

Noble Ruler 741

Chapter 741: Die!

Everything replayed like the scene of that day, and it attacked her like a nightmare.

Shangguan Wan's body trembled, and her face turned stark white.

Chu Liuyue smiled brightly. "Me? I'm Chu Liuyue. Third Princess, do you not know me?"

Her tone was light as if she were teasing.

Shangguan Wan took a deep breath in and kept reminding herself. *This is Chu Liuyue, this is Chu Liuyue!*

However... When the light from the fire shone on her beautiful face, causing half of it to be in the dark and half in the light, she actually looked extremely similar to Shangguan Yue back then!

Chu Liuyue took a step forward as if quite worried. "Third Princess, what's wrong with you?"

"Don't come here! Don't come here!" Shangguan Wan shrieked. At the same time, she hurriedly moved backward and accidentally fell to the ground.

Chu Liuyue stopped in her tracks and stood rooted to the ground as she smiled at Shangguan Wan quietly. At that moment, she seemed to be high and mighty.

Shangguan Wan looked at Chu Liuyue, and her heart beat crazily.

Chu Liuyue stood there and naturally looked down at her from above as if she had done it countless times.

Shangguan Wan's face burned. My disheveled look is too humiliating! Chu Liuyue is Chu Liuyue. Who else can she be? I know more clearly than anyone that Shangguan Yue is already dead—completely dead! It's impossible for her to resurrect at all! Illusion... This is all an illusion!

Shangguan Wan forced herself to stand up, and her gaze directed at Chu Liuyue became harsher gradually. *Even if Chu Liuyue didn't discover everything today and didn't barge in, I definitely wouldn't have left her alive for long! This face alone is enough for her to die 10,000 times!*

“Right! Chu Liuyue—you’re Chu Liuyue!” said Shangguan Wan with hatred. Nobody knew who she was repeating it to.

Chu Liuyue looked at her with much interest. *Shangguan Wan's reaction is pretty interesting. I originally thought that Shangguan Wan hated me to the core and that she would definitely be carefree and happy after she killed me back then. But it now seems like... She's also guilty and scared.*

Chu Liuyue was suddenly curious. *If Shangguan Wan knows that I'm the real Shangguan Yue, what would her expression be?*

“...No matter who you are, you deserve to die!” Shangguan Wan's heart was filled with anger and horror. Even though she kept convincing herself that this person was Chu Liuyue, countless scenes from the past still surfaced in her mind!

The intense feelings caused her five features to contort.

A black aura seemingly appeared between her glabella, and her eyes glowed with a hint of dark green. From afar, she actually looked like a ferocious ghost.

Chu Liuyue frowned. Earlier, I was wondering when Shangguan Wan's force turned dark green. I didn't expect that her eyes would also seem to have the same colored spark jumping around. It looks very strange! Perhaps... She became like this after using a special method to absorb other people's force?

Shangguan Wan attacked once again. This time, she unleashed all her force.

The terrifying strength, coupled with horrifying suppression, overwhelmed her.

Chu Liuyue's surrounding space immediately narrowed. It was like a mountain pressed against her, and even the force within her body started circulating slowly.

At this point, Shangguan Wan's abilities had already reached that of a stage-eight warrior!

Even though Chu Liuyue had already broken through and became a stage-five warrior, she was still worlds apart from Shangguan Wan.

Tuan Zi's shriek was clear!

Shoo!

The red fire immediately became a barrier and protected Chu Liuyue within!

At the same time, Tuan Zi's wings vibrated, and countless feathers shot toward Shangguan Wan like sharp swords!

Chu chu chu!

The brilliantly glowing feathers had a ferocious aura as they harshly struck the black barrier in front of Shangguan Wan.

The black barrier started vibrating!

Shangguan Wan clenched her teeth. *It would be difficult to absorb Chu Liuyue's strength now. The phoenix beside her is too formidable! Also, the most urgent thing I need to do now is to heal my Yuan meridian!*

She asked in her heart, "Senior, do you have any way of dealing with that legendary fiend?"

After a moment, a hoarse voice lazily sounded. "I can help you delay the phoenix for a while, but it depends on you if you can kill Chu Liuyue."

"Thank you so much, Senior!" Shangguan Wan was elated. *Without the legendary fiend interfering, won't it be a piece of cake to deal with a Chu Liuyue? Let alone a while, I can even take Chu Liuyue's life in one shot!*

A black symbol then surfaced on Shangguan Wan's glabella, and it floated around.

A sinister aura spread apart from it. It silently passed through the barrier, and it drew an outline in midair.

Chu Liuyue looked at it, and her heart sank. *The strength that forcefully brought me over just now... It seems to have the exact same aura as this symbol! Is this the mysterious existence that is helping Shangguan Wan in secret?*

Uneasiness suddenly overwhelmed her heart. *This symbol is definitely even harder to deal with than Shangguan Wan!*

Once this thought flashed in her mind, Chu Liuyue saw the symbol flying toward Tuan Zi.

Countless black lines came out from above—these lines were even thinner than hair strands. If one didn't look closely, one might not even be able to notice them.

Tuan Zi's body suddenly burned with red fire, and its pair of dazzling, gem-like eyes were energetic!

But when the fire made contact with the black lines, they actually didn't start burning!

The black lines passed through the fire and quickly made an outline of a gigantic web!

“Tuan Zi!” Chu Liuyue’s heart tightened, and she immediately wanted Tuan Zi to retreat.

But it was too late!

That gigantic web directly trapped Tuan Zi.

At the same time, Shangguan Wan rushed over!

She simply launched a punch! “Die!”

Chapter 742: Know

Just as Chu Liuyue and Shangguan Wan engaged in an intense battle, the crowd that was left behind was anxious.

Yang Qin’er’s sudden self-destruction exceeded everyone’s imagination. When they recovered their senses, Chu Liuyue’s figure had already disappeared without a trace.

In that space, only the violent aftereffects were left after the destruction.

Lei Laosi stared at the empty space as his chest heaved up and down violently with regret and anger. *Your Highness was right in front of me, yet I couldn’t protect her well! I just watched on as she was dragged into that empty space! We weren’t by Her Highness’s side two years ago, so we let those people take advantage of the situation. However....*

The blood within Lei Laosi circulated as he raised his hand and wanted to slap himself.

“Four.” Qin Yi—who was standing beside him—suddenly spoke up.

The hand that Lei Laosi just raised stopped in midair, and he looked up to see his own big brother looking at him.

The latter’s eyes were calm with a tinge of warning. *If we overreact now, we’ll definitely be discovered! Jiang Yucheng, Mu Qinghe, and the rest are still behind!*

Qin Yi’s silent warning made Lei Laosi recover his senses as he clenched his teeth and put his hand back down. However, he clenched his fists so tightly that the veins on his forehead popped out.

“What happened just now?” Jiang Yucheng quickly walked over, and his expression was stern.

Qin Yi turned around, looking calm. “Yang Qin’er self-destructed and tore open the space, which allowed the mastermind to drag Chu Liuyue away forcefully.”

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows tightly. “Does this mean that Yang Qin’er indeed has a problem? Then, who is the mastermind?”

Qin Yi shook his head and looked at Song Qingnian.

Song Qingnian instantly felt like he was burned by fire. “Why are you looking at me?! What does this gaze mean?!”

“Yang Qin’er is from the Purple Xiao Sword Sect, and she’s very close to you, Song Qingnian. Now that this has happened to her... Is there nothing you want to say?” Qin Yi’s tone was light, but every word and phrase was extremely sharp as they directly raised Song Qingnian’s suspiciousness to the highest level!

