

Noble Ruler 1281

[Chapter 1281](#)

The legendary three-eyed eagle quickly realized that things were more complicated than it had thought. This was because... it realized that Chu Liuyue seemed to be very familiar with the place as if she had come here many times before.

She was very familiar with the road and accurately reached the golden-cloud leopard's home.

The closer she was, the stronger the golden-cloud leopard's aura. This made the legendary three-eyed eagle believe what she said previously—she did know the exact position!

After knowing about Chu Liuyue's relationship with the adult steel-ridged fiend, the legendary three-eyed eagle roughly guessed that Chu Liuyue had come here before. But isn't she too familiar with it? With many mountains around, the paths here are extremely complicated, and one will become lost if they aren't careful. And the most important thing is that most of the mountains are already occupied by legendary fiends and are their territories.

Chu Liuyue sometimes had to avoid offending them, so she had to take another path. However, she seemed to be very relaxed about this. She clearly knew every mountain and every river here.

The legendary three-eyed eagle even suspected that she knew what fiends were on every mountain.

After about another hour, Chu Liuyue finally reached a mountain. It was a very secluded one, and its peak seemed to be scraped off by something. It was flat and revealed a grayish-white stone.

There weren't many trees around, and most of the surroundings were rocks. This was the kind of space golden-cloud leopards loved the most. They liked to run around between these kinds of narrow cliffs to train their stunning climbing abilities and explosive power.

Of course, there wasn't much meaning in talking about this now.

Probably because the news of the silver-eared flower-pattern fiend's injury had already spread, but there weren't many fiends who came around to steal benefits when Chu Liuyue came.

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After cleaning the cliff once, Chu Liuyue clapped her hands energetically and surveyed her surroundings. "Where should I start..."

The legendary three-eyed eagle asked curiously, "What?"

"Ah, nothing much. I just feel that there's still more than 20 days here. It would be very boring if I kept cultivating in the cave, so I wanted to find a few fiends and duel with them. Chu Liuyue laughed. "Of course, those that I don't need to use the Chi Xiao Sword on."

She stroked her chin, paused for a moment, and said thoughtfully, "I remember quite a few of the fiends who were preparing to attack me yesterday live around here... Hm, let's start with the anti-sky sparrow!"

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Anti-sky sparrows were ninth-grade fiends and were very fierce. They had good combat skills and the vermilion bird bloodline, so their status wasn't low. In Fiend Park with many legendary fiends, they also had their own place.

Just when Chu Liuyue arrived near the mountain, an anti-sky sparrow squawked on the top of it.

Hualala—

More than ten anti-sky sparrows flew out from all areas of the mountain! They instantly gathered together, and it was very dark.

They stared at Chu Liuyue like they had great enmity toward her.

Chu Liuyue smiled and said, "Don't misunderstand. I came here to duel with you; I don't have any other intentions. Don't be nervous."

The anti-sky sparrows exchanged glances, and the atmosphere was still very tense.

Chu Liuyue said, "I won't use my sword today. You can just randomly send someone out to fight with me. We'll just fight till it's enough, and we won't harm each other's lives. How about that?"

Seeing Chu Liuyue's friendly attitude, the anti-sky sparrows conversed noisily for a while before one of them flew out.

Anti-sky sparrows weren't big and were around the size of a palm. But if anyone dared to underestimate them because of this, they would have to pay a huge price.

An idea popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind, and she circulated the tremendous force around her!

Whoosh!

That anti-sky sparrow was the first to attack!

"You came at the right time!" Chu Liuyue hollered, and her body instantly flew out like a sharp arrow!

The human and the fiend faced off!

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"This kid is rather quiet today..." Elder Shu Yu—who had just patrolled Fiend Park's perimeter—muttered to himself. "It seems like he has learned his lesson."

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No matter how playful one is, they would be more stable after yesterday's dangerous battle, right? Today, these fiends also seem to have quietened down. I can't really hear their usual roars and noises. They should still be fearful of Chu Yue's sword... Elder Shu Yu didn't take all of this to heart.

In actual fact, they had always given Fiend Park free rein. Those fiends had their own minds. Without other people intervening, they would naturally form their own balance.

All parties fight to conquer and restrict each other. Now, there is just another Chu Yue temporarily. As long as he stays put, those fiends basically won't cause him trouble. After the deadline, Chu Yue can leave safely. Elder Shu Yu thought in this manner and rubbed his brows.

Since yesterday, he had been very tense and stressed and was only willing to relax slightly now. His lethargy and exhaustion instantly overwhelmed him.

It's time to rest... Elder Shu Yu thought to himself. After checking the Xuan formation of the area he was in charge of, he returned and planned to catch up on his sleep.

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Time slowly trickled past.

After an hour, Chu Liuyue came out from the anti-sky sparrows' mountain. There were a few holes in her clothes, and she looked rather messy. But luckily, she wasn't very injured.

She took a deep breath in, turned around, and touched her Cosmic Ring as she revealed a satisfied smile. "I couldn't tell, but the anti-sky sparrows have quite a few treasures..."

The anti-sky sparrows—which finally sent Chu Liuyue away with much difficulty—heaved sighs of relief. She's finally gone! I thought she was easy to bully, but who would've known she would be a devil!? Unreasonable and illogical! She almost took our entire house!

"I'll see you later!" Chu Liuyue elatedly waved at them.

The few anti-sky sparrows squawked loudly. See? See what?! Get going!

One of the anti-sky sparrows at the back flew away unsteadily. From far away, it seemed like half the feathers on its wings were gone.

It was the one that 'dueled' with Chu Liuyue earlier.

Chu Liuyue shrugged her shoulders very regretfully. "Still as boring as before."

The three-eyed legendary eagle was speechless. You beat it up into this state and even took its things, yet you still have the cheek to say that it's 'boring?!'

Chu Liuyue kicked a rock away and walked forward. "That's it for today!"

The legendary three-eyed eagle's heart skipped a beat. Even though it had always been nonchalant about other things, it felt rather shocked at this moment. "That's it for today...? You plan to come again tomorrow?"

"Nope!" Chu Liuyue shook her head swiftly.

The legendary three-eyed eagle heaved a sigh of relief, but it then heard Chu Liuyue say, "I've taken everything here and have kinda taken revenge on them for surrounding me that day. There's not much meaning in coming here."

"Let's go somewhere else tomorrow!"

[Chapter 1282](#)

The legendary three-eyed eagle: "...There were so many who attacked you yesterday. Are you going to find them one by one?"

"Of course not!" Chu Liuyue walked forward and patiently explained, "Actually, I was in the wrong first and shouldn't have broken through here. And I even directly broke through to become a stage-eight warrior... This is an absolute temptation to the fiends in Fiend Park. It's natural for them to come over."

"But when I was battling with them yesterday, I had given them an ultimatum and given them time to regret and retreat. It was a pity that not all the fiends were this sensible." Chu Liuyue thought for a while and counted with her fingers. "Yesterday, other than the black-gold werewolf that took the initiative to walk up, there were 13 legendary fiends and seven ninth-grade fiends that didn't retreat. Not retreating meant they were challenging me! Let me think—there's a total of 20 fiends... If I battle one fiend a day, I should be able to settle all of them before I leave."

The legendary three-eyed eagle was truly stunned. It didn't expect Chu Liuyue to be able to pay attention and remember all of these things under such a nerve-racking scenario at that time.

Of course, with her photographic memory, this wasn't very hard. She just had to take another glance...

However...

