

Nobel Ruler 521

Chapter 521: Shui Liu'er

Time passed slowly as dead silence lingered in the air.

Highly focused, Chu Liuyue was still studying the gigantic Xuan formation. While the two forces were engaged in a confrontation, she had silently begun to memorize the trajectory the Heavenly Dao had taken.

But due to the ninth-grade Xuan formation's overwhelming pressure, it was taking a huge toll on her given her current cultivation level. Not only was she mentally tired, but she was also losing her force at a rapid speed. Thus, she could only constantly replenish her force as she studied the Xuan formation.

It was fortunate that the water droplet had a lot of force stored away in reserve. This was why her force could constantly flow out and spread throughout her body and to her limbs.

This process had been rather painful at the start, but after experiencing it a few more times, she had slowly gotten used to it. The continuous flowing of force allowed her flesh and bones to become stronger at speeds so high that even she didn't realize that her aura was becoming stronger as well.

A complicated look flashed across the legendary three-eyed eagle's eyes as it regarded Chu Liuyue. *Such a cultivation method is very demanding on cultivators, and the average person wouldn't be able to endure it. However, not only did she manage to endure it, but it also seems like it's becoming easier for her. Her potential is far greater than what she previously displayed!*

It then shifted its gaze to the Heavenly Square Cauldron that was floating in the air. *I finally understand a little about why the Heavenly Square Cauldron chose her...*

With her entire attention on the Xuan formation, Chu Liuyue completely forgot about time as a rough outline of the Xuan formation slowly formed in her mind.

...

Meanwhile, on the other end, the people outside the heavenly pit were still waiting arduously.

As time passed, more Heavenly Dao was summoned by the Long Yuan Sword. Its aura and pressure became greater as well.

They had already retreated ten miles from their original positions, and another two people were eliminated one after another. Only half of them were left standing here, yet the sword still hadn't selected a new master.

They only had two more chances of being selected. Even though they didn't show their emotions on their faces, they were secretly getting impatient.

"We can't tell how much time has passed since there's no day and night here," Yang Qin'er mumbled to herself while the others remained silent.

Her words, however, reminded Qiang Wanzhou of something. His expression changed a little as he closed his eyes and examined his internal body condition.

But when he opened his eyes again, a trace of surprise surfaced in his beautiful eyes. *The pill that I ate earlier seems to have fully taken effect. I wonder if it's because of the environment here or if it's already the time for it to take effect...*

He then cast a glance in the direction of the heavenly pit. From his position, he could only see the enormous Long Yuan Sword and the raging golden flames.

Chu Liuyue remained nowhere in sight.

After thinking for a moment, he took out the jade bottle to take the second pill.

...

Xuan Ji Square.

Two days had passed, and only nine names remained on the black marble board. Given the current progress rate, the crowd had speculated that the competition would probably end in a few more days. Thus, they were rather surprised to know that nobody was eliminated on the third day.

The waiting audience gradually became impatient, and all sorts of guesses surfaced. "It's already the third day, but why isn't anyone coming out? Did something happen to them?"

"That's the Tianling God Realm you're talking about; how can anything happen there? The ones who were eliminated came out alive, didn't they? Let's not worry about it and just watch the fun!"

“That’s true. Ultimately, only the sects care most about the competition’s results. It has nothing to do with us! Speaking of which, weren’t there rumors saying that there might be a lot of rare and precious treasures hidden inside the Tianling God Realm? Those who were eliminated all came out injured though. It doesn’t look like there were any treasures involved. Say, is there a possibility that the Tianling God Realm is actually a dangerous place with no treasures at all?”

“That’s the place where the ancestor passed on! It’s rumored that he left behind a Heavenly Dao, so how can there be nothing? Besides, it all depends on destiny! Who knows? All the treasures might go to just one person!”

“I wonder which of those nine people will be lucky enough to receive that fortune... I’m quite surprised that Chu Liuyue could actually remain there this long...”

...

In a private room on the second floor of Chun Feng Restaurant, a lady in white was currently playing a pipa. She had a slender and delicate figure and was wearing a veil across her face, which revealed only a pair of gentle-looking eyes. Nevertheless, one could still tell that she was a great beauty.

Melodious music was formed as her fingers moved to pluck the instrument’s strings.

Behind the screen was a tall figure who lay diagonally.

All of a sudden, the white-clothed woman stopped playing the instrument.

The room instantly became quiet.

A moment later, the man behind the screen lazily asked, "Liu'er, why did you suddenly stop playing the pipa?"

She got up and curtsied at him. "No matter how much I play, the music won't reach your ears if you're distracted, Young Master Jian. Hence, I might as well stop playing."

Although her voice was gentle and pleasant, it sounded murderous in Jian Fengchi's ears. He let out an awkward cough. "You're mistaken, Liu'er. I—"

"Jian Fengchi, I won't play to a brick wall!" interrupted the lady in a curt manner.

She's mad at me! Very wisely, Jian Fengchi said, "Go back and get some rest then. Don't tire yourself out."

Holding the pipa in her embrace, the lady bypassed the screen and walked over to him, sneering, "Jian Fengchi, I've been playing music for a long time now. Have you found anything regarding the matter I entrusted you with?"

Jian Fengchi was a well-known tyrant in Xi Ling City who had always been arrogant and unrestrained. But whenever he faced the lady before him, he would somehow feel that he was inferior to her.

He scrunched up his handsome face. "Yes, of course! I wouldn't dare to step into Chun Feng Restaurant if I didn't manage to find anything!"

Her eyes lit up. "That's more like it. Tell me—"

Before she could finish her piece, she heard some hurried footsteps coming from outside.

“Fengchi! Fengchi!” cried a young man.

The two people in the room were stunned when they heard this.

“It’s Yuwen Jinghong,” stated Jian Fengchi.

“I know! What a timely arrival!” The lady gnashed her teeth before speedily retreating behind the screen.

The doors suddenly flung open, and Yuwen Jinghong barged into the room. “Fengchi! Do you know—”

His words trailed off when he noticed the lady in the room. “...Oh, I didn’t know you were here too, Miss Liu’er...”

“I’ll take my leave first.” Shui Liu’er bowed in the direction of the screen before retreating a few steps and paying a bow to Yuwen Jinghong as well.

Yuwen Jinghong’s ears went red as he said, “Take care, Miss Liu’er.”

“What are you doing here?” With his arms across his chest, Jian Fengchi walked out from behind the screen and shot the intruder an irritated look.

It was only then that Yuwen Jinghong recalled the purpose of his visit. He wore an excited look on his face as he told the other man, “Don’t you know? Chu Liuyue—the person you brought here—is among the top eight in the competition!”

Chapter 522: Time to Make Money!

Jian Fengchi was dazed for quite a while before he reacted. *Wan Zheng Competition? Top eight?*

Upon seeing Jian Fengchi’s expression, the smile on Yuwen Jinghong’s face gradually froze. “It can’t be that you didn’t take this to heart at all, right?”

“Isn’t it just a competition? Do I have to care so much about it?” Jian Fengchi shrugged his shoulders lazily. *This is especially so when this competition was organized by Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng. Not only do I not care about it, but I also despise it very much. If it weren’t to help Mu Qinghe, I wouldn’t even intervene in this matter.*

These few days after returning to Xi Ling City, he kept playing around and eating good food. He didn’t have the spare time to think about anything else.

Yuwen Jinghong grunted. “To think she was brought here by you!”

Mu Qinghe found her; she really has nothing to do with me, Jian Fengchi thought to himself. “Why hasn’t the competition ended yet?”

Yuwen Jinghong glanced at him in contempt. “It seems like you really don’t care about this at all. I really don’t know why you brought the lady here. Four days have passed for the competition, and it’s the fifth

day today. There were close to 200 people participating in the competition, and there's only eight left now!"

