

## Nobel Ruler 581

### Chapter 581: Jingshen Palm

“Cough... My memory is failing me. It’s all in the past... There’s no point in talking about it again... Besides, you’re now engaged to the Third Princess...” A flash of disappointment and apprehension streaked across his face as Weichi Song seemingly realized his faux pas belatedly. “You... won’t mind this, right?”

“Why would I? Besides, you’re not wrong after all... But there are certain things that can’t be salvaged once they happen...” The smile on Jiang Yucheng’s face stiffened even more, and it took him some effort to suppress his rising anger before he continued speaking. “Are you saying that you want to take back those items?”

With a bitter laugh, Weichi Song said, “I have no choice either. I lost almost all of the items that had to do with the late Crown Princess during that incident a year ago. On top of that, Chong Xu Cabinet is now unable to make ends meet... Those items are the only things I can use to reminisce about the times I spent with her.”

Irritation grew in Jiang Yucheng when he heard what the elderly man said. Still, he forced himself to wait patiently for the other to finish speaking before he said, “I can understand your feelings, Cabinet Master, but why don’t we do this instead? I’ll retrieve those items on your behalf and have them sent to Chong Xu Cabinet once they’re packed.”

An awkward look surfaced on Weichi Song’s face. “That works too, but those items are rather delicate and fragile. I don’t want to trouble anyone, so it’s better if I collect them myself!”

“Cabinet Master, it’s not that I refuse to pass you the key, but you should know that the late Crown Princess cared a lot about that place when she was still alive. It’s very important to both her and us, so we’ve been doing our best to maintain the place in its original condition, lest it gets destroyed,” explained Jiang Yucheng somewhat coldly with a stiff smile. “The best way for you to collect your items

is with my help. Don't worry about troubling me, and just feel free to tell me what those items are. I'll definitely send them to you in the condition they are in."

What Jiang Yucheng said might sound relatively polite, but it also carried tinges of irrefutable authority. The average person would give up just like that when they realized that he had no intention of handing the key over, but Weichi Song wasn't the average person. Besides, he was here to find trouble with the other in the first place.

Thus, Weichi Song stubbornly insisted, "It'll just take me a moment. I promise that I won't damage anything in there."

"Master Weichi—"

"What, are you doubting my ability? Or perhaps... my integrity?" Weichi Song cut in with a glare.

Jiang Yucheng already had a guilty conscience, so when he was faced with Weichi Song's cynical scrutiny, he dared not meet the other's eyes and could only shift his gaze away silently. "Since you're so insistent about it, why don't I go with you instead?"

*He wants to keep an eye on me?* Looking much more relaxed, Weichi Song answered, "Sure!"

Although Jiang Yucheng felt aggrieved, this was—unfortunately—the only way he could send Weichi Song away for now.

"I still have matters to settle, so I'll take my leave now. I'll see you tomorrow at Xin Li Garden," Weichi Song told him.

Just as Jiang Yucheng was about to tell the elderly man that he wasn't free the next day, the latter had already risen to his feet and was all ready to leave. "Oh right. Although you only suffered a minor injury, do spend more time on recuperation. After all, there are many things that need your attention now. You can't afford to have anything happen to you, right?"

Feeling even guiltier than ever, Jiang Yucheng could only swallow his words and stand up to see Weichi Song out. It was only after the latter left the Jiang residence that his expression completely changed. *I was in such a hurry that I didn't have the time to find a better way to conceal my aura. I bet Weichi Song's suspicion hasn't been dispelled completely, so he'll definitely continue to sound me out.*

"Sun Qi."

"Yes, Master?"

"I'm going into seclusion today, so nobody is allowed to disturb me!"

"Understood!"

...

As the night curtain fell, the moon shone brightly from above.

While sitting cross-legged in her room, Chu Liuyue's eyes were closed in concentration. The force in her body was slowly but steadily circulating around, and her aura was gradually intensifying. As she recalled the Jingshen Finger technique, she stretched out her right hand and channeled her force toward her index finger.

When a small point of starlight appeared at her fingertip, a powerful suppression slowly spread across the room from above. She then began recalling the Jingshen Palm technique.

The entire collection of Ultimate Jingshen—which included Jingshen Finger, Jingshen Palm, and Jingshen Fist—was engraved on the four walls of the top floor of Tai Yan Academy’s library. The difficulty of the techniques increased corresponding to the skill level—with Jingshen Fist being the hardest. She had memorized the three techniques so well that she could almost recite them backward.

The first time she practiced Jingshen Finger, she had tried thousands of times before she finally succeeded. After that, whenever she had time, she would practice it over and over again. But now that she had finally mastered it, she could start learning Jingshen Palm.

In her mind, silver light slowly came together to form a blurry figure. She could vaguely make out that it was a man, but that was all to it.

When he raised his hand, a small point of starlight appeared on the tip of his index finger, which then split into several little stars and lightly landed on his other fingers. The silver light then enveloped his entire hand in a flash, and the man pushed his palm out with a twist of his wrist.

Tens of thousands of light points bloomed in the air.

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes and took a look at her right hand. Gathering all her concentration, she stared fixedly at the starlight on her fingertip and tried to disperse it. Alas, the starlight showed no reaction.

It seemed that she had expected this outcome, for she showed no signs of surprise or disappointment on her face. Instead, she continued practicing with more determination.

Back then, she had failed countless times before she finally succeeded in producing a point of starlight on her fingertip. Hence, it was only natural that things would be more difficult for her this time since splitting the starlight required even more concentration from her.

She circulated the force in her body and attempted it once more, but she was met with failure, failure, and more failures.

...

Moonlight spilled in from the window and elongated Chu Liuyue's shadow as it shone on her still figure.

She had never once stopped staring at her own palm. If not for the constant flow of force around her, one would almost think that she was a statue.

Concentrated force would flow out from her dantian and spread to her four limbs with each attempt, strengthening and broadening her Yuan meridian in the process.

Time flew by, and the night was soon over.

When the morning sunlight shone into the room, Chu Liuyue finally managed to split the starlight into two, with one landing on her thumb. She now had two small but faint silver light points flickering on her hand.

**Chapter 582: You Didn't Say You'd Be Bringing Her**

Chu Liuyue couldn't hide her glee as she looked at the two light points on her hand, which vanished when she lifted her fingers. *There's finally some progress! Although I only managed to split the starlight into two, it's already a very good start!*

After circulating her force for one Heavenly Cycle, she went to wash up before exiting her room to head to the medicinal garden alone. Despite having stayed up all night, she was in great spirits and didn't feel sleepy at all.

The planted herbs in the garden were slowly growing and didn't wither quickly like before.

As she carefully tended to the garden, her seniors arrived one after another. They weren't here to see her this time but to check on the herbs. Despite the Cabinet Master's assurance that the garden had returned to normal, they couldn't help but feel worried. Thus, they came here to check on the herbs in the early morning.

They didn't expect Chu Liuyue to be here even earlier than them though. On top of that, from the way she tended to the herbs, it was clear that she was very familiar and good at taking care of them! Amidst their delight, their admiration for her grew even more. *It turns out that our junior is even more capable than we expected!*

Even Elder Xia Yi had come to check the garden. But unlike the others, he didn't comment on it much. All he did was walk up to Chu Liuyue's side and earnestly express his gratitude. "Thank you, Liuyue."

Chu Liuyue blinked in confusion, but she soon realized that he must've learned about the Messed Yuan Gravel matter when she saw his expression. Her eyes formed crescents as she said, "There's no need to thank me, Elder Xia Yi. I was merely doing my duties as a Chong Xu Cabinet disciple."