Everyone in the surroundings looked over doubtfully. *That’s right! Everyone saw Song Qingnian protecting Yang Qin’er clearly! If Yang Qin’er is problematic, how would he not know at all?*

Song Qingnian angrily said, “What can I say? I don’t know anything!”

He originally still wanted to defend Yang Qin’er, but after seeing the current situation, whatever he said would be futile.

Yang Qin’er already chose to self-destruct! If that’s not being guilty, then what is? In addition to her weird wound previously... Even Song Qingnian knew clearly that Yang Qin’er must’ve been hiding something! She’s already dead. The most important thing now is to clear myself of suspicion!

“Oh? You were so close to her, so do you really not know what she said and did?” asked Qin Yi in retaliation.

“I really don’t know! Even if you ask me a hundred times, I still don’t know!” Song Qingnian was stumped. *How long has Yang Qin’er been in the Purple Xiao Sword Sect? I only became closer to her because she’s pretty, and I got tempted. Who would’ve expected that this would happen?*

“Qingnian, I believe this has nothing to do with you, but any clues are important now. If you know anything about her being amiss, just say it.” Jiang Yucheng was the one who said this.

Song Qingnian looked at him in disbelief. *This means... Jiang Yucheng clearly suspects me!*

He was about to retort when he saw Jiang Yucheng's serious expression as if he cared about this incident a lot.

No, he clearly cares about Chu Liuyue! Song Qingnian understood Jiang Yucheng quite a bit. Seeing the latter's reaction, he could basically guess what his friend was thinking and couldn't help but be shocked.

At the side, Mu Qinghe silently glanced at Jiang Yucheng again. *Jiang Yucheng seems gentle and well-mannered, but he's actually cold-blooded and cunning—he only cares about himself. Shangguan Wan has been missing for so long, but he was never this anxious. Chu Liuyue has just disappeared, and he already can't stand still...*

Mu Qinghe looked down and suppressed his inner guess. *I'm afraid Jiang Yucheng didn't even notice this himself, right?*

"...I really don't know anything! If I did, why would I spend so much effort to save her just now and even speak up for her?!" Song Qingnian defended himself.

Nobody could see through Jiang Yucheng's expression, and his eyes looked deep and vast. *It seems like I really can't find out anything from Song Qingnian.*

He looked at Qin Yi again. "Young Master Qin, do you have a way to find out where she is now?"

Once he said this, footsteps could be heard from behind.

"I know where she is." A youngster's cold and nonchalant voice came over.

The surroundings fell into deep silence.

Qin Yi looked at the golden-haired youngster in front of him. The latter's expression was cold, and his lips were pressed against each other tightly, with only stubbornness in his eyes.

Qin Yi squinted.

Qiang Wanzhou continued, "I'll bring you to save her."

Qin Yi seemed like he was about to smile. "Why me?"

"Because you're the strongest, and you can help her." Qiang Wanzhou stared at him with determination. He didn't say the remaining half of the sentence: *It's also because... Chu Liuyue trusts Qin Yi!*

He could clearly tell that Chu Liuyue trusted Qin Yi and Lei Laosi very much. Though he didn't know why, he believed in her.

Qin Yi paused and nodded. "Okay."

Jiang Yucheng immediately asked, "Then, where exactly is she?"

The moment he asked that, Jiang Yucheng realized that he was too anxious. His expression moved, and he added, "If we all find her together, we have a higher chance of success."

Mu Hongyu and Ye Ranran had already walked over as if they wanted to go together.

Qiang Wanzhou glanced at Jiang Yucheng, and then his gaze slowly swept past the crowd as he said, "She's quite far away from here. If too many people go, it will slow us down."

Jiang Yucheng looked embarrassed.

Mu Hongyu and Ye Ranran wanted to go too, but they hesitated when they heard this.

"You can go first then! It's more important to save Liuyue! You don't have to care about us!" Even though Mu Hongyu was filled with worry, she still said that.

She had a Faint Yuan Body and could teleport instantly, so it would be more convenient for her than the rest. However, she didn't dare to confirm if she was capable enough.

If she became everyone's burden, it would be bad.

Ye Ranran nodded seriously as well. "Big Brother Qin, you can go ahead first!"

Since they already said that, the others couldn't say anything either.

Qin Yi raised his hand and gently slid it across, tearing a space in the air. Then, he entered.

Qiang Wanzhou followed closely.

Lei Laosi was about to follow them when Qin Yi glanced at him and gently shook his head. "Protect them well."

Then, the duo's figures completely disappeared.

Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows tightly and fell into deep thought. *If Chu Liuyue was really brought away by Shangguan Wan just now... I actually know where they are!*

Chapter 743: Lingxiao Palm

Jiang Yucheng felt torn on the inside as if there were two of him arguing back and forth with each other in his mind. *If all of this is truly Shangguan Wan's doing, then she definitely won't spare Chu Liuyue's life. Not even Qin Yi and the others will be able to save Chu Liuyue. But on the other hand, Chu Liuyue has probably found out something. If she makes it out of this place alive, then she will indubitably become Shangguan Wan's greatest threat. I might even be implicated as I'm in the same boat as Shangguan Wan.*

If Chu Liuyue reveals Shangguan Wan's dirty deeds, our marriage will surely be called off too. Not only Shangguan Wan's, but my status will also plummet to rock bottom. Given how many enemies I have within Xi Ling City, it's clear what will be awaiting me if I fall from grace! Jiang Yucheng's face gradually became cold and dark as these thoughts ran through his head.

...

Over on this side, neither Chu Liuyue nor Shangguan Wan was aware of what was happening on the other end.

When Shangguan Wan threw out a clean punch packed with brute and aggressive force, a dark-green, fist-shaped shadow flew out. It silently tore through the air in a perfect arc as it headed straight toward Chu Liuyue's face.

Under this powerful force, the air in front of Chu Liuyue compressed, making her feel excruciating pain as if something heavy was pressing on her entire body. Even moving became an exceedingly difficult chore to her because of her stiffened body.

This was the full force of a stage-eight warrior—not even she could meet that punch head-on.

Chu Liuyue's eyes gleamed coldly as she watched the fist-shaped shadow approach her at high speed.

Whir!

The water droplet in her dantian began spinning all of a sudden. Rich force instantly rushed out from it and flowed into her limbs, reducing the pressure she was facing.

With a side-step, she vanished from her original spot, resulting in the punch hitting the air.

"You do have some skills!" Shangguan Wan narrowed her eyes slightly before bursting into a peal of laughter. *The aura she exudes now is much stronger than before. She must have some tricks up her*

sleeve, or else there's no way she could avoid that punch so easily. It's no wonder that she managed to take first place in those competitions...

“You're too naive if you think you can escape from me with such petty tricks!” Shangguan Wan scoffed. *They're nothing in front of real and absolute power!*

With just a thought, the fist-shaped shadow changed its course and continued charging toward Chu Liuyue.

Something silvery flew out of Chu Liuyue's hand right at that moment.

Shangguan Wan squinted her eyes to take a closer look, only to realize that it was the dagger Chu Liuyue had used before. Her lips curled up into a sneer. “You dream of stopping my attack with that mere dagger? How ludicrous!”

As the saying goes: the longer and bigger one's weapon is, the more powerful one will be. A good weapon tends to increase a cultivator's combat power, but Chu Liuyue seems to be using this dagger all the time. No matter how sharp and handy it is, it can't be compared to spears and swords. It'll easily become a disadvantage. From what I see, she's just asking for trouble. However, Shangguan Wan's smug smile stiffened the next second because Chu Liuyue's dagger had sliced her fist-shaped shadow into two.

Everything happened in just an instant, and the fist-shaped shadow tore apart just like that as if the full force it packed was useless against the dagger. The force within dissipated as well.

