

## Nobel Ruler 321

### Chapter 321: Humiliation

Chu Liuyue's eyes instantly turned pitch black.

The net sling was quite strange as all the light was blocked outside. Thus, she couldn't see anything when she was trapped inside.

Then, she suddenly felt like she was being lifted.

She was just about to speak when she heard a hoarse and threatening voice speak beside her ear. "If you want to die quicker, yell for help."

Chu Liuyue's lips moved, but she didn't open her mouth. Even though she didn't see the other party's face, she was familiar with this aura...

*Right, this person is the one beside Rong Zhen! When Rong Zhen previously came to find me on her own, the person who attacked me was him! Rong Zhen once said that she would personally bring me to show her the way to the forest outside the Imperial City when the Qing Jiao Competition was over. I didn't expect her to be so impatient and that she wasn't even willing to wait for a day.*

Chu Liuyue retrieved her dagger and tried to cut the net.

An ear-piercing scratch was heard in the dark.

Chu Liuyue was shocked. *This net actually has a very strong defensive barrier inside!*

“Hmph, don’t waste your efforts. With your current abilities, it’s impossible for you to get out from there.” The strangely hoarse voice sounded again with intense mockery.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while before she swiftly closed her eyes and decided to wait quietly. *Since Rong Zhen wants to cause trouble for me, it’s a coincidence because I want to settle some things once and for all.*

...

Chu Liuyue couldn’t see the situation outside, but she could feel that she was being brought away at high speed.

She quietly imagined their route in her heart, and she realized that they were heading out of the Imperial City.

Chu Liuyue didn’t know if the person had used some methods, but the entire trip was very smooth, and they didn’t attract anyone’s attention.

When they were exiting the city gate, Chu Liuyue could even hear the guards’ interrogative voices. However, nobody noticed that something was wrong.

She was brought out of the city just like that.

After exiting the Imperial City, that person was clearly much more relaxed as he increased his speed.

Suddenly, she felt a weight on her shoulder.

Tuan Zi suddenly came out. It rubbed its face against Chu Liuyue's neck and seemed to be restless.

Chu Liuyue hugged it in her arms and gently reassured it.

She could confirm that Tuan Zi could bite the net and break it open, but... she didn't have such plans for now.

Tuan Zi seemed to have noticed her thoughts and immediately laid in her arms obediently.

...

After about an hour, that person finally stopped.

Chu Liuyue immediately hit Tuan Zi's butt to tell it to go back, and she waited while holding her breath.

*Hua!*

The net was suddenly ripped open.

The glaring light instantly poured in.

Chu Liuyue instinctively squinted her eyes to adjust to the lit environment.

“Chu Liuyue.” A high and mighty voice sounded from behind her.

Chu Liuyue turned around to take a look—it was Rong Zhen.

“Are you familiar with this place?” asked Rong Zhen coldly with her arms crossed.

Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings; they were filled with lush greenery. This was indeed the forest outside the Imperial City.

After a momentary silence, Chu Liuyue appeared to be recalling something before she nodded lightly. “It is somewhat familiar... I was almost killed by the people that Chu Xianmin sent to this place back then...”

“Here?” Rong Zhen’s gaze suddenly changed. “But this isn’t the place you indicated on the map!”

Chu Liuyue smiled bitterly. “Yes, that’s the place I escaped to afterward. That time, they knocked me unconscious and brought me here to kill me. Coincidentally, I woke up at that time and escaped the ordeal.”

Rong Zhen looked at Chu Liuyue in a half-suspecting manner. "You better not let me know that you're up to any tricks!"

In the Qing Jiao Competition, Chu Liuyue's performance was very outstanding, and she exceeded everyone else's expectations. This made Rong Zhen become more alert.

Chu Liuyue shrugged. "This place is deserted, and I know that I'm not your match, so I will cooperate with you. As long as you let me go in the end, everything else can be discussed."

Rong Zhen chuckled. "You really know how to go with the flow."

Chu Liuyue didn't say anything and lowered her eyes.

"Bring me there now!" Rong Zhen glanced at Elder Meng, who was standing behind Chu Liuyue. "Elder Meng, you must watch after her!"

"Don't worry, Fourth Princess."

As this hoarse voice sounded beside her ear, Chu Liuyue suddenly felt a gush of cold air attacking her from behind.

Her eyes moved, and she instantly became alert. However, it was just for a moment, and she controlled her urge as she stood there, pretending that she didn't notice anything.

*Shua!*

A rope—as thick as a thumb—quickly encircled her neck. The other end of the rope was held onto by Elder Meng.

A sharp gaze flashed across Chu Liuyue’s eyes. She had never experienced such an insult before.

“Be more honest!” shouted Rong Zhen. “If not, this rope will take your life at any moment!”

Chu Liuyue suppressed her anger and lightly nodded. “I know.”

“Lead the way in front!”

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and took a step forward.

The moment she moved, the rope around her neck moved as well.

Elder Meng and Rong Zhen were following behind her.

Chu Liuyue had a hard time convincing Tuan Zi not to come out as she moved forward step by step.

When Rong Zhen saw this scene, she couldn’t help but laugh. “If the people in the Imperial City saw this scene, their jaws would definitely drop in shock. The famous and renowned Chu Liuyue actually has such humble moments! Haha!”

Rong Zhen was very delighted. *So what if she took first place in the Qing Jiao Competition? So what if she has the Dijing Yuan meridian? In front of me, she's still a dog!*

"I heard that the Crown Prince and Prince Li even fought in front of Father today because of you. Hah, I wonder how much they would regret it if they see your current appearance. Chu Liuyue, you're really capable. You didn't even say or do anything, yet you almost caused Father to remove the Crown Prince from his position..."

Chu Liuyue didn't show any expression. "I have already cut all ties with the Crown Prince, and I didn't expect today's incident to happen either. If you're angry about it, Fourth Princess..."

"Angry? Why would I be angry? Who can the Crown Prince blame for his incompetence?" said Rong Zhen in a mocking manner.

Chu Liuyue paused. *That's weird... Rong Zhen and Rong Jin are both born from the Empress, and they have always been on good terms. Why did they become like this now? Listening to her tone, Rong Zhen seems like she really wants to remove Rong Jin from his Crown Prince position...*

"When I recover my pearl of essence... One day..."

*One day, I will let Mother know that Rong Jin is someone who cannot be helped! I'm much more outstanding than her!*

Listening to her words, Chu Liuyue was almost certain that Rong Zhen and Rong Jin had fallen out. However, she didn't know why.

When she thought of this, she suddenly felt the rope around her neck tighten!

She was suffocated and almost fell backward.

Chu Liuyue hurriedly turned around and saw Rong Zhen laughing out loud.

“Hahaha! Interesting! Elder Meng, why didn’t I think of this kind of trick earlier on? Chu Liuyue, why don’t you learn how to bark like a dog, and I’ll let everything in the past go. What do you think?”

### **Chapter 322: Trap**

Chu Liuyue looked at Rong Zhen quietly. “Fourth Princess, this joke is not funny at all.”

Rong Zhen’s laughter suddenly stopped, and she looked at Chu Liuyue. She saw a pair of clear, black eyes staring at her.

That pair of eyes was calm and composed, but it made one fear for some reason.

Rong Zhen felt coldness from the bottom of her heart, which made her entire person shiver.

Upon realizing that she was actually afraid of Chu Liuyue, Rong Zhen’s blood boiled, and she suddenly pulled on the rope. “What are you looking at? If you continue looking at me, I’ll dig out your eyeballs!”



This time, Chu Liuyue pulled on the rope first, not letting Rong Zhen do as she wished.

Rong Zhen pulled on the rope a few times and realized it didn't budge. She felt even more humiliated, and she flew into a rage. "Elder Meng, teach her a lesson!"

"Fourth Princess." Chu Liuyue suddenly spoke as her lips curved up without smiling intent. "You tried so hard to bring me out just to teach me a lesson?"

Rong Zhen was stunned.

