

Noble Ruler 1201

Chapter 1201: It's Yours

It was as if Chu Liuyue had a very long dream.

In the dream, she seemed to be continuously struggling with some person. She couldn't see the other party's appearance or figure clearly. She didn't even know if the one going against her was a person. There was only an extremely strong force that gripped onto her tightly, flinging her forward.

She tried her best to retreat, wanting to escape, but her body was still dragged forward uncontrollably. Finally, she saw a gigantic abyss appear in front of her!

She looked down and knew that she definitely couldn't go there! Even if she didn't see anything and didn't know what it contained, her sharp instincts told her that it was dangerous!

Her feet were glued to the ground as she wanted to open her mouth to scream, but everything was to no avail. She was like a struggling fish in the desert, and what awaited her was only endless darkness and death!

Finally, she was still dragged to the edge of the black abyss! One of her feet had already slipped into that space!

"No, no!" The room was silent, so her sleep mutters were especially clear.

Rong Xiu had been sitting by the bed and holding her hand. Seeing that she seemed to awaken, he heaved a slight sigh of relief, but his heart ached again when he saw her pained and struggling expression.

She tightly furrowed her brows as if she were suffering immense pain, and she kept muttering.

Rong Xiu held her hand tightly and leaned in closer to peck her forehead. Then, he hugged her and allowed her head to rest on his chest as his other hand gently patted her hand to coax her gently and patiently. “Yue’er, I’m here.”

Hearing this low whisper, Chu Liuyue seemed to finally be at ease as her brows relaxed.

After a while, she slowly opened her eyes. Her vision was blurry.

She closed her eyes and clearly saw everything in front of her after she gradually adjusted to the surrounding light.

This was an unfamiliar house—the interior of the house was clean and tidy. Although there weren’t many objects, those on display were extremely precious.

Everywhere had a hint of discreet elegance.

Chu Liuyue immediately recovered her senses. This isn’t my house! That’s not right! Wasn’t I outside just now—

“You’re awake?” Rong Xiu’s voice came from the top of her head.

Chu Liuyue raised her head and gazed at him dazedly.

The two of them stared at each other.

Her eyes were especially beautiful, and they always sparkled with a cunning light. Perhaps it was because she had experienced too much or because she hadn't recovered her senses, but a layer of mist seemed to cover her eyes at this moment. They were blurry and unclear, with a hint of confusion in them.

"Senior Brother... Rong Xiu?" Chu Liuyue looked at him and instinctively called. She also didn't forget to add the two words at the front.

Rong Xiu's eyes instantly darkened—they were so dark that one couldn't see the bottom of them. His gaze was very dangerous as if he were suppressing something, but his actions were especially gentle.

After a moment, he stopped in his actions, pinched her chin, and tilted her head up slightly. After taking a closer look, he then nodded in satisfaction. "Mm, you shouldn't be able to tell."

Even though he really wanted to continue, he still restrained himself when he thought of the group of people waiting outside.

Chu Liuyue's glabella twitched.

At this point, she had already recalled everything that happened before she fainted. She recalled that she was originally fighting that man, but he flung her away. Then, the Long Yuan Sword hit against the supreme Yuan instrument, and the sword soul started moving toward it.

Then, as she couldn't withstand the suppression caused by that process, she fainted. Afterward—

“Where's the Yuan instrument?” Chu Liuyue widened her eyes slightly and grabbed Rong Xiu's arm.
“That sword—”

“Don't worry. That item is fine.” Rong Xiu knew what she wanted to ask and immediately gave a reply. His tone was calm with his usual nonchalance as if he were narrating a very simple matter.

No matter what, he always seemed to be this calm and composed.

Chu Liuyue was affected by him, and she felt more at ease. She heaved a sigh of relief. “That's great. That's great...”

I thought that it—

“The owner of that item left a notebook in the academy previously. I'll go and help you find it later.”

“What?” Rong Xiu's sudden sentence confused Chu Liuyue. Owner? Notebook? What do I need that for?

Seeing her reaction, Rong Xiu raised his sharp brows slightly and squinted his phoenix eyes.

Chu Liuyue's heart started beating rapidly. Wait, it can't be—

“You still don’t know?” said Rong Xiu in a seemingly smiling manner. “That supreme Yuan instrument has already recognized you as its owner.”

“...” Chu Liuyue widened her eyes slowly.

“For some reason, it had a missing weapon soul. Your Long Yuan Sword’s sword soul successfully entered it, causing it to become your Yuan instrument as well,” explained Rong Xiu slowly. “Logically speaking, your sword’s sword soul shouldn’t be able to control the supreme Yuan instrument. The only possibility was that it completely consumed and destroyed it, but... For some reason, the sword soul suddenly became the master in the end... It’s also one of the reasons why you fainted. The moment the two forces clashed, you couldn’t handle it and thus fainted.”

Chu Liuyue clearly heard every single word that Rong Xiu said and understood each of them on its own, but she was confused when the words were joined together. To be more accurate, she was taken aback by the matter’s entire process. I really didn’t think of taking that item as my own! Back then, I talked to Ancestor about this and clearly planned on leaving it for the academy. However, why did it become mine in the end?

Rong Xiu gently stroked her face. “Don’t worry. Back then, everybody saw clearly that you didn’t mean to occupy it on purpose but that you unintentionally hit it when they attacked you. Additionally, nobody knew that the supreme Yuan instrument had no weapon soul... Everything was just a coincidence, so the elders won’t blame you.”

Hearing this, Chu Liuyue finally found her own voice. She asked with much difficulty, “Then... where are we now? Where are the elders...?”

Rong Xiu said, “Oh, we’re at my house now. Elder Shu Feng and the rest are waiting in the living room.”

The gaze Chu Liuyue shot at him became strange instantly. “So how did we—”

“I carried you back.”

Chapter 1202: Finding Excuses for Him

Those few sentences contained so much information that Chu Liuyue found it hard to process everything right away. She fell silent for a moment.

With much difficulty, I managed to get the supreme Yuan instrument back. Then, Rong Xiu carried the unconscious me back to his room. And while we're staying in here, the elders are currently waiting outside... Chu Liuyue massaged her temples, no longer seeing a need for her to go out. Judging by the situation, she felt like she might die if she stepped out of the room.

Knock, knock.

A young man was then heard speaking carefully. “Rong Xiu, is Chu Yue awake? Elder Wan Zheng and the others are very worried. They would like to come in and take a look at him if he still hasn't come around.”

While Chu Liuyue was at a loss for what to do, Rong Xiu burst out chuckling when he saw the pitiful expression on her face. It was only a moment later that he raised his voice a little and said, “Go tell the elders that he's awake. I'll bring him out after he gets some rest.”

“Understood,” answered the young man respectfully before leaving right away.

Meanwhile, Chu Liuyue closed her eyes in despair. “Are you sure I won't get beaten to death if I go out?”

“Who would dare to do that?” Rong Xiu raised his eyebrows, but despite his smiling expression, his voice sounded a bit intimidating and domineering. It was gone in a flash though.

He got off the bed and then carried Chu Liuyue out from the blanket. “Do you want to dress up on your own, or do you need my help?”

He had removed her outer shirt earlier so that she could get some proper rest. And although her inner clothes remained intact, the question sounded somewhat ambiguous coming from him.

“You’re still in the mood to crack jokes with me?” Chu Liuyue shot a glare in his direction. I don’t even know how I should deal with the elders when I step out later!

Rong Xiu kissed her on the cheek before reluctantly putting her down on her feet and saying with a smile, “I guess you’re really worried about how the elders are going to punish you. This is rare.”

Chu Liuyue—who had just put on her outer shirt and was just about to tidy her hair—turned to look at him when she heard that. “I beg your pardon?”

