

## My Crown 1221

### Chapter 1221: Eccentric Old Geezer

Qiao Mu ran over and sat down on a rock beside him. She then picked up a spoon and stirred the contents of the pot with it.

After having a taste, her eyes couldn't help but brighten. "It's good."

"Eat another bowl then." Mo Lian pinched her small cheeks. "I have to put flesh on you again."

Qiao Mu had just eaten several mouthfuls, but when she heard this, she shot him a glance before rubbing her face. "How am I skinny. I'm pretty much the same as before."

Yet Mo Lian chuckled while shaking his head. "It's way too different. Your chin was round before, but now it's pointy."

Qiao Mu stuck her tongue out at him and ladled another small bowl of porridge. However, before she could take a sip, a speedy figure flitted past them and snatched up that piping hot pot of porridge. He exclaimed with a hearty laugh, "Oh my, how fragrant! This old man just so happens to not have eaten breakfast yet!"

Holding her spoon, Qiao Mu gawked at the old geezer that suddenly popped out in front of her.

This old geezer was short and pudgy. However, his getup was quite incongruous. Even though he was wearing a landlord hat, his robes were made of linen and tied at the waist with a straw rope.

After sweeping that old geezer a glance, Mo Lian's expression sank imperceptibly when Qiao Mu wasn't looking.

"Who are you? Why have you snatched our food?" Qiao Mu stood up with the spoon in her hand and looked at that old geezer in bewilderment.

Meanwhile, the old geezer had already started scarfing down the porridge. He wasn't afraid of getting scalded, only blowing at the porridge once before taking the next gulp. He was like a ravenous hungry ghost bolt, making short work of the large pot of porridge in a jiffy!

When he was finally done, his small beady eyes even locked onto the half-full bowl of porridge in Qiao Mu's hands.

Qiao Mu reflexively shielded her small bowl and couldn't resist asking, "What do you want?"

"Little lady, let me make a bet with you. If you can guard that bowl of porridge in your hands, this old man will grant any request you make." After he said this, he lunged at her rapidly as he reached for her porridge bowl.

"Qiaoqiao, use talismans!"

*\*Swish—\** Qiao Mu flicked out a teleportation talisman and instantly shifted several hundred meters away.

Just as the old geezer exclaimed in surprise while remarking in amusement that “this little lady has some chops,” he had already popped up behind her and reached for her head.

*Such a fast movement technique!*

While throwing out a teleportation talisman, Qiao Mu also hurled out 60 binding talismans to encircle the old geezer.

Yet it only took a mere several breaths for that old geezer to break out of the binding talisman matrix with a hearty laugh.

“Amazing, amazing, you are not inferior to that purported number one genius of the Divine Province’s talisman patrician family.” While giving his commentary with a smile, the old geezer made swift movements and directed his offense toward the bowl in Qiao Mu’s small hands.

From the looks of it, that old geezer was about to snatch away the bowl in her hands at any moment.

In her desperation, Darling Qiao threw back her head and chugged down the bowl of porridge. When she was done, she threw the bowl down at the ground and declared in a huff, “You weren’t able to snatch it!”

The old geezer halted in stupefaction and gaped at her for a split second before suddenly hooting with laughter.

On the side, Mo Lian also couldn’t help curling his lips in amusement as he watched this.

“Okay, okay, okay, this old man is willing to pay up. What request do you want me to grant you?”

Mo Lian quickly strode over to Qiao Mu and tugged at her small hand before whispering into her ear.

Qiao Mu gazed at Mo Lian in puzzlement but still parroted his words, “My request is that you have to take my side and support me unconditionally in the future.”

In truth, Qiao Mu was also mystified as to why Mo Lian told her to say that.

### **Chapter 1222: You’ve Encountered a Swindler**

The old geezer glanced at Crown Prince Mo with a harrumph before finding a rock to sit down on.

“Humph, aren’t you obedient, saying whatever you’re told.”

“You sly little lass.” The old geezer rubbed his round belly and turned to look at Mo Lian. He acquiesced sardonically, “Fine then. It’s not like this old man cannot afford to lose.”

“Right, do you two have any dry food on you? Give it here to show your elder filial respect.” Although he carried a lot of food with him, he didn’t know how to cook!

Because of this, he had starved for a good two days. It really was tragic.

Mo Lian cast him a sidelong glance and tossed him a random bag of wheat cookies. He then pulled along his wifey to head for the small base.