Without waiting for Jian Fengchi to explain, he continued, "All the major gambling dens in Xi Ling City have now started to accept bets, and they're all betting on who will take first place!"

Hearing this, Jian Fengchi became much more energized. "Really?"

Welcoming Yuwen Jinghong's gaze of contempt, Jian Fengchi coughed. "H-how's that girl's paying rate?"

"Of course, hers is the highest! She has the lowest cultivation level amongst the eight of them! No, she has the lowest cultivation level out of all the competitors!" said Yuwen Jinghong as he couldn't help but stroke his chin. "Aish. Speaking of this lady, she's really quite incredible! I don't think she survived to this point because of luck. Not mentioning anything else, but you do have a keen eye for picking people!"

A sinister smile appeared on Jian Fengchi's lips with a tinge of delight. "Of course."

Their conversation was going so quickly, so he didn't explain further.

"You came here just to tell me this?" asked Jian Fengchi as he changed the topic.

"Ah-choo!" Yuwen Jinghong suddenly sneezed heavily.

He rubbed his nose. "Aiyo, who is thinking of me?"

Jian Fengchi glanced at him pitifully. *Little Liu'er was suddenly interrupted. At this point, she has probably scolded all of Yuwen Jinghong's last eight generations.*

“Hehe, I just came here to find out some things from you. What rank do you think that lady can reach?” Yuwen Jinghong rubbed his hands. “I... I've been quite tight on money recently, so I want to see if I can take this chance and win some money! If you say that she can rank eighth, I'll bet on eight. If you say seventh, I'll bet on seven!”

Jian Fengchi squinted his eyes. “The higher the ranking, the more money we get?”

Yuwen Jinghong nodded.

“What's the paying rate for her getting first?”

Yuwen Jinghong said a number.

Jian Fengchi turned around and walked outside.

“Hey! Fengchi, where are you going?” Yuwen Jinghong hurriedly followed him.

Jian Fengchi didn't even turn back. “To make money!”

...

The Wan Zheng Competition was still ongoing, and it seemed like everyone in Xi Ling City directed all of their attention to this competition.

A piece of gossip spread throughout Xi Ling overnight: Rumors had it that Dragon Teeth Mountain's Jian Fengchi had gone to all the gambling dens in Xi Ling City, heavily betting in each one that Chu Liuyue would take first place for the Wan Zheng Competition!

This was literally adding a whole pot of oil to the fire.

The crowd was originally already very curious and expectant toward the Wan Zheng Competition since it concerned the Tianling God Realm. With Jian Fengchi's movements, the news spread like wildfire.

Jian Fengchi's actions were famous for being unconventional and him doing whatever he wished.

However, this action still stunned many people until their jaws dropped. This was because the crowd thought that it was impossible for Chu Liuyue to come in first.

Jian Fengchi doing so was akin to burning money. Even if he came from a rich family, they couldn't sustain his spending.

If there wasn't any special reason, why would he do this? Hence, the entire Xi Ling knew that Jian Fengchi liked that Chu Liuyue he brought back!

Jian Fengchi was known for being flirtatious, but to this extent? This was the first time.

The next moment, many people guessed: *Could the playboy Young Master finally be settling down?*

Many women were devastated over this.

...

Hundred Herbs Building.

A few women were leisurely shopping around the first floor and were whispering about something. “I heard that Chu Liuyue was brought back by Jian Fengchi from outside Heaven’s Canopy. It seems like her background is so-so. I really don’t know what he sees in her.”

“Her family background is indeed not very good, but you didn’t see her in person, right? I saw her from afar that day, and I did see a rare beauty. It’s no wonder Jian Fengchi would be so into her.”

“So what if she looks good? There are countless pretty women in this world. I think Jian Fengchi is only mesmerized for a period. After a while, he’ll wake up on his own.”

“That’s right. If not, can she really enter Dragon Teeth Mountain and be their Young Madam?”

The pageboy standing behind the crystal cabinets finally couldn’t help but ask, “Ladies, may I ask about the Chu Liuyue you mentioned earlier... Is it the one that just arrived at Xi Ling recently?”

The few women glanced at each other and nodded in confusion. “Yeap! What’s the matter?”

The pageboy smiled politely. “I don’t know where you heard the rumors from, but they’re ridiculous. Ms. Chu is the Mu Residence’s important guest. Why would she be related to Young Master Jian?”

One of the women asked, “Which Mu Residence?”

“There’s only that one Mu Residence in Xi Ling City!” The pageboy reminded, “When Ms. Chu came here a few days ago, Lieutenant Mu’s trusted subordinate—Officer Duan—accompanied her here! Everyone in Hundred Herbs Building saw it clearly!”

At this point, the few women’s faces changed. *Chu Liuyue is actually also related to that grim reaper?*

Important guest... What kind of important guest is she that can make Mu Qinghe think of her so highly? One has to know that his residence has never had even half a woman.

“Are you serious?” asked the other woman anxiously as she stepped forward.

The pageboy pointed upstairs. “Of course! That day, Ms. Chu bought quite a few things alone, and the person that served her was directly promoted to the second floor.”

Who wasn’t envious of him in Hundred Herbs Building? Now, they were all waiting for Chu Liuyue to come again!

The few women exchanged looks, and one of them chuckled. "This Chu Liuyue is indeed incredible. Not only can she make Young Master Jian spend for her, but she can even make Lieutenant Mu act out of character. How amazing."

The pageboy's face changed. "This Missy, please watch your words."

But that woman smiled even more brightly. "What, did Hundred Herbs Building become her territory? Can't I say something?"

"Ms. Chu is our Hundred Herbs Building's important guest with a black gold card. Of course, we prioritize Ms. Chu." A man's clear voice suddenly sounded.

The crowd turned around.

All the pageboys on the first floor greeted in unison, "Greetings, General Manager Yue!"

Chapter 523: Important Guest

It turns out that this person is Hundred Herbs Building's General Manager, Yue Ling. Hasn't it been very hard to see him all along? Rumors have it that even when some powerful people in Xi Ling City want to see him, they have to send him an invitation one month in advance. Also, they might not necessarily see him.

Logically speaking, a mere herb store's general manager shouldn't be able to compare to them, and he definitely couldn't be arrogant in front of them.

But... Yue Ling was different. This was because he was in charge of Hundred Herbs Building!

That which was rare was dear. Whatever other places didn't have, he had. So naturally, he had an advantage over the rest.

In Xi Ling City, nobody wanted to offend Hundred Herbs Building. This was because nobody dared to guarantee that they wouldn't need to buy herbs from Hundred Herbs Building for the rest of their lives.

Everyone who knew this wouldn't dig a hole for themselves.

The few women obviously couldn't offend Yue Ling, so they hesitated for a while before apologizing obediently. "S-sorry."

Yue Ling nodded and smiled slightly. "I believe you ladies won't make such a mistake again in the future."

The few women heaved a sigh of relief at the same time.

But without waiting for them to speak, Yue Ling told the pageboy beside them, "Why are you still in a daze? Send these ladies out quickly."

A chill ran down the pageboy's spine as he hurriedly said, "Yes! Yes!"

As he spoke, he had already rapidly turned around the crystal cabinet and walked to the few of them before pointing toward the door. "Ladies, please—"

“T-this... General Manager Yue, what does this mean?” asked one of the women in confusion. “We haven’t bought our things yet!”

Yue Ling’s smile did not change. “I know.”

He was clearly chasing them out.

The pageboy immediately hurried them. “Ladies, please—”

Even though these few women were enraged, they didn’t dare to cause a scene at Hundred Herbs Building. Hence, they could only leave angrily.

“Let’s go!”

At the door, one of the women finally couldn’t take it as she turned around and glanced at them. Suppressing her anger, she said, “I didn’t expect Hundred Herbs Building to treat their customers like this! Even if you invite us over next time, we won’t come!”

Yue Ling smiled and said, “Ladies, you don’t have to worry about this. From today onward, our Hundred Herbs Building will not do your business.”

