

## My Crown 651

### Chapter 651: Strolling Through the Night Market

The entire way, Duan Yue was staring at Qiao Mu disbelievingly. "Qiaoqiao, tonight, you have to get hold of the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron no matter what."

His Qiaoqiao actually used a bunch of items from a street stall to refine pills when her craftsmanship deserved much better than that.

"Mhm, I've already prepared the pills that the seller wants. The sooner we finish eating, the sooner we can go and come back." *I hope that person is a straightforward one.* After all, Qiao Mu wasn't willing to waste her breath on other people.

Our dear Qiao Sen was escorted by a servant back from the academy. However, when he saw his Eldest Sister, he was still a bit jittery and evasive.

Nevertheless, the family ate a happy and harmonious dinner.

Qiao Mu took out the pills she had produced and distributed them to her father, second uncle, and Qiao Lin.

The three people were naturally overjoyed, practically unable to take their eyes off the two pills in each of their hands.

"After we finish eating dinner, we're planning to go to Wurun Pill House and check out the medicinal cauldron that is on everyone's lips." Qiao Mu said, "I'll be coming back a little later, so you just have to send someone to leave the door unlocked."

Wei Ziqin nodded, instructing, "Don't be out too late."

Conversely, Qiao Lin and Qiao Sen<sup>[1]</sup> gazed anxiously at their sister, sporting expressions that showed how eager they were to go along. However, because their mother had on a stern face, they were both a bit afraid of speaking up.

"Mom."

"You're both children, so don't go running around so late at night. Your eldest sis is a pill alchemist!" Wei Ziqin spat out these two words especially gloriously, her face practically glowing radiantly. "Your eldest sis will be handling serious affairs at the pill house, so you two should know your place and stay at home. Don't go disturbing your sister."

Qiao Lin and Qiao Sen exchanged glances before drooping their small heads.

"Mom, it's fine. It's almost the new year, so the streets will probably be quite lively. We ate dinner early anyways, so I'll just bring them around for a stroll. We won't come back too late."

Qiao Lin and Qiao Sen raised their heads again, their eyes round and bright as they looked hopefully at Wei Ziqin.

Meeting their gazes, Wei Ziqin didn't know whether to laugh or cry. In the end, she finally cast them a brusque glance. "Don't make trouble for your eldest sis."

“I know.”

“Mom, I’m very well-behaved.”

The sister and brother duo quickly agreed, and they continuously shoved rice into their mouths especially exuberantly, their hearts so joyous that they flew out of the house.

After finishing their dinner in haste, Qiao Mu and the two men, along with the two children in tow, all boarded the crown prince’s carriage and set off for Wurun Pill House.

However, Shaoyao didn’t go along with them. After politely saluting Wei Ziqin and Qiao Zhongbang, she returned to Nanzhu Garden by herself to put it in order.

“Shaoyao, this child, just keeps getting better as she grows up.” Wei Ziqin sighed with emotion. Turning her head, she caught a glimpse of her nephew Qiao Hu gazing absentmindedly in the direction Shaoyao had left in, spellbound, and she couldn’t resist chuckling in laughter.

“Silly lad, you haven’t seen Shaoyao in a long time. Why aren’t you chatting with her?”

“Isn’t that right, look at how foolish you look right now! Hurry along now!” Second Uncle Qiao smacked the back of his son’s head.

Qiao Hu consequently leaped up and left in haste.

Meanwhile, the carriage had been advancing along Minshun Boulevard for a while, neither quick nor slow.

Before they had even gotten to Wurun Pill House’s entrance, the road had already become crowded. In addition, the snowy roads had made travelling difficult. Two carriages had even crashed into each other, obstructing the middle of the road, and the two parties’ servants were quarrelling loudly while criticizing the other.

Qiao Mu lifted the curtain and poked out her face for a peek. “The area’s been blocked up front. Let’s get out and squeeze in.”

“They haven’t started transacting just yet, so let’s go to that restaurant’s third floor instead. When the time comes, we can just holler directly.” Mo Lian pulled her hand and pointed to a place up front. He couldn’t bear for his little fellow to get shoved around in a crowd of stinky men.

### **Chapter 652: Small Capital, Huge Profit**

Qiao Mu raised her small head. This restaurant wasn’t big, but it just so happened to be next to the pill house. Thus, it was already packed with people at this time.

So, how could there still be seats?

“This restaurant is actually still operating normally?” *What was it seeking?* Qiao Mu was a bit curious.

The people who were still selling flatbread did so because they wanted to barter their flatbread for other necessary essentials.

But a restaurant was different. It needed a plentiful variety of dishes as well as an adequate amount of beverages and liquor.

