

Noble Ruler 1331

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"Of course. When Bo Yan and the rest left, they specifically left behind a communication device for convenience. Once they meet with any situation, they will be able to rapidly send messages back. During this period of time, Long Ze and the rest have been taking turns guarding the transportation formation, so they definitely won't get it wrong." Elder Hua Feng glanced at Chu Liuyue weirdly. "Why did you ask?"

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly. "Nothing much. I just thought that the Flood-Desert Northern Region is so far away from the academy, so it must be inconvenient to send news back and forth. I was curious about it, so I asked."

Elder Hua Feng laughed out loud. "Kid, it naturally seems like something incredible to you now. But if you learn Xuan formations from me, you will break through to become a strong warrior in the future, and all of this will be a piece of cake to you!"

Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears. Elder Hua Feng is really rather stubborn about this. I really don't know what kind of expression he would have if he knew that I broke through and became a King Xuan Master.

When the other elders heard this, they all showed looks of understanding. So Hua Feng is going for this!

Previously, they did hear some news about Chu Yue. Other than being a heavenly doctor, he also had talent as a warrior and Xuan Master. This was a well-acknowledged fact amongst the elders.

From this, it showed that Hua Feng really cared about this kid.

"The Heavenly Square Cauldron is one of the top ten holy weapons. There will definitely be a lot of people going to the Flood-Desert Northern Region this time. After we reach, there will definitely be an ugly battle," an elder said with a low voice.

"Our first priority isn't the Heavenly Square Cauldron, but if we have the chance... We naturally can't miss it."

"That's right. Such an opportunity is very rare, so we must treasure it. I just don't know... how the situation there is now."

"I heard that quite a few top-tier aristocratic families had gone over today, and some of them are even our enemies. The Flood-Desert Northern Region is a very dangerous and harsh place. Perhaps some people might take the chance to attack us, so you must be careful."

"Is there the Golden Wings Sect?" Speaking of this, the few elders silently glanced at Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched.

Elder Hua Feng said, "It doesn't matter if they go. The Heavenly Square Cauldron is right there. Would they still care about the conflict with us? Previously, his disciple had already caused trouble at our academy entrance. It's already very good if we don't pursue the matter with them!"

Then, he couldn't help but lower his voice and say to Chu Liuyue, "Kid, you must follow us closely later. Don't go by yourself, do you understand?"

Chu Liuyue seriously nodded.

...

It was very far to go to the Flood-Desert Northern Region from Ling Xiao Academy. Even with the direct transportation formation, they still had to spend quite some time on the road.

Chu Liuyue spent most of the time cultivating silently by herself. She couldn't absorb force here, so she started studying Xuan formations and medicinal formulas.

Ever since she broke through to become a King Xuan Master, when she went back to look at the complicated Xuan formations floating in her mind, she felt that they were much simpler.

She practiced those Xuan formations in her mind over and over again, quickly memorizing them.

As for the heavenly doctor aspect, although she had already memorized the formulas in the Physician Medicinal Guide, she still couldn't break through as she didn't have the time to try the formulas.

She could only properly study it when she had the time later.

"I didn't expect to have the chance to see this transportation formation being activated when I'm alive." After some time, the few elders saw that Chu Liuyue was mature and sensible, so they gradually relaxed.

One elder sighed emotionally and said, "This was built by the first director personally... Back then, in the entire God Residence Realm, almost nobody could fight with him! It's a pity... It's a pity... nobody can continue his legacy."

Hearing this, Chu Liuyue—who was initially memorizing Xuan formations silently—opened her eyes curiously. "Elder, why is this so?"

One just had to think to know how amazingly talented Ling Xiao Academy's first director was. Why would such a person not have a disciple to pass his legacy down? Wasn't that too much of a pity?

Elder Hua Feng smiled helplessly and explained, "I heard that he was extremely picky. Although he had founded Ling Xiao Academy and accepted quite a few students, he wasn't satisfied with any of them and left them all to other elders. Until his demise, he..."

As he spoke, Elder Hua Feng looked regretful. "The first director was truly a genius. He was an expert as a warrior, Xuan Master, heavenly doctor, and armory refinement master! He knew everything, and he was an elite in all of them! It's normal for such a person to have high expectations. If there was a student who could continue his legacy back then, I believe the situation today would be greatly different. Back then, many of his precious secrets couldn't be preserved as he left in a hurry, and his skills turned into nothing."

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding.

At one side, an elder lightly sighed. "Actually, there were many people who followed the director back then. If not, he wouldn't have been able to establish Ling Xiao Academy. At that time, Ling Xiao Academy

had recruited many talents. If the director was willing to teach them personally... they might've actually been absolute warriors. But..."

But that person was just too stubborn!

No meant no, and there was no basis for negotiation.

Thousands of people wanted to cultivate under him, but he refused, and nobody could do anything about it.

Elder Hua Feng shook his head. "Even though it's regretful, mentors and disciples also go by destiny. If you force yourself to accept a disciple you don't like, it won't be good for either party. The director back then was a very carefree individual, and there was no need for him to do something he didn't like."

Many people felt that it was extremely pitiful that the first director didn't leave his legacy behind, but Elder Hua Feng understood it very well.

Isn't Wan Zheng like that too? All these years, if he didn't see anyone that he fancied, he was bent on not going easy and didn't accept any of them. Normally, he can give the students some lessons and guide them from time to time. But if he has to pour his heart out to teach everything he learned to one person... That won't do—unless that person passes his requirements. A few years ago, one finally appeared with much difficulty but was intercepted. Now, with Chu Yue, he naturally doesn't want to let go of him. Thinking of this, Elder Hua Feng instantly felt rather guilty. If Wan Zheng knows that I'm still eyeing Chu Yue even now, then...

That elder nodded. "That's true, but... The first director had especially shocking talent as a Xuan Master. It's a true pity that all those amazing and strong Xuan formations were lost just like that. If I could have the chance to see them personally..."

"We're already very lucky to be able to reactivate this Xuan formation. Let's not think about others."

Then, the few of them fell silent in unison.

Chu Liuyue also kept quiet and waited silently.

Time slowly trickled past. Finally, after the long torture, the few of them finally reached the Flood-Desert Northern Region!

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"We're reaching soon." As Elder Hua Feng spoke, his expression became much more serious.

The other elders stood together, glanced at each other, and took action together!

A bright Xuan formation suddenly appeared in the dark front!

Very quickly, the Xuan formation broke from the middle and slowly opened toward both sides. Bright white light shone in from the outside.

"Go!" With Elder Hua Feng's command, he rushed out first!

Chu Liuyue and the other elders followed behind him closely!

...

Cold.

Extremely cold.

This was what Chu Liuyue first felt when she exited the transportation formation.

She looked across, and it was a white snowy land. Other than that, there was nothing else.

The sky was dark as if it had just snowed.

Tuan Zi moved in her dantian, and a gush of warm aura instantly flowed all over her body.

Chu Liuyue then felt much better.

"Hiss... Why is this place so cold!?" Behind her, an elder couldn't help but shiver. As he spoke, he hurriedly set up a barrier around him. "I've long heard that the Flood-Desert Northern Region has extreme conditions, but I didn't expect it to be this scary!"

They were all legendary warriors, and regular coldness or hotness didn't have much impact on them. If they had such a huge reaction, it just showed that this place was cold beyond one's imagination.

"Chu Yue, are you okay?" Another elder saw that Chu Liuyue looked normal, and he couldn't help but inquire.

Chu Liuyue blinked, smiled, and said, "Thank you for your concern, Elders. My fiend is a red-tailed phoenix, so I'm doing fine."

