

Nobel Ruler 661

Chapter 661: Outrageous!

Shangguan Yue was also in this position back then. Her wedding date with Jiang Yucheng was also her ceremony to ascend the throne. But she died later on, and it naturally couldn't continue. Now that it's finally my turn, how can it keep dragging on? As long as I can't reach that position, I won't be able to rest assured.

Jiang Yucheng saw her determined expression—it was as if she really made up her mind—and felt his head ache. “But... Wan'er, did you forget the most important thing? If you really want to ascend the throne legitimately, you have to wield the Tianling Power Staff personally... But your current body...”

Shangguan Wan's expression changed, and she harshly clenched her teeth. Of course, I remember this! Every emperor in the Tianling Dynasty had to pick up the Tianling Power Staff in front of the crowd when they ascended. This signifies their status and power, and it also represents the limitless power they had in the Tianling Dynasty.

But the Tianling Power Staff was very heavy, and only people who were at least stage-eight warriors could lift it up.

Now, Shangguan Wan's Yuan meridian was destroyed, so she couldn't do it at all.

She could use some methods to hide the fact that she was already a good-for-nothing, but she definitely couldn't scrape past the Tianling Power Staff.

“Have you ever thought about how the crowd will look at you if you can't successfully pick up the Tianling Power Staff at that time? They will definitely think that you don't have the capabilities and the right to ascend the royal throne.”

The Tianling Power Staff was a seemingly legendary existence in the entire Tianling Dynasty.

Countless people respected it and admired it—it was everyone's belief.

Only those who were affirmed by the Tianling Power Staff could be the true rulers. If Shangguan Wan failed, she might not be able to walk out of this shadow for the rest of her life.

Shangguan Wan bit her lips. *We previously wanted to wait for Father to wake up before conducting this series of plans, but it now seems like it'll take an unknown amount of time.*

However, Shangguan Wan was anxious for this throne.

She said, "I'll think of a way to heal my Yuan meridian then! Anyway, the Wan Zheng Competition has ended—"

Jiang Yucheng dazedly stared at her before he knitted his brows and said, "No! It's still early! If we make this move now, we'll definitely attract suspicions..."

"So what if they suspect us? Didn't a lot of people suspect Shangguan Yue's death back then? Didn't everything turn out fine?" Shangguan Wan lightly chuckled. "As long as we hold the true power, all doubts will vanish into thin air."

Jiang Yucheng glanced at her coldly. "Do you know how much effort I spent to appease all those suspicions back then?"

Shangguan Wan's eyes turned, and she walked toward Jiang Yucheng. The arrogance on her face was now replaced by a sweet, mesmerizing smile.

She leaned against his arms and hugged his waist as she whined. "Of course, I know. Yucheng treats me the best, right?"

She didn't address herself respectfully.

"Since things have come to this point, we can't change anything. Perhaps there's only one method that can help me heal my Yuan meridian... Even if we don't do it now, we still need to do it in the future. As long as we're more careful, it won't pose a problem." Her hands gently brushed past his arm, and she looked a little upset. "Both of us were injured back then, and you already fully recovered a year ago. But I..."

Jiang Yucheng closed his eyes and hid the anger in his eyes. He hated Shangguan Wan bringing this up as she kept reminding him that this arm wasn't his! Even though there was no strange feeling now, he still felt uncomfortable in his heart.

If I don't agree to Shangguan Wan's request today, she won't take this lying down. After a long silence, he finally nodded. "Okay."

Shangguan Wan looked up at him elatedly. "You agreed? Really?"

Jiang Yucheng's lips curved up, but his smiling intent didn't reach his eyes. "Of course. I'll personally arrange this, so you just need to focus on the problems near His Majesty."

“En! I knew you wouldn’t not care about me, Yucheng!” said Shangguan Wan as she hugged him. She then asked, “Right! Since it has already been decided, why don’t we settle our wedding date too?”

Jiang Yucheng was about to reject but swallowed his words when he saw her expression. After a slight pause, he said, “What about the sixth of August?”

Shangguan Wan was slightly disappointed. “Isn’t that half a year later? That’s too long. Why don’t we set it for the sixth of June? Everything should be done by then.”

Even though it was a question, her tone didn’t allow for any refusal.

Jiang Yucheng nodded. “The sixth of June then.”

...

Jiang Yucheng then chatted with Shangguan Wan for another while and settled a few matters before the latter left in satisfaction.

Shangguan Wan had already thought of how to deal with those old fogies the next day. After settling two things that had been bothering her, she was elated and couldn’t see the tinge of frustration in Jiang Yucheng’s eyes.

After she left, Jiang Yucheng stayed in the guest hall alone for a while before calming himself down and walking out. *Since everyone has started preparations, I must hurry up on my side as well. I especially... can’t let Weichi Song catch onto anything! I must settle this danger as soon as possible!*

...

The crowd had been waiting at Wutong Garden all along.

The snow hadn't stopped, and it had already accumulated to their shins, which was extremely chilling to the bone.

But the yard was as quiet as ever, and nobody could grumble at all. They didn't even dare to look upset.

Sun Qi stood on the stairs, and his gaze swept past the crowd before landing on the room.

Xia Mu was sitting inside and looked very relaxed.

Sun Qi was extremely angry, but he couldn't release his anger. *This Xia Mu is really weird! With the attitude that Eldest Young Master had when he left, he's clearly saying that Xia Mu has issues. However, the latter seems to ignore it. Not only is he not worried about his situation, but he even sat down leisurely as if this is his house! In the past, I didn't think that this Xia Mu was so daring!*

Look at that Qi Dahe! After he exited the room, he stood there honestly. I heard that the two of them were on good terms, but why is the difference so huge? If it weren't because Eldest Young Master might come back and continue interrogating them—which means I can't do anything to Xia Mu—I would've long chased him out of the room and commanded him to kneel outside for a day and a night.

"Eldest Young Master." A pageboy's voice suddenly sounded from outside.

The crowd in the yard—including Sun Qi and the rest—looked over.

Jiang Yucheng walked over.

There was a thick layer of snow on the ground, but he didn't leave any footprints on the path he walked past.

The crowd was shocked, and they all lowered their heads to greet him. "Greetings, Eldest Young Master!"

Jiang Yucheng ignored them and went straight to the room with a cold face.

Once he went in, he saw two guards standing there alertly and someone sitting on the chair nonchalantly.

It was Xia Mu.

Jiang Yucheng was enraged. "Outrageous!"

Chapter 662: Quickly Chase!

The two guards immediately kneeled down.

On the other hand, Xia Mu slowly got up and bowed as if he didn't even notice how outrageous his actions were.

Jiang Yucheng was so angered by his behavior that his veins were about to burst. He had never seen such an outrageous and daring person in the Jiang Residence before. "Xia Mu, how dare you!"

Xia Mu looked up and glanced at him, and it seemed as if a layer of mist was covering his eyes, causing them to be blurred and unable to be seen clearly. It was as though he was quite dazed. *Didn't he ask me to wait here? I waited here and didn't do anything.*

Jiang Yucheng harshly closed his eyes. *If it weren't for so many people being around, I would've kicked him already!*

"The two of you... get out!" he yelled at the two guards. *Useless!*

The duo anxiously answered and quickly exited the room. But the moment they walked to the door, they heard Jiang Yucheng continue, "Kneel outside! Slap yourself 50 times!"

The two guards exchanged glances and felt very wronged. *This is clearly Xia Mu's fault. Why did it become our punishment in the end?*

But seeing Jiang Yucheng's blood boil, who would dare to retort him?

The two of them could only be as obedient as ever as they walked to the courtyard.

Putong!

They kneeled on the snow and started slapping themselves.

Upon seeing this, the crowd was dazed and looked at each other. *What's... going on? Weren't the two of them guarding Xia Mu in the room previously? How did they anger Eldest Young Master? Previously, we didn't hear any noise in the room...*

The loud and crisp slaps echoed throughout the quiet yard even more clearly.

Quite a few people looked at Sun Qi.

Sun Qi did know the reason, but he also felt angry when he saw the two guards. *They are clearly the ones with the swords, and they are in charge of guarding Xia Mu. Yet, they let Xia Mu walk all over them. I really don't know what they're doing! They deserve to be punished by Eldest Young Master!*

He looked into the house.