“Of course.” Mo Lian smiled at her, holding her hand as he walked towards the restaurant. “There are five taverns and restaurants still operating as usual in the entire capital. Of course, the price will be slightly more expensive. They also don’t accept gold, silver, precious stones, and the like, but... all kinds of forging materials, medicinal materials, or at worst, mid and high-grade magnetite.”

Mo Lian leaned in and whispered, “This is a hugely profitable business that requires small capital! That supreme-grade blood-forged gold was also collected from here.”

Darling Qiao’s eyes suddenly bulged and gazed at the crown prince in the same way she would at a profiteer. She suppressed her voice and asked, “This restaurant is yours?”

Mo Lian nodded his head quite proudly. “What do you think? Your husband is quite capable at doing business, right.”

Hearing their conversation, Duan Yue harrumphed contemptuously. “Using your position to bully the people, milking dry their hard-earned wealth.”

Mo Lian cast him a sidelong glance and spat disdainfully at him...

What did this cheeky guy know? The Night Pavilion carried out their intelligence-gathering work in restaurants and teahouses.

“The five taverns and restaurants in the capital are all yours?”

“No, only three are. As long as it’s called Morning Cloud Restaurant, it’s ours.” Mo Lian led the little fellow inside. The shopkeeper recognized the crown prince with a single glance, but he didn’t dare to make a big display. He only quickly came over to greet them, deferentially showing them to a private room on the third floor.

In addition to calling for a waiter to attentively pour them tea, he also went to make arrangements for food.

Mo Lian waved his hand and said, “No need, we just finished eating dinner before coming here, so just some tea, snacks, and pastries will be fine.”

The shopkeeper complied respectfully and quickly led his people out to prepare.

“Is business good here?”

“This location is slightly out of the way, so its business isn’t as good as the other two restaurants. However, these last few days have been an exception. Because of the pill house’s auction, the restaurant’s business has improved significantly.”

“No wonder Your Highness the Crown Prince is in such a hurry to cultivate a batch of edible vegetables. I reckon that if you continue operating like this, your private warehouse’s stock of grain will be emptied out!” Duan Yue declared with a humph.

On the other hand, the two children didn't butt in as they jovially ran over to eat upon seeing the tea and snacks getting served.

Qiao Mu tilted her hand and pondered before speaking. "If it's just to supply these three restaurants with vegetables, fish, shrimp, and fruits, I do have a way. I can't procure as much meat, however."

The warehouses in her Paradise Planet were about to freaking burst from its stockpile of vegetables and fruit, especially peaches!

She could take some out to supply the restaurants.

There were plentiful fish, shrimp, and other aquatic produce in the lake, so she just had to have Qiuqiu casually catch some.

It was just that right now, Paradise Planet still wasn't too willing to take in living things from the outside world. In other words, she still couldn't breed livestock inside it.

That swarm of poison-tailed butterflies that she went through great pains to take into Paradise Planet naturally couldn't be treated as food! Those were her little companions.

According to Qiuqiu, she would only be able to freely collect some small animals into Paradise Planet when her cultivation reached level-13 and above. At that time, Qiuqiu also wouldn't be too exhausted from dragging them in.

When Qiao Mu turned her head around, her chin still supported on one hand, she saw the two youths currently staring at herself, waiting for her to continue on.

### **Chapter 653: Transfer Talisman Matrix**

It was a pity that she couldn't invite them into Paradise Planet for a look. Besides, Darling Qiao was too lazy to explain that much.

Hence...

Looking at them, she directly took out two peaches from Paradise Planet. "Try them! They're even tastier than before. I can supply this kind of peach to the restaurant long-term! However, they can only be exchanged for medicinal materials!"

Mo Lian had long since gotten accustomed to the little fellow occasionally pulling out a peach, but Duan Yue was taken aback and gazed at her, completely dumbstruck.

"Is this peach from the paradise we went to that time?" Duan Yue clicked his tongue in wonder. From taking just one bite, he could savor its extreme juiciness and excellent texture. It basically melted as soon as it entered the mouth, and it even converged into a warm stream that merged into his mystic meridians.

It seemed this peach was a rare, superb item that was concealing a rich mystic energy. Although the amount wasn't much, it had a dense richness. Just a mere few drops merging into the mystic meridians were enough to make a person's mystic energy ripple.

Even with his advanced cultivation, eating it still elicited a response. If consumed long-term, it would certainly be able to imperceptibly raise the density of one's own mystic energy over time.

However, after just taking one bite, he caught a glimpse of the two children on the side gazing at him impatiently, looking as if they were about to drool.

Uh...

What to do? He suddenly felt like he was bullying kiddies!

"Sister!" The two children simultaneously turned their heads and gazed pleadingly at their sister.

Qiao Mu couldn't help finding it amusing, and she swiped her hand, taking out two ebony blue storage talismans. "Here, for you two."