"No wonder." Cultivators below legendary warriors probably wouldn't even be able to stay here for long. In the beginning, they were still rather worried about bringing Chu Yue along, but it now seemed like this child didn't need their concern.

This matter caused the few elders to change their views of Chu Liuyue, and their gazes toward her were much gentler.

Elder Hua Feng silently glanced at Chu Liuyue. Hm? Red-tailed phoenix... That's true. It did break through from a red-tailed phoenix!

Chu Liuyue's expression did not change.

An elder surveyed the surroundings and couldn't help but ask, "Where are Bo Yan and the rest now? This place is covered in snow. I'm afraid it'll be a little hard to find them quickly."

Elder Hua Feng took out his own green jade plaque.

The two stars on it shone quietly. One of them was his, and the other was naturally Elder Bo Yan's.

He looked for a while and confirmed that he was on the right.

"He should be there, but he seems to be a distance away. Even if we all rush over at full speed, it will take a few hours." As he spoke, he glanced at the sky. "But the snow is very deep... I'm afraid it would reduce our speed by more than half."

"We don't have a choice either. If we fly through the air here, we'll be moving live targets. We don't know who else is here, so we should be careful."

Even if it was much slower, they couldn't randomly risk their lives.

Elder Hua Feng nodded. "Let's go!"

...

Just like that, the few of them slowly treaded past the snow. Every step they took, a deep snowy hole would appear behind them.

After walking a distance, Chu Liuyue felt rather frustrated and hot. She slowly knitted her brows and felt that something was amiss.

It wasn't that she hadn't walked through snow before, so she knew that it took up a lot of energy. However, this seemed too... It was as if something underground was gluing their feet, causing every step to be especially effortful.

She couldn't help but look down, yet she did not see anything. Other than crystallized snow, there was nothing else.

She hesitated for a moment and temporarily suppressed her thoughts.

Some time had passed, and the other elders clearly couldn't take it anymore. "Is there something wrong with this place? Why does walking in snow feel so effortful!"

"I also think that there's a problem here. Logically speaking, we're all legendary warriors, and we've only walked for an hour, but how did it exhaust so much of our energy?"

"Hua Feng, what do you think?"

Elder Hua Feng—who was walking at the front—stopped and sighed deeply. "You're right. There is... something wrong here."

The few elders all stopped.

Chu Liuyue also stood still.

The few elders glanced at her and realized that she wasn't left behind, even after she had followed them for so long. And looking at her expression, she didn't seem to be greatly affected, so they were all collectively taken aback. Did we really underestimate this kid's abilities earlier?

In actual fact, the reason why Chu Liuyue could survive walking for so long and still have a relatively relaxed attitude was firstly due to Tuan Zi. The other reason was that... she had undergone Big Baby's training, so her physical combat skills were far superior to what she had showcased.

She looked down again. Suddenly, she heard some shuffling noises.

She turned around and looked over.

A gray-faced fox suddenly came out from the snow, stuck its head out, and looked around.

As if detecting her gaze, that gray-faced fox looked over and met Chu Liuyue's eyes. Then, it instantly shrunk its head back alertly.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly and felt that something was wrong.

"Could it be that there's something wrong with the snow below?" An elder asked strangely.

"I think so too, but... the snow is so thick. How are we supposed to check it? We can't just dig five feet under, right?" Elder Hua Feng spread his hands rather helplessly.

The few elders exchanged glances.

Even if there was really a problem below, with their abilities, they might not be able to solve it quickly.

"Forget it; let's not deal with this now. We should first find Bo Yan and the rest and gather with them!" another elder suggested.

Chu Liuyue looked around and suddenly asked, "Elder, didn't Elder Bo Yan say that the Heavenly Square Cauldron has descended here? Why... isn't there any noise at all?"

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Chu Liuyue's words caused the few others to be collectively stunned as they instinctively surveyed their surroundings.

The white snow covered the sky and the ground. It was dead quiet.

It looks like... something is wrong.

"Chu Yue is right. How precious is the Heavenly Square Cauldron? If it appeared here, it would definitely cause a huge commotion. But now... it seems like nothing has happened."

"Could it have appeared in other places and not reached here yet, so this place looks like this?"

The few elders discussed softly.

Elder Hua Feng knitted his brows. "It's not really possible. Bo Yan sent a message saying that the Heavenly Square Cauldron had appeared, so they definitely would've seen it. Even if it's not by their side, it shouldn't be too far away. And now, they're not far away from us. If they had seen it, we should be able to see it too."

Once he said this, everyone then fell into dead silence. At this point, they started to truly suspect the authenticity of the matter.

"No matter what, Bo Yan should be nearby. Even if we rack our brains here, we might not be able to find out the truth, so we should just go and meet them first!"

This suggestion received everyone's approval. Hence, after some deliberation, they moved forward once again.

"Chu Yue, let's go!" Elder Hua Feng took two steps out and saw that Chu Liuyue didn't move, so he called her.

"I'm coming!" Chu Liuyue answered and followed them. However, she couldn't help but turn around and take another look with slightly furrowed brows. She felt that... something seemed amiss...

"That gray-faced fox has a very strong bloody scent." Tuan Zi's voice suddenly entered her ears.

Chu Liuyue was first shocked; then, she suddenly recovered her senses. Right, it was that feeling! It was just because this place was covered in snow and ice, so the bloody smell was covered.

But Tuan Zi was now a red-gold heavenly phoenix, so it was naturally much more sensitive toward this sort of thing compared to her.

"If I didn't guess wrongly, it should've just experienced a fight, and..." Tuan Zi's voice paused. "And it ate until it was very full."

A chill was suddenly sent down Chu Liuyue's spine.

Even though she hadn't personally seen a gray-faced fox before, she still had a certain level of understanding of it.

The so-called 'eating' meant gnawing on corpses! Judging from the strong bloody scent on it, the corpse had very likely died not too long ago!

It was very rare for people to come to this place. Even for fiends... If their cultivation level wasn't high enough and they weren't strong enough, only death would await them.

Then... What exactly did that gray-faced fox— Chu Liuyue knitted her brows even more tightly. During this recent period of time, quite a few people have actually come to the Flood-Desert Northern Region. Not talking about the other people first, Ling Xiao Academy has sent more than 300 people over. They should've also walked past this area... If something really has happened, the heavy snowfall is enough to cover all the traces.

An intense shadow loomed over her heart.

...

The few of them walked some more, and a lot of their force was greatly exhausted. Even Elder Hua Feng's lips started to turn pale faintly.

He glanced at the green jade plaque in his hands, and his expression suddenly changed.

"What's the matter?" The other elders saw that his expression was amiss, and they instantly asked worriedly.

Elder Hua Feng closed his eyes and looked at that green jade plaque closely again.

The two stars on it were right beside each other. Logically speaking, they should've already met Bo Yan and the rest. But looking over, there wasn't a single person at all!

The few elders saw that the two stars on the green jade plaque almost seemed to have gathered together. They were dazed for a moment, and their expressions changed. "What's going on? Where are they?!"

"Could it be that there's something wrong with this plaque?"

Elder Hua Feng slowly opened his mouth, and his voice was hoarse. "Bo Yan had specifically left behind the aura in this green jade plaque before he left. It definitely won't be wrong!"

They had clearly reached the location, but they didn't see anyone, causing one to have some suspicions.

Upon hearing this, the few of them fell silent and exchanged glances.

"Elder Hua Feng, what is this?" At this point, Chu Liuyue's voice came over.

The few of them looked up and saw that Chu Liuyue had walked a distance at some point and was holding something in her hands.

