

Nobel Ruler 121

Chapter 121: Stand Up for Her

Lu Yao had a bitterness that she could not talk about. She was just a concubine's child and did not have a high status in the Lu family. She originally thought that their lives would be a lot better after Chu Xianmin became the Crown Princess, but who would have expected this situation?

Chu Liuyue turned around coolly. "Let's go!"

First Elder suppressed the anger in his heart. "Close the door!"

When everyone in the Chu family returned to the mansion, he took a deep breath in and shouted, "Go and inform all the family elders. Tell them to come to the living room now. I think we should properly clear up the Chu family's accounts today!" After he finished his sentence, he did not forget to glance at Lu Yao, who had already long lost her soul. "Especially Chu Yan! Get him to come over!"

"Yes!"

Lu Yao's legs felt like jelly, and she collapsed on the floor; her face was as pale as a ghost's.

...

Tian Lu Academy.

“Did you hear the news? Chu Liuyue went to cause a scene at the Chu family residence yesterday! The entire Chu family is in chaos now!”

“I heard that Chu Liuyue only went back to take back what belongs to her and her father, which includes her mother’s dowry... Logically speaking, this isn’t much, right?”

“Hah, isn’t much? That isn’t what the Chu family members think. Do you know how many valuable items and money Chu Liuyue took from the Chu family yesterday? She literally skinned off a portion of the Chu family’s meat!”

“I think Chu Liuyue is really harsh! After all, the Chu family was the one who brought her to this world and raised her up. Now that she’s successful, she just turned her back on them and took away so many things from the family... The Chu family’s status as one of the four biggest aristocratic families was already facing danger, and this just added oil to the fire.”

“It’s better if we don’t ruffle the feathers of such a person...”

The students—who had rested for a day—came back to the academy today and heatedly discussed the matter within their own groups.

The commotion was too huge, and they couldn’t even pretend not to know about it.

“What are you talking about?” A clear female voice interrupted their whispers.

They turned around and saw Mu Hongyu. Once they saw her, many students started to become scared.

Mu Hongyu had a fiery temper and was very capable, so she was not easy to deal with. The most important thing was that she had a formidable background. She was Prince Ping Jiang's only daughter—the legitimate Princess Yong Ping. Even though she was not a royal princess, her status was equally prestigious.

“Why aren't you talking anymore? I thought you were having a great discussion just now.” Mu Hongyu raised her leg and walked in as her eyes swept across the crowd with much interest. Even though she was smiling, the crowd could hear the threat in her voice.

“Hehe... Hongyu, we're just casually talking. We didn't say much.”

“That's right!”

Mu Hongyu crossed her arms and raised her chin. She crisply said, “I heard what you said just now very clearly. Let me tell you that Chu Liuyue is my friend. If I hear anyone talking bad about her in the future, don't blame me for being harsh.”

The crowd fell silent. They looked at each other awkwardly since they did not expect Mu Hongyu to say this.

Friend... Since when did she become friends with Chu Liuyue?

Chu Liuyue—who was coincidentally passing by—had also heard her words. She paused in her tracks and weirdly looked at Mu Hongyu, who was not far away. Actually, they only talked to each other twice, but Mu Hongyu still stood up for her.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled. “Hongyu.”

Mu Hongyu then saw Chu Liuyue behind the crowd, and the coldness on her face immediately dissipated. Mu Hongyu's almond eyes sparkled, and she waved at Chu Liuyue. "Liuyue!"

Chu Liuyue walked over and smiled in a way that made her look like she did not notice the weird and stiff atmosphere. "Why are you standing here? Aren't you going to reach the next stage soon? You should grab the time and go to Jiuyou Tower to cultivate."

Mu Hongyu grumbled, "They were talking bad about you."

Chu Liuyue nonchalantly shook her head and smiled. "Just ignore it. I just chased a debt yesterday, and my pockets are heavier now. Next time, I'll bring you to Phoenix Restaurant to eat. You didn't come the previous time, right?"

Once Mu Hongyu heard Phoenix Restaurant mentioned, she excitedly went to Chu Liuyue's side. "Really? I love their crystal prawn dumplings, but my allowance only allows me to go there once a month."

Chu Liuyue lost her smile. *It seems like Mu Hongyu loves to eat.*

"Of course, it's true! I'll treat you to those dumplings every day. However, you need to reach the next stage first."

"Okay! Oh, right, I found a few people for our Fiend Tidal Team..."

"You can just make the decisions."

As the duo talked, the remaining people found their conversation boring, and all left on their own respectively.

...

“Liuyue, are you really not angry about what those people said about you?” asked Mu Hongyu when nobody was around them.

Chu Liuyue smiled. “What’s there to be angry about? Since I dare to do it, I won’t be afraid of other people talking about me. Besides, you’ve also seen that they only dare to talk about me behind my back. They can’t even say a single word in front of me. If I need to scold everyone that talks bad about me, I’ll be busy to death. It’s not worth wasting my effort on these people.”

Mu Hongyu pouted. “You’re pretty similar to my father when you talk, but I can’t get over it. I will definitely take revenge for anything that makes me unhappy.”

Mu Hongyu was straightforward and did not beat around the bushes when she talked, but she was also someone that was reluctant to suffer losses.

Chu Liuyue knew that it was useless for her to advise Mu Hongyu otherwise. Besides, Mu Hongyu helped her this time, so she smiled and changed the topic. “You said you found a few other people? Who are they?”

Mu Hongyu extended her hand. “Other than us, there are three other people. Liao Zhongshu and Cen Hu have agreed to join us already. The two of them are pretty strong, and they placed ninth and seventh in the semester assessment, respectively. They’re also on pretty good terms with me. They’re definitely

trustable! Oh, right. There's still Gu Mingfeng! You should know him—he battled against Chu Xianmin in the finals.”

“Gu Mingfeng?” Chu Liuyue was a little surprised. She had some understanding of this person and heard that he was a concubine's son in the Gu family. As his mother came from a lowly background, he was not doted on in the family. Even though he entered Tian Lu Academy, his status in the Gu family was still very low.

She did not have much of an impression of Gu Mingfeng when he battled against Chu Xianmin in the finals. She only remembered that he was a cold and gentle young man.

“Oh, right. Don't judge him by his usual lack of words, but he's actually pretty strong. I lost to him the previous round, and it was hard for me to get him to join our team.”

“Is... he not teaming with Gu Mingzhu?”

“Tch, he doesn't really interact with Gu Mingzhu, so how can they form a team? Also, Gu Mingzhu is very arrogant because she's a Xuan Master. Why would she join us?” Mu Hongyu did not care about Gu Mingzhu.

Chu Liuyue nodded.

Mu Hongyu suddenly thought of something and asked, “Oh, did you know that Chu Xianmin is also coming back today?”

Chapter 122: Marry Me to Repay My Favor

Of course, Chu Xianmin will return. With her current miserable state, she can only depend on herself. However, I don't know how Chu Xianmin will feel when she comes back since the Crown Prince and Lu Yao has gotten into trouble one after another.

"Minmin, why didn't you invite us to your wedding? We were all waiting to follow behind the sedan chair and join in the fun." A familiar voice sounded from around the corner.

Chu Liuyue and Mu Hongyu looked at each other and walked over. The person talking was indeed Lu Feiyan. At this point, she surrounded a person with a few other girls.

That person was wearing a face veil, and her figure looked similar to Chu Xianmin's.

"That's right! We didn't receive your invitation card, and we didn't even know the date. If you asked us to go, we definitely would've gone, even if we had to take leave from school."

"We're on such good terms, so why did you hide it from me?" Lu Feiyan was actually furious. She originally planned to follow Chu Xianmin when she married the Crown Prince, so she could at least meet him. However, Chu Xianmin did not even invite them. They had no way of going without an invitation card.

Lu Feiyan could not help but suspect that Chu Xianmin did it on purpose to have the Crown Prince for herself since Lu Feiyan had missed such a good opportunity. Even though she said that sentence while smiling, her eyes were filled with displeasure.