“Nothing.” Rong Xiu’s lips curled up in amusement. “Actually, you don’t have to worry too much. What happened with the supreme Yuan instrument is purely an accident—it wasn’t intentional on your part. Besides, it’s only right that I stay behind to take care of you since you rescued me just now.”

Chu Liuyue’s mind was slightly put at ease when she knew that Rong Xiu would be around, although she was actually thinking about how she was going to face the elders’ interrogation later. There were so many things she needed to explain after all.

After taking a deep breath, she said, “Let’s go!”

...

It was quiet in the hall, with the elders sitting in line based on their seniority. Wei Xiping and the others had long been sent back, and those currently present were all important members of Ling Xiao Academy. Even Elder Bo Yan—who wasn't involved in the matter outside—was here too.

Nobody spoke, and everyone had varying complicated expressions on their faces. While a few people would occasionally glance in Elder Wan Zheng's direction, the latter pretended not to notice it. It wasn't like he was in the mood to care about what they thought either.

His mind was currently filled with images from before. He had been feeling very proud and smug about the fact that he had taken in a genius disciple, but it was only now that he realized that said disciple wasn't so simple. On top of that, his disciple was a real troublemaker.

Elder Wan Zheng didn't know what excuse he could find to get his disciple out of this mess.

Just then, footsteps were heard coming from outside. Everyone in the hall immediately looked up, only to see two figures walking over toward them one after another.

In the lead was Rong Xiu—who had already changed his clothes. Walking a step behind him was Chu Yue, who everyone was waiting for.

Countless eyes were pinned on them—more specifically, on Chu Yue—as the two entered the hall. Rong Xiu typically tended to be the center of attention whenever he appeared in the academy, so it was very rare for people to ignore his presence like this.

Even with her eyes slightly looking down, Chu Liuyue could feel the eyes boring into her.

“I’m sorry to keep everyone waiting.” Calmly and politely, Rong Xiu paid a bow to the elders.

Chu Liuyue did the same and greeted them. “I, Chu Yue, pay my respects to everyone here.”

Seeing how nobody responded to her, Chu Liuyue had the intensifying feeling that the situation was a little bad. But fortunately for her, Elder Bo Yan was the first person to speak. “Take a seat, Rong Xiu.”

Rong Xiu shook his head and replied with a smile, “I wouldn’t dare to—not when all the elders are here.”

Knowing the kind of person Rong Xiu was like, Elder Bo Yan didn’t bother to insist on it. The former’s character was such; he acted according to his wishes, and it was useless for anyone to say anything about it.

Hence, Elder Bo Yan turned his attention to Chu Liuyue instead.

It was the first time he was studying this freshman from such proximity. Although he had a deep impression of Chu Yue, he had never taken a good look at the latter before. However, there was no way he couldn’t do that today.

He was actually quite familiar with the name Chu Yue since the latter had actually successfully passed the monthly examination, become Wan Zheng’s disciple, and got locked up in Fengmin Mountain on his first day of school. Any of those accomplishments were enough to make a deep impression, not to mention the trouble he had caused today.

“Chu Yue?” Elder Bo Yan stroked his beard calmly. “Are you feeling better?”

Chu Liuyue hurriedly replied, “Yes, I’m much better now. Thank you for your concern, Elder Bo Yan.”

A snort was heard coming from the side just then. “Are you sure he was showing concern for you? And not because you usurped the supreme Yuan instrument for yourself—”

“Guan He.” Elder Bo Yan raised his voice slightly and shot a look of warning at him.

Elder Guan He angrily turned his head away with a snort in response. He didn’t bother to hide the fact that he was reproaching Chu Yue. “Did I say anything wrong? We planned for months, gathered people from everywhere, and finally managed to wait until that sword emerged. It didn’t even manage to make it past the school entrance, and it became his! No matter what, I demand an explanation from him!”

Elder Bo Yan frowned and was just about to say something when Rong Xiu suddenly spoke up. “You’re not entirely correct, Elder Guan He. It’s true that supreme Yuan instruments are hard to come by, and it’s also true that it has now become Chu Yue’s possession. However, you can’t blame him for that.”

Elder Guan He’s expression changed. “I can’t believe you’re finding excuses for him, Rong Xiu. You suffered a lot to bring that thing back, but it ended up—”

The weapon had been in Rong Xiu’s possession, and he was the one who had been besieged, so he naturally had the most say among everyone here.

With a smile, Rong Xiu explained, “I’m not trying to find excuses for him. What I said is true.”

Chapter 1203: How Did You Open the Barrier?

“Several elders were present at the time, so I believe that they saw what happened clearly. Chu Yue was just trying to get the weapon back and not let it fall into Jin Lei’s hands; he didn’t mean to keep it for himself. This wouldn’t have happened if Jin Lei didn’t launch a counter-attack and Chu Yue didn’t accidentally bump into him,” explained Rong Xiu in a calm and relatively objective manner.

A few elders expressed their agreement as well. “He’s right. That was indeed what happened back then.”

“I can vouch that Chu Yue didn’t do it on purpose...”

Elder Guan He frowned and retorted, “You can’t just look at the surface of the matter! That’s a supreme Yuan instrument after all! The Golden Wings Sect’s people went out of their way to chase us all the way to Fangzhou City. Who’s to know if he would take advantage of the situation to get the weapon?”

Elder Wan Zheng couldn’t hold himself back anymore. “What do you mean by that, Guan He?”

“Everyone knows what I mean. Chu Yue, don’t you know best why the matter ended up like this?” Elder Guan He wasn’t convinced by Rong Xiu’s explanation. “Although this matter was strictly kept as a secret at first, many people in the academy found out about it when the chase ended up in Fangzhou. I’m sure Elder Bo Yan can testify to this, right?”

Elder Bo Yan paused. “Some people might’ve inadvertently gotten wind of the matter... But this can’t be considered proof against Chu Yue.”

“Hmph! Why would he take such a risk if he wasn’t driven by interest? In my opinion, he had it all planned out from the start; otherwise, how did he suddenly appear at Rong Xiu’s side? Also, how could it be so coincidental that the supreme Yuan instrument didn’t have a weapon soul and that his sword soul just so happened to take advantage of this opportunity to occupy it?!”

The crowd fell silent once more. Even Elder Wan Zheng was unable to say anything in Chu Yue’s defense, for it was indeed too much of a coincidence that one couldn’t help but feel suspicious.

All of a sudden, Rong Xiu asked, “Elder Guan He, do you know what cultivation level Jin Lei had reached?”

Elder Guan He was stumped by the question. Although he wasn’t outside at the time and didn’t spar with any of those people, he had more or less heard a thing or two. “True god.”

Rong Xiu nodded. “That’s right—he was indeed a true god. In fact, he had also managed to form half of his Holy Body.”

The elders weren’t surprised by that. It was only normal that one would try to form their Holy Body as soon as possible after breaking through to become a true god.

“Then, do you know what Chu Yue’s current cultivation level is?”

Surprise appeared on Guan He’s face for a moment before he said in irritation, “He’s just a freshman, and it’s not like he’s my disciple. How would I know that?”

Rong Xiu glanced at Elder Wan Zheng. “Elder Wan Zheng, I believe you—Chu Yue’s master—should know best, right?”

Elder Wan Zheng hesitated for a moment before saying, "Intermediate stage-seven."

"That's impossible!" Elder Guan He refuted immediately. "He unleashed a holy force! How could he only be an intermediate stage-seven warrior?!" I heard this from several elders, so it can't be false!

"It's true," said Elder Wen Xi. With a rare solemn expression, he said, "It was I who conducted the entrance assessment on him. He was only a beginner stage-seven warrior at the time, so I believe that he reached the intermediate stage just recently. I can guarantee this with my name."

