

Noble Ruler 901

Chapter 901: Your Husband

Watching the last ray of black light disappear, Chu Liuyue instinctively wanted to continue attacking. However, she suddenly heard Shangguan Jing's voice. "Yue'er, you mustn't chase it!"

At that moment, the light swiftly left!

Chu Liuyue turned back strangely and saw her ancestor's solemn expression. *Is he... worried because of the so-called 'Black Demon Hole' incident?*

As the Princess, she still understood the structure of the mainland.

Outside Heaven's Canopy were many small countries like Country Yao Chen. Inside Heaven's Canopy were many strong existences like the Tianling Dynasty.

All these dynasties had vast regions, and most of them were in charge of guarding Heaven's Canopy. They were known as the main characters of the mainland.

They did contact and interact with each other, but they didn't really intervene with whatever the other parties were doing. After all, millions of people's lives would be lost once such existences fought.

Besides, countries that could have a place within Heaven's Canopy had extremely strong warriors to back them up, so they couldn't be easily offended.

But within here, Chu Liuyue had never heard of Black Demon Hole's name. *Ancestor seems fearful... What exactly is he worried about?*

However, Shangguan Jing seemed to have no intention of talking about this in detail in front of the crowd as he glanced at Chu Liuyue meaningfully before gently shaking his head.

At this point, a painful moan was heard from below.

Shangguan Wan lay down on the floor and curled up into a ball in pain as the pool of blood below her body kept expanding. At first glance, it seemed to be faintly black.

Pain!

Extreme pain!

Her mind was blank, leaving behind the pain she couldn't struggle free from or avoid. This was because that person rushed out of Shangguan Wan's body without a care, causing her force to go out of control and barge around. This led to her body being rotten, even revealing her scarily white bones.

Her entire body seemed to be roasted by strong fire, and it also seemed to be harshly sliced by thousands and millions of blades.

Shangguan Wan was in so much pain that her vision blurred. She finally experienced what it meant by 'better dead than alive!'

Seeing Shangguan Wan's non-human and non-ghost appearance, quite a few people looked shocked and disgusted as they hurriedly moved backward, afraid that they would be tainted by her.

Chu Liuyue watched this scene coldly and nonchalantly. Then, she walked down the stairs and inched toward Shangguan Wan.

The Long Yuan Sword returned to her hands, and the Tianling Power Staff followed beside her silently.

When Shangguan Wan heard the footsteps, she knew that Chu Liuyue was here. Her trembling body finally stopped for a moment as she gradually lifted her head.

Gasps could be heard coming from the audience. *The uneven scar on Shangguan Wan's face actually started rotting!*

Blood kept spewing out, covering her face and mixing with her black blood. This caused her to look like a harsh ghost, and people were very afraid of her.

She was wearing a red bridal gown, so it wasn't obvious when her blood stained her clothes. Only the pool of blood that kept expanding below her body could show how severely injured she was!

She raised her head with much difficulty as she stared at Chu Liuyue in despair and sorrow. At this point, she didn't even have the energy to hate or be jealous of Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue looked at her. "What relationship do you have with the person just now?"

Shangguan Wan opened her mouth, and her voice sounded floaty. “You’re... satisfied now... Just... kill me...”

She knew that she couldn’t live past this day. That person had ruined her body’s last chance of survival, and she was now just a broken shell.

Instead of suffering and enduring countless people’s contempt and scoldings, she would rather die directly!

However, Chu Liuyue didn’t care as she bent down and stared straight into Shangguan Wan’s eyes. “I’m asking you: how much do you know about that person just now?”

Shangguan Wan was so arrogant, mostly because of that person’s help. Speaking of which, she should be the one who understood that person the most.

Shangguan Wan laughed in a self-mocking manner, but before her lips could curl up, they drooped. Her face then darkened as well.

Chu Liuyue took a step back and raised her chin. “Qi Han, wake her up.”

A figure walked out of the Black Guard troops—it was Qi Han!

He walked straight to Shangguan Wan, pulled her hair, and forced her to look up as his other hand rapidly shoved a pill down her throat.

The entire process was smooth and precise!

Before Shangguan Wan could even yelp in pain, she felt the warm medicinal effects spreading throughout her stomach. However, this didn't make her feel happy or elated. Instead, it triggered a deeper horror!

She hurriedly struggled to try to puke the medicine out, but the pill dissolved once it entered her mouth, and she had long swallowed it.

"You have the strength to talk now, right?" asked Chu Liuyue lightly.

Shangguan Wan felt hatred and fear as she couldn't help but cry, "W-what exactly do you want! I know you h-hate me... Just kill me!"

I would rather die than endure the pain of being trampled by the crowd!

Chu Liuyue suddenly laughed as her eyes curved, and her expression had a few hints of coldness. "You want to die? How could it be that easy?"

To a certain extent, being able to die swiftly was also a type of relief.

Shangguan Wan inflicted so much pain on me. How can I just let her off easily? Back then, I decided to commit suicide and set myself on fire without hesitation because I couldn't endure the duo's torture. However, I don't plan on giving Shangguan Wan such a chance.

She blinked, looked at Shangguan Wan, and said seriously and slowly, “Don’t worry. If you refuse to say it now, you’ll say it sooner or later.”

A chill ran down Shangguan Wan’s spine. At that moment, endless terror overwhelmed her. “I-I really don’t know! I don’t know anything! He appeared himself. I-I was forced!”

However, Chu Liuyue shook her head. “You don’t need to panic. You can properly tell me again when you’ve thought it through, lest you waste my time.”

Then, she raised her head slightly, glanced at Jiang Yucheng, and shook her head with much pity. “Pfft, what a pity. Your husband hasn’t even put in a good word for you since the start.”

Chapter 902: That Person Helped You, Right?

Shangguan Wan was already numb because she had long known that Jiang Yucheng didn’t treat her genuinely at all! *He currently wants to push all the blame to me, so why would he even speak up for me? Thinking about it now, all the romance and sweet nothings in the past few years were just my wishful thinking! This meticulously planned and highly anticipated wedding eventually became a gigantic joke!*

Shangguan Wan hopelessly closed her eyes, and her tears seemed to be dried as she was just left with an empty heart. Then, she directly fainted, her eyes flipping over.

“Bring her down and take ‘good care’ of her,” said Chu Liuyue lightly.

“Yes!” Qi Han acknowledged the order as he hurriedly dragged Shangguan Wan down, leaving a scary pool of blood on the ground—an indicator of whatever happened here before.

The crowd watched this scene silently and was stunned. *Who would've thought that the delighted Shangguan Wan would end up in such a state overnight? From today onward, this piece of land will drastically change...*

...

From start to end, someone still seemed nonchalant to everything—Jiang Yucheng. Even if he saw his newly-wedded wife ending up in such a state, his face didn't have much of an expression as if it had nothing to do with him.

Only the empty and bloodstained arm sleeve reminded people that he had lost half his arm previously.

Chu Liuyue looked at Jiang Yucheng and turned her wrist.

Whoosh!

The Long Yuan Sword went forward, the black blade gleaming with ice-cold light as it let out sinister, murderous intent. It was as though it could directly kill Jiang Yucheng the next second.

“Now, it's your turn!”

...

“Your Highness!” A hurried and sorrowful cry came, and then a figure suddenly rushed up from behind, blocking Jiang Yucheng.

Putong!

He directly kneeled on the floor.

It was Jiang Lizuo.

His delighted and arrogant expression had completely disappeared at this point, leaving behind a face filled with panic and loss. He kneeled there as he looked up at Chu Liuyue in despair. “Your Highness, please spare Yucheng!”

Chu Liuyue’s gaze changed, and she looked at him as if it were very funny. “Grand Tutor Jiang, you should’ve clearly heard what happened earlier, right? Why do you still have the cheek to say such words of mercy now? Jiang Yucheng collaborated with Shangguan Wan to poison my father and me. He even fabricated an imperial edict, framed loyal subjects, and even tried to kill the entire Chong Xu Cabinet! Which of such actions aren’t worthy of convicting him? I really want to know on what basis you want me to let him off now?”