"It was on very short notice, and we didn't have enough time to do many things. T-thus, I forgot about you all... I didn't do it on purpose," said Chu Xianmin while clenching her teeth. She clearly knew what these few people were thinking. *No way will I let you laugh at me.*

Lu Feiyan purposely smiled and said, "The Crown Prince has always liked you and even allowed you to come back to the academy for lessons. Minmin, you must be having a good time at Crown Prince Mansion, right?"

Chu Xianmin forcefully agreed and said, "I haven't come to school for a few days, so I need to find the teachers. I'll talk to you later." She then walked away from the few people to leave. However, she coincidentally saw the person she hated the most once she looked up.

Chu Liuyue! Chu Xianmin's blood boiled as her nails dug deep into her palms. If looks could kill people, Chu Liuyue would probably have wounds all over her body.

Mu Hongyu alertly glared at her. "What do you want?"

However, Chu Xianmin did not say anything and directly walked past Chu Liuyue and Mu Hongyu.

"That was strange. If it were last time, she definitely wouldn't have taken it lying. Why did her personality change after she married the Crown Prince?" muttered Mu Hongyu softly.

Chu Liuyue looked at Chu Xianmin's departing back view, in deep thought, and smiled. "The good show is at the end. Let's go."

...

The Imperial City looked calm as usual, but some people had sensitively detected that something was amiss already—the Crown Prince seemed to be in trouble.

The most obvious point was that the books sent to Crown Prince Mansion in the past were all sent back to the palace now.

On the surface, Emperor Jiawen said that the Crown Prince was about to break through to the next level, so he did not want to distract the Crown Prince for the time being.

However, in reality, the smarter ones knew that the Crown Prince's authority had been taken away. Besides, the Crown Prince had been stuck behind closed doors recently and rejected all invitations. There was obviously a problem.

However, the palace strictly prevented any news from spreading, so the public did not have any way of finding out what happened. They could only guess the situation secretly, choosing to observe the changes quietly.

Some people were also sitting on the fence and started to make preparations for themselves while acting in secret.

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"Third Brother, what exactly is Father planning to do? There's solid evidence that the Crown Prince sent someone to kill you. How can Father just allow him to reflect on his mistakes in Crown Prince Mansion? No matter how highly Father thinks of him, Father shouldn't just casually end the matter like this." Rong Feng knitted his brows tightly and did not understand his father's actions.

Rong Jiu and I immediately understood after receiving Seventh Royal Brother's 'big present'. We then worked together to gather a lot more evidence over the next few days. After that, Third Brother presented all of the evidence to Father. The Crown Prince couldn't even deny them. However, why did Father get so angry but let him off so easily?

Rong Jiu looked calm. "Those pieces of evidence can severely affect the Crown Prince, but it's a little too naive to think that the evidence can destroy him."

"But this matter can't just end like this." Rong Feng anxiously stood up and paced back and forth. "Even though he really didn't attack you, he can't deny what he tried to do to Seventh Brother. We merely changed the victim to you. How can Father protect him like this? As the Emperor, shouldn't he hate this type of matter the most?"

"It's true, but you forgot that the Crown Prince has still kind of hit the right spot, even though Father hates the fact that the Crown Prince attacked me. It's because of this that the Crown Prince's punishment became a lot lighter," said Rong Jiu as he smiled in a self-deprecating manner.

Doesn't Father want to do this to me as well by making me stay in the Imperial City? Now that the Crown Prince has acted for me, it makes me much more relaxed. Hence, Rong Jin's status as the Crown Prince will not waver.

Upon seeing Rong Jiu's gaze, Rong Feng suddenly understood something. "Third Brother, are you saying that Father... However, things have already come to this stage. Isn't it better to just drag the Crown Prince down?"

Rong Jiu closed his eyes. "There's no rush."

...

The outside world was secretly chaotic, but Chu Liuyue had a peaceful life in the academy.

Time flew to the end of August, and with the Fiend Tidal just around the corner, the academy's atmosphere became even more exciting and boisterous. Thrilled chatter could be heard everywhere as the students cultivated even more intensely.

Chu Liuyue could clearly feel that more people were going to Jiuyou Tower. She did not know that cultivation time in Jiuyou Tower was very hard to earn, so many people could not afford to come every day. They would only come more often when they were about to break through to the next stage or when key events neared.

Chu Liuyue originally wanted to try to break through to the warrior's second stage, but she failed once again and decided not to think about it.

When Chu Liuyue returned to her lodging at night, she saw a familiar figure once she walked in.

No, it was two figures.

Rong Xiu and Xue Xue.

Chu Liuyue found it a little weird. "Hm, Your Highness, why are you so free today?"

Rong Xiu seemed to be very busy during this period. Even though he came a few times, he always came in the middle of the night and left early in the morning. Sometimes, she did not even see him and only knew that he had come here when she smelled the faint cold fragrance.

Today was a rare occasion.

Rong Xiu slightly raised his brows, took out a box, and passed it to Chu Liuyue. "Open it up and take a look."

Chu Liuyue received the box and opened it with a light flick.

A dagger was quietly lying in there.

She removed it from the black sheath, and a harsh glare instantly flashed in her eyes.

This dagger is very sharp. Chu Liuyue was surprised. Upon closer inspection, she could see two very thin, leaf-sized flying blades.

One look at them, and Chu Liuyue could feel the immense suppression inside.

She looked up in confusion. "This is..."

"The toys you have aren't usable. I specifically prepared this for you."

Chu Liuyue then remembered that Rong Xiu had said similar words before. However, she thought that he was kidding and did not expect him to be serious.

Her heart tingled. "Your Highness, you've been going out early and coming back late at night recently. Could it be because of this?"

Rong Xiu inched in closer, and his eyes sparkled like the night sky filled with stars. In a low and enticing voice, he said, "Then... how are you going to repay me? Why don't you marry me to repay the favor..."

He suddenly paused and looked down to see the blade in front of his chest. "... I can also marry you to repay the favor instead."

Chapter 123: How Fierce

"Your Highness, it's better if you request for something more realistic." Chu Liuyue held the knife and used a little strength to push him away.

Rong Xiu knitted his brows but did not move backward. Instead, he inched forward.

The two people were extremely close to each other, and they were almost a breath away.

Rong Xiu honestly put everything he had in front of her and did not care about the rest. His dark eyes reflected Chu Liuyue's figure.

Chu Liuyue was dazed for a moment. It seemed like... he would still inch closer without a care in the world, even if she held a sharp blade.

She was stunned, and there was a delay in her actions.

A dark light flashed across Rong Xiu's eyes, and his lips curved up slightly in a flirty manner. A faint sigh landed beside Chu Liuyue's ears. "... How fierce."

This sigh in the dark sky was akin to the wind strumming a harp's strings, which resounded in Chu Liuyue's heart and did not leave after a long time. Her heart uncontrollably skipped a beat as if something cunning had opened a window in her stiff cold wall and went in.

She almost moved backward instinctively and avoided Rong Xiu's eyes. "Your Highness, with your distinguished status, you can just wave your hand, and countless elegant girls would fight for your arms. I'm ferocious, harsh, cold, and heartless. Your Highness, don't waste your time on me."

Rong Xiu looked at her, and his eyes sparkled, which finally resulted in nonchalant laughter. "However, my eyes can't see them. I only see you. What else can I do?"

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled, and she could not help but look at him.

The cold moonlight shone in, causing Rong Xiu's face to be half in the light and half in the dark. He knitted his brows lightly as if he was frustrated. However, his eyes were still filled with pampering love.

These straightforward and close to expressing devotion words stumped Chu Liuyue.

The duo quietened down, and the flirty atmosphere intensified between them both as if the wind from the end of summer had become gentler.

It was not that Chu Liuyue had not heard confessions before. In her previous life, she had a distinguished status, formidable capabilities, and her appearance—which attracted many young men's admiration did not need mentioning.

Logically speaking, she should not feel emotional if she met with similar scenes again. However, Rong Xiu's words seemed to have a certain strength that could easily affect her mood.

Chu Liuyue looked down. Without mentioning the few times Rong Xiu helped her, he was very meticulous towards her, just based on the peach blossom hairpin he gave on her birthday and today's intricate dagger.

