

## Noble Ruler 701

### Chapter 701: Pity!

*Why is Chu Liuyue here?!* That question rapidly flashed across Jiang Yucheng's mind. He only remembered that after he was dragged down, the entrance above had been completely sealed shut.

He didn't know what situation the other people were in.

*Could it be that I was the only one who met with this? If not, why is Chu Liuyue standing here in one piece? She seems like she's not injured at all, and she looks very clean.* But looking at Chu Liuyue's smiling appearance, Jiang Yucheng couldn't help but unwittingly heave a sigh of relief.

He surveyed his surroundings. *Other than Chu Liuyue, there seems to be a few people far away, and... a gigantic rainbow barrier!*

Detecting the terrifying aura coming from the barrier, Jiang Yucheng suddenly realized something and widened his eyes. "That's... a ninth-grade fiend?!"

*Other than a ninth-grade fiend, there's no other explanation for this commotion!*

Chu Liuyue didn't hide it and nodded honestly. "Eldest Young Master Jiang, you have good eyesight."

Jiang Yucheng immediately wanted to go over, but he suddenly recalled that half of his body was buried underneath and that he couldn't struggle free.

Despite knowing the answer, Chu Liuyue smiled and asked, “Eldest Young Master Jiang, what are you doing?”

Jiang Yucheng’s face flashed white and red. Thinking of how desperate he looked at the moment, his face burned. *I could’ve been seen by anyone, but it had to be Chu Liuyue... And she seems like she’s completely fine, which shows how humiliating I look.*

Jiang Yucheng always loved his face. Facing this situation, he felt very embarrassed and wanted to come out from below immediately.

He waved the sword in his hand and slashed the branches that were tightly winding around him, trying to get out of the entanglement.

Chu Liuyue then saw that quite a few branches had already pierced through his body, leaving behind a few scars. *As expected... This rolling leaf fir had indeed sucked Jiang Yucheng’s blood... In his current physical condition, how can he endure such torture?*

Looking at the face that was as pale as a ghost...

*Pfft.*

Chu Liuyue admired his rare miserable appearance for a while and felt much better. *What can this count for? This isn’t even one-tenth of the pain I experienced back then! If I can’t let Jiang Yucheng pay me back one hundred-fold, how can I resolve the hatred in my heart?*

As if detecting Chu Liuyue's rather strange gaze, Jiang Yucheng finally glanced at her and slightly knitted his brows.

Before he could speak, Chu Liuyue already spoke first. "Eldest Young Master Jiang, it seems like you're severely injured. Do you need my help?"

Jiang Yucheng swallowed the words in his throat. For some reason, he felt that Chu Liuyue's gaze was quite weird...

It seemed as if she really wanted to help, but her black gem-like eyes were sparkling, which made one unable to see through her.

Jiang Yucheng kept quiet for a moment, glanced at the opening that was slashed apart on the tree branch, and asked, "You did that?"

Chu Liuyue nodded. "I heard a voice over here, so I came over to take a look and coincidentally saw this branch moving. I felt that this was really very weird, so I tried to cut it. I didn't expect... to meet you here, Eldest Young Master Jiang."

Her tone was very sincere.

Jiang Yucheng believed her a little. He found the way to come out with much difficulty, and he had used up the majority of his force. Hence, he had to quickly leave this place as soon as possible and circulate his aura.

However, this branch was very hard to handle!

As he tried to struggle free, he asked, "How did you all get here? Other than you, who are those people? Where are the others?"

Chu Liuyue's lips curled up undetectably. *Jiang Yucheng can't let his guard down and wants to get to the bottom of this.*

"Eldest Young Master Jiang, it's a long story. Let's talk about it in detail when you're out. Why don't you let me help you?"

Jiang Yucheng saw that it was indeed hard to rely on himself, so he could only nod.

Chu Liuyue took a step forward.

"Just cut these branches!" said Jiang Yucheng.

Chu Liuyue agreed relaxingly and raised the dagger in her hands.

Following the movement of the branches, it was much easier for Jiang Yucheng's body to be released. It seemed like only his feet were buried within.

Chu Liuyue glanced from the corner of her eyes.

*Hong long!*

The third bolt of lightning struck down!

The continuously loud sounds reverberated throughout the entire forest as the thick layers of dark clouds covered the sun and filled the sky, making the forest very dark.

Chu Liuyue intentionally used her body to block Jiang Yucheng. In addition to the thick branches and other items here, she hid Jiang Yucheng completely.

Even Qiang Wanzhou—who kept looking over—couldn't see what exactly was going on.

Following the terrifying side-effect, the eye-catching light was dazzling. It reflected against Jiang Yucheng's face, causing half of it to be in the light and the other half to be in the dark.

Chu Liuyue stretched her hand out—they were only one step away from each other.

*As long as I wave my hand, the dagger can easily slash across Jiang Yucheng's throat!* Ferocious hatred and murderous intent overwhelmed her as a cold glow flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes.

She turned her knife, and its blade gleamed.

Jiang Yucheng was currently handling some tree branches in front of his chest, and he didn't notice this side's happenings.

*All the hatred... revenge... Everything will end at this moment!* Chu Liuyue moved her wrist!

*Huala!*

Just as Chu Liuyue was about to take action, a nearby tree was suddenly extracted and cracked from the middle.

The crushed wood flew everywhere, and a figure rushed out!

Chu Liuyue quickly glanced at the figure, and her eyes shrunk. *It's actually Mu Qinghe!*

At this point, Jiang Yucheng was also attracted by this commotion as he looked over. After seeing that person clearly, he immediately yelled out, "Lieutenant Mu!"

Mu Qinghe had just rushed out after struggling free from underground. Hearing this, he immediately looked up.

*The person with half his body buried underneath is Jiang Yucheng, and the woman beside... He squinted his eyes. Why is it Chu Liuyue?*

Detecting Mu Qinghe's gaze, Chu Liuyue's expression didn't change as she flipped her palm and swung her dagger.

*Chu!*

A tree branch was instantly cut down by Chu Liuyue, and the red liquid flew everywhere!

At the same time, a cold wind came from behind. It was another tree branch that suddenly rose up and slammed toward Chu Liuyue's back.

With her plan being interrupted, Chu Liuyue was very frustrated. When she detected this commotion, her face became much colder.

She rapidly turned around, raised her hand, and formed a long whip with her fire—which instantly flew out.

*Smack!*

An air-piercing sound was heard.

That fire whip immediately entangled with that tree branch, but that tree branch's strength couldn't be underestimated, as it directly pulled at Chu Liuyue with one twist.

Chu Liuyue decisively rolled on the ground, and her bodily aura gushed out.

*Boom!*

The fire burned even more intensely, and the entire branch was instantly wrapped in red fire.

The fire quickly spread and rapidly covered the entire tree.

Chu Liuyue coldly spat out a word, “Explode!”

*Bam!*

The thick rolling leaf fir immediately exploded.

At this moment, Mu Qinghe had already rushed over.

With his help, Jiang Yucheng finally got out of the ground.

“Eldest Young Master, are you okay?” asked Mu Qinghe with knitted brows.

However, Jiang Yucheng didn’t reply to him as he looked at the Chu Liuyue in front dazedly. *Just now... She really saved me...*

*Boom!*

Looking at the fire burning in front of her, she gradually held the dagger in her hands tighter. *What a pity!*

**Chapter 702: Explanation**

Chu Liuyue felt very upset, but her expression had already returned to normal when she turned around. Then, she politely greeted Mu Qinghe. "Lieutenant Mu."

*It's a small pity that I couldn't directly teach Jiang Yucheng a lesson, but after deeper thought, I would be quite reluctant if I really killed him just like that. Dying from one slash of a sword... He would die too easily. The days are long. I need to let Eldest Young Master Jiang enjoy the life ahead of him...* Chu Liuyue thought as she openly sized Jiang Yucheng up and looked as if she was very concerned and sympathetic toward him.

"Eldest Young Master Jiang, I think your condition isn't very good. You should hurry up and treat yourself."

Jiang Yucheng was originally in a trance as he stared at Chu Liuyue's back view, and he suddenly recovered his senses when he heard her words.

Detecting Chu Liuyue's gaze scrutinizing himself, Jiang Yucheng felt humiliated for some reason. *My humiliated look is seen so clearly by others...*

He hid it and coughed.

"I have medicine," he said as he took a pill.

