

Nobel Ruler 461

Chapter 461: God of Death

The fire burned intensely as if it wanted to turn everything into ashes.

“Liuyue!” Upon seeing this, Elder Ye finally couldn’t help but shout in shock.

Elder Zong Ye—who had struggled with the other for a long time—finally found a chance and landed a heavy punch on Elder Ye’s chest.

Elder Ye’s body trembled as he moved back a few steps to stabilize his body. Blood spurted out of his mouth.

Elder Zong Ye saw that the fire was burning intensely and that Chu Liuyue’s figure had almost disappeared. “Hmph! Ye Zhiting, it seems like your precious disciple is about to lose her life this time!”

Elder Ye tightly clenched his fists and stared at him as if he were looking at an idiot. He angrily hollered, “Zong Ye, has your brain been eaten by a dog?! Can’t you tell that Situ Xingchen’s body has already been stolen?!”

His sentence woke up the dreaming man.

When Elder Zong Ye heard the other person’s words, his heart tightly scrunched up into a ball as he hurriedly glanced at Situ Xingchen.

He didn't notice previously, but when he looked at her this time, there were all sorts of weird points.

Ye Zhiting and I fought neck-to-neck, so I couldn't notice much about what was happening on Situ Xingchen and Chu Liuyue's side. I only vaguely remember that Situ Xingchen experienced a shocking change and that her capabilities suddenly increased greatly. I previously thought that Situ Xingchen had absorbed more strength, which was why she became stronger. But upon closer inspection, I can see that her aura is completely different from before.

Every cultivator's aura is different. The current Situ Xingchen... has indeed become someone else!

Elder Ye really wanted to chop down Zong Ye's head and see what was stored inside. *As a stage-six warrior, he didn't even notice this!*

But at this point, he could only care about Chu Liuyue.

Taking the chance when Elder Zong Ye was stunned, Elder Ye finally got rid of him and rushed toward Chu Liuyue.

...

At the same moment, Jian Fengchi—who was hiding in the dark—slightly squinted his eyes when he saw this scene. His current attention was all on Situ Xingchen.

Being able to steal one's body... This person must've been at least a stage-seven warrior when they were alive. This Country Yao Chen looks ordinary, but it does hide quite a number of secrets... It seems like Mu

Qinghe left a little too early as he missed out on so many exciting scenes. Jian Fengchi's gaze landed on that fire, and his brows rose.

Even though he frequently felt that Chu Liuyue detested him for some reason and the two of them didn't have a strong friendship, this was someone that Mu Qinghe wanted to bring back. Thus, he had to protect her well.

If anything happens, Mu Qinghe will definitely cause trouble for me. After thinking of this, Jian Fengchi's palm moved lightly, and the light beneath his feet flashed.

Just as he was about to rush forward, he suddenly felt a harsh aura coming from beside him.

He instantly became alert and turned around to look in that direction.

A figure in a black robe rapidly disappeared from his sight.

His brows moved. *That person's aura seems familiar. It's as if I've seen him before...*

Suddenly, he was shocked. *This aura seems to be—But didn't they leave the Tianling Dynasty long ago?! Why would they appear here?!*

Jian Fengchi's moved slightly, and he had a strong urge to chase after that person.

Just as he was about to follow him, he saw the fire from the corner of his eyes.

Feeling very conflicted, he stopped and turned around to rush toward Chu Liuyue.

...

Qi Han stopped in his steps and heaved a sigh of relief when he confirmed that Jian Fengchi did not follow him.

Actually, he had been secretly following Chu Liuyue the entire way. The most important job of the Thirteen Yue Guard was to protect Her Highness and guarantee her safety!

Now that he had already acknowledged Her Highness and the other Thirteen Yue Guard members weren't here, he had to take up this responsibility again.

He was very good at hiding himself, so he wasn't discovered the entire way.

When he saw that Her Highness was in danger earlier, he was too worried and accidentally revealed his aura, causing Jian Fengchi to detect him.

Luckily, Jian Fengchi did not follow him.

Qi Han felt more at ease. When he looked at the white fire again, he knitted his brows. *Her Highness is still a stage-three warrior now. Even though she is much stronger than she appears to be, she's still lacking in many ways as compared to before. That Situ Xingchen's body has clearly been stolen, and her abilities are completely above those of a stage-six warrior. Her Highness will definitely not be able to handle it alone.*

He really wanted to rush forward, but there were a lot of people watching. Once he took action, he would definitely be discovered.

If he was just slightly careless, they would suspect Her Highness's identity.

Qi Han thought for a while and finally decided to take action as he looked at the burning fire. *No matter what, I should save Her Highness first!*

But the moment he took a step out, he heard a low and calm voice. "She can settle this herself."

Qi Han immediately turned around, and a tall and large figure entered his line of sight.

When he saw the person's appearance, his gaze focused. *Prince Li—Rong Xiu!*

"If you go out now, you know that you will cause a lot of trouble for her, right?" Rong Xiu was wearing a snow-white robe with a black cloak. His hands were behind his back, and he stood tall and upright.

His lips curved up into a light smile, looking extra gentle. However, there was an indisputable suppression coming from his eyes that made one submit to him.

Qi Han stared at Rong Xiu tightly and didn't say a word. *I actually don't know when Rong Xiu appeared behind me!*

At this point, the two of them stared at each other. Qi Han felt a vague threat from Rong Xiu's body; it was a suppression that only a strong warrior would have.

All of this was enough to prove that Rong Xiu was stronger than him.

The air between the duo seemed to have frozen. It was as though it was stiff and still.

Rong Xiu wasn't worried that Qi Han would see through his abilities.

Qi Han had snooped around Prince Li Mansion during this period, so he definitely had long realized that something was amiss.

If the Thirteen Yue Guard didn't have this skill, they did not need to exist. They would just be a burden if they stayed by her side.

Just when Qi Han was hesitating on how to handle this situation, he suddenly heard a loud sound.

He immediately turned around, and his eyes shrunk. He saw a red fire suddenly charge out from the white fire.

Instantly, fire sparked everywhere.

With that fire as the center, the violent energy crazily rolled out in all directions.

The white marble path exploded, and the tiles flew out.

The red fire covered the entire sky and easily swallowed the white fire. It was like a single-sided suppression.

A thin and straight figure gradually became clear.

Countless eyes stared straight at that figure.

She gradually moved forward. Her black hair flew everywhere, and her clothes flew in the wind.

She looked sharp; she was just like a God of Death that walked out of hell.

Everyone that saw this gasped in unison. *That's... Chu Liuyue!*

Chapter 462: Escape

The red fire burning around her entered her eyes, and it became a jumping fire show.

Her steps were neither fast nor slow, but her every move seemed to be stepping across the crowd's hearts.

Jian Fengchi and Elder Ye—who originally wanted to rush over and help her—unwittingly stopped.

Qi Han clenched his fists and tried very hard to restrain his inner turmoil. *Her Highness... is indeed Her Highness! Even in the worst scenarios, she can always revive! I wonder how many people can do this in the entire world!*

Qi Han couldn't help turning around and glancing at Rong Xiu, but he noticed that the latter didn't look shocked. Instead, he slightly smiled as if he had already predicted all of this.

This Prince Li... seems to be even more mysterious and powerful than I thought...

....

Situ Xingchen's cold and solemn gaze suddenly broke, revealing a tinge of shock and anxiety. For some reason, she felt a serious threat from Chu Liuyue's body. *She's just a stage-three warrior... Where did this suppression and aura come from?*

Chu Liuyue finally stood still as she looked up and glanced at Situ Xingchen calmly. Then, she raised her hands.

A ball of red fire suddenly gathered in her palms, and a terrifying suppression gradually spread outward from the fireball.

Situ Xingchen felt increasingly uneasy, and her throat became drier than ever.

Chu Liuyue stared at her, and her lips curved up into a smile that was as cold as ever. Then, she said carefully, "I hate people stealing my things."

It was like so in the past and even more so now.

Situ Xingchen's heart sank, and she instinctively moved backward.

