

Nobel Ruler 291

Chapter 291: Black Karmic Fire

Chu Liuyue looked at Tuan Zi. "Tuan Zi, do you want to stop? This is already the sixth floor."

Very obviously, only stage-seven warriors could continue going up!

Tuan Zi blinked and looked up as if it was confused as to why Chu Liuyue would ask that. *There's nothing here. Of course, I'm going up!*

Chu Liuyue gathered her focus and spoke after a moment. "Okay. If you can go over, I'll follow you."

Tuan Zi then happily shook its tail as it turned around, planning to head for the seventh floor.

Chu Liuyue lowered her head and saw that the spiral staircase seemed to have no end. Suddenly, her gaze focused on the side of her feet.

There was already a dried-up bloodstain there.

Since the bloodstain was dark red in color and was at a corner, she didn't notice it when she came up previously.

This is the sixth floor. What kind of person can come here and leave bloodstains here? Chu Liuyue lowered her body, took a closer look, and furrowed her brows slightly. *According to my experience, this*

bloodstain seemed to have been left not long ago, most likely during the past two days. Who could it have come from?

Chu Liuyue stretched out her hand and gently touched the bloodstain as she examined it closely.

A familiar aura exuded from the blood.

She was dazed. *Th-this seems to be...*

Chu Liuyue immediately scanned the bloodstain's surroundings. After sweeping through the area for a while, she finally found a green feather at an unnoticeable corner.

She took one look at it and immediately recognized it as Hong Yao's feather. *Hong Yao came here?*

Shock flashed across Chu Liuyue's heart. Then, she suddenly remembered that there was blood beneath Hong Yao's wings when she saw it previously, looking as though it was injured.

Back then, she was still too immersed in the shock of Hong Yao recognizing her, so she didn't pay any attention to this.

But when thinking back about it, this was indeed weird.

As a seventh-grade fiend, Hong Yao was very strong and formidable. If one could hurt it, it proved that the other party wasn't easy to deal with.

The main point was that, logically speaking, there shouldn't be such an existence in Country Yao Chen!

It now seemed like Hong Yao had barged into Jiuyou Tower and even gotten injured here!

In here... Chu Liuyue couldn't help but remember the ferocious fiend.

Seeing that Chu Liuyue did not follow it, Tuan Zi chased after her again.

When Tuan Zi saw the green feather in Chu Liuyue's hands, contempt quickly flashed across its eyes. *As expected, it really is useless if it can even get injured here!*

Chu Liuyue glanced at it. "Tuan Zi, Hong Yao got injured here. Are you sure you want to continue?"

Even Hong Yao had suffered a loss. Tuan Zi and I might not be the other party's match.

Upon hearing this, Tuan Zi's face immediately contorted. *How can that green sparrow compare to me?*

Seeing that it was very stubborn, Chu Liuyue couldn't help but sigh and honestly say, "I can't help you if we meet with trouble later."

I might even become your burden.

Tuan Zi grunted and walked forward as it threw away the green feather and held Chu Liuyue's hands to go upward.

Tuan Zi had clearly made up its mind.

Chu Liuyue had no choice and could only take out her crystal barrier silently, preparing to deal with any sudden situation at any time.

The human and the fiend continued to walk toward the seventh floor.

Chu Liuyue felt as if her body was suppressed by something that was hundreds of kilograms, and every step she took was especially heavy.

Without Tuan Zi, she might've stopped walking long ago.

Finally, the two of them arrived at the barrier to the seventh floor.

It was different from the previous transparent barrier; the one in front brightly shone silver.

The light shone on the barrier, and it looked like a sky filled with stars.

However, Chu Liuyue wasn't in the mood to admire it. She stiffly stood in front of the screen, and the blood in her body seemed to be frozen as only her heart was beating wildly.

She took a deep breath in before slowly stretching her hand out and reaching in tentatively.

Tuan Zi sat on the back of her hand, and its round eyes were wide open as it stared at the shining silver screen in front of it excitedly and expectantly.

Chu Liuyue clearly saw her fingers going into the silver screen slowly.

The silver screen felt like an actual object—Chu Liuyue could clearly feel the strong resistance coming from it. It felt like she was sinking into mud!

Very quickly, Chu Liuyue felt as though a type of force was crazily trying to drag her in.

She was stunned, and she subconsciously tried to extract her hand. However, the force also rapidly increased, and the screen swallowed even more of her hand.

Very quickly, the barrier had already pulled Chu Liuyue's entire arm into it.

Half of Tuan Zi's body was already inside.

At this point, a black karmic fire suddenly shot out from the screen.

Scorching pain abruptly overwhelmed Chu Liuyue, and she immediately wanted to move backward. But at this point, she was already trapped in the silver screen, and she couldn't move at all.

In the next moment, the black karmic fire had already spread around Chu Liuyue's body, surrounding her.

Chu Liuyue immediately threw out the crystal barrier. However, she quickly realized that the crystal barrier had no effect at all.

This was because her hand was already immersed in the silver screen, and the crystal barrier couldn't break through the screen. Thus, the crystal barrier wasn't able to protect her completely.

Helpless, Chu Liuyue could only put away the crystal barrier and think of other ways to escape.

The scorching fire made her entire body feel like it was burning.

She even smelled something burning, but at this point, Tuan Zi's entire body had been completely sucked into the barrier.

Chu Liuyue realized that her arm—which had been sucked into the barrier—had become completely numb. She couldn't feel anything from it any longer.

Thus, she had also lost connection with Tuan Zi at this moment.

"Tuan Zi!" Chu Liuyue yelled at the top of her lungs, but Tuan Zi did not respond!

At this point, the black karmic fire on the barrier started to spread even more.

Chu Liuyue stood rooted to the ground, looking as if she was in hell.

Just as Chu Liuyue became very anxious, she heard a crisp sound.

Kacha!

She was shocked, and she immediately looked over.

The black karmic fire in front of her suddenly seemed to have met with something formidable as it quickly escaped to the surroundings from the middle.

This revealed a crack in the light barrier.

Chu Liuyue furrowed her brows and noticed that the crack expanded in the next moment.

Clang!

The barrier broke!

A small claw suddenly stretched out from inside the barrier—it was Tuan Zi!

Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief. She then saw Tuan Zi grabbing the edge of the broken barrier and pulling on it harshly.

Kacha!

A piece of the light barrier was actually pulled off by Tuan Zi as though it was a piece of broken ice.

Chu Liuyue suddenly predicted something in her heart.

As expected, she heard a very crisp sound of someone biting something the next second.

Kacha!

Kacha kacha!

Gulug!

Through the hole in the middle, Chu Liuyue clearly saw Tuan Zi stuffing the last piece of the barrier into its mouth and eating it.

Chapter 292: Strange Change in Jiuyou Tower!

This scene was really too familiar. But when Chu Liuyue saw it, her heart still skipped a beat uncontrollably. *How can Tuan Zi eat this as well?!*

Previously, she had already thought that Tuan Zi eating Heng Jingchuo's force was enough to make people dumbstruck. However, she had never expected that Tuan Zi could even eat such a barrier—which was filled with a stern aura—easily.

This wasn't an osmanthus cake!

As Chu Liuyue was too shocked, she couldn't say anything for a short period of time. She could only dazedly stare at Tuan Zi as it took down the barrier piece by piece and stuffed the pieces into its mouth.

Chu Liuyue could even see the black karmic fire still burning on one of the pieces. However, Tuan Zi seemed not to care about it at all.

As Tuan Zi was careless, a strand of its whiskers near its cheek was burned off. However, Tuan Zi had luckily changed to another angle in time and had successfully placed the item into its mouth, eating it happily.

The surrounding black karmic fire was still burning wildly, but Chu Liuyue suddenly felt that it wasn't that formidable anymore. *No matter how fiercely it burned previously, Tuan Zi still managed to swallow it whole.*

As Chu Liuyue watched Tuan Zi take down another piece diligently, her eyelids twitched. If someone else saw this, their jaws would definitely drop.

"Tuan Zi, does it taste good?" She endured it for a while, but she couldn't help it in the end.

