

Noble Ruler 851

Chapter 851: The Eve of the Wedding

“Well, that’s what happened... We don’t know where to begin the search since we don’t even know where the item is.” While Xiahou Rong recounted what happened back then, Xiahou Tingan remained kneeling on the floor in repentance. “It’s all because I failed to teach my son well that he did such a thing. He deserves to be sentenced to death, b-but... Could you please spare his life for my sake? He might be able to identify the thief...”

Xiahou Rong had never pleaded with anyone in such a humble manner before, but he had now thrown away his pride and ego for the sake of his son.

Jiang Yucheng burst out laughing out of anger. “Do you even know what you’re saying, Lord Xiahou?”

Xiahou Rong stopped talking. He was feeling quite apprehensive himself as he had not only lost the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill, but he might even face a bigger calamity. It was obvious that the other party had come prepared given how well-executed and detailed their plan had been. *If someone were to reveal it... The consequences will be unthinkable!*

He was trembling with fear as he wiped the sweat on his forehead with his sleeve. He didn’t dare to tell Jiang Yucheng that it was very likely that the other party had heard what he said the other day because not even he himself would be able to escape punishment if Jiang Yucheng found out about this, much less his son.

He tried to defend both himself and his son. “I know we did wrong this time, Eldest Young Master Jiang, so we’d like to make it up to you.”

Jiang Yucheng sneered as if he had just heard the world’s greatest joke. “Make it up to me?”

“Y-yes... Think about it, Eldest Young Master Jiang... How many people in the world can come up with such a meticulous plan to steal the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill?”

Jiang Yucheng’s eyes grew round. “You mean—”

“Those people... have probably quietly returned!”

...

Shangguan Wan stormed back to Huayang Palace and threw a huge fit there. Although she wasn’t sure if Jiang Yucheng had been telling the truth, she knew that it was useless for her to kick up a fuss if he was hell-bent on not returning the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill to her.

Any lingering longing and expectations that she might’ve had for Jiang Yucheng in the past had been completely wiped out by what he said earlier. Regardless of whether he had said it intentionally or not, she wouldn’t forgive him for it. Thus, after calming down and giving the matter much thought, she felt that it was better to rely on herself and heal her Yuan meridian by force.

...

When Chu Liuyue and the others personally sent Mu Hongyu back to Dragon Teeth Mountain the next day, news of their safe return from Dahuang Swamp quickly spread across the entire Xi Ling.

It was the talk of the town, and everyone had different reactions to this news. Some rejoiced while others were jealous. It was only natural that everyone was curious about this matter since the group suddenly appeared in Xi Ling again when it was thought that they were dead.

Another piece of news soon reached the masses' ears—not only did Chu Liuyue successfully contract a legendary fiend, but she had also managed to pick a Dancing Lotus. Nobody in the Tianling Dynasty—except for the ancestor—had ever contracted a legendary fiend, and the Dancing Lotus was a rare herb that bloomed once every 500 years. Thus, owning either of these things could attract the envy and jealousy of countless people, let alone both of them.

It was precisely for the sake of a legendary fiend's blood and the precious treasures that Shangguan Wan had led 1,000 Black Guards and numerous disciples from the various clans to Dahuang Swamp. However, not only did they suffer heavy casualties, but they even returned in defeat with nothing gained. This formed a great contrast to Chu Liuyue's glorious return.

...

After two days of hard work, Shangguan Wan finally healed her Yuan meridian on the eve of her wedding, although it was just barely at the Dijing grade—just like she had expected. While this was considered not bad when compared to the average person, it wasn't enough for someone of her status. She couldn't even be compared to the numerous geniuses with a Dijing Yuan meridian in Xi Ling City.

Although she was greatly upset about this, there was nothing she could do about it at the moment. After all, it had been hard enough getting her Yuan meridian healed to this state.

I wouldn't be in this situation if Shangguan Yue hadn't immolated herself and destroyed my Yuan meridian as a result... Vexation rose within her, but at the thought that it was her big day tomorrow, she tried her best to suppress her anger.

Shangguan Wan then decided that she should go visit the Emperor to see if he showed any signs of waking up and thus headed over to Qingfeng Palace with Chan Yi.

On the way there though, she noticed the strange atmosphere within the palace. She couldn't pinpoint what exactly was wrong, but she could feel that the servants were looking at her strangely.

She was just about to enter Qingfeng Palace when she heard whispering voices on the other side of the door. "Hey, have you heard the news? Chu Liuyue has returned!"

This piece of news shocked Shangguan Wan so much that she was left momentarily dazed. *Chu Liuyue... is back? How can that be? Isn't she dead?!*

When Chan Yi wanted to go up and tell the servants off, Shangguan Wan stopped her.

The servants were still talking. "How come you didn't hear the news? It wasn't only her though. The rest of Chong Xu Cabinet's disciples came back safe and sound as well!"

"That's nothing! She contracted a legendary fiend and has seemingly even come back with a Dancing Lotus... On top of that, the legendary fiend is what injured Her Highness!"

"Everyone thought that Chu Liuyue was dead, but she turned out to be so lucky! Isn't that as good as slapping Her Highness in the face? She left in a grand fashion with such a huge entourage, yet she returned with nothing. She can't even be compared to Chu Liuyue. If I were Her Highness, I'd be so ashamed that I would hide in a hole!"

Chapter 852: You May Stay Behind

A horrified expression appeared on Chan Yi's face as she glanced at Shangguan Wan. "I'll punish these people right—"

Shangguan Wan, however, raised her hand to stop Chan Yi. She then walked past the doors and turned to see a few palace maids whispering to each other. She darkly asked, “What are you talking about?”

Startled by the sudden voice, the palace maids looked up and realized that it was Shangguan Wan who had posed them the question. Color drained from their faces, and they immediately went down on their knees to beg for forgiveness. “Y-Your Highness... Please have mercy on us, Your Highness!”

They were certain that Shangguan Wan had overheard their conversation.

“Did you just say... Chu Liuyue is back?” asked Shangguan Wan in a calm and gentle voice.

The question sounded extremely dangerous in the palace maids’ ears though. “N-no... We weren’t—”

Smack!

Chan Yi stepped forward and gave the speaker a tight slap across the face. “Her Highness is asking you a question! You better come clean, or I’ll cut off your tongues!”

Knowing how vicious and ruthless Chan Yi could be, everyone in the palace was terrified of her. Seeing her fly into a rage made their fear intensify, so they naturally dared not hide anything from her. Thus, the palace maids spilled everything they knew.

The more Shangguan Wan listened, the darker her countenance became. “Where did you hear all that from?”

“T-the news has spread across the palace... And we found out about this by accident... Please investigate the truth, Your Highness!” The palace maids felt immensely aggrieved, for everyone in Xi Ling City was probably talking about this matter, but they were the only ones who got caught. But considering that there was no way for Shangguan Wan to punish everyone who was talking about this matter, they could only count themselves as plain unlucky.

Shangguan Wan’s eyelids twitched. She could naturally hear the insinuation behind the palace maids’ words. They were saying that she was the only one still in the dark when everyone had already heard the news regarding Chu Liuyue. *I didn’t expect such things to happen outside when I was in seclusion for the past two days to heal my Yuan meridian!*

Realizing her mistake, Chan Yi hastily apologized to Shangguan Wan. “Your Highness, it was an oversight on my part—”

The reason why Chan Yi only heard the news now was that she had been guarding Huayang Palace for the past two days and had never even left the palace grounds. Besides, no subordinate of hers would take the initiative to share such matters with her given how afraid they were of her. Thus, this was why she and Shangguan Wan became the last to know about the news.

Shangguan Wan’s expression darkened considerably as she turned around and left.

“Your Highness, what about His Majesty?” asked Chan Yi instinctively. *Doesn’t she intend to go in and take a look at His Majesty since we’re already here?*

“I have something more important to do now! Go and summon Chu Liuyue to the palace! Tell her that I’m asking her to treat the Emperor!” Shangguan Wan sneered. *She has both the legendary fiend and the Dancing Lotus, huh? Since she’s so capable, I’ll have to make good use of her!*

...

