

Nobel Ruler 301

Chapter 301: What about him?

Hong Yao flapped its wings, and two balls of fire instantly began burning! A giant green silhouette also appeared behind it.

The pressure of a seventh-grade fiend was very strong!

Chu Liuyue looked at Hong Yao with surprise. She didn't expect the green sparrow to use its ultimate move right from the start. However, she then recalled that Hong Yao seemed to have been injured by the apparition before.

Hong Yao had always been vengeful; how could it just let the fiend apparition go? It would try its best to win back some pride!

As if it had sensed the threat from Hong Yao, the black karmic fire in the transparent cauldron started becoming more active again.

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. *As expected, this beast hasn't given up. It was feigning compliance because it had suffered earlier.*

She suddenly focused her gaze.

A streak of light seemed to have passed through the transparent cauldron.

Chu Liuyue sensed that something was amiss, so she took a closer look. However, she didn't see anything this time.

Screech!

Hong Yao cried out as it flapped its wings. The two blue balls of flames flew out toward the cauldron!

...

Kacha!

Another crack appeared on Jiuyou Tower, and more black karmic fire started spurting out from it!

Everyone was nervous to see this, and they all kept silent.

Ye Zhiting directed more force into the silver pestle, and the Locking Heaven Formation's pressure increased!

But the power within Jiuyou Tower seemed to have become stronger.

"What's going on? Didn't the black karmic fire die down a little earlier? Sun Zhongyan was shocked.

Ye Zhiting's expression was solemn. *As expected... I had sensed something amiss, and it looks like that's the case now! The black karmic fire hadn't been suppressed by the formation earlier; the beast was pooling its energy!*

Even though they didn't know where its energy came from, they were certain of one thing: if the beast continued getting stronger, the Locking Heaven Formation would fall apart!

Bang!

A piece of stone suddenly fell from Jiuyou Tower!

Ye Zhiting's heart sank! *Jiuyou Tower is probably going to collapse!*

On the other hand, Mu Qinghe focused his eyes and saw a familiar streak of blue fire within the black karmic fire! *This... Hong Yao is fighting with the beast? It appears to be a vigorous battle, but... Hong Yao's situation seems a little strange.*

Even though it is proud and stubborn, it is also lazy. The beast has harmed it before, so Hong Yao will definitely take this chance to seek vengeance. However, there's no need for Hong Yao to use its ultimate move right from the get-go... Hong Yao seems... especially excited to be in there?

Mu Qinghe pondered for a moment before he asked Sun Zhongyan, "Are there people in Jiuyou Tower?"

"How did Lieutenant Mu know?" Sun Zhongyan was rather surprised. *Mu Qinghe has just arrived, so he shouldn't have had time to hear the chatter.*

Mu Qinghe had a vague idea. "Is it... Chu Liuyue?"

Sun Zhongyan was surprised.

Mu Qinghe knew he was right from Sun Zhongyan's reaction. *Chu Liuyue is indeed inside the tower!*

He glanced at the tower again, his eyes dark. *This Chu Liuyue has a lot of mysteries on her...*

"Is Lieutenant Mu worried about Liuyue?" Sun Zhongyan asked testingly. After all, Chu Liuyue had the Dijing Yuan meridian. So far, she was the only person who had the chance to go to the Tianling Dynasty with Mu Qinghe.

It was normal for Mu Qinghe to worry.

Mu Qinghe did not reply.

Sun Zhongyan wiped the sweat from his forehead. "Lieutenant Mu, don't worry. Liuyue is a student of the academy, and she's Uncle-Master's disciple. We'll rescue her at all costs."

Mu Qinghe raised his chin, his eyes judgemental. "With this half-activated Locking Heaven Formation?"

Sun Zhongyan was speechless.

Mu Qinghe was right. The Locking Heaven Formation seemed to have been fully activated, but it was only working at half-power. It was only slightly stronger than before because of Ye Zhiting's presence.

But in reality, the real Locking Heaven Formation was many times more complicated than what they had right now.

Due to their limited cultivation, this was all they could manage after combining their powers.

His head ached if he stared at the complex Xuan formation for too long, not to mention activating it.

He himself could not manage it, not to mention the other Xuan Masters in the academy. Therefore, they were stuck in this awkward situation.

"His Majesty and Her Majesty have arrived!" An urgent announcement suddenly sounded from afar.

Everyone was shocked. *What is Emperor Jiawen doing here at this time? The Empress is here as well?!*

Zuo Rong and the others turned to see Emperor Jiawen hurrying over, with the Empress right behind him.

Accompanying them were the imperial guards led by Chu Ning.

"Your Majesty!"

Zuo Rong and the others went forward, ready to greet Emperor Jiawen when he stopped them.
“Where’s Seven?”

Of course, Emperor Jiawen was referring to Seventh Prince Rong Xiu, Prince Li.

Nobody expected that the first thing Emperor Jiawen would ask would be regarding Rong Xiu, and they all paused.

Woe and coldness flashed across the Empress’s eyes, but it was fleeting. Hence, nobody noticed it.

Emperor Jiawen rushed straight here when he heard that there was an accident at Jiuyou Tower.

The Empress rarely saw Emperor Jiawen this nervous, so it was clear who it was about. *Isn’t it because Rong Xiu is at Tian Lu Academy? I thought that giving Rong Xiu the title of Prince Li was enough already, but I didn’t expect his favor toward Rong Xiu to be this much! Even though he has been away for years, His Majesty still dotes on Rong Xiu the most!*

Isn’t this all because of that woman? She’s been dead for so many years, but she’s still haunting us. How revolting! The Empress dug her nails into her palm, but her expression remained unchanged.

“Your Majesty, don’t worry. Prince Li is blessed, so I’m sure he’ll be fine. Didn’t they say that the academy’s students have been evacuated? Look, they’re all there! I’m sure Prince Li is fine.”

Emperor Jiawen looked up hurriedly and saw that the academy’s students had indeed gathered together.

Jiuyou Tower was burning, but it was quite a distance from them. Besides, the academy's Elders and teachers were by their side, so it shouldn't be a problem.

Emperor Jiawen scanned around, but he didn't see Rong Xiu. He could not help frowning. "Why is Seven not there?"

Zuo Rong was the first to react, and he didn't know how to reply to Emperor Jiawen's question. "Your Majesty, Prince Li..."

Emperor Jiawen had a bad feeling from Zuo Rong's hesitant attitude. "Where exactly is he?!"

Zuo Rong looked down. "Your Majesty, Prince Li is... inside Jiuyou Tower..."

"What?!" Emperor Jiawen was stunned, and he stumbled.

Chapter 302: Tripod!

The Empress hurriedly supported the Emperor and worriedly said, "Your Majesty, please take care of your body!"

Emperor Jiawen gripped the Empress's wrist tightly and finally managed to stabilize himself. He looked toward Jiuyou Tower urgently, worried and angry. "How can this be? Aren't the other students here? Why is he inside Jiuyou Tower?!"

Zuo Rong and the others looked at one another, unsure of what to do.

Hong!

Another explosion came from Jiuyou Tower at this moment, which continued to spread upward!

Emperor Jiawen was startled, and he couldn't hold his anger back any longer. "His body is weak, and you all let him enter Jiuyou Tower?! What were you all thinking!? If anything happens to him, I won't let any of you off easily!"

Emperor Jiawen had always been respectful of the academy's Elders and teachers. He had never spoken to them like this before.

Everyone was shocked by his reaction. It was then that they realized that His Majesty was truly worried about Prince Li.

Zuo Rong explained weakly, "Your Majesty, please calm down. This matter... this matter... Prince Li actually went in himself..."

Emperor Jiawen paused, his face full of confusion. "How can that be?!"

Rong Xiu knows he is sick, so how could he have been as reckless as to enter Jiuyou Tower?!

“We would never dare to lie to Your Majesty. In fact, all the students had been chased out before Jiuyou Tower changed. The black karmic fire began burning in Jiuyou Tower, but Prince Li entered the tower then.