The things he had done for her would touch any other girl.

It would be a lie if she said did not feel anything because of his actions. However, she had experienced the worst, most painful betrayal in the world, so she could no longer easily trust anyone any longer.

Her first reaction toward Rong Xiu's kind acts was not to accept them happily but to run away. When Rong Xiu inched in closer towards her, her heart would vaguely feel fearful. That terror came from the pain she could never forget, which laid in the depths of her memory.

She could not talk to Rong Xiu about this. Besides, the most important thing after her rebirth was to take revenge. If she was too close to Rong Xiu, he would definitely be dragged into the mess.

This was not fair to Rong Xiu.

Countless thoughts flashed across her mind. After a moment, Chu Liuyue looked up at Rong Xiu again with a new gaze.

She looked calm, and her eyes were clear as her lips curved up. “Your Highness, you’re so funny.”

Her cold voice shattered the flirty atmosphere.

Rong Xiu stared straight at her.

Both of them were smart and could understand what each other meant without being explicit.

Chu Liuyue was waiting for Rong Xiu to turn around and leave. *Any man will not continue pursuing after doing so many things for a girl and still get rejected, right? Besides, Rong Xiu is of such high status.*

However, out of her expectations, Rong Xiu did not show any signs of embarrassment as if he did not care about whatever Chu Liuyue just said.

He then extended his hand and grabbed the dagger in front of him. “You just need to say if you like the gift.”

Chu Liuyue was dazed. However, she could only nod after seeing Rong Xiu’s persistent look. “Your Highness’s gifts are always good.”

“I’m glad you like it.” Rong Xiu chuckled softly and suddenly extended his hands to pinch her cheeks. “I spent a lot of effort when I made this, so you need to accompany me to rest to express your gratitude for me.”

Chu Liuyue was shocked. “You... made this yourself?” As she was too shocked, she did not even have the time to care about Rong Xiu pinching her face.

While looking at the dazed girl—an infrequent sight—in front of him, Rong Xiu was put in a better mood as he turned around to walk upstairs. “I’m very tired today. I’ll talk to you about it tomorrow.”

Chu Liuyue chuckled in her heart. *Does he really need to talk about this another day?*

“Your Highness, even if you’re willing to talk about it tomorrow, I’m afraid I won’t have the chance to listen.”

Rong Xiu paused in his tracks and turned to look at her.

Chu Liuyue walked forward and paused for a while when she reached his side, lifting her chin slightly. “We’re going to Wan Ling Mountain tomorrow, and we’re leaving first thing in the morning, so you can just talk to yourself.”

After that, Chu Liuyue did not even look at Rong Xiu as she went upstairs and headed straight for her room, directly locking the door from the inside.

Rong Xiu only recovered his senses when she locked the door, and his brows raised slightly upon seeing the tightly shut bedroom door. After a moment, he could not help but laugh. *She still loves to calculate and doesn’t want to admit defeat.*

At this moment, Xue Xue—who was trying very hard to reduce its presence—suddenly jumped up from the first floor and landed in front of Chu Liuyue’s room on the second floor. Its claws kept scratching against the door.

No! This can't be!

Xue Xue's claws were very sharp, and every swipe left tidy marks on the door.

Rong Xiu instantly felt disgraced upon seeing Xue Xue's appearance. *It is still a high-level fiend in the end. Why is it so uncollected when it met with things and embarrassed itself by scratching the door?*

"Xue Xue, what are you doing?" asked Rong Xiu while suppressing his voice.

Xue Xue turned back to look at him with indignance. *What else can she do at Wan Ling Mountain? Of course, she's going there to hunt for fiends. Does Chu Liuyue not like me? Why does she want to find another wild dog—no, wild fiend?*

Then, what about me? This can't be! Xue Xue did not care about Rong Xiu as it kept scratching the door.

Rong Xiu immediately understood what Xue Xue was thinking from its gaze.

Hang on! Tian Lu Academy does indeed bring students to Wan Ling Mountain for training at this time every year. If I did not remember wrongly, the students have to form teams to participate...? Then, who did she group with? A crack appeared in Rong Xiu's calm expression.

Chu Liuyue has just entered Tian Lu Academy and doesn't know many people. The people she knows the best are probably the ones who are Xuan Masters like her. If she formed a team, it should be with them. Is she grouping up with that kid from the Si family?

Chapter 124: Late

Wan Ling Mountain was a two-day journey away from the Imperial City, and the Tian Lu Academy teachers would bring the willing students there to train every year.

Some students went there to obtain fiends they were satisfied with, while others want to upgrade their skills through the rare real battles. One's potential usually increased after battling with fiends, allowing them to unleash greater strength.

Sometimes, this would help cultivators break through their bottlenecks and advance to the next level. Hence, the majority of the academy's students had signed up for it.

When the sky just started to brighten up, the students had already gathered together.

The older students looked normal, but the new students brimmed with unconcealable excitement.

"I wonder if I can find a fourth-grade fiend in this Fiend Tidal."

"Haha, just based on yourself? Don't overthink. Only the most talented and capable people can have such high-level fiends."

"Hah, that might not be true! Maybe I'll be lucky enough to meet with one. Besides, our group is pretty strong! If we work together, there's a chance of us succeeding."

“I’m not thinking so far ahead. I just want to battle against a few strong fiends.”

“Pfft, when you meet a high-level fiend, you will only be worried that you don’t have enough time to run away.”

“Hahahaha!”

The crowd discussed amongst themselves and teased each other, clearly showing their high hopes for the event.

Outside of the crowded bunch, a few people were exceptionally quiet.

“Why isn’t Liuyue here? It’s almost time to leave.” Mu Hongyu looked at the sky and was a little anxious. She had specifically reminded Chu Liuyue twice about today’s departure time and told her that she could not be late. However, everyone was already here, but her shadow had still yet to be seen.

“Is she delayed by something?” asked a skinny and tall young man beside Mu Hongyu. He had white skin and looked very gentlemanly. He spoke slower than an average person and sounded especially gentle. This person was Liao Zhongshu.

Mu Hongyu shook her head. “What can be more important than Fiend Tidal? Logically speaking, she shouldn’t forget about it...”

Chu Liuyue didn’t seem like someone unreliable.

“Do you know where she lives? Why don’t we go and find her,” comforted Liao Zhongshu.

Mu Hongyu covered her face. "Did you forget that she's a Xuan Master? She lives in a different place from us." She had gotten much closer to Chu Liuyue these few days, but she did not ask Chu Liuyue where exactly she stayed.

Liao Zhongshu was silent for a while. He really forgot about that...

"What's there to be conflicted about? If she really doesn't come, the four of us can just group together. We can still go, even if we are short of a person," said a muscular and dark-skinned man beside Liao Zhongshu.

"Cen Hu, are you a tiger[1]?" Mu Hongyu rolled her eyes at him. "Everyone else has five people in their group, and we only have four. That's too disadvantageous for us! Don't forget that we battle in our small teams when we reach Wan Ling Mountain."

Cen Hu shuddered from her scolding and scratched his head. He muttered, "Let's find someone else then..."

Mu Hongyu glared at him. "Everyone has already gathered in groups of five by this time. Where can we find another person?"

Cen Hu finally kept quiet.

"All teams, come forward and collect your items."

The few of them turned around to take a look.

“We’re really leaving after we collect the items,” said Liao Zhongshu with his brows knitted.

Mu Hongyu bit her lips. “I’ll ask Teacher Bai Chen!”

...

On the other side, Bai Chen was currently counting the number of Xuan Masters. After counting, he found something amiss. “... Where’s Chu Liuyue? Why isn’t she here?”

The crowd looked at each other, but nobody said a word.

“Teacher Bai Chen! Do you know where Liuyue stays? She hasn’t come yet, so I want to look for her,” said Mu Hongyu in a straightforward manner as she rushed to Bai Chen.

Bai Chen was shocked. “Is she really not here yet?” Upon seeing Mu Hongyu’s anxious look, he thought for a while and immediately turned to Si Ting. “Si Ting, you know where she stays, right? Take Mu Hongyu with you and have a look.”

