

Noble Ruler 1121

Chapter 1121 Come Late

Zhong Xun shook his head. "I only came to the academy two years ago, so I didn't see that person. I heard that she left after staying in the academy for only half a year, but even now, there are still many rumors regarding her spreading around the academy."

He grunted. "I heard that she's a rare all-rounder." "All-rounder?" "Yeah. Other than the warrior, Xuan Master, and heavenly doctor aspects, she's also good at Armory Refinement! And her abilities in all the aspects are one of the top! I heard that when she first came, there were at least ten people who fought to be her mentor. In the end, there was no choice but to let the director personally accept her as his disciple. That's the first disciple the director had in a hundred years."

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly. He's even good at Armory Refinement... He's indeed deserving of the reputation of an all-rounder. What kind of talent have the elders in Ling Xiao Academy not seen? It shows just how outstanding that person was for them to behave in this manner. "It's a pity she suddenly disappeared after half a year and never returned since. From then onward, the elders in the academy have never brought up her name, as if she never existed. Gradually, everyone stopped bringing her up." Zhong Xun sighed. "The reason why I've heard of these things is that I accidentally barged into her medicinal garden before, and I found out after a senior sister reminded me." "Medicinal garden?" Chu Liuyue found it weird. "Didn't they say that the herbs everyone uses in the academy are from Medicinal Valley?"

Ling Xiao Academy was very spacious, and the mountains were continuous. In the heavenly doctor's region was an area of land specifically used for planting herbs, and it was called Medicinal Valley.

With heaven and earth's nourishment over a million years, Medicinal Valley became a treasured land to plant all sorts of precious herbs and ingredients. Most of the herbs in the academy were produced from

there. “Oh, the director specifically dug out an area of Medicinal Valley to be her personal medicinal garden. When she refined medicine, she could only use the herbs that came from her garden.” “Why is this so? If he’s an all-rounder, he definitely needs a lot of herbs when she’s producing pills. If you do this, won’t it impede his heavenly doctor journey?”

Even if they dug out the weeds, it would be really slow to grow her own herbs! One had to know that many herbs needed a hundred or even a thousand years to reach sufficient efficacy. “That’s not true. She could also use the herbs from Medicinal Valley, but she needed to write out a list beforehand and let the elder in charge of Medicinal Valley vet it. If the elder agreed, she could use them. If not, then—” hu Liuyue couldn’t help but laugh. “Why is there such a strange rule?” hong Xun paused. “That’s because she used up the hundreds of top herbs in Medicinal Valley after a month of coming to the academy.” hu Liuyue: “...I see.”

This shows that that person is indeed quite capable... Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and smiled lazily. “He caused so much trouble. The director and elder never hit him?” hong Xun glanced at her strangely. “The seniors are all very respectable. How can they hit a lady?” hu Liuyue: “...She’s a lady?!” didn’t say it’s a man, right?” asked Zhong Xun in return. hu Liuyue smiled shyly. “Haha... When I figured out how tor—how amazing she is, I instinctively thought in that manner..” “I heard that the director and elders doted on her very much back then, especially Elder Hua Feng. He personally taught her Xuan formations, but for some reason, she disappeared in the end, and nobody talked about her again.” “Junior Brother Chu Yue, I’ve told you so much today; just take it as us having a personal conversation. You don’t have to take it to heart, and as for others—” “Senior Brother Zhong Xun, don’t worry. I know what I can say and do,” said Chu Liuyue with a smile.

Chu Yue is a smart person and understands with a slight hint. I don’t need to worry about him much. Zhong Xun heaved a sigh of relief. “That’s good. You don’t have to think too much about the rest for the time being.

Just prepare yourself and handle the assessment tomorrow to get a mentor. Previously, I roughly told you about the elders. Do you know who you want?”

Chu Liuyue nodded.

Zhong Xun felt at ease as he smiled and said, "Then, I'll wait for you to amaze me tomorrow, Junior Brother Chu Yue!"

Then, Chu Liuyue followed Zhong Xun back to their living area.

Like the other peaks, there were many individual houses sitting around. Zhong Xun stayed in one of them.

Not far away from his residence was an empty house, and Chu Liuyue now stayed there.

After bidding Zhong Xun farewell, Chu Liuyue walked into the house.

I should be able to see the others in the academy tomorrow... Chu Liuyue sat cross-legged, closed her eyes, and calmed herself down to cultivate.

On the other side, after Elder Wan Zheng was done settling the matter on this end, he returned to Qing Ming Square.

Above the clean and tidy square, the white jade stone reflected a faint light. One could vaguely see some flickering light on it. If there was a capable Xuan Master, they would be able to see the countless complicated, silently intersecting and overlapping Xuan formations within the light.

Elder Wan Zheng walked to Dong Huang Clock Tower.

Below Dong Huang Clock Tower was a heavy platform with a total of four doors. Every door faced toward the north, south, east, and west respectively.

Above the copper doors was a lively floating statue.

Elder Wan Zheng walked to one of the doors, took out his green plaque, and placed it on the door.

The door opened, and there was actually a living room within!

He stepped in. "If it weren't this urgent, we wouldn't have called you back so anxiously." Elder Wan Zheng walked in and quickly heard the familiar voice coming from the front. "Everyone here is of certain importance to all the distinguished clans and families. To have you make time to come over is really—" "Elder, you're speaking too formally. We're all the academy's students. Now that the academy has trouble, we'll definitely do our best to help." A young man's voice sounded. "But may I know what exactly caused the elders to be so worried? For the past few days, the elders didn't want to speak in detail. Now that we're all gathered together, can you finally tell us?"

Elder Wan Zheng walked in from the dark.

Inside the room, the candle lights burned.

There were about 20 people here. Amongst them were a few elders who had the most distinguished status in Ling Xiao Academy. The remaining dozen or so people mostly looked rather young and had different auras.

They came as the academy had wanted their help, and they were all previous students from the academy and were all from top aristocratic families.

At this point, the crowd had split into two sides, and the atmosphere was a little strange.

Hearing the commotion, the crowd turned around to take a look.

Elder Wan Zheng's expression was solemn. "I was handling some stuff earlier. I didn't come late, right?" "Of course not. You came right on time," the young man who spoke earlier laughed and said. "The Sky-Cloud Empire's His Grace just arrived, and everyone was waiting for him, so we haven't said anything yet."

Chapter 1122 I'll Dote on My Wife

Everyone went quiet for a moment. Many people snuck glances at Rong Xiu—who was sitting next to the elders—with varying expressions on their faces.

The young man was obviously taking a dig at him, but much to everyone's surprise, the latter didn't seem to be angry about that. Instead, an enchanting smile appeared on his noble and alluring face, making everyone lost in the depths of his deep and inscrutable eyes. "I've been busy with my clan's affairs recently, so I was unable to attend to other things at the same time. I'd like to seek the elders' kind understanding for this."

Elder Bo Yan, who sat at the main seat, smiled. "We've heard what happened at the Sky-Cloud Empire. You... have chosen a wife for yourself?"

Everyone's eyes landed on Rong Xiu. "Yes." Rong Xiu's smile deepened as hints of amusement appeared in his eyes. "It's her first time at the Sky-Cloud Empire. There are many things that she hasn't gotten used to, so I stayed to accompany her for a few more days." Amusement could be seen on everyone's faces, for they knew Rong Xiu's temperament and the way he worked all too well. It was hard for them to imagine how he—someone who didn't bat an eyelid when killing someone—could become so gentle and infatuated with a woman. "It seems like you really love your wife. You care more about her well-being than the crisis the academy is facing. I didn't know that you were such a devoted lover," said the young man.