Elder Hua Feng looked over and immediately said, "Quickly bring it over and let me look at it!"

As he spoke, he couldn't wait for Chu Liuyue to come over and immediately went forward himself.

Chu Liuyue passed the item over—it was a green jade plaque.

The moment Elder Hua Feng saw it, he immediately confirmed his guess. "This is Bo Yan's! Why is it here?"

He hurriedly looked at Chu Liuyue and anxiously asked, "Chu Yue, where did you find it?"

Chu Liuyue raised her hand and pointed. "Where I was standing just now. Initially, I just wanted to look around. Suddenly, I felt that I had stepped on something, so I took it. It turned out to be this."

"That explains it..." Elder Hua Feng furrowed his brows tightly and held the green jade plaque tightly in his hands. No wonder it kept indicating that Bo Yan and the rest are here! It turns out that only the green jade plaque was left here!

But this made one worry even more. This was because the plaque was a symbol of one's identity, and Ling Xiao Academy's elders and students would take care of theirs meticulously.

If it weren't because something had happened... this item wouldn't appear here for no reason!

The other elders had also realized this as their expressions changed.

Right at this moment, a strange sound suddenly came from the side.

Chu Liuyue turned around. This sound was coming from beneath the snow not far away from her.

Just as she thought that it was the gray-faced fox again, the same sound came from another direction. Very quickly, the few of them were quickly surrounded by these sounds completely.

Whoosh!

Countless rays of dark-blue light flew out from the snow and intertwined in mid-air! A gigantic Xuan formation cage instantly trapped the few of them!

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Everything happened too suddenly. When the few of them recovered their senses, they were already all trapped inside the Xuan formation.

The entire Xuan formation was semi-circular and trapped the few of them in the center. It shone with a dark-blue, cold icy light, which sent chills down one's spine.

"W-what is this?" an elder couldn't help but mutter softly and rapidly surveyed their surroundings.

"Someone was hiding here to ambush?! Why did we not detect it at all beforehand?"

"This Xuan formation should've been set up here in advance," said Elder Hua Feng in a low voice. "We only activated it automatically after we walked over."

Any crafting and creation of Xuan formations required time and energy. The higher the Xuan formation's level, the more it was so.

The Xuan formation that trapped them here had appeared very quickly, so it had clearly been prepared in advance.

"Who would set up such a trap here?"

Out of all these elders, only Elder Hua Feng was a Xuan Master. The others were warriors, so at this point, everyone looked at him instinctively.

The snowfield was vast, and one couldn't see the end of it.

Even if there really was someone who wanted to ambush them, why must they choose such a place? What if they didn't come over? Would it not be in vain?

Elder Hua Feng held the green jade plaque in his hands tightly. "It seems like someone purposely hid Bo Yan's plaque here to lure us over."

Once he said this, the few elders instantly understood, and they became even more worried. If it really was so, won't that mean that Elder Bo Yan and the others' situation is also very worrying?

"Let's put all of this aside first and think of how to get out of here." Elder Hua Feng looked up slightly and saw the Xuan formation above his head. Then, he slowly knitted his brows.

This caused the few people who put all their hopes on him to feel anxious as well.

After some time, an elder tried to ask softly, "Hua Feng, is there a way to solve this Xuan formation?"

Elder Hua Feng lowly replied, "This was created by a Grandmaster Xuan Master."

"What?" When the others heard this, their expressions changed in unison.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes slightly. Above ninth-grade Xuan Masters are King Xuan Masters. Above the latter are Great King Xuan Masters. From what I know, Elder Hua Feng is at such a level. And Grandmaster Xuan masters... are terrifying existences of an even higher level! In the entire Ling Xiao Academy, there aren't even more than ten such Xuan Masters in 10,000 years!

One just had to think to know how difficult it was to solve this Xuan formation! Even if Elder Hua Feng was an elite in the academy, it would be extremely difficult for him to deal with this.

"Grandmaster... Then, we won't be able to get out anymore, right?" an elder muttered softly in a daze.

"Hua Feng, do you have any confidence in escaping from here?" This was undoubtedly the question they cared about the most.

Elder Hua Feng closed his eyes and had a solemn expression. "I... don't know either."

"Aren't you just a step away from breaking through to become a Grandmaster?" Another elder held onto the last speck of hope and meticulously asked, "You should be able to solve it, right?"

Elder Hua Feng bitterly laughed. "A step away is still one step away. Besides, this step requires one to pass through the barrier!"

He had remained as a Great King Xuan Master for many years and knew very clearly how difficult it was to take this step forward. Compared to other Great King Xuan Masters, he might indeed be slightly stronger, but he was still worlds apart from a Grandmaster Xuan Master.

How could it be that easy to fill the gap?

"Besides, even if I can solve it in the end, we also have to see how much time it'll take. It's fine if it's a few days, but what if it's a month or even three months?"

They couldn't keep waiting here like this.

Suffocating silence filled the air.

"Forget it. Let me give it a try." Elder Hua Feng clenched his teeth. "If I really can't do it, let's see if I can use another method to get us out forcefully."

Then, he held his breath in and focused on studying that Xuan formation.

The other people didn't dare to disturb him as they quietly waited at the side.

Chu Liuyue looked up as well and studied the Xuan formation in detail. For some reason, I actually feel that this Xuan formation seems familiar... However, I can confirm that I've never seen this Xuan formation before.

Like Elder Hua Feng had said, this Xuan formation was created by a Grandmaster. It was by far the most complicated and difficult Xuan formation Chu Liuyue had seen, not one of them. This made the sense of familiarity in her heart even stranger.

Chu Liuyue looked calm, but her brain started turning rapidly. Where does this sense of familiarity come from...

...

Snow quickly fell from the skies, and the harsh winds pricked their bones.

If they stayed at the same spot and didn't move, it was even easier for them to be cold.

That gust of harsh air seemed to be able to pass through their skin and directly pierce their bones like many small needles, causing one to feel extremely uncomfortable.

Luckily, Chu Liuyue had Tuan Zi, so she could basically avoid such pains.

However, the other elders didn't have it as easy as her. If they wanted to defend themselves against the cold, they had to burn their force. Hence, although they looked like they were just resting there on the surface, the force in their bodies was actually rapidly depleting every second and minute.

This time, they directed even more complicated gazes at Chu Liuyue. Originally, they thought that she was a burden, but who would've expected them to be the ones dragging everyone behind in the end!?

Detecting the elders' gazes, Chu Liuyue turned around to take a look. Looking at their ears and cheeks that were going red from the cold, her heart tingled.

If it weren't because she was worried that Tuan Zi's identity would be exposed, she really wanted to help them.

On the other side, Elder Hua Feng was still standing rooted to the ground as if he were frozen while staring at the Xuan formation in front of him closely.

The rays of light moved with secret ripples.

[Chapter 1335](#)

Two hours quickly passed.

Elder Hua Feng's side had no noise at all, other than his tightly knitted brows and the increasingly intense worry in his eyes.

Great King Xuan Masters solving a Xuan formation left behind by Grandmaster Xuan Master was filled with impossibilities on its own. Now, he could only hope that he could discover the weakness of this Xuan formation as soon as possible. Then, the few of them could work together and use this breaking point.

Perhaps they might have a tinge of hope to succeed.

Though the elders waited anxiously, they didn't dare to urge him as they waited quietly.

Chu Liuyue stared at the Xuan formation for quite a while but still couldn't quite remember it. Additionally, as it was easy for her to become dizzy and her head to hurt after looking at it for an extended period of time, she swiftly gave up.

This Xuan formation was huge, and the lines on it were as complicated as ever.