Jiang Lizuo broke out into a cold sweat, and his face was pale.

How could he not know how serious these crimes were!? However, Jiang Yucheng was his eldest son and the one he doted on the most.

When he saw Jiang Yucheng’s arm being cut off, he almost jumped out. But at that point, he was stunned by the continuous happenings and just endured it.

But after hearing whatever Chu Liuyue was saying now—she clearly wanted Jiang Yucheng’s life—how could he sit still?

“Y-Yucheng always liked you, Your Highness. Why would he harm you? Shangguan Wan might hate you, but... Yucheng doesn’t! T-there must be a misunderstanding here!”

“When you were preparing for your wedding two years ago, Yucheng personally handled every single aspect on the Jiang family’s side. He wanted to successfully marry you more than anyone else. Why would he do such a thing behind your back?!”

Jiang Lizuo kowtowed. “Your Highness, Yucheng had already liked you many years ago! He admired you for so many years, and it’s impossible for him to betray you!”

Chu Liuyue’s lips curled up slightly. “So you’re saying that I remembered the person who killed me wrongly?”

Jiang Lizuo was stumped. “P-perhaps he was forced...”

“Grand Tutor Jiang.” Chu Liuyue interrupted him with a nonchalant expression. “Don’t just beg for mercy for your son. You should beg for your entire Jiang family as well.”

Upon hearing this, Jiang Lizuo was suddenly dazed. “W-what?”

“Jiang Yucheng has committed so many crimes. Do you really think your Jiang family can escape from this unscathed? Just the crime of trying to murder Father alone is enough to wipe out your entire family

clan. You can't even protect yourself, so why do you still have the energy to beg for mercy for Jiang Yucheng?" Chu Liuyue reminded him kindly, "If you really want to cry, why don't you cry for your entire Jiang family."

Jiang Lizuo really didn't think of this. Too many things had happened today, and he was too impacted, so he couldn't think of such implications.

When he saw Shangguan Wan's miserable state earlier, he was petrified that Jiang Yucheng would end up in the same manner. Hence, he hurriedly rushed out. However, he didn't think that the entire Jiang family would be implicated by Jiang Yucheng!

Chu Liuyue's words struck Jiang Lizuo in the head and suddenly woke him up! His pale and cracked lips violently trembled as his eyes turned dazed before showing immense horror. *That's right! This will implicate the entire family clan! Previously, we could say that the previous evidence wasn't sufficient and that there was still room for argument. But now that the Princess and His Majesty have personally stepped up and proved that Jiang Yucheng did everything back then, what's there to argue about?*

"Yucheng... Yucheng! Quickly, say something!" Jiang Lizuo instinctively looked at Jiang Yucheng.

This son had been his pride since he was young as he was always the most outstanding one in every aspect. Later on, he was even more delighted and elated when he had a marriage agreement with the Princess.

There were so many handsome and talented lads in the Tianling Dynasty, yet the Princess chose Yucheng! Anyone would be envious of him!

But when he originally thought that everything was going smoothly, the Princess suddenly died, and the marriage was voided. Jiang Lizuo was very disappointed at first, but Jiang Yucheng actually became close to Shangguan Wan gradually.

He also smoothly took over many affairs after the Princess's death because he had helped the latter with those matters when she was alive. With this, he rapidly became the most powerful person in the entire Tianling Dynasty.

Jiang Lizuo was naturally happy about this. He had never asked about anything in detail and just felt that this son of his was very capable, so he safely enjoyed everyone's flattering and envy.

Who would've thought that he did such things in the dark?

Now that everything was exposed, he couldn't hide anymore!

Not only would the wealth and fame they enjoyed turn into naught, but the entire Jiang family would also be implicated!

Jiang Yucheng didn't even care about Jiang Lizuo's angry scoldings and begging as he simply looked at Chu Liuyue. Other than the initial shock, he seemed to have calmed down at this point. "I didn't expect that you were still alive."

Once Jiang Yucheng spoke, Jiang Lizuo immediately collapsed onto the floor in defeat as his face turned gray. *He admitted it!*

Chu Liuyue's red lips curled up slightly. "Yeah, are you very disappointed that I'm alive?"

Jiang Yucheng didn't answer her, but his expression turned strange. "That person helped you, right?"

Chapter 903: Accompany You

That person? What person? The question baffled Chu Liuyue.

Looking at her expression, Jiang Yucheng suddenly understood something. *It seems like she still doesn't remember...*

This instantly made him feel better.

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes, and a thought surfaced in her mind. *Jiang Yucheng seems to know about my loss of memory!*

But just as she was about to continue asking, Jiang Yucheng suddenly moved and hurriedly went forward!

He was a stage-seven warrior, so even though he was injured, the strength he suddenly exerted still couldn't be underestimated!

A silver light flashed across as he whipped out his longsword and directly went against the Long Yuan Sword!

Murderous intent flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes as she raised her wrist.

Tsing!

The two longswords hit each other harshly!

Kacha!

A crisp cracking sound was heard!

Jiang Yucheng's sword was directly sliced down the middle and turned into halves by the Long Yuan Sword!

This sword was actually a Yuan instrument that Jiang Yucheng treasured, and it could be considered a good sword. It was a pity that it couldn't be compared to the Long Yuan Sword at all, directly breaking once it went against the other weapon.

But Jiang Yucheng didn't panic at all as he took advantage of the time when the longsword was broken to go forward quickly! His hand went straight for Chu Liuyue's neck!

Chu Liuyue saw it clearly, and there seemed to be a purplish-black mark appearing on his hand!

A dangerous aura loomed over her! The next moment, Jiang Yucheng was already half a step away from Chu Liuyue!

The crowd gasped!

The situation is already in this state, but he hasn't given up and chose to go against the Princess directly?!

The Long Yuan Sword was indeed extremely strong, but Jiang Yucheng's attack came too quickly and suddenly!

"Yue'er!"

"Your Highness!"

Worried shouts came from all directions, but this happened too suddenly. The others didn't even have time to go up and help!

They watched on as Jiang Yucheng's hand was about to strangle Chu Liuyue's neck tightly!

Chu Liuyue went on her toes and swiftly avoided it. At the same time, a transparent fire suddenly came out from her palm and quickly enveloped her body.

The scorching temperature made Jiang Yucheng's brows twitch!

Seeing Chu Liuyue's transparent fire, the familiar burn suddenly came!

This...

Just as he was dazed at that moment, Chu Liuyue had already avoided his attack! She then raised her leg and kicked forward, directly kicking Jiang Yucheng out!

Crack!

The bone-cracking sound was extremely clear!

Bang!

Jiang Yucheng harshly fell onto the floor!

He was originally injured, so Chu Liuyue's sudden blow was adding oil to the fire. However, he didn't care about his injury as he struggled to look at Chu Liuyue with much shock. "You were the one who attacked me that day! You disguised as Xia Mu!"

He didn't feel it previously, but after this round of close-quarters combat, he suddenly realized that the cunning and harsh fighting method was too familiar!

Chu Liuyue's lips curled up. "That's right!"

Immense uneasiness overwhelmed Jiang Yucheng's heart, and he touched his chest as if he wanted to take something out.

However, Chu Liuyue didn't give him this chance. She stared straight at Jiang Yucheng and clearly hollered, "Explode!"

Then, Jiang Yucheng felt a rush of fire entering his dantian—it was excruciating!

Previously, his stomach would faintly hurt from time to time, but he never took it to heart. But at this point, he stunningly discovered that this force had already burned all the way to his dantian!

“No—” The moment he said this, he felt a crazy and terrifying aura exploding in his dantian!

Boom!

His pearl of essence broke, and his dantian was damaged!

The intense pain made Jiang Yucheng’s vision go blank, and he almost fainted!

He had previously used all sorts of methods to store his force, but it started to flow crazily as he had lost control.

