

Chapter 141: Rewards Pavilion (2)

"I still have Xi Spirit Pills. I just want to take a look there only," Ye Qingtang told a white lie, as she could tell that Yun Shu was very worried.

Other disciples were still smug over obtaining Xi Spirit Pills, but Ye Qingtang was clearer than anyone that relying only on the Xi Spirit Pills was far from enough to stand out in the outer sect.

At that point of time, Ye You had already become Yunxiao Sect Master's disciple, and if Ye Qingtang was to progress so slowly, the gap between her and Ye You would only become bigger.

At most a year!

One year later, Ye Qingtang must pass the inner sect assessment, and only then would she be able to close the gap between her and Ye You.

"Really?" Yun Shu looked at his junior sister, rather unconvinced.

Ye Qingtang laughed innocently.

"Senior Brother Yun, you think too highly of me already. What missions do you think I'll be able to take on given my current abilities?"

Yun Shu thought so as well and did not ask anything further.

Since he still had to cultivate his swordplay, he did not accompany Ye Qingtang to the Rewards Pavilion.

Ye Qingtang went to the outer sect's Rewards Pavilion alone.

The outer sect's Rewards Pavilion was very broad and had three floors in total.

All sorts of rewarding missions were distributed mostly on the first floor while portraits of tyrants on the Assassination Roll was pasted all over the second floor.

It was still considered early when Ye Qingtang came, and there were not many people in the Rewards Pavilion. Amongst those who came to either select missions or submit their completed missions on the third floor, none of them noticed Ye Qingtang.

Ye Qingtang took a look on the first floor. There were plenty of rewarding missions here, and one would not be able to finish browsing them even after a day.

The missions in the Rewards Pavilion consisted of all kinds of strange things. From killing demonic beasts to seeking treasures, almost anything and everything was there. The lower corner of each mission indicated the number of Xuanming points that would be awarded upon completion.

Ye Qingtang picked a few missions which gave the highest rewards. Those few were particularly difficult, and the chance of succeeding would still be very low even with hundreds of elite disciples.

Some missions with small rewards were suitable for one to complete independently, and Ye Qingtang took a look at them as well, but after weighing her options, she felt that it was not worth it.

Most of those missions were quite some distance away from Xuanling Sect. Although they had a low level of difficulty and were not dangerous, after she took into account the distance to and fro, it would take at least half a month's time. Moreover, the number of Xuanming points awarded were in single digits, so it was extremely not worthwhile.

In the outer sect, exchanging a bottle of Xi Spirit Pills already required fifteen Xuanming points. Even if Ye Qingtang did solo missions nonstop for a month, she would only be able to exchange for one bottle at most to even hold up her cultivation. The cost and benefit were simply not proportional.

In reality...

Solo missions were not only the ones on the first floor; on the second floor, mouth-watering number of Xuanming points were stated on the bottom of every portrait on the huge Assassination Roll.

The least was hundreds of points while the higher-rewarding ones gave over thousands of points.

However...

Those were not what the current Ye Qingtang could complete.

Everyone on the Assassination Roll were extremely evil and violent. Furthermore, their skills surpassed everyone, and they had committed innumerable murders. Moreover, those people's whereabouts were not fixed, and it was not an easy thing to locate them.

Such missions on the Assassination Roll were mostly accepted by the inner sect disciples, as the outer sect disciples simply were not powerful enough to deal with any one person on the Assassination Roll.

After searching for a long time, Ye Qingtang only saw one mission to kill a Level 4 demonic beast where the location was rather far, and the number of points awarded was barely a two-digit number.

When Ye Qingtang was about to calculate whether it was worth it or not, a figure suddenly appeared outside the entrance of the Rewards Pavilion.

Chapter 142: Rewards Pavilion (3)

Zhou Qu had been in a terribly foul mood these few days. After losing four bottles of Xi Spirit Pills to Ye Qingtang in front of everyone, he was ridiculed by quite a few senior and junior brothers.

In the many years that he set up the arena, it was still Zhou Qu's first time losing big time to a new disciple.

Losing four bottles of Xi Spirit Pills at once plus the bottle he gave Lu Xiuwen, he barely profited from the new disciples this year. How were the additional two to three bottles enough for him to make it through this year?

Zhou Qu knew that his natural endowment was not outstanding enough; thus, he squeezed his brain juice to use dishonest means and obtain Xi Spirit Pills in order to support himself in ranking in the first thousand in the outer sect.

However, he did not expect to meet such a cursed Ye Qingtang this year who messed up all his plans.

Helpless, Zhou Qu could only head to the Rewards Pavilion in search of suitable missions for him to exchange for a few bottles of Xi Spirit Pills in order to obtain enough spirit pills to support his cultivation.

However...

Never in a million years would Zhou Qu expect that the moment he stepped into the Rewards Pavilion, he would actually see Ye Qingtang!

