

Nobel Ruler 51

Chapter 51: Ranking!

Si Ting looked at the young girl in front of him, and his gaze rapidly darted across her body. *Completely unharmed. It looks like she did not meet with any trouble at all. However, this is not right.*

If Chu Liuyue walked the wrong way in the middle, she should have activated the Xuan formation and met with some trouble. However, she looks like she was just casually walking around in her backyard. If she really did not meet with any trouble, she should have been here much earlier. At the very least, she should've arrived here around the same time as me. However, she was late by a step.

Si Ting wanted to figure something out from Chu Liuyue's face, but there was only calmness in the depths of her sparkling eyes. He could not glean anything. It seemed like nothing in this world could falter her heart.

"You're very fast," said Si Ting simply.

Chu Liuyue opened her arms. "Still slower than you by a little."

Si Ting did not say anything else and turned around to walk forward. *There is nothing difficult about this competition at all. Chu Liuyue is the only variable. However, it is clear that she doesn't intend to show off her true abilities. Thus, it won't be too late to investigate her later.*

Chu Liuyue also did not say anything else and continued to move forward.

After passing through some place, she set her eyes on the disc-like stones beneath her feet. *Who would have thought that this is the Xuan formation's formation eye?*

This rock that looked more than ordinary actually contained the strongest energy in the entire Xuan formation.

She would not be far from the exit once she walked through this place.

Si Ting's figure quickly disappeared, and Chu Liuyue followed closely after.

...

Si Ting walked out of the woods smoothly without any obstacles and found Sun Zhongyan and the other two teachers waiting for him there.

He casually picked up the flag, and a firework rose to the sky from the chessboard at the same time.

Peng!

The firework exploding meant that the Xuan Master examination's top scholar had already appeared.

"Si Ting, you've indeed improved by quite a bit. You only used less than an hour to get out," praised Sun Zhongyan.

Si Ting looked calm and clenched his fists as he bowed. "Thank you, Elder Sun, for the compliment. I still have much to learn."

Another middle-aged man laughed. "You're only 15 this year, but you're already a stage-three Xuan Master. You have a bright future ahead of you. You're well-deserving of this top position."

Si Ting's expression changed upon hearing his words as if he wanted to say something, but he swallowed the words in the end. He turned around and looked at the forest.

As expected, a pretty face appeared in front of him not long after.

It was Chu Liuyue.

The time difference between the two reaching the final destination wasn't very large.

Sun Zhongyan and the other two sized Chu Liuyue up seriously.

The rumored good-for-nothing young girl was actually so...

Chu Liuyue walked over and picked up the second flag.

...

When the fireworks flew up to the sky, the students still competing behind the mountains were shocked.

There was an uproar in the warrior examination zone.

“How did the Xuan Master examination proceed so quickly? The senior sisters said that they would take hours.”

“This should be the top scholar, right?”

“It’s still quite early... Who do you think is the top scholar?”

“Who else can it be? With Si Ting around, no one else can be at the top.”

At this point, a thick but strong voice sounded in everyone’s ears. “First place of the 453rd Xuan Master examination—Si Ting!”

The crowd burst into commotions once the voice faded away.

“It’s really him!”

“Based on this efficiency, Si Ting is definitely a stage-three Xuan Master, right? I thought he had died down after not hearing any news about him for more than half a year. I didn’t expect him to get first secretly!”

“Yeah! I think Chu Xianmin isn’t a match for his talent.”

“How can a warrior and a Xuan Master compete?”

A few people whispered amongst themselves and kept glancing at Chu Xianmin.

Chu Xianmin tolerated the stares with all her might and pretended that she did not hear them, but her fingernails were already digging deeply into her palms.

Si Ting had stolen all the limelight! However, it was okay. Si Ting was part of the Si family after all. He had nothing much to do with her.

As long as she destroyed Chu Liuyue today...

Peng!

The second firework rose into the sky.

The crowd was taken aback. *Did... the second place for the Xuan Master examination emerge?*

Only a short amount of time had passed since the first firework had risen into the sky.

“Oh my god. Who’s so capable to follow closely behind Si Ting and emerge as second place?”

Questions rose amongst the crowd.

The same voice from before boomed. “Second place of the 453rd Xuan Master examination—Chu Liuyue!”

Chapter 52: Slap in the Face

Even though the Tian Lu Academy examinations were split into different batches and the examinations proceeded in their own separated zones, they would normally announce the top three scholars.

This was a reward to the outstanding students to some extent; it would also motivate the other students at the same time.

It was not surprising for Si Ting to emerge as the top scholar for the Xuan Master examination. However, how did Chu Liuyue emerge as second place?

The initial noisy mountain immediately fell into deadly silence.

Chu Xianmin froze, and chills ran down her spine. She seemed to lose control of her own body. Her mind was completely blank, except for that one sentence that kept ringing in her head, which almost made her brain explode.

Chu Liuyue! Second place in the Xuan Master examination! How is that possible? How is that even possible?

Xuan Masters were very demanding when it came to natural talent. Even she was not lucky enough to become a Xuan Master, let alone that invalid Chu Liuyue.

Very quickly, the crowd broke into heated debates.

“Chu Liuyue in second place? Are they mistaken?”

“This is impossible, no matter how you think of it. Didn’t they say that Chu Liuyue was an invalid and that she lacked in a Yuan meridian?”