Si Ting nodded. “Yes.”

Before the two of them moved, Gu Mingzhu—who had been watching from the side—could not help but mock, “Teacher Bai Chen, time is almost up. If they go and find her now, what if they don’t make it back in time? It’s Chu Liuyue’s fault for not taking note of the time and missing the event. You can’t implicate the others just because of her.”

Mu Hongyu glared at her in frustration. “Gu Mingzhu, is this related to you? We’re in different teams. Even if it causes a delay, you won’t be delayed. What are you anxious about?”

Gu Mingzhu’s face flushed red from the scolding. “Am I not speaking the truth? Chu Liuyue is on the same team as you. If you want, you can go look for her yourself. Don’t drag anyone else into your troubles.” Gu Mingzhu sneered as she frowned. “I think there’s an 80% chance she purposely didn’t come because she’s probably scared.”

“You...” Mu Hongyu suppressed the anger in her heart. “I have no time to talk nonsense with you. I’ll teach you a lesson when I come back. Si Ting, lead the way.”

The two of them then turned around to leave.

“Don’t need to look for me. I’m here.”

A familiar voice sounded, and Mu Hongyu looked up in surprise. As expected, she saw Chu Liuyue’s figure.

“Liuyue! You’re finally here!” Mu Hongyu quickly walked to Chu Liuyue and could not help but pat her elbow. “Why are you so late? I thought you were going to stand us up!”

Chu Liuyue clasped her fingers together and teasingly said, “Sorry, something happened. Am I on time?”

“Of course, you are!” Mu Hongyu purposely raised her voice as she glanced at Gu Mingzhu. “Some people would love it if you didn’t come. If you didn’t, they’d step all over you.”

Gu Mingzhu wanted to argue, but she forced herself to calm down when she saw Si Ting standing at the side. She then turned around, upset.

“Little Liuyue, you almost didn’t make it!” Bai Chen shook his head but was reluctant to scold her. Thus, he could only wave at her. “Hurry up and go back! It’s your turn soon!”

“Thank you, Teacher Bai Chen.”

Chu Liuyue then went back with Mu Hongyu and met with the rest.

Mu Hongyu poked her and softly asked, “Hey, what happened today? Why are you so late?”

Chu Liuyue coughed. “Something minor happened, but I dealt with it already.”

Mm, it was just Prince Li and Xue Xue bugging me the entire time.

Chapter 125: Wan Ling Mountain

The personalities of this master and subordinate, man and fiend, really came from the same mold. After they realized she was going to Wan Ling Mountain, they made a huge fuss about it.

If she hadn’t stopped them in time, Xue Xue would’ve scratched the door into pieces.

Xue Xue seemed to be very upset about this and whined about it. Thus, Chu Liuyue spent a lot of effort to comfort it.

As for Rong Xiu...

Chu Liuyue's ears went red, and she closed her eyes. *How can there be someone so shameless on Earth?*

"Liuyue, why are your ears red?" asked Mu Hongyu curiously.

Chu Liuyue immediately shook her head. "Nothing much. I came here in too much of a rush."

Mu Hongyu nodded her head in understanding, and she wrinkled her nose. "Hmph, you knew we were setting off early in the morning. How can you come so late? If you didn't make it on time, I wouldn't have let you off."

Mu Hongyu only calmed down after Chu Liuyue promised her that she would not do it ever again.

With Mu Hongyu's introductions, Chu Liuyue met Liao Zhongshu, Cen Hu, and Gu Mingfeng, respectively.

Like what Mu Hongyu said, these few people were all stage-three warriors, especially Gu Mingfeng—his aura made it seem like he was about to break through to the next stage.

As the team leader, Mu Hongyu joined the queue to collect the items.

The person leading the teams this time was Sun Zhongyan. Under him were a few elders and more than ten teachers, all going with the students.

When everyone had gathered together, Sun Zhongyan—who was standing right in front—said, “Dear students, I believe everyone has been looking forward to this trip to Wan Ling Mountain. This time, I’ll lead the teams. Other than me, Tian Lu Academy has sent three elders, who will each be in charge of one cohort.”

“There are ten teachers under every elder, and each teacher is in charge of three teams. There’s a signal bottle amongst the items passed to you. If you meet with any danger, just pull it to activate it.”

Chu Liuyue looked down at the black bottle and saw two strings below it.

“Pulling one string means you’re asking a teacher for help. If you’re in danger, pull both strings! The elders will immediately locate your position and come and help you,” bellowed Sun Zhongyan clearly. “Do you hear me?”

“Yes!”

Sun Zhongyan paused, and his expression became more stern. “Wan Ling Mountain is a dangerous place, even more so when the Fiend Tidal happens. If you’re not careful, you might lose your life. Therefore, no matter how much you want a fiend you’re satisfied with, you must remember that safety is your priority.”

The crowd answered in unison, “I’ll remember your teachings!”

Sun Zhongyan then nodded in satisfaction. "Let's go!"

...

There were too many people, and they could not float in the air, so they could only walk. It was good that the academy's students were all of a certain caliber. Thus, they did not walk at a slow speed.

With the large number of students, the atmosphere was pretty lively, and the entire journey there was a pretty happy one.

Everyone's topics obviously did not leave Wan Ling Mountain and the Fiend Tidal.

The senior brothers and senior sisters, who had participated before, would regularly talk about the situations they met with in the Fiend Tidals one or two years ago, attracting the freshmen's attention.

"It would've been great if I became a stage-four warrior," muttered Mu Hongyu as she walked. She had been working hard on her cultivation lately. She had even touched the barrier leading to the next stage, but she always lacked a little something for some reason.

Initially, she planned to choose a stronger fiend she was more satisfied with during the Fiend Tidal if she had successfully broken through to the next stage since her abilities would be greatly strengthened. However, it seemed like this was impossible.

"Hongyu, cultivation can't be rushed," reminded Liao Zhongshu kindly.

“I know, but who doesn’t want to break through? Don’t you want to as well?”

Liao Zhongshu did not argue with her and only shook his head.

Mu Hongyu sighed. “Why can’t I be like Liuyue? Even though she’s a stage-one warrior, she has the abilities of a stage-three warrior at least!”

Chu Liuyue smiled and did not say a word. *I don’t want this either...*

Mu Hongyu looked at Gu Mingfeng. “Oh, right. Weren’t you also going to break through? Why hasn’t it happened yet?”

Gu Mingfeng—who had kept quiet the whole time with his calm eyes—lightly said, “I guess the time hasn’t come yet.”

Chu Liuyue took another look at him in deep thought. *Gu Mingfeng... doesn’t seem to be simple too...*

A cold and sinister gaze suddenly landed on her.

Chu Liuyue’s eyes moved and coincidentally met with Chu Xianmin’s retracting gaze. The vengeance and hatred in Chu Xianmin’s pair of eyes had not subsided.

Chu Xianmin did not expect Chu Liuyue to be so sensitive and hurriedly turned away. This was a rare opportunity that she had gotten from the Crown Prince, so she must make use of it...

Chu Liuyue chuckled in her heart. *Chu Xianmin really has not given up on her weird antics. Rong Jin did not come this time, so the matter's seriousness is way over her expectations.*

She did not know what the Imperial City would be like when she returned.

...

After two days of walking, the crowd finally reached the bottom of Wan Ling Mountain on the third morning.

When they looked up, the many mountains, with their beautiful curves, were covered in lush greenery. It was a beautiful sight to behold.

Chu Liuyue could already feel a weird aura coming from there.

Sun Zhongyan was still instructing the students in detail. "The Fiend Tidal will happen within these two days. Everyone, prepare yourselves and enter the mountains. Please remember to do what you can. Don't barge into Wan Ling Mountain's hinterland. You must leave Wan Ling Mountain three days later."

"Yes!" The students answered with a louder resounding 'yes' when they reached the bottom of the mountains, which had a vastly different view.

All the teams went their separate ways, and their figures quickly disappeared into the forest.

“Let’s go too!” Mu Hongyu’s almond eyes sparkled with delight.