Chu Liuyue still stood rooted to the ground as she hurriedly waved her hands. "Go!"

The fist-sized fireball immediately flew toward Situ Xingchen.

Wherever the fireball went past, the cracked ground revealed a deep gap.

Situ Xingchen was fast, but it was faster.

The crowd saw a fire light flash across the sky. The next moment, the fireball appeared in front of Situ Xingchen.

Being unable to hide, Situ Xingchen decisively stopped, clenched her teeth, and took action. *At the end of the day, Chu Liuyue is just a stage-three warrior. How strong can she be?! I do not believe that I can't even endure one of Chu Liuyue's attacks.*

Thinking of this, Situ Xingchen rapidly gathered her inner force, converted it to a blade glowing with blood, and sent it flying forward.

Choo!

The bloody light blade split the fireball into two.

Situ Xingchen sneered. "It's just—"

Before she could finish her sentence, her expression froze.

Chu Liuyue smiled with deep meaning. "I originally wanted to do it myself, but I didn't expect you to take the initiative and save me some effort."

Other than Situ Xingchen, nobody else could see that a transparent fire was hiding in the middle of the red fireball.

Chu Liuyue combined the two forces and gave a lethal blow.

The moment Situ Xingchen saw the transparent fire, she suddenly widened her eyes in shock. *That's...*

Huala!

The two fires suddenly rolled forward.

Before Situ Xingchen could even move, she felt a scorching pain in her chest. She gradually lowered her head and saw that a bloody, fist-sized hole had bored through her abdomen.

It was a bloody hole, but no blood spurted out.

This was because the fire was of extremely high temperature. It had burned the surrounding skin and muscles near the wound, causing it to look especially terrifying. But the more important thing was that one's pearl of essence was situated in the abdomen.

When her abdomen was bored through, her pearl of essence was consequently destroyed.

Situ Xingchen looked at her wound and was dazed for a long time. She finally reacted when she felt that her body's force started spreading in all directions uncontrollably.

"You! You want to destroy this body?!" She suddenly looked up, and she looked destroyed. This was a chance I waited so long for! It hasn't even been 15 minutes since I successfully stole this body!

With a smile on her face, Chu Liuyue said, "This physical body isn't good enough for you. You don't need to thank me."

Situ Xingchen finally went crazy. I have waited for so many years and spent so much effort for this moment. In the end, I was easily destroyed by Chu Liuyue.

"YOU'RE TIRED OF LIVING!" A vengeful shrill escaped Situ Xingchen's throat.

However, her pearl of essence was already broken. Depending on this body, she couldn't gather her force at all.

The more anxiously she wanted to recover, the worse the situation. It was like one wanting to grab onto hands even more tightly, but the sand just flowed away more quickly.

She tried countless times, but her pearl of essence was already broken, and she couldn't save it.

Facing Situ Xingchen's overwhelming murderous intent, Chu Liuyue didn't care about it at all and looked relaxed.

"Every time you steal one's body, you will need to exhaust a great amount of strength, and you might even destroy your own soul. I think you can't steal another person's body for the second time, right?" asked Chu Liuyue with a light smile.

Situ Xingchen was so angry that her face turned white. This was because Chu Liuyue had spoken the truth!

In this situation, it was currently impossible for her to steal another person's body and kill Chu Liuyue.

Her expression changed, and a harsh look flashed across her eyes.

Peng!

Situ Xingchen's body directly exploded.

"Xingchen!" Elder Zong Ye's face turned as white as a sheet. He looked at the scene in disbelief and felt that the entire world was spinning. He staggered backward and almost fell onto the floor.

Situ Xingchen stayed at Mingyue Tianshan for many years, and he had always doted on her, treating her as his own. Now that he suddenly saw this scene, this was unquestionably a huge blow to him.

His eyes instantly reddened, and he hated Chu Liuyue to the extreme. “Chu Liuyue, hand me your life!”

Without waiting for him to rush over, Elder Ye blocked him again.

Elder Zong Ye almost went crazy. “Ye Zhiting! Chu Liuyue caused Xingchen’s death! This isn’t the end!”

Elder Ye was so angry that he laughed. “Situ Xingchen had long died when her body was stolen. If you want to blame someone, you should blame the person that stole her body! Why would you blame my disciple?”

If it was done by us, we’d admit it. But if it wasn’t, we will never be someone else’s scapegoat.

“The reason why Situ Xingchen’s body was stolen was that she kept on absorbing the bronze cauldron’s energy crazily. This is why she directly summoned that soul. She’s just getting what she deserves! Why would she do it if she knew about this earlier?”

Elder Zong Ye’s face flushed white and red as the veins in his forehead and neck popped up. He was on the verge of breaking down, but he couldn’t say anything in retaliation. This was because deep in his heart, he knew that whatever Ye Zhiting said was right.

However, it was impossible for him to admit to it just yet.

“...She was forced by Chu Liuyue! If it weren’t for her, Xingchen definitely wouldn’t do this!” As he spoke, he angrily hollered at Chu Liuyue. “Chu Liuyue, you killed someone! Pay with your life! I—Zong Ye—and the entire Xing Luo will never let you off!”

But Chu Liuyue didn’t even shoot him a glance. After Situ Xingchen’s physical body exploded, she saw a bloody light spiraling out.

This person actually wants to escape!

Chapter 463: I am Her Fiancé

Choo!

That ball of red directly shot up to the sky, and it tore a hole in the Deep Xuan formation.

The red-tailed flood dragon let out an angry roar, but the red ball directly pierced through its tail.

Clang!

The gigantic Deep Xuan formation was completely broken, and it dissipated into countless stars.

That thing is about to escape in front of my eyes! Chu Liuyue’s heart sank.

Just as she was about to chase after it, a silver sword suddenly pierced through the sky and landed.

The sword cut through the air, and it sounded like thunder beside one's ears, which directly traveled to one's heart.

As if sensing something, Chu Liuyue looked up. She saw the longsword draw a bright line across the sky as it landed on the red ball of light.

Tsing!

The sword's blade pierced the ground and directly nailed it down.

Chu Liuyue's eyes sparkled. *An average longsword definitely can't nail one's soul, especially a soul this strong. That longsword clearly has some suppression encompassed within it since the soul was restricted totally.*

Chu Liuyue was very familiar with the aura within it. She looked in the direction where the longsword came from and met a pair of deep eyes the next moment.

It was as if her heart struck something soft. *It's really him!*

However, this feeling didn't last for long. This was because she quickly discovered that the person beside Rong Xiu was actually... Qi Han!

The two of them are actually together?! Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a few beats. Rong Xiu... Qi Han... What did they say?! Do they already know each other's identities? It's okay for Rong Xiu, but... what about Qi Han? Rong Xiu can cover the sky with one hand. If he really wants to know something...

Chu Liuyue stood there with many guesses in her mind, and the atmosphere at Rong Xiu and Qi Han's side became intense again.

"Why did you suddenly take action?!" Qi Han questioned solemnly as he suddenly turned around. *Earlier, Rong Xiu clearly said that Her Highness could single-handedly settle all of this, so I suppressed my inner worries and did not rush forward. But in the blink of an eye, Rong Xiu actually took action without any warning.*

Rong Xiu glanced at Qi Han and smiled lightly. "Because... I'm her fiancé!"

So nonchalant!

So righteous!

Qi Han slightly widened his eyes and instantly realized something. "You did it on purpose?!"

This way, Rong Xiu smoothly became the first person that helped Her Highness!

Rong Xiu raised his saber-like eyebrows. "I was just being considerate toward Yue'er."

His tone was nonchalant as if he didn't think of anything extra.

Qi Han did not talk for quite some time. *Rong Xiu's words aren't illogical. Currently, Her Highness hasn't returned to the Tianling Dynasty. If Her Highness's plans are completely destroyed because of me, then I can only use my death to punish myself. But... Rong Xiu clearly has ulterior intentions.*

"There won't be a next time!" said Qi Han coldly.

Rong Xiu's brows moved slightly, and he smiled with deep meaning. "Yue'er is my fiancée. I should do all of this."