When Rong Xiu looked up slightly, a clear and sharp glint flashed in his black eyes, which seemed to be swirling with emotions.

The young man stiffened at that. "Even if I don't come, there are plenty of elders here to take care of it. Young Master Wei, are you questioning the abilities of these elders?" "I—" Wei Xiping was rendered speechless, for he couldn't possibly say that to their faces. "Besides, am I supposed to expect other people to dote on my own wife?" Even though Rong Xiu was smiling as he said this, the iciness in his squinted eyes struck fear in the young man's heart.

Anger surged up Wei Xiping's chest, but just when he wanted to retort, Elder Bo Yan said, "Alright, there's no need to discuss these things now. What's most important at hand is that matter."

Elder Wan Zheng walked over and sat down on one of the two remaining empty chairs. "Now that everyone's here, let's—" "Elder Bo Yan, is the director not coming today?" asked a young lady, who was sitting at the side. The director ought to be the one presiding over this meeting instead.

Elder Bo Yan calmly replied, "The director is still in seclusion, so I'm still in charge of the academy's affairs for the time being."

Although there was nothing wrong with this reason, it made some people frown as the director had been in seclusion for a long time, yet it seemed that he still had no intention of coming out to date. Hence, they couldn't help but find it suspicious.

That said, Elder Bo Yan didn't give them the chance to continue this topic. "I've only briefly mentioned this matter in the letter to you all because it's more appropriate that I tell you the details in person."

Upon hearing Elder Bo Yan's serious tone, everyone fell silent and carefully paid attention to what he was about to say.

Actually, they weren't the only people who had received the letter from the academy. There were at least a hundred people who had received said letter, but these people were the only ones qualified to sit here.

Take Jiang Zhiyuan for example. She was also one of the recipients and had even arrived earlier than Rong Xiu, but currently, she could only wait outside.

Meanwhile, a few girls were sitting together in a circle in an exquisite courtyard on top of a mountain peak at the Xuan Master area. "Zhiyuan, I heard that you've picked up a new skill. Are you going to reveal it at the monthly assessment tomorrow?" asked a pretty girl with a curious expression.

Jiang Zhiyuan, however, didn't respond. In fact, it didn't seem like she heard the question. "Zhiyuan? Zhiyuan?"

It was only then that Jiang Zhiyuan snapped back to her senses and realized what was going on when she met their gazes. She nodded. "Huh? Yeah, I do have the plan to do that."

Her gaze then drifted back to Dong Huang Clock Tower. As she hadn't fully recovered from her injuries, her lips were still a little pale. Her pale complexion, coupled with her faraway look, made her look extra pitiful. It was unfortunate, though, that only these girls were here to see it.

The girls next to Jiang Zhiyuan exchanged a look. There wasn't even a need for them to ask her in order to know why she was behaving like this. The news about the Sky-Cloud Empire had long spread and reached their ears.

Even though the various clans and sects in the God Residence Realm didn't keep in touch with each other very often, it didn't prevent certain important news from spreading quickly. Besides, almost everybody in the academy knew how Jiang Zhiyuan felt toward Rong Xiu. In fact, he was the main reason why she had enrolled in Ling Xiao Academy.

Jiang Zhiyuan came from Fairy Water Mound—which was the strongest clan among the Sky-Cloud Empire's 28 clans—so many people naturally thought that she would be the one standing next to Rong Xiu's side.

However, things turned out to be different from their expectations.

Seeing how crestfallen and distracted Jiang Zhiyuan was, they knew that she probably wouldn't listen to anything they said to her at this moment.

All of a sudden, a girl with a sharp chin pursed her lips and said, "Zhiyuan, this is so unlike you! If this were in the past, you'd definitely be racking your brain for ways to get a good result in the monthly assessment right now!" "What's the point of all that? It's not like he'll notice me..." Jiang Zhiyuan let out a bitter laugh. Everything she did in the past was because Rong Xiu was too outstanding in the academy. She figured that the gap between them could be narrowed if she worked harder to better herself. She didn't mind doing anything as long as it meant that she could be closer to him, but everything had lost its meaning now that he had chosen someone else as his wife. No matter what she thought or did, nothing could change this fact. "That's all the more reason for you to do well in the assessment!" The girl with a sharp chin lightly tapped Jiang Zhiyuan's head with a finger. "Are you going to give up on him just like that after chasing him for so long?!"

This is the time you have to show how outstanding you are! Let everyone, including him, realize that it's his shame for not choosing you!"

A flash of light flickered in Jiang Zhiyuan's eyes, but it soon died out. Show how outstanding I am? It looks like they still don't know about Shangguan Yue's performance. If they knew that she's stronger than me, they surely wouldn't say such things. "Just think about it, Zhiyuan! Both you and Rong Xiu are currently at the academy. As long as you're willing, there won't be any chance for that princess consort."

Jiang Zhiyuan looked up in surprise. "What are you trying to say?"

Chapter 1123: A Restless Night

"You're outstanding and admired in the academy, while that princess consort isn't even qualified to become a student here! You'll get to reap the benefits of being in a favorable position! It just so happens that Rong Xiu will be staying in the academy for the time being. Once you spend enough time by his side, he'll naturally prefer you more!" The sharp-chinned girl revealed a smug look. "No man will be able to resist such a gentle pursuit."

"That's right, Zhiyuan! You've liked him for the longest time, so don't you feel indignant giving up just like that?"

"To be honest with you, we've always thought that you'd be... Can you really bear to see someone else together with the man you love?"

It didn't take long before Jiang Zhiyuan's mind started wavering. She pursed her lips tightly together and furrowed her eyebrows in hesitation and nervousness. "Actually..."

She wanted to say that Shangguan Yue was far more powerful than they thought. For some reason, there wasn't much news about Shangguan Yue circulating in the Sky-Cloud Empire; it was like someone had deliberately sealed the news off. That was why everyone else mistook Shangguan Yue for an ordinary girl.

Jiang Zhiyuan, however, knew all too well that Shangguan Yue was far superior to her in terms of looks, talents, and everything else. Most importantly, Shangguan Yue had Rong Xiu's favor. He was indeed fond of her and didn't hesitate to go to great lengths for her.

However, she couldn't bring herself to say all that and admit that Shangguan Yue was more outstanding than her; she simply couldn't do it. After a long time, she finally exhaled and said, "I have my own plans."

Chu Liuyue sat cross-legged in the room as she gathered her focus and raised a hand. A point of light appeared on her finger, and it soon split into multiple points and illuminated her entire palm.

Jingshen Finger was transformed into Jingshen Palm.

She then slowly clenched her fist. A stream of force surged to her fist and emitted a faint glow.

Whoosh!

Chu Liuyue sent a punch flying out. As a strong gust of wind blew across the room, black cracks instantly appeared in the void, which was the result of the violent wind.

All of the Heaven and Earth Force in the surrounding—which seemed to be affected by that punch—started rippling.

Bzzt! Bzzt!

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes when she saw an invisible fluctuation rush out of the room, and a rich force suddenly rushed out.

Boom!

The violent collision was from the power of the punch striking the newly formed barrier. The barrier barely managed to stabilize after that brief and violent collision.

“Phew! Are you trying to scare me to death, lass?!” Shangguan Jing—who had appeared in the room at some point—had a look of trepidation on his face as he patted his chest above his non-existent heart. “If anyone hears this commotion, you’ll surely get punished by those elders tonight!”

“Well... I didn’t expect this either...” Chu Liuyue let out an awkward cough. After slowly withdrawing her power, she opened her hand and took a close look at her fair palm and defined fingers. If one didn’t see it for themselves, they surely wouldn’t know that this slender hand contained such astonishing power. “Jingshen Fist is so powerful...”

