

Nobel Ruler 201

Chapter 201: Another Loss!

Situ Xingchen stood up uncontrollably and stared straight at the dagger in Chu Liuyue's hands.

"Xingchen, what's the matter?" Cheng Han looked at her in surprise. He rarely saw such an expression on Situ Xingchen's face.

"Huh? What?" Situ Xingchen suddenly woke up and looked at Cheng Han. She then realized that she had lost her manners and hurriedly sat back down. "N-nothing much..."

Cheng Han was her mentor and understood her the best. *How can there be nothing wrong?*

"What are you looking at?" Cheng Han followed her gaze and saw Chu Liuyue's back view as she left the arena.

He slightly knitted his brows. "That Chu Liuyue is a little weird. What can you tell?"

Situ Xingchen knew that her mentor was talking about something different from her thoughts, but she could not explicitly talk about it. Hence, she could only hide her unease and smile. "... Nothing; I'm just a little shocked. The dagger seemed like it was nailed to the floor... White marble is very hard, so ordinary objects can't even leave a scar on it. I can't believe Chu Liuyue has such a sharp dagger. It shouldn't be something ordinary..."

Once Cheng Han heard that, he thought that Situ Xingchen made sense. He stroked his beard as he said, "You're right. Chu Liuyue is just a stage-one warrior, but she directly halted Lei Mingwei's attack. That

dagger should've helped her quite a bit. However, she acted too swiftly, and we're a little too far away. Thus, I couldn't see what happened clearly."

If I have the chance, I must take a closer look. Perhaps I can tell what she's doing.

Upon seeing Situ Xingchen's distracted appearance, Cheng Han was a little confused. "Xingchen, you're a heavenly doctor, and she's a warrior. You won't meet each other in a competition. Why do you seem so interested in her dagger?"

Situ Xingchen forced a smile onto her face. "I was just curious. Don't worry, Mentor."

Cheng Han then nodded. His disciple was from a distinguished family and had outstanding talent. She was great in every way.

Perhaps Situ Xingchen truly was curious about this minor matter.

...

Chu Liuyue walked down the arena and received the enthusiastic welcomes from the Tian Lu Academy crowd. She went back to her seat with much difficulty and lightly exhaled.

"Hu... Everyone's too friendly!"

“Hehe, Liuyue, you’re a famous character in our academy now!” Si Yang leaned in close with a face filled with admiration. “Lei Mingwei is an intermediate stage-four warrior, yet you still won against him! Way to go!”

Everyone thought that Chu Liuyue was bound to lose this match, but who would’ve thought that she would win? She directly earned back the academy’s pride!

Chu Liuyue laughed. “That’s too much of an exaggeration.”

“Of course not! If you don’t believe me, you can ask my Big—” Si Yang hurriedly stopped halfway through his sentence and wanted to bite off his own tongue when he saw his big brother’s calm expression.

Si Ting did not look awkward as he nodded at Chu Liuyue. “Congratulations.”

Chu Liuyue smiled slightly. “Thank you.”

Now that everything was out in the open, there was nothing much between them.

Seeing how both of them did not seem too awkward, Si Yang heaved a sigh of relief and hurriedly changed the topic. “Did you know? The win or loss of Qing Jiao Competition’s first match can greatly affect the other students’ matches later on. Your win is a welcome blessing, and it’s a super powerful one! Everyone admires you!”

Chu Liuyue did not care much about this, and her lips just curved up slightly. “This is just the start. The later matches will be even fiercer.”

Chu Liuyue was also the one who would most likely be picked again. This process would naturally occur if she wanted to take first place.

I should recover my force first.

The second match was between Tai Yan Academy and Nan Feng Academy.

Tai Yan Academy picked a slim and tall young man—Jia Yiming.

Nan Feng Academy was against a pretty and tall young woman—Liu Yinyin.

Both of them were stage-three warriors and could be considered as evenly matched.

Tai Yan Academy's people were increasingly nervous and hoped that they would win this round. They had already lost miserably in the first match. If they still lost in the second match, their reputation would be tarnished!

Nan Feng Academy people were instead happy to see Tai Yan Academy's downfall. They wanted to win this match by doing their best and harshly trample on Tai Yan Academy.

Both fighters went up to the arena, and the match started amidst the anxious atmosphere.

Tian Lu Academy finally started to calm down as their attention returned to the match.

Chu Liuyue then heaved a sigh of relief. Her eyes turned, and she looked at the Tai Yan Academy crowd. She squinted her eyes slightly.

When I walked down the arena earlier, I clearly felt an unusual gaze. If I did not guess it wrongly, it seems to be from... that Situ Xingchen?

Chu Liuyue looked down and flipped the dagger in her hands.

The dagger shone brightly, still as sharp as ever. A few peach blossoms were engraved on the dagger handle.

Rong Xiu seemed to love peach blossoms a lot; even the hairpin he gave to Chu Liuyue previously was a peach blossom hairpin.

A similar pattern was also engraved on it.

Actually, one shouldn't be able to see the pattern clearly if they do not look carefully. However, Situ Xingchen seemed to be staring at this dagger...

Yes, Situ Xingchen's clothes also had a similar cloud pattern. Chu Liuyue thought for a while and smiled. How interesting...

She hid her thoughts and looked at the arena once again.

The second match continued on intensely.

Of course, it had not much reference value to her. She only watched on for a while before she decisively closed her eyes, gathered her focus, and started to meditate.

“Hey, Liuyue, did you see how Liu Yinyin attacked just now?” asked Si Yang. When he did not hear Chu Liuyue’s reply, he turned around and saw that she was actually...

“Are you for real? You can cultivate here?” Si Yang’s eyelids twitched.

The surroundings were so noisy, and Chu Liuyue just finished a match, yet she could continue cultivating.

He wanted to say something else, but he saw that Si Ting also seemed to be meditating. Thus, he obediently kept quiet. *Geniuses are indeed different from an average person!*

Maybe it was because Chu Liuyue’s match against Lei Mingwei was too interesting, but the second was much duller.

The two people’s abilities were of equal level, and they battled for a very long time. Jia Yiming seemed to have exhausted his force, and he finally revealed a weakness—which Liu Yinyin immediately attacked. She then kicked him out of the arena.

Liu Yinyin won the second match!

Tai Yan Academy lost again!

Chapter 202: Late Night Visit

Tai Yan Academy had lost the first two matches, which was something that they had never experienced all these years.

When the judge announced that Nan Feng Academy's Liu Yinyin won, the entire Tai Yan Academy's atmosphere froze.

Cheng Han could no longer keep a smile on his face, and his surrounding aura became cold.

The many students behind him did not even dare to breathe deeply.

Why would they—who were so glorious last year—expect themselves to end up in such a situation? However, the name drawing process was very fair, and nobody could manipulate it. Hence, they couldn't even find a reason for their failure.

Upon seeing this, Situ Xingchen softly advised, "Mentor, the Qing Jiao Competition just started, and we're just unlucky. The truly capable ones are competing later on, so this is a good thing for us."

When Cheng Han heard her say that, his face finally looked better. *Yes. It's not like we don't have anyone left. Situ Xingchen alone can win against so many other people! This time, I have high hopes for her, and I hope that she'll take first place in the heavenly doctor competition.*

"Don't worry; I know what to do."

In the warrior, Xuan Master, and heavenly doctor competitions, the top warrior was the most neglected one. Even if they did not have an advantage in the warrior competition, they could get rid of their shame if they came in first in the heavenly doctor competition.

“We can just relax and wait.”

Situ Xingchen nodded.

...

The warrior competition carried on.

At first, Chu Liuyue was still worried that her name would be picked again. However, the chances of that happening weren't very high as there were, luckily, quite a few people participating in the warrior competition.

In actual fact, when the Qing Jiao Competition's first day ended in the evening, Chu Liuyue was not picked again.

This gave her ample time to relax and cultivate.

Throughout the entire day, the three academies had their own wins and losses. However, when roughly calculated, the academy that won the most was actually Tian Lu Academy, which was looked down on from the start.

