

## **Noble Ruler 871**

### **Chapter 871: No Means No!**

In the square that was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop, this soft voice was especially loud.

At that moment, it was like a drop of water landed into a pot of oil!

The crowd started to become restless, and quite a few people exchanged glances. *It... does seem like something is wrong. Seeing Shangguan Wan's appearance, she must've used all her strength previously. However, the Tianling Power Staff didn't budge an inch!*

"It can't be... Isn't the Third Princess a stage-seven warrior? Logically speaking, she should be able to lift it..."

"But the Tianling Power Staff really didn't get lifted!"

"If the Third Princess really can't do it today, it'll be too embarrassing!"

The soft discussions traveled to Shangguan Wan's ears, and every word made her even more humiliated and tortured.

She clenched her teeth and tried again, but the Tianling Power Staff still didn't look like it had moved!

The commotion below gradually became louder, and the few royal family elders at the side started to have hints of doubt on their faces.

Shangguan Wan's heart beat wildly, and it almost jumped out from her chest. In a short amount of time, her forehead was filled with tiny beads of sweat.

The Tianling Power Staff in her hands was chilling to the bone, but it wasn't colder than her heart. It was like a bucket of cold water had splashed down on her, causing her to shudder and tremble uncontrollably. *Why can't the Tianling Power Staff move? I risked my life to heal my Yuan meridian. Even though it's not top-notch, it's still a Dijing Yuan meridian! Besides, I accumulated this force with much difficulty... Why can't I lift this Tianling Power Staff?!*

Shangguan Wan became increasingly anxious. But the more anxious she was, the more panicked she was.

She originally wanted to gather all the strength in her body to try again, but her limbs gave way for some reason, making her unable to use her strength at all.

However, she didn't dare to let go—that would be directly admitting that she couldn't do it!

Hence, Shangguan Wan held the Tianling Power Staff and didn't move.

Actually, she kept trying, but it was to no avail. So to the surrounding crowd, it seemed like she was just standing rooted to the ground stiffly.

At this moment, time seemed to be passing especially slowly.

The few royal family elders exchanged glances and saw the worry in one another's eyes.

The gentle smiling intent on Jiang Yucheng's face finally dropped. *If Shangguan Wan can't successfully lift the Tianling Power Staff today, she won't be able to ascend the throne smoothly! The more important thing is that she will never have a second chance to try again! Then, even I will be greatly implicated! At that time, all our hard work from before will be wasted! It's impossible for me to find a third princess to marry!*

Jiang Yucheng couldn't hold back and said, "Wan'er, don't be nervous. Try again slowly."

At first glance, his expression seemed very calm. But if one took a closer look, they could see the anxiety and worry in his eyes.

Shangguan Wan turned around and glanced at him. She knew very clearly that Jiang Yucheng wasn't encouraging her but warning her!

*If I fail...* Thinking of the terrifying consequences, Shangguan Wan pressed her lips against each other tightly and looked at the Tianling Power Staff in front of her once again. *I'm afraid I can't do it if I use my own strength. Then...*

"Senior, can you help me?" asked Shangguan Wan in her heart.

The next moment, the nonchalant and cold voice sounded. "Just like I expected. Even though your Yuan meridian has healed, it's still lacking. That's not surprising though. Your original Yuan meridian standard was so-so after all, and it became a mess after it was burned by the Tianjing Yuan meridian's fire. It's already very hard for you to recover to this stage."

That voice said these few sentences very calmly as if it were narrating a very ordinary minor matter, but it wasn't so to Shangguan Wan. This was because she felt that she was being mocked and despised.

Deep horror crept into her heart. *If it weren't for Shangguan Yue, it wouldn't be so hard for me today!*

"Your Highness, do... you still want to continue?" asked Elder Chen Ke cautiously after seeing Shangguan Wan not moving.

Once he asked this, the crowd fell silent again as they looked at Shangguan Wan with varying gazes.

If she continues, she might not succeed and will very likely be ridiculed as being useless. But if she gives up now... It would mean that Shangguan Wan has thoroughly failed! Let alone ascending the throne, her days won't be any better if she just lives as the Third Princess.

The previous few that failed all had a terrible outcome.

Shangguan Wan immediately said, "Of course!"

Seeing her determination, Elder Chen Ke was hesitant with his words.

Actually, according to his previous experience, Shangguan Wan was destined to fail. But since she wanted to continue trying, he couldn't say anything further.

“Third Princess, please—” Elder Chen Ke looked more solemn. *If Shangguan Wan still can't do it this time... We really need to consider what to do later...*

Shangguan Wan nodded slightly and knitted her sharp brows. “Senior.”

Light laughter sounded in her ears; then, Shangguan Wan felt her vision shake.

A strong and vigorous aura suddenly exploded from within her body!

At that moment, endless force rushed out like an open tap as a black symbol instantly appeared on Shangguan Wan's brows! But as she was standing in a special position and that symbol flashed too quickly, nobody noticed it.

Following this, there seemed to be violent winds storming in the depths of her eyes!

Sinister! Cold!

It seemed like she had become a completely different person!

Then, she clenched her hands tightly and tried to lift the Tianling Power Staff again!

*Whir!*

A whirring sound was heard, and lights sparkled!

The next moment, the Tianling Power Staff finally moved!

Shangguan Wan's lips moved as if smiling, but it seemed slightly stiff.

The black crystal immediately lit up colorfully, and the Tianling Power Staff gradually started moving with Shangguan Wan's actions!

"It's moving! It's moving! The Tianling Power Staff moved!" someone exclaimed.

The crowd became noisy again. Almost everyone fought to look over, afraid they would miss something.

Seeing the Tianling Power Staff finally being slowly lifted by Shangguan Wan, Elder Chen Ke finally relaxed.

The other elders also nodded their heads respectively and secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

The tightly clenched fists in Jiang Yucheng's sleeves relaxed a little. *It's good that she succeeded, good that she succeeded...*

Many people looked surprised. "The Tianling Power Staff is so hard to deal with! The Third Princess only succeeded after so many tries!"

"Then, it still counts as her success in the end, right? From now on, she'll officially ascend the thr—"

*Boom!*

At this moment, a large explosion was coincidentally heard coming from the Tianling Power Staff!

The terrifying wave spread in all directions!

Shock flashed across Shangguan Wan's eyes.

Without waiting for her to react, a formidable aura went straight to her face. Then, her body instantly flew out!

*Boom!*

She slammed onto the floor heavily and actually rolled down the nine flights of stairs directly.

The crowd was stunned, but at this moment, the Tianling Power Staff seemed to fly in a certain direction!

Chu Liuyue seemed to notice something as she looked up and saw the Tianling Power Staff flying toward her!

**Chapter 872: Who are You Calling Fierce?**

Chu Liuyue's heart shook.

The Tianling Power Staff traveled very rapidly and left a straight, silver line in midair as it flew out of Lang Kun Hall the next moment!

An ear-piercing howl was heard!

*Shoo!*

The sound of something breaking was heard.

The crowd looked over and shockingly discovered that the barrier Elder Chen Ke set up earlier was easily broken!

One had to know that Elder Chen Ke was a stage-eight warrior, and one could just imagine how great the barrier's defensive power was!

But in front of the Tianling Power Staff, it was instantly broken like a thin piece of paper.

Countless people looked up nervously, and their gazes followed the Tianling Power Staff! They saw it cut through the sky and go straight for the crowd!



The terrifying suppression exuded in all directions, and many people subconsciously moved backward!

“Quick! Move back!”

The Tianling Power Staff’s strength wasn’t something they could easily tolerate!

The crowd was especially shocked and anxious!

When the few royal family elders standing on the stairs saw this scene, they all panicked. “Elder Chen Ke, what should we do? Do we need to think of a way to stop the Tianling Power Staff?”

Elder Chen Ke clenched his fists tightly, and he seemed to have more wrinkles on his face. *Stop it?! That’s easier said than done though. Even if the few of us join hands, we might not be able to control this Tianling Power Staff completely! Besides, this item suddenly went crazy and caused such a commotion! I have witnessed three ascension ceremonies, but I have never seen this scene before!*

However, he only silently thought this in his heart.

Given the messy situation now, it will definitely spell unthinkable trouble if we can’t control it in time!

