

Noble Ruler 751

Chapter 751: Come Back!

The golden light wrapped around Chu Liuyue, and the terrifying force was instantly separated outside.

Chu Liuyue was stunned. "Is this... a crystal barrier?"

She could feel that this was the strength from a crystal barrier, but why did the silver color become golden?

Besides, crystal barriers had always been circular-shaped. Chu Liuyue had never seen one that formed a protective layer according to the body shape.

Rather than saying it's a barrier, it should be... Armor! Right, it's armor! Given how it's sticking close to the body... Other than it not being an actual thing, it's not too different from armor. Once this thought flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind, she saw the golden glow on her arms suddenly manifesting.

She didn't notice it at first, but when she saw the strange patterns surfacing, she finally realized that something was amiss. *Why does this pattern look familiar...*

Chu Liuyue stared at it for a while and then glanced at her surroundings. She then indeed discovered that the golden light was solidifying in other areas from top to bottom!

A ray of silver light suddenly flashed across her chest.

Chu Liuyue lowered her head, and her eyelids harshly twitched—a protective plate had suddenly appeared in front of her chest!

She blinked, and disbelief overwhelmed her heart. *This is... This...*

As if to confirm her guess, the surrounding golden rays started solidifying even quicker. Not long later, they completely formed the appearance of armor.

This armor wasn't brand new, and there were many scratches on it. It seemed like it had gone through numerous intense struggles.

The faint golden light was warm and real, thick and heavy. It perfectly stuck to Chu Liuyue's body as if it were specifically made for her, bringing out her perfect curves.

Chu Liuyue was dazed for a while as she looked at the armor that suddenly appeared on her body and held in her breath.

There seemed to be blood overwhelming her ears as they started beating wildly like a heart.

Chu Liuyue's breathing became intense, and her entire person seemed to be ignited as her cheeks burned while her eyes sparkled like the dazzling night sky. *Pure gold armor! This really is the pure gold armor! I thought that it was already taken away by Shangguan Wan, but I didn't expect it to appear here on my body!*

Stars shone in front of her.

Chu Liuyue looked up.

The countless rays of golden light gathered and finally formed a helmet—it was the pure gold armor's helmet!

Chu Liuyue's heart was about to jump out of her chest! She stretched out her hand gradually and held the helmet.

It was cold to the touch, but it had a tinge of heat.

The extremely bright light slid across the top of the helmet, and then the light was as bright as a fire as it illuminated the pure gold armor on her.

At that moment, everything was clear as if the wind blew the clouds away. The pure gold armor glowing with an ancient color started becoming brighter at an observable speed. It was as if a layer of dust was wiped away from it, thus revealing its original color and light!

The pure gold armor recognized a master again!

Chu Liuyue had never expected that the pure gold armor would return to her in such a manner! At that moment, countless thoughts flashed across her mind. *The pure gold armor didn't recognize Shangguan Wan as its new master most likely because my soul was still around. But... How did it come here?*

Chu Liuyue recalled the previous scenario and was suddenly stunned. *Could it... really be related to that crystal barrier?*

Thinking of this, she tried to summon the crystal barrier.

The pure gold armor shone brilliantly, and it gradually became transparent! It was like a layer of transparent and colorless soft armor that perfectly covered Chu Liuyue.

Only when one took a closer look could one see the faint and intricate patterns on it.

This is a crystal barrier, but it's also the pure gold armor! It seems like... It's like the crystal barrier changed after it met the pure gold armor! These two invisibly merged into one and finally appeared in front of me in such a manner! Chu Liuyue's heart shook.

A scene suddenly surfaced in her mind.

The day before I left Country Yao Chen, I played chess with Rong Xiu and told him that I was about to leave and head for the Tianling Dynasty. Rong Xiu told me that the crystal barrier he previously gave me was damaged, so he gave me another one.

Back then, I didn't pay much attention to it because the second crystal barrier was exactly the same as the first one! On the outside, they didn't look any different. It was only until I reached Xi Ling, joined the Wan Zheng Competition, and entered the Tianling God Realm that I realized that this crystal barrier seemed different—its defensive powers were extraordinary.

Even though I was curious at the time, the situation was urgent, so I didn't think much about it. Later on, I gradually forgot about this incident.

If it weren't for this crystal barrier appearing on its own and protecting me, I might not even remember this item's existence. Now that I think about it, there was already something wrong since the start— what kind of Yuan instrument can easily defend against the Long Yuan Sword's sword aura? Even though crystal barriers are split into varying grades, this kind of ability is too shocking! Even though I've seen the best crystal barrier in my previous life, I might not even be able to do this!

“Rong Xiu...” muttered Chu Liuyue softly, and her gaze was complicated. A bold thought then suddenly surfaced in her mind. *Does Rong Xiu... know something?!*

...

Tens of thousands of kilometers away.

Two people sat opposite each other in the room.

Pak!

36 Respected Elder Ming placed the last piece down.

On the chessboard, victory was finally determined after an intense killing between the black and white pieces.

36 Respected Elder Ming's eyes lit up. “Hehe! I've finally won against you this time, Your Highness!”

Rong Xiu placed the chess piece in his hand back to the container, looked up, and smiled slightly. “Respected Elder, your skills are amazing, and I lost fair and square.”

He said it nonchalantly as if he had already expected this ending.

36 Respected Elder Ming was originally laughing and stroking his beard. However, his heart skipped a beat, and he accidentally pulled off three strands of his white beard when he saw Rong Xiu's expression. "Y-you—Your Highness, did you purposely let me win?"

Rong Xiu raised his sharp brows. "No. I was thinking too much, so I lost this round."

"Don't pretend! Do you think I can't tell if you let me win?" 36 Respected Elder Ming glared at him grumpily.

He had almost never won against Rong Xiu in chess. After studying so bitterly for so long, he didn't expect that it was still the same outcome.

His elation was discounted, but a thought popped up in his mind. This ending should be normal, so 36 Respected Elder Ming felt at ease.

"You began learning chess at five, and you rarely had competitors at six. After you were seven... Even I couldn't win against you! Hmph! After losing for so many years, do you think that I can't afford to lose?"

I'm long used to it, okay?! Rong Xiu let me win in a very obvious manner in the beginning, but later on, he became very good at hiding his skills.

"If you want, you could definitely beat all the chess players in this world!" 36 Respected Elder Ming sighed deeply.

However, Rong Xiu suddenly laughed lightly, and his thin lips curled up. He leaned against the chair and lazily said, "I might not."

Chapter 752: Dream On

His voice was low and thick, and with his light laugh, it became even more nonchalant and relaxing.

36 Respected Elder Ming raised his eyes and looked at him.

Rong Xiu was smiling with a tinge of smiling intent in his eyes—it was like the first appearance of spring. His deep eyes weren't looking at the chessboard but were calm and hid ripples as if he was deep in thought.

36 Respected Elder Ming was rather shocked. *Rong Xiu is actually a very proud person. In terms of chess, he can be considered as the best of the best.*

36 Respected Elder Ming felt that his skills weren't bad, but he couldn't even find out what Rong Xiu's true standard was. *At the very least, nobody among the people I know can beat Rong Xiu in this aspect. No, I should say that there isn't even someone who can compare with him!*

"Your Highness, you mean... There's someone who can go against you?"

"Yeah." Rong Xiu tilted his body and raised his elbow as he suddenly laughed when he thought of something. "I even lost quite a few times."

36 Respected Elder Ming was even more shocked. *Hearing this, it means that he didn't lose because he gave in but that he truly lost!*

"Is there such a person in this world?" It's not easy to beat Rong Xiu!

"Of course." Rong Xiu smiled with even deeper meaning, and an extremely light gentleness flashed across his eyes. "But if I meet her again, I'll have higher chances of winning."

