

Nine Star Hegemon Body Arts

- Chapter 61 Striking Back -

Chapter 61 Striking Back

Translator: BornToBe

“Two hundred million!”

A Blood Condensation expert was the first to shout out a bid. He hadn't gained anything today as a result of the bidding being so fierce.

Due to the prices steadily climbing, the final prices had already exceeded their market value. Thus, he hadn't spent anything, which was currently his greatest advantage now.

“Three hundred million!”

An aged voice came from a white-haired old man in the corner.

That old man had never made a bid the whole time. But as soon as he spoke, everyone immediately recognized him.

“Isn't that the Tuoji Empire's grandmaster alchemist, Wang Luyang?”

Although the Tuoji Empire wasn't as large as the Phoenix Cry Empire and didn't have an alchemist guild, it had its own alchemy hall.

If a nation didn't have the support of medicinal pills or martial weapons, it would eventually be destroyed. And martial weapons came second; after all, iron was never in short supply. However, medicinal pills definitely could not be lacking.

That alchemist Wang Luyang was essentially the master of the Tuoji Empire. His status was even greater than their emperor.

There was no way around that. Without the support of an alchemist, the Tuoji Empire would sooner or later be swallowed by one of the large neighbors.

That was why as soon as Wang Luyang bid, it immediately scared off many people. That was because he was equivalent to an emperor. His financial resources were incredible.

The reason he had never bid before was because he hadn't seen anything that interested him. A person like him wouldn't easily take action; but once he did, it would be a sure win.

An ordinary second tier middle grade medicinal pill normally sold for three to four hundred thousand. But now the price had multiplied by a thousand, meaning that only a few could participate.

Such a treasure was one that could only be found by luck. If someone lost an arm during a battle, then their combat ability would definitely sharply drop and they would eventually be killed.

But the Flesh Bone Restoration Pill was equivalent to a life-saving treasure. Xia Changfeng and Xia Baichi were incredibly regretful that they hadn't prepared more money and could only watch as this treasure was purchased by someone else.

"Four hundred million!"

Marquis Ying's distinctive voice rang out. No one had expected that he would also participate.

"Five hundred million!"

Wang Luyang didn't hesitate at all and immediately bid higher. That was his confidence. Although Marquis Ying was a noble, his financial resources were not as profound as Wang Luyang who controlled an empire.

The entire crowd was stunned to find that an insignificant middle grade second tier medicinal pill was actually being sold at the same price as an Earth class Battle Skill.

Even Long Chen felt his heart jumping wildly. It appeared this world had lost many pill formulas. Those ancient pill formulas in his Pill God memories were equivalent to an endless treasure trove.

But he also felt a bit of worry. Just a Flesh Bone Restoration Pill could cause this much of an uproar.

If others were to learn that this medicinal pill had come from him, that would definitely be dangerous. Perhaps he had been too reckless this time.

But since it was already like this, regret was useless. Now he could only hope that the Huayun Pavilion's reputation would protect this secret.

The entire crowd had turned silent after Wang Luyang's bid of five hundred million. Even Marquis Ying had become silent. Five hundred million was a price even he couldn't bear to waste.

Now that the auction had reached this point, there was no need for Yao Niqian to fan the flames of people's passions. That would only cause people to feel disgusted.

Seeing that no one else was bidding, Yao Niqian started to count down. In the end, Wang Luyang's high bid won the middle grade second tier Flesh Bone Restoration Pill.

"Everyone, don't be in a hurry to leave. The show has yet to end."

Seeing that everyone was already preparing to get up, Yao Niqian smiled and received a jade case from another maid.

Everyone's expressions became a bit strange. The auction this year truly was full of interesting surprises. What was this next treasure that was even more precious than that pill?

Opening the jade case, Yao Niqian revealed a medicinal pill that stunned everyone.

That was clearly the exact same pill as the Flesh Bone Restoration Pill from before! Didn't they say that it was one of a kind? Were they purposely playing with them?

When Wang Luyang saw that pill, he immediately stood up. Everyone was expecting him to fly into a rage.

But what no one expected was that he only foolishly looked at it for a moment before laughing. "Haha, good, this time I didn't come for nothing."

Yao Niqian smiled and admiringly said, "Truly worthy of being an alchemist grandmaster. You can tell from that far away. Yes, this is also a Flesh Bone Restoration Pill. However, this one is not middle grade. Instead, it is high grade!"

"What?!"

"Yes, this is a high grade ancient pill. The middle grade pill was only useful in the Blood Condensation realm and below. But this precious high grade pill is effective even for Tendon Transformation experts," Yao Niqian explained solemnly.

A storm erupted in the crowd. Tendon Transformation experts? That was the peak of the Phoenix Cry Empire!

"High grade Flesh Bone Restoration Pill. Starting bid: two hundred million."

"Four hundred million!"

The first person to shout was actually Wang Luyang. Moreover, he immediately raised the bidding price, clearly not wishing to take it slowly and displaying that his determination to obtain it.

Everyone sighed at how rich alchemists were.

“Five hundred million!”

Marquis Ying bid shortly after Wang Luyang. Everyone anticipated seeing the competition between the two of them.

“Brother Chu Yang, do you think Marquis Ying can beat Wang Luyang?” asked Xia Changfeng.

“This time, the medicinal pill is a must-have for Marquis Ying. Even if he has to spend his entire fortune, he would still bid,” sighed the crown prince.

“Why’s that?” Xia Changfeng was a bit puzzled. It didn’t seem that just a medicinal pill could be so coveted.

“Brother Xia must not know about this. A dozen years ago, Marquis Ying fought with an opponent, and in an effort to defeat him, he ended up losing a finger. Back then, he refused to seek treatment due to his pride. He wanted to use that event to motivate him to cultivate harder.

“So from that point onwards, he started to train crazily, eventually breaking through and entering the Tendon Transformation realm. But after entering the Tendon Transformation realm, he realized that training in the Tendon Transformation realm required you to temper your tendons to connect them to your marrow. Having lost a finger, he was missing a tendon. Thus, it had an enormous impact on his cultivation.

“But due to how long his finger had been severed, there was no way to fix it. He has spent several years roaming throughout empires without finding a way to heal it.

“The reason he let Wang Luyang win last time was because that was just been a middle grade Flesh Bone Restoration Pill. It was only useful to Blood Condensation cultivators. If he had used it, the chances of it helping him recover were extremely remote. Spending five hundred million on just a small chance really was a bit too much, thus he let it go.

“But now this high grade Flesh Bone Restoration Pill is practically godsend. So I can practically guarantee that he will obtain it. If that Wang Luyang refuses to give way, hehe...” Chu Yang coldly laughed and didn’t continue.

But it was extremely obvious that if Wang Luyang refused to be tactful, it would be exceedingly difficult for him to be able to leave the Phoenix Cry Empire.

Even if he was the ruler of an empire, that empire wasn’t comparable to the Phoenix Cry Empire. Marquis Ying wouldn’t mind killing someone for his treasures.

Xia Changfeng and Xia Baichi nodded. Alchemists were all exceedingly arrogant. Perhaps the competition between the two of them would extend past this auction.

Wang Luyang's expression changed when he saw Marquis Ying bid against him so fiercely. He knew that Marquis Ying probably viewed this pill as a must-have. But getting him to give up instead was impossible.

With a high grade Flesh Bone Restoration Pill, his chances of figuring out the corresponding pill formula would skyrocket. And once he figured out the pill formula, his name would shake the heavens.

Furthermore, alchemists did not lack money. Of course, that was excluding beginners who failed their refinements so much that they often bankrupted themselves.

Just as Wang Luyang was about to bid again, Marquis Ying's soft voice rang out, "Grandmaster Wang, this medicinal pill is of exceedingly great importance to me. Please yield to me. I can even give grandmaster several days to study it after I obtain it. Harming the relationship of our two empires for just a small medicinal pill really isn't wise."

This truly dazed the crowd. Marquis Ying was using both the carrot and the stick to force Wang Luyang to give up. It seemed this medicinal pill truly was exceptionally important to him.

Yao Niqian's expression became a bit ugly though. This move was clearly disrupting the auction, but both Marquis Ying and Wang Luyang had high statuses and were their customers.

If she were to reprimand these two, not only would it not change anything, but the chances of them continuing to compete were no longer great.

Furthermore, punishing the two of them would definitely have a negative effect on the Huayun Pavilion's reputation. Yao Niqian began to hate that feminine voice of Marquis Ying's.

"Marquis Ying must be joking. This old man wants to compete, but unfortunately, I have no more money." Wang Luyang laughed lightly.

The conclusion was a boring disappointment. Just what kind of person was Wang Luyang? No more money? This was clearly his way of giving the face to Marquis Ying and getting out of an awkward situation.

Although Yao Niqian was extremely angered, her face still maintained that perfect smile of hers. Now that the auction was nearing its end, she didn't want to cause a huge fuss.

"Master Marquis Ying bids five hundred million. Are there any higher bids?"

“Five hundred million going once.”

“Five hundred million going twice.”

“Five hundred million going“

Marquis Ying had already relaxed inside his private room. Hearing the helplessness in Yao Niqian’s voice, he coldly smiled. Indulging in this kind of feeling was his favorite.

But a lazy voice caused his expression to immediately change. Even the tea in his hand spilled out.

“Six hundred million.”

Chapter 62 End of the Auction

Translator: BornToBe

“Six hundred million.”

That voice was extremely young and lazy. Everyone turned their heads to look at the private room it had come from.

When they saw it was Long Chen’s private room, a strange expression appeared on several people.

Back when Long Chen had been about to obtain the Starfusing Grass, Marquis Ying had purposely said some things that had incited Xia Baichi to fight with him over it. Now from Long Chen’s words, it appeared he was looking for some revenge.

Several people were praising Long Chen inside. There were few people in the entire Phoenix Cry Empire who would dare compete with Marquis Ying.

Marquis Ying’s face darkened. He hadn’t expected that Long Chen who had been silent for so long would suddenly take this chance to look for trouble with him.

“Seven hundred million.”

But at this point, he couldn’t cower. That medicinal pill was something he absolutely had to obtain no matter the price.

Otherwise, with his status, there was no way that he would have thickened his face to plead with Wang Luyang. This medicinal pill was just that important to him.

A pleased smile appeared on Long Chen's face. Now he could take revenge on Marquis Ying for what he had done to him just before. He couldn't help but feel fresh and brighter inside.

He had always been using divine sense to pay attention to Xia Changfeng's private room. Having learned from them that Marquis Ying treated this Flesh Bone Restoration Pill as a must-have, if he didn't go get some vengeance, then he wouldn't be Long Chen.

Although he knew offending Marquis Ying was unwise, he didn't worry too much about that. First, he'd relieve some of his anger.

He didn't believe that Marquis Ying would actually go overboard against him for such a thing. With the alchemist guild behind him as a support, he had the confidence to provoke Marquis Ying.

"Eight hundred million."

The Huayun Pavilion didn't send any warnings to him despite his high bids. Yao Niqian was actually excited inside; however, she hid her emotions extremely well.

"Master Long Chen bids eight hundred million. Are there any higher bids? If not, then this high grade Flesh Bone Restoration Pill will be handed to him," announced Yao Niqian.

"Wait a moment, I doubt that Long Chen actually has that much money. He's just making empty bids."

Marquis Ying's feminine voice now held a trace of anger. Although he had suppressed it, people could still hear the fury in his voice.

"Is Marquis Ying questioning our integrity?" Yao Niqian's smile immediately receded and she angrily said, "Young master Long Chen is grandmaster Yun Qi's student. Everyone in the Phoenix Cry Empire knows this. Before the auction, grandmaster Yun Qi transferred all his credit to young master Long Chen. Does Marquis Ying still think that young master Long Chen is making empty bids?"

Yao Niqian's words were rather blunt and impolite. Obviously, Marquis Ying had truly angered her by breaking the rules.

Now that she had the opportunity, she would naturally relieve some of her anger. She was a woman, and a woman knew how to hold grudges. Once you angered a woman, they would no longer be soft and gentle anymore.

Everyone gasped when they learned that grandmaster Yun Qi had transferred his credit to Long Chen.

That meant Long Chen had the true support of the entire alchemist guild. That kind of guarantee meant Long Chen could buy anything he wanted. Who dared to say he had no money?