Elder Guan He was rendered speechless since it must be true if Elder Wen Xi said so. "T-then, what was that holy force about?!"

The elders looked at Chu Liuyue in unison.

Chu Liuyue—who finally had the chance to speak—sighed internally before explaining, "I got that holy force from... an elder some time ago."

Of course, she couldn't say that she had snatched it over.

It was quiet in the hall once more, with the elders looking at each other. This reason seems to make sense... After all, Wen Xi and Wan Zheng have no need to lie about this for the sake of a student.

"Well, nobody foresaw that the supreme Yuan instrument had no weapon soul," said Elder Shu Feng out of nowhere. "We saw it emerge with our own two eyes and even tried to bring it back, but we never discovered anything amiss with it. If we didn't know about it, then all the more Chu Yue—who had been in the academy—was clueless about it. I doubt that he had planned for this. Besides, I saw the sword he

owned—it was an advanced Yuan instrument. By right, the sword soul hidden in it shouldn't be able to occupy a supreme Yuan instrument, but it still did. I think... Chu Yue probably has an affinity with the supreme Yuan instrument in the first place!"

Elder Shu Feng was very open-minded about it. "Honestly speaking, the reason why we tried so hard on this mission was just so that we could bring it back to the academy and not let it go to someone else. Although the sword now belongs to Chu Yue, he's a student of the academy. In a way, the sword is still back in the academy. It's also not a bad thing that someone managed to inherit the legacy, don't you think so?"

Many elders nodded their heads in agreement as what Elder Shu Feng said made sense. Besides, now that the weapon had acknowledged Chu Yue as its owner, it would only regain its freedom if Chu Yue was dead.

They couldn't possibly kill Chu Yue, could they? He was a student of the academy after all, a very promising one at that. Most importantly, he wasn't entirely at fault for what happened. At the very least, he had helped Rong Xiu, which was an incredible feat itself.

Elder Guan He's expression changed, but he didn't say any more about the matter and merely just let out a snort.

Elder Bo Yan, on the other hand, appeared a lot gentler than before when he looked over. "Don't worry, Chu Yue. Let's just accept the reality since it has already happened! However, you have to work hard in your cultivation from now on. Don't destroy the reputations of the school and that elder."

Does that mean... he's not going to pursue the matter? Chu Liuyue gleefully answered, "Thank you, Elder Bo Yan! I'll bear that in mind!"

She thought that this matter was quite tricky at first, but it ended up getting resolved rather smoothly, although this was perhaps due to the help of Rong Xiu, Elder Wan Zheng, and a few other elders.

When the elders didn't ask why Rong Xiu had carried her back and spent so long in the room with her, she figured that this matter was nothing in comparison to the supreme Yuan instrument. Thus, not many people paid attention to it.

But just as she heaved a sigh of relief, she heard somebody calling her name from the side, making her heart leap to her mouth again.

"Chu Yue." The person calling her name was Elder Hua Feng. He had been silently watching her ever since she entered the hall, and it was only now that he addressed her.

Elder Hua Feng sat straight up and looked into her eyes as if he wanted to see through all her thoughts. In a clear manner, he asked, "How did you manage to get past the academy's barrier?"

Chapter 1204: As Expected of the Woman I Love

The hall was filled with silence as soon as the question was posed. Many people—who had never realized this problem because their attention had been on the supreme Yuan instrument—were suddenly aware of it.

That's right! That's a very important question! The barrier has always been heavily guarded, and it's all the more so today. After we realized that the Golden Wings Sect's people had chased us all the way to Fangzhou, we sent several elders out to provide assistance and guard the barrier. Nobody can easily get past the barrier, but Chu Yue... somehow did it! Everyone's eyes turned to Chu Liuyue, their gaze filled with suspicion and scrutiny.

The atmosphere was tense as if the air around them was frozen.

“According to the elders guarding the barrier, they didn’t feel any unusual activity at the time.” Elder Hua Feng stared closely at her. “Only the Xuan Master elders responsible for guarding the barrier can open the barrier without raising any commotion, so how did you manage to do that?”

It should be known that all students of the academy had to report to the elders when entering and exiting the barrier. If not, their black jade plaque would emit a warning sound and leave behind evidence when they attempted to cross the barrier. However, that didn’t happen to Chu Yue. It was like he suddenly appeared outside the barrier, and he even managed to get past all the obstacles and arrived next to Rong Xiu in a flash.

All of this would be explainable if she were a true god, but she was only an intermediate stage-seven warrior. The fact that a freshman—who had only entered the academy less than a month ago—was able to do this was suspicious.

Chu Liuyue’s body was tense as she looked down at the ground in front of her, trying to quickly come up with a reasonable explanation. She didn’t think so much when she was exiting the school premises, for she had been so worried about Rong Xiu at the time. But from the time she had regained her consciousness, she knew that the elders would surely question her about this. Part of her worries stemmed from this.

How should I explain this matter? Do I have to say that I learned it from a fragmented memory of mine? That’s just making things worse! I obviously used to be a student here, or I wouldn’t have had those memories. But how am I going to explain things clearly to them when I can’t remember anything from that time? Besides, not many students would know how to open the barrier, and that would make my identity even more suspicious.

It was so quiet in the hall that one could’ve heard a pin drop, and everyone’s breath was held. Even Elder Wan Zheng’s eyebrows were tightly knitted together. “Chu Yue, you... What exactly happened? Just tell us what you know.”

Chu Yue was his student after all. It’d be a lie to say that he didn’t feel bad for him and that he wasn’t biased toward him. Even now, he still wanted to believe in his student, even though the latter seemed really suspicious. “I’ll believe you no matter what.”

Chu Liuyue looked up in surprise and saw Elder Wan Zheng sitting in the chair with one hand on the armrest and the other hand tightly clenched in front of him. She could see the nervousness and worry in him. Despite the hints of resignation in his eyes, there was even more gentleness and leniency in the way he looked at her, and it warmed her heart.

“Wan Zheng, it doesn’t matter if you believe him or not,” said Elder Guan He after keeping quiet for a while. “I told you that this kid has a problem. Why don’t you believe me? There’s no way he’d do all those things if he’s really an ordinary student as well as an ordinary intermediate stage-seven warrior! Even if he’s your disciple, you have to open your eyes wide, Wan Zheng!”

Elder Wan Zheng clenched his fists even tighter, but his gaze remained on Chu Liuyue.

Understanding that everyone was waiting for her explanation, she took a deep breath and opened her mouth...

“I taught her that,” said Rong Xiu before she had the chance to say anything.

Chu Liuyue looked at him in shock, only to see him standing calmly with his hands behind his back and with a faint smile on his face.

His words, however, caused a commotion in the quiet hall. The elders looked at each other in what seemed to be surprise.

Even Elder Bo Yan—who had remained calm so far—showed a hint of shock and disbelief. “What did you say, Rong Xiu?! Did you just say... you taught him that?!”

Rong Xiu frankly nodded his head as he met the elders' skeptical gazes. "That's right."

Like a bowl of cold water poured into a pan filled with hot oil, his answer sparked a huge commotion.

"What do you mean by that, Rong Xiu?!" Elder Guan He couldn't help but jump to his feet and stare closely at Rong Xiu and Chu Liuyue.

Rong Xiu, however, didn't seem to realize how big of a shock his words were to the people present. He said with a smile, "I'm sure everyone here should know that I'm able to open the barrier, right? I taught that to Chu Yue, and that's how she was able to open it. What's so strange about that?"

What is so strange about that? Everything, of course! Rong Xiu was the best student in the academy, and it's true that he was able to open the barrier starting a few years back. However, that isn't where the problem is!