She had long readied these two talismans for her two siblings. There were upwards of a thousand peaches as well as other fruits and snacks inside. They were enough for them to eat for a long time.

"Don't be too gluttonous that you can't even eat your proper meals." Qiao Mu instructed, "Drip a drop of blood on the talisman yourself to activate it. Try it out."

The two children cheered, and setting down their pastries, they bounced over to take away the ebony talismans from her hands before going off to fiddle with them.

Right now, what Qiao Mu lacked the least was the various types of talismans.

In the two plus years that she stayed inside Paradise Planet, she would draw talismans to whittle away the time when there was nothing to do.

She had drawn at least one thousand of the various supportive offensive-type talismans out of ebony, in addition to at least five hundred ebony blue storage talismans. Right now, she completely didn't need to worry about storage space.

On the contrary, she didn't draw many summoning talismans, only a bit over forty. Whenever she thought about the summoning talisman now, she would feel so crushed. Every time she attempted a summon, the result was quite upsetting. On top of that, this time, she actually summoned out a snake, so she really was very displeased.

In addition, she also drew many talisman matrices using common blank talismans to prepare for unseen circumstances.

Consequently, she only had 4400 blank talismans and 6400 blank ebony tablets left in stock at present.

"Mo Lian, I need some ebony tablets." When she thought about this matter, she continued excitedly, "I learned a new talisman matrix. However, the effect of using common blank talismans to draw this talisman matrix probably isn't as good as using ebony. I need to use up 120 ebony tablets at once when drawing this talisman matrix, so it's better if you prepare more."

"Okay!" Mo Lian naturally promised her without a second word. "I'll let Baili Xi send a bit more over."

Ebony wasn't anything rare in the south, so it was just a matter of Baili Xi giving a simple order.

Duan Yue questioned curiously, "What kind of talisman matrix did you learn?"

For our dear Duan Yue, who was not the least bit knowledgeable about drawing talismans, he had always felt that talisman practitioners were very mystical!

Qiao Mu was slightly proud of herself as she explained, "Have you heard of it before? Transfer talisman matrix."

#### **Chapter 654: Everyone Present Gets a Share**

When she finished speaking, she saw Duan Yue's mouth slightly gaping open, with a "You're so amazing" expression on his face.

The little fellow was quite pleased. Right now, she liked that Golden Talisman Jade Tome that inexplicably appeared in her conscious more and more.

The talisman carving methods recorded in the Golden Talisman Jade Tome were indeed too clever. It gave her a very novel feeling every time, and she was intoxicated by it, wishing for nothing more than to keep learning assiduously.

"Transfer talisman matrices are indeed very amazing." Mo Lian nodded and said, "I have never heard of anyone from the talisman patrician family drawing a transfer talisman matrix before."

"What are the specifics of this transfer talisman matrix? How far can it transfer?"

"Hm, if we're basing it off of my current talisman energy as an intermediate-level talisman practitioner, the talisman matrix I draw can probably transfer within 2500 meters! For a maximum of five people! And a maximum of three continual transfers." The little fellow puffed out her cheeks. "The number of people really is too few. But this is only my estimate. I haven't genuinely drawn it before. I'll only know the exact situation after drawing it."

The two youths both wanted to roll their eyes after hearing her spiel.

*That was already very good, darling!*

With three continual transfers, five people would be able to flee 7.5 kilometers away in a matter of moments. Even if there were people hunting you down, they needed to either use flying mystic weapons with awesome speeds or have extremely robust flying beasts. Otherwise, they could only look on in defeat!

"Alright, I will urge Baili Xi about the ebony." Mo Lian asked with a grin, "What rank of medicinal materials do you want the peaches to be exchanged for?"

Qiao Mu was a bit stumped by this question.

She knew how to differentiate good medicinal materials from bad ones, but she wasn't too clear on their exact rank. She only knew that the longevity flower was a mid-rank medicinal herb because that miss from the Pill Union before had kindly told her so.

“Can you give me a book introducing the medicinal materials’ ranks for me to look at?” Previously, Mo Lian had taken only extant copies and medical scriptures from the royal physicians. Those simply didn’t touch upon the basic classification of medicinal materials.

Hearing this, Mo Lian and Duan Yue both couldn’t resist twitching their mouths.

Who would’ve thought that our dear pill alchemist, who could casually stew out a batch of high-grade purple-veined pills using a small stewing jar purchased from a street stall, actually wasn’t clear on the basic classification of medicinal materials...

This little fellow only had high-level knowledge from practical experience and was very much lacking in basic theory.

