

Noble Ruler 891

Chapter 891: Proving Her Identity!

I'm—Shangguan Yue!

This sentence was clear and forceful. The few words were like thunder that suddenly exploded!

Too many things had happened today, and pieces of explosive news came one after another. Just as the crowd thought that they had become numb from all sorts of secret information being exposed, Chu Liuyue's sentence caused ripples in their hearts again!

The words were like a hit to their heads, causing all of them to be stunned again! It was even stronger than the impact the others had caused earlier!

It wasn't only Jiang Yucheng and the rest. Shangguan You, Jian Fengchi, Weichi Song... Everyone who had agreed to collaborate and go against Jiang Yucheng, Shangguan Wan, and the others today were collectively shocked.

Nobody expected that Chu Liuyue would suddenly pop up with this statement when things were coming to a stalemate!

The venue was terrifyingly silent. At this point, even breathing became unnecessary!

Everyone looked at Chu Liuyue with eyes widened and mouths agape as they had a hard time digesting her previous sentence.

The mask on Jiang Yucheng's face finally cracked at this moment! He stared at Chu Liuyue in shock and fright as he stammered for once. "W-what did you say?! Who exactly are you?!"

Chu Liuyue's red lips curled up into a smile—this smile was beautiful and elegant! She was like the sun in the clouds that one could never reach, and she dazzled more than ever like a bright gem.

She was decked in elegance, and it made people respect her unwittingly! Everyone was unknowingly attracted to this woman.

She was slim and tall. Wearing a red dress, she looked simple and clean with her hair simply tied up!

She clearly didn't do anything, but her bodily aura changed drastically at that moment!

At this moment, she was like a pearl covered in dust that had finally wiped away its last layer of dust to reveal the glory that originally belonged to her.

The same thought almost flashed across everyone's minds at the same time. This is her. This is Chu Liuyue—no, or should we say... Shangguan Yue!?

Her back was straight, and she held the Tianling Power Staff tightly as she pointed at Jiang Yucheng.

Every single sentence was like a holy voice making a judgment.

“Jiang Yucheng, are you very disappointed that I didn’t die? If you still refuse to admit whatever you did before, I’ll be the last witness today!”

...

Who would’ve thought things would end up like this?

The Princess didn’t die... She actually didn’t die! That woman who had already been declared dead two years ago actually came back today?

At that moment, countless thoughts popped up in Jiang Yucheng’s head! *I-impossible! I specifically sent people to investigate Chu Liuyue’s background back then, and everything was shown to have no problems. Why would she suddenly become Shangguan Yue out of nowhere?!*

“You’re not her!” Jiang Yucheng almost immediately denied it. “She already died two years ago! There are no other possibilities! Chu Liuyue, don’t pretend! Do you know how big of a crime it is to impersonate the Princess?!”

Even though he retorted in this manner on the surface, Jiang Yucheng had lost all confidence in his heart. *If Chu Liuyue really is Shangguan Yue, then many things can be explained! That similar-looking gaze... That stunning talent and ability... And... the Tianling Power Staff! I was wondering why the Tianling Power Staff was so close to Chu Liuyue. If she is Shangguan Yue, there is nothing to doubt!*

Chu Liuyue raised her chin slightly, her gaze nonchalant. It was as though she was looking down on an ant. “Are you questioning my identity?”

“You’re clearly just an abandoned girl from a family in a small country outside Heaven’s Canopy!” Jiang Yucheng immediately argued as he stared at Chu Liuyue closely. “Your face, figure, age... Everything is right here! There’s no room for mistakes! You’re definitely not Shangguan Yue!”

At the side, Shangguan Wan could not help but yell, “That’s right! That b*tch can’t be more dead than she already is! How can she be alive?!”

She pointed at Chu Liuyue, and her gaze was filled with vengeance. “You’re just lying!”

Originally, I already thought that it was very humiliating for me to end up in this state on my wedding day. But who would’ve expected Chu Liuyue to arrogantly claim that she’s Shangguan Yue?

Shangguan Wan wasn’t afraid that everything she did would be exposed in front of the crowd, and she ignored all these people’s gazes of contempt and disdain! *However, I definitely can’t allow Shangguan Yue to be alive! Definitely not!*

At this very moment, everyone looked at Chu Liuyue with various gazes—shock, doubt, surprise, apprehension...

“Yue’er... You’re really Yue’er?” Shangguan You looked at Chu Liuyue without blinking and couldn’t help but ask. Actually, the moment she spoke, he had already confirmed that this was his Yue’er!

In the entire world, only Yue’er would have such demeanor! It’s no wonder I felt very close to her when I first saw her from afar! It turned out—

But the more he thought of this, the more he desired, and the more terrified he was that all of this was just a dream.

Shangguan You spoke carefully as if he was terrified that he would disturb something and break the dream-like scene in front of him.

There seemed to be something tingling in Chu Liuyue's chest. Her throat went dry, but her lips curled up into a very bright smile. "Father, it's me."

...

This sentence was enough!

Shangguan You's nose turned sour, and his eyes immediately glowed brightly! "I-it's Yue'er... It's my Yue'er!"

"Impossible!" Shangguan Wan felt extreme hatred. "Shangguan Yue had a Tianjing Yuan meridian, but yours is just a Dijing Yuan meridian. How can you possibly be her?!"

Chu Liuyue's gaze turned, and she looked at Shangguan Wan—who was on the verge of losing her sanity—and Jiang Yucheng.

She knew very clearly that these two weren't the only people who doubted her.

"You want me to prove my identity? Then, I'll satisfy you!" She yelled loudly, "Long Yuan Sword!"

Whir!

Once she yelled this, heaven and earth shook!

Chapter 892: Do You Admit It!

The dark clouds quickly gathered in the bright sky and formed a gigantic black spiral above the crowd's heads!

The winds howled, and the clouds covered the sky!

At that moment, the world was completely dark! Then, a ferocious and tremendous aura suddenly landed!

The Tianling Power Staff in Chu Liuyue's hands seemed to feel something as it suddenly moved.

Chu Liuyue raised her wrist, and the Tianling Power Staff quickly flew forward, landing on the black Xuan stone once again!

The golden light shining out from the dragon's eyes poured everywhere—it was brilliant!

Hong long long—

Accompanied by this low, powerful, and shocking sound, everyone's heart shook, and they looked up in unison.

A gigantic black figure broke through the clouds that were crazily tumbling around and gradually landed!

It was a sword!

It was entirely dark and black, looking very ancient. There was only a tiny silver dent in the center, and one could vaguely see the ice-blue lightning swimming across it! The thunder suppression was formidable!

The hilt was also black with a dragon carving on it; it could be clearly seen and was very lively!

As it gradually landed, an opening was immediately ripped apart in the empty space! From top to bottom, it was completely straight!

The sharp and terrifying sword aura—coupled with the immense suppression—shocked the world!

“T-that’s the Long Yuan Sword!” Elder Chen Ke was the first to react as he widened his eyes, his old appearance filled with shock and disbelief.

Once he said this, the crowd was stunned. *Long Yuan Sword?! It’s really the Long Yuan Sword?! Is this the rumored sword that Shangguan Jing personally made and even used to break open the lands, creating the current Tianling Dynasty?!*

Shangguan You stared at the sword in midair tightly and lowly said, “That’s right! It’s indeed the Long Yuan Sword! I can’t believe that... I can see the Long Yuan Sword being invited out of the Tianling God Realm while I’m still alive!”

Even Shangguan You—who had seen countless storms—couldn't conceal his excitement and agitation when he saw this scene!

Over the past thousands of years, people in the Tianling Dynasty had always wanted to make the Long Yuan Sword reappear but failed countless times. No matter who it was and what methods they used, they could never do it.