"Do you really plan on challenging all of them?" The legendary three-eyed eagle felt incredulous. "You could win today because anti-sky sparrows are ninth-grade fiends and have limited combat skills. But when you go against those legendary fiends without using your Chi Xiao Sword, you might not have a huge chance of winning!"

Chu Liuyue wasn't angry because the legendary three-eyed eagle didn't think well of her. On the other hand, she felt happy. This was because she knew that the legendary three-eyed eagle was really thinking for her.

"I didn't say I'll definitely win." Chu Liuyue looked much more serious. "These legendary fiends have different types, and they are all very strong, each with their own strengths. If I can duel with them, I'll definitely benefit greatly."

One had to know that the fiends in Fiend Park truly had wildness and ruthlessness. They were different from the fiends that already had an agreement with humans.

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Chu Liuyue knew very clearly that such combat skills would be even more brutal and harsh, but this was the only way for her to strengthen her skills quickly and directly!

Ever since I entered the area, Big Baby hasn't come. Without being tortured every day, I feel rather empty. Chu Liuyue sighed. I've been led astray by Big Baby.

"I see." The legendary three-eyed eagle then understood her plans.

One had to admit that this was a bold and crazy move, but if Chu Liuyue could really persist, her skills would definitely be strengthened greatly. Besides, she had just broken through to become a stage-eight warrior and needed to refine herself.

"Actually, you don't have to worry. If I really can't beat them, I can still call for help!" Elder Shu Yu and the rest reacted quite quickly.

"However, I should still be more discreet now. If not, I will be criticized when I go back again." Chu Liuyue was still very careful about this. When she battled with the anti-sky sparrow, she even intentionally chose a rather discreet area and settled it quickly. She ended the battle before she caused any commotion.

"Aren't you afraid these fiends will leak the news?"

An advanced and mysterious smile appeared on Chu Liuyue's face. "Which fiend do you think will be willing to tell others that they lost? Especially those in Fiend Park."

Anyone who had a bit of backbone and pride wouldn't do such a thing. Hence, they could only silently accept the results.

Legendary three-eyed eagle: "...You planned this long ago?"

Beating them up, stealing their things, and not even giving them a chance to complain in the end... She is really driving them to the corner!

Chu Liuyue humbly said, "No, I didn't know that I'd be sent over here previously, right? At the end of the day, I just used some previous person's experience. There's nothing much to be praised about!"

The legendary three-eyed eagle was confused. Since when did I praise her?!

Suddenly, doubts flashed across its mind. "Not many people would do such a thing. W-where did you learn this experience from?"

"Hey, myself!" Chu Liuyue freely waved her hands. If not, can I say that I'm experienced in doing such things?

The legendary three-eyed eagle had been following her the entire way and basically knew some of her secrets. Hence, Chu Liuyue didn't hide this intentionally.

"But I really didn't do it on purpose previously. At that time, a few legendary fiends bullied Ah Qiong, and they even dragged me into the picture. What else could I do?" Chu Liuyue sighed. Thinking of the times back then, she couldn't help but say sorrowfully, "I have no choice. I can only teach them all a lesson."

The three-eyed legendary eagle was speechless.

"Originally, I planned on properly staying put this time. Who knew that this would happen, and everyone bullied me? If I don't retaliate, won't it be too aggrieving for me?" Chu Liuyue said seriously. "But it's also not good if I offend too many people, so I only chose the ones that didn't leave back then."

This way, even if she was discovered someday, she could still righteously defend herself.

The legendary three-eyed eagle silently mourned for the fiends in Fiend Park for three seconds. I'd rather offend the entire world than Chu Liuyue alone!

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After going back, before she reached the middle of the mountain, Chu Liuyue saw Ah Qiong waiting for her at the cave entrance.

Ah Qiong saw that she was smiling brightly and that everything seemed like it went smoothly. It then felt more at ease.

Chu Liuyue walked over. "How is Tao Tao recovering?"

Once she said this, Chu Liuyue heard footsteps coming from inside.

A big head carefully and curiously poked out.

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but laugh. "It doesn't look bad."

A steel-ridged fiend's recovery power was one of the best amongst legendary fiends.

"Tao Tao has great bloodline strength, and it might be even stronger than you in the future, Ah Qiong," said Chu Liuyue seriously.

Ah Qiong smiled. Praising one's child would much more easily make their parents even happier and prouder than praising themselves.

Hearing it being praised, Tao Tao was shy for once and shrunk its head back.

Chu Liuyue walked in. "I brought back some toys with me. Some of them are for you, Ah Qiong, and the others are for Tao Tao."

As she spoke, she walked into the cave and retrieved her victory spoils under the mother-son duo's gazes.

Boom!

The gigantic black-gold crystal landed on the ground with a low sound.

Chu Liuyue clapped. "Tao Tao, you can eat this when your health gets better!"

Tao Tao didn't really know what it was, but it sensitively detected the shocking strength hidden within and instantly felt happy. It then walked a few rounds around the black-gold crystal.

Ah Qiong was first shocked before it glanced at Chu Liuyue gratefully.

Chu Liuyue blinked. "Don't worry. Before I leave, I'll return you a healthy and fit Tao Tao!"

[Chapter 1283](#)

Chu Liuyue spent the next few days in a very disciplined manner. Every day, she would find a fiend to duel in the morning or afternoon.

If she won, she would eat and take their things, ransacking their entire houses. If she lost, she would keep trying. If she really couldn't win, she would run.

As she had broken through to become a stage-eight warrior, she was still rather fast when she escaped. When she was sometimes driven to a corner, she would instantly teleport.

If the other party chased after her relentlessly and followed her back... With Ah Qiong around, those fiends could only go back sadly.

All in all, Chu Liuyue had spent her time quite smoothly. After the various bitter battles, her combat skills had rapidly improved.

And Elder Shu Yu and the rest didn't notice any of this.

Everything was still peaceful.

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Fairy Water Mound.

Jiang Zhiyuan rushed the whole way back and returned at the fastest speed.

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When the guards stationed outside the Jiang residence saw Jiang Zhiyuan coming back from afar, they were all stunned. They exchanged glances and hurriedly welcomed her. "Big Missy, why didn't you inform us in advance that you were coming back?! We could've fetched you!"

Jiang Zhiyuan didn't stop and rushed into the residence. "Where's Father?"

Seeing her anxious look and dirtied appearance, Jiang Zhiyuan seemed like she had something very urgent to handle. The guards didn't dare to be slow and hurriedly replied, "Master is in the residence!"

Hearing this, Jiang Zhiyuan felt more at ease and rushed inside at a faster speed.

"Big Missy is back!" One of the guards hurriedly jogged to catch up with her, while the other was even faster and ran forward to announce her return.

The entire Jiang residence knew of this very quickly.

Jiang Zhiyuan had a distinguished status. Once they heard that she was back, quite a few people in the residence hurriedly came out and welcomed her.

In the past, Jiang Zhiyuan would still put on a pretense. However, she had lost her mood today and didn't even give those people an extra glance as she rushed toward Jiang Hetian's courtyard.

She was like a wind that blew by, leaving the crowd confused.

"Um... Did something happen to Big Missy? Why does her expression look so awful?"

"I've never seen Big Missy like this before... It seems like she has a frozen aura all over her..."

"In the past, Big Missy would happily greet us every time she saw us. I don't think she did this on purpose today... Seeing how panicked she looks, maybe something urgent really happened."

"Forget it. This isn't something that we can talk about. Let's disperse!"

Jiang Zhiyuan didn't care about this chatter as she directly walked over.