Zuo Rong gulped with difficulty. “Elder Wei Yun and the others tried to stop him, but... they couldn’t...”

The two simple sentences contained a large amount of information. Emperor Jiawen only processed all of it after a while.

“You’re saying that he walked through the fire?!” asked Emperor Jiawen in disbelief. His voice was shaking because of the shock.

Zuo Rong and the others could only nod. “Yes.”

How could they not be stunned? Rong Xiu’s actions were as good as looking for death!

“We tried to go in later, but the fire was too big, so we couldn’t go in,” said Zuo Rong as he lowered his head.

He knew that his explanation was rather weak. Even if it were true, they had failed to protect Rong Xiu.

If anything happened to him...

Emperor Jiawen looked up and stared at Jiuyou Tower—which had been enveloped by the black karmic fire. His face was pale, and he didn’t utter a single word.

The Empress stood by his side, her wrist in pain from his tight grip. Without looking, it was clear that it was bruised. However, she put up with it silently.

What was this amount of pain? Knowing that Rong Xiu was trapped inside Jiuyou Tower was comfort enough for her!

How could Rong Xiu survive such a dangerous place?

She had been worried about not being able to get rid of him, but he sent himself to his doom!

Zuo Rong made it clear that Rong Xiu went in on his own volition. If he dies, it is nobody's fault! At the very least, my son and I won't be implicated!

The Empress suppressed her joy and knitted her brows together. "Your Majesty, don't worry. Prince Li knows his limits. He must have his reasons for doing so. Now that Elder Ye is here as well, I'm sure Prince Li will be fine."

However, Emperor Jiawen could not take any of that in. Sure, Elder Ye was present, but it was clear that the Locking Heaven Formation couldn't hold on for much longer!

Besides, Jiuyou Tower had started to collapse!

"Hurry... Do something... Do something and get Rong Xiu out!" Emperor Jiawen muttered when he spotted Mu Qinghe from the corner of his eye.

His eyes lit up as if he were looking at his last hope. "Lieutenant Mu! Lieutenant Mu!"

Mu Qinghe looked toward Emperor Jiawen.

He had heard the commotion from Emperor Jiawen's side, and he knew the latter was asking him for help. However, he had no intentions of heading out to help.

Looking at Mu Qinghe's aloof manner, Emperor Jiawen was uncertain. But he had no other choice at this point.

"Lieutenant Mu, your ability is superior. I'm sure you can..." Emperor Jiawen begged.

"No." Mu Qinghe cut off Emperor Jiawen, not leaving him any room for negotiation.

Emperor Jiawen's face paled.

Just as he was about to make a second appeal, Mu Qinghe spoke. "Why should I save him if he's not in any danger?"

...

Inside Jiuyou Tower.

Bang!

Hong Yao was hit, and it flew backward, hitting the ground!

The blue flames on its body were greatly weakened.

“Hong Yao!” Chu Liuyue rushed forward.

Hong Yao struggled to get up, but it fell to the ground. There was a bloodied wound on its wings!

Chu Liuyue picked Hong Yao up carefully and turned back.

The apparition formed by the black karmic fire in the transparent cauldron had been greatly weakened—the two were evenly matched!

Chu Liuyue knew that Hong Yao had previously gotten hurt from a fight with the fiend. Therefore, she dared not take it lightly.

However, she didn't expect Hong Yao to be evenly matched with the fiend after exerting all its energy!

Who knows how much trouble would arise if they let it escape...

At this moment, Chu Liuyue saw a streak of light flash across the cauldron! It was much clearer this time; Chu Liuyue could even tell that the light seemed to follow along the strange pattern on the cauldron.

She wondered if it was an illusion, but she felt that the patterns on the cauldron were clearer after the streaks of light passed through.

Hong Yao lay against Chu Liuyue's chest, but its eyes were fixed on the cauldron; its eyes were full of indignance.

It was embarrassing to have lost the first time, but it didn't win the second time either! How embarrassing would it be if word of this got out?

Hong Yao moved, wanting to continue fighting. However, the green sparrow could only flap its wings weakly.

Chu Liuyue said, "You're hurt now; you better stay put."

Hong Yao immediately put its wings away obediently. Thinking of how the battle made it seem rather useless, the green sparrow buried its head spitefully.

Chu Liuyue instantly understood. "You want me to take revenge for you?"

Hong Yao only stuck its head out, whining pitifully.

Tuan Zi looked at it with disdain as it burst out laughing. *Useless!*

Hong Yao glared at Tuan Zi angrily.

Chu Liuyue patted its head as she laughed speechlessly. “Okay; wait by the side.”

It was only then that Hong Yao flew to the side. Before leaving, the green sparrow raised its chin toward the black karmic fire—arrogant since it had now found backup.

Chu Liuyue held her forehead in exasperation. *Hong Yao doesn't seem to have realized that I am not who I used to be. I'm not sure I can win.*

At this thought, she flipped her palm up, and the concentrated red fire rose!

Almost at the same time, countless streaks of light filled up the transparent cauldron!

The pattern on the cauldron became much clearer!

Hong!

Chapter 303: Break!

The fire in the cauldron started burning intensely!

In the blink of an eye, the fire was much stronger than before!

Chu Liuyue was stunned and was forced to take a step back due to the horrifying impact.

Then, a pair of bloodied eyes appeared again, and all of the surrounding fire rapidly gathered together!

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat.

When the ferocious fiend previously formed apparitions, they were all in bits and pieces of fire, never like this, where all the fire gathered together.

Hong!

A loud sound suddenly erupted above her head.

Chu Liuyue looked up and was shocked to see a ball of black karmic fire barging in from outside, rapidly merging with the apparition—that was the fire that had flown out previously!

For some reason, all that fire abruptly returned at this time!

Uneasiness filled Chu Liuyue's heart.

Following the rapid gathering of the fire, the apparition became even more stable as it gradually formed a giant and clear outline.

Chu Liuyue stared at it closely; the apparition was clearly exactly the same as the engraving on Jiuyou Tower's door.

That gigantic black eagle had its wings crossed in front, and its pair of bloodied eyes were filled with endless murderous intent, sending chills down one's spine.

Shua!

Its wings suddenly expanded, and a sharp shriek reverberated throughout the entire Jiuyou Tower!

...

"Quickly, look! The fire on top of Jiuyou Tower is disappearing!"

Just as everyone was very anxious and worried that Jiuyou Tower would simply collapse, a gasp was suddenly heard from the crowd.

Everyone looked over.

Sun Zhongyan and the rest looked surprised.

“Uncle-Master, it seems like the Locking Heaven Formation is taking effect!”

Ye Zhiting stared at it closely, and his expression suddenly changed! “Oh no! Retreat now!”

The crowd was confused.

The next moment, Ye Zhiting suddenly flew toward the silver pestle in the middle.

The fire outside Jiuyou Tower started pouring in with even greater speed.

Ye Zhiting’s hand harshly slammed on top of the silver pestle, and dense force crazily pervaded the pestle.

The Locking Heaven Formation’s force was once again strengthened.

At this point, the others finally recovered their senses. That black fire wasn’t extinguished, but it had flowed toward the tower.

Even though they didn’t know what was going on, anyone who saw this could feel that something was amiss.

Bang!

The crack on Jiuyou Tower became even larger as the outer layer started peeling at a rapid speed.

Through the crack in the tower, the crowd could see an endless sea of black fire—the entire Jiuyou Tower seemed to be occupied by that fire.

Sun Zhongyan and the others' hearts clenched tightly.

Jiuyou Tower was in such a perilous situation; it would be hard for Rong Xiu and Chu Liuyue—who were still stuck inside the tower—to survive.

Emperor Jiawen quickly walked forward, wanting to find a familiar figure in the fire.

The Empress hurriedly pulled him back. "Your Majesty, it's dangerous!"

Zuo Rong and the rest immediately went forward and stopped him. *What a joke! The people inside haven't come out yet; how can we allow more people to enter?!*

Emperor Jiawen's expression suddenly changed, and he looked like he had aged by a decade at that moment.