Qi Han clenched his fists. *If it weren't for the fact that I know that Her Highness really likes Prince Li, I would definitely take action. I really don't know what Her Highness sees in him!*

...

Seeing that Qi Han and Rong Xiu seemed to be talking, Chu Liuyue became even more curious. But she was quite some distance away from them, so she couldn't hear them at all.

She was determined to clearly question them after cleaning up this mess.

Thinking of this, she walked to the longsword and used her fire to surround the soul.

A terrible cry was instantly heard.

Chu Liuyue glanced at the small fireball and shockingly discovered that that person's aura seemed to be rapidly depleting.

"The Heavenly Square Cauldron's karmic fire can burn many things, especially this soul." The legendary three-eyed eagle's voice suddenly reverberated in her heart. "As long as it is stored in the Heavenly Square Cauldron, it will disappear very quickly."

"Really? Then won't you—" Chu Liuyue widened her eyes. *The legendary three-eyed eagle's body was destroyed and is only left with a soul, but it has still stayed there for thousands of years, right?*

"How can these cheap humans be compared to me?" The legendary three-eyed eagle's voice was filled with unconcealable pride.

Chu Liuyue thought about it and agreed. *The legendary three-eyed eagle is a legendary fiend after all, and ordinary cultivators naturally can't compare to it. Even though... the cultivator seems to be pretty experienced...*

"You want his strength?"

From the soul's cries, she already heard that it seemingly belonged to a middle-aged man.

The legendary three-eyed eagle was silent for a while before admitting to it. "Yes, the strength in his body can help me recover."

Chu Liuyue slightly smiled. *It's pretty honest.*

Ever since she discussed with the legendary three-eyed eagle and settled on helping it, their relationship wasn't as harsh as before.

It was a good thing in her eyes.

Something popped up in her mind as she summoned the fireball into her body and threw the soul into the Heavenly Square Cauldron.

Once the blood-red ball appeared, endless transparent flames went forward and completely drowned it.

"Ah!" The painful screams became even more miserable, but they very quickly died down.

"Leave him alive," said Chu Liuyue in her heart. Perhaps I can find out something from it. No matter if it is the bronze cauldron, the goatskin scroll, or the reaction he gave when he saw the dagger that Rong Xiu gave me...

Chu Liuyue drew out the longsword in one shot.

Suddenly, her shoulders sank, and Tuan Zi rushed out.

Chu Liuyue smiled and touched its forehead. From the corner of her eyes, she saw Xue Xue sprawled on the floor.

Xue Xue glanced at the longsword in her hands from time to time.

“Xue Xue, thank you for today.” Chu Liuyue roughly knew what it was thinking, and she smiled and walked toward it.

Xue Xue then went near her, and its gaze scanned her wrist. It felt its heart ache as it gently licked it.

Chu Liuyue’s heart tingled. “They’re all superficial wounds. It’ll be better after I rest—”

Hong long!

Thunder rumbled within the clouds.

A figure shot up to the sky from Qinghe Hall.

Chu Liuyue focused on it and was instantly stunned. *That person is actually Emperor Jiawen! The key point is that he seems to be breaking through and becoming a peak stage-six warrior!*

Chapter 464: Hold Up!

The dense force circulated around his body, and the seal above his head almost disappeared completely.

Chu Liuyue had previously suspected that Emperor Jiawen wasn’t weak, but she didn’t expect him to be this strong. He had already become a peak stage-six warrior now, but he still didn’t stop!

A ridiculous idea surfaced in Chu Liuyue's mind: *If that seal completely disappears, and Emperor Jiawen's abilities continue to strengthen...*

As if to confirm her thoughts, the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force rapidly entered Emperor Jiawen's body as the last stroke of the seal disappeared.

His surrounding aura kept strengthening.

Chu Liuyue reacted like this, let alone the others that didn't know anything.

When Emperor Jiawen's figure appeared in midair, and he revealed his true cultivation level, everyone was shocked and had their mouths agape.

"T-that's... His Majesty?!"

"Of course, it's His Majesty! Wasn't he dragged to... Qinghe Hall? Why is he—"

"Stage-six warrior... His Majesty is actually a stage-six warrior?!"

The crowd partook in heated discussions, and the final sentence woke all of them up.

The numerous family heads standing in one corner exchanged glances, and they all fell into a strange silence.

This happened too suddenly, and it was a great shock.

Everyone in Country Yao Chen knew that Emperor Jiawen's cultivation talent could only be forcefully called 'decent' and that he wasn't worth a mention compared to a true talent.

In addition to the many years of resting on his throne, one didn't need to think to know that Emperor Jiawen's combat skills were very poor. Even up till just now, all the family heads thought in a similar manner.

If not, Emperor Jiawen wouldn't lose so quickly when Rong Jiu barged in, and he wouldn't be in such a defeated situation.

But now it seemed like... the rich strength and the formidable suppression were clearly coming from Emperor Jiawen's body.

This clearly showed that he was different from Situ Xingchen, who kept trying to absorb force and break through previously.

Emperor Jiawen had clearly hidden his true abilities! He only finally showed his capabilities.

Someone suddenly asked, "Where's the Third Prince?"

The crowd was instantly awakened. *Rong Jiu went to find Emperor Jiawen earlier!*

Anyone could imagine that the situation took a 180-degree turn in such a short period of time.

Rong Jiu was clearly losing. He might've achieved many accolades in wars, but he was definitely not the match of a stage-six warrior.

In actual fact, Rong Jiu was slightly better than what the crowd thought as he was just slightly injured.

Once he reached the outside of Qinghe Hall, he saw Emperor Jiawen cultivating. He was about to enter when Emperor Jiawen rose to the skies and completely disregarded him.

Rong Jiu was slightly injured as he was implicated by some of the force, but his inner shock was much heavier than before.

He looked up and stared at Emperor Jiawen—whose capabilities kept increasing—as he knitted his brows. Many emotions also flashed across his eyes—shock, doubt, suspicion, disbelief...

After a moment, he couldn't help but laugh.

Wei Lin—who was following closely behind—immediately asked, “Your Highness, are you alright?”

Rong Jiu shook his head and laughed even louder, but his face didn't reveal any smiling intent. *So this is my father! What I saw for the past few years was just an illusion! I thought I was much better than Father, but it turns out that I don't know anything at all! That man became someone completely different! No—perhaps he was originally like this!*

...

After Emperor Jiawen appeared, the red-tailed flood dragon seemed to be even more restless than before. It seemed to want to go forward, but it was always hesitant as it looked at Emperor Jiawen with a complicated gaze.

Chu Liuyue glanced at it, patted Xue Xue, and asked softly, "Why do I feel that... the red-tailed flood dragon seems to hate Emperor Jiawen? But it also seems to be fearful of him?"

Xue Xue rubbed its head against Chu Liuyue's palm and softly whimpered in confirmation.

Tuan Zi nodded even more crazily. *It's so obvious! The red-tailed flood dragon clearly wants to destroy Emperor Jiawen, but for some reason, it didn't take any action!*

Chu Liuyue felt even more suspicious. *The Deep Xuan formation is Country Yao Chen's defensive formation, and it suppressed the red-tailed flood dragon. Logically speaking, it should stand on the same side as the people in Country Yao Chen's royal family. Where did this unknown hatred and vengeance come from? It can't be because it supports Rong Jiu to ascend the throne. That has nothing to do with it.*

At this moment, the seal above Emperor Jiawen's head completely disappeared.

Emperor Jiawen's aura violently circulated.

Following the howling of the wind, the clouds gathered, and thunder rumbled.

It was a sign of a breakthrough!

Chu Liuyue held her breath in. *Emperor Jiawen actually wants to break through directly and become a stage-seven warrior?!*

Hong! Long! Long!

Following the loud sound, a ray of silver light suddenly descended from the skies.

The dark sky was illuminated by this light. Then, a second ray and a third ray appeared...

It was as if a silver waterfall appeared in the clouds.

A gigantic sky curtain sparkled brightly, and it exuded a crushing sense of pressure!

