

## Noble Ruler 731

### Chapter 731: My Person

Shangguan Wan was stunned and immediately retreated.

At the same time, she set up a barrier in front of her. Perhaps it was because of that fireball, but the barrier she set up now was faintly glowing in a dark-green color.

*Boom!*

That red fire harshly slammed against the barrier!

A loud whirl sounded, and the barrier started to shake violently!

Shangguan Wan's heart seemed to clench tightly as she half-collapsed on the ground. She looked at the red fire that suddenly appeared in horror and anger, petrified that it would rush over at the next moment.

But luckily, the barrier was stronger than she had predicted. After an intense fight, the red fire was still stopped.

The color of the barrier seemed to be slightly lighter, but Shangguan Wan didn't notice this at this point. When she saw that the red fire couldn't break through the barrier at the very end and finally retreated, she sighed deeply. *It seems like it was useful to swallow so much energy during this period. But... Where exactly did that red fire come from?*

Shangguan Wan forced herself to stand up and took a step forward to stare at the fire closely. *I seem to have seen this intensely bright-red fire before...*

However, that ball of fire simply floated in midair quietly—it didn't move forward or backward.

This made Shangguan Wan have the feeling that someone was watching her, and her entire body was extremely uncomfortable.

She clenched her teeth and wanted to get rid of that fire. But at this point, she had managed to avoid that attack with much difficulty. If she suddenly went forward, something might really happen.

She wiped away the blood by her mouth, and some blood had stained the pure gold armor.

*This fire... This fire... Oh right! Shangguan Wan's eyes suddenly lit up! Isn't the fire that Chu Liuyue uses exactly this color? Did Chu Liuyue do something?*

*"I-impossible..." Shangguan Wan knitted her brows tightly again. It's problematic for Chu Liuyue to even save her own life, so how can she attack me like this?!*

She looked at the fire again, and her gaze suddenly focused. *There seems to be a blurry figure inside that fire!*

She stared at it closely and didn't even blink.

Suddenly, she gasped. *There seems to be a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant inside. No, it still looks a little different from a Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant! And... its suppression is stronger!*

Just when Shangguan Wan was filled with doubts, she suddenly saw the figure in the fire raise its head. Then... it opened its eyes!

A brilliant rainbow light flashed across!

Shangguan Wan's heart harshly skipped a beat. She almost immediately reacted and directly rushed up! She turned her force into a sword and harshly thrust it out!

However, that ball of fire immediately exploded!

*Bam!*

At that moment, it disappeared without a trace!

...

*It is her! Chu Liuyue widened her eyes, and cold, murderous intent flashed across them. Even though I only took a glance, it's enough for me to recognize that it's Shangguan Wan. However, she seems a little different from before. Although her appearance and figure are still the same as before, her expression... still seems to be amiss. Additionally, the black symbol on her glabella looks very strange. Also, the most important point is that Shangguan Wan is actually wearing the pure gold armor!*

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other tightly, and there seemed to be a layer of frost on her face. *I had unwittingly obtained the pure gold armor back then, and I cherished it a lot. I didn't expect that Shangguan Wan would take it for herself!*

“Liuyue, how is it? Did you discover something?” Mu Hongyu’s voice pulled Chu Liuyue back to reality.

The latter closed her eyes and looked up. Her eyes were filled with clear calmness as she nodded. “It seemed to be in the center of the soil, and there’s someone there. However, I can’t see who it is.”

“It’s already very amazing that you can find out all of this!” Mu Hongyu sighed.

Chu Liuyue smiled and patted Tuan Zi on her shoulders. “It’s all because of Tuan Zi.”

She finally convinced Tuan Zi to help her just now.

It was now a legendary fiend, and it had stayed here for more than a year. Hence, it definitely understood this place much more than the rest of them. As expected, with Tuan Zi just trying once, it directly found out Shangguan Wan’s position.

And because she made an agreement with Tuan Zi, they had a telepathic connection. Hence, she could easily ‘see’ whatever Tuan Zi discovered.

Shangguan Wan was very alert. To play safe, she didn’t let Tuan Zi stay for too long, and they retreated after taking a glance.

She didn’t leave behind any clues for Shangguan Wan.

Thinking of the contorted expression Shangguan Wan had when she suddenly recovered her senses, Chu Liuyue sneered in her heart. *Shangguan Wan has committed so many bad deeds in the dark, so she's definitely guiltier than anyone else. Thus, she'd be terrified of getting discovered. Even if she is the high and mighty Third Princess of the Tianling Dynasty, she definitely wouldn't be able to make it out alive if word gets out.*

*Using such despicable means to absorb other people's force and steal their lives just to help herself recover her cultivation... Once her deeds are exposed, millions of people will be cursing at Shangguan Wan. She will also receive the punishment of never being able to make a comeback. Due to this, she's naturally afraid! At this point, Shangguan Wan should be panicking, right? Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue suddenly felt much better.*

She looked at Mu Qinghe. "Lieutenant Mu, how are all the guards' situations?"

Mu Qinghe had just given the pills to the last batch of Black Guards. Upon hearing this, he looked up at Chu Liuyue with a conflicted expression. "Four of them can't make it anymore, and another 21 of them are severely injured. The rest are still doing okay."

Chu Liuyue scanned their faces. *The situation was very dangerous just now, so this casualty report is already much better than expected. This is also because the majority of the Black Guards that came had once stayed in Dahuang Swamp before. If they were normal soldiers, the ending would be much worse.*

Mu Qinghe paused for a moment and said, "Thank you."

Chu Liuyue simply smiled. "Didn't you already thank me just now, Lieutenant Mu? It's the result of everyone's efforts that we were able to save them. Lieutenant Mu, you don't have to thank just me."

Mu Qinghe pressed his lips against each other tightly.

Even though Chu Liuyue made it sound nonchalant, everyone present had seen what happened previously clearly.

Chu Liuyue was in charge of leading everyone. If she didn't take action with the red-tailed phoenix and first cut down the roots that were intertwined together, the rest couldn't help even if they wanted to do so after so much.

Her actions were very swift and decisive, which stunned everyone. They then understood that Chu Liuyue—who had broken through to become a stage-five warrior—was much stronger than they thought.

Chu Liuyue didn't take credit, but Mu Qinghe couldn't accept this gratitude with peace of mind. The Black Guards meant a lot to him, and he was indeed grateful toward her for being able to save them.

“As the Black Guard's lieutenant, you deserve this thanks.”

Chu Liuyue brushed the loose strands of hair behind her ears, smiled, and said, “Lieutenant Mu, you don't have to be polite. I should do this.”

*I naturally need to save my own people.*

“We should hurry up to the center of the soil and apprehend the mastermind!”

**Chapter 732: Natural Ruler**

Chu Liuyue's suggestion received everyone's approval. Now, they all basically already knew that the sudden commotion in the Mystic Forest was purposely caused by someone and that the roots crazily absorbing the cultivators' force were clearly being manipulated.

They could only go out after they had settled the mastermind.

Chu Liuyue's gaze scanned the crowd of Black Guards. Actually, she still had some impression of some of these faces, but everything was different now.

She looked at Qin Yi. "Big Brother Qin, for these dozens of people... Do you have a way of taking care of them?"

Other than those who couldn't be saved, the remaining 21 people weren't in optimistic conditions. The best way was to let them stay behind and rest.

*If they forcefully follow the main team, I'm afraid...*

In deep thought, Qin Yi looked at her calmly. *It seems like Her Highness still wants to help...*

He paused for a moment and said, "I can set up a barrier for them and let them stay here safely. As long as the previous perilous situation doesn't happen again, it should be fine."

Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief. "Thank you so much then, Big Brother Qin."

Qin Yi's lips curled up slightly, and he looked down as a tinge of faint helplessness and doting flashed across his narrow eyes. *Her Highness has changed into a completely different identity now, and her appearance and figure are vastly different from before. But her personality... doesn't seem to have changed much.*

He raised his hand and waved it lightly.

A green barrier immediately formed and protected the twenty-plus people within!

The barrier glowed with faint light, and it contained tremendous suppression that frightened one.

A Black Guard was the first to react as he cupped his fists and said seriously toward Qin Yi, "Thank you, Young Master Qin!"

His voice immediately reminded the rest.

The crowd of soldiers thanked him respectfully and looked very grateful.

