

Noble Ruler 811

Chapter 811: You Knew That She Didn't Like You

Rong Xiu shifted his gaze toward Chu Liuyue. With a wave of his hand, a faint glowing barrier was formed on the exterior of Chu Liuyue's own barrier. He then said with a smile, "She's busy right now. It's best if we don't disturb her."

Dugu Mobao's frown deepened, for it was clear that Rong Xiu had deliberately strengthened the barrier so that Chu Liuyue wouldn't be able to hear their conversation.

On the one hand, it was for the sake of not disturbing her. But on the other hand, it was also because he didn't want her to know what they were talking about.

Dugu Mobao couldn't figure out what Rong Xiu was trying to do, so he cut to the chase by asking, "She doesn't remember any of us now, does she?"

The question got Lan Xiao and Diwu Zhangze looking over as well.

Since there was no point in hiding this matter, Rong Xiu nodded.

Dugu Mobao and the rest were quite surprised to see Rong Xiu admit it so readily.

"Well, knowing that she has even forgotten about you, my mood has improved a little..." Lan Xiao stroked his chin. *I was feeling rather sad about this, but there's nothing much I can say since even Rong Xiu has been forgotten.*

Diwu Zhangze nodded in agreement for once. "Same here."

"Can you two not be so useless?! What's there to compare with him?!" Dugu Mobao's face was a little dark as he said this. *Are you guys comparing who Yue'er has forgotten more?! We're all equally important to Yue'er. While it's fine that she forgot about Rong Xiu, she mustn't forget about us!*

Diwu Zhangze rubbed his glabella. *Big Baby just doesn't know his place. He thinks that he's the most important person to Yue'er when the reality is that he's just one of them...*

Lan Xiao didn't bother to argue with Big Baby. Instead, he followed up by asking, "Just how much has she forgotten?" *It'll be bad if she has lost most of her memories...*

Rong Xiu paused. "She doesn't remember anything other than the Tianling Dynasty."

The trio froze.

"W-what did you just say?" asked Lan Xiao in disbelief. "She forgot... everything?!"

Rong Xiu turned to look at Chu Liuyue with a hint of a gentle smile. "No, she still remembers herself." *And who she loves.*

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Xi Ling.

The atmosphere in the Jiang Residence was tense and heavy. Everyone carefully did their work and dared not say anything unnecessary lest they say something wrong and got themselves in trouble for upsetting their masters. All the servants even waited on Jiang Yuzhi with fear and trepidation.

There was no end to the troubles in the Jiang Residence with Jiang Yucheng getting injured and Xiahou Tingan upsetting Jiang Yuzhi with his philandering.

By now, everyone in Xi Ling knew that Jiang Yuzhi had stormed into Chun Feng Restaurant, caught Xiahou Tingan red-handed in bed with another woman, and had thrown a hissy fit while threatening to dissolve the marriage agreement.

Both the Jiang family and the Xiahou family had been thoroughly disgraced.

Naturally, Jiang Yucheng had also heard about what happened to his younger sister. She had come home declaring that she wanted to annul her engagement to Xiahou Tingan before locking herself in her room and smashing everything inside.

Knowing his sister all too well, he deliberately waited until the next day before he went to look for her. Once he arrived at her courtyard, he dismissed the servants and went up to knock on her door. "Yuzhi, it's me."

There was no response from Jiang Yuzhi.

After waiting for a moment, Jiang Yucheng said, "I know that you've suffered grievances, so I'm here to help you vent your anger. Are you sure that you don't want to let me in?"

He then patiently waited for her to open the door.

Sure enough, Jiang Yuzhi came over and opened the door a while later. It had only been a day, but she looked much more haggard and wretched than before. Not only was her hair in a mess, but her eyes were also red and swollen with dark circles underneath. She looked nothing like a young miss from a rich family.

He was naturally upset to see his sister in such a miserable state. “Yuzhi—”

“How are you going to help me?” Jiang Yuzhi stared fixedly at him with hatred and anger burning in her eyes.

“Let’s go in and talk.” Jiang Yucheng then made a move to enter the room.

Jiang Yuzhi didn’t stop him. She, too, turned around and walked back inside.

It was only after Jiang Yucheng closed the door behind him that he saw the state of mess in the room—there was hardly any room on the floor for him to walk.

He frowned.

He knew how fond his sister was of Xiahou Tingan. Even though she was usually spoiled and willful, her feelings for Xiahou Tingan were true, which was why he had agreed to this engagement back then. It had to be noted that Xiahou Tingan wasn’t the most outstanding young master of his family.

“Yuzhi, Xiahou Tingan did you wrong this time, but don’t worry. I won’t let you suffer this injustice.” Jiang Yucheng’s calm voice carried a hint of murderous intent. “Since he dared to let you down, then he must’ve had the guts to bear the consequences.”

Jiang Yuzhi froze. “What are you planning to do, Brother?”

“I actually wanted to pair you with the Xiahou family’s third son. He’s much more outstanding than Xiahou Tingan in all aspects, but I only changed my mind because you were fond of Xiahou Tingan. Whoever gets to marry you is their blessing, yet that b*stard doesn’t know any better. We should just dissolve this engagement!” Jiang Yucheng gently stroked his sister’s hair, but upon seeing the slight hesitation on the latter’s face, he said thoughtfully, “If you can’t bear to have him killed, I’ll spare his life and just make him a cripple.”

Grabbing her brother’s sleeves, Jiang Yuzhi begged, “No... You can’t do that, Brother... I only said that out of pique...”

Jiang Yucheng frowned. “You still refuse to give up on him despite what he did to you? Don’t tell me that you still want to get married to him?!”

Tears flowed down Jiang Yuzhi’s cheeks as she cried bitterly in pain. “It can’t be helped either... I-I just can’t bear to give him up...”

She regretted it as soon as the words left her mouth that day, but she couldn’t help but feel terrible each time she recalled that scene. Xiahou Tingan was the only person she had truly liked for years, which was why she felt all the more miserable now.

“No buts! He doesn’t deserve you!” rebutted Jiang Yucheng coldly. *I can make use of this opportunity to get the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill back, but Yuzhi’s future husband mustn’t be Xiahou Tingan!*

Jiang Yuzhi sobbed. “But... feelings can’t be controlled. You, too, knew that the Crown Princess didn’t like you, but you still went ahead to form a marriage agreement with her!”

Chapter 812: Make Them Pay

Jiang Yucheng’s expression immediately changed as he stared his sister down.

Jiang Yuzhi’s heart thumped hard when she realized that she had misspoken. “I didn’t mean that, Brother. I—”

“Where did you hear that from?” asked Jiang Yucheng as he enunciated each word carefully while grabbing his sister’s wrist.

Jiang Yuzhi—who had never seen her brother look at or speak to her this way before—was terrified. “Brother, let me go first! My hand hurts!”

Out of panic, she tried prying his hand off, but it was to no avail. His hand was tightly clamped down on her wrist, and he had no intention of letting go.

“I repeat: Where did you hear that from?!” demanded Jiang Yucheng harshly, his voice rising a decibel. *Everyone thought that we were a match made in heaven and that we had a tight-knit relationship. God knows how many people in the entire Tianling Dynasty were envious and jealous of me, and it was all because I was engaged to Shangguan Yue. Only Shangguan Yue and I know the truth, so nobody else should know about this now that she’s dead. When did Yuzhi know about this?!*

It was only then that Jiang Yuzhi realized the severity of the matter. Deep-seated fear sprouted in her heart when she saw her brother's terrifying expression, and she hurriedly explained, "I-I overheard it! I was looking for you in Thousand View Garden that day, b-but you were talking to the late Crown Princess. I-I only heard a bit..."

Jiang Yucheng knew which day she was talking about. As if he were interrogating a criminal, he demanded, "What else? What else did you hear, and what else do you know?"

"N-nothing else, I swear! You're hurting me, Brother!" Jiang Yuzhi repeated this several times, her face turning a little pale as her vision turned blurry because of the pain.

