

Nobel Ruler 181

Chapter 181: Mastermind

Chu Xianmin fearfully looked at Chu Liuyue. “You were here all along? What did you hear?”

Chu Liuyue stroked her chin. “Um, nothing much, but I saw a good show. He has kindly helped you. Yet, not only did you not appreciate his efforts, but you even slapped him. Pft, isn’t this a little inappropriate?”

She must have seen and heard everything! Chu Xianmin’s gaze changed. I’ve always been very careful and never interacted with Ji Yurong in front of others, but I did not expect to be caught red-handed by Chu Liuyue. Now, I can only flatly deny it.

An idea popped up in her mind, and Chu Xianmin sneered. “There are many people who like me. Do I really need to attend to every single one of them? Besides, I didn’t need him to help me; he just acted on his own accord.”

Then, she harshly glared at Ji Yurong. “For the last time, I’ve already married the Crown Prince. So please stop disturbing me from now on. If not, you’ll suffer the consequences!”

Ji Yurong also knew that if Chu Liuyue spread word about this, Chu Xianmin and he would not have an easy time. Thus, he hurriedly cooperated and said, “Yes, I-I know... I didn’t know my place. I won’t do this ever again.”

Chu Xianmin turned around to leave.

“Hold on.” Chu Liuyue stepped out and blocked Chu Xianmin’s path.

“What else do you want?”

“Don’t you clearly know what else I want?” Chu Liuyue coldly glared at her with a speechless suppression in her gaze. “Hand me the antidote!”

Chu Xianmin’s heart suddenly tightened, but she forcefully said, “I don’t know what you’re talking about!”

“Oh?” Chu Liuyue’s gaze kept flitting between Ji Yurong and Chu Xianmin until both of them felt increasingly guilty.

“So you don’t dare to admit it? Then... Why don’t we look for Elder Sun and reason it out with him? Let them check what’s going on. I heard that the Chu family has been in a mess lately, so I think no one will help you, right? A sin like harming your own schoolmates won’t be let off so easily...”

“I didn’t harm my own schoolmates, and I didn’t poison him! Don’t try to smear my name!” Chu Xianmin’s voice suddenly became a lot sharper.

Chu Liuyue slowly said, “I didn’t say ‘poison.’ How did you know about that?”

Chu Xianmin’s throat seemed to be strangled.

Nervousness was written all over Ji Yurong’s face.

“It’s my first time seeing you after I returned to the academy. I’ve only said two sentences, yet you already mentioned ‘poison.’ Isn’t this the best evidence? Now, do you still dare to say that I’m smearing your name?” Chu Liuyue spoke slowly but every single word formed a sharp knife that cruelly slashed Chu Xianmin’s heart.

The blood in her body seemed to stop flowing, and her head was getting dizzy. It was as if it was going to burst open.

“No! I didn’t say anything!” blurted Chu Xianmin anxiously.

“Do you want to admit it now and take out the antidote? Or do you want me to go to your place personally and show Elder Sun the evidence of your communication so that he can evict you from the academy?”

Chu Xianmin suddenly raised her head and looked at Chu Liuyue in shock. *Why does she know about this?*

After seeing her reaction, Chu Liuyue chuckled.

Ever since Mu Hongyu found out there were some unusual interactions between Ji Yurong and Chu Xianmin, they started to look for evidence in secret.

After she heard that Ji Yurong went out to do some tasks, she followed him in secret. Everything was normal during the day, but he finally showed his true self at night when he went to Chu Xianmin’s place.

He did not even enter the door; he just walked around the wall for a while before leaving.

Taking advantage of the dark night sky, Chu Liuyue managed to find their secret compartment.

Both of them were actually sending messages to each other through a gap in the wall!

Chu Xianmin's heart was in a mess. She suddenly turned around to look at Ji Yurong. "You betrayed me?"

Ji Yurong hurriedly explained, "I-I didn't! I also don't know—"

He really did not know how this happened. Ever since he felt that Chu Liuyue discovered something, he had been extremely meticulous and could not be more careful in the past two days. However, he was still discovered in the end.

He did not know that Chu Liuyue was still excellent in hiding her aura, even though her cultivation wasn't high. Hence, it was as easy as ABC for her to stalk him until she found some evidence.

Chu Liuyue originally planned to find some real evidence before confronting Chu Xianmin, but she did not expect to see such a scene directly.

The timing was just right.

She could only say that Ji Yurong was too overwhelmed with caring about his loved one and lost his senses, causing the matter to be exposed very quickly.

“Antidote,” repeated Chu Liuyue in frustration.

Chu Xianmin clenched her fists tightly and closed her eyes as if resigned to her fate. “I don’t have the antidote! You can kill me however you like.”

“You don’t have it?” Chu Liuyue’s eyes became colder.

Chu Xianmin knew that she had no other escape routes, so her suppressed emotions suddenly exploded. She crazily screamed, “If I say I don’t have it, means I don’t have it. There’s no use asking me a million more times. Since you’ve already found out about this, you can go and expose me however and when you like. But I really don’t have this antidote!”

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. *It seems like she really doesn’t have the antidote...*

“Then, where did you get Red Blood Gu from?”

“Red Blood Gu? What Red Blood Gu?” Chu Xianmin was dazed.

Chu Liuyue stared at her for quite some time. “If you really don’t know about it, why did you poison Liao Zhongshu?”

Chu Xianmin angrily said, “That’s because he’s on the same team as you, so he deserves to die! Everyone around you, including yourself, deserves to die!”

Chu Liuyue flipped her wrist, and a silver light flashed across.

A sharp and cold dagger instantly reached Chu Xianmin's neck.

"Don't kill her!" Ji Yurong was shocked and immediately wanted to rush over.

Chu Liuyue coldly glanced at Ji Yurong, and he felt the sinister murderous intent, causing him to stop in his tracks instinctively.

Chu Xianmin also did not expect Chu Liuyue to act so quickly. Before she could even react, the other party already had the advantage.

Her cold sweat kept trickling down. *Chu Liuyue is so heartless! She really dares to make a move!*

"I'll ask you one last time. Give me the antidote."

Chu Xianmin lost all hope and closed her eyes as her body trembled. "I said that I don't have it!"

"Then, where did you get the poison from?"

"I-It's..." Chu Xianmin seemed to be frightened and refused to open her mouth.

Chu Liuyue used some force, and the blade rapidly cut Chu Xianmin's neck.

Chu Xianmin finally opened her mouth. "Someone else gave it to me! I-I don't know who it is either!"

Chu Liuyue was surprised at this answer. Hence, she continued to ask, "You really don't know?"

"I really don't know! That person is always wearing a mask, so I don't know what he looks like. Even his voice has been purposely changed. He only appeared once and asked if I wanted to take revenge on you. I said y-yes, so he gave me a bag of poison... I don't know anything else!" stuttered Chu Xianmin, and her entire person looked defeated.

"If you don't believe me, I can't do anything about that. You can just kill me!"

Chu Liuyue slowly squinted her eyes. *Who exactly wants to kill me?*

Chapter 182: Threat

Many thoughts flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind. She had offended quite a lot of people, but none of them seemed capable of producing a poison like Red Blood Gu.

Even Tian Lu Academy's teachers did not have much understanding of Red Blood Gu, let alone the other people in the Imperial City.

The Chu family?

The Crown Prince?

Or someone else?

She was in the light, and the enemy was in the dark. The path in front of her seemed to be covered by mist, obscuring this incident's truth and causing her to be unable to see it clearly.

After thinking for a while, Chu Liuyue finally let go of the dagger.

Chu Xianmin then heavily breathed as she angrily glared at Chu Liuyue. "I've said all that I can say. Are you satisfied?"

"Of course not. I want the antidote, but you didn't give it to me. You harmed my friend and me, so do you really think I'll let this matter slide?" Chu Liuyue amusingly stared at her. "Don't you think you're being too naive?"

Chu Xianmin knew Chu Liuyue would not let this matter slide. "What exactly do you want?"

Chu Liuyue's eyebrows rose slightly. "I don't want anything. I just want to tell this entire story to Elder Sun and the rest. After all, having a person that can risk anything just to kill her own schoolmates will cause others to be unable to sleep at night."

"Y-you want to chase me away?"