In Xi Ling City.

In a mansion on Six Clouds Street, Chu Liuyue was sitting by the window, playing chess with herself. Although the white pieces were on the offensive, the black pieces had quietly surrounded the white pieces and could win the game in just one move.

“How boring...” Chu Liuyue muttered to herself. *It’s not fun to play chess on my own. If only Rong Xiu is here...*

Just then, Qiang Wanzhou entered the room with a cup of ginger tea. He walked over to Chu Liuyue’s side and replaced the old cup of tea with the new.

“Little Zhou, aren’t you way too skilled at this? You even know when to change the tea.” Chu Liuyue looked up and smiled as she paused her game and tossed the black chess piece back into the chess jar. *Tea doesn’t taste good when it gets too cold or hot. I often forget the time when I concentrate on playing chess, but the taste and the temperature of the tea are always just right each time I drink it. Of course, the credit has to go to Little Zhou. I wonder how that person trained him back then...*

“That’s nothing. I’d be useless if I can’t even do such trivial things well.” Little Zhou lowered his gaze, his eyelashes fluttering slightly. He had done such tasks so many times in the past that he could do them even with his eyes closed.

Someone knocked on the door just then.

Chu Liuyue cocked an eyebrow. *“Let them in.”*

Qiang Wanzhou nodded. He then turned around and left to open the door.

The main entrance door creaked open to reveal Qin Yi and Lei Laosi standing outside. The former smiled. "It seems like we found the right place."

Qiang Wanzhou took a step back and invited them inside. "Please come in."

Qin Yi nodded and entered the mansion together with Lei Laosi.

As Lei Laosi looked around the place, he couldn't resist murmuring, "Isn't this Elder Song's place? Why did it become Her—her place?"

"Elder Song values friendship dearly." Qin Yi's lips curled up slightly as his phoenix eyes glinted. Her Highness loved to come here in the past. I heard that Weichi Song sold off a good number of his belongings when he was experiencing financial difficulties but didn't touch this mansion. It must be fate that this mansion belongs to Her Highness in the end.

Qiang Wanzhou frowned as he followed behind them.

Other than the first night where they stayed at Chong Xu Cabinet, they had been staying in this mansion ever since they returned to Xi Ling. Chu Liuyue basically spent her time here leisurely playing chess or reading books as if she had no idea that the people outside were talking about her.

Given how the news of her return had spread across the entire Xi Ling in just one night, there was no way anyone would believe that nobody was helping to spread the news. However, only a few people knew that it was Chu Liuyue herself.

And today, Qin Yi and Lei Laosi came knocking on their door. This should've been their first time here, but they seemed to be very familiar with this place. They knew where to go even without Qiang Wanzhou showing them around.

Qiang Wanzhou pursed his lips. From way earlier, he had this vague suspicion that the two men knew Chu Liuyue from a long time ago. While others might not be able to notice anything, he could tell that they treated her with great respect since he was especially sensitive when it came to such matters.

Both Qin Yi and Lei Laosi were extremely strong in their own right. Given that Chu Liuyue's cultivation level was a lot lower than theirs, it didn't make sense that they treated her in such a careful manner. Not to mention that the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant they had painstakingly kept watch over became Chu Liuyue's contracted fiend after it broke through to become a legendary fiend.

All of this pointed to a shocking answer—there was a great secret behind all these matters.

Soon, the trio arrived at the room where Chu Liuyue was in.

Upon hearing their arrival, Chu Liuyue looked up and beamed at the guests. "Your arrival is timely. I was just about to go and look for you."

Qin Yi smiled when he saw the ongoing chess game on the table. *Her Highness is still such a joker. It's obvious that she was waiting for us to come over on our own.*

Chu Liuyue smiled and looked at Qiang Wanzhou, who was planning to leave the room. "Little Zhou, you may stay behind."

Chapter 853: What Did You Find

The remaining three people were stunned at the same time. *This means...*

“I think I’ll guard outside,” said Qiang Wanzhou with his lips pressed against each other as he glanced at Qin Yi and Lei Laosi.

Chu Liuyue smiled and was very insistent. “It’s okay. Even if Qin Yi is in the room, he can still watch over the entire yard.”

Qin Yi raised his brows.

Qiang Wanzhou hesitated for a moment and still entered in the end.

Lei Laosi glanced at Qiang Wanzhou and then at Chu Liuyue. Finally, he couldn’t help but look at his own big brother with a gaze that sought help. *Is Her Highness not planning to hide from this kid?*

“Sorry for the trouble, Qin Yi,” said Chu Liuyue.

Qin Yi raised his hand, and a wooden cicada appeared in his palm. The wooden cicada was made very intricately, and it looked alive.

He raised his wrist, and the wooden cicada flew out.

“If there are any strange movements within five miles, it will immediately detect it,” explained Qin Yi before he set up a green barrier in the room, blocking their voices from the outside world.

Chu Liuyue smiled. “I always trust you when you do things.”

Qin Yi was dazed for a moment, and a faint smile appeared on his watercolor painting-like face. This made his always nonchalant expression suddenly look lively.

Then, he bowed and respectfully greeted Chu Liuyue. “I will definitely do my best to fulfill your requests, Your Highness.”

Qiang Wanzhou—who just stood still beside Chu Liuyue—suddenly shrunk his eyes in shock! *Your Highness?! How many people in this world can use such a term?! And this even came out of the mouth of Qin Yi, who is such a top elite!*

Hearing him call her that once again, Chu Liuyue felt very conflicted. “Nan Yi, Ling Si, it has been hard on the two of you these past two years.”

Qin Yi’s expression changed slightly.

Tears seemed to well up in Lei Laosi’s eyes at that moment. “It’s not hard on us if you can come back safely, Your Highness! We will all follow Your Highness to our deaths!”

With this sentence from Her Highness, our bitter waiting and torturous two years aren’t in vain!

Qiang Wanzhou looked down. *I knew it! Her name and identity are completely different! Being able to have such strong warriors follow her to their death... Chu Liuyue clearly has an extraordinary status! She's definitely not just a woman who walked out of an aristocratic family in the small Country Yao Chen!*

Qiang Wanzhou vaguely felt that a curtain was slowly being removed in front of him. *Once that curtain is removed, it will definitely stun everyone! Now, all of this is just the tip of the iceberg!*

Qin Yi said, "Your Highness, we have all changed our identities now. For safety reasons, you should just call us by our current names."

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and still nodded. Then, she sighed lightly. "If I didn't trust the wrong person back then, I wouldn't have ended up in this state today and even implicated you guys. This forced you to be unable to use your real names, and you almost..."

Every single one of the Thirteen Yue Guard was very good, and any of them were top elites. They willingly followed her and suffered a lot, but their loyalty never changed. In the end, they were accused of betraying their master and could only escape into the wild as they toed the fine line of life and death every day.

Now that they were back in Xi Ling, they still had to change their appearance and couldn't even use their real names!

"Your Highness, you don't have to blame yourself. You did all that you could for them. Their actions were just because they're too greedy and despicable."

If one mentioned hate, they should hate those people who betrayed Her Highness back then!

“Big Brother is right! Your Highness, think about how you treated them back then. But in the end, they—” Once Lei Laosi thought about the past, he became agitated. Even though two years had already passed, every single scene was still very clear in his mind as if it had happened the day before.

“All these people deserve to be slashed a thousand times to death.”

At this point, Qin Yi suddenly looked outside and smiled slightly. “Someone is here.”

A figure silently appeared outside the door—it was Qi Han!

“Big Brother, it’s really you guys!” Seeing the few people in the room, Qi Han heaved a sigh of relief.

When he was outside earlier, he vaguely felt that this was done by his big brother. When he came in, he found that it was indeed so.

Chu Liuyue’s eyes curved up. “Qi Han, you even brought someone with you?”

