

Nobel Ruler 231

Chapter 231: Strange

Cheng Han was at a loss for words.

The Seven Coldness Poison in Rong Jin's body was the best evidence! Even if he wanted to refute it, he could not think of a single word.

Cheng Han felt humiliated; Situ Xingchen even more so. Initially, she was the one who suspected Chu Liuyue first and told Chu Liuyue to produce evidence.

Now, everything was clear.

Countless gazes from the surrounding crowd landed on Situ Xingchen, making her feel extremely uneasy.

"It turns out that Rong Jin is poisoned with this too! Heng Jingchuo is definitely the culprit then!"

"Yeah! Chu Liuyue has never made contact with Rong Jin since the start. How can it be her?"

"I knew it. Rong Jin and Heng Jingchuo were of the same cultivation level, but why did Heng Jingchuo win against him so easily? It turns out Heng Jingchuo used such despicable means! I think he probably didn't even use his real abilities to win his previous matches!"

“I really don’t know how Tai Yan Academy teaches its students to cause such trouble. Also, that Situ Xingchen keeps speaking on behalf of her own academy’s students. It is clear that Heng Jingchuo did something wrong, yet she suspected someone else... Rumors have it that she’s very kind, understanding, and intelligent, but why don’t I see these traits in her?”

“Hah, those are just rumors! You need to see her for yourself before you know what’s true and false! Don’t you think that she seems to be targeting Chu Liuyue? Is it because Chu Liuyue argued with her yesterday, so Chu Liuyue offended her?”

“That might be true! After all, she has the distinguished status of an eldest princess.”

...

The various discussions were like swords that had formed and harshly pierced through her body, making her feel even more humiliated and more pain.

Situ Xingchen had always been doted on since a young age. Even her father had not really raged at her before, let alone get ridiculed by so many people!

Situ Xingchen felt like her face was burning, and she really wanted to find a hole and hide in it.

...

With a very serious expression, Sun Zhongyan coldly said, “Cheng Han, your students used such despicable means to win in the Qing Jiao Competition. Shouldn’t you have an explanation for this?”

“That’s right! This incident is very serious, and we can’t just let this slide!” Fu Yunshan—who was standing at the side and watching silently—finally expressed his stance and looked equally stern.

Previously, his Nan Feng Academy students had also fought with Heng Jingchuo. Who knew whether other people had also done it other than Heng Jingchuo?

The duo’s repeated questioning put Cheng Han in a very difficult spot. “I don’t know about this too…”

“You’re the director, and they’re students from your academy. Whether you know about this or not, you have to take responsibility for it,” interrupted Sun Zhongyan.

Cheng Han was very indignant. I really didn’t know! If I knew, I wouldn’t have brought Heng Jingchuo over, let alone stand up for him! Initially, I thought that this year’s top warrior would be from Tai Yan Academy. But in the blink of an eye, not only did we lose the number one position, but we even became the public enemy!

In a state of panic, Cheng Han could only glare at Heng Jingchuo and scolded him. “Speak! Where did you get this thing from?”

Seven Coldness Poison is not something that an ordinary person can obtain. Heng Jingchuo is of ordinary background and has always laid low in school. This Seven Coldness Poison really has ambiguous origins!

However, Heng Jingchuo did not care about Cheng Han. He just lay on the floor, huddled up in a ball as his entire body trembled.

“Answer me!” Cheng Han wanted to go over and kick him, but he stopped in his tracks when he remembered that Heng Jingchuo had Seven Coldness Poison in his body.

But Heng Jingchuo still did not answer him.

Chu Liuyue furrowed her brows. She suddenly thought of something and walked toward Heng Jingchuo.

“Liuyue! Be careful!” yelled Sun Zhongyan hurriedly.

Chu Liuyue shook her head, indicating that he did not need to worry. She took a few steps forward and examined Heng Jingchuo closely.

With just one look, her facial expression changed slightly. “He’s going to die.”

“What?!”

The crowd was stunned.

Sun Zhongyan and Fu Yunshan hurriedly went forward. They saw that the arm—which Heng Jingchuo had cut off—was already frozen, and the frost had spread to his entire face.

His poison was acting up! At this stage, Heng Jingchuo was on his way to death. He would stop breathing very soon; he did not have any chance of being saved.

“Why did his poison act up so quickly?” asked Fu Yunshan with knitted brows.

“There should be some hidden poisons in his body, which acted up together with the Seven Coldness Poison. Thus...”

Sun Zhongyan’s words cast a shadow in everyone’s hearts.

If it really is so, this means that Heng Jingchuo was manipulated by someone! However, there is no way of finding out the mastermind’s identity considering Heng Jingchuo’s current state.

Fu Yunshan felt very anxious. “Is there no way of preserving his life first? When we investigate...”

Before he could finish his sentence, Heng Jingchuo’s body started spasming, and he let out painful groans—which sounded like hopeless cries in the dark night. This sent chills down people’s spines.

Very quickly, Heng Jingchuo’s movements gradually became slower, and he finally stopped breathing.

Fu Yunshan and Sun Zhongyan looked at each other worriedly. However, Chu Liuyue had already accepted this fact. She gently caressed Tuan Zi in her arms and was deep in thought.

It’s no wonder Heng Jingchuo panicked so much when he got injured just now. He wasn’t only worried about the Seven Coldness Poison; he was also worried about activating the other poisons in his body. This must be what the mastermind used to control him.

In any case, he is just a pawn. However... Who exactly is the mastermind? There’s no need to do this if his aim is to get first place in the Qing Jiao Competition. Then... What is this for?

Fu Yunshan thought for a while and said, "Since the person is already dead, we might be able to get some clues if we can find out what other poisons are in his body. Cheng Han, you won't object to us doing this, right?"

What else could Cheng Han say? He could only agree.

"Since things have ended like this, it's something that everyone needs to discuss and take action for. We can also use this chance to prove Tai Yan Academy's innocence." Cheng Han did not want a mere Heng Jingchuo to tarnish their reputation.

At this point, a black mist suddenly emanated from Heng Jingchuo's body.

Sinister!

Cold!

Uneasiness surged throughout Chu Liuyue's heart.

In the next moment, the black mist quickly spread and finally covered Heng Jingchuo completely. His body then started decomposing at an observable speed.

In no time, Heng Jingchuo's corpse had become a puddle of bloody water before it finally disappeared.

The black mist also dissipated and disappeared from everyone's sight.

Only the messy bloodstains left on the ground indicated what had just happened.

Chapter 232: Thankful

Nobody had expected things to end up like this.

Even Heng Jingchuo's body was not left behind, which thoroughly destroyed all the clues they had. They could not investigate any longer.

Cheng Han wanted to investigate and clear this matter up more than anybody else. Now that this had happened, it really was like a fishbone stuck in his throat.

"Let's temporarily put this matter aside. We'll start investigating after the Qing Jiao Competition ends," boomed Sun Zhongyan.

All of their hearts were filled with worry when such a thing happened. However, it was obvious that the other party was very meticulous and cunning. This matter was definitely not something they could finish investigating in a day or two.

The Qing Jiao Competition had to continue.

Fu Yunshan glanced at Cheng Han as if he were looking at a joke.

Tai Yan Academy's people were the ones in pain now. This havoc-wreaking person had been hiding in their academy, but they did not know about it at all. After thinking about it now, their hearts were crushed.

"Sure enough! Heng Jingchuo is Tai Yan Academy's student after all. I think Brother Cheng Han should organize this incident's investigation, and we'll follow up with him. How about that?"

Cheng Han could not hold on to his facial expression anymore. "Whatever you say!"

He then returned to his seat, clearly reluctant to say anything else. Even so, Cheng Han still felt as if he was sitting on needles. If he did not clear this matter up, he and the entire Tai Yan Academy would be implicated!

Not only did we not get first place, but we are even in so much trouble! How can this be?

...

Chu Liuyue retracted her thoughts and happily smiled at Xiao Wenling and the rest. "Oh yes! According to the rules, you can continue to challenge me, right?"

Xiao Wenling and the rest—who were suddenly called out—shuddered and hurriedly shook their heads.

"No! No! I'm not going to challenge you!"

“I’m not challenging either! I-I’m injured, so I’m not going to compete!”

“Um... I-I think my ranking is pretty good...”

