

## Nobel Ruler 481

### Chapter 481: Heavenly Dao Sworn Agreement

Chu Liuyue took a while to react. *The legendary three-eyed eagle actually instinctively spoke up, and it wants to recognize me as its owner. Unbelievable! Even if it were an average fiend, it wouldn't be willing to acknowledge a human as its master, let alone a distinguished legendary fiend like the legendary three-eyed eagle. Even if lunch drops from the sky, it doesn't drop like that, right?*

Chu Liuyue was dazed by this sudden sentence. "A-are you serious?"

"You're dead if you say that you don't want it!" said the legendary three-eyed eagle ferociously. Its voice was so cold that it could freeze 3,000 miles. *If it wasn't for recovering my physical body, how could I be willing to acknowledge a human as my master!?*

In the entire legendary three-eyed eagle clan's history of millions of years, this situation had almost never happened.

It was more unwilling and more reluctant than anyone else, but... this was the only way! It had burned in the Heavenly Square Cauldron for thousands of years, and the long days and nights tortured it to no end, making it suffer eternal pain.

Its mindset and willpower had long been destroyed countless times. If it weren't for it relying on its last bit of resolution, it wouldn't have made it this far. It would've just died amidst the intense fire.

After a long while, this had become its last support. Thus... it had to think of a way to recover its physical body and return to its previous peak.

Chu Liuyue coughed. "I think everyone will love to have it, right? But... I already have Tuan Zi. I'm afraid... this will be hard."

As she spoke, she opened her eyes and had indeed seen Tuan Zi ferociously glaring at her... abdomen.

Tuan Zi's entire body was filled with murderous intent. If Chu Liuyue agreed, it would probably launch into combat mode immediately.

The legendary three-eyed eagle chuckled with unconcealable pride. "I am part of a legendary clan, so I won't be restricted by this rule."

The so-called rule that stated that a human could only have one fiend at any point in time was only for average fiends. This didn't pose a problem to legendary fiends.

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes. *This is my first time hearing about this. So legendary fiends are really this incredible and unstoppable...*

Tuan Zi bared its teeth, let out threatening howls, and clenched its two claws into fists. *I'm going to go all-out with this guy!*

Chu Liuyue was suddenly stuck in the middle. On the one hand, she didn't want Tuan Zi to be unhappy. On the other hand, she really wanted to help the legendary three-eyed eagle to recover its physical body.

After hesitating for a moment, she asked, "There should be other ways, right?"

The legendary three-eyed eagle coldly said, "Of course. As long as you become a stage-eight warrior, the success rate will be much higher!"

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *I'm just a stage-three warrior. It would take forever for me to break through and become a stage-eight warrior.*

Chu Liuyue looked at Tuan Zi. "Tuan Zi, let me ask you seriously. What is your attitude on this? If you agree, nod. If you disagree, shake your head. Whatever you say will be the final decision, alright?"

Tuan Zi was suddenly taken aback and dazedly stared at her as it didn't expect Chu Liuyue to let it make the decision. It indeed felt jealous and terrible once it thought that Chu Liuyue would no longer belong to it alone. *I found her with much difficulty...*

But when she asked Tuan Zi so sincerely and seriously, it suddenly didn't know what to do.

In this world, one would be more than elated if they could have a legendary fiend. One wouldn't even bat an eye even if they had to kill their previous fiend personally.

But to Chu Liuyue, its words were final.

*In this world, there won't be another person like her.* Tuan Zi's eyes turned red, and it hurriedly turned around, wiping its tears with its tail.

The legendary three-eyed eagle coldly said, "Let it come in. I'll talk to it personally!"

Chu Liuyue was a little surprised. *After I said that, the legendary three-eyed eagle was actually not angry... I originally thought that the always arrogant legendary three-eyed eagle would fly into a rage out of humiliation when it was compared to a third-grade fiend and let said fiend decide if the eagle could acknowledge a human as its master.*

Tuan Zi wiped its tears dry, and it looked at Chu Liuyue with deep meaning before entering her dantian.

The two fiends stared at each other through the Heavenly Square Cauldron.

Chu Liuyue knew that the fiends had their own way of communication, and it was a pity that she didn't know what they were talking about. Hence, she just waited quietly.

The legendary three-eyed eagle looked at Tuan Zi, and mockery flashed across its eyes as their thoughts turned into voices.

"An average fiend normally can't withstand a legendary fiend's suppression. Even if they could acknowledge the same master, an average fiend would quickly explode and die. But... you don't have this consideration at all. What's there to object?"

Tuan Zi widened its eyes and did not speak.

"You should know that the legendary fiend bloodline in my body is also useful to you. Do you really want to be a third-grade fiend for the rest of your life? Will you be willing?"

Tuan Zi clutched its claws tightly, and its entire body trembled slightly.

“Even if you’re willing, she will climb to the top of this mainland based on her potential. By then, what can you help her with?”

The legendary three-eyed eagle’s last sentence seemed as if it pulled out the last straw on the camel’s back.

It was as if stars dazzled in Tuan Zi’s crystal-like eyes, and it finally said, “Remember, thou am always first. Don’t think of fighting with me!”

“You’re finally willing to admit it?” The legendary three-eyed eagle seemed to laugh. *In this world, people who can use this pronoun...*

Tuan Zi ignored it, turned around, and quickly left. The next moment, it appeared in front of Chu Liuyue again.

“How did your talk go?” asked Chu Liuyue.

Tuan Zi’s gaze had already returned to normal as it knitted its brows and looked very pitiful.

“If you don’t like it, we can don’t—”

But Tuan Zi suddenly shook its head, squatted on her shoulders, and rubbed its cheeks against her face. Then, it lightly nodded.

Chu Liuyue was dazed. "...Tuan Zi, you're... agreeing?"

Tuan Zi buried its head in its tail and did not move, but its meaning was very obvious.

*It actually agreed?! Chu Liuyue's heart was filled with doubts. According to my understanding of Tuan Zi, it shouldn't be very willing. I wonder what the two of them talked about just now...*

She was elated and felt her heart ache as she pinched Tuan Zi's ears.

The legendary three-eyed eagle said, "Let's begin!"

Chu Liuyue acknowledged its words.

*Clang!*

The sound of wings vibrating suddenly sounded.

Chu Liuyue looked up.

A black legendary three-eyed eagle apparition appeared in front of her.

"I've already sealed this place up, and nobody will detect us." The legendary three-eyed eagle didn't open its mouth, but its voice clearly landed in Chu Liuyue's ears.

Chu Liuyue nodded.

“Now, cut your palm and use the blood to make the oath.”

Chu Liuyue took her dagger and gently scratched it against her palm as fresh blood flowed out.

*Buzz!*

A silver, circular plate that slowly turned suddenly appeared in front of her.

She could feel a heavenly and mighty aura from it.

Her heart turned slightly cold. *This seems to be... Heavenly Dao aura!*

The legendary three-eyed eagle softly recited, “With the Heavenly Dao and the legendary three-eyed eagle clan’s bloodline, I solemnly swear to acknowledge Chu Liuyue as my master. From now on, I will be loyal and do my best for her, and I will never betray her!”

**Chapter 482: Accept the Battle!**

Gradually, a strange pattern appeared on the circular plate.

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue felt a tremendous yet weird aura in her body. *This is... the legendary three-eyed eagle!*

Following this, the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force started flowing toward her suddenly and silently.

The speed of absorption was much faster than when she was cultivating herself.

Chu Liuyue was slightly shocked, but she still instinctively absorbed the strength and converted it inside her body.

After some time, this commotion finally stopped.

That circular plate suddenly became a ray of light, and together with the legendary three-eyed eagle's black apparition, it entered Chu Liuyue's body.