*Are we on our lucky break? Did the heavens finally decide to make it up to us for the many trials and tribulations we've gone through?* wondered Elder Xia Yi. Mixed emotions churned within him as he

sighed, feeling slightly regretful that both Chu Liuyue and Qiang Wanzhou had chosen Weichi Song to be their master.

“To be honest, my cultivation is on par with the Cabinet Master’s. Why didn’t you guys choose me?” He stroked his beard and then added, “Hehe. Before the two of you came, the Cabinet Master would stay up on the mountain for months in a row. But now that he has gained two new disciples, he’s always leaving the mountain...”

Only then did Chu Liuyue remember that she hadn’t seen her master around ever since he went to the Jiang residence yesterday, so she couldn’t ask him how the visit went. “He’s going down again?”

“Yeah, he just left! He should be halfway down the mountain by now.”

*Did he fail to see Jiang Yucheng yesterday, so he’s going there again?* wondered Chu Liuyue in puzzlement. “Elder Xia Yi, do you know what my master is going to do today? Is he... going to the Jiang residence?”

Elder Xia Yi shook his head. “No, he’s going to Xin Li Garden today.”

Chu Liuyue was surprised to hear that. *Why is he going there again?*

Upon seeing her look of astonishment, Elder Xia Yi explained, “He’s there to take some things. As you probably know, he used to be on close terms with the late Crown Princess. She placed quite a number of things there...”

Chu Liuyue’s eyelids twitched. “Are you saying that he’s going to the zither room?”

“How did you know that?” asked Elder Xia Yi in surprise.

Pausing, Chu Liuyue said lightly, “Uh... I heard him mention it before...”

Elder Xia Yi nodded, not doubting her words in the slightest. “I see. You’re right though—he’s indeed going there. I think he intends to take those items back... He mentioned this before, but because he was afraid that he might become sad and depressed seeing those things, he thought it’d be best to just leave them there. I don’t know what made him change his mind though...”

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue’s head right then. *The legendary three-eyed eagle previously mentioned that the purplish-gold Buddha leaf was near the zither room! If I can tag along with Weichi Song... I’ll have a valid reason to enter that place!*

She then immediately said goodbye to Elder Xia Yi and left in a hurry.

Elder Xia Yi was confused as he watched her figure disappear into the distance. *Why is it that both master and disciple are acting a little strangely?*

...

Chu Liuyue ran as fast as possible and finally caught up to Weichi Song when he was about to reach the foot of the mountain. “Master!”

Weichi Song looked back. “Liuyue? Why are you here?”

Chu Liuyue walked briskly to his side, her forehead dotted with beads of sweat. “Master, I heard from Elder Xia Yi that you’re going to Xin Li Garden today. Is that right?”

“Yes!” Weichi Song nodded. Upon noticing her hurried look, he said, “Oh right. I wanted to look for you and Wanzhou when I came back yesterday, but I didn’t want to disturb the two of you since you guys seemed to be in the middle of cultivating.”

Chu Liuyue had given Qiang Wanzhou a few more pills yesterday, so he was indeed currently trying to expel the cold qi in his body. She felt her heart squeeze when she heard what Weichi Song said. “...So... How did the visit go?”

Pausing for a short moment, Weichi Song lowered his voice and slowly said, “He concealed his aura, and his hand was injured... Although I don’t have any evidence yet, he’s likely to be the culprit.”

*I was right!* thought Chu Liuyue with bated breath. She was already more or less certain that the culprit was Jiang Yucheng when the various pieces of evidence they found pointed to him. Hence, she wasn’t too surprised to hear this conclusion. That said, mixed emotions arose within her. *Jiang Yucheng didn’t let the people around me off even after my death. Chong Xu Cabinet was only implicated because of me.*

After much deliberation, she finally said, “Master, I’d like to follow you to Xin Li Garden.”

Weichi Song froze for a moment. He wasn’t too approving of her request. “Liuyue, I’m actually going there because—”

“I know.” Chu Liuyue looked at him firmly. “Perhaps I’ll be of help to you?”

Weichi Song fell silent for a long while. He could tell that Chu Liuyue really wanted to go with him. *She probably knows that I'm going to the zither room to take things... In that case, there must be a reason for her persistence.*

"Master?"

Upon hearing the hint of eagerness in her voice, Weichi Song made up his mind. "Alright! I'll take you there on the condition that you stay by my side and not rashly act when we get there."

"Thank you, Master!" said Chu Liuyue immediately.

"Come on; let's go!" The last of Weichi Song's hesitation completely disappeared when he saw her sparkling, crescent eyes. *Since she doesn't want to tell me anything, I won't ask her any questions then. How can I not trust her when she has put her life at stake for Chong Xu Cabinet? Regardless, I just have to do my best to protect her.*

...

By the time Weichi Song and Chu Liuyue arrived at Xin Li Garden's entrance, Jiang Yucheng was already there waiting for them. The latter's brows slightly furrowed when he noticed the female following behind the elder.

*Why is Chu Liuyue here too?* Looking calm and composed, Jiang Yucheng walked up to them and greeted, "Master Weichi."

Chu Liuyue's gaze landed on Jiang Yucheng for a moment before she quickly withdrew it. *Just as I expected. He's using a Yuan instrument to conceal his aura, and the bandage on his hand has obviously been replaced with a new one. I can't tell anything from the looks of it.*

Standing in front of Weichi Song, Jiang Yucheng flashed a small smile at him. "Master Weichi, I don't think you mentioned anything about bringing an outsider with you yesterday."

### **Chapter 583: Worlds Apart**

Weichi Song smilingly said, "It just so happens that I have some errands for Liuyue to run, so I brought her along with me. Surely Eldest Young Master Jiang won't mind this?"

Despite the smile on Jiang Yucheng's face, his voice turned a little cold and detached. "It's just that the zither room... is a rather special place. I've already made an exception for you by accompanying you there. I'm afraid I can't allow outsiders inside."

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows a notch. *Outsiders? Jiang Yucheng sure has a way with words now. He hasn't even truly become a prince consort, yet he's already throwing his weight around without any care that he might get himself in trouble because of this. The zither room belongs to me in the first place, so why is he acting like he's the owner of the room now?*

What Jiang Yucheng said about Chu Liuyue being an outsider upset Weichi Song greatly, and it showed on his face. "Liuyue is one of my last few disciples, not a random outsider. I hope you'll be careful with your words, Eldest Young Master Jiang."

*Weichi Song values Chu Liuyue a lot, huh?* Jiang Yucheng hadn't expected Weichi Song to have such a strong reaction over a passing comment he made about Chu Liuyue—someone he didn't even have any regards for. He laughed it off and offered an apology to the other. "Please simmer down and don't get offended by the thoughtless remark I made, Master Weichi. I was just trying to protect the late Crown Princess's zither room..."

“Liuyue is a sensible kid. Besides, I’m the one who brought her here, so you don’t have anything to worry about.” Ever since Weichi Song found out that Jiang Yucheng was most likely the mastermind of the attack on Chong Xu Cabinet, he had little patience for the latter. Even the way he spoke to the latter had gotten much firmer.

At a loss for words, Jiang Yucheng could only say, “Of course. Please follow me...”

Thereafter, he took the lead to walk into Xin Li Garden.

Weichi Song and Chu Liuyue promptly followed closely behind him.

As Jiang Yucheng led the way, he couldn’t help but find it strange that Weichi Song had seemingly changed a lot lately. *Weichi Song used to be very decrepit and wasn’t concerned about a lot of things. As long as one didn’t cross the line, the elderly man tended to let things pass. But now, he appears a lot more spirited and sharper than before. Could it be because of the Messed Yuan Gravel?*

*Based on the news I received, Qiang Wanzhou is from Nan Jiang. If my guess is correct, he’s probably the one who discovered the Messed Yuan Gravel. Then, it boils down to this question: Who dealt with it? Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to come up with an answer even after thinking about it for the entire night. Weichi Song hasn’t recovered from his injuries, so it can’t be him. That leaves only Xia Yi... who is most likely the one that got rid of the Messed Yuan Gravel.*

Soon, the trio arrived at Thousand View Garden.