This was the first time she had executed Jingshen Fist. After breaking through to become a stage-seven warrior, the force in her body had been greatly boosted, and she had become extremely proficient in controlling Jingshen Palm. Hence, she reckoned that it was time for her to try practicing Jingshen Fist; it was a part of Ultimate Jingshen anyway.

Since Jingshen Fist was transformed from Jingshen Finger and Jingshen Palm, she didn't need to exhaust a lot of energy to execute it. But the thing she didn't expect was that it would pack so much force. That punch alone had shown signs of mobilizing the Heaven and Earth Force.

"Of course, it is! What did you expect from an Earth-grade warrior technique?!" Shangguan Jing huffed and glared at her.

"But only Heaven-grade warrior techniques can mobilize the Heaven and Earth—"

"Don't forget that you have a holy force in your body!" Shangguan Jing shook his head. "Jingshen Fist is extremely complex, but it has great potential. The power you unleashed just now could almost be comparable to that of a Heaven-grade warrior technique. If you practice well... you might even be able to execute a more powerful punch in the future!"

Chu Liuyue was secretly amazed by this when she suddenly recalled the scene where she discovered Ultimate Jingshen. That's right! This set of skills contains Heavenly Dao! It's just that I was too weak at the time to fully understand the skill and many things happened thereafter, so I temporarily put this matter aside. Now that I think about it... there's no way an ordinary Earth-grade warrior technique can be so powerful!

"Lass, you better master this skill well. It might become your most powerful skill in the future!" advised Shangguan Jing earnestly.

Chu Liuyue nodded.

"I'll help guard you while you figure things out." After saying that, Shangguan Jing strengthened the barrier to prevent the people outside from sensing the commotion here.

“Thank you, Ancestor.” Following that, Chu Liuyue quickly gathered her thoughts, closed her eyes, and recalled Ultimate Jingshen. She used to find Jingshen Fist disorganized and disorderly, but for some reason, she could now sense a hint of pattern in it. She thus channeled her internal force once more and lifted her right hand.

When a red force shot out and enveloped her palm, she started turning her palm in mid-air slowly and clenching her fingers to form a fist. Her palm was entirely wrapped in radiant light and somehow appeared translucent.

Shangguan Jing was shocked to see an appalling pressure spreading out. Ultimate Jingshen is indeed comparable to a Heaven-grade warrior technique! This lass is... unbelievably lucky!

Chu Liuyue didn't know what was running through Shangguan Jings mind. While repeatedly recalling Jingshen Fist's technique in her mind, she kept injecting force into her right hand. If she were to open her eyes right now, she would see that her palm was gradually becoming transparent as her force flowed to her hand.

One couldn't help but wonder if her hand would completely become transparent once she fully mastered the skill.

As time passed, the power in Chu Liuyue's hand, as well as the pressure within, became stronger and stronger.

Shangguan Jing felt inexplicably nervous while he stared closely at her hand.

The dazzling light illuminated Chu Liuyue's face, making her fair face appear even clearer and cleaner.

Just then, Chu Liuyue suddenly opened her eyes, her long eyelashes fluttering slightly as the brilliant light reflected in her black eyes. She then pushed her fist out.

Crack!

Shangguan Jings eyes widened in shock, for the barrier he had set up had been easily shattered by Chu Liuyue's punch..

Chapter 1124: Rong Xiu, You're Being Too Wilful

Whoosh! Whoosh!

With a wave of Shangguan Jing's hand, another two bolts of force flew out to strengthen the barrier. The shattered portion of the barrier was soon covered by a thin, transparent, and glittering layer.

Bam!

The two forces collided once more.

Bam!

The barrier failed to stop one of the punch forces, allowing it to fly out of the door. Shangguan Jing was appalled to see the gaping hole in the door.

“Are you okay, Chu Yue?! What’s going on?” Zhong Xun’s worried voice could be heard coming from outside.

Shangguan Jing instantly made himself disappear along with the barrier.

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes, only to see that the house was in a mess. It was a good thing that Shangguan Jing’s barrier had stopped most of the force. Otherwise, the consequences would’ve been more serious.

“Chu Yue, what are you—” Zhong Xun was shocked to see the state of the house. Even though night had fallen, the moonlight was bright enough for him to have a vague view inside.

“No need to worry, Zhong Xun.” Chu Liuyue stood up and flashed a smile at him. “I was just studying a certain warrior technique. This only happened because I failed to control it properly...”

“Martial art technique?” Zhong Xun’s expression relaxed, though the corners of his lips twitched at the sight of the damaged door. “You should’ve practiced in a spacious area instead. It’s too—”

“It was my mistake. I won’t do it again,” said Chu Liuyue with a sheepish smile.

“That had better be! Why would you practice your cultivation in the house when there are plenty of places for that in the academy? But then again... You’re a heavenly doctor. Why are you wasting your time and energy on the warrior path?”

But before Chu Liuyue could say anything, the answer dawned on him.

“You’re a dual cultivator?!”

Chu Liuyue stayed silent for a moment before saying, “I’m also a warrior.”

Zhong Xun—who didn’t seem to notice her pause—said frankly to her, “I see... That explains your talent in this aspect! However, it’s better that you place your focus on the heavenly doctor path since you’re extremely talented at it.”

Even in the academy itself, students who cultivated the heavenly doctor path were somewhat prideful.

Chu Liuyue smiled and nodded. “Thanks for your advice, Thong Xun. ‘

It was only after looking around the house a couple more times and leaving repeated warnings to Chu Liuyue that Zhong Xun finally took his leave.

As Chu Liuyue stared at the destroyed door, she muttered under her breath, “That door is so lousy... I better replace it with a stronger one tomorrow.”

“How is that the door’s problem?!” Shangguan Jing snapped at her. “Why didn’t you restrain yourself a little just now?! My old and feeble body barely managed to contain the force!”

“But you don’t have a body...”

‘ ..That’s not important! In any case, I want you to be careful in the future!”

“Okay.” After a while, Chu Liuyue asked, “Are you really alright?”

Shangguan Jing snorted in response. “Ask me that again when you’ve become a stage-nine warrior!”

“Okay.” Chu Liuyue broke into a chuckle, feeling relieved to know that he was fine. She didn’t continue studying Jingshen Fist and instead started absorbing more force with the hopes that she could break through as soon as possible.

Unbeknownst to her, Shangguan Jing had a hard time calming himself down. This lass is currently only a beginner stage-seven warrior, yet she managed to execute an advanced Earth-grade warrior technique to such an extent. This is really shocking! Between her ability and the warrior technique, I wonder which exactly is the truly extraordinary

“That thing will appear at any time, and many people will surely be after it. If it ends up in the hands of...” Elder Bo Yan’s voice trailed off as a grave expression appeared on his face.

Everyone in the hall was quiet. They, too, were looking somewhat serious.

Just then, Rong Xiu suddenly turned his head and frowned as he looked in a certain direction. That commotion...

Elder Bo Yan paused. “What’s wrong, Rong Xiu? Is anything the matter?”

As Rong Xiu retracted his gaze, the ripples of emotions in his eyes got hidden away as well. “Nothing. Please go on.”

He leaned back against his chair and placed a hand on the armrest. Even though he appeared as lazy and noble as usual, his eyes were drooping slightly.

Nobody caught the glint in his eyes though.

She really can't behave herself I can't believe she found her way back to the academy... Rong Xiu massaged his temples and then looked at

Elder Wan Zheng. He leaned slightly over to the latter and whispered, "Elder Wan Zheng, why were you late just now?"

