

My Crown 491

Chapter 491: Great Migration

“Seeing as you have a bit of fate with the Holy Water Sect, I’ll let you all off. Leave swiftly, and don’t come back.” After the voice that sounded like dropping ice beads rang out again, another gale swept over and abruptly pushed them and their belongings out of the entrance of Xianghe Village.

The four people simultaneously broke into a cold sweat. They scrambled to get up and hastily retreated from Xianghe Village’s vicinity without a word.

They only stopped running when they got far away. They looked at each other, their hearts panicked by fear.

“That really was a narrow escape just now.” One person remarked while wiping his forehead of cold sweat.

Another person nodded and then looked at Zhang Yue with a complicated expression. “Little Zhang, if it were not for the story you told which touched that expert’s heart, I’m afraid that we wouldn’t have been able to return today!”

That horrifying aura earlier left them with lingering fear even now.

Judging by the voice, the maiden seemed to be quite young, but her cultivation was simply shocking.

As expected of a large sect, even if it were exterminated, its surviving forces were not to be belittled.

“Let’s go, go, go. Eldest Brother, we should leave quickly!” They had only heard a voice and were booted out without even seeing the other party. How would they dare to still loiter? They hurriedly packed up their belongings and left in haste.

When Zhang Yue turned around to look back at the Holy Water Sect enveloped by the entangling vines, he let out a long, long sigh.

Not long after the four people left, Qiao Mu’s wispy figure stood there indistinctly, gazing icily in the direction that they had left in.

She had intended to kill them just earlier.

But it was just like that person had said; Zhang Yue’s story had touched her heart, which was why her attitude had softened slightly.

Sixty ebony talismans floated at her fingertips. They suddenly flashed brightly while hovering in mid-air before vanishing in an instant.

Qiao Mu then left with a flick of her sleeves.

It was only after a long time had passed that a thin and frail rat scurried out from the cracks in the walls, running forward aimlessly while squeaking.

All of a sudden, a force obstructed its way, flinging it away into a squeaking mess.

A formless and transparent barrier appeared for a second before disappearing into thin air once again.

Qiao Mu strolled the whole way to Five Moon City.

She saw that the city gate was fully opened, and a large procession advanced forward at an extremely slow speed.

It seemed that what Zhang Yue and his companions said was true; Five Moon City was currently carrying out a great migration.

However, it was a distant journey to the north. She didn't know how many people would be left after these over ten thousand people started migrating to the large fortifications in the north.

Qiao Mu shook her head and bypassed the crowd towards the horse seller inside the city.

Unfortunately, she was unable to purchase a horse there.

The reason was that the wild horses that they normally captured had basically all mutated. As for their domesticated horses, Five Moon City's residents had bought them frenetically until they were all sold out.

"Little Miss, you're travelling to the north too, right." The owner was wearing a shabby jacket and rubbed his hands, saying, "They all say that it's colder this year in the north, and there've been several snowfalls already. I reckon a majority of the people will freeze to death on the way, sigh."

Qiao Mu didn't say anything and turned to leave.

As the owner gazed at her back silhouette, he muttered quietly, "Such a little miss, but she has such a cold and detached temper."

"Make way, make way, make way! F*cking make way!"

"What are you all doing blocking the way. Scram!" The person repeatedly berated as he whipped the crowd several times, which caused everyone to scream.

"What are you doing?" A furious shout rang out.

"The city lord came. City Lord, sir." The citizens on the street called out.

Chapter 492: Prisoners' Carriage

It was one of the caravan's foremen that was whipping people the whole time. He sported a fiendish and overbearing look, which was out of place among the surrounding commoners.

"Stop!" Wu Mantian rushed over with two of his personal experts. His eyes narrowed slightly as he looked at the foreman that was committing assault.

That person was a typical boorish beer belly. He was about forty years old and wore a washed-out dark blue robe. His image, at least, allowed him to put on airs of sophistication.

"Do you know who I am? You, a tiny Five Moon City City Lord, also dares to be insolent before me?"

Two level-10 experts stepped out from Wu Mantian's side. One of them grabbed the boorish beer belly and dragged him down from his horse in one move.

The boorish beer belly broke out into curses. "You're all revolting! I am Second Manager Qi of Northern Mo's State Uncle Zheng's Estate! Even you, a city lord, dares to manhandle me?"

"So it was Second Manager Qi." Wu Mantian cupped his hands with a sarcastic smile. "Let's talk out any issues you have cordially. If you need to hasten on with your journey, we can just clear out a path for you! You don't need to thrash people with your whip; it'll scare others."