As she spoke, her gaze turned toward Qi Han’s back.

A figure suddenly jumped out. “Aiya! Your Highness, can’t you pretend that you didn’t see me?”

It was a youngster that looked like he was only 12 or 13 years old. He still appeared very child-like, yet he had a tinge of a youngster’s aura. His pair of watery eyes was very lively, and when he smiled, his eyes turned into the shape of a crescent moon.

Chu Liuyue was quite surprised. “Little Thirteen, you actually grew so tall?”

Back then, he was still a small boy...

Little Thirteen wrinkled his nose. “You haven’t seen me in two years. Of course, I’ve grown up!”

Kids around this age always anxiously hoped that they could grow up, and they loved to act mature. However, their actions were always child-like, causing people to be caught between laughter and tears.

Speaking of this, he hurriedly walked over to Chu Liuyue and curiously asked, “But Your Highness, why do you seem different from before?”

If I recognize based on her aura, it’s indeed Her Highness. But her looks...

“Thirteen,” shouted Qi Han at him with warning.

A chill ran down Thirteen’s spine as he covered his mouth. *Oh no! Previously, Seventh Brother told me not to speak nonsense when I’m here! However, I was too excited to see Her Highness, and I forgot...*

“Qi Han, why are you so fierce to him?” Chu Liuyue glanced at Qi Han and waved toward Thirteen. “Thirteen, don’t be afraid.”

Thirteen hurriedly ran over and hid behind Chu Liuyue as he stuck out his tongue at Qi Han in a delighted and happy manner.

Qi Han retracted his expression and cupped his fists. “Your Highness, please forgive me. I didn’t tell Thirteen too much about what happened previously...”

In actual fact, they didn’t even completely tell Little Thirteen about Her Highness dying back then. They only told him that Her Highness was set up but that she had her own plans and would come back in the future.

Therefore, when everyone was waiting in agony, only Thirteen was in the dark as he relaxingly cultivated while waiting for her to come back.

Chu Liuyue nodded. *This is for the best. Thirteen is the youngest, and all of them have always treated him like a child. It’s best for him not to know about some things.*

“All of this isn’t important. But Thirteen, you seem to have improved by quite a bit in these two years? Your ability to hide your aura is about to exceed your Seventh Brother?” Chu Liuyue was really quite shocked about this.

Thirteen was very talented in this area. If not, she wouldn’t have brought him along back then. However, his speed of improvement still exceeded the crowd’s expectations.

Upon hearing this, Thirteen immediately said proudly, “Of course! You don’t know, but I was the one who secretly followed Jiang Yucheng recently!”

Chu Liuyue asked with much interest, “Oh? Then what did you find out?”

Chapter 854: Untitled

Inside the room, Thirteen said everything that he had found out recently. Qi Han added a few sentences from time to time.

Chu Liuyue then knew that the Thirteen Yue Guard members back in Xi Ling weren't only the four people in front of her. Furthermore, the more important thing was that Qi Han actually allied with Jian Fengchi and Shui Liu'er!

When she previously sent Mu Hongyu back to Dragon Teeth Mountain, she didn't meet Jian Fengchi and didn't know about this matter.

As she listened on, Chu Liuyue realized that a gigantic trap had already been set up in Xi Ling long ago. Other than herself making all sorts of preparations, people from all walks of life had prepared secretly and openly as well.

After a long time and Chu Liuyue had finished hearing their arrangement, she sighed deeply and felt very emotional. At this moment, she then suddenly realized that she wasn't battling alone from start to end!

In the two years after her death, there were always people fighting for her.

Invisibly, there seemed to be someone planning everything for her! Vaguely, there was a large, invisible hand that controlled her everything and gathered all her remaining forces—just for today!

Who exactly is this person?

“Your Highness, what do you plan to do next?” asked Qin Yi gently. *With the evidence we have currently gathered, we can already uncover the truth about the past. But apart from this, the most important thing is Chu Liuyue’s identity! We can return Her Highness’s innocence, but it’s difficult if Her Highness wants to ascend the throne again. After all, she has changed into a completely different physical body now. It’s not that easy if she wants to get the crowd’s approval again. Back then, the news of the Princess’s death spread far and wide. Even if the exact same face appears again, everyone might not believe it. Besides, she... is indeed Chu Liuyue at the moment! If one can’t produce enough evidence to prove her stealing someone else’s body with her own soul, it’s hard to make people believe her.*

At this moment, they suddenly heard noises outside.

The few people in the room were very sensitive as they all looked over in unison. *Who would come here at this time?*

Qin Yi half-squinted his eyes. “It seems to be... people from the palace.”

Chu Liuyue’s red lips curled up slightly. “They came really fast...”

She stood up and lifted her chin. “There—this is my plan.”

The others looked at one another. *Her Highness means... She wants to go head-on against them?*

“You guys stay put first. I’ll go meet Shangguan Wan and give her some appetizers today. Tomorrow, I’ll prepare a big gift for her.”

“Yes!” Upon hearing this, Qin Yi and the rest immediately hid their figures.

Very quickly, only Chu Liuyue and Qiang Wanzhou were left within the room.

Chu Liuyue walked outside.

But the moment she took a step out, Qiang Wanzhou called her back. "Wait a minute!"

Chu Liuyue turned around.

Qiang Wanzhou looked at her with a complicated gaze, and there seemed to be countless emotions overwhelming in his eyes.

The impact he suffered today was too great, causing him to be unable to digest everything in such a short amount of time. "Y-you're the Princess?"

He said the last word extremely lightly. Even if he had been living in Nan Jiang since he was born, he had also heard of the legendary Princess.

Everyone said that the Princess died because she went crazy from cultivating two years ago, but everything in front of me has proven that Chu Liuyue is her! Even though this incident sounds very ridiculous...

"Don't you already know the answer?" Chu Liuyue was still smiling as if she didn't care much about this incident.

“B-but aren’t you afraid that I’ll expose you?” Qiang Wanzhou was dazed for a moment. *With such a shocking secret, the entire Tianling Dynasty will definitely descend into chaos once people learn of it! However, she still told me in such an unreserved manner!*

Chu Liuyue retorted, “Will you do that?”

“Of course, I won’t!” replied Qiang Wanzhou almost instinctively.

Chu Liuyue was extremely important to him. He had once sworn in his heart that if he couldn’t find that person, he would follow Chu Liuyue for the rest of his life. For her, he would go through mountains filled with knives and wouldn’t be afraid of death!

Chu Liuyue lightly laughed. “Then, isn’t that enough?”

She replied so righteously that it made Qiang Wanzhou not know what to say in such a short period of time. He then realized that Chu Liuyue intentionally wanted to tell him her identity today.

“I believe you,” said Chu Liuyue lightly and suddenly.

She once thought that she could never trust people the same way again after experiencing a heartbreaking betrayal. However, this wasn’t the case.

Some people did indeed choose to betray her, but similarly, there was another group of people that chose to be loyal to her even until their deaths.

She had lost everything, but she had this group of people that kept accompanying her and waiting for her!

And since Qiang Wanzhou had followed her for so long, he must've realized that she was different from an average person in many areas. But as long as she didn't speak about it, he didn't ask as he silently followed her.

No matter if she was dead or alive, he just accompanied her.

Staring into that pair of clear eyes, there seemed to be something rumbling in Qiang Wanzhou's chest. The blood in his entire body seemed to rush rapidly, and it was about to overflow!

"Let's go! The show is about to begin!" Chu Liuyue blinked as she turned around and walked forward.

Qiang Wanzhou clenched his fists tightly and quickly followed her.

...

Chu Liuyue opened the door and saw a familiar face—Chan Yi.

Her forehead was currently covered in sweat, and her hair was a little messy. She looked as if she had been rushing around for a long time.

Chu Liuyue looked shocked. "Ms. Chan Yi, why are you here? You..."

Chan Yi looked at Chu Liuyue in front of her and felt frustrated in her heart. But she was still someone that was experienced, so her expression was still rather calm.

