

Noble Ruler 921

Chapter 921: Accompany Her

Zhao Zicheng actually admitted defeat just like that! The moment he said it, the surrounding crowd revealed conflicted expressions.

Actually, they had already predicted this ending when they saw the previous scene.

Zhao Zicheng clearly had no more combat power. If he continued dragging it, he had no chances of winning.

He was covered in injuries, but on the other hand, Rong Xiu didn't even move an inch from start to end. In the entire match, the latter just raised a hand and casually drew two strokes!

There was no need to continue battling.

Zhao Zicheng should admit defeat at this point, but... Who would've expected such an ending 15 minutes ago?

Zhao Zicheng was an eighth-grade Xuan Master!

"Elder Chen Ke, did you see it clearly just now? That... Is it a Xuan formation?" The few royal family elders standing at the side couldn't help but ask softly.

Elder Chen Ke knitted his brows tightly and took a deep breath in. “That is a Xuan formation!”

Upon hearing this, the few elders exchanged glances. “But what kind of Xuan formation behaves in that manner? Only two forces intertwined... How can it break an eighth-grade Xuan formation so easily?”

However, Elder Chen Ke stared at Rong Xiu closely and didn’t explain further. Why... What else can it be? It is naturally because the ‘cross’ formation Rong Xiu executed was much stronger than Zhao Zicheng’s!

Normally speaking, the higher one’s Xuan Master level, the more control one had over their force. In this kind of situation, the more complicated the Xuan formations were, the greater the power.

This was also the reason the crowd was confused over Rong Xiu’s victory.

To a normal person, his item definitely couldn’t be counted as a Xuan formation. However, it clearly encompassed a stronger suppression than an eighth-grade Xuan formation as it managed to destroy it!

Elder Chen Ke vaguely recalled that there were rumors about how a top Xuan Master could simplify complicated Xuan formations into minimalist drawings and have them encompass terrifyingly strong suppression!

Could Rong Xiu... be like this?! But those that can reach such a level are all...

“Where did this Rong Xiu come from?” Elder Chen Ke couldn’t help but ask.

“He is Country Yao Chen’s Seventh Prince and Yue’er’s fiancé.” At this point, Shangguan You also recovered his senses. When he heard Elder Chen Ke’s hushed question, he solemnly replied.

The few elders were stunned. *Country Yao Chen? Isn't that the place Chu Liuyue came back from? It seems like it's just a subsidiary country in Tianling... How can it have such a strong warrior?!*

Shangguan You sighed deeply, but the waves in his heart continued surging as he looked at Rong Xiu with admiration. He then glanced at Chu Liuyue and sighed emotionally with deep meaning. "What Yue'er said was true!"

This Rong Xiu's talent and capabilities aren't weaker than hers! Just based on his talent as a Xuan Master, he can surpass Zhao Zicheng! This isn't even mentioning how he has a legendary fiend! Even if his background is lacking, all of this is already enough!

That previous tinge of doubt had completely disappeared!

Shangguan You was then thoroughly relaxed.

Chu Liuyue blinked and was caught between laughter and tears. Actually, even she didn't know that Rong Xiu was so strong in this area...

Even if it were me, I might not be able to fight against that attack. How exactly... did Rong Xiu get to this cultivation level?

...

Shangguan You stood up and looked at Rong Xiu. "Rong Xiu, you... are great!"

Rong Xiu nodded with a smile and bent his back to bow. "Your Majesty, you're too kind."

"How is this being kind?!" Shangguan You's first impression of Rong Xiu was already very good. Now that he personally witnessed the latter's abilities, he admired this young man even more. "You deserve it!"

Rong Xiu's brows moved slightly, and he smiled with deep meaning. *It seems like this meet-the-parent session went quite smoothly.*

Shangguan You's gaze turned, and he looked at Zhao Zicheng. "Someone, quickly bring Second Young Master Zhao down to rest!"

Zhao Zicheng's face was a mixture of white and red as he immediately said, "Your Majesty, thank you for your offer, but I'm fine. I can go back by myself."

It's already enough for me to lose this match. If someone helps me off, I won't have any face left for myself.

Zhao Zicheng wiped away the bloodstains from the corner of his mouth as he clenched his teeth and looked at Rong Xiu. "You are strong."

This sentence had no mockery or jealousy as it was honest from his heart. He really admired Rong Xiu.

"I admit that I'm not good enough, and I'll admit defeat. Tomorrow, I'll leave Xi Ling and won't disturb you again." When Zhao Zicheng said this, his heart seemed to be pricked countless times by a silver needle, and he was extremely hurt.

He turned around and glanced at Chu Liuyue.

A faint light flashed across his eyes before disappearing. Then, he smiled. *Even though I didn't get back what I've always wanted this time, I don't regret it. I've said and done all that I should have. I have no more regrets!*

"Please... Take good care of her in the future." Zhao Zicheng held his chest and harshly coughed.

Rong Xiu's eyes turned slightly deep. "She's the apple of my eye. Of course, I'll dote on her a thousand times more than anyone else."

"That's true. I thought too much." Zhao Zicheng smiled in a self-mocking manner. *This man is completely different from Jiang Yucheng. He can give her the best.*

Thinking of this, Zhao Zicheng turned around to leave.

Rong Xiu walked toward Chu Liuyue.

The moment he took two steps, Zhao Zicheng stopped, turned around, and asked rather hesitantly, "Can I ask you a question?"

Rong Xiu glanced at him from the corner of his eye.

Zhao Zicheng held his breath and asked, "How... did you train to this level?"

Rong Xiu thought of something as an extremely faint and slight smile appeared on his face. "Yue'er taught me."

I have no interest in the Xuan Master path. I just trained in it to accompany her for a while longer back then.

Chapter 922: What Do You Think?

Zhao Zicheng was stumped and felt that Rong Xiu was joking. *Shangguan Yue does have shocking talent as a Xuan Master, but she was also an eighth-grade Xuan Master back then, so she definitely couldn't teach Rong Xiu skills to suppress an eighth-grade Xuan Master. It seems like he doesn't want to talk about it.*

But Zhao Zicheng didn't mind either since a Xuan Master's cultivation was different from that of a warrior. One normally needed a mentor to guide them.

The mentor-mentee relationship developed would be even more intimate and close.

Perhaps Rong Xiu had his own reasons for not reporting his teacher. After all, there were indeed too many strong, reclusive warriors in this world that didn't like to show themselves off or casually expose their identities.

Someone that can develop a disciple like Rong Xiu... definitely mustn't be someone simple. Zhao Zicheng cupped his fists and didn't ask further as he turned around and limped to leave.

The back view that originally could be considered tall and muscular had more hints of loneliness to it now.

...

“Just now, did you say that I taught you?” Seeing Rong Xiu walk over, Chu Liuyue squinted her black eyes and asked. *I have only recovered to the stage of a sixth-grade Xuan Master and haven't crossed the seventh-grade barrier for a long time. The abilities he previously executed aren't things I could teach him.*

“I didn't know when I had such an outstanding disciple. Besides... This disciple is also like me and made an agreement with a legendary fiend,” said Chu Liuyue as her gaze turned. She glanced at Xue Xue, who was about to pounce over happily from Rong Xiu's side.

Xue Xue stopped in its actions and couldn't go forward or backward.

Withstanding Chu Liuyue's introspective gaze, Xue Xue felt very guilty as it turned its big head and looked left and right. *Haiya, I didn't want to hide it from you either! If Master didn't request it, why would I want to lie to you?*

Rong Xiu smiled. “We've played chess together so many times. Even if I don't want to learn, I'll understand a little.”

Chu Liuyue was dazed and then understood what he meant.

From a certain angle, chess and Xuan formations were extremely similar. Both tested one's sensitivity and agility. When she normally played chess, she would mix in some Xuan formations from time to time.

Rong Xiu's words... seem to make sense. However, Chu Liuyue's doubts weren't totally dispelled. Even if Rong Xiu was just joking, the top talent and abilities he showed off aren't things that can be mistaken. I don't know when he became so strong as a Xuan Master!