By now, Chu Liuyue had already retreated to the back and cast a barrier around her to ward off the exploding force that resulted from her actions.

Shangguan Wan was aghast and infuriated. *There's something wrong with that dagger. It... might be a rare treasure! So that's why she's using it all the time!*

If Shangguan Wan wasn't in this situation, she would probably develop some interest in the dagger. But at this moment, all she could think about was ending Chu Liuyue's life as quickly as possible. Her failed attempt didn't stop her from striking once more. This time, she took things a lot more seriously.

She appeared right in front of Chu Liuyue in a flash.

Even though Chu Liuyue moved fast, she was no match for Shangguan Wan—who was currently moving at full speed. But that didn't mean that she planned to keep hiding from the other woman.

When Shangguan Wan put her hands in front of her, dark-green force poured out and formed a palm print—it was about the size of her hand, and it emitted a luminous glow. The surrounding force then began gathering toward the palm print.

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes, for she was all too familiar with this technique Shangguan Wan had executed. It was a skill that only the Tianling Dynasty's royalty could learn—Lingxiao Palm. Most importantly, although it was just an Earth-grade warrior technique, the power it could truly unleash was comparable to that of a Heaven-grade warrior technique.

Shangguan Wan paused for a moment before shifting her hand positions slightly.

The surrounding force began flowing toward the palm at an even faster speed, which made Chu Liuyue scoff.

There were three stages to the Lingxiao Palm. While all members of the royal family were able to cultivate the first stage, only those who had become stage-seven warriors could proceed to the second

stage. This requirement might be considered a little tough for the average person, but it wasn't difficult for the royalty considering the amount of grooming they received. That said, not everyone could successfully reach the second stage as the skill was really difficult to understand.

As for the third stage, only those who had become stage-eight warriors could continue cultivating this skill.

Although Shangguan Wan had reached the eighth stage in cultivation, her damaged Yuan meridian made it impossible for her to continue onto the third stage. Thus, she could only execute the skill at the second stage. Regardless, she reckoned that it was more than enough to deal with Chu Liuyue. "You should be honored that I'm killing you with the second stage of the Lingxiao Palm!"

A mocking smile played on Chu Liuyue's lips.

Speaking of which, Shangguan Wan had only managed to pick up the second stage through Shangguan Yue's patient guidance. She had secretly begged the latter for help as she was unable to master the skill no matter how hard she tried.

Afterward, in her delight at mastering the skill, she even dropped hints to Shangguan Yue that she wanted to give their father a surprise.

Shangguan Yue naturally knew what she meant, but she didn't mind it at all. She even took the initiative to promise Shangguan Wan that she would keep this matter a secret and reveal to the public that the latter had mastered the skill all on her own.

When the news spread, many people praised Shangguan Wan for her intelligence. Even the Emperor's attitude toward her became a lot gentler as he reckoned that she was becoming smarter as she grew.

Chu Liuyue squeezed her fists under her sleeves. *It's time for you to pay back what I taught you back then!*

Chapter 744: Counterattack

As Chu Liuyue held her breath and gathered her thoughts, her internal force quickly gathered at her right hand.

A small point of starlight suddenly lit up on her fingertip before splitting into two. One of them floated over to her next finger.

That wasn't all to it though. In just the blink of an eye, three fingers on her right hand were lit up, and it showed no signs of stopping. The fourth point of starlight flickered into appearance, its glow a little weaker than the other three.

When the force in the surroundings started to gather around Chu Liuyue, she lightly waved her other hand in the air to get rid of that nasty force.

Although Shangguan Wan didn't mind it and seemed more than happy to absorb the force in their surroundings, Chu Liuyue minded it. She found it too dirty and disgusting to be used, so she channeled her own force instead.

The water droplet started spinning really quickly. As the five lines rippled, rich force came pouring out of Chu Liuyue nonstop.

Shangguan Wan's expression changed when she saw how Chu Liuyue blocked the surrounding force while her aura became stronger. *How did she do that? Does she still have some other tricks up her sleeve?*

That split second of distraction, however, caused a disturbance in the force Shangguan Wan was trying to gather. She quickly focused and only managed to stabilize it with much effort.

When the dark-green palm print finally returned to normal, she closed her eyes in relief. Indignation filled her on the inside though.

Although she had mastered the second stage of the Lingxiao Palm, most of it was pure regurgitation. She didn't fully comprehend the technique, so she had to strictly follow the steps Shangguan Yue had taught her whenever she used it. Any mistake made would result in a backlash of her force.

While she was proud of herself for being able to reach the second stage, she would inevitably think of Shangguan Yue whenever she used the technique and felt restricted by her inability to control it freely. This was why she wouldn't use the technique under normal circumstances.

But now, it was the best option to end things quickly.

Glowing lines slowly surfaced on the palm print, which looked like palm lines from afar. The finer these so-called palm lines were, the more power they contained.

As one's understanding of the technique differed from cultivator to cultivator, the lines they produced were different as well. However, Shangguan Wan's palm lines were extremely similar to Shangguan Yue's as she had learned the technique from the latter—her palm lines were much thicker and simpler though.

When Shangguan Wan drew the final palm line, the fifth point of starlight quietly appeared on Chu Liuyue's finger.

Chu Liuyue looked up, her gaze lingering on the palm print in front of Shangguan Wan as an indiscernible smile crept up her face. *She's made no progress in the cultivation of the Lingxiao Palm even after so long. Then again, her Yuan meridian is damaged. She can't even be compared to an average cultivator, so how can she continue cultivating the Lingxiao Palm? It must be tough for her spending days and nights to commit the steps to memory.*

Chu Liuyue lifted her right hand, where five points of starlight twinkled at her fingertips. Having long memorized the Ultimate Jingshen technique by heart, she could even recite it off pat. Thus, she naturally comprehended and mastered the Ultimate Jingshen technique when she broke through to become a fifth-stage warrior.

With an abundant supply of force within her body, she finally managed to light up all five points of starlight.

"A fifth-stage warrior like you dreams of dueling with me?" Shangguan Wan sniggered. *The technique I'm using is part of the Tianling Dynasty's martial art skill that has been passed down for thousands of years. It can't be compared to the one she's using.*

But Chu Liuyue appeared deaf to her words. With a light forward push of her palm, a brilliant and intimidating silver palm print appeared floating in the air, and the space around them started crumbling quietly to reveal a black circle.

That's an Earth-grade warrior technique she's using! The appalling sight made Shangguan Wan frown. She then cursed herself for making a fuss over nothing. *Even if it's an Earth-grade warrior technique, Chu Liuyue—a fifth-stage warrior—isn't my match!*

With this thought in mind, she pushed her palm print out. "Lingxiao Palm!"

As the dark-green palm print silently flew forward, Chu Liuyue's silver palm print followed suit. The latter had chosen to face Shangguan Wan head-on.

"You think too highly of yourself!" Shangguan Wan scoffed.

The two palm prints flew toward each other, but before they could even come into contact, they began killing each other with their force.

The space around them instantly crumbled, and a crack line formed on the stone platform below to reveal a dark-green glimmer.

Shangguan Wan didn't notice this, but Chu Liuyue did. The latter's gaze immediately shot toward the crack.

Although Chu Liuyue couldn't tell what the problem was, her intuition told her that something didn't seem right about it. An uneasy feeling thus arose within her.

All of a sudden, a surge of force came from the front.

Chu Liuyue quickly tore her gaze away from the crack to look in front.

After a fierce and intense fight, the Jingshen Palm was forced to retreat, and its force was slowly getting absorbed by Shangguan Wan's Lingxiao Palm.

