

Noble Ruler 1391

[Chapter 1391](#)

Elder Bo Yan and the others were surprised, and they hurriedly went forward. Walking closer, they then saw that the person in his arms was actually Chu Yue.

But at this moment, Chu Yue's eyes were tightly shut, and his lips were pale. He didn't seem like he was in good condition.

Additionally, Rong Xiu's clothes also had a large patch of dark bloodstains.

The intense bloody aura caused one to be in discomfort, allowing one to imagine what kind of battle the duo had experienced before.

Elder Wan Zheng was filled with worry. "Chu Yue—"

"His physical strength wasn't enough to support him, so he fainted temporarily," Rong Xiu explained calmly. "He'll be fine after he goes back and rests for a while."

Elder Wan Zheng then felt relieved. "That's great! That's great!"

His pair of eyes were glued to Chu Liuyue. He clearly still had lingering fears, and he was terrified that something would really happen to her.

Elder Hua Feng recovered his senses. "Rong Xiu, you... specifically went to save Chu Yue?"

Once this was said, the crowd fell silent.

Rong Xiu lightly nodded.

Quite a few people exchanged glances and were stunned.

Who didn't know that Rong Xiu always took great care of Chu Yue in Ling Xiao Academy and that they had an extraordinary relationship? But today, they finally had seen it for themselves!

Rong Xiu actually risked his life to save Chu Yue... With the bloodstains on his body, it isn't hard to imagine what happened previously. Yet, he still brought Chu Yue back in one piece! This... It probably isn't an average liking toward him. Rong Xiu has a cold personality and won't even take another look at irrelevant people or things. Yet, he was willing to help Chu Yue today to this extent... It is really shocking.

"Then... Did you see the people that took Chu Yue away, and... their master?" asked Elder Hua Feng anxiously.

A dark light flashed across the depths of Rong Xiu's eyes. "When I rushed over, I only met two subordinates. and I didn't see their master."

"That's good too... As long as you return safely, that'll be the best." Elder Hua Feng felt rather disappointed and lucky as well. In that case, it will probably be very difficult if we want to find who the mastermind is. But these two should thank the lucky stars that they can come back safely. However, I don't know... if Chu Yue saw the other party. We can only ask about these things later on.

"Since we're all here, let's not stay here any longer and go back first," said Elder Bo Yan.

However, Elder Hua Feng suddenly thought of something. "Wait!"

The people at the side looked at him.

Elder Hua Feng was rather hesitant. "If we just leave like that, then... What should we do about the place where Chu Yue had broken through? If I haven't guessed wrongly, those people should still be waiting there. I'm not worried about others, but I don't know if Chu Yue has left anything behind there. After all, he had stayed there for quite long..."

In actual fact, a few days wasn't considered long. But it was indeed special toward the people who couldn't even go in.

Every time Elder Hua Feng thought of how Chu Yue could go in and out freely and how the other top warriors couldn't even open the door even when they worked together, an incredulous and strange feeling would overwhelm him.

Rong Xiu curled his lips into a half-smile. "Don't worry, Elder Hua Feng. According to his personality, why would he leave such a problem behind."

Besides, that place is actually— He paused. "Let's just directly go. There's not much to see here." Rong Xiu's tone was always calm and nonchalant, but it had a distinguished aura that one couldn't go against.

Elder Hua Feng felt more at ease. "Since you've said so, then... we'll just leave?"

Rong Xiu hugged Chu Liuyue even tighter and looked down at her. "En."

We have to go back as soon as possible.

...

The few hundred people from Ling Xiao Academy started their return journey. Thankfully, their journey back was rather smooth, and they didn't meet with any more troubles or dangers.

As long as they followed the designated path and returned to that transportation formation, they could leave directly.

The road was still filled with thick snow, so most people walked rather effortfully. Hence, everyone wasn't fast.

From time to time, some people turned around to look at Rong Xiu.

Compared to other people's hardships, Rong Xiu seemed very relaxed. Even though he had messy bloodstains on his body, this journey clearly wasn't a problem for him. He was even carrying a person in his arms the whole time.

Quite a few people secretly sighed. A strong warrior is indeed different from an average person.

After walking for a distance, Elder Wan Zheng finally couldn't help but ask, "Rong Xiu, are you tired? I see that you're injured too, and it's quite hard on you to carry Chu Yue the entire way. Why don't... I carry him for a while?"

Rong Xiu's lips curled up slightly, and he had no intention of letting go. "Thank you, Elder. I'll do it myself."

Elder Wan Zheng found it weird, but he couldn't pinpoint where it was strange, so he could only nod. "If you need help, just speak up."

Rong Xiu nodded.

Even though this small little episode passed quickly, it still attracted quite a few people's attention.

Some of the students following behind couldn't help but discuss softly. "Previously, there had been rumors about Senior Brother Rong Xiu having quite a good relationship with Chu Yue, and I thought it was fake. Now that I finally see it for myself... How is this 'quite good?' He takes care of Chu Yue as if he were his biological younger brother!"

"Tsk, some won't even do this for their biological younger brother, right? Isn't Senior Brother Rong Xiu a clean freak, and doesn't he dislike getting close to people? It now seems like... he just chooses the person!"

"I really wonder what kind of lucky path Chu Yue chose to be liked this much by Senior Brother Rong Xiu..."

"I heard that the two of them actually knew each other before, so their relationship was this good! Think about it. If not so, how would Chu Yue risk his life to help block that shot for Senior Brother Rong Xiu? Senior Brother Rong Xiu probably wouldn't easily treat someone so well, right? Chu Yue's background is rather mysterious too, and I've never heard of it. Perhaps..."

There were all sorts of speculations from the crowd. It was clear that today's incident had indeed given them a huge impact.

"I think so! Senior Brother Rong Xiu has been in the academy for quite a few years, right? I never heard that he took care of someone to this extent. Even for Jiang Zhiyuan back then, he didn't even put in a good word for her in public. Compared to Chu Yue... the treatment is really worlds apart!"

"Yeah! In the past, I still thought that he treated everyone in the same way, but who knew... Hah, Jiang Zhiyuan always said that she was Senior Brother Rong Xiu's childhood sweetheart and even proclaimed that she was the top choice for the Sky-Cloud Empire's princess consort position. But today, Senior Brother Rong Xiu didn't even take another look at her!"

"If they really had something, judging by Jiang Zhiyuan's injured and disheveled look, would Senior Brother Rong Xiu really be nonchalant? I think Jiang Zhiyuan was just thinking too much!"

"Oh right, Jiang Zhiyuan and Elder Dan Qing have already broken their mentor-disciple relationship. I think... she might not even be able to stay in the academy when we go back, right?!"

That group of people burst out in laughter. Some even didn't hold themselves back as they turned around, wanting to admire Jiang Zhiyuan's expression.

There seemed to be a volcano tumbling in Jiang Zhiyuan's chest, as if it would explode suddenly the next moment!

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However, she still held it in. Now, everyone is waiting to see me as a laughingstock. All the people who previously thought of all sorts of ways to flatter me now avoid me like the plague.

Jiang Zhiyuan was furious, but she could only endure it. She knew that her situation had already reached the worst circumstances. If I don't find a way to get Elder Dan Qing to retract his decision, expulsion will be waiting for me when I go back to the academy.

"Zhiyuan, what's the matter? You don't seem to look too well." Liang Xiaoxiao walked over as if she were very worried. As she spoke, she sized Jiang Zhiyuan up like she was 'admiring' her disheveled appearance.

Jiang Zhiyuan snorted in her heart. If Liang Xiaoxiao was concerned about me at all, she would've come over long ago. Why would she wait until now? She just wants to watch me become a laughingstock!

Suddenly, Jiang Zhiyuan recalled something, and her expression changed slightly. Then, she squeezed out a smile. "Don't worry. I'm fine. As for you... Xiaoxiao, so many top-tier families and clans have come this time. Your Liang family should've also come, right?"

"I don't think so, right?" Liang Xiaoxiao was dazed and didn't expect her to bring this up suddenly. Previously, I had corresponded with my family over letters, and Father said that he was busy with something in the clan recently. Hence, he couldn't leave and didn't plan on joining the chaotic situation.

"Why? Did you... see my family earlier?" Liang Xiaoxiao instantly became alert.