The door was already closed tightly at this point, and nobody could see anything.

However, Eldest Young Master has already come back. Isn't it very simple to just teach one Xia Mu a lesson?

...

Inside the room, Jiang Yucheng stared at Xia Mu with a deadly gaze, and his voice was as cold as ice. "You look pretty relaxed, en? What do you take this place as? Your house?!"

Xia Mu lowered his head, and his shoulders drooped, looking very cowardly. Hearing this question, he immediately shook his head. *No, this place is too disgusting. I don't want to treat it as my home.*

"Then, how dare you behave like this?!" Jiang Yucheng raised his hand and was about to hit him. However, he stopped when he saw the metal half-mask on Xia Mu's face. *Now isn't the time to get angry. The more important thing is to solve the problem!*

Jiang Yucheng took a deep breath in, suppressed his anger, and squinted his eyes dangerously. "I'll pursue this later. You haven't answered whatever I asked you earlier. Speak! What exactly is going on?!"

His final tone and voice were like thunder that struck the floor, and they were filled with oppression.

Xia Mu's body shuddered as if he was shocked by the sound. Then, he started gesturing.

Jiang Yucheng then recalled that the other didn't know how to talk. He walked to the table and threw a stack of papers, a brush, and an inkstone toward Xia Mu in one swoop.

That inkstone even smashed against Xia Mu's shoulders.

His body trembled slightly.

“Write!” boomed Jiang Yucheng angrily.

Xia Mu hesitated for a moment before slowly squatting down and picking up the things that spilled all over the floor.

Not sure if he was frightened silly or if he was originally like this, his actions were very slow and stiff, which looked very infuriating.

Just as Jiang Yucheng was frustrated to the extreme, he finally couldn't take it lying down and pulled Xia Mu up by his collar. “What exactly—”

Whoosh!

Before he could even touch Xia Mu, he felt a cold wind coming toward him! Jiang Yucheng knew that something was amiss and immediately retreated.

But Xia Mu—who was originally squatting on the floor—rapidly stood up at lightning speed and caused all the things in his arms to fly up.

The papers flew everywhere and instantly blocked Jiang Yucheng's vision. At the same time, Xia Mu also pounced toward Jiang Yucheng.

Jiang Yucheng's chin was harshly knocked against, and his teeth crashed against each other. This caused him to bite his tongue directly until it bled.

Excruciating pain attacked him as a bloody scent filled his mouth. However, Jiang Yucheng couldn't care about this as his hand went straight for Xia Mu.

This Xia Mu indeed has a problem!

Unexpectedly, Xia Mu was very agile even though he didn't have a high cultivation level. With a tilt of his body, he avoided Jiang Yucheng's attack.

At the same time, Xia Mu stuck his hand out and directly thrust that brush into Jiang Yucheng's stomach.

That brush seemed to encompass all the strength in the world as it pierced straight in.

Jiang Yucheng's face turned white, and it became contorted because of the pain and anger. "You're tired of living!"

He clutched onto Xia Mu tightly, gathered his force in his palms, and harshly slammed toward Xia Mu.

Xia Mu suddenly lowered his body, grabbed his opponent's elbow, and harshly twisted it.

Jiang Yucheng felt the pain and instinctively let go.

Xia Mu took the chance to escape.

Snap!

The main door slammed open. “Eldest Young Master, what’s going on?”

Poof!

Xia Mu directly broke the window and jumped out. Then, that slim figure instantly disappeared before the crowd.

Jiang Yucheng clenched his teeth and pulled the brush out, causing his blood and skin to fly everywhere.

His legs shook, and he almost fell down.

If it were on usual days, this wouldn’t count for much to him. But during this period of time, his body had just been severely injured, and it was a crucial period. Not to mention that the place where Xia Mu pierced into was very accurate, but it almost hurt him until he fainted.

Sun Qi and the rest who had barged in were all stunned. *W-what’s going on? Xia Mu hurt Eldest Young Master and escaped?*

“Quick, chase after him!” boomed Jiang Yucheng angrily.

Chapter 663: Are You so Anxious?

Sun Qi looked at Jiang Yucheng, who had patches of bloodstains on his body. “But Eldest Young Master, you—”

“Go quickly!” Jiang Yucheng’s lungs were about to explode!

Sun Qi’s heart skipped a beat, and he immediately replied, “Yes!”

He said to the two guards behind him, “Immediately go and chase Xia Mu! You—immediately lock up the entire Jiang Residence! Don’t let anyone in!”

The two guards hurriedly acknowledged his orders and left respectively.

Sun Qi also jumped out of the window and looked in the direction that Xia Mu left. At the same time, he took out a bamboo cylinder from his arms and harshly pulled it.

Snap!

Fireworks exploded in the sky.

This was something that would only be used in times of emergency. Sun Qi usually accompanied Jiang Yucheng and had never used it before. He didn’t expect to use it at the Jiang Residence today.

Very quickly, the Jiang Residence’s guards rushed over from all directions, and more than a hundred people gathered together in no time. Also, all of them were very strong!

Sun Qi rapidly said, "Just now, someone sneaked an attack on Eldest Young Master and has now escaped outside. Everyone, follow me and look for him!"

Everyone was shocked. *Someone actually dared to sneak an attack on Eldest Young Master in the Jiang Residence? How daring must this person be? Does that person not want to live?*

"That person is slim and is wearing grayish-black clothes. He has a metal half-mask on his face, and his looks were burned by fire. Anyone who finds him must immediately capture him back!"

"Yes!" Under Sun Qi's leadership, the crowd followed out in unison.

On this end, the crowd in Wutong Garden had their faces overwhelmed with shock. *How stupid must Xia Mu be to go against Eldest Young Master?*

"Impossible... that's impossible..." Qi Dahe was also stunned. *With Xia Mu's guts and abilities, it's impossible for him to do such a thing!*

At this point, the departing guards had already brought a team of people to lock up the entire Wutong Garden.

Everyone couldn't leave at will.

An elder hurriedly rushed over.

Upon seeing him, all the guards made way instinctively. “Elder Feng!”

This was a heavenly doctor that specifically served the residence, and he was also Eldest Young Master’s confidant—Feng Shanyuan.

Feng Shanyuan swiftly entered the house and saw the pale and enraged Jiang Yucheng with one glance.

His expression changed slightly, and he rapidly went forward. “Eldest Young Master! What’s the matter?”

Jiang Yucheng moved his hands away, and Feng Shanyuan saw that a small bloody hole had appeared in his stomach and that there was a bloodstained brush beside Jiang Yucheng’s feet.

This should be what that person caused just now. Feng Shanyuan was stunned. He hurriedly picked up a pill and gave it to Jiang Yucheng while handling the latter’s wound at the same time.

“Eldest Young Master, your body has just recovered. I’m afraid you need to rest for quite some time again like this... How can that person be so accurate with his attack? It actually hit right at this spot... If he used a bit more force, he might’ve even hurt your dantian...”

There was no need to mention how ugly Jiang Yucheng’s face was. The other party was much weaker than him, yet his sneak attack succeeded.

On the one hand, he wasn’t on-guard at all back then. On the other hand, that person was really quick!

Feng Shanyuan rapidly treated the other's wound. Then, Jiang Yucheng stepped out and wanted to chase that person.

"Eldest Young Master, it's not convenient for you to move now! You should rest properly! Sun Qi and the rest will help you to find him back!" Feng Shanyuan kindly advised. "Your body is extremely weak now, and it can't handle any troubles. If not..."

Jiang Yucheng's eyes seemed to be burning intensely with fire. "I know my own body well! I must capture that Xia Mu back today!"

Today's wound is an utter humiliation to me! He stepped forward and turned back to say to the guard outside, "Bring that Qi Dahe down! Guard him properly!"

"Yes!"

That Qi Dahe seems to be on good terms with Xia Mu. Who knows if this has got to do with the former?

Qi Dahe couldn't defend himself at all as he was quickly silenced and brought down.

Jiang Yucheng took a deep breath in.

The medicinal effects had now kicked in, and the pain had lessened. After treatment, his wound didn't bleed anymore.

He walked outside without hesitation. *I must chop that Xia Mu up into pieces!*

“Eldest Young Master—” Feng Shanyuan wanted to advise him again.

A scorching burn suddenly came from his wound—which made Jiang Yucheng’s vision turn black—and he almost couldn’t stand still.