But even Long Chen was dazed. How come he hadn't known about this? But he quickly realized that Marquis Ying's actions had angered the Huayun Pavilion. They were supporting him in order to give Marquis Ying a slap in the face.

Marquis Ying's expression was extremely ugly now. If what Yao Niqian had said was true, then he really wouldn't be able to compete against Long Chen in terms of financial resources.

"One billion."

Marquis Ying pushed down his anger and raised the bid by a whole two hundred million. A billion gold coins! Just to buy a second tier medicinal pill! That was definitely unprecedented.

With Marquis Ying's financial ability, a billion gold coins were already several years worth of savings.

"Brother Long, how about you don't bid again? It's already quite frightening." Shou Hou was quietly shivering.

Back when Long Chen had bid, they had all been completely shocked. A simple opening of his mouth was equivalent to a hundred million gold... Even if it wasn't their money, it was still breathtaking.

But Long Chen only smiled slightly. He was highly suspicious that Marquis Ying was the one who had stolen his cultivation ability. Now it was just him getting back some interest.

"One billion five hundred million."

Immediately after Shou Hou finished, Long Chen raised the bid, almost scaring Shou Hou to the point of fainting.

Marquis Ying had just raised the price by two hundred million all at once. But now Long Chen was even more vicious, directly raising the price by half a billion! He was clearly using Yun Qi's money to suppress Marquis Ying.

The crowd was completely silent. Even Wang Luyang was flabbergasted. That price had long since exceeded his expectations.

Although he only had a middle grade Flesh Bone Recovery Pill and it was inferior to the high grade pill, there was still a large chance of him being able to figure out the pill formula from studying it. Therefore, he had also given up at this time.

Crack. The teacup in Marquis Ying's hand was crushed, and even the tea that splashed onto his body was completely unnoticed by him.

Blue veins were pulsing on his forehead. If he didn't know that the Huayun Pavilion had a powerful backer, he would have already charged out to go kill Long Chen.

"Long Chen, you want to obtain this pill that badly?" Marquis Ying asked coldly.

Long Chen laughed. He could tell that Marquis Ying had spat these words out through clenched teeth. In other words, he was exceptionally enraged, probably even more enraged than Long Chen had been when trying to obtain the Starfusing Grass.

"Well, actually this thing is pretty much useless to me," said Long Chen indifferently.

"Then, you're purposely making an enemy of me?" Marquis Ying raged.

"You can't put it that way. I have several reasons for wanting to obtain this thing. Reason number one is that it's an ancient pill. Even if I have to pay a high price for it, it's still worth it. If I bring it back to my teacher, he also wouldn't scold me. In fact, he might even praise me.

"Reason number two is that you pissed me off just now. My temperament is a bit strange. I can take anything, but I can't take a loss like that.

"Reason number three is that just like you, my father is also one of the three great pillars of this Phoenix Cry Empire. He spends his days guarding the barbarian border, fighting against enemies constantly, completing heroic contributions. But my family became penniless, unable to even keep a dozen servants.

"But you, Marquis Ying, who is on the same level as my father, who lazes his days in the imperial palace, actually has this much money.

"So I was curious just how big the difference between us was. Just how rich is senior Marquis Ying; just how many times more money does he have than my Long family?" said Long Chen with a smile.

The majority of the people present were members of the Phoenix Cry Empire. Although Long Chen had been laughing as he said those things, everyone could hear his resentment.

"So you want to fight with me till the end?" Marquis Ying asked lightly as he looked down at his broken teacup, killing intent surfacing in his eyes.

“Not really. Maybe if you increase the price again you’ll win; or maybe if some people are able to tactfully display their own apologies, then my Long family will consider it and withdraw from this competition,” said Long Chen.

“Hahaha, fine, a tiger father truly has a tiger son. The younger generation truly does surpass the old one. I admit defeat today. Allow me to shamelessly make one last bid - one billion five hundred and one million,” laughed Marquis Ying.

Everyone was stupefied, never expecting that Long Chen would actually be able to force Marquis Ying to bow his head. Marquis Ying’s admittance of defeat already said everything.

Long Chen smiled slightly. It appeared he had already reached Marquis Ying’s bottom line. His adding of a paltry one million obviously meant that if Long Chen were to make another bid, he would give up.

But if he did give up, he would not hold back from taking extreme measures. Long Chen knew when to quit while he was ahead, and so he didn’t increase the bid again.

Today already counted as his victory. An expert on the same level as his father was pushed into defeat by him. Moreover, he had also managed to release some of his anger in this grand setting.

But his actual strength still wasn’t enough. He couldn’t force Marquis Ying too far, otherwise, if Marquis Ying was truly angered, he would make him disappear without leaving behind a single trace. Even the alchemist guild wouldn’t be able to investigate it.

And even if they did investigate at that time, he would already be dead, so there was no point. Revenge had to be taken one step at a time.

Yao Niqian had returned to her smiling self. Seeing that no one else was competing, she began to count down.

Finally, Marquis Ying had his wish fulfilled and obtained the Flesh Bone Restoration Pill.

Confetti suddenly started to rain down and music began to play. A dozen colorful young maidens danced gracefully.

Yao Niqian gave a gracious thanks to everyone for participating. This time’s Huayun Pavilion’s auction had finally ended. The guests slowly started to leave.

Long Chen wasn’t in a rush. He waited until most of the crowd had left before exiting his private room.

But as soon as he walked out, he ended up running into several people. Those people were precisely Xia Changfeng, Chu Yang, and Xia Baichi.

“Long Chen, don’t think you can be arrogant just because of Yun Qi’s support. The Empress Dowager has already decided to give the third princess to my brother. In the future, she will be brother’s woman, so a lowly peasant like you should stop having any intentions about her,” sneered Xia Baichi.

“Oh, aren’t you that woman who was sharing a bed with your master? Now that your master has left, don’t you need to go attend to him?” Before Long Chen even had a chance to say anything, Shou Hou had already retorted.

Having muddled along with Long Chen for so long, he had become much more confident. He wouldn’t be able to feel at peace without causing a bit of trouble.

Xia Baichi’s expression changed; Shou Hou’s words were a vicious slap in the face for her.

Back on that day, Xia Baichi had gone crazy and admitted to some scandalous affairs in front of many people. However, no one dared comment on it to her face. In the end, she had actually ended up fooling herself into thinking that they hadn’t heard her due to how far the crowd had been.

“You’re asking for it!” Xia Baichi had just been about to charge over when Xia Changfeng pulled her back. After all, this was the Huayun Pavilion’s territory, and fighting was prohibited.

“Long Chen, it is already set in stone that Chu Yao will be my woman. Don’t have any fanciful thoughts. I am the Grand Xia’s prince, while you are just a noble heir. Our statuses are far too different,” said Xia Changfeng indifferently.

Long Chen seemed to not even hear what he said. He knew that the reason they had come over was to provoke him.

He had long since heard this news, so that provocation was unable to hurt him. Long Chen suddenly saw one of the guards behind the crown prince and said, “I seem to have seen you before?”

That guard smiled slightly. “I am the crown prince’s guard, so it’s normal for you to have seen me.”

“No, I think I’ve seen you in a very particular place. For example, near the martial arena.” Long Chen looked closely at him.

That guard didn’t reply, merely looking back at Long Chen.

Long Chen smiled slightly and said to Xia Changfeng, "Your face is turning black; a great calamity is about to befall you. Try to be careful."

After saying that, he brought his friends out of the Huayun Pavilion. But as soon as he left, Fu Gui ran up to him.

"The boss wants to see you."

Chapter 63 Huayun Sect

Translator: BornToBe

Within a luxurious guest room inside the Huayun Pavilion, Long Chen was sitting with the charming Yao Niqian. He asked, "You're the big boss?"

She laughed cutely and replied, "Am I not a 'big' enough boss for you?"

Along with her laugh, her chest jiggled. Long Chen had no choice but to admit she was definitely 'big' enough.

But he wasn't a man who only wanted a chest. He preferred Meng Qi's tasteful aesthetic, or perhaps Chu Yao's grand well-bred poise.

"Why did you want me to stay behind?" Long Chen asked lightly.

Seeing that Long Chen wasn't affected by her charm, Yao Niqian became a bit irritated. That was truly a blow; she was exceptionally confident in her seductiveness.

But just as she was about to say something, another voice rang out.

"Niqian, don't make trouble."

Another woman walked over. She was around twenty years old. She looked to be exceptionally plain, yet she gave off a very posh feeling.

"Hmph, what an insensitive guy. Big sis, I'm leaving. I'll leave him to you." Yao Niqian didn't forget to give a glare to Long Chen before leaving the room.

"First of all, I'd like to apologize for so boldly inviting you here. This little one is Bai Ling. Greetings young master Long Chen." That woman curtsied slightly.

"Miss is too polite." Long Chen also chose to bow slightly.

"I know that young master Long Chen's time is precious, so I'll keep this short. The first reason we invited you over was to discuss the splitting of the profits. The two medicinal

pills sold for a total of two billion one million gold coins. This is a sky-high number.” Bai Long couldn’t help sighing emotionally.

Although they had already had a high estimation of those two medicinal pill’s prices, they had never expected for it to draw such turmoil.

And Long Chen himself had also caused several of the auction prices to rise greatly. It could be said that he had been a huge contributor to their success this time.

“This is your portion.” Bai Ling handed him a crystal card.

There were a billion gold coins on the card, causing Long Chen to become ecstatic. He would never have to worry about money again.

Although he didn’t know how the Huayun Pavilion had calculated it, he didn’t really care about what was now chump change to him.

“Thank you.”

“The one who should be thanking the other is us. With your addition to the auction, the auction this time had the absolute greatest profit in all of history,” laughed Bai Ling.

Long Chen smiled, understanding that the main reason was because of him forcing Marquis Ying to pay more.

“No, no, without the pavilion’s support, I also wouldn’t have been able to relieve that resentment.”

Bai Ling was a bit startled. She laughed, “I think young master Long Chen has misunderstood a bit. We didn’t support you; grandmaster Yun Qi had told us to take care of you. Whatever you wanted to buy, no matter the price, he said he would pay for it.”

“Grandmaster Yun Qi?” Long Chen was extremely moved, never imagining that grandmaster Yun Qi had secretly helped him. He had obviously been closely paying attention to him.

“This time we both benefited from helping each other. With young master Long Chen’s help, our Huayun Pavilion has truly reaped an immense harvest this time. That is why to display our thanks, I will give you a gift.”

A book appeared in her hand. “This is a list of all the treasures in our storehouse. You can take one item.”

Long Chen was surprised, but he naturally wouldn't refuse such a good thing. Having helped the Huayun Pavilion earn so much money, it was simply right for him to be able to get a reward.

Opening the book, he saw there really were quite a few good things. Although they had just completed their yearly auction, there were still countless treasures.

Long Chen didn't even bother looking through the Battle Skills; there were no longer any Earth class ones left. They only had Mortal class ones, and he no longer needed any on that level.

Armor and weapons also didn't suit him. But suddenly, his eyes brightened.

"Oh, Heart-Rot Grass?"

That was a poisonous grass. If refined into a poison, it would possess extremely acute toxicity.

The poisonous extract that could be refined from the Heart-Rot Grass could be applied to arrowheads. Such an arrow would be able to kill even second rank Magical Beasts.

"I'll pick that." Long Chen pointed to the Heart-Rot Grass.

When Bai Ling saw his selection, she couldn't help being a bit baffled. "This Heart-Rot Grass does have high toxicity, but it isn't very valuable. Does young master want to think it over some more?"

A stalk of Heart-Rot Grass was only worth a few hundred thousand gold coins. Bai Ling had been wanting him to select an extremely precious treasure. After all, Long Chen had helped their Huayun Pavilion make a great deal of profit; this was their way of winning favor with him.

But he only picked a medicinal grass that was worth a few hundred thousand gold coins. Naturally, that was awkward for her.

"I'm not that interested in the other things. This Heart-Rot Grass is perfect for me to study a bit," smiled Long Chen.

"How about you also pick something else?" probed Bai Ling.

"That wouldn't be too appropriate, would it?" laughed Long Chen.

"It's not a problem. In the Huayun Pavilion, whatever I say counts," said Bai Ling confidently.

That was perfect for Long Chen, as he had actually been wondering what other bizarre things they possessed. When he had almost completely flipped through the book's contents, his heart suddenly jumped.

"Night Devil skull."

Although his expression didn't change, his heart was already starting to pound. This was a true treasure!