Qin Yi smiled slightly. "There's no need to thank me. If you want, thank Liuyue. If she didn't save all of you first, there's nothing I can do now."

*Besides, I wouldn't want to get involved in this sticky situation if she didn't speak up. Who told them to be Mu Qinghe's soldiers?*



Qin Yi knew that the incident back then actually didn't have much direct relation with these soldiers, so they really shouldn't be blamed. But he was upset when he saw Mu Qinghe here, so he even felt hatred toward these people.

The crowd of soldiers turned around and thanked Chu Liuyue. "Thank you, Ms. Chu!"

Even though most of them were injured, their voices were still very energetic and sincere. They had experienced countless life and death scenarios, so they naturally knew how precious life was.

Chu Liuyue had literally saved all of their lives. How could they not thank her?

The Black Guard standing at the front suddenly lowered his voice and said, "Ms. Chu, I'm Tian Zhuangzhuang! If you need any help in the future, feel free to let me know! I, Tian Zhuangzhuang, will definitely help you to the best of my abilities!"

He didn't state which Black Guard section he was from and only reported his name. This meant that he was thanking her personally.

Chu Liuyue's eyes curled up.

"Me too! Ms. Chu, I'm Zou Kaiyun! We owe you our lives, and we'll definitely listen to you in the future!" said Zou Kaiyun as he secretly glanced at Mu Qinghe. Then, he scratched his head in embarrassment toward Chu Liuyue. "Of course, it must be when we're not wearing this Black Guard armor. Hehe!"

When they wore the Black Guard armor, they didn't have names and were only known as Black Guards. Obeying the army's command was their job!

The Black Guards—especially the ones that Mu Qinghe brought up—were especially strict and followed every command seriously. But when they took off their armors, they were themselves.

All those who could kill their way out of Dahuang Swamp were all strong and manly men, so how could they not repay the favor they owed?

“I, Jiang Mingshan too!”

“Me too! An Xinzhi!”

“And...”

...

The voices rang one after another, and the loud sound reverberated throughout the area, almost tearing through this dark and oppressive space.

There seemed to be something tingling in Chu Liuyue’s chest. *I knew it—I knew all along. These people...*

She took a deep breath in and suppressed her tumultuous emotions. “I understand your kind intentions, everyone, but this really was a convenient matter, so you don’t have to care too much about it. Those who need to recuperate can stay, while the remaining ones shall follow us. When everything ends, we’ll find you again and go back together.”

Chu Liuyue appeased the crowd of soldiers with simple words.

All those who had to stay stood at the side knowingly. As for the main team that was about to leave, they looked prideful and ready for combat as they stood together at the side after listening to Chu Liuyue.

*When Mu Qinghe saw this scene, he was shocked. Chu Liuyue has only just gotten to know these soldiers, but she can already make them obey and listen to her easily. Her body seems to have an unknown aura that can make one listen to her unwittingly and do what they are told—elegant and authoritative but filled with closeness.*

*Silently, she controlled the entire scene. She's like a natural superior. Even if she's only a teenager and has an ordinary background, it doesn't feel weird when she commands so many people. It's as if... it should be like this!*

Mu Qinghe had killed his way up from the bottom and knew the temperament of these soldiers the best.

They had witnessed countless life and death scenarios, and their bodies were trained by all these ordeals. They looked obedient on the surface, but they were all very stubborn. Other than their leader, they wouldn't listen to anyone else's command.

Even Shangguan Wan couldn't completely control the Black Guard. This was also another important reason she insisted on bringing Mu Qinghe over.

Only with Mu Qinghe around would these people accede to Shangguan Wan's requests unconditionally.

*But Chu Liuyue... Perhaps it's because she saved them today?* Mu Qinghe thought to himself silently.

Seeing the pureness in Chu Liuyue's eyes, he felt that he was overthinking. *These soldiers also understand that even though they want to repay Chu Liuyue, they definitely can't do it under the Black Guard's name. If not, who would the Black Guard belong to? I must've been thinking too much...*

Mu Qinghe suppressed all of these thoughts and followed the rest of the crowd.

...

After that red fire disappeared, Shangguan Wan sank into deep horror and worry. *Who was looking at me... Who saw me? Who knows that I'm doing everything? I initially thought that nobody would discover me if I stayed here, but I now realize that it's a terrible mistake!*

She paced back and forth anxiously. With such a potential danger lurking around, she really couldn't feel at ease.

*No, no! I should completely heal my Yuan meridian first... Previously, I prepared for a very long time and was about to attack those Black Guards when someone intercepted me. Now, I have to find some more...* Her gaze turned sharp, and she attacked in another direction!

### **Chapter 733: Lesson!**

Actually, there were still quite a few people she could lay her hands on. For example, the disciples from those few clans were almost all extremely outstanding talents.

Needless to say, they had Dijing Yuan meridians. Some of them were even middle-grade or even superior-grade ones.

Shangguan Wan scanned through the candidates and quickly chose her target. More than half of her Yuan meridian had already healed, and she could succeed if she did it a few more times.

This made Shangguan Wan feel much more secure. *As long as I can complete this task, nothing else matters!*

She licked her lips, and the dark-green light flashed in her eyes again. However, she didn't know about this.

Just as she was gathering her breath to focus and was about to attack, a strange sound suddenly came from behind.

Her heart skipped a beat, and she immediately turned around alertly as she swung out a wave of force at the same time.

At this point, her force had already become a light-green color. It manifested into a sharp knife in midair and was quickly flung out.

*Crack!*

The sound of something breaking was heard.

She looked over and then saw that when the black soil moved, a white hand bone floated up. Her previous attack had directly broken that hand bone.

The soil moved, and very quickly, the bone was swallowed and disappeared.

“Hu...” Shangguan Wan patted her chest as she sighed with lingering fears. *I thought that thing came to spy on me again.*

She turned around and planned to do it once more.

Suddenly, the shaky red fire appeared in front of her eyes!

“Ah!” Shangguan Wan screamed, and she immediately moved backward. At the same time, she set up a barrier once again!

But this time, the red fire didn’t continue forward as it floated there quietly.

However, this made Shangguan Wan increasingly anxious. *I knew it! There is someone spying on me from the dark!*

She panicked and was enraged as she immediately went forward and wanted to settle that thing. However, a rainbow light flashed across, and the fire disappeared once again.

*It took another glance!* Shangguan Wan was so furious that her lungs hurt. Her chest also felt stuffed as if it would explode the next minute.

The other party was very cunning as it appeared suddenly and disappeared again quickly. Shangguan Wan didn't even have time to react or do anything.

Shangguan Wan was angry for quite some time as she clenched her teeth and planned to settle the problem of her Yuan meridian first. However, her feelings were already messed up by that ball of fire!

Absorbing strength and reforming her Yuan meridian was something that required a lot of energy. At this moment, Shangguan Wan was flustered, and her mind was in a mess. Thus, she couldn't do anything.

She was so angry that she moved around the stage, and the boots of her pure gold armor were making sounds on the ground.

*Da.*

*Da.*

*Da.*

It was cold and crisp, but it contained a heavy suppression!

*Da!*

Something fell down.

Shangguan Wan lowered her head to take a look, and she immediately knitted her brows tightly.

The bloodstains on the pure gold armor were slowly forming blood pearls before they landed on the ground.

The previous sound was caused by the blood unintentionally dropping down from the bloodstain on her arm.

Shangguan Wan's heart skipped a beat as she looked at her chest, and she realized that the situation here was the same. *I purposely and unintentionally caused these stains previously. I didn't take much notice at first, but looking at it now... There seems to be something amiss?*

After the blood dropped, the pure gold armor was still tidy and shimmering. One couldn't tell that it was stained with blood at all.

"Has this pure gold armor always been like this..." muttered Shangguan Wan weirdly.

She had seen Shangguan Yue wear this pure gold armor before, but this was her first time wearing it, so she wasn't very sure about its specifics.

There were quite a few battle marks on it, but no bloodstains.

*Perhaps it's because this pure gold armor really doesn't get stained with blood...* Shangguan Wan thought to herself.



Thinking that someone was staring at her from the dark, she was frustrated again. *The other party keeps staring at me. Did they really find out something? Every time I try to do it again, that fire will suddenly appear!*

This made Shangguan Wan very uneasy, and she couldn't concentrate on healing her Yuan meridian. After a very long time, she still didn't achieve anything.