Although Shangguan Wan had exhausted a lot of force, the force the Lingxiao Palm contained was still very abundant due to her having a higher cultivation level than Chu Liuyue.

At a glance, the Lingxiao Palm seemed to be gaining the upper hand.

With all her strength, Shangguan Wan shouted, "Go!"

The Lingxiao Palm was closing in fast, and it looked like it was planning to swallow the Jingshen Palm completely.

Right at that moment, the Jingshen Palm exploded into countless points of falling starlight.

Thinking that she had won the fight, Shangguan Wan's eyes curved into crescents. But just as she did so, she saw the falling points of starlight exploding in a blinding display.

It was so bright that the entire place was fully illuminated as if it was daytime.

An ear-piercing sizzling sound was produced when the light enveloped the Lingxiao Palm, and it sounded like something was burning. The Lingxiao Palm then began shrinking, and a foul smell soon spread everywhere.

Shangguan Wan could hardly believe what she was seeing. *How is this possible? Chu Liuyue is only a fifth-stage warrior, so how come the technique she executed has such terrifying force?*

Just then, Chu Liuyue moved to put her hands in front of her in a strange pose.

Shangguan Wan found it a little familiar, but she couldn't remember where she had seen it before.

Chu Liuyue then lifted a hand to make a light stroke in the air, and starlight instantly filled the air to form a pattern.

Shangguan Wan stared closely at it out of worry that she might miss something. Chu Liuyue's movements were very slow, so she had a clear look at them, and a mental image of the pattern unconsciously formed in her mind. But slowly, she realized that something was wrong—the pattern Chu Liuyue was drawing was slowly overlapping with the pattern of the second-stage Lingxiao Palm.

Chapter 745: She Doesn't Deserve It!

The pattern Chu Liuyue was drawing was actually completely different from hers, but they fit together for some reason and slowly got entangled with each other.

It wasn't easy for me to remember that pattern! I can't let anything happen to it! Shangguan Wan immediately averted her gaze and tried to rid the confusing image from her mind, but alas, it was to no avail.

She had taken an especially close look at Chu Liuyue's pattern earlier and had memorized all of the latter's movements, including the lines she had drawn. Thus, those lines were now firmly imprinted in her mind, and she couldn't get rid of them.

Slowly, she realized that her memory relating to the second stage of the Lingxiao Palm was beginning to get fuzzy. The two patterns intertwined together to form a huge jumbled mess. *This is too bizarre! I haven't encountered such a situation before! It's not like I haven't fought with anyone in the past, but nothing like this has ever happened...*

Shangguan Wan had made great efforts to master the Lingxiao Palm. In order to receive praise from the Emperor and impress everyone else, she had put down her pride to beg Shangguan Yue for help.

Even though she had learned how Shangguan Yue executed the Lingxiao Palm, the Lingxiao Palms they executed were slightly different due to the latter having a more thorough and detailed understanding of the technique than her.

This was also why she had always been very careful not to execute this technique in front of others, even though the average person wouldn't notice anything wrong with it if they didn't look closely.

The Lingxiao Palm's second stage was something she had wanted to learn for the longest time, and she had practically imprinted it into her mind. But now...

The more frantic she got, the more chaotic her mind became. It got so bad that even the dark-green palm print was affected, and the pattern began jumbling up. This resulted in a great reduction of its power.

Chu Liuyue calmly took a look at Shangguan Wan, who was trying not to look her way as she grabbed her head while looking torn and pained. The latter seemed to have sensed the gaze on her, for she suddenly looked up and screeched, "What have you done to me, Chu Liuyue?!"

Chu Liuyue let out a derisive laugh as she continued drawing the pattern. Although the pattern in front of her seemed to be randomly drawn, it had a strong sense of regularity. While the average person would only experience a dizzy spell if they stared at it for too long, it wasn't that way for Shangguan Wan.

All it took was one look from her to commit it to memory, and this was because said pattern was the third stage of the Lingxiao Palm.

After Shangguan Yue broke through to become a stage-eight warrior, she began cultivating the last stage of the Lingxiao Palm. It didn't take long before she completely comprehended the technique, but nobody knew about this—not even her father, the Emperor.

At that time, she just did what she thought she should do. The thought of announcing it to show off had never even crossed her mind. Unlike Shangguan Wan, she was already the most honored person in the Tianling Dynasty, so there was no need for her to resort to such tricks to prove her capabilities.

The decision she made back then turned out to be a wise choice.

Ever since she was reborn as Chu Liuyue, she had never once executed any of the martial arts skills and techniques that she knew in the past out of fear of exposing her identity. If Shangguan Wan hadn't executed the Lingxiao Palm earlier, she wouldn't have thought of using this method to deal with her.

There were three stages to the Lingxiao Palm. Each stage was superior to the last, and it was all the more so for the third stage.

Since Shangguan Wan had a deep impression of the second stage, all it took was one look at the third-stage pattern for her to follow it unconsciously. But how could she possibly comprehend the third stage when she couldn't even comprehend the second stage?

The result of it was the crumbling of her cultivation relating to the Lingxiao Palm. This was why Shangguan Wan was so infuriated when she realized that something was wrong. Unfortunately for her, it was too late.

As Chu Liuyue silently worked on the remaining lines, Shangguan Wan felt as if someone was forcibly carving this pattern in her mind when she accidentally got another look at it.

“Arghhh—” Shangguan Wan screamed in frustration when she felt her mind getting increasingly fuzzy. With red, glowing eyes, she charged toward Chu Liuyue and screeched, “How dare you play tricks with me, you b*tch?! You’ve got a death wish!”

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes dangerously as she added the last stroke to the pattern. Just as Shangguan Wan was getting closer and closer, she lifted her hands, and that huge pattern immediately floated forward.

Shangguan Wan blinked, only to see the strange pattern right before her eyes.

In an enticing but judging voice, Chu Liuyue said, “Take a look at your Lingxiao Palm.”

My Lingxiao Palm! Shangguan Wan’s mind exploded, followed by a cracking sound in her mind.

The two patterns had completely intertwined with each other as if they were out of control. Then before she knew it, the second-stage palm lines that she had firmly imprinted into her mind crumbled into pieces and dissipated.

Her body jolted as she coughed up blood. She could distinctively feel that something was rapidly draining from her body—it was the Lingxiao Palm.

She looked at the shattered palm print with much difficulty, only to see that its palm lines had been completely destroyed.

With a cold expression, Chu Liuyue turned her force into a whip and flung it out.

Smack!

The dark-green palm print instantly crumbled.

Whatever I gave Shangguan Wan back then, I can take it all back now! She doesn't deserve the Lingxiao Palm!

Chapter 746: Help

Shangguan Wan let out a cry of agony and fear as she hugged her head, desperately trying to retain her memory of the Lingxiao Palm. Alas, like sand slipping out of her hands, the more she tried to grasp at it, the faster it slipped away from her mind. "No... No..."

It wasn't easy for me to master the second stage of the Lingxiao Palm. If I forget the technique and regress to the first stage, learning it all over again would be as hard as scaling the sky! The thought sent her into a panic. While gasping for air, she unconsciously yanked at her hair.

Strands of hair fell out, but she couldn't be bothered about it, for Chu Liuyue had effortlessly destroyed her memory of the Lingxiao Palm's second stage with the strange pattern she had drawn.

Once the last line completely disappeared from her mind, Shangguan Wan gradually stiffened. *It's gone... It's really gone! I'm back to the first stage of the Lingxiao Palm!*

No matter how hard she tried to recall the memory, nothing came to mind. She even felt her head throbbing in pain after some time, and she staggered backward, nearly falling to the ground due to her legs going weak.