Mu Qinghe watched on at the side and felt that Jiang Yucheng seemed amiss, but he couldn't put a finger on it. *It's most probably because he's just experienced all of that... Whoever took a walk around hell would be scarred.*

Jiang Yucheng looked at Chu Liuyue with a conflicted gaze. "Thanks... for just now."

There was one moment where he almost thought that Chu Liuyue wanted to kill him, but everything that happened later proved that this was just a misunderstanding.

He was always a very suspicious person, and he wouldn't easily trust a person—especially in this type of dire situation. Chu Liuyue's unreserved help had greatly exceeded his predictions.

“Eldest Young Master Jiang, you're too kind.” Chu Liuyue smiled slightly as if she didn't really take this incident to heart.

Jiang Yucheng kept quiet for a moment and said again, “Take it as me owing you a favor this time.”

Mu Qinghe suddenly glanced at him, and rare shock flashed across his eyes as if he didn't expect the other to say that. *This person has always been harsh, ruthless, and heartless. Many people have sacrificed their lives for him over the years, but he has never taken another look at them. Why is it that he actually willingly said that he owed Chu Liuyue a favor when it came to her? Could it be that he intends to make friends with Chu Liuyue? After all... Judging from the incidents that happened during this period, Chu Liuyue's talent and abilities are extraordinary. She is worth making friends with.*

Chu Liuyue looked humble on the surface and didn't even dare to speak, but in actual fact, she wasn't affected at all.

She had seen Jiang Yucheng's dog-like manner way too many times. In this world, nobody would know better than her the shocking extent of this man having two faces.

When he passed her tea, he always smiled gracefully. However, she later found out that it was all poison under that smiling mask.

Chu Liuyue didn't take this to heart and treated Jiang Yucheng's conflicted gaze as a joke. Actually, she was even more interested in Mu Qinghe.

"Lieutenant Mu, how did you suddenly come out from there just now?"

Mu Qinghe didn't have much expression as usual. "We met with an accident previously, and everyone fell into the gully. I also spent quite a bit of effort before I could escape."

He looked at Chu Liuyue and knitted his brows as he spoke. "How did you—"

"Liuyue!" Before Mu Qinghe could finish, he was interrupted by Qiang Wanzhou's voice.

Chu Liuyue turned around to look and saw that Qiang Wanzhou and the rest had come.

Qiang Wanzhou was at the front, and he was the fastest, while Mu Hongyu and Ye Ranran were slightly behind. However, they also had faces filled with worry.

Even though Lei Laosi insisted on guarding there, he kept looking over. After all, the previous commotion wasn't small.

Chu Liuyue smiled and shook her head. "I'm fine."

When Mu Hongyu and the rest saw that she indeed wasn't injured, they felt assured.

Her gaze turned, and she saw Jiang Yucheng and Mu Qinghe.

Mu Qinghe was still fine, but Jiang Yucheng's body was stained with some black soil, and he was covered in injuries. He had blood patches everywhere, and his face was pale, looking very pathetic.

Mu Hongyu knitted her brows and covered her nose. "What smell is that?!"

It smelled very like something rotting, and it had a thick bloody scent to it, making one nauseous.

Jiang Yucheng's face turned from white to green, and his veins were popping.

Ye Ranran silently pulled Mu Hongyu back and gave her a look. *Isn't this smell coming right from Jiang Yucheng's body? You're humiliating him by saying this!*

Mu Hongyu then slowly shut her mouth and glanced at Chu Liuyue. *I-I think I offended someone?*

But Chu Liuyue looked normal, and when she turned around to look at her, she had an assured expression. Moreover... there seemed to be a tinge of... satisfaction in her eyes?

Mu Hongyu was a little confused. *Uh... I... Liuyue doesn't seem to care about this... Why do I faintly feel that she even approves of what I did?*

Mu Hongyu thought for a while and didn't understand it, so she swiftly threw this to the back of her mind. *I'll listen to Liuyue for everything! If Liuyue says it's fine, then it definitely will be fine!*

Chu Liuyue stared at Jiang Yucheng's face and took a few glances. *Pfft, in the entire Tianling Dynasty, who would dare to openly single Jiang Yucheng out in front of his face? Only Mu Hongyu, this insensible one, could do such a thing.*

Chu Liuyue silently praised her in her heart. *Good job! For a very long time later, Jiang Yucheng won't be able to maintain his pride!*

Mu Qinghe looked at the few of them and knitted his brows even tighter. "The few of you... Why are all of you here? Didn't you guys get dragged down?"

Chu Liuyue nodded honestly. "During the mess, my fiend suddenly ran away, so I chased it. The few of them followed me over. When we found my fiend afterward and wanted to go back, we then realized... All of you weren't at your original spots, so we swiftly decided to stay here and wait for a chance to gather with the rest of the team."

Chu Liuyue's simple narration explained the entire incident. She asked, "At the start, wasn't everyone together? Why... did all of you get separated?"

Mu Qinghe, Shangguan Wan, Jiang Yucheng, and the rest had always been together, yet they were separated—let alone the others.

Mu Qinghe's face turned cold. "It happened too suddenly."

If it weren't because he had a certain understanding of this Mystic Forest and knew how to settle the rolling leaf fir, he might've still been stuck in the soil.

"I see... I wonder how the rest is now?" Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings as if she wanted to see if anybody else was going to come out.

Mu Qinghe and Jiang Yucheng did not say anything. *How are we supposed to reply to that? With the muddy situation below... It'll be hard for them to escape! We actually met with such a thing after just entering the Mystic Forest. Without thinking, most of the thousand-plus people must've met with their demise!*

It was extremely rare for Mu Qinghe to suffer such a loss, so he naturally wouldn't be in a good mood.

*Hong long!*

Another lightning bolt struck.

Jiang Yucheng finally recovered his senses, looked up, and focused on it. "That's... the ninth-grade fiend that is about to break through?"

### **Chapter 703: Hide**

Jiang Yucheng's tone had notes of doubt and shock, but his eyes were filled with unconcealable surprise. He clearly also didn't expect that after taking a walk around hell, he actually reached this place directly!

*I bumped into the ninth-grade fiend that is currently enduring the lightning!* He kept thinking about it previously, and he could now see it once he looked up. How could he not be happy?

Chu Liuyue honestly nodded. *He is already here, and the lightning keeps striking. Even an idiot can tell what kind of situation this is.*

Jiang Yucheng stood up and wanted to walk over.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly. *Lei Laosi is guarding right there. It would really be a wonder if Jiang Yucheng can reach there safely. With his current abilities, he might not even be able to endure ten moves from Lei Laosi.*

It was still Mu Qinghe who stopped him. “Eldest Young Master, it’s very dangerous there. Let’s stay here and observe what happens.”

Jiang Yucheng was quite upset in his heart. *Chu Liuyue and the rest came over from there previously, but why can’t we go over now? My appearance is already humiliating enough. If we continue hiding here, won’t it show that we’re even more cowardly?*

Jiang Yucheng didn’t listen to him and continued walking forward. But the moment he took two steps forward, he felt a burning sensation in his stomach area.

Jiang Yucheng’s face immediately paled as he stumbled back and almost fell onto the ground.

Mu Qinghe immediately went forward to help him up and furrowed his brows tightly. “Eldest Young Master, what’s the matter?”

Due to the excruciating pain, Jiang Yucheng’s forehead was filled with sweat. His lips were trembling slightly, and he couldn’t say anything.

He had also experienced this feeling several times before, but there wasn't a single time that was as painful as this. It was as if a fire directly pierced through his stomach and entered his dantian.

It was also the first time Mu Qinghe saw Jiang Yucheng in such a state, and he thought that the latter was injured by the rolling leaf fir previously. "Eldest Young Master, you should rest a while first. Your health is more important!"

Even if Jiang Yucheng wanted to reject him, he couldn't even say anything now.

Chu Liuyue looked at him strangely.

Jiang Yucheng had just forced himself to sit down cross-legged when he felt that burning sensation rapidly disappearing. However, that etching pain still reverberated throughout his mind and didn't disperse for a long time.

Worry and fear finally surfaced in Jiang Yucheng's heart. *One time might be a coincidence, but what about the second and the third? There must be something wrong with my body!*

But after much thinking, he still couldn't figure out what exactly happened. *Back then, that 'Xia Mu' just used a brush to leave a bloody hole in my body. In actual fact, it wasn't a severe wound. As long as I properly recuperated, I should've recovered very quickly. But a period of time has passed, and my wound still hasn't healed. Moreover, this weird burning sensation keeps occurring from time to time.*

However, Jiang Yucheng didn't dare to expose all of this in front of outsiders, so he could only briefly nod and didn't say anything much.