Everything happened in just one moment. Without waiting for the crowd to react, Jiang Yucheng was already lying on the floor with a pool of blood underneath and looked extremely unkempt.

A fist-sized blood hole appeared in his stomach. All the muscles in his body also started cracking due to the impact of his body’s force.

Bloody wounds appeared all over his body, looking terrifying!

Jiang Yucheng lost some of his consciousness as blood flew into his eyes, causing them to turn red. He lay on the floor and wasn't sure which part of his body hurt more. *It turns out... It turns out it really is her! She had already started planning all of this then—no, perhaps even earlier!*

The transparent fire quickly spread across Jiang Yucheng's body!

Chu Liuyue looked down at him from above and tilted her head. "How does this feel?"

They should also experience the heart-wrenching pain I felt back then!

Jiang Yucheng wanted to convert his force into a barrier and defend against the transparent fire's attack, but this fire seed had been buried in his body for a very long time before it directly imploded from the inside.

How could he defend against it? Besides, with his damaged pearl of essence, his entire person was just a good-for-nothing.

Jiang Lizuo watched on from the side, and his heart ached more than ever.

However, everyone had clearly seen that it was Jiang Yucheng who instinctively attacked the Princess earlier! He deserved to die in such circumstances!

How would he dare to beg for mercy again?

Jiang Lizuo's vision blurred as he thought of the entire Jiang family's end. He was devastated as his blood hurled up, and he directly fainted.

Immediately, the Black Guards at the side brought him down.

The scene in front of them was very messy, but it was also organized in some manner.

A smart person could tell that the Princess's people had already done all the necessary preparations. Everything that happened today was within her control!

Jiang Yucheng rolled on the floor in excruciating pain, wanting to extinguish the fire on his body. However, the fire from the Heavenly Square Cauldron was too strong. How could it be settled so easily?

Jiang Yucheng could even hear his surrounding bloodstains being burned and making the 'zz, zz' sound.

All his muscles, blood, and bones... were suffering immense pain!

Finally, Jiang Yucheng spat out a few words with much difficulty. "I-if you want to kill me, just do it!"

However, Chu Liuyue suddenly raised her bare hands, and the transparent fire seemed to receive the command. The fire rapidly gathered and finally formed a tiny ball before flying into the air and jumping onto Chu Liuyue's palm.

If one didn't take a closer look, they wouldn't be able to identify that it was a spirit-like, transparent fire spark.

Following this, Chu Liuyue raised her sword and tilted the sword tip to slash a wound on Jiang Yucheng's chest.

Without waiting for her ex-fiancé to react, she flicked her finger, and the fire spark entered Jiang Yucheng's heart.

"Don't worry. I can't bear to kill you now." Chu Liuyue's lips curled up. "In the future, I think you won't be lonely with this fire seed accompanying you."

Chapter 904: You Have a Fiancé?

From now on, Jiang Yucheng would have to endure the pain and burn in his heart endlessly. And with his pearl of essence being damaged, he could only passively endure this torture!

Chu Liuyue had vowed that she would make those people who hurt her repay whatever she had suffered a thousand-fold over.

Today was only the beginning.

Jiang Yucheng wanted to say something, but the excruciating pain overwhelmed him, causing him to curl up into a ball and lay on the floor with blood everywhere, as lowly as an ant.

Who would've thought that the high and mighty Jiang Yucheng would eventually end up in such a state?

Chu Liuyue retracted her gaze, raised her head slightly, and wanted to go forward. Her feet had been stained with blood at some point, so it looked very terrifying as she left a bloody footprint with every step she took.

Countless gazes gathered on her.

She clearly had a slim figure and thin shoulders, but her surrounding murderous aura was imposing!

Chu Liuyue walked up the nine flights of stairs one by one and looked at Shangguan You. “Father, I’m sorry I didn’t discuss this with you.”

Even though Qi Han and Jian Fengchi had previously worked together and both of them had vaguely guessed something, she really didn’t tell anyone about what happened later on.

Shangguan You shook his head and raised his hand.

The Tianling Power Staff seemed to be summoned as it flew into his hands. The next moment, Shangguan You passed the Tianling Power Staff to Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue was shocked.

“Today, I will officially pass you the Tianling Dynasty’s throne! From today onward, you’re the new emperor of Tianling!”

Chu Liuyue opened her mouth, but she heard Shangguan You continue speaking. "You can do whatever you like from now on! Nobody can hurt you again!"

This position originally belonged to her. In the entire Tianling Dynasty, nobody was more suited than her!

After knowing about what happened back then, Shangguan You actually felt very regretful. *If I had passed on the throne to her earlier, Shangguan Wan and the rest wouldn't covet it. So many troubles might not have happened after that either. Now that she has finally come back safely and with Ancestor here, everything falls into place!*

Seeing Shangguan You's eyes filled with doting love, a wave of warmth rushed up Chu Liuyue's heart as tears welled up in her eyes.

She paused and finally took the Tianling Power Staff with both hands. The next moment, the Tianling Power Staff glowed brightly and went straight for the clouds!

The suppression boomed!

Everyone kneeled down! "Congratulations, Princess, for becoming Emperor!"

In a land filled with blood, that woman stepped over the boundaries of life and death and came back once more!

Chu Liuyue was overwhelmed. *From now on, as Tianling thrives or sinks, I am the emperor!*

...

Today was originally the day when the Third Princess, Shangguan Wan, ascended the throne. However, the news from the palace shocked everyone and instantly caused an uproar in the entire Xi Ling!

It turned out that Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng had colluded to harm the Princess and killed her!

It turned out that they were also responsible for His Majesty being unconscious for two years!

It turned out that the continuous setbacks suffered by Chong Xu Cabinet were orchestrated by Jiang Yucheng!

The more important point was—the Princess didn't actually die!

After exposing all the crimes the duo committed back then, the situation in the entire Tianling Dynasty changed drastically!

Everyone in the Xiahou Residence and Jiang Residence was killed!

Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng were stripped of their cultivation, their bones were broken, and they were imprisoned!

The Black Guard Lieutenant, Mu Qinghe, was removed from his position and was under house arrest in the Mu Residence!

Other than this, many people were also implicated and punished at once! It could be said that after this battle, half of Tianling's imperial court was cleansed!

On the same day, the Princess officially ascended the throne and became the emperor!

Overnight, Tianling completely changed!

...

As a result, the outside world was in a mess.

But as the Princess originally held a very high position in many people's hearts in the Tianling Dynasty, the crowd quickly chose to accept this after knowing the truth. In fact, many people felt that the Princess coming back and ascending the throne was much better than Shangguan Wan doing so.

However, they never expected that Chu Liuyue was actually the Princess!

Due to this, there were people who doubted her bloodline. But since Shangguan Jing had already appeared, nobody dared to say anything else.

The entire Tianling Dynasty was founded by Shangguan Jing alone. Who could refute his words? So after that struggle, there weren't many objections, and all the arguments were quickly appeased.

Quite a few people scolded and showed contempt toward the incident of Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng colluding to harm the Princess.

Of course, Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng wouldn't know what the public said.

Shangguan Wan was under house arrest in Huayang Palace.

As for Jiang Yucheng... After seeing his entire Jiang family being executed on the second day, he was brought to Huayang Palace but wasn't placed in the same room as Shangguan Wan.

They were a couple after all, and Chu Liuyue felt that it wasn't good to purposely separate them. It was quite good to fulfill their wishes of being a deserted couple.

...

The treatment of everyone in the palace was done for three whole days.

Everywhere was filled with an intense, bloody aura that only disappeared completely a few days later. However, Chu Liuyue handed all of these things to the Thirteen Yue Guards as she rapidly took over the many matters of the imperial court.

As the changes were too drastic and impacted many areas, she had to attend to quite a few matters personally. Luckily, she was already used to doing all of this before, so it wasn't hard for her to take over and quickly arrange everything cleanly.