"You made a mistake first, so how can you blame others?" Chu Liuyue looked at her with a half-smile. "What a pity. I heard that you entered the academy as a top scholar. Who would've thought that you'd be sadly expelled from the academy one day?"

“No!” Chu Liuyue’s words completely agitated Chu Xianmin. When she hurriedly walked forward and wanted to grab Chu Liuyue, Chu Liuyue shied away from her in time.

“You can’t expel me! I won’t leave! I’m not leaving!”

She could not go back to the Chu family now, and the Crown Prince still had not made a comeback. If she were expelled from the academy, her entire life would be ruined.

How could she possibly give up on her only chance of making a comeback?

Chu Liuyue looked nonchalant. “You caused your own demise, so you shouldn’t survive.”

Chu Xianmin was very anxious. After thinking for some time, she finally begged Chu Liuyue. “Take it as I’m begging you! Please, don’t expose this incident. If you can promise me this, I guarantee that I won’t go against you in the future! I’ll do everything that you say! I’m begging you!”

Seeing that Chu Liuyue did not respond, Chu Xianmin clenched her teeth and actually knelt down. “What must I do for you to let me off?”

Ji Yurong felt his heart ache and went forward. “Minmin—”

Chu Xianmin vengefully looked at him, which immediately glued him to the ground. “Do you think that you haven’t caused me enough harm? Get lost!”

Ji Yurong was extremely guilty and knelt down as well.

Chu Liuyue looked down at the two from above, but did not feel any emotions at all. On the other hand, she even thought of Chu Xianmin differently.

Chu Xianmin was very arrogant in the past. Chu Xianmin hated me to the point that she wanted me dead, yet she has knelt down today. She can be considered as knowing how to retreat and advance. This character of hers seems to be much shrewder than before. It seems like the continuous impacts these few days have pushed Chu Xianmin to the corner.

Seeing that Chu Liuyue was nonchalant, Chu Xianmin closed her eyes and heavily banged her head against the floor.

Chu Liuyue glanced at Chu Xianmin's hands, which were tightly stuck to the ground.

If I ever have the chance, I—Chu Xianmin—will definitely repay the humiliation I've experienced today by a hundred-fold.

“You can stay if you want, but you need to promise me something.”

The waiting time was especially long, and Chu Xianmin felt that every second of silence was cutting off a part of her dignity. When she thought Chu Liuyue would not agree to her request, she finally heard a desirable answer.

Chu Xianmin suddenly raised her head, and tears welled up in her eyes.

Chu Liuyue enunciated every single word properly and said, "You just have to pretend that nothing happened today and wait for that person to come again."

Chu Xianmin was stunned; then, she clenched her teeth. "Okay."

Chu Liuyue nodded and turned around to leave. When she took a step, she suddenly turned back. "Oh, I forgot to tell you that my dagger is smeared with poison."

Chu Xianmin was dazed. "What?"

Chu Liuyue kindly advised her, "Don't worry. This poison takes effect slowly. If you do your duty properly, I'll naturally give you the antidote in time. However, if you dare to play any tricks, don't blame me for being heartless."

"This poison will enter your body and decompose your organs first. It will then go to your bones. One month later, your entire body will rot from inside-out. Tch, I think you don't want to die in such an ugly manner, right?"

"You!" Chu Xianmin's blood boiled, but she endured it with much effort. "Okay."

Chu Liuyue glanced at Ji Yurong. "You will move out on your own, and you don't need me to help you, right?"

"No need! I know what to do!" Ji Yurong hurriedly agreed.

Chu Liuyue then slowly left.

When her figure completely disappeared, Chu Xianmin harshly punched the floor. “B*tch!”

“Minmin—” Ji Yurong wanted to help her up, but got a slap in return.

Chu Xianmin stood up by herself, but the rough floor cut her skin because she put force on her palm. Her entire hand was bleeding now.

However, what can this small pain compare to? The humiliation Chu Liuyue gave me today is something I can never forget!

Looking at her reddened eyes that were sinister and petrifying, Ji Yurong was worried and scared. He wanted to say something else, but his face still burned in pain. Hence, he could only keep his mouth shut.

Chu Xianmin touched the injury on her neck, and doubts appeared in her heart. *Is that dagger actually poisonous?*

However, no matter if it was poisonous or not, she Chu Xianmin did not dare to do anything recklessly. Thus, she could only allow Chu Liuyue to order her around.

She turned around and planned to leave, but she suddenly spat out blood and collapsed to the floor after taking a few steps.

“Minmin!” Ji Yurong gasped and hurriedly went forward, but he found that Chu Xianmin had already fainted.

Chapter 183: Scared?

When Chu Liuyue arrived at Jiuyou Tower, only Elder Wei Yun was at the door. He sat on the chair and napped as usual.

But before Chu Liuyue could even speak, he opened his eyes and looked at her. When he realized it was Chu Liuyue, he instantly rubbed his eyes in shock. "Liuyue? Why are you here?"

Chu Liuyue immediately went forward and smiled. "I obviously came here to cultivate."

Elder Wei Yun was even more surprised as he scrutinized her. "Didn't you just come back from Wan Ling Mountain? Don't you need to recuperate? If you cultivate at Jiuyou Tower with injuries, it'll cause you more harm than good!"

"Thank you, Elder Wei Yun, for your concern. However, I'm already much better," said Chu Liuyue as she handed him her nameplate.

Wei Yun hesitantly accepted it. "Is that really true? Those fools that were protected on the way back are still pretty injured. You barged out on your own, but why are you still okay?"

Chu Liuyue coughed. "I think... I'm just luckier, so I didn't suffer from many life-threatening injuries. My body also heals faster."

She naturally could not say that she had indeed been severely injured. However, she had the Dijing Yuan meridian, so she recovered faster than an average person. Besides, she was a heavenly doctor herself.

With the herbs from Zhen Bao Pavilion, she recovered from her injuries in no time.

When he saw Chu Liuyue's energetic appearance and red cheeks, Wei Yun couldn't help but be happy since she really didn't seem injured. "Heh, you really have a way, little girl! Go ahead!"

He then slid Chu Liuyue's nameplate onto the black jade stone before passing it back to her.

Chu Liuyue thanked him and walked towards Jiuyou Tower's entrance.

When she walked to the door, she felt the harsh aura again.

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw that the engraved eagle had not opened its eyes. However, she could still feel the terrifying aura. She took a deep breath and pushed open the door.

Everything went back to normal, and the aura quickly vanished as if it had never even appeared.

Chu Liuyue looked calm as she entered a room on the first floor.

Actually, the eagle only opened its eyes once, almost taking away her life. Such things no longer happened when she came over afterward.

Perhaps it was because the water droplet in her dantian had battled the other party before, causing the other party to be scared. She had never experienced anything weird since then.

However, today...

“Jiuyou Tower’s beast seems a bit frustrated...” muttered Chu Liuyue.

For some reason, she felt like something was about to happen, but the water droplet quietly floated and did not respond.

Chu Liuyue pondered the situation for a while, but did not waste any more effort after that. She gathered her focus and started to cultivate.

Recently, Chu Liuyue vaguely felt the signs of a breakthrough, but the water droplet still had only one line.

Still, there was no use in rushing these things. Hence, Chu Liuyue could only patiently inhale the Heaven and Earth Force to try to advance to the next stage earlier.

She wanted to see how much her abilities had to improve before the water droplet allowed her to break through to the next stage.

...

After Chu Liuyue entered Jiuyou Tower, Elder Wei Yun closed his eyes once again and planned to continue sleeping. However, he felt someone coming not long later, so he opened his eyes.

An unfamiliar face appeared in front of him.

The young man was handsome and calm, and he was wearing a befitting robe with cloud embroidery on the sleeves. This showed that the man had a special status.

Elder Wei Yun thought for a while and vaguely guessed the incoming person's identity.

"You are?"

"I'm Rong Xiu. Greetings, Elder Wei Yun."

As expected.

Elder Wei Yun looked at Rong Xiu for quite a while before abruptly shaking his head and smiling. "I knew it was you. You look really similar to Ru Yue."

Ru Yue was the late Consort Wan, Rong Xiu's biological mother.

Rong Xiu smiled. "I didn't expect Elder Wei Yun to know Mother too."