He seemed to hide countless mysteries as he was very ambiguous, and nobody could figure him out. But when those two eyes looked at her, they were so genuine, clean, and honest that they didn't hide any lies.

For some reason, she felt that he would always be by her side and shelter her from the storms no matter what happened.

Actually, she wasn't someone that easily trusted others. But in front of Rong Xiu, trust and dependence became her instincts, and everything was taken for granted.

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and looked at Shangguan You. "Father, I want to talk to Rong Xiu alone."

Shangguan You could tell that his daughter had something to ask Rong Xiu, so he immediately agreed. "Anyway, I've already seen him. Yue'er, your taste is very good. You can discuss any concerns among yourselves."

He then patted Rong Xiu's shoulders with deep meaning before leaving.

Elder Chen Ke originally wanted to go up and ask him a few questions. Seeing Shangguan You leave, he could only swallow his remaining words and bring the other elders with him.

After walking quite a distance, Elder Chen Ke was still in deep thought. *That Rong Xiu doesn't seem to be as simple as he is on the surface...*

When everyone in the surroundings left, Chu Liuyue then said, "Let's go back to Shaoyue Palace and talk."

Rong Xiu walked forward, held her hand, and had a dotting smile. "Okay."

Chu Liuyue shot him a look. "What are you doing?"

Rong Xiu looked over, leaned in closer, and softly laughed. "Executing my rights as a fiancé."

...

The news of Chu Liuyue having Country Yao Chen's Seventh Prince as her fiancé grew wings and rapidly spread throughout the palace. At the same time, the incident of Zhao Zicheng proposing to Chu Liuyue and battling with said fiancé but losing miserably in the end became the talk of the town immediately.

When most people heard the first piece of news, they were purely shocked and surprised. But upon deeper thought, they found it very normal. After all, Chu Liuyue was just a woman from a desolated aristocratic family in Country Yao Chen. Having a marriage alliance with a prince was an elevation of her status.

But the second piece of news didn't seem right!

Who was Zhao Zicheng? He was the Zhao family's second young master and the most outstanding talent amongst the Zhao family's younger generation!

Even though he wasn't in Xi Ling these few years, most people still remembered how talented and outstanding he was back then! They heard that he came back after already breaking through the bottleneck to become an eighth-grade Xuan Master!

That person called Rong Xiu actually beat him?! How incredible! Doesn't this prove that he's more outstanding than Zhao Zicheng? A prince from a... small subsidiary country?

These incidents rapidly caused an uproar in Xi Ling, and the name 'Rong Xiu' swiftly became the talk of the town.

...

No matter how much the waves surged outside, it was calm within Shaoyue Palace.

Chu Liuyue dismissed her subordinates, and only she and Rong Xiu were left in the room.

Oh, and Xue Xue.

Ever since they came in, Xue Xue sensibly found a corner to lie in and put on a wronged and self-repentant appearance. Looking at how its eyes and ears drooped down, one might even think that it had suffered a great setback!

Who could compare this unlively white lion to the previous legendary fiend that shredded the eighth-grade Xuan formation with one claw?!

However, Xue Xue's eagerly-repentant attitude made Chu Liuyue more satisfied. *It's too obedient compared to its master.*

Chu Liuyue looked at Rong Xiu and dangerously squinted her eyes. "Rong Xiu, do you have nothing to talk to me about?"

Rong Xiu's long lashes fluttered as he smiled and said, "Yue'er, what do you want to know?"

He's asking the obvious! Chu Liuyue sized him up with her gaze. "Then... Let's start with your abilities! You're already a ninth-grade Xuan Master now, right?"

Rong Xiu's lips moved as he wanted to deny it, but he swallowed the words back when they reached his lips. Following that, he nodded.

Hearing him admit it personally, Chu Liuyue—who was already prepared before—still had her heart skip a beat. *Even I couldn't cross the barrier of a ninth-grade Xuan Master back then, so I didn't expect Rong Xiu to do it much earlier!*

"Then, why didn't you talk about it earlier?" Chu Liuyue's tone had a hint of warning.

Rong Xiu blinked and looked quite innocent. "You didn't ask."

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *I can't retort this!*

She took a deep breath and asked, "Then, let me ask you: Other than being a ninth-grade Xuan Master, are you also a heavenly doctor?"

Rong Xiu gradually leaned against the chair, and his hand lightly knocked against his table rhythmically. The next moment, he looked up.

Stars seemed to travel in his eyes as his voice was deep and low. "What do you think?"

Chapter 923: Having You is Enough

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

Chu Liuyue's brows twitched. Whatever Rong Xiu means doesn't need to be put in words!

She squinted her eyes. "Then, your heavenly doctor level—"

Rong Xiu thought for a moment before smiling slightly. "I know a thing or two."

The corner of Chu Liuyue's lips twitched. Only a fool would believe his words!

"Since when did Mingyue Tianshan's disciples become this strong?" Chu Liuyue had never personally gone to Mingyue Tianshan, but she knew some things about them.

Mingyue Tianshan was a clan independent of all the countries and had the vibes of an imperious, reclusive hero.

Compared to countries like Country Yao Chen, it was stronger. This was also why Rong Xiu was directly sent to Mingyue Tianshan when his body wasn't healthy after being born.

That place had warriors that Country Yao Chen couldn't fight against. But although Mingyue Tianshan was strong, it was still outside Heaven's Canopy and couldn't be compared to the Tianling Dynasty.

Therefore, how did this clan cultivate a strong warrior like Rong Xiu?

As if seeing through her doubts, Rong Xiu leaned back and looked at her with much interest. "Yue'er, you're born in Country Yao Chen, but you also became a strong warrior that an ordinary person wishes to become."

Chu Liuyue was speechless at that moment.

After she was reborn and lost her previous life's Tianjing Yuan meridian, she had to restart everything. From Country Yao Chen to Xi Ling, she indeed suffered a lot on this journey and was also lucky enough to have what she had today.

If I could do it, why can't others do it? Besides, I already knew from the start that Rong Xiu was very dangerous and guessed that he was extraordinary back then. But it's only now that I've clearly realized that he's even stronger than I had thought!

Chu Liuyue kept quiet for a while before saying, “Rong Xiu, you haven’t told me how the ‘Your Grace’ identity came about.”

The moment she said this, the entire room fell silent.

Rong Xiu looked into her eyes, and his phoenix-like eyes seemed to have light coursing through like a spiral that could swallow one whole.

Then, he suddenly asked, “Do you still remember my mother?”

Chu Liuyue was confused by his sudden question, but she still nodded. Everyone knows about Consort Wan, who won over the entire harem in Country Yao Chen back then.

Rong Xiu smiled, but his smiling intent didn’t reach his eyes as his voice was extremely light. “The so-called ‘Your Grace’ is my identity in my mother’s clan.”

...

Chu Liuyue had thought of many answers before, but they were all vastly different from this. His... mother’s clan? Didn’t they say that Consort Wan was from an ordinary family? Why—

Chu Liuyue suddenly thought of the day when the Third Prince brought troops to start a rebellion and the harsh battle between Rong Xiu and Emperor Jiawen. At that time, Emperor Jiawen wanted to break through and enter Heaven’s Canopy, but Rong Xiu said something... He seemed to say that the last wish his mother had was to prevent Emperor Jiawen from taking a single step into Heaven’s Canopy!

Right! Thinking of this, everything makes sense! Chu Liuyue widened her eyes. "Y-your mother is from within Heaven's Canopy?"

Rong Xiu nodded.

"I see..." Chu Liuyue was dazed for quite a while. I had suspected it before, but many things happened later. Hence, I just put this incident behind me. Speaking of this, Rong Xiu can also be considered as someone who was born within Heaven's Canopy... His mother's identity was clearly much better than that of Emperor Jiawen.

"Then, you—"

"Back then, my mother was training outside of Heaven's Canopy. She accidentally met my father when she was in danger, and the two of them got together. When they got married, my mother didn't know about Father's identity," said Rong Xiu lightly.

