

## Noble Ruler 961

### Chapter 961: I Just Want To!

At this point, all five golden bells were crushed! This meant that Jian Fengchi and the other four—who had entered Ancient Phoenix Mountain—were all in danger!

Logically speaking, Ancient Phoenix Mountain would automatically eliminate people when they were in danger. However, not a single person had come out at this point!

Chu Liuyue stared at that rainbow barrier closely.

It was calm as if nothing had happened, but this made her even more worried.

Detecting the commotion on Chu Liuyue's side, the few people waiting at the side all looked over.

That woman's face was solemn and cold as her eyes glistened with a cold gleam.

The few of them exchanged glances. *What's... going on?*

*Judging from her appearance, did something happen inside? Dantai Chen thought of this in his heart and squinted his eyes as an undetectable cold smile slid across his lips. No matter how capable Chu Liuyue is, she is helpless at this point! This time, let's see how arrogant she can be!*

At this point, Chu Liuyue suddenly went forward and stopped ten steps away from the rainbow barrier. She looked up and stared at Elder Hua Qian in the middle determinedly. "Sorry for the trouble, Elders, but could you help me? I want to enter Ancient Phoenix Mountain!"

...

Dead silence.

Chu Liuyue's sentence was like thunder striking everyone's ears, causing the crowd to be shocked.

Even Elder Hua Qian—who was used to seeing all kinds of scenarios—was dazed for a moment. Then, he knitted his brows. "Shangguan Yue, do you know what you're talking about?"

As he was a top warrior and his identity was long beyond that of an ordinary elder, even Jun Qizhi had to be respectful toward him. Hence, he completely had the right to talk to Chu Liuyue in such an attitude and tone.

Chu Liuyue calmly nodded. "Yes, I know."

"This Ancient Phoenix Mountain only opens once in a thousand years, and the barrier is unimaginably strong! Even if it were a few days ago when the barrier was at its weakest, all the elders had to work together to open it forcefully! And now, you've missed the best time to enter." Elder Hua Qian shook his head and directly rejected her. "You should just give up on this idea!"

Chu Liuyue clenched her fists and knitted her brows slightly. "I know all that you're saying, but I have a reason why I must enter! Elders, please help me!"

Elder Hua Qian looked at her, and his old eyes seemed to have seen through everything, but they were cold and nonchalant. “You want to go in because the people inside have met with dangers, right? If it’s this reason, then don’t say it. Entering Ancient Phoenix Mountain is originally already very perilous. If they want to obtain the benefits and fate that a normal person can’t have, they need to have the guts to face the corresponding danger and pressure! Not to mention that this barrier is hard to open, even if we manage to open it forcefully and you go in, what about the rest? Could it be that they’ll enter with you?”

Since this was a competition, everything had to be fair and square. One had to know all of this from the beginning!

*Chu Liuyue clenched her fists even more tightly, and her knuckles turned white. Of course, I understand what Elder Hua Qian is saying. But the key point now is that Jian Fengchi and the rest are in abnormal situations! Ancient Phoenix Mountain is the Beiming Dynasty’s holy mountain, and it is the place where the strong warrior broke through and entered Apotheosis back then.*

*Even if there is a certain danger to it, it isn’t very possible that the few of them would be pushed to the point of no return in a mere few days! Either this Ancient Phoenix Mountain is strange, or someone is secretly targeting them! Whichever it is, I can’t take it lightly! Do they want me to just sit and wait outside?*

Seeing the indignation in Chu Liuyue’s eyes, Elder Hua Qian shook his head. “We’ll naturally know what happened after nine days.”

*Nine days? I can’t even wait a single day! I originally left them the golden bells because I was worried about their safety. It’s fine if one or two were crushed, but now all five are gone! I must go in today!*

“This means that you’re not willing to help me, Elder Hua Qian?” asked Chu Liuyue carefully, and her voice was clear and cold.

Elder Hua Qian knitted his brows. *Why is this Chu Liuyue so stubborn?!*

He was instantly enraged as he said, “It’s not that you can’t go in! As long as you can open the barrier to Ancient Phoenix Mountain, you can go in and out as you wish! At that point, we won’t stop you!”

The crowd had various expressions. *Isn’t this driving Chu Liuyue to her death? Including Elder Hua Qian, this barrier was finally opened with the efforts of 25 strong warriors from various dynasties. To let Chu Liuyue do it alone... How can she do it? This is clearly rejecting her request.*

Hearing this, Chu Liuyue stood rooted to the ground and didn’t speak for some time, but her gaze was bitter.

Ning Yuan—who seemed like he didn’t really care about everything—turned his gaze and lightly said, “Everyone has their own destinies. Elder Hua Qian is right. Since they’ve entered, they must be prepared to endure everything. Do you still want to protect them all the way?”

There was no such logic in the world. Besides, she was still a child herself.

Even if she was worried and anxious, she should consider the actual situation. It was too ridiculous to want to barge into Ancient Phoenix Mountain forcefully at this point.

Gongsun Xiao looked over, but he didn’t say anything as he watched on quietly.

However, Dantai Chen couldn't hold himself back as he laughed in a seemingly teasing and mocking manner. "You could've gone in before, but you refused. Now, you want to barge in forcefully. Do you think that this Ancient Phoenix Mountain is your Tianling's territory and that they must listen to you?"

*Her impudent behavior is such a joke! What kind of place does she think this Ancient Phoenix Mountain is? Somewhere she can randomly throw her temper?*

"In this world, the strong are respected! If some people want to take something that doesn't belong to them, they naturally have to face the consequences."

*The few people from the Tianling Dynasty seemed to be the weakest out of everyone here, right? If so, how could they not fail? Hah.*

Chu Liuyue turned around, and her gaze was as cold as ice as she calmly glanced at Dantai Chen. "Consequences? Emperor Huai Ren, it seems like you know something?"

Dantai Chen's expression stiffened for a moment, but it quickly returned to normal. "I don't know about anything else. I only know that the victorious one is king, while the losers are nothing! If you don't have the capability, you shouldn't have come out to humiliate yourself in the first place!"

This was blatant mockery!

Everyone present couldn't help but look at Chu Liuyue.

Anyone who heard this wouldn't be able to hold back and would be furious... However, Chu Liuyue's face was scarily calm.

Even her lips were curled up slightly, but her smiling intent didn't reach her eyes, which chilled people's hearts unwittingly.

"Emperor Huai Ren, your words make sense. In this world, only the strong have the right to talk." She turned around and looked at Elder Hua Qian!

Elder Hua Qian's heart suddenly skipped a beat, and uneasiness overwhelmed him.

Chu Liuyue tilted her head. "Elder Hua Qian, you said just now that you'd let me do whatever I want if I managed to open this barrier, right?"

Elder Hua Qian knitted his brows but still nodded. "That's right!"

"Okay!" yelled Chu Liuyue.. "Then, I'll open this barrier today!"

### **Chapter 962: I Will Enlighten You!**

Everyone thought that Chu Liuyue had gone crazy! *She wants to open this barrier?! In her dreams!*

After a temporary silence, Dantai Chen directly laughed out loud. "Hah! Empress Yuan Xi, it seems like you're planning to enlighten all of us? This scene is such a rare opportunity!"

Chu Liuyue didn't care about his mockery at all as her distinguished and beautiful face had a cold expression with a heavy suppression. The next moment, she suddenly raised her hand! "Long Yuan Sword!"

At that moment, violent winds whirred as a strong aura gathered from all directions!

A long black sword appeared in her hands!

That black sword was completely dark and looked very ancient; only its middle had a tiny silver dent.

When it first appeared, all the light in the surroundings seemed to be quickly absorbed by it! It was very oppressive, and it stunned people!

Chu Liuyue moved her wrist!

*Roar!*

At that moment, a dragon seemed to be howling! Its suppression was harsh, and its aura was daunting!

The crowd's faces changed in unison. *Is this... a legendary weapon?!*

"Could this be the Long Yuan Sword personally crafted by that ancestor from the Tianling Dynasty back then?"

Shocked discussions could be heard from the crowd.

“Definitely! Could there be a second Long Yuan Sword in the world?!”