Gradually, it became a persistent thought in everyone's hearts. After all, it was a precious item that Shangguan Jing had left behind, and it was the Yuan instrument he had thought the most highly of. Hence, it had extraordinary meaning.

Even if they failed every single time, the people in the Tianling royal family had never given up and kept trying.

In the past few years, many people were once hurt by this and even directly lost their lives.

Even Shangguan You had tried once when he entered the Tianling God Realm, but he returned with injuries in the end.

Nobody expected that the holy object that only existed in rumors would appear in front of the crowd now!

Then, under countless pairs of eyes, that Long Yuan Sword landed in Chu Liuyue's hand!

She held the hilt and injected a wave of force!

Whir!

The sword whirred, like the howl of a dragon!

At the same time, she raised her arm and raised the sword high!

The surrounding Heaven and Earth Force started crazily gathering in the Long Yuan Sword!

The thunder sounds kept coming, and it caused one to almost turn deaf!

“Long Yuan Sword—land!” Chu Liuyue yelled loudly.

The black sword in her hands immediately slashed down! At that moment, it was like an invisible hand tore the space apart!

When the tumbling clouds were suddenly ripped apart in the middle, they quickly rushed to the two sides.

The thunderstorm stopped and later formed into two violent wind waves that kept spiraling downwards like a swimming dragon!

The winds howled, and the sky above Lang Kun Hall started crumbling silently!

Every inch of darkness started swallowing the empty space at an observable speed.

The suppression of the Long Yuan Sword was clear!

Buzz... Buzz!

The Tianling Power Staff immediately glowed brightly! Then, a faint golden light formed a barrier and enveloped Lang Kun Hall!

That black space collapsed, and this collapse finally stopped when it reached the edge of the barrier. However, the crowd could still feel the tremendous suppression unavoidably!

The crowd was stunned, and their hearts were shocked! *So... this is the true suppression of the Long Yuan Sword! It's no wonder the Tianling royal family kept trying to invite it out in the past thousands of years! Once such a legendary weapon is invited out, what else will people be afraid of?!*

At that moment, a black sword aura flew out of the Long Yuan Sword and went straight to Jiang Yucheng!

Jiang Yucheng's heart harshly sank. *Danger!*

The moment this thought flashed across his mind, he immediately jumped into the air and rapidly moved backward!

If this attack landed on him, the consequences would be unthinkable.

As a stage-seven warrior, his combat power wasn't considered low. Jiang Yucheng was still a strong warrior compared to the majority of the crowd, but when he faced the rapid and tremendous sword aura at this moment, deep fear and anxiety crept into his heart!

Hence, he directly used all his force from the start and retreated at the fastest speed possible, showing zero reservations!

In the blink of an eye, he had already moved back by more than ten feet!

Though Jiang Yucheng was fast, the Long Yuan Sword's sword aura was faster!

The crowd saw a black sword aura piercing through the air! The next moment, it arrived in front of Jiang Yucheng!

At this point, the harsh winds blew Jiang Yucheng's clothes, and his hair danced crazily with the wind. He could almost feel the pain of the sharp sword aura cutting through his brows!

He set up a barrier in front of himself without hesitation!

Bang!

The moment the black sword aura touched his barrier, a crisp sound was heard!

His barrier was broken instantly and cracked!

Jiang Yucheng was even more stunned. *The Long Yuan Sword is bent on going after me, and it's very formidable! Given my current abilities, it's impossible for me to stop it, let alone others!*

Jiang Yucheng was alarmed in his heart as he kept moving backward! However, how could he be the Long Yuan Sword's opponent at this point?

In the blink of an eye, the distance between the two kept shortening! The strong aura almost oppressed Jiang Yucheng from all directions!

Jiang Yucheng felt that the surrounding aura gradually seemed to become stickier as his every move used up much more force than before!

He closely stared at the black sword aura coming after him, and his heart stopped beating!

Suddenly, he felt a sharp pain in his brows. Then, sticky blood gradually flowed down.

Jiang Yucheng clenched his teeth, and an extremely sinister aura flashed across his eyes.

Just as he was about to take action, the sword aura stopped. After that, it moved and directly slashed Jiang Yucheng's left arm!

Shoo!

Hearing the very heart-wrenching sound of bones breaking and muscles being shredded, the crowd saw something dropping from the sky and landing on the floor!

When they focussed on it, they realized it was none other than half of Jiang Yucheng's arm!

His arm was directly sliced by Chu Liuyue!

Bang!

Jiang Yucheng suffered from an immense shock as he collapsed onto the floor! He was dragged along the marble floor for meters, and a long bloodstain was produced!

Chu Liuyue waved her sword, and her lips curled up into a cold smile. "I can cut your arm once, and I can do it again! Now, do you admit... or not?!"

Chapter 893: Kneel!

The surroundings were silent.

At that moment, it seemed like everything between heaven and earth had stopped.

All the light reflected on the woman in red as her clothes flew up, and her black hair flowed with the wind!

She held the Long Yuan Sword, and it shocked the world once it landed!

Her pair of black, gem-like eyes were burning with intense fighting desire as if she wanted to burn all of the vengeance from before! She had already waited for this day for too long!

That shout was like thunder exploding, clearly traveling to everyone's ears and stunning them!

The terrifying suppression she exuded made her seem like she was the god of war that killed her way back from hell!

Excruciating pain traveled all over his body, and blood kept flowing down his half-cut arm. Not long later, the ground below Jiang Yucheng was covered in bright red blood, looking horrifying.

Chu Liuyue just sent out one sword attack, and it made Jiang Yucheng unable to retaliate and become covered in injuries.

When the crowd saw this scene, they were shocked and couldn't help but gasp.

Jiang Yucheng and Chu Liuyue were quite a few cultivation levels apart, but the latter could easily suppress the former with the Long Yuan Sword!

The suppression of the Long Yuan Sword is actually so frightening! At this point, nobody dared to suspect the authenticity of that sword! Other than the true Long Yuan Sword, what other item in the world can have such a godly suppression?!

Chu Liuyue's sword attack cut off half of Jiang Yucheng's arm, as well as everyone's doubts!

Jiang Yucheng's mind turned blank as the terrifying pain spread throughout his body, almost drowning him! He forced himself up and looked up at the woman opposite him.

She was thin, and her back was straight as she held the Long Yuan Sword tightly. All the colors in the world seemed to be gathered in her eyes alone!

How familiar was this scene!

He had a moment of dazedness.

Two years ago, it was also such a scene—she finally decided to light a fire to commit suicide, ruining Shangguan Wan's Yuan meridian and his arm! After that, he spent a lot of effort thinking of ways to recover. But not long later, the same thing happened again!

It's her... It really is her! At this moment, Jiang Yucheng knew more clearly than anyone else that the woman in front was Shangguan Yue! *She didn't die but came back with a heartbreaking vengeance, returning all the betrayals and pain she once suffered!*

No wonder... No wonder I felt that she was so familiar the first time I saw her. No wonder I could always feel somewhat distant when I interacted with her... No wonder I wrongly recognized her when she only revealed her side-profile as she brightly stood there on the day the streets were lit up with lanterns...

I even thought that I had fallen for her, so I told her to go to the lake beside the zither room, wanting to confess to her before my wedding. It turns out... She is her!

The truth was out at this point!

His feelings overwhelmed him!

Jiang Yucheng had never felt as laughable as this before! *When I couldn't sleep because of her; when I fell for her; when I told her, 'I want to marry you'... What was she thinking?*

When he thought of everything that happened before, everything was now very ridiculous. It was like a resounding slap that kept hitting Jiang Yucheng's face!