“You don’t need to read a book for this. The classification of medicinal materials is pretty much the same as for forging materials. Generally, they’re classified as low, mid, high, then above that, it’d be yellow-rank, black-rank, earth-rank, and heaven-rank. For example, the supreme-grade blood-forged gold material that I told you about before can forge a level-15 spiritual weapon. Therefore, it is formally classified as an earth-rank forging material.” Mo Lian helped his little wife learn the basics. “More commonly, we can refer to materials earth-rank and above as supreme-grade materials.”

Darling Qiao was enlightened.

“On the other hand, long-term consumption of your peach is able to strengthen one’s constitution as well as increase one’s cultivation and mystic energy. The mystic energy contained inside the peach is extremely dense and very excellent. I propose that it should be exchanged for medicinal materials that are at least black-rank and above to not suffer a loss.”

Qiao Mu nodded her small head continuously. “Then I’ll leave it to you for the exchange.”

It spared her the trouble...

Naturally, Mo Lian agreed with a smile.

Qiao Mu then gave him an ebony talisman filled with more than a thousand peaches.

Turning her head around, she glimpsed Duan Yue, that guy, gazing at her impatiently. After musing it over, she had to admit that Duan Yue had helped her a lot. Because she knew she couldn’t favor one and discriminate against the other, she also tossed him an ebony blue storage talisman filled with lots of peaches, as well as two more empty storage talismans for his own use.

After concluding a round of distribution, the people at the entrance of the pill house below were already starting to holler.

### **Chapter 655: Can’t Fit Anymore!**

“Mo Lian, I have a lot of vegetables and grains in store. If the restaurants run low on stock, you can come find me,” Qiao Mu said while looking at Mo Lian.

The vegetable field in Paradise Planet had already begun to take shape. Nowadays, Qiuqiu had started mulling over crop-planting out of boredom.

It definitely wouldn't be long before Qiuqiu needed to construct two more granaries again. Fortunately, it was good that Paradise Planet had such an extremely humongous surface area, approximately the size of five to six Xijiu Cities put together, so it didn't matter how much Qiuqiu played around.

If grain production became plentiful at that time, perhaps she could at least supply grain to the capital, if not anything else.

Mo Lian smiled faintly and said, "This restaurant normally won't have too many customers. After all, its price is laid bare for all to see. How many people can be so luxurious and spend that much magnetite just for a good meal? Thus, my store of grain is sufficient for the time being. At the very least, one to two years won't be a problem at all. Have you forgotten that I too collected a lot of grain back when we sacked Qinghe Town?"

Qiao Mu nodded her small head. *It was great that there wasn't a problem.*

"Mo Lian, I've stockpiled a batch of winter fruit. I can give them to you, and you can hand them out to the people living in the shack area on Xiluo Street when appropriate." Numerous petty crimes took place on Xiluo Street, all because migrants from other cities had congregated there. But all in all, the root cause of the trouble was the lack of food.

Mo Lian was slightly taken aback before shaking his head. "It's not necessary for you to open up your private warehouse. I will deal with the problem of the people's livelihood."

*Whatever was his wife's should definitely be left to his wife. How could he use her secret stash?*

Qiao Mu was silent for half a second before exclaiming, "My warehouse can't fit anymore! Just take them and hand them out! I have no use for so much."

Her fruit warehouse was full to bursting with peaches. How the heck could it still fit these winter fruits?

When our dear Qiao Mu returned from the small banquet that day, she also had the sapling plant fifty winter fruit trees. Because this winter fruit had no planting restrictions, able to thrive in even a world of ice and snow, it was simply the same as using a sledgehammer to crack a nut by planting these winter fruits in the paradise.

Furthermore, the sapling had especially cultivated it using some method to speed up its growth. Consequently, Qiuqiu had actually harvested several batches from those fifty winter fruit trees within two days. As the fruit piled up into the height of a small mountain, looking at it really peeved her greatly.

"It's really delicious, no kidding. How about you guys try?" Since she was going to give something to the migrants, it was naturally good stuff. She wasn't going to deceive those pitiful civilians.

The two men: ...

"Cough, cough, cough." Duan Yue drank a mouthful of tea to calm his nerves before swiping a winter fruit in passing. "Qiaoqiao, it's fine if you say 'my warehouse can't fit anymore' in front of us, but you must not tell other people that."

"Why?"

*Because you'd be beaten to death! Other people were bustling about for a single ration, yet you're here stressing out over your warehouse not being able to contain your grain. How could other people tolerate this!*

Qiao Mu nodded her head sincerely and asked offhandedly, "Is it good?"

She saw her two siblings' small heads furiously nod without stopping.

"So yummy, so incredibly yummy! Sister! Please give me some more!" This winter fruit tasted completely different from others. It was sweet and crisp, and its flesh left such a tantalizing aftertaste that it practically made one want to swallow their tongue.

