

## My Crown 41

### Chapter 41: A Knight in Shining Armor Saving A Damsel in Distress (2)

The person tied to the tree slowly looked up, and his disheveled hair, which concealed his face, slid to his waist.

Qiao Mu sneakily peeked out and took a cursory glance. The person had a pair of slightly upturned alluring peach-blossom eyes. Under the long eyelashes, the tips of his eyes' outer corners slightly tilted upwards. At first glance, his eyes looked like water was rippling inside, and his pitch-black pupils were very good-looking. Another glance, and you would realize that it was clearly the cold gleam of blades sitting at the bottom of his eyes, flickering in and out of sight.

From his looks, the youth looked around 12 or 13 years old. His thin lips were gently pursed, and the corners of his mouth were a bit cracked from dehydration.

Qiao Mu shrunk back, suddenly feeling a coolness envelop her neck inexplicably.

For some reason, why did she feel like the youth was peering at her?

Absolutely impossible! She was hidden so darn well, who could discover her? Qiao Mu clung onto the back of the tree like a koala, her entire person squashed against the back of the broad tree trunk.

"Mister Duan," the woman daintily called. "If you continue like this, you will die from thirst. Why don't you listen to me and drink a bit?"

"Scram." The youth's low and dimly magnetic voice drifted to Qiao Mu's ears and she could not help but curiously peek out to take another look.

The result was...

She abruptly pulled her head back behind the tree, astonished, and subconsciously patted her chest. When she peeked out earlier, she felt like she had been caught red-handed by that youth's beautiful peach-blossom eyes.

It turned out she did not misconceive being captured by someone's gaze earlier!

She had clearly hidden herself so, so, so well, and even those burly men did not notice her, so how did the youth discover her? He even used his glossy and beautiful eyes, which looked like they could start leaking tears at any second, to accuse her of "ignoring his peril."

Heh, did she look like she was someone who would stick her nose in other people's business? What a joke! She did not have the mood to act as a crowd pleaser all the time!

It appeared she probably would not attain any spoils today, so she should hurry, wrap up, and return home to eat while it was early so as to avoid attracting trouble for no reason.

Just when Qiao Mu was about to stealthily slip away, she suddenly heard the youth gently call in her direction. "Sister, why haven't you left already? Run quickly! Run, run, run! You mustn't end up in their hands..."

Crap...

Qiao Mu's escape turned into a slip, and tinges of fury slipped over her stoic face!

This punk was obviously trapping her!

Just as expected, the youth's shout caused the four burly men and the dainty-voiced woman to simultaneously turn around and look at her hiding spot.

Qiao Mu promptly ripped a speed talisman in half, and her speed abruptly tripled. She was akin to an arrow who had left the dock and fled toward the opposite direction.

Seeing Qiao Mu's burst of speed, the youth's eyes twinkled.

The four burly men were taken aback for only a second or two before they swiftly chased after her like a pack of wolves.

Qiao Mu pulled a strength talisman out and ripped it in half before kicking out and severing two withered trees off their trunks. The top half of the ancient trees shot through the air with a whoosh and headed directly for the four pursuing burly men.

Seeing this, the man at the front punched toward the flying tree.

He originally thought that when they impacted, the withered tree would surely be swept away by his punch. However, the truth was shocking. The man could clearly hear the crisp sound of the bones in his hand breaking and lowly groaned in pain.

#### **Chapter 42: The Prelude to Murder**

"What a bunch of useless nothings." The woman's seductive voice suddenly turned chilly. "Hurry and chase after her already! If you can't even deal with a child, what use do I have for garbage like you all!"

Besides the burly man whose hand broke, the other three men hastened their speed and outflanked the direction that Qiao Mu escaped.

The three men each went a different direction and formed a circle, looking as if they were about to catch Qiao Mu.

To their surprise though, the little girl broke out into an even scarier speed, and her little figure nearly turned into an S-shaped lightning bolt as she fled before the men's eyes in a flash.

The three burly men were truly stupefied! They had never expected a little girl from some remote village to overtake them in speed.

Although they were not like mystic cultivators who could easily break open mountains, cut rivers in half, and destroy cities with their supreme mystic energy, they had soaked inside special medicinal water since they were young and had reached an extraordinary level in their external martial arts.

