

## Nobel Ruler 331

### Chapter 331: Surveillance

This shocked Chu Liuyue. “She was looking for me?”

“Yeah! I don’t know what she wanted to do! When I unintentionally passed by your place yesterday, I coincidentally saw her pacing up and down outside your door. I asked her what was going on, but she refused to speak and left in a hurry.”

Mu Hongyu shrugged her shoulders and pouted. “Perhaps she wanted to do something secretly to harm you when you weren’t around.”

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes, and her fingers lightly knocked on the table. *It is rare for Chu Xianmin to look for me willingly. But perhaps it is because of the mastermind behind the Red Blood Gu incident. After all, I had clearly felt the unknown threat at the Qing Jiao Competition.*

Chu Liuyue had a feeling that the other party was coming for her. *Then, Chu Xianmin’s side...*

“Did Chu Xianmin come to the academy today?” asked Chu Liuyue.

“I’m not sure, but I think she did. Do you want to go look for her?”

“En.”

Mu Hongyu was slightly worried. Chu Xianmin was very scheming, and she liked to take revenge. It definitely wasn't anything good for her to look for Chu Liuyue willingly.

Besides, the Crown Prince even wanted to marry Chu Liuyue as the Crown Princess in front of everyone. This was akin to harshly slapping Chu Xianmin across her face.

Chu Xianmin probably hated Chu Liuyue to death now!

But after much thought, Mu Hongyu felt that her worries were unnecessary. *How can Chu Xianmin possibly be Chu Liuyue's match?*

"Okay, go ahead then! I'll confirm Mother's accommodation after she arrives here!"

Chu Liuyue nodded and stood up, prepared to leave.

Liao Zhongshu also stood up abruptly. "Liuyue, I'm about to leave as well. You don't know where Chu Xianmin stays, right? Why don't I bring you over?"

The two of them looked at each other.

Chu Liuyue nodded. "Sure."

...

The two of them walked toward Chu Xianmin's residence.

Liao Zhongshu sighed lightly. "Liuyue, I owe you my life. If there's anything you need in the future, feel free to let me know."

Chu Liuyue looked at him.

Liao Zhongshu had just recovered, and his face was still very pale. However, the gaze in his eyes was very genuine.

"Perhaps the current me can't help you much, but just a word from you, and I'll go to the ends of the world to complete the task."

Chu Liuyue looked at him for a while and lightly nodded. "That's a deal."

Liao Zhongshu smiled in relief.

The two of them continued to walk for a distance.

Liao Zhongshu stood still and pointed at a place in front. "That's Chu Xianmin's residence."

As Chu Xianmin's grades were outstanding when she entered the academy, she didn't stay with anyone else.

“I’ll wait here for you.”

Chu Liuyue couldn’t help thinking that Liao Zhongshu was a smart person; he knew what to do at the right time.

She smiled even more and walked in that direction.

The moment she reached the door, it was pulled open from the inside.

Chu Xianmin—who was planning to go out—was instantly stunned when she looked up and saw Chu Liuyue. “You... Why are you here?!”

Chu Liuyue sized Chu Xianmin up.

It had just been a night, but Chu Xianmin looked much more haggard. Even though Chu Xianmin had used a face veil to cover her face, one could still vaguely see the dark-green color under her eyes. Her pair of bloodshot and exhausted eyes also showed that she wasn’t in good condition.

“You were looking for me yesterday?”

Chu Liuyue’s question caused a hint of hesitation to flash across Chu Xianmin’s eyes. “N-no...”

Chu Liuyue ignored her, directly walked past her, and entered the house. She then lightly said, “You have 15 minutes.”

Chu Xianmin turned around and felt that the pair of black eyes seemed to have seen through her.

She clenched her teeth, closed the door, turned around, and stood opposite Chu Liuyue. "I... That person came again yesterday."

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. "When?"

Chu Xianmin shook her head. "He had already visited by the time I returned to the academy after sending the Crown Prince back. I didn't see anyone else, but he left something behind."

As she talked, she walked to the table and opened a box.

Chu Liuyue saw it from the corner of her eyes, and she focused on it. *It's actually... a letter?*

Chu Xianmin handed the letter to Chu Liuyue.

It was a letter in a red envelope with a strange pattern printed on it. There was a line of words in the middle. "Dear Chu Liuyue."

The handwriting was strong and smooth. However, Chu Liuyue felt intense murderous intent from it.

She didn't take the letter and looked up at Chu Xianmin instead.

Chu Xianmin immediately said, "I promise I didn't say anything about you! I also don't know why he directly wrote a letter to you... I really don't know!"

She only knew that the other party purposely made her pass Chu Liuyue the letter, which clearly meant that he knew what had happened between them.

This was a warning to her!

Ever since she received the letter the day before, Chu Xianmin had been very uneasy and filled with worry.

She originally thought that the other party would directly kill her, but everything else was normal other than this letter.

This, however, made her even more petrified as she didn't know what punishment awaited her.

After she saw the letter, she hesitated for quite some time before deciding to find Chu Liuyue. However, Chu Liuyue wasn't in.

After returning home, she couldn't sleep for the entire night and thought about this incident the whole time, hesitating about what she should do.

Facing Chu Liuyue's question, Chu Xianmin instinctively denied it because she had already decided to hide the letter.

Who knew if this was a test from the other party?

But now that Chu Liuyue was right in front of her, she felt scared and still decided to pass her the letter.

Chu Liuyue took the letter.

Chu Xianmin heaved a sigh of relief for some reason and saw that Chu Liuyue was about to stand up and leave.

She was shocked. "A-are you not going to open it here? Aren't you afraid that I'm lying to you?"

Chu Liuyue nonchalantly looked at her. She was too lazy to explain that there was half a Xuan formation on top of the letter.

This Xuan formation was of a pretty high level, and even the academy's elders might not be able to form it.

Chu Xianmin knew nothing about Xuan formations, so she wouldn't even recognize it.

To open this letter, one must fill the remaining half of the formation.

Chu Xianmin had no chance of doing anything to the letter. Besides, she didn't have such courage at this point.

For some reason, Chu Xianmin felt like she had become much smaller and more laughable even though Chu Liuyue didn't say a single word and just stared at her quietly.

She knowingly shut her mouth.

Chu Liuyue put away the letter and left.

Chu Xianmin suddenly thought of something and hurriedly yelled, "Oh yes! Since I've already been discovered and I've passed the letter to you, can you give me the antidote to the poison in my body?"

Once she thought of the horrifying scene of the poison acting up, her hair would stand on end, and she would be petrified for the entire night.

"I'm no longer of use to you now. P-please, let me off!"

Chu Liuyue glanced at Chu Xianmin from the side, and her gaze lightly swept past her. "You don't have much use for me now, but... I want you to watch someone for me."

Chu Xianmin was dazed. "Who?"

"Crown Prince Rong Jin."

**Chapter 332: Confrontation**

Si family residence, study room.

Si Ye looked at the Empress, Si Huijing—who was seated before him—in shock. “You said that Elder Meng is dead and that Rong Zhen is missing? When did this happen?!”

The Empress frowned deeply. “Yesterday.”

“Then, why are you only telling me this now?!”

“It was already evening when I found out about it. How could I leave the palace then? I had to plead with His Majesty for ages just to come here today.” The Empress rubbed her temples frustratedly.

The whole of last night, she had nightmares and didn’t sleep well. She felt like her head was about to explode. She was respected as the Empress, but she was restricted as people were watching her every move.

She only managed to publicly leave the palace after she told His Majesty that she felt exhausted by everything that had happened recently and wanted to return to the Si family.

“Then... did His Majesty say anything?” Si Ye asked worriedly.

The Empress shut her eyes. “His Majesty is mad at Rong Jin and cannot be bothered with me. He wants to take the chance to give us the cold shoulder; naturally, he didn’t say anything.”