Chu Liuyue could clearly feel that something was different—another wave of Heavenly Dao was in her body.

She slowly lowered her head and looked at her hands. In this short amount of time, her capabilities had strengthened by quite a bit, and she almost reached the wall of stage-four warriors.

“If an average stage-three warrior makes a pact with a legendary fiend and accepts the Heavenly Dao, they would at least break through and become a peak stage-four warrior, or even directly advance to the fifth stage. You actually didn't even cross the boundary to become a stage-four warrior...” said the legendary three-eyed eagle suddenly.



Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears and shrugged her shoulders. *I originally thought that I had improved by quite a bit, but I did not expect... But my body does have such a problem, and I'm basically used to it.*

“This is good. Even though one can quickly increase their cultivation level by counting on external forces to break through, it might not completely be a good thing.”

Now, she really hoped to fight with some people to test her foundation. *The Wan Zheng Competition... is indeed an extraordinary chance!*

...

The next morning, Chu Liuyue simply packed some items and left.

Duan Ziyu was waiting outside the yard.

Seeing him, Chu Liuyue then remembered that she was busy with the legendary three-eyed eagle yesterday and had actually forgotten about Mu Qinghe.

She asked, “Is Lieutenant Mu back?”

Duan Ziyu respectfully said, “Lieutenant came back at night yesterday, but he had already left an hour ago.”

“He left? What’s so urgent?” Chu Liuyue was puzzled. *What can Mu Qinghe be busy with? He shouldn’t have recovered from his injuries yet, right?*

“I don’t know about this. Lieutenant told me to bring you to participate in the Wan Zheng Competition.”

Chu Liuyue smiled. “Sorry for the trouble then, Officer Duan.”

When she woke up, Hong Yao had already left. It must’ve gone to find Mu Qinghe.

Actually, she wanted to see him once, but it most likely couldn’t happen now. Thus, she could only wait. “The next time Lieutenant Mu comes back, kindly let me know, Officer Duan. I have some things to discuss with him.”

Due to Hong Yao, Duan Ziyu was more polite toward Chu Liuyue. “Don’t worry, Ms. Chu.”

Both of them then left for Xuan Ji Square.

...

People were already bustling to and fro on the streets. Most of the people were walking in the same direction.

Chu Liuyue and Duan Ziyu followed the crowd.

Although Duan Ziyu was wearing the black armor, there were many Black Guards around the entire Xi Ling. Hence, he didn't draw much attention.

On the other hand, Chu Liuyue had attracted quite a few gazes. At any place, her devastatingly beautiful appearance would be in the spotlight.

"Who is that girl? Why have I never seen her in Xi Ling City before?"

"She definitely won't be a nobody with such an appearance. I think she came from outside Heaven's Canopy and is here to join the Wan Zheng Competition."

"Ah, I recognize her! She's the woman that won against Wu Zhao yesterday! I think she's called... called... Ah, yes—Chu Liuyue!" Someone suddenly said this, and it caused quite the commotion amongst the crowd.

As a beginner stage-five warrior, Wu Zhao was beaten by a stage-three warrior at Ping Liang Square. He even had to give the other party ten white crystals before he could leave.

This incident had already spread throughout Xi Ling City.

Actually, a battle of such standards normally wouldn't attract much attention since strong warriors could be found everywhere here, but the difference between the duo's cultivation levels was too big. Yet, the weaker one won in the end, which would naturally make the crowd curious.

They did not expect it to be her...

Chu Liuyue was long used to such gazes and comments, so she ignored all of them and continued walking forward.

On the other hand, Duan Ziyu couldn't help but look at her a few more times. Actually, he had already heard of this the day before. *But thinking of it now, I'm still in disbelief. Especially when I interacted with Chu Liuyue, the feeling she gave off was gentle and elegant, nothing like that harsh character... But someone that Lieutenant picked personally is definitely not ordinary.*

*Besides, I can clearly feel that Chu Liuyue's surrounding aura is much stronger than the day before. This woman might actually have some tricks up her sleeves...*

...

Xuan Ji Square was the second biggest square in the entire Xi Ling, and it was big enough to contain 100,000 people at the same time.

Chu Liuyue reached the square with the crowd and saw the ever so familiar square-shaped square.

It was surrounded by circular stairs, and there were already quite a few people waiting there, obviously wanting to join in on the commotion.

After all, all the people who participated in this Wan Zheng Competition were Dijing Yuan meridian warriors, so one could just imagine how incredible the competition would be.

The arena was surrounded by Black Guards wearing black armor, who held long spears while standing tidily in lines.

There were quite a few pockets of people standing around the square. A rough estimate would be at least 200 to 300 people.

Many people kept going up repeatedly. These people were clearly Dijing Yuan meridian cultivators.

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. *There are actually a few familiar faces out of these people. This Wan Zheng Competition doesn't seem to be only prepared for cultivators with Dijing Yuan meridian from outside Heaven's Canopy. Some of the younger talents in Xi Ling City have also arrived. What are Shangguan Wan and the rest doing?*

"Ms. Chu, I can only send you until here," said Duan Ziyu softly. "I'll be waiting for you there."

Chu Liuyue slightly nodded and walked forward on her own.

Walking to the edge of the square, two soldiers stopped her. "Show us your identity."

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's heart as she raised her hand and showed the bracelet on her wrist to the two of them.

The two of them confirmed it and backed off. "Please..."

The moment Chu Liuyue went up, she heard whispers from the side.

One of the voices was extra familiar.

Chu Liuyue turned and looked. She saw a few people standing together, who were pointing and talking about her.

The person in the middle was Zhao Yunzhi, who she had a grudge against the day before.

Noticing that Chu Liuyue looked over, Zhao Yunzhi didn't feel guilty. She even sneered and raised her voice. "There, it's her."

The few people beside her revealed looks of disgust. "You're really just a stage-three warrior?! Where did she get the guts to offend our Sky-Soaring Clan?"

"She looks young, but she's very arrogant."

Delight flashed across Zhao Yunzhi's eyes, and she walked to Chu Liuyue. "Chu Liuyue, I want to challenge you. Do you agree?!"

**Chapter 483: Jian Fengchi the Hegemon of Xi Ling!**

*Since she's rushing to die, I won't turn her down.*

"You're most welcome."

Zhao Yunzhi didn't expect Chu Liuyue to agree this readily. She was upset since all the threats and sarcastic comments that she had prepared beforehand no longer had a place.

She muttered softly, "You can be as arrogant as you want! You'll find out what the penalty for offending the Sky-Soaring Clan is later!"

There were dozens of clans in Xi Ling City, but the Sky-Soaring Clan was at the top of the pyramid. It was the undisputed first clan!

Chu Liuyue gave the people behind Zhao Yunzhi a once-over. *From their clothes and the emblem on their left chest, it's clear that they are young disciples of the Sky-Soaring Clan. However, I'm not really familiar with these people. Other than the Sky-Soaring Clan's clan master and elders, I rarely saw the other disciples of the clan.*

Sensing Chu Liuyue's gaze, Zhao Yunzhi thought she was scared. She said haughtily, "No need to look. These are the Sky-Soaring Clan's most outstanding young disciples. With your ability and birth, you'll never be on their level. Without my persuasion, they would've stepped in on my behalf. By then, I don't even think you'll be able to leave this square walking."

She inched closer and laughed coldly as she stared at Chu Liuyue. "No need to thank me. I'm just doing this so that I can take care of you myself!"

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows slightly. *This Zhao Yunzhi looks harmless, but she's vicious... It's a pity that she has a couple of screws loose. In Bei Jiang, Chen Xiyuan was defeated by a single blow from Jian Fengchi. Even if they hadn't recognized him, they should've investigated beforehand and confirmed his identity. Besides, Jian Fengchi's looks are rather unique. It isn't hard to find out if they checked, but it's clear that they didn't bother asking at all.*

*Do they really think that they are invincible just by depending on the Sky-Soaring Clan? The Sky-Soaring Clan isn't bad, but there are plenty more that are stronger.*

Chu Liuyue's lips curved up slightly. "I'm looking forward to this."