“Right. I heard that Shangguan Yue used this Long Yuan Sword to ascend the throne a while back...”

“This is a true legendary weapon...”

The moment he saw the Long Yuan Sword, Dantai Chen’s smile immediately froze, and his lips curled up in a forceful manner.

But the next moment, he coldly grunted. “So what if you have a legendary weapon? I don’t believe that a mere peak stage-six warrior can slash open this barrier!”

The amount of strength a legendary weapon could release was highly related to how capable its owner was. It was fine if it was a strong warrior, but someone incapable might not even be able to endure the suppression from the legendary weapon itself, let alone others!

To Dantai Chen, Chu Liuyue produced this Long Yuan Sword for nothing!

Gongsun Xiao, Ning Yuan, and the rest clearly thought the same way, and their expressions were ugly.

“She’s really still young...” Gongsun Xiao laughed and muttered.



Ning Yuan didn't say a word, but he was momentarily stunned when his gaze swept across the Long Yuan Sword.

Chu Liuyue didn't care about the discussions in the surroundings.

"Ancestor, I have to trouble you to take action now," said Chu Liuyue in her heart.

Shangguan Jing laughed out loud. "It's just a barrier. How is it troublesome? Girlie, just watch on!"

Then, a tremendous aura suddenly emerged from the Long Yuan Sword!

"What?!" Dantai Chen and the rest also noticed the abnormal strength, and they were extremely stunned!

Even Elder Hua Qian's eyelids twitched! *T-this aura... It's actually much stronger than mine! This clearly is—*

"Open it!" Coincidentally at this point, Chu Liuyue held the Long Yuan Sword with both hands and raised it high before harshly slashing down.

A ray of black light immediately shot out!

*Shua!*

The empty space shattered! A gigantic black space crack appeared, and endless violent turbulence emerged!

In the blink of an eye, that black light had already flown to the rainbow barrier!

*Whir!*

As if detecting the suppression, that barrier started moving rapidly and let out a whir!

The two forces started going for each other's throats—they were on par!

Seeing this, the crowd was still shocked.

However, Chu Liuyue felt that it wasn't enough. *I have to quickly think of a way to open this barrier swiftly!*

When she thought of this, an idea popped up in her mind as a red fire suddenly burned on the Long Yuan Sword!

*Rumble!*

A fireball rapidly flew out, and it struck the two forces in a stalemate harshly!

*Crack!*

With a crisp sound, a crack suddenly appeared on the rainbow barrier!

Chu Liuyue's eyes brightened up.

But the next moment, the strength from the side surged up and quickly repaired that crack!

When Dantai Chen and the rest saw this scene, they actually heaved a sigh of relief. *L-luckily, it wasn't broken... If Chu Liuyue really managed to open this barrier and barged in, what would it look like for us? But even if so, it's already very shocking for her to be able to slash out a crack!*

...

Shangguan Jing's voice was more solemn. "This barrier has been here for thousands of years, and it has been nourished by the strength from within Ancient Phoenix Mountain. Due to this, it's not that easy to break it. If you want to go in, you must directly slash it open!"

A mere crack was definitely not enough!

Chu Liuyue nodded. "I know."

Following this, she breathed in and urged the force in her body once again!

In her dantian, the water droplet started spinning quickly! Then, an even more formidable force gathered on the Long Yuan Sword!

Silver dragon-like lightning quickly flashed across the Long Yuan Sword!

“That’s the strength of lightning!” Gongsun Xiao finally couldn’t hold himself back as he shockingly stood up and stared at Chu Liuyue tightly. *Isn’t she just a peak stage-six warrior? How can she release such strength? Normally speaking, only strong warriors—stage-seven and above—can reach such a stage!*

Gongsun Xiao and the rest didn’t know that the suppression of lightning did not count for much to her. After all, the lightning refused to strike when she crafted the Cloud-Sky Copper Sword, so she had to snatch it back forcefully.

The Long Yuan Sword recognized her as its master, so everything was naturally in her control!

Her gaze harsh, Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in before she slashed out the second sword!

Seeing that Chu Liuyue didn’t give up, Dantai Chen couldn’t help but sneer. “How stupid...”

Before he could finish his sentence, his throat seemed to be stuck as his voice suddenly stopped.

Everyone else present had a face of disbelief.

The middle of the rainbow barrier was actually slashed open—without any sound! With the landing of her sword, Chu Liuyue directly cut open the barrier silently!

Upon closer look, one could see that the edges of the torn area were still burning with red fire! It seemed to be due to the fire's suppression that the rainbow barrier was unable to restore itself. Also, the crack was even expanding!

Elder Hua Qian was standing nearer to her, so he felt the impact the best!

Almost at the moment the Long Yuan Sword landed, this barrier silently broke! Even the suppression acting on their bodies had declined greatly!

Everyone lost their voices as they stared at the woman in red in shock.

She was tall and skinny, and her hair and clothes flowed with the wind. She held the long black sword with fire blazing on it, looking just like a god of war that had fought out of a burning hell!

At this point, she exuded a suppression that made people want to bow down to her!

Chu Liuyue looked at the torn opening and heaved a sigh of relief. She then turned around, and her gaze landed on Dantai Chen as she smiled delightfully. "Emperor Huai Ren, didn't you say that you wanted me to enlighten you? Did you clearly see what happened just now?"

Dantai Chen's blood was stuck in his chest!

**Chapter 963: I Am Protecting My Subordinates!**

Chu Liuyue sized up the Long Yuan Sword in her hands as she slowly smiled and said, “But I’ve always been magnanimous. Emperor Huai Ren, you don’t have to thank me!”

*Thank?! Thank your head!* Dantai Chen felt stifled, and he was so angry that smoke almost came out from his nostrils!

But now that the barrier was open, he couldn’t retort her at all!

Who would’ve thought that Chu Liuyue would actually do it?!

Not only Dantai Chen, everyone present was stunned. *This barrier could only forcefully be opened with so many strong warriors working together, but why was it so easy for Chu Liuyue? Even if her talent and capabilities are heaven-defying, it should be more reasonable, right?! Is she not letting others live?!*

“With that ancestor from the Tianling Dynasty helping... It’s no wonder you’re so confident,” boomed Ning Yuan, but he was looking at the Long Yuan Sword.

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows, but she wasn’t surprised that Ning Yuan could guess this as she had no intentions of hiding it from the start.

From the first time she tried, Shangguan Jing directly took action. As long as one took a closer look, they would definitely notice it.

“Ancestor?” Gongsun Xiao was stunned for a moment and later recovered his senses rapidly. “The one that had one foot in the Apotheosis realm?”

*Right! Wasn't there previously a rumor that mentioned how people couldn't accept Shangguan Yue changing her physical body and coming back at first but was directly solved with the help of Tianling's Ancestor appearing? Rumors had it that the ancestor was long dead, but he actually left behind a soul! But with just this soul, he's already much stronger than ordinary people since he can deal with this barrier! After all, he was rumored to be the closest person to Apotheosis!*

Elder Hua Qian and the rest also noticed this at this point and had a conflicted expression. *No wonder... Since she has that person to help her, it isn't surprising that Chu Liuyue dares to be so arrogant and directly slash open this barrier.*

However, Dantai Chen was scared. *Tianling's Ancestor? Isn't that a half-step Apostheosis existence?! If she had asked this person to help previously...*

Dantai Chen suddenly felt uneasy. *If that Shangguan Yue finds out about what we did...*

At this moment, he suddenly realized that this woman indeed couldn't be easily offended!

After much thinking, he shut his mouth tightly.

...

“It seems like they all thought that you managed to open this barrier with my help...” Shangguan Jing’s voice suddenly sounded softly. “Heh, I really don’t know what their expressions would be like if they knew that I was just a support and that you’re still the one who exerted your own strength...?”

He did exert great strength with the first slash, but he only ended up even with this rainbow barrier. After all, his cultivation level wasn’t stronger than that of the Beiming Ancestor back then.

However, more of the second sword’s strength was from the water droplet in Chu Liuyue’s dantian!

It was done with incredible ease! After injecting this wave of strength into the Long Yuan Sword, the second sword easily crushed the barrier the moment it hit.