Elder Chen Ke was in deep thought for a moment before deciding swiftly. “Quick! Activate the black Xuan stone!”

The black Xuan stone was the black crystal that held the Tianling Power Staff! There was an elite Xuan formation printed on it, and it was specifically used to suppress the Tianling Power Staff.

The Xuan formation on this black Xuan stone was usually activated, and the Tianling Power Staff would be in hibernation mode. Only in such special times would they turn off the Xuan formation on the black Xuan stone in advance. After the successor successfully lifted the Tianling Power Staff and received its approval, the Xuan formation on it would automatically be activated again when they put it back.

However, they didn't expect that they had to do this on this occasion.

The few elders hesitated. *Once it's activated, the black Xuan stone and the Tianling Power Staff will not be touchable for a short period of time. By then, the choosing of a new emperor will have to be delayed yet again. However, the Tianling Power Staff seems to be out of control, and this is the only way.*

The few of them looked at each other and nodded in determination. Their figures then moved as they respectively stood around the black Xuan stone, surrounding it!

One of them reached out, and endless silver force flew out! "Activate—"

"Hold on!" Elder Chen Ke suddenly hollered.

The few elders hurriedly stopped and saw that Elder Chen Ke was looking in a certain direction in shock. Following this, they instinctively looked over and couldn't help but gasp.

They saw the crowd—which was originally lined up tidily—suddenly being cut in the middle by an invisible, sharp sword.

At the end of the crowd, a woman in red stood still.

It was Chu Liuyue, and the Tianling Power Staff actually stopped a foot in front of her!

...

At that moment, time seemed to stop as the surrounding air was also frozen inch by inch! It was dead quiet between heaven and earth.

Everyone was watching this scene with their eyes open and mouth agape. They were so stunned that they couldn't say anything.

*The Tianling Power Staff was extremely resistant toward Shangguan Wan and exploded relentlessly, yet it flew to Chu Liuyue in the blink of an eye. W-what does this mean...*

After a temporary daze, someone finally thought of Shangguan Wan and stiffly turned around.

At this point, Shangguan Wan had already rolled down from the nine flights of stairs. Probably because the earlier impact was too great, but she struggled on the ground for quite a while before she stood up.

But at this point, she was in a very unkempt state.

Her face and hands were grazed, and blood kept flowing down while her intricately pretty makeup was completely ruined. Her head accessories had already fallen, and her cloud-like loose strands of hair fell around as an elegant phoenix hairpin was stuck messily in her hair.

Perhaps because she suffered from an internal injury, but her face looked paler than ever. However, her brows and the corner of her lips turned black.

She looked extremely strange.

Nobody expected Shangguan Wan—who was still the glamorous, imperious Third Princess the previous moment—to end up in such a state now!

*Some people gradually recovered their senses and had complicated gazes. I-if we didn't remember wrongly, Shangguan Wan seemed to have been blasted away by the Tianling Power Staff's strength, right? This isn't even a matter of her not being able to lift up the Tianling Power Staff! Instead, she simply incurred the Tianling Power Staff's hatred! Even though there were failures before, this kind of situation didn't seem to happen! Shangguan Wan is the Third Princess, and she truly has the bloodline of the Tianling royal family!*

Such an appearance was akin to harshly slapping her in front of so many people!

Shangguan Wan felt utterly humiliated as her limbs turned ice-cold, and her blood seemed to freeze. Only her face was scorching hot!

At this moment, everyone's gazes seemed to be filled with mockery and contempt!

The previous scene kept replaying in her mind, and she wanted to dig a hole, bury herself, and completely disappear!

"Wan'er, how are you?" Jiang Yucheng still reacted considerably fast. He immediately walked down and rushed to Shangguan Wan's side as he knitted his brows and made an inquiry.

The moment Shangguan Wan wanted to open her mouth, her blood tumbled in her chest.

*Wa!*

She spat out a mouthful of blood!

Jiang Yucheng was standing beside her, and the blood instantly landed on him!

He quickly knitted his brows, but he still reached out to help Shangguan Wan.

At this point, Shangguan Wan didn't care about him. After she vomited blood, she still stubbornly looked up and saw Chu Liuyue in the distant crowd.

“W-why... T-Tianling Power Staff...” She spat out these few words with much difficulty and stared in front with a deadly gaze! The vengeance in her eyes was like a knife about to slice Chu Liuyue in half!

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows and looked over.

Why wouldn't he be curious as well? In actual fact, everyone who saw this scene in the large Lang Kun Hall was equally confused.

*Since when was Chu Liuyue related to the Tianling Power Staff? Why would it solely fly to her out of nowhere? Especially when compared to Shangguan Wan, this scene looks even stranger.*

Jiang Yucheng's face drastically changed. "This Tianling Power Staff is extremely dangerous. Be careful—"

Before he could even finish his sentence, the Tianling Power Staff seemed to understand his words as its ferocious aura suddenly weakened. After that, it inched forward as if it was sucking up to her and then gently poked Chu Liuyue's face.

### **Chapter 873: Pay Back**

Jiang Yucheng's remaining words instantly got stuck in his throat, and he almost choked as his expression changed incredulously!

When the crowd saw this scene, their reactions weren't any better than that of Jiang Yucheng as they were collectively stunned! *W-what's going on? What happened to the high and mighty Tianling Power Staff that everyone has to bow down to? What happened to the fact that only the person who holds the Tianling Power Staff can control the royal family and ascend to the top? Why did it suddenly become like this?!*

The previous moment, the Tianling Power Staff was very fierce and directly knocked the Third Princess away. Yet, in the next moment, it was so, so...

This was too strange!

The surroundings were too quiet as countless pairs of eyes landed on Chu Liuyue with various gazes.

Chu Liuyue was also shocked herself. She had vaguely guessed something in her heart when she saw the Tianling Power Staff flying toward her, but she didn't expect it to be so intimate with her.

Yes, intimate.

When it flew over and poked her cheek, the first thought that surfaced in Chu Liuyue's mind was: *The Tianling Power Staff seems very close to me and likes me very much.*

This feeling was ridiculous but genuine.

Chu Liuyue blinked and stared at the Tianling Power Staff in front of her.

At this point, it was still wrapped in a faint layer of light, but she could roughly see its appearance since it was very close to her.

It was a dark, cylinder-shaped staff that was wide at the top and narrow at the bottom, roughly about three feet tall. Its head seemed to be carved with a dragon, and its tail was sharper as if it were engraved with some sort of pattern.

Even though it had already retracted its surrounding aura, one could still faintly feel the tremendous ancient suppression coming from it.

Chu Liuyue could clearly feel that the Tianling Power Staff was indeed going for her, and there was this one moment where she had the urge to hold it in her hands directly!

However, she hadn't forgotten what place this was, much less the countless pairs of eyes staring at her in the surroundings.

Just as she was planning to suppress her thoughts, an angered and sharp voice sounded. "Chu Liuyue, how dare you?!"

The ear-piercing shrill instantly woke quite a few people up.

Chu Liuyue also looked over.

The person talking was Shangguan Wan. At this point, she was staring at Chu Liuyue furiously with her eyes wide open.

She looked enraged. "The Tianling Power Staff is a holy item that we've treasured for many years in the Tianling Dynasty. It's the symbol of the royal family's power! How dare you taint it!?"

Quite a few people's faces instantly became incredulous.

If one wasn't blind, they would've clearly seen that the Tianling Power Staff flew to Chu Liuyue on its own and that it took the initiative to get close to the girl.

*From start to end, Chu Liuyue just stood there and didn't do anything. Yet, Shangguan Wan said that she tainted the Tianling Power Staff... Her words have distorted the truth...*



Chu Liuyue raised her brows and wasn't angry as she laughed and lightly said, "Third Princess, do you mean that I summoned this Tianling Power Staff and that I controlled it to do the previous things?"