"I know that it's as easy as ABC if you want to kill me here, and you can even do it silently and quietly. Nobody would know that you did it, but are you sure this is what you want? If I'm dead, you will never recover your pearl of essence."

"You dare to threaten me?" Rong Zhen's face contorted. *I have already suffered enough these few days. Now, even Chu Liuyue dares to speak to me in this manner.*

She quickly walked two steps forward, rushed to Chu Liuyue, and slapped her face.

"It doesn't matter if I die," said Chu Liuyue slowly. "But my father and Prince Li won't let this slide."

Rong Zhen seemed to have heard a joke. "Hah! Just with your useless father and that sickly person?"

"Of course, it's not only them." Chu Liuyue stared straight into Rong Zhen's eyes and smiled lightly. "And... Lieutenant Mu."

Rong Zhen froze, and her hand in the air didn't land.

“Lieutenant Mu only chose me to follow him to the Tianling Dynasty. If anything happens to me, what do you think Lieutenant Mu will do?”

Rong Zhen clenched her silver teeth. *I actually forgot about this!*

Elder Meng advised, “Fourth Princess, we can't offend Lieutenant Mu...”

“Of course, I know that!” Rong Zhen was filled with hatred. It didn't matter if Chu Liuyue didn't mention this, but Rong Zhen hated her even more once she did. *Why can Chu Liuyue be chosen while I got humiliated in public for saying a few words?! However, I can't do anything to Chu Liuyue now!*

Even though Rong Zhen was wilful, she was not brainless. Though she was about to be driven crazy, she realized that Chu Liuyue made sense after deeper thought.

*The most important thing now is to restore my pearl of essence. Everything else can wait.* Thinking of this, Rong Zhen suppressed her anger and hollered, “I'll let you off this time! Hurry up and walk!”

Chu Liuyue glanced at her and continued walking forward.

Her words seemed to wake Rong Zhen up as Rong Zhen didn't do anything weird for the majority of the later journey.

The few of them traveled calmly.

...

After more than an hour, Rong Zhen's legs started to ache.

She asked in frustration, "How much longer must we walk? Chu Liuyue, are you messing with me?"

Chu Liuyue finally stopped. "It's right in front."

Rong Zhen immediately looked over. She saw that there was a mostly lake within the lush greenery.

The surroundings were very quiet, and when the light shone down, the mist gathered above the water surface like a sight in paradise.

Rong Zhen couldn't help but walk forward, shockingly discovering that the mist floating above the lake was intense force.

"This is..." Rong Zhen widened her eyes and looked at the scene in front of her in disbelief. "There's actually such a place outside the Imperial City?"

As the Fourth Princess, she had been loved and doted on. Not to mention the Imperial City, she had been to more than half of the good places in the entire Country Yao Chen. However, she had never heard of this place before.

“The force here is very strong and gentle. It’s a good place to cultivate,” praised Elder Meng.

Chu Liuyue coughed. “I ran over here with much difficulty back then and coincidentally met the mysterious man. This should be his territory, but I don’t know if he will appear here today.”

Rong Zhen stared at the lake in shock and took a deep breath in, instantly feeling that her organs were rejuvenated. *This really is a prime place for cultivation!*

“Glad you’re honest!” Rong Zhen threw the other end of the rope to Elder Meng as she excitedly rushed to the side of the lake.

Upon closer inspection, this lake was as clear as ever and was filled with mystic vibes.

Rong Zhen surveyed her surroundings and realized that nobody else was here other than them. *Is the mysterious person not here today?*

“Elder Meng, is there anyone else around?”

Elder Meng shook his head. “Nope.”

He did not detect anyone else’s aura.

“That’s weird... Why wouldn’t anyone watch this place?” Rong Zhen walked around the lake in confusion. *It would be great if this lake was mine! It would be much easier to cultivate here! However, it*

*is a pity that my pearl of essence is broken, so I can't cultivate here. In this case, it would be more disastrous than advantageous.*

Upon thinking of this, Rong Zhen's heart felt itchy. "Chu Liuyue, since that mysterious person was willing to help you, do you have a way of contacting him?"

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "How can I control someone of that status? I don't even know how he looks myself."

Rong Zhen originally didn't expect Chu Liuyue to know, and her face was filled with disappointment when she heard her words.

*Such a powerful existence would not be restricted to one place. But wouldn't it be too embarrassing if all of us came here and went back without achieving anything?* Suddenly, her eyes lit up. "Oh right! Previously, you said that you met that person when you were in danger. If you meet with a similar scenario, would he appear again?"

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. "Fourth Princess, what do you mean?"

"I don't mean anything else!" Rong Zhen slowly walked to Chu Liuyue as she sized her up with evil intentions. "I just wanted to try. Don't worry; I won't really kill you—"

"Fourth Princess, you think too highly of me," said Chu Liuyue lightly.

Rong Zhen mocked, "You're currently different from before. Even Lieutenant Mu praises you, so how can I be thinking highly of you? You just—"

Just as her hands were about to strangle Chu Liuyue's neck, a strange sound came from the lake.

Rong Zhen immediately turned back.

Underneath the mist, one could vaguely see a ripple spreading toward the outside with the lake as its center.

Rong Zhen couldn't hide her agitation and hurriedly went over.

But the moment she neared the lake, a large white figure suddenly dashed out of the lake and rushed toward her.

### **Chapter 323: Kill in Retaliation**

Immediately after she sensed the incoming danger, Rong Zhen shouted, "Ah... Elder Meng, save me!"

The moment Elder Meng saw the white figure jump out of the water, he already noticed that something was amiss and immediately rushed forward.

He was fast, but the other party was quicker!

*Huala!*

The sound of something scratching a surface was heard!

The next moment, Rong Zhen's body flew back, and she fell onto the floor harshly.

The clothes in front of her chest were quickly drenched in fresh red blood.

"Fourth Princess!" Elder Meng gasped and looked up.

He saw a fit white lion in front of his eyes.

It quickly dashed out of the water and flew into the air with a superior aura around it. It was clearly an advanced fiend!

Elder Meng's heart hung in his throat. Even if he was a stage-five warrior, it wasn't easy to defeat such a fiend.

He wanted to go forward and save Rong Zhen, but that terrifying white lion didn't budge a single step.

There was completely no chance if he went against it head-on.

Rong Zhen lay on the floor and kept grumbling in misery. Before she could even see what the other party looked like, she had already collapsed on the floor.

Her organs all felt as though they had squeezed into a hole. A few of her ribs had also been broken as she couldn't move a single bit.

After her pearl of essence broke, Rong Zhen lost all her strength and couldn't even win against an average adult man, and she was no different from a good-for-nothing. How could she withstand such a ferocious attack?

"Elder Meng... Elder Meng..." Rong Zhen's face was as white as a sheet, and she kept vomiting blood as she struggled to get up.

But the moment she moved, the pain could take her life. She couldn't exert strength in many parts of her body.

"Roar!" The white lion roared toward the sky.

Rong Zhen was frightened until she started shivering.

Elder Meng suddenly realized something and turned back to look at Chu Liuyue. "It's you—"

*Choo!*

A very sharp dagger appeared in Chu Liuyue's hands at some point as she forcefully slashed the rope.

Elder Meng laughed in mockery. "This rope is made up of golden thread and white platinum. You're too naive in thinking that a mere dagger can break—"



Before he could finish his sentence, Chu Liuyue's dagger landed, and the rope immediately snapped.

The cut was very neat and tidy, and it looked as easy as ever.

Chu Liuyue curled her lips slightly. "It seems like your item is just so-so."

Elder Meng's blood boiled as he gathered his force in his palms and struck.

*Hong!*

A ball of intricate force headed straight for Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue tip-toed and jumped up like a sparrow. At the same time, she yelled, "Tuan Zi!"

A small red figure suddenly flashed across. Then, it went straight for that ball of force.

*Poof!*

It charged in and was immediately swallowed by the force's light.

Elder Meng sneered, "You don't know your limits!"

He had long heard of Chu Liuyue's strange blood ferret that directly swallowed Heng Jingchuo's force. However, he was different from Heng Jingchuo.