Even though Shangguan Jing knew that this thing wasn’t simple, he was stunned once again at this point!

“I’m just lucky.” Chu Liuyue laughed in her heart. *This trump card is pretty useful sometimes!*

The Tianling Dynasty’s ancestor didn’t speak at all.

What he didn’t tell Chu Liuyue was that he even felt a sense of horror when the wave of strength attacked the barrier. It was the unknowing fear and respect that came from the bottom of one’s heart when one faced great power!

*This girl seems to be unclear about how formidable the item hiding in her body is...*



...

Chu Liuyue didn't waste too much time with them as she turned around to look at Elder Hua Qian and directly asked, "Elder Hua Qian, can I go in now?"

Elder Hua Qian's lips moved, and the lines of wrinkles on his old face seemed to gather together more tightly. *What else can I say? The outcome is right in front of me! How can I go back on my words?!*

Finally, he nodded with difficulty. "I always make good on my words. You... can just go in!"

Chu Liuyue smiled. "Thank you so much then!"

Then, she took a step forward and was about to enter.

"Wait a minute!" Gongsun Xiao's voice suddenly sounded.

Chu Liuyue paused for a moment and looked up.

Gongsun Xiao was taken aback by her harsh and cold glare as he unwittingly averted his gaze and laughed. "Uh... Uh... Shangguan Yue, look—this is a competition after all. If you just go in like this, then.. Isn't it too unfair to the rest?"

Chu Liuyue had already predicted what he was going to say, so she only raised her brows slightly. "Oh? Senior Gongsun, what do you think then?"

Gongsun Xiao coughed. *Actually, I feel quite embarrassed as well, but this is something I have to do...*

“Look, since you’re going in... Then, why don’t we each send one person in? Coincidentally, five people can go in this time...”

Chu Liuyue nodded thoughtfully. “Your words make sense. It is pretty boring if I enter alone.”

At this moment, even Dantai Chen and the rest looked over.

Chu Liuyue stroked her chin and smiled brightly. “Then... how about I close this barrier first? After that, the rest of you can each send someone over to open the barrier and enter. For the sake of fairness, I can wait for a while.”

“What? H-how can this do?” retorted Gongsun Xiao instinctively. “Didn’t you already open the barrier? Why—”

Chu Liuyue curled her lips into a half-smile. “You also know that I opened this barrier? Then, what right do you have to bargain with me?”

Gongsun Xiao suddenly realized something as his face turned green, and he shut his mouth.

The area became silent.

Chu Liuyue surveyed the surroundings. “I’m sorry, everyone. I never liked to owe other people things, and I hate other people owing me even more!”

*Want to take advantage of me? Dream on!*

This time, the surroundings were finally quiet.

Following this, she turned around. Just as she was about to go forward, she suddenly thought of something as she tilted her head slightly and glanced at Ning Yuan. “Right, there’s something I forgot to say.”

Ning Yuan seemed to notice something, and he looked up. Then, he saw the beautiful woman with a harsh aura smile brightly with eyes glistening.

“I can’t care about the rest, but I’ll personally protect my own people!”

#### **Chapter 964: Courting Death!**

After Chu Liuyue said that, her figure jumped up and entered through the opening.

When her figure completely disappeared within, she raised her wrist and retracted the burning red fire.

Without the strength to restrain it, the opening quickly closed, and the barrier recovered its original appearance!

“Hey, this—” Gongsun Xiao widened his eyes and opened his mouth as disappointment flashed across his eyes. *I still wanted to see if I had a chance to enter! I didn't expect Chu Liuyue to be so harsh and not give us any leeway.*

Dantai Chen lightly grunted. “Senior Gongsun, that Shangguan Yue is originally very petty. You can't count on her!”

Gongsun Xiao's expression looked awkward.

“She opened the barrier herself. Isn't it her choice to do whatever she wants with it?” said Ning Yuan suddenly, his tone cold. “Just now, none of us present went up to help her. It's normal that she doesn't want to help us.”

Gongsun Xiao swallowed the words in his throat. *This Ning Yuan is a very traditional person, and it's hard to talk logic to him, but he is very strong. Also, the Dongning Dynasty is only a little weaker than the Beiming Dynasty. Unless I have to, I also don't want to offend him. Since things have already ended up in this state, there is no need to continue arguing, lest I offend another one.*

Seeing that he couldn't stir up trouble, Dantai Chen felt very indignant.

Like Gongsun Xiao, he didn't want to go against Ning Yuan directly, so he could only swallow his anger.

The surroundings fell silent again, but everyone wasn't as calm as they seemed.

Originally, only five people from every dynasty entered. But with Shangguan Yue entering, it was another one! The key point was that her capabilities were obviously much stronger than they had predicted!

Once she joined them, it would definitely elevate the Tianling Dynasty's combat power greatly!

Dantai Chen closed his eyes. *Now, I can only hope that the rest from the Tianling Dynasty have already been settled... This way, even another Shangguan Yue won't help matters!*

...

Chu Liuyue passed through the barrier and entered Ancient Phoenix Mountain.

When she came in earlier, she immediately felt that the Heaven and Earth Force was very intense! It was almost three-fold denser than outside!

Looking ahead, the mountains were high and low as a long green river extended from the mountains.

It was truly a beautiful lake with charming scenery.

Other than this, one could still vaguely hear the crisp chirps from the birds and occasionally see fiends passing by.

All in all, it looked like a very energetic and lively scene.

This Ancient Phoenix Mountain was worthy of being treated as a holy mountain by the Beiming Dynasty, and it was indeed very rare to have the chance to cultivate in such an environment. But at this point, Chu Liuyue had no mood to admire all of this.

She raised her wrist and glanced at the golden bells to try to locate their auras. Then, she realized that the golden bells actually pointed in two directions!

This meant that the five of them were actually separated!

Chu Liuyue was even more worried, and she knitted her brows tightly.

Before they entered, I had already instructed the few of them to move together if possible. All five golden bells are crushed now, but the few of them have separated and are at two different locations! The situation might be even worse than I had expected!

If I haven't guessed wrongly, Jian Fengchi and Qiang Wanzhou are on the left, while Mu Hongyu's group of three is on the right.

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and chose to go right! *Other than the golden bell, Qiang Wanzhou still has the whistle that Mentor gave him previously. Since he hasn't blown the whistle, it means that there is still a tinge of hope left. Besides, he and Jian Fengchi aren't weak, which makes me feel slightly more assured. The situation of Mu Hongyu's group of three might be even more alarming!*

Then, Chu Liuyue yelled, "Tuan Zi!"

*Clang!*

A red figure gradually appeared before her! Its gigantic wings spread, and its suppression was strong!

Chu Liuyue leaped up and jumped onto Tuan Zi's back. "Let's go!"

...

In the middle of some rocks in Ancient Phoenix Mountain.

Mu Hongyu's trio was resting behind a gigantic stone. Though it was called resting, it wasn't that relaxing.

At this moment, all three of them were in very bad conditions.

Wu Ming was severely injured and had fainted, and Yuwen Jinghong was covered in blood. Mu Hongyu was the least injured, but this was mostly due to her special physique that allowed her to dodge quickly. If not, she would've ended up like Wu Ming.

"Are there still any pills?" asked Mu Hongyu as she wiped away the blood from the corner of her mouth.

Yuwen Jinghong leaned against the rock as he shook his head with a pale face. "N-no... Before we came, I only prepared this many... We've already finished using all of them..."

Mu Hongyu bit her lips. "But Wu Ming can't hold on much longer..."

If it weren't for him saving them both earlier, Wu Ming wouldn't be so severely injured.

These few days, they kept using the pills to extend his life, but they had now run out of pills. The two weren't heavenly doctors either, so they could only watch on as his aura became weaker and weaker.

This was also undoubtedly torturous to the two of them.

Yuwen Jinghong laughed bitterly, and his face was filled with hopelessness and helplessness. "The three golden bells of ours were continuously crushed, but the two of them still haven't come until now. They must've met with dangers of their own..."

As the three of them had crushed their golden bells first, they didn't know about the situation on the side of Jian Fengchi's group of two.