Everyone was shocked when he said this.

The few women that had walked out of the store all stopped and looked at Yue Ling in shock.

The woman who had been speaking was also taken aback. "General Manager Yue, w-what does this mean?"

"It means what it means. The few of you have publicly humiliated our Hundred Herbs Building's black gold card VIP, so we naturally have to show you our stance. Every time you come by here from now on, please use another route." Yue Ling's tone was very gentle, but his words were cruel and heartless. "Oh, right. The same goes for your family members."

The entire first floor was so silent that a needle could be heard if it dropped.

Yue Ling is indeed harsh! He actually stopped doing business with their entire families! These women will definitely be severely punished when they go back! Even though they had said bad things about Chu Liuyue, this is too overboard... Though some people thought this way, nobody was stupid enough to put in a good word for them.

What a joke. Who will be so brainless as to offend Yue Ling for someone unrelated?

The few women obviously noticed that something was amiss as they respectively started begging out of anxiety. Two of them even cried.

But Yue Ling was too lazy to bother with them, so he directly turned around.

A few pageboys went up together and chased the women out.

The women paced outside the door for quite some time and attracted some attention. But they couldn't say the reason themselves, so they could only walk away miserably.

Yue Ling's gaze scanned across the crowd on the first floor as he smiled slightly. "Everyone, sorry for the disturbance. We'll compensate you with a small gift later on. Please forgive us."

The crowd hurriedly agreed happily.

Yue Ling had already done this, so they definitely had to give him face.

After assuring the crowd, Yue Ling went upstairs. He walked up to the third floor alone.

A middle-aged man walked toward him. "General Manager, why did you suddenly come today?"

This person was Hundred Herbs Building's Assistant General Manager, Cui Fangyi.

Yue Ling walked into the room that belonged to him on the third floor, and the middle-aged man followed him in.

After closing the door, Yue Ling suddenly heaved a sigh of relief, and he looked scared. "Luckily, I didn't go too late..."

Cui Fangyi was at a loss. "What did you say?"

Yue Ling shook his head, walked over to sit down, and said, “You should know what happened downstairs. If such matters happen again, you should handle them like this.”

Cui Fangyi furrowed his thick brows. “Are you saying... If anyone insults our black gold card VIPs next time, we won’t do their business? But you didn’t make this rule before. Do you really plan to do this? Those few people did speak in an overboard manner, but... they don’t deserve this!”

Yue Ling looked up at him. “Why do you think I rushed over today?”

Cui Fangyi was dazed as he suddenly widened his eyes in shock. “Did you specifically come for Chu—”

Yue Ling nodded.

“I only received this piece of news today.” He pointed upstairs. “From now on, this Ms. Chu is our Hundred Herbs Building’s very, very, very important guest!”

Cui Fangyi gasped. *What status does this Chu Liuyue exactly have?*

“I should’ve received this piece of news a few days ago, but I only received it now because of some delays on the way here.” Yue Ling smiled bitterly as he shook his head and sighed. “I didn’t expect that just because it was a few days late, Ms. Chu had already come to our Hundred Herbs Building. But that’s good too. Now that she’s a black gold card VIP, we can use it as a reason.”

Though Cui Fangyi was still stunned, he immediately agreed. “Yes!”

Chapter 524: Want to Leave After Taking My Things?

Tianling God Realm.

Within the sparkling golden palace, Chu Liuyue sat cross-legged and stared at the gigantic Xuan formation not far away.

She had already completely ignored everything in her surroundings, and there was only one thought in her eyes and mind—to solve this Xuan formation!

A rough outline was already formed in her mind. As time passed, the outline gradually became clearer.

Chu Liuyue was copying the Xuan formation in her mind. Of course, this small bit didn't count for much compared to the real Xuan formation.

However, she didn't want to replicate it completely.

It was literally impossible for her now. Hence, she was actually just trying her best to trace the tracks of the previous Heavenly Dao and try to find some pattern within it.

At some point, she settled on something, and her eyes dazzled like stars. *That's it!*

“Go!”

The water droplet with a Heavenly Dao aura went straight to a certain point on the Xuan formation.

Hong!

The two tremendous forces smashed against one another and let out a loud sound.

Bingo! Chu Liuyue was elated.

The next moment, with the point of impact as the center, force started rippling in all directions at an observable speed.

The nearing rays of light were immediately crushed, and the structure collapsed.

The gigantic Xuan formation was officially destroyed.

...

At the same time, a few people were still waiting outside the heavenly pit.

There were only four people left here—Qiang Wanzhou, Ning Jiaojiao, Yang Qin'er, and that burly man named Chou Ding..

Hong long!

Another lightning bolt struck.

The few of them stared closely at the Long Yuan Sword, and their entire faces and bodies were filled with nervousness. This was because... this was already the 80th lightning bolt!

The Long Yuan Sword still hadn't chosen its owner, so there was only one last chance now.

Ning Jiaojiao couldn't help but look at the distant Qiang Wanzhou. *Not long before this, this golden-haired young man actually broke through and became a stage-six warrior here.*

She was envious and angry. She couldn't understand how Qiang Wanzhou still successfully broke through at such a nerve-wracking moment.

She didn't know that Qiang Wanzhou's attention was not on the Long Yuan Sword.

From start to end, he was only thinking of one thing—find Chu Liuyue.

He could feel that she was under the golden fire, so he waited patiently. While he was waiting, he estimated that he had already taken his third pill.

It was precisely because of the third pill's effects that resolved much of his harsh inner air, giving him the chance to break through.

Huala!

A ferocious movement could be heard from the heavenly pit. This movement immediately attracted quite a few people's attention.

Chou Ding jumped up to the sky without hesitation and looked at the heavenly pit. However, this one look stunned him. "H-how is this happening...?"

The golden fire that originally filled the heavenly pit started flowing back in crazily. It was as if there was something crazily absorbing it from below.

But the last lightning bolt of the Long Yuan Sword still didn't strike.

...

The entire palace started to shake.

The dust on countless treasures started falling, and the pearls moved in all directions as the mountain of rubies shook.

The water droplet broke silently, and the millions of light rays dissolved at the same time. It was so bright that Chu Liuyue couldn't even open her eyes.

This was the advantage of the suppression!

Shock flashed across the legendary three-eyed eagle's eyes. *The Heavenly Dao strength within Chu Liuyue's body is actually this strong?!*

Even though it had suggested Chu Liuyue to use her Heavenly Dao to fight this Heavenly Dao, it didn't harbor much hope. At the end of the day, Chu Liuyue's current cultivation level hadn't broken through to the fourth stage.

Even though her current abilities could be compared to that of a stage-five warrior, it was almost impossible for her to solve a ninth-grade Xuan formation.

But at this point, the Heavenly Dao's strength that she released far exceeded that of the Xuan formation.

Just based on the Heavenly Dao in her body alone, it shouldn't be able to reach such a stage... It was the water droplet! The water droplet seems to contain immense strength that can fight the Heavenly Dao. The legendary three-eyed eagle was taken aback by this sudden thought.

It looked up again and saw the water droplet split into countless small droplets, landing in all sorts of places on the Xuan formation.

The entire Xuan formation irreversibly broke down as it formed countless stars and faded away.

When the last ray of light was destroyed, a thought immediately popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind.

The transparent karmic fire flew out from the Heavenly Square Cauldron and overwhelmed that half-skeleton.

The large skeleton was immediately enveloped. The next moment, that skeleton was gradually brought up by the transparent fire.

At this moment, the golden fire that flowed in from the surroundings started to enter the skeleton crazily.

Chu Liuyue was shocked.

The legendary three-eyed eagle immediately boomed, "That's the great phoenix dragon's strength. Previously, it probably noticed that the Long Yuan Sword was about to awaken, so the strength dispersed and wanted to get rid of this suppression. But now that you want to bring the skeleton away, this strength will naturally return."