"Of course, I know her! She had such outstanding talent... Forget it. It's all matters of the past and aren't worth mentioning. I heard that you came to the academy to pay respects to her."

It was probably because Elder Wei Yun admired Consort Wan back then, so he looked at Rong Xiu with a very gentle gaze.

“Yes. I heard that Mother loved to cultivate here back then, so... I wanted to go in and take a look.”

A look of reminiscence filled Wei Yun’s face. “Yeah. Even though she was a Xuan Master, she was also a talented warrior. Hence, she would come here whenever she had time. However... She started to become unwell and no longer came after that.”

“Also, there are rules to entering Jiuyou Tower, you—”

“I heard Elder Sun talk about this before. I’m not one of the academy’s students, so I don’t have the right to enter. However, I just want to see the places Mother went to when she was alive. I’ll leave after looking around for a while. I wonder if Elder Wei Yun can grant me this favor?”

“Forget it. Since you’re Ru Yue’s child, you have the right to enter. However, I heard that you’re not feeling too well. The Heaven and Earth Force in Jiuyou Tower is very rich, so it’s not good for you if you stay inside for too long.”

Rong Xiu slightly bowed. “Thank you, Elder Wei Yun. I’ll go in for a while and won’t stay for long.”

Elder Wei Yun nodded. “Go ahead!”

Rong Xiu thanked Elder Wei Yun again before heading towards Jiuyou Tower.

As he stared at Rong Xiu’s back view, Elder Wei Yun regretfully stroked his beard.

It's a pity... Ru Yue was so outstanding back then. If Rong Xiu were healthy, he would definitely inherit her talent. If that were the case, he would also be a rare genius now. However, all of these are just my thoughts.

Rong Xiu walked to the door and placed his long, white hand on the door.

The door was cold to the touch, even chilling to the bones.

The next moment, something flashed in the eagle's wings as if they were about to spread!

The fire below it also started to burn crazily, and the scorching temperature reached Rong Xiu's palm.

It looked as if the eagle from the copper door was about to become alive!

Rong Xiu was calm, and his eyes slightly darkened as a powerful force was unleashed from his palms.

Hong!

The two forces intensely clashed with each other and silently burst.

The fire was instantly extinguished, and the glow on the eagle's wings darkened.

Everything returned to normal in the blink of an eye.

Rong Xiu looked towards the side. This momentary clash did not attract Elder Wei Yun's attention.

He pushed open the door and entered.

There were very few people in Jiuyou Tower at this moment. After he entered, he walked one round and went to the centermost position.

He looked up and saw several sets of spiraling stairs that connected to the higher floors in Jiuyou Tower.

Rong Xiu looked at the highest floor. His eyes were as dark as the night sky, which made people feel fear and suppression.

His surroundings were silent, and everything was normal.

Rong Xiu stepped on the stairs.

A sharp whistle suddenly sounded by his ears. It was a crazily harsh shrill!

Rong Xiu dangerously squinted his eyes.

“Are you scared?”

Then, Rong Xiu continued to walk up.

At the same time, Chu Liuyue—who was cultivating—suddenly opened her eyes, completely shocked.
“Was that the beast yelling?”

Chapter 184: Punishment

She immediately stood up and walked to the door.

However, when she walked outside, she realized that the large space was empty.

Only the stairs in the middle had a familiar white figure.

“Rong Xiu?” Chu Liuyue was stunned. *He isn't a student of the academy, so how did he get in? It looks like he's going higher!*

Rong Xiu heard the footsteps and turned around. The cold suppression in his eyes immediately disappeared, and it was replaced by shock. “Why are you here?”

Chu Liuyue laughed. “Your Highness, I should be the one asking you that, right? Only people from Tian Lu Academy can enter Jiuyou Tower. How did you come in?”

Rong Xiu's eyes sparkled. "I came to see what my mother's favorite place looked like, but I'm just casually looking around. You can just return to your cultivation."

Other people might believe this, but Chu Liuyue would not. Even though she had no concrete evidence, she felt that Rong Xiu's motive in coming to Tian Lu Academy was not pure.

She surveyed her surroundings and noticed that nobody else came out of their rooms, other than her. She tried to ask, "Your Highness, did you hear a sound just now?"

Rong Xiu's eyes seemed to be confused. "What sound?"

A frown appeared on Chu Liuyue's forehead. *Perhaps Rong Xiu really didn't hear it? The others didn't come out as well, so it didn't seem weird. However, I can confirm that it was definitely not a hallucination. I heard the shrill shriek very clearly!*

"Hm?" Rong Xiu lifted his chin. "Do you want to follow me up and take a look?"

Chu Liuyue smiled. "Your Highness, you might not know this, but it's not so easy to ascend Jiuyou Tower. I'm just a stage-one warrior, so I can only temporarily stay on the first floor. I can only go up to the second floor when I become a stage-two warrior."

Even though it wouldn't be a problem for her to go up to the third floor with her true abilities, she did not plan to do so for now.

She purposely scrutinized Rong Xiu and teased him, “Your Highness, your body is weak, so you should take care of yourself.”

Rong Xiu’s lips curved up slightly. *She’s still purposely targeting me because of yesterday’s incident.*

“Then, I won’t disturb you any further. I’ll leave by myself in a while.” Then, he continued to head upwards.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes. Actually, she had a vague guess in her heart that perhaps the previous beast shriek was related to Rong Xiu!

However, she did not hear any more sounds after listening intently for a while. It seemed like everything that happened earlier was just an illusion.

At this point, Rong Xiu had already gone up to the second floor and disappeared from Chu Liuyue’s vision.

Chu Liuyue stood rooted to the ground for a while before turning to enter her room.

Rong Xiu’s abilities are very strong and undetectable, and they are more than enough for him to go up to the second floor. However, I wonder which floor he will stop at. Also, why exactly did he come here?

After closing the door, Chu Liuyue sat down cross-legged, closed her eyes, and started to cultivate again.

...

Rong Xiu went upstairs step by step.

He walked up to the second floor, paused, and surveyed the surroundings.

There were clearly fewer rooms here than the first floor, but every room was relatively bigger.

The weakest people that could come here were stage-two warriors. As many students were still recuperating, the first floor did not have many people. The second floor was even worse.

Rong Xiu continued to go up.

The suppression strength at different levels was different. Hence, an average student would slow down when they came here. Even a stage-three warrior had to try a few times before they could successfully proceed to the third level.

However, Rong Xiu's steps were as calm as usual. He didn't hesitate the slightest bit as he directly stepped on the stairs to the third floor.

But he did not stop!

Da.

Da.

Da.

Thin and clear footsteps reverberated throughout Jiuyou Tower.

Very quickly, Rong Xiu could feel that the higher staircases had transparent barriers blocking them.

This was the barrier for the fourth floor!

Other than the elders and teachers in Tian Lu Academy, barely any students were stage-four warriors. Hence, very few people came to this floor.

Even with the barrier in the way, Rong Xiu could still clearly feel the rich Heaven and Earth Force above the fourth level.

The density of Heaven and Earth Force here was a few times higher than outside. If one could cultivate here, their speed would be greatly increased. Similarly, the suppression and danger within would also increase by a few folds.

He looked up slightly, and his dark and quiet gaze landed on the barrier.

Buzz!

With just one look, ripples quickly appeared on the barrier, and it broke from the middle.

Rong Xiu continued walking up.

He waved his hands when he walked past the barrier, and the barrier quickly repaired itself, going back to normal. It was as if nobody had been here.

...

Elder Wei Yun lazily lay on the chair, one of his hands holding his head up as he dozed off. At one moment, he suddenly opened his eyes, and his originally lazy gaze suddenly became sharp as he looked towards Jiuyou Tower.

He clearly felt some unusual movements in Jiuyou Tower earlier!

When he wanted to sense the movement again, he realized that the unusual ripple had disappeared.

Elder Wei Yun tightly knitted his brows and walked two steps closer to the tower. However, no more noises came from Jiuyou Tower.

Elder Wei Yun stood rooted to the ground as he stared at Jiuyou Tower with a complicated gaze. He did not feel relaxed at all. In fact, he felt even more worried.

Actually, this was not the first time such things had happened at Jiuyou Tower. Recently, unusual movements occurred in Jiuyou Tower, but they always stopped very quickly.

He had tried to check on it a few times, but it was to no avail.