Just as Shangguan Wan was stuck in a sticky situation, the black symbol on her forehead suddenly floated down and slowly went toward her.

Shangguan Wan's eyes shrank, and a tinge of deep horror flashed across her eyes!

A hoarse voice suddenly sounded from the symbol. "Are you so useless?"

That voice was low and hoarse, and it was hard to differentiate the gender, but it immediately made Shangguan Wan's face pale. "Wh-who are you?!"

That symbol laughed lowly, and it contained unconcealable mockery. "Don't you know who allowed you to have your achievements today? What, do you refuse to admit it now?"

After receiving confirmation for her guess, Shangguan Wan's face immediately turned ugly. *All this time, I knew that there was a mysterious existence in my body. I've heard this voice before, but only twice! The first time was many years ago—it was also that one time that made me want to kill Shangguan Yue and decide to steal everything from her! There was also one other time, the night that Shangguan Yue died. My Yuan meridian had already been completely burned by Shangguan Yue back then when this voice sounded and told me a method to heal my Yuan meridian.*

Shangguan Wan wasn't not afraid, but she desired to have Jiang Yucheng, power, strength, and everything that Shangguan Yue once had. Hence, she listened to everything the voice said all this while.

She didn't expect that it would appear in such a manner today!

Seeing the strange black symbol, countless guesses flashed across Shangguan Wan's mind. She then tried her best to calm herself down, but her body trembled even more terribly. "Y-you... So it really is you... Please forgive me for being unable to detect—"

*Smack!*

It was like an invisible hand had harshly slapped Shangguan Wan's face. The slap was crisp, and it sounded immediately.

Shangguan Wan fell to the ground harshly, and even her helmet flew out. Half her face immediately swelled up, and blood directly flowed from the corner of her mouth.

"You're really becoming increasingly braver to play tricks in front of me." The symbol's voice was sinister and cold.

Shangguan Wan forcefully pushed her body up. "I didn't—"

*Pak!*

This time, the other half of her face was hit!

Chapter 734: Find the Way

Shangguan Wan fell onto the ground once again, and her hairpin dropped as her hair flung out messily. This time, the hit caused her to see stars, and her vision turned black.

She opened her mouth as the intense, bloody taste filled her teeth, and she spat out blood.

Her entire face was numb. After a temporary pause, the excruciating pain overwhelmed her like the tide. However, this couldn't be compared to the entrenched fear that suddenly erupted in her heart.

She knew that this mysterious person was very strong, but she didn't know that the other party could be this terrifying.

He easily taught her a lesson!

One had to know that her abilities were currently of a beginner stage-eight warrior. But when the other party took action, she didn't even have any time to react and could only get hit.

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These two slaps thoroughly made Shangguan Wan realize the difference between her and the other party.

“Are you willing to tell the truth now?” The voice sounded deeply like a demon’s voice echoing beside her ears.

Shangguan Wan’s heart harshly trembled as she shuddered and kneeled down with her head lowered. “I-I know I’m wrong!”

This time, she didn’t dare to play any more tricks. She could only lower her head and admit her mistakes honestly. “Please give me another chance! If you have any instructions, I’ll definitely risk everything to complete it for you!”

In this close to two-year period, Shangguan Wan had never kneeled to anyone before, let alone use such a humble tone to beg in an inferior manner.

With her father unconscious, she was the power holder in the Tianling Dynasty. She was under one and above all.

So as she kneeled down again at this point, she felt quite humiliated. However, she didn’t dare not kneel.

Her life was controlled in the other party’s hand!

“Wouldn’t it have been less troublesome if you did this earlier?” The black symbol shook lightly and sneered.

Shangguan Wan didn't dare to move at all.

"Your Yuan meridian has been damaged by a Tianjing Yuan meridian. Logically speaking, you can't heal it. It's me that gave you a chance to live. The chance is now in front of you, yet you're so useless. It's really a waste to wash a pig with both water and soap." That person spoke slowly, but his aura was high and mighty as every single word was very direct, not leaving any dignity left for Shangguan Wan.

Shangguan Wan's face flashed white and red, but she didn't dare to retort at all.

"P-please enlighten me!" Shangguan Wan wasn't stupid. The reason why the other party suddenly appeared was definitely for her Yuan meridian.

As expected, that person said again, "Your position has already been discovered. There's no use escaping, so why don't you take the time to heal your Yuan meridian? When you find your target later on, I'll set up a barrier for you and not let anyone disturb you. As long as you stabilize yourself, there will be no problems."

Shangguan Wan was hesitant. "B-but Senior, that person definitely knows what I'm doing now... If word gets out—"

"So what if the other party knows? As long as they don't catch you red-handed, nobody can do anything to you! Don't forget your identity!"

His words shocked Shangguan Wan, and her heart shook as she suddenly understood. That's right! I'm the Tianling Dynasty's Third Princess. If the crowd didn't see me personally, who can forcefully accuse me of doing this? If I really get discovered in the future, can't I just refute it no matter what?

After Shangguan Yue's death back then, the entire Tianling Dynasty was shocked. Countless people suspected the reason behind her death, and some even almost found out about Jiang Yucheng and me. However, didn't everything turn to naught in the end?

"Thank you, Senior!"

"You don't have to thank me; I have my own reasons for helping you. I'll give you 15 minutes. If you still can't do it, don't blame me for not giving you a chance."

"Yes! Yes!" Shangguan Wan didn't dare to ask further as she hurriedly sat cross-legged and started looking for her next suitable target.

That black symbol floated back to her glabella again.

Actually, this entire process didn't have much of a feeling, but Shangguan Wan herself felt that there was something extra in her forehead, and it was very uncomfortable.

She breathed in and closed her eyes. As she searched for her target, she thought to herself: This black symbol... Actually, even I don't even know when it entered my body. All these years, it hasn't really had any signs of existence other than the two times it willingly spoke up.

Shangguan Wan vaguely felt worried, but she tried hard to make herself ignore this and forget the thing's existence.

She didn't expect that it would suddenly appear today, and it was even in such a strange manner.

“Don’t play tricks. If not, the consequences will definitely be more miserable and pitiful than you can imagine.” That voice coldly rang in her mind.

A chill ran down Shangguan Wan’s spine as she acknowledged the words and forced herself to retract her thoughts.

Other than the area of this mother tree, the entire Mystic Forest had turned into ruins. This caused everyone trapped underground to rush toward her with the black soil.

Shangguan Wan roughly checked and shockingly discovered that the number of people she could detect was much fewer than before. It seems like... There are fewer Black Guards and a portion of the disciples.

She felt suffocated. I wasted so much time just now, and it’s no wonder there are a lot fewer people now. There are so many people, so there are definitely some that can struggle free, especially those in groups and teams. When they work together, they have great strength. If one doesn’t use special methods, it would be hard to get them to stay behind. It’s like the hundred-plus Black Guards earlier. I spent much of my energy and effort to trap them, but I didn’t expect that in the end—

Shangguan Wan took a deep breath in and changed her target—it was... those people from the Purple Xiao Sword Sect.

...

What Shangguan Wan didn’t know was that when she was doing nothing, Chu Liuyue’s group had met quite a few batches of people and gathered them all. Amongst them were mostly Black Guards and a small minority of disciples.

The thankful thing was that other than the one Dragon Teeth Mountain disciple that died, the rest were all found. Even though they were injured to varying extents, they all managed to catch up after some simple treatment.

Speaking of this, they had to thank Zhu Hong.

He first discovered that Mu Hongyu had left back then, and he planned to bring them to find her when something happened to Jiang Yucheng's face.

He was decisive and swiftly dragged everyone from Dragon Teeth Mountain together.

When they dropped into the soil, they were still together. But afterward, he wasn't strong enough, so they split into two batches. However, they weren't very far apart.

Other than this, disciples from Sheng Yan Harem and Tian Ji Residence were also found on the way.

With a rough estimate, this team already had more than 300 people. In addition to the minority that was severely injured and had to stay behind, there were close to 400 of them.

Unknowingly, Chu Liuyue had already become the backbone of the crowd. After all, only she knew how to find the mastermind behind all of this.

Additionally, she had made an agreement with a legendary fiend, which attracted the crowd's endless envy and admiration.



Even Jiang Yucheng—who had the highest status—paled in comparison to her.

Suddenly, she stopped and looked in front. “There’s someone in front. I’ll go take a look first.”

