

Nobel Ruler 31

Chapter 31: Petty

“What?” Emperor Jiawen thought that he had misheard something and subconsciously asked again, “You want to enter Tian Lu Academy?”

Chu Liuyue nodded. “Yes. Tian Lu Academy recruits students annually in January, so I would like to ask Your Majesty to give me a chance.”

Emperor Jiawen looked at her with a complicated gaze. *This Chu Liuyue is very strange. One may say that she is dumb, but she managed to solve all the problems perfectly from the beginning until now. One may say that she is smart, but she took the initiative to give up on the status of Crown Princess. She even says that she wants to enter Tian Lu Academy.*

It is impossible that she doesn't know that Tian Lu Academy is the top academy in the entire Country Yao Chen. One has to be the best talent to enter. She does not even have a Yuan meridian. How will she accomplish it?

“This isn't hard, but... Tian Lu Academy's assessments are very difficult. Are you sure you want to go? You need to know that those old fellas won't give you an easy way out just because of me.”

Chu Liuyue smiled lightly. “I know that. I just want a chance to be assessed.”

Emperor Jiawen stared at her and sighed after confirming that she was not joking. "Since you want it, I'll grant you your wish. However, it's all up to you if you can get in or not."

Chu Liuyue went on her knees and bowed. "Thank you, Your Majesty, for your kindness."

Emperor Jiawen waved his hands. "Okay. You must be tired today as well. You should return home to rest first. Chu Ning, accompany her and take care of her."

Chu Liuyue had no intention of staying any longer after settling the most important task, so she left with Chu Ning happily.

Only when the duo's figures disappeared into the night sky outside the palace did the stiff and cold atmosphere in the palace start to warm up. However, nobody dared to say much after all that had happened that night.

A happy birthday party became suppressed and boring.

Rong Jin closed his eyes and rubbed his glabella. Logically speaking, he should be very relaxed after settling his marriage agreement with Chu Liuyue. However, his heart was still weighed down by a rock, making him very unhappy.

He had initially planned everything well, but he did not know how it ended up like this. He did not know how the people in the Imperial City would talk about him after today.

Although this wasn't a big deal, the most important thing was that his father was most likely unhappy with him.

Chu Xianmin currently felt even worse than Rong Jin. She sat at her own seat with an ever-changing expression, but her entire body felt numb as her mind blanked.

Chu Liuyue's words today had completely ruined her reputation. Who would care if these kinds of incidents were real or fake?

She did not expect that she would get herself into trouble instead of teaching Chu Liuyue a lesson.

All sorts of gazes and stares landed on her, making her very restless. She just wanted to dig a hole and hide in it.

"Ahem..." Rong Xiu coughed once again.

Emperor Jiawen knitted his brows. "Why is your cough getting worse?"

Rong Xiu waved his hands. "I'm not... ahem..."

Before he could finish his next sentence, he started coughing again, and his face became even paler.

Emperor Jiawen commanded determinedly, "Go back and rest now. It was so hard for you to get better at Mingyue Tianshan, but you're already in this condition after coming back for a month. What will you do in the future? If your illness relapses, I'll convict the people in your mansion."

Rong Xiu smiled helplessly and stood up.

Yan Qing, who was behind him, immediately helped him put on a coat.

“I’ll take my leave first.” Rong Xiu then looked at Rong Jin. “Brother, I’ve already sent your birthday gift to your mansion. I’ll make up for the lack of company today.”

Rong Jin forced a smile. “Seventh Brother, you’re too kind. Your health is very important.”

Rong Xiu then turned and left.

After he left, Rong Jiu said that he had to handle military tasks and left as well.

The atmosphere that was originally weird became even more awkward and cold after the two people departed.

Before this, nobody thought that the prosperous Crown Prince’s birthday party would end up in this manner.

...

Rong Xiu walked through the palace doors and saw two people standing by Prince Li Mansion’s horse carriage. They were Chu Liuyue and Chu Ning.

He raised his brows lightly and walked over. “Officer Chu, Big Chu Missy, why are you here?”

Chu Ning held his hands in a fist and bowed solemnly. "Thank you, Prince Li, for your help just now. My daughter and I will definitely remember your kindness."

Rong Xiu's eyes flashed slightly. "Officer Chu, you're too kind. I didn't help much today..."

Chu Ning shook his head repeatedly. "Apart from helping her get out of the awkward situation, you also saved her life previously. Without you, I don't know what would happen to us... In the future, do let me know if you need me to do anything for you."

Previously? Save her life? Rong Xiu looked at Chu Liuyue and met with the warning glare in her sparkling black eyes. His lips curved up slightly; the corner of his eyes also looked happy. "Officer Chu, don't mention it. It was nothing, really. I guess I'm just fated with her."

Chu Liuyue secretly heaved a sigh of relief. Previously, she lied to Chu Ning and said that Rong Xiu had saved her. She did not know that he would take it to heart. Now that Rong Xiu was here coincidentally, Chu Ning was determined to wait around and thank him in person.

She could not advise him otherwise and could only wait with him in the end.

Not long later, the other fellow actually continued cooperatively, "The sky is already dark. Let me send you two home."

Chu Liuyue immediately rejected it once she heard him. "No need!"

Who knew what he was thinking in his heart?

There was no free lunch in the world. The more he helped her, the more alert she was.

On the surface, this man looked as gentle as jade and was a humble gentleman. However, Chu Liuyue did not think that way.

Although she could not see through his eyes and guess his thoughts, her intuition told her that this was a very dangerous man. It was better to keep this type of person as far away as possible.

Chu Ning looked at her in disapproval. "Don't be rude to Prince Li."

Chu Liuyue scrunched her nose.

Actually, Chu Ning also felt that this was inappropriate, but before he could speak, Rong Xiu continued, "It's on my way back anyway. I'll just bring you two along with me. Big Chu Missy must be exhausted from today's events."

Chu Ning's words of rejection got stuck in his throat. He was indeed worried about whether Yue'er got injured during her battle with the Golden Python.

After hesitating for a while, he finally spoke, "Then we'll have to trouble you, Prince Li."

"Please."

...

Prince Li Mansion's horse carriage was indeed very big and comfortable. There was more than enough space for the three of them.

Chu Liuyue sat beside Chu Ning and opposite Rong Xiu. Chu Liuyue was very alert at the start, but Rong Xiu closed his eyes once he boarded the carriage as if he was resting.

He sat there quietly and closed his pair of deep, seductive eyes. His features—which were like carvings on jade—looked especially gentle under the warm light.

Chu Liuyue took one look at him and immediately retrieved her gaze.

They went all the way to the Chu family's estate without a word.

Chu Ning got off the carriage first.

Just as Chu Liuyue was about to descend, a hand pulled her back.

The hand was slightly cold, but a weird sensation shot into her heart from his hand.

Chu Liuyue was about to make a move, but a soft, gentle, and low voice sounded. "Remember to return me the item."

Chu Liuyue was stunned. When she turned around, Rong Xiu had already let go of her hand and closed his eyes as if nothing had happened.

She pressed her lips against each other tightly. "How petty."

Chapter 32: Gradual Rise of Conflict

Chu Liuyue directly moved the curtain away, got off the carriage, and went home with Chu Ning after she finished her sentence.

Rong Xiu was actually taken aback; his lips slightly curved up later as he laughed with a deep voice.

She was the first one to call him petty.

Yan Qing was waiting outside the horse carriage solemnly and could not help but be shocked upon hearing his master's infrequent laughter.

What kind of situation was this? Even though his master looked gentle normally, in actual fact, he did not show his expressions on his face and would rarely laugh. What did that person do just now?

Did his master really fall for that girl from the Chu family?

"Return back to our mansion." Rong Xiu's voice had a tinge of rarely-seen happiness.

“Yes!” Yan Qing immediately led the way.