Meanwhile, Chu Liuyue—whose back was fully drenched—gently exhaled a breath. It had been really tough for her to execute the Lingxiao Palm's third stage since she was only a fifth-stage warrior. Although it appeared easy, just drawing that pattern had drained a large part of her force, and she couldn't have done it without the support of the water droplet in her dantian. Thus, it was a good thing that the result seemed to have turned out pretty well.

"It looks like that so-called Lingxiao Palm of yours isn't all that formidable." Chu Liuyue smirked.

Those words immediately snapped Shangguan Wan out of her trance. She looked up with glowing, red eyes and a vengeful look and shouted, "Chu! Liu! Yue!"

Each syllable sounded like it was forced out through clenched teeth. There was also deep resentment in her tone as if she wanted to sink her teeth into Chu Liuyue's flesh and drink her blood.

I thought I could easily finish Chu Liuyue off, but I ended up suffering a double whammy instead! There's something fishy about her and that dirty trick she pulled earlier! Unfortunately, Shangguan Wan couldn't pinpoint exactly what was wrong with Chu Liuyue, so she decided to leave it aside instead. Her only thought now was to kill Chu Liuyue.

If I don't kill Chu Liuyue now, complications will surely arise in the future! Although Shangguan had seen Chu Liuyue as an eyesore a long time ago, she had never taken the latter seriously. But now, she finally realized that Chu Liuyue was much harder to deal with than she thought.

Anger and hatred churned within her as if they were about to explode from her chest at any time. These intense emotions drove her mad and made her features contort, while the flickering dark-green fire in the depths of her eyes made her look like a ghost from hell.

Right at that moment, a cry was heard.

Taken by surprise, Shangguan Wan turned her head to see a furious red-tailed phoenix—which had broken free from the gigantic black net—flying straight toward herself.

Crimson flames surged, and the entire place instantly turned into a sea of fire.

When Shangguan Wan saw the murderous intent in the red-tailed phoenix's sparkling crystal eyes, she froze. For a moment, she felt as if death was approaching.

She hurriedly got up to escape for her life without any hesitation, but much to her horror, a bolt of fire came sweeping toward her just as she turned.

Whoosh!

In the Third Princess's hurry to dodge it, she accidentally fell to the ground. When she noticed that the hem of her skirt had caught fire, she hurriedly tried to snuff it out.

However, Tuan Zi was out to kill her this time, so there was no way it would easily let her off.

The flames around the Third Princess burned fiercely as they approached her from all directions.

Shangguan Wan hurriedly cast a barrier around her while running toward the pure gold armor that had been thrown on the ground earlier.

Although the pure gold armor hadn't officially recognized her as its owner, it still provided her some form of protection when worn. Being at her wits' end, this was the only method she could think of to

protect herself, but a terrifying aura appeared next to her just as she was about to reach the pure gold armor.

Shock—mixed with a hint of fear—overcame her, but black runes appeared in front of her out of nowhere and blocked the attack.

Boom!

The two forces collided.

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes when she saw how the black runes blocked the crimson fireball's attack completely. *So that's Shangguan Wan's true backer...*

With the black runes' help, Shangguan Wan successfully managed to put on the pure gold armor, its cold and hard sensation bringing a sense of relief to her. Protected by her barrier, she finally had time to catch a breather as she said in her mind, "Thank you, Senior."

But the other party only snapped coldly, "Useless thing!"

Despite having been scolded, Shangguan Wan didn't dare to retort or even show the slightest hint of displeasure, for she herself hadn't expected that she would be driven to this state by a mere Chu Liuyue. "You're right... It was all because I underestimated my opponent—"

"Even if you did your best and unleashed all your force, I doubt there would be any change in the situation. Don't forget that you're nothing but a cripple with a damaged Yuan meridian!" Hints of mockery could be detected in the raspy voice. *She might be able to gain the upper hand at the beginning, but she won't be able to last long. In the end, she would still be defeated by Chu Liuyue!*

Shangguan Wan bit her lower lip out of indignation, and a drop of blood oozed out from it. However, this was nothing compared to her bloodstained oral cavity.

“You still need my help in the end,” said the voice.

Mixed feelings arose in her. “Senior—”

Whir!

A strange humming sound was heard out of nowhere. Then, the black runes slowly flew toward Shangguan Wan’s glabella.

As if they had been burned, their edges even curled up slightly.

Before Shangguan Wan could say anything, her expression had a subtle change to it. Emotions faded from her face, leaving behind only cold indifference. Her eyes became even redder, and she exuded a murderous aura.

Chu Liuyue’s heart skipped a beat. “Tuan Zi!”

At her summon, Tuan Zi—who wanted to fight Shangguan Wan head-on—quickly flew back to her side.

The next moment, Shangguan Wan raised her hand and gave a gentle tap in the air.

Boom!

Violent winds blew everywhere as the space around Chu Liuyue began collapsing quickly. Her body then flew forward uncontrollably.

Chapter 747: She's Better off Dead!

Shangguan Wan's hands began reaching for Chu Liuyue's slender neck as if she could end the latter's life with just a light twist of her neck.

Being shrouded by the terrifying aura, Chu Liuyue couldn't move at all.

A murderous look streaked across Tuan Zi's eyes as it charged toward Shangguan Wan right away.

With just an expressionless look from Shangguan Wan, the gigantic net that Tuan Zi had broken free from earlier appeared right in front of it once more. It was much trickier to deal with this time as it had been repaired and was much more closely knitted than before.

As Tuan Zi slowed down, the distance between Chu Liuyue and Shangguan Wan quickly narrowed.

Shangguan Wan's exquisitely trimmed nails were just inches away from scraping Chu Liuyue's skin when a rich force suddenly burst out from the latter's body.

The Third Princess's indifferent expression finally cracked to reveal a hint of shock. While she retreated to the back, her eyes remained fixed on Chu Liuyue. "That explains your arrogance... It's because you still had a trick up your sleeve!"

She released the aura of a ninth-stage warrior earlier! To think that she has such power hidden within her! Although Shangguan Wan's voice sounded the same, the way she talked was different as if it were another person speaking.

Without Shangguan Wan's control and suppression, Chu Liuyue fell to the ground. When her feet landed on solid ground, she heaved a sigh of relief and said in gratitude, "Thank you, Ancestor!"

She hadn't expected to receive her ancestor's help just now. Although Shangguan Jing didn't respond to her, he shielded her firmly.

As Shangguan Wan cast Chu Liuyue a suspicious glance, the latter looked forward and met her eyes. Both parties fell into a quiet stalemate for a moment, and the atmosphere was so tense that it was stifling.

On the surface, this might seem like a duel between Shangguan Wan and Chu Liuyue, but that wasn't the case in reality.

All of a sudden, there was a ripple in the air.

I can't let anyone see this! Shangguan Wan immediately turned her head in shock, but she heard a soft crack as she did so. *It sounds like something has cracked...*

She looked down to find a crack in the middle of the stone platform.

Chu Liuyue saw it too, but she had already known about the crack's existence. The only difference to the crack was that it was slowly growing bigger and wider. An ominous feeling loomed over her, and she quickly summoned Tuan Zi back.

The moment she placed a hand on Tuan Zi's neck, she saw a dark-green light shooting out from that crack. The entire stone platform then began crumbling, and the roots above her began falling toward them.

Just as she jumped on Tuan Zi's back, the stone platform completely collapsed, and the whole place was illuminated by the dark-green light. A terrifying suction force then came from below.

Shangguan Wan fell into the hole. Seeing that she was about to be swallowed by the hole, she quickly grabbed a tree root, flung it toward Chu Liuyue, and entangled it around her foot.

Chu Liuyue tried to block the attack, but she realized that neither she nor the ancestor could exert their force.