Elder Meng was a stage-five warrior and was much more capable than Heng Jingchuo. Chu Liuyue was dreaming if she wanted to use the method she used against Heng Jingchuo on him.

But at this point, a hole suddenly appeared in the crystal ball of force.

A furry tail stuck out.

Elder Meng froze.

The next moment, he saw the force's light suddenly shrink from the middle.

That blood ferret opened its mouth and sucked strongly. All the force became light that entered its body.

Elder Meng was entirely stunned.

"Elder Meng, save me!" Rong Zhen's miserable cries made Elder Meng recover his senses.

He turned back and saw that the white lion had already raised its claws, slashing down harshly.

*Hong!*

A strong gust of wind was felt.

Rong Zhen's body flew up again, and it landed on the floor in an even more terrible way. This time, there were more bloodstains on her body, making her look even more 'dead.'

"Fourth Princess!" Elder Meng was very anxious and hurriedly rushed over. However, he still couldn't get near her this time.

The white lion was very strong, and it could easily stop him.

Looking at Rong Zhen's tortured appearance, Elder Meng glared at the white lion in anger, but he shockingly discovered that Chu Liuyue was standing beside the white lion.

The key was that the white lion seemed to be very docile in front of her as her hands gently patted the lion's head.

"Xue Xue, good job," praised Chu Liuyue genuinely.

Ever since Rong Zhen secretly found her, she had already been planning her retaliation.

Since Rong Zhen said that she wanted Chu Liuyue to bring her over, it was just a matter of time for the plan to succeed.

She had long gotten Xue Xue to wait here and was planning to come after the Qing Jiao Competition ended. Even if Rong Zhen didn't find her, she would go find Rong Zhen.

Hence, even though the incident today was very sudden, it was all within her control.

The ferociousness in Xue Xue's eyes disappeared, and it became very obedient as it rubbed its face against Chu Liuyue's palm.

"T-this is your fiend? No, impossible!" Elder Meng was shocked by the scene in front, and his entire person was unwell. *Since when did Chu Liuyue have connections to such a formidable existence? Besides, it looks like the fiend really listens to her! Even if it isn't her fiend, there doesn't seem to be a difference!*

Xue Xue looked up at Chu Liuyue and was going to ask for more praise when its gaze suddenly focused on Chu Liuyue's neck.

Chu Liuyue followed its gaze and then touched her neck subconsciously.

The mark caused by the strangle was very obvious.

She curved her eyes. "It's okay; it's just some superficial injury."

However, Xue Xue's eyes burned with fire. *Being strangled around the neck is a very humiliating thing to a fiend. It is even more so for humans! They actually treated her like that!*

*Roar!*

Xue Xue angrily roared.

When Rong Zhen heard this, she was so frightened that her entire body trembled.

She forced her eyes open and looked at Xue Xue. For some reason, she felt that this scene was familiar... *Right! The advanced fiend that I met in the hunting ground previously was also white, and... the aura is clearly the same!*

“Elder Meng, this white lion is the fiend that ruined my pearl of essence!” yelled Rong Zhen with a hoarse throat. “Quick! Tell Father and Mother!”

#### **Chapter 324: Secret**

Elder Meng was shocked!

He didn't follow Rong Zhen when she went to the hunting ground to catch the advanced fiend.

Besides, when Rong Zhen fell down from the cliff, she didn't get a clear look at the other party's face. Thus, nobody knew what exactly the advanced fiend that hurt her looked like.

Rong Zhen originally thought that the incident would just end with no conclusion, but she didn't expect to meet the fiend today. Moreover, this fiend was clearly related to Chu Liuyue!

Elder Meng swiftly took out a thumb-sized silver container from his arms. This was the container specially used by Country Yao Chen's royal family to seek help.

It would immediately explode once one injected their force into it.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes. She had heard of this before, and it was called a Silver Fly.

Everyone in Country Yao Chen's royal family had one of their own, and they wouldn't use it until it was a crucial moment.

This also meant that the person was in grave danger once this thing was activated.

The people in the royal family could rush over according to the signal the item gave out. The more important point was that once the Silver Fly exploded, people within a one-kilometer radius would be stained with a weird scent.

Those people could continue tracking them down according to the smell. In that case, it would unknowingly cause a lot more trouble.

Chu Liuyue lifted her hands and swiftly flung her dagger out.

The dagger was very fast, and it immediately struck Elder Meng's wrist.

The Silver Fly fell onto the ground.

Elder Meng panicked as he immediately went forward to pick up the Silver Fly.

Xue Xue lifted its paws and swung them down harshly.

A few sharp light rays instantly flew out.

Elder Meng was shocked, and he immediately backed away to avoid them.

A red figure flashed past. The next moment, Tuan Zi held onto the Silver Fly and appeared in front of Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue took the Silver Fly and gently patted Tuan Zi's forehead. "Good foresight."

Tuan Zi proudly waved its tail before shaking its butt at Rong Zhen and Elder Meng with a look of contempt.

Elder Meng's heart turned cold. *A formidable advanced fiend, a cunning Chu Liuyue, and a mysterious blood ferret... Rong Zhen and I aren't their match!*

At this point, Rong Zhen finally sensed the danger she was in as her lips turned white, and blood kept coming out of her mouth.

She forced her head up and looked at Chu Liuyue.

The face that was originally filled with arrogance and unruliness was left with deep horror. However, a hint of vengeance was hidden in the depths of her eyes.

“...It’s you... It’s you! Y-you sent this fiend over!” accused Rong Zhen with a shaky voice. “It’s you! You’ve long hated me, so you wanted to kill me, right?”

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. “You’re saying that... Xue Xue was the fiend who ruined your pearl of essence back then?”

“Why are you acting innocent?” At this point, Rong Zhen was on the verge of breaking down. Upon seeing Chu Liuyue’s seemingly ignorant face, she was so angry that she exploded and yelled at the top of her lungs. “Back then, you purposely sold the hunting ground and secretly let out the news that there would advanced fiends there to attract me over!”

“Then, you sent this fiend to sneak an attack on me, causing me to fall down the cliff. This destroyed my pearl of essence and caused me to become a total good-for-nothing. You did all of this because I humiliated you during the palace banquet back then. You’re such a vicious woman! The truth is here. Are you still trying to deny it?”

Chu Liuyue mulled over Rong Zhen’s words, and her eyes looked deep as she turned to glance at Xue Xue thoughtfully.

Xue Xue guiltily lowered its head and stared at its own paws.

Chu Liuyue lightly asked, “Xue Xue, were you really the one who pushed her off the cliff?”



Xue Xue laid motionless.

“Hm?” Chu Liuyue’s voice became louder.

Xue Xue immediately looked at her with puppy eyes. *I was just carrying out my orders!*

Chu Liuyue stared at the lion for a while and raised her brows in satisfaction after confirming that it wasn’t lying anymore. “It’s fine that you admit it. I don’t like little fellows that lie to me.”

Xue Xue hurriedly nodded.

At the side, Tuan Zi suddenly froze and secretly glanced at Chu Liuyue. After confirming that she wasn’t talking about it, Tuan Zi pulled its eyes away and avoided her line of sight.

Chu Liuyue’s lips suddenly curved up. “Good job!”

Xue Xue instantly heaved a sigh of relief as a big smile was plastered on its face, showing off its white teeth.

Rong Zhen almost died from anger. *I really don’t know what Chu Liuyue is doing! She’s clearly the mastermind behind all of this, yet she’s still acting here!*

Chu Liuyue looked at Rong Zhen, encircled her chest, and played with the dagger that had flown out. She then lazily said, “Rong Zhen, no matter if you believe it or not, I didn’t cause the destruction of your

pearl of essence. However, I'm too lazy to explain so much to you now. Anyway, I'm already a 'vicious woman' in your eyes, right? Therefore, whatever I do, even if I kill you, it'll be more than normal, right?"

Rong Zhen was so frightened that she trembled. "Country Yao Chen! I'm Country Yao Chen's princess! You dare to kill me?"