"Is there still a soul in the great phoenix dragon's skeleton?" asked Chu Liuyue doubtfully.

"Not really. It's just the great phoenix dragon's last bit of consciousness."

If half of the great phoenix dragon's soul was still around, it wouldn't be this situation.

Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief and also felt emotional in her heart. *Ancient legendary fiends are indeed extraordinary. It has died for so long, yet there is still such strong willpower left in the skeleton's remnants. I wonder how strong a true living great phoenix dragon is...*

Following the golden fire pouring back in, the skeleton became increasingly clear and bright.

When the last spark of golden fire disappeared within the skeleton, the Heavenly Square Cauldron finally absorbed it forcefully.

Through the transparent Heavenly Square Cauldron, she could still see the skeleton entering it.

At the same time, the Xuan formation had completely broken. The countless water droplets also reformed into one water droplet, containing that bright light before returning to Chu Liuyue's body.

Chu Liuyue stood up and waved her palms lightly, wanting to summon the Heavenly Square Cauldron back in.

However, the Heavenly Square Cauldron stopped in midair and did not move.

Chu Liuyue was dazed and tried again.

The Heavenly Square Cauldron still did not move.

Uneasiness overwhelmed her heart.

At this point, a vague figure suddenly appeared in the middle of the palace.

"You want to leave after taking my things?" A low voice sounded.

Every word and sentence was like thunder striking beside Chu Liuyue's ear, making her heart shudder.

Her organs and limbs seemed to be crushed by this invisible suppression as she felt excruciating pain.

An intense, bloody smell suddenly rose in her throat.

She had no doubts that the other party could take away her life at this very moment if he wanted to.

This person... was the strongest person she had ever met in both her lives!

In one swift move, that man shrank the Heavenly Square Cauldron, and it landed in his palm.

Chapter 525: Tianling Royal Family Bloodline

Chu Liuyue's heart seemed to shrink as well.

That man looked like he was around 30 years old. He was tall and big, but he had a skinny waist. He was wearing a long, olive-green robe, looking like a sword that wasn't out of its sheath—deep and hidden.

But Chu Liuyue suddenly widened her eyes when she saw his appearance.

His brows were sharp, his nose was high, and his face had distinct edges and corners. His pair of black eyes were like black rubies that looked very deep.

He looked very handsome, but Chu Liuyue wasn't shocked by his outstanding appearance. Instead...

This is the ancestor's face! The Tianling Dynasty's ancestral hall has a portrait of the ancestor, and this man's face looks exactly the same as the painting of the ancestor. No, I should say that... that portrait and this man are exactly the same! Chu Liuyue's mind was blank, and her heart started beating wildly, so much so that even her ears hurt. This is... the ancestor? It is the ancestor!

That man scrutinized the Heavenly Square Cauldron in his hands, and he looked shocked. "I couldn't tell, but you actually have such a rare treasure..."

As he spoke, he looked up at Chu Liuyue and saw the girl staring at him dazedly as if she was silly.

He suddenly couldn't help but laugh. "What expression is that? I was just curious, so I took it to take a look. I don't want to snatch your things."

As he said so, he lifted his hand, and the Heavenly Square Cauldron flew back to Chu Liuyue. "Since you've already solved the Xuan formation I set up and took the item, it's yours. I won't take it back."

Chu Liuyue instantly felt the suppression on her body disappear. She stretched her hand out stiffly to take the Heavenly Square Cauldron, but her eyes were still glued to that man while she looked dazed. *Ancestor... I actually saw the ancestor!*

Even when she was planning to enter the Tianling God Realm in her previous life, she had never thought that she could see the ancestor!

Her heart seemed to be filled with scorching liquid as her nose turned sour.

That man thought that this girl wouldn't look at him in this manner after he returned the item. He didn't expect that not only was she still looking at him, but her eyes also turned red.

Looking at the pair of eyes that were as red as a rabbit's eyes, he instantly felt a headache. "Sigh. Girl, what are you crying about?"

He—Shangguan Jing—wasn't afraid of the heavens or the earth, but he was afraid of seeing someone cry.

Also, this person was still a lady.

I... I just made a joke, but why does this girl look like I bullied her? I symbolically exuded suppression, but it won't hurt her at all. Besides, she has a Heavenly Dao's strength in her body, so there's no need to worry at all.

"Y-you, don't cry! Didn't I already say that this item is yours?" Shangguan Jing was flustered. "If not... You can take away the treasures here, okay?"

There won't be people in this world who don't like money, right?

Chu Liuyue then became alert as her lips quivered slightly. "T-thank you... Senior."

The word 'ancestor' almost escaped from her mouth.

Even though she tried her best to look calm, her trembling voice still exposed the emotional rollercoaster in her heart.

Shangguan Jing heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that the girl finally spoke, but he still felt pretty doubtful. *This girl's reaction when she saw me was a little overboard... Is it because I appeared too suddenly?*

Thinking of this, he waved his hands, casually smiled, and said, "You don't need to be afraid. I'm just a scarce form of consciousness saved in the Long Yuan Sword."

Chu Liuyue nodded slightly, but she was still quite disappointed. *So this isn't the ancestor's soul...*

"What's your name? Where are you from? How did you get in?" Shangguan Jing saw that she had already recovered, so he asked, "Last time, only people from the Tianling royal family could enter the Tianling God Realm."

The girl in front clearly doesn't have the Tianling Dynasty's bloodline. He also knew that there were quite a few people outside in such a manner.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath and seriously said, "Junior Chu Liuyue comes from Country Yao Chen outside Heaven's Canopy. I came to the Tianling God Realm because of the Wan Zheng Competition..."

Then, she briefly explained the entire situation.

When Shangguan Jing heard the last part, he furrowed his brows tightly. *I didn't expect the people in the Tianling royal family to mess around like this after thousands of years. It's not that I don't want people outside the Tianling royal family to come in, but... This so-called Wan Zheng Competition clearly has ulterior motives. Most people can't even last here for long, and they will even be injured by this extreme environment. Didn't it happen to those people earlier?*

“Did you say that this is suggested by the Third Princess—Shangguan Wan—and her husband in power?”

“Yes.”

“Do you know if Shangguan Wan has any strange activity?”

“This...” Chu Liuyue hesitated for a moment. She naturally knew Shangguan Wan had a problem—her Yuan meridian had long been destroyed more than a year ago.

If it were a normal injury, there are more than enough heavenly doctors in the Tianling Dynasty that could help treat her. But Shangguan Wan's Yuan meridian was burned by my Tianjing Yuan meridian; it's impossible to recover.

But in the past few days, I've secretly asked around in Xi Ling and shockingly discovered that the news of Shangguan Wan's Yuan meridian being damaged didn't spread. After thinking about it, this is natural. If people found out that her Yuan meridian was damaged and that she couldn't cultivate, she definitely wouldn't be able to sit in her current position stably.

Even though I don't know what method she used, I'm certain that she has successfully hidden it from everyone. Oh yes—except for Jiang Yucheng.

“I'm asking if there's a problem with her cultivation,” Shangguan Jing asked in greater detail.

Chu Liuyue swiftly decided and nodded. "I just heard that her Yuan meridian has some problems..."

"No wonder..." Shangguan Jing looked like he knew what was going on.

Chu Liuyue was confused. *Seeing the ancestor's appearance, it seems like he knows why Shangguan Wan held the Wan Zheng Competition.*

"Senior, what does this... mean?" asked Chu Liuyue lightly.

Shangguan Jing looked much more solemn as he put his hands behind his back, shook his head, and sighed. "Forget it, forget it. It's better if you don't know these things. Anyway, it's shameful for Tianling to have such a descendant with ill intentions in the Tianling royal family."

Chu Liuyue wanted to ask further, but she thought for a while and did not speak.