*Shangguan Wan was stumped. If I say yes, won't it be akin to admitting that the Tianling Power Staff can be controlled by a mere Chu Liuyue? If word gets out, won't it humiliate the royal family?! If I say no... Why would the Tianling Power Staff be so weird?! It rejected me coming near it and even directly injured me, yet it was so gentle and obedient toward Chu Liuyue the next moment! Such a thing has never happened in the Tianling Dynasty's thousand-year-long history!*

*The most awkward thing is that the Tianling Power Staff is still quietly floating beside Chu Liuyue as if it's bent on following her and has no intentions of returning. I need to pick up the Tianling Power Staff! How do I do it in such a situation?!*

Shangguan Wan felt extreme hatred. *Chu Liuyue—it's Chu Liuyue again! The previous night, Jiang Yucheng confessed to her and took the initiative to propose to her. Today, even the Tianling Power Staff willingly followed her and accompanied her!*

"Who knows what methods you used!" Shangguan Wan was so enraged that she almost fainted as she pointed at Chu Liuyue.

She wanted to scold the latter directly, but she was quickly stopped by Jiang Yucheng. "Wan'er, calm down!"

He clutched Shangguan Wan's hand tightly and glanced at her with warning. *Why isn't she looking at herself now! If she loses her temper and causes a commotion, it will be completely over!*

Shangguan Wan tightly bit her lips and controlled her emotions.

Jiang Yucheng looked at Chu Liuyue deeply and the Tianling Power Staff in front of her, his mind also a mess.

“Elder Chen Ke,” he called out. “You’ve always been in charge of guarding the Tianling Power Staff. Do you know what exactly is going on?”

Elder Chen Ke, who was called out, also looked confused. “I-I... I also don’t know what’s going on... The Tianling Power Staff rarely leaves the black Xuan stone...”

“You’re the head of the eight royal family elders, and you are personally responsible for all of these matters. If even you don’t know, who else will know?” Jiang Yucheng’s voice became much colder. “No matter what, you must invite the Tianling Power Staff back! If it delays the Third Princess’s ascension ceremony, you will be held responsible!”

*Elder Chen Ke felt wronged. What has this got to do with me? Not to mention the fact that nobody can control whether the Tianling Power Staff willingly looks for Chu Liuyue, can Shangguan Wan definitely lift it up if Chu Liuyue isn’t here? Everyone here witnessed what happened just now! The Tianling Power Staff was extremely resistant to Shangguan Wan and wasn’t even willing to let her touch it, let alone do anything else! Delay her ascension ceremony... She needs to have the ability to ascend first! Without the Tianling Power Staff’s recognition, today’s ceremony can’t even continue!*

When Elder Chen Ke thought of this, his expression became much more nonchalant. “Prince Consort, I am in charge of guarding the Tianling Power Staff, but I could never control it! Please forgive me for being useless, but I might not be able to do what you just said.”

Jiang Yucheng instantly became anxious.

Upon hearing this, Shangguan Wan was even angrier as she raised her voice and pointed at Chu Liuyue. “No matter what, you must invite the Tianling Power Staff back to the black Xuan stone. If not, how do I continue?”

Elder Chen Ke cupped his fists, bowed, and said carefully, “Third Princess, it’s not like you don’t know that this Tianling Power Staff is a holy item that has been passed down in the Tianling Dynasty for years. It has its own spiritual mind. If it acknowledges you, it will naturally accede to your request. No matter where it is, you will be able to pick it up. It doesn’t have to be on the black Xuan stone. However, if it doesn’t acknowledge you... Then, none of us can do anything about it!”

Shangguan Wan’s face flushed red. *I-is he openly scolding me for not having the right to ascend this throne?!*

She clenched her fists tightly and looked at Chu Liuyue. “I’m commanding you to return the Tianling Power Staff immediately!”

#### **Chapter 874: Smear**

This scene was too ridiculous and laughable.

Shangguan Wan was clearly of the royal family’s bloodline, the successor to the throne, yet she was coldly reprimanding and asking Chu Liuyue—who had nothing to do with all of this—to return the Tianling Power Staff!

If word got out, many people would laugh until their teeth dropped out!

Chu Liuyue looked relaxed as she raised her chin. “Third Princess, I didn’t take this Tianling Power Staff as my own, so how do I ‘return’ it? If you want it back, can’t you just take it yourself?”

Shangguan Wan was stumped, and her face flushed red. *If it was really as easy as what Chu Liuyue said, why would I have such a big headache? This Tianling Power Staff is a little weird as it was very resistant toward me at the start. When I asked Senior to help me, I was directly blown away and rolled down nine flights of stairs!*

Now, she didn't dare to try again no matter what. She didn't dare to imagine what would happen if the same incident happened twice! *However, if I really don't do anything, what if the Tianling Power Staff doesn't come back? It's still quietly floating in front of Chu Liuyue, living as if it is her accessory!*

Jiang Yucheng gently nudged her. "Wan'er, you're of the royal family's bloodline after all. The Tianling Power Staff won't do anything to you. Just go over and personally invite it."

Shangguan Wan suddenly turned her head and looked at him angrily. *Not do anything to me? Did he not see what happened just now?! I've already humiliated myself once! If I fail again... I can just die!*

But Jiang Yucheng was very insistent. Other than Shangguan Wan, who could do anything about it?

*Elder Chen Ke and the rest are in charge of the entire Lang Kun Hall and the Xuan formation on the black Xuan stone, but they clearly said that they couldn't control the Tianling Power Staff! Are they just going to watch on like this?* Shangguan Wan clenched her teeth as she couldn't argue with Jiang Yucheng.

She moved a step forward as she took a deep breath in, looked at the Tianling Power Staff, and tried to make her tone sound sincere. "Junior Shangguan Wan respectfully invites the Tianling Power Staff to return!"

The moment she said it, the Tianling Power Staff didn't even move as if it had no reaction.

It had a certain spiritual strength to it, so it naturally could understand Shangguan Wan's words. Hence, the scene became even more awkward instantly.

The surrounding crowd fell silent, and the people had various expressions. *The Tianling Power Staff flung her away in contempt, and it even ignored her sincere begging... I think it only happened to Shangguan Wan after all these years, right?*

In this uncomfortable silence, the air was suffocating.

Shangguan Wan's face flushed red and then turned greenish-white as her entire body trembled.

Nobody knew if she was too frustrated or humiliated.

Anyway, at this point, Shangguan Wan deeply understood what it meant by utter humiliation!

At this moment, Chu Liuyue's clear voice rang out and broke the silence. "Hey, the Third Princess is inviting you back."

Chu Liuyue was talking to the Tianling Power Staff. Even though she really wanted to hold the Tianling Power Staff directly, it didn't seem very appropriate at this time...

The Tianling Power Staff listened to her and finally moved. Its surrounding light turned on and off as if it was breathing; then, it directly flew to Chu Liuyue's side and stuck itself to the floor!

*Zing!*

The end of the staff slammed into the white stone and let out a low sound.

Actually, it was just a fist away from Chu Liuyue's leg. As long as Chu Liuyue reached out, she could hold it up.

Chu Liuyue looked down, her eyelids twitching. *Does it think that it hasn't caused enough trouble? This is even more impactful than me directly going over to snatch it!*

...

There wasn't a single more humiliating incident than this. Nobody could ignore such a stark contrast even if they wanted to.

On the one hand, Shangguan Wan was sincerely begging the Tianling Power Staff to return, but the staff completely ignored her. On the other hand, Chu Liuyue was convincing the Tianling Power Staff to leave, but the staff just stuck to her.

Everyone saw this clearly, and they now knew that the Tianling Power Staff wanted to stay with Chu Liuyue!

In the venue, the two women standing opposite each other had a very strange atmosphere.

Nobody expected such a thing would happen in an ascension ceremony.

Shangguan Wan stared at Chu Liuyue with a deadly gaze. *That's not right! There must be a problem! There are so many people here. Why would the Tianling Power Staff choose Chu Liuyue?! If they said that she didn't use any tricks, I wouldn't believe it even if I died!*

“Chu Liuyue, what exactly do you want?! The Tianling Power Staff is a holy item of the entire dynasty! Even if you want to play tricks, you should know your limits! How can you set your eyes on this?!” Shangguan Wan clenched her fists tightly and painfully yelled, “It's fine if you snatched the legendary fiend back then, but now, you won't even let go of the Tianling Power Staff that my Shangguan family's ancestor left behind?! You're outrageous!”

Once she said this, the crowd was stunned. *What is Shangguan Wan talking about? Snatch a legendary fiend? What happened? Hearing this... Could it be that Chu Liuyue snatched the legendary fiend that originally belonged to the Third Princess?*

Chu Liuyue's expression became cold as she looked at Shangguan Wan in a seemingly smiling manner. There seemed to be a cold light shimmering in her eyes. “Third Princess, what do you mean? Why do I not understand you?”