On the other hand, the arrogant Tai Yan Academy kept losing continuously and was in last place. There were a variety of reactions amongst the crowd.

The Qing Jiao Competition normally lasted for five days. The first three days were for the warrior competition, the fourth day was for the Xuan Master competition, and the last day was for the heavenly doctor competition.

On the first day, more than half of the warriors had already competed. This left the minority who had not entered the arena and those who had won.

After the competition temporarily ended, the three academies led their students back to rest and prepare for the next day's competition.

Chu Liuyue also followed the crowd and returned to the academy.

...

As she walked across Shuang Qing Lake bridge, Chu Liuyue almost instinctively looked toward Yi Feng Courtyard.

The fence gate was tightly shut, and the door was locked; nobody could be seen in the yard.

I wonder what Rong Xiu is busy with... Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly when she remembered the pattern on Situ Xingchen's clothes.

She had almost forgotten that Prince Li did not return to the Imperial City for many years, had strong, hidden skills, and many secrets.

She retracted her gaze and walked toward her lodging. When she walked to the yard, she immediately noticed that something was wrong, and a siren went off in her heart.

Her eyes quickly darted around her surroundings as she moved backward without hesitation and planned to leave. However, a black shadow rapidly approached her before she could even turn around, grabbed her wrists, and quickly tied them up with rope.

The dangerous aura made Chu Liuyue's heart skip a beat. *This man is very strong! I'm definitely not his match now!*

Without waiting for Chu Liuyue to look up and see his face, the man directly brought her to the door.

She had locked the door properly before she left, but it suddenly opened from the inside.

The man behind Chu Liuyue forcefully pushed her in.

Chu Liuyue's wrists were tied behind her back, and she almost staggered and fell on the floor. While stabilizing herself with much difficulty, she heard a "Bang!" from behind.

The other party actually locked the door again!

Chu Liuyue detected that there were other people in the room, and she hurriedly looked up. She was stunned.

Other than Fourth Princess Rong Zhen, who else could be leisurely sitting in Chu Liuyue's house and arrogantly staring at her?

"Rong Zhen? Why are you here?"

Displeasure appeared on Rong Zhen's face. "How dare you call me by my name?"

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's head. *According to Rong Zhen's temper, she'll definitely rage at me for addressing her in this manner. However, she actually lectured me only, which proves that she has another motive.*

Many guesses quickly flashed across Chu Liuyue's heart, but this did not show on her face.

"Forgive me, Fourth Princess. I was just too shocked. May I know why you're here today?"

Rong Zhen glared at her. "Of course, I have something urgent to ask of you."

Chu Liuyue looked down slightly and smiled. "Fourth Princess, you can just directly tell me if you need anything. Why did you have to do this?"

"You're always scheming, so I don't trust you." Rong Zhen still clearly remembered the scene of Chu Liuyue passing her the bloodied pearl of essence at the Crown Prince's banquet.

The foul, bloody scent seemed to linger around her nose, causing her to be disgusted.

Chu Liuyue paused. She could clearly feel that the person who brought her in was currently standing behind her. She was not that person's match, so doing anything out of the blue would put her in an even more dangerous position.

She decisively curbed her urge to look back and stared at Rong Zhen. She then said, "You can just directly state what you want."

"I personally came here to look for you because of one matter." Rong Zhen slightly raised her chin and looked more arrogant than ever. "You were born lacking a Yuan meridian, but you suddenly recovered a while back. You have even become a so-called genius... What did you do?"

Chu Liuyue instantly understood the situation. *It is indeed because of this.*

Previously, Chu Liuyue had already expected that Rong Zhen might look for her, but she did not expect for Rong Zhen to wait so long.

"As long as you tell me who helped you and you help me to recover my pearl of essence, I won't pursue the matters from before." Rong Zhen's superior tone sounded as if she were doing a charitable deed.

Chu Liuyue looked at her quietly.

Rong Zhen was frustrated by Chu Liuyue's gaze and raised her voice. "What are you looking at?"

“I was just thinking that you came to me to ask me for help. If I didn’t hear you clearly, I would’ve thought you came to seek revenge against me.” Chu Liuyue lightly laughed.

Rong Zhen’s face immediately became cold. “You dare to be sarcastic to me?”

‘Not at all. It’s not easy for Fourth Princess to get out of the palace, and I believe you have been waiting here for a long time. However, I’m afraid I can’t help you with this.’

“What did you say?” Rong Zhen angrily stood up.

Chu Liuyue clearly saw that Rong Zhen’s legs looked weird when she walked. It was obvious that she had injured her leg, and it did not heal properly.

“B*tch! What are you looking at?” Noticing that Chu Liuyue was staring at her leg, Rong Zhen became so angry that her face became red. Then, she immediately raised her hands to slap Chu Liuyue’s face harshly.

Chapter 203: Dig a Hole

“Fourth Princess, didn’t you come here today to repair your broken pearl of essence?” asked Chu Liuyue suddenly.

Rong Zhen’s hand stopped in mid-air as she suspiciously stared at Chu Liuyue. “There’s indeed someone backing you up!”

She knew that Chu Liuyue definitely did not single-handedly turn herself from a good-for-nothing to a genius overnight. After all, she was born lacking a Yuan meridian!

“Spill it. Who is it?”

In the beginning, all the heavenly doctors in the entire Country Yao Chen could not do anything about Chu Liuyue’s lack of a Yuan meridian, but isn’t she doing just fine now? Thus, I just have to find that person, and my broken pearl of essence can definitely be fixed!

Chu Liuyue looked at the anxious Rong Zhen, and she sneered in her heart. *A broken pearl of essence is even worse than lacking a Yuan meridian. If one lacks a Yuan meridian, they could just not cultivate. However, pearls of essence and cultivators have a close relationship. Once one’s pearl of essence is broken, it will greatly affect the person’s body.*

When one’s pearl of essence was broken, the most direct impact would be their entire dantian being damaged. Without a complete dantian, one couldn’t get an unharmed pearl of essence back even if they went up to the heavens and down underground. It was even more impossible for them to cultivate again!

Rong Zhen’s current situation is obviously as such. If it were me in my previous life, I would have a way around it. However, let alone the fact that I can’t do it now, it is impossible for me to help Rong Zhen even if I can.

Chu Liuyue looked away and seemed hesitant. “T-this isn’t easy to say...”

After seeing Chu Liuyue’s behavior, Rong Zhen could confirm that Chu Liuyue knew an expert, but she did not want to tell Rong Zhen about it. “Say it, quick! If my pearl of essence can be restored, there’ll be tons of benefits for you in the future!”

Chu Liuyue wanted to laugh upon hearing her words. *Rong Zhen really has been spoiled rotten as she actually thinks that saying a few simple sentences can tempt her.*

Benefits? Rong Zhen should consider that she has already long lost Emperor Jiawen's love when she became a good-for-nothing. Besides, the situation is even worse since the Crown Prince has been repeatedly punished. She has already long lost the right to be arrogant, yet she thinks she can show off here.

Chu Liuyue tightly pressed her lips against each other as if she were wavering. "Fourth Princess, it's not that I don't want to say, b-but I don't know who that person is either..."

"Nonsense! Since that person has already cured you, how can you not know who he is?" Rong Zhen walked forward and clutched Chu Liuyue's neck. Rong Zhen's face contorted a little. "How dare you mess with me?"

Hatred flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes as she curbed her urge to avoid Rong Zhen's action. Chu Liuyue moved slightly and lowered the impact of Rong Zhen's strength.

"Fourth Princess, don't misunderstand. I'm telling the truth. Cough cough... Actually, I haven't told anyone about this, but I'll tell you if you want to know! Cough cough..."

Seeing that Chu Liuyue's face was turning red, and she was coughing, Rong Zhen harshly flung her away. "Answer me!"

Chu Liuyue coughed again before recovering her composure and slowly said, "... Fourth Princess, this incident actually starts from the time Chu Xianmin sent someone to assassinate me. That day, she sent someone to capture and bring me to the forest at the edge of the Imperial City."