This day, she read and approved the last bit of documents and finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Just as she was about to go out, she coincidentally saw Shangguan You pacing back and forth as if he were hesitating about something. "Father, why are you here?"

Hearing the voice, Shangguan You turned around. After a few days of rest, the former emperor looked much better. However, his expression still seemed hesitant. "Um... Yue'er, I have something to ask you."

"Father, you can just say it directly." Chu Liuyue smiled. *What can make Father have such a reaction? Logically speaking, he shouldn't have much to worry about now.*

Shangguan You coughed as he carefully glanced at Chu Liuyue. After a moment of hesitation, he finally said, "Um... I heard that you already have a fiancé in Country Yao Chen?"

Chapter 905: Who is Scolding Me

Chu Liuyue did not expect her father to come for this, so she couldn't help but laugh and nod. "That is true. Father, where did you hear this news from?"

Shangguan You didn't expect his daughter to admit it in such a straightforward manner, and he was slightly shocked. "Oh, I coincidentally talked to Old Song for a while the day before..."

Everyone in Chong Xu Cabinet knew of Rong Xiu's existence. After all, he had personally visited them and even gave them quite a few substantial gifts, so it was hard to even forget about him.

Chu Liuyue had been busy with court matters for the past few days, so she didn't even have the chance to sit down and talk to Weichi Song and the rest. However, she originally had no intentions of hiding it, so she nodded in understanding. "I see... I didn't think of hiding this from you. I was just too busy recently, so I didn't have the time to talk to you about it."

Shangguan You felt more at ease. *It should be fine if my daughter is so honest about it.*

"Then... How is he as a person? I heard that he's a prince from Yao Chen. He's called... Rong Xiu, right? How old is he? What's his cultivation level? Most importantly, how does he treat you?" Shangguan You didn't hold it in and voiced all his doubts.

Chu Liuyue looked at him strangely. "Father, you didn't come here to see me today but to specifically ask about Rong Xiu, right?"

After being exposed, Shangguan You was embarrassed for a moment. This concerned his most precious daughter's marriage after all, so he naturally had to be meticulous and careful about it. "Ahem! K-kind of! He's your husband after all, but I haven't even seen him yet..."

With Jiang Yucheng's incident fresh in his mind, Shangguan You was now scarred and terrified that Chu Liuyue would meet another indecent chap. He didn't want the incident of two years prior happening again.

Even though Chu Liuyue saw that he looked very nonchalant, how could she not notice the worry and nervousness in her father's eyes? Her heart felt warm as her red lips curled up, and she nodded seriously. "He's very good and treats me very well."

Shangguan You observed her expression in detail and saw that she looked secure when she talked about Rong Xiu and that her eyes would shine brightly. It was as if spring bloomed on her face.

This was the expression one would only have when they liked someone very much.

He had never seen such an expression on his daughter before. Even when she took the initiative to say that she wanted to get engaged with Jiang Yucheng back then, she didn't show such an expression.

Shangguan You had lived more than half his life after all, and as a former ruler, he was very good at reading people.

My precious daughter really likes that Rong Xiu! Shangguan You heaved a slight sigh of relief but became vaguely worried.

On the one hand, he was worried that Yue'er would be very defensive after experiencing the double betrayal from Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan and would push everyone outside her wall. On the other hand, he was also afraid that this Rong Xiu wouldn't be able to give Yue'er the best.

She had already suffered too much. He didn't want her to endure even a little more pain.

"Since this is so... Now that many things in Xi Ling have been solved, why don't we find a time and ask him to come to Xi Ling?"

It's natural for Father to want to see his son-in-law. Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly. "Sure."

After all, it isn't like he hasn't come before. Now that everything is settled, I also want to tell him about my true identity seriously.

Hearing Chu Liuyue say this, Shangguan You nodded but still looked hesitant.

Chu Liuyue inched closer toward him in confusion. “Father, is there something else you want to say?”

Shangguan You immediately denied it. “No, no!”

Chu Liuyue looked at him lazily, and it was clear that she could see through him.

Shangguan You instantly felt awkward as he stuttered for a while before softly asking, “Actually, it’s nothing much. B-but... I just heard that Rong Xiu doesn’t seem to be in the best of health?”

Chu Liuyue almost burst out into laughter. “Did you go and check on Rong Xiu’s background when you didn’t come here for the past few days?”

After being exposed on the spot, Shangguan You instantly felt very awkward as his face flushed. “I was just worried about you, so... I asked around in private...”

Country Yao Chen was outside Heaven’s Canopy, but it was still possible if Shangguan You wanted to ask around for some news. However, the things he heard were rather unsettling.

Everything else is fine, but his physique... It seems like he was ill when he was in his mother’s womb and couldn’t get better afterward. This made Shangguan You worried.

Chu Liuyue finally couldn't help but laugh, and her eyes curved up. "Don't worry. He's not any less talented or capable than me, and he's even stronger than me. Everything else is just hearsay."

Shangguan You was first stunned before he raised his brows slightly, looking like he did not believe her. "Yue'er, even if you want to put in a good word for him, you don't need to exaggerate to this extent, right? Even in the entire Xi Ling, we might not even be able to find a person that's more outstanding than you, let alone one Yao Chen?"

It wasn't that he looked down on Yao Chen, but it was indeed rather insignificant when compared to the Tianling Dynasty.

Chu Liuyue shook her head and said sincerely, "If you don't believe me, you'll naturally find out when he comes."

Actually, there were still some unknown things between her and Rong Xiu—like her identity as the Princess and... his identity as His Grace!

Seeing how confident Chu Liuyue was, Shangguan You half-believed her but still nodded in agreement. "Yue'er, don't worry. As long as he's as outstanding as you claim, I'll definitely support you two! You don't have to care about the rest!"

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes. "The rest...? What other things?"

Shangguan You's eyelids twitched, and he stammered, "N-nothing much..."

"Hm?"

“Ahem, just... You see, now that you came back safely and have been crowned as emperor, the imperial court officials are all quite concerned about your marriage...” Shangguan You carefully glanced at her. “This... You also know that there are quite a few handsome and talented young men in Xi Ling City who... For you, the second son of Officer Zhao hasn’t married anyone yet... The Xun family has also been requesting to see you for a few days already...”

Chu Liuyue’s eyelids twitched harshly. *What is going on? I haven’t even sat stably on the throne, yet they’re already starting to propose marriage to me?*

“There is no need to be in such a hurry...”

“How can they not be in a hurry? Most of the emperors in the Tianling Dynasty were already married when they ascended the throne, and some of them got married on their ascension day. The minority of them also had marriage agreements. Only you—they don’t really know about your marriage agreement now. But even if they know...”

Shangguan You didn’t finish his remaining words, but Chu Liuyue knew what he meant: Even if they knew that she already had a marriage agreement with Rong Xiu, they wouldn’t care for it.

Even if he was a prince, he wouldn’t be worthy of the distinguished Tianling Emperor—Chu Liuyue—in their eyes as he was from a small country outside Heaven’s Canopy!

...

At the same time, in Ping Liang Square outside Xi Ling City.

A bulky figure just walked out of the transportation formation. He wore a hood and covered his face, so he looked rather unreal.

Not many people walking back and forth noticed him.

He looked up at the ancient and vintage Xi Ling City and suddenly sneezed.

Rong Xiu rubbed his nose and muttered softly and nasally, sounding extremely lazy. “Who is scolding me?”

Chapter 906: Cancel Marriage Agreement

Chu Liuyue—who was in the palace—had yet to know the news of Rong Xiu arriving at Xi Ling. After comforting her father with much difficulty, she went straight to Huayang Palace.

The once glamorous and crowded Huayang Palace was now cold and quiet. Other than the Black Guards guarding inside and outside the palace, there wasn't even a single palace maid serving them.

Chu Liuyue walked straight all the way and directly entered the main hall of Huayang Palace.

After entering the room, an awful smell attacked her nose!