Seeing that Chu Liuyue was unaffected, Zhao Yunzhi was upset. She said angrily, "Then come and get placed in line with me! You can be my competitor in the first round!"

Chu Liuyue frowned. "Get placed in line?"

"Ha! You don't even know about something this important?!" Zhao Yunzhi laughed, and she looked at Chu Liuyue in disdain. "I'm guessing nobody told you because of your lowly birth?"

Chu Liuyue looked around and saw that there were two white-robed elders in the middle of the square. There was also a giant black jade tablet floating in front of them.

Looking closer, it was filled with the names of people.

The names were organized in pairs.

There were many people standing in pairs in front of the tablet as if they were waiting for the elders to put their name on it.

"The first round of competition is done in pairs?" Chu Liuyue asked with narrowed eyes.

"Of course, and this is just the preliminaries! The official competition only begins after this round! The people eliminated in this round will be kicked out!"



Therefore, Zhao Yunzhi planned to get rid of Chu Liuyue from the start!

“What, you’re afraid?”

Chu Liuyue lightly laughed. “What’s there to be afraid of? I’ll go.”

She then headed toward the center as well.

Looking at Chu Liuyue’s nonchalant manner, Zhao Yunzhi muttered to herself inwardly: *We’ll see how long you can keep up this act!*

...

In the square, everyone seemed to be standing around, but they were all quietly observing the others.

Who knew which of these people would be their competitors? There was no harm in getting to know them.

Chu Liuyue and Zhao Yunzhi attracted a lot of attention as they headed to the center.

They were staring for one reason. It was because Chu Liuyue was the only stage-three warrior in the square!

It was impossible not to stand out!

Some of the people looked at Chu Liuyue strangely.

“You’re kidding, right? A stage-three warrior is taking part in this?”

“She’s got guts... Doesn’t she know how violent things get in this competition? Or... is she just here for fun?”

“Heh, this is Xi Ling! Who dares to say that they’re here for fun? I’m envious of the person next to her though. This is going to be a sure win for her... Why didn’t I notice it earlier?!”

Chu Liuyue pretended not to hear any of that and got in line quietly.

It was soon her and Zhao Yunzhi’s turn.

“Just place the pearls on your bracelets here.” One of the elders pointed at the crevice underneath the tablet.

“I’ll go first!” Zhao Yunzhi placed her pearl in the crevice first.

The bronze pearl had a faint glow.

A name appeared on the blank part of the tablet—Zhao Yunzhi!

A line of fine print appeared beneath her name and quickly disappeared.

Chu Liuyue saw it, and it read: Sky-Soaring Clan, Chen Xiyuan. This was an expression of identity.

The two elders looked at one another and nodded.

The elder on the left had a smile on his face. “I heard that you’re only seventeen this year and that you’re already stage-five. If you do well, the Sky-Soaring Clan will have another outstanding disciple!”

Zhao Yunzhi was flattered. “Thank you, Elder Qiuxi!”

Before she came, her cousin had already told her that Elder Qiuxi came from the Sky-Soaring Clan. Even though he later became a palace elder, he had taken good care of the Sky-Soaring Clan.

Elder Qiuxi was even more pleased to know that the young girl before him knew his name.

*The corner of Chu Liuyue’s lips curled up. Chen Xiyuan and Zhao Yunzhi arrived in Xi Ling later than I did. Not only does Zhao Yunzhi know the procedures of the competition after one night, she even knows the identity of the judging elder. She has clearly put in the effort.*

“Who are you in a group with?” Elder Qiuxi asked.

Zhao Yunzhi smiled sweetly and pointed at Chu Liuyue, who was behind her. “That’s her.”

Seeing that Chu Liuyue was just a stage-three warrior, the smile on Elder Qiuxi’s face faded a little. “Just follow what she did.”

Chu Liuyue wasn’t bothered by his attitude. She stepped forward and placed the pearl in the crevice.

A faint glow appeared, and her name finally appeared next to Zhao Yunzhi’s!

Chu Liuyue!

A line of fine print appeared beneath her name: Dragon Teeth Mountain, Jian Fengchi!

Chu Liuyue blinked. *That’s not right; Mu Qinghe brought me here. How did Jian Fengchi—Liu Xingyi didn’t ask yesterday! He must’ve assumed that Jian Fengchi brought me!*

But Zhao Yunzhi froze. *Jian Fengchi... That rumored hegemon of Xi Ling City, the Young Master of Dragon Teeth Mountain... Jian Fengchi?!*

#### **Chapter 484: He Will Come**

She instinctively wanted to deny that assumption, but the fine print was clear!

Dragon Teeth Mountain, Jian Fengchi!

There was only one Dragon Teeth Mountain and one Jian Fengchi in the entire Xi Ling City!

Zhao Yunzhi only knew this person because her cousin had brought it up while they were chatting.

The Sky-Soaring Clan and Dragon Teeth Mountain had been feuding for years, and they couldn't stand one another.

In his description, Jian Fengchi was arrogant, had no regard for the rules, and even yelled at the Sky-Soaring Clan's elders!

Everyone in the Sky-Soaring Clan hated Jian Fengchi. But he was Dragon Teeth Mountain's young master, so he was of high standing and really strong.

Most of the noble families in Xi Ling City had to be respectful toward him, not to mention the commoners!

*Could the young man we ran into that day be...* Zhao Yunzhi drifted to the side uneasily.

Elder Qiuxi and Elder Duan Muchun were stunned when they saw Jian Fengchi's name. They now looked at Chu Liuyue differently.

Chu Liuyue took the pearl back. When she noticed that they were looking at her differently, she asked with a smile, "Is there anything else, Elders?"

Elder Duan Muchun shook his head. “Nothing else. You’re number 53. Go down and prepare.”

“Yes.” Chu Liuyue responded before she turned and walked to the side.

The two elders eyed each other and saw the confusion in one another’s eyes. “I don’t think they sent him out this time...”

“But Liu Xingyi put that down after he met them in person. There can’t be a mistake. Maybe... We just didn’t know.”

There really didn’t seem to be any other explanation.

The people further down the line had come forward.

The two elders stopped speculating and continued lining up the competitors.

...

Zhao Yunzhi’s mind was a jumbled mess as she walked to the Sky-Soaring Clan disciples from earlier.

Noticing that her expression was off, the others hurriedly asked, “Yunzhi, what’s wrong?”

Zhao Yunzhi scrunched her fingers together and asked uneasily, “Th-that... Jian Fengchi, what does he look like?”

Everyone paused. “Why are you suddenly asking about him?”

Zhao Yunzhi forced a smile. “I heard Cousin mention him, so I’m a little curious.”

“Him? He looks like trouble!” said a girl with round eyes angrily, with grudges in her eyes.

Another girl on the side smiled. “Don’t scare Yunzhi; she’s just asking. Besides, don’t let others see you this way. It might bring up bad memories.”

The girl with round eyes stomped her feet before she reined herself in.

“Jian Fengchi is taller than most guys, and he has a pair of ice-blue eyes. These are the characteristics of anyone with Dragon Teeth Mountain blood. If you see him, you will recognize him at a glance, but that Jian Fengchi has too many grudges with our Sky-Soaring Clan. There’s nothing to see.”