“When I thought I was going to die, a man in a black robe suddenly appeared. I couldn’t see his figure or face, but his voice sounded old... He saved me and even fed me a pill, which I had no idea what it was back then. However, I discovered that my Yuan meridian had recovered when I went back!”

“Then... Fourth Princess, you also know what happened after that.”

Upon hearing her words, Rong Zhen knitted her brows. “Are you telling the truth? If you don’t know the person, why would he help you?”

Chu Liuyue laughed bitterly. “I’m not sure either. I haven’t seen him again since then. Originally, I wanted to thank him, but I can’t find him anywhere. I’m really telling the truth. If you don’t believe me... I can’t do anything about it. There’s no point in me lying about this anyway...”

Rong Zhen’s face changed, and she did not speak for quite some time as she digested Chu Liuyue’s words. *Even though it sounds very ridiculous, how did Chu Liuyue’s Yuan meridian recover without this happening?*

“I remember that you bought quite a few herbs after you returned to the Chu family. What’s up with that?”

Chu Liuyue’s expression did not change. “After the person saved me, he even left a formula for me. Initially, I didn’t know what it was. But I later realized that it could be used to cultivate my body. If you don’t believe me, you can go to Zhen Bao Pavilion and ask them about it.”

“I won’t go to that place!” Rong Zhen was furious when she heard Zhen Bao Pavilion. Rong Zhen was clearly injured at Zhen Bao Pavilion’s hunting ground, but the Emperor had no intentions of punishing them.

She still could not take this lying.

After thinking for a while, Rong Zhen continued to ask, "Tell me where you met that person."

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. "I was brought to that place when unconscious, so I'm not too sure where exactly..."

"Hurry!" Rong Zhen kicked at Chu Liuyue's stomach, but Chu Liuyue pretended to shiver in fear, so the kick landed on her thigh instead.

Chu Liuyue fell backward and hit her back against the table. The cutlery on the table fell to the floor with a crisp sound.

Rong Zhen had already picked up paper and brush from the side, and she violently threw them at Chu Liuyue's face. "Draw the location out! If not, don't dream about leaving this door!"

Cold murderous intent flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes, but it instantly faded away. "Okay, I will!"

As Chu Liuyue spoke, she moved her wrists—which were tied up behind her back. "But can you untie this first? If not, I..."

Rong Zhen looked at the person at the side.

Chu Liuyue felt something cold brush past her wrists, and the rope silently fell thereafter.

Chu Liuyue looked down and saw that the rope had caused a red mark on her wrists. She picked up the paper and brush from the side and started to draw bit by bit.

Firstly, she drew the lush greenery and the curvy river.

Chu Liuyue looked down, and Rong Zhen could not see her current expression.

The brush moved, and Chu Liuyue's actions were very slow. However, the outline of the woods outside the Imperial City had quickly flashed across her mind.

After she was reborn, she had once studied that forest in detail. Finally, her brush stopped at a certain position.

If I don't remember wrongly, this place seems to be...

Chu Liuyue lightly left a thick mark on that location. "It's here."

Chapter 204: Kindly Enlighten Me

Rong Zhen picked up the paper and knitted her brows upon taking a closer look at it. Rong Zhen was not familiar with the outline of the forest outside the Imperial City, so she did not know where exactly the marked location was, but it looked quite isolated...

After thinking for a while, she looked at Chu Liuyue and sneered. "Don't think that this matter is settled. After the Qing Jiao Competition ends, you will bring me there personally."

She was not stupid, so she would not believe in a location that Chu Liuyue casually drew for her.

Who knows if she's telling the truth?

Chu Liuyue rubbed her wrists and looked honest. "Whatever you say, Fourth Princess."

Upon seeing Chu Liuyue's seemingly truthful expression and how she had agreed to go with her, Rong Zhen then believed her a little more.

She glanced at the man in black clothes. "Let's go!"

The two of them then left together.

Chu Liuyue turned around and saw the blurred figures disappearing into the night sky.

If I'm not wrong, the previous man in black used his strength to hide the duo's aura. No wonder they dared to barge into the academy... Chu Liuyue's gaze darkened. That person's ability is at least that of an intermediate stage-five warrior. There aren't many people in Country Yao Chen who have such abilities.

Someone that Rong Zhen can command...

A few suspicious names appeared in Chu Liuyue's mind, but she could not determine that person's identity for certain as she did not see their appearance and figure.

I should find some time to investigate this...

...

The happenings in the night did not attract anyone's attention.

The next morning, Chu Liuyue went to Jia Nan Square as usual, together with the rest.

Compared to the previous day, there were even more people in the spectator stands, and the atmosphere was livelier.

The competition's later stages were when the more exciting battles happened, so more people would come to spectate.

Once Chu Liuyue arrived, she attracted many people's attention. Countless gazes landed on her.

She could still vaguely hear quite a few people talking about her fight with Lei Mingwei yesterday.

Mu Hongyu used her elbow to nudge Chu Liuyue. "Liuyue, you've become famous because of the match! Even people from Huai Cang and Xing Luo have heard of your name!"

The results of a stage-one warrior winning against a stage-four warrior would shock anyone, no matter where.

Chu Liuyue was very calm. “The competition has just started. The later battles are more important.”

“That’s true! Half of the warriors were eliminated yesterday, so the people who won yesterday will definitely be picked again. Yesterday’s match wasn’t that exciting for me, so I hope I’ll meet a more interesting opponent today!”

Mu Hongyu picked a stage-three warrior from Tai Yan Academy yesterday and had won without much effort, making her hand itch.

Chu Liuyue smiled. “You’re already a stage-four warrior now, and you naturally see the world differently. Don’t worry; the other two academies have quite a few stage-four warriors, so you definitely can have a good battle today.”

Mu Hongyu chuckled. “I have to thank you for this. If you didn’t lend me those 40 hours, I wouldn’t have broken through to the next stage so soon.”

“Hongyu! The competition is about to begin! Hurry over!” Cen Hu—who had sat down not far away—waved at Mu Hongyu.

Mu Hongyu then said, “Then, I’ll go first!”

Chu Liuyue nodded and walked in another direction. She was sitting at the Xuan Masters’ area, so she did not sit with them.

...

When Chu Liuyue walked over, quite a few people enthusiastically greeted her.

After the battle yesterday, Chu Liuyue was famous in the academy and had made a lot of people change their views about her. Hence, they were much friendlier toward her.

Chu Liuyue greeted them back one by one before sitting down. However, she still found it amusing. In the past, she was the Heavenly Princess and had a distinguished status. Not to mention other people, even the other princes and princesses were very respectful toward her.

Initially, she was upset because she thought they were not close to her, but she gradually understood many things later and did not force it upon them. Chu Liuyue found this kind of scenario a little unfamiliar, but she did not hate it. She even felt slightly happy.

She could feel that these people really admired her, so they treated her in this way. It seemed like the Qing Jiao Competition was a very important thing for them.

Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings. Tian Lu Academy looked very energetic, and Nan Feng Academy looked like they were filled with fighting spirit.

As for Tai Yan Academy... The defeated atmosphere from yesterday had unexpectedly dissipated. Even though they were not as arrogant as they were in the beginning, they looked much more motivated.

The competition very quickly started.

...

Suddenly, there was an uproar in the crowd.

Chu Liuyue looked over and realized that it was because someone stood up from Nan Feng Academy.

This person was an intelligent young man with a slim figure and elegant aura. He was the next student from Nan Feng Academy to compete—Jiang Yuan.

“It’s actually Jiang Yuan? He came in tenth in the warrior competition last year! I’m afraid he’ll be even stronger now!”

“I heard that he was still a stage-three warrior last year, but his combat skills surpassed that of a stage-four warrior. This year, he has broken through and become a beginner stage-four warrior. Therefore, he shouldn’t be overlooked!”

“Do you still remember the situation back then? Jiang Yuan looks very gentle and talks in a respectful manner, but he becomes another person when he enters the arena! If I meet with him...”

