

Noble Ruler 711

Chapter 711: Little Nine, it's Me!

Even though times had changed and many things were different, Chu Liuyue could still recognize at first glance that it was the Little Nine that accompanied her for countless days and nights when she saw the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.

This was an absolute silent agreement, an instinct they only had after understanding each other deeply as they had experienced countless life-and-death scenarios together.

Chu Liuyue clenched her fists tightly until her knuckles turned white. After her heart stopped for a moment, it started beating wildly, and all the blood in her body seemed to be coursing through her veins.

Even she didn't know how much effort she used to control her urge to rush forward, but her eyes were already filled with sourness as if something suddenly overwhelmed her and wrapped around her.

Little Nine! That's my Little Nine! I thought that we were already separated by life and death, but I didn't expect us to be able to meet again at a place like this. Her previous disappointment and regret completely disappeared, leaving behind endless surprise and gratefulness. It was as if a flower suddenly grew and bloomed below the dusty ground as it swayed with the wind.

With just one light move, all her bitterness and sufferings instantly became nothing.

Chu Liuyue didn't even blink as she was afraid that everything before her was just an illusion.

Suddenly, she focused on something and saw that Little Nine's eyes... were actually gray! Chu Liuyue was stunned. That's not right... Little Nine's eyes are normally black, but its eyes would become a brilliant rainbow when it executes its powers. It's never gray. The most important point is that in its pair of gray eyes, there are no irises!

With just one glance, they looked like two gray Yuan Stones that didn't have any energy or liveliness to them.

Even though it was also 'looking' at Chu Liuyue, only Chu Liuyue—who was looking at it—could see that its eyes were like a dried-up well. They were lonely, empty, and void of any emotions.

After a moment, it calmly retracted its gaze.

Chu Liuyue's lips quivered as she seemingly stepped forward uncontrollably.

Hula-

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant suddenly flapped its wings.

The wind howled, and the leaves rustled in the wind!

The violent wind spread in all directions. The nearby crowd was affected, and they all had to move back a few steps.

Chu Liuyue originally wanted to go forward, but the man behind her pulled her back by a distance.

On the other end, Lei Laosi and Shangguan Wan—who were fighting—were also respectively separated.

Lei Laosi didn't notice this at that moment, and he landed harshly on the ground due to the impact. He couldn't help but scold, "Damn you! You don't have any conscience left! I guarded you with much difficulty, but you're not even making it easy for me!"

But that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant was unaffected as if it didn't even hear him. It seemed like it was angered because the people in the surroundings disturbed its breakthrough.

Lei Laosi instantly felt his head ache. I must've been crazy to tell it all of this! If it listens to people, Big Brother and I wouldn't have to watch it here! It previously spent all its time hibernating and not causing trouble. It was decent when it was quiet and peaceful. Now that it's about to break through, its abilities have strengthened greatly. Let alone me, Big Brother might not even be this fellow's match!

However, Shangguan Wan's situation was better than Lei Laosi. In the moment of panic just now, she used her black shield to block herself, and it blocked most of the energy.

Hence, she didn't fall to the ground and look as badly as Lei Laosi. Instead, she stood still after stumbling backward for a few steps.

She gently breathed out and silently thought, This black shield is much more useful than I thought. Without this, I might've collapsed long ago.

Shangguan Wan looked up at that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant again and slightly knitted her brows. Why must it be a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant...

Previously, she had all sorts of imaginations about this ninth-grade fiend, but she had never expected it to be a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.

If it were any other ninth-grade fiend, she wouldn't have any problems. She only had problems with this Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant—it was the fiend that Shangguan Yue made an agreement with when she was alive!

This made Shangguan Wan quite uncomfortable, but she couldn't care about much now! It's the best time to attack since this thing hasn't completely broken through to become a legendary fiend.

Shangguan Wan crazily burned the force in her body as she went on her toes and flew up again.

She went straight for that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant. As long as I pluck off the red feather from its head, I can take it and become its owner!

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant tilted its head and glanced at Shangguan Wan. Just as it was about to make a move again, its gaze suddenly landed on the black shield in front of Shangguan Wan.

Its actions had a momentary hesitation.

Shangguan Wan was surprised in her heart. This Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant doesn't seem to have that much enmity toward me! Or perhaps it hasn't reacted yet, so it let me get closer to it! Perhaps the heavens want to give me a legendary fiend as well!

Shangguan Wan was very agitated. As she was excited, her eyes turned red.

In the blink of an eye, she was already before the barrier.

The transparent barrier suddenly rippled.

The terrifying aura gradually gathered and formed a wave as it went toward Shangguan Wan.

Shangguan Wan had seen how formidable this barrier was, so she held up the black shield with lingering fears, completely hiding her body behind it.

Buzz!

That wave of energy harshly slammed against the black shield! It let out a thick and low sound that spread far and wide.

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant 'looked' toward this side as it stared at the black shield closely. It tilted its head slightly as if it was thinking of something.

That terrifying force was so great that Shangguan Wan's two hands holding the black shield were completely numb.

Just as she was worried about what to do next, she suddenly felt that the heavy suppression disappeared.

She looked up and saw that the force was flowing toward the sides of the black shield.

An opening suddenly appeared in the barrier.

My chance is here! Shangguan Wan was elated as she charged toward that opening without hesitation.

When Lei Laosi saw this scene, he was so angry that his lungs hurt. "You! You!"

Stupid thing, do you know who that is?! Why did you become so stupid after waking up from your sleep?! Are you blind?!

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled. Shangguan Wan could go over clearly because of that black shield! Little Nine seems not to recognize me anymore, but it has an unknown reminiscence toward my items.

Chu Liuyue clenched her teeth and also rushed over.

This time, the man beside her no longer stopped her as he stood with his hands behind his back and silently watched Chu Liuyue fly over. He slightly squinted his narrow eyes as if in deep thought.

Chu Liuyue moved too quickly, and she almost rushed through the hole right after Shangguan Wan.

Lei Laosi gasped. "Stupid girl, are you crazy?! Quickly, come out!"

That's not a place she can enter!

But Chu Liuyue didn't turn around. Instead, she looked up at the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant also detected her arrival as it waved its wings, and a rainbow light formed a rope and tightly tied Chu Liuyue up.

Shangguan Wan turned around and sneered coldly. She doesn't know her limits!

Chu Liuyue just felt that her organs and limbs were tightly pressed against each other, and she couldn't breathe.

Her face rapidly flushed red, and her vision started turning black, but she still looked at the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant stubbornly.

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant seemed to feel something as it finally turned around again.

Chu Liuyue's tears welled up, but she smiled.. Then, she opened her mouth and silently said, "Little Nine, it's me."

Chapter 712: Familiar Aura!

Little Nine, it's me.

Without any sound, just this silent sentence was enough to shock the world.

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's pair of gray eyes seemed to crack at that moment, and a tinge of shock seemed to overflow from that pair of eyes.

The rainbow light that was tightening on Chu Liuyue suddenly stopped.

She looked up at it.

Some movement could finally be seen in that pair of eyes that seemed like a dried-up well—confusion, strangeness, shock, disbelief...

All the complicated feelings swarmed up one by one, and they intersected with each other!

At this time, a furry red figure silently climbed up the tree trunk and reached beside the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's red claw.

When it turned around, it coincidentally saw that Chu Liuyue was still trapped within that rainbow light.

Tuan Zi angrily grinded its teeth and harshly bit the red claw beside it.

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant felt the pain as it lowered its head and looked at Tuan Zi with a face of innocence.

Tuan Zi ferociously bared its teeth.

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant lowered its head in grievance.

Shangguan Wan—who originally planned to watch a good show—saw that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant suddenly stopped. She turned around, followed its line of sight, and saw a... blood ferret beside the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's feet.

Shangguan Wan knitted her brows. *Isn't that Chu Liuyue's fiend? Why did it barge in, and it's actually so close to the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant? Is it not afraid of the bloodline suppression? And... it actually dared to bite the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant?!*

"An egg hitting against a stone! You don't know what's good for you!" Shangguan Wan chuckled. *As expected—like Master, like fiend. Chu Liuyue is one that doesn't cherish her life, and her fiend is even more so. Just like this, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant can easily crush it to death.*

Detecting Shangguan Wan's gaze as if she was watching a joke, Tuan Zi immediately glared at her in return harshly. *What are you looking at! When I go crazy, I'll even bite myself!*

Chu Liuyue also saw Tuan Zi. *When did it suddenly run over there?*

Just as she was about to call Tuan Zi back, she saw that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant had already waved its wings and made a rainbow ball wrap around Tuan Zi.