"Take a seat, Guan He. Don't get so agitated." Elder Bo Yan raised his hand and motioned him to sit down.

Elder Guan He angrily sat back in his seat and gave the two a deep look. Let's see what they have to say!

"Rong Xiu." Elder Bo Yan, being the person with the highest status here, was naturally the most suitable person to question him about this matter. "That's your business if you can open the barrier, but why did you teach it to Chu Yue? What's your relationship with him, and when did you teach him that?"

He paused before continuing, "It's only been about a month since you came back, but you left with Elder Shu Feng and the others not long after that. By right, there's no chance for the two of you to cross paths

with each other.” Other than the monthly assessment day where they sort of met each other, I don’t think there was any chance for them to meet. Unless these two have known each other from way back!

“Chu Yue... and I do know each other.” Rong Xiu didn’t deny it, but he gave an ambiguous answer.

The elders fell silent for a moment.

Elder Bo Yan frowned. “Why didn’t you mentio—”

His words suddenly cut off though. Oh right, Rong Xiu did take a few looks at Chu Yue when we were at Dong Huang Clock Tower that day. I didn’t pay attention to it back then because Chu Yue, having become Wan Zheng’s disciple, was the focus of attention at the time. Nothing seemed unusual about Rong Xiu taking a few more looks at him, but now that I think about it, it turns out that they knew each other even then!

“I taught it to her before she came to the academy, thinking that she would take a while before she could master it. I didn’t expect her to comprehend it so quickly.” As Rong Xiu said that, he turned his head and flashed Chu Liuyue an appreciative smile. “Not bad.”

As expected of the woman I love.

Chapter 1205: Punishment

Chu Liuyue was speechless. If there weren’t so many elders around her giving her the death stare, she would be a lot happier to hear this praise. That said, she never expected Rong Xiu to take responsibility for this matter on her behalf.

Many thoughts flashed through her mind as she pursed her lips. Rong Xiu probably knows what's going on. It's clear that he's trying to cover it up for me so that I can hide my secret. Does that mean... he knew from the start that I would be able to open the barrier? Why didn't he mention it before? But then again, his attitude has always been like this when it came to matters involving the academy. He won't say much if I can't remember it myself.

At the thought of the conversation they had on the night of her first official day of school, her heart stirred. She had never once doubted Rong Xiu's feelings for her, and she knew that he must have his reasons for choosing to do so even if she didn't know why.

Unbeknownst to Chu Liuyue, her current eye contact with Rong Xiu was strong proof that they had known each other all along, for the man had never spoken so gently to anyone before.

He was cold and aloof in nature, and his power had been growing by the day ever since he became His Grace. Many of the academy elders even had to treat him with respect, but there was a rare moment of calmness and tenderness on his face when he was speaking to Chu Yue.

Upon recalling how Rong Xiu had rushed up to carry the unconscious Chu Yue back to his residence and how he had personally taken care of the latter, everyone's expressions changed. They didn't realize it before, but in hindsight, they realized that there had been signs everywhere.

Rong Xiu is the type of person who can't tolerate having the blood of other people splattered on him, yet he didn't hesitate to carry Chu Yue back to his residence. Hence, it would be strange to say that those two didn't know each other. Elder Bo Yan was pretty convinced about it. "I see, but why didn't you mention it before?"

"Chu Yue has always been looking forward to attending the academy, so he wanted to get in on his own. We were afraid that there might be a lot of inconveniences if we had revealed that we knew each other," explained Rong Xiu in a tactful but arrogant manner.

Ling Xiao Academy was highly respected with countless experts here. It didn't matter what background one had, for they paid more attention to talent and abilities here. That said, it didn't mean that one's background really had no influence in the academy. If everyone had known from the start that Chu Yue and Rong Xiu knew each other and were on rather good terms, both elders and students alike would surely treat Chu Yue differently.

Given Rong Xiu's status in the academy, Chu Yue would also be able to receive a lot of conveniences, and that was the inconvenience Rong Xiu was talking about.

Everyone was rendered momentarily speechless, for they couldn't refute what Rong Xiu said.

"So the two of you purposely hide your relationship just so that... Chu Yue can focus on his cultivation?" Even though Elder Bo Yan posed it in the form of a question, he was pretty much already sure about it.

Rong Xiu nodded before breaking into a smile. "That's how he has always been, so I can only let him be."

Although what he said sounded like a reproach, everyone could hear the indulgence and protectiveness in his voice. It was clear that he was bent on protecting Chu Yue to the end.

The elders quietly exchanged incredulous looks with one another. Given their relationship, it is now understandable why Chu Yue suddenly appeared next to Rong Xiu back then. The latter has probably given a teleportation Yuan instrument to the former.

"Chu Yue, did you take the risk to come out because you were worried about Rong Xiu?" interrupted Elder Wan Zheng. This is the only excuse that can get Chu Yue out of trouble since it's against the rules to exit the barrier without permission!

Chu Liuyue blinked her eyes and nodded. "Yes."

Standing next to her, Rong Xiu lowered his eyes slightly to hide the flash of amusement in them.

Elder Wan Zheng heaved a sigh of relief and laughed. “See, this kid didn’t do it on purpose! It’s all because he was worried about Rong Xiu! How can you put the entire blame on him when he’s so sincere?”

Elder Guan He snorted in response, but he didn’t refute Elder Wan Zheng’s words either. He had heard about how Chu Yue had shielded Rong Xiu from a critical blow, so he couldn’t deny Chu Yue’s contribution in this matter.

Coming back to his senses, Elder Bo Yan shook his head and said disapprovingly, “Rong Xiu, even if you and Chu Yue have long been acquainted, you shouldn’t have taught him how to open the academy’s barrier!”

That’s one of the academy’s top secrets. Other than the elders responsible for guarding it, almost nobody else knows it. And the reason why Rong Xiu knows is because— Elder Bo Yan hurriedly ended his thoughts.

Rong Xiu said rather apologetically, “It was my fault for not thinking it through. I’m willing to be punished.”

Punished? How should we punish him? Even though Rong Xiu and Chu Yue are at fault, they contributed a lot to protecting the supreme Yuan instrument. This isn’t easy to judge. Elder Bo Yan then narrowed his eyes and asked, “What else did you teach Chu Yue?”

Rong Xiu shook his head. “That was all.”

He's already taught Chu Yue how to open the barrier. It doesn't matter if he teaches him other things anymore. Sigh... Why are these kids becoming more and more of a handful? Elder Bo Yan sighed. He didn't have the intention of punishing Rong Xiu though. All he was thinking was that the barrier had to be reinforced. "That's good. Please be careful in the future. Since you've helped to recover the supreme Yuan instrument, we'll let this matter slide this time."

"Thank you, Elder Bo Yan."

"As for Chu Yue..." Elder Bo Yan looked to the side. "Wan Zheng, he's your disciple after all. What do you want to do about him?"

Seated on the chair, Elder Wan Zheng slowly knitted his eyebrows and fell into deep thought. He appeared to be very conflicted, and everyone could understand why. It was rare for him to find a student he liked, so he naturally doted on Chu Yue a lot. If he punished the latter too harshly, he would end up feeling pain for him as well.

That said, Chu Yue had acted really recklessly this time and had flouted several rules. He might repeat his offenses if they didn't give him a disciplinary warning, and worse, it might lead to other students following in his footsteps. The entire academy would be in a mess if that happened.

Knowing that this was a difficult decision to make, everyone waited patiently.

After a while, Elder Wan Zheng finally let out a long sigh and looked at Chu Liuyue. "Chu Yue."

Chu Liuyue tensed up. "Yes, Master?"

Elder Wan Zheng paused before asking with much difficulty, “Is your talent in the Xuan Master path higher than that of the heavenly doctor path?”