"Humph!" Second Manager Qi turned his nose up to the sky and humphed loudly. He cast a glance at the two level-10 experts who wore foul expressions, and he didn't dare to unscrupulously blame Wu Mantian any further for having a bad attitude.

"Since the city lord understands the situation, I won't say anything more! Please clear the path, then! My trip this time is by the order of our Noble Consort Zheng." Second Manager Qi went through the motions and cupped his hands towards the northern sky. "Her Highness is waiting for this subordinate to hurry back and make a report."

"Certainly, certainly." Seeing that he had even brought out that whoever Noble Consort, Wu Mantian couldn't argue with him further. He whispered to the two experts beside him to have them first disperse the congested citizens ahead.

The eight-year-old Wu Lingqu pursed her small mouth as she stood beside her mother. She muttered quietly, "Mother, I dislike this person's ugly face."

The City Lord Madam tugged her daughter's small hand gently, gesturing for her not to speak.

Qiao Mu looked on coolly as a bystander at the edge of the crowd. The disturbance just now had caused the area to be even more crowded, so she temporarily stood under the eaves of a house nearby.

At this time, she swept her gaze over and saw that around a dozen people were escorting the caravan, which was pulling along two wooden prisoners' carriages.

About five to eight people were imprisoned inside each wooden cage, which amounted in total to 12 to 13 people of all ages and sizes.

A five to six-year-old girl was standing inside the wooden cage. Her skinny and feeble hands clung tightly to a wooden post as she looked yearningly at the people outside.

The crowd was starting to become restless.

An elderly person beside Qiao Mu sighed as he shook his head to lament, "Sigh, they went to the Dark Sea to capture merfolk again."

"It's really pitiful. Some of them are still children."

Qiao Mu's gaze landed on the elderly and young in the two carriages, and she saw each of them look at the citizens outside with hopeful eyes.

But even their city lord Wu Mantian couldn't interfere with Noble Consort Zheng's affairs, not to mention them as common people.

If they wanted to stick their nose in other people's business, they first had to have the life to do so.

“Merfolk?” Qiao Mu muttered to herself.

The elderly person turned to glance at her but was shocked by the facial features of this cold little girl dressed in red.

Under the fiery-red robes, the little girl’s waist was so slender it seemed like it would break with a grasp. Her lips were naturally vermilion, and her hands were tucked into her sleeves, holding onto a small hand warmer. She had crescent brows and starry pupils, and her beautiful pair of pitch-black eyes were like a deep and revolving abyss that could seemingly suck people in with just a glance.

Chapter 493: Release Them

It really wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that a celestial being had emerged from the womb to descend on earth.

With such stunning beauty even at this young age, she was certainly going to grow up to be a femme fatale in the future.

Qiao Mu was only mumbling to herself and hadn’t intended for someone to strike up a conversation with her.

However, two to three people immediately struck up a conversation with her when she spoke.

“Little Miss, these merfolk usually live in the Dark Sea, and they don’t go ashore readily.” When a man next to her spoke up, his chubby wife standing next to him instantly twisted his pig ear and started scolding, “Look look look, why aren’t your eyeballs popping out? Is she that good-looking? Ah??”

“N-Not good-looking, not good-looking! Wife, you’re the prettiest! The prettiest. D-Don’t twist anymore, don’t twist it! My ear, my ear!!” Wuwuwu, saying such untruthful words, I wonder if the Heavens will strike me with lightning, wah!

Not many people paid attention to them as the couple made a din while departing.

At this time, the road was still congested with people everywhere. Even at this point, a lot of people were still hastily packing up their luggage and carrying basket loads out of their homes.

“Merfolk usually advocate for peace. But apparently, at the start of this year, the waters were not too calm, so when merfolk occasionally went ashore to look for food, they were probably captured then.” A cyan-clothed scholar nearby continued.

At this time, Qiao Mu’s gaze met that of the little girl’s.

She reflexively soothed her chest with her hand. The reaction she had right now, like a faintly burning spark, was like the first time she saw the sacred water and it had charged at her body.

She felt a bit stifled in her heart and didn’t feel too comfortable.

The little girl’s longing eyes as she peered at the world outside reminded her of the girl that had died in her arms two years ago.

Inexplicably, she wanted to be willful right now.

After the crowd dispersed towards the two sides, Second Manager Qi mounted his horse and led his men on their journey while pompously holding his head high.

Qiao Mu gazed coldly in his direction before suddenly disappearing from her spot.

The cyan-clothed scholar was stunned. He only felt that the little girl next to him had vanished without a trace in the blink of an eye.

However, when he raised his head again, he saw that figure clothed in a fiery-red standing before the caravan as she obstructed Second Manager Qi's path.