“I heard that he came here to take first place in the warrior competition! I wonder who will be so unlucky to compete against him...”

Hearing the chatter around her, Chu Liuyue gradually understood the situation.

No wonder everyone has such a reaction. This Jiang Yuan has the highest ranking amongst all the people that have competed since the start of the Qing Jiao Competition. Even the previous Lei Mingwei—who is an intermediate stage-four warrior—has a lower ranking than him. It proves just how strong Jiang Yuan is. One will most likely be eliminated if they fight against him.

Jiang Yuan calmly walked to the box, picked up a paper ball, and opened it. He was slightly dazed when he saw the name on it. He then smiled as he unraveled the paper ball and looked toward Tian Lu Academy.

“It seems like I’m pretty lucky to pick this year’s biggest dark horse.”

Everyone knew who he was talking about with just this sentence.

Chu Liuyue looked over and indeed saw her name clearly written on the paper. Her lips curved up slightly, and she stood up.

I’m actually the lucky one. When I picked names, I picked an intermediate stage-four warrior like Lei Mingwei. When other people pick me, they are also unpredictably strong.

Everyone saw the two of them stare at each other; they were shocked, then excited.

Nobody expected last year’s dark horse and this year’s dark horse to meet each other so quickly! Both of them had abilities that surpassed their current cultivation level, so nobody knew how it would turn out when they fought with each other.

Jiang Yuan smiled and said, "Please..."

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly. "Then, please enlighten me."

Chapter 205: Avoid the Gleam

The two people went onto the arena and stared at each other.

Everyone watched the scene nervously and excitedly.

"Even though Jiang Yuan is a beginner stage-four warrior, he's definitely stronger than Lei Mingwei. Thus, I think Chu Liuyue is bound to lose."

"I think so too. Even though she's powerful, Jiang Yuan is also a tough nut to crack. I'm afraid her journey as Qing Jiao Competition's black horse is about to end."

"Such a pity! I wanted to see her compete in a few more rounds. I also thought that she could get a good ranking this year, but that's most likely impossible now..."

"I heard that she used to be a good-for-nothing and only became famous in the last few months. After thinking about it carefully, her cultivation speed is scary..."

Everyone partook in heated discussions.

When Situ Xingchen heard the discussions, she was frustrated for some reason. Ever since she saw Chu Liuyue's dagger yesterday, she paid extra attention to Chu Liuyue. Now that Chu Liuyue went onto the arena once again, she was also very concerned.

She had never heard of this name before, but she secretly went around and asked about Chu Liuyue after she went back yesterday.

This Chu Liuyue is indeed unusual. She could not help but lean toward Cheng Han and softly ask, "Mentor, can people who naturally lack a Yuan meridian recover their Yuan meridian and start cultivating?"

Cheng Han knitted his brows. "You're talking about Chu Liuyue?"

He had also heard something related to Chu Liuyue yesterday, so he could instantly guess it when he heard Situ Xingchen ask about it.

Situ Xingchen lightly nodded.

Cheng Han stroked his beard. "This... It is indeed pretty impossible, but there are many strong warriors in the world. If people of that caliber are willing to help her, it isn't impossible for her to recover her Yuan meridian..."

Situ Xingchen immediately understood what he meant. No matter if it were Country Yao Chen, Country Huai Cang, or their Country Xing Luo, they had an equal ranking of existence. There were still major unreachable characters above them.

Even though she was Country Xing Luo's eldest princess, she was still as small as an ant in front of those people.

"However, I thought she's an ordinary daughter of a normal family in Country Yao Chen's Imperial City. How can she do so much?"

This was something that Situ Xingchen could not figure out. Chu Liuyue had a decent family background, but she already could not be considered as a daughter from a distinguished family when the Chu family went down, and her father was so injured that he could not cultivate.

With her identity, how did she recover her Yuan meridian and become a genius?

Cheng Han thought for a really long time. "Perhaps, she has some other fate... Nobody can be certain about such things."

Situ Xingchen bit her lips.

Seeing that she looked a little off, Cheng Han comforted her. "Xingchen, no matter how strong she is, she doesn't have the right to compete with you. Why take her to heart?"

Situ Xingchen forced a smile onto her face. "Mentor, don't misunderstand. I was just curious."

Cheng Han nodded and did not think too much.

Situ Xingchen slowly clenched her fists in her sleeves. *Fate... I can ignore her talent for now, but... what about that dagger?*

...

In the arena, Jiang Yuan curiously sized Chu Liuyue up. He had watched her match with Lei Mingwei yesterday very closely. *This girl truly has unusual combat prowess. No matter if it is her movement techniques or offensive moves, they all showed that she has immense fighting experience.*

“No offense, but I heard that you only started cultivating a few months ago?”

Chu Liuyue raised her brows and did not deny it. “That’s right.”

Either way, everybody in the Imperial City knew about this.

Jiang Yuan’s eyes changed, and he looked even more serious. *Who can cultivate to have capabilities equivalent to a stage-four warrior in a mere few months? This Chu Liuyue is indeed a worthy opponent. In time to come, she will definitely become a top warrior!*

Seeing the change in his eyes, Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes and secretly circulated her force, making her muscles tense up as she entered combat mode.

Lei Mingwei lost as he thought too highly of himself, but this Jiang Yuan is not that easy to deal with. She twisted her wrist and held the dagger in her hands.

Jiang Yuan smiled. *It seems like Chu Liuyue is planning to use all that she has on me directly. That’s great!*

“Please!” After saying that, Jiang Yuan then closed his eyes. It was as if he turned into another person when he opened them again.

The warm smile on his face faded away, and he looked colder. His eyes were as sharp as a knife.

The next moment, the force surrounding his body exploded.

Beginner stage-four warrior!

The crowd was shocked.

“Jiang Yuan actually put in his all right from the beginning?”

“It seems like he thinks very highly of Chu Liuyue. Hence, he doesn’t dare to let his guard down.”

“Actually, this is also pretty normal. Everyone saw Chu Liuyue’s abilities yesterday. If Jiang Yuan doesn’t take her seriously, he will lose in the same way as Lei Mingwei did.”

“A stage-one warrior that continuously challenged two stage-four warriors... She won against one and even caused the other one to use their full force at the beginning of the match... Even if she loses this round, Chu Liuyue will definitely become famous after the Qing Jiao Competition!”

Jiang Yuan crossed his arms, and a ball of faint green force gradually formed.

The vague suppression spread out from the ball's center.

Chu Liuyue stared at it closely, and she became even more alert as the force in her body circulated even faster. The next moment, she stood on her toes and rapidly dashed toward Jiang Yuan.

The crowd was shocked. They did not expect Chu Liuyue to be the one who chose to attack first between the two of them.

Chu Liuyue clearly knows she is not his match, yet she dares to rush over directly. Does she have a death wish?

In the blink of an eye, Chu Liuyue was already three steps away from Jiang Yuan. However, Jiang Yuan suddenly moved backward at this moment and avoided Chu Liuyue.

The distance between the two of them was once again widened.

Chu Liuyue's heart sank slightly.

“What's the matter? Why did Jiang Yuan move backward?”

“Is he scared of Chu Liuyue?”

The crowd was in chaos. However, Sun Zhongyan and the rest—who were spectating the match from below—looked even more serious.

“Jiang Yuan is indeed meticulous. He knows that Liuyue is better at close combat, so he purposely avoided her blade’s gleam.”

Actually, according to his abilities, Jiang Yuan should have an advantage even if they had a close-combat fight. However, he was unwilling to take this risk and decided to use a long-range attack strategy against Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue’s greatest weakness was that she was unable to circulate her force outside her body.

Jiang Yuan was banking on this right from the start.

“He really wants to win this match...”

...

Once Chu Liuyue saw Jiang Yuan move backward, she knew his plan.

He is strong and meticulous. Such an opponent is indeed difficult to handle. Besides, both of us are already a river width’s distance away from each other. A thought flashed across Chu Liuyue’s mind as she hurriedly chased him.

Jiang Yuan moved backward again.