Compared to normal people who did not even have the strength to truss a chicken, they were quite strong. Normally, their speed could reach that of a level-two mystic cultivator.

The speed of the low-level mystic cultivators might not necessarily match these external martial art experts.

However, the little country girl before them actually... had such strange speed? None of them expected this!

How could they have known that Qiao Mu had ripped two speed talismans in succession? So her current speed was an exceptional display.

All of this was to flee with her life intact...

She did not think that she would end well if she was caught by that dainty woman who spoke in an unnaturally dainty way.

"Whoosh!" Qiao Mu expressionlessly dodged the branches and flipped a few times in the air, evading the seven or eight broken branches that shot toward her. Seriousness flitting through her apathetic face.

"Kekeke." Familiar shrill laughter rang behind her, causing goosebumps to run over her body.

Qiao Mu turned around and coldly met the woman's upside-down features.

The woman absolutely could not be considered a beauty. She looked like she was older than 50, yet she still wore a bright pink dress with colorful head accessories and makeup. Her teenage-like attire was extremely stinging to the eyes.

Previously, Qiao Mu did not see the woman's appearance directly, but this glimpse caused her to nearly regurgitate her dinner from the previous night.

How could an aunty-aged person like her shamelessly call a 13-year-old boy "Mister <sup>1</sup> Duan"?

Qiao Mu's little face remained stoic as she looked at the woman with eyes full of disapproval.

"Won't you run anymore, little sister?" The woman twisted her waist as she walked toward her, giggling. "My, look at this, you are truly a fair and delicate little girl!"

The woman walked up and swept the sandalwood fan in her hand toward Qiao Mu's chin.

Qiao Mu was immediately assailed by a breeze of intense fragrance and retreated a step, her hands pausing in their kneading motion on her nose.

"Achoo!" Qiao Mu glanced at the woman, full of distaste, before backing up further. "Shoo, are you trying to stink me to death? Stay away from me."

"Also, I'm not your little sister. With your age, you could be my grandma 10 times over! Don't pretend to be young, it's too fake! You aren't young at all."

A crack appeared on the woman's powdered face, and her delicate expression completely shattered!

The girl's face was stoic, but her tongue was so sharp and poisonous! What a vicious heart at such a young age!

"Pft." The youth tied on the tree inconsiderately chuckled at this time.

This was merely adding oil to the fire, causing the woman's expression to crumble with anger, a sinister killing intent surfacing in her eyes.

#### **Chapter 43: Exceptional Good Looks Doesn't Exempt You from a Beating**

"Little girl, you might be young, but your guts aren't small," the woman sneered. "Don't you know? Many people end up dying because they run their mouths off."

"Like you?" Qiao Mu crossed her arms across her chest and seemingly stood in front of the woman carelessly, but in actuality, she was completely on guard from head to toe.

The woman flew into a rage, and her sandalwood fan suddenly transformed into a sharp weapon, slapping toward Qiao Mu's mouth with a whoosh.

From the looks of it, this woman was fairly angry at Qiao Mu's offensively insulting mouth. Her brutal attack intended to shatter her mouth as well as knock out her tiny pearly teeth.

However, Qiao Mu was already prepared. Seeing the woman wave her hand, she nimbly dodged to the side. Her figure was very dainty, and her person was also very lithe.

The direction she dodged toward just happened to be where a burly man was standing.

The burly man fearfully watched as the sandalwood fan flew toward him and wanted to jump to the side, but he discovered that his body had uncontrollably frozen.

Furthermore, it was precisely this moment of hesitation that allowed the sandalwood fan to smack into his head, and with a clap, his head exploded like a smashed watermelon.

Qiao Mu smiled. The repetition talisman she tossed just now restricted the dummy's actions and helped her gain a tiny fragment of time.

This was enough!

In a flash, Qiao Mu had already appeared next to the youth tied to the withered tree.

Perhaps not expecting the little girl's actions and reaction time to be so fast, the youth's secretly moving hands paused.

"Quick, help me untie..."

*Bang!* A tiny fist imbued with quintuple strength slammed into his abdomen without hesitation or a hint of protective feelings for a beauty.

And so, the child's fierce punch sent the youth, beautiful like fine jade, heavily falling back with a bang, along with the snapped off part of the withered tree.