Si Ye sighed, his anger visible on his face. "I heard about that matter. Rong Jin was too rash; he actually managed to do something like this! He's too comfortable in his position as Crown Prince! Doesn't he know that there are plenty of people who are looking for something to hold against him?!"

The Empress couldn't be bothered to talk about Rong Jin anymore, but he was still her prized son. Thus, she spoke up for him. "I've lectured him about it, and he has promised not to do so in the future."

But Si Ye scoffed; he clearly did not buy it. "If his promises were effective, he wouldn't have done something like this!"

Si Ye only felt that Rong Jin was petty in the past, but the problem seemed much worse than he had imagined! *Rong Jin is just brainless!*

The Empress looked at him disgruntledly. "Big Brother, it's fine for others to say this, but how could you? You're his Uncle!"

Si Ye had more to say, but he froze and held his tongue when he saw his sister's haggard look. "Enough about him! Rong Zhen and Elder Meng's matter is more pressing! What's going on? Tell me in detail."

The Empress's expression was solemn as she repeated the events that had happened yesterday.

"...So, what we're sure of is that Elder Meng is dead and that there's no trace of Rong Zhen?" Si Ye asked dazedly.

The Empress nodded helplessly. "We're the only two in the Si family that know of Elder Meng's existence. It would be disastrous if His Majesty found out about it. Therefore, I didn't dare to take much

action; I just sent scouts quietly. We haven't found any traces of Rong Zhen in the palace after the whole night—we don't even have any clues."

Si Ye sank deep into thought. "Since Elder Meng brought her out, they must've left the palace. Have you sent people to check on the places that she likes outside the palace?"

"I did, but they didn't find her." The Empress sighed. "Thus, I'm here today to ask for your help, Big Brother. Worst-case scenario, we might find her if we send people to search the entire Imperial City covertly."

"That's easier said than done." Si Ye stood up and paced around frustratedly with a hand behind his back. "It would be hard to do this, even for the Si family! Besides, people will catch on if we make a big move. His Majesty will know what we're doing within half a day!"

"Then, what can we do?" The Empress was a little anxious. "Elder Meng is dead, Rong Zhen is outside, and we don't even know what the situation is like! And now that her pearl of essence has been destroyed, anyone can kill her easily! If His Majesty finds out... Big Brother, you know that the palace will know every time a prince or princess dies, right?!"

If something happened to Rong Zhen, His Majesty would definitely send people to look into it. If that were the case, they would find out about Elder Meng.

The Si family, her son, and herself would be implicated as well!

"Rong Jin's situation is bad enough. If all of these matters were out in the open, it would be worse! Rong Zhen is too much; the older she grows, the worse her temper gets. She didn't even think about what consequences there would be! She's going to do all of us in!"

Si Ye glanced at the Empress. "Isn't Rong Zhen's temper the way it is because you spoiled her? Besides... I'm guessing you're worried about her whereabouts because she might implicate you and Rong Jin, not because you're actually worried about her safety, right?"

"What else can I do?!" The Empress flew into a rage after her brother saw right through her. "I had to fight tooth and nail for the position of Crown Prince! If Rong Jin falls, what do I rely on?! Rong Qi? He's not made for big things!"

Rong Qi was ordinary in every possible way. He couldn't be relied on! Even though he was titled, he hadn't achieved much!

They were both titled princes, but look at Rong Xiu! He had been away from Imperial City for years and hardly left his mansion after he returned. Yet, he was able to win His Majesty's favor!

It was infuriating!

Si Ye waved his hand annoyedly. "That's enough; it's useless to say all this now! We have to find Rong Zhen as soon as possible. We just need to keep it from His Majesty. Right, do you know why Rong Zhen would want Elder Meng to bring her out at this time?"

"How would I..." The Empress had a thought mid-sentence! *That's not right! Rong Zhen has asked Elder Meng to bring her out before! That time... it was to go see Chu Liuyue! Rong Zhen would repeatedly look at a map after that.*

The Empress had caught a glimpse of it before, and it seemed like a rough map. *Rong Zhen has been mumbling that she wanted to go see Chu Liuyue for the last couple of days.*

"Chu Liuyue?!" she cried out in shock.

Si Ye froze. "What? What does Chu Liuyue have to do with this?"

"No! Big Brother, you don't know! I'm almost certain Chu Liuyue has something to do with Rong Zhen's disappearance!" The Empress put her hands atop one another, upset that she hadn't thought of it earlier! "It has to be her... It has to be her!"

*Who else can kill a stage-five warrior so easily?! Chu Liuyue might not be able to do it alone, but she has many secrets on her and countless tricks up her sleeve!*

"Big Brother, hurry! Get someone to go to Chu Liuyue! Bring her here; Rong Zhen has to be in her hands!"

Si Ye frowned when he saw his sister's reaction. "Calm down! What do you think the Si family is? We're not the imperial guards, so how can we just bring her here? Besides, Chu Liuyue is not just anybody; who dares to touch her now?!"

If anything happened to Chu Liuyue, not just Chu Liuyue, but Tian Lu Academy wouldn't take it lying down either.

There was Prince Li Mansion too.

And most importantly... Mu Qinghe!

The Empress bit her lips. "Then, let's ask her directly!"

## Chapter 333: Flames

“What are you going to do if Chu Liuyue didn’t do it?” Si Ye asked solemnly.

The Empress was stunned, and she didn’t have a reply. All she could do was mutter to herself. “It has to be her—it has to be! There’s no one apart from her!”

Si Ye felt his head throb. “Jing’er, listen to me. I know you’re worried about Rong Zhen—I am too! However, we cannot do this! We have to be careful right now. If not, we could lose everything!”

The Empress eventually calmed down. “Wh-what should we do then? Wait for our doom?”

Si Ye was silent for a moment. “I’ll send someone to check on Chu Liuyue and see if anything seems out of the ordinary.”

The Empress’s eyes lit up. “Sure sure sure! Isn’t Si Ting at Tian Lu Academy too? I heard that they’re classmates and that they’re close. He’s the best candidate for this!”

But Si Ye was rather reluctant. He valued Si Ting and had been training Si Ting to be his successor.

This kind of matter was rather shameful. Given his personality, Si Ting would never agree to it. Besides, he was rather reluctant to make Si Ting do things like this.

“Si Ting gained quite a bit of experience after the Qing Jiao Competition, and he’s been focused on cultivating recently. There’s no need to send him; besides, Si Yang is a better fit for getting information. He’s closer to Chu Liuyue too.”

The Empress did not agree. “Si Yang? Given his jumpy personality, can he be counted on? Big Brother, this might seem like a small matter, but it’s extremely important! Big Brother, you might not understand Chu Liuyue. She’s really shrewd! She’ll probably know that something is amiss if we send Si Yang! Si Ting is more mature and careful; it’s better if we send him!”

Si Ye’s expression was somber as he remained silent.

The Empress carefully glanced at him as she inched closer. She then softened her tone. “Big Brother, I know you dote on Si Ting, and I don’t want to trouble him over something like this. But... aren’t we out options? If you’re really not willing, then... I’ll find someone myself. I’ve given you so much trouble over the years... I just hope that you and the Si family won’t be implicated if anything happens...”

Tears streamed down her face as she spoke.

The Empress was his sister after all, so Si Ye felt bad. It pained him to see his sister in such a vulnerable position.

“Then... Big Brother, I’ll take my leave first,” said the Empress as she wiped her tears and prepared to get up.

Si Ye shook his head helplessly. “I’ll send Si Ting!”

The Empress gratefully looked at him as tears streamed down her face again. “...Thank you, Big Brother!”

Si Ye sighed, then patted her on her shoulders. "Being in the palace for so long has been hard on you, and you've helped the Si family out quite a bit. We're all in the same boat, and this is just a small matter. You've been out for long enough today. Hurry back to the palace; I'll let you know once I have news."

The Empress thanked him again before she left.

...

Prince Li Mansion...

