

My Crown 721

Chapter 721: Longeval Tree

“You’re amazing, Qiuqiu.” It was rare for Qiao Mu to praise Qiuqiu, and afterwards, she used her spiritual conscious to take a look inside.

Once she did, she saw Qiuqiu using cruel and heartless methods to ruthlessly beat up the poisonous morning glory until it turned docile.

Qiuqiu had even thrashed sacred water, so what else couldn’t it thrash?

This morning glory’s scientific name was Six Yang Poisonous Flower. It was one of the few utmost supreme yang poisons in the world, so collecting it into Paradise Planet had exceptional practical value.

After being tainted by even the tiniest drop of this yang poison, it would seem as if that person had suffered severe burns all over their body, continuously sprouting boils and putrefying. However, these wounds would also repeatedly heal completely. In the end, the person would be tormented to death by this endless cycle of pain.

This process was not the slightest bit wonderful at all.

If she had added in this six yang poisonous flower back when she refined the beautifying pill, she could have guaranteed that Consort Zheng would’ve been hovering between life and death in pain.

In comparison, the toxicity of the nether posy that she added wasn’t nearly as intense as this six yang poisonous flower.

After putting this six yang poisonous flower away, Qiao Mu was in a great mood; however, just as she was about to step forwards, she suddenly paused.

She raised her small foot and looked down, picking up a seed.

“Qiuqiu, what is this.” She couldn’t go wrong asking Qiuqiu about all things related to plants.

Sure enough, when Qiuqiu saw the seed in Qiao Mu’s hand, it clamored excitedly. “Master, Master, you really are one lucky dog! This is the seed of a longeval tree. My heavens, I haven’t seen a longeval tree in a very, very long time. I didn’t expect this six yang poisonous flower to be guarding a longeval tree seed on a cliff. Ohh, my longeval tree.”

Longeval tree? Could it be that it was what was used in refining...

At this point, a huge quake at the foot of the mountain suddenly interrupted her thoughts, making her heart clench. She quickly handed the seed over to Qiuqiu, and at the same time, she was already swiftly flying down from the mountain peak.

Her Big Treasure had just been repaired. It had better not have met with an accident.

After Qiao Mu’s figure rapidly flitted down the mountain, she saw Big Treasure pressing down on the little fatty like a human pyramid, toppling beside the lake.

The huge quake just now was probably caused when the two tumbled down from halfway up the mountain and crashed heavily onto flat ground.

Big Treasure wiggled its butt, getting up from the little fatty's body shortly after. It then turned around and scurried towards her, exclaiming, "Little Master, this person is about to beat Big Treasure to death!"

Qiao Mu's lips quivered, and she hastily dodged aside, evading Big Treasure's pouncing hug.

With a single thought, a short, small, and glossy ferule appeared in her hand, but it suddenly lengthened. Qiao Mu dashed rapidly to the little fatty and struck a fatal blow at the little fatty's skull without a second word.

"F*ck, you violent harpy!" The little fatty's pupils abruptly contracted, and he swiftly rolled towards the lake before scrambling up and suddenly standing erect.

However, he had barely steadied himself when Qiao Mu waved her fair hand, triggering a rapidly ascending stream of water.

By the time it reached the little fatty's neck, it had already frozen into the shape of a sharp ice spike, aiming straight for his throat.

She really was savage beyond compare!

She didn't spout nonsense nor explain anything to you; she just fr*cking attacked you directly!

"Stop, stop stop stop, I admit defeat. I'll change back to my original form, alright!" The little fatty's voice suddenly turned delicate, drawn out, and charming.

The chubby fat face abruptly thinned down, and his entire skeleton trembled before repositioning itself. Soon, a grinning face appeared before Qiao Mu.

Chapter 722: Pitfalls

Qiao Mu flung her small hand, directly bestowing the other party with a handful of small tacks.

"Goodness." The female lightly swayed her snake-like slender waist and shifted positions in that instant, suddenly jumping to the side before glowering. "The little miss really is malevolent! I've already reverted to my original form. What else do you want."

This 27 to 28-year-old female had a very voluptuous figure. Yet at this point, her body had become tall and willowy, and an oversized robe was loosely draped over her body, revealing her two thighs that were as glossy as jade.

Now, didn't we have here the snake beauty that Qiao Mu had previously encountered in the underground village.

While bare-footed, she walked lissomely towards Qiao Mu and asked in a negotiating tone, "Little lass, our first order of business is to leave this hellish place. What do you say we leave everything else for after we get out of here?"

Qiao Mu merely cast her a glance without looking too pleased before turning to rapidly scale the mountain.