They didn't know that the two of them had actually crushed their golden bells as well.

This made the two of them fall silent. *If nobody comes until the end... Wu Ming can't hold on for much longer, and the two of us won't be any better...*

"How long has it been since we entered? It's only been six days, right?" said Mu Hongyu suddenly. She muttered in a daze, "...If only Liuyue was here..."

*If she were here, she would definitely have a way.*



Yuwen Jinghong laughed bitterly again. *Ancient Phoenix Mountain will only open again nine days later. How would Chu Liuyue come in from the outside now? We might not even be able to last until then.*

“If Liuyue were here, she would definitely be able to deal with all of them!” said Mu Hongyu indignantly and furiously.

“Oh, who are you talking about?” Suddenly, laughter filled with contempt sounded.

Mu Hongyu and Yuwen Jinghong were both stunned, and they suddenly raised their heads.

They saw a group of people walking out from the forest not far away—it was Dantai Ruoli and the rest!

After continuously battling for so many days and being severely injured, Mu Hongyu and Yuwen Jinghong’s defenses were already at their lowest. Hence, they only reacted when the other party was right in front of them!

“You’re like a pesky ghost!” Mu Hongyu suddenly stood up and went in front. “You have already chased after us and tried to kill us for so many days! What exactly do you want to do?”

“Didn’t you already say it? We’re naturally here to chase and kill you.” Dantai Ruoli laughed lightly as a cold and sinister glow flashed across her eyes. “Previously, I couldn’t tell that you actually had the rare Faint Yuan Body that only appears once in a thousand years... It’s such a pity that you’ll be destroyed like this! If you want to blame somebody, blame your Shangguan Yue for offending someone she shouldn’t have!”

Then, she raised her palm and pushed it forward! “Die!”

### **Chapter 965: You Can't Say Some Words Wilfully**

“Congcong!” hollered Mu Hongyu.

A golden mane bear cub immediately appeared before her and ran toward that palm's force!

The golden mane bear cub had already grown up by now, so its size was similar to an adult golden mane bear. Its abilities were also much stronger than before.

It ran forward step by step, and the ground started shaking with it. The next moment, it directly used its physique to strike against that force harshly!

*Bam!*

That wave of force instantly dissipated as Congcong's body flew backward and landed on the ground harshly. Its brown fur that faintly glowed with golden light was stained with spots of blood.

“Congcong!” Mu Hongyu's heart seemed to be tightly gripped!

“Golden mane bear?” Dantai Ruoli looked at it closely and immediately chuckled. “I thought it was some high-level fiend! You dare to present such a golden mane bear?”

Tears welled up in Mu Hongyu's eyes as she clenched her teeth and rushed over.

Congcong had collided with a sharp rock, and a long wound was slashed across its body, looking very terrifying.

Mu Hongyu's hands were trembling slightly. She wanted to carry Congcong, but she didn't know where to begin.

Yuwen Jinghong limped over, and his face was flushed red with anger. "Aren't you afraid of other people knowing about your despicable acts?!"

*It should've been a fair competition after everyone entered Ancient Phoenix Mountain. But after these people from the Taiyu Dynasty came in, they started chasing after us incessantly! It's as if they won't stop until we have died!*

"You don't have to worry about this." At the side, Yu Zefeng laughed lightly. "As long as you stay here forever, who would know about any of this?"

Yuwen Jinghong's heart completely sank! *These people are so arrogant and don't bother hiding themselves at all, which shows that they are bent on killing us!*

The other party had five people, while they only had three—with one unconscious and two severely injured. How could they win against them?

Actually, everyone was separated after they entered.

The three of them found each other using the golden bell and planned to rendezvous with Jian Fengchi and Qiang Wanzhou, but they didn't expect someone to throw a wrench in the works as the five people from the Taiyu Dynasty started attacking them together.

Nobody knew what method they used to gather together in such a short amount of time, but how could they possibly win when it was five against three?

Hence, their condition became increasingly terrible after a few days of battling. This was the case until now, where they didn't even have the basic strength to fight back.

There was something they said right. As long as they all died here, who would know what happened here before?

Dantai Ruoli waved her hands in frustration. "You don't have to spend so much time talking to them. Just kill them directly! There are still two more behind."

Yu Zefeng smiled flatteringly. "Ruoli, why do you need to personally take action against these people? You just need to rest at the side and watch. Leave the rest to us."

Dantai Ruoli couldn't help but smile in satisfaction. "That's true, lest I dirty my hands. Then, do it more cleanly."

"Don't worry." Yu Zefeng then stepped forward, and cold murderous intent flashed across his face.

The few people behind him moved forward respectively and rapidly surrounded Mu Hongyu's group of three.

This scene was a deadly encounter.

Yuwen Jinghong glanced at Mu Hongyu as he softly said, “Hongyu, I’ll stall them first. You need to take the chance to escape.”

Even though Mu Hongyu couldn’t fight against them, she could definitely escape with her Faint Yuan Body.

“But you guys—”

“Every one that escapes counts!” Yuwen Jinghong interrupted her and stared at her solemnly and seriously. “As long as you can escape, you can testify against them!”

*You can’t let the three of us die here for nothing!*

Mu Hongyu clenched her fists tightly, and blood flowed out from the corner of her mouth.

“Take action!” commanded Yu Zefeng!

The few of them attacked at the same time, and four waves of force flew out!

It was unavoidable!

Mu Hongyu and Yuwen Jinghong were about to be killed on the spot!

Yuwen Jinghong rapidly glanced at Mu Hongyu as tears flowed down the latter's face.

The terrifying waves of force got increasingly nearer, and violent winds were stirred!

Mu Hongyu closed her eyes tightly, hopelessness filling her heart.

Just as she was about to take action, that harsh thunderstorm suddenly stopped!

Mu Hongyu was dazed and opened her eyes. However, she saw that a red barrier had appeared in front of them at some point and blocked all the attacks outside.

*This is...* Mu Hongyu stared at it dazedly. Then, a ridiculous and bold thought surfaced in her mind! *T-this aura is clearly—*

At this point, a very familiar voice sounded from midair! "Try touching my people again!"

...

A clear and powerful voice distinctively traveled to everyone's ears!

At that moment, almost everyone looked up. They saw a red-tailed phoenix with spread wings in midair, and the phoenix tail seemed to be burning with fire as the fiend covered half the sun.

A woman in red stood on its back; she was breathtakingly beautiful and unparalleled!

It was Chu Liuyue.

She came with incomparable suppression. She was high and mighty, which made people respect and fear her uncontrollably.

Some people were born to be rulers, and Chu Liuyue was exactly such a person!

The moment they looked up and saw the person's face, Dantai Ruoli and the rest were stunned!

*"S-Shangguan Yue?!" Dantai Ruoli couldn't believe her eyes. Isn't Ancient Phoenix Mountain's barrier fully sealed? How did this Shangguan Yue come in?!*

The moment Mu Hongyu saw Chu Liuyue, she felt calm and at ease. It was as if all the problems would be solved with the latter around.

Mu Hongyu rapidly wiped away the tears from the corner of her eyes, unable to conceal the excitement and happiness within. "Liuyue!"

She couldn't help but pull Yuwen Jinghong. "It's her—it's really her! She really came!"

Yuwen Jinghong had yet to recover his senses at this point, and his face showed dazedness. *H-her Majesty personally came?! How did she come here?!*

...

“Shangguan Yue, how dare you secretly barge into Ancient Phoenix Mountain!” hollered Dantai Ruoli immediately. *This Shangguan Yue clearly said that she wouldn’t come in previously, yet she appeared again!*

The only explanation she could think of was that Shangguan Yue had already sneaked in from the beginning! However, she had always been hiding previously and only appeared now!

Chu Liuyue laughed lightly as she clenched the Long Yuan Sword in her hand. Her white and thin fingers then gently slid across the ancient black sword. “Dantai Ruoli, I advise you to be careful with your words. I slashed open Ancient Phoenix Mountain’s barrier legitimately. Oh, forget it—there’s no use telling you all of this. Anyway... you won’t have the chance to go out and let your mouth run wild!”