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. *If they don’t want to challenge me, they can just not challenge me. Why do they make it seem as if I’m a giant demon? Given their current behavior, people who did not know better might think that I’m very scary!*

However, Chu Liuyue did not know how horrifying her existence was to the few of them. No, most of the people in the square actually thought the same way.

The scene of Chu Liuyue’s blood ferret eating Heng Jingchuo’s Moon Devour with just its mouth was still deeply etched in everyone’s brains; they could not erase this image.

At this time, who will still risk their lives to challenge Chu Liuyue?

What if the blood ferret bites my neck?

“Are you sure you don’t want to continue?”

“No! Not at all!” The few of them quickly declared their decision in unison.

Chu Liuyue’s red lips curved up in a delighted smile. “Since this is so... Elder Sun, is this the end of the warrior competition?”

Sun Zhongyan then recovered his senses. *That's right! If nobody wants to challenge her, then it means that Chu Liuyue is truly the top warrior!*

His originally worried feelings immediately became relaxed, and he smiled like a flower. "I hereby announce: the top warrior for this year's Qing Jiao Competition is... Tian Lu Academy's Chu Liuyue!"

...

Disregarding Heng Jingchuo's accident, Chu Liuyue coming in first place made the entire Tian Lu Academy elated. One had to know that they did not get this first place for a whole three years.

With this strong talent's existence, Tian Lu Academy's people naturally had more pride.

Nan Feng Academy was still fine, but Tai Yan Academy had thoroughly humiliated themselves. They came brimming with confidence, but who would have thought it would end in such a way?

Cheng Han took a deep breath in and kept comforting himself. *What's so good about getting first place in the warrior competition? There's still the Xuan Master and heavenly doctor competitions after this.*

For the Xuan Master competition, the three academies are tied. Hence, nobody can predict who the last winner will be for certain. However, I have Situ Xingchen. If she can become the top heavenly doctor, she will bring honor to the entire academy.

...

“Liuyue, after the Qing Jiao Competition ends, you can choose whichever academy you like out of the three and read at their library for a month. Have you chosen which academy you want to visit yet?” asked Sun Zhongyan happily.

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment and smiled as she said, “I haven’t decided yet.”

Sun Zhongyan did not mind it. “Then, you should think about it for a while longer. There are two more days till the end of the Qing Jiao Competition, so you can just choose then.”

This girl becoming the top warrior is out of everyone’s expectations, so it is normal that she hasn’t thought so far ahead yet.

Chu Liuyue obediently acknowledged Sun Zhongyan’s words before returning to her seat.

Si Yang was dazed. “You actually came in first place... Liuyue, are you going to participate in the Xuan Master competition then?”

“Why not?” asked Chu Liuyue. *I’m even sitting in the Xuan Master’s area!*

Si Yang sincerely said, “You’ve already come in first place for the warrior competition. You’ve already tortured so many people, so you can just let us off.”

Chu Liuyue seriously looked at him. “Didn’t you say that the Qing Jiao Competition’s rewards are very substantial?”

Si Yang covered his face hopelessly. *It’s all because of my stupid mouth!*

...

The third day of the competition ended just like that.

The news of Chu Liuyue coming in first had spread throughout the Imperial City.

At the same time, quite a few people learned about Heng Jingchuo using poison during the competition.

At night, in the Crown Prince Mansion.

Rong Jin lay on his bed, his face as white as a sheet.

Currently, Chu Xianmin was carefully serving him at the side. However, her eyes were fleeting. In actual fact, she was focused on listening in on the conversation between Zuo Rong and the Empress outside.

“... It’s our negligence that caused His Highness to be poisoned. Luckily, the dosage was not high, and His Highness had always been in good health. Thus, his condition isn’t very serious. Now that the remaining poison has been cleared, he will recover after resting for a while.”

This was Zuo Rong’s voice. In the academy, he was the teacher, and Rong Jin was his student. However, this was the Crown Prince Mansion. Hence, he naturally had to speak and behave according to his status.

“Mr. Zuo Rong, you’re too kind. If it weren’t for you guys, I’m afraid the Crown Prince would...” The Empress had immediately rushed over after hearing the news. Even though Zuo Rong had already stated that the Crown Prince was fine, she was still scared.

Zuo Rong sighed and said, “Actually, the person you should really thank is Liuyue, not me. If she didn’t discover this earlier, we wouldn’t have known that His Highness was poisoned. If this had dragged on for a while, he would really be in danger!”

The Empress paused. “It’s... Chu Liuyue?”

“That’s right.”

The Empress kept quiet for a while before softly saying, “... She’s really a kind child... Don’t worry. I’ll personally thank her when I have the chance.”

Chu Xianmin instinctively clenched her fists. *Chu Liuyue! It’s Chu Liuyue again! Even the Empress is saying this now!*

“Water...” A weak voice sounded.

Chu Xianmin hurriedly looked at the bed and saw that Rong Jin’s eyes were already open.

“Your Highness! Your Highness, you’re awake? That’s great! Here’s your water!” Chu Xianmin hurriedly passed Rong Jin water from the side and carefully fed him.

When the people outside heard the commotion, they hurriedly rushed in.

When the Empress saw Rong Jin awake, tears welled up in her eyes, and she lunged forward. “Jin’er, you’re finally awake!”

Chu Xianmin hurriedly moved backward but saw that the Empress did not even glance at her. She secretly bit her lips harshly.

Rong Jin opened his eyes and asked with much difficulty, “D-did... Liuyue save me...?”

Chapter 233: He’s in Trouble!

The Empress didn’t look too good since she didn’t expect Rong Jin to ask this first. Chu Xianmin also lowered her head, hiding the emotions in her eyes.

The Empress patted Rong Jin’s arm. “Jin’er, you’ve just woken up, and your body is still very weak. Let’s talk about this later, okay?”

But Rong Jin was still slightly dazed. Actually, he had already woken up earlier and had heard most of the conversation between Mr. Zuo Rong and his mother.

Even though he did not remember what happened, he heard a few keywords clearly.

Heng Jingchuo... Seven Coldness Poison... Chu Liuyue...

After seeing his mother's reaction, he knew that whatever Zuo Rong said was true!

Rong Jin's heart was overwhelmed in no time. Initially, he felt humiliated when Chu Liuyue rejected his invitation. But he did not expect Chu Liuyu to stand up and save him at the critical moment.

If it weren't for her, my life would probably... The image of the young girl's cold attitude appeared in front of him again. For some reason, his anger—which arose from being offended—had suddenly disappeared, and it was replaced by an indescribable, complicated feeling.

She... is indeed different from others...

Rong Jin could not help but tightly grab his mother's arm and anxiously say, "Mother, I have a request to beg of you, and I hope that you'll approve of it!"

The Empress was shocked.

Rong Jin had been the Crown Prince for many years, and he rarely used such a tone to beg her. Rong Jin was her son in the end, so she felt her heart ache.

Her tone was much gentler than before. "Jin'er, there's nothing to beg for between mother and son. Just say what you want to do."

Rong Jin looked at her and clearly pronounced every word as he said, "I wish to marry Chu Liuyue as my Crown Princess."

The smile on the Empress's face froze.

Chu Xianmin hurriedly raised her head, but she immediately looked down again. She secretly clutched her sleeves and clenched her teeth tightly.

The Empress's voice was slightly cold. "Jin'er, you still have a fever, and your mind isn't very clear. We can talk about this when you've recovered."

She then got up to leave. However, Rong Jin was very persistent.

"Mother! I've already made up my mind! If you don't agree to my request, I'll go and ask Father instead."

"Are you crazy?" The Empress finally could not hold herself back and abruptly raised her voice. "Don't forget your identity! You're the Crown Prince!"

How can the Crown Prince go back on his words? When Chu Liuyue was still a good-for-nothing, he dissolved the marriage agreement with her. Even though this move was widely criticized, it was still logical. After all, how can the Crown Princess be a useless good-for-nothing?

However, Rong Jin actually said that he wants to marry Chu Liuyue again? What will other people think of him? What will His Majesty think? This is ridiculous!

But Rong Jin did not seem to heed her advice, and he clenched his teeth. "I only like her. If I can't marry her, I won't marry anyone else!"