Upon hearing this, Tuan Zi stopped in its actions as it looked up at her with twinkling eyes and hurriedly nodded. *Delicious! Super delicious! It tastes much better than Heng Jingchuo's so-called Moon Devour! In comparison to this, everything else I ate before was trash.*

Chu Liuyue was taken aback by Tuan Zi's enthusiasm, and her eyelids couldn't help but twitch. *What exactly did I pick up...?*

After the previous few incidents, Chu Liuyue had already guessed that Tuan Zi wasn't an ordinary blood ferret and that it also wasn't similar to the rest of the fiends.

She had never heard of a fiend eating force as food.

Previously, she hadn't noticed it, but she later realized that Tuan Zi seemed like it didn't like to eat.

The thing Tuan Zi liked the most was force, especially the powerful ones—such as the current silver barrier.

This silver barrier was also made by combining forces, and it had a strong suppression within it.

Without a doubt, Chu Liuyue knew that this barrier could restrict warriors below stage seven. Thus, Tuan Zi's behavior seemed even weirder.

As Tuan Zi kept eating the barrier crazily, the hole in the barrier grew bigger and bigger. The black karmic fire—which had previously been spreading arrogantly—also seemed to have noticed something amiss as it hurriedly moved backward.

However, Tuan Zi was much faster and ate the entire burning barrier piece by piece.

Chu Liuyue watched on silently, but the ripples in her heart couldn't be appeased for a long time.

The originally large silver barrier quickly became scraps before Tuan Zi totally destroyed it in the end.

Meanwhile, Chu Liuyue's hand—which had been swallowed—was also long released at some point.

Tuan Zi finally rubbed its round belly and burped in satisfaction when it finished the last piece. "Burp..."

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *If Heng Jingchuo saw this, he would definitely rest in peace. In this world, how many people's force can receive the same treatment as such a formidable barrier? This way, it seems a bit aggrieved for Tuan Zi to be willing to swallow his force.*

Looking at the barrier—which was in broken pieces—Chu Liuyue couldn't return to her senses for a long time.

After a while, she slowly looked at Tuan Zi. "Tuan Zi, tell me honestly—did you come here to eat this?"

Tuan Zi suddenly sneezed. "Ah-choo!"

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *It seems like... it's guilty?*

Chu Liuyue held her forehead in exasperation. *Tuan Zi ate the barrier to the seventh floor just like that. This incident will definitely attract the attention of the academy's elders. Not long later, they will all rush here. Of course, it is another question if they can reach this floor.*

However, Chu Liuyue felt that she really couldn't explain this matter if someone found out about it. *Am I supposed to tell the public that Tuan Zi brought me up and it ate the barrier?*

Tuan Zi saw that Chu Liuyue seemed to be very troubled and worried, so it hurriedly flew over, pounced into her arms, and rubbed against her cheek lovingly.

Chu Liuyue's neck felt itchy, and she couldn't help laughing. Amused and slightly angry, she took Tuan Zi down and said, "Stop acting cute. Say, what should we do now?"

How am I supposed to explain such a large hole?

Tuan Zi opened its eyes wide and thought for half a day before raising its claws and pointing upward.

Chu Liuyue's brows twitched harshly as a bad feeling overwhelmed her heart. "Y-you still want to go up?"

Tuan Zi heard the slight threat in Chu Liuyue's voice as it nodded fearfully. *This is nowhere... If we don't continue to go up, I would've come here for nothing.*

Chu Liuyue's hands trembled slightly, and she kept repeating a mantra in her heart. *This is my fiend; if I beat it to death, I won't have any left... This is my fiend; if I beat it to death, I won't have any left... This is my fiend; if I beat it to death, I won't have any left...*

But I don't want to die! Chu Liuyue finally couldn't take it lying as she harshly squeezed Tuan Zi's fat cheeks. "Tuan Zi, do you know that your master only has one life? If I lose it, I'm really gone!"

Tuan Zi blinked its eyes and put its two claws together, looking extra obedient in a fawning manner.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes. "Let's go!"

...

When Tuan Zi ate the seventh floor's barrier, Elder Wei Yun—who was dozing off in his chair outside Jiuyou Tower—suddenly opened his eyes. He then looked up at Jiuyou Tower in shock. "This is..."

This commotion isn't right! I have watched over Jiuyou Tower for many years, but I have never felt such a commotion before! In this half-year, Jiuyou Tower has had some strange movements from time to time, but these movements were all controlled. Hence, even the director didn't take it to heart. But now...

Hong!

Jiuyou Tower's door suddenly opened.

A strong force directly threw out countless figures—these were the students cultivating in Jiuyou Tower!

Gasps of shock filled the air because these people clearly hadn't understood what had happened.

Some of them couldn't withstand the side effects of this force and had even vomited blood. They looked terrible.

Elder Wei Yun's heart suddenly hung high. *This kind of situation has never happened at Jiuyou Tower in so many years!*

Elder Wei Yun abruptly stood up and hit the black jade in front of him without hesitation.

A bright light beam suddenly shot into the sky.

"Jiuyou Tower has strange changes! Other than teachers and elders, all students are to evacuate!" hollered Elder Wei Yun, and his voice spread far and wide.

When the students—who were chased out of Jiuyou Tower—heard this, they were stunned and hurriedly backed away.

At the same time, the other students in the academy saw the light beam. "First-level warning? What happened to Jiuyou Tower?"

Chapter 293: Burning Jiuyou Tower!

Rong Xiu—who was currently heading toward Jiuyou Tower—furrowed his brows when he saw the light beam. *I'm still too late! She has already reached the seventh floor!*

Rong Xiu hastened his steps and hurried forward.

Yan Qing—who was following behind Rong Xiu—was also stunned when he saw the commotion, and he didn't dare to utter a single word. *Ms. Liuyue is too daring. How dare she cause such a big commotion in Jiuyou Tower?*

The two people walked forward and quickly met with the evacuating students.

“Prince Li?” The few women were all shocked when they saw Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu's gaze was calm as he nonchalantly nodded; he kept going forward without pausing.

“Prince Li, there's danger in front!” The few women looked at each other and hurriedly rushed to Rong Xiu, planning to stop him.

Rong Xiu quietly looked at the few of them. He clearly looked very calm, but the few girls felt coldness spreading from their feet and rushing to their heads.

The excitement and happiness that resulted from meeting Rong Xiu dissipated quickly. The few of them looked at each other, and their faces were all pale.

This Prince Li indeed has a special aura...

Yan Qing immediately said, “His Highness still has something to do. Ladies, please don't block our way.”

The few girls then recovered their senses and hurriedly made way for them.

Rong Xiu raised his leg and walked forward, not even taking another glance at them.

However, the few girls hesitated for a while, and they still couldn't help but shout, "Prince Li! There are strange changes in Jiuyou Tower! It's very dangerous if you head there now! Elder Wei Yun has already commanded everyone to evacuate; you shouldn't go there!"

Rong Xiu was unmoved and continued advancing.

Yan Qing felt very helpless. *Can't these people tell that Master is bent on going there? The true danger for them is if they stop and delay Master's matters.*

Yan Qing turned around, and his gaze swept past the few of them. "His Highness knows what to do."

The few girls' faces turned even paler, and they didn't dare to say anything else.

Gradually, even more people left that area. Everyone was moving away from Jiuyou Tower, but only Rong Xiu was moving against the crowd.

Quite a few people were shocked to see him. *Why did the sickly Prince Li suddenly come over at this time? Besides, he looks different from before...*

Some people couldn't help but remind him, but Yan Qing blocked all of them.

Finally, Rong Xiu arrived in front of Jiuyou Tower.

Elder Wei Yun was currently staring at Jiuyou Tower anxiously. When he subconsciously turned around, he saw Rong Xiu walking toward him.

He furrowed his brows even more. “Rong Xiu, why did you come at this time? All of the students have already evacuated; the elders and the teachers will personally deal with this matter. You should hurriedly leave—”

“There’s still someone inside,” interrupted Rong Xiu.

Elder Wei Yun was stunned, and he was about to ask who it was when his heart skipped a beat. *Right, there’s still Chu Liuyue! I actually forgot about her! I had even congratulated her when she came in the afternoon. Thinking back about it, Chu Liuyue really wasn’t amongst the children that had left previously. She’s still inside!*

“What happened? Jiuyou Tower has strange changes, and all the students were chased out just now. Why is Chu Liuyue the only one left inside?” Elder Wei Yun started to become nervous. *Chu Liuyue has just taken first place in two aspects of the Qing Jiao Competition! She’s an absolute talent in the academy! Should something happen to her, we won’t be able to bear the loss!*

Rong Xiu looked up at Jiuyou Tower. “I’ll go in to bring her out.”