Elder Wan Zheng waved his hand. "A bunch of naughty kids was caught betting on pills! The new student didn't know the rules and gathered people to gamble. He seemed to be quite talented in this aspect though. In any case, they've been punished!"

Rong Xiu raised his eyebrows. What's this feeling of déjà vu...?

"Why are you asking about this?"

"No reason." Rong Xiu curled his lips and flashed Elder Wan Zheng a gentle and polite smile.

Why does it look like he's pitying me? What's with that look? Elder Wan Zheng found Rong Xiu's smile rather strange, but when he wanted to take a closer look at the latter's expression, the latter had already looked away and was nodding his head slightly as if he were seriously paying attention to what Elder Bo Yan was saying.

He suppressed the uneasy feeling in his heart. It's not like we haven't gotten any troublemakers in school before. Most of them tend to behave themselves after punishment. That person is an exception though...

A shiver ran down Elder Wan Zheng's back out of nowhere, and he quickly suppressed the thought.

The meeting in Dong Huang Clock Tower went on until the next day, but this was nothing to the people present. Given their cultivation levels, staying up for a night wasn't a big deal to them.

"I'll leave the rest to you all then," said Elder Bo Yan in a sincere manner as he stood up.

"You're being too polite, Elder Bo Yan. As Ling Xiao Academy's students, it's only right that we do our part for the academy."

"Yeah! It's our honor to do something for the school!"

Elder Bo Yan expressed his gratitude to everyone present before they ended the meeting and left.

Rong Xiu took his sweet time, and before he knew it, he was one of the last ones in the room. Some people even looked back, but they didn't say anything, for they knew that the teachers treated Rong Xiu differently from them. It couldn't be helped that he was much stronger than the rest of them. In fact, it would be weird if the elders didn't trust and value him.

Only Rong Xiu and the elders remained behind.

“Rong Xiu, why haven’t I heard you mention anything about the princess consort before?” asked Elder Bo Yan with hints of kindness in his expression. “I heard that she’s an outsider?”

The rest of the elders looked over when they heard that, for it was somewhat inappropriate for Rong Xiu to take an outsider as his princess consort.

Rong Xiu smiled and nodded. “It’s true.”

Elder Bo Yan was surprised when he studied Rong Xiu’s expression. He’s genuinely fond of that girl...

An elder at the side shook his head and sighed. “Rong Xiu, you’re being too willful. You’re the Sky-Cloud Empire’s saint now. How could you marry such a woman?”

Chapter 1125: Qing Yun Rank

Here it is! Rong Xiu—who had expected this question—smiled instead of feeling displeased. “It looks like the letter from Fairy Water Mound has reached Elder Dan Qing.”

Elder Dan Qing replied curtly with a frown, “The letter didn’t mention much. It was your doing, so it’s natural that the matter would spread. Don’t tell me that you were planning to hide the matter?”

The others fell silent. Even though they shared the same sentiments as Elder Dan Qing, they weren’t as blunt and agitated as him.

The reason why he paid extra attention to this matter was that Jiang Zhiyuan was his student. As her mentor, he naturally felt upset when he saw his beloved student being miserable and suffering such grievances. Hence, he found Rong Xiu to be somewhat of an eyesore as a result.

“The selection for the princess consort was an open one.” Rong Xiu smiled. “Everything that happened during the selection was witnessed by the people present.”

Elder Dan Qing was at a loss for words, for what Rong Xiu had done couldn't be considered as a deliberate cover-up.

“If Elder Dan Qing has any questions about the events of that day, I can answer them right away. That way, you needn't get angry for nothing from hearing unreliable news.” Despite the smile on Rong Xiu's face, these seemingly polite words were as sharp as a knife.

Elder Dan Qing's expression darkened. “Are you saying that Zhiyuan lied about everything and was deliberately accusing you?”

“I didn't say that.” Rong Xiu's eyebrows rose slightly. “But don't you think it's more convenient and accurate to hear from the person in question himself than an outsider?”

Outsider—with that one simple word, he instantly drew a line with Jiang Zhiyuan.

Elder Dan Qing felt stifled. He didn't want to get involved in this matter at first, but he felt bad to see how dispirited and miserable Jiang Zhiyuan was after returning to the academy. Hence, he couldn't resist the urge to question Rong Xiu.

Though, what Rong Xiu said was right since Jiang Zhiyuan was indeed an outsider to him. Aside from the fact that she wasn't even on par with him in terms of status, he had never shown any interest in her before. It was ultimately just Jiang Zhiyuan's own wishful thinking.

"Alright, alright. That's Rong Xiu's own business; he has a mind of his own and knows his priorities. Since he has made up his mind, we shouldn't interfere with his decision," Elder Wan Zheng stepped in to mediate.

Elder Bo Yan nodded. "That's right. Rong Xiu, bring your wife over when you're free."

As Rong Xiu had spent quite some time in Ling Xiao Academy, the director and the mentors were all elders to him, so it was only normal for them to make such a request.

Rong Xiu, however, appeared somewhat hesitant for once. "...Some other day, I guess. The academy is currently facing some troubles. I'm afraid we'll be disturbing you from important business if I bring her here. Besides... she needs some time to get used to her new environment."

The elders looked at each other in surprise as they didn't expect Rong Xiu to politely refuse them. What sort of woman is the princess consort for him to be so protective of her?

"Well, that's true." Elder Bo Yan knew that this was a concession on Rong Xiu's part, so he didn't say anything more.

Just then, a loud and heavy bell sound could be heard coming from outside. It was from Dong Huang Clock Tower.

"The monthly assessment is about to begin." Elder Wan Zheng looked at Elder Bo Yan, who had to be present for occasions like this.

Elder Bo Yan nodded his head slightly. "Let's go out. Rong Xiu, you may leave fir—"

"I'll go out with you to take a look too," Rong Xiu interrupted Elder Bo Yan with a smile.

The elders revealed looks of surprise. "Really?"

Rong Xiu had always been aloof, and he wasn't a fan of crowds. Even when he was in the academy, he didn't show up for such occasions very often, which was why they were so taken aback.

"Yes." Rong Xiu's smile deepened slightly. "It just suddenly occurred to me that it's been a long time since I took the monthly assessments, so I missed them a little. You won't object, right?"

"Why would we?! Haha! Those brats would be overjoyed to know that you're here!" Elder Wan Zheng burst out laughing loudly.

Rong Xiu was famous for being outstanding in the academy. Even though he had left the academy, his reputation was still as resounding as ever. Many students secretly saw him as their model in the hope that they could, one day, become as outstanding as him and even surpass him.

Rong Xiu fell silent for a moment before he laughed. "...Probably... I guess."

Qing Ming Square was already bustling with activity even though the sun had just risen. Countless students were gathered there brimming with energy. Excitement, apprehension, and ambition could be seen on their faces. Although they were standing on the square in groups or all by themselves, their eyes were all fixed on the clock tower.

“So this is the monthly assessment! I wonder if I can successfully get a mentor...”

“It shouldn’t be a problem since we’ve been preparing over the past two weeks or so!”

“What a headache! I still haven’t figured out the Xuan formation I was asked to look at last month. I don’t think I’ll pass this time!”

“Haha, I just broke through two days ago! Hehe! There might be a chance that my rank will move up!”

Everyone was talking, and the noise made the originally quiet square much livelier.

Chu Liuyue followed Zhong Xun to the area for heavenly doctors.

The thing was that their area was slightly further away and located near to the Xuan Masters. They could even hear some of their whispers from their area.

Chu Liuyue followed everyone’s line of sight and looked in the direction of Dong Huang Clock Tower.
“Why does everyone seem to be looking over there?”