The old geezer stood behind them and watched them with a meaningful gaze. He then dug out a cookie from the bag and chomped down on it.

“Sigh, who would’ve thought that this old man, the august Third Elder of the Divine Province’s House of Elders, would end up in this lousy place and munch on dry food,” he muttered as he trailed behind the two in a neither fast nor slow pace while remaining neither near nor far.

Qiao Mu could sense that the old geezer had not left yet, so she turned to look at him. She then tugged at Mo Lian’s hand and asked, “Who is this old man? Why is he following us.”

“Ignore him,” Mo Lian replied dryly. He then held her small hand and entered the base grandiosely.

Earlier, there was someone with unperceptive eyes who wanted him to pay a fee, but he, uhm, ended up getting thrown out with a single hand. At the moment, he was probably rubbing his waist in a corner...

By now, Qiao Mu was already familiar with the streets in the adventurer base, so she pulled Mo Lian along to the mission distribution center.

Previously, she had made an appointment with Huge Bear Squad to buy all the primary-rank herbs they could dig out in a month.

However, it was already two to three days past the appointed time. *Did they get uneasy from the wait?*

Qiao Mu and Mo Lian walked toward the mission distribution center while holding hands. When they got closer, they discovered that a large crowd had swamped the area, with many onlookers jabbering nonstop.

At the beginning, the two were unable to squeeze their way in and stood outside the crowd. They weren’t even able to see the mission distribution center’s sign.

Nonetheless, Qiao Mu heard the voice of Gao Sheng, Huge Bear Squad’s captain, over the crowd.

“It’s not like we have hindered anyone. It’s a vacant lot that no one goes to normally, so how are we taking up space with those herbs there.”

“Tsk, I say, Captain Gao, are you here to make people laugh. Your big heap of herbs are being a dog in the manger. How many days have they been there already! You really are anticipating for that little lady to come and collect those herbs! Hahahahaha!” The captain of Proud Hawk Squad held a good-looking yet garishly-dressed woman in his arms as he ridiculed Gao Sheng with a snicker.

“Maybe she was just playing with you!”

“Yeah, that’s right. One mystic currency for a low-rank herb—how can that be possible! Low-rank herbs may have medicinal use, but frankly speaking, they are just grass, hahahahaha! There are so many inside the Mystic Beast Forest, with all that one could ever want. If that little lady really were to purchase them like this, then she would not even recover her capital.”

“In my view, that little lass is a swindler. She won’t be coming back.”

“You’re speaking nonsense!” Sis Ge yelled angrily, “You people aren’t her, so why are you making wild guesses. It could be that Miss Qiao was held up by something for several days!”

“Held up, hahahaha! Only someone as naive as you would believe so! Maybe she secretly took a look and then fled after getting scared witless by your ‘colossal handiwork’ of 200 some thousand stalks of primary-rank herbs!”

Everybody burst into uproarious laughter.

### **Chapter 1223: I Came Late**

Gao Sheng flushed red and opened his mouth, but he didn’t know what to say.

*Could it be that the captain of the Proud Hawk Squad jinxed it? Miss Qiao got so flustered from how they so greedily gathered 200 some thousand stalks of herbs that she didn’t come?*

But back when they were gathering the herbs, they were only thinking that the more they gathered, the better. They weren’t necessarily going to charge her one mystic currency per stalk of herb!

The plump Hua Gu spat at the captain of the Proud Hawk Squad. “Scram out of the way! What does it have to do with you! This is our Huge Bear Squad’s business. You idlers really are bored out of your minds.”

“It’s cause your heap of trash is taking up space in the empty lot!”

“That’s right!”

“If you don’t deal with it by the end of today, we will do it for you.”

“Hahaha!”

Everyone jeered as they looked at Captain Gao with amused gazes.

Gao Sheng could only grit his teeth. “You don’t need to do anything, we will...”

“Captain!” Suddenly, a crisp, heavenly voice entered the Huge Bear Squad members’ ears.

They all turned around in disbelief and saw, standing beyond the crowd, a perfectly-matched couple that seemed to be chiseled from jade. The picturesque couple was looking in their direction with affectionate gazes.

Sis Ge’s eyes lit up when she looked over. “Xiao Qiao!”

The little lady kicked hard at the Proud Hawk Squad members that were blocking her way, waving at them amiably with a small paw.

Gao Sheng was practically about to cry.