Tuan Zi gently floated upward. Then, it actually arrived on top of the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's head.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly and shook her head toward the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant. *Little Nine, you can't! Tuan Zi is also my fiend!*

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant glanced at Chu Liuyue. Then, it directly opened its mouth and swallowed the rainbow ball.

After that, it slowly closed its eyes.

"Tuan Zi!" Chu Liuyue gasped. *Little Nine actually ate Tuan Zi?!*

Shangguan Wan was watching from the side and felt elated. She then looked at Chu Liuyue and revealed a pitiful expression. "Ms. Chu, this barrier is the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's territory, and normal people can't come in. At the end of the day, your fiend is just a third-grade blood ferret. How can it endure the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's suppression? I think you should leave as soon as possible! If not... Even I might not be able to save you!"

Chu Liuyue looked at her coldly. *Shangguan Wan is still Shangguan Wan. At this time, she can still feign concern. Does she not feel disgusted with herself?*

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and realized that her connection with Tuan Zi hadn't been cut off. This also meant that it was still alive!

She felt slightly at ease. *Tuan Zi isn't an ordinary fiend. Since it dared to take the initiative to come here, it definitely has the ability to protect itself. Why don't I get Little Nine to spit Tuan Zi out after summoning Little Nine back?*

Chu Liuyue calmly asked, “It seems like the Third Princess has the confidence to take this fiend in?”

Shangguan Wan’s eyes were filled with unblockable delight. *This Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant clearly treats me differently. Maybe it has already chosen me as its master. I’m naturally different from others.*

“Making an agreement with a legendary fiend—especially high-level fiends, or even legendary fiends—all depends on fate. Since this Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant chose me, then—”

Boom!

A frightening aura suddenly exploded from the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.

A brilliant red light spread from its feathers, and it quickly healed the injuries that were caused by the lightning. At the same time, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant suddenly flapped its wings.

It opened its wings, and its figure expanded, almost covering the sun. The next moment, it changed its direction and flew toward Shangguan Wan.

Shangguan Wan was nervous and excited. *I-is it recognizing me as its master?!*

Her heart beat wildly, and all the blood in her body rapidly flowed through as if it was about to burst out. *Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant... It’ll be a legendary fiend when it breaks through! At that time, everyone in the Tianling Dynasty will know that I—Shangguan Wan—made an agreement with a legendary fiend! Shangguan Yue was so capable, but she only had a ninth-grade fiend. If this succeeds today... Everyone will know that I, Shangguan Wan, am a hundred times stronger than Shangguan Yue.*

Countless scenes surfaced in Shangguan Wan's mind, which excited her so much that her body trembled slightly.

She took a step forward. *As long as I can make an agreement—*

Whoosh!

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant leaned down and was close to Shangguan Wan as it flew past her head. At the same time, its sharp claws glided past and directly scratched Shangguan Wan's arm.

Fresh blood poured out of the wound, and it was so deep that one could see her bones.

"Ah!" Shangguan Wan wasn't prepared at all as she gasped in shock, and her body moved a few steps back uncontrollably.

She anxiously glanced at her arm, but she didn't have the time to check her wounds.

This was because... Her black shield was stolen!

Shangguan Wan hurriedly looked up and saw that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant was indeed tightly clutching onto the black shield.

She was about to chase when she felt an excruciating pain from her arm. Shangguan Wan looked down, and her eyes widened in horror.

She saw a few rays of rainbow light shining from the edges of the wound. That rainbow-colored light seemed brilliant and charming, but it had a terrifyingly high temperature.

When it swarmed back and forth, it seemed like fire was roasting it.

The more horrifying thing was that Shangguan Wan realized that her wound was expanding at an observable speed. The wound—which was originally so deep that one could see the bones—was continuously being ripped open by the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant’s strength.

The excruciating pain came over, and it hurt Shangguan Wan so much that her mind went blank and almost made her faint.

“Ah!” She yelled at the top of her lungs, and she collapsed on the ground, huddling into a ball from the extreme pain. “No! No!”

A muddled moan came out from her mouth with deep horror.

Nobody knew that Shangguan Wan’s force was currently being crazily absorbed.

That rainbow light had already spread to her shoulders.

From afar, her shoulders were already rotten, and it looked terrifying.

Chu Liuyue looked at her and squinted her eyes. *The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's previous impact combined the strength from the lightning and its own. Shangguan Wan naturally can't take it.*

She looked up at the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant that was flying in the sky. *Little Nine is targeting Shangguan Wan like this... Could it have recalled something?*

At this point, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant suddenly let out a clear shout.

Shoo!

The clear and loud shrill reverberated throughout the area, and a rainbow feather on its wing suddenly became red.

Chu Liuyue felt that something seemed to be moving in her body. After a moment, shock flashed across her eyes. *That's Tuan Zi's aura!*

Chapter 713: No Need to Wait

Chu Liuyue almost didn't dare to believe as she confirmed again in detail. She then realized that Tuan Zi's aura was indeed changing along with the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's bodily changes.

T-this... A bold and ridiculous thought suddenly appeared in Chu Liuyue's mind. Could it be that Tuan Zi and Little Nine—

Gradually, all the rainbow feathers became red—they were like a passionate fire burning across.

Chu Liuyue was ever so familiar with such a red. This was because it was the exact same color as Tuan Zi's body.

Recalling the scene of Tuan Zi being trapped in a ball and being swallowed by the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant, Chu Liuyue's eyes sparkled as she was on an emotional rollercoaster. *If... If!*

Following the red feathers' appearance, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's aura also crazily strengthened.

In the dark sky, it was the brightest existence!

Chu Liuyue looked up, and countless scenes flashed across her mind.

The first time she met Tuan Zi was in the forest outside the Imperial City. It came out from a bunch of fallen leaves as if it had fallen asleep for a very long time, and it stumbled along to follow her.

At the start, she didn't intend to bring a blood ferret along. But it was very insistent and kept sticking next to her like a small tail. Afterward, they met with the black flying python.

Tuan Zi blocked her so selflessly. Even though its tiny body wasn't even as big as one of the black flying python's eyes, it still rushed up without a care. It was covered in injuries, but it never regretted. Then... It accompanied her day and night and followed her through life and death.

Speaking of this, two or three sentences could summarize it all.

However, only she knew how much these things contained and how much it meant to her.

I didn't discover it back then, but now that I think about it, there were clues left everywhere. In this world, why would there be a fiend that would willingly sacrifice its life for a complete stranger without a care?

It regularly lazed and whined to her.

It liked to fight with Hong Yao.

It completely trusted and depended on her.

...

Chu Liuyue couldn't help laughing, but her eyes were already wet. A tear silently dropped down, entered her hair, and disappeared.

Within her body, the aura that kept strengthening was strange yet familiar. *That is Tuan Zi and Little Nine as well! It turns out that after so many twists and turns, it has always been by my side.*

...

"Ah... No!" Shangguan Wan was tossing and turning due to the pain at the side as she kept moaning and yelling in agony.

“Third Princess!”

The crowd outside the barrier also saw this scene as they fell into great shock in unison and kept quiet for a very long time. It was Shangguan Wan’s cry of pain that finally made them recover their senses.

Elder Qiuxi hurriedly rushed over.

He was in charge of protecting Shangguan Wan. If something happened to her, he wouldn’t be able to take responsibility for it when he went back. However, he met with a problem when he rushed to the barrier.

How am I supposed to go in? An opening previously appeared on the barrier, so Shangguan Wan and Chu Liuyue could enter. But now... The opening is already sealed!

The gigantic transparent barrier was glowing faintly, and it had tremendous strength. With his current abilities, it was impossible for him to barge into this place forcefully.