The snake beauty was so infuriated that her face distorted, but she also started climbing up the mountain too.

*That d*mned imp really was such a slick character that it made her really disagreeable!*

When the snake beauty ascended the peak, she couldn't resist shrieking out loud.

Qiao Mu turned to look at her and saw that woman covering her small mouth while gazing back at her in shock. "Hey, little lass, where's that man-eating flower?"

What man-eating flower, it was merely a six yang poisonous flower.

Qiao Mu was unwilling to speak with a shallow and uncultured person, so she pridefully turned her fair and delicate small face aside.

Yet the snake beauty giggled, laughing alluringly.

With a sway of her slender waist, the snake beauty walked past Qiao Mu and examined the mountain peak.

Other than the grove of pine trees on the peak, there was nothing else.

Qiao Mu had long conducted a nearby search with her spiritual conscious.

The surrounding terrain was a bit peculiar. After traversing this mountain, the ground below seemingly sunk in, forming a vast expanse of pits that were linked to one another.

The mountain path was rugged and uneven, naturally making it difficult for ordinary people to walk on.

However, Qiao Mu and the snake beauty were abnormally swift as they followed the mountain path, merely taking a short while to dash down the slope.

An endless stretch of holes, as if naturally-formed pitfalls, appeared before their eyes. Perhaps a misstep was all that was needed to completely entrap oneself.

"Little Miss, quickly take out your golem and let it scout a path," said the snake beauty hurriedly.

Yet Qiao Mu merely swept the snake beauty a glance before responding, "You go scout."

The snake beauty grinned with closed lips. "You really are petty. The golem won't die even if it falls into a pit. We just have to pull it out again."

Qiao Mu laughed sarcastically.

The snake beauty couldn't resist twitching her mouth. *Young lady, you're better off not laughing. That weird look of yours when you simulate laughter using only your mouth, while the rest of your face remains expressionless, really made one unable to look at you directly.*

Qiao Mu casually picked up a branch from the ground and tossed it into a crater.

Gurgle. There was no trace of the branch after it fell in.

"We're done for, Miss. There are so many pits extending endlessly into the distance. We definitely can't traverse this only by relying on our legs. Why don't you summon out your flying mystic beast?"

By this point, the snake beauty was naturally aware that the little fellow wasn't merely a level-six mystic cultivator.

This little lass was too deceptive.

"Summon yours out," Qiao Mu responded dryly.

"Little Sister, how can other people get along with you cheerfully when you're so petty?"

"Then scram."

The snake beauty was about to choke to death from anger!

Chapter 723: Being Unreasonable

Why was there such a disagreeable little girl in the world!

Would it kill you to say something pleasant? Having her scram at a whim—where could she scram to anyways. It truly infuriated her to death.

Qiao Mu ignored her, picking up another broken branch and throwing it high into the air.

After a faint "crack" rang out, that branch rapidly suffered from an external squeezing force, shattering into bits that fell down with a rustle.

The snake beauty scratched her nose as she subconsciously gazed at the little lady.

As expected, she remained expressionless.

Nowadays, little children weren't easily deceived, sigh.

If Qiao Mu had listened to the snake beauty just now and had Qingluan fly across this region while carrying her, it would probably have ended up suffering from new injuries in addition to its old ones by now.

This was because the space above this region was filled with strong mystic energy.

If birds were to touch this layer of strong mystic energy, they would be flicked away.

If they attempted to attack it...

They would be obliterated mercilessly, just like the broken branch that Qiao Mu had injected a sliver of mystic energy into just earlier.

Hence, the branch shattered into pieces, while the powerful backlash faintly made Qiao Mu feel that her wrist had gone slightly numb.

With her current cultivation, it was simply a daydream for her to split open this layer of strong mystic energy with one strike.

She secretly activated her mystic eyes and looked up.

She beheld wisps of mystic energy densely criss-crossing and intertwining the entire space above this crater region.

It was simply a delusional pipe dream to break through this space by force.

The only route was to pass through the craters in front.

“You go first.” Qiao Mu spoke coldly.

The snake beauty instantly shook her head like a rattle-drum. “I don’t want to.”

“I’m not going to walk in front of you. If you happen to push me from behind, wouldn’t I be dying rather unjustly?”

“Then don’t go.” Qiao Mu suddenly scattered a handful of poison powder.

The snake beauty was caught off guard and inhaled a mouthful of poison powder that blew into her face. She coughed repeatedly from choking on it, and her small, charming face contorted completely.

*F*ck!*

Where did this unreasonable fiend come from, giving you a killing blow when she didn’t like what she heard? Wasn’t this kind of fiendish monster that looked completely harmless from the outside even more frightening than people like them from the underground village?