Elder Wei Yun clenched his teeth and immediately rushed in.

But at this point, Jiuyou Tower’s door slammed shut with a loud bang—it stopped Elder Wei Yun outside the tower.

“W-what...” Elder Wei Yun widened his eyes. *Won't Chu Liuyue be completely trapped in Jiuyou Tower?*

Elder Wei Yun tried to open the door, but it didn't budge a single bit. He then realized that things were much more serious than he imagined. “What exactly is going on?”

Just as he was anxious, Sun Zhongyan and the rest finally rushed over.

Elder Wei Yun speedily explained the entire incident to them. “...There were no signs before the strange changes in Jiuyou Tower occurred. I also have no idea what happened, but the door can't even be opened now!”

Sun Zhongyan furrowed his brows and asked, “Is there anyone else inside?”

Elder Wei Yun swallowed his saliva with much difficulty. “Chu Liuyue is still inside.”

“What?!” Sun Zhongyan was stunned and immediately looked at Jiuyou Tower with knitted brows. Afterward, his hands overlapped each other in front of him.

Countless light rays intersected each other, and a Xuan formation quickly appeared. At the same time, stars started appearing in Jiuyou Tower's surroundings.

This was the Xuan formation built into Jiuyou Tower!

Sun Zhongyan studied the Xuan formation in front of him closely. “That’s not right... There’s no sign of her in Jiuyou Tower...”

This Xuan formation was connected to Jiuyou Tower. Even if one couldn’t go in, they could still see something from the Xuan formation.

Sun Zhongyan examined the Xuan formation for quite some time, but he didn’t detect Chu Liuyue’s presence.

Elder Wei Yun said in confusion, “That’s impossible! She clearly entered the tower in the afternoon, and all the other students came out together except for her! She should still be inside!”

Sun Zhongyan gathered his focus and checked the Xuan formation again, but he still shook his head. “There’s nothing.”

The crowd looked at each other, and they all fell silent. *This incident is too strange!*

Anxious, Elder Wei Yun walked in circles. “Why can’t you find her? She’s clearly inside!”

Rong Xiu suddenly asked a question from the side. “Elder Sun, how many floors can this Xuan formation see?”

Sun Zhongyan was dazed for a while as he subconsciously answered, “Until the fifth floor. This Xuan formation has existed alongside Jiuyou Tower for many years, and we could always see the first five floors... Wait! Do you mean—”

A ridiculous thought flashed across Sun Zhongyan's mind. *Could Chu Liuyue not be on the bottom five floors?*

"That's impossible!" blurted out Sun Zhongyan. "Nobody in Tian Lu Academy can ever go above the fifth floor! How did she—"

Sun Zhongyan's voice trickled off halfway through the sentence. *Other than this, there is no other answer. Besides... Something is also very amiss about the sudden strange changes in Jiuyou Tower.*

The crowd fell into dead silence.

Suddenly, someone in the crowd gasped. "Quickly, look at the door!"

Everyone looked over, and shock was written all over their faces.

They saw the engraved lines on Jiuyou Tower starting to move. In the blink of an eye, the lines turned into black karmic fire and started burning fiercely.

"H-how is this happening...?" muttered Sun Zhongyan in disbelief as his eyes widened.

While the crowd was in a trance, the fire started to spread rapidly.

In the next moment, the black karmic fire enveloped Jiuyou Tower's entire first floor.

Hoo!

A ferocious shrill suddenly sounded from within Jiuyou Tower, and it reverberated throughout the area!

Chapter 294: He's Here

"W-what's that?" The crowd was shocked beyond words. *Why is a fiend's shrill coming from within Jiuyou Tower?*

Only Sun Zhongyan's brows were tightly furrowed, and his pale face was contorted. "All Xuan Masters listen, activate the Locking Heaven Formation! Everyone else, evacuate immediately!"

Once Sun Zhongyan said this, everyone looked at him in shock.

The Locking Heaven Formation was the formation used to lock Jiuyou Tower, and it hadn't been activated in thousands of years.

Now, nobody knew what would happen if the Locking Heaven Formation was activated.

"Elder Sun, I thought only the director could activate the Locking Heaven Formation," said Bai Chen hurriedly.

Sun Zhongyan looked stern. "I've already informed Uncle-Master previously. We can only hope that he will exit his seclusion as soon as possible and rush over. The strange happenings in Jiuyou Tower are urgent, and dealing with them can't be delayed any longer! We must activate the Locking Heaven Formation. Uncle-Master has already passed me the Locking Heaven Formation's formation eye, so I can activate it too!"

Sun Zhongyan spoke as he flipped his wrist. A silver needle then appeared in his palm.

At first glance, the silver needle didn't look any different from an average needle. But if one took a closer look, one would see the elaborate pattern engraved on it.

In actual fact, the pattern on the silver needle was exactly the same as the pattern in front of Jiuyou Tower's door.

After hearing what Sun Zhongyan said, everyone also knew that this was the only way left.

Nobody knew when the director would come, but the situation in Jiuyou Tower couldn't wait a minute longer.

Seeing the needle in Sun Zhongyan's hand, everyone felt more secure. "Elder Sun, please instruct us!"

Sun Zhongyan floated in the air, and he flung the needle out from his hands!

The needle grew as it met with the wind, and it quickly expanded until it was the size of a person's arm.

From afar, it looked like a silver pestle!

The silver pestle immediately landed on top of Jiuyou Tower and quickly turned on its own!

“Locking Heaven Formation... Activate!” hollered Sun Zhongyan as countless silver rays of light flew out from his hands and entered the silver pestle.

The next moment, shrill sounds were gradually heard, and the pattern on the silver pestle became even brighter.

Shua!

Silver light shot out from within and landed on a certain position.

Sun Zhongyan shouted, “Bai Chen! Xi San!”

Without another word, Bai Chen immediately flew over and stood on the star.

Shua!

The second star quickly appeared and flew to the other side.

“Wen Yan! Nan Qi!”

“Chen Xiao! Don Liu!”

“Qi Gao! Bei Si!”

Sun Zhongyan quickly uttered commands, and all the Xuan Masters took action.

A gigantic Xuan formation quickly formed above Jiuyou Tower.

Countless silver lines flew out from the silver pestle and intersected each other as the many stars shone brightly like a Xing Luo chess piece.

All the Xuan Masters were separated, and they started preparing themselves.

The Locking Heaven Formation was a sixth-grade Xuan formation. Nobody in the academy could activate it on their own, so they had to join hands!

When everyone was in their places, Sun Zhongyan then yelled, “Activate!”

The moment he yelled, all the Xuan Masters took action simultaneously and injected their force into the galaxy of stars beneath their feet.

Rays of light flew out and followed the large intersection of lines in mid-air, gathering within the silver pestle.

Buzz!

A crushing sense of pressure exuded!

...

The Locking Heaven Formation was activated on top of Jiuyou Tower.

Below Jiuyou Tower, the other teachers had already started to evacuate.

At this point, the only thing they could do was to ensure the safety of the other people in the academy.

“Rong Xiu! Let’s go, quick!” advised Elder Wei Yun in a hurry when he saw Rong Xiu stand rooted to the spot. He thought that Rong Xiu hadn’t recovered his senses. “It’s very dangerous. You can’t stay here.”

In this type of situation, nobody could tell what accidents would happen in Jiuyou Tower. The Locking Heaven Formation was already activated, and its suppression was formidable.

The forces from both sides met each other head-on, and the people at the side were right in the middle of it.

Rong Xiu didn’t have much cultivation, and his body was frail. How could he endure such formidable suppression?

If anything happened to Rong Xiu, they would have no way of explaining it to His Majesty.

However, Rong Xiu acted as if he didn't hear anything as he looked up at Jiuyou Tower's seventh floor.

"Rong Xiu?" Elder Wei Yun yelled again, but Rong Xiu still didn't give any response. He couldn't help feeling even more anxious.

Elder Wei Yun turned back and realized that the black karmic fire had already surrounded the entire first floor of Jiuyou Tower and that the entrance was completely blocked.