But Shangguan Jing suddenly thought of something as he scrutinized her. "Speaking of which, how did you come here?"

Chu Liuyue glanced at the legendary three-eyed eagle beside her and coughed in embarrassment. "I won't lie to you, Senior. I came here today for this skeleton. T-the legendary fiend I made a contract with only has a soul, so I barged in with hopes of helping it recover its physical body."

"I'm not talking about this." Shangguan Jing's expression was weird. "You might not know this, but the door to the palace can only be opened by people with the Tianling royal family bloodline."

Chapter 526: Last Bolt of Lightning!

It was as if Chu Liuyue was hit in the head with a wooden stick as her entire person became stunned. *Only people with the Tianling royal family bloodline can come in? Then... How did I come in? Even though I am Shangguan Yue in soul, my physical body has become Chu Liuyue. Thus, we definitely don't have the same bloodline. I clearly remember that the golden fire directly appeared on the door. What happened then...?*

Suddenly, she was shocked. *It's the black pyramid! Back then, I didn't actually do anything. The black pyramid flew out itself; then, the door opened. There was also that strange connection...*

From start to end, the black pyramid directed everything. Chu Liuyue was instantly confused. The black pyramid is Country Yao Chen's item, so why is it related to the Tianling Dynasty?

There seemed to be mist in front of her, and she couldn't clearly see what was happening.

"I... I don't know either," Chu Liuyue muttered to herself.

Shangguan Jing looked at her expression and confirmed that she didn't know anything before he smiled slightly. "You have quite a few treasures with you, and one of them seems to be related to the Tianling Dynasty."

Chu Liuyue paused. "You know?"

“This is my territory. Of course, nobody knows better than me about how you came in.” Shangguan Jing smiled and shook his head. *This girl looks pretty smart, and she has good talent and capabilities, but why is she a little muddled?*

He lifted his finger, and the black pyramid in Chu Liuyue’s body immediately flew out.

“Senior—” Chu Liuyue’s heart tightened, but she swallowed her remaining words when she thought that her ancestor might be able to see the secret within.

Shangguan Jing raised his hand and was about to take the black pyramid when a hidden yet strong suppression suddenly exploded from it.

“Hm?” Shangguan Jing paused in his actions. “The seal on top...”

This seal is very powerful—even I can’t solve it. He focused on it and looked up seriously. At first glance, this black pyramid doesn’t look special at all. But when I was near it, I could feel the strong aura within the seal. Let alone the girl in front, but there might not even be a person in the entire Tianling Dynasty who has such capabilities!

“Do you know who set this seal?” He looked at Chu Liuyue, and his expression was rather stern.

Chu Liuyue vaguely noticed something as she nodded and shook her head. “I only heard that person’s voice, and I’ve never seen him before. Is there something wrong with this seal...?”

Shangguan Jing kept quiet. Actually, he could feel a very familiar aura within the black pyramid, but this seal blocked him from investigating further.

He really didn't know why the other party would waste such effort to set this seal.

This girl could probably come in because of this.

"The person who set this seal... is extremely strong," said Shangguan Jing slowly.

Chu Liuyue nodded in acknowledgment. *I have no doubts about this, but to be able to make the ancestor say this... He must be even stronger than I had imagined!*

Shangguan Yue pushed his palm, and the black pyramid flew back to Chu Liuyue.

She scrutinized it and didn't see anything wrong.

"You're quite young, but you have a lot of fateful treasures," said Shangguan Jing emotionally. *No matter if it's the mysterious and strong objects that she has or this mysterious and strong warrior she met... All the luck that others might not have their entire lives, she has them all in her teens.*

"You must keep this well," said Shangguan Jing seriously all of a sudden.

Chu Liuyue nodded in confusion.

"Since you could come in here, it means that we are fated. I originally planned to leave this Long Yuan Sword for them... But now, I think it's better if I give it to you."

The Tianling royal family is so messed up now. With this Long Yuan Sword, it might even aid their unruliness.

“S-senior, you mean... But this Long Yuan Sword is—” Chu Liuyue was slightly stunned. The Long Yuan Sword should be given to those with the Tianling royal family bloodline. I’m just an outsider now, yet the ancestor is planning to do this?!

Shangguan Jing suddenly smiled. “You girl, you clearly guessed my identity long ago, so why are you pretending you don’t know? This Long Yuan Sword is originally mine, so I can give it to whoever I want.”

“Besides, I felt very close for some reason once I saw you... It’s probably because of fate?” He crossed his arms and looked at Chu Liuyue. *If it isn’t because I really like this girl, I wouldn’t have talked to her for so long.*

Chu Liuyue hesitated for quite some time. *It’s definitely untrue if I say that I don’t want the Long Yuan Sword, but... What kind of identity should I accept the sword with?*

As if seeing Chu Liuyue’s conflicted feelings, Shangguan Jing waved his hands, smiled, and said, “You don’t have to worry about others because... the Long Yuan Sword chose you too!”

Chu Liuyue raised her eyes in shock. “What?”

Shangguan Jing smiled and shook his head. “If not, why do you think the Long Yuan Sword’s last bolt hasn’t landed yet?”

It was waiting for her!

There seemed to be molten lava rolling around Chu Liuyue's stomach, causing her entire body to tremble slightly.

She suddenly knelt on the floor and sincerely bowed. "Junior... Chu Liuyue kneels and thanks... Ancestor!"

Her head lowered and hit the ice-cold marble floor of the palace.

A teardrop silently landed.

Hong long!

A large sound was suddenly heard.

The few people waiting outside the heavenly pit looked up together.

The blazing sun in the sky suddenly dropped and rushed toward the Long Yuan Sword.

The last bolt of lightning came down with the sound.

Chapter 527: Surround and Attack

The scorching sun with the blazing light and heat swept across half the sky. Finally, it landed on the Long Yuan Sword's handle.

Hong!

Countless rays of light landed, and the gigantic black sword's body was instantly enveloped by the dazzling light.

Without the sun in the sky, the sky rapidly darkened.

The Long Yuan Sword instantly became the brightest existence in this land.

A spark of fire suddenly came out from the cracked ground, and terrifying heat started spreading along the Long Yuan Sword.

Following this, even more sparks started emerging from below, scorching and burning.

The surrounding temperature started to rise crazily.

"Quick! Let's go!" Upon seeing this, Chou Ding immediately panicked and hurriedly retreated.

But the moment he moved back two steps, he felt a scorching pain.

He turned around and realized that his behind started burning at some point in time. The clothes behind him started burning immediately!

The frightening pain spread and made his five features contort.

Chou Ding hurriedly tore his clothes off, but his back was burned. More than ten blisters also formed on it.

Even though he couldn't see his body's condition, the pain was real.

He couldn't care about the rest as he swiftly escaped as far as he could. *If they want to continue waiting, they should just do it themselves! Perhaps they will wait until death before the Long Yuan Sword even comes!*

He swiftly crushed the green copper pearl in his hand. The next moment, his body immediately disappeared from the ground.

Everything happened in one moment.

When Ning Jiaojiao and Yang Qin'er saw this, they were all stunned.

Nobody had expected that the Long Yuan Sword's last bolt of lightning—which they had waited so long for—was actually so horrifying.

The two of them retreated without hesitation, but their gazes were still glued to the Long Yuan Sword.

The two of them exchanged glances, and they could see the circulating murderous intent in each other's eyes.

Ning Jiaojiao laughed. "The Tianling God Realm's skies are about to change. Yang Qin'er, are you not leaving?"

Yang Qin'er's face no longer had the gentleness and shyness from before. She returned a smile, but this smile was much fiercer than before, and it made one's heart turn cold. "You haven't left yet, so why would I go? The Long Yuan Sword's 81st bolt of lightning has already struck, and it's about to choose its new owner. I've been practicing the sword since I was young, and I plan to enter the Purple Xiao Sword Sect to cultivate and specialize in swords. However, you don't have any relation to the way of the sword. Do you think the Long Yuan Sword will choose you?"