Qiao Mu gazed at these two foodies in exasperation. *Winter fruit, such a common item, could also be delicious?*

In resignation, she took out a lot more and let the two gluttonous kiddos fill their storage talismans with them on their own.

Duan Yue sighed with feeling and smiled. "It indeed tastes excellent. Compared to normal winter fruit, it's not sickly sweet, and its flesh is very crispy."

#### **Chapter 656: A Knockoff Cauldron?**

"That's good then. Later, I'll put these winter fruits into talismans for you, and you can hand them out to the shack area on Xiluo Street," Qiao Mu told Mo Lian.

Mo Lian naturally felt his heart turn mushy from seeing how incredibly understanding his wifey was. *Who said that his little wife was violent? Look at how tenderhearted she was.*

Of course, he still needed to discuss the details with the Ministry of Revenue, since purely giving material assistance wouldn't solve the root cause. The primary measure was to make young and middle-aged men work for it, and then distribute rations according to their performance.

Mo Lian momentarily put these disorderly state affairs at the back of his mind and pointed out the window, questioning, "That person is the owner of the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron?"

Qiao Mu quickly raised her small head, looking out of the window towards the area below them.

They were all sitting next to the window. Xiao Sen was especially restless and climbed onto the soft couch at the window ledge, supporting his chin as he looked down below. "I don't see any cauldron, Sister."

"Since that cauldron isn't an ordinary one, I reckon that it can probably change sizes," Qiao Mu commented offhandedly.

Yet Duan Yue snickered out loud. "What changing sizes! Don't rush, just watch. It'll be coming out in a while."

Just as expected, after a short while, five large men huffed and puffed as they carried out a humongous three-legged copper cauldron over two meters tall.

Qiao Mu: "..."

She saw that the body of the cauldron flaunted an extremely imposing nine-star design, with a crescent moon hanging up high above in the center. It indeed looked the part and seemed to be quite like the real thing too.

But it was so big! Just by looking at it, the cauldron seemed to be fake.

Mo Lian also twitched his mouth. "You're certain that this is the legendary Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron?"

It wasn't some knockoff, right?

"This person took great pains to bring it out and hawk it every day. Besides, with so many people serving as witnesses, would he still dare to take out a fake?" Duan Yue glared at Mo Lian.

Qiao Mu pursed her small mouth. She felt like what she was seeing differed way too much from her impression of a small, delicate, and eye-pleasing medicinal cauldron.

It wasn't even as small and convenient to carry around as her stewing jar!

"Moreover, this is probably because no one has ever subjugated this medicinal cauldron. If it gets subjugated, perhaps it would be able to change its size at will?" Duan Yue harrumphed.

Mo Lian nodded while holding his teacup. "That does make some sense."

"Make way, make way!" A racket immediately arose in front of the pill house's entrance.

It seemed that two lines of guards were escorting three people over, and Qiao Mu even recognized the person walking in the center. She was precisely the uncompromising young lady from the Pill Union that she encountered in front of the pill house last time.

She seemed to be a bit over twenty, with a very tall and slender figure, but her facial features were always taut, looking quite solemn and uncompromising.

The two people beside her seemed to look over forty and were probably important figures in the Pill Union.

"Master Hong, this way please." The uncompromising young lady extended a hand and led one of her companions to the copper cauldron.

A stooping and slightly hunchbacked elderly man stood next to the copper cauldron, and he looked at the middle-aged man with somewhat dull eyes.

The middle-aged man, Master Hong, swept the elderly man a glance before turning to scrutinize the cauldron meticulously, even using his hand to touch it a few times.

Following which, he scoffed. "What kind of quality is this cauldron, to actually pass it off recklessly as whatever Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon?"

The elderly man's eyes instantly widened and gave a supercilious look in return. "If this cauldron isn't the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron, my senile self shall be struck by lightning! And die without a burial place."

Master Hong's expression sunk. "You think that by saying this, I'll believe you?"

"My senile self isn't begging you to buy it. If you don't choose to believe, please leave!"

Master Hong snorted coldly.

### **Chapter 657: Fleeting Opportunity**

Suddenly, a figure erupted and punched the copper cauldron with a boom.

The elderly man didn't even twitch an eyelid, and the cauldron stood there unmoving while Master Hong continuously retreated several steps backwards from the rebound.

His pair of eyes were staring in hesitation at the cauldron.

"Old Hong!" The other middle-aged man from the Pill Union creased his brows slightly as he called Master Hong.

However, right then, a pale-colored figure suddenly floated down from Morning Cloud Restaurant's third floor. Her small hand touched the cauldron as she spoke indifferently, "Is it that you need one level-11 mystic breakthrough pill and one blood stasis dispersing pill to exchange for this cauldron? Here! Go ahead and inspect them."

She cut to the chase and handed the elderly man a small box.

