

My Crown 1701

Chapter 1701: Can't See It?

"Masta, how about you look at it with your spiritual conscious? That curse practitioner might have stored some ghost spirit inside."

Qiao Mu was stunned upon hearing this. She gave a nod and guided her spiritual conscious into this ghost spirit bead.

The originally ordinary ghost spirit bead made out of wood shone brightly all of a sudden. It was blinding.

After entering the ghost spirit bead with her spiritual conscious, she could see a grand nine-layered curse matrix inside.

Every layer was maintained with an extremely strong curse energy. Let alone those drifting ghost spirits, even talisman practitioners who were caught might not be able to break out of this grand nine-layered matrix.

Of course, this carved wooden bead most likely could only take in ghost spirits. Normal humans naturally could not enter.

"Masta, there's a female ghost spirit kowtowing to you in welcome next to you. How come you're not reacting at all?"

Qiao Mu was surprised, and she turned to look at the sapling perched on her shoulder. "What female ghost spirit? Where?"

"She's right at your feet!" The sapling looked at her speechlessly and explained, "When you triggered the ghost spirit bead earlier, you set her out."

Qiao Mu was confused. She looked left and right while grumbling, "Where is there a female ghost spirit?"

"You can't see her, Masta?" The sapling grimaced.

Speaking of which, it was weird how she had always been unable to see ghost spirits.

Back when she returned to Qiaotou Village with the little monk, the latter had even triggered her sight in all seriousness. In the end, she still wasn't able to see anything...

"Wait, let me use my spiritual conscious to see."

If she wasn't able to see the ghost spirit in front of her with the naked eye, maybe using the spiritual conscious would work.

"Still can't see anything?" The sapling Qiuqiu peered at Qiao Mu curiously.

Qiao Mu was bummed as she deactivated her spiritual conscious. She said with a nod, "What did she say?"

"Nothing much, she just kept kowtowing to you while shaking and said that she would listen to everything you say in the future and won't give you any trouble," the sapling Qiuqiu relayed while rolling its eyes.

What could this female ghost spirit do with her cowardly behavior?

Wasn't this just a waste of food! Oh, that's not right. A female ghost spirit couldn't waste any food...

Qiao Mu recalled that female ghost spirit she could not see and asked the sapling while blinking, "Do you think the unimaginable treasure Tan Fa was referring to before was this ghost spirit bead?"

"It's hard to say." The sapling analyzed with a shake of its head, "Only a limited number of people can make use of this ghost spirit bead. It's only that your spiritual conscious is way out of the ordinary. Who else would be able to achieve level-four spiritual conscious at your cultivation state?"

Qiao Mu was perplexed. After examining the wooden ghost spirit bead, she decided to put it away first.

"Little Snow, Chirpy, let's go." Qiao Mu waved her hand at the little fat squirrel, which had hopped onto a rock.

The fat squirrel scurried over and leaped into Qiao Mu's arms.

While holding it, Qiao Mu called over the snow leopard and walked out with them.

The instant they walked out, a huge explosion promptly razed the cave to the ground.

Qiao Mu had used an explosion talisman, so its might was naturally out of the ordinary. It transformed the cave into a blazing hell at once.

Looking back at the branches that were crackling from the raging fire, Qiao Mu's lips were curved into a cold smile.

While tossing the purple jade pendant in her palm, Qiao Mu asked Qiuqiu, "Do you know the Clear Sky Faction's location?"

Since the other party had already made its move, how could she just passively get attacked?

Chapter 1702: Fan Gu's Methods

"Are we able to investigate where this Clear Sky Faction's lair is?"

It truly didn't feel nice to be stalked.

Qiao Mu liked to be direct in everything she did. Since she had already confirmed the enemy's existence, then naturally, the next step was to find a way to exterminate them.

Qiuqiu waved its thin branches and climbed up onto Qiao Mu's shoulder. It said while shaking its head, "We've only just arrived in the Shuntian Prefecture and aren't familiar with the environment here. Masta, why don't you first be patient. Wait until Qiuqiu is able to build up a certain connection with the plants in Shuntian Prefecture. At that time it will be easy to gather useful information."

That was the only way. Qiao Mu naturally knew that some things couldn't be rushed.