Prince Li Mansion was not too far away from the Chu family estate. They took less than an hour to return to their residence.

Rong Xiu returned to his bedroom. After a while, another one of his personal bodyguards—Yu Mo—came up and said respectfully, “Prince, I have settled the issue.”

Rong Xiu nodded, walked to the side of the table, and placed something down.

Yu Mo took a look at it and was shocked. It was a teacup!

The design of the teacup was very intricate. It was painted golden at the hems, which made it look very elegant. This was clearly something used in the palace.

The next moment, Yu Mo saw the teacup shatter silently.

In the blink of an eye, it turned into dust.

Yu Mo’s heart skipped a beat, and he did not dare ask further. He glanced at Yan Qing to ask for help. *It’s very rare for Master to get angry. What... happened? However, it seems like Master is not angry; it even seems like he’s... in a good mood.*

Yan Qing lowered his head and did not say a word. *What should I say? Say that it was because of that lady from the Chu family?*

Rong Xiu put down his coat.

Yu Mo then noticed that Rong Xiu's hand had bloodstains and immediately gasped in shock. "Prince, you're injured?" *Didn't the Prince just attend the Crown Prince's birthday party? How did he get injured?*

Rong Xiu lowered his head and took a look at his hand, and indeed found some bloodstains. *This is... from her hand. It seems like she did not wipe the blood off cleanly.*

That was true. How could a small handkerchief wipe off all the blood on her face?

Rong Xiu's eyes turned slightly cold. "What has Rong Zhen been up to lately?"

Yu Mo did not expect him to ask this so suddenly and replied after thinking for a while. "Fourth Princess seems to want to change her vowed fiend and likes to go to the hunting ground lately."

What a meaningful interest.

After keeping silent for some time, Rong Xiu's long fingers lightly knocked on the table twice, and he said calmly, "Let her play all she wants."

His tone was calm, but Yu Mo heard the murderous intent behind it. "Yes!" Yu Mo could not help but sigh in his heart.

I heard that the Fourth Princess was very unreasonable and never cared about anyone when doing tasks. However, Master rarely cares about this type of person. She must have done something to incur Master's murderous intent.

"Prince, do you want to take a bath and rest?"

Rong Xiu's fingers brushed past each other as if it had a tinge of warmth and gentleness. "Mm, tell the rest that I caught the flu and that I'll rest in bed. I'm not going to see anyone."

"Yes." Yan Qing answered and left immediately.

Upon reaching the door, Rong Xiu added, "If she comes, you must tell me immediately."

Even though Yan Qing was already prepared mentally, he was still taken aback and tried his best to control his expression. "Yes, Master."

Yu Mo left sensibly and quickly chased after Yan Qing. When he got out of the door, he asked, "What exactly is going on? Who is Master referring to?"

Yan Qing kept quiet. After being questioned for some time, he finally said, "You'll know when she comes."

Yu Mo was very confused. *What exactly happened that night?*

...

That was not all that happened that night.

That night was when even the wind tasted sweet to some people. However, it was not so nice for others.

After the banquet ended, First Elder and the rest hurriedly returned to the Chu family estate.

It was already very late at night, but Chu Xianmin could not return to her house and rest. Instead, she was interrogated by First Elder and the others.

The doors and windows were tightly shut. First Elder sat at the main seat. Chu Yan and Lu Yao sat on the seats at the side while Chu Xianmin was standing in the middle.

Everyone's gaze swept across Chu Xianmin's body like a sharp knife.

"Was what Chu Liuyue said today true or false?" asked First Elder solemnly.

Chu Xianmin was furious and humiliated. "Of course, it's fake! Why would I-I do such a thing? That b*tch was smearing my name!"

Chu Yan kept a straight face the entire way. He finally could not contain it at this point, and he slammed the table. "How dare you continue lying? If you didn't say it, how would Chu Liuyue know that the Crown Prince must light incense before he sleeps?"

People who were not close to him would definitely not know about this.

Chu Xianmin was frightened until she started shivering, instantly feeling guilty. "I-I... I didn't! I really didn't! I-I... just smelled the incense when I went to find the Crown Prince when he was coincidentally resting."

All the people here were experienced, and all of them could tell from her expression. Even if the two of them did not finish the final step, they must have done something they were not supposed to.

Chu Yan closed his eyes. "Do you know that this incident will spread throughout the Imperial City tomorrow? Your reputation will be ruined completely. Also, you actually dared to curse in front of the Emperor like a crazy woman. How would the Crown Prince still choose you as his Crown Princess?"

Chu Xianmin immediately could not say anything else.

Lu Yao suddenly spoke up at the side. "Since we can't contain the incident, then we shall not."

All the others looked at her in shock.

Lu Yao's eyes flashed. "She can never absolve herself from this incident now, so we should just take advantage of the situation. If everyone knows that you're the Crown Prince's woman, he would definitely not leave you in the lurch."

Chu Xianmin felt a little wronged. "B-but if we do so, I'll probably lose the proper status of his wife..."

"When you enter the Crown Prince Mansion, that proper status will be yours sooner or later. What else is important?" Lu Yao was nonchalant. "Your only chance is to become as strong as possible. As long as you are capable enough, you can make everyone else shut up. The academy's assessment is coming up. You must rank first, do you understand?"

Chu Xianmin bit her lips. This was the only way now. "Yes, I understand."

...

Chu Liuyue only felt comfortable after she returned home, took a hot bath, and changed into a set of clean clothes.

When she was arranging her clothes, that handkerchief suddenly dropped down.

She picked it up.

The original snow-white, pure handkerchief was already stained all over with blood. She could not bear to look at it.

Remembering Rong Xiu's words, she grunted lightly and used water to wash the handkerchief.

I'll return it to him tomorrow; we'll owe each other nothing.

Chapter 33: Wait

The next day, the Crown Prince banquet incident rapidly spread throughout the Imperial City. Everyone partook in heated discussions.

Too many things had happened that night, but the person who attracted the most attention was Chu Xianmin. She actually had an affair with the Crown Prince much earlier.

At first, they thought that she was a pure, innocent, and talented young girl, but they did not expect her to be so immoral in secret. Even though Mainland Xuan Wu focused on one's capabilities, they were still quite conservative about such things.

Chu Xianmin was currently still a maiden and had not even reached marriageable age, but her reputation was completely ruined after this incident was exposed.

Everyone already expected Rong Jin to break off the marriage agreement with Chu Liuyue, so in comparison, the crowd was still more interested in Chu Xianmin's affairs. Of course, everyone was also shocked about Chu Liuyue wanting to enter Tian Lu Academy. However, nobody cared about it after the momentary shock.

How could an invalid with a lacking Yuan meridian get into Tian Lu Academy?

The crowd only thought she was delusional; some even felt that she was strongly affected when her marriage agreement was broken off, making her brain become abnormal.

Most people were still thinking about the Crown Prince, Rong Jin.

The Crown Princess spot was still empty, and the most worthy competitor, Chu Xianmin, was humiliated when the incident was exposed, so she would definitely not be able to have the proper status. Hence, quite a few girls from distinguished families started to get their hopes high.

...

Chu Liuyue woke up early in the morning and practiced in the yard as per usual. She only stopped when she exhausted her energy.

By this time, the sky was only slightly bright.

“Yue’er.” Chu Ning’s voice sounded from behind.

Chu Liuyue turned around and saw Chu Ning standing in the yard and looking at her dotingly. She had already felt Chu Ning’s presence previously, so she was not shocked.

Chu Ning was long used to her crazily practicing every day, but he did not stop her. He knew that this was something she wanted to do, so he chose to support her silently.

“Father, aren’t you going to the store today?” asked Chu Liuyue strangely. Her gaze quickly sized Chu Ning up; she realized that he felt different from the past.

He had changed into a navy robe with a white belt around his waist. His hair was tied up nicely, and he had just shaved his beard, leaving some light stubble on his chin. Chu Ning had clearly meticulously dressed up today, looking much younger than before.