Jiang Yucheng studied her expression for a good while to make sure that she was telling the truth before he finally released her.

Jiang Yuzhi stumbled backward, only managing to stabilize herself with much difficulty. She felt increasingly aggrieved when she noticed that her wrist had turned blue-black. *No matter what I did or said in the past, he never treated me this way. But just because I mentioned the late Crown Princess...*

Despite feeling enraged and aggrieved, she knew that she had touched her brother's sore spot, so she couldn't say anything more.

"This isn't something you should know," said Jiang Yucheng coldly. "Don't let me catch you mentioning it again, you hear me?"

Jiang Yuzhi trembled slightly as she hurriedly nodded. She dared not even look at her brother. *T-that was terrifying...*

Jiang Yucheng closed his eyes, and only then did he manage to calm himself down. He took a look at his sister and frowned when he saw the bruise on her wrist and her cowering look. *I must've failed to control my anger and frightened her badly as a result...*

“Have you made up your mind regarding Xiahou Tingan?”

Jiang Yuzhi stiffened before nodding belatedly with hints of vengeance in her eyes. “I want that slut’s life though!”

Jiang Yucheng snorted. “Do you know that the woman has redeemed herself from Chun Feng Restaurant and found herself another place to stay in the city?”

“What?!” Jiang Yuzhi widened her eyes in shock. She understood almost immediately that it meant that Xiahou Tingan had the intention to keep that woman. *He has no regard for me at all! To think that I've been telling myself all day that it was all that b*tch's fault and that he had only made this mistake because he was drunk. But he went ahead and did that the next second? Isn't that as good as slapping me in the face and making me a laughingstock?!*

Jiang Yuzhi embedded her nails deeply into her palms. *He used to treat me so well... Was that all an act? It's laughable to recall what I said just now!*

As soon as she made a move toward the door, Jiang Yucheng stopped her and asked, “Where are you going?”

Jiang Yuzhi snarled. “I’m going to teach that adulterous pair a lesson! I’m going to make their lives a living hell!”

Jiang Yucheng continued to ask, “Do you still have feelings for him? Do you still want to get married to him?”

Jiang Yuzhi felt as if a huge stone was pressing on her chest as she shook her head hard. Her eyes, albeit red, were dry now.

“That’s good.” Jiang Yucheng nodded in satisfaction. “There’s something I forgot to tell you—Xiahou Tingan was kicked out of his family last night.”

It turned out that Xiahou Rong had given Xiahou Tingan a stern telling-off when the latter returned home. Xiahou Rong requested his son to admit his mistake and beg for Jiang Yuzhi’s forgiveness, but the latter seemed bent on dissolving the marriage agreement. He wouldn’t agree to do what his father said, no matter what. Thus, Xiahou Rong threw Xiahou Tingan out of the house in a fit of anger.

Xiahou Rong had just wanted to scare his son into complying with his wishes, but he didn’t expect the latter to be so determined this time that he would leave for real.

“I’ve sent someone to make inquiries. He’s living with that woman now.”

That one sentence crushed Jiang Yuzhi’s hope once and for all. *He’d rather be chased out of his home to stay with that wretched slut than to beg me for forgiveness! Doesn’t that mean that I—the Jiang family’s Fourth Missy—am inferior to that wh*re?! What will people say about me from today onward?!*

Jiang Yuzhi felt her face burning up. Her mind completely blanked, and all she felt was endless hatred. Her eyes then rolled up as she fainted on the spot.

Jiang Yucheng immediately helped his sister up and carried her over to the bed before ordering someone to clean up the room and summoning Feng Shanyuan over to take his sister's pulse. His heart only settled when he was sure that she had simply fainted out of anger and that there was nothing wrong with her. He then sat on the bed and took care of her himself.

It was evening by the time Jiang Yuzhi woke up. When she opened her bleary eyes, she found her brother sitting at the bedside.

"Yuzhi, you're awake?" asked Jiang Yucheng gently.

Feeling immensely aggrieved, Jiang Yuzhi's eyes turned red immediately.

"Everything will be okay. It's all in the past now." Jiang Yucheng gently patted her hand. After she had cried her eyes out and was feeling more settled down, he fed her water before gently asking, "What do you think about the Xiahou family's third son?"

Jiang Yuzhi knew what he meant. She hesitated a little before saying, "I don't want to go to the Xiahou..."

Her words trailed off when she saw the look on her brother's face. She paused and then nodded stiffly. "...Okay."

A hint of relief appeared on Jiang Yucheng's face. *I'll make the Xiahou family return the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill this time!*

Chapter 813: Success!

Just like that, the marriage between Xiahou Tingan and Jiang Yuzhi fell through.

After the fiasco at Chun Feng Restaurant, the former was kicked out of his home, while the latter became engaged to the Xiahou family's third young master—Xiahou Yushu—instead. This series of events not only exceeded everyone's expectations but also left everyone in Xi Ling City—who was waiting to see the two families become the butt of the joke—baffled. They couldn't help but wonder why the marriage between the two families could still go on despite what had happened.

Had this happened between two ordinary families, they probably would've fallen out with each other. Not to mention that even if these two prestigious families had many factors to consider, it was still surprising that they came to this conclusion.

Despite the various speculations about Jiang Yuzhi insisting on marrying into the Xiahou family and the Xiahou family insisting on having Jiang Yuzhi as their daughter-in-law, nobody knew the truth. People just wanted something to gossip about.

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That said, regardless of whichever version of the gossip it was, everyone knew that the person at the losing end was ultimately Xiahou Tingan.

Knowing that Jiang Yuzhi was Jiang Yucheng's biological sibling, everyone wanted to get into their good graces—the Xiahou family was no exception.

Logically speaking, Xiahou Rong—being the Grand Tutor—had no need to pay attention to such matters. However, almost all the power was now in Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng's hands because the Emperor had been unconscious for nearly two years.

The Xiahou family had no members with outstanding cultivation talent among the younger generation, so all the more they needed to get into the Jiang family's good books—a marriage alliance between the two families was the best way to do so.

Previously, Xiahou Tingan was always seen together with Jiang Yuzhi. Hence, everyone thought that they would hear the wedding bells soon and thus treated the Xiahou family with extra courtesy.

Xiahou Tingan's status was also elevated because of this.

But in just one night, Xiahou Tingan was expelled from his family, and his position was replaced by the unknown third young master, Xiahou Yushu.

Everyone thought Xiahou Tingan was crazy for giving up everything that he had.

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“Second Young Master.”

In a mansion in Xi Ling City, Xiahou Tingan was lying on the bed in his room. His good-looking face was swollen, and his body was battered and bruised.

Xiao Die entered the room holding a tray that contained a few jade bottles and gauze and sat down at the bedside. Her delicate eyebrows were knitted together as if she were very worried about Xiahou Tingan. “I'll help you change your dressing, Second Young Master.”

Xiahou Tingan actually didn't want anyone to see him in his current state, but he really needed someone to take care of him. Holding Xiao Die's hands, he said emotionally, "Xiao Die, it's clear to me now that you're the only one who's sincere toward me."

After being chased out of the Xiahou Residence with nowhere to go, Xiahou Tingan had intended to seek refuge at one of his friends' houses. But alas, none of his friends even opened their doors to him.

He had no choice but to go to Chun Feng Restaurant, and the staff there told him where Xiao Die lived. Being at his wits' end, he could only go look for her. Much to his surprise, not only did Xiao Die not mind his disheveled appearance, but she even did her best to take care of him.

Nobody—not even those people who claimed to be his good friends—visited him over the past few days, which made him realize that he had experienced enough of the fickleness of human nature.

"This is part of my duties. I just hope you won't dislike me," answered Xiao Die with a smile. She then pulled her hand out to take the bottle of medication. "Your injuries are getting better and will be fully healed soon."

Xiahou Tingan nodded absent-mindedly. Although his injuries seemed pretty serious, Xiahou Rong hadn't actually beaten him up too badly on account that they were father and son.