The more worrying thing was that the fire had no intentions of stopping, and it was spreading toward the second floor.

The scorching fire had already started to burn the surroundings. The air was fiery, almost as if it could scorch a person.

Elder Wei Yun was panicking. *We must swiftly control this fire! If not, the consequences will be unimaginable if it starts to spread crazily!*

"Yan Qing, hurry up and bring him away!" With much helplessness, Elder Wei Yun could only yell at Yan Qing.

Yan Qing looked up and glanced at Elder Wei Yun before shaking his head determinedly. "Please forgive me, Elder Wei Yun. I only listen to His Highness."

Since His Highness wanted to stay here, he naturally had to follow. Even though Yan Qing knew it was dangerous, he had no other choice because that person was in even graver danger!

If anything happened to Chu Liuyue, Yan Qing couldn't imagine what his master would do.

Upon seeing the stubborn master and subordinate, Elder Wei Yun couldn't help cursing in his heart. *These two fools! The others have already left! Do they really want to sit here and wait for death?*

Hong!

A ball of black karmic fire suddenly rose up and went straight to the third floor.

Elder Wei Yun was affected by this impact since he was distracted for a moment, and he staggered a few steps backward.

Sila!

The fiend's shriek sounded again, which shook one's heart.

The entire academy seemed to be enveloped by this ferocious and shrill shriek.

The blood in Elder Wei Yun's body started rising up, and he almost vomited blood.

He looked up at Jiuyou Tower in shock. *What kind of fiend is suppressed in there? How is it so formidable? It was just a shriek, but it had such formidable suppression!*

At the same time, even the students and teachers—who had evacuated to the distance—had suffered some side effects.

They widened their eyes in shock as they stared at Jiuyou Tower; their hearts were in turmoil.

“God! Jiuyou Tower is actually burning up?”

“What exactly is going on?”

“Elder Sun and the rest have actually activated the Locking Heaven Formation? This is the first time in thousands of years, right?”

“Weren’t the few of you cultivating in Jiuyou Tower earlier? Do you know what happened?”

“How would we know? Everything was going fine until a strong force chased us out. We didn’t even have any time to react.”

“Luckily you guys came out. If you were still inside, I’m afraid—”

“Wait! I heard Elder Wei Yun say that Chu Liuyue was still inside!”

“What? Then isn’t she—”

The crowd looked at each other and fell silent. *Chu Liuyue probably won't make it this time...*

On the other end, Elder Wei Yun finally slowed down his breathing with much difficulty. That was when he saw a large figure walking toward Jiuyou Tower with long strides.

Elder Wei Yun was stunned. "Rong Xiu! Stand there!"

However, Rong Xiu didn't stop, and he went forward without hesitation.

The next moment, the black karmic fire enveloped him completely!

Chapter 295: Threat!

Rong Xiu is a lunatic! This thought flashed across Elder Wei Yun's mind. How dangerous is Jiuyou Tower now? However, Rong Xiu isn't leaving; he's even barging into it! Isn't he courting death?

Elder Wei Yun clenched his teeth and rushed forward, planning to drag Rong Xiu out. However, a ball of black karmic fire suddenly exploded in front of him, causing him to stop outside!

Elder Wei Yun hurriedly turned around to look, but he saw that Yan Qing didn't follow Rong Xiu in.

He was just about to shout at Yan Qing, but Yan Qing abruptly turned around to leave—he disappeared in the blink of an eye!

This... At this point, Elder Wei Yun couldn't consider so much. With much helplessness, he could only jump into the sky and told Sun Zhongyan, "Rong Xiu went into Jiuyou Tower!"

Sun Zhongyan knitted his brows tightly. "I know!"

This Locking Heaven Formation was specifically used to suppress Jiuyou Tower. After activating it, he would know everything that happened within Jiuyou Tower like the back of his palm. However, the regretful thing was that he could only see the bottom five floors. Hence, he still couldn't find Chu Liuyue's whereabouts.

"I tried to stop him just now, but I couldn't," said Sun Zhongyan solemnly as he glanced at the blazing black karmic fire.

Elder Wei Yun was shocked. "How can this be?"

Sun Zhongyan held the silver pestle and could control the entire Locking Heaven Formation. If he really could stop Rong Xiu, how could Rong Xiu have entered the tower?

Sun Zhongyan knew what Elder Wei Yun was thinking as well. In actual fact, he was very shocked and confused.

When he detected Rong Xiu's aura, he knew that there was something wrong, and he immediately sent out some force to stop him. However, it seemed like the force didn't have any effect on Rong Xiu.

Sun Zhongyan suddenly became shocked. "Rong Xiu has already entered the first floor."

Elder Wei Yun opened his mouth wide, but he started stuttering because he was too shocked. “W-why... Isn’t the door tightly shut? How did he go in?”

He had personally seen Jiuyou Tower’s door close on its own. Even he was blocked on the outside and could not enter. How did Rong Xiu—who had no cultivation at all—open the door?

Besides, the entire first floor was burning!

“I don’t know, but he did go in. And... he’s going upstairs!” Sun Zhongyan looked at the bright lights flashing in the Xuan formation in front of him, and his entire heart hung high in his throat.

The two people currently in Jiuyou Tower were people they absolutely couldn’t afford to lose. Besides, even if it was out of selfishness, he didn’t want to see something happen to either of them.

“Rong Xiu should have a protective Yuan instrument on him; this is why he could enter the tower safely. However, it shouldn’t last for too long...”

Elder Wei Yun thought for quite a while and felt that this was the only logical explanation.

“But no matter what, we still need to think of a way to bring them out! They—” Sun Zhongyan suddenly gasped.

Upon seeing his facial expression change, Elder Wei Yun’s heart sank.

“He actually went up to the second floor!” exclaimed Sun Zhongyan in shock.

“How can this be? His body is frail, and he can’t cultivate. It’s already a coincidence that he could enter the first floor! How can he go up to the second floor? He’s not a stage-two warrior!”

“Liuyue is a stage-two warrior, but there’s no trace of her on the second floor!” said Sun Zhongyan with clenched teeth.

Elder Wei Yun instantly lost his voice. After a long while, he asked hesitantly, “Then... Are you saying that she’s indeed above the first five floors?”

Sun Zhongyan closed his eyes. If he hadn’t seen it for himself, he wouldn’t have believed it at all.

Jiuyou Tower was very strict with its levels. Every floor had its own barrier to stop other people, so nobody had managed to exceed their cultivation level and go up. But the truth was lying in front of him, so he had to believe it.

Hong!

Just when the two of them were talking, the fire burned even more strongly at the bottom of Jiuyou Tower.

Sun Zhongyan circulated all the force in his body and inserted it into the silver pestle.

The gigantic Xuan formation in the sky shone even more brightly and exuded a great suppression.

The two forces were in a crazy battle!

...

The commotion in Jiuyou Tower quickly attracted the attention of many strong people in the Imperial City.

Mu Qinghe—who was resting in his room—suddenly opened his eyes and looked in Jiuyou Tower’s direction.

He stared for a while and muttered, “It seems like a ferocious fiend is about to be born... I can’t believe that there’s such an existence in this place...”

This Country Yao Chen really has a lot of secrets.

At this point, Hong Yao suddenly flew over. Its ruby eyes stared straight at Jiuyou Tower.

Mu Qinghe looked down at it.

Ever since Hong Yao came back the day before, it had always been unhappy, and it wouldn’t say what was wrong when he asked it. Hong Yao only stubbornly buried its head underneath its wings and did not move.

Mu Qinghe knew that Hong Yao was throwing a tantrum, but he didn’t want to coax it.

Hong Yao's temper is getting bigger and bigger. In the past, it would always complain to that person, causing me to have no choice but to give in several times. But times have changed, and that person is no longer around. If Hong Yao continues in its ways, it will definitely bring about greater trouble sooner or later.

Thus, Mu Qinghe had already decided to correct Hong Yao's bad temper. If Hong Yao didn't move, he wouldn't do anything either. He would just let it sulk.

Seeing the alertness in Hong Yao's body and the anger burning in its eyes, he suddenly understood and furrowed his brows. "You went there previously?"

Upon hearing this, Hong Yao didn't care about him as it waved its wings, about to fly away.

