

Nobel Ruler 451

Chapter 451: Stage-Four

With the shine from the light, that person's figure was vague. However, Chu Liuyue could still recognize that it was Situ Xingchen!

Situ Xingchen finally stopped when she flew over to the middle of the light pillar. Then, the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force started entering her body crazily and rapidly.

A few energy spirals quickly appeared in her surroundings. They became more distorted along with the pattern on the light pillar.

Chu Liuyue stared closely at Situ Xingchen's figure.

Following the infusion of the strength, her bodily aura kept strengthening.

"Wh-what exactly is going on?!" muttered Jian Fengchi as he used his elbow to poke Chu Liuyue. "Hey, do you know what she's doing? You said you were too late... Were you referring to this?"

Chu Liuyue didn't say anything, but many thoughts surfaced in her head. *That bronze cauldron is definitely with Situ Xingchen. It's also very obvious that she has already activated it and circulated the power within. Previously, she was just a stage-three warrior, but she's going to break through and become a stage-four warrior now. I must find a way to stop her!*

Jian Fengchi stared at it and knitted his brows. "This thing is quite strange... Don't you notice a bloody aura?"

Chu Liuyue sneered. “The bronze cauldron contains countless cultivators’ force, blood, and efforts. It’s not strange to have such an aura.”

Jian Fengchi’s face changed. He was a heavenly doctor and had killed and saved many people, but he still felt disgusted when he heard Chu Liuyue’s words.

One just had to use their brains to think to know what kind of scene that was.

It turns out that the bronze cauldron is such a sinister item!

“So this means that the power in the light pillar is actually stolen from all those people? But it’s messy, badly mangled, and even conflicting to use the strength they stole. Once one absorbs the force, even though they can temporarily upgrade their cultivation level, it would pose a huge impact on their future cultivation. Who is so brainless to do such a thing?!”

He naturally didn’t recognize Situ Xingchen.

Chu Liuyue pursed her lips. *Would Situ Xingchen not know everything that Jian Fengchi said? But she still chose to do it.*

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue felt a strange movement coming from the Cosmic Bag.

She took a close look at it and discovered that this movement actually came from the wooden box.

This wooden box was exactly the one she took from Situ Xingchen.

Chu Liuyue looked up and knitted her brows. *The movements from this wooden box were triggered by the light pillar. A goatskin scroll is placed within the wooden box. There's a seal on it, and I still can't open it even now.*

Previously, she had thought of many ways, but she couldn't successfully open it. Thus, she temporarily put it aside.

I didn't expect... it to be related to that bronze cauldron.

In midair, Situ Xingchen was still rapidly absorbing the surrounding force, and her bodily aura was obviously strengthening.

Following this change, Chu Liuyue could clearly feel that the movement in the wooden box was gradually intensifying.

Jian Fengchi then realized that Chu Liuyue looked amiss. "What's wrong with you?"

Chu Liuyue shook her head.

With what Emperor Jiawen previously said, she guessed that the bronze cauldron was specifically left for Rong Jin and to help increase his cultivation level.

She vaguely guessed that Emperor Jiawen still knew something else, but she didn't say it. *Originally, I wanted to check the item carefully after finding it, but Situ Xingchen was one step ahead of me. Once it's activated, the power within the bronze cauldron will definitely be swallowed and turn into Situ Xingchen's strength. But it now seems like the matter is even more troublesome than I had imagined...*

"What are you looking at?! Hurry up and walk!" A frustrated scolding was heard from the side.

Chu Liuyue quickly turned around and saw a group of people walking toward her.

Her figure moved, and she rapidly hid in the corner at the side.

When Jian Fengchi saw this, he followed her and hid as well.

That line of people walked nearer.

Chu Liuyue then realized that the person being scolded was actually Emperor Jiawen.

Eunuch Min and the rest were following behind him, and all of them looked like they had suffered.

They were surrounded by soldiers wearing red armor. They were... Rong Jiu's people.

Emperor Jiawen had already changed out of his imperial robe, and he looked dispirited.

If one didn't look carefully, they wouldn't be able to recognize his identity.

He looked anxious as he kept turning around to stare at the greenish-red light pillar. It seemed as though he wanted to say something.

It was a pity that his mouth was stuffed, so he could only make some vague whines. Due to this, one could not hear him properly.

The surrounding soldiers kept pushing them, hurrying them to walk forward.

Emperor Jiawen kept struggling.

That continued until someone beside him drew a dagger, placed it beside Emperor Jiawen's waist, and threatened, "We have our ways to make you behave! Why don't you give it a try?!"

Emperor Jiawen finally stopped, and hopelessness flashed across his eyes before he stumbled forward.

Very quickly, these people walked past Chu Liuyue and Jian Fengchi from nearby and walked in a certain direction.

Something flashed in Chu Liuyue's eyes, and she planned to follow them.

Jian Fengchi held her back. "What are you doing?"

Chu Liuyue glanced at him from the corner of her eye. "If you want to follow, then go ahead. If you don't, walk away on your own."

Jian Fengchi was stumped. *Wasn't this girl very polite to me all along? Why did she suddenly change her attitude?*

He wanted to say something in retaliation, but he suddenly felt guilty when he met with her clear eyes. He muttered softly, "I'll go then. What's the point of being so angry..."

Why is Chu Liuyue's temper so bad? My status was much higher than hers, but why do I suddenly feel like I'm inferior to her?

While Jian Fengchi was still reflecting on whether there was something wrong with him, Chu Liuyue already took the first step and followed the rest to leave.

Jian Fengchi could only follow.

...

Those people brought Emperor Jiawen to Qinghe Hall.

Emperor Jiawen was locked in a room on his own, while the rest were locked at the side.

All the doors and windows were locked, and someone was guarding at every position.

Luckily, there weren't too many people here.

Actually, Rong Jiu was still guarding against Emperor Jiawen. But now that the entire Imperial City was already in his hands and he finally succeeded after so many years, he felt great and reduced his alertness.

Besides, the commotion that Situ Xingchen caused had attracted part of his attention.

This coincidentally benefitted Chu Liuyue.

She observed for a while before sending Tuan Zi out.

Tuan Zi was small and fast as it very quickly made some noise and attracted two of the guards' attention.

Taking advantage of the time they left to check, Chu Liuyue quickly entered the hall.

Hong!

Another thunder sound was heard.

Chu Liuyue turned around. *Situ Xingchen actually broke through and became a stage-four warrior!*

Chapter 452: Stormy Situation

But Situ Xingchen just did not stop. Instead, she absorbed the surrounding power at an even higher speed.

Evidently, the greenish-red pillar did most of the work.

Looking at the tumultuous clouds in the sky and the lightning that kept flashing from time to time, Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. *Normally speaking, this kind of weather phenomenon will only appear when a special treasure is appearing in the world. Similarly, for cultivators, one has to be a stage-five warrior at least to trigger such a big commotion.*

One had to know that when Chu Ning recovered and broke through to become a stage-five warrior, it completely wasn't like the current situation...

If this continues, Situ Xingchen might continue to break through.

The wooden box in the Cosmic Bag started moving even more.

Chu Liuyue almost couldn't ignore it. She even felt that something was going to burst out of the wooden box.

At this point, Emperor Jiawen heard the commotion and turned around.

Chu Liuyue immediately hid behind the study table.

At this moment, Emperor Jiawen was already exhausted. He had also placed his last bit of rationality and attention on the light pillar that shot up to the sky outside, so he didn't even notice Chu Liuyue.

He slowly walked to the window, but it was already locked from the outside, so he couldn't open it and see what was going on outside.

He could only see the light shadow reflecting on the windows.

"W-why is this..." Emperor Jiawen was in dire straits as he muttered to himself. "Ru Yue... I still let you down in the end..."