The entire room was in a mess and extremely dirty. Inside that mountain of rubbish, one could forcefully see a person lying there—it was Shangguan Wan!

As nobody took care of her injuries, they kept rotting repeatedly. But every day, Qi Han would specifically make a trip here to feed her a pill and extend her life.

Due to this, she couldn't die or faint and could only tolerate this terrifying pain clearly.

Day and night, without an end.

Hearing the noise, Shangguan Wan thought that Qi Han was here, so she didn't move at all. Anyway, she had no strength to struggle and could only live every day in a deathly state.

After the long torture in the past few days, she was already void of all thoughts. The only wish she had was to be lucky enough one day to die directly.

"It seems like you're living quite well." A familiar voice sounded.

Shangguan Wan was stunned as she looked up in shock and realized the incoming person was Chu Liuyue!

Today, the latter was wearing a pure white dress. Her hair drooped down, with only a peach blossom hairpin attached to it.

At first glance, she was pure, elegant, and charming. Who would've expected that such a person would use such a cruel method to force Shangguan Wan into such a state?

It was as if the surrounding dirt had nothing to do with her as she stood there in a high and mighty manner.

Shangguan Wan knew that she had come back. *She really came back!*

“Wh-what do you want?” Shangguan Wan struggled to spit out that sentence, but it was weak.

Chu Liuyue simply smiled. “I came here to ask you who exactly the soul that escaped that day was. How is he related to you, and what did he help you do?”

Shangguan Wan kept silent for a moment. “I can say it if you want me to, but... If I say it, you have to promise that you’ll directly kill me!”

I really can’t carry on living such days!

Chu Liuyue raised her brows, and her eyes had a hint of a smile. “Do you think you still have the right to bargain with me? Say it if you want, but if you don’t... I have a lot of time to wait.”

Then, she directly turned around and seemed to leave!

Seeing how decisive she was, Shangguan Wan panicked. “Wait—I’ll say it! I’ll say it now!”

As if afraid that Chu Liuyue would go back on her words, she took a deep breath in and spurted out everything in her mind. “I-I don’t know when that person entered my body, and I don’t know who he is. All these years, he has always been the one instigating me to do things. H-he was also the one who hinted me to harm you back then! A-and the way to heal my Yuan meridian...”

Chu Liuyue half-squinted her eyes and thought for a moment. “He was the one who taught you to attack those people at Dahuang Swamp back then?”

“Yes! Yes!”

“This means that he long hated me from the start and manipulated you into doing so?!”

“That’s right! If it weren’t for him, I definitely wouldn’t have the guts! I swear!”

Chu Liuyue paused, and many thoughts flashed across her mind. Given Shangguan Wan’s current appearance, her words must be true. I purposely locked her up and tortured her for so many days. On the one hand, I want her to repay her debt from back then. On the other hand, I want to push her to the breaking point and make her honestly speak the truth. At this point, she has no reason to lie anymore. It seems like I can’t find out more from this end.

Chu Liuyue was slightly disappointed. It’s expected that such a strong person can control Shangguan Wan. Perhaps Shangguan Wan doesn’t even understand that person as much as Ancestor.

“Was it your idea to attack me or Jiang Yucheng’s?” Chu Liuyue changed the topic.

“It was his idea! He willingly came to look for me. H-he said that he liked me and wanted to be together with me forever...” Shangguan Wan said, but her voice gradually trembled. She felt that she was a fool played by Jiang Yucheng, but she didn’t even know!

It was a pity that she had a crush on Jiang Yucheng for many years back then, so how could she differentiate the truth?

“When he looked for me back then, he had already started poisoning you. From start to end, it was always Jiang Yucheng who wanted to harm you! Even though I hate you, I never had the plan or the guts to do it... Speaking of which, I was just his assistant. If you want to take revenge, just look for him!”

As Shangguan Wan talked, she laughed in a self-mocking manner. “Speaking of which, it’s quite funny. His study has a portrait of you from ten years ago. He already liked you since the day you became of marriageable age, but in the end, didn’t he kill you as well?”

Chu Liuyue didn’t say a word. *I can’t live up to Jiang Yucheng’s so-called ‘like.’ As for why he wanted to harm me, I have to ask him clearly to find out the truth.*

Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue turned around to leave.

Shangguan Wan hurriedly called her and wanted the latter to end her, but Chu Liuyue’s figure had long disappeared.

After yelling so much, Shangguan Wan’s throat became hoarse. It also bled again, and she gradually fainted.

Not long later, Qi Han came over and woke her up again so that she could endure the pain and torture that would never end!

...

Chu Liuyue didn't care much about what happened in the main hall.

The Thirteen Yue Guards had been by her side for a very long time, so they naturally would help her with a lot of things.

After stepping out, she turned and entered the side hall.

Jiang Yucheng was inside, and his condition wasn't any better than that of Shangguan Wan. However, his mental state was much stronger than that of the latter.

Hearing the noise, he gradually looked up.

When he saw the familiar yet strange face, his heart tingled slightly, and his eyes rippled.

Even though Chu Liuyue didn't dress up elaborately today, she no longer hid her aura after she recovered her status. She was even colder and more distant than before.

Even if she was only wearing a simple dress, she was still so captivating that one couldn't look away.

Perhaps it was a hallucination, but Jiang Yucheng vaguely felt that Chu Liuyue seemed to become increasingly similar to Shangguan Yue from back then.

If one previously said that she was only 50% similar—with 20% being due to her features and the other 30% being due to her mannerisms— then the appearance of the young woman gradually blooming was

already 70% similar to how she was back then. This was especially so when Shangguan Yue was also this age back then...

They really did seem to be carved out of the same mold.

How could there be two people born in such a similar manner in the world? Perhaps they became increasingly similar as the inner soul changed?

Chu Liuyue didn't know what he was thinking at this point as she openly asked, "I came here to ask you about something today. Have I ever told you to cancel the marriage agreement?"

Chapter 907: Of Course Not

Jiang Yucheng's eyes shrunk slightly, and a faint light rapidly flashed across his eyes before disappearing the next moment.

After a while, he said, "Nope."

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly.

Actually, she had a long dream on the night she exposed her identity and officially ascended the throne.

The dream was in bits and pieces, and they were discontinuous parts. After she woke up, she forgot most of it and only vaguely remembered a few scenes.

Other than the octagonal pavilion she had once seen beside the cliff, there were still many unfamiliar scenes in her dream. She had never been to those places before, but she found them extra familiar for some reason.

The key was that she remembered the details of some scenes very clearly. It was like... she had seen them before.

After she woke up, she tried to draw these scenes. But the moment she lifted the brush, she forgot everything completely. Not even a vague outline remained.

Other than the octagonal pavilion on the cliff, all the other places became a blur. Other than this, the clearest view was actually Thousand View Garden.

She dreamed that she stood beside the lake and that Jiang Yucheng was standing in front of her. She seemed to have vaguely said a sentence with some sensitive terms.

Marriage agreement, cancellation, agreement...

Chu Liuyue thought of it for a very long time after she woke up, and she felt that this wasn't completely a dream. Perhaps many things inside were related to the portion of memory she had lost!

If all those had actually happened before... Chu Liuyue guessed that she wanted to cancel the marriage agreement when she went to find Jiang Yucheng back then.

After a few days, she then came here to meet him and ask the question. However, she didn't expect Jiang Yucheng to deny it.

Chu Liuyue didn't believe him completely and asked again, "Really?"

Jiang Yucheng saw her doubtful appearance and suddenly revealed a strange smile for some reason. "Given things are in this state, why should I lie to you about this?"

Back then, she truly didn't say that she wanted to cancel the marriage agreement. This was because they had just picked a time to set the marriage agreement, but she then found him to cancel this agreement before they could even do it.

She just said it was because she had someone she liked. However, she still settled the marriage agreement in the end.

But that was afterward.

Her asking such a question clearly meant that she had completely forgotten about what happened back then.

Jiang Yucheng had no interest in explaining anything, much less repeating whatever happened back then. After all, those experiences were nothing worth remembering and recalling for him.