She casually chose a spot and stared at it for a while. After she felt uncomfortable, she looked elsewhere.

The other elders didn't quite notice this. They had long known that Chu Liuyue had talent as a Xuan Master, so they just thought that she was trying to learn and didn't think much of it.

As Chu Liuyue scrutinized the Xuan formation, she instinctively tried to replicate it in her mind. However, such a Xuan formation was too high in level, so she couldn't succeed.

No matter how clearly she saw it with her eyes, the image in her mind was always a blurred one. She had long predicted this, so she didn't give up and slowly observed the Xuan formation.

...

Another two hours passed.

The few elders started to become restless.

Elder Bo Yan's side was clearly not very optimistic, and they were trapped here as well, without knowing when they could get out.

Even if they got out, they wouldn't even know how to find the other people from the academy.

At this point, even a fool could guess that they were definitely in trouble.

However, Elder Hua Feng hadn't made much progress.

"Hm?" Chu Liuyue's shocked voice came from the side.

The few elders looked over and realized that she was staring at the Xuan formation, and her expression seemed amiss.

"Chu Yue, what's wrong?" asked an elder.

Chu Liuyue recovered her senses and smiled at the elders in comfort. "Nothing much. I just feel that the Xuan formation... is very profound."

"A Grandmaster's work is naturally extraordinary."

The few elders didn't doubt anything else as they helplessly shook their heads. "I wonder who is targeting us like this."

In the entire God Residence Realm, there were top-tier aristocratic families with Grandmasters. But with only one Xuan Master here, it was clearly useless to identify the other party's identity. Besides, some families would even purposely hide experts of such skill, so it was even harder to guess.

Chu Liuyue retracted her gaze and silently exhaled. Looking at the Xuan formation before her, her eyes were still filled with shock that didn't fade away. That was because she suddenly remembered why she found this familiar just now—the two Xuan formations that Dugu Mobao had previously left behind to test her were shockingly similar to this one in some areas!

It was hard to describe this feeling, and people who weren't Xuan Masters wouldn't even be able to detect it. This was because this type of similarity was really too minute, and they were basically just some small details.

She had only suddenly discovered it after staring at it for four hours!

But... isn't this too ridiculous? Judging from the force that was used to craft this Xuan formation, it definitely wasn't created by Dugu Mobao. However, this Xuan formation is indeed very similar in some strange way to those he has created. To say that this is a coincidence... Chu Liuyue didn't believe it. She

stood rooted to the spot in a daze, and quite a few scenes appeared in succession in her mind—including Dugu Mobao forcefully trapping her on Jiuheng Peak before he left...

Back then, she had already found it weird. Now seeing the strangely similar Xuan formation, she confirmed the guess in her heart even more—Back then, Dugu Mobao purposely didn't let her come to the Flood-Desert Northern Region!

However, she was extremely confused as to who crafted this Xuan formation.

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and planned to suppress this doubt first. I can directly ask Dugu Mobao about this after I see him in the future. But now... it is more important to leave this place directly.

Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue turned around to look at Elder Hua Feng.

He still had the same posture as he stared at the Xuan formation before him with tightly knitted brows. Clearly, he hadn't found the solution to it.

"Elder Hua Feng," said Chu Liuyue suddenly.

Hearing this, Elder Hua Feng turned around, his eyes still dazed. "Chu Yue? What's the matter?"

The other elders also looked over strangely.

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other and said, "I suddenly remembered that I seem to have seen a similar Xuan formation before."

Her light sentence caused the gazes of everyone present to change instantly!

"Really?" Elder Hua Feng quickly walked over. "Where did you see it before? Who made it?"

Chu Liuyue hurriedly said, "I j-just happened to see it in some cave, and it was engraved on the walls. As for who left it behind, I'm not sure either. That Xuan formation's level also... seems much lower than this one..."

A look of disappointment flashed across Elder Hua Feng's face. Originally, I thought that I could find a breakthrough on Chu Yue's side, but it's all for naught.

Following that, he suddenly recalled something. "Then, do you remember what the Xuan formation looks like?"

Chu Liuyue nodded. "Roughly."

"Draw it out for me to see!" As Elder Hua Feng spoke, he hurriedly made space for Chu Liuyue. It doesn't matter even if it's a Xuan formation of a slightly lower level. As long as it really is similar, perhaps I can use it to continue solving this one!

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other and glanced at him rather uneasily. "It has been a long time since then, and I didn't look at it closely at that time, so there might be some mistakes in between..."

"It's nothing; you don't have to worry about this. Just try to draw it out for me to see!" comforted Elder Hua Feng. Right now, I can only make a Hail Mary effort. Even if there is only a speck of hope, I have to try it.

Chu Liuyue then sighed with ease. "I'll start then."

After that, she held her breath in to focus and gently raised her arm.

Her white fingers lightly moved around in mid-air. A ray of light silently flew out and later dispersed into a few more intersecting lines.

Elder Hua Feng sighed in his heart as he watched. Chu Yue is extremely talented as a Xuan Master. Although these movements don't seem as smooth and carefree as they should be, he is already comparatively outstanding. If I can take him in as my disciple and teach him properly, he could probably suppress quite a few students on the Xuan Master side. He might not even be any weaker than Lin Zhifei, whose reputation has soared recently.

Chu Liuyue crafted the Xuan formation extremely slowly, and she had to stop and think about it from time to time. Besides, the Xuan formation was empty in some parts, and some patterns were intertwined together complicatedly.

All in all, it seemed like she was really unfamiliar with this Xuan formation.

After some time, Chu Liuyue finally 'finished' the Xuan formation. She looked at Elder Hua Feng uneasily. "Elder, it should be like this."

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The Xuan formation Chu Liuyue drew out was the first Xuan formation Dugu Mobao used to test her. At that time, she was still a ninth-grade Xuan Master, and he left after leaving behind this Xuan formation that wasn't suitable for her level.

Luckily, this Xuan formation wasn't very difficult, especially when compared to the one that had her locked up at Jiuheng Peak. It was a piece of cake.

According to Chu Liuyue's current ability, she could naturally draw out its outline completely. But after some thinking, she didn't do so. This resulted in the damaged Xuan formation now.

It couldn't even be counted as her successfully creating it; it was more like she just 'drew' it out. This would then not arouse the elders' suspicions.

In the end, she didn't arouse suspicions, but the few elders looked at Chu Liuyue with clearly more disdain.

"Chu Yue, this is the Xuan formation you came up with?" An elder's eyelids twitched.

Chu Liuyue explained awkwardly, "As that Xuan formation was too complicated—with my current abilities, I can't form it completely, so I can only forcefully draw the outline of it... Besides, I don't quite remember it already, so... It became like this..."

"It's fine. Let me take a look at it." However, Elder Hua Feng didn't mind it as he started to stare at the Xuan formation closely. "The rough outline of this Xuan formation... is rather similar..."

Even though it seemed rather forceful, Elder Hua Feng was a Great King Xuan Master after all and had seen countless Xuan formations, so he would only be more sensitive toward these things than Chu Liuyue. Hence, after he looked at it for a while, he gave an affirmative answer. "Let me see if I can find a solution. Perhaps... some of the thinking is common."

Hearing him say this, the other elders were energized.

Elder Hua Feng stared at it for quite a while again. This naturally can't be considered a complete Xuan formation, but luckily, its rough outline is clear. Additionally, I can clearly tell that some small details are indeed extremely similar to the Xuan formation that currently traps us. Probably because Chu Yue really can't remember it, so the lines are messier.

"Chu Yue, all the lines here are clumped up together. What's going on here?" Elder Hua Feng pointed at an area and asked.