Shangguan Wan coldly sneered. “I went to Dahuang Swamp for my father back then, and we coincidentally met a fiend that was going to break through and become a legendary fiend in the Mystic Forest. It's a pity that there was a barrier outside and people guarding it, so nobody could enter. When I was fighting with that person, you took the chance to enter and made an agreement with the legendary fiend while the lightning tribulation struck it! Quite a few people saw this. How dare you deny it?!”

“You snatched that legendary fiend, yet I didn't hold it against you because I took into account the fact that you were willing to give up its blood to treat Father. It's also your ability to be able to make an agreement with that legendary fiend! But this time, I won't ever agree if you want to play tricks and snatch the Tianling Power Staff!”

The crowd burst into an uproar.

They had long heard that Chu Liuyue had made an agreement with a legendary fiend and came back, but they didn't know that there were so many twists and turns in between. *If it's really like what Shangguan Wan said, then Chu Liuyue's behavior isn't legitimate...*

Seeing that the surrounding people seemed to be leaning toward her, Shangguan Wan felt much better and sighed deeply. She then said, "I know you come from a lowly background and that it's inevitable for you to feel greedy whenever you see something nice. I tried my best to satisfy whatever you wanted previously, and I even gave you the legendary fiend! How are you not satisfied?! If you want anything, you need to do it legitimately! If you have such despicable thoughts and use such methods every time, things won't truly belong to you even if you get them! Also, how can you feel at ease?!"

Shangguan Wan was sure that Chu Liuyue had used some tricks to cause the Tianling Power Staff to be so crazy. That was why she was so rude and kept insinuating that the latter did wrong!

When the crowd heard this, quite a few people expressed their doubts. *That's right! No matter how capable Chu Liuyue is, this Tianling Power Staff won't go find her for no rhyme or reason! Did she... really do something in secret?*

### **Chapter 875: A Gamble!**

Chu Liuyue very patiently listened to the Third Princess talk, but she didn't look guilty or humiliated at all as she was exposed or scolded. Instead, she smiled. *I haven't even spoken these words to Shangguan Wan, yet the latter has played the blame game first. She can really distort the truth.*

"It seems like I'm really someone who can do everything in your eyes, Third Princess. Not only can I casually make an agreement with a legendary fiend, but I can even play with the Tianling Power Staff at will," she said coldly, and a smile was suddenly plastered on her face. "Third Princess, since you think so highly of me, won't I be letting down your 'kind intentions' if I don't do anything?"



Originally, Shangguan Wan was still quite delighted. She thought that she had the upper hand and would definitely be able to force Chu Liuyue to give in.

But upon hearing the other girl say this, she felt uneasy again. *Isn't Chu Liuyue saying that I look down on the Tianling Power Staff?*

"I-I don't mean it that way!"

"Elder Chen Ke, there's something I would like to ask." However, Chu Liuyue ignored Shangguan Wan as her gaze moved until she looked at Elder Chen Ke by the side.

"W-what?" Elder Chen Ke didn't expect Chu Liuyue to suddenly talk to him, so he was instantly stunned.

Chu Liuyue glanced at the Tianling Power Staff beside her hand as her red lips curled up slightly and smiled deeply. "Just like what the Third Princess said, the Tianling Power Staff is the Tianling Dynasty's holy item and is extremely dignified. Rumors have it that whoever can lift the Tianling Power Staff up can successfully ascend the throne. Then... What if I do it?"

Elder Chen Ke instantly widened his eyes in shock. *Is Chu Liuyue crazy?! Does she even know what she's saying?! Lifting the Tianling Power Staff... Is she trying to usurp the throne openly?!*

"Impossible!" Before Elder Chen Ke could react, Shangguan Wan shrilly denied it. "Even if you use some method to make the Tianling Power Staff lose control temporarily, you definitely can't lift it up or receive its recognition!"

Shangguan Wan said this confidently. This was because Shangguan Jing was the one who left the Tianling Power Staff behind. From olden times till now, only the people with the Tianling royal family's bloodline could get near the Tianling Power Staff and receive its recognition!

*What background does Chu Liuyue have to have such a thought? She must be dreaming!*

"Oh? Then, why don't we make a bet?" Chu Liuyue wasn't frustrated as she shrugged her shoulders.

Shangguan Wan became alert. "What bet?"

"If I can lift this Tianling Power Staff and receive its recognition, then—"

"In your dreams!" Shangguan Wan immediately interrupted her words violently. "Chu Liuyue, considering your background, do you really think you can be related to my Tianling royal family?! Don't even think about it!"

*If Chu Liuyue dares to say that and uses it to fight for the throne, I will definitely order people to lock Chu Liuyue up and convict her to death for rebelling!*

Chu Liuyue lightly laughed. "Third Princess, why are you in such a hurry? I haven't finished my sentence. If I can do these things, I would like you to reinvestigate the Princess's death!"

*Boom!*

Chu Liuyue's sentence was like thunder striking beside the crowd's ears! Countless people widened their eyes in shock and looked at her in disbelief. *Did Chu Liuyue say to reinvestigate the Princess's death?*

*What does that mean? Didn't the Princess die because she went crazy from cultivation? Reinvestigation... Does it mean that there's another reason behind the Princess's death?*

Quite a few people had doubts about this issue, but they all stopped their investigations due to various reasons in these past two years. Gradually, nobody brought this up again.

Some people even felt that they should keep mum about everything regarding the Princess for some reason.

That dazzling woman who was as high as the sun finally landed like a shooting star and completely disappeared, falling into eternal silence. Barely anyone even brought her up.

When Chu Liuyue said that she wanted to make a bet, quite a few people guessed what request she would make. However, nobody ever thought that she would mention such a thing!

Shangguan Wan was also dazed. She even thought she had misheard something for one moment. "W-what did you say?"

Chu Liuyue slowly repeated her words. "What, are you reluctant, Third Princess?"

"Do you know what you're saying?" At the side, Jiang Yucheng finally recovered his senses. His face seemed to be covered by a layer of frost as he knitted his brows tightly and coldly asked, "The Princess's death already had its conclusion back then, yet you want to reinvestigate it. Do you not trust us?"

No matter how much he liked Chu Liuyue, he couldn't stand her saying such things.

Whining or causing a small commotion wouldn't harm the greater good. He wouldn't even care if Chu Liuyue mocked and targeted Shangguan Wan. However, he couldn't show any mercy if it concerned the Princess's death!

Chu Liuyue didn't seem to hear the threat in his words as she honestly nodded. "Yeah, I just don't trust you."

Jiang Yucheng was suddenly stumped and said after a while, "This matter is very serious. How can we do as you say?"

"Isn't there the Tianling Power Staff?" Chu Liuyue blinked and smiled. "Could it be that the distinguished Tianling Power Staff can't even exchange for a chance to reinvestigate the Princess's death?"

Chu Liuyue's words were too crafty, and nobody dared to say 'no.'

The Princess's identity was dignified, and she was very reputable, but she was still a step lower when compared to the Tianling Power Staff. Whoever dared to deny the Tianling Power Staff would be akin to defaming Shangguan Jing!

Jiang Yucheng could only change his tune. "It's not that you can't, but if you insist on this, you have to at least produce some evidence to prove that the incident back then was amiss! It has to prove that there was indeed something amiss with the Princess's death! If not, I definitely can't agree to this!"

We committed the crime back then without leaving a single loophole, and we also didn't leave behind much evidence. No matter why Chu Liuyue suddenly became related to this, she definitely can't find any clues or discover the truth about that matter!

But when Chu Liuyue heard this, she relaxingly nodded. “Okay! As long as you accede to my request, I can produce evidence today. Third Princess, Prince Consort, I hope that... you won’t regret it by then.”

When Jiang Yucheng saw how calm Chu Liuyue looked, his heart suddenly skipped a beat as he felt very uneasy. *Being so confident about this in front of so many people means that Chu Liuyue definitely didn’t do this for fun. If she’s so determined, could it really—*

“I’ll agree to your request!” Before he could reject her, Shangguan Wan directly agreed! “If you can lift the Tianling Power Staff and receive its recognition, I’ll accede to your request to reinvestigate! But if you can’t do it... Then, you need to sacrifice yourself to Tianling! What do you think?!”