### **Chapter 735: Item with a Master**

Everyone stopped and waited for Chu Liuyue.

The entire way here, they were almost used to doing this. Whenever they met with something, Chu Liuyue would go and check it out first. After confirming the general problem, they would take action according to Chu Liuyue’s commands.

In the beginning, some were pretty indignant. After all, Chu Liuyue didn’t look like someone who could handle such things given her slim figure and overly beautiful appearance. But after Chu Liuyue led them to avoid several attacks and continuously found more people, these doubts gradually disappeared.

All of them followed her obediently.

As usual, Lei Laosi followed her.

Chu Liuyue glanced at him and smiled. “Big Brother Lei, you don’t have to follow me every time. We’re so close to each other. Even if something really happens, I can handle it.”

Lei Laosi paused and said with a deep voice, “It’s always good to be safe.”

*Her Highness is capable, but they wouldn't be called accidents if there are accidents in this world that we can predict. Back then, Her Highness was only a step away from becoming a stage-nine warrior. How formidable was she, but what happened in the end? She was still set up and died in a sea of fire. The Thirteen Yue Guard was too confident in Her Highness at that time, so we let others have a chance to harm her. Now, we definitely won't allow the same thing to happen twice!*

Chu Liuyue looked at the stubborn Lei Laosi, and her heart felt warm. "Thank you, Big Brother Lei!"

Lei Laosi coughed unnaturally as he unintentionally lifted his head and saw a few people. It seemed like there were a few youngsters, and the person at the front looked quite familiar...

"Who is that?"

Chu Liuyue followed his line of sight, focused, and smiled. *Isn't that the Purple Xiao Sword Sect's Song Qingnian?*

There were three people beside him, and Yang Qin'er was one of them.

At this point, Song Qingnian had just slashed the roots winding around his body and was about to help the rest when he heard some commotion and immediately turned around alertly. "Who's there?"

He first saw Lei Laosi at the front and was secretly shocked. *This stranger is very capable!*

He held the sword in his hands tightly.

Lei Laosi had already recognized Song Qingnian, but at this point, he had to pretend that he didn't know the latter. He scrutinized Song Qingnian and chuckled. "You don't have to do this! If I want to attack you, none of you can stop it!"

Song Qingnian knitted his brows and was about to speak when he saw Chu Liuyue walking over from behind.

"Big Brother Lei, I know these people. Don't scare them," said Chu Liuyue with a smile.

Lei Laosi grunted lightly and crossed his arms, not having any intentions of helping them. *Purple Xiao Sword Sect... I have no interest in saving them!*

"Chu Liuyue? Why are you here?" Song Qingnian was still quite fearful of Lei Laosi, so he even looked at Chu Liuyue with doubts. *She looks fine as if she isn't injured at all. I had to use so many treasures just to forcefully survive until now, but I still look much more disheveled than Chu Liuyue. There must be something wrong with her!*

Chu Liuyue's gaze swept past the few people in front of her.

Song Qingnian was still fine—other than a few bloodstains, he wasn't really injured. After all, as the Purple Xiao Sword Sect's young master, he definitely would bring quite a few protective treasures with him.

The others looked more miserable, but Yang Qin'er seemed fine.

Chu Liuyue suddenly recalled that Song Qingnian seemed to have hugged Yang Qin'er in his arms just now.

She smiled. "Young Master Song, don't worry. We just passed by and came over because we heard some noise, but we didn't expect to meet you. We originally wanted to see if we could help you, but I guess there's no need for that."

Song Qingnian sized Chu Liuyue up suspiciously and tightly furrowed his brows. "Help us? Based on yourself?"

His words were filled with unconcealable contempt.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly. *Nice. Since he already put it this way, why must I purposely stick my hot face to his cold butt?*

"It seems like you don't think highly of us, Young Master Song. Then, we won't disturb. Farewell." Chu Liuyue then swiftly turned around to leave.

Lei Laosi chuckled and immediately followed her.

*Her Highness's personality does seem to have changed from before. If it were in the past, Her Highness would definitely talk to Song Qingnian a little more by giving the Purple Xiao Sword Sect face. But now, she just turned around to leave once they had a disagreement. Nice!*

Seeing Chu Liuyue's group of two really leaving so swiftly, Song Qingnian was dazed. *W-what does this mean?*

Seeing the duo's figures leaving, he knitted his brows and was enraged. *How dare a mere Chu Liuyue show me attitude?! My Purple Xiao Sword Sect's people don't need anyone's help, let alone Chu Liuyue's! What a joke! Does she think that she can act strong just because she brought some unknown strong warrior?*

He retracted his gaze in disgust, pulled Yang Qin'er—who was the nearest to him—up, and then cut away the roots entangled around her.

"Qin'er, you shouldn't be this weak. Is there something wrong with your body?" asked Song Qingnian unintentionally.

Yang Qin'er's face tensed up, and she instinctively pulled her wrist back.

As the surroundings were dim, Song Qingnian didn't see the change in her facial expression.

"...No. Perhaps I'm tired because of the long journey, and I recently met with a bottleneck in my cultivation, so..."

Song Qingnian didn't really suspect anything, so he believed her once he heard that. "It's fine. With me around, you'll definitely be safe."

Yang Qin'er glanced at him with gratitude and kept thanking him.

As she watched him with a gaze filled with respect and admiration, Song Qingnian felt great and forgot about the Chu Liuyue incident. Then, he took action and planned to pull the remaining two people up.

“We must leave this hellhole as soon as possible...” Before he could even finish his sentence, a cold wind came from the dark.

*Whoosh!*

An air-piercing sound was heard.

Numerous thick roots flung over in unison.

Song Qingnian felt that something was amiss, and he immediately carried Yang Qin'er and dodged to the back.

With his move, the remaining two that hadn't been pulled out of the soil were tightly tangled by that root.

“Save—Ah!” His urgent call for help suddenly stopped.

*Crack!*

The sound of bones cracking could be heard.

That root directly wound around the duo's necks and harshly twisted them.

The duo's heads wilted in a strange manner, and their eyeballs popped out. Not long later, they completely stopped breathing.

Chu Liuyue turned around, and her gaze turned sharp. Then, she went on her toes and immediately flew over.

At the same time, she flicked her wrist.

A red fire then manifested into a fire whip, which rapidly wound around the few roots.

"Tuan Zi!" Chu Liuyue yelled loudly.

Tuan Zi flapped its wings, and a rainbow light flew out to intertwine with the red fire.

The fire directly went to the roots and spread across.

...

"Ah!" The boiling hot temperature caught Shangguan Wan off-guard, and she shrieked.

A fire flew over.

*Whoosh!*

It went directly past the barrier and headed straight for Shangguan Wan.

Shangguan Wan instinctively inserted her force into the pure gold armor. However, not only was the pure gold armor not awakened, but it had even rejected her force on the outside.

Deep shock flashed across Shangguan Wan's eyes. *The pure gold armor has an owner!*

### **Chapter 736: If She Helped Earlier**

The barrier that was crushed turned into countless rays immediately, and it formed in front of Shangguan Wan again. At the same time, a black ripple came out from the symbol on Shangguan Wan's brows and silently plastered itself against the barrier.

*Buzz!*

The terrifying suppression spread across.

*Boom!*

The two forces slammed against each other harshly, and that ball of fire was finally stopped outside.

However, the barrier shook violently as if it was about to collapse at any moment.



Shangguan Wan was stunned. *Almost... I almost...*

She really, genuinely, felt the harsh and terrifying force within the fire. *If that attack landed on me, I'm afraid—*

Shangguan Wan looked at the pure gold armor on her body and paused for a moment before she rapidly took it off like a maniac. Her actions were very fast as there was a tinge of entrenched horror alongside her anger. While doing so, she didn't even care that she had messed up her hair and clothes.

*Bam!*

Shangguan Wan harshly threw the pure gold armor on the ground and moved two steps back as if she was afraid of something, but her eyes were staring at it closely.

Her gaze was sinisterly cold with intense anger as if she wanted to burn a hole in the pure gold armor.

"How can this be... How is this possible?" muttered Shangguan Wan to herself as her face flashed white and green. Her chest also violently heaved up and down as she breathed.

She held her hands tightly, and her nails dug deep into her palms, causing blood to flow out. But at this point, how could she care about it?