Reaching the courtyard entrance, Jiang Hetian—who had heard the news—came out. Originally, his face was filled with smiles, but he froze after seeing Jiang Zhiyuan's cold and anxious look.

"Father!" When Jiang Zhiyuan saw her father, her uneasy heart finally relaxed a little, and she couldn't help but call him.

Jiang Hetian's heart sank, and he hurriedly went forward. "Zhiyuan, what's with you?"

All these years, Jiang Zhiyuan had always been very magnanimous and presentable in his eyes, and he was very proud of her. He had never seen her in such a frail and anxious manner.

Even though her clothes were lavish and her makeup and hair were intricate, they couldn't hide her tiredness and vague despair.

"Father—" Jiang Zhiyuan was about to speak. Then, she recalled that there were some people around, and she stopped in her words.

Jiang Hetian understood her. "We can go in and talk. You can tell me slowly then."

Following that, the two of them entered the house one after another, leaving the crowd muddled outside.

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"Zhiyuan, what's wrong?" Once they went in, Jiang Hetian couldn't help but ask worriedly.

Jiang Zhiyuan took a deep breath in and asked, "Father, why didn't you reply to my letter?"

"Reply? Reply to what letter?" Jiang Hetian was shocked and asked this in return.

Seeing his behavior, Jiang Zhiyuan immediately understood something. "You didn't receive my letter? I specifically sent it back with the thousand-chance bird."

Jiang Hetian shook his head. "I've been in Fairy Water Mound the entire time, but I really didn't receive any news from you."

As expected! Jiang Zhiyuan clenched her teeth. "Father, I wrote you a letter previously, but it should've been intercepted. Thus, you didn't receive it."

No wonder! No wonder I waited so long, yet Father didn't reply. Something went wrong much earlier!

"What exactly happened that caused you to be this anxious? Besides, not many people dare to intercept your letter, right? Who would've done it?"

Jiang Zhiyuan shook her head. "I don't know either."

Even though the academy was far from Fairy Water Mound, accidents had never happened when she corresponded through letters before.

This time, someone must've done it on purpose. However, she probably couldn't find out who in such a short amount of time.

"We can just investigate this letter. I came back today to ask for your help." Jiang Zhiyuan paused, reorganized her thoughts, and briefly explained the recent happenings in the academy.

After hearing it, Jiang Hetian knitted his brows. "...So, you're currently suspecting that Chu Yue has a problem with his identity?"

"Yes. Rong Xiu does treat him rather differently, which causes other people to be suspicious." Jiang Zhiyuan bit her lips. "Besides... He also has the exact same red-tailed phoenix as Shangguan Yue. Isn't this too much of a coincidence?"

Jiang Hetian asked, "You're guessing that the Chu Yue is Shangguan Yue?"

Jiang Zhiyuan nodded hesitantly.

Jiang Hetian fell silent, placed two hands behind his back, and paced back and forth in the room. After some time, he then said, "Your doubts are valid, but... The Sky-Cloud Empire has never said that the princess consort had left."

One had to know that with Shangguan Yue's current identity, she definitely couldn't go to any place quietly. Ever since she had become the princess consort, she had stayed in the Sky-Cloud Empire. So why would she suddenly appear in the distant Ling Xiao Academy?

[Chapter 1284](#)

"Who knows if Shangguan Yue is in the Sky-Cloud Empire?" At this point, Jiang Zhiyuan's mind was extremely clear. She clenched her teeth and couldn't hide her jealousy. "Rong Xiu dotes on her so much and would even risk offending the venerables for her. He could just silently send her out."

Anyway, other than himself, only his confidants can go to his bedroom. If something really happens, how would outsiders know? Jiang Zhiyuan increasingly felt that her suspicions could be true. "I wrote the letter to you because I originally wanted you to check on the situation in the Sky-Cloud Empire. Yet, this letter was intercepted. It shows that... someone is stopping me from investigating Chu Yue!"

Jiang Zhiyuan's words tempted Jiang Hetian. "Your guess isn't illogical, but now... The Sky-Cloud Empire is heavily guarded and has strong defenses. It's as hard as ascending to the sky to find out about something, let alone those core members... Zhiyuan, you're really putting me in a difficult spot this time!"

Jiang Zhiyuan was slightly dazed. "How could this be? Didn't we previously have a—"

Jiang Hetian instantly looked at her alertly.

Jiang Zhiyuan hurriedly shut her mouth.

"After the selection of the princess consort, the situation drastically changed at the Sky-Cloud Empire. Some people are as good as being powerless..."

On the surface, Rong Xiu didn't do anything and just left for Ling Xiao Academy. But in actual fact, he had already set up a plan in secret and was extremely accurate and harsh in attacking, not even giving others any time to retaliate.

Now, those people were in perilous situations themselves. How would they help them?

Ever since Jiang Zhiyuan lost the position of princess consort, their attitudes toward Fairy Water Mound had been becoming increasingly negative by the day.

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Jiang Zhiyuan's heart gradually sank. "Is there really no other way?"

"Sigh..." Jiang Hetian shook his head and sighed. "If the clan leader came out of seclusion now, perhaps he could put in a word for us. But now..."

Nobody knew when the clan leader could come out, but with the current situation, how could they afford to wait?

The father and daughter fell silent together.

The room was completely quiet.

After a while, Jiang Zhiyuan suddenly said, "Let's check on Shangguan Yue then!"

Jiang Hetian was dazed. "What?"

Jiang Zhiyuan squinted her eyes and said every word carefully, "Rong Xiu personally admitted that this Shangguan Yue was a woman he had a marriage agreement with when he was at Country Yao Chen back then. If we want to check on this Shangguan Yue's background, we can directly send someone over and know about it! Perhaps that Chu Yue is also from that place, and we can find out something!"

Jiang Zhiyuan increasingly felt that this plan would work. "Father, we need to know our enemies to win!"

However, Jiang Hetian was still rather hesitant. "It's not that we can't, but... If Rong Xiu knows that we're secretly checking the princess consort's status..."

"So what if he knows?" Jiang Zhiyuan sneered. "The Sky-Cloud Empire's princess consort should have a distinguished background, and she needs to be legitimate! If she can't even undergo such a check, it just proves that her identity is problematic and that she's not worthy of being the princess consort!"

Jiang Hetian sighed in his heart. This daughter is good at everything, but she becomes especially impulsive and unrealistic every time it is something related to Rong Xiu. That Shangguan Yue is no longer just a candidate for the princess consort position. She is now a legitimate princess consort. Some things cannot be done like before, but Zhiyuan doesn't seem to realize this.

"Father?" Seeing that Jiang Hetian hadn't made a response for so long, Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't help but knit her brows slightly.

When Jiang Hetian saw her behavior, his heart ached, and he could only nod. "Okay, I'll send someone to check on her later."

Jiang Zhiyuan was then satisfied. "Thank you, Father! I knew you were the best to me!"

Jiang Hetian laughed out loud and patted her head. "Okay, you can rest assured now, right? Look at how dirty you are; you must've come back in a hurry. Was the journey tough? Go have a hot shower and rest."

Jiang Zhiyuan was very touched and forcefully nodded.

However, Jiang Hetian's next sentence caused her smile to freeze. "Oh right, how long of a leave did you take from Elder Dan Qing this time?"

After hesitating for a while, Jiang Zhiyuan vaguely replied, "I didn't specify a time... I just wanted to come back, so I told Mentor that I'd head back to the academy after I settled my private matters. Mentor also agreed."