She bowed, and her voice had a slight coldness to it. “Ms. Chu, you made me search for you for a very long time.”

After receiving the Third Princess’s command, Chan Yi personally came out to invite Chu Liuyue.

She first went to Chong Xu Cabinet, but the people there said that she wasn’t on the mountain. Then, she turned a huge round and hurried here.

Chu Liuyue didn’t seem to hear the dissatisfaction and grumble in her words as she asked, “Ms. Chan Yi, why are you looking for me? And you seem... to be very anxious?”

Chan Yi suppressed the fire in her heart and said, “The Third Princess is very happy to hear that you’ve come back safely, Ms. Chu, so she specifically told me to invite you to the palace.”

Chu Liuyue wasn’t the only one who came back safely. Even a fool could guess why the Third Princess invited only her.

Chu Liuyue nodded with understanding. “So it’s the Third Princess’s intentions. I’m really sorry to have troubled you to come so far out. Coincidentally, I have nothing on, so let’s go now. It’s not nice to let the Third Princess wait.”

Chan Yi was dazed for a moment. She originally thought Chu Liuyue would delay it, but she didn’t expect the latter to agree so readily. But this also saved her quite a bit of trouble, so she didn’t think further. “Ms. Chu, please—”

Chu Liuyue nodded and turned around to instruct Qiang Wanzhou, "I'll be right back."

Qiang Wanzhou nodded.

Chu Liuyue smiled and followed Chan Yi. "Let's go then?"

Chapter 855: A Request

Chu Liuyue followed Chan Yi into the palace.

In Huayang Palace, Shangguan Wan was already frustrated from waiting as she paced up and down. The words she heard just now kept ringing in her head.

She originally thought that Chu Liuyue was already dead, so she didn't expect the latter to come back alive. Furthermore, the latter had even made an agreement with a legendary fiend and even retrieved the Dancing Lotus.

It's fine if they said that Chu Liuyue coincidentally got the legendary fiend because she was lucky, but what's with the Dancing Lotus? However, I still clearly remember that Elder Qiuxi was directly swallowed by the Mirror Lake when he tried to retrieve the Dancing Lotus. He didn't even have the chance to struggle or cry for help before he completely disappeared without a trace. And later on, Jian Shuye and the rest also failed to achieve anything... How exactly did Chu Liuyue do it? The more Shangguan Yue thought, the more frustrated she got.

The feeling of being worse than someone in every aspect is way too familiar! Before Shangguan Yue died, she always suppressed me in this manner in the past! No matter how much I tried, how hardworking I

was, and how I tried to flatter the other party... Everyone wouldn't take another look at me. Their eyes were only filled with Shangguan Yue! Thinking of the past, Shangguan Wan clenched her teeth in hatred. *One Shangguan Yue was already enough, yet another Chu Liuyue popped up...*

She raised her hand and touched her own face. *As long as I finish doing what I should, I don't have to leave that Chu Liuyue behind anymore...*

...

As the next day was the wedding, the palace was fully decorated, and the entire way was filled with all sorts of banners and decorations, making it very lively.

While Chu Liuyue walked in, she nonchalantly sized the place up. She could tell that Shangguan Wan should've gone according to the normal princess's formality and that it naturally couldn't be compared to her event's preparations back then.

Even though Shangguan Wan is gutsy, she wouldn't dare to step on me so openly. However, all the items used for the wedding seem to be newly made. I had expected Shangguan Wan to be unwilling to use what I left behind, but Shangguan Wan definitely feels indignant as the wedding still isn't as good as mine back then. Chu Liuyue curled her lips.

Very quickly, the two of them arrived at Huayang Palace.

Chan Yi knocked on the door, and Shangguan Wan's voice quickly came from inside. The former then walked in and invited Chu Liuyue over.

Chu Liuyue smiled as she acknowledged it and walked in.

...

Within the room, Shangguan Wan was sitting there waiting.

The moment Chu Liuyue walked in, the Third Princess's vision immediately landed on the former. When she saw that familiar appearance, Shangguan Wan subconsciously knitted her brows. *The smile on Chu Liuyue's face is even more annoying.*

"Third Princess, how have you been doing?" Chu Liuyue stood still about five steps away from Shangguan Wan as she spoke with a smile. She didn't bow and didn't look humble or condescending at all. It was as if... she really didn't care about Shangguan Wan.

This angered Shangguan Wan, and she couldn't help but sneer. "What, do you not even know how to greet and bow after you come back from Dahuang Swamp? Why didn't you bow when you saw me!"

Chu Liuyue raised her brows as if she heard a joke. Then, she smiled slightly and said, "Third Princess, have you ever seen someone still respectfully bow to the person who almost killed them? I still remember very clearly everything that you previously did to me in the Mystic Forest."

Shangguan Wan was stumped.

The situation was perilous back then, and she was part of the reason why Chu Liuyue fell down. This was something undeniable.

Shangguan Wan's face turned cold. "What, did you come here to teach me a lesson?"

“That’s strange. Third Princess, didn’t you invite me over?” Chu Liuyue naturally walked to the chair at the side and casually sat down as she held her chin with one hand. “Even if one was causing trouble, shouldn’t you be doing it to me?”

Seeing how outrageous Chu Liuyue was, Shangguan Wan was so angry that her face flushed red. “You—how dare you! This is Huayang Palace. How can you be so outrageous?!”

Chu Liuyue looked up and coldly gazed at her as she sneered in her heart. *Speaking of this, I was the one who helped speak to Father about this Huayang Palace, which allowed Shangguan Wan to have a place to rest. Now, she actually thinks that she’s the true owner of this place?! How laughable!*

“Third Princess, you clearly know why you invited me over. Could it be that you still expect me to be grateful toward you at this point? If you don’t like me, you can just call someone over and punish me, right?” Chu Liuyue said it very rudely and didn’t even care about the Third Princess at all.

Shangguan Wan angrily stretched out her hand and pointed at Chu Liuyue, her face turning white and green. “You! You—how dare you threaten me?!”

In the last two years, almost nobody has dared to use such a tone to talk to me!

Chu Liuyue lazily leaned against the chair as she half-squinted at Shangguan Wan. Her pair of black gem-like eyes had a hint of mockery in them. “So what?”

So what?! I’m sure that Shangguan Wan definitely won’t call someone over at this point, unless she wants to make a scene the day before her wedding and humiliate herself!

As expected, Shangguan Wan looked at Chu Liuyue in an infuriated manner for quite some time but swallowed her remaining words. “Since this is so, I won’t beat around the bush with you. I want your legendary fiend’s blood and the Dancing Lotus! Father is severely ill, and he needs this to have a chance of waking up. Father is the son of heaven. This is what you should do, and it’s your honor! Of course, I won’t make you give up these things for free. As long as you hand them over, I’ll immediately get someone to tell the whole world, and I’ll give you a substantial reward.”

If someone else heard this, they would definitely laugh at it.

The blood of a legendary fiend and a Dancing Lotus—these two items were both rare, priceless treasures in the world!

Shangguan Wan’s so-called substantial reward was just a joke in front of these two items!

But after hearing this, Chu Liuyue didn’t immediately reject her. Instead, her expression changed slightly. “Third Princess, I naturally have no objections in giving the items up to treat His Majesty, but... I have a request.”

Shangguan Wan looked at her doubtfully. “What request?”

Chu Liuyue enunciated every single word properly as she said, “I personally want to see His Majesty and see you give those items to him!”

“Impossible!” Shangguan Wan directly rejected the request without thinking. *How can someone like Chu Liuyue enter Qingfeng Palace?!*

Chu Liuyue smiled, but her eyes had a tinge of coldness. "These items are originally mine, and I want to see them being used rightfully. This doesn't seem to be an overboard request, right? I'm a heavenly doctor myself, and Third Princess, you can allow another heavenly doctor to do it if you can't trust me. I'll just watch from the side. I only have this one request. If you don't agree, there's no need for us to continue."