"No wonder... No wonder!" Jiang Yucheng's chest shook, and he vomited blood as his face immediately turned pale. However, his eyes were still glued to Chu Liuyue. *This face is so similar to that of the past Shangguan Yue, but her gaze is completely different! Back then, she was elegant, gentle, smart, and generous as if she had never-ending patience for everyone, and her eyes were always bright and brilliant. She shone brightly like the sun, and one could only look up to her.*

And now, she has experienced all sorts of pain and suffering, becoming stubborn and resilient. Her every move is swift and decisive. Even though she smiles, her face always seems to have cold intentions that can't melt away. It's as if she had built up a thick wall to prevent anyone from entering.

Jiang Yucheng suddenly laughed to himself in a mocking manner. "...It really is you!"

I had planned for so long back then and used a good three years to finally attack her, just to ensure that everything would go smoothly. However, I never expected that she could still escape in the end and would come back with a different appearance! I thought that I did it flawlessly and perfectly, but it was a failure from the start.

“How can this be!” When Shangguan Wan saw the Long Yuan Sword land and heard that Jiang Yucheng finally admitted it, her heart oozed with endless hatred. She looked at Chu Liuyue in disbelief, not able to accept everything.

The scenes that happened in the past few months kept playing in her mind. At that time, she only felt that Chu Liuyue and Shangguan Yue looked very similar, so she instinctively disliked the former.

Later on, she discovered that Chu Liuyue’s talent and capabilities far exceeded hers, causing her to be upset.

After the trip to Dahuang Swamp, she even thought of Chu Liuyue as a thorn in her side, and she wanted the other girl to die outside forever!

Shangguan Wan originally thought that everything was going smoothly and that she could finally get her peace, but she didn’t expect Chu Liuyue to come back in one piece. The latter even made an agreement with a legendary fiend, plucked the Dancing Lotus, and had her abilities elevated!

At this point, she even directly exposed that she was Shangguan Yue!

Shangguan Wan suddenly rushed forward crazily, and her expression was contorted. “I want to kill you! You should die! You ruined my wedding and stole my throne! You b*tch, you should’ve gone to hell a long time ago!”

Chu Liuyue’s gaze turned, and she suddenly laughed. “Shangguan Wan, I should be the one telling you that, right?”

Back then, these two people collaborated and destroyed my everything! They stole everything I had and gave me endless pain! Now, I've only returned to take back everything that once belonged to me! What right does Shangguan Wan have to say this?

Shangguan Wan disregarded her half-sister as she maniacally started moving her surrounding force!

Her expression filled with jealousy and vengeance made her scar-filled face even more contorted and terrifying. At first glance, she looked like a harsh ghost.

But the moment the Third Princess took two steps out, Chu Liuyue's wrist turned as she pointed toward the Long Yuan Sword in her palm!

Shoo!

It drew a crack in the black sky!

Whir!

Following this, a whirl was heard!

An invisible suppression suddenly rushed out of the Long Yuan Sword!

When the space felt this suppression, it started crumbling inch by inch as this collapse went toward Shangguan Wan!

Shangguan Wan knew that something was amiss, and anxiety and fear flashed across her eyes. She immediately wanted to shun to the side!

But at this moment, she shockingly discovered that she couldn't move—her surrounding space had long been enveloped by the Long Yuan Sword's tremendous suppression!

Plop!

The Third Princess's shoulders seemed to be pressed down by heavy mountains, causing her to directly kneel down and her kneecaps to crack!

Chapter 894: Who Says She Isn't Worthy?!

The dull colliding sound of bones and flesh hitting the ground, along with the crisp bone-cracking sound, made people grow numb.

Shangguan Wan's face—which was flushed with anger—instantly grew pale as every bit of color drained from her face due to her inability to withstand the terrifying force. As she fell to her knees, her body lurched forward, and she coughed up blood several times.

Because she was already in an injured state, this blow worsened her condition. She collapsed on the ground, her hands scraped, bloody, and stinging with pain. The clean, white marble ground became stained with patches of blood, which she knew belonged to her.

Shangguan Wan tried to get back on her feet, but she found this supposedly simple action immensely hard to do. It felt like something was weighing on every inch of her flesh, making it hard for her to even breathe.

In the silence, the sound of approaching footsteps was heard. Shangguan Wan instinctively looked over and saw a pair of black boots and a red hem.

“If you can’t get up, then just remain on your knees.” Chu Liuyue’s voice rang from overhead.

In Shangguan Wan’s ears, Chu Liuyue’s light and breezy tone was filled with mockery and contempt. Anger surged within her as she gnashed her teeth. “Dream o—”

While attempting to get up again, Shangguan Wan suddenly felt a chill on her neck, making her collapse once more. It turned out that Chu Liuyue was holding the Long Yuan Sword to her neck.

The blade’s bone-chilling coldness spread throughout her body, while its sharp edge exuded a thick murderous intent. It was like it would immediately take her life if she dared to even make the slightest movement.

Chu Liuyue tilted her head and bent down to take a closer look at Shangguan Wan. Her lips arched into a sincere smile as she said, “Speaking of which, there’s something I have to thank you for. If it weren’t for you, I would’ve gotten married to Jiang Yucheng. That would be disastrous.”

“You!” Shangguan Wan screeched, momentarily feeling at a loss on what to say.

On the other hand, Jiang Yucheng’s expression dimmed when he heard what Chu Liuyue said. His pale lips trembled slightly, but he didn’t say a single word. However, his heart hurt as if it had been stabbed with a knife as he looked at the woman standing a short distance away.

From the smile and relaxed expression on her face, it was clear that she meant those words. She truly felt that it was fortunate that she didn't end up with him.

Gone was the gentleness she used to have in her eyes. He had thought that they would be filled with hatred instead, but there was none. The way she looked at him now was as if he were a stranger. Other than the anger and resentment from being betrayed, she had no lingering attachment and yearning for him.

Jiang Yucheng lowered his eyelids as he let out a self-mocking laugh. *Well, it's only to be expected. She has never liked me to begin with. It's nothing but my wishful thinking.*

...

It suddenly came to Shangguan Wan's mind that Yang Qin'er had previously told her that Chu Liuyue had taken the Long Yuan Sword out of the Tianling God Realm. However, she didn't believe it at the time because Elder Duanmu—who had gone to the Tianling God Realm at her request to check the sword—had told her that it was still in there.

Although she couldn't figure out how Chu Liuyue managed to draw the sword out and cover this matter up, she no longer had the time and opportunity to wonder about these questions. The cold and sharp blade against her neck made her scream in fear. "Chu Liuyue! I'm the Third Princess of the Tianling Dynasty, and I carry the blood of the Shangguan family within me! I dare you to kill me!"

Chu Liuyue condescendingly looked down at her with a raised eyebrow. "This sword is stained with the blood of countless Tianling royalty members anyway. One more won't make any difference. Do you really think you're that important?"

The Long Yuan Sword killed members of the royal family before? How is that possible? This sword is left behind by our ancestor! Shangguan Wan was shocked to hear that. She had never stepped into the Tianling God Realm before, so she naturally didn't know what it was like in there. "Nonsense!"

She even wanted to curse at Chu Liuyue loudly, but she dared not act arrogantly with the Long Yuan Sword dangling above her neck. Thus, her voice came out a lot weaker.

That said, she still couldn't help but feel indignant. She looked up at Chu Liuyue with glowing scarlet eyes that were filled with jealousy and hatred. "So what if you're Shangguan Yue? Your original body has been destroyed, and your current body... doesn't belong to you. Even if your soul remains, you're in a completely different body now! The blood flowing in you belongs to a down-and-out family of a small empire that's outside Heaven's Canopy! It's not related to the Shangguan family!"

At the thought of something, she burst out cackling. "The Shangguan Yue back then had a Tianjing Yuan meridian and was an advanced stage-eight warrior! But other than your consciousness, nothing about you is deserving of the 'Crown Princess' title! Even if you want to take back everything that originally belonged to you, shouldn't you take a good look at yourself and see if you have the right to do so?"