At the thought of this, a hint of worry surfaced in Xiahou Tingan's eyes. Now that he had cooled down, he realized that he had been a tad too impulsive. However, he still didn't want to admit his mistakes because he didn't want to put up with Jiang Yuzhi anymore nor continue to be such a useless coward.

Xiao Die sighed and advised him. "Second Young Master, you can't stay outside forever. The Grand Tutor is still your father no matter what. Once your injuries have healed, you should go back and admit your mistakes to him."

Xiahou Tingan didn't answer her, although he surely would've shot down her suggestion immediately in the past. But over the last few days, he came to realize that life was hard to get by without his family's support. Moreover, he didn't want to lose everything he had before just because of Jiang Yuzhi.

Xiao Die then said, "Don't worry. The word out there is that Fourth Missy Jiang has gotten engaged to Third Young Master Jiang instead. They'll be holding their wedding soon—"

"What?!" Xiahou Tingan's eyes bulged in disbelief. Among his peers in the Xiahou family, he hated Xiahou Yushu the most. *But Jiang Yuzhi has always liked me! Since when did that concubine-born b*stard replace my position? How did things turn out this way in just a few days?!*

Xiao Die covered her mouth in shock. "S-shouldn't you... be happy about this?"

Xiahou Tingan wasn't sure how he was feeling either. His expression changed as he clenched his fists tightly. *Jiang Yuzhi can get married to anyone, but just not someone from the Xiahou family! Otherwise, what would that make of me? Is Father really intending to give my position to Xiahou Yushu?!*

Xiahou Tingan had always been his father's most favored son, so he got everything he wanted very easily. This was also why he couldn't accept the fact that someone had snatched the things which belonged to him in the first place.

"When did this happen?" he asked darkly.

Taking a step backward out of fear, Xiao Die said hesitantly, “I-I think... it was the day after you left your home... The rumors say that the Xiahou family has prepared very generous betrothal gifts to express their deepest apology...”

The Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill! They're planning to return it! Xiahou Tingan raised his eyebrows angrily. I wanted to keep that pill for myself!

The members of the Xiahou family had been upset with him due to his average cultivation talent, so he had been patiently putting up with the humiliation for the sake of the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill. However, his wait and efforts turned out to be in vain in the end.

Lifting the blanket off him, Xiahou Tingan immediately stood up and made a move toward the door. He had just taken his second step when his legs suddenly gave way, and he went crashing to the ground.

Xiao Die hurriedly stepped forward to help him up. “Second Young Master, you—”

“Get lost!” Xiahou Tingan pushed her away and climbed back to his feet with much difficulty before limping all the way to the door. I'm going to get back the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill! That pill belongs to me! Nobody can snatch it from me!

Meanwhile, Xiao Die was watching him from behind with a surreptitious smile.

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Unlike the raging undercurrents going on in Xi Ling City, it was all peaceful and quiet in the Mystic Forest and its underground.

After their brief chat, Dugu Mobao and the others began waiting by the side together with Rong Xiu. There wasn't much they could say on this matter since what happened had already happened. Besides, Yue'er was still Yue'er. All they could do was continue doting on her.

Time slowly trickled past, and Chu Liuyue finally managed to reconstruct the legendary three-eyed eagle's body.

Whoosh—

The legendary three-eyed eagle spread its wings as it let out a screech.

Chapter 814: Remove the Mask

A faint dragon roar could even be heard in this screech, which pierced through the clouds and fog.

The legendary three-eyed eagle's robust body was covered with black cascading feathers—Chu Liuyue could even see each and every one of its polished feathers clearly. When it spread open its wings fully, it could almost cover the entire sky. Its two eyes were black, while its third eye was a gorgeous purplish-gold color. It looked absolutely magnificent.

This was the true legendary three-eyed eagle. Its aura was even several times stronger than before and slightly overpowered Tuan Zi's.

Chu Liuyue was secretly amazed to know this. Although the legendary three-eyed eagle was also a legendary fiend, it wasn't the highest-ranked. The two ancient legendary fiends—the red-gold heavenly

phoenix and the great phoenix dragon—were the most distinguished of all. They were divided into several clans, whose ranks varied according to the bloodline power in their bodies.

Take Tuan Zi for example. Being a red-tailed phoenix, it was the closest existence to the red-gold heavenly phoenix. Thus, it should be ranked higher than the legendary three-eyed eagle. However, the legendary three-eyed eagle was ranked higher in this case because it had fused the great phoenix dragon's bloodline power into its own body and had inherited two bones from the great phoenix dragon skeleton.

The legendary three-eyed eagle was quite surprised itself. It could feel the existence of its body and the surging power within its chest. *We succeeded! We really succeeded! Being trapped in that dark place for a thousand years, I myself had lost hope in regaining my freedom and my body. However, I never thought I'd live to see this day, and it's all thanks to Chu Liuyue! If she didn't take me away, made me her contracted fiend, and helped me to find the purplish-gold Buddha leaf, I would still be trapped there and eventually die just like that!*

The legendary three-eyed eagle gathered its wings and slightly bowed its head in Chu Liuyue's direction. In a clear, powerful, and sincere voice, it pledged, "I—Zi Chen, the 287th leader of the legendary three-eyed eagle clan—am willing to follow you as my master through life and death!"

"Y-you're the clan leader?!" Chu Liuyue widened her eyes in shock. *Isn't that the top existence in the legendary three-eyed eagle clan?!*

"Please forgive me for hiding my identity from you," said the legendary three-eyed eagle, its voice sounding like a young man in his twenties, which was very different from before.

S-so I didn't just contract a legendary fiend but a clan leader at that? Chu Liuyue was bewildered. "...Zi Chen? Is that your real name?"

The three-eyed legendary eagle nodded.

The legendary fiends that had contracted with humans were far and few between. Zi Chen—being a former clan leader—was even more particular about this because it had to consider the entire legendary three-eyed eagle clan on top of itself. Although it previously formed a contract with Chu Liuyue, they didn't see it through to the last stage.

But Chu Liuyue had now helped it reconstruct its body, which was equivalent to giving it a new lease on life. Giving her its loyalty under such circumstances allowed it to account to the legendary three-eyed eagle clan properly if it ever returned to them. It wouldn't need to feel sorry toward itself, Chu Liuyue, and its clan members.

Chu Liuyue blinked, taking a moment to snap back to her senses. Her eyes curved as she said, "Why would I blame you when you have your own reasons for doing so? I'm more than happy to know about this!"

Zi Chen is the leader of the legendary three-eyed eagle clan! I've lucked out! Although Chu Liuyue didn't know much about legendary fiends, she understood that it was her blessing that the clan leader agreed to form a contract with her. "Zi Chen? Can I call you that in the future?"

"As you wish, Master," answered Zi Chen.

The smile on Chu Liuyue's face deepened as her eyes lit up like the sparkling stars in the night sky. She knew that Zi Chen hadn't been particularly close to her, especially since they had first met each other as enemies. They had been through so much together during this period—from holding each other back to working together.

Getting a legendary fiend that had been suppressed for a thousand years to completely submit to oneself was indeed a very difficult thing to do. Even though their lives eventually became intertwined with each other because of their contract, she knew that there was a barrier between them.

That invisible barrier, however, had been completely shattered today. It was only from this moment onward that Zi Chen was considered to have completely placed its loyalty in her.

Knowing that Zi Chen had shown its greatest sincerity by revealing its true identity to her, all Chu Liuyue felt at the moment was joy.

Zi Chen, upon realizing that Chu Liuyue didn't mind it at all, finally put its mind at ease. With a flash, it returned to her body again.

Chu Liuyue slowly exhaled. She couldn't help but be amazed when she realized that she had somehow contracted the legendary three-eyed eagle's clan leader as her fiend. She wanted to ask Zi Chen about the events that had happened years ago that led to it being trapped, but she felt several scorching gazes on her before she could do that.

Only then did she remember with a start that she wasn't alone here. She slowly looked over to see the black-clothed man on her right and the three seniors who had called her Yue'er on her left.