“You!” The Empress nearly fainted out of anger. *What’s so good about that Chu Liuyue? There are so many good girls in the world, so why is Rong Jin suddenly so obsessed with her? How exactly did she charm Rong Jin?*

But after seeing Rong Jin’s firm attitude, the Empress did not dare to reject him flatly. She could only say, “I’ll think about this again. At the very least, we have to wait until the Qing Jiao Competition ends.”

Rong Jin also knew that he had gone overboard by making this request suddenly, so he did not force her. Upon seeing how his mother was more relaxed about it, Rong Jin did not pursue the matter. “I’ll thank you first then, Mother.”

The Empress looked at him with deep meaning before turning around with her thin brows furrowed.

Zuo Rong—who was forced to listen to this at the side—felt very awkward and found a reason to leave.

Very quickly, only Rong Jin and Chu Xianmin were left in the room.

Rong Jin lay back down on the bed and looked at the mesh above his head, feeling dazed.

Things related to Chu Liuyue kept playing back in his mind.

Thinking about it closely, even though they had a marriage agreement for so many years, the two of them did not interact much. Now that Rong Jin wanted to recall some memories, he realized that it was the same few things over and over again.

Rong Jin was slightly disappointed, but he felt elated upon thinking about how Chu Liuyue saved his life.

As long as she is not engaged, then nobody can fight with me in the entire Imperial City. Thinking of this, Rong Jin looked at Chu Xianmin and anxiously asked, “Oh, yes. Minmin, weren’t you very close to Liuyue in the past? You should know what she likes, right? What kind of accessories does she like? What does she like to do in her free time? Quickly, tell me!”

Chu Xianmin almost sneered. *What a joke! The Crown Prince—who once avoided Chu Liuyue as if she were a snake—wants to marry her again. He even asked me what Chu Liuyue likes? He has never been so nice to me before! He really doesn’t consider me at all when he asked all of this.*

Chu Xianmin suppressed the jealousy and anger in her heart and lightly said, “Your Highness, you should rest first. I will tell you about these in detail another time.”

Rong Jin then relaxed and fell into a deep sleep after nagging for a while.

Chu Xianmin looked at him coldly and revealed a mocking smile after a while.

...

Chu Liuyue directly returned to her lodgings.

On the second floor, she almost habitually walked to the window and looked at Yi Feng Courtyard.

Quite a few leaves had fallen in the yard, but there was nobody on the rattan chair. It looked very miserable.

It seems like Rong Xiu hasn't returned yet. Chu Liuyue slightly furrowed her brows and hid the vague disappointment in her heart. *Upon thinking about it more, Rong Xiu has only left for three days.*

But Chu Liuyue still could not get used to it. It felt like something was hanging onto her, and it did not feel good.

Chu Liuyue quietly stood there before planning to close the window.

A figure suddenly appeared in the night sky.

Chu Liuyue noticed the figure and looked up. Her eyes widened. "Xue Xue?"

Plop!

Xue Xue directly jumped through the window and landed in Chu Liuyue's arms.

Chu Liuyue staggered backward, nearly falling onto the floor. "Xue Xue, why are you here—"

Before she could finish her sentence, she smelled an intense bloody scent.

Chu Liuyue's expression suddenly changed, and she hurriedly held Xue Xue up. With the moonlight, she saw a deep wound on Xue Xue's body—which reached its bones.

As her blood boiled, Chu Liuyue anxiously asked, “What happened? Who did this to you?”

No wonder Xue Xue directly pounced on me when it came in! It wasn't trying to get close to me. It's because it was too injured and could not control itself!

Xue Xue's aura was very weak, and its messy appearance made it seem like it had just experienced a terrifying battle.

After hearing Chu Liuyue's voice, a low wail came out of Xue Xue's throat. Its icy-blue eyes stared at Chu Liuyue anxiously and miserably.

Chu Liuyue suddenly thought of something. “Where's your master?”

Xue Xue bit her clothes and dragged her outside.

Chu Liuyue's heart sank. *Rong Xiu's in trouble!*

Chapter 234: Under the Lake!

“Where is he?” asked Chu Liuyue immediately.

Xue Xue wailed and lay down.

Chu Liuyue immediately realized that Xue Xue wanted to take her there. However...

“Your wound...”

Xue Xue shook its head and looked up at her yearningly.

Chu Liuyue was determined, and she took out a herb from her Cosmic Bag. “This is a ground spirit herb, and it can stop your bleeding. Use this first.”

Then, she swiftly crushed the herb and placed it on Xue Xue’s wound.

The original wound—which revealed Xue Xue’s bones—started to heal rapidly at an observable speed.

Chu Liuyue finally relaxed a little and jumped onto Xue Xue’s back.

Xue Xue’s shoulders were suddenly heavy, and it turned around to see that Tuan Zi had followed them too.

“Let’s go!” Chu Liuyue lightly patted Xue Xue’s head. Xue Xue then lunged forward and jumped out of the window.

In the night sky, one human and two fiends’ figures went straight outside.

When Chu Liuyue passed by the academy's barrier, she was slightly worried. However, Xue Xue seemed not to care about it. When Xue Xue got near the barrier, silver light suddenly spread around its body, covering Chu Liuyue as well.

Chu Liuyue immediately felt like her aura was isolated and hidden as she made it through the barrier without causing any changes to it.

Very quickly, they had completely left the academy campus and went towards the west.

Chu Liuyue turned around and saw that Tian Lu Academy's outline gradually disappeared into the night sky.

...

Chu Liuyue retracted her gaze and discovered that Xue Xue was very fast even though it was injured.

Xue Xue indeed is an advanced fiend. Even though it is injured, it still has strong combat power. However, what kind of trouble is Rong Xiu in, which made Xue Xue injured as well...? There doesn't seem to be another fiend stronger than Xue Xue in the Imperial City, or even in the entire Country Yao Chen.

As for Rong Xiu, his capabilities are so strong that I didn't even know its limits. So who is fighting him?

At this point, Chu Liuyue completely did not think about how she couldn't help Rong Xiu much with her current abilities since Rong Xiu was dealing with a problem that even he couldn't solve. All she was thinking about was to get there even faster and sooner.

Rong Xiu was in trouble, and she definitely could not just sit and watch.

She could not do it.

...

Very soon, Chu Liuyue realized that Xue Xue had already brought her out of the Imperial City's city gate.

She looked even more serious. *When Rong Xiu said he was going to leave, he did not specify where he was going. Now, it seems like he is indeed outside the Imperial City.*

Xue Xue went toward the woods outside the Imperial City.

Using the moonlight, Chu Liuyue gradually started to find the view in front of her increasingly familiar. *This forest... seems to be where I was reborn! This is also the forest where the original owner was brought out to be killed!*

After passing through the lush greenery, Xue Xue finally flew toward a location below them.

When they landed on the ground, Chu Liuyue looked up seriously and saw the sparkling lake.

With the current moonlight and a thin layer of white mist above the lake, the lake looked extra peaceful and quiet.

This is... the place where I first met Rong Xiu!

“Xue Xue, why did you bring me here?” Chu Liuyue jumped down from Xue Xue’s body and quickly surveyed her surroundings. However, she did not see Rong Xiu anywhere. “Where’s your master?”

Not only was Rong Xiu not here, but there also wasn’t a single person in the surroundings apart from her.

Xue Xue whined and walked toward the lake before stopping beside it. It looked at the lake water somewhat anxiously.

Chu Liuyue looked over dazedly and suddenly recovered her senses. “Do you mean that Rong Xiu is in the lake?”

Xue Xue nodded as its paws kept scratching the ground in panic.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. *Rong Xiu was indeed here when I first met him, and he did say that this was his territory. However, Xue Xue actually says that Rong Xiu is underneath the lake...*

The lake looked very calm. Only the immense force above the lake made it seem different from other ordinary lakes.

Chu Liuyue walked over and hesitantly looked at the lake surface. “He’s... underneath...”

Suddenly, her gaze focused. When the white mist gradually dissipated, she saw lines of silver light underneath the clear water.

Her heart skipped a beat, and she immediately jumped down to take a look.

The same scenery could be seen underneath the distant lake.

The lights appeared faint, and the water wasn't very clear. Together with the mist above the lake, it would be even harder to identify it.

If one did not stand closer to take a look, they would definitely not detect this strange phenomenon.