The elderly man's eyelids lifted slightly as he took over the box with glowing eyes. He raised his head to glance at this little lady that came floating over, and he couldn't help but be shocked on the inside.

*She was such a young little lady. It couldn't be that she had already become a pill alchemist at this tender age?*

"?" The uncompromising young lady studied Qiao Mu more closely before asking hesitantly, "It's you?"

Although she had only met her briefly that night, she had remembered that little lady that "could perhaps produce pills with purple pill veins."

Even though the little lady's appearance seemed totally transformed from that night, those pair of eyes left an especially deep impression on her.

Qiao Mu nodded at that young lady very affably.

On the contrary, that Master Hong bellowed at the top of his lungs, "Miss! Aren't you being a bit too inconsiderate by butting in!"

Yet Qiao Mu merely cast him a glance, not saying anything, turning to the elderly man instead. "How is it?"

The elderly man had already rapidly examined that box of pills. It contained one level-11 mystic breakthrough pill and one blood stasis dispersing pill, which were both purple-veined high-grade pills. Furthermore, the refining quality was of a never before seen superior grade.

The elderly man's gaze was slightly agitated as he responded, "M-Miss, may my senile self be so bold as to ask, who refined these purple-veined high-grade pills? Just by examining the exterior, my senile self

can tell that their fragrance, color, and luster are all superior. There aren't even a handful of people who are able to refine such exceptionally fine pills within this capital..."

Nevertheless, Qiao Mu interrupted the elderly man's frenzied words without answering his inquiry and merely looked at him impassively. "Then it's a done deal? I'll be taking away the cauldron now."

The elderly man naturally shut his mouth tactfully, nodding in a slightly agitated mood.

"Wait a moment!" Master Hong, on the other hand, was livid, and he stretched his hand forward, intending to press down on the medicinal cauldron.

However, Qiao Mu's eyes turned frigid, and she instantly flew up, smacking away Master Hong's palm. She then grabbed the medicinal cauldron with a single small hand and suddenly lifted it up.

The surrounding peanut gallery were all dumbstruck and stupefied!

They only saw a graceful little lady staring icily at the Pill Union's Master Hong as she stood beneath a humongous, two-meter-tall medicinal cauldron that merely required her two fingers to lift up.

"I, have never liked other people touching my stuff!" Qiao Mu stated coldly, yet she saw Master Hong rushing towards her with a drastically changed expression, regardless of her words.

"Wait up! I had also wanted to buy this medicinal cauldron!"

"Pish." Qiao Mu snorted coldly, and her figure directly jumped into mid-air with a lithe leap. She smacked the medicinal cauldron without too much force and suddenly injected a wisp of mystic energy into it.

The medicinal cauldron discharged a garish light show up into the sky before disappearing in a jiffy.

Master Hong was so infuriated that he wanted to vomit blood on the spot. "You!"

"Opportunity disappears in the twinkling of an eye. You just didn't have good foresight and know to seize the moment." Qiao Mu told him coldly, leaving him incomparably frustrated.

After that, she didn't even spare Master Hong a glance and directly returned to the restaurant with several leaps.

### **Chapter 658: Not an Ordinary Object**

Duan Yue and Mo Lian had just finished drinking half of their tea when they saw the little lady hop back in from the window. Duan Yue involuntarily smiled and said, "Where's the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron? Let us check it out."

With a swipe of her hand, a small copper cauldron the size of her palm flew out from Qiao Mu's conscious and landed on the table before everyone.

"Tut, I really can't see through the grade of this cauldron." Mo Lian sighed lightly before taking the small copper cauldron in his hand, examining it meticulously.

He saw that only one of the stars in the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon design was radiating a streak of light, yet this complemented the small copper cauldron very nicely.

Duan Yue also took it over for a look but couldn't discover anything. He simply shook his head, saying, "I can't figure out its grade either."

Qiao Mu tilted her small head and sported a slightly pleased expression: *Isn't Qiaoqiao so decisive and incredible at passing judgments?* After seeing that Master Hong's strike was unexpectedly unable to make the cauldron budge even one bit, she understood that this object was definitely not ordinary.

"Even if I can't use it to refine medicine in the future, I can take it out at crucial moments to ward off attacks." After thinking of this, the little fellow couldn't help being slightly exhilarated. "Duan Yue, try and hit it once."

"Right now?" Duan Yue widened his eyes.

Qiao Mu nodded repeatedly. "Try it."

"No way, what if I happened to smash it into pieces? Where would I find you another handy medicinal cauldron to compensate you with?"

"Hit when I'm telling you to!" Qiao Mu immediately ejected mystic energy from her hand, and the cauldron enlarged in a matter of moments. She steadily grabbed one of its legs in one hand, supporting it in mid-air.