Chu Liuyue was dazed. Ru Yue? Isn't she Consort Wan, Rong Xiu's birth mother? Why did Emperor Jiawen say this now? Besides... It sounds like he is very regretful and blames himself. Rumors say that Emperor Jiawen only doted on Consort Wan and that the thousands of concubines in the harem couldn't be compared to her. But afterward... Not long after Consort Wan gave birth to Rong Xiu, she had a huge fight with Emperor Jiawen and directly moved out of the palace to Tian Lu Academy. After staying in the academy for two years, she passed on.

It's normal for Emperor Jiawen to miss her very much, but why must he bring her up at this point?

Emperor Jiawen then took out something from around his neck.

As only his side was facing Chu Liuyue's position, she could only see an outline of the object. She couldn't see what it was clearly.

“You’re still blaming me... That’s true; I was wrong, so we ended up in this state...” muttered Emperor Jiawen as he looked at the item in his hands. It seemed as though he was laughing and crying.

Then, the item in his hand suddenly glowed. The glow was like a stream of water as it extended into Emperor Jiawen’s arm and his entire body.

Very quickly, Emperor Jiawen was enveloped within the weird light.

Chu Liuyue’s eyes shrunk.

This was because Emperor Jiawen’s aura seemed to be gradually increasing, and that strength clearly seemed to be flowing out of his body.

A strange pattern suddenly appeared above his head.

Chu Liuyue quickly glanced at it and realized that this pattern was exactly the same as the pattern on the greenish-red light pillar. Comparatively, the one above Emperor Jiawen’s head looked much more normal, not like the one outside that was filled with a sinister aura.

Kacha!

A crack suddenly appeared on that pattern.

As the crack expanded, Emperor Jiawen’s aura became even stronger.

Chu Liuyue finally realized something: *There is a seal in Emperor Jiawen's body, and it now seems like he plans to break it open. It's obvious that Emperor Jiawen's capabilities aren't as normal as it seems on the surface.*

Chu Liuyue suddenly thought of something, and her heart beat wildly. *If the pattern above Emperor Jiawen's head is a seal, then... What about the one outside?!*

...

Hong long!

Lightning in the form of a silver snake bore through the thick, black clouds and finally struck the light pillar.

Pilihuala!

Following this ear-piercing sound, a crack appeared on the strange pattern above the light pillar.

But as the light on the pillar kept flashing and because that pattern was very much distorted, almost nobody noticed this change.

Now, most people's attention was on Situ Xingchen, who was in the center of the light pillar.

Rong Jiu stared at her closely. Actually, he had long recognized that person to be Situ Xingchen.

It seems like she has been locked up in the palace all this while, but for some reason, she suddenly started to break through. The aura in the light pillar is similar to the bronze cauldron.

“Your Highness, what should we do?” The people behind exchanged glances. *Should we just let this be? However, it seems like we can’t get close to it and stop it...*

Rong Jiu yelled, “Lock the palace doors and prepare to activate the Deep Xuan formation at any time!”

Everyone was taken aback.

“Your Highness, activating the Deep Xuan formation requires a lot of manpower and effort. It seems too overboard to use it to handle a stage-four warrior...” A family head spoke up tentatively.

Rong Jiu turned around and sneered. “So it seems like Su Family Head is volunteering?”

That person’s expression changed, and he hurriedly shook his head. *What a joke! The aura around the light pillar is very dangerous, and even a stage-five warrior like Wei Lin can’t break through it, let alone others.*

“Since no one wants to go... Immediately prepare the Deep Xuan formation!” Rong Jiu yelled, and that person was taken aback. He didn’t dare to say much and hurriedly moved backward.

Very quickly, the people beside also followed him.

Rong Jiu looked at Situ Xingchen again before he suddenly thought of something. "Where's Elder Ye?"

...

At this point, Elder Zong Ye and Elder Ye were battling again.

After the latter came out, he planned to stop Situ Xingchen, but he was blocked by Elder Zong Ye.

The two people had comparable abilities, and without any burden, Elder Zong Ye's combat skills were much stronger than before.

Hence, after countless moves, they still tied.

Seeing that Situ Xingchen had already broken through to become a stage-four warrior but still planned to continue, Elder Ye became increasingly anxious.

"Zong Ye, do you know what your precious niece is doing?!"

Elder Zong Ye sneered. "Isn't it obvious what she's doing? It's destiny. If you want to stop her, you must make it through me first!"

The light pillar had tremendous strength, and Situ Xingchen had already smoothly broken through to the fourth stage from the third stage.

Without long, she might even break through and become a stage-five warrior.

Situ Xingchen was extremely talented as a heavenly doctor, but her warrior skills were average. If she took this chance, she could definitely become a hundred times stronger than before.

Elder Ye was infuriated. *This fool actually thinks that Situ Xingchen is lucky to have such a destiny, and he even wants her to break through continuously and become a top warrior. Nobody can help him!*

“Since this is so, I won’t stop her. You just wait here and see if she will really become a top warrior in the end.”

Chapter 453: Summon

Elder Zong Ye’s heart faltered. He was a stage-six warrior and could naturally feel the light pillar’s aura. Thus, he felt that something was amiss.

When he saw Elder Ye’s current look, he became even more worried. But since he had already spoken earlier, he couldn’t go back on his words.

Thinking that Situ Xingchen had always done things sensibly, he felt slightly assured and forcefully explained, “We don’t need outsiders like you to worry about this!”

Then, he looked at the light pillar.

At this point, Situ Xingchen's aura had already broken through to a stage-four warrior's, and it kept strengthening.

Elder Zong Ye was half-emotional and half-worried. However, he didn't see that shock flashed across Elder Ye's eyes when he saw a crack appear on the strange pattern above the light pillar.

Situ Xingchen's breakthrough speed is much faster than I had expected. The energy in the bronze cauldron keeps on flowing out. If this continues, the situation will be unsalvageable. Right! There's still Emperor Jiawen! Thinking of this, Elder Ye turned around and walked away.

Elder Zong Ye was very fast and blocked him again as he asked alertly, "Where are you going?"

Elder Ye's eyes darkened. "Zong Ye, I've already said that I won't stop Situ Xingchen! You'd better make way now!"

But Elder Zong Ye completely didn't believe his words. *Who knows what Ye Zhiting will think of to deal with Xingchen and me?*

"No matter what, you must stay here! Before this ends, you are not going anywhere!" Elder Zong Ye sneered. "The both of us are similar in terms of skills. Even if I can't defeat you, it won't be easy if you want to leave."

Elder Ye almost spurted out vulgarities, and he really wanted to smash open Zong Ye's head to see if it stored water. "Zong Ye, don't make things worse!"

Elder Zong Ye shrugged his shoulders, and it was clear that he wanted to go against Elder Ye.

...

Different from the chaotic palace, Prince Li Mansion was currently peaceful.

Standing in the yard, Rong Xiu had his hands behind his back as he glanced toward the palace in the distance.

When he saw that the pattern started to crack, he raised his brows slightly.

Yu Mo—who was standing behind—couldn't help but say, "Master, it seems like Situ Xingchen's aggression is even stronger than expected. She used such a short amount of time to reach this stage..."

"Her hands and legs have been made useless, and her force was sealed. In addition to the different kinds of humiliation she experienced in the past few days... Anybody would do this, let alone her." Rong Xiu had a wry smile.

Yu Mo agreed in his heart.

Situ Xingchen wasn't a kind person, and with the recent happenings, she was obviously someone that would resort to all sorts of methods when she couldn't achieve her goals.

Not to mention that she didn't know the other secret hidden behind the bronze cauldron. Even if she knew, she might harbor some hope to try it.

“What plans does Third Brother have?” asked Rong Xiu lightly.

Yu Mo immediately said, “The Third Prince is preparing to activate the Deep Xuan formation, but... For some reason, there are no movements yet.”