Once she said this, a cold gleam flashed across Chu Liuyue’s eyes! “Since you look down on the golden mane bear, then this legendary fiend should be to your liking, right? Tuan Zi, tear her lips apart!”

#### **Chapter 966: Don’t Leave Anyone Behind**

Once she said this, the crowd saw a ray of burning red color rush down from midair! It went straight for Dantai Ruoli!



Dantai Ruoli was stunned! Even though she wasn't weak, she definitely wasn't this legendary fiend's opponent!

She went on her toes without thinking and rapidly moved backward as she flung out a three-sectioned whip at the same time! "Soul-Calling Whip!"

*Piak!*

A crisp and loud ear-piercing sound was heard!

That three-sectioned whip was completely black, and every section was tightly connected with a silver ring.

When she moved it, one could still vaguely hear a sharp howl coming from it!

Tuan Zi's gaze turned cold and nonchalant while it looked at her as if it were looking at a clown.

This three-sectioned whip didn't slow down Tuan Zi at all! The fiend spread its wings and left a few scarce figures in midair as it reached Dantai Ruoli's head in the blink of an eye!

The distance between the human and the fiend rapidly decreased.

Detecting the frightening suppression coming nearer, Dantai Ruoli became increasingly nervous as deep horror overwhelmed her. She hurriedly injected even more force into that three-sectioned whip.

*Peng!*

Many more sharp pricks suddenly emerged at the top of the three-sectioned whip! Under the reflection of the sun, they shone a dark-blue color!

The whip was clearly poisoned! As long as one touched it—

Tuan Zi's gaze turned sharp as it suddenly waved its claws to hit the three-sectioned whip away!

*Bam!*

The next moment, the three-sectioned whip actually broke into countless pieces from the force's impact! At the same time, the red fire rolled out and directly burned it into ashes!

From start to end, it didn't threaten Tuan Zi at all!

After the three-sectioned whip was taken away, Dantai Ruoli—who was already appalled—had her face turn pale when she saw this scene. She instinctively moved backward, but the moment she took a step back, she heard a spark behind her.

*Rumble!*

Tuan Zi waved its wings, and countless sparks flew out, exploding around Dantai Ruoli's body!

At that moment, stones flew everywhere as the firelight shot out in all directions!

Dantai Ruoli felt that the surrounding air seemed to burn! The terrifyingly high temperature wrapped around her—it was hard to get rid of it!

She rapidly surveyed her surroundings, but she hopelessly discovered that she had no path to escape! At this moment, she had undoubtedly become meat on a chopping board, allowing others to deal with her however they wanted!

“Ruoli!” Upon seeing this scene, Yu Zefeng and the rest were instantly dazed as they rushed forward to save her. But the moment they tried to get close to her, they flew backward due to the terrifying fire waves!

How could it be so easy to break through a legendary fiend’s suppression?

In his panic, Yu Zefeng rapidly looked at Chu Liuyue standing at the side.

At this point, the latter was currently holding onto her sword as she watched the scene unfold in front of her leisurely and nonchalantly.

“Shangguan Yue, you really dare to kill us?! After we go out, the Taiyu Dynasty won’t let you off!” hollered Yu Zefeng furiously.

Chu Liuyue’s gaze turned, and she glanced at him lightly in a seemingly smiling manner. “As long as you stay here forever, won’t nobody know about this? To think about it, you taught us that just now.”

Yu Zefeng was stumped, and his face flushed white. He wasn't stupid, so he could tell that Shangguan Yue was planning to get rid of them completely! *She isn't joking or threatening us! She is for real!*

Right at this point, Tuan Zi got increasingly near and harshly slashed across Dantai Ruoli's face!

A hurried and short scream was heard as Dantai Ruoli directly collapsed onto the floor, her face filled with blood!

"Ruoli!"

"Princess!" When Yu Zefeng and the rest saw this scene, their hearts almost stopped.

Dantai Ruoli ignored the pain on her body as she touched her own face immediately.

Her face was filled with sticky blood; she could even feel the badly mangled scratches on her face! There was a wound on the corner of her left mouth, which directly sliced to her cheekbones! Without checking the mirror, she also knew how terrifying she looked!

"M-my face!" Dantai Ruoli's face trembled slightly, and her entire body also shook like a vein! She collapsed onto the floor and widened her eyes in panic and hopelessness as she kept vomiting blood.

Not only did Tuan Zi's scratch destroy her face, but half her body's strength as well.

Even cultivators of the same level as the fiend would be weaker than it, let alone her—who wasn't even a stage-eight warrior. How could she compare with Tuan Zi?

She would be completely destroyed!

Tuan Zi flew back to Chu Liuyue and obediently lowered its head as it stared at her pleasingly, waiting to be praised.

Chu Liuyue's lips curled up, and she gently patted Tuan Zi's head. "You did great."

Tuan Zi squinted its eyes in comfort and elation. *That's right! It really isn't that hard to deal with such a minor character.*

Chu Liuyue glanced at it from above. "Pfft, I just told you to tear her lips. Why did you destroy her entire face? How inappropriate."

Tuan Zi lightly grunted. *The remaining was for free! Didn't you see how she looked down on Congcong previously? I stood up for it too!*

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but laugh out loud, and she didn't control it too strictly. She then jumped up and lightly landed on the floor, walking to Mu Hongyu and the rest.

"Liuyue!" Mu Hongyu couldn't conceal her agitation and excitement. She had many things to tell her friend, but she knew that it was inappropriate now. They had more important things to do.

"Liuyue, quickly look at Wu Ming! He has been unconscious for a few days!"

When Yuwen Jinghong heard this, he hurriedly agreed.

The two of them could still hold on, but treatment for Wu Ming's condition couldn't be delayed.

"Don't worry." Chu Liuyue nodded and hurriedly walked to Wu Ming. She first took his pulse and then knitted her brows slightly.

Seeing Chu Liuyue's expression, Mu Hongyu and Yuwen Jinghong's hearts hung high.

"Liuyue, how is he..." asked Mu Hongyu worriedly.

Chu Liuyue took out a pill and fed it to Wu Ming as she nonchalantly looked in front.

At this point, Dantai Ruoli was kneeling on the floor and hanging onto her last breath. Yu Zefeng and the rest went around the crazily burning fire with much difficulty to rush to her.

"Princess, Princess, how are you..." Seeing Dantai Ruoli's current condition, the few of them were stunned.

Yu Zefeng hurriedly hugged her in shock and anger. "Quick! Bring the medicine over!"

"Oh! Right, right! Medicine! Didn't we prepare—" When the people at the side heard this, they hurriedly searched around.

“You don’t have to waste your efforts,” said Chu Liuyue calmly. She then gestured for Yuwen Jinghong to take good care of Wu Ming before standing up. “The injuries caused by a red-tailed phoenix can’t be treated with any medicine apart from a legendary fiend’s blood.”

When Yu Zefeng and the rest heard this, they were petrified. “You—Shangguan Yue, I didn’t expect you to be so vicious!”

Chu Liuyue ignored them. When she thought about the injuries Wu Ming’s group of three had suffered, cold murderous intent gradually surfaced in her eyes.

She looked up slightly at Tuan Zi and lightly said, “Don’t leave anyone behind..”

#### **Chapter 967: They Still Have a Trick up Their Sleeves?**

*Caw!*

Following the clear and resounding bird cry, two crimson fireballs shot out as Tuan Zi glided across the air.

*Rumble!*

As the people from the Taiyu Dynasty were already huddled together, it made things easier for Tuan Zi to deal with them.

After a series of shocking explosions, strong flames lit up around them again and formed a huge semicircular barrier, trapping them inside.

Yu Zefeng and the rest panicked when they realized that they were in danger of being burned to death. "Shangguan Yue, I dare you to kill us!"

"Can't you tell if I dare to do it or not?" Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows slightly. *What's with the pointless shouting when the fire is already right in front of them? As expected, that's all the Taiyu Dynasty's people are capable of.*

Actually, Chu Liuyue had no intention of killing anyone, but her mind changed when she noticed how serious the injuries on Wu Ming, Yuwen Jinghong, and Mu Hongyu were. *If I came any later, the three of them would've died right here. The Taiyu Dynasty's people besieged them and drove them into a corner, yet they don't allow us to fight back? Hah, the world doesn't work this way!*

Yu Zefeng was rendered speechless.