If the youth's current mood had to be described in three words, then it would unquestionably be "What the f\*ck"...

My goodness! The youth was extremely piqued. In the entire country, from 80-year-olds to 8-year-olds, there was not a single female who could resist his smile, yet this youth was tragically “deflowered” by a darn girl.

If it were not for the ferocious punch that knocked his organs out of their places and caused his body to still faintly ache, he would seriously have to question whether he was dreaming just now!

This darn girl really attacked so ruthlessly!!!

However, this was currently not the best time for him to seek revenge against this d\*mn brat. The youth struggled to climb up from the ground. His hands were still firmly tied behind his back to the withered tree, but a black bead the size of a pigeon egg appeared between his fingers.

He turned around and suddenly flung the black bead towards the dainty woman.

At the same time, he swiftly sprinted forward with a broken tree over his head. His back silhouette was extremely comical. It was as though he was carrying a flagpole on his back, but his running speed was not hindered in the slightest.

*BOOM!* Half of Hulan Mountain was woken up from this gigantic commotion.

Many villagers of Qiaotou Village frightfully ran out of their houses and looked up at Hulan Mountain, clueless about the situation.

“What was that?” Qiao Mu could not resist asking.

The youth turned his head in alarm and met her stoic face.

“You???” D\*mn, she didn’t faint from the turbulence just now even though she was completely unprepared? More than that, he was already running at the top of his speed, so how did this d\*mn brat manage to catch up???

#### **Chapter 44: Vicious Children Aren’t to Be Trifled With**

“Help me untie the rope,” the youth carrying a ‘flagpole’ on his back said as he looked back with defeat on his face.

Qiao Mu turned a deaf ear and madly ran left and right, following his footsteps. This caused astonishment and shock to overtake the youth’s face again.

How was this odd child so clever? His footsteps were so unpredictable, and there was no rhythm to his steps, yet this child could terrifyingly catch up at such a young age.

Now, he did not have the time to use other methods to throw her off. The Core Ravaging Thunder earlier merely obstructed that harpy from Coitus Sect momentarily. Currently, his sole solution to elude the Coitus Sect’s encirclement and ambush was to swiftly enter the secret land.

Qiao Mu’s brows furrowed as she followed the youth.

It was not that she had no choice but to follow this person, but the commotion just now attracted quite a few footsteps and pursuit from all sides. From the looks of it, there were quite a number of people chasing this youth.

Of course, she could leave behind this unreliable youth and escape on her own; however, currently, everyone appeared to be encircling them to seize them, so if she wanted to run away, she would be extremely conspicuous.

Most importantly, she had a feeling that perhaps... Did these people come for the secret paradise?

*Swish!*

*Swish!*

Qiao Mu stared at the youth's back, shocked. He had gone through two rows of withered trees that intersected to look like the entrance of a cave, and then he disappeared before her eyes.

A flash went through her eyes, and she hastily shot up. When she went through the withered trees, her body felt like it touched a layer of shaggy film of water as it passed through in the blink of an eye.

What entered her sight was row after row of assorted stones—tall ones, short ones, big ones, little ones. There was no pattern to their placements, and they were heaped everywhere. It was akin to entering a stone forest. All that filled the vision were stones from top to bottom without an end in sight.

Qiao Mu's gaze landed on the youth in front of her.

He suddenly turned around, his silky long black hair undulating with his movement, and he stared at her with his wickedly upturned and alluring eyes.

"Hey."

Qiao Mu was currently examining her surroundings when she heard his low voice. She merely peered at him for a moment before turning her gaze elsewhere.

"Hey, imp." The youth raised his volume and strode toward her. He gently shook his hands which were tied to the withered tree trunk. "We are considered friends now at least. Help release me."

Qiao Mu slowly walked toward him. Then, suddenly, without any forewarning, she summoned her ferule, Inky, from her conscious and used it to fiercely slap him without leaving any room for protest.

*Slap.* A crisp slap rang as the black ferule mercilessly landed on his back and caught the youth off guard, causing him to stumble forward and nearly crash head first onto the ground.

The youth felt like he wanted to cough up blood! He had truly never seen a child as vicious as this imp. A soft little sis with a heart blackened into iron—it was describing this little imp before him, right?