Chapter 1206: Fighting for Chu Yue

The expressions of the elders in the room changed as they looked at Elder Wan Zheng strangely. What stupid question is that?! We’re asking you to think of a punishment for Chu Yue, not ask him that!

“Ahem!” Elder Bo Yan cleared his throat and shot Elder Wan Zheng a look. Watch yourself. What are you doing right now?

Despite understanding what that look meant, Elder Wan Zheng ignored it. All he could think about at this moment was what Rong Xiu said just now about Chu Yue mastering the skill he had taught the latter. One has to be at least a ninth-grade Xuan Master in order to open the school’s barrier. Doesn’t that mean Chu Yue is already a ninth-grade Xuan Master?! How did he do that when he’s not even a ninth-grade heavenly doctor yet?! What’s going on?

Elder Wan Zheng felt that the student he had so painstakingly nurtured had grown wayward. For a second, he even wondered if he had nurtured his student for the Xuan Masters. “Answer me, Chu Yue!”

Chu Liuyue didn’t know what to say. Why is Master always able to find the blind spots?

Elder Bo Yan eventually spoke up. “Uh... Wan Zheng, we’re currently discussing what we should do with Chu Yue. We can leave that question for later—”

“No! Since he’s already asked the question, let’s hear what the child says!” said someone excitedly. That voice, however, wasn’t from Elder Wan Zheng, but...

“Stop being a busybody, Hua Feng! That’s my student! Don’t you get involved!” Elder Wan Zheng naturally knew what Elder Hua Feng was thinking when he saw how the latter’s eyes lit up.

Elder Hua Feng chuckled. “He’s indeed your student, but there’s no rule saying that the student can only have one mentor. Besides, weren’t you the one who posed that question? Can’t we hear the answer together?”

Tch! Why didn’t it occur to me earlier?! I was so curious about how Chu Yue managed to open the barrier that I forgot about this. Elder Hua Feng was only enlightened about the problem when Wan Zheng asked it. That’s right! Isn’t that proof that Chu Yue has extraordinary talent in the Xuan Master path?! Why didn’t I think of testing his talent back then? If I had known this sooner, I wouldn’t have given him to Wan Zheng so easily! Thank goodness it’s not too late now! It’s only been less than a month since he started school, so he still has plenty of time ahead!

...

There was a subtle shift in the supposedly solemn and quiet atmosphere, and the way many Xuan Master elders looked at Chu Liuyue had changed.

Elder Wan Zheng noticed it all, and he felt very troubled about it. Just as he was beginning to think about how he should make those people perish their thoughts, Chu Liuyue answered seriously with a shake of her head. “No. The reason why I managed to comprehend that Xuan formation so quickly was due to sheer luck and that Senior Rong Xiu had taught me well. In reality... my talent in this aspect is only average.”

“That’s good. That’s good.” Elder Wan Zheng immediately let out a sigh of relief. I don’t care whether Chue Yue is telling the truth or not. I’ll take it as the truth! It’s clear that he wants to continue on the heavenly doctor path, anyway! That’s enough for me!

Although Elder Wan Zheng was satisfied with Chu Liuyue's answer, Elder Hua Feng and the others refused to give up so easily. "Don't be scared, Chu Yue. The students in our academy have always been outstanding. The more talented and hardworking you are, the better the treatment you'll receive here. You're only 16 this year, but you already managed to comprehend the Xuan formation on the school's barrier. This is a rare feat. Do you even believe yourself when you say that you don't have much talent in the Xuan Master path?"

Elder Hua Feng leisurely leaned back in his chair while staring at Chu Liuyue as if he had already seen through her. "You only underwent the heavenly doctor assessment when you entered the school, so it was only natural that you became Wan Zhang's student later on. There's nothing wrong with wanting to practice the heavenly doctor path, but there's also no need for you to hide your talent for the other aspects. There are many people in the world who would kill to have such cultivation talent!"

He looked intently at her. "Chu Yue, this is closely linked to your future. You have to think it through!"

Elder Wan Zheng couldn't help wanting to kick Elder Hua Feng. The nerve of him to try and poach my student in front of me!

Elder Hua Feng instinctively avoided Elder Wan Zheng's look of resentment. Pfft. Never mind that I wasn't aware of it before, but now that I know, I won't let Wan Zheng enjoy the benefits all by himself! I must fight for Chu Yue this time!

...

Chu Liuyue felt a little bit in a dilemma. She really didn't know that she would get into so much trouble just because she had gone out in a moment of rashness out of worry for Rong Xiu. Being experts with keen judgment, Elder Hua Feng and the others wouldn't believe her words so easily.

Other people would surely be overjoyed if they were in her position, but Chu Liuyue only felt worried right now. It wasn't because she didn't want to learn from an expert like Elder Hua Feng. It was just that... Big Baby probably wouldn't agree to it. After all, the time she had been spending playing chess

with Big Baby was her undergoing Xuan Master training. Besides, her schedule was so full at the moment that she really didn't have the spare time for anything else.

After thinking about it, she solemnly paid a bow to Elder Hua Feng. "Thank you for your kindness, Elder Hua Feng, but the things I can do are limited. I'm afraid I won't be able to manage two things at the same time."

Elder Hua Feng, who was surprised by her answer, fell into deep thought afterward. That's true... One's time and energy are limited, and one has to focus on practicing the Xuan Master path and the heavenly doctor path. It might be a little tough for him to practice both at the same time.

"Does that mean you still want to practice the heavenly doctor path?" Elder Hua Feng was quite disappointed as he could tell that Chu Yue had an outstanding talent for the Xuan Master path. He found it a great pity for Chu Yue to give up like that.

"How about this...? Can you spare a few days each month to read books, play chess, and study Xuan formations with me?" Elder Hua Feng looked at Chu Liuyue with eyes filled with expectation. He didn't want to give up just yet, so he decided to compromise instead.

Rong Xiu raised his sharp brows. I guess it's not without reason that some people often get tricked. I mean, who can stop them if they come running over themselves? It looks like he hasn't suffered enough losses...

"Hey, just give up! You have to respect Chu Yue's decision no matter what!" Elder Wan Zheng was in a good mood after making sure that his student wouldn't leave. "Can't he continue to refine pills? What if he ends up destroying the barriers around the school like before—"

Elder Wan Zheng immediately cut short his sentence upon realizing that he had misspoken.

A chill ran down Elder Hua Feng's spine.

Chapter 1207: I was Willing!

The scenes of the previous painful teachings appeared before Elder Hua Feng, causing his heart to tremble. He instinctively looked up at Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue blinked in confusion, smiled, and asked, "Elder Hua Feng, what's the matter?"

When she smiled, her eyes—which could originally be considered clean and clear—instantly became mesmerizing. Her eyes were like stars that had a cunning light to them.

Elder Hua Feng felt his head hurt. "N-nothing!"

He took a deep breath in. "Um... Since you want to specialize as a heavenly doctor, t-then we'll listen to you!"

Confusion flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes. This... Previously, Elder Hua Feng still looked like he had to have it. Why did his attitude suddenly change? Elder Wan Zheng didn't say much, right...

But her instincts told her that she shouldn't ask further, so she respectfully bowed. "Thank you, Elder Hua Feng."

"Sigh..." Elder Hua Feng looked at her and still felt rather indignant, so he added a sentence hesitantly. "...If you ever want to learn Xuan formations, just come and visit me!"

Chu Liuyue felt a slight warmth in her heart. She could tell that Elder Hua Feng really wanted to accept her as his disciple so that she wouldn't waste her talent in this aspect.

It was indeed her rare blessing to be able to receive his guidance. "I'll remember your teachings in my heart."