“The Third Prince knows the enemy and himself the best on the battlefield and has won many battles. Now that he doesn’t know what exactly Situ Xingchen is up to, he will simply plan to observe quietly and not make reckless moves.”

Besides, he has just taken down the Imperial City and is a step away from the throne. He naturally has to be meticulous and careful. A smile of understanding surfaced in Rong Xiu’s eyes.

Actually, from all aspects, Rong Jiu was very outstanding.

This thought alone didn’t pose a problem, but... He didn’t know that opportunities waited for no men. It might be way too late if he waited for everything to be prepared before taking action.

“Master, are you... not planning to intervene?” asked Yu Mo curiously.

Rong Xiu squinted his eyes slightly. “Why waste my effort?”

This way, it could save him quite some trouble.

Yu Mo acknowledged his words respectfully.

A ripple suddenly appeared in the empty air.

Yu Mo turned around and saw Yan Qing—who hadn't been seen for some time—walk out. He seemed to be in a rush, and his hair was in a mess.

“Greetings, Master!” Yan Qing knelt down on one leg and presented a letter.

Rong Xiu looked at the letter determinedly.

“Master, the other side can't hold it anymore. 36 Respected Elder Ming personally wrote a letter to urge you to go back.”

When Yu Mo heard '36 Respected Elder Ming,' his eyes twitched. *That person actually made a move? However, the other side really isn't in an optimistic situation. Actually, thinking back, Master hasn't gone back in such a long time...*

Rong Xiu picked up that letter.

The moment it touched his fingertips, the letter turned into a ray of light and flew to Rong Xiu. Then, the light formed a circular screen.

A blurred figure appeared above. “Your Highness, are you really not planning to come back?”

The low and warm voice sounded like the light wind strumming violin strings, rejuvenating one's soul.

Yu Mo suddenly felt a chill run down his spine as he exchanged glances with Yan Qing and saw the horror in his eyes. *This person is actually using such a tone to speak? It's over!*

Rong Xiu focused and still smiled nonchalantly. "Respected Elder, you're mistaken. I'll go back in a few days."

"That's great." That voice was still gentle, and he was still smiling. "That's great. Your Highness, you haven't been back in a while, and everyone thinks that you have died outside."

Rong Xiu's eyelids harshly twitched.

Chapter 454: Agree

Yu Mo and Yan Qing held their breaths, and they didn't dare to make a sound. If they could, they really wished they would disappear at this moment.

There weren't many people who dared to be this disrespectful toward His Highness, and this person was one of them. But he had never said such words before, which showed just how angry he was at this point.

Rong Xiu coughed. "Respected Elder, you're joking."

"It's good that you know, Your Highness."

That voice sounded harsher, but Yan Qing and Yu Mo heaved a sigh of relief in unison. *This way, at least we made it through...*

“I heard that you stayed there for so long for a girl?”

Rong Xiu’s brows moved as he silently glanced at Yan Qing from the corner of his eyes.

Yan Qing opened his mouth.

“Yan Qing didn’t say it.” That elder sneered. “I was just guessing on my own, but it seems like I’m right?”

Rong Xiu paused and lightly nodded. “That’s right.”

His honest confession made 36 Respected Elder Ming helpless. “...Your Highness, you’ve never gotten close to women. Why did you suddenly think it through when you went out?”

His previous anger had disappeared and was replaced by curiosity and teasing. “I wonder what kind of woman can make you behave in such a manner? It seems like... that bunch of elders still don’t know about this?”

Rong Xiu honestly said, “Yes, I haven’t gone back, and I don’t intend to announce this. When I return, I will personally bring this matter up.”

This sentence made the elder in the screen silent.

“...Your Highness, you plan to give her a status?”

Rong Xiu smiled. “My wife naturally has to have a status.”

“What?” That elder was so shocked that he lost his voice, and the originally blurred image also shook. “Your Highness, you’re planning to... But she hasn’t even entered Heaven’s Canopy yet, right? How can that bunch of old dogs agree to a woman with such a background?”

Rong Xiu smiled with deep meaning. “Didn’t you just agree?”

“I—How can you compare that bunch of people with me?” said the elder angrily. “Are you looking down on me, Your Highness?!”

“Since Your Highness picked that woman yourself, I naturally trust you. Besides, the person who can make you spend so much effort must be all over your mind. Why would I object to that? It’s no wonder you were so busy and didn’t come back... But since you’re already prepared, why did you still drag for so long?” Talking about the last point, the elder’s voice was filled with disdain.

Rong Xiu was caught between laughter and tears. “Don’t worry, I know what to do. I will go back soon. If anything happens there, may I trouble you to take care of the situation for me?”

The elder smacked his lips. “I never found it frustrating. Your Highness is doing it for your own lifelong happiness this time, so I must do this for you! But when Your Highness comes back, I must be the first person to see that woman!”

A faint light flashed across Rong Xiu's deep eyes. "I'm afraid you have to wait for a while because she won't be following me back this time."

"What?! She's not coming back with you?!" The elder was shocked. *I was already thinking of what to give her as a welcome gift, but why did he say that she isn't coming?!*

"Wait! Can it be that she doesn't like you, Your Highness?!"

Rong Xiu was speechless.

Yan Qing and Yu Mo shrunk their necks, and they really wanted to find a hole to hide themselves in. They really didn't want to hear this conversation at all.

Rong Jiu took a deep breath in. "I don't need to bother you with this, Respected Elder. She will quickly go to Heaven's Canopy soon, but she has something to do herself first. When she's done, you will naturally have the chance to see her."

The elder instantly became interested. "She's coming to Heaven's Canopy, but not with you? Where is she going then? What is she doing?"

However, Rong Xiu refused to say. "You will know when it's time."

Seeing that Rong Xiu refused to divulge any information, the elder didn't continue asking. "Since this is so, I hope you'll come back soon, Your Highness."

Then, the screen quickly disappeared.

Rong Xiu lightly heaved a sigh of relief. *I have indeed dragged on for too long this time, to the point that 36 Respected Elder Ming wrote to me personally.*

He thought for a while and asked, "What is Mu Qinghe doing today?"

Yu Mo replied immediately, "He went to Ms. Liuyue's residence earlier on and left after that."

Mu Qinghe went to look for her at this time... Rong Xiu gathered his focus. "Where is he now?"

Yu Mo was dazed, and his gaze suddenly changed.

According to the previous arrangement, the people supervising Mu Qinghe must report to me once every few hours. However... there seems to be no news today. I had been following Rong Xiu around and only cared about Rong Jiu's things, so I forgot about this.

Yu Mo immediately knelt down. "Sorry for failing my job, Master. Please punish me."

Rong Xiu long realized something when he saw his gaze, and he furrowed his brows. "It's okay. I think he left today."

Mu Qinghe isn't a simple person, and it's impossible that he doesn't know someone is secretly watching him in the dark. There must be a reason for him to take action today. Besides...

“Where’s Yue’er?” asked Rong Xiu.

Yu Mo’s heart skipped a beat.

Rong Xiu closed his eyes and opened them after a moment to look in a certain direction. *That’s... where the palace is! She actually went to the palace?!*

He looked at the light pillar connecting the skies and the ground.

With the passage of time, the color of the light pillar seemed to be much duller than before, but Situ Xingchen’s aura seemed to be much stronger.

The key point was that many cracks had already appeared on the strange pattern above the light pillar.

Rong Xiu’s eyes sank.

The next moment, lightning struck.

That pattern finally broke.

Chapter 455: Sneak Attack

Rong Xiu’s figure moved, and he quickly disappeared from within the yard.

Yu Mo and Yan Qing glanced at each other and followed him.

...

As the strange pattern broke, Situ Xingchen had also officially broken through and became a stage-five warrior.