Thong Xun couldn’t hide the excitement on his face. ‘That’s because the Qing Yun Ranking will soon appear on the clock tower!’

Chu Liuyue was surprised to hear that. ‘Qing Yun Ranking?!’.

Chapter 1126: Eye Contact in the Crowd

The term wasn't unfamiliar to her; she had once unwittingly blurted out this term when she was sparring with Rong Xiu. The thing was that she didn't know what it was at the time. *So it's Ling Xiao Academy's ranking system...*

"You don't know about it?" Thinking that Chu Liuyue hadn't heard of the Qing Yun Ranking before, Zhong Xun patiently explained it to her. "The Qing Yun Ranking is Ling Xiao Academy's overall rank. It records the most talented students in the long history of the academy.

"It's divided into four lists, namely warrior, Xuan Master, heavenly doctor, and Armory Refinement Masters. Those four lists will also be on the north, south, east, and west walls of Dong Huang Clock Tower respectively.

"As long as you're a student here and are under the age of thirty, you have the chance of making it into the Qing Yun Ranking with your own ability!

"The first day of every month is a big day for the academy. Some people take the assessment to become the student of the elder of their choice, while some do it for the sake of treasures. What's most important here, though, is to get a rank! You have a lot of benefits if your name is on the Qing Yun Ranking! The director and elders will have a better impression of you too!" Chu Liuyue understood now. "That explains it..."

"What?"

“Nothing, I was just thinking it’s no wonder everyone is so excited and finds the

Qing Yun Ranking so important.” With her arms crossed in front of her chest, Chu Liuyue smiled and tapped her chin thoughtfully. No wonder I bluffed that out when I was sparring with Rong Xiu, even though I didn’t have any related memories. I guess I used to be obsessed with ranking higher than Rong Xiu on the Qing Yun Ranking...

At the thought of that, Chu Liuyue suddenly felt somewhat curious. She turned her

head and looked at Dong Huang Clock Tower’s grand black walls. Qing Yun Ranking... I wonder what RongXiu’s rank is and which list he’s on?

Creak...

Dong Huang Clock Tower’s doors opened, and a group of people walked out. This commotion immediately silenced the noisy crowd, for they all knew that it was the elders who were coming out.

It didn’t take long before the crowd noticed that there were ten or so young men and women amidst the elders. They naturally felt curious since only the more important elders were allowed to enter the clock tower.

Someone soon recognized the group of young men and women though. “Eh? Isn’t that Young Master Wei? Why is he here?”

“Young Master Wei? Which Wei family?”

“Qinggu Slope’s Wei family, of course!”

“So that’s him?! Word has it that he is extremely talented and is highly valued by his family. He’s basically the Wei family’s strong heir candidate! However, didn’t he complete his studies and leave the academy last year? What’s he doing here now?”

“Look! That seems to be Flying Star Sect’s second miss, Shi Rui’er! Why is she here too?”

“...Haven’t you guys realized that they all used to be our academy’s students and are members of the most influential families?” someone whispered.

It was only then that the rest of the people realized that seemed to be the case. Most of those people had already left the academy; only a few were still studying there. When gathered together, their combined influence was enough to shake the entire God Residence Realm. It was no wonder that the crowd reacted that way.

All of a sudden, the crowd fell silent, and the air around them seemed to be frozen.

Upon sensing the subtle change in atmosphere, Chu Liuyue looked over as well. As she was standing at the back of a very remote area, she couldn’t really make out the features of the group of people walking out from the clock tower. However, she recognized the tall and slender man in white almost instantly when he walked out.

The sky was currently clear and bright. The black Dong Huang Clock Tower stood coldly behind Rong Xiu, and the reliefs on its bronze doors were lifelike and majestic, forming a contrast with the white Qing Ming Square.

Rong Xiu was the most distinctive and eye-catching color in between these two extreme colors. Although he looked ethereal in his white clothes, his slightly drooping eyes cast a faint shadow on his fair skin. From a distance, it looked like a bright white jade that had been dipped into the deep blue ocean. He easily attracted everyone's attention with his presence.

Even though there were many handsome men and pretty ladies in that group of people who had walked out, they instantly paled in comparison. The crowd fell silent with his appearance.

Upon sensing something, Rong Xiu looked up.

Everyone was shaken by that gaze of his, for he had such deep and impenetrable eyes that they seemed capable of swallowing everything. The gentleness in his eyes at that moment, however, could make people melt in them. Some ladies were blushing as they stared at him in a daze, but his gaze was only on one person.

Chu Liuyue's eyes met his. When she saw him narrowing his eyes, her heart thumped, and she quickly averted her gaze out of guilt.

However, she regretted her action as soon as she did that. Why am I feeling guilty?! He ought to be the one feeling guilty instead! He surely knew that I used to study at Ling Xiao Academy, but he deliberately hid it from me. He didn't even tell me that he had received news from the academy! Ultimately, he's the one in the wrong!

But when she looked up again, she noticed that Rong Xiu was surrounded by a few elders and that they were whispering something to him. As Rong Xiu was very tall, he lowered his head slightly for convenience's sake. He seemed to be carefully paying attention to the conversation and was nodding calmly to it.

The other young men and women were standing toward the side. Hence, the position where Rong Xiu was standing—together with the elders—appeared very special in comparison. The elders seemed to be very friendly and polite toward him too.

Whispers slowly broke out among the crowd as they came back to their senses. “Gosh, who’s that man?! He looks so outstanding. There’s no reason why I wouldn’t have an impression of him if he’s a student here!”

“He resembles someone... Could he be...?”

“Sky-Cloud Empire! Could he be Rong Xiu, the saint of the Sky-Cloud Empire?! I heard that he left the academy a few years ago, so I didn’t expect to see him here

today!”

“Rong Xiu?! T-that legendary Rong Xiu?!”

Gasps could be heard coming from the crowd.

Being the perceptive person he was, Elder Bo Yan naturally noticed everyone’s reactions. He couldn’t help but shake his head with a smile. “I knew it... I knew this would happen if you came. Why don’t I leave the monthly assessment to you—”

Rong Xiu humbly said, “I wouldn’t dare rob you of your duty, Elder Bo Yan. Please go ahead.”

Elder Bo Yan laughed and then took a step forward. “I, Bo Yan, would like to welcome you all on behalf of Ling Xiao Academy!”

Chapter 1127 You Go First!

His kind yet still authoritative gaze quickly swept across the crowd! Everyone could clearly hear his deep and low voice!

Chu Liuyue felt like a thunderbolt had seemingly struck beside her ear. It caused her blood to course around, showing the strength of it!

Her heart skipped a beat as she couldn't help but be stunned. Ling Xiao Academy indeed lives up to its name!

Elder Bo Yan's words made quite a few people excited, especially the new students who had just entered the academy in the recent month.

It was many people's dream to be able to enter Ling Xiao Academy and cultivate here. Now that they were standing here and listening to the academy elders' words, how could they not be excited?

"Today's test is split into two portions as usual." Elder Bo Yan stood with a hand behind his back. "The first portion is where the newcomers will find their mentors. After a period of understanding the place, the new students that have just entered in the last month should already have a teacher they want to follow the most. As long as you can pass the relevant assessments today, you can successfully enroll!"

"If you can't pass the test, you'll be given another chance to choose another teacher. If you still can't pass the second round, you have to leave the academy immediately! You can only come back three months later!"

The crowd fell silent. The nervousness in people's eyes became increasingly obvious.

“Ling Xiao Academy is really strict...” Chu Liuyue muttered to herself.