After seeing his appearance, the Empress was jealous and satisfied at the same time. *It's better if he's dead!*

Not far away, a group of students finally couldn't help but whisper. "Oh no... Jiuyou Tower really is going to collapse this time!"

“I wonder what kind of ferocious fiend is sealed under the tower! How can it be so powerful? If Director and the rest can’t stop it...”

“Touch wood! What are you saying? How can Director and the rest not have a solution? Jiuyou Tower has existed for many years, and Director and the elders are all very formidable. They can definitely suppress it!”

“But if Jiuyou Tower is ruined... There’s a Pit of Heavenly Origins underneath it! I really wonder what will happen after today...”

“Be content! At least we still saved our own lives! As for Prince Li and Chu Liuyue, who are inside... I’m afraid—”

At this time, Chu Ning—who had just finished instructing his subordinates—heard what they said, and he instantly looked at the speaking people in shock. *Yue’er is inside too?!*

He had previously come in a hurry and was only preoccupied with dispersing the imperial guards to quarantine Tian Lu Academy. Hence, he didn’t care about the rest.

Chu Ning immediately surveyed his surroundings, and he really didn’t see the familiar figure.

He forced himself to calm down and collect his thoughts. Then, he took out a compass from his arms.

The needle on the compass moved lightly and finally pointed at Jiuyou Tower.

Chu Ning was worried and thankful at the same time. He was worried because Yue'er was indeed trapped in Jiuyou Tower. He was thankful because the compass still reacting proved that Yue'er was not in trouble yet.

He put away the compass and immediately wanted to barge into Jiuyou Tower.

"Officer Chu, what are you doing?!" Zuo Rong saw Chu Ning's actions from the side and hurriedly stopped him.

Chu Ning stared straight at Jiuyou Tower. "Yue'er is still inside! I—"

Hong! Long! Long!

Dark clouds started to gather in the sky, and a thunderbolt struck.

A silver flash suddenly appeared amidst the rumbling clouds.

The crowd then saw lightning strike down rapidly—it went straight for Ye Zhiting.

Ye Zhiting had no choice but to retreat speedily.

Hong!

That lightning bolt accurately struck the silver pestle.

The next moment, the countless sparks became shots of light as they shone down and covered the entire Jiuyou Tower.

Bang!

The stars suddenly exploded on top of the Locking Heaven Formation.

An elder spat out blood, and the area under his feet quickly dimmed.

Without waiting for the crowd to react, countless sounds erupted from the Locking Heaven Formation.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, the gigantic Locking Heaven Formation started darkening at an observable speed. Then, it thoroughly collapsed!

Chapter 304: Retaliation!

The Locking Heaven Formation collapsed!

The few elders and teachers suffered the strong backlash, and they all dropped down. Even Ye Zhiting moved back a few steps.

At this point, Jiuyou Tower was covered by countless rays of light, and the view was mesmerizing. But when the people present saw this scene, fear crept into their hearts!

If the Locking Heaven Formation collapsed, then they would have no way to contain the ferocious fiend in Jiuyou Tower!

“Uncle-Master, what should we do?!” asked Sun Zhongyan hurriedly.

Ye Zhiting swallowed the bloody scent rushing up his throat. “Quick! Restore the Locking Heaven Formation!”

...

In Jiuyou Tower.

Chu Liuyue clearly heard the thunder, and she also saw the lightning striking down at the same time before spreading from the top of the tower.

Countless rays of light appeared on the walls around her, and they rushed toward the transparent cauldron in the middle.

Gradually, a clear pattern appeared in the middle of the transparent cauldron.

“卍!” Chu Liuyue’s heart jumped. *This word...*

Screech!

At this moment, the black apparition in the transparent cauldron suddenly let out a shrill shriek. The next moment, it waved its wings violently and rushed straight for Chu Liuyue.

Tuan Zi immediately blocked the apparition for Chu Liuyue.

A gigantic wing swung across, and the terrifying wave of air caused Tuan Zi to fly.

Chu Liuyue immediately hugged Tuan Zi into her arms and waved her palms. Then, a transparent barrier immediately appeared in front of them.

Hong!

The black fire smashed against the crystal barrier harshly! But this time, the black karmic fire seemed much stronger than before!

After a momentary tense situation, a crack appeared on the crystal barrier.

The maniacal murderous intent in the gigantic black eagle’s eyes shone as it harshly slapped with its sharp claws.

Kacha!

The crystal barrier broke.

Chu Liuyue looked up suddenly.

The sharp claws were right in front of her eyes, and they were about to land and shred her into pieces.

She moved backward without hesitation and waved her hands. Red fire suddenly emerged from her palm, and it formed a large screen at an observable speed.

Hong! Hong! Hong!

The two balls of fire slammed against each other harshly, and fire sparks exploded everywhere.

The horrifying aftershocks spread and caused Chu Liuyue to fly backward.

Bang!

She hit the wall behind her. Her body shook, and she felt her internal organs being squeezed into a ball as if they were going to explode at any time.

...

At the same time, Rong Xiu—who was also inside Jiuyou Tower—had already walked up to the seventh floor.

Upon seeing the destroyed seventh-floor barrier, a look of understanding flashed across Rong Xiu's eyes as if he had long guessed who had done this.

The surrounding black karmic fire started spreading toward the seventh floor. But when it passed by Rong Xiu, it instinctively made way for him.

Rong Xiu lifted his leg and continued walking forward. However, countless silver rays flowed over at this time and started repairing the damaged barrier at an observable speed.

In the blink of an eye, the barrier had become as good as new.

Rong Xiu's eyes gradually turned cold, but his lips had curved up into a sinister smile. "You want to stop me?"

Nobody answered him, but the black karmic fire filled the barrier.

It clearly didn't want Rong Xiu to go up to the seventh floor.

Murderous intent flashed across Rong Xiu's eyes as he raised his hand with distinct joints slightly.

A petrifying suppression quickly gathered, but Rong Xiu suddenly stopped just as his hand was about to land on the barrier.

Rong Xiu closed his eyes as if he were listening closely to something. He then opened his eyes, and his brows moved as his expression became playful. "It's actually... Since this is so..."

His palms moved, and a tremendous force rapidly gushed out!

Then, this force rapidly froze outside the barrier, finally forming silver pillars as thick as a person's arm.

From afar, it looked like a cage was locking up the seventh floor.

Rong Xiu's scarlet lips curved up slightly as if he was waiting to watch a good show.

...

On the seventh floor.

Chu Liuyue slowly rubbed her shoulders.

The previous impact had almost crushed her shoulder blade. However, the screen formed by the red fire had luckily stopped the black karmic fire.

Chu Liuyue watched the black fire and red fire battle intensely as she thought about how to get out of her current situation.

She scanned her surroundings, and her gaze landed on the transparent cauldron.

For some reason, she kept getting the feeling that the cauldron was silently calling for her. This feeling was initially very weak, but it became stronger and stronger, causing her to be unable to ignore it.

The ferocious fiend has no physical body, only a soul. It surviving for thousands of years must have something to do with the Pit of Heavenly Origins.

Chu Liuyue didn't know who contained the ferocious fiend here, but from the engraving on Jiuyou Tower, she could tell that Jiuyou Tower was meant to contain the beast.

The black karmic fire kept burning on and on in the cauldron. Then...

There must be something wrong with the transparent cauldron! Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue was determined and went straight for the cauldron.

Noticing Chu Liuyue's actions, the black apparition chuckled as if it were mocking Chu Liuyue's stupidity. *That cauldron is a heavenly item! It isn't something that Chu Liuyue can touch! A stage-two warrior would probably die a horrible death before they even got near it.*

The pair of red eyes stared at Chu Liuyue with much mockery. It was just thinking of how to swallow Chu Liuyue whole; it hadn't expected Chu Liuyue to offer herself up.

Chu Liuyue walked to the front of the cauldron, and her palm suddenly slammed on top of the ☯ pattern!