The crowd gasped. *Chu Liuyue just wants to reinvestigate the Princess’s death, yet Shangguan Wan is planning to drive the former to her death.*

Chu Liuyue raised her chin slightly and slowly smiled, her gaze as sharp as daggers. “Okay!”

Chapter 876: A Face

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

Nobody expected things would develop to this stage.

Chu Liuyue actually used her life as the wager to exchange for a chance to reinvestigate the Princess’s death!

After a temporary silence, the crowd broke into an uproar. “Is Chu Liuyue crazy? What exactly is she thinking? She actually wants to reinvestigate the Princess’s death no matter the cost?”

“Didn’t they say that she’s born in a small place outside Heaven’s Canopy? Why would she be related to the Princess?”

“I don’t understand... I really don’t understand... These past two years, people did think of doing this, but they gradually gave up in the end. Isn’t she just causing trouble for herself? What can she do alone?”

“Um... Aren’t you curious why Chu Liuyue is so confident to say this? Seeing the Tianling Power Staff’s attitude toward her, I think she might be able to do it! Since when could someone without the Tianling royal family bloodline do this?”

This question was actually what the crowd was most curious about. No matter how they thought about it, this Tianling Power Staff shouldn’t be related to Chu Liuyue at all, right?

Jiang Yucheng also heard quite a few of these whispers. He looked at Chu Liuyue and stared at those familiar eyes and brows.

Suddenly, a ridiculous thought surfaced in his mind. But the next moment, he immediately shook his head with strength to dispel this thought! Impossible! Back then, Shangguan Yue had already committed suicide by burning herself to death! She’s definitely not alive! At that time, I repeatedly confirmed it and wouldn’t be wrong!

Even though he kept convincing himself like this, the doubtful voice in his heart couldn’t go away. If Chu Liuyue really has nothing to do with Shangguan Yue, why would she involve herself in this matter? And that Tianling Power Staff... It didn’t care about all of these people—not even Shangguan Wan, a legitimate princess of the royal family—yet it treated Chu Liuyue differently!

Finally, he couldn't help but look at Mu Qinghe, who wasn't far away. However, the latter was also staring at Chu Liuyue in confusion and shock.

As the Black Guard's assistant commander, he was in charge of the security within and outside of the palace today.

Lang Kun Hall was the most important place, so he had been guarding it the entire time.

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows tightly. Mu Qinghe was the one who personally brought Chu Liuyue back. When I first saw Chu Liuyue, I suspected her and told Mu Qinghe to investigate her secretly. The results were that there was no problem with Chu Liuyue's identity. She's indeed a girl that was abandoned by a desolated family in Country Yao Chen when she was young, and she coincidentally defied the gods and changed her fate after a twist of fate. After surviving so many ordeals, she finally made it to Xi Ling. But now... What is going on?

Jiang Yucheng became even more nervous and uneasy as he felt that things had spiraled out of control and was swiftly moving in an unknown direction! Even he couldn't be sure what would happen in the end!

But at this point, Jiang Yucheng wasn't the only one who was completely stunned.

Mu Qinghe stared at the nearby Chu Liuyue and was shocked when he heard her words. She wants to reinvestigate the Princess's death? Who exactly is she?

Coincidentally, Hong Yao also flew over at this point.

Seeing it flap its green wings in a seemingly frustrated manner as its pair of round eyes stared closely at Chu Liuyue as if it were waiting or expecting something, a thought suddenly surfaced in Mu Qinghe's mind as his entire body stiffened.

His lips moved slightly, and he called Hong Yao back. "Hong Yao."

Hearing that his voice sounded amiss, Hong Yao finally turned around to take a look.

There seemed to be endless ripples in Mu Qinghe's eyes. "Who... exactly is she?!"

...

Everyone's gazes seemed to be gathered on Chu Liuyue at this moment.

The girl lowered her head and glanced at the Tianling Power Staff. Originally, I didn't want to be this open about it. But since it gave me face, then... I don't need to restrain myself!

Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue fixed her gaze and reached out for the dragon head engraved on the top.

The Tianling Power Staff was actually right beside her, and it was within her reach! Hence, Chu Liuyue just had to move her arm, and her fingers could already touch the Tianling Power Staff!

The crowd unwittingly held in their breaths and were very nervous as they stared at it closely.



Whir!

The expected resistance and rejection didn't happen. As Chu Liuyue's hands officially held the Tianling Power Staff, a whirring sound was heard.

At the same time, the light quickly gathered in the eyes of the dragon head!

Shua!

The tightly shut dragon eyes suddenly widened, and a golden light shot out from within, going straight for the skies!

At that moment, the bright light shone everywhere as the holy light landed and wrapped around Chu Liuyue!

The winds howled, and her clothes swayed with it as her hair flew up!

At first glance, she was more distinguished than ever!

At that moment, Chu Liuyue felt that her force seemed to be led by something as it quickly gathered and almost burst out!

It was as if something that originally belonged to her finally came back—it was a perfect union!

Almost instinctively, she held the staff and raised it high!

In the skies, clouds rapidly gathered. With the Tianling Power Staff's light as the center, they quickly gathered to form a whirlwind!

It covered the entire sky, and the aura was formidable!

The next moment, Chu Liuyue moved her wrist slightly!

A heavy aura, together with harsh murderous intent, went straight for Shangguan Wan!

Shangguan Wan was stunned and immediately wanted to retreat! However, how could her speed be compared to the Tianling Power Staff?!

Boom!

That terrifying force brushed past her left shoulder and instantly shaved off a large piece of meat.

"Ah!!!" Shangguan Wan screamed and directly flew backward, harshly landing on the floor.

Whoosh!

She suddenly spat out blood!

Her back and left shoulder hurt excruciatingly, and her ribs seemed to be broken. Her organs and tissues were squeezed into a ball, and it was so uncomfortable that she felt like she was about to explode.

She struggled to get up with a vengeance and was about to scold Chu Liuyue when she suddenly heard gasps from the crowd.

Shangguan Wan instantly felt that something was amiss, so she looked at the crowd and immediately saw countless pairs of shocked and disgusted eyes!

They... were looking at her!

Suddenly, Shangguan Wan realized something was wrong and felt that her face was burning!

She knew something bad had happened, and she instantly touched her face. It was rough and sticky to touch—extremely terrifying!

Her mask actually fell!

### **Chapter 877: It Moved Itself**

Shangguan Wan instantly felt endless horror and panic as she let out a shrill and instinctively used her hands to cover her face. However, the crowd had already seen her very clearly when she was dazed!

That originally petite and beautiful face suddenly became as ugly as ever, being filled with scars. From afar, it looked like worms were scattered all across her face, causing one's heart to shudder!

The surrounding crowd instantly fell into an eerie silence. Quite a few people exchanged glances and secretly conversed. *It's no wonder the Third Princess kept saying she was ill and refused to leave Huayang Palace after she came back from Dahuang Swamp. She only started to see people again after a long period of time, when increasingly more people wanted to see her and the things she had to handle became increasingly troublesome. But in most situations, she still wouldn't leave the palace.*

The crowd really thought that she was injured because of His Majesty, so she needed to rest in bed properly. However, they didn't know that this was the reason behind it!

Her face was completely disfigured!

Feeling the countless gazes from the surroundings landing on her, Shangguan Wan felt hatred, frustration, and vengeance!

Even though she had already ingested the legendary fiend's blood that came from Chu Liuyue earlier and her facial injury had already taken a turn for the better, it still hadn't fully recovered as she hadn't used the medicine for long.

The deep and faint scars were much better than her face that kept rotting, but it was still terrifying to the crowd!

Shangguan Wan trembled and immediately wanted to disappear!

The surroundings were deadly silent, which made her feel extremely tortured!

“Your Highness—” Chan Yi—who was standing at the back—was the first to react when she saw this scene. She hurriedly rushed over and wanted to help Shangguan Wan up.

“Get lost!” Shangguan Wan pushed Chan Yi away.

At this very moment, everyone was watching her as a joke!

She swiftly struggled to stand up, and from the corner of her eyes, she saw her broken mask on the floor.

It was a thin layer that was stained with dust and blood, looking extremely dirty. It was as if someone ripped off her face and harshly stepped on it!