Elder Qiuxi glanced at Mu Qinghe, who stood at the side and didn’t say much. “Lieutenant Mu, do you have any ways to enter this barrier? The Third Princess isn’t doing so well. If we don’t get her out as soon as possible, I’m afraid—”

Mu Qinghe was currently staring at the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant within the barrier with furrowed brows. *This Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant... It doesn’t look like that one, but why do I feel some sort of familiarity with it?*

Hearing Elder Qiuxi's words, his gaze turned. He thought for a moment and boomed, "Even if we join forces, it'll be pretty hard to open this barrier. Unless... that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant is willing to let us in."

He was very near it, so he clearly saw that Shangguan Wan could enter just now because the barrier opened itself.

Elder Qiuxi was extremely anxious. "T-then, what should we do? Are we just supposed to watch on and do nothing?"

Jiang Yucheng pressed his lips against each other tightly. Then, his voice suddenly sounded from behind. "Ask Chu Liuyue."

Elder Qiuxi and Mu Qinghe lifted their heads together.

"Eldest Young Master, you mean—" Elder Qiuxi looked confused.

After this period of rest, Jiang Yucheng had basically treated his body already. He raised his chin. "Didn't Chu Liuyue go in as well?"

"But Eldest Young Master, she just took the chance and followed the Third Princess in. Why—"

"That Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant still hasn't given her a lethal attack to this point. Doesn't this show the problem?" Jiang Yucheng glanced at Elder Qiuxi coldly.

Elder Qiuxi was dazed and immediately understood. *That's right! Even though Chu Liuyue's fiend was eaten by that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant, she's still standing there in one piece. Other than at the very beginning—when the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant did attack her once—it treated her as invisible afterward. And the only time it took action, it didn't cause any substantial harm to Chu Liuyue.*

On the other hand, Shangguan Wan... We previously thought that she could still make an agreement with it, but we didn't expect that half her life would be lost in the blink of an eye. Understanding this point, Elder Qiuxi finally realized what Jiang Yucheng meant. However, he was still in a tough spot.

“Eldest Young Master, y-you might not know, but Chu Liuyue is pretty stubborn. She also has something against me... If I go and ask, there definitely wouldn't be any use.”

“I'll go then,” Mu Qinghe said suddenly.

Jiang Yucheng nodded.

Elder Qiuxi secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

Mu Qinghe turned around and walked toward Chu Liuyue.

Actually, other than that barrier separating them, the two people weren't too far apart.

But for Mu Qinghe, his feet were as if filled with metal as every step was heavier than before. His heart seemed to be pressed down by a gigantic stone, making it hard for him to breathe.

His mind was in a mess! *Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant... Is that Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant...*

...

Ever since Lei Laosi saw Chu Liuyue following Shangguan Wan in, his entire person was stunned. *Big Brother and I have guarded here for many nights and days, yet we couldn't enter the barrier. However, the two of them entered easily. It's ridiculous!*

But just as he couldn't unleash his heart filled with anger anywhere and when he was even considering not doing anything anymore, he saw the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant dealing with Shangguan Wan.

Seeing Shangguan Wan on the ground with her shoulders in a rotten and painful state, Lei Laosi let out his vengeance. *Nice! Big Brother and I still can't openly do anything to Shangguan Wan and the rest now, but who can object when this Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant takes action?*

"At least I didn't watch after you for nothing!" Lei Laosi felt much better, and his gaze landed on Chu Liuyue again. *That's weird. Why is this girl doing okay?*

He looked at his own big brother and wanted to ask for his opinion when he saw the latter staring at Chu Liuyue, his gaze unreadable.

Lei Laosi's heart tingled as he limped over. "Big Brother, what are you thinking about?"

That man's lips slowly curled up. "I'm thinking that we shouldn't need to wait any longer."

Chapter 714: Trump Card

Lei Laosi was stunned as he looked at the other in disbelief. “What? You’re saying—”

Following this, Lei Laosi suddenly remembered something as he hurriedly looked up. Oh right! After the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant swallowed that blood ferret, it officially started to change and became a legendary fiend. Could it be... Chu Liuyue!

Lei Laosi’s gaze suddenly turned, and he stared at the young woman in red standing within the barrier.

She was slim, and her shoulders were skinny, but her back was very straight.

The surrounding wind moved, yet she stood upright. It was as if nothing in this world could make her bend her back.

He suddenly recalled the gaze that Chu Liuyue had when she said that she wanted to enter the barrier.

So determined.

So persistent.

That gaze... is unparalleled.

That blood ferret was her fiend, and from what she said, it was indeed that blood ferret that brought them over. The most important point is that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant has already attacked Shangguan Wan, but it didn't touch Chu Liuyue the slightest bit. With all these clues added together, it's enough to prove one thing.

Chu Liuyue, she—

Lei Laosi was very agitated as the hand holding the hammer trembled slightly. He stared at Chu Liuyue's figure closely as he tried hard to control his emotions. Then, he lowered his voice and asked, "Big Brother, are you sure?!"

It's an important matter. We must be cautious!

That man smiled with slightly deep intentions. "We'll see."

Lei Laosi's heart was on fire. Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! What does he mean by 'we'll see?' He should say clearly if it is or if it's not!

But that man didn't say any more.

Lei Laosi could only force himself to calm down. I'll just have to wait until the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant finishes breaking through to know the results!

...

Mu Qinghe walked to the barrier.

The ferocious and strong suppression was like a small hill pressing against his body, making his every step even tougher to complete than before.

Even the circulation speed of the force in his body had slowed down. However, he still got near to the position Chu Liuyue was at.

Without waiting for him to speak, Chu Liuyue turned around as if she felt something. Her eyes were bright and clean like an ink gem.

Something was stuck in Mu Qinghe's throat. "...How... did you get in?"

Chu Liuyue's eyebrows rose slightly. "Lieutenant Mu, didn't you clearly see what happened earlier? I followed the Third Princess in."

Mu Qinghe paused for a moment and directly said, "Then, do you have a way to help us go in? Or... You can also send the Third Princess out."

Everyone could tell that it was impossible for Shangguan Wan to take in this Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant. Besides, it was about to break through and become a legendary fiend!

By then, it would be even harder to deal with!

The plan now was to protect Shangguan Wan's life first.

Chu Liuyue glanced at Shangguan Wan, knitted her brows, and said hesitantly, "Uh... Lieutenant Mu, do you think I have such capabilities? You might've forgotten that my fiend was also swallowed by the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant. I can't even go out myself, so I naturally don't know how to send the Third Princess out."

Why should I send her out? Isn't she doing fine here? Shangguan Wan is so greedy and wanted to possess the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant, but she didn't think whether she had the right to do so.

Mu Qinghe's expression was grave. "You really don't have a way?"

Chu Liuyue suddenly laughed. "I couldn't tell that Lieutenant Mu is so loyal to the Third Princess."

Mu Qinghe's heart was as if pricked by something harshly.

"But I'm very sorry. I really don't have such abilities. Why don't you try and ask the two of them?"

Mu Qinghe knew that Chu Liuyue was talking about Lei Laosi's group of two. Not mentioning whether they would help, the two of them might not be able to do it even if they were willing. If not, Lei Laosi wouldn't have been in such a sorry state previously.

Shoo!

A clear shout sounded again.

Chu Liuyue immediately turned around to look.

At this point, half of the feathers on the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's body had turned bright red.

Clang!

Its gigantic wings suddenly started flapping. At that moment, the winds rose, and the clouds swarmed in.

The giant rolling leaf fir swayed with the wind.

Smack!

A very thick root suddenly flew up from the ground and went toward Shangguan Wan.

This tree was the largest tree in the entire Mystic Forest, so its roots shouldn't be underestimated.

That root was as thick as two people hugging together. It was crystal clear, and the inside was filled with blood-red liquid.

An intense, bloody smell spread across the area.

The crowd's faces changed in unison.

Needless to say, Jiang Yucheng and the rest had personally witnessed how powerful this root was.

"Third Princess!"

"Wan'er!"

The root was right about to smash on Shangguan Wan.

At this moment, Shangguan Wan suddenly noticed something as she looked up. When she saw the thick root flying toward her, shock flashed across her face.

Then, it was as if she made up her mind as harshness flashed across her eyes. I can't care so much!