“Cough cough, ack, cough cough.” The snake beauty cursed inwardly as she clutched her chest.

Soon, she felt her sight turning black. *What kind of poison powder was this, that was unexpectedly so difficult to deal with?*

The snake beauty’s complexion quickly turned gloomy. She rounded up the poison in her body and transferred it out from her meridians as quickly as possible.

“Cough, cough cough.” *She was careless!*

She’d been had!

If not for the fact that her superpower was the ability to shapeshift, mold her bones, and warp her meridians—in short, basically manipulating her own body at will—then anyone else in her shoes today would have certainly been killed by the little lady.

However, she had only shifted the poison into one of her bones, storing it there for the time being. In reality, she had not thoroughly eradicated the poison in her body.

Instead, she had transferred the poison to a comparatively benign part of her body, far from her heart and brain, and her dizzy spell was dispelled in no time.

The snake beauty raised her darkened face and gazed before her icily.

She saw that the little lady had already walked to the middle of the crater region by this time.

As the little lady made her way through, she very carefully probed the pits around her with the sturdy branches she grasped in each hand, purposefully choosing the craters that had solid bottoms.

Even though it was rather slow work, it would probably only take around another two hours for her to leave this place of pitfalls.

This d*mned child was so petty that she didn't let her benefit, doing a number on her so that she couldn't smoothly and easily pass through by following the route the little lady scouted.

Chapter 724: Just That Capricious

Qiao Mu had intentionally tossed a handful of poison powder into the snake beauty's face in order to prevent the snake beauty from following after her.

She made sure to take precautions against the snake beauty taking undeserving advantage of her.

After all, Qiao Mu's thoughts were: *You must be joking. Was it so easy for other people to sit idle and enjoy the fruits of this darling's labor?*

It was better for each person to scout their own path!

I scout mine, and you scout yours. Want to follow in my footsteps? No way and no window!

Meanwhile, the snake beauty couldn't make heads or tails of it. *Why did she originally think that this scheming child was interesting and adorable?*

How blind were her eyes at that time!

The snake beauty pursed her lips and strode ahead without saying anything.

The two people were rather far apart at the beginning, but gradually, Qiao Mu discovered that the snake beauty was slithering towards her.

Yes, she was slithering!

Those supple, pinkish-white legs, as if boneless, were sliding extremely rapidly along the ground.

Qiao Mu just stopped and turned to watch her.

She discovered that there was a thin layer of snake scales coating the snake beauty's bare legs.

Upon closer observation, those snake scales did not touch the ground directly but rather maintained a half-inch distance away from the ground.

So the snake beauty was a demonic cultivator that had fused with a type of evil snake beast.

Qiao Mu grumbled in her mind that she had been deceived by this fellow. It turned out that she could pass through this crater region so effortlessly.

Yet she pretended to be delicate earlier. *Humph!*

Seeing the snake beauty slithering towards her, unhindered, Qiao Mu looked her up and down in slight puzzlement.

She understood very well how effective her poison was.

Let alone an insignificant demonic cultivator, even if a powerful mystic cultivator were to breathe in this supreme coldness poison powder, it was more than enough to teach the snake beauty a good lesson.

Yet why did the snake beauty seem totally unaffected after only such a short period of time?

This body of hers was too strange. It actually had such great self-healing capabilities?

“Is Little Miss very curious about my body?” The snake beauty suddenly smiled at her.

Immediately, she opened her mouth wide, and an aromatic poison fog sprayed outwards.

She completely controlled this venom intrinsic to the evil beast she had fused with, the fire stag dark-fanged snake.

Right now, she automatically upgraded it to become a poison fog, which caught people off guard and was capable of knocking out most people with a single sniff.

Tsk, darn lass, you scattered a handful of poison powder at me, so I'm spraying you with a mouthful of poison fog. We're even now!

The snake beauty smiled wickedly at Qiao Mu and stretched out her supple arms, intending to catch Qiao Mu's fall...

Swish.

However, a silver needle dipped in poison shot towards the snake beauty's eyes at close range.

In her shock, the snake beauty hastily bent over her delicate and exquisite waist. Her entire body was practically lying against the muddy ground as she dodged the silver needle that skirted the space above her nose.

No sooner said than done, Qiao Mu had already summoned out her club from her conscious and thunderously struck it downwards.

Bang! A pair of shortswords appeared above the snake beauty's head, crossing each other in a block.

They barely blocked this violent strike of Qiao Mu's, and the snake beauty's body sunk into the pit.