“There must be a misunderstanding... Even if she could pass the examination, how could she come in second?”

One had to know that there were quite a few other outstanding Xuan Master talents attending the same examination apart from Si Ting. All of those people had trained for more than half a year in the academy. How could they lose to Chu Liuyue?

Someone hesitantly said, “Maybe... it’s really true? Perhaps she really has shocking Xuan Master talent. In that case, it would explain Teacher Bai Chen’s previous attitude.”

“That’s impossible!” screamed Chu Xianmin subconsciously. She only realized that she had lost her composure when everyone looked over. Anxiously, she explained, “I-I mean that Sister really doesn’t have a Yuan meridian. If she’s talented as a Xuan Master, it’s impossible that our family wouldn’t know... I-I don’t know how she did it...”

In other words, Chu Liuyue’s second place came illegitimately.

Someone laughed lightly. "Chu Xianmin, you've stolen the Crown Prince's affection. Even if Chu Liuyue had talent, she probably wouldn't tell you, right?"

This sentence caused the group of people to burst out laughing.

The entire Imperial City already knew about what happened at the Crown Prince's banquet. Chu Xianmin took the initiative to offer herself to attract the Crown Prince's attention, which eventually led to Chu Liuyue and the Crown Prince's marriage agreement being dissolved.

How was it possible for both parties to have close sisterly bonds with such enmity?

Chu Xianmin still had the audacity to act like she cared for Chu Liuyue. Her acting was really good!

Chu Xianmin's face immediately flushed red, and her entire body felt like it was on fire.

"Chu Xianmin, did you purposely say that because you're afraid of Chu Liuyue stealing your limelight?"

"I didn't!" denied Chu Xianmin immediately, but the mocking stares around her made her feel restless. She clenched her teeth in secret.

In the past, everyone knew that the position of Crown Princess belonged to her, and they all licked her boots. They would never dare to say such words. However, her reputation was already ruined now. The status of Crown Princess would land in anyone's hands except for hers.

All these people immediately fell out with her and were very sarcastic towards her.

"I-I just feel that it's quite weird. After all, this Xuan Master examination progressed too quickly. Nobody knows..."

"Chu Xianmin, are you doubting Elder Sun?" asked Ling Zhu with furrowed brows.

Sun Zhongyan held a very respected status in the academy. Even most of the teachers did not dare to challenge him, let alone students.

A chill ran down Chu Xianmin's spine, and she finally lowered her head. "I-I... don't dare to..."

Seeing her current look, Ling Zhu shook his head silently. He initially thought that Chu Xianmin was very smart, but he did not expect her to be so petty. "The semi-finals are about to start. The most important thing now is to settle yourself first."

Chu Xianmin nodded and took a deep breath.

She could only turn the tables around if she was the top scholar for the warrior examination.

...

In another area behind the mountains, the 451st batch of students was having their examinations.

Rong Jin stood there and checked his sword.

A few youngsters behind him were filled with enthusiasm.

“Your Highness, it seems like you’re bound to be the top scholar for the warrior examination.”

“Your Highness should be the strongest in the entire academy, right?”

Rong Jin laughed lightly and looked into the distance. “This doesn’t count for much...”

Peng!

Another firework exploded in the air.

Rong Jin took a look at it and squinted his eyes slightly.

A young man beside him laughed. “Just now, Si Ting already emerged as first place in the Xuan Master examination. It seems like the top scholar for the warrior examination has also emerged.”

Another young man turned his eyes and laughed sheepishly. “Yeah! I think the top scholar for the warrior examination should be Chu Xianmin, right?”

Rong Jin paused for a while, and his face looked much gentler. “She is quite talented.”

Chu Xianmin's reputation would recover slightly if she emerged as the top scholar; his face would also be saved.

A deep, thick voice sounded. "Second place of the 453rd Xuan Master examination—Chu Liuyue!"

Rong Jin's smile froze on his face.

Chapter 53: Genius

Chu Liuyue? Rong Jin almost thought that he was hallucinating her name being announced at Tian Lu Academy's examination.

"It's just a similar name, right?" said the youngsters uncertainly when they saw that Rong Jin did not look right.

Rong Jin sheathed his sword; his face was as dark as coal. "Go find out what's going on."

"Yes!" A young man hurriedly turned and left.

The remaining few looked at each other in confusion.

The Crown Prince really hated Chu Liuyue and would not be in a good mood upon hearing this name. The few of them all quietened down instantly as they were afraid of angering Rong Jin. However, they were not the only ones who heard the announcement.

The other students waiting for the examination had heard it crystal clear.

Some of them started looking at Rong Jin discreetly, wondering if this 'Chu Liuyue' was the famous one in the recent rumors that spread like wildfire.

"Who is this Chu Liuyue? Is she a hidden gem suddenly discovered amongst the junior sisters and brothers?"

"I don't know, but I've never heard of her before. However, it's not that one... right?"

"Oh! I suddenly remembered something. Didn't that Chu Liuyue say she wanted to be admitted to our academy? If I haven't remembered wrongly, her admission assessment was today, right?"

"Shh! Be quiet! Don't you see how upset the Crown Prince looks? Besides, how is it possible for Chu Liuyue to be admitted to the academy? I'm sure there's a mistake somewhere."

