

Noble Ruler 1001

Chapter 1001: Tianjing Yuan Meridian!

The lightning bolt glowed brightly and lit up half the sky!

On the tall mountain peak, that woman stood up straight, and her clothes flowed with the wind!

A palm-sized golden peach blossom was above her head. All those terrifying lightning bolts struck down, but they flowed to the side when they met that golden peach blossom as if they were afraid!

With it as the center, it helped Chu Liuyue light up this small space!

“What’s... that?” When Jun Qizhi and the rest saw this scene, they were all stunned. What kind of force can cause these lightning bolts to be afraid? Also, this small golden peach blossom can actually easily block the suppression outside!

Jun Jiuqing squinted his eyes dangerously as his eyes glowed with faint disgust. How... annoying... He never goes away...

Chu Liuyue looked up and stared at that golden peach blossom closely.

When the six bolts of lightning struck at the same time, she was at the crucial moment of breaking through to become a stage-seven warrior. Thankfully, this item helped her block them for a while, so she could have that last bit of time to break through successfully!

That sense of familiarity grew increasingly strong as if something wanted to pounce out of her heart.

Chu Liuyue stood up quietly, but her body was experiencing a stunning change!

That invisible barrier had already been broken, and the ferocious force kept tumbling in her dantian as the seventh line on the water droplet gradually appeared.

Different from the previous six lines, the color of this line was especially brilliant and bright!

The moment Chu Liuyue looked at it, she also gasped! This is the effect after absorbing the holy force from the Beiming Ancestor! Even if it were me in my previous life, I hadn't done this step—using holy force to become a stage-seven warrior!

When that brilliant line was drawn, a drop of water suddenly flew out of the water droplet.

That drop of water glowed with a rainbow scale. It was very mesmerizing, and it later formed into millions of water droplets that flew toward Chu Liuyue's limbs!

After the impact of the terrifying force, Chu Liuyue's Yuan meridian was already very damaged like a dry ground with gullies everywhere.

When those water droplets flew over, they instantly hydrated the ground and caused everything to flourish! Chu Liuyue's damaged Yuan meridian started recovering at an observable speed, and it was clearly wider and stiffer than previously as it had an iridescent glow!

When Chu Liuyue saw that her Yuan meridian was repaired and that it glowed faintly, her heart suddenly shuddered.

Then, under her disbelieving stare, these water droplets landed everywhere and rapidly repaired all of her Yuan meridian.

Chu Liuyue's surrounding aura strengthened—it was formidable! It was the aura that only a Tianjing Yuan meridian had!

Not only did the water droplet's strength repair Chu Liuyue's damaged Yuan meridian when she broke through to become a stage-seven warrior, but it even directly turned her Yuan meridian into a Tianjing Yuan meridian at the same time!

...

Her body instantly felt comfortable, and it was as spacious as the mountains and waters!

When the ferocious force rushed out of her dantian and flowed into the Yuan meridian, it felt very spacious and relaxed!

There seemed to be something tingling in Chu Liuyue's chest. This feeling was one that she hadn't experienced for a long time. I never thought that I would have a chance in this life to have the Tianjing Yuan meridian again!

She instinctively reached out, and the golden peach blossom silently disappeared the moment it touched her hand.

At the same time, the black pyramid in her dantian suddenly moved. Then, a crack clearly appeared on it!

A faint light shone out from it as if it had been hidden for millions of years. The sense of familiarity also became increasingly strong!

At this moment, Chu Liuyue could almost confirm that the thing inside was indeed her soul!

This time, the crack on the black pyramid didn't repair itself, but it didn't expand either.

Chu Liuyue could feel a familiar aura within, but she couldn't summon it out. She knew very clearly that as long as this black pyramid completely opened and she found the soul that belonged to her inside, her lost memory would also definitely return!

She was only a step away from the truth, but this step was undoubtedly a huge chasm that was difficult to cross!

Hong long long!

Just as Chu Liuyue was thinking about the black pyramid, the lightning bolts above her head made a huge sound, and they all struck her at the same time!

Without the golden peach blossom protecting her, Chu Liuyue had to meet this horrifying suppression directly!

An idea surfaced in her mind the next moment, and the Long Yuan Sword rapidly returned to her hands!

Everyone looked over.

The sky was completely dark, and the surrounding mountains had all become flat ground—they were in a state of debris.

Only this mountain still had half its peak left, but that slim woman in red stood upright. Her skinny shoulders seemed capable of lifting up this sky!

The winds howled violently, and her hair flew everywhere!

Shua!

She went on her toes, and her figure was like a sharp arrow that instantly flew up! She actually wanted to face the countless lightning bolts directly!

...

Seeing this scene, the crowd outside the barrier all had their eyes wide open! She really chose to face it directly...

“W-what exactly is she thinking?”

“Even if she has already broken through to become a stage-seven warrior, she’ll definitely fail to face six bolts of lightning...”

“Oh my god... Under that kind of situation just now, how exactly did she successfully break through?!”

“I don’t dare to speak about others, but Shangguan Yue’s capabilities and luck really can’t be compared to ordinary people...”

The crowd partook in heated discussions, and they all felt that the incidents that happened to that woman during this period were too ridiculous.

First, she slashed open Ancient Phoenix Mountain’s barrier. Then, she went against the flow and ascended the mountain peak. Afterward, she even directly snatched the endless force and the holy force that belonged to Jun Jiuqing!

When everyone thought that she would undoubtedly die after summoning nine bolts during the God Foreseeing Tribulation, she actually survived in such a situation and successfully broke through to become a stage-seven warrior. Now, she even wanted to go against the last six bolts of lightning!

Any one of these incidents was enough to shock the rest, yet she did it all on her own!

...

At this point, Chu Liuyue had no other thoughts. In her eyes and heart, there was only one target—to transcend this God Foreseeing Tribulation! One bolt is one bolt; six bolts are also bolts! Since they all appeared at the same time, then... I will just solve all of them together!

The sharp and harsh aura kept attacking her, scraping her face and causing excruciating pain. However, this bit of pain didn't matter to Chu Liuyue.

She circulated the force within her body, and she kept injecting her force into the Long Yuan Sword!

The ancient black sword body's power kept surging upward, and that dent in the middle was also filled by silver lightning!

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind as ripples appeared on the water droplet.

The brilliant ripple extended in all directions!

Whir!

The sword roared!

Chu Liuyue slashed the sword down, and the sky instantly lost its color!

“Break it!”

Chapter 1002: Champion Returns!

Rumble!

The two forces harshly slammed against each other, and this sound reverberated throughout the earth. The terrifying and violent force started spreading in all directions—it destroyed everything!

The mountains that had previously already been ruined were directly crushed by this force and became flat ground.

The hard rocks silently turned into powder and flew up into the air! The ground cracked, and gullies were everywhere!

...

Whoosh—

The large silver light ball that was formed by the few bolts of lightning was suddenly ripped apart from the middle! Then, the crowd saw a figure go up into the sky!

She was very fast as she slashed with her sword. In the blink of an eye, the crowd found that the opening started expanding!

She actually slashed this lightning bolt directly, allowing her an opening to survive!

The intense battle between the forces left countless battle wounds on Chu Liuyue. Blood kept dripping down from her body, but she didn't care at this point.

The surrounding loud lightning bolts were rapidly approaching! With that opening, it formed a circle that trapped Chu Liuyue within!

Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings, and her lips curled up into a cold smile. Want to surround and attack me...? You need to see if I'm willing!

Her arm shook, and two balls of fire immediately appeared in her palms—one was red, and the other was transparent!

The two types of fire intertwined and quickly wrapped around the Long Yuan Sword! The bolts of lightning then approached her in unison!

Crazy battle intent flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes. "You came at the right time!"