Qiao Mu flew up and bombarded her with three heavy, continuous strikes, just like driving piles into the ground with a clang, clang, clang. This ended up driving the snake beauty's body halfway into the pit...

The snake beauty glowered at her angrily. “Little fellow, you didn't kill me with your poison powder earlier, and this time around you also neutralized my poison fog. We're considered even now. Do you have to go so far as to bury me to my death in this pit?”

How would Qiao Mu respond to her? She just continued to persistently hit the snake beauty into the pit with a clang, clang, clang, bang, bang, bang.

If not for the fact that her situation was rather precarious, the snake beauty really felt like laughing.

Chapter 725: Gremlin

The two shortswords crossed above the snake beauty's head were evidently not as good as Qiao Mu's club.

By this point, they were already slightly deformed by the club's smashing...

“Don’t hammer anymore!!” The snake beauty was flustered and exasperated, crying out in a velvety voice, “I’m about to faint from you bratty child’s smashing! Can’t you treat me a bit more gently, wah!”

Clang! Qiao Mu finally took time to glance at the snake beauty after landing a finishing blow.

She had smashed half of this fellow’s body into the pit.

How unfortunate that this pit had a solid bottom!

If this pit ended up being a pitfall, that would have been even better, and this snake beauty would’ve fallen into who knows where by this time.

“See see see, look at your wily eyes that are up to no good. You’re thinking of suckering me again, am I right? You couldn’t be thinking, if this were a pitfall, it would have been even more wonderful if you could pound me directly into the Ravine of Resentment, right?” The snake beauty nagged.

“Ravine of Resentment?”

“What’s up, you’re still acting stupid?” The snake beauty harrumphed. “Isn’t this region that’s full of potholes and endless pitfalls precisely the Ravine of Resentment?”

“So this is the Ravine of Resentment.” Qiao Mu mumbled to herself. “Then that means, the Vastly Distant Woods are up ahead?”

“That’s correct.” The snake beauty peered at her suspiciously. “Although the Vastly Distant Woods isn’t that deep, ferocious beasts roam through it freely, so it’s very difficult to pass through. The recluse monks of Shadow Moon Monastery dislike being disturbed by outsiders the most, so there’s no use going there since they won’t meet you.”

“The monks are the ones who made the pitfalls in the Ravine of Resentment?”

“Of course not. This is a natural barrier.” The snake beauty rolled her eyes. “This Ravine of Resentment has already been formed for who knows how many centuries. These monks have only found a pretty good dwelling to live in seclusion.”

“Liar.” Qiao Mu snorted coldly. “There is clearly a rich mystic energy canopy deployed over this Ravine of Resentment. It prohibits flying mystic beasts from passing over it at all. You still dare say that this wasn’t set up by humans?”

“This you don’t understand. It is said that the strong mystic energy above this Ravine of Resentment was set up by an extremely powerful great spiritual cultivator. How is this related to the monks?”

Qiao Mu found a cloth rag from who knows where, and to the snake beauty’s alarm, directly stuffed it into her mouth.

“Long-winded!”

“Wuwuwu!” *This wasn’t fair!* The little lady was the one who asked the question, and she kindly answered her. Yet in the end, she suffered this kind of inhuman treatment.

The snake beauty glared at Qiao Mu with indignant eyes.

Since this was the Ravine of Resentment, then that was perfect.

Qiao Mu didn't want this snake beauty to continue following her. She needed to head to Shadow Moon Monastery to find the Startled Swan Dagger, so miscellaneous people naturally had to quickly scam away.

Hence, the snake beauty was left stuck inside a pit like this. Qiao Mu herself wouldn't care about the snake beauty's life or death, promptly avoiding her and continuing her journey towards the other end of the Ravine of Resentment.

The little fellow took inspiration from the snake beauty and stealthily mustered up her energy, making her legs float half an inch above the ground.

This way, she wouldn't be affected by the oppressive mystic energy from above, nor would she need to repeatedly scout out a path. It was indeed extremely clever of the snake beauty to find this loophole.

Although the snake beauty wasn't all that great, her brain was quite innovative.

Qiao Mu muttered this to herself before picking up her pace and trekking out of the Ravine of Resentment.

Meanwhile, on the other end, the snake beauty who had exploded from fury writhed her body that was stuck in the pit, and the continuous sounds of crackling and rattling bones rang out.

After a short while, a pile of clothes dropped to the floor in a scatter.

A bald little head popped out from the pile of clothing, and the little monk raised up a small, sleek hand to stroke his bright and bald small head.

Hehehe—

Chapter 726: The Old Monk and the Little Monk

The little monk was a pretty and delicate child about five or six years old, with rosy lips and pearly teeth.