Although Chu Liuyue was calmly following along without turning her head around, she was secretly determining the locations of the guards around them.

Nobody was more familiar with everything about this place than her. She knew best where the guards were stationed and hidden.

The guards stationed around were clearly somewhat fewer compared to last time. That said, the security was still very tight, and it was even more so as they got closer to the zither room.

Chu Liuyue sneered inwardly to herself. *Why would Jiang Yucheng even need to guard this place so tightly if he doesn't have a guilty conscience? He even offered to accompany Weichi Song in person to collect the items. Hah, is he afraid of being discovered?*

After walking some distance, a lake appeared in front of them. On it was a winding passage that led to a small, exquisite building on the opposite end.

It was quiet and peaceful there, and that used to be her zither room. Whenever she was bored or feeling down, she would always go there.

However, she felt different when seeing it again this time, for this was the very place she drank the last cup of tea Jiang Yucheng brewed for her. Everything drastically changed from that moment, which also meant that this was the place where Jiang Yucheng had officially started plotting against her. It was why he paid so much attention to this place.

Stopping in front of them, Jiang Yucheng turned around and said, "Master Weichi, the zither room is just further ahead. I'll accompany you inside, but—"

Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a smile when his gaze landed on her. "Master, just go ahead with Eldest Young Master Jiang. I'll wait here for you."

“Alright, I’ll be right back,” said Weichi Song with a nod. After that, he and Jiang Yucheng headed for the zither room through the winding passage.

Chu Liuyue stood in place as she smilingly watched the two of them leave.

All of a sudden, Jiang Yucheng turned his head back upon sensing something.

Right by the lake stood a lady in red. There was a faint smile on her beautiful face as she looked at him from afar. Due to the distance between them, her appearance and figure were a little blurry, but it was exactly because of this that she resembled another person a lot.

Jiang Yucheng’s heart skipped a beat as a similar scene of a smiling, slender woman in an exquisite palace gown came to his mind.

She was elegant and beautiful. Like the dazzling sun hanging high above the clouds, she had a magnetic pull so strong that people couldn’t help but admire her, let alone say anything bad about her. She, too, used to smile at him like that by the lake.

The two figures then slowly overlapped each other, leaving Jiang Yucheng in a confused state. Due to this, he closed his eyes tightly.

When he opened them again, he realized that Chu Liuyue had already sat down on the jade stone wall—which was set with carefully selected clear jade stones that reflected rays of light when the water rippled—by the lake.

Just when the two figures were about to merge, they suddenly separated. Jiang Yucheng shook his head hard in contempt before turning his head away. *As expected. A lowborn like her doesn't have any department at all. If it was... Anyway, they're worlds apart.*

Sitting on the jade wall, Chu Liuyue gently swung her legs while caressing the jade stone beside her.

#### **Chapter 584: Something Is Fishy**

*Xin Li Garden existed even during my ancestor's time. It underwent a thorough refurbishment when my father gave it to me, and he even sought my opinion on a lot of things at that time. Everything here was practically done up according to my likings, and Thousand View Garden in particular... was almost entirely done up by myself.*

The clear jade stones underneath Chu Liuyue were arranged in an irregular but uniquely beautiful pattern, which was formed with different shapes and colors. Rays of light were reflected off this jade wall when the lake water rippled in the breeze.

Chu Liuyue lowered her eyes as if she was captivated by the sight.

After watching her for a while, the guards paid no attention to her because they thought it was only natural for her to find everything here novel since she came from a lesser kingdom outside Heaven's Canopy.

She let her gaze linger on the wall for a little longer before she retracted it. She couldn't help but feel glad that the things here hadn't been touched. *It looks like Jiang Yucheng hasn't discovered this place's secrets during the past year or so.*

One of the main reasons that she had exhausted so much manpower and resources to renovate Xin Li Garden was that there were many secret mechanisms—which had lost their functions due to the years

of wear and tear—hidden around here. Naturally, her familiarity with this place included the knowledge of them as well.

Back then, Jiang Yucheng often came here to accompany her. During their conversations, he would casually drop a question or two about the secret mechanisms, but she only told him about the less important ones. It was purely for the sake of leaving a space for herself that she never revealed the important mechanisms—especially the one in the zither room—to him. But judging by the current situation, she felt really thankful that she didn't mention anything about them.

*Jiang Yucheng has always thought that the mechanism here is at the winding passage, but in reality... It's actually hidden on top of the jade wall.* Feeling slightly at ease after making sure that everything was still intact, Chu Liuyue glanced in the direction of the zither room that was across the lake.

There, Jiang Yucheng had just taken out a key to open the zither room. After unlocking the door, he pushed it open and entered the room along with Weichi Song.

...

The zither room wasn't big and only had two floors.

A somewhat bitter but refreshing scent wafted to their noses as soon as the door was opened.

"Is that... the smell of rosin?" asked Weichi Song in a daze.

Standing next to him, Jiang Yucheng nodded his head. "That's right."

When Weichi Song's gaze landed on the antique zither that was placed right in the middle of the room, he walked over to it.

It was a phoenix-tailed zither carved from red cedar and golden silk wood, and it had a rich red-brown hue all over its body. Delicate golden threads could be seen when the sunlight shone on them. One of the strings, however, was broken.

"I come here every other month to apply a coat of rosin on this zither," explained Jiang Yucheng.

Weichi Song frowned when he noticed the broken string. "What happened—"

"It snapped when she played the zither for the last time. I wanted to get someone to repair it at first, but after much consideration, I decided to leave it alone. This is the late Crown Princess's favorite zither. Even if it's repaired, she's no longer around to play it. It'll only make us more miserable," said Jiang Yucheng lightly.

Weichi Song nodded despite his agony. *This is the first time I've come here ever since she passed away more than a year ago. I thought time had healed everything, but now that I'm here in person, I realized that's not the case at all. The pain still feels as fresh as before.*

"Master Weichi, everything here is the same as before. Just take whatever you want," reminded Jiang Yucheng.

After taking a deep breath, Weichi Song looked at his surroundings before he took a few items from the first floor.

Jiang Yucheng stayed by his side throughout, feeling relieved when the other had only taken the things he mentioned to him the day before. But when the latter wanted to go up to the second floor, his expression suddenly changed. “Master Weichi, haven’t you already taken all the things you want?”

“Oh, what I told you previously was just a portion of it. There should be some more on the second floor. What, is the second floor off limits?”

Jiang Yucheng squeezed out a smile as he clenched his fists tightly. “How can that be? I’ll follow you up.”

After that, he took the lead to head upstairs first.

Weichi Song narrowed his eyes as he followed him up.

There were much fewer things on the second floor, but they were all well-placed.

Weichi Song surveyed his surroundings before picking up two items. He found it strange that Jiang Yucheng was behaving so nervously when nothing seemed to be amiss with the second floor.

“Have you taken all your belongings, Master Weichi?” asked Jiang Yucheng.

*He’s chasing me away.* Weichi Song took another look at the second floor before he finally decided to leave. But just as he was heading downstairs, something caught his eyes, which made him frown.

He calmly continued walking down the stairs when he heard Jiang Yucheng’s footsteps behind him and only stopped when he walked by the zither. “This zither... is really a waste...”