In her momentary distraction, Shangguan Wan gave the root a fierce tug.

Everything happened too quickly. Before Chu Liuyue could even react, she was pulled toward the hole where Shangguan Wan was.

She aimed a kick at Shangguan Wan, whose face was kicked to one side, and several of her teeth fell out.

In her panic, the Third Princess had only managed to put on the pure gold armor and had forgotten about the helmet. That said, it didn't take long before she realized that she could easily take Chu Liuyue down as long as she didn't get hurt in the head.

Both parties couldn't use their force and thus could only rely on physical combat.

Shangguan Wan fiercely grabbed Chu Liuyue's ankle and pulled it, making the latter fall off from Tuan Zi.

Tuan Zi flapped its wings as it scratched Shangguan Wan's face with its sharp claws out of fury. The scratches it left on her face were shockingly deep, and her facial bones could practically be seen.

Shangguan Wan shrieked in pain and was thinking of a way to launch a counterattack when Tuan Zi speedily flew toward Chu Liuyue.

Saving master is more important! I'll definitely make Shangguan Wan pay it back the next time I see her! Tuan Zi thus followed Chu Liuyue and disappeared into the dark-green light.

Shangguan Wan clung to the tree root tightly out of fear that she might accidentally drop down into the hole where god knew what was awaiting below.

There was a ripple in the air right at that moment, and two figures—Qin Yi and Qiang Wanzhou—walked out from it one after another.

The black runes on Shangguan Wan's face suddenly disappeared. The dazed look on her face faded and was replaced with the angry and hateful expression she had earlier.

A shudder ran through her. *Was I controlled by that person just now?*

“She’s right he—” Qiang Wanzhou’s words were abruptly cut off when he saw the scene in front of him. He was visibly shocked.

Qin Yi reacted faster than him. He realized that something was wrong as soon as he saw the collapsed platform and the dark-green light. He rushed over at once, only to see Shangguan Wan struggling to climb back up.

There wasn’t anyone else around.

Chu Liuyue isn’t here! Qin Yi looked down at the abyss below, but he couldn’t see anything apart from that blinding light. Just standing at the edge alone made him feel that he was about to be swallowed by that hole.

“Where is she?!” Qiang Wanzhou demanded, his eyes fixed on Shangguan Wan as he walked over.

Shangguan Wan recognized them. Despite the fear in her heart, she stubbornly said, “You came just in time. Come pull me up!”

Qiang Wanzhou’s voice got frostier. “I ask you: Where is she?!”

“What—or rather, who are you talking about? I’m the only person here! Quick, come help me!” Shangguan Wan feigned ignorance. *I won’t be able to get out of here on my own. I need someone to pull me up.*

I can sense it! This place has Chu Liuyue's aura—she must've been here before! Shangguan Wan looks like she's just been through a tough fight! A murderous look surfaced on Qiang Wanzhou's face.

Shing!

He drew his sword all of a sudden, and a peacock-blue flame appeared. Grabbing the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword tightly in his hand, he swung the sword toward the root Shangguan Wan was grabbing. *Since she refuses to tell the truth, then she's better off dead!*

Chapter 748: Came for Who?

A harsh sword light flashed across.

Shangguan Wan's heart harshly skipped a beat as she watched the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword directly slash the tree root.

But just as the sword was about to touch it, Qin Yi suddenly pressed Qiang Wanzhou's wrist. His action was light as if he just patted the latter, but Qiang Wanzhou's actions suddenly stopped.

Rage overwhelmed Qiang Wanzhou's pretty face as he held the sword hilt tightly, strengthened his force again, and tried to retaliate.

But Qin Yi was too overwhelmingly strong—he silently restrained Qiang Wanzhou completely. He just placed his hand there, yet the latter couldn't even move.

Realizing that he really wasn't Qin Yi's match, Qiang Wanzhou looked up angrily. *I don't believe Qin Yi can't tell what's going on here! Why is he stopping me? Even if Shangguan Wan dies a million times, it won't be enough!*

However, Qin Yi's expression had already calmed down, and a bottomless pit was found in his narrow eyes. "We haven't made this matter clear yet. Don't randomly jump to conclusions."

Then, he looked at Shangguan Wan gently. "We'll save you first."

Shangguan Wan was elated and kept nodding.

Then, Qin Yi really waved his sleeves and flung out a rope that wound around Shangguan Wan's waist. He gently lifted his wrist, and Shangguan Wan was pulled up.

After leaving the area wrapped in dark-green light, Shangguan Wan instantly felt like she had crawled out of hell. She turned around to look back with lingering fear, and her entire body was drenched in cold sweat. *If I didn't grab the root just now and was slightly careless... I would've been the one who dropped down!*

At this time, another wave of ripple could coincidentally be felt from the air.

A figure then came out from inside.

Shangguan Wan turned around and was instantly shocked. *It's actually Jiang Yucheng!*

“Yucheng?!” Shangguan Wan gasped as she hurriedly rushed over and jumped into his arms. “Yucheng, you finally came!”

Jiang Yucheng didn't notice it and was surprised by the hug as he instinctively held Shangguan Wan's waist.

“...I was so scared just now! I almost died! Yucheng, did you specifically come to look for me?” Shangguan Wan lay in his arms and cried. *Jiang Yucheng knew my position. Since he appeared, he must've come for me.*

After experiencing all the previous incidents, the emotions suppressed in her chest were finally unleashed when she saw Jiang Yucheng, exploding out of her body.

Horror, fear, panic... In such a short amount of time, she had been through a few life and death scenarios, and she had been on her tippy-toes.

She could finally relax now.

The clothes in front of Jiang Yucheng's chest were swiftly drenched by Shangguan Wan's tears as the latter held him tightly. Her body was still trembling slightly, clearly petrified.

Even Jiang Yucheng rarely saw her in such a state, and he softly comforted her as he gently patted her shoulders. “It's fine. Am I not here? Don't worry...”

Qiang Wanzhou saw Jiang Yucheng—who suddenly appeared—and pressed his lips against each other tightly before glancing at Qin Yi. *So he had already detected someone coming... And that person is even Jiang Yucheng! It's not hard to imagine what the consequences would be if Jiang Yucheng came and saw me killing Shangguan Wan. But even if so... What about Chu Liuyue?*

Qiang Wanzhou looked at the deep gully and held the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword in his hands tightly.

Jiang Yucheng hugged Shangguan Wan and comforted her, but his gaze swept around as if he were searching for someone. A tinge of undetectable worry could be seen in his eyes.

Qin Yi saw it clearly and couldn't help but secretly laugh as mockery flashed across his eyes. He then lightly said, "Eldest Young Master Jiang, you came here really quickly. We just arrived, and you've already chased up to us."

Jiang Yucheng froze.

His cultivation level wasn't as good as Qin Yi, and he was even injured. Logically speaking, it was impossible for him to be so fast. The key was that he wasn't with the two of them, yet he arrived at this place. Without a proper reason, it wouldn't make sense.

"Not long after you left, I received Wan'er's cry for help. Hence, I rushed to this place," explained Jiang Yucheng briefly.

He didn't intend to continue quibbling with the duo. No matter if they believed it or not, they didn't have the right to question him. He and Shangguan Wan were engaged after all, and they had distinguished statuses. Thus, it was only natural to have trump cards.

He then said as if in a self-reproaching and heartbroken manner, "Wan'er, why did you send the news so late? We almost went crazy from looking for you!"

Shangguan Wan knew what she should do at this point, and besides, she also wanted to hide some things. She didn't speak, but she hugged Jiang Yucheng tighter and sniffed.

Qin Yi looked at the duo nonchalantly as if he had no intentions of asking further.

"I see."