Knock, knock...

Knocking sounds could be heard from outside.

"Come in," said Rong Xiu lightly.

Yan Qing came in and first bowed to the duo before saying, "Your Highness, 36 Respected Elder Ming, people from the Ming Division came. They want to see you, 36 Respected Elder Ming."

The Ming Division was one of the many divisions, and it was the clan in which 36 Respected Elder Ming grew up.

Due to 36 Respected Elder Ming, the Ming Division always had a high status.

But 36 Respected Elder Ming's gaze changed, and he instantly became frustrated. "Why are they here again?! Didn't I say that I'm super busy? I also told them not to bother me if there's no emergency!"

Yan Qing lowered his head and respectfully said, "Respected Elder, they have sent people over ever since you came out, but you were busy discussing important things with the other elders. Hence, they couldn't meet you. They heard that you finally came back after traveling outside, so they specifically rushed over now."

"Hmph! That bunch of scoundrels definitely don't have any good intentions! It's fine if I don't see them! Go back and tell them that I'm in seclusion and that I don't have time to see them recently!"

Every time they want to look for me, it's never for something good! Who knows why they're here again this time? One has to know that Rong Xiu had just personally led troops and eliminated an entire division not long ago! It's a very sensitive period, and aren't they causing trouble for themselves by coming to find me now? I won't see them! I won't see any of them!

Yan Qing hesitated for a moment and said, "Respected Elder, the incident of you playing chess with His Highness has spread all around. They... all know about it."

If not, just based on those people, how would they dare to come here and look for him?

36 Respected Elder Ming was more frustrated than ever.

Seeing his reaction, Yan Qing knew that it was best not to say another word, but he still had to say some words.

In the end, he could only brave himself and say, "They still said that they're going to wait for you the whole time here. You can just meet them whenever you're free."

36 Respected Elder Ming was so angry that he blew his beard and glared angrily as he went out in the end.

From the looks of this, all those people from the Ming Division will definitely be lectured.

After he left for some time, Rong Xiu then straightened his body. He moved his wrist, and a crystal barrier appeared on the chessboard.

The sunlight shone in from the windows and reflected against the crystal-clear barrier—it was as dazzling as ever.

Then, it was the second one.

Afterward, it was the third.

...

Rong Xiu took out six crystal barriers in total and placed them in one row on the chessboard. Looking at the crystal barriers before him, he chuckled softly. “I didn’t expect it to be so fast... It was a waste for me to produce so many.”

He produced these crystal barriers according to varying standards and wanted to give them to her in order. But when he found out that she was heading to the Tianling Dynasty, he was worried and directly gave that one.

The thing he didn't even expect was that she very quickly...

Rong Xiu's thin lips curled up. *Actually, this is also expected. After all, that was originally hers. However, it does make all these crystal barriers useless.*

Yan Qing stood at the side and quickly glanced at his master when he saw the latter whipping his sleeves. This caused all those crystal barriers to become dust in unison silently.

A light breeze blew over, and all the dust instantly flew up! The dust then disappeared!

Yan Qing hurriedly lowered his head. *Back then, Master used a lot of effort to produce these crystal barriers. But now, they're all ruined... Could it be that Ms. Liuyue—*

"Keep all of these," said Rong Xiu lightly.

"Yes." Yan Qing hurriedly went forward.

Seeing the faint scars left on the chessboard, he vaguely felt his heart ache. *Those were made using the best materials, and Master personally produced these top crystal barriers! If they were released, many people would be willing to empty their family fortune just to have one! Pity... What a pity! I've followed Master for so many years, and I've rarely seen Master personally produce Yuan instruments. And among all of these, most of them were for Ms. Liuyue.*

His movements were clean and decisive as he quickly put away the chessboard and exited.

When he reached the entrance, Yan Qing paused for a moment and asked, “Your Highness, the Ming Division people... Are you not willing to meet them?”

Those people from the Ming Division have always been up to some tricks, and nobody knows why they're here this time. Even though there's 36 Respected Elder Ming to suppress them, they're still part of his clan, and he will always get implicated because of that.

Rong Xiu smiled lazily, and his voice was relaxing. “They requested to see 36 Respected Elder Ming.”

After killing that division to warn the crowd, they all became very obedient. Even if they wanted to cause trouble, they had to judge their own abilities. Besides, with 36 Respected Elder Ming around, they couldn't cause any trouble.

Yan Qing softly acknowledged those words. “Yes, I'll dismiss myself first.”

Then, he respectfully exited.

After closing the door, the room fell silent again.

After a moment, Rong Xiu looked in front. “Come out.”

A gigantic white figure flashed across—it was Xue Xue!

Xue Xue walked to Rong Xiu and lay down in front of him as its pair of ice-blue eyes stared straight at the latter. It put on a rare obedient and pitiful appearance.

Only the heavens knew that it had been holding it in like crazy! *I miss her so much!!!!!!*

Rong Xiu glanced at it slightly. "You seem to think that you can use this move on anyone?"

Xue Xue's expression stiffened, and the paw that it prepared to whine with froze in midair. It didn't know how to continue.

After being dazed for some time, Xue Xue angrily pulled its paw back indignantly as it furiously tilted its head to the side. An indignant whimper then exited from its throat. *I want a warm and soft hug!*

Rong Xiu's gaze turned slightly cold. "Dream on."

Xue Xue was speechless.

Rong Xiu continued, "Oh, I forgot to tell you that she's already found Little Nine."

Xue Xue suddenly looked up and widened its eyes!

Chapter 753: Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed

Rong Xiu's exquisite face had a light expression, and his lips curled up into an extremely faint smile as if he was talking about a small, unrelated matter.

But Xue Xue knew best what his expression meant: Whatever he said was true!

“Awoo!” Many conflicted feelings flashed across Xue Xue’s eyes as it let out a low whimper. It first stood up as if it wanted to go out, but it came back and lay beside Rong Xiu’s feet after taking two steps.

Xue Xue was naturally happy—it was very close to Little Nine after all. However, it suddenly felt a sense of loss.

Xue Xue felt very envious when it thought about Little Nine being able to spend time with her every day when it went back.

Rong Xiu glanced at the fiend from the corner of his eye. He saw that it was sorrowful and nonchalantly said, “Also, it already broke through to become a legendary fiend.”

Xue Xue looked up and lazily laid down. *So what if it’s a legendary fiend? Like I’m not.*

Rong Xiu smiled and finally added the final lethal blow. “Its standard is higher than yours.”

“Ow!” Xue Xue was instantly triggered and looked at Rong Xiu in disbelief.

Seeing Rong Xiu’s smiling and not talking expression, Xue Xue instantly understood that whatever he said was true!

The fiend felt very hurt as it turned around and jumped out of the window. “Roar!”

Cultivate! I can't lose!

Hearing the noise, the soldiers guarding outside all looked in that direction strangely. *What's with His Highness's fiend?*

Xue Xue's figure flashed across and disappeared from the crowd's gazes.

Yan Qing—who had just reached outside—couldn't help but look up when he saw this scene, and he sympathetically shook his head. *Seeing its appearance, Master must've triggered it quite a bit.*

...

Mystic Forest.

Chu Liuyue wore the pure gold armor, and all the surrounding violent turbulence was blocked outside.

Even though she hadn't seen it in a long time, the familiar feeling still didn't change.

Chu Liuyue was elated, but she still had no clue about the mystery between Rong Xiu and the crystal barrier. Finally, she clenched her teeth. *When I meet him next time, I must ask him about it properly!*

The surrounding light started shaking like ripples.

Chu Liuyue looked downward and vaguely saw that the light seemed to be exuding from something. However, the light was moving in circles, and she still couldn't see it clearly.

But the closer she was to it, the greater the suppression.