Qiuqiu had only just entered the late-toddler stage. If it used up too much energy, it might even have to go into closed-door cultivation again due to the fatigue.

According to her observations, it was very possible for this sapling to be sacred wood's physical body.

Even though she still could not figure out why this tree was growing in her dantian's mystic niche when she had been reborn.

Qiao Mu patted the little treant's head. "Let's go."

"Roar!" The snow leopard was nuzzling against her leg. Suddenly, it roared angrily and darted before Qiao Mu to block her with its huge body.

The snow leopard used its steely claws to smack away the five metal arrows that came flying over from mid-air.

Qiao Mu gazed coldly at the line of masked gray-clothed people that had appeared abruptly.

Each of them had covered their faces with a gray face cloth. They were wielding heavy bows and shot arrows at her without any hesitation.

Do not underestimate these metal arrows as they were not drawn by normal people.

Each of these iron arrows were imbued with the archer's spiritual energy. That was why they could be shot from farther away and also with abnormal speed.

After the snow leopard smacked away several metal arrows, various spiritual energies exploded in mid-air, forming a steamy spiritual energy fog.

There were around thirty of those masked gray-clothed people. They had extremely swift movements.

Even though they were slightly shocked to see such a brawny snow leopard, they quickly resumed their operation.

The masked gray-clothed people closed in on Qiao Mu as they shot arrows from their bows nonstop.

These metal arrows blotted out the sky and rained down on Qiao Mu.

Following this, Qiao Mu's gaze turned cold, and she activated her defensive barrier without missing a beat. She produced numerous defensive talismans with a wave of her hand and lined them up in a circle around her.

The defensive talismans blocked this wave of metal arrows.

Several masked gray-clothed people had already flitted rapidly toward Qiao Mu with a huge net between them, attempting to capture Qiao Mu with it.

From the looks of it, this group of people were planning to capture her alive?

Qiao Mu lifted an eyebrow with a sneer.

Each of these masked gray-clothed people were spiritual cultivators level-four and above. Fan Gu, the assistant faction master of Clear Sky Faction, really had wagered much on this operation.

Moreover, weren't they taking action too quickly? Qiao Mu could not help but have doubts.

Could this Fan Gu have sent an informer to keep watch on her from the very beginning?

For instance, Fan Gu would immediately find out when she set foot in Shuntian Prefecture.

Subsequently, Fan Gu would be able to send Tan Fa into the entrance exam for Apex Academy that she was taking part in, planning to put a puppet curse on her and secretly cause her death.

Even though Fan Gu was not able to succeed in all of this, Qiao Mu was inexplicably in a bad mood when she thought of how there was a d*mn vermin plotting all day long to bite her.

Chapter 1703: You Can All Remain Here

She was a bit ticked off, but she could only tolerate it for the time being.

After all, she had just entered the Shuntian Prefecture. As the saying went, even a fierce dragon is no match for a snake in its home territory.

Just wait until she sussed out their lair. There'd be plenty of misery waiting for them.

She hopped onto the snow leopard's back and then solemnly narrowed her black eyes at the group of masked, gray-clothed people.

"You can all leave your lives behind today," Qiao Mu stated apathetically without a hint of warmth.

She looked at them like they were a bunch of corpses.

The leader of the masked, gray-clothed people couldn't hold back a scoff, but he did not speak.

He just waved his hand resolutely, and the group of spiritual cultivators threw aside their bows and arrows. They picked up their handiest weapons and swarmed toward Qiao Mu while brandishing them.

Meanwhile, the little fat squirrel lifted its several-meters-long tail and slammed it down on a person's head.

Everybody helplessly watched their teammate get squashed into mincemeat by this fat squirrel's tail, and they practically halted all at once as they froze.

These two beasts accompanying Miss Qiao seemed to be out of the ordinary. The group was a bit apprehensive of the two beasts' combat prowess, so they hesitated to attack.

However, Qiao Mu was not going to hold back.

A thin blueprint suddenly flew out from her conscious pool.

She hadn't taken out this Tianji Treasure Blueprint ever since that battle at Holy Water Sect's Main Peak.

This was especially so since she had put her life on the line to activate the fourth layer of the Tianji Treasure Blueprint when she was a mere level-11 mystic cultivator, triggering an indiscriminate attack.