Some people couldn't take it anymore, and they knelt down and watched the scene emotionally.

Chu Liuyue gradually clenched her fists tighter because she couldn't believe what she had just seen. *Emperor Jiawen actually summoned Heaven's Canopy! This is the sign of him breaking through to become a stage-seven warrior!*

However, Emperor Jiawen didn't seem shocked at all. He seemed to have predicted this.

Under the stares of countless eyes, Emperor Jiawen slowly raised his hands and reached toward Heaven's Canopy.

“Hold on!” A low and lazy voice suddenly sounded.

Chapter 465: Stories of the Past

Emperor Jiawen suddenly paused in his actions as he turned around.

A large and tall figure stood before the crowd. He slowly moved over, and his handsome face had a nonchalant smile as his eyes sparkled like the night sky. He was surrounded by an unspeakable aura as if he had nothing to do with the mortal world.

It was Prince Li—Rong Xiu!

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes. This was because Rong Xiu’s bodily aura strengthened by a bit with every step he took.

The crowd who saw this scene gasped in shock. “T-that’s Prince Li?!”

“I thought that Prince Li was frail and that he’s always sick. What is this situation—”

“He actually broke through and became a stage-three—no, stage-four warrior?!”

Facing this sudden change, everyone was dazed.

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat. *Rong Xiu is planning to... show off his true strength?!*

"Y-you..." Emperor Jiawen stared at Rong Xiu closely, and his face changed. "Rong Xiu, you're not sick!"

Rong Xiu didn't immediately answer his question as he walked to Chu Liuyue and stood still. His gaze drooped down, and he grabbed her hand as his fingers glided past her broken wrist.

Warm and immense strength immediately entered her body.

"Your Highness, actually you don't have to—" Chu Liuyue originally wanted to tell him not to worry about her wounds as she was a heavenly doctor herself and had already briefly handled them earlier, so they would get better on their own after a while. But after meeting with Rong Xiu's warm and gentle gaze, her heart tingled, and she swallowed back her words.

"Sorry, I came late."

Chu Liuyue gently shook her head.

This caused the gaze of Qi Han—who was hiding in the dark—to grow cold.

"Leave the remaining things to me."

Hearing what Rong Xiu said, Chu Liuyue felt even more uneasy. "What... are you planning to do?"

He spent so much effort to hide himself for so many years. Why does he want to reveal everything today?!

Rong Xiu's lips curved up slightly. "I'm just putting an end to things."

Chu Liuyue's heart faltered as she subconsciously looked up and saw Emperor Jiawen in midair. Then, she lightly held his hand. "Sure."

When the two of them were talking, Rong Xiu's aura had broken through and became that of a stage-five warrior.

After confirming that Chu Liuyue wasn't severely injured, Rong Xiu turned back to look at his father.

If Emperor Jiawen couldn't tell what was going on at this point, he would've sat on the throne for so many years in vain. "Rong Xiu, y-you were lying to me earlier on?!"

Not only is he not sick, but he is also very talented in cultivation! If not, he wouldn't have reached this cultivation level at this age.

No!

Rong Xiu did not seem to stop. He had already broken through to become an intermediate stage-five warrior.

Rong Xiu smiled slightly and asked, "I'm just learning from you, Father. Weren't you like this all these years?"

Emperor Jiawen was taken aback, and he suddenly realized something as shock flashed across his eyes. "Y-you knew about it earlier on?!"

Rong Xiu smiled and didn't say anything, obviously admitting to it silently.

Emperor Jiawen instantly became flustered as his surrounding aura became messy. Even the nearing Heaven's Canopy became vague.

"W-when?! What else do you know?" Rare panic and anxiety were seen on Emperor Jiawen's face.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes. *I have never seen such an expression on Emperor Jiawen's face before. It's as if his secret of many years had suddenly been discovered. His face is filled with shock, but that's logical. When the surrounding people saw the current Rong Xiu, they had the same reaction. But where did this panic and anxiety come from?*

"Mother has already passed on for many years. Father, you don't have to be this worried." Rong Xiu's tone was calm as if he were narrating someone else's story.

Emperor Jiawen was as if thunderstruck. *Rong Xiu... he must've known everything!*

The previous anger of being deceived instantly dissipated as regret and vengeance overwhelmed Emperor Jiawen's heart. "Rong Xiu, things back then didn't happen like you imagine... I have my own difficulties too!"

If he wasn't guilty, why would he spend his years like this? For over 20 years, he converted all his apologetic feelings and regret into love for Rong Xiu. Even when Rong Xiu had long been sent to Mingyue Tianshan and wasn't raised by his side, he thought very highly of him.

He really wanted to leave all the best things in the world for him.

When Rong Xiu didn't want to return to the Imperial City, he allowed him to stay at Mingyue Tianshan.

When Rong Xiu didn't want to step out of his mansion, he commanded everyone not to disturb him.

When Rong Xiu wanted to marry Chu Liuyue as his wife, he still agreed even though she used to be the Crown Prince's fiancée and had broken all ties with the Chu family.

Does all of this seem like a joke and is worthless in Rong Xiu's eyes?!

It seemed like he wanted to explain, but Rong Xiu wasn't interested in listening.

He still smiled gently as usual, and his eyes seemed to have a frozen layer of ice above them. "Things in the past have passed. Even if you say all of this now, Mother won't hear it. As for me, I just want to fulfill Mother's last wish."

As he spoke, his cold gaze landed on something hanging around Emperor Jiawen's neck, and he smiled with deep meaning. "After all, you still activated that thing, right?"

Emperor Jiawen quickly looked defeated as his entire person aged a few decades at that moment. “No... No... I was forced...”

He clenched his fists, and his face was filled with conflict and pain. *First, it was the Empress; then, it was Rong Jiu. Everyone is betraying me! If I don't retaliate, I will be trapped in this palace until my death! It will waste my efforts from all these years! How can I accept this?! If these people didn't force me, why would I take this step? All these years, I've always been living in guilt, and I'm restless day and night. Aren't these punishments enough?!*

Faint mockery flashed across Rong Xiu's face. *Some people are best at giving themselves excuses.*

“Nobody forced you, Father. Since you made this decision earlier on, you should've known this was coming.”

What was supposed to come would come. It was just a matter of time.

Emperor Jiawen suddenly thought of something and anxiously said, “No, I wanted to make it up to her all along! Didn't you say that you wanted to fulfill her last wish?! What was it? If I can do it, I'll do my best.”

“Do you really mean that?” Rong Xiu raised his brows and seemed to falter.

Emperor Jiawen nodded readily. “I wronged her... It's my fault! If I can't do anything to make up for—”

“Mother said that she doesn't want to see you step into Heaven's Canopy.”

Emperor Jiawen's voice trailed off, and his entire person seemed to be frozen.

Rong Xiu's eyes turned cold as he said precisely, "She wants you to stay here forever and not be able to leave, even after your death."

Chapter 466: Battle

The blood on Emperor Jiawen's face disappeared, and he looked pale. He opened his mouth and seemed to have exhausted all the strength in his body to ask, "S-she really said so?"

She really hates me!

"Mother instructed me before her death, so I must do it to the best of my abilities," said Rong Xiu lightly.

The duo's conversation confused everyone present.

Emperor Jiawen loved Consort Wan very much back then, and he loved only her in the entire harem. But it now seems like Consort Wan deeply hated Emperor Jiawen.

Everything about Heaven's Canopy made the crowd even more muddle-headed.

Why was this Consort Wan's last wish?

A thought suddenly surfaced in Chu Liuyue's mind. *Could Rong Xiu's birth mother be someone from Heaven's Canopy?! Only this can explain why Rong Xiu has such formidable talent and abilities and the battle outside Heaven's Canopy.*

Emperor Jiawen's expression changed rapidly, and at last, he seemed to have made up his mind. He boomed, "Rong Xiu, I wronged your mother, but... Things have already ended up like this, and I can't do anything about it. Originally, I didn't plan to go to Heaven's Canopy, but now it seems like I have to go!"

Heaven's Canopy was right before him. As long as he broke through, he could enter!