Shangguan Wan then turned to look at Shangguan You, who was standing atop the nine flights of stairs. "Father, even if I did wrong, I'm still a descendant of the Shangguan family! This woman here, on the other hand, has nothing to do with the Tianling royalty! Father, aren't you afraid that her current lineage will dirty our legacy?!"

She was practically in hysterics, and she no longer cared about the sword on her neck. *Since things have come to this stage, there's no way they will spare my life. In that case, I have nothing to worry about anymore! I'm willing to pay any price to take Chu Liuyue down with me!*

Her hysterical scream was heard throughout the square, and everyone had different reactions to it since what she said wasn't exactly wrong. The person standing there was Shangguan Yue, but she was also

Chu Liuyue. While they didn't really have any issue with her, the problem about her bloodline was indeed tricky.

Many people quietly snuck glances at Shangguan You, wanting to know what his reaction and opinion on this matter were.

Shangguan You—who had calmed down a lot by now—frowned slightly, and his eyes dimmed when he heard what Shangguan Wan said. “There’s only one Yue’er in the world.”

Shangguan Wan’s heart sank as her smug and maniacal expression stiffened. She couldn’t help but sneer, “Father, you’ll be showing great disrespect to our ancestors if you insist on acknowledging her! Even if you’re willing to acknowledge her, our ancestors might not be willing to do so! The current her isn’t worthy of being a member of the Shangguan family!”

As soon as the words left her mouth, a low and mellow voice that seemed to have traveled through time and space boomed across the square. “Who says she isn’t worthy?!”

Chapter 895: Who Dares to Say No?!

The majestic voice covered the entire land and reached everyone’s ears clearly. Everyone looked up in shock to see ripples in the dark sky and a tall figure slowly appearing. The person seemed to be an apparition, but he exuded so much authority that one couldn’t help but submit to him. In fact, the people standing close to him almost fell to their knees due to their legs growing weak from the immense pressure.

Countless eyes remained fixed on him as various emotions—shock, surprise, unease, excitement, respect, and admiration—played out on their faces.

The apparition was a tall and handsome man—who was wearing a long, dark olive robe and looked like he was in his late thirties. He was translucent like a soul, and there weren't any force fluctuations around him. Still, he carried an air of nobility even if he just stood there in the air doing nothing.

Just as many people were guessing this man's identity, Shangguan You's eyes widened in shock as he exclaimed, "Ancestor?!"

Ancestor... Ancestor?! Everyone was rendered shocked as the only person who could make Shangguan You call out this title was none other than Shangguan Jing, the founder of the Tianling Dynasty. W- wasn't it said that he passed away in the Tianling God Realm a long time ago? How come he's here now?!

"Are you Shangguan You?" Shangguan Jing's expression became gentler. From what I saw just now, he treats Yue'er pretty well.

He was actually slightly upset with Shangguan You at first because he felt that the latter had a large responsibility for the way things turned out to the current state, but his dissatisfaction considerably diminished upon seeing how the latter seemed to truly love and care for Shangguan Yue. Thus, his attitude toward Shangguan You became a lot better as well.

The natural ties between people with the same bloodline instantly made Shangguan You convinced that the person in front of him was Shangguan Jing. He couldn't hide his excitement and thrill as he immediately kneeled down on the ground to pay his respect to the latter. "I, Shangguan You, pay my respects to the Ancestor!"

As the current Emperor had gone down on his knees, the rest of the people naturally had to follow suit. Everyone in front of Lang Kun Hall hastily dropped to their knees in unison and greeted in what seemed to be an ear-splitting shout. "Greetings to the Great Ancestor!"

“You may rise.” As Shangguan Jing said this in his mellow voice, everyone felt a gentle force lifting them up.

T-this is the Ancestor’s force! Many people marveled inwardly. Rumors say that his cultivation level is at the peak of stage nine and that he’s just one step away from breaking through to reaching the realm of God. It looks like the rumors are true! He can easily crush everyone here with just one hand!

“It’s the Ancestor... It’s really him!” Elder Chen Ke and the others had tears in their eyes as they said this excitedly. As the royal elders, they were considered to be the Tianling royalty’s most loyal servants. Hence, it wasn’t hard to imagine how excited they were to be able to see Shangguan Jing in person.

Shangguan Jing sighed gently as his eyes swept across Yuwen Wei and the others. “This child must be from the Yuwen family, right? He bears a striking resemblance to Mingchen.”

Yuwen Mingchen was an ancestor of the Yuwen family.

Yuwen Wei was in reverence. “Greetings to the Ancestor!”

Only a few families managed to stand against time. Among them, it was rare to find those who still remained loyal to the Tianling Dynasty to this day.

Shangguan Jing nodded in acknowledgment.

Everyone present—be it the courtiers or the clan members—was still in a state of shock, and they couldn’t help but be quiet and respectful in front of the legendary ancestor.

Only Shangguan Wan remained kneeling on the ground, her eyes wide with shock as she dumbly watched this scene with a blank mind. Her limbs grew numb, her heart skipped a beat, and her blood seemed to be frozen. *W-what did the Ancestor say just now? 'Who says she isn't worthy?!' W-was he... speaking up for Chu Liuyue? Is he also on her side?!*

Just as doubt crept into her heart, she saw Shangguan Jing move and land next to the Tianling Power Staff.

Although Shangguan You was standing next to him, his presence immediately faded into the background a lot. *As expected of the Ancestor! He doesn't need to say anything—just his presence alone is enough to overwhelm everyone!*

“It’s been so many years, yet you’re still behaving recklessly like a kid.” Shangguan Jing shook his head at the sight of the Tianling Power Staff, having clearly seen what it did earlier with his own eyes.

The glowing Tianling Power Staff didn’t seem repentant though. *I was bored to tears from helping you to watch over the Tianling Dynasty for so many years. Can't I even have a little fun?*

Shangguan Jing let out a helpless chuckle before turning around to look and beckon at Chu Liuyue. “Come here, Yue’er.”

...

Everyone’s tense expressions cracked once more. *W-who is the Ancestor calling? Chu Liuyue? The way he called her sounds so intimate and indulgent, which is a far cry from the way he treated His Majesty!*

Chu Liuyue blinked. She didn’t want to trouble her ancestor at first since this was her own affair, and she had the ability to solve the matter entirely on her own. Moreover, Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan’s

evil plans had completely fallen through. But it was clear that Shangguan Wan's words had infuriated Shangguan Jing.

She glanced at Shangguan Wan—who was kneeling on the ground—and realized that the latter's face was as pale as a sheet. The latter's eyes were also blurry as if she had been dealt a great blow.

Apparently, Shangguan Wan was too mentally and physically drained to even cause a scene.

After putting the Long Yuan Sword away, Chu Liuyue walked forward under countless watchful eyes as if they were afraid to miss out on something. Once she was at the bottom of the stairs, she stood still and bowed. "Ancestor."

Shangguan Jing beckoned to her once more. "Come on up."

Chu Liuyue hesitated for a moment because no ordinary person was supposed to go up these stairs under normal circumstances—only the Emperor. Although she had revealed her identity, it wasn't appropriate for her to go up, especially in the presence of Shangguan Jing and her father. *If I go up...*

Still, she finally decided to go ahead after much thinking. But unlike how Shangguan Wan had much difficulty climbing the stairs, she did it easily as if she were riding on the wind. The only thing the crowd saw was the hem of her clothes fluttering, and she was atop the nine flights of stairs the next second.

"Although I haven't appeared in a thousand years, I believe I still have some speaking rights regarding the Tianling Dynasty's affairs. Am I right?" Shangguan Jing smiled at Shangguan Wan. "Were you the one who said that the Tianling Dynasty's ancestors would be infuriated if Shangguan You acknowledged Yue'er?"