Chu Liuyue sized Jiang Yucheng up and kept thinking if his words were true.

"Yesterday, the Jiang family's residence was seized. She suddenly changed the topic.

Jiang Yucheng's expression stiffened for a moment, but it disappeared the next moment as his eyes showed a faint bloody red. However, he controlled his entire expression very well as if he had nothing to do with this.

In actual fact, the moment he was dragged to see the Jiang family being executed, he had predicted all of this.

Or perhaps he had thought of such a scenario from the moment he decided to attack her. However, he was always confident in the past and thought that he wouldn't mess up, let alone that she could still come back alive.

"They all died because of you." Chu Liuyue looked at him. "Before your sister—Jiang Yuzhi—died, she was still yelling your name. You should've heard it, right?"

Jiang Yucheng's veins throbbed. *Of course, I heard it—loud and clear!*

Blood covered the floor back then, and the tens of energetic lives suddenly lost their vitality the next moment, leaving behind a pool of nothingness.

Jiang Yucheng gradually closed his eyes. When he opened them again, the emotions had completely disappeared, leaving behind cold nonchalance.

"The winner is king, and losers are nothing. This is your revenge against me; I'll take it."

No matter how much he begged for a savior and mercy, it couldn't change the outcome.

Usurping the throne and all his other crimes... Not to mention Chu Liuyue, anybody else related to this wouldn't let him off easily!

Besides, his pearl of essence was now broken, and he was covered in injuries. He couldn't even be compared to a normal person. What else could he do other than be sorrowful and angry?

And all of this actually had no use since it just gave him more pain.

After turning numb, he became much better.

Chu Liuyue smiled. Jiang Yucheng could really look past this, or perhaps he is sufficiently cold and selfish. It's clearly him who implicated the thousands of people in the entire Jiang family, but in the end, he doesn't seem regretful at all.

This was because he didn't even care about those people! It was the same for even his parents and biological sister. He might have some love for them, but he still cared about himself the most.

If someone else had met with this incident, they would've committed suicide as they couldn't tolerate the pressure from the guilt and self-reproach.

But Jiang Yucheng did not. From a certain angle, he could be considered quite the character.

If he didn't have such a mental capacity and abilities, how could he silently prepare everything back then and betray her in one shot?!

“I found this in your study.” Chu Liuyue suddenly took out a rectangular wooden box.

As they were afraid that the Jiang family still had some dangerous items, Qin Yi had also followed them over during the search.

Later on, he sent this item over.

When Jiang Yucheng saw that wooden box, her expression cracked for a moment.

Chu Liuyue glanced at him, opened the wooden box, and took out a scroll. Her hands then shook slightly, and the painting instantly expanded!

It was a painting of a woman—Shangguan Yue from back then!

When Chu Liuyue saw this portrait, she was also quite stunned.

From the appearance of this painting and the footer, it seemed like Jiang Yucheng had painted it on the day she became of marriageable age.

Jiang Yucheng’s so-called thinking of me for ten years—which Shangguan Wan previously mentioned—should be referring to this. Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a half-smile. “I didn’t know that you would actually leave behind such a thing after you attacked me back then.”

Jiang Yucheng's face paled for a moment as if someone had exposed the secret that he had buried for a long time, and he seemed lost.

He admitted that he did like her. If not, there wouldn't be a marriage agreement in the first place.

But now that she suddenly produced this painting, he felt very awkward for some reason.

"Don't worry. I'm not interested in your ten years of longing," said Chu Liuyue lazily, but her gaze was as sharp as a knife. "I want to ask you: When exactly did you decide to betray me?"

There was no love in this world that came without a reason nor hatred that came from nowhere.

Chu Liuyue didn't really believe it if Jiang Yucheng said he did it for the throne. If he got married to her, he could still get the power he desired.

The more he liked her back then, the more it proved that a shocking secret hid behind this heart-wrenching betrayal!

Chapter 908: That Letter

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

Facing Chu Liuyue's interrogation, Jiang Yucheng chose to be silent. He shut his mouth and refused to say anything. He even averted his gaze and turned his body as if he had no intention of continuing the conversation with Chu Liuyue.

Smack!

Chu Liuyue snapped her fingers.

A red fire immediately rose from her fingers, and the painting suddenly burned.

Jiang Yucheng heard the commotion, and he abruptly turned around. Seeing this scene, the veins on his forehead throbbed.

“Since you refuse to say anything, we won’t talk anymore. As for this painting... You should’ve burned it the day you decided to kill me.” Chu Liuyue’s tone was cold and heartless. Seeing this portrait would just make me disgusted. I wonder who he was acting devoted to all these years? If he liked me even one bit, he wouldn’t have done all those things back then. Ridiculous—a joke!

The painting was rapidly swallowed by the fire seedling and eventually turned into ashes.

When the last spark was extinguished, there was a hint of emotion on Jiang Yucheng’s face. He seemed to want to snatch the painting over, but he didn’t do anything in the end.

Chu Liuyue looked at him with deep meaning before turning around to leave.

When her figure disappeared, the room resumed its deadly silence. Not long later, a miserable cry was heard in the main hall beside the side hall.

Hatred surfaced on Jiang Yucheng’s face.

That was Shangguan Wan's shout. It seemed like it was time for her to be tortured again.

Such a cry would be heard almost every day.

Even without looking, it wasn't hard to imagine what kind of terrifying pain the owner of the voice was experiencing.

Jiang Yucheng's heart suddenly had a burning sensation as his face flashed white, and he slowly bent down.

...

After handling all of this, Chu Liuyue planned to go back to Shaoyue Palace first. Even though her status was different from before, she still stayed in the same place.

Just as she walked past the entrance of Shaoyue Palace, she saw a familiar figure—Qiang Wanzhou.

He seemed to be waiting for her. After hearing the footsteps, he looked up.

Chu Liuyue was quite shocked and walked over. "Little Zhou, why did you come back so quickly?"

She had previously asked Qiang Wanzhou to do a favor for her—bring Chu Ning over from Country Yao Chen.

When she left Yao Chen's Imperial City back then, Chu Ning only knew that she followed Mu Qinghe over to the Tianling Dynasty. He didn't know that she came back to take revenge, and naturally, he knew nothing of her true identity.

When everything was settled, she planned on inviting Chu Ning over for a reunion and telling him the truth.

The original Chu Liuyue was already dead, and it was her who was living in this body. Even though this was too cruel to tell a father, it was unavoidable.

Now that she had already recovered her identity in Tianling, she couldn't pretend to be the Chu Liuyue from back then.

She had already thought of a plan. As long as Chu Ning was willing, she would be his daughter for the rest of her life.

No matter if he decided to stay in Xi Ling in the end or return to Yao Chen, she would respect his choice and do her best to accompany and take care of him. Even though she only spent less than a year with Chu Ning after being reborn, she already thought of the latter as her real father.

Walking to Qiang Wanzhou, Chu Liuyue then discovered that his expression was amiss.

She immediately felt uneasy.

Then, she heard Qiang Wanzhou say, "Lord Chu Ning is gone."

...

Dead silence filled the study of Shaoyue Palace.

Chu Liuyue stood at the top, and Qiang Wanzhou was five steps in front of her.

The air slowly froze inch by inch.

“...This means that he was already missing when you reached Country Yao Chen’s Imperial City?”

Qiang Wanzhou nodded. “Yes. I asked around, and all of them said that Lord Chu Ning had set off for Tianling alone a month ago. They said... they received a letter from you. I even heard that many were very envious of him, but when I went to Heaven’s Canopy to check, there were no traces of Lord Chu Ning appearing.”

Even though Qiang Wanzhou hadn’t seen Chu Ning before, Chu Liuyue had shown him a portrait earlier on. Hence, he would definitely recognize the older man once he saw him.

Besides, he was very strong. His movement techniques were agile, and he had quite a few trump cards with him. Even if he acted on his own, Chu Liuyue wouldn’t be worried.