Chu Liuyue quickly discovered that Jiang Yuan's speed was comparable to hers. It was clearly impossible for her to launch a close-range attack if she purely used her speed.

When Chu Liuyue discovered this, she decisively stopped and held her dagger tightly.

At this point, a gigantic, green, ice ball had already appeared in front of Jiang Yuan.

The sinister cold air gradually exuded from the top of the ball.

"Ghostly Eye Heavenly Ice!"

With this holler, the green ice ball rapidly flew toward Chu Liuyue directly.

A thin layer of frost formed on the ground as the ball went past.

Harsh cold winds came straight for Chu Liuyue.

Chapter 206: Kill Back!

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Chu Liuyue quickly moved backward and violently flung the dagger in her hands out.

Choo!

The sharp dagger actually pierced the ice ball directly, causing ice shards to fly in all directions. However, the ice ball had immense strength, so the dagger stopped after piercing through only half of the ball. The dagger was stuck in the middle and could not move.

Moreover, the ice ball only stopped for a while before coming for Chu Liuyue again!

Chu Liuyue's attack against Jiang Yuan's ice ball was akin to termites biting on trees.

Chu Liuyue moved backward again. However, the ice ball was also very fast and kept getting nearer to Chu Liuyue.

The crowd had weird expressions upon seeing this scene.

Sun Zhongyan shook his head. "As expected... Jiang Yuan's combat skills are very strong, and he's really smart. Liuyue doesn't have an advantage in this match; I'm afraid..."

She will lose.

The others looked at each other awkwardly.

"Elder Sun, don't be overly worried. Even if Liuyue loses, everyone has seen her abilities."

“Yeah. No matter what, she’s only a stage-one warrior, and it’s already very difficult for her to execute skills above her cultivation level.

Sun Zhongyan thought about it for a while, but he did not say anything as his eyes were tightly glued to the arena.

Does Elder Sun think that Chu Liuyue still has a chance of winning?

The people behind him exchanged a few helpless glances.

Even if Chu Liuyue is very talented, she can’t use her current abilities to win against Jiang Yuan.

Why does Elder Sun have such high expectations of Chu Liuyue?

...

Chu Liuyue quickly avoided the ice ball, but it kept coming for her.

The distance between the ball and the girl was rapidly shortening at an observable speed.

Everywhere the ice ball passed by was left with a layer of frost. When the sun shone down on the frost, the frost reflected a sharp, cold gleam—which shocked people.

On Nan Feng Academy's side, the crowd had already revealed victorious expressions.

"This Ghostly Eye Heavenly Ice is the first move that Jiang Yuan cultivated after becoming a stage-four warrior. It can be counted as one of his killer moves. Since he executed it immediately after the match started, it isn't considered a loss for Chu Liuyue."

"Yeah! Even though Jiang Yuan is usually gentle and humble, he's very decisive in the arena. He's bound to win this match!"

"However, Chu Liuyue's dagger is pretty good too as it could pierce through the ice ball. You need to know that I used a red-tasseled spear made out of metal when I battled Jiang Yuan. When I flung it out with all my force, it only scratched the ball's surface."

"That dagger is a treasure. If not, why do you think Lei Mingwei lost yesterday? This dagger has enhanced Chu Liuyue's combat skills by quite a bit. Now that her dagger is stuck in the ice ball, her hands are empty, and she can't exert her force outwards. She's definitely not Jiang Yuan's match."

"Look, the ice ball is about to catch up with Chu Liuyue. This match should end pretty soon... Wait a minute! What is Chu Liuyue doing?"

The few students making teasing remarks about Chu Liuyue suddenly stopped talking and looked at the arena in shock.

In the arena, the ice ball kept getting nearer to Chu Liuyue. It was just about to reach Chu Liuyue—there was only an arm's length between the both of them.

Once Chu Liuyue hit the ice ball, she would definitely lose without a doubt.

Everyone felt that they had seen the match's outcome. However, just as they thought Chu Liuyue was about to lose, she suddenly turned around, jumped up, and landed on the ice ball.

"Is she crazy? Ghostly Eye Heavenly Ice is a very cold force. Not only did she not hide from it, but she has even directly jumped on top of it?"

"Does she think that she can avoid the attack just like that? The ice ball's force is sufficient to swallow her up."

The moment Chu Liuyue stepped on the ice ball, she felt a very cold aura coming from the ball. It spread throughout her entire body from her legs.

In no time, her boots were already covered in a thin layer of frost. If she did not leave immediately, she would definitely freeze on top of the ball.

Chu Liuyue quickly bent down, stretched out her hand, and held the dagger that was tightly stuck in the ball.

The crowd was taken aback when they saw this scene.

"Chu Liuyue wants to take her dagger? Is there something wrong with her? Now's not the time to care about this."

“I think it’s because she can’t handle Jiang Yuan without her dagger...”

“But that dagger is already tightly stuck in the ball, and the ball’s cold aura has already frozen the dagger. Chu Liuyue can’t take it out. This will only cause her to lose even faster.”

Upon seeing this, Cheng Han could not help but laugh. “How stupid. She actually thinks she can use a dagger to save herself?”

Situ Xingchen tightly clenched her fists as she watched the scene in the arena without blinking her eyes. Others might think that Chu Liuyue was being too ambitious, but she did not think so.

That dagger...

...

Chu Liuyue naturally did not know about the outsiders’ voices and reactions.

At this very moment, all her attention was on her dagger.

The dagger handle already had a layer of frost. The moment her hand touched it, her hand was glued to the dagger.

Intense coldness traveled from her palm and crazily spread throughout her body.

Chu Liuyue's lips quickly turned greenish-purple, and her face was as white as a sheet, making her look very miserable. But her hands were still tightly holding the dagger.

A red force then violently exuded out from Chu Liuyue's body and rapidly infused into the dagger.

Almost immediately, Chu Liuyue stepped on the ice ball and used the momentum to get down from the ball.

Kacha!

A crisp sound was immediately heard.

The spectators were all stunned. *This sound is...*

"The ice ball is broken?" yelled out someone in shock.

The news made waves.

Everyone's gazes quickly gathered on the ice ball.

As expected! A crack suddenly appeared at the position where the dagger had been stuck in the ice ball. As the ice ball was entirely jade-green, many people did not see this at first. However, upon closer inspection, one could indeed see a black crack near the dagger.

No! There are countless cracks!

Following a frightening shattering sound, the crowd clearly saw the cracks spreading around the ice ball with Chu Liuyue's dagger in the middle.

The next moment, the entire ball was filled with cracks. It looked as though it was covered by a black spider web.

Jiang Yuan already felt like something was amiss when Chu Liuyue jumped onto the ice ball and held the dagger. However, it was too late when he wanted to spring into action.

Chu Liuyue was very fast and had immense strength. She knew that she could not exert her force outside her body, so she decisively waited for the ice ball to come near her. Then, she swiftly injected her force into the dagger.

After that, she jumped again and used the momentum to pull the dagger out forcefully.

It really worked!

Numerous cracks appeared on the ice ball, and the dagger was finally loose!

Chu Liuyue thrust the dagger deeper into the ice ball without any hesitation.

Hong!

The strength in the dagger immediately exploded.

The gigantic ice ball also shattered.

Small and sharp ice shards flew in all directions.

The powerful force flung Chu Liuyue out. Her body uncontrollably flew backward and landed on the arena floor.

A strong, bloody scent exuded from her lips.

Jiang Yuan's body shook almost at the same time the Ghostly Eye Heavenly Ice exploded, and he spat out blood.

Chapter 207: She's a Xuan Master!

The whole square was dead silent.

Nobody would've ever expected Jiang Yuan and Chu Liuyue's battle to get to this stage.

Chu Liuyue actually managed to break apart Jiang Yuan's forceful attack! Chu Liuyue seemed like she was about to be defeated, but everything changed in the blink of an eye!

Not only was she not defeated, but she even managed to injure Jiang Yuan severely! Even though she was not in a very good state herself, she managed to turn the highly skewed match into one where they were on equal footing!