Now, she was easily able to activate the Tianji Treasure Blueprint's fifth or even sixth layer attack.

This Tianji Treasure Blueprint was evidently a divine weapon. Back then, Senior Tianji'zi had most likely incorporated all the concealed weapons he had ever created into this Tianji Treasure Blueprint.

The combination of the two packed it with tremendous firepower.

Moreover, it felt like it would never run out of ammunition.

Because this Tianji Treasure Blueprint itself was similar to a case that stored concealed weapons, Qiao Mu still hadn't figured out how many concealed weapons Tianji'zi had worked into this masterpiece.

Of course, she was able to retrieve a portion of ejected concealed weapons for the Tianji Treasure Blueprint's use again.

It didn't take too much effort either. She just needed to summon out the Tianji Treasure Blueprint after the battle and make a circle around the battleground.

It would automatically recover any undamaged concealed weapons to put to future use.

Qiao Mu had once made some calculations. If she activated the Tianji Treasure Blueprint's fifth layer attack, it would be able to continuously shoot out 18 kinds of concealed weapon in one second right now.

Who could withstand such a round of attack?

One second was merely the blink of an eye. The moment the Tianji Treasure Blueprint made its welcome was basically your moment of death.

Right now, Qiao Mu had summoned this Tianji Treasure Blueprint from her conscious pool and frigidly scanned the thirty masked, gray-clothed men opposite her.

Since she had said that she would keep these people behind today, she was naturally going to abide by her words.

With a motion of her mystic conscious, that Tianji Treasure Blueprint suddenly unfurled before everyone. It unrolled several meters long and was encased in a golden light.

Qiao Mu was sitting on the snow leopard's back as she gazed coldly at that group of masked, gray-clothed people. Where those people couldn't see though, she was furiously injecting her mystic conscious nonstop into the Tianji Treasure Blueprint!

Soon enough, a hint of horror surfaced on those masked, gray-clothed people's faces.

Chapter 1704: Vanish Without a Trace

The next instant, the bright light coming from the Tianji Treasure Blueprint blinded everybody's eyes.

The dazzling beam of light shot into those people's bodies all at once, which consequently tore the dozen masked, gray-clothed people who had charged forward into shreds.

The might of it caused the twenty masked, gray-clothed people behind them to shudder in fear.

Those gray-clothed people all backed away to dodge without even thinking.

But was that possible?

Was it that easy to dodge the Tianji Treasure Blueprint when it activated?

Only the fate of being slaughtered awaited them.

Back in the day, the Tianji Treasure Blueprint had directly massacred two hundred mystic cultivators with its indiscriminate attack!

These thirty spiritual cultivators were nothing compared to the Tianji Treasure Blueprint's exploits back then.

So what if they were spiritual cultivators?

Even if Qiao Mu didn't activate the Tianji Treasure Blueprint, she wouldn't necessarily lose out to these minor spiritual cultivators level-seven and below with Little Snow and Chirpy fighting alongside her.

She just wasn't in the mood to personally make a move.

Since they wanted to die so much, she'd just fulfill their wishes.

Cold sweat gushed down the leader's forehead.

However, the Tianji Treasure Blueprint's indiscriminate attack had already reached him before he could beg Qiao Mu for mercy.

Those eerie lights gave him a sense of extreme terror.

What was this... concealed weapon?

In contrast, Qiao Mu was quite piqued by the hundred mirrors that popped out from the Tianji Treasure Blueprint.

These mirrors seemed to be lined in a particular order. The beams produced from the criss-crossing reflection of light could bore a hole through a level-four spiritual cultivator. From this, it was evident that Senior Tianji'zi was well-versed in mechanisms, concealed weapons, and even formations.

However, it really was weird that Senior Xuanji wanted her to use strength to crush Senior Tianji'zi's disciple when the other party was such a genius. She might really have to make things difficult for Senior Xuanji's personal disciple in the future.

Yet this Senior Tianji'zi's Tianji Treasure Blueprint had helped her so much, so when Miss Qiao thought of how she had no choice but to have to harass the other party's personal disciple later on, her feelings were indescribable.