The most important thing was that he no longer had a defeated gaze like before. Instead, it was bright and clear. His entire person looked energized as if he had turned over a new leaf.

Chu Liuyue actually had already guessed this would happen.

“I have something important to do today.” Chu Ning’s eyes seemed calm, but one could still see them sparkling emotionally.

Chu Liuyue nodded. It seemed like Chu Ning had finally picked himself up.

“In the future, I will definitely not let Yue’er suffer grievances like previously. It’s time to calculate some debts properly,” said Chu Ning determinedly.

In the past, his body was unwell, so he could not protect Yue’er. Now that he had successfully overcome his injuries, he could not sit around anymore.

He lowered his voice and said solemnly, “Yue’er, you said that one of the people Chu Xianmin sent to kill you was called Song Lian?”

“Yes. Father, do you know him?” Chu Liuyue’s interest was piqued.

Chu Ning squinted his eyes. “I didn’t know him at first, but I found out some things after asking around lately. That Song Lian was quite a famous thug. He’s usually very arrogant and pompous, causing trouble everywhere he went. He’s messed up quite a number of people in the Imperial City. He slacked around all day and had nothing serious to do, so he frequented all the major gambling dens. However, such a person has quite the background. Although he caused some serious trouble before and even offended some aristocratic children, nothing happened to him in the end.”

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding. “It seems like the person behind him is not Chu Xianmin, but someone else.”

Chu Xianmin does not have such abilities. There must be someone else behind the scenes. It’s no wonder that a mere stage-three warrior could be so arrogant. He clearly had someone backing him.

“Father, can you find out who his backer is?”

Chu Ning paused for a while and shook his head in regret. “Not yet. He seemed to be very cautious about this and hid it very well. I need more time to look into it.”

Chu Liuyue nodded. *Two may keep counsel putting one away. Now that he has disappeared for a month, the person behind him will not take his lying. He will be exposed sooner or later.*

After thinking for a while, she asked, “Father, do you know which gambling den he likes to frequent?”

Chu Ning asked weirdly, “Feng Yun Gambling Den, but why are you asking about this? Yue’er, you can’t take the risk yourself...”

“Don’t worry, Father. I’m just asking casually. I won’t do anything about it.”

Chu Ning then calmed down, and said after some thinking, “Oh, right. Prince Li has helped us quite a few times, but we haven’t thanked him properly yet...”

Chu Liuyue was speechless upon seeing the grateful look her father had toward Rong Xiu. If this carried on, she did not know what else her father would do.

She hurriedly said, “Father, you’re right. I plan to look for him and thank him personally today.”

The best solution was to return him his belongings and see less of him in the future.

Chu Ning knitted his brows. “Today? But we don’t have any presentable gifts...”

“Prince Li is so kind, why would he care about this? Don’t you think so, Father?” Chu Liuyue smiled and squinted her eyes. “We might not have gifts, but we have sincere hearts. Prince Li will definitely not care about this. What do you think?”

Chu Ning then relaxed. “That’s true. Okay, then.”

Chu Liuyue blinked solemnly. “I’ll head over right now!”

...

Chu Liuyue left the Chu family estate smoothly. Although her marriage agreement with the Crown Prince was broken off, the entire Chu family now knew that Chu Liuyue was not one to mess with after all these incidents, so they were much more polite toward her.

Nobody even asked her what she was going out for and just let her leave.

Chu Liuyue walked towards Prince Li Mansion happily.

She did not hide her identity today. Quite a few people recognized her innocent and pretty face on the way. They all pointed and talked about her in secret, but they did not dare to bully her like in the past.

Chu Liuyue did not care and pretended not to notice it.

After walking for a quarter of an hour, she reached the crowded streets; the number of people around her started to increase.

She walked on, and there was a sudden noise coming from the front. A figure then rushed towards her rapidly.

Just as she was about to move away, she suddenly noticed something and squinted her eyes slightly as she paused.

The other party bumped right into her.

“Catch that thief!” hollered someone from the back.

Chu Liuyue turned around to take a look, and the person that bumped into her disappeared into thin air.

Her lips curved up unnoticeably, and she immediately followed him.

...

The sun was setting.

The last bit of sunshine poured in through the windows and shone on a person’s tall figure.

Rong Xiu read the book in his hands silently and gentlemanly, but his eyes were slightly cold for some reason.

Yan Qing said, “Prince, I’ve received 23 letters today, including the ones from Crown Prince Mansion. I have already rejected all of them.”

Rong Xiu replied with an “Mm.”

The atmosphere became even stiffer.

The sky gradually darkened.

Rong Xiu flipped a page and asked nonchalantly, “No one came to visit us today?”

Yan Qing obviously knew who he was asking about. He could not help but feel bitter in his heart as he lowered his head. “No one, Prince.”

Piak!

The book was slammed on the table.

Chapter 34: Converging Attack

Chu Liuyue chased the person that bumped into her the entire way, and she quickly left the bustling city.

The running man finally stopped when they entered an alley.

Chu Liuyue folded her arms. “Return me my things.”

The man turned around and looked at her ferociously as he waved the pouch he stole from Chu Liuyue. “If you want it, come and get it yourself.”

Chu Liuyue looked at the thin pouch and sighed gently. "Are you so sure that I have money with me?"

The man's expression froze and suddenly thought of something. He hurriedly ripped open the pouch and found out that there was nothing inside except for a white handkerchief. Frustration flashed across his face, but it quickly disappeared as he smiled at Chu Liuyue cunningly.

"Do you really think that I'm targeting your money?" As he said that, he took out a dagger from his waist.

His murderous intentions were obvious. However, Chu Liuyue was not anxious at all. Instead, her face broke out into a meaningful smile.

The man was taken aback and immediately reacted after that. *That pouch did not even have money in it. Even though it was stolen, Chu Liuyue shouldn't have cared about it, but she still followed me. That means... she came here on purpose!*

"You must be delusional to think that you can steal something from me with your middling skills. But since you wanted me here, I'll accede to your request." Chu Liuyue's words made the man's face contort.

"You must be tired of living!" As the man hollered, the dagger in his hands rapidly went towards Chu Liuyue.

Stage-four warrior! The moment he struck, Chu Liuyue swiftly inferred his capabilities. She squinted her eyes. *It seems like the missing Song Lian's trio made the person backing them fear me. This time, they directly sent a stage-four warrior to kill me.*

Chu Liuyue stood with her legs apart and rapidly moved back half a step. Her right leg bent slightly as she went on her tip-toes and suddenly exerted her strength.

Her seemingly gentle and thin body was actually filled with shocking tenacity and explosive power as she unleashed it within a moment.

She actually chose to go against a stage-four warrior head-on.

Chu Liuyue kicked the man's wrist with one foot.

The man's hands turned quickly, and he immediately used the dagger to stab Chu Liuyue's foot.

Tsing!

A crisp sound was made.

That man only felt a strong impact from Chu Liuyue's feet, making his entire body turn numb.

His dagger directly slipped out of his hands and left shocking traces.

What's going on? The man was stunned; he immediately looked up to see cold, sharp, and vague glimmers coming from the bottom of Chu Liuyue's shoes.

That was... a cast iron blade!

Before he could carefully think about why Chu Liuyue had such a weapon on her, he suddenly felt excruciating pain.

Chuo! Chuo!

The sharp weapon cut across his wrist and sliced off a piece of his flesh in no time.

“Ah!” He yelled out in pain and quickly moved backward. He looked down to see his entire arm already bloody.

Chu Liuyue landed on the ground and shook her head with some sort of dissatisfaction upon seeing the scenario. “It’s still not sharp enough...”

She long knew that danger loomed all around her, so she was very careful about her words and actions. As her strength had not recovered yet, she used other aspects to increase her combat skills.