They were all looking at her.

"I've repaired your armor," said Rong Xiu lazily while leaning against the stone wall.

Delighted, Chu Liuyue wanted to go over to him immediately.

"Yue'er," Dugu Mobao called her name just then. "You haven't answered my question."

Chu Liuyue stopped, looking conflicted as she glanced in the black-clothed man's direction before shifting her gaze to the seniors. For some reason, she could feel a faint murderous aura in the air.

Should I retrieve my armor first or ask the seniors how we were related first? Chu Liuyue felt torn. I have this nagging feeling that these seniors are very important people to me... But I don't know where this feeling came about from.

She hesitated for a moment longer before eventually deciding to collect her armor first. *I've met Hundred Herbs Building's owner twice, so he's more credible in a way.*

Rong Xiu's lips hooked up slightly as he looked at the people opposite him.

Dugu Mobao's countenance was dark, while Lan Xiao couldn't resist touching his face and wondering, *That's strange. How did Rong Xiu still end up winning when his face is hidden underneath a mask? Have I become ugly?*

A faint ominous feeling crept into his heart. *Yue'er might've really changed since she's now in a new body and her memories are fragmented.*

Chu Liuyue had already walked up to Rong Xiu, who held the pure gold armor out toward her. She carefully took it from him and examined it, only to realize that the shattered portion had indeed been repaired. She looked up in gratitude. "Thank you!"

No sooner had the words left her mouth than she heard a voice saying, "Not many people in the world can perfectly restore a Yuan instrument of this grade. Since fate has brought us together, why don't you remove your mask and show us your true face?"

Chapter 815: At Least You Have Conscience

This was Dugu Mobao's voice. The moment he said that, the surroundings fell silent.

An idea popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind, and she couldn't help but glance at him. *It's impossible if I say that I'm not curious. But according to the Master's temperament, he wouldn't agree to it. If he was willing to show his true appearance, he wouldn't have come with a mask.*

As expected, the moment this thought flashed across her mind, she heard Master saying lightly, "It's precisely because not many people can do it in the world that I have to be more careful, right?"

Dugu Mobao sneered. "You're so insistent on rejecting us. Is it because you're feeling guilty?"

Rong Xiu raised his brows. *Is he transferring his anger to me?*

"Most of the time, only ugly people won't be willing to show their true appearances," Lan Xiao calmly interjected. "Yue'er girlie, you can't trust that man. Come over quick."

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *Why did I suddenly become a part of them?*

She coughed and explained, "S-seniors, I know this Master. He has helped me several times before... Seniors, you don't have to be too worried."

If this man really had ill intentions toward me, then he's too patient in preparing for the trap.

Lan Xiao was stumped. Looking at the way Chu Liuyue trusted Rong Xiu a lot, he couldn't help but softly scold, "...Cunning!"

This kid, Rong Xiu, wore a mask and refused to show his true appearance to Yue'er girlie, and we really thought that he didn't interact with her much! Who knew that... he had taken action a long time ago?! Considering her words, he has even used this identity to help her a few times? Anyone can tell that his 'so-called helping her openly and secretly' was clearly done to gain the girl's trust. This way, the girl still trusts him greatly even if he doesn't show his true appearance. Pfft, how shameless!

Actually, Chu Liuyue really wanted to see what this Master looked like. But since the few of them couldn't convince him, she naturally couldn't bring it up.

Everyone present is stronger than me, and I'm the weakest one. Why would I have the right to speak?

Sensing the stiff atmosphere, Chu Liuyue swiftly changed the topic and asked, "... how do I address you?"

Lan Xiao pointed to himself. "I'm—"

"Say who you are first; then, we'll naturally say who we are," said Dugu Mobao suddenly as he interrupted Lan Xiao.

Lan Xiao glanced at him strangely. *Didn't Rong Xiu already say that the girl remembers herself? Why did he still ask?*

Diwu Zhangze exchanged glances with Lan Xiao. *Big Baby isn't asking for an answer. He's asking for the girl's stance! If she admits to it, it means that she trusts us. If she doesn't... there will be trouble today.*

Lan Xiao then understood and calculated it in his heart. Instantly, he felt that this question was necessary.

Hence, the trio looked at Chu Liuyue in unison and waited for her answer.

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched. *It seems like the few of them are bent on getting an answer from me.*

She pressed her lips against each other and fell into deep thought. *I don't remember that I know these few people. It's indeed too hard for me to admit my identity in front of a few strangers. After all, I didn't even reveal myself to Weichi Song and the rest. This is the biggest secret I have! But...*

I clearly remember that I did have some sort of familiarity when I heard their voices the first time. I also didn't feel uncomfortable when I heard them call me 'Yue'er girlie.' It seems... as if it should be like that. Besides, my instincts tell me that these few people won't hurt me. For me, this feeling wouldn't come out of nowhere. Perhaps there really is something... But Master is still at the side... This is hard to say.

After a while, Chu Liuyue still didn't speak.

Dugu Mobao's face gradually turned cold. His surrounding aura rapidly became cold and dark as if he was about to freeze the space. Then, he actually turned around and walked away!

Lan Xiao and Diwu Zhangze were taken aback. "Hm? Why did he suddenly leave?"

Dugu Mobao coldly said, "What do I do if I don't leave?"

Seeing the girl's expression, she clearly doesn't trust us! Thinking of how he had anxiously rushed over, Dugu Mobao was even angrier! I shouldn't have come!

Diwu Zhangze chased after him and used a voice that only a few people could hear. "Aiya, it's not like you don't know that she..."

She forgot! She forgot about us, so isn't it normal that she can't trust us now?! Didn't you see that she can't even recognize Rong Xiu?

Lan Xiao couldn't help but say, "That's right. What's the point of getting angry at her? We finally met after so many years, so why is there a need to cause a commotion? If you want to leave, suit yourself. I'm not going!"

If I leave, who knows what else Rong Xiu is going to do?

Upon hearing this, Dugu Mobao walked even faster.

Seeing that his figure was about to disappear into the darkness, Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat. Then, a sentence suddenly escaped from her mouth. "Big Baby, stop messing around!"

...

Dugu Mobao suddenly stopped in his tracks.

Lan Xiao and Diwu Zhangze widened their eyes in shock.

Rong Xiu's gaze faltered.

The entire space fell into a deadly silence.

Chu Liuyue was confused after she said that. *W-what did I just say? I just called him Big Baby a-and even told him to stop messing around?*

Chu Liuyue's vision turned black. She herself didn't even know why she shouted that, but after she saw that scene, she naturally said it.

A-any of these people are major characters who can control the weather. It's fine if I didn't directly answer their question, yet I still talked to them in such a tone? Chu Liuyue instantly felt that her neck turned cold.

Even though she had always been bold and unreasonable, she knew her limits. She knew very clearly who she could and couldn't offend.

I shouted like that... According to the other party's fiery temper, who knows how he will teach me a lesson?

Just as Chu Liuyue was panicking, Dugu Mobao turned around.

That cute face was filled with shock and... elation?

Elation?! Chu Liuyue forcefully closed her eyes and looked over. Could it be that he's too far away, so I'm seeing things... Who would have such a reaction after being called like that?

Dugu Mobao couldn't help but ask, "What did you say just now?"

Chu Liuyue tried her best to make her smile look sincere and genuine. "I-I don't..."

Before she could finish her sentence, she saw tears welling up in Dugu Mobao's eyes.

His pair of eyes glistened, and it seemed like... he was crying?!

Chu Liuyue was dazed. *W-what's going on?*

Before she could understand anything, Dugu Mobao suddenly wiped his tears and stubbornly said, "At least you have a conscience!"

Chu Liuyue was confused.

Chapter 816: How Did She Know

Chu Liuyue didn't understand. *I really don't understand. Since when did the world become like this? I talked to him nicely just now, but the other party was nonchalant. When I accidentally threw my temper, the other party actually felt that it was very good?*

Even though it was rather inappropriate to use 'so happy that he cried' to describe the other party, Chu Liuyue's mind was currently blank, and she couldn't think of any other terms.