Jiang Zhiyuan smiled. "No, I was just casually asking. After all, it's quite dangerous here. Once they're here... it's not that easy to leave."

Liang Xiaoxiao quickly knitted her brows. For some reason, Jiang Zhiyuan's smile makes me feel awkward and uneasy.

Liang Xiaoxiao didn't have the mood to continue teasing Jiang Zhiyuan. After saying something superficially, she turned around to leave.

Seeing her departing back view, Jiang Zhiyuan's smile slowly turned cold. Pfft, it seems like the people from the Liang family haven't received the news. At the very least, Liang Xiaoxiao doesn't know of it yet. Liang Shaokang was the eldest son of the Liang family. Now that he has died in an ambiguous manner, the Liang family will definitely not take it lying down!

Thinking of this, she hurriedly took a few steps forward. "Elder Hua Feng, I have some things I want to say to you."

Elder Hua Feng was originally talking to Elder Bo Yan and the others about some things. Hearing this, he turned around to look at her. "What?"

Jiang Zhiyuan cupped her hands together as if she were nervous. "... just want to take up some of your time."

Quite a few people in the surroundings looked over, and they were filled with curiosity.

Elder Hua Feng thought for a moment and still walked over.

Jiang Zhiyuan walked to the side.

The two of them walked toward the outside of the group.

Elder Hua Feng swiftly set up a barrier and blocked their conversation from the outside world. "You can speak now, right?"

Elder Hua Feng knew that Jiang Zhiyuan must have something urgent, which was why she suddenly looked for him. Hence, he was more patient as well.

He wanted to see what else Jiang Zhiyuan could do.

Jiang Zhiyuan pressed her lips against each other and didn't beat around the bush. She said directly, "Elder, I want to ask you something. Um... Could you help convince my mentor to retract his decision?"

"What did you say?" Elder Hua Feng almost thought that he had misheard her. Is something wrong with Jiang Zhiyuan?! She actually came to me to ask me to help her beg for mercy?

Jiang Zhiyuan's fingers were intertwined, and she looked very sincere. Tears had already welled up in her eyes. "I'm begging you. Mentor refuses to listen to my explanation now, and he doesn't want to speak to me. Only you can help me!"

Elder Hua Feng wanted to laugh.

He shook his head. "Dan Qing is your mentor. For the past few years, he has always doted on you. Now that he did this, it's clearly because you were wrong in the first place. He has always been stubborn and definitely won't change his decision. Even if I go and convince him, it would be of no use."

Even though I don't understand what exactly Jiang Zhiyuan is trying to do, judging from Dan Qing, Bo Yan, and the others' reactions, it is most likely something that can't be forgiven. I didn't like Jiang Zhiyuan in the first place, so why would I be willing to put in a good word for her.

"Jiang Zhiyuan, you need to know that once you make some mistakes, there won't be a chance to start anew." Then, Elder Hua Feng turned around to leave. There doesn't seem to be much meaning to continue talking to Jiang Zhiyuan. That is because even now, she is still not remorseful and is trying to use all sorts of means to continue staying in the academy. This type of person... isn't reliable.

"Elder." Seeing Elder Hua Feng's determined attitude, Jiang Zhiyuan made up her mind.

Elder Hua Feng turned around and was suddenly dazed when he saw Jiang Zhiyuan's gaze.

To the outsiders, her gaze was gentle and pitiable. But only Elder Hua Feng—who was standing nearby—could see the harshness and cunning in her eyes.

"I was just talking to Liang Xiaoxiao. She said that the Liang family didn't send anyone over this time."

Elder Hua Feng suddenly realized something! "You—"

"If they know that Liang Shaokang died here and that... Ling Xiao Academy silently allowed it, then... What kind of reaction would they have?" Jiang Zhiyuan laughed. "The Liang family is a top-tier

aristocratic family after all. Unless absolutely necessary, the academy wouldn't want to have a bad relationship with them, right?"

Elder Hua Feng finally understood Jiang Zhiyuan's intentions, and he couldn't help but sneer. "Jiang Zhiyuan, do you know what you're doing?"

It is a serious offense to threaten an elder!

"Do you think I will still care about this if I'm expelled from the academy?" Jiang Zhiyuan didn't seem afraid as she smiled gently. At most, I will just drag everyone down.

Elder Hua Feng stared at her for a long time. "...Dan Qing was really blind to have accepted you as his disciple and dote on you for so many years."

Jiang Zhiyuan's smile didn't change. "Can you help me?"

...

Chu Liuyue felt that she had fallen into a long, long dream. Countless scenes flashed across her mind—scenes that she had seen, scenes she hadn't seen.

Things that she had heard, things she hadn't heard.

Messy memories rushed out and caused her to have a splitting headache.

She knitted her brows slightly and softly said, "It hurts..."

Rong Xiu looked at her, and his heart seemed to be rubbed by something harshly. He lowered his head slightly and wanted to kiss her.

The moment he moved, he stopped. I almost forgot all these people were around...

After a moment of hesitation, he gently placed his forehead on hers.

The surroundings immediately fell into silence.

Elder Bo Yan looked at Rong Xiu in shock, and his entire face was confused. "Rong Xiu, you—"

Rong Xiu looked up, and his expression was calm and nonchalant. "She seems to be having a fever."

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Elder Bo Yan's expression became very strange. This doesn't sound wrong, but... why do I find it weird? No matter how concerned I am, this action of lowering his head is... too intimate, right? If anyone saw two men behaving in this manner...

Elder Bo Yan panicked. This... Rong Xiu only said that he knew Chu Yue long ago, so I just thought that the duo was friends and that Rong Xiu treated the latter like his younger brother. But it now seems like...

Rong Xiu looked up and glanced toward this side. "Elder Bo Yan, do you have a Clear Wind Pill?"

"Huh? Oh, I do!" Elder Bo Yan recovered his senses, produced a jade pill bottle, and handed it over.

Seeing that Rong Xiu had no free hands, he took the pill out and fed it to Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other tightly, and the pill couldn't go in no matter what.

Rong Xiu's hand on her shoulders patted her lightly, and he softly said, "Be good. Eat the medicine."

Chu Liuyue snuggled in his arms but still opened her mouth obediently.

Elder Bo Yan hurriedly fed her the pill.

The Clear Wind Pill immediately melted in her mouth. Chu Liuyue still had her eyes closed as she swallowed the pill.

The entire process was very smooth and natural.

Elder Bo Yan retracted his hand, but he became increasingly terrified and shocked as he watched on from the side. Look! Since when was Rong Xiu so gentle and harmonious to anyone?! Previously, Rong Xiu insisted on carrying Chu Yue back and taking care of him personally. I only thought he did it because he felt guilty and wanted to make it up to Chu Yue, who had helped him block the attack.

But now? In my impression, Rong Xiu has never gotten close to a woman... A ridiculous idea surfaced in Elder Bo Yan's mind. This thought caused his heart to beat rapidly.

He quickly glanced at Rong Xiu and then immediately retracted his gaze. Forget it, forget it! It's better not to ask too much about these things! At the very least, I probably won't have such strong tolerance. But in the future... I have to change my attitude toward Chu Yue.

Rong Xiu's lips curled up undetectably. He could naturally guess what Elder Bo Yan and the others would think when they saw this scene, but... He didn't care.

"Bo Yan, Dan Qing." At this point, Elder Hua Feng had already ended his conversation with Jiang Zhiyuan.

Elder Dan Qing and Elder Bo Yan turned around to look at him as their gazes swept across Jiang Zhiyuan, who stayed behind. Actually, they really wanted to know what Hua Feng and Jiang Zhiyuan talked about.

"I have something I need to tell you." Elder Hua Feng's gaze was solemn.

This caused Elder Bo Yan and the others' hearts to sink. "What's the matter?"

Elder Hua Feng took a deep breath in and looked like he was in a difficult spot.

Jiang Zhiyuan—who was standing not far away—stopped in her tracks and looked over with a delighted and expectant gaze. Great. As long as Elder Hua Feng agrees to help, everything can be discussed.

Thinking that she had avoided an ordeal, Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief.

Right at this moment, Elder Hua Feng suddenly turned around and waved toward a group of people.

"Liang Xiaoxiao, come over here first."