The sharp blade pierced through the lightning bolt that kept approaching! Everywhere it went, fire burned crazily!

The lightning bolt that was previously still very arrogant seemed to sense the danger, and it started going at it intensely! But the more it did this, the more intensely the fire burned. The fire even burned the lightning bolts whole!

“Shangguan Yue’s fire can actually fight with the lightning bolts?!” Gongsun Xiao yelled in shock.

At some point, Ning Yuan had also appeared in midair as he looked forward and boomed, “No! Her fire clearly... is swallowing all of that force!”

In the depths of his calm eyes, there seemed to be ripples.

Upon seeing that Shangguan Yue actually successfully broke through to become a stage-seven warrior in this situation, he already predicted that she would win this round. However, he didn’t expect Shangguan Yue’s combat skills to be even more shocking than he had predicted!

This... was her true trump card!

The surrounding crowd was stumped, and they were at a loss for words. Everything before them had exceeded their knowledge.

Every scene flashed across like the traces of a god!

At that moment, they saw Chu Liuyue turn around as the terrifying fire on the Long Yuan Sword completely ignited the surrounding lightning bolts!

Rumble!

The fire immediately exploded!

The entire sky burned up, and sparks flew everywhere!

...

The lightning bolts' strength was quickly consumed. Not long later, only the intensely burning fire was left in the sky.

The next moment, a figure shot out!

All the scenery seemed to lose its color at that moment!

Only the woman holding the black sword while in flowing red clothes, hair flowing in the air, descended like the god of war! She also came back like the god of death!

She was covered in scars, and her face and body were filled with messy bloodstains. Only her pair of eyes were still as cold and sharp!

Her black gem-like eyes seemed to gather all the light in the world as they dazzled brightly! It beat all the treasures in the world!

Under the accompaniment of the bright light, it looked like a star was born!

...

Her figure moved, and she gently landed.

The moment her feet touched the mountain peak—

Boom!

The mountain body collapsed, and the remaining half of the cliff was also completely destroyed!

She still stood there motionless.

Her wrist moved, and the overwhelming fire behind her flew back into her body rapidly. Then, she looked over.

She was clearly a distance away, and there was a barrier in between, but Jun Qizhi and the rest felt their hearts shudder. This aura. This suppression... Is she really just a stage-seven warrior?!

Chu Liuyue raised her hand and swung the sword down!

Choo!

Ancient Phoenix Mountain's barrier was instantly split open!

Chu Liuyue's figure moved, and she rapidly flew out.

...

Even when Chu Liuyue had stepped out of the barrier, the crowd still hadn't recovered their senses.

Seeing that the woman had appeared in front of them almost in the blink of an eye, the crowd widened their eyes in shock, and their faces were filled with disbelief.

Amidst the deadly silence, Cen Yi walked over first. He silently sized Chu Liuyue up, and his lips curled up slightly.

Within his nonchalant eyes were unconcealable delight and comfort. He placed his hand on his left chest and bent down slightly as he respectfully said, "Congratulations on your return, Your Majesty."

Chu Liuyue smiled as well. Cen Yi's eyesight has always been very sharp. He has definitely noticed that I've already recovered my Tianjing Yuan meridian. My only regret ever since my rebirth was that I had lost my Tianjing Yuan meridian. Now, I have made up for this regret, and everything can be considered to be perfect.

Elder Chen Ke and the rest finally recovered their senses, and they couldn't conceal their agitation. Not only did she survive, but she even successfully broke through to become a stage-seven warrior! The more important thing is that she survived nine bolts of lightning! Her future is definitely limitless!

Mu Hongyu and the others rushed over.

If not for her last bit of rationality, Mu Hongyu would've directly pounced at her. "Liuyue! Liuyue, you're incredible! I knew you could definitely succeed!"

Even though her face was filled with elation, her eyes were red, showing that she had cried earlier.

Chu Liuyue smiled and comforted her. "Don't worry. Am I not doing fine now?"

How are you doing fine? You directly benefited!

Everyone was originally very ambitious and wanted to compete within Ancient Phoenix Mountain. But in the end, the biggest winner was actually Chu Liuyue—who had no plans of going in since the start! Who wouldn't envy her?

Jian Fengchi opened his fan and raised his brows slightly. "You are really tough."

Even though he said this, his eyes had smiling intent, showing that he was genuinely happy for Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue agreed. "Thank you for the praise."

Jian Fengchi couldn't help but laugh. Her physical body has changed, but her temperament is still the same.

Anyway, the Tianling Dynasty people were all elated. In contrast, the people from the other dynasties weren't in such a good mood.

“Shangguan Yue.” A low and stern voice sounded.

Chu Liuyue looked up.

It was Dantai Chen. He appeared much frailer than when she had seen him before, and his eyes had distinguishable coldness and sinister meaning. “You’re... very delighted now?”

Once he said this, the surroundings fell silent. Everyone noticed that something was amiss, and they looked over.

His voice contained unconcealable deep hatred. “You killed my beloved daughter and the other people from the Taiyu Dynasty! How are you going to atone for your sins?!”

Chapter 1003: Who Else Could It Be?

Dead silence ensued.

Many people had already noticed that something was amiss when all five of the Taiyu Dynasty’s people failed to show up when everyone else had come out of Ancient Phoenix Mountain after Jun Jiuqing ordered everyone to leave the mountain. The possibility that the Taiyu Dynasty’s people were dead had already occurred to them, although it only became certain when Dantai Chen voiced his question.

Those who were able to join Dantai Chen on this trip and were qualified to enter Ancient Phoenix Mountain were Taiyu Dynasty's top geniuses. The loss of any one of them was a great shame, what more all five of them—including Dantai Chen's precious daughter, Dantai Ruoli.

"That explains Dantai Chen's odd behavior these few days. It turns out that his people are dead... It seems like he already knew about this at the time."

"How terrifying! All five of them are dead?"

"But there were so many people in Ancient Phoenix Mountain. How can he be sure that Shangguan Yue was the one who killed them?"

"I guess he has evidence to back up his claim since he's being so certain about it. Otherwise, why would he accuse her in public like that? Then again, if it really was Shangguan Yue's doing... We'll be in for a good show today!"

Whispers broke out among the crowd as they discussed and voiced their own opinions.

...

Meanwhile, Chu Liuyue froze for a moment in seeming surprise. "What do you mean by that, Senior Dantai? When did I kill anyone from the Taiyu Dynasty? How come I don't know about it myself?"

As she spoke, she looked around her surroundings as if she were looking for the Taiyu Dynasty's people. "Isn't everybody out already? What, are they not here?"

“Drop your act!” Dantai Chen burst out into angry laughter. “You know very well whether or not it was your doing! They died not long after you forcefully opened the barrier and entered the mountain! How can such a coincidence happen if you’re not the one who killed them?!”

“Oh? Well...” Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment. The corners of her lips slowly curled to form a cold and wicked smile as she said, “That’s because I happened to bump into them chasing to kill my people.”

Dantai Chen’s expression suddenly froze.

“I was worried when I found out that my people were in life-threatening danger, which was why I chose to forcefully tear open the barrier and enter the mountain. Upon entering though, I saw Hongyu, Yuwen Jinghong, and Wu Ming being surrounded and attacked by Dantai Ruoli and her gang. If I hadn’t arrived in the nick of time, the three of them would’ve died right there and then.

“I wonder how my people had offended them that they would go to such extremes to try and exterminate them. We’re all here for the Three Yuan Convention, so it’s really strange that... they were so eager to kill my people. Don’t you think so, Senior Dantai?” Chu Liuyue spoke in a slow and logical manner, but each of her words was like steel nails that pinned Dantai Chen motionless to the spot.