Chu Liuyue suddenly felt that her neck was itchy, so she turned around and saw Tuan Zi pulling at her hair and shaking its tail as if it wanted to go back.

*I wonder what exactly is there which makes it want to go back so badly...* Chu Liuyue patted its head in comfort and looked at Jiang Yucheng. “Eldest Young Master Jiang, why don’t you rest here first, and we’ll go look at that ninth-grade fiend? The Third Princess came this time for the legendary fiend’s blood. If we just miss it like this, won’t it be a pity?”

Jiang Yucheng wanted to go there himself, but he really couldn’t do anything in his current state. Thus, he nodded and looked at Mu Qinghe. “You should go with them too.”

*Mu Qinghe is stronger, and they will have a higher chance with him there.*

Chu Liuyue’s eyelids twitched, but she didn’t say anything.

“Eldest Young Master, your body—” Mu Qinghe seemed hesitant.

“Just go ahead. I know my own condition myself.” Jiang Yucheng looked much sterner.

Mu Qinghe didn’t hesitate any longer and immediately agreed. “Yes.”

Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a smile. “With Lieutenant Mu around, we feel much more confident too.”

Mu Qinghe looked nonchalant and followed the rest over.

...

Hearing Chu Liuyue and the rest come back, Lei Laosi turned around to take a look.

With this look, he saw Mu Qinghe following behind the few of them.

Ferocious murderous intent immediately appeared in Lei Laosi's eyes. *I didn't see him earlier, but I didn't expect the incoming person to be him!*

He held the hammer in his hands tightly, and the force around him strengthened.

Mu Qinghe seemed to have noticed something as he suddenly looked up.

The two of them stared straight into each other's eyes.

Mu Qinghe immediately felt the intense murderous intent coming from the other party—it was as though the other was going to take action the next moment!

He knitted his brows slightly. *Who is this? Why does he seem like he has a huge grudge against me?*

Without waiting for Mu Qinghe to think much, a figure suddenly walked in front and blocked the other party's vision.

It was Chu Liuyue.

Mu Qinghe's gaze landed on Chu Liuyue.

But as if unintentional, Chu Liuyue yelled to that man, "Big Brother Lei!"

Hearing this, Lei Laosi suddenly recovered his senses, and the ferocious aura in his eyes diminished by quite a bit. However, his expression still made him seem like he wasn't to be messed with.

Chu Liuyue walked to him, smiled, and said, "Big Brother Lei, don't worry. This is the Lieutenant Mu I mentioned to you earlier. He came here with us, and he has no ill intentions."

Lei Laosi looked at Chu Liuyue doubtfully. *Her words... She seems to be hiding something?*

Chu Liuyue looked at Mu Qinghe again and explained, "Lieutenant Mu, this is Big Brother Lei Laosi. He's in charge of guarding this ninth-grade fiend."

Lei Laosi immediately understood Chu Liuyue's plan. *She's helping me hide my identity? I really can't expose myself in front of Mu Qinghe now, but... How did Chu Liuyue know that?*

Many doubts surfaced in Lei Laosi's heart as he turned and looked in a certain direction before he rapidly retracted his gaze. He then took a deep breath in and suppressed the anger in his heart as he coldly glanced at Mu Qinghe.

He snickered. "Another one wants to join in the fun? I don't care if he's your lieutenant or whatever. All of you are to stand ten steps away, and you're not allowed to enter!"

Mu Qinghe looked at his ferocious appearance and looked at the gigantic rainbow barrier behind him before squinting his eyes slightly. *Why would a ninth-grade fiend get humans to help it guard... But this Lei Laosi does seem pretty competent. Within this area that is filled with terrifying suppression, it's clear that he is moving around with more ease than us. It's obvious that he has been here for quite a long time, and he might really have some relation to the ninth-grade fiend.*

Chu Liuyue smiled and said, "Don't worry. We'll just watch from here, and we won't do anything. Lieutenant Mu, am I right?"

Mu Qinghe paused for a moment and nodded.

Lei Laosi coldly chuckled. *It's currently a crucial moment, and there can't be any mishaps. Mu Qinghe... It's not too late if I teach him a lesson later!*

Just as he was about to turn around, his gaze suddenly focused on a figure far away. "Who is that person?"

#### **Chapter 704: Dream On!**

Chu Liuyue thought that he saw Jiang Yucheng and was about to speak when she suddenly heard a panting voice from behind.

"Lieutenant Mu?!"

Recognizing the owner of this voice, Chu Liuyue slightly knitted her brows as frustration surfaced at the corner of her eyes.

She lazily turned around to take a look. *It's indeed Elder Qiuxi.*

The current him looked quite a mess as half of his body was stained with black soil. His face was also scratched by something, causing blood to flow down and look quite horrifying. Compared to Jiang Yucheng, he was just slightly better.

“Elder Qiuxi, h-how did you come here?” Mu Qinghe raised his feet and walked over. *I didn't hear any sound previously...*

But Elder Qiuxi went up in a hurry, grabbed his arm, and hurriedly asked, “Lieutenant Mu, have you seen the Third Princess?!”

Elder Qiuxi didn't intentionally lower his voice when he said this.

Chu Liuyue's eyelashes shook slightly.

Murderous intent flashed across Lei Laosi's eyes.

The others all quietened down.

Mu Qinghe knitted his brows and shook his head. “Not yet.”

Elder Qiuxi was extremely anxious. “What should we do... What should we do?”

“Elder Qiuxi, don’t panic first. What exactly happened? Weren’t you with Her Highness all along?”

Elder Qiuxi and Elder Duanmu Chun were different from him—the two of them came to specifically protect Shangguan Wan. Even if Mu Qinghe and Jiang Yucheng weren’t together with Shangguan Wan, these two elders should be right by her side and not leave her at all.

Elder Qiuxi took a deep breath in, and anxiety and nervousness were still written all over his face. “In the beginning, we did fall into that gully with the Third Princess. I believe you also know what kind of situation it is underneath, Lieutenant Mu...”

Mu Qinghe nodded.

“Quite a few people actually dropped down with us at that point, including some of the Black Guards and a few disciples, but the mud below was extremely dangerous and terrifying. Quite a few people sank in and didn’t come out again... Originally, we weren’t that far from Her Highness, and we were planning to leave with Her Highness. But in the end... In the end, something happened to the mud, and it suddenly moved...”

Elder Qiuxi swallowed a mouthful of saliva with much difficulty as his heart was still horrified when he recalled that scene. “...In the end, we were all separated and went our own ways... I don’t know where Her Highness went...”

Even he only managed to grab the chance to escape with much difficulty. Detecting the commotion on this end, he then came over.

He saw Mu Qinghe at one glance.

As Elder Qiuxi directly came over from the other direction, he didn't see Jiang Yucheng, who was sitting far on the other end.

*"Lieutenant Mu, do you think, Her—Her Highness..." Elder Qiuxi's old face was filled with worry. That place is very dangerous. I wonder how long Shangguan Wan can hold on for...*

Mu Qinghe said with a low voice, "Elder Qiuxi, don't worry too much first. Since there were so many people around, maybe there are still some people with Her Highness. Besides, Her Highness is very fortunate, and she will survive this. Nothing will happen to her."

"Yes, the Third Princess is very strong. Even if she really meets with some trouble, she definitely can handle it with ease, don't you think?" A lazy and clear voice suddenly intercepted from the side.

Elder Qiuxi looked over in a daze and then saw clearly that the person talking was actually...

"Chu Liuyue?! Why are you here?!" When Elder Qiuxi saw this face, he felt very annoyed and frustrated, and his gaze became much colder and sharper than before.

Chu Liuyue felt that this was a joke. *It seems like I'm the first one who came here, right? Why do all these people ask me the same thing? Do I, Chu Liuyue, not deserve to appear here?*

In a seemingly smiling manner, Chu Liuyue said, “Elder Qiuxi, we have been here since the start. It’s normal that you didn’t see us because you kept worrying about the Third Princess, but your expression... Do you think what I said was wrong?”

Elder Qiuxi’s face instantly flushed red.