She slowly raised her head and glared at Chu Liuyue, her eyes filled with vengeance. It looked as though she wanted to eat Chu Liuyue’s meat and drink her blood!

“You... did it on purpose!” Shangguan Wan squeezed out every single word from the gaps of her teeth with deep anger and vengeance! *Only a few people know that my face is disfigured, and Chu Liuyue clearly did this to expose my ugly appearance in front of everyone!*

Chu Liuyue looked at her and revealed a hint of apology on her face. “Ah! Third Princess, I’m really sorry! My hand slipped. Are... you okay?”

*H-a-n-d s-l-i-p-p-e-d?!*

Shangguan Wan became so furious at this sentence that she almost laughed! *I really underestimated Chu Liuyue as she can even make up such a reason! Chu Liuyue held the Tianling Power Staff, but why did it choose her out of so many people present?! Furthermore, she even caused my mask to drop!*

If one said she didn't do it on purpose, Shangguan Wan wouldn't believe it even if she was beaten to death. "You bitc—"

"Wan'er!" Just as Shangguan Wan was about to blurt out vulgarities and scold the other girl, Jiang Yucheng immediately spoke up at the side and forcefully interrupted her sentence.

He darkened his face and walked over with arrow steps. "You're injured. We should check your injury first. Leave the remaining things to me."

*At this point, Shangguan Wan has already lost it. If she continues making a commotion, something might really happen.*

"Physician Zuo!" he yelled at Zuo Mingxi.

Zuo Mingxi hurriedly went forward.

"Please take care of the Third Princess's wound."

“Yes!” Zuo Mingxi agreed readily and took out a pill. “Your Highness, please take this!”

*Seeing this, let alone the external injury, her internal injury might also be serious...*

“You...” Shangguan Wan was just about to fling Jiang Yucheng’s hand away when she felt excruciating pain as her face suddenly turned white.

*Shua!*

Her cold sweat dropped down.

Jiang Yucheng took the medicine. “Wan’er, eat the medicine first.”

Shangguan Wan looked up with much difficulty and glanced at him.

There was no heartache in his eyes at all, only coldness, nonchalance, and a hint of warning. This was warning her not to cause trouble at this point!

Sourness overwhelmed Shangguan Wan’s heart. Even though she long knew that he had no feelings for her, she was injured and exposed in front of so many people at this moment. She was utterly humiliated, yet he still didn’t have any form of pity for her.

Ever since they fought the day before, he didn’t even want to act any longer! He wasn’t at all worried about how much she would be mocked after this day.

Shangguan Wan felt hopeless in her heart as water rushed up and gradually drowned her.

Jiang Yucheng fed the pill to her, and she mechanically opened her mouth to swallow it.

Then, under Jiang Yucheng's instructions, both Chan Yi and Zuo Mingxi went forward to check on her injury.

*After taking her pulse, Zuo Mingxi was stunned. Two forces seem to be crazily going for each other in Shangguan Wan's body! If she doesn't settle it as soon as possible, it will spell danger!*

"Your Highness, your injury seems more serious. Why don't we go down and treat it?" said Zuo Mingxi carefully.

However, Shangguan Wan directly rejected it and stared closely at Chu Liuyue. "I'm not leaving!"

*Today is my wedding day and the day I ascend the throne! I'm the main star today, so why should I leave?! The ascension ceremony hasn't even started. Why should I leave? I want to see what kind of trouble this Chu Liuyue can cause today!*

Zuo Mingxi looked at Jiang Yucheng to ask for help.

Jiang Yucheng didn't force Shangguan Wan, as long as she knew her limits. *If she really leaves, the scene will be even more terrible.*



He nodded. "Take good care of the Third Princess."

Then, he turned around and looked at Chu Liuyue.

The gentle smiling intent on his face at the start of the wedding had already disappeared, now replaced by coldness with hints of anger. "Chu Liuyue, do you know how serious it is for you to harm the Third Princess!?"

Even if it were him, he also felt that Chu Liuyue did it on purpose.

Chu Liuyue lightly sighed and glanced at the Tianling Power Staff in her hands.

At this point, the golden light that shot through the sky had already gradually disappeared, leaving the pair of dragon eyes still glowing with light. It was bright and oppressive!

*How must I explain it to them so that they believe I didn't do it on purpose and that the Tianling Power Staff did it itself... It was about to awaken earlier on, and its aura exploded. Before I could even react, it had already attacked Shangguan Wan!*

In her eyes, that move was more of a warning than an attack. If not, Shangguan Wan's injuries wouldn't be this light.

Thinking of this, she squinted her eyes and looked at Shangguan Wan. "Honestly speaking, the Tianling Power Staff did it itself just now."

## Chapter 878: Clingy Sprite

“Nonsense!” When Shangguan Wan heard this, she immediately retorted. “Why would the Tianling Power Staff do this out of nowhere? I’m of the Tianling royal family’s bloodline!”

*Even if there were people who failed in picking the Tianling Power Staff up, we have never heard of the staff attacking anyone! Chu Liuyue’s words are a joke!*

“Exactly. With your identity, why would the Tianling Power Staff do this to you?” Chu Liuyue smiled slightly and asked in return. “If I didn’t recall wrongly, the Tianling Power Staff seemed quite resistant toward you when you tried to pick it up just now.”

Just as Shangguan Wan was about to rage at Chu Liuyue, she was instantly stumped when she heard this. Her remaining words got stuck in her throat, and she felt very uncomfortable, but she couldn’t say a single word.

*She instantly felt guilty, and her gaze became dodgy. Actually, she had also noticed this problem. Since the start, the Tianling Power Staff has been very rude to me and has shown no signs of becoming obedient. When I invited Senior to help me after that, it directly exploded and caused me to fly backward... Could it be because of this?*

As she was furious just now, she scolded without a care. However, Chu Liuyue’s sentence instantly made her uncertain.

*If it’s really because of this...* She clenched her teeth and insisted on saying, “I don’t know what you’re talking about!”

The surrounding people's gazes became incredulous. *Chu Liuyue's words make sense! When Shangguan Wan tried to hold the Tianling Power Staff in the beginning, it wasn't successful, and there seemed to be something wrong... Even if she couldn't lift the Tianling Power Staff up and receive its recognition, there is no need to attack her and cause her to roll down the nine flights of stairs... Is there really something wrong with Shangguan Wan?*

"Y-you—don't try to shirk responsibility! You clearly know about my face. It became like this because your fiend scratched it, yet you're treating me in this way in public. Don't you clearly want me to humiliate myself?!"

Seeing that things were going south, Shangguan Wan immediately changed her tune and retracted her vengeance and anger on her face. Then, she started crying as if she had been wronged.

Chu Liuyue sneered in her heart. *You're trying to make me your scapegoat? You have to see if I agree with it first!*

"Third Princess, you've misunderstood me. When your face was scratched, I hadn't even made an agreement with it, so it's really not my fault. Besides, even though the trouble that Tuan Zi previously caused was unrelated to me, I felt bad and directly went into the palace to give you and His Majesty the blood of a legendary fiend once I came back. If I really dislike you, why would I do this?"

Chu Liuyue spoke lightly, and she looked sincere.

Shangguan Wan was so enraged that her chest heaved up and down as she widened her eyes. However, she couldn't say a single word. *I was the one who asked for the legendary fiend's blood, but why did Chu Liuyue make it seem like she willingly gave it up? She's lying through her teeth!*

Though Shangguan Wan's blood was boiling, she couldn't retort. *How can I admit in public that I forced Chu Liuyue to give out the blood of a legendary fiend?*

Seeing Shangguan Wan's stumped expression, quite a few people despised her in their hearts. *Since it was a mistake that happened before they made an agreement, it naturally has nothing to do with Chu Liuyue. It's already very rare for her to offer her help willingly, yet Shangguan Wan played the blame game! One can easily tell what their personalities are like!*

At this point, Jiang Yucheng finally spoke. "Even if so, it's true that you hurt the Third Princess. Hence, you must take responsibility for this."

In front of the crowd, he naturally had to stand on Shangguan Wan's side. Besides, he wasn't even sure of Chu Liuyue's identity now, let alone what she was planning. Thus, he was naturally very guarded.