"Can I pick this Night Devil skull?" asked Long Chen.

"Of course." Bai Ling smiled. Although the Night Devil skull was worth over a million gold coins, it was not worth making a fuss over.

In just a short time, people brought over the Heart-Rot Grass and the Night Devil skull.

The Heart-Rot Grass was packed into a sealed foot-long bottle. Although it had been tightly sealed, an extremely acrid smell still came from it. The acrid smell seemed to want to bore through their noses and set their lungs on fire.

A bright smile appeared on Long Chen's face when he saw that strand of Heart-Rot Grass. It had definitely matured properly and its toxicity was extremely high.

As for the Night Devil skull, it was as tall as a human. It looked like an extremely frightening bat's head.

He reached out his hand and placed the Heart-Rot Grass and Night Devil skull into his spatial ring before then thanking Bai Ling, "Many thanks."

Bai Ling smiled slightly. "Young master Long Chen is too polite. As I said, the first reason we invited you here was to thank you. The other reason was to ask young master Long Chen if he wished to enter my Huayun Sect."

"Huayun Sect?" Long Chen was startled.

"Correct. The Huayun Pavilion is just one of my Huayun Sect's branch industries," laughed Bai Ling.

"Does that mean young lady Bai is one of the sect's branch disciples?" asked Long Chen.

Bai Ling nodded. "Bai Ling isn't talented and is just an outer disciple of the Huayun Sect in charge of the Phoenix Cry Empire's Huayun Pavilion."

Long Chen was startled. So this Bai Ling was actually the branch pavilion master and an outer disciple of the Huayun Sect.

“Actually, with young master’s talent and his attainments with medicinal pills, young master will quickly be able to walk out of these uncivilized, backward lands. This is my third year in the Phoenix Cry Empire. Now with young master Long Chen’s assistance, I’ve finally reached my target. Now when I return to the sect, I will be promoted to become an inner disciple.” Anticipation appeared in her eyes. “So to repay this favor, I will shamelessly give you this invitation. If you enter my Huayun Sect, you will definitely have the best conditions to grow.”

Long Chen couldn’t help being moved and asking, “What do you mean, these uncivilized lands?”

“Haha, young master must not know, but this world is so large it is out of your imagination. The Phoenix Cry Empire is just a drop of water in the ocean. This region is called uncivilized because it is far from the cultivation world. That was why I said that with your talent, you should go to a more expansive land to grow. Only then will you not be stifled,” smiled Bai Ling.

But when it came to explaining those more expansive lands, she didn’t further say anything at all.

This was the first time Long Chen had heard of the outer world. Grandmaster Yun Qi had barely raised that subject with him.

And even Bai Ling didn’t reveal too much. Although Long Chen was curious, he didn’t keep questioning her.

He laughed, “Many thanks for your appreciation. If I ever do leave Phoenix Cry and want to see the outer world, then I will go looking for you.”

His words were extremely tactful; he didn’t agree nor decline.

Bai Ling sighed, “It looks like you don’t want to leave Phoenix Cry for now. But I will be returning to the sect immediately. How about this: If you do leave Phoenix Cry and don’t find a suitable sect, keep my Huayun Sect in mind. Here, this is my symbol. With it, you can come to the Huayun sect to find me.”

Receiving a jade tablet from Bai Ling, Long Chen said, “Then, I’ll thank young miss for her help. To tell the truth, I really am interested in that vast and expansive sky that you were talking about.”

Unfortunately, he had too many troubles that he had to resolve. And there was no way Bai Ling could wait for him, as this was a crucial moment for her to promote from an outer disciple to an inner disciple.

Although he didn’t know exactly how different the two were, he could tell that it was extremely important to her since she couldn’t conceal her excitement.

As soon as Long Chen left, a side door opened and Yao Niqian walked in. She was confused and said, "This Long Chen actually refused sister's invitation."

"A refusal is normal. This Long Chen is definitely not as simple as you. He is extremely shrewd; he's definitely contemplating matters that he hasn't revealed," sighed Bai Ling.

"What a shame. If you could have lured him, a pill cultivator with endless prospects, into our Huayun Sect, then you might even be promoted to become a core disciple. How about I go try to charm him again? No harm right?" said Yao Niqian.

"Just give it up. Long Chen isn't like those perverts you usually charm. You'd just be disgracing yourself. We still have to finish some preparations. Once we're all set, we'll have to return to the sect. The Huayun Pavilion will be left to another disciple sent here to gain experience," said Bai Ling.

Although it was hard for her to accept this, Yao Niqian always trusted what Bai Ling said. She only quietly cursed inside. Was this Long Chen even a man?

"Achoo!"

Long Chen had just entered his room when he sneezed.

"Hmph, I don't know whether it is Marquis Ying or Xia Changfeng who is cursing me. Or is it that idiot woman?"[1]

Although he didn't know who was talking about him, that person definitely wasn't saying anything good about him.

He called over Bao-er and repeatedly warned her not to let anyone interrupt him before tightly closing the door.

"It should be time to refine the Starfusing Pill."

Chapter 64 Visiting Chu Yao

Translator: BornToBe

BOOM!

His pill furnace violently shook and terrifying energy surged within. It was as if his pill furnace was trying to seal a struggling Magical Beast.

"SEAL!"

Long Chen shouted and tightly pushed down the furnace lid. But a medicinal pill's essence couldn't be sealed just relying on physical strength.

At the same time as his hand pushed down on the lid, his powerful Spiritual Strength surged out and completely locked down the pill furnace.

This intense struggle continued for a full two hours before his pill furnace gradually returned to calm.

Slowly opening the lid, the originally dark room immediately lit up. A pearl-like medicinal pill was emitting a gentle light.

"Hehe, I finally succeeded."

Long Chen relaxed and wiped away his sweat. He was incredibly exhausted and almost fainted.

This was the third furnace of pills he had refined. The first furnace of pills had been to refine the Starfusing Pill Chu Yao needed. Of his three refinements, the Starfusing Pill had been the easiest to refine.

Then, he had refined the Soul Devouring Heart Rotting Pill, a poison pill refined from the Heart-Rot Grass. It would be one of his protective measures in the future.

The last thing he had refined just now was the hardest to refine, a soul nourishing pill. He had refined it by using the Night Devil skull he had obtained from the Huayun Pavilion.

The Night Devil had a similar shape to a bat. An adult was a dozen meters long and fiercely bloodthirsty. Its most terrifying aspect was its ability to use spiritual attacks.

To directly attack the spirit; that was a terrifying kind of method that was practically impossible to defend against.

Long Chen had used the second rank Magical Beast Night Devil skull's crystal core as the main ingredient to refine a single soul nourishing pill.

Soul nourishing pills were exceptionally special medicinal pills. They had practically vanished from this era. Even in his Long Chen's Pill God memories, there were only three formulas that could nourish the soul.

Consuming it would benefit the spirit greatly, and at the initial stages of soul cultivation, consuming one soul nourishing pill was equivalent to having a huge head start over your competition.

This was a rare medicinal pill that had absolutely no side effects. This pill was extremely precious to Long Chen in particular. As an alchemist, he definitely required a powerful Spiritual Strength.

But the first thing that popped into his head when he looked at that pearl-like soul nourishing pill was a vision of Meng Qi's flawless face.

Meng Qi was a Beast Tamer. That was true soul cultivator. It would be a waste for anyone else to take it.

But Meng Qi was now in the Wind Spirit Pavilion. He didn't know where that was at the moment, so it would be impossible for him to send it to her.

Sighing, he put away the soul nourishing pill. If he still didn't see Meng Qi again within half a year, then he would simply consume it himself.

That was because this soul nourishing pill was not like other medicinal pills. If it wasn't consumed within half a year, the spiritual energy inside the pill would begin to fade.

After putting away the medicinal pills, Long Chen could no longer support himself. Exhaustion caused him to collapse onto his bed. The next time he opened his eyes, it was already noon the next day.

After washing up, he chatted with his mother, ate lunch, and left, ready to meet up with Chu Feng.

He had already set up a meeting with Chu Feng for today at a teahouse. By the time Long Chen arrived, Chu Feng had already been waiting for a long time.

Chu Feng had a middle-aged guard beside him. When he saw Long Chen approaching, that guard was just about to say something when his vision suddenly darkened and he fainted.

After knocking him unconscious, Long Chen took out some Face Changing Liquid and applied it to his face. In just a couple of minutes, he had changed into the guard's clothes and left with Chu Feng to the imperial palace.

Everything was going according to plan. Chu Feng had followed Long Chen's instructions to keep a guard beside him at almost all times. This was all in order to fool people for today...

Now Long Chen would no longer appear as conspicuous in other people's eyes. The two of them managed to easily enter into the inner section of the imperial palace.

This was Long Chen's first time in the imperial palace. The winding palace maze completely confused him; without his powerful Spiritual Strength, he would have lost his direction.

"Brother Long, my big sis is under house arrest in her Jade Yao Palace. There are guards outside. They've never blocked me from entering, but whether or not I can bring you in is still unknown." Chu Feng was hesitant.

"Don't worry, let's try our luck. Just follow the contingencies in our plan. If it really isn't going to work, then I won't force it," nodded Long Chen.

Long Chen had come to deliver Chu Yao the medicinal pill, but he also wanted to help her resolve those foreign spiritual seeds.

There was only one Starfusing Pill, and refining its medicinal pill's energy required skill. With Long Chen by her side, even if something unexpected happened, he might still be able to remedy the situation.

But another reason he had come was because he missed her. Ever since he had revealed his feelings for her at the Lantern Festival, her beautiful image had always been held within his heart.

He wanted her to have more faith in him. He wanted her to know that no matter how hard her days were, she would always have Long Chen with her. He wanted her to share a part of her pain with him. He wanted her to never have to suffer helplessly again.

That was why he had come.

Finally, they arrived at Chu Yao's Jade Yao Palace. There were eight guards wearing imperial robes guarding the gate.

There were also dozens of other soldiers surrounding the perimeter. That truly angered Long Chen.

This was the imperial palace, which was equivalent to Chu Yao's home. But it was completely surrounded by guards; how was this any different to being imprisoned? Long Chen was becoming increasingly disgusted with the royal family.

"The Empress Dowager has ordered that outsiders cannot enter the Jade Yao Palace."

As expected, Chu Feng and Long Chen were blocked from entering.

"Outrageous! I'm here to see my sister; why can't I enter?!" Chu Feng shouted angrily.

“Seventh prince, I’m sorry. You can enter, but your guard cannot.” That guard was not overly servile or overbearing.

“He is my personal guard! He’s my most trusted guard, and if you won’t believe me, then I’ll make your head tumble to the floor!” Chu Feng shouted sternly.

That guard shook his head. His voice was as indifferent as ever as he replied, “I’m sorry; these are the Empress Dowager’s orders. No one can change them.”

While Chu Feng and that guard were arguing, Long Chen had already spread out his divine sense. Sensing a figure sitting and leaning against a window, he couldn’t help but feel pity.

Chu Yao was as beautiful as ever; however, she had become much thinner and wan. It was obvious that this constant imprisonment over these days had made her suffer.

Long Chen truly wished to punch that guard who was blocking them, but he didn’t dare to. This was the imperial palace, and he didn’t dare to be reckless here.

“What matter is causing this much ruckus?”

Suddenly, a displeased voice came from behind.

“Greetings, fourth prince.”

That was the fourth prince Chu Xia. It seemed he had just happened to be passing by when he heard the commotion.

Long Chen frowned slightly when he saw that it was the fourth prince. That was because he could see Chu Xia looking at him with a bit of surprise.

Although he didn’t know where he had messed up, he was now certain that Chu Xia had recognized him.

“What’s going on?” After glancing at Long Chen for a moment, Chu Xia turned to the guards.

“Reporting to fourth prince, seventh prince wanted to bring this guard into the Jade Yao Palace, but...”

“Impudent! You audacious slave, are you doubting my little brother? You actually think he’d harm his own sister?” The fourth prince interrupted angrily all of a sudden.

“This little one doesn’t dare.” That guard jumped in fear. He hastily kneeled down. Obviously, the fourth prince instilled much more fear in him than the seventh prince.

“Let them in,” ordered the fourth prince coldly.

“But...” That guard was still hesitant.

“If the Empress Dowager wants to assign blame, naturally it will fall on me. Could it be that you don’t even trust me?” The fourth prince asked coldly.