He knew a little about Shangguan Wan’s condition, so when he heard Chu Liuyue’s words earlier, he instinctively thought that she was mocking the Third Princess.

*But thinking about it now, what does one Chu Liuyue know? If I admit it, won’t I be saying that something will definitely happen to Shangguan Wan?* He harshly waved his sleeves. “Of course, the Third Princess will be fine! You don’t have to state the obvious!”

Chu Liuyue smiled, and her eyes curled up as if she didn’t care about Elder Qiuxi’s terrible attitude at all.

Lei Laosi held the hammer in his hands tightly and suppressed his feelings with much difficulty before he turned around to look at the rainbow barrier. *They’re really all here! If it weren’t because I have to guard here and Big Brother kept instructing me and telling me not to mess around, I would dig all of Shangguan Wan and the rest up one by one—even if I had to search the entire Mystic Forest. I would’ve directly hammered their heads and cracked them open respectively.*

Chu Liuyue glanced at him. Even though she could only see his back view, she could still feel the anger that he was hiding and suppressing.

*It’s hard on him for tolerating it...* Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a smile. *If there’s a chance, I really want to talk to Lei Laosi properly.*

Mu Qinghe advised in a low voice, "Elder Qiuxi, I believe the Third Princess is also nearby since you're already here. Why don't we take this place as the center and look around? Perhaps we can find her."

Elder Qiuxi's face was filled with worry. "Sigh... We can only do that then... Oh right, what's that?"

He spoke as he pointed toward the rainbow barrier in shock.

Previously, he was focused on finding Shangguan Wan, so he didn't notice anything else. Now that he was slightly more at ease, he discovered that this place... seemed amiss.

The suppression contained within that rainbow barrier was more stunning than ever! The key point was that it even triggered the lightning!

*Isn't this—*

"This is the ninth-grade fiend we were finding earlier," Mu Qinghe said lowly.

Even though Elder Qiuxi already predicted it, he was still stunned when he personally heard it. He couldn't help but take two steps forward and stare in front closely. "R-really?"

*I have never seen a legendary fiend before! If this ninth-grade fiend can successfully break through, then—*

"Elder Qiuxi, aren't you in a hurry to look for the Third Princess?" asked Chu Liuyue lazily.

Elder Qiuxi was dazed. “I-I am waiting here first to collect the legendary fiend’s blood... After all, the Third Princess came on this trip just for this! If we miss it, the Third Princess will definitely blame us...”

*Whoosh!*

A black arrow pierced through the air and went straight toward Elder Qiuxi’s brows. At the same time, a furious voice that sounded like thunder exploded by the few people’s ears. “Old thing, dream on!”

### **Chapter 705: Half a Wing!**

Elder Qiuxi was shocked and immediately retaliated to stop it.

Mu Qinghe raised his arm and held up the sword sheath, which coincidentally stopped the black arrow.

*Ding!*

A crisp impact sound was heard!

Mu Qinghe’s expression changed.

The strength encompassed within this arrow was very great, and it directly numbed half his arm. However, he didn’t even stop the arrow completely and only made it deviate from its original target slightly.

Elder Qiuxi was infuriated, but he also couldn't execute any other moves in time. Hence, he could only catch it bare-handed.

He did catch the arrow, but his palm seemed to be on fire.

Elder Qiuxi's eyelids twitched harshly, and he wanted to let go immediately. However, there were so many watching in the surroundings. How could he do such a thing?

Hence, he could only forcefully tolerate it and silently swallow this suffering.

But the arrow was too strong. After it landed in his hands, it didn't even stop and was still turning crazily.

*Swoosh!*

That arrow actually swarmed out of Elder Qiuxi's hands! As its trajectory was shifted earlier, the arrow still flew past his head in the end, closely nearing his skin.

Elder Qiuxi felt that his scalp was almost scraped apart, but what pained him the most at this point wasn't the pain from his scalp, but—

He slightly opened his hands and quickly took a look—his palm was already badly mangled.

Elder Qiuxi's heart harshly skipped a beat. *If that arrow really pierced through my glabella... I'm afraid my life would've been lost!*

After the shock, he was scared. Then, he was furious.

Elder Qiuxi felt that his entire heart was overwhelmed with extreme rage, which almost made him crazy. He raised his head angrily and stared at Lei Laosi with a deadly gaze. "You..."

"What about me?" Lei Laosi raised his hands, and the arrow turned and returned to his hands. He glanced at it and wiped it against his rough clothes in disgust before putting it back into his container.

It was as if it was stained with something dirty.

"I'm not afraid to tell you that with me, Lei Laosi, around, nobody shall think of entering this barrier!" said Lei Laosi as he glared at Elder Qiuxi with warning.

The corner of his eyes turned red, and his entire face was furious. It could be seen that he was indeed infuriated.

Without a doubt, whoever went forward would immediately get their hearts pierced through.

The entire scene was quiet for a moment.

Even Elder Qiuxi—who had suffered greatly—took a while before he recovered his senses. He opened his mouth, but he didn't know how to retort. *This Lei Laosi's abilities... are definitely above all of us!*

Elder Qiuxi was a very prideful person and loved to fight for the front for everything. But in the face of danger, he also knew how to lower his head and give in.

He had no choice as he was the weaker one.

Elder Qiuxi tried his best to make his expression look more natural, but his stiff face still betrayed him and showed his nervousness and fear at this moment. “W-who are you? Why are you so arrogant? Is this ninth-grade fiend yours?”

Lei Laosi looked at him with a gaze as if he were looking at a dead person. “It seems like you didn’t suffer enough just now?”

He spoke and acted as if he was going to ready his bow again.

Elder Qiuxi’s heart trembled, and he unwittingly took half a step back.

Chu Liuyue glanced at him, and her lips curled up. She didn’t laugh out loud, but who couldn’t notice her mocking intent?

Elder Qiuxi instantly felt humiliated and felt that his entire reputation was tarnished. “I-I’ll go find the Third Princess first...”

Then, he turned around to leave without hesitation.

Even after walking a distance, Elder Qiuxi's face didn't recover. *It's the first time I've been humiliated to this extent!*

Mu Qinghe looked at Lei Laosi, and his gaze deepened. *When Lei Laosi took action just now, he clearly wanted to kill him... Who exactly is he? He acted so ruthlessly because he felt that he was offended, or... because of something else?*

*Hong long!*

Another lightning bolt struck.

Chu Liuyue turned around and focused on it.

This was already the fifth bolt of lightning—the fiend had already endured half of the nine bolts of lightning.

Meanwhile, the transparent portion of the barrier also expanded to almost half the total height. But the weird thing was that until now, the crowd still couldn't see what that fiend looked like.

Chu Liuyue examined it in detail, and suddenly, her gaze focused. "What's... that?"

Hearing her voice, the few of them followed her gaze and looked over. *A wilted orange... tree bark?!*

"That looks like a tree!" Ye Ranran's eyes were sharp, and she was the first to speak.

Actually, Chu Liuyue saw it too.

In the centermost position of that barrier seemed to be a gigantic and thick rolling leaf fir. At the start, they could only see a pile of fallen leaves and the extended roots, but they could now see part of the tree trunk.

This tree was even more magnificent and taller than all the other trees they had seen before.

Chu Liuyue took a close look and realized that even if five people hugged the tree together, it wouldn't even be enough. *But isn't it a ninth-grade fiend that's trying to break through inside this barrier? Why did a tree suddenly appear out of nowhere?*

Following the flashing of the lights above, it was also very hard for the crowd to clearly see what was inside other than the tree.

Luckily, the rainbow light on the barrier kept gathering upward.

Another portion of the barrier became transparent underneath, and the suppression became increasingly strong.

It was obvious that the fiend had successfully endured the fifth bolt of lightning.

*Hula—*

The sound of a wing flapping was suddenly heard.

A large shadow reflected against the barrier, outlining half its exterior.

Mu Hongyu gasped. "That really is a wing! It must be that fiend's!"

She couldn't conceal her excitement as she shouted to Chu Liuyue. "Liuyue, that's what we saw!"

She finished her sentence, but Chu Liuyue didn't respond to her. Mu Hongyu couldn't help but turn around to look at the other and realized that Chu Liuyue was staring right at that barrier with a face filled with shock.

"Liuyue, Liuyue? What's wrong?" Mu Hongyu gently pushed her shoulders uneasily and asked softly.

All the blood in Chu Liuyue's body seemed to have frozen, and she opened her mouth with much difficulty. "Did you see... the color of that wing?"