If the little lady still didn't like this innocent, lively, and adorable look, then she must be a freak!

*Earlier, after taking the wrong route, why did she just have to transform into that d*mn little fatty who carried the iron wok on his back?*

Yup, she had also forgotten to grab the fatty's iron wok, and thus was seen through by the little lady with a single glance!

This truly was a technical error. The snake beauty shook her head as she adjusted her clothes.

Due to her extremely small figure at this moment, a pile of clothing was hanging on her body incongruously. Hence, she tore apart the clothes, ripping out several sections to wrap around her body.

An attractive little monk in red was thus born, and upon careful observation, a hint of wicked charm could be seen within his brows.

The snake beauty pulled out a mirror and checked herself out from all angles. She concluded that this look warmed the heart and delighted the eyes no matter how you looked at her.

Oh my, if the little lady still didn't like this naturally adorkable appearance, then she... didn't have anything to say.

The snake beauty's figure moved, and she chased in the direction of the Vastly Distant Woods.

A radiant glint flitted past her charming eyes.

*How was such a d*mn little lass so difficult to deal with?* She obstinately refused to believe in this curse!

On the other end, Qiao Mu had already arrived at the entrance to the Vastly Distant Woods. She let out the snakelet to lead the way ahead.

Thereupon, her journey through the woods was smooth and unhindered. She simply didn't encounter any dim-witted beasts blocking the path at all. *Yet you say ferocious beasts roam through it freely, bah!* She didn't even see a single bird.

This snake beauty was simply a big, fat liar! It would really be unbelievable if she were to actually believe her.

After exiting the Vastly Distant Woods, she saw an old, stately Buddhist temple encircled by pine trees situated before her eyes. The veranda eaves revolved around the center, giving off a majestic air.

However, the gate to the monastery was shut tight, so Qiao Mu ascended the steps and knocked on the gate.

There was no response after a good while, so she knocked on the gate again.

Just as she grew irritated and intended to flip over the wall, the gate to the old Buddhist temple finally creaked open.

An elderly monk, about 60 years old, walked out first. His figure was extremely slim, and his pair of eyes were brimming with a wise glow.

When he saw that Qiao Mu was the one standing outside the gate, he was very obviously startled, and his gaze momentarily turned blank.

Qiao Mu also glanced at him before lowering her head to peer at a little monk trailing behind the old monk and tugging at a corner of the old monk's clothes.

This four-year-old little monk's small face was as delicate as jade, and his pudgy chin made him look extremely adorable.

Since the little monk was very shy around strangers, he shrunk behind the old monk's waist, only peeking out his small, bald head to gaze curiously at Qiao Mu.

By this time, the old monk had recovered his wits, and he harped, "Benefactress, this small temple has been abandoned for many years. We haven't welcomed Buddhist pilgrims in a long time."

Qiao Mu flipped her small hand, taking out that jade voice transmission talisman and handing it to the old monk.

When the old monk saw this jade voice transmission talisman, his entire body froze. He distractedly glanced up at Qiao Mu again before stepping aside and opening up a path.

“Would Benefactress please come in first?”

Judging from its scale, this old Buddhist temple looked to be medium-sized. Although the old monk said that the monastery had been abandoned for many years, the interior was orderly and tidy, clean and refreshing.

“This old monk is Kongyin[1], the abbot of this small temple,” the old monk spoke as he invited Qiao Mu inside a meditation abode.

“Could Benefactress enlighten me as to where you obtained this jade talisman?”

“I incidentally came across it in a deserted town. Why does Venerable Master ask?” Qiao Mu asked evenly.

The old monk sighed ruefully while holding the jade voice transmission talisman.

Chapter 727: Without a Hitch

“This jade voice transmission talisman indeed belongs to an old friend. This old monk hasn’t seen it in more than 10 years.” The old monk sighed emotionally before nodding at Qiao Mu and saying, “Benefactress, please wait a moment.”

Subsequently, he walked to one side of the room and took out a small, pitch-black box from a row of standing pomelo wood drawers.

Yet after wiping the small box with his sleeve, the old monk stared distractedly at it for a while.

Dressed in a small, gray monastic robe, the little monk kneeled on a small praying mat next to Qiao Mu and repeatedly sized up this visitor with his moist eyes.

The old monk carried the small black box towards Qiao Mu and sat down across from her, handing it over. “Benefactress, this is yours.”

“The Startled Swan?” Qiao Mu hadn’t expected this trip to go so smoothly.

After seeing that jade voice transmission talisman, the old monk just entrusted the Startled Swan to her, without requiring her to go through any transferral procedures?

This went way too shockingly smoothly!