By the time Dean Yun came along, Qiao Mu had long set fire outside this cave, running off after burning all those masked, gray-clothed people.

Yun Cong was astonished as he examined the forest that had practically been razed to the ground. Afterwards, he could only click his tongue in amazement.

It was unexpected that Ah-Xun's disciple was such a ruthless person.

The traces from these burnt corpses indicated that more than thirty people had been here.

However, these people who wanted to kill Miss Qiao had left the world before her.

Yun Cong sighed and then left noiselessly after wiping out all traces of Miss Qiao having been here.

Hence, when Fan Gu dispatched a search party but received news that there were "no traces at all," she was livid.

No traces at all?

How could there be no traces at all!

She had clearly dispatched thirty level-four spiritual cultivators to capture Qiao Mu. How did they vanish without a trace?

Fan Gu threw a huge temper tantrum inside the Clear Sky Faction.

After placating her, Fan Qiuhe dispatched a portion of Clear Sky Faction's disciples to scout for news of Qiao Mu.

However, it was hard to get information about her ever since she entered Apex Academy.

Chapter 1705: Rescue in Passing

After disposing of those vermin from the Clear Sky Faction, Qiao Mu naturally summoned Qingluan in high spirits to carry her back to the Lava Mountain Range.

Qingluan gave a cry; however, just as it reached the foot of the mountain, they saw a menacing sight.

Two black, gigantic zombie birds of unknown origin were attacking a caravan that was traveling through Qiqi Mountain.

The two zombie birds' heads were as big as two-thirds the size of Qingluan.

Their wings had long lost all their feathers, with only a bit of scattered rotting flesh still clinging on to them.

At this time, the two zombie birds had already caused casualties to the caravan with their attack.

The women and children were only able to back away while screaming in terror.

The leader was a middle-aged man. He had been planning to lead this caravan to Wengka City, but who knew that they would get attacked by zombie birds before they could get past Qiqi Mountain.

It's not like their group hadn't encountered any filthy creatures like zombies before, but the two zombie birds this time were so huge that they weren't able to cope with them in time.

The two zombie birds dove down from the sky so fast that it practically blinded them.

Two women were paralyzed on the ground in fear and simply couldn't flee.

Just as one of the zombie birds was about to rip off her arm, Qingluan's cry pierced through the air.

A pitch-black arrow shot the zombie bird's claws, startling the zombie birds so much that they let out a raspy cry and flapped their wings to get away.

Qiao Mu shot five arrows in a row from her crow-repeating crossbow. The firepower was so great that she could shoot down another four or five zombie birds, let alone two!

There were a lot of women and children in the caravan. They had probably handed over a portion of their supplies to the caravan for protection in order to get to Wengka City.

However, most of them probably didn't expect that they wouldn't even get the chance to enter Wengka City alive just as they were about to reach it.

Qiao Mu pressed down on Qingluan and leaped off its back.

The two zombie birds were at their last gasps as they lay alongside the mountainous path, with only their wings flinching.

Qiao Mu cut to the chase and pulled out a dagger to dig out the cores from the two zombie birds' brains.

The remaining people in the caravan just watched her like this, their complexions pale and their lips quivering.

For some reason, they couldn't help but sigh with emotion when they noticed how adept she was in digging out those cores.

She was so young, yet her face was expressionless. It made people shiver just from looking at her.

The leader quickly walked over to Qiao Mu and respectfully cupped his fists. "Esteemed lady, thank you for saving our entire caravan."

If Qiao Mu hadn't helped out on her way, no one in their caravan would have survived.

Qiao Mu merely nodded at him nonchalantly.

Frankly speaking, she had only stopped because she noticed at a glance that these two zombie birds had cores in their brains.

As for saving them, she had only done it in passing.

That's why it wasn't that important to Qiao Mu whether these people thanked her or not.

"Miss, we are from the Prosperous Riches Mercenary Group. This, is just a little something to show our respect..."

Qiao Mu was stunned. She automatically shook her head when she saw the small bundle the leader was trying to hand her. "I had only done it in passing. You don't need to give me this."

The people in these caravans were in pretty bad shape and didn't look wealthy. She didn't want to exploit them.

"Accept it, Miss.. This is to show our Prosperous Riches Mercenary Group's gratitude."