Chapter 305: Three-Eyed Legendary Eagle

At this moment, bright light cascaded down.

The transparent cauldron suddenly vibrated. It then flew into the air and started shrinking at an observable speed.

In the blink of an eye, the cauldron had shrunk to the size of a human palm.

Chu Liuyue looked at the mini cauldron in her palm in surprise.

The cauldron was clear, clean, and intricate. Rather than looking like a cauldron, it appeared like a perfume stand used to give tribute gifts!

In mid-air, the black eagle—which was glaring at Chu Liuyue sinisterly—had shock written all over its face when it saw this scene. *Chu Liuyue can actually go close to that cauldron! Moreover, that cauldron is actually—*

Hong!

The eagle's wings expanded with much strength as it charged toward Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue looked up!

At this moment, the tiny transparent cauldron suddenly spun! Its sharp feet quickly cut Chu Liuyue's palm.

Choo!

The bright-red blood flowed out, and the cauldron speedily absorbed it. Then, it disappeared!

The next moment, the cauldron turned into bright light and directly entered Chu Liuyue's body through her wound.

Dazed, Chu Liuyue quickly discovered that there was something extra in her dantian. Upon taking a closer look, she realized that it was indeed the transparent cauldron!

It actually entered my dantian silently! Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. Before I have figured out what exactly this cauldron is, this type of situation is too risky...

But when Chu Liuyue wanted to extract the small cauldron, the water droplet—which had been quiet since the start—suddenly floated.

Black fire emerged from the cauldron. When the fire then tried to suck the water droplet—

Chi-la!

The black fire suddenly died out!

At the same time, a devastating shrill sounded in Chu Liuyue's ear.

The fiend—which was about to reach her—suddenly stopped and flew into the air with a painful shriek.

Chu Liuyue was dazed; then, a bold assumption flashed across her heart.

Chu Liuyue attempted to control the water droplet and move it toward the cauldron.

Every time it inched closer, the black karmic fire in the cauldron would move back one step. At the same time, the originally ferocious apparition in front of Chu Liuyue started to weaken.

Chu Liuyue gathered her thoughts, and the water droplet hurriedly spun in the cauldron.

The black apparition finally broke down, and it completely disappeared.

Chu Liuyue looked at her dantian. More than half of the black karmic fire in the cauldron was gone, leaving only a small speck.

One could still vaguely see a pair of red eyes. The ferocious fiend's soul was obviously still hiding in that last speck of fire.

As long as the water droplet got close to it, it could easily destroy the fiend's soul.

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows slightly. "It looks like you're just so-so."

Indignance flashed across the red eyes, which were filled with murderous intent. It never would've thought that not only did the cauldron not kill Chu Liuyue, but it had even...

Chu Liuyue could feel its vengeance and said, "I know you're indignant, but that's not important. The cauldron doesn't look bad, but as for you... There really isn't a need for you to continue staying here."

As Chu Liuyue said that, she gathered her thoughts, and the water droplet rapidly flew toward the last speck of fire.

A scream of mercy immediately sounded.

Chu Liuyue paused. "Are you willing to admit defeat now?"

Fear flashed across the pair of eyes, but it kept quiet, obviously agreeing silently.

"It's a pity I don't need it." Although Chu Liuyue didn't know why the cauldron had entered her dantian, it was obvious that teaching the beast a lesson was now as easy as ABC for her.

Hong Yao excitedly flew around Chu Liuyue, its eyes sparkling. It had heard the beast's devastating cry clearly.

Chu Liuyue glanced at Hong Yao and smiled with understanding. "You want to take revenge?"

Hong Yao nodded and shook its head. *As long as that beast can be taught a lesson, I don't really care about anything else, even if I can't personally end the other party's life. Besides, she is the one taking action!*

Hong Yao was very satisfied. *Luckily I didn't beg Mu Qinghe to come help earlier on. Even without him, I can still take revenge!*

Chu Liuyue had long expected Hong Yao's answer, and she tapped its forehead. *As expected, it likes to be as lazy as usual.*

Tuan Zi chuckled in contempt and waved its tail.

Hong Yao glared at Tuan Zi angrily.

Tuan Zi raised its claws and turned around to flaunt. There were no injuries on Tuan Zi's body at all, and it looked much more decent compared to the injured Hong Yao.

Hong Yao was furious.

Chu Liuyue decisively ignored the conflict between the two small ones as she gathered her focus and decided to destroy the ferocious fiend completely.

Just as the last speck of black fire was about to be extinguished, a low voice sounded. “You can’t kill me!”

Chu Liuyue’s eyes shrunk. *This voice is the ferocious fiend’s; it actually can talk!*

“You’re... a legendary fiend?” asked Chu Liuyue in disbelief.

In Mainland Xuan Wu, the levels of fiends were very strict. Rumors had it that a fiend could break past the barrier to transform into human form and speak when their cultivation level surpassed the ninth grade.

A fiend that had surpassed such existences was known as a legendary fiend.

Even in her previous life as the Heavenly Princess, she had never seen such an existence.

She always thought that it was just a rumor, so she didn’t expect a legendary fiend to be sealed under Jiuyou Tower!

A translucent figure suddenly appeared in the fire. Like the engraving on Jiuyou Tower’s main door, it was an eagle.

It stared at Chu Liuyue. Even though its figure looked very illusory, the suppression emanating from its body couldn’t be neglected.

Chu Liuyue carefully sized the eagle up as many thoughts flashed across her mind. However, she still couldn't recall what kind of legendary fiend it was.

"...I have lived with the Heavenly Square Cauldron for thousands of years, and we depend on each other. If you're willing to let me go, I'll be very thankful toward you!"

Chu Liuyue was tempted. *Heavenly Square Cauldron? This name sounds familiar, but I can't remember where I heard it before.*

After a while, she decisively put the matter aside and focused on the legendary fiend again. "You... want me to let you go?"

"That's right."

"If I really let you go, how are you going to repay me?"

"As long as it's within my abilities, I'll do my best."

Chu Liuyue paused and didn't say anything.

"This Heavenly Square Cauldron is very precious. If you let me leave, this item will automatically become yours."

In a seemingly smiling manner, Chu Liuyue said, "I think it has already willingly acknowledged me as its master. What should I do if I let you go and you come back to kill me? If I haven't recalled wrongly, you already had this thought when I first entered Jiuyou Tower, right?"

Silence answered Chu Liuyue.

"I'm someone who likes to solve the problem by taking out its roots, so..." said Chu Liuyue as she prepared to destroy it utterly.

"With the legendary three-eyed eagle clan's reputation on the line, I swear that I will not harm you at all if you let me go back!"

Chapter 306: Follow

Chu Liuyue was shocked. "You're... a legendary three-eyed eagle?"

Rumors had it that this type of legendary fiend was born in the extreme desert and had the ability to know everything about heaven and earth.

Chu Liuyue had never seen a true legendary fiend in her two lives. The reason why she knew about legendary three-eyed eagles was that she unintentionally saw information about it in Tianling Dynasty's secret records.

She never expected that she would meet such a legendary fiend herself! Even if it was just a soul, it was astonishing enough!

The legendary three-eyed eagle nodded. After a while, it seemed to be worried that Chu Liuyue didn't believe it, so it closed its eyes.

After a momentary silence, a vertical eye suddenly appeared in the center of its two eyes. There was no pupil in the vertical eye, just a red ellipse-shaped ball—which looked very strange.

Chu Liuyue furrowed her brows and asked suspiciously, "Isn't the third eye of legendary three-eyed eagles silver? Why is yours red?"

Now, it was time for the legendary three-eyed eagle to be surprised. "You've seen my clan members before?"

Chu Liuyue paused for a while. "...My ancestors have seen it before."

The legendary three-eyed eagle gave Chu Liuyue a meaningful look before slowly saying, "In the past, our legendary eye was indeed silver. But after the battle thousands of years ago... it utterly destroyed it. It's also the reason why I have been trapped here for thousands of years!"