Jiang Yucheng secretly heaved a sigh of relief, scanned the surroundings in detail, and asked, "Wan'er, you're... the only one here?"

Shangguan Wan lay in his arms, and the crowd couldn't see her expression.

"...Mm." Shangguan Wan nodded hesitantly, and she sounded upset.

Does this mean that... She's already gotten rid of Chu Liuyue? Jiang Yucheng was stunned, and his heart felt empty and even.. a little pained. It was as if someone took needles and pricked his heart one by one, causing a close and continuous pain.

Actually, he had been very conflicted.

On the one hand, Chu Liuyue most likely had already guessed what Shangguan Wan was doing. Considering all aspects, they should get rid of her. If not, there would be many problems.

But on the other hand, he felt very uneasy and worried. He felt upset once he thought of Shangguan Wan killing Chu Liuyue.

He originally didn't plan to come here, but he was already here when he recovered his senses. It was as if he was possessed for some reason.

Jiang Yucheng didn't dare to overthink, but there was suddenly a Pandora's box in his heart. Once he opened it, everything would be destroyed!

Shangguan Wan naturally didn't know any of this. She thought that Jiang Yucheng came because he was genuinely worried for her. After all, he knew the reason why she came to Dahuang Swamp.

Thinking of this, Shangguan Wan secretly felt hatred. *I haven't healed the last bit of my Yuan meridian! If it weren't for Chu Liuyue—*

Jiang Yucheng looked down. *Judging from this messy scene, there must've been a great battle here earlier.*

He slightly knitted his brows. *This is weird. It should've been very easy for Shangguan Wan to kill Chu Liuyue, so why did it cause such a big commotion? Is it because of that red-tailed phoenix?*

"Since you're already here, Eldest Young Master Jiang, you can leave with the Third Princess first," said Qin Yi. "I'll go down and see what exactly this is."

Jiang Yucheng followed his vision and immediately understood what Qin Yi meant. *He's actually thinking of jumping down into that deep gully glowing with a strange dark-green light?*

"You..."

“What do you want to do?” asked Shangguan Wan rather agitatedly as she suddenly raised her head. *Since I’ve killed Chu Liuyue, I definitely won’t allow anyone to save her!*

Jiang Yucheng patted her shoulders and convinced gently and patiently, “Wan’er, Young Master Qin just wants to—”

Jiang Yucheng’s voice suddenly stopped, and he suddenly pushed Shangguan Wan away as if he saw a ghost.

The face that could be considered cute and adorable in the past was actually bloody and badly mangled. It was as terrifying as a ferocious ghost!

Chapter 749: She’s already Dead

Shangguan Wan was suddenly pushed away by Jiang Yucheng like that. Due to this, her expression changed, and her blood boiled.

Just as she was about to speak, she coincidentally met with Jiang Yucheng’s gaze—shock, sudden, surprise... And even though he hid it quite well, there was still an apparent sense of disgust!

Shangguan Wan was suddenly stunned before she realized that her face had been scratched by the phoenix before. *Is Jiang Yucheng... hating on my face?!*

She felt her entire body turn ice-cold, and all her blood rushed up to her head as indescribable anger burst in her heart.

Jiang Yucheng saw her expression change and realized that his earlier push was inappropriate. Thus, he hurriedly took a step forward.

“Wan’er, how did your face... get injured?!” He asked her sincerely, and he looked anxious as if he was very worried.

However, his face of disgust was already deeply imprinted into Shangguan Wan’s brain.

There was no woman in this world that didn’t care about their looks, especially a princess that was born in the royal family like Shangguan Wan. She would place more emphasis on her appearance.

From her hair to her toes, everything was intricate.

From her hairpin to her shoes, everything was perfect.

Her status was distinguished, and she was always in the spotlight. Due to this, she had to pay extra attention to her every move and word, let alone her face.

With a disfigured face, I’ll become a laughingstock when I go out!

Shangguan Wan had always been hovering over the edge of life and death and finally survived with much difficulty, so she didn’t even have time to care about her face.

Now, Jiang Yucheng's reaction finally made her recall this incident, and it impacted her greatly!

Shangguan Wan sneered. "You didn't ask me if it hurt, but you asked how the wound came about first?"

Jiang Yucheng scolded himself for carrying out the wrong plan. *Normally, I definitely wouldn't make such a low-level mistake, but I wasn't on-guard just now, and most of my thoughts weren't on Shangguan Wan. Due to this, I was more direct, which resulted in this situation.*

He understood Shangguan Wan too well. *She's probably going to hold a grudge against me for a very long time.*

Jiang Yucheng instantly felt his head ache. He had already gone through too much previously, and he also forcefully maintained his body, so he didn't have any extra energy to deal with Shangguan Wan.

"Wan'er, I don't mean anything else. I'm just too worried about you..."

Shangguan Wan sneered and had a mocking expression.

Her gaze stumped Jiang Yucheng, and he was too lazy to say his remaining explanation and comforting words.

It was still okay in the past as Shangguan Wan was mostly gentle and considerate. This was also an important reason why he liked her in the first place.

Even though he also knew that Shangguan Wan wasn't as innocent and harmless as she appeared to be, he didn't mind it. With such a background, it was normal to be manipulative and cunning.

But these two years, she became even sharper and more sensitive. She regularly held onto something for a long time and would cause a huge commotion over it.

Jiang Yucheng was exhausted long ago, and his patience diminished day by day. He sighed deeply in his heart and tried hard to suppress his frustration as he tried to convince her. “Wan’er, all these are superficial injuries. They will naturally get better when we go back and use some cream on it. Yuzhi also injured her face by accident in the past, and she recovered in no time. Nobody can tell!”

Shangguan Wan was nonchalant and listened to his words as if she was listening to a joke. *Of course, I know that the scar on my face can heal. But Jiang Yucheng’s previous push... I will never forget it!*

Qin Yi was too lazy to care about them, and he walked straight over.

Qiang Wanzhou immediately followed, and Qin Yi glanced at him. “Just stay there.”

Even I find it dangerous. If Qiang Wanzhou comes, won’t he just be seeking death?

Qiang Wanzhou moved his feet and was conflicted for a while, but he still listened to Qin Yi in the end—he knew his limits. *If Qin Yi goes over, he might be able to bring Chu Liuyue back. But if I go, I will likely become a burden only.*

Shangguan Wan glanced from the corner of her eyes and saw that Qin Yi had walked to the edge. She immediately said, “You can’t go down!”

Qin Yi seemed like he didn’t hear it.

Shangguan Wan anxiously said, “Dangerous—it’s very dangerous down there! If you go, you’ll just be courting death!”

Jiang Yucheng also looked over and furrowed his brows. *It seems like Chu Liuyue should’ve dropped down... That aura is extremely dangerous, and Chu Liuyue should’ve gone down for quite some time. I’m afraid—*

Hong! Long! Long!

A loud sound suddenly came from the deep gully!

Qin Yi’s expression changed!

The dark-green light glowed, and strong waves flowed out from within!

The surrounding black soil started moving crazily.

Qin Yi wanted to rush in directly, but he was blocked outside by the maniacal force.

At that moment, the skies spun, and the ground shook.

The few people’s figures immediately disappeared from the spot. At the same time, the same scenario happened below the entire Mystic Forest.

...

Bang!

The sound of something heavy landing on the ground was heard. After that, the noises kept coming.

Then, there were all sorts of painful moans.

These moans made Qin Yi widen his eyes suddenly.

Abruptly coming outside from the dark underground caused the bright light to prick his eyes, but he still endured the pain and rapidly scanned his surroundings.

It's still the Mystic Forest. From the surrounding messily broken tree, we shouldn't be far from that position. He looked up, and as expected, he saw that mother tree in the distance.