Even though both sides were hurt, Chu Liuyue was clearly in a superior position!

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Bearing the pain, Chu Liuyue got up slowly. She swallowed all the blood back down and looked at her palm. Her right palm—which had been holding the dagger—had frostbite from the ice ball. In addition, her palm was bloodied when she forcefully removed the dagger earlier.

Her crimson blood slowly froze into ice crystals—which would fall to the ground if touched.

Chu Liuyue looked up and stared ahead.

Jiang Yuan had just managed to catch his breath. He met Chu Liuyue's gaze, and his heart trembled!

Chu Liuyue's usually clear and bright eyes were burning with crazed passion. She was injured all over, but she did not seem to care about it. There was only one thought in her heart—To win!

Jiang Yuan's insides were churning. He watched everything clearly and carefully when Chu Liuyue battled Lei Mingwei yesterday. He thought that he knew her well, but he had still underestimated her willpower!

When the Ghostly Eye Heavenly Ice exploded, Chu Liuyue was right next to it. The force flung her away, and Jiang Yuan believed that her injuries were not much better than his.

Her right hand was frostbitten, so it clearly could not be used anymore. But her eyes were cold and determined as if she did not feel pain.

Is this really a fourteen-year-old young lady?! Chu Liuyue's determination astonished him.

"Do you want to continue?" Jiang Yuan asked as he glanced at Chu Liuyue's right hand.

Without batting an eyelid, Chu Liuyue switched the dagger over to her left hand and gripped it slowly. "Why not? I haven't won, so we obviously have to continue!"

Jiang Yuan took a deep breath. "In that case... take this!"

He began to circulate the force around his body before he finished his sentence! He opened his palm, and the green force quickly gathered and formed a spear!

The spearhead was extremely sharp and pointy!

After forming the spear, he moved and headed straight for Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue's gaze turned cold, and she steeled herself to attack!

...

Over at Tian Lu Academy's area, the people's hearts were back in their throats—before they could even relax—when they saw Jiang Yuan strike again.

Mu Hongyu could not help but mutter, “Oh no! Jiang Yuan's forte is actually the spear? Won't Liuyue be at a disadvantage then?”

Cen Hu widened his eyes. “That might not be the case. Liuyue is really strong!”

Mu Hongyu was worried and anxious. “But she's already injured, and she can only use her left hand now! Jiang Yuan's clearly not easy to deal with! Liuyue is pushing herself too hard!”

Cen Hu asked, “If it were you, would you concede now?”

Mu Hongyu took a deep breath. *Of course not. Liuyue definitely won't concede then.*

...

Tsing!

The two clashed!

When Jiang Yuan's spear struck, Chu Liuyue moved her waist and managed to dodge the attack just like that!

Her left hand then struck and hit the spear at an eerie angle!

The spear was surprisingly strong, so Chu Liuyue's attack did not manage to sever it!

The spear bent and bounced back with an incredible amount of force!

Chu Liuyue's wrist trembled and was flicked away as she stumbled backward!

Jiang Yuan pushed on and thrust the spear toward Chu Liuyue's left shoulder!

Chu Liuyue's right hand was basically useless now, so the match would be over once she lost the ability to attack with her left arm.

Chu Liuyue placed the dagger in front of her to block!

Ding!

The clashing weapons made a noise similar to nails on a chalkboard!

Chu Liuyue gritted her teeth. She raised her arm and scratched the spear's body with her dagger.

Sparks flew everywhere!

Jiang Yuan was surprised. *Looking at the speed and force in which she retaliated, Chu Liuyue clearly understands spears well! But there was no hint of that at all... Chu Liuyue is good at concealing herself!*

“I didn’t expect you to be so familiar with spears as well, but I’m taking this match!” As Jiang Yuan spoke, he infused all that remained of his force into the spear!

“King of Ten Thousand Spears!”

Buzz!

The spear shook violently.

In the next instant, countless spears appeared around it!

Chu Liuyue’s heart sank! *This is Jiang Yuan’s true trump card! I could break apart the Ghostly Eye Heavenly Ice earlier, but now I’m in danger!*

The spears were not illusions; they were made of Jiang Yuan’s force! Most importantly, their strength was not any weaker than the one in his hand!

“Go!” Jiang Yuan cried out as he tossed the spear.

At the same time, the surrounding spear images flew towards Chu Liuyue.

In an instant, Chu Liuyue was completely surrounded!

...

Fu Yunshan nodded contentedly. "Jiang Yuan has grown again. He can even summon six spear images now. Even though he's hurt, and his strength has decreased, it's enough to take down Chu Liuyue."

He had always had high hopes for Jiang Yuan. Looking at it, Jiang Yuan would not disappoint.

Everyone in Nan Feng Academy was relieved when they heard Fu Yunshan's words, and happy expressions appeared on their faces.

"Jiang Yuan pulled all of this off even though he's just a beginner stage-four warrior. If he weren't injured, he could probably be compared to an advanced stage-four warrior!"

"That Chu Liuyue is quite hard to deal with... But she's nothing in comparison to Jiang Yuan."

"Actually, I feel that she's not that strong. It's all just because of that dagger. Now that Jiang Yuan is using all his energy, she's not his match at all. How could she possibly break those six spear images..."

The person speaking stared blankly at the arena as if they had choked.

“What’s wrong? What are you looking—” The person next to him looked up impatiently when he realized his friend had stopped speaking. However, he was also stunned!

In the area, all the spear images surrounding Chu Liuyue had stopped!

They all froze half an arm’s length before her!

One more step forward, and they would hit Chu Liuyue easily! But it was like there was an invisible barrier blocking everything outside!

Someone cried out, “It-it’s a Xuan formation!”

Everyone looked over when they heard it and saw silver rays of light interwoven around Chu Liuyue to form a large barrier that blocked off all the attacks.

“She’s a Xuan Master!”

Chapter 208: Because I’m bored

The silver streaks of light rippled around her, shimmering. They seemed to carry a strong sense of pressure!

Jiang Yuan’s spear was cut off outside the barrier, unable to move an inch forward!

Everything seemed frozen as the scene was imprinted in everyone's minds.

Jiang Yuan suddenly widened his eyes. *Chu Liuyue... She's actually a Xuan Master too? Right! There are rumors that Chu Liuyue got into Tian Lu Academy by passing all three assessments! It is rather normal for her to be a Xuan Master!*

But everyone's attention was focused on Chu Liuyue as a warrior after her battle with Lei Mingwei yesterday. Looking back, Chu Liuyue was clearly sitting in the Xuan Master section!

Jiang Yuan pondered as an ominous thought appeared. *Could it be...*

"It's a second-level Xuan formation!" blurted out Fu Yunshan as he stared at the Xuan formation in front of Chu Liuyue.

"She's actually a stage-two Xuan Master now?!"

Didn't they say that she's only fourteen? Besides, wasn't she a loser that everyone looked down upon before? She only started cultivating a few months ago! How did she break through and become a stage-two Xuan Master in such a short time?!

Fu Yunshan could not help but look toward Sun Zhongyan, only to see that he was not surprised. Instead, he looked rather approving. It was as if Sun Zhongyan had expected it all along.

"Brother Zhongyan, Chu Liuyue... is a stage-two Xuan Master?" Fu Yunshan could not help but ask even though he was very sure of it.

Sun Zhongyan laughed out loud. “Yeah! She has been training as a Xuan Master since she entered the academy!”

Fu Yunshan was stunned and almost swore out loud when he heard that. “... Brother Zhongyan, isn’t this a little inappropriate? Shouldn’t Chu Liuyue take part in the Xuan Master competition then?”

Sun Zhongyan chuckled. “Yeah! She signed up for both!”

Fu Yunshan was speechless.

“Eh, Brother Yunshan, I don’t think the Qing Jiao Competition only allows participation in one type of competition, right?” questioned Sun Zhongyan aloud.

Fu Yunshan felt like there was a stone on his chest. The Qing Jiao Competition did not have such a regulation, but one usually only signed up for what they were best at since one had a limited amount of energy.

