

My Crown 931

Chapter 931: I Don't Believe Her

"Your body's internal injuries are a bit serious, so you need to recuperate properly." Qiao Mu was sitting on the edge of the bed as she set down the plump young lady's wrist. "Rest well."

"Xiao Bao!" The plump young lady struggled to prop herself up, but she immediately collapsed on the edge of the bed from lack of strength.

Qiao Mu turned around and gazed at her with a complicated look. "Mhm."

"I, have I caused you trouble?" The plump young lady wrung the hem of her clothes as she timidly stole a glance at Mo Lian.

Mo Lian had pulled his lips in a thin line, and he coolly paused his gaze on the plump young lady before retracting it instantly.

Nevertheless, the plump young lady still felt her entire body suddenly going cold, as if she had plunged into an ice pit.

"It's fine, you can set your mind at ease and recuperate here. We'll go out first." After nodding at her, Qiao Mu reached out to grasp Mo Lian before pulling him out.

"I disagree." Before they could walk too far after leaving the room, Mo Lian admonished somberly, "You're so clever, so you certainly know that there must be a problem with this person. How can you keep her and put yourself in danger?"

"Could it be that you really believed her excuse?" Mo Lian cast a cold glance at the plump young lady's quarters behind him.

"Her name is Xiang Yuanyuan. I met her when I applied to be a maidservant at the Qin Estate." Sticking out her two index fingers, Qiao Mu poked them at each other before looking up at Mo Lian. "Back then, none of those maidservants were willing to pay me any attention! Only she would run over of her own accord to talk with me."

Crown Prince Mo was involuntarily a bit speechless when presented with such a childish little fellow.

After observing her bashful expression for a good while, Mo Lian's gaze eased up as he stroked her small head. "Actually, our Qiaoqiao really wants to make friends deep in her heart."

"Humph! No friends." Qiao Mu pridefully turned her head aside before walking away.

Xiang Yuanyuan said that Second Qin had specially arranged a group of people to kidnap the Qiao Estate's eldest miss on the day of the competition.

"I know that she is lying, or perhaps, it is Second Qin who is lying," Qiao Mu said indifferently.

With Second Qin's cultivation, how could he allow a normal person to eavesdrop?

And even explicitly tell Xiang Yuanyuan that Mu Xiao Bao was only an alias, while her true identity was the eldest miss of the Marquis of Jiayuan's Estate?

No one would believe that it wasn't on purpose!

Mo Lian nodded. "As long as you understand."

This lie was simply full of holes!

Unless Second Young Sir Qin had wittingly released Xiang Yuanyuan, otherwise, it would have been impossible for Xiang Yuanyuan, a normal female, to escape from the Qin Estate.

Since she had learned the second young sir's plan, she could only be a dead person.

"I just have no idea right now what exactly Qin Xin wants to do." Qiao Mu knitted her brows all the way out of Xiang Yuanyuan's guest courtyard.

"Do you believe that this Xiang Yuanyuan is innocent?" Mo Lian's expression was a bit grave.

After giving him a glance, Qiao Mu shook her head. "I don't."

"Then why haven't you tossed her out? Even though she is merely a normal person, but who knows, she may give you a fatal blow at a critical moment..." Even Mo Lian himself stopped after hypothesizing halfway.

He sighed lightly as he held her small hand, saying, "Perhaps she may have been quite okay in the past, but right now, neither of us knows what she will do next."

"Mhm, I know." Qiao Mu nodded her head very obediently. "After I finish treating her injuries, I'll send her off. It won't take too long, at most four to five days."

"I will send people to keep an eye on her. If by chance she makes any abnormal moves, I'm sorry, but for your safety, I will have people dispose of her."

Chapter 932: Candidates

After gazing at him in resignation, Qiao Mu suddenly ran up to him, raising her small hands up high to quickly knead his taut but handsome face.

Mo Lian: ...

"Alright! I'm very smart, so I won't fall for other people's schemes." Qiao Mu placated gently, "So can you not worry?"

After giving her a glance, Mo Lian nodded helplessly.

"Let's go, come with me to Beautiful Vista Court to visit Mom." At this, Qiao Mu's eyes brightened, and she walked out while grasping his palm.

As Mo Lian observed how naturally she held his hand, a faint smile couldn't help creeping up onto his lips.

---Mo Lian's section break---

Inside the main hall of the talisman patrician family, the Mu Clan.