"Um..." She spoke hesitantly, not knowing what to say. *Big Baby... This is clearly not that person's proper name. When the young man addressed him like this just now, he clearly looked upset. But why did he seem super happy after I called him that?*

"What about me?! What about me?! Girlie, there's still me!" Without waiting for Chu Liuyue to say something, Diwu Zhangze immediately reacted at the side as he yelled expectantly.

Girlie has already called him Big Baby, so she can definitely speak our names out! Though she forgot about us, some things have already become her instinct and can't just go away.

Lan Xiao glanced at him and looked very upset as he lightly grunted. "Truly only a child that knows how to whine will get sweets!"

If it were any other day, Dugu Mobao would definitely fight with Lan Xiao when he heard this. But he was in an extremely good mood now and couldn't be bothered to deal with Lan Xiao.

He didn't even look at Lan Xiao as he righteously replied, "You can whine too. Who is stopping you? Let's see if Girlie can call you."

“I won’t fight with a stupid child!” Lan Xiao clenched his teeth and controlled his expression with much difficulty. *This face is one that I like the most recently. I can’t casually damage it. It’s not worth it, really not worth it.*

Dugu Mobao couldn’t care to be angry at Lan Xiao at this moment. His heart was filled with satisfaction and elation now.

Even though he had been controlling himself the best he could, the smiling intent still overflowed from the corner of his eyes.

Facing Diwu Zhangze’s passionate inquiry, Chu Liuyue’s eyelids twitched. *C-call what? Second Baby?! I really don’t remember! Only the heavens know how I called him just now... I can now basically confirm that I did know these people before, but our relationship is still a mystery. These three people are extremely formidable. Even at my peak, I’m not good enough in front of them. Logically speaking, I should be very respectful toward them. But the words just now really jumped out of my mouth... How daring must I be to do that?*

Diwu Zhangze waited for a while. Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn’t speak, he started to become anxious. “Girlie, think about it properly. It’s me! My name has four words—”

“He’s Diwu Zhangze,” said Dugu Mobao directly.

Diwu Zhangze’s expression froze, and the veins on his forehead jumped. “Big Baby, what are you doing?!”

“Can’t you see that she can’t remember? It’s already very hard for her to remember me alone. Why are you still demanding so much? Besides, my name is also four letters. If she can really remember your name, does she need you to remind her?”

Dugu Mobao pointed at Lan Xiao. “He’s—”

“I’m Lan Xiao!” Lan Xiao was very decisive as he directly reported his name and rolled his eyes at Dugu Mobao.

Chu Liuyue was awkward. *Now, out of the three of them, I still don’t know Big Baby’s name...*

She quickly searched through her mind. *There doesn’t seem to be any strong warriors with these names in the Tianling Dynasty... From their appearances, I can’t really match them with anyone. Then... Either these people are hidden heroes, or they aren’t from the Tianling Dynasty.*

She politely greeted the few of them.

Lan Xiao sighed in disappointment. *It seems like she really can’t remember. It’s already a surprise for her to be able to yell that just now. Hmph, it’s still because that stupid child knows how to throw a tantrum, so Girlie can even say that subconsciously now.*

Diwu Zhangze was interrupted, but he always had a docile temper. Hence, he didn’t care much about these things. *It’s better if Girlie can remember a little! She definitely can gradually remember the rest in the future!*

Seeing their attitudes relax by quite a bit, Chu Liuyue hesitated for a moment and asked, “Seniors—”

“What seniors? Just directly address us like before!” Lan Xiao wasn’t used to her talking like that, so he waved his hands. “You called him Big Baby, me Lan Xiao, and him as Diwu in the past.”

Even though Chu Liuyue felt weird about it, she could only oblige and obediently nod since the other party had already said so.

“The few of you can also see that I’ve indeed forgotten a few things. As for your identities and how we met, I don’t remember...” Chu Liuyue spoke in a very tactful manner, but Lan Xiao and the rest were all very wise. They could immediately tell that she was trying to ask about the past.

“We—” The moment Lan Xiao started, he felt a strong gaze on him.

He looked up and saw Rong Xiu glaring at him with a dark gaze.

Lan Xiao suddenly remembered what Rong Xiu said earlier. *Yue’er girlie no longer remembers the things outside the Tianling Dynasty. If we suddenly tell her about it, it might affect her knowledge and recovery. It’s best to let nature take its course.*

Lan Xiao’s Adam’s apple bobbed. *Even though I’ve always disliked Rong Xiu, I agree with his words. After all, it’s better to be very careful when it concerns Girlie.*

Thinking of this, he changed the topic. “We’re all idle people, so our identities aren’t important. However, we met in this Dahuang Swamp before.”

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes slightly and was rather shocked. *In Dahuang Swamp? I’ve come to Dahuang Swamp a few times, but I really don’t have an impression of these few people. But upon deeper thought, I’ve always thought that my memory was complete previously. If not for these things that kept happening and proving that I did lose part of my memory, I might not even believe all of this. Then, my past with these few people should also be part of the memory I’ve lost.*

Looking at Chu Liuyue's surprised and curious look, Diwu Zhangze couldn't help but remind, "At Red Moon Desert! You loved to go there in the past, and you would always stay for a very long time!"

Red Moon Desert... Chu Liuyue blinked. In my memories, Red Moon Desert seems to be the place I visited the least. However, they said that it was the place I loved to go...

"Then—"

Chu Liuyue wanted to ask in detail, but Dugu Mobao suddenly looked up. "Time is almost up."

Lan Xiao and Diwu Zhangze's expressions changed in unison. "Why is it so fast?"

Lan Xiao knitted his brows. *How long have we been here? We need to leave after exchanging a few sentences with girlie? If we leave now, we need to wait for another month!*

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but ask, "What time?"

Diwu Zhangze naturally answered, "The time we need to go back."

Go back? Back to... Red Moon Desert? Chu Liuyue didn't ask, but she directly thought of this answer in her heart for some reason.

She paused. *How do I know all of this?*

Chapter 817: Will Not Betray

“Girlie, go back with us?” asked Lan Xiao. *We can’t stay outside, but we can get Girlie to go with us!*

Chu Liuyue was dazed. *Go with them to Red Moon Desert? I’m actually rather curious, but Qiang Wanzhou and the rest should still be waiting for me outside... I’ve stayed underground for such a long period of time and don’t know how they’re doing now.*

At this point, Rong Xiu suddenly spoke. “When I came, I saw a Dancing Lotus at Mirror Lake.”

Dancing Lotus? Chu Liuyue was extremely surprised. *It’s a rare treasure!*

Even she couldn’t help but be tempted.

Lan Xiao couldn’t help scolding, “You’re really shameless. You know that Girlie likes these things, so you purposely tempted her!”

Diwu Zhangze shook his head. “Sigh, it’s a pity that no herbs can grow well in Red Moon Desert. It’s fine if she wants other things—we can piece it up for her. But these herbs...”

“Isn’t it the result of your sins earlier on? Don’t you know why Red Moon Desert became like this?” Dugu Mobao coldly glanced at the two of them.

Lan Xiao stroked his chin. “Don’t talk as if it had nothing to do with you. You caused the fiercest commotion back then.”

How dare you have the cheek to talk about us now?

Dugu Mobao was stumped and didn't say a word.

"Forget it, forget it. Didn't you see that Girlie's eyes lit up when she heard about the Dancing Lotus? Let her go!" Diwu Zhangze thought it through. "She can just look for us after she retrieves that thing!"

Dugu Mobao and Lan Xiao thought for a while and felt that this suggestion wasn't bad, so they agreed. Therefore, without even asking, the few of them directly said, "Then, you can come after you're done at Mirror Lake! We're waiting for you!"

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *I don't think... I agreed to go yet... But seeing their looks, it seems like I can't reject them...*

Chu Liuyue nodded in the end.