"I see." Chu Liuyue instantly understood. *No wonder someone would spend so much effort to build Jiuyou Tower. It turns out that it was to seal a legendary fiend.*

She was still very shocked when she first found out that a fiend was sealed within the Pit of Heavenly Origins. But everything would make sense if it were a legendary three-eyed eagle.

Other than such a legendary existence, it was impossible for other fiends to live for thousands of years in the Pit of Heavenly Origins.

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment. “Actually, this Heavenly Square Cauldron is used to contain you, right?”

A sharp gleam flashed in the legendary three-eyed eagle’s eyes.

Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a half-smile.

After a momentary tense situation, the legendary three-eyed eagle finally said, “I forgot that the Heavenly Square Cauldron is in your body now...”

In other words, it had already acknowledged Chu Liuyue as its master. Thus, she would be very clear about everything.

“That’s right.”

Even though there were also restrictions in Jiuyou Tower, they weren’t enough to be a threat against the eagle. Even the Locking Heaven Formation couldn’t restrain it fully.

If there was only Jiuyou Tower, the eagle would’ve long escaped. It was a pity that there was still the Heavenly Square Cauldron.

This cauldron was the key to why it had been stuck here for thousands of years.

Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings and didn't see a skeleton. "Then... your corpse—"

"The karmic fire in the Heavenly Square Cauldron is enough to burn everything to ashes," stated the legendary three-eyed eagle coldly.

Chu Liuyue was confused. "Since this thing is so formidable, why didn't your soul disappear after being burned for so long?"

Once Chu Liuyue finished her sentence, she could feel immense hatred burning in the legendary three-eyed eagle's eyes.

"On purpose! He did it on purpose!" Its voice suddenly became shrill, causing Chu Liuyue's ears to ring.

He? Who is he? Who is the person that trapped the legendary three-eyed eagle here?

"What did he do on purpose?" asked Chu Liuyue instinctively.

This question seemed to trigger the legendary three-eyed eagle's painful memories. It shrieked terribly, with endless complaints and sorrow.

"He trapped me in this Jiuyou Tower and let the karmic fire within the Heavenly Square Cauldron burn me. However, he uses the force in the Pit of Heavenly Origins to nourish me. This made me struggle between life and death in pain forever and ever, without any chance of reincarnation!"

Chu Liuyue was slightly shocked. *So this is what happened! It's actually like this! In this way, not only could it make the legendary three-eyed eagle suffer endlessly, but it can also prevent the eagle from escaping.*

Everything would end if it died, but the most terrifying thing is for it to be better dead than alive! I wonder what kind of grudge lies between him and the legendary three-eyed eagle. From this punishment, it seems like he's a harsh character.

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but think of a rumor related to Tian Lu Academy. But after thinking for a while, she realized that she didn't know much about Tian Lu Academy's founder, who was also the first director.

She didn't even know the person's name. In actual fact, it wasn't only her; the others seemed to be unfamiliar with him as well.

Tian Lu Academy was a special existence in Country Yao Chen, and everyone knew that this was a top-notch academy for cultivators. However, barely anyone knew anything about Tian Lu Academy's early history.

"Then... for so many years, you've been trying to get out of here?" asked Chu Liuyue lightly.

The legendary three-eyed eagle sneered. "That's right! He thought he was smart and found a balance between the two to let me suffer eternally, but he never expected time to wear off everything!"

These thousands of years had indeed passed by too slowly. Even the eagle had no idea how it survived day after day.

When it was initially trapped, the eagle felt very tortured and just wanted to die. However, even dying was a luxury to it.

The eagle then realized that it could absorb the force from the Pit of Heavenly Origins. The impurities in the intense and fierce force might cause an ordinary fiend to explode and die, but the eagle was a legendary fiend. Also, the Heavenly Square Cauldron's karmic fire could coincidentally burn the impurities away.

After a long while, the eagle silently absorbed the force from it and became stronger. Until today, when it could finally take a gamble!

It had seen the Locking Heaven Formation thousands of years ago, so it long knew how to solve it.

Chu Liuyue asked again, "Then, why did you target me when I first entered Jiuyou Tower?"

The legendary three-eyed eagle fell silent for quite some time before its voice boomed. "Because... there's a very strong force in your body! I wanted to take the force, so I attacked you!"

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. *Is it referring to the water droplet in my dantian...?*

"You're different from an average person, right? If not, you definitely can't come up to the seventh floor."

Chu Liuyue glanced at Tuan Zi. She was different from an average person, and Tuan Zi was different from an average fiend.

“Since you’re now the Heavenly Square Cauldron’s owner, I won’t be enemies with you.”

Chu Liuyue didn’t say anything for a while.

“Everyone outside is definitely alert, and the academy’s elders and teachers definitely want to trap you again. If I let you go, how should I face them?”

The legendary three-eyed eagle kept quiet.

“Besides, you’re just a soul. Even if I let you go, how far can you go? Without the force from the Pit of Heavenly Origins, how long can you survive?” asked Chu Liuyue lightly.

Struggle flashed across the legendary three-eyed eagle’s eyes.

After a long while, it suddenly raised its head and looked at Chu Liuyue. “If you agree to extinguish the karmic fire, I will be willing to follow you!”

Chapter 307: Agreement

“Oh? Really?” Chu Liuyue seemed to be tempted.

“Of course! Even if I don’t have a physical body, I’m still strong. If I follow you, I can definitely be your right-hand man!” said the legendary three-eyed eagle as its cold eyes swept past Tuan Zi and Hong Yao.

Even though it didn't say anything, its meaning was very clear—*As a legendary fiend, I'm the strongest existence here!*

Not only in Country Yao Chen, but even in the entire Mainland Xuan Wu, a legendary fiend was an existence that couldn't be ignored.

Tuan Zi was furious as it bared its fangs. *What kind of gaze is that? You're just a legendary fiend. What's so incredible about that? You don't even have a physical body! You're far worse than me!*

Hong Yao's eyes turned as it flew to Chu Liuyue's shoulders as if it had no intentions of intervening in this matter. Hong Yao then brushed its feathers seriously.

After that, a bloodstained feather dropped in front of Chu Liuyue's eyes as if unintentionally.

Hong Yao was instinctively stunned before it buried its head in Chu Liuyue's neck wrongfully, its eyes filled with tears.

Even though Hong Yao didn't say anything, its series of actions was silently complaining about the violent actions the legendary three-eyed eagle had committed against it before.

Chu Liuyue smiled helplessly and touched its wings. "Okay, I know you're hurt. Look at its situation now; it's much worse than you. It's like you've taken your revenge, right?"

Hong Yao turned around and sniffed even harder.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *Why is Hong Yao even more coy than before...?*

“Hong Yao, if your Master sees this...”

Hong Yao froze.

Mu Qinghe had always been cold. No matter how much it whined or acted pitiful in front of him, it would be of no use. This was also the reason why it dared to be so daring in front of Chu Liuyue.

“If you find it too boring, I can bring you back at any time.”

This sentence finally made Hong Yao realize the current situation as it stood at the side obediently.

A legendary fiend isn't all that amazing. Previously, it was still acting strong, but now it's still surrendering to Chu Liuyue. If it really follows Chu Liuyue in the end, it must be behind me! At that time, I'll properly teach it a lesson about seniority! Thinking of this, Hong Yao was finally in a good mood as it waved its wings in satisfaction.

Chu Liuyue looked at the legendary three-eyed eagle. “There won't be anyone who wouldn't be tempted by the help of a legendary fiend...”

It was the same even for her. She currently didn't have much power, so it would be much more convenient if such a great existence could truly help her.

The legendary three-eyed eagle's eyes moved. “So...”

“So, I disagree.” Chu Liuyue rejected the legendary three-eyed eagle’s suggestion with a smile. “I can continue letting you stay in the Heavenly Square Cauldron and bring you out. This way, nobody will discover that you’re hidden on me, and you can escape from this place. However, I won’t extinguish the fire in the Heavenly Square Cauldron.”