"Ouch, ouch ouch ouch ouch ouch!!" The youth was suddenly pressed under Qiao Mu who had lunged toward him. Her knees were jammed into his waist, and her left hand was tightly pulling on the rope tied around him while the black ferule in her right hand was pushed against the back of his head.

"No moving!"

The youth pitifully froze. Please, he did not move a single centimeter, alright!

“What’s your name!” Young Qiao Mu shouted. Their current position was a bit odd. If it were not for his difficult situation right now, the youth would have wanted to laugh...

*“Your adorable voice held no threatening power at all!”*

“Duan... Duan Yue.” The youth donned on the look of a little white rabbit who would allow anyone to bully him, he pitifully twisted his neck with a pathetic look in his eyes as he apprehensively looked at her. “I... I am a good person.”

“You don’t look like one.”

The youth’s pretense nearly cracked on the spot...

#### **Chapter 45: Children Have Mutated**

*“Ex... excuse me, could you stop pressing against my vertebrae? It is seriously uncomfortable!”*

Duan Yue turned his head, moisture filling his alluring eyes. He really did give off a pathetic and pitiful feeling.

Unfortunately, he was facing young Qiao Mu. This child did not feel anything at all, so even if his expressive eyes kept trying to entice her, it was completely useless.

Whether a person had good looks or bad looks, it was all the same to her.

She stood up and tugged on the rope, pulling him up while she was at it before dragging him two steps forward.

Duan Yue wanted to rip his hair out inside his mind. His hands were bound to the tree, so he reluctantly followed for a few steps before forcefully pulling the rope backward. “Hey hey, Little Miss, can’t we make a deal?”

Anger rose in Qiao Mu’s eyes, and she promptly held up the ferule in her hand. “You want to resist?”

“No no no no!” Duan Yue hastily raised his hands in defense, his eyes pitifully looking at the girl from behind his hands. “Don’t hit me, don’t hit me. Let’s talk it out nicely.”

Qiao Mu fiercely yanked the rope. The rope might look like an ordinary brown-yellow hemp rope, but it could bind his hands, and he could not disentangle himself from it no matter what he did.

Hence, it must not be an ordinary hemp rope.

“This is a mystic weapon?” Qiao Mu peered at him from the corner of her eyes.

Duan Yue’s eyes flashed. Inwardly, he wondered, *“Just who is this little girl? She was clearly a village girl, but how come she has heard of mystic weapons?”*

*Bang!* Duan Yue stumbled forward and nearly stuffed his mouth with dirt.

It was not until his whole body laid flat on the ground that he realized he had been kicked by this vicious little girl!

*“Couldn’t you have a tiny bit of patience? It’s not as if I wasn’t going to answer, I just wanted to gather my words!! Waaah!”*

Duan Yue wanted to cry. He considered himself an arrogant and overbearing person already, but who knew he would meet someone even more overbearing today?

“What a load of drivel! Search for it!”

Duan Yue: *...Goodness, when did he speak any drivel? He had not spoken more than five words from start to end!*

“Search?” What? Duan Yue donned an “I don’t understand you” expression and was immediately served a round of beating.

This little guy truly did not hold back. Her fists headed straight for his resentfully handsome face.

Duan Yue nearly fainted from his anger.

“Stop! Stop it, stop! Ouch ouch!” My goodness, were all children so unreasonable these days?

Duan Yue’s eyes met the child’s. He was taken aback by the bone-chilling iciness in the bottom of her eyes, but he immediately shot up and walked forward with a grumble.

This child was simply an oddball who was brimming with violence from head to toe. She would turn berserk on the spot without a reason and attack his beautiful face! How terrifying!

“Cough, you should know where we are.” Duan Yue had a feeling that if he continued playing dumb, perhaps this child would seriously beat him into an actual dummy.

The child glared at him with a “You don’t say!” look. She waved her hand, not even bothering to speak.

“Let me tell you, this bad habit of you not speaking more than half a sentence but already thinking you have spoken way too much and are too lazy to continue is truly awful! You must fix it! You have to know that people must communicate continuously in order to fully express their meaning to each other... No no no! Search, I will search, alright! Don’t hit me again!”

“Cough, there is an estimate of five entrances to this mystic realm. Every entrance opens differently at different times.” Duan Yue paused briefly before purposefully looking back at this child. However, her face remained expressionless, and her eyes were devoid of shock and any emotion, completely placid like stagnant waters, as though she had already known about this.

