

My Crown 351

Chapter 351: A Night of Sparkles

“Cough, cough, agh, cough, cough!” A middle-aged man covered in soot from head to toe crawled his way out of the kitchen debris and promptly waved his hand at the Holy Water Sect masters and disciples that surrounded him. “I’m al- cough, cough, alright, cough, cough! Don’t be worried, cough, cough, cough!”

Although Murong Xun looked unperturbed on the surface, the corner of her mouth was still twitching involuntarily.

As expected, the friend of a dunce is also a dunce! She shouldn’t have promised that dunce to stay at this place. Wasn’t it quite nice to find a random inn to stay at? Why did she have to save on those expenses? It was only for one night anyways!

Lu Yun lifted her sleeve to cover her mouth and chuckled with a “heh.” “It seems like our dinner plans tonight have fallen through.”

“Oh, it’s no problem, no problem! I’ll go prepare again. You all wait in the living room first!”

“You already blasted the kitchen. What can you still prepare?” Yang Xirong sent out a violent fist while she was at it, which landed heavily on the middle-aged man’s head.

Everyone’s mouths twitched slightly, feeling that the scene was especially comical.

“Then let’s just put up a spit and roast up something simple to eat!” Murong Xun turned her head to look at Crown Prince Mo.

“I’m fine with whatever.” Mo Lian smiled faintly.

“That’s right, Young Master Mo and Little Junior Sister just happened to bring back a large basket of vegetables. There’s even meat inside. This really is perfect!”

Thus, a bunch of people hurriedly set up a roasting spit, while others washed and picked over the vegetables. With the division of labor, the preparation went quickly.

When nightfall set in, three pots of stewed rib bone soup hung from the spit. The gurgling soup was already gradually releasing white steam, its aroma assaulting their noses.

Qiao Mu was afraid that there wasn’t enough food, so she stealthily brought out more from a storage talisman.

Everyone partook in this dinner very cheerfully. In the middle, Murong Xun even brought out two jugs of wine for a toast with her two junior sisters.

Under the night sky, the faint glow from the fire illuminated the little girl’s profile. Fireworks shot into the sky in the distance for some unknown reason.

The brilliant fireworks blossomed against a black backdrop, lighting up this night sky.

Mo Lian supported his chin with one hand, his gaze falling on his little stoic's face. The little girl held a small bowl of soup in her hands and lowered her small head to drink in mouthfuls. She looked so lovely and agreeable.

She would occasionally raise her head to glance at everyone from the sect. That gaze was also particularly touching. There was no trace of icy coldness, only tenderness.

But Qiao Mu didn't know that a night like this, with master and disciple toasting drinks and having a cookout, with everyone joking together, would perhaps not occur again in the future...

Her eyesight landed on her master, who was clinking glasses with Aunt-Master Lu. The senior and junior sister grinned at each other, confident and at ease. At least at this moment, everyone was extremely happy.

The scene of Murong Xun and Lu Yun downing their glasses, and Yang Xirong casting a glance at them while gnawing on a scalding pig trotter, the corner of her lips curling up, was like a lightly flowing ink painting that intruded into the depths of the little stoic's heart. Eternity was nothing more than this.

Peng! The fireworks in the distance dazzled a patch of sky, but also disappeared quickly.

After the group dispersed to return to their rooms to rest, only several embers on the spit burned faintly, small sparkles faintly lingering...

The next day, everyone got ready to set out even when the sky had barely brightened.

Riding horses could only get you to the Great Swamp. Afterwards, everyone had to abandon their horses and travel by foot.

A large region of wetland appeared before their eyes. Lush water plants grew on top of a black layer of accumulated river sludge. Repulsive-looking trees stretched out disorderly branches. These were pitch-black indicators of gloominess and dampness.

"Caw!" After letting out a low and raspy cry, a strange bird that was balding all over flapped its wings and took off from a crooked branch, flying over the group.

Chapter 352: The Great Swamp (1)

"Everyone, be careful." Murong Xun exhorted and then led everyone in retrieving the wooden sticks they had prepared beforehand from their inner worlds.

One by one, everyone retrieved their probing sticks from their inner worlds and carefully followed behind Murong Xun. Their procession proceeded silently without a word, everyone's attention on the mire, from which water plants flourished beneath their feet.

Knowing that the trek would be tough, everyone had already changed into high-legged riding boots before setting off.

This region of the Great Swamp was extremely vast. In addition, dead branches and trees intertwined throughout the entire swamp, so it was not suitable at all to fly while assisted by mystic energy.

Moreover, it was too distant of a journey. If by any chance a person's supply of mystic energy ran out after flying halfway, the latter part of the journey would be even more challenging.