Chapter 1706: Finish Him Off

"No, you must accept it."

The captain of the Prosperous Riches Mercenary Group was a man in his early thirties who had a black goatee.

He sincerely handed that small bag to Qiao Mu again and explained earnestly, "If Miss hadn't extended a helping hand, all of us here would have already died."

"This is only a tiny token of gratitude from our Prosperous Riches Mercenary Group. Please do not reject it in distaste."

"There is not much, only a small bag of ordinary food. Please do not decline it anymore, Miss."

Seeing the leader's sincerity, Qiao Mu nodded and accepted the small bag he handed over.

By this time, wails were ringing throughout the mountain path.

The entire caravan had suffered quite a number of casualties from the attack just now.

A middle-aged man cried for some time while holding onto a tattered corpse. Afterwards, he teetered as he got up and walked up to the leader, shouting furiously, "Captain Jin! Didn't you say that we were about to arrive at Wengka City, and there wasn't any danger anymore?"

"Why did my son die? Why didn't you save my son first!"

"The reason I hired your mercenary group was to guarantee our safety for the duration of the caravan's journey. But what did you do? You would rather rescue a lowly woman instead of my son?"

"I want you to pay with your life! Give me back my son's life, give it back!" The middle-aged man bawled.

A woman was still kneeling on the side with a lowered head, shrinking into a ball. It was evident that she had suffered from a huge shock earlier too.

It turned out that this middle-aged man's son had gotten attacked at the same time as another woman from the caravan.

Captain Jin didn't purposely rescue one or the other. It was only that the woman was closer to him and easier to rescue, so he immediately did that.

Subsequently, the middle-aged man's son lost his life in this sudden attack.

The middle-aged man could be considered the big boss who had contributed the most money to hire the Prosperous Riches Mercenary Group for this mission to protect the caravan.

Besides that, the mercenary group had made several smaller business deals to bring some women and children to Wengka City along with them.

Captain Jin had discussed with the middle-aged man back then, saying that he would reduce some of the latter's fees if they could also bring these women and children with them. The middle-aged man had joyfully agreed.

Yet the latter was telling him right now that he shouldn't have rescued other people but the latter's son?

To Captain Jin, there was no division of status between the people in their caravan. He would treat them all the same.

But the middle-aged man did not think this way. He felt that since he was the big boss, the Prosperous Riches Mercenary Group should have first guaranteed his and his son's safety. But things did not turn out as he wished. No matter what, he could not accept the fact that his son had actually lost his life in this attack.

The middle-aged man was about to lunge forward while hollering at Captain Jin.

Suddenly, pain assaulted his chest. It seemed he had actually been kicked flying and crashed to the ground.

The other people in the caravan had been weeping when they turned their heads and saw the middle-aged man being ruthlessly kicked to the ground.

They looked up and saw that the little lady who had saved them earlier was staring unfeelingly at that middle-aged man.

"He got scratched. Finish him off."

After leaving these words, Qiao Mu turned around and hopped onto Qingluan's back.. She then stroked Qingluan's head and said softly, "Let's go."

Chapter 1707: Rainbow Mushroom

Qingluan flapped its wings, ascending into the air.

Qiao Mu then turned to look at Captain Jin and spoke calmly, "If you don't want the remaining people to get wiped out, what needs to be finished off should be done without mercy."

After saying this, Qiao Mu flew off on Qingluan without turning back.

Captain Jin turned to the shuddering middle-aged man. The latter's complexion had turned ghastly pale, and he kept muttering "Don't, don't!" while walking backwards.

Captain Jin heaved a long sigh before raising his hand. Two teammates darted over from behind and twisted the middle-aged man's arms behind him.

As a matter of fact, this attack cost the Prosperous Riches Mercenary Group to lose at least a third of its members. It was also a great blow to them.

Their Prosperous Riches Mercenary Group had originally been a small two-star mercenary group. As their leader, he only possessed the strength of a level-15 body cultivator.

Body cultivators had basically reached their limit once they achieved level 15. If they wanted to improve, they could only increase their bodies' resilience to attacks.

They were not like mystic cultivators who could continue on as spiritual cultivators after breaking through to the spiritual realm.

There were definitely a greater number of mystic cultivators and spiritual cultivators on the Six Prefectures Continent.

