

## Nobel Ruler 131

### Chapter 131: Save Me

“Okay! We’ll continue then!” As if Mu Hongyu ate a pill of reassurance, she clenched her fists as her originally hesitant expression became determined.

Cen Hu nodded. “Since you said to continue, we’ll follow your lead!”

Even though Gu Mingfeng did not say anything, he lightly nodded in agreement.

Mr. Wen Yan was taken aback by the scene in front of him.

*Chu Liuyue is actually making the decisions for this team now? She said to continue, and the others had no opinions whatsoever. It seems like she’s more confident than before. They’ve only entered Wan Ling Mountain for a day. What exactly happened to them?*

“Liuyue, are you sure?” asked Mr. Wen Yan worriedly after hesitating slightly. “Wan Ling Mountain is different from the past, and it’s much more dangerous. Even if you really want to hunt for fiends, I don’t think this is the best time...”

“Since we’re already here, there’s no reason for us to retreat.” Chu Liuyue spoke lightly and calmly, which reassured the rest.

“Mr. Wen Yan, you can just bring Liao Zhongshu back. We know our limits, and we won’t risk our lives. We’ll be really indignant if we go back just like this.”

Mr. Wen Yan was quite anxious. “Liuyue, I know that the few of you are pretty strong, and you all have your own pride... However, the four of you are now injured, and this place is bloodied. Do you think that I don’t know how much danger you were in previously? You—”

He suddenly saw a fiend corpse not far away while he was talking, and his voice faded away. *That’s...*

“... A red wolf? You were attacked by red wolves?” He came in a rush, so he did not notice the red wolf corpse at first.

Mu Hongyu was still scarred. “Mr. Wen Yan, that’s the corpse of the red wolf pack leader. We... were just attacked by a pack of red wolves!”

This sentence stunned Mr. Wen Yan, making him speechless. He hurriedly went forward to take a closer look at the corpse. *It is indeed a wolf leader! Even though it is dirtied and covered in blood, the sliced head’s features are very obvious.*

“Y-You guys killed it?”

“Liuyue and Gu Mingfeng killed it.” Mu Hongyu sighed. “The three of us were in charge of blocking the pack of wolves. Zhongshu got injured because he was saving Cen Hu and me.”

Mr. Wen Yan opened his mouth but could not say anything since his heart was in turmoil. *Red wolf pack! Red wolf leader! The few of them actually handled them successfully... Other than Liao Zhongshu, the other four seemed to have suffered minor injuries only.*

Even though he knew these few people ranked decently in the assessments, he did not expect them to be so powerful when they worked together. He was silent for quite a while.

While looking at the fire jumping in front of her, Chu Liuyue lightly said, “Mr. Wen Yan, I know you’re worried about us. However, such is the life of cultivation. If we want a peaceful road, then we’ll never become true formidable warriors, right?”

Wen Yan was shocked, and he looked at Chu Liuyue with a complicated gaze. “... You’re right. I was thinking too much.” *If they’re fearful of everything, how can they grow up?*

“I’ll send Zhongshu out first then. The rest of you must be careful and immediately seek assistance if anything goes wrong.”

Chu Liuyue and the rest nodded. “Don’t worry, teacher.”

...

After Mr. Wen Yan left with Liao Zhongshu, the few of them decided to rest in shifts.

Chu Liuyue took the first shift. She had the lightest injury out of all of them, so she let the others recover first.

The surroundings became silent once again.

Chu Liuyue sat cross-legged and regulated her breathing as the fight scene with the wolf leader kept replaying in her head. *This body is still too weak... When I head back, I should consider improving the body's strength...*

Chu Liuyue felt her shoulders sink, and she turned around to take a look. A red furball was squatting on her body.

“You’re pretty smart. You run the fastest when there’s danger and come back when it’s over.” Chu Liuyue lightly poked it.

The blood ferret’s tail waved as it showed a pair of watery eyes filled with flattering intentions.

“Hm?” Chu Liuyue raised her brow and looked at it.

The blood ferret inched in closer and slowly extended its claws. It looked very wronged and worried as tears welled up in its eyes. It looked like it would cry if Chu Liuyue was any sterner.

This appearance made nobody able to blame it.

Chu Liuyue rubbed her glabella. *It’s logical since blood ferrets are the weakest third-grade fiends. They don’t have any other abilities except for escaping the fastest. I had no intentions of scolding it. I never really expected this thing to help us defeat the red wolf pack...*

“Forget it. It’s okay as long as you’re happy.” Chu Liuyue patted its head.

The little thing finally relaxed when it noticed that Chu Liuyue was no longer angry. It then closed the gap between them and rubbed against her face.

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly.

...

Nothing happened the entire night.

The few of them set off again the next morning and headed towards Wan Ling Mountain's depths.

The further they traversed into the lush greenery, the quieter it was. However, this atmosphere made the few of them even more alert.

"It seems like this place is a little strange..." muttered Mu Hongyu as she surveyed their surroundings.

Chu Liuyue, who was walking in front, suddenly stopped.

The few of them stood still as well.

"Liuyue, what's the problem?" asked Mu Hongyu. After experiencing what happened yesterday, they completely believed in Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue's brows knitted slightly. "Go back!"

"Go back? But we just arrived—"

The few of them were very confused, but they did not say anything else after seeing Chu Liuyue's serious expression. However, a girl suddenly screamed from behind after they walked a few steps. "Save me!"

### **Chapter 132: Chase and Kill**

Even though this voice was very shrill, Chu Liuyue was more than familiar with it.

Gu Mingfeng's brows undetectably moved, but he did not say anything.

"Why does this voice... sound so familiar?"

Mu Hongyu wanted to turn around and take a look, but Chu Liuyue stopped her. "Let's go! If not, we'll be the ones calling for help!"

Mu Hongyu was shocked and hurriedly followed after them.

The few of them hurriedly retreated using the same path, but the shrills were ear-piercing and were getting nearer!

“Save me!” Hurried footsteps accompanied the shrills. It was obvious that someone was running for their lives.

...

Gu Mingzhu wanted to take this opportunity to hunt for an appropriate fiend at Wan Ling Mountain. Her family had previously suggested picking a fiend for her, but she was too prideful and refused their help since she wanted to hunt for one personally. Thus, she had anticipated this Fiend Tidal for a very long time. However, she did not expect to be in a perilous situation after coming to Wan Ling Mountain for only a single day.

She hurriedly ran forward without caring about the direction. Her heart pumped wildly as if it were about to jump out from her mouth. Actually, she was pretty exhausted. However, she did not dare to stop and could only run forward relentlessly. She did not even dare to turn back.

In a blur, she seemed to have seen a few figures far away. Even though she could not clearly see their faces, their clothes belonged to Tian Lu Academy. She was elated and hurriedly called for help, but those few people did not walk toward her. They had retreated after hearing her cries instead.

Gu Mingzhu instantly became anxious and used the last bit of her strength to chase them. “Help me! I’m also from Tian Lu Academy! H-help me!”

When Cen Hu heard the voice, he could not help but turn around to take a look. His eyes immediately widened when he saw the person. “Gu Mingzhu?”

Cen Hu knew Gu Mingzhu, but she did not recognize him. After all, she looked down on warriors all along. Therefore, she didn’t even care about warriors, other than the most famous ones.

When she realized that Cen Hu knew her, she immediately became happier. "I'm Gu Mingzhu! If you help me, I'll definitely repay you for your help when I go back!"

Chu Liuyue suddenly stopped and looked in front with a serious expression.

Mu Hongyu and the rest felt that something was amiss, so they stopped in their tracks.

Gu Mingzhu then carefully looked at the people in front. Other than Cen Hu, the other three's backs were facing her. However, their backs looked familiar to her...

She stared at one particular back for quite a while before knitting her brows and suspiciously saying, "Gu Mingfeng?"

Gu Mingfeng turned around and looked at her expressionlessly.

Gu Mingzhu showed a disgusted look. "It really is you! I'm so unlucky to have met you today!"