Rong Jin's face turned even darker when he heard the whispers around him. Yes, he had almost forgotten that the only condition Chu Liuyue raised for dissolving the marriage agreement was to have one chance to be admitted to Tian Lu Academy. *No, it's impossible...*

"Your Highness!" A shout broke the anxious silence. It was from the young man who had gone to find out more information.

Upon seeing him, Rong Jin stepped forward and asked quickly, "What exactly is going on over there?" Even he did not notice that his voice had an unconcealable nervousness.

“Your Highness, the second place for the Xuan Master examination on the other side is indeed Chu Liuyue,” said the young man while gasping for air.

Rong Jin’s heart sank, but he was still harboring a last bit of hope. “Is there someone with this name in that batch of students?”

In a difficult position, the young man paused for a while and avoided Rong Jin’s gaze. “Y-yes, there’s someone called Chu Liuyue...”

Rong Jin closed his eyes and heaved a sigh of relief secretly.

There is indeed someone with the same name. Exactly, how could that Chu Liuyue be a Xuan Master?

“Y-your Highness...” explained the young man with a shaky voice as he knew that Rong Jin had misunderstood his words, “this Chu Liuyue is that one...”

Rong Jin was taken aback. “What did you say?”

The young man pulled a long face. “Chu Liuyue was admitted into the academy today. She participated in the Xuan Master examination as a new student. She placed second in the examination. All the students and teachers on the other end are currently going crazy over the news. It’s only a matter of time before the people here will find out about it.”

This news would spread to everyone in less than an hour.

Not only did the Chu Liuyue—who everyone could bully in the past—successfully enter Tian Lu Academy, but she had also come in second place during the mid-semester Xuan Master examination on the day of her admission.

This would definitely rile up the entire Imperial City.

Rong Jin did not recover his senses for quite some time. Then, he grabbed the young man by his collar and hollered, “What nonsense are you talking about? How can someone without a Yuan meridian be a Xuan Master?”

“Y-your Highness, why would I dare to lie to you? Elder Sun Zhongyan said it himself. B-besides...” He gulped down a mouthful of saliva and was on the brink of tears. “That Chu Liuyue was admitted into the academy after passing all three assessment categories. Teacher Bai Chen said that Chu Liuyue is a rare genius that only appeared once every 100 years and that... s-she has a very bright future ahead of her.”

Bang!

Rong Jin directly smashed him against the floor, and his face contorted.

Chapter 54: Present

What else would be more of a joke than this?

During the many years when their marriage agreement existed, she was a coward and a weakling, humiliating him through and through. However, once the marriage agreement was dissolved, she suddenly turned into someone new and became a top genius, attracting everyone’s envy.

Rong Jin could not believe this no matter what, but he knew that the academy would not make a mistake about this. This meant that... Chu Liuyue was really a Xuan Master talent.

When the crowd heard the news, they were stunned, including those joking about her earlier. They only said it for fun at the start, but who knew it would come true?

Some of them looked at Rong Jin with complicated gazes. *How unlucky must he be to meet with such a thing?*

Just after he dissolved the marriage agreement, the other party became an attractive genius, and she was even a Xuan Master.

An outstanding Xuan Master talent was even more precious and capable than a regular warrior talent.

Chu Liuyue's life would really be flipped upside down if she had truly used her own capabilities to place second in the examination. From now on, everyone would want to ride on her coattails.

Rong Jin had actually given up on such a rare Xuan Master talent that had been his fiancée and chose Chu Xianmin instead. Even though Chu Xianmin was quite talented, she was still a warrior and worse than a Xuan Master.

In addition to the incidents exposed during the banquet, many people felt that Chu Xianmin was shameless and unscrupulous in her ambition to climb up the ladder.

It was a miserable fight between the two of them.

Some of them looked at each other quietly and whispered.

“Pfft... If this happened to me, it would be the biggest regret of my life.”

“Exactly! She’s a Xuan Master! Si Ting placed first, and she came in second not long after. Doesn’t this prove that her talent is on par with Si Ting’s?”

“After all, Si Ting started training when he was young, but this Chu Liuyue seemed to have been bullied all the time previously. Even though I don’t know how she suddenly became a Xuan Master talent, her life is going to be very different from now on.”

“Quiet down! Can’t you see how upset that person looks?”

“Who can handle this large discrepancy?”

...

Prince Li Mansion...

Rong Xiu lay on his long, wooden seat, and the sun shone down on him from the windows, casting his eyelashes’ shadows onto his face. His clean and distinguished appearance made him look pure and innocent as if his entire person was sculpted from the purest ice in heaven.

His purely red lips made him look even more attractive. He was the only color of spring in this icy world, and he was the beastliest of them all.

Footstep sounds came in from outside.

Yan Qing walked in and bowed. "Master, I have prepared the item you chose."

Rong Xiu's lashes fluttered slightly, and he opened his eyes. A spark flashed across his bottomless eyes. "The examination results are already out, right?"

"Yes, Big Chu Missy has entered Tian Lu Academy by passing all three categories," said Yan Qing calmly, but the rapid beating of his heart had not been appeased. Only heaven would know how shocked he was when he received the news.

Even though he had already guessed Big Chu Missy was not someone simple, he did not expect her to have hidden such skills.

"Also, Big Chu Missy participated in the academy's mid-semester examination. I heard... she came in second place for the Xuan Master examination."

Rong Xiu lifted his brows. "Her show-off character is such a headache."