Rong Xiu laid on his bed with his eyes closed. One of his arms was outstretched, and it was rather badly mangled.

Yu Mo knelt by the bed and carefully changed the dressing for him.

Looking at the wounds on his Master, he still felt worried despite having been through killings and battles.

He opened up the dressing, but a large part of it was attached to the skin because of all the blood and pus.

Yu Mo picked up a pair of scissors and carefully cut away the dressing, but some of the wounds unavoidably reopened.

Yu Mo glanced at his master as he sighed to himself. *Given Master's ability, the collapse of Jiuyou Tower wouldn't have been a threat at all. The only reason he would be this badly injured would be that... He did it on purpose, and it goes without saying who it was for.*

"Master, how long do you intend to nurse this wound?" Yu Mo removed the dressing and hesitated as he stared between the few bottles.

"Use the gray one," Rong Xiu said calmly.

Yu Mo paused. "Master, the medication inside doesn't work that well for your wounds. How about we use the white one?"

He dared not ask his master to use the gold one, but even the white one was much better than the gray one!

Rong Xiu paid no heed to Yu Mo's words. Instead, he asked a question: "How's it going on Yan Qing's end?"

Yu Mo replied immediately, "Yan Qing went over to that side since you entered Jiuyou Tower. According to him, he seems to have found something. He's on his way back and should return by today."

"En," Rong Xiu replied, his emotions unclear.

The room sank into silence again.

Yu Mo hesitated before he spoke up. “Master, I know you don’t want to heal too soon and draw suspicion, but... you have to consider Ms. Liuyue, right? She must feel bad because you got hurt for her. Her heart’s going to ache every time she sees you and how your wounds don’t seem to be healing, no?”

Rong Xiu’s eyelashes fluttered a little before he opened his eyes and stared at Yu Mo. His eyes were clear but deep like the most mysterious night sky. It was like they could see through everything.

Suddenly, a burst of flames flashed across his eyes!

Yu Mo’s heart skipped a beat. “Master—”

### **Chapter 334: A Letter**

The streak of gold rapidly disappeared as if it had never appeared. However, Yu Mo was certain that he wasn’t mistaken.

His heart trembled, and he hurriedly looked down. “Master, you—”

Rong Xiu closed his eyes.

A moment later, he opened them again, and they had recovered their previous calm composure.

“Continue.” Rong Xiu’s thin lips lightly spat out that word.

Yu Mo took the gray bottle and evenly poured out the powder contents onto Rong Xiu's wound. The bitter medicinal taste then permeated throughout the air.

While Yu Mo was carefully bandaging Rong Xiu's wound, he was conflicted in his heart.

After he had treated Rong Xiu's wounds and was going to put away all those bottles, he finally couldn't help but say, "Master, y-you haven't gone back in a while... Do you want to take this chance to go back and recuperate?"

Rong Xiu looked calm and didn't say a word.

Yu Mo knew that this was a sign of rejection, so he could only back away respectfully. But when he reached the entrance, he thought of the golden fire that flashed across Rong Xiu's eyes. He couldn't help but turn around and plead, "Master, do you really not want to reconsider? If Ms. Liuyue finds out—"

"What has Mu Qinghe been doing in the past two days?" asked Rong Xiu suddenly.

Yu Mo thought for a while, shook his head, and answered as he furrowed his brows. "Nothing much. Other than the big fire that broke out in Jiuyou Tower at Tian Lu Academy that day, he stayed in his residence at other times and didn't come out. He did not see anyone either."

"Master, do you want to stay here personally and watch over Mu Qinghe?"

*Who knows how long Mu Qinghe is going to stay here? However, Master's condition can't be delayed any longer.*

Rong Xiu thought for a while. "You're dismissed; everything will go as usual."

"Okay," acknowledged Yu Mo, but he was still hesitant. "Then... Do you want to make arrangements for you to return?"

Rong Xiu shook his head. "I have my own plans."

"...Okay."

...

Liao Zhongshu didn't wait for long before he saw Chu Liuyue walking out of the room. He asked in shock, "So fast?"

Chu Liuyue smiled. "Mm, I found a small clue, and I'll go back to think about it. You should go back as well."

Liao Zhongshu was then relieved and bid Chu Liuyue farewell.

Chu Liuyue returned to her lodgings alone. She went up to the second floor, entered her room, and locked her door and windows before taking out that letter.

At first glance, this letter had no differences from an ordinary letter. However, the half-completed Xuan formation on it made Chu Liuyue realize that this was a letter the other party had purposely prepared for her.

She took a deep breath in. *This Xuan formation should be a fifth-grade Xuan formation, but its difficulty is rather high. Even a true fifth-grade Xuan Master might not be able to fill in the remaining half of the Xuan formation smoothly.*

The abilities she had shown to the outside world at this point definitely didn't reach such a standard, but the other party still sent her such a letter.

The only explanation was that the other party deeply believed that she could solve this Xuan formation and open the letter.

Chu Liuyue clutched the letter tightly. *In this world, very few people know my capabilities. Then, who is the one who knows me so deeply yet is targeting me?*

Chu Liuyue had an intuition in her heart—*Perhaps the answer lies within this letter!*

She gathered all her focus and started to investigate the Xuan formation on top.

After a while, she took out a pen from her drawer, dipped it in ink, and gently drew on the envelope as she started to fill in the Xuan formation.

Minutes and seconds passed, and the Xuan formation on the envelope started to become clearer.

As there was no force involved, it was relatively easier for Chu Liuyue to draw out the Xuan formation. But even so, the complicated Xuan formation still wasted quite a bit of her brain energy.

About an hour later, she had finally finished drawing the entire Xuan formation.

When she finished her last stroke, the Xuan formation on the envelope suddenly lit up. It then formed countless light rays, which dispersed in all directions.

Chu Liuyue waited for everything to disperse before she opened the envelope and was going to take the letter out.

When she touched the paper, her heart skipped a beat. Then, she took out the letter anxiously and in disbelief.

This was superior rice paper—it was soft, smooth, and very delicate to the touch.

However, Chu Liuyue widened her eyes in shock. That was because... She was too familiar with this sensation!

Her fingers started to tremble slightly as she held the letter.

The sunlight poured in from the windows, going through the letter and leaving a moonlight shaying view on the ground.

Chu Liuyue's heart seemed to be hit hard. *This is... This is the moon rice paper that Tianling Dynasty's imperial court uses!*

It was very precious. Not to mention the palace maids, but even normal concubines, princes, or princesses that weren't doted on had no right to use them!

The reason why she was so familiar with it was that she was very loved in the past. No matter if it were her books, her drawings, or anything else, she used this moon rice paper the most!

Countless guesses and conjectures started emerging in Chu Liuyue's heart. *This type of moon rice paper is very delicate, and it is specifically supplied by the Tianling Dynasty. Hence, it is impossible for an average person to lay their hands on it. To be able to get this moon rice paper and to specifically send it to me...*

Chu Liuyue harshly shut her eyes as she tried hard to calm herself; then, she slowly opened the letter.

Only a line of words appeared on the soft paper: "Shangguan Yue, long time no see."

### **Chapter 335: Long Time No See**

At this point, the sunlight was just nice as it shone into the room through the wooden windows, casting a harmonious light in the room. However, Chu Liuyue's entire person seemed to be frozen as she couldn't move at all.

The blood in her body seemed to stop circulating at this point, and her cold limbs also became numb. It was as if someone used a gigantic hammer to smash her brain harshly, causing excruciating pain.

Chu Liuyue held that piece of paper that was light and thin, but it felt like it weighed a ton. She felt like her view had turned white, and every single word on the letter formed a sharp knife as they harshly pierced through her heart.

She almost couldn't breathe. *Shangguan Yue...*

Shangguan Yue... This was the name that she had buried at the bottom of her heart, and it was the name that she didn't even dare to mention when she had dreams in the middle of the night. However, it appeared clearly on the moon rice paper in front of her.