"Huh?" Chu Liuyue followed his hand, looked over, and smiled rather embarrassedly. "You're talking about this? I really couldn't recall this part properly, so I randomly drew a few lines. I'm not sure how it became like this too... It's just a small portion. It won't have much of an impact, right?"

"How can it not have any impact? It's a Xuan formation." Elder Hua Feng shook his head in disapproval. "The higher the level of a Xuan formation, the more detailed it is. Even the slightest mistake can cause the entire Xuan formation to collapse. How can you randomly draw it?"

The student's attitude in this aspect had to be corrected properly.

"Thank you for your guidance, Elder. I'll remember it!" Chu Liuyue slightly lowered her head as if she were a little guilty, and her expression was genuine.

Elder Hua Feng didn't really want to scold her, so he waved his hands. "It's fine, it's fine. Remember it carefully this time. Don't make the same—"

Suddenly, Elder Hua Feng's eyes lit up. His eyes that were staring at the Xuan formation burned faintly with a fire of excitement.

"Elder, what's... wrong?" asked Chu Liuyue strangely.

"It's this!" Elder Hua Feng smiled happily. "Haha! This is the one!"

Chu Liuyue looked at the Xuan formation in confusion as if she didn't really quite understand what he meant.

However, Elder Hua Feng had already turned around and was looking at the dark blue barrier again. "Take a step back first. Let me try and see if I can open this barrier."

Elder Hua Feng's words caused everyone present to be taken aback as they immediately moved back in unison.

Elder Hua Feng raised his hand, and a bright ray of light appeared in his palms. He then waved his hands at an increasing speed.

The countless rays of light intertwined before him, and they quickly gathered to form a small Xuan formation.

If one took a closer look, they would realize that the Xuan formation before him was very similar to the one Chu Liuyue had just drawn out. There were quite a few areas that were exactly the same as the messy lines in her Xuan formation.

Then, Elder Hua Feng gradually pushed the Xuan formation forward with a stern expression.

Whir!

That tiny Xuan formation quietly stuck on the gigantic, dark-blue Xuan formation. The moment it touched, it let out a whirl!

As he was nervous, Elder Hua Feng's back was drenched in sweat.

Seeing this reaction, he was elated, and he instinctively felt that there was hope! However, he still didn't dare to relax at all as he tried to stretch his hands out and turn them slightly.

The lines on the tiny Xuan formation gradually had changes. As if being affected by the force, the dark-blue Xuan formation—which the small Xuan Formation was tightly stuck to—started to turn!

With it as the center, the surrounding dark-blue rays of light started dispersing in all directions slowly.

Seeing the shocking change, everyone present held their breaths in.

The surroundings were so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Elder Hua Feng's force quickly depleted, and his face rapidly turned pale. With his current abilities, it was clearly rather difficult to solve this Xuan formation.

"Help me!" he suddenly hollered!

The elders behind him immediately understood as they transferred their force to his body!

Receiving additional force, Elder Hua Feng finally caught his breath. He took a deep breath in, gathered his force, and injected it into the Xuan formation in front of him!

Crack!

A crisp sound was heard!

A crack appeared in the dark-blue Xuan formation!

"Go!" With Elder Hua Feng's command, the few elders behind immediately rushed out!

"Chu Yue! Quick!" He could only forcefully open this hole for a short period of time, so they had to act fast!

Without speaking, Chu Liuyue rapidly followed!

The last person who came out was Elder Hua Feng.

Thump!

The Xuan formation closed again!

Feeling the impact, Elder Hua Feng flew out.

The few of them hurriedly rushed forward. "Hua Feng! Are you okay?"

Elder Hua Feng forcefully stood up and shook his head. "Don't worry. I'm fine!"

Then, he glanced at Chu Liuyue and couldn't help but laugh out loud. "Good kid! You have done a great job today! If not for you accidentally drawing this, we might not even be able to solve the Xuan formation today!"

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Chu Liuyue blinked, and her black, gem-like eyes seemed to have faint smiling intent in them.

"It's all because of your help that we managed to open the Xuan formation and come out." Elder Hua Feng patted the snow on his body, looked at the dark-blue Xuan formation that had closed up again, and still felt stunned.

He said emotionally, "If you didn't recall that Xuan formation, I'm afraid we might not even be able to solve this even a month later! Not to mention that although the Xuan formation was broken, it was still very useful, especially the few areas you got wrong..."

Just looking at the messy pattern, he was reminded.

He followed that train of thought and tried to solve the Xuan formation. He indeed succeeded!

"Kid, you're really our lucky star!" Elder Hua Feng was really convinced. Not only is this kid lucky himself, but the people that follow him also seem to be decently lucky as well. This should be the potential of being a lucky star! I was originally about to give up, but who would've known that the light at the end of the tunnel was right there!

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other and smiled. "Elder, you're too kind. No matter what, it's great that I could help."

The other elders all heaved a sigh of relief respectively, and their gazes toward Chu Liuyue had become kinder like never before.

"Haha, I didn't expect the Xuan formation Chu Yue forcefully drew out was actually this useful! Chu Yue, you deserve the credit this time!"

"Yeah! Why don't you follow Elder Hua Feng in the future and cultivate Xuan formations with him? If not, it won't be presentable if you create such Xuan formations every time!"

"I think so too! Anyway, you're talented. You mustn't waste it!"

After experiencing this incident, the few elders completely changed their views of Chu Liuyue. Now, they could finally tell that not only did this kid not cause trouble or drag them behind, but he could always help them at crucial moments.

At the very least, they all owed Chu Yue half a favor today.

This sentence caused Elder Hua Feng to be overjoyed. He secretly thought in his heart, After we return from the Flood-Desert Northern Region, I must get this kid to accept me as his mentor! I really can't miss a disciple with so much potential! Even if I have to steal, I must steal him away!

Seeing Elder Hua Feng's extremely enthusiastic gaze, Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched as she silently changed the topic. "Elder Bo Yan, since we're already out, then... Should we find Elder Bo Yan and the rest?"

Once she said this, she immediately reminded them.

"You're right. We shouldn't stay here for long. We should leave as soon as possible." As Elder Hua Feng spoke, he glanced at the Xuan formation again. "I wonder who exactly left this Xuan formation behind..."

Right at this moment—

Bang!

That Xuan formation suddenly broke open from the middle! It formed into countless rays of light that rapidly disappeared from the snowy field!

Elder Hua Feng's gaze turned cold, and he rapidly went a few steps forward. However, there were already no traces on the snowy ground.

"Cunning!" Elder Hua Feng scolded.

But from this, one could tell how smart the person who prepared the trap was. Firstly, he prepared a trump card, and even if it failed, it wouldn't leave any traces behind.

The culprit was clearly well-prepared.

"I wonder if Bo Yan and the rest had met with the same circumstances..." Behind him, an elder spoke with knitted brows.

This was actually what they were worried about all along.

Elder Hua Feng looked up. This land of snow is vast. How are we supposed to find them...

...

At the same time, somewhere in the Flood-Desert Northern Region.

A figure quickly flashed across the accumulated snow. Different from others, he was moving forward while being half an inch above the ground. Hence, wherever he flew past, the snow was smooth like before, without leaving any traces behind.

Then, he stood still at some point and slapped forward with a palm facing the ground.

Snowflakes flew everywhere! The frozen, black ground was revealed.

He took out an item and knocked it against the ground thrice.

Dong dong dong!

After three blunt sounds, an entrance leading underground suddenly appeared!

Without hesitation, he jumped forward, and his figure instantly disappeared from the snowy field!

Not long later, a gust of cold wind blew over, and snow fell down as it silently covered this area.