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other. Even though Rong Xiu explained it very briefly, I can basically guess what happened. A woman born within Heaven's Canopy married someone beneath her status when she married Emperor Jiawen. Besides, from the many situations I know of, the clan Rong Xiu's mother was in didn't seem to be an ordinary one.

Consort Wan was young and naive. After meeting Emperor Jiawen, she thought that he was the one and got together with him despite everything else. In the end, she didn't expect that she would marry an emperor with a huge harem. After being lied to, nobody could willingly accept and forgive him.

It's no wonder there were rumors that Consort Wan was still very upset after she entered the palace, even though Emperor Jiawen loved her and doted on her very much. She only stayed in the palace for a year or two before moving out and didn't return even in death. As for her background, it should only be something that Emperor Jiawen made up.

“After I was born, Mother sent me to Mingyue Tianshan. The next few years, the people from the clan found us and wanted to bring my mother and me back. It’s a pity that... Mother had already passed on by then.”

Rong Xiu spoke nonchalantly, and his expression was calm as if he were narrating someone else’s story. “Back then, Mother married an outsider on her own and had already gone against the clan rules. When she later found out about Father’s identity and discovered that she had become a concubine, she had no more courage to return home and hid from the clan’s searches until she died.”

Actually, she sent Rong Xiu to Mingyue Tianshan as she didn’t want his identity to be exposed. She thought that she could rest assured if Rong Xiu was sent there, but many unexpected things happened after that. Of course, she wouldn’t know any of this.

Chu Liuyue looked at her man. His gaze was clearly ordinary—as if he had seen through all of this—but her heart still ached faintly.

“So... All these years, you didn’t actually stay at Mingyue Tianshan?” she asked lightly.

“En.” Rong Xiu acknowledged. “I’ll come back once in a while, but I won’t stay for too long. I couldn’t find the right time to tell you all of this earlier on. Yue’er, are you angry at me?”

Chu Liuyue sighed in her heart and shook her head. It was definitely very hard for him to return to the clan with such an identity. Rong Xiu hated Emperor Jiawen and had completely fallen out with him back then, so he definitely wouldn’t want to return to Country Yao Chen. This is also probably one of the reasons why he prepared everything but chose to leave Country Yao Chen’s throne to the Third Prince. As for his mother’s family clan... One can just think to know how awkward his identity was.

“Rong Xiu, it’s been hard on you these few years... right?”

From what Rong Xiu previously said, it isn’t hard to guess how strict the rules of Consort Wan’s family clan are. They were probably reluctant to accept Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu thought for a moment. “It’s fine.”

It was just that there were many people eyeing his ‘Your Grace’ position after he took it. Quite a few people also wanted to rebel, so it was rather troublesome.

Rong Xiu looked up and saw her eyes filled with pain. He smiled slightly, held her hands tightly, and brought her in close.

The gentle and sweet aura she gave out filled his embrace immediately.

He held her thin waist and buried his head in her shoulders, smelling her faint cloud-like fragrance. Every empty spot in his heart seemed to be filled.

“I’m very well,” he softly said, like a mutter and also a rant. “I have Yue’er.”

Having you is enough.

Chapter 924: Trying to Murder Your Husband

Chu Liuyue’s heart turned into goo as she looked up and gently pecked his lips.

Slightly cold and soft.

“Rong Xiu, I’ll be your family in the future, okay?” She moved half an inch back, stared into his eyes, and said it ever so seriously.

Even without Rong Xiu voicing it, she could still feel his lonely aura as if it was exuded from his bones. His hand was cold, and so were his lips, but she felt that his heart was warm.

If he is alone in this world, I’m willing to accompany him forever as the love of his life and his closest kin.

She didn’t want to ask further; she only knew that he was him.

Everything else had nothing to do with them. No matter if he were Country Yao Chen’s Seventh Prince or Your Grace from a certain aristocratic family, it didn’t matter. What mattered was that they belonged to each other.

Rong Xiu looked at her and suddenly hugged her tightly with one hand. His other hand held her face as he kissed her.

One of his hands was very forceful as if he wanted to smash and merge her with his own bones and muscles, while his other hand was ridiculously careful as if it was holding a rare treasure, afraid that it would hurt her.

Within the endless uproars, he had a tinge of love and restraint.

A slurred syllable came out from his lips and teeth. "...Okay."

...

Rong Xiu defeated Zhao Zicheng, and the resulting influence was much greater than they had expected. This was because other than Zhao Zicheng, there were quite a few handsome and talented lads in Xi Ling City that originally had an interest in Chu Liuyue.

No matter if it were her status, appearance, or talent, the current Chu Liuyue was definitely considered one of the top.

When she was still the Princess last time, countless people admired her. Now that she had retaliated against Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan and even ascended the throne to bring honor back, she naturally attracted many people to bend their backs for her.

However, Rong Xiu's appearance interrupted these people's plans. With Zhao Zicheng falling in front until his head broke and blood spurted everywhere, the remaining few people naturally calmed down and thought about it carefully.

Even an eighth-grade Xuan Master could lose to Rong Xiu, which showed how strong he was!

It was impossible to say that they weren't afraid. But at the same time, quite a few people had doubtful attitudes. *Zhao Zicheng is a famous talent in Xi Ling City and can even be considered an elite amongst the younger generation. How could he lose to a mere prince from Country Yao Chen? But this news indeed came from the palace, and rumor has it that quite a few people personally witnessed it...*

In no time, the crowd partook in heated discussions, and many people were curious about Rong Xiu.

Countless people wanted to personally see what kind of character this Rong Xiu was!

...

Chu Liuyue originally planned on confessing everything to Rong Xiu honestly and then proceeding on with their wedding after she settled everything on the Tianling Dynasty's side. However, she didn't expect Chu Ning to be abducted.

With this matter in the way, their wedding definitely couldn't proceed.

Even though she knew that the note said that the other party wouldn't casually hurt Chu Ning, Chu Liuyue was still very worried. *From the start to the present, the other party knew my identity like the back of his hand. This means that he clearly came for me, but I don't know anything about the other party at all.*

After much thinking, she still asked Rong Xiu.

This time, Rong Xiu didn't hesitate and directly nodded.

He knew where the note came from, but when Chu Liuyue wanted to ask further, Rong Xiu didn't continue answering and just said that she currently wasn't suited to know all of this.

Chu Liuyue was confused by this answer. “Then, when can I know?”

Rong Xiu paused. *The current Chu Liuyue is only a stage-six warrior. Even if she knows about all of this, she can't do anything about them. It would only add to her burdens.*

“If you break through and become a stage-seven warrior a month later, I'll tell you about it.”

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. *It's not hard for me to break through to become a stage-seven warrior, but it's hard to achieve it in a short one month's time!*

One had to know that she had just come back from the Red Moon Desert not long ago and that she just became an intermediate stage-six warrior!

This speed was already very fast. If she continued to break through to become a stage-seven warrior, it would be terrifying!

As if seeing through her considerations, Rong Xiu smiled and said, “If you trust me enough, I'll be your training buddy for this month, okay?”

When Chu Liuyue saw his calm and composed smile, her heart suddenly burned with fighting desire. “That's a deal.”

...

In the backyard of Shaoyue Palace was also a training arena. It was even bigger and of better quality than the previous one at Yuan He Palace.

This was the place where Chu Liuyue used to train.

Other than the very hard marble floor, the entire training arena was surrounded by a ninth-grade Xuan formation to guard it and ensure that any aftershocks caused on the training ground wouldn't spread outside and harm others.

Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu stood opposite each other.

As the former had already given her orders earlier, nobody in the palace was serving them in the surroundings. Only the two of them were on the vast training ground.

Chu Liuyue looked at Rong Xiu opposite her and couldn't help but feel excited when she thought about how the two of them hadn't really fought each other before despite knowing one another for so long.