Seeing that the light pillar still hadn't vanished and how Situ Xingchen kept absorbing the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force in the middle, Rong Jiu finally realized that something was amiss. *If this continues, who knows if Situ Xingchen will continue to break through?*

He looked at Wei Lin. "Have you found Elder Ye?"

Wei Lin shook his head.

Rong Jiu silently thought for a while. "Send my orders and activate the Deep Xuan formation!"

Upon hearing this, the crowd behind exchanged looks.

Nobody expected that before Emperor Jiawen could even activate the Deep Xuan formation, Rong Jiu would use it to deal with Situ Xingchen.

"Yes!" Wei Lin quickly brought some men and left.

Time seemed to pass especially slow when they were waiting. After approximately 15 minutes, a ripple came from the northwestern corner of the palace.

A star gradually appeared in the sky. Following this, more points lit up beside the star.

In the blink of an eye, it had already become one sheet, like a small sea of stars.

Almost at the same time, the same scene appeared in the other three directions.

All the stars were gathering toward the middle. It was as if an invisible hand was connecting the four incomplete patches of stars.

Hong!

When everything gathered together, a large sound was made.

It was like a gigantic star net had covered the entire palace. It gave off a crushing sense of pressure!

That greenish-red light pillar was also affected by this strength and suppression as it started to shrink toward the middle.

At this point, Situ Xingchen suddenly opened her eyes. The pair of eyes that was always watery was bloodshot now.

Cruel and cold murderous intent crazily swarmed out of her eyes.

She looked at her wrist and ankle.

With that force helping her, all her physical injuries had recovered. She had also directly broken through and become a stage-five warrior from a stage-three warrior.

She gradually clenched her fist and felt rejuvenated when she felt the energy coursing through her body.

Previously, I was still quite hesitant. But now, it seems like my decision was more right than ever. Even in the entire world, how many people can continuously break through to such a stage in such a short span of time, let alone in Country Yao Chen?

The key point is that the energy in the bronze cauldron hasn't been exhausted. This means that my strength will continue to rise.

She looked up and sneered when she realized that the light pillar seemed to be shrinking. Then, she clasped her hands, and her surrounding force crazily moved.

At the same time, the winds howled, and lightning struck.

The light pillar that entered the clouds suddenly landed like a waterfall.

The eye-catching light, together with the tremendous force, crazily entered her body.

Intense pain could be felt all over her body.

Situ Xingchen saw that some small wounds on her hand had exploded, and sticky, sweet blood started oozing out. However, she clenched her teeth and did not stop. *Only this way can I break through even faster. After enduring this momentary pain, I will become the top warrior in the world.*

Very quickly, Rong Jiu and the rest saw that the light pillar—which almost connected heaven and earth—started to shrink from both ends.

Situ Xingchen's body was like a black hole that kept crazily absorbing that light.

Rong Jiu felt increasingly uneasy. He boomed, "Activate the Deep Xuan formation!"

His strong and burly voice reverberated throughout the air.

At the same time, the cultivators spread across the palace started exerting their strength.

Rays of light intersected above the gigantic Deep Xuan formation, and they very quickly drew a large outline.

Roar!

A dragon roar echoed throughout the sky.

It was actually a seventh-grade fiend—red-tailed flood dragon. Its entire body was silver, but only its tail was red, looking like a wildly burning fire.

Its enormous body almost covered the entire sky. When it let out a roar, the ground started to shake.

The Deep Xuan formation was the formation to protect the palace, but very few people knew that the Xuan formation was suppressing a red-tailed flood dragon.

It was the reason why the Deep Xuan formation was formidable.

Even though the red-tailed flood dragon was just a seventh-grade fiend, it had an ancient legendary fiend's blood—the great phoenix dragon's bloodline.

The red-tailed flood dragon could be considered as the most powerful existence amongst seventh-grade fiends. Rumors had it that some red-tailed flood dragons had the chance to break through and become an eighth-grade fiend or even higher.

The red-tailed flood dragon flew in the air, and its gigantic, red eyes were ice-cold as its gaze was nonchalant.

Situ Xingchen's heart skipped a beat. *I never expected a fiend of such grade to be hidden in the Deep Xuan formation.*

Even though she was already a stage-five warrior, it was a dream for her to defeat a seventh-grade fiend. She could only have some hope if she broke through and became an advanced stage-six warrior.

Situ Xingchen clenched her teeth, circulated her surrounding force, and mapped out a barrier around her rapidly.

The next moment, the red-tailed flood dragon rushed toward Situ Xingchen. Wherever it passed by, black spaces would appear.

One could tell how formidable it was.

Then, it flung its dragon tail.

Pak!

It heavily slammed against Situ Xingchen's barrier.

Hong!

A loud impact sound was heard again!

The suppression directly hit Situ Xingchen's body through the barrier.

Her body shook, and her face instantly became paler. But at the next moment, euphoria flashed across her eyes.

This was because the barrier did not break.

Just based on her current stage-five warrior strength, the barrier she formed definitely couldn't withstand the red-tailed flood dragon's attack. Hence, she directly circulated the light pillar's power to form this barrier.

It was indeed strong.

She felt more at ease and continued to swallow the surrounding power. *With a bit more time, I might be the red-tailed flood dragon's match.*

Seeing that Situ Xingchen had actually withstood an attack from the red-tailed flood dragon, the spectators were all taken aback.

"What's with the greenish-red light around her? How can it have such tremendous strength?"

"In such a short time, she has already broken through and become a stage-five warrior—No! She's already an intermediate stage-five warrior?! Does she want to break through and become a stage-six warrior?!"

"Did you see? She seems to be bleeding? I think her physical body can't take it anymore!"

"What is she planning to do..."

Not only in the palace, everyone in the entire Imperial City could see this commotion as they all raised their heads to watch the scene.

Situ Xingchen ignored those gazes. There seemed to be something circulating within her stomach, and her body kept oozing blood out. But she couldn't feel any more pain as she felt that she was wrapped in fire.

Suddenly, her gaze focused, and she looked in one direction.

She waved her sleeves, and strong power rolled out.

Chu Liuyue—who was hiding in Qinghe Hall—felt the commotion behind her, and her internal alarm sounded as she turned around.

The intense suppression came right for her!

Chapter 456: Very Good

The tremendous force formed a bloody whip and harshly swept toward her.

Chu Liuyue immediately backed away.

Pak!

The wooden table immediately broke into two, and the broken pieces flew everywhere.

Half of Qinghe Hall's roof immediately went flying, but the bloody whip didn't stop. Instead, it traveled toward Chu Liuyue at greater speeds.

Emperor Jiawen—who was at the other end of the room—was startled by the commotion and instantly turned around to take a look.

The two of them stared straight into each other's eyes.

Deep shock flashed across Emperor Jiawen's eyes.

Chu Liuyue paused in her movements, but this temporary pause caused the bloody whip to spread near her waist and tightly coil around it.

Then, her body was dragged out by that bloody whip.

Emperor Jiawen's gaze flashed, and he hid in an even more isolated corner that wasn't affected. At the same time, his surrounding barrier became stronger.

As long as nobody went near him, they definitely wouldn't notice that something was wrong.

Chu Liuyue's heart sank. *Emperor Jiawen's previous glance... was actually filled with immense hatred!*

At this moment, the bloody whip around her waist tightened again.

Chu Liuyue suddenly turned around and noticed the other end of the bloody whip was in Situ Xingchen's hands.

Situ Xingchen waved her wrist, and Chu Liuyue's body uncontrollably flew toward her.

Chu Liuyue immediately drew out her dagger and cut the bloody whip.

Choo!

The bloody whip broke along with the sound, but before Chu Liuyue could be happy, she saw the broken bloody whip quickly connect again.

The bloody whip started forming together with that strange strength, and her dagger couldn't even cut through it completely.