"Why wouldn't I?" interrupted Chu Liuyue as she surveyed her surroundings. "This place is very deserted, and it's the best place to kill someone and destroy the evidence. Besides... you were the ones who brought me out secretly. Hence, nobody knows that the three of us are together except for you. Even if someone investigates this in the future, they won't suspect me."

Rong Zhen's lips vibrated vehemently, but she couldn't say a single word. This was because she knew very clearly that Chu Liuyue's logic was flawless.

She looked at Chu Liuyue.

That woman stood there leisurely, and her smile was bright. However, the sharpness that glowed in her eyes was even colder than the blade of the dagger she was playing with in her hands.

Boundless fear overwhelmed Rong Zhen's heart. At this very moment, she finally realized what it meant to be at someone's mercy. *Chu Liuyue can really kill me right here and now, and... she definitely would do it!*

"C-Chu Liuyue... I beg of you... I beg of you, please don't kill me... I-I was blind, and I offended you. Can you please not hold it against me? I-I can apologize to you! If you want, you can also use a rope to strangle my neck. I'll learn how to bark like a dog for you, okay? I'm begging you!" Rong Zhen was so frightened that she let everything out just to survive.

Chu Liuyue looked at her with much interest. She initially thought that Rong Zhen was a spoiled and arrogant princess, but it now seemed like she was more flexible. However, it was still so-so.

Chu Liuyue smiled. "Rong Zhen, you don't have to waste your breath. Right now, if you were me, would you let me live?"

Rong Zhen's voice suddenly stopped. *Of course, I wouldn't! I have so many grudges with Chu Liuyue. If I had the chance to kill Chu Liuyue, I would definitely do it without any hesitation. It must be the same for Chu Liuyue!*

Thinking of this, hopelessness gradually filled her eyes.

Chu Liuyue lifted her chin. "Don't worry. Today is a decent day for me, so I'll do it quickly."

As she spoke, she aimed the dagger at Rong Zhen's brows.

*Choo!*

"Wait! I can tell you a secret about Rong Jin!"

### **Chapter 325: Negotiation**

*Zing!*

The sharp dagger swung above Rong Zhen's head and landed hard on the ground, missing her by inches!

A lock of her silky hair fell before her eyes.

She could feel her heart thumping in her chest. If she were a second slower, she could've died!

Chu Liuyue watched Rong Zhen's face turn deathly pale. "It's over between Rong Jin and me. His matters are of no concern to me as well. Do you seriously think you can let me in on his secret in exchange for your life?"

"You will! I swear on my life! This particular secret of his will definitely interest you." Worried that Chu Liuyue might change her mind, Rong Zhen rattled away without stopping to take a breath.

The latter's words piqued the former's curiosity. "Oh?"

As flustered as she was, Rong Zhen remained steadfast when she heard Chu Liuyue. "Please, hear me out! My life is in your hands. You can kill me at any time you deem fit, so why not hear what I have to say first? If you don't like it, just kill me."

Chu Liuyue raised her chin. "Start talking."

Rong Zhen took a deep breath and forced the rising lump of bloody mucus back down her throat. The taste disgusted her, but she dared not do anything when facing an extremely serious-looking Chu Liuyue. "Have you heard the news? Father and the Emperor of Country Xing Luo intend to marry Situ Xingchen to Rong Jin."

A dark look flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes when she heard the princess's name. "I've heard no such thing, not even gossip. How do you know about this?"

The marriage alliance between the two kingdoms seemed to pique her interest.

Rong Zhen heaved a sigh of relief inwardly and continued, "I overheard my mother talking about it. Both she and Rong Jin didn't know that I was eavesdropping."

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding. There was a possibility of this happening. Rong Zhen was the Empress's biological daughter, and she used to be close to Rong Jin. Knowing this didn't seem strange at all.

"Every man dreams of marrying the perfect lady. It would be Rong Jin's good fortune to marry Situ Xingchen," Chu Liuyue said.

She meant every word. Although she didn't have a good impression of Situ Xingchen, the latter excelled in all aspects of her life. Not only did she have the looks, but she was also talented. On top of that, she was a more respectable princess than Rong Jin was as a prince.

The Crown Prince was born into his status. However, the recent string of events had jeopardized his status.

His father, Emperor Jiawen, seemed to run out of patience. Moreover, the other princes were outstanding too. Any one of them could replace Rong Jin, especially Rong Jiu.

The Third Prince had always been his nemesis, even if he was reclusive and quiet these days.

Chu Liuyue didn't think the teenager—who was also a decorated war veteran—would admit defeat so easily. He was merely biding his time.

Some time ago, Rong Jin was suddenly placed under house arrest and deprived of many of his rights. That seemed to be related to the Third Prince.

On the other hand, as Country Xing Luo's esteemed eldest princess, Situ Xingchen didn't have to fight for the throne. She still held reputable status, which was something the Crown Prince could only dream of.

Rong Jin would simply benefit from the alliance.

"Country Xing Luo initiated the marriage alliance, not Rong Jin." Rong Zhen enunciated each word seriously.

The revelation stunned Chu Liuyue. "Why?"

"This is the secret that I'm about to tell you." Rong Zhen watched her anxiously. "Do you want to hear it? If you do, then... you must promise not to torture or kill me!"

Chu Liuyue's lips curved into a smile. "Are you in the position to negotiate with me?"

Taken aback, Rong Zhen gritted her teeth. "I know I don't. I will end my own life if you don't agree!"

Chu Liuyue looked at her nonchalantly. "The dagger is right beside you."

There was no hesitation. Chu Liuyue's decisive reply left Rong Zhen dumbfounded. "Something major caused this alliance! D-don't you wish to know?"

Chu Liuyue nodded honestly. "Of course, I want to know. However, I hate it when people try to bargain with me, especially someone like you."

She looked at the sky. "It's almost evening. If you're going to kill yourself, do it fast. My father is waiting for me to have dinner."

Rong Zhen blushed like a tomato as she felt a bloody lump lodged in her throat. "You!"

She furiously picked the dagger up and held it against her neck. "Chu Liuyue, I'm telling you! If you miss this, you'll regret it!"

Unfazed, Chu Liuyue taunted, "Oh, that dagger is sharp, but you're placing it at the wrong place—it's too low. If you slit your throat at this angle, it'll take a long time for you to die from blood loss. Move it higher."

Rong Zhen's expression darkened.

She was already hurt; every inch of her body was screaming in pain. Chu Liuyue's words pushed her to the brink of self-destruction.

Her hands trembled as she ground her teeth. Suddenly, she recalled the confrontation with her mother from a few days ago.

The declaration pierced her heart like a sharp blade, and despair filled her eyes.

In the past, Rong Zhen had been exceptional and loved, but she lost everything when she became a cripple. Because of that, she could no longer help Rong Jin achieve anything. Thus, she became a thorn in her mother's eyes.

Nobody would care even if she died today.

At this thought, Rong Zhen closed her eyes slowly. A tear slid down her cheek, and she moved her hand with determination.

*Poof!*

Chu Liuyue flicked a stone at her hand. It hit Rong Zhen's wrist, and she dropped the dagger before she could slit her artery.

Rong Zhen stared at the fallen dagger on the ground, her hand numb.

*Choo!*

A thin red line appeared at her neck, but the cut wasn't deadly.

She glanced at Chu Liuyue hopelessly. "What exactly do you want?"



Chu Liuyue looked at her with much interest.

Rong Zhen might've been arrogant and domineering and conducted many evil deeds, but she was more courageous than Rong Jin. Faced with the same situation, the Crown Prince would never have the guts to kill himself.

This alone proved that she was a better person than her brother.

“You can tell me that secret now.”

Taken aback, Rong Zhen eyed Chu Liuyue doubtfully. “Really? Y-you’re sure you won’t kill me?”

Chu Liuyue nodded. “Positive.”

### **Chapter 326: Disappearance**

Xue Xue was standing beside Chu Liuyue.

She looked at it.

The beast pounced, immediately understanding what she wanted.

Despite its enormous body, the white lion ran so fast that it vanished in the blink of an eye—it appeared before Elder Meng in an instant.