Her words and facial expressions seemed like she did not see a family member, but something dirty instead.

Coldness flashed across Gu Mingfeng's eyes.

"Liuyue, is there a problem?" asked Mu Hongyu softly.



Once Gu Mingzhu heard Mu Hongyu utter Chu Liuyue's name, her eyes widened in shock. *Hang on! No wonder I found their backs familiar. Isn't this back view Chu Liuyue's?*

Her face darkened even more. "It's bad enough that I met Gu Mingfeng. I didn't expect there to be another one!"

Cen Hu scolded her. "Be nicer with your words!"

Gu Mingzhu was frightened by his thunder-like holler and became even more annoyed. *Warriors are so rough! Birds of the same feather flock together. These few people really are getting increasingly annoying.*

Chu Liuyue turned around and looked at Gu Mingzhu with an icy cold gaze. "It's our bad luck to have met you."

Gu Mingzhu felt chills travel down her spine because of Chu Liuyue's gaze. "What do you mean by that? You clearly heard my cries for help, but you pretended not to hear me! You are—"

"I heard them." Chu Liuyue interrupted Gu Mingzhu with brutal and honest words. "I just miss you. Do you have a problem with that?"

Gu Mingzhu was so angry that her face turned white. "You! You! Chu Liuyue, even if you don't like me, we're still from the same academy! How can you ignore me when I need help? You're too selfish!"

Chu Liuyue sneered. "I have no relations with you at all. Why should I help you? You think too highly of yourself! However, you have caused trouble for us. I'll remember this for sure!"

Gu Mingzhu instantly felt guilty. “W-what nonsense are you saying? What trouble have I caused? I j-just...” She stuttered for half a day but could not say anything.

Mu Hongyu and the rest started to become anxious when they saw her behavior.

*Hoo!*

A howl sounded from the woods, and the ground even seemed to shake!

*Bang!*

*Bang!*

*Bang!*

It sounded as if something heavy had landed on the floor, which made people anxious.

The few of them turned around in unison and saw a gigantic shadow closing in on them from the woods.

The thick trees in its path were easily broken.

Finally, the gigantic brown bear—which looked like a hill—appeared in front of them. Its entire body was brown, and only its neck was golden—which was dazzling under the sunlight. The most frightening thing was the shocking suppressive aura coming from its body.

Cen Hu opened his mouth. “This... is a fourth-grade golden mane bear?”

Gu Mingfeng immediately recovered his senses and looked at Gu Mingzhu. His voice was cold as he asked, “Did you offend it?”

Gu Mingzhu avoided his gaze and forcefully said, “I-I just thought that golden mane bears are pretty strong and they’re of a high grade, so I wanted to try...”

“Dumb!” Mu Hongyu really wanted to slap Gu Mingzhu twice immediately. “Who do you think you are? How dare you anger a golden mane bear? Where are the others on your team?”

Gu Mingzhu’s face instantly became as white as a sheet.

Everyone immediately understood what happened from the eerie silence.

“Are they all dead?” asked Cen Hu in shock.

“No! No! Two of them separated from me. I-I don’t know where they went...” Gu Mingzhu tried to defend herself, but she sounded even guiltier.

*That means two have died. The people who grouped with Gu Mingzhu are all Xuan Masters. This is too much of a loss!*

“So, you also want to drag us down after you caused the death of two Xuan Masters?” Chu Liuyue’s voice was icy cold.

Gu Mingzhu’s lips moved, and she turned around. “You guys ran over here yourselves! I didn’t force you to come over. Anyway, we’re all surviving on the same stick, so no one can escape! You should decide for yourselves!”

Mu Hongyu was stunned by her shamelessness, but she was still very clear-minded. Thus, she knew that this was not the time to fight with Gu Mingzhu. “Liuyue, this is a fourth-grade golden mane bear. Do you think we can win against it if we work together?”

Chu Liuyue was so angry that she laughed instead. “Golden mane bears are too formidable and powerful! It’s not easy to deal with them. The key point is that it’s a mother bear!”

The few of them were shocked. “Do you mean...”

Chu Liuyue walked forward and stared straight at Gu Mingzhu. “What exactly did you do? Why is the mother bear chasing after you to kill you?”

Gu Mingzhu was forced to a corner and irritatedly said, “I just wanted to carry the small golden mane bear away when it went out to look for food. However, I was discovered once I stepped out. I didn’t even carry that small golden mane bear away!”

Mature golden mane bears were not easy to discipline, and the infant ones were the easiest to deal with, so she decided to take the risk.

*“The others all agreed to go together! You can’t blame it on me if they died.” I just didn’t expect to be discovered in the end.*

Chu Liuyue just wanted to strangle her to death! “Don’t you know that golden mane bears especially care for their young ones? If you touch their cubs, they will go after you and won’t stop until you die! It doesn’t matter if you die, but can you afford to pay for it if you dragged us down?”

### **Chapter 133: Stage-Two Xuan Master**

When Gu Mingzhu heard that the bear would not stop until she died, her eyelids violently twitched. She took a deep breath in and forced herself to stand up straight. “Chu Liuyue, I was never frightened as I grew up. You don’t have to make up these lies to scare me. Golden mane bears are powerful, but I didn’t even take the cub. It’s still safely resting in their cave. This golden mane bear won’t resort to—”

“You should be clearer than any of us if it will resort to doing that!” It was as if Chu Liuyue’s face had been covered in frost as her cold glare made Gu Mingzhu increasingly nervous.

She opened her mouth to argue but could not utter a single word under Chu Liuyue’s glaring eyes. Finally, she turned away in embarrassment. Actually, she also noticed that something was wrong. After the golden mane bear discovered her, she knew that something was wrong and hurriedly threw the cub back before turning around to leave.

However, this golden mane bear seemed bent on killing her and continued chasing after her. It kept on following her, no matter where she went. This was also why she had nervously called for help. She knew that the golden mane bear was following behind her and that it would kill her at any moment.

She very clearly knew that Chu Liuyue's words had an 80% chance of being true.

Upon seeing Gu Mingzhu's guilty appearance, Mu Hongyu and the rest understood everything. They became so angry that their teeth were itchy.

*This is akin to pushing us into a fire.*

*If it weren't for Gu Mingzhu, we wouldn't have met with such a troublesome matter!*

Just as the few people confronted each other, the golden mane bear took another step forward.

*Bang!*

The ground trembled, and so did their hearts.

Chu Liuyue turned around to take a look.

The golden mane bear stood not far away from them, and the nearby trees were all broken. The entire ground was messy. It looked down at the few of them, and its gray eyes—the size of fists—were cold and heartless.

Chu Liuyue could distinctly feel the anger and contempt in its eyes. It was as if it were looking at ants.

Fiends of this size would usually win with their strength, but they lacked speed. However, golden mane bears were an exception. Based on its abilities, killing Gu Mingzhu was as easy as ABC. However, Gu Mingzhu actually survived till now and had run so far away.

It undoubtedly wanted to use this method to force Gu Mingzhu to break down. It would only act when she suffered enough pressure and pain.

Chu Liuyue did not expect for them to be so unlucky to meet with the fiend coincidentally. The golden mane bear would probably kill them as well.

“Liuyue, how should we escape...?” asked Mu Hongyu nervously. Even the courageous Mu Hongyu had noticed the severity of the situation.

“We can’t escape. A mature golden mane bear’s attacking power is almost similar to that of a stage-five warrior. Even if we work together, we won’t win against it. Besides, we’re all injured.”

“What should we do then? Are we going to die here today?”

Chu Liuyue held her breath. “Hold it off first. I’ll set up a Xuan formation.”

Once she said that, everyone was shocked.

“Xuan formation? Right! We’re all injured, so a Xuan formation will be even more powerful than us right now!” Mu Hongyu heaved a sigh of relief in her heart.

Gu Mingfeng suddenly thought of something. “What stage are you at as a Xuan Master?”

Chu Liuyue paused. "Stage two."

Once she finished her sentence, the surroundings fell into dead silence.