Mu Hongyu paused. "Color? I think... I think it's rainbow, right? What's wrong?"

Chu Liuyue's heart shook. *That half a wing just now... I'm more familiar with it than ever! That's.. The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's wing!*

**Chapter 706: Agitation!**

Chu Liuyue's entire body stiffened, and only her heart was beating wildly, almost jumping out of her mouth.

Her entire mind was blank! *I was forced to a place of no return at the start, so I decided to burn myself to commit suicide. But before that, I purposely let the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant go. Normally speaking, the fiends in an agreement with the owner will definitely meet with their demise when the latter dies.*

At that time, Chu Liuyue forcefully dissolved the agreement between them, hoping that her choice would not affect it. However, the situation was very urgent, and even Chu Liuyue herself didn't know what exactly happened in the end.

She had previously indirectly asked around, and the news she got was that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant was already dead! Even though Chu Liuyue was devastated, she gradually accepted it and buried it at the bottom of her heart.

Originally, she thought that this incident would pass like this forever and that nobody would recall that there was once a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant that accompanied her for many years in this world.

But now... The half a wing that suddenly appeared stunned Chu Liuyue.

A very ridiculous thought popped up in her mind. *Perhaps, maybe, probably... The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant from back then is actually still alive?!*

Chu Liuyue didn't even blink as she stared straight at that rainbow barrier. *Yes, this barrier is also rainbow! Upon closer inspection, isn't this the exact same color as the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant?!*

Chu Liuyue clenched her hands even more tightly in her sleeves, and her heart seemed to be hanging up high.

Her chest was empty, but it felt like something was crazily pressing against it. It was so uncomfortable that she couldn't speak.

*If the ninth-grade fiend inside is really... But—what if it's not?* Chu Liuyue's knuckles turned white, and fear started appearing after intense waves of hope and desire.

*Even though Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasants are rare, there isn't only that one in the world.* The two thoughts kept killing each other in Chu Liuyue's mind.

One was thinking: What if it is? Perhaps the heavens really took pity on me and returned my fiend to me.

The other was thinking: How can there be such a coincidental thing in the world? If it's not, won't I be happy for nothing?

Sometimes, giving one hope and then disappointing them was even more unbearable than never giving them hope.

Chu Liuyue's eyes turned dry, and something seemed to be stuck in her throat as her limbs became icy cold. *I have already lost too much, and I don't want to suffer such pain again.*

Mu Hongyu saw that Chu Liuyue's expression wasn't right and felt worried in her heart. "Liuyue... What's the matter with you?"

She had never seen Chu Liuyue reveal such an expression. It was as though the latter expected something and also as if she feared something. *Is she looking at the fiend inside the rainbow barrier? But... Didn't she only see half its wing?*

Chu Liuyue lightly shook her head. "I'm fine."

*How does she look like she's fine?* Mu Hongyu pressed her lips against each other. Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn't seem to want to say more and that all her attention was on the fiend that was about to break through, she could only swallow her remaining words. *Forget it. I'll ask her exactly what's going on later.*

Suddenly, from the corner of Mu Hongyu's eyes, she unintentionally saw a rainbow light flash across Tuan Zi's body when it stayed squatting on Chu Liuyue's shoulders.

It disappeared instantly.

Mu Hongyu blinked and took another look carefully, but she realized that the light had disappeared.

Tuan Zi was still the original Tuan Zi, and its fur was still red. It didn't look like it had changed.

*Perhaps I saw wrongly...* Mu Hongyu rubbed her eyes. *I've been staring at this colorful barrier for too long, and it seems like I'm hallucinating.*

Tuan Zi silently leaned in toward Chu Liuyue's neck.

Chu Liuyue didn't turn around as she instinctively patted its back. If she turned around to take a look, she would see that Tuan Zi was closing its eyes.

A faint ray of light was shining past its glabella, but Chu Liuyue didn't see any of this.

She only looked up.

Within the thick layer of tumbling dark clouds, the sixth bolt of lightning had already gathered.

Now, she was even more anxious than anyone else. She wanted the rest of the lightning to come down together.

As long as all the rays of light disappeared from the rainbow barrier, making it become transparent, she could see what was happening within.

She would also know... if the fiend that was breaking through inside was the one that she guessed.

The waiting time seemed especially torturous.

Chu Liuyue silently calculated in her heart.

Finally—

*Hong long!*

The sixth bolt of lightning suddenly struck!

...

*Hong! Hong! Hong!*

The strength of every lightning bolt was greater than the previous one. When the sixth bolt of lightning landed, it directly tore through the sky.

Behind it, the strictly black space cracked open in midair as it quickly landed.

The violent energy's side-effects spread in all directions and leveled everything in the surroundings—the trees within miles were all flipped over.

Even Lei Laosi—who was stationed at the front—was so shocked that he retreated three steps. He silently cursed, and his hammer slammed against the ground harshly.

A barrier instantly appeared in front of him.

He then turned around and crudely yelled at Chu Liuyue and the rest, "Why are you still in a daze? Hurry up and back away!"

*Do you have a death wish by standing so close? I need to stay here and guard this, but why are all of them joining in?*

*Whoosh!*

An invisible wave came rushing straight for Chu Liuyue!

Qiang Wanzhou's expression turned slightly cold, and he immediately went forward.

Peacock-blue fire flashed across.

*Boom!*

Both forces slammed against each other ferociously.

Mu Hongyu immediately pulled Chu Liuyue's arm and wanted to bring the latter to retreat. "Liuyue, let's go!"

*This position is way too dangerous!*

But Chu Liuyue suddenly grabbed her friend's hands before she slowly removed them with determination. "You guys can go back first."

"What?!" Mu Hongyu was astonished. *What does that mean?*

"You don't want to retreat with us—you still want to stay here?!"

Chu Liuyue stared straight at the rainbow barrier in front fixedly.

The surrounding lights glistened, and it was so glaring that one couldn't even open their eyes. However, she could still clearly see the rainbow colors in the middle of the barrier rapidly fading away.

She could already see the branches of that very thick rolling leaf fir. *As long as... As long as it goes up a bit more...*

"Liuyue!" Mu Hongyu urged her friend again and grabbed her hands.

Ye Ranran also advised, "Liuyue, the later lightning bolts will only become stronger! We should move back and leave some distance first!"

*No matter what Chu Liuyue wants to do, she needs to protect her life first, right?*

Chu Liuyue looked at Qiang Wanzhou in front and softly and rapidly commanded, "Little Zhou, bring the two of them back first!"

Qiang Wanzhou turned around, and his intricate brows were filled with shock. But looking at Chu Liuyue's determined expression, he pressed his lips against each other and lightly nodded. *Since it's her command, then I naturally must obey it unconditionally.*

Qiang Wanzhou rapidly moved and pulled both Mu Hongyu and Ye Ranran back.

The two of them weren't Qiang Wanzhou's match at all as they were simply brought away.

*Hong long!*

The seventh bolt of lightning harshly struck down!

Chu Liuyue clenched her fists tightly and took a step forward.

### **Chapter 707: Rainbow**

When Lei Laosi heard the commotion, he turned around to take a look and saw that Chu Liuyue didn't retreat but took another step forward. He was instantly infuriated to the point his face contorted. "Little girl, are you tired of living?!"

*At this time, others can't even escape in time, but she even went forward! She really doesn't care about her life at all!*

But Chu Liuyue didn't look hesitant at all as her gem-like eyes sparkled with more determination and a sharper aura than ever.

Lei Laosi was about to continue scolding, but he was stunned when he saw her expression.

Her beautiful face was filled with stubbornness, and her brows had a tinge of unconcealable dignity. It was as though she was saying that nobody in the world could stop her from doing what she wanted.

*This kind of expression, this kind of demeanor, and this kind of high and mighty aura that makes one bow down to her... Lei Laosi had only seen this in one person.*

The current Chu Liuyue looked like a different person compared to the previous cunningly smiling one.

For some reason, Lei Laosi suddenly felt that this face seemed to gradually merge with a certain face in his memory. He harshly shook his head. *Am I crazy?! How can I compare Chu Liuyue and Her Highness? However...*

But once this thought surfaced, it was as though it was planted into the bottom of his heart. He couldn't remove it no matter what.

Just as he was hesitating, Chu Liuyue took another step forward.

She was previously standing ten steps away from the barrier, and now, she was even closer.