“This little one doesn’t dare.” That guard fell back and no longer said anything.

“Enter then.” The fourth prince patted Chu Feng on the shoulder, but he was clearly looking at Long Chen.

Long Chen nodded. Although he didn’t know why the fourth prince would help him, now wasn’t the time to think about that.

After the seventh prince and Long Chen entered the Jade Yao Palace, the fourth prince smiled and also left.

Entering the Jade Yao Palace, the two of them went into the central courtyard. Chu Yao had been leaning against the window and looking down at the fish swimming in the pond when she turned slightly and suddenly saw them.

When she saw Long Chen, first she was dazed for a moment before wild joy filled her. Her jade hand lightly covered her cherry lips, and her tears began to wildly fall.

She had somehow managed to recognize Long Chen. Long Chen slowly walked up to her and apologized, “Sorry for being so late.”

Chu Yao couldn’t hold back any longer. With her head in Long Chen’s chest, she began to truly weep, seeming to want to cry out all her grief.

During this time, she had been under constant house arrest. When she heard that the Empress Dowager had already decided to marry her off to Xia Changfeng, she had almost collapsed.

If Chu Feng hadn’t secretly brought Long Chen’s promise to her, she might have already become hopeless and left this colorless world.

Every day she would watch the sun rise and bitterly wait for Long Chen. Each day had felt longer than a year to her. That kind of suffering was something only she knew about.

Long Chen enjoyed her fragrance as he gently stroked her long hair, letting her give vent to her grief.

At the same time, he also swore to himself that no matter the price, he would definitely protect Chu Yao. Even if that price was his life.

Sometimes, he would feel that Chu Yao was even more pitiful than himself. After all, Long Chen at least had a mother and father who loved him. But Chu Yao had lived her whole life in the loveless imperial palace. The imperial palace was a place where there was no trust or love. For a weak woman like her, it really was too painful.

After feeling enough time had passed, Long Chen noticed that Chu Feng was just awkwardly standing in his original location, not knowing whether he should stay or leave.

“Cough.” Long Chen lightly coughed, and Chu Yao broke out of her daze and hastily escaped from Long Chen’s embrace. Her entire face was red, and she couldn’t even bring herself to look at either of them.

“Uh, how about I go for now?” Chu Feng asked probingly.

“No need. Just help to keep watch for me. I have some secret matters I have to do with your sister.” Long Chen waved his hand.

But as soon as he saw Chu Feng’s shocked expression, he knew that the kid had misunderstood and hastily added, “It’s not what you think.”

He didn’t explain further. Not explaining was better, as the explanation was even more explicit. Chu Yao’s pretty face was completely red, and she was too embarrassed to even show her face.

Long Chen straightforwardly pulled Chu Yao upstairs, leaving behind a stupefied Chu Feng who just stood there alone and in a daze.

Chapter 65 Starfusing Pill’s Qi

Translator: BornToBe

The Jade Yao Palace was Chu Yao’s personal princess palace. It was large with three floors, the third floor being her personal chambers.

Long Chen had never once gone into a woman’s chambers before. What surprised Long Chen was that Chu Yao’s room didn’t have any majestic or grand decorations. Instead, everything was very simple and plain.

“Isn’t it strange?” Chu Yao pulled Long Chen in and quietly said, “I’ve always imagined that if only I had been born into a normal family, I would be free. I might not be able to have the luxury or a high status, but at least I would have my freedom.”

Long Chen smiled. "That's just because of your viewpoint. To be born into poverty is to have to struggle every day. In this world, if you want to be free, then you have to have a matching power."

Chu Yao nodded and led Long Chen into her room. Long Chen was startled to see that her bed was covered with drawings of himself.

Those drawings weren't made by a master painter. Instead, they were remarkably lifelike, without the embellishment of the drawings of him on the market.

"You drew these?" Long Chen asked in surprise.

Her face reddened a bit and she nodded. "Ever since the Lantern Festival, drawing images of you is the only way I can pass the time. Otherwise, the days are even more unbearable."

Long Chen felt a sudden burst of emotion for her. Looking at how much thinner and wane she was, he felt his heart ache. "Chu Yao."

Wrapping his arms around her tender waist, he pulled her into a tight kiss.

Chu Yao immediately felt the sky and earth spinning around her. Long Chen's masculine scent filled her nose, and it was like sparks were running throughout her body. Tightly hugging onto Long Chen's back, the two of them lost themselves in that intoxicating feeling.

"Long Chen, Yao-er wants to be your woman." Her breathing was shallow and her beautiful eyes were blurry as she looked at Long Chen. The intense feelings she had for him were enough to melt the steel.

With a beauty in his arms, Long Chen felt as if his whole body was about to ignite. Even his breathing was becoming hurried.

With her encouraging him, Long Chen's most primal desires ignited and his hands slowly started roving up from her waist.

"Long Chen, I want to be your woman. Even if I die, Yao-er will be content." Her entire body turned soft as she quietly whispered.

Chu Yao's voice was soft, but to Long Chen, the words were like thunder. His originally aroused desire was immediately extinguished like icy water had been thrown over him.

When Chu Yao sensed Long Chen's body suddenly stiffen, she slowly opened her eyes and saw that his expression was a bit unnatural. "What's wrong?"

He took a deep breath and told himself to stay calm. After gently planting a kiss on her forehead, he said, "Yao-er, do you not have faith in me?"

From her tone and what she said, Long Chen had understood her inner thoughts. She was planning on ending her life after giving herself to him.

And also for some unknown reason, Long Chen had a sudden premonition that if he did go through with that, he would regret it for the rest of his life.

Although such a premonition was extremely abstruse, Long Chen had always had a keen intuition ever since merging with a Pill God's soul. His gut had never misled him.

"Long Chen..."

Chu Yao looked at Long Chen and suddenly started sobbing into his chest. "I love you, Long Chen. I would rather die than marry someone else."

Long Chen gently stroked her back. As expected, his intuition had been correct. After patting her, he said, "Yao-er, did you forget the promise we made to each other at the lantern festival?"

"The Dragon swims across the four oceans; the Phoenix flies throughout the nine lands," she softly recited. But as soon as she finished, her tears truly began to fall.

"Seas of blood may block us, but we will never give up our path; Dragon and Phoenix will both live to old age!" Long Chen also heavily recited what he had said in return. That was his first promise to Chu Yao.

Chu Yao's jade hands tenderly stroked Long Chen's cheeks. She was choked with emotion as she sobbed, "But... can we really live to old age?"

"We definitely will. Believe in me."

"Okay, I'll trust in my future husband." Chu Yao smiled, appearing like a dew-dropped flower with her tears on her beautiful face.

"Yao-er, you really are beautiful," blurted out Long Chen.

"As long as you like how I look then I'll let you see me every day." This time Chu Yao wasn't shy anymore.

"Haha, good, we'll have many more days for that. But today I came mostly to bring you this."

Long Chen took out the Starfusing Pill, immediately causing the light in the room to turn gentle. Although it was the middle of the day, that was not able to conceal the light coming from the pill.

“Here, consume it. I’ll protect you.”

Although she didn’t know what it was, due to her trust in Long Chen, Chu Yao obediently swallowed that Starfusing Pill.

With Chu Yao sitting lotus style on the bed, Long Chen placed his hand on the middle of her back, using his Spiritual Strength to keep a close eye on the state of her body.

That Starfusing Pill was something Long Chen had used his full effort to refine. It was the best pill he had refined up to this point, and it could already count as a peak existence amongst second tier medicinal pills in Phoenix Cry.

In just several breaths’ time, the medicinal pill dissolved and spread quickly throughout her body.

“Don’t bother with it. Let the energy flow as it wishes.”

The Starfusing Pill spread throughout and filled every single path of Chu Yao’s meridians. Some of her meridians, which hadn’t been opened up yet, were slowly forced open by its energy.

But such a feeling was not a pleasant one. It felt as if millions of ants were crawling throughout her meridians, causing her to feel an irritating itch.

Chu Yao knew that this was something Long Chen had refined for her, so she did her absolute best to hold back any pained sounds, not wanting to worry him.

This kind of suffering was something Long Chen was extremely familiar with. Back when he had first absorbed heaven and earth’s spiritual energy into his body to open his meridians, he had felt such an intense pain that he would never be able to forget it in this lifetime.

Although Chu Yao was much better off than he had been at that time, one was pain while the other was itchiness. The degree of difficulty in bearing with it was essentially equal.

It took a full two hours for the Starfusing Pill’s medicinal energy to completely merge into Chu Yao’s meridians.

“Now draw the medicinal energy into your Dantian. You have to pull that energy from the farthest parts first, just like how rivers flow into the ocean.”

Chu Yao nodded and slowly began to circulate her spiritual qi. She began to collect the medicinal energy from her meridians into her Dantian.

What surprised Long Chen was Chu Yao's control of her spiritual qi which was extremely precise, to the point where she could control the slightest detail.

Chu Yao was definitely a martial genius. Long Chen couldn't help but sigh emotionally. Just by using her familiarity with her spiritual qi, she was already able to reach such a high level of control.

If those nine foreign spiritual qis weren't blocking her Dantian and causing her spiritual qi to be too chaotic and weak, the result from their fight on Sunset Mountain would probably have been reversed.

"Good, now increase the speed. The faster, the better. Channel your energy," directed Long Chen quietly.

With the pulling of the medicinal energy in her body, Chu Yao gradually caused the small streams of energy to become large rivers, the energy becoming greater and greater.

Following Long Chen's directions, she increased her speed and now her meridians were pushed to their max, sending the energy to her Dantian wildly like surging waves.

BOOM!

Chu Yao's Dantian shook and the nine foreign spiritual energy seeds locking it were immediately pushed to the breaking point by those huge waves.

"No, you're still lacking some energy!"

Long Chen's expression changed slightly. His Spiritual Strength rushed out, aiding Chu Yao in pulling the Starfusing Pill's energy to her Dantian. Those waves now became a flood.

If it had been just the medicinal energy, then it would count as a flood; but then adding in Long Chen's Spiritual Strength, that flood became a huge torrent.

Those nine foreign spiritual qis that had been nourished by Chu Yao for so many years were immediately crushed into pieces and merged into her Dantian.

BOOM!

Following the breaking of those nine spiritual seeds, Chu Yao's Dantian immediately became filled with endless energy. It caused Chu Yao who was originally at the ninth

Heavenstage of Qi Condensation to immediately break through to the Blood Condensation realm.

“First Heavenstage of Blood Condensation!”

“Second Heavenstage!”

“Third Heavenstage!”

...

Her cultivation base rapidly advanced at a shocking pace.

Those nine spiritual seeds had been nourished for so many years. Now that they were crushed, the amount of energy they released was absolutely astonishing.

It could also be seen just how terrifying Chu Yao’s talent was. Despite not spending much time on cultivating, just the accumulated energy she had gained passively was enough to even scare Long Chen.

“Fifth Heavenstage!”

“Sixth Heavenstage!”

Now Long Chen was truly stupefied. Chu Yao’s talent was so great that Huang Chang would have been nothing in front of her.

“Seventh Heavenstage!”

“Eighth Heavenstage!”

Long Chen’s expression changed. He realized that under Chu Yao’s rapid advances in her cultivation base, it seemed she was going to break out of the Blood Condensation realm to reach a higher level.

BOOM!

As he predicted, Chu Yao’s cultivation base advanced to the ninth Heavenstage, and there was still an enormous amount of energy remaining.

“Crap!”

Long Chen shouted and immediately activated his FengFu Star. He poured extremely pure spiritual qi into Chu Yao’s body and tightly sealed her Dantian.

He spat out a mouthful of blood. In order to avoid hurting Chu Yao, that spiritual qi he had poured into her body was not capable of defending itself from that wild, out of control spiritual qi in her body, causing him to suffer a loss.

“Long Chen!” Chu Yao let out an alarmed cry. At this point, she had already lost control of her own cultivation base!

“Not a problem! Just calm yourself. I’ll help you control your Dantian’s energy. You absolutely can’t break through again; otherwise, your foundation will be practically ruined.” Long Chen explained while suppressing her Dantian.

Chu Yao hastily stabilized her state of mind. Working with Long Chen, they tried to control the energy in her Dantian that seemed almost endless.

Luckily, Chu Yao’s control of that energy was extremely great. Knowing that this was a crucial moment, she focused completely on controlling her Dantian.