So from the start, everyone had prepared to cross the Great Swamp by foot.

Qiao Mu was situated in the middle of the group, but towards the front. She stepped on the squishy sludge and leaves, leaving uneven steps as she proceeded forward.

After walking for a period of time, she raised her head to glance at the tree with twisted roots and intertwined joints that spanned the space above her. These disorderly tree branches practically covered the entire sky.

She disliked this place very much. It was so gloomy that it made people feel uncomfortable on the inside.

Crown Prince Mo's dry palm took up her little hand. He squeezed it, speaking in a low voice, "If we're quick, we can leave this area in three days. As there is a dense layer of methane gas above this area, normal flying mystic beasts are unable to traverse it. Little Seven is able to, but he's still in closed-door cultivation right now."

'The weak chicken should also be able to,' Qiao Mu thought inwardly: 'But the weak chicken's body is incomparable to the crown prince's golden dragon after all. If it had to carry 30+ people to fly across this Great Swamp, it would probably be a bit strenuous. Besides, there might not be enough room to sit on.'

But when all was said and done, it was mainly because the little fellow felt that the weak chicken was a bit unreliable. If something were to happen in the middle, she wouldn't even know who to find to spill her grievances.

"F*ck, there are snakes here! D*mn, it almost snuck under this great aunt's dress! So scary!" Chang Yuxi shouted incessantly.

Yang Xirong whacked the back of her head, berating, "As a young lady, don't speak so vulgarly!"

Darling Qiao's whole body quivered and almost reflexively jumped onto Crown Prince Mo, her hands encircling his neck.

It was as if the crown prince had received a hot potato: he couldn't just carry her or hug her or throw her off, so he embarrassedly met the three peak masters' murderous gazes that were screaming 'lecher!'

The entire group of Holy Water Sect's senior sisters turned their heads around in succession, their gossiping gazes gleaming at the two.

Huh, something's wrong! Isn't Little Junior Sister a bit too intimate with this Young Master Mo?

Tut, tut, Little Junior Sister reflexively leaping into the other party's embrace at the first sign of danger already showed a huge problem!

"Why aren't you putting her down already!!" Murong Xun immediately jumped out to break up the two lovers. With a darkened face, she stretched out her hand to pull the little girl to her side.

This punk, don't think she didn't discover how naturally the two were hugging—it probably wasn't the first time!

Crown Prince Mo lightly coughed and hurriedly stepped past Xu Shanshan and Xue Xiao to closely follow behind Murong Xun. "Peak Master, since you still need to lead the way, it's not too suitable for you to look after Qiaoqiao. It's better to let me do it!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he oh so naturally pulled a certain Qiao back to his side once again.

On the contrary, Qiao Mu didn't give much of a huge reaction. She only used her free hand to aggressively rub her opposite arm. The words Chang Yuxi said just now caused her to feel very grossed out. That sticky and icy thing almost snuck under Senior Sister Chang's skirt, oh my heavens...

"Don't be scared, Qiaoqiao."

Chapter 353: The Great Swamp (2)

The youth bent his waist and comforted in a low voice right next to our dear Qiao Mu's ear, "If it dares to get close to you, I'll immediately roast it into ashes."

Qiao Mu raised her eyes slightly to glance at the crown prince and subconsciously clenched her small fist. "No! I'm not scared of it! I want to beat it to death myself."

"Good!" The crown prince complimented the little fellow with a grin. "I knew my Qiaoqiao definitely isn't scared of anything."

Qiao Mu exhaled and felt all of her tense nerves slightly loosening. With his slender fingers clutching her hand, it felt like a source of energy had been infused into her entire body, putting her at ease.

Murong Xun glared at the youth with a darkened face!

Don't take a mile when you're given an inch, you punk! I was already being very gracious by letting you follow along, but now you're actually abducting my disciple right in front of Master's eyes? This is totally preposterous!

"Don't be angry, don't be angry!" Yang Xirong, who was walking beside Murong Xun, gave a chuckle. She fanned a breeze with her hands at Murong Xun. "I'm already indifferent to it all now! Seeing how outstanding my disciple is, it's normal that everyone wants to snatch my disciple from me."

"Who did you say was your disciple!" Murong Xun roared. Seeing that her senior sisters were having a go at it for the day again, Lu Yun couldn't help rolling her eyes. She pulled out an umbrella from her inner world and leisurely ambled behind them.

Chen Hanzi exasperatedly muttered, "Why are the two aunt-masters so disagreeable all the time?"

Doya spread out her small hands and said with a smile, "There's nothing we can do about it. During the sect's entry test, Little Junior Sister was clearly brought away by Second Aunt-Master, but then she was snatched away by Eldest Aunt-Master soon afterwards."