Yan Qing glanced at his master, and his eyelids twitched. *Headache? Then what are you laughing at? You won't even be this happy if it happened to you, right?*

Rong Xiu looked at Yan Qing. "Yan Qing, what do you want to say?"

Yan Qing immediately straightened his back. "I wanted to say that you have good taste, Master."

Rong Xiu's long fingers knocked on the table, and he laughed with a deep voice after a momentary silence. "Since she's having so much fun, I'll let her have her fill today. Double the presents we prepared originally."

Yan Qing asked with slight hesitation, "Then for yours..."

"I'll deliver it to her personally."

Chapter 55: You're Too Slow

Chu Liuyue did not have a single clue about what was happening outside. The moment she picked up the flag, fireworks immediately flew up and exploded in mid-air.

She raised her brows in confusion. She initially thought that only the top scholar would have such treatment, but she did not expect that second place would be announced in such a high-key manner.

She purposely came in second to not get into too much trouble. However, this was not bad as well. At the very least, there would be no ignorant people that dared to cause trouble for her from now on.

"Are you Chu Liuyue?"

Chu Liuyue turned around and saw a kind old man sizing her up.

Behind him were two other middle-aged men.

A mini Xuan formation floated beside them.

She realized that these three men were the Xuan Masters controlling the Xuan formation in the forest.

She bent her knees and bowed. "Greetings, teachers."

"Elder Sun is one of our academy's five most esteemed elders," reminded one of the middle-aged men.

Chu Liuyue immediately changed her phrasing. "Greetings, Elder Sun."

Sun Zhongyan waved his hands and chuckled. "This isn't important. It's normal for Liuyue not to know about this since it's her first time here. I didn't expect the academy to be able to accept such a talent. It was no wonder that kid—Bai Chen—likes you so much. You... are very capable!"

'That kid...' It seems like this elder is pretty senior here. She did not really hear about the five elders before, but it was obvious that they held a prominent status. Chu Liuyue thought this in her heart, but her facial expression did not change. She said, in neither an overbearing nor a humble manner, "Thank you, Elder Sun, for the compliment."

Sun Zhongyan liked her even more after hearing her words.

Even though she was young, she was very calm and collected. Most of the students that came in first or second during an examination would have a hard time hiding their proud expressions even though they spoke in a humble manner. However, judging from Chu Liuyue's calm eyes, it seemed like she really did not care about it.

It was either she did not know what her ranking meant, or she did not even care about the difficulty of the examination.

"I'm not praising you. You do have the talent to become a Xuan Master. You would definitely be very different if your talent had been unearthed and cultivated earlier."

What is wrong with that Chu family? How can they delay such a rare talent? If Chu Liuyue did not suggest entering Tian Lu Academy herself, her talent would've been buried for the rest of her life.

The two middle-aged men beside him looked at each other and saw the other party's shocked look.

Elder Sun looked kind and gentle, but he had very high expectations; it was rare for him to admire and praise students. Even though Chu Liuyue's performance was decent, Elder Sun's comments were a little too much.

Chu Liuyue smiled. "You're really thinking too highly of me. I'm already very happy to be able to enter the academy and learn."

Sun Zhongyan stroked his beard and smiled at Si Ting. "Si Ting, you need to work a lot harder from now on."

Si Ting tightly pressed his lips against each other and looked down slightly. "I will remember your teachings." *It seems like Elder Sun saw something in her. There's an 80% chance that Chu Liuyue hid her true abilities during the examination.*

"Since you've finished the examination, come take a look at the Xuan formation," said Elder Sun as he pointed at the floating silver Xuan formation.

Si Ting and Chu Liuyue readily agreed and followed him over.

Sun Zhongyan personally arranged this Xuan formation, and it was very detailed and complicated. One would definitely benefit a lot if they could personally examine it and learn from it.

After an hour roughly passed, hurried footsteps could be heard from the woods.

Chu Liuyue looked over and smiled.

The person coming was actually Si Yang. The current him had his hair in a mess, and his clothes were stained with blood. It was obvious that he had a hard time inside. He looked very different from his initial arrogant expression.

His gaze swept across the row of flags and discovered that there were two empty spots. This meant that only two people were ahead of him.

I'm third! A smile finally appeared on his face when he thought of this as he hurried over and took one of the flags. Even though the journey here was very difficult, it was worth it to get such a result.

He then looked up.

In the woods, one could not hear sounds that came from outside the Xuan formation. Thus, he did not know who had come in first place and second place.

He looked up and saw a familiar, bulky figure. *As expected, it's Si Ting.* He directed his gaze to the side, and his entire person froze when he saw the pretty face.

"Congratulations." Chu Liuyue clapped her hands and smiled happily. "Third place."

Si Yang was completely dazed as he asked instinctively, "Why are you here?"

Chu Liuyue blinked. "Because... I came in second place."

"You..."

"It's such a pity. You said we would battle it out on the examination grounds, but you didn't catch up with me after I waited for you for so long. Thus, I could only make a move first." Chu Liuyue shrugged her shoulders. "I didn't expect you to be so... slow."

Chapter 56: Tianling Dynasty!

Si Yang was so angry that he almost burst an artery.

Me. Too slow? I came in third!

Such an achievement was clearly something to be proud of, but he was mocked when it came to Chu Liuyue! He couldn't even refute her because she had come in second.