I've long known that Rong Xiu is very strong, and I've finally waited until today, where I have recovered a portion of my power. Perhaps... I can go against him? When Chu Liuyue thought of this, her eyes lit up.

Seeing her excited manner, Rong Xiu raised his brows slightly. *I do miss this familiar scene...*

"Rong Xiu, don't let me off easy later. Just attack!" Chu Liuyue believed that she wouldn't be Rong Xiu's match as a Xuan Master, but... It might not be the case for the warrior path!

After all, even though she looked like she was only an intermediate stage-six warrior, her combat skills had actually reached that of a stage-seven warrior!

The torturous training she previously experienced at the Red Moon Desert wasn't for nothing!

Rong Xiu smiled and answered: "Okay."

When Xue Xue—who was lying on the floor—heard this, it glanced at his own master with much contempt. *You didn't even blink when you lied. Pfft!*

Detecting Xue Xue's gaze, Rong Xiu glanced at it coldly. *Not talking about the past, but Yue'er hasn't even fully recovered now. If I really attack her without holding back, I'll also be the one who suffers when she gets hurt. I can only dote on the wife I found for myself.*

At this point, Chu Liuyue's figure moved, and she went straight for Rong Xiu.

She was extremely fast.

The aspect that Chu Liuyue improved the most in after continuously fighting those puppets in the Red Moon Desert was her close-combat skills! Hence, even her speed had increased by quite a bit!

Now that she had already recovered her identity, she didn't need to hide the many skills she had learned before. Due to this, it was naturally much more convenient for her.

In the blink of an eye, the slim and tall figure had already rushed to Rong Xiu! She clenched her bare fists and sent out a punch!

But before she could see Rong Xiu's movements clearly, his figure had already disappeared before her!

Chu Liuyue's punch landed on empty air, and she sent a side kick without even thinking.

Bang!

Rong Xiu held her ankle easily.

Chu Liuyue was shocked, and she immediately took the chance to spin in midair.

Rong Xiu quickly let go of her and avoided her attack. "Tsk! Yue'er, are you trying to kill your husband?"

Chapter 925: Mastermind

Chu Liuyue landed lightly like a sparrow as she looked at Rong Xiu opposite her. Hearing his teasing, she gently grunted. "You didn't even use all your force, yet you can easily block my attack. Your words aren't very suitable, right?"

Earlier, Rong Xiu didn't even attack and just defended. But even so, she could still feel that his cultivation level was much better than hers!

“To be your training buddy, I need to have some abilities, right? If not, I’ll just be beaten down directly.”
Rong Xiu raised his hand and faced his palm upward. He then curled his finger slightly and smiled.
“Again?”

Chu Liuyue clenched her teeth tightly as her force crazily surged out, causing her surrounding aura to reach its peak instantly!

A spark of light gradually flashed on her fingertip. “Let’s go—Jingshen Finger!”

Small beatings definitely can’t threaten Rong Xiu at all, so I can only put my best foot forward.

A satisfied smile flashed across Rong Xiu’s face.

One had to continuously challenge their limits to elevate their capabilities rapidly and stably.

Coincidentally, he knew best where her limits lay. Hence, it was most suitable for him to be this person.

The next moment, a golden fire appeared in Rong Xiu’s palm!

...

After thinking by himself for a long time when he went back, Elder Chen Ke still wanted to find Shangguan You.

Arriving at Yuan He Palace, Shangguan You was reading a book in the room. Hearing the noise, he looked up. "You still came in the end."

He didn't look shocked at all as if he had long expected it. "Please sit—"

Elder Chen Ke was an elder that had served three rulers, so his status was extraordinary. Even Shangguan You had to be polite to him.

Seeing Shangguan You's reaction, Elder Chen Ke knew that they were thinking of the same thing. Thus, he didn't stand on ceremony and directly sat down.

"It seems like you've also noticed something amiss, Your Majesty," said Elder Chen Ke openly as he knitted his brows slightly. "I'm afraid... Rong Xiu's identity isn't that simple..."

How could a mere Country Yao Chen's prince have the abilities he previously executed? Even if he is extremely talented, it is impossible for him to reach his current cultivation level without sufficient resources and fate.

"I've seen his father before." Shangguan You put down the book in his hands and suddenly said this. "He's normal and ordinary."

Even if such a person was lucky enough to give birth to a talented child, it wouldn't be too exaggerated. However, Rong Xiu had clearly exceeded this standard.

"You mean..." Elder Chen Ke was beyond shocked.

“I keep thinking that I’ve seen his aura before.” Shangguan You rubbed his temple. “But I can’t remember in such a short time.”

However, I had a good impression of Rong Xiu the moment I saw him. Thus, I didn’t further question him in person and let Yue’er do the asking.

“Elder Chen Ke, what do you think?”

Since he came, he definitely had something to say.

Elder Chen Ke hesitated for a moment. “Your Majesty, I suspect that... Rong Xiu is someone from ‘that side.’”

Shangguan You paused in his actions and suddenly looked up, a sharp glow flashing across his eyes. “Elder Chen Ke, you think so too?”

“...A ninth-grade Xuan Master is also like a stage-nine warrior, and they’re both very strong. They’re just one step away from the higher ground! There might not even be a few such warriors in the entire Tianling Dynasty, yet Rong Xiu reached such a level at a young age... Other than ‘that side,’ who else can cultivate such a character?”

Shangguan You stroked his beard and seemed to agree with it. “That was also what I was thinking. Back then, Yue’er was born with a Tianjing Yuan meridian and was a rare talent that appeared once in a thousand years. This was why she could reach a cultivation level that a normal person couldn’t even reach in their entire lives in such a short period of time. As for Rong Xiu...”

I couldn’t see through him.

“Ancestor should understand these things better, right?” Elder Chen Ke had a solemn expression. “However, it seems like Ancestor didn’t really tell her much about the related matters...”

“Ancestor must have his own considerations. Perhaps he has already told Yue’er.” Shangguan You was in deep thought for a moment. “Now that Yue’er has already ascended the throne, many things have been settled. We can just find a time later on to talk to her about this in detail.”

Elder Chen Ke nodded and curiously muttered, “If Rong Xiu is really from ‘that side,’ why must he appear as Country Yao Chen’s prince... When Your Majesty was injured back then, she also managed to revive on ‘that side’... Isn’t this too much of a coincidence?”

There was one point that Elder Chen Ke did not say—if Rong Xiu’s identity was really what they thought of it to be, then... It wouldn’t be certain who was marrying up the social ladder.

Shangguan You thought for a moment and waved his hands. “Forget it. It’s fine as long as Yue’er wants him and vice versa. As for the rest, there’s no need to care so much! Right, I asked you to check on Jiang Yucheng previously. Did you find out anything?”

Elder Chen Ke calmed down and straightened his body, his expression becoming stern. “I really did find quite a few points amiss. Jiang Yucheng... seems to be secretly contacting some person these few years. It also seems like he listens to the other party’s every command and keeps helping him do things. However, he has always been doing it discreetly, so I can’t find out clearly who exactly the other party is.”

Shangguan You coldly grunted. “This means that he indeed has a master behind him?”

“Yes. Also...” Elder Chen Ke hesitated for a moment.

“Also what?” Shangguan You asked further.

“Also... Mu Qinghe seems to be related to this as well.”

Shangguan You knitted his brows tightly. “He is Jiang Yucheng’s man. It’s normal if he’s related to this.”

“No.” Elder Chen Ke shook his head. “If Mu Qinghe is purely Jiang Yucheng’s subordinate, he—logically speaking—would have no right to contact the mastermind directly. However... this isn’t the case. He seems to have contacted the mastermind behind Jiang Yucheng’s back!”

Chapter 926: You Can Definitely Win Against Me Next Time

“Really?” This time, Shangguan You was truly stunned. After thinking for a moment, he slowly said, “If this is so, Mu Qinghe might not be Jiang Yucheng’s man completely...”

But what’s his motive for doing so? When Yue’er asked Mu Qinghe if he betrayed her, the latter admitted it without hesitation. From start to end, he didn’t even defend himself.