While standing resentfully before her father Mu Boming, Mu Qianqian questioned indignantly, "Dad, why aren't you letting me participate in the competition? Could my talisman energy possibly be worse than Second Sister Mu Zhilan's? Why is she qualified to participate, yet I am not?"

Upon seeing this, Mu Boming's eldest son Mu Xingyu hastily walked up and reprimanded, "Qianqian, how can you speak to Father with this attitude? Hurry and withdraw!"

Mu Boming felt more discomfited the more he looked at this good-for-nothing daughter.

In the palace, she had repeatedly provoked dispute yet was humiliated in turn. It really made him lose face when even the king pointed out that she "needed to be properly taught rules and etiquette after going back."

As a prideful person, how could Mu Boming tolerate this troublemaker of a daughter stirring up trouble for him every time?

The result of this eight great patrician families' competition determined the Mystic Beast Forest secret realm's quota allocation, so he couldn't permit the slightest error.

Their Mu Clan needed to seize one to two spots, but for precaution, two spots would be best.

"Stay at home to study talisman techniques for this period of time."

"Dad!!" Mu Qianqian's voice raised, becoming extremely shrill.

Mu Boming interrupted her bluntly. "Shut up! You originally aren't talented at drawing talismans. Back then, it was Father who researched many ways for you to just barely trigger talisman energy."

"All these years, tell me, has your talisman energy made any substantial improvements? Even Zhilan, who triggered talisman energy later than you, is now on par with you in terms of talisman energy level as a beginner-level proficient-class talisman practitioner. Your talisman-drawing speed can't even compare to Zhilan's! What you need more is to thoroughly reflect on yourself!"

Mu Boming's tirade made Mu Qianqian's lungs almost explode.

She was Dad's own daughter, yet Dad viewed the second branch's Mu Zhilan more favorably.

On what basis?

Mu Zhilan smiled while standing to the side, and she consoled in a soft voice, "Eldest Uncle, please don't be angry with Sister Qianqian. She will work hard and definitely catch up to Zhilan in the future."

Mu Qianqian felt infuriated when she saw that little white daisy's affectedly sweet manner.

After glaring at Mu Zhilan, Mu Qianqian turned around to leave the main hall without turning her head back. "I will definitely go participate in the competition! It doesn't matter whether Dad gives me a quota or not!"

After angrily shouting "unfilial daughter," Mu Boming was so livid that he cleaved his handrest into two when he saw his daughter walking off without a second thought.

Yet how could Mu Qianqian be delighted on the inside?

After returning to her own room, she smashed a bunch of things after closing the doors.

Suddenly, she turned around and saw a pitch-black shadow that would occasionally appear. Her eyes brightened, but then it turned sullen again as it contained a hint of suppressed anger. "You didn't keep our appointment!"

Great Master Black Cat cackled. "People like me naturally won't do such foolish things as keeping an appointment."

Chapter 933: Only One of Its Kind?

"You!" Mu Qianqian's teeth ached from anger, yet there was nothing she could do to him.

"Is the item ready?"

"I heard that your eight great patrician families will host a martial competition in two days!" Great Master Black Cat fearlessly ignored Mu Qianqian's interrogation as he spoke in his raspy voice.

"What do you want to do," Mu Qianqian asked with an indifferent attitude.

"I also want to go take a look. I wonder if Miss Mu will be able to bring me along at that time?" Great Master Black Cat continued with a smile, "Furthermore, I also want to witness for myself the effectiveness of this soul swap curse."

Mu Qianqian turned silent.

"Is it not so?" Great Master Black Cat let out a low and hoarse snicker. "I basically spent all my life's skill to draw this soul swap curse! Eldest Miss Mu, I want to personally witness you using it."

However, Mu Qianqian couldn't resist asking, "How did you know? That I wanted to use the soul swap curse during the competition?"

Great Master Black Cat spread his hands. "This old man was making a guess and didn't expect that it would be correct. This old man thought that you were probably in urgent need of it since you wanted me to finish creating this soul swap curse in seven days."

"Give it here." Mu Qianqian stretched out her small hand.

Yet Great Master Black Cat shook his head at her. "Eldest Miss Mu, you seem to have forgotten to give me something."

This caused Mu Qianqian to bite her lips as she thought back to their deal, after which she simply balanced the scales in her heart, taking out a small square box and stuffing it into Great Master Black Cat's hands with closed eyes.

"Here!"

It was only then that Great Master Black Cat smiled happily. After taking the wooden box and opening it, a pleasant surprise showed on his face. "Good, good, good! With such a summoning talisman that is the only one of its kind, I can certainly make a copy after researching it! Hahahaha."