"This is the way the two aunt-masters interact... ah!" Another disciple from the Third Peak was still speaking when she suddenly felt her body sinking abruptly, and she let out an involuntary shriek.

“Ming Xia!” Chen Hanzi and Doya reflexively stretched out their hands. They each firmly grabbed onto one of Ming Xia’s arms, their complexions turning slightly pale.

The others also hurried over after being alerted.

Crown Prince Mo lightly squeezed the little girl’s hand, his expression slightly solemn. “This mire changes its bearing.”

It was undoubtedly alright when they walked past earlier, but the mire pulled Ming Xia in only when it was her turn.

“Don’t be nervous! Slightly tilt your body, and maintain that position!” Murong Xun retrieved the rope that she had prepared beforehand from her inner world. She quickly tied a knot and lassoed it over Ming Xia’s body.

Taking a deep breath and leaping upwards, Murong Xun pulled Ming Xia’s body out from the mire.

But a marsh crocodile gaping its huge mouth and baring its sharp teeth, with wet warts all over its face, followed subsequently. No, more precisely, it was a mutated zombie crocodile.

“Be careful!” It’s a level-three mutated zombie crocodile!” Qiao Mu gave a start and reflexively pulled out a crow repeating crossbow, shooting out an arrow without really aiming.

The crow-gold arrow shot past the marsh crocodile’s gaping teeth and flew out from the back of its head, creating a sizable orifice.

With a slop, that zombie crocodile was shot back into the thickness of the water plants.

Although Ming Xia was only grabbing onto a dried branch and hanging in mid-air, her eyes still woodenly stared at the zombie marsh crocodile that was shot back into the water by her little junior sister. Her whole body quivered uncontrollably.

The zombie crocodile was just short of biting onto her calf just now.

“Did you get hurt?” Murong Xun asked, deeply worried.

“No.” Ming Xia faintly shook her head, not yet recovered from her fright.

“Be careful of your surroundings!” The little stoic expressionlessly let out a low shout. The crow-gold arrow that just shot through the zombie crocodile’s mouth returned to her while carrying a stinky stench.

Chapter 354: The Great Swamp (3)

Qiao Mu’s arm extended slightly, and the crow-gold arrow flipped a circle in the air, gently flicking off the filth on it. Then, it landed steadily on the crow repeating crossbow.

At this time, one pair of gleaming red eyes after another appeared from the underbrush.

About twenty plus zombie crocodiles drifted towards the group at extremely high speeds.

“These really are disgusting things!” Holy Water Sect’s disciples put their backs against each other and sent out waves of mystic energy in pairs at the zombie crocodiles that were closing in.

Wherever a white light flashed, a zombie crocodile would be pulverized into pieces.

After all, this group of people were all great level-10 mystic cultivators and above. Dealing with these level-three mutated zombie crocodiles didn't use up too much of their mystic energy.

But they had to be careful not to let the zombie crocodiles close in, since getting bitten was not a joke.

Twenty plus zombie crocodiles seemed to be quite a lot, but when divided among thirty Holy Water Sect disciples, each person only had to face one or two zombie crocodiles.

Moreover, there were still the three peak masters present. The battle had already wrapped up without the crown prince intervening much at all.

Murong Xun obliterated the head of the last zombie crocodile before suddenly turning around to look at all the disciples. Her gaze finally landed on her youngest disciple. "Are you all alright?"

"We're alright." All the disciples exhaled a light sigh. Their gazes were still guarded in all directions in case a zombie crocodile had escaped and was going to attack suddenly once again.

Qiao Mu lowered the crow repeating crossbow in her hand, her expression slightly grave. "You must be careful! Don't get bitten by these things."

Everyone nodded successively with heavy moods.

"Let's continue forward." Murong Xun turned around to lead the way. Yang Xirong wasn't in the mood to joke around with her senior sister anymore and hurried after her.

"Alright, be more mindful and follow the group! Let's go quickly!" Lu Yun had all the disciples walk in single file, with her bringing up the rear.

With this zombie crocodile attack, everyone's expressions turned serious. For the rest of the journey, they were extremely cautious and incessantly used their sticks to probe the surrounding water plants.

After walking for an entire day, and having concentrated their complete attention in a guarded manner, when night fell at five o'clock, everyone dragged their bodies with heavy steps, extremely weary.

Murong Xun looked into the distance, but it was still a boundless expanse of wetland abunt with trees, seemingly stretching on without end.

Because the dark night completely enshrouded this area, everyone's pace slowed down considerably. The swamp would occasionally hiss and gurgle, causing people's hair to entirely stand on end.