That was a completely different place.

After Consort Wan's death, he was extremely regretful. Hence, he hid his abilities and spent his life uselessly afterward.

Originally, he wanted to peacefully pass the rest of his life. But now, as long as he took a step out, everything would be different.

The balance in his heart was already tilted to one side.

Rong Xiu was unmoved as he seemingly smiled and said, "You can go if you want. You just have to return that thing to me."

Emperor Jiawen's face changed. "You want to take this thing away?"

“That originally belongs to my mother. What do you mean by ‘taking it away?’” Contempt flashed across Rong Xiu’s eyes. “Besides...”

Besides, Mother never agreed to leave that thing to you. Back then, he had used some methods to get this item. If one were to say ‘take it away,’ he was the one who took it away from Mother.

After being exposed by Rong Xiu, Emperor Jiawen was very awkward, and he flew into a rage out of humiliation. “Rong Xiu! All these years, I have never treated you badly! Is this how you treat me in return?!”

To think that I thought that Rong Xiu was naturally frail and that I was even upset about this for a very long time as I found countless heavenly doctors to treat him. In the end, it was all a hoax!

Rong Xiu’s brows moved, and he suddenly laughed. “Father, would you still treat me like that if you knew of this earlier on?”

Emperor Jiawen was suddenly stumped, and his face flushed red, but he couldn’t say anything at all.

Rong Xiu’s expression was filled with even more mockery. If Emperor Jiawen knew earlier that my body was fine and that I was very talented, he would’ve taught me a lesson earlier on. How would I have such a day? The so-called ‘good’ is just built on how I wouldn’t cause any threat to him. Just like how he claimed he was very devoted to Mother, he was the one that harmed her the most. He was also the one who made her upset even until she was on the deathbed.

To Rong Xiu, Emperor Jiawen’s words were just a complete joke.

Looking at Rong Xiu's gaze that could see through everything, Emperor Jiawen swallowed back the words of defense. Eventually, all the expression on his face disappeared, and he was left with coldness. "If you want to stop me, you should see if you have that ability!"

Then, he started absorbing the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force.

The seal had completely disappeared, and all the strength in his body had flowed out. He only had to break through the last step successfully and become a stage-seven warrior; then, he could successfully enter Heaven's Canopy.

Rong Xiu raised his hands.

Buzz!

The sound of the sword was heard once again.

The silver sword that was previously stuck to the ground suddenly flew up and landed in his hands.

His legs were crossed as he held the longsword's handle tightly and stared at Emperor Jiawen with a deadly gaze.

The sword rose, and the sword landed!

A formidable sword aura slashed across.

The marble tiles were respectively crushed, and they flew up. Then, the tiles became powder amidst the terrifying sword aura.

When Emperor Jiawen saw Rong Xiu take action, he knew that something was wrong.

When he saw the sword aura coming toward him, his heart skipped a beat. *Rong Xiu's abilities have actually reached that of a stage-six warrior!*

When a cultivator was breaking through, they had to gather all of their focus. This was even more so for those at higher cultivation levels.

Emperor Jiawen originally wanted to set up a barrier and block the attacks outside. But once Rong Xiu took action, he knew that it was impossible.

With no avail, he could only pause temporarily and return an attack to Rong Xiu. "Mountain River Lands!"

A wave of blue force escaped from his palms. Then, the second and third waves of force came out very quickly.

The force streamed out in waves before quickly merging together and running toward the river.

One could vaguely hear the sounds of the rushing water.

The force showered down like a river, and the harsh sword aura reached it immediately.

The two forces harshly smashed against one another. The next moment, the sword aura entered the river, and water flew everywhere.

Emperor Jiawen silently heaved a sigh of relief. The next moment, he saw that the blue river suddenly split in the middle and became two portions.

Emperor Jiawen's expression suddenly froze.

The sword aura's offensive traits didn't seem to be reduced at all, and the strength hidden within the sword aura was even stronger than he had imagined.

Then, the sword aura started reversing.

The formidable aura made Emperor Jiawen's body tense up.

Clang!

His force was completely broken through.

The sword aura went straight for his head.

He tiptoed and rapidly moved backward. But at this point, he suddenly felt harsh, cold air coming toward him.

He avoided it and went to the side without hesitation. Then, he hurriedly looked to the side and realized that the one that attacked him was the red-tailed flood dragon.

Roar!

When the red-tailed flood dragon failed its attack, its emotions became even more violent.

Its vigorous roar reverberated throughout the air.

The crowd spectating from the ground also felt the impact and gradually changed their expressions. Some of them who were weaker directly puked out blood.

However, the suppression didn't land on Chu Liuyue. It was as though a transparent barrier was blocking the red-tailed flood dragon's aura for her invisibly.

Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings and blinked. *There are so many people who are affected, but why am I not?*

Then, her gaze landed on Xue Xue.

"I am a legendary fiend. What's a mere red-tailed flood dragon?" The legendary three-eyed eagle's voice suddenly sounded.

Chu Liuyue immediately understood. I forgot about this! The legendary three-eyed eagle is in my dantian. Even though no outsiders know about it, fiends are very sensitive to this.

“That red-tailed flood dragon is the protector fiend of Country Yao Chen’s palace. Why would it attack Emperor Jiawen...” Chu Liuyue muttered to herself.

Just as she was confused, that sword aura already landed on Emperor Jiawen.

Chapter 467: Truth

Emperor Jiawen originally wanted to avoid it, but the sword aura’s speed was too fast.

Choo!

The cold aura scratched past his neck.

Kacha!

The thing hanging around his neck suddenly snapped and flew toward Rong Xiu.

Emperor Jiawen was shocked and immediately reached out to grab it back, but he missed it by a few inches. Just as he was about to chase it, the red-tailed flood dragon rushed up again and slammed its tail against Emperor Jiawen strongly.

Emperor Jiawen was careless for a while, and his back was harshly hit. His body flew back uncontrollably.

At this moment, that thing had already landed in Rong Xiu's hands.

Chu Liuyue looked over and realized that it was a black bone chain, and a... ring was hanging on it.

That ring was bronze, and there seemed to be a mysterious black pattern carved on it, making it look very special.

Rong Xiu looked down and glanced at the ring as his black lashes covered his eyes. His thin lips pressed against each other, and his jade-like chin seemed to tense up for a moment.

His face didn't show any expression, but Chu Liuyue's heart was suddenly tugged.

"Rong Xiu, return me that thing!" Emperor Jiawen forcefully stabilized himself and hurriedly looked at Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu's expression changed. His wrist flipped, and he put away that ring. "If Mother were still around, she definitely wouldn't agree to me returning you this item."

"You!" Emperor Jiawen wanted to argue, but he couldn't say anything when he met with Rong Xiu's transparent eyes. It was like every extra sentence he said would become deep mockery.

Just when he felt very conflicted, the red-tailed flood dragon rushed up again.

The human and the fiend battled.

At this point, Emperor Jiawen was a peak stage-six warrior, and the red-tailed flood dragon was a seventh-grade fiend. Logically speaking, they could forcefully fight to a draw.

But Emperor Jiawen very quickly came to be on the losing side, and he was about to be defeated.

The more important thing was that his force seemed to spread in all directions continuously, and his aura gradually reduced.

Not long later, his cultivation dropped by one stage.

But this was only the beginning.

Time trickled past, and the red-tailed flood dragon left increasingly more marks on his body.

At the very end, Emperor Jiawen couldn't retaliate at all, and his cultivation level dropped to that of a stage-four warrior.

Bang!

Emperor Jiawen finally couldn't take it any longer and fell to the floor.

Dust flew up instantly.

He held his chest and violently coughed, causing his entire mouth to be filled with blood and him to hang by his last few breaths.

Rong Xiu didn't seem interested in this as he turned around and walked toward Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue finally couldn't help but ask softly, "That red-tailed flood dragon seems to have a grudge against His Majesty..."

Rong Xiu smiled lightly and nonchalantly said, "It once received help from Mother."