In the blink of an eye, she was only ten steps away from Situ Xingchen.

Situ Xingchen raised her chin and looked at Chu Liuyue arrogantly and nonchalantly. "It's you!"

She had now become an intermediate stage-five warrior and was much more sensitive to her surroundings. Previously, she clearly felt a very familiar and annoying aura, so she swiftly took action.

*It's really this b*tch!* Every time Situ Xingchen saw Chu Liuyue's face, her heart would be filled with overflowing hatred. *Whatever I experienced before, I must let Chu Liuyue pay it back a hundred-fold.*

Thinking of this, she waved her wrist without hesitation. That bloody whip was suddenly let loose, and it harshly whipped toward Chu Liuyue's face.

Chu Liuyue immediately backed away, but Situ Xingchen's current cultivation level was much higher than her. The same could be said for her speed and strength.

Even when she had exhausted all her speed to avoid her, Chu Liuyue still couldn't escape unscathed.

Pak!

Chu Liuyue's left arm instantly split open, and blood gushed out. Her body also harshly fell forward due to the strong energy.

The moment he saw Chu Liuyue in midair, Elder Ye was shocked and wanted to go forward to help. *That girl is just a stage-three warrior now. How can she be Situ Xingchen's match?*

But once he moved, Elder Zong Ye blocked him once again.

Elder Zong Ye—who had suffered a lot previously and was very stifled—finally took his revenge. “Ye Zhiting, didn't you say that your precious disciple was a rare genius? Why are you so anxious to go forward and help? Why don't we stand by and see who will win?”

Ye Zhiting finally couldn't take it lying, and he scolded, "My *ss! Who is that Situ Xingchen? How can she be compared to my disciple? Do you think the humiliation during the Qing Jiao Competition wasn't enough?! Zong Ye, don't be too delighted. Situ Xingchen activated the bronze cauldron on her own accord and swallowed hundreds of cultivators' strength. Even if she can break through in a short period of time, she will suffer from endless aftereffects!"

Zong Ye's heart skipped a beat. No wonder I felt that Situ Xingchen's aura seemed amiss... But at such a critical juncture, how can I support others and destroy my own power?

"You don't have to care about this! You should just think if your precious disciple can live! I think Xingchen's move can directly take away half of her life!"

She's just a stage-three warrior. Perhaps she can't even endure more than three moves under Xingchen's hands.

Ye Zhiting's gaze turned extremely cold as he shot a deadly stare at Elder Zong Ye and said carefully, "In my entire life, I only have this one disciple. If anyone dares to hurt her... I will chase after that person even until my death!"

The moment he said that, his surrounding aura suddenly exploded.

Elder Zong Ye was shocked. *Ye Zhiting is being serious?!*

The next moment, Elder Ye had already rushed to him.

The pair immediately got into it!

...

Rong Jiu stared at the scene in midair, and his expression turned ugly. “Chu Liuyue... seemed to have come out from Qinghe Hall just now...”

The people behind him fell silent.

Rong Jiu turned around and walked toward Qinghe Hall with large strides. Previously, he had clearly sent quite a few people to escort Emperor Jiawen to Qinghe Hall, but Chu Liuyue was actually there.

If Situ Xingchen didn’t suddenly make a move, he wouldn’t know when he would find out about this.

...

Just before Chu Liuyue’s body harshly slammed on the floor, she suddenly felt a strength that held her up from behind.

Chu Liuyue turned around and realized that it was Tuan Zi biting on her shirt and dragging her behind.

Huala!

The soft clothing material couldn’t withstand such stretching, and it suddenly tore.

Panic flashed across Tuan Zi's eyes. *If she lands, she will be severely injured!*

A sharp gaze rapidly grazed past Chu Liuyue's body like a knife.

She looked down and saw that she was getting increasingly nearer to the marble floor.

Her expression changed, and just as she wanted to circulate the strength of the water droplet in her dantian, she saw a white figure flash across her eyes.

The next moment, she felt that she had landed on a soft ball.

"Xue Xue!" Chu Liuyue looked at Xue Xue—who suddenly appeared and saved her—in surprise.

Xue Xue's paws gently touched the floor, and it brought Chu Liuyue up.

Roar!

A majestic lion roar reverberated throughout the area.

Everyone was stunned by this sudden scene.

Chu Liuyue—who was supposed to land on the floor—suddenly straddled a bulky, white lion’s back.

The winds whistled and blew up her black hair, which looked like a black flag flying in the winds.

Not only was the beautiful face not filled with any form of cowardice or fear, but it was also filled with a high and mighty aura.

Cold, arrogant, and determined!

One look at it, and one would see that she was unparalleled. It also made one subconsciously bow down to her.

She and Situ Xingchen stared at each other, but Situ Xingchen—who had a stronger cultivation level—seemed to be lacking.

Countless people saw this scene, and they were all dazed. *Is this really... Chu Liuyue?*

Chu Liuyue glanced at the injury on her left shoulder and slowly raised her head as she stared at Situ Xingchen coldly. Her lips curved up into a cold smile. “Very good.”

Chapter 457: Fight!

Situ Xingchen was stunned by Chu Liuyue’s gaze, and she unwittingly felt fear. But the next moment, she suddenly woke up. *Fear? Chu Liuyue is definitely not my opponent now. She should be the one that’s afraid.*

Situ Xingchen suppressed her emotions, and her eyes narrowed when her gaze landed on the white lion. *That's clearly Rong Xiu's fiend! Rong Xiu has never summoned it in front of others before, so very few people know about this. I had only found out about this accidentally. Now, it actually appeared here and saved Chu Liuyue?! Is he determined to help Chu Liuyue to the end?*

She clenched her teeth and suddenly sneered. "What, are you going to fight with me?"

Chu Liuyue circulated her force. The rich force kept flowing out of her dantian and headed toward her right index finger. "You tried to kill me first. What, you don't allow me to retaliate?"

Situ Xingchen seemed not to care about Chu Liuyue's movements and acted as if she heard a joke. She chuckled. "Just based on you, a mere stage-three warrior?"

Her words overflowed with unconcealable mockery and contempt.

"Based on me alone." Chu Liuyue smiled with deeper meaning. *I'm indeed a stage-three warrior now, but... I didn't say that I can only execute powers limited to a stage-three warrior.*

Situ Xingchen almost thought that Chu Liuyue was crazy. "Okay! I want to see how long you can be arrogant for!"

The moment she finished her sentence, she raised the bloody whip and harshly lashed it out.

Pak!

This time, she used even greater strength than before. When the bloody whip cut through the air and easily tore through space, it left black cracks.

In the blink of an eye, that bloody whip went straight for Chu Liuyue's head with tremendous power.

Xue Xue hurriedly avoided it; it was very fast.

One look at it, and it would seem like a bolt of lightning.

The bloody whip landed on nothing.

Situ Xingchen's expression turned ugly. *With that high-level fiend's help, it will be very difficult to even hurt Chu Liuyue, let alone killing her.*

She raised her wrists, and the bloody whip hurriedly followed Chu Liuyue.

Pak!

Xue Xue moved its body and easily avoided it again.

Situ Xingchen didn't believe it and took action again.

A faint layer of greenish-red light gathered above the bloody whip. The strength within it was much greater than the previous two times.

When the bloody whip flew out, Situ Xingchen angrily hollered, "If you have the guts, don't run!"

Before Chu Liuyue could even reply, Xue Xue had already turned around, raised its claw, and harshly slashed forward.

Huala!

The bloody whip was directly cut into two by Xue Xue's claw.

Situ Xingchen gasped. *This fiend is even stronger than I thought.*

Xue Xue glanced at Situ Xingchen, and its icy-blue eyes were cold and nonchalant. It seemed as though it was looking at an ant.

Chu Liuyue gently patted Xue Xue's head. "You did great!"