Mu Qinghe was personally nurtured by Yue’er, and compared to the rest, they naturally had a deeper relationship. His doings made Yue’er feel betrayed much more strongly than many others.

According to what Mu Qinghe said, he was Jiang Yucheng’s man right from the start. But it now seems like there is something wrong... If there wasn’t another underlying reason, why would he have to do this? It’s as if... he wants to be executed?

“Is Mu Qinghe still under house arrest in the Mu Residence?”

“Yes.”

Shangguan You stood up but stopped after taking two steps out.

Elder Chen Ke tried to ask, “Your Majesty, do you want to go to the Mu Residence and question him yourself?”

Shangguan You stood with one hand behind his back and shook his head. “Forget it. If he’s not willing to speak, nobody can get an answer from him. When there’s a chance in the future, I’ll personally tell Yue’er about this. Then, we’ll decide.”

Elder Chen Ke nodded and probed, “Then, about Rong Xiu...”

“Let’s observe what happens first.”

“Yes.”

...

Mu Residence.

The yard was cold and silent. Other than a few armored Black Guards patrolling past from time to time, nobody else's figures appeared again.

Jian Fengchi stood at the door and felt conflicted when he saw this scene. He couldn't help but sigh deeply. *Sigh... Even though the Mu Residence only had Black Guards guarding it in the past, the atmosphere back then was greatly different from now. At the very least, there was still some liveliness back then. But now... It's no different from a prison. I've always avoided this kind of place, but I have to come here now.*

"Jian Fengchi, you're here again?" A figure flashed before him, and Si Jing appeared.

Taking away the Lei Laosi mask, the current Si Jing looks much more gentlemanly. He has also slimmed down from before, but he still looks very burly and muscular. In addition to his formidable capabilities, he can cause invisible stress on people just by standing there.

Jian Fengchi coughed.

"It's fine if you come once or twice, but you come here every day..." Si Jing sized the other male up suspiciously as he smacked his mouth and couldn't help but ask the question that had been bothering him. "What exactly do you want to do?"

Jian Fengchi resigned himself to his fate and walked in. "Is he still in his room doing nothing?"

"Yeah!" Si Jing shrugged his shoulders. "You can go in yourself."

Since the time Her Highness came and the three of them talked in the room... I don't know what they said, but the few of them had strange reactions afterward. Her Highness seemed lost and depressed,

while Jian Fengchi scolded Mu Qinghe for an hour in frustration after she left. Jian Fengchi didn't talk about the details, but his general message was that Mu Qinghe didn't know what was good for him.

As for Mu Qinghe... Ever since that day, he has stayed in the room and didn't come out. I originally thought Her Highness locked him in the Mu Residence and restricted his freedom here, but it seems like he didn't want to come out himself.

Hence, Jian Fengchi came every day after that. However, it didn't seem to work at all.

Mu Qinghe was an extremely stubborn person that wouldn't fall for any tactics.

Si Jing crossed his arms and shook his head. Actually, I can't figure it out either. Back then, Her Highness treated Mu Qinghe wholeheartedly and even nicer than she treated the Thirteen Yue Guards. Why did this ingrate suddenly betray Her Highness? However, Her Highness doesn't even have any intentions of killing him up to this point...

Si Jing flung the hammer in his hands and walked away.

...

The door wasn't locked, so Jian Fengchi directly pushed the door to enter and saw Mu Qinghe sitting there.

Hearing the commotion, Mu Qinghe didn't react much as if he didn't even care.

Seeing his current appearance, Jian Fengchi was enraged. He sneered and leaned against the door frame. "Are you planning to be like this forever?"

Mu Qinghe did not speak.

"Are you happy that you angered her and that she left after you purposely said those words?" Jian Fengchi furrowed his brows tightly, his usual flirtatious look currently covered by a thick layer of frost.

Mu Qinghe finally had a reaction. "I was just speaking the truth. If I did something wrong, I should be punished."

Jian Fengchi clenched his teeth furiously. "Bullshit! Weren't you the one who begged me to help her find evidence?!"

Jian Fengchi quickly went forward and grabbed Mu Qinghe's collar. "Do you believe that I'll go tell her about all of this right now!?"

Mu Qinghe knitted his brows and pushed his hand away. "It's fine even if you say it. Could it prove that I have nothing to do with all those things?"

"You..."

"Actually, it doesn't matter if she kills me or not. Isn't it great that the truth is out now?"

“I think you’re—” Jian Fengchi was dissatisfied with his friend’s words and wanted to hit him, but he unintentionally saw that the back of his palm had a hint of blood.

He was suddenly dazed and took a closer look. *I’m not injured, and only Mu Qinghe touched my hand previously... This is Mu Qinghe’s blood!*

Jian Fengchi’s expression suddenly changed. “What’s going on?”

Mu Qinghe saw the bloodstain on the back of his hand and secretly knitted his brows. *I’m so careless...*

“It’s nothing much,” said Mu Qinghe lightly as he nonchalantly took a handkerchief and cleaned away the blood on his hands.

However, that white handkerchief was quickly drenched in fresh, red blood!

Jian Fengchi’s eyelids twitched harshly. *There’s clearly something wrong with how much Mu Qinghe is bleeding!*

He rushed forward and directly stretched out his hand, wanting to grab Mu Qinghe.

Mu Qinghe agilely avoided it, but his feet weren’t stable and directly knocked against the chair beside him.

He eventually managed to stabilize himself with much difficulty, but his face flashed white as blood oozed out from the corner of his mouth.

Jian Fengchi was even more stunned. "This is..."

Plop!

Mu Qinghe fainted and suddenly collapsed onto the floor.

...

Shaoyue Palace.

Every second and minute trickled past quickly. Unknowingly, it was already evening.

As the sun went down in the west, the thick clouds reflected its brilliant light.

The exchange between Chu Liuyue and Rong Xiu finally ended!

The clothes around the former were already drenched by the sweat, and she seemed exhausted.

On the other hand, Rong Xiu didn't look any different other than his clothes being a little messy. It was as if he just leisurely walked around instead of fighting with Chu Liuyue for a long time.

Chu Liuyue breathed harshly and couldn't help clenching her teeth when she looked at Rong Xiu. *This man is always restricting his abilities to be just one notch above mine! How infuriating!*

"Y-you actually hid so much of your ability—" She was about to go forward, but she directly fell forward as her body turned soft.

Rong Xiu went forward, hugged her into his arms, and carried her bridal style. He then smiled. "No, I'm just a little stronger than you this time. You'll definitely be able to win next time, Yue'er."

Chu Liuyue clutched his face and grunted heavily. "I'll definitely overtake you on the Qing Yun Ranking next time!"

Chapter 927: Dream

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

Rong Xiu suddenly stopped his actions. His brows moved undetectably as he looked at Chu Liuyue in his arms and slowly asked, "What... did you just say?"

Chu Liuyue was also dazed. Qing Yun Ranking... What's that? Why would I suddenly say that? It's as if... I said the same words before.

"I-I don't know either..." muttered Chu Liuyue, but she instantly knitted her brows and kept searching through her memories. However, she couldn't remember anything.

Rong Xiu stared at her face closely. His uneasy heart relaxed a little when he saw the faint layer of confusion in her eyes.

He silently turned his gaze away, looked down, and hid the emotions in his eyes. "I'll send you back first."

Chu Liuyue dazedly nodded as she hugged Rong Xiu's neck and leaned against his shoulders, but she kept thinking about the previous incident. Qing Yun Ranking... I said that I would definitely overtake Rong Xiu on the Qing Yun Ranking?

"Rong Xiu." She suddenly spoke and glanced at Rong Xiu. "Have you heard of the Qing Yun Ranking...?"

The man shook his head, and the remaining light shone on his smooth and perfect side view, which was also very charming. However, he didn't say anything.

Chu Liuyue was confused. Rong Xiu means that he doesn't know, but why did I suddenly say such a thing to him? Is this related to the memory I lost?