She specifically asked Chu Ning for the blades hidden in her shoes.

If her attack was successful, the man’s entire wrist would’ve been cut off directly.

It was a pity that the cast iron blade was not of good quality, so she could only make do with it.

Seeing her calm expression, the injured man was frustrated and furious. He was a stage-four warrior no matter what, yet he was defeated by an invalid. His superiors had instructed him to find a way to catch Chu Liuyue; he could not fail at his task no matter what.

Thinking of this, his eyes flashed as he sneered. "So the rumored weak and useless Big Chu Missy is actually this harsh... It's a pity that you're still nothing in terms of real capabilities, no matter what kind of tricks you have up your sleeves."

He bellowed and threw his dagger aside. He then crossed his arms and started circulating his internal force.

A green wind blade rapidly formed around his body. An enormous, forceful suppression exuded from his body.

This suppression made the already narrow alley seem even smaller.

"Breeze Chop!" The man's voice boomed, and the green wind blade chopped down towards Chu Liuyue at the speed of lightning.

Huala!

A clear, white crack appeared on the bluestone as the wind blade headed straight for Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue flew up, and the howling winds deafened her ears.

The strong suppression she felt made her head whirl; her moves were much slower than before.

The fourth stage was the watershed for warriors. Even though warriors of the first three stages could absorb Heaven and Earth Force, it was just to strengthen their bodies and energy.

Only stage-four warriors and stronger could circulate the accumulated force within their bodies and execute an explosive attack.

A stage-three warrior could not even be compared to a stage-four warrior in terms of attack strength or attack speed.

This Breeze Chop instantly forced Chu Liuyue into a corner.

Chu Liuyue even felt her glabella hurting slightly.

Her eyes stared at the green wind blade closely; her muscles tightened as she held her breath and waited.

Her strong eyesight and rich fighting experience were the only reasons why she could win against Song Lian and the rest with her identity as an invalid. With these two things, one could make up for the difference between an average person and a stage-three warrior. However, stage-four warriors were different.

The other party could imbue his force into an attack. Thus, it was very difficult for her to win. Even though her Yuan meridian had already recovered, she had not gathered much force. She could not even compete with the other party in this aspect.

She could only look for the man's shortcomings.

Shua!

The green wind blade flew up quickly.

Chu Liuyue's waist bent backward, and her body was almost parallel to the floor.

The next moment, she used one hand to push against the ground with her strength to flip around, barely avoiding the attack.

Kacha!

The green wind blade struck the ground behind her and caused a crack to appear.

"You really know how to dodge!" The man was very surprised to see this, and the murderous intent in his eyes grew. "No wonder Song Lian and the rest fell in your hands."

Something flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes secretly. *As expected! I haven't even found them, but the other party has sent themselves to my door.*

Her gaze quickly swept past the man. "It seems like your master is Song Lian's true backer."

The man was stunned for a while. He then started laughing loudly as if he heard a joke. "You're pretty smart! What a pity, the smarter you are, the more you have to die!"

Chu Liuyue wanted to find out more, but she suddenly felt a cold impact at the back of her head.

She flew forward without thinking.

Peng!

A deep trench appeared at the place where she was standing initially.

The remains of the strong attack caused blood to rise through her chest.

She immediately raised her head to look and saw the man who yelled 'catch the thief' blocking the alley's entrance.

The key was that he was also a stage-four warrior.

"Die!" The duo's eyes met, and they rushed to attack Chu Liuyue at the same time.

The cold and harsh murderous aura immediately buried her.

Chapter 35: Not See Anyone

Chu Liuyue's hands quietly moved towards her sleeves. She definitely was not a match for two stage-four warriors attacking her together. However, this did not mean that she did not have other ways of defeating them.

At this point, a white figure suddenly dashed in from the side.

Roar!

A strong power instantly erupted alongside the oppressive roar.

Hong! Hong! Hong!

Before the two men's attacks could reach Chu Liuyue, they suddenly died off. The remnants of the strong waves even impacted the two men instead.

Sou! Sou!

The duo could not even dodge in time and felt an enormous force blowing them away before they could even see who it was. They landed on the floor harshly and spat blood out as their chests shivered.

Their originally arrogant auras immediately mellowed down.

“Who’s there?” The duo hurriedly lifted their heads in anger and fear. However, they were taken aback by what they saw.

The one that suddenly attacked them was a white lion with a strong build. Its body was covered in snow-white fur, and its blue eyes gleamed with an icy-cold brilliance as its entire body exuded an oppressive aura.

Previously, it had just casually waved its claws and easily defeated two stage-four warriors’ attacks.

“Seventh-grade Heavenly Lion!” The duo could not help but gasp in surprise when they realized who had attacked them; anxiety filled their faces.

Why would a high-level fiend that only seemed to exist in rumors appear here? There were only a few seventh-grade fiends in the entire Country Yao Chen, and Heavenly Lions were even rarer and never before seen. However, one actually appeared in the Imperial City.

Chu Liuyue was also shocked. “Xue Xue? Why are you here?” *How did it appear so timely? Was it following me the whole time? However, I did not notice it at all before... It seems like I have to increase my cultivation training.*

The duo’s eyes twitched upon hearing Chu Liuyue’s words. This familiar tone... meant that Chu Liuyue knew this seventh-grade Heavenly Lion earlier on.

It clearly came to help her! The duo was pretty strong when they worked together, so they would still be able to fight if it were others helping her. However, the one that stood in front of them was a true seventh-grade Heavenly Lion.

It only had to raise its paws to claim their lives easily.

What was with Chu Liuyue? How did she have such a strong backing behind her?

Xue Xue, who was originally filled with murderous intent, reduced its aggressive aura and lowered its head to rub against Chu Liuyue's waist after hearing her words. It let out deep purrs as if it was whining.

Chu Liuyue patted its soft fur and secretly heaved a sigh of relief in her heart. *These two people will not be a problem with Xue Xue around. Just that... its appearance is too much of a coincidence.*

"He sent you here?" asked Chu Liuyue as her eyes turned.

Xue Xue immediately shook its head, but it nodded in conflict after remembering something. Even though it really wanted to claim all the credit, if its master found out about its independent claim, it would suffer a beating again...

Xue Xue had a strong urge to live.

Chu Liuyue chuckled. She could sort of guess Xue Xue's thoughts by looking at her hesitant expression.

It seemed like both the master and the servant had a part to play in this.

What exactly is that Rong Xiu thinking? This question flashed across Chu Liuyue's brain very quickly, but she did not show it on her face as she looked at the duo instead. She had to settle this urgent problem first.

The duo's eyes met with each other; they both saw the anxiety in each other's eyes.

Chu Liuyue was no longer someone they could defeat with the seventh-grade Heavenly Lion helping her.

"Run!" Without hesitation, the duo stood up and fled in opposite directions.

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly.

Xue Xue bellowed and suddenly disappeared.

The next moment, it appeared in front of one of the men. It swiftly raised its claws and harshly slammed them against the man's chest.

Huala!

The man's clothes were instantly ripped apart, and blood spurted out in all directions.

Bang!

The gigantic force caused the man to land strongly on the floor; there was a long streak of blood, which only stopped when he hit against the wall.

The other man also had a similar ending. He did not even run out of the alley before Xue Xue directly attacked him and smashed him beside the previous man.

A seventh-grade Heavenly Lion was indeed very powerful. These two stage-four warriors did not even have the chance to struggle or escape and had lost miserably in Xue Xue's hands.

The tables were turned in no time.

Chu Liuyue walked to the duo and looked at them from high ground. "Say it. Who is your master?"

The duo was on the verge of dying but still refused to say a word.

Chu Liuyue crossed her arms and smiled lightly. "You refuse to say? Then let me guess... is your master the Crown Prince?"

The two men were shocked and looked at her subconsciously, but they immediately noticed something the next moment and nervously shifted their gazes. However, this reaction was already sufficient.