"Huh? You didn't say a time?" Jiang Hetian was very surprised. "Then, you mustn't neglect your work at the academy."

Previously, Jiang Zhiyuan had already taken leave for the Sky-Cloud Empire's princess consort selection. It hadn't been long since then, yet she took leave again and didn't even specify the duration this time. Elder Dan Qing might overthink it.

Besides, if the news got out, it wouldn't be good.

"The strong will be respected. No matter what, you can get everything you want as long as you're strong enough!"

"Father, you're worrying too much. I won't." Jiang Zhiyuan forced a smile. "Since when have I been behind others on this? After I've rested at home, I'll go back."

Jiang Hetian then felt more assured and nodded. "You're always the most obedient one; I would say much more about the others. You should know what to do."

Jiang Zhiyuan could only force herself to acknowledge it.

The father and daughter talked for a while longer before they went back on their own.

Jiang Zhiyuan went back to rest, and Jiang Hetian started sending people to investigate Shangguan Yue.

The Jiang residence was still calm and peaceful as if there weren't much difference from before.

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Ling Xiao Academy.

A month hurriedly passed. In the blink of an eye, it was the last day of Chu Liuyue being locked up in Fiend Park.

Early in the morning, Chu Liuyue woke up.

She absorbed the force and circulated it. After allowing the force to circulate for a Heavenly Cycle in her body, she widened her eyes again and breathed out slowly.

She felt rejuvenated. She had to admit that she felt very comfortable and free during this one month. After all, not everybody had the chance to fight with so many incredible fiends.

At this time, a familiar voice came from outside. "Chu Yue, you can go out today!"

Elder Shu Yu was calling her from outside.

Ah Qiong and Tao Tao looked over.

Chu Liuyue stood up, tidied her clothes, and smiled brightly at them. "I'm leaving today!"

Ah Qiong seemed reluctant. After some hesitation, Tao Tao walked to the cave entrance and sat down, rejection written all over its body.

Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears. "Tao Tao, are you stopping me from leaving?"

Tao Tao turned its head and refused to speak in a very stubborn manner.

Chu Liuyue's heart felt warm. Actually, she became much closer to Tao Tao during this period of interaction. She also felt very reluctant to leave just like that.

"Don't worry. I'll still be in the academy in the future. When I have the chance, I'll come over and visit you."

"Chu Yue?" Seeing that the person hadn't come out yet, Elder Shu Yu urged.

Chu Liuyue walked over and patted Ah Qiong and Tao Tao.

Tao Tao then obediently made way and looked at Chu Liuyue with grievances.

Da!

A fist-sized tear dropped down and landed on Chu Liuyue's hand.

[Chapter 1285](#)

The reluctant and sad atmosphere was instantly broken.

The corner of Chu Liuyue's lips twitched as she looked at Tao Tao and seriously said, "Tao Tao, you've already swallowed such a huge black-gold crystal. You're a big kid now. You can't cry so easily, okay?"

Tao Tao nodded forcefully and flung a few large teardrops out.

Chu Liuyue was caught off-guard and was hit again. She wiped her face. "Um... I'll leave first."

Elder Shu Yu waited for a while, and just as he planned to go in and find her, Chu Liuyue finally walked out from within.

He looked at Chu Liuyue's wet face in shock. "Chu Yue, what's... with you?"

Chu Liuyue coughed. "Nothing; I just washed my face. Why did you come so early and even trouble yourself to specifically come and fetch me?"

Elder Shu Yu didn't take it to heart as he smiled and said, "Today is the last day after all. Your mentor must be anxious like mad. Back then, I promised him that I would take good care of you, so I naturally have to be in charge of sending you out in one piece."

He raised his chin. "Let's go!"

Chu Liuyue nodded.

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Just as the two of them jumped up and prepared to leave, a reluctant cry came from behind.

Chu Liuyue turned around to take a look but saw Ah Qiong and Tao Tao standing at the cave entrance and bidding her farewell.

She waved her hands.

"It seems like they're really reluctant to leave you." Elder Shu Yu looked curious. "These steel-ridged fiends are very cold and hard to approach. I didn't expect them to be so close to you."

Actually, he wanted to ask about this long ago, but he didn't have much of a chance beforehand. Even now, he didn't know exactly how Chu Yue built such a deep relationship with this steel-ridged fiend mother-son duo.

Especially that adult steel-ridged fiend. To guard Chu Yue, it could even sacrifice its child... It was really stunning.

Chu Liuyue smiled. "I think... it's fate?"

Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn't want to talk about it further, Elder Shu Yu understood and didn't ask more.

Anyway, he already understood that this Chu Yue was indeed different from ordinary people. Things that seemed impossible to other people, he could complete many of them easily. One had no choice but to be convinced of this.

Some people were born lucky.

"Your aura seems stronger than before?" Originally, Elder Shu Yu wanted to check on Chu Liuyue's current abilities. However, he recalled that the latter had a Yuan instrument that hid her aura, so he couldn't check it. However, there were some faintly obvious changes.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. "There is rich Heaven and Earth Force here, and it's peaceful and quiet. It's very suitable to cultivate here. I've already been here for a month. It's normal for me to strengthen myself, right?"

"Peaceful? Quiet?" Elder Shu Yu's gaze turned strange. Does Chu Yue have some misunderstanding about Fiend Park? Not to mention others, just judging from the night when he was about to break through and become a stage-eight warrior, it definitely had nothing to do with the words 'peaceful' and 'quiet.'

"Don't you think so? Fiend Park has been much quieter recently," asked Chu Liuyue in return.

Elder Shu Yu thought for a while and was rather hesitant. "I think... so..."

When he patrolled in the past, he would occasionally hear some cries and roars from fiends, but it did decrease in frequency recently.

"Probably because the incident that night had caused a huge commotion..." said Elder Shu Yu with uncertainty.

Chu Liuyue didn't correct him and nodded in agreement. "Elder Shu Yu, you make sense. In this way, I'm very fortunate."

As they spoke, the two of them had reached the Xuan formation.

With the translucent Xuan formation in the middle, Chu Liuyue already saw two familiar figures.

Elder Shu Yu raised his hand, and an opening was made in the middle of the Xuan formation.

"Disciple!" Elder Wan Zheng couldn't conceal his excitement and yelled, "Come out quickly! Let me take a good look at you!"

Chu Liuyue's heart felt warm as she walked out.

Elder Wan Zheng took two steps out and sized her up carefully. After confirming that she was really unharmed, he heaved a sigh of relief.

Chu Liuyue smiled and comforted, "Don't worry, Mentor. I'm doing great."

"You must've suffered a lot inside. How can you be good?" Seeing her face filled with smiles, Elder Wan Zheng felt his heart ache even more. "Don't worry! From today onward, we won't come here again!"

"Um... Mentor, it's actually pretty nice here..." Chu Liuyue looked hesitant for once. I spent my days rather happily... I even picked up quite a few good items...

Elder Wan Zheng looked at her behavior and thought that she didn't dare to go against Bo Yan in front of him, so he didn't speak further. He patted her shoulders. "Good disciple!"

If the news of her being able to stay in Fiend Park for a month safely and even complete such a major breakthrough got out, who wouldn't be envious of Wan Zheng having a good disciple?

Seeing that he had already confirmed a few things, Chu Liuyue couldn't explain further and allowed him to carry on.

"You performed quite well this time." At the side, Elder Bo Yan nodded in admiration after sizing Chu Liuyue up. "You've become much stabler and more mature."

It seems like it was right to send Chu Yue here this time.

"Remember this lesson, and don't make any more mistakes in the future."