Mu Qianqian's lips couldn't help but show a sneer. "There's been so many people in the talisman patrician family, and some seniors might not even be able to thoroughly understand this summoning talisman even after studying it for their entire lives. Yet you? Copy? Ha ha."

After hearing this, Great Master Black Cat pursed his lips in displeasure and gave a harrumph. "That's because all the talisman practitioners in your talisman patrician family have average talent. How could they be mentioned on equal terms with this old man."

"Great Master Black Cat has rather absolute confidence in himself."

"But of course." After giving a chilling snicker, Great Master Black Cat suddenly swiped out a similarly-sized wooden box from his sleeve and flung it into Mu Qianqian's hands.

"This is the soul swap curse. You must be careful in using it. You had best firmly keep this old man's previous words in mind. Be sure not to harm yourself ahahahaha!" After saying this, Great Master Black Cat revealed a cheerful look as if watching a good show.

However, more than half his face was hidden underneath his pitch-black hood, so Mu Qianqian simply couldn't see his features clearly.

"You can leave." Mu Qianqian unceremoniously showed him the door. "Be careful when you go. It's daytime at the moment after all, so be sure not to let other people see you."

"Eldest Miss Mu, then we will see each other on the day of the competition!" Afterwards, Black Cat's figure swayed once before vanishing from her room.

Nonetheless, he left behind a long cackle that grated on the ears: "This old man is truly anticipating for that day to arrive. Being able to see one's work exhibit its effect in person is truly too delightful."

Mu Qianqian clutched the small wooden box in her hands tightly as she coldly replied, "I am also anticipating it very much."

"Achoo! Achoo." Qiao Mu closed the window shutter in passing as she set down the medical book in her hands, and she called out, "Shaoyao."

"Why is it so noisy outside?"

Chapter 934: Barging In

"Miss." Shaoyao walked inside in a huff as she indignantly flung the things in her hands to the side. "It's Old Sixth Qiao and his family again! They came to kick up a fuss again!"

Qiao Mu was busy recently, so after settling Old Sixth Qiao and his family in the small residential compound on Xiluo Street, she let them be.

After all, since each family had their own matters to attend to, it wasn't possible for her to take care of everything.

"What kind of fuss." Qiao Mu asked indifferently with an obviously lukewarm expression.

"Three days ago, they came to ask for a large batch of food and cloth that could last them for more than half a month! Yet now they came again today to demand for more! How could they have the cheek to

do that?" Shaoyao was about to be infuriated to death. "I already told them that since Madam is feeling a bit unwell today, she will not be seeing guests! But they were dissatisfied and still clamored to see Madam no matter what."

"Isn't that Qiao Ya also a mystic cultivator! How could they not have the ability to make a living for themselves? Needing to come ask for food and cloth every two to three days! It's not like our madam owes them anything! And these things ought to be theirs? Ah!! What a bunch of blood-sucking leeches! People's hearts truly are rotten to the core!" Shaoyao ranted nonstop in great fury.

Yet Qiao Mu simply beckoned toward her. "There, there, look at you. Do you find it funny how mad you've gotten?"

"I'm mad at them for acting this way." Shaoyao fumed the more she spoke. "Isn't it that each person knows their own limits? How can they be so presumptuous as to feel entitled to Madam's help? Our family does indeed not lack food nor cloth, but we aren't saints! Could it be that we have to bless all things on earth? And illuminate everyone? It's simply baffling to the extreme!"

Qiao Mu couldn't resist chortling. This was the first time she had ever seen her Shaoyao getting so angry.

"Look, look. Should my Brother Xiao Hu see how angry you are, he'd think that I was bullying you."

"Miss!" Shaoyao's small face reddened, and she couldn't resist rolling her eyes at her. "How can you still be in the mood to make fun of Shaoyao!"

"You people can't barge inside, you can't... ah!" A low-level maidservant cried out from the outer courtyard.

Following which, there were two "whams," which were probably the sound of people getting kicked to the ground. When Shaoyao opened the door to the wing, she saw Qiao Ya quickly leading her parents, Old Sixth Qiao and Sixth Aunt Qiao, over.

This made Shaoyao so furious that she pointed a trembling finger at them and shouted, "You, you people! Who gave you the nerve to barge into my Miss's court without permission?? Scram out of here!"

However, having made prior preparations, Qiao Ya flung Shaoyao's hand away with mystic energy.

Caught off guard, Shaoyao staggered to the side of the door from this wave of energy. By the time she turned around again, she saw Qiao Ya already striding inside Miss's room with a sullen expression.