Shangguan Wan was trembling badly, and her face was pallid.

“I now announce to the world that she is the most outstanding descendant of the Shangguan family! Not only is the ‘Crown Princess’ title hers, but the throne will be hers as well! I’d like to see who dares to say no in my face?!”

Chapter 896: Did You Betray Me Back Then?!

Not only did Shangguan Jing promise to give the throne to Chu Liuyue, but he was even giving it to someone who wasn’t a part of the royal lineage and bloodline. This was practically unheard of and was unlikely to happen again as this was all because Chu Liuyue made the Ancestor reappear and had his protection and support. Any one of the above terms was enough to stabilize her position as the Tianling Dynasty’s ruler.

Thunder-struck, Shangguan Wan’s last strand of hope died out. How did things turn out like this? How did things get into this situation?! Shangguan Yue should’ve died two years ago, but why is she still alive?! How did she get everyone’s support after destroying all my efforts? Even the Ancestor is on her side! Who would dare to go against him? Had I known this outcome earlier... I thought I was the winner, but I turned out to be the biggest loser and the butt of the joke in the end! There’s no way I can turn things around now!

Knowing that her last bargaining chip had been rendered useless, Shangguan Wan fell into despair. She slowly lifted her head and stared at Chu Liuyue blankly for a long time. Then, she couldn’t help but laugh in hopelessness and self-mockery. “Ha... That explains your boldness... It turns out that you still had a trump card up your sleeve... You win, Shangguan Yue! Who could possibly be your match? Who can?!”

Ever since Shangguan Jing appeared, Jiang Yucheng’s eyebrows were tightly knitted together. *This situation is far worse than I initially expected!*

...

“Ancestor, you—” Even Chu Liuyue herself was taken aback by what Shangguan Jing said, as evident by the slight widening of her eyes. She knew that he was speaking up for her, but she had never expected him to give such a huge promise.

“This is what you deserve,” affirmed Shangguan Jing with a light shake of his head. “Be it your talent, strength, or character... They’re all impeccable! It’s the Tianling Dynasty’s fortune to have you as its ruler!”

He was truly sincere about this. *If it weren’t for her, I would still be trapped in the Tianling God Realm, unable to see the light of day. It’s also very likely that my last wisp of consciousness would vanish just like that after some time.*

“Since both the Long Yuan Sword and the Tianling Power Staff have acknowledged you, nobody else is more suitable to stand here than you!” Many people had the chance to receive an acknowledgment from the Tianling Power Staff, but Chu Liuyue was the only person—aside from Shangguan Jing himself—to become the Long Yuan Sword’s owner. “Since you have pretty much inherited my legacy, there’s nothing wrong with you becoming the Tianling Dynasty’s ruler right away.”

Chu Liuyue let out an awkward cough as she glanced at her father, only to see him showing the same approving expression.

“You’re right, Ancestor! Yue’er has always been an intelligent child, and she manages court affairs really well! It was my plan to pass her the throne on her wedding day two years ago, but I didn’t expect...” Shangguan You’s face dimmed a little at the mention of the past, but it soon brightened up again. “But now that she’s safely returned, everything can go back on track! Yue’er, I’m still in a weak condition since I haven’t fully recovered yet. There are some matters that I really can’t handle! Why don’t you just ascend the throne today?”

How could they push me to the throne with just a few mere sentences? Chu Liuyue’s eyes twitched. “I don’t think this is... appropriate...”

“What’s so inappropriate?! Today is a day filled with many joyous events, so it’ll even be better if we have another reason for celebration!” said Shangguan Jing with a wave of his hand.

Everyone couldn’t believe their ears when they heard that. *Many joyous events? Ancestor, can you open your eyes wide and take a look at the mess on the ground?! The Third Princess and her Prince Consort are currently covered in blood! Only you would say such things when the royal family’s internal strife ended up in this manner!*

While Chu Liuyue was at a loss on what to do, Shangguan You put a fist against his lips and coughed. “Yue’er, look at me... I’m in serious need of proper recuperation! Can you really bear to see me overwork myself?”

Haven’t you been resting in bed for two years?! Chu Liuyue looked at Shangguan Jing and Shangguan You inquiringly. “Why don’t we... settle this mess first?”

She was talking about Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan. They weren’t done dealing with them yet.

“Oh, I nearly forgot about this.” Shangguan Jing—who was known to be a man of action and resolution—clapped his hand and looked down at the masses. “Aside from these two and Xiahou Rong, is there anyone else who harmed or betrayed you back then? Let’s gather all of them here and punish them together!”

An imperceptible frown appeared on Chu Liuyue’s forehead. She had basically investigated what happened back then, but she still had a few questions that were yet to be answered.

Firstly, she couldn’t figure out what Jiang Yucheng’s motive was because it was clear that he didn’t like Shangguan Wan—or rather, who he liked wouldn’t affect his decision at all since the only person he cared about was himself. Still, it didn’t explain why he had gone to such lengths to kill her. Secondly,

some people had held onto their positions or led the lives of fugitives for her sake, so she wondered if it was true that the others had completely betrayed her.

Her gaze unconsciously roamed in a certain direction.

In his black armor, Mu Qinghe looked especially conspicuous since he was standing outside the crowd. He looked over upon seemingly sensing her line of sight.

“Mu Qinghe.” Chu Liuyu called his name all of a sudden.

Hushed silence instantly descended upon the crowd as they looked curiously and uneasily at the two. Everyone knew that it was Shangguan Yue who had groomed Mu Qinghe to become the Black Guard’s lieutenant and that something was fishy about how the Black Guards didn’t go to her rescue when she was in trouble.

With deep and serious eyes, Chu Liuyue looked at Mu Qinghe and asked, “You say it yourself. Did you betray me back then?!”

Chapter 897: Don’t Cry

As her clear and powerful voice echoed throughout Lang Kun Hall, everyone silently watched this scene with bated breath. Countless eyes were gathered on Mu Qinghe.

Never mind that other people colluded with Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan to set Shangguan Yue up since they had their own needs, but Mu Qinghe was different—he owed everything he had today to Shangguan Yue. Without her, he wouldn’t have become the Black Guard’s lieutenant. Moreover, he used to be one of her most trusted aides.

Not only was he likely to be sentenced to death if he had indeed betrayed her, but he would also be scorned by many after his death. But if he didn't betray Shangguan Yue, then the cause of her death remained a mystery.

Mu Qinghe lifted his head and stared blankly at the woman standing atop the stairs. *So... it's really her! No wonder I found Chu Liuyue so familiar when I first saw her in Country Yao Chen and kept thinking about her. I didn't think much when I sensed her seemingly excessively distant and polite attitude toward me. I thought she merely bore a striking resemblance to Shangguan Yue, but now that I think about it, her demeanor and aura are really similar as well.*

He looked sideways at Hong Yao—who was sitting on his shoulder. “You knew about it long ago, didn't you?”

Hong Yao's eyes flickered slightly, and it buried its head under its wing. *I didn't mean to hide it from you, but...*

Mu Qinghe had no intention of scolding it though. He merely exhaled slowly and moved to stand in the middle of the square before looking up again to face Chu Liuyue.

Something seemed to be squeezing Chu Liuyue's heart, and her body tensed up as well. In regards to other people's betrayal, she could just put the past behind her after taking her revenge on them, but she would always have this slight feeling of resentment toward Mu Qinghe when it came to his betrayal. He used to be a reserved, obstinate, and loyal person, so she didn't understand what caused his change. Hence, she wanted to hear the answer from his mouth.

After a brief stalemate, Mu Qinghe tossed the sword in his hand aside, which produced a clanking sound when it hit the ground.

Chu Liuyue frowned, only to see him removing his armor the next second.