Chu Liuyue focused her gaze, and her eyes gradually widened. *The intersecting pattern really looks like...*

"Transportation formation?" gasped Chu Liuyue in shock. *I never expected a transportation formation to be hidden under this lake. If I didn't see it wrongly, this transportation formation is also pretty advanced.*

As she stared at the intersecting lights below her, Chu Liuyue could vaguely feel the suppression coming from the transportation formation.

She did not speak for some time. *Rong Xiu actually hid a transportation formation here!*

Chu Liuyue discovered that she had still underestimated Rong Xiu.

This transportation formation requires three fifth-stage Xuan Masters to build at least! There are only a few fifth-grade Xuan Masters in Country Yao Chen. What exactly is Rong Xiu...

When countless thoughts flashed across her mind, Xue Xue suddenly went forward and touched Chu Liuyue's knees.

Chu Liuyue looked down at it and seemingly felt something in her heart. *Rong Xiu... is probably at the place where this transportation formation leads to!*

"We can find Rong Xiu if we go down from here, right?"

Xue Xue nodded again, and it looked increasingly panicky.

Chu Liuyue became determined as she hugged Tuan Zi and jumped down. "Let's go!"

...

When Chu Liuyue jumped into the lake, she saw the mist fading away in all directions. The transportation formation also shone brightly as it quickly enveloped her.

The lake water instinctively moved away.

Chu Liuyue then realized that the transportation formation's light had formed a barrier around her body, protecting her perfectly. Thus, the surrounding lake water avoided her.

Chu Liuyue looked at the silver barrier surrounding her weirdly. *Why does this transportation formation automatically protect me...?*

It was not like Chu Liuyue had never seen a transportation formation before; she had even built a few of her own, so she understood these things a little better.

The biggest use of a typical transportation formation was to connect two spaces and allow people to travel from one place to another conveniently and rapidly.

Within a transportation formation, there would usually be violent energy holes since it connects two empty spaces. Thus, it could be dangerous when one traveled through a transportation formation.

In order to avoid this trouble, people would sometimes set up some small mechanisms when building a transportation formation. For example, when a certain person passes through the transportation formation, the formation would detect their aura and automatically form a barrier to protect the person.

However, I never knew this place had a transportation formation, let alone use it before. Why did this still happen? This question flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind.

The next moment, she felt a strong force suddenly pulling her body down.

All of her surroundings immediately darkened.

Chapter 235: Heaven's Canopy

Chu Liuyue only calmed down when she held Tuan Zi tightly and sensed that Xue Xue was just by her feet. She knew that she was inside the transportation formation.

The sounds of howling wind could be heard due to the chaotic turbulence.

Chu Liuyue had no doubt that she would've been ripped into pieces by the turbulence the moment she entered the formation without this barrier protecting her.

Her surroundings were completely dark, and she could not see a thing.

Chu Liuyue's heart rate gradually rose.

Anything and everything proved that Rong Xiu had too many secrets. Every time Chu Liuyue thought she understood Rong Xiu well enough, she would discover that it was only the tip of the iceberg. At the very least, this transportation formation was not something a mere Country Yao Chen's Prince Li could do.

...

Some time later, light appeared in front of Chu Liuyue. *We're here!*

Strong pressurizing forces came from all directions, and Chu Liuyue's sight was instantly covered by the white light.

She raised her hands to cover her eyes.

When the light dimmed, she put her hands down and looked at her surroundings. After taking a closer look at the scenery in front of her, she finally widened her eyes, feeling stunned. *This place is actually... a sea!*

It was currently night time, and the bright moon hung high in the dark sky.

The faint moonlight landed on the sparkling, dark-blue sea, and it looked extra calm.

The seawater kept rising, hitting the reefs repeatedly.

Chu Liuyue was standing on the shore. When she looked back, she saw an abandoned desert that she could not see the boundaries of. When she looked forward, she saw a mysterious ocean.

At the faraway place—where the ocean met the sky—there seemed to be an enormous canopy that drooped down from the heavens and interacted with the sea.

The canopy looked very dark, and one or two rays of golden light occasionally flashed across it in a moment.

The intense suppression spread from the ground, causing people to surrender unknowingly.

Chu Liuyue was shocked by the scene in front of her, and she was at a loss for words for a long time. *This canopy... this canopy...*

...

Many countries were set up in Mainland Xuan Wu. However, these countries were split into minor and major ones.

For example, Tianling Dynasty was considered as a superior-class country, while Country Yao Chen was just one of its subsidiary countries.

Tianling Dynasty's territory was surrounded by this canopy—which was also known as... Heaven's Canopy!

Anybody who wanted to enter the Tianling Dynasty had to pass by their Heaven's Canopy. In actual fact, this Heaven's Canopy was not man-made—it existed naturally.

Heaven's Canopy's existence split Mainland Xuan Wu into two different levels.

Countries within the Heaven's Canopy—such as Tianling Dynasty—had rich Heaven and Earth Force, and their cultivation environment was much better than the countries outside the Heaven's Canopy.

To them, the Heaven's Canopy was their natural protection and also an esteemed gift. In this world, many people wanted to enter the Heaven's Canopy. However, the Heaven's Canopy was very formidable. Only sufficiently strong cultivators could successfully enter.

When she was in power back then, she had heard about countless cultivators trying to get past the Heaven's Canopy from outside Tianling Dynasty's territory. However, barely a few of them made it.

Chu Liuyue never thought that she would arrive right outside the Heaven's Canopy with that transportation formation.

Very quickly, her gaze was attracted by the scene in mid-air.

A tall white figure was floating in the air. Even though his back was facing her, Chu Liuyue still could recognize that it was Rong Xiu!

She was just about to speak when she heard a sinister and teasing voice come from the skies. "Your Grace, I haven't seen you in a while, yet your abilities have weakened by so much."

Chu Liuyue followed the voice and realized that a person was standing opposite Rong Xiu. It was just that this person wore a black robe with a hood, so his figure had blended in with the dark night sky. Hence, Chu Liuyue did not see him at the first instance.

Rong Xiu softly laughed. "It seems like Prince Unparalleled has been too comfortable these days, so you purposely came here to give me your life."

Chu Liuyue was taken aback. *Your Grace? Does that refer to Rong Xiu? But... I don't think there has ever been a 'Your Grace' in Country Yao Chen, right? Where did Rong Xiu get this identity from?*

Moreover, she felt like the Rong Xiu in front of her seemed to be different from the one she knew before. She had never heard Rong Xiu speak in such a tone.

Cold!

Stern!

Disdain!

The absolute suppression from a higher-up!

“Oh... I forgot that this is outside the Heaven’s Canopy. Your cultivation level should be suppressed, so your capabilities are greatly reduced. If not, why can’t you even handle ten of my moves?” The man in the black robe had a sharp and sinister voice—which sounded like a sharp object scratching against glass—making one feel very uncomfortable.

Chu Liuyue only heard these two sentences, yet she felt her body’s force casually being thrown into disarray. This was because the other party was too strong!

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows tightly. *This man’s abilities are at least of a stage-six warrior!*

However, his words thoroughly shocked Chu Liuyue. *Rong Xiu’s cultivation base is being suppressed? Doesn’t this mean that Rong Xiu’s abilities are at least that of a stage-seven warrior?*

If outsiders wanted to enter the Heaven’s Canopy, their abilities had to be of a stage-six warrior at least.

The strongest people outside the Heaven's Canopy were advanced stage-six warriors. This was because cultivators outside the Heaven's Canopy could only cultivate to this level.

If they wanted to break through and become a stage-seven warrior, they had to enter the Heaven's Canopy. Furthermore, once stage-seven warriors and stronger left the Heaven's Canopy, their cultivation base would be suppressed to below that of a stage-seven warrior.

Chu Liuyue had already secretly guessed Rong Xiu's true abilities, but she did not expect him to be so strong. *It seems like he's not even 20 this year! His talent isn't a single bit weaker than mine in my previous life.*

"Don't worry. Even if we're outside the Heaven's Canopy, I can still send you to your death." Rong Xiu lazily smiled as if he did not even care about the other party.

But Chu Liuyue's eyes were sharp, so she saw how the corner of Rong Xiu's clothes were stained with blood.