Chu Liuyue seriously answered, "Thank you for the teaching, Elder Bo Yan. I've benefited greatly this time."

It was great to exchange blows with so many ninth-grade fiends and legendary fiends! Sigh, it's a pity I don't know when I can have this chance again.

Elder Bo Yan admired Chu Liuyue even more. "Good, good. It's great that you can think in this manner."

As he spoke, he sighed. "If only... Jun Jiuqing can think like you."

[Chapter 1286](#)

Chu Liuyue suddenly looked up!

Detecting her reaction, Elder Wan Zheng curiously asked, "Disciple, what's the matter?"

Chu Liuyue recovered her senses and smiled to hide her thoughts. "Nothing much. I was just curious... The person you mentioned, Elder Bo Yan, did he... receive the same punishment as me?"

Elder Bo Yan shook his head. "Not really, but... he also made some mistakes before, so he received his corresponding punishment. But from start to end, his attitude was very stubborn, unlike you..."

He wasn't only stubborn; he just refused to repent. He was exactly the same as his mentor. Perhaps he had long seen such a quality in Jun Jiuqing, so he was always so protective of him...

"Forget it; it's all matters of the past. We don't have to talk about it." Elder Bo Yan directly ended this topic.

Chu Liuyue's lips moved slightly, but she didn't say anything in the end.

...

Elder Bo Yan and Elder Wan Zheng personally sent Chu Liuyue back to Jiuheng Peak.

After the incidents that happened during this period, they were already used to putting Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu together. Hence, they naturally sent her back here.

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After Elder Bo Yan instructed her about some matters, he left and gave the mentor and disciple space to talk.

When his figure disappeared, Elder Wan Zheng looked at Chu Liuyue. "Disciple, do you know Jun Jiuqing?"

Chu Liuyue smiled slightly. "No. Mentor, why did you suddenly ask that?"

Elder Wan Zheng stared at her and shook his head. "You don't have to lie to me. When you talked about him, your expression was clearly amiss. You must know him—at least you've heard of him recently, right?"

Old ginger is still the spiciest. Chu Liuyue sighed. It was because Elder Bo Yan had mentioned him too suddenly, and I was too shocked, so I couldn't control my expression properly.

She kept silent for a moment. "I've heard of him before."

Elder Wan Zheng asked again, "Did Rong Xiu tell you about him?"

Chu Liuyue's gaze flickered; then, she nodded.

"Sigh... I knew it." Elder Wan Zheng suddenly sighed as if he were emotional like he had expected everything. "He has deep grudges against Jun Jiuqing. You're so close to Rong Xiu, so it's normal that you've heard of his name."

An imperceptible frown appeared on Chu Liuyue's forehead. In the beginning, I thought that Elder Wan Zheng would guess Rong Xiu because I had pushed the blame to him for a few incidents before. Thus, he naturally thought of Rong Xiu this time. However, it seems like this isn't the case.

She didn't speak, and Elder Wan Zheng thought it was her tacit agreement. "Actually, Jun Jiuqing was originally a good kid. It's a pity..."

It's a pity he has a deep mind, and his personality is extreme. When he meets with certain problems, his reactions will often head in an uncontrollable direction. But such comments are left for the elders to be well-aware of on their own. It's still inappropriate to tell the students about this.

"But you don't have to take this to heart. Just focus on yourself."

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but ask, "What conflicts happened between Senior Brother Rong Xiu and Jun Jiuqing?"

In the past, I could tell that the two of them didn't see eye to eye. But hearing Elder Wan Zheng, it seems like they had a long history.

Elder Wan Zheng knocked on her forehead. "There are some things that aren't for you to be concerned about. No matter what's happening to them, just focus on yourself and cultivate properly."

Chu Liuyue rubbed her head and obediently acknowledged it. "Okay."

"Okay, you can go back first! Rest well today. Tomorrow, make a trip to my place. Now that you've broken through, I want to know where your skills are."

Chu Liuyue nodded and said, "Oh yes, Mentor, I have used up almost all of my herbs. I want to go to Medicinal Valley to take some more. What do you think..."

Elder Wan Zheng waved his hands. "Just go and take as much as you like! You can put all of them under my name!"

Chu Liuyue's smile instantly became much more sincere.

After sending Elder Wan Zheng away, she turned around and entered Jiuheng Peak.

This barrier was set up by Rong Xiu specifically, and only the two of them could open it. Of course, Dugu Mobao was the only exception.

Returning to the mountain, Chu Liuyue went straight to the residence. But after touring a round, she then realized that Rong Xiu didn't seem to be here.

After that, she even searched quite a few places on the mountain and within and outside the house, but she still couldn't see Rong Xiu.

Looking at the empty house, Chu Liuyue was a little dazed. She instinctively thought that Rong Xiu would be here, so she didn't ask much when she was with Elder Bo Yan and the rest. Was he... punished because of the previous incident? But even I came back. Why is Rong Xiu still missing?

"You don't have to find him. He can only come back after half a month." A cold and milky voice sounded.

Chu Liuyue was elated. "Big Baby!"

She followed the direction of the voice and walked a few steps forward, discovering that Dugu Mobao was indeed in the room next door.

"Why are you here?" she asked in surprise and curiosity.

Dugu Mobao calmly glanced at her as if he were speechless that she would ask such a question.

Chu Liuyue coughed in embarrassment. "Um... I mean, it's currently daytime. Why are you here?"

According to Dugu Mobao's habits, he would normally appear in the evening or night.

Dugu Mobao didn't directly reply to Chu Liuyue. He clearly felt that there wasn't much point to the latter's words.

After being despised, Chu Liuyue didn't mind it either as she moved over happily.

With Dugu Mobao around, it was normal to be despised. If he wasn't, it meant that he was cold.

After a while, Chu Liuyue had gotten used to it. Every time she saw the cold expression filled with contempt, all she wanted to do was harshly squeeze it! Of course, she had the thought but not the guts.

In the past, she still dared to be slightly unruly. Ever since she started cultivating with Dugu Mobao, Chu Liuyue had restrained herself much more.

The feeling of being crushed harshly on the chessboard was too painful. This was enough to make her restrain the urge to squeeze his small face and not let her have any desire left at all.

"Where exactly did he go? Why is it taking him so long?" Chu Liuyue sized him up curiously. "This should be very confidential. How do you know this so clearly?"

"He's not in the academy." Dugu Mobao was a man of few words. He only gave a half-assed answer and ignored all of Chu Liuyue's other questions. "You broke through and became a stage-eight warrior?"

Hearing him stiffly change the topic, Chu Liuyue had the urge to squeeze his chubby face again. However, the last bit of her rationality stopped her. If Dugu Mobao doesn't want to speak, it's clear that asking him anything will be useless. Besides, I probably would accumulate more contempt.

"I broke through a few days after entering Fiend Park." Chu Liuyue walked over and sat opposite Dugu Mobao.

Dugu Mobao stared at her. "I'll fight with you."

[Chapter 1287](#)

"What?" Chu Liuyue widened her eyes slightly and almost suspected that she had misheard him.

"You? Want to fight with me?" Chu Liuyue pointed at her nose and asked in disbelief.

Dugu Mobao knitted his brows. "What, are you reluctant?"

"No!" Chu Liuyue immediately denied it. What a joke! It's rare for an ordinary person to meet such a strong warrior once. It's even rarer to exchange blows with one and receive some guidance. No matter how stupid I am, I wouldn't say 'no.'