“You...”

“Of course, I will give you nourishment. Even though the water droplet in my dantian isn’t the Pit of Heavenly Origins, it has very rich force. If you want, I can give you a portion of it from time to time so that you can maintain your current capabilities or even become stronger. You can choose to accept or reject this now.”

Chu Liuyue wasn’t stupid.

The legendary three-eyed eagle was a legendary fiend. Even without its physical body, its remaining soul wasn’t something to be trifled with. At least, it wasn’t something that a mere stage-two warrior like her could control.

If she really let the legendary three-eyed eagle escape, she might very well be its first target!

The only thing that could contain it was the karmic fire in the Heavenly Square Cauldron. Therefore, how could she possibly agree to extinguish the karmic fire?

The legendary three-eyed eagle stared at Chu Liuyue. “Humans are indeed as cunning as before. No, you’re even worse than him!”

That person had a deep grudge against it in the beginning, so he thought of such a cruel way to torture it. Even though the eagle was indignant, it had to resign itself to its fate.

But what about Chu Liuyue? She actually wants to control and use me just because she's the Heavenly Square Cauldron's owner!

"You're not even trying to help me! You just want to make use of me!"

Chu Liuyue smiled with even deeper meaning as she openly admitted it. "Yeap!"

In her previous life, she had trusted people too easily, which led to her miserable outcome. She obviously had to be more vigilant in front of a legendary three-eyed eagle—which had been trapped for thousands of years.

"So, do you agree or not? If you think this is too humiliating, it's okay. Considering the Heavenly Square Cauldron's power, I can give you a quick death," said Chu Liuyue openly.

The legendary three-eyed eagle fell into deep silence and didn't say anything for a long time.

Chu Liuyue shrugged. "Since this is so, don't blame me—"

"I'll agree to your request!" hollered the legendary three-eyed eagle.

Chu Liuyue smiled. “You should’ve agreed earlier! Why did you waste so much time?”

The legendary three-eyed eagle felt that it would definitely vomit blood after being angered by Chu Liuyue if its physical body was still around.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes and gathered her focus.

The quietly floating water droplet suddenly landed in the speck of black karmic fire inside the Heavenly Square Cauldron.

“Ah!” The legendary three-eyed eagle let out a devastating shriek. “What are you doing?”

Chu Liuyue smiled slightly. As she checked the last speck of karmic fire, she said, “You yourself previously said that you’ve lived with the Heavenly Square Cauldron for years. I was thinking that the karmic fire should have your strength, right? I should check it properly. If not, I won’t even know why I died.”

Something seemed to be burning within the black karmic fire, letting out a strange ‘zz’ sound. It was coupled with the legendary three-eyed eagle’s painful moans.

Chu Liuyue turned a deaf ear to it.

Very quickly, the karmic fire—which was initially pure black—gradually changed color!

Chu Liuyue’s gaze focused. *As expected! This karmic fire indeed has too much of the legendary three-eyed eagle’s strength!*

The eagle previously acted like a victim and begged Chu Liuyue to extinguish the fire as it wanted to provoke Chu Liuyue into leaving the fire behind. This was the most convenient outcome for it. However, it didn't expect Chu Liuyue to have long seen through its plan.

Gradually, its shrills weakened.

The black color of the karmic fire also subsided.

After the last bit of impurity had been removed, the last speck of karmic fire became thoroughly transparent, and it merged with the transparent Heavenly Square Cauldron.

Only the faintly glowing ☯ symbol could be seen clearly.

The legendary three-eyed eagle's translucent soul also fainted as it was too weak.

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes and looked at her palm—a faint ☯ symbol appeared.

She then looked at her surroundings; it was empty.

Hong long!

A gigantic stone suddenly dropped down from above!

Chu Liuyue was frightened by this. *Jiuyou Tower is actually going to collapse!*

Chapter 308: Hurt

She turned around to leave! “Tuan Zi, Hong Yao, let’s go!”

Now that the Heavenly Square Cauldron had become hers, and the legendary three-eyed eagle was in her hands, Jiuyou Tower could no longer hold on!

Bang!

Hong!

Pak!

Increasingly more stones started falling, and they hit the ground harshly!

Dust flew up everywhere!

Chu Liuyue hurriedly rushed to the seventh floor’s staircase, wanting to go down. But she suddenly discovered that the barrier—which Tuan Zi had bitten through—had become as good as new. Moreover, there seemed to be a cage layer outside the barrier.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. *This...*

Suddenly, the cage outside disappeared silently.

A familiar bulky figure gradually appeared.

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's head. *Could it be...*

The next moment, the person opposite her seemed to stretch his hands over and lightly tapped the barrier.

The barrier quietly cracked from the middle!

A clear and demon-like handsome face appeared in front of her!

Chu Liuyue opened her mouth. "Rong Xiu?! Why are you here?"

Rong Xiu gave her a look of deep meaning before he extended his arms and hugged her.

Hong!

An entire wall suddenly collapsed and landed on the position that Chu Liuyue was previously standing at.

Chu Liuyue leaned against Rong Xiu's chest and turned back to take a look.

The originally empty seventh floor was very messy, and debris was everywhere.

She lightly exhaled. Even though she could avoid this level of danger, she seemed to be more relaxed with Rong Xiu around.

She remembered that Rong Xiu wasn't here when she came in. This meant that he came in after her.

"You came here after Jiuyou Tower had strange happenings?" asked Chu Liuyue softly.

Rong Xiu let out an affirmative and hugged her tighter.

Chu Liuyue looked up at him. "Elder Wei Yun didn't stop you?"

As the person in charge of taking care of Jiuyou Tower, Elder Wei Yun would definitely be the first to notice something amiss with Jiuyou Tower. Logically speaking, he definitely wouldn't have let Rong Xiu in.

Rong Xiu looked at the worry in Chu Liuyue's crystal-clear eyes, and his lips curved up. "Of course, he stopped me. However, he didn't succeed. Are you very worried?"

Of course, Chu Liuyue was worried. Jiuyou Tower was very dangerous, yet Rong Xiu barged in like that. Elder Wei Yun and the rest would definitely suspect him.

Rong Xiu had previously been hiding his abilities exceedingly well. If he was exposed because of this...

“You don’t need to worry.” Rong Xiu lowered his head and kissed her soft lips.

The soft and cold touch made Chu Liuyue’s mind empty.

Rong Xiu’s blurred voice sounded from her lips. “Just act out a show for me.”

Chu Liuyue was dazed. “What?”

Rong Xiu chuckled as he bit on her lips with suitable strength.

Chu Liuyue instinctively opened her mouth.

Rong Xiu attacked her and hugged her for a while; he then stopped before he lost control.

Chu Liuyue was kissed by him until tears welled up in her eyes.

Rong Xiu glanced at her, and his gaze landed on her luscious lips as his eyes turned dark. *It’s a pity that Jiuyou Tower is about to collapse. If not, we could’ve stayed here for a while longer.*

Even though Rong Xiu didn't dare to go overboard as he thought of the people they were going to meet later, he still couldn't control himself earlier and kissed her until her lips were slightly swollen.

He held Chu Liuyue's face, and his thumb gently pressed on her lips. "A good show."

Chu Liuyue looked at him in confusion.

The next moment, Rong Xiu suddenly let go of her, walked to the side, and picked up a rock.

A strange feeling emerged in Chu Liuyue's heart.

Huala!

Rong Xiu calmly used the sharp edge of the rock to cut his arm. His snow-white shirt instantly ripped open, and a deep wound immediately appeared on his arm.

Fresh blood spurted out, and it immediately stained his clothes red.

"Rong Xiu!" Chu Liuyue immediately went forward and held his hand as she asked anxiously, "What are you doing?"

Rong Xiu raised his brows, leaned in close to her ear, and spoke in a melodious voice. "The beauty risked her life to save me. I have nothing to give her to repay her favor, so I can only marry her to make repayments."

“You...” Chu Liuyue widened her eyes. *Rong Xiu actually plans to—*

Huala!