Second Manager Qi was just about to flip out, but upon inspecting the little girl's features, his saliva had already run down his mouth. His fleshy face was drooling as he gazed at the girl. The voice that came out of his mouth sounded as if he were pinching his throat to speak. It was so tender that it made people's hairs stand on end.

"Little Miss, for what matter are you looking for me? Is it that you want to go back to Guanlan City together with me, the Second Manager?"

"Release them." Qiao Mu said two words coldly.

Unexpectedly, Second Manager Qi didn't get angry and even laughed out loud. "Little Miss really is adorable! But releasing them is certainly a no-no. How about this, if you follow me back to Northern Mo's capital, we'll discuss more thoroughly then!"

"Slap!" Without even seeing how the other party attacked, Second Manager Qi only felt his face sting, and he tumbled down from his horse to the ground.

Under everyone's staring eyes, he fell flat on his face and ate dog sh*t, which immediately amused the surrounding people.

"Great..." Wu Lingqu's hands that were applauding in a cheer abruptly found themselves in Madam Wu's hands.

Wu Mantian's pupils contracted slightly as he gazed in disbelief at the young lady blocking the caravan.

Isn't that? The divine doctor from the Holy Water Sect?

The Holy Water Sect had been enveloped by vines these two years, which prevented people from ascending the snowy peaks, so where had this little divine doctor come from?

Wu Mantian's gaze was tinged with surging emotions.

The Holy Water Sect was not completely exterminated; the Holy Water Sect still had survivors.

Chapter 494: Diamond Talisman

Second Manager Qi vomited a mouthful of blood that foamed at his mouth. Afterwards, he covered his swelling face in disbelief as he staggered while getting up from the ground.

Just now, that girl, she?

Suddenly, Second Manager Qi's pupils contracted slightly as he saw a lightning-quick figure glide past his eyes.

"What are you doing? This is what Her Highness Noble Consort Zheng..."

Qiao Mu waved her fingers, and around a dozen immobilization talismans stuck to the faces of these servants from the Zheng Estate.

Intermediate-level talisman—It immobilized someone for a quarter of an hour, but opponents one or more levels higher than the user were immune to the effects.

Of these servants from the Zheng Estate, only two people were level-six mystic cultivators, while the others were body cultivators or normal people. Naturally, the immobilization talismans were fairly effective as soon as they made contact.

Hence, everyone saw those arrogant fellows who were threatening them earlier maintaining a fixed stance with dumbstruck faces.

"Y-You! What kind of witchcraft did you use!!" Second Manager Qi's scream rang out. One hand covered his face, while his other hand trembled as it pointed at Qiao Mu. He shouted, "Y-You dare to offend our Zheng Estate? Aren't you scared of dying, you little b*tch?"

Qiao Mu completely ignored the bellowing Second Manager Qi and walked past him, stopping before the prisoners' carriage.

An intermediate-level diamond talisman floated before her. This was one of the intermediate-level talismans that she had newly learned after unlocking the fourth jade slip.

After activating the diamond talisman, it would make parts of the body as hard as diamond and iron, with nothing it couldn't destroy.

That's why when Qiao Mu pulled lightly with her hands yet was still able to shatter two large bronze locks like squishing tofu into pieces, Second Manager Qi's eyeballs were about to pop out.

Oh my heavens, that girl's hands looked so white, delicate, and flawless, so how could she be so savage?

"Come!" Qiao Mu stretched out her hand and first helped that little girl out from the cage.

Thirteen merfolk filed out of the cages, their expressions still frightened and unsettled. Their bodies were also injured, some more, some less.

"Since I'm going to Xijiu City, I can send you all to the vicinity of the Dark Sea along the way." Qiao Mu said faintly.

"Thank you very much, Miss. Thank you very much." The most senior among the thirteen people, an old woman, represented all of the merfolk in repeatedly thanking Qiao Mu with gratitude.

"You dare!!" Second Manager Qi glanced at his subordinates that had been immobilized on the spot and was hopping mad. He shouted furiously at Qiao Mu, "You dare offend Her Highness Noble Consort Zheng?"

He had f*cking laid low in those waters for the greater part of a month to capture these merfolk! Yet you're telling him now that all his previous efforts were going down the drain?

He had originally thought that his entire family's status in the estate would certainly rise after he presented these captured merfolk to Noble Consort Zheng.

Yet now! All his sweet dreams had come to an end.

This nameless little lady who popped out from who knows where actually released the batch of merfolk that he captured with difficulty!

Utterly preposterous, wah!

Suddenly, Qiao Mu turned her head around, and her pair of eyes that were akin to freezing ice beads stared at him coldly.