Then, Chu Liuyue directly stood up, brushed her sleeves, and acted like she was going to leave.

"Hold on!"

Chapter 856: Secret Movements

"I'll agree to your request!" Shangguan Wan thought for a while and could only agree in the end. *Chu Liuyue currently has precious treasures in her hands and is very arrogant. I shall let her be happy first and then teach her a lesson after this ends!*

Chu Liuyue's lips curled up. "Wouldn't it be better if you agreed earlier, Third Princess? After all, His Majesty's health is the most important, right?"

Shangguan Wan was stumped and felt that the Chu Liuyue in front of her was getting on her nerves! Her face turned cold, and she lowered her voice. "You better be honest! If not... I have my own ways of dealing with you!"

Chu Liuyue nonchalantly shrugged her shoulders and lightly laughed.

After that, Shangguan Wan walked out first.

Chan Yi hurriedly bowed and secretly glanced at the duo. *The anger on the Third Princess's face hasn't subsided, but Chu Liuyue still looks very relaxed. It seems like... their talk wasn't very smooth.*

"Call Zuo Mingxi over," said Shangguan Wan coldly.

"Yes!" Chan Yi didn't dare to ask further as she immediately sent someone to invite him over.

Shangguan Wan turned around to glance at Chu Liuyue. "You, follow me to Qingfeng Palace!"

...

This wasn't the first time Chu Liuyue entered the palace after being reborn, but this was her first time coming to Qingfeng Palace.

She had previously tried coming over, but the security was very tight. She couldn't get near, so she didn't impulsively do anything.

One could tell that Shangguan Wan valued Qingfeng Palace a lot. However, Chu Liuyue knew very clearly that it definitely wasn't only because Father was here or that she wanted him to rest properly. *There must be another reason for the security being this tight—to the extent that the other royal family children can't enter.*

When the people from Qingfeng Palace saw Shangguan Wan bringing Chu Liuyue over, they were all stunned.

When they heard that Shangguan Wan even wanted to let Chu Liuyue in to see His Majesty, quite a few people were so shocked that their jaws dropped. One had to know that other than the three heavenly doctors on duty, usually only the Third Princess and Eldest Young Master Jiang could enter.

It was indeed shocking for someone with Chu Liuyue's identity to be given permission to enter...

However, an idea popped up in the crowd's mind. *Chu Liuyue has a legendary fiend and also a Dancing Lotus. It seems logical for the Third Princess to invite her over...*

Shangguan Wan didn't directly bring Chu Liuyue in. Instead, she waited at the pavilion by the side for Zuo Mingxi to come.

All sorts of gazes landed on Chu Liuyue, but the latter was already long used to all of this and didn't really care. From start to end, she looked very calm and gentle.

Her every single movement was as elegant and graceful as a distinguished lady that was meticulously brought up by an aristocratic family. She was greatly different from her manner of forcing her to the corner previously.

Vaguely, she could hear the subordinates discussing.

"...So that's Chu Liuyue... I kept hearing about her previously, but this is the first time I've seen her. She really is like the rumors say!"

"Her appearance is really outstanding... With her elite talent, she's really enviable..."

“I heard that she came from an ordinary background but that she made an agreement with a legendary fiend. Additionally, with her capabilities, her background doesn’t pose much of a problem... Besides, with her aura, nobody can tell that she comes from a lowly background—especially the elegance in her eyes...”

Shangguan Wan listened in from the side, and her heart was tingling. *When I saw Chu Liuyue the previous few times, the latter was still very restrained. But ever since she came back from the Mystic Forest, she has become increasingly outrageous as if because she has evidence against me. And now, she has put on another front in front of the crowd. How disgusting!*

Facing Shangguan Wan’s gaze filled with anger, jealousy, and hatred, Chu Liuyue didn’t care about it at all. She mainly came here today to see her father first.

Even though Qi Han said that Father’s health had improved greatly, I still feel uneasy if I don’t see him personally. When she thought about how her father had been trapped in Qingfeng Palace for two years and couldn’t even get out of bed, Chu Liuyue’s heart ached.

Like this, Zuo Mingxi hurried over after another hour or so.

And someone else came with him—Jiang Yucheng!

“Sorry for being late. Third Princess, please forgive me.” Zuo Mingxi went forward and immediately bowed.

Shangguan Wan didn’t have much of a reaction when she saw him, but she knitted her brows when she saw Jiang Yucheng. “Yucheng, what are you doing here?”

Jiang Yucheng explained, "I was coincidentally with Physician Zuo just now and heard the news from the palace. I was worried, so I decided to come along."

Then, his gaze turned and landed on Chu Liuyue.

In actual fact, he initially didn't want to come over. But after hearing the palace maid say that Shangguan Wan had invited Chu Liuyue into the palace, he still came over after slight hesitation.

Ever since their hurried meeting that day, he hadn't seen her for the next few days. However, that scene kept replaying in his mind. The more he thought of it, the more he wanted to meet her.

Once this idea popped up in his mind, he couldn't get rid of it. Furthermore, the news of Chu Liuyue making an agreement with a legendary fiend and bringing the Dancing Lotus back was known to everyone in Xi Ling, causing his thoughts to be even more rampant.

Chu Liuyue seemed not to notice his gaze as she bent her knees and bowed. "Greetings, Eldest Young Master, Physician Zuo."

The young girl in front of them had skin as white as snow, and her eyes were bright and beautiful. She didn't have makeup on, but she was still very charming.

Jiang Yucheng's heart tingled.

At the side, Shangguan Wan felt that something was amiss. *The gaze Jiang Yucheng is shooting at Chu Liuyue... makes me very uncomfortable.*

For some reason, she suddenly thought of the day when Jiang Yucheng hurriedly put away the painting in his study.

She immediately felt uneasy.

“Shall we go in to see His Majesty’s condition?” Chu Liuyue broke the silence.

Jiang Yucheng smiled, and his voice was tender. “Okay.”

The alarm in Shangguan Wan’s heart rang!

Chapter 857: Fight

A woman’s instinct was always very accurate. Jiang Yucheng just spoke two sentences to Chu Liuyue, but it made Shangguan Wan feel very uncomfortable.

This tone... It’s clearly different from the tone he uses with me! Even that gaze—it seems to have a tinge of undetectable gentleness. Shangguan Wan bit her lips. *Could Jiang Yucheng really feel something for Chu Liuyue?*

She clenched her hands in her sleeves tightly and went forward with anger burning in her eyes. “Tomorrow is our wedding day. According to the rules, we can’t meet the day before. If not, it’ll be inauspicious. Even if you’re worried about Father, I’m still around in the palace. How can you just come over so casually?”

Does he not trust me, or does he not care about our wedding at all?

Upon hearing this, Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows. “Wan’er, you’re thinking too much.”

“How am I thinking too much?” Shangguan Wan was even angrier. “Even normal people who get married try to avoid each other the day before, let alone us—”

This had always been a tradition that the Tianling Dynasty had passed down. Even if it was just for good luck, Jiang Yucheng shouldn’t have come to the palace at this time.

Jiang Yucheng felt that Shangguan Wan was being unreasonable. We just met once. What’s there to be so uptight about? If we can spend their time together peacefully, it will naturally happen. If we can’t, it will be to no avail no matter how wary and careful we are about following the wedding formalities.

After seeing how demanding Shangguan Wan was, Jiang Yucheng’s patience gradually ran out as his face turned cold. “Since you care about this rule so much, I’ll leave right now.”

Then, he really turned around, whipped his sleeves, and left.

“Jiang Yucheng! Stand right there!” Shangguan Wan didn’t expect Jiang Yucheng not to give her face. I only said two sentences to express my dissatisfaction, yet he actually turned around to leave! In front of so many people no less! In the past, he definitely wouldn’t treat me in such a manner no matter how upset he was!

However, Jiang Yucheng ignored her words. He didn’t even pause for a single moment and directly left.