As today was supposedly Shangguan Wan's wedding-cum-coronation day, everyone was grandly dressed. Even Mu Qinghe had put on the most formal armor he had.

With the heavy black armor now removed, he felt much lighter as if a burden had been lifted off his shoulders. He then dropped to his knees, and a dull colliding sound was produced when his kneecaps hit the ground.

"Your Highness." He suddenly leaned forward and put his forehead on the marble floor, the coldness of which spread throughout his body. "I've betrayed you and failed you as a subject. Please sentence me to death!"

...

Mu Qinghe's reply said it all.

Everybody present didn't expect this reaction from him.

He didn't try to defend himself, appeal, or even protest. Instead, he frankly admitted his betrayal with just one sentence. In this sort of situation, he was basically asking for death because he might have a chance of survival if he had said that he didn't betray Shangguan Yue or that he was forced to do so. However, he didn't.

Two years ago, nobody would've expected that this day would come for Mu Qinghe—Shangguan Yue's most trusted aide. If he had remained loyal to her, he would now become her subject with the most credit after she ascended the throne and became the ruler. Thus, it was really a pity.

Jiang Yucheng's eyes gleamed darkly when he glanced at Mu Qinghe, but they soon returned to normal as he quickly lowered his eyelids and hid the look in his eyes.

Everyone's gaze was on Chu Liuyue while she regarded Mu Qinghe with calm and aloof eyes. They were certain that only death awaited him now.

In the silence, she opened her mouth once more to ask, "Are you speaking the truth?"

"Yes."

"You're not lying, nor are you in a predicament?"

"No."

"You're willing to die?"

Mu Qinghe—who had been kneeling on the ground with his head hung low—finally looked up and rose to his feet when he heard that question. There was a look of serenity on his face as he said, "Yes, I'd like to ask Your Highness to grant my wish."

Each of his answers expressed his will to die.

Chu Liuyue suddenly burst out laughing. "The last time you asked me to grant your wish was because you wanted to go to Dahuang Swamp."

Although Shangguan Yue had a highly respected status back then, her power in court wasn't firm. Thus, Mu Qinghe volunteered himself to lead the army to Dahuang Swamp to win the military power for her. She didn't agree to it at first since Dahuang Swamp was a dangerous place. Not only would one have to suffer many hardships there, but they would also risk losing their life.

That was the only time he had defied her order. He kneeled outside her palace for a long time and said those very same words to her back then: I'd like to ask Your Highness to grant my wish.

It didn't occur to her that when she heard those words again years later, it would be because he was pleading for his death.

When Mu Qinghe heard that, he felt as if something was stabbing at his heart. It hurt so badly that he trembled slightly. His countenance dimmed for a moment, and he quickly lowered his head once more. "I'd like to ask Your Highness—"

He couldn't bring himself to say the last few words though.

Chu Liuyue let out a soft sigh as she looked at him. "If that's the case—"

Before she could finish saying her piece, she saw Hong Yao anxiously flapping its wings on Mu Qinghe's shoulders. It flew around him and went close to him from time to time while crying anxiously as if it was saying something or trying to persuade him. When Mu Qinghe ignored it, it turned around and flew straight toward Chu Liuyue.

A ball of green flame was seen streaking across the air, and Hong Yao was right in front of Chu Liuyue the next second. With tears in its eyes, it anxiously flapped its wings at her as if it wanted to tell her something.

Just as Chu Liuyue stretched her hand out toward Hong Yao, Mu Qinghe realized what was going on. He immediately shot to his feet and shouted in warning while frowning, “Hong Yao!”

Hong Yao flinched slightly but still landed on Chu Liuyue’s hand. Large, warm droplets of tears rolled down its face and wet its fluffy feathers before dropping onto her palm. *No, no!*

Chu Liuyue could see the aggrieved look in its eyes.

Tuan Zi—who appeared out of nowhere—watched this scene while squatting on Chu Liuyue’s shoulder. For once, it didn’t pick a fight with Hong Yao. After hesitating briefly, it flew over and circled around Hong Yao in helplessness, carefully nudging its head against Hong Yao’s. *Don’t cry.*

Chapter 898: Counterattack!

It was the first time Tuan Zi ever saw Hong Yao in this state. The former was used to seeing the latter’s proud and willful side. When Hong Yao’s tears continued to pour down nonstop, Tuan Zi flapped its wings in irritation and looked at Chu Liuyue for help.

Sighing inwardly, Chu Liuyue wiped Hong Yao’s tears away and said, “Alright, alright. Stop crying; I won’t kill him.”

W-what does that mean? Because of a green sparrow, the Crown Princess isn’t going to sentence Mu Qinghe to death?! Everyone was surprised to hear that, and whispers broke out among the crowd. “No way! Is she really going to spare his life, all for the sake of a green sparrow?!”

“You don’t know about this, do you? Although that green sparrow is Mu Qinghe’s contracted fiend, it was under the Crown Princess’s care most of the time... I heard that she dotes on it as much as her own fiend! If Mu Qinghe dies, that green sparrow will surely die too.”

“I see... Still, this is... Her contracted fiend is now a legendary fiend, so why does she have to care about that green sparrow?”

“We won’t know what’s on her mind... Then again, Mu Qinghe is really lucky! His life is spared because of his fiend!”

Most people were rather shocked by Chu Liuyue’s decision, but they had no right to say anything since it was her own affair, and it was up to her to deal with Mu Qinghe however she wanted.

Chu Liuyue looked at Mu Qinghe. “With immediate effect, Mu Qinghe will be stripped of his post as Black Guard lieutenant and grounded at the Mu Residence! Nobody is allowed to visit him without my permission!”

Jian Fengchi finally settled down as he exhaled in relief. *Thank goodness... Otherwise, I wouldn’t know how I should help him plead for mercy... But what’s wrong with him anyway? Why would he ask to be sentenced to death? I have to ask him about this when the chance arises!*

Mu Qinghe, on the other hand, was shocked. He thought he would surely receive what he was waiting for, but in the end... A hint of struggle surfaced from the depths of his eyes as he said, “Your Highness—”

“Take him away!” ordered Chu Liuyue.

The burly Black Guard standing next to her stepped forward and grabbed Mu Qinghe immediately. Nobody noticed his existence earlier, and it was only when he came forward that everyone realized with a start how powerful his aura was.

Mu Qinghe knitted his eyebrows together and looked back to see a familiar face in front of him.

This very face belonged to none other than Lei Laosi. Somehow, he had managed to sneak and blend himself in with the Black Guards without anyone discovering him.

“Thank you, Si Jing,” said Chu Liuyue.

Si Jing smiled. “You can rest assured that I do my duties well, Your Highness!”

The crowd was shocked. Si Jing? Isn't that the person who ranks fourth in the Thirteen Yue Guards? When did they return to Xi Ling, and without anyone's notice?! Jiang Yucheng previously utilized a lot of manpower and resources to hunt them. Yet, not only did he fail to find any of them, but they even followed the Crown Princess back to Xi Ling!

The frown on Jiang Yucheng's face deepened. I knew it! The Thirteen Yue Guards have returned with new faces! I thought something was off when Xiahou Rong told me that the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill was stolen, but I didn't manage to find anything even after sending my men to search for them in the city. It turned out that they've snuck into the palace! Chu Liuyue has planned everything right from the start! She's determined to turn things around and eliminate any chance of us escaping!

He kept trying to think of a way to get out of this sticky situation. *The Thirteen Yue Guards are back, His Majesty has awakened, and even the Ancestor has appeared! This is basically a deadlock! I have to think of another way to get out of this situation...*

...

Completely restrained and unable to say a word, Mu Qinghe was escorted back to his mansion by Si Jing.

Hong Yao—who was nestled in Chu Liuyue’s shoulder—glanced at Mu Qinghe reluctantly and retracted its gaze quickly.