Elder Hua Feng glanced at her again. He then thought of something, shook his head, and sighed.

Chu Liuyue clearly saw that his gaze wasn't looking at her but remembering somebody through her.

Hearing this, the other Xuan Master elders had also given up.

Elder Bo Yan rubbed his temple. He now finally realized that this Chu Yue was also a troublemaker! It was as if he could cause trouble wherever he went, and there wouldn't be a moment of quietness around him.

"Alright, we'll just stop this matter here and talk about your punishment." He surveyed the surroundings.

"The supreme Yuan instrument incident is indeed an accident. We can't blame him, so we shouldn't talk about it. However, Chu Yue still made a huge mistake by secretly passing through the academy's barrier. Even if he did help Rong Xiu and protected the supreme Yuan instrument, his work can't pay for his sins. Besides, this incident has spread across the academy, and its effect is terrible! We must punish him severely to warn everyone else."

After a moment of silence, an elder tried to ask, "Since this is so, then... Why don't we lock him up at Fengmin Mountain for him to reflect on himself?"

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat.

"That's not too nice, right? He was already locked inside on the second day of coming to the academy and was only released ten days ago. If he's locked up again... it's rather inappropriate." An elder immediately objected to it.

"Chu Yue made a mistake this time, and we must punish him. But if the punishment is too severe, Elder Wan Zheng can't bear it either. Besides, this child didn't have any bad intentions. He just made an impulsive mistake. After much thinking, the other punishments aren't good either!"

"I agree. Locking him up at Fengmin Mountain is the most suitable option for now."

"Anyway, he has already been there before. It doesn't matter if he goes there again. As for it having a bad effect because he has been continuously locked there... He was already locked up there on the second day of school. Now that he has made these mistakes, could it be any worse?"

The crowd partook in heated discussions in no time. Some agreed while some opposed, and they all had their own reasonings.

Amongst them, the one who objected intensely was Elder Wan Zheng. What a joke! What place is Fengmin Mountain? How can he go there again and again? Besides, my precious disciple is already going to break through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor! If it weren't because he was suddenly interrupted today, I'd be holding the ninth-grade pill and flaunting it everywhere! Why would I still be left arguing with this bunch of people? If he's locked up again, won't he be delayed once more?

“No! I won’t agree no matter what!” said Elder Wan Zheng furiously.

The crowd exchanged glances and fell into a stalemate. Wan Zheng protects his disciples the most. If he really insists on objecting to it, we can’t forcefully do so.

But at this moment, Chu Liuyue suddenly took a step forward. “Mentor, I’m willing to go to Fengmin Mountain and receive my punishment.”

The room instantly fell silent.

Elder Wan Zheng looked confused. “Chu Yue, you...”

“Mentor, I did do wrong in this incident, so I should accept full responsibility for it. If you fall out with the other elders because of me, I’ll be even more guilty.” Chu Liuyue’s tone was especially sincere. “Do let me go!”

Elder Wan Zheng reacted to it and felt very touched. This child... At this time, he still didn’t forget to think about me! I didn’t accept this disciple for nothing!

Seeing his faltering gaze, Chu Liuyue added, “I promise that I’ll diligently cultivate inside and try to break through earlier! Perhaps when I come out, I will have fulfilled your wishes already?”

His wish was naturally for her to break through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor as soon as possible!

“Good child...” Elder Wan Zheng felt very comforted. “It’ll be hard on you.”

It would already be very hard to protect himself inside. How would he have the extra energy to cultivate? He just said this to comfort me, but it is very rare for a child to have such a mindset.

Chu Liuyue shook her head. “It’s not hard on me.”

Hearing this made Elder Wan Zheng’s heart ache further. “Put all those matters aside first. You... should take good care of yourself.”

Chu Liuyue’s eyes brightened up. “Thank you for granting me my wish, Mentor!”

Rong Xiu raised his brows slightly, and his thin lips curled up. His demonically handsome face had a smile to it. She’s really...

...

Rong Xiu’s residence was on a more isolated mountain peak in the warrior region.

Quite a few people had gathered outside this peak at this moment as they waited curiously in confusion.

In a short period of time, news of what happened outside had spread far and wide in the academy. In the blink of an eye, everyone knew that the new student Chu Yue—who had come to the academy for less than a month—had secretly barged out of the academy barrier and fought with Jin Lei and the rest outside.

Of course, as the elders were tight-lipped regarding the supreme Yuan instruments, news of it didn't spread. Thus, all the students instinctively thought that the item had definitely returned to the academy, so they didn't think much about it.

After all, this matter was too much of a coincidence and ridiculous. Talking about it also made it seem fake.

Thus, everyone gathered around, wanting to know what the elders planned to do with him.

"This Chu Yue is indeed daring—he actually snuck out! There were so many people fighting there. Wasn't he afraid that he'd pay with his life?"

"Hey, he came back alive anyway! I hear that he even blocked a fatal blow for Senior Brother Rong Xiu. From now onward, won't he be on very close terms with Senior Brother Rong Xiu?"

"Pfft! Who is Senior Brother Rong Xiu? Even without him, he should be fine."

"But secretly sneaking out of the academy is a major mistake. All the elders are gathered there, and they should be discussing how to punish him, right?"

"I wonder if he'll be expelled..."

"No matter what, he's Elder Wan Zheng's disciple. As long as Elder Wan Zheng protects him, I believe he'll only be punished."

The crowd partook in heated discussions.

At some area, Jiang Zhiyuan looked at the mountain peak and muttered with a complicated gaze, "...How did that Chu Yue go out?"

Chapter 1208: Extreme Welcome

Yes, she didn't care how the elders would punish Chu Yue at the end, and she didn't care about the intense battle's situation. She only cared about one thing: As a stage-seven warrior, how did Chu Yue get out?!

One had to know that Elder Bo Yan previously instructed them not to worry and that they should just wait patiently because the elders would naturally solve the problems. Then, he strengthened control over the academy barrier, killing all possibilities of people wanting to go out secretly. However, Chu Yue actually went out under such circumstances, and he had even blocked an attack for Rong Xiu?

The matter was extremely weird from start to end, which caused Jiang Zhiyuan to be shocked and doubtful!

"Perhaps he secretly snuck out with some elder?" Liang Xiaoxiao—who was standing at the side—said with some uncertainty.

Jiang Zhiyuan pulled at her lips. "Do you think that the elders won't discover it if he really did that?"

Liang Xiaoxiao was stumped. "Then, what else can he do? He's only an intermediate stage-seven warrior, right? Even if his actual combat power is a little stronger than his cultivation level, it won't be so much that he can cross through the barrier alone, right? We can't even do that, let alone him!"

Jiang Zhiyuan furrowed her brows tightly. This is the point I found strangest. The only plausible explanation now is that Chu Yue forcefully passed through the barrier in the chaos. But for some reason, the elders didn't discover him in time to bring him back.

Normally speaking, anyone who passes through the barrier without permission will immediately attract the elders' attention. Yet, Chu Yue succeeded and even helped Rong Xiu in the chaotic battle! It's a pity that I didn't see the process myself.

"Forget it. There's no use for us to think so much! If he really has made a mistake, the elders will punish him." Liang Xiaoxiao didn't think that this issue was a matter of concern. "Won't we know what happened when Chu Yue comes out?"

Jiang Zhiyuan could only nod.

...

After waiting for a while, the crowd finally saw people leaving the mountain. "The elders are out!"

The crowd began to stand up as they gathered their focus and looked over.

The elders came out first.

After they came out, they didn't stop and went back on their own. Hence, everyone's gazes landed on the people who came out afterward.

When most of the elders had left, a few special figures finally appeared!

The person at the front stood upright in a white robe. Although they were a distance away, his handsome features couldn't be hidden—it was Rong Xiu!