Mu Qinghe encircled his chest and said lightly, "It seems like your cultivation is indeed worsening by the day. Now, even a suppressed ferocious fiend can hurt you."

Hong Yao turned around in anger and harshly glared at him. *He doesn't even know what happened, yet he's spouting nonsense here! That beast is indeed suppressed under Jiuyou Tower, but that doesn't mean that it's weak!*

Besides, I hadn't even made any preparations back then. Hence, I was hurt by the beast. If it happens again, I can definitely beat that beast into a pulp.

Seeing Hong Yao's reaction, Mu Qinghe squinted. *Hong Yao has always been arrogant, and it wouldn't even take a second look at a normal fiend. Hong Yao having such a big reaction is enough to prove that the suppressed fiend has a decent cultivation level.*

His heart tingled, and his figure immediately disappeared on the spot.

Hong Yao widened its eyes. *Again!?* He didn't allow me to go, but he went there himself?

Green fire burned around Hong Yao's body as it speedily dashed toward Jiuyou Tower. *I must take this chance to take my revenge!*

...

On the other end, Fu Yunshan, Cheng Han, and the rest had also noticed the strange change.

When they discovered that the commotion was coming from Tian Lu Academy, they were stunned and hurriedly rushed there.

It wasn't because they were worried that something would happen to the people in Tian Lu Academy, but rather, they were shocked about the commotion's side effects.

When they reached outside the academy, they could clearly see the tall Jiuyou Tower burning crazily from afar.

The black fire had already enveloped the bottom few floors of Jiuyou Tower completely, making it look like a prison.

In the sky above Jiuyou Tower, Sun Zhongyan and the rest were working together to suppress the fire. However, the gigantic Xuan formation was crumbling!

Chapter 296: Break!

Hoo!

Another shrill sounded again!

Dark clouds gathered in the skies, and thunder could be heard repeatedly. Such strange signs would occur when rare treasures or high-level fiends appeared in the world.

“There’s actually a fiend trapped under Jiuyou Tower?” said Fu Yunshan in shock.

Cheng Han’s face darkened. “Rumor has it that there’s a Pit of Heavenly Origins below Jiuyou Tower. If this kind of place hid a fiend... Then, there’s an 80% chance that it has already become a ferocious fiend!”

However, we had never heard of this in the past.

“The ferocious fiend looks extraordinary. Not to mention the big commotion it caused, but it seems like it’s about to escape from Jiuyou Tower! I’m afraid that Sun Zhongyan and the rest’s Xuan formation can’t last for long...” muttered Cheng Han as many emotions flashed across his eyes.

Fu Yunshan immediately said, “We have to hurry over and help them! If the ferocious fiend comes out, I’m afraid—”

“Afraid of what?” Cheng Han suddenly interrupted Fu Yunshan and raised his brows with a strange expression. “This is Jiuyou Tower. If anything really happens, it’s Tian Lu Academy’s own business. It’s not up to outsiders like us to care about them.”

“That Xuan formation is clearly the seal for Jiuyou Tower, which means that they long knew about the ferocious fiend hidden under Jiuyou Tower and had prepared for it. So what if we help them now? We might even cause trouble for ourselves in the end.”

Fu Yunshan looked at Cheng Han. “You mean...”

“I don’t mean anything. Brother Yunshan, if you wish to help them, do as you wish. However, I don’t want to get involved in this sticky situation.” As Cheng Han talked, he took a step back. “Brother Yunshan, go ahead!”

Fu Yunshan instantly became very awkward. Actually, he had just mentioned it casually, but he couldn’t help but feel a bit cowardly after seeing Cheng Han’s attitude. *Who knows what’s under that thing? It is indeed dangerous if I head over now, and I have no plans of sacrificing my life for Tian Lu Academy.*

Cheng Han’s words were logical. At the end of the day, this was Tian Lu Academy’s own business, and it had nothing to do with them. It was better to silently observe the situation first.

“Then... I’ll see what’s going on first. The Xuan formation has already been set up. If I suddenly go over, I might even cause trouble for them.” Fu Yunshan coughed and also planned to watch the situation.

Cheng Han sneered in his heart. He had previously heard some people from Tian Lu Academy saying that Chu Liuyue was still trapped in Jiuyou Tower. *This is really a gift from heaven! If I can take this opportunity to get rid of Chu Liuyue completely, it will save us a lot of effort!*

He looked at the black karmic fire that kept spreading as undetectable sinister smiling intent flashed across his eyes. *It's really such a pity that a good talent is about to fall...*

...

Sun Zhongyan and the rest quickly discovered that their forces weren't enough to suppress Jiuyou Tower, even though they had successfully activated the Locking Heaven Formation.

Not only did the fire have zero intention of stopping, but it was also burning even more wildly.

The two forces battled fiercely, and the Locking Heaven Formation gradually fell short. If this continued, the Locking Heaven Formation would break sooner or later. By that time, the situation would be completely irreversible.

However, Sun Zhongyan felt another movement from the Xuan formation at this moment. *Rong Xiu actually went up to the third floor!*

Sun Zhongyan opened his mouth, but he was too shocked and was at a loss for words. He didn't know what was going on with Rong Xiu, like if he was injured or hurt, but he could confirm that Rong Xiu had directly passed through the barriers on the second floor and third floor.

How exactly did he do it?!

At the side, Elder Wei Yun noticed that Sun Zhongyan didn't look right, and he could vaguely guess what had happened. "Rong Xiu is still going up?"

Sun Zhongyan nodded with much difficulty.

There was a Chu Liuyue in front of him, so whatever Rong Xiu did wasn't as shocking anymore. But...

“Why must Rong Xiu go in?” This was something that Elder Wei Yun couldn't understand at all. *He definitely knows how dangerous it is!*

Suddenly, a thought flashed across his mind. “Could it be... It can't be because of Chu Liuyue, right?”

When Sun Zhongyan heard this, he couldn't help but sigh. “If not, what else...? I can't believe I didn't notice this at all before...”

Previously, he only thought the two of them knew each other, but it seemed like it clearly was not so...

Kacha!

A crisp breaking sound was suddenly heard.

Sun Zhongyan looked over, and his eyes narrowed!

A crack had actually appeared in the middle of Jiuyou Tower!

Jiuyou Tower actually broke!

Black karmic fire crazily spun out from within. This move caused the fire to engulf half of Jiuyou Tower!

Sun Zhongyan's face turned pale.

Jiuyou Tower had existed for thousands of years and had been through all sorts of storms, but it was never damaged before. However....

Hoo!

Along with the fierce shrill, the black fire suddenly rose into the air.

The fire in the air swiftly became a gigantic eagle, which then charged toward the Locking Heaven Formation atop of Jiuyou Tower.

"It's the apparition of the ferocious fiend!" Elder Wei Yun was stunned beyond words.

The eagle apparition was exactly the same as the engraving on Jiuyou Tower's door.

Elder Wei Yun had watched over Jiuyou Tower for many years and was very familiar with it. Hence, he instantly recognized it the moment he saw it. However, he never expected such a ferocious fiend to be hidden under Jiuyou Tower!

Hong!

Its speed was very fast, so the crowd only saw a black figure spin across. The next moment, it had already crashed into the Xuan formation.

“Seal!” hollered Sun Zhongyan as all the force in his body emanated outward.

The other elders and teachers were also stunned by this scene, but they finally recovered their senses when they heard Sun Zhongyan’s voice. They then put in more strength.

Bang!

A loud sound of impact was heard again!

Countless rays of light started spreading everywhere!

The silver pestle right in the middle also seemed to be affected as it swayed violently. This movement caused the entire Xuan formation in the sky to shake as well.

The Xuan formation seemed like it would break at any time!

“Elder Sun, this side can’t hold on any longer!” yelled a teacher loudly.

The moment the teacher shouted this, the stars under his feet abruptly exploded.

The terrifying force attacked him instead, and he had no time to escape. He spat out blood, and his entire body flew outward.

The position he was at before darkened immediately.

The apparition formed from the black karmic fire seemed to have found this weak spot as it immediately changed its direction and charged toward it.

“Stop it quickly!” shouted Sun Zhongyan anxiously.

However, it was too late!

The Locking Heaven Formation was huge, and it was only forcefully activated with all the Xuan Masters in the academy here.

Everyone was responsible for one part. Now that one person was suddenly missing, the others simply had no time to fill in the gap.