Perhaps I should talk to the director about this soon...

...

Rong Xiu made it all the way to the sixth floor without attracting anyone's attention. Other than him, there was nobody else on this floor. Even the teachers in the academy might not be able to endure the dense force here. However, Rong Xiu looked normal; he did not look uncomfortable at all.

He repaired the sixth floor barrier once again and finally stopped.

He looked up.

In actual fact, the upper three floors all had barriers, so he could not see anything from his spot. However, it looked as if he could see past the barriers and notice the innermost happenings.

"Do you want to continue?" A deep and cold voice echoed throughout the empty sixth floor, together with a suppression that only the strong would have.

Nobody answered him.

"It's been so many years, and your temper has only become worse."

Rong Xiu's gaze lightened.

Woosi!

A strange sound, with a tinge of craziness and unconcealable fear, was heard. Naturally, it feared Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu cupped his hands, and silver force immediately gathered, finally condensing into a long whip.

Rong Xiu expressionlessly raised his hand and harshly lashed it out.

Pak!

The long whip strongly hit the seventh floor barrier.

A miserable shriek was heard once again!

"This whip is because you didn't stay in your place.

Pak!

The second whip quickly followed.

“This whip is because you were greedy and tried to steal someone’s body!”

Rong Xiu’s eyes were cold and sharp as he slowly said, “If you don’t listen to me, the third whip will destroy your pearl of essence. Do you understand me?”

Chapter 185: Stand Up

When Rong Xiu came out of Jiuyou Tower, Elder Wei Yun was kind of shocked. “You came out so quickly? Did you see everything clearly?”

Rong Xiu smiled lightly and nodded. “I only wanted to know what Mother’s favorite place—Jiuyou Tower—looked like, so I went in for a while. Besides, I’m already very grateful that you let me in even though I’m not one of the academy’s students.”

Elder Wei Yun thought to himself: *Rong Xiu’s body is very frail, and I think he can only forcefully look around the first floor. He probably can’t go to the higher floors, so it’s normal that he took such a short time to look around.*

However, Elder Wei Yun could not say this aloud. “It was no trouble at all; there’s no need to say thank you. I hear that you’ll be staying in the academy for some time. If you want to come again, just go ahead!”

Ru Yue had helped the academy quite a bit back then, so they naturally looked after her only descendent—Rong Xiu.

“Thank you, Elder Wei Yun.” Rong Xiu thanked him again and coughed.

Upon seeing Rong Xiu's pale face, Elder Wei Yun thought that his body was indeed unwell. Hence, Elder Wei Yun hurriedly made him return home.

Rong Xiu readily followed his advice.

Elder Wei Yun looked at Jiuyou Tower again. For some reason, the faint uneasiness from earlier on seemed to have dissipated.

...

Just when Rong Xiu returned to Yi Feng Courtyard, Yan Qing came up to him and anxiously asked, "Master, did you go to Jiuyou Tower?"

Yan Qing left the academy in the afternoon, but once he came back, he heard that his master had actually gone there. "Didn't you previously say that we'll do nothing for now?"

Rong Xiu walked under the peach tree and lazily sat on the rattan chair. He said lightly, "I obviously must teach those disobedient ones a lesson."

Yan Qing's heart dropped, and he then realized that his master seemed a little angry.

This anger seems to be targeted at Jiuyou Tower?

“You can just ask Chuan Qiong to do such things; you don’t have to go there yourself.” Yan Qing really did not understand his master.

Master has already attracted so much attention by coming to Tian Lu Academy, and he has even gone to Jiuyou Tower in public. If news of this spread, those people might do something about it.

Rong Xiu closed his eyes, and the sunlight shone on his lashes, leaving a faint shadow on his face.

Yan Qing curiously knitted his brows. *Didn’t Master rest at Ms. Liuyue’s place yesterday? Why does he look like he didn’t sleep well? Doesn’t he always sleep better when Ms. Liuyue is with him?*

But when he saw that Rong Xiu did not say a word, Yan Qing knew that his master was planning to rest. Thus, Yan Qing bowed and said, “I’ll take my leave first.”

He retreated a few steps before turning around and walking into the house. When near the door, a thought popped up in Yan Qing’s mind. *Wait a minute! When did Chuan Qiong tell us that Jiuyou Tower had the biggest unusual movement?*

I think that day was coincidentally the first day Ms. Liuyue stepped into Jiuyou Tower? Chuan Qiong even suspects that the unusual movements are connected to Chu Liuyue...

Yan Qing could not help but turn around to take a look, and his eyelids twitched. *After such a long day... Master just personally went over to stand up for Ms. Liuyue?*

...

Chu Liuyue absorbed the last bit of Heaven and Earth Force into her body and combined it with the water droplet in her dantian before slowly opening her eyes.

It seems like this body is much stronger after recovering from the training at Wan Ling Mountain. I can vaguely feel that I'm going to break through and become a stage-two warrior. When that happens, I can go up to the second floor and hasten my cultivation.

As Chu Liuyue thought of this, she looked at the hourglass on the wall. She then realized that her cultivation time had just ended, so she stood up to leave.

When she walked to the stairs, she could not help but stop and look up. She could not see what was on the highest floor of the spiral staircase.

Also, Rong Xiu did not seem to be around anymore.

Jiuyou Tower was very quiet as if the previous shrill shriek had not happened at all.

...

Chu Liuyue arrived at Mu Hongyu's place and saw her flipping a booklet in her hand in boredom.

Mu Hongyu seemed to be worried about something as she had furrowed both her thin eyebrows. It looked as if she wanted to use her eyes to see through that booklet.

“Hongyu.”

Hearing Chu Liuyue’s voice, Mu Hongyu recovered her senses and looked at Chu Liuyue. She weakly held her chin. “Liuyue, you’re here.”

“Why do you look so bored?” Chu Liuyue sat down beside Mu Hongyu, and Chu Liuyue’s gaze swept past the booklet.

“It’s because my body hasn’t recovered, so I can’t cultivate!” Mu Hongyu looked up at the sky and sighed. “I haven’t been so severely injured since I was born! Who knows how long I’ll take to recover? I’m getting sick of being bored.”

Chu Liuyue minded herself and poured herself a cup of tea as she highly doubted Mu Hongyu’s words. “You weren’t this bored a few days ago. Why are you bored now?”

Mu Hongyu grunted. “Ji Yurong went to the teacher and requested for a room change. He then brought his belongings to somewhere else at noon. Don’t tell me you don’t know about this.”

Chu Liuyue’s hand, holding the teacup, paused. “Mm, I coincidentally met the two of them today and directly solved the issue.”

“That’s why I’m bored!” Mu Hongyu leaned back and looked up before she used the booklet to cover her face. “My body requires quite a few more days to recover before I can move around as I wish. Just thinking about it bores me!”

She suddenly thought of something and sat up straight. She stared at Chu Liuyue with a scrutinizing gaze. "Wait, you're injured too! I also remember that your injuries are even more severe than mine. Why do you look like you're fine? I heard that you even went to Jiuyou Tower to cultivate today."

Chu Liuyue nodded.

"I'll really go mad from comparing people!"

Even if Chu Liuyue's talent is better than mine, this is too much!

Chu Liuyue simply smiled.

A person with a Dijing Yuan meridian indeed had much faster recovery speed.

"Don't worry. I won't go there tomorrow."

"Why?"

"I've finished my 38 hours." Chu Liuyue pointed at her nameplate.

Mu Hongyu was first shocked before showing a look of contempt. "Who told you to go there every day? It's already very good that you lasted all the way until now, okay?"

“Thus, I came here to ask you about how one earns the cultivation time.”

Mu Hongyu threw the booklet in her hands to Chu Liuyue. “Here. All the ways to earn cultivation time is here. Take a look at it.”

Chu Liuyue had noticed this booklet earlier on, but she did not expect it to be related to Jiuyou Tower. She flipped open the first page and saw the top line: “A third-grade fiend’s pearl of essence can be exchanged for two hours.”

“This was given out when the school term started, and everyone has one. You came in in the middle of the term, so it’s natural that you don’t have it. All sorts of tasks are written on it, and the harder the task, the better the rewards.”

Chu Liuyue flipped to the back.

“A fifth-grade fiend’s pearl of essence can be exchanged for 200 hours.”