The latter averted his gaze and ranted, “Who knows what really happened inside! Ruoli and the others have always treated others with leniency, so they would never do such a thing! Even if there was a fight between my people and yours, it must be because your people did something wrong first! Otherwise, why would they go kill the Tianling Dynasty’s people for no rhyme or reason?!”

“Exactly—we’ve been behaving ourselves! Hongyu and the others knew that they weren’t a match for the people from the other dynasties, so they had been very careful with the way they behaved. Thinking about it, it seems like I’m the only one who has offended the Taiyu—”

Flustered, Dantai Chen hurriedly interrupted, “That’s just your side of the story! Now that Ruoli and the others are dead, you naturally can say whatever you want! Even if I don’t have incriminating evidence,

you've admitted to fighting with them, so that makes you a suspect! Unless you can prove your innocence, you'll naturally be held accountable for their deaths!"

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows slightly and nearly laughed out loud. Dantai Chen is accusing me without any evidence, yet he still wants me to prove my own innocence. Otherwise, I'll be held accountable for their deaths... What warped logic is that?! That's a load of crap!

"Dantai Ruoli and her gang swiftly left after engaging in a fight with us. However, we have no idea where they went after that since we were all busy focusing on getting stronger. We didn't have the spare time to go and deal with those eyesores," said Chu Liuyue in a bland and slightly frigid voice. "You wanted an explanation, so there you have it. We can't do anything about it if you don't believe our words. But if you insist on accusing us without any evidence... Forgive me for not cooperating!" I have neither the patience nor interest to waste time with you here!

...

Dantai Chen got so angry that he couldn't say a word. Despite wanting to produce evidence, he couldn't and didn't dare to.

The talisman—which he only managed to obtain with great difficulty—had been split into five parts and hidden on each of the five people who entered Ancient Phoenix Mountain to allow them to find each other quickly and ensure their safety. It was obvious that they had failed to piece the talisman into a whole when they died, but Dantai Chen still managed to vaguely feel a scorching heat. It was like the talisman had been burned by some kind of flame.

It was only his conjecture at first, but he became certain that Shangguan Yue was the culprit when he saw her produce the two-colored flame just now. Alas, there wasn't enough time for him to get more useful information. Most importantly, he couldn't make public the only evidence he had that could barely be considered evidence, or he would just be inviting great trouble for himself and the entire Taiyu Dynasty.

Dantai Chen felt suffocated as if a heavy stone was pressing on his chest.

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Chu Liuyue carefully studied Dantai Chen's expression. It looks like... Dantai Chen has his concerns, and it's obvious that they are about the talisman from Black Demon Hole! I would've questioned him on the spot about it if he dared to mention it, but it's a pity that he didn't. Even though his beloved daughter has died and he's filled with vengeance and hatred, he still doesn't dare to mention anything about Black Demon Hole!

...

But then again, how could Dantai Chen really possibly swallow his anger just like that?

As he looked around, he asked solemnly, "Alright! Since you said that they left after battling with you guys, then can I ask if anyone has seen my people in Ancient Phoenix Mountain from Day 6 onward?"

The crowd exchanged glances. After a brief silence, some people whispered, "I don't think I've met any of them..."

"Yeah! I found it strange when they didn't appear at Ancient Phoenix Mountain's main peak. Thinking about it now, could something have already happened to them at the time?"

"That's possible..."

Dantai Chen sneered. "Hear that, Shangguan Yue? You and your people were the last ones who met Ruoli and the others! If you guys aren't the ones who killed them, then who else could it be?!"

Chapter 1004: Help

"It's not us. Besides, their deaths could be due to other reasons. Given how dangerous Ancient Phoenix Mountain is, they might've encountered some kind of mishap and failed to escape alive. Dantai Ruoli and her companions aren't weak after all. There aren't many people here who are capable of killing them all at once," Chu Liuyue calmly said with a smile before lifting her chin in a certain direction. "Even our own people have encountered a lot of danger, and it was only with great difficulty that they managed to escape alive. Look, Little Zhou is still unconscious."

The crowd looked in the direction of her gaze, only to see a young chap with short blond hair lying curled up on the ground, motionless. The latter had been in this state since they came out from the mountain and looked like he had been unconscious for a long time. Seeing how one of her own people was in this state, they found Chu Liuyue's words making sense, and they reckoned that the Taiyu Dynasty's people might've really encountered an unfortunate mishap in the mountain.

Shangguan Yue sure has a way with words! Dantai Chen's fists were clenched so tightly that even the veins on his forehead bulged. He pointed an accusing finger at Chu Liuyue. "Excuses! You must've killed them because Ruoli offended you before! What a vicious woman you are!"

"She's not such a person!" A clear voice rang out right at that moment.

Everyone turned their heads and realized that it was a youth from the Xiyan Dynasty who had spoken up.

Upon sensing everyone's gaze on him, the youth's fair cheeks reddened. Still, he firmly said, "S-she even saved me when we were on the mountain. I believe she isn't that sort of person!"

"Jinyuan." Gongsun Xiao frowned and cast the youth a disapproving glance. Why is he getting himself involved in this matter? Even if the Tianling Dynasty and the Taiyu Dynasty become complete enemies and wage war against each other, it has nothing to do with us. Besides, there's no telling what Dantai Chen is capable of doing, having suffered such a great loss and received such a tremendous blow. There's no need for him to get himself involved at all.

Gongsun Jinyuan pursed his lips. He naturally knew that he shouldn't have spoken up in this situation, especially when things were so intense with the Tianling Dynasty and the Taiyu Dynasty being at odds with each other. It wasn't his place to meddle in this matter even if he was the Xiyan Dynasty's prince, but he just couldn't help it.

Chu Liuyue flashed him a small smile as she nodded in greeting. All I did was help him in passing. I didn't expect him to help speak up for me in return. He's much more sincere than that old, slicker Gongsun Xiao.

...

Chu Liuyue looked at Dantai Chen. "Emperor Huai Ren, it was out of respect that I addressed you as 'Senior.' But if you continue to show me disrespect, then... I won't bother showing you respect too!"

Dantai Chen scoffed. "Who gives a d*mn about your respect?! I won't let this matter slide if you don't give me a satisfactory answer!"

It was clear that he didn't want to back down.

Chu Liuyue slowly narrowed her eyes. There are plenty of things that require my attention. I don't have any time and energy to waste on Dantai Chen.

"I can bear witness," said Jun Jiuqing out of nowhere. "The Taiyu Dynasty's people did leave right after fighting with the Tianling Dynasty's people. As for what happened to them afterward... Well, nobody knows."

The fierce expression on Dantai Chen's face stiffened. While he could disregard other people when they spoke up for Chu Liuyue, he couldn't do that to Jun Jiuqing. Whether or not the latter was speaking the truth didn't matter; either way, he could no longer continue to pick a fight with the Tianling Dynasty openly.

"Is that true, Jiuqing?" Jun Qizhi gave his son a meaningful look.

Jun Jiuqing's lips curled up slightly, although his eyes remained calm and cold. "I said nothing but the truth."

The crowd exchanged looks with one another. By now, everyone could see that Jun Jiuqing was bent on speaking up for the Tianling Dynasty. If he said that he was telling the truth, then it was true.

Dantai Chen was rendered completely speechless. His eyes wandered back and forth over those few people before he let out a laugh. "Fine! Very well then!"

Jun Jiuqing's attitude toward Shangguan Yue has been different from the start. On top of that, everything that has happened on Ancient Phoenix Mountain... Everything is clear as daylight. After shooting a glare in Chu Liuyue's direction, Dantai Chen flung his sleeves and turned around to leave.

...

An odd silence descended upon everyone the moment Dantai Chen took his leave. Although nobody emerged as the victor or loser from the fight, everyone could tell that Dantai Chen wouldn't let things slide just like that. However, there was no telling what he would do, having lost his beloved daughter and the other talented geniuses.