Jiang Zhiyuan's smile—which hadn't fully widened—instantly stiffened. Uneasiness suddenly overwhelmed her heart. Why did Elder Hua Feng suddenly call Liang Xiaoxiao over? This has nothing to do with her at all!

Liang Xiaoxiao was confused herself, but she still walked forward while bearing the crowd's gazes. Then, she first bowed and greeted the elders one by one before asking with a confused expression, "Elder Hua Feng, were you looking for me?"

Elder Hua Feng nodded. "There are some things I have to tell you."

The surroundings fell silent.

Jiang Zhiyuan's heart fell into a deep abyss, but everything started developing in a direction she could not control.

"Your elder brother, Liang Shaokang, had brought people over here previously." Elder Hua Feng spoke very directly.

"My Third Brother came?" Liang Xiaoxiao widened her eyes slightly. Didn't Father previously say he didn't want to intervene in this matter? Did Third Brother bring people and sneak over? He has always been very ambitious. Recently, there were a few other disciples that performed quite well in the clan. Was he... anxious? This does seem like something he could do.

Elder Hua Feng nodded slightly. "About a few days ago, we coincidentally met him when we just reached that gully. He was being pursued at that time, and the Liang family people that accompanied him were already dead."

Liang Xiaoxiao's expression changed. Her lips moved. "My brother—"

Elder Hua Feng paused. "Sorry. You know that Ling Xiao Academy has a neutral stance."

Liang Xiaoxiao's legs went soft, and she almost collapsed. At the side, an elder hurriedly supported her.

Liang Xiaoxiao felt waves of coldness coming from the depths of her heart. Something rushed up to her eyes, and her vision became blurred.

She opened her mouth but realized she couldn't say anything. Only a cold wind kept coming in between her teeth—it was so cold that her organs and limbs seemed to curl up.

Suddenly, she seemed to have recalled something as she abruptly turned around and looked at Jiang Zhiyuan!

Jiang Zhiyuan's heart skipped a beat, and she guiltily averted her gaze.

"But... Zhiyuan previously said that she didn't see my brother..." said Liang Xiaoxiao with clenched teeth.

Elder Hua Feng followed her gaze and sighed. He said, "Actually, you can't blame her for this. After all, you were good friends for so many years, and you guys have a good relationship. She wouldn't want you to be sad—"

Hah!

Liang Xiaoxiao almost burst out laughing. Afraid that I would be sad? Didn't Jiang Zhiyuan previously ask those things earlier?! Why is she pretending to be a good person now?

"Elder Hua Feng, could you tell me... who killed my elder brother?" Liang Xiaoxiao clenched her hands tightly and said every word slowly.

Elder Hua Feng paused. "Um... Back then, your brother had specifically asked Jiang Zhiyuan for help, and she stayed there for quite some time. She should be the clearest about it."

Jiang Zhiyuan raised her head in overwhelming shock and panic! "Elder Hua Feng, how can you say that?!"

Elder Hua Feng blinked and seemed rather helpless. "The... matter is serious, so it's better to tell the truth, right?"

Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't defend herself. She hurriedly ran over to Liang Xiaoxiao and anxiously said, "Xiaoxiao, listen to my explanation! Back then, I—"

Slap!

A resounding slap was heard.

Jiang Zhiyuan didn't stand stably and was directly beaten until she fell to the floor. Half her face rapidly swelled up.

However, she was originally disheveled. Now that she fell, it wasn't especially obvious.

"B*tch!" Liang Xiaoxiao was enraged and wanted to shred Jiang Zhiyuan apart directly! Liang Shaokang didn't enter Ling Xiao Academy and wasn't familiar with the elders in the academy. Out of all these people, he was most familiar with Jiang Zhiyuan!

Liang Xiaoxiao naturally knew what her third brother thought of Jiang Zhiyuan. However, Jiang Zhiyuan was arrogant and prideful and refused to agree to him, so Liang Xiaoxiao didn't intervene in this matter further. However, this didn't mean that she did not know that Jiang Zhiyuan had taken quite a few advantages from her third brother.

At the end of the day, she—Jiang Zhiyuan—'repaid' my Third Brother in this manner?!

Jiang Zhiyuan was beaten until she was dazed. She thought that victory was in her hands, but she didn't expect Elder Hua Feng to be this harsh and directly expose everything in public!

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What should I do now? Jiang Zhiyuan tried her best to rack her brains, but she hopelessly realized that she was at a dead end! Elder Hua Feng took action first, so it's inevitable that Liang Xiaoxiao had a preconceived notion when she heard his words. Thus, she thought that everything was my fault. But... the real culprits are those people from Lingyun Mountain! Besides, I'm not the only one who stood at the side to watch. Why did Liang Xiaoxiao push all the blame on me?

"Xiaoxiao, you really misunderstood! I-I didn't have a choice back then!" Jiang Zhiyuan covered her face, and blood slowly seeped out from the corner of her mouth. "With just me alone, how can I be those people's match?!"

Liang Xiaoxiao took a step forward and grabbed Jiang Zhiyuan's collar, her eyes turning red. "Those people? Who are they?!"

"They're..." Jiang Zhiyuan was about to say it when she saw Elder Hua Feng looking at her from the corner of her eyes. She raised her brows slightly and revealed an extremely faint smile.

A chill then ran down her spine. No! I can't say it! If the two words 'Lingyun Mountain' come out of my mouth, Lingyun Mountain will definitely take revenge on me in the future! That is a true top-tier aristocratic family! Not to mention me, even the entire Fairy Water Mound isn't the other party's match! I definitely can't get into that trouble!

"I-I don't know either..." The intense bloody aura filled Jiang Zhiyuan's mouth, causing her to be nauseous. "Back then... they all had disguises on... Hence, I couldn't recognize them..."

Thump!

Liang Xiaoxiao threw Jiang Zhiyuan to the ground. Although she wasn't as capable as Jiang Zhiyuan, the latter was at her wits' end at this point and didn't even have the strength to retaliate. Thus, Jiang Zhiyuan could only be humiliated by the other party.

Liang Xiaoxiao's chest heaved up and down violently, clearly still enraged. She pointed at Jiang Zhiyuan and laughed sinisterly. "Good! Good! Jiang Zhiyuan, I've finally seen through you today! From today onward, I—Liang Xiaoxiao—and the entire Liang family will be sworn enemies with you!"

Jiang Zhiyuan's heart skipped a beat. What would be the outcome of being targeted by a top-tier aristocratic family?

She knew without even having to think!

However, Elder Hua Feng and the rest clearly directed this. What has it got to do with me? At that time, the people present didn't even take action— Suddenly, a white light flashed across Jiang Zhiyuan's heart.

She abruptly realized something. Liang Xiaoxiao did it on purpose! Growing up in such a top-tier aristocratic family and being loved by all, Liang Xiaoxiao clearly isn't as stupid as she seems. She is extremely intelligent! She knows that the academy should definitely be involved in this, but she doesn't want to be the academy's enemy.

Besides, the academy is known for its high and aloof status in the God Residence Realm as it has never interfered with the aristocratic families. It is reasonable that they would do this, but someone must be responsible for this. Then... I, Jiang Zhiyuan, became the scapegoat!

In this case, Liang Xiaoxiao can maintain a stable relationship with the academy and avenge Liang Shaokang, so why not?

Jiang Zhiyuan wanted to support herself to stand up, but after a few tries, she realized that her body was trembling violently. How did things end up in this state... I clearly had the upper hand earlier, and now—

Elder Hua Feng finally spoke slowly. "Xiaoxiao, you really can't blame her for this. Even though your brother begged her for a long time, you can also imagine that she was also injured back then. How could she help your brother?"

Jiang Zhiyuan wanted to go up and shred Elder Hua Feng's mouth! Stop talking! Does he think I'm not miserable enough?! If this continues, how am I supposed to have a standing in the God Residence Realm?

"Don't worry. Before I investigate this matter clearly, I won't do anything to her." A cold gleam flashed across Liang Xiaoxiao's eyes. But after I investigate it clearly, it won't be easy to say!

Jiang Zhiyuan's heart was numb. In this situation, what else can I do...

Suddenly, she looked up, looked past the group, and saw the tall man in black. I'm afraid only he can help me now!