Tuan Zi's actions gradually slowed down—it had clearly felt the restriction.

Finally, the human and the fiend landed!

Chu Liuyue jumped down from Tuan Zi's back. With the pure gold armor's protection, this force and suppression really wouldn't cause much of a threat to her. Hence, her actions were more agile.

Tuan Zi had a few more wounds, but they were all superficial and had already started healing. Its body's bloodline strength was extremely high, so its recovery powers were naturally top-notch.

Chu Liuyue relaxed a little and then glanced at her surroundings.

This seemed to be a simple cave with solid walls. These walls stood on uneven, solid ground, not the black soil.

In the middle was a stone that jutted out. The stone's shape was irregular, and it seemed to have been smoothed out at the top as it was tidy and shiny.

There's a... crystal on top?

That crystal was the size of two adult men's palms, and it was pretty thick as it was presented in an irregular shape. Its entire body glowed with an intense and clear dark-green color, just like jade.

As the light emitted from its surface went upward, the space at the bottom wasn't affected much.

Chu Liuyue stared at the crystal closely and could vaguely see the scars of a few broken symbols on it. *Could that be the broken seal Qin Yi previously mentioned?*

Chu Liuyue was still thinking when she saw the symbol floating lightly. The light on the crystal also shook—as gently as a ripple.

Chu Liuyue took a step forward, and she suddenly felt that her body's strength seemed to be jumping out!

Her heart skipped a beat, and she realized that the crystal was absorbing the surrounding force.

The terrifying suction force she previously felt came from the surface.

She clenched her teeth and continued going forward.

Tuan Zi wanted to stop her, but it thought for a moment and didn't speak in the end. It just followed her closely and passed something to her simultaneously.

Chu Liuyue turned around and realized that it was the black shield she snatched from Shangguan Wan previously. *No, I shouldn't say that. That's because this black shield is originally mine!*

Chu Liuyue received the black shield, and a sense of reminiscence flashed across her eyes. *This black shield actually has quite a bit of history because I found this and the pure gold armor together back then.*

At the start, Chu Liuyue thought that this black shield and the armor were a pair, but she later discovered that it wasn't the case.

The pure gold armor very quickly recognized her as its master, so she thus knew of its name. However, she had tried all sorts of methods to awaken this black shield, but it was to no avail. This is the reason why she still didn't know its name until now.

But even if she didn't inject any force or have it recognize her as its master, the black shield still had extremely strong defensive power. Hence, Chu Liuyue always brought it along and would use it during dangerous combat.

The people in this world only knew that the pure gold armor was a rare treasure and that Shangguan Yue had won countless battles with this armor. However, they didn't know that half the credit belonged to the black shield.

Actually, Chu Liuyue always thought that the black shield might be more advanced than the pure gold armor. This was because she still couldn't activate the black shield even after she broke through and became a stage-eight warrior.

Without any help, this item's power was still no weaker than the pure gold armor.

If it really recognized a master... I wonder how formidable it'll be! Shangguan Wan only thought that the black shield was useful and didn't think much of it. When the black shield was previously stolen, even though she was furious, it was because her item was snatched away, not because she lost something precious. If she really finds out how formidable this black shield is next time... Her liver might even become green!

Chu Liuyue put the black shield in front of her and went forward.

With this layer of protection, the terrifying suction force was indeed blocked outside.

Chu Liuyue gradually got nearer, finally stopping around five steps away from the crystal as she looked forward.

From here, she could basically already see that crystal's appearance.

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue's gaze focused.

In the center of the crystal was something the size of a nail or a clip.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows in uncertainty. *It seems like... a seed?*

"It's actually a Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed?" A voice filled with shock was heard.

"Ancestor, you recognize this? What's a Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed?" Chu Liuyue turned around. *I've never heard of it before.*

Shangguan Jing stared at the crystal with a deadly gaze, and his face was filled with disbelief. After some time, he then said, "I do recognize it. I saw it once many years ago, but..."

But at that time, I saw it in a strong legend's hand!

Chapter 754: Unfilial Descendant, Shangguan Yue!

Logically speaking, this item should never appear here! This is because this space's strength could never contain the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed's suppression.

Shangguan Jing had personally seen the legend use a Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed to destroy an entire empire easily.

That's right! An empire—just like the Tianling Dynasty! It wasn't hard to imagine how terrifying this item was!

It was the first time Chu Liuyue saw such an expression on her ancestor's face.

Actually, its name already revealed something. Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed—what kind of item could be daring enough to have such an unreasonable name?

Chu Liuyue had read many books and even obscure ones, but she had never heard or seen this name before! *Seeing Ancestor's appearance... I'm afraid it must be formidable!*

“I can’t explain in a sentence or two, but you must know that this item is extremely strong and also dangerous.” Shangguan Jing looked at Chu Liuyue solemnly. “You can’t stay here. You need to leave as soon as possible!”

Chu Liuyue furrowed her brows and looked up. *How... do I go out?*

The Tianling Dynasty’s ancestor then realized that Chu Liuyue was originally dragged down by this item. It would be as hard as ascending the skies if they wanted to go back.

He sighed deeply and tightly knitted his sharp brows. *This item still seems pretty calm, but it’s probably because it’s trapped by the crystal outside. Who knows when it will come out? At that time, even I can’t save Chu Liuyue!*

Seeing her ancestor’s worried expression, Chu Liuyue wasn’t very anxious as she said, “Ancestor, don’t be too worried first. Perhaps we can find a way to leave soon.”

Shangguan Jing sighed deeply. *This girl still doesn’t know how formidable the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed’s strength is! If it were an ordinary situation, why would I be so worried? I wonder who set up the seal on it. Now that the seal is broken, I’m afraid—*

Chu Liuyue retreated a few steps and sat down cross-legged on the smooth floor at the side as she placed the black shield in front of her properly.

The ancestor looked at her in confusion. “Liuyue, what are you doing?”

Chu Liuyue placed her hands on her knees and smiled when she heard this. "Let alone thinking about something that I can't solve, why don't I use this time to cultivate first? Don't just think that this place is very dangerous. It also has very intense Heaven and Earth Force!"

Cultivating here would be much faster than in the outside world!

The Tianling Dynasty's ancestor was shocked with his eyes wide open and mouth agape. *W-w-what kind of time is this? How can this girl still think of such things?! In such a short time, how much can she strengthen by forcing herself to cultivate? I really don't know if I should say that she's fearless or if she has gone crazy from cultivating.*

Seeing Chu Liuyue gradually closing her eyes as if she really decided to start cultivating here, Shangguan Jing slapped his forehead. *I clearly don't have a physical body, but why do I feel my head hurting? I really can't do anything about this child!*

He turned around to look at the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed before resigning himself to his fate and going to Chu Liuyue. *If something really happens, the girl will still be safer with me blocking in front.*

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes and saw the translucent figure in front of her. Tears welled up in her eyes, and warm liquid flowed to her heart.

"Thank you, Ancestor," said Chu Liuyue seriously.

The ancestor turned around and looked at her with a deep gaze.

This gaze confused Chu Liuyue, and she unwittingly stopped her movements as she tried to inquire. "...Ancestor?"

Shangguan Jing laughed bitterly as he shook his head and sighed, but his gaze was still extremely warm. "Isn't it right for me to protect my descendants?"

Chu Liuyue was stunned, and her entire mind turned blank! *Ancestor... knows?! When did he find out? I have never said—*

Seeing Chu Liuyue's expression, the last tinge of doubt in Shangguan Jing's heart completely disappeared! *I knew it! Chu Liuyue is indeed of my bloodline!*

Ripples seemed to appear in his eyes as they were overwhelmed with all sorts of complicated feelings. He had too many things to ask her, but he couldn't say anything when his words reached his mouth.