Jiang Yucheng couldn't detect Weichi Song's insinuation and only thought that he was missing the zither's owner. Thus, he said, "Yeah. Not only is the string broken, but its owner is also no longer around. I'm afraid nobody in this world can play the zither as well as the late Crown Princess."

"Oh right," Weichi Song suddenly said. "You were saying that the string accidentally snapped while she was playing the zither?"

"Yes."

"You were here with her at that time?"

Jiang Yucheng's gaze flickered. "No, she mentioned it to me the next day when we met."

"I see..." Weichi Song mumbled before adding, "I'm sure she must've felt terrible back then. This was her most beloved zither after all."

Feeling uneasy over the way Weichi Song spoke, Jiang Yucheng hummed assent and said nothing else. He then saw the former walking toward the exit.

He was just about to do the same when he suddenly heard Weichi Song say, "I can go back with Liuyue myself. You don't have to see us out, Eldest Young Master Jiang."

It suited Jiang Yucheng just fine since he had no plans of doing that either. Thus, he agreed to it. "In that case, I'll go back and apply another coat of rosin on the zither."

When Chu Liuyue looked up, she saw Weichi Song walking toward her while Jiang Yucheng turned around and entered the room again. She stood up and was just about to speak when she noticed Weichi Song looking a little off. Puzzled, she called, "...Master?"

But all Weichi Song said was: "Let's go back."

Chu Liuyue didn't ask him any questions. Instead, she just nodded and left together with him.

...

The moment Jiang Yucheng returned to the zither room and closed the door behind him, his expression immediately sank. *Why did Weichi Song suddenly ask all those questions just now? Everything was fine before that... Don't tell me he discovered something? But... that can't be the case! I've already tidied up the entire place beforehand!*

He couldn't figure out the reason no matter how he thought about it. Thus, he could only put his suspicion aside. *I was probably just overthinking it...*

...

Meanwhile, Chu Liuyue and Weichi Song had left Xin Li Garden. Neither spoke the entire way, and it was only until they reached a secluded pathway that the latter stopped. He bent slightly at the waist as he put a hand on the wall to support himself.

"What's wrong, Master?"

## Chapter 585: Yu Xiang Hall

Weichi Song's other hand was gripping his chest tightly as he gasped violently for air. Sweat kept dripping down his forehead, and his face had turned ghastly pale.

"What's wrong, Master?" asked Chu Liuyue in shock. *Did something happen in there? But nothing seemed off about them when they came out of the room earlier...*

A crisp cracking sound was heard when Weichi Song exerted too much of his force into his hand and crushed the wall as a result.

Feeling even more worried, Chu Liuyue moved to support him, only to realize that he was trembling badly.

"...L-Little Crescent..." cried Weichi Song with much difficulty. Feeling deep shock and anger, he spoke through clenched teeth. "It was him... It really was him..."

Chu Liuyue froze. *Is he talking about...*

"It really was him!" Weichi Song slammed his fist against the wall so hard that cracked lines instantly appeared on it.

Chu Liuyue hurriedly said, "Master, we should go back first. There are people walking about here."

What she said made Weichi Song return to his senses. Slowly, he straightened his back and pushed her hands away. His expression had returned to normal, save for the hints of wariness and hatred that hadn't faded from his eyes.

Although Chu Liuyue was very curious about what happened earlier, this was clearly not the time for her to ask questions.

Weichi Song stood in place for a while and only looked at Chu Liuyue when he regained his composure. He said apologetically to her, "Did I scare you, Liuyue?"

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "It's all good as long as you're fine."

Weichi Song, however, suddenly revealed a mocking smile. *Nothing is wrong with me. I merely... discovered something shocking... Jiang Yucheng—he needs to die a horrible death!*

"Liuyue, you go back first. I want to be alone," said Weichi Song tiredly.

Chu Liuyue hesitated a little before saying, "Alright. Please be careful, Master."

Weichi Song nodded and looked at her, feeling somewhat consoled. "Thank you for your understanding, Liuyue..."

Chu Liuyue flashed him a smile and then turned around to leave.

After she left, Weichi Song stood there for a long time before turning to leave in another direction.

...

Chu Liuyue didn't head back to Chong Xu Cabinet right away. Instead, she went to Xi Ling City's largest auction house—Yu Xiang Hall.

It was a reputable and popular auction house because it could always get its hands on rare treasures.

Many of the rich people in Xi Ling City liked to shop there in hopes of coming across something they liked. Sometimes, items could even be sold at rocket-high prices because of the fierce bidding going on between them.

Chu Liuyue visited the auction house in plain clothes many times during her past life. She, too, had also bought many things she fancied from this place.

Standing at Yu Xiang Hall's entrance were two good-looking pageboys. Both were formidable stage-six warriors, which showed how powerful Yu Xiang Hall was.

There weren't many customers here today. In fact, other than the times when the rich and powerful people in Xi Ling would gather for the monthly auctions, it was relatively quiet in Yu Xiang Hall most of the time. After all, the average commoners weren't even qualified to enter Yu Xiang Hall for the normal auctions.

The pageboys' eyes lit up when they saw Chu Liuyue heading toward the entrance. She looked no more than 16 years of age, but from her outstanding appearance and air of nobility, they could tell that she was no ordinary person even though she was an unfamiliar face to them. *Since when did a noble lady like her appear in Xi Ling City?*

“May I know your surname, Miss?” One of the pageboys walked up toward her with a polite and eager smile on his face.

“Chu,” answered Chu Liuyue.

*I don't think there's any big shot with that surname in the city. Although she's simply dressed, she has a unique presence to her. To play it safe, I'd better serve her well.* The pageboy then said, “I don't think I've seen you around before, Ms. Chu? This must be your first time here, am I right?”

Chu Liuyue nodded.

“Then, you might not be familiar with how Yu Xiang Hall works. First-timers have to pay a certain fee before they're allowed inside.”

*Yu Xiang Hall must be the only shop in Xi Ling City that dares to ask money from their customers before they even step into the place,* thought Chu Liuyue.

“We have three tiers in all. The first tier—which is the most common of all—costs 10 white crystals, while the second and third tiers cost 50 and 100 white crystals respectively. The higher the tier, the better your seat will be.”

Chu Liuyue proceeded to take out some money from her Cosmic Ring. “Here are 100 white crystals.”

Shock flashed across the pageboy's eyes when he noticed the Cosmic Ring on her hand. Those who could work at Yu Xiang Hall all had the ability to make discerning judgments, so he could tell that the

Cosmic Ring was of a very high grade with just a glance. Immediately, he respectfully took the money from her and said, "Please enter, Ms. Chu."

The other pageboy came forward and presented a gold tag that had the number '16' written on it. "Ms. Chu, this is your tag, as well as your token of identity."

Once Chu Liuyue put away the tag, the pageboy said, "Please follow me, Ms. Chu."

...

Chu Liuyue followed the pageboy all the way inside and entered a huge auction hall.

In the middle of the hall was a platform, and it was surrounded by circular rows of seats. There were three levels in total, with the bottommost seats being the most in numbers. The uppermost seats—on the other hand—were individual private rooms, and that was where the pageboy led her to.

"You can see the entire auction hall from here while keeping your identity a secret," said the pageboy respectfully.

Chu Liuyue nodded.

"The auction will soon commence, so you have some rest here first. If there's anything you're interested in bidding on, just raise your tag. The items you won will be delivered to you."

Those who chose to come to the third floor usually had plenty of money to spare, and they valued their privacy very much. Some didn't want to be recognized, while others were afraid of attracting trouble should others find out that they won the auctions. Yu Xiang Hall had all along been doing a great job in this aspect.

"I got it. You may take your leave now," said Chu Liuyue.

Bending at his waist, the pageboy retreated from the room and carefully closed the door after him.