As if Gu Mingzhu had heard the biggest joke on earth, she let out a mocking "Hah," before arrogantly saying, "Stage-two Xuan Master? Chu Liuyue, are you okay? You want to win against the golden mane bear just based on your cultivation level? Dream on!"

Chu Liuyue looked calm and collected. She had only been reborn for two months or so, so she could only control a limited amount of Heaven and Earth Force. She could only set up stage-two Xuan formations temporarily.

Even Mu Hongyu and the rest showed faces of disappointment.

They really had no chance with a stage-two Xuan Master... Gu Mingzhu had previously become a stage-three Xuan Master, but she was not its match, let alone them.

"Cen Hu, Hongyu, both of you need to think of some ways to hold the bear back later. Gu Mingfeng, come and help me set up the Xuan formation." Chu Liuyue cleanly instructed them.

Mu Hongyu and Cen Hu looked at each other and nodded. "Okay!"

No matter what, they had to give it a go!



Gu Mingfeng slightly knitted his brows. "I'm not a Xuan Master. How can I help you?"

Chu Liuyue explained what he had to do. "When I set up the Xuan formation, circulate force into its core."

Gu Mingfeng knitted his brows even more tightly. "How can a Xuan Master use other people's force when setting up a Xuan formation?"

If this worked, Xuan Masters could just casually find a few people to help them when they were battling. How could a Xuan formation work if the force didn't match, let alone work against this golden mane bear?

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "I'll settle this problem myself. I just need you to do your best."

After seeing her nonchalant and confident look, Gu Mingfeng finally agreed after hesitating slightly. "I still owe you a favor, so I'll do my best."

Chu Liuyue looked at him in a seemingly smiling manner. "I hope you can do what you say."

Gu Mingfeng's heart skipped a beat. For some reason, he always felt that Chu Liuyue had seen through something...

He opened his mouth to say something, but he saw that Chu Liuyue had already held her breath in and focused all her energy as she raised her hands and started setting up the Xuan formation.

Mu Hongyu and Cen Hu went up together and blocked the golden mane bear.

The golden mane bear looked down with contempt and mockery as if it were mocking these few people for not knowing their own abilities.

“Cen Hu! I’ll go in front, and you’ll be at the back,” said Mu Hongyu coyly as she stood up.

“Okay!” Cen Hu immediately answered her and attacked from another direction.

While staring at the petty little human beings in front of it, the golden mane bear mercilessly slapped them.

Mu Hongyu barely avoided it and landed on a tree trunk nearby. Even though this slap did not hit her, the harsh wind still made Mu Hongyu feel like her face was on fire.

It was not hard to imagine how serious her injuries would be if the bear’s thick, gigantic palm landed on them.

Mu Hongyu fearfully blinked and did not dare to relax a single bit as she baited the golden mane bear instead. “Come on!”

The golden mane bear’s anger burst out and heavily swung its palm at Mu Hongyu.

Mu Hongyu was agile. Once it saw the figure moving, she used the tree branch's elasticity and jumped across the golden mane bear's head to the other side.

*Pak!*

The tree she was originally standing in front of was suddenly split into two.

On the other end, Cen Hu was also taunting the golden mane bear. The two of them angered the bear one after another so that it threw a tantrum. The surrounding trees were all swept to the ground, and it was very messy.

Chu Liuyue waved her finger in the air. A silver line came out of her fingertips just like water.

The second and third lines came out very quickly.

Not long later, tens of silver lines appeared in front of Chu Liuyue. These few lines intersected with each other and formed a weird-looking pattern.

From far away, it looked like the Eight Trigrams, but it looked a little weird with its empty inside.

Gu Mingfeng stood near her and intensely stared at the front as he circulated his force, prepared to act at any moment. However, Chu Liuyue stared at the Xuan formation in front of her and had no intentions of asking him for help.

Gu Mingfeng knitted his brows and found the Xuan formation a little weird. He had seen Xuan Masters in action. In his memory, Xuan Masters didn't take this long to set up a stage-two Xuan formation... Besides, Chu Liuyue's Xuan formation looked a little weird, like it was too... spacious.

He soon discovered that Chu Liuyue did not stop in her actions. Instead, her fingertips continuously drew silver lines as she continued setting up her Xuan formation.

#### **Chapter 134: Stage-Four Xuan formation**

Gu Mingzhu, who was standing afar and watching the scene coldly, finally felt that something was amiss. Thus, she put her crossed arms down and knitted her brows tightly. *That's not right! Chu Liuyue is a stage-two Xuan Master. Logically speaking, she can only control a little more than ten strands of Heaven and Earth Force, so how can she still continue? Besides, her movements are very smooth. It's as if setting up the Xuan formation is very easy for her.*

Time trickled past, and the Xuan formation in front of Chu Liuyue gradually became complicated.

Gu Mingfeng watched until his eyelids twitched. *It is no wonder I felt that the Xuan formation looked weird. It turned out to be a general outline. It only started to look normal after Chu Liuyue filled it in.*

From a distance away, Gu Mingfeng could already faintly feel the strength of it, and he was shocked by it. *Didn't Chu Liuyue say that she is a stage-two Xuan Master? This Xuan formation is obviously stronger than a second-level one! What exactly is Chu Liuyue doing?*

Compared to Gu Mingfeng, who did not know much about Xuan formations, Gu Mingzhu—who was also a Xuan Master—watched on as her mouth was agape. She could clearly see that the Xuan formation Chu Liuyue set up had reached the third stage. However, Chu Liuyue had no intentions of stopping.

*Perhaps... Is she going to continue? How can she do it?*

*Hong! Hong! Hong!*

Mu Hongyu and Cen Hu had already been battling the golden mane bear for quite some time, and both of them gained more and more injuries as their energy began to deplete.

The golden mane bear also became more ferocious than ever after the repeated taunts. It kept on attacking them violently.

“Liuyue, are you done?” In a moment of carelessness, Mu Hongyu was hit by the force wave and roughly fell on the floor, causing abrasions all over her face.

Chu Liuyue stared at the Xuan formation in front of her with all her might. “Half a minute more!”

Mu Hongyu clenched her teeth.

Actually, half a minute was not long. However, the point was that their abilities were no match for the golden mane bear. Every second and minute was torture!

However, Mu Hongyu still agreed without hesitation. “Okay!”

Without caring about the injuries on her body, Mu Hongyu clenched her teeth and stood up.

“Hongyu, move away!” hollered Cen Hu all of a sudden.

Mu Hongyu's heart skipped a beat. When she looked over, Cen Hu was actually running towards the bear.

Mu Hongyu's heart stopped.

Cen Hu had a muscular build and was considered one of the bigger students amongst them. However, he appeared much smaller in front of the golden mane bear.

*Does he not want his life? Going straight up like that is very dangerous!*

When it saw Cen Hu rush up to its side, the bear's eyes burned with fire. It suddenly opened its mouth and spat out a ball of fire.

"Oh my god! This guy still has more moves!" Cen Hu cursed as he bent his body, barely avoiding the fireball. However, the high heat still made him feel scorching pain on his face. After this, he pushed himself up with his palm and ran straight for the bear again.

An axe appeared in his hand, and he swung it straight at the golden mane bear.

*Tsing!*

The axe landed, but the bear remained unharmed.

Cen Hu just felt that the axe landed on a terribly hard platinum stone. The axe directly broke into two, and half of his arm was numb.

He knew that the situation wasn't good in his heart. This fiend's strength was way higher than what he thought. However, this move had really angered the golden mane bear.

The golden mane bear roared loudly, and the strong suppression almost burst Cen Hu's eardrums.

*Roar!*

At the same time, its palm was heading towards his head.

Cen Hu would definitely die if he was hit!

Cen Hu held his breath, circled the golden mane bear's thighs half a round, and bent his back to avoid this attack with much difficulty.

The golden mane bear was very fast and strong. Cen Hu only had a small advantage when he was close to it.