After a while, Chu Liuyue reacted and mumbled, "...Ancestor, what do you mean—"

"Lingxiao Palm." Seeing that Chu Liuyue refused to admit it, the ancestor smiled and shook his head. "People who aren't part of the Tianling Dynasty royal family can't learn the Lingxiao Palm, but you executed the third stage, right?"

Chu Liuyue suddenly realized what happened. *I see! I just thought that Shangguan Wan couldn't execute the Lingxiao Palm's third stage back then, so I purposely did it. However, I forgot that Ancestor was the one who created it! Even if I just drew an outline and didn't execute it completely, Ancestor has amazing eyesight. From then on, Ancestor should've already guessed something, right?!*

Suddenly being exposed, Chu Liuyue felt her face burn. Thinking of the various ways she hid and lied to her ancestor, she felt that she didn't know how to face him.

Shangguan Jing just silently looked at her with a kind gaze.

After a while, Chu Liuyue stood up, staring at her ancestor deeply as tears welled up in her eyes. Then, she flicked her clothes and directly kneeled down to greet him. “Unfilial descendant, Shangguan Yue, greets the ancestor!”

...

Chu Liuyue was trapped, and the crowd outside almost went crazy.

Lei Laosi, Mu Hongyu, and the rest searched seriously and repeatedly confirmed every single face, afraid that they would miss something. But after they checked all those who were chased out, they still couldn't find Chu Liuyue's traces.

Lei Laosi was almost hopeless as he stared at the quickly wilting mother tree dazedly. *Could it be that Her Highness really—*

“Four, come back,” said Qin Yi suddenly.

Lei Laosi turned around in a trance.

Qin Yi silently shook his head. *Since we've checked everywhere and can't find her, it means that she's definitely trapped underneath.*

“Big Brother—” Lei Laosi refused to move. *We didn't protect Her Highness properly in the past, but I didn't expect the same thing to happen again this time! I hate myself for not being to suffer in Her Highness's place! If I could use my life to exchange for Her Highness's, I'd definitely do it without hesitation!*

Qin Yi knew that once Lei Laosi became stubborn, nobody could make him budge. Hence, he decisively stopped convincing the latter and looked at Qiang Wanzhou at the side.

“Are you sure?”

Qiang Wanzhou nodded. *I can confirm that she's indeed alive, but I can't find her location in such a short amount of time! There seems to be an extremely strong force that shuts everything out from underneath the Mystic Forest.*

Qin Yi felt slightly at ease. His instincts also told him that Her Highness was okay, but it might not be the case if this carried on. *We definitely must save her, but... It's really troublesome with these people here.*

He looked toward Shangguan Wan.

At this moment, Shangguan Wan was standing rooted to the spot and was in a trance as shock filled her eyes. What... just happened? The pure gold armor turned into powder and completely disappeared?! It was still in perfect condition just now! How did this happen?

Quite a few people in the surroundings saw this scene, and they fell silent in unison, all having strange expressions.

In the humiliating silence, a voice that seemed to be suppressed with an interrogative tone was clearly heard. “Third Princess, did you ruin Princess’s pure gold armor?”

Chapter 755: Explanation

This sentence was cold and hard like a sharp prick that directly broke the dead silence.

Shangguan Wan looked in the direction of the voice and furrowed her sharp brows.

The one speaking was a Black Guard wearing armor. His face and body had bloodstains as he closely stared at her with a gaze as cold and sinister as a knife. He was overwhelmed with anger.

Shangguan Wan’s face instantly turned cold. “Who are you? How dare you question me?”

Who gave a mere Black Guard the guts to dare talk to me in such a manner and tone?! Even the officers in the imperial court don’t dare to talk to me like that!

That soldier braved himself and continued, “I am the Black Guard’s military officer—Tian Zhuangzhuang! I’m not questioning you, Your Highness. I’m just asking! The pure gold armor was the Princess’s defensive armor when she was alive, and it never broke after so many battles! Now that you’re using it, it was directly damaged even though you didn’t go to battle at all! Third Princess, don’t you plan on explaining it?”

Shangguan Wan was so angry that she laughed. *Princess? Shangguan Yue is more dead than she could ever be. Now, the entire Tianling Dynasty is under my control! I could even kill a Shangguan Yue, so what’s the big deal of using her armor? Let alone a small Black Guard military officer, nobody in the entire Tianling Dynasty has the right to question me like this!*

“It’s just a set of armor. Why should I give you an explanation?” She stared at Tian Zhuangzhuang deeply and lightly said to Mu Qinghe, “Lieutenant Mu, this is the soldier you brought up? Isn’t he too rude?”

I don’t even need to use my own hands personally to deal with such an ignorant person. With just one sentence, Mu Qinghe has to teach him a lesson!

However, the scene she expected didn’t happen.

Mu Qinghe was expressionless, but his chin was tense as if it were covered with a layer of frost. “This is indeed what the Princess had greatly treasured when she was alive. Third Princess, you might not know, but... This pure gold armor has a special meaning to the Black Guard. Now that it’s broken, we still hope that you can give everyone an explanation, even though we know that you didn’t do it on purpose.”

“Mu Qinghe?! What do you mean!” Shangguan Wan was shocked. *Is he asking me to give an explanation or an apology? Just for the pure gold armor?*

Mu Qinghe met her gaze directly, and his eyes were filled with persistence and determination. He clearly wasn’t planning on letting this go!

Shangguan Wan was so angry that her body trembled. *The pure gold armor suddenly broke, and even I don’t know what’s going on! I don’t even have time to feel pity for myself, yet I have to give all these people an explanation? What a joke!*

She angrily looked at Jiang Yucheng. *Mu Qinghe is his person!*

However, Jiang Yucheng seemed to be dazed as he was thinking of something.

Shangguan Wan called him twice before he recovered his senses, but there was still a sense of loss, dazedness, and worry in his eyes.

Shangguan Wan rarely saw him in such a manner and felt vaguely uneasy. *However, the most important thing now is the pure gold armor!*

After Jiang Yucheng reacted, he knitted his brows and glanced at Shangguan Wan. *The pure gold armor is a very formidable treasure. It has always been fine, but why did it suddenly break when Shangguan Wan wore it?*

Shangguan Wan became furious because of his gaze. But considering that there were quite a few people watching them, she could only suppress her anger.

Jiang Yucheng also considered this point and didn't say anything openly as he said to Mu Qinghe, "The Third Princess had just experienced life and death, and she hasn't calmed down yet. Even though the pure gold armor is important, it's not more important than her. You are Black Guards, so you know very clearly what your most important mission is! Don't forget your identity!"

This sentence was definitely quite heavy.

If it were in the past, Mu Qinghe definitely wouldn't continue saying anything. But this time was different.

Mu Qinghe's expression changed, and he calmly said, "Eldest Young Master, it's precisely because we're all Black Guards that we're very persistent on this issue. Even if I don't ask, they will do it until they get a reasonable explanation."

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows and looked at the surrounding Black Guards.

As expected, those soldiers had already surrounded them and looked over. They all looked very stubborn, and it was exactly the same as Tian Zhuangzhuang, who had first questioned Shangguan Wan.

It was as if they wouldn't leave if Shangguan Wan didn't explain!

The situation was tense.

Dead silence.

At this point, Shangguan Wan finally realized that something was amiss as panic flashed across her eyes. "What are you planning to do?! Do you want to rebel?!"

Mu Qinghe said, "Third Princess, you're being too serious. They just want an explanation from you."

Explanation? What explanation?! Shangguan Wan had never felt so aggrieved ever since she took power. Previously, these people clearly listened to my every word, yet they actually turned on me just because I damaged a pure gold armor! How dare they!