The difference was pretty big. However, this was understandable as it was a lot harder to obtain a fifth-grade fiend’s pearl of essence compared to a third-grade one.

Chu Liuyue looked at the booklet, and Mu Hongyu suddenly leaned in. She excitedly lowered her voice and asked, “Oh yeah, I heard that Prince Li went to Jiuyou Tower today too?”

Chu Liuyue looked at her. “How did you know that?”

"I'm not the only one who knows! The entire academy knows, alright? Did you know that Prince Li has already become the most famous existence in the academy now? Of course... that's only for women!"

Chapter 186: Exchange

"Oh? Why?" Chu Liuyue was surprised.

"It's obviously because of his face!" screamed Mu Hongyu. "Do you really think that Prince Li looks average?"

There's nothing wrong with Chu Liuyue's eyes, right...?

"..." Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched, and she was at a loss for words at that moment.

Mu Hongyu was not wrong. Rong Xiu's demonic appearance could truly trick a lot of people.

"In the past, the most famous person in the academy was the Crown Prince. Objectively speaking, the Crown Prince is pretty handsome. But when compared to Rong Xiu... Pft, it's tragic!"

The difference in their charm was as wide as the distance between heaven and earth.

"I heard that Prince Li's mother was greatly loved by the Emperor back then and that the present most doted on consort can't even be her match. It's not hard to imagine why from Prince Li's appearance. When he showed up yesterday, countless women fell head over heels for him!"

Chu Liuyue suddenly remembered that Rong Xiu was just quietly lying down to rest in Yi Feng Courtyard the previous day. Yet, he had already attracted many women's admiration.

Her heart felt stuffy for some reason, but her face did not show it. She quietly flipped the booklet in her hands and seemingly asked casually, "Prince Li is pretty handsome, but he's always sick, and his body is very frail. Don't they mind that?"

"Why would they? Did you forget that he's the Seventh Prince—Prince Li? Just this title alone will cause many women to pounce at him, let alone with him being this good looking. I think there's a whole bunch of girls who are willing to take care of him."

Chu Liuyue paused in her actions. "... That's true."

"I heard that Prince Li is going to be staying at the academy for now, and many people have set their eyes on him. However, it's lucky that his lodging is kind of special, so an average student doesn't dare to go near him. I remember that you live quite near him, right?"

Chu Liuyue looked up at her. "What do you want to say?"

Mu Hongyu chuckled. "Nothing much, but I just think that Prince Li treats you differently!"

She lowered her voice, and her nosy desire burned. "Prince Li hasn't really appeared in public much after he returned to the Imperial City., The only time he did was at the Crown Prince's banquet, and he even helped you out then. Isn't that weird? Anyway, I just feel that he treats you differently..."

Something flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes as she picked up the booklet and hit Mu Hongyu's head. "So when you said you were bored, you spent your time thinking about this?"

“Aiyo!” Mu Hongyu touched her forehead. “I was just kidding!”

“I think your injuries are still pretty serious. Is your cultivation time going to run out soon?”

When Chu Liuyue mentioned this, Mu Hongyu pouted. “Yeah! I went to Jiuyou Tower to cultivate many times because of Wan Ling Mountain, but it’s a pity that I haven’t become a stage-four warrior until now.”

Chu Liuyue thought for a while. “Do you really want to break through?”

“You have a way?”

“Actually, you should be on the verge of breaking through. If you cultivate for a while longer after your body recovers, you can smoothly become a stage-four warrior.”

Mu Hongyu held up her chin with both hands and curiously asked, “I heard that some pills can help one in breaking through? Liuyue, since you can help Zhongshu with his poison, can you help me—”

“No matter what, using pills still means you’re depending on an external force. Even though you can rapidly break through, it’ll pose a huge disadvantage to your future cultivation. If you consume such a pill now, it will most likely halve your future progress.”

“Oh, I see.” Mu Hongyu was shocked and hurriedly rejected, “I don’t want it then! I’ll just diligently cultivate.”

“Just rest well for the next few days, and I’ll lend you some of my cultivation time later. When you become a stage-four warrior, you can just return the hours to me by completing the tasks listed in the booklet.”

Chu Liuyue then returned the booklet to Mu Hongyu and wanted to stand up to leave.

“Aish... Liuyue, how do you plan to earn cultivation time? The tasks are pretty troublesome!”

The corner of Chu Liuyue’s eyes gained smiling intent. “I have my own ways.”

...

“What? Are you sure you want to use this fifth-grade Xuan formation drawing to trade for your cultivation time?” asked Elder Wei Yun in shock when he looked at the Xuan formation drawing in his hands.

Chu Liuyue left and returned just because of this?

“That’s right.” Chu Liuyue looked at him strangely. “Why? Can’t I exchange it?”

“You can, but... this fifth-grade Xuan formation drawing is very valuable. Are you sure you want to use it?”

Elder Wei Yun still could not believe it. *An average person wouldn't even see a fifth-grade Xuan formation drawing; they would also definitely treasure it to death once they have such an item, but what's with Chu Liuyue? How can she directly use it to exchange for Jiuyou Tower cultivation time?*

This is too wasteful!

“Liuyue, I think you should consider this carefully. You don't have to cultivate at Jiuyou Tower since you can cultivate somewhere else. It might be slower, but it's stable. Why are you so anxious?”

Elder Wei Yun had already tried very hard to say his words curtly. Actually, he really disapproved of Chu Liuyue's actions. *Does she not understand what 'more haste less speed' means?*

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly.

Of course, I know that I can absorb Heaven and Earth Force to cultivate at any place, but the Dijing Yuan meridian can withstand the force much better than an average Yuan meridian. Not only will I not feel any adverse effects in Jiuyou Tower, but I can even increase my cultivation speed. Why will I not do it?

Besides, I'm truly in a rush for time.

“Elder Wei Yun, I know what I'm doing. Could you help me exchange it?”

Seeing Chu Liuyue's determined look, Elder Wei Yun knew that there was no point in advising her, so he could only agree. He accepted the fifth-grade Xuan formation drawing, placed Chu Liuyue's nameplate on the black stone, and lightly drew on it.

Chu Liuyue clearly saw that the number above changed from '0' to '200'.

"Thank you, Elder Wei Yun!" Chu Liuyue happily placed the nameplate back on her chest.

With these 200 hours, she temporarily did not need to worry about earning more cultivation time.

Elder Wei Yun secretly shook his head. *This child's mindset and thinking aren't far-sighted enough. I need to properly advise her another day...*

Chu Liuyue glanced at him and knew what he was thinking, but she had no plans of explaining herself. If she told him now that she would come again and continue to use Xuan formation drawings to exchange for cultivation time, Elder Wei Yun might even want to beat her up.

Chapter 187: Promiscuous

"What? You used a fifth-grade Xuan formation drawing to exchange for 200 hours?" Mu Hongyu was so shocked that she jumped up when she heard Chu Liuyue's explanation. "Are you crazy?"

Chu Liuyue calmly handed her nameplate over. "I'll lend you 40 hours first. You can return them another day."

Mu Hongyu hopelessly covered her face. "Elder Wei Yun didn't scold you? Do you know how precious a fifth-grade Xuan formation drawing is? Forget it if you're a warrior because you don't need it, but you're a Xuan Master!"

“That Xuan formation drawing doesn’t even belong to me in the first place. I won it from Gu Mingzhu the other time. Isn’t it great that I used it to exchange for 200 hours?”

“But even Gu Mingzhu never did such a thing!” When she saw Chu Liuyue’s nonchalance, Mu Hongyu was so angry that she did not know what to say. *Even when Gu Mingzhu was loved and doted on in the Gu family, she could not bear to do this. However, why does Chu Liuyue not care about it at all?*

“Then, what are you going to do if you want to become a fifth-grade Xuan Master, but you don’t have a Xuan formation drawing to study?”

“Oh, I still have another drawing with me.”

Wan Ling Mountain’s fiends were all killed, so it was not possible to use a fiend’s pearl of essence to exchange for hours. As for medicine refining... she didn’t really want to expose her abilities.

After much thinking, exchanging the Xuan formation drawing was the best way.