"I was just a little shocked..." After all, she had known Dugu Mobao for so long, but other than playing chess, she hadn't truly fought with him. Even for her warrior training, he just threw out a few puppets and never personally fought her.

Hence, Chu Liuyue was still quite shocked to hear him say this suddenly.

"Although you're still far from being a legendary warrior, you're already a stage-eight warrior now, so it's not so easy for you to break when you fight," commented Dugu Mobao very calmly.

Chu Liuyue's lips quivered. What is he saying?! What does he mean by 'not so easy for me to break?' I trained and broke through to become a stage-eight warrior with so much difficulty, but this is my only use?!

Dugu Mobao glanced at her.

Chu Liuyue became stern. "Please guide me!"

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...

Their fight was still in the room.

Looking at the expensive furniture, Chu Liuyue hesitated. "Big Baby, are we really not going outside to fight? This place is so small. It's hard to execute our moves, right? It's not good if we destroy the furniture..."

"There's no such need," said Dugu Mobao lightly.

Chu Liuyue was stumped. This was the one sentence that could express the opponent's contempt and nonchalance the most.

She personally felt that she had quite a sharp tongue, but she always lost without fail in front of Dugu Mobao every single time.

Yet, she couldn't argue against him at all. He just had to crush her in all areas!

She took a deep breath in, and her gaze became much more serious. Then, she widened her stance, tensed up her muscles, and circulated the force within her dantian rapidly!

Almost in the blink of an eye, she entered combat mode completely!

Faint satisfaction flashed across Dugu Mobao's face, and it disappeared right after. "It seems like you didn't waste your time at Fiend Park for this one month."

Chu Liuyue's previous combat skills weren't weak, but she was restricted in some way.

After breaking through to become a stage-eight warrior, she maintained her peak condition and continuously battled all sorts of fiends for a month. She had improved her skills in almost all aspects.

Even though her cultivation level didn't change, her observation skills, sensitivity, and other aspects had strengthened quite a bit. This was extremely important for strong warriors when they were battling. Hence, when she faced Dugu Mobao, she rapidly circulated all the force in her body!

She bent her knees slightly and stared at Dugu Mobao closely!

Whoosh!

The next moment, her figure disappeared from the spot!

She attacked first, hurling out a punch!

Then, Dugu Mobao raised his hand and placed his palm in front of him!

Rumble!

Chu Liuyue's fist harshly flew out and quickly met with an invisible and shocking force, producing a low blunt sound.

At that moment, her entire palm seemed to have hit against a very hard steel board!

Her mind turned blank for a short moment. But very quickly, the soreness and excruciating pain came from her palms!

Her palm was almost crushed in the next second as a strong force bounced back!

Chu Liuyue was at the front, and her body instantly flew backward, about to harshly collide with the wall behind!

She clenched her teeth tightly and quickly struck her palm out, using the force to slow herself down so that she wouldn't collide with the surface. But even so, the instant the forces intersected, she almost couldn't stand still and fell to the ground.

Using the handle of a chair beside her, Chu Liuyue forcefully stabilized her body.

"It seems like you still need to train." Dugu Mobao's voice came from behind.

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other and turned around.

Dugu Mobao's expression was calm and nonchalant as if he had already expected all of this to happen.

Chu Liuyue felt very conflicted. This was because she didn't even touch Dugu Mobao's palm from start to end!

He just raised his hand, and the aura that came with it was enough to crush her!

She naturally knew that she wasn't his match, but she never thought that she wouldn't even have the chance to properly exchange blows with him, even though she had tried her best.

After some time, she then asked, "Why... do you want to show me this move?"

The both of them were on completely different levels. Such a fight only had one meaning to her—to let her know even more clearly how weak she was!

"I just want you to see that you're indeed one of the top few compared to the students in Ling Xiao Academy. But at this very moment, you're still worlds apart from becoming a true warrior." Dugu Mobao retracted his hand, and his purple, demonic eyes seemed to sparkle slightly.

Chu Liuyue laughed bitterly. She finally realized that the contempt Dugu Mobao had every time he faced her wasn't fake but real. If she were him, she would also despise herself.

Then, her expression became stern as she bowed toward Dugu Mobao. "I'll remember your teachings in my heart."

She knew very clearly that Dugu Mobao was willing to do this because of her. "One day... I'll definitely be able to go against you legitimately!"

Dugu Mobao's lips curved up slightly, and he revealed a very rare smile. "I'm waiting."

His smile seemed like a flower that suddenly emerged on an ice-filled, snowy mountain.

All along, he had a cold face, and even Chu Liuyue didn't see him smile much. Hence, she couldn't help but be stunned when she suddenly saw it.

The next moment, she finally couldn't help herself as she took a few steps forward and squeezed Dugu Mobao's face. "Ahhh! Big Baby, you're so cute!"

Three seconds later, Dugu Mobao walked out with a black face.

Thump!

The door was shut.

Inside the room, Chu Liuyue started to regret it when she saw the gigantic Xuan formation before her. "Big Baby, I was wrong. I won't do it next time!!"

Dugu Mobao coldly said, "If you don't solve it, you can't come out!"

Then, his figure flashed, and he disappeared on the spot. He left Chu Liuyue studying the chessboard with a miserable expression.

Fifteen minutes later.

"Dugu Mobao, this isn't even a ninth-grade Xuan formation! Come back!"

However, Dugu Mobao had already completely disappeared.

As her objections were to no avail, Chu Liuyue could only continue examining the Xuan formation obediently.

Sigh. Suddenly, I really want to go back to Fiend Park. At the very least, I won't be so harshly bullied there.

...

Chu Liuyue sat in the room for a few hours.

Nearing evening, her eyes finally lit up. "Here!"

[Chapter 1288](#)

She raised her hand, and her thin and white fingers danced around lightly. A few rays of light shot out and intertwined to form a small Xuan formation in mid-air.

Then, she carefully placed it somewhere on the large Xuan formation before her.

Very quickly, the surrounding light surged in and merged with this small Xuan formation.

Chu Liuyue was elated. This is a sign of it being solved!

However, the smile on her lips didn't completely extend. The next moment, she saw that the light on the large Xuan formation continuously rushed forward and quickly drowned her small Xuan formation.

Chu Liuyue sighed in disappointment. My way of thinking to solve this Xuan formation is right, but it's a pity that I'm rather weak now. I can't go against such a Xuan formation.

When her small Xuan formation was completely absorbed, a ray of silver light in front flashed across, and the big Xuan formation silently disappeared.

Chu Liuyue heaved a slight sigh of relief. "It seems like Big Baby doesn't want to directly put me in a difficult spot with a Xuan formation."

"I'll give you three months to solve this Xuan formation completely. I'll come and check by then." Dugu Mobao's voice suddenly sounded in her ears!

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat, and she looked outside.

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It was quiet and silent as if nobody had been here.

She rubbed her brows. Three months... I really don't know where Big Baby got his confidence in me from... But luckily, I have basically already memorized that Xuan formation, so I can study it when I have the time.

She glanced at the sky, turned around, and opened the door. Like she had expected, the previously locked door silently opened.

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment, walked out, and went toward Medicinal Valley.

...

It was already in the evening. There weren't many people when she reached Medicinal Valley.

She saw Elder Meng Ye sleeping on the broken wooden bed in the middle at first glance.

He seemed to be facing the sky and sleeping. Sometimes, students would bring herbs and pay for them there.

After the previous incident, Chu Liuyue wouldn't really think that he was sleeping. The entire Medicinal Valley had always been in his control.

Chu Liuyue didn't disturb him either. She flew down and started looking for her own herbs.