"Argh!" Dantai Ruoli groaned in pain and agony once more as the wounds on her face and body began rotting quickly, much to everyone's horror.

"O-our medicine isn't working!" The guy next to her shrieked in a fluster. He didn't expect her injuries to worsen after he fed her the medicine.



Yu Zefeng clenched his fists, the veins on his forehead bulging. *Looks like Shangguan Yue wasn't lying. The injuries caused by a red-tailed phoenix really can't be treated with any medicine!*

Currently, Dantai Ruoli was all curled up on the ground. She was in so much pain that she was on the verge of passing out, much less having the energy to even glare at Chu Liuyue. After all, not many people could withstand such a legendary fiend's deadly strike.

Meanwhile, a few sparks landed on a guy next to her and quickly grew bigger into flames. Flustered, he hurriedly tried to put out the flames on his body, but he soon realized in horror that the ordinary fire-extinguishing methods were useless against these flames.

Time flew past, and the few people trapped inside the flaming cage had no way of escaping from this inferno hell.

"Zefeng, what do we do now?"

As Dantai Ruoli was seriously injured now, they could only listen to Yu Zefeng's orders. However, the latter was at a loss himself. *Threats and coercions are useless since Shangguan Yue is bent on taking our lives. If we beg for mercy, I'm afraid we'll only die sooner!*

...

It was actually rare that Chu Liuyue would go on a killing rampage. But then again, there was no reason for her to hold back anymore when her people had been bullied to this extent. On top of that, there was no better place than an enclosed environment like Ancient Phoenix Mountain to beat people up.

"Cough... Cough..." Wu Ming—who had been unconscious for a long time—suddenly started coughing.

“Wu Ming, you’re awake?!” cried Yuwen Jinghong in surprise and delight.

Wu Ming slowly opened his eyes, only to shut them again because of the blinding sunlight. It was only after he slowly adjusted to his surroundings that he gradually took in the scene in front of him. “J- Jinghong...”

Before he could understand what was going on, he noticed with a start that Yuwen Jinghong was looking all haggard and bloodied. “Quick... Run...”

Yuwen Jinghong hurriedly said, “Don’t worry. Her Majesty has come to save us!”

Shocked, Wu Ming turned his head with much difficulty and saw a familiar female figure standing a short distance away from them. Not only that, but he also saw a blazing fire further in front of her that seemed to have trapped several people within. He could vaguely hear the hysterical screams. *Aren’t those...*

“Those are the Taiyu Dynasty’s people,” explained Yuwen Jinghong.

Wu Ming was all the more confused. *What exactly... is going on?*

Just then, Chu Liuyue turned around and flashed Wu Ming a small smile. “Your internal organs are injured, and your vitality has suffered a huge blow. You need to recuperate properly. Don’t worry about these matters. I’ll deal with them.”

Wu Ming had no time to find out how Chu Liuyue managed to enter Ancient Phoenix Mountain as he said with much difficulty, "Your Majesty... T-they have something... on them..."

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows slightly. "What is it?"

Wu Ming shook his head, his face even paler than before. "I-I think... it's something... that allows them to communicate... with each other and the o-outside world..."

Even though his words were stuttered out softly, Chu Liuyue immediately understood what he meant. "Are you saying that they have some sort of device that lets them communicate with each other and Dantai Chen?"

Wu Ming gave a firm nod of his head.

"I see! So that was how they managed to gather so quickly!" said Mu Hongyu in hindsight. *I thought we had gathered up pretty quickly with the help of the golden bells, but I didn't expect the Taiyu Dynasty's people to be even faster! Something is fishy about this!*

"Your Majesty, if that's true, won't the people outside find out about their deaths right away?" A jolt ran through Yuwen Jinghong as he looked at Chu Liuyue in shock. *It'll look strange if all of the Taiyu Dynasty's people are killed right after Her Majesty entered the mountain.*

Chu Liuyue blinked. *That's nothing, actually. Everything is based on evidence. Even if Dantai Chen accuses me of killing his people, there's nothing he can do about it if he has no evidence. The important thing now... is that I don't know what method they are using and whether or not it'll leave behind any clues.*

As Chu Liuyue turned around, Tuan Zi—who had a telepathic connection with her—immediately stopped what it was doing, though it didn't remove the barrier of fire.

Meanwhile, the group trapped inside the fire had fallen deep into despair. “Zefeng, Her Highness has fainted! What should we do now?”

“The fire is very strong. There's no way for us to run through the fire...”

“Are we really going to die here?”

“Even if we die, we can't make things easy for Shangguan Yue! We have to make her responsible for our deaths!” said Yu Zefeng through clenched teeth. With firm determination, he then added, “We have to inform His Majesty about this no matter what!” *As long as the people outside know that it was all Shangguan Yue's doing, they won't let her off once she leaves the mountain!*

The rest of the people exchanged looks with each other before nodding their heads.

Thereafter, Yu Zefeng closed his eyes and stretched out his hand, palm up. A strange rune appeared on his palm moments later.

His companions did the same. Apart from Dantai Ruoli and a young man—who had fainted and been burned to death respectively—there were only two other people still alive. Black runes appeared on their hands as well.

Soon, the runes on their hands floated up and gathered together in the middle, forming a new palm-sized rune. However, it looked incomplete as it had two missing parts.

“So that’s what you guys are relying on...”

Just as the trio wanted to activate the rune, they heard Chu Liuyue’s lazy voice. They looked up with a start, only to realize that the flames surrounding them had parted and that Chu Liuyue was looking in from a short distance away from them with a smirk on her face.

Her eyes narrowed dangerously as she took a glance at the incomplete rune.. *Why does this thing look so familiar?*

### **Chapter 968: What a Vicious Lady**

*Isn’t this exactly the same as the one formed by the soul that used to live in Shangguan Wan’s body? Chu Liuyue recognized the black rune despite it being incomplete as soon as the thought formed in her head. Her lips curved into a cold smirk. “I couldn’t tell that the Taiyu Dynasty has connections with Black Demon Hole...”*

*“What Black Demon Hole?! What nonsense are you spouting?!” Yu Zefeng played dumb, although he was faltering on the inside. *How come Shangguan Yue... seems to know what this is? When His Majesty took out this rune, split it into five parts, and hid one portion in each of our bodies, he only said that this was a precious item he found and that it allowed us to communicate with each other inside Ancient Phoenix Mountain. Should anything happen to us, we can even use it to send an alarm. Moreover, each rune contains an extremely powerful force that can be used for self-preservation.**

He clearly remembered how Dantai Chen previously mentioned that ordinary folks wouldn’t be able to recognize the item since it had some sort of background. The latter had also repeatedly instructed them not to gather the runes together unless they were in a dire situation. *Based on what His Majesty said,*

*nobody should be able to recognize this thing. So how did Shangguan Yue recognize it after just taking one look at it? She didn't look like she was lying either.*

*"You're denying it?" Chu Liuyue burst out laughing, though there was no sign of amusement in her eyes. She really didn't expect that she would find something related to Black Demon Hole here. Even if Yu Zefeng and the others don't know what's going on, Dantai Chen surely knows! I couldn't tell that that wily old fox still had such a trick up his sleeve!*

Chu Liuyue raised the Long Yuan Sword and struck it down.

*Roar!*

For a moment, the roar of a dragon was heard.

Fear surfaced in the eyes of Yu Zefeng and the others.

*"Quick! We have to activate the rune fast!" shouted Yu Zefeng in a panic. Even if it's incomplete, it'll surely be of some use once it's activated!*

And so, they hurriedly channeled their internal force. The edges of the black rune started burning up in black flames, exuding an eerie and gloomy aura.

However, a cold sword aura suddenly flew toward them as soon as the words left Yu Zefeng's mouth.

*Whoosh!*

With a teeth-numbing cracking sound, the Long Yuan Sword split the black rune into two.

*Rumble!*

The two forces clashed together and formed terrifying turbulence that spread out in all directions. Broken stones flew everywhere, and the ground started to cave in.