Even though it was said that the people on the Six Prefectures Continent lived in places suffused with spiritual energy, this spiritual energy was so thin that it could basically be neglected.

In reality, the only places with dense spiritual energy that could accelerate one's cultivation were spiritual domains.

But this kind of serendipitous treasured land could only be encountered by lucky chance. Not just anyone could randomly encounter a spiritual domain.

That's why one can well imagine the frenzy of the Six Prefectures when three spiritual domains were unearthed on Blinsheet Island.

Most of the people living on the Six Prefectures Continent were actually still normal people.

The population on this continent was more than a hundred times that of Sikong Planet in the Lower Star Domain.

Relatively speaking, the number of mystic cultivators and spiritual cultivators was naturally more than a hundred times that of Sikong Planet.

From an overall perspective, mystic cultivators seemed to be found everywhere on the Six Prefectures Continent. The truth was, though, that relative to the continent's entire population, only one out of ten thousand could become a mystic cultivator.

Those that could tread into the spiritual realm after becoming mystic cultivators were even fewer.

After bidding the caravan farewell, Qiao Mu headed back to the academy while riding Qingluan.

This round-trip journey did not take much time.

The reason she said she needed a day's time was to give herself a greater leeway.

The truth was that this round trip only took around five hours, so she reckoned that she would be able to get back to the Lava Mountain Range in the afternoon.

“Masta, Masta, I seem to smell the scent of rainbow mushrooms.”

“Hm?” Qiao Mu was astonished as she patted the sapling’s head.

Rainbow mushroom?

She had heard of rainbow mushrooms.

Rainbow mushrooms were a very special medicinal material. It was the raw material for creating flight pills.

It was common knowledge that mystic cultivators level-seven and above could temporarily fly on their own.

But flying was definitely going to expend their mystic energy.

That was why no mystic cultivator would be so silly as to fly from one country’s northern region to its southern region. That was simply impossible.

Most of the time, they would choose to use flying mystic beasts and the like as their mode of transport.

But rainbow mushrooms were a very peculiar ingredient.

If this raw material was made into a high-rank flight pill, its effect could be said to be incomparably astounding..

Chapter 1708: Flight Pill

People who took a flight pill could fly without interruption for four hours. Additionally, their speed was comparable to that of hawks.

Qiao Mu couldn’t help but be astounded by how keen the sapling Qiuqiu’s sense of smell was.

“Where are you smelling the rainbow mushrooms from?”

“Masta, I can smell the scent of rainbow mushrooms from the small bag that the mercenary captain gave you just now.”

Oh?

Qiao Mu was surprised.

She had just casually put the small bag Captain Jin gave her into her inner world, so she hadn’t checked its contents.

Now, she took that small bag out from her inner world. At the same time, she set up a defensive barrier around her to block out the fierce winds.

Qiao Mu opened the small bag of food from Captain Jin and poured its contents onto the edge of her skirt.

These were indeed different types of fungi and mushrooms.

Captain Jin wasn't wrong in saying that this was just a small bag of food. There wasn't much in it, so it was only sufficient for showing their appreciation.

To Qiao Mu, this small bag of mushrooms really wasn't much to look at.

All kinds of veggies were growing luxuriantly inside her Paradise Planet, so she naturally didn't lack mushrooms.

In reality, she did not need this food that he gave her, but it wouldn't be too good if she insisted on not accepting Captain Jin's present.

Maybe the other party would feel uneasy and burdened from this debt of gratitude that was left unpaid.

That's why she accepted it, it was in order to set Captain Jin's mind at ease when she saw him like that.

Yet she didn't expect a rainbow mushroom to be inside this pile of mushrooms.

This rainbow mushroom was actually a very weird fungus.

Hearing its name, you would think that it gave off the colors of the rainbow. But in reality, it was dull gray like a shiitake mushroom.

It really was hard to spot when mixed in with a bunch of other mushrooms.

Qiao Mu plucked out that small rainbow mushroom and handed it to the sapling Qiuqiu. "It's this one. Can it still grow?"

The men of the mercenary group definitely wouldn't have treated the mushrooms with care when they were picking them. They would have simply twisted them off.