The old monk nodded and let out a long sigh. “This old monk has waited here for a full 14 years. From today on, this old monk can finally settle this fixation, many thanks to this little benefactress’s assistance.”

Qiao Mu questioned curiously, “Why do you call it a fixation?”

The old monk became lost in thought as he looked dazedly at Qiao Mu while murmuring to himself, “Alike, alike...”

Even the question she asked was exactly the same.

Alike what? The old monk didn't say, so Qiao Mu was at a loss. She looked at the old monk and stated, "If you have experienced life and death and faced your very most unbearable past, perhaps you will understand that fixations or not, everything is all meaningless."

"Only failing to acquire what you wish will spawn a fixation. Won't it all be fine if you don't wish for anything?" Yet Qiao Mu couldn't resist laughing by herself as she spoke. "But this is only easy to say. How can a person wish for nothing?"

Just like her. No matter how she didn't wish for anything else, praying for her family to be safe and sound was also a wish.

Qiao Mu spoke softly, "People only need to conduct themselves with integrity and maintain a clear conscience. Why should they care about how the world views them?"

Even she herself wasn't aware that she had relaxed her mind before an old monk she just met, and she laughed inexplicably.

It was as if the old monk was an old friend that she hadn't seen for a long time. In front of the old monk, there was no need for her to put up any mental defenses.

The old monk stared at Qiao Mu blankly for a very long time, after which he laughed out loud. "Alike, yet not alike. Good child, your personality is much more unrestrained and at ease than hers, hahahaha."

With such a jubilant laugh, the two people became less constrained, and they also conversed much more freely.

The little monk watched this scene from the side in stupefaction. He hadn't seen his master treat anyone this familiarly before. Many of the visitors that dropped in before were also dressed in luxurious clothes like this benefactress. It was obvious that they were of high status, yet Master had always spoken bluntly with them.

"Child, it's not easy for you to make a trip when it's all mountains and abandoned villages here, so why don't you stay here for two days before departing?"

"Many thanks for Venerable Master's hospitality, but I still have important matters to take care of and can't tarry here for too long. Thank you for your kindness." Qiao Mu replied quickly.

She had to hurry to Beilan Fortification immediately. She was worried that Mo Lian would be anxious.

"In that case, you must join me for a vegetarian meal before leaving." The old monk said hurriedly.

This time, Qiao Mu nodded. "Accepting deferentially is better than standing on ceremony."

The old monk also nodded with a beaming smile. "You first check out this Startled Swan. I'll go prepare the vegetarian dishes."

Chapter 728: Map

"Thank you for your trouble." Qiao Mu nodded, and after she followed the Venerable Master out with her eyes, she stroked the small, pitch-black box.

Feeling the exterior, this small box was as warm as jade. Nothing at all looked abnormal about it.

However, it was only when a burst of dense killing intent, accompanied by the vital spiritual energy of heaven and earth, spurted out after opening it did Qiao Mu realize that this seemingly common box could actually completely lock up the aura of this godly blade within, preventing any of it from leaking out.

Once it was opened, a skyrocketing spiritual glow gushed out. Although this spiritual movement lasted for merely a split second, it was still enough to alarm the surrounding wilderness.

In her surprise, Qiao Mu hastily raised her head before discovering that the entire space above the room had long been sealed by a certain force. This spiritual glow couldn't flow out at all.

Only then did she let out a sigh of relief as she slowly sat down again. She mused: So spiritual weapons will diffuse a numinous treasure's brilliance all over the place upon appearing.

If she didn't take timely precautions, the disturbance it created would have inevitably informed everyone about it.

Then Mo Lian must have used some special method to seal the numinous treasure's glow of the spiritual weapons that he gave her previously. It seemed she was the one who was rather ignorant and inexperienced.

As for the Tianji Treasure Blueprint, that was because it had originally been sealed inside the concealed weapon box, so no divine glow appeared.

Rather, it was the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron that was quite peculiar. Qiao Mu kept feeling that this medicinal cauldron wasn't that simple.

It was impossible for this item to only be a mere mystic weapon. She reckoned that the reason it didn't produce a numinous treasure's glow was related to the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon design on the cauldron's body. So far, only one star on the cauldron's body was radiating a streak of light.

While sitting on the praying mat, Qiao Mu carefully sized up the dagger in her hand.

It was entirely a flawless snow-white, and a faint silver spiritual glow suspended above it. It was a few inches longer than her palm and fit fairly conveniently into her hand.

Qiao Mu slashed lightly with it, and she saw a strand of her hair be cut squarely into two. It truly was a sharp weapon that could sever a strand of hair just by blowing it against the blade and that could cut through iron as if it were mud.