The little stoic had already involuntarily snuck next to the crown prince, her tiny figure almost hanging onto his body.

She didn't know why, but every step she took in the night felt wet and slippery. Her steps were uneven, and it felt like there were countless snakes and worms scurrying back and forth beneath her feet. It caused rows of tiny goosebumps to inexplicably rise on her two arms.

Her body suddenly lightened, and her feet had already left that squishy wetland. She was welcomed by the faint scent of mellow muskroot on the youth's body.

The feeling of tiny goosebumps rising all over her body disappeared instantly. She only felt as if her body was soaking in a warm hot spring, cleansed and refreshed.

The sound of the breeze and the chirping of the insects were especially clear in the quiet night.

The crown prince lowered his head to look at her. That pair of glowing phoenix eyes letting out a faint twinkle that was reminiscent of stardust in the darkness of the night—looked so gorgeous.

“Sleep if you’re sleepy.” The crown prince chuckled lightly and spoke softly into her ear, “You’re in your growing period right now. If you don’t sleep, you won’t grow tall in the future.”

Chapter 355:

He is an Apothecary

What nonsense! She of course was going to keep growing tall. The little stoic humphed lightly and blinked her slightly weary and dry eyes on this moonless and starless night.

However, she actually felt drowsy after being reminded by this guy.

It was mainly because she had been highly concentrating her attention. Now, after being embraced wholly by a calming presence, she felt even more tired after relaxing her nerves.

“Be good and sleep awhile. I’ll call you when it’s dawn. Don’t be scared; there’s me here.”

The little fellow fluttered her long eyelashes, her big bright eyes closing minutely. “I can withstand it.”

Mo Lian chuckled softly and bent his head over slightly. He stretched out a hand to gently brush her small face. “Sleep, little one. You’re still small. There are lots of things that you don’t need to withstand. Be good and sleep awhile, and dawn will come quickly.”

Qiao Mu opened her small mouth, and her slightly closed eyes feebly fluttered. However, just before she was overwhelmed by a dense wave of drowsiness, surprise flitted across her heart.

An apothecary! The crown prince, this guy—he was actually an apothecary!

He had only gently stroked her, and just as she breathed that faint fragrance carrying medicinal power, her entire body succumbed to drowsiness.

Ever since her rebirth, this was the first time she discovered a superhuman with the powers of an apothecary!

Their every breath contained a hint of medicinal power. High-level apothecaries could even cause small injuries to disappear in an instant.

In her previous life, apothecaries were also the subjects of her “friend’s” research.

He crazily researched the mysteries of the inner world’s growth, in addition to obsessively researching apothecaries’ bodies. During that time, there were actually two more people that were locked into pitch-dark rooms like her.

As they were locked up individually, she had never seen those two people in person. However, when those cruel and inhumane “experiments” started, she could hear painful whimpers from two different people.

When she was carried by her “master” out of that small iron cage, those two people were probably already tormented to death, because she hadn’t heard their voices for a very long time afterwards.

She lived on pathetically as a tiny, beloved pet, cooped up under “Master’s” attentive care.

Before Qiao Mu drifted to sleep, her little mouth opened slightly and faintly called out “Mo Lian,” her brows creasing with unease.

Crown Prince Mo was such a powerful youth—it was impossible for that psychopath to abduct him for experiments, it was impossible, it was impossible...

This kitten-like cry stirred the youth’s heart, and he subconsciously lowered his eyes to look at her.

The little fellow’s small hand tightly clutched onto his collar in her dreams. She didn’t seem to be sleeping soundly.

Mo Lian closed in slightly and gently blew a breath. He smiled in satisfaction when he saw the little fellow relaxing her brows.

When Qiao Mu opened her eyes, her dazed eyes met with the gloominess from the intertwining branches, her consciousness still slightly confused.

Only when she heard her master Murong Xun angrily roaring, “Quickly put down my disciple, you punk,” did she turn clear-headed.

Peak Master Murong had restrained herself for the entire night. She was so angry that her liver hurt...

If it wasn’t because her heart ached for the child to sleep well, she would’ve long beat this punk up!

Although the punk had a good motive, it was all for naught when he freaking took advantage of her youngest disciple. Look at how practiced he was in carrying her in his arms—it was obviously because he was used to carrying her!

Crown Prince Mo helplessly set down the little girl. He was afraid her legs would be limp after sleeping for a night, so he stretched out a hand to support her soft, small waist.

“Qiaoqiao, good afternoon!”

Chapter 356: Be Careful of Baddies

The youth’s bright phoenix eyes contained a faint smile, which rippled outwards before her eyes.