The few of them then looked satisfied.

Lan Xiao glanced at Rong Xiu and purposefully said, "Girlie, some people look decent, but they're filled with dirty water! You must be sensible and not be duped by some people!"

Chu Liuyue silently looked down. *Is he... talking about Master? Although I do feel that this person isn't simple, saying it in front of him... I can only say that those with capabilities can have this confidence! If it's the current me, I really won't dare to offend any of them. Thus, I would only be able to survive in the gap between the two parties.*

When Rong Xiu heard this, he wasn't angry. *These few people have always doted on Yue'er, and their hearts definitely ache after knowing that she has gone through so much. This attitude should be because she's still present.*

But the moment this thought flashed across his mind, Dugu Mobao looked over. "You... Follow us!"

Rong Xiu's brows jumped. *As expected, I can't think of these people too kindly. How did I forget that they never give me the easy way out...*

Chu Liuyue looked at Master and then at Dugu Mobao and the rest before squinting. "You guys... know each other?"

She couldn't tell at the start, but after these few exchanges, they really didn't sound like strangers.

The moment she said that, the two parties fell silent.

Nobody denied it.

Chu Liuyue instantly felt incredulous. *Since they know each other, why did Big Baby purposely and politely ask Master to take off his mask?*

She faintly felt that a secret was hiding behind this.

Upon deeper thought, that sentence should be said for me? Then, it's because of me that Master refused to take off his mask? A white light flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind. She suddenly realized something as she looked at Master and stared at him closely. Perhaps... I know the face underneath this mask?!

Chu Liuyue's heart started beating wildly, and the sense of familiarity became increasingly stronger!

Rong Xiu averted his gaze and followed Dugu Mobao and the rest.

When they brushed past each other, Chu Liuyue suddenly reached out and grabbed at his wrist.

Rong Xiu silently avoided it.

Chu Liuyue looked up and questioned carefully, "Master, what are you afraid of?"

If he's not guilty or afraid of being recognized, why would he have to hide like this?

The man on the other side didn't seem to be nervous as he seemingly smiled. "Sorry, my wife is very strict and doesn't like me touching other girls."

Chu Liuyue was suddenly dazed—she had never expected the other party to say such a thing. *This... This reason seems far-fetched, but it also doesn't seem wrong...*

In her daze, Rong Xiu walked over.

Dugu Mobao's face turned cold and solemn.

Lan Xiao's eyes were filled with contempt as he couldn't help but grunt. *Wife? Isn't it Yue'er girlie?! I haven't seen him in a few years, but this boy's acting skills have become increasingly better. When the truth is revealed one day and Yue'er knows his identity, who knows what will happen to him!*

Only Diwu Zhangze stuck his thumb up. *Now that Girlie can't remember anything, Rong Xiu actually duped her so openly. He's really gutsy!*

Rong Xiu raised his saber-like eyebrows. "The few of you, let's go—"

Dugu Mobao glanced at Chu Liuyue standing far away. *I'll deal with this kid after we go out!*

"Let's go!" The moment he said this, the few of them rapidly flew up!

Chu Liuyue looked up. Suddenly, her gaze focused as her heart skipped a beat! *I've seen Master's back view! It's that man at the octagonal pavilion by the cliff!*

...

Xi Ling.

After Xiahou Tingan heard that Jiang Yuzhi was engaged to Xiahou Yushu, he dragged his injured body to the Xiahou Residence.

But after walking a distance and his anger gradually subsided, he became calmer. *It's broad daylight now, and there are many people on the streets. If I just return to the Xiahou Residence in this manner, I definitely can't do anything. I might even become the laughingstock of the city once again.*

Hence, after much thinking, he still went back.

Luckily, Xiao Die was very obedient and didn't ask much as she tried her best to take care of him.

After a few days, his injuries were mostly healed, and he decided to take action.

He patiently waited till nightfall. After Xiao Die fell asleep, he silently left the house.

It was already deep into the night, and there was nobody on the streets. Only some mansions were lit up.

Xiahou Tingan went all the way back to the Xiahou Residence's backdoor.

The backdoor wasn't guarded so strictly, so he could easily knock the two guards unconscious and secretly barge in.

He was extremely familiar with the Xiahou Residence, so even if it were at night, he knew every nook and cranny very clearly.

In this manner, he smoothly arrived at Xiahou Rong's study without resistance.

The study was still bright at this point, clearly having someone inside.

Xiahou Tingan held his breath and inched in closer.

The moment he reached the wall, he heard a cold snort from within. "If I knew Jiang Yucheng would be like this, why would I betray the Princess back then?"

Chapter 818: Princess's Death

Xiahou Tingan's heart harshly skipped a beat! Actually, he faintly knew that there was something else behind the Princess's death back then. If not, the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill wouldn't land in his father's hands.

He wasn't stupid and knew what he could ask and couldn't ask. Hence, even if he had guesses all along, he had never honestly talked to his father about these things.

Now that he suddenly heard this, Xiahou Tingan's heart was still beating very quickly.

The next moment, he had the idea of backing away and not listening to it anymore. He knew that the more he knew of such things, the more dangerous it would be for him.

But just as he was feeling conflicted, he heard another voice coming from the room. "Hmph, you should've known what kind of person he was from the moment he planned to work with the Third Princess to deal with the Princess."

Xiahou Tingan knitted his brows. *This voice sounds familiar...*

“The Princess took such great care of him back then. If it weren’t for her, he—Jiang Yucheng—would’ve died countless times. What can such an ingrate not do? But we’re all just doing it for our own needs, so there’s no need to care so much about it.”

Xiahou Rong said with hatred, “How can I not care about it? This time, taking advantage of Jiang Yuzhi’s marriage, he wants the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill back again! From start to end, I worked so hard for nothing!”

Back then, he only agreed to work with Jiang Yucheng because he wanted to obtain the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill. However, it was for nothing in the end.

“Who asked your Second Young Master to cause such a scene at Chun Feng Restaurant and let the Jiang family take the upper hand? If it weren’t for this, you could’ve still fought with him. But now... you can only give in.”

Hearing them bring him up, Xiahou Tingan instantly tensed up. Then, he heard Xiahou Rong sigh deeply and said, “Out of all my sons, I always liked him the most. When I later found out that Jiang Yuzhi liked him, I put more effort into him. I was thinking of letting him smoothly take over my position after they got married, but who knew... He was this useless!”

Xiahou Rong expected better from him. After he learned of Xiahou Tingan spending a night with a lady in Chun Feng Restaurant, he knew that there was going to be big trouble.

Originally, he wanted Xiahou Tingan to personally atone for his sins at the Jiang Residence, but the latter didn’t know what was good for him and refused to go no matter what. In the end, he was even chased out of the Xiahou Residence!

Hearing this, Xiahou Tingan felt very upset. Just as he was hesitating whether he should admit his mistakes, he heard the other man laugh and say, “What’s the matter if he’s useless? Don’t you have another Third Young Master? To me, I think he’s more stable and mature than your Second Young Master. During this marriage agreement with Jiang Yuzhi, he has performed very well from start to end. I heard that he went to the Jiang Residence to accompany Jiang Yuzhi every day these few days and that the two of them are developing quite well.”

Xiahou Rong smiled. “You’re right. As his birth mother was of lowly status, I didn’t care much about him in the past. These few years, he has also always been very discreet. I didn’t expect him to be worthy of such a task! Compared to his second brother, he’s so much better! After this, even if the second one is made useless, it’s better for him to wake up!”

Xiahou Tingan was dazed, and he didn’t hear the rest of their conversation clearly. His brain was just filled with Xiahou Rong’s words. *In just mere days, that rascal—Xiahou Yushu—has already completely taken over my position?!*

The last bit of hesitation in Xiahou Tingan’s heart had completely disappeared!

“...Jiang Yucheng can now cover the entire sky in Xi Ling with one hand. It’s not rational if you want to continue fighting with him,” advised that man.