Ning Jiaojiao felt something stuck in her heart. *Before I came, I had never expected the Long Yuan Sword to awaken. But since I came in time for it, how can I just give up?*

One could never be too careful.

"Yang Qin'er, there's nothing you should be glad about. The Long Yuan Sword is a legendary weapon, and if it only wanted to choose a person that specialized in swords as its new owner, it would've chosen a long time ago! Why would it be your turn? Nobody knows who will die!" The moment Ning Jiaojiao said that, a spark of fire appeared below her feet again.

Ning Jiaojiao went on her toes and was about to fly. But the next moment, she shockingly realized that she couldn't jump up into the sky anymore.

"How can this be?" she yelled as she hurriedly escaped.

Yang Qin'er also felt that something was amiss as her face drastically changed. *If we can't fly in the sky, we will burn in this fire sooner or later.*

The two of them couldn't care about arguing as they each avoided and hid uglily. However, increasingly more sparks appeared beneath their feet, so they couldn't escape at all.

Yang Qin'er suddenly drew her sword, jumped up, and flew toward the sky.

By doing this, she finally avoided the endless fire.

Ning Jiaojiao watched on as she secretly clenched her teeth. She waved her sleeves, and a green barrier instantly appeared before her, completely enveloping her.

Who wasn't prepared?!

They fought head and neck here, yet on the other end, Qiang Wanzhou didn't move at all. He only moved back a small distance, but he was still looking at the heavenly pit.

Also, there were no defenses around him at all.

The sparks of fire kept burning in his surroundings, but he seemed like he was completely fine.

In actual fact, it wasn't that he did not do anything. He was using his body's harsh, cold air to block the fire's invasion.

If one stood closer, one would see that there was always a thin layer of ice rapidly forming on his skin before melting.

This cycle kept continuing.

An average person couldn't withstand the two extreme forces that kept intersecting and replacing one another, but this was nothing to Qiang Wanzhou.

The harsh, cold air had accumulated in his body for many years, and he was long used to it. To him, using the fire's strength to melt away the harsh, cold air in his body gradually was actually a good thing.

In addition, Chu Liuyue had already used pills to train his body, so his tolerance toward fire had far exceeded that of an average person.

"This Qiang Wanzhou has a problem!" Ning Jiaojiao noticed Qiang Wanzhou's actions as she muttered.

Compared to how disheveled she and Yang Qin'er looked, Qiang Wanzhou seemed too smooth.

An idea popped up in her mind, and she looked at Yang Qin'er.

Yang Qin'er instantly understood what she meant. Originally, she was reluctant to work with Ning Jiaojiao, but she was tempted when she saw Qiang Wanzhou's calm and composed manner from the corner of her eye.

After hesitating slightly, she lightly nodded.

This way, the two of them had an agreement.

After a temporary pause, the two of them started rushing toward Qiang Wanzhou from different directions.

Qiang Wanzhou was focused on waiting for Chu Liuyue to come out. He could already feel her aura vaguely, but at this moment, he suddenly felt danger lurking nearby.

He suddenly looked up and saw the duo charging toward him.

Both Ning Jiaojiao and Yang Qin'er didn't expect Qiang Wanzhou to be this sensitive, and they were both taken aback.

However, they didn't know that Qiang Wanzhou had long developed animalistic alertness since he had lived in Nan Jiang since he was young. Thus, he caught them red-handed when they planned to take action.

The trio kept quiet silently.

A hypocritical smile appeared on Ning Jiaojiao's face. "We want to discuss something with you—"

Qiang Wanzhou spoke coldly first. "You are joining hands to deal with me."

It wasn't a question but a declarative sentence.

Ning Jiaojiao's face dropped.

The next moment, Yang Qin'er was the first to react.

A poisonous dart instantly flew out.

Qiang Wanzhou raised his hand, and his force quickly formed a longsword.

Ding!

The poisonous dart struck the sword's blade, and it was reflected outward, landing into a spark of fire.

In the blink of an eye, the poisonous dart directly melted.

Yang Qin'er's hands trembled slightly. *Qiang Wanzhou's defense is accurate and harsh, and he is stronger than me.*

On the other end, Ning Jiaojiao threw out a Xuan formation crystal.

A gigantic Xuan formation immediately appeared above Qiang Wanzhou's head, completely enveloping him.

Ning Jiaojiao was just a stage-four Xuan Master on her own, but she had made sufficient preparations to win this Wan Zheng Competition.

A sixth-grade Xuan formation was engraved within the Xuan formation crystal. Even an intermediate stage-six warrior might not be able to escape from within, let alone Qiang Wanzhou—who had just broken through to become a stage-six warrior.

Qiang Wanzhou looked up at the Xuan formation, and the light reflected in his eyes like the stars dazzling in the sky.

His sharp chin tensed up, and it seemed like a thin layer of ice covered his white and almost transparent face.

Just when Ning Jiaojiao and Yang Qin'er thought that they were winning, a thunderous sword roar erupted from the Long Yuan Sword.

Buzz!

Chapter 528: Puppet

The duo quickly turned and looked! *The Long Yuan Sword is recognizing a new master!*

The boundless earth was covered by a sea of fire, and a large, black sword was in the middle of it all!

Along with the sword's startling ringing was an overwhelming pressure, which seemed like it came from the ancient past. It poured out of the sword and radiated across the land!

Kacha!

A deep crack appeared on the ground—it was like a deep abyss!

The Long Yuan Sword was appearing!

“...The Long Yuan Sword has chosen its master?!” Yang Qin'er dazedly stared at the scene in front of her before she came to her senses! *If that weren't the case, the Long Yuan Sword would never react this way!*

Ning Jiaojiao was stunned by these words, and her heart sank after a short pause! “How can it be? Nobody was chosen!”

Only the three of us are here. Qiang Wanzhou is trapped under my Xuan formation, while both Yang Qin'er and myself are standing by the side! Nobody here has become the Long Yuan Sword's new owner! Unless... Someone else is here!

At this moment, a bright ball of light appeared at the bottom of the Long Yuan Sword!

A person's figure could be seen within the ball of light!

Yang Qin'er and Ning Jiaojiao fearfully backed away from the terrifying aura, and the two looked up as they did so!

But the ball of light was too blinding, so they couldn't see who was inside it.

Amidst the blurriness, they could only see the person fly onto the Long Yuan Sword's hilt!

The person then grabbed the sword with both their hands!

Hong long!

The ground began shaking violently! With the Long Yuan Sword as the center, cracks spread across the area!

"Who is that? Who is that!" Ning Jiaojiao muttered with hatred as she gritted her teeth! To think that we were fighting over it here, but someone else had already beaten us to it! All my efforts were for naught!

Yang Qin'er was upset, but she suddenly spoke when she heard Ning Jiaojiao's cursing and swearing.
"No matter who, we've got to stop them!"

Ning Jiaojiao frowned. "Are you crazy? The Long Yuan Sword has already chosen a master; nothing that we do matters anymore. How can we stop it?"

Based on our current abilities, we can't even get near the Long Yuan Sword!

Yang Qin'er laughed coldly. "You're really not well-versed in the way of the sword! The Long Yuan Sword is a legendary weapon. Even if it did choose its master, it takes a while! During this process, the chosen person must remain focused. If they're interrupted..."

"You mean..."

"Since we've joined forces, we might as well solve this problem too! If we can't have the Long Yuan Sword, nobody can!"

Ning Jiaojiao was tempted by Yang Qin'er's suggestion. She only considered it briefly before she agreed to it. "Sure!"

With that, they looked at one another before running toward the figure in the sky in unison! But just as the two of them moved, a terrible ripple came from the side!

The pair turned and looked. They saw that Qiang Wanzhou had torn the Xuan formation apart and was sprinting toward them!