The next moment, Shangguan Wan's aura suddenly intensified.

She quickly stood up and left a vague figure at her original spot.

Bam!

That root harshly flung toward wherever Shangguan Wan was, and countless cracks instantly spread across the ground.

A very deep gully appeared.

Shangguan Wan's vague figure was also instantly crushed, but she herself had still escaped this attack.

Chu Liuyue immediately looked over, and her eyes squinted dangerously. Shangguan Wan's aura is still rapidly strengthening. She was previously a peak stage-seven warrior only, but she has directly broken through now and became a stage-eight warrior—the same stage as Lei Laosi!

A sinisterly cold aura exuded from Shangguan Wan. The next moment, her face and body were covered with a thin layer of frost.

Shangguan Wan was indeed holding back earlier! Chu Liuyue was thinking to herself when she saw Shangguan Wan raise her hands.

A sharp, white icicle suddenly appeared in her hands. However, a drop of very red blood was contained in the center of the white icicle.

The terrifying aura was spreading from its center.

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat. That blood is—

Whoosh!

Shangguan Wan had directly taken action. She harshly pierced that icicle into the root in front of her and forcefully slashed it.

Sila!

Blood splattered everywhere.

Ferocious bloodstains instantly covered Shangguan Wan's face and body, looking very sinister and terrifying!

However, an even more horrifying image appeared next—the bloodstains that landed on the icicle were actually absorbed by the icicle rapidly, and it all gathered within that drop of blood.

From afar, the drop of blood in the center seemed to intensify in terms of color—it vaguely turned dark.

Shangguan Wan was coincidentally holding onto the center position of the icicle, so only Chu Liuyue—who was standing near to her side—could see it.

Chu Liuyue felt a chill spread from her feet, and it traveled throughout her body. There's something wrong with that icicle!

Her gaze turned, and she looked at Shangguan Wan again.. However, she shockingly discovered that the latter's injuries were healing at an observable speed.

Chapter 715: Return!

At this point, Shangguan Wan had already ignored the outside world's gazes completely. She held the icicle and was very excited when she saw the red liquid in front of her pour all over the roots.

The intense, bloody smell spread all over, and it made one vomit.

However, this smell made Shangguan Wan even more excited. *This rolling leaf fir indeed grew by absorbing human blood, and the biggest one in the middle should be the mother tree of all the rolling leaf firs in the Mystic Forest. If I control this rolling leaf fir, won't it mean that... All the people trapped underground will be mine?! In that case, this plan will be much more convenient than my previous one!*

Shoo!

A painful shrill could be heard.

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw that the remaining rainbow feathers didn't turn red after a long time. Even the parts that had turned red started to turn back rainbow gradually.

Chu Liuyue's heart sank harshly. *Could this... be a sign of it failing to break through?!*

It spun in midair and anxiously flapped its wings.

Chu Liuyue clearly saw that the half of its wings that just turned red were gradually subsiding.

The most important point was that the dark clouds tumbling in the sky looked like they were going to disperse as they gradually floated in all directions.

Even if Chu Liuyue hadn't personally witnessed a ninth-grade fiend breaking through to become a legendary fiend, she knew one thing: The natural elements would normally only disappear after one broke through successfully.

But now, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant had only broken through halfway when this phenomenon started! This could only prove that Chu Liuyue's guess wasn't wrong!

I don't know what problem the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant met, but it's stuck at the last stage! If it can't successfully break through to become a legendary fiend this time, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's abilities will be greatly weakened. It might also be that it will never be able to break through and become a legendary fiend again. Chu Liuyue's heart sank to the bottom.

...

"Big Brother, what's going on? Is this fellow going to fail?"

All the others below detected that something was amiss, and their expressions changed.

Anxiety flashed across Lei Laosi's eyes, and he looked at his own big brother. "Why did it become like this? We've been guarding it properly all this while, and we didn't leave for a single moment. There has never been a mistake! Logically speaking, it should be able to break through successfully!"

One had to know that this Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant had been hibernating during this close to two-year period.

It chose to break through to become a legendary fiend today! If it didn't have absolute confidence, it definitely wouldn't do this!

"There's nothing absolute in the world." That man looked calm as he squinted his narrow eyes slightly. "The probability of a ninth-grade fiend breaking through to become a legendary fiend isn't even half. Besides..."

Besides, this Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant is very different from other ninth-grade fiends!

Lei Laosi was stumped, and his face paled as he muttered, "B-but... This is that person's fiend..."

How can her fiend fail? When it survived in that perilous situation, it already stated too many problems. At the very least, in my heart, I have never thought of another possibility other than success!

"...Let's wait a while longer and see. The clouds haven't completely gone away yet."

Before that happened, everything could still be saved.

Lei Laosi held the hammer in his hands tightly and nervously looked up. "A-anyway, I think it definitely can..."

Lei Laosi muttered to himself as if he were convincing himself, and it also seemed like a determined persistence.

...

“Ah! Why did the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant’s color suddenly return to normal?!” Mu Hongyu gasped.

Ye Ranran knitted her brows and looked stern. “I’m afraid that... it’s bad! It’s not so easy to break through and become a legendary fiend...”

“You’re saying that it’s going to fail?” Mu Hongyu still couldn’t quite believe it. *I saw the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant previously, and it was clearly doing well! Could it be that even this extremely strong ninth-grade fiend can’t successfully break through the ninth stage?*

The golden mane bear cub suddenly appeared in Mu Hongyu’s arms again.

Mu Hongyu felt her arms sink and hurriedly carried it. “Congcong, what are you doing?”

She thought that it was frightened by this commotion, but the golden mane bear cub just stayed in her arms obediently after it came out. It looked up at the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant in the sky and seemed extremely nervous.

Mu Hongyu didn’t understand why. *Why does Congcong seem... Not only is it unafraid, but it’s even worried about the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant?*

...

Mu Qinghe also looked up, but he quickly retracted his gaze as he stared at Shangguan Wan again with a solemn expression. *When Shangguan Wan took action just now, she seemed amiss...*

“Your Highness—” The moment he spoke, he heard the wind ringing in his ear.

A green figure rapidly flashed across his eyes.

He was stunned. “Hong Yao!”

Hong Yao turned around to glance at him, but it didn’t stop.

Huala!

Its body rapidly burned with green fire, and its aura exploded!

What is it planning to do?! Mu Qinghe’s expression changed slightly. “Hong Yao, come back!”

He yelled loudly, but Hong Yao flapped its wings and went toward the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant in midair.

Mu Qinghe was about to chase after it when he heard a loud sound.

Hong long!

He turned around and saw a large part of the ground in front of Shangguan Wan collapse.

The gully extended so deep that one couldn't see the bottom.

Jiang Yucheng had also noticed the commotion, and his expression changed drastically as he immediately went forward.

At this point, another root swept across, and Shangguan Wan directly jumped down.

“Your Highness!”

“Wan'er!”

Shangguan Wan's figure disappeared in front of the crowd.

It's so dangerous down there. Why does she still want to go down?

Almost at the same time, Chu Liuyue went on her toes and went straight for the skies like an arrow that left its bow.

She was actually going toward the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant!

“Liuyue!” Mu Hongyu and the rest were stunned. *That Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant was about to fail in breaking through, and its surrounding aura has already erupted. Isn't she courting death by going over at this time?!*

Chu Liuyue ignored all of these voices. She gathered her force and traveled even faster.

At this point, only the small area on the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's head was still colored red. All the other parts had returned to rainbow.

But even though it was rainbow, it was very different from the previous elegant and beautiful look.

Upon closer look, it looked like it was covered in a layer of dust as its entire body became dull and looked dead.

Chu Liuyue's heart seemed to be pierced by something, and it hurt. She then clenched her teeth and rushed forward without hesitation.

As if detecting someone coming nearby, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant flapped its wings alertly.

The ferocious and messy strength became rays of light that dispersed everywhere.

Quite a few injuries were quickly left on Chu Liuyue's body, but she was still going forward! She directly reached the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant!

Shoo!

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant flapped its wings and almost instantly wrapped Chu Liuyue's figure.

It was a crushing sense of pressure!

The sinisterly cold murderous intent overwhelmed her.

Chu Liuyue's clothes flapped along with the wind, and her black hair swayed along.