I see. Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding and sized Rong Xiu up in detail before sighing. I have never asked Rong Xiu why he pretended to be ill and all along thought that he was doing it for the throne. I didn't expect it to be for... the person sitting on the throne. All these years of careful planning were done to deal with Emperor Jiawen.

Just as she was about to say something, she suddenly noticed a gaze from the side.

She turned and looked.

Rong Jiu looked at Rong Xiu with a complicated gaze.

He was not stupid. Many things had happened before and after, so he had guessed quite a bit.

“Seventh Brother, I have something to speak to you about in private. I wonder if you have the time now.”

Rong Xiu smiled lightly and nodded. “Sure.”

...

Outside Tai He Hall, Chu Liuyue was speaking to Elder Ye. “Mentor, don’t worry. All of these are small wounds, and they’ll recover after a while...”

Chu Liuyue looked at Elder Ye and was caught between laughter and tears.

Ever since Rong Xiu and Rong Jiu entered Tai He Hall to discuss something, Elder Ye kept asking her non-stop, afraid that there was something wrong with her body.

“Didn’t you already take my pulse? Do you not trust yourself?”

Elder Ye coughed. “I’m just worried about you.”

Thinking of what happened earlier on, he still felt scared. *If my disciple wasn't outstanding and strong enough, it would really be dangerous!*

Chu Liuyue swiftly changed the topic. "Elder Zong Ye has left already?"

Elder Ye sneered. "Situ Xingchen is already dead. Why would he still stay here? If he stays any longer, he would be the one that dies next."

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment. "Elder Zong Ye seems to be someone who holds grudges. So for the happenings today..."

"Haha, that fellow has always been like this! But he won't dare to let the news spread to Mingyue Tianshan. If not, he won't be able to bear with the consequences of failing. Even though Zong Ye is just a stage-six warrior, he won't dare to mess around."

Chu Liuyue remained silent. *Elder Zong Ye and Situ Xingchen had a very good relationship. If not, he wouldn't exhaust his means to come over and save her personally. Now that he has personally witnessed Situ Xingchen dying in front of him, I feel that he won't take it lying down...*

"As for Country Xing Luo's side... Situ Xingchen is the eldest princess after all..."

Situ Yan really doted on this daughter. When he was angry, he might do something about it.

Elder Ye waved his hands. "Don't worry. Situ Yan won't dare to mess around. Situ Xingchen absorbed the strength within the bronze cauldron and used it to elevate her strength. She even wanted to kill you, so she was in the wrong first. Besides, her body was later stolen, and she was already dead at that

moment. At the end of the day, she dug her own grave. Everyone saw it clearly, so how would Situ Yan dare to talk about this?”

No matter how much he liked Situ Xingchen, it was impossible for him to put the entire Country Xing Luo on the line. Thus, he could only reduce the severity of the matter and amount it to nothing in the end.

Chu Liuyue lightly nodded as she looked at the tightly locked door. “I wonder how their discussion is going.”

Emperor Jiawen had already been locked up, and the red-tailed flood dragon was once again suppressed within the Deep Xuan formation.

The previous messy state had already been cleaned up mostly. On the surface, it looked as if everything had returned to normal. However...

Everyone knew that the matter’s ending was controlled by the duo.

Elder Ye followed her gaze and sighed deeply. “I didn’t expect that after so many years, it’s still...”

Chu Liuyue asked again, “Mentor, did you already know that His Majesty—”

Elder Ye hesitated for a moment before nodding; then, he shook his head. “I only knew that His Majesty and Ru Yue had a conflict back then because he wronged her, but I didn’t know it was... What’s the point?”

Who else could he blame for his current state?

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and asked, "Consort Wan... Was she from Heaven's Canopy?"

Elder Ye paused for a while and laughed bitterly. "I can't confirm this either. She met His Majesty outside by accident, and he said that she was an orphan from a poor family. However, nobody knew the details. She was greatly loved back then, and many people had secretly investigated her identity, but they couldn't find anything."

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding. *This explains everything.*

Creek!

Tai He Hall's door suddenly opened.

Chapter 468: Honesty

Chu Liuyue and Elder Ye looked up at the same time.

Not far behind them, the crowd of family heads kept quiet and looked over.

A figure came out from inside—it was Rong Xiu.

His cold and distinguished face was very calm, and nobody could tell his expression. However, the family heads outside unwittingly became scared.

After witnessing this person's abilities, they didn't dare to treat Rong Xiu the same way as before.

The crowd became silent.

Chu Liuyue stepped forward. "Your Highness, how are you?"

Rong Xiu's heart warmed when he met with her worried gaze. All the tiredness and lethargy from all these days seem to vanish into thin air at that moment. *No matter what, there is still one person that continues accompanying me.*

"Let's go home," said Rong Xiu lightly as he grabbed her hands.

...

Overnight, Country Yao Chen experienced a drastic change.

Firstly, Rong Jiu brought soldiers and started a revolt. They attacked the Imperial City and charged into the palace.

Then, Country Xing Luo's Eldest Princess—Situ Xingchen—swallowed some weird power and broke through repeatedly before trying to kill Chu Liuyue. In the end, her body was stolen, and she was killed instead.

Finally, in order to retrieve his birth mother's item, Prince Li—Rong Xiu—fought with Emperor Jiawen and won with his sword.

Too many things had happened on that day, and the news spread throughout the Imperial City.

Nobody tried to seal the news. In actual fact, it was impossible to pretend nothing happened after such a huge commotion was caused.

Besides, the fight for the throne had huge implications. So when the family heads witnessed this personally, they would definitely tell their own family members to find out how to handle the situation.

In no time, everyone in the Imperial City was talking about this.

Very quickly, the latest news came out: The Third Prince, Rong Jiu, would ascend the throne and become the emperor, while Prince Li—Rong Xiu—chose to return to Mingyue Tianshan.

As for Emperor Jiawen, as the supreme emperor, he would be sent to a hall and spend his remaining years there.

Everyone partook in discussions about this ending. After all, everyone now knew that Rong Xiu wasn't truly sickly. On the other hand, he was very talented and strong.

Previously, many people had guessed that he and Rong Jiu would fight for eventual ownership of the throne. They didn't expect him to return to Mingyue Tianshan.

As for Emperor Jiawen... What good ending would he have after he was forcefully removed from the throne?

But after Situ Xingchen died, Country Xing Luo didn't have any reaction. It was as though they directly skipped past the event.

...

Prince Li Mansion, bamboo forest.

Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu sat opposite each other with a chess game in between them.

The wind blew lightly, and the bamboo leaves rustled.

Rong Xiu put down the chess piece in his hands. "Yue'er, do you think I'm too heartless?"

Chu Liuyue looked up and said in shock, "Your Highness, why would you say so?"

Rong Xiu paused.

Chu Liuyue suddenly understood. *Is he talking about Emperor Jiawen?*

“You have your own reasons and logic for doing this, Your Highness.” Chu Liuyue lightly shook her head. “If you think you did nothing wrong, then you did nothing wrong.”

Rong Xiu’s thin lips curved up, and he suddenly inched in closer. He looked at her eyes calmly and teased, “Yue’er, do you mean that you’ll always stand on my side no matter what I do?”

His voice was low and lazy as he smiled in a nonchalant manner.

“Of course,” said Chu Liuyue determinedly as she gazed into his deep eyes. Her expression was serious and sincere.

Rong Xiu’s heart seemed to slam against something as a dim light flashed across his eyes.

“Your Highness, you’re my man. Of course, I’ll protect you.” Chu Liuyue smiled, and her eyes curved up as if she was joking. However, her gaze was determined and didn’t allow room for any doubts.

Rong Xiu knew that she meant it. He kept silent for a moment and suddenly said, “Actually, that’s not very accurate.”

“Hm, why?” Chu Liuyue was dazed.

Rong Xiu’s long fingers knocked against the chessboard in a seemingly smiling manner. “I’m still not quite your man now.”

His voice was especially low, and he dragged his last syllable, which landed in Chu Liuyue's ear. It felt as though something was scratching her ear.