However, this situation did not last for long. After failing to catch Cen Hu twice, the bear decisively gave up on fighting and turned around to rush for Chu Liuyue.

It had already vaguely felt uneasy and realized that it had to stop Chu Liuyue immediately.

Cen Hu was anxious and actually went forward to hug the bear's thigh.

The bear flung him away easily, and he landed on the floor loudly.

*Poof!*

Cen Hu's organs were about to burst after he was attacked repeatedly. The old and new injuries made him vomit blood out suddenly, and the atmosphere immediately became dispirited.

The moment the bear took a step toward Chu Liuyue, someone ran forward.

It was Mu Hongyu. At this point, she had already exhausted all her strength and could only use the most stupid and dangerous method to block the bear, just as Cen Hu had done.

"Liuyue, quick!" yelled Mu Hongyu anxiously, as her throat filled with a bloody smell.

At this point, Chu Liuyue finally finished the last stroke of her Xuan formation. Her face was as white as a sheet, and her body was trembling. It looked as if she would crumble any moment since she had forcefully set up a Xuan formation higher than her current cultivation stage. However, her eyes were still determined as usual.

"Gu Mingfeng, help!"



The moment Chu Liuyue said that, Gu Mingfeng immediately acted. With a push of his palm, he injected his force into the Xuan formation.

*Buzz!*

The Xuan formation immediately glowed brightly. The Xuan formation—which was originally the size of a chessboard—instantly expanded when Gu Mingfeng injected his force into it.

Chu Liuyue stared at it closely and merged both of their force bit by bit.

The Xuan formation was already the size of a human the next moment. It was very bright, and the suppression was faint.

Chu Liuyue felt like all the energy in her body had vanished since her entire person was very weak, and her vision kept turning black.

From the corner of its eyes, the golden mane bear flung Mu Hongyu away in frustration and raised its legs as if it intended to trample on them directly. Its stomp would be filled with strength.

Mu Hongyu lay on the floor with blood all over her, and she had lost all the strength to move. Upon seeing the bear paw coming for her, Mu Hongyu lost all hope and closed her eyes.

Chu Liuyue clenched her teeth. “Go!”

*Hong!*

The Xuan formation suddenly activated.

At this moment, the countless shining rays of light within the formation went straight for the bear at lightning speed.

The mighty suppression overwhelmed all of them.

The golden mane bear felt the danger and panicked. However, the frightening force had already landed on it. The bear's gigantic body looked as if it was drowned by a running wave. Everyone could only see countless silver lines wrapping around it, tying the bear down in a deadly fashion.

Upon seeing this scene, Gu Mingzhu finally could not help but gasp. "Stage-four Wood Origin Formation?" *Chu Liuyue actually knows how to set up a formation of this level?*

### **Chapter 135: See if you have the good fortune**

The streaks of light continued to wind tighter as the golden mane bear struggled in vain. Before long, its range of movement was reduced. Its angry cries also quietened down until it finally stopped moving, not making any sound.

Crimson blood spread on the floor, staining it and making it extra bloody and eerie.

Everyone only saw what had happened within the streaks of light when they faded away.

The strong and muscular golden mane bear had shrunk. It was covered in wounds and had been twisted in an unnatural manner. The blood on the floor came from it.

Mu Hongyu turned and gagged after she took one look.

Cen Hu barely held on, but his pale face had lost its last signs of blood.

Only Gu Mingfeng fared a little better. The corners of his eyes just twitched a little when he saw the scene. His heart was put at ease. After settling the pressing problem, they could finally be considered safe.

But... more problems were brewing quietly.

He could not help but glance at Chu Liuyue. The latter was rather calm. Other than having a pale face from exhausting all her energy, Chu Liuyue's eyes were peaceful and calm as if she did not mind the bloody mess before her. But then again, she was the one who created it.

If she did not create that Xuan formation to kill the golden mane bear, they might be dead there and then.

*What kind of person is she? She can actually...* Gu Mingfeng pursed his lips. He knew long ago that Chu Liuyue was different. However, he realized that she was far more complex than he had thought after the battle today.

Chu Liuyue could finally relax after confirming that the golden mane bear was dead. When she relaxed, the exhaustion caught up with her. She didn't even have the energy to move a single finger.

She said to Gu Mingfeng, "It's a pity that its body is ruined, but its pearl of essence should still be there. Go get it."

The latter shook his head. "You killed it. Therefore, it belongs to you."

*If I weren't too tired, I would have picked it up myself,* Chu Liuyue thought to herself.

The blood ferret from before appeared again and skipped over to the golden mane bear's carcass. It swiped its paw and easily found the pale-red pearl of essence. It then cleaned the pearl with its tail and returned to Chu Liuyue's side. It presented the pearl of essence to Chu Liuyue with both paws as if presenting her a treasure. Its big eyes looked at Chu Liuyue without blinking as if waiting for her to praise it.

Chu Liuyue laughed. *This little fellow runs faster than anyone when we're in trouble and returns to acts coy when the danger is over. It's definitely smart. However, it doesn't draw my disdain.*

Chu Liuyue took the item and thought about it, planning to give it to Mu Hongyu later. At this thought, she walked over to Mu Hongyu and helped the latter up. "Hongyu, are you okay?"

Mu Hongyu thought that she was doomed, but Chu Liuyue saved her at the last second. For that, she was relieved and grateful. While bearing the pain, she wiped the blood away from her face. "I'm fine! They're just superficial injuries. I'll be fine in no time. If it weren't for you..."

"We could only win because you and Cen Hu held it back." Chu Liuyue shook her head, and her eyes landed on Mu Hongyu's shoulder. It looked like it was fractured. "Sit down and have a rest. I'll set your bone for you later."

Mu Hongyu only realized then that Chu Liuyue had seen right through her. She laughed bitterly. "Your eyes are too formidable."

Chu Liuyue did not reveal that she had taken Mu Hongyu's pulse while she had helped the latter up.

But these external injuries weren't the most crucial ones. Mu Hongyu's most serious wounds were her internal injuries.

After helping Mu Hongyu settle down, Chu Liuyue went to check on Cen Hu. His injuries were worse than Mu Hongyu's. He had been injured before, and things had only become worse. His left forearm was fractured, and he had broken two ribs. Things did not look good.

Thankfully, Cen Hu was rather hardy. He could really put up with the pain. He did not even make a single sound when Chu Liuyue set his bone. He even smiled when she dressed his wounds. "Liuyue, you're amazing. Even a fourth-grade fiend is not your match! That Xuan formation was not a stage-two one, right? To think you said that you were only a stage-two Xuan Master... You would've fooled us if we didn't see it with our own eyes!"

Chu Liuyue smiled. "I really am a stage-two Xuan Master. I would not have been able to execute it without Gu Mingfeng's help."

Cen Hu felt that something was off, but he could not put his finger on it. "In any case, you're really strong! I think you're better than those arrogant Xuan Masters on campus!"

The entire Imperial City called her a good-for-nothing. Little did they know that she was a true prodigy.

Chu Liuyue paused when she heard that. She turned and looked behind her. She had almost forgotten about the other person, Gu Mingzhu.

Upon sensing Chu Liuyue looking at her, Gu Mingzhu shuddered as she felt fear build up in her. The earlier scene was too scary. Her stomach had churned for a long time, and she had finally managed to calm it down. However, her emotions were still in a jumble.

*Chu Liuyue actually created a fourth-level Xuan formation! Didn't they say that she was still new to this? Isn't she a stage-two Xuan Master? How does one explain everything that just happened?!*

"Wh-what do you want?" Gu Mingzhu stammered.

"Nothing much. I just think we should hold you accountable now that we've solved the matter," said Chu Liuyue as she looked towards Gu Mingfeng with a smile. "Gu Mingfeng, do you mind watching her for me?"

Gu Mingzhu cried out sharply. "How dare you!"

Gu Mingfeng nodded without saying a word. He walked towards Gu Mingzhu and tied her up tightly with rope. Even though Gu Mingfeng was a stage-three Xuan Master, running for her life earlier had exhausted her. She was no match for a martial artist like Gu Mingfeng in her current state.