"Your Highness!" Jiang Zhiyuan used all her strength to yell out loud as two streams of tears fell down her face.

She didn't know where the strength came from, but she suddenly stood up and rushed over. Although she was staggering, she wasn't considered slow.

As it was too sudden, she had already rushed out for quite a distance when the crowd recovered their senses.

Elder Hua Feng's face turned cold. He took a step forward and blocked Jiang Zhiyuan as he scolded, "Jiang Zhiyuan, are you crazy?!"

Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't go past him and was anxious. Her voice became even shriller. "Your Highness, say something! Can you really bear to watch all of this happen? Fairy Water Mound is still one of the 28 divisions under you. If you don't care about me, you still have to do it for the clan's sake!"

The crowd looked at Rong Xiu.

Jiang Zhiyuan's words made sense.

Fairy Water Mound was the strongest and had the deepest background out of all the divisions in the Sky-Cloud Empire, and Jiang Zhiyuan was the apple of Jiang Hetian's eye. If Rong Xiu really wanted to put in a good word for her... everyone had to give him face.

Rong Xiu first glanced at the person in his arms.

A faint trace had appeared in Chu Liuyue's brows, and her lashes moved slightly as if she had dreamed of something uneasy.

Rong Xiu hugged her tighter, turned around, and looked up slightly. That pair of clear and deep phoenix-like eyes had stunning coldness in them.

A chill was sent down Jiang Zhiyuan's spine from this glance.

She opened her mouth. Her sharp and shrill voice suddenly became much weaker. "Your Highness..."

"You disturbed his sleep," said Rong Xiu coldly.

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The surroundings fell into deep silence.

Jiang Zhiyuan opened her mouth slightly, and her pale lips trembled slightly in disbelief. She wanted to say something, but she realized that her throat was dry and that her chest had become tight.

She couldn't say a single word, and her face burned. Rong Xiu's one sentence humiliated her even more than the slap Liang Xiaoxiao gave her previously!

Disturbed... Chu Yue's... sleep?! Could my life and death be less important than that person's sleep? Jiang Zhiyuan didn't ask this because she could already tell the answer from Rong Xiu's annoyed and cold face.

The pair of phoenix eyes looking at her was cold, heartless, and distant, without any hint of friendship!

All the strength in Jiang Zhiyuan's body seemed to be emptied as she collapsed onto the ground.

Nobody went to help her up.

The ground was icy cold as if it had sunk into her blood, and it was so cold that she trembled.

Rong Xiu had already retracted his gaze, carried Chu Liuyue, and continued walking forward.

Not far away was the transportation formation to head back.

Chu Liuyue's current condition wasn't looking good, and she had to return to the academy as soon as possible.

Looking at the cold and harsh back view, Jiang Zhiyuan clenched her fists tightly. Finally, she couldn't help but look up and ask with indignation and overwhelming anger, "Your Highness, can you really bear to give up on Fairy Water Mound?!"

Fairy Water Mound was the head of the 28 divisions, and it had important meaning to the Sky-Cloud Empire. She didn't believe Rong Xiu would be willing to risk this for Chu Yue!

Rong Xiu stood in the transportation formation. He moved his arms slightly and allowed the person in his arms to have a more comfortable position before he looked up and glanced at Jiang Zhiyuan.

This look was extremely cold and nonchalant.

The corner of his lips curled up slightly with some hint of smiling intent, but they seemed to be covered in frost, and it made one's heart cold from the inside. "Before this, maybe you should think of how you want to tell your father about yourself."

Jiang Zhiyuan suddenly widened her eyes! At that moment, something seemed to collapse in her heart! Right! In the past, I was the apple of Father's eye and was a top elite in the entire Fairy Water Mound. Even if Father was biased toward me, nobody would say anything. However, it is different now. I've been abandoned by Elder Dan Qing and am about to be expelled by Ling Xiao Academy. Let's not mention that I have a problem I can't get out of on Liang Xiaoxiao's side.

Even if my father is willing to help me, what about the others? I no longer have my previous status, so I won't have the same special rights! By then, would the entire Fairy Water Mound still confront the Sky-Cloud Empire because of me!?

There was never a moment that Jiang Zhiyuan so clearly realized that she actually had nothing at all! This trip to the Flood-Desert Northern Region made her lose everything!

"Let's go." Elder Bo Yan couldn't be bothered to care about her as he turned around and called for the crowd to follow up. They then boarded the transportation formation.

Elder Hua Feng wasn't so anxious. He passed through the crowd and walked to Jiang Zhiyuan.

Jiang Zhiyuan seemed to notice something as she raised her head and looked into Elder Hua Feng's seemingly kind but actually filled with mockery gaze.

"Jiang Zhiyuan, you've always been smart and sharp, and your mentor has praised you for your agile thinking more than once. It's a pity you don't know that sometimes, others might outsmart you. If you think too much about what you shouldn't, it'll just be disadvantageous for you!"

Jiang Zhiyuan's throat tightened. Suddenly, she went forward as if she wanted to grab the corner of Elder Hua Feng's shirt.

Elder Hua Feng silently took a step back and avoided her hand.

Jiang Zhiyuan grabbed nothing and fell to the ground. Snow flew to her face, making her look even more miserable.

"Elder Hua Feng, I-I'm begging you—please give me another chance!" Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't care about anything else now as she begged bitterly. It would be good if she could salvage even a little bit. "It's all my fault! It was a moment of folly! P-please forgive me this time!"

Why was I so stupid to think of threatening Elder Hua Feng to protect my everything?! Elder Hua Feng has the entire Ling Xiao Academy backing him up! What do I have?!

Elder Hua Feng seemed to laugh, but his voice was very calm. "You can't keep spilled water. How can you retract the words you said?"

Jiang Zhiyuan's entire body stiffened as if she froze inch by inch. She suddenly couldn't say her remaining words.

Other than letting other people ridicule her, what else could it do?!

Elder Hua Feng looked down at her from above and glanced at Elder Dan Qing again.

From start to end, he didn't look over again. It was clear that he was thoroughly disappointed in Jiang Zhiyuan!

"Taking into consideration that you were a student of the academy for a few years... I can send a message back to Fairy Water Mound to ask them to fetch you as soon as possible. Oh, you don't have to thank me for this small matter."As he spoke, Elder Hua Feng laughed and turned around to walk away.

Jiang Zhiyuan's brain was in a mess, and one sentence kept echoing in her mind: It's over! It's completely over!

...

"I wonder what Jiang Zhiyuan did to be hated like this." Luo Shishi went up the transportation formation and glanced at Jiang Zhiyuan—who collapsed on the snow ground helplessly—from the corner of her eyes. She couldn't help but mutter softly, "No matter what it is, it can't be something good."

At the side, Luo Yanlin laughed. "Elder Dan Qing treats her like his goddaughter and has always doted on her. Something that could force him to break their ties... Hah, it's Jiang Zhiyuan's capability as well!"

Luo Shishi nodded. Judging from the other academy elders' reactions, Jiang Zhiyuan probably won't be able to stay in Ling Xiao Academy after going back.

"She had a deck of good cards, but she played so badly in the end."

Jiang Zhiyuan used to be so glamorous and proud. Now, she was actually hated and abandoned by others... In the future, it would be very hard for her to have a standing in the God Residence Realm.

"I really don't know how she ended up here." Although Luo Shishi wasn't very familiar with Jiang Zhiyuan, thinking of the difference between the current her and the previous her, she sighed as well.

"Why are you thinking so much?" Luo Yanlin knocked on her forehead lightly. "Her life and death have nothing to do with us. Just watch casually."

As the most outstanding eldest son of the Luo family and most likely to inherit the position of the head of the family, Luo Yanlin was always proud. He never cared about someone like Jiang Zhiyuan; he just treated her like a clown.

Luo Shishi obediently acknowledged him. She then curled her fingers and couldn't help but look in another direction.

Even if everyone was squeezed together, she could still see Rong Xiu at one glance.

He was very tall and always stood out from the crowd. Besides, his seemingly intricately carved, handsome, and demonic-like appearance gathered all the limelight at any point, causing everything else to lose its color.

This transportation formation wasn't considered small, but it was rather crowded if so many of them stood together. However, there seemed to be an invisible barrier around Rong Xiu, causing other people to be unable to get near him easily.