Countless thoughts crazily surfaced in her mind, and they were about to cause her mind to explode. *The pure gold armor used to be Shangguan Yue's. After Shangguan Yue died, the pure gold armor should naturally have no owner. Logically speaking, under such circumstances, anyone can activate the pure gold armor if they insert their force into it. But when I wanted to do so just now, I shockingly discovered*

*that my force couldn't enter the pure gold armor. Doesn't this mean that the pure gold armor has an owner?!*

"N-no... She died until she couldn't die anymore... How can it be..." Shangguan Wan's lips trembled as she kept comforting herself, but her heart was still beating wildly.

Recalling the previous scenario, she couldn't calm herself down and couldn't convince herself.

The pure gold armor lay on the ground quietly, and it looked exactly the same as when Shangguan Wan brought it out. It did not look amiss.

Shangguan Wan stared at it closely, and her expression changed. *No, Shangguan Yue definitely died back then. Her physical body dropped, and her soul disappeared—I saw it with my own two eyes! It's impossible that she's alive!*

Thinking of this, Shangguan Wan took a deep breath in and tried to calm herself down. *Perhaps... it's because I haven't completely recovered the last bit of my force?*

She turned around to take a look.

The few roots that she had sent out just now were completely burned.

She managed to find a chance with much difficulty to kill the two Purple Xiao Sword Sect disciples, but before she could even absorb their strength...

Shangguan Wan was so angry that her lungs were about to explode. *That person definitely did it on purpose! And this fire—*

Her eyes stared at the ball of fire angrily.

Within the center of the red fire was a brilliant rainbow light that danced around. It looked like it was spying on her and also teasing her.

“You guessed correctly. This is indeed Chu Liuyue’s strength.” The hoarse voice sounded once again.

Shangguan Wan’s heart sank, and she couldn’t help but ask with furrowed brows, “But the strength inside is clearly greater than Chu Liuyue—”

“I’m not done talking.” That voice lazily interrupted Shangguan Wan. “Other than her, there’s also the red-tailed phoenix, which is the... Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant that was breaking through from the beginning!”

“What?!” Shangguan Wan widened her eyes in shock. “Y-you’re saying that... The Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant broke through and became a red-tailed phoenix, and Chu Liuyue...”

There was no need to put the meaning behind Chu Liuyue being able to journey with the red-tailed phoenix into words.

“This Chu Liuyue is indeed super lucky... With legendary fiends like the red-tailed phoenix, they’re extremely arrogant and normally wouldn’t make an agreement with humans, especially a mere stage-five warrior.” That voice had a layer of frost to it, clearly surprised by this incident. “Hah, you were so busy just to help others in the end.”

His sentence was filled with mockery.

Shangguan Wan was originally deeply shocked, and after being mocked like that, she felt even more terrible as her hatred toward Chu Liuyue deepened. *I just jumped in to heal my Yuan meridian, and only a short time has passed, yet Chu Liuyue took a step ahead of me! Legendary fiend! That's a true legendary fiend! I've not even seen one before, yet Chu Liuyue already made an agreement with one in the blink of an eye!*

"B\*tch!"

"There's no use talking about this now. When a legendary fiend already has an agreement, it won't acknowledge a second master even if it dies and its soul dissipates. Therefore, don't think about it anymore. Besides, Chu Liuyue should've roughly guessed what you're doing now. The more urgent thing now is to heal your Yuan meridian first and then leave this place."

"...Thank you for your advice, Senior." Shangguan Wan suppressed her rage with much difficulty, but she was still upset about this at the bottom of her heart.

The black pattern on the barrier suddenly dispersed. It was like a drop of ink landing in water as the entire barrier quickly turned black.

Shangguan Wan's figure was gradually covered by that barrier as she thought to herself, *Chu Liuyue is definitely with the people from the Purple Xiao Sword Sect now. Since this is so, can't I just attack someone else from another place? I don't believe Chu Liuyue can really stop me!*

Shangguan Wan sat cross-legged and placed her hands on her knees. Unwittingly, she glanced at the pure gold armor silently lying on the ground and vaguely felt uneasy. *When I completely recover, I must take this pure gold armor for myself!*

That black symbol floated lightly, and an invisible ripple went toward the ball of fire!

...

*Boom!*

The fire exploded!

The roots with it were all bombed until they flew everywhere!

Chu Liuyue immediately backed away.

Tuan Zi flapped its wings, and the wind hurled up to stop the tumultuous strength.

After a series of violence, the entire space finally fell silent.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows tightly. *Someone is helping Shangguan Wan! It's a pity that the other party acted too quickly, so I couldn't see clearly. The key is that this person is extremely strong! Even if Lei Laosi met with them, he might not be the other party's match! Since when did Shangguan Wan have such a mysterious and strong helper?*

Cries were heard from behind.

Chu Liuyue turned around.

Yang Qin'er was seemingly covering her face and crying in a devastated manner in front of the two disciples that had already died. "It's all my fault... Senior Brother, you shouldn't have saved me first..."

Song Qingnian was originally upset because he had lost these two disciples, but when he heard Yang Qin'er cry like that, his heart immediately ached as he said, "How can I blame you for this? You were nearest to me back then. Who can I save if I don't save you?"

Yang Qin'er immediately sniffed as tears welled up in her eyes. She looked at him pitifully and innocently. "If... If Ms. Chu helped us earlier, p-perhaps things would be different..."

### **Chapter 737: How Disgusting**

Upon hearing this, Chu Liuyue raised her brows and turned around. "Ms. Yang, what does this... mean?"

Yang Qin'er glanced at Chu Liuyue. When she met with that pair of dark and calm eyes, her heart harshly skipped a beat, and she quickly averted her gaze as if she was burned.

She moved half a step back as if she was frightened by Chu Liuyue's behavior. "Ms. Chu, don't misunderstand. I-I just casually mentioned it! I don't have any other meaning! These two senior brothers are extremely talented disciples in our Purple Xiao Sword Sect, so it's really a pity for them to go down like this... I'm just blaming myself! If I could insist on getting you to help just now, perhaps all of this wouldn't happen!"

Chu Liuyue listened on, and her expression was calm as her lips curled up into a cold smile. *I originally thought that Yang Qin'er would be more obedient after what happened the previous time. I didn't expect her mouth to still distort the truth.*

But Song Qingnian still listened to her. He patted Yang Qin'er's shoulders lightly and softly comforted, "Qin'er, don't blame yourself for this. You have nothing to do with this at all! Don't blame yourself anymore, okay?"

Then, he looked at Chu Liuyue again.

The warmth on his face completely became cold as his eyes weren't eyes, and his nose wasn't a nose. "Chu Liuyue, Qin'er isn't speaking without logic. Since you could easily settle those roots, why did you not take action and only waited until the two of them had been constricted to death? I think you clearly did it on purpose!"

Yang Qin'er once unintentionally mentioned that she had accidentally offended Chu Liuyue. As the Purple Xiao Sword Sect and Chong Xu Cabinet always disliked each other, Chu Liuyue had intentionally and unwittingly made things difficult for her several times.

Recently, Chu Liuyue had been in the spotlight in Xi Ling City, which got on Song Qingnian's nerves. In addition to Yang Qin'er talking nonsense at the side, he hated Chu Liuyue even more. Hence, he directly pushed all the blame to Chu Liuyue now.

Chu Liuyue was so angry that she laughed instead. "If I didn't recall wrongly, I took the initiative to help at the start, but you rejected me. Why is it my fault now? Young Master Song, have you forgotten what you said at the beginning?"

Song Qingnian was stumped, and his face rapidly flushed red.

At that time, he didn't think highly of Chu Liuyue at all, so he said those words. Who knew that Chu Liuyue would be this strong?

A total of ten people from the Purple Xiao Sword Sect had come. Two had previously died, and another two were gone now! Other than him and Yang Qin'er, the remaining few were still missing and nowhere to be seen.

Even if Song Qingnian had a distinguished status, he still panicked. He was the one who led those people over this time, and the people that came were disciples with the most potential in the Purple Xiao Sword Sect.

Many of them were now dead or severely injured, and he had no idea how to explain when he got back.

Hence, he naturally vented his grudge on Chu Liuyue. "Chu Liuyue, most of the people who were dragged down are injured, only you—Untouched! You know clearer than anyone about what's going on here! You knew that the situation was dangerous, yet you chose to stand by and watch from the side! If you really want to save people, you would've taken action a long time ago. Why would you wait until now?!"