The moment Xue Xue moved, the elder realized he was in danger. Thus, he started running for his life.

After he took a few steps, he saw a flash of white. The lion stood in front of him, blocking his escape route.

Elder Meng gathered force at the heart of his palm and attacked hurriedly. “Dragon Fist Strike!”

A look of menacing mockery filled Xue Xue’s icy-blue eyes, and it raised its paw.

*Huala!*

The elder’s strike was torn apart, and there were even several lines of red claw marks on his arm!

Elder Meng backed a few steps away from the invisible force, which almost knocked him down. When he finally steadied himself, he saw the lion gradually advancing toward him.

The elder ran.

*Roar!*

Xue Xue's roar resounded in the middle of the forest.

Elder Meng barely took a step when his body froze abruptly. Then, blood flowed out of his ears.

*Bang!*

He fell face down onto the ground, breathless.

Unsurprised, Chu Liuyue walked over.

An extremely powerful fiend could shatter a stage-five warrior's innards without breaking a sweat.

Chu Liuyue used a twig to remove the elder's black scarf, revealing an old and unfamiliar face. She then turned toward Rong Zhen with raised brows.

The latter forced herself to calm down and explained slowly, "This is Si Meng, an elder from the Si family. For many years, he has been protecting me secretly."

"He's from the Si family?"

"Yes."

“I’ve never heard of him.”

“He faked his death 20 years ago. Actually, he has been working for my mother all these years.”

Chu Liuyue instantly remembered that the current Empress—Si Huijing—was the Si family head’s sister. “It seems that the Empress and the entire Si family have their reservations toward His Majesty.”

“No, the rest of the family is unaware of this.” Although Rong Zhen had a grudge against the Empress, she didn’t want to implicate the Si family in this again.

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment. “You have Si Meng by your side. What about Rong Jin and Rong Qi?”

Rong Zhen shook her head. “The palace is heavily guarded. Mother dares not go too far. Si Meng was protecting Rong Jin, but Mother assigned him to me after I was injured.”

The last shred of hope in Rong Zhen’s heart died with Si Meng.

As Chu Liuyue listened, she took out a jade bottle from her Cosmic Bag and poured a bit of its contents on Si Meng’s body.

Rong Zhen knew what she was doing, but she cowered and remained silent.

Sure enough, Si Meng’s corpse disappeared without a trace after a short while!

Rong Zhen could only watch with widened eyes as her heart pounded against her ribs.

After Chu Liuyue took care of the little problem, she turned her attention toward Rong Zhen again.

Rong Zhen was clearly scared beyond her wits because she retreated involuntarily.

Chu Liuyue condescendingly gazed at her with a smile on her lips. “Well, you can start talking now. Tell me about that secret.”

...

The Empress returned to the palace after she gave Rong Jin detailed instructions. Too much had happened today, leaving her feeling exhausted.

Everyone in the palace heard about what happened at Tian Lu Academy. They knew she wouldn't be in a good mood at a time like this, so they were extremely cautious around her.

The Empress sat at the dressing table in her residence. She saw herself in the bronze mirror—it was a face that was both dignified and beautiful but old and tired.

She reached out and caressed the wrinkles at the corners of her eyes. No matter how much effort she put in to maintain her looks, she couldn't escape the fact that she was getting older.

She was no longer young.

Si Huijing detested her own face, let alone the Emperor. Even if she could turn back time to ten years ago, her face wasn't the one that he loved the most.

At this thought, frustration welled up within her. She swept the jewelry boxes away from the dressing table, knocking everything to the ground.

The handmaidens beside her immediately fell to their knees. "Please calm yourself, Your Majesty!"

The Empress wanted to lash out and torture everyone to their deaths. In the end, she curbed the impulse.

*None of this matters. As long as Rong Jin retains his status as the Crown Prince, there is hope! I will be the sole winner.* This thought soothed her. "You can relax. I'm just exhausted; it was an accident. Put everything away."

"Y-yes!" The handmaidens quickly picked up the scattered jewelry piece by piece and put them back into the boxes.

"How is the Fourth Princess today?" the Empress asked.

One of the maidens replied, "Your Majesty, Her Highness refused to step out of her residence today. She stayed in her room the whole day, and her meals were untouched."

The Empress frowned. Since she hit Rong Zhen a few days ago, her daughter had refused to come out.

Even though she regretted her actions, the Empress thought it was time to tame Rong Zhen's wild temper. Given the current situation, it wasn't her place to be arrogant.

Instead of sharing her mother's and Rong Jin's worries, Rong Zhen only cared about herself. Did she really think she was still the well-loved Fourth Princess?

The Empress thought it would be good if her daughter could take a few days to reflect and learn her lesson. Alas, it seemed impossible now.

She stood up and said, "I will go and see her."

...

It was already evening when the Empress arrived at Rong Zhen's bedchamber.

The princess's servants were surprised by her presence. "Good day, Your Majesty!"

The Empress scrutinized the surroundings, but she failed to see Rong Zhen. "Where is the Princess?"

"Your Majesty, the Fourth Princess is in her room."

The Empress was getting upset by her daughter's behavior. She had taken the first step to come here. Rong Zhen definitely heard the announcement of her arrival, but the former continued to shut herself behind closed doors.

*What a spoiled brat!* The Empress collected herself and made a beeline toward the bedchamber.

"Zhen Zhen, I'm here."

Silence greeted her.

"Zhen Zhen?" the Empress called out, louder this time.

Again, there was no response.

She ran out of patience and ordered the servants to open the door forcibly. Then, she stepped into the room.

"Rong Zhen, you have gone too far! You..." The words got stuck in the Empress's throat.

Nobody was in the room! Her daughter was gone.

She looked around. "Zhen Zhen!"



Dead silence.

This time, the Empress panicked. She did a quick search around the room, and Rong Zhen was indeed missing.

The Empress looked at the handmaidens and the servants with a mixture of shock and anger. “Where did the Princess go?”

The crowd fell to their knees fearfully. “You are wise, Your Majesty! The Fourth Princess has been staying in her room for the past few days; she never set foot outside at all!”

“Then, where is she now?”

With so many witnesses testifying that Rong Zhen hadn’t left her room, the latter couldn’t have just gone for a walk.

“W-what a bunch of useless... Argh!” The Empress grabbed a teacup and hurled it at the servants. “Get out there and search for her! Now! If you can’t find the Fourth Princess, I’ll behead you!”

### **Chapter 327: Lecture**

“Yes!” The palace maids hurriedly answered as they were frightened to no end.

Just as they were about to leave, the Empress hollered, “Also, you mustn’t let anyone know about this now! If His Majesty hears about this... be careful of your lives!”

“...Yes!” Many palace maids hurriedly dispersed.

The Empress’s face was dark and scary as she stood rooted to the ground for quite some time. *Where can Rong Zhen go? With her pearl of essence broken, she doesn’t have any cultivation at all. Based on her strengths, she definitely can’t avoid so many people and silently leave. Unless...*

The Empress suddenly thought of something, and her heart sank. *Did Elder Meng bring Rong Zhen out?*

She hurriedly returned to the house and left the palace maids outside.

After confirming that nobody was around, she took out a small thing from her arms. It was a thumb-sized jade seal, which was what she usually used to contact Elder Meng.

She lightly moved the seal.

*Kacha!*

A soft sound was made.

The Empress looked at the bottom of the seal, but what disappointed her was that there was no reaction.

The Empress knitted her brows. *Even if Elder Meng left with Rong Zhen, he should be able to receive this news. He would always quickly reply to me in the past, but now...*

She paused for a while and tried again. However, there was no reaction at all.

The Empress felt even more anxious.

Elder Meng had followed her for years, and this situation had never happened before. This made her feel very uneasy.

She couldn't help but size the room up. Everything was normal except that someone was missing.

The Empress felt her head ache as she rubbed her brows. *Where exactly did Rong Zhen go... So many things happened today, yet Rong Zhen had to pick this time to cause trouble! If His Majesty finds out... he will definitely punish me for not doing my responsibilities as a mother.*

*We're already in a perilous situation now. What exactly is Rong Zhen doing? When she comes back, I must teach her a lesson!*

*Peng!*

Suddenly, the seal in her hands exploded and cracked.