Eh? She actually slept until high noon! The little girl removed the cloak on her body and threw it back to the youth. She couldn’t help facepalming in the process.

She then glared begrudgingly at Mo Lian.

It’s all this guy’s fault. How much medicinal power did he use on her to make her actually sleep until high noon?

Was this logical? What if someone asked in the future, 'How was your journey through the Great Swamp?' She couldn't tell that person: 'Heh, I was almost out of the swamp after a snooze!'

"Did you sleep well?" The youth put away the cloak with a smile. He raised his hand to rub her small face. "Did you dream of me?"

Dream your big ass! I can already see you the whole day and night. If you don't let her off even in her dreams, then is there still justice?

Seeing her turn aside her small head with puffed cheeks, Mo Lian involuntarily let out a light sigh, his expression saying 'How regretful, Qiaoqiao actually didn't dream of me.'

"Stop and rest in place for a bit!" Murong Xun irritably snapped, her knife-like gaze scraping two layers back and forth off of Crown Prince Mo's body. She hurried over to pull her youngest disciple back to her side.

They were apprehensive about that mire that would shift its flow without notice in the night. This was why everyone didn't dare to rest, so as to avoid getting caught up in danger.

After walking for the whole day and night, without really eating anything at all, even the three peak masters were slightly weary, not to speak of the disciples.

Everyone found a slightly drier and cleaner place and padded several more pieces of cloth underneath their bodies before sitting down to rest.

Lu Yun spoke, "Let's first rest for an hour. I estimate that there's still halfway to go."

"Sleep if you want to after eating. We'll call you when it's time to go," Yang Xirong also said.

All the disciples retrieved dry rations and water from their inner world and silently munched on two mouthfuls before dozing off with their backs to each other.

The little stoic sat next to her master and munched a mouthful of pastry before raising her head to look at the crown prince on the side.

She wanted to ask if he wanted to sleep for a bit, however—

"Disciple, hurry and eat. Rest again for a while after eating! You're still young and also always stayed in the sect to cultivate, so you don't know the precept that 'public morality is not what it used to be.' There are a lot of baddies in this world, so you must be careful and protect yourself!" Murong Xun turned the little fellow's head back with her hand and grumpily glared at Crown Prince Mo.

The latter put on an innocent face! Baddies definitely did not refer to him.

Once an hour had passed, everyone stood up to set out again.

Other than Qiao Mu, Holy Water Sect's many disciples were great mystic cultivators level-10 and above. Although the journey was extremely tough, it was definitely no problem to withstand it for several days, as mystic cultivators' bodies were exceptionally hardy.

The group continued for another half-day. In the middle, they encountered two instances of sinking into the mire, but both were resolved by the peak masters.

“This swamp really is annoying. Once someone sinks into it, it’ll pull you in deeper if you use mystic energy.” Doya used the stick in her hand to poke the areas where the water plants were especially luxuriant.

“It’s precisely because of this that Eldest Aunt-Master prepared so much rope.”

“We’re fortunate to have Master and the Aunt-Masters travelling to Xixia Valley with us.”

Murong Xun and Yang Xirong suddenly halted their steps and raised their hands to indicate for everyone to stop moving.

Everyone’s nerves that had only relaxed for a short while tensed up once again.

The sound of clanging travelled forth from afar.

There were sounds of circulating mystic energy and people’s shouts within the clashing.

Murong Xun and Yang Xirong took the lead to leap onto the intertwined and crisscrossing branches that stretched out crookedly in opposite directions. They quickly took a few glances at the source of the sound.

“There’s a party of people over there. It seems like they encountered quite a bit of trouble.”

Chapter 357: Profiting From Someone’s Misfortune?

It was far more than quite a bit of trouble—it was practically a matter of life and death.

The casualties of the hundred or so people that were surrounded by zombie crocodiles in the center were already over half. The remaining fifty or so people were still strenuously hanging on.

The reason why this party of people was in such a desperate situation was not only because they were so tragic to encounter over two hundred zombie crocodiles!

It was also because they unfortunately ran into the zombie crocodile king.

Oh my goodness, the zombie crocodile king was as large as a small knoll when it was just sprawling there. Its entire body was covered in warts, and it bared a dense mouth of sharp and protruding teeth.

There weren’t many mystic cultivators in the party, only about twenty or so people. How could those normal bodyguards withstand the zombie crocodiles’ attacks? They of course were reduced to the zombie crocodiles’ meals within minutes.

“Be careful, Princess Mi.” Seeing that a small zombie crocodile was about to bite onto Xiao Mi’s leg, a youth rushed out from the side and hastily sent out a wave of mystic energy to cast the zombie crocodile away.

On the other side.