Even if one had already passed the elders’ first test in Fangzhou, it didn’t mean that they were officially the academy’s student. In the academy, there were even stricter tests waiting for them! One had to know that the first test’s standards were already very high. Together with this challenge... many people would be eliminated.

Many talents who were highly respected and envied outside might not even have the chance to enter the area! However... Ling Xiao Academy did have such capability! They wanted the top existences!

“Junior Brother Chu Yue, with your talent and capability, you can definitely pass the test.” Zhong Xun thought that she was worried about herself, so he comforted her. Chu Liuyue acknowledged it with a smile and didn’t explain further.

“For the second portion, it’s the assessment for all the students and the updating of the Qing Yun Ranking. This depends on your abilities!”

Chu Liuyue could clearly feel that the crowd became very excited when Elder Bo Yan talked about the ‘Qing Yun Ranking.’

“Great! Without further ado, let the monthly assessment begin!”

With Elder Bo Yan’s command, the elders took their spots.

Very quickly, many elders appeared in the centermost position of the square.

“All new students come forth!” hollered Elder Wan Zheng.

The crowd fell silent, and a young man walked forward. He previously stood with the Xuan Masters, and he was also going toward the Xuan Master elders.

With the first one taking action, the remaining newcomers walked out gradually.

Zhong Xun glanced at Chu Liuyue. Just as he wanted to pat her shoulders and encourage her, he felt a sudden gust of cold intent.

He stopped in his actions and instinctively looked toward the cold intent. However, he didn't see anything as if that moment of horror was just an illusion.

Chu Liuyue had already walked over.

Zhong Xun could only wave behind her back and encourage her. “All the best, Junior Brother Chu Yue!”

Even though his voice wasn't loud, he still attracted quite a few people's attention. This was because the name 'Chu Yue' was too popular in the academy these two days.

For three days in a row, he won all the pill betting wagers! One had to know that even the many wily old foxes in the academy couldn't do this! Additionally, on the last day of the month yesterday, the commotion he accidentally caused had ended up with hundreds of people's points being deducted.

Even if Chu Liuyue didn't want to be in the spotlight, it wasn't up to her. "Quickly, look! That's Chu Yue!" All sorts of voices came from the crowd.

"He's the brave one that gathered everyone to pill bet?"

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched slightly.

"Originally, I thought he'd be someone muscular, but I didn't expect him to be a pretty boy. He does look quite clean... If I didn't see him personally, I wouldn't have believed that this kid was so brave."

Chu Liuyue was speechless. It seems like something's wrong... I just wanted to earn some points easily. Why do I suddenly have such a title to my name? Please-if I knew about that rule, I wouldn't have gone against it, alright?!

Hence, Chu Liuyue welcomed everyone's gaze as she walked through the crowd and went to the front.

This was an area that was specifically left empty. Chu Liuyue took a deep breath as she looked up.

Dong Huang Clock Tower was in front. Below the tower were a few elders and a few young people who looked like students.

Four males and one female.

Including Chu Liuyue, only six people had to pass the tests on the heavenly doctor's side.

After Chu Liuyue stood still, she glanced at both sides. On the left was the Xuan Masters, and there were about 20 newcomers. Chu Liuyue quickly spotted Lin Zhifei standing within. She hadn't seen him for a while, and his body seemed to have recovered. His originally pale white face looked livelier and rosier, not as fragile as it had looked in the past.

Even though he still seemed quite frail, his distant aura still made him look quite distinguished.

As if detecting something, Lin Zhifei looked over.

Chu Liuyue retracted her vision and looked to her right—this was the Armory Refinement Master side, and there was no new student at all.

Oh, not even an elder.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly. They're... pretty straightforward.

When Elder Wen Xi brought them in, he had mentioned that there were very few Armory Refinement Masters in the academy. However, Chu Liuyue never expected there to be this few.

She couldn't see the warrior's side from her area, but she could guess that there would be the most people there. "Who will go first?" Elder Wan Zheng stood with his hands behind his back as his gaze gradually swept past the few of them.

Actually, he wasn't that fierce, but he was born with a strict, authoritative face. When he didn't smile, it gave others a very heavy sense of suppression.

People who were unfamiliar with him would mistake that he had a bad temper.

The few students standing in front of Chu Liuyue all became scared and nervous when he asked the question so directly. Nobody talked at that moment.

Elder Wan Zheng was already used to this scene and didn't mind it either. His gaze turned and landed on Chu Liuyue. "Kid! Come here!"

Many of the newcomers came with trepidation and curiosity, and they couldn't let go of anything easily. However, this Chu Yue was different-he had just come for a few days, yet he had already gotten himself into a lot of trouble.

With the earlier incidents as a precursor, his mental tolerance should be much stronger.

The crowd looked over.

Chu Liuyue stepped forward.

A pair of deep and heavy eyes landed on her.

Chapter 1128 Seeing a Shocking Talent Again!

"Have you thought about which teacher you want?" asked Elder Wan Zheng.

Chu Liuyue nodded. "I wonder... if I have the honor of being your student?" Elder Wan Zheng looked slightly shocked. The elders at the side also looked over with strange gazes. "Really? You really think so?" It wasn't weird for Elder Wan Zheng to have such a reaction. This was because although he was one of the more capable ones amongst the heavenly doctor elders, he was stricter than the rest and had higher expectations for his students. Hence, he wasn't the most sought-after one among the students.

One had to know that heavenly doctor cultivation was very different from other aspects. In many situations, one needed the teacher's help and guidance. In such circumstances, many people actually preferred to choose teachers who were gentler and easier to get along with.

At the very least, they wouldn't feel uneasy and pressured all the time.

For the past few years, Elder Wan Zheng had always been doing so. He hadn't taken any disciples in three whole years.

This wasn't because no students wanted him as their mentor, but... Those students couldn't pass his test. Hence, everyone was shocked at Chu Liuyue's choice.

"You need to be prepared to take on hardships if you want to be my student." Elder Wan Zheng sized Chu Liuyue up doubtfully. "With your body... Can you do it?"

Chu Liuyue laughed lightly. "You'll know if I can do it when you personally test me."

Elder Wan Zheng laughed out loud. "You're young, but you make big promises! Okay! Since you've said so, then... I'll personally test you!"

Elder Wan Zheng was challenged for once and was interested. He waved his hands and took out two pieces of paper.

With a flick of his wrist, the two pieces of paper flew toward Chu Liuyue.

She took it with her hands.

Elder Wan Zheng smiled and said, "It records a formula for a pill that I recently produced! However, one of them is real, and the other is fake. If you can choose which is real, you win!"

Once he said this, quite a few people exchanged glances. "Verifying the authenticity of the formula? Isn't that too simple..."

"What do you know!? Elder Wan Zheng wrote that formula himself! How can the difference be seen so easily?"

"That's right! In the last three years, Elder Wan Zheng has only used this method to recruit students. With this alone, nobody has passed his test even now!"

"I heard that Chu Yue was already an eighth-grade heavenly doctor at 16 years of age, so he might actually be able to..." "I don't think so. There were also people as outstanding as him and even better, but Elder Wan Zheng still didn't accept them."

"I wonder why Elder Wan Zheng has such high standards. Sigh..."

Chu Liuyue looked at the two formulas in her hands.

The two pieces of paper were regular-sized, but such thin and small pieces of paper couldn't fit the hundreds of herbs' names on it!

After taking one look at it, Chu Liuyue realized that the handwriting was disappearing. Then, numerous lines appeared on the clean paper once again this was the content that followed right after!

For herbs and ingredients alone, the lines had appeared four times!

The fifth time, it became the handling method.