"Song Lian's real backer is Song Yuan, right?"

“W-what are you talking about? I don’t understand you!” The two people were not dumb and persisted with their denials.

Chu Liuyue did not care at all. Actually, this incident was quite easy to guess. After all, only a few people hated her and wanted her to die in the wild.

There were even fewer people who could send stage-four warriors to go against her.

In Rong Jin’s eyes, killing her ten times was not even enough to vent his anger from the new and old hatred.

It was a pity that this person was not very smart.

In the beginning, he sent out Song Lian. He didn’t learn to be smarter after Song Lian died. Instead, he hastily sent two other people to kill her.

“It’s fine if you don’t admit it.” Chu Liuyue did not even care about the duo; she turned to face Xue Xue. “Xue Xue, can I trouble you to do something for me? Drag these two people away.”

Xue Xue looked at her in confusion.

Why did she not want to end the people that wanted to kill her directly?

Chu Liuyue suddenly turned around and picked up the pouch one of the men had previously thrown on the floor. She lifted her eyebrows. “Let’s go!”

...

The silence in the room was almost suffocating.

Yan Qing lowered his head and felt that the cold atmosphere around his master could literally freeze a person.

Master never really liked to show his emotions or feelings on the outside, but he actually behaved in this manner just because that person did not come on time...

“Master, Big Chu Missy is here!” Yu Mo’s voice suddenly sounded from the outside at this point.

Almost instantly, Yan Qing felt that his master’s exuding aura had changed strangely. He quickly raised his head and saw that his master was already looking at the door. Looking out from the half-open door, he could vaguely see the blurred, thin figure hiding behind Yu Mo in the dark sky outside.

“Master, I’ll invite Big Chu Missy in right away,” said Yan Qing happily as if a huge burden was lifted off his shoulders.

Rong Xiu’s eyes sparkled like a starry night, but his eyebrows knitted slightly in the next moment. As he tidied his clothes and picked up the book again, he said lightly, “It’s late at night, and I’m not feeling too well. I won’t be seeing anyone today.”

Chapter 36: Watch the Show

“Won’t be seeing anyone.”

Chu Liuyue heard this sentence very clearly. She stopped in her tracks and raised her eyebrows slightly.

Yu Mo was also dazed when he heard this. *Won’t be seeing? However, Master clearly said before that he would not see anyone, but that we had to report to him immediately if Big Chu Missy came. That’s the reason why I dared to bring her in directly.*

Why did Master say he did not want to see her? He looked at Yan Qing and asked him what was going on with his expression.

Yan Qing was also puzzled. *How would I know?* He personally witnessed his master waiting for Big Chu Missy for the entire day. It was clearly impossible that he did not want to see her. Didn’t he just get angry because Big Chu Missy did not come? She finally came, but his master did not seem to cheer up and even refused to see her.

“Master, this... Big Chu Missy...”

Rong Xiu raised his head and looked at Yan Qing silently.

Yan Qing immediately swallowed his words and lowered his head obediently as he stood aside.

Rong Xiu retracted his gaze and flipped another page.

As the wind blew, one of his hands formed a fist and covered his mouth as he coughed a few times. However, that pair of eyes did not look at Chu Liuyue from the start till the end.

Chu Liuyue did not drag her feet and looked at Yu Mo. "Since your master is unwell, I won't disturb him any longer. Please help me to return him this item, and thank your master for helping me," said Chu Liuyue as she handed over the handkerchief in her pouch.

Yu Mo looked at the handkerchief, and his eyeballs almost popped out. *Is this not Master's personal handkerchief? Master is normally very concerned about this handkerchief and always has it with him, but... why did it end up with Chu Liuyue?*

Yu Mo did not enter the palace that day and naturally did not know what had happened.

Master actually gave this to Chu Liuyue...

"Big Chu Missy, this..." Yu Mo hesitated to pick up the handkerchief, but he suddenly felt a chill running down his spine. He shivered and immediately rejected her solemnly. "Big Chu Missy, this belongs to Master. You should return it to him yourself."

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *Isn't it just a handkerchief? Why is he so serious about it?*

She wanted to return it too! If not, she wouldn't visit him at his place. However, Rong Xiu was the one who claimed that he did not want to see anyone. What could she do?

She looked inside again. She could see the bulky figure through the half-open door.

The warm light showed off his unique side view, which was flawless with its intricate details. His eyes were slightly lowered, and his thin lips were pressed against each other tightly.

Rong Xiu... seems to be angry? What is he angry about? Chu Liuyue had no idea what he was thinking and decided not to care about it after pondering for a while. She directly looked at Rong Xiu and said, "I've returned you your item. Prince Li, I don't owe you anything else, right? Thank you for saving me the previous few times, but I don't like to owe other people favors. We're vastly different people. To avoid any future troubles, let's not see each other anymore."

After she finished her sentence, she did not see Rong Xiu's reaction and shoved the handkerchief at Yu Mo.

Rong Xiu laughed silently. He really could not do anything about her. He finally raised his head, and his eyes landed on Chu Liuyue, surrounding her invisibly. "No, you still owe me two favors."

Chu Liuyue's heart jumped.

"Firstly, Xue Xue saved you." His tone was gentle and calm as usual, but even colder than the moonlight. "Secondly, the Crown Prince did not send those people to kill you today."

Chu Liuyue's eyes turned slightly cold.

...

The Imperial City seemed peaceful that day, but it was secretly filled with uproars.

In the study of Crown Prince Mansion...

Inside the room, there was only Rong Jin and an elder in a gray robe.

“Are you really sure that there’s a seventh-grade fiend in the Imperial City? But I didn’t hear any news about it...” asked Rong Jin suspiciously.

“That seventh-grade fiend only appeared for a while, and an average person can’t even detect it. However, I have already gone to check, and there were indeed battle marks left behind by a seventh-grade fiend in Eight Corner Alley of the Imperial City’s northeast region. The elder stroked his beard confidently. “Also, I can confirm that it’s not an existing fiend in the Imperial City, and it had just appeared here. Besides, I’m pretty sure that it has an owner.”

Rong Jin knitted his brows tightly. “However, there are very few people who can conquer a seventh-grade fiend in the Imperial City... Who would it be?”

The elder shook his head. “Don’t underestimate anyone in the Imperial City. If the other party can have a seventh-grade fiend, he definitely won’t be easy to deal with. If he’s coming for you, you must be extra careful.”

The elder shook his head. “Even though you’re already the Crown Prince, quite a few people are still eyeing your status. Your marriage agreement with Chu Liuyue ended very badly, and the Emperor is very unhappy with you. You can’t cause any more trouble at this point.”

Rong Jin was furious when he was reminded of this. “It’s all because of Chu Liuyue that...”

“She’s just an invalid and nothing to be worried about. You should lie low for this period of time and wait until the rumors die down. The most important thing now is to elevate your skills and allow the Emperor to see your abilities.”

Rong Jin took a deep breath and nodded. “You’re right. I’ll definitely remember your teachings.”

“This is your last year at Tian Lu Academy. You must grab this chance, do you understand?”

“Yes!”

...

The news about the seventh-grade fiend spread quietly; it quickly reached the ears of distinguished families.

Rong Zhen also found out about it. She was very excited. The previous few fiends did not have high grades. Now that there was a rare seventh-grade fiend, she had to go and take a look. It would be amazing if she could capture it and make a vow with it. Hence, she also started sending people out to investigate the whereabouts of this seventh-grade fiend.

On the other hand, the assassination attempt on Chu Liuyue was as if it never happened. Even the disappearance of the duo did not attract any attention.

In this seemingly calm situation, Chu Liuyue finally received Tian Lu Academy’s notification.

Tian Lu Academy accepted the Emperor's request and gave Chu Liuyue a special chance to enter the academy.

As long as she passed the assessment, she could enter Tian Lu Academy and become a part of them.