Qin Yi saw this scene from afar, and his lips curled up into a cold smile. *Shangguan Wan—who has always been living preciously in Xi Ling City—doesn't understand that military power is always independent of imperial power. When Her Highness was fighting with her life, how many Black Guards did she save? Military power belonged to Mu Qinghe on the surface, but in actual fact, it was Her Highness's! It's fine if they don't bring it up usually, but Shangguan Wan has now ruined the pure gold*

armor, which unquestionably stepped on many people's bottom lines! They naturally won't let her off easily!

Shangguan Wan clenched her fists tightly and almost crushed her silver tooth! *Shangguan Yue is dead, yet I still have to be restricted by her!*

She angrily said, "It's just a stupid piece of metal. If it's gone, it's gone! What's there to explain?!"

Once she said this, murderous intent rose from the surroundings.

"Third Princess, please watch your words!"

Chapter 756: Injury and Death

This sentence came from Mu Qinghe's mouth.

Shangguan Wan dazedly stared at him. Does Mu Qinghe know who he is talking to?

But the next moment, she felt that the surrounding atmosphere had somehow become different. She surveyed her surroundings and saw that those Black Guards were currently looking at her with furious gazes.

All these people were soldiers that had experienced life and death on the battlefield, and they had intense murderous auras. It was normally fine when they hid it, but once it exploded, it was shockingly terrifying.

Shangguan Wan—who was tough—also felt a tinge of fear. She even had a vague feeling. If I really anger these people completely, I might not even be able to leave the Mystic Forest.

All these people were looking at her like they were looking at an ignorant person who was digging her own grave and not like the high and mighty, distinguished Third Princess..

Elder Qiuxi sensed something amiss and immediately went forward to angrily say, “Lieutenant Mu! Are you threatening the Third Princess?!”

Mu Qinghe glanced at him coldly, and his eyes were filled with unconcealable, murderous intent.

Elder Qiuxi’s heart skipped a beat, and he suddenly felt horror as his old skin trembled. He then unwittingly took a step back.

Mu Qinghe was a powerful leader in the Tianling Dynasty, and he was a famous God of Death! He acted swiftly and decisively, and his methods were harsh. All these years, countless people had died in his hands.

During this one-year-plus period, he had always been very low-key—to the extent that Elder Qiuxi almost forgot how terrifying he was.

It was only at this moment when he met Mu Qinghe’s cold and harsh gaze that he suddenly remembered that he couldn’t afford to offend this person!

Other than Mu Qinghe being extremely strong, he had also accepted many loyal Black Guards.

As the royal family's elder, his title sounded nice. But seriously speaking, how could he be Mu Qinghe's match?

Thinking of this, Elder Qiuxi lost his courage.

Shangguan Wan was frustrated, and her body trembled slightly as she glanced at Elder Qiuxi. Useless thing!

Jiang Yucheng originally wanted to put in a word for Shangguan Wan, but seeing this situation, he knew it wouldn't be good if the latter didn't lower herself.

"Wan'er." His voice became stern.

Shangguan Wan bit her lips, and her feelings overwhelmed her before she finally clenched her teeth and said, "That pure gold armor had always been fine, but I have no idea why it suddenly broke. Many people were around just now, and quite a few of them can prove that I didn't do anything. The pure gold armor suddenly broke by itself."

Jiang Yucheng nodded. "That's right. That is what I saw."

Following this, some people made similar reactions.

However, the crowd of Black Guards was obviously dissatisfied with this explanation. What kind of explanation is this?

From among the crowd, low voices could be heard in discussion.

“Princess had worn the pure gold armor so many times, but nothing happened. The Third Princess only once, but it directly broke?”

“That’s right! Even though Princess is no longer around, it’s still something she left behind. Yet, the Third Princess just used it. It’s really...”

“It’s fine if she used it properly, but the pure gold armor is completely damaged now and didn’t leave behind a single trace. The Third Princess is actually not guilty at all, and she’s acting so righteously!”

...

Even though the crowd lowered their voices, the people nearby could still hear them—especially Shangguan Wan, who heard it crystal clear.

This way, aren’t they scolding me to my face?! These Black Guards are outrageous! Shangguan Wan took a deep breath in and suppressed the anger in her heart with much difficulty.

She could already tell that the Black Guards respected Shangguan Yue a lot and that she couldn’t do anything about them at this moment.

The pure gold armor was already damaged, and she couldn't lose anything more.

If I really offend these people... Who knows what they will do? Her tone finally softened. "Of course, I know that the pure gold armor is something that Big Sister deeply treasured. It's also because of this that I took it out and used it. If Big Sister were still around, she wouldn't want to see the pure gold armor being set aside, right? I selfishly thought that it would be best if this item could serve its purpose, but I didn't expect this to happen..."

"I almost died a few times earlier on, so I'm a bit agitated... I didn't mean what I said previously, and I already blame myself a lot for damaging Big Sister's items," said Shangguan Wan, even choking on her words.

Not talking about others, but her acting skills weren't bad. If not, she wouldn't be able to reach her current position.

Tian Zhuangzhuang turned around, and frustration flashed across his eyes. Only the brainless ones will believe Shangguan Wan's explanation! If she weren't forced to this extent, she would probably be as arrogant as before!

Similar to Tian Zhuangzhuang, most of the Black Guards didn't care for Shangguan Wan's words.

Jiang Yucheng eased everyone out of the situation. "Okay, let's just end this matter here. Right now, it's most important for us to leave the Mystic Forest!"

Half of the leaves on that mother tree had already wilted and dropped down! Without much longer, it would completely wilt!

The previous rolling leaf firs had turned the entire Mystic Forest upside down. Who knows what would happen if the mother tree got into trouble?

Mu Qinghe glanced at the mother tree and lightly nodded. "Black Guards, listen to orders! Gather!"

"Yes!" With Mu Qinghe's command, the crowd immediately answered. All the soldiers ran over respectively, and they all gathered tidily and orderly in no time.

For those that were severely injured, some people were looking after them at the side.

They had seen even worse scenarios than this when they battled. They could naturally handle such situations.

Mu Qinghe surveyed the surroundings. "All military officers, report your remaining numbers!"

Tian Zhuangzhuang straightened his back. "Reporting... Black Guard first team, 63 of us remain!"

There were a total of ten teams when they came, and each of them were led by a military officer and had 100 soldiers. It was pretty severe for only 63 people to survive out of a hundred.

The other military officers also reported their own team's strength consecutively. Amongst them, four of the military officers had died.

Every sentence Mu Qinghe heard made his expression colder by a shade. Even though he had already guessed this number earlier, he was still affected when he genuinely received confirmation.

Every sentence they uttered would cause the surrounding atmosphere to be more tense.

When the last person finished speaking, the entire forest fell silent.

Before coming, the Black Guards had 1,000 people. Now, they were left with 617. Among them, close to 400 were saved by Chu Liuyue's group of people.

Without them, the consequences would be unimaginable.

They just made a trip to Mystic Forest, and almost half of them died.

The other clans weren't in a better situation as basically one-third of them died.

At this point, Shangguan Wan said, "We can't stay here any longer. Let's go to Mirror Lake!"

Chapter 757: Search

Once this was said, it immediately attracted all sorts of gazes.

Even Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows and glanced at her in extreme disapproval. "Wan'er, everyone is severely injured now, so it's most important to leave as soon as possible. I'm afraid it's inappropriate if we go to Mirror Lake now."

Shangguan Wan pressed her lips against each other and knitted her brows. "But I haven't found a single herb for Father."

If I just go back to Xi Ling empty-handed, the whole world is going to laugh and mock me. Besides, my Yuan meridian hasn't completely healed yet! When we go back to Xi Ling, it won't be as convenient to take action as compared to here. There's only one step left. I won't be satisfied if I just gave up now!