With a light jab of his blade, a stern-faced youth dressed in a brocade robe claimed a zombie crocodile’s head.

With a white gleam of light, an ugly zombie crocodile’s head was chopped off and flew streaking across the air.

“Tsk, tsk, Baili Xi, look at you being so violent. Those zombie crocodiles don’t even dare to come near you!” The indigo-clothed youth that spoke was close in age to Baili Xi, about 17 to 18.

“Brother Xi, Brother Xi!”

“Baili Xi, your younger girl cousin is calling for you.” The indigo-clothed youth teased with a mischievous smile.

“Don’t speak so much nonsense.”

“Tsk, such a terrible temper. You not liking it doesn’t mean I like it either!” The indigo-clothed youth stopped his movements and gazed towards the plentiful dried branches. He curled his lips and called out with a smile, “Hey, the friends over there, can you come out and help! If we aren’t able to withstand their attack, those huge things won’t think you all are their relatives. They’ll still run over then to bite you all!”

Murong Xun knitted her brows. They had to traverse the area before them, and they definitely couldn’t take a detour.

“Master, let’s not go over. Let’s wait until they’re pretty much done fighting and then add on two strikes before collecting their supplies.” The little stoic’s icy voice caused the three peak master and the many senior sisters present to twitch their mouths. Even the two handsome youths in combat couldn’t help turning their heads to look over.

F*ck, was this the legendary profiting from someone else’s misfortune?

“Friend, you’re being inconsiderate by doing this!” Due to the dried branches growing all over the place, the two youths couldn’t discern who was hiding in the wetland. They could only sense that there were quite a few people over in that party, in addition to containing several especially powerful presences.

“Are you guys being considerate? You’re both part of the team, but you don’t even care about the life and death of your teammates. On what basis should other people intervene and help?” Qiao Mu sneered. Those two youths obviously had enough energy to spare in this zombie crocodile mob, but they had to be lazy and wait until the zombie crocodiles blindly pounced on them before striking.

And those zombie crocodiles also weren’t fools. They had a bit of intelligence. Seeing that those two youths were tough nuts to crack, they all ran over to besiege the normal bodyguards in the party.

It was this that caused the casualties in the party to be over half.

Since those two didn’t care about their subordinates’ lives, why should they as outsiders meddle in other people’s business? It wasn’t like they had bursting stomachs and needed an outlet to help digest.

“Tsk, judging from your voice, you seem to be pretty young, but the words you say are rather frosty and unsympathetic. You must be a little girl with so-so looks!” Just as Wei Nanfeng finished saying these words mischievously, he saw a deep red blaze shooting straight for his mouth.

Chapter 358: You Can’t Talk Bad About Him

F*ck! What kind of person was so vicious as to throw a blaze at his mouth just because he said something not to their liking?

Wei Nanfeng dismissed his mischievous expression and avoided the blaze with a sudden turn. He gathered up a wave of mystic energy in his hand to shoot down the flame.

However—

The blaze was only hit slightly off course by his mystic energy and shot past the side of his collar, scorching a lock of his hair in the process.

Wei Nanfeng's baby face that kept smiling the whole time suddenly changed its expression. Lowering his head to look, half of his indigo sleeve was burnt away by the falling flames. It was totally outrageous!

Wei Nanfeng's baby face totally sobered up. He squinted his eyes coldly and asked, "Who is it?"

Mo Lian simply pulled the little girl's hand and ambled out of the wetland growing profusely with trees. He stopped from a distance and threw a cold glance over at Wei Nanfeng.

Wei Nanfeng's sullen baby face immediately cleared up and abruptly grinned from ear to ear, saying, "Yo, so it was Crown Prince Lian. I was thinking who was so daring as to burn this prince's sleeve and hair. Tsk, so it was Crown Prince Lian gracing us with his presence. How does the crown prince have the leisure to be in the mood to come stroll through the Great Swamp today? It's not that Northern Mo's government affairs have all been properly taken care of, right? I heard that Northern Mo had a small base that was attacked by a zombie pack not long ago, and quite a lot of commoners died. As the crown prince, you should have quite a lot to do, right..."

"Peng!" The little girl raised her slender right arm without notice and suddenly shot out a crow-gold arrow.

A whoosh broke through the air, and the crow-gold arrow shot straight for Wei Nanfeng's no-filter mouth. It caused a certain person's baby face to completely freeze and contort.

Wei Nanfeng's hairs stood on end, and he hastily activated his defensive mystic weapon. He cut a sorry figure by doing a perfect side-roll and barely avoiding that crow-gold arrow.

He stretched out his hand to twirl a strand of long hair and intended to give a roar, only to hear a buzz closing in on the back of his head. It was so close that all the hairs on his body shuddered.