...

After walking below, it was a long flight of stairs.

On the two walls by the sides of the stairs were many candlelights.

The pale white fire against the long, narrow corridor made it seem even darker and more oppressive than before, even causing one to suffocate. However, that man already seemed used to it as he didn't slow in his steps and walked down.

After about 15 minutes, he finally reached a large hall downstairs.

The entire hall was empty without a single person, but all four corners of the area had a lantern. The light that came out from them reflected the mysterious statues on the walls and the ceiling.

The centermost area was a gigantic copper mirror. On the edges of that copper mirror, there was a layer of blood that looked extremely frightening.

This scene caused the entire hall's atmosphere to become especially grave and oppressed.

That man quickly walked to the copper mirror and kneeled on the ground with one knee. "Master, someone broke the ghoulish Xuan formation."

Once he said this, the blood by the edges of the copper mirror suddenly moved and flowed toward the middle. Very quickly, that copper mirror was completely covered by the blood.

At first glance, it seemed like an overflowing sea of blood!

A hoarse and low voice came from within. "Oh? He's here?"

"Master, it doesn't seem like it's him." The man kneeling on the ground hung his head even lower. "It is an elder from Ling Xiao Academy. If I haven't guessed wrongly, he should be a Great King Xuan Master."

"Great King Xuan Master? How long did he take?"

"Just.. four hours."

Once the man said this, the blood on the copper mirror seemed to tumble. After a moment, laughter sounded. "Since when can a Great King Xuan Master solve the ghoulish Xuan formation so quickly?"

"...Everything I say is true!" Beads of cold sweat formed on the forehead of the man on the ground.

"Watch them closely first and see what else he can do. What about... the other people?"

"Master, other than a dozen-plus people escaping, the other people from Ling Xiao Academy have already been controlled."

The man in the copper mirror paused for a moment, and his voice became especially dangerous.

"Escaped? Dozen-plus?!"

Thump!

The man kneeling on the floor immediately kowtowed sincerely in horror. "Master, Bo Yan and the rest are really cunning. I was negligent for a moment, s—it's all because I'm incompetent. Master, please punish me!"

"Immediately go and check! You can't let any of those people from Ling Xiao Academy go!"

"Yes! Yes!" That man kowtowed a few more times horrifyingly before he stood up and left gingerly.

But the moment he took a few steps out, he heard a voice from behind. "Where's Mu Qinghe?"

With a conflicted expression, that man paused in his tracks and hesitated while turning around. "Um... Master, he previously didn't listen to your instructions and insisted on staying in Tianling. Hasn't he become an abandoned chess piece already? You..."

"An abandoned chess piece has its own uses. Since he doesn't want to come back, then 'invite' him back."

"...Yes!"

After his figure disappeared, the blood on the copper mirror dissipated.

Not long later, everything returned to normal.

[Chapter 1338](#)

After Chu Liuyue and the others cultivated and rested at the original spot for a while, they continued on their journey.

That green jade plaque was practically useless, so Elder Hua Feng kept it.

Other than this, they didn't have any other way to contact the other people from the academy. Hence, after some discussion, they decided to head toward the center of the Flood-Desert Northern Region!

The place where the Heavenly Square Cauldron would most likely appear should be there. If they continued walking there, they could meet other people from the aristocratic families, even if they couldn't find the others from the academy.

Perhaps they could ask them what exactly happened.

After that previous incident, everyone else was much more alert, terrified that the same incident would happen again.

With how much force they had left... If it happened a few more times, they might really be unable to take it.

Luckily, everything seemed to become calm and stable afterward.

After walking for a very far distance, Chu Liuyue glanced at the sky.

The dark-gray clouds were gathered together in huge bunches, and the sky and ground were gloomy. However, there were no signs of it being nightfall.

Rumors had it that the Flood-Desert Northern Region was a very special place. With the changes over the past million years, its weather conditions and climate were very different from other places.

Daytime was extremely long here, and nighttime was only a short two hours. The day was cold, and the night was even colder.

In such an extremely cold place, it was indeed very hard for average people to continue staying here.

As the few of them walked on, they suddenly heard a few people faintly talking in front. But as they were rather far away, they couldn't hear what they were saying clearly.

They looked up and could vaguely see a group of people going toward the snowfall in the vast snowy field.

Their direction was the same as Chu Liuyue and the rest, but perhaps because they were slower, Chu Liuyue and the rest managed to catch up with them.

"Who are they?" An elder tried his best to look over. "Judging from their clothes and disguise, they don't seem like ordinary people... They should be from some top-tier aristocratic family?"

Chu Liuyue also followed his gaze and looked over.

With a rough calculation, there should be about a dozen-plus people. There were old ones and also young men and women.

At this point, those people seemed to have noticed something as they turned over.

"Who are you?!" one of the elders first yelled out alertly.

Elder Hua Feng boomed with his dantian, "I'm Ling Xiao Academy's Hua Feng!"

The low and powerful voice spread far and wide!

In the God Residence Realm, Ling Xiao Academy's reputation was very well-known. Other than a few who had grudges against them, most top-tier aristocratic families had to give them face. Hence, Elder Hua Feng dared to directly report his name.

As expected, when they heard him say this, the other party's attitude immediately changed.

"Elder Hua Feng?!" The other party answered, and the tone was especially surprised.

Elder Hua Feng was about to ask them for their identities when he suddenly heard one of the young women walking over to this side. As she walked, she yelled happily, "Elder Hua Feng, it's you guys!"

Elder Hua Feng and the others were originally quite confused, but as the woman walked closer, they instantly looked elated when they saw her appearance.

"Shi Rui'er?"

Shi Rui'er walked over and breathed heavily, her petite face slightly flushed. "That's me! Greetings, Elders!"

As Shi Rui'er spoke, she even politely greeted Hua Feng and the rest. Then, she finally noticed Chu Liuyue at the back and was dazed for a moment.

But very quickly, she reacted and asked with some uncertainty, "You're... Junior Brother Chu Yue?"

When Chu Liuyue heard the elders call out her name, she had already recalled this person's identity—Shi Rui'er, Flying Star Sect's Second Miss.

When the academy was calling people to go to Ancient Feather Abyss, Shi Rui'er was one of them.

Although the two of them weren't exactly acquaintances, they did see each other a few times.

Chu Liuyue smiled and greeted her. "Greetings, Senior Sister Shi Rui'er."

Shi Rui'er sized her up rather curiously, but her gaze was very controlled, without any meaning of offending her. "I heard that Senior Brother Rong Xiu is personally guiding you now?"

Chu Liuyue was rather shocked that she would ask this question first, but she still nodded sincerely. "It's my honor to be able to receive Senior Brother Rong Xiu's concern."

"Pfft." Shi Rui'er couldn't help but cover her mouth and smile. "He's not someone who will teach anyone. You naturally have your own abilities if he's willing to think so highly of you. Besides, I saw your battle with Jin Lei that day. You don't have to be too humble."

Then, she looked left and right and asked in shock, "Hm? Why did Rong Xiu and the rest not follow you over?"

Elder Hua Feng shook his head. "Rong Xiu has something on, so he didn't come with us this time."

"I see..." Shock flashed across Shi Rui'er's eyes. According to my understanding of Rong Xiu, he would definitely come for such a rare chance. I didn't expect him not to come this time...

"What about the other elders? Did you guys separate?" asked Shi Rui'er curiously.

The expressions of Elder Hua Feng and the rest changed slightly.

Shi Rui'er instantly noticed something sharply, and her smile froze for a moment.

"We're still looking for them." Elder Hua Feng thought for a while and still chose to tell the truth.