The harsh aura got closer to her, and its sharp claws pricked her neck.

Fresh red blood instantly flowed out.

Chu Liuyue's eyes turned red, but she was stubborn and determined as she said clearly, "Little Nine, I'm back. Can you come back too?"

Her voice was so light that it seemed like the wind could easily blow it away. However, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant heard it.

Its tightly shut eyes finally opened. Within the stale and dull gray, a brilliant rainbow color suddenly erupted.

In the skies, the dark clouds gathered once again!

Hot and crystal-clear tears dropped down from those charming eyes. *The master summons! I'll come back!*

Chapter 716: Transform!

The blood drops flowing out of Chu Liuyue's neck were quickly absorbed by the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.

The originally red claws turned brighter. It was as though it was suddenly injected with a rich force that made the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant yell out loud.

Shoo!

This sound was different from the previous painful shrill—Relaxed, reminiscent, happy...

It was the happiness of finally seeing hope after surviving a long waiting time.

During the countless dark days without light, it was dazed, confused, and lonely. Now, they could finally meet again!

That layer of gray on the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's quickly dissipated, and its feathers became bright again! Then, a tinge of red quickly spread across.

The feathers started becoming red at an observable speed. Only that pair of eyes were like brilliant rainbow-colored crystals that dazzled prettily.

The dark clouds tumbled, and the fierce winds howled. However, the space that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's wings covered was ever so peaceful.

The tremendous suppression on Chu Liuyue's body immediately dissipated, and she suddenly felt that she was being pushed from behind.

It was the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's wing—she and it were even closer to each other now.

They were so close that she could see her own reflection in that pair of gem-like eyes.

Chu Liuyue gradually stretched out her hands and wiped its tears. *I'm ever so familiar with this gaze. It is Tuan Zi and also Little Nine! It has Tuan Zi's whiny reminiscence and Little Nine's unparalleled elegance.*

Chu Liuyue choked, and her voice trembled slightly. "You're Little Nine... and also Tuan Zi, right?"

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant leaned down and went close to her cheeks to caress it gently.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes, and her hot tears silently dropped. Even though she already guessed it, she still couldn't stop her heart from trembling when she received an affirmative answer.

Recovering after a loss—in this world, there was nothing that could make one feel happier and more thankful!

Something seemed to overwhelm Chu Liuyue's chest as surprise and reminiscence were about to overflow from the bottom of her heart. *It's still here... It came back! I thought I had lost everything, but... no! It was still waiting for me!*

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes, and they were totally red.

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant carefully wiped away the tears from her face, and it cherished her very much.

Chu Liuyue looked at it. At that moment, many incidents replayed in her heart.

Now that the truth was out, it was like an invisible string was joining all of those incidents together.

Tuan Zi's stubbornness brought me over...

That rainbow barrier...

Lei Laosi's group of two in charge of guarding...

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but laugh. *It turns out that it's really the two of them.*

She previously didn't dare to believe it. After all, the two of them were very different compared to the past from all sorts of aspects.

Even if it were her personally seeing them right in front of her, she still didn't dare to confirm their identities.

But since Little Nine is here, and Lei Laosi and the rest keep guarding this place... Everything is confirmed! Chu Liuyue moved half a step back and looked at Little Nine in front of her.

At this point, only its tail hadn't turned red.

"I originally thought I wouldn't be able to see you again. I didn't expect... Not only can I see you again, but I can even see you breaking through."

Little Nine's eyes sparkled.

Suddenly, an anxious shrill came from behind.

Chu Liuyue turned around to take a look and saw that Hong Yao had already flown over a while ago.

As Chu Liuyue's body was tightly wrapped within Little Nine's wings, Hong Yao could only fly upward and look down from above.

Chu Liuyue lifted her head slightly and saw Hong Yao nervously flying around the top and staring down closely.

She smiled happily, and her eyes curled up.

Seeing that Chu Liuyue seemed to be alright, Hong Yao finally heaved a sigh of relief. But afterward, it discovered that Chu Liuyue's neck actually had a freshly scratched wound, and it was even bleeding!

Hong Yao instantly widened its eyes, and it looked at Little Nine furiously. *Is this fellow crazy?! Why did it attack her so harshly?!*

Little Nine and Hong Yao had always disliked each other, and they would fight at least once whenever they met. But Little Nine knew that it was in the wrong this time, so it guiltily avoided Hong Yao's gaze for once.

Hong Yao was even angrier as it crazily flapped its wings. It was so angry that its body almost puffed up into a ball.

Without thinking, it directly rushed over. *I didn't even dare to harm a strand of her hair, yet this fellow actually scratched her neck! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah—*

Bang!

Hong Yao finally stopped when it hit the barrier.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *It seems like Hong Yao also knows Little Nine's identity, so it's so unrelenting toward it. But... It doesn't seem to notice that the current Little Nine is even stronger than before. If Hong Yao just goes head-on against Little Nine, it will be disadvantaged.*

Chu Liuyue coughed and glanced at Little Nine. *You clearly saw Hong Yao coming over. Can't you let it in gently?*

Little Nine looked at her innocently. *Hong Yao didn't notice it itself... How can you blame me? Besides, I'm still busy breaking through!*

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched, and she had the urge to slap her forehead. *My instincts tell me that the fight between these two will never stop...*

She turned around to look again and then realized that Hong Yao very quickly got itself back up. But this time, it just stared at Little Nine from outside the barrier, and it didn't rush over messily.

Suddenly, something seemed to move slightly in Chu Liuyue's dantian.

Chu Liuyue was dazed before she discovered that this movement seemed to be coming from the black pyramid. *It's like... like something is about to struggle free!*

The black barrier above seemed to move!

Chu Liuyue focused on it. *Ever since I got this black pyramid, it has had only one obvious movement within the Tianling God Realm. It has remained quiet during other times. I opened the door below the Long Yuan Sword that time, so why has it moved now?*

Hu!

Boom!

Little Nine crazily absorbed the surrounding Heaven and Earth Force, and its aura kept strengthening.

The ripples didn't stop, and they reverberated throughout the area!

Places within miles were all affected by this ferocious strength!

Kacha!

A crisp sound was heard!

Upon hearing this, Chu Liuyue looked up and discovered that the top part of the barrier had cracked!

A few cracks instantly crawled all over the barrier like spiderwebs!

"The barrier is about to break! Retreat!" Lei Laosi—who had been watching the situation closely—immediately yelled at the top of his lungs.

The man standing beside Lei Laosi moved lightly, and his movement technique was superior. In the blink of an eye, he had retreated quite a distance.

At the same time, he waved his sleeves and brought Qiang Wanzhou's group of three—who were still rooted to the ground—over.

Qiang Wanzhou reacted the fastest and instinctively wanted to take action with his sword when he shockingly discovered that his body couldn't even move.

It wasn't until all of them were brought to that man that the unknown restraining force finally disappeared.

When the few of them stood still, they saw that the transparent barrier broke into pieces before they could even say anything.

With the tree as the center, the stunning strength crazily spread in all directions!

The ground was instantly flipped over as crushed wood and dust flew in all directions! At the same time, the tail of the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant in the sky finally transformed!

Chapter 717: Yue'er, Come Over

When Mu Qinghe heard Lei Laosi shout, he immediately moved backward and summoned Hong Yao back. However, it seemed to be bent on fighting the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant as it refused to move from its position.

As Mu Qinghe blocked the surrounding turbulence, he knitted his brows in deep thought. *Hong Yao is behaving like this because it's worried about Chu Liuyue, or is it because... of that Nine-Colored Heavenly*

Pheasant? Other than the one back then, there's nobody else that can make Hong Yao so stubborn. Does it have a grudge against the entire Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant clan?

Mu Qinghe didn't dare to confirm his guess.

From this position, he could vaguely see the corner of Chu Liuyue's clothes but nothing more. But judging from the current situation, Chu Liuyue shouldn't be in much danger for the time being even though she's trapped by the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant.

Jiang Yucheng and Elder Qiuxi were forced to move back.

As Elder Qiuxi was standing in front and had to protect Jiang Yucheng, he was quite injured.