“You...” Lei Laosi wanted to advise her even more, but Chu Liuyue’s gaze suddenly turned, and she glanced at him.

That glance was extremely light and extremely nonchalant, but a chill suddenly ran down Lei Laosi’s spine as if he was nailed to the ground.

He swallowed his remaining words. *She looks like... That glance—she really looks like her! It’s to the extent where there was one moment, I almost—*

“Is that Chu Liuyue crazy?! Is she crazy?!” Elder Qiuxi—who previously said that he wanted to leave to find Shangguan Wan—was still standing not far away as he glared at Chu Liuyue in shock and anger. The hand that was pointing at her was trembling like a vine.

Mu Qinghe knitted his brows. *Whatever Chu Liuyue is doing, it’s all her business. What has it got to do with other people? The only reason why Elder Qiuxi is so angry is that he’s worried Chu Liuyue will enjoy the benefits of a favorable position with her being closer to the fiend.*

He moved a few steps back and calmly said, “Elder Qiuxi, if something really happens to her, you can only blame her for not cherishing her life. Why must you be this agitated? Besides, didn’t you say that you wanted to go find the Third Princess?”

Elder Qiuxi was stumped for a moment. *I did want to find Shangguan Wan, b-but the ninth-grade fiend is right here!*

His face flushed red, and he took a while to retort. “I was just worried that Chu Liuyue would spoil things because of her greed!”

The Mu Hongyu trio had already retreated to the back at this moment, and they coincidentally heard Elder Qiuxi's words clearly.

Mu Hongyu was originally very worried about Chu Liuyue, and she was even more enraged when she heard that. "Elder Qiuxi, right? What right do you have to talk about Liuyue? What do you mean by 'spoil things because of her greed?' That's a grand ninth-grade fiend. What can Liuyue do about it? You're overestimating Liuyue too much, aren't you?"

*We're so afraid of Liuyue meeting with danger, yet he's saying such things?!*

Elder Qiuxi furiously said, "W-what thing are you?! How dare you talk back to me like this?!"

Ye Ranran kindly explained, "Elder Qiuxi, this is Mu Hongyu. She's a newly accepted disciple from Dragon Teeth Mountain."

Elder Qiuxi immediately felt silent. *In the entire Xi Ling, who doesn't know that Jian Shuye dotes on his disciples a lot? If I really offend him, I'll cause a lot of trouble for myself...*

Elder Qiuxi suppressed his anger and felt very stifled. He waved his sleeves and angrily yelled, "I don't care who you are. It's wrong for Chu Liuyue to do this! If we can't take the legendary—"

Speaking of this, Elder Qiuxi suddenly recalled what happened earlier and instantly felt that his palms hurt even more. He moved his lips twice and changed the topic. "If we can't successfully complete the mission this time, Chu Liuyue must take up all the responsibility alone!"

*How unreasonable!* Mu Hongyu was so angry that she directly laughed.

Ye Ranran's chubby face also looked very stern.

Even Qiang Wanzhou—who had been looking at Chu Liuyue all along—turned around and glanced at Elder Qiuxi coldly.

Elder Qiuxi felt that his entire body was chilly, and his heart turned cold for some reason.

Ye Ranran said, "Elder Qiuxi, why don't you go over yourself if you really care so much about the Third Princess? This way, you don't have to worry about Liuyue messing up and affecting that legendary fiend. What do you think?"

Elder Qiuxi was stumped, and his blood was boiling. Finally, he said, "It's already risky enough for one Chu Liuyue to go over. How can I go over too?! It's only right for us to observe the changes quietly!"

Mu Hongyu snorted.

The surroundings fell into an eerie silence.

Elder Qiuxi also detected that his words were very useless, and his face flashed white and red.

Mu Qinghe finally spoke. "Elder Qiuxi, why don't you go over there and see how the Eldest Young Master is? Perhaps he has a way to contact the Third Princess."

Elder Qiuxi turned around and took a look; then, he vaguely saw a figure in the distance. *T-that's Jiang Yucheng?*

“Why is the Eldest Young Master there?”

“He’s injured, and he’s resting for now,” Mu Qinghe explained. “If you go over, you can protect the Eldest Young Master at the same time.”

Elder Qiuxi was really speechless this time. *Rather than being so awkward here, why don't I leave first!?*

Elder Qiuxi thought for a moment and appeared to be worried. “In such a situation, how can I leave the Eldest Young Master alone? I’ll go first!”

Then, he really went over.

On the one hand, he really didn’t want to see Mu Hongyu and the rest again. On the other hand, the position Jiang Yucheng was at wasn’t very far away from here. If something really happened here, he could rapidly rush over.

Of course, the key point was still: He felt that Chu Liuyue was courting death by going over and that she couldn’t cause any trouble.

Then, there really was nothing to worry about.

After he left, the remaining few people finally had their peace. But Chu Liuyue—who was standing in front—had no idea that this was all going on.

Two-thirds of the gigantic barrier had already become transparent.

From Chu Liuyue's position, she could already see the branches that were growing out from the thick trunk. It was as though something was on this tree...

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but move forward again.

The eighth bolt of lightning suddenly struck down.

*Hong long!*

The bright, dazzling light almost illuminated the entire place.

Whatever Chu Liuyue could see was covered in white light, but in that vast white color, a brilliant rainbow light was still there silently.

Almost all the rainbow color seemed to disappear from the barrier, leaving only the circle at the top.

A beautiful feather floated down.

**Chapter 708: Not Mine**

Chu Liuyue's eyes shrunk. *That's the feather of a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant!*

The previous faint fragrance abruptly became intense, and now, there suddenly seemed to be an invisible screen that cracked in Chu Liuyue's mind. *Right! This smell—isn't it the special smell that only comes from a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant?*

Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasants had very special physical features. Their bodies contained a portion of a legendary fiend's bloodline strength. When they used this bloodline strength, they would exude this type of aura and smell to the surroundings.

The greater the bloodline strength, the stronger the smell.

Chu Liuyue's lips turned dry, and she watched on without blinking, her heart beating wildly.

Following the strong smell spreading around, Chu Liuyue's boiling heart gradually turned cold.

She remembered that her own Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant didn't have such a rich bloodline strength. Even when its abilities were at its peak, the smell it had wasn't half as strong as this.

*It seems like... the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant here isn't mine...* Even though she was already long prepared, indescribable loss and bitterness still swarmed up Chu Liuyue's heart when she learned of the answer.

Lei Laosi's barrier shook violently, and it couldn't hold on any longer.

He secretly felt anxious. *When the strength of the eighth lightning bolt was absorbed by that fellow, even I couldn't defend against the terrifying energy. Besides, there's still the ninth bolt of lightning. Seeing this scenario, I don't need to guard this place by that time...*

A thought popped up in Lei Laosi's mind, and he looked at Chu Liuyue. *I must advise this girl to leave as soon as possible! If something really happens—*

He suddenly felt dazed when he discovered that Chu Liuyue didn't move forward. On the other hand, she stood rooted to the ground, and her expression... was strange. It was like she was heartbroken but also relieved.

"Girl, what are you thinking?! Hurry up and leave!" Lei Laosi didn't care about much as he yelled loudly.

Her lips unwittingly curled up as if she was mocking herself. *That's right! What am I thinking? Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan were so ruthless toward my people, so why would they let my fiend off? Besides, this is Dahuang Swamp. It's miles away from Xi Ling. Why would it be here... It's all my one-sided hallucination.*

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and looked up calmly.

At this point, the strength of the eighth lightning bolt had gradually dissipated.

She could roughly see the situation within the barrier. On top of the brown branch were two sharp, red claws.

Further up was a pile of tidy rainbow feathers.

*Hula-*

That pile of rainbow feathers suddenly moved—it was a pair of brilliant and powerful wings.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes and felt her entire body relax. *Without a doubt, the fiend inside is indeed a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.*

...

“Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant?!” The moment they saw the fiend inside the barrier, even Mu Qinghe—who had always been calm and composed—couldn’t help but widen his eyes and gasp out loud.

Even though he only saw a pair of claws and wings, he could already confirm that this was a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.

All the blood in his body seemed to freeze as his entire person was stunned. He couldn’t recover from his trance for a long time.

*H-how can it be—*

Countless possibilities had popped up in his mind, but he had never guessed this.

He almost instinctively sealed up that person and everything related to her. After all, everyone in the Tianling Dynasty knew that the fiend the Princess had an agreement with was a ninth-grade Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.