Chu Liuyue was deep in thought and planned to find another chance to think carefully about it after she went back.

Rong Xiu carried her and walked back.

Luckily, all the palace maids were purged after Chu Liuyue came back, so there weren't many people serving in Shaoyue Palace. In addition, the training arena was a more private place in Shaoyue Palace, so she could directly return to her bedroom from there.

Due to this, they didn't meet many people on the way as Rong Xiu directly carried her back.

“Yue’er—” He had just called her when he suddenly felt that the person in his arms was very quiet.

He looked down and saw that the woman in his arms was leaning against his shoulders with her eyes closed and that her breathing was uniform as if she had fallen asleep.

Rong Xiu laughed and felt his head ache. She must’ve been too tired from the training, but it also proves that she feels secure enough to rapidly fall asleep in my arms.

This comforted Rong Xiu.

He carefully placed her on the bed, wiped her sweat, and covered her with a thin blanket.

Rong Xiu’s eyes gradually gained a tinge of gentleness as he watched her peacefully sleeping. In the past, even though she was also very tired during this kind of time, it was very rare for her to sleep directly. This time, the revenge in Xi Ling must’ve used up much of her energy and mental power. It’s good that she can rest now.

Rong Xiu held her wrist, and a pure and warm force was gradually inserted into her body.

Chu Liuyue dreamed of something as she muttered softly.

Rong Xiu heard her mutters, which were faintly related to the Qing Yun Ranking.

He knitted his brows slightly. Since she has yet to break through to become a stage-seven warrior, she shouldn't be able to think about this because that thing in her body is still sealed perfectly. However, it seems like she is much faster than I had predicted.

With the nurturing of Rong Xiu's force, Chu Liuyue's brows gradually relaxed, and she fell asleep peacefully.

Rong Xiu stood at his spot quietly and glanced at Tuan Zi, who appeared at some point. "Take good care of her."

Tuan Zi nodded sensibly for once.

Rong Xiu then turned and left.

Xue Xue followed him closely.

...

After walking out of Shaoyue Palace, Rong Xiu looked up in a certain direction. If I don't recall wrongly, Huayang Palace should be there. That is also where Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng are locked up.

Rong Xiu thought for a while and still changed his direction to leave the palace.

...

Chu Liuyue had a very long and messy dream. In the dream, she seemed to be competing with someone to be the champion of the Qing Yun Ranking.

The other party's face and figure were very blurred, but his abilities were extremely strong.

She failed at every battle and tried again to no avail.

Amongst the many competitions, some were very quiet, and others were very noisy in the surroundings as if there were many people spectating and cheering.

She wanted to take in the other party's face carefully, but she couldn't do so.

After some time, even she didn't know how many times she had competed.

After another competition, she finally won.

She was very happy, and that person opposite her also seemed to be elated. Someone shouted from the surroundings, and she vaguely heard that it was 'Yue.'

The person opposite suddenly took a step forward. It was as if he ran through a layer of mist, and his figure gradually turned clearer.

It was a black-robed young man with a jade belt at his waist. The outfit easily outlined his broad shoulders and skinny waist.

He seemed to be saying something to her.

The surroundings fell silent. Thunderous applause and cheers were then heard, and it was lively!

And his face gradually appeared...

“Hu...” Chu Liuyue’s eyes flew open!

She broke out into a cold sweat, and her heart kept beating wildly, causing her ears to turn numb. She adjusted herself for some time before realizing that it was a dream.

Tuan Zi flew over and intimately rubbed against her cheeks.

Chu Liuyue hugged Tuan Zi into her arms, and her heart gradually calmed down.

After she woke up, she quickly forgot everything about the dream. That man’s figure seemed to be very familiar, but she still didn’t clearly see that face in the end.

A ridiculous thought surfaced in her heart. I actually vaguely felt that the man competing with me in my dreams seemed to be the one from the octagonal pavilion on the cliff! Also, he is very similar to Master!

...

The night sky fell.

Hundred Herbs Building was already closed, and Yue Ling was checking the merchandise on the third floor. Suddenly, he heard something.

He turned around and was so frightened that his heart almost jumped out.

“Master!” He hurriedly greeted the man. “Master, why are you—”

Rong Xiu waved his hands. “I just came here to take something.”

Yue Ling heaved a slight sigh of relief. Only the heavens know what I felt to see Master standing there once I turned around.

“Yes!”

Yue Ling hurriedly acknowledged the words as he watched Rong Xiu walk in, still feeling very shocked. Master is now known all over Xi Ling. Who doesn't know that the new emperor has a fiancé that managed to win against Zhao Zicheng even though he was born in Country Yao Chen?

“Are you... buying for Madam?” Yue Ling followed him and asked carefully. Actually, he was also stunned when he found out that Chu Liuyue was actually Shangguan Yue. I was wondering why Master returned to Country Yao Chen again... So it was because of this!

Rong Xiu nodded and walked to an unassuming rack.

A fist-sized and unassuming green gem box was placed there. Perhaps it hadn't been touched in a while, so there was a thin layer of dust on it.

Rong Xiu didn't seem to care as he took it.

Yue Ling was slightly stunned. So Master came to take this!

Chapter 928: Surge!

Yue Ling wanted to ask something, but he didn't speak up.

The moment Rong Xiu put away the green gem box, he heard knocks from outside.

"Master, I have something to report." This was Yu Mo's voice.

Yue Ling looked at Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu said lightly, "Just come in."

Yue Ling then understood that his master was the one who called Yu Mo over.

Yu Mo pushed the door to enter and lightly nodded in acknowledgment when he saw Yue Ling before bowing toward Rong Xiu. "Master, you guessed correctly. Jiang Yucheng contacted that person again."

Upon hearing this, Yue Ling was stunned and immediately said sensibly, "Master, I'll guard outside."

Rong Xiu nodded, and Yue Ling hurriedly went out. When the latter left, he carefully closed the door.

Outside the door, Yue Ling's expression was stern. *It seems like Master is planning to take action...*

...

Yu Mo had been staying in Xi Ling during this period to check on Jiang Yucheng secretly.

After the incident was exposed, the entire Jiang family was executed, and Jiang Yucheng was also locked up. Thus, Yu Mo waited for a long while before finding this clue.

"It should've happened yesterday." A hint of contempt flashed across Yu Mo's eyes. "He chose this time because the entire Jiang family has been executed, and everyone has lowered their guard toward him. This Jiang Yucheng is really extremely selfish. For his own life, he's willing to sacrifice his entire family."

Rong Xiu smiled nonchalantly. "He only cares about himself. It's not strange for him to do such a thing."

Jiang Yucheng thought that he managed to grab his last straw of survival, but he shot his own foot.

“Have you found out that person’s identity?”

Yu Mo paused for a moment and shook his head. “I... only managed to find out that the other party had been Jiang Yucheng’s backing all along, but I didn’t find out their identity.”

Rong Xiu didn’t seem to care. “If it was so easy for you to find out, they’d be too useless. Jiang Yucheng is now trapped in Huayang Palace. How did the news get out?”

Yu Mo’s expression turned solemn. “From my checks, there’s a specific path to send out news in Huayang Palace!”

...

Mu Residence.

The next day, bright sunlight shone in from the windows.

Mu Qinghe’s eyeballs moved, and he finally opened his eyes.

His vision was blurred, and he instinctively closed his eyes.

“You’re awake?” A cold voice sounded from the side.

Mu Qinghe turned around and saw a familiar face.

Jian Fengchi crossed his arms and stared at him coldly. He had eyebags and looked very frail as if he didn't rest well. "Not many people can make me use so much effort to save someone. From today onward, you owe me your life! Do you understand?"

Mu Qinghe sat up and held his head that hurt faintly, not having much of an expression. "Why did you waste your effort?"

I know my own body. Jian Fengchi... had no need to do so.

Hearing this, Jian Fengchi was enraged. He wanted to go up and beat his friend up. "You..."