The more Zhao Yunzhi heard, the colder her heart got. *It really was... It really was him! Not only did I see him, but I really offended the guy! That’s Dragon Teeth Mountain’s young master, an existence that is level with the clan’s elders! Even the Sky-Soaring Clan’s clan master has to put up with him!*

*And Cousin... He’s just one of the almost 200 disciples in the clan. It’s like hitting a rock with an egg! Not to mention me! Zhao Yunzhi closed her eyes in despair. Even if Cousin had never seen Jian Fengchi before that, he should’ve known! What do we do now?!*

“Yunzhi, are you okay?” asked the others worriedly.

“Is it the nerves? Don’t worry. The Chu Liuyue that you’re up against is only a stage-three warrior. She’ll never be your match!”

Zhao Yunzhi’s expression looked a little better after that. *That’s right! The way things are, Chu Liuyue and Jian Fengchi will never give in even if I apologize! Since that’s the case, I might as well defeat her first! As long as I perform well at the Wan Zheng Competition, they can’t do anything to me!*

“Thank you, brothers and sisters. I’ll work hard.”

“Sigh, that opponent of yours is called Chu Liuyue, right?” a teenager asked quickly as if he had recalled something.

Zhao Yunzhi nodded.

His face turned rather strange. “It’s her?!”

Zhao Yunzhi and the others were confused.

The teenager clapped his hands and reminded her urgently. “Did you all forget? There was a rumor in Xi Ling City city that a stage-three girl had defeated a stage-five warrior! I just remembered that the girl was called Chu Liuyue!”

The others were stunned.



Zhao Yunzhi was shocked.

“There’s such a thing? How can that be?! Even though some warriors can fight above their level, that’s a little much.”

She had been busy preparing for the Wan Zheng Competition, so she didn’t know about this rumor!

“It’s true! It was at Ping Liang Square, and many people saw it!”

The others went silent and looked toward Zhao Yunzhi. *Zhao Yunzhi is a stage-five too...*

Zhao Yunzhi clenched her fists. “So what if that rumor is true? Who knows if it’s a coincidence, or maybe she used some underhanded tactics? No matter what, Chu Liuyue will never be able to defeat me!”

*I can only win today!*

...

While Zhao Yunzhi was feeling anxious, Chu Liuyue was feeling at complete ease.

Only the people standing near them saw Jian Fengchi’s name. It didn’t spread, so the others still saw her the same way.

She stood by herself, looking calm and collected. However, she was paying attention to what the others were saying.

“So... the Third Princess isn’t coming today?”

“Yeah! All the Tianling Dynasty’s matters are piling on her now. This is only the first round, so of course, she’s not going to come personally! But I heard... that her fiancé, the Jiang family’s Young Master, is coming!”

Chu Liuyue immediately looked up.

#### **Chapter 485: Preliminary Round**

“Jiang family’s eldest young master? Grand Tutor Jiang Lizuo’s eldest son? Wasn’t he with the princess—”

“Shh! Do you not want to live anymore? How dare you say this?”

“W-why? When I came to Xi Ling two years ago, I thought—”

“You also said that it was two years ago! The present is different from the past, and many things have changed! That person... She went out of sorts when she was cultivating back then, but this incident isn’t glorious, so the entire Tianling Dynasty doesn’t talk about it. Besides, after that person passed on, the Third Princess was devastated. Luckily, the Jiang family’s eldest young master accompanied her and comforted her, which allowed her to make it through. Besides, there were many things that required the

two of them to handle together, so it's pretty natural that they got together after spending so much time together."

"Ah? This... No matter what, it's rather inappropriate for the two of them to be together, right... Where does this put the Prin.... Back then, she and the Jiang family's eldest young master were about to get married..."

"Anyway, this isn't something we can talk about in private, so don't let your mouth run wild! That person will come later!"

The few of them quickly quietened down.

Chu Liuyue was rather familiar with one of the people's appearances but unfamiliar with the rest.

She rapidly retracted her gaze, looked down, and masked the feelings in her eyes. *It turns out these were the rumors that spread after I died...*

After a while, her lips curved up into a cold smile. *Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng are really capable of flipping the truth and spreading rumors. Back then, they were clearly the ones who messed around together in private and betrayed me, yet I became the unspeakable one in front of the crowd's eyes.*

*More than a year ago, Jiang Yucheng was still my fiancé, but he has now become Shangguan Wan's. However, the crowd still approves of this and doesn't say anything to ridicule them... The two of them must've really spent a lot much effort on this.*

"Everyone, go to your position according to your order!" Elder Qiuxi stood tall in midair. His dantian was filled with energy as his voice echoed throughout the arena.

Chu Liuyue looked up.

It turned out that everyone was already standing in order.

Elder Duan Muchun waved his sleeves, and the large, black marble board rapidly flew above the square.

It quietly floated there, glowing lightly, and everyone in the square could see the lines of words on the board.

Elder Duan Muchun jumped, and the marble board stood still.

The large square was suddenly split into different squares, and all of them had a number on it according to the sequence.

The crowd walked toward their own grid.

Chu Liuyue walked to '53' and looked around.

Xuan Ji Square was very spacious. Even if it was split into 100 grids, every one of them looked pretty big. Each one was even bigger than the largest arena in Country Yao Chen.

The majority of the competitors were already in their places.

From the corner of her eye, Chu Liuyue could still see Zhao Yunzhi walking to her side.

However, Zhao Yunzhi's face looked amiss, and her brows and eyes were drooping. Her gaze looked desolated as if she were severely traumatized.

She looked like two different people compared to her previous arrogant composure.

Noticing Chu Liuyue's gaze, Zhao Yunzhi looked up.

Chu Liuyue clearly saw panic flash across her eyes. *Panic? How interesting...*

Chu Liuyue crossed her arms, lightly lifted her chin, and smiled. *It seems like Zhao Yunzhi now knows something that she should've long known about.*

"What are you smiling at?" At this point, Zhao Yunzhi was very sensitive, and she immediately exploded when she saw Chu Liuyue's smile.

Chu Liuyue's smile did not change. "I smile because I want to. If you want to command me, you can do it after you win against me."

If Zhao Yunzhi heard these words before, she would think that Chu Liuyue was courting death. But after hearing those rumors, she felt very uneasy when she saw Chu Liuyue again. *This Chu Liuyue... might actually have some tricks up her sleeves.*

“Of course, I’ll win against you!” said Zhao Yunzhi forcefully.

Chu Liuyue was too lazy to bother with her as she smiled slightly and looked at Elder Qiuxi.

Zhao Yunzhi walked to the same grid and clenched her fists. Her throat was dry.

Elder Qiuxi surveyed the surroundings. When everyone quietened down, he stroked his beard in satisfaction and boomed, “This Wan Zheng Competition is filled with geniuses. Those who can join this competition are all cultivators from all over the world with the Dijing Yuan meridian. The ones who can stand on this stage are all unique talents from all over the world!”

When he finished his sentence, everyone in the square revealed prideful looks.

“But... Even if you have the top talent and want to become the strongest in the world, you have to experience countless tests and examinations. If you don’t have sufficient resources and strong willpower, everything will be for naught.”

The crowd looked solemn.

“Out of you, there are people from the Tianling Dynasty, but most of you came from outside Heaven’s Canopy. The talents from the Tianling Dynasty... Even though you have sufficient resources, you have lived in peace and harmony for a long time, so you might not have sufficient alertness. As for the ones from outside Heaven’s Canopy, you have the talent, but your cultivation is frequently delayed due to the lack of resources. Hence, the Third Princess and her husband decided to hold this Wan Zheng Competition!”

“I believe most of you already know that today is just the preliminaries! There are a total of 920 people in the competition, and we will be competing in pairs. Only the ones who win will enter the next round. As long as you can successfully enter the next round, you will receive tons of rewards. Those not in clans, you will also be given the chance to enter one of the clans in Xi Ling City.”

The crowd went crazy.