Chu Liuyue stood by the window and looked down.

The window was specially made such that one could look out, but the people outside couldn't look in. This was why people didn't need to worry about being seen over here.

By now, most of the seats on the first and second floors were already taken.

Chu Liuyue swept a glance at the people downstairs and saw quite a few familiar faces. Among them, she had met two not long ago. They were Jiang Yuzhi and Xiahou Tingan—both sat next to each other on the second floor, with the former giggling nonstop over something that the latter had said.

*It looks like they've made up already. Chu Liuyue raised her brows. Xiahou Tingan seems to be bent on marrying Jiang Yuzhi...*

Just then, a white jade table slowly rose from the platform.

**Chapter 586: Cloud-Sky Copper Sword**

The living room instantly fell silent as everyone looked over. *The auction is about to start!*

When the white marble platform stopped, the empty space around it suddenly rippled. Then, an elder came out from within.

His surroundings had no ripple movements, yet the crowd's hearts shuddered. *Someone who can just tear space and arrive at the designated place shouldn't be underestimated!*

The elder had white hair, but he looked very energetic as he had a kind and warm smile on his face.

Seeing that it was him, the room was filled with momentary commotion. "Why is it Elder Song? Isn't he only in charge of major auctions?"

"I don't know! I don't think they talked about it before..."

"He's one of the top auctioneers in Yu Xiang Hall, and they actually used him for today's auction. Could there be a rare treasure?"

Everyone partook in heated discussions.

Song Zheng looked at the crowd with a smile. "Welcome, everyone. Like what you have guessed, I will be hosting today's auction."

The moment he spoke, the surrounding noises instantly disappeared.

Upon hearing him say this, quite a few people looked excited. *With Song Zheng here, there really will be some rare treasures to be auctioned! Even if we can't buy them, it'll be worth it to come here.*

“Yu Xiang Hall’s rules—the highest bidder gets it! I believe everyone has been waiting anxiously, so I won’t say anything else. We’ll directly start the auction!”

The moment his voice landed, a green jade bottle appeared on the white marble platform beside him.

“This is a fifth-grade Hui Qing Pill, and it can directly increase one’s breakthrough rate to become a stage-six warrior by 90%! The starting price is... 200 white crystals!”

To an average person, perhaps 200 white crystals were already quite a lot. But here, it was just the starting price.

Also, this kind of pill was very tempting to quite a few cultivators.

The moment Song Zheng said the starting price, someone started bidding. “210!”

“220!”

“245!”

Chu Liuyue took a glance, and all those shouting out prices were basically those on the first floor.

The people who sat there were all itinerant cultivators in Xi Ling City or people from small households.

Normally, those who could sit here had certain capabilities and financial power. However, they couldn't even be compared to the people on the second and third floors.

Those who could go up to the second floor were aristocratic families with identities, like Jiang Yuzhi and Xiahou Tingan.

They had their families to support them, and they had rich resources. Hence, they wouldn't be bidding for pills here.

As for the third floor... less needed to be said.

After a round of competitive bidding, the Hui Qing Pill was finally bought by a young man for 300 white crystals.

It was a good first sale.

Very quickly, the second item was presented. It was a broadsword that was copper in color, and it looked stunning.

“It’s a Cloud-Sky Copper Sword! It’s smooth to handle and very sharp! The starting price is... 500 white crystals! Every time you increase the price, it must be at least 50 white crystals.”

This was only the second auction item, yet the starting price increased to 500 white crystals in no time. This was shocking.

“It is a good sword.” Chu Liuyue stared at that sword. *This sword’s value definitely far exceeds 500 crystals. If it weren’t because I already have the Long Yuan Sword, I would want to bid for this sword.*

She touched her chin, and an idea popped up in her mind. *Right! I think Qiang Wanzhou doesn’t have a suitable Yuan instrument! This sword seems pretty similar to him...*

“Girl, bid for this sword.” Her ancestor’s voice suddenly sounded. “This is good material!”

Chu Liuyue was dazed. “Ancestor, what do you mean?”

Shangguan Jing laughed. “This is rare Queling Copper! This Queling Copper is currently still in its basic form. As long as you properly mold it, it will become one of the top weapons in the world! This kind of thing can only be begged for. No matter how much it costs, you must buy it!”

“Okay!” Chu Liuyue nodded. *Since the Ancestor has already complimented it, it proves that this item is indeed rare. It isn’t bad to refine it before giving it to Qiang Wanzhou for use.*

...

Second floor.

When Jiang Yuzhi saw the sword, his eyes immediately lit up. “Tingan, what do you think of that sword?”

Xiahou Tingan saw her expression and understood what she wanted. “It’s a strong and sharp sword that’s vintage. It is a good sword! Do you like it?”

Jiang Yuzhi hurriedly nodded. “Yeah! Even though the one I used previously is decent, it’s still far apart from this one!”

*Just based on the aura, it loses to this one by a few grades.*

“If I can get this sword, my abilities will definitely be strengthened!” Jiang Yuzhi couldn’t conceal her excitement. “I must bid for it!”

From start to end, her eyes didn’t leave the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword.

Xiahou Tingan could tell that she really liked it. After pausing for a while, he smiled and said, “Since you like it so much, I’ll bid and buy it for you!”

Jiang Yuzhi said in shock, “Really? This sword’s starting price is a whole 500 white crystals!”

“The things that you like are naturally good; it is worth this price. As long as you’re happy, the amount of money doesn’t matter,” Xiahou Tingan said with confidence.

*Ever since the commotion that occurred in Hundred Herbs Building previously, Father has given me quite a bit of money to help me chase Jiang Yuzhi back. This time, I invited her out with much difficulty. Hence, I must show off. He touched his Cosmic Ring. This money is more than enough to buy the sword.*

After hearing his words, Jiang Yuzhi was elated as she hugged his arm and whined. “Tingan, you’re awesome!”

Xiahou Tingan smiled gently and started to raise his card.

At this point, someone already started bidding for the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword. “550!”

“600!”

“650!”

Quite a few people participated in the bidding, and the price quickly rose.

Xiahou Tingan directly said, “800 white crystals!”

With this, the entire room fell silent for a moment as everyone looked over. *Instantly increasing the price by 150 white crystals... This is incredible.*

Song Zheng smiled at Xiahou Tingan. “800 white crystals. Does anyone want to increase the bid?”

After a momentary pause, a mustached, burly man continued shouting from the first floor. “850!”

Xiahou Tingan confidently smiled. “1,000 white crystals!”

The crowd erupted into a commotion. *This is a whole two-fold of the starting price! He increases the price so harshly every time—it shows that he really wants to get the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword!*

That burly man hesitated for a long time before he clenched his teeth and increased the price. “1,100!”

This price had basically exceeded the tolerance of most of the people on the first floor.

Once again, Xiahou Tingan said without hesitation, “1,300!”

Only the two of them were bidding within the room.

That burly man was conflicted, but in the end, he harshly punched and chose to give up.

A victorious smile was plastered on Xiahou Tingan’s face.

But before he could extend this smile, he heard a clear voice coming from the third floor. “2,000!”

**Chapter 587: Heartless**

*2,000 white crystals!* The crowd almost thought that they had misheard as they all looked up in shock to see who was so generous.

But as the third floor's VIP rooms were very intricate, the people sitting below definitely couldn't recognize which room the voice came from.

To protect the privacy of guests on the third floor, the VIP rooms in Yu Xiang Hall were made with special materials.

Anybody's voice coming out from such a room would change miraculously, and one wouldn't be able to differentiate it.

Even if it was someone very familiar, those inside the rooms wouldn't be able to tell whose voice this was.