*This little great aunt finally showed up!*

After trotting all the way to Captain Gao, Qiao Mu stuck out her small paw and vigorously patted his shoulder while on tiptoe. “Captain! I was held up by something earlier, so I came late. You’ve waited long.”

“Not long, not long.” Gao Sheng was a totally different person compared to his gloomy self from earlier.

Right now, he was simply about to take flight from his elation.

“Captain.” The little fellow looked up at him, but before she could chat, she was interrupted by two surprised voices.

“Xiao Qiao!”

“Younger Sis!”

Little Sixth Zheng and Princess Mi ran over, one after the other. They circled her and exclaimed in delight, “We’ve finally waited for you to show up.”

“Ah.” Qiao Mu was a bit ashamed as she looked at the two. “You, you were waiting for me the whole time?”

*Sigh, these two simple-minded fellows. If she didn’t remember that she needed to return here to this small adventurer base in the Mystic Beast Forest, wouldn’t they have waited until they got weathered by the wind...*

“Mhm.” Both people nodded at the same time.

When Gongsun Lie, Xiao Mi’s personal guard, heard this, he strode over slowly with folded arms and informed, “Princess Mi said that you would definitely come out from the forest. No matter what anyone said, she insisted on waiting here for you.”

“I’ve made you worry,” Qiao Mu apologized softly.

“It’s all good seeing that you are fine,” Xiao Mi reassured with a smile, and then she drew in close with a lowered voice. “Oh yeah, why do I hear people say that you picked up a phoenix egg. Is that true?”

“Mhm.” Qiao Mu nodded.

The next instant, Xiao Mi patted Qiao Mu’s shoulder with her palm: “Wow, your luck is too good. Where did you pick it up?”

Qiao Mu raised her hand to pinch her sleeve. “You might find it unbelievable, but it suddenly dropped down from the sky when I was walking...”

Yet Princess Mi and Gongsun Lie both chuckled ironically.

*This freaking wasn’t anything believable!*

#### **Chapter 1224: Beat You Up Every Time I See You**

Qiao Mu looked at Princess Mi in resignation. “I’ll tell you about it later.”

After saying this, she turned to Gao Sheng and called out crisply, “Captain!”

Captain Gao was overwhelmed by the unexpected favor, and he also felt that the little lady was especially practiced in calling him “Captain.”

“Captain, Little Sixth and I want to join...”

“Captain Gao, have you handled the matter?” Suddenly, a gentle voice came from the back of the group.

When Qiao Mu heard this nightmarish voice, her small face fell drastically. She swiftly whipped around and stared fixedly at the approaching white-robed man like a wolf.

His suit of white clothes made his aura extremely noble and unsullied.

Meanwhile, his gentle smile overflowed with a warmth that made anyone who saw it feel an intimacy that made them happy to approach him.

*Ha ha—*

*Fan Qiuhe, my dear 'next-door big brother,' why are you here?*

A thin vine shot out from Qiao Mu's sleeve and lashed straight for Fan Qiuhe's face without a hint of warning.

"Ah!!" Fan Qiuhe only felt all the hairs on his body stand on end, and he sidestepped to evade that strike.

With a bam, that vine whip landed on a chair, which directly battered it into pieces.

Qiao Mu had barrelled over like a small leopard. She mustered up her wood spirit, which was emitting green light, and slapped it toward Fan Qiuhe's face.

This slap of the little lady's was so heavy that Fan Qiuhe was afraid it might leave him disfigured.

He hastily activated a defensive mystic weapon to ward it off. As he dodged, he also grabbed a long sword to withstand the little lady's rampant and explosive attacks.

Yet the little lady did not attack with a set pattern. Most of the time, she was facing him head-on with her fists.

After he evaded two to three steps away, she suddenly halted and smiled at him.

This smile made Fan Qiuhe's hairs once again stand on end.

Previously, she had smiled like this at him before utilizing a killing move.

Just as expected, the little lady opened her palm, and five streams of water suddenly shot out, surging toward Fan Qiuhe like five long snakes.

Fan Qiuhe paled in fright, and he immediately mustered the mystic energy in his body to activate a defensive boundary.

However, the defensive barrier on the outside suddenly collapsed when the five water streams bombarded it.

It was good that he used his cultivation to construct a defensive boundary. Hence, when the remaining water spiritual energy pummeled his defensive boundary, it did not immediately shatter his defense.

Fan Qiuhe gripped his sword and coated the blade with mystic energy. Then, he drew out a semicircle with a sweep of his sword.