She fondled it admiringly, turning it over in her hands repeatedly. After slightly ejecting mystic energy from her hand, the Startled Swan Dagger glided across the air with a swish before instantly getting sucked into her conscious.

Presently, her conscious was in a liquefied state.

After guiding her spiritual conscious inside, she saw a stream, looking like a jade belt, slowly flowing through her conscious.

Up above the stream were the Spirit Division Record, the Golden Talisman Jade Tome, as well as the Tianji Treasure Blueprint. Her ferule, club, medicinal cauldron, etc. were also tranquilly floating up overhead.

Now that this Startled Swan Dagger had also been sucked into her conscious, it also automatically found an empty space to silently stay put without causing any anomalies.

After observing for a while, Qiao Mu quietly dispersed her thread of spiritual conscious into her own conscious.

When she returned to the present, she looked down at the small black box on her knees, and she fiddled with it to remove the partition inside.

Qiao Mu took out a parchment map from the small box.

The location indicated on this map was probably the secret inheritance realm.

Yet when she took a preliminary glance at the map after spreading it out, she was involuntarily taken aback.

She was too familiar with the place this map had drawn, and she practically didn't need to see the labeled place names. After seeing the mountain range drawn on the map, she could recognize the region with a single glance.

At this time, a chubby little hand gently tugged on a corner of her clothing.

Qiao Mu recovered her wits and looked down at the little monk.

The little monk had raised his pudgy chin slightly, and his pair of distinctively black and white eyes gazed fixedly at her. He said in a childish tone, "Benefactress, it's time to eat."

Qiao Mu petted his small bald head, and her lips involuntarily curved. "Call me Sister."

The meal was quite delicious. The old monk's vegetarian culinary talent simply caused one to view him with a whole new level of respect.

Chapter 729: If I May Be So Bold to Ask a Favor

When they were done eating, the old monk looked at Qiao Mu, hesitating to speak.

Seeing this, Qiao Mu took the initiative and asked, "Does Venerable Master want to say something to me?"

The old monk sighed and said, "This old monk does have a presumptuous favor to ask. This old monk has been waiting for the Startled Swan Dagger's fated one all these years. Now that this old monk's wish has been realized, this old monk wants to leave Shadow Moon Monastery and travel the outer Star Domain."

"You want to leave Sikong Planet?" Qiao Mu was slightly startled.

The old monk nodded and said with a smile, "Travelling can expand one's scope and broaden one's breadth of mind."

Qiao Mu's gaze landed on the little monk, still with his baby fat.

The little monk had raised his pudgy chin and was watching them with round eyes.

"His name is Kongkong[1]. He's very easy to take care of. You don't need to fret over him usually. You just have to give him two to three veggie buns each day."

The old monk was way too nonchalant about this. He wanted to slip away by himself, so he was planning on throwing this little monk to her...

Sure, she took the Startled Swan Dagger and the dagger he gifted her, but he didn't say that she had to bring a baby away with her as well?

Qiao Mu drew her lips into a thin line.

The old monk glanced at her and hastily persisted, "Child, if you are unwilling to bring Kongkong away with you, then after this old monk goes out to travel, Kongkong will be the only one left in this temple, with not a soul in sight. Although there probably won't be any problems in regards to food for two to three years, how can this old monk bear to leave such a small child in the temple by himself, sigh."

Qiao Mu rolled her eyes and muttered silently: *You can't bear to, but you can't bring him with you either? Wouldn't everything be solved if you bring him along in your travels?*

"Kongkong is still young, after all. It's not too suitable for a child at his age to be out on a journey for such a long period of time." It was as if the old monk had made out Qiao Mu's inner thoughts, and he quickly continued, "Rest assured, this old monk will at most journey for three years. Three years later, this old monk will certainly find you and take back Kongkong."

"As for Kongkong's safety, you don't need to worry. Even though he's young, he has sufficient ability to defend himself. Kongkong," the old monk called.

The little monk Kongkong immediately stood up from his praying mat with a wobble as he wiggled his small behind. He abruptly extended his ten small, chubby fingers, and two round balls of flame darted about above this pair of small hands.

Fire spirit!

Qiao Mu was thunderstruck.

This was the first time she saw someone other than Mo Lian controlling fire so skillfully.

The two balls of flames were scarlet, and their color and luster looked extremely bright.

It also seemed to be even more pure than Mo Lian's red flame.

Of course, it couldn't compare with the purple flame Mo Lian controlled.

But this was all a moot point. The important point was that this imp was only four years old, yet he had already grasped spiritual fire?

