, a feat which was not easily achieved.

Lu Shu was very clear. Cao Qingci was actually an evildoer who practiced awakening on top of being a practitioner.

There was a need to know that even before the Heavenly network established the Dao Yuan Class system, Lu Shu already felt a wave of energy in her.

Jiang Shuyi gave a complex look after hearing the name Cao Qingci, “This girl isn’t simple at all. She is rejecting every clan who wants to interact with her as she sets her mind only on practice, ignoring everything else. A lot of people have commented that perhaps in the future, her name may be on the list of contenders for Heavenly Kings.”

At this moment, Chen Zuan and Gao Shenyin had returned. While walking, Chen Zuan unhappily muttered, “Gao Shenyin, why can’t you just consider from another perspective. I’m not afraid of danger and difficulty because I want to take part in the battle of remains. Do you think I’m like those spoilt scions?”

Gao Shenyin kept mum. To him, a reality which had yet to be experienced was nothingness. He could only acknowledge Chen Zuan as a new friend if he showcased his brevity and guts.

Chen Zuan was unhappy with his attitude. He switched his attention towards Lu Shu. Upon hesitating, he moved his attention to Jiang Shuyi who gave a cold expression. He looked away and he was glad to see the adorable Lu Xiaoyu, “Xiaoyu, do you think I’m like those spoilt scions?”

He didn’t have the courage to post this question to both Lu Shu and Jiang Shuyi as he was afraid that he would suffer. Lu Xiaoyu was different as she looked very obedient and adorable.

“You’re different. You can eat much more than them,” Lu Xiaoyu commented as she looked at the fully-filled plate held by Chen Zuan.

Chen Zuan, “???”

“From Chen Zuan’s distress, +99...”

255 A SHREWD CHEN ZUAN

As they were eating, loud rattling roars of the engines, coupled with sounds generated by the friction between the huge tires and road surface, were transmitted in the direction of the campsite's entrance late at night.

The initial tranquillity of the campsite was instantaneously disturbed. Many students who were practising came out of their tents.

In just a few minutes, the campsite was so crowded and vivid as though it had transformed into a school which just released its students.

There were more than ten troop lift trucks coming from afar. Lu Shu suddenly realized that these Dao Yuan Class students from other provinces had finally arrived.

There was no clue whether Wang Haoli and the rest had reached Xijing City. It was fairly interesting to recall this friend befriended during a brief journey.

Then, at this moment, Lu Shu suddenly received a text message.

256 SO WHAT IF I BUSTED YOU?

At night, after the brief hustle and bustle at the campsite, the respective class form teachers quickly allocated the tents to everyone. Thereafter, the campsite momentarily quietened down.

Everyone wouldn't forget that their original purpose for coming was to practice. The non-Yuzhou Dao Yuan Class Students were already aware of the treatment of students from Yuzhou; Upon practicing outside the remains, they had to achieve a realm which was more significant than students from other areas.

This prompted several people to think that it would be a blessing if the remains appeared in their own provinces.

Of course, such thoughts have left them conflicted since the remains represented danger.

257 RECRUITING A DISCIPLE

When Lu Shu saw this piece of news, he was stunned for a while. In the past, everyone did discuss about how it was quite inadequate to use ABCDEF to grade experience and strength but no one wanted this system to be replaced. Anyways, it is up to the higher-ups. The whole world used this system to differentiate individuals' abilities.

However, now that 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th grades are used to differentiate abilities, it is indeed more comprehensive.

"Whatever", said Lu Shu with a sigh. Most people knew what heavenly stems were and knew that 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th were the top four heavenly stems. To be honest, very few knew what the next few ranks were.

Just like Lu Shu, he did not know that after 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th existed...

Therefore, he was then the rank 6th which very few people heard of... it felt weird...

It felt as though something was messed up...

258 TAKING BULLETS EVEN WHEN LYING DOWN

Can't you at least conceal your desire to only accept Lu Xiaoyu as a disciple?

Chen Baili did not seem to be at a loss. Since Lu Xiaoyu was not willing, he did not press the matter further.

Suddenly, Chen Baili asked if the joke about Li Yixiao's name was from Lu Shu.

"From Chen Baili's distress, +399!"

Lu Shu gave a start. What kind of idea is this? The heck! Could it be that when Chen Baili provided the distress points a few days back, it was not because the Seal of Lands went missing, but because Li Yixiao went fooling around with the old Taoist priest?

He answered with a soft "Yes".

Chen Baili furrowed his brows, "Don't teach other things anymore!"

"Okay, okay..." Lu Shu nodded.

In an instant, he felt that something was amiss. Why were the distress points of a higher value than when Lu Xiaoyu refused to have Chen Baili as her master?!

259 OPENING OF THE REMAINS!

Billowing fog pervaded outwards as all the searchlights in the camp were trained upon the depths of the salt pool.

"Is this the remains?" Chen Zuan and Gao Shenyin were already out of the tent and beside Lu Shu.

Lu Shu and Jiang Shuyi actually had a very great advantage. They both went into the remains before and therefore were familiar with the grounds. At least, they did not appear alarmed.

"Everyone will appear in different places after entering the remains. Stay cautious. It is highly likely that danger will come to you once you enter," Lu Shu reminded the

two new friends. He was worried that they would be brought down without even putting up a fight.

He recalled vividly that the last time he entered the remains, an axe-wielding skeleton was right beside him.

Chen Zuan rolled up his sleeves to show, deliberately or otherwise, his wristwatch, "My skilled brother, if we meet in the remains..."

260 NEW TEAM MATES

"Where's this place?!"

"What should we do now?"

Upon entering the remains, what hit Lu Shu before he even opened his eyes were the clamour made by people around him. It seemed like all the students of the Daoyuan Class were at a complete loss inside the remains.

In actual fact, the Heavenly Network had given them ample reminders to take note of, such as preserving supplies and taking safety precautions. However, it did not provide them with the direction to stay or move, for every remains is a mystery to even the Heavenly Network before it was truly entered.

All these were actually pretty interesting to Lu Shu. The last time he was here, he was alone and had to walk a long distance before meeting people. This time was better, he could be with the Daoyuan Class students of Qingzhou for the whole way.

Lu Shu pondered whether to leave the big group right now or tag along and see what's in store for them first.