"Someone come!! You woman want to die, is that it?" Shaoyao roared in anger.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh! Promptly landing beside Shaoyao, Lightning and the rest gazed apathetically at Sixth Uncle Qiao and Sixth Aunt Qiao who were cowering on the side.

"Qiao Mu, I know a secret of yours! Do you want me to divulge it with all these people present?" Qiao Ya raised her chin as she glowered at her with resentment.

It was just like the girl before her wasn't her younger sister from the same clan at all, but her personal enemy.

Qiao Mu's heart turned cold bit by bit.

"I don't have a secret."

"You do!" Qiao Ya abruptly raised her voice.

Chapter 935: Exposing You

"Then say it!" Qiao Mu's voice also turned cold.

"You sure you want me to say it right now? Qiao Mu!!" Nevertheless, Qiao Ya maintained a firm expression of "you won't be able to handle it."

This made it so that even Qiao Mu couldn't help but be somewhat curious?

Ha ha, what kind of leverage over her could Qiao Ya have? She really wanted to know too.

"Don't be unable to tell what's good for you!" Qiao Ya roared.

Sixth Aunt Qiao hastily ran over and pulled at her daughter's arm, admonishing her while weeping, "Xiao Qiao, don't lose your mind! Let's go back quickly. Don't speak this way to the crown prince consort."

"What crown prince consort! Maybe a vicious and greedy crown prince consort that stepped on us to get ahead!" As Qiao Ya angrily broke free from her mother Sixth Aunt Qiao's arms, she coldly questioned Qiao Mu, "I'll just ask you. Doesn't your conscience hurt after having done that kind of thing?"

Before Qiao Mu could flare up, Shaoyao angrily hurled a fist straight at Qiao Ya's back. "You fr*cking get lost! Who do you think you are with this self-assured expression? How is our Miss's conscience not at ease?"

Shaoyao's mystic energy cultivation was undoubtedly higher than Qiao Ya's.

If this fist landed, Qiao Ya wouldn't need to think of saying anything anymore.

However, Qiao Mu's small figure flickered, and she caught hold of Shaoyao's fist.

Afterwards, Qiao Mu turned to Qiao Ya and said insipidly, "Say it."

Although she didn't consider herself a good person, she still disdained resorting to mean or petty tricks.

What kind of secret could Qiao Ya grasp? It really was ridiculous.

At this, Qiao Ya revealed a cocksure expression. "You really want me to say it here in front of so many people?"

"Say it if you want, and forget it if you don't." Qiao Mu swept Qiao Ya an irritated glance.

Sixth Aunt Qiao hastily went up to grab Qiao Ya's arms again. "Xiao Ya, Mom is begging you, don't make a fuss anymore. Let's go home, go home."

"I'm not going back!" Qiao Ya forcefully flung Sixth Aunt Qiao's hand away, pointing at Qiao Mu and berating, "You think that you can shoo us away like beggars after giving us several days' worth of food and cloth? Qiao Mu! In your dreams! You owe us all of this."

Shaoyao's lungs nearly exploded from anger on the spot. A curse was about to break loose from her mouth, but Qiao Mu stretched out a hand to stop her.

While peeking at her miss, Shaoyao truly had to admire her miss's never-changing stoic! face! expression.

Even after being criticized with a finger pointed at her, she still didn't bat an eyelid. *Sob sob sob*, sure enough it was still Miss, who showed neither joy nor anger on her face, that was amazing.

"Qiao Mu! I know your secret!" Qiao Ya's face closed in, fixating right on her just like a bulging pair of dead fish eyes.

This Qiao Ya was really unfamiliar, Qiao Mu lamented in her heart.

Sure enough, the Sister Xiao Ya from back then who would hold her small hand and stuff half a mantou at her was already... gone.

"Qiao Mu! You had known beforehand that the zombie outbreak would happen in the village that day, am I right?!"

With Qiao Ya's shout, Qiao Mu's heart instantly sank.

She truly hadn't imagined that the so-called "secret" Qiao Ya wanted to expose was this!

Rebirth was indeed her greatest secret in this lifetime. She hadn't even told Mo Lian.

And it was simply impossible for Qiao Ya to be so imaginative as to associate this with rebirth.

After slightly stabilizing her state of mind, Qiao Mu coldly denied, "No idea what you are talking about."

Chapter 936: Selfish

"Stop pretending." Qiao Ya smiled coolly. "Qiao Mu, at least 10 days before the zombie outbreak, you had started hoarding grain! Cloth! And various daily necessities! I'm not wrong on this, right!"