"Hahaha! Your Grace, you're already injured, and you don't have any more combat power. Hence, I'm really curious as to how you're going to kill me. The high and mighty His Grace actually fell to this point... Pfft! If this news spreads, I'm afraid you won't have the right to continue staying in your current position! However, you don't have to worry about some things. After all, your life is going to end here today!"

Then, the man in the black robe suddenly raised his hand and brandished a blood-colored sickle! "Blood Sickle Cut!"

The surrounding Heaven and Earth Force started to gather, and he slashed his blood-colored sickle downward.

A blood-red glow flew toward Rong Xiu.

With a whip of his sleeves, Rong Xiu sent a silver ball flying out.

Hong!

The two strong forces harshly collided with each other.

The seawater was violently hurled up.

Very soon, the silver ball suddenly broke!

Kacha!

Chapter 236: Quickly Run!

Countless rays of light started spreading everywhere!

Rong Xiu moved backward rapidly, but the blood-colored sickle kept following him swiftly.

Chu Liuyue stood behind a reef, but the harsh winds caused her to be unable to stand still.

Rong Xiu was originally injured already, and this attack put him in an even more disadvantageous position.

“Your Grace, let’s end it here!” hollered the man in black as the blood-colored sickle suddenly formed different shadows—which all went for Rong Xiu.

In the blink of an eye, Rong Xiu was surrounded.

At this point, Rong Xiu raised his wrist. The fierce seawater suddenly rushed up toward the sky and formed a gigantic water curtain in front of Rong Xiu.

Choo!

The blood-colored sickle rushed into the water curtain, but its speed had greatly decreased as if it had sunk into soil.

The man in black seemed to be very shocked. “You can control the Heaven’s Canopy’s ocean?”

Rong Xiu lightly laughed. “Not much, but it’s enough to handle you.”

Rong Xiu then snapped his fingers, and a silver light suddenly appeared at the tip of his white fingers.

“Go!” As his clear voice fell, that silver light easily landed on the water curtain.

Hong!

In the next moment, fierce fires were ignited as if a comet had landed in a wok filled with oil.

A bright, icy-blue silver light started burning in the dark-blue water curtain. It covered the skies and the ground.

The man in black sensed that something was wrong and hurriedly retreated. At this moment, another water curtain appeared behind him.

The silver fire quickly spread and burned over.

The water curtains burned in front and behind the man in black, trapping him in the middle. The few blood-colored sickles also gradually merged with the water curtain, and the man in black finally panicked.

Originally, he thought Rong Xiu would definitely not be his match since Rong Xiu's cultivation base was suppressed. However, he did not expect Rong Xiu to execute such a move.

"Your Grace, you're really not someone to underestimate... What a pity; I came here prepared as well."

Then, the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force started rapidly entering his body. His surrounding aura started to explode crazily.

Very quickly, Chu Liuyue discovered that a ripple had seemingly appeared on the faraway Heaven's Canopy.

That man had actually increased his capabilities forcefully to that of an advanced stage-six warrior!

The Heaven's Canopy would start becoming unstable when it detected a stage-seven warrior's aura. Hence, this man had clearly suppressed his cultivation level to this stage.

"Outside the Heaven's Canopy, you can only be an advanced stage-six warrior at best. Your Grace, you're too restricted by the canopy, so how can you be my match?" The man in black let out a weird laugh, and a white chain suddenly flew out from his sleeves.

The chain seemed to be made from white bones, and it exuded a cold aura. If one took a closer look, they could even see the dried bloodstains on it. It sent chills down people's spines.

The chain directly flew out and pierced through the water curtain. The chain was once again stopped, but when it got near the silver fire, the darkened bloodstains on the bones started to move.

The silver fire crazily licked the chain, but only a 'pitter-patter' sound was made. It vaguely sounded like a powerful ghost wailing.

A hole was eaten through the water curtain.

Choo!

The last layer of fire was extinguished, and the chain charged toward Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu suddenly looked up, and his gaze was deep. He suddenly raised his hands and caught the chain.

However, the man in black suddenly looked up and laughed. “Hahaha! Do you think this is within Heaven’s Canopy? Don’t think I don’t know that you can’t summon Your Grace’s Golden Body outside Heaven’s Canopy. You’re bound to die today!”

Then, he hollered, “Soul Chain... Explode!”

Peng! Peng! Peng!

The white bones on the chain suddenly exploded.

Rong Xiu flung it away.

The chain started to move intensely, and the enormous force quickly reached the man’s body.

Hong!

The fearful aura started spreading in all directions with the duo in the center. Both of them were hit and simultaneously flew out because of the impact.

Xue Xue roared and quickly flew forward. It originally wanted to catch Rong Xiu, but the shockwave was too strong. Together with the fact that it was injured, Rong Xiu and Xue Xue fell down together.

Xue Xue's claws dug out a deep trench in the ground and finally stopped after they hit a reef.

Even though Xue Xue was Rong Xiu's buffer, his hand still slammed onto the reef.

On the other hand, even though the man in black was also affected, his injuries were not as severe as Rong Xiu's. He very quickly stabilized his body.

One look and one would know who was winning.

Rong Xiu held on to the rough reef with his hand. Just as he was about to turn around, he suddenly noticed something and looked up. A dark shadow was cast on the reef, and a pair of clear eyes were staring at him.

It was a very familiar face.

Yue'er! Why is she here?

Before Rong Xiu could think it through, he felt cold air come from behind him. Quickly and determinedly, he yelled out, "Hide!"

But Chu Liuyue did not shy away; her eyes were burning with fire.

When she met Rong Xiu's eyes, she had clearly seen the bloodstains on Rong Xiu's face and body already.

Ever since they met, she had always seen Rong Xiu in a strong and calm manner. Even when the black flying python's killer move had swallowed them, his clothes were always clean and tidy; they were never this dirty before.

For some reason, an unknown fire suddenly rose in her heart.

The blood-colored sharp blade was just about to land on Rong Xiu.

Without thinking, Chu Liuyue lunged forward and flipped over the reef. The next moment, she pulled Rong Xiu away.

At that point, the blood-colored blade was only inches away from them.

Chu Liuyue could clearly feel its terrifying suppression. She held Rong Xiu's hands tightly, moved her feet, and blocked Rong Xiu's body.

"Yue'er!" Rong Xiu immediately guessed what she was up to, and it was as if something had tightly squeezed his heart. *With her current abilities, how can she withstand this attack?*

"Awoo!" Tuan Zi suddenly flew out and went toward the blood-colored blade.

Choo!

Its small body was about to be flipped over. An advanced stage-six warrior's abilities were very formidable, and it wasn't something Tuan Zi could handle.

On the other end, Xue Xue struggled to get up. However, its body had new injuries, so it could not get up at all.

Chu Liuyue suddenly pushed Rong Xiu away.

Rong Xiu's heart was empty, and he tightly pulled her into his arms in the next moment.

Chu Liuyue suddenly bumped against his chest, and her nose hurt. However, she could not care about it at this point. The first sentence that escaped from her mouth was: "Danger! Quickly, run away!"

Chapter 237: Your Grace's Golden Body!

Rong Xiu held Chu Liuyue tightly in his arms, but he suddenly became dazed when he heard her voice. *She's actually... telling me to run first? Does she know what this means?*

Seeing that Rong Xiu had not moved, Chu Liuyue anxiously shouted again. "Quick!"

This shout made Rong Xiu wake up. He looked at the young girl in his arms—slim, young, but brave and fearless.

At this point, her eyes finally clearly reflected his figure.

Rong Xiu could hear his heart racing, and blood started coursing throughout his limbs. At the bottom of his heart, it was as if millions of happy emotions were surging upward and overwhelming him.

Chu Liuyue had already felt the impending danger behind her, and all her hair stood on end. She wanted to push Rong Xiu away, but he was hugging her too tightly. Hence, she could not get out of his embrace.

This person! He's usually so smooth and decisive, but why is he stunned at this critical moment?

"Rong Xiu! Do you really want to die here?" asked Chu Liuyue with clenched teeth.

Rong Xiu's eyes were like bottomless pits, and one could not see the end of them. They were like black holes about to swallow her whole.

"Of course not." His thin lips curved up in a delighted smile. *How can I die when the day I waited for so long has finally come?*

He looked at Chu Liuyue with deep meaning and many thoughts.