Mu Hongyu could tell that Chu Liuyue was very stubborn and could not be convinced. Hence, Mu Hongyu took the nameplate with much pain, and her hands were slightly trembling. *What kind of boss did I follow? Do two Xuan formation drawings mean nothing to her?*

“Liuyue, tell me honestly. You’re thinking of exchanging the remaining drawing, right?”

Chu Liuyue laughed. “You guessed that too?”

“...”

“A third-grade Xuan formation drawing can only exchange for two hours, and a fourth-grade one for 20 hours. Thinking about it, only a fifth-grade Xuan formation drawing is the least troublesome one to exchange.”

“...”

“These hours should last for a while. After I’ve finished with the cultivation time, I’ll look for more Xuan formation drawings.”

“... Liuyue, Xuan formation drawings aren’t radishes. Where are you going to find them?”

“Oh, I’ll just draw one myself if I can’t find them.”

“...” Mu Hongyu cupped her fists in admiration. “You’re really heartless.”

Mu Hongyu heard that creating a Xuan formation drawing required a lot of time and effort, but Chu Liuyue looked so calm as if it did not matter at all. Thus, Mu Hongyu could only keep quiet. *A genius’s thinking is indeed different from an average person’s.*

Chu Liuyue looked at Mu Hongyu and could not help but laugh in her heart. *This might be difficult for others, but it’s very simple to me. Even though I’m only a stage-two Xuan Master, my brain contains memories of more than a million different Xuan Master drawings. I can just randomly pick one out to draw.*

“Okay, let’s not think so much. The Qing Jiao Competition is coming soon, so you should prepare for it.”

Then, Chu Liuyue decisively transferred 40 hours to Mu Hongyu before taking back her nameplate and leaving.

...

When Chu Liuyue returned to her place, she discovered that the usually quiet Shuang Qing Lake was much more crowded.

Suddenly, there seemed to be many people by the river and on the bridge. They were all especially beautiful women.

Their eyes looked in a certain direction from time to time.

Chu Liuyue followed their gaze in understanding.

As expected, they are looking at Yi Feng Courtyard.

Rong Xiu wasn’t resting in the yard today. However, this did not stop the enthusiastic women. All of them continued to look in the same direction with admiring and hopeful looks.

Chu Liuyue’s lips twitched as she headed straight for her lodging. When she made it past the fragrant crowd, she finally heaved a sigh of relief, and a thought flashed across her mind: *Attracting all the bees and flowers! It seems like Rong Xiu purposely lay at Yi Feng Courtyard to rest that day.*

Originally, Chu Liuyue thought that not many people would like Rong Xiu since he always claimed that he was ill and did not have much power in his hands, even though he was very handsome. However, it seemed like she had predicted it wrongly.

Chu Liuyue went up to the second floor, prepared her inkstone, and started writing the formula for the antidote to Red Blood Gu.

She had once seen such a poison in her previous life, but it was when she was very young. Back then, she had been helping her mentor out and wasn't a heavenly doctor yet. She did not see the formula in detail back then, so she could only remember half of it after such a long time had passed.

She needed to think of how to finish the formula.

The brush was placed in rich ink, and the faint ink fragrance permeated the room.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and instantly felt much calmer when she smelled this. She especially liked the inkstone and the brush.

Suddenly, she remembered that she had not been to Zhen Bao Pavilion in a long time. *I wonder if their Master has returned to the Imperial City yet? If he has the time, I would really like to meet him.*

...

Time trickled past.

When Chu Liuyue was done with the formula, it was nearly evening.

She walked to the window and looked at the sky.

The setting sun's remaining brightness painted the sky with a mesmerizing warm color.

As if unintentionally, Chu Liuyue turned around and looked at the far away yard.

There was still nobody in Yi Feng Courtyard. However, it seemed much quieter outside.

Chu Liuyue was curious and went to the other side to take a look. The originally crowded Shuang Qing Lake was currently empty.

Hm? All of them left?

Just when Chu Liuyue was thinking about this, she saw Yan Qing walk past the bridge. She folded her formula, put it in her arms, and walked down.

Upon seeing Chu Liuyue walking toward him, Yan Qing's heart skipped a beat, and he hurriedly said, "Greetings, Ms. Liuyue."

With a smile on her face, Chu Liuyue asked, "Yan Qing, did you just come back?"

“Yes.”

“Prince Li is living in the academy, but you’re the only one serving him?”

“Yes. His Highness wishes to rest and doesn’t want to cause much trouble, so he only brought me along.”

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding. “Quiet? I think His Highness’s wish is a little hard. I live nearby, and even I find it noisy.”

Yan Qing was dazed. “Ms. Liuyue, do you mean... Don’t worry; such a scene will not happen again!”

Chu Liuyue raised her brows.

“I’ve already told them that the Prince needs to rest and that I hoped they wouldn’t bother him. Hence, they immediately left. I’ve already made a trip there and just came back.” Yan Qing hurriedly explained as he felt that Chu Liuyue’s words were too chilly.

“Oh...”

Chu Liuyue’s smiling eyes made Yan Qing feel guilty.

“It seems like they’re really genuine towards the Prince.”

Yan Qing just said that the Prince needed to rest, and all of them obediently went back since they were afraid of disturbing him.

“Prince Li really has many women bending their backs to help him.”

Chapter 188: They have an Excellent Relationship

Yan Qing felt that there was something wrong with Chu Liuyue’s statement. *Why does Ms. Liuyue seem to be... angry?*

However, Chu Liuyue had already left before he could say anything else.

“Ms. Liuyue, you—” Yan Qing thought for a while and hurriedly returned to Yi Feng Courtyard. When he walked in, he saw his master reading a book.

“Master, Ms. Liuyue went out just now and asked me about some things.”

Rong Xiu said, “Mm” and flipped to the next page.

Upon seeing his master’s behavior, Yan Qing could not help but mutter to himself: *Master must know what we’ve talked about, but why does he have no reaction? Did the two of them quarrel?*

“Master, I’ve already explained to Ms. Liuyue that you said a sentence to make all those women leave.”

Master has already done so much to keep himself innocent, but why does Ms. Liuyue still seem unhappy?

Rong Xiu finally looked up from the book and glanced at Yan Qing. "Yan Qing."

"I'm here."

"You haven't had a wife yet, right?"

"I've been following Master since I was young, so you know that I don't have a wife."

Rong Xiu rubbed his brows. *Yan Qing is good at everything, but he's dumb in terms of relationships. However, this is good since he is the most suited to do the task.*

Seeing his Master's expression, Yan Qing felt that he did something wrong and immediately bowed to show his remorse. "Your Highness, it's all my fault! When Ms. Liuyue comes back, I'll apologize to her personally."

Rong Xiu finally could not help but smile. "It's okay. I want her to get angry."

"Ah?" Yan Qing looked up in shock and lost his composure for once. *Doesn't Master like Ms. Liuyue a lot? This... Logically speaking, he should want to make her happy more than ever, so why did he purposely anger her?*

"Master, this... If Ms. Liuyue is really angry..." *Aren't you the one whose heart will ache?*

Rong Xiu flipped to the next page and smiled with even deeper meaning. "It'll be great if she really gets angry."

...

Chu Liuyue naturally did not know that Rong Xiu had already set up a trap for her to jump inside. Even though Yan Qing's words made her uncomfortable, she quickly forgot about them. This was because she had even more important tasks to do.

When she arrived at Zhen Bao Pavilion, it was already late, and Zhen Bao Pavilion was closing.

But the pageboy's eyes immediately lit up when he saw Chu Liuyue, and he enthusiastically welcomed her. "Ms. Liuyue, you're here! Quickly, come in!"

Ever since Yan Ge sent many valuable gifts to Chu Liuyue, everyone in Zhen Bao Pavilion knew that this person was very important.

Furthermore, when Chu Liuyue brought a few Zhen Bao Pavilion staff to the Chu family to chase her debts, she had given them many rewards when they returned. Thus, the entire Zhen Bao Pavilion thought of her as a very important guest.

While walking in, Chu Liuyue asked, "Where's Second Master Yan? Is he not in today?"

"I'm here!" When Yan Ge heard her voice, he immediately walked out of the neighboring room. He was elated and emotional when he saw Chu Liuyue. "Ms. Liuyue, what made you come over? I heard that you've just returned from Wan Ling Mountain. Are you feeling better?"