Xue Xue turned around, and the ice in its eyes melted away, revealing unconcealable pride and delight.

That big, furry head sweetly rubbed against Chu Liuyue's palm, and Xue Xue looked very different from its previous cold and solemn appearance.

Situ Xingchen was so angry that she almost exploded.

She was also implicated in the previous retaliation, and her organs were all huddled together. *Originally, I wanted to take this chance to take revenge on Chu Liuyue and settle her once and for all. But it now seems like it's going to be difficult unless I can increase my cultivation level again...*

Right! I can only kill Chu Liuyue by continuing to cultivate and becoming a stronger warrior. Thinking of this, Situ Xingchen took a deep breath in and strengthened her surrounding barrier. Then, she closed her eyes and started to absorb the surrounding force.

Actually, the force from the greenish-red light from the bronze cauldron kept flowing toward her body continuously. As long as she focused at the critical moment and tried to break through, she would succeed.

When Chu Liuyue saw that Situ Xingchen suddenly stopped, something popped up in her mind, and she understood the latter's intentions.

She will fight when she wants to and suddenly stop to break through when she wants to. How can there be such a good deal in this world? Once Chu Liuyue thought of this, a red figure flashed before her eyes.

Tuan Zi directly flew toward Situ Xingchen. If Chu Liuyue was in front of it, she would see how angry Tuan Zi looked with its puffed-up cheeks.

Damn it! My spotlight has been snatched! Once it thought about how it previously tried to pull Chu Liuyue back but failed and was even chased away by the force, Tuan Zi felt ashamed.

Compared to the white lion's performance, it had no face at all.

Seeing Tuan Zi coming toward her, Situ Xingchen smiled coldly. *This barrier's defense is very strong. Even that seventh-grade red-tailed flood dragon can't break through it, let alone this third-grade blood ferret. It's capable, but—*

Bang!

Tuan Zi directly pounced on the barrier, opened its mouth, and harshly bit down.

Kacha!

A large hole instantly appeared.

Situ Xingchen's smile instantly froze, and intense disbelief filled her eyes. *How is that even possible?*

As if it were releasing its anger, Tuan Zi kept biting the barrier's sides.

Kacha kacha!

A similar scene to that of the Qing Jiao Competition appeared once again.

Even Chu Liuyue couldn't help but be stunned. *Why do Tuan Zi's teeth seem to be even better than before...?*

Even though Situ Xingchen's surrounding barrier was tough, it couldn't withstand Tuan Zi's attack.

Initially, she wanted to ignore it and hurriedly break through. But when she saw Tuan Zi bite a hole out, completely squeeze itself in, and come toward her, she finally couldn't take it any longer and was forced to stop. "Chu Liuyue! If you're capable, go against me one-on-one. Why must you rely on these fiends?"

Chu Liuyue blinked and smiled. "Isn't it precisely my ability to be able to summon these fiends to help me? I never said that you couldn't do it. Since you hate me, you can just show all the tricks you have up your sleeves!"

Something seemed to be stuck in Situ Xingchen's chest as her face flashed white and red. *How can a normal fiend be these two fiends' opponents?*

Chu Liuyue suddenly cleared her throat. "Xue Xue!"

Xue Xue seemed to have telepathy with her as it leaped into the air and instantly charged toward Situ Xingchen.

Upon seeing this, everyone was taken aback. "Chu Liuyue is actually planning to take Situ Xingchen head-on?"

"That white lion is a high-level fiend. Didn't you see how easily it avoided Situ Xingchen's attack? With its help, Chu Liuyue might not lose!"

“But Situ Xingchen is a few levels higher than her... If they directly fight, Chu Liuyue would definitely be at a disadvantage—”

Green and red rays of light gathered in Situ Xingchen’s hands. Then, her hands harshly clapped together.

The two lights slammed against one another.

“Double Extreme Palm!”

Chu Liuyue raised her hand, and a dazzling light appeared above her right index finger.

Chapter 458: Back Hand

The spark of light reflected in her eyes and made them dazzle and sparkle. However, this spark of light was unassuming when compared to the large, greenish-red palm that Situ Xingchen executed in midair.

Everyone’s gazes gathered on the imposing palm.

Chu Liuyue looked up and squinted her eyes slightly.

There was a vague pattern in the middle of the palm. It was exactly the same as the pattern that appeared on the light pillar.

Chu Liuyue’s heart tingled slightly. *That pattern is clearly a seal, but for some reason, it actually appeared on the palm.*

Suddenly, she noticed a ripple coming from the Cosmic Bag. It still came from the wooden box that she took from Situ Xingchen earlier.

That strange pattern seemed to encompass a special strength, and it would cause a large reaction every time it appeared.

At this moment, Situ Xingchen hollered, "Go!"

That palm slowly went toward Chu Liuyue, and the tremendous suppression kept spreading from above.

The surrounding space seemed to be implicated by the suppression as it became heavy and sticky.

Chu Liuyue could clearly feel that she was in a mud-like state, and her every movement required much more effort.

"Situ Xingchen's suppression has definitely reached the peak of a stage-five warrior. Chu Liuyue is in danger!"

"She still rushed over. She doesn't have enough time to escape!"

"I really don't know what she's thinking..."

Everyone partook in heated discussions.

Chu Liuyue—who was in midair—did not hear this. But even if she did, she wouldn't care.

Since she dared to do this, she definitely had her own reasons.

That gigantic palm seemed to be moving very slowly, but its speed was very fast. In the blink of an eye, it was near Chu Liuyue.

In comparison, Chu Liuyue seemed especially small and petite. It looked as if she would be swallowed by that palm at any time.

But at this moment, Chu Liuyue finally stretched out her right hand and gently knocked her index finger. "Jingshen Finger!"

Buzz!

A ripple suddenly appeared in the empty air. Then, the spark of light on her fingertip suddenly exploded.

Half of the sky above Chu Liuyue's head seemed to light up.

The light was imposing, dazzling, and magnificent. It was as though it was big and warm enough to contain everything in the world.

Under the accompaniment of this light, the palm with the strange pattern suddenly seemed ugly and unkempt.

The forces of the two parties intersected.

Like snow that met with sunlight, the palm actually started to shrink silently.

Situ Xingchen's delighted smile froze, and horror crept up to her face. *W-why is this... I used all my strength in this attack, but why did it fail so quickly after Chu Liuyue took action?! It seems like it can't even retaliate!*

Situ Xingchen kept urging the strength in her body and injected it into the palm, but in the end, it was to no avail.

She looked at Chu Liuyue in disbelief and hatred. *One finger... Chu Liuyue just used one finger to win against me?*

Actually, Chu Liuyue was just as shocked as Situ Xingchen at this point. This was her first time officially executing Jingshen Finger after learning it.

She knew that Jingshen Finger was formidable, but she didn't expect the effects to be of this extent. This was clearly much stronger than other warrior techniques of the same level.

Chu Liuyue looked at her finger. *That bright light contained tremendous strength. If I didn't see it personally, I never would've believed the scene before my eyes. Perhaps... This is the strength of a Heaven-grade warrior technique?*

Situ Xingchen finally panicked. *If I continue fighting with Chu Liuyue, it definitely will not benefit me. The only thing I can do now is rapidly strengthen my capabilities.*

Hong!

The gigantic palm finally disintegrated, and the strange pattern also disappeared.

Blood flowed out from the corner of Situ Xingchen's mouth, and she looked even more unkempt in addition to her already bloodied body. The next moment, she suddenly turned around and ran into the distance.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly and lightly patted Xue Xue.

Xue Xue immediately understood and rushed forward.

It was naturally much quicker than Situ Xingchen. Not long later, it blocked her path.

Upon seeing that Chu Liuyue had managed to catch up to her so quickly, Situ Xingchen's expression looked ugly.