Even if he didn't believe it, Chu Liuyue wouldn't have the guts to lie in the presence of Elder Sun and the others.

After comparing their achievements, he felt his face burn as he recalled what he had said earlier. Si Yang clung onto his last hope as he struggled and asked, "You? When did you get out?"

If Chu Liuyue had been slightly faster than him, then...

"The girl came within less than half an hour of Si Ting, and you arrived one hour after her." Sun Zhongyan smiled. Si Yang was a good kid in all other aspects, but he could get a little too proud and full of self-righteousness.

By using Chu Liuyue, he could knock down the boy's ego by a notch.

Indeed, after Si Yang heard Elder Sun's words, all his lucky thoughts were dispelled instantly. He lowered his head dejectedly. If there was a crack in the ground, he would have crawled into it immediately!

He looked like a joke now because he had been the one to provoke Chu Liuyue earlier.

Chu Liuyue said, "If you have any regrets because we didn't get to spar today, let's arrange to do it some other day."

Her words seemed to rouse him, and he looked at her carefully. Upon closer examination, he was amazed to see that there wasn't even a single scratch on Chu Liuyue. He had suffered during the test, but Chu Liuyue didn't seem to be affected at all!

He gritted his teeth and turned away. "No need! I admit that you are better than me in today's examination!" He wished he was anywhere but here when he said that. He felt disgraced.

"Liuyue is indeed talented in this area. You are going to be classmates in the future. It's always good to communicate more and help each other out," said Sun Zhongyan.

Si Ting finally drew his gaze away from the Xuan formation. "I will remember Elder Sun's advice diligently."

Sun Zhongyan nodded.

Soon, the announcement for third place sounded.

This time, Si Yang's name was announced.

Initially, Si Yang had been looking forward to hearing his name announced like this. However, he wasn't happy at all now that it had actually happened. He even felt an inexplicable sense of shame when he thought about being next to Chu Liuyue.

She had taken second place without saying a word. So, what was the big deal about him coming in third place?

He walked and stood behind Si Ting in embarrassment, not saying a word. He couldn't help himself from glancing at Chu Liuyue occasionally.

He couldn't fathom why Chu Liuyue—who was being mocked by everyone in the Imperial City as a loser—could be so powerful.

When she looked at him, he quickly withdrew his gaze again as though nothing had happened. His ears were getting redder and redder, revealing his guilty conscience and nervousness.

After this happened several times, Chu Liuyue finally couldn't help but laugh out loud. "If you have anything to ask me, feel free to do so."

This time, it wasn't only his ears that reddened. Si Yang's face and neck also reddened.

Actually, he didn't really have much to say to Chu Liuyue. However, he was simply too curious about her. Finally, he couldn't help himself from awkwardly asking, "Ehm... you... So many people have called you a loser. Have you been faking it?"

Chu Liuyue's eyebrows rose slightly.

A few people turned towards them once he asked that. In reality, this question bugged them too.

Chu Liuyue shook her head and gave a crisp answer. "No."

Si Ting leaned forward to hear more, but Chu Liuyue didn't elaborate further. She obviously didn't see the need to explain.

He was a little disappointed, yet he knew that this was someone else's secret. He was in no position to ask more. So, he muttered, "I told you. If you've been faking it, you could have just come in first place. I hear that this year's first place will get to meet the ambassadors from the Tianling Dynasty!"

Chu Liuyue suddenly froze, and her pupils shrank.

Chapter 57: I'll Take the First Place

Her eyes flickered to hide the shock, but it was quickly replaced by confusion. "Tianling Dynasty?"

"You don't know? Oh, right. You used to have such a miserable life in the Chu family. It is only normal that you don't know about the existence of different levels." Si Yang finally gained some internal balance. At least he knew more than Chu Liuyue in this aspect. As the descendant of the Si family, all he heard was actually a few rumors. However, this was more than what any ordinary person could hear.

Chu Liuyue curled her fingers, seemingly unperturbed by his words. She smiled. "What? Is that so-called Tianling Dynasty that powerful?"

"More than powerful! The whole Country Yao Chen has to look up to them. That..." Si Yang got more and more excited as he spoke.

Then, Si Ting gave him a look. "Si Yang."

Si Yang suddenly quieted down and coughed. "... I know, I know. I shouldn't speak about such things."

Chu Liuyue was silent for a moment before she asked, "Earlier, you said that whoever comes in first gets to see the ambassadors?"

Si Yang cautiously glanced at Si Ting. When the latter didn't object, he nodded. "That's right. Although we don't have the chance to go to the Tianling Dynasty, it's a great opportunity to be able to see their ambassadors too!" Saying that, he looked at Chu Liuyue and shook his head. "It's futile for you to ask. The assessment is over. You came in second, so there's no chance for you."

Chu Liuyue lowered her eyes.

Si Ting suddenly asked, "You seem to be very... concerned about this?" As a bystander, he saw everything clearly. Chu Liuyue seemed to be different after hearing the news.

When she came in second place during the assessment earlier, she was extremely calm, as if she didn't take these things to heart at all. It was like she was just doing it casually.

But just now, Chu Liuyue had asked a question casually. However, the fact that she had asked about it meant she was concerned about this.