Qiao Mu gazed at her coldly as she clasped her hands tightly together.

"Why did you do that?" Even so, Qiao Ya looked at her with an intensely flickering gaze.

"Due to my personal hobby, is that not fine? Even Shaoyao knows I have a hoarding habit. As a long-time neighbor, could it be that Sister Xiao Ya is unaware?" *What a joke. What could hoarding items in advance indicate? It simply couldn't be associated with the zombie outbreak.*

"No, you knew that there would be a zombie outbreak that day. My mother has told me already, so don't think of denying it." Qiao Ya tilted her head as she pressed on step by step towards Qiao Mu with an abnormal expression. "Do you remember the two horses you gave us on the day of the zombie outbreak? Why did you do that? It's because you knew that the zombie outbreak was going to happen on that day! Because of that, your entire family had already prepared a carriage to flee in!! Is that so? Is that so? Qiao Mu, is that so?"

Everyone present gazed at Qiao Mu in shock.

The Qiao Family servants who had been drawn over by the angry shouts were all in fear and trepidation, wishing for nothing more than to have never come to Eldest Miss's courtyard.

Afterall, this kind of terrifying "secret" seemed to be something they should not hear.

"That's not it!" Shaoyao barrelled over like an enraged lioness, slapping the ranting Qiao Ya to the ground. "Our miss has had a hoarding habit from young. She just likes to collect things! Is that not fine?"

If it were not for her mother's slip of the tongue, she wouldn't have known that it was Qiao Mu who had given them the two horses that allowed their entire family to flee the hell on earth that was Qiaotou Village.

And from what her mother said, it seemed that when Qiao Mu came to give them the horses, she had once again requested that they relocate to Xijiu City with her.

Every time her mother mentioned this, she would deplore with extreme remorse why they just didn't listen to the little girl. If they left together with her, would it be that those things wouldn't have occurred?

"Do you know how we endured throughout these years?" Qiao Ya hollered at Qiao Mu with rancor.

"When we escaped from Qiaotou Village, I wasn't a mystic cultivator yet. I was only 12! Our family of three were all normal people!"

"In that kind of time when we had to fight to survive! I could only sell my body continuously to make the difficult trek to the royal capital! The ridiculous thing is that your mother had the nerve to ask my mother how we had made it to the capital during these years hahahaha!" All of a sudden, Qiao Ya leaped up from the floor and pounced at Qiao Mu to grab her arms.

Lightning reacted extremely quickly, rapidly drawing his long sword to ward off her hands.

"You selfish woman, why didn't you tell us back then? We were from the same village! And even the same clan! Yet you treated us like this. If you had told us that such a nightmarish event would occur, and let us prepare well in advance, how would I become like this today?" Qiao Ya furiously assailed Qiao Mu nonstop, screeching, "You selfish woman killed all the villagers, it was you! You were the one who took their lives!"

"How savage are you! Is it that you're glad and happy watching the entire village die from getting eaten by zombies?"

"Qiao Mu, I'm telling you, you owe us all of this. Even if you used everything you possess now, it still isn't enough to repay the sin you committed!"

"Shut up!" A sullen shout suddenly came from the entrance to the courtyard.

Chapter 937: Letting Them Go

"You're wrong, I don't owe anyone anything, including you." Qiao Mu turned to walk over to Crown Prince Mo, who was also quickly striding over.

Actually, from the moment the zombie outbreak occurred, many events had diverged from her previous life to some extent.

The zombie outbreak had clearly also happened earlier than it did in her previous life.

When Qiao Mu gave Sixth Aunt's family the horses, she had thought of coming again the next day to persuade them to leave with her, but who knew that the outbreak would happen that night.

Of course, with her cool temperament, she disdained to explain that much.

Since the outcome had already been decided, why did she need to explain more?

"Qiaoqiao." Mo Lian directly held her small hand before turning to walk into the room. "You can directly let the subordinates deal with people like these who are never content with their lot."

Old Sixth Qiao hastily knelt down and cried out with fear and trepidation, "Crown... Your Highness the Crown Prince, please forgive our Xiao Ya."

Bam. With a sweep of his sleeve, Mo Lian shut the room doors on the spot.

Qiao Mu was indeed in a slightly downcast mood, and she swiftly stole a glance at him. "You... heard everything, right?"

While holding her hand, he whisked open the floor-length curtain and led her to the table, pressing her down onto a small square stool. "Qiaoqiao."