Ling Xiao Academy and Flying Star Sect had frequent interactions, and their relationship wasn't bad. If he told Shi Rui'er, perhaps they could still help.

"W-what does this mean?" Even though she had already guessed that the situation wasn't optimistic, Shi Rui'er didn't expect that Elder Hua Feng would say such words.

Then, Elder Hua Feng briefly explained the incidents to her.

Shi Rui'er's gaze gradually became solemn.

"...So we don't know where they are now either. We can only find them slowly."

Shi Rui'er furrowed her brows tightly. "We've been here for about two days, but I've never seen Elder Bo Yan and the rest."

Elder Hua Feng and the rest had actually expected this outcome, but they still couldn't hide their disappointment when they heard this.

"Elder Hua Feng, since this is so, why don't we work together and find them on the way? With an extra person, you'll have more help, right?"

Hearing Shi Rui'er's suggestion, the few elders naturally didn't have any reason to reject it. They had very few people, so they weren't very strong. Based on their own strength, they didn't have any hope at all of finding so many people from the academy.

The remaining people from Flying Star Sect naturally expressed their agreement. After all, Shi Rui'er had the highest status out of all of them, and the Flying Star Sect and Ling Xiao Academy were on good terms. Hence, out of many considerations, they should help them this time.

After some slight discussion, the group of people started walking forward again.

Chu Liuyue was coincidentally walking on the right of Shi Rui'er. After thinking for a while, she asked, "Senior Sister Shi Rui'er, may I know if you have seen the Heavenly Square Cauldron appearing in the past two days?"

Shi Rui'er shook her head. "Nope. In between, we haven't seen anyone at all."

Chu Liuyue was slightly disappointed, but she still thanked her politely.

However, Shi Rui'er stared at her for a while and suddenly smiled. "Chu Yue, Rong Xiu rarely treats a person this well. The last one was still

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"Rui'er." Elder Hua Feng suddenly interrupted her.

Shi Rui'er turned her head.

Elder Hua Feng smiled faintly and said, "I heard that the Flying Star Sect obtained a legendary fiend recently?"

The topic changed so suddenly, and everyone could tell that Elder Hua Feng intended it.

Shi Rui'er's gaze flickered as she smiled and nodded. "Yes. My father recently hunted and got a legendary three-eyed eagle recently."

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled. Elder Hua Feng clearly doesn't want Shi Rui'er to talk more about Rong Xiu's past. It should be related to me. Additionally... I didn't expect the Flying Star Sect to obtain a legendary three-eyed eagle. What a coincidence.

"The legendary three-eyed eagle's bloodline is extremely precious. It's prideful and ferocious, and it almost doesn't interact with humans. For the past thousand years, one hasn't even openly appeared in front of others. It seems like your father must have put in a lot of effort this time!"

Shi Rui'er smiled even more brightly. "You're right. That legendary three-eyed eagle is indeed very hard to teach. Father painstakingly went through three months before it became more obedient."

Chu Liuyue suddenly felt a tiny sensation in her body. It was as if the legendary three-eyed eagle became restless after hearing this.

Chu Liuyue comforted it in her heart before it gradually calmed down.

After all, they were of the same clan... How could it not care at all? Besides, the one in her body was once the clan leader of the legendary three-eyed eagles.

Another elder suddenly asked, "Rui'er, if I haven't recalled wrongly, you don't seem to have a fiend, right?"

Shi Rui'er was a warrior, but she never had a fiend. Logically speaking, with her talent and background, she was more than enough to have a legendary fiend.

But even when she left the academy, she still didn't have an agreement with any fiend.

Shi Rui'er pressed her lips against each other and smiled. "I do now. Before I came, Father gave me that legendary three-eyed eagle."

Elder Hua Feng and the rest seemed surprised. But thinking about it, they felt that it made sense.

As the Flying Star Sect's Second Miss, Shi Rui'er was doted on and deeply loved, so it was normal for her to enjoy such treatment.

"No wonder... I have to congratulate you then. Oh right, it seems like you've broken through again?"

Shi Rui'er nodded magnanimously, smiled, and said, "If not, my father wouldn't have given me that legendary three-eyed eagle."

Elder Hua Feng and the rest exchanged a glance. It seems like Shi Rui'er's position as the next heiress is secured.

Right at this moment, the crowd heard hurried footsteps from the front.

"It seems like someone is running toward us," said an elder with white brows next to Shi Rui'er.

"One person?" asked Shi Rui'er curiously.

That elder with white brows looked over with much focus and nodded with certainty. "One person."

That was weird. In this dangerous and hellish place, everyone came in large teams or at least in groups of three or five. They would never journey alone.

How was that different from having a death wish?

"It seems like a girl, and it looks like she lost her friends." The elder with white brows looked at Shi Rui'er to ask for her opinion. "Second Miss, should we... save this person?"

Actually, he was leaning toward not saving. Who knows where the other party came from? What if she sets us up in the end after we kindly save her? In the Flood-Desert Northern Region, everyone's lives are hanging by a loose thread. What could one not do?

Shi Rui'er thought for a while and shook her head. "We don't have to care about her."

After a pause, she said again, "If she forcefully comes near us, just settle her directly."

"Yes!"

Her tone was very light as if she were talking about today's weather. However, her one sentence had decided someone's life or death.

But everyone else present didn't have much of an opinion toward this. Everyone understood that 'kindness' at this time would very likely harm their own lives.

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but glance at Shi Rui'er. This Second Miss—who is rumored to have been brought up as the next successor—is indeed harsh and decisive in her ways.

Just when they wanted to walk in another direction, that distant woman seemed to have seen them. After a temporary pause, she rapidly ran over.

The elder with white brows stepped forward. Just as he was about to stop her, he heard that woman yell anxiously, "Elder Hua Feng! Save me!"

The group of them stopped in their tracks.

Elder Hua Feng knitted his brows and looked over. That voice... seems rather familiar.

However, Chu Liuyue raised her brows and looked forward with much interest. What a coincidence... I didn't expect that the first person we meet at Flood-Desert Northern Region again would actually be Jiang Zhiyuan?

At this point, the other elders gradually recognized her identity. "Hua Feng, this voice... sounds like Jiang Zhiyuan?"

"I think so too. It should be her, right?"

"Why does her face not look like her..."

Elder Hua Feng walked forward, and Shi Rui'er suddenly advised him, "Elder, be careful."

It was really suspicious for one person to suddenly pop up out of nowhere in this snowy land. Even if it were really Jiang Zhiyuan, they couldn't believe her so easily.

Seeing this scene, Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't help but bite her lips as she quickly glanced at Shi Rui'er. Anger flashed across her eyes.

"It's fine. I'll go over and take a look." Elder Hua Feng knew that Shi Rui'er was being kind, but he still chose to walk over. After all, she was a student from the academy. How could he not save her?

Besides, Jiang Zhiyuan left with the main team that had Elder Bo Yan and the rest in the beginning, so perhaps she might know something.

Shi Rui'er could only say, "Then, we'll go over with you."

After that, she shot the elder with white brows and the others a look.

Everyone immediately went forward together.

Elder Hua Feng couldn't help but laugh. "Rui'er, it's been so long, but you're still as meticulous as before."

Shi Rui'er's lips curled up slightly. "Being careful brings you a long while."

As she spoke, the group of them arrived before Jiang Zhiyuan.

Jiang Zhiyuan looked at Elder Hua Feng and the rest emotionally, and her eyes turned red. "Elder, you must save me!"

Seeing the rather unfamiliar face, the crowd was stunned.