This meant that one could unconditionally enter Xi Ling’s clans as long as they won today’s match. This was an insurmountable temptation!

### **Chapter 486: A Young Woman**

“Of course, this doesn’t mean that you can randomly choose your clans after you enter the next round. After you select the clans you want to enter, you need to get the respective clans’ approval. If you don’t pass, you need to choose again.”

The surrounding commotion became softer, but many people were still very enthusiastic.

Actually, this point was very normal. After all, the clans that could be established in Xi Ling could be considered the most outstanding ones in the entire Tianling Dynasty.

They always had very strict requirements when choosing their disciples. If anyone could enter, that would be too ridiculous.

“But all those present are talents with the Dijing Yuan meridian, so I believe all the clans will welcome you with open arms.” Elder Qiuxi added, “I believe everyone knows that the better you perform in the Wan Zheng Competition, the more well-liked you will be amongst the clans. You will also have a higher chance of getting accepted!”

The crowd's expressions were all different. Some were agitated, some were apprehensive, and some were already imagining which clan they should choose.

"The first 100 competitors have already stood in their places. There is no time limit after the competition starts. It will only end when the other party surrenders or if they step out of their boundaries. After every competition ends, the people lined up behind will take over their places. The names of the ones who lose will disappear from the black marble board."

Elder Qiuxi surveyed his surroundings. "Now, do you have anything you want to ask?"

"Elder Qiuxi!" A youngster raised his hand and loudly asked, "Can we use any method to win in this arena?"

Elder Qiuxi stroked his beard. "That's right! As long as you don't kill the other person, there are no restrictions! If you win, that's based on your capabilities!"

Some of the expressions of the competitors from outside Heaven's Canopy changed. With this sentence, one could just imagine how cruel and intense the Wan Zheng Competition would be!

But the majority of the people from Xi Ling City revealed faces of excitement. Various intense cheers came from the spectators.

Zhao Yunzhi's face turned pale as she whispered, "H-how can this be...? This isn't regulated at all."



Chu Liuyue looked at her and raised her brows. “What, did your cousin not tell you that it has always been this way in Xi Ling?”

Countless strong warriors gathered in Xi Ling City from all over the world. With the belief of ‘only the strong are respected,’ this place was more scheming than anywhere else.

This place looked lively and full of hustle and bustle, but there were bloody battles every day. They also happened at every inch of the city.

Many people had died on the streets because of one reason—weakness!

It was already decent that the Wan Zheng Competition only requested for them not to kill anyone.

Zhao Yunzhi bit her lips and didn’t speak for quite some time. She had only heard her cousin speak about how strong and distinguished Xi Ling City was, but he had never mentioned all of this.

“I hereby announce: The Wan Zheng Competition Preliminary Round... begins!” bellowed Elder Qixi.

In the competition venue, many people rapidly reacted, raised their hands, and took action immediately.

The entire square erupted into chaos.

It was lucky that every grid was spacious enough, and the surroundings had a dimly glowing barrier of silver light. Thus, it was convenient for the crowd to recognize and not bump into other people.

Many people's gazes were gathered on Chu Liuyue and Zhao Yunzhi's competition arena.

"That stage-three warrior is the one with the lowest cultivation level here, right? I think their match will be the first one to end!"

"I don't think so. Didn't you hear? That Chu Liuyue is pretty capable!"

"Wait, do you mean that she's the one who won against Wu Zhao?"

"I heard she came with Jian Fengchi then. With Jian Fengchi as her backing... Perhaps Wu Zhao went easy on her?"

"That's true... How can it be so miraculous? I heard that quite a few clans have also sent their disciples to join the competition, so it will definitely be interesting!"

The spectator stand was exploding with people and voices. One glance at them, and one could see many people partaking in heated discussions regarding the competition.

But there was a small area directly opposite of the black marble board that didn't fit right with its surroundings. These few people looked very ordinary, but their auras warned people not to go close to them.

There were way too many people with power, status, and capabilities in Xi Ling. If one was just a little careless, they would die without even knowing why.

Everyone beside them stayed still obediently, not wanting to offend those people willingly.

One of them was a man wearing a light-green robe. Even though he looked average, his surrounding aura was distinguished, and he didn't look like a commoner.

His gaze gently swept across the black marble board, and he revealed a playful smile. "Interesting. There's actually a stage-three warrior participating?"

A man at the side nodded and said, "I heard she only came yesterday and had even caused some commotion at Ping Liang Square. She's much stronger than an average stage-three warrior."

"She must have some special abilities to be able to challenge and win against those above her cultivation level, let alone crossing over two whole stages. Even though her cultivation level is low, she must have potential."

The eyes of that man in a light-green robe landed on the square. A tiny and petite girl's figure entered his view.

From his angle, he could only see her simply tied-up hair and her red dress flowing in the wind. The black and red colors complemented each other. They were clearly simple ways of dressing, but it brought out an indescribable aura.

From afar, she looked like a clear animation.

The man at the side silently gestured, and he squinted his eyes. *That woman's Dijing Yuan meridian is actually intermediate...*

“She looks quite young.”

“She said she’s only 14.”

“Where is she from?”

“Country Yao Chen.”

The man in a light green robe suddenly paused. “Yao Chen?”

*Isn’t that where Mu Qinghe went?*

“Yes, and Jian Fengchi brought her back.” The man beside him detected his amiss expression, and he asked apprehensively, “Eldest Young Master, what’s the matter? Is there something wrong?”

“Nothing much.” That man thought for a while and shook his head. *It seems like there’s something else behind this...*

In the competition venue, Zhao Yunzhi drew out a thin, blue sword. An icy-cold aura slowly spread from it.

Very quickly, the thin sword had a thin layer of ice.

Even the ground beneath her feet had cold air spreading, covering it with a thin layer of ice.

“Icy River Slash!” Zhao Yunzhi injected her bodily force into the thin, blue sword.

A Silver light rapidly emitted upward from the handle, and it was like an icy layer breaking.

*Kacha!*

The ferocious sword aura spread!

Zhao Yunzhi went on her toes and jumped up into the air.

The thin, blue sword directly pierced toward Chu Liuyue’s heart.

This icy river sword was used with very precious icy metal and was immersed in extremely harsh cold air, so it was very powerful. It had been in countless battles and had never lost.

Zhao Yunzhi glared at Chu Liuyue with a deadly gaze. “It’s not a waste if you can lose to my icy river sword!”

Then, the sword went near her throat.

**Chapter 487: Earth-level warrior skills**

A ball of red fire burned in Chu Liuyue's palms! The flicker of the flames resembled dancing sprites and increased the temperature of its surroundings.

"Heavenly doctor?!" Zhao Yunzhi was shocked, but she laughed coldly. "Turning force into fire is good for concocting medicine, but you're a little naive for wanting to use it to win a battle!"

Chu Liuyue didn't say anything. She flicked her fingers, and a fist-sized fireball flew forward!

In an instant, it landed on the tip of Zhao Yunzhi's sword!

"Foolish... Break!" Zhao Yunzhi cried out!

A cold blast of air poured out of her sword, attempting to freeze the ball of fire! However, things didn't proceed as she had planned!

That ball of fire was unaffected. Instead, it turned into a stream of fire that burned along the blade of the sword!

*Pilihuala!*

Fire and ice clashed!

The layer of frost covering the sword burst, and countless fragments of fire-covered frost scattered everywhere! However, the frost had melted and evaporated before it landed on the ground!

There were only little flecks of fire when it landed on the ground!

The frost that covered the ground was quickly melted away by the fire, and the remaining ball of fire spread along the sword hilt!

A burning sensation came from the sword hilt!

“Ahh!” Zhao Yunzhi cried out in pain as she threw the frozen river sword forward uncontrollably!