Chu Liuyue did not know how to describe his gaze, and she could not say the words at the tip of her tongue either.

Rong Xiu looked down the next moment, and his gaze landed on Chu Liuyue's white neck.

She actually wore the crystal barrier around her neck.

With a flick of his fingers, the crystal barrier landed in his palm.

Hua!

Rong Xiu circulated his force, and the crystal barrier immediately expanded.

The faint-silver barrier immediately enveloped the two of them.

Hong!

The tremendous force rushed over and directly hit the crystal barrier, and the crystal barrier suddenly vibrated! However, the force was still isolated outside.

Chu Liuyue was slightly shocked. *It seems like the crystal barrier Rong Xiu gave me isn't ordinary as it can actually block a hit from an advanced stage-six warrior.*

"Hm? It's a girl?" The man in black stood in the air and looked down at the duo. To be more accurate, he was looking at Chu Liuyue. Even though Rong Xiu was hugging her, and the man could not see her face, the man could still tell that it was a slender woman.

After a temporary dead silence, he suddenly burst out laughing.

“Hahaha! So this is what happened! I see; no wonder Your Grace was willing to stay outside Heaven’s Canopy for so long! It turns out it was because of a girl! Rumors have it that His Grace doesn’t get close to women and is cold and arrogant. However, I didn’t expect you to be crazily in love with a woman!”

If word gets out, it will trigger huge changes!

But Chu Liuyue was very confused. *Why does everything sound so weird? Did Rong Xiu stay in Heaven’s Canopy the entire time previously? How can that be?*

“Close your eyes.” Rong Xiu looked down and gently kissed her eyelids. His voice was low and gentle.

For some reason, Chu Liuyue obediently closed her eyes and leaned against his chest. Once he spoke, the horrifying threat seemed to disappear silently. It was as if all the dangers would become nothing as long as he was here.

She did not know where this unknown assurance came from, but she seemed to be used to it.

Upon seeing Chu Liuyue lying in his arms quietly, a dark light flashed across Rong Xiu’s eyes, and he tightened his grip.

The next moment, he finally looked at the man in black. In his eyes—which were as dark as the night sky—a faint golden glow appeared.

The man in black suddenly stopped laughing. *J-just now...*

Rong Xiu raised his hand and moved forward a little. A dazzling golden fire suddenly appeared on his fingertips.

“Your Grace’s Golden Body? How can that be? This is outside Heaven’s Canopy—”

Choo!

With a flick of Rong Xiu’s fingers, the golden fire instantly flew out. It was just a small fireball, but it was like the Grim Reaper to the man in black.

He backed away in horror and used all his speed to escape this place as quickly as possible.

How can this be? How is this possible? Outside Heaven’s Canopy, all the cultivators’ strength will be suppressed to below that of a stage-seven warrior. Logically speaking, he should not be able to summon Your Grace’s Golden Body. However, Rong Xiu’s aura is indeed much stronger than before.

Even though the man had exhausted all his strength to escape, the golden fire was even quicker.

In no time, it had silently landed on the dark-blue ocean. The moment the golden fire touched the ocean, everything seemed to stop.

The waves suddenly stopped moving and crashing, and even the two silver fires in the water curtain froze.

The man in black felt as if an entire mountain had suppressed him, and his feet were as though they were tied with iron, making it difficult for him to move even an inch.

This was definitely the suppression of a strong warrior!

He anxiously looked back, but he saw Rong Xiu standing up straight and hugging a woman tightly beside the shore.

Rong Xiu coldly looked at him with contempt. Rong Xiu gazed at the man as if he were looking at a dying ant.

Cold and nonchalant!

It made people not dare to have any intentions of defying his will!

The next moment, Rong Xiu's lips moved slightly. "Break!"

With that sound, the area—where the golden fire was at—suddenly collapsed, revealing an empty black space.

The space is collapsing! The man in black was petrified, but he quickly turned around to escape. He didn't care about anything else.

He moved suddenly, but his body did not seem to react. He looked down in shock, but he discovered that the terrifying force had frozen his entire body. Hence, he could not move at all.

At this point, the surrounding space started collapsing with the golden fire as the center.

The black space's area expanded even more as if it were forming a gigantic black hole.

Seawater, waves, fire... were all swallowed into that collapsing space.

Very quickly, the black color had reached the man's foot.

"... No! No!" screamed the man in fright as he crazily tried to move his body, but it was to no avail. In the end, he could only watch as his feet disappeared within the collapsing space.

Everything happened too quickly. Before the man in black could even feel pain, the collapsing space had already swallowed his thighs.

He only felt excruciating pain when his waist was also being eaten.

"Ahh!" His miserable wails made the empty sea surface look even more sinister. He looked at Rong Xiu with enmity and harshly said, "Your Grace! Aren't you afraid of being punished for summoning Your Grace's Golden Body outside Heaven's Canopy?"

Rong Xiu squinted his eyes. "Noisy."

The space started collapsing even faster.

Before the man in black could say his remaining words, his entire person was swallowed.

If Chu Liuyue had turned back to take a look at this point, she would have seen that half the space between the ocean and the sky had collapsed.

The gigantic black space was strangely and quietly presented there. It was hard to imagine what kind of person had such formidable skills.

Chapter 238: Is this Answer, Right?

Rong Xiu retracted the golden fire, and the black space started returning to normal slowly.

Only when the space completely returned to normal did the golden glow in Rong Xiu's eyes disappear. His previous dark gaze then returned.

Almost immediately, he lightly patted Chu Liuyue's back. "It's over."

Chu Liuyue slowly lifted her head and looked at him.

Rong Xiu did not look any different from before. However, she vaguely felt that this Rong Xiu was different from the one she saw before.

Maybe it's because of that 'Your Grace' identity... Suppressing her doubts, Chu Liuyue turned back to look.

The vast ocean had already recovered its peacefulness.

The previous two burning water curtains had totally disappeared without a trace, and that man in black was also gone.

“Is he dead?”

Rong Xiu lightly acknowledged it as if he did not care.

But Chu Liuyue’s heart skipped a beat. *That man in black was actually an advanced stage-six warrior, yet he died just like that! Not even his corpse is left behind! How exactly did Rong Xiu do it?*

Even though she was in Rong Xiu’s arms earlier and did not see anything, she had heard the commotion very clearly. She could roughly guess what had happened, but she really could not imagine how Rong Xiu had killed the man in black.

Rong Xiu had stood here the entire time and hugged her, not moving a single step.

Her heart was filled with too many questions, but she suddenly could not voice them out when they were at the tip of her tongue.

Rong Xiu suddenly produced a white handkerchief and carefully wiped away the bloodstains on his hands.

Chu Liuyue took a look at the handkerchief and realized it was the one Rong Xiu had lent her previously.

The two of them suddenly fell silent.

Chu Liuyue then realized that her hands were still tightly clutching on to the clothes in front of Rong Xiu's chest and that her entire body was leaning into his arms.

A flirtish and strange aura began to spread around.

After Chu Liuyue calmed down, she recovered her senses and gradually recalled what she had done previously.

Her entire person was instantly dazed. *Did I lunge forward because of Rong Xiu? It seems like I didn't even care about my life or death at that point and just acted decisively.*

Her fingers curled up a little, and she did not know if she should back away first. Being so close to Rong Xiu made her face burn slightly.

"What are you thinking about?" asked Rong Xiu slowly when he looked down at her and guessed her thoughts.

"Thinking about you and me—" blurted Chu Liuyue, but she stopped halfway through her sentence. *This seems a little weird... This sentence doesn't seem right.*

Rong Xiu lightly smiled and put away his handkerchief. After ensuring that his hands were no longer stained with blood, he nodded in satisfaction and looked at Chu Liuyue. "Me and you? Why?"

Chu Liuyue coughed and pushed him away, but she gave up after realizing that she could not do so. “Nothing. I was just thinking about what the person said. He said summoning Your Grace’s Golden Body outside Heaven’s Canopy will cause you to be punished... What does that mean?”

Rong Xiu paused and suddenly reached out to hold her face.

Chu Liuyue could only look up to him.

“I also have a question too. When I was in danger just now, you stood in front of me and told me to leave first. What does that mean?” His tone was light and slow, but his gaze was deep and very serious.