"From what Si Yang said, this is a rare opportunity. If I didn't know about it, that's fine. But now that I know, I naturally want to see too." Chu Liuyue looked honest, with regret in her eyes. "Unfortunately... I was reborn in Country Yao Chen, which is a great distance from the Tianling Dynasty.

She originally thought that it would take many years before she could go back and exact revenge on those people. However, she never expected that people from the Tianling Dynasty would come themselves!

Although she wasn't sure who the ambassadors were, she would be able to find out some information at the very least. However, it was exceptionally rare for the Tianling Dynasty to send ambassadors to its subsidiary countries. At least, she had never sent anyone to Country Yao Chen during the years she was in power.

What is it this time? Chu Liuyue withdrew her gaze and looked at the Xuan formation again like she was trying to comprehend it. In reality, her mind was still thinking about the ambassadors from the Tianling Dynasty.

She wondered how long she would have to wait for any relevant news about the Tianling Dynasty again if she missed this opportunity. Country Yao Chen was but an unremarkable country among the Tianling Dynasty's dozens of affiliated countries. This was a rare opportunity.

Her current strength certainly wasn't enough to help her exact her revenge, but... it wouldn't be a bad idea to obtain some information! A full year had now passed since the day she 'died.' She wanted to know what happened after her death.

Chu Liuyue was torn as though two vile creatures were fighting inside her.

"Brother, you must definitely tell me what it is like to meet the ambassadors!" Si Yang leaned closer to Si Ting with envy and yearning written all over his face. "I've heard that all of them there are top-notch powerhouses... I wish I had the chance to go there to take a look in this life!"

Si Ting smiled slightly. "Your chance will come if you work hard."

Si Yang's eyes lit up. He nodded vigorously, but his face fell in an instant. "Ugh, I wonder when that will be!"

It took decades for Country Yao Chen to have such an opportunity. It was rare indeed.

Chu Liuyue suddenly spoke up. "Elder Sun, I would like to ask you a question."

Sun Zhongyan nodded. "Go ahead."

"I wonder if the academy has a rule that a person can only participate in one assessment?"

Sun Zhongyan shook his head. "There doesn't seem to be such a rule. However, there are no such precedents previously because the assessments are divided into three categories—warriors, Xuan Masters, and heavenly doctors. Each student has their own specialized discipline, so they basically only take part in the one they study."

He looked at the young girl before him. Suddenly, he could vaguely guess what she was thinking. "You... wish to take part in the other categories' assessments?"

Chu Liuyue pursed her lips and smiled, her eyes brilliant. "Elder Sun is wise."

Another teacher spoke out and expressed his objection. "How can you do that? You've already participated in the assessment for Xuan Masters."

Chu Liuyue was calm. "Teacher, you seem to have forgotten that I just enrolled today. I... haven't decided which discipline I am going to specialize in yet. This means that I'm eligible for the other assessments, aren't I?"

Her words shut everyone up.

Oh, right! Chu Liuyue had entered the academy with three passes in all three assessment categories. Therefore, she could actually take the examination for any category before she decided which one to specialize in.

Another teacher couldn't stop himself from commenting. "B-But, you have the most talent as a Xuan Master, and you have already come in second place. You won't be able to get a better result, even if you partake in the other assessments!"

Chu Liuyue, however, was unmoved. "I won't know until I've tried."

"You're crazy!" Si Yang was stunned for quite a while before he realized what Chu Liuyue was planning to do. He rushed to her side and shouted, "I admit that you are gifted as a Xuan Master, but that doesn't mean you'll have an advantage in the warrior assessment or the heavenly doctor assessment! You're going to get yourself killed. Coming in second place is good enough. Why can't you just think about it carefully? If you get beaten half to death, let's see what pride you'll have when you come back!"

Chu Liuyue looked at him with some surprise. *Is this brat worried about me getting bullied?*

Si Yang blushed and raised his voice when she saw his embarrassment. "Don't you dare think otherwise! You're one of us now that everyone knows you're the second-best Xuan Master! If you embarrass yourself, people will laugh at us too!"

Putting the heavenly doctors aside, the warrior students and Xuan Master students had been secretly competing against each other.

Si Yang had already recognized Chu Liuyue as one of his own. Now that he saw her like this, he naturally objected.

Chu Liuyue patted his shoulder. "Don't worry. I'll be back after taking first place."

Chapter 58: You're the Best

"It's finally time for the final round. Minmin, you'll definitely come in first, won't you?"

"That's right! I heard you had another breakthrough a while back. We'll get to see it all this time."

At the warrior assessment area, the process was halfway through. They had arrived at the final stage. This was the part with the most students, almost 300 of them. However, only two of them would be able to overcome the numerous hurdles and make it through the finals.

Chu Xianmin was definitely one of them.

Chu Xianmin's mood finally improved after listening to the several people rallying around her. She replied modestly, "I'm not as good as you say. Besides, Gu Mingfeng is also very strong. I may not be able to get first place in the assessment this time."

Gu Mingfeng was the other finalist. He, too, came from one of the four great family clans.

“He is just a commoner. How can he compare to you?” A girl smirked. “If it weren’t for his little bit of talent, why would the Gu family care about him?”

In Country Yao Chen, people still valued the hierarchy between a true-born descendant and a commoner, as well as seniority.

Chu Xianmin looked at Gu Mingfeng—who was standing in the distance—and realized that he was staring at her too.