"I indeed knew that there would be a zombie outbreak." Qiao Mu admitted, speaking extremely rapidly.

"I know." Mo Lian also sat down next to her and said with a grin, "Didn't you remind me to be careful on my journey back to the capital?"

At his reminder, Qiao Mu was slightly taken aback, but she nevertheless continued, "Mo Lian, I originally could have entered the city beforehand, but I didn't know that the zombie outbreak would occur in advance. So on the night that we fled, even though I had made ample preparations, I was still a bit flustered."

"Don't you find this kind of me to be very strange?" Qiao Mu asked softly.

"You truly are a little dummy. What is there to find strange?" Mo Lian pulled her into his embrace and gently stroked her head.

"As a small seven-year-old child, it was already very good of you to be able to take care of yourself and make arrangements for your entire family. No one has the right to make further demands of you."

Besides, to him, whether it be the entire populace or the path of the people, none of that was as important as his Qiaoqiao.

He didn't want her to protect other people; he only wanted her to protect herself well.

"At your age, if you were to rashly tell the villagers this, perhaps they would treat you as an evil spirit that told nonsensical lies and burn you alive." Mo Lian concluded with a cold look. "Therefore, don't believe Qiao Ya that woman's words. You aren't in the wrong."

“You won’t ask me why I knew that there would be a zombie outbreak?” Qiao Mu asked while looking at him nervously.

Mo Lian shook his head as he patted her back. “That isn’t important. You can tell me when you truly wish to. However, I hope that you won’t repress too many things in your heart, promise me, okay?”

After nodding lightly, Qiao Mu felt much more relieved. “Let them leave the capital.”

She understood Crown Prince Mo too well. Even though he looked warm and gentle on the surface, in actuality, he was harboring murderous intentions. The moment Qiao Ya and her family left the Marquis of Jiayuan’s Estate would be their time of death.

“If she irresponsibly spreads that so-called secret...” Mo Lian didn’t wish for his Qiaoqiao to be troubled by any follow-up issues.

Yet Qiao Mu raised her small head proudly. “Could it be that I’m afraid of several weaklings leaking a secret?”

I’m a prideful darling!

Chapter 938: Couldn’t Go Back

Mo Lian poked her fair forehead with his slender finger as he chuckled.

She truly was a child with a sharp tongue but a soft heart. It was obvious that she wanted to give them a way out, yet she insisted on saying it with a detached and unfeeling attitude.

Old Sixth Qiao’s family of three were “courteously” escorted out of the Marquis of Jiayuan’s main entrance.

Wei Ziqin had just reached the front door after hearing the news, and she tepidly said, “Please wait.”

“Ziqin, you... really were ill?” A faint wisp of astonishment flashed past Sixth Aunt Qiao’s eyes. Even she had thought that Wei Ziqin was avoiding to see them earlier.

Wei Ziqin wore a sickly expression and was wrapped up in a thick fur cloak as Chunying helped her out the door.

She couldn’t help but scoff when she heard this. “There were some things I hadn’t been meaning to say, but you shouldn’t have blamed Qiaoqiao. Back then, she had wholeheartedly wanted you all to leave with us. In all fairness, Sixth Aunt, wasn’t it you who stubbornly didn’t want to leave.”

“Cough, cough.”

“Madam.” Chunying supported Wei Ziqin’s arm.

After the day she was brought back from Clearwater Fine Park, Wei Ziqin had caught a chill, coughing the entire time since then.

It was particularly chilly today. Besides, she shouldn’t have come out to suffer from the wind in the first place.

Even so, Wei Ziqin raised her hand to stop Chunying from speaking before turning to look at Sixth Uncle Qiao and his family apathetically. "I understand my daughter better than anyone else. Even if you treat her well a tiny bit, she will return in kind tenfold. I speculate that she had intended to go over the next day to persuade you again, but no one knew that there would be a zombie outbreak in the village that night."

"Did we want that kind of thing to happen? No one wants it to!" Wei Ziqin rebuked loudly in slight agitation.

"Ziqin, we, we know now. Your, your body isn't well, so go back to rest first." Sixth Aunt Qiao glanced at Wei Ziqin with a cowering gaze.

Yet Wei Ziqin took out a storage talisman and handed it to Sixth Aunt Qiao. "Keep it carefully. There is three months' supply of goods inside. You can retrieve it with a drop of blood."

"From today on, we'll have written off everything that happened between us in the past! You all... please look out for yourselves." Before Old Sixth Qiao's family could say anything, Wei Ziqin promptly turned around to enter the door after finishing her piece.