Second Manager Qi was spooked into a daze, and his face shuddered quietly. He only felt that the young lady's gaze caused the depths of his soul to shudder in terror.

"I'll give you three seconds to leave. Otherwise..." Qiao Mu's frigid gaze swept across his face. "You can remain here forever."

She only wanted to release people, not kill people.

However, if this Qi fellow continued to blabber on, she couldn't guarantee that she wouldn't change her mind.

Second Manager Qi was also a smart person. He glanced at the little lady's small hands that were like white jade...

Chapter 495: Naga Pearl

He knew in his heart that he was not worth a fart in the little lady's eyes. How could a young lady that could smack him down from his horse with a slap be an ordinary individual?

Although he was unwilling in his heart, in the end, he knew that discretion was the better part of valor.

Second Manager Qi hastily mounted his horse and frantically ran away in a gallop, even abandoning his subordinates that were standing on the main path.

Everyone broke out into guffaws behind him, but Second Manager Qi could only pretend not to have heard them. He urged his horse to run out of Five Moon City with all his might. Along the way, he thought resentfully: I definitely have to report this incident to State Uncle Zheng upon returning.

After the Zheng Estate's Second Manager Qi left, Wu Mantian strode towards Qiao Mu with a smile and cupped his hands in greeting. "Little divine doctor, we meet again."

Qiao Mu had long noticed Wu Mantian and his family. She only nodded her head faintly at him in response. "If it's convenient, could you lend me a horse and carriage?"

After an hour, Qiao Mu and company departed from Five Moon City.

It's not that she had to follow Wu Mantian and the others on their journey, but migrating the entire city led to heavy traffic. She practically only saw Five Moon City citizens upon gazing into the distance.

Those at the front were people who possessed horses and carriages.

While those near the back were impoverished elderly, infirm, women, and children. Wu Mantian had positioned himself and his family at the rear of the procession to take care of these women and children.

Wu Mantian especially arranged a rather spacious carriage that was more than sufficient to accommodate around a dozen people.

The person driving the carriage was a merman over fifty years old. Apparently, he was often active on land and was quite skillful at driving carriages.

The most senior mermaid was a woman whose name was Long Xinghua. Apparently, Long[1] was the surname of their royal family, as well as being an ubiquitous surname among their merfolk clan. However, according to Long Xinghua herself, she could only be considered to be from a branch of the royal family, and her bloodline was worlds apart from the sovereign royal family.

The group of merfolk only realized upon conversing that Miss Qiao was a taciturn person. She would basically rarely say one sentence in response to eight to ten of their sentences.

Nevertheless, they liked their savior very much, especially the little girl Long Xianxian, who was also Long Xinghua's granddaughter.

She stuck close to Qiao Mu the whole time, holding onto her arm and incessantly using her small nose to sniff Qiao Mu's scent.

A mermaid next to them smiled. "Xianxian, why do you keep clinging onto our savior?"

"The scent on Sister's body smells really nice." Long Xianxian replied while holding Qiao Mu's hand.

"Little Miss, we're really so grateful that you rescued us."

Qiao Mu had also noticed by this time that merfolk were mostly chatterboxes.

Especially that Granny Long Xinghua, who had already thanked her eighteen times.

Qiao Mu suddenly turned to Granny Long. "Why do those people want to capture you merfolk? What do they want to do by imprisoning you all?"

Second Manager Qi had captured the females and children of the merfolk clan, both old and young. There were also two to three adolescent male children, but their strength was naturally weaker than that of adults.

"Sigh." Long Xinghua involuntarily sighed upon starting this topic. "These few years, there's been a rumor, and we don't know who started spreading it, but it says that as long as you consume the naga pearls inside the bodies of us merfolk, you will gain immortality and perpetual youth."

Long Xinghua let out a bitter smile and said, "But in reality, there isn't even a 100-millionth chance for our bodies to nurture a naga pearl. An absolute majority of merfolk cannot nurture naga pearls."

Qiao Mu nodded.

“They don’t know this?”

“No, they do know.” Long Xinghua sneered. “But they aren’t resigned and feel that they must dissect us in order to find out whether or not we actually have naga pearls.”

Chapter 496: Thank-You Gift

“So, that Second Manager Qi was dragging you lot to the Mo Kingdom capital to?” Dissect and acquire the naga pearls in your bodies!

Qiao Mu didn’t finish speaking, but the merfolk present all understood her implication.

They nodded when they heard her voice trailing off. Long Xinghua smiled woefully and said, “These people believe these rumors firmly without doubt.”