All along, Chu Liuyue thought that she had hidden herself very well. She could even lie to Chu Ning, who had spent day and night with the original Chu Liuyue. However, she didn't expect someone to know about her true identity long ago.

The other party clearly knew her biggest secret, but she didn't even know who the other party was.

Chu Liuyue felt like everything was in a whirl.

She harshly bit her tongue, letting the sharp pain jolt her awake. Then, she rapidly scanned her surroundings to confirm that nobody else was around before she heaved a sigh of relief and looked at the letter.

There was only that one line on the letter, nothing else.

Chu Liuyue compared the sentence's handwriting and the handwriting on the envelope and realized that they were written by the same person.

If she had seen such strong and forceful handwriting before, she would definitely remember it. But it was a pity that nobody within her circle—no matter in her previous life or current life—had such handwriting.

However, the other party clearly recognized her. Their status wasn't low, and they were very capable. If not, it would be impossible for them to get their hands on the moon rice paper.

*Chu Liuyue stared at the letter and was immersed in deep thought. Who can it be... I have been staying in Country Yao Chen's Imperial City ever since I was reborn. This place is miles away from Tianling Dynasty, and I have no way of contacting people from my past. Besides, after experiencing the inhumane torture in the royal family's ancestral hall, I have already lost all confidence in everything from the past.*

*Even Mu Qinghe, who I hadn't suspected before, had betrayed me. What about the rest?*

*The biggest secret—my rebirth—is my greatest trump card. Originally, I thought I could become stronger step by step before going back and taking my revenge against all of those people—to get back whatever belongs to me! However, this letter suddenly made me realize that things are developing in an uncontrollable direction.*

"Long time no see... Long time no see..." muttered Chu Liuyue softly as countless faces flashed across her mind. *This tone seems to be rather familiar... But I can't recall who the other party is!*

At this point, she suddenly detected a weird movement in her dantian.

Chu Liuyue gathered her focus and looked inside herself. She saw the water droplet quietly floating in her dantian.

Below it, the legendary three-eyed eagle—which was apportioned by the black fire in the heavenly square cauldron—was harshly staring at...

*Tuan Zi?*

Both fiends were fighting through the transparent heavenly cauldron. Looking at Tuan Zi's patches of burnt fur, it seemed like they had been in a tense situation for quite some time.

Chu Liuyue held her forehead in exasperation. "Why did you guys fight again? It hasn't been two days since we've left Jiuyou Tower, but you've already fought five times. Isn't it enough?"

Tuan Zi still didn't move as it shot a deadly stare at the legendary three-eyed eagle opposite it.

Even though the legendary three-eyed eagle was a legendary fiend, it had no physical body now and was left with only a bit of its soul stored in the karmic fire—which was of similar size to Tuan Zi.

The legendary three-eyed eagle's bloody eyes were cold and nonchalant. If it weren't stuck in this Heavenly Square Cauldron, it would've long rushed out and killed this brazen thing a thousand times.

*Thinking back, I was a famous and respected fiend, yet I've ended up fighting with this mere blood ferret. How humiliating!*

Looking at the two fiends that were still baring their teeth at each other, Chu Liuyue was quiet for a while before she looked at Tuan Zi and said, "Tuan Zi, I won't stand up for you if you fight again."

Tuan Zi shook its tail and angrily picked it up.

Chu Liuyue then realized that a portion of it was burnt. "...You're not angry because of this, right?"

Tuan Zi harshly nodded—*It is because of this! My beautiful fur has been ruined! I have never suffered such indignance before! If I don't take revenge, how can I have the face to continue living?*

Staring at its furious and righteous appearance, Chu Liuyue was a little speechless. "Isn't this because you first infuriated it..."

Even though she didn't constantly observe the happenings in her dantian, it didn't mean that she did not know anything.

Tuan Zi was stumped.

Mockery flashed across the legendary three-eyed eagle's eyes. "A mere third-grade fiend with not much power, but a lot of problems."

Tuan Zi was infuriated!

Chu Liuyue calmly glanced at the legendary three-eyed eagle. "You're a legendary fiend, yet you're still stuck here and fighting it out with a 'mere third-grade fiend.'"

The legendary three-eyed eagle was stunned and instantly felt embarrassed as it harshly flung its wings. *If I weren't stuck in this Heavenly Square Cauldron, I wouldn't have to experience such humiliation!*

Another question suddenly popped up in Chu Liuyue's heart when she saw that the two fiends had temporarily paused their fight: *Tuan Zi is indeed just a third-grade blood ferret, so logically speaking, it should respect and fear the legendary three-eyed eagle.*

*However, the situation is completely not the case. Tuan Zi seems to be... not as fearful and respectful of higher-grade fiends. When it was at Wan Ling Mountain, it faced the black flying python in the same manner, but the key is that the legendary three-eyed eagle is a legendary fiend! What kind of secrets is Tuan Zi hiding?*

Chu Liuyue looked at Tuan Zi in deep thought before suddenly saying, "I remember that a third-grade blood ferret has a chance of breaking through and raising its grade. Tuan Zi, what about you?"

Tuan Zi still held its tail indignantly as if it didn't care about this problem.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while and felt that her question had no meaning. Tuan Zi wanted to follow her, and she could feel Tuan Zi's liking and dependence on her.

*Perhaps this is enough. As for those mysteries... Perhaps they will solve themselves in the future.*

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes and stared at the letter in her hands.

After a while, she placed the letter into the Cosmic Bag.

...

Si family residence, study room.

Si Ting looked at Si Ye, and his cold and handsome face had an obvious look of disapproval. “You’re saying that you want me to find Chu Liuyue and ask her about Rong Zhen’s whereabouts?”

Si Ye coughed. “I know you don’t like doing such things, but... this is a grave matter, and I will only feel assured if you do it.”

Si Ting paused for a while and coldly said, “I won’t go.”

### **Chapter 336: Discussion**

Si Ye had long guessed that Si Ting would reject him, so he wasn’t shocked and patiently advised, “Si Ting, I know you and Si Yang are friends with Chu Liuyue. This thing shouldn’t be difficult for you. You—”

“Master, please forgive me for my inability to follow your orders,” interrupted Si Ting in a rare moment.

Si Ye was dazed for a while before he realized that Si Ting wasn’t resisting this matter at a normal level. “But it doesn’t only involve Rong Zhen this time; it will even implicate the Empress and Rong Jin! After all, the Empress is from our Si family. If something happens to them, it will just spell trouble for our entire family.”

Si Ting glanced at Si Ye and coldly said, "Rong Zhen is the Fourth Princess. If she goes missing, they should inform His Majesty immediately to get the imperial guards to search for her. Why would the Empress secretly instruct the Si family to investigate this matter? Besides, it even involves Chu Liuyue for some reason."

Si Ting remembered that Rong Zhen and Chu Liuyue had never interacted much; the only time they did was at Crown Prince Rong Jin's birthday banquet. *At the time, Rong Zhen publicly shamed Chu Liuyue, but she was taught a lesson by Chu Liuyue in the end. Perhaps Rong Zhen started hating Chu Liuyue from then. According to her personality, it isn't a surprise if she secretly attacked Chu Liuyue after that. However, what has Chu Liuyue got to do with her being missing now?*

Si Ye couldn't express himself properly. He couldn't tell Si Ting about Elder Meng's existence, but Si Ting was stubborn. If Si Ting decided to investigate the matter thoroughly, then...

"This matter is very complicated. Anyway, what would happen to you if you just ask her? Do it for the Si family." Si Ye's head was aching. "As long as Chu Liuyue doesn't know that you're asking about Rong Zhen..."

"She'll definitely know," said Si Ting simply.

Chu Liuyue's intelligence was beyond one's expectations, and there were many times when he couldn't guess what she was thinking.

"Master, I've been studying with Chu Liuyue for a few months, and I understand her quite well. If this thing is really related to her, she will definitely be alerted the moment I open my mouth. On the other hand, if it's not related to her, this sudden question will attract her curiosity and suspicions."