The Empress was taken aback and directly threw the thing onto the floor.

The broken seal rolled around for a while before stopping completely.

When they heard this, the palace maids anxiously asked, “Her Majesty, are you okay?”

The Empress subconsciously shouted, “I’m fine! No one is allowed to enter!”

Then, she hurried over and picked up the few pieces of the broken jade seal.

She widened her eyes and stared at the item in her hands in disbelief, only recovering her senses after a long time.

*T-this... Elder Meng is dead?! The Empress’s body started uncontrollably trembling out of fear and terror. Elder Meng is actually dead... However, he’s a stage-five warrior! All these years, he has done so many things for me perfectly. Why did he suddenly die now?*

The Empress was stunned. *Hang on! If Elder Meng really is the one who brought Zhen Zhen out and he’s dead, then isn’t Zhen Zhen—*

She hurriedly stood up when she thought of this. *If Zhen Zhen is truly in danger, I must hurriedly send someone to save her!*

However, she stopped again after walking for a while.

*Telling His Majesty about this is the quickest and most efficient way. After all, His Majesty can deploy many people, unlike me—who can only blindly send people over. Who knows when I'll hear news of this? But how am I supposed to explain why Rong Zhen left quietly?*

*Once His Majesty investigates the matter, he will definitely find out about Elder Meng, even if he's already dead! By that time, I might not even be able to keep my position as the Empress, let alone Rong Jin.*

The Empress couldn't decide in a short while and was stuck between both sides.

*After being in conflict for a long time, she finally decided to hide the matter first. It would be absolutely great if we can find Rong Zhen and get her back. If we can't... At the point between life and death, Rong Zhen will definitely find a way to survive. After all, she has the Silver Fly. It seems like we can't cause any more trouble...*

...

The Chu family residence.

Chu Ning followed the wooden vines to the Chu residence.

Looking at the familiar door, he was in deep thought, his emotional state complicated.

He was once proud of the Chu family, and he had once done everything for the Chu family. However, the Chu family left him with endless pain and hurt.

If it weren't for the family head, he definitely wouldn't have done this!

When the guards at the entrance saw him from afar, they immediately kneeled on their knees.  
"Congratulations for coming back, Eldest Young Master!"

They were all very hardworking, and kind smiles were plastered on their lips.

When Chu Ning was in the limelight, he had never been treated so enthusiastically before. However, the smiles on their faces were ever so glaring and even disgusting.

Chu Ning clearly remembered what kind of faces these people used to direct at Yue'er and him.

*Things have already developed until this stage after a short while. What a turn of events!* Chu Ning ignored them and directly started the game.

He walked through the yard and headed toward the living room.

Before he could reach the place, he saw the Chu family's people gathered together outside the living room.

Upon seeing his shadow, someone immediately welcomed him. "Big Brother, you're finally back!"

Looking at the passionate man in front of him, Chu Ning knitted his brows. "Chu Ji?"

Chu Ji was born to a sub-branch of the Chu family, and they weren't on good terms with him.

When Chu Ning was in the limelight back then, Chu Ji was very jealous as he felt that Chu Ning had robbed him of his reputation and glory.

In the end, Chu Ji had also made things worse when Chu Ning was abandoned.

Chu Ning's lips curved up into a cold smile. "Chu Ji, I haven't heard this 'Big Brother' in such a long time! It seems... It seems like it's been ten years, right?"

A hint of awkwardness quickly flashed across Chu Ji's eyes, but he quickly squeezed out another enthusiastic smile while pulling Chu Ning's arm. "Hahaha! Big Brother, you still love to joke like before! Hurry up and come in! Everyone has been waiting for you for a long time!"

Chu Ning easily avoided Chu Ji's hands as he looked at the crowd in front of him.

He quickly surveyed the surroundings and sneered. *Hah. Not only Chu Ji, but all the important people in the Chu family are here.*

Who else could it be other than First Elder Chu Xiao sitting in the middle? But at this point, his face looked very defeated when compared to other people's passionate enthusiasm.

"We're all family, so why are you still standing there? Come in and sit," said Chu Xiao in a choked tone.

Chu Ning laughed. *Saying such things related to a pact is probably the biggest compromise Chu Xiao will eat. But... Now that I'm back to the Chu family, do I still need to see Chu Xiao's changing colors?*

"First Elder Chu, you seem to have forgotten something. Yue'er and I have already long planned to cut all ties with the Chu family. It doesn't seem appropriate to use 'familial love.'"

Chu Xiao's expression froze!

Chu Ning stood with a hand behind him and lightly said, "First Elder Chu, you can just say or ask anything you want. However... you should forget about the lecture."

### **Chapter 328: Calculate Clearly**

Chu Xiao was about to flare up when someone beside him softly said, "First Elder, we got Chu Ning back with much difficulty! You can't get into conflict with him again because you fought with him. We have important things to do! Important things!"

Chu Xiao could only suppress the anger in his heart. Since he had already written the invitation, it was nothing major to lower himself a little. Even if it weren't for the Chu family, it was also for himself.

Thinking of this, he pulled a straight face and contained his anger. "Even so, you can't say it now with so many people standing. What does this look like? Come in first!"

Chu Xiao then turned around to return to the living room first.

A small minority of the others followed him in, while the majority of them looked at Chu Ning as if they were waiting for him to move.



Chu Ji didn't agitate him anymore and just enthusiastically said, "Big Brother, go in first! You're the older one, so you have to enter first."

Chu Ning glanced at him.

Chu Ji's face did not look upset at all from being humiliated, and it was filled with excitement and flattery.

Seeing that Chu Ning was sizing him up, he hurriedly said, "Big Brother, you haven't come back in a while, so you might not be very used to everything. But don't worry, you can just tell me if you have any concerns! I will definitely settle them for you!"

Chu Ning could tell that his sentence was genuine. Chu Ji really didn't hold a grudge for whatever happened previously and was genuinely trying his best to suck up to him.

*How stupid.* Chu Ning secretly shook his head and walked to the living room.

The others then followed him in.

...

Chu Ning was arranged to sit at the first seat on the left. This was the most distinguished seat, apart from the one Chu Xiao usually sat on. It was even placed in front of the other elders in the Chu family.

But Chu Ning was too lazy to calculate all of this at this point and directly sat down. "Since everyone is already here, First Elder, you can just directly say whatever you want, right?"

Chu Ning didn't want to waste any time here as he felt that it was very unbearable to spend a long time with these people. Hence, he planned to settle the matter as soon as possible and return.

Chu Xiao was upset with Chu Ning's attitude, but he knew that it wasn't the time to calculate such matters. Thus, he said, "According to what the family head said at first, he should come out of seclusion soon. If he knows about what happened recently, he will definitely be disappointed, so... I got you over today to discuss what we should do."

Chu Ning smiled lightly, but there was no smiling intent in his eyes. "What else can we do? Since it has already happened, are we still going to pretend as if everything is normal? When the family head comes out of seclusion, I'll personally explain to him."

The crowd was stunned as they looked at each other awkwardly; it appeared as if they didn't expect Chu Ning to actually say that.

Chu Ji couldn't help but say, "Big Brother, d-don't you respect Master the most? Breaking ties with the Chu family is akin to breaking ties with Master... If Master knows about this, he'll definitely be very upset..."

Chu Ning said nonchalantly, "I know. I still respect Master now the same as I did before, but nobody can turn the clock back since things have already ended up like this. Hence, I'll accept whatever opinion Master will have of me at that point."

"Are you serious?" Even Chu Xiao could not help but ask this, clearly very shocked by Chu Ning's words.

The entire Chu family knew that Chu Ning was a very sentimental person. They originally thought that mentioning Master would cause him to regret his earlier decision, but things were unexpected.

Chu Ning nodded. "Of course. I think through every single word that I say."