"Besides, even though there's trouble in the Mystic Forest, the Mirror Lake might be okay. Dahuang Swamp is vast and wide. If we only make a trip to the Mystic Forest and leave without finding anything... Then, what's the meaning of this journey?"

Jiang Yucheng was silent for a moment. Even though he knew that whatever Shangguan Wan was saying now was for herself, her words made sense. *We made so much noise about coming here back then, and everyone in Xi Ling knew about it. If we go back now, it would indeed be hard to explain.*

After thinking for a while, he could only agree. "Alright, then we'll go to Mirror Lake next. But if we meet with similar dangers again, we must leave Dahuang Swamp without hesitation!"

Shangguan Wan naturally agreed.

The two people with the highest authority had already made up their minds, so even if the remaining people didn't want to do so, they had to follow.

Quite a few Black Guards exchanged glances and could see the reluctance in each other's eyes. They were Tianling Dynasty soldiers and were different from those who were always stationed in Xi Ling. Most of those who came to Dahuang Swamp had once battled here and experienced countless life and death scenarios. They long knew how dangerous this place was and had already prepared themselves.

None of them were afraid of dying, but now... They felt a little strange.

Shangguan Wan didn't even care about them and even damaged the Princess's pure gold armor. In their eyes, this was something they couldn't forgive.

Hence, the atmosphere around the Black Guards was completely different compared to at the start. They couldn't be convinced by Shangguan Wan!

At this point, the Mystic Forest's exterior had already stopped collapsing. Even though the ground was uneven, everyone could still leave smoothly.

Behind the crowd.

Mu Hongyu and the rest didn't move as they stood beside Qin Yi with worried gazes. "Big Brother Qin, can you find out where Liuyue is now?"

Qin Yi kept quiet for a moment and lightly shook his head. "There's a force below that shuts everything outside, so I can't detect her location. However, I can confirm that the force is coming from the mother tree, so... It definitely has something to do with the Mystic Forest's current state."

Ye Ranran clasped her hands and worriedly asked, "Then will Liuyue be under that mother tree? If we go down, can we find her?"

Qin Yi sighed lightly. *If only things were that simple. Actually, I can basically confirm that Her Highness is indeed below that mother tree. The ferocious force spreading everywhere should've erupted after the seal broke. Since Qiang Wanzhou can confirm that Chu Liuyue is still alive, there's an 80% chance that she's there. However, Lei Laosi and I have been here for close to two years, yet we still don't know what*

is below. Judging from the current situation, we can't barge in. Thus, it's even more impossible for us to know the situation.

"Liuyue... is still alive?" A shocked and surprised voice sounded.

The few of them turned around. "Senior Brother Zhu Hong?"

Mu Hongyu's gaze quickly swept across Zhu Hong. His injuries had basically healed, and the people behind him were Dragon Teeth Mountain's disciples.

"You didn't leave with them?" Mu Hongyu asked curiously.

Zhu Hong shook his head. "Liuyue saved our lives, so how can we just leave like this?"

Previously, he also thought that Chu Liuyue was already dead and was upset over this for quite some time. Seeing that Mu Hongyu and the rest were still standing here, he was curious and walked over. Then, he coincidentally heard them discussing how to find Chu Liuyue.

Not mentioning the others, Qin Yi and Lei Laosi were extremely strong. If they said that Chu Liuyue was still alive, then it shouldn't be wrong.

He originally didn't want to believe that Chu Liuyue was already dead. Now that he heard there was hope, he naturally wanted to find her whereabouts.

Zhu Hong then looked at Qin Yi and solemnly bowed. He could tell that the latter was the strongest amongst these people and that he was like their backbone. The most important point was that Qin Yi was willing to help find Chu Liuyue!

“Young Master Qin, we know that we’re a little weak and that we’re even injured, so we might not be able to help much... But Liuyue is our benefactor. We must repay her favor! If you have any requests, just say it!”

We’ll be happy even if we can help just a little!

Qin Yi glanced at the other with a warm gaze, but he still shook his head. “I understand your kind intentions, but this place is indeed dangerous. You shouldn’t stay here.”

Zhu Hong and the rest looked disappointed.

“The force hidden below is extremely terrifying. If it explodes, even Four or I might not be able to protect all of you. If something really happens, won’t you waste all her efforts in saving all of you?”

Qin Yi sounded calm, but every single word he said was like a rock that smashed against the crowd’s hearts.

Zhu Hong laughed bitterly. He knew that Qin Yi was being very tactful with his words.

All of them had injuries to varying extents. They weren’t afraid that they couldn’t help—they were afraid that they would become their burdens and that it would backfire.

After thinking for a moment, Zhu Hong sighed deeply. “Young Master Qin, you’re right. Then... I have to trouble you to find Liuyue!”

Qin Yi lightly nodded. These few people from Dragon Teeth Mountain have decent characters, and they’re quite mature. It’s obvious that Jian Shuye has taught them well. On the other hand, when Song Qingnian heard that this place was dangerous, he hurriedly left with Shangguan Wan and the rest.

Zhu Hong looked at Mu Hongyu. He initially wanted to convince the latter to leave with them, but thinking that she and Chu Liuyue were bosom friends and that she definitely wouldn’t want to leave, he didn’t say anything.

“Hongyu, you have to be careful.” Mu Hongyu isn’t injured, and she has a Faint Yuan Body. She might really be able to help Qin Yi.

Mu Hongyu nodded. “Senior Brothers, Senior Sisters, please take care.”

Very quickly, Zhu Hong and the rest also left with the main team.

Only Qin Yi and the rest were left behind.

The mother tree was still quickly wilting!

...

After walking a distance, Shangguan Wan turned around to take a look and vaguely saw a few people standing at their original spots and not moving.

She squinted her eyes. *Qin Yi and Lei Laosi aren't our people, so it's normal that they didn't leave with us. But the other few... Why are they still waiting there?*

Jiang Yucheng followed her gaze and slightly knitted his brows. "Why did the few of them stay behind?"

Shangguan Wan chuckled in her heart. *Could it be that they're still waiting for Chu Liuyue to revive?*

Chapter 758: Dancing Lotus

"They probably refuse to believe the truth and want to continue to find Chu Liuyue's whereabouts." Shangguan Wan spoke nonchalantly, but her eyes were filled with contempt and mockery.

Jiang Yucheng saw her gaze and instantly felt frustrated and disgusted. His gaze became much colder, and he looked at Mu Qinghe. "They came with us after all. How can we leave them behind on their own? Go call them back."

Mu Qinghe's brows moved, and he felt strange. Jiang Yucheng doesn't seem to be on good terms with Chong Xu Cabinet. Why is he concerned about their disciples' life and death at this juncture? It really doesn't suit his usual working style.

Due to the overwhelming shock, Mu Qinghe paused for a moment and nodded. "I will—"

“Why do you care about them?” asked Shangguan Wan suddenly, interrupting Mu Qinghe.. As if she realized her words were quite inappropriate, her expression changed as she coughed. She then added, “Oh, I mean that they’re focused on finding Chu Liuyue, so whoever goes over to advise them will do it in vain. They might even be blamed. Even though they came together with us, they decided to do this on their own. Others can’t intervene, right?”

She looked at Jiang Yucheng with deep meaning in a seemingly smiling manner. “Yucheng, I know you’re being kind, but your kindness might ruin things sometimes. Anyway, with Qin Yi’s group of two there, they won’t be in much trouble. Perhaps they might want to be with Qin Yi and Lei Laosi even more.”

“But it’s very dangerous for the few of them to be alone in this Dahuang Swamp.” Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows. “Why don’t we send a batch of Black Guards to accompany—”

“Accompany what?” Shangguan Wan interrupted him as if jokingly. “Yucheng, don’t tell me you want to find Chu Liuyue too? We understand you and know that you’re doing this for their own good, but to ignorant people, they might not say it this way... You don’t want to be misunderstood by others, right?”