*Bang!*

Zhao Yunzhi looked over in panic and anger, but the frozen river sword was enveloped in flames! If she had let go any later, her hands would've been burned!

“Yo-you... What is this!” she said angrily, but the fear in her eyes was still evident. Even though she wasn't a heavenly doctor, she had seen quite a few while growing up. There had never been a heavenly doctor with flames this terrifying!

Something was off about the fire that was born out of Chu Liuyue's force!

“It's nothing much, but you'll find out if I can win this match using it!” Chu Liuyue gathered her force, and a ball of fire appeared on each of her palms.

Zhao Yunzhi shuddered. *If that fire lands on me... Even the coldness embedded inside the frozen river sword couldn't handle the fire, not to mention a mere mortal like me!*

Zhao Yunzhi took two steps back, interlocking her fingers in front of her body! "Shadow lock!"

Ripples began forming in the space in front of her! It was like a gentle breeze blowing on a surface!

Ripples spread toward Chu Liuyue's calves. Everywhere that these ripples passed left visible black cracks!

"First lock—Yongquan!"

Chu Liuyue clearly felt the space that the ripples had passed through become stickier! This was especially so for her legs. They felt as heavy as lead, making it hard for her to move!

The scattered flames on the ground were affected by the strong pressure and became much weaker.

Zhao Yunzhi was elated. This was one of her ultimates, but she rarely used it since it consumed a lot of force. She didn't expect to be pressed into using it right at the beginning of her battle with Chu Liuyue!

Zhao Yunzhi was indignant, but she knew there was no other way. *Chu Liuyue is clearly much stronger than I had imagined! If I don't get rid of Chu Liuyue quickly, it will only become more troublesome later!*

"Second lock—Guanyuan!" The second ripple appeared and spread toward Chu Liuyue's waist!



The amount of force welling out of Zhao Yunzhi's pearl of essence was rapidly diminishing!

The shadow lock technique was a true blue earth-level warrior skill! The first two locks were just setting the stage; the true power was in the third lock!

As long as one managed to execute the third lock successfully, they would be able to take full advantage of an earth-level warrior skill's power!

But for Zhao Yunzhi, executing the final lock would deplete all her energy. This meant that she would have no chance of winning if this attack didn't work.

But how could she not win?!

Zhao Yunzhi glanced at Chu Liuyue and saw that she was indeed under the two locks. Seeing that even the flames in Chu Liuyue's hands were about to be extinguished, she felt at ease. *The earlier two locks were enough to temporarily stop the force in Chu Liuyue's body from circulating! I want to make use of this time to prepare for the third lock and defeat Chu Liuyue directly!*

The third ripple gradually formed!

Zhao Yunzhi suppressed her excitement and injected all her force! Her face was pale, and her vision was a little blurry.

This was a sign of exhaustion, but Zhao Yunzhi didn't stop. Knowing that she could get rid of Chu Liuyue once and for all, she was full of excitement!

*Buzz!*

As the ripples neared completion, a stunning pressure spread.

A number of the audience members sensed the commotion and cried out in surprise. “Earth-level warrior skill? The preliminaries just began. Why is someone using such a skill now?”

“That’s... Zhao Yunzhi and Chu Liuyue?! She’s that scared of Chu Liuyue?!”

“Didn’t you see earlier? Chu Liuyue managed to knock Zhao Yunzhi’s weapon out of her hand! If she didn’t fight back, Chu Liuyue was going to win!”

“Tsk... With the earth-level warrior skill, Chu Liuyue is going to lose!”

Under the watch of countless pairs of eyes, the third ripple was finally completed!

“Third lock—Tianling!” Zhao Yunzhi pushed both hands forward with all her energy!

The last ripple headed toward the top of Chu Liuyue’s head slowly but surely!

Chu Liuyue stared at the impressive ripples with her cold, raven eyes. At the same time, the force in her body rushed toward her hands!

Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn't move, Zhao Yunzhi assumed that she was scared. Hence, she said arrogantly, "It's too late for you to concede defeat now! Today I'll—"

*Hong!*

Before she could finish, two balls of fire burst up in Chu Liuyue's palms! The next instant, she brought her hands together!

The two balls of fire collided with one another, and the bright flames almost had her enveloped!

The ripples that were around her waist immediately disappeared!

Zhao Yunzhi faltered as blood trickled out the corners of her mouth! Her aura diminished significantly!

The fire swiftly became a red fire whip!

Chu Liuyue flicked her wrist!

*Pak!*

The fire whip landed on the ripple!

*Ka!*

The ripple broke apart!

Zhao Yunzhi's face was pale as a sheet! "No... No..."

Chu Liuyue raised her whip and flicked it in the direction of Zhao Yunzhi's final ripple! One could hear it cutting through the wind.

The whip cut right through the ripple!

Zhao Yunzhi stared up in shock as she watched the whip head straight for her!

### **Chapter 488: Her Smile**

Zhao Yunzhi backed away so fast that she even left illusions!

*Pak!*

The whip landed heavily on the ground, leaving burn marks!

Even though Zhao Yunzhi narrowly managed to avoid it, her left arm wasn't so lucky. The whip hit her forearm, and her flesh split open as her sleeve caught fire!

Looking at the tongues of the flame, Zhao Yunzhi ripped off her sleeve without thinking!

*Sila!*

Her slender arm was exposed to everyone!

Despite the bloody wound on her forehead, the fair skin of a young lady still attracted significant amounts of attention.

Her weak and pitiful manner incurred the pity of many.

The many gazes on her made Zhao Yunzhi feel ashamed! *In Imperial Country Sui Yang, I am gifted and of high status. When did I ever have to suffer insults like this?!*

But before she could react, Chu Liuyue's whip had struck again!

Zhao Yunzhi backed away some more!

"That Zhao Yunzhi has got some moves! Her speed is almost on par with intermediate stage-five warriors! I think she should... Hang on! Chu Liuyue is moving as well, and she's so fast?!"

Chu Liuyue leaped up and rushed forward; it was like she was one with the wind! More importantly, she wasn't much slower than Zhao Yunzhi!

The man in the green robe paused. *This movement technique; it's rather familiar... But after watching for a while, it isn't exactly the same.*

"That Zhao Yunzhi is going to lose," he said plainly.

The man next to him paused. "Why would you say that, Eldest Young Master? Even though Zhao Yunzhi was at a disadvantage earlier, she's two stages higher than Chu Liuyue. There's no way Chu Liuyue can catch up."

"No, she can." The man laughed.

The others eyed one another before they turned and watched.

At this moment, Chu Liuyue flung her whip out! The next instant, she tiptoed and hopped onto the whip!

Borrowing the whip's energy, she leaped in succession along the whip!

The distance between the two warriors narrowed at an alarming rate!

Chu Liuyue was dressed in red. Her raven hair was floating, and her agility made her seem like a dancing phoenix. She was a sight to behold!

Zhao Yunzhi's heart beat wildly as she watched Chu Liuyue run toward her! She put all her energy into backing away, but Chu Liuyue was even faster than her!

She turned her head for a quick glance, but she was shocked to see that she had almost been forced out of bounds!

She would lose the instant she crossed the line!

Zhao Yunzhi gritted her teeth as she turned her feet and headed in another direction!

Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a cold smile. She wasn't interested in continuing to fool around with Zhao Yunzhi. "It's time for this to end!"

Chu Liuyue mustered her energy and leaped, landing on the tip of her fire whip! A silver streak also flew out from her hand!

Zhao Yunzhi felt a cold breeze coming from behind her! *Danger!*

Almost instinctively, she dropped down and rolled!

*Chu!*

Something embedded itself into the surface that she was just at!

Zhao Yunzhi hurried over and found that it was an extremely sharp dagger! Because it had been infused with a huge amount of energy, its tip was still shaking!