Her face was red from anger as she continued yelling. "Gu Mingfeng, are you crazy?! You know what kind of status you have! How dare you raise a hand against me! I'll tell Master what happened when I get home, and he'll make you pay for this!"

Gu Mingfeng ignored her as he expressionlessly tied her hands behind her.

“You disrespectful b\*stard! You...”

*Pak!*

A loud slap cut off her string of insults. Her face was slanted to the side as her left cheek quickly swelled up.

Gu Mingfeng looked at her coldly. “I never said that I don’t hit women. Besides, you’ve got to make sure you live long enough to complain if you want to do it!”

Gu Mingzhu stared at him. The silent, lowly teenager that she could bully at will had grown up and become a dangerous man!

Chu Liuyue walked over to Mu Hongyu. She pressed down on the latter’s shoulder as she carefully set the bone. Without looking up, she calmly said, “It’s not too late to get rid of her after she has repaid what she owes us.”

### **Chapter 136: Asking for Pats**

Chu Liuyue’s words unsettled Gu Mingzhu, making her cry out sharply. “Chu Liuyue, wh-what do you want?! I’m telling you that I’m the Gu family’s Gu family. If anything happens to me, they’ll never let you off!”

Chu Liuyue could not be bothered with her. “Make her shut up.”

Gu Mingfeng looked around and ripped out a section of the sleeve from Gu Mingzhu's shirt. He crumpled it into a ball and shoved it in her mouth.

Gu Mingzhu felt embarrassed and upset by her exposed arm. She tried to cry out, only to find that she was gagged and could not speak.

Gu Mingfeng suddenly looked at her.

Gu Mingzhu immediately thought of the slap from earlier, and she instinctively kept quiet. *Gu Mingfeng seems exceptionally quiet and aggressive today. I even feel that Gu Mingfeng might actually kill me if he is provoked!*

At the end of the day, Gu Mingzhu valued her life. She chose to keep quiet.

Chu Liuyue ground the golden mane bear's pearl of essence into powder. She added two herbs that could help with recovery and blood production to the mixture before feeding it to Mu Hongyu.

Cen Hu saw this and could not help but ask, "Liuyue, why does Hongyu get better treatment than I do? I swallowed the pearl of essence directly, but hers is so refined. You can't just treat me like this because I'm a guy!"

Mu Hongyu felt that she was recovering, so she was in a good mood. She raised her chin arrogantly and said, "Cen Hu, you still remember that you're a guy? Why so jealous? Of course, Liuyue treats me the best! You all are behind! You're not as lovable as I am!"

Her words amused the others.



Chu Liuyue explained the reasoning behind her actions. "The livid horse is a third-grade fiend, so it's okay to consume its pearl of essence directly. However, the golden mane bear's pearl of essence is different. Hongyu is injured and weak right now. If she ingested the entire pearl of essence now, it would be more harmful than it is helpful."

She placed the remaining powder in Mu Hongyu's hands, and solemnly gave her instructions. "Split the rest into two portions and take one portion every eight hours. Your internal injuries should feel much better then."

"Really? That's great!" Mu Hongyu put it away carefully. "I never expected that I could actually use a powder made from a golden mane bear's pearl of essence to treat my injuries! Not to mention the pearl of essence from one that I helped kill!" She said her thoughts aloud as she thought about everything that had happened.

*Liuyue said that we were key participants too. This victory belonged to the four of us! Even though we are hurt, such a result will make us look good when the others find out!*

*Rong Jin was the talk of campus for a long while after he hunted a fourth-grade fiend back then. Our achievement is definitely better than his! Even if one looks across the entire campus, we can definitely be considered the best!*

"Sigh, it's a pity that the golden mane bear is dead. If not, it would be great if we could hunt and tame it," said Cen Hu. "That's a fourth-grade fiend after all!"

Chu Liuyue curled her lips. "That golden mane bear is a mother bear that has been angered. There is no chance of taming her. You would only create problems for yourself if you kept her by your side."

Cen Hu laughed. "Just kidding! It was either the bear that died or us. Of course, we had to end its life!"

Mu Hongyu agreed as she leaned against a tree with her non-injured shoulder. "Yeah, a fourth-grade fiend is a rare sight... Now that all of us are hurt, it's going to be tough to take down a fiend of this grade."

They finally ran into one, but it was a death trap brought by Gu Mingzhu.

Chu Liuyue and Gu Mingfeng were in better shape, but Mu Hongyu and Cen Hu's injuries were rather serious. They probably would not get much out of their time in Wan Ling Mountain this time.

"Sigh, I wanted a fourth-grade fiend. I guess there's no hope..."

However, Chu Liuyue suddenly knocked on her head. "Who says that there's no hope?"

Mu Hongyu's eyes widened. "Wait... are you going to help me hunt for one?"

Chu Liuyue smiled cryptically. "Don't bother. We already have one present, don't we?"

...

"It's right inside," said Gu Mingzhu unwillingly as she stood in front of a cave.

"You walk ahead," commanded Chu Liuyue.

Gu Mingzhu suppressed her anger as she headed inside.

Chu Liuyue and the others followed closely behind.

Gu Mingzhu had been tied up well, so they were not worried that she would have any tricks up her sleeve, nor were they afraid she would escape.

The cave seemed narrow but was actually rather spacious. The few of them only arrived at the cave's innermost area after walking for a while.

Chu Liuyue saw a nest.

"That's where the golden mane bear cub is," Gu Mingzhu said unwillingly, her resentment slowly killing her. She thought that she had found a shortcut, only to realize it was a deathtrap, which left her stuck with Chu Liuyue!

She had been tied up since yesterday. She could not lie down nor sit down. She stood all night and looked more haggard than ever. However, Chu Liuyue did not let her leave. Instead, she forced her to divulge the whereabouts of the golden mane bear cub. She could do nothing else but bring them here.

As if noticing the commotion, a noise came from the nest, like something was moving.

A small round head peeked out.

“It really is a golden mane bear cub!” Mu Hongyu cried out.

The cub was only the size of an adult human’s forearm. Its fur was still a light gray, only the ring of fur around its neck was a little darker. It was clearly a newborn. As it grew, its fur would turn into a golden-brown.

It blinked and curiously looked at Chu Liuyue and the others as it scratched its round ears as if it were confused by what was happening. Finally, its eyes landed on Mu Hongyu, and it stretched out its arms.

Mu Hongyu’s eyes widened. “W-what does it mean? D-does it want me to pick it up?”

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment before saying, “Perhaps it’s because you consumed the mother bear’s pearl of essence. Therefore, it feels a familiar aura coming from you. That’s why it’s especially close to you.”

“Really?” Mu Hongyu did not fully believe it.

As they spoke, the golden mane bear cub realized that it was not getting a response. It made its way out of the nest and stumbled over to Mu Hongyu’s side. It grabbed her leg tightly.

Mu Hongyu felt her heart melt, and she picked it up.

The cub rubbed its head against her shoulder intimately.

Chu Liuyue smiled. "It's still too small and young. It will not survive if we leave it here. Why don't you take it with you?"

Mu Hongyu was stunned and elated. "Really?"

"No one else here is a better fit."

Mu Hongyu obviously did not turn the offer down. It was the cub of a fourth-grade fiend. It was easier to hunt and tame. Besides, the cub was really close to her, and she was really fond of it.

"Then I won't stand on ceremony!" Mu Hongyu carried the cub carefully and pinched its ears.

Chu Liuyue suddenly felt an itch on her cheek. She looked down and saw that the small fellow had poked its head out as if waiting for something. The blood ferret's ears trembled when it saw that Chu Liuyue did not move.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. *It is... asking for pats?!*

### **Chapter 137: Here for Her**

Chu Liuyue reached out and tapped its small head. "Don't always compare with others."