However, Jiang Yucheng felt very conflicted at this point. Shangguan Wan went underground again. She clearly knows that there is the terrifying black soil underneath, so why does she still want to go back?

According to Jiang Yucheng's understanding of Shangguan Wan's character, since she was willing to do this, it must be to achieve one of her goals.

But... What exactly is it?

Suddenly, Jiang Yucheng's heart skipped a beat! Did... Shangguan Wan go for the people trapped underneath the rolling leaf fir?

Once this thought emerged, he couldn't remove it.

Jiang Yucheng clenched his fists tightly and furrowed his brows. *Shangguan Wan is definitely capable of doing such a thing! After all, she came here just for this! But... She actually gave up on her previous plan and chose this way instead!*

Recalling the tree root that was so thick and full as if it had absorbed more than enough blood, Jiang Yucheng's entire body turned numb. However, it was more of worry. *She jumped down in front of so many people! Is she not afraid that she would be exposed? She's really crazy!*

If Shangguan Wan knew what Jiang Yucheng was thinking at this moment, she would definitely snort at him.

He wasn't the one with the damaged Yuan meridian, and he was also not the one who completely became a good-for-nothing. Thus, he definitely couldn't understand how she felt! Besides, she was already driven to a point of no return then, so she only had this one way out!

Even if one gave Shangguan Wan another 100 chances, she would still make the same choice.

As for whether she will be discovered... She had done even bolder things, let alone this?

As long as her methods could lead to the appropriate consequence, everything was not a problem.

"I wonder how the Third Princess is now..." said Elder Qiuxi worriedly.

Jiang Yucheng looked up at midair.

Chu Liuyue seemed to be trapped by the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant, but the strange thing was that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant almost failed previously, and its aura erupted messily, to the point where it almost lost its rationality.

Under that kind of circumstances, it actually didn't take away Chu Liuyue's life? Besides, after Chu Liuyue went over, the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant recovered its strength and was only one step away from succeeding for some reason. What... just happened?

Hong! Hong! Hong!

An even stronger wave came over!

Everyone looked up in unison—

A bright and dazzling red fire suddenly appeared at the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's tail.

The light was like a knife that ripped through the darkness of the sky, and it was very eye-catching.

The terrifying suppression that stunned people exuded from its body.

Everyone watched on with their eyes wide open, and they were dazed. *That's... a phoenix tail!*

Red-tailed phoenix!

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant actually successfully broke through and became a red-tailed phoenix!

“Red-tailed phoenix! Isn’t that the legendary red-tailed phoenix which has the closest bloodline strength to a red-gold heavenly phoenix?”

Red-gold heavenly phoenixes and great phoenix dragons were the two legendary fiends with the greatest potential. Rumors had it that there were many divisions under the red-gold heavenly phoenix, and the red-tailed phoenix was the most distinguished one out of all of them.

Actually, Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasants weren’t considered as one of the top elites in ninth-grade fiend bloodlines. Even though the crowd predicted that it could break through and become part of the phoenix clan, nobody imagined that it would directly jump three grades and forcefully join the red-tailed phoenix series.

Even Chu Liuyue was taken aback. She had high hopes for Little Nine’s breakthrough, but she never thought that it could actually become a red-tailed phoenix.

Back then, Little Nine already had signs of breaking through before the thing happened to her. But at that point, its body’s bloodline strength wasn’t as intense as this. If not, Chu Liuyue wouldn’t have mistaken Little Nine’s identity after smelling that fragrance.

What exactly did it experience in these 2 years?

One had to know that a fiend of such level basically had their bloodlines fixed since birth. It was as hard as ascending to the heavens if one wanted to strengthen it.

Chu Liuyue could confirm that if not for the rich bloodline strength within its body, it was impossible for it to break through directly and become a red-tailed phoenix.

Countless shards of barrier flew over and turned into rays of light that entered Little Nine's body.

It then slowly closed its eyes.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled as she suddenly looked up and slightly knitted her brows.

The dark clouds in the sky hadn't dispersed.

What exactly is going on? Little Nine has already successfully broken through. Logically speaking, this cloud layer should also disperse... Suddenly, Chu Liuyue felt a ripple in her heart. It's the black pyramid!

Chu Liuyue immediately gathered her attention.

Crack!

The black seal on top suddenly cracked.

The crack was extremely small. If one didn't look at it closely, it was impossible for it to be noticed.

But Chu Liuyue's heart immediately hung up high! *The seal on this barrier is extremely strong. Even Ancestor couldn't open it back then, yet it actually cracked by itself?*

A bright light shone through!

Chu Liuyue held her breath in and then she detected that something was flowing out from the cracks.

She took a closer look and shockingly discovered that it was a ball of mist that had a faint golden glow to it. After it floated out, that golden mist silently disappeared before Chu Liuyue could even see it clearly.

It disappeared without a trace instantly.

Chu Liuyue was stunned. *W-what's going on? I haven't—*

Buzz!

An immensely loud sound suddenly whirred in her mind, and Chu Liuyue hugged her head in excruciating pain.

It was as if someone was holding an axe and crazily swung it, wanting to split her head open.

"Ahh!" Chu Liuyue let out a painful gasp!

Almost at the same time, a brilliant shade of gold flashed across Little Nine's head.

Its wings moved suddenly, and that shade of golden rapidly disappeared as it entered the red feathers!

It moved extremely fast, and everything happened too suddenly, so nobody took notice of this.

Everyone's attention was sucked by Chu Liuyue's scream.

Chu Liuyue held her head tightly. At that moment, countless images hurriedly flashed across her mind.

The last image froze.

It was still that cliff!

It was still that octagonal pavilion!

It was still that man wearing the black cotton robe!

Chu Liuyue's heart suddenly jumped, and she had a vague feeling.

This time, that man showed his side profile and lowly laughed in her direction as he said lazily and elegantly, "Yue'er, come over."

Chapter 718: Seal

His face seemed to be hidden in the mist, and she couldn't see him clearly, but that voice sounded familiar as if she had heard it somewhere before.

For some reason, Chu Liuyue confirmed that the 'Yue'er' was calling her!

Who is that man? Why is he calling my name, and in such a close tone... Chu Liuyue almost instinctively wanted to move forward, but her body seemed to be stuck to the ground, and she couldn't move an inch.

The distance between the two of them couldn't be shortened no matter what, and that man didn't seem to be anxious as he extended his hand. It seemed as though he was waiting for her to go over.

He stood upright, and the wind blew over, blowing his black clothes. He was like a mandala placed in the dark, yet he floated like a deity.

Chu Liuyue opened her mouth and wanted to speak, but no words could come out.

There seemed to be an invisible barrier between the two of them, and they couldn't get close to each other.

You are...

You are... Instincts told Chu Liuyue that she knew this man, and her chest was filled with an urge to shout out his name. It was as if she could remember who he was once she called out his name.

But Chu Liuyue couldn't yell it out no matter what, and she gradually started to become anxious.

Suddenly, a golden light ray floated past her eyes.

Chu Liuyue immediately descended into a sparkly gold color, and she couldn't see anything clearly. The next moment, it was as if something harshly pulled her.

Her body fell forward!

Bam!

Everything in front of her suddenly disappeared!

...

Tens of thousands of kilometers away.

Within the extremely exquisite loft, a figure sat by the window. He changed into a black attire today and looked extra cold.

At this point, a chessboard was placed in front of him.

36 Respected Elder Ming was opposite him.

His long, white fingers held up a white chess piece, and he paused in his actions when it landed in midair.

“Your Highness?” 36 Respected Elder Ming looked up at the man opposite him strangely. *He is always swift and decisive when playing chess and would never stop halfway. It seems like he was thinking of something.*

36 Respected Elder Ming was about to ask when he suddenly saw a spark of golden fire on the man’s fingertips.

That fire rapidly formed half a seal in midair before rapidly disappearing.

Whoosh!

The chess piece in between his fingers suddenly became white mist as it dispersed into the air.

36 Respected Elder Ming squinted his eyes. *His Highness actually used such a seal at this time...*

“Your Highness, did something happen?”

Rong Xiu shook his head, and his thin lips curled up into a light smile. “Nothing.”

It's just that... She opened the seal to the pyramid faster than I thought.