Elder Hua Feng pointed at her and asked, "Jiang Zhiyuan? Your face..."

Jiang Zhiyuan then recalled something as she hurriedly explained. "Oh, oh, this is a mask. I used it to hide my appearance..."

As she spoke, she felt around her chin for a while before she slowly took off the mask that was as thin as a butterfly's wing.

The face below the mask was indeed Jiang Zhiyuan, but at this point, there was an inch-long scar on her left cheek for some reason. It was as if someone had used a sharp weapon to scratch it during a battle.

Her originally pretty appearance was destroyed by this wound, and it became rather scary.

With her frail looks and pale and cracked lips, she looked even more frightening.

Noticing the crowd's gazes, Jiang Zhiyuan then recalled the scar on her face and hurriedly reached out to cover it. But the moment she touched the badly mangled wound, her heart trembled, and she felt extremely awful.

Elder Hua Feng knitted his brows tightly. "Jiang Zhiyuan, what exactly happened? Didn't you come with Elder Bo Yan and the rest? How did you end up in this state?"

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Facing Elder Hua Feng's series of questions, Jiang Zhiyuan kept quiet as tears streamed down her face.

Anyone who saw it would think that she had met with something unfortunate and was aggrieved. However, Shi Rui'er seemed unaffected by this as she calmly asked. "We're not standing here to watch you cry. Answer Elder Hua Feng's questions properly and clearly. Only then can we help you, right?"

This sentence made Jiang Zhiyuan choke. She couldn't cry, but she couldn't stop either.

The tear stains on her face seemed very awkward.

Chu Liuyue silently glanced at Shi Rui'er. Previously, I still thought I had assumed wrong. But now, I can confirm that Shi Rui'er indeed doesn't like Jiang Zhiyuan. It can even be said that Shi Rui'er hates her, and it's the type of hate that she doesn't conceal. Jiang Zhiyuan also seems rather fearful of her. After being lectured, she didn't retort and didn't even dare to show her emotions of being upset. I wonder what happened between the two...

"W-we did come to the Flood-Desert Northern Region together previously. Not long after we came out from the transportation formation, we were ambushed..."

"Who is the one that attacked you?" Elder Hua Feng immediately questioned.

Jiang Zhiyuan shook her head with lingering fear. "N-nobody... Just a Xuan formation..."

Elder Hua Feng and the rest glanced at each other and thought that they had expected it.

"That Xuan formation is very powerful. Elder Bo Yan and the others had to work together to break it open forcefully. However, only a portion of us could escape. The remaining people..." Fear flashed across her eyes. "At that time, the ground suddenly collapsed, and they all—"

"After they disappeared, the ground got patched up again... I-I don't know how they're doing now..." As she spoke, she couldn't help but tear up again. But as if she were afraid of Shi Rui'er lecturing her again, she hurriedly turned away and wiped her face.

Elder Hua Feng asked with a low voice, "How many people escaped?"

Jiang Zhiyuan's gaze flickered as she answered hesitantly, "A-about... 50 or 60 people... About ten elders and 30 or 40 students. However, I didn't see the specific numbers very clearly at that time..."

Everyone's hearts sank.

Fifty or sixty people... A total of 300-plus came from Ling Xiao Academy! At this moment, they directly lost more than half of their people, and their fates were unknown.

If something really happened... it would have a huge impact on Ling Xiao Academy!

"Since you escaped with the rest, why are you alone now?" asked Shi Rui'er calmly.

Jiang Zhiyuan shuddered and looked down slightly, and she seemed heartbroken and in despair.

"I-I don't know either... We were originally together. Elder Bo Yan said he wanted to try and get those people back, but we were quickly ambushed again. That was also when I accidentally separated from them... I don't know where the others are as well..."

As she spoke, she rubbed her eyes. "If I didn't meet you, I'm afraid I wouldn't be able to walk out of here..."

Her miserable-looking state seemed to correspond to the experiences she mentioned.

Elder Hua Feng and the rest had stern expressions. Originally, they thought that they could get some clues by finding Jiang Zhiyuan, but it now seemed like it wouldn't work.

The other party prepared very meticulously and didn't even reveal their faces, yet they managed to trick so many people from Ling Xiao Academy.

Just Jiang Zhiyuan alone might really be unable to say anything. It would probably be very hard to find the others.

"Which way did you run from?" Shi Rui'er stared at Jiang Zhiyuan and asked, "There's so much snow here. Every step you take must exhaust a large amount of your force. You... wouldn't have walked too far out alone, right?"

If they walked according to Jiang Zhiyuan's escape route, they might be able to find something.

Jiang Zhiyuan was dazed and bit her lips. "I-I was busy escaping and only knew to run forward. I don't know how many times I've changed directions and how far I ran. This place has no boundaries or ends. I-I really can't remember..."

Only plain white snow gathered in between the sky and the earth as if there were no boundaries. There wasn't even a reference point here, so it was naturally very hard to ascertain their direction and positions.

Shi Rui'er knitted her brows and didn't speak further.

Elder Hua Feng glanced at another elder, who said, "I'll treat her wound first. When she gets better, we can continue going forward."

Jiang Zhiyuan looked grateful. "Thank you, Elder."

However, Shi Rui'er turned around and gazed at Elder Hua Feng. "Elder, could you step aside to talk?"

Elder Hua Feng nodded.

The two of them walked to the side.

Jiang Zhiyuan glanced at them and knitted her brows undetectably. It has already been so long, and Shi Rui'er indeed still doesn't like me. I wonder what method she is going to use to deal with me... However, she brought so many Flying Star Sect people with her. I can't go against her...

Suddenly, from the corner of her eyes, she saw Chu Liuyue behind the crowd.

"Chu Yue?! Why are you here?!" Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't help but yell in shock. When we were leaving, didn't Chu Yue say that he was ill and didn't come? Why did he appear here again?

Chu Liuyue smiled slightly. "What? Senior Sister Jiang, are you very surprised that I'm here?"

Jiang Zhiyuan suddenly thought of something and glanced at the elder treating her wound. "Elder, y-you brought Chu Yue over?"

That elder didn't even look up and replied, "Yeah."

Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't help but say, "H-how can this do?"

"Why can't it happen?" That elder took out herbs, placed them on Jiang Zhiyuan's elbow wound, and said with a smile, "Chu Yue had already passed the evaluation beforehand, but something cropped up

suddenly, so he didn't manage to come. Now that we planned on coming here, we just brought him along."

"But—" Jiang Zhiyuan still wanted to say something, but looking at the smile on the elder's face, she suddenly realized something and sharply swallowed her remaining words. She then quickly glanced at the other elders and realized that they seemed to have a decent attitude toward Chu Yue.

She retracted her gaze, and countless doubts filled up her heart. Why... What exactly is going on? These few elders clearly came after us, so they shouldn't bring any other students along. Yet, why did they bring Chu Yue? Do they not feel that bringing such a person will hold them back?

Jiang Zhiyuan had too many questions, but she was very good at reading the situation. At this moment, everyone seemed to have a good impression of Chu Liuyue, so she naturally knew what to say and what not to—especially... when there was a Shi Rui'er at the side. Originally, I really thought that I was going to die. Who would've thought that I would meet Elder Hua Feng and the others on the brink of death? No matter what, I have to stick with them this time!

...

On the other side, Shi Rui'er and Elder Hua Feng had already walked to the side.

Elder Hua Feng had even specifically put up a barrier in case other people eavesdropped. His instincts told him that Shi Rui'er had something to say.

As expected, Shi Rui'er spoke in a straightforward manner after they stood still. "Elder Hua Feng, are you really going to bring Jiang Zhiyuan with us?"