Chu Liuyue was astonished at how Song Qingnian got better at being unreasonable when she heard Lei Laosi scolding loudly because he couldn't hold it back any longer.

"What f\*cking shit are you saying?!"

Song Qingnian was speaking righteously when he was suddenly hollered at by Lei Laosi. A chill ran down his spine, and he swallowed his remaining words.



“Y-you...” He looked at Lei Laosi angrily and awkwardly. *Who am I? I have never been humiliated like this in public! It’s so awful to hear! How humiliating!*

“Saving you is doing you a favor, so not saving you is what we should do. We came over kindly, and it’s fine that you didn’t appreciate it, but you still want to play the blame game in the end? If you’re so capable, why don’t you save them yourself? Aren’t they from your Purple Xiao Sword Sect?! How are they related to us at all?!”

“Don’t think that I can’t tell! You were clearly equally distant from the rest just now, but you were just selfish, so you saved this one first! I heard that you’re the Purple Xiao Sword Sect’s young master? Hah! If the Purple Xiao Sword Sect’s people found out that their young master sacrificed their disciples for a woman, I wonder how they would react?” Like a cannonball, Lei Laosi fired toward Song Qingnian and scolded him terribly.

Chu Liuyue touched her nose. *Back then, Lei Laosi was a graceful and gentlemanly young master. I didn’t expect him to have changed now, and he even has the ability to scold others.*

Song Qingnian was scolded until he couldn’t retaliate, and he was so angry that his entire body trembled. *What to do? Lei Laosi is stronger than me.*

Even though he was arrogant and spoiled, it wasn’t like he didn’t have a brain. *If I offend Lei Laosi here, who knows if I can still go out?*

After Lei Laosi finished scolding Song Qingnian, he looked at Yang Qin’er again. “And you!”

Yang Qin’er shivered and hid behind Song Qingnian.

“Why are you hiding?” Lei Laosi didn’t have any protective feelings for the fairer sex. He only knew that all those who offended his master, Her Highness, would have to die! “You seem young, but you do know how to sow discord! If you don’t know how to talk, I can help you to stitch your mouth up!”

Yang Qin’er was frightened until she hurriedly covered her mouth and hid behind Song Qingnian. She didn’t dare to utter another word as her tears kept falling, and she trembled as she hugged Song Qingnian’s arm as if she were petrified.

If it were any other time, Song Qingnian would definitely stand up for her when he saw her in this state. However, he couldn’t do so now.

Even he could only forcefully stand at the side, so how could he care about Yang Qin’er?

Seeing the duo’s disheveled and embarrassed looks, Chu Liuyue was excited. *They’re just things that can’t be presented. Now, I’m still most worried about Shangguan Wan. With that person helping, I can’t freely check on Shangguan Wan’s situation. I’m afraid... Shangguan Wan is really going to heal her Yuan meridian!*

Footstep sounds were heard.

Chu Liuyue turned around and saw Jiang Yucheng and the rest.

It turned out that they had stayed here for too long and didn’t go back, so the crowd waiting behind came over anxiously.

Seeing Jiang Yucheng at the front, Song Qingnian immediately acted as if he had found a backing.  
“Yucheng!”

He and Jiang Yucheng were peers, and both their family backgrounds were quite decent, so they always interacted.

Jiang Yucheng’s gaze first landed on Chu Liuyue. After ensuring that she was fine, he felt slightly relieved before looking at Song Qingnian. “Qingnian, so it’s you. What’s the matter? Why are you in this state?”

Song Qingnian hurriedly went forward and walked to Jiang Yucheng. He was about to speak up when he thought of Lei Laosi at the side, and he hurriedly lowered his voice. “Yucheng, you must be careful of Chu Liuyue! She... has a problem!”

Jiang Yucheng’s expression changed slightly. “Oh?”

Song Qingnian continued, “Her relationship with that man is unknown... She even threatened Qin’er and me earlier—”

“That’s weird. They said that they’d come over to take a look first, so logically speaking, they won’t do such a thing.” How could Jiang Yucheng not guess what Song Qingnian was thinking of? If it were in the past, he might be patient enough to play and banter around with the latter, but now... He felt very upset that Chu Liuyue was being defamed.

He looked at Chu Liuyue. “Liuyue, are you okay?”

Chu Liuyue’s face turned cold, and she felt her stomach turn over.

**Chapter 738: Expose**

*This is the first time Jiang Yucheng has addressed me in this manner. Chu Liuyue spent a lot of effort controlling the expression on her face. Is this fellow crazy?*

But Song Qingnian—who was at the side—was greatly taken aback. “Yucheng, y-you called her...”

Jiang Yucheng seemed gentle and well-mannered, but he was actually very arrogant. Now that his status and identity were different, it was even harder for people to get close to him. Yet, he actually addressed Chu Liuyue so intimately...

*Since when did the two of them become so close?*

Jiang Yucheng glanced at Song Qingnian as he smiled and explained, “Oh yes. You might not know, but Liuyue was the one who helped and saved me when I was in danger previously. Speaking of which, it can be considered that I owe her half my life.”

Mu Qinghe and the rest had witnessed the scene personally, so they naturally wouldn't refute this. As for the rest...

They had received Chu Liuyue's help to varying extents, and they didn't even have time to show their gratitude. Hence, they naturally wouldn't say anything.

Song Qingnian was completely stunned.

At the side, Yang Qin'er widened her eyes in shock and even forgot to cry.

“Y-you’re saying... Chu Liuyue saved you?” asked Song Qingnian in disbelief.

Jiang Yucheng nodded and pointed at the crowd behind. “Actually, she has helped quite a bit in helping all these people behind get out.”

Alone, Chu Liuyue’s power was limited, so she naturally couldn’t take responsibility for everything. But nobody could deny that she played the most important and crucial role in this entire process.

Song Qingnian looked behind him in confusion, and he then saw the patch of black clearly. With a rough glance, there were at least 300 to 400 people!

*Chu Liuyue... helped all of them?* Song Qingnian was greatly shocked and didn’t believe it no matter what. But the person talking was Jiang Yucheng—he had to believe it!

Recalling the swift and decisive appearance Chu Liuyue put on when she took action, Song Qingnian gradually recovered his senses. *I-it seems like... Chu Liuyue is indeed quite capable... Let alone that Lei Laosi—he’s strong, and he seems to listen to Chu Liuyue. With his help, it doesn’t seem impossible for Chu Liuyue to be able to do this.*

“As for why she looks unharmed... That’s because she hasn’t been dragged down from the start. She only followed us down when we said that we wanted to find Wan’er.” Jiang Yucheng’s few sentences briefly explained the whole incident. He spoke lightly, but it was as if a large rock smashed against Song Qingnian’s heart.

At this point, he then realized how laughable were his previous words. *In Jiang Yucheng’s—no! I’m afraid I have already turned into a laughingstock in everyone’s eyes, right?*

Song Qingnian hurriedly scanned his surroundings and indeed saw quite a few people looking at him with unfriendly gazes. Amongst them, most of them were still Black Guards...

The whispers started spreading. "Ms. Chu is so kind-hearted, and she has been helping people the whole way. She won't attack anyone, right?"

"I think so too!"

"Purple Xiao Sword Sect... I remember that they wanted to cause trouble for Ms. Chu at Ping Liang Square previously, but now, I'm afraid they're just playing the blame game..."

These people didn't speak loudly, but this space was dim and narrow, so everyone could hear any voice clearly.

Song Qingnian was humiliated and felt that there were daggers at his back.

Jiang Yucheng smiled. "Qingnian, I think you've misunderstood something."

Song Qingnian felt stifled. After an intense internal struggle, he finally accepted his fate as he clenched his teeth and said, "...I guess so..."

Just as he was about to get over this incident directly, Lei Laosi crossed his arms and lazily said, "You're going to let things slide by just saying that it's a misunderstanding? You didn't scold us any less earlier, right? Now that everything has been cleared up, do you not intend to apologize?"

Who has Song Qingnian apologized to? But in this situation, he didn't seem to have a second choice.

He could only brave himself and say in Chu Liuyue's direction, "...Sorry."

That word seemed to be squeezed out from between the gaps of his teeth.

Lei Laosi pulled his ear out. "What did you say? You're too soft—I can't hear you!"

Song Qingnian took a deep breath in and could only speak louder. "Sorry! I misunderstood you!"

Then, his green veins could be vaguely seen on his forehead.