36 Respected Elder Ming saw his relaxed expression and the smile on his lips, as well as the vague love and pride in his eyes, and he roughly guessed what happened. "Is it related to the Princess Consort?"

Rong Xiu smiled as he picked up another chess piece and placed it down.

Pak!

"En. She should be thinking of me," said Rong Xiu calmly and righteously.

36 Respected Elder Ming instantly pouted in contempt. *You can just directly say that you miss your wife, yet you must say that she misses you. How pompous!*

"Your Highness, it seems that your skin is getting thicker," said 36 Respected Elder Ming rudely.

Rong Xiu smiled with deep meaning and didn't mind him saying this as he raised his brows. "...I was just speaking the truth, but I don't know..."

I don't know what aspect of me she is thinking about?

...

Chu Liuyue suddenly recovered her senses and breathed in heavily. Her forehead was filled with cold sweat, and her clothes were already drenched. They stuck close to her body, and it was very uncomfortable.

A soft feeling came.

Chu Liuyue looked up in a daze and saw that Little Nine had leaned over with worry in its eyes. She woke up from the dream. *Just now... that scene... It didn't seem to be an illusion, but... a memory!*

Chu Liuyue tightly pressed her lips against each other, and she panicked slightly in her heart. *This memory cannot belong to Chu Liuyue's body. Then... Us it mine? But I never had this memory in my twenty-plus years of life! Could it be... I really forgot something?!*

Chu Liuyue unwittingly clenched her fists as the light breeze blew over, and she felt a chill down her spine.

The first time this scene appeared, she thought it was a mistake or an illusion. But this time... She clearly felt that the entire scene was much clearer than before.

It was as if she took out something that had been put away for a long time as she tried to wipe away the dust on it to reveal its original appearance gradually.

Chu Liuyue rarely had such an expression. She vaguely felt that she had forgotten something important, but she herself didn't even know what it was.

The more uneasy thing was that the man in black seemed to be a very important person to her!

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and suppressed her messy feelings. She then looked at the black pyramid within her dantian again and realized that the tiny cracks were still on it. However, the faint glow coming from inside had disappeared.

At first glance, there seemed to be darkness and nothingness beneath the crack. The seal did indeed break, but it didn't completely open.

Chu Liuyue tried to move the seal, but it was to no avail.

"Girl, that crack was split open by the Heavenly Dao strength when you made an agreement with this red-tailed phoenix. It's not that easy if you want to open it with your own strength!" Shangguan Jing's voice suddenly sounded.

Chu Liuyue was shocked. "Agreement? Heavenly Dao?"

"Hm? Don't you know? This red-tailed phoenix has already become your legendary fiend! When the ninth-grade fiend broke through to become a legendary fiend, the strength from the Heavenly Dao it summoned was trapped within the ninth bolt of lightning. This fellow almost failed to endure it previously, but it managed to pass this barrier after it made an agreement with you. And naturally, a portion of the strength from the Heavenly Dao was given to you.

An idea popped up in Chu Liuyue's head. *Now that I've changed into another body, I naturally had to make another agreement with Little Nine. Thinking about it now, it seems like we unwittingly succeeded in making an agreement when Little Nine scratched my neck?*

Chu Liuyue touched her neck.

The wound wasn't considered big. Even though Little Nine attacked her when it almost lost its rationality, it still relied on its own strength to avoid all the vital points at the very last second.

This wound had already formed a scab, and she could recover after some treatment.

Back then, she just thought of summoning Little Nine back to help it make it through the ninth bolt of lightning. She didn't expect to make an agreement with it with a freak combination of factors.

It proved that the connection between them couldn't be cut off no matter what!

"The thing in your body went through the Heavenly Dao strength and became like this. It's a pity that the strength of the seal is too great, and it seemed to fix itself..." Shangguan Jing's voice had a tinge of regret. He originally thought he could use this chance to resolve the seal completely!

Chu Liuyue kept quiet for a moment and said determinedly, "One day, I will open this seal."

Chapter 719: Just Lucky

A red light then flashed in front of it, and Little Nine's giant figure quickly changed. Eventually, it became the size of a palm.

Its entire body was presented in red, especially its tail. It looked like a burning fire—very passionate and intense.

The pair of watery eyes was very brilliant like precious gemstones—dazzling and charming!

Chu Liuyue stretched out her hand, and Little Nine quickly flew to her palm.

She didn't even blink, and her eyes were filled with elation and emotions. *Even though I'm not clear about how exactly Little Nine escaped the hunt and don't know how it became Tuan Zi and found me... This isn't the most important thing! It's still around, and it came back to my side. This is already enough!*

Chu Liuyue pondered for a moment and thought to herself, *"Little Nine, I'm afraid I can't call you this next time. Why don't I continue calling you Tuan Zi?"*

The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant's identity was already very sensitive. If she continued addressing it as Little Nine, it would be too blatant.

Anyway, she had already called it Tuan Zi for a very long time, and it had always used this name beside her. Thus, it was the most appropriate thing to continue calling it the same way.

Little Nine nodded seriously, and its head gently rubbed against her palm.

It was furry to the touch, and its obedient appearance made Chu Liuyue's heart very soft.

Chu Liuyue lightly said, "Tuan Zi, I'll bring you home."

...

When everyone below saw the gigantic red-tailed phoenix turn into a palm-sized one in midair, they were all stunned.

Then, when they saw it fly to Chu Liuyue's shoulders and the human and fiend came down, the crowd was even more in a mess.

In the end, everyone was stunned when they saw Chu Liuyue dotingly pat the red-tailed phoenix's head as the latter rubbed against her neck lovingly, except for Lei Laosi's group of two that was guarding all along.

W-what's going on? Where's the ferocious legendary fiend? What about the harsh and sharp red-tailed phoenix? Why did it suddenly become this little thing?! The key point is: Why is it so close to Chu Liuyue?!

Seeing Chu Liuyue standing in the middle and the ball of red on her shoulders, the surroundings fell into an eerie silence.

A light breeze blew over, and they could only hear the sound of the leaves rustling.

Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings and laughed. "What's wrong with you all?"

This voice was like a stone dropping into a peaceful lake, instantly causing many ripples.

"Liuyue?! Y-you... What's going on?" Mu Hongyu widened her almond-like eyes and shockingly asked, "Isn't this a legendary fiend?! Why did it become so small, and why is it on y-your..."

After stammering for half a day, Mu Hongyu still couldn't complete her sentence.

Chu Liuyue blinked. "Oh, this? I think it's only this big when it's not in combat mode... But I'm not very sure either..."

Before Chu Liuyue could even finish talking, Tuan Zi nodded its head forcefully. *Of course, it's like this! If not, it'll be troublesome to be so big! It's easier for me to stay with Master like this!*

Chu Liuyue turned around to glance at it and seriously said, "Oh, it seems like I didn't guess wrongly. See? Even it says this too."

The crowd was speechless. *What did it say?! No, that's not the crux of the issue!*

"Liuyue, I-I'm not asking about this—" said Mu Hongyu with much difficulty as she looked conflicted.

At the side, Ye Ranran took the initiative to explain softly, "Liuyue, Hongyu wants to ask... What's with you and this red-tailed phoenix? Wasn't it very fierce toward you just now? Now, why..."

Everyone clearly saw what had happened.

This red-tailed phoenix was initially very rude toward Chu Liuyue at the start. There were even a few times where it seemed like it was going to kill Chu Liuyue!

Why did this human and fiend suddenly become so close in the blink of an eye?

Chu Liuyue suddenly realized something. "Oh, you're asking about this..."

She smiled, and her eyes curled up as they dazzled like stars. "Because it has already become a fiend I made an agreement with."

Because it already became a fiend you made an agreement with?! Everyone looked taken aback.

"W-what did you say?" This time, the person who spoke wasn't Mu Hongyu or Ye Ranran but Jiang Yucheng. After a temporary daze, he was filled with shock and just blurted out this sentence.

Chu Liuyue lightly glanced at him in a seemingly smiling manner. "Did I not make myself clear just now? I said that this red-tailed phoenix is my fiend now."

Her tone was very nonchalant as if she were saying something unimportant, but it sounded like thunder to the crowd.

Red-tailed phoenix! This legendary fiend actually made an agreement with Chu Liuyue?!