Cold, distinguished, imperious, and mighty. It was as if it would be blasphemous to even take a step forward.

He carried Chu Yue in his arms, and one couldn't see the latter's appearance.

Luo Shishi bit her lips. "I wonder how Chu Yue is doing..."

[Chapter 1396](#)

Luo Yanlin followed her gaze and squinted his eyes slightly.

He and Rong Xiu entered the academy almost at the same time, so they could be considered to be peers. However, they didn't interact much.

Of course, with Rong Xiu's personality, he treated other people in the same way.

Other than going out to train or doing tasks together, they usually only meet during monthly assessments in school.

Ever since Rong Xiu became number one on two of the Qing Yun Ranking lists, he went out even less frequently.

"With Rong Xiu personally taking care of him, that kid won't be in trouble," said Luo Yanlin as he took out a jade bottle and stuffed it into his sister's hands. "You keep thinking about other things, but you forgot to eat your own medicine?"

His gaze landed on Luo Shishi with deep meaning.

Luo Shishi instantly felt guilty as she hurriedly opened the jade bottle and poured one pill out to eat. "Nothing. I was just wondering... Senior Brother Rong Xiu and Chu Yue seem to have a good relationship... Has he treated anyone like this in the past?"

The Sky-Cloud Empire's His Grace was famous for being harsh and cunning. Even in the academy and restrained his aura, others still felt distant from him.

Luo Yanlin stroked his chin. "Actually... you can't say that. There used to be someone Rong Xiu treated really—"

Speaking of this, he suddenly paused.

"Really what?" Luo Shishi's eyes were filled with curiosity. Is there a person in this world who has received better care from Rong Xiu? That is truly unbelievable. Rong Xiu is a natural king and is like an ice mountain that won't melt in a thousand years. It is hard for other people to even approach him, let alone anything else. It is really hard to imagine him being nice to someone, so it is jaw-dropping to see him treat Chu Yue in this manner. If there was something even worse, then—

Peng!

Luo Yanlin knocked her again, with even more force this time around.

Luo Shishi hurriedly held her forehead in pain. "Fourth Brother, you—"

"Little girl, there are some things that you can ask, but it's better not to know about other things. Do you understand?" Luo Yanlin reminded her with a smile, but his gaze was very serious.

Luo Shishi pouted her lips and muttered, "Okay."

Luo Yanlin glanced at that side and quickly retracted his gaze.

...

Everyone went up the transportation formation and started their return journey.

The crowd gathered in groups and spoke softly. Actually, most of them were talking about the Flood-Desert Northern Region trip.

This was especially so for Elder Bo Yan, Elder Bo Yan, and the other elders—who gathered together and talked in an even more serious manner. After all, they still wanted to find out the mastermind.

This time, Ling Xiao Academy suffered a huge loss. They couldn't let this lie.

Only Jiang Zhiyuan was standing in a corner alone. Nobody talked to her, and she looked very lonely.

However, quite a few people were secretly looking over. Most of them were filled with mockery and insults, and they looked like they were watching a commotion.

Jiang Zhiyuan lowered her head. She had to use all the strength in her body to restrain her impulsiveness. This cannot go on... The situation is settled. What's awaiting me is probably that worse ending. If I had some backing I could rely on...

Suddenly, her gaze flickered! Right! How did I forget that there's still that person?!

...

The way back was boring and dry. Additionally, as everyone was injured, the atmosphere was at a low point. It was completely different from the excitement and agitation they had when they first came.

The waiting time seemed to become especially long. After some time, light finally appeared in front.

Elder Bo Yan yelled out loud, "We're about to return to the academy! Everyone, prepare to go out!"

"Yes!" Following this, the elders took action at the same time!

The Xuan formation at the entrance suddenly broke open!

Elder Hua Feng and the others rushed out continuously!

Rong Xiu gazed at the person in his arms.

Chu Liuyue was still in a deep sleep, but compared to the start, her pale face had recovered some of its rosiness. She seemed much better, and her aura seemed to faintly become stronger.

Rong Xiu tightened his hands slightly and went on his toes before he flew out!

...

"Hua Feng, you're back!" The few elders—who had been waiting for a very long time around the transportation formation—were immediately energized! Only the heavens knew how hard they waited during this time!

But very quickly, they realized that something was amiss.

The people who came out behind Elder Bo Yan and the others had scars on their bodies. They seemed like they had experienced quite a big ordeal.

"W-what happened to you guys?!" The few elders exchanged glances and vaguely felt uneasy.

Elder Hua Feng shook his head. "This is a long story. Send the students back first and let them recuperate properly. We can talk about the rest later."

Seeing that his gaze was stern for once, the few elders didn't dare to be slow as they hurriedly took action.

The students with lighter injuries heeded the instructions and went back on their own. Those in more serious conditions were sent back by the elders.

The more they saw, the more frightened they were. Didn't they say that the Heavenly Square Cauldron appeared and that Elder Hua Feng and the others were only here to support them? How did this happen?

Anyone could tell that the situation was much worse than expected.

"Rong Xiu?!" When that tall and slim figure appeared, the few elders were stunned. Since when did he come here? And what's more shocking is that he is carrying someone in his arms!

"Chu Yue?!" An elder standing nearby had sharp eyes and recognized that person. As it was too incredulous, even his tone changed.

Rong Xiu nodded to gesture toward the elders and kept walking forward. "I'll bring him back to rest."

"Huh? Oh! Oh, okay!"

Without waiting for the crowd to react, Rong Xiu had already rapidly left with her.

"Hey! Rong Xiu, wait for me!" Elder Wan Zheng hurriedly followed them in an anxious manner.

After their figures disappeared behind the rising mountains, the crowd left behind was dazed.

After a while, someone stammered and asked, "W-what exactly is going on?!"

Elder Bo Yan laughed bitterly. It'd be great if I knew. Also, I don't really want to make sure of it. There... must be something wrong here!

"Rong Xiu always knows what he's doing; we don't have to care about him. Let's clean up this mess first!"

Hearing Elder Bo Yan's words, the crowd couldn't ask further and acknowledged his order in unison. "Yes!"

...

Rong Xiu directly brought Chu Liuyue back to his residence. Entering the room, he meticulously placed her down.

Elder Wan Zheng followed hurriedly from behind. "Rong Xiu, how is Chu Yue?"

Rong Xiu covered Chu Liuyue with a blanket, and his fingers gently caressed her soft hands before he placed her hands underneath the blanket.

This action was extremely light. Additionally, his back was facing Elder Wan Zheng—who was standing behind—so the latter didn't notice it.

When Elder Wan Zheng walked over, Rong Xiu straightened his body and placed a hand on Chu Liuyue's forehead. "The fever seems to have subsided, but I don't know when she will wake up."

[Chapter 1397](#)

"We've been through so much this entire way. Why hasn't he shown any signs of waking up..." Elder Wan Zheng's heart ached, and he was worried.

The Chu Yue he saw was always energetic, active, playful, and charming. But now, Chu Yue was lying on the bed silently and weakly. He looked very frail, like a piece of glass that would break when touched.

"How could this happen... What exactly did this child experience?"

Rong Xiu paused and covered the corner of Chu Liuyue's blanket. "Elder Wan Zheng, let's go outside to talk."

Staying here would disturb her to some extent.

Elder Wan Zheng hurriedly nodded in agreement. "Right, right! Let's go outside and let him rest properly!"

When he was speaking, he even intentionally lowered his voice as if he were terrified that he would disturb Chu Liuyue.

Rong Xiu's thin lips curled up. "Go ahead."

Elder Wan Zheng was very reluctant and almost turned back thrice with each step he took. He only felt more relieved when Rong Xiu said that he had already set up a barrier here and that he would instantly know about anything that happened here.

The duo walked out and sat down on a stone bench in the courtyard.

...

"I know that you have many questions; you can ask whatever you want to know. I will definitely tell you all that I can." After sitting down, Rong Xiu spoke in a straightforward manner.

Facing Elder Wan Zheng, his attitude was very open and genuine. It didn't matter if it were someone else, but Elder Wan Zheng was currently Chu Liuyue's mentor and one of the few people who had the most right to take care of her.