*\*Bang!\** The five water streams promptly exploded.

Just as he breathed a slight sigh of relief, he felt the dirt beneath his feet loosen all of a sudden. A large hand burrowed out from the ground and abruptly grabbed his ankle.

Fan Qiuhe looked down in fright.

That huge hand formed from dirt rose high up before coming straight down.

*\*Boom!!\** This strike directly slapped the blood out of Fan Qiuhe, and he ended up tumbling on the ground before eating a mouthful of dirt.

Everybody present was silent as they didn't dare to utter a single sound.

Nevertheless, that didn't stop them from gawking at the little lady before them in disbelief.

They were well aware of the strength of that young sir from the Fan Clan.

However, they didn't expect that the little lady would slap him to the ground so easily.

### **Chapter 1225: You're Still That Trashy**

Before the members of the Fan Clan could rush over, Qiao Mu appeared before Fan Qiuhe in a flash.

The Startled Swan Dagger darted out from her conscious pool, and she swiftly pressed it against Fan Qiuhe's throat with a thread of her spiritual conscious.

"Just as trashy as before." Qiao Mu paced before him and looked askance at the several Fan Clan juniors who wanted to charge over.

She waved her hand at them and threatened,

"If you guys dare come over, I'll slit open his throat right now. It'll be a 'piu,' and spray out oh so much blood."

The Fan Clan juniors goggled at this little lady, feeling that her present innocent expression was mixed together with a frightening aura.

And maybe inexplicably in a bit of a morbid state...

*She meant what she said!* Everyone's chest instantly tightened.

Thus, Fan Qiuming and the other people stopped far away. He then cupped his hands toward Qiao Mu and inquired, "Crown Prince Consort, may I ask how my brother has offended you?"

Qiao Mu cast him a glance and stated dryly, "Him? In every way possible!"

Fan Qiuming: *Why did he feel like he had no words to say!*

"Cough. Cough, cough." Fan Qiuhe, whom the Crown Prince Consort the Great had walloped to the ground, stared at Qiao Mu with a minute change in expression. "You, for?..."

*\*Slash!\** The sharp Startled Swan Dagger slit a red line of blood across Fan Qiuhe's neck.

If it had gone any deeper, his head might have fallen off his shoulders.

Even as alarm bells rang in Fan Qiuhe's mind, he still maintained his brotherly smile. However, his fingers had already curled up from nervousness. "C-Crown Prince Consort."

Meanwhile, Mo Lian strode up next to Qiao Mu. He pulled her into his embrace and stroked the back of her head gently.

The sense of desolation that this child had emanated just now made his heart ache for her.

There must be a problem with this Fan Qiuhe. Otherwise, Qiaoqiao's emotions wouldn't run amok every time she saw him.

"Fan Qiuhe, stay far away from Huge Bear Squad. Never tread into their ranks! Or else, you will die without a burial place, understand? Hm?" Following this, Qiao Mu turned to gaze apathetically at that "next-door big brother" with a frigid expression.

Fan Qiuhe's heart squeezed abruptly, but he still remained calm and collected on the surface.

Because the Startled Swan Dagger was still against his neck, he was afraid to nod. "Has the crown prince consort misunderstood something? Today, I came to request the Huge Bear Squad's help on a minor mission."

"Are you people from the Fan Clan wastrels?" Qiao Mu looked at him coldly. "You're prohibited from getting Huge Bear Squad's help. Withdraw your hogwash mission at once. Also, immediately disappear from my sight. I, do not want to see you."

*She truly and utterly loathed him!*

Fan Qiuhe gripped the sides of his robe as he showed an awkward smile. "Qiuhe does not dare to defy the crown prince consort's order."

After saying this, he stiffened his spine and peered out of the corner of his eye at the Startled Swan Dagger that remained against his neck. He went up stiffly to the mission distribution center's table and rapidly cancelled the mission that he had just issued to the Huge Bear Squad, as well as paid the cancellation penalty.

Afterwards, Qiao Mu finally smiled lightly. "Things are fine like this now. In the future, do not let me see you buzz about the Huge Bear Squad like a fly, got it?"

"Also, protect your life well. I will come to look for you very soon."

Fan Qiuhe only felt that this expression of the crown prince consort's was masking an immeasurable uncanniness.

### **Chapter 1226: Joining the Squad**

With a thought, Qiao Mu summoned the Startled Swan Dagger back to her fingers with a swish.