"Don't worry, Masta. It won't be hard to cultivate this rainbow mushroom. In any case, it won't be more delicate than the spiritual tea. Just have to plant it inside our Paradise Planet."

Qiao Mu nodded and handed this mushroom off to the sapling.

From this trip, she had confirmed that Tan Fa was very much related to the Clear Sky Faction.

Additionally, she had obtained a rainbow mushroom by lucky chance. This could be considered quite a haul.

When Qiao Mu returned to Academy Peak, she got grabbed by Qi Xuanxuan before she could return to her room.

"Qiaoqiao, where did you go? Why didn't you bring us along when something happened?" Qi Xuanxuan tugged Qiao Mu's sleeve and whined, "I was so worried about you."

"I'm fine." Qiao Mu nodded back at her. "I went to deal with that Tan Fa."

Qi Xuanxuan cried out in surprise, "That man who escaped by a transfer matrix along with Che Ruman?"

Qiao Mu nodded.

“Then are you okay?” Qi Xuanxuan grabbed Qiao Mu and looked her over worriedly. She finally heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that Qiao Mu did not get hurt. Afterwards, she beat Qiao Mu lightly with her fist.

“Really, how come you just acted alone when it’s such a big deal.”

Qiao Mu blinked and said with a shake of her head, “It’s not a big deal. I can handle it myself.”

“That’s not okay. Don’t you forget. We are a team, so we should naturally face things together.”

“Xuanxuan is right.”

Chapter 1709: A Helter-Skelter Life

The little fatty popped out from the small dirt house next door and admonished, “Qiaoqiao, we got worried when you suddenly rode off on Qingluan. Don’t do that next time.”

“Right, right. You have to discuss with us first no matter how big or small the issue. We are teammates on the same boat!”

Qiao Mu nodded earnestly when she heard this and promised, “Okay.”

Qi Xuanxuan broke out in a smile and laughed while grasping Qiao Mu’s petite hand, “There, it’s a promise! You can’t act alone next time.”

At this, Qiao Mu nodded docilely.

Qi Xuanxuan then tilted her head and filled Qiao Mu in with a smile, “Qiaoqiao, the two teams finally got decided while you were gone.”

“Besides us three, Duanmu Qing will also be in our team.”

“As for Ma Ta that guy, hahahaha!” Qi Xuanxuan couldn’t help but crack up when she recalled Ma Ta’s expression earlier.

“What happened?” Qiao Mu was surprised to see Qi Xuanxuan laughing nonstop.

Qi Xuanxuan’s laughter infected the little fatty next to her, and he also started chuckling.

“Ma Ta that guy competed with Big Bro Duanmu in martial arts, declaring that whoever won would stay. You know the result!” Qi Xuanxuan gushed while laughing, “You didn’t see him then! It felt like the sky was about to cave in on him when he lost. He was nearly about to cry.”

Qiao Mu smiled faintly, a slight trace of amusement rippling across her lips.

Suddenly, Qi Xuanxuan opened her eyes wide and shrieked, “Qiaoqiao! You’re smiling!”

Qi Xuanxuan then cupped her petite face as she made an exaggerated expression.

“Really, really? She’s smiling? Quickly let me see, lemme see!” The little fatty hastily pressed close and asked excitedly.

From his impression, it seemed like this little fellow who had been wearing a stoic and expressionless face ever since they met had never smiled.

Qiao Mu looked helplessly at their exaggerated behavior with a sigh.

She had no idea that Duanmu Qing had been watching the three of them chatting and laughing from afar in the light of the sunset. He had fallen into a daze.

The sun was setting over the west mountain.

At the same time, the entire Lava Mountain Range was enveloped in a layer of crimson under the shining light of the red sun.

He could not tell whether it was due to the scorching heat of the Lava Mountain Range or the light of the setting sun.

Duanmu Qing only felt that the smile of the girl in front of him seemed to have scattered the smog, and her otherworldly looks were like the spring breeze that melted ice and snow.

In his stupor, he seemed to see the illusion of a figure walk over slowly from the other end of the path and smile at him while calling, “Brother Qing.”

Qiao Mu’s life at Apex Academy began.

She practically spent every day in a tizzy.

The academy’s five spirit specialty mentors all took turns.