Chu Liuyue looked up. The tall mountains were like quiet, sleeping, ferocious fiends, which was unsettling. She took a deep breath in and suppressed her anxiety as she followed Mu Hongyu and the rest into the forest.

...

Wan Ling Mountain was very big, and Chu Liuyue and the others quickly separated from the other teams.

The surroundings became increasingly quiet, and they could only hear the leaves crackling under their feet.

The leaves swayed in the wind, and sunlight shone down brightly.

After walking for about two hours, Mu Hongyu finally could not help but ask, “Mr. Dongfang said that fiends would appear around the mountains when the Fiend Tidal comes. However, why haven’t we seen a single one after walking for so long?”

Chu Liuyue was about to say something when she suddenly felt a cold aura coming towards them. She sharpened her gaze and looked in a certain direction. “Get out of there!”

Chapter 126: Targeting

Mu Hongyu and the rest were frightened, and they hurriedly looked over. However, they saw no movement at all. It was very calm in the silent woods.

Mu Hongyu could not help but softly ask, "Liuyue, did you sense it wrongly? There doesn't seem to be a fiend aura..."

Chu Liuyue did not say anything as she stared straight in front of them. "If you don't come out, don't blame me for being merciless."

Mu Hongyu and the rest looked at each other awkwardly. There were only trees around them and not even a bush. How could fiends hide here? However, Chu Liuyue did not look like she was kidding, so the rest subconsciously stayed quiet.

The next moment, the fallen leaves suddenly rustled in front of them.

"There's something there!" Mu Hongyu and the rest suddenly became alert.

There really is a fiend here!

Sou! Sou!

A small ball of fur suddenly wiggled out of the leaves.

"What... is this?" The few people, who thought they were up against a formidable fiend, were dazed.

“Ah-choo!” That small ball suddenly sneezed, and its round body started to relax and expand.

It was only the size of a fist and was very red. Its fluffy tail was as big as its body, and its pair of black eyes were lively and cute. It blankly stared at Chu Liuyue and the rest as if it did not notice what had just happened. The fellow rubbed its eyes with its small paws as if someone had interrupted its rest.

It was actually...

“A small fox?” Mu Hongyu blurted out.

Once the small creature heard that sentence, it suddenly stopped its original movements and quickly shook its head. *No! I'm not a fox!*

“This is a blood ferret.” Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief.

All of the others were shocked. “The rumored most useless third-grade fiend—blood ferret?”

The small ball's face suddenly turned dark.

Chu Liuyue nodded. A third-grade fiend was actually of decent grade, but a blood ferret was too small and did not have much attacking power. Besides, it was too lively and active, so it was not suitable to be a hunter fiend.

This kind of blood ferret was usually taken in as pets, and aristocratic children would play with them.

“Aish, forget it.” The few of them were disappointed. They did not expect that the first fiend they saw after they entered Wan Ling Mountain would actually be a blood ferret.

Chu Liuyue nodded.

The few of them did not have fiends, so they had high hopes when coming here. However, a blood ferret really was unsuitable for them.

The few of them ignored it and turned around to walk away.

Once Chu Liuyue moved, she suddenly stopped in her tracks and lowered her head to take a look.

That small thing bit her clothes at some point in time and was looking at her cutely.

Chu Liuyue kept quiet for a moment.

They did not want to hunt a blood ferret, but it seemed to want to follow them?

Chu Liuyue bent down and wanted to move it away, but the little thing seemed to know her intentions. With a shrink of its body, it moved to the other side to bite her clothes again.

The blood ferret was very fast. If Chu Liuyue tried to catch it with her own hands, she definitely would not be able to succeed. Thus, she did not move any longer.

Mu Hongyu couldn't help but say, "Liuyue, it seems to like you a lot." Her face was filled with curiosity. She only heard of blood ferrets but had never seen one before.

It seemed pretty cute!

Chu Liuyue also found it weird and said to that thing, "We don't intend to do anything to you, so don't follow us."

The little thing blinked dazedly and only understood Chu Liuyue's meaning after some time.

Does she... not want me anymore? The little thing's eyes quickly welled up with water, and bead-like tears kept pattering on the ground. It looked up at Chu Liuyue as if it was silently complaining to her.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *It seems a little off?*

"Liuyue, do you want to bring it along? Even if you don't want to make a pact with it, you can just keep it as a pet. It looks so lonely and pitiful." Mu Hongyu had no resistance against these types of small, furry creatures. She could not help but say, "Why don't I let you follow me?"

The little thing frantically shook its head.

Mu Hongyu was a little disappointed. "I think it only wants to follow you..."

Chu Liuyue thought for a while before saying, "Then, listen to me obediently, and we'll bring you along with us."

The little thing hurriedly nodded. Like a red lightning bolt, it jumped onto Chu Liuyue's shoulders. With a sit of its butt and a sweep of its tail, it directly sat on Chu Liuyue's shoulder. From far away, it looked like a red furry ball. It was light and not heavy at all.

Chu Liuyue looked at it, and her lips curved up. "Let's go."

...

Afterward, the few of them continued to walk in the forest.

Not long later, they met a third-grade livid horse fiend. Livid horses were bulky and were considered a stronger third-grade fiend.

"Livid horses have a cold temperament, and their attacking power is a little low. It normally won't battle humans. It's suitable to be a horse for you to ride on, but not suitable for you to hunt with," said Liao Zhongshu softly.

Cen Hu was a little tempted but immediately rejected this idea when he heard what Liao Zhongshu said. "Let's continue walking then. Perhaps we'll meet something better!" After saying that, Cen Hu led the way in front.

However, the livid horse didn't just leave them. It stood in front of them, and its hooves scratched against the ground a few times. It breathed out roughly, and its eyes were filled with vague enmity.

Cen Hu noticed that something was wrong and knitted his brows to ask, "Nerd, didn't you say livid horses won't take the initiative to attack people? Why does it seem it wants to go against us?"

Liao Zhongshu was also shocked. "I don't think so. My family has a few livid horses, and all of them are very gentle. Why is this... Is it because Wan Ling Mountain's fiends are generally more ferocious?"

Before he could finish his sentence, the livid horse neighed and dashed towards the few of them.

Cen Hu was in front of the pack.

"He!" bellowed Cen Hu deeply as his legs bent slightly. He also raised his muscular arms as he tightly clenched his fan-like palms into fists before suddenly attacking.

"One Punch Up!" He was originally a stage-three warrior and physically strong. Together with the power in his fists, he was not one to be underestimated.

His fists were very harsh as they went straight for the livid horse.

The livid horse raised its front hooves and was about to avoid the fist.

Cen Hu immediately followed up and directly went under the livid horse. Right after that, his fists turned into claws that went straight for the livid horse's stomach.

Huala!

A cut immediately appeared in the livid horse's stomach, and blood spurted everywhere.

Even Cen Hu's face was stained with blood. However, this ignited his fighting spirit.

"Die!" hollered Cen Hu as he wanted to take its life.

At this moment, the livid horse suddenly raised its leg and harshly kicked Cen Hu's chest.

"Be careful!" Mu Hongyu and the rest all noticed that something was amiss, so they immediately backed him up.

The livid horse was attacked and distracted, so its attack was much weaker than usual. However, it was very angry and kicked Cen Hu's back.

Poof!

Cen Hu suffered the heavy impact and collapsed to the floor. He spat out a mouthful of blood, and his face became much paler than before.

Gu Mingfeng stared straight at the livid horse and saw the vague red color in its eyes. "This beast is going crazy!"

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. *Why did a gentle livid horse attack us for no reason? This crazily too.*

At this moment, Mu Hongyu suddenly yelled, "Liuyue! Danger!"

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw that the livid horse had rushed past Mu Hongyu and the rest and was heading straight for her. It was targeting her!

Chapter 127: Encountering Danger

Chu Liuyue's eyes darkened as she unsheathed her sword and thrust it towards the front.

Poof!

That bright and sharp longsword accurately pierced into the livid horse's neck. The livid horse let out a painful moan, and its eyes became crazier. With a move of its body, it recklessly went straight for Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue's gaze was cold as she turned her wrists. Her longsword sliced forward and split the livid horse's neck in two.