When Mu Qinghe was passing by Jiang Yucheng, the latter looked up and cast the former a meaningful glance. The former’s heart thumped hard as a hint of worry surfaced in his eyes.

“Father,” said Chu Liuyue all of a sudden. “Shangguan Wan plotted for power and tried to usurp the throne. An insidious and ruthless woman like her should be sentenced to death! What do you think about this?”

Although Shangguan Wan had committed a lot of crimes, Chu Liuyue thought it was better to seek her father’s opinion regarding the former’s punishment.

Shangguan You frowned and regarded Shangguan Wan with a heavy look.

An intense feeling of unease surged within Shangguan Wan, for she didn’t want to die. She begged for mercy repeatedly. “Father, I only committed those mistakes during a moment of folly! I was instigated by someone! Please forgive me this time, Father!”

Shangguan You shook his head. “Dying a hundred times isn’t even enough to pay for the crimes you committed in the past two years! The Tianling royalty doesn’t have a descendant like you!”

Shangguan Wan's heart sank fast.

"From today onward, you're no longer worthy of being a member of the Shangguan family, and you won't be buried in the Imperial Mausoleum when you die! Your birth mother was an orphan with a humble origin, so her family won't be implicated. However, the servants working in Huayang Palace and Qingfeng Palace will have to be executed as well! I'll take it as I never had you as a daughter!"

With each word Shangguan You said, the color on Shangguan Wan's face faded a little more. Eventually, she completely collapsed on the ground, her face looking ashen. *My existence will be completely wiped off from the Tianling royalty's genealogy!*

"No! You can't do that, Father!" She moved forward on her knees but was stopped by Elder Chen Ke with a wave of his sleeve.

"Impudent!"

Shangguan Wan's body flew backward, and she landed on the ground with a crash. She was already injured in the first place, so this blow worsened her condition. She coughed up blood several times in a row.

As she lifted her hand to wipe the blood off her mouth, she saw the glaring red clothes on herself. She was suddenly reminded that it was her wedding day today and that she was still wearing the phoenix coronet and the ceremonial robe. *I was just one step away from sitting on that throne. I was supposed to become the Tianling Dynasty's most esteemed woman from today onward, but all that is gone now! My years of hard work have been for naught!*

Feelings of hatred, jealousy, and resentment consumed her from within, and a black symbol faintly appeared on her glabella. *It's all gone... I have nothing left! No matter whether she's Chu Liuyue or Shangguan Yue, that woman has snatched everything away from me! She must be feeling very smug to be standing above the masses!*

Shangguan Wan slowly lifted her head and stared at Chu Liuyue as she said, "You own too many things."

Chu Liuyue had a vague feeling that something was off about Shangguan Wan's behavior, but she sensed the latter's aura intensifying as soon as the thought appeared in her mind.

A black blade suddenly cut through the air and headed straight for her.

Chapter 899: Get Lost!

Chu Liuyue's eyes turned sharp. The moment she raised the Long Yuan Sword in her hands, the Tianling Power Staff immediately flew out from the side!

Shoo!

When they heard a sharp, ear-piercing sound, the black blade already met with the Tianling Power Staff!

Before the two objects could even touch, the two tremendous forces started killing each other! The surrounding space started to be ripped open, and turbulence flew out!

That black blade was sinister and cold, but it couldn't win against the Tianling Power Staff in the end as it suddenly disappeared amidst the dragon roar.

Taking this chance, Shangguan Wan suddenly stood up, tore open the space, and tried to escape!

Coincidentally, Chu Liuyue turned her wrist at this point, and the Long Yuan Sword flew toward Shangguan Wan!

The very harsh and dangerous cold wind attacked Shangguan Wan from the back of her head, and all the hair on her body stood up. She immediately tried to escape, but she wasn't faster than the Long Yuan Sword!

The terrifying sword aura immediately covered her!

Forced and helpless, Shangguan Wan turned around and crossed her arms. Then, a gigantic black symbol appeared in front of her!

Whir!

The sharp sword hit the black symbol, letting out a loud sound as the strong and vigorous impact spread in all directions!

Kacha!

Cracks immediately appeared on the ground!

"That's not Shangguan Wan's strength!" someone cried out.

At this point, everyone could clearly see that the power exploding out from Shangguan Wan didn't belong to her.

The current her could only forcefully be considered a beginner stage-seven warrior. She could still be compared to other average people, but she couldn't stand in front of the Long Yuan Sword.

One had to know that even the peak stage-seven Jiang Yucheng couldn't even withstand the sword aura's suppression! His arm was also slashed, let alone the injured Shangguan Wan!

At this point, her bodily aura kept strengthening! One had to be a stage-eight warrior at the very least to release such a suppression!

Chu Liuyue half-squinted her eyes. *Previously, I had already suspected that something was wrong with Shangguan Wan's body, and it is indeed the case!*

She was about to go forward when Shangguan Jing stopped her. "Yue'er, hold on!"

Chu Liuyue paused and looked back at her ancestor—who was staring closely at Shangguan Wan with a solemn expression. "Ancestor, can you see something?"

Shangguan Jing seemed pretty shaken as he muttered, "Could that symbol be... But how is that possible..."

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled slightly. *Ancestor seems to know the background of the black symbol!*

But before she could ask in detail, the Tianling Dynasty's ancestor had already moved and rushed in front! He waved his sleeves and immediately set up a gigantic barrier around Shangguan Wan.

When the violent aura was finally blocked, the surrounding crowd secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

This shocking blow wasn't something they could easily withstand!

Shangguan Wan's eyes gradually turned completely black, gaining a hint of craziness. Her expression became rather stiff and strange, a clear indication that she was being controlled by someone.

Shangguan Jing stood in the air and stared closely at the front as he loudly questioned, "You're from the Black Demon Hole?"

Upon hearing this, Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. *What's Black Demon Hole?*

When Shangguan Wan heard this, she raised her hand. Following this, that black symbol suddenly started burning!

She glanced at the Tianling Dynasty's founder coldly, and her lips curled up into a cold smile. "You do know something."

This voice was a little hoarse and lazy—it was clearly not Shangguan Wan's voice anymore!

Shangguan Jing's expression became even more serious. "We have always stayed in our own lane. Your Black Demon Hole has nothing to do with my Tianling. Why would you do such a thing?!"

At this point, that black symbol had completely burned, and the last bit of black star suddenly exploded!

Boom!

The violent force started crazily spreading in all directions!

The marble floor suddenly silently turned into powder, and the violent winds hurled up!

Shangguan Wan's gaze turned, and she looked at Chu Liuyue. "What a pity..."

I was just a step away! Everything I planned for the past few years went to waste!

Chu Liuyue met with that gaze and was stunned. For some reason, her instincts told her that the mysterious person hiding in Shangguan Wan's body was saying this to her! *What a pity... What is a pity? This person doesn't seem to be coming for the Tianling Dynasty's throne, but for me! However, what do I have that the person wants?*

The next moment, a black light suddenly exploded from Shangguan Wan's chest!

The Long Yuan Sword sparked, but the black light suddenly disappeared at this moment!

The next moment, it actually appeared outside the barrier, forming into a sharp black arrow that went straight for Chu Liuyue!

The crowd gasped! *This person broke through the ancestor's barrier so easily. Is he even stronger than the latter? The key is that his target is clearly the Princess!*

“Yue’er, be careful!”

“Princess!”

“Liuyue!”

Shocked shouts could be heard everywhere.

Chu Liuyue suddenly looked up and was alarmed when she saw the black light quickly approaching her!

At the same time, the Tianling Power Staff and Long Yuan Sword rushed toward her! However, danger was already right in front of her!

Suddenly, the water droplet in Chu Liuyue’s dantian seemed to have been triggered by some force as it started rapidly spinning.