Chu Liuyue suddenly reacted and couldn't help but scold in her heart. *Demon!*

"I'm afraid I will have to disappoint you, Your Highness. I have to go to the Tianling Dynasty now, and you will have to return to Mingyue Tianshan. I'm afraid we won't be seeing each other for a while."

Rong Xiu raised his saber-like eyebrows. "It seems like you're very anxious, Yue'er."

Chu Liuyue suddenly said, "Not as anxious as you, Your Highness, who prepared everything for the grand wedding in advance!"

Speaking of this, Rong Xiu felt rather regretful. "I did plan for a grand wedding early on, but... Too many things happened along the way, and I didn't expect it to drag until now."

Both of them now had things to do, and they couldn't make it in time for the grand wedding.

Upon seeing that Rong Xiu really seemed disappointed, Chu Liuyue's heart tingled. "Anyway, we do have a marriage agreement. It doesn't make much of a difference whether we marry earlier or later, right?"

Rong Xiu looked at her with deep meaning and smiled lightly. "Of course, there's a difference. I have already waited for too long."

Doubt flashed across Chu Liuyue's heart. *It has only been a few months since we first met. Why does Rong Xiu sound like he truly has been waiting for a very long time...*

“But if it’s for you, Yue’er, I can continue waiting.”

Noticing Rong Xiu’s gentle gaze, Chu Liuyue sighed lightly. *Actually, if I leave, the road will be perilous and filled with obstacles. I don’t know when I can see him again.*

“Your Highness, you really want to go back to Mingyue Tianshan?”

“I’ve already settled everything in the Imperial City, so there’s no need for me to stay.”

If I don’t find a time to go back, I’m afraid that 36 Respected Elder Ming will chase after me. Besides, I have to go back and handle something else. He gently caressed Chu Liuyue’s hand—which was soft and thin—with much reluctance.

Chu Liuyue’s heart seemed to hit something soft, which was sour and sweet.

She seemed to say without hesitation, “Then... Wait for me to come back from the Tianling Dynasty, and we’ll hold a grand wedding. How about that?”

Rong Xiu gathered his focus. *That was what I wanted to say, but I didn’t expect her to say it first.*

He looked into her eyes, and he felt as if he could drown in her deep gaze. The next moment, he lowered his head and kissed Chu Liuyue’s brows. “Sure.”

The light sound harbored way too much—patience, tolerance, love, trust...

Chu Liuyue looked down and thought for a long time before finally making up her mind. “Your Highness, I have something to tell you.”

Rong Xiu nodded and leaned in to listen to her.

Chu Liuyue pursed her lips, not speaking for a while.

Rong Xiu didn’t urge her; he just waited quietly by the side.

After some time, Chu Liuyue was determined. She looked into Rong Xiu’s eyes and enunciated every word. “I don’t know when I’ll come back from the Tianling Dynasty. My enemy is there.”

Chapter 469: Who’s That Coming?

The bamboo forest was completely silent, and only the sounds of bamboo leaves rustling in the wind were heard.

Chu Liuyue felt that everything in the surroundings seemed to stand still and that only the face of the person in front was especially clear.

Her voice was light, and it instantly disappeared in this wind. However, she knew that Rong Xiu heard it.

This was her biggest secret.

She originally thought that it would be very hard to talk about it, but facing separation, she realized that it was much easier for her to be honest toward Rong Xiu. This was because she truly wanted to continue being with him.

Something seemed to ripple in Rong Xiu's eyes. After a moment, he looked into her eyes and said, "If you can't go back, I'll look for you."

"...Your Highness, why didn't you ask me why I have enemies in the Tianling Dynasty?" Chu Liuyue was suddenly dazed. *For the past decade, I was just an abandoned good-for-nothing from a family that was falling in Country Yao Chen. Logically speaking, I shouldn't have any relations with the Tianling Dynasty.*

However, Rong Xiu wasn't shocked or curious.

His lips curved up, and he smiled. "I only care about whether your revenge is sweet, Yue'er."

Chu Liuyue paused.

Rong Xiu leaned in close to her ear, and his warm breath blew against it, causing it to heat up slightly. "Wherever you go, I will follow."

...

The skies were bright, and there were no clouds in the sky.

Jian Fengchi rode on his sword, and Chu Liuyue was following right behind.

“You’re really going like this?” Jian Fengchi glanced at Chu Liuyue. “For a very long time after this, you won’t be able to see your father and your fiancé.”

Chu Liuyue’s eyebrows rose slightly. “Young Master Jian, can you help me bring them to the Tianling Dynasty?”

Jian Fengchi immediately said, “No.”

The Tianling Dynasty’s security was very tight, and everybody’s identity had to be thoroughly investigated. This was especially so since the place they were going to this time was the Tianling Dynasty’s royal capital—Xi Ling!

Even if one could cross over to Heaven’s Canopy, one couldn’t enter Xi Ling without a suitable reason or identity.

Chu Liuyue stretched her arms wide open. *My road is unknown and rocky this time, so it’s more convenient for me to travel alone.*

Jian Fengchi sized her up, and his lips curved up into a sinister smile. “But that Prince Li... He hid himself quite well. According to his abilities, it won’t pose a problem if he wants to enter Heaven’s Canopy.”

Chu Liuyue glanced at him. *Jian Fengchi seems to be very interested in Rong Xiu as he keeps on talking about him.*

She shook her head once again. "He naturally has his own plans."

After seeing that Chu Liuyue was an iron wall and that oil and salt couldn't enter, Jian Fengchi's smile dissipated, and he grunted. "I really don't know what you were thinking when you decided to be with such a scheming person."

Chu Liuyue couldn't be bothered with him.

The duo didn't talk again. After around an hour, they finally stopped near a mountain.

Jian Fengchi jumped down and waved his sleeves.

Dust flew up, and a transportation formation appeared in front of the two of them.

Chu Liuyue's gaze focused, and she also jumped down before walking to Jian Fengchi's side.

"This is the transportation formation I used when I came here." Jian Fengchi raised his chin.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. *This mountain peak is to the southeast of the Imperial City. It is completely isolated, so why would there be a transportation formation here?*

Seeing the shock and confusion on Chu Liuyue's face, Jian Fengchi thought that she was curious about this transportation formation. Hence, he explained, "This transportation formation can quickly get us to

Heaven's Canopy. But if we want to reach the Tianling Dynasty, we have to go through two transportation formations."

Chu Liuyue nodded.

Other than cultivators who tried to break through to become stage-seven warriors and could directly summon Heaven's Canopy, others needed to personally go to where Heaven's Canopy was before they could enter.

But she was curious about something else. "This transportation formation seems old."

Jian Fengchi touched his chin. "That's right, and it seems like it's not regularly used. I knew about this because Mu Qinghe told me that I could go from here. Actually, I am also very curious as to why a transportation formation connected to Heaven's Canopy is here."

Emperor Jiawen had gone to the Tianling Dynasty in the past, so there was such a transportation formation in the Imperial City. However, it was weird for one to appear in such a place.

"Perhaps the old cultivators built it last time."

Jian Fengchi didn't care much about this transportation formation. As he spoke, force gathered in his palm, and he placed it on the transportation formation.

A silver light flashed across, and the transportation formation was activated.

The duo's figures disappeared on the spot.

...

The surroundings fell into darkness, and Chu Liuyue could only hear the turbulence grazing past her ears.

But luckily, Jian Fengchi had built a barrier. Thus, she didn't suffer much from the strong force or suppression.

After some time, light finally appeared before their eyes.

Jian Fengchi said, "We're going out soon."

Chu Liuyue's heart clenched. The next moment, her vision turned bright.

She felt a force pushing her and Jian Fengchi out.

She staggered backward and stabilized her figure.

"Look! This is Heaven's Canopy, which the Tianling Dynasty is in charge of guarding!" Jian Fengchi raised his hands and pointed in one direction.

Chu Liuyue's entire body stiffened, and she gradually raised her head.

At this moment, the duo was standing at the edge of the cliff. Below the cliff was a boundless and violent blue-black ocean.

Far away, where the sea and the sky connected, the gigantic Heaven's Canopy drooped down from the dim sky.