So, no matter what, it didn't help to pry out information from Chu Liuyue.

Si Ye leaned against the chair and was deep in thought. *I know that Si Ting is right, but what else can I do? Get someone else to do it? I'll be worried.*

Si Ting looked at him with deep meaning. "Master, Chu Liuyue has already been chosen by Lieutenant Mu. Do you really want to place the entire Si family in danger just because of the Empress and the Crown Prince?"

Si Ye was stunned.

...

Mu Qinghe was resting in the house.

Hong Yao perched at the window in boredom as it brushed its feathers from time to time.

The wound left behind after the fight had already recovered, but Hong Yao felt that it affected its image. Hence, it had obediently stayed at home obediently and only wanted to go out after it fully recovered.

"A fall in the pit, a gain in your wit. I've taught you this many times, but you never listen. The person who suffers in the end is always you." Mu Qinghe nonchalantly looked at Hong Yao and poured himself a cup of tea.

Upon hearing this, Hong Yao ignored it.

Looking at the rising white vapor, Mu Qinghe didn't have much of an expression. "You're just a seventh-grade fiend. How dare you fight with a legendary fiend?"

Hong Yao froze. *I didn't reveal anything from start to end! How does Mu Qinghe know?*

Upon seeing its reaction, Mu Qinghe squinted his eyes. "It looks like I'm right."

*I was tricked!* Hong Yao instantly understood the situation and felt extremely regretful. *Mu Qinghe was only guessing previously, and he tricked me!*

Hong Yao harshly glared at Mu Qinghe. *This happens every time. Sooner or later, I'll betray my master.*

However, Mu Qinghe picked up the teacup and held it in his hands. "Legendary fiend... This place is indeed..." His voice was very low and barely audible.

Suddenly, Hong Yao felt a familiar aura, and its eyes lit up. It flung its wings and flew toward the outside.

Mu Qinghe looked up and glanced at the door with deep meaning.

...

Chu Liuyue raised her head slightly and looked at the residence in front of her.

This was Mu Qinghe's residence in the Imperial City. There were no guards outside, and even the neighboring streets were quiet and cold.

She didn't see a single person during the journey here.

Ignorant people would probably find it weird when they came here, but everything made sense if the person living inside was Mu Qinghe.

In the Imperial City, countless people wanted to visit Mu Qinghe and get into his good books. However, nobody really dared to do so.

Even Emperor Jiawen didn't dare to disturb him, let alone the rest.

They heard that Emperor Jiawen initially wanted to send a few people to serve Mu Qinghe, but they were all rejected. Hence, there were no subordinates in this entire mansion.

Mu Qinghe stayed here by himself. However, there was an invisible transparent barrier outside the door.

One wouldn't detect anything weird if they looked from afar, but when they were near it, they would immediately feel the formidable suppression coming from it.

Chu Liuyue was just thinking of knocking on the door when a green figure suddenly flew out from the wall and went straight for her.

“Hong Yao?” Chu Liuyue looked shocked on the surface, but she thought to herself: *Hong Yao’s sensitive nose is still as good as in the past! I was so far away, yet it still knew that it was me!*

Hong Yao happily flew in front of Chu Liuyue. *I was going to be bored to death after these two days. I didn’t expect Chu Liuyue to come today.*

“Hong Yao, your Master—”

*Creak!*

Before Chu Liuyue could finish her question, the door suddenly opened from inside.

An entrance appeared in the barrier.

Hong Yao rapidly waved its wings, urging Chu Liuyue to enter.

Chu Liuyue’s lips curved up, and she walked in.

...

Chu Liuyue finally arrived in front of a room after walking through the yard and a corridor.

The room door was open, and Mu Qinghe was sipping on tea inside.

Chu Liuyue was hesitating on whether she should speak up when Mu Qinghe spoke without even looking up. "Just come in."

Chu Liuyue then went in behind Hong Yao. "Greetings, Lieutenant Mu."

After the first time, it was much easier to bow to Mu Qinghe.

Mu Qinghe looked up. "If you think this place is boring, you can go and cultivate."

Chu Liuyue was dazed before she realized that this statement was meant for Hong Yao.

Hong Yao rolled its eyes in indignance. *I've already heard this countless times. If I were in a good mood, perhaps I might heed your advice, but—she's here now! How can I just go away like that?*

Hong Yao landed beside Mu Qinghe's hand and sipped tea from his cup.

Half of its head was almost buried in the cup. After Hong Yao finished drinking, it looked up and suddenly shook its head, causing tea to spurt everywhere.

Mu Qinghe shot it a look of warning.

Chu Liuyue suddenly said, "Lieutenant Mu, I came here today to discuss something with you."

### **Chapter 337: Agreement**

Mu Qinghe then looked at Chu Liuyue and spoke in his usual cold and nonchalant voice. "Speak."

Hong Yao stopped its actions before it got into trouble. It immediately took the chance to escape and hide behind the window.

Chu Liuyue glanced at Hong Yao from the corner of her eyes and sighed in her heart. *This Hong Yao is such a troublemaker. It clearly knows that Mu Qinghe hates people touching his tea, but it still dared to do so. It's hard for it to live until now.*

*Speaking of that, it's quite weird. Mu Qinghe came from a poor family; when he was young, he had to snatch rotten bread from a beggar and didn't lead a good life. When he followed me in the end, his living conditions improved greatly, but he didn't enjoy those luxuries like other people who turned from rags to riches overnight. Instead, he focused all his efforts on cultivation and battles.*

*Except for one thing—tea. Even I don't know when he started liking this thing. He doesn't only like to drink tea; he also likes to make tea.*

Chu Liuyue remembered that Mu Qinghe had good skills in making tea; the other tea masters in the palace might not even be able to compare to him.

She retracted her thoughts, looked at Mu Qinghe, and briefly told him the plan she had. "...So, I came here this time in hopes of getting your approval. You can decide how long I'll stay in Tai Yan Academy."

Mu Qinghe picked up another cup, poured tea, and looked at Chu Liuyue with an investigative gaze. "It seems like you're sure that I won't leave this place anytime soon, so that's why you dared to make such a request."

Chu Liuyue's smile didn't change. "Didn't you previously say that you wanted to stay here for a while? I don't know how long you intend to stay here, so I decided to try my luck and ask you. After all... it's a very rare chance to go to other academies' libraries and borrow their books. I don't want to miss this chance. I seek your understanding, Lieutenant Mu."

Mu Qinghe didn't speak for quite some time. Other than searching for talents who had the Dijing Yuan meridian, he did come here for other important matters.

It would definitely not end in a day or two.

There seemed to be nothing wrong for Chu Liuyue to make such a request. But...

"You can go if you want to, but you must answer a question honestly."

Chu Liuyue nodded. "Lieutenant Mu, go ahead."

Mu Qinghe stared at her. "Did you take something from Jiuyou Tower that day?"

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat. Then, she slightly widened her eyes as if shocked and curious. "What do you mean...?"

Mu Qinghe didn't say anything, but he used his gaze to examine her. It was as if he was trying to sieve out her lies.

He originally had a high cultivation level, so he had a strong suppression and a sharp gaze.

If it were other people, they definitely wouldn't be able to withstand such a gaze. However, Chu Liuyue was different. She met Mu Qinghe when he was at his worst and saw his most pitiful and miserable appearance.

She also gave Mu Qinghe a chance and allowed him to become the youngest lieutenant in the Tianling Dynasty, witnessing his glorious state. Therefore, Mu Qinghe's gaze had no effect on her at all.

Chu Liuyue slightly furrowed her brows as if in deep thought. After a while, she shook her head. "Sorry, Lieutenant Mu. I really don't know what you're saying. The situation that day was very intense, and Prince Li and I only got out of it with much difficulty. Let alone bringing anything out, we almost left our lives inside. What do you want to know?"