That sharp dagger twirled for a bit before disappearing into her conscious pool.

At this time, Fan Qiuming hastily rushed forward to support Fan Qiuhe before slinking away with the other people from the Fan Clan.



Qiao Mu stared coldly at the direction they left in and did not say anything more. Then, she nuzzled her head against Mo Lian's chest and looked up at him. "What is it."

Yet Mo Lian didn't release her from his embrace and only smiled as he looked down at her. "Are you feeling better?"

Qiao Mu nodded.

She felt that the air here was much better now after Fan Qiuhe had left.

Every time she saw him, she would continuously recall that dark part of her past, which was truly unbearable.

Of course, in her view, this unbearable feeling would soon be disposed of.

Before disposing of this Fan Qiuhe, though, she needed to ascertain something.

*Did this Fan Qiuhe have anything to do with that Prefecture Lord of the Shuntian Prefecture?*

Her tragic marionette-like life in her past lifetime was all thanks to the Prefecture Lord of Shuntian Prefecture.

She suspected that it was possible that it was after she triggered her mystic meridians at age 16 that the Prefecture Lord of Shuntian Prefecture sent this "smiling big brother" to her side.

When she thought of this, Darling Qiao involuntarily gave a shudder.

*Was it like this?*

*Or did she think too much...*

"Qiaoqiao, you can't tell me?" While creasing his brows, Mo Lian hugged her slim waist as he looked down at her. "You can't tell me about Fan Qiuhe?"

Qiao Mu looked at him in a daze, and her slightly morbid eyes, which were as pitch-black as ancient wells, flickered. She hung her small head and yielded, "I... can tell you. When we go back, I'll tell you about all the enmity between me and Fan Qiuhe, okay."

"Okay." As delighted as Mo Lian was, his heart also felt a bit heavy.

"Then you have to also tell me that eccentric old geezer's identity."

Mo Lian was startled, and then he pinched her small face with a chuckle. "Children should not be that smart. After all, dumb ones grow faster."

"I'll have my coming-of-age hairpin ceremony in half a month. I'm not a child!" Qiao Mu slapped away his palm in a huff. "You have to tell me."

"Okay." Mo Lian nodded with a smile. "Anything you want to know, I will tell you."

"That's much better." The little lady looked at him in satisfaction before suddenly realizing that she was just in the middle of speaking with her captain when she got interrupted by that d\*mned Fan Qiuhe.

She hastily turned around and shouted crisply at Gao Sheng, "Captain! Little Sixth and I want to join Huge Bear Squad!"

Captain Gao was so flabbergasted, not to mention also extremely flattered, that he didn't know where to put his hands.

The little lady's combat prowess had completely been put on display just earlier.

*Such a strong little lady actually said that she was going to join their obscure Huge Bear Squad with her friend!*

*What to do, it seemed very inconceivable!*

Captain Gao gawked at the little lady for a long time before assenting with repeated nods, "Okay, okay! Little fellow, if you want to join our Huge Bear Squad, we naturally welcome you with open arms. However..."

Scratching his head, Captain Gao noted in embarrassment, "Our Huge Bear Squad isn't too strong. Have you thought things through?"

"Mhm!"

At that moment, the members of Huge Bear Squad all fixed their gazes on that young lady.

It was on this day that two incredible team members joined Huge Bear Squad.

### **Chapter 1227: Loaded Teammate**

As for Fan Qiuhe and company, they were not aware of the fact that two yellow-spotted butterflies trailed behind them as they left...

After Qiao Mu and Little Sixth Zheng joined Huge Bear Squad, all the members surrounded the new members in a heated discussion with nonstop welcomes.

The Proud Hawk Squad, which had originally been there to watch the fun, lost interest and was about to leave.

Suddenly, Qiao Mu stopped them with a shout, "Wait up!"

"Were you the one who said just now that I was a swindler?" Qiao Mu abruptly stepped in front of Proud Hawk Squad's captain.

That captain's tanned face was chapped from the elements, not to mention that he also couldn't resist leering when he saw Qiao Mu.

He took a step forward and drew near. "What, do you little lady want to give me some advice?"

"What are you doing!" Everyone in Huge Bear Squad surged over, and Captain Gao, who was in the lead, shoved away the Proud Hawk Squad's captain.

"Stay away from our Xiao Qiao."