The little fellow trembled as it looked up. It looked as if its heart was aching; it did not expect Chu Liuyue to say something as heartless as that. *I'm just asking for pats! Is that a lot to ask for?*

It grabbed Chu Liuyue's finger and pressed it against its ears. *Pat me!*

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *It is so small, but it has a big attitude.*

Chu Liuyue could only pinch its furry ears. They were quite nice to touch.

Only then was the little fellow content. It grumpily turned around and hid its face in its tail.

Chu Liuyue could not help but laugh.

"Can you all let me go now?" Gu Mingzhu suddenly spoke up in a stiff tone. She was clearly very upset about what she had been put through in the last day and night.

Chu Liuyue blinked. "Are you dreaming? We almost died because of you, and you think we're just going to let it go like this?"

"But you've already gotten the golden mane bear cub! You—"

"We deserved it since we defeated the golden mane bear. With its pearl of essence, it was only a matter of time before we found this place. You just saved us a little time, so do you really think that you deserve credit for this?"

Chu Liuyue's tone was calm and even, but Gu Mingzhu did not know how to respond to that. She finally realized that Chu Liuyue really did not intend to let her off easily. "Then what do you want? Chu Liuyue,

don't push it. I have a signal bottle on me. If you try anything, I'll make the teachers and elders hold you responsible!"

Chu Liuyue looked at the agitated Gu Mingzhu and sarcastically replied, "That's great! We can take the chance to ask how we should punish a student who caused the deaths of two classmates and the disappearances of another two, and dragged us into danger."

Gu Mingzhu bit her lip.

*Hong! Long! Long!*

A loud rumbling that resembled thunder suddenly sounded.

Chu Liuyue frowned and hurried towards the cave entrance. She was stunned by the scene she saw at the middle of the mountain.

"What's wrong? What happened? The commotion..." Cen Hu caught up with her first. When he noticed her stiff expression, he followed her gaze.

His eyes widened as well.

At the foot of the mountain, a horde of fiends was headed their way!

"Second-grade silver feathered deer!" Cen Hu took a closer look and instantly identified the beast with a silver feather at the top of its head.

Silver feathered deers were rather common and tame. They ran fast and were often hunted to be used as mounts for the noble families. However, they were solitary animals, so why were so many gathered in one place?! There were thirty to forty of them!

But that was not all! Behind them was a group of black bats flying their way.

Cen Hu's face twitched. "Third-grade purple lightning bats?!" *Aren't these venomous creatures nocturnal animals? Why are they out here in broad daylight?! They also number more than the deer!*

Chu Liuyue's hand tightened as she glanced around quickly and pensively.

Mu Hongyu and the others had caught up at this point. They, too, were stunned when they saw the situation at the foot of the mountain.

"Hold on! There are some in the northwest direction! Those are... fire leopards?!"

"Some are in the south too! They're golden-eyed demons!"

The others looked at one another.

Mu Hongyu could not help but ask, "Could this be... the Fiend Tidal?"

Otherwise, there was no way to explain why so many fiends suddenly appeared in synchrony!



“Aren’t they supposed to be heading for the heart of Wan Ling Mountain? We’re still in the periphery, so why are they headed our way?” Cen Hu did not understand.

Chu Liuyue’s hand, which was hidden in her sleeve, tightened. “We’ve been surrounded.”

...

At the same time, everyone in Wan Ling Mountain had sensed that something was amiss.

Somewhere, Si Ting and the others were surrounded by third-grade red tigers. Both sides were at an impasse, and both sides suffered injuries.

Si Yang wiped the blood away from his face as he gritted his teeth. “Big Brother, the red tigers seem hell-bent on fighting us all the way. What do we do?”

They had been rather unlucky. They ran into a stranded red tiger earlier, so they helped a teammate hunt it. Little did they expect the red tiger pack to find their way here based on the scent, which led to this conflict.

After the difficult battle, they had almost depleted their energy. However, the red tigers seemed determined to fight them to the bitter end.

They did not remember being told that Wan Ling Mountain’s fiends were this difficult to deal with!

Si Ting knitted his brows together. "Zhou Yun and the others are seriously injured. They have to be sent back immediately."

Si Yang laughed bitterly. "I pulled the signal bottle's strings earlier, but the teachers are not here yet. Big Brother, the current situation does not seem right."

Si Ting pursed his lips. He had the same thought.

The fiends seemed to have been triggered by something. They were especially aggressive!

They had run into other groups earlier. The situation was tense and dangerous, and many had backed out because of the severity of their injuries.

The teachers probably got held up on their way here.

"Roar!" A red tiger suddenly roared deeply.

Si Yang and the others stared at the red tigers nervously, afraid that they would all run forward simultaneously. However, the tiger that roared, surprisingly, turned and ran toward the forest!

The other red tigers followed suit! They were gone in the blink of an eye!

"Wh-what just happened?" Si Yang was stunned. "Could it be... that the Fiend Tidal has begun?"

According to their teachers, Wan Ling Mountain's fiends would head to a specific spot at a specific moment.

However, Si Ting's heart was in his mouth. "Something isn't right! They're not headed for the heart of the mountain!"

...

More fiends were gathering at the foot of the mountain.

The people stuck in the middle of the mountain sank into an eerie silence. They felt that extreme danger was headed their way!

"What's going on? Why are they headed towards our way?"

The golden mane bear cub in Mu Hongyu's arms was also a little antsy; it only calmed down after she cajoled it for a while.

Chu Liuyue kept silent. *The fiends aren't here for them. They're here for me!*

Chapter 138: Way Out

Chu Liuyue could not understand why. She had never been to Wan Ling Mountain, nor had she hunted or provoked any of the fiends. However, whether it was the livid horse at the beginning or the red wolf pack later, she became increasingly certain that the fiends were targeting her.

“Liuyue, what do we do now?” Even the bold Mu Hongyu felt uneasy because of the scene.

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment before saying, “Mr. Dongfang once said that Wan Ling Mountain’s fiends rarely leave the woods. If we head out, we might be able to shake them off.”

Mu Hongyu nodded. “That’s right! Let’s hurry and get out of here!”

One or two fiends were fine, and a pack of fiends was somewhat manageable. However, innumerable fiends were heading their way! They were as good as dead if they fought head-on! Even their teachers and elders might not be the fiends’ match!

Gu Mingfeng suddenly spoke up, his expression tense. “It might be quite difficult to leave now.”

The others looked towards the foot of the mountain and saw that the golden-eyed demons from the south had stopped moving as well.

They had neatly lined up like an army and looked up in unison. The fiends’ eyes were filled with cold cruelty. Their gazes were also as sharp as knives as they looked at the group. Within their eyes was the pure and unadulterated desire to kill!

“Th-they have blocked off the path!” Cen Hu cried out.

Gu Mingfeng shook his head. “No, all our exits have been sealed shut.”

Almost at the same time the golden-eyed demons arrived, the other fiends arrived and sealed off all exits.

As far as their eyes could see, fiends were lined up with murderous intent in their eyes.

The few of them sank into silence. Anyone could tell that they were in a desperate situation. Given the strength difference between both parties, the outcome was quite clear.

Mu Hongyu's face was a little pale. "Are we going to die here today?" She looked towards Chu Liuyue almost instinctively, but the latter's eyebrows were knitted tightly together. Mu Hongyu then laughed at herself. I must be crazy. In this situation, Chu Liuyue would not be able to do anything, no matter how capable she is.

The others kept quiet. The atmosphere was heavy and somber as if it was frozen.

"Go back," Chu Liuyue said suddenly.

The others froze. "Back where? We're surrounded now. There's no way we can break out..."

"Back into the cave," Chu Liuyue said as she headed back to the cave.

The first person to react was actually Gu Mingzhu. She backed away and screamed out loud. "I'm not going back!"

Chu Liuyue looked back with a frown.

Perhaps it was because she had been frightened by the scene at the foot of the mountain, but Gu Mingzhu was a little hysterical.

“Chu Liuyue, don’t drag me along with you if you want to die! The entire mountain has been surrounded! Going back to the cave means death! I won’t go back with you all!”