The entire living room fell into an awkward silence. *He has already said so much. What else can others say?*

After a long while, Chu Xiao knitted his brows and said, "Chu Ning, since you've already said that, we don't need to say anything polite anymore. You should know why we called you back today."

Chu Ning looked genuine. "Sorry, I really don't know. Do you want to apologize to Yue'er and me to fix our relationship or beg for us to come back? If you don't say it, how am I supposed to guess?"

The crowd looked awkward once again.

Chu Xiao suppressed his rage. "Chu Ning, don't be too outrageous!"

"I asked because I really don't know. How is this outrageous?" Chu Ning stifled a laugh, and his gaze swept past the crowd. "Did you call me back to reminisce about the past?"

"Enough!" Chu Xiao felt that Chu Ning's words were very jarring, and he finally couldn't take it any longer. He stood up in anger, stared at Chu Ning, and said, "You just want us to admit that we want to ask you to return, right?"

"It's not 'ask,' it's 'beg,'" corrected Chu Ning sincerely.

“...” Chu Xiao’s face turned white and green, and the change was continuous.

“Chu Ning, you’re right. The entire Chu family wishes for you and Liuyue to come back and become part of us again.” Third Elder—who hadn’t said anything from start to finish—suddenly spoke and looked at Chu Ning harmoniously. “It’s the Chu family who let you and your daughter down, so you can choose whatever you want. If you agree to come back, the entire Chu family will be very grateful to you. If you’re reluctant, then you can take as if today’s incident didn’t happen.”

Third Elder’s words made everyone in the Chu family present feel extremely uncomfortable. However, they could only suffer it. After all, someone had to say this. Besides, they were truly the ones doing the begging.

Chu Ning’s expression looked better as he nodded toward Third Elder. “Thank you for enlightening me, Third Elder. My answer is... I disagree.”

The crowd had already expected this answer, and they had long prepared words of persuasion.

“Chu Ning, you should reconsider carefully! The Chu family is still the one who raised you up. Don’t you feel anything for us?”

“Yeah! Big Brother, it’s not worth it if you’re still angry about Chu Yan and his family! You don’t know, right? Lu Yao instigated the Gu family’s Madam Gu to cause a scene at Tian Lu Academy, and she was taught a harsh lesson by the Gu family’s master. Besides, Chu Yan is still lying in bed and can’t get up.”

“The two of them have caused the Chu family to be in big trouble. The Chu family was originally in a perilous situation, and it’s even worse now after the storm they created. Chu Ning, do you really want to

stand around and watch? How are we supposed to explain to Master when he comes out of his seclusion?"

"If you're still upset about what happened before, t-then we'll let you take your revenge, okay? Oh, and Liuyue! We'll lock up everyone who bullied her! As long as you two come back, you can do whatever you want to them."

All sorts of voices mixed together, making Chu Ning more frustrated than ever.

He suddenly sneered. "Oh really? If I remembered correctly, many of you present have done similar things, right? If we really want to calculate this clearly, then... you can't avoid it either, right?"

The entire living room fell silent.

Chu Ning looked at Chu Xiao and coldly said, "Why don't we start from First Elder?"

### **Chapter 329: I Can't Do It**

Chu Xiao knitted his brows. "Chu Ning, do you know what you're saying?"

Chu Ning leaned against the chair leisurely, and his gaze was icy cold. "Of course. If you don't accept it, then we'll end our conversation here today."

Then, he wanted to stand up and leave.

Chu Xiao was about to holler, but the person beside him spoke first. "Um... Chu Ning, we know that it was the Chu family who let you and your daughter down, and it's right for you to make such a request. However, so much time has passed. Do you really want to investigate every matter one by one...?"

"I remember every single incident very clearly, and I won't wrongly accuse anyone." Chu Ning glanced at the person talking. "Why don't we start from you instead?"

The person was stumped.

The entire living room fell into dead silence again.

Who would've thought that Chu Ning would use such a method to punish them and take revenge?

Only a fool would stand up at this point! However, it was also difficult for them to give up at this point.

Chu Ning had already been promoted to the imperial guards' Commander-in-Chief and held actual power now. However, this wasn't the most important thing.

The main point was Chu Liuyue! If she were just an average cultivator, it would be fine. However, she was clearly much more outstanding than the majority!

If not, it would be impossible for her to take first place in two competitions in the Qing Jiao Competition. Besides, she was also very talented as a heavenly doctor. From the moment she produced that pill, she was already an actual heavenly doctor!

One must know that nobody in the Chu family could have such achievements in so many years!

The point which made them falter was that Chu Liuyue had the Dijing Yuan meridian and was chosen by Mu Qinghe to go to the Tianling Dynasty to cultivate!

This was such a great honor! If Chu Liuyue was still part of the Chu family, then the Chu family's status would instantly be upgraded!

By that time, they might even replace the Si family and become the top aristocratic family, let alone save their position as one of the top four families.

How could they give up with such a huge temptation in front of them?

"...Big Brother, giving Master face, why don't we choose one of the solutions?" said Chu Ji carefully.

Chu Ning asked, "What does that mean?"

Chu Ji glanced at Chu Xiao and awkwardly smiled. "That... it'll be quite troublesome if we calculate everything that happened in the past one by one. Why don't we formally apologize to you and Liuyue and give out compensation according to your wishes? To show our sincerity, why don't we start with First Elder?"

Chu Xiao raised his brows. "Chu Ji, you want me to lower my head and apologize?!"

"Ahem, First Elder, you don't have to be so direct with your words. Other than Master, you have the most distinguished status in the Chu family. It'll be most convincing if we start with you, right? Just do it

for the Chu family...” Chu Ji lowered his voice for the last sentence, but everyone in the crowd heard it clearly.

The crowd’s initial hesitant and worried expressions immediately disappeared.

“First Elder, Chu Ji is right. You did cause Chu Ning and his daughter to suffer quite a bit in the past. Your apology is actually necessary...”

“Yeah! You’ve already written the invitation! Didn’t we call Chu Ning back today to find a solution? It’s best if we can reduce the matter and make it disappear.”

“First Elder, didn’t you previously say that we’re all a family? Since we’re family, why can’t you just lower your head...?”

Chu Xiao was so angry that his face turned green. *All these people—who are usually respectful toward me—actually turned around and betrayed me because they want to suck up to Chu Liuyue.*

After a temporary pause, Chu Xiao finally sneered. “Okay! Since this is so, I’ll apologize to you!”

Chu Ning had a half-smile. “First Elder, are you apologizing or lecturing someone?”

Chu Xiao was stumped.

Someone at the side hurriedly leaned in and said, “First Elder, think of Lieutenant Mu!”



The other families didn't even have the opportunity to suck up to Chu Liuyue! It was also an undeniable fact that Chu Liuyue had the Chu family's blood. As long as the father-daughter duo agreed to come back, these small matters didn't mean much!

Chu Xiao took a deep breath in. "...In the past, I did do some outrageous things and hurt you and your daughter. Now, I'll apologize to you... Sorry!"

Chu Xiao's body shook, and he clenched his teeth as he spurted this sentence out. He was used to throwing his weight around in the Chu family and being high and mighty, so he felt extremely disgusted and defeated to lower his head and apologize to Chu Ning, whom he had never liked.

*I'll take revenge for this later!*

However, the others didn't even care about Chu Xiao's emotions as they looked at Chu Ning expectantly.

*First Elder has already apologized and admitted his mistakes. Chu Ning should agree to come back to the Chu family, right?*

But Chu Ning didn't move under their enthusiastic gazes. He just watched Chu Xiao quietly as if he was waiting for something.

"There's still Yue'er," said Chu Ning coldly.

The crowd exchanged looks among themselves.

Chu Xiao suddenly recovered his senses. "You still want me to apologize to Chu Liuyue?"

Chu Ning righteously nodded. "Of course. I'm me, and Yue'er is herself. Besides, she seemed to have suffered more grievances than me in the past few years. Is it that hard for you to apologize?"

*Since when was Chu Ning so hard to handle?* Chu Xiao was about to go crazy. "Why didn't you say so just now?"