In the blink of an eye, the black apparition had already rushed to the dim hole.

The petrifying aura on its body was dominating! This one move might just completely destroy the Locking Heaven Formation!

Chapter 297: Purgatory!

“Join!” A low but forceful voice suddenly sounded!

At the same time, the crowd saw a silver star suddenly land and cover the broken Xuan formation.

The moment the two forces made contact, they immediately merged.

The originally dim area became brighter in an instant!

The Xuan formation—which was previously dying—instantly stabilized with this injection of force.

The crowd looked over and saw a gray figure slowly walking out of nowhere.

Sun Zhongyan saw that person and was elated. “Uncle-Master!”

Who else could the incoming person be if it wasn’t Tian Lu Academy’s director, Ye Zhiting?

Ye Zhiting was still wearing that dirty, gray cotton shirt while holding a fan in his hands. Not a single force ripple was coming from but, and he looked very simple, nothing different from an average elder. However, everyone present knew that he was the strongest here!

When the many elders and students from the academy saw Ye Zhiting, they all unwittingly heaved a sigh of relief.

Cheng Han and Fu Yunshan—who were secretly observing from afar—were shocked as they didn't expect Ye Zhiting to appear at this time.

“What a timely appearance!” said Cheng Han with clenched teeth as he shot a deadly glare at that figure.

Fu Yunshan couldn't help but whisper, “I haven't seen him in years, and it seems like Elder Ye has become stronger...”

Cheng Han became even more frustrated. *Of course, I can see this! I originally thought that I could win against Ye Zhiting when I came to the Imperial City this time and gain back all my lost face.*

Cheng Han was still pretty regretful when Ye Zhiting didn't appear. When he later found out that Ye Zhiting had a disciple, he felt that it wasn't bad for Situ Xingchen to win against the other party's disciple. However, he didn't expect Ye Zhiting's disciple to be Chu Liuyue, who had taken first place for both the warrior competition and the Xuan Master competition!

The most regretful thing was that, in reality, even Situ Xingchen's first place in heavenly doctor was won by Chu Liuyue!

In the end, he absolutely rued the fact that he had agreed to Chu Liuyue representing Situ Xingchen in the competition.

Originally, he was holding in a stomach full of anger, but he didn't expect to coincidentally meet with Jiuyou Tower's strange changes just as he was about to leave the Imperial City.

And even Ye Zhiting appeared! The most crucial point was that Ye Zhiting's cultivation was much stronger than before!

Cheng Han could confirm that, if the two of them battled now, he still wouldn't be Ye Zhiting's match.

"Jiuyou Tower is in big trouble now. I don't think they can solve it so easily," said Cheng Han with a dark face.

Fu Yunshan was very hesitant. On the one hand, he didn't wish to get involved in this dangerous scenario. Who knows what kind of existence lived under Jiuyou Tower?

On the other hand, he didn't want to offend Ye Zhiting because of this.

While Fu Yunshan was being conflicted, Ye Zhiting had already walked to the broken star slowly.

Ye Zhiting waved the thin fan in his hands. Many stars then fell, drawing out a brilliant line across the sky before falling on top of the silver pestle in the middle of the Locking Heaven Formation.

The originally shaken silver pestle rapidly started spinning on its own again, exuding immense strength in all directions.

The gigantic Locking Heaven Formation looked lively again.

That black apparition seemed to feel threatened as it stopped and glared at Ye Zhiting with alertness.

It knew very clearly what kind of threat Ye Zhiting's appearance brought to it.

The two of them stared straight at each other.

Ye Zhiting looked at it with his old and murky eyes, which were as clear as ever and were filled with suppression. "Evil beast! Don't you dare!"

His voice landed like thunder.

The lights on top of the Locking Heaven Formation intersected with each other.

Struggle flashed across the black apparition's bloodied eyes.

As Tian Lu Academy's director and the silver pestle's true owner, Ye Zhiting's appearance naturally made the Locking Heaven Formation much stronger than before.

"Let's go!" Ye Zhiting whipped out his fan again.

The gigantic Locking Heaven Formation started rippling like the waves at sea.

Sihou!

The black apparition let out a painful moan, and its entire body was instantly separated as the apparition turned into numerous black sparks, which landed everywhere!

Even the black karmic fire burning below seemed to be affected as it shrunk by quite a bit, and it didn't continue going up.

When Sun Zhongyan and the others saw this, their anxious hearts finally calmed down.

"Uncle-Master, you've finally come out!" said Sun Zhongyan emotionally. *If he came any later, I'm afraid the entire Locking Heaven Formation really would've been broken by that beast!*

Ye Zhiting laughed out loud. "If I still didn't come out, the entire academy would be destroyed by this beast!"

Sun Zhongyan lowered his head apologetically. "It's all because I'm useless..."

"You can't be blamed for this. The beast wanted to come out a long time ago, but it hadn't found a suitable chance all this while. I was also on the verge of breaking through, so I didn't pay much attention to it. It was my carelessness that led to what happened today."

Ye Zhiting shook his head, and he had no intentions of reproaching Sun Zhongyan and the others.

“Then... Uncle-Master, what do you think we should do?” Sun Zhongyan hesitantly asked. *That beast clearly hasn't been taken down completely. Besides...*

“Uncle-Master, Jiuyou Tower is already cracking. I'm afraid it can't restrain the beast anymore.”

This was the even greater problem!

Ye Zhiting glanced at Jiuyou Tower and really saw a clear crack on the tower's body.

His face immediately became serious. *In that case, things are much more serious than I thought...*

His gaze landed on the Locking Heaven Formation again as he thought of ways to solve the problem.

Suddenly, he focused his gaze. “There's still someone in Jiuyou Tower?!”

Sun Zhongyan's heartbeat quickened as he wiped away the sweat on his forehead. “Yes... Yes...”

“Who is that on the fourth floor?”

“...Seventh Prince, Prince Li.” Sun Zhongyan immediately answered as he didn't dare to hide the truth.

Ye Zhiting knitted his brows tightly. “Why is he inside?”

“This...”

Without waiting for Sun Zhongyan to reply, Ye Zhiting discovered an even more shocking thing. “There’s still someone else above the first five floors?”

Sun Zhongyan didn’t care about much at this moment and hurriedly nodded. “Yes, Liuyue is still upstairs! Can you see what floor she’s on?”

Uncle-Master was stronger than him, so he could see what was going on at the higher floors.

Upon hearing the familiar name, Ye Zhiting’s eyelids twitched. “Who did you say?”

Sun Zhongyan swallowed his saliva and lowered his voice. “...Chu Liuyue.”

I only have this one precious disciple, yet this happened! How dangerous is Jiuyou Tower now? Isn’t she courting death by going in? Ye Zhiting’s eyes turned black. “H-how did she go up?”

Sun Zhongyan was on the brink of tears. *I want to know too!*

Ye Zhiting was very anxious. He hurriedly gathered his focus as he stared at the Locking Heaven Formation, wanting to find out about Chu Liuyue’s current situation.

This look made his face terrible.

“I can only feel that she’s on the higher floors, but I can’t precisely feel which exact floor she is on. Right now, I only know that she’s not on the sixth floor.”

This means that she’s on the seventh floor at least! How can she go into such a purgatory?

Chapter 298: The Thousand-Year-Old Karmic Fire!

Sun Zhongyan was stunned by these words. *This means that Rong Xiu is on the fourth floor, and Chu Liuyue is likely to be on the seventh floor! Th-this...*

“Uncle-Master, what do we do now?” Sun Zhongyan was an experienced man, but he also was at a loss of what to do.

Ye Zhiting frowned deeply as he fanned himself frantically. “This evil beast is dead set on coming out. If we can’t tame it once and for all, I’m afraid that nobody will be able to enter Jiuyou Tower!”

Not to mention how he wasn’t entirely confident of being able to tame it while Jiuyou Tower was falling apart.

Even if he could do it, how much time would it take? Would Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu—who were inside the tower—be able to stay safe till then?

The black karmic fire has been released now, and it has probably already engulfed half the tower! The two of them are probably in precarious positions!

Ye Zhiting suddenly rushed toward the Jiuyou Tower!

At the same time, a ball of black karmic fire rose!

The heatwave kept Ye Zhiting outside!