Two hours later, her Dantian finally stabilized. Chu Yao collapsed onto her bed. The amount of mental energy she had used up just now had been too great.

Long Chen wasn’t much better off than her. Without his powerful Spiritual Strength, he would have already fainted. The feeling of having to take hits without hitting back truly was a bit irritating.

He covered Chu Yao with her blanket and left a piece of paper behind that told her to properly rest and to let him handle everything else.

Chu Feng had been waiting for six hours. Only now did he see an exhausted Long Chen walk down, and for a moment, he didn’t know what to say.

Long Chen didn’t even have the strength to explain. “Let’s go. I’m tired.”

But after the two of them exited Jade Yao Palace, they hadn’t walked far before they were stopped by someone.

“The fourth prince wishes to see you.”

Chapter 66 Treacherous Intentions

Translator: BornToBe

The fourth prince poured a cup of tea for Long Chen. He smiled lightly. “Brother Long truly is a dragon amongst men. No matter what, such boldness truly is worth admiring.”

“Fourth prince flatters me. But this little brother still doesn’t know just how you recognized me,” replied Long Chen.

He really did want to know just what he had forgotten about. He was confident that his appearance changing technique did not have the slightest flaw.

“Even a wise man who thinks it over a thousand times will forget at least one thing. To be honest, I didn’t actually recognize you at first, and it was only when I saw that ring on your hand that I managed to figure out something was strange. Then, adding on your gaze, I realized it was you.” The fourth prince pointed to Long Chen’s hand.

Only then did Long Chen suddenly realize that he was wearing his spatial ring on his finger. That ring had a design that was specific to the alchemist guild. He had actually forgotten such a large detail.

“The fourth prince truly is someone observant to the smallest detail. It really is worthy of admiration. But what I really want to know is, why did you help me?” asked Long Chen.

“Haha, you might not believe me even if I tell you. The truth is, I dislike Xia Changfeng intensely. No matter what, Chu Yao is still my sister. Although familial affection is a luxury that can’t be afforded in the imperial palace, I still have some in my heart.

“I do not have the heart to force Chu Yao to marry someone she doesn’t like. But you also know that the imperial palace is simply like that. All that matters is if it will benefit the empire; no one cares about your emotions. That is simply the helpless truth of living in the imperial palace.

“I’ve tried to persuade the Empress Dowager many times in hopes of changing her mind, but none of it had any effect. In the end, I actually ended up infuriating her and being kicked out of her Empress Dowager Hall.

“From the fact that brother Long come to visit Chu Yao today, I can tell that you have truly sincere feelings for Chu Yao. But my ability is limited, and I can only help you this much,” sighed the fourth prince.

“Fourth prince is too polite. Long Chen will remember this matter.” It seemed he would have to owe a favor to the fourth prince for today.

“As for the matter of your Long family losing its stipend, I once tried investigating. But I was shut down before I could get to the bottom of it. So, I’m also powerless when it comes to your Long family.”

Long Chen frowned and asked, “Can fourth prince tell me what he discovered?”

“Ah well, it was something that happened in the imperial palace, so it’s extremely muddled. My brothers and I also fight and scheme against each other. I really am powerless when it comes to it.” The fourth prince shook his head.

Long Chen’s eyes brightened ever so slightly. Although the fourth prince didn’t give him a direct response, the fact that he had purposely mentioned his brothers was definitely somewhat interesting.

There were a total of seven princes. Other than the fourth prince, there were six left. Of those remaining six, the seventh prince could also be excluded.

Then, that left the crown, second, third, fifth, and sixth princes. Long Chen had observed each of them carefully at the Phoenix Cry Lantern Festival. Other than the crown prince, none of the others seemed to be shrewd enough.

Then, the most suspicious one would have to be the crown prince. Moreover, Long Chen had recognized the assassin who had killed Li Hao as one of his henchmen. All the evidence pointed to him.

“Many thanks.” Long Chen cupped his hands.

“Haha, I didn’t say anything. I can’t accept your thanks,” laughed the fourth prince. He then sighed, “Sometimes I truly envy you noble heirs. You can be free and unconstrained, not like us who do not have freedom. I even have to suck up to people I plainly dislike. Speaking of which, Xia Changfeng is returning to the Grand Xia in ten days to prepare for his wedding with Chu Yao. Although I truly wish to punch him in the face, I can only give him a smile. That’s the sorrow of living in the imperial palace.”

“He’s leaving in just ten days?” Long Chen didn’t bat an eye, but a cold light flashed in his eyes.

The fourth prince seemed to not notice any change in Long Chen’s expression. Sipping some tea, he replied, “Yes, he’s taking the southern pass, a shortcut to the Grand Xia. A prince’s wedding naturally requires many preparations.”

Long Chen nodded and kept that information in mind. At the same time, an outrageous idea popped into his head. If he could pull off that plan, this matter with Chu Yao would be easily resolved...

The fourth prince chatted for a bit longer with Long Chen before politely seeing him off. When he once more returned to his room, a woman appeared.

That woman seemed to be in her thirties. She was tall and veiled in extravagance, giving off a cold sensation that she could not be offended.

“What you’re doing right now is extremely dangerous,” she said.

The fourth prince smiled slightly and sipped some tea. "Danger means risk, and risk means there's a chance of a high payout. I feel that it's worth it. If Long Chen loses, then he will just be another corpse, meaningless to us. But if he succeeds, then the plan will advance a couple of steps. Mom, don't worry about it."

That woman was precisely Phoenix Cry's Queen Mother of the Western Palace. She shook her head and said, "I hope you know what you're doing. I had a mission in being married off to here. You and I have to remember that."

"Hmph, you were originally a princess from the Grand Xia, but you came here to Phoenix Cry for your own goals. As for me? Was I born to be just a chess piece? They plan on seizing Phoenix Cry's lands, making Xia Changfeng the ruler of this empire. Then, he'll monopolize all the rich lands. When the time comes for credit, it'll all be theirs. As for us mother and son, are we destined to become their tools? Why?"

The fourth prince suddenly let out all his anger into a loud bellow. The current him was just like a beast that had been provoked, capable of devouring anyone at any moment.

"Xia-er, I know you're mad inside. With your talent, you wouldn't lose out to anyone. But this is fate."

"Fate? Fate is dictated by man. I will control my own fate. I will not be a puppet! I will become the Emperor!"

"That's impossible."

"Don't worry about it; I've already made all my plans. Right, how is the Empress Dowager?" asked the fourth prince.

"She's under my Soul Assimilation Art. I can basically completely control her. But as a precaution, I always add a bit more 'control'," she replied indifferently.

"Okay, good. Now we just have to wait for good news from Long Chen. I hope he doesn't disappoint me." The fourth prince smiled. Raising his cup, he drained it in a single gulp.

...

When Long Chen returned home, he saw there were a couple of carriages by the gate. As soon as he walked past the gates, the housekeeper immediately informed him that there were guests present.

Long Chen was startled, as it had been many years since someone had paid a visit to their Long family. Why were there guests now?

He went straight to his mother. He could already see that she was talking with a couple of smiling guests. Seeing Long Chen come over, she hastily said, "Chen-er, come. Greet your two aunts."

Amongst the group, two of them were old wives who were similar in age to his mother. Long Chen had no alternative but to greet them as maternal aunts.

"Haha, what a good child. He's grown up in an instant. Quick, you guys. Come greet your cousin." One of them hastily called out to the few people behind her.

There were three men and two women, all around the same age as Long Chen. One of the men awkwardly said, "Cousin, it's been many years."

Long Chen nodded. He still vaguely remembered this person. Back when they were little, this person had forcefully snatched his toys, causing him to cry.

Although he felt that it was a bit abrupt to suddenly meet his mother's family, seeing how happy she was, Long Chen also felt it would be bad to say anything about it, so he merely forced out a few courteous sentences.

As soon as that was done, Long Chen stood up and said his goodbyes. Only then did Long Chen learn from his mother that they had come to apologize to her.

"Chen-er, I also have a bit of grudge against them for not helping us back when we first entered a crisis. However, now they came and told me the whole story. It wasn't that they didn't want to help, but that they didn't dare to," sighed Mrs. Long.

"That crisis has already passed and you've also become a high status alchemist. Our Long family has also risen from that. Mom has also thought about it and accepted it. Let the past stay in the past. I hope you also won't hold it against them. After all, they are your mom's family."

Long Chen coldly sneered inside; they hadn't dared to help? What had they been doing when the Long family had almost gotten to the point where they hadn't been able to afford food?

Even if they didn't dare help obviously, secretly sending a bit of money to help was still something incredibly easy.

The current Long Chen was now a towering figure that no one in the capital didn't know of. He had a close relationship with grandmaster Yun Qi and even dared to compete with Marquis Ying at the auction. That was enough to display how domineering he was.

Long Chen had used that kind of method to tell everyone that his Long family was no longer the same Long family as before. He was not someone that could be bullied by just anyone.

The fact that they had only come now to apologize was clearly just them trying to curry favor. Long Chen truly held them in contempt, but since his mother had already forgiven them, he could not argue too much about it.

If his mother wanted to, then she could do whatever she wanted. Living in the secular world meant you had to endure living as how society expected you to.

Seeing that Long Chen didn't have that much of a bad reaction to her family, Mrs. Long also became more at ease. After all, no matter how much of a grudge she had, they were her family. And having been alone for so many years, she also thirsted for familial love.

Long Chen accompanied his mother for a while. She asked him a couple of simple questions about his current situation, and he replied with a few vague sentences. Even if he was just doing the same thing as he always did, telling her the good news but not the bad, it still let her feel a bit relieved.

After that, Long Chen went into seclusion. Having been busy all this time dealing with Chu Yao's matter, he hadn't truly had time to focus on cultivation.

Right now, he had an idea to make sure Xia Changfeng remained forever in the Phoenix Cry Empire, but Xia Changfeng always had many guards around him. He had to be absolutely sure to completely eliminate that bastard in just one attempt.

But ever since condensing the eleventh cyclone, he had become completely bewildered about how he was supposed to cultivate further. He had no idea just how to use the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art to break through to the Blood Condensation realm.

But there was no other way for him to get stronger... He had no real Dantian without the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art, so only by further training in it could he advance.

"Young master, someone's looking for you."

Chapter 67 Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf

Translator: BornToBe

Within the guest room was a woman in a long white skirt who was currently laughing at the stupefied Long Chen. "What, do you not recognize me after just this little time?"

Long Chen had never imagined that the guest looking for him was actually this woman. He felt as if he were dreaming.

That woman was precisely the maiden who had protected him from crap-brother Xi when he had attacked him on Sunset Mountain.

“No, no. I still haven’t thanked elder sister for your help back then,” said Long Chen hastily.

“Don’t call me elder sister; it sounds weird. I’m sister Meng Qi’s junior apprentice-sister. My name is Lu Fang-er, so you can call me sister Fang-er,” she laughed.

“Haha, then little brother Long Chen greets sister Fang-er,” laughed Long Chen. He had a kind of friendly feeling towards this Lu Fang-er.

Seeing her made him feel that the distance between and Meng Qi was no longer as distant as before. He also had a way to pass on the soul nourishing pill.

“Haha, your mouth really is skillful. No wonder you’ve become the idol in the hearts of all the Phoenix Cry Empire’s maidens.” Lu Fang-er held out a drawing of him and laughed.

Looking at that drawing, Long Chen immediately felt embarrassed. That was the cover of the comic depiction of his battle with Huang Chang, the Phoenix Cry Divine Battle.

“Cough, that was just a joke some merchants made.”

“You confessed your emotions to a princess and then used your strength to defeat a powerful opponent; that was a joke?” Lu Fang-er teased.

Long Chen immediately felt his heart drop. If that matter was heard by Meng Qi then...

“Long Chen, this isn’t acceptable. My big sis is a fairy in human form. For her to have a favorable impression of you, do you not know how to treasure that?” Lu Fang-er was dissatisfied. “Since we know each other a bit, I’ll give you some advice. Immediately break things off with that princess and I won’t have to tell my big sis about it.”

His expression immediately changed when he heard this. Thinking about the warmth and tenderness Chu Yao currently felt for him, he shook his head and sighed, “Sorry, I can’t do that.”

As he said that he felt as if needles were stabbing into his heart. That decision was extremely difficult to make.

Meng Qi’s beauty and kindness had been deeply imprinted into his heart. She had given him his first taste of love.