Rong Xiu cut his arm again.

Chu Liuyue’s heart felt waves of pain as she held his hand. “Rong Xiu, you don’t have to do this! You really don’t have to do this! There are many explanations; we can just think of one! You don’t have to...”

“None of them are as convincing as this.” Rong Xiu lightly smiled. “It’s quite troublesome if we do things like that, and this is much better. Besides... I don’t wish to wait any longer.”

For the both of us to walk together smoothly, nothing is a better reason than this one. Opportunities can’t be begged for; these small wounds count as nothing.

Chu Liuyue felt a pang in her heart. For some reason, her nose started to turn sour.

Rong Xiu kissed her eyes. “If you don’t wish to see it, don’t look. We’ll be out very soon.”

However, Chu Liuyue shook her head. “No, it’s not that I don’t want to see it. I’m just...”

She paused before she whispered, “I can’t bear to see it.”

Even though her voice was low, it sounded determined.

Rong Xiu was dazed. Then, his face broke out into a smile. "Even if my entire body is covered with wounds, it's worth that one sentence of yours."

He then raised his hand and cut himself again.

Hong long!

Jiuyou Tower collapsed even more!

Rong Xiu held Chu Liuyue in his arms as the rocks landed everywhere.

Chu Liuyue leaned against Rong Xiu's chest tightly, and her entire person was well-protected within his arms. She couldn't see anything at all, but she could clearly hear the noises of destruction from the surroundings, as well as the sounds of rocks landing on Rong Xiu's body...

A little while longer, and another while.

Chu Liuyue's heart also seemed to be hit by something again and again, causing her to be unable to breathe.

She opened her eyes, and everything was black.

Rong Xiu... Rong Xiu... He has extraordinary abilities, and he can clearly sit around and just watch without doing anything. He could clearly... He is filled with ideas and strategies. With his abilities, it is as easy as ABC for him to come up with a believable explanation. However, he chose the most 'stupid' way.

Even though he previously said a few reasons in a teasing manner, Chu Liuyue knew that they weren't important.

Everyone knew that she was the only one left in Jiuyou Tower after the strange happenings occurred.

In such a situation, Rong Xiu still chose to barge in. Anyone could guess his intentions.

If someone intentionally made an issue of this, it could become a big matter for her. But if she 'saved' Rong Xiu, nobody could say anything.

Thus, Rong Xiu had to be injured, and she had to bring him out.

The intense, bloody scent permeated her nose.

Chu Liuyue muttered, "Rong Xiu, it'll be great if you didn't come in. If..."

If you didn't like me.

Rong Xiu hugged her even tighter. "There are no ifs."

Chapter 309: Alive

Hong! Long! Long!

Jiuyou Tower suddenly collapsed!

Hopelessness was written all over the crowd's faces.

Jiuyou Tower had been in Tian Lu Academy for many years, and it was the source of their pride. Nobody would've expected that it would be ruined in such a manner!

The most important thing was that there was a terrifying fiend inside it!

Sun Zhongyan looked at Ye Zhiting worriedly. "Uncle-Master, the Locking Heaven Formation is already destroyed, and Jiuyou Tower has completely collapsed. What should we do next?"

Ye Zhiting knitted his brows and stared at the debris. "Something's not right..."

Sun Zhongyan was dazed. "What's not right?"

"Since the restrictions have all been destroyed, the fiend should've rushed out. Why is there no commotion until now..."

Hearing this, Sun Zhongyan also immediately realized something. "You're saying..."

Ye Zhiting shook his head and walked forward.

"Uncle-Master!" Sun Zhongyan immediately stopped him. "It's dangerous!"

Ye Zhiting waved the bloodstained fan in his hands and chuckled. "I'm the director no matter what. Now that such a major thing has happened, why can't I go take a look personally?"

Perhaps it was a wrong feeling, but he felt that the ferocious fiend's aura had disappeared. He didn't notice when this feeling occurred, but at this point, he really didn't detect any danger coming from the debris.

Sun Zhongyan hurriedly said, "I'll follow you!"

The two of them went forward.

...

Emperor Jiawen defeatedly looked at the scene as if all the strength in his body had been sucked away.

Previously, it was extremely dangerous when the black fire wrapped around Jiuyou Tower. Now, Jiuyou Tower had completely collapsed and became debris.

I'm afraid Rong Xiu...

The Empress held his arm and softly comforted, "Your Majesty... My condolences..."

"What nonsense are you saying?" Emperor Jiawen was agitated by the word 'condolences,' and he pushed her harshly.

As the Empress was careless for a moment, her body fell to the ground uncontrollably.

"I want to see his body, dead or alive! Now that everything isn't confirmed yet, who allowed you to curse him to death?" hollered Emperor Jiawen as his face flushed red, and his veins popped.

The surroundings immediately fell into silence.

Countless pairs of eyes landed on the Empress.

As if there were many daggers in her back, the Empress felt humiliated. As the Empress, she was high and mighty. Since when had she ever been so humiliated?

Even though His Majesty didn't dote on her much, he always respected her and had never made a move on her, not even reprimanding her much.

But now, in front of so many people... Her face was completely gone!

“Her Majesty!” Eunuch Min immediately came forward from the side. “Her Majesty, are you okay?”

As he spoke, he didn’t forget to scold the people at the side. “Are you blind? Why are you in a daze?”

The palace maids—who were shocked—only recovered their senses then and hurriedly went forward to haphazardly help the Empress up.

The Empress’s crown was a little crooked, and her exquisite palace attire was stained with dust, causing her to look very unkempt.

The palace maids glanced at her before rapidly lowering their heads, not saying anything.

The Empress took a deep breath in, pushed them all away, and forced a smile. “I’m fine. His Majesty was just too concerned about Prince Li and in a hurry...”

“Go! Help me find him! Even if you need to dig five feet under, you must get him out!” Emperor Jiawen shouted at his subordinates. He seemed to be oblivious to what was happening on this end as his eyes and heart were filled with Rong Xiu only.

The Empress choked on her words, and her face felt like it was on fire. This was akin to slapping her across the face harshly.

The surrounding gazes were like sharp knives that sliced right through her.

She really wanted to leave immediately, but she clearly could not.

She took a deep breath in, suppressed her feelings, rearranged her crown, and bowed toward Emperor Jiawen. “Your Majesty, please forgive me. I spoke nonsense. Actually, I’m also very worried about Prince Li—”

Emperor Jiawen shot her a cold look as if he could see through everything.

The Empress’s heart skipped a beat, and she swallowed her remaining words. Then, she guiltily looked away.

Emperor Jiawen laughed in his heart. *The Empress looks magnanimous, but in reality, she isn’t like that at all. She didn’t like that person at the start, so she definitely won’t like her son now. If something really happened to Rong Xiu, she would probably be happier than everyone else!*

In the past, he just turned a blind eye to her actions. But now, he was too lazy to deal with her.

On the other side, Chu Ning had already brought his men and rushed over at the first instance.

He headed straight for a certain direction with hurried steps and a tense expression.

The compass showed that Yue’er was here, so she should still be fine... Chu Ning walked to a corner and wanted to move the rock away. But he quickly realized that the problem was much more serious than he thought.

The metal in Jiuyou Tower was quite special. The rock was only half a person’s height, but it weighed a ton.

Chu Ning was a stage-five warrior and could be considered one of the top warriors in the entire Country Yao Chen. But even if it were him, it wasn't easy to clear all the rocks here.

When the imperial guards saw Chu Ning doing so, they hurriedly went over. "Lord, did you discover something?"

Chu Ning shook his head and didn't say anything, but he didn't stop moving.

The crowd exchanged looks among themselves. Previously, they also heard Tian Lu Academy's people saying that Lord Chu Ning's only daughter—Chu Liuyue—was stuck inside.

I'm afraid she's...

"Go over there and move the rocks away," commanded Chu Ning.

The subordinates went their separate ways.