Countless stars flashed across it, and it dazzled like a river full of stars.

The endless Heavenly Dao suppressed them and flowed, almost covering the entire heaven and earth.

In the middle of Heaven's Canopy was a team of soldiers wearing black armor and holding longswords. They stood in one neat line.

Even from a distance away, Chu Liuyue could still clearly feel the murderous aura from the soldiers.

In the entire Tianling Dynasty, only the sharpest and strongest of soldiers had the right to guard Heaven's Canopy. Hence, all these people were the strongest of millions.

They stood there solemnly, and they had merged together with this heaven and earth.

The hands in Chu Liuyue's sleeves trembled slightly, and the blood in her body seemed to freeze. There seemed to be something burning in her stomach, and it was about to burst.

This scene was very familiar!

Tianling Dynasty, year 1645. She just became of marriageable age, and she came here to supervise the area as the princess.

At that time, thousands of soldiers greeted her respectfully, and the flags hung high in the sky, looking very majestic.

The her back then never would've imagined that she would come here again in such a manner.

Jian Fengchi saw that Chu Liuyue's gaze wasn't right, and he couldn't help but ask, "What's wrong?"

Chu Liuyue's gaze flashed, and a perfect smile surfaced on her face. "I'm just a little nervous. Young Master Jian, you don't have to worry."

Jian Fengchi nodded. *This is her first time here after all, and it's normal to be nervous.*

"This is Tianling Dynasty's Heaven's Canopy! Who is the person incoming?!" A stern voice sounded from afar.

Chapter 470: Snatch

Jian Fengchi took out a plaque, and it floated in midair as a faint suppression exuded from it.

Jian Fengchi loudly said, "Dragon Teeth Mountain's Jian Fengchi!"

“So it’s Young Master Jian!” Hearing Jian Fengchi’s voice, the opposing soldier became much more respectful. “What about the person beside you—”

“Take out the plaque Mu Qinghe left for you,” said Jian Fengchi softly.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and produced the plaque, which similarly floated in midair. “Country Yao Chen’s Chu Liuyue!”

Her voice sounded as clear and calm as usual, but her palms were dripping with sweat in reality.

After checking that the duo’s plaques were correct, that person said, “Lieutenant Mu has already instructed us. The both of you can be let in. Please—”

A ripple then appeared on Heaven’s Canopy. Soon after, a long bridge slowly extended from Heaven’s Canopy and reached the duo.

Jian Fengchi and Chu Liuyue exchanged a glance.

“Let’s go!” Then, he lifted his leg first and walked onto the long bridge.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and followed him closely.

The duo walked past the long bridge and became increasingly nearer to that entrance.

Chu Liuyue could already clearly see the soldiers' faces, and her heart beat increasingly wildly as she got increasingly closer to the entrance.

"Young Master Jian, Ms. Chu, please—"

At this moment, a ripple was seen far away.

Chu Liuyue turned around and saw two figures on the cliff.

A man and a woman appeared, and they looked very young.

Seeing the long bridge had already appeared in front of them, that man laughed loudly. "The bridge appeared at the right time! Yunzhi, we'll definitely be able to make it this time. You're not worried about being late, right?"

That woman chuckled. "I've never come here before, so it's inevitable that I'm nervous and anxious. Cousin, why must you make fun of me? Besides, I'm only like this because I'm afraid that I'll hold you back."

That man laughed out loud. "There's still some time before the final deadline. You don't have to worry! Let's go; I'll show you what the Tianling Dynasty is like!"

Hope filled the girl's face.

That man produced a plaque in his hands. "Sky-Soaring Clan disciple—Chen Xiyuan—specially brings Imperial Country Sui Yang's Zhao Yunzhi with the Dijing Yuan meridian back!"

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes. So they're from Sky-Soaring Clan. It seems like that girl was also brought here because she has the Dijing Yuan meridian just like me. I originally thought that the people who did this only included Mu Qinghe and the other Black Guards. I didn't expect the Sky-Soaring Clan to send people as well. It seems like this matter is much grander than I had imagined...

After Chen Xiyuan finished his sentence, he put away his plaque and stepped onto the bridge happily.

"Hold on." Jian Fengchi suddenly spoke up and lazily said, "This bridge is specifically summoned for Liuyue and me. According to the rules, you have to wait until we go in. You also have to verify your identities before you can summon the bridge again. Why do you want to share one with us...?"

Before the soldier in charge could say anything, Chen Xiyuan laughed out loud and said, "It seems like the two of you have also just arrived. It won't delay much of your time if we use this bridge together, right? Isn't it great that we can go over together and that I don't have to summon another bridge?"

Jian Fengchi crossed his arms and let out a sneer. "It seems like you don't know what it means to be served first when you come first. Your ears also aren't working. I said that I disagree. Did you not hear me?"

What's great about it? I don't think it's great at all!

Chu Liuyue coughed softly. I forgot that Dragon Teeth Mountain and Sky-Soaring Clan have been enemies for thousands of years and that they have many grudges against each other. Jian Fengchi naturally won't allow Sky-Soaring Clan's Chen Xiyuan to do this. Besides, according to his picky personality, he originally wouldn't agree to this, let alone with the two of them.

Jian Fengchi's words made Chen Xiyuan's expression turn ugly. *I just requested to cross the bridge together, and it's nothing big, yet the other party drove me to a corner. How disgusting! Saying this in front of so many people has humiliated me.*

This is my first time bringing my cousin, Zhao Yunzhi, out. If I submit now, how can I raise my head in front of my cousin in the future? His voice turned cold. "This Young Master, I'm just asking you for help. Why must you behave in such a manner?"

Jian Fengchi shrugged his shoulders. "It's a pity that I don't like to help."

Chen Xiyuan was so angry that he laughed. He tidied his shirt and raised his chin. "It seems like you still don't know my identity. I am Sky-Soaring Clan's disciple—"

Jian Fengchi raised his finger and shook it, interrupting Chen Xiyuan's words. "Pfft, I'm not interested in your identities at all."

He then turned to look at the soldiers and raised his brows.

The two soldiers by the entrance glanced at each other before looking at the distant Chen Xiyuan with solemn faces. "You should wait first."

The smile on Chen Xiyuan's face froze. *The Sky-Soaring Clan has a high status in the entire Tianling Dynasty, and everyone respects us no matter where we go. I have never suffered such anger before.*

"You—" He wanted to go up and reason with them, but he was pulled back by Zhao Yunzhi.

Zhao Yunzhi softly said, "Cousin, let's not fight with them and give in to let them go first."

Jian Fengchi already had one foot past the entrance. When he heard this, he turned around and chuckled. *Give in?! Why does it sound like we're at fault? It's usual for the Sky-Soaring Clan's people to be shameless, but I didn't expect the people they bring in to be the same!*

Chu Liuyue held her breath and walked into the entrance.

Heaven's Canopy's light scanned her body as if it was about to see through her at any moment.

Buzz!

A small, crisp sound was made, but Heaven's Canopy suddenly had a strange movement.

Chu Liuyue was shocked. *This movement seemed to be because of the water droplet in my body.*

The surrounding soldiers noticed this movement and immediately looked at Chu Liuyue alertly.

Even Jian Fengchi turned back.

Chu Liuyue had a thought and forcefully suppressed the water droplet's ripples.

That strange sound instantly disappeared.

“What... just happened?” The soldiers stared at Chu Liuyue, and their eyes were filled with doubt.

Chu Liuyue innocently shook her head. “I-I don’t know.”

Jian Fengchi glanced at Heaven’s Canopy and knitted his brows slightly. “I think it’s just a common ripple.”

The few soldiers then relaxed. This did happen to Heaven’s Canopy sometimes.

If there really was something wrong with Chu Liuyue, the commotion wouldn’t just disappear.

A few people still had their suspicions, but Jian Fengchi smiled. “Do you not trust the person Mu Qinghe picked?”

The few people’s expressions changed. “Of course not. Please—”

Chu Liuyue felt relaxed as she stepped forward and crossed into Heaven’s Canopy.