Close behind him was a youngster. Without thinking, they knew that it was Chu Yue.

The two people walked out one after another.

The people at the side were Elder Wan Zheng and Elder Bo Yan. After the other elders left respectively, only these few people seemed to be talking as they stood still.

Jiang Zhiyuan stared at them closely. If it weren't because Rong Xiu had set up an extremely complicated barrier on the mountain he was normally at, she wanted to go up and hear what they were talking about.

After a while, Elder Wan Zheng patted Chu Yue's shoulder and left with Elder Bo Yan. Then, only Rong Xiu and Chu Yue were left.

They stood facing each other. Although the crowd outside couldn't hear what they were saying, they had to admit that the duo looked especially harmonious together.

Amidst the lush greenery, the young masters stood like jade.

Logically speaking, Chu Yue's appearance couldn't be compared to Rong Xiu, but his surrounding aura was rare. This caused him not to take the losing end when he stood before Rong Xiu.

"Why did the elders leave? Are they planning on not punishing Chu Yue?"

"I don't think so... Even though Chu Yue did contribute, the elders kept instructing us not to go out on our own. If he doesn't get punished in the end, won't everyone be allowed to do it in the future?"

"Yeah! Also, why are Senior Brother Rong Xiu and the others standing there talking for so long? I wonder what they're talking about..."

Although the crowd was filled with curiosity, they didn't dare to barge in casually. Thus, they could only guess on their own.

...

"Let's go. I'll send you there." Rong Xiu raised his chin, and a smile flashed across his eyes. "You must've gotten impatient from waiting."

Chu Liuyue blinked and smiled. "As expected—Senior Brother Rong Xiu, you do know my condition."

Rong Xiu raised his brows. "Don't call me randomly."

Chu Liuyue used the fact that he was much taller than her and could completely cover her, so she wasn't afraid that the others could see her and became more daring.

“I entered the academy a few years later than you. I should call you ‘senior brother.’”

Rong Xiu laughed lightly, took a step closer, and lowered his voice in a soft and flirtatious manner. “You have your own way of addressing me. Why follow the rest?”

Chu Liuyue squinted at him with a smile as she quickly turned around and leisurely said, “Senior Brother Rong Xiu, we should go back quickly! I wouldn’t dare to delay you too much, lest other people talk about us!”

Rong Xiu stepped out and followed her as he smiled and said, “I didn’t know that you became so cowardly after coming to Ling Xiao Academy.”

Chu Liuyue sneered. “How am I cowardly? I was just speaking the truth. Let’s not talk about the rest, but there are many people on that mountain watching my every move.”

Her lips curled up. “Do you believe that if I do anything to even offend you slightly, I’ll be captured back by them and severely punished? Then, it’ll be hard for me to cultivate peacefully afterward.”

To those people, Rong Xiu was definitely not just an ‘amazing senior brother.’

His outstanding talent and capabilities had turned him into many people’s admiration and an existence that they wanted to catch up with. His name was securely placed at the top of the Qing Yun Ranking and became the symbol of a strong warrior.

Chu Liuyue felt that it was better if she was more obedient.

Rong Xiu suddenly laughed and slowly said, "So you wanted to calmly cultivate in the academy? I couldn't tell."

Chu Liuyue blushed slightly, unable to refute this. She had only come to the academy for more than 20 days, but she had gotten into so much trouble. Nobody would think that she wasn't a troublemaker.

"However..." Rong Xiu dragged his last syllable, and his tone was even lower as if it were a mutter right next to her ear. "If you really want to offend me... I'll welcome you anytime."

Chu Liuyue stopped in her tracks and tilted her head to glance at him. No matter what identity he has, his thick-skinned nature doesn't change at all.

"Rong Xiu."

"Hm?"

"Do you really think I won't dare to do anything to you with those people watching?"

Rong Xiu looked at her and brightly smiled as he replied expectantly, "You're most welcome."

Chapter 1209: Nothing Hard

Chu Liuyue was speechless. I admit defeat! As expected, I shouldn't have tried to win against someone else in this aspect.

The two of them walked to Fengmin Mountain.

At this point, the crowd waiting at the far end finally noticed something.

“They seem to be going toward Fengmin Mountain? Could the elders want to lock Chu Yue up there?”

“It can’t be, right? Wasn’t Chu Yue already locked there once and just came out? Even if the elders want to punish him, it doesn’t seem very appropriate to choose this again, right...”

“What’s so inappropriate about it? He did something wrong and should be punished. Could he be absolved of the punishment just because he went there not long ago?”

“That’s true... It seems like Senior Brother Rong Xiu is in charge of bringing him there... However, why do the two of them look like they’re talking so happily...?”

“...Actually, I think so too! I think Rong Xiu even smiled just now—did you see that? I’ve heard that he has a cold personality and isn’t even willing to say a few more sentences normally, so why does he have such a good attitude toward Chu Yue...”

“Didn’t you hear? That Chu Yue blocked an attack for Senior Brother Rong Xiu previously! Could a normal person be compared to him? It isn’t strange that Senior Brother Rong Xiu would treat him like this.”

Jiang Zhiyuan looked at the two figures moving further away as she bit her lips, turned around, and left.

...

With her previous experience and Rong Xiu leading her, Chu Liuyue came to Fengmin Mountain very quickly.

She glanced at Rong Xiu in surprise when she arrived before the mountain. "Why do I feel like... you seem to be very familiar with this place?"

Rong Xiu's residence was actually not near to this place, but Rong Xiu led the way in front and didn't pause or hesitate at all. He even led her to take the fastest route.

Chu Liuyue even felt that he had come here more than once.

As expected, Rong Xiu nodded. "I came here... a few times."

Chu Liuyue smiled. "Oh? I couldn't tell that the outstanding Senior Brother Rong Xiu would come to this place. Did you also do something wrong and get locked up inside?"

Rong Xiu glanced at her with deep meaning. Because of someone, I did come here a few times.

"I've been to most places in the academy. Fengmin Mountain is nothing. As for you... you seem like you want to come here a lot. Why? Is there something interesting about this place?"

As the elders were present earlier, Chu Liuyue didn't tell Rong Xiu much. However, she didn't hide it now as she nodded honestly and looked at Fengmin Mountain. "Yeah. For some reason, I just feel that cultivating here seems to be faster and more comfortable."

Rong Xiu's eyes were very sharp and sensitive. Even if she didn't say anything, he could tell.

"Fengmin Mountain has a rich force and is the same as the outside world. But since you like it here... do it your way." Rong Xiu smiled as if he had no intentions of asking further. "Go in. I'll see you in a month."

Yes, to hand out a severe warning, the punishment for Chu Liuyue was set to be one month long.

Elder Wan Zheng was originally very opposed to it, but Chu Liuyue managed to convince him to accept it. But because of this incident, he nagged at Elder Bo Yan for quite some time.

Chu Liuyue was a little surprised. "Will you stay in the academy for this month?"

Rong Xiu nodded. "Yeah. Coincidentally, I have some things to settle."

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and tried to ask, "It's... related to that supreme Yuan instrument?"

This matter was blown up, and many top-tier clans were involved. Rong Xiu even personally killed Jin Lei, so there must be a lot of battles to fight.

Suddenly, her heart tingled, and she looked at Rong Xiu in shock. "Wait, you purposely let me stay here for a month?"

Yes, this one-month punishment period was suggested by Rong Xiu. In the beginning, Elder Bo Yan wanted to lock her up for half a month, but Rong Xiu said that this issue had severe consequences. Thus, there would be a lot of trouble later if they didn't handle it properly.

Locking her up for a month would cause all the rumors in the academy to disappear automatically. They could even take the chance to refine Chu Liuyue's mentality.