## **Chapter 46: Really Tragic**

Qiao Mu pointed at the pile of rocks in front of them with her eyebrows slightly raised, her meaning clear as day.

*“Less babbling, more working!”*



Duan Yue secretly rolled his eyes at this. This little girl not only viciously ordered people around but also did not allow them to speak needlessly. He wondered where she got this bad habit.

Duan Yue inwardly sighed. "I have a map in my inner world, but my hands are currently tied behind my back, so I can't look at it."

The child looked at his tied hands and took a step forward.

Duan Yue suddenly took a step backward. He certainly did not think this vicious child would untie him this kindly.

As expected, the vicious imp actually flipped him over several times, forcibly dislocating his tied arms and twisting them toward the front.

*Shoot!! This f\*cking hurts...* Duan Yue really wanted to wail and curse at someone! However, in the next second, the withered tree that was yanked to his front knocked into his forehead.

*Sniff sniff sniff... My life is so bitter!*

With a forlorn expression, Duan Yue resignedly took a wrinkly sheep-skin map from the cloth folding in front of his chest.

However, that irksome log!!! It kept swaying in front of his eyes! He angrily turned to glare at her. "Can't you help chop off this annoying log?? How am I supposed to read the map?"

Qiao Mu glanced at his hands but did not intend to snatch it to take a look herself. She merely glanced up before swiftly looking away and crushing the log while she was at it.

*Creak!* The log lost a chunk, but the remaining majority was still bound to his hand. However, it did not interfere with his sight now.

This caused Duan Yue to turn more forlorn. He felt like he could not communicate with this imp at all...

Qiao Mu ignored him though and was lost in thought. She did not know why it was like this, but evidently, the secret paradise that did not emerge until three years later in her previous life had already been discovered by someone else ahead of her.

However...

Qiao Mu lightly frowned and speculated in her mind, *"Perhaps something similar also happened when she was seven years old in her previous life, and someone did come to the village to investigate the entrance of the paradise. However, she was still ignorant and completely clueless back then."*

Since the youth had a map in his possession, it naturally indicated that he had someone come and scout around before this.

Qiao Mu discovered that this rope was extremely useful. It allowed her to control the youth in her hands, and it also prevented him from escaping in the middle and ditching her inside this deserted place.

Qiao Mu was in a pleasant mood, but the youth was extremely discontent.

He felt like this little brat was treating him like some sort of large dog and leading him by a leash.

Ever since he ran into that old witch from Coitus Sect in the middle of his journey, Duan Yue had felt like this period of time had been utterly dissatisfying.

He stopped, causing Qiao Mu to stop as well, using her eyes to look at Duan Yue in question.

*“Here?”*

Duan Yue was sullen with anger congesting his chest. *“Why must this imp be so lazy? Just where did she learn this bad habit? Did she think someone will understand her meaning instantly through her little eye gestures?”*

“Yes, here.” Duan Yue took a deep breath.

“Ah.”

Duan Yue had already completely accepted his fate and stuffed the map back into the front part of his jacket. However, in reality, he tossed it back into his inner world, and a black bead the size of a dove egg appeared in his hands.

Qiao Mu recognized this bead as the bead that had previously sent half of Hulan Mountain shaking earlier.

She hurriedly tightened her hold on the rope with an “If you dare to be reckless, I will kill you this instant” expression on her face.

The corner of Duan Yue’s mouth twitched and he exasperatedly said, “The pathway is beneath us, so I need to blow it up. Don’t worry. I am here, so the Core Ravaging Thunder won’t harm us in the slightest.”

#### **Chapter 47: Without a Will to Live**

After he cast the Core Ravaging Thunder down, it exploded not far from their feet. However, its terrifying strength did not spread to them and was restricted to a small area by Duan Yue.

After the smoke dissipated, Qiao Mu led Duan Yue by the rope wrapped around his wrists and peered at the ground.

The heaps of stones had turned into several piles of powder by the Core Ravaging Thunder.

A pitch dark tunnel entrance was revealed beneath them, its end could not be seen.

“Let’s go.” Duan Yue urged behind her. “This entrance will move and when the time is up, it will automatically seal again.”