So even though the crowd was bursting with curiosity, they actually couldn't find out who exactly had bid for it.

The smile on Xiahou Tingan's face suddenly froze. He was first shocked, then furious. *Who exactly is it? Who is actually competing with me at this point? The person even directly increased the price to this state! This Cloud-Sky Copper Sword is decent, but it's only worth a maximum of 1,000 white crystals! When I previously bid 1,300 white crystals, it was already too much. I didn't expect someone else to bid 2,000! What problem does that person have?!*

Jiang Yuzhi knitted her sharp brows, and hatred flashed across her face. "Who is so gutsy to snatch my item publicly?!"

*Since the other party is on the third floor, they can definitely see Xiahou Tingan with me! It seems like they're bidding with Xiahou Tingan, but in actual fact, they don't care about me!*

Jiang Yuzhi had always been doted on since a young age. Recently, many people sucked up to her because of Jiang Yucheng, and she had long treated herself as a princess, not even caring about anybody else.

But Xiahou Tingan still had a brain. *The people who can go up to the third floor are definitely rich. The one who dared to bid for it must have confidence.*

"Yuzhi, don't be anxious. Since the other party wants to fight with us, we'll just compete with them!" As he spoke, Xiahou Tingan raised the card again. "2,100!"

When he heard the bid of 2,000 white crystals, Song Zheng's wrinkles had already formed a flower. Now that Xiahou Tingan was increasing the price, he was even happier.

"2,100. Is anyone else increasing the bid?"

Even though this was said to the crowd, everyone knew that it was meant for the mysterious VIP on the third floor.

Those on the first floor had long exited the competition. Not many people were on the second floor either, but most of them knew Xiahou Tingan and Jiang Yuzhi. They would be crazy to go against these two people because of a mere sword.

It was fine if it was just Xiahou Tingan, but the key was Jiang Yuzhi! They couldn't even flatter Jiang Yucheng's biological sister sufficiently, let alone willingly offend her.

Hence, the people on the second floor were all silent as they watched on.

Only the person on the third floor was left.

"2,500." A lazy voice sounded.

Even though the voice changed, it wasn't hard to hear the speaker's nonchalance. It was as though he didn't even take this matter to heart.

However, the speaker casually spoke and increased the price by 400 white crystals!

It was normal to fight a little when the price was at 1,000 white crystals. But the current price... They weren't only fighting for the sword!

Xiahou Tingan's face tensed up as he clutched the chair's handles so tightly that his knuckles turned white. *2,500... My father did give me quite a lot of money, but this price...*

He saw from the corner of his eye that Jiang Yuzhi was knitting her brows, and displeasure was written all over her face.

His heart instantly skipped a beat. *This is the same scenario as what happened at Hundred Herbs Building that day. After that time, I tried so hard to coax Jiang Yuzhi. If this happens again... I can't bear the consequences!*

Xiahou Tingan clenched his teeth. *Since Father previously already said that the money spent on Jiang Yuzhi is considered separate, what is there to be afraid of? As long as I can settle Jiang Yuzhi, handle the wedding matters, and get into Jiang Yuzhi's good books, I can definitely get this bit of money back.*

Thinking of this, he was determined. "2,800!"

Jiang Yuzhi's expression definitely looked a lot better.

"Yuzhi, don't worry. I did you wrong the previous time. This time, I definitely won't—"

"5,000!" Before Xiahou Tingan could finish his sentence, the other party actually increased the price again!

Everyone sucked in their breath. *5,000 white crystals! This person is way too—*

*This sword is decent, but 5,000 white crystals... That's ridiculous!*

The crowd finally rustled once again. "Who exactly is it with such exorbitant methods?"

"5,000 white crystals just for this sword... I really don't understand the world of the wealthy..."

“Does their money come from the wind?!”

The bustling discussions could be heard clearly.

Chu Liuyue slightly raised her brows in the room, and she smiled. *I don't know if other people's money comes from the wind, but I do know that my money did come pretty easy. When I first came to Xi Ling, I couldn't even give 10 white crystals as a 'road tax,' and I still had to fight people over it. Now... It has been less than a month, yet I'm rich. Actually, I don't even know exactly how much money I have now. But that isn't important. The important thing is... It feels great to spend money!*

It was as if Xiahou Tingan was hit on the head with a stick, and his entire person was dazed.

When he yelled out 2,800, he was still thinking that he could compete with the other party with clenched teeth. However, he didn't expect the other party to raise the price to 5,000 white crystals directly!

Jiang Yuzhi was obviously stunned by the other party's heartless increase as well and didn't speak for quite some time.

Seeing the duo's delayed reactions, that voice sounded. “Are you still playing? If you don't want to increase the price, I'll do it myself?”

Xiahou Tingan's face flushed white.

“I'll increase! Five... five thousand...”

Before he could finish his sentence, that person continued, “10, 000!”

*How slow.* Chu Liuyue stroked her chin. *Xiahou Tingan can finally shut up now, right?*

### **Chapter 588: Mu Hongyu!**

Not only did Xiahou Tingan shut up, but everyone in the auction hall fell into dead silence as well.

At that moment, it was as if the air froze.

Everyone had an incredulous expression. Even the experienced Song Zheng had a dazed gaze.

*W-what is this person doing... Not only did they willingly ask the other party to increase the price, but they also increased it by a few-fold before the other party had even finished his sentence. This isn't even giving Xiahou Tingan face!*

Quite a few people secretly looked at Xiahou Tingan. As expected, they saw that his face was very ugly as if he had swallowed a fly whole.

*Harsh! Too harsh!*

How could Xiahou Tingan take this lying down? *Not only is the person who competed with him rich, but they are also gutsy!*

At this point, Song Zheng had already recovered his senses as he coughed and continued asking, “10,000 white crystals! Is anyone else going to increase the bid?”

Nobody talked.

Xiahou Tingan almost wanted to break the chair’s handles. He just felt that after living for more than 20 years, he had never felt as conflicted as he did now.

*Don’t increase the price? Jiang Yuzhi is sitting right next to me, and I had previously promised that I would definitely buy this sword for her.*

*Increase the price? I don’t even have that much money! Besides, with such a big sum, it’s hard not to be discovered even if it’s calculated separately.*

At this moment, Xiahou Tingan was caught between a rock and a hard place.

“10,000 white crystals going once!”

Xiahou Tingan took a deep breath in and forced himself to calm down as he glanced at Jiang Yuzhi and gently asked, “Yuzhi, do you still want that sword?”

Jiang Yuzhi knitted her thin brows. “Of course!”

Actually, she just purely liked it at the start. But now, she was fighting for pride!

Xiahou Tingan felt his head ache, but he could only advise her patiently, “Yuzhi, there’s no problem if I help you buy this sword. But the point is... We don’t know who that person is. Think about it. The other party can see us and definitely knows our identities, yet they still dare to act this way... They must have an extraordinary status.”

Jiang Yuzhi furrowed her brows even tighter. “So what? How can I be afraid of them?”

“10,000 white crystals going twice!”

Xiahou Tingan’s throat tightened as he suppressed his inner hatred and softly advised, “Yuzhi... We’re naturally not afraid of them, but the point is that this time period is very sensitive... You also know that the wedding date between the Third Princess and your brother has already been proposed. The more this is so, the more pairs of eyes that will be glued to him. If we really spend 10,000 white crystals buying this sword today and word gets out, what will people say? People will naturally say that you’re wasting your wealth... What happens if you affect your brother then?”

When he mentioned Jiang Yucheng, Jiang Yuzhi’s expression indeed changed. She couldn’t care about anyone else, but her own brother’s future and reputation were more important than anything.