He immediately halted in his tracks, clenched his teeth, and looked down at his stomach.

That burning feeling quickly subsided as if it had never appeared.

“Eldest Young Master, what’s wrong?” Feng Shanyuan saw that there was something wrong and immediately asked.

Jiang Yucheng waited for a moment and realized that the feeling didn’t appear again, and he felt slightly more appeased. *It should be the medicinal effects...*

“Nothing,” said Jiang Yucheng swiftly as he rushed out without any care.

Even though Feng Shanyuan was worried in his heart, he also knew that Jiang Yucheng wouldn’t change his mind on things that he had set his heart on.

Now that he's been injured by a random nobody, he must need to crush someone's bones to relieve the anger in his heart. Watching Jiang Yucheng's departing back view, Feng Shanyuan furrowed his brows. Eldest Young Master's body... can't handle any more stress...

...

On the other end, Sun Qi quickly brought people and found that guard who was sent to chase after Xia Mu earlier on.

"Where's Xia Mu?" Sun Qi surveyed the surroundings but didn't see anyone, so he hurriedly asked.

That guard trembled as he muttered, "I-I lost... him..."

"You lost him?!" Sun Qi couldn't contain himself and gave a tight slap.

Smack!

"You can't even do such a small matter right! What's the point of having you?! You even dare to lose that person! Are you tired of living?!"

The guard hurriedly admitted his mistakes, but he was also very helpless in his heart. "O-Officer Sun... that Xia Mu is very agile... I only saw him jump over that wall before he completely disappeared..."

Sun Qi followed the direction he was pointing in and knew that Xia Mu had already escaped from the Jiang Residence.

The Wutong Garden was very near the back gate, and very few people were guarding it. Hence, it wasn't impossible for him to escape rapidly.

"Disperse quickly! The roads are covered in snow now. I don't believe that he won't leave behind a single trace!"

"Yes!"

...

On the other end, Xia Mu had swiftly escaped from the Jiang Residence and walked along a small path.

Now that the city was covered in snow, his clothes were too eye-catching.

Based on his speed and hiding skills, he could hide for a while without any issues. However, the people from the Jiang Residence definitely wouldn't take this lying down. Hence, he had to think of a complete plan...

At this point, a horse carriage suddenly sounded from behind.

Xia Mu was dazed as he turned around. *Why would there be a horse carriage at this time, and nobody is looking after it.*

Xiu xiu!

Sounds of things piercing through the air could be heard—countless figures were rapidly nearing this area.

“He mustn’t have gone far! Immediately lock this entire place and search carefully! Even if you dig up the ground, you must find that person!”

“Yes!”

It’s Jiang Yucheng! He actually chased me until here? Hearing the other’s approaching voice, Xia Mu was determined and jumped toward the horse carriage.

But the moment he reached the front of it, the curtain was suddenly pulled open from the inside as an arm stuck out and rapidly pulled Xia Mu in.

Dong!

Xia Mu fell into a warm and wide embrace.

Xia Mu instinctively jumped up and locked the person’s wrist against the wall, holding him down tightly. “How dare...”

Before he could finish his sentence, his nose suddenly smelled a familiar, cold fragrance.

The man that was being tightly pressed laughed deeply. "Yue'er, are you this anxious?"

Chapter 664: Meet

Xia Mu looked up and saw a familiar face.

That demonically handsome and elegant face with a hint of smiling intent in his eyes made the man look like the peach flowers that bloomed in spring. It was the most mesmerizing shade of spring in the world.

Rong Xiu!

He was wearing a white robe with a black cloak, and the superior black fox fur fitted nicely with his jade-like appearance like the bright moon in the darkness of the night.

At this point, he was sitting at the side and was tightly pressed down by the person in his arms. One of his hands was on Xia Mu's waist, and the other was forcefully pressed against the wall of the horse carriage.

It seemed like he was the one being bullied.

The duo's bodies were stuck closely together. They were so close that they took in each other's breathing.

A small incense pot burned quietly in the horse carriage, causing the entire horse carriage's atmosphere to become warm and romantic.

Invisibly, it made this rather spacious horse carriage much narrower.

Xia Mu paused in his actions, and his black gem-like eyes looked dazed for a while.

Rong Xiu raised his hand and removed the metal half-mask. When he saw the ugly and contorted scar, not only was he not upset, but his lips even curved up.

"It's not very well done. If one takes a closer look, they will definitely see through it. It's no wonder you're so anxious." As he spoke, his long fingers gently touched Xia Mu's chin as he easily removed the disguise.

A beautiful face appeared in front of him. If it isn't Chu Liuyue, who else could it be?

Rong Xiu's gaze carefully swept past her face. He hadn't seen her in a few days, but he had already gone crazy from missing her.

He held her face up, and his fingers gently caressed her soft lips, his eyes looking deep. Then, he looked up slightly and leaned against the wall.

His jawline was perfectly smooth, and going lower was his Adam's apple that jutted out and his tightly buttoned jade clasp, which shone under the bright light.

He looked at the girl in front of him—who hadn't recovered her senses yet—in a seemingly smiling manner. "Do you want to continue?"

His voice was low and lazy, and his ending tone went up slightly. It was as if there was a hook that easily charmed one's heart.

When he spoke, his Adam's apple vibrated with a lethal attraction.

Chu Liuyue stared at the jade button on his collar and felt that it was an eyesore. *Would it be too tight for him to dress like this?*

"Hm?"

Chu Liuyue's heart was suddenly caressed by something in a neither light nor strong manner, and it felt itchy.

Demon! She cursed silently in her heart.

"Hmph." Chu Liuyue grunted from her nose and pretended not to understand what Rong Xiu was saying. "Put me down!"

Continue what? How can he have the mood to joke at a time like this!

However, Rong Xiu didn't release his hand on her waist. His fingers moved slightly, silently removing Chu Liuyue's belt, which then dropped down.

"Rong Xiu?" Chu Liuyue softly whispered and looked at him in shock.

But the other moved even faster as he hugged her waist with one hand and quickly removed her outer clothes with the other.

Sila!

When the clothes dropped down, they were even ripped.

Chu Liuyue was even more confused. *What is Rong Xiu doing?*

She watched as Rong Xiu quickly put away that layer of grayish-black clothes and quickly undid the red clothes that she had originally been wearing.

Chu Liuyue grabbed his wrist.

Just as she was about to say something, she suddenly heard a harsh, cold voice from outside. "Stop right there!"

The horse detected danger as it answered and stopped. It uneasily scratched its hooves against the ground and caused snow to fly everywhere.

A few auras rapidly approached.

Chu Liuyue was slightly shocked. *It's Jiang Yucheng and his men!*

“Who is inside the horse carriage?” Jiang Yucheng’s cold and harsh voice sounded from outside.

Rong Xiu seemed to have completely ignored it as he carried Chu Liuyue up, looked down, and gave her a deep kiss. He then held her thin waist with one hand while his other hand silently undid her tied-up hair.

Her hair dropped down.

...

Hearing that the horse carriage didn’t make any noise, Jiang Yucheng was even more frustrated. *In this snowy and icy place, the entire road is filled with snow. Most people would’ve long headed home, and they wouldn’t be outside loitering. Why would someone be traveling on a horse carriage? Also, nobody is driving this horse carriage. It’s just letting two horses pull it on. There’s clearly a problem!*

“The Jiang Residence is currently chasing after an assassin! Everyone who passes by this area must be checked. People in the carriage, you’d better cooperate. If not, don’t blame me for being rude!”

The Jiang Residence guards that had followed him over had already completely surrounded the horse carriage.

The cold winds howled, and the tremendous suppression spread. The air seemed to be frozen.

The people in the horse carriage didn't react at all.

Jiang Yucheng's eyes squinted dangerously. *This horse carriage looks very spacious and elegant, but there is no indication of which aristocratic family the carriage belongs to. Thus, it must not belong to someone of power. If this is so, there is nothing to care about. Besides, I—Jiang Yucheng—wouldn't be afraid even if it's someone of authority. If I want to check someone, who in Xi Ling City can stop me?*

Thinking of this, his face turned cold, and he walked forward.

The sword tip moved up and suddenly lifted up the curtain.

Black flashed across his eyes as if a gigantic black feather flew across.

Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows and looked within the horse carriage. Once he saw it, he was suddenly shocked.

There were two people in the horse carriage.

A man in white was sitting within, and he was tightly hugging a girl in his arms. That girl was wrapped in a black cloak from head to toe, and he could only see a small head leaning against the man's arms.

From Jiang Yucheng's perspective, he could only see that girl's messy, soft, and shimmering hair.

Jiang Yucheng glanced at that man and knew exactly what was going on. *Thinking of the flash of black earlier, it should be the man pulling the large cloak to wrap that woman up in a hurry.*

Jiang Yucheng didn't expect to meet with such a scene, and his expression turned dark.

On the other hand, after displeasure from being interrupted flashed across the man in white's face, his gaze looked much clearer. Even though he had a tinge of charm in his eyes like the colors of spring, it was clear what exactly happened.

He buttoned his opened collar without a hurry and lowered his head to gently say something to the girl in his arms before looking up at Jiang Yucheng. "Jiang Residence? I believe you must be Eldest Young Master Jiang?"

Jiang Yucheng suspiciously sized this man up.

Even though he was a man, he couldn't help but admit that the man in white in front of him had exquisite looks and that his aura was cold and elegant as if he were a fairy.

He himself was also one of the top few young masters in Xi Ling City, and he had always been called as the top beau in Xi Ling City all these years. However, he paled in comparison to this man in white in front of him.

If I had seen this type of person before, I definitely would have an impression of him. This also means that this man in white is very possibly not someone from Xi Ling. Thinking of this, he immediately became alert and coldly asked, "Who are you?!"

Chapter 665: Duration

The man in white smiled slightly. "I'm Rong Xiu."

Jiang Yucheng rapidly scanned his mind, but he realized that he didn't recognize and had never heard of this name before.

"Logically speaking, I should get down the carriage and greet you, Eldest Young Master Jiang. But... With the current situation, I'm afraid I can't do that. I hope you'll understand, Eldest Young Master Jiang." Rong Xiu's voice was low and sounded a little lazy.

It was originally words of apology, but from his mind, they had an extra tinge of leisure to them. It was as if... he had disregarded Jiang Yucheng.

Jiang Yucheng's blood boiled. "You know me, but I have never seen you before."

Rong Xiu's thin lips curled up into a smile. "I'm just a commoner, so it's normal if you haven't seen me before."

Jiang Yucheng looked at the woman in his arms. "Whose the one in your arms? Lift her head up."

Rong Xiu's brows rose slightly, and he hugged the girl even more tightly and said in a seemingly smiling manner, "I heard that you are chasing after an assassin, and I can understand your need to look for him. But... The two of us have always been in the horse carriage, and we have nothing to do with the assassin—"

“I need to check to know if you have anything to do with him.” Jiang Yucheng violently interrupted Rong Xiu as his eyes were glued to that woman. “Look up!”

Why would these two people not stay at home properly on such a snowy day and must travel by horse carriage outside? He felt even more suspicious in his heart, and he looked at the woman harshly.

Rong Xiu’s smile faded slightly.

He was about to speak, but the woman in his arms suddenly grabbed the clothes in front of his chest, tilted her head, and spoke. “Rong Xiu, since Eldest Young Master Jiang wants to find the assassin, he naturally can’t miss out on anyone. It’s okay if he takes one glance.”

Hearing this rather familiar voice, Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows. *This seems like...*

A thought just popped up in his mind when he saw the woman in Rong Xiu’s arms look over.

A beautiful face appeared in front of him—it was Chu Liuyue.

At this point, her entire person was wrapped tightly in that black cloak. Only the revealed snow-white face had two specks of blush. Her eyes were sparkling brightly with water as if they could suck someone’s soul in at any time.

Her cherry lips were red, supple, and thick like a rose that was about to bloom. Her eyes seemed to have a vague line, and it looked exceedingly sentimental.

When the colors of the icy and cold snow faded away, it was only left with this tinge of extreme beauty on earth.

Jiang Yucheng looked at the girl in front of him dazedly. He naturally recognized this face, but... She looked very unfamiliar.

In his impression, Chu Liuyue was a natural beauty, but there was always a distant and cold feeling to her that made one unable to approach her. But at this moment, she was obediently lying in a man's embrace, and her entire person was like a soft cat, which made one's heart become soft like goo.

She was genuinely a living charm.

Chu Liuyue looked at him. "I didn't show myself earlier because I didn't want to meet you in such a manner. But since you're chasing after the assassin, I can't do this. I hope you won't mind it."

She then smiled slightly as if she was a little shy and was filled with sweetness.

Jiang Yucheng didn't know what he felt, but his mind was blank as he almost instinctively asked, "Who is he to you?"

Rong Xiu wrapped the cloak even more tightly, and the smooth fur covered half of Chu Liuyue's face. He smiled and said, "I'm Yue'er's fiancé."

Jiang Yucheng was dazed.

The main objective for Mu Qinghe going to Country Yao Chen back then wasn't to find cultivators with a Dijing Yuan meridian. The more important reason for bringing Chu Liuyue back was to deal with the Wan Zheng Competition. Hence, he didn't say too much about Chu Liuyue in front of Jiang Yucheng.

Due to this, he didn't even mention that she had a fiancé.

Jiang Yucheng naturally didn't know about this. But at that moment, Chu Liuyue's smile had overlapped with a certain scene in his memory.

That person had once revealed such a smile. With a touch of shyness and more of elation, it was as if all the light in the world was gathered in her eyes as they dazzled and sparkled.

Jiang Yucheng's heart seemed to be clutched by something tightly. When the two scenes kept intersecting, it made his entire person confused.

For some reason, his hand holding the knife trembled slightly.

Rong Xiu watched the scene coldly and chuckled in his heart, but his appearance was calm. "Eldest Young Master Jiang, we can leave since you've confirmed that there's no problem, right?"

Jiang Yucheng suddenly recovered his senses. He looked at Rong Xiu, and his gaze gradually turned cold.

He was also a man, and he could naturally tell what Rong Xiu was thinking.

That completely possessive attitude really made one... disgusted!

Seeing the earlier scene of the duo in the horse carriage, an unknown fire seemed to burn in his heart. Even he himself didn't know where the anger came from, but it was about to burn his organs completely.

"It's snowing hard. What are the two of you doing here?" asked Jiang Yucheng coldly as he suppressed his feelings.

Rong Xiu's lips curved up into a doting smile as he slowly explained, "Yue'er was summoned into the palace by the Third Princess. Later on, I employed a horse carriage and went to fetch her when I saw that it was snowing. Speaking of this horse carriage, I must thank Lieutenant Mu. Without him, it's really not easy to find such a good horse carriage quickly."

These two short sentences contained too much information!

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes slightly and glanced at him. *Rong Xiu actually asked Mu Qinghe for help regarding this horse carriage? When did the two of them meet? Why would Mu Qinghe agree to help with such a thing?*

Jiang Yucheng was also shocked as he looked at Chu Liuyue. "Third Princess summoned you to the palace? Why did she look for you?"

Chu Liuyue nodded. "We just casually talked. Later on, Third Princess was busy looking after His Majesty, so I came back."

Seeing Chu Liuyue's expression, it was as if nothing had happened.

But Jiang Yucheng was still scared. *This Shangguan Wan is too sudden! We talked so much today, but she didn't even mention this at all! And Mu Qinghe—I told him to investigate the mansion at Six Clouds Street, but why did he suddenly become related to Rong Xiu? He even helped him? No matter what, Rong Xiu's words make logical sense. Besides, no matter if it were Chu Liuyue entering the palace or Mu Qinghe giving help, they are undeniable issues. These two explanations have nothing strange or wrong about them.*

Jiang Yucheng's doubts were gradually dispelled, and he finally moved a step back. "Okay, it's all a misunderstanding. Since we've cleared it up, you can leave!"

He then waved his hands, and the guards behind him immediately made way.

The horses seemed to be spiritual as they moved their hooves and walked forward.

But the moment it moved, Jiang Yucheng suddenly recalled something and stopped the horse carriage again.

He stared at the duo closely, and his gaze was filled with supervising oppression as he asked, "No, Third Princess had gone to the Jiang Residence earlier on, and Chu Liuyue should've left the palace much earlier. Why did you two spend such a long time on the road?"

Chu Liuyue clenched her fists tightly.