Elder Wan Zheng originally had a stomach full of questions and too many things that he wanted to ask. Hearing Rong Xiu say that, he didn't know how he should begin.

After some serious thinking, he tidied his thoughts and finally asked, "How is Chu Yue's condition?"

This journey was too hurried, such that he actually forgot to take Chu Yue's pulse personally. However, Rong Xiu was a heavenly doctor himself and should know about this clearer since he brought Chu Yue back.

Rong Xiu replied, "Don't worry about this. Her body... is fine. Even though she was slightly injured before, she should quickly recover after resting for a while."

He paused for a moment. "After all... you also know that she just broke through to become a stage-nine warrior."

At this point, her recovery speed and other aspects were all very strong—not to mention that it was Chu Liuyue of all people.

Upon hearing this, Elder Wan Zheng heaved a sigh of relief. He clenched his fists, relaxed them, and clenched them again as countless complicated emotions flashed across his eyes. In the end, he could only shake his head and sigh.

He said rather helplessly, "I actually don't know if I should be worried or happy for him."

I previously heard Elder Hua Feng briefly talk about how Chu Yue had broken through to become a stage-nine warrior from a stage-eight warrior in a mere few days. But at that point, I was more worried, so I didn't think much about it.

Now that everyone is back and Chu Yue's condition seems to have stabilized, I am slowly realizing how... shocking this matter is! How many people in the world can have such an opportunity? So many people went to the Flood-Desert Northern Region this time, but all of them came back empty-handed. Only Chu Yue—who couldn't even go over in time at the start—became the winner!

"This kid's... luck is really abnormal!" After much thinking, Elder Wan Zheng could only use the word 'luck' to describe this. Previously, I was already shocked enough when witnessing the kid break through to become a stage-eight warrior. I didn't expect such a short time to have passed, and he—

"Hah! With his speed, he might suddenly reach the Apotheosis Realm some day and become a legendary warrior!" Elder Wan Zheng was relaxed and couldn't help but tease.

Rong Xiu looked down, and his thin lips curled up slightly. "Maybe..."

"Sigh. As long as he's fine, I can rest assured!" Elder Wan Zheng wiped away the sweat on his forehead. "Oh right, Hua Feng and the others previously said that Chu Yue was brought away by a group of mysterious men in black. Do you... know them?"

Rong Xiu was the one who saved him. If someone really knows something, it has to be him.

Rong Xiu shook his head, and his words were the same as before. "When I went there, I didn't see their so-called master. The other party was also very cunning; they didn't leave any traces behind."

"That's difficult to solve..." Elder Wan Zheng knitted his brows tightly. "If it's like that, we can only find out some information when Chu Yue wakes up."

But who knows when he will wake up?

Rong Xiu smiled. "You don't have to worry about that. During this time, I will take good care of him. When he wakes up, perhaps... everything will have an answer."

Elder Wan Zheng nodded.

"I guess that's all we can do... Oh right, there's something—" As he spoke, he looked at Rong Xiu opposite him with some hesitation. "What kind of relationship... do you and Chu Yue have?"

Elder Wan Zheng asked this in a very conflicted manner. Previously, I just thought that the two of them were good friends and that Rong Xiu treated Chu Yue like his younger brother. But judging from the situation in the past few days, it is clearly—

Rong Xiu's gaze flickered slightly, and there seemed to be ripples in the depths of his phoenix eyes. After some time, his lips curled up into a smile. "She's very important to me."

To be more accurate, she is the most important person to me.

Elder Wan Zheng was dazed. It is... very rare for Rong Xiu to say such words. After all, this is someone that can ruthlessly kill many of the people in the Sky-Cloud Empire without blinking!

Rong Xiu clearly didn't want to reveal too much, and Elder Wan Zheng knew that it was best not to ask again.

Elder Wan Zheng carefully digested Rong Xiu's words in his heart and finally looked at the latter calmly. "That's great."

As long as Rong Xiu can protect him, nothing else matters. With Chu Yue's personality, he might get into some trouble in the future. It might be just like this time, where the enemies didn't choose anyone else and only took him away... If it weren't for Rong Xiu, I really don't know what the consequences would've been.

Elder Wan Zheng stood up. "Everyone just came back, and there are quite a few things to settle. During this period of time, it might be quite chaotic outside. I'll have to trouble you to take good care of Chu Yue."

Rong Xiu stood up as well and lightly nodded. "Don't worry about it."

...

The entire Ling Xiao Academy was indeed in a mess.

The 300-plus students and elders had toed the line between life and death, and almost all of them had met their demise in the Flood-Desert Northern Region. This was an incident that the academy had never met in the past few hundred years.

Other than comforting the crowd's emotions, Elder Bo Yan and the others had already started investigating this matter. The key was where exactly did the news of the Heavenly Square Cauldron appearing come from!

The person who released this fake news could basically be locked in as the mastermind!

The entire academy's atmosphere became tense. Everyone waited sternly, and even the air seemed to be frozen.

And in this solemn and cold atmosphere, something that shocked the crowd's hearts happened—Fairy Water Mound's Jiang Zhiyuan was expelled from Ling Xiao Academy!

[Chapter 1398](#)

With Elder Hua Feng's 'enthusiastic help,' Fairy Water Mound received the news firsthand.

Jiang Hetian rushed to the academy at the fastest speed.

Ling Xiao Academy was still in a crucial period and had heavy defenses, not allowing anyone to come in and out casually. According to Elder Bo Yan, he wanted to send Jiang Zhiyuan out of the academy directly and let the Jiang family's people pick her up in Fangzhou City.

But considering that it wouldn't be good for the academy's reputation if the matter was blown up, he still allowed them to come in. Of course, only Jiang Hetian was allowed into the academy alone. The other Jiang family people that came along were all rejected outside the door.

Jiang Hetian felt deeply humiliated, but it was an urgent matter, and he couldn't care too much.

...

In some hall in the academy.

The moment Jiang Hetian walked in, he saw the elders sitting there while his precious daughter, Jiang Zhiyuan, stood in the middle of the hall in a lonely manner.

The atmosphere was stiff as if every inch had frozen.

Jiang Hetian's heart sank. Such an atmosphere can explain too many things!

"Fairy Water Mound's Jiang Hetian greets the elders." Jiang Hetian forcefully suppressed the uneasiness in his heart and still greeted them politely.

When Jiang Zhiyuan heard the voice, her body trembled as she slowly turned her head.

The father-daughter duo's eyes met.

Jiang Hetian's heart harshly shuddered! This was because the current Jiang Zhiyuan was indeed too frail and disheveled!

Her face, neck, and even her wrist had clear wounds. Her pair of charming watery eyes were bloodshot and even slightly dazed. There were two patches of black beneath her eyes, clearly showing that she hadn't slept well.

"Zhiyuan!" Jiang Hetian's heart ached. He hurriedly took a few steps over and walked to his daughter. "W-what happened to you?!"

Seeing his anxious look, tears welled up in Jiang Zhiyuan's eyes and fell. "Father, I let you down!"

Her reaction made Jiang Hetian even more worried and nervous. He patted her shoulders lightly and softly comforted her. "Don't worry. I'll definitely uphold justice for you!"

As he spoke, he took a step forward and cupped his fists toward the few elders present. "Elders, you must have a reason to expel Zhiyuan, right? If you do it in such an ambiguous manner, what is she supposed to do in the future?"

In the news that Ling Xiao Academy sent me, they only talked about expelling her and didn't state a reason. This is the part I'm most confused about. I know that Wei Xiping was also expelled not too long

ago, but everyone knows the reason, causing Wei Xiping not to have the face to go back to Qinggu Slope's Wei family even now. Yet, why did it become so muddled on our end? I need an explanation!

Elder Hua Feng laughed. "Master Jiang, you traveled a long way to get here, and it must've been hard on you. Sit down first, and then we can talk!"

Jiang Hetian refused. "I won't sit. Elders, if you have something to say, just do so directly!"

He was furious, so he wasn't willing to give them any face at all.

However, Elder Hua Feng didn't mind this. He just nodded and didn't continue. "Master Jiang, to be honest, it's precisely because we gave Fairy Water Mound face that we didn't publicize the reason. If you must know... Why don't you ask Jiang Zhiyuan personally?"