Our dear Mo Lian, who had been crowded aside by the stalwart Huge Bear Squad members, felt crushed inside as he gazed at his wife from across the human wall.

*This... what should he do when his wife was too popular?*

"I came here to collect the herbs. Captain, how many herbs did our squad gather during this period of time."

"Th-There are 200 thousand stalks of various kinds of primary-rank herbs, b-but you don't need to give us 200 thousand..."

"Here!" Qiao Mu handed Captain Gao a money pouch. "This is 100 thousand high-grade mystic currency, keep it well."

*What?*

Everyone gazed in stupefaction at this extravagant and loaded teammate, simply afraid to believe their own eyes.

Two hundred thousand low-grade mystic currency and 100 thousand high-grade mystic currency were not to be mentioned on equal terms.

In contrast to how low-grade magnetite was only suitable for level-one to level-four mystic cultivators to absorb, mystic cultivators level-12 and below were all able to absorb high-grade magnetite.

As for Qiao Mu, who had reached level-14 cultivation state, high-grade magnetite did not do much for her. She instead needed supreme-grade magnetite.

However, as supreme-grade magnetite mines were rare on the Sikong Planet, the manufacture of mystic currency stopped at high-grade mystic currency.

Proud Hawk Squad's captain muttered "what dejected" with a flushed face and prepared to slink away with his tail between his legs.

Before he could do so, Sis Ge blocked him with her hands on her hips. "Hey, are you going to swallow those words that you smeared Xiao Qiao with into your stomach? Did you see that? Xiao Qiao gave our captain 100 thousand high-grade mystic currency. Do you say that she is a swindler now?"

*Swindler my \*ss! Have you ever seen a swindler make a down payment?*

"So what, w-we're leaving." Proud Hawk Squad's captain knew that he was in the wrong and fled gloomily from the crowd.

Sis Ge sniggered and then shouted "cowards" at them. Afterwards, she bolted to Qiao Mu and asked cheerfully, "Xiao Qiao, with so many herbs, are we going to help transport them to your home?"

"No need, I'll go collect them myself." After following Captain Gao and the rest to the empty lot, she just took out a new ebony purple storage talisman and tossed all the primary-rank herbs into it.

After making a mental note that she would need to take some time to categorize them, Qiao Mu turned to give them a nod. "Thank you."

Captain Gao and the rest repeatedly waved their hands from side to side. After all, this was their assignment, so they didn't need thanks.

Not to mention, they all felt a bit embarrassed from receiving so much compensation.

### **Chapter 1228: Achieving Mastery**

*With how extravagant and generous this loaded teammate was, it was obvious that she was providing them with relief!*

"Since there isn't anything else, how about we return to the capital together tomorrow."

Captain Gao felt that this was a good suggestion. After all, they had been out for more than a month, and the team members were very fatigued. It was time for them to return to the city and recharge.

Besides, with so much mystic currency on hand right now, their basic livelihood was guaranteed.

That's why he nodded at Qiao Mu as he agreed with a smile, "Okay, let's return to the capital together."

Afterwards, Xiao Mi ran over with a smile. "In that case, Gongsun Lie and I will also be returning to Southern Xiao Kingdom first. See you again in a while."

Qiao Mu nodded. "Then be careful when you travel back."

"Don't worry, I'm very strong." Xiao Mi struck an attacking pose, which caused Gongsun Lie to roll his eyes at this princess behind her back.

"Alright, Princess, stop showing off thoughtlessly. With just that one move of the mystic technique, you had better not take it out and make yourself a laughingstock before experts."

Qiao Mu twitched her mouth. "Uh, isn't it that the king of Southern Xiao Kingdom's famed mystic technique contains 18 moves in one set?"

Yet hearing this, Gongsun Lie chortled ironically.

"What are you laughing at?" Xiao Mi hopped over in fury as she extended a kick at him.

"Cough, that was not a laugh." Gongsun Lie restrained his amusement and explained, "Each of the 18 moves in the king's mystic technique is distinctive, but Princess Xiao Mi blended the 18 moves into one and just always uses this one move! Oh, right, the first time she got tested, she even spoke with conviction that this was called not forgetting her roots and advancing step by step from the foundation! The king had even praised her talent at that time, saying that she was able to assume great responsibility by inheriting the martial arts legacy of the Southern Xiao Kingdom's royal family."

Xiao Mi coughed dryly and pretended to look around before lowering her head to fiddle with the corner of her clothes.