Zhao Yunzhi heaved a sigh of relief, but she felt a coldness in her chest as soon as she started thinking about how to fight back!

She looked down slowly and found that a paper-thin throwing knife had flown right through her chest!

If it were a little off, it would've pierced her heart!

Her leg suddenly stopped as if she were frozen.

*Patter.*

A drop of blood fell, but she heard the sound clearly. This was because... it was her blood!

Chu Liuyue hopped down from the whip, landed in front of Zhao Yunzhi, and said, "I'll give you one chance to admit defeat."

A pool of blood appeared across Zhao Yunzhi's chest and slowly spread across her shirt. She opened her mouth, but it smelled of blood. "I-I..."

Her voice was so weak it could barely be heard.



But just as everyone thought she was going to concede, she flung something out of her sleeves!

*Chu! Chu! Chu!*

Countless sharp needles flew out, and they were glowing blue and purple. They were clearly poisoned!

Everyone sucked in their breath. *The distance between the two is close, and the needles are a sneak attack. Thus, Chu Liuyue can't avoid it!*

However, Chu Liuyue just laughed coldly and waved her sleeves!

A silver barrier appeared and enveloped her—it was a crystal barrier! The previous one had been slightly damaged, so Rong Xiu gave her a new one before she left.

Chu chu chu!

The needles landed on the crystal barrier but quickly bounced off of it!

Zhao Yunzhi was stunned, and she ducked! However, a few still landed on her!

Her pale lips turned purple!

Chu Liuyue's eyes turned cold. *The poison took effect extremely quickly, and it's extremely harmful! Given the number of needles, it isn't difficult to kill someone with them! Zhao Yunzhi must've been pushed into a corner to have the guts to pull something like this in public!*

On the other side, Zhao Yunzhi knew very well how terrifying the poison was, so she quickly dug out the antidote and swallowed it!

Chu Liuyue put the crystal barrier away and raised her palm, holding the fire whip in her hand again!

She infused her force into it again!

*Hong hong!*

The flames on the fire whip burned brighter than before! There were fire sparks bursting from it!

Chu Liuyue raised her whip!

*Pak!*

The whip flew toward Zhao Yunzhi and wrapped itself around her like a serpent.

"Ah!" Zhao Yunzhi had been busy taking the antidote, so she was in a deadlock now!

The burning flames left countless wounds on her, and the terrifying pain made her mind go blank as she almost passed out!

“I concede! Chu Liuyue, didn’t you hear me? I concede!” Zhao Yunzhi screamed out!

Chu Liuyue sneered. “I gave you a chance earlier.”

The whip closed in tighter.

Zhao Yunzhi couldn’t even speak with all the pain!

“Chu Liuyue, she has conceded! You cannot continue to torment her intentionally!” Elder Qiuxi cried out to stop her when he saw the situation!

Chu Liuyue glanced at him dazedly as if in shock. “Oh, there’s such a rule? My apologies, Elder Qiuxi. This is my first time here, so there are things that I’m not familiar with.”

Elder Qiuxi was angry and upset. “Put her down now!”

“Oh... okay!” Chu Liuyue agreed and flicked her wrist!

Zhao Yunzhi flew out and landed heavily on the ground—out of bounds!

Chu Liuyue turned over and smiled brightly at Elder Qiuxi. "Is this okay?"

The man in the green robe saw this. *The bright smile of the girl in red is so familiar!*

He felt something pricking at his heart, and a name buried deep in his heart appeared!

### **Chapter 489: She's in the Dark**

Noticing his abnormality, the few people at the side looked over. "Eldest Young Master, what's the matter?"

That man stared straight at Chu Liuyue, and his lips were tightly shut.

When the others saw him like this, they didn't dare to ask much. All of them kept quiet.

In the arena, Elder Qiuxi nearly fainted in anger when he saw Chu Liuyue's bright and sincere smile. *What does she mean by 'this can do, right?' Her last hit almost took away Zhao Yunzhi's life!*

"Y-you! You're outrageous! Yunzhi had already surrendered, but you refused to stop. You clearly did it on purpose!"

Chu Liuyue blinked. "Elder Qiuxi, I respect you, and I did as you said. Once you said stop, didn't I stop?"

Then, she lightly turned her white finger as the fire whip quickly retracted and disappeared in her palms.

She spread her hands wide. “I believe everyone saw it clearly too, right?”

Elder Qiuxi was stumped. *This Chu Liuyue is very cunning! She did stop after I spoke up, but who can say that her last hit was accidental? However, she clutched her time well, and I can't even seriously pursue her mistake!*

“Even so, you shouldn't be so harsh! You're so young, yet your heart is so vicious!”

Chu Liuyue kept quiet as she was in deep thought before she retorted, “But didn't you previously say that as long as we don't kill anyone, we can use any method to win? Do these rules not apply to me?”

Elder Qiuxi's face flushed white and red.

Chu Liuyue had a very sharp tongue, and he couldn't argue with her. After all, Zhao Yunzhi indeed lost!

He took a deep breath in, suppressed his internal anger, and said to the surrounding Black Guards, “Quickly, get Zhao Yunzhi down and let her get treated!”

Two Black Guards hurriedly rushed up and brought the severely injured Zhao Yunzhi—who was hanging onto her last breath—down.

Chu Liuyue turned around and looked at the black marble board that was floating in midair.

Zhao Yunzhi's name disappeared from it. Only her name was left—Chu Liuyue!

Only the victorious ones could stay!

Chu Liuyue roughly looked at her surroundings and slightly raised her brows.

They seemed to be the first ones that ended their matches.

“53rd match, Chu Liuyue won!” hollered Elder Duan Muchun.

“101st will take over 53!”

Hearing this, Chu Liuyue was finally satisfied, and she leisurely walked down the stage.

Countless pairs of eyes looked over.

Shock, envy, jealousy, admiration...

All the gazes had different meanings, but Chu Liuyue completely didn't care about them. After jumping off the stage, she walked to the resting area that was prepared for them. Then, she quietly observed the battles.

Out of these people, half of them would become her competitors in the next round.

Soft sounds of discussion came from behind.

“Chu Liuyue actually won! Winning one match might be coincidental, but continuously winning against two stage-five warriors... This is enough to prove that she is capable!”

“I think she’s going to break through and become a stage-four warrior. By then, it’ll be even easier for her to win!”

“But she really is gutsy. I heard that Zhao Yunzhi was brought by Sky-Soaring Clan’s Chen Xiyuan and that they had already agreed for her to enter the Sky-Soaring Clan directly. Thus, you can’t blame Elder Qiuxi for being so angry. All these years, he has secretly and openly helped the Sky-Soaring Clan quite a bit! Seeing that the Sky-Soaring Clan lost such a good talent, how could he do nothing?”

“But he’s still the royal family’s elder after all. Doing this isn’t very appropriate... I think he was wrong when he lectured Chu Liuyue previously. If Chu Liuyue was the one who lost, he definitely wouldn’t have scolded...”

Chu Liuyue sat down leisurely and let the words leave her ears.

Suddenly, she felt a substantial gaze on her coming from among the crowd.

She almost instinctively became alert as she looked up.

A man wearing a light-green robe entered her view. He looked like he was in his thirties, and his appearance was average.

But when Chu Liuyue saw his eyes, her heart skipped a beat. She would recognize this pair of eyes even if they turned into ashes.

Jiang Yucheng!

He had very obviously changed his appearance, hid his aura, and sat among the crowd.

*The people around him should be his subordinates, and they have also disguised themselves as commoners. Anyone who saw these people wouldn't take a second look, but I am different!*

She had seen Jiang Yucheng's face for so many years, and she couldn't forget it even if she wanted to.