Don’t think that you only had to deal with a single spirit specialty mentor. In reality, even if it was just the wood spirit specialty mentor teaching Duanmu Qing, all the other students also had to be present.

Just like what the mentors said, even if you could not manipulate this spirit’s spiritual energy, you must understand and even know how to counteract it. After all, grasping its weaknesses would help you swiftly pinpoint your opponents’ flaws in battle and defeat them in a single strike.

Early morning, the martial arts arena on Academy Peak of the Lava Mountain Range.

Qiao Mu was wearing a short, pale greenish-brown garment and had her long hair up in a braid.

She extended her palm and produced a long, transparent water spirit whip

Chapter 1710: A Draw is Even Worse

“Senior Brother Lu, please!” Qiao Mu was fully focused on her opponent, a level-two spiritual cultivator with a grade-seven earth spirit.

“Junior Sister Qiao, please.” The other party cupped his fists with a nod.

The two figures flitted toward the center of the arena at abnormal speeds. Every attack produced a sweeping spiritual energy that cracked through the air.

Ma Ta was crouching while watching their battle, and he grabbed his head as he wailed, "It's over, it's over. We'll lose this time again! We'll lose! No more credits again."

Hua Tao couldn't resist chiding, "Why do you keep lauding the spirit of the enemy while belittling your own?"

"It's not like I don't want to! But didn't Senior Brother Hua Tao, you lost to Junior Sister Qiao on the first day? You got thrown outside the circle without even holding out for a single blow! Do you think Senior Brother Lu, who has about the same cultivation as you, will succeed?"

"Shut up!" Hua Tao glared at Ma Ta in chagrin. "Hey, no one will think you are a mute if you don't talk. Besides, I had just underestimated the enemy that day. Can you stop bringing that up?"

He couldn't even withstand a blow from the girl and got thrown flying out of the circle that day. That was f*ckin' going to stay with him his whole life!

"Senior Brother, it's not like I want to mention it. But look, it's all Senior Brother Lu can do to defend! Sigh, Little Junior Sister Qiao is so savage."

"Shoo, shoo, shoo." Hua Tao kicked him. "Shut up! Even if we lose this round, there are still three afterwards. And even if Duanmu Qing wins, those other two imps are definitely not our match! No matter how you look at it, it'll only be a draw! What are you so worried about?"

"A draw is even worse!" Ma Ta howled while holding his head.

From his understanding of the mentors' tendencies, they definitely wouldn't let them students just end with a simple draw!

In the arena, the little lady's water spirit whip left afterimages as it lashed one strike after another toward Senior Brother Lu. Senior Brother Lu and the other mentors were astounded.

The little lady was only but a level-15 mystic cultivator and had yet to break through to the spiritual realm. It was already very awe-striking that she could manipulate water spiritual energy, even if just barely.

But right now, her spiritual energy was actually replenishing in an unending stream.

How come someone who didn't have spiritual meridians have even more spiritual energy than him?

Senior Brother Lu flipped into the air and flew up onto a boulder. He cupped his fists and admitted with a smile, "Junior Sister Qiao, Senior Brother has lost."

Upon looking closely, everyone was able to see the faint strike of a whip on Senior Brother Lu's chest. It was precisely due to the water spirit whip.

Ma Ta heaved a sigh. "What should we do? It seems like it really will be a draw?"

He had an extremely bad premonition. Absolutely nothing good would come out of a draw!

The most miserable thing was that he didn't know what the mentors would do to them pitiful small fry.

“Qiaoqiao’s so great!” Qi Xuanxuan skipped over and clung to Qiao Mu’s arm, praising with a smile, “Qiaoqiao, I just knew you would win.”

“Next round, Group Two’s Kou Hongwen versus Group One’s Jiang Shaoxin.”

The little fatty immediately took out that double-headed hammer from his inner world and jumped into the arena. He hollered, “Senior Brother Jiang, come!”

Jiang Shaoxin squinted and brought out a black spear. Spiritual energy flowed about the shaft, making it obvious that it was a spiritual weapon.

“Junior Brother Kou, you be careful.”

The little fatty gave a shout and stomped hard on the ground with his left foot. His body acted like a small cannonball as he lunged toward Senior Brother Jiang Shaoxin..