Then, she heard the man beside chuckle lowly and said in a seemingly smiling manner, “This... isn’t considered long, right? Perhaps it’s too long for you, Eldest Young Master Jiang?”

Chapter 666: Within Touchable Distance

Chu Liuyue could guarantee with her life that Jiang Yucheng’s face flashed black. She silently glanced at Rong Xiu. *What harsh words—what a toxic man. I love it!*

Not waiting for Jiang Yucheng to be enraged, Rong Xiu continued, “Even if you’re talking about the most boring things in the world with the person you love, they’re also the most interesting things. Due to this, you’ll naturally forget about the time.”

He stretched out his hand and slowly brushed Chu Liuyue’s hair. “I haven’t seen Yue’er in a long time, and I miss her very much. I don’t even have enough time to look at her, let alone have the mood to look at the time.”

His voice was very low and gentle as his eyes stared at Chu Liuyue deeply. It was as though he was looking at the most precious treasure in the world.

Chu Liuyue’s heart seemed to be hit by something soft as sourish sweetness overwhelmed her heart. She leaned against Rong Xiu’s arms and obediently stuck her face to his chest as she felt very carefree and relaxed. *With this man around, he will naturally solve all my problems for me. I don’t need to worry about anything. I just need to watch and listen to him properly.*

Jiang Yucheng clenched his fists tightly, but as he used too much force, his knuckles turned white, and his veins were popping on his forehead. *Rong Xiu’s words... Nobody can even refute him at all. The scene of the two people depending on each other is also very irritating for some reason.*

“Let’s go!” He took a deep breath in and quickly turned around to leave.

The crowd of guards immediately chased after him.

Very quickly, the whole row of people's figures disappeared from the streets.

The surroundings finally quietened down, and the suppressive aura had also completely disappeared.

The curtain was let down, and it hid everything outside.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes and slowly breathed out. *Almost... If Rong Xiu didn't show up on time, it would be very difficult for me to back out completely. Jiang Yucheng is a vengeful person. Since I hurt him, he will definitely try to get to the bottom of this. For the next period of time, Xi Ling will definitely be lively.*

"Now you know how to be afraid?" Rong Xiu raised his brows. "When you did it, you really had a lot of guts."

Chu Liuyue was teased by him but didn't feel anything about it. On the other hand, she asked with much interest, "Did you really come out today to pick me up? Also... Did you purposely wait here for me?"

Rong Xiu laughed without denying it.

Actually, strictly speaking, both were true.

At first, he received the news of Shangguan Wan summoning Chu Liuyue to the palace, and he was quite worried.

Coincidentally, Mu Qinghe came to the mansion, so he took the chance to ask him for help.

Of course, it wasn't that he couldn't find a good horse carriage, but that... he couldn't stand Mu Qinghe.

Afterward, he couldn't fetch Chu Liuyue. In the end, he checked and found out that she was in the Jiang Residence. Thus, he brought the carriage over.

Due to this, he did have both witnesses and evidence to completely prove Chu Liuyue's innocence.

Even if Jiang Yucheng was suspicious, he couldn't find any loopholes.

Chu Liuyue glanced at his expression and could roughly guess what happened. She couldn't help but sigh. "Rong Xiu, why are you always around whenever I need you?"

Not once, not twice, but every time. Every time I think that I'm in a perilous situation and have nowhere to escape, he will always appear and pull me back into his arms from the edge of danger. In this world, why would there be such a person who knows what I know, likes what I like, and hates whatever I hate? He always gives me the best. Is it true that the gods in this world took pity on me?

Rong Xiu gently kissed her forehead. "I'll naturally fulfill whatever I promised you."

Chu Liuyue played with the jade button on his collar with one hand as she muttered dazedly, "I don't remember you saying this..."

This jade button is done so tightly, but Rong Xiu could undo it in one go just now...

Rong Xiu looked at her deeply, and there seemed to be countless ripples in his eyes that were eventually appeased. He hid the expression in his eyes as he leaned close to her ear and softly whispered, "Actually, this thing requires a technique. Do you want me to teach you?"

Chu Liuyue looked up and glared at him with her bright, watery eyes. "I'll know without you teaching me!"

Who is he looking down on?

Seeing her hair down and how she was wrapped in the black coat like a sponge baby while she pouted with anger at the same time with her face blushing red, she looked extremely adorable.

Rong Xiu laughed out loud. "Okay! I'll let you practice on me for free then. What do you think?"

The horse carriage went off again.

The carriage moved, and with a slight move of Chu Liuyue's hand, the half that she undid with much difficulty was back again.

Chu Liuyue wriggled her nose and indignantly used her strength.

Sila!

Chu Liuyue dazedly stared at the jade button in her hands and the opening that was ripped apart on the collar. She was speechless. *I-I don't think this is very good...*

Rong Xiu leaned against the wall of the carriage and laughed lazily. "Yue'er, it seems like you're very urgent..."

Chu Liuyue lifted that jade button innocently and smiled. "That... Uh, you've misunderstood. Actually, I feel that the quality of your clothes isn't good..."

Rong Xiu seemed to have seen through everything as he went up to her.

The two of them stared at each other, and they could take in each other's breaths.

"It's snowing very heavily today, and I'm afraid you can't go back to Chong Xu Cabinet. There's still half a day and an entire night left. You can undo it however you like."

Chu Liuyue: "..."

It's really a misunderstanding!

...

In the heavy snow, the horse carriage slowly moved.

The streets were peaceful again. Other than the two streaks of horse tracks on the snow, it was as if nothing had happened.

But on the other end, Jiang Yucheng's blood was boiling.

The previous scene kept replaying in his mind—that girl's shy and docile manner was the behavior that one would only have when they met someone they loved.

Jiang Yucheng long knew that she was originally born a natural beauty. He also knew that she was also quite similar to that person.

Other than the first time he met her and saw that bright smile that shocked him for a long time, he was actually used to that face already.

The two people were worlds apart, and there was no point in comparing, especially because of the look that he saw outside Thousand View Garden. Due to it, he had already separated the duo completely.

He thought that the tinge of reminiscence in his heart had completely disappeared, but he realized that it wasn't so when he saw her again today.

Chu Liuyue had a strange and magical aura around her, which always made him want to take another look at her instinctively. She was similar to that person, and they were also different.

Comparing the two of them... Even though Chu Liuyue wasn't of prestigious birth, and her demeanor and elegance couldn't be compared to that person's, she also had more vitality.

It was the stubbornness and persistence in her bones. Those who didn't undergo hardships wouldn't have this feeling.

In other words, that person back then was like the sun high in the sky, and he could only look up to her. Even if he once had a marriage agreement with her, he always felt that there was something between them. Sometimes, he even felt that he wasn't even enough to be the corner of her clothes.

However, Chu Liuyue was different. She was energetic and bright, but she was also within a reachable distance.

What made Jiang Yucheng dazed and vaguely anxious was that... He didn't seem to be able to resist Chu Liuyue...

"Eldest Young Master!"

Chapter 667: Interrogation Again

Jiang Yucheng recovered his senses.

"Eldest Young Master, are you okay?" The guard at the side looked at him worriedly. After letting that horse carriage go and leaving, Eldest Young Master has been distracted the entire way and didn't talk much. He really looks quite strange. Is Eldest Young Master's injury too serious?

A layer of ice covered Jiang Yucheng's face. "Why would I not be okay? Continue looking!"

“Yes!”

Jiang Yucheng looked up.

The skies kept snowing, and the entire Xi Ling City was covered in a thick layer of snow.

The heavier the snow, the more inconvenient it is for Xia Mu to escape. He rapidly went forward.

...

Jiang Yucheng wasted a large amount of manpower and had almost flipped the entire Xi Ling City upside down, but he still couldn't find Xia Mu. He couldn't even find a single trace of the latter.

This person seemed to have vanished.

Jiang Yucheng only returned to the mansion when the night sky arrived. However, he sent another group of people to search outside.

Inside the study, Feng Shanyuan treated Jiang Yucheng's wound again and took his pulse, his expression solemn. “Eldest Young Master, you were severely injured previously and used a special method to hide your aura, which caused too much damage to your body. With today's injury... If you don't rest properly, I'm afraid you won't get well!”

Jiang Yucheng closed his eyes.