Kacha!

Another crack appeared on the Jiuyou Tower, and more flames burst out!

The air surrounding Jiuyou Tower was scorching hot, and the trees around the tower had started to burn.

Ye Zhiting stared at Jiuyou Tower as his heart sank!

“Listen up everyone! Activate the Locking Heaven Formation with full force! Tame this evil beast!” The aged voice spread far and wide as it echoed in the skies above Tian Lu Academy!

“Yes!” All the elders and teachers replied in unison!

...

While the outside was a mess, the interior of Jiuyou Tower was eerily quiet.

The seventh floor.

Unlike the six floors below, the seventh floor was a large, empty space.

Chu Liuyue stood in the middle of the space as she watched everything before her, her emotions in a jumble.

There was a giant, transparent three-legged cauldron before her. It was unclear what material the cauldron was forged out of; it was entirely clear, and it had a strange pattern carved on the outside.

Perhaps because of its age, but the pattern was a little unclear.

Even after staring at it for a while, Chu Liuyue couldn't make out what the pattern was.

But that wasn't important. More importantly, black karmic fire was burning wildly in the cauldron!

The entire space was scorching because of the flames!

The fire in the cauldron was quickly flowing outward!

If Chu Liuyue could leave now, she would see that the black karmic fire coming from beneath Jiuyou Tower originated from the cauldron!

However, Chu Liuyue was certain that these flames were the exact ones she saw carved on Jiuyou Tower's door!

On her first day in the tower, she had been burned by the imaginary flames, and she almost lost her life. Looking back, it must have been this thing!

An aggressive and intimidating aura flowed out of the cauldron endlessly!

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath.

Tuan Zi swallowed the seventh floor's barrier, and she had followed it up here. Chu Liuyue saw all this when she came up.

Never did she expect such an eerie fire to be hidden on the seventh floor of Jiuyou Tower!

Based on my understanding of Jiuyou Tower, this thing has probably been here the whole time. How strange. The Pit of Heavenly Origins is a site for cultivation. Nobody would trap a fiend here, not to mention leaving such an eerie flame behind.

This thing was cold to its core. Even from such a distance, Chu Liuyue felt chills running down her spine.

It was hard to imagine who had set up all of this in Jiuyou Tower.

Suddenly, two red dots appeared in the fire!

The next moment, Chu Liuyue realized that they weren't red dots but a pair of blood-red eyes! She had seen this pair of eyes before—it was that eagle's!

Chu Liuyue had felt the eyes' threat countless times, so she now recognized it instantly! However, seeing it in person was even more impactful!

The scary and cold aura enveloped her, and there was nowhere to hide!

It seemed as though the blood in Chu Liuyue's body had frozen as her heart palpitated!

Almost uncontrollably, she walked forward.

At this point, Tuan Zi leaped up from her shoulder and let out a warning cry!

Chu Liuyue was startled and returned to her senses as she paused. Cold sweat instantly broke out across her body. *I was hypnotized by those eyes earlier! I would've been in danger if I had gotten close!*

She knitted her brows together as she watched the flames and asked, "Who exactly are you, and why are you targeting me?"

All she received in reply was a roar.

The other party clearly didn't intend to answer her question.

Chu Liuyue looked at Tuan Zi. "Tuan Zi, can you tell what fiend this is?"

Tuan Zi scrutinized it but shook its head.

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's head. *I have seen many advanced fiends in my past life, but all the eagle-type fiends seemed different from this one. I can't ascertain its true identity right now, but I'm sure of one thing: this beast wants to get out of here!*

Chu Liuyue wondered if the transparent cauldron was used to seal it or domesticate it.

Chu Liuyue dared not act recklessly.

While she was deep in thought, a vicious look flashed across the red eyes.

The next moment, a burst of black karmic fire turned into a pair of giant wings and flew toward Chu Liuyue!

Fierce ice, sharp beak!

In the blink of an eye, it was right in front of Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue was stunned as she tried to back away, but a fearful pressure enveloped her, making her unable to move.

In that moment of hesitation, her body had been enveloped by the pair of wings!

Tuan Zi's fear rose as it prepared to dash forward!

At this moment, the water droplet quietly suspended in Chu Liuyue's dantian started spinning quickly!

Chapter 299: Black and White

There was a crushing sense of pressure as strong energy came from the water droplet!

The apparition approaching Chu Liuyue seemed to have sensed the danger as panic flashed across its eyes, and it backed away quickly!

A streak of red fire burst out from Chu Liuyue's body and chased after the apparition!

Choo!

In the blink of an eye, the black fire and red fire clashed and made a sharp noise!

The black apparition quickly backed away into the cauldron as if it had run into something scary! However, the red fire followed it to the edge of the cauldron and burned it!

Grey and white smoke appeared!

Roar!

The black karmic fire in the cauldron burst up as if it had been agitated, and a haunting roar came from inside!

Chu Liuyue watched everything in surprise. *The red fire... came from inside me?!*

The dantian attacked and chased the black karmic fire even before she had the time to think! To be more precise, the black karmic fire had fled.

Chu Liuyue could feel the beast's deep fear through the cauldron!

"Is this the soul of some fiend..." Chu Liuyue muttered to herself. She clearly saw that there was no fiend body when the black karmic fire rose just now. But what kind of fiend could survive for 1,000 years with only a soul?!

The confusion in Chu Liuyue's heart grew as she stared at the scene before her with a deep frown.

The red flames had turned into a giant barrier that enveloped the cauldron, and the haunting cries gradually became weaker!

On the side, Tuan Zi shook its tail as if it was a pity that it didn't get the chance to deal with the beast itself.

Chu Liuyue stood in her spot with a complicated expression. *The red fire's appearance was rather sudden, but I felt it. For example... I seemed to feel that beast's fear. It seemed like it wanted to... surrender?*

Chu Liuyue sensed that she could control that red fire. She raised her hand, and the red fire flew back into her palms.

The originally aggressive black karmic fire had shrunken. It was clearly not a match for Chu Liuyue's red fire.

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but look down; a small flame was dancing on her palm.

If she hadn't seen it for herself, she wouldn't have believed that there would be so much power in the red fire!

The red fire clearly came from the water droplet, and its color resembled the red writing that had appeared before.

Chu Liuyue set aside all her thoughts and looked forward. "Will you surrender, or shall we continue?"

...

Fifth floor of Jiuyou Tower.

The black karmic fire was quickly spreading upward from below.

Jiuyou Tower was scorching hot from inside to out—it was like hell on earth. However, one person was slowly making his way up in this sea of fire.

This person was slender and dressed in white. Every step he took was nonchalant and relaxed. He was the only bit of white in the sea of black.

With every step he took, the fire before him would part to make way for him.

The contrast between the two colors as he made his way forward was like a painting.

The man quickly arrived at the barrier on the sixth floor. He stood before the stairs, his dark eyes glancing at the barrier.

He then stretched out his palm and placed it on the barrier; he could still feel a little warmth.

It's her. Rong Xiu sighed. I thought that she would stop on the sixth floor, but...

Rong Xiu curled his fingers slightly, and the barrier silently spread open.

He then continued upward.

...

“Rong Xiu’s already on the sixth floor?!” Ye Zhiting—who had been observing the situation in Jiuyou Tower—cried out suddenly.

Sun Zhongyan’s eyelid twitched. *Chu Liuyue was enough. How did Rong Xiu... How did the two of them do it?*

He spoke up after contemplating for a while. “Uncle-Master, this isn’t necessarily a bad thing. The bottom five floors of Jiuyou Tower have been surrounded by the black karmic fire. If they flee to the top, they might be able to avoid...”

“Zhongyan, I believe you’ve been to the fifth floor, right?”

Sun Zhongyan nodded confusedly.

Ye Zhiting sighed. “Then, which do you think is more dangerous? The fire below, or the top floors?”

Sun Zhongyan was speechless. He remembered that the pressure would increase with every floor. Neither Chu Liuyue nor Rong Xiu had enough ability to support...

“Director, the fire seems to have become small!” Bai Chen suddenly cried out.

The others looked up hurriedly and saw that the fire—which had spread to the fifth floor—hadn't continued moving upward. It also did seem weaker than before.

Ye Zhiting stared at it for a while, but his expression was still as tense. Conversely, he knitted his brows together even tighter.