When Jiang Hetian heard this, his heart suddenly sank. The other party's attitude is so calm. Did... Jiang Zhiyuan really do something wrong?

"Oh right, there's something you might not know yet." Elder Hua Feng informed him, "Before she was expelled, Elder Dan Qing had already broken his mentor-disciple ties with her."

This was undoubtedly adding fuel to the fire.

Jiang Hetian was originally filled with anger, but when he heard this, he couldn't help but feel doubtful. Thus, he glanced at his daughter in disbelief. "Zhiyuan, what exactly is going on?"

Putong!

Jiang Zhiyuan knelt on the floor. "Father, it was really a moment of folly! Please help me beg the elders and beg Mentor. I don't want to leave the academy! I can't be expelled!"

The remaining half of Jiang Hetian's heart turned cold when he saw his daughter's face filled with snot and tears.

"If you don't want to say it, I will." Elder Dan Qing—who had been quiet the whole time—finally spoke. His gaze slowly swept past Jiang Zhiyuan, and his tone was calm as if he were saying something irrelevant. "Back when we reached the Flood-Desert Northern Region together, we were attacked by others. In order to survive... Jiang Zhiyuan betrayed us."

Jiang Zhiyuan had a face of defeat.

"Back then, everyone planned on splitting into two parties and escaping on their own. Jiang Zhiyuan was first caught by the other party, then... She told all of this to the other party. Later on, she took advantage of the other party not paying attention and escaped on her own."

With every word that Elder Dan Qing said, another hint of hopelessness overwhelmed Jiang Zhiyuan's face before finally swallowing her whole.

"...She's also lucky as well. After that torment, she actually survived. However, I heard that she had also brought Hua Feng and the rest quite a bit of trouble."

"Hah! Compared to your troubles, ours is nothing!" Elder Hua Feng waved his hands as if he didn't care. "She just killed a nine-tailed green crow and almost caused us to die under that group of nine-tailed green crows' claws."

This nonchalant rebuttal caused Jiang Hetian to choke, and his face flashed white and green.

Elder Dan Qing looked at him and slowly sipped on his tea. "Master Jiang, is there anything you want to say now?"

...

Fengmin Mountain.

This place was as quiet as usual. No matter how many storms had brewed outside, nobody would dare to disturb this area casually.

Inside the empty room in the pagoda, seven doors floated quietly. A faint light reflected on the black stone surfaces in a holy and pure manner.

Suddenly, a soft ripple was heard from one of the doors. This commotion immediately attracted Elder Meng's attention.

"Hm?" The old and weak voice sounded in the room, with a hint of confusion.

The ripple on the door gradually spread as time passed, and even the entire door frame started to tremble slightly. It was as if something was about to rush out from within.

"Could it be that the girl came back?" Elder Meng's voice was filled with shock and doubt. Other than her, nobody else can cause such a commotion. However... Why isn't there any news from outside at all? If that girl really came back, Bo Yan and the rest should've long rushed over and told me about it.

Dong!

The force within started slamming the door, wanting to break free from inside!

"It's indeed as much of a troublemaker as she is," Elder Meng grunted.

A tremendous and invisible force suddenly gathered from all directions and enveloped that door!

Feeling the restriction, the ripple gradually became smaller. Then, after a moment of silence, collisions could be heard behind the door again.

Dong dong!

Dong dong!

The sounds—the knocks—were very regular. In the calmness, it burned with intensity!

[Chapter 1399](#)

Jiang Hetian finally brought Jiang Zhiyuan to leave Ling Xiao Academy.

The father and daughter walked out of the hall and headed to the barrier of the academy without speaking a single word.

Elder Hua Feng wanted to send them off, but he was curtly rejected by Jiang Hetian.

His daughter was humiliating to that extent. He really didn't have the guts to face the elders from Ling Xiao Academy again. Now, the only thing he could do was to bring Jiang Zhiyuan away from this place quickly!

In the middle, some students bumped into this scene and pointed at them from where they were. They had no intention of going over to greet them or bid them farewell.

The weird gazes here and there and the awkward mockery and laughter seemed like a nightmare that loomed over Jiang Zhiyuan and her father's hearts.

The two elders in charge of the barrier didn't purposely make life difficult for them. After they saw that it was them, they briefly acknowledged them and opened the barrier.

Jiang Hetian stepped out first. He couldn't stay in this place for another moment!

Jiang Zhiyuan stood rooted to the ground and was rather hesitant as she was quite reluctant in her heart. She couldn't help but turn around.

The tall and respectable Dong Huang Clock Tower, the spacious and clean Qing Ming Square, and the rising mountains that were filled with Heaven and Earth Force.

At this point, a figure appeared on Dong Huang Clock Tower—Elder Bo Yan. He whipped his long sleeves, and the Qing Yun Ranking appeared above the black Dong Huang Clock Tower as summoned!

There were countless names glowing on it. That was a glow and also an honor.

Quite a few people in the academy looked over.

Jiang Zhiyuan saw her own name, but the next moment, those two words rapidly darkened as if they flew away with the wind.

Her name was removed in public! This was the biggest humiliation!

Jiang Zhiyuan staggered backward and almost fell to the ground. A sense of indignation and vengeance overwhelmed her heart.

Jiang Zhiyuan couldn't help but clench her fists tightly in her sleeves. I have stayed here for so many years, so how could I not miss it at all? It is precisely because I had outstanding performance in the academy that everyone looked up to me and envied me. But today, all of this disappeared into thin air. All the honor, glory, compliments... They've vanished! Originally, I should've gotten the best—

"Zhiyuan." Jiang Hetian couldn't help but urge her. His voice was slightly cold as if he were forcefully suppressing something.

Jiang Zhiyuan recovered her senses and hurriedly turned around. "Coming."

But the moment she took a step out, she was stopped by an elder from the side. "Hold on."

Jiang Zhiyuan looked up in confusion.

The other party stretched his hand out and didn't have much of an expression. He used a professional tone and said, "Since you were expelled from the school, I have to confiscate your pass."

Jiang Zhiyuan felt extremely ridiculed. This feeling of being an abandoned dog that was heartlessly chased out... This is really infuriating!

She had never thought that she would have such a day! But no matter how upset she was, she didn't dare to go against the other party's wishes.

She retrieved her black jade plaque and passed it over.

The other party took the plaque and realized that Jiang Zhiyuan was still tightly clutching it subconsciously. He knitted his brows impatiently. "It's time to let go."

"Huh? Oh! Oh!" Jiang Zhiyuan was very reluctant, but she could only retreat as if she had burned her hand. "T-then, Elders, take care. I-I'll leave with my father first—"

Before she could finish her sentence, the two elders had already whipped their sleeves and closed the barrier.

Jiang Zhiyuan's remaining words were stuck in her throat, and she couldn't say them anymore.

Jiang Hetian's face completely turned cold. Jiang Zhiyuan was ridiculed. How could I not be implicated?! The other party clearly wants to show their mockery to us, as well as the entire Fairy Water Mound. However, Jiang Zhiyuan was the one in the wrong. Ling Xiao Academy is already very kind to not publicize the reason.

"Let's go!" Jiang Hetian turned around to leave, his voice cold and stern.

Jiang Zhiyuan trembled. All these years, Father has never treated me in this manner...

Her heart tightened uncomfortably. She felt like she had suffered all of the hardships and grievances in her life during this period! "Father—"

Jiang Hetian gave her an extremely cold glance. "If you have anything to say, we can talk about it when we go back! Do you think you're not humiliated enough?!"

Jiang Zhiyuan was directly dazed by this thunder-striking sentence. The fire she had suppressed for a long time finally exploded! "I'm not going back!"

"You're not going back?" Jiang Hetian couldn't help but sneer. "Then, where else do you want to go? Do you still dream of returning to Ling Xiao Academy?"

After being expelled from Ling Xiao Academy, her future situation in the God Residence Realm can be easily known! I had invested so much effort and resources into her, but it all turned out for naught today! I don't know how I'm supposed to face the bunch of fellows from Fairy Water Mound after I get back!

Jiang Zhiyuan took a deep breath in. "I want to go to the Sky-Cloud Empire!"

Jiang Hetian was dazed and knitted his brows tightly. "Why do you want to go to the Sky-Cloud Empire?! Avoiding is not a solution. You—"

"I don't want to avoid it." Jiang Zhiyuan brushed her hair, and her tone was strangely determined. "Father, I want to see the clan leader!"