Bam!

The gigantic head that had turned green landed on the floor and made a loud thud.

The wound Chu Liuyue had dealt to the livid horse was still spurting blood out, but the livid horse's eyes were already wide open. It had also lost its breath after struggling for a short while.

Chu Liuyue kept her sword and glanced at the corpse on the floor. She thought to herself, *I don't know this livid horse, and I didn't do anything unreasonable to it, so why was it so against me?*

Mu Hongyu and the rest were stunned for quite some time before they recovered their senses.

"L-Liuyue... how did you act so quickly?" asked Mu Hongyu dazedly.

The few of them attacked the livid horse together but still could not stop the crazy animal. However, Chu Liuyue only used one sword attack to kill it. What kind of strong ability did that need?

"My God! You still hid some of your abilities when you battled against Chu Xianmin that day?" Cen Hu got up with much difficulty but did not care about the bloodstains on his face as he widened his eyes to look at Chu Liuyue in disbelief.

He knew about the horse's capability after he battled with it earlier. Even with his strong abilities, he had suffered under the livid horse's hooves. If it weren't for Mu Hongyu and the rest—who came to help him—he might not have been its match. However, Chu Liuyue actually killed it so easily.

Chu Liuyue recollected her thoughts, looked up at the others, and shrugged her shoulders. "Since it wanted to kill me, I obviously won't show any mercy to it. As for the mid-semester assessment... Didn't the teacher say that we have to stop adequately?"

Cen Hu widened his eyes and could not help but curse upon seeing how relaxed Chu Liuyue was.

Chu Liuyue lifted her chin. "You can take the pearl of essence."

Cen Hu's eyes widened even more. "What do you mean? Are you looking down on me? You killed this horse, so its pearl of essence should be yours. I'm not someone that will take advantage of people."

This Cen Hu is so rash... Chu Liuyue rubbed her glabella. "You were hurt by it. If you don't recuperate properly, you'll take at least half a month to get better. You will recover faster if you take its pearl of essence to nurse your injury."

This sentence stumped everyone.

Cen Hu was slightly touched, but he still suspiciously asked, "Really? How did you know that?"

Chu Liuyue was too lazy to reply to him, so she turned around and walked away. "A mere third-grade pearl of essence isn't anything good, and you can dismiss it. However, Hongyu will be the first not to let you off if it affects our team, let alone me."

Mu Hongyu felt very blessed and suddenly slapped Cen Hu's shoulders. "Didn't you hear what Liuyue said? Go and take it!"

Cen Hu staggered backward from the slap but was not angry at all. He happily smiled instead. "T-Then I'll take this pearl of essence first! When we meet other fiends, I'll be the first to rush forward and help you!"

As he talked, he walked to the corpse and slashed open the horse's head with a knife to take out the green, longan-sized pearl. Three distinct lines could be clearly seen on the pearl.

Cen Hu wiped away the bloodstains and opened his mouth to swallow it.

A wave of warmth emerged from his stomach, and the previous excruciating pain was reduced.

Cen Hu's eyes brightened. "It really works!"

Chu Liuyue did not turn back and lightly said, "A fiend's pearl of essence will be poisonous to some extent, and livid horses are no exception. You need to cut your thumb and let blood out every hour. This must be done thrice to remove the toxins in the pearl naturally. Originally, it would've been better if you used Three Pure Leaves, but I don't think there's any here. Therefore, we'll just use this stupid method first."

She said it nonchalantly as if it was just a minor thing. However, Mu Hongyu and the rest all widened their eyes and felt dazed.

Chu Liuyue walked a few steps and finally turned around when she noticed that there was no commotion behind. She saw that all of them were looking at her weirdly. "... What's wrong?"

"Liuyue, how do you know so much?" asked Mu Hongyu hesitantly.

Gu Mingfeng, who kept quiet all along, suddenly said, "Did you forget that she passed all three examinations to enter the academy?"

The three assessments naturally included the heavenly doctor assessment.

One could not blame Mu Hongyu and the rest for not remembering about it as Chu Liuyue directly participated in the warrior assessment and Xuan Master assessment the day she entered the academy, coming in first and second, respectively. Those two achievements were too outstanding and outshone her ability as a heavenly doctor.

The few of them only recovered their senses when Gu Mingfeng mentioned it.

“Oh my! I really forgot about that!” Cen Hu slapped his head and gave Chu Liuyue a thumbs up.
“Admiration! Chu Liuyue, I really admire you!”

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows slightly. “I know a little, but it’s nothing much. Let’s continue walking.”

“Okay!” answered Mu Hongyu and the others in unison.

Their team leader was originally Mu Hongyu, but they had subconsciously taken Chu Liuyue as the core already. It seemed like her mere presence would make people admire her unknowingly.

Gu Mingfeng was at the back, and he squinted his eyes. *Does Chu Liuyue... really know that little? Livid horses aren't common. Even if an average person has seen one before, they won't have much understanding of it. However, how did Chu Liuyue know how to remove the toxin within the livid horse's pearl of essence? Is it really a coincidence?*

...

The day in the woods ended very quickly.

The sun set, the night sky was up, and the bright moon hung high in the sky.

“Let’s rest here for the day, shall we?” suggested Mu Hongyu after walking to a rather spacious area.

However, Chu Liuyue suddenly held her back. “Hold on.”

Mu Hongyu weirdly looked at her and saw Chu Liuyue’s alert expression. Chu Liuyue had tightly knitted brows as if she was very nervous.

She could not help but become nervous as well. “What’s the matter?”

After what happened during the day, Mu Hongyu completely believed in Chu Liuyue. If Chu Liuyue felt that something was amiss, something was definitely wrong!

Chu Liuyue tightly pressed her lips against each other and did not say anything, but sweat started to break out on her forehead.

“What exactly is—” Mu Hongyu was halfway through her sentence when she suddenly stopped speaking.

A pair of cold green eyes, like two ghoulish fires, appeared in the dark.

“There’s... a wolf?”

Chu Liuyue held her breath. "Not 'a' wolf."

The few of them looked over and saw a second pair and a third pair of eyes beside the emerald one.

Very quickly, they were surrounded by the same cold ghoul fire.

Greed, cold, and cruel.

The forest was deadly silent, and only endless murderous intent was spreading like wildfire.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes. "... It's a pack of wolves!"

Chapter 128: Her Sword

"T-this is a third-grade demonic beast, red wolf! There has to be ten of them at least! How can the five of us be their match?" Mu Hongyu's face was a little pale.

They were so unlucky to have run into this kind of danger the instant they entered Wan Ling Mountain! They had a chance of winning if only one or two came, but there was no way they could win with this many red wolves surrounding them!

Liao Zhongshu knitted his brows together as he muttered, "That's not right... Even though red wolves are highly aggressive social animals, they are rather aloof as well. They usually will not go after humans for no reason... Why are they after us? We have not done anything."

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat. She thought about how the livid horse from before seemed to be targeting her as well. Were the red wolves here for her as well?

Both sides were at an impasse, and the air seemed to be frozen!

"What do you all want?" After a short, brief silence, a cold voice broke the eerie atmosphere. It was Chu Liuyue. As she spoke, she stood in front of the others.

Mu Hongyu grabbed her sleeve tightly. *She is insane! Red wolves are highly aggressive. If she goes over now, she is asking for death!*

Chu Liuyue patted her hand gently to reassure her, but Mu Hongyu refused to let go, afraid that Chu Liuyue would go over recklessly. "Liuyue, we're not their match. We have to find a way to escape! I'll send a message to the teachers and elders now to ask for reinforcements!"

As she spoke, Mu Hongyu took out the signal bottle.

Chu Liuyue's heart sank, and she tried to stop her. "Don't!"

Before she could finish, Mu Hongyu had already brought out the signal bottle.

"Awoo!" A loud howl echoed in the forest.

The sudden noise startled Mu Hongyu, making her tremble. She was unable to pull the signal bottle's strings in time.

A group of wolves closed in! The other wolves followed suit, howling. "Awoo!"