Chu Liuyue glanced at the Tianling Power Staff. *You cause even more trouble than me...*

The Tianling Power Staff trembled undetectably.

"After this ends, I'll naturally do what I have to do. But now... We can decide on the winner of this gamble, right?" said Chu Liuyue as she raised her arm and twisted her wrist.

*Shua!*

She held the Tianling Power Staff tightly in her hands and pointed the dragon head toward Jiang Yucheng.

Jiang Yucheng's heart skipped a beat. For some reason, he felt anxious when facing that pair of golden dragon eyes. It was like... they could see through everything!

He instinctively averted his gaze and knitted his brows.

“I’ve already lifted this Tianling Power Staff up and received its recognition. Then...” Chu Liuyue dangerously squinted her eyes as her red lips curled up, but her eyes were cold and nonchalant. “Can we reinvestigate the Princess’s death?”

...

The large Lang Kun Hall was completely silent.

Chu Liuyue held the Tianling Power Staff up high, and its dragon eyes were burning brightly.

Everyone knew that Chu Liuyue had indeed won this bet. When they heard her mention the reinvestigation of the Princess’s death, quite a few of them had conflicted gazes.

Who would’ve thought such a grand and solemn ceremony would end up in this manner?

Almost everyone looked toward Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng.

With everyone watching, they couldn’t go back on their words on the spot.

This time... They had to investigate!

Jiang Yucheng stared at Chu Liuyue closely and said after a while, "Okay! Since you've done it, then... The Third Princess and I will admit our defeat!"

The crowd broke into an uproar. *This means he has agreed! They're really going to reinvestigate the Princess's death! Everything happened too quickly two years ago, and there are indeed many doubts. And now... Is it finally going to be checked clearly?*

"Do you think there's really something wrong with the Princess's death? The Tianling Power Staff felt that the Princess died wrongfully, so it let Chu Liuyue succeed in exchange for this chance?"

"It can't be... Wasn't it already concluded back then? Even the Princess's confidants didn't really make much of a ruckus... If there's really a problem, why would they take this lying down?"

"Why not? The Princess's confidants from back then are either dead or injured now, especially the Thirteen Yue Guards, who are still being pursued. The remaining confidants are only a handful. If you must talk about it, only Mu Qinghe can still do something..."

"I think so too! If not, it really can't explain how Chu Liuyue managed to lift the Tianling Power Staff! If she's so persistent, was she one of the Princess's people back then?"

The crowd discussed, and all sorts of guesses emerged.

Jiang Yucheng roughly heard what they said, and his heart was in a mess.

He looked at Chu Liuyue and boomed, “Put the Tianling Power Staff back onto the black Xuan stone first. We can talk about these things later.”

After all, this was a holy item of the Tianling Dynasty. Why should Chu Liuyue keep holding it in her hands? Especially when there’s an unkempt Shangguan Wan at the side!

The comparison was miserable—A joke!

Chu Liuyue’s eyebrows rose slightly. “Okay.”

Then, she flung her wrist.

The Tianling Power Staff rapidly flew out!

But not long after it flew out, the Tianling Power Staff suddenly changed its direction and flew back to stand in front of Chu Liuyue.

The dragon head lightly tapped the back of Chu Liuyue’s hand before it shook. It was as though it was fishing for a compliment. *Hehe, I’m back again! Did you miss me?*

The corner of Chu Liuyue’s lips twitched.

**Chapter 879: Interrogation!**

*How should I put it?* In her previous life, she naturally didn't see the Tianling Power Staff since she didn't make it to her wedding day.

In Chu Liuyue's heart, the Tianling Power Staff was a very solemn and holy existence. It was high and mighty, and nobody could go near it. Hence, when the Tianling Power Staff took the initiative to fly over to her today, she was shocked and surprised.

With the staff in her hands, it was also a sort of repayment for the emptiness she had felt back then.

*However... Nobody ever told me the Tianling Power Staff was so clingy!* Seeing the excited and energetic Tianling Power Staff that was waiting for a compliment, even Chu Liuyue—who had a very strong mentality—almost broke down at one moment. *You are happy, but please think about me! There are so many people watching!*

Normally, Chu Liuyue didn't really care much about the other people's gazes. It was only at this moment that she actually felt the burn.

"Ahem!" Chu Liuyue clenched her fist, placed it by her mouth, and coughed. Then, she stretched out her hand and pushed it. "Um... I think you should go back..."

As if the Tianling Power Staff didn't hear those words, it still shook its dragon head and spun around, having zero intention of going back.

*Shua!*

Something flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes.



Tuan Zi suddenly flew out and stared straight at the Tianling Power Staff with its pair of watery eyes. *She already told you to go back. Why are you still sticking around?*

The Tianling Power Staff paused, changed to another position to shake, and moved back and forth by Chu Liuyue's hand. *Why do you care? I'm not even a legendary fiend. Why are you jealous of me?*

Tuan Zi was confused.

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *Clearly, one is a legendary fiend, and the other is a holy object. Bringing out either one of them will cause others to be extremely envious, but why do I feel humiliated for some reason?*

Seeing that they were about to continue quarreling, Chu Liuyue swiftly grabbed Tuan Zi's wings and placed the fiend on her shoulders.

But the moment she let go, Tuan Zi struggled to rush out. The Tianling Power Staff also jumped back as if it were challenging the fiend.

Chu Liuyue held her forehead helplessly and loudly yelled when she couldn't take it anymore. "Stop being a nuisance!"

...

It was finally quiet.

The Tianling Power Staff stood obediently at the side, and Tuan Zi stood on Chu Liuyue's shoulders.

Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief and looked at Jiang Yucheng. "Uh... I've already tried my best... I really can't do anything about this either..."

Jiang Yucheng's expression was strange.

There was no choice. Whoever saw the previous scene would not be calm.

However, Jiang Yucheng had seen all kinds of scenarios before, so he quickly calmed himself down.

Seeing that the Tianling Power Staff was really sticking by Chu Liuyue's side and refused to leave, harping on this matter would only cause Shangguan Wan to be even more humiliated. The best way was to ignore it first.

Hence, Jiang Yucheng directly changed the topic. "Let's not talk about this matter first. About what you said earlier... We'll send people to form a team later to specifically investigate—"

"No need." Chu Liuyue smiled and interrupted Jiang Yucheng's words. "That's too troublesome. We'll just start from here directly."

"W-what?" Jiang Yucheng was stunned for once as he didn't know what Chu Liuyue meant.

Even Shangguan Wan couldn't help but open her mouth and coldly say, "Start from here? How can this be done? Chu Liuyue, you have to be clear that this is Lang Kun Hall! How dare you cause a ruckus here!"

*Forget her stealing the limelight by using the Tianling Power Staff, but she wants to start investigating Shangguan Yue's death here directly?! She's thinking too much!*

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows. "After all, today is my wedding with the Third Princess..."

Even though Jiang Yucheng didn't really care about Shangguan Wan, he still thought highly of this wedding. *Shangguan Wan has already been humiliated enough. If Shangguan Yue's incident is brought in, it will become an even bigger mess!*

Hearing what Jiang Yucheng said, Shangguan Wan had a few hints of vengeance on her face. "Chu Liuyue, if you insist on doing so, aren't you just jealous of me being happy? It's my wedding day, yet you purposely brought these matters up. Are you sincerely cursing me?"

Chu Liuyue widened her eyes and looked confused. "Third Princess, why would you say that? Didn't you always say that the Princess is your most respected elder sister? Why would you feel that bringing her up today is a curse to you?"

Shangguan Wan was instantly stumped.

Chu Liuyue smiled and said, "The Princess has always doted on you. If she knew that you were marrying Prince Consort today, she would definitely be happy for you. Don't you think so?"

A chill suddenly went down Shangguan Wan's spine and shot through the skies!

“Enough!” She violently interrupted Chu Liuyue’s words. “Just do whatever you want!”

*Back then, Shangguan Yue had already died to the extreme. All the evidence and clues have basically been destroyed as well. There is no way of investigating it! I don’t believe these people can really discover something after two years!*

“Wan—” Jiang Yucheng instinctively wanted to stop her, but Shangguan Wan had already said it.

He clenched his hands in his fists tightly. For some reason, he felt anxious.

“Thank you for your understanding, Third Princess.” Chu Liuyue smiled and agreed as she took a step forward.