“This rumor has circulated for more than a hundred years, but it’s only recently that it’s become more and more widespread and operations to capture merfolk have become more and more frequent. Apparently, it’s all because of the peerlessly beautiful Her Highness Zheng in the Mo Kingdom capital.” A mermaid next to Long Xinghua said softly.

Qiao Mu had already heard people mentioning Her Highness Zheng more than once.

The Mo Kingdom capital’s Her Highness Zheng could butcher so many merfolk without hesitation so as to acquire the naga pearls in their bodies in vain, all to maintain her own beauty...

This woman was most certainly outwardly beautiful and charming like a dodder flower, while her heart was like a venomous scorpion.

“That Second Manager said that naga pearls would lose their effectiveness one hour after they leave the body. So that’s why he had to first bring us back to the Mo Kingdom capital, Guanlan City, before dissecting us to acquire the naga pearls in our bodies.” The mermaid said pitifully, “But we ourselves know very well that our bodies don’t have naga pearls!”

Granny Long also sighed. “Recently, monsters have swarmed the waters and charged into our stockaded village. That’s why we had no other choice but to come ashore to look for food. But how would we have known that someone was lying in ambush, waiting for us to walk into their trap.”

“Her Highness Zheng must definitely have a malevolent heart. These two years, at least eight hundred, if not a thousand, of our fellow merfolk have died in her hands!”

Qiao Mu couldn’t help but click her tongue inwardly.

Noble Consort Zheng could be considered completely unscrupulous, all for the sake of her beauty.

After the carriage passed through Pony Town, the traffic started to thin out. Some of the carriages in front had already disappeared from sight, while the ones that fell behind wouldn’t be able to catch up for the time being.

Qiao Mu didn’t bother much with the people in Five Moon City’s great migration and travelled with the merfolk to the nearest outlet leading into the Dark Sea.

This was a tributary that would eventually feed into the Dark Sea.

The merfolk were naturally more knowledgeable than her about the waterways. Before they separated, the group once again thanked her repeatedly, while Long Xianxian bid farewell to her while holding onto her hand, reluctant to part.

Granny Long handed her a small, emerald-green piccolo as a thank-you gift, telling her that she could blow the piccolo and summon nearby merfolk for help if she encountered trouble in the waters.

Once she sent this group of merfolk off, Qiao Mu then stored the carriage into an ebony blue storage talisman.

After also putting the short piccolo away in her inner world, she flipped onto the horse and jolted the reins unhurriedly.

The horse's hooves started breaking into a steady gallop as it followed the dirt path, and it quickly overtook a portion of the people walking on foot.

Based on the walking speed of these people from Five Moon City, it would take them around twenty days to trek to the Northern Mo border.

This kind of large-scale migration did not have much to do with her. Since City Lord Wu had made the decision to migrate, then he had naturally made prior personnel arrangements with a fortification.

Qiao Mu urged her horse toward Xijiu City. Once she thought of returning home, she became inexplicably impatient to get back.

When she thought about it, she had promised when she left home that she would return in three to five years. She didn't think that this departure would have ended up being seven years long.

She wondered if her parents and the others were doing well in Xijiu City.

Xiao Lin'er, Xiao Sen, and Brother Xiao Hu should have all grown up, right!

She really hadn't seen them for a long time. She wondered what kind of scene would play out when they all met once again...

Chapter 497: Where Are the Zombie Gentlemen?

Along the way, all the land that she saw was scorched black, unable to produce anything.

Thinking of the bountiful and luxuriant vegetables, melons, and fruits growing on Paradise Planet, Qiao Mu's expression involuntarily softened somewhat.

Nowadays, she basically didn't have to worry about the arrangements she made on Paradise Planet, as the sapling naturally took care of everything.

Ever since the sapling advanced to what it termed the mid-toddler stage, it was basically as easy as pie for it to take care of all the arrangements on Paradise Planet. It just needed to wave its hand to create a pile of industrious little treants that would plant and harvest vegetables for her.

Every time she saw seven to eight little treants charge at her and hang onto her like ornaments on a tree, she couldn't help but feel resigned.

Besides, it was precisely as the little water ball had said.

Presently, a simple thought was all she needed to summon the little water ball or the sapling out from her body and assist her in battle.

For this purpose, she even especially tested this two to three times with sacred water, and she was quite astonished by the result. Although she didn't say anything, she couldn't help ruminating in her heart: This was the power of sacred water, one of the five elemental spirit origins.

Other people only completed the transition from the mystic realm to the spiritual realm when they proactively sensed one of the five elemental spirits while breaking through their level-15 mystic cultivation.