Just as Chu Liuyue was about to take action, she shockingly discovered that the water droplet didn’t exude its force as it rapidly turned into the appearance of a transparent page.

It was exactly the same as it was in the beginning!

Suddenly realizing something, she looked up.

A hoarse and sinister voice clearly landed in her ears. "You have no right to hold onto this!"

Buzz... Buzz!

Once he said this, Chu Liuyue felt that the transparent page in her dantian had signs of struggling free! It was as if an invisible hand wanted to take this item from her body!

Chu Liuyue instinctively wanted to retreat, but she discovered that her body couldn't move!

In the blink of an eye, that black light had already reached her eyes! The pulling force also became increasingly stronger!

Chu Liuyue's force started turning uncontrollably and crazily.

Coincidentally, a silver light suddenly flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes at this moment and rushed forward!

Shoo!

That black light was instantly sliced apart from the middle, and the strange controlling force suddenly disappeared!

Chu Liuyue focused on it and saw that a dagger had stopped it—it was... the dagger Rong Xiu had given her before!

The snow-white dagger was gleaming at this point, vaguely showing a strange pattern with intense suppression.

The hoarse and sinister voice sounded again but with a hint of shock. “How... is this—”

Before he could finish talking, the dagger glowed!

...

In the Red Moon Desert miles away, Rong Xiu slowly opened his ice-cold eyes. “Get lost!”

Chapter 900: Humble

This clear holler instantly made the dagger in Lang Kun Hall—which was miles away—fly forward and rapidly kill the black light!

The surrounding golden sand flew up as the winds blew!

Xue Xue—who was behind Rong Xiu—immediately shrunk its neck and moved back sensibly. It finally had the chance to bathe a few days ago and was just cleaned. It didn't want to become as dirty as before.

The surrounding sandstorm gradually calmed down the next moment, and the Red Moon Desert seemed to have recovered its peace. Only the burning hot sun was roasting the ground, causing it to be boiling hot.

Rong Xiu stopped in his tracks and looked up.

Other than him, there was nobody else in the vast desert.

A childish and ice-cold voice sounded. "Someone is bullying Yue'er Girlie?"

Rong Xiu paused as a golden fire seemed to be burning in his eyes, but it instantly disappeared. "It's people from Black Demon Hole."

"Why would they look for her?" This was Lan Xiao's voice. "Why did they go to Tianling instead of staying in their territory?"

Rong Xiu's thin lips curled up, and he laughed lightly. "That person had already destroyed his physical body many years ago and is only left with a soul. He needs to keep living off cultivators and maintain his life by absorbing their cultivation."

Whoosh!

The yellow sand moved in front, and a blurred figure appeared in the lake, looking like a four or five-year-old child.

“You know that person?” asked Dugu Mobao.

“We met once.” Rong Xiu squinted his eyes, and nobody could guess what he was thinking. “I just didn’t expect his guts to be so big now.”

He even dared to touch Yue’er.

Lan Xiao lazily said, “Who cares why he went to Tianling? If he wants to attack Yue’er, he’s going against us. Diwu, if I didn’t recall wrongly, you still had some relations with Black Demon Hole before, right?”

“D-don’t talk nonsense!” Diwu Zhangze immediately denied it. “I’m not close to them!”

Lan Xiao laughed lightly. “Not close? If you’re not close to them, why would they pray to you for ten years? I heard that the gifts they give you every year should be enough—”

“Stop!” Diwu Zhangze yelled as his head hurt. “I was wrong, okay?! Back then, I just thought that they were seeking medicine. Who knew they would do all sorts of secret things? Besides, I didn’t even help them once!”

Dugu Mobao coldly said, “You didn’t help because you were already trapped in this Red Moon Desert!”

If Diwu Zhangze didn’t come here, he might’ve become one with the people from Black Demon Hole!

Diwu Zhangze sighed deeply. *What does that mean?! I really have nothing to do with that Black Demon Hole. I just agreed to meet them because they offered ten years of hard work. I also didn't do much during that rushed meeting. After so many years, I never expected them to bring this incident up again at this point!*

"T-then, why don't I find Black Demon Hole's people and warn them?" Diwu Zhangze tried to ask, but he found it weird after some thinking. "Logically speaking, there's no reason for Black Demon Hole's people to go to Tianling... Could it be because of something Girlie has?"

She does have quite a few treasures...

"That person was chased out of Black Demon Hole many years ago," said Rong Xiu lightly.

Dugu Mobao and the rest found it strange.

"Chased out? What exactly did he do that even Black Demon Hole can't tolerate?" asked Dugu Mobao immediately.

Rong Xiu shook his head. "You have to ask that person."

He then moved his feet, and his figure instantly became countless faint shadows.

After half an hour, he finally stopped at the center of the Red Moon Desert—next to the sapphire-blue lake.

He looked in front and smiled slightly. "I've already passed your tests, Seniors. According to the agreement, I can leave, right?"

Dugu Mobao snorted. "You could've passed the test long ago. Why must you act as if you were in a difficult position?"

Considering the abilities he showed at the later part, he had clearly hidden his abilities!

Rong Xiu smiled, slightly bent his back, and respectfully bowed. After that, he humbly said, "I just broke through not too long ago, and that's also because of your guidance, Seniors. If I didn't pass this stage luckily, I would've been stuck here for quite some time."

"You still refuse to admit that you've benefited!" Lan Xiao couldn't help but scold. We originally wanted to make it difficult for this kid, but we didn't manage to make him suffer much. We even helped him to break through!

This was like throwing a gigantic stone in an attempt to smash the other person's head to teach them a lesson. However, they didn't expect the stone to land right beside that person's leg and become their stepping stone!

This feeling was too aggravating!

To think that I still thought of so many methods to deal with Rong Xiu previously, but they all benefited him in the end.

Rong Xiu was already immune to such words. From the day he got together with Yue'er, they already disliked him. Hence, Rong Xiu handled it with ease after much practice.

“Besides... It's also my fault that I didn't take good care of Yue'er, causing the few of you to worry about her.”

Dugu Mobao and the rest fell silent for a moment. Even though they scolded him harshly, they knew how Rong Xiu treated Yue'er. If he had any way, he definitely wouldn't let things escalate to this stage.

After a moment, the water surface rippled.

Dugu Mobao said, “Go ahead! If the girl is hurt again—even an inch of her hair—we won't let you off!”

Rong Xiu cupped his fists. “Seniors, please take care. I'll take my leave first.”

Then, he finally turned around, and Xue Xue followed him closely.

The human and the fiend quickly disappeared into the empty space.

Once again, the Red Moon Desert was quiet.

After some time, Diwu Zhangze carefully asked, “We just let him go like that, then... What should we do next?”

They couldn't leave the Red Moon Desert and could only temporarily come out once a month. They were restricted in whatever they wanted to do.

"Yue'er Girlie returned to the Imperial City, and we can't help her much..."

"If she can't even handle those nobodies, then we've judged her wrongly," Dugu Mobao coldly said.

"That's true, but Girlie was still bullied. Are we just going to watch on like this?" retorted Lan Xiao in extreme disapproval.

"Of course not," said Dugu Mobao gradually. "Don't worry. I have my own plans."

...

Lang Kun Hall, Palace, Xi Ling.

The dagger flew out and killed the black light.

Everything happened in just one moment. Before Chu Liuyue could even clearly see the dagger moving, she heard a miserable cry filled with vengeance by her ear.

Then, everything in front of her suddenly disappeared!

The sinister and cold suppression was instantly resolved!

The pattern on the dagger gradually dimmed before disappearing without a trace. The dagger then flew back into Chu Liuyue's hands.

Chu Liuyue blinked. *That aura just now... It was Rong Xiu?!*