Mu Qinghe looked at the girl in front of him.

Intelligent, smart, talented.

Her gaze was extremely genuine, which even made him doubt whether his initial guess was wrong.

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other hesitantly and tried to ask gently, "Lieutenant Mu, are you looking for something?"

Mu Qinghe's gaze suddenly turned sharp, and the aura around him exploded toward Chu Liuyue.

*Screech!*

Hong Yao shrieked.

Green fire immediately flew toward Chu Liuyue, turning into a barrier that blocked Mu Qinghe's aura outside.

The two forces battled crazily.

*Bang!*

The tea utensils beside Mu Qinghe's hand shattered, and many cracks appeared on the tables and chairs.

A frown appeared on Chu Liuyue's forehead. She just tried to ask Mu Qinghe a question, but she didn't expect his reaction to be so huge.

This could only prove that she was right, but... what was Mu Qinghe looking for, which made him come all the way here?

The two party's forces gradually dissipated, but the entire room was left in an ugly state.

Chu Liuyue's gaze lightly landed on the shattered teacup on the floor. Inside seemed to be jin jun mei that was just brewed.

*Mu Qinghe never drank this in the past...* She retracted her gaze. "Lieutenant Mu, are you mistaken? I just wanted to say that very few people have stepped foot on the top few floors of Jiuyou Tower. The only reason why Prince Li and I could safely come out of the sixth floor is because of the item his mother had left there back then. If you're really looking for something, perhaps... Prince Li might have some clues?"

The murderous intent in Mu Qinghe's eyes gradually dissipated. "No need."

With that, the entire room fell into deadly silence.

Chu Liuyue felt that she might not be able to achieve her goal if this continued, so she coughed to break the stalemate. "Lieutenant Mu, your tea spilled. Why don't I compensate you with some tea? I previously managed to lay my hands on a bottle of superior jin jun mei. Even though it's definitely not good enough for you..."

"No need," interrupted Mu Qinghe, and then he paused. "I'll give you ten days."

Chu Liuyue smiled in elation. "Thank you, Lieutenant Mu."

Even though this person's temper was very hard to predict, she was still very happy that he agreed to her request.

Mu Qinghe looked at the smiling girl in front of him and momentarily fell into a trance.

That pair of sparkling, pure, gem-like black eyes were too similar. They were clearly two different faces, but the vibe they gave off when they smiled was exceedingly similar.

But upon closer inspection, he felt that it was different.

Chu Liuyue's eyes hid too many things. It was the type of gaze that one would have after experiencing countless struggles.

She was different; She was forever superior, clean, and pure.

*I've thought of her way too many times during this period. This isn't a good thing.* Mu Qinghe silently shifted his gaze. "You can go back. Remember, you only have ten days."

Chu Liuyue noticed the slight change in Mu Qinghe's emotions, but she knew that there were no benefits for her to continue staying. Thus, she happily bid him farewell.

Hong Yao reluctantly followed her to the door. *She's leaving after such a short while... Besides, judging from their previous conversation, doesn't it mean that I can't see her for the next ten days?*

Chu Liuyue walked to the barrier and turned to look at Hong Yao reluctantly. She then leaned in and whispered, "I'll bring you presents when I come back."

**Chapter 338: Taking Pulse**

Hong Yao then became happy.

Chu Liuyue stepped out of the barrier and left.

Hong Yao watched her as her figure disappeared. Until it confirmed that she had already left, it suddenly let out a cry of happiness. *I finally have presents again!*

Hong Yao elatedly returned to the yard and watched Mu Qinghe tidy up the shattered teacups.

It was currently in a good mood, so it didn't want to continue fighting with Mu Qinghe. However, Hong Yao still couldn't help it and went over to fly around Mu Qinghe.

Mu Qinghe looked up and glanced at it coldly. "It looks like she really knows how to cheer you up."

Hong Yao raised its head in delight.

Mu Qinghe said in a low voice, "Next time, I won't give you face and help her anymore. Take care of yourself. Also... I know you think that she's similar to her, and that's why you're so close to her. However, I'll warn you for the last time: It's hard to guess the hearts of the people in this world. If she knows this, she will definitely think of ways to make use of you. Don't regret it by then."

No matter what, he was Hong Yao's master. How could he not guess what Hong Yao was thinking?

There was only one reason why Hong Yao would be so close to Chu Liuyue from the very first time it met her. He could tolerate it once, but that didn't mean that he would allow the situation to continue.

Hong Yao looked at him quietly. *Hah, stupid humans. I wonder who will be the one that truly regrets it in the end.*

...

Even though ten days wasn't a lot of time, Chu Liuyue was already very surprised.

The happier thing was that Mu Hongyu told Chu Liuyue that her mother had arrived at the Imperial City the next day.

The time spent was much shorter than expected.

The news of Prince Ping Jiang's wife arriving at the Imperial City quickly spread, and Emperor Jiawen specifically sent people to welcome her. But considering the health of Prince Ping Jiang's wife, he didn't hold a welcoming banquet for her.

Mu Hongyu and Chu Liuyue went to Prince Ping Jiang's residence in the Imperial City.

"I didn't even know that your father had a designated place to stay in the Imperial City." Chu Liuyue was shocked when she followed Mu Hongyu into the prince residence that was severely guarded.

Mu Hongyu chuckled. "My father will come back to the Imperial City and stay for two months every three years, so His Majesty arranged a mansion for my father. I came here once when I was young."

“I didn’t hear you mention this before. Why didn’t you stay here instead of the school campus after entering the academy?”

Mu Hongyu pulled a face. “Who wants to stay here? There are so many people and rules here. It’s not convenient at all! It’s best to stay in school.”

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment and agreed. Not only was the school accessible and convenient, but it was also safe.

With Mu Hongyu’s personality, it was a little unimaginable for her to stay here alone.

The two of them walked in. When they arrived at the yard, an elder in white was already standing there waiting for them.

Once Mu Hongyu saw the elder, she immediately rushed up excitedly. “Grandpa Wu Shan, you’re here too?!”

A smile broke out on Wu Shan’s face, and he laughed. “Little Princess, I really missed you so much during the countless months that I haven’t seen you. Quick, tell me, did you bawl in these few months?”

Mu Hongyu couldn’t help but pout. “Grandpa Wu Shan, we haven’t seen each other in so long. Why did you ask this the moment we meet? I’m already 16; I don’t bawl anymore!”

Wu Shan looked shocked. “Hm? Little Princess, you’ve already broken through and became a stage-four warrior?”

Mu Hongyu wrinkled her nose proudly. “That’s right!”

“Little Princess, you’ve really grown up, and you’re becoming increasingly outstanding! If your parents know about this, they will definitely be over the moon,” said Wu Shan emotionally.

Mu Hongyu hurriedly said, “Oh, right. How’s my mother?”

The smile on Wu Shan’s face froze, and worry filled his eyes. “Um... Little Princess, you should see her for yourself.”

Mu Hongyu’s heart sank. *Is Mother’s condition worse than what I thought? That’s true. After all, she has been rushing day and night. Perhaps her condition deteriorated!*

“I’ll go take a look!” said Mu Hongyu as she pulled Chu Liuyue into the house.

Wu Shan suddenly stopped the two of them, and his gaze scanned Chu Liuyue. “This is...”

“Oh, look at me! I forgot to introduce her! Grandpa Wu Shan, this is Chu Liuyue. It’s all because of her that we managed to get Lieutenant Mu’s help.”

Once Wu Shan heard her name, he was shocked as he hurriedly took a step back and bowed. “Oh, so it’s Ms. Chu! Sorry for not recognizing you.”

Even though they had just reached the Imperial City, the name ‘Chu Liuyue’ was well-known to everyone.

“I really don’t know how to repay you for this kind deed,” said Wu Shan in gratitude.