As for Chu Yao, she would sacrifice her everything for him. Asking him to leave Chu Yao at this time was absolutely impossible for him.

“How can you be so stubborn? You aren’t even satisfied with just my big sis; you actually have to play around with the women here too. If you choose her, then don’t ever think about seeing my sister again,” warned Lu Fang-er angrily.

Long Chen took a deep breath. In the face of his complicated feelings, he was completely helpless. He refused to give on either of them. But now he had to choose which one.

Seeing that Long Chen remained silent, Lu Fang-er continued, “Are you really going to give on my sister for some princess?”

“I’m not giving up. I cannot give up on either one.” Long Chen shook his head.

“Ha, your face really is thick. You actually want to monopolize two beauties for yourself.” The angry Lu Fang-er actually laughed when she saw Long Chen act so confidently and shameless.

Long Chen was startled at that. He didn’t quite understand just what Lu Fang-er was saying.

“Ah, whatever. This is how a true man should act. If you really did give up that pitiful princess just to appease me, then you really would have had to say goodbye forever to my sister,” laughed Lu Fang-er. “How could a man who is fickle in love possibly enter my sister’s eyes? That was just a small test just now. I suppose you’ve just managed to pass.”

A bead of sweat silently rolled off Long Chen’s forehead. A feeling of exhaustion rolled over him. He would rather have a huge battle with someone then endure such a test again.

“However, you’re also celebrating too early. That test was just one I did from a personal point of view. As for my big sister, whether she will let you have another beauty along with her is something only she knows,” Lu Fang-er laughingly warned him when she saw him relax.

His nerves which had only just relaxed immediately tightened again. Lu Fang-er continued, “But from what I understand about my sister, you should have the greatest chance out of all men. And with me helping you, your chances should increase even more.”

“Then, I’ll thank sister Fang-er for the help,” said Long Chen hastily.

“Haha, I won’t disturb you anymore. I had business to do in coming here. After flying for seven days and nights, I’m already completely exhausted. Plus, you don’t even pour me a cup of tea,” sighed Lu Fang-er discontentedly.

“Oh, I’ll immediately pour some tea for sister Fang-er.” Long Chen quickly and carefully poured a cup of tea for her. There was no way around it. He definitely had to give her a good impression for the sake of Meng Qi.

Lu Fang-er took the teacup with a somewhat strange expression. “Does your Long family normally like to use cold water for tea?”

Only then did Long Chen realize that the pot was already completely cold. But he thickened his face and said, “This is cold tea that’s supposed to be drunk cold. Sister Fang-er can try it.”

“It’d be strange if anyone believed you,” scolded Fang-er.

“If sister Fang-er doesn’t want to drink cold tea, then I’ll immediately steep some hot tea for you.”

“Ah, forget about it. As long as you have the right heart, then it’s fine. Coming and going like this is actually quite annoying, but if I didn’t, then I’d feel too sorry for you.”

For a moment, Long Chen didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. This Fang-er truly was mischievous. But she still gave off a very innocent and lively feeling. She said whatever she wanted to. It really was easy for people to feel friendly to her.

The Wind Spirit Pavilion was many thousands of miles away from this place. Even if she was riding a Magical Beast, traveling for seven full days and nights was still extremely exhausting. So he could understand her teasing of him.

“Next, I’ll tell you some good news. My sister gave me a gift for you.” Lu Fang-er pointed to a small trunk to the side.

Only then did Long Chen realize there was a two feet tall rectangular trunk.

When the trunk was gently opened, Long Chen was astonished to see that there was a small furred creature inside.

It was a small wolf cub only the size of a palm. Its body was completely snow white. Only a small section of fur at the middle of its forehead was a fiery red color. It was extremely adorable.

This small cub had yet to even open its eyes after being born. It was blindly searching around, appearing to look for food.

“Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf?”

Long Chen was extremely startled. This was the cub of a Magical Beast that he had read about before.

The Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf - its body was completely snow white with only a small lock of fur that was a blazing red color. It was extremely easy to recognize.

But most Scarlet Flame Snow Wolves weren't of a completely pure bloodline. Their fur would be of a duller color and would even have some spots sometimes.

But this Snow Wolf cub didn't have a single spot. That meant it was an extremely pure-blooded Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf.

Such a Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf that was completely pure would grow to become an overlord third rank Magical Beast when matured, and it could even contend against fourth rank Magical Beasts. That was an existence that surpassed the Tendon Transformation realm.

"Correct, this is a pure-blooded Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf that has just been born. It was given to my sister as a gift from her master, but she instead wanted me to fly through the night to give it to you." Lu Fang-er looked at Long Chen with a complicated expression.

His heart shook. Not only had Meng Qi not forgotten about him, but she actually worried about him. Such pure feelings from a beauty caused Long Chen to feel an urge to tear up.

"Originally, sister wanted it to be a weak housepet for you, but she definitely never thought that you'd have already become a Pill Adept. Your Spiritual Strength isn't low, so I can impart a couple of techniques to control beasts to you. Then, this Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf can become a battling housepet," said Lu Fang-er.

Ordinary martial artists would always have Beast Tamers use their martial force or other techniques to gradually tame the Magical Beast, letting it become a housepet.

But such a housepet wasn't perfect. After all, Magical Beasts had a violent and brutal aura that could not be removed. A housepet devouring their master was a common occurrence.

But even so, Magical Beast housepets were still extremely precious. Although it was a bit dangerous, once it was properly trained and if it was used properly, a Magical Beast was definitely an extremely terrifying addition to your combat strength.

What was special about a battle housepet was that it could be controlled much better. However, to have such control over a Magical Beast required an extremely strong Spiritual Strength. Ordinary people were absolutely incapable of that.

Using Spiritual Strength to connect and communicate with the Magical Beast, both beast and human could work together.

Not only was the power of a battle housepet much greater, but the chance of it betraying its master was also much lower. However, it also required having your Spiritual Strength connected to the Magical Beast for a long time, which was also exhausting.

Meng Qi didn't know about Long Chen's current strength. She had sent the cub in hopes that the Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf would follow Long Chen as it grew up and be an extra life-preserving measure in the future.

But the current Long Chen was already a Pill Adept. Lu Fang-er directly imparted a few techniques for controlling Magical Beasts to him.

What surprised Lu Fang-er was that Long Chen was able to comprehend the techniques with just a quick explanation. He would then ask a couple of questions that went right to the core of how the technique functioned.

But there was a limit to how much Lu Fang-er could pass onto Long Chen. She could only teach him the common beast controlling techniques that circulated in the public. As for the core techniques of her sect, she didn't dare pass them on without permission.

Long Chen's intelligence had completely won over Lu Fang-er. She realized Long Chen was definitely a monster. He remembered every word and comprehended everything almost immediately. He even asked her questions about ideas that she hadn't ever thought of.

She stayed for half a day at the Long estate. After Lu Fang-er saw that Long Chen had completely comprehended all the techniques she passed on to him, she directly left.

But before she left, Long Chen gave her the precious soul nourishing pill to give to Meng Qi.

Once she left, Long Chen looked down at the little cub he was holding to his chest and couldn't help but feel a burst of warmth. The existence of this Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf was proof that he was present within Meng Qi's heart.

Long Chen couldn't help but feel extremely grand knowing that Meng Qi cared about him. He hoped to resolve everything in the capital as soon as possible so that he could step out of these uncivilized lands and enter that vaster sky.

That was because he knew there was an unmatched beauty waiting for him. Thinking of Meng Qi, Long Chen felt his blood burn hotter. He had to quickly rise.

“Waaahhh!!”

Suddenly, the small cub in his arms let out a loud cry and started waddling all over his body.

Looking at that little fellow, Long Chen smiled. But at that moment, he suddenly felt an extremely indistinct killing intent.

Chapter 68 News of His Father

Translator: BornToBe

There was someone spying on him; that was his first reaction. However, even after spreading out his divine sense throughout the entire Long estate, he was unable to find anyone suspicious.

But that feeling had definitely not been a mistake. With his perceptive spirit, he had definitely sensed that extremely indistinct killing intent.

Long Chen was fully confident in his intuition. If there was no one suspicious in the Long household, then that meant the enemy was watching from further away.

Seeing that the sky was already darkening, Long Chen muttered to himself and placed the puppy-like Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf back into its trunk.

That trunk was something Lu Fang-er had brought over. Inside was a nourishing fluid that was enough for the cub to consume so that it wouldn't die.

Setting up a proper place for the little cub, he then changed and left his estate.

As expected, his intuition had been correct. As soon as he went past the gates, he sensed that he was being watched by people. A cold smile appeared on his face as he continued walking.

He knew those people were preparing to kill him. If he had guessed correctly, they should have been waiting for nightfall to sneak into the Long estate and assassinate him.

He preferred not to fight in his home, so he left. And as he had expected, after he walked a dozen miles away and entered a remote region with no one else present, a sharp whistling arrow was shot straight for his back.

By the time he reacted and went on guard, it was already too late. He was shot through, groaning as he tumbled to the ground.

Over ten figures surrounded Long Chen. Those people were all wearing veiled masks. Raising their swords, they completely cut off any retreat paths.

“Hmph, what Phoenix Cry number one junior generation; he’s just an idiot. He was handled so easily,” sneered one of the masked men coldly.

As soon as he finished his sentence, an arrow firmly shot him right through the stomach. His eyes widened and he didn’t even dare look down at his stomach as he felt his life quickly fading.

He tumbled to the ground. Even as he died, he had no idea just who it was that had killed him.

“Careful!”

The others all immediately retreated, looking in shock at Long Chen. They noticed that the arrow on his back had disappeared.

More importantly, Long Chen seemed absolutely fine! He got up from the ground and indifferently patted the dust off his clothes.

Long Chen had long since been on guard, so how could it possibly have been so easy to ambush him? The very instant that arrow had been about to hit him, it had already been caught by him in midair.

But he had faked being hit and tumbled to the ground powerlessly. Everything had been an act he had put on extremely convincingly. The reason he did this was to find out what this group had come for.

The arrowhead didn’t have any poison on it, and the twang of the bowstring had been too loud. Professional assassins definitely wouldn’t randomly walk up to an enemy who wasn’t confirmed to be dead.

“Together!”

Following one of their shouts, the masked men suddenly released their auras. Blood Qi soared to the sky; every single one of them was a Blood Condensation expert.

With a metallic ring, a sword appeared in Long Chen’s hand. That was the weapon of the one he had killed. He used it now to block one of their attacks.

The person whose attack he blocked felt his hand turn numb. The power behind Long Chen’s sword was shockingly great. The sword in his hand was blown away, and he was knocked onto his back.

A cold light flashed over that person’s body, and he was split into two. A rain of blood descended for a moment.

Now that Long Chen had condensed eleven cyclones that had reached a terrifying size, even a random blow from him was practically unstoppable.

After easily killing a Blood Condensation expert with a wave of his sword, the pungent smell of blood filled the air. The cyclones in his body almost seemed to have been provoked, and without any urging from Long Chen, they started to circulate faster and faster.

In just the blink of an eye, two members of their group had died. Both shock and rage filled them. They bellowed angrily and charged all at the same time, each of them stabbing towards one of Long Chen's vital points.

Long Chen coldly snorted. Spiritual qi surged rapidly into his arms.

Using just that one sword, Long Chen fended off the attacks of over ten people. With a crisp bang, qi waves surged out with shockingly terrifying fluctuations.

With the combined force of over ten people, they forced Long Chen back several steps. He wasn't injured at all; however, his sword was unable to take such terrifying strength and shattered, leaving only the hilt.

They were all greatly shocked that Long Chen was able to fend off their combined attack alone. Three of them were even at the mid Blood Condensation realm!

"Good, again!"

One of them ordered. Although his voice was suppressed to be quiet, there was something indescribably strange about that voice.

They didn't need this reminder since they all knew that this was the best moment. They all charged at the unarmed Long Chen.

Looking at those masked black-robed attackers, a ridiculing smile appeared on his face. He lightly rubbed his ring.

Golden light suddenly lit the sky up. A huge battle-ax cut through the air. It was just like the full moon as it swung through a mournful arc.

Blood and broken limbs flew everywhere. The terrifying strength of the battle-ax dug a huge hole in the ground. Nine of them died under it; now there were only three remaining.

And that was because those three were somewhat slower. When they had seen a huge battle-ax suddenly appear in his hands, they instinctively had slowed down slightly, allowing them to escape death.