Only approximately 10 percent of people could break through and complete this transition in one try; 80 to 90 percent of people required multiple attempts to sense the five elemental spirits.

However, if other people were to know that our dear Qiao Mu was such an oddball, their eyeballs would pop out from shock.

She, a level-11 great mystic cultivator who should have been far from even glimpsing the threshold to level-15, had in reality already completed the breakthrough from the mystic realm to the spiritual realm.

As long as she was set on raising her cultivation, she could directly step over into the spiritual realm. She really didn't need to go through the trouble of sensing anything again.

After night fell.

Qiao Mu tied the horse to a nearby tree. She had the sapling take out a handful of grass for it to eat, as well as two peaches for her to gnaw on.

She had gnawed on a pig trotter for lunch today, so she was still very full right now! She didn't plan on eating a proper meal and decided to make do with two peaches.

"Master, you don't plan on coming in to sleep?" The little water ball's soft voice rang out.

"No need." Qiao Mu built a bonfire and poked at the flames with a dead branch. "We haven't seen even one zombie after journeying for so many days. I feel like we'll encounter a few tonight."

The sapling: ...

So Master's itching to fight?

"You both can rest." Qiao Mu leaped onto a tree and found a thicker branch to rest on before adjusting her position.

Unfortunately, though, the zombie gentlemen that she had been expecting the entire night didn't appear at all.

One night passed by tranquilly. It wasn't until dawn broke that she woke up from a ruckus beneath the tree branches.

"A bunch of trash. You don't even know how to carry a palanquin?" The sound of whipping mixed in with piercing screams startled Qiao Mu from her sound sleep, and she creased her brows as she opened her eyes.

As expected, when she looked down the tree, she saw a crimson palanquin being carried over while staggering from side to side.

The four scrawny men that were carrying the palanquin would occasionally stagger to the left, and then occasionally stagger to the right. A white and plump hand reached out from behind the palanquin's curtain and was continuously thrashing the porters with its whip. "Useless fellows! Stop stop stop stop, stop right now!"

The palanquin's door was kicked open, and a woman jumped out of it. The scene that entered Qiao Mu's eyes left her inwardly speechless.

She had a bulky waistline that was twice the size of a bucket, complimented by a face that looked like a white mantou that had undergone fermentation.

This woman probably weighed more than all four porters added together...

It would only be freaky if they were able to carry her!

Chapter 498: A Euphoric Assault

The four porters were each more scrawny and frail than the other, and they shivered from the cold winter winds.

As Qiao Mu observed them from on top of the tree, her expression turned slightly peculiar.

It was for no reason other than that there was an old acquaintance or hers among these four people.

If not for the small birthmark that showed after the person raised his arms, Qiao Mu really wouldn't have even recognized him.

He was little fatty Zhou Tao, the son of the rich Zhou family in Qiaotou Village. In the past, he was so pudgy that he looked like a small calf. She really couldn't have imagined that he would shrivel up into a rack of spare ribs now.

At that time, little fatty Zhou Tao had been the top tyrant of Qiaotou Village. Wherever he went, he would be followed by two to three lackeys, who would hold up an umbrella over him, or fan him, or present tea or water to him subserviently.

But now?

He no longer had that overbearing air about him, not to mention his missing lackeys. Little fatty Zhou Tao had actually succumbed to becoming a porter that waited upon others. By the looks of it, he was also that plump woman's slave.

This was truly a case of being toyed with by fate.

“Useless trash!” The woman swore while sitting down under the tree. She took out two white mantous with a flip of her fingers.

It was only when Qiao Mu glanced down that she discovered that this woman who was like a fat ball was also a level-four mystic cultivator.

The four porters swallowed their nonexistent saliva as they yearningly watched the rotund woman chomping on her mantou with relish.

The woman didn’t have the slightest intention of sharing. When she saw the four pairs of staring eyes, she even glared back at Zhou Tao and demanded, “Where’s the water?”

Zhou Tao undid the water sack hanging from his belt and handed it over to the woman respectfully.

The woman took a swig and smacked her lips before leaning against the tree with half-lidded eyes. Before long, she actually fell asleep just like that.

At this time, Zhou Tao pulled out a saber from the underside of the palanquin and shouted at the three other hesitating porters, “What are you hesitating for? Once we slaughter her and loot all the items on her body, we’ll be free again.”

“But she’s a mystic cultivator! While we’re only normal people.”

“I spiked the water that she drank just now, so she’s already fallen asleep!” Zhou Tao glared resentfully at his three companions, having expected better from them. “You don’t dare to make a move even with such an opportunity? Then you all are really doomed to be a heap of trash!”

Those three porters swallowed their saliva.