Chu Liuyue smiled. "I'm fine. Thank you for your concern, Second Master Yan."

"You're welcome! I wanted to visit you when I had the chance, but you returned to the academy after you came back. Hence, it's not nice if I disturbed you, right?"

Yan Ge felt that Chu Liuyue wouldn't be in much trouble since that person had already taken action on his own.

"I appreciate your kindness. I have another matter I would like to trouble you with," said Chu Liuyue as she passed him a piece of paper. "I wonder if Zhen Bao Pavilion has the herbs listed on the paper?"

Only a portion of the formula's herbs was written on the paper.

Yan Ge took the paper, and he immediately looked serious when he saw the words on it. After a long while, he finally heaved a sigh of relief. "Ms. Liuyue, you don't come here normally, but you give us such a difficult task once you do. None of these things are easy to find!"

"That's why I came here."

Perhaps the Heavenly Pharmacy would have these things, but Zuo Rong and the rest would definitely find something amiss if she went there.

Chu Liuyue purposely went there the previous time to lure out the culprit, but it was different this time. She did not want others to know that she knew how to make the antidote for Red Blood Gu.

Something that none of the heavenly doctor teachers in the academy could solve was solved by her. Wasn't this creating trouble for herself?

Yan Ge thought for a while and immediately understood what Chu Liuyue meant.

He found it weird that she did not come the previous time, but it seemed like she had her own plans.

"Okay! I'll check if we have the items in the storeroom, and I'll prepare them for you! However, we temporarily don't have two of these herbs, so you have to wait for a while."

Chu Liuyue looked calm, but she was shocked in her heart. *All of the herbs on the paper are valuable and rare, so I thought it'd be pretty good if I could find three or four of them here. I didn't expect them to lack two herbs only. Besides, he told me to wait? This means that they have a method of getting all the herbs on the list!*

She knew that Zhen Bao Pavilion had a formidable background and was not just an ordinary store, but it seemed like they were much stronger than what she imagined.

"Thank you, Second Master Yan." Chu Liuyue thanked him before she seemingly asked casually, "Oh yeah, I wonder if your Master has returned to the Imperial City yet?"

Yan Ge paused and smiled. "Hahaha, I'm afraid that I have to disappoint you again... Master is busy accompanying Madam recently, so he doesn't have much time."

“Accompanying Madam?” Chu Liuyue was a little surprised, but she felt that it was normal for such an important character with such great means to have a wife. “I didn’t expect your Master to be so considerate to his wife. They should have a good relationship, right?”

Yan Ge coughed. *He’s not only considerate. He has even given his entire person. However, this relationship... I wonder how she’ll react if I say that Master hasn’t won Madam over yet?*

“Haha, of course! Our Madam is the most outstanding woman in the world, and our Master treats her like a treasure!” Yan Ge laughed and avoided Chu Liuyue’s gaze.

Saying this in front of her is really... Master keeps hiding this from her. Is he really not afraid that she will get angry? Forget it. I can’t care about that! Anyway, it’s better if I compliment her more now. Hence, it’ll be a plus point, even if she gets angry in the future!

“If you meet her in the future, you’ll know that I’m not lying. Haha!”

Chapter 189: Angry

Chu Liuyue became increasingly curious about this Master and Madam. Actually, she had heard rumors about how Zhen Bao Pavilion’s Master specifically cancelled an auction that they had prepared. He had offended all the distinguished people in the Imperial City just to pick presents for his wife.

Even Chu Liuyue was surprised at such actions. One had to know that money was not the most important thing to these distinguished people. They valued reputation the most.

In the end, not much trouble was caused. Firstly, Zhen Bao Pavilion had extraordinary status, so those people did not dare to offend them. Secondly, Zhen Bao Pavilion gave sufficient compensation, which was akin to letting them come down easily.

This incident peacefully passed because of this.

Zhen Bao Pavilion's Master truly was very wealthy and even more genuine to his wife.

"Okay, I hope I'll have such a chance in the future." Then, Chu Liuyue discussed the herbs with Yan Ge again, and she reminded him of some details.

The pageboy quickly brought the herbs over.

Chu Liuyue felt a little troubled upon seeing the big and small boxes. If she openly brought all of these items back to the academy, she would definitely attract many people's attention.

If Mr. Zuo Rong found out about it, he would definitely come over and investigate. At that point, it would be very hard for her to explain it clearly.

If she said anything, other people would suspect her. If she did not say anything, it would be even weirder that she went to Zhen Bao Pavilion, instead of the academy's Heavenly Pharmacy.

Yan Ge carefully looked at her and said, "Ms. Liuyue, it'll be a little troublesome if you bring all these items back alone, right?"

Chu Liuyue honestly nodded. She still needed more herbs in the future, and she couldn't be so open about it every time. "Second Master Yan, do you have anything here that can allow me to take these items away conveniently?"

"Are you referring to a Cosmic Bag?"

"Does Zhen Bao Pavilion have this too?" Chu Liuyue looked up in shock. She was just casually asking, but she did not actually expect them to have Cosmic Bags.

"Haha! Zhen Bao Pavilion doesn't have much, but we're not lacking in Cosmic Bags. If not, it would be really hard to take these items away, right?" Yan Ge heartily laughed. "Old Liu, bring a Cosmic Bag over for Ms. Liuyue."

The pageboy at the side hurriedly agreed and quickly brought the a Cosmic Bag over.

"Ms. Liuyue, please—" Yan Ge passed the Cosmic Bag to Chu Liuyue. "You just need to inject some of your force into it, and this Cosmic Bag will be yours."

Chu Liuyue picked up the Cosmic Bag and examined it closely. The Cosmic Bag was half a palm's size and completely gold. There were even some intricate cloud patterns embroidered on it.

It looked very intricate.

Cosmic Bags could also be sorted into different grades. The higher the grade, the bigger the space within the Cosmic Bag.

Chu Liuyue tried to inject some force into it. She heard a light buzz and immediately felt a special connection with this Cosmic Bag. She then manipulated her primordial spirit, shockingly realizing that the space within this Cosmic Bag was as big as a room! This was much bigger than that of Mr. Zuo Rong.

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes and looked at Yan Ge. She said, "Second Master Yan, this is too valuable. I can't accept it."

"Aish, I've already given you the item, so you can't give it back to me. Besides, I'm afraid you'll need to come here many times, so it's more convenient for both of us if the Cosmic Bag's space is bigger."

Chu Liuyue hesitated for a while.

Yan Ge's words made sense. She truly would need to use this Cosmic Bag a lot in the future.

"Then... name me a price!" Chu Liuyue pointed at the herbs by the side. "Count all of them in too. I'll pay for everything now."

At this point, Chu Liuyue was more than grateful that she had caused a scene at the Chu family, and got back her father's and her money. If not, she would not be able to afford any of the items here!

Yan Ge coughed. *How can my own Madam pay for the items she took from her own store? Even if she is willing to give, I'm not willing to take! However, I have to follow Master's plan since he hasn't revealed his identity yet.*

"This... Look, you're a very important guest at Zhen Bao Pavilion, so we naturally have to give you a discount. These herbs and the Cosmic Bag... You can just give me 300,000 silver taels!"

Chu Liuyue calculated the total value of the items in her possession.. “Second Master Yan, are you planning not to do business anymore? From what I know, this Cosmic Bag alone is worth more than 600,000 silver taels right? Including these herbs... I don’t feel good if I only pay 300,000 silver taels.”

Yan Ge instantly felt awkward.

“Then, I’ll give you 1,000,000 silver taels first. When the other two herbs are delivered, I’ll give you another 500,000 taels. What do you think?”

Yan Ge widened his eyes. “T-this isn’t good...”

“What’s not good about it? You get what you pay for. I should give this money to you. It’s settled then. If not, I won’t dare to do business with you in the future.”

Seeing Chu Liuyue’s determined attitude, Yan Ge could only agree. “Hm... Okay! I’ll listen to you!”

Chu Liuyue then nodded her head in satisfaction. She bade farewell and left after placing all the herbs into the Cosmic Bag.

...

After Chu Liuyue reached the academy, she went straight to her place.

She finally heaved a sigh of relief when she unpacked all the items in the Cosmic Bag.

The medicine Chu Liuyue gave Liao Zhongshu previously could only temporarily stop the poison. If there was no antidote, the poison would explode seven days later. By then, it would directly take away Liao Zhongshu's life.