“Senior Wu Shan, you’re too polite. Hongyu and I are friends; this is what I ought to do.” Chu Liuyue glanced at the anxious Mu Hongyu and smiled. “If you don’t mind, may I follow Hongyu and take a look at Princess Consort?”

“Sure! Of course, you can! Quickly, head in!”

Prince Ping Jiang’s wife was very ill, but outsiders didn’t know about this yet.

Wu Shan and the rest were very alert the entire way. They definitely would’ve rejected it if it were someone else, but Chu Liuyue was acceptable.

After all, without her help, how would the Tianling Dynasty’s envoy agree to help get a heavenly doctor to treat the Princess Consort’s illness?

Chu Liuyue and Mu Hongyu walked into the room together.

Wu Shan stood outside and guarded sternly.

...

The moment they walked into the room, Chu Liuyue saw a lady lying on the bed.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled. *This must be Mu Hongyu's mother.*

Her eyes were closed, her face was pale, and her cheeks were sunken as a deadly aura surrounded her eyes, making her look very frail.

Tears immediately welled up in Mu Hongyu's eyes as she pounced on the bed. "Mother!"

When the Princess Consort heard the voice, her eyes seemed to turn before she slowly opened them.

Her eyes were very dark, and she was lethargic as if she had exhausted all her strength.

She looked at Mu Hongyu and reached out with much difficulty to touch Mu Hongyu's face, revealing a weak smile. She said hoarsely, "Yu'er..."

Tears spilled out of Mu Hongyu's eyes. She immediately lowered her head to wipe them away as if she didn't want her mother to see her like this.

But her tears wouldn't stop while holding her mother's bony hands. "Mother... Mother... W-what happened to you?"

It hadn't even been a year since Mu Hongyu left her home to come to Tian Lu Academy to study. In the past, even though her mother was ill, she didn't look like this.

The Princess Consort slowly helped Mu Hongyu wipe her tears, but she quickly lost her strength.

On the other end of the bed, another elder in green clothes stroked his beard. "Little Princess, don't be anxious. When the people from the Tianling Dynasty come, they will have a way."

Mu Hongyu knew that this was her only hope, so she could only nod and swallow back her tears.

A clear female voice sounded. "May I know if I can take the Princess Consort's pulse?"

### **Chapter 339**

**: Jian Fengchi**

The few people in the room looked at Chu Liuyue.

Mu Hongyu naturally didn't have any opinion as she continuously nodded in agreement. She then looked at the Princess Consort and said, "Mother, this is Liuyue, my best friend at Tian Lu Academy. It's because of her help that Lieutenant Mu agreed to help us."

The Princess Consort looked at Chu Liuyue lovingly. "Thank you so..."

"Mother, Liuyue is also a heavenly doctor herself! You might not know, but she produced a pill a few days ago during the Qing Jiao Competition! This also means that she's truly a heavenly doctor! Let her help you take a look; perhaps it might help!"

The Princess Consort smiled and nodded. "I'll listen to you, Yu'er."

Just as Chu Liuyue was about to walk forward, the elder in green suddenly said, "Little Princess, I'm afraid this isn't very appropriate."

Chu Liuyue looked up.

Mu Hongyu was stunned. "Grandpa Ji Chang, what do you mean?"

Ji Chang stroked his beard and said wisely, "Little Princess, I know you're thinking for the Princess Consort, but I'm afraid Ms. Chu can't help with this."

Mu Hongyu thought for a while and asked, "You don't trust Liuyue?"

"Of course not." Ji Chang shook his head. "Ms. Chu is very famous, and we've all heard of her. Being able to produce a pill at such a young age is more than enough to prove her shocking talent. However... the Princess Consort has been ill for so long, and even the top few heavenly doctors in Country Yao Chen can't do anything about it, let alone Ms. Chu. Why don't we just wait until the heavenly doctor from the Tianling Dynasty comes?"

Mu Hongyu knitted her brows in slight displeasure. "Grandpa Ji Chang, I just wanted Liuyue to help take Mother's pulse. It's not anything major. Besides, the heavenly doctor from the Tianling Dynasty hasn't arrived yet, and we can only wait. What's the matter with letting Liuyue take a look? Aren't you being too cautious?"

Ji Chang looked like he was in a difficult position. "Little Princess, it's really not that I'm purposely stopping you, but... Sigh, you don't know about this, but the Prince specifically instructed us to keep the

Princess Consort's illness a secret before we came, and we can't let outsiders know about it. Therefore..."

"So, you still don't trust Liuyue?" Mu Hongyu was really angry this time. She stood up and looked straight at Ji Chang sternly. "Grandpa Ji Chang, Liuyue has done us such a huge favor. How can you be so guarded against her? If we can't even trust her, I can't trust anyone in the Imperial City. You're breaking my heart!"

Ji Chang was helpless as it seemed like he didn't expect Mu Hongyu to think of Chu Liuyue so highly. "But... the Prince..."

"I'll talk to Father myself. Besides, even if Father were really here, he wouldn't be so unreasonable!" Mu Hongyu didn't want to care about him anymore, so she turned to look at Chu Liuyue. "Liuyue, don't take it to heart! Help my mother take a look!"

Ji Chang felt awkward and could only take a step back.

Chu Liuyue was in deep thought. *This Ji Chang seems like he doesn't want me to touch the Princess Consort...*

She walked up and placed her fingers on the Princess Consort's wrist.

Ji Chang looked over.

Chu Liuyue's expression remained unchanged. After a moment, she released her hand.

“Liuyue, how’s my mother’s condition? Can you see if there’s anything wrong?” asked Mu Hongyu hurriedly.

Chu Liuyue shook her head. “The Princess Consort has been ill for many years, and her body is extremely weak. However, I also can’t do anything else other than this.”

Regret flashed across Mu Hongyu’s eyes. “The previous heavenly doctors also said the same thing...” Moreover, she could clearly feel that her mother’s condition was much worse than before.

Chu Liuyue patted her shoulder gently. “Don’t worry, the heavenly doctor from the Tianling Dynasty will definitely have a way.”

Mu Hongyu forced a smile. “Mm, I hope so.”

Just as the atmosphere in the room was becoming serious, Wu Shan’s voice rang from outside. “Oh, so it’s Lieutenant Mu! Sorry for not recognizing you; I’m too ignorant!”

Hearing this, everyone in the room looked outside.

Chu Liuyue walked out and indeed saw that Mu Qinghe had arrived at the yard.

Beside him stood a youngster in blue. This man looked like he was 28 or 29 as he wore a blue robe with a white jade belt, which accentuated his tall figure.

When this man stood beside Mu Qinghe, he was very tall and was a whole head taller than Mu Qinghe—who was a general and considered to be very big and muscular. However, the more eye-catching thing was that he had a pair of blue eyes.

This pair of eyes was like the purest ice as they flickered with cold light. However, his face had a nonchalant smile, which made him look like a freak that coldly smiled through his eyes.

Chu Liuyue's heart seemed to be hit hard. *Why is it him?!*

Standing in front of the Tianling Dynasty duo, Wu Shan was very nervous. "I'm so sorry! We didn't know that you'd be coming here today, Lieutenant Mu, so we didn't prepare anything..."

Wu Shan secretly felt ashamed of himself. He was already very old and experienced, but he still became nervous in front of these two young men.

Actually, he couldn't be blamed for this. This was mainly because Mu Qinghe and the man in blue's auras were very strong, and he couldn't ignore them.

He could already feel an unknown suppression just by standing there, causing his breathing to be interrupted.

Mu Qinghe didn't want to waste any time. He coincidentally looked up and saw Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue walked up in surprise.

“Lieutenant Mu! I didn’t expect you to come here directly! Hongyu and I have just arrived as well. Please forgive us for being unable to serve you properly!” As she spoke, she walked to Wu Shan. “Senior Wu Shan, let me handle it from here. You can continue guarding the yard.”

Wu Shan instantly heaved a sigh of relief and felt grateful toward Chu Liuyue. “Okay, okay! Then... I’ll leave the two VIPs to you.”