At the side, Elder Qiuxi finally recovered his senses as he stared at the small ball on Chu Liuyue's shoulders dazedly. His old skin harshly shook. "Impossible! This is definitely impossible!"

There are so many people around, so why does it have to be Chu Liuyue?

“The red-tailed phoenix is a legendary fiend. How can it choose you?!”

Even though this sounded bad, it was very direct and voiced the suspicion in the others’ hearts.

If the red-tailed phoenix really wanted to find a human to make an agreement with, why did it choose Chu Liuyue out of all the people here?

Chu Liuyue slightly raised her chin and revealed the scratch on her neck. At this point, the bloodstains were still forming a scab.

“When it swallowed Tuan Z just now, I wanted to save it. But I didn’t expect an accident to happen in between, and this red-tailed phoenix’s claw scratched my neck, so I made an agreement with it for some reason... I just found out about it too.” Chu Liuyue explained the matter with a sincere tone, and she looked quite innocent. “It swallowed my fiend, so I can only take it to repay its debt.”

The crowd was speechless. *That’s the legendary fiend everyone has been harping on about for ages, and you just took it as your own in such a ridiculous manner? And you even used a third-grade fiend to exchange for a legendary fiend!*

The crowd fell into an eerie silence again. *There’s no way. This is too shocking!*

This was the first time they had seen a legendary fiend, and before they could even see it clearly, Chu Liuyue stepped ahead and obtained it first!

The key was that this entire matter was so coincidental that one couldn’t even intervene!

Everyone had personally seen Chu Liuyue's blood ferret being swallowed by the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant, so it was also reasonable that Chu Liuyue wanted to save it.

And the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant also should've attacked her. If not, there wouldn't be a scratch on Chu Liuyue's neck.

Normally, it was fine if it killed one person or even a hundred, but the key was that it was breaking through!

In the end... they made an agreement just like that?!

Mu Hongyu stuck out her thumb in admiration.

Ye Ranran also looked very excited. "Liuyue, you're amazing!"

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly and smiled very humbly. "No, no. I'm just a little lucky."

Chapter 720: Suppression

'No, no. I'm just a little lucky.' She has the cheek to say that?! How is that just a little lucky? Her luck is obviously off the charts! Is she trying to put all of us to shame?! Elder Qiuxi's face was flushed, and he had a hard time breathing. He pointed a trembling finger at Chu Liuyue but was unable to spit out a single word despite his quivering lips.

What else could he have said though? Everyone saw what happened, so he couldn't denigrate Chu Liuyue even if he wanted to. Besides, there was nothing he could do since the red-tailed phoenix had already contracted with her.

Chu Liuyue looked at him in concern. “What’s wrong, Elder Qiuxi? Is everything alright?”

Elder Qiuxi stiffly retracted his hand, flinging his sleeve powerfully in the process as he turned his head away. *What I can’t see won’t hurt me!*

Having seen right through Elder Qiuxi, Chu Liuyue sneered in her heart. *He just wanted Tuan Zi for himself; otherwise, why isn’t he concerned about Shangguan Wan’s safety anymore? Apparently, the thought of whether he deserves to own Tuan Zi didn’t even cross his mind. It’s been so many years, but his greedy nature still hasn’t changed!*

A green shadow flew over just then.

“Hong Yao?” Chu Liuyue looked up. *I was a little worried when I saw Hong Yao bump into the barrier, but by the look of it now... Yep, it should be fine.*

Upon receiving a furious glare from Hong Yao, Tuan Zi turned around and ignored it. *What’s there to look at when we’ve seen each other for so many years?*

Hong Yao was so angry that its small body was all puffed up like a ball. With a *whoosh*, its body lit up with green fire. *I sensed something amiss with Tuan Zi long ago, and by the look of it now, I was right! Tuan Zi is Little Nine! To think that I mourned its death for so long back then! But as it turns out, it’s alive and kicking! It even broke through to become a legendary fiend!*

Hong Yao’s annoyance grew when it realized that the gap between Tuan Zi and itself had widened even further. At the thought that it wasn’t even a ninth-grade fiend, Hong Yao began crying. *I definitely won’t be able to defeat Tuan Zi in the future!*

In its misery, fat teardrops fell from its eyes. It quickly looked away and wiped the tears away with its wings. But they soon became wet, for its tears flowed nonstop like a leaky faucet. *It'll definitely seek revenge on me since I bullied it so much in the past... Woo woo woo...*

Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears. She was just about to walk over to it, but she suddenly stopped and cast a helpless look at Mu Qinghe instead. "Lieutenant Mu..."

Mu Qinghe was feeling a minor headache as well. While he could put up with Hong Yao's little tantrums, he was helpless when it came to times like this. "Come back, Hong Yao."

Hong Yao didn't want to move, but it obediently flew back to its master while sobbing because there were many people watching them at the moment.

Mu Qinghe frowned slightly. "Why are you crying when you're not injured?"

What do you know?! Hong Yao shot him a glare before turning its face away.

Mu Qinghe—who got despised for no rhyme or reason—was rendered speechless.

"You are... Ms. Chu Liuyue, right?" The man standing beside Chu Liuyue finally spoke. From his calm expression and the hint of a smile on his face, it appeared that he wasn't shocked by the turn of events.

Chu Liuyue's eyes lingered on him for a moment before nodding. "May I know who—"

“Qin Yi.” With slightly squinted eyes, the man swept his gaze over Chu Liuyue and the red-tailed phoenix on her shoulder and smiled. “You’re really lucky, Ms. Chu. We’ve been guarding this red-tailed phoenix for a long time, but we didn’t expect it to choose you in the end.”

“S-sorry about that...” Chu Liuyue let out an awkward cough.

“It’s fine. Fate is predestined by heaven, so the fact that it chose you out of the many people here shows that some things are fated to be,” replied Qin Yi. The way he spoke was slow and calm, just like a spring breeze.

A hint of gratitude showed on Chu Liuyue’s face. “Thank you for your kind understanding, Brother Qin, Brother Lei. I appreciate it a lot.”

Your Highness, you shouldn’t address me as ‘Brother Lei’ even if you want to keep up with the act! I don’t deserve it! The corners of Lei Laosi’s eyes twitched hard, and he almost went down on his knees due to his legs going soft. He quickly glanced at Qin Yi, only to realize that he was looking as calm and composed as before.

“You’re too kind, Ms. Chu.”

Lei Laosi’s respect for Qin Yi rose when he heard that. *Kudos to you...*

Chu Liuyue said sincerely, “Since I owe both of you a favor regarding this matter, I’ll do my best to make it up to you in the future. Is that okay?”

“No need, no need! It’s yo—cough! We can’t do anything about it since the red-tailed phoenix chose you on its own accord! Even if you weren’t here, there’s no telling if it’d just leave without contracting with a human!” Lei Laosi blurted out.

Their appearance and auras might be different now, but their tempers... haven't changed at all. Amusement shone in Chu Liuyue's eyes as she regarded Lei Laosi. She thanked them once more and didn't say anything more about this matter.

"By the way, where's the Third Princess?" She looked around, her gaze eventually landing on the spot where Shangguan Wan had vanished.

The hole had been filled with the tree's roots and soil at some point.

It was only when Chu Liuyue posed this question that everyone remembered that Shangguan Wan had disappeared for quite some time. They had been so distracted by the red-tailed phoenix that they forgot about her altogether. Thus, everyone fell silent and was at a loss about how to answer the question. *Do we... have to go down to look for Shangguan Wan?*

Chu Liuyue looked behind, her eyes on Jiang Yucheng. "Eldest Young Master Jiang, the Third Princess has gone missing for a long time. Aren't you worried about her?"

Jiang Yucheng was just about to speak, but the ground started shaking at that moment. Red mist spread from all directions, and the surrounding trees started withering quickly.

The roots of the huge rolling leaf fir in the middle suddenly surfaced as well.

With a darkened expression, Qin Yi said, "Someone has touched the seal of this tree!"

"This tree was sealed?" asked Chu Liuyue in surprise.

Qin Yi stared at the rolling leaf fir that looked like it was going berserk. "Retreat!"

Just as he said that, countless howls could be heard coming from the forest. It sounded as if thousands of people were crying out in pain.