He was injured and had tired himself out the entire day, which made him look quite pale. Besides, that depressed and frustrated feeling kept tumbling in his heart. It just wouldn't go away, causing him to knit his brows.

Seeing him in such a state, Feng Shanyuan couldn't help but sigh. "I'm not trying to be an alarmist, Eldest Young Master, but I know your body the best. You really can't afford to be injured again. If it affects your future cultivation... You can never make up for it!"

This sentence finally made Jiang Yucheng widen his eyes. "Is it that serious?"

Feng Shanyuan nodded solemnly. "So during this period, worry less and instruct your subordinates to do anything. You must rest properly..."

"That's easier said than done." Jiang Yucheng waved his hands in frustration. *Shangguan Wan is about to arrange that soon, and the later wedding will also be advanced urgently. Where do I have the time to rest?*

Feng Shanyuan wanted to advise him again when he heard Jiang Yucheng say, "Go back and rest first. I want to be alone."

Feng Shanyuan sighed in his heart and could only turn around to leave. Reaching the door, he coincidentally met Sun Qi—who had hurriedly come back.

Sun Qi bowed toward Feng Shanyuan and quickly stepped in.

Feng Shanyuan turned back and took a glance before walking away while shaking his head.

Inside the room, Sun Qi walked to Jiang Yucheng. His body and hair still had snow. “Eldest Young Master, I have already gone to Xia Mu’s residence, but I can’t find him. Also... From the accounts of the other people around, he didn’t even go back.”

Jiang Yucheng had expected this answer. *Xia Mu did such a thing, so why wouldn’t he know that he would definitely die when he returns?*

“But did you ask if there’s anything wrong with him recently?”

“No. Xia Mu has no parents and was disfigured and became a mute, so he had been living alone the entire time. Qi Dahe lives quite close to him, and the two of them have a good relationship. Other than this, the two of them don’t really interact with the rest. Within the past year or so, they lived like other people and didn’t do anything out of the norm.”

Jiang Yucheng thought for a moment and asked, “What about the remaining half today?”

“They have all been locked in Wutong Garden, and someone is looking after them. Big Brother Qi is locked up alone,” said Sun Qi. He then glanced at his master and tried to ask, “Eldest Young Master... How do you think we should deal with these people?”

“Just lock them up. Bring Qi Dahe over first—I’ll personally interrogate him.”

Sun Qi was a little worried. “But Eldest Young Master, you were injured today, and you even went out the entire day. Why don’t... we interrogate again tomorrow?”

Jiang Yucheng glanced at him coldly. "If you have time to nag, why don't you find Xia Mu?!"

Sun Qi didn't dare to say anything else as he agreed.

...

At the same time, Six Clouds Street, Chu Residence.

The ex-chauffeur, Yan Qing—who had long been chased home by his own master—looked at the snow in much boredom and sighed deeply. *Sigh... Master has become increasingly unpredictable now, and he even wants to move the horse carriage himself... I wonder if he fetched Ms. Liuyue...*

A figure silently dropped down from the side of the walls and quickly came over.

Yan Qing glanced at him and retracted his gaze.

However, Yu Mo was shocked when he saw him as he widened his eyes and asked, "Why are you here?"

He looked left and right. *Master doesn't seem to be around... Why is Yan Qing here alone?*

"Where's Master? You didn't follow him?"

Yan Qing glanced at him coldly. "Master has his own reasons for doing things. You don't have to care so much."

Yu Mo chuckled. "Am I not worried that you have nothing to do?!"

Yan Qing chuckled and said with contempt, "Do you have something to do?"

Yu Mo leaned over, lowered his voice, and said mysteriously and delightedly, "I beat that Fourth Missy Jiang up again!"

Yan Qing felt that it was a little strange. "Hasn't she been staying in the Jiang Residence recently? Did you go—"

"I didn't! She came out today, and I bumped into her! Don't you think it's such a coincidence? Since I've already met her, I naturally need to 'show off' a little!"

Jiang Yuzhi hadn't gone out during this period. After waiting for two days, Yu Mo felt that she became obedient and gave up.

He didn't expect that he would encounter an accidental surprise when he went out today.

"She was fated with such troubles. I don't have a choice either!" said Yu Mo as he loosened his joints. He then said with pity, "Pfft, it's a pity that she brought someone with her this time and that I didn't have my fill."

Yan Qing's lips twitched. "Do you really plan to beat her up every time you see her?"

"It's not like you didn't see what Master was like back then. This is already good for her!"

"...True."

"She did this to herself, and she deserves it. Isn't she so brazen just because she has a backing? She speaks as if our Ms. Liuyue doesn't have one! She was just using an egg against a stone! If I don't teach her a proper lesson, she will continue to do this in the future!"

Yan Qing completely agreed.

Suddenly, horse carriage noises could be heard from outside the yard.

Yan Qing hurriedly rushed over and quickly opened the door with Yu Mo following closely behind.

The horse carriage stopped outside the door.

A long hand moved the curtains.

Rong Xiu came down from the horse carriage.

“Master!” However, they saw Rong Xiu nod lightly and bring another person down the horse carriage.

“Greetings, Ms. Liuyue,” said the Yan Qing-Yu Mo duo in unison.

Chu Liuyue was quite surprised. “Yu Mo, you’re here too?”

Rong Xiu had been in Xi Ling for a while, and Yan Qing followed him usually. She hadn’t seen much of Yu Mo.

She even thought that he didn’t come.

Yu Mo awkwardly scratched his head. *I can’t say that I didn’t show myself because my face was swollen and that I was too embarrassed to see people, right...*

He coughed and changed the topic. “Master, Ms. Liuyue, it’s cold outside. Quickly, come in—”

...

Chapter 668: Real or Fake

Chu Liuyue had been busy the entire day, and now she could finally rest at her own home properly. However, it wasn’t so peaceful in the Jiang Residence.

...

After being locked up for a day, Qi Dahe was dragged to Jiang Yucheng's study at night.

The harsh winds blew mercilessly and froze his bones—even his heart was cold.

The door was closed from behind.

In front of him was the cold and stern Jiang Yucheng sitting behind the table. The dim yellow light shone on his face, and he looked very sinister.

A chill ran down Qi Dahe's spine. At that moment, his entire body was frozen, and he couldn't move.

Bang!

Sun Qi kicked his knees from behind. "Why aren't you kneeling when you see the Eldest Young Master?"

Qi Dahe felt the pain.

Putong!

He kneeled on the floor.

His kneecaps hurt greatly to the extent that his face flushed white. When he finally recovered his senses, he hurriedly kowtowed. “Eldest Young Master, spare me! Eldest Young Master, spare me!”

Jiang Yucheng looked at him expressionlessly. “Speak. What’s with Xia Mu?”

Qi Dahe paused in his actions and felt bitter in his heart. “...Eldest Young Master, I-I really don’t know... Xia Mu has always been introverted, and he isn’t very daring. He doesn’t even leave the house normally, so I don’t know why he would do this either!”

Even though he did bear a grudge against Jiang Yucheng in his heart, he would only privately grumble about him a few times. However, he wouldn’t really dare to do anything.

All of them knew very clearly what kind of person Jiang Yucheng was! It wasn’t like they had never witnessed his methods, so why would they dare to go against him?

But Xia Mu actually hurt Jiang Yucheng...

Even he was stunned for a long while when he heard it. Until now, he still didn’t understand why Xia Mu would do this.

“You are best friends with him. Don’t you know what he wants to do at all?”

Qi Dahe was on the brink of tears. “I-I really don’t know! Eldest Young Master, please check! It was still fine when I came with Xia Mu today!”

Jiang Yucheng thought for a moment. *Xia Mu must've suddenly decided to hurt me. If not, he definitely wouldn't just use a brush.*

But Xia Mu was extremely accurate when he took action, so Jiang Yucheng even suspected that the former had long hated him. This was why he would suddenly exert such great force.

“Did he ever tell you before that he hates me?”

Qi Dahe thought for a moment, and he was conflicted.

“Hm?” Jiang Yucheng raised his tone slightly with a hint of threat.

Qi Dahe hurriedly lowered his head, and his forehead touched the floor as he stammered, “N-no... Really, not at all...”

“He followed me to Nan Jiang, and his appearance was ruined. He even became mute, so does he really not hate me?” Jiang Yucheng didn't believe it.