But while they had managed to survive, the others were not so lucky. In front of that huge battle-ax, the swords in their hands were no different from toys. All of them had been crushed into pieces.

That huge power had even managed to impress Long Chen. This was the domineering style of heavy weapons. Your power would multiply, allowing you to completely crush your enemies head-on.

But one of the drawbacks was that Long Chen needed two hands to hold the battle-ax. That was because the handle was too thick. At the same time, just one hand's strength was unable to draw out all of the potential power of the battle-ax.

Although that battle-ax was extremely powerful, due to having used too much force, his arms ended up feeling extremely sore.

“Now it's time to send you guys to hell.”

He slowly raised the huge battle-ax. Only then did the remaining three react. They immediately fled, disappearing in just a couple of blinks.

Looking in the direction where those three were fleeing, Long Chen helplessly sighed. He sat himself down on the huge ax, seeming to not have the slightest intention of chasing after them.

It wasn't that he didn't want to chase, but that he wouldn't be able to do anything to them even if he caught up. Due to underestimating the Mountain Splitting Battle-Ax's weight and power, he had misjudged how much strength to use and ended up dislocating his own shoulder. His raising of the battle-ax was just to scare them off. Otherwise, if they didn't flee, then he would be the one running.

Twisting his shoulder, he popped it back into its socket. Suddenly, he turned to some bushes to the side and said, “Having hidden for so long, don't you think it's time to come out and say a few things?”

Those bushes remained silent. Long Chen smiled slightly, and suddenly, a red medicinal pill appeared in his hand. With a flick of his finger, the red pill fell into the bushes.

That medicinal pill burst apart when it landed in the bushes. Countless strands of red smoke immediately filled the air. The smoke spread extremely quickly, reaching hundreds of meters away.

That was a poison pill. The pills refined from alchemists didn't just save lives; they also could take lives. Long Chen had kept that poison pill for a long time. Back in the Heroic Assembly House when he had fought against Huang Chang, he had just been about to use it when the crown prince had walked in.

That was a life-preserving measure. But now that he had even better medicinal pills, that pill had lost its use.

A figure quickly fled from the bushes, rushing towards the distance.

"I'd advise you not to run. Otherwise, in just a few minutes, the poison will reach your heart and you'll die," said Long Chen indifferently.

That figure stopped and paused for a moment. Perhaps he was considering whether Long Chen was telling the truth or not, but in the end, he decided to stay.

"Young master's techniques truly are worthy of praise."

That person slowly walked over and bowed. He appeared to be about in his twenties. He was slightly thin and appeared weak. His face was exceptionally plain, one that would be hard to pick out amongst a crowd.

"Who are you?"

"Reporting to young master, this little one is Chen Fei. I was sent by your father to secretly protect his wife and son," said Chen Fei.

"My father? Do you have any proof of that?" Long Chen was pleasantly surprised, but he still needed proof.

That person took out something from his robes and handed it to Long Chen. "This is a keepsake. I really am ashamed. I believe that young master should definitely recognize it."

Long Chen immediately turned a bit sour when he saw that thing. It was a bamboo sword, the first gift his father had ever given to him as a child.

At that time, he had only been two years old. He had been so excited back then that he had wildly brandished it as if he were a great expert.

Back then, his father had accompanied him like that every day. He would occasionally give him encouragement as he wildly swung his bamboo sword, and his mother would laugh secretly to the side.

Those were the soft and warm days of their three person family. Those days felt like they were just yesterday. He seemed to be able to see his father's strict but pampering expression.

But a child was a child. A toy was something that didn't remain novel for long. He later became enraptured by real swords and blades. That bamboo sword was lost somewhere he had never bothered with.

Looking at the bamboo sword now, he saw there was a bright shine to it. That was obviously something that could only be left behind by stroking it thousands of thousands of times.

"Master really did wish to see his son and wife over these years, but he was absolutely unable to reunite with his family. However, if he learned that his son had reached such a level, he would definitely feel extremely gratified," said Chen Fei.

Long Chen carefully put away the bamboo sword. This news of his father caused him to be even more excited than if he broke through his current realm.

It had been so many years, but his father had never even once sent a letter back. Sometimes, he actually wondered if his father no longer wanted his wife and child. It would be a lie to say that he didn't have a bit of a grudge inside him.

Hearing Chen Fei's words today, that sore point in his heart was finally released. At the same time, he was also a bit ashamed. In terms of trusting his father, he was far from equal to his mother.

"Come back to the estate. I have some things I want to talk about with you," said Long Chen. He had now understood many things. Although he didn't know the whole picture, he felt that he was now capable of changing his own fate.

"Young master, you believe me just like this?" Chen Fei was surprised.

"Of course, I believe you. That's because if you had lied just now, the current you would already be a corpse."

Chapter 69 The Secret Troubles of Long Tianxiao

Translator: BornToBe

"Of course, I believe you. That's because if you have lied just now, the current you would already become a corpse." Long Chen's light words were filled with self-confidence.

Chen Fei was greatly alarmed. But examining his body, he didn't notice any changes.

"That pill that I threw out is called the Soul Burning Pill. Even if you completely stopped your breath just now, it would be pointless. That poisonous gas directly erodes your pores and enters your bloodstream. If you use too much strength or fight intensely, your

blood will begin to flow quicker and the poison will immediately invade your soul. At that time, your death would be doubtless,” explained Long Chen.

Chen Fei’s expression changed. He had never imagined that Long Chen’s poison pill would be so terrifying. But since Long Chen already trusted him, he definitely wouldn’t deceive him now.

“The reason why I believe you is because I am confident in my pills. If you had lied when I questioned you just now, your blood would have begun circulating faster. By then, blood would flow out of your seven apertures. Here, eat this.”

Long Chen handed Chen Fei a medicinal pill. Chen Fei directly swallowed it.

“After taking this pill, the poison in your body will be detoxified. However, the effect is a bit slow, so you cannot undergo any intense fights for the next three days. Okay, let’s go.”

Long Chen directly started walking back home. Chen Fei hastily went to keep up with him. They left behind a miserable area of blood and severed limbs.

...

“Bastard, you actually dare try to kill Long Chen behind my back? Do you think that I won’t dare to kill you?” Within a secret room, a white-robed man was angrily cursing at Xia Changfeng. A murderous aura came from him.

At the same time, a terrifying killing intent seemed to take a solid form and locked Xia Changfeng in place. Xia Changfeng felt as if a cold blade was pressed against his neck. As long as the white-robed man wished it, his life would be over in an instant.

“Brother Luo, listen to me. This wasn’t done by me! My sister ordered my subordinates. I knew nothing about it!”

Xia Changfeng was completely terrified as he tried to explain the situation. Sweat had completely drenched his robes, as that killing intent was just too terrifying. Even he, a Blood Condensation expert, was unable to block it. He felt as if he were a tiny ant that was completely unable to resist.

“Do you think I’m an idiot? Do you really think your guards would follow the orders of your sister without your go-ahead? You obviously wanted to remove that thorn Long Chen before you left. It’s lucky that Long Chen didn’t die, otherwise, this matter would have truly blown up. Even if you had ten lives, you wouldn’t be able to block the anger from those higher-ups,” shouted the white-robed man coldly.

Xia Changfeng lowered his head and didn't dare say anything. It was true that the assassination attempt of Long Chen had been arranged by Xia Baichi, but the white-robed man was entirely correct. He had lent his personal guards to her.

He had hoped that once Long Chen was dead, he could push the blame onto Xia Baichi. With her Pill Adept status, she should be fine.

Having already borrowed so much money from Xia Baichi at the auction, he had been forced by her to provide help.

However, he hadn't expected that a group of Blood Condensation experts would fail and only have three of their members return. But before he could even clearly ask about what had happened, that white-robed man had already arrived.

"Xia Changfeng, this is your last warning. Your job is minor. If the bigger plots go wrong, even your entire Grand Xia is unable to handle the punishment, let alone you. Go back and tell your stupid sister that if she dares to take such a rash course once more, I will personally twist off her head. That old pervert Wei Cang never once truly placed her in his eyes," snorted the white-robed man coldly.

"Yes, yes, Changfeng will definitely properly instruct his sister. I definitely won't cause any more trouble." Xia Changfeng nodded his head over and over.

"Long Tianxiao has already stated that if anything unexpected happens to his wife or son, he will give up his border post and kill his way into the capital. That is the situation we want to avoid the most, do you understand?" The white-robed man coldly continued, "We've been constantly testing his bottom line, but Long Tianxiao refuses to give us any reaction. However, that doesn't mean that he doesn't care about his wife and son. He is someone who either doesn't take action or strikes like lightning. That is him warning you guys, but you idiots weren't even able to understand that."

"Brother Luo, I still don't understand. With brother Luo's skill, why don't you go and directly kill Long Tianxiao?" asked Xia Changfeng.

"Idiot, if I really could just take action in the open, do you think I'd still need you guys? Furthermore, Long Tianxiao is also a Tendon Transformation expert. How is he so easy to kill? If I don't succeed in one blow and news of it spreads, who is going to take responsibility for that?" cursed the white-robed man.

Xia Changfeng immediately felt awkward, but he didn't dare retort. He just endured it obediently. But his hatred towards Long Chen only continued to grow.

Xia Baichi's actions were actually something he had also wanted. But since Long Chen hadn't died, the anger inside him could only continue to be stifled.

He really had never imagined that over ten Blood Condensation experts working together would still be unable to kill him. Moreover, his losses were actually so great.

When Xia Changfeng returned to his room, that white-robed man sighed. It had been troublesome for him to get such an easy mission, but perhaps it wouldn't be as easy as he had thought.

He had been so enraged just now that he had almost slaughtered Xia Changfeng. But he couldn't actually do that. The plan had been in motion for many years. In fact, he had originally come here to reap the final profits that someone else had worked for.

However, the result was that he felt as if everyone around him was completely stupid, infuriating him. He had a stomach full of anger that he had nowhere to let out.

He didn't dare show himself publicly, so he needed to work together with the Grand Xia. A cold smile appeared on his face.

If you really ruin my plans, then all of you can just die here!

...

It was already late into the night by the time Long Chen returned home. Once he was in his room, he carefully looked over Chen Fei. He was surprised to find that his aura was extremely veiled. Even with Chen Fei right in front of him, it was still difficult to sense his existence.

"I train in a special cultivation technique that increases my ability to hide my aura. Young master doesn't need to think it's strange."

Although he was modest, inside he was still a bit conceited. He had absolute confidence in his aura concealing techniques.

Long Chen nodded. Chen Fei was truly quite good at that, as he hadn't noticed the slightest trace of him until that time.

Today, when his sword had been shattered, and it seemed as if he might be in danger, Chen Fei had ended up giving off some of his aura. Otherwise, he still wouldn't have noticed him.

At that time, he had clearly been about to intervene. Also, Long Chen hadn't sensed any hostility at that time, so he knew Chen Fei was trying to save him.

That was why Long Chen had originally guessed that Chen Fei didn't have any evil intentions against him. But to be safe, he had still decided to use the poison pill.

The current Long family was in an extremely unstable position. At any moment, it might capsize. He didn't dare to be the slightest bit careless, and he refused to gamble the lives of his Long household's people.

"How are things where my father is?" Taking a deep breath, Long Chen go to the point. He was extremely curious about what was going on with his father.

So much time had passed that even his memories of his father had become indistinct. But his father's love from his childhood still remained deeply buried in his heart.

"Your father is safe and sound. However, in the most recent years, the battles with the barbarian tribes have become increasingly intense. Not to mention the lack of reinforcements from the capital, his original army of fifty thousand troops has shrunk to only twenty thousand. Luckily, the surrounding commoners care about your father's benevolence, sending him women and sons to supplement his army as well as army provisions. If it weren't for them, we'd have long since been unable to persevere."

Anger could be heard within his voice.

The capital's attitude towards Long Tianxiao truly was a bitter disappointment. If it weren't for them seeing the many commoners' ardent gazes, they would have already left.

The barbarian tribes were actually many separate tribes. They were simply grouped together as barbarian tribes as a generic group term. Born in the savage wilderness, they had to use cruel methods just to survive in their harsh environment. They hunted and gathered their food, just barely managing to survive. But that harsh environment actually ended up tempering them, and most of their population was much stronger than an ordinary commoner.

As they grew stronger, they naturally began to develop and spread out, claiming more and more lands. In the end, they had found the border of the Phoenix Cry Empire with its rich lands and produces. Plundering this place was much easier than hunting.