"H-how did he do that?!" Ning Jiaojiao was stunned! *That was a stage-six Xuan formation! Qiang Wanzhou actually managed to break it so quickly?!*

However, the two of them had been focused on the Long Yuan Sword earlier, so none of them saw how Qiang Wanzhou did it!

Yang Qin'er said immediately, "You go and stop him!"

“Why me?!” Ning Jiaojiao immediately retorted. *Who knows if Yang Qin’er will take the chance to snatch the Long Yuan Sword?*

Yang Qin’er scoffed as if she had read Ning Jiaojiao’s thoughts. “You think the Long Yuan Sword will recognize a new master so easily? Stop dreaming! If you want to go there, we can switch!”

Ning Jiaojiao didn’t know how to respond. She glanced at the Long Yuan Sword, but she felt chills run down her spine. As she dashed toward Qiang Wanzhou, she said begrudgingly, “Fine! I’ll go!”

Yang Qin’er charged forward with her sword! The closer she got, the stronger the pressure from the Long Yuan Sword!

She had no choice but to stop!

It’s a pity that I still can’t see who the person in the ball of light is from where I’m standing! She took a deep breath and put her hands together.

A muscular figure appeared before her—it was a copper-skinned man! He looked just like a regular man in terms of appearance and size, but his eyes were a void! There was no sign of life coming from him!

This was Yang Qin’er’s trump card—a puppet made using a special secret technique!

She stared at the puppet’s hollow eyes as she gave orders. “Go kill that person!”

Immediately after, two green bursts of fire appeared in the puppet's eye sockets! It nodded stiffly before it replied with a raspy voice that sounded like metal rubbing against each other. "Yes, Master!"

Shua!

It then flew toward the blinding ball of light!

Yang Qin'er narrowed her eyes as she smiled coldly. *I went through much effort to get this puppet. I hadn't intended on using it until I absolutely had to, but I didn't expect the Wan Zheng Competition to push me this far! But then again, this is for the Long Yuan Sword. Hence, I won't have any hesitance.*

She didn't want to lose the competition and have someone beat her to the Long Yuan Sword!

...

Chu Liuyue's palms were burning as she gripped the Long Yuan Sword's hilt. Sensing a commotion coming from the side, she took a glance and saw a figure rushing toward her.

She took a closer look, and she frowned as a cold look flashed across her eyes. *It's a puppet?! The process for creating such a puppet is extremely vicious. It requires removing all of a cultivator's organs while they are still alive and inserting a secret chemical and a seal before refining it for 100 days!*

During the entire process, the cultivator has to remain conscious and suffer through the days and nights of pain and agony before their soul will be removed in the final stage! Because this process is extremely vicious, it was banned throughout the entire mainland. I didn't expect to see it here!

Chu Liuyue looked around and instantly understood everything when she saw Yang Qin'er watching her closely. *I didn't expect it to be her... This Yang Qin'er probably isn't as simple as she looks...*

When the puppet rushed over, a large and black illusory figure suddenly appeared out of Chu Liuyue's body—it was the legendary three-eyed eagle!

It spread its wings, almost covering the sun! The next instant, it swooped down toward the puppet!

Yang Qin'er's smile froze. *That's... a legendary three-eyed eagle—a legendary fiend! Who is inside that ball of light to be able to contract with such a legendary fiend?!*

"Ahh!" A tragic cry echoed!

She turned and looked to see Ning Jiaojiao covered in specks of blood!

Qiang Wanzhou's eyes turned cold before he swung his sword down!

Chapter 529: The best has yet to come

Ning Jiaojiao instantly disappeared! She, too, had been eliminated!

Qiang Wanzhou looked up coldly! *Chu Liuyue is in that ball of light!*

He stood on his toes as he flew toward Yang Qin'er quickly!

Yang Qin'er's heart sank! *I'm just a peak stage-five warrior. I'm no match for Qiang Wanzhou!*

"Hold on!" she said suddenly.

Qiang Wanzhou went around her as he looked at her expressionlessly.

Yang Qin'er felt chills run down her spine because of the stare, but she still blurted out, "We can join forces!"

Qiang Wanzhou frowned.

Yang Qin'er began explaining. "The Long Yuan Sword has chosen a master, but it's neither of us. Why don't we work together and stop that person?!"

With that said, she pointed in the direction of Chu Liuyue.

Qiang Wanzhou's expression became even stranger. *Does Yang Qin'er actually think that I'll join forces with her to attack Chu Liuyue?*

Upon seeing his reaction, Yang Qin'er thought that he had been moved by her proposal. "Don't worry! We don't have to take the risk! The puppet I've sent will take care of that person!"

Qiang Wanzhou turned back and glanced.

The puppet was embroiled in a battle with the legendary three-eyed eagle!

Yang Qin'er felt a little nervous. "The legendary fiend is just an illusion; it's easy to deal with!"

She suddenly turned. "Right! Why don't we head up together?! We don't even have to win; we just have to disrupt that person. By doing so, the Long Yuan Sword won't be able to recognize a new master! The person will also suffer from backlash! Even if they don't die, they'll be seriously injured!"

As she prattled on excitedly, Qiang Wanzhou's eyes turned cold. The next instant, his surrounding energy grew exponentially!

Yang Qin'er thought he was going to take action. She was about to break into a smile when she realized that Qiang Wanzhou was coming for her!

This instantly wiped the smile off her face as she backed away in panic. "What are you doing?! I said for us to attack that person together! Are you crazy?!"

Qiang Wanzhou pursed his lips as he dashed toward her.

He raised the longsword in his hands and brought it down heavily!

...

Xuan Ji Square.

This was already the sixth day of the Wan Zheng Competition. Most were eliminated on the first day.

As the days progressed, fewer people were eliminated, but the crowd was anything but impatient. They grew increasingly excited as time passed.

A number of things had happened in Xi Ling City recently, and everyone was animatedly talking about them.

One of the hottest topics was people speculating on Chu Liuyue's final rank in the competition!

As the person with the lowest cultivation level out of hundreds of contestants, Chu Liuyue was naturally the topic of conversation for everyone.

The longer she lasted, the higher her rank, and the more excited the crowd got. There was even a wager going on in a secluded corner of the square!

"Everybody, come round and place your bets! Time's ticking! The competition is about to end. If you don't strike now, it'll be too late!"

"Don't rush, don't rush! I'm still thinking! This is the last of my money!"

"Sigh, what's there to think about? Just pick one! There's only six left, so isn't it easy to guess?"

“Th-then, I’ll bet that Chu Liuyue will be sixth!”

“You sure? Young Master Jian of Dragon Teeth Mountain has bet half of his fortune on Chu Liuyue coming in first! Are you sure you’re picking sixth?”

“I’m not stupid! How can Chu Liuyue come in first? To put it nicely, Jian Fengchi is using his fortune to court Chu Liuyue. To put it bluntly, he’s stupid and has money to blow! How can we compare! Sixth—she’s definitely going to be the next one eliminated!”

“No take backs!”

Yuwen Jinghong and Jian Fengchi walked by at this time.

Hearing his name, Jian Fengchi paused. He scratched his chin and laughed. “So that’s what everyone is saying about me now?”

I found time to check out the competition’s progress today since I bet quite a bit of money on Chu Liuyue. However, I didn’t expect to hear that comment.

Yuwen Jinghong coughed. “You’re not mad, right? They’re just gossiping…”

“What’s there to be mad at? They’re throwing their money at me. I’m beyond ecstatic.”

Yuwen Jinghong was stunned. “Are you serious? You’re putting more money in?”

Jian Fengchi looked at him with pity. "I have nothing but money. Of course, this might be hard for you to understand, but don't worry. I won't look down on you."

He's asking for a beating! Yuwen Jinghong felt the corners of his mouth twitch. "Whatever!"

We'll see how much money he has to blow!

Jian Fengchi walked over with a smile.

Pak!