"Three months later, when the king tested the princess the second time, he realized that she was still demonstrating that single move! The king's expression started to sink, but he still praised her for training well, taking pains all for the accomplishment of this single move!"

"Pfft..."

Xiao Mi: ...

Gongsun Lie continued with a spurious smile, "After another three months, the king tested her for the third time. When she still demonstrated that single mystic technique, only knowing how to ward off other people's attacks with that single move! The king's eyes rolled back, and he fainted on the spot."

As everyone burst out in laughter, Xiao Mi gave Gongsun Lie a glower. "I-I'm extracting its essence, understand? Even though there is a single move, it is not about the number but the perfection."

Sis Ge even teased, "The king of the Southern Xiao Kingdom imparted you the set of 18-move mystic technique that made his lifetime reputation, yet you... trampled on such a treasure like this?"

Xiao Mi stomped her foot in fury. "What are you laughing at? I've already been training very diligently. I even blended the 18 moves into one, extracting its essence and removing the dregs!!"

When Qiao Mu heard this, she nodded in agreement. "That's right, mystic techniques were never determined by their number, only by how deeply you are able to comprehend them. If you are able to blend 18 moves into one, that move is absolutely the cream of the essence. It must be super strong."

Everyone: "..."

"Hahaha!" Gongsun Lie cracked a grin and nodded: *It's so freaking strong that she couldn't even defeat a level-five mystic cultivator that was one level lower than her!*

*What was a person to do!*

Qiao Mu patted her shoulder. "Continue to train, you can definitely do it. When you thoroughly combine these 18 moves into one single move, you will certainly be invincible."

The background music strangely turned into hahahahaha...

### **Chapter 1229: Talent and Natural Endowments**

After separating from the Southern Xiao Kingdom princess, Darling Qiao asked, mystified, as she walked beside Mo Lian, "Why couldn't they stop laughing? Was it very funny?"

Mo Lian pulled her small figure into his arms and nodded. "It's funny."

However, Darling Qiao was defiant. "I once learned a bow technique that originally exhibited five different types of release mechanisms. Later on, I thoroughly combined them into one! Now when I release arrows with the crossbow, the interval is reduced by at least two-thirds."

"I even developed a rupturing arrows bow technique on my own! We adjust our cultivation techniques according to the actual situation during training, which in turn leads to deeper comprehension from constant improvement. How is this incorrect?"

"They should not ridicule Xiao Mi," our dear Qiao Mu remarked with a pout.

"Pfft..." This darling really was going to make Mo Lian die of laughter.

“Darling, she isn’t you!” Mo Lian pressed against her forehead as he laughed uncontrollably. “The things she said about extracting the essence and achieving mastery were complete baloney. She has only trained in one move out of the 18 moves, and it’s to the extent that has yet to reach perfection.”

Qiao Mu was instantly left dumbfounded. “It’s like that?”

Mo Lian nodded while restraining his smile. He then looked at her serious expression and said, “You think everyone is like you, being able to thoroughly comprehend a cultivation technique by themselves and even compress several moves into a single one? This all requires talent and natural endowments! Ordinary mystic cultivators just train according to their cultivation technique. How would they be like you and think so much.”

Even though she didn’t quite fully understand, Qiao Mu still nodded. “So it’s like that.”

“Even then, they shouldn’t laugh at her,” Qiao Mu declared with a pout.

“Fine, fine, fine.” Mo Lian gazed at her with smiling eyes. “Qiaoqiao, let’s find a place to rest up and stay for the night before leaving tomorrow. After all, we still have plenty of time to spare.”

Qiao Mu nodded once again. Suddenly, she heard the poison-tailed butterfly queen, Xiaoxiao, calling for her softly by her ear. “Master, Master.”

“Do you have news already?” Qiao Mu asked attentively.

“No, Master, those two butterflies I dispatched to scout for information, got killed...”

Because she couldn’t enter Paradise Planet right now, she could not talk to Xiaoxiao face-to-face. Speaking of which, they were communicating through their spiritual conscious.

She had instructed Xiaoxiao to send out those two small yellow-spotted butterflies to tail Fan Qiuhe. However, she did not imagine the other party to be so cautious.

“But I know where they died. Does Master need to go check it out?”

“It’s very close?”

“Mhm, it’s right inside an abandoned cabin outside this small base.”

“Okay, let’s go over and take a look right now.”

Mo Lian was gazing at her quietly the entire time. When he saw her look up at him, he smiled at her.