Xiahou Rong coldly snorted. “If he forces me into a corner, I’ll just expose everything back then! If it weren’t for me who helped falsify the document, why would the Princess deploy the Thirteen Yue Guard outside of Xi Ling? As long as the Thirteen Yue Guard was around, Jiang Yucheng would never succeed! If he continues to push me, he can’t blame me for dragging everyone down!”

Xiahou Tingan pressed against his chest as his heart beat wildly, and shock filled his eyes. *I see! I see! When the Princess was in trouble, the Thirteen Yue Guard was indeed not in Xi Ling. The crowd only knew that something happened to the borders and that the Princess had sent the Thirteen Yue Guard there to investigate it, but they never came back. Not long later, Jiang Yucheng directly announced that the Thirteen Yue Guard had collaborated with the rebels and sent out a warrant for them!*

Other than the most crucial characters, nobody knew why the Princess would send all 13 of them together. According to her usual practice, she would only send a few to take action and would leave some with her. I didn't expect that Father had played a part in this...

“The current Jiang Yucheng is no longer the same as before... Even if you say these things now, who will believe you? The Princess's death has a lot of layers to it, and you and I are just one part of it!”

The moment he said this, the duo in the room didn't talk for a long time.

After some time, that man seemed to stand up and planned to leave. “Forget it. Don't say these things in the future. You might cause trouble for yourself...”

Before he could finish his sentence, he heard a strange sound coming from the yard.

“Who's there?!” Xiahou Rong hollered in the room and immediately rushed out!

Xiahou Tingan's heart almost jumped out of his throat, but afterward, he realized that the sound came from another direction.

The moment Xiahou Rong came out, he saw a black figure quickly flashing across. He felt hatred in his heart and immediately chased after the figure. *Previously, I specifically dismissed the servants and didn't allow anybody to enter here. Additionally, I was furious when I talked about Jiang Yucheng, so we were negligent and didn't even know that someone had secretly snuck in! I don't know how much the other party has heard!*

Thinking of this, Xiahou Rong became increasingly nervous, his heart on fire. *If someone knows about this and spreads it... The consequences are unimaginable!*

The person in the room also quickly left after Xiahou Rong, but he didn't chase the figure together with the latter as he turned in another direction and left the place!

Xiahou Tingan originally wanted to see who that person was, but he didn't dare to move casually since he was afraid that he would expose himself. Hence, he could only see the person's vague figure leaving in the dark.

After much thinking, he didn't recognize that person.

But very quickly, he put this issue at the back of his mind. This was because the study was currently... empty!

It was the perfect chance to take action!

Before Xiahou Rong left, he had set up a barrier here. However, this wasn't a problem for Xiahou Tingan.

As he was doted on since young, Xiahou Tingan had a seal that could unlock Xiahou Rong's barrier.

He took out the seal, and a faint light flashed across. Then, a water ripple-like barrier appeared in front of him!

He injected his force into the seal and pressed it against the barrier.

An opening immediately appeared!

He stepped in.

At this point, he didn't know that there was another figure following him like a shadow from behind.

Chapter 819: Danger Lurks Behind

Xiahou Tingan silently entered the study.

As Xiahou Rong had previously said that nobody could enter this yard without permission, this place was quiet and had nobody around. Even if they found out that someone had secretly barged in, Xiahou Rong didn't dare to kick a fuss as he ran out on his own to catch that person personally.

Why? Wasn't it because he was guilty and was worried that the intruder really heard something and would spread it around?

Hence, the entire Xiahou Residence was still silent, and this incident didn't cause any chaos.

This was the Xiahou Residence study. Let alone ordinary people, even the young masters and missies in the residence didn't dare to get close casually.

But Xiahou Tingan was different. He was nurtured as the successor by Xiahou Rong, so he frequently entered this place within the last two years. Hence, he was very familiar with everything here.

He walked in and went straight for the desk.

There were many items on the desk, and he roughly scanned through them before his eyes lit up at a pen holder.

After that, he carefully moved the pen holder away, and a secret compartment jumped out from below the desk.

A copper key was placed within.

Xiahou Tingan retrieved the key and turned to the small couch.

It was used when Xiahou Rong was tired from reading books on a normal day.

Walking to the couch, Xiahou Tingan felt around the edge for a while and heard a kada!

The head of the couch suddenly split open from the middle, and another secret compartment jumped out!

A palm-sized black wooden box sat quietly in the secret compartment. At first glance, the black wooden box was very ordinary. But upon closer inspection, one could see a faint silver pattern layer on it.

Xiahou Tingan knew that this wooden box contained the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill. The silver pattern on the outside was the barrier for this wooden box.

He had heard his father mention that this Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill was the only ninth-grade pill that Shangguan Jing had passed down. It was very precious.

This wooden box was also personally made by Shangguan Jing, and he had set up the barrier on it on his own.

After thousands of years, even though the barrier had loosened up, every emperor would tighten its security. Hence, the seal was still very strong to this day.

This was also the reason why the black wooden box had an extremely strong aura, which made it easy for someone to find it. Hence, Xiahou Tingan came here to directly take away the pill from within.

This barrier was naturally not something he could deal with his own strength, but... He had a key!

The point was that this key had a drop of the Princess's blood. Therefore, it could easily break the barrier and smoothly open the item from within.

Looking at the black wooden box, Xiahou Tingan swallowed a mouthful of saliva with much difficulty. His throat turned dry as his eyes sparkled with excitement.

He was so nervous that his palms were filled with sweat as he hurriedly rubbed them against his body. He held the key and inserted it into the lock.

Crack!

He heard a crisp sound and an unlocking note!

Xiahou Tingan held his breath in and gradually opened the box.

A red pill the size of a dragon's eye sat quietly within. There were nine clear golden lines on it—it was indeed the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill!

An intense herbal fragrance spread across the room.

Xiahou Tingan lightly took a waft and immediately felt rejuvenated! Even the force in his body seemed to be more energetic!

He was secretly shocked. A ninth-grade pill is indeed legendary! If one really takes this pill... It will nourish one's bones and increase one's cultivation. It would be incredible!

Xiahou Tingan suppressed his agitation as he reached toward the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill.

But at this moment, a cold wind suddenly attacked him!

Xiahou Tingan saw a black figure flash before him, and the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill disappeared.

He was taken aback and immediately looked up!

A mysterious person in a long robe was holding the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill! The other party covered themselves tightly, and Xiahou Tingan couldn't even tell their gender, let alone their appearance and figure.

Shock and anger overwhelmed Xiahou Tingan as he immediately pounced forward. However, the other party easily avoided his actions as they put away the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill and turned to leave without hesitation.

That person's figure was like a shadow. Before Xiahou Tingan could even see the other party's movements clearly, they had already vanished!

Seeing that the person had run away, Xiahou Tingan didn't dare to yell as he hurriedly chased after the mysterious person. But the moment he reached the door, he realized that the night sky was pitch black and that he couldn't see the other party's traces at all.

Everything happened too quickly.

Xiahou Tingan felt that he was still immersed in the excitement and elation of retrieving the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill in the previous second. Then, he was suddenly intercepted the next second, and everything was gone!

Even if he wanted to chase after the other party, he didn't even know where to go!

Xiahou Tingan was filled with vengeance and anger as he clenched his fists, which made cracking sounds.

He spent so much effort to come here and found the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill with much difficulty, but he didn't expect it to be stolen away by someone so effortlessly!

He was stumped, and he couldn't breathe properly. He was about to explode.

Xiahou Tingan wanted to leave once and for all, but thinking of the traces he hadn't cleaned up, he could only resign himself to his fate and head back.

Looking at the empty black wooden box, Xiahou Tingan wanted to die! He had thought of all sorts of possibilities, but he didn't expect someone to plot against him!

That person had clearly followed him in. If not, they couldn't have passed through the outer barrier. The other party was just waiting for him to find the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill before taking action!

Xiahou Tingan closed the wooden box and locked it.