“Even if we kill her, we won’t be able to take her food. She put it all in her inner world!”

“Who cares! I’m so starved that my eyes are seeing red!” Zhou Tao bellowed loudly and used the saber to hack at the plump woman beneath the tree.

The saber landed on her neck, but the blunt blade was unable to chop the woman’s head off in one blow and only sprayed blood everywhere.

The woman opened her eyes while holding her neck in pain. This scared the other three porters that were charging over into falling butt-first onto the ground.

On the contrary, Zhou Tao kept slashing at the other party’s neck with red eyes. His viciousness scared the other three into trembling, not daring to say another word.

“You want to beat and scold me every day! You want to starve me every day! I’m also a human being! I’m not your f*cking livestock!” With bloodshot eyes, Zhou Tao hacked at the woman’s neck with all his might.

It was only after he hacked no less than a dozen times that the rotund woman finally became motionless and collapsed heavily to the ground.

The three porters were frightened into frantically scrambling into hiding. Only Zhou Tao had the guts to check the woman's breathing. It was only after he confirmed that she kicked the bucket that he released a long, long sigh.

"Y-You killed Pei Estate's Second Missus. W-Won't their family seek you out!"

Zhou Tao abruptly shot a vicious glare at those three porters. The three people simultaneously jolted in shock and shrunk backwards repeatedly.

Chapter 499: Spiritual Conscious

"She's already dead, so what are you afraid of! You really are trash!" Zhou Tao glared ferociously at them before starting to rummage through the woman's clothes.

The woman was indeed cautious and had nothing in her pockets.

He was so furious that he ruthlessly kicked her corpse. "That lecherous Second Master of the Pei Estate had long been very dissatisfied with this fatso madam of his! Do you think he'll investigate this fat sow's death and come to make things difficult for us?"

"You really are a bunch of morons!" With reddened eyes, Zhou Tao vented his anger by kicking the woman several times again.

Mystic cultivator, mystic cultivator, mystic cultivators really were an abominable existence! He exerted so much strength all for nothing. He had killed this woman, yet he couldn't snag any benefits all because she was a mystic cultivator.

Suddenly, his body shuddered, and all the hairs on his body stood on end. When he turned his head around stiffly, he was immediately met with a pair of eyes that were even more chilly than the coldest ice.

"W-Who are you??" He was also clueless about when this person had appeared behind him.

This kind of situation that was beyond his predictions caused all the pores on his body to enlarge. His eyes were somewhat aghast as he stared in terror at the other party.

The other party was a cold and peerlessly beautiful little lady. Zhou Tao was not taken in by her outward appearance, but he kept gazing attentively at her eyes, feeling like he had seen them somewhere before.

Qiao Mu glanced at him before infiltrating the woman's inner world with a wisp of her spiritual conscious.

Ever since she woke up from her six-month-long deep sleep, her conscious had also made a qualitative leap.

Her conscious at this time had already liquefied. This was naturally an extremely painful process, but there were countless benefits.

First of all, her mystic conscious had evolved into spiritual conscious, even if it had just entered level-one of this stage.

It had to be taken into account that she had not yet advanced into the spiritual realm and was merely a level-11 great mystic cultivator. Yet, it was her conscious that first broke through to the spiritual realm. Even if she were to tell others about her peculiar advancement, most people wouldn't believe her.

In addition, after converging her spiritual conscious into her eyes, she could not only see other people's mystic meridians clearly but could also probe into other people's inner worlds.

And even, like right now, use her spiritual conscious to plunder other people's inner worlds.

The plump woman that had died was only a level-four mystic cultivator, so her inner world was pitifully small. There were only some worthless items inside, as well as two bags of beans and several mantous. Qiao Mu naturally didn't care for them at all.

With a flip of her hand, the items in the woman's inner world fell onto the ground with a plip-plop.

Zhou Tao and the three porters pounced at the mantous immediately. They held them in both hands and wolfed them down as they gobbled them up in big mouthfuls.

Zhou Tao had the greatest strength and snatched away the two bags of beans after giving the others a few punches.

After casting them a glance, Qiao Mu turned to leave without saying anything.

In this kind of world, even living humans might not be as blessed as livestock. She wasn't interested anymore in giving Zhou Tao trouble.

Zhou Tao called after her several times. When he saw that she left swiftly without turning her head, he involuntarily muttered to himself with a piece of mantou in his mouth, "I've seen this miss before."

The three porters scoffed at him, not believing him at all, and the four people didn't converse any further.

After several days, Qiao Mu returned to Xijiu City.

However, it was only when she arrived at Pear Blossom Alley that she discovered that the Qiao Estate was deserted.