Chu Liuyue didn't seem bothered about this though. She turned around to thank both Jun Jiuqing and Gongsun Jinyuan before paying a deep bow to Jun Qizhi to express her apology for snatching away the thing their ancestor had left behind for them.

Jun Qizhi felt stifled and was beyond speechless. He had always thought that the biggest beneficiary of Ancient Phoenix Mountain's opening would surely be Jun Jiuqing, which was why he so generously invited the people from the other dynasties over. Right from the very beginning, he had only intended to make use of their power to open the mountain's barrier. He had never expected things to end this way. Hence, he couldn't help but see Chu Liuyue as an eyesore. If it weren't for the fact that he was in front of so many people, it would've been hard for him to even eke out a half-smile.

Jun Jiuqing, however, didn't seem to care much about this matter, although his gaze was deep and unfathomable.

Jun Qizhi took one last look at Ancient Phoenix Mountain—which had almost completely been razed to the ground—and let out a long and heavy sigh. He swiftly left after giving the excuse that he was tired and wished to retire to his room.

As the holy force had been robbed away by Chu Liuyue, Ancient Phoenix Mountain now no longer had anything special about it and thus couldn't be considered the Beiming Dynasty's holy mountain anymore.

With Jun Qizhi taking the lead to leave, the rest proceeded to leave one after another as well.

...

The opening of Ancient Phoenix Mountain thus came to a close.

Upon reaching the city, everyone began planning to return to their respective dynasties.

Apart from the Taiyu Dynasty—which had suffered heavy losses—everyone else fared quite well overall. Although they didn't manage to get as much force as Chu Liuyue, most of them managed to gain a bit of the force during the Three Yuan Convention. Overall, they hadn't made a wasted trip after all.

...

It was already afternoon by the time Chu Liuyue and her entourage returned to the villa.

After lightly washing up, Chu Liuyue went to Qiang Wanzhou's room, where Tuan Zi had been guarding him at the side. The fiend happily flew over to Chu Liuyue's side when it saw her enter the room.

"How is his condition?" Chu Liuyue asked as she walked over to take Qiang Wanzhou's pulse.

Tuan Zi shook its head to indicate that Qiang Wanzhou's condition wasn't looking too good.

Chu Liuyue frowned slightly. I checked his condition while we were on the way back, so I know this is a sign that the seal in his body is about to break. I thought that his condition would take a turn for the better after some time, but it didn't.

The two forces inside him kept pulling at each other, which was what caused him to be unconscious until now. His youthful and pale face was frosted over, his body was trembling slightly, and he exuded a chilling aura.

Not knowing how much longer he would remain in this condition, Chu Liuyue couldn't help but feel a bit worried about him.

Just then, a flickering pattern suddenly appeared on Qiang Wanzhou's glabella.

Chapter 1005: Hitting Her Own Man

Knock, knock...

Someone knocked on the door.

Chu Liuyue looked back to see Cen Yi standing at the doorway.

"Master, I've solved the puzzle you gave me."

Surprised, Chu Liuyue stood up and walked over to him. She thus didn't notice the pattern on Qiang Wanzhou's glabella. "That's fast."

Cen Yi flashed a small smile at her as he handed her a folded piece of paper. "It's not particularly difficult. In fact, I solved it some time ago. It's just that I didn't have the chance to give you the solution, which is why I'm only giving this to you now."

Chu Liuyue took the paper from him and unfolded it, surprise surfacing in her eyes as she quickly scanned through it. It was only a while later that she looked up and smiled helplessly at him. "You're the only one who will say that it's not difficult."

When she came back from the Eastern Palace previously, she told Cen Yi about the secret mechanism. Although she had managed to unlock it in her flustered state at the time, she wasn't well-versed in it. She could tell that the room had other mechanisms in place, so she told Cen Yi—who was proficient in such things—all about it. If he could unlock the mechanism, it would definitely save her a tremendous deal of trouble.

At first, she didn't really harbor much hope that he would be able to succeed. After all, she wasn't as skilled as him in this aspect, so she could only try her best to describe them to him in as much detail as possible.

However, she didn't expect him to succeed so easily.

She took another closer look at the drawing on the paper and sighed internally. No matter how much I try, it'll be hard for me to reach Cen Yi's level...

"Actually, it's been a long time since I've come across anything as interesting as this. I'd say that it has been fun working on it," said Cen Yi sincerely as his smile deepened slightly. "Burn this paper after you've finished looking through it."

There was no telling what trouble they would be involved in if anyone else accidentally caught a glimpse of this paper. It concerned the secret mechanism of Jun Jiuqing's Eastern Palace after all. They wouldn't be able to explain their way out of this matter if they were found to be involved.

Chu Liuyue nodded and produced a small flame with her fingertips, quickly burning that piece of paper into ashes.

Cen Yi then turned to look at Qiang Wanzhou, who was still lying in bed. "You're here to see Qiang Wanzhou? Is there any improvement in his condition?"

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "The two forces in his body are fighting each other. It might do him more harm than good if I try to help him... It's all up to himself this time."

Upon noticing Cen Yi's hesitant look, she asked, "What's the matter?"

Cen Yi smiled and shook his head. "Nothing. Just leave him to me. You need to rest properly since you've just broken through."

After thinking about it for a second, Chu Liuyue agreed to leave Qiang Wanzhou in Cen Yi's care. The latter was powerful and had always carried out his duties well, so that made him the best person to stay behind to look after Qiang Wanzhou. She thus left after leaving him a few instructions.

Cen Yi watched her leave, and it was only after she disappeared from sight that he turned around and entered the room. He walked over to Qiang Wanzhou's side to take a closer look at him, only to notice the flickering pattern on his forehead.

She... didn't notice it, did she? His eyes darkened as he stared at the pattern for a good while.

...

Chu Liuyue returned to her room and began circulating her force. Although she had sustained quite the sum of injuries previously, most of them had healed to a certain extent after she broke through to become a stage-seven warrior.

After crossing this crucial threshold, her abilities in all aspects had greatly improved. On top of that, now that she had regained her Tianjing Yuan meridian, she naturally had an even greater advantage. Be it in terms of her cultivation speed or her physical strength, there were remarkable improvements to them.

Her dantian became peaceful once more. As the water droplet quietly floated in it, seven lines shone brightly. Rich force flowed back and forth, charging her body with energy.

It had been a long time since she felt this way. Only when one had become a stage-seven warrior could one be truly considered to be on the path of becoming a top warrior.

After adjusting her internal force, Chu Liuyue looked at the black pyramid in her body. Faint light could be seen coming from the crack on it, but unfortunately, she still couldn't touch the thing that was inside the pyramid—not unless she could fully break the seal.

It then suddenly occurred to her that she was now a stage-seven warrior and that she had a holy force in her body. If I properly make use of this force, there might be a chance that I'll be able to break open the pyramid's seal.

Her eyes lit up in excitement. Let's do it then!

She thus closed her eyes and gathered her focus, drawing the faint colorful holy force from the water droplet and directing it to hit the black pyramid.

...

Rong Xiu was currently in the main hall reading documents, and standing respectfully in front of him were Ming Yao and several other people.

"Your Grace, this is the preliminary list of the most outstanding women from every clan who are of the right age. Please take a look at it." Ming Yao bent his waist and spoke in a flattering tone. Even though he wasn't happy about people from the other clans joining in, there was nothing he or the others could do about it since Rong Xiu had given the word.

That said, it didn't mean that he couldn't do something to improve his clan's chances. The list consisted of a portrait of each woman, so it was another competition from there in terms of beauty.