"Chu Yue?!" The moment Chu Liuyue stood still, she heard a surprised voice from behind.

She turned around and smiled. "Senior Brother Zhong Xun, what are you doing here?"

Zhong Xun walked over and sized Chu Liuyue up, unable to conceal the curiosity in his eyes. "I should be the one asking you this! You haven't come out in a month, right!? I haven't seen you this entire time. Has Senior Brother Rong Xiu been giving you private lessons?"

Chu Liuyue's gaze flickered slightly as she smiled and answered, "Yeah."

It seems like these people don't know that Rong Xiu isn't at the academy.

"No wonder." Zhong Xun looked at Chu Liuyue in admiration and envy. "Senior Brother Rong Xiu is second on the Qing Yun Ranking. With his guidance, you must've benefited greatly, right? Of course, Chu Yue, you're outstanding as well. You came to the academy two months ago and directly got onto the Qing Yun Ranking. It's a pity that this month's assessment just ended, and you didn't come. If not, your ranking would've improved, right?"

Chu Liuyue then recalled that during her one month in Fiend Park, she had coincidentally missed this month's assessment.

She smiled and shook her head. "Senior Brother Zhong Xun, you're too kind. I'm not that good."

After thinking for a while, she said, "Unlike Lin Zhifei—he got onto the Qing Yun Ranking earlier than me."

Zhong Xun made a 'tsk' sound. "That's true. For this monthly assessment, he's already the 89th person on the Qing Yun Ranking for Xuan Masters."

Chu Liuyue was quite surprised. "Oh? So fast?"

"Heh, actually, this isn't his true ability!" Zhong Xun glanced left and right and lowered his volume. "You haven't been out for a while, so it's normal for you not to know this. When the few Xuan Master elders previously collaborated for a lesson, Lin Zhifei beat Jiang Zhiyuan on the spot!"

Chu Liuyue's gaze flickered slightly.

"Jiang Zhiyuan isn't weak. Being able to beat her just shows how strong Lin Zhifei is! Even though it's not considered a true battle but just a comparison on the chessboard, it was enough to prove that Lin Zhifei was outstanding." As Zhong Xun spoke, he felt very emotional.

"I heard that he's only 20 years old and looks very gentle and elegant. I didn't expect him to hide his skills... The people from the Xuan Master side say that he will at least be 30 ranks higher than he currently is now if he shows his true abilities. But for some reason, he doesn't seem very interested in this. He only handled the monthly assessment casually."

Not only Zhong Xun, but many people also didn't know what Lin Zhifei was thinking.

Everyone in the academy wanted to get onto the Qing Yun Ranking. The higher one's ranking, the greater the honor.

Many people might not even get to go onto the ranking once even after they left the academy, and it became their regret. Yet, Lin Zhifei didn't seem to care about it.

"However, this doesn't affect how everyone else thinks of him. Many people also say that he's the most outstanding black horse these few years—" When Zhong Xun said this, he couldn't help but glance at Chu Liuyue. "Of course, the Xuan Masters said that..."

Seeing his careful behavior, Chu Liuyue couldn't help but laugh. "Senior Brother Zhong Xun, you can say whatever you want. You don't have to worry about how I'll feel."

"You... really don't mind?" Zhong Xun asked in surprise.

One or two months ago, especially after Chu Yue secretly left the academy to help Senior Brother Rong Xiu and even came back in one piece, most of the people in the academy felt that he was the most outstanding one out of all the new students.

But now, the tides had suddenly turned. More people were leaning toward Lin Zhifei.

Any cultivator would be affected by such a change, right?

"I really don't mind," said Chu Liuyue seriously as she controlled her smile. I know Lin Zhifei's talent and capabilities the best. If not, I wouldn't have chosen to make an alliance with him back then. But now... why does it seem like everyone is secretly comparing the two of us?

Thinking of the scene of her 'exchanging blows' with Dugu Mobao, Chu Liuyue couldn't help but sigh. With such a strong top global warrior beside me, how would I have the mood to mind that Lin Zhifei is stronger than me?

Seeing that Chu Liuyue really didn't seem to mind, Zhong Xun felt more at ease. "That's good, that's good. Anyway, you're cultivating with Elder Wan Zheng and Senior Brother Rong Xiu. Your future will definitely be bright!"

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and asked, "You just said... Jiang Zhiyuan lost to Lin Zhifei? What happened? I remember that she's quite strong."

"She is decent, but she wasn't in good condition that day," said Zhong Xun hesitantly. "If not, she wouldn't have said such words..."

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows slightly. "What words?"

Zhong Xun shook his head. "She's still hung up about the Sky-Cloud Empire's princess consort position. Anyway, it wasn't anything nice. After the competition, she took leave and returned to Fairy Water Mound."

[Chapter 1289](#)

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly. According to my previous understanding, most people have a good attitude toward Jiang Zhiyuan. On the one hand, she has a decent background. On the other hand, her skills are quite presentable as well. Besides, she is born pretty, and to outsiders, she has an energetic, gentle, magnanimous, and elegant image, which everyone really likes. But hearing Zhong Xun's current tone, he seems to look down on Jiang Zhiyuan. It seems like Jiang Zhiyuan really had misspoken that day.

As if seeing Chu Liuyue's doubts, Zhong Xun simply recounted the incident that day. "...That's what happened. Previously, everyone kept thinking that she was the pitiful and innocent one that was bullied. But after Lin Zhifei stood up, everyone then realized the incident wasn't like she had announced before. She was clearly the one who wasn't as good as others, yet she framed someone else... Someone who did such a thing isn't good."

Zhong Xun pouted, and irritation flashed across his face. "There were many students present that day, and quite a few people had heard what she said. Later on, her series of actions also wasn't presentable. I really didn't expect her to be like that... Thinking about it now, Senior Brother Rong Xiu has always avoided her from the very beginning till now. Perhaps he had long seen through her, right?"

Chu Liuyue didn't say a word. Actually, Jiang Zhiyuan has decent control over her emotions. But when a person has acted for too long, they will have times where they expose themselves. I don't know what happened that caused her to be so triggered. From now on, her image in the crowd's hearts in the academy will be completely destroyed. In addition, she lost to Lin Zhifei... She has lost even more thoroughly.

In Ling Xiao Academy, you can be alone, you can be arrogant, and you can be pristine. But the condition to all of this is that you must be sufficiently strong! Without skills as the foundation, one cannot stand stably.

"I think she won't come back anytime soon."

Chu Liuyue entered deep thought. Jiang Zhiyuan clearly minds that I've become the princess consort. If not, she wouldn't have said such words out of impulse even now. If she has gone back to Fairy Water Mound...

"Chu Yue? Chu Yue, what are you thinking?"

Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn't reply after so long, Zhong Xun waved his hands in front of her eyes.

Chu Liuyue recovered her senses, smiled, and said, "Nothing. I just feel that these incidents... Forget it— anyway, it has nothing to do with us. We can just watch as spectators. Senior Brother Zhong Xun, if there's nothing else, I'll go and pick my herbs first, okay?"

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Zhong Xun hurriedly said, "Go ahead, go ahead. I'm basically done. I won't delay you further."

Then, he turned around and picked two more herbs before quickly leaving.

Chu Liuyue also retracted her vision and started looking for the herbs she needed.

...

The sky gradually darkened, and almost all the people in Medicinal Valley had left.

Chu Liuyue walked amidst the purple bone flowers that were the height of her knee and carefully picked from them.