After these two matches, it was clear that Chu Liuyue had strong talent as a warrior! If she focused on warrior cultivation, she would definitely become a top warrior! They did not expect her to be this outstanding as a Xuan Master too!

Fu Yunshan moved his lips, but he did not say anything.

Oh well! Even though a stage-two Xuan Master is formidable, Jiang Yuan is a stage-four warrior. It should not be a problem for him. We should wait...

Hong!

A loud explosion came from the arena.

The Xuan formation in front of Chu Liuyue cracked and spread out!

The streaks of light turned into inch-wide icicles that headed towards Jiang Yuan!

“Icicle formation!”

Choo choo choo!

Hundreds of icicles cut across the spear images!

The strong spears broke into pieces.

In an instant, the icicles arrived before Jiang Yuan!

Jiang Yuan’s hair fluttered in the cold air—as did his clothes! Sensing the danger, Jiang Yuan immediately tried to move backward!

But the icicles inched closer!

Choo!

An icicle flew across the top of his head and shaved off a few strands of his hair!

Jiang Yuan's blood froze. *If it were a little lower...*

Choo choo!

Just as he dodged that icicle, more icicles caught up and surrounded him.

Jiang Yuan used his force to block them, but they still left gashes on his body and clothes. He was stunned.

Chu Liuyue erected a second-level Xuan formation, but the energy it contained was no less than a third-level one!

After the last icicle, Jiang Yuan was panting, and he almost collapsed to the ground. But before he could catch his breath, he saw that Chu Liuyue had disappeared from where she had been standing!

His heart skipped a beat! He was about to move, but a cold wind came from behind him!

A sharp sensation of pain came from the back of his heart.

He froze, not daring to move.

“Surrender, or would you like to continue?” The cold voice coming from behind Jiang Yuan seemed nonchalant.

However, Jiang Yuan’s heart tightened. He pursed his lips, and he seemed to have lost his voice.

“Hm?” Chu Liuyue asked softly as she nudged her dagger forward.

Blood trickled from Jiang Yuan’s back like plum blossoms.

Jiang Yuan closed his eyes shut and clenched his fists before unclenching them after a while.

“I... concede!” His voice was not loud, but it could be heard clearly in the quiet arena.

Everyone was stunned when Chu Liuyue erected the Xuan formation. Her next attack—which forced Jiang Yuan into a corner—Jiang Yuan attracted everyone’s attention, and they watched with silent fervor.

Jiang Yuan’s words were clear and irrefutable!

He conceded!

Chu Liuyue actually managed to win this round!

Chu Liuyue nodded contentedly and retracted her dagger quickly.

Jiang Yuan did not relax at all. Instead, his heart was heavy. He turned slowly and stared at Chu Liuyue with a complex expression.

Chu Liuyue smiled with cupped fists. "You let me win."

Jiang Yuan laughed bitterly. *I did not give in at all. I lost through and through.*

He blurted out something when he saw Chu Liuyue turn and prepare to leave. "I have a question."

Chu Liuyue turned and looked at him confusedly.

He hesitated for a while, but he spoke in the end. "You're strong as a Xuan Master, right? Why are you taking part in the warrior competition?"

He was not sure why he had such an idea, but it was a gut feeling. Chu Liuyue had enough talent as a warrior. If she were a better Xuan Master, then...

Chu Liuyue curled her lips slightly. "Because... I'm bored."

Chapter 209: Taking it Back

Arrogant!

This was the first thing that flashed across Jiang Yuan's mind when he heard Chu Liuyue's reply.

Many did not even have the chance to take part in the Qing Jiao Competition. Even those who managed to take part in the competition would not necessarily attain good results.

But it was all rather easy for Chu Liuyue. She took part in both the warrior and Xuan Master competitions because she was bored.

Jiang Yuan knew that Chu Liuyue was after something else, but she did have the right to say something like that.

No matter whether it was warrior cultivation or Xuan Master cultivation, she had astonishing talent in both!

"I concede today!" Having thought through all of that, Jiang Yuan didn't feel as bothered. His expression returned to his usual warm smile, and his tone was sincere.

Chu Liuyue's view of him changed.

It was not a glorious thing to lose to someone of a lower cultivation stage. She tried to save him some dignity earlier, but he conceded of his own accord. Just from that, Jiang Yuan seemed like a sincere and open person.

Her smile deepened as she nodded before turning to leave.

As Jiang Yuan watched her leave, he sighed and left the arena.

...

Of course, Tian Lu Academy was celebrating. They were even more excited than when Chu Liuyue won the first match yesterday.

They had seen Jiang Yuan's abilities. He was definitely stronger than Lei Mingwei, but Chu Liuyue managed to win too! How could they not be proud of this? Chu Liuyue had brought glory to their academy!

While they were cheering and celebrating, Nan Feng Academy sank into an awkward silence.

Jiang Yuan walked over to Fu Yunshan and bowed apologetically. "Director, I've disappointed you."

Fu Yunshan looked at him deeply. "Did you do your best in the arena?"

Jiang Yuan laughed bitterly. "Director, I'm sure you can tell if I've tried my best."

Fu Yunshan felt like there was a stone on his chest, and he felt terrible. Of course, he could tell that Jiang Yuan put his best foot forward. He had been rather careful right from the start. But that was also why Jiang Yuan's loss to Chu Liuyue was so hard to accept.

Jiang Yuan immediately knew what Fu Yunshan was thinking when he saw the latter's stiff expression. He paused for a while before saying, "Director, Chu Liuyue's talents and abilities are much stronger than it seems. She's going to be the biggest variable in this year's competition."

Fu Yunshan's eyes were dark. "Oh?"

Jiang Yuan is wise, and he is always rather objective. Since he has such high praise of Chu Liuyue, then...

"It's fine. Go down and rest first."

"Yes." Jiang Yuan quietly returned to his seat as if he did not notice all the gazes on him.

Someone could not help but ask him, "Jiang Yuan, you're already a beginner stage-four warrior. How did you lose to Chu Liuyue?"

Jiang Yuan laughed softly. "Lei Mingwei was an intermediate stage-four warrior. Didn't he lose as well?"

The crowd exchanged looks among themselves.

"But you're stronger than Lei Mingwei! She's just..."

“Since she was able to defeat Lei Mingwei, it proves that she has ability. Besides, she’s still a Xuan Master. It’s nothing strange for her to win.” As Jiang Yuan spoke, he glanced around with a playful expression. “If you all have doubts, you’re more than welcome to try.”

The people who had doubts were quietened. Some even looked away, afraid to meet Jiang Yuan’s eyes.

They were not dumb. Chu Liuyue managed to defeat two stage-four warriors, so she was definitely not easy to deal with! They could not even win against Jiang Yuan; hence, they would be in a worse state if they battled Chu Liuyue.

Jiang Yuan did not bother with them as he closed his eyes and tried to recover from his injuries. As he did so, he ran through every scene from his battle with Chu Liuyue. He would do this after every battle. Summarizing the experience from every battle would benefit his cultivation in the long run.

Seeing that Jiang Yuan did not intend to say anything else, everyone exchanged glances and kept their curiosity to themselves.

...

As the competition continued, people were continuously eliminated.

The weak contestants were gradually weeded out, leaving only the strong ones.

Liuyue looked around, taking note of the ones who were the strongest. She would not know who her opponent was until the last moment. Thus, it was not a bad idea to take the chance to understand the different people's quirks in battle.

As Chu Liuyue watched the others, many were watching her.

After those two matches, Chu Liuyue was confirmed as the black horse of this year's competition. Naturally, she attracted a lot of attention.

Tens of thousands of people were seated around the arena. Other than the people from Imperial City, many had come from other countries to watch the Qing Jiao Competition.

Not everyone knew much about Chu Liuyue, but from yesterday till now, many had begun to ask around about the circulating rumors concerning her.

Even her previous marriage agreement with the Crown Prince was dug up, becoming something that everyone talked about.

Having defeated Jiang Yuan, Chu Liuyue had become the talk of the town.