No emotions could be seen on Rong Xiu's face as he looked at the list. But suddenly, he frowned, and a hint of pain flashed across his noble yet alluring face.

"What's wrong, Your Grace?" asked Ming Yao and the rest nervously upon sensing that something was wrong.

"It's nothing." Rong Xiu waved his hands and pinched the bridge of his nose.. I just... got hit by my own wife.

Chapter 1006: His Wife

Rong Xiu picked up a random brush from the table and made some annotations to the documents before tossing them aside with the pile of unread documents. It was clear that he had no intention of continuing to read them. "That's all."

"Aren't you going to carefully pick the candidates, Your Grace?" Ming Yao felt somewhat indignant as the documents below were also portraits of women from various clans, and he had spent quite a bit of effort on many of them. His Grace has always stayed away from women, so our previous attempts at convincing him to select a wife always ended up in failure. He has only agreed to it this time because he has no choice. Given his personality, it isn't likely that he wants to make this matter a big event, so it only makes sense that he would eliminate most of the women here. As long as he opens all the scrolls, he will definitely strike some of the women off the list. But he's only gone through a couple of them, and yet he doesn't want to continue looking through?

"I naturally trust your choices," said Rong Xiu in a nonchalant manner.

"But... That's a lot of people, Your Grace," Ming Yao responded uneasily in hopes of convincing him to strike off more names.

Rong Xiu looked up and curled his lips into a half-smile. "You guys were the ones who suggested that I select a wife and submitted these documents to me, yet... you're now telling me that it's a lot of people?"

Ming Yao was rendered speechless.

“Besides, I’m the Saint. Since I’m selecting a princess consort, I naturally have to do it properly. Are you guys... trying to tell me that I don’t have the right to do so?”

“We wouldn’t dare!” In a panic, Ming Yao and the others fell to their knees and begged for mercy. “We absolutely have no such intentions, Your Grace!”

Rong Xiu quietly looked at them with indifference.

The dead silence and the freezing air felt utterly awkward and pressurizing to them, evident by the beads of cold sweat dripping down their foreheads.

Things remained like this for some time, and it was only when they thought they couldn’t stand this atmosphere any longer that Rong Xiu finally said, “Leave.”

As if they had received great amnesty, they hurriedly thanked him and turned around to leave. But just as they took their first step, they heard him say from behind, “Take these documents with you as well.”

They stiffened, and Ming Yao immediately turned around and walked forward with his waist bent. “Sorry, I forgot about them...”

“Redo them.”

That sentence made Ming Yao freeze to the spot and look up in shock and uncertainty. “Your Grace, you mean...”

Rong Xiu looked up slightly, his eyes dark and penetrating as if he could see through everything. Although he wore a small smile on his face, it held no sign of amusement. "The Luoshan clan's second daughter looks way too different in the portrait from what I remember her to be. Which artist was in charge of this portrait? Fire him and find someone else to replace him."

Despite his light tone, it instantly made Ming Yao's heart squeeze.

He knows... He knows everything! Ming Yao suddenly felt very embarrassed and humiliated as if he had been cut open and exposed in the light. His lips turned pale as he stiffly nodded. "W-will do..."

After saying that, he quickly took the documents and left.

Upon sensing that something was wrong, the rest of the people hurriedly took their leave as well.

It was only when they completely disappeared from the main hall that Rong Xiu leaned back, rubbed his temples, and slowly exhaled. His thin scarlet lips, however, couldn't help curling into a helpless smile. "She sure didn't go easy on me..."

...

"Say... What's going on with His Grace? Hadn't he been opposed to the selection of a crown princess? So why did he agree to it this time and even want to make it a huge event?"

"He's an unfathomable person, so nobody knows for sure."

“Is it because he got so annoyed by us bringing this matter up so many times that he decided to make it a huge event to save himself some trouble in the future?”

“That might be the case, but what a shame... All our preparations were for naught... Ming Yao, what do you think about this?”

It was only after walking a good distance away from the main hall and going to a secluded corner that they started talking about this matter.

Ming Yao, however, was in somewhat of a trance, and the person next to him had to call him several times before he responded to them. “Huh? Uh... I have no idea myself... How can I possibly know what’s on His Grace’s mind?”

He got even more distraught when he remembered how Rong Xiu seemed to have looked at him with piercing eyes. He had a strange foreboding that things seemed to have spun out of his control and were heading in an unknown direction. However, there was no point in saying anything since things had come to this stage; they could only continue as planned.

“We only have a little over a month left, so we should start preparing for the selection! We won’t be able to bear the consequences of failure if any mistake is made! I still have other matters to attend to, so I’ll get going first.” After saying this, Ming Yao hurriedly left, leaving the rest of the people looking at each other.

“What’s the meaning of this? There’s no need to flare up at us just because His Grace refused to accept his proposal, right?”

“Ignore him. How could he possibly be in a good mood now, especially when it hasn’t been easy for him to get a hold of that artist?”

“Hmph, everyone knows what he’s up to! He just wants that young lady from the Ming Division to become the Crown Princess. Unfortunately, he didn’t expect His Grace to take the chance to get all of the clans to submit their own name list! This lowers that young lady’s chances!”

“How can anyone possibly win a scheme against His Grace? There’s a reason why he managed to get to his current position... Forget it; let’s just go back and make preparations! Whether or not our clans will be selected, we can’t let ourselves be embarrassed!”

...

At this time, Chu Liuyue had no idea that the preparation for the selection of Rong Xiu’s Crown Princess was in full swing. Her arms were crossed in front of her chest with one hand tapping her chin as she frowned and fell deep in thought.

“Why is there no movement?” she couldn’t help murmuring softly after thinking for a while. “Shouldn’t the holy force be able to do some damage to the seal?”

She had tried using the holy force to break the seal on the black pyramid, but it was to no avail. It remained there as if it hadn’t been disturbed at all. The only thing was that the crack seemed to have gotten a tiny bit bigger than before, and this was something that she noticed—just barely—after staring at it for a long time.

It was clear how difficult it would be to crack this thing.

Chu Liuyue felt a huge headache coming on. She couldn’t help feeling aggrieved when she could do nothing but just look on, even though she knew that a part of her own soul was trapped inside the

pyramid. It looks like I'm still not strong enough to break the pyramid's seal or even pose any threat to it.

With a heavy sigh, she finally decided to give up after thinking about it for a while. The attempt to break the seal with the holy force had sapped a lot of energy from her. If she were to do it continuously, it was very likely that she would die of exhaustion before she could even break it open. It seems that I have to get stronger first.. But then again, Hundred Herbs Building's boss told me that this thing belongs to his wife. How is his wife related to me such that she would keep a part of my soul?

Chapter 1007: I Have Been Waiting for You for a Long Time

Chu Liuyue desperately wanted to know the answer to that question. Now, she could basically confirm that she knew Hundred Herbs Building's boss, although she didn't know why he didn't mention it when they met. Could it be because I've changed my identity? But then again, my true identity has already been made public. Given his capabilities, he must've found out about it. I wonder if he's an enemy or an ally...

She caught a glimpse of herself in the mirror right then, freezing for a moment before walking over toward it and carefully examining the woman's face in the mirror. It looks like... there are some subtle changes in my appearance; I think I've grown. Considering that the original Chu Liuyue is only a teenager, it's only normal that there will be some changes in me as time passes. The thing is... I'm looking more and more alike to my past self. If I had looked 50% similar to my old self in the past, then it's 70% now.

As she rarely looked into the mirror and wasn't really concerned about her appearance, she was a bit taken aback by her own reflection just now. For a moment, it even felt like she had gone back to the time when she was at this age. Even though it had only been a few years, she felt like it was really far away in the past as she had experienced too many things—even death—in the years between.