After Chu Liuyue took a rough look at it, the handwriting disappeared again.

This time, no other traces appeared again. This also meant that from start to end, although Chu Liuyue gathered all her focus and energy, she only forcefully managed to finish reading that formula.

It would be extremely difficult for an ordinary person to finish reading it, let alone differentiate its authenticity!

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and looked at the next formula.

The same situation happened again. Luckily, Chu Liuyue was prepared, and it wasn't as nerve-racking or intense to read it.

Before the last line even disappeared, she had already retracted her gaze and passed the two formula sheets over.

Quite a few people sighed and felt pity. It seems like this Chu Yue can't do it either. That's true. With such a maniacal assessment method, who can pass it in the world?

"You're not looking at it anymore? You gave up?" Elder Wan Zheng took the two formula sheets and had an 'as expected' expression on his face. Anyway, I didn't expect anyone to be able

"The first one I saw was fake, and the second was real," said Chu Liuyue calmly and seriously.

"Mm... Mm? What?" Elder Wan Zheng couldn't react in time as he looked dazed.

Chu Liuyue smiled slightly and spoke in greater detail. "Although the blood osmanthus can energize people, its medicinal efficacy will be greatly discounted when placed with white bamboo. Besides, you even put two sticks of white bamboo in, which will increase the coldness of it. There's only harm and no benefits."

"Besides, you can't put berry malt and frozen stone in one after another. The smell that the former produces when it's being refined will greatly affect the extent of ice forming on the frozen stone. If you're not careful, the frozen stone will be completely ruined, and it will lose its medicinal efficacy." Chu Liuyue spoke lightly and curtly.

The surroundings gradually fell silent.

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Elder Wan Zheng's eyes slowly widened.

"...Do I still continue?" asked Chu Liuyue. I've already said so much. Anyone that understands the heavenly doctor trade even a little can understand, right?

"Y-you... How did you discern that?" Elder Wan Zheng's voice trembled slightly. Chu Liuyue slightly smiled. "Of course, I saw it with my eyes."

"No, I mean," As Elder Wan Zheng spoke, he saw the youngster's playful smile. He's witty and intelligent! Elder Wan Zheng's heart beat even faster. As a heavenly doctor, he knew too well how precious the talent this youngster had displayed was!

There were people who had a photographic memory, but very few were like Chu Yue, who could not only remember the herbs but even the quantity and the order in which they were placed! The most precious thing was that he clearly knew all the properties of those ingredients and even knew how to use them! He had completely understood them!

A thought popped up in Elder Wan Zheng's mind. I've finally met a treasure again!

"No need, no need!" said Elder Wan Zheng continuously. His rather stern and plain-looking face couldn't conceal his excitement and agitation as smiles filled his eyes. "This is enough! You've passed!"

If I don't even accept such a person, I will really be punished by the heavens! Back then, I couldn't win against the director. Now, it's finally my turn!

Chu Liuyue blinked. Passed? That's all? Oh, it seems like Elder Wan Zheng's request isn't that hard...

If the surrounding people knew of Chu Liuyue's current thoughts, they would definitely want to dig out her heart! You passed easily, but have you thought about others?! Do you know how much we have suffered?!

"Okay, okay! Chu Yue! Chu Yue, from now on, you're my Wan Zheng's—".

"Wait a minute!" Before Elder Wan Zheng could finish speaking, he was suddenly interrupted.

Elder Wan Zheng was dazed and turned around to look at the few heavenly doctors, feeling rather uneasy. Then, he heard one of them smile at Chu Liuyue and say, "Chu Yue, would you be interested in following me?"

Elder Wan Zheng grunted. They really came to snatch from me!

Chapter 1129 Acknowledge Mentor

"Why are you joining in?! Didn't you hear that Chu Yue wants me as his mentor? It's too much if you snatch him now, right?" Elder Wan Zheng said rudely. However, the elders didn't care about this. "The child has just come and doesn't know much about the academy. It's normal for him to make wrong decisions in such a sudden situation. You should let the child come over and take a look before he chooses his mentors!"

"Yeah! Wan Zheng, you pull a long face all the time, so which student wants to follow you? They'll be frightened to death by you! Chu Yue is young. How can he suffer such torture?" "Chu Yue, I think you should just come to my side! I guarantee you that it won't be worse than Wan Zheng!"

The few teachers swiftly said their piece.

There were already very few geniuses who were heavenly doctors, so how could they not be tempted when they met such an outstanding one? At this point, they threw all their reputation aside! They had to steal him over!

Chu Liuyue: "...” The few heavenly doctor elders aren't weak. This...

With the sudden change and the strange atmosphere, the spectating audience was also dazed. Aren't all the elders arrogant? Aren't the mentors all high and mighty? What is this situation?!

The incoming students who had yet to be tested had various expressions when they saw this situation. Some were envious, others were jealous, and there were also expressionless ones that people couldn't tell what they were thinking

"Fourth Brother, look! I said that kid definitely could do it, right!" On the Xuan Master's side, Luo Yanming looked at the distant scene and couldn't help but laugh. However, his eyes still had surprise and shock. Previously, I already knew that Chu Yue was very outstanding, but I didn't expect that he could pass Elder Wan Zheng's test! With such talent, he will have a bright future ahead of him as long as he properly cultivates in the academy!

"Mm." Luo Yanlin nodded slightly, and his impression of that youngster did change.

Actually, he didn't really think much of the other party. But it now seemed like... that Chu Yue was even stronger than he had expected... At the very least, he hadn't seen these few elders openly snatching a student in a long time—especially these few arrogant heavenly doctors.

"I didn't expect there to be an underdog in this assessment," said Elder Bo Yan—who was standing in Dong Huang Clock Tower—in shock. "What a surprise!"

Even though he wasn't a heavenly doctor himself, he could tell that the young man called Chu Yue did have great talent. At this point, Elder Bo Yan saw from the corner of his eyes that Rong Xiu seemed to be looking at that youngster as well. "What? Rong Xiu, do you have any opinions about that youngster?"

Rong Xiu retracted his vision, and his lips curled up slightly. "She's... indeed outstanding."

A flash of light quickly went across Elder Bo Yan's sharp and old eyes. "How rare to get your compliment!"

Rong Xiu never had much interest in such matters and wouldn't talk about anything he didn't care about. Besides, he was already a top talent on his own. There was only a handful of people that had the right to get his compliment and acknowledgment.

Rong Xiu smiled slightly. "She definitely has her abilities if she can make Elder Wan Zheng accept her."

"That's true." Elder Bo Yan stroked his beard. Ever since the time Elder Wan Zheng couldn't win against the director, he became even stricter than before. This was also the reason why he couldn't accept any disciples for such a long period of time. After seeing such a raw talent, he felt that other people were average and not good enough.

Elder Wan Zheng is very stubborn and refuses to lower his standards. Now that he has finally met one he likes, he definitely won't give up just like this.

"The warrior's side seems to have quite a few students too."

They seemed like they had a lot of potential, but Rong Xiu just smiled slightly and acknowledged with an 'mm.' He didn't even look over at the warrior's side; this meant that he didn't care anymore.

Elder Bo Yan felt increasingly confused and couldn't help but glance at Chu Liuyue again. This... Rong Xiu's personality hasn't changed, and he still doesn't care about anything else. He seems to care about...

"Elders, thank you for thinking highly of me, but I did choose Elder Wan Zheng to be my mentor. Therefore..." Facing the strong attacks from the few elders, Chu Liuyue didn't seem nervous as she smiled politely and humbly rejected them one by one.

From start to end, she didn't seem to waver at all.