...

Chu Liuyue's 14th birthday was on the 10th of August. It was also the day of her Tian Lu Academy assessment.

Chu Ning had already prepared longevity noodles for her to eat.

In her previous life, her every birthday was spent extravagantly. Numerous people came forward to wish her well, and the list of presents was endless. Now, even though there was only Chu Ning to accompany her, this bowl of longevity noodles made her feel even warmer and more secure.

Chu Liuyue finished the noodles cleanly and briefly packed her items before heading towards Tian Lu Academy.

Chu Ning wanted to follow her, but she rejected him. She knew that Chu Ning was busy lately, and in her eyes, it was very easy to enter the academy, so she did not require anyone to accompany her. However, when Chu Liuyue arrived at Tian Lu Academy's entrance, she realized that there were many people waiting outside.

Chu Liuyue's appearance garnered countless stares.

Chu Liuyue instantly understood that these people clearly came here to watch a show.

A middle-aged man stood in front of Tian Lu Academy's entrance and had a stern face. He looked at Chu Liuyue, and his eyes vaguely filled with frustration.

"Chu Liuyue, right? Since the Emperor spoke in favor of you, Tian Lu Academy will give you a chance. There are three categories for the entrance assessment: warrior, Xuan Master, and heavenly doctor. You'll succeed if you pass any one of them. Which would you like to choose?"

Chapter 37: Assessment

Chu Liuyue quickly surveyed her surroundings, and her lips curved up into an interesting smile.

Tian Lu Academy was the top academy in the entire Country Yao Chen and held a very high status. Even in the Imperial City, where every inch of ground was worth a huge amount of money, Tian Lu Academy still occupied a very large area.

The lapis lazuli structure made the entrance seem traditional yet magnanimous. In front of the entrance was a black crystal stone in the shape of a longsword that descended from the heavens and stabbed right into the ground. 'Tian Lu Academy' was carved in gold on it.

These were already worth an extravagant amount, let alone the things inside the academy.

Before the entrance was a wide court made up of white jade. This was also Tian Lu Academy's territory; it was the venue they used when they recruited students annually. However, there was nothing on the court when Chu Liuyue came to participate in the assessment.

There was only a small square table in front of that middle-aged man.

There were three black, wooden boxes on the table, which clearly represented the so-called three different assessments. It seemed like they did not even intend to give Chu Liuyue a proper chance of assessment on the court.

Chu Liuyue bowed and asked gently, "Thank you, Senior. Sorry if I'm rude, but may I know your name?"

The middle-aged man was originally upset with Chu Liuyue since he felt that she was delusional for wanting to enter Tian Lu Academy as an invalid. However, they could not reject the Emperor, though they knew that their efforts would be wasted.

He originally had something urgent to do today, but he was sent over to assess Chu Liuyue at the very last minute. He was extremely upset and, of course, would not give Chu Liuyue an easy time. Thus, he also haphazardly prepared the things needed for her assessment.

He sneered in his heart upon hearing Chu Liuyue's tone. There was no use for anything else if she did not have any abilities. She did not even need to try to lick his boots.

"Bai Chen!"

Chu Liuyue laughed and pointed at the court not far away. "Senior, I've heard that Tian Lu Academy assessments are usually held on that court, but it seems like it's not open today... May I know if you will be able to do me a favor?"

Bai Chen looked at her mockingly as if he had heard a joke. "You should know that the other participants have their assessments on that court because they have all sorts of fights and battles there. The forces generated would then be neutralized by the array formation on that court. As for you... do you even have a use for it?"

The crowd heard this and burst out laughing.

"Exactly! Does she need it? Haha!"

"Tian Lu Academy only accepts the top few talents. How dare a person like her without a Yuan meridian dare to dream of entering? She's just going to humiliate herself."

"Did you see how the rest don't even want to care about her? They only gave her a chance because of the Emperor... There will only be an extra laughing stock in the Imperial City from now on..."

Chu Liuyue seemed to have not heard the mockery, and her expression did not change. She looked at Bai Chen and asked persistently, "Then... what must I do to make you open the court?"

Bai Chen sized her up and did not notice any force moving within her. He could not help but sigh. "As long as you can open any one of these three black, wooden boxes."

The black, wooden boxes were made using great amounts of a special black spiritual wood. The boxes had different seals according to the various assessments. It was impossible for an average person to open them.

If a student wanted to obtain the assessment questions, they had to open the black, wooden box personally. This was precisely the assessment's first stage.

Chu Liuyue nodded and did not say anything else. She moved forward and directly went for the box on the left.

The crowd's faces were filled with excitement for the show.

The thin, white hand landed on the black, wooden box.

Bai Chen frowned slightly. *You don't even know where you stand.*

Kacha!

A small, crisp sound was made.

Chu Liuyue easily opened the box.

The atmosphere turned stiff in no time.

Bai Chen's expression froze. *How is that possible?*

Chu Liuyue had already picked up the piece of paper in the box. “You pass if you become a stage-three warrior.”

The stage-three warrior requirement seemed simple, but the students that Tian Lu Academy accepted were all under 20 years of age. They would unquestionably be talents if they could reach the standards of a stage-three warrior.

Bai Chen did not even have time to think about how Chu Liuyue opened the box. He saw the topic she chose and burst out laughing. “Warrior Assessment!” He looked down at Chu Liuyue from above. “You pass if you reach the standards of a stage-three warrior. However... I remember that your Yuan meridian is lacking, and you’re not even a warrior, right?”

The crowd immediately chuckled, not even bothering to hide their laughter.

The others might have a chance of achieving this condition, but as for Chu Liuyue, she would not reach it in her entire life.

Some people even hissed.

“Get lost! Stop humiliating yourself!”

“Hahaha!”

Bai Chen shook his head and was about to pack his things.

“Wait a minute,” said Chu Liuyue suddenly. “Senior Bai Chen, if my capabilities reach the standards of a stage-three warrior, do I pass?”

“What?” Bai Chen suspected that he had heard her wrongly.

Chu Liuyue asked again, “If I can win against a stage-three warrior, will you say that I’ve met the condition?”

Bai Chen hesitated for a while and nodded later. “Of course! But... can you do it?”

Chu Liuyue’s lips curved up slightly. “I want to try.”

Bai Chen understood and waved his long sleeves. “Okay. I’ll lower my abilities to a stage-three warrior. If you can last three moves from me, you win.” After he finished talking, he waved his long sleeves, and the court buzzed softly.

After this, he suddenly raised his power and jumped up like an eagle that soared in the skies. He instantly flew more than ten feet away and landed in the center of the court accurately and silently.

Chu Liuyue walked over step by step and stood in front of Bai Chen. “Senior, please enlighten me.”

Bai Chen did not care about her. Without talking, his palm turned into a fist and went straight for Chu Liuyue.

Hu!

He moved at lightning speed and appeared in front of Chu Liuyue in the blink of an eye. His strong punch cut across the air, and he utilized his immense strength.

In the blink of an eye, his fist was only less than an arm away from Chu Liuyue. He did not need to use martial arts skills when he lowered his abilities to a stage-three warrior; he could just use his physical strength to go against Chu Liuyue.

This one punch would end everything.

Chu Liuyue saw the rapidly approaching fist from the corner of her eye. She stood there with her back straight and seemed frightened to death by the outsiders.

Bai Chen thought the same way. However, when he thought that his punch would definitely land on her, the young girl in front of him suddenly disappeared.

Chu Liuyue's body moved in some way, and she had actually avoided the punch miraculously.

Bai Chen was instantly stunned by what he saw. A chill ran down his spine the next moment.

A cold, murderous intent wrapped him completely.

He!

He subconsciously circulated his force and executed an attack.

“Lightning Shock!”

Hong! Long! Long!

A blue fireball suddenly exploded. However, there was no one there.