Thinking that he only managed to save his friend with much difficulty, he endured it and pointed at Mu Qinghe furiously. "You're really capable! I must be crazy to help you!"

Mu Qinghe leaned against the bed frame, closed his eyes, and seemed unaffected. "I don't only owe you my life."

I can't even repay what I owe Chu Liuyue.

Jian Fengchi suppressed his anger and didn't plan to continue haggling with him. He went forward, pulled over a chair, and sat opposite Mu Qinghe. "Say it! What's wrong with your body?"

Mu Qinghe lightly said, "It's just an old injury."

Jian Fengchi sneered continuously. "Do you really think that I only became a heavenly doctor yesterday? The poison in your body has been there for quite some time, right? This poison is very sinister and cold. Now, it has already infiltrated your organs and limbs. Not to mention clearing it, your life is almost over even if you can get rid of it completely! Xi Ling doesn't have this type of poison, not even the entire Tianling. Clearly, someone has poisoned you. Don't tell me you don't know about this."

Mu Qinghe kept quiet and didn't say a word as if he were too lazy to explain so much.

The two of them fell silent and faced each other.

After a moment, Jian Fengchi stood up. "Don't worry. Even if I can't deal with your poison, it doesn't mean someone else can't. I'll just enter the palace and ask someone."

Then, he turned around to leave.

Just as he was about to step out of the door, a voice finally sounded from behind. "Wait a minute!"

...

Chong Xu Cabinet.

Ye Ranran arrived at the medicinal garden early on and planned to tidy the herbs. After she arrived, she saw that someone was already there.

She took a closer look and shockingly yelled, "Cabinet Master?!"

Weichi Song cut away the dragon vine in his hands before straightening his back and smiling kindly at Ye Ranran.

Ye Ranran walked over and asked rather curiously, "Cabinet Master, why did you personally come to tidy it?"

Weichi Song smiled and said, "I have nothing to do, so I came over to take a look."

Ye Ranran squinted. "You miss Liuyue?"

Back then, most of these herbs were taken care of by Liuyue. It wasn't hard to understand why the Cabinet Master was here today.

Weichi Song smiled and gently knocked on her forehead. "Hey, it's fine if you call her that in our Chong Xu Cabinet, but you can't do that outside."

Now, Chu Liuyue had already recovered her identity. As the emperor, she was the most distinguished presence in the Tianling Dynasty, so people naturally couldn't address her as casually as before.

"I understand!" Ye Ranran stuck out her tongue. *I spent a long time accepting this fact!*

“Cabinet Master, if you miss her, why don’t you directly go to the palace?”

After all, Cabinet Master is Liuyue’s mentor, right?

However, Weichi Song sighed and shook his head. “She’s definitely very busy this time. Besides...”

“Cabinet Master!” Lu Zhiyao suddenly ran over. “Cabinet Master, Qi Dahe said that he remembers about Nan Jiang!”

Weichi Song’s eyes lit up. “Let’s go!”

...

Xi Ling City gradually became peaceful.

The once arrogant Jiang family and Xiahou family were completely exterminated overnight. Other than this, many other family clans and people were implicated and washed away in this mess.

Time trickled past day by day, and the shocking news gradually seemed to calm down. People were very forgetful.

Not long later, Xi Ling City resumed its usual liveliness. It seemed like those incidents had never happened.

The thick bloody smell after the executions had finally dissipated, and normal people continued on with their lives as usual. It was as if they had already forgotten the jailed Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng.

But somewhere in the crowd where one couldn't see, there were secret surges of chaos.

...

A month quickly passed.

In the blink of an eye, the one-month deadline on that Xuan paper arrived.

Chu Liuyue was currently cultivating in Shaoyue Palace. She sat cross-legged with her hands on her knees as her vigorous force started circulating crazily.

The surrounding Heaven and Earth Force started entering her body rapidly!

She was about to break through!

Chapter 929: Letter

In this month, she battled against Rong Xiu almost every day, and her combat power started increasing at an observable speed. But every time her abilities strengthened, Rong Xiu's capabilities would also be elevated.

Hence, he would still suppress her.

He seemed to know very clearly what kind of standard he should maintain his abilities at to unleash her potential to the maximum and not cause harm to her.

However, this was actually the most terrifying part. This was enough to prove that Rong Xiu's control over his force was refined to a stage one couldn't fathom.

Chu Liuyue didn't believe it at the start, but she later hopelessly discovered that she really couldn't figure out Rong Xiu's true abilities.

Every time she thought she had found his weakness and could defeat him, she discovered that he had more up his sleeves. Hence, Chu Liuyue slowly realized that she needed a long time to win against him completely.

However, this didn't impact her and instead made her fighting spirit even more intense. Gradually, she realized that this type of 'duel' was even more effective than the bitter training she previously did at the Red Moon Desert.

Compared to those puppets, Rong Xiu was much better in all areas, and the battle was also more realistic as he could use his force.

Every day and night, Chu Liuyue kept thinking of how to win against him. In this type of situation, her abilities kept improving unknowingly, and she quickly strengthened herself the whole way!

Hence, she finally touched the barrier to break through after a month's time.

Previously, she had already broken through to become an intermediate stage-six warrior at the Red Moon Desert. If she broke through again, she would be a peak stage-six warrior!

Chu Liuyue held in her breath and calmly conducted introspection.

In her dantian, the six lines quietly floated on her water droplet. The first five lines were very brilliant, but only the last was slightly dull.

Force entered her body and coursed through her limbs and Yuan meridian before gathering here.

Like a whirlpool, the water droplet kept absorbing the waves of force! At the same time, the five organs were connected, and the aura kept strengthening.

Time quickly trickled past.

At some point, Chu Liuyue finally felt that the time had come as she gathered all the force in her dantian and harshly hit the water droplet.

Hong!

The two forces slammed against each other ferociously.

A loud sound was heard in Chu Liuyue's body, and then a breaking sound was heard!

Kacha!

An invisible barrier broke with the sound.

The next moment, Chu Liuyue clearly saw that the sixth line seemed to have a layer of dust on it wiped away, clearly revealing its brilliant color!

Whir!

A wave of force exuded from it.

Chu Liuyue suddenly widened her eyes, and her originally bright, black gem-like eyes were burning with two balls of fire!

One as red as the hot sun!

One as transparent as the bright moon!

It seemed as though the two forces had merged completely, and it exploded into a formidable aura!

At this point—peak stage-six warrior!

...

Shangguan You had just arrived at Shaoyue Palace when he detected a terrifying aura exploding from within. With that, he hastened his pace and walked in. *That force seemed to be coming from Yue'er's bedroom—*

A tall and muscular figure stood outside the tightly shut door—it was Rong Xiu!

At this point, his hand was raised as he set up a barrier outside the bedroom that easily blocked all of the aftershocks.

Like a drop into the ocean, it didn't cause any ripples.

Shangguan You's eyes narrowed. Even though he wasn't as talented as Yue'er, he was quite capable and had recovered his status as a peak stage-eight warrior after recuperating during this period of time.

If not, he wouldn't have ascended the throne back then.

But upon seeing this scene, he suddenly realized that Rong Xiu's abilities were definitely above him! And this further proved his previous guess!

Hearing the commotion, Rong Xiu turned around, smiled, and bowed toward Shangguan You.

Shangguan You looked at him with a conflicted gaze. "Are you... guarding Yue'er?"

Rong Xiu nodded. "She just broke through to become a peak stage-six warrior."

Even though he had already guessed this previously, Shangguan You was still quite emotional when he personally heard this from Rong Xiu. "Really?"

He looked at the tightly shut door, and his gaze was passionate and proud. *I recall that when Yue'er came back previously, she was only an intermediate stage-six warrior. I didn't expect her to break through so quickly.*

"It's all because of your help during this period, right?" asked Shangguan You as he glanced at Rong Xiu. He knew that the latter would come at a fixed time to train with his daughter. *Rong Xiu definitely had a part to play in Yue'er smoothly breaking through.*

Rong Xiu smiled with a deep meaning. "She's very outstanding. This isn't something difficult for her."