Chu Liuyue nodded.

Wu Shan hurriedly backed away. Only when he was ten steps away did he carefully exhale to comfort his rapidly beating heart. *People from the Tianling Dynasty are indeed different! Those two people look very young, but their capabilities are all much better than mine!*

Chu Liuyue then looked at the man in blue beside Mu Qinghe, and she asked curiously, “May I know if this is the heavenly doctor you’ve brought over? How do I address him?”

Before Mu Qinghe could say anything, the man in blue lazily spoke first. “Jian Fengchi.”

A smile was plastered on his face, making him look very friendly and warm, and his pair of blue eyes were especially charming.

However, Chu Liuyue’s internal alarm was ringing crazily! *Nothing good ever happens when this guy shows such a smile! In the past, I had so many conflicts with him. I really didn’t know how Mu Qinghe managed to become so close to him now!*

Chu Liuyue thought for a while and didn’t expect Mu Qinghe to send him over. “Greetings, Young Master Jian.”

Chu Liuyue went on her knees and bowed.

Jian Fengchi suddenly leaned toward Mu Qinghe and softly laughed. "Don't you think she looks like someone?"

### **Chapter 340: Antidote**

Mu Qinghe glanced at him coldly and with warning.

Jian Fengchi ignored him and smiled flippantly. "Even I can tell, can't you? This pair of eyes is really..."

"Jian Fengchi." Mu Qinghe's voice sounded like it was mixed with ice shards.

Jian Fengchi finally restrained himself and shrugged. "Okay, I won't say it anymore." Even though he was talking to Mu Qinghe, his gaze was glued to Chu Liuyue. Accurately speaking, it was her face.

"May I know your name?" Jian Fengchi was tall and handsome. When his pair of cold eyes seriously stared at someone, they looked like the vast ocean, which made people fall in love devotedly.

Chu Liuyue couldn't remember how many women he had won over with his looks. The entire Tianling Dynasty knew what type of person Jian Fengchi was, but there were still countless women who would pounce at him just to get him to look at them. However, he had never walked through the garden and was innocent.

Chu Liuyue had never understood how he had rejected all those women but still got them to be so devoted to him.

Chu Liuyue tried hard to control her urge to punch the man in front of her as her lips curved up into a perfectly polite smile. "Chu Liuyue."

"Oh..." Jian Fengchi's eyes lit up as he looked at Mu Qinghe with deeper meaning and dragged his voice as he said, "...What a good name."

Chu Liuyue was always too lazy to bother with him, but she had no choice now that they had different identities. "Thank you for your praise, Young Master Jian. I'm very grateful that you came all the way here to help out."

Jian Fengchi still smiled radiantly, but he was confused. Usually, women would start blushing, and their hearts would rapidly beat when they saw him. They would also reveal faces of surprise and appreciation. However, the expression of the young woman in front of him didn't seem to change since the moment he met her.

*This isn't natural... No wonder she could convince Mu Qinghe to get me to help. If it weren't for a special reason, I do not think that Mu Qinghe would spend so much effort to get me to come over.*

"It's nothing much. It's my honor to help a beauty."

Chu Liuyue secretly rolled her eyes. Originally, she thought many things would change after a year had passed, but it now seemed like Jian Fengchi maintained his flippant character pretty well.

“Then... Lieutenant Mu, Young Master Jian, please head in.” Chu Liuyue didn’t want to talk to them for too long, so she directly invited them into the room.

“Lead the way,” said Mu Qinghe.

Chu Liuyue didn’t insist and walked ahead.

Looking at her back view, Jian Fengchi nudged Mu Qinghe’s elbow and whispered, “I think I know why you invited me over.”

Mu Qinghe’s expression was as cold and hard as usual, and his gaze was fixed in front. He clearly didn’t intend to bother with Jian Fengchi.

But Jian Fengchi didn’t care about his cold attitude as the smile on his face became even more arrogant. “Why are you angry? I didn’t even say who she looks like.”

Mu Qinghe paused in his tracks. “If you don’t want the five-colored Yuan Stone, you can just continue talking, or you can go back.”

Jian Fengchi’s smile froze. “I was just cracking a joke. Why so serious? Okay, okay. I promise I won’t bring this up again, okay?”

As he talked, he walked forward and thought that this person’s temper was getting worse.

Chu Liuyue acted as if she couldn’t hear what the two people were talking about.

When they reached the door, Mu Hongyu and Ji Chang were already waiting. Both of them were shocked to see that Jian Fengchi was so young.

Ji Chang was doing fine, but Mu Hongyu was straightforward, and the words 'can he do it' was written all over her face.

Jian Fengchi looked at Mu Hongyu with much interest. "This lady here, you don't seem like you trust me very much?"

Mu Hongyu didn't feel awkward at all and honestly said, "I was indeed thinking that."

Jian Fengchi was originally waiting for Mu Hongyu's polite words, so he didn't expect her to admit it so honestly. Thus, the teasing words were immediately stuck in his throat.

"But since Lieutenant Mu invited you over, you must be a capable heavenly doctor!"

Jian Fengchi then felt much better and smiled arrogantly. "Miss, when you want to praise someone next time, you can't pause in the middle for too long."

Seeing that the other party had strong backing, Mu Hongyu obediently nodded, but she thought to herself: *Why is this guy's smile so... weird?*

Chu Liuyue briefly introduced the few of them before she directly directed the conversation to the Princess Consort. "Lieutenant Mu, Young Master Jian, this is the Princess Consort, and she's the person I wish you could help, Young Master Jian."

The Princess Consort smiled weakly. "I'm so sorry. You two came here with much difficulty, but I can't even get out of bed."

Jian Fengchi squinted his eyes slightly. "The Princess Consort seems to be poisoned..."

Prince Ping Jiang's wife slightly widened her eyes. "Young Master Jian, you're indeed capable. You can already guess that I'm poisoned even before you took my pulse."

Jian Fengchi raised his brows. *I'd be too useless if I couldn't even tell this.*

Mu Hongyu was very emotional as she hurriedly made way for Jian Fengchi to take her mother's pulse. "Young Master Jian, please—"

As she spoke, she walked to Chu Liuyue and whispered, "People from the Tianling Dynasty are indeed different! All those heavenly doctors that saw my mother in the past couldn't tell that she was poisoned before they took her pulse!"

Chu Liuyue nodded. Even though Jian Fengchi's personality was so-so, his standard was decent. If not, he couldn't be so arrogant.

Jian Fengchi took out a handkerchief and placed it on the Princess Consort's wrist before placing his long fingers on it.

Mu Hongyu hesitated for a while and couldn't help but add, "I initially thought he was just... meh, but he seems different."

Chu Liuyue met with her gaze. For some reason, she felt that Mu Hongyu was going to say that he wasn't good. However, she still heaved a huge sigh of relief upon seeing that Mu Hongyu wasn't charmed by Jian Fengchi like the other girls had been.

She didn't want Mu Hongyu to mess with this man.

Jian Fengchi raised his brows slightly. *It seems like they don't know that I can still hear them clearly even though they're whispering, right?*

Then, he focused his gaze.

The few people in the room looked at him. They all quietened down upon seeing the change in his facial expression.

Mu Hongyu held Chu Liuyue's hands as she couldn't hide her worry.

Chu Liuyue patted the back of her hand lightly.

The Princess Consort laid in bed weakly. Even though her eyes were dark, one could still vaguely see a tinge of hope.

Chu Liuyue suddenly thought of something as her gaze turned toward Ji Chang at the side.

At this point, both of his hands held each other in front, and his eyes stared straight at Jian Fengchi as if he was very nervous.

Chu Liuyue could even see that he licked his dry lips, and he looked very tense and worried.

Jian Fengchi let go of the Princess Consort's hand.

Ji Chang was the first to ask, "Young Master Jian, do you have a way to remove the poison in the Princess Consort's body?"