Will I... eventually look the same as I did in the past? She wondered as she touched her own face, but she instinctively suppressed that thought as soon as it popped up. There's no way that will happen... Right? Even twins may not look exactly alike, let alone two completely unrelated people. I must be overthinking things...

She sat quietly for a while.

Night fell, and the moon hung high in the sky. It was quiet both inside and outside her room when she suddenly stood up, changed into a black robe, and covered her face before silently leaving the house.

...

Chu Liuyue went to the palace again.

When she arrived outside the palace walls, she could feel that the security there was much stricter than before. Clearly, her break-in had made everyone in the palace be on guard, although this wasn't much of a problem for her as she was now a stage-seven warrior and was capable enough of dealing with most people.

After selecting a spot, she opened the barrier once more, which was a lot easier this time due to the rise in her cultivation level. It didn't take long before the barrier opened. With a leap, she then passed through the barrier and headed straight for the Eastern Palace.

...

Eastern Palace's study.

The courtyard was heavily guarded, and the doors and windows of the study were tightly closed.

Jun Jiuqing was currently standing in front of the bookshelf and looking at the traces that were left behind while Shang Binghe kneeled behind him. "I deserve to die! Due to my negligence, someone managed to sneak in here. Please punish me, Your Highness!"

After he realized that something was wrong that day, he immediately sent people to investigate this matter. But unfortunately, that person seemed to have come prepared and managed to run away and disappear into thin air.

He had secretly searched the city several times, though he still wasn't able to find the intruder. It was clear that the person had used a fake identity right from the start, which meant that they couldn't investigate further as there were no other clues.

Despite having racked his brains to think of a way, Shang Binghe still couldn't come up with a way to find that person. Thus, all he could do was tighten the security in the Eastern Palace and admit his mistake.

"You've made a mistake indeed." Jun Jiuqing retracted his gaze and turned around to look at Shang Binghe condescendingly. "Everyone who's related to this matter... Leave nobody alive."

Shang Binghe jerked his head up in shock. "You mean..."

"Although the news has been contained, it shouldn't have been widely known in the first place," said Jun Jiuqing in an indifferent manner. His eyes, however, carried hints of murderous aura.

"Understood!" Shang Binghe immediately bowed his head. Everyone who was here that day has to die...

“You ought to be sentenced to death as well. However, I still have a use for you, so I’ll spare your life this time. Go down and receive a hundred lashes later.”

The lashing wasn’t done by the hands of ordinary guards, but Jun Jiuqing’s trusted aides, who were much stronger than Shang Binghe in terms of strength and cultivation level. It was considered quite a harsh punishment, considering that it would cost Shang Binghe half his life. But he was grateful enough to be spared from the death sentence, for nobody knew better than him how vicious Jun Jiuqing could be. It was a miracle that he could still be alive after such a serious incident. Hence, he hurriedly offered his thanks.

“Anyway, it’s normal that you can’t stop her if she wants to come.”

Shang Binghe froze, his eyes gradually filling with shock and disbelief. “Are you talking about...” Isn’t she... But if His Highness is saying this, she must be still alive.

“I-I see...” Cold sweat broke out on his back. Why would she be here though?

All of a sudden, Jun Jiuqing narrowed his gleaming eyes. I didn’t expect her to come back so soon. Although she’s not as powerful as she used to be, it’s obvious that she still has some skills... seeing how she can sneak in here and unlock the mechanism. It looks like I’ve underestimated her.

“Your Highness... What do you plan to do next?” asked Shang Binghe apprehensively.

Jun Jiuqing thought for a second before curling his thin lips. His eyes were cold as he said in a hoarse voice, “In that case... Let’s move Chu Ning to another place.”

...

Chu Liuyue had just arrived outside the study and hid in the shadows when she heard these words and frowned. Jun Jiuqing must've guessed that it was my doing, but his first reaction is to move Chu Ning to another place? Why? Chu Ning comes from an ordinary background and has had no interactions with him. In that case, the reason why he's so concerned about Chu Ning is due to me. He's using Chu Ning to threaten me!

"You may leave first," said Jun Jiuqing to Shang Binghe.

"Yes, Your Highness." Shang Binghe thus quickly took his leave.

This time, under the room's bright lights, Chu Liuyue finally got a clear look at Shang Binghe's face. She froze, and her eyebrows knitted together upon realizing that she had seen this face before. I'm certain that I've never seen this person before, but his face is very familiar to me for some reason. It's like.. I've met him before! Is... Shang Binghe also a part of my lost memories?

Just as Chu Liuyue was wondering about this, she heard a hoarse and beautiful voice saying, "Welcome, my late-night visitor.. I've been waiting for you for a long time."

Chapter 1008: Wait for You

Chu Liuyue was slightly taken aback as she looked up.

But after Shang Binghe left, the study room door wasn't closed.

Jun Jiuqing walked over and said to the guards, "You are all dismissed. Wait outside the courtyard. Without my orders, nobody is allowed to enter."

Even though the guards were confused, they still agreed respectfully. "Yes!"

Then, the crowd of guards retreated in order. Not long later, nobody was around the study.

"Can you come in now?" Jun Jiuqing turned around and looked at where Chu Liuyue was at.

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and decisively walked out. We are already at this stage, so there is no need to hide. Coincidentally, I also want to talk to Jun Jiuqing about some things.

Jun Jiuqing sized her up, raised his brows slightly, and turned around to walk in.

Chu Liuyue followed him closely.

...

After entering the room, Jun Jiuqing sat down on his own and smiled at Chu Liuyue. "Since you're already here, just sit as you wish."

Chu Liuyue didn't care for his teasing as she sat on the opposite seat.

The two of them looked at each other.

Jun Jiuqing stared at her with much interest, and there seemed to be light turning in his eyes. “Did you come in like this the last time as well?”

“You don’t have to say such polite words. I believe you know very clearly why I’m here today. Why don’t we speak openly?” Chu Liuyue was very straightforward.

Jun Jiuqing’s smile faded slightly. “I wanted to reminisce about the old times with you today, but you’re still as heartless as usual...”

“We don’t have to reminisce. You probably can tell that I’ve already forgotten many things. Today, you and I are just strangers. There isn’t much meaning in saying this now. Why don’t you tell me how you will let my father off?” Chu Liuyue was very blunt.

Ever since that letter and the later note, everything showed that Jun Jiuqing definitely knew many things about her. Perhaps they did know each other in the past, but she had completely forgotten about it now, so it was useless to mention it.

Besides, she had a feeling. Even if they knew each other before, their relationship wouldn’t be any good.

Jun Jiuqing leaned against the chair. “What I want is very simple. Didn’t I tell you this before?”

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. “When?”

Jun Jiuqing lightly held his forehead in a seemingly smiling manner. “Of course, it’s when we were at Ancient Phoenix Mountain. You didn’t think that I was just joking back then, right?”

Chu Liuyue paused. Of course, I remembered what Jun Jiuqing said back then. He said that as long as I agreed to marry him, everything would be mine. At that time, I thought he meant the endless force and that holy force. I didn't expect it to include this as well...

"If you agree, I'll immediately release Chu Ning and personally apologize to him." Jun Jiuqing smiled slightly, but his expression didn't look like he was joking. "Whatever you want and whatever you want to do—as long as I can help you, I'll definitely agree to it."

Jun Jiuqing looked at her with determination, and there seemed to be something tumbling within his sinister-like eyes. His voice was hoarse with a hint of drunken intent, causing one to be dazed. "As long as you agree."

...

Perhaps it was an illusion, but Chu Liuyue actually heard a sense of desire from this sentence. However, she very quickly threw this ridiculous thought away. Desire? Someone like Jun Jiuqing is arrogant, unreasonable, cruel, and extremely proud. Others have always begged him, so why would he beg others? Thinking about the incidents he caused, all of them show how cruel his personality and methods are!