Seeing her determined attitude, the few elders were quite disappointed and gave up in the end. There is no choice. Even if we snatch people, we need to see if they are willing to be stolen!

Elder Wan Zheng laughed out loud delightfully and heartily. "Hahaha! You don't even have a chance to steal him away!"

It's rare to have such a precious talent. I have to nurture him properly! Thinking about how he had harshly punished Chu Liuyue the day before, Elder Wan Zheng felt complicated. Luckily, this child is broad-minded and didn't take that incident to heart. If not, I would've missed this huge opportunity!

"Kid, don't worry! With me around, other people won't dare to bully you in the academy from now on!" assured Elder Wan Zheng boldly.

Chu Liuyue smiled.

“Then, thank you, Eld—Mentor.”

With the word ‘mentor,’ Elder Wan Zheng burst with joy. “Great, great, great! When we go back later, we’ll complete the formalities!”

Elder Wan Zheng was overjoyed and was in an extremely good mood.

This caused the mood at the heavenly doctor’s side to lighten up and become slightly strange. This was because... Chu Liuyue was the first student!

She was the first to go up, yet she performed so outstandingly. She had even successfully become Elder Wan Zheng’s disciple. This undoubtedly caused extreme stress for the remaining few people.

They were all heavenly doctors and were extremely sensitive in such aspects. They could all tell that Chu Liuyue was indeed very strong in this area!

If it were them, they might not even be able to remember the two formulas! How could they even deduce the authenticity of the formulas and point out the problems like she did?

In no time, there were many people in envy and also people with jealousy.

After passing the test, Chu Liuyue took a step back, stood at the side, and let someone else have her spot.

“Next!” an elder yelled.

The remaining few people exchanged glances. That woman stood up first. "I'll do it!"

Chu Liuyue looked at that woman. She seemed to be in her twenties. Her skin was white, her nose bridge was high and sharp, and she had watery and mesmerizing eyes. However, the faint arrogance in her eyes made her seem much more distant.

She walked straight to Elder Wan Zheng. "Elder Wan Zheng, I also want to be your student."

She looked around and glanced at Chu Liuyue in a seemingly challenging manner.

Chu Liuyue chuckled lowly. Ling Xiao Academy's students are really competitive...

Chapter 1130 Familiar Name!

Elder Wan Zheng seemed to be used to all of this as he laughed out loud, and two formulas flew out. "Okay! This is the formula for another pill. Take a look!" That woman took it with two hands and glanced at it. Then, her expression changed slightly.

When I was standing at the back previously, I didn't know that the words would appear one after another. When I saw how relaxed Chu Liuyue was, I thought...

Just as she panicked, the words on the paper had already disappeared. Very quickly, names of new herbs appeared again.

That woman then realized that she had thought things too simply as she started breaking out into a cold sweat.

“Wu Xuan is already a ninth-grade heavenly doctor, so she should pass the test more easily than Chu Yue, right?”

“Besides, she’s only 21 years old this year. In comparison, she should be as talented as Chu Yue. Perhaps Chu Yue won’t even reach Wu Xuan’s level when he’s 21.”

“That might not be so. If Elder Wan Zheng’s test could be passed so easily, why hasn’t anyone succeeded in the past three years? There were quite a few ninth-grade heavenly doctors amongst them!”

“Ah... Speaking of which, how exactly did Chu Yue pass? He’s too smart.”

Hushed discussions could be heard from behind.

Wu Xuan became increasingly nervous. Originally, she was very confident in herself and felt that she would be the most outstanding one out of all these people. So when she saw that the crowd was filled with praises for Chu Yue, she felt competitive and wanted to beat him.

However, she didn’t expect the test to be so hard!

The more she read on, the more frustrated and confused Wu Xuan got. How exactly did Chu Yue remember so many herbs in one go earlier!? He even directly found the problem!

Very quickly, the last line of words disappeared.

Wu Xuan looked at the second sheet anxiously, but she was already panicked. Even if she was very capable, she didn't execute her full potential.

The words on the second piece of paper appeared one after another and quickly disappeared.

"Are you done looking at it?" Elder Wan Zheng glanced at the two white sheets of paper in her hand and asked.

"Y-yes..." Wu Xuan's voice was a little empty, and her hands trembled slightly.

"Then, say it! Which is real, and which is fake?"

Wu Xuan didn't speak for a while. It was only when Elder Wan Zheng pressed her for an answer that she clenched her teeth and said, "The first is real, and the second is... No, the second is real..."

Elder Wan Zheng didn't speak and just stared at her.

After a while, Wu Xuan finally gave up as she lowered her head, and her cheeks flushed red.

She opened her mouth and said with much difficulty, "I-I don't know..."

Her words were filled with indignance and humiliation. It was honestly the first time that she admitted her incapability in front of so many people.

However, Elder Wan Zheng had seen too many of such scenes. He raised his hand, and a wave of force flew out.

The two sheets of paper silently turned into dust.

“You still have a second chance.”

Wu Xuan was shocked and then recalled that Elder Bo Yan had once mentioned everyone had two chances to acknowledge a mentor!

If they failed the first time, there was still a second chance. But if they failed both times, they would have to be chased out and couldn't officially become the academy's student.

She bit her lips and suddenly looked at Chu Liuyue at the side. “Elder Wan Zheng, I have something to ask. Was the formula that Chu Yue saw the same level as mine?”

If it weren't because the formula's grade was lower and was simpler than mine, how could he so easily

“Chu Yue's formula had a total of 198 types of herbs, and yours only had 181.” Elder Wan Zheng glanced at her and smiled. “Do you still have any questions?” Wu Xuan's face flashed white and red as she finally replied, “... N-no...”

Then, she bit her lips and moved a step back as there seemed to be tears in her eyes. She looked at Chu Liuyue with a complicated gaze. Is this young man really... that much stronger than me?" However, Chu Liuyue didn't take this matter to heart. This was because that familiar gaze was still on her.

She restrained the urge to look up.

"Next!"

The heavenly doctor's side was rather quiet, but the Xuan Master side and the warrior side were much livelier.

Some succeeded, and some failed. Some were elated, but others were disappointed. However, such a scenario would happen every month, so the old students were used to it.

From the corner of her eye, Chu Liuyue saw that Lin Zhifei seemed to have passed the test.

His talent was much stronger than what he had executed, so it was naturally not a problem for him to enter Ling Xiao Academy.

Then, Luo Yanming had also passed the test successfully.

Chu Liuyue took a look and pondered for a while. She estimated that it wouldn't be much of a problem for Zhuo Sheng and Luo Shishi.

The new students' assessments progressed very quickly. The heavenly doctor's side had ended the earliest—including Chu Liuyue, four out of six had passed the test. The remaining two failed regretfully.

The elimination rate at the Xuan Master's side was also a quarter. Looking at the disappointed youngsters' faces, Chu Liuyue's brows moved slightly. Ling Xiao Academy's standard is indeed the highest! However, the atmosphere with intertwining happiness and sorrow quickly disappeared. This was because after the first part—the new students' assessments—was over, more people were enthusiastically and nervously waiting for the Qing Yun Ranking!

Countless pairs of eyes focused on Dong Huang Clock Tower.

Elder Bo Yan laughed out loud. "It seems like all of you are anxious! Okay then; I'll release the rankings now!"

Then, he waved his sleeves.

Dong Huang Clock Tower struck thrice.

Dong!

Dong!

Dong!

Millions of light rays flew out the next moment, and it looked brilliant!

Rows of neat names appeared on the black metallic wall through the countless rays of light.

Chu Liuyue looked up; she was looking at the heavenly doctor ranking list!

A familiar name suddenly appeared!