Bai Chen was shocked before looking beside him in realization. As expected, an unharmed Chu Liuyue was standing right there.

Chu Liuyue looked at him with a beaming smile. “Senior Bai Chen, it seems like you’ve used more than a stage-three warrior’s ability, right?”

Bai Chen’s heart dropped. *I fell for her trap!*

The spectators outside the court looked at each other in silence and only comprehended what had happened after a while—when Bai Chen was testing Chu Liuyue, he had actually used skills above the standards of a stage-three warrior.

This also meant that he did not even lower his abilities to a stage-three warrior, just like what Chu Liuyue had said. Then... what exactly did this mean?

Bai Chen's face flushed, and he felt embarrassed. He initially thought that this move could destroy Chu Liuyue, but he didn't expect that he was unable to control it properly and had spoiled the assessment.

It was humiliating to commit such a low-level mistake in front of so many people.

However... What exactly happened just now? Bai Chen's eyebrows knitted tightly as he stared straight at Chu Liuyue. He was a stage-five warrior and was considered strong in Country Yao Chen. He had assessed a few students in the past, but he had never made such a mistake.

He clearly remembered that he felt a scary murderous intent from Chu Liuyue earlier, so he subconsciously used his real abilities. However, how could an invalid like Chu Liuyue make him feel such intense suppression and oppression?

Bai Chen did not understand it, no matter how much he thought about it. He looked at Chu Liuyue with suspicious eyes as if he wanted to burn a hole in her.

"Senior Bai Chen, you previously said that I'd pass if I can last three moves from you. However, you exceeded a stage-three warrior's ability in the first move... What should we do about this?" asked Chu Liuyue calmly as if the incident that just happened had no impact on her.

This question made Bai Chen's face contort even more. Even though he was upset, he had to admit that the exchange just now could prove Chu Liuyue's abilities to some extent since she could force him to use his true strength.

This young girl must be hiding something up her sleeves.

The spectators outside fell into dead silence.

After a while, Bai Chen's voice boomed. "If you can endure my next move head-on, I'll immediately let you pass." After he finished his sentence, he moved his feet quickly and dashed towards Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up unnoticeably.

An average person would know that it was slightly overboard for Bai Chen to ask her to face his move head-on and endure it.

Even if he had lowered his ability to a stage-three warrior's standards, he was originally a stage-five warrior, so the abilities he executed would definitely be stronger than that of a stage-three warrior.

Even a true stage-three warrior might not be able to go against him head-on.

Chu Liuyue raised her eyes and saw that Bai Chen was already near her.

The merciless punch went straight for her face. This punch had even more force than the first time he attacked.

"It's over. Chu Liuyue didn't even give Bai Chen any face. She's definitely going to be taught a lesson."

"This punch will probably cause Chu Liuyue's bones to break."

“Pfft, so what? Chu Liuyue was asking for it. She should just obediently hide in a corner as an invalid and stop hallucinating...”

The spectators discussed silently as if they had already foreseen Chu Liuyue’s miserable defeat.

Under countless eyes, the thin, young girl in the middle of the court suddenly understood what to do. She did not make any extra movements. Instead, she spread her legs and lunged forward as her right hand turned into a fist.

The crowd gasped loudly.

Chu Liuyue actually chose to face Bai Chen head-on and formed a fist as well.

Bang!

A deep sound of impact was made.

The duo’s fists harshly smashed against each other.

In comparison, Chu Liuyue’s fist was only half the size of Bai Chen’s. Her fist looked extremely small next to his.

Some people could not help but hold their breaths as they thought, *The bones in Chu Liuyue’s hand will probably shatter.*

As expected, they saw Chu Liuyue's body shiver in the next moment as blood started trickling out of her mouth.

Just when they thought everything was over, they saw that Bai Chen's face did not have any signs of happiness. Instead, there was shock.

He widened his eyes and looked at Chu Liuyue as if he were looking at a weirdo. "You! You..." He opened his mouth, but he did not know what to say. However, his mind was thoroughly flipped around.

Chu Liuyue's capabilities had exceeded his imagination.

Logically speaking, Chu Liuyue should definitely not have been able to endure that punch. However, she was still standing in her original spot, without having even moved back an inch.

Besides, he could clearly feel that Chu Liuyue's punch was much stronger than what he had expected.

He silently clenched his teeth even harder.

Kacha!

The ground below Chu Liuyue started to crack, and the crack lines rapidly spread. However, Chu Liuyue did not move at all.

In actual fact, her entire body was enduring an immense pressure. The strength within Bai Chen's punch was definitely not what an average stage-three warrior could exhibit. Even though she had already fixed her Yuan meridian and trained diligently these days, the difference between them was very large, and it was hard to overcome it.

Her internal organs were squeezed into a ball by an invisible force as if they would explode in the next second. However, she had still met with this attack head-on.

She looked at Bai Chen, and her clear, bright eyes sparkled. She enunciated every word clearly as she asked, "Senior Bai Chen, do I pass this round?"

Bai Chen clenched his teeth but did not retract his fist. His voice boomed as he said, "Pass!"

Chapter 38: Pass!

The spectators outside the court looked at each other in silence and only comprehended what had happened after a while—when Bai Chen was testing Chu Liuyue, he had actually used skills above the standards of a stage-three warrior.

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Bai Chen clenched his teeth but did not retract his fist. His voice boomed as he said, "Pass!"

Chapter 39: I Want Everything!

Bai Chen's low but powerful voice echoed throughout the court.

The originally noisy crowd was instantly silenced. Everyone looked at the court in shock and suspected that they had misheard something.

What did Bai Chen say previously?

Chu Liuyue... passed?

After the temporary deadly silence, the crowd erupted into heated discussions.

"How is that possible? How did Chu Liuyue pass that?"

“Exactly! She’s not even a stage-one warrior, right? How can she pass so easily?”

“Did she really just enter Tian Lu Academy like that? It’s way too simple!”

“Even though it’s weird, Chu Liuyue seemed to have really endured Bai Chen’s last move,” muttered someone in confusion.

Some people suddenly quietened down and looked at each other awkwardly.

Oh, right!

Bai Chen had said previously that Chu Liuyue would pass if she met and endured his move head-on.

Chu Liuyue really did not move back a single step and had faced the impact forcefully.

“Did... Bai Chen do it on purpose?” said someone uncertainly, but he hurriedly covered his mouth after he finished his sentence.

Questioning Bai Chen in front of him was akin to questioning Tian Lu Academy.

Bai Chen surveyed his surroundings with a gloomy gaze and took a deep breath before announcing, “I know a lot of people might think that I’ve let her off easily, but I dare to guarantee with my reputation that there was no problem in the entire assessment. Tian Lu Academy is the top academy, and we always conduct our assessments fairly. Chu Liuyue has indeed passed the warrior assessment.”

Not only did he not let her off easily, but he had even secretly increased the difficulty of the assessment. Even a true stage-three warrior might not be able to pass the assessment this smoothly. However, Chu Liuyue did it.

Even though he looked down on her previously, he naturally admitted her abilities after she did this.

Bai Chen's determined words had successfully stumped everyone else. Bai Chen was famous for his terrible temper as a teacher at Tian Lu Academy. Since he had confirmed Chu Liuyue's abilities, other people were in no position to say anything about it.

Bai Chen looked at Chu Liuyue with a complicated gaze. He never expected Chu Liuyue to pass the assessment. "From now on, you're a student at Tian Lu Academy."

The crowd went crazy.

Originally, they thought that they could watch Chu Liuyue turn into a laughing stock today, but who knew she could really make it in? Only the top few talents in Country Yao Chen could enter Tian Lu Academy. It was really strange for an invalid like Chu Liuyue to be admitted.

Chu Liuyue's red lips curved up. "Thank you, Senior Bai Chen, or perhaps I should call you Teacher Bai Chen."