This type of fiend was born as a ninth-grade fiend, and it had feathers with nine different colors. As it grew older and stronger, the colors of its feathers would slowly become more intense and brighter.

Almost at that moment, a very ridiculous thought popped up in his mind. However, he immediately rejected it. *How is that possible? That fiend definitely didn't survive! The one here must be some other Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant! From this commotion and this smell, it's definitely not the one I'm familiar with.*

But even though he thought this way, Mu Qinghe still felt faintly uneasy. He also didn't know where this uneasiness came from, but he just felt that something was about to happen...

...

The Qiang Wanzhou trio also saw the same scene. Even though they didn't know what a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant was, they heard the sentence Mu Qinghe yelled out very clearly.

Mu Hongyu asked with some confusion, "Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant? What kind of fiend is that?"

She always didn't know much about such things.

Ye Ranran also looked very shocked as she took a deep breath in to calm herself down. Then, she softly said, "Don't you know? In the past, the Princess's fiend was a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant. But

when the Princess passed away back then, the fiend must've died too. This... should be another Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.”

She didn't think much about it. This was because even though the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant was very famous, she had only personally seen it twice, and it was all from a distance away.

She only confirmed that it was a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant after hearing what Mu Qinghe said.

Mu Hongyu widened her almond-like eyes. “I see! I was still wondering what kind of fiend is this amazing!”

She had heard some rumors regarding that Princess. In Mu Hongyu's memory, she was the genius among geniuses—the legend among legends.

*The fiend that she had an agreement with must be something formidable as well. Look, a random Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant is also one that is about to break through and become a legendary fiend!*

She turned her eyes and silently asked, “Oh yes, since the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant clan is all so formidable, then... Could the one that the Princess had back then become a legendary fiend too?”

Ye Ranran glanced at Mu Qinghe, who was not far away.

Everyone was actually pretty strong, and they were quite near each other. So no matter how softly they spoke, the others could also hear it.

Mu Qinghe definitely knew that they were talking about this... But only the side of his face was facing them, and they couldn't see his expression clearly.

Ye Ranran hesitantly nodded. "I heard so... You might not know, but the Princess didn't force the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant to make an agreement with her. It flew over on its own and willingly became the Princess's fiend... But all of this happened when the Princess was young. In the end... That fiend accompanied the Princess for many years, and it became stronger and stronger. According to rumors, that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant had intentions of breaking through before the thing happened to the Princess... But nobody expected..."

Nobody expected that the Princess would fall afterward, and even that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant wasn't lucky enough to survive.

What a pity.

Mu Hongyu revealed a regretful expression. "That's really... Liuyue? Why did you come back?"

Just as she was being emotional, she unintentionally looked up and saw Chu Liuyue walking toward her.

Chu Liuyue didn't have much of an expression on her face, but she was exuding a lonely and devastating aura for some reason.

*Didn't she want to see that fiend break through? Why—*

Chu Liuyue lightly shook her head, and her lips even curled up slightly. However, her smiling intent did not reach her eyes. *I should've thought of it earlier...*

*Hong long!*

The ninth bolt of lightning finally landed!

At the same time, a figure suddenly rushed out from another direction and went straight for that barrier.

Chu Liuyue suddenly turned around. *Shangguan Wan!*

#### **Chapter 709: Good Tuan Zi**

Shangguan Wan hid her aura perfectly, so well that nobody present had detected her existence when she suddenly appeared. Hence, it shocked everyone when her figure invaded their vision.

Her body was slightly stained with dirty soil, but it wasn't a lot. It could be ignored when compared to Jiang Yucheng and Elder Qiuxi.

At first glance, it was just that her hair was a little messy, and her face had a few drops of blood.

At this time, she was rushing toward that barrier at full speed. She clearly wanted to take down the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant that was breaking through!

Her surrounding aura strengthened, and she actually reached peak stage-seven warrior!

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes, and cold intent flashed across the corner of her eyes. *Peak stage-seven... Shangguan Wan's Yuan meridian is destroyed, yet she can still disguise herself with such a cultivation level... She must've used quite a bit of effort.*

Seeing that she was getting increasingly near to that barrier, hatred overwhelmed Chu Liuyue's heart. *Even though this Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant has nothing to do with me, I still don't want to see Shangguan Wan succeed. Shangguan Wan doesn't have the right to snatch the fiend that is of the same clan as the fiend I once had.*

*Other people think that Shangguan Wan just came for the so-called legendary fiend blood, but I clearly know that this isn't her only motive. Want to make an agreement with a legendary fiend... You need to see if you have the capability and luck first!* Chu Liuyue paused in her tracks, and an idea popped up in her mind.

When Lei Laosi—who was standing closest to the barrier—heard this commotion, he immediately turned around to take a look.

With just one glance, he saw Shangguan Wan, who was rushing over ferociously.

Lei Laosi was instantly enraged. *Great! I didn't even go to find them, yet all of them came to me one by one!*

Lei Laosi harshly stomped his right foot, and his burly figure immediately flew up.

He was extremely fast, and he only left a vague figure in his original spot when he already rushed to Shangguan Wan. At the same time, he pulled the bowstring back and shot.

His series of actions was very smooth.

*Whoosh!*

The black arrow immediately flew out and pierced through the air.

Actually, Shangguan Wan had been waiting in the forest beside them for quite some time. After she was separated from Elder Qiuxi and the rest, she was trapped with a dozen-plus Black Guards and five or six disciples in the same place. It was also thanks to them that she could successfully escape from that hell hole.

Of course, those people were forever left in that dirty, rotting mud after she came out.

Then, she started walking around the forest aimlessly in search of people who were left alone. But not long later, she heard the commotion coming from this area.

When she saw the lightning that continuously struck down, what else did she not understand? At that moment, she didn't care about finding people any longer as she rushed over without hesitation.

After she came here, she didn't recklessly go forward as she waited from afar for a chance to come.

From her position, she could see Lei Laosi and that bunch of people. She even saw Elder Qiuxi and Jiang Yucheng—who had come later. But due to her meticulousness, she didn't come out in the end and just waited patiently.

At times like this, her brain was always very smart.

Finally... She waited for the ninth bolt of lightning!

This was the best chance, and it was also the only chance. This was because the ninth-grade fiend's defenses were at their weakest at this time.

Thus, she rushed out without hesitation!

However, she didn't expect that Lei Laosi was even faster! He actually blocked her path!

Facing the black arrow coming toward her glabella, Shangguan Wan's eyes darkened as she lightly flung her wrist.

A black shield immediately appeared in front of her.

*Ding!*

When the black arrow harshly struck the black shield, it made a crisp sound, and the arrowhead directly bent. On the other hand, not even a scratch was left behind on that black shield.

Seeing the black shield that Shangguan Wan suddenly produced, Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly.

On the other end, Mu Qinghe's expression turned slightly cold, and a conflicted feeling flashed across his eyes rapidly. *I didn't expect Shangguan Wan to take even that as her own...*

Shangguan Wan coldly sneered. "It's just a small toy! No matter who you are, make way immediately! If you spoil my plans, I won't let you off easily!"

Dahuang Swamp was also the Tianling Dynasty's territory. Hence, she still had the most distinguished status in this place.

The sensible ones would normally already be stunned as they humbly made way for her.

Shangguan Wan's expression was filled with pride as she looked at Lei Laosi in a high and mighty manner as if she were looking like an ant. However, her imagined scenario didn't happen.

Not only did Lei Laosi not look fearful at all, but he even looked angrier.

His gaze swept across the black shield in front of Shangguan Wan, and his anger almost rushed to the roof! *How can there be such a shameless person in this world?! How can she be worthy of using this black shield?!*

"What are you?! How dare you be unreasonable here?!" He put away all the arrows in his hands and changed to his hammer.

Without speaking further, he held it up high, and the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force rapidly gathered!

He tensed up his firm muscles, and the surrounding aura was ferocious as it kept intensifying crazily!

Finally, it stopped at beginner stage-eight warrior.

Shangguan Wan was shocked. *This Lei Laosi actually hid his abilities previously! Beginner stage-eight... How can I be his match?!*

The two fell into a stalemate.

...

At this point, Chu Liuyue was thinking of how to stop Shangguan Wan. Suddenly, she felt a light breeze by her ear.