"Kid, you're not done yet?" Elder Meng Ye finally opened one eye and asked lazily.

Chu Liuyue was shocked. She stood up and turned around, realizing that she was the only student here. She scratched her head in embarrassment. "I'm sorry, Elder. I was negligent and didn't notice the time... I'll pack up and leave now."

Elder Meng Ye suddenly stood up and fanned his bare foot with his fan as he laughed. "Hehe, kid, do you know how many herbs you've taken since you came? Hm, I remember that you only came to the academy about three months ago. If you can't afford these points... I won't let you leave so easily!"

So he was worried about this. Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief, smiled, and said, "Thank you for your concern, Elder, but my mentor said that I could take whatever I want at Medicinal Valley. Everything will go under his name."

"Oh?" This time, Elder Meng Ye finally opened both his eyes and sized Chu Liuyue up for quite some time before he asked in disbelief, "Did that old fellow really say that?"

"Yeah! Why would I dare to lie about this kind of thing?"

"Did this old fellow really have a change in personality..." Elder Meng Ye couldn't help but mutter. That Wan Zheng is very stubborn. He would actually do such a thing? But as a new student, Chu Yue indeed doesn't look like he would lie about such a thing. After all, I can ask Wan Zheng to find out the authenticity of it. This is definitely true.

Elder Meng Ye thought for a moment and stroked his beard. "Since this is so, I can rest assured. You can just take whatever you want!"

Now that he said that, Chu Liuyue felt embarrassed to continue. She hurriedly said, "I've already picked enough today, and it's quite late, so I won't disturb you further."

As she spoke, she walked over and asked Elder Meng Ye to calculate it.

Elder Meng Ye picked up his green jade plaque and wrote a number on it. "It's fine! I know what you took very clearly. I don't have to count it! This bill... I'll send it to him myself tomorrow—"

"Elder," interrupted Chu Liuyue suddenly. "I have a request, and I hope you'll agree to it."

Elder Meng Ye looked up at her. "What's the matter?"

Chu Liuyue coughed. Under Elder Meng Ye's eyes that looked as if they could see through everything, her skin burned as she said awkwardly, "Um... Could you give the bill to my mentor a month later?"

[Chapter 1290](#)

Elder Meng Ye's gaze turned strange. He waved the green jade plaque in his hands and revealed a smile with deep meaning. "You're saying that... you'll come again tomorrow?"

Chu Liuyue nodded in embarrassment for once.

"And the day after?"

Chu Liuyue's face turned even redder, and she nodded.

"...You won't come for a month straight, right?" Elder Meng Ye's lips twitched.

"No, no! How could I do such a thing?!" Chu Liuyue hurriedly denied it. She cupped her hands together and explained with much difficulty and embarrassment, "Um... You also know that I just broke through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor not long ago, so I'll use up a lot of herbs now..."

Elder Meng Ye glanced at her strangely. Nobody would have the same reason. There are so many ninth-grade heavenly doctors in the academy, but none of them did this!

"Elder... You wouldn't disagree, would you?" asked Chu Liuyue carefully.

Elder Meng Ye suddenly laughed out loud. "Why would I?! Since Wan Zheng has already promised you, it means that he thinks highly of you! These few years, he only accepted you as his disciple, and he doesn't even have enough time to dote on you! Why can't he let you spend some of his points?"

He waved his hand. "Don't worry! I promise to send this bill to him in a month!"

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Chu Liuyue also smiled. "Thank you, Elder!"

Elder Meng Ye lay down again. "Go ahead!"

Chu Liuyue bowed and left.

Medicinal Valley recovered its peace.

As a light breeze came over, the intense herbal fragrance wafted through the air.

Elder Meng Ye lay on the broken wooden bed and propped his leg up as he fanned himself in an irregular manner. He muttered softly, "Hah, Wan Zheng that old fellow will suffer greatly this time!"

He tilted his head and looked in a certain direction within Medicinal Valley.

At night, the gigantic Xuan formation flickered with an extremely faint light, which covered everything. It also hid everything within it.

Elder Meng Ye's gaze turned deeper, and he kept silent for some time before he softly chuckled. "I haven't seen a kid that caused so much trouble in a while... He is rather similar to you. That medicinal garden has been kept for you all this while, but you don't even know how to come back and take a look at it, stupid girl."

At the very end, he shook his head and closed his eyes with some reminiscence and helpless love. "You always make people worry about you..."

...

She had a peaceful sleep that night.

The next day.

Chu Liuyue woke up early in the morning, briefly tidied herself up, and went directly to Elder Wan Zheng's place.

After reaching, she realized that Elder Wan Zheng was already waiting for her.

The mentor and disciple talked for a while before going straight into the topic.

Elder Wan Zheng first exchanged some blows with Chu Liuyue. After confirming that her abilities were indeed stronger than she looked, he felt proud and curious. However, he eventually held back his impulse and didn't ask Chu Liuyue about her background.

"Since you can already produce intermediate ninth-grade pills... With your talent and sensitivity, you'll be able to go to the next stage in no time and produce a peak ninth-grade pill." As Elder Wan Zheng spoke, he took out a book and passed it over.

Chu Liuyue took it with both hands and saw a few powerful words on it—Physician Medicinal Guide.

Chu Liuyue looked up strangely. "Mentor, this—"

"Above ninth-grade heavenly doctors is the Physician level." Elder Wan Zheng stood with one hand behind his back and said seriously, "Amongst the public medicinal books in the academy, the highest-grade formula is peak ninth-grade. Above that are all the private collections of the elders. This is the book that my mentor gave me back then. Now, it's time to give it to you."

The passing down of heavenly doctor skills was extremely private, and it was even more so for higher grades. Normally, it was already very hard for a top-grade heavenly doctor to develop a disciple with similar skills to them.

This disciple alone would use up a large amount of effort and strength.

Elder Wan Zheng passing this book to her had already proved how highly he thought of Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue's heart felt warm as she held the medicinal book tightly and solemnly said, "Thank you for your teaching, Mentor. I'll definitely work hard to cultivate and not let you down."

Elder Wan Zheng patted her shoulders emotionally. "You've always been sensible. I'm not worried at all! Take this book back and study it carefully. If you don't know anything, feel free to ask me about it!"

Chu Liuyue nodded forcefully.

...

Time always passed very quickly when she focused on her cultivation.

It was afternoon in the blink of an eye, and Chu Liuyue planned on bidding farewell.

She glanced at the sky and suddenly recalled that Tuan Zi was still at Million Wine Mountain in an unknown state. "Mentor, has Million Wine Mountain been opened?"

Elder Wan Zheng was dazed and calculated the time. "It should be ready soon. Originally, it was time two days ago, but due to safety reasons, Bo Yan and the rest delayed it by a few days. If I haven't recalled it wrongly... it'll be open the day after tomorrow."

As he spoke, he looked at Chu Liuyue with much alertness. "Why? What do you want to do there again?"

He remembered very clearly that out of the three times Chu Liuyue was punished, two of them were related to Million Wine Mountain! This caused him to be scared even when he talked about Million Wine Mountain.

Chu Liuyue hurriedly said, "Nothing. I was just casually asking."

"I'm telling you—you're not allowed to go over as you wish anymore!" Elder Wan Zheng warned her. "Previously, Bo Yan didn't punish you severely because you went there to refine the weapon soul for the legendary weapon, and Shang Yulin tried his best to protect you. If it happens again... Even I won't help you any longer!"

It seems like I don't have any credibility in front of these elders. Chu Liuyue sighed in her heart. "Yes! I'll remember it!"