Everyone looked over and had various expressions.

Chu Liuyue looked straight at Jiang Yucheng, and her smile faded away. There seemed to be a cold gaze in her eyes. “Back then, the Princess’s funeral was handled by the Third Princess and the Prince Consort. Then, the two of you should understand the incident the best, right?”

Jiang Yucheng didn’t understand what she wanted to do but still nodded. “That’s right.”

He was still a lowly fiancé at that time, and Shangguan Wan was the only slightly older one out of all the royal family’s descendants, so they naturally were in charge of it.

Everyone knew this.

“Okay. I have a few questions for you then.” Chu Liuyue raised one finger. “First question: Prince Consort, you were the first person to discover what happened to the Princess, right?”

“Yes,” replied Jiang Yucheng without hesitation.

Actually, countless people had already asked these questions before, so he, Shangguan Wan, and the rest had already come up with a story. Even if Chu Liuyue asked another hundred times openly, he would still say that.

“Back then, the Princess said that she wanted to cultivate and try to break through to become a stage-nine warrior. Hence, she chose to seclude herself. I was guarding her from outside, but not long later, I felt that something was amiss. When I barged in, I found that the Princess was on the verge of dying.”

Jiang Yucheng said it very smoothly and calmly as if the scene was indeed this that day.

Chu Liuyue raised her second finger. “Okay, the second question then. Why would the Princess not cultivate earlier or later and specifically choose the day before her wedding—which was very important to her—to try and break through to become a stage-nine warrior? All cultivators know that breaking through has risks to it. The higher one’s cultivation level is, the more time they require for the breakthrough. If she did this, was she not planning to participate in the wedding the next day?”

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Jiang Yucheng answered naturally, "Others don't know what the Princess was thinking, but everyone knew that the next day was also her ascension ceremony, other than her wedding. Perhaps she did this to hold up the Tianling Power Staff and stand at the top in a better position. Besides, she had a Tianjing Yuan meridian. For normal cultivators, breaking through to become a stage-nine warrior might be something they can only wish for in their lives. However, it might be much easier for her."

This made sense.

Not long after the Princess was born, she was tested to have a Tianjing Yuan meridian. Ever since then, she had been the top talent in the entire Tianling Dynasty. No matter as a warrior, Xuan Master, or a heavenly doctor, she had a lot of potential!

If she had such thoughts, it wasn't strange.

Chu Liuyue nodded in deep thought and then asked, "Since this is so, why would the Princess go to the ancestral hall instead of cultivating at her own place if she had planned on focusing on her cultivation? I recall that the Tianling royal family's ancestral hall was also ruined because of this, right?"

"As the descendant to the Tianling Dynasty's throne, what's wrong with the Princess going to the ancestral hall?" asked Jiang Yucheng in return.

"Of course, there's nothing wrong. According to what you said, the Princess had been in the ancestral hall for the entire day or night the day before, right? Eldest Young Master Jiang, you... were also guarding outside the whole time?"

"Of course. Everyone serving us that day can attest to this." Jiang Yucheng had already answered all these questions countless times, and he could do it naturally and easily.

He gradually knitted his brows and looked at Chu Liuyue as he coldly said, "If your reinvestigation means asking these questions again in front of the crowd, let me tell you that there isn't any meaning at all. If you really doubt what happened back then, you must produce evidence. If not... There's no need to continue!"

"Why are you so anxious? I'm not done asking." Chu Liuyue smiled and suddenly looked at Weichi Song at the side. "Mentor, you should also have some things to ask Eldest Young Master Jiang, right?"

Upon hearing this, the crowd looked at Weichi Song in unison.

Weichi Song nodded and looked at Jiang Yucheng as he boomed, "Previously, I went to Thousand View Garden to retrieve some items I left there before. However... I discovered something wrong with the Princess's phoenix-tailed zither there."

Hearing the words 'phoenix-tailed zither,' Jiang Yucheng's heart suddenly sank.

"Everyone knows that the Princess loved that zither when she was alive, but I discovered that she had left behind a Xuan formation on it!" Weichi Song stared at Jiang Yucheng and said every single word clearly. "Even though I'm not a top Xuan Master, I have also dabbled in this area. The Xuan formation that the Princess carved on the zither was just a third-grade Xuan formation, but the most important point is that the Xuan formation's name is 'Trap Dragon Formation!'"

"If there really was no problem at all, why would the Princess leave such a Xuan formation on the ancient zither that she liked so much? From what I see, that Xuan formation's standard and suppression are nothing, but the Xuan formation's name has great meaning!"

"Trap Dragon Formation—because the dragon was trapped and was asking for help! The Princess clearly met with danger and purposely left such a Xuan formation behind, hinting to people that she had been harmed by villains!"

Everyone was shocked when he said this.

If what Weichi Song said was true, there would then be a huge problem with this! One had to know that the Princess was already very talented and outstanding in this area since she was born. She definitely wouldn't leave behind a mere third-grade Xuan formation on such a precious object!

Weichi Song's explanation was the only logical answer!

*Jiang Yucheng was stunned, and he clenched his fists tightly! I was careless! I took care of the zither room for two years, yet I never discovered such a hint on the ancient zither! Back then, I gave Shangguan Yue the last cup of tea in the zither room after she finished playing a tune. This was so the poison in her would be activated. Later on, she swiftly discovered that something was wrong and wanted to retaliate. But at that time, she was already not my match. In the end, I secretly sent her to the palace and brought her to the royal family's ancestral hall.*

*Back then, I always thought that everything progressed very smoothly. But thinking back on it now, she did struggle next to the ancient zither for quite some time. Did she leave the Xuan formation behind at that time?*

Jiang Yucheng tried his best to calm himself down as he said with a dark expression, "Cabinet Master Weichi, everything said must be based on evidence."

"The evidence is on that phoenix-tailed zither!" said Weichi Song immediately. "The zither room has always been in your care. As long as you send someone to retrieve the phoenix-tailed zither, we'll know what's going on!"

When the crowd heard this, they felt that it made sense as they gradually looked at Jiang Yucheng.



Jiang Yucheng pressed his lips against each other tightly. At this moment, he finally understood that this was the secret Weichi Song discovered in the zither room! *No wonder his attitude changed greatly after that. It turned out that he had already confirmed Shangguan Yue was harmed by others at that point. And as one of the closest few people to Shangguan Yue—one that regularly accompanied her to the zither room—I am the most suspicious!*

Jiang Yucheng took a deep breath and said, “That phoenix-tailed zither... went missing a while ago.”

At this point, he felt very grateful that the ancient zither went missing! If not, this matter could never be brushed aside if it really was like what Weichi Song said and they brought the zither out to verify!

The crowd was stunned! *Missing?! How could such an important thing go missing?!*

“Wasn’t Jiang Yucheng guarding the zither room all along? Why would the item suddenly go missing for no reason? Isn’t it too much of a coincidence...” Soft doubts were heard from the crowd.

Jiang Yucheng was also in a difficult position, but this was undoubtedly his best shield at this moment. “I failed in guarding it, causing the phoenix-tailed zither to be lost. During this period, I’ve always been sending people to find it in secret, but there hasn’t been much progress... I’m afraid that this trail of clues will be broken.”

Jiang Yucheng looked guilty, but his gaze was determined. “The item is not here, so we can’t verify if what Cabinet Master Weichi said was true or false. Cabinet Master Weichi, it’s not that I don’t trust you, but this matter is very important. Without concrete evidence, I wouldn’t dare to say much.”

Weichi Song retorted, “Does it mean that you will believe what I say if I can find the phoenix-tailed zither?”

Jiang Yucheng paused. "Yes. If the phoenix-tailed zither isn't here, we can't proceed on with everything today. This will all be empty talk."

Quite a few people looked disappointed. They thought that there were finally some clues, yet they disappeared just like that...

*If the Princess was really harmed by someone, then... The longer it drags on, the harder it will be to unearth the truth from back then!*

Right at this point, Weichi Song suddenly said, "What a coincidence. Someone coincidentally sent me a gift yesterday."

Jiang Yucheng looked up in shock! He then saw Weichi Song waving his sleeves, and an ancient zither appeared in front of the latter!

It was that phoenix-tailed zither!

"The item is here. Why don't we take a closer look at it?!"