The fire in Jiang Yucheng’s chest burned, and he finally suppressed it with much difficulty. “...I know. You’re right. I’ll just let them be.”

Shangguan Wan then stopped and looked down, but her heart wasn’t this peaceful. Previously, she purposely brought Chu Liuyue up to test him. She clearly saw that there was a moment of panic in Jiang Yucheng’s gaze.

Why is he panicking? Shangguan Wan went forward step by step, but her body was tense as her hands were tightly clenched together.

The cloth covered her face, and with the scars, others couldn't easily see her expression. However, her surrounding aura was extremely cold.

I had already suspected that Jiang Yucheng acted differently toward Chu Liuyue, and it's indeed so! If it were someone else, he definitely wouldn't say a word more. Could it be because she looked similar to that person? Shangguan Wan was unconvinced and indignant! Even though we caused Shangguan Yue to die back then, I know that Jiang Yucheng did indeed like Shangguan Yue many years before. But for some reason, his attitude toward Shangguan Yue changed overnight. Even now, I still don't know why this was so. I also never asked.

Jiang Yucheng does like me, but this type of like is different from the feelings he had for Shangguan Yue. I know that many things would be different once I ask. I'm not stupid. Besides, Shangguan Yue is dead after all. What's there to fight with a dead person? But this time, Jiang Yucheng to Chu Liuyue... That familiar sense of uneasiness has come again. Shangguan Wan glanced at Jiang Yucheng.

He was in deep thought, but the former didn't know what he was thinking of.

This is the nth time he's like this the entire way! Those who could cause him to be like this are Shangguan Yue from back then and the current Chu Liuyue!

Shangguan Wan originally wanted to throw a tantrum, but she still endured it. Anyway, these two people are dead!

Shangguan Wan secretly comforted herself like this for a long time and was finally appeased.

However, Jiang Yucheng didn't care about this. Perhaps he noticed, but he was too lazy to bother.

The two of them continued forward, but they each had their own thoughts and didn't speak.

...

A few hours later, the crowd finally walked out of the Mystic Forest and arrived at the edge connecting it and the Mirror Lake.

“Mirror Lake is in front,” said Mu Qinghe in a low voice.

Shangguan Wan perked up and looked forward.

At this point, the sun was setting in the west, and large clouds floated by the horizon that connected the waters and the sky.

The sunlight that shot out from the clouds tainted half the sky with a sparkling golden color. Below this, the Mirror Lake had no ends or boundaries as it reflected the scenery of the sky.

One look across, and it was as if a gigantic mirror was placed on the ground.

The crowd gradually fell silent.

This scene was indeed a mortal paradise.

“I didn’t expect Mirror Lake to have such mesmerizing scenery...”

“Yeah, it charms me at one glance! It’s really the most beautiful place I have seen in my whole life!”

“It looks calm and peaceful. It doesn’t seem as terrifying as what the rumors say...” Quite a few disciples walked over and indulged in the scenery as they praised it respectively. This place is so much better than the hell-like Mystic Forest.

But when these people were immersed in the mesmerizing view of Mirror Lake, quite a few Black Guards were tense. They seemed to be very nervous.

Even Mu Qinghe wasn’t an exception. “Your Highness, Young Master, Mirror Lake looks peaceful, but it’s not any less dangerous than the Mystic Forest. We should be careful.”

He originally wanted to say that Mirror Lake was more dangerous than the Mystic Forest, but considering the incidents that happened in the Mystic Forest earlier, he still put both of them on the same level.

“Out of the three places in Dahuang Swamp, this place has the highest death rate.” Mu Qinghe’s neutral sentence immediately silenced the crowd.

Quite a few disciples—who were originally looking forward to Mirror Lake—were stunned when they heard this, and they looked at each other dazedly.

Shangguan Wan was also quite shocked. “Really? But this Mirror Lake doesn’t seem to be anything... Wait, what’s that?”

The crowd followed her gaze. They saw a flower in the middle of Mirror Lake as it gradually rose up from the waters.

It was a palm-sized flower that had five whitish-pink petals in total.

As the sun shone down, it looked translucent. It seemed beautiful as it swayed around with the wind in a lively manner.

Elder Qiuxi suddenly widened his eyes in shock. "Isn't that the Dancing Lotus?"

Shangguan Wan was surprised and shocked. "Elder Qiuxi, can you confirm that it's the Dancing Lotus?"

The top-grade herb rumored to be able to revive a person—Dancing Lotus!

Chapter 759: It's been Hard on You

"I've only read about it in ancient books... But looking at its structure, I think it most likely is!" Elder Qiuxi was also very agitated and excited as his face flushed red.

Even the entire Tianling Dynasty might not have such a precious treasure!

"Rumors have it that the Dancing Lotus germinates in 100 years, grows branches in another 100 years, and blooms in 300 years! However, it only blooms for a short five years... If nobody plucks it during those five years, the Dancing Lotus will wilt and bear fruit again, entering the 500-year cycle once again... Now, this Dancing Lotus is currently in its flowering period!"

Elder Qiuxi's eyes lit up. "Your Highness, we really came to the right place! As long as we have this Dancing Lotus, His Highness's body will definitely take a turn for the better!"

Even though the herbs they planned to find earlier could also be considered precious, they were still a few grades apart compared to this Dancing Lotus.

Shangguan Wan was also very happy. She came to Dahuang Swamp this time in the name of finding herbs for her father.

The only legendary fiend had already died along with Chu Liuyue, and it would probably be hard to meet another one. But with this Dancing Lotus, they didn't need to find the other herbs! If they managed to bring it back, it would be perfect!

"Third Princess's filial piety must've touched the heavens, and that's why we could chance upon this Dancing Lotus!" Elder Qiuxi kept exclaiming and didn't forget to bootlick.

As expected, Shangguan Wan indeed felt much better. "It's not like this. It's clearly because father is heaven's son, and he's very blessed. He's fated enough, so we could meet this Dancing Lotus..."

With this Dancing Lotus, the wounds on my face and body might even fully recover if I just take a small portion of it! Thinking of this, Shangguan Wan desired it even more and was going to step forward. But the moment she took a step in front, she recalled what Mu Qinghe said earlier. *This Mirror Lake... seems to be extraordinarily dangerous?*

She looked at Mu Qinghe. "Lieutenant Mu, you know Mirror Lake the best. I wonder... Do you have a way to obtain that Dancing Lotus?"

...

After Shangguan Wan and the rest brought the main team away, Mu Hongyu and the others were left at the same spot.

Confirming that nobody else was around, Lei Laosi finally said, "Big Brother, do you have a way of finding her?"

His expression was nervous and worried, and a tinge of fear could be seen in his eyes. He was really worried that something would happen to Her Highness. *Even with the red-tailed phoenix, she's just a stage-five warrior. If she meets with great danger... After all, the strength vaguely exuded by that mother tree even shocks me!*

Qin Yi knitted his brows, looked at the mother tree, and slightly squinted his narrow eyes. "She should be right below, but... None of us should be able to enter now."

Once he said this, the few of them faintly looked disappointed.

"Even you cant, Young Master Qin?" asked Ye Ranran softly with tears welled up in her eyes. *Qin Yi is the strongest amongst us. If he also says that he can't do it, then...*

Qin Yi sighed lightly and glanced at Qiang Wanzhou. "Do you know how she's doing now?"

Qiang Wanzhou pressed his lips against each other tightly and shook his head. He was more sensitive than average people, and he could usually confirm Chu Liuyue's position more accurately and quickly and know about her condition because she personally refined the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword.

However, he couldn't find out anything more.