"Eldest Princess Situ, we haven't battled to find out who the winner is, yet you just... escaped? Isn't this inappropriate?" asked Chu Liuyue with a light smile.

Situ Xingchen clenched her silver teeth. She could feel countless pairs of eyes staring at her from below.

Mockery, contempt, disdain! They were all going for her!

“W-who said I’m going to escape?!” yelled Situ Xingchen forcefully, and her voice was way sharper than before. “You just used some unorthodox methods. Chu Liuyue, do you really think you’ll be my opponent?”

Chu Liuyue laughed. *Unorthodox methods? I should return this sentence to Situ Xingchen instead.*

“You will find out very quickly if I’m your opponent or not.” Chu Liuyue smiled lightly, but harsh murderous intent flashed across her eyes.

The next moment, she jumped out and went straight for Situ Xingchen.

Situ Xingchen was first shocked before she sneered in her heart. *Chu Liuyue is actually planning to have a physical fight with me personally. This is her most stupid decision today! The two of us are exactly two stages apart, so Chu Liuyue’s physical strength definitely can’t be compared to mine. If Chu Liuyue continues to execute her previous moves, she might not be able to endure it. But now... she is clearly courting her own death!*

“You’re tired of living!” Situ Xingchen circulated her force and raised her hand. “Flying Eagle Claw!”

A few broken figures merged together, and they went for Chu Liuyue’s head in unison.

Chu Liuyue went forward.

Her wrist moved in a certain manner, and she avoided Situ Xingchen's attack. She also held onto the other's wrist in a deadly grasp. Then, she exerted strength with her fingers and clenched tightly.

Kacha!

A crisp, bone-breaking sound was heard.

"Ahh!" Situ Xingchen yelled out in pain, and her entire face was pale.

At that moment, there was only one thought left in her mind: *How is Chu Liuyue's wrist strength so great?!*

Situ Xingchen instinctively raised her legs and kicked toward Chu Liuyue, but the latter was even faster.

Bang!

The duo's legs harshly slammed against each other.

Situ Xingchen felt as if she had hit a metal board as her entire leg became numb. After a short moment, excruciating pain was felt.

She looked up in shock and shot a deadly stare at Chu Liuyue, her eyes filled with vengeance. "You bi—"

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly, and a cold light flashed across her palm, going straight for Situ Xingchen's heart.

Situ Xingchen was stunned, and she immediately avoided it with all her might.

Choo!

That dagger stabbed straight into her chest and was only a short distance away from her heart.

But Chu Liuyue did not stop as she held the dagger's handle and harshly twisted it.

“Split!”

Two thin flying blades instantly entered Situ Xingchen's body!

Chapter 459: Execute

Cold and piercing pain was felt in two places.

Situ Xingchen's face flushed white, and she slowly lowered her head.

Spots of blood gradually seeped out and stained the shirt in front of her chest.

Choo choo!

The two flying blades pierced through her chest and flew out.

Chu Liuyue bent her arm, and her elbows harshly slammed against the other person's shoulders.

Situ Xingchen suddenly puked out blood, and she flew backward.

Chu Liuyue quickly avoided her and jumped onto Xue Xue's back, who had come on time.

Bang!

Situ Xingchen landed on the floor heavily. As the collision was too strong, her body dragged across the floor for a long time before finally stopping.

The ground was left with a long bloodstain that looked terrifying.

There was dead silence. Almost everyone thought that Chu Liuyue was doomed, but they didn't expect that Situ Xingchen would be the one who lost after an intense battle.

Even though the fiend's appearance was vital, Chu Liuyue did personally slam Situ Xingchen down earlier.

Elder Zong Ye and Elder Ye had also seen this scene in the middle of their fight, and they both stopped.

However, the duo's gazes were very different.

Elder Ye's worry-filled face dissipated, and his wrinkles seemed to form a flower from his wide smile while his eyes were filled with unconcealable delight. "Hah! I long said that Situ Xingchen is no match for Liuyue! Zong Ye, what do you have to say now?!"

Elder Zong Ye's face was so ugly that it looked as if he had swallowed a fly. *Situ Xingchen's cultivation level is clearly much higher than that of Chu Liuyue. How did she lose?!*

He originally thought that Situ Xingchen would definitely win this battle, yet this happened.

His gaze flashed, and he immediately wanted to go forward.

"Hey! Zong Ye, what do you want to do?" Elder Ye's figure moved, and he blocked Elder Zong Ye's path with a face filled with smiles.

Zong Ye's face darkened. "You want to stop me?!"

"Listen to what you're saying. Didn't you also stop me just now? I'm just doing the same back to you! Haha!"

Seeing Zong Ye's ugly expression, Elder Ye felt relieved. *I wanted to help Liuyue earlier, but this guy stopped me. How can it be so easy now that he wants to go and help Situ Xingchen?!*

Elder Zong Ye knitted his brows tightly. *With Ye Zhiting around, I can't help her!*

"Didn't you previously say that you wanted to see who would be the eventual winner? Then, why don't we watch together?" Elder Ye had a smile plastered on his face, but his surrounding harsh aura hinted that he definitely wouldn't allow Elder Zong Ye to go over.

Elder Zong Ye hated him in his heart.

Just as the two people were talking, Xue Xue had already brought Chu Liuyue to the ground.

Chu Liuyue jumped down easily and landed on the floor.

Situ Xingchen struggled to stand up, but her wounds were oozing blood. She felt excruciating pain in her shoulders. Without looking, she knew that her shoulder blade had been pierced through.

"Didn't you want to fight one-on-one with me?" Chu Liuyue played with the dagger and said slowly, "As you wish."

It was much more convenient for the two of them to fight on the ground.

Seeing Chu Liuyue's nonchalant smile, Situ Xingchen couldn't help but shudder. She felt that the current Chu Liuyue was Shura who walked out from hell alive.

“You! What do you want to do?!” yelled Situ Xingchen harshly. “I-I’m Country Xing Luo’s eldest princess! How dare you touch me?”

Chu Liuyue could not help but laugh. “Eldest Princess Situ, of course, I know your identity. But... didn’t I already make something pierce through you earlier? You don’t have to ask useless questions.”

Situ Xingchen’s heart sank. *Chu Liuyue really doesn’t look like she’s afraid.*

“You seem to have forgotten what you did previously.” Chu Liuyue raised her chin, and her gaze swept past the other person’s entire body. “Do you think that someone will still stand up for you now?”

Causing such a huge commotion in Country Yao Chen’s palace... Both Emperor Jiawen and Rong Jiu won’t take this lying down. Besides, Situ Xingchen was wrong first. Situ Yan couldn’t save her previously, and it is even more impossible this time around.

Chu Liuyue spoke as she stepped forward.

Panic flashed across Situ Xingchen’s eyes as she instinctively took a step back. *The current me isn’t Chu Liuyue’s match at all. Besides, Chu Liuyue still has high-level fiends beside her to help her!*

Situ Xingchen panicked even more, and there seemed to be something rumbling in her stomach, wanting to escape. *If only... I can become stronger!*

It was as if there was a shrill voice that kept reverberating throughout her brain.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes and wanted to settle Situ Xingchen once and for all, but she saw that Situ Xingchen suddenly looked up.

Situ Xingchen's eyes glowed in a bloody manner.

Chu Liuyue's eyes shrunk, and her instincts told her that there was something wrong with Situ Xingchen. *Previously, Situ Xingchen's eyes were actually bloodshot, but I just thought that it was due to anger and agitation. But now, the redness seems to be even more intense. Also, the most crucial thing is that Situ Xingchen's irises have become red.*

From afar, they looked like two eyeballs overflowing with mania and murderous aura.

Dong dong!

A strange sensation came from the Cosmic Bag.

Dong dong!

This time, the sound was even clearer.