Gu Mingfeng was actually quite good-looking. His features were exquisite as if they had been carefully carved. However, his amber eyes, which always seemed a bit gloomy, chilled one’s heart.

She immediately showed her disapproval and pulled at her friend. “Strength is of the essence. Yan’er, don’t speak of such things in the future.”

The girl named Yan’er didn’t even notice Gu Mingfeng was watching them. She stuck her tongue out. “So what? I am the Second Missy of the Lu family; I dare him to find trouble with me.”

Although the Lu family couldn’t be compared to the Gu family, she was, after all, the first daughter of her family!

Chu Xianmin glanced at Gu Mingfeng, but he had averted his gaze and didn’t seem to hear them.

Gu Mingfeng definitely heard them. She had intentionally wanted to do him a favor. Unfortunately, he didn’t seem to be that easy to bait.

In her heart, Chu Xianmin actually despised this kind of commoner's son, so she simply stopped thinking about it.

Lu Feiyan tugged at her sleeve and whispered to her. "Minmin, Chu Liuyue came in second place for the Xuan Master assessment. No matter what, you mustn't lose to her. You must come in first place!"

Chu Xianmin stiffened. She was annoyed that Lu Feiyan had been ignorant enough to touch her sore spot. She nodded reluctantly. "I know what to do."

At this moment, a firework exploded in the distant sky.

"First place for warrior assessment, Rong Jin from 451st batch!"

"It's the Crown Prince! The first place is really him!"

Lu Feiyan's eyes shone as she shook Chu Xianmin's arm with joy. "Minmin, His Highness is really as strong as people say he is! I heard that their batch is very competitive. It is awesome that he came in first!"

Chu Xianmin laughed unconcernedly. "Brother Jin had it at his fingertips."

Lu Feiyan was both envious and jealous of the intimacy between Chu Xianmin and the Crown Prince. "Hey, Minmin. His Highness sees you in a different light. Will he be present for your upcoming assessment?"

Everyone surrounding her directed their attention to Chu Xianmin.

Chu Xianmin felt slightly embarrassed. If it was before, the Crown Prince would definitely be present. Alas, his attitude towards her was much colder ever since that banquet so he probably wouldn't come.

She forced a smile on her face. "The assessment over there has just ended. Brother Jin should still be busy and won't..."

Before she had finished, she heard a familiar voice coming from afar. "Minmin, why did you say that? This is your finals, so I'll definitely come."

Chu Xianmin's heart skipped a beat, and she immediately looked up.

The Crown Prince, Rong Jin, was headed her way while dressed in purple brocade.

Chu Xianmin was filled with joy and apprehension at the same time. *He must also know that Chu Liuyue has come in second place for the Xuan Master assessment. Why is here to see me instead of being angry?*

Rong Jin came before Chu Xianmin. His expression was one of rare tenderness. He seemed to be emphasizing something with each word when he said, "You're the best. First place will most definitely belong to you, right?"

Chapter 59: Appearances

Chu Xianmin read Rong Jin's mind immediately.

He had just dissolved his marriage agreement with Chu Liuyue. As a result, she had entered Tian Lu Academy and even came in second place for the Xuan Master assessment. That was equivalent to slapping his face hard!

At a time like this, she must take first place in the warrior assessment to regain her pride and prove that she was truly better than Chu Liuyue.

Not only did this concern her, but it also concerned the Crown Prince! That was why he came under such circumstances. He wanted to show everyone that he had nothing to lose by choosing Chu Xianmin over Chu Liuyue.

Chu Xianmin knew this was her chance and promised him. "Brother Jin, rest assured that I will do my best."

As long as she performed well today, the Crown Prince would have an out, and everything after that would be easy.

Rong Jin nodded with satisfaction. What he liked most about Chu Xianmin was her intelligence; she knew the appropriate action for every occasion.

The teacher-in-charge of the assessment shouted, "Chu Xianmin, Gu Mingfeng, are you done with your preparations? The finals are about to begin!"

Chu Xianmin and Gu Mingfeng heard that, and they walked towards the open space in the middle.

The other students had already formed a circle, waiting for the finals to begin.

The two of them naturally had the talent and strength to be able to stand out among hundreds of students.

“The final will determine who takes first place! The battle has no time limit and will only end when one side concedes! However, absolutely no killing is allowed during the battle! Otherwise, you will be disqualified from the competition!” The teacher supervising the exam raised his voice as he looked at both of them. “Do you understand?”

“We will remember it in our hearts.”

“The match... starts now!” With the teacher’s announcement, the atmosphere at the arena immediately became serious.

“Please share your experience with me,” said Chu Xianmin politely. As her words trailed off, she was the one who quickly moved her feet towards Gu Mingfeng with a swift attack!

A sharp glint flashed in Gu Mingfeng’s eyes!

The two were engaged in a melee battle.

“These two are about to advance to the fourth stage as warriors. It should be some time before the winner emerges.”

Some teachers from the academy were among the audience. They whispered while watching the battle on the field.

“Chu Xianmin has been playing it safe. I think she is the stronger one. She should win.”

“I’ve heard that Gu Mingfeng has been diligently cultivating recently. It’s still too early to tell who will be the winner.”

Chu Xianmin and Gu Mingfeng did not have the same teacher; naturally, they would be compared at such times.

A teacher beamed. “Actually, I’d like to head over to Xuan Masters’ assessment to watch...”