He knew how these people saw him, but he didn't care. Anyway, they weren't capable of doing anything about it.

But now that Xia Mu had hurt him, he had to get to the bottom of it!

Qi Dahe could only say, “Um... He has always been loyal to you, Eldest Young Master. With this as a reason, he won’t...”

Jiang Yucheng glanced at Sun Qi.

Sun Qi immediately went forward and harshly slapped Qi Dahe.

Smack!

“Speak the truth! If you lie, I’ll cut off your tongue!”

Qi Dahe was slapped until two teeth dropped out and blood filled his mouth.

He opened his mouth, but there seemed to be something stuck in his throat. Due to this, he couldn’t say anything. *Xia Mu saved me before... I can’t...*

Jiang Yucheng squinted his eyes. *How can I not tell what Qi Dahe is thinking? He is clearly being this stubborn to protect Xia Mu.*

He suddenly said, “Since you refuse to admit it, I won’t pursue this first. Let me ask you. Xia Mu... How did his cultivation level suddenly return to peak stage-four?”

Qi Dahe was suddenly stunned as he looked at Jiang Yucheng dazedly. “Peak stage-four? Impossible—he’s still at the cultivation level from before. Even though he was severely injured and couldn’t improve no matter how much he cultivated after we came back, he definitely didn’t go back to being a peak stage-four warrior.”

A white light flashed across Jiang Yucheng's mind. He immediately stood up and stared at Qi Dahe closely. "Are you speaking the truth? Can you confirm that he's not a peak stage-four warrior?"

Qi Dahe didn't know why the other was behaving in such a manner and could only nod dazedly. "Yes... Eldest Young Master, is there something wrong?"

Jiang Yucheng's gaze quickly changed. *I see... I see! That Xia Mu... is clearly a fake!*

"During this period, did you discover anything amiss about Xia Mu?" asked Jiang Yucheng hurriedly.

Qi Dahe thought for a long time and shook his head hesitantly. "...No... He has always been like this..."

Jiang Yucheng suddenly thought of 'Xia Mu.'

He was skinny, had a face filled with scars, and was wearing a metal half-mask. The key point was that he was a mute.

It was extremely easy to disguise as such a person! Even if they silently changed a person, who could identify the change when he just stood there with his head lowered quietly?

Jiang Yucheng gradually clenched his fists. *I can now confirm that the Xia Mu who hurt me today isn't the real Xia Mu. The real Xia Mu should've long been dealt with. It's a pity that I can't confirm when the person changed. I also don't know how exactly that person disguised as Xia Mu and made it into the Jiang Residence! As long as that person removes their disguise and returns to their original appearance,*

who would know? Considering the current situation, it'll be as hard as going to the heavens in order to investigate this issue.

Jiang Yucheng frustratedly paced back and forth in the room. As he walked, he kept looking at the brush on the table. *Who has that strength and that movement technique...*

Suddenly, he stopped in his tracks. *Peak stage-four... Isn't that Chu Liuyue?!*

Chapter 669: Burn

A burning sensation suddenly came from his stomach.

Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows, and his face flashed white.

Sun Qi immediately went forward and nervously asked, "Eldest Young Master, what's the matter?"

Jiang Yucheng waved his hands. "It's fine—bring him down first."

"Yes!"

Qi Dahe was confused. *I've already said all that I have to. Why doesn't Eldest Young Master want to let me off? I really didn't do anything to betray the Eldest Young Master!*

Sun Qi walked to Qi Dahe and glanced at his master hesitantly. "Eldest Young Master, then..."

Jiang Yucheng glanced at him in much frustration. "Act according to the plan."

Sun Qi immediately agreed.

Qi Dahe instantly felt uneasy. *Plan... What plan? My instincts tell me that they're talking about me—*

Bang!

With a dagger, Sun Qi directly struck Qi Dahe until he fainted and his eyes flipped up. Then, he personally dragged the latter out.

The door closed, and the room was left with Jiang Yucheng alone.

He took a deep breath in and walked to the bed behind the screen. After taking off his clothes, he carefully examined the wound on his stomach. *The burning sensation only appeared for a moment earlier, and it immediately disappeared. Being directly pierced by a brush didn't cause much damage to me, and the wound is already healing because Feng Shanyuan has already treated it. However, that strange burning sensation makes me uneasy.*

He sat cross-legged, circulated his force, and checked his body's condition again. However, he didn't discover anything amiss.

After much thinking, he called for someone to invite Feng Shanyuan over again.

Hearing his description, Feng Shanyuan felt that it was strange. But after taking Jiang Yucheng's pulse repeatedly for the third time, he still didn't find anything wrong with the other.

"This... Other than the wounds on you, there doesn't seem to be another problem... The pain you mentioned earlier, what's with that?"

Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows tightly. "It's like there's a fire burning, but it immediately fades away afterward. I checked myself and didn't find anything wrong, but this pain is really weird..."

He was naturally a very suspicious person, let alone the fact that this implicated his own body. Thus, it was impossible that he wouldn't care about it.

Feng Shanyuan looked guilty. "It might be because I'm not skilled enough... Why don't you find someone else to check for you, Eldest Young Master?"

"No." Jiang Yucheng shook his head.

Feng Shanyuan felt that it was strange. "Why? Zuo Mingxi and the rest are still quite trustable. They shouldn't expose your body's condition."

These three heavenly doctors were Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng's confidants. If not, they wouldn't have been chosen to specifically take care of His Majesty.

Jiang Yucheng didn't say anything, but his cold and solemn expression caused a thought to surface in Feng Shanyuan's heart. *Could it be that... Eldest Young Master no longer trusts the few of them?*

“It’s a critical period now, and information regarding my body’s condition cannot be revealed at all. Hence, it’s better for even them not to know.”

The words that Shangguan Wan told him earlier indeed made him uneasy. *If someone really has already betrayed us... I must be more careful.*

Feng Shanyuan didn’t ask further. “Okay, I’ll go back and check the medical books and see if I can find any information.”

Jiang Yucheng then nodded.

After the heavenly doctor left, Jiang Yucheng stood up, walked to the table, and examined the brush carefully.

The bloodstains on it had already dried up. Apart from this, it looked normal.

Jiang Yucheng held the table with one hand and fell into deep thought. *Does Chu Liuyue have anything to do with this? In Xi Ling City, there are many peak stage-four warriors, but I can only think of a handful that have such guts and harsh, accurate movements. But Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu do have alibis... Besides, the people in the palace and Mu Qinghe would never lie. It seems like I can only slowly find a chance to test her...*

Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows and thought. *If it’s really Chu Liuyue, where did the hatred that caused her to take action come from?*

Knock knock...

Just as Jiang Yucheng was feeling very confused, he suddenly heard urgent knocks.

Jiang Yucheng's expression turned cold. *It's so late. Why would someone come?*

Without waiting for him to speak, a woman's cries could be heard from outside. "Big Brother! Big Brother, open the door!"

It was Jiang Yuzhi.

Jiang Yucheng suppressed his anger and walked over to open the door.

More than half of Jiang Yuzhi's face was covered in bandages.

"What are you doing?" asked Jiang Yucheng with knitted brows.

Tears welled up in Jiang Yuzhi's eyes, and Uncle Fu—who was behind her—immediately kneeled down. "Eldest Young Master, please forgive me! It's all my fault!"

Jiang Yucheng's heart sank, and he directly pulled his sister into the room. Then, he tore down the bandages on her face.

It was another swollen face.

Jiang Yuzhi cried, "Big Brother, I went out today and was beaten up by that person again!"

Jiang Yucheng's temples throbbed intensely. There were too many things to worry about, and he didn't know how to speak for a short time.

He took a deep breath in and suppressed his anger with much difficulty. Then, he looked at Uncle Fu. "What exactly happened?!"

It was a very cold day, but Uncle Fu's forehead was filled with beads of sweat as he nervously said, "Eldest Young Master, I accompanied Fourth Missy out today. During the period I was paying for the bill, Fourth Missy went missing. When I found her again... I saw... I saw that Fourth Missy had already become like this... It's my fault, Eldest Young Master. Please punish me!"

Actually, Uncle Fu was very wronged as well. He had been accompanying Jiang Yuzhi very carefully the entire day. Who would've known that the other party would take action during that short amount of time?