Bai Chen grunted. He clearly saw that Chu Liuyue did not look shocked at all. Composure was written all over her face, and she had clearly expected this outcome. In other words, she was confident of her admission into the academy.

Bai Chen previously thought that she was delusional for telling the Emperor that she wanted to enter Tian Lu Academy, but it seemed like she was clearly very confident of herself.

“Entering Tian Lu Academy is just the start. There’s nothing to be proud of. You should know that the academy is filled with talents. Only the top few can become true, strong warriors.” Bai Chen felt that he had lost face, so even though Chu Liuyue had passed the assessments, he did not give her a good time.

In actual fact, he still looked down on Chu Liuyue. This was because he had never felt any force circulating within Chu Liuyue throughout the entire process. He did not know how she endured the last obstacle. A person lacking in a Yuan meridian could definitely not become a true cultivator.

One could probably reach the standards of a stage-three warrior using other means, but it was impossible for them to advance.

Even though Chu Liuyue had entered Tian Lu Academy, she would probably achieve nothing.

After he finished his sentence, he waved his sleeves and was about to leave.

“Teacher Bai Chen, please wait a minute,” said Chu Liuyue suddenly.

Bai Chen turned around in frustration. “What else do you want? You’ve already passed the assessment. Someone will bring you into the academy later.”

Chu Liuyue shook her head. “Teacher Bai Chen, the assessment hasn’t ended yet.”

Bai Chen knitted his brows. "What do you mean?"

Chu Liuyue smiled and pointed at the two black, wooden boxes not far away. "Aren't there two more assessments?"

Bai Chen's face turned cold. "Didn't you previously hear the rules properly? You only need to pass one assessment out of the three." Now that Chu Liuyue had already passed the warrior assessment, she did not need to carry on with the other two.

Chu Liuyue blinked. "Can a person only be assessed in one category?"

"Do you not understand..." Bai Chen suddenly paused in his sentence. *Hold on, Chu Liuyue is saying...*

"Teacher Bai Chen, from what I know, there's no such restriction in the academy's assessments, right?"

Bai Chen did not speak for quite some time. They prepared three different assessments because there were three types of cultivators in Mainland Xuan Wu.

Different people had different talents. Even though some were untalented as a warrior, they had shocking potential in other areas. This type of person would either be a Xuan Master or a heavenly doctor. There were very few such people, and even more so for heavenly doctors as there might not even be one in ten thousand.

"So, you're saying that...?" Bai Chen opened his mouth and became nervous for some reason.

Chu Liuyue took a step forward and said calmly, "I'm saying that I want to be assessed in the other two categories."

Chapter 40: How Fragrant!

The entire court was deadly silent.

Everyone looked at Chu Liuyue as if they were staring at a maniac. *Is she out of her mind? She wants to be assessed on the last two categories? Does she think that she really can pass all three assessments?*

Only a few people could pass all three assessments in the entire Country Yao Chen.

Bai Chen knitted his brows very tightly. "Do you know what you're asking? You really want to be assessed on the last two categories?"

Chu Liuyue nodded.

Bai Chen was silent for a moment before he waved his sleeves and clenched his teeth. "Okay. I do want to see what kind of tricks you can pull off." After he finished his sentence, he signaled Chu Liuyue to open the remaining two boxes.

Chu Liuyue walked over and opened the one in the middle. There was a piece of paper and a chessboard inside.

The black and white chess pieces were already placed on the chessboard, forming an endgame.

Chu Liuyue took one look at it and noticed that the chess pieces were placed in a regular manner to form an array formation on the chessboard.

The requirement for the Xuan Master assessment was written on the paper—"You'll pass if you manage to solve this chessboard in two hours."

Perhaps two hours to solve an endgame was a tad too long for an average person, but in actual fact, this assessment was completely different from a normal chess game.

The black and white chess pieces, more or less, had the forces from heaven and earth. They were placed in different positions and influenced each other, naturally forming a complicated chess game.

If she wanted to solve this problem, she needed to feel the circulating force between heaven and earth sensitively.

This point alone stumped most people. Even though some people could forcefully feel the circulating force, they could not clearly see the pattern amongst the pieces, let alone figure out the solution for the endgame. Hence, only truly talented people with the potential to become a Xuan Master could pass this assessment.

Bai Chen walked over, and his gaze landed on Chu Liuyue. "You need to take the chessboard out..."

It would be easier for students to take the assessment as it lasted for two hours after all.

Chu Liuyue shook her head in rejection. "Thank you, Teacher Bai Chen, for the kind reminder, but it's okay."

Bai Chen paused and sneered in his heart. *She must have rejected it so decisively because she knows that she can't solve it and wants to give up.*

He grunted. "Don't act strong if you don't have the patience. Do you think it's so easy to become a Xuan Master?" As he spoke, he was about to close the box.

When Chu Liuyue heard this, she pressed her lips against each other tightly. *Is Bai Chen so sure that I can't pass and thought that I was going to give up?*

"Teacher Bai Chen, wait a minute."

Bai Chen looked at her in frustration. *What else is she going to play at?*

However, Chu Liuyue already picked up a black chess piece and placed it on the chessboard precisely without hesitation.

Piak!

The chessboard made a soft sound.

Bai Chen was just about to scold her, but he suddenly felt a strange movement from the chessboard.

He looked over subconsciously and saw that the black and white chess pieces were as if controlled by an invisible force and had flown up gradually before landing precisely in the chess compartment beside it.

Pilihuala!

The chess pieces knocked against each other crisply, but it sounded like thunder in other people's ears.

Chu Liuyue had actually succeeded in solving the endgame!

Bai Chen stood there dazedly and could not recover his senses for a long time.

H-how long did Chu Liuyue take to solve it?

It seemed like it had not even been a quarter of an hour.

Including the conversation time between both of them, Chu Liuyue literally solved the chess puzzle after looking at it a few times.

Bai Chen was really shocked.

He had been in Tian Lu Academy for many years and had seen numerous Xuan Master talents, but he had never seen one that could solve this assessment so quickly and accurately.

One either had to know the answer beforehand or be extremely talented to be this fast!

This chessboard was one of Tian Lu Academy's treasured items. It would form different endgames for the various assessments. Even he did not know what the chessboard would look like before he opened the wooden box.

This feat meant that Chu Liuyue was, indeed, very talented as a Xuan Master.

All along, Bai Chen felt that Chu Liuyue had passed the previous warrior assessment by playing some tricks since he did not feel any force circulating in her body. If not, there really was no explanation for how she exuded such an intense suppressive aura and even faced his move head-on. However, everything in front of Bai Chen made him realize that Chu Liuyue was indeed talented.

At the very least, she had the potential to become a top Xuan Master.

"Teacher Bai Chen, do I pass the test?" Chu Liuyue's lips curved up into a smile, and spoke in her usual nonchalant manner as if she did not notice how shocking her performance was.

However, Bai Chen could not be as calm as her. His heart felt like it had been flipped right over. That was because.. he was also a Xuan Master!

After entering Tian Lu Academy, the students would usually be assigned to various teachers to undergo cultivation. This was even more so for Xuan Masters and heavenly doctors as they were unique.

Every teacher could be considered as individuals.

There were quite a few Xuan Master teachers in Tian Lu Academy. They were all very competitive, especially when it came to showing off how incredible the students they taught were.

Bai Chen was very confident that Chu Liuyue was a very rare Xuan Master talent that would only appear once every 100 years.

Chu Liuyue waited for a while; when she saw that Bai Chen did not say anything, she could not help but call him. "Teacher Bai Chen?"

Bai Chen suddenly recovered his senses, and he looked at Chu Liuyue as if he was looking at a precious treasure. He rubbed his hands together, and a passionate smile was plastered onto his face, which looked very weird with his originally stern look.

"Pass! Pass! Of course, you pass! Hehe, Little Liuyue, what other requests do you have? Just name them! I'll do it for you!"