Chu Liuyue was dazed. In actual fact, even she did not know why she acted that way at that moment. There was a vague guess in her heart, but she could not say it out loud.

“You haven’t answered my question. Once you tell me the answer to my question, I will answer every single question that you have with all my knowledge.”

“Rong Xiu!”

“Hm?”

Chu Liuyue glared at him. *He’s doing it on purpose!*

Upon seeing her shy expression, Rong Xiu really could not love her more. He leaned in closer.

The two of them were so close that they could breathe in each other's breaths.

He softly laughed and said, "I actually have an answer, but I'm not sure if it's correct. Why don't I tell you what it is, and you just have to tell me if it's right or not?"

Chu Liuyue blinked her eyes dazedly and saw that his gaze became even darker. Her heart suddenly skipped a beat.

Rong Xiu's fingers gently caressed her cheeks the next moment, and he held her chin, forcing her to look up.

He looked down and leaned in.

Chu Liuyue felt something soft on her lips, and it was slightly cold. The familiar cold fragrance suddenly intensified and spread around her mouth.

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes as if her heart was caressed by something. It was incredibly soft and sweet. *Rong Xiu is... kissing me?*

The sea breeze blew gently, and the moon was high in the sky.

She could even see Rong Xiu's dense lashes casting faint shadows on his face.

Rong Xiu wanted to kiss her lightly, but something suddenly crushed his heart once he touched those incredibly soft lips. Almost instinctively, he bit her lips. He then started to investigate her teeth and suck on her lips.

The scorching heat spread from her lips. Chu Liuyue felt like her entire body was on fire, and her limbs were going numb.

She recovered her senses with much difficulty and pushed Rong Xiu. However, she was not his match, especially when her limbs were numb. Her push felt like she was tickling him.

Not only did she not push Rong Xiu away, but it had even seduced his heart and made him even more agitated.

Rong Xiu tightly held her waist with his arms as if her entire body was going to merge with his.

A few unclear syllables escaped through Chu Liuyue's teeth.

Then, Rong Xiu slowly released her and looked at her with deep meaning. "What do you think of this answer?"

Once he spoke, Chu Liuyue realized that his voice was hoarse as if he was controlling something. Her face turned even redder, and she glared at him. *He's really as shameless as usual!*

Nobody knew how numb Rong Xiu's lower body was when Chu Liuyue glared at him with her watery and peach blossom-like eyes.

The other half of his body was the exact opposite.

His fingers caressed her cheeks gently with a flirtish burn as he softly muttered, “It seems like that answer was wrong. Then... What about this?”

Rong Xiu then leaned down again and held her lips. This time, his actions were very fast, and he attacked her before she could even react.

Chu Liuyue was frustrated and decisively started to attack him back out of anger.

She released her hands—which were originally clutching the shirt in front of Rong Xiu’s chest—and they went up his body. They then hooked onto his neck, making her lean in even closer.

At the same time, she learned from Rong Xiu and bit his lips, followed by a light lick.

Rong Xiu’s body froze. *Does she know what she’s doing?*

Chu Liuyue noticed that Rong Xiu had suddenly stopped and felt even more indignant. Hence, she made her lips go even further in.

The two of them touched in an intertwining and hard to separate manner.

Rong Xiu gasped.

Chapter 239: Only One Answer in My Entire Life

We should stop, thought Rong Xiu to himself. *If not, I might really do something else.*

But Chu Liuyue's lips were very soft and sweet, which caused him to lose control. He had waited for this day for too long.

A little while longer, and another while. Rong Xiu held Chu Liuyue's waist tightly, and he could feel something being suppressed, even with the clothes separating them.

The young girl in his arms gradually softened into a ball, and he could pinch or rub her any way he liked.

She belonged to him—only him.

Chu Liuyue gradually sensed Rong Xiu's aura had become dangerous. Her instincts told her that continuing would not be a good idea, so she willingly moved back and tilted her head to lean on his shoulders.

Rong Xiu's hands caressed her waist, and they felt slightly itchy.

After taking a deep breath, Rong Xiu finally suppressed his inner urge. His voice was scarily hoarse. "The next time this happens..."

Chu Liuyue blinked and purposely said, "The next time this happens, what?"

Rong Xiu looked at her with deep meaning, and his eyes seemed to be filled with comets that would burn at any moment. "Of course... I'll welcome it."

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *As expected, it isn't a wise choice to compete being thick-skinned with some people.*

However, given Rong Xiu's current behavior, she really did not dare to continue seducing him. Hence, she quietly held his hands.

Rong Xiu's chin leaned against her soft hair. Then, he met with her eyes and seriously said, "You haven't told me if this answer was right."

His eyes looked as calm as water, but his voice was slightly nervous.

Chu Liuyue had never imagined that the formidable Rong Xiu would be nervous as well.

Rong Xiu waited for her reply.

What exactly is my position in his heart? Why does it make him so careful and meticulous when he begs for a reply?

Chu Liuyue determinedly stared at him, and many scenes flashed across her mind.

The surprise when I met him by the lake for the first time.

The shock when I saw him again at the banquet.

The touching moment at Wan Ling Mountain...

Every scene flashed across her mind, and everything finally disappeared, leaving an increasingly clear demonic appearance.

Actually, she had always acted differently toward Rong Xiu, but she was never willing to admit it due to various reasons. However, after she thought about it, she knew they were just unimportant reasons.

Even if she was once painstakingly hurt, it was in her previous life.

A person was now willing to embrace her new life and give her warm and hopeful expectations.

Chu Liuyue stood on her toes and landed a kiss on his lips.

Rong Xiu's eyes shrunk slightly, but they were filled with millions of fireworks.

"Rong Xiu." Chu Liuyue looked up at him and spoke in an equally stern manner. "For me, there's only one question in my entire life, and it has only one answer. There's no room for betrayals or regrets, do you understand?"

Her voice was very calm, but her eyes contained too many emotions. Her terrible past would forever be her scar. She could never endure a second betrayal.

Rong Xiu's heart felt like it was being squeezed, and it hurt. His thin lips opened after a moment of silence, and he softly said, "What a coincidence. Me too."

He held her hands tightly and looked her straight in the eyes. "When we go back, I'll go to your residence and propose to you."

Chu Liuyue became dazed, and she instinctively asked, "So fast?"

Rong Xiu raised his brows. "Is it very fast? But I've been waiting for you for a long time."

As long as he did not bring her back, he would never have a good night's sleep.

Chu Liuyue wanted to say something, but her heart skipped a beat when she looked up and saw his gaze. "... Okay."

For some reason, she was always very docile when facing Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu did not dare to touch her again because he was afraid that he wouldn't be able to control himself. He could only compromise and kiss her brows.

"I..." He wanted to say something, but he suddenly stopped and leaned on Chu Liuyue's shoulders.

Chu Liuyue turned around and realized that Rong Xiu's face was especially white; it seemed like he had fainted.

"Rong Xiu?"

...

The fourth day of the Qing Jiao Competition.

The three-day-long warrior competition had finally ended, and the Xuan Master students from the three academies were very excited. They all planned to get a good ranking in today's Xuan Master competition.

Different from the previous few days, the competitors all participated in the Xuan Master competition at the same time.

The large competition venue had been equally cut up into small squares.

A chessboard was placed within every square. On the chessboard were five Xuan formations.

Whoever could solve the five Xuan formations in the shortest time possible would take first place.

One look across the square, and one would see many people already seated in the competition venue, waiting for the competition to start. However, there was a commotion on Tian Lu Academy's side.

“Liuyue isn’t here yet?” asked Bai Chen as he furrowed his brows.

Mu Hongyu shook her head, also feeling very anxious. “When we went to look for her this morning, she wasn’t in her lodging anymore. Initially, we thought that she had come over first, but we didn’t think that we wouldn’t find her here. I already told Cen Hu to go back—”

Mu Hongyu turned around and glanced at the entrance as she was speaking, coincidentally seeing Cen Hu rushing back while panting. However, Chu Liuyue was not behind him.

Mu Hongyu’s heart sank, but she still hurriedly went forward and asked, “Where’s Liuyue? Have you found her?”

Cen Hu held his knee with one hand and hurriedly waved his other while gasping. “N-no! I can’t find her, even after looking everywhere.”