Chu Liuyue suddenly realized something. *This is the wooden box moving!*

Something inside seemed to have been summoned as it tried hard to escape crazily.

Chu Liuyue lowered her head and was about to restrain it when she suddenly saw a ray of light escaping and going straight for Situ Xingchen.

It was the wooden box!

Situ Xingchen grabbed the wooden box with her hands.

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched.

Then, Situ Xingchen opened the wooden box.

A goatskin scroll glowed faintly, and it floated in front of Situ Xingchen.

Situ Xingchen threw the wooden box away and gradually bit her fingertip as a red blood pearl emerged. The next moment, she held the goatskin scroll in her hand and used her bleeding finger to draw on it.

Chu Liuyue stared at this scene intensely and felt like she had missed out on something.

After watching for a while, she finally understood. Situ Xingchen seems to be controlled by something! Her pair of eyes no longer show normal emotions, and they are just left with endless mania and murderous intent. Her actions are even stiffer and slower as if there is a pair of invisible hands controlling her every move.

Chu Liuyue's gaze landed on the goatskin scroll again, and she suddenly focused her gaze. *The pattern Situ Xingchen used her blood to draw out is clearly—*

Choo!

Chu Liuyue's dagger flew out rapidly and went straight for Situ Xingchen. But at this point, the latter had already finished the last stroke.

The complete strange pattern appeared in front of her.

Ding!

That dagger seemed to have hit something, and it rebounded.

The next moment, the goatskin scroll slowly opened.

Chapter 460: Steal the Body!

A bloody, piercing glow exploded from the goatskin scroll, and it completely enveloped Situ Xingchen.

Then, Situ Xingchen's body instantly exploded into tiny cracks.

Blood splattered everywhere.

Bang!

Situ Xingchen fell onto the ground, and her body curled into a ball. Her mind was blank; she felt that her entire body was painful and itchy as if millions of ants were crazily biting her.

She almost instinctively scratched all over her body. Not only did she tear her clothes, but she even used her perfectly manicured nails directly to scratch lines of blood on her skin.

When her neck was scratched until it looked badly mangled, she finally progressed to her face. Then, without hesitation, she harshly scratched it.

A few lines of blood cut through more than half her face. Her originally pretty appearance was instantly ruined, and she became ugly and horrifying.

“Ah!” Situ Xingchen yelled at the top of her lungs.

Upon seeing this scene, Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. *Situ Xingchen clearly looks like her body is about to be stolen, but the person stealing her body is very strong! Therefore, her skin started to split open because her body couldn't withstand the formidable power. It's no wonder I couldn't open the barrier on the goatskin scroll. It turns out that another cultivator's soul was hidden inside.*

Situ Xingchen's body gradually stopped twitching. When the bloody light on her body stopped glowing, she slowly stood up and looked at Chu Liuyue.

It was a completely different pair of eyes—unfamiliar, sinister, and violent!

Chu Liuyue's internal alarm sounded, and she immediately moved backward.

But at this moment, Situ Xingchen raised her hands.

Chu Liuyue felt like tremendous strength had wrapped around her entire body as she flew forward uncontrollably.

Roar!

Xue Xue roared angrily and jumped forward.

Situ Xingchen's gaze moved, and she looked at it coldly.

A gigantic, blood-colored barrier instantly appeared, blocking Xue Xue outside.

Bang!

Xue Xue slammed against the barrier heavily, but the barrier wasn't damaged at all.

Many escape plans quickly popped up in Chu Liuyue's head, but she quickly discovered that her body's force was fully restricted by the other party's suppression.

Under this terrifying oppression, her body couldn't move.

The next moment, Situ Xingchen suddenly grabbed her neck.

Chu Liuyue's neck was tight.

Situ Xingchen looked down at Chu Liuyue from above, and she smiled coldly. "I really have to thank you."

Even though it was the same face and voice, Chu Liuyue knew that it wasn't the true Situ Xingchen when she saw that pair of eyes.

"Without you, I might've needed a longer time before I could come out!"

Chu Liuyue was strangled by her, and her entire body was hanging in the air. Following the continuous tightening of the hand, Chu Liuyue's face gradually turned red, and her chest felt so suffocated that it was about to explode.

"Y-you!" Chu Liuyue wanted to speak, but she could only spit out a few vague syllables. She tried to remove Situ Xingchen's hands, but she only felt sticky bloodstains.

As contempt and disdain filled her eyes, Situ Xingchen watched the other person struggle as if she was watching a joke.

Ka!

A crisp sound was heard again.

Situ Xingchen looked up.

Tuan Zi had already rushed to the barrier she set up and tried to bite an exit out. But this time, it only left a clear bite mark on the barrier.

“How can the barrier I personally put up be so easily broken?” Her tone was light, but it carried unconcealable arrogance.

Chu Liuyue was even more certain that this person had already stolen Situ Xingchen’s body. Even if the true Situ Xingchen hadn’t died, she was barely alive.

Tuan Zi looked frustrated as it bit down again in disbelief.

Ka!

It was the same as before!

Situ Xingchen seemed to be frustrated. Her gaze turned, and she looked at Chu Liuyue, revealing a smile with deep meaning. “This fiend is pretty capable, but it’s a pity that... it’s not yours.”

This sentence was naturally meant for Chu Liuyue.

At this point, Chu Liuyue's face was flushed red. She was close to suffocating, and she couldn't say anything at all.

Situ Xingchen admired her in satisfaction before slowly saying, "Originally, I didn't plan to kill you. But you ruined this body, so don't blame me for being merciless—"

Chu Liuyue suddenly raised her hand, and a cold glow flashed across her palm.

A dagger instantly pierced into Situ Xingchen's hands, but she seemed to have already expected this as her other hand flew out, directly clutched Chu Liuyue's wrist, and harshly twisted it.

Kacha!

Excruciating pain was felt.

Chu Liuyue's vision turned black.

"An eye for an eye," sneered Situ Xingchen as her eyes were filled with intense and crazy murderous intent.

The moment the bone broke, the dagger fell into Situ Xingchen's hands.

She held the dagger and placed it on Chu Liuyue's face.

The cold contact made Chu Liuyue's heart tremble.

"Your face is—Hm? This dagger..." Situ Xingchen was talking as her gaze suddenly landed on the dagger. Then, her expression changed.

Perhaps it was an illusion, but Chu Liuyue faintly saw a tinge of shock and panic on her face.

At this moment, Chu Liuyue gathered all the force in her body, grabbed Situ Xingchen's wrist with both hands, and harshly twisted it!

When Situ Xingchen instinctively let go, Chu Liuyue kicked her.

Using the rebound force, Chu Liuyue finally got out of Situ Xingchen's deadly grasp and jumped back.

But this time, Situ Xingchen didn't immediately chase after Chu Liuyue. Instead, she looked at the latter in suspicion. "Where did you get this dagger from?!"

Her tone was anxious, and it vaguely had a tinge of horror.

Chu Liuyue tightly knitted her brows. *The person asking this question is clearly not Situ Xingchen but the person who stole her body. However, this dagger doesn't seem to be anything special. Why would she have such a reaction?*

Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn't react for some time, Situ Xingchen was even more anxious as she moved in closer. "Quickly, speak!"

A thought suddenly flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind. *Rong Xiu gave this dagger to me. Besides, if I didn't remember wrongly, he made it himself. There should only be this one dagger in the entire world, so others shouldn't recognize it. This person's reaction is really too strange...*

"What if... I refuse to say?" asked Chu Liuyue carefully.

Situ Xingchen chuckled. "You don't want to say? Of course, I have my ways to make you say it!"

The moment she said this, her hands crossed in front of her body, and her surrounding force started to increase crazily.

A white fire rapidly burned in front of her. Then, that fire surrounded Chu Liuyue and completely locked her within.

Her figure was instantly enveloped by the burning fire!