With a flick of Chu Liuyue's wrist, the Long Yuan Sword's murderous sword aura flew out again.

"You—" A bloody hole appeared in Yu Zefeng's neck right then. His eyes bulged as fresh blood gushed out from his wound and quickly stained his shirt red. He then stiffly collapsed to the ground.

His two other companions wanted to rescue him, but they were equally helpless themselves. Soon, the two collapsed one after another, along with two cries of pain.

It was then that the black flames on the black rune were finally put out and extinguished.

As Tuan Zi flapped its wings, strong winds rushed in as red flames swept in to swallow the five bodies. It didn't take long before their bodies turned to ashes and dissipated with the wind.

...

Meanwhile, Dantai Chen—who was waiting outside the mountain—suddenly shot up to his feet almost at the same time his people died. His eyes widened in shock, his lips turned pale, and his back broke out into a cold sweat. *T-that was...*

He looked at his palm in disbelief, where a faint image of the rune appeared and faded before it could show up clearly. Thunderstruck, his vision went black as his legs gave way, making him stagger and nearly fall to the ground.

“Brother Dantai, what’s wrong?” Gongsun Xiao and Ning Yuan immediately looked over and realized that something must’ve happened to the Taiyu Dynasty’s people when they saw the look on Dantai Chen’s face.

However, Dantai Chen remained stunned in place as if he hadn’t heard their question. *Five of them... All five of them are dead? How can that happen when they...*

Not long ago, he was still fantasizing that his daughter and the others would surely achieve good results this time and that they would be able to let everyone see the Taiyu Dynasty’s prowess. However, all of them died in just the blink of an eye. They didn’t even have the chance to leave a clue behind at the end.

He felt like there were tens of thousands of arrows piercing his heart. His eyes turned bloodshot, and like a madman, he rushed toward the rainbow barrier.

Frowning, Elder Hua Qian stretched out his arm to stop him. “What are you doing, Dantai Chen? Don’t tell me that you’re going to enter Ancient Phoenix Mountain by force like Shangguan Yue?”

The moment Dantai Chen heard that name, his head immediately shot up, his eyes burning with hatred and fury. “It’s her! It must be her!”



...

Within the barrier.

The last spark of flame died out.

Apart from the collision traces, there was nothing left on the spot where the Taiyu Dynasty's people originally were. If anyone came, they would probably just think that a huge fight had broken out in this area, but they wouldn't know who had died here.

As Chu Liuyue slowly put the Long Yuan Sword away, she kept replaying the scene of the Taiyu Dynasty's people's last moments in her mind. *How is the Taiyu Dynasty... related to Black Demon Hole?*

When she still couldn't figure it out after mulling over the question for a while, she decided to ask Dantai Chen herself when she was out of the mountain. Thus, she simply put the thought aside and turned around to look at Mu Hongyu and the others. "We—"

*Clap, clap, clap.*

Before Chu Liuyue could finish her sentence, she heard a low and husky voice saying, "Tsk, what a vicious lady."

Chu Liuyue turned her back in shock.. *Jun Jiuqing!*

**Chapter 969: It's Them**

It wasn't known when he appeared here, but his dark-olive robe made his handsome and alluring face stand out. His slight reddish eyes, in particular, gleamed dangerously as if he could devour people at any time, and his lips were curled up into a mysterious smile.

*It looks like he has been here for a while... Then, a sudden thought emerged in Chu Liuyue's mind. He has probably witnessed everything that happened just now. It's probably because he's way more powerful than us, but he did a good job in concealing his aura such that none of us noticed his presence.*

Meanwhile, Mu Hongyu and the others were shocked to see Jun Jiuqing appear. *What if he exposes our deeds? As the Beiming Dynasty's Crown Prince, his words have absolute power!*

The two sides fell into a brief stalemate, and even the air seemed to be freezing.

Chu Liuyue flashed Jun Jiuqing a smile. "What a coincidence. I didn't expect to meet you here, Your Highness."

*Despite knowing that I witnessed her killing and destroying the bodies of the Taiyu Dynasty's people, she's still so calm... She sure is the same as before. Even though her body and appearance have changed, her temper and character didn't.* Jun Jiuqing couldn't resist laughing as he stared at the young lady in front of him. "Yeah, I happened to be around the corner when I heard the commotion over here, so I came over to take a look. But I didn't expect... to see such a good show."

He stroked his chin. "Dantai Chen must've found out about their deaths by now. Never mind about the other people, but Dantai Ruoli is his only daughter, as well as the apple of his eye. I wonder what expression he'll have on his face if he finds out that... his precious daughter has been killed inside Ancient Phoenix Mountain."

“How would I know what expression he’ll have? But if you’re so concerned about him, why don’t you comfort him for a bit when you leave the mountain? We have other matters to attend to, so we won’t stay to chat any longer. We’ll take our leave now.” With that, Chu Liuyue turned around and lifted her chin in Mu Hongyu and the others’ direction. “Let’s go.”

She then moved to leave. She reckoned that there was no point in trying to feign innocence in this matter since Jun Jiuqing had already witnessed the entire incident. Besides, she didn’t think that he was someone she could negotiate with, so she decided not to say anything.

Jun Jiuqing raised his eyebrows slightly before moving to block Chu Liuyue’s path. “Aren’t you afraid that I might accidentally let this matter slip? Never mind that you killed the other people, but Dantai Ruoli is a princess...” *This might start a war between the two countries. Does she really not care about it?*

“You want to blackmail me with this matter? Don’t you think it’s superfluous?” Chu Liuyue looked up with a hint of a cold smile on her lips. *Why would I care about this when he has Father in his hands?*

Jun Jiuqing couldn’t help laughing. “That’s true.”

Chu Liuyue ignored him and sidestepped him. If it weren’t because she had to hide the fact that she had been to his study, she definitely would’ve been exchanging blows with Jun Jiuqing by now. But unfortunately, it clearly wasn’t the time for her to do this.

Mu Hongyu and the rest exchanged looks with each other. *Uh... Previously, Jun Jiuqing acted as if he knew Her Majesty from way back. By the looks of it now, something really seems to be amiss...*

But upon seeing Chu Liuyue leave without a second word, the trio didn’t say anything and simply followed after her. As Wu Ming had the most serious injuries, Mu Hongyu and Yuwen Jinghong helped him walk by supporting him from each side.

“Your Highness!” A shout was heard coming from midair before several figures swiftly landed right next to Jun Jiuqing. It turned out that they were the four other people from the Beiming Dynasty.

“Your Highness, you moved so fast that it took us some time before we managed to catch up to you. I hope you forgive us for being so slow!” said a young man between pants.

Although the other people didn’t say anything, they looked pretty much in the same condition as him. It was apparent that they had exerted a lot of effort in order to rush over here. These people were considered geniuses themselves, but they were way more inferior when compared to Jun Jiuqing.

A wicked and indifferent smile appeared on Jun Jiuqing’s lips. “It’s fine.”

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes when she heard what Jun Jiuqing said, but she didn’t stop walking and continued to lead the others forward. It was clear that she didn’t want to be involved with the Beiming Dynasty’s affairs.

“Your Highness, aren’t those... the Tianling Dynasty’s people?” The rest of the Beiming Dynasty’s people finally realized that Jun Jiuqing had been watching the Tianling Dynasty’s people when they looked over.

“Isn’t that... Shangguan Yue?” muttered a young man. Although he had only seen her a couple of times, he could recognize the girl at a glance because she had such a conspicuous presence that she would be the focus of everyone’s attention no matter where she went. “I remember her saying that she wasn’t going to come in... Did she change her mind in the end?”

“I doubt so. I saw the other two Tianling Dynasty’s people before, and they were here right from the start,” refuted another person.

That was when they realized that something was wrong, and they looked at one another. *That's right! We've been here for days, and the number of Tianling Dynasty people we've seen inside here added up to five! Shangguan Yue isn't among those five, so how did she appear here?!*

Although they found this matter strange, Chu Liuyue's group had seemingly no intention of offering an explanation either.