Subsequently, Chunying coldly shut the main door with a "bam."

Sixth Aunt Qiao had opened her mouth, still wanting to say something. She even chased up the stairs, but when she saw the main door shutting with a bam, she promptly felt a lump in her throat.

For some reason, she had the urge to bawl her eyes out.

It was like, like she inexplicably had a peculiar feeling of having personally pushed this family away.

This feeling of... complete severance really was hard to take.

Early the next morning, the family of three boarded a donkey wagon they had arranged earlier and quietly left the Mo Kingdom capital.

As the covered wagon rocked to and fro, Qiao Ya shrunk in the innermost corner. She hugged her knees with her arms as she hung her head the entire time without uttering a sound.

"Xiao Ya, it's all Mom's fault. It was Mom who made a wrong decision that..."

Qiao Ya shook her head faintly while hanging her head, and she spoke in a downcast voice that was choked with sobs, "It's not your fault, Mom. It's my fault, I was the one who thought too hideously of people's hearts."

"It's my fault..."

She had thought that she had abandoned her, betrayed her!

The instant that they saw each other again, she even felt that that person was too dazzling, and that she really wanted to destroy this kind of dazzling existence with her own hands!

The small donkey wagon rocked to and fro as it left the Mo Kingdom capital.

Qiao Ya seemingly saw two half-grown little girls holding hands beside the tiny brook in Qiaotou Village.

“Eat it.” She stuffed half a mantou into her dirty little hands.

But there was no going back now. Qiao Ya suddenly burst into tears.

Chapter 939: Who Do You Want to Beat to Death

For the sake of fairness, the eight great patrician families’ competition was to be held at the Assembly of Worthies Martial Arts Centre.

The master of the martial arts centre, Hou Ping, was an astute and capable woman just over 40 years old. She had started preparing for the eight great patrician families’ competition grounds three days in advance.

These past two days, Qiao Mu was idle with nothing to do at home, so she had been drawing talismans. If she didn’t feel like doing that, then she would go read medical books. Because she was in a languid mood, she didn’t really want to go anywhere either.

During this time, Duan Yue came over to visit once, and he even ended up divulging his intel in advance. For instance, what kind of person the Duan Clan would send out for the competition, as well as how so-and-so was relatively more formidable.

He mercilessly sold out all the people that would be representing the Duan Clan for the competition to his Little Qiaoqiao!

“Do you have an enmity with the Duan Clan!” Qiao Mu gazed at him dumbfoundedly.

“Indeed!” Duan Yue crossed his long legs as he grinned at her. “Qiaoqiao, let me tell you. After making some inquiries, I heard that you can use whatever in this competition. Concealed weapons! Pills! And of course mystic beasts too! Talismans and the like are also okay!”

“Here, I am kindly supplying a large box of concealed weapons. Don’t worry and use it fearlessly! If you’ve gone through all of it, then come get more from me!”

Qiao Mu: “...”

Why did she feel like this guy was dying to see the whole world plunged in chaos!

“I’m telling you. That whomever Second Qin! Eldest Qin and the like, don’t qualify to participate. This is a competition for young people 20 years old and under. You will undoubtedly be able to beat those little bastards into an utterly sorry plight, to the point that they will be crying for their mommies and daddies.”

“So you are an old person!” At this, Qiao Mu rolled her eyes. Afterall, he made it sound like he could participate too.

Yet Duan Yue simply pursed his lips. “Ah, that’s right. Draw more talismans in the afternoon. The more the better! At that time, I’ll be watching you use talismans to crush them to death! Sleep earlier tonight! Or else you won’t be energized for tomorrow’s competition.”

As she watched that punk prattling on, Qiao Mu’s mood suddenly improved.

“You’re so annoying!”

“How am I annoying?” Duan Yue followed her small figure around as she paced back and forth. “Everything I said is the absolute truth! Just hurry up and prepare more.”

“Then do you know, whom among the younger generation of the Mu Clan is an expert at using talismans?” Right now, she particularly wanted to find someone whom she could compete with in talismans, alright!

Previously, what was that guy’s name again?

It was Mu Liangde, right. He was simply a weakling! Just recalling him pissed her off.

Could there be a more reliable person that she could compete with in talismans?

“At your level?” Duan Yue shook his head in all honesty. “There isn’t any.”