Mu Hongyu was silent for a while, and she suddenly thought of something. “What about Jiuyou Tower? Have you looked for her there? She usually likes to cultivate there. Did she forget to come out?”

Cen Hu shook his head. “I’ve already asked around, but she didn’t go there yesterday nor today.”

Bai Chen thought for a while and muttered uncertainly, “Did she go home because she was exhausted from yesterday?”

Si Yang—who was at the side—could not help but interrupt. “That shouldn’t be so! Yesterday, Chu Liuyue said that she would definitely participate in today’s Xuan Master competition. Why would she suddenly not join?”

Even if she had used up quite a bit of her energy from yesterday’s competition, Chu Liuyue had always been an outstanding Xuan Master, and she was very capable. As long as she participated in the competition, her ranking would not be a low one.

Why would she suddenly go missing?

“Students who haven’t arrived at the competition venue, please hurry up! The competition is about to start!” yelled the judge from afar.

Sun Zhongyan walked over. “Liuyue isn’t here yet?”

The few of them looked at each other and shook their heads.

Sun Zhongyan faintly felt uneasy. He remembered that Chu Liuyue had returned to the academy yesterday, so why was she missing now?

I did not detect any strange changes within the academy since yesterday. If Chu Liuyue had exited through the academy’s entrance, the teacher on duty would’ve definitely noticed it. However...

Did something really happen to her? After all, she had offended quite a few people in the past few days... But this is ultimately the Imperial City. It is the Qing Jiao Competition’s competition venue, so people won’t be stupid enough to make a move on Chu Liuyue now.

Sun Zhongyan thought for a while and said, "Let's ignore the Xuan Master competition first. It's more important to find her. Bai Chen, take some people with you and search around the academy. Also, send a few people to ask around in the Imperial City and see if they can find any clues. Lastly, inform Lord Chu Ning."

"Okay!"

Chapter 240: Marriage Proposal

Of course, Chu Liuyue was unaware that everyone was looking for her frantically. She was focused on Rong Xiu.

She checked Rong Xiu's pulse after he sank into unconsciousness, but she noticed that his body was rather strange—she could not detect his Yuan meridian.

After trying twice, she could only vaguely sense that two forces were clashing in his body. She did not find anything beyond that.

Chu Liuyue guessed that Rong Xiu's unconsciousness had something to do with his forced summoning of Your Grace's Golden Body.

Outside Heaven's Canopy, there were consequences to advancing oneself to the seventh stage forcibly. But Chu Liuyue had never heard of anyone being able to do so, so she did not have any details.

She carefully helped Rong Xiu lean against a flatter reef. She was a little anxious as she regarded his pale face.

Xue Xue walked over from the side, rubbed itself against Chu Liuyue's leg, and whimpered softly.

Chu Liuyue glanced at it. "You're saying he's fine?"

Xue Xue nodded and secretly gave its master a despising look. *Master is strong, so this little bit of trouble is nothing. If Chu Liuyue had not come, he could've stayed conscious till he made it back. But since she is here, and have just confirmed their relationship... It is normal for him to take the chance to earn her pity.*

Xue Xue lay down. *Since that Prince Unparalleled cannot be any more dead, it isn't too late to return after Master has recovered.*

Xue Xue's attitude reassured Chu Liuyue.

Since Xue Xue and Rong Xiu were connected, she had no reason to be this worried when Xue Xue believed that Rong Xiu was okay.

She hugged Rong Xiu as she leaned against the reef, waiting for him to regain consciousness.

Tuan Zi finally woke up, climbed onto her shoulder, and rubbed itself against her face.

Chu Liuyue glanced at it. *Tuan Zi isn't really injured at all. For some reason, Tuan Zi seems capable of withstanding attacks more and more...*

Since they were near the sea, the air was a little salty. The sea reflected the moonlight, forming streaks of rippled light.

Everything else was barren, but Chu Liuyue did not feel lonely. Conversely, this was a rare moment of peace since she had been reborn.

She looked down at Rong Xiu and examined him.

In reality, there was something that she did not tell Rong Xiu earlier.

Rong Xiu became an entirely different person when he summoned Your Grace's Golden Body—cold, emotionless, high, and mighty!

She had never seen this side of Rong Xiu before, but... it felt a little familiar to her. She did not know where this sense of familiarity came from, but she was certain that she had never seen Rong Xiu before.

She would surely have an impression if she had met someone like this before.

She was not the kind to let her guard down around others easily, yet she was strangely at ease when facing Rong Xiu.

"Have we met before..." muttered Chu Liuyue, but she felt like she was being ridiculous. She smiled, then closed her eyes.

Her voice was low and disappeared with the wind, but she did not notice Rong Xiu's trembling eyelashes.

...

Qing Jiao Competition.

Chu Liuyue was truly missing.

Sun Zhongyan still had to run the competition, so he left Bai Chen and the others to deal with the matter.

Even though they were all anxious, it wasn't the time to kick up a fuss. Even their visit to Chu Ning was conducted secretly.

Chu Ning wanted to activate the imperial guards but gave up on it after giving it some thought. He then sent a few of his aides to investigate in the Imperial City secretly.

He even went to Zhen Bao Pavilion himself.

Yan Ge was rather surprised when he heard that Chu Liuyue was missing, but he agreed to help with the search without hesitation.

Chu Ning was just trying his luck, but he did not expect Yan Ge to agree to help. He was grateful and confused.

Zhen Bao Pavilion was of high status. As the Second Boss, Yan Ge had an even higher status. However, he really seemed to put a lot of effort into Yue'er's matters.

Whether it was the reservation of Phoenix Restaurant or this time's efforts, this was way beyond what regular acquaintances would do.

He tested Yan Ge, but the latter said that he only got to know Chu Liuyue recently. Now that she had become the top warrior in this year's Qing Jiao Competition, it was normal for him to try and form close ties with her.

Chu Ning sensed that something was off. It was true that she became the top warrior in this year's Qing Jiao Competition, but it did not warrant such effort from Zhen Bao Pavilion.

He knew that he couldn't obtain any more information from Yan Ge, so he did not continue asking. He focused his attention on looking for Chu Liuyue instead.

After Chu Ning left, Yan Ge retracted his smile and swiftly instructed people to start searching. *Master is not in the Imperial City, and Madam is missing. What is going on?* If Master returns and finds out that I didn't take care of Madam...

Hang on! Yan Ge suddenly thought of something. *Master is gone... Madam is missing... Could it be...*

Yan Ge was anxious, but he dared not leave the Imperial City of his own accord.

Nobody could enter 'that place' without his master's permission either.

He wanted to ask Yan Qing, but he was afraid of being discovered. After pondering for a moment, he could only pray that Master and Madam were together.

...

After several hours, Chu Liuyue opened her eyes at daybreak. She moved but noticed that she had unknowingly laid in Rong Xiu's arms.

His black cloak was on her.

"... Rong Xiu? When did you wake up?" asked Chu Liuyue as she rubbed her eyes.

She felt a little embarrassed. She intended to keep watch, but she did not expect herself to fall asleep and not even notice when he woke up.

Rong Xiu smiled and easily picked her up.

Chu Liuyue cried out in surprise and instinctively wrapped her arms around his neck. *It seems like Rong Xiu has recovered...*

"I just woke up too," said Rong Xiu.

Chu Liuyue did not believe him, but she did not pursue the matter.

Rong Xiu kissed her. "We should return."

Chu Liuyue inquired with uncertainty. "Your body has recovered?"

Rong Xiu had gone through an intense battle and suddenly passed out earlier, so she was a little worried.

Rong Xiu slightly raised his brows. "You'll find out how my body is after we're married. Of course, you can examine it now. This place isn't great, but it's not impossible."

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes and wrapped her arms around Rong Xiu's neck. She then inched closer and smiled. "Really? Do you want the same thing from yesterday?"

With the girl in his arms, the scenes from yesterday reappeared in his mind.

Rong Xiu's arms tightened, and he tried to repress his uneasiness. He then glanced at her, his eyes full of warning. *This little fellow is still as mischievous as before.*

Rong Xiu felt like he was becoming more and more like a saint, given his abilities of self-restraint.

He laughed and retorted, "You probably don't know that Prince Li Mansion has completed all the wedding preparations. We can get married after I propose."