The little fellow just sat there, motionless like a mountain, and blinked her eyes while shouting, "Come quickly."

"Then you be careful." Duan Yue raised his hand, erecting a defensive boundary around the little fellow.

It was subsequently followed by a dense, assailing wave of mystic energy that crashed heavily onto the body of the cauldron.

However, the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron still didn't budge at all. Conversely, Qiao Mu's small hand was jolted numb by the recoil of Duan Yue's mystic energy attack. She speedily summoned the small cauldron back into her conscious and rubbed her aching wrist.

Seeing this, Mo Lian quickly grasped her small hands to massage them, sending Duan Yue a brusque glare while snapping, "You don't even know how to control your strength."

Duan Yue was also worried and stood up, walking up to Qiao Mu. "Qiaoqiao, did I hurt you?"

"You didn't." Qiao Mu shook her head. "It only jolted me a bit."

"Duan Yue, how much mystic energy did you use just now?"

"I already used 30 percent!" *He was at fault; he should've only used 10 percent.*

Qiao Mu: "..."

*Get the heck out of here!* The little fellow stuck out her small leg and disdainfully stepped on Duan Yue's foot in a huff. *Scram scram scram!*

He made her wrist ache from the recoil of using only 30 percent of his mystic energy. *So infuriating!*

*Qiaoqiao is mad at me?* Duan Yue confusedly turned to the side to look at Mo Lian, who was trying to smother his laughter.

Mo Lian swept him glance but chose to turn a blind eye. He then carried Qiao Mu over and continued to massage her small wrist. He even took advantage of this to defame Duan Yue, beguiling, “We won’t be good friends with Duan Yue in the future. Simply preposterous, hurting our Qiaoqiao after using 30 percent of his strength.”

*That’s right! It was indeed better to not have friends.* Qiao Mu nodded.

Duan Yue: ...

“Qiaoqiao.” Duan Yue hastily declared his position with a light cough, saying, “Even though I am only slightly more advanced than you on my cultivation journey, think about it. You also know how to refine pills and draw talismans, while I am totally clueless about these two professions. So you’re still the amazing one, right?”

Qiao Mu cast him a glance and pondered for a moment. She nodded subsequently, thinking that Duan Yue made an undeniable point.

### **Chapter 659: Forcing a Transaction**

Mo Lian closed in and whispered into Qiao Mu’s ear, “Darling, you’ve most likely snagged a treasure this time around. This medicinal cauldron can even fearlessly ward off Duan Yue’s attack at 30 percent of his full strength without trembling one bit. I reckon that it would completely be no problem if you treat it as a defensive shield in critical situations.”

*Look, that’s what she thought too!*

Qiao Mu extended her small hand and patted Mo Lian’s shoulder, showing him a “great minds think alike” expression.

The fact that she and Mo Lian’s views always happened to coincide made her realize that Mo Lian was perhaps the person who understood her the most in this world.

Even if this medicinal cauldron was completely useless at refining medicine, she didn’t make a loss either way by exchanging two pills for a shield!

Glimpsing at her adorable expression, Mo Lian couldn’t resist kneading her small earlobe. He was about to say more when someone heavily kicked open the door to their room with a bang.

Yet the door rebounded abruptly, almost bouncing back into the intruder’s face.

The uncompromising young lady followed Master Hong inside in embarrassment as she looked at Qiao Mu in remorse. “My apologies for disturbing everyone.”

“Old Hong!” The other forty-year-old man from the Pill Union also knitted his brows as he gazed disapprovingly at Master Hong, who had done such an inappropriate act.

They had indeed received Chen Huiran’s news in advance and rushed here to exchange for the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron.

But it was Old Hong who didn't believe in the seller's medicinal cauldron first, which caused him to lose this decisive opportunity to the little lady, so there was simply no right nor wrong to speak of in this matter.

Old Hong was being too overbearing by refusing to let go of the little lady.

The uncompromising young lady, Chen Huiran, also gazed in displeasure at Master Hong. "Master Hong, quickly leave with us."

After all, forcefully barging into someone's private room like this truly caused her to feel ashamed.

"No way! What can she, a little miss, do with that Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron in her possession? She definitely bought it because she found it entertaining!" Master Hong exclaimed with capricious muleheadedness. "Moreover, we were the ones who chose it first, so how could I possibly let someone else take advantage? Could it be that our Pill Union is scared of a mere few adolescents?"

"You?" Chen Huiran's face tensed up as she arched her eyebrows in anger, abruptly flinging her sleeves while retreating to the side. "Simply impervious to reason. Master Hua, I won't be minding this matter anymore. Let him be."

*Bang.* Master Hong pulled out a small box from the cloth folding in his chest, putting it heavily on the table. "There are two level-11 mystic breakthrough pills and one blood stasis dispersing pill here. I'll just treat it as if I've given you a bargain! So hurry and hand over the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron."