She was shocked when she saw a red figure suddenly rush out—it similarly ran toward that barrier!

“Tuan Zi!” hollered Chu Liuyue, but she couldn’t stop Tuan Zi.

Without thinking, she also turned around and followed it. *When a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant breaks through and becomes a legendary fiend, the aftershocks they cause are terrifying. Judging by the smell, this Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant’s bloodline strength is extremely great, and it’s basically about to succeed in breaking through! With such a formidable bloodline suppression, Tuan Zi would be courting death by going over!*

Just as Chu Liuyue was about to follow it worriedly, Lei Laosi also detected the situation here. “Oh my lord! None of you can keep still!”

*I definitely had to stop Shangguan Wan from barging inside, but what’s with Chu Liuyue? Didn’t she want to leave previously? Does she think that she can safely barge into the barrier with her low-level skills?*

“Stupid girl, get back immediately!” Lei Laosi couldn’t hold it in and directly blurted out roughly.

Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn’t listen at all and kept rushing toward the barrier crazily without even stopping, Lei Laosi was even more anxious. *F\*ck, that Chu Liuyue has a death wish herself. Why am I panicking for her?!*

Lei Laosi was scolding himself in his heart as he yelled in another direction, “Big Brother! Do something!”

Shangguan Wan saw that Chu Liuyue was rushing toward this place, and her lungs were about to explode from anger. *Such a lowly being, yet she wants to have the legendary fiend?! Dream on!*

She took this chance, turned her feet, and rushed in another direction.

Chu Liuyue heard all the commotion crystal clear. *But I just want to bring Tuan Zi back!*

A terrifying side-effect with brilliant light suddenly spread from the barrier!

Chu Liuyue’s heart sank. “Tuan Zi!”

*Swoosh!*

Tuan Zi moved its figure and directly dove into the rainbow-colored energy wave!

### **Chapter 710: Reunion!**

Tuan Zi's figure instantly disappeared, and the energy wave that was about to hit Chu Liuyue seemed to be stopped by a large invisible hand as it quickly retracted.

Confused, Chu Liuyue looked at the empty space in front of her and the barrier that faintly shone with a few ripples. *W-what's going on... Not only did Tuan Zi disappear, but even the energy that spread to this point can be retracted?*

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes and took another close look to confirm that she wasn't seeing things. *Everything that happened previously... is real! Tuan Zi actually... barged in safely?*

She clearly saw that when Tuan Zi entered, it didn't suffer any threat or harm. It was as if... As if it entered naturally like it's a no man's land.

But at this point, Chu Liuyue could still clearly feel the tremendous suppression coming from the barrier. *Why did Tuan Zi—*

At this moment, Chu Liuyue suddenly felt a wave of energy circling her.

She knitted her brows and immediately wanted to retaliate, but she suddenly realized something as she was about to make a move and turned around to look.

A man stood in the woods.

That man was tall and big, and his back and shoulders were straight. Like Lei Laosi, he was wearing sack clothes. He looked like he was in his thirties, and his appearance was normal. When placed in a crowd, he definitely couldn't be identified.

At this point, he was staring straight at Chu Liuyue.

To be more accurate, he was staring at the place where Tuan Zi disappeared in front of Chu Liuyue.

In his narrow slits, his gaze deepened as if it was a dark and quiet well that was unaffected.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled suddenly. *This man's gaze seems a bit familiar... This should be the 'Big Brother' that Lei Laosi was referring to.*

That man waved his sleeves, and Chu Liuyue's body uncontrollably moved a distance. In the blink of an eye, she was a few steps away from that man.

Then, the energy silently disappeared.

The two of them looked at each other.

Chu Liuyue's heart sank. *This man's abilities definitely aren't weaker than that of Lei Laosi. He might even be stronger than him! Who are these two people? Why would they guard a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant in such a dangerous and deserted Mystic Forest?*

From the moment she saw the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's wing, she knew that its abilities were formidable and that it didn't even need these two people to guard them.

*Even if it's to ensure that it is well-protected while it's breaking through to become a legendary fiend, as a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant, countless fiends would pounce forward to help it with just one command. Why must it choose two humans? Even though these two are indeed quite strong, judging from the current situation, both men aren't the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's master.*

*No matter if one considers it from the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's perspective or the duo's perspective, this incident is very strange.*

Just as Chu Liuyue was thinking about this, the man opposite scrutinized her silently.

"Is that blood ferret the fiend you have an agreement with?" he asked. His tone was calm, but his voice was a little hoarse.

Chu Liuyue nodded. *Who can't tell this? Isn't it obvious?*

Upon seeing this, the man squinted his narrow eyes, and something rippled in his eyes.

Chu Liuyue felt that something was off. *This man... seems to be looking at my face? What's there to look at on my face?*

For someone who could reach such a cultivation level, Chu Liuyue wouldn't think that he was tempted because of her appearance. It seemed like he was seeing another person through her.

"Your fiend is pretty interesting," he said with a laugh.

Chu Liuyue couldn't guess what he meant at that moment, so she decisively looked up and stared straight at him. "You can just directly ask whatever you want to know."

That man raised his brows slightly as if he didn't expect Chu Liuyue to be this direct.

He then raised his hands suddenly.

Chu Liuyue's expression changed slightly.

For some reason, she didn't feel threatened or uneasy at all even though she knew that this man was very strong, to the extent that he could kill her with one move. It seemed like she... was sure that the other party wouldn't hurt her for some reason.

She had always been meticulous. Normally, she wouldn't feel this way toward a stranger that suddenly showed up.

Chu Liuyue looked into his eyes, and a white light suddenly flashed across her mind. *Hang on! Could this man be—*

“Even the two of us can’t enter this barrier.” The man in front suddenly spoke when his hand brushed past Chu Liuyue’s ear and pointed behind her.

*Boom!*

A sudden impact sound was heard.

Chu Liuyue suppressed her feelings and turned around to take a look.

But it was Lei Laosi who stopped Shangguan Wan once again.

The two people held short weapons, and they started fighting!

Shangguan Wan took a step first, but Lei Laosi was stronger. They dealt with each other, and they kept ending up in a stalemate.

Of course, Shangguan Wan wasn’t as good as him. She quickly became disadvantaged and was repeatedly defeated by Lei Laosi.

If it weren’t for her black shield, she wouldn’t have been able to take it early on.

Seeing that she was about to fail, Shangguan Wan hurriedly turned around and begged for help from Mu Qinghe and Elder Qiuxi. “Lieutenant Mu! Elder Qiuxi! What are you doing there? Quickly, come and help me!”

Elder Qiuxi only hesitated for a moment before immediately going forward. But the moment he took a step out, a light flashed before his body.

Something brushed past the tip of his nose and landed!

A fiery sensation came over, which made Elder Qiuxi instinctively take a step back.

*Chu!*

He looked down and saw a palm-sized metal plate that pierced into the ground in front of him.

If it were a little off, his feet would've been destroyed!

Elder Qiuxi's entire body broke out into cold sweat. *It's just a deserted metal plate, yet it has such formidable strength. This man's abilities... are indeed terrifying!*

Jiang Yucheng sat down cross-legged behind Elder Qiuxi. He was resting at the side and finally waited until the excruciating pain in his stomach disappeared before he simply treated his wounds. He finally managed to tidy his body's force with much difficulty and recovered a portion of his abilities.

Seeing Shangguan Wan come over, he was upset in his heart but didn't show it.

Just as he was about to walk over with Elder Qiuxi, he met with this attack.

Jiang Yucheng stood up, looked at the man that suddenly appeared, and slowly knitted his brows. *There are only a few people with such abilities in the Tianling Dynasty! Who exactly is this person—*

*Hong! Hong! Hong!*

A shockingly loud sound came from within the barrier.

The last circle of rainbow light at the top was rapidly dispersing.

Under everyone's stares, the large barrier finally became completely transparent.

The gigantic and thick rolling leaf fir stood up straight, and a beautiful and distinguished Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant stood above.

It was like the brilliant evening light shining from the sky—extremely elegant and stunning.

There was a slight burn mark on its body, but it was rapidly healing. Its aura was also strengthening swiftly!

It was about to break through and become a legendary fiend!

Suddenly, that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant slowly lowered its head and looked at Chu Liuyue.

As if sensing something, Chu Liuyue looked up.

The two of them exchanged glances.

Chu Liuyue's heart shook, and a shout jumped out of her throat! "Little Nine!"