Under the moonlight, the howls were eerie and terrifying.

Chu Liuyue felt her organs tremble as she frowned. Given the sheer number of wolves, even if each one took a bite out of them, it was more than enough for them to suffer.

"They seem to be angry?!" A nervous sweat broke out on Cen Hu's face.

Chu Liuyue held a longsword in her hands, her muscles tensing as she mustered her strength. "Red wolves are highly intelligent. They knew we were calling for help when Hongyu took out the signal bottle. To them, it was a challenge."

It was because of me? Mu Hongyu began to panic. "I'm sorry..."

"Now isn't the time for this." Chu Liuyue interrupted her, her voice powerful and calming. "Since they have their eyes on us, they won't leave easily. It's only a matter of time before they attack us."

Even so, Mu Hongyu's face was full of self-reproach.

The pack of wolves suddenly divided and formed a path in the middle. A white, strong red wolf walked out from behind the pack. Its fur was smooth and reflective. The moonlight reflected on its fur as it

walked out from the dark, making it look extra majestic. The most important thing was the murderous look coming from its eyes.

Chu Liuyue saw it clearly, so she knew that they had no chance of negotiating. She softly reminded the others, "That's the leader of the pack!"

The others increased their wariness.

"According to books, every pack has a leader. If the leader is killed, the pack will be badly affected and will disperse..." Liao Zhongshu's voice was barely audible, but the others immediately understood what he was trying to say.

To defeat the pack, they must take down its leader! They had no chance of winning if they fought all the wolves. Their only hope was to kill the leader! Their only chance of survival was if the pack ran off after killing their leading!

Gu Mingfeng suddenly said, "I'll handle the leader. You guys watch and strike at the right moment."

Chu Liuyue looked back at him in astonishment.

Gu Mingfeng's face was expressionless. The only thing giving away his nervousness was his clenched jaw. Gu Mingfeng made this choice because he knew that the situation was really dangerous. If they were not careful, all of them would die here today!

He was the strongest out of all of them. Naturally, he had to take the lead.

Mu Hongyu and the others looked at each other. They knew it was the most dangerous moment, but if anything happened to Gu Mingfeng...

“The strongest body parts of a red wolf are its claws and teeth. If you get hit, you might not even survive! Remember, don’t attack head-on. I’ll support you,” said Chu Liuyue softly as she told the others to try their best to distract the other wolves.

If they bought enough time, they had a chance at winning!

Mu Hongyu bit her lips. “Please be careful. It’s really dangerous.”

“You all must be careful as well.” After Chu Liuyue spoke, she quietly held the dagger in her other hand.

The next instant, the leader of the wolf pack moved. It moved really quickly. A snow-white silhouette could be seen in the air, and it arrived before them the next instant.

Gu Mingfeng stood on the tip of his toes as he rushed forward. He waved his sword towards the leader of the wolf pack!

Chu Liuyue closely followed behind him.

The three of them formed a triangle.

On the other side, the wolf pack rushed in. Mu Hongyu and the others fended them off back to back!

Just as Gu Mingfeng's sword was about to hit, the wolf pack leader leaped onto the trunk of a nearby tree! It crouched and used its hind legs to propel itself forward! It landed right in front of Gu Mingfeng!

Gu Mingfeng was stunned and immediately used his sword to shield his torso!

Huala!

The wolf's claws clashed with the sword, making a shrill noise.

Gu Mingfeng felt a heavy weight on his body, and he took a few steps back uncontrollably. When he managed to stabilize himself, he looked down and saw claw marks on his sword! They were left behind by the wolf pack leader! Its claws were even more dangerous than swords and knives!

Gu Mingfeng's eyes darkened. *The wolf pack leader is almost a fourth-grade fiend! I won't be able to defeat it alone!*

As this thought flashed across his mind, he felt a force coming towards his face. The wolf pack leader was attacking again!

Gu Mingfeng drew out his force to imbue it to his sword, but the wolf pack leader had forced him to the ground!

Gu Mingfeng could not resist and fell to the ground! He wanted to get up and run, but he could not move at all!

The wolf pack leader opened its mouth, its sharp teeth reflecting in the light as it went for Gu Mingfeng's neck.

Gu Mingfeng could feel its teeth on his skin! All the blood in his body seemed to freeze suddenly. However, just as he thought he was about to die, another aura suddenly surged.

Chu Liuyue's sword came from behind the wolf pack leader!

Chapter 129: Injured

Upon sensing the danger, the wolf pack leader stopped its attack on Gu Mingfeng and turned to lunge at Chu Liuyue.

Her sword scraped across the wolf's back, but its fur was as strong as steel needles! Her sword only managed to leave a small cut on it!

Chu Liuyue pursed her lips. Even though the wolf pack leader was only a third-grade fiend, its ability could be compared to fourth-grade fiends! The most important thing was its fur coat!

However, Chu Liuyue's actions completely angered the wolf! It landed on the ground near her after their exchange of blows, a cold and murderous aura coming from it.

"Awoo!" The wolf pack leader howled as it ran towards Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue raised her sword to meet the wolf's attacks.

The wolf went straight for the sword's body with its teeth.

Kacha!

Her sword broke in half! Chu Liuyue only had a broken sword in her hand now!

The wolf pressed on and went for Chu Liuyue's neck!

Gu Mingfeng's heart dropped when he saw this! However, Chu Liuyue did not back down. Instead, she shoved the broken sword down the wolf's throat.

The wolf cried out in pain. The next instant, it mustered all its anger and energy and bit the sword to pieces!

Blood splattered everywhere.

Chu Liuyue felt a few drops of the warm liquid splash on her face; the smell of blood was nauseating. She quickly let go of the sword and backed away.

The wolf attacked again. This time, even faster than before.

Chu Liuyue could not avoid its advance in time. She could already see the wolf's sharp teeth. She tilted her head and narrowly avoided the wolf pack leader's attack.

In the next instant, her eye filled with killing intent. She brought her knee up and kicked the wolf's stomach.

That kick would have been fatal for regular people, but it was not much for the wolf pack leader. It only paused briefly before it continued attacking.

Its sharp claws went for Chu Liuyue's heart! If she got hit, she would definitely die!

Gu Mingfeng—who had just managed to get up—froze when he saw the scene before him. His pupils constricted, and his heart jumped into his mouth.

At this time, a light flashed.

The wolf pack leader saw something flash before its eyes and felt a cold sensation on its front leg. It finally stopped attacking, but it saw that Chu Liuyue had a dagger in front of her.

Its front paw—which had just reached for Chu Liuyue—had been severed!

The crippling pain suddenly set in!

In that short time, Chu Liuyue raised her leg and struck again.

Having lost a paw, the leader of the wolf pack fell to the ground heavily. It was covered in dust and blood, looking rather pathetic.

“Mingfeng! Liuyue! Hurry up! We can’t hold on any longer!” Mu Hongyu cried out suddenly.

Chu Liuyue turned and saw that the other three were already overwhelmed by the pack. They were barely visible!

Without hesitation, Chu Liuyue quickly charged forward and jumped up! With her dagger in hand, she sliced through the wolf pack leader’s head!

A gash instantly formed as its eyes popped out and flesh was sliced open.

It struggled to get up as Gu Mingfeng got up and dealt another strike to the wound!

The wolf twitched twice, then stopped moving.

Following its death, the wolf pack sank into chaos. They soon dispersed, disappearing into the dark forest without a trace.

The surroundings finally quietened down again.

Only the blood, filth, and the wolves’ carcasses bore witness to what happened.

Chu Liuyue made sure that the crisis had been resolved before she relaxed, laying against a tree to catch her breath. Her current ability was rather good compared to Chu Xianmin, but it was still quite lacking when it came to battling fiends like a red wolf pack's leader.

The brief exchange earlier had drained her of her energy. If she did not use the dagger to block the deadly attack from the wolf earlier, she would probably be...

Chu Liuyue looked down at the dagger in her hand. The thin but sharp knife glistened in the moonlight without any trace of blood. However, she had felt its might earlier.

She had Rong Xiu to thank for this. Her previous dagger would not have killed the wolf pack leader that easily.