Everything was originally arranged nicely, but she never expected that Chu Ning wasn’t at Yao Chen.

“I’ve never written my father a letter to ask him to come to Xi Ling.” Chu Liuyue’s face turned cold and solemn as if a thin layer of frost covered it. If the rumors are true, then who sent the letter? If the rumors are fake, it’s even more troublesome. This is because it means that we won’t even know where he went. Searching for a person in this entire world is akin to finding a needle in a haystack!

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows tightly, and a thought popped up in her mind. “Call Qi Han over.”

...

The moment Qi Han entered the room, he noticed that the atmosphere wasn’t right.

“Your Highness.” He cupped his fists and respectfully greeted the emperor.

Chu Liuyue didn’t say any nonsense as she directly asked, “Qi Han, you’ve always been responsible for the letters between my father and me, right?”

Qi Han was dazed but immediately said, “Yes!”

“Other than the initial letter I wrote to my father—which told him to stay safe—I’ve never written a second one. Did Father ever reply?” Chu Liuyue paused and knocked against the table. “The news that Little Zhou got was that Father started his journey to Xi Ling a month ago as he received a letter from me. However, there are no signs of him even now.”

Upon hearing this, Qi Han also realized the severity of the situation.

He thought carefully. “There’s no—”

The moment he opened his mouth, he suddenly thought of something, and his expression was solemn. “Ms. Mu’s parents previously sent a letter over, and I gave it to Young Master Jian. Perhaps something was written on that letter?”

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and walked outside.

...

Chu Liuyue walked extremely quickly as she went all the way to Dragon Teeth Mountain.

When she reached the bottom of the mountain, the guarding disciples saw the incoming person and wanted to stop her. They then saw the incoming person take off her hood, revealing a breathtaking appearance.

“Where’s Jian Fengchi?” Chu Liuyue had come here before. In addition to matters like the clan competition and the Wan Zheng Competition, quite a few people knew her.

Due to her shocking identity, everyone in Xi Ling had been talking about her in recent times. The guarding disciples didn’t expect her to suddenly appear in this place at this time.

“Greetings, Your High—Your Majesty!” The two hurriedly bowed. However, they recalled that she was already the emperor when they greeted her halfway, so they hurriedly changed the title. “Young Master is coincidentally on the mountain today. I’ll bring you over right away.”

“No need. I’ll go there myself.” Chu Liuyue left this sentence behind and hurriedly went up the mountain.

When she was halfway there, she coincidentally met Mu Hongyu.

Seeing that it was her friend, Mu Hongyu was very surprised. “Liuyue? Why are you here?”

She hurriedly rushed over and was about to pounce onto Chu Liuyue when she quickly stopped herself. She had actually forgotten that Liuyue was no longer ‘Liuyue’ now.

However, Chu Liuyue grabbed her hand instantly. “In the letter your father and mother sent you, did they ever mention my father?”

Chapter 909: Seen Him Before

Mu Hongyu was dazed. “I think they did... Hold on.”

As she spoke, she searched through her Cosmic Ring and pulled out a letter not long later. She had always kept the letters from Country Yao Chen carefully.

“Young Master passed me this letter a few days ago...” said Mu Hongyu as she passed the letter over. “There’s a sentence here...”

Chu Liuyue opened the letter and skimmed through it. As expected, the last sentence mentioned that Chu Ning had received her letter and planned on coming to Xi Ling to reunite with her.

During that period, Mu Hongyu's parents had been staying in the Imperial City and heard of this news. They were still very envious and wanted to come along to see Mu Hongyu, but considering all the other aspects, they couldn't go with him in the end.

Chu Liuyue looked at the date on the footer, and it was indeed from a month ago.

She knitted her brows tightly. Thousands of miles separate Country Yao Chen's Imperial City and Xi Ling, and there is even a Heaven's Canopy in between! What kind of news did Father receive that made him come to Xi Ling so swiftly? One has to know that with his current abilities, it's impossible for him to find those transportation formations if nobody led him over. He also wouldn't arrive safely. He wouldn't be ignorant to these reasons, but he still did it... Was it because he was confident, someone 'helped' him, or perhaps... he was threatened? Now that so long has passed, I wonder how Father is...

Seeing how solemn Chu Liuyue's expression was, Mu Hongyu also felt that something was wrong. "What? Is there something wrong on Uncle's side?"

Chu Liuyue simply recounted the incident to her.

Mu Hongyu shockingly said, "You didn't ask him to come? I really thought you sent him a letter to ask him to come over!"

When she received this letter, it was coincidentally after Chu Liuyue announced her identity.

Back then, she was still immersed in the shock that Chu Liuyue was actually Shangguan Yue. So after she saw this letter, she naturally thought that her friend had done preparations earlier on and wanted to directly invite Chu Ning over after everything was settled.

Now that she thought about it, it wasn't even the case!

Chu Liuyue held the letter tightly and knitted her brows. An idea then popped up in her mind. *This person clearly used my name to do this to my father, but... who could it be? Someone who could do all of this must firstly be from Heaven's Canopy, and the more important thing is that he must know me very well. If not, the other party definitely wouldn't think of using her father. Why did the other party do this? To threaten me? But even now, I haven't received any news. If I didn't send Qiang Wanzhou to Country Yao Chen, I might not even know of my father being missing.*

"Hm? Why are you standing around?" Just as the two people fell silent, Jian Fengchi suddenly arrived. He waved the fan in his hands and smiled happily as he walked over, but his gaze was glued to Chu Liuyue. He kept sizing her up as if he had never seen her before.

Walking nearer to her, he then closed his fan, cupped his fists, and slightly bent his back to greet her. "Greetings... Your Majesty."

He really never expected that Shangguan Yue hadn't died and would even come back with another identity! He kept feeling that Chu Liuyue was very familiar...

It turned out she was her!

Now that they had met again, the feeling was quite strange.

Seeing the rather solemn expressions on the duo and that Chu Liuyue was holding onto the letter he passed to Mu Hongyu earlier... *There seems to be something wrong?*

“What’s going on?” asked Jian Fengchi as his gaze swiftly switched between the two.

Chu Liuyue returned the letter to Mu Hongyu and briefly explained the incident.

Jian Fengchi gradually knitted his brows and knocked the fan against his hands. “After you came back to Xi Ling, you did offend quite a few people, but... I don’t think many can touch Lord Chu Ning, right?”

Even though Chu Liuyue had already ascended the throne now, Jian Fengchi had always been daring and carefree. As he was used to being relaxed in front of her, he still talked in the same casual manner as before.

Chu Liuyue didn’t mind it either as she nodded slightly. “I originally thought I could find some clues in this letter, but...”

The letter’s content was about the same as what Qiang Wanzhou found out, and they couldn’t find more clues.

“Do you not have a way to find Lord Chu Ning?” asked Jian Fengchi strangely. *According to her usual meticulous and smart nature, she should be prepared. Besides, when she left the Imperial City back then and came all the way to Xi Ling, she should’ve been more careful in this aspect.*

Chu Liuyue shook her head. “We’re too far apart.”

Back then, she did leave something with Chu Ning to confirm each other’s locations and safety. But now that the two of them were so far apart, how could they detect each other?

“Then, the only way now is to find him as best we can.” Jian Fengchi was silent for a moment. “But... I’m afraid we can’t announce this matter.”

To Chu Liuyue now, this matter could be said to be difficult and easy at the same time.

Now that she had already recovered her identity and the entire Tianling was under her control, it wasn’t hard for her to send people to find a person’s whereabouts. But the key was that Chu Ning’s identity was special—he was the biological father of Chu Liuyue’s body.

Chu Liuyue’s status was different from before. Besides, Shangguan You was already awake and was staying in the palace.

Then, Chu Ning’s existence would become awkward.

“I’ve already sent people to look for him in private, but without any clues and the world being so big, it’s akin to finding a needle in a haystack.”