Anyone could tell how harsh and cold his back view was when he left.

Shangguan Wan's heart felt like it was burning at times and being chilled by cold water at other times. She was so angry that her entire body trembled. *Am I not doing this for our future? Yet, he treated me like this in the end!*

The temperature of the yard instantly dropped to negative.

All the people in the palace gradually lowered their heads, and they didn't even dare to breathe loudly. *The day before their wedding, the Third Princess and Eldest Young Master argued in Qingfeng Palace and ended on a bad note. If this news gets out.... Nobody knows how others would talk about this!*

Shangguan Wan gradually recovered her senses as her face turned red and white in embarrassment.

Zuo Mingxi looked awkward and didn't know what to do. *I... Jiang Yucheng followed me over. I didn't expect it to become like this...*

However, Chu Liuyue just stood at the side and slightly raised her brows as if she didn't even care about this matter.

She knew very clearly what kind of person Jiang Yucheng was. The most important person in his heart would forever be himself. Since when would such a selfish person care about others?

Shangguan Wan should still like him. If not, she wouldn't care so much about them meeting on the day before their wedding. It's a pity that Jiang Yucheng is already too lazy to deal with her. Chu Liuyue looked down and sneered in her heart. *Now that this has happened, who knows what kind of amazing show will take place tomorrow...*

Shangguan Wan clenched her teeth tightly and suppressed the anger in her heart with much difficulty. "The two of you, follow me in to see Father!"

Then, she went in first.

Chu Liuyue and Zuo Mingxi followed behind her closely.

...

It was very quiet in Qingfeng Palace.

The cauldron was surrounded with white mist, and a faint smell of Long Xian Fragrance wafted toward their noses.

Chu Liuyue wrinkled her nose. *This was the smell on Jian Fengchi back then...*

She silently looked in.

A person lay on the golden bed, but she could only see a vague figure from where she was. However, Chu Liuyue still recognized that the person was her father at first glance!

Her nose turned sour, and tears welled up in her eyes as a wave of warmth rushed up her heart and overwhelmed her.

When she was driven to the corner and finally decided to burn herself and commit suicide, she didn't even bid her father farewell properly. Now that she had met him again, she had already become someone else.

Once Chu Liuyue thought of how he had laid here for two years, she felt pain and anger that almost shot through her chest.

She spent a lot of effort to restrain her urge to rush up.

Shangguan Wan walked in front and had already reached the bed. "Physician Zuo, check on Father's condition first."

Zuo Mingxi went forward. He pulled open the mesh and pulled out His Majesty's hand, revealing the latter's wrist on the outside as he meticulously took his pulse.

After a moment, he released the latter's hand. "His Majesty hasn't fully recovered yet, and his condition keeps fluctuating. If we want His Majesty to wake up, we need to treat him properly."

Then, he glanced at Chu Liuyue. "If we can supply him with some Dancing Lotus and the blood of a legendary fiend, it will naturally be for the best."

Everyone could guess why Shangguan Wan called Chu Liuyue over. Therefore, Zuo Mingxi directly said it.

Shangguan Wan asked, "Physician Zuo, do you have the confidence to refine the medicine for Father then?"

Zuo Mingxi laughed. “Your Highness, you might not know, but rare treasures like the Dancing Lotus and the blood of a legendary fiend don’t need refinement. You just need to boil them into soup medicine with some complementary herbs and then consume it directly.”

This saved time.

Shangguan Wan heaved a sigh of relief and looked at Chu Liuyue. “Ms. Chu, please take out the items.”

Chu Liuyue went forward and stood three steps before the bed. From here, she could vaguely see the outline of the familiar face.

At this moment, his eyes seemed to be tightly shut, and he had no consciousness as he lay in bed.

She said, “It’s... my honor to have these ingredients used for His Majesty’s health.”

Shangguan Wan knitted her brows. *For some reason, I feel that Chu Liuyue seems to treat Father like...*

She couldn’t pinpoint what feeling it was, but it annoyed her. *Perhaps she thinks that she can rise to fame after Father wakes up?*

Thinking of this, Shangguan Wan felt disdain in her heart.

Chu Liuyue took out a rectangular wooden box.

Shangguan Wan and Zuo Mingxi's eyes lit up!

Then, Chu Liuyue opened the wooden box.

Kacha!

A Dancing Lotus was lying quietly within! The five translucent, pinkish-white petals had naturally closed up, and its stem was emerald green. It looked very lively as if it had just been plucked.

Shangguan Wan's throat turned slightly dry, and greed flashed across her eyes. *This... is the true Dancing Lotus!*

Chu Liuyue snapped her fingers, and Tuan Zi appeared on her shoulders.

Shangguan Wan looked up and saw the red-tailed phoenix rubbing against Chu Liuyue's cheeks intimately, looking very obedient and wanting to flatter her.

She felt hatred in her heart. *All the good things became Chu Liuyue's!*

Chu Liuyue seemed not to notice it as she touched Tuan Zi's head. "Tuan Zi, can I borrow a drop of blood from you?"

Chapter 858: True Face

Tuan Zi nodded and used its claw to scratch the other claw gently, causing a bright red blood pearl to emerge immediately. That blood pearl then floated up slowly.

Chu Liuyue extended her hand, and the blood pearl silently landed on her palm.

Upon closer inspection, there seemed to be a vague rainbow light glowing on it. An immense suppression also exuded from it!

This... is the blood of a legendary fiend—the red-tailed phoenix! Shangguan Wan and Zuo Mingxi looked at the two items in Chu Liuyue’s hands shockingly and expectantly. This is the only one in the entire Tianling Dynasty! Quite a few people might not even see it personally in their whole lives! But at this point, it actually appeared in front of us!

Chu Liuyue looked toward Zuo Mingxi. “Physician Zuo, these should be enough, right?”

“It’s enough! It’s enough!” Zuo Mingxi recovered his senses and hurriedly nodded, unable to conceal his excitement.

As a heavenly doctor, he was already extremely excited to see such rare treasures in the world. Now that he had a chance to personally boil it into medicinal soup, it was an even rarer opportunity!

“With these items, I believe His Majesty’s health will definitely take a turn for the better!”

Chu Liuyue then nodded in satisfaction as she handed that drop of blood and the wooden box over.

Zuo Mingxi took the items over carefully. For safety reasons, he still moved out his own cauldron and started refining.

An orange fire burned within the cauldron!

Zuo Mingxi continuously threw a few herbs inside. When the refinement was almost done, he meticulously threw the Dancing Lotus in.

Those beautiful, transparent petals immediately curled up and then melted, forming a snow-white droplet. At first glance, it looked like a tiny snowball.

In the end, Zuo Mingxi put Tuan Zi's blood into the cauldron, and the two droplets started merging.

After about 15 minutes, all the herbs in the cauldron had successfully merged!

As there was no need to produce a pill, this process didn't cause too much of a commotion. However, the bowl of medicinal soup in the cauldron had a vague suppression within, causing one not to underestimate it!

Zuo Mingxi's body seemed to be drenched in sweat, and his lips were also slightly pale. It was obvious that he had exhausted much of his force in this relatively short period of time.

No matter if it were the blood of a legendary fiend or the Dancing Lotus, they each contained great strength. Hence, it was indeed not easy to mix the two together.

In the end, Zuo Mingxi whipped his sleeves and scooped that bowl of medicine into a jade bowl.

Shangguan Wan stood at the side and stared at that bowl of medicine with much temptation. *If only I could use this medicine myself... My capabilities would definitely strengthen greatly, and the scar on my face might even recover!*

Thinking of this, her desire burned even greatly. *It's a pity that there was only one Dancing Lotus, and it has already been used up earlier. But the blood of a legendary fiend... Isn't Chu Liuyue's red-tailed phoenix still here?*

"Your Highness." Zuo Mingxi passed that bowl of medicine over. "May you feed His Majesty the medicine?"

Shangguan Wan looked up and recovered her senses. She then nodded, took the item, and went forward.