Elder Bo Yan felt that he made sense and agreed.

In the beginning, Chu Liuyue thought that Rong Xiu only said it because he guessed that she wanted to go to Fengmin Mountain. But it seemed like... he had planned it in advance!

"You don't have to care about those trivial matters," said Rong Xiu calmly. "With me around, nobody will cause trouble for you."

Of course, Chu Liuyue would be in trouble. The crowd had racked their brains to get the supreme Yuan instrument, but it eventually landed in her hands and recognized her as its owner! If the Golden Wings Sect and the other clans really wanted to pursue this matter, she would definitely be implicated!

Something overwhelmed Chu Liuyue's heart, but she felt that there was no need to say some things between them as both would understand.

With this man around, it was like she wouldn't need to worry even if she caused the biggest trouble as he would handle it all. This form of security could only be obtained with him.

She suppressed these thoughts as her red lips curled up into a bright smile. "Then we'll see each other in a month!"

Rong Xiu was influenced by her smile as his lips curled up. "Okay."

Chu Liuyue walked up. But after she took two steps, she felt like she suddenly recalled something as she turned around to take a look. "Right, there's something..."

Rong Xiu nodded and gestured for her to continue.

Chu Liuyue hesitated for a moment, lowered her voice slightly, and asked, "Rong Xiu, do you know the student whose name was erased from the Qing Yun Ranking?"

Rong Xiu's hand gradually clenched behind his back, but his expression was as calm as normal. "Yes. Why?"

"Have you been to her medicinal garden?"

"Medicinal garden?"

"Yeah, the one that the director specifically left for her." Chu Liuyue asked with some uncertainty, "Did the director do it?"

"Mm, I've been there before. But it was later locked up, so I didn't go there anymore. You... went there?"

Chu Liuyue smiled and shook her head. "How could I enter that place? The elders guard it super strictly! I just unintentionally took a look at it when I went to Medicinal Valley to get herbs."

Rong Xiu's tense body relaxed slightly. "Actually, the herbs inside aren't very different from those within Medicinal Valley, so it's fine if you don't go there."

However, Chu Liuyue shook her head. "No, I feel that the medicinal garden seems amiss."

Rong Xiu's brows moved slightly, and he looked at her. "How is it amiss?"

Chu Liuyue paused for a moment. "I... saw many, many Dancing Lotuses blooming. That item is extremely precious, and it's usually very rare to even see a stalk or two. However, there were so many there... Dancing Lotuses only bloom once every few hundred years, so it's quite unbelievable to get so many at once."

Rong Xiu heaved a sigh of relief. "That's not really hard."

Chu Liuyue was stunned and squinted her eyes. "How do you know that?"

Chapter 1210: Originally Hers

The two of them faced each other, and there was a moment of silence. Then, Rong Xiu smiled and said nonchalantly, "Dancing Lotuses are indeed very rare herbs in Ling Xiao Academy, but it's much easier to obtain them in the God Residence Realm. Many aristocratic families with long years of history even specifically employ people to plant it. With Ling Xiao Academy's million-year-long history, it's nothing much for them to have this."

He voiced the entire explanation in a calm and composed manner, with a hint of power that made one unwittingly convinced.

“There are only a few in Medicinal Valley as Medicinal Valley is huge and has all kinds of herbs. The elders in charge of it have to look after all of the herbs, so they naturally wouldn’t focus all their energy on one type of herb. After all, there are more precious herbs in Medicinal Valley.”

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. That makes sense...

“Although Dancing Lotuses are good, they’re very picky with their environment and require long-term meticulous care... Therefore, they expend one’s energy and patience very much.”

As she shrugged her shoulders, she muttered, “That person must like Dancing Lotuses very much to have so many of them...”

Rong Xiu paused, smiled, and asked, “Don’t you like them?”

“Of course!” Chu Liuyue nodded. If I didn’t like it, I wouldn’t have paid special attention to it.

“If only I had the chance to go in and take a look, but... I don’t think that’s very possible,” Chu Liuyue said regretfully. Firstly, that medicinal garden is someone else’s private property. Besides, that person is no longer in the academy. Most importantly, that person seems to be someone nobody can bring up in the academy from all aspects. Thus, it would be even more difficult to go to her medicinal garden.

“Forget it. I’ll go in first!” Chu Liuyue retracted her thoughts, waved toward Rong Xiu, and walked to Fengmin Mountain.

She retrieved her black jade plaque and threw it out.

Whir!

The black jade plaque touched the barrier and caused a tiny ripple. Then, an opening slowly formed!

Chu Liuyue walked in.

When her figure completely disappeared into the barrier, Rong Xiu stood in mid-air for quite some time before he softly spoke as if he were muttering to himself. “...There will naturally be that day.”

Those were originally planted for you.

Then, he finally turned around and left.

...

“You again.” The moment Chu Liuyue stood before the pagoda, she heard a familiar old voice.

Chu Liuyue had an ‘awkward’ smile for once as she hid it by coughing. She cupped her fists and bowed respectfully. “I’m Chu Yue. Greetings, Elder. I haven’t seen you in a while. How have you been?”

“You only left ten days ago. How is that considered not seeing me in a while?” The other party spoke in a very direct manner with a hint of contempt.

Chu Liuyue: “...Elder, you’re right.”

“Come in!”

Chu Liuyue thanked him again before she pushed the door open and entered.

...

Everything inside the hall was the same as when she left. Of course, it was rather normal as there was only a ten-day interval in between.

The door automatically closed behind her.

Seven doors glowed faintly and floated quietly in front of her.

“Bo Yan has already told me about you. You really know how to cause trouble. How many days have you been obedient before you came back?”

Chu Liuyue lowered her head slightly and looked as if she were admitting to her mistakes. “You’re right. It’s all my fault.”

Perhaps it was because the other party saw that she had a good repentant attitude, but the elder didn't continuously interrogate her. "Okay, there's not much use talking about this. If you've really repented, you must show it through your actions."

Chu Liuyue obediently said, "Yes, I will."

"It's the same process as before. Choose!" The other party talked for a while before quickly jumping into the real agenda.

Chu Liuyue then looked up at the seven doors before her, and her gaze swept past all the doors.

All the doors were completely the same from the outside—even the aura and suppression they exuded were the same. However, there seemed to be something attracting her vaguely.

She raised her hand and pointed to the third door on the left. "I'll choose this."

...

The hall was silent, but the air seemed to have frozen.

Even if that feeling passed after a moment, Chu Liuyue still felt it sharply. At that moment, she was sure that she had chosen the same one as before!

As expected, a low and slightly doubtful voice sounded beside her ear. "Are you sure?"

Chu Liuyue suppressed her overwhelming emotions as she said calmly, "Yes."

...

After sending Chu Liuyue to Fengmin Mountain, Rong Xiu returned to his residence.

Different from ordinary students, he lived alone on a mountain.

His treatment was the same as the academy elders. Of course, nobody had any objections to it. If anyone else could have the same talent and capabilities as him, they would be treated in the same manner.

Before he walked to the door, Rong Xiu seemed to have noticed something as he stopped in his tracks. He calmly glanced at the room in front of him before walking in.

Returning to the room, he turned around, closed the door, and walked right in.

Dugu Mobao appeared here at some point in time.

"Senior." Rong Xiu cupped his fists and bowed.

Dugu Mobao looked at him coldly. "She's being locked up at Fengmin Mountain again?"

Rong Xiu nodded. "One month."

"Hmph." Dugu Mobao's face turned even colder. "You have a big heart. You just let her go like that."

Rong Xiu looked up slightly, and there seemed to be a faint light flashing across his deep eyes. He smiled slightly and said softly, "That's... originally somewhere she wants to go."