“Hey, Yu. Normally, there’s nothing wrong with you except that you like to go where the crowd goes. The Xuan Master assessment is nothing more than a mystic formation. You won’t understand it even if you went. I believe you probably want to see Chu Liuyue, right?”

There was derision.

One who had been unmasked must simply admit it.

“Aren’t you curious? Everyone says she’s a loser, but she became a Xuan Master in the blink of an eye. Did the whole Chu family go blind and never realize she was a genius throughout all these years?”

“Yu, let’s stay out of their family business.”

At this point, everyone looked at each other. They said nothing more and quickly changed the topic to the match between Chu Xianmin and Gu Mingfeng.

An hour passed, and the two were still fighting.

Chu Xianmin began to panic. She realized that Gu Mingfeng was much more formidable than she expected. If they continued like this, she might not get first place!

She stole a quick glance at Rong Jin, who was among the audience. Indeed, he looked sullen.

Chu Xianmin gritted her teeth. *This mustn't go on! I must finish it quickly.*

She took a deep breath, transferred all her force, channeled it into her longsword, and thrust the longsword straight ahead.

Chapter 60: The Warriors' Assessment

Gu Mingfeng raised his sword at the same time!

Zing...

The two swords clashed with an ear-piercing sound and sparks!

Chu Xianmin's heart sank. The power contained within Gu Mingfeng's sword was even stronger than hers.

He is hiding his strength! Chu Xianmin began to panic even more at this thought. *No way! I must not be defeated by Gu Mingfeng! I must win first place today.*

Gu Mingfeng pushed with his wrist again, and the longsword came crashing down on Chu Xianmin.

She felt her entire arm go numb, making it difficult for her to grip the sword in her hand.

Suddenly she had an idea! She loosened her grip on the sword, lowered herself, and stepped aside to avoid his sword.

Gu Mingfeng initially thought she would attack again, but he didn't expect her to abandon her sword and lose her pivot all of a sudden.

The longsword in his hand, which had been filled with the force, fell short! He wobbled.

Chu Xianmin had circled to his side by this time. In her hand, something flashed with a biting, cold light.

... A sharp dagger!

By the time Gu Mingfeng reacted, the dagger was already in front of him, no more than half an arm's length from his neck!

He subconsciously tried to turn his longsword around, but it was too late!

In his hurry, Gu Mingfeng had to retreat quickly! However, he hadn't been able to stand firm just now, and this caused him to lose his center of gravity directly.

His gaze turned icy when he looked at Chu Xianmin. *How dare she use such a devious move against me!*

The anger burned inside him. He was about to move, but he suddenly thought of something. His expression changed, and he hesitated. *No, not now.*

Chu Xianmin had already arrived before his eyes at precisely this moment.

Gu Mingfeng secretly removed half of the force from his leg and kicked Chu Xianmin's wrist!

Bang!

He actually kicked her dagger away.

However, Chu Xianmin was prepared and immediately used the momentum to lift her leg. Her kick landed right in the middle of Gu Mingfeng's chest.

With a muffled sound, his whole body flew back, somersaulted, and hit the ground hard. It left a long trail on the ground.

The crowd outside the arena quieted down.

An assessment teacher shouted, “Gu Mingfeng, out of bounds! Chu Xianmin wins the battle!”

As soon as she heard that, Chu Xianmin finally set the boulder of worry in her heart down.

Everyone exchanged looks with each other.

“This... whatever Chu Xianmin did just now couldn’t be intentional, right?”

“I think so. The two of them are on par when it comes to strength. How could she have lost her grip on her sword so easily? If it weren’t for that, Gu Mingfeng wouldn’t have missed.”

“You guys aren’t jealous that Chu Xianmin won first place, are you? It’s not like we don’t know about her talent and strength. She didn’t have to resort to these tactics! The teachers also haven’t said anything!”

“But it just looked a little off...”

One teacher laughed.

“It is a competition after all. Sometimes, it’s not a bad idea to be smart.”

There were other teachers who showed their disapproval, but they didn’t say anything in the end. All of them could clearly see that Chu Xianmin had pushed the envelope. Although her actions weren’t very good, it wasn’t a big mistake.

They would encounter much more dangerous situations than this when they fought in the future.

Besides, Gu Mingfeng didn't seem to have any intention of fighting for first place...

Hearing the teacher say all this, the questioning voices in the crowd gradually subsided.

Chu Xianmin walked up to Rong Jin and said with relief, "Fortunately, I didn't disappoint Brother Jin.

Rong Jin smiled. "Your strength has increased by so much more than before. It won't take you long to become a stage-four warrior." The process didn't matter. What he wanted was the result. "I promised you before that I would give you a reward as long as you could pull off a victory."

Rong Jin was in a good mood. He was beginning to look at Chu Xianmin much more favorably again.

The position of main consort was no longer available to her, but the position of side consort was still good.

"Warrior assessment for the 453rd batch, first place goes to Chu—"

The assessment teacher couldn't finish the announcement. He was interrupted by a clear female voice.

"Wait."

Everyone looked toward a certain direction in unison, and they were all taken aback.

“Chu Liuyue, what are you doing here?” The teacher was initially frustrated by the interruption. But as soon as he saw Chu Liuyue, his tone became gentler.

Chu Liuyue smiled and replied, “I would like to participate in the warrior assessment.”