Qiao Mu turned around to look at him, a meaningful look flitting through her eyes.

This guy was truly resourceful! He could use the strength of a concealed weapon to directly rip open one of the entrances to the mystic realm.

Noticing Qiao Mu’s expression, Duan Yue explained, “Although we can use strength to rip this place open, the other entrances aren’t as easy.”

Qiao Mu looked away and took a few steps toward him before shaking the rope in her hand. "Go down and scout the path first."

Duan Yue inwardly gritted his teeth!

This imp was so young but already had such a devious and ruthless personality. Duan Yue wondered who she inherited it from. He walked forward in resignation, a glint suddenly flickering through his eyes as he suddenly jumped down without any warning.

An icy smile spread across Qiao Mu's face, and she released the rope, allowing him to fall freely. Not only that, but she also took a step forward and extended her hand to pull a few giant round rocks from nearby to her feet. Then, with a hard kick, the rocks dropped down one by one.

"Ahh..." Duan Yue's tragic cries echoed from deep inside the giant hole.

The youth suddenly felt like he had dug a hole and then buried himself inside! He originally wanted to just suddenly jump and drag the girl down with him to scare her so that he could gain the upper hand for the rest of the journey.

He had thought that at her young age, the child would not be able to decisively react in time when faced with a sudden situation like that.

Yet... the child actually released! The! Rope! Without any hesitation!

Qiao Mu glanced at the pitch dark hole from the corner of her eyes with a smirk before lightly remarking, "Idiot."

Then, she walked to the side of the hole and looked down.

There was a set of straight and narrow stone stairs that were carved to the side of the hole. It was completely hidden in the dark, so if a person did not look carefully, they would certainly not see it.

Qiao Mu languidly walked down the straight and narrow stairs, silently counting the number of steps.

When she counted to 100, a faint green light rushed into her sight.

"Hm?" The sound of quiet trickling water drifted to her ears.

It appeared this was the bottom. As she placed both feet on the ground, she sensed warm and moist water soaking the bottom of her shoes.

The underground water flowed to here? Qiao Mu slightly furrowed her eyebrows and walked forward a few more steps. She found Duan Yue sprawled out on his back, looking like he lost the will to live as he silently watched her.

With a wave, Qiao Mu summoned the ferule from her conscious and walked to Duan Yue.

She had just raised her fisted right hand when Duan Yue shouted with contracted pupils, "Hold on! The shoulder bone in my left arm is broken already, so I can't attack for the time being. If you keep me, I can teach you how to refine the energy inside the mystic realm and use it as your own."

Qiao Mu raised her eyebrows and withdrew her ferule, taciturnly agreeing to his suggestion. However, viciousness permeated her subsequent actions, and there was not a single hint of friendliness.

#### **Chapter 48: Paradise**

When the youth leaped down earlier, he did it with the intention to trick her.

If she had not reacted fast enough and let go, then perhaps she would have already been stabbed in the back and left in the lurch by now.

Even adults would not be unaffected by a forceful yank that fast, let alone her with her tiny build. If she had not landed on the ground and instead ended up swinging in the air, then she would have ended up under the mercy of this idiotic youth.

What a joke! How could Qiao Mu allow him to take control of the situation!

“Be good.” Qiao Mu sent the youth a menacing glance before pulling on the rope around Duan Yue’s hand and dragging him forward.

There was a gushing stream beneath their feet. The stream was not wide, but it zigzagged and extended very far.

Qiao Mu did not lead Duan Yue very far before their surroundings started turning brighter.

Because Duan Yue had been hit by several giant rocks successively while he was falling, besides his left shoulder bone which was fractured and could not be lifted, there were bruises and cuts scattered all over his body.

From this, it was apparent how merciless the little girl was earlier; she did not hold back at all.

“You...” Duan Yue wanted to speak but immediately found stars filling his vision, and his throat was so dry that he nearly lost consciousness.

However, Qiao Mu did not notice his peculiar state. Instead, her eyes were completely glued to the beautiful scenery in front of her.

When she entered the paradise in her previous life, it was almost thoroughly pillaged by people, and nothing valuable remained; therefore, the entire mystic realm was near the brink of collapse from the devastation of those people.

So how could she have seen such a tranquil and beautiful landscape like now?