Besides, like what Qin Yi said, there was indeed a force below that shut everything out. Hence, they couldn't detect any commotion at all.

At this point, basically only a quarter of the leaves on the mother tree were left.

Qin Yi glanced at it and suddenly whipped his sleeves, setting up a barrier!

The green barrier immediately covered Mu Hongyu and the rest. This one obviously had a much stronger aura than the previous barrier he set up.

Mu Hongyu and the rest exchanged stunned glances. *Qin Yi's cultivation level seems to be even higher than we had expected! He actually hid his true abilities previously!*

"Four, watch over them here. I'll come back soon."

Lei Laosi immediately said, "Big Brother, I'll go with you!"

Qin Yi shook his head. *Nobody knows what will happen next, so it's better to be careful. All these people are friends that Her Highness thinks highly of, so we naturally have to protect them well.*

Lei Laosi could only stay in his spot.

Qin Yi walked forward.

The wilted leaves dropped down respectively and landed on his head and body.

He raised his hand and held a leaf in his hands, carefully looking at it.

The originally lush leaf quickly turned yellow and wilted in a few moments. The life and strength within it seemed to be sucked away by something.

Qin Yi knitted his brows and looked forward.

A branch suddenly cracked and fell down. Without a doubt, that branch had also completely wilted!

Qin Yi scanned his surroundings and was about to take a step forward when he suddenly discovered that a dark-green light seemed to have flashed across where the branch broke. He then took two steps forward and looked up to glance.

As expected, at the cut point of the break, a layer of dark-green light was flashing faintly.

His heart tingled, and he waved his hands to cut down a branch!

The branch dropped at the same position, and the same scene happened.

Kacha!

At this point, a cracking sound could be heard from the front.

Qin Yi immediately looked up and saw a hole suddenly cracking open in the very thick trunk.

The crack was the size of a finger, and it was about an inch long. It wasn't worth a mention compared to the entire tree, but a dark-green light shone out from it very quickly!

...

Deep underground, within the cave.

The light shone in all directions, and the whole area was silent.

"...That's roughly what happened." Chu Liuyue calmly narrated the entire incident to her ancestor before kneeling down and kowtowing. "Please forgive me for hiding so many things from you, Ancestor."

Shangguan Jing deeply stared at her before stretching his hand out to gently caress her hair as he sighed deeply. "Child, it has been hard on you."

Chapter 760: The Secret of the Black Pyramid!

When Chu Liuyue spoke of the past incidents, she had been very calm even though those people and those incidents were like the sharpest blades that left the deepest and most painful scars on her.

But thinking about it now, she could already face it calmly. Her tone was peaceful, and her expression was nonchalant as if she were narrating another person's story.

But when Shangguan Jing said that sentence, Chu Liuyue's nose turned sour at that moment, and tears welled up in her eyes.

Those memories filled with pain could no longer affect her.

She thought that her heart had become as hard as a diamond, but she didn't expect to break down so easily with one mere sentence from her ancestor.

Even though her ancestor had no physical body and Chu Liuyue couldn't even feel his caressing movement, she instantly felt that she was being comforted. The high walls of defense she had built around her heart had a small crack, allowing countless suppressed emotions to rush out like floodwater.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes, and a boiling hot tear silently landed. Then, she lifted her head and smiled at her ancestor. "Your one sentence is already sufficient for me, Ancestor."

Shangguan Jing looked at the young lady in front, and his eyes were filled with pain and pity. When he saw Chu Liuyue execute the Lingxiao Palm's third stage, countless guesses had flashed across his mind. However, he never expected her experience to be so tough and absurd.

He sighed deeply and shook his head, a tinge of anger flashing across his face. “I can’t believe my Shangguan family actually has such a despicable character... Shangguan Wan—she really doesn’t deserve that name!”

Previously, he had never cared much about Shangguan Wan and felt that this descendant wasn’t generous enough and seemed to be quite petty, so he didn’t really like her. However, he didn’t expect that she would actually kill her own family and lie to everyone!

In order to get everything she wanted, she really became crazy!

“If the Tianling Dynasty really ends up in her hands... The consequences would be unimaginable!” *Perhaps the Tianling Dynasty’s thousand-year foundation would all be destroyed in Shangguan Wan’s hands!*

Chu Liuyue enunciated every single word properly as she said, “Ancestor, don’t worry. With me around, I definitely won’t let her get what she wants. She needs to pay the price for everything she did!”

The Tianling Dynasty’s ancestor looked at Chu Liuyue, and his gaze was comforting. “Luckily, other than her, my Shangguan family has a good child like you, Liuyue...”

Shangguan Jing thought of something, suddenly laughed, and said, “No wonder I felt so close to you the first time I saw you! It turns out that we’re all family!”

After he followed Chu Liuyue out of the Tianling God Realm back then, he was very curious about everything in the Tianling royal family. When Chu Liuyue went to the palace and met Shangguan Wan, he had tried to look at her.

The result was disappointing.

In comparison, he liked Chu Liuyue even more. Thus, he stayed beside her the whole while and gradually lost interest in the Tianling royal family.

After a huge turn of events, it turned out that Chu Liuyue was part of the Shangguan family!

Chu Liuyue blinked. "Ancestor, it's all my fault! You don't know, but I almost planned to come clean with you when you promised to give me the Long Yuan Sword back then. But the situation was urgent back then, and I didn't want to drag you in, so I didn't say it in the end. Please forgive me."

The Tianling Dynasty's ancestor lightly grunted. "You originally are my Shangguan Jing's descendant. What's there you can't say? If I had known earlier about how Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng bullied you, I definitely wouldn't have let them off!"

He knitted his brows slightly. "I don't even have enough time to dote on you. Why would I blame you? You..."

Chu Liuyue's heart felt warm. The feeling of someone standing on the same side as her, unconditionally believing in her, supporting her, and being willing to stand up for her...

It was too perfect and precious.

The former Shangguan Yue had lost everything and only had her father as her close family, but he was even poisoned and entered a coma. Until now, it was hard for her to even see him once.

In contrast, the current Chu Liuyue had seniors who doted on her, friends she could trust... and Rong Xiu—who would disregard everything and always put her in first place.

“Back then, I was willing to give you the Long Yuan Sword for two reasons.” Shangguan Jing’s expression became much more serious.

Chu Liuyue also straightened her back unwittingly.

“Firstly, the Long Yuan Sword awakened and chose you as its new owner. Even though it’s a Yuan instrument I produced, it has its own spiritual powers. You should know that quite a few people have entered the Tianling God Realm in the Tianling Dynasty’s history and that they wanted to invite the Long Yuan Sword out, but they all failed in the end. And after you appeared, the Long Yuan Sword quickly reacted and awakened.”

“It’s not only me, but it also waited for thousands of years for a new owner it liked. Now that it chose you with much difficulty, I naturally won’t object to it.”

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes and finally voiced the suspicion in her heart. “Even so, you spent so much effort, blood, sweat, and tears to produce the Long Yuan Sword. You should’ve wanted to leave it for the people from the Tianling royal family, but you didn’t know my identity back then. Why did you still give it to me so decisively?”

Chu Liuyue believed that if her ancestor wanted to stop her, he could.

However, he did not. On the other hand, he very generously gave the Long Yuan Sword to her.

Chu Liuyue could never understand this. It was fine if he gave other money or gold to an outsider, but this Long Yuan Sword symbolized her ancestor and was also a legendary existence in the Tianling Dynasty.

Its meaning was extraordinary! It really exceeded her expectations for the ancestor to give it to her so decisively.

“This is the second point I want to talk about.” Shangguan Jing paused for a moment and looked at Chu Liuyue with a complicated gaze. “You probably don’t know, but the black pyramid in your body... It seems to have a tinge of the Tianling royal family’s bloodline power!”