Xiahou Tingan finally saw that she faltered, and he continued, “...You also know that the more power one holds, the more careful one has to be with their words. If your brother knows that you gave up this sword because of him... He will definitely feel comforted. When everything is settled, won’t it be as easy as ABC for you to get anything you want?”

His final sentence finally made Jiang Yuzhi change her mind. “Okay! We’ll let this one off!”

Xiahou Tingan was finally appeased.

“10,000 white crystals going thrice... Sold!”

Jiang Yuzhi glanced at the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword indignantly. “If I know who they are... I’ll definitely not let them off!”

An idea popped up in Xiahou Tingan’s mind as he suddenly leaned in toward Jiang Yuzhi and softly said something.

Jiang Yuzhi looked doubtful. “Is it true? Will this... work?”

Xiahou Tingan clenched his fists and punched his chest. “You can rest assured about the things I do.”

...

Chu Liuyue hugged her arms, and her gaze swept past the duo in a seemingly smiling manner. *It seems like these two people really want to know who intercepted their win. If they know it’s me... I wonder what they’ll look like. I originally listened to my ancestor’s suggestion, and that’s why I bid for the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword. But now, it seems like it’s worth it if I can conveniently anger Jiang Yuzhi and Xiahou Tingan.*

...

The auction continued.

There were quite a few decent things in the items that were presented later on. But after that commotion, the later auctions paled in comparison.

Chu Liuyue kept looking as well, but she didn't bid again as there wasn't a treasure she was interested in.

Originally, she wanted to leave in advance. But she patiently waited after thinking that there could very possibly be an important treasure at the end since Song Zheng was here.

...

In another room on the third floor.

Jian Fengchi leaned against the chair in a relaxed and lazy manner.

Shui Liu'er walked over from the window and sat down beside him as her charming face had a delightful smile. "I didn't expect to watch a free show when I came here. It's really worth the trip."

Jian Fengchi's lips curled up as he knocked his kneecap with the bone fan. "How did Xiahou Tingan offend you? Why are you so happy to see him humiliated?"

Shui Liu'er rolled her eyes. However, she was born as a beauty and exuded an elegant aura, so even her eye rolls looked extremely pretty. "That dumba\*s previously booked the entire venue to hear me sing, but he was dishonest."

When she first came to Xi Ling, there were indeed quite a few people who wanted to take advantage of her. However, the people in Chun Feng Restaurant weren't to be trifled with.

After dealing with all of them, nobody dared to do so again.

Jian Fengchi found it weird. "He's so brave?"

Shui Liu'er chuckled. "He just drank a few cups more and forgot who he was! He kept talking about the Xiahou family and said how incredible he was."

"You didn't teach him a lesson?"

"Why did you think he stayed at home for three months and didn't go out?"

Jian Fengchi put up his thumb. "You're still the best, Little Liu'er."

Shui Liu'er slapped his hand away. "Don't even try. Actually, I don't mind telling you. Compared to seeing Xiahou Tingan humiliated, I prefer seeing Jiang Yuzhi so angered that she can't speak!"

Jian Fengchi seemed to have already expected this as he smiled and said, "Just because she previously offended... That person didn't even mind it, yet you bore the grudge in your heart."

Even until now, Shui Liu'er still hated Jiang Yuzhi.

Shui Liu'er sneered, "Someone must teach people like Jiang Yuzhi a lesson."

Jiang Yuzhi now used Jiang Yucheng as her backing and was very arrogant. She even wanted to have her own way in the entire Xi Ling City, but she didn't even know that she had tons of enemies hiding in the shadows.

What a joke.

Jian Fengchi raised his brows slightly. "We bought the items we wanted to buy today, and we saw the drama we needed to. Are you happy? Actually, I kinda want to know who exactly bought that sword just now..."

Before he could finish his sentence, his gaze suddenly turned cold as he stood up, walked to the window, and looked at the platform.

Shui Liu'er was taken aback. "What's the matter?"

...

At the same time in the other room, Chu Liuyue also stood up suddenly and stared at the cage that abruptly appeared on the platform in disbelief.

A woman was trapped in that gigantic cage. She was wearing torn and tattered clothes, and her face looked frail as her hair drooped down and covered more than half her face.

However, Chu Liuyue still recognized her at one glance—it was actually... Mu Hongyu!

### **Chapter 589: Faint Yuan Body**

Mu Hongyu had closed her eyes, and she was motionless as if she had already fainted.

At that moment, countless suspicions flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind. *Shouldn't Mu Hongyu be in Country Yao Chen's Imperial City now? Why is she here, and in such an unkempt manner too?!*

Her familiar face had slimmed down, and there were bloodstains all over her body.

Chu Liuyue's heart seemed to be tightly clutched by something as she wanted to immediately rush over and bring Mu Hongyu out of the cage.

...

Seeing such a gigantic cage appear on the platform with a young woman trapped inside, the entire auction hall fell into eerie silence.

Song Zheng surveyed his surroundings as if he was very satisfied with this effect. "Everyone, this is the star of our auction today... Faint Yuan Body!"

The moment his voice landed, it was as if a stone was thrown into the river as countless ripples were made.

The entire room burst into commotion. “Faint Yuan Body? Is it the rumored special body type that can casually travel through space?”

“Isn’t that a rumored existence... I heard that this body type became completely extinct thousands of years ago. Can it be that the Faint Yuan Body has reappeared in this world?”

“Since Yu Xiang Hall dares to auction that person, they’re definitely sure of it!”

“No wonder they invited Song Zheng today... It’s such major news, yet nothing was revealed before this!”

“That’s weird too. Yu Xiang Hall usually only exhibits such rare existences in major auctions. Why would they randomly choose today... If they first let the news out, there would definitely be people who would come over upon hearing the news. By then, won’t they be able to sell her for a better price?”

...

Chu Liuyue’s heart skipped a beat as all the blood in her body seemed to freeze. *Song Yuan means that... Mu Hongyu actually has the Faint Yuan Body? How could that be? I spent so much time with Mu Hongyu previously, but I didn’t discover this at all! Mu Hongyu might not even know it herself! What exactly happened in such a short period of time? How did she cross Heaven’s Canopy and arrive here? How does she have the Faint Yuan Body, and... Why did Yu Xiang Hall’s people bring her over and auction her in a cage?*

Chu Liuyue stared at the stage as her blood boiled crazily.

Song Zheng said, "Everyone, you can rest assured that Yu Xiang Hall has already verified that this woman indeed has the Faint Yuan Body. Rumors have it that cultivators with the Faint Yuan Body can casually travel through different spaces whenever and however they wish. The more powerful they are, the further they can travel! According to our investigation, this woman is a peak stage-five warrior and can travel within tens of miles. If our guess is correct, she can travel whenever and however she wants within hundreds of miles!"

The bustling hall gradually fell silent. Hearing Song Zheng's words, quite a few people looked surprised and envious. *Such a body is indeed precious! However... We don't know what background the woman has for Yu Xiang Hall to auction her in such a loud manner.*

As if seeing the crowd's doubts, Song Zheng explained, "According to our investigations, this woman seemed to have illegally come over from outside Heaven's Canopy. Due to fate, we discovered her and brought her back. She was hanging onto her last breath when we found her, but she managed to recover after we treated her for a few days."

Chu Liuyue listened until her brows and heart kept pumping wildly. *Given Song Zheng's words, could it even be that Yu Xiang Hall's people saved Mu Hongyu? But she didn't even change her clothes, and her expression didn't look good in any way. Besides, it's an ultimate insult to lock her in a cage and auction her like an object!*

But when the crowd in the auction hall heard this, they gradually revealed looks of understanding.

Many people's eyes lit up as if they were tempted and wanted to bid for Mu Hongyu.