The paradise appeared to be a secluded valley with magnetite mines encircling it—their peaks undulating up and down and extending as far as the eye can see. The amount of magnetite inside was countless.

There was also a peach blossom forest, and a small verdant lake sat next to it, its surface placid.

When they walked down the paved pathway, they discovered that the stream under their feet had branched from this small lake. The lake water appeared extremely clear and calm, and the energetically swimming fish in the water could be seen lucidly through the jade green surface of the lake.

There was a thick sense of mystic energy all around them. With the mystic energy so abundant, it would be a pipe dream to be able to absorb everything in a few days.

Qiao Mu frowned. She could not stay here for too long. If she was unable to return by night time, her mother would be worried to death.

Hence...

She turned her gaze to the youth who had his head hanging down. Qiao Mu then yanked his wrist. "Refine, how!"

To her surprise, as soon as she said this, the youth crashed onto the ground, sprawled out on his back, with a bang.

It was only then that Qiao Mu belatedly noticed the youth's abnormality. She gently kicked him with knitted brows. "What?"

*"Don't play dead! Get up!"*

What a weakling! How could he be on the verge of dying simply from being hit by a few rocks?

The youth opened his mouth feebly. He really wanted to tell this imp that he had not consumed any food or water for several days already, so this was likely his starvation and dehydration hitting him at full blast.

He needed food and water to replenish his energy! The youth strenuously dragged a finger over the plush green ground and wrote "Water."

Qiao Mu frowned and peered down at him. "You want to drink water?"

*"Men were truly a hassle!"* Qiao Mu hauled the weak youth to the lakeside. "Drink then!"

#### **Chapter 49: Germophobia is an Illness**

*"What???"*

The youth's eyes nearly popped out of their sockets! Inside of him, 10,000 giant beasts were roaring, *"This d\*mn girl was making him drink this dirty lake water!"*

How could he drink something like this??? It was so filthy. Unless it was specially processed, wouldn't he have diarrhea from drinking it! How could that do! He was incredibly noble, so regardless of how much he had fallen in hard times, he must drink filtered water!

"Give... me... dew... water..." Duan Yue brokenly uttered.

In consideration of how his hand was broken and his miserable state, shouldn't the child be magnanimous and lend him a merciful hand?

However, reality showed that the child had already fed her kindness to the dogs.

After hearing Duan Yue's words, the child instantly answered with a snort, and an irritable impatience pervaded her eyes. She grabbed onto the youth by his long hair and heavily pressed his head down, dunking his entire upper body into the lake water!

"Gurgle gurgle..." Taken by surprise, the tragic youth drew in a mouthful of water and instantly felt like the entire world wanted him to suffer!

"Ah... cough cough cough." The youth struggled but remained pressed down by the child, so he swallowed another giant mouthful of water with a gurgle.

"Puff... ah, cough cough cough." When Duan Yue's head could finally emerge from the water, his upper body was soaking wet.

"You!" His handsome face was flushed, and this was the first time that he was so enraged.

Heavens knew how many filthy microbes he had just swallowed! Heavens knew whether these things would wage a war in his stomach and cause him to be in so much pain that he would lose the will to live!

Qiao Mu dryly glanced at him, the disdain in her eyes could not be any more evident.

"You... you country people, are you all this unparticular? Don't you know? I have never drunk dirty lake water like this in my life! You!" This was simply too infuriating!!!

Qiao Mu finally understood why this fool had gotten himself into his current dehydrated state. It turned out that he was probably distasteful of how "dirty" their water containers were, so he did not drink a single sip of water.

Qiao Mu snorted, derision and indifference clear as day in her eyes. "You dislike its filthiness? That's because a delicate young master like you has never experienced a true shortage of food and water. When you are near death, even if it's only a piece of dried tree bark and a teaspoon of water so dirty that you can't even see its color, you would still eat it and drink it."

"How could you be so unreasonable..."

"In order to survive!" Qiao Mu interrupted the youth's words and met his dumbfounded gaze. She continued with an aloof expression. "When survival is the sole thing that remains in your conviction, then you won't care about anything else! Clean? Dirty?"

Qiao Mu sneered. "Soon, you won't have a choice."

In the late stage of the zombie outbreak in her previous life, all the water sources had been contaminated, so it was difficult to find any clean water sources on Sikong Planet. No one could prevent this eminent calamity from exploding.