Inside the room, the two kids, Qiao Lin and Qiao Sen, gaped slightly while gazing bewilderedly at this very rude middle-aged uncle that had suddenly barged inside.

On the other hand, Mo Lian and Duan Yue were each drinking their tea, merely casting indifferent glances at the intruding idiot without saying anything.

After several moments.

Hearing a loud slap, the crowd that was currently in a heated discussion before the pill house simultaneously turned their heads for a look.

They saw Master Hong, who had just stormed up the stairs belligerently to pick a quarrel, getting kicked out from the inside of the restaurant. Currently, he was lying flat on the ground in the middle of the street.

Someone also tossed a small box out the third-floor window, and it directly smashed into Master Hong's old face before bouncing off onto the ground.

The lid opened, and three pills the size of dates rolled out from within.

Along with the pills, a cold voice soon travelled into the ears of everyone on the street. "I would find it embarrassing to even gift such low quality pills to a beggar. So, it's best if you keep them for yourself to eat."

## **Chapter 660: Becoming Enemies**

“Little Miss, you!” Master Hua, who had followed Qiao Mu and company down from the third floor to the ground floor lobby, was fuming with anger.

She really didn’t care about helping them save face.

This miss directly tossed one of their Pill Union’s masters out from the restaurant and onto the street! Under everyone’s watchful gazes, she made their Pill Union’s Master Hong become a big laughingstock, sprawling out on his back from her hurtle.

Although Old Hong’s actions were indeed very inappropriate, but... he was still part of their Pill Union! Never had there been someone who didn’t care about shaming them like this.

However, Qiao Mu and company merely looked straight ahead as they walked out of the restaurant, directly boarding the carriage.

Glimpsing the little fellow’s displeased expression, Mo Lian and Duan Yue silently cracked up on the inside.

These two people understood the little lady too well. She was probably still quite angry at the moment. After all, she would definitely be very unhappy when some random person tried to force a transaction out of the blue.

Was the little lady someone who lacked pills? He really had no powers of discernment.

“Head to the marquis’s estate first,” Mo Lian instructed with a light cough.

The carriage driver responded immediately and thrashed the horse whip, driving the carriage towards the Marquis of Jiayuan’s Estate.

Master Hua had wanted to go argue with Qiao Mu and the others, but he was hindered by Chen Huiran.

“Huiran, what are you blocking me for? I have to go dispute this out with that young lady! Look at this, look at this big scene. She’s simply a newborn calf that does not fear the tiger, that’s why she completely doesn’t respect our Pill Union.” Master Hua was red in the face from anger.

“Dispute what?” Chen Huiran maintained her serious face and said bluntly, “The little miss obtained the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron with her own ability. Must our Pill Union abuse our power to bully the little miss and snatch her cauldron by forcing a transaction? Is this a splendid thing to boast of? Does it make the Pill Union proud?”

“You!” Master Hua was momentarily at a loss for words, and he flicked his sleeves while turning his head aside in a huff.

By this time, two of Wurun Pill House’s employees had already helped up the completely disgraced Master Hong, who walked up to Master Hua and Chen Huiran.

Master Hong’s face was flushed red, and he avowed resentfully with trembling lips, “I absolutely won’t take this lying down.”

He, Hong Cheng, was a prestigious figure, no matter if it was in his clan or in the Pill Union. Who wouldn’t salute him respectfully and call him “Master Hong” upon seeing him?

Yet such a nameless little lady actually dared to talk so big and pass his pills off as worthless!

A-And also say, they weren't even of good enough quality to gift to a beggar. It simply angered him to death!

Chen Huiran declined to comment and merely snorted lightly. She cupped her hands towards Master Hua and said, "Master Hua, I'll be returning to the Pill Union first."

Hong Cheng glared resentfully at Chen Huiran's leaving figure before turning to Hua Feng and protesting, "Master Hua, look at her attitude. She's merely an insignificant intermediate-level pill alchemist in the Pill Union, yet she dares to be so rude to me, an advanced-level pill alchemist!"

Hua Feng soothed Hong Cheng briefly before dragging him away. After all, he could feel many people on the street staring at them, and this made him feel all the more ashamed.

On the other hand, a seed of hatred planted itself in Hong Cheng's heart. He felt that the stoic-faced little lady had stomped all over his pride today, and he definitely had to avenge this humiliation in the future.

Meanwhile, after Qiao Mu arrived home and said goodbye to Mo Lian and Duan Yue, she directly sent her siblings back to each of their courts.

She didn't care to take such a trifling matter to heart, and by the time she returned to Nanzhu Garden, she had long since forgotten about such a miscellaneous person.