"Forget it; let's ignore this for now. We'll know when we go out." The young man standing at the front retracted his gaze and surveyed his surroundings with a grave expression. "Your Highness, what happened here just now? Why is it in this state...?"

From the debris, caved-in ground, and the spots of blood everywhere, anyone could tell that a huge fight had taken place. "I think the Taiyu Dynasty's people came in this direction just now... But why don't I see them now?"

"Yeah! Weren't they... chasing after the Tianling Dynasty's people?" The only girl in their group warily took two steps forward in a seeming move to check the place carefully. "These... don't seem to be the marks left behind by an ordinary fire..."

She carefully examined the scorched ground before raising her head and looking at Chu Liuyue and her group with plain suspicion in her eyes. "Did... the Taiyu Dynasty's people fight with the Tianling Dynasty's people just now?"

Mu Hongyu and the others stiffened when they heard this. *Even though we've done our best to hide this matter, it's inevitable that some traces were left behind. That girl sure is sharp! She managed to arrive at this deduction after just taking a few glances at the scene. If we don't make things clear that we weren't involved in this fight, they'll surely suspect us when they realize that the Taiyu Dynasty's people are dead!*

Chu Liuyue stopped and turned around, but just when she was about to say something, Jun Jiuqing lazily laughed and said, "That's right. Both parties were fighting each other just now."

Under her sleeves, Chu Liuyue clenched her fists tightly..

### **Chapter 970: My Man Prepared Them for Me**

Silence set in.

Seemingly oblivious to the change in atmosphere, Jun Jiuqing curved his eyes, making them resemble crescent moons with red glowing dots. "Unfortunately, the Taiyu Dynasty's people are so useless that they fled after failing to defeat a legendary fiend."

As Chu Liuyue slowly unclenched her fists to reveal her sweaty palms, Mu Hongyu and the others inwardly heaved sighs of relief as well. *Thank goodness...*

"Did you just say that the Taiyu Dynasty's people... fled from a legendary fiend?" questioned the girl in Jun Jiuqing's team suspiciously.

Jun Jiuqing scoffed. "Can't you guys even recognize a red-tailed phoenix?"

His team members looked in Chu Liuyue's direction, and sure enough, they saw a palm-sized red fiend perched on her shoulder. From its size and shape, they realized that it was indeed a legendary red-tailed phoenix.

"Oh yeah, there was a rumor from a while ago saying that... Shangguan Yue contracted a legendary fiend..." said a young man softly.

Although the Beiming Dynasty was rather far away from the Tianling Dynasty and both seldom interacted with one another, they would still more or less know some of the major happenings in these neighboring dynasties.

Not to mention that people got even more curious about the Tianling Dynasty after knowing that Jun Jiuqing had invited them to Ancient Phoenix Mountain's opening. There were a lot of private discussions about this matter, and the most widely discussed subject was this young lady in front of them—the Tianling Dynasty's new ruler, Shangguan Yue. After all, everything about her was simply too amazing.

Knowing that the Tianling Dynasty's people had the help of a legendary fiend, the Beiming Dynasty's people weren't too surprised that the former had managed to defeat the Taiyu Dynasty's people.

Upon hearing that, the lady in the Beiming Dynasty's group took a closer look at her surroundings.

"Qing Dai, these marks do seem to be left behind by a red-tailed phoenix..." whispered a young man next to her.

She nodded, although her eyebrows were tightly knitted together as she felt that something was amiss. However, she reckoned that there was nothing to be suspicious of since Jun Jiuqing had already given an explanation, so she pushed her suspicions aside.

...

“It was just a small fight. I apologize for making a joke of ourselves,” said Chu Liuyue politely as if she were a completely different person from the person she was moments ago.

*Although she’s smiling and acting all polite, she must be cursing me out on the inside right now. There are a lot of things that she has to pay attention to when being in front of so many people. At the thought of this, Jun Jiuqing’s mood improved considerably, and his smile deepened. “No such thing. It just so happened that I was feeling bored from staying in the mountain, and this matter happened to relieve my boredom.”*

*He’s probably the only person here who can say such stuff so easily. Knowing that Jun Jiuqing was referring to her, Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes but ultimately kept her temper in check. After several brief exchanges with him, I can basically confirm that the Beiming Dynasty’s Crown Prince has a problem indeed. A huge problem, in fact. It’s better for us not to come in too much contact with him.*

She raised her eyebrows and smiled. “I’m glad that you didn’t take it to heart. It’s just that we still have some matters to attend to which can’t be delayed any longer, so we really have to take our leave now.”

Following this, she cupped her fist in obeisance and swiftly left with Mu Hongyu and the others without so much of a head turn.

Jun Jiuqing let out a soft snort. *She wants to get rid of me? Not so easy.*

Qing Dai was slightly taken aback by the look she saw on Jun Jiuqing’s face from the corners of her eyes. The latter was watching the Tianling Dynasty’s people leave. Although he looked as lazy and wicked as before, his alluring eyes were focused on one of the five people.



It only took a split second for Qing Dai to know that Jun Jiuqing was looking at Shangguan Yue. In fact, she had sensed right from the beginning that his attitude toward Shangguan Yue was very different. He seemed to have known her since long ago, and he was extra forgiving toward her. Had it been someone else who spoke to him in such a manner, his reaction certainly wouldn't be like this. That person might even very likely lose their life if he so much as found them to be an eyesore.

However... it was different for Shangguan Yue. Everyone could tell that she was somewhat keeping her distance from Jun Jiuqing despite her respectful attitude. But still, the latter didn't seem to mind it at all and was even somewhat indulgent toward her. Furthermore, he had never looked at anyone with such a gaze before.

Qing Dai couldn't describe this feeling, but she could clearly sense it. *Don't tell me that...*

"What's on your mind, Qing Dai?" asked the person next to her out of curiosity.

Her eyelids quickly fluttered down as she hurriedly pushed her thoughts aside and eked out a smile. "Nothing. I-I was just... envious that she managed to contract with a legendary fiend."

The people around her didn't notice her peculiar behavior as they nodded in agreement. "Yeah! Owning a legendary fiend is extremely rare even in the Beiming Dynasty! She's so lucky!"

"I heard that she was killed by someone, but she somehow managed to come back alive! I don't think the word 'luck' is enough to describe it..."

"I've heard some rumors too. It seems that her fiancé and younger sister drove her to the brink of desperation, and she eventually decided to die by burning herself... It's quite tragic, actually..."

"Have you guys finished talking?" Jun Jiuqing's frigid voice interrupted their conversation.

When they looked up and saw Jun Jiuqing's glacial expression and stiff smile, fear struck their hearts, for it was a sign of anger. "Y-yes! We made a mistake! We shouldn't have talked so much!"

"Please forgive us, Your Highness!" Upon realizing that something was wrong, the four people hurriedly admitted their mistake and apologized to him.

It did nothing to appease him though, as he still appeared to be sullen. "If I hear such things coming from you guys again... I'll make sure that all of you lose your tongues!"

"Y-yes!" Having never expected Jun Jiuqing to fly into such a huge rage, they were feeling quite flustered at the moment. But at the same time, they finally realized that Shangguan Yue wasn't someone to be trifled with and wondered why Jun Jiuqing treated her the way he did.

Qing Dai pursed her lips and looked down, her eyelids covering the dimming of her eyes.

Meanwhile, Jun Jiuqing's eyes narrowed slightly as he took a look at the sky. "It's almost time..."

...

It was only after covering quite a good distance and making sure that they were completely separated from the Beiming Dynasty's team that Chu Liuyue and her group stopped to rest by a river.

She then helped the rest to treat their external injuries and gave a pill to each of them. It was a good thing that she had a lot of reserves in her Cosmic Ring, so it made things quite convenient for her now.

“Liuyue, how come you carry so many pills with you?” Mu Hongyu couldn’t resist asking after she consumed the pill and felt better after following Chu Liuyue’s instructions to circulate her force and adjust her breathing. *Even for a heavenly doctor, she has way too many pills on her!*

Chu Liuyue blinked and gently turned the Cosmic Ring on her finger as her lips bloomed to a smile. “Actually, I didn’t pack too many things. It was Rong Xiu who helped me prepare most of the stuff..”