“However, among the Mu Clan’s younger generation, the most gifted is Mu Zijun. He is 18 this year, and his talisman-drawing seems passable! At least he’s much more impressive than the likes of Mu Qianqian.” Duan Yue sniggered. “However, this person is a madman, a madman who uses talismans. You have to be careful.”

“Madmen can participate in the competition?”

“Tsk, for the sake of a quota, don’t freaking mention a madman, even if the person were a loony, that talisman patrician family would still let him out!”

Alright, Qiao Mu nodded her head. “Duan Yue, who in the Duan Clan do you especially want me to beat to death?”

In consideration of how he helped her a lot in the past, mhm, she’ll just help him to the end. Hence, she had to confirm her target’s name.

Duan Yue’s eyes brightened, and he quickly huddled in close, whispering a bunch of names into her ear.

Qiao Mu promptly turned to glare at him. “Why are there so many people!”

However, Duan Yue’s eyes merely curved into a smile as he flashed his white teeth. “Mhm mhm! Do your worst to beat them to death. I’m depending on you, Qiaoqiao.”

With an exasperated look, Qiao Mu responded, “I’ll do what I can!”

Chapter 940: Extra-Strength Regeneration Pill

It was nighttime.

Inside the small woodshed of the ghastly Chonghua Palace.

Zheng Ru lay on the icy floor as she sensed death drawing near.

It felt as if her whole body was situated inside a smelting furnace. Her whole body was so scalding hot that it seemed as if it wanted to burn up from inside out.

The Royal Physician Building’s doctors were able to treat the burns on her skin, but they all practically had their hands tied in regards to the heat poison inside her body.

Heat poison? When did she ever get poisoned with that?

When Zheng Ru heard this diagnosis, even she was practically unable to believe it.

Afterall, as someone who dwelled within the palace, who didn't take their meals every day with extreme care?

So how in the world did she get poisoned?

Creak. Zheng Ru's neck was also seriously injured from this severe explosion, and she couldn't even raise it at this point.

But she was well aware that this was the sound of Nanny Su's footsteps.

Ever since she had been demoted to the Cold Palace, that d*mn wench Cailing abandoned her and didn't come to see her again.

Now, she only had Nanny Su by her side.

If even Nanny Su left her...

She simply couldn't imagine it.

"Ha ha, how useless are you, actually ending up in such a tragic state. You can only lie here like a total cripple, remorsefully moaning and groaning without reason?" A deep and raspy snicker abruptly pierced Zheng Ru's eardrums, so wispish that it seemed to have come from the nether world.

Unfortunately, she wasn't able to turn her neck.

Furthermore, the explosion had damaged her eyes as well, causing her eyesight to be very blurred.

It wasn't until the newcomer walked up with Nanny Su and leaned in close that she was finally able to clearly see that this short and small man was one of the short clowns from the Luo Family Troupe.

He was very short and small, and his face was also drawn hideously.

"Nanny Su, you..." Zheng Ru wanted to prop herself up, but she simply couldn't budge in the slightest.

Nanny Su sighed as she looked at her. "Xiao Ru, this is Shuntian Prefecture's Sir Black, so don't be afraid. Sir Black has come to help you."

Zheng Ru suddenly became agitated. Although her eyesight was blurred, she still strived to open her eyes wide, wanting to see the clown's expression clearly. "Real-Really? Sir Black!"

The short and small clown gave a snigger.

"A Noble Consort Zheng actually ended up into this kind of tragic state today. Truthfully speaking, you're pretty much useless even if you stay alive."

The clown's words caused Nanny Su to jolt, and she hastily grabbed his sleeve. "Sir Black, you didn't say this to me previously. You said that you would help our Xiao Ru!"

"Su Fang, is it that you've accompanied Noble Consort Zheng for too long that you've invested too many emotions! Clearly bear in mind who exactly your true master is!" Sir Black reprimanded coldly.

Nanny Su's entire body shook, and she clammed up immediately afterwards as she shrunk her neck and hung her head.

"There is only a path with no return before you. It only depends on whether you dare to make a last ditch effort and tread upon it." Sir Black cackled raspily. It was simply poles apart from the voice he assumed while singing opera.

Zheng Ru's entire body shook, struggling to widen her confused eyes as she looked at the clown.

The clown then stretched out his hand, holding a pitch-black medicinal pill that was emitting a weird smell. "This is an extra-strength regeneration pill. As its name denotes, after you consume it, your entire body will be immediately restored. It will allow your body to recover its past youthfulness and beauty. Your stamina will also be even better than in the past, kekeke."

When Zheng Ru heard this, a ray of hope burst forth from her eyes.