Chu Liuyue looked at her like she was looking at a lunatic. She did not have the energy to deal with Gu Mingzhu right now. Besides, she did not even intend to bring the burdensome person with her. “Sure.”

With that, she looked towards Mu Hongyu and the others. “Come on; time waits for no one.”

The others immediately caught up with her when they heard her. Even though they did not know what Chu Liuyue was thinking, her tone and expression inspired confidence in them. Besides, after everything they had been through, they saw Chu Liuyue as their leader. They would follow anything she did at this point.

Their group quickly disappeared into the cave.

Only Gu Mingzhu was left on the mountain’s midway point. She only returned to her senses, filled with disbelief, when the others disappeared completely. Chu Liuyue and the others actually let me off that easily?

Hoo!

The roars of the fiends jolted Gu Mingzhu back to reality. She looked down and felt the murderous intent. Her legs went soft, and she almost fell to her knees on the ground. No, no! I cannot die here! I have to make it out alive! Thankfully, I have a trump card...

...

As the others headed back into the cave, Cen Hu looked back indignantly. "Liuyue, we have not taken our revenge yet, but we're letting her leave like this? That's letting her off too easy!"

"Since she's tired of leaving, why should we stop her?" Chu Liuyue said calmly.

Cen Hu's eyes brightened up. "You mean..."

"We've been surrounded outside, so it's impossible for her to escape. Death is inevitable." She saw right through Gu Mingzhu's plot. Rather than spend the energy to deal with her, Chu Liuyue would rather Gu Mingzhu send herself to her own doom.

"Whatever, enough of her! Liuyue, let's focus on what we can do! We can't keep hiding in this cave!" said Mu Hongyu worriedly as she hugged the golden mane bear cub.

"Who said we're waiting to die here?" retorted Chu Liuyue softly.

The trio eyed one another.

"Golden mane bears are strong, but they hibernate every winter. Normally speaking, they will not hibernate in their usual nest to avoid being disturbed by other fiends. Instead, they will choose a more

secretive location that is usually linked to their original nest for ease of movement,” explained Chu Liuyue patiently as she headed deeper into the cave.

However, the others caught up immediately.

“Are you saying that we can quietly leave from the golden mane bear’s hibernation spot?”

As they spoke, the group arrived at the golden mane bear cub’s nest from earlier.

Cen Hu rushed over and looked around, but he was disappointed when he did not find anything.

“There’s nothing here? Liuyue, can it be that this doesn’t lead to the golden mane bear’s hibernation spot? After all, this entire mountain belongs to it. Isn’t it the same if it just directly leaves from outside?”

“If it really were that easy to find, the golden mane bear would not have lived till now.” As Chu Liuyue spoke, she indicated for Mu Hongyu to put the golden mane bear cub down.

The golden mane bear cub was still a little confused about being removed from the warm embrace. It blinked as it began to crawl towards Mu Hongyu.

Chu Liuyue asked Mu Hongyu to step further away as she stepped forward herself. She then tapped the cub on its forehead, and it tumbled backward.

It refused to give up and got up to continue forward.



Chu Liuyue stopped it again.

After a few times, it finally stopped. It glared at Chu Liuyue angrily and indignantly before it turned and left. It crawled to a certain spot and lay down next to the cave wall.

Chu Liuyue's eyes lit up when she stepped forward and found that the wall's color was indeed different from that of the rest. "This is it!"

She placed her hand on the wall and pushed it with force.

Creak!

A hole appeared in the wall!

### **Chapter 139: Pressure!**

"Found it?!"

The others were all really excited to see the hole.

Chu Liuyue glanced inside. It was dark, and barely anything could be seen.

“Use this.” A hand suddenly stretched over. On the palm was a grape-sized luminous pearl.

Chu Liuyue took it and nodded at Gu Mingfeng. “Thanks.”

“No problem.”

Using the light from the luminous pearl, Chu Liuyue could see into the hole. “The path in the hole leads downward. There are stairs, so please be careful.”

With that, she led the way down.

Mu Hongyu picked up the golden mane bear cub, kept it in her embrace, and followed suit. She smiled when she passed by Gu Mingfeng. “Gu Mingfeng, you have a lot of things hidden on you, huh! Luminous pearls are really valuable!”

Gu Mingfeng’s status in the Gu family was low. He was usually somewhat frugal in the academy, so both Mu Hongyu and Cen Hu were surprised to see him produce the pearl.

Gu Mingfeng looked down without saying anything, and he caught up to Chu Liuyue.

Mu Hongyu froze and looked at Cen Hu. *Did I say something wrong? However, I did not say much?*

Chu Liuyue’s interest was piqued, but it looked like Gu Mingfeng did not want to talk about it. Thus, she did not ask and continued forward.

...

It was a narrow and long passageway.

Even though they could only see what was directly in front of them, they sensed that the road was full of twists and turns.

Chu Liuyue secretly calculated the distance they had walked and wondered if they had arrived at the foot of the mountain. However, she was unclear about their current direction.

The most important thing now was to get away from the fiends' attacks.

"Oh my goodness! This golden mane bear is amazing. A passageway like this should have taken a lot of effort, right?" Cen Hu marveled at the path as he walked.

"This is a big project for regular people. However, it's not much, given the golden man bear's size and strength."

Cen Hu was stunned. "No matter how strong it was, you defeated it, didn't you? I still think you're the scariest, Liuyue!"

Chu Liuyue laughed. She had said that defeating the golden mane bear was a team effort several times, but Cen Hu seemed to think that she had hidden abilities. He greatly admired her because of this.

Cen Hu was a simple guy. Once he understood something, it was hard for him to change his mind. Thus, Chu Liuyue gave up on explaining and let him be.

After walking for a while, they still did not see the end.

Cen Hu felt a little frustrated. "When is this going to end..."

Before he could finish speaking, the golden mane bear cub in Mu Hongyu's arms suddenly moved.

Chu Liuyue was relieved when she saw that. "We're almost there!"

The few of them continued. As expected, the road in front of them cleared up! It opened up and led to an enormous cave!

Cen Hu walked faster and headed over first. He looked around, and the excitement on his face faded away. "... That's not right. Liuyue, why isn't there an exit here?"

Chu Liuyue rubbed her temples a little. "The golden mane bear hibernates here. This place is meant to prevent disturbances, so why would there be an exit here?"

"How are we getting out then?"

Chu Liuyue walked over and looked around. "We're breaking our way out, of course!"

Her tone was even and calm as if she was describing the weather. She did not think that her words were very surprising.

However, even Gu Mingfeng could not help but frown. "Break our way out? From here?"

Chu Liuyue nodded. "If we combine our strength, it shouldn't take too long."

"Liuyue, are you serious?" Mu Hongyu stared at her dazedly. "We don't even know where this is! What if we're at the very bottom of the mountain? Won't we be stuck here digging for months then!?"

"It won't take that long. I've taken a look around earlier. The walls here are the same material as those in the cave, so we're still in the mountain. The cave was at the heart of the mountain, so we're definitely nearer to the surface now. It won't be a problem as long as we make ourselves an exit."

Chu Liuyue looked at the others, who were still stunned. "Do you all have any better ideas?"

They remained silent.

Gu Mingfeng took a deep breath. "So, where do we begin?"

...

As Chu Liuyue and the others traveled through the passageway, the situation outside got increasingly tense.

Slowly but surely, fiends had completely surrounded the mountain.

The murderous aura in the air was terrifying. However, the fiends did not attack. Instead, they lined up neatly. It was as though they were waiting for something.

Anyone in the right mind would definitely sense that something was amiss, but not Gu Mingzhu.

She found a deserted corner and hid behind a rock. She was relieved when she realized that the fiends did not attack after a while.

*Thankfully, not all hope is lost. Even though I do not know why they have stopped, I am relieved. What I need the most now is time!*

She reached towards her belt eagerly. *As long as nobody interrupts me, I should be able to get away safely!*

However, her smile suddenly froze as she looked towards her belt in disbelief. *That's not right! I clearly put that thing there! Why is it gone now?!*

...