Therefore, she had to produce a Red Blood Gu antidote in the remaining seven days.

This was not simple to Chu Liuyue at this present moment.

All heavenly doctors relied on their inner force when refining medicine. The richer one's force was, the more effective the medicine refinement.

Chu Liuyue was just a stage-one warrior now. Even with her Dijing Yuan meridian, it did not seem possible for her to produce the medicine in one try.

It was very possible that her inner force would be exhausted before even half the medicine was completed. Hence, she had to think of a method.

Chu Liuyue subconsciously walked to the window and looked out.

The sky was already dark, and everything was drowned by the black night sky, causing everything to be unclear.

Rong Xiu was not in the yard.

Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief, but she vaguely felt disappointed for some reason.

Who knows how many women want to suck up to a person like Rong Xiu. This is especially so with his charming looks. Even though he is a sickly person in the public's eyes, women will still fight to marry Prince Li. Not to mention that he is actually very powerful and formidable.

Perhaps, I...

When she thought of this, she suddenly heard a relaxing whistle from Yi Feng Courtyard.

Chu Liuyue was taken aback. *Is Rong Xiu blowing the peach leaf?*

The disappointment she felt earlier had disappeared. She tightly pressed her lips against each other, but her face broke into a smile.

Chapter 190: Producing a Pill

A sleepless night.

From the next day onward, Chu Liuyue started to prepare the antidote's ingredients. Since she could not produce the Red Blood Gu antidote in one shot, Chu Liuyue decided to take it one step at a time.

Firstly, she settled the more troublesome herbs and finally merged them together. In this way, the herbs would be perfectly stored, and the success rate would be pretty high. It also wouldn't attract other people's attention.

Chu Liuyue shut herself in her lodging and did not go out for two whole days and nights.

Zhen Bao Pavilion finally delivered the remaining two herbs on the fourth day.

As the herbs were tightly sealed within a container, nobody could guess what they were. Everyone just thought that Chu Liuyue had bought something from Zhen Bao Pavilion again.

Everyone in the Imperial City knew that Chu Liuyue was very close to Zhen Bao Pavilion since they previously helped book the entire Phoenix Restaurant for her. Thus, it was not surprising that they sent her some items today.

Chu Liuyue gathered the herbs and started to refine the medicine in the room.

As she had explained the situation to Mu Hongyu and the others a few days earlier, they did not come to disturb her.

The others in the academy, however, were very curious.

...

Meditation class.

Si Yang looked at the chessboard in front of him and rubbed his aching forehead. "Aish! This Xuan formation is too hard!"

Mr. Dongfang could not help but laugh. "Even though this 'Golden Wood Formation' is a stage-three Xuan formation, its difficulty is comparable to that of a stage-four Xuan formation. Thus, it's only normal that you find it hard. However, if you can solve it, it proves that you're not far away from becoming a stage-four Xuan Master!"

The students were, once again, excited and motivated after hearing his words.

But Si Yang still sighed. *Stage-Four Xuan Master? How can it be that easy?*

He could not help but dejectedly glance at the empty seats beside him. Si Ting no longer came to lessons since yesterday.

Since the Qing Jiao Competition was approaching, Elder Sun had very high hopes for Si Ting. Hence, he started to let Si Ting cultivate in seclusion.

As for Chu Liuyue... She had not come back for lessons ever since she returned from Wan Ling Mountain.

"Si Yang, you must work hard and strive to get a good ranking in the Qing Jiao Competition!" Dongfang Qing still thought of Si Yang highly, especially in this group of students. Si Ting and Chu Liuyue were not around while Gu Mingzhu was dead, so only Si Yang was left amongst the top four scholars in the mid-term assessment.

Si Yang helplessly and bitterly smiled. “Mr. Dongfang, you think too highly of me! I’ll definitely think that there’s no problem if I have Big Brother’s talent. However, the fact is that I don’t have his talent! You should say this to Chu Liuyue instead.”

Dongfang Qing coughed. “She’s not here.”

Chu Liuyue’s name immediately attracted the other students’ attention. The crowd began discussing in low voices.

“Yeah! She hasn’t come in a long while, but I heard that she’s very diligent in going to Jiuyou Tower.”

“Ah? Is she participating in the Qing Jiao Competition as a warrior?”

“That’s not impossible. After all, Si Ting is above her as a Xuan Master, but she’s the top scholar for the warrior cohort. If I wanted a secure win, I’d choose to compete as a warrior too...”

“I think she didn’t come these few days because she’s preparing for the Qing Jiao Competition!”

Si Yang stretched his body. “Perhaps she’ll join both competitions.”

The crowd’s discussion was immediately hushed.

“The Qing Jiao Competition is a competition between academies. Other than feeling jealous, we should focus on cultivating so that we don’t burden the academy!”

...

Time flew past, and a few days had gone in a blink of an eye.

An intense herbal fragrance permeated the room.

Chu Liuyue had already added all the herbs into the square cauldron; she just had to merge them together now.

Looking at the colorful ball in the middle, Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in.

The last step was the most important one. With her current abilities, it would be a bit forceful for her to complete it. However, she had to try no matter what.

Today is the last day. If I can't successfully produce an antidote, Liao Zhongshu will definitely die! Then, I might not get to find out who is secretly trying to harm me!

Chu Liuyue pressed both her hands on the square cauldron and focused all her energy. Immense force exuded from her palms and was injected into the cauldron.

Hong!

A bright-red fire rose up and enveloped the colorful ball in the middle!

Chu Liuyue carefully controlled her force and merged the herbs bit by bit.

Since there were too many herbs, her force was rapidly depleted. However, it was not easy to merge the herbs of different natures perfectly. This was also her first time trying to produce her own Red Blood Gu antidote after so many years.

Thus, even she was not confident.

After some time, the colorful herbs finally started to merge.

Chu Liuyue's back was already drenched in sweat. Not only did Chu Liuyue not relax when she saw that the herbs had finally merged, but she became even more nervous! This was because she discovered that this step depleted her force even more quickly.

I've almost exhausted all of my body's strength! However, I need more force to support me as I finish this antidote!

Heavenly doctors were different from Xuan Masters and warriors. Heavenly doctors could turn their force into fire, but Xuan Masters and warriors could not do that.

Even if Chu Liuyue had others injecting their force, it would not help the situation at all since they couldn't produce a fire to refine the medicine.

Hence, she could only depend on herself now.

Time passed bit by bit.

Chu Liuyue could clearly sense that her body's force was depleted.

The fire in the square cauldron was rapidly shrinking, and it was about to extinguish. Once Chu Liuyue stopped, all her efforts would be wasted.

It doesn't matter if I waste the herbs, but I definitely have to produce the antidote! She saw black patches in front of her and could not stand still. No! I can't fail at the last minute!

Chu Liuyue bit the tip of her tongue, and the sharp pain cleared her mind. However, she did not have any force left in her body.

She held the square cauldron tightly, and her joints turned white. Her organs also felt like they were tightly squeezed into a ball. Hopelessness drowned the bottom of her heart.

Can I really not do it...?

Buzz!

A buzzing sound suddenly emerged from her dantian. The water droplet floating in the dantian suddenly moved.

A small ripple appeared on the smooth water surface, and majestic force instantly rushed to Chu Liuyue's limbs and bones.

Chu Liuyue immediately recovered her senses. She swiftly turned her force into fire and injected it into the square cauldron without any hesitation.

The fire that was about to extinguish suddenly intensified again, and the herbs within the square cauldron merged at a very unusual speed.

Chu Liuyue stared at the square cauldron closely.

The herbs rapidly merged and quickly gathered to form a ball the size of a fist.

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes in shock.

This was because... this was the sign of pill formation!

There were countless doctors in this world, but very few heavenly doctors. The biggest difference between them was whether they could produce pills! Normally speaking, only a fourth-grade doctor could become a true heavenly doctor.

This step alone had stopped countless doctors from becoming a heavenly doctor.

Originally, Chu Liuyue thought that she had limited ability and could not produce pills, so she had been preparing soup medicine all along.

Even though there was a difference in the medicine's effectiveness, it could still serve as an antidote.
However....

Hong!

An invisible wave spread out from the pale orange pill!