Yang Qin'er originally hid behind him as she hugged his arm with her hands clutching his.

Song Qingnian used force and unintentionally held Yang Qin'er's hand tighter.

Her expression changed, and she almost directly yelled out in pain. *My bone is about to be crushed!*

Chu Liuyue watched on as if she were watching a show. Even though she was surprised that Jiang Yucheng stood up for her, she was unaffected and even felt a little disgusted. *But since Jiang Yucheng admitted that he owes me a favor, it would be a waste to refuse it!*

Mu Qinghe took two steps forward and pointed in a direction. "We heard some noise here earlier. Is it because of those two people?"

Chu Liuyue looked over to where he was pointing.

He was pointing at the duo that had just died.

"That's right." Chu Liuyue nodded and briefly explained the previous incident. Of course, she unavoidably mentioned that she took the initiative to offer her help but was rejected by Song Qingnian terribly.

Chu Liuyue spoke nonchalantly as if she didn't even care about it. But to the crowd, they felt that Song Qingnian didn't know what was good for him.

*How dare he have the cheek to complain about Chu Liuyue first?* Even though everyone didn't say anything, they all felt contempt toward Song Qingnian.

Song Qingnian was in an uncomfortable situation as it was the first time he felt so humiliated in front of them. If he weren't worried that he would meet with more trouble, he would leave no matter what!

Yang Qin'er lightly clutched his sleeves and softly said something.

Song Qingnian then realized something and let go of her hands.



Yang Qin'er's wrist almost broke. She looked down nervously and saw that fresh blood seemed to have stained her clothes.

She was frightened and immediately wrapped it up.

"The other party seems stronger than before. We must hurry up..."

Upon hearing this, Yang Qin'er's expression changed slightly as she suddenly said with slight hesitation, "Are you looking for the person who is controlling the roots? I remember that the root flew over from that direction."

Then, she pointed in a direction.

The surroundings were pitch black, and nobody knew what was lying in the direction she pointed in.

Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows. "Really?"

Yang Qin'er nodded fearfully.

Chu Liuyue half-squinted and was about to speak when she suddenly felt a tickle by her ear. She turned around to look at Tuan Zi and saw that it had directly flown forward.

Its target—Yang Qin'er!

Chu Liuyue felt strange and was going to call Tuan Zi back when she saw that it directly flew past Yang Qin'er's head.

Yang Qin'er was frightened, and she shrieked as she retreated in a panic. She was slapped by Tuan Zi's wing, and she fell down.

"Don't touch me!" yelled Yang Qin'er anxiously as excruciating pain came from her wrist.

*Sila!*

Half her sleeves were ripped apart, and a bloody and terrifying wound on her wrist was exposed in front of the crowd.

The intense bloody smell immediately erupted—it was actually very similar to the smell of that root!

### **Chapter 739: Crystal Barrier**

Everything happened rapidly.

Yang Qin'er knew that it was bad when the wound on her wrist was ripped apart again.

Song Qingnian originally wanted to help her up, but his expression changed when he smelled this.  
"Qin'er, what's with—"

Sharpness flashed across Yang Qin'er's eyes, and without speaking, she turned around to escape. Her speed was actually much faster than the cultivation level she showed!

Tuan Zi immediately followed! In the blink of an eye, it rushed to Yang Qin'er!

It waved its wings. A red fire suddenly flew out, and it formed a barrier in midair.

Yang Qin'er didn't detect it at that moment, and it was already too late to stop when she discovered the fire barrier in front of her.

In her panic, she could only fling out a wave of force and use this rebounding force to escape the fire.

However, the fire started spreading even quicker.

Just as Yang Qin'er turned around, she realized that she was completely trapped within a cage shaped by the fire.

The burning hot temperature roasted her, and her entire body felt excruciating pain.

She clenched her teeth and set up a barrier around her.

But how could her barrier defend against the strength of a legendary fiend like Tuan Zi? Not long later, her barrier started shaking as if it would explode at any moment.

Chu Liuyue rushed over.

A thought popped up in Yang Qin'er's mind as she looked at Song Qingnian with puppy eyes. "Senior Brother Qingnian, save me!"

Song Qingnian originally felt that it was weird, but when he saw Yang Qin'er's tortured look, he felt pity for her and rushed toward Chu Liuyue—who had just come over. He said anxiously, "Chu Liuyue, hurry up and tell your fiend to let her out! If this carries on, Qin'er won't be able to take it!"

But Chu Liuyue seemed not to have heard his words as she walked straight toward the cage shaped by the fire.

Song Qingnian panicked and reached out to pull Chu Liuyue back without thinking. "Did you not hear what I said—"

Chu Liuyue suddenly turned around to take a look.

Song Qingnian suddenly stopped his actions.

The girl in front of him looked fierce, and her eyes were like daggers. However, this cold and calm look actually chilled his heart.

Song Qingnian's hand froze in midair, and he couldn't continue going forward. *Chu Liuyue... seems to be even more untouchable than I thought!*

Just as he was in a trance, Chu Liuyue had already retracted her warning gaze and scanned Yang Qin'er with a cold expression. "What's with the wound on your wrist?"

Yang Qin'er was very guilty as she turned her head. "I was just accidentally scratched by the tree root... Nothing much..."

"Oh?" Chu Liuyue asked lightly in retaliation, "Did you accidentally get tainted with the smell previously? That's weird. That smell... seems to be coming from your wound?"

*That's definitely not an ordinary bloody aura! That smell is exactly the same as the smell that permeated the area when I first slashed open a root. This can only prove that... Yang Qin'er's body has also absorbed the strength within the roots! But how did she do it? Even Jiang Yucheng and the rest couldn't avoid the roots, but Yang Qin'er is the exact opposite.*

Yang Qin'er clenched her silver teeth tightly. She wanted to defend herself, but it was as if Chu Liuyue could see through everything with her pair of eyes glued to her.

No matter what she said at this time, it would all seem like a joke!

Seeing that Yang Qin'er didn't speak, Song Qingnian was anxious. "Qin'er, what exactly is going on?!"

*She was clearly stuck together with us at the roots earlier, but now...*

However, Yang Qin'er refused to speak no matter what.

Chu Liuyue thought deeply for a moment and suddenly stepped forward.

Lei Laosi followed her worriedly.

Chu Liuyue turned around to look at him and lightly shook her head. "I can ask her myself. You don't have to worry."

Lei Laosi could only stop. But everyone, including him, was staring closely at Chu Liuyue at this moment.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes, and a thought flashed across her mind. *There was a period of time when Yang Qin'er seemed to be extremely close to Shangguan Wan, and she would even make porridge for the latter.*

Chu Liuyue already felt that something was amiss back then. *As the Third Princess, Shangguan Wan has specialized people to take care of her every need in the palace. Since when did she lack someone to cook porridge for her? Shangguan Wan said that it was because she felt that she could get along with Yang Qin'er, so she asked the latter to stay in the palace for a few days. However, only a fool would believe this.*

*The stranger thing is that during that period, Yang Qin'er actually accused me of taking away the Long Yuan Sword, and she was framed as being a liar. According to Shangguan Wan's temper... Not only did she not punish Yang Qin'er, but she even left the latter by her side...* Chu Liuyue's lips opened slightly, and she silently said a sentence.

Yang Qin'er was the only one who 'saw' her words as Chu Liuyue's back was facing the crowd at this point: *Shangguan Wan used your Yuan meridian, right?*

Yang Qin'er widened her eyes in shock as if she saw a ghost. *We did this so discreetly. How did Chu Liuyue guess that?*

Seeing Yang Qin'er's reaction, Chu Liuyue instantly confirmed her guess. *I knew it! From that point, Shangguan Wan had already taken action. It's normal for her to want to do it, but why did Yang Qin'er agree? Was she threatened by Shangguan Wan?*

Chu Liuyue still remembered seeing Yang Qin'er's expression when she delivered Shangguan Wan the porridge. *She didn't seem like she was being forced. Also, other than her body becoming slightly weaker, she doesn't seem much affected in other areas even after such a long time. She didn't seem weak when she executed her abilities earlier!*

Chu Liuyue's gaze landed on the wound on Yang Qin'er's wrist, and it suddenly focused. *The strength in Yang Qin'er's body actually comes from Shangguan Wan! Even though I don't know what exact method these two used, I can confirm that... Yang Qin'er's strength will increase along with Shangguan Wan's abilities strengthening! Then... Perhaps Shangguan Wan already knows about the situation here!*

Chu Liuyue went backward without hesitation!