In actual fact, the reason why they had such a reaction was that the Tianling Dynasty had a law: All those who were illegally smuggled over would automatically be named as slaves.

Such a person had no status and no power to speak. Once they were discovered, their endings would be tragic.

They were either sold or executed.

Very clearly, Mu Hongyu was specifically brought back by Yu Xiang Hall's people as she had the Faint Yuan Body, so they sold her as a slave.

Without a doubt, it was everyone's dream to have such a slave. No matter if it were to cultivate her to become their helper or use her Faint Yuan Body's bloodline to elevate their abilities...

It was filled with temptations! It was no wonder that the crowd was so agitated and excited.

At this moment, Mu Hongyu—who was lying within the cage—suddenly moved and opened her eyes with much difficulty.

Upon seeing this movement, the crowd quietened down.

Chu Liuyue walked forward, and her hands were stuck to the window as she looked at Mu Hongyu nervously.

Mu Hongyu woke up in a daze, and she surveyed her surroundings. *This is... This seems to be an auction?*

After a temporary daze, she rapidly recovered her senses. *Right! I met a group of people a few days ago, and they brought me back. However, I've been unconscious all along and only have a blurred impression. When I woke up again, it's this situation in front of me.*

She looked down at herself and realized that her clothes were still like before, so she heaved a sigh of relief. But at the same time, she also noticed something even more important. *I'm... being auctioned?*

Countless gaze landed on her, making her feel extremely uncomfortable.

Her hands trembled as a golden mane bear cub appeared in front of her. It protected Mu Hongyu—who was behind it—as it looked at the surrounding people ferociously.

It was filled with injuries as the old and new wounds overlapped each other, without a single good spot. It had obviously suffered quite a bit during this period of time.

“Congcong!” yelled Mu Hongyu as her heart ached when she saw its wounds. Tears immediately welled up in her eyes.

She then remembered that when she was unconscious, it was Congcong that protected her all along. It went all-out to prevent those people from coming near her, causing all those wounds on its body.

“Congcong, come over here!” Mu Hongyu hugged the golden mane bear cub tightly in her arms.

At the start, the golden mane bear cub was still a little resistant as it wanted to continue protecting her. But in the end, it quietly lay on her shoulders.

Mu Hongyu looked at the countless wounds all over its body, and her heart ached so much that she cried. *If it's not because I was too useless, it wouldn't... Now, we are stuck here and have no way of escaping. I don't even know what this place is.*

Song Zheng loudly said, "I don't need to elaborate on how precious the Faint Yuan Body is. There's no starting price for this auction, and everyone can bid as they wish. The highest bidder wins!"

Once he said this, a voice sounded from the crowd. "10,000 white crystals!"

### **Chapter 590: Astronomical Price**

This voice came from the second floor.

Chu Liuyue took a look and realized it was a man in his thirties, but he looked unfamiliar.

Almost at the same time he spoke up, someone yelled from the third floor, "15,000!"

The crowd on the first floor was shocked. They basically had no chance of participating in this auction, but it seemed like the people on the top two floors were about to start an intense battle.

The temptation of a Faint Yuan Body was indeed very strong as the starting bid was already 10,000 white crystals. The price then became 15,000 white crystals in the blink of an eye.

But this was only the beginning. Many people kept increasing the price after this, and the calls kept coming one after another, almost without a pause.

And every time the price went up, it was shocking!

“20,000!”

“30,000!”

“50,000!”

In no time, the price increased by a few-fold.

There were many rich people in Xi Ling City. Facing such a precious Faint Yuan Body, what was money?

...

Shui Liu'er walked to Jian Fengchi and followed his vision in deep thought. “You know this girl?”

It was as though Jian Fengchi's face had a layer of frost. His chin was tense as he nodded, and his icy eyes were filled with harsh, murderous intent.

*Shui Liu'er's heart was cold. I have never seen such an expression on Jian Fengchi's face before. Who exactly... is this woman? Previously, Song Zheng said that the woman smuggled in from outside Heaven's Canopy. So, Jian Fengchi knew her from outside Heaven's Canopy?*

Shui Liu'er looked on for a while and said, “Her injuries are quite serious.”

Even though they were a distance away, it wasn't hard to imagine what kind of torture she had been through.

"She looks like she's in her teens... I really don't know how she managed to cross Heaven's Canopy on her own," said Shui Liu'er softly.

Jian Fengchi's gaze turned even colder as he gradually gripped the fan with even more strength until his knuckles turned white, almost crushing the fan.

Nobody knew how enraged he was when he saw that the person trapped in the cage was Mu Hongyu. At that moment, he almost wanted to rush out and crush the cage.

In his memory, Mu Hongyu was always smiling happily and passionately like fire, so it was really unacceptable for him to suddenly see her in such a state.

There seemed to be something stuck in his chest, and he felt suffocated.

Shui Liu'er's voice became even gentler. "Since she's your friend, why don't we bid for her first and bring her back?"

Jian Fengchi finally spoke coldly and clearly. "She's not an item!"

"I know. But Song Zheng said that she smuggled over, so everyone thinks that she's a slave. The only way to save her is by doing this. Do you really want to cause a commotion in Yu Xiang Hall and forcefully take her away?"

That was literally a daydream. Jian Fengchi was indeed formidable, but his two fists were hard to fight against four hands.

This was Yu Xiang Hall's territory. Who could be their opponent?

Besides, Yu Xiang Hall didn't lack elites. Any few of them could come out and subdue Jian Fengchi.

Jian Fengchi knitted his brows tightly.

The bidding calls kept coming from outside, and they were screeching to the ear.

"1,000,000!"

"1,200,000!"

"1,250,000!"

He looked at Mu Hongyu.

She sat in the cage alone, and she tightly hugged her golden mane bear cub in her arms. She looked lonely and helpless.

His lips moved. "5,000,000!"

...

A low and cold voice instantly reverberated throughout the room.

This sentence was like a sharp knife that had cut away quite a few people's voices. The originally bustling auction venue was instantly silenced as if someone had poured cold water over them.

*Five million... white crystals! This is an astronomical figure! Even if we are from Xi Ling City's aristocratic families, we might not be able to fork out so much money at once.*

The people who were previously pretty confident all kept quiet.

Even Song Zheng was taken aback. *This is the highest bidding price in Yu Xiang Hall this year!*

After a temporary daze, he suppressed his wildly beating heart and said loudly, "Is anyone going to increase the price? Five million going once!"

...

*There's someone who actually bid five million? Chu Liuyue—who was waiting for the chance to act—was also stunned. From more than one million, it suddenly rose to five million... It's clear that this person*

*wants to bid for Mu Hongyu no matter what. There aren't many people who can afford this in Xi Ling City. Who can it be...*

Chu Liuyue was deep in thought as countless faces flashed across her mind. But as the private rooms were protected too well, she couldn't guess who the other party was.

After all, the temptation of a Faint Yuan Body was indeed too great.

*She anxiously paced around the room. Previously, I planned to bid for Mu Hongyu. Without a doubt, this was the best solution, and I could afford this price.*

But this person suddenly intervened, which made Chu Liuyue hesitant.

She wasn't worried about the money, but she was worried that the other party would increase the price incessantly.

After much thinking, Chu Liuyue still chose to bid. "Six million!"

Originally, the crowd—who thought that five million would be the final bid—all gasped. *Who exactly is so rich to increase the price by so much at once?!*

In comparison, the previous increases of tens of thousands were all considered to be peanuts.

Shui Liu'er blinked. "That's weird. Who would fight with you?"

*Jian Fengchi recently earned money, so he can fork out this money. However, why is the other party so decisive?*

Jian Fengchi was about to increase the price when he suddenly thought of something, and his gaze became serious.