F*ck!! This arrow knows how to turn! It's coming again!

Baili Xi abruptly intervened, his stern face without expression, yet he caught that buzzing crow-gold arrow between his fingers. His skill in catching the crow-gold arrow only using the strength of two fingers amazed everyone present.

The little stoic raised her voice slightly and coldly shouted, "If you dare break it, I'll have you die!"

As soon as she finished speaking, the mystic energy in her whole body accumulated dramatically. As she flew on top of a horizontal branch, a talisman matrix suddenly encircled her.

A mystic-energy-guiding talisman matrix. This was a new talisman matrix that she learned that allowed her body to unceasingly absorb all the mystic energy in her surroundings for 15 minutes. She used it to replenish her rapidly consumed mystic energy.

Wei Nanfeng gawked slightly, the word “inconceivable” written all over his baby face.

What did he see?

This aloof little girl with picturesque features as pure and uncorrupted as fine jade was not more than 12 or 13, right? She actually set up a talisman matrix as her first move! It couldn't be that she was? A talisman practitioner?

Baili Xi gave an expressionless face in reply, but he loosened his grip and let that crow-gold arrow fly back to the little girl's side with a whoosh.

Qiao Mu stretched out her hand to receive it and observed it closely. After she saw that it was unscratched, she then coldly glared at Baili Xi before unhurriedly revoking the mystic-energy-guiding talisman matrix encircling her.

Mo Lian lightly leapt to the little girl's side. He carried her down with a smile and rubbed her head.

Wei Nanfeng gaped his mouth and only said after a while, “Little miss, I know myself that there are no grievances nor enmity between us. Why were you so ruthless with your first move?”

“You can't talk bad about him!” Qiao Mu turned her small head and glared coldly at him.

Chapter 359: Never Had Friends!

After a short daze, the crown prince's eyes curved and he chuckled softly, his mood so joyous that it wished for nothing more than to take flight.

If not for Qiaoqiao's great master eyeing him menacingly from the side, he wanted to embrace the little fellow this instant and give her a big kiss on her little stoic face!

And then in the next second, the crown prince was besieged by Wei Nanfeng's highly explosive lambasting. “You still freaking have the heart to laugh! I almost died!”

“You deserve it, offending my Qiaoqiao.” The crown prince lightly humphed, holding Qiao Mu's small hand to walk around them to leave.

Qiao Mu knitted her brows slightly, coldly sweeping a glance over at Wei Nanfeng and Baili Xi. She seemed to have caught onto something and lifted her eyes to look at Crown Prince Mo. “These two people with substandard characters are both your friends?”

She only just realized that Wei Nanfeng's tone of voice just now was more on the joking and teasing side, not cutting and sarcastic.

To be able to use such a familiar tone of voice to speak with the crown prince naturally showed that they were friends.

Besides, Wei Nanfeng also referred to himself as ‘this prince,’ which definitely indicated that he was royalty of some country. They were friends without a doubt.

Mo Lian lowered his head to meet the little fellow's cold gaze. His smiling eyes suddenly stiffened slightly, and his heart inexplicably sank.

Wei Nanfeng immediately beamed happily and waltzed up. “What do you mean substandard characters?! Without a doubt, little fellow you’re chewing out the wrong person! I’m good friends with your Brother Lian! We couldn’t become acquainted without fighting, and we’ll be friends from now on!”

The crown prince’s heart skipped a beat, and he practically wanted to immediately stop him from continuing to talk, but Wei Nanfeng rapidly finished speaking.

“Who is friends with you!” Qiao Mu suddenly pulled out her small hand from the crown prince’s palm and turned to glare at Wei Nanfeng’s handsome face. With a wave of her hand, she ruthlessly shot a burst of mystic energy that forced him back in a scramble.

“I, Qiao Mu, have never had friends! Never had friends!”

The little girl’s furious outburst was coupled with an unrestrained and murderous icy gaze. It was almost like she was swearing to the heavens, and it instantly caused everyone present to petrify into statues.

The word “friend” was a rift in her heart she was unable to cross over! It was like ruthlessly using a sharp dagger to fiercely stab into the depths of her heart! She hated hearing the word “friend” the most! Hated it!

“Who-who are you? How dare you use this attitude to bicker at my Brother Xi?”

However, Qiao Mu’s fiendish and hostile gaze caused the 16-year-old sweet little miss that was rushing over to instantly shut up.

“Qiaoqiao.” The crown prince suddenly felt like his voice was slightly hoarse. He frantically stretched out his hand to grab onto her little hand again, but she heartlessly slapped it away in the next second.