Chu Liuyue's expression turned solemn, and her voice was cold. "Are you using my father's life to threaten me?"

Seeing that her eyes were gradually covered in frost, Jun Jiuqing's expression changed slightly, and the smiling intent in his eyes faded quite a bit.

"Yes," he said nonchalantly without a care.

“I already have a fiancé.”

“Just cancel your marriage agreement.”

“I have no feelings toward you.”

“We can slowly develop them.”

“Do you think I can develop feelings for you just because you’re using my father to threaten me?” Chu Liuyue was so angry that she laughed. She felt that Jun Jiuqing’s thoughts were too ridiculous! “Even though I don’t know what exactly you want to do and why you must have a marriage alliance with me, much less knowing whether we knew each other before and the past we had, I can tell you that it is definitely impossible between the two of us based on whatever you did! Even if you use all sorts of methods, I will never accede to your request!”

Jun Jiuqing looked at her in that manner and didn’t speak for a while.

Just when Chu Liuyue thought he was about to rage, she suddenly saw him laugh. “You’re right. I have indeed used all sorts of methods for this.”

He held his face and lazily said, “Chu Xianmin wanted to harm you, so I gave her the Red Blood Gu. The people from the other academies wanted to fight you for first place, so I gave them the Seven Coldness Poison. All these people weren’t very obedient, so I swiftly settled all of them—”

Chu Liuyue gradually widened her eyes, and shock flashed across her face. "All of that... was done by you?! Since when did you think of harming me?"

"If I didn't do it, how would you come back so quickly?" Jun Jiuqing smiled with deeper meaning. "They're just ants, so how can they be your match? I just allowed them to help you elevate your capabilities quickly so that you'd come back faster. See? Haven't you already come back in less than a year?"

Chu Liuyue was so shocked that she was at a loss for words.

"Shangguan Yue, do you think that you're the only one waiting to return to Xi Ling?" Jun Jiuqing stretched out his hand and pointed at himself.. "I was also waiting for you to come back."

Chapter 1009: Surprise

Coldness rose in Chu Liuyue's heart. Jun Jiuqing did so many things in secret, yet he said it was all to help me? I experienced so much torture, but it all seems unimportant to him? If something went wrong in between, I would've long died!

As if seeing through Chu Liuyue's thoughts, Jun Jiuqing smiled faintly. "I'm not worried that something will happen to you. All of this is nothing to you."

If she couldn't even handle all of these things, then she wouldn't be herself.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows tightly. It's only now I've realized that all the troubles I met previously had mostly been set up by Jun Jiuqing long ago, and he is actually still speaking so arrogantly!

“I don’t accept it.” Chu Liuyue took a deep breath. “I don’t care what you think and what you do—it has nothing to do with me. It’s my own business that I want to return to Xi Ling; I don’t need anyone interfering. All the previous incidents have already passed, so there’s not much meaning in pursuing responsibility. I just need you to return my father to me in one piece. As for the condition you brought up, I won’t agree to it at all.”

She looked at Jun Jiuqing harshly and coldly. “Even if you don’t agree to let him go today, I’ll think of a way to save my father! As for the rest—it’s impossible!”

Jun Jiuqing’s handsome and nearly demonic face still had a smile, but this smile was like a lit-up firework as it rapidly turned cold with a bone-chilling coldness.

“Have you thought it through?” he slowly asked.

Chu Liuyue didn’t speak, but her expression was determined, showing that it was a tacit agreement.

The room fell into dead silence, and the air seemed to freeze inch by inch.

Then, Jun Jiuqing stood up. “Since this is the case, we don’t have to continue talking.”

Chu Liuyue quickly stood up too. “I came here today, and I must bring my father away!”

Jun Jiuqing slightly raised his brow as if he didn’t care about her words, and he lightly laughed. “You don’t have to waste your efforts. Did you not hear what I said clearly?”

Chu Liuyue's eyes shrunk. "What do you mean?!"

Jun Jiuqing tilted his head and smiled in a sinister manner. "I meant... Chu Ning is no longer here now."

He glanced at Chu Liuyue. "I knew you were coming today, and I made full preparations, but it's a pity... It seems like I have no use for them anymore. If you want to bring Chu Ning back, either you change your mind or... you personally beat me!"

Chu Liuyue clenched her fists in her sleeves tightly!

"I have something on, so I won't accompany you. Please go on," said Jun Jiuqing as he directly lifted his leg to leave. It was as if he really didn't care if Chu Liuyue would flip all the mechanisms here.

"Oh right." Jun Jiuqing paused in his steps and tilted his head slightly.

The moonlight shone on his face and outlined his perfect angle. His eyes were half-bright and half-dark. "Since you trust that fiancé of yours so much, why don't you go and see what he's doing now? You'll be very surprised."

Then, he directly left and didn't turn around.

...

Chu Liuyue stood in the study for a while.

Only when Jun Jiuqing's figure had completely disappeared did she knit her brows and walk to the bookshelf. With the previous experience and Cen Yi's help, she unlocked this mechanism very easily.

Kacha!

The secret compartment was opened.

As expected, there was nothing inside.

Chu Liuyue continuously opened the other compartments, but it was all in vain.

The most important thing was that she really couldn't feel Chu Ning's aura here. This could basically confirm that Chu Ning was indeed no longer here.

However, there was something Chu Liuyue didn't understand. Since Jun Jiuqing ordered someone to bring Chu Ning away only now, not much time has passed. However, Chu Ning has already completely disappeared. How exactly did he do it?

Chu Liuyue thought for a long while, but she couldn't figure it out. Seeing that there was no hope in finding him here, she eventually chose to leave.

...

That night seemed to pass calmly.

The next morning, Chu Liuyue heard that the Xiyao Dynasty and Dongning Dynasty's people were planning to leave that day.

Ancient Phoenix Mountain was ruined, and everything turned into dust. There was no meaning to them staying here any longer.

As for the severely damaged Taiyu Dynasty, they had already left overnight the day before.

Chu Liuyue originally planned to stay here for a few more days to search for her father's whereabouts. But after much thinking, this was dangerous and too obvious.

After some time, it might arouse suspicion.

The more important point was that after her talk with Jun Jiuqing failed that night, the latter told the public that he would go into seclusion and wouldn't see anyone.

He clearly didn't plan on discussing it with her. Hence, Chu Liuyue finally also decided to bring the few of them back.

And on this side, she would send people to secretly take notice and search for Chu Ning's whereabouts.

The only thing that comforted Chu Liuyue was that Jun Jiuqing wanted to use Chu Ning as his chip, so he wouldn't do anything overboard. At the very least, she didn't need to worry about Chu Ning being dead.

But every time she thought of how tortured Chu Ning looked in the mirror, she still felt very upset.

Now, she could only think of another way.

...

Chu Liuyue and the rest went back rather smoothly. Additionally, as all of their abilities had strengthened, their speed was much faster.

Other than the still-unconscious Qiang Wanzhou, the other people who had undergone the Three Yuan Convention's nourishment had improved.

Not only did their injuries recover, but Jian Fengchi's group of three had respectively broken through their original cultivation level.

Mu Hongyu was the only one who didn't break through, and this made her slightly anxious. This was because she was already a peak stage-six warrior a long time ago.

After such a long time of cultivating and the Three Yuan Convention, she originally thought that she could successfully break through. However, she didn't.

She had faintly touched the barrier, but she still couldn't make that step.

“Sigh, I have the lowest cultivation level now.” On the way back, Mu Hongyu couldn’t help but sigh.

Actually, Mu Hongyu’s talent and capabilities weren’t weak, and her breakthrough speed wasn’t considered slow.