Chu Ning kept digging, and his hands were quickly cut and bloodied. However, he didn't seem to be affected by it as he continued to clear the rocks stubbornly.

When the crowd saw this, they had strange expressions.

“What’s wrong with Lord Chu Ning...? Even though His Majesty told us to look for people, he is too stubborn, right? Does he really want to flip over all the debris?”

“Shh! Don’t you know that Chu Liuyue was also inside?”

“Ah... I see! Then, isn’t she also...”

“It’s a pity. Lord Chu Ning has led a tough life these few years. Now that he finally made a name for himself, this happened...”

Chu Ning turned a deaf ear to the crowd’s comments. He then discovered a few more people around him.

He looked up and realized that it was a few young and familiar faces. “...Hongyu?”

They were Mu Hongyu and Gu Mingfeng.

Mu Hongyu’s eyes were red, but she looked determined. “Uncle, let us help you!”

Chu Ning felt his heart warm up and nodded. “Help here.”

The few of them immediately sprung into action.

Upon seeing this, Zuo Rong and the rest couldn't watch on.

"Lord Chu Ning... I know that you're very worried, and none of us wanted this to happen. However..."

Chiu!

A crisp sound was suddenly heard coming from the debris. Then, a bunch of rocks was suddenly pushed over by a green fire.

A green sparrow quickly flew out, and two figures appeared before the crowd.

Chapter 310: For Her

"Yue'er!"

"Prince Li!"

Everyone was shocked when they saw the two people appear.

Aren't the two people holding each other and walking out Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu, who were stuck in Jiuyou Tower earlier?

Chu Ning walked over with big strides. As he sized Chu Liuyue up, he anxiously asked, "Yue'er! Are you okay?"

His heart felt a pang when he saw the bloody mess and dirt on Chu Liuyue's body. "You're injured?"

Chu Liuyue's lips were dry and white as she weakly shook her head. "No... But His Highness..."

Chu Ning then saw that Rong Xiu—whom Chu Liuyue was holding—seemed to be in a worse condition.

Rong Xiu's face was as pale as ever, and he was barely breathing. It seemed as though he could faint at any moment. Moreover, he had many wounds on his body, and some of them were so deep that one could see his bones.

"Your Highness, what happened?"

"Seven!" When Emperor Jiawen saw Rong Xiu come out, he was surprised and elated as he hurriedly walked over.

But when he saw that Rong Xiu's body was covered with wounds, his happiness immediately subsided and was replaced with deep shock and worry. "Seven, what happened to you?! Zuo Rong? Elder Sun? Come over and take a look!"

Zuo Rong was originally beside him and hurriedly went forward when he heard the Emperor's call.

Sun Zhongyan, Elder Ye, and the rest—who planned to enter the debris not far away—also rushed over when they heard the commotion.

Ever since the Empress saw Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu appear, she stood rooted to the ground and couldn't recover her senses for a long time. *The two of them... The two of them are actually not dead?! Such a big commotion erupted in Jiuyou Tower—First came the fire; then, the collapse! How lucky must they be for them to come out alive?!*

But when she saw how Emperor Jiawen had already walked over, she clenched her teeth and could only follow.

...

Zuo Rong took Rong Xiu's pulse.

Emperor Jiawen asked, "How is he?"

Zuo Rong knitted his brows and thought for a moment before saying, "Your Highness, don't worry too much first. His Highness's wounds are mostly superficial, and he can quickly recover as long as he rests properly."

"That's great; that's great..." The stone in Emperor Jiawen's heart was finally put down. *Even though he's injured, at least he's alive! It's already much better than I imagined!*

Zuo Rong said hesitantly, "But..."

"But what?" Emperor Jiawen was stunned.

“But... His Highness’s body has always been weak, and we finally managed to slightly nourish him to health previously. This time... I’m afraid we have to restart the process.”

Disappointment flashed across Emperor Jiawen’s eyes. *Rong Xiu has always been frail since he was young. Now that he finally turned for the better, this...*

“It’s fine. We can talk about this later. The most important thing now is to treat the wounds on his body!”

Rong Xiu forcefully pulled at his pale lips, and his voice was soft. “Father...”

Emperor Jiawen hurriedly said, “Rest first! We can talk about anything later!”

At this moment, Ye Zhiting and Sun Zhongyan had already walked over. “Lass, how are you?”

The first thing in Ye Zhiting’s eyes was his precious disciple.

Chu Liuyue hurriedly said, “Mentor, I’m fine. You should take a look at Prince Li first.”

Ye Zhiting relaxed quite a bit when he noticed that she was speaking fine, though she looked disheveled.

“That’s great; that’s great...” Even though he really wanted to take Chu Liuyue’s pulse, he thought that his precious disciple might be better than him at this. Thus, he decisively gave up.

She always knew what to do. Hence, he looked at Rong Xiu.

He walked forward and asked Zuo Rong, "How is he?"

Zuo Rong briefly explained Rong Xiu's condition.

Ye Zhiting listened as he helped Rong Xiu take his pulse.

Everyone present knew that Ye Zhiting was the strongest heavenly doctor here, so nobody felt that it was unnecessary for him to read the pulse a second time. Instead, they felt more secure.

After a temporary silence, Ye Zhiting nodded, took out a pill, and fed it to Rong Xiu. "His Highness's body is fine. I'll help you stop the bleeding first. When we go back, I'll treat your wounds. In less than half a month, your superficial injuries can all heal. As for your internal ones..."

"He has internal injuries?!" interrupted Emperor Jiawen.

Ye Zhiting looked at him as if it was obvious. "Of course. His wounds were clearly made when the rocks crashed down. Also, Jiuyou Tower's stones are very heavy, so it's normal for them to cause internal injuries. But there's no need to worry since the earlier pill can help his blood circulate and heal His Highness's internal injuries. He probably needs a month or so to recover fully, but Your Majesty, you don't have to be overly worried."

Emperor Jiawen was worried and happy. Knowing that this was already the best result, he could only nod. "Thank you, Elder Ye."

Ye Zhiting exchanged a few words with Zuo Rong softly.

Zuo Rong wiped the sweat away from his forehead. "Thank you for your enlightenment, Director!"

Previously, he was too anxious and was never a master in this area. Hence, he didn't realize that Rong Xiu's internal organs had problems as well.

Emperor Jiawen was luckily too focused on Rong Xiu, so he didn't notice this. "Seven, you can't do this in the future anymore! Jiuyou Tower is so dangerous; how can you go there?" said Emperor Jiawen softly.

It seemed like a scolding, but everyone could tell the worry in his voice.

After today, everyone in the Imperial City would know that His Majesty really doted on Prince Li. Even the Crown Prince might not receive such treatment.

Some people huddled together and whispered.

"I've long heard that His Majesty really doted on this Prince Li. If not, it would be impossible to confer him a title once he came back. Now, it seems like it's true..."

"For so many years, when did you see His Majesty being so concerned about his princes and princesses? Even the unruly Fourth Princess back then didn't receive such treatment, right?"

“Hmph, now that Fourth Princess has already become an invalid, how can they be compared? The Crown Prince though... Did you hear that the Crown Prince accidentally angered His Majesty a while back and was grounded in Crown Prince Mansion for quite some time? His Majesty even recollected some of his authority. Could it be that His Majesty is changing his mind?”

“Shh! Speak softer! Can’t you see that His Majesty and the Empress are behind? Though, I don’t think so. Think about it, even if His Majesty really loves Prince Li, how can a sickly person bear such huge responsibilities?”

“That’s true. But if Prince Li’s body can become better, he might really be the Crown Prince’s strong competitor.”

The Empress could only hear bits and portions of the whispers. However, they were enough for her to be filled with indignance.

She forcefully suppressed her tumultuous feelings as she looked at Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu. “Prince Li, I heard that you went into Jiuyou Tower after it started burning. It was so dangerous then, so why did you go in?”

Her voice was light and gentle as she smiled slightly, but her eyes were icy cold. “I heard that only Ms. Chu was inside, right? Your Highness, did you get into all this mess just because you wanted to save her?”