Rong Xiu had saved her yet again. She spaced out a little as she stared at the dagger.

"Liuyue! Are you okay?!" Mu Hongyu hurried over and eyed Chu Liuyue up and down.

Chu Liuyue returned to her senses and shook her head. "I'm fine."

"Aiya! Your arm is bleeding!" Mu Hongyu was about to relax when she saw a few cuts on Chu Liuyue's right arm.

Chu Liuyue glanced at her arm. "The beast scratched me by accident just now. It's nothing." She then nonchalantly asked, "What about you guys? You were attacked by the wolf pack just now. Are you all okay?"

Mu Hongyu only put her mind at ease when she saw that Chu Liuyue looked and talked perfectly fine. Her eyes darkened when she heard Chu Liuyue's question. "I'm fine, but Liao Zhongshu is seriously injured because he tried to protect Cen Hu and me..."

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw Liao Zhongshu seated on the floor. Cen Hu was holding him up. Liao Zhongshu's body and face were covered in blood. A glaring wound was on his thigh. It seemed like the wolves had taken a good bite of him.

She frowned and walked over. "How are you feeling?"

Liao Zhongshu's face was pale and without a trace of blood. "I-I'm fine..."

"How are you fine!" Cen Hu's eyes were filled with worry and anxiety. "It's all my fault! The wolves lunged forward just now, and I couldn't hold them back. Zhongshu was helping me, so..."

Liao Zhongshu shook his head and weakly said, "You're injured, so it's normal for you to struggle. You don't have to feel bad... We're a team, right?"

His voice got softer and softer as if he was about to pass out.

Mu Hongyu was about to cry. "Liuyue, what do we do? You're a heavenly doctor. Can you do anything?"

Chu Liuyue bent down and inspected his wounds. She thought about it, then shook her head. "It's too serious."

“Even you can’t do anything?” Mu Hongyu turned and wiped the corner of her eyes. Liuyue was the strongest amongst them, but even she said that she could do nothing...

Liao Zhongshu pulled his lips into a smile. However, coupled with his pale skin, it only added to their anxiety. “I know my own body...”

“I’ll stop your bleeding first. Cen Hu, activate Zhongshu’s signal bottle and have the teachers pick him up. He can’t continue in this state.”

Wan Ling Mountain’s terrain was treacherous. It would only become more dangerous when the Fiend Tidal erupted. Thus, Liao Zhongshu had to go back and recuperate.

The others looked at one another and quietened down.

Cen Hu looked down and took out Liao Zhongshu’s signal bottle in the end. He then pulled its strings.

Poof!

A firework soared into the sky!

Chapter 130: Continue

Since things had already ended like this, everyone decided to rest in their spot.

Mu Hongyu went to start a fire, while the others sat around it and waited for the teacher to come.

Chu Liuyue found some herbs and helped Liao Zhongshu bandage his wound to staunch the blood temporarily. The others were also hurt, so she distributed the herbs and let them handle their injuries themselves.

In the end, she applied the remaining herbs on her arm, which triggered the previously weakened pain, causing her to knit her brows.

A person walked over, and Chu Liuyue raised her head to take a look.

It was Gu Mingfeng.

“Thanks... for just now.” The popping fire reflected on Gu Mingfeng’s face, causing his expression to look more ambiguous.

Chu Liuyue shook her head. “It’s nothing much. That wolf leader was very strong, and neither you and I were its match alone. We could only win if we worked together. We’re lucky that our luck was not bad.”

Gu Mingfeng looked at her, and many thoughts flashed across his mind. *Even though Chu Liuyue said it casually, it was a life-and-death battle previously. She would’ve lost her life if she was not careful. However, Chu Liuyue did not hesitate at all.*

Especially when I think about how I was going to die under the wolf leader’s fangs... If Chu Liuyue did not appear in time, I probably would be worse off than Liao Zhongshu at this point. She saved me, but she doesn’t seem to care. Is there really such a selfless person in the world?

Chu Liuyue detected that Gu Mingfeng had not left, so she raised her head and looked at him. She coincidentally saw his touched eyes.

Gu Mingfeng knitted his brows and immediately avoided her gaze.

Chu Liuyue smiled in her heart. She had seen too many people who overthought in her previous life, so she could immediately tell what Gu Mingfeng was thinking.

Perhaps it was because of his family background that he had a sensitive nature, and instinctively did not believe the people around him. Even if they were on a team, Chu Liuyue believed that Gu Mingfeng actually did not care about the few people's survival. The main reason why he decided to lead and go against the wolf leader was that he wanted to survive.

"I conveniently saved you. You don't have to take it to heart. In such a situation, I'll save whoever it is," said Chu Liuyue lightly.

Gu Mingfeng was shocked since he realized that Chu Liuyue had seen through his thoughts. He knitted his brows and felt a little discomfort. He planned to turn around and walk away.

He took one step and still stopped moving. "No matter what, I owe you a favor." He then walked to a place far away to sit and closed his eyes to rest.

Chu Liuyue looked at him in deep thought and had a better impression of him. *This Gu Mingfeng is much better than his step-sister—Gu Mingzhu—who shares the same father.*

...

After waiting for around an hour or so, Mr. Wen Yan, who led the teams, finally arrived. He looked exhausted, and his body was stained with spots of blood as if he had just been in battle.

Upon seeing the bandages on Chu Liuyue and the others, he hurriedly went forward and asked, "You were attacked by fiends too?"

Too? Chu Liuyue's interest was piqued. "How did you know, Mr. Wen Yan?"

Wen Yan knitted his brows tightly. "Lu Feiyan and the others also met with such a scenario earlier. Three of them had serious injuries while the other two had minor ones. I received their call for help two hours ago, and I rushed over after sending them out."

Mu Hongyu and the rest were shocked. "Their condition is so serious?"

Mr. Wen Yan looked serious and nodded. "Yeah. According to them, they met with an attack from cloud-reaching leopards."

Cloud-reaching leopards were also third-grade fiends, and they were very strong and ferocious. It was no wonder that Lu Feiyan and the rest were so wounded.

"Then... Did they all leave and withdraw from the hunt?"

"Yeah. The three deeply wounded did not have any attacking power any longer. Lu Feiyan and the other person were also badly affected by the battle and did not dare to carry on," said Wen Yan as he walked to Liao Zhongshu. After thoroughly checking his wound, Wen Yan heaved a sigh of relief. "Luckily, you treated your injuries in time. Though your injuries are serious, you can still make it if you go back now."

Liao Zhongshu knew himself that he would only be everyone's burden if he stayed. Thus, he said, "Sorry for the trouble, Mr. Wen Yan."

Wen Yan sighed. "Zhongshu, you are capable and could've hunted a suitable fiend this time..." *It's a pity that he has to forget about it due to his current state.*

Liao Zhongshu's pale lips moved as he weakly smiled. "Mr. Wen Yan, you don't have to worry. I know that my life is more important."

"It's good that you can think this way. There will be plenty of chances after you recuperate. It's really not worth a moment of impulsiveness."

Wen Yan felt comforted. He then looked at Chu Liuyue and the rest. "Then, what about the four of you?"

Cen Hu roughly said, "Of course, we're going to continue!"

It'll be very cowardly of them to retreat now. Liao Zhongshu almost lost his life fighting against the wolves. What would be the point if they retreated together?

"Are you sure?" Mr. Wen Yan sighed. "Wan Ling Mountain is pretty weird this time. Some of the fiends that usually only walk around in the inner areas have actually appeared in the outer areas. They're very strong. I contacted the other teachers just now, and quite a few teams have met with similar situations. It'll be dangerous if you continue to go deeper into the forest."

Cen Hu was taken aback. He scratched his head and looked at Chu Liuyue subconsciously.

Mu Hongyu and Gu Mingfeng looked over at the same time.

“... Liuyue, what do you think?” asked Mu Hongyu.

Mr. Wen Yan was a little surprised. *Isn't their team leader Mu Hongyu? Why does it seem like Chu Liuyue is the core?*

After thinking for a moment, Chu Liuyue calmly looked at the rest. “I... choose to continue!”