Compared to most cultivators, she was definitely one of the top. It was a pity that the few people that traveled with her were all top talents from the Tianling Dynasty, so she naturally wasn’t that outstanding.

“It might not be bad to break through a little later,” comforted Chu Liuyue.

“The stage-seven warrior barrier is originally a major barrier, so it’s not easy to get past it. Besides, you have a Faint Yuan Body, so you must be very careful.”

Mu Hongyu nodded.

When she waited for Chu Liuyue outside Ancient Phoenix Mountain, she had heard quite a few people mention this.

Chu Liuyue could successfully cross this barrier without any preparations, but it didn’t mean that everyone could do so. If not, the crowd wouldn’t have had such a big reaction when they saw Chu Liuyue succeeding.

“I know it’s hard to break through as a stage-seven warrior, but what has it got to do with my Faint Yuan Body?”

Could it be that it makes it harder for me to break through compared to others?

Chu Liuyue looked at her and seriously nodded.

Chapter 1010: Xue Xue

Mu Hongyu was originally teasing herself, but her face immediately froze when she saw Chu Liuyue nod.

Chu Liuyue explained, "The Faint Yuan Body hasn't appeared in a thousand years. Speaking of which, it's even rarer than having a Tianjing Yuan meridian. Besides, I can learn a lot of things from Ancestor, so I still have someone guiding me. However... you're different."

"The Faint Yuan Body is extremely rare, and there's almost no record of it. To this day, I've only read one ancient book that once mentioned it, but it's only a few sentences and didn't speak of it in detail."

To be direct, nobody knew how Mu Hongyu's Faint Yuan Body should be best cultivated. She had to rely on herself for everything.

It was still okay in the past as her cultivation level wasn't that high, and she could slowly find her way. But the stronger she became in the future, the more she couldn't do this.

How one with a Faint Yuan Body should cultivate was a big problem.

“From what I see now, I can confirm one point. When a person with a Faint Yuan Body breaks through to become a stage-seven warrior, the God Foreseeing Tribulation they summon isn’t one to be underestimated.”

Mu Hongyu’s eyes were wide open, and her mouth was agape. “I-it won’t be the same as yours that time, right...”

If it were so, I’m afraid that I would fail since I can’t withstand it for long!

Chu Liuyue shook her head.

Mu Hongyu heaved a long sigh of relief.

Chu Liuyue smiled slightly. “I don’t know either.”

Mu Hongyu’s heart hung high again. She coughed, and she held her head with both hands. “Then, what should I do?! Even Liuyue doesn’t know—won’t I die then?”

At the side, Jian Fengchi suddenly spoke. “If someone can guide you in this aspect, it won’t be that scary.”

“That’s easier said than done.” Mu Hongyu’s head ached. “Didn’t Liuyue just say that the Faint Yuan Body hasn’t appeared in a very long time? Then, how should I find such a mentor? I—”

Suddenly, her voice trailed off, and she raised her head. “No—there’s someone! There might be a way!”

Chu Liuyue's gaze turned slightly.

"I just don't know if the other party is willing to help..." Mu Hongyu rubbed her nose in worry.

"Who is it?" Yuwen Jinghong stuck his head over, leaning toward Mu Hongyu with a face filled with curiosity.

Jian Fengchi expressionlessly pressed his head back.

Mu Hongyu knitted her brows as if she felt quite conflicted.

Chu Liuyue finally asked, "You're saying... Red Moon Desert?"

Mu Hongyu's eyes lit up, and she nodded forcefully. "Right!"

Not long after they entered the Red Moon Desert last time, they were respectively separated. After that, Mu Hongyu was chased by a ball of yellow sand for a very long period of time.

Back then, I only cared about escaping. But thinking about it now, that person clearly did it on purpose to help me strengthen my capabilities. I improved the fastest during my time at Red Moon Desert.

One had to know that the person behind the training was a top warrior.

She could travel through space instantaneously, and Jian Shuye might not even be able to react in time at times. But at the Red Moon Desert, the other party always seemed capable of tracking her down immediately!

“If only I could ask him...” After her excitement, Mu Hongyu’s almond-like eyes darkened.

“Why can’t you?” Chu Liuyue smiled. “I’ll help you.”

It seemed like Mu Hongyu had greatly benefited when she was at Red Moon Desert previously. If not, her first thought wouldn’t be of that place. Besides, according to my understanding of Big Baby and the rest, they might really be able to solve this problem...

“Really?” Mu Hongyu couldn’t really believe it.

She vaguely knew that Chu Liuyue seemed to know the mysterious strong warriors in Red Moon Desert, but she didn’t ask her friend about it in detail. Now, it seemed like her friend was very confident.

“There should be no problem, but... You might need to make a trip to Red Moon Desert personally.” After all, Big Baby and the rest have no way of leaving that place. Hence, Mu Hongyu has to go over.

“No problem!” Mu Hongyu wasn’t afraid of suffering, so this small problem didn’t count for anything.

When Chu Liuyue saw her friend so filled with ambition, her eyes curved upward. “Okay. After we return to Xi Ling, we’ll go and settle this.”

...

After going through a few transportation formations, the few of them finally returned to Xi Ling that noon.

Chu Liuyue brought Qiang Wanzhou straight to the palace and sent someone to get Weichi Song over, wanting him to check on Qiang Wanzhou's condition.

Before Chu Liuyue returned to Shaoyue Palace, Shangguan You—who heard the news—hurried over and sized his daughter up for a long time.

Chu Liuyue was originally quite severely injured, but as she had broken through to become a stage-seven warrior and had recovered her Tianjing Yuan meridian, she had been recovering. Now, she was only left with a few external wounds.

Shangguan You examined her and confirmed that she was fine before he heaved a sigh of relief. "That's good, that's good. Our Yue'er isn't severely injured..."

Only the heavens knew how he survived this period.

On the one hand, the Tianling Dynasty was the weakest out of all these dynasties and would definitely be bullied when they were there.

On the other hand, the opening of Ancient Phoenix Mountain had to be filled with dangers, so the few of them might've gotten injured if they hadn't been careful.

Seeing Shangguan You's nervous look, Chu Liuyue smiled and said, "Father, don't worry. I'm doing well."

Once she said this, Shangguan You then realized that her aura was different. Then, he shockingly widened his eyes. "Yue'er, y-you're a... stage-seven warrior now?"

Chu Liuyue openly smiled and nodded. "Yeah! I was luckier and conveniently broke through!"

If the people present back then heard her words, they would be angered to death. Convenient?! Why don't you say that you conveniently stole the holy force that the Beiming Ancestor left behind?! You even ruined their Ancient Phoenix Mountain as well!

Shangguan You didn't detect that anything was amiss.

The Tianling Dynasty and the Beiming Dynasty were quite far apart, so news traveled slowly. Hence, they didn't know the situation on the other side.

And Chu Liuyue naturally wouldn't say that she almost lost her life.

"Oh right. This time, I received a huge miracle and managed to recover my Tianjing Yuan meridian."

Upon hearing this, Shangguan You was so shocked that he couldn't speak for a long time. In the end, he just touched Chu Liuyue's head with his palm trembling slightly.

“...Good! Good!” His voice was faintly hoarse, and he was clearly suppressing his emotions.

Chu Liuyue held his hand tightly. “Father, can you rest assured now?”

Shangguan You smiled relaxingly, but tears welled up in his eyes.

After all, they were father and daughter related by blood, so they knew each other the best.

At this moment, an ear-piercing sound was heard!

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw a figure coming over through the air! In the blink of an eye, it had already reached the front of them!

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes slightly and couldn't quite believe her eyes. She slowly uttered, “...Xue Xue?”

Is the dirty fiend with its fur stuck together in blots of yellow to the point where I can't see its original appearance really that cute white lion?!