Qiang Wanzhou was behind him on his right and didn't seem to be severely injured.

Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan were in front of him—the two of them were quite a distance apart.

Looking around further, the surroundings were all people. The majority of them were Black Guards, and some were disciples.

Qin Yi knitted his brows. *It seems like everyone was chased out... Whose force was it just now? It's actually so powerful? Even I couldn't completely block it!*

"Big Brother!" This was Lei Laosi's voice.

Qin Yi turned around and indeed saw Lei Laosi rushing toward him.

When he reached Qin Yi, Lei Laosi anxiously asked, "Big Brother, Her—"

Qin Yi interrupted him. "The Third Princess is fine."

Lei Laosi hurriedly kept quiet, but his eyes were filled with anxiety and worry. "W-where's Chu Liuyue?"

For some reason, everyone was chased out by a strong force just now.

Lei Laosi then saw his big brother at first glance and came over excitedly, but he discovered that Chu Liuyue wasn't around. *Shangguan Wan was found, and Jiang Yucheng is here. Why is Her Highness missing?*

Qin Yi's expression became light. "I haven't found her."

“Haven’t found her? How can this—” Lei Laosi suddenly thought of something, and his voice trailed off as shock flashed across his eyes. He then rapidly scanned his surroundings again, and his gaze meticulously swept past everyone’s face. *No, no.*

No, No.

Still no!

Her Highness really isn’t here!

He didn’t give up and walked to another side.

At this point, Shangguan Wan’s voice sounded out in a deadly manner. “Everyone should already be out now. For those that aren’t, could it be that they’re already—”

Chapter 750: The Pure Gold Armor’s Owner!

Shangguan Wan didn’t finish her sentence because Lei Laosi looked over.

The latter didn’t spurt out vulgarities this time and simply glanced at Shangguan Wan, but that look was extremely cold.

Lei Laosi was originally already very capable. Coupled with this sinister and harsh stare, it was even more powerful.

Shangguan Wan unwittingly felt a chill run down her spine and was horrified as she unwittingly swallowed her remaining words. However, she already clenched her fists tightly in her sleeves.

She looked down and hid the anger in her eyes. After I leave this place, I'll definitely find a chance to get rid of this Lei Laosi! I still remember Lei Laosi fighting with me! I'll consider both the old and new grudges together!

Lei Laosi sneered, and his expression was formidable and terrifying. He could clearly see through Shangguan Wan's thoughts.

If it weren't because I'm anxious to find Her Highness, I definitely wouldn't let her off so easily. Lei Laosi retracted his gaze and walked forward with large strides.

This time, Qin Yi didn't stop him.

Lei Laosi searched around carefully. Even though he remembered Chu Liuyue's figure, he still seriously searched every face every time he passed by an area.

Some had their backs facing him, and others were lying on the ground.

He walked over and patiently searched one by one. After confirming that it wasn't her, he continued moving forward.

Shangguan Wan watched Lei Laosi's back view and furrowed her brows tightly. She then turned around and saw Mu Qinghe. "Lieutenant Mu."

Mu Qinghe walked over.

Elder Qiuxi also came over together, rushing over and hurriedly catching up. When he walked in front of Mu Qinghe, he yelled emotionally, “Your Highness, I finally found you! You don’t know how worried we were during this period!”

Mu Qinghe glanced at him and didn’t say much as he bowed toward Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng respectively. “Your Highness, Eldest Young Master.”

Elder Qiuxi used his sleeves to wipe his tears. “Your Highness, we can rest assured now that we see that you’re safe... At least we didn’t find you for nothing!”

Shangguan Wan was finally attracted by his words. She knitted her brows and had a face of confusion. “Elder Qiuxi, what do you mean? You... were looking for me the whole time earlier?”

Elder Qiuxi immediately reported whatever happened before. Of course, he especially pointed out his worry for Shangguan Wan, and he emphasized that the crowd finally decided to look for her because he urged them.

As these people weren’t bound by the roots when they came down the second time, Shangguan Wan didn’t know about this matter clearly.

“I see... It must’ve been really hard on you...” said Shangguan Wan as she clenched her teeth and enunciated every word clearly. *If these people didn’t come down, Chu Liuyue wouldn’t have wrecked my plans!*

Just as Elder Qiuxi was talking exaggeratedly, he suddenly realized that Shangguan Wan seemed amiss, so he hurriedly kept quiet. Then, his gaze quickly scanned past Shangguan Wan's face. *I wonder what exactly she experienced to end up like this...*

Even though Elder Qiuxi's gaze was super light and his action was extremely minor, Shangguan Wan still noticed it. She felt even more hatred, but she couldn't act up in front of so many people.

She hurriedly took out her handkerchief and covered her face. Even though she only revealed her forehead and eyes, one could still see her stunning scar. However, it still looked much better compared to her rotten face.

She looked at Mu Qinghe. "Lieutenant Mu, Lei Laosi and Chu Liuyue... seem to be pretty close to each other. Do you know why?"

Mu Qinghe shook his head and said hesitantly, "Lei Laosi's group of two have always been here guarding the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant. Now that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant has broken through to become a red-tailed phoenix, it made an agreement with Chu Liuyue. It should... have something to do with this, I guess."

It was fine if the red-tailed phoenix wasn't mentioned, but Shangguan Wan's blood boiled once it did. *The legendary fiend that originally belonged to me disappeared, and it even scratched my face! Now that Chu Liuyue is dead, that legendary fiend definitely can't live either!*

"This place is very dangerous. We need to leave as soon as possible," said Jiang Yucheng with a low voice when he walked over.

Shangguan Wan wanted to argue with him, but she saw Jiang Yucheng looking at an area with a stern expression.

She unwittingly followed his gaze and gasped—she saw the mother tree rotting at an observable speed.

The wind blew over, and countless leaves turned wilted yellow from lush green before they floated down.

The more terrifying thing was that after the leaves dropped to the ground, they silently turned into puddles of blood.

Very quickly, pools of blood gathered on the ground and started spreading toward the surroundings at a terrifying speed. Everywhere they went past, everything silently decayed.

This gory scene made everyone's mouth agape and eyes widen.

The crowd hurriedly got up and kept moving backward. "We can't stay here anymore!"

"Let's go! Let's go!"

The crowd was in a mess, and some people seemed to be doing something faintly.

"Liuyue?! Where are you, Liuyue?!" Mu Hongyu, Ye Ranran, and the rest were looking for Chu Liuyue.

Many Black Guards were also looking for Chu Liuyue's whereabouts. "Ms. Chu?!"

“Ms. Chu—you guys, look over here. We’ll go over there!”

“Okay!”

Almost half of the crowd was looking for Chu Liuyue!

Shangguan Wan was stunned by this scene. *Wh-what’s going on? When I wasn’t around, what exactly happened?*

Just as she was about to ask, she suddenly heard the noise of something cracking. She lowered her head to look and saw an opening in the pure gold armor.

Shangguan Wan widened her eyes in shock.

Then, the crack started expanding rapidly.

Bang!

The pure gold armor suddenly dissipated and became powder!

...

At the same time, Chu Liuyue kept falling down in the deep gully.

The surrounding light disappeared, and everything was a blur in front of her. She couldn't see anything.

A figure chased over in the blurriness—it was Tuan Zi!

Tuan Zi flew to Chu Liuyue and supported her body as its wings vibrated. It wanted to bring Chu Liuyue away, but there seemed to be an invisible suction force dragging them down!

The violent turbulence rushed everywhere! The lower they went, the scarier it was!

Countless tiny wounds instantly formed on Chu Liuyue's body, but at this point, her body was suddenly covered in a faint layer of gold.