Yang Qin'er suddenly lifted her head and sneered. "You want to escape? It's too late!"

A black symbol suddenly flashed across her brows, and it immediately disappeared! The next moment, her bodily aura started erupting!

Qin Yi's expression changed, and he immediately said, "Retreat! She wants to explode!"

Before he could finish his sentence, he already rushed to Chu Liuyue.

Lei Laosi also detected that something was amiss and immediately flew over.

However, the two of them were still too late.

*Boom!*

A loud sound blasted through the air as the ferocious and violent force spread in all directions!

At that moment, a fire spark rushed straight into the sky.

When Yang Qin'er's body was about to be damaged, a black wave appeared in the sky. A strong suction force then came from within and immediately enveloped Chu Liuyue!

Her figure immediately disappeared before the crowd!

"Liuyue!"

"Ms. Chu!" Everyone gasped in unison.

...



The moment Yang Qin'er's self-destructed, Tuan Zi immediately flew over and blocked Chu Liuyue.

The next moment, Chu Liuyue saw her vision become black as she was instantly dragged into a dark space by some force.

But when she was about to retaliate, she suddenly realized that the ferocious strength was all blocked outside.

A barrier was glistening brightly and protecting her perfectly within.

Chu Liuyue blinked. *Crystal barrier? How did it come out by itself before I could even do anything?*

#### **Chapter 740: Who Exactly are You?!**

Just as this doubt flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind, she saw a light appear before her.

The surrounding space started squeezing toward her!

Chu Liuyue retracted her expression and circulated the force within her body. The next moment, her vision turned bright.

Almost at the same time, the crystal barrier suddenly became countless rays of light that inserted themselves into Chu Liuyue's body.

Chu Liuyue was stunned and was about to take a closer look when she suddenly felt that her entire body was dragged out of that narrow space.

She stumbled backward and stabilized herself with much difficulty. Chu Liuyue then rapidly scanned her surroundings.

Her surroundings were filled with black soil that kept moving and a bloody and rotting smell that almost suffocated someone. She could even faintly see many incomplete corpses.

There were countless dancing roots above them of varying thickness, but they all presented a bloody color.

A stone platform was below her feet—hard and cold.

Chu Liuyue's eyes flickered a little. *It's almost all soil beneath, so this platform's existence is especially unique. If I didn't guess wrongly, this should be—*

"It is you." A mocking and ice-cold voice came from behind.

Chu Liuyue was ever so familiar with this voice, and she turned around.

A woman stood opposite her.

A faintly black barrier surrounded this woman and blurred her face and figure, but Chu Liuyue could still tell that it was Shangguan Wan with just one glance.

*There is something by her feet. Chu Liuyue looked over, and her eyes narrowed. That's actually my pure gold armor! Without a doubt, Shangguan Wan brought it over. That's true. Shangguan Wan has already occupied everything that once belonged to me, so why would she let go of the pure gold armor? However, it's strange seeing it like this. The pure gold armor is extremely precious, and one might not be able to find another armor that's as perfect as this one in the entire Tianling Dynasty. Logically speaking, Shangguan Wan should cherish it very much. But she has now actually placed it aside casually... There also seems to be messy bloodstains beside it on the ground.*

Chu Liuyue silently retracted her gaze and looked at Shangguan Wan.

“You’ve been spying secretly all along. Was it fun?” asked Shangguan Wan with mockery.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly. *It seems like Shangguan Wan has already guessed that I did all those things earlier.*

Chu Liuyue’s lips curled up slightly, and she smiled slightly. “Third Princess, you’ve really misunderstood. I wasn’t spying on you—I was just helping the rest to find you. All the previous times, I could only take a quick look and couldn’t confirm your exact position. I didn’t expect to come directly here this time. If Eldest Young Master Jiang and the rest know that I found you, they’ll definitely be ecstatic.”

Shangguan Wan didn’t want to hear Chu Liuyue’s words at all, and she wouldn’t believe them either.

“Are you threatening me?” Shangguan Wan’s expression looked cold. *Jiang Yucheng is fine, but the others definitely can’t know that I’m here, especially given what I’m doing!*

“Third Princess, why would you say that? I’m just a mere commoner, so how can I threaten you?” said Chu Liuyue as she unintentionally scanned the surroundings. “Ever since you disappeared, we were all very worried and spent all our effort to barge in while meeting many dangers along the way. Many

disciples and Black Guards were constricted to death by those roots, and their dying looks were miserable... It's great that you're safe and sound."

Shangguan Wan stared at Chu Liuyue and was quiet for a moment before she suddenly laughed coldly.

In the quiet and cold space, this sound was especially sudden and sinister.

"Chu Liuyue, you don't have to put up an act in front of me. You know more clearly than others about how you came over. Yang Qin'er is already dead, so is there a point in talking about this now?"

Hearing this, Chu Liuyue's expression became lighter. "It seems like you admit that Yang Qin'er's injury and her death is related to you, Third Princess?"

"She should've died long ago. It's her blessing that I let her live for a few more days." At this point, Shangguan Wan knew clearly that Chu Liuyue had already guessed many things. Hence, she directly dragged Chu Liuyue over and put everything out in the open.

"As for you... This is the legendary fiend you just made an agreement with?" Shangguan Wan looked at the fiend on Chu Liuyue's shoulders, and her gaze was filled with jealousy and anger. *If it weren't for Chu Liuyue, this legendary fiend would be mine!*

"...What a pity..." muttered Shangguan Wan softly, and her face was filled with intense, murderous intent. *It's a pity that this legendary fiend can't recognize a new master! Hence... I can only kill it as well! It's so hard for a legendary fiend to appear. However, not only can I not have it as my own, but I even have to kill it instead...*

Shangguan Wan's hatred toward Chu Liuyue increased again.

Tuan Zi seemed quite agitated.

Chu Liuyue gently patted its head and comforted it in her heart. *When I discovered that Yang Qin'er might be related to Shangguan Wan, I had already predicted this current scenario. Since Shangguan Wan dares to say these things daringly, it proves that she has no intentions of letting me leave this place alive. However... it's not so easy for Shangguan Wan to take my life!*

"I recall that you also have a Dijing Yuan meridian and that... its standard isn't too low?" Shangguan Wan scrutinized Chu Liuyue, and her eyes were filled with unconcealable greed and excitement. *Currently, I just need the last bit of strength to heal my Yuan meridian completely! Perhaps... I can do it by using Chu Liuyue! After all, Chu Liuyue's abilities have always been stronger than the cultivation level she shows. She also has a legendary fiend...*

Chu Liuyue smiled, but the smile didn't reach her eyes. "It seems like you're pretty interested in my Yuan meridian, Third Princess?"

Shangguan Wan was too lazy to pretend anymore. "It's your utmost blessing to be able to serve me."

Shangguan Wan stood in the air, and she waved her hands.

A dark-blue force immediately flew out toward Chu Liuyue! At the same time, countless roots flew together in unison from all directions.

*Hula—*

Tuan Zi glowed, and it immediately turned into its true self.

Its gigantic wings flapped, and the red fire kept gushing out.

All the roots were easily deflected, and they were even burning with the red fire. At the same time, a spark rushed toward the sky!

The surrounding darkness had been driven away, and it shone like the daylight!

Violent and strong winds blew up, and the suppression was intense!

Shangguan Wan clenched her fists tightly and was enraged. *Even with this barrier blocking me, I can still feel the terrifying force. The suppression of a legendary fiend is so shocking! It's no wonder Chu Liuyue can be so daring! With this red-tailed phoenix around, she doesn't even need to take action herself.*

Tuan Zi hovered around Chu Liuyue's head and carefully protected her under its gigantic wings.

The surroundings were ablaze, and it reflected on Chu Liuyue's face and body.

Shangguan Wan clenched her teeth tightly and glared at her deadly.

Chu Liuyue looked nonchalant as she suddenly smiled slightly when she welcomed Shangguan Wan's gaze filled with jealousy and vengeance.

Shangguan Wan's heart harshly skipped a beat! *That smile, those eyes, and that gaze... It really looks like the one on fire in the royal family's ancestral hall back then!*

Shangguan Wan unwittingly moved half a step back and was petrified. "Wh-who are you?!"