“What is it?”

“We’re going somewhere.”

A quarter of an hour later, Qiao Mu and Mo Lian arrived at an abandoned cabin whilst hand in hand.

After pushing open the door to go in, they saw that there was already no one there.

Mo Lian narrowed his eyes. “There’s a remnant presence of a great spiritual cultivator.”

Afterwards, his gaze settled on a black veil used for covering the face.

On the other hand, Qiao Mu gazed quietly at the small smidgens of yellow powder on the ground. The yellow-spotted butterflies had probably gotten pulverized by someone's palm after being discovered.

"As expected, there is someone backing Fan Qiuhe," Qiao Mu concluded coldly.

That person might even be a great spiritual cultivator who was so cautious that he wouldn't even let off tiny butterflies.

As long as he determined their danger, he would exterminate them in the snap of a finger.

The sketch of a middle-aged woman with somber eyes who wrapped herself up behind a black veil was unwittingly outlined before Qiao Mu's eyes.

### **Chapter 1230: The Agony of Opening Up**

She suddenly opened her eyes and gave an uncontrollable shudder.

Mo Lian quickly hugged her and stroked her back to placate her. "What's wrong, Qiaoqiao."

Yet Qiao Mu shook her head. "No-Nothing."

"No clues have been left behind here. Do you want someone to continue keeping watch?"

Qiao Mu nodded. "The person who made contact with Fan Qiuhe is most likely very cautious and therefore, will probably not make an appearance here again. Let's return. I'm a bit tired."

Seeing that she was indeed a bit tired out, Mo Lian's heart ached, and he whisked out of the rundown cabin while carrying her by the waist.

Qiao Mu had a good night's sleep. The next morning after washing up, she discovered that everyone in the Huge Bear Squad was already waiting outside.

Little Sixth Zheng, dressed in black, stood gallantly under the morning rays as he turned to nod at her with a smile.

However, Mo Lian grabbed his wifey's hand and looked askance at Little Sixth Zheng.

When Captain Gao saw her coming out, he immediately flashed his white teeth. "Xiao Qiao, are we returning on flying hawks?"

"Okay." Qiao Mu nodded. In any case, there were still two days until her mother's designated deadline, so she could still make it in time even if they travelled back slowly by flying hawk.

"Alrighty." The squad members gushed outside.

Out of the corner of her eye, Qiao Mu caught a glimpse of that fatty old geezer that they had encountered back at the entrance to the base.

Qiao Mu creased her brows and looked up at Mo Lian. When she observed no change in the expression on his face, she chose not to say anything.

The pair hopped onto a flying hawk and retraced their route back to the Mo Kingdom capital with the Huge Bear Squad.

While sitting on the flying hawk's back, Qiao Mu leaned against Mo Lian and watched as the flying hawk ascended into the sky and plunged into the clouds.

It was only then that she had put her thoughts in order. She asked softly, "Mo Lian, do you believe that there are miracles in this world?"

"I, once... had a very long dream. Inside the dream, I died once. That feeling was so real that you practically couldn't believe it."

As her mumbling—almost sleep-talking—voice drifted past, Mo Lian felt that his breathing also stopped...

He completely didn't want to understand what it meant for his Qiaoqiao to have died once.

He didn't want to think about it. If he did, it felt as if someone had sliced open his chest and wanted to take out his beating heart.

Thus, he abruptly tightened his arms and encircled her waist firmly. "What do you want to say, Qiaoqiao."

"I knew that there would be a zombie outbreak, I knew that zombies would evolve. I knew... everything would progress, slowly but surely, according to that grand dream I had."

"However, I don't want to look back on that dream."

"Mo Lian, did you know, in that dream, there was someone, someone who was controlling my life the entire time. I was just like a puppet on a string, a puppet without its own consciousness, living a tragic life according to someone else's directions and wishes."

Mo Lian's pupils contracted as he recalled the information he had extracted when he searched Liu Yizhi's soul.

*Yes!* There was someone who didn't want his Qiaoqiao to live happily.

There had always been someone who was spying on her from the shadows and wanted to destroy her hard-obtained happiness.

*He!*

*How could he allow that—*

"In that dream, I got captured by Fan Qiuhe. He broke all four of my limbs."

"Qiaoqiao!" Mo Lian looked at her in alarm and involuntarily wrapped his arms around her waist tightly, as if he wanted to embed her deeply into his embrace so that he could guard her safely.