Perhaps it was a hallucination, but he felt that after the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill was gone, the silver patterns on the black wooden box had become much dimmer.

But this was no longer his business!

Xiahou Tingan placed the key back and returned everything to its original state before leaving reluctantly.

Luckily, the way back was rather smooth for him, and he wasn't discovered by anyone.

He came here anxiously but went back in defeat and with grumbles.

Xiahou Tingan became very suspicious and had to check his surroundings every few steps, terrified that someone was still following him.

Even though he knew that the other party had already obtained the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill and definitely wouldn't follow him anymore.

His trauma still lingered.

Returning back to his house, Xiao Die was still peacefully sleeping on the bed.

However, Xiahou Tingan's eyes were wide open, and he couldn't sleep the entire night. *The disappearance of the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill will definitely be exposed sooner or later. By then, I would definitely be listed as one of the suspects! I originally wanted to use this Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill to improve my Yuan meridian, cultivation level, and abilities so that Father can't do anything about it even if he's angry. Everything would've fallen into place, but now, that item was stolen by a third party! If they investigate my part, I will definitely be dragged down!*

Xiahou Tingan thought for a long while. *If it really can't do... I'll use the truth behind the Princess's death to threaten him!*

Chapter 820: Do You Want to Do the Same as the Princess?

After uneasily making it past the anxious night, Xiahou Tingan disguised himself and went out to ask around for news the next morning.

No news came out of the Xiahou Residence, and everything was as per normal. However, this didn't make Xiahou Tingan feel at ease.

In this situation, it was either that Xiahou Rong hadn't found out that something was amiss, or he did and chose to suppress the issue. Unless Xiahou Rong was crazy, he wouldn't let outsiders know that the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill was in his residence and that he had even lost it!

After pacing around the Xiahou Residence a few times, Xiahou Tingan didn't discover anything amiss, so he left worriedly.

He didn't know that the current Xiahou Rong was indeed filled with worry, but it wasn't because of the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill. Instead, it was because of the mysterious man that escaped the previous night.

Xiahou Rong was terrified that the other party had heard what he said and regretted it more than ever. However, there wasn't much use to regret it now.

The other party wasn't weak. He had chased after the figure for a very long time but still lost the other party in the end.

Let alone him not daring to announce the matter, even if he dared to openly search for the person in Xi Ling City, he didn't even know what that person looked like.

Xiahou Rong didn't dare to tell anyone about this.

After chasing that person in vain, he was filled with worry, so he didn't notice that someone had searched through his study and that the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill he kept thinking about wasn't even in the residence anymore!

...

Everything in Xi Ling City was very calm, but everyone started busying themselves as there was only a month or so left until the wedding between the Third Princess and Jiang Yucheng.

The wedding of a royal family member was naturally different, especially because the Third Princess's wedding would also be the day when she would ascend the throne. Hence, it was even more grand.

In the palace, Huayang Palace.

After a period of nourishment, Shangguan Wan's body had recovered by quite a bit. However, the wound on her face didn't get better at all.

Without looking at the mirror, she just had to casually touch her face every day to know what her face was like. It was precisely because of this that her mood became increasingly worse, even though the day of her wedding was coming nearer and nearer.

Just as Shangguan Wan was thinking about these things, she heard knocks on the door.

Knock knock...

“Your Highness, Physician Zuo is here.” This was Chan Yi’s voice.

Shangguan Wan bit her lips and used the mask to cover her face. “Invite Physician Zuo in.”

The door creaked open, and Zuo Mingxi walked in.

He respectfully bent over, took a few steps forward, and bowed. “Greetings, Third Princess.”

Chan Yi gently closed the door and waited outside.

Shangguan Wan said, “At ease, Physician Zuo.”

Zuo Mingxi then stood up, but his eyes still drooped down slightly to show his respect.

Shangguan Wan clenched her teeth and said, “There’s only a month or so left until the grand wedding. Physician Zuo, have you not thought of a way to solve the problem on my face?”

Zuo Mingxi hurriedly said, “Your Highness, I came here today just because of this. Yesterday, I coincidentally read about a method in an ancient book, and it might be of use to you.”

“Really? Quickly, tell me about it!” Shangguan Wan’s eyes lit up as she hurriedly chased him.

“According to that ancient method, your wound is caused by a legendary fiend scratching you. As there are still remnants of the legendary fiend’s force in it, the wound will keep relapsing and be unable to recover fully. If you can obtain a legendary fiend’s blood, merge it into the herbs, and then use it on your face, you can use poison against toxins and completely remove it. This way, your wound will definitely improve soon!”

Shangguan Wan’s expression gradually darkened, and she tightly knitted her brows after listening to his words. “We need a legendary fiend’s blood?”

At this point, where am I supposed to get the legendary fiend’s blood? The only red-tailed phoenix I saw died together with Chu Liuyue in the Mystic Forest! It’ll be too difficult to want to meet another one now!

Zuo Mingxi looked like he was in a difficult position. “Uh... Please forgive me for being useless. I can only think of this one way now...”

In actual fact, it was already quite good for him to think of this method. After all, he had never seen a legendary fiend, and he didn’t even know how Shangguan Wan’s wound had come about.

All these days, he had spent so much blood, sweat, and tears flipping through countless medical books before he could find this method!

Other than this, he really had no other methods.

Shangguan Wan also knew that she couldn’t make it difficult for anyone in this situation, but she definitely couldn’t meet someone with such a face!

At this point, Chan Yi's voice was heard from outside the door. "Your Highness, Officer Yuwen from the Ceremonial Department is here."

Shangguan Wan knitted her brows even more tightly. *Yuwen Wei? He is the officer from the Ceremonial Department, and he definitely came here to discuss the wedding matters.*

She waved toward Zuo Mingxi. "You can dismiss yourself first. For Father's side, please take good care of him with the other two. Don't tell anyone about what's going on on my side."

Zuo Mingxi hurriedly said, "Yes, I'll take my leave first."

After that, he bent his back and walked back a few steps before opening the door and walking out.

He coincidentally met with Yuwen Wei waiting outside.

The two of them greeted each other and didn't speak further.

Shangguan Wan quickly retrieved a human skin mask and placed it on her face.

This mask was as thin as a cicada's wings. After it was stuck to her face, it immediately covered all of her wounds. At first glance, she looked the same as before she got injured.

Actually, she had spent a lot of effort to get someone to do this for her a few days ago.

When she kept staying in Huayang Palace previously and refused to go out to meet people, it caused a lot of controversies.

She dared not continue like this, so she could only use this method to forcefully handle the situation first. In actual fact, she had already started meeting people gradually during this period of time with this mask on.

Yuwen Wei walked over.

He was a middle-aged man around 40 years old. He was tall and had a long beard. He looked very gentlemanly, and it was easy to tell that he was a rare handsome person when he was young.

The Yuwen family could be considered as one of the most aristocratic ones in Xi Ling, but they were usually always very discreet. Strictly speaking, their heritage went even further back than the Xiahou family and the Jiang family. This was because the Yuwen family ancestors had fought together with Shangguan Jing to build the empire back then.

Back then, there were millions of people following Shangguan Jing. Quite a few of them were crowned as important officials according to their contributions, but after thousands of years, only the Yuwen family survived safely.

The family motto of the Yuwen family was to be loyal to the Tianling Dynasty and to be humble and discreet. Therefore, even though they weren't the most extravagant family in the Tianling Dynasty today, they were the most long-living and stable existence here.

Furthermore, Yuwen Wei didn't care for fame and fortune as he only took up the position of officer in the Ceremonial Department and didn't participate in the royal family's conflicts.

This was also the reason why Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng had never thought of dealing with the Yuwen family.

Yuwen Wei bowed to her and openly said, "Your Highness, I came here today to consult your opinion on a few matters regarding the wedding."

Shangguan Wan smiled. "Officer Yuwen, please go ahead."

Yuwen Wei paused and looked incredulous. "Your Highness, it goes like this. As for the wedding's procedures, do you... want to do the same as the Princess back then?"