Jiang Yucheng had too many things to worry about during the day. He didn't expect that it wouldn't stop until late into the night.

His entire body's aura turned cold and sinister. "What's the use of punishing you? The key is to find that person! Did you see that person's appearance this time?"

Jiang Yuzhi cried and shook her head.

Uncle Fu said, "Eldest Young Master, since that person could silently take Fourth Missy away from my side, his abilities must be superior to mine."

Jiang Yucheng was slightly shocked. Even though Uncle Fu isn't considered a top warrior, he isn't weak. The other party sent a strong warrior of such standards, and it would be easy for them to just take Jiang Yuzhi's life. However, the other party didn't do so. They clearly want to torture Jiang Yuzhi.

Thinking of this, he took a glance. Expectedly, he saw Jiang Yuzhi's wronged expression and the deep horror in her eyes.

"B-Big Brother... I won't go out in the future... Can you quickly find that person?" Previously, Jiang Yuzhi was still arrogant to no end. But now that she had suffered, she immediately became obedient.

Jiang Yucheng's heart ached, and he was also frustrated. In the end, he could only say, "Go back and rest first. Don't go out during this period. As for this, I'll send someone to check on it."

Jiang Yuzhi didn't object to it and agreed miserably.

Jiang Yucheng did not sleep well the entire night and had continuous nightmares.

That faint scorching sensation kept causing him to think about that fire. And in his dreams this time, he became the person trapped in the fire.

Chapter 670: Guard

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

The next day, the news of someone sneaking into the Jiang Residence and attempting to assassinate Jiang Yucheng spread far and wide in Xi Ling City. Of course, the crowd didn't dare to discuss it openly, but they had started guessing wildly in private.

There were all kinds of guesses. Jiang Yucheng had offended too many people after all, and too many of them wanted his life.

It was a long story. At the start, he was just the ordinary Eldest Young Master of the Jiang family, and he held neither a major or minor position in the imperial court.

As his talent was outstanding and his family background was decent, he did have a bright future. But in Xi Ling City, there were quite a few young sons that were capable.

Jiang Yucheng wasn't the most elite one in every aspect. The reason why he could flourish in these few years and walk to his current position today was due to his marriage agreement with the Princess back then.

Probably because he was good-looking or his family background and talents were decent, the Princess chose him out of the crowd to be her fiancé.

After settling the marriage agreement, his status was immediately different.

Who didn't know that the Princess would definitely be the next empress? Besides, the Princess had been part of the Tianling Dynasty since birth, and she was the most distinguished person in the hearts of everyone.

In addition, the Princess had done a lot of real work in those few years. She appeased the rebels and deducted taxes, and her reputation could even win over the current emperor.

In the world's eyes, she was different. She was a high and mighty existence that they could only admire.

Since Jiang Yucheng became the Princess's fiancé, his reputation naturally increased as well.

Quite a few people secretly tried to pull him over and sucked up to him. This rapidly increased Jiang Yucheng's connections.

Then, as his marriage agreement with the Princess started progressing, he became closer to the Princess. Due to this, he learned quite a few things from her.

Afterward, the Princess would also instruct him to handle certain tasks.

Naturally, he became the person who understood the Princess's way of working and methods the best.

After the Princess passed away, the imperial court was in chaos. He swiftly collaborated with the Third Princess and used his lightning methods to suppress them, conveniently removing a portion of the people who were claimed to have betrayed the Princess.

In this way, with His Majesty being unconscious and the Princess's passing, the crowd had no leader. So after he and the Third Princess handled all of these matters, they righteously rose to the position.

Then, he set up a marriage agreement with the Third Princess.

When it came to these things, the crowd always partook in heated discussions. Some felt that he did this to appease the imperial court, and some felt that he did it to pursue power and authority.

And during this process, it was inevitable that he had offended quite a few people. Actually, it was also quite normal that he had met with an assassination today.

But on the same day, another important piece of news came out from the palace: In the imperial court, the Third Princess discussed with the officers and decided that her wedding with Jiang Yucheng would be set on the sixth of July.

Calculating the time, it was about three months later.

The crowd was as though struck by lightning. Everyone knew that their wedding day was also the day of the Third Princess—Shangguan Wan's ascension.

...

Chu Residence.

In the room, Chu Liuyue sat cross-legged and focused on herself. The surrounding Heaven and Earth Force kept flowing to her body and passed through her limbs and bones, eventually gathering in the water droplet within her dantian.

The four lines were especially clear on the water droplet's surface.

Chu Liuyue vaguely felt that she had touched an invisible barrier. She knew very clearly that this was the door to become a stage-five warrior.

After the clan competition at Square Gully, my physical strength increased by quite a bit. Thinking of this, it's also time to choose to break through... Chu Liuyue placed her hands on her knees and increased the speed at which the force flowed through her body.

An energy spiral rapidly appeared above her head, and waves of force rapidly entered.

Her surrounding aura and suppression started intensifying at an observable speed.

...

Outside, Rong Xiu passed through the corridor and arrived here. Before he could reach the end, he detected something and looked at the room.

A faint wave of aura came from within.

His gaze moved slightly as he stood rooted to the ground. He then waved his sleeves, and a silver barrier rapidly covered the entire room.

...

“Master—” When Yan Qing came over, he just called for his master when he saw the other standing in the corridor with his hands behind his back as if he were waiting for something.

He immediately kept quiet sensibly and looked at the room that Chu Liuyue was in.

When he saw that layer of silver barrier, he thought for a moment and understood. *Is Master guarding for Ms. Liuyue? Could Ms. Liuyue be breaking through again?*

Yan Qing felt emotional about this. *Ms. Liuyue’s breakthrough speed is a little too high. In less than a year’s time, she became the current peak stage-four warrior from a good-for-nothing. Now, she’s immediately about to break through and become a stage-five warrior.*

It’s also very hard for other cultivators with the same Dijing Yuan meridian to do this. Besides, she’s a cultivator in all three aspects. Other than cultivating as a warrior, her standards as a Xuan Master and a heavenly doctor have also kept increasing. Even if she was placed on our side... She won’t lose out to them...

Detecting Yan Qing’s arrival, Rong Xiu turned around and glanced over. “What’s the matter?”

Yan Qing went forward, bowed, and said, “Master, 36 Respected Elder Ming came back, and he’s waiting in the hall!”

Rong Xiu’s brows rose. *So fast?*

Back then, 36 Respected Elder Ming did come to Xi Ling with him. But after they arrived, he asked 36 Respected Elder Ming to help him check a matter.

At the start, 36 Respected Elder Ming was reluctant and wanted to leave after he saw Chu Liuyue. In the end, he was still convinced by Rong Xiu.

According to Rong Xiu's previous estimation, 36 Respected Elder Ming would only come in another half a month's time. He didn't expect him to come so quickly.

He turned around and glanced at the silver barrier, but his feet did not move.

Yan Qing hesitated for a moment and asked, "Master, are you... not going now?"

Rong Xiu was nonchalant. "Wait a while longer."

Wait for what? He's naturally waiting for Ms. Liuyue to break through! Yan Qing did not understand. It's naturally a good thing that Ms. Liuyue is breaking through to become a stage-five warrior, but why does Master want to wait and guard here personally? There shouldn't be any problem at this stage, and it will end quite quickly...

However, he naturally didn't dare to say this and could only say, "Then, I'll go back and report to 36 Respected Elder Ming first."

Rong Xiu nodded.

But the moment Yan Qing turned around and planned to leave, he saw a figure coming from not far away.

It was 36 Respected Elder Ming. His steps seemed slow, but in the blink of an eye, he silently arrived in front of them.

Yan Qing immediately bowed, but 36 Respected Elder Ming waved his hands. "Forget it, forget it! I'm here to see my Little Princess Consort!"

He spoke as he curiously glanced at the room that Chu Liuyue resided in and strangely asked, "Hm? Is she about to break through? Rong Xiu, didn't you say that she's still a stage-four warrior now? Why did you start guarding for her?"

For convenience this time, he came out disguised as an elder from Mingyue Tianshan. Hence, he purposely didn't address Rong Xiu as 'Your Highness,' and he changed his address toward her.

Rong Xiu seemed to have expected that he couldn't wait any longer and would come over, so his lips curled up into an understanding smile. "Of course... I need to do so."

Buzz!

A wave of aura suddenly spread from within the room.