Chu Liuyue rubbed her glabella. She could clearly hear everyone around her mentioning her name and talking about those matters.

Some things were true, while others were not. She was caught between laughter and tears.

She treated all of the gossip as a joke, but some people got antsy.

“Really? She’s so pretty and talented? Why would anyone ask to annul the marriage agreement?”

“Of course, it’s true! And it’s not just anyone. It’s Country Yao Chen’s Crown Prince, Rong Jin! I heard that the marriage agreement existed since they were young, but the Crown Prince got together with a sister from Chu Liuyue’s family and abandoned her!”

“Tsk, tsk, I see! I wonder what kind of person Chu Liuyue’s sister is to get the Crown Prince to willingly abandon Chu Liuyue for her?”

“What? She’s just a manipulator who used some underhanded methods to get what she wants! There! The one with the veil over there! She didn’t look too bad before, but now she’s disfigured. She doesn’t even dare to show her face now!”

“What is the Crown Prince after? Isn’t he just taking trash for treasure then?”

“Hehe, we don’t know either? I only know that the number of people who will be bringing marriage proposals to her house will skyrocket! For all we know, not just people from Country Yao Chen, but even people from Country Xing Luo and Country Huai Cang will be doing the same!”

...

Rong Jin’s hands rested on his knees as he remained expressionless. Since Chu Liuyue had recovered and gotten into Tian Lu Academy, he had heard about this countless times.

Chu Liuyue was now like a once dusty pearl that was regaining its shine!

He was previously confused, so he pushed her away. But now that everything was clear to him, he wanted to take the pearl back!

Chapter 210: Bite Her!

As the competition proceeded on, more and more people were eliminated.

Cen Hu had won a match the previous day, but he met with a strong opponent today and lost. Gu Mingfeng was also picked again, but he won the match rather relaxingly since he was a stage-four warrior.

Very quickly, it was Mu Hongyu's turn to compete. Her opponent was a woman from Tai Yan Academy named Yu Qing.

Yu Qing was slender, and her features were somewhat defined. However, her eyes were full of emotion, which added a touch of femininity to her. It looked like she was a small flower trembling in the wind.

On the other hand, Mu Hongyu was loud, passionate, and determined—similar to a blooming peony.

The pair in the arena was especially eye-catching.

Mu Hongyu smiled after she glanced at Yu Qing. "You're a stage-four warrior too? That's great! I can finally have a good match!"

Astonishment flashed across Yu Qing's eyes as if she did not expect Mu Hongyu to be this competitive. She gave her a light and gentle smile. "I just broke through, so I might not be your match. We'll just be sparring."

Mu Hongyu found it a little weird. *I have just broken through too! The battle hasn't even begun, so why is Yu Qing saying that she is not my match? The Qing Jiao Competition is a competition between academies and students, so why does it seem like she isn't interested?*

But Mu Hongyu did not think much after seeing Yu Qing's meek manner.

"Okay, let's begin!" With that, Mu Hongyu moved and struck first!

The pair immediately got into it!

Since they were both stage-four warriors, they were of similar abilities. Hence, it did not really matter if they fought close-range or not.

Mu Hongyu always worked quickly and furiously, and today was no exception. Her body had recovered, and she had just broken through. She had been itching to fight, so she used all her energy in her first strike.

After struggling for a while, Yu Qing started backing away as if she could not handle it.

Mu Hongyu saw this and decided to close in further!

Shortly after the match began, Mu Hongyu gained the upper hand. Yu Qing was backing away until she was almost at the edge of the arena!

...

“It seems like Hongyu can win this quite easily!” Even though Cen Hu had been eliminated, he knew that it was because he was weaker. Thus, he was not too disappointed. He got excited when he saw that Mu Hongyu was about to win.

But Gu Mingfeng—who was sitting next to him—frowned instead.

Cen Hu noticed his expression and asked dazedly, “What’s up? Is something wrong?”

Gu Mingfeng was silent for a moment before he shook his head. “That Yu Qing is a little strange.”

“Ah? Where? Why don’t I notice anything?” Cen Hu was confused, and he could not help but turn and look.

Following Mu Hongyu’s continuous attacks, Yu Qing was at a disadvantage. Based on the way things were going, the outcome was clear!

...

“This Yu Qing is quite interesting.” Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes as she watched everything that was happening in the arena.

Si Yang could not help but question Chu Liuyue when he heard her words. “What do you mean?”

Si Yang did not understand warriors because he was a Xuan Master. He was just a stage-two warrior, so he naturally could not tell what was really going on.

Chu Liuyue raised her chin. “Who do you think will win?”

“Of course, it will be Mu Hongyu! Anyone can tell! That Yu Qing has no way of fighting back, and she’s being chased around,” Si Yang said without hesitation.

Chu Liuyue smiled, but the smile did not reach her eyes. “If she really had no means of fighting back, why isn’t she injured at all after being chased around for so long? Her hair isn’t even messy.”

“Ah?” Si Yang froze and looked again. It really was true.

He stared for a while and couldn’t help but say, “Now that you mention it, it really looks like that... That Yu Qing seems like she’s at a disadvantage, but she seems quite... relaxed.”

“She’s definitely not as weak as she seems.” Chu Liuyue gently tapped her arms. *But I’m just unsure about why Yu Qing is doing this deliberately.*

Si Yang looked at Chu Liuyue speechlessly. *Is she just saying that a stage-four warrior looked weak? But then again, she does seem to have the right to say that...*

“Who do you think will win?”

Chu Liuyue paused. “I’m not sure.”

It was true that Yu Qing had tricks up her sleeve, but Mu Hongyu was not to be trifled with.

At this time, a cry came from the crowd.

Chu Liuyue looked over, and her eyes turned cold.

As one chased after the other, the duo unknowingly ended up at the edge of the arena!

Just as Yu Qing was about to fall out of the arena, she began to fight back! Her palm headed straight for Mu Hongyu.

Mu Hongyu’s eyes lit up. “You’re finally willing to strike! Just in time!” Mu Hongyu had obviously noticed that something was up with Yu Qing. She did not like such an evasive way of fighting, and all her fighting spirit had been pent up!

Now that Yu Qing was finally willing to fight head-on, Mu Hongyu became excited, intending to defeat the former and win the match fair and square!

She gathered force in her palms and quickly struck! “Wind gathering palm!”

The force rippled around the pair as their palms were on the path to collision.

At this time, Yu Qing moved to the side and avoided Mu Hongyu’s attack. But she didn’t back away this time. Instead, she reached out and grabbed Mu Hongyu’s collar!

Mu Hongyu was stunned as she tried to back away, but it was too late!

Yu Qing—who had been slower than Mu Hongyu the whole time—moved extremely swiftly. Not only did she avoid Mu Hongyu’s attack, but she also managed to grab the latter’s collar.

She forcefully pulled Mu Hongyu down as she turned.

In an instant, the two exchanged positions! Mu Hongyu was now the one on the edge of the arena!

Mu Hongyu grabbed Yu Qing’s arm and glanced behind her. *It will all be over if I fall from here!*

“Yu Qing! You’re this scheming!” Mu Hongyu instantly understood what Yu Qing had been planning!

Yu Qing had been acting weak since the battle started. She only started fighting back after she had backed all the way up to the arena’s edge! Yu Qing had done all this so that she could push Mu Hongyu down at this point! This way, she could win effortlessly!

“Despicable!” Mu Hongyu was infuriated when she figured it all out!

Yu Qing blinked, looking innocent. “Do the rules say that I can’t do that? It’s a competition, so winning is all that matters.”

As she spoke, she inched closer and lowered her voice. Her eyes were cold and mocking as she said, “Brainless people are bound to fail. You... are going down!”

With that said, Yu Qing pushed with her wrist, about to push Mu Hongyu down!

At this time, a black ball sprinted out and headed straight for Yu Qing!

“Ahh!” Yu Qing screamed out in fear and backed away.

Mu Hongyu took the chance and flipped back onto the arena. “Congcong, bite!”