Following this, she moved the mesh and sat by the bed.

Chu Liuyue looked up and wanted to see her father's face, but it was a pity that Shangguan Wan blocked her. Due to this, she couldn't see him clearly.

Her heart tingled, but she still retracted her gaze and hid the longing and worry in her eyes. *With this bowl of medicine, Father's health should take a turn for the better.*

The reason why she purposely let the news out and insisted on watching personally was that she wanted to ensure that everything on her father's side wouldn't go wrong.

Now, she could finally be slightly more assured.

On the other hand, Shangguan Wan turned around and looked at the duo after feeding a few mouthfuls of medicine to the Emperor. "I'll take care of the things here. You can go down first."

Zuo Mingxi acknowledged her words and was about to leave when Chu Liuyue spoke in a seemingly smiling manner. "Since I don't have any important things to do anyway, I'll just stay here and check His Majesty's condition after he finishes the medicine. After all, the items were taken from me. If I really leave now and something happens in the future, I can't explain myself clearly. Third Princess, don't you think so?"

Hearing this, Zuo Mingxi—who planned to leave—also stopped. *That's right! I refined the medicine. What if something really happens?*

"T-then, I'll wait here too?" Zuo Mingxi tried to ask and stood at the side.

Shangguan Wan was stumped.

She originally wanted to dismiss the two of them and occupy the remaining half of the medicine for herself, but it now seemed like it was impossible.

Under the duo's stares, Shangguan Wan could only honestly feed the entire bowl of medicine to her imperial father.

In the end, she placed the empty bowl neither heavily nor lightly at the side and nonchalantly said, "Okay. Since the medicine is finished, let's allow Father to rest properly."

Chu Liuyue took a glance and faintly saw that her father's expression seemed to be much better. With that, she relaxed a little.

"Since His Majesty has already consumed all the medicine, then... I won't disturb you further if there's nothing else." Then, she turned around to leave.

"Wait a minute!" Shangguan Wan suddenly spoke and called her back. "I still have something to discuss with you."

Without waiting for Chu Liuyue to reply, Shangguan Wan then glanced at Zuo Mingxi. "It's best if someone watches over Father. Physician Zuo, can I trouble you to stay here for a while longer?"

Zuo Mingxi hurriedly said, "I'll definitely do my best."

Shangguan Wan walked outside and brushed past Chu Liuyue, looking at her with deep meaning. "Follow me."

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes and followed her.

The duo left the main hall of Qingfeng Palace and arrived at the side hall.

The moment they went in, Chan Yi sensibly closed the door.

Chu Liuyue turned around to take a look at the tightly shut door and laughed. "Third Princess, what are you doing?"

Shangguan Wan raised her chin slightly and commanded in a high and mighty manner, "I want the blood of your legendary fiend."

Chu Liuyue already guessed what she wanted to do, so she wasn't shocked when she heard this. Instead, she raised her brows slightly. "Third Princess, you should know that it's not easy to gather the blood of a legendary fiend with strong bloodline power, right? Tuan Zi already presented one droplet earlier. If it gives you another droplet now... I'm afraid its force would be greatly damaged."

Shangguan Wan kept sneering. "Chu Liuyue, don't pretend in front of me! When this beast scratched my face and left a scar back then, it's already very nice of me not to hold you accountable! If you're sensible, you better give me the blood of the legendary fiend obediently!"

If it weren't because this red-tailed phoenix has already made an agreement and couldn't change its owner, I would've definitely snatched the legendary fiend over as well!

Chu Liuyue looked at her, crossed her arms, and lightly knocked her chin. "What you said does make sense. After all... one's face is extremely important to any woman. Tomorrow is your wedding day, and it won't be too good if you have a scar-filled face. Besides, you can hide it for a moment but not forever. Your true appearance will eventually be exposed for the world to see clearly! Don't you think so?"

Chapter 859: Date Someone

Shangguan Wan's heart suddenly trembled.

Chu Liuyue's words were like thunder that struck next to her ear!

She immediately felt guilty and looked at Chu Liuyue doubtfully. *Could her words... have another meaning?*

However, Chu Liuyue's eyes curved up as if she didn't mean anything else.

Shangguan Wan seemed to be stifled, and she couldn't breathe properly. "You just have to say whether you're giving the blood or not!"

Chu Liuyue smiled and said, "If you want it, how can I not give it to you, Third Princess? Tuan Zi—"

She turned around and looked at Tuan Zi nestled on her shoulders. It had already curled up into a ball as it tilted its head and looked very disdainful.

Not to say that this blood was very precious to it, even if it was something it didn't want, it wasn't willing to give it to that Shangguan Wan!

Chu Liuyue coaxed Tuan Zi at the side before it reluctantly presented a blood pearl.

Shangguan Wan's eyes lit up.

That blood pearl floated in Chu Liuyue's palm as she said, "Third Princess, it's not impossible if you want it. However... you have to exchange it with something of equal value."

After so much, this Chu Liuyue just wants something. Shangguan Wan chuckled in contempt. “What do you want?”

Chu Liuyue curled her lips slightly. “What do I want... I’ll tell you tomorrow. I hope you won’t be stingy by that time.”

Shangguan Wan knitted her brows slightly. “Tomorrow is my wedding. I don’t have time to bother with you then.”

Something seemed to flash across Chu Liuyue’s eyes. “That’s something I have to think about.”

Shangguan Wan didn’t care about the other girl. *I have many things to do during the ceremony tomorrow. A mere Chu Liuyue wouldn’t even have the right to speak to me then. I have nothing much to worry about.*

“I’ll agree to your request!”

Chu Liuyue then smiled and nodded as she flicked her finger. Then, the blood pearl flew toward Shangguan Wan.

“Since this is so, then... I’ll first wish for your blissful marriage, and I hope you’ll be happy with Eldest Young Master Jiang for hundreds of years to come.” With that, Chu Liuyue didn’t stay any longer as she turned around to leave.

Shangguan Wan hurriedly caught the blood pearl and swallowed it directly.

At that moment, there seemed to be a fire burning in her chest!

Shangguan Wan hurriedly took off the mask, and an itchy and numbing feeling spread from her wound. Her entire body seemed to be wrapped by fire—it was scorching and painful!

Shangguan Wan clenched her teeth tightly as she forcefully swallowed this torture down! *As long as my looks can go back to normal... This doesn't count for anything!*

...

After leaving Qingfeng Palace, Chu Liuyue walked relaxingly.

Tuan Zi had already returned to her body.

“You acted quite well,” praised Chu Liuyue in her heart.

Tuan Zi flapped its wings and looked delighted.

Upon seeing this reaction, Chu Liuyue felt emotional. She then turned around to take a look and could only see the roof of the palace from here. *At this point, Shangguan Wan should've already ingested that 'blood of a legendary fiend' excitedly, right? I wonder if Shangguan Wan will be satisfied with this small gift.*

After a momentary pause, Chu Liuyue continued forward. When she passed by a road, she turned and walked in another direction.

The palace maid behind her hurriedly said, "Ms. Chu, you can't go there!"

Chu Liuyue paused in her tracks and suddenly looked enlightened. "Look at me! I went the wrong way."

After that, she turned around and walked in another direction.

The palace maid hurriedly laughed along. "You haven't been to the palace much, so it's normal for you not to know your way. In the future, you must be careful and not walk toward that area!"

Chu Liuyue entered the palace to present the medicine to treat His Majesty, and the news had already silently spread throughout the palace. Everyone was guessing that without any accidents, this person would definitely be capable in the future, so they all fought to flatter her.

Chu Liuyue smiled and seemingly asked nonchalantly, "Oh? Why is that so?"

That palace maid looked conflicted but still lowered her voice and softly said, "That's the royal family's ancestral hall. It was burned down two years ago, and it has just been renovated. Normal people can't enter!"

Chu Liuyue nodded in understanding. "I see... Thank you."