"This is the grade-seven spiritual fire that Kongkong controls." The old monk, too, couldn't resist making a queer expression when talking about this.

Back then, when he found Kongkong and brought him back to the temple, Kongkong was still a small infant, looking as if he was only a few days old.

Yet this small infant was innately born with spiritual fire.

At the beginning, the old monk wasn't aware of this. He only saw that his meditation abode would occasionally catch on fire ever since he brought back this small infant.

It was only later on that he suddenly realized that every time this small infant got angry, his small bed would also catch on fire...

The old monk coughed lightly. "It's just that, Kongkong's control over fire is still a bit not too brilliant. Sometimes, when he's angry, he easily, cough cough, triggers his spiritual fire to go berserk."

Qiao Mu's eyes turned round.

Then wasn't this child a volatile element? How would she dare send him to her family like this?

Chapter 730: Seal Contract

The old monk quickly continued, "Rest assured, don't worry. Kongkong, this child, is very well-behaved. Normally, he basically doesn't get angry."

When he does get angry, it's with the force of a sudden mountain flash flood, or of spurting lava...

"He's very quiet usually. Just prepare a meditation abode for him to chant Buddhist scriptures, and he won't really come out to cause trouble." The old monk also added.

Qiao Mu gazed at the old monk exasperatedly. She felt that the old monk was like a hands-off shopkeeper, hurriedly attempting to toss the little monk, this burden, to her.

The old monk said with a smile, "Child, you absolutely won't lose out looking after Kongkong. You'll understand this in the future. Even though Kongkong is still young, he has a profound comprehension of Buddhist hand seals. He not only is able to control the fire spirit, but he also knows how to execute various Buddhist hand seals. He will definitely assist you greatly in your trip to the secret realm."

The meaning of his words was already made clear.

The old monk was insinuating that she wouldn't get anywhere even with the map in her hand.

To enter the secret realm, she also needed to undo the Buddhist seal contract.

In other words, that old monk had mostly likely additionally fortified the secret realm with a secret hand seal!

No wonder she didn't discover anything the first time she went there.

The little monk tottered to Qiao Mu and put his palms together devoutly, giving a bow. "Benefactress, please take care of me from now on."

Qiao Mu twitched her mouth and lightly flicked the little fellow's bright forehead. "Call me Sister!"

The little monk shielded his glossy forehead as he gazed bewilderedly at the little lady before him.

On the other hand, the old monk let out a peal of laughter.

After taking leave of the old monk, Qiao Mu held the little monk's hand as she walked out of the monastery before suddenly turning back for a glance.

The old Buddhist temple was still as stately as it had always been, yet it was missing signs of life and incense smoke.

"Benefactress, my senior brothers have all gone out on journeys. Now that even Master intends to leave, starting today, this small temple will be completely deserted." The little monk puffed out his chubby cheeks.

Qiao Mu gently pinched the little monk's soft cheeks with her two fingers as she corrected him in all seriousness. "Call me Sister."

The little monk gazed pitifully at her as he muttered in his mind: *Benefactress is very scary.*

Qiao Mu was both amused and annoyed, and she patted his bald head. "Call me Sister, or else you won't have veggie buns to eat."

Upon hearing that he wouldn't get veggie buns to eat, the little monk quickly called her "Sister" obediently.

Hence, his foodie nature was revealed in its entirety.

"Do you eat meat?"

Qiao Mu asked while holding his small hand.

The little monk shook his bald head like a rattle-drum. "This young monk doesn't consume meat."

"The Buddha has said, to persist in the pure commandments and to maintain a dignified manner, one must cleanse their body and should not consume meat. Hailing from Shadow Moon Monastery, this young monk ought to naturally scrupulously abide by his duty, strictly maintaining..."

Slap! Qiao Mu couldn't tolerate him anymore and flicked the little monk's forehead.

"Long-winded!" This little monk was so young, yet he already had the potential to become a chatterbox!

The little monk only peered at Qiao Mu pitifully. "Benefactress, you've been hitting this young monk's head. This is not commendable behavior. Firstly, this young monk will become stupid! Secondly, it is improper for males and females to make physical contact..."

Qiao Mu flung away the little monk's hand and took to her heels.

"You should return to Shadow Moon Monastery." With this child's intelligence, he shouldn't starve to death even if he were on his own!

She had to be merciless and abandon this chatterbox.

The little monk knew he was in trouble when he saw that his sponsor had hightailed it, so he hastily chased after her and shouted the entire way, "Benefactress, wait up for this young monk!"

Qiao Mu was joyously dashing up in front when she heard the little monk calling for her, and she immediately slipped, nearly falling to the ground.