Jiang Hetian finally realized something. "But the clan leader has been in seclusion for so many years. What use is it if you go there now?"

"Then, I'll wait until the clan leader comes out!" Anyway, it is a crucial time now, and it is inappropriate for me to go anywhere. Therefore, it is better if I just wait! Now, the only person who can help me is the clan leader! Besides... The people from the Liang family will only be afraid and hold back if I'm at the Sky-Cloud Empire. Even if they really want to do something to me, they have to pass that stage first! Rong Xiu doesn't want to help me, but it doesn't mean that I can't rely on the Sky-Cloud Empire!

This is indeed the best solution now... Jiang Hetian finally looked a little tempted. "Are you sure you can wait there until the clan leader comes out?"

Jiang Zhiyuan nodded determinedly. "As long as you help me tell the venerables to do you this favor and send me there, everything will be fine! Also... perhaps I can check that Shangguan Yue's background—"

"You're still thinking of checking this?" Jiang Hetian's face was filled with disapproval. The people we previously sent to investigate Shangguan Yue have all disappeared and not returned. What could Jiang Zhiyuan do alone? In the end, she might just alert the other party!

"Take care of yourself first!"

Seeing his reaction, Jiang Zhiyuan was stunned. However, she readily followed his advice. "I understand."

Seeing her aggrieved behavior, Jiang Hetian's heart ached. However, he was angry as well. "Forget it! Let's go to the Sky-Cloud Empire! But if you continue to do this..."

He whipped his sleeves and turned around to leave.

Jiang Zhiyuan suppressed the overwhelming emotions in her heart and rapidly followed him.

...

On the other side, Rong Xiu sent Elder Wan Zheng away. He stood in the middle of the mountain with his hands behind his back.

In Dong Huang Clock Tower, Jiang Zhiyuan's name being removed had caused quite a bit of commotion in the academy. The crowd grouped together and discussed something.

Rong Xiu silently looked up to the top.

Over there was an erased name. Within it, there were ripples secretly bubbling.

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As Ling Xiao Academy continued handling the aftermath, the many aristocratic families in the Flood-Desert Northern Region finally realized something was wrong.

The crowd surrounded the gigantic tomb quietly.

Finally, someone couldn't help but stand up. "Forget it! Whoever wants to continue waiting here, go ahead! I won't play with you any longer!"

This sentence instantly broke the dangerous balance present. Everyone looked over and started to become nervous unwittingly.

Jin Di glanced at him coldly and snorted. "What, you can't take it anymore? Didn't we already agree previously to open this barrier together? If you want to back out now... sure! Up to you!"

One less person meant that there would be one less competitor!

The other party wasn't weak at all.

"Hah! Jin Di, don't be too optimistic! We have so many people, and how long have we been here? We haven't made any progress, right? I think average people can't even enter this hellish place! Staying here is just wasting our efforts!"

Jin Di's expression became ugly. This was because he knew that the other party was telling the truth.

Quite a few people glanced at each other awkwardly.

Actually, such a long time had passed, and they had all already wanted to leave. However, they were too embarrassed to speak up first, afraid that they would lose out. Now that someone finally spoke first, they instantly let their guards down, and their minds became active.

"That makes sense! Even if there are really treasures inside, it'll still be for naught if we can't go in! Besides, Chu Yue had already searched the area once when he went in. Who knows what leftovers there are?"

"That's right! We won't wait anymore! We wasted so much time and effort for nothing!"

"Instead of waiting for an extremely unlikely miracle here, I should just go back and focus on my cultivation!"

More and more people were influenced.

Jin Di then panicked. If they all leave... With the Golden Wings Sect alone, we won't be able to open the barrier! Of course, there doesn't seem to be much of a result even if we all work together.

He glanced at that barrier in hatred.

"Oh right! Such a long time has passed, but why hasn't there been any news from the people in Ling Xiao Academy?"

This sudden sentence caused the crowd to fall silent for a moment. They had indeed been waiting here for so many days, but the people from Ling Xiao Academy hadn't come at all. They did not even know how their situation was now.

And Chu Yue, who was brought away by the men in black...

"They've already gone back." A sharp voice suddenly sounded from the crowd.

The crowd looked over in unison.

The person speaking was the leader of Lingyun Mountain's group.

"How do you know? There are so many unsettled matters in the Flood-Desert Northern Region. They would leave just like that?" asked Jin Di doubtfully. "Did you randomly say it to bluff us?"

That man put away the items in his hand and stood up. The Liang family has already started to investigate Liang Shaokang's death, so Ling Xiao Academy's people have clearly gone back long ago! But luckily, they seemed to have kept their word and didn't expose Lingyun Mountain. However, there are no permanent secrets in the world. We have to go back as soon as possible and prepare adequately!

The crowd behind started to gather.

"It's up to you if you want to believe it or not. This mess... Our Lingyun Mountain will not join in anymore! You can go ahead!" After saying this, that man immediately turned around and left with his people.

"This..." The crowd that was left behind was dazed. They left too suddenly, right?!

Lingyun Mountain's people quickly disappeared from their sight.

With someone taking the lead, it was much easier for the remaining people to leave.

"Ling Xiao Academy's people have left, then... Doesn't it mean that there's a problem here?"

"Why don't we leave too... There's not much meaning in staying in this place!"

...

Then, the various powers really started to leave gradually.

Jin Di wanted to fight for a while longer, but seeing that everyone had left, he felt uneasy as well. Hence, after half a day and several tries, he realized that he really couldn't do anything to that barrier and could only give up.

In the end, he left with his people.

Then, the surroundings of the tomb finally regained their peace.

The winds howled crazily, and snow started to fall again. The nine dragon skeletons didn't move in the gully as if they had been completely destroyed.

Only the silver barrier outside the tomb flickered. It was as if something was about to awaken from its sleep!

...

Jiuheng Peak.

Time slowly trickled past.

Chu Liuyue had already been lying on the bed for three days. She completely didn't know anything that was happening outside.

A barrier blocked all the noisy sounds outside.

During these three days, Rong Xiu was the one who accompanied her.

Every morning, Elder Wan Zheng would come to check on Chu Liuyue's condition once. Seeing that she hadn't woken up after such a long time, Elder Wan Zheng increasingly felt anxious.

But in comparison, Rong Xiu didn't seem to be in such a hurry.

Elder Wan Zheng could only temporarily suppress his emotions and wait patiently.

Luckily, Chu Liuyue's physical condition was recovering at an observable speed. Her aura also seemed to be vaguely strengthening.

Elder Wan Zheng just thought that it was due to the miracle she received after breaking through in the Flood-Desert Northern Region the previous time, so he didn't take it to heart. This kid could already break through to become a stage-nine warrior from a stage-eight warrior in a couple of days. Anything else doesn't seem as shocking anymore. It's a pity that as long as Chu Yue doesn't wake up, the academy can't make progress in the investigation of the incident in the Flood-Desert Northern Region.

But with Rong Xiu around, they couldn't come to disturb. Thus, they could only wait outside day by day.

...

Chu Liuyue felt that she had a long dream. In the dream, she had another name and another identity.

She kept hearing someone calling her. Even though she couldn't make out what it was, she knew that they were calling her.

There also seemed to be a person beside her who kept her company.

She wanted to see the other party's face clearly, but she couldn't. She faintly felt that this person was similar to Rong Xiu, but they didn't feel completely the same.

She was confused and knitted her brows.

Later on, she even dreamed of a very special scene—it was a snowy day.

There was heavy snowfall, and the ground was totally covered in white snow. Only one area had unexpected scenery—there were many peach blossoms quietly blooming in the icy place.

The light-pink petals flowed gently with the cold wind as they exuded a light fragrance. With one sniff, it rejuvenated one's heart.

Under the pure silver and white background, these patches of pink looked extremely pleasing.

Some snowflakes landed on the petals in an iridescent manner.

She turned around and smiled at that person. "See! I told you peach blossoms can flower in winter!"

That man seemed to chuckle softly as he walked toward her.

He was closer and closer.

Kuang!

This sound suddenly shattered her dream!

Chu Liuyue instantly widened her eyes!