He had no intention of claiming the credit for it.

Shangguan You did not speak.

It seemed like a small jump to cross from the intermediate stage to become a peak warrior, but it was actually a huge chasm. Even the same Dijing Yuan meridian cultivators wouldn't be able to successfully break through without half a year.

Yue'er's speed was almost the same as when she had her Tianjing Yuan meridian.

During this period of time, he actually went to look for past news about his daughter. He knew that she reached this stage within a short year, from being born as a good-for-nothing with a damaged Yuan meridian.

In comparison, this was even faster than her previous cultivation speed!

Screech!

The door finally opened at this point.

Rong Xiu whipped his sleeves, and the barrier immediately disappeared as it formed into countless light points and disappeared in the sky.

Shangguan You couldn't help but glance at Rong Xiu and was even more curious about the latter's background and identity.

What kind of strong power can raise such a person... Some thoughts flashed across his mind as Chu Liuyue walked out.

Seeing Shangguan You, she was rather shocked. "Father?"

Shangguan You looked at her kindly. "I haven't congratulated you for breaking through again, Yue'er!"

Chu Liuyue's eyes lit up, and she looked delighted as she stepped forward. "Thank you, Father. Why did you come here today?"

Shangguan You nodded and took out an invitation card from his arms. "The Beiming Dynasty sent us a letter."

Chu Liuyue's heart skipped a beat. *Here it comes!*

Chapter 930: Jun Jiuqing

She reached over to take the letter and seemingly asked unintentionally, "The Beiming Dynasty has never interacted much with us. Why would they suddenly send us a letter?"

Shangguan You shook his head. "I haven't looked at it."

Chu Liuyue looked down at the invitation letter, which had a line written on it: "Dear Tianling Dynasty's Emperor."

Her brows harshly twitched! *The handwriting is exactly the same as the one on the previous note!*

She suppressed her wildly beating heart and opened the letter—there was an invite inside.

Chu Liuyue rapidly read it and slightly knitted her brows.

Shangguan You asked rather worriedly, "What? Is there something wrong?"

Chu Liuyue passed the invitation card over. "The Beiming Dynasty invites the other four dynasties to go to Lin Zhou."

"To do what?" Shangguan You asked as he read the invitation.

Lin Zhou was the Beiming Dynasty's capital.

Even though the dynasties within Heaven's Canopy would occasionally communicate, it wasn't very regular. It was very rare for one to suddenly invite people from so many dynasties to go to the same place together.

He then shockingly said, "Ancient Phoenix Mountain is about to erupt?"

"That's right. The letter says that Ancient Phoenix Mountain will erupt around half a month later, and they feel that the Beiming Dynasty alone can't handle it. Hence, they invited other dynasties to go there."

Chu Liuyue tightly knitted her brows. *Ancient Phoenix Mountain is actually a mountain outside Lin Zhou City. I hear that it was where the Beiming Dynasty's ancestor tried to break through last time.*

Different from Shangguan Jing, that ancestor of theirs actually did it successfully. Ever since then, the entire Ancient Phoenix Mountain became the Beiming Dynasty's holy mountain.

Even though it happened a thousand years ago, it was because of this that the entire Beiming Dynasty seemed to be above the rest. The surrounding dynasties were all more polite toward the Beiming Dynasty.

“This invitation is written by the Beiming Dynasty’s Crown Prince. I heard that he is the Old Emperor’s only son and is very talented. He has always been doted on, and half of the Beiming Dynasty’s royal power is in his hands.” Shangguan You glanced at the letter and fell into deep thought. “No matter if they are going for Ancient Phoenix Mountain or doing it for the Beiming Dynasty, the other dynasties will most likely go this time.”

Chu Liuyue nodded; she thought so too.

Shangguan You thought seriously for a moment and asked in confusion, “But the other three dynasties are closer to the Beiming Dynasty, and they interact a lot more frequently. Only the Tianling Dynasty is further away from them, and I don’t think we have ever interacted with them in this manner before. Why would they send this invitation?”

Chu Liuyue’s gaze turned cold. *So the person who abducted Chu Ning is from the Beiming Dynasty! And if I didn’t guess wrongly, the mastermind is this so-called Beiming Crown Prince—Jun Jiuqing! This is targeted at me! However, I’ve never been to the Beiming Dynasty and don’t know this Jun Jiuqing. So why must he do this?*

“No matter what it is, we’ll know if we go there,” Chu Liuyue said calmly.

Shangguan You hesitated for a moment. “Yue’er, why don’t I go on this trip for you?”

Chu Liuyue shook her head. "The letter invited each dynasty's emperor to bring people with them. They must know that I've ascended the throne. If you go in my place, it might incur unwanted gossip and trouble."

Shangguan You was actually quite worried. "But..."

It was precisely because the letter's target was too obvious that he was hesitant. For some reason, he just felt that the invitation contained ill intentions.

Chu Liuyue looked at his worried expression and laughed as she raised her hand to relax his knitted brows. "That's enough! Father, are you so worried about me doing this? Besides, they said that Ancient Phoenix Mountain was about to erupt, so they invited all the dynasties to bring outstanding talents with them. With so many people around, it can also be considered as a grand event that everyone will be focusing on. Nothing much will happen."

Shangguan You was caught between laughter and tears from her actions. "Yue'er, you're smart, and I'm not worried about anything that you do! Since you're already set on it, tidy up your belongings these few days and choose people to go with you!"

She nodded. "Ancient Phoenix Mountain is about to erupt, and rare treasures will present themselves. I've heard that the force tides will also come. This is a very rare cultivation opportunity to any cultivators, and I wouldn't want to miss it."

When Shangguan You saw his daughter's serious expression, his heart tingled. "Okay! You can do whatever you want! I'll always be behind you to support you!"

...

The news of the Beiming Dynasty inviting Chu Liuyue to bring people to Lin Zhou to witness Ancient Phoenix Mountain erupting had quickly spread to many clans and aristocratic families.

Many were tempted, and they were eager to go.

The Beiming Dynasty was a legendary existence! Ancient Phoenix Mountain was also a place of rare treasures! Which cultivator in the world wouldn't like to go and see it for themselves?

Additionally, it would be even grander with people from other dynasties going! Even if they just went to look around, it would be a precious experience!

It was extremely fortunate for one to meet so many top outstanding talents!

In no time, the nominee list became the center of attention. Everyone wanted to know who Chu Liuyue would pick to go with her.

...

Study, Shaoyue Palace.

Chu Liuyue sat before the study table and looked at the list she had just written. *The invitation said I could bring a total of ten people. Five top warriors and five outstanding talents... This number isn't considered small as people from three other dynasties besides the Tianling Dynasty will also be going, not to mention the Beiming Dynasty's people as well. There is a limited number of vacancies, so the choice of people is extremely important.*

Chu Liuyue first crafted her own list of nominees. *On the one hand, the people who go there have to be sufficiently strong. Adequate manpower also has to be left behind on Xi Ling's side just in case someone stirs trouble when I'm not around. Besides, all the clans and aristocratic families must be closely watching this limited number of vacancies, so I have to balance it well.*

Staring at the list in her hands for a while, she edited it again before settling on the finalized one.

Ten days later...

The Tianling Dynasty wasn't near to the Beiming Dynasty. Even if they used transportation formations, they would still have to spend quite a few days on the road. Thus, they should set off after settling everything on Xi Ling's side.

Chu Liuyue's gaze turned, and it landed on the invitation at the side. Her expression turned slightly solemn. *Jun Jiuqing... Did we know each other before?*

Plop!

A sound suddenly sounded from behind.

The girl turned around and saw that Tuan Zi had accidentally knocked down a few books from the rack.

She stood up to pick the books up.

When she picked up the last book and was about to put it back in order, she realized that the book was slightly different.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled, and she flipped open the book.

After a moment, shock flashed across her eyes. *This is my handwriting, but I have no memory of writing this!*