That instant, the crown prince felt like the sky was about to collapse! He didn’t feel his hand hurting; he only felt his heart hurting.

This was the first time he felt so frantic and helpless in his 18 years of life, and even from such a slightly baffling cause.

Why did things turn out like this? Why did they? Everything was still alright a moment ago! He had chipped away a bit of this little fellow’s shell with much difficulty, but in the blink of an eye, she once again wrapped herself up, not allowing other people to intrude even half an inch into her territory.

“You’re all cut from the same cloth.” Qiao Mu gazed coldly at them.

In the eyes of these aristocrats, everyone other than themselves were ants. But Qiao Mu’s bottom line was that at least when we’re teammates, we can fight alongside each other, and even fight to our deaths together. But we definitely cannot stab our teammates in the back!

As this kind of person, what kind of right did you have to call yourself my, Qiao Mu’s, friend? Scram immediately!

Qiao Mu subsequently trotted to her master Murong Xun’s side and said, “Master, let’s go. We’re not headed the same way as them!”

Chapter 360: A Heart Riddled with Scars

“That’s not true! Hey, Little Miss! Hey!” Wei Nanfeng chased a few steps with a confused expression. He then turned his head to secretly glance at the crown prince but was intimidated by a pair of pitch-black pupils’ hostile and wrathful glare.

“Lian. It’s not true, I don’t even know what the little miss is angry about.” How was his, Wei Nanfeng’s, character bad? His character couldn’t be better!

Baili Xi folded his arms to the side and suddenly opened his mouth to explain, “Strictly speaking, we can’t be considered teammates with those bodyguards. They are only Princess Xiao Mi’s bodyguards.”

“What? The little miss is angry with Lian just because of those dead bodyguards?” He and Baili Xi indeed didn’t do their utmost to slaughter those zombie crocodiles just now. They were just playing around with those things with a joking attitude.

Even if the bodyguards died, it couldn’t be blamed on them though!

Xiao Mi insisted on bringing along this many normal bodyguards on this trip no matter what, even when they had already told her that normal bodyguards were useless! How could you blame him and Baili Xi for that? Ultimately, who was protecting who? As their masters and superiors, did they need to protect several weak-ass bodyguards?

“Don’t follow me!” Mo Lian took out his anger on the two with a roar, and he hastily followed the leaving Holy Water Sect group.

Wei Nanfeng’s baby face also darkened subsequently.

How could they not follow? There was only this road out of the Great Swamp.

Quickly after, the Holy Water Sect group slaughtered their way into the mob of zombie crocodiles, demolishing them like cutting vegetables and chopping melons.

Mo Lian followed with a vicious purple blaze landing on the zombie crocodile king’s body to vent out the stifling and agitated feelings in his heart!

The zombie crocodile king that was still as brutish as could be a moment ago was instantly like a deflated ball, rapidly shriveling under the burning blaze.

“Qiaoqiao.” Mo Lian anxiously went up to explain, but Xu Shanshan coldly blocked his way before he could get near.

“Young Master Mo, Little Junior Sister may not be in a good mood right now, so you shouldn’t go bother her now.” Xu Shanshan wore a slightly displeased expression, her arm blocking Mo Lian’s path.

“Senior sister, I...”

“Young Master Mo, don’t say anything more. You had better back further away with your friends. I feel that Little Junior Sister doesn’t want to see you all very much right now.” Xu Shanshan’s sword hilt brusquely pushed against Mo Lian’s body lightly.

Mo Lian felt like this push shoved him 10,000 steps away...

Little Junior Sister was always so sensible that it made their hearts ache, yet you all still made her unhappy. With this, Xu Shanshan and the other senior sisters instantly lost their favorable impressions of Crown Prince Mo.

“Master, I once had a team.” The little stoic crouched next to a region of water plants that were completely dyed muddy with blood. She subconsciously held a branch in her hand to poke at the mud in the wetland.

“There were body cultivators, mystic cultivators, superhumans, and even normal people. They were each very useful, even if they were a normal person. They were striving to do their best for this team.”

“Later on, the environment became more and more wretched, and survival became even more difficult. Everyone started to die off gradually, and only me and one other teammate were left in the end.” The little stoic suddenly smiled.

But Murong Xun felt that her disciple was better off not smiling.

This smile was too bleak, and her eyes were enshrouded in a black fog. She couldn’t see a hint of radiance nor hope.

“At least when we’re teammates, we shouldn’t stab each other in the back. We should support each other, right?” The little stoic suddenly started sobbing.

Murong Xun had never seen such a sorrowful expression on the stoic’s face. Seeing her youngest disciple’s tears streaming down her face, Murong Xun’s heart ached to the extreme.