Chu Ning grunted lightly, and his gaze was filled with mockery as he suddenly stood up. "It's already so hard for you to apologize. I believe the so-called compensation is even more so. Since you don't have much sincerity, there's no need to continue this conversation anymore."

He walked toward the living room. "When Master comes out of seclusion, I'll personally explain what Yue'er and I have done to him. I believe he will understand. As for you guys... take care."

"Hold up!" Chu Xiao finally put everything on the line when he saw that Chu Ning was really about to leave. "As long as Chu Liuyue agrees to return to the Chu family, I'll personally apologize to her until she's satisfied, okay?"

Chu Ning stood still, and a mocking smile appeared on his face. He turned around and looked at Chu Xiao. "No need."

Chu Xiao was stunned. "What?"

Chu Ning chuckled, but his voice was as cold as ice, and it chilled one's heart. "The Chu family gave birth to me and raised me up. It will definitely be a lie if I say that I don't feel anything for the Chu family. Hence, counting whatever the Chu family has done for me in the past and Master—who is about to come out of seclusion—I can let go of all the insults and sufferings you've put me through in the past decade. However, Yue'er can't."

"I remember every single thing you did to Yue'er, and I'll never be able to forget it for the rest of my life. Even if all of you kneel on the floor, kowtow, and apologize to Yue'er... Even if Yue'er forgives you, I can't do it."

### **Chapter 330: Find You**

With Xue Xue's help, Chu Liuyue returned home at the fastest speed. The lucky thing was that she reached before Chu Ning did.

About 15 minutes later, Chu Ning returned home.

"Father, how was the talk?" asked Chu Liuyue.

Chu Ning smiled. "Everything is settled."

Chu Liuyue was a little surprised. "They called you back to discuss the matter of us returning, right? You..."

"I rejected them." Chu Ning's answer came very swiftly. "I also told them that we'd never return in the future."

Chu Liuyue was stunned. “Then Master...”

“I went back today to make our stance clear so that I can give Master a proper explanation when he asks in the future.” Chu Ning looked at Chu Liuyue and sighed. “Because you’re the one that I want to protect the most in this world.”

Chu Liuyue’s heart felt warm. She knew that Chu Ning had made a big concession for her, so she felt extra grateful and warm in her heart. “Thank you, Father.”

...

The next day, Chu Liuyue returned to the academy.

The huge fire had caused Jiuyou Tower to disappear completely, and the academy’s elders and teachers were busy handling the remaining items. Hence, many students were relatively freer now.

When Chu Liuyue went to look for Mu Hongyu, she coincidentally saw Liao Zhongshu.

“Liuyue!” Mu Hongyu was very excited when she saw Chu Liuyue come over. “Thank you so much! I’ve already written a letter to Father, and he’ll bring Mother over not long later.”

Chu Liuyue was also very happy. “That’s great. However, the journey is quite long, so Auntie has to suffer a little.”

“No need to worry! Even though Mother isn’t suited for moving much, Father immediately found a few strong and capable elders to bring Mother over safely once he heard that you asked Lieutenant Mu for help. They should be here real soon. I really don’t know how to thank you.”

Originally, Mu Hongyu didn’t harbor much hope when she first asked Chu Liuyue for help.

After all, Mu Qinghe was the envoy from the Tianling Dynasty, and he had a distinguished status. Even Emperor Jiawen might not be able to ask him for help, let alone Chu Liuyue.

Mu Hongyu didn’t expect Chu Liuyue to be the only one chosen and that she had really convinced Lieutenant Mu to help her.

“I didn’t expect to trouble Lieutenant Mu to get someone over from the Tianling Dynasty... I really owe you a huge favor for this matter.”

“It’s okay. I also want to see what Tianling Dynasty’s heavenly doctors are like.” Chu Liuyue’s lips curved up slightly. *After ‘she’ died, I wonder what happened to the others except for Mu Qinghe.*

Mu Hongyu’s eyes lit up. “Oh yes! Speaking of heavenly doctors, Liuyue, you can actually make pills! We didn’t even know about this before! You were too secretive about it!”

Chu Liuyue could be considered as a true heavenly doctor now that she could make pills.

In the entire Country Yao Chen, there were very few people with such abilities, let alone Chu Liuyue, who was still so young!

“I long said that you were definitely much more capable than we had imagined, but I didn’t expect— Pfft!” grunted Mu Hongyu as she glanced at Liao Zhongshu. “The Red Blood Gu in your body was treated by Liuyue! You definitely knew about this long ago!”

Liao Zhongshu smiled helplessly and shook his head. “I really didn’t know.”

It was a pity that the others didn’t believe it.

Previously, he was still pretending to be poisoned and lay in bed, so he didn’t participate in the Qing Jiao Competition.

When he heard that Chu Liuyue actually produced a pill and snatched away first place in the heavenly doctor competition, he was stunned for a very long time.

Later on, he slowly realized that Chu Liuyue was the actual person who saved his life.

Mu Hongyu wrinkled her nose and was too lazy to argue with him; she was more interested in other things. “Liuyue, when will you head to the Tianling Dynasty with Lieutenant Mu?”

Chu Liuyue shook her head. “We haven’t confirmed it yet. He seems to want to stay around here for a while. Besides... he wants to observe me. If I can’t reach his requirements, I still can’t go.”

“Huh? So troublesome?” Mu Hongyu looked disappointed. “I thought you would go there directly!”

Chu Liuyue smiled. “I’m not even anxious myself; why are you so worried?”

“I’m not worried, but that’s the Tianling Dynasty!” Mu Hongyu held her cheeks, and her eyes were filled with expectations. “Who doesn’t want to go to such a place? Liuyue, do you think every single one of the people there are talents? Everything there must be much better than what we have!”

“Might not be,” said Chu Liuyue lightly.

Mu Hongyu paused. “How did you know that?”

Chu Liuyue paused and realized that she had made a mistake. Something flashed across her eyes, and she smiled. “...I guessed it. If everything was great, why did Lieutenant Mu spend so much effort to come here?”

“Your words do make sense!” Mu Hongyu’s eyeballs turned, and she suddenly thought of something. “Oh yes! Since you took first place in the Qing Jiao Competition, you chose to go to Tai Yan Academy’s library to read a month’s worth of books. However, Lieutenant Mu has already chosen you. Are you still going?”

Even though this was also a very rare opportunity, it wasn’t worth mentioning when compared to the Tianling Dynasty.

Unexpectedly, Chu Liuyue answered without hesitation. “I’m going. I plan to talk to Lieutenant Mu about this today.”

“What?!” Mu Hongyu and Liao Zhongshu were shocked.

“Are you serious? You really want to go?! Liuyue, do you know how many people want a chance to go to the Tianling Dynasty like you but can’t have it? You actually chose to go to Tai Yan Academy?” Mu Hongyu widened her eyes and felt that Chu Liuyue’s decision was unbelievable.

Liao Zhongshu was about to speak when he suddenly remembered the Red Blood Gu and swallowed his remaining words.

Chu Liuyue smiled. “I have my own plans.”

In actual fact, she did not really plan to stay there for a month. As long as there was anything happening on Mu Qinghe’s side, she would come back immediately.

Moreover... Even though Mu Qinghe didn’t say anything, according to Chu Liuyue’s understanding of him, he should be planning to stay here for a period of time.

Chu Liuyue didn’t think that he was going to stay for her. Hence, she was also pretty curious about this.

Mu Hongyu still wanted to say something more, but she gave up when she saw Chu Liuyue’s determined expression. “Okay then. When are you going? Tai Yan Academy’s people seemed to have left today. Our academy’s Elder and Nan Feng Academy’s Elder Wei Yun have also gone with them.”

Chu Liuyue instantly understood the situation—it was clearly to investigate Heng Jingchuo.

She thought for a moment. “It’s not too late for me to leave when your mother is back.”



Mu Hongyu was stunned, and tears welled up in her eyes. "Liuyue, thank you."

"It's nothing much." Chu Liuyue curled her lips slightly.

Mu Hongyu suddenly said, "Oh yes, Chu Xianmin was looking for you after you went home yesterday."