Seeing her worried expression, Mu Hongyu couldn’t help but pat her friend’s hands. “Liuyue, don’t worry. Uncle is blessed, and nothing will happen to him.”

Chu Liuyue lightly heaved a sigh of relief. “I hope so.”

Jian Fengchi glanced at the duo’s overlapped hands, and his gaze flickered. *Shangguan Yue is indeed different from before. When she was the Princess in the past, even though she was also very friendly, she always had a faint distant and elegant aura to her. It wasn’t done on purpose, but it was because she*

was too outstanding since birth, causing her personality to have an unspeakable loneliness to it. Let alone others, even the children in the Tianling royal family weren't very close to her.

Everyone instinctively admired her and would thus naturally keep a distance from her. Perhaps this was also the reason she treated Shangguan Wan—who she had been closer to—so well. And even the later Mu Qinghe...

But after surviving the ordeal and coming back, her personality has undergone a clear change. She has her most trusted friend and also many things she didn't have in the past. Her entire person became more genuine.

Thinking of this, Jian Fengchi hesitated for a moment and finally asked, "Have you gone to see Mu Qinghe?"

Chapter 910: You Can Speak First

Chu Liuyue's lashes moved slightly as she looked up at him. "Not yet. Why?"

"Ahem, nothing. I just... casually asked." Jian Fengchi clenched his fist, put it by his lips, and coughed.

Chu Liuyue raised her brows and asked, "I remember that you seem to be quite close to Mu Qinghe, right?"

Jian Fengchi frowned in his heart. *When she talked to Mu Hongyu, she did it in such a friendly and intimate manner. But when she talked to me, she said her words so formally. It's as if she's afraid that I'll forget her current identity. I previously did help quite a bit after all. Why is she treating me differently now?*

However, he didn't dare to say this out loud directly.

"Your Majesty, you've recalled wrongly." Jian Fengchi averted his gaze, and it floated around. "Your Majesty, don't you clearly know how our relationship is?"

Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a smile. "Yeah. I still remember that when Hongyu's mother was ill, Mu Qinghe directly invited you to go to Country Yao Chen to help out."

If they didn't have a solid relationship, according to Jian Fengchi's personality, why would he come so far to treat someone? Later on, Mu Qinghe also directly entrusted me to Jian Fengchi and told him to bring me back to Xi Ling. Every single incident can clearly prove that the duo interacted quite a bit in private and that they trust each other a lot. It's now too late to say that they aren't on good terms.

Jian Fengchi's expression froze for a moment. *Why did I forget that Chu Liuyue also knows all those things from before and also remembers it clearly!*

Seeing that he could not deny it, Jian Fengchi could only explain in a blurry manner,

"Your Majesty, if you must say this... Actually, there's nothing wrong... Mu Qinghe is still the assistant commander of the Black Guards after all. His status isn't low, and he holds great power. Isn't it normal for me to interact with him for quite a bit?"

Chu Liuyue smiled with deeper meaning. *It was fine if Jian Fengchi didn't say this, but because he said it, it further proved that he's guilty.*

She slowly said, “Oh, if this is so... When I was the Princess, didn’t I hold a higher position and more power than him? But you still didn’t give me any face? Did you change your personality?”

Jian Fengchi was stumped, and he couldn’t say anything as he knew he was in the wrong.

“Since this is so, you can accompany me to the Mu Residence.” Chu Liuyue raised her chin.
“Coincidentally, I have many things that I want to ask you about.”

...

Arriving at the Mu Residence and seeing the familiar door, Jian Fengchi felt extremely regretful. *Why didn’t I hold my mouth back? If I didn’t take the initiative to talk about this, I definitely wouldn’t be forcefully brought over!*

The people in charge of guarding Mu Qinghe were still Black Guards, but the previous batch was Mu Qinghe’s confidants. Hence, they were all changed.

When the guards standing at the front saw the duo arriving, they were first shocked and were about to bow when they saw Chu Liuyue waving her hands.

“Where’s Mu Qinghe?”

One of the guards hurriedly said, “Lieutenant Mu—he’s been in the residence all along. Officer Si Jing is here too.”

Previously, Chu Liuyue sent Si Jing to bring Mu Qinghe back, and he stayed here all along.

Mu Qinghe's cultivation base wasn't removed, so only people of Si Jing's level could restrain him.

Chu Liuyue nodded slightly and walked in directly.

Jian Fengchi struggled internally and wondered if he should go in when he saw Chu Liuyue turn around and glance at him.

Jian Fengchi's heart instantly trembled, and he still obediently followed her in.

The moment they entered the yard, Si Jing heard the noise and directly came out. "Your Highness."

The Thirteen Yue Guards were directly under Chu Liuyue, so although she had already ascended the throne, they were still used to calling her 'Your Highness.'

Chu Liuyue was very direct. "I brought Hong Yao and Young Master Jian over to see Mu Qinghe."

Jian Fengchi was speechless.

Si Jing glanced at Jian Fengchi strangely. *There is nothing strange about Her Highness and Hong Yao coming, but what has it got to do with Jian Fengchi?*

But he didn't ask further. "Mu Qinghe is in the practice area in the backyard."

Even though Mu Qinghe was under house arrest in the Mu Residence and wasn't allowed to go out, he was rather free in this area. Anyway, a barrier and a Xuan formation were already set up outside, so Mu Qinghe couldn't escape.

Arriving at the practice area, Chu Liuyue saw Mu Qinghe practicing the sword in the empty arena.

Hearing the noise, he stopped his actions and turned around.

When he realized it was Chu Liuyue, there was a surge of emotions in his eyes. However, his eyes quickly calmed down and regained their usual nonchalance and calmness.

Hong Yao flew over and was pacing back and forth hesitantly in front of Chu Liuyue. It looked between Chu Liuyue and Mu Qinghe in a very aggrieved and pitiful manner.

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but laugh out loud. "Okay, he's your Master after all. If you want to go, go ahead."

With this sentence, Hong Yao happily snuggled against her face and flew toward Mu Qinghe.

Mu Qinghe saw a green figure rushing toward him, and he looked hesitant. *It's best if Hong Yao can follow her. It doesn't seem very good if it is too intimate with me.*

However, Hong Yao had been very worried about him these few days. Now that it finally saw him, it just directly rushed over. Why would it care about the rest?

It directly bumped into Mu Qinghe's arms.

Mu Qinghe had no other choice but to hold it. He then gently patted Hong Yao's head.

Tears welled up in Hong Yao's eyes and were about to drop, but the fiend managed to hold them back in time.

Mu Qinghe glanced at it with a complicated gaze.

It was only a superficial way of explaining that Chu Liuyue left him behind because of Hong Yao. She definitely wouldn't let anyone that betrayed her off easily.

Logically speaking, he should've been executed on that day. But... no.

She left him alive and didn't punish him at all, just putting him under house arrest in the Mu Residence.

Other than some restrictions in his freedom and the surrounding people no longer listening to his commands, everything here seemed rather similar to before.

He vaguely guessed Chu Liuyue's intentions, but the latter didn't come after he waited for a few days.

Until today—she even brought Jian Fengchi.

Mu Qinghe's gaze landed on Jian Fengchi for a moment.

Jian Fengchi felt that his back was filled with daggers, and he wanted to run away immediately. He had always been thick-skinned and rarely revealed such emotions, but he felt that it was extremely torturous to stay in this place for even a single second longer. *I... really didn't bring Chu Liuyue over on purpose...*

"I left Xi Ling for two years," said Chu Liuyue lightly. "Everything changed in Xi Ling City. I came here today to ask: how did you two become so close?"

As Jian Fengchi was too unreasonable and arrogant back then, Mu Qinghe fought with him quite frequently. Now, in the blink of an eye, the two of them seemed to have resolved their enmity and became friends.

If one said that there was nothing wrong here, she didn't believe it.

Chu Liuyue sat down on the chair at the side as her lips curled up. Following that, she smiled and said, "Qinghe, you can speak first."