A Cosmic Ring appeared on the table.

Everyone was instantly silenced as they looked toward the ring's owner.

It was Jian Fengchi!

The others who were speaking ill of him earlier lowered their heads in panic.

However, Jian Fengchi didn't take their words to heart as he smiled. "There are 5,000 white crystals in here. I'm betting that Chu Liuyue comes in first."

Everyone was silent, but they were all looking at the Cosmic Ring strangely. *That's 5,000 white crystals! He's practically giving the money away to us for free!*

Jian Fengchi had already bet a lot of money in gambling dens all around Xi Ling. They didn't expect him to patronize a small betting station like theirs!

"Y-Young Master Jian, are you sure?"

Jian Fengchi glanced at the person who was speaking with a wry smile. "Don't worry. I won't take this amount of money to heart; it's all in good fun."

The man felt his legs turn to jelly, and he almost collapsed to the ground.

The crowd eyed one another. "Young Master Jian is so generous!"

Jian Fengchi pulled out his fan and backed away two steps.

"Someone's been eliminated!" A cry came from the side!

The lively square was instantly silenced, and everyone stared at the transportation formation!

There were ripples—this was a sign that someone was coming out!

After a moment, a figure dashed out and fell to the ground!

“It’s a girl!”

“Who is it? Who exactly is it? Is it Chu Liuyue?!”

The crowd was antsy as many craned their necks to get a better look.

The woman was sprawled on the ground. She was covered in blood, and burn wounds were scattered across her body, making her look rather pathetic.

She had clearly gone through a lot in the Tianling God Realm.

As if hearing the commotion, the girl moved, lifting her head up.

A blood-stricken face appeared in the crowd’s eyes!

“It’s Ning Jiaojiao! Xuan Feng Hall’s Ning Jiaojiao!” Someone came to their senses and cried out while pointing at the black marble tablet.

“The name that disappeared is Ning Jiaojiao’s!”

The crowd fell silent. *Ning Jiaojiao is the only daughter of Xuan Feng Hall's Master. How could she have been eliminated this easily?! What about Chu Liuyue?!*

Jian Fengchi tapped his fan with his hands as he turned and looked.

Many people were pale, including the people who were speaking ill of him earlier.

Hmm. It seems like a lot of people had their money on Chu Liuyue placing sixth. He comforted them very sincerely. "Don't worry. The best has yet to come!"

Chapter 530: Rise!

Ning Jiaojiao dazedly surveyed her surroundings and then realized what had happened. *I was forced to leave the Tianling God Realm! I have been eliminated!*

Countless pairs of gazes—with all sorts of weird emotions—landed on her, making her feel very uncomfortable.

I still failed! No matter if it's the Long Yuan Sword or the Wan Zheng Competition, I have gained nothing except a whole body of injuries! She clenched her fists tightly and slammed them on the ground. But once she moved, she felt excruciating pain.

At some point, a few giant blisters had formed on the back of her hand. Thus, her movements made it more painful than ever.

Ning Jiaojiao was in so much pain that her face became distorted.

“I really didn’t expect Ning Jiaojiao to be sixth... I thought it’d definitely be Chu Liuyue!”

“Even if it’s not Chu Liuyue, it should be other people. Ning Jiaojiao can be considered to have one of the best backgrounds out of the rest, right? Even if we think with our feet, her father definitely made all sorts of preparations for her! I really don’t know what kind of situation it is inside...”

The messy discussions entered her ear.

Suddenly, Ning Jiaojiao’s body stiffened. *What are these people saying? Shouldn’t Chu Liuyue have long been eliminated?*

She almost instinctively looked at the black marble board floating in midair.

Most of the names had already disappeared from the originally filled marble board, so the last five names were especially clear.

Once she looked up, she saw one of the names—Chu Liuyue!

Her name is actually still there! She hasn’t been eliminated yet?! Ning Jiaojiao was completely stunned. How can this be? Chu Liuyue had long been swallowed by the golden fire in the heavenly pit. She should’ve left the Tianling God Realm then! What situation is this?

Her face was as pale as a ghost as she stretched out her hand with much difficulty to point at Chu Liuyue’s name. Her voice trembled. “C-chu Liuyue is still there?!”

The eight elders standing beside the transportation formation looked at each other. Actually, they didn't understand this situation as well.

But this was the truth.

Elder Duanmu Chun nodded and confirmed her guess. "That's right. You're in sixth place, and the remaining five people haven't come out yet."

A scene suddenly appeared in Ning Jiaojiao's mind. When the Long Yuan Sword recognized its master, a ball of light charged out from the heavenly pit. There indeed was a person's figure within. Could that have been... Chu Liuyue? No—that's not right! Even if that person was Chu Liuyue, there should be a total of four people only. Why are there six?

She looked at the five names on the marble board seriously and anxiously. Other than Chu Liuyue, Yang Qin'er, and Qiang Wanzhou, there are still two people who I haven't seen from beginning to end! What exactly is going on?!

Ning Jiaojiao's heart was in a mess as countless thoughts clashed in her brain, making her mind hurt.

She hugged her head in pain and miserably roared. "Ah!"

The crowd was taken aback by her reaction.

But Ning Jiaojiao's eyes rolled up after this, and she fainted on the ground.

Elder Duanmu Chun immediately said, "Quickly, bring her down to get treated!"

"Yes!" The Black Guards surrounding the square immediately went forward and carried Ning Jiaojiao down.

However, Ning Jiaojiao's previous maniacal behavior made people have lingering fears.

The few elders exchanged glances, and they were all worried. *It seems like they have clearly met with some agitation in the Tianling God Realm... It's a pity that we are only in charge of looking after this transportation formation. Thus, we don't know what the situation inside is like.*

Elder Duanmu Chun furrowed his brows tightly and sighed. *I had long said that the Tianling God Realm shouldn't be casually activated and that people without the Tianling royal family bloodline shouldn't be let in. Now, something has indeed happened! But at this point, it's too late to stop them. The only thing we can do now is to pray that the situation won't worsen.*

...

Yuwen Jinghong looked at the names on the marble board and grunted. *At the start, I still thought Jian Fengchi was insane for betting on Chu Liuyue coming in first, but it now seems like... there's still hope. If this really happens... Jian Fengchi will make a fortune overnight! Should I continue to bet more...*

He leaned toward Jian Fengchi and softly asked, "Where did you find such a powerful girl?"

Jian Fengchi glanced at him from above.

Yuwen Jinghong immediately and sensibly shut his mouth and silently walked to the gambling table. "I'll add another 1,000 white crystals!"

...

Tianling God Realm.

Yang Qin'er was riding on her sword and barely avoided Qiang Wanzhou's knife, but the sharp blade still left a bloody wound on her shoulders.

She quickly glanced at the wound on her shoulders, which was dripping with fresh blood. Very quickly, her entire arm was drenched.

If the previous knife was angled even more accurately, it would've slashed my forehead. Yang Qin'er was scared as intense horror filled her heart. I'm not Qiang Wanzhou's match at all! If this goes on, Qiang Wanzhou will directly force me out of the Tianling God Realm within a few moves.

She hurriedly looked up.

Her puppet was still in an intense battle with the legendary fiend.

At this moment, the Long Yuan Sword's suppression suddenly erupted.

All the dents and pits on the ground intersected.

The lightning on the gigantic black sword glowed.

The winds were blowing!

The sky had already completely darkened, and only the Long Yuan Sword was dazzling brightly.

Buzz!

Buzz!

The roar of the sword reverberated throughout the place.

Chu Liuyue clenched the sword blade tightly, and her heart beat rapidly. All her strength erupted at this moment.

The ground with endless fire suddenly rippled at this moment.

The Long Yuan Sword that had been buried underground for thousands of years finally loosened.

Chu Liuyue's face flushed red, and crazy fighting intent burned crazily in her eyes.

The next moment, the Long Yuan Sword rose!