His seemingly gentle and emotional, yet actually scheming and harsh eyes were precisely etched into her memory.

Seeing that Jiang Yucheng seemed to have noticed her gaze, Chu Liuyue immediately averted her gaze as if nothing happened. Even if her heart was in turmoil, she still looked as calm as ever. Even the angle of her lips didn't change at all, so nobody could see that there was something wrong.

Nobody knew how much strength she used to restrain the murderous intent overwhelming her heart.

Everything that happened in the royal family's ancestral hall seemed like it happened yesterday as every scene was livelier than ever. However, her heart no longer felt the pain of being betrayed. She only had the willpower to kill him and cut him into pieces.



She closed her eyes. *Yes, someone had previously said that Jiang Yucheng would come.*

Actually, she had been waiting all this while. But Jiang Yucheng didn't appear even when the competition started, so she forgot about this.

She didn't expect him to change his identity and put himself within the crowd.

*Why is he doing this? With his current status, he can definitely come legitimately, so why did he need to waste such effort? Also, the more important thing is... When he saw me earlier, what was he looking at? Because I was the first one to win? Or others?* Chu Liuyue opened her eyes and casually surveyed her surroundings, no different from before.

She looked completely relaxed as she had just won the competition. She could still feel Jiang Yucheng looking at her, but her emotions had already been appeased.

*Anyway, I've already changed my status. My appearance and age are also different from before, so I don't believe Jiang Yucheng can recognize me.* Thinking of this, she felt better. *It now looks like I'm in the dark while he's exposed.*

On the other end, the moment Jiang Yucheng saw Chu Liuyue's smile, he kept staring at her.

In the beginning, he really thought that it was that person. But after looking closely for a while, he felt that he thought too much.

*Even though their smiles look similar, their five features and appearance are vastly different. Chu Liuyue indeed looks like she is 14 or 15, and that person has already died in the sea of fire, so how could she still appear? Jiang Yucheng rubbed his brows. It seemed like I was tired out during this period, so I kept thinking of nonsensical things.*

“Go and check Chu Liuyue’s background.”

#### **Chapter 490: Mysterious Youngster**

*The few at the side glanced at each other and found it weird. Is it because Chu Liuyue displayed capabilities that exceeded her cultivation level? But it doesn’t seem that simple. The moment Eldest Young Master saw Chu Liuyue, his reaction was indeed abnormal...*

Even though they thought that way, they didn’t reveal any abnormalities as they said respectfully, “Yes!”

After Jiang Yucheng rejected his thoughts, he directed his gaze elsewhere.

Out of the hundreds of matches going on simultaneously, there were a few matches that were more outstanding than Chu Liuyue and Zhao Yunzhi’s. But for some reason, he couldn’t focus on the other matches and would look at Chu Liuyue from time to time.

Every time he discovered that he unwittingly looked at Chu Liuyue, Jiang Yucheng would secretly warn himself that it would be the last time.

However, it happened time and time again. It was as if he couldn’t control himself.

Even if he forced himself not to look at her, his mind would keep replaying the first smile he saw.

Bright, dazzling, sincere, with a little spiritual energy and cunningness.

*Even if they only look a little similar, this smile is more similar to that woman back then. Jiang Yucheng pinched his nose bridge in frustration. No, that's wrong. I came here today to secretly check on these cultivators with Dijing Yuan meridians. I can't be distracted by other things.*

After repeating this a few times in his heart, he sighed heavily.

...

Chu Liuyue naturally didn't know how conflicted Jiang Yucheng was feeling. On the other hand, she had already calmed down completely.

Before she came to Xi Ling, she had already made sufficient preparations. So after a temporary shock, she quickly accepted this matter.

*The most important thing now is to check what exactly they want to do by holding this Wan Zheng Competition. Chu Liuyue didn't believe a single word of whatever Elder Qiuxi said earlier. Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng definitely don't have such foresight and generosity. They clearly have other motives. Besides... I have to quickly check what the imperial court's situation is like. Back then, who ganged up to betray me and who was still standing on my side...*

Chu Liuyue leaned against the chair, held her chin, and fell into deep thought. *I'm weak now, and I do need to find some dependable people to help me...*

A commotion could suddenly be heard from the crowd.

Chu Liuyue looked up and realized another match had ended. Another name disappeared from the black marble board.

Not long later, two names disappeared almost at the same time.

After Chu Liuyue ended her match first, the other competitors in the square seemed to have been agitated as they sped up.

The competition immediately became more intense. Of course, this led to even more conclusions of the matches.

Time trickled past, and the names that disappeared from the marble board increased in number. Many cultivators were also continuously carried down from the arenas.

As the chance was rare, everyone went all in and tried to win as they all showed their true abilities, causing their injuries to be even more tragic.

Some refused to admit defeat, and they even fainted.

The square was filled with messy bloodstains.

The spectators became increasingly agitated as their faces flushed, and they yelled at the top of their lungs.

Quite a few people sat around Chu Liuyue.

Upon seeing this, those from the Tianling Dynasty were still decent, but those from outside Heaven's Canopy were pretty shocked.

Chu Liuyue was already used to this.

Gradually, the people beside her started chatting randomly.

Some wanted to be friends, while others wanted to find out information about their enemies. The crowd had their own intentions, and they were quite enthusiastic suddenly.

However, nobody willingly talked to Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue didn't mind it either as she leisurely watched the competition and glanced at the names on the marble board from time to time.

...

"Ah! Are you crazy?!" A shrill was suddenly heard from the square.

Chu Liuyue looked up and realized the one that cried bitterly was a youngster.

She wasn't a stranger to this person as he was one of the Sky-Soaring Clan disciples that were with Zhao Yunzhi earlier.

At this point, he held his bleeding arm and looked at the youngster in front of him infuriatingly. "Are you a beast? You're actually eating human meat!"

Everyone was shocked when he said this.

That youngster looked like he was 16 or 17, and he was wearing a grey sack shirt that didn't fit him. Perhaps it was too torn and tattered, so his clothes didn't even look like how they previously did.

Even though he wasn't short, he was very skinny. His body was empty inside the clothes, and he looked like a sack.

He had golden hair, and his hair was soft and bright, which reflected a dim light under the sunlight. His hair covered more than half his face, but one could still see the youth in his appearance and his sharp chin.

At this point, his mouth was biting onto a bloody piece of meat, which was ripped off from the young man's elbow.

He nonchalantly spat out the meat and coldly said, "Smelly."

His expression and his tone were nonchalant as if he was saying something unrelated to him, but this behavior sent chills down one's spine.

The young man in front of him was stumped, and he didn't dare to ask why he said 'smelly.' His instincts told him that he didn't want to know the answer.

The surrounding audience subconsciously kept quiet. Everyone could tell that this youngster was... not simple!

He wiped away the bloodstains from the corner of his mouth, knitted his brows, and looked slightly disgusted.

That young man's heart beat uncontrollably, and uneasiness filled his heart. His voice trembled slightly as he asked him sternly, "Wh-what do you want?!"

But that golden-haired youngster didn't say anything as he tilted his head and looked at him. Afterward, he suddenly moved back and bent his body. Then, he was shrouded by a shocking aura.

The next moment, he charged out like a wolf in the wilderness. This time, he raised his hands that were filled with scabs, looking like claws, and clutched the young man's neck tightly.

His speed was too fast, and that young man couldn't even react in time as he fell to the ground.

"I... cough cough... I surr—render cough—"

That young man looked up and saw the icy brown eyes under the golden hair and shuddered while admitting defeat without hesitation.

Regret flashed across the golden-haired youngster's eyes as if he felt pity that he couldn't continue fighting.

In the end, he still let go.

Even when he won the competition, his expression didn't change much as he walked down the stage after looking around.

Then, he walked straight to Chu Liuyue.