Sun Zhongyan was just about to rejoice when he saw Ye Zhiting's expression. His smile froze. "Uncle-Master, what's wrong?"

"That's not right..." Ye Zhiting muttered.

Sun Zhongyan took another look, confused. "Not right? What's not right? Hasn't our Locking Heaven Formation suppressed the beast? The fire has subsided by quite a lot as well!"

This should be a sign that we're winning!

Ye Zhiting didn't say anything but shook his head. *Something is really wrong. The Locking Heaven Formation hasn't exerted its power. The beast's transformation was too sudden! Could it be that... something happened within Jiuyou Tower?*

For some reason, Ye Zhiting felt uneasy as if something was going to happen.

Screech!

At this moment, a clear screech came from afar!

Everyone looked up and saw a palm-sized green sparrow flying toward Jiuyou Tower! It was moving fast, and its body was burning blue! From afar, it seemed like a flying blue ball of flames!

“That’s... a seventh-grade fiend, the green sparrow?!” Ye Zhiting was stunned.

Sun Zhongyan hurriedly explained things to him. “Uncle-Master, that’s the fiend of Tianling Dynasty’s envoy, Mu Qinghe!”

Ye Zhiting had been in seclusion, so he was unaware of outside affairs. However, he heard the words ‘Tianling Dynasty’ loud and clear.

Ye Zhiting was stunned and looked closer. He saw a young man following behind the green sparrow.

This man wasn’t dressed extravagantly and looked rather dashing, but the scar on his left eye made him seem rather stern and authoritative.

What shocked Ye Zhiting the most was that he should see through the other person’s level!

Hong Yao was livid when it saw the burning black karmic fire. It flapped its wings and headed straight for Jiuyou Tower!

Chapter 300: Grudges Old and New

Mu Qinghe frowned when he saw the burning Jiuyou Tower. His heart moved when he saw Hong Yao rush in, but he didn't stop it.

In the blink of an eye, Hong Yao had passed through the fire and disappeared into the black karmic fire.

"This..." Before Sun Zhongyan could say anything to stop it, the green sparrow had disappeared.

Sun Zhongyan looked at Ye Zhiting hesitantly.

Ye Zhiting was rather calm. "That's a seventh-grade fiend; it'll be fine. In the worst-case scenario... there's its owner too."

Only then did Sun Zhongyan put his mind at ease. He had forgotten that Mu Qinghe had tagged along as well.

Sun Zhongyan looked toward Mu Qinghe and greeted him. "Lieutenant Mu! What brings you here?"

Mu Qinghe's tone was calm and even. "With this commotion, the entire imperial city knows."

A large number of people had gathered outside of Tian Lu Academy, not to mention him.

Sun Zhongyan felt a little awkward.

Mu Qinghe frowned as he watched the fire burning on top of Jiuyou Tower. "I didn't expect such a ferocious beast to be hidden beneath Jiuyou Tower."

Earlier, he had been a little confused as to what fiend could hurt Hong Yao, but he understood when he saw the scene before him.

Sun Zhongyan didn't know what to say. He hesitated before he worriedly said, "Lieutenant Mu, this place is really dangerous now. Your fiend just flew in..."

It's fine if it comes out unscathed, but we will be implicated if anything happens.

Mu Qinghe's expression was still calm. "It knows its limit."

The situation was a little dangerous, but it wasn't lethal. This wasn't a bad opportunity for Hong Yao to test itself.

Sun Zhongyan couldn't say anything since Mu Qinghe had spoken. He returned to Ye Zhiting's side and tried to activate the Locking Heaven Formation.

Mu Qinghe glanced at the Locking Heaven Formation, and his eyes landed on the silver pestle in the middle.

He was surprised. *That thing... This tiny Tian Lu Academy seems a lot more complicated than we had imagined...*

...

Hong Yao passed through the black karmic fire easily, but entering the sealed Jiuyou Tower took quite some effort.

The door at the base was locked, and the windows on the other floors were locked as well.

In the end, Hong Yao managed to find a crack in the tower and flew in through the flames!

Poof!

Chu Liuyue was facing off the beast when she heard the strange sound from above. She looked up and saw a familiar green silhouette flying toward her!

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes in shock. "Hong Yao? Why are you here?!"

Upon saying that, Chu Liuyue realized that her tone was too familiar, and she looked behind Hong Yao warily.

Thankfully, Mu Qinghe did not follow it in.

Hong Yao flew in, so it saw the transparent cauldron beneath it and the black fire burning within the cauldron.

Hong Yao felt the familiar sense of threat within the cauldron! *It is this fellow that harmed me!*

Hong Yao widened its eyes and wanted to rush forward to seek vengeance! But at this point, it heard Chu Liuyue's voice.

It looked up in shock, only to notice that Chu Liuyue was there too!

Hong Yao was ecstatic and immediately changed directions, flying toward Chu Liuyue!

Before it could get there, a red shadow stood in its way—it was Tuan Zi!

Like before, Tuan Zi stared at Hong Yao warily, clearly not wanting it to get close to Chu Liuyue.

Hong Yao was frustrated, and fire rose from its body!

The two of them were in a stand-off!

Chu Liuyue looked at the two of them speechlessly.

She knew that the two of them couldn't stand each other. Why else would they fight the instant they met?

"Tuan Zi." Chu Liuyue's voice had a tinge of warning to it.

Tuan Zi huffed indignantly, refusing to budge.

Hong Yao didn't give in either, staring pointedly at Tuan Zi.

Chu Liuyue: "If you want to fight, do it outside."

The two froze.

Chu Liuyue continued, "Tuan Zi, I won't help you. Hong Yao's a seventh-grade fiend; you might not be its match now."

Tuan Zi hugged its head in frustration.

Glee flashed across Hong Yao's eyes, and it bit its wings.

"And Hong Yao." Chu Liuyue looked toward the green sparrow. "You know the consequences of killing my fiend."

Hong Yao paused.

Tuan Zi was gloating as it turned and shook its behind at Hong Yao cockily.

Hong Yao was mad and spun a few rounds before it finally stopped and glanced at Chu Liuyue indignantly. Its ruby-red eyes were filled with tears—it was crying in exasperation.

Chu Liuyue felt her heart soften. She knew that Hong Yao just wanted to be by her side. After all... She had helped Mu Qinghe raise it for so long, and she would back it up whenever it threw a tantrum at Mu Qinghe.

Hong Yao had relied heavily on her, and it was even closer to her than it was to Mu Qinghe, its real owner.

How could Chu Liuyue not be moved that Hong Yao could recognize her after she was reborn?

I wonder how Hong Yao got through this one year... Finally, Chu Liuyue sighed and waved. “Hong Yao.”

Tuan Zi froze and looked at Chu Liuyue in disbelief.

Said person glanced at Tuan Zi.

Tuan Zi kept itself in check. Even though it was indignant, it didn't dare to truly anger Chu Liuyue.

Hong Yao flew over happily when it heard her call.

Seeing that it was about to fly into her arms, Chu Liuyue broke into an indulgent smile. However, Hong Yao paused when it arrived before her.

Hong Yao looked at Chu Liuyue hesitantly. It had imagined such a scene countless times, but they had always been illusions.

In reality, Hong Yao had slowly come to terms that that person was no longer around. However, it had just refused to admit it.

And now, she was before its eyes... What if she disappeared on touch like before?!

Chu Liuyue felt her heart ache when she saw Hong Yao's hesitance. She softened her tone. "Yaoyao, come here."

Hong Yao froze when it heard her voice, and joy filled its eyes! *No one else in this world calls me that!*

Hong Yao finally stopped hesitating and lunged into Chu Liuyue's arms!

Chu Liuyue raised her hands and patted it on the head.

Hong Yao's body shook as tears streamed down its face.

Chu Liuyue was thankful that she ran into Hong Yao here. Otherwise, she would never dare to behave like this.

Tuan Zi angrily watched everything unfold from the side.

What is there to cry about? I didn't even cry! As Tuan Zi thought this, it stretched out its claw and wiped its face.

Roar!

At this moment, the beast—which had been weakened—in the cauldron cried out!

Hong Yao looked back angrily and flew back! *Of all the times to speak up, it chose this moment. This beast must be doing it on purpose! Grudges—old and new—I will settle them once and for all!*