Somewhere in Wan Ling Mountain Range.

Wen Yan was hurrying along when he heard footsteps. He carefully looked around and turned, only to see that it was Bai Chen.

Following behind him were Si Ting and the others. They seemed as if they were rushing somewhere.

Wen Yan went forward and asked, "Bai Chen, where are you going? Did Si Ting and the others get hurt?"

Bai Chen hurried forward when he saw Wen Yan, his expression somber. "Wen Yan, do you feel that something is amiss?"

Wen Yan paused. "Are you talking about how Wan Ling Mountain's fiends are more aggressive?"

Bai Chen nodded and then shook his head. "Not entirely. We saw inklings of this yesterday. The teachers and elders knew about this yesterday, and we've sent many heavily-injured students out. However, there's something more pressing now."

"Oh? What happened?" Wen Yan asked.

Bai Chen took a deep breath and explained what Si Ting and the others had told him after running into him.

"... In reality, they're not the only ones who have run into something like this. If I'm not mistaken, the fiends in Wan Ling Mountain seem to have received some kind of call or order! This is why they're so in sync! Most importantly, they always headed into the mountain range during the previous Fiend Tidal. However, this time..."

Wen Yan's heart was in his mouth. "To be able to control these fiends, I'm afraid it would have to be..."

*Hong!*

A loud explosion came from the sky.

Everyone looked up and saw a mountain peak explode as an enormous demonic beast spread its wings and soared towards the sky!

Heavy pressure spread across the land.

"That's... an advanced demonic beast!"

#### **Chapter 140: Black flying python!**

It was a blood-red python. Its scales gave off a cold shine and aura under the sunlight. When it spread its black skeletal wings, they almost covered up the sun. The strong but terrifying aura was stifling.

Everyone was stunned by the scene.

Bai Chen widened his eyes as if he had been hallucinating. "That's... a seventh-grade fiend! It's a black flying python?!"

Si Ting and the others were stunned. *Seventh-grade fiend? A creature that only existed in legends and rumors?*



“Hurry! Leave!” Wen Yan cried out with a pale face as he returned to his senses. “Send the message to everyone from the academy. Tell them to Leave Wan Ling Mountain now!”

...

*Hoo!*

All the fiends in Wan Ling Mountain roared the instant the black flying python appeared. This was their way of expressing their respect.

The black flying python flapped its wings and quickly flew towards the mountain where Chu Liuyue and the others were.

All the fiends received it respectfully since fiends had a strict hierarchy. As a seventh-grade fiend, the black flying python was the ruler. As a matter of fact, Wan Ling Mountain was its territory.

It moved fast and arrived at the mountain in a matter of seconds. Its green eyes were filled with murderous intent when a strange sound tore out from its throat.

The fiends at the foot of the mountain called out in response. All of them then rushed towards the mountain!

...

*How did it disappear? The family head gave it to me as a reward back then because he was afraid I would run into trouble.*

Gu Mingzhu could not even bear to use the trump card when she was chased by the golden mane bear, but she knew she had to use it now. *However, why can't I find it now?*

Gu Mingzhu quickly looked through her clothes and began to panic when she did not find it. *How am I to leave this place safely without it?!*

She could not help but glance at the fiend in the sky. Even though she did not recognize what type of fiend it was, she was certain that it was a highly-dangerous advanced fiend!

*It seems ready to strike! What should I do?!* Gu Mingzhu's heart began beating wildly. Her face was pale, and her limbs were cold.

*Hong! Long! Long!*

Just as she was worrying, she heard a loud sound. She stared at it in surprise, only to see numerous fiends rushing towards the mountain peak.

The mountain shook because of the sheer number of fiends moving.

Fear grew in Gu Mingzhu's heart as she blindly ran in one direction.

...

Just as Chu Liuyue and the others started searching for an exit, they felt a powerful force.

A few pieces of stone fell from the wall.

Mu Hongyu was stunned. "What's going on! What's happening outside?"

Cen Hu said, "I think someone is attacking... No! It should be the fiends!"

*What else could it be but the fiends?*

"Why are they attacking the mountain? Are they trying to force us out?" Mu Hongyu knitted her brows together. "Why are they targeting us?"

Chu Liuyue looked down.

Gu Mingfeng narrowed his eyes when he saw her expression.

"Are we going to continue?" Gu Mingfeng looked at Chu Liuyue.

Staying here and making an exit didn't hold much meaning any longer. They might not even have that much time to do so.

Given how aggressive the fiends were, they were as good as dead if they remained here.

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment before saying, "You guys continue. I'll head back."

"What?" Mu Hongyu was stunned and grabbed Chu Liuyue. "Are you crazy? Aren't you looking for death by going back?"

"The entire mountain has been surrounded. Even if I don't go, it'll be hard for us to get out. If I go back, I can buy some time. You guys should use the time to move forward and make a new exit. It should be safer to leave from there." Chu Liuyue spoke as she took something out from her sleeve.

The object was a palm-sized black crystal plate. It was round and seemed to have a pattern engraved on it. It seemed mysterious, and it gave off a sense of authority.

Gu Mingfeng stared at Chu Liuyue in shock when he saw the item. "This is... a black Xuan formation crystal?"

Mu Hongyu cried out when she recognized the item. "Why do you have something like this?"

Black Xuan formation crystals were Xuan formations carved into black crystals to seal the force within. Black Xuan formation crystals were extremely precious items because even low-level Xuan Masters could activate the Xuan formations beyond their level with just a little energy.

Black Xuan formation crystals naturally had greater attacking power. However, black Xuan formation crystals were extremely hard to carve. Therefore, they were a rare treasure even among the noble families.

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "It's not mine; it's Gu Mingzhu's."

"Gu..." Mu Hongyu was stunned but immediately came to her senses. "You stole it? When?"

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows nonchalantly. "That's not important. She owes us, so we'll just take this as interest."

Cen Hu raised his thumb in awe. "No wonder you let her off that easily! I did think that you were too easy on her, but it turns out that you had something else in mind! No wonder Gu Mingzhu refused to come with us and dared to remain up there when all the fiends were at the foot of the mountain. She intended to leave by herself since she had this trump card!"

"This Xuan formation carved on the black crystal is a fifth-level one. It's extremely powerful and can help you all quite a bit." Chu Liuyue handed the black Xuan formation crystal to Gu Mingfeng after she spoke. "I've activated about half of the formation carved into the black crystal. You can activate it if you just infuse a little more force. I'm leaving Hongyu and Cen Hu in your hands."

Gu Mingfeng paused because he did not expect Chu Liuyue to say something like this. *Handing the two of them to me.. She trusts me?*

Chu Liuyue curled her lips and looked at Gu Mingfeng with conviction as if she could read his mind. "I'll see you guys on the outside."

Gu Mingfeng did not know how to describe how he felt. He had never been so trusted by anyone. Even though he was talented, people looked down on him because of his low status.

Everyone in the Gu family called him cold and heartless. They shared the same blood, but they hurt him the most.

However, Chu Liuyue... They had only known each other for a few days, but she was willing to trust Gu Mingfeng this much.

Gu Mingfeng looked into her eyes.

Her eyes were clear, without despise, sarcasm, or mocking. Her gaze was calming.

*She is serious.* Gu Mingfeng felt something move at the bottom of his heart before he reached for the black Xuan formation crystal. "Okay."

Chu Liuyue smiled.

Since Gu Mingfeng had agreed, it meant that he would put in his best.

Mu Hongyu and Cen Hu were both injured, so they could only rely on him.

She returned the luminous pearl without saying much. She then turned and disappeared into the darkness.

"Liuyue..." Mu Hongyu stepped forward and wanted to stop her.

Gu Mingfeng walked over. "Since she said that she'd meet us outside, she'll fulfill her promise. Rather than worry, let's move fast and meet up with her. We don't have much time. The longer we take, the more danger she is in."

Mu Hongyu bit her lip. She struggled internally before she finally nodded. "Let's go!"