There was a small box sitting on the table, which was blanketed with a layer of dust.

Qiao Mu's heart leapt slightly. When she opened this small box, she saw a thick stack of letters inside.

Qiao Mu opened the letters and started reading them one by one. The whole family had written letters to her, once every three months. They were all filled with their thoughts of yearning for her.

The latest letter that Qiao Zhongbang had written was from two years ago. The message he left stated that the whole family had relocated to Guanlan City.

Qiao Mu lightly flicked her sleeves to remove the dust on the small box.

Chapter 500: Hiring Maidservants

"Miss!" A pitch-black figure landed inside the room with a whoosh.

Afterwards, two slim figures followed after him inside and exchanged bewildered glances.

Captain would come practically every day, feeling like their miss had returned home. And then every time, it would all be in vain. They had already lost track of how many times he left in disappointment.

The house was empty.

Ao'ye stood dazedly in the room for quite a while, until a subordinate poked him with a finger. "Captain, do you not believe your own eyes again?"

"Impossible." Ao'ye shook his head in incomprehension. "I undoubtedly sensed Miss's presence."

His Highness had posted them to Xijiu City's Pear Blossom Alley in case their miss returned someday but didn't find anyone there.

Could it be that it was just as they said, that he once again sensed wrongly this time? Crestfallen, Ao'ye was about to stride out of the house when he noticed something out of the corner of his eyes. He abruptly turned around and exclaimed incredulously, "Where's the box of letters on the table?"

Since her parents and family had relocated to Guanlan City, Qiao Mu didn't linger around Pear Blossom Alley and left the city right away.

Along the way, Qiao Mu leisurely read through those letters, one after another. Some of them were filled with her parents' and uncle's thoughts of yearning for her, others were filled with Brother Xiao Hu's long-winded work reports, and even more were filled with the little foodie's adorable and incessant questioning: When is Sister coming back?

The most entertaining ones were from her younger brother Qiao Sen. She really couldn't help being fascinated by his crawling and creeping characters.

Qiao Mu put the letters back in the small box and hugged it in her embrace. She then took out and studied the iron tablet that was engraved with the two words, Qin Estate.

In the end, she decided that she would first go to Qin Estate to scout out information upon arriving in Guanlan City.

Qiao Mu wasn't too particular about getting there as soon as possible, as she kept hoping to encounter several zombie gentlemen for practice. She hadn't seen zombie gentlemen in two years, so she had no idea how far they had advanced.

And the strange thing was, the more she hoped to see them, the more she didn't see them. She wondered if it was because Northern Mo had done a superb job of clearing them out in their jurisdiction.

Qiao Mu could only resign herself to hastening on with her journey.

After several days, she arrived safely at Guanlan City without a hitch. She was about to ask someone for the way to the Qin Estate, but she didn't expect there to be a large bulletin board set up at the entrance, attracting her over.

'Qin Estate is hiring five boy servants well-versed in pharmacology, as well as ten maidservants that know a bit of martial arts.'

A peanut gallery was crowded around the bulletin board, but there were many people beaming with joy that were eager to give it a try.

Qiao Mu didn't say anything and just stood before the bulletin board. There would naturally be people talking all at once who could give her a general understanding of the Qin Estate's situation.

It turned out that this Qin Estate was an old and accomplished elixirs patrician family, so its scale of operations naturally couldn't be underestimated.

No wonder the whole of Guanlan City became so frenzied over a simple matter of hiring several servants.

What perfect timing. Since the Qin Estate just so happened to be hiring, then...

After a short period of time, an ordinary-looking young girl wearing short-lapel cyan clothes exited a small alley. After looking back and forth, she differentiated the directions and ran towards the main street leading to the Qin Estate.

"Stop the carriage!" An inconspicuous carriage covered with a black canopy halted abruptly.

The person inside lifted open a corner of the carriage curtain with his slender fingers and swept a glance across the unfamiliar faces bustling about on the main street, a puzzled glint flashing across his slightly raised phoenix eyes.

"Am I just fantasizing things again?" he muttered to himself.

Just now, he distinctly sensed a trace of his Qiaoqiao's presence, but it was just his wild fantasy...

"Your Highness?"

"Let's go." The carriage curtain lowered gradually, and the carriage once again started rolling slowly.

For her disguise, Qiao Mu carried a bundle on her back and pretended to be an ordinary young girl that knew a bit of martial arts. She followed the crowd to the Qin Estate's gate.

The Qin Estate's Senior Manager was currently standing on the steps and yelling while projecting his voice. "Line up properly, line up properly! What are you all squeezing in for? Line up, I said!"