"Choice?" Qiao Mu snorted. "*First, you must still have your life in order to have the power to be choosy!*"

If he considers clear lake water whose bottom could be seen as dirty, then what should the people who were able to drink even muddy water do with themselves?

Duan Yue looked at the child, startled. He felt like the iciness that was concealed deep inside her eyes while she was speaking to him was so sharp that it could freeze everything.

She might look like she was looking at him, but she also looked like she saw the not so distant future through his face. There was a trace of indifference and numbness in her detached gaze.

Duan Yue took a deep breath and repressed the fury that wanted to erupt in his heart. However, when he was about to speak, an arrow with gales chasing after it shot through the air and landed next to his feet.

## **Chapter 50: Should We Perish Together?**

“Hahaha.” A hair-raising string of laughter echoed in the valley.

A woman in brilliant pink clothes slowly appeared in front of them with a pleasant smile while waving the sandalwood fan in her hand.

Behind them, there were also about 20-30 people, including men and women, both old and young.

“Mister Duan, thank goodness we had you to lead the way for us. Otherwise, we wouldn’t be able to find this mystic realm so effortlessly. The Duan Clan truly deserves to be called a generational concealed weapon and reconnaissance patrician family! Your grasp of information is accurate indeed, hahaha!” The woman blew a kiss toward Duan Yue and winked, daintily smiling.

Qiao Mu’s face froze. She resisted the impulse to throw up and turned around to look at the displeased Duan Yue.

“While you were here dawdling, they caught up to us! Hurry and throw that whatchamacallit thunder at them!” The little girl nodded at Duan Yue, using her eyes to intimidate him to “Hurry and do as I say!”

Duan Yue, however, was madly crying nonstop inside. *“Sister! Do you think that Core Ravaging Thunder is like a carp in a fish market, and you can have as many as you want?”* An immensely destructive concealed weapon like this was extremely hard to make, so he had a mere total of two on him, and he had used them all already. Where would he have the supply?

Qiao Mu sharply glared at him, her ruthless gaze continually hinting at him. In a flash, he understood and fictitiously reached into his chest fold as he said, “However... the Core Ravaging Thunder is super powerful. If we throw it here, it would cause the whole mystic realm to collapse, right? We won’t end up well ourselves.”

“Haha,” Qiao Mu suddenly chuckled.

Duan Yue’s searching motion froze as he stared foolishly at the girl. He felt like he had not seen a second expression besides indifference on her face ever since he met her, yet this girl actually laughed just now?

However, she was better off not laughing! Her laugh was so artificial. She merely made the laughing sound, but her face remained stoic without a centimeter of change. Had anyone ever seen a desynchronized laugh like that?

“Give it!” A fierce glare and Duan Yue instinctively dug out something to hand to Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu received it and held it in her palm, then she made a show of raising her right hand high up in the air, as if she was about to throw it down. This caused the onlooking disciples of the Coitus Sect to nearly have a heart attack.

The woman was the first to screech, “Stop stop stop stop! Little Miss, let’s discuss this, let’s discuss this!”

Qiao Mu expressionlessly turned to her. “What’s your name?”

The woman was stupefied. She felt like this commanding tone was a bit off, but perhaps due to faulty reflex, she automatically responded, “Heh, Yao Ji—Ji. I’m called Yao Ji <sup>1</sup> ! I am the Left Guardian of Coitus Sect. Let’s slowly talk this over, alright?”

What a joke! With a strength of the Core Ravaging Thunder, if she tossed it down, then it would really collapse the perfectly fine mystic realm, and no one would be able to gain anything from it. What sense was there to that?

Coitus Sect had come in search of wealth and they coveted the numerous magnetite mine resources inside this mystic realm. How could they allow it to be destroyed? How could they return from the treasure mountain empty-handed?

Even thinking about this treasure land being destroyed would cause their hearts to ache.

“Retreat!” Qiao Mu tightly clenched her right hand.

The people from Coitus Sect subconsciously retreated two steps. Suddenly, someone in the crowd shrieked, “Ahhh, there’s something...”

*Swish, swish!* It was like several streaks of lightning flashed past the people’s eyes. Then, the people who were attacked all collapsed to the ground in pain while clutching their wounds, their faces turning black.