The palace maid was shocked and kept refusing Chu Liuyue's thanks as she kept telling the latter about all sorts of rules in the palace and some information here and there on the way.

Chu Liuyue heard it and gradually realized that Shangguan Wan seemed to be extra concerned about the burned ancestral hall. From a certain angle, she was even stricter about it than guarding the Emperor.

When I chose to burn myself to death, the ancestral hall should've been burned quite badly. With that, not much evidence would be left behind. What exactly is Shangguan Wan afraid of?

...

After Jiang Yucheng left the palace, he directly went back to the Jiang Residence. But even at this point, the anger in his heart hadn't subsided.

Thinking of how unreasonable Shangguan Wan was, he felt frustrated. What annoyed him even more was that when Chu Liuyue heard the two of them arguing, she looked very nonchalant.

She was like an outsider calmly watching a show that had nothing to do with her. From start to end, she didn't look at him once more or even have a change in expression.

Jiang Yucheng pressed his chest. For some reason, his chest felt stuffed when he thought of these things.

Then, he closed his eyes as if he had made up his mind and said to Sun Qi behind him, "Invite Chu Liuyue to the zither room in Xin Li Garden."

“Eldest Young Master, you—” Sun Qi was dazed. *Tomorrow is his wedding with the Third Princess! What exactly does Eldest Young Master want to do by making an appointment with Chu Liuyue now?! And... It’s even in the zither room in Thousand View Garden!*

Jiang Yucheng glanced at him coldly.

Sun Qi immediately said, “I’ll go right away!”

Chapter 860: Willing to Lower Her Head

Not long after Chu Liuyue walked out of the palace, she met Sun Qi—who was looking for her.

“Ms. Chu, my Eldest Young Master invites you to Xin Li Garden.” Sun Qi’s words were brief, and his attitude was polite.

Chu Liuyue was doubtful. *Why would Jiang Yucheng look for me at this time and even invite me to Xin Li Garden?*

Chu Liuyue smiled. “Eldest Young Master Jiang should be very busy today. Why would he have the time to look for me? Is there something urgent?”

Shouldn’t Jiang Yucheng be preparing for tomorrow’s event on the eve of his wedding? Was... the ancient zither incident discovered?

The moment this idea flashed across her mind, she swiftly rejected it. *Impossible. I did things very discreetly that day and didn’t leave any evidence behind. From that day onward, I have also never used*

the peach blossom ink on my wrist to transport myself in front of anyone. Or did he find out about me pretending to be Xia Mu? I don't think that's very possible either.

These people don't know about the transparent karmic fire in the square cauldron that day. Besides, no matter which situation it was, Jiang Yucheng would definitely find me and teach me a lesson personally. He wouldn't send a very polite and well-mannered Sun Qi over.

"I don't know about this either." Sun Qi slightly lowered his head. "Ms. Chu, I hope you'll accede to the request."

Originally, Chu Liuyue didn't want to agree. She felt disgusted even taking another glance at Jiang Yucheng, let alone accepting this type of specialized invitation. Just thinking about it made her feel uneasy.

But after thinking for a moment, she still nodded her head in the end. "Okay."

...

As time gradually trickled past and after a long torture, the painful and ticklish feeling on Shangguan Wan's face finally dissipated. At this point, her entire body was covered in sweat, and she felt disconnected from her body.

But after she woke up, the first thing she did was rush to the copper mirror and look at her face.

The copper mirror reflected her own appearance.

The wound that previously kept rotting actually formed scabs on her face, and it even formed a light pink scar! Even though it still looked terrifying, it was indeed much better than before!

Shangguan Wan was extremely surprised as she carefully touched her face. *I've just ingested the blood of a legendary fiend not long ago, and it's already this effective. If I use other medicine, I will definitely fully recover!*

The problem of her face had tortured her for a very long time, and now, she could finally heave a sigh of relief.

"I can definitely recover..." muttered Shangguan Wan softly as her gaze was sinisterly and frighteningly stubborn. "Anyone there!?"

Upon hearing this, Chan Yi—who was waiting outside—immediately pushed open the door to enter. "Your Highness, is there anything you want me to do?"

She respectfully bowed, and she immediately spoke in surprise when she unintentionally looked up. "Your Highness, your face has become much better—"

Even though Shangguan Wan hated other people seeing her disfigured face very much, it was already healing at this time. Besides, Chan Yi was happy for her, so she didn't care much about it. "I still need to take care of it. I want to bathe and change my clothes. Help me prepare."

Chan Yi hurriedly said, "Yes! I'll go right away!"

Just as she was about to go out, Shangguan Wan suddenly called her. Her lips moved twice before she hesitantly asked, "...Has Yucheng come back?"

The smile on Chan Yi's face instantly froze.

Shangguan Wan's heart suddenly turned cold.

"Your Highness, Eldest Young Master—h-he hasn't come back..." Chan Yi lowered her head, and her voice became much softer.

The room instantly fell into dead silence.

Shangguan Wan clenched her silver teeth tightly, and deep vengeance flashed across her eyes. *The two of us rarely quarreled in the past, but he has become increasingly irritated toward me in these few months. He even embarrassed me in front of so many people today. I initially thought that he would come back and coax me, but it has been so long, and he hasn't done anything at all.*

"Your Highness, Eldest Young Master might be busy with work recently, so he couldn't hold himself back and said harsh words to you..." Chan Yi saw that her expression wasn't right and hurriedly explained, "Eldest Young Master is worried about you after all, Your Highness. Besides, tomorrow is the wedding. Eldest Young Master definitely wishes for everything in the future to be beautiful and perfect, yet you said such words. How could Eldest Young Master be happy after that?"

Shangguan Wan heard it and finally felt slightly better.

After thinking for a moment, she glanced at the sky outside. "Forget it. After I've washed up, I'll look for him personally."

She still had him in her heart.

Tomorrow was the wedding, and she had already waited for too long. She really didn't want the two of them to end off on such a bad note.

At most... I'll lower my head first!

...

Jiang Residence.

It was already afternoon now, and everyone in the Jiang Residence had been busy the entire day, but the residence was still very lively.

With all sorts of intricate designs around, it looked very blissful.

Shangguan Wan changed into a disguise and silently came over.

As she regularly looked for Jiang Yucheng secretly in the past, the people around the latter would directly let her in and even cover up her tracks when they saw her come over. But after Shangguan Wan successfully entered Jiang Yucheng's yard, she realized that he wasn't in his residence.

Calculating the time, he should've long been back after he left the palace. Did he go somewhere else halfway? Where else can he go at this point? Shangguan Wan came here in vain and was very upset.

Just as she planned to wait here, she suddenly thought of Jiang Yucheng hurriedly hiding a painting in the study that day. *Now is a good opportunity to find out what's going on!*

Hence, Shangguan Wan planned to enter the study.

But the moment she reached the door, the guards stopped her. “Your Highness, Eldest Young Master said that nobody can casually enter his study without his permission. Why don’t you rest at the house nearby?”

Upon hearing this, Shangguan Wan chuckled. “I’m getting married to Yucheng tomorrow. Can I not even enter this study?”

The few guards exchanged glances and were in a difficult position.

After a temporary stalemate, the few of them still decided to give in. After all, they really couldn’t afford to offend Shangguan Wan if her status increased by another level. *In the past, she did directly enter the study a few times, so... There shouldn’t be a problem.*

Shangguan Wan then entered the study as she wished.

Even though it couldn’t be said that she knew everything here by heart, she was still rather familiar with it as she had entered this place several times before.

Within the room were many books and paintings, most of which were very precious. Yet, perhaps it was because he had quite a few good things, but Jiang Yucheng didn’t really care about all of these things.

On the study table and the racks, all sorts of treasured items were placed casually.

Shangguan Wan felt even more confused. *Considering Jiang Yucheng's sight, what kind of painting is it that can make him store it so dearly?*

From what she saw that day, she went to the study table and felt around for quite a while before she finally found a mechanism and opened the secret compartment.

A wooden box lay quietly within!