The reason they were called barbarian tribes was also because they lived their lives very differently from ordinary people. Whole families would sleep together on the same bed. They also copulated without any regard to generation or sex. It definitely seemed chaotic to others.

Other than their own tribe, the other tribes were just prey. Tribes would attack other tribes indiscriminately. And if they ended up capturing Phoenix Cry's commoners, the men would just be killed and stored as food, while the women would be used for sex and then killed for food.

Phoenix Cry's commoners both hated and were afraid of them. The barbarian tribes ended up plundering more and more as time went on, and only once that had reached a shocking point had the empire finally reacted.

Unfortunately, the barbarian tribes actually had a surprisingly large population. They traveled like the wind, disappearing one night and appearing at a whole new place. They weren't like Phoenix Cry's commoners who had set residences. It was basically impossible to find their nest, and so Phoenix Cry's troops could only stay on the defense.

But once Long Tianxiao was sent to the border, he repeatedly launched sneak attacks against the barbarian tribes, causing the rivers to run red with their blood. This ended up intimidating the barbarian tribes, while the commoners near the border could all take a breath of relief and live in peace. That was how Long Tianxiao ended up becoming a military god in the eyes of the commoners.

As Long Tianxiao's army fought with the barbarian tribes, the frequent raids ended up costing a great deal. Without reinforcements, the army's troops quickly dwindled.

Seeing this happen, the surrounding commoners all helped and supported him to the best of their abilities. If they had extra manpower, then they sent their sons to join the army. If they had extra money, then they sent food over. Everything they could afford was sent to Border Suppression Army.

However, that kind of supply was far from enough. When the army wasn't fighting, they would always go help the commoners farm, which was also a way to increase their own supplies.

So, the commoners and army men along the border were basically all one family now. Recalling their eyes that were filled with hope and expectation, Chen Fei's eyes reddened slightly. Even if they had to die, they definitely wouldn't allow those commoners to suffer any harm.

Chen Fei told all this to Long Chen, allowing him to finally understand his father's secret troubles. On one side were his wife and son, while on the other were the lives of millions of innocent commoners.

If it was Long Chen instead, he would also be hard-pressed to choose. That grievance he had had against his father melted into nothing, and pride filled his heart. A brave expert who fights for an empire's people; that was a true hero!

"Chen Fei, return to where my father is." Long Chen thought about it but still ended up wanting him to return.

Chen Fei's expression changed. "I absolutely cannot."

Chapter 70 Little Snow

Translator: BornToBe

"I absolutely cannot." Chen Fei explained, "Just before I left to come here, your father ordered me that I absolutely, no matter what, had to stay here to protect his wife and son. Even in death."

Long Chen shook his head, "Although you are a late Blood Condensation expert, you are no longer able to protect me. The fact that you didn't help me back when I was injured on the martial arena means that you are extremely apprehensive and will only act to help once I am facing death. But at that time, even if you did help, you wouldn't be able to fix anything. Am I right?"

Chen Fei was silent for a long while. That was because Long Chen's words were absolutely true and he couldn't refute them.

"Within the capital, the only person who could make you feel so apprehensive should be Marquis Ying, correct?" asked Long Chen.

Chen Fei sighed and nodded. "Correct. Your father warned me over and over again not to let Marquis Ying notice me, otherwise, my life would be over. I'm not afraid of death, but I am afraid of betraying your father's expectations. That's why despite you being bullied so much, I could only continue to stay my hand. I truly am sorry."

"Does my father have enmity with Marquis Ying?"

"Marquis Ying's finger was severed by your father," laughed Chen Fei.

No wonder Marquis Ying would target me. Father really is ferocious. But I won't fall behind; my father severed a finger, while I made him lose all his money.

"When did you first come to the capital?" asked Long Chen.

"Three years ago."

"And how many experts on your level does my father have beside him?"

"There were originally seven, but one of them died after many years of fighting, so there are only six now."

"What Heavenstage have you reached?"

“The ninth Heavenstage of Blood Condensation. But unfortunately, I’ve never been able to break through the next barrier,” sighed Chen Fei. He was already thirty-seven years old. If he still wasn’t able to break through by the age of forty, it would essentially be impossible for him to do so for the rest of his life.

Long Chen wasn’t that surprised. Although Chen Fei was extremely good at hiding his aura, Blood Qi had emerged from the space between his eyebrows. That was a clear sign of blood being condensed to its densest state.

In other words, Chen Fei had to be at the peak of Blood Condensation. Unfortunately, he was unable to break through the next barrier.

To break through the Blood Condensation realm to reach the Tendon Transformation realm was extremely difficult. There were thousands of Blood Condensation experts in Phoenix Cry, but only three Tendon Transformation experts. The two were separated by a huge chasm that caused everyone who stood in front of it to despair.

“Chen Fei, I’ll refine some pills tonight. Bring them to my father.” Long Chen was almost talking to himself.

“Young master, this...”

Long Chen waved his hand, cutting him off. “Although your aura concealing techniques are exquisite, allowing you to hide from even Marquis Ying’s senses, the entire Phoenix Cry capital is undergoing intense undercurrents. That means that the entire empire will soon be flipped; whether you stay or not has no meaning. If my Long family truly did reach that end point where you would finally take action, do you really think you could manage to fight against that tide with just your strength?”

“I can bring you out alive,” said Chen Fei.

Long Chen’s face darkened. “And what about my mother?”

Chen Fei was immediately speechless. His aura concealing techniques were powerful, but he was actually even stronger when it came to his fleeing techniques. He was confident that even if Marquis Ying was the opponent, he would still have an eighty percent chance of saving Long Chen.

But he really was unable to reply when it came to Long Chen’s mother. He could at most bring along one extra person. In other words, his mother would have to be a sacrifice.

“Sorry young master, but these are my master’s orders. I must follow them,” Chen Fei shook his head.

Long Chen couldn't help being both startled and furious. His father had actually decided to sacrifice his mother to save him in that situation. Perhaps that was because of his pampering of him, but he was completely unable to accept that.

Taking a deep breath, Long Chen suppressed his fury and coldly said, "Chen Fei, I'm not arguing with you. I am ordering you. Don't end up hurting me and my mother just for some silly order. I'm going to the alchemist guild right now to get some medicinal ingredients. I'll spend all night refining, and you will bring them to my father. Don't even speak about saving me and my mother. If I wanted your life right now, it would be as effortless as blowing off dust. Right now, I have the strength to temporarily protect the Long household. But events are rapidly turning, and I need my father's help quickly. So now I'm giving you two options. Listen to me and return to my father's side. Or die here. Without more of the antidote, the poison will still inevitably kill you."

Chen Fei's expression became a mix of green and white. He could easily hear the fury within Long Chen's words. He could almost see the image of Long Tianxiao within him. He was certain that if he dared to disobey, Long Chen really would take his life.

He wasn't afraid of death, but such a meaningless death truly would not be worth it. Anyways, this was a matter for the Long family. He could only bitterly smile and agree. Of course, inside he was extremely agonized. Just how was he supposed to face Long Tianxiao once he returned?

Long Chen went straight to the alchemist guild. Now that he had so much money from the auction, he no longer needed to worry about buying medicinal ingredients on credit. Coming to the guild now had definitely been a smart decision, as they had all the medicinal ingredients he required.

Using Chen Fei as a guard, Long Chen directly started using his flame to warm the furnace. The pill he was refining this time was called the Breaking Barrier Pill.

It was an extremely ordinary second tier medicinal pill that could increase the chance of breaking through bottlenecks.

But the medicinal formula Long Chen was using had come from the Pill God's memories. It used the same medicinal ingredients, but through merging them in different proportions, it created an entirely different effect.

In addition, Long Chen had added Dragon Bone Grass as well. That kind of intense medicinal ingredient would increase the pill's medicinal energy. This was no longer an ordinary Breaking Barrier Pill.

This Breaking Barrier Pill was used to attack the Tendon Transformation realm. The lower grade Breaking Barrier Pill could give people an extra ten percent chance of breaking through.

But the one Long Chen was planning on refining was a higher quality pill and could give cultivators an extra thirty percent chance of breaking through. If that was learned by others, it would definitely shake the current world.

Such a medicinal pill was even more shocking than the Flesh Bone Restoration Pill from the auction. In reality, that Flesh Bone Restoration Pill had a large flaw; however, Long Chen hadn't told them about it.

If an ordinary person would have their limbs severed, then they really could grow a new limb without any problems.

But if a cultivator took it, they would use their Spirit Root's true spiritual core energy to heal it. That would end up shortening their peak potential.

Back then, Long Chen had cut off Fu Gui's arm, and he had healed it without causing any problems. But later when Yao Niqian called up Zhao Yang... well, in any case, adventurers were in constant danger of being cut like that. And it wasn't as if Zhao Yang could have resisted Yao Niqian's charm anyway.

...

BOOM!

The medicinal furnace shook. Opening it, three round medicinal pills appeared. A faint glimmer shined off them, causing a weary Long Chen to smile.

This was his third furnace of pills. The first time he had succeeded in refining three pills. But the second time he had just been slightly distracted for a moment, causing an explosion. The pill furnace only narrowly managed to avoid being destroyed. However, the ingredients had turned to ashes.

Refining pills was simply like that. Just the slightest inattentiveness could easily cause failure. Even with all the techniques of a Pill God, it would be impossible to avoid some failures.

His goal had been to refine two furnaces worth of pills. Now that he had failed once, he had no choice but to attempt a third one despite his exhaustion.

The Breaking Barrier Pill, which had the Dragon Bone Grass added to it, was extremely hard to refine. Even with Long Chen's powerful Spiritual Strength, he was still completely exhausted.

But looking at the six medicinal pills, he felt that all that exhaustion was worth it. He handed them to a shocked Chen Fei in addition to a letter.

Chen Fei left before the break of dawn. Long Chen took a quick nap to re-energize himself. Waking up, he realized he felt much freer and less worried.

The matter of his father had always been pressing on him like a huge boulder. Now that he had finally learned of his father's situation, he was filled with anticipation.

The only thing that kept worrying him was that Chen Fei hadn't known just who was targeting his father. Long Tianxiao had never told anyone about that.

But that wasn't too important anymore. Now that he had news of his father, he was filled with fighting spirit.

Getting out of bed, he placed Little Snow in front of him. Little Snow was what Long Chen had decided to name the Scarlet Flame Snow Wolf.

Little Snow's eyes were still permanently closed as he cried and fussed. Long Chen smiled slightly and bit down on his finger, drawing a drop of blood. He dripped the blood into Little Snow's mouth.

When Little Snow swallowed that drop of blood, his closed eyes finally opened slowly. He curiously looked up at Long Chen. His large eyes plus the small tuft of red hair on his forehead were indescribably cute.

For most Magical Beasts, the flavor of the first blood they tasted would be forever remembered. The owner of that blood would then become their family. Of course, cold-blooded Magical Beasts were excepted from this. There were different techniques for them.

As soon as Little Snow opened his eyes, he slowly started to crawl over to Long Chen. His walking was extremely unstable and he might trip and fall at any moment, but he still continued crawling towards him.[1]

Long Chen felt a burst of warmth when he looked at the little fellow. With his powerful Spiritual Strength, he could clearly sense the yearning within Little Snow's soul.

As soon as Little Snow approved of Long Chen, Long Chen was supposed to use his Spiritual Strength to use the secret techniques Lu Fang-er had taught him. That would place a kind of slave imprint on Little Snow's soul so that he could never betray him.

But Long Chen continued to hesitate about using the slave imprint. He couldn't bear to make this little guy a slave.

Pondering over this, he suddenly felt his face become wet. That little guy had crawled onto his lap and was enthusiastically washing his face.

Long Chen laughed and hugged the little guy. He brought Little Snow out of the Long estate to the outskirts of the city. Now that the little guy had opened his eyes, it was time for him to temper himself.

Magical Beasts had an extremely tenacious vitality. As soon as they opened their eyes, they were essentially capable of finding and eating their own food. They would no longer require that nutrient fluid they had needed as a cub.

Bringing him out of the city was precisely the fastest way for Little Snow to mature.

But before he left the city, he still had to find a certain someone. In just an hour, Long Chen arrived at a large pasture.

Suddenly, a huge roar rang out, and the entire earth trembled along with it. A smile appeared on Long Chen's face.