All the grievance from these few days flooded his mind immediately, and a dangerous look flashed across his eyes.

“What a coincidence, Junior Sister Ye. I didn’t expect to run into you here.”

Ye Qingtang heard this and turned around immediately. Looking up, she saw that a devious-looking Zhou Qu had already stood behind her.

“Senior Brother Zhou,” Ye Qingtang addressed generously.

Zhou Qu clenched his teeth secretly and was even more annoyed when he looked at an unafraid Ye Qingtang. If it were not for Ye Qingtang, how would he have lost so many Xi Spirit Pills? How would he, then, be here to search for missions!

A plan suddenly formed in his mind, and he laughed while looking at Ye Qingtang,

“Good thing you’re here, Junior Sister Ye. I was going to look for you just now.”

“You’re looking for me?” Ye Qingtang raised her brows and continued. “Is there anything you need me for?”

Zhou Qu laughed. “Of course, there is a reason why I wanted to look for you. You performed pretty well on the arena a few days ago, and I am very grateful. However, Junior Sister Ye seemed to forget something; thus, I am here to remind you.”

“Oh? What did I forget?” Ye Qingtang looked at Zhou Qu calmly.

A sharp, cold light shone across Zhou Qu’s eyes though he wore a solemn expression.

“I started the arena that day to be able to learn from fellow disciples and allowed new disciples like you all to participate since you all were interested. However... I personally guided you so painstakingly. Did you forget that you should give me some remuneration?”

Ye Qingtang narrowed her eyes.

She was aware that Zhou Qu was narrow-minded but did not think that...

She had seen a shameless person before but had never seen such a shameless person.

Zhou Qu was not resigned to the fact that she won the Xi Spirit Pills and actually thought of such an excuse to get some back!

“Remuneration? I don’t remember senior brother saying about any remuneration,” Ye Qingtang said calmly.

Suddenly, Zhou Qu’s face darkened, and the smile on his face slowly faded. He scoffed, “Junior Sister Ye, you just entered our sect and may still be unclear of the sect’s rules. When an old disciple gives guidance to a new disciple, remuneration is required. It is still so even if this were to travel into the ears of the wardens.”

Chapter 143: Another Three Moves (1)

There was indeed such a rule in all the sects.

Should new disciples ask senior brothers and sisters for guidance, they could set a certain remuneration in exchange for a little teaching.

However...

How was Zhou Qu giving guidance?

It was clearly an arena he set up, yet he shamelessly worded it so nicely now.

Ultimately, he found such an excuse only because he was frustrated over losing the Xi Spirit Pills to Ye Qingtang.

At that point, there were significantly fewer people in the Rewards Pavilion. In the wide first floor, only Ye Qingtang and Zhou Qu remained. With the warden in charge of the missions currently on the third floor, no one could say anything even if Zhou Qu were to act arrogantly.

“Junior Sister Ye, I gave you guidance so kindly. It cannot be that you don’t even know about such manners?”

Ye Qingtang narrowed her eyes, and a smile extended on her lips. Lifting her chin slightly, she swept a look across Zhou Qu’s greedy face and said, “I wonder what kind of remuneration does Senior Brother Zhou want?”

Zhou Qu was rather satisfied at Ye Qingtang’s sensibility and said immediately, “You are a new disciple and don’t have anything else. I showed you the directions for three moves, and according to our initial betting chip on the arena, each move is worth four bottles of Xi Spirit Pills. I gave you guidance for three moves, so logically, you should give me twelve bottles of Xi Spirit Pills.”

Twelve bottles of Xi Spirit Pills?

Zhou Qu really had a large appetite!

Ye Qingtang scoffed, “Twelve bottles of Xi Spirit Pills. Are you joking, Senior Brother Zhou? How would I have twelve bottles of Xi Spirit Pills?”

Zhou Qu replied, "With the four bottles that you took out previously plus the ones I gave you, that will be eight bottles. I am also not a heartless person. You just need to return me seven bottles first, and you can return the remaining five bottles over five months with one bottle per month. Rest assured, I will leave one bottle for you to use yourself every month."

Zhou Qu feigned magnanimous as though leaving one bottle for Ye Qingtang every month was already the greatest favor.

The smile on Ye Qingtang's lips deepened, though the smile never reached her eyes. An evil expression faintly radiated in her eyes.

"Senior Brother Zhou, I am not an insensible person. However... if you want remuneration, you should show me some real abilities at the bare minimum. With just that little skill where I received the three moves on the arena, I'm afraid I'm unwilling to give you any."

Zhou Qu initially thought that Ye Qingtang would obey wisely and did not think that she would twist her words. The smile on his face stiffened, and his sinister eyes narrowed.

"Know what is good for you, Ye Qingtang. I can't even be bothered when others want me to give them guidance for even a move. Now that you made such a huge gain, you still want to deny it?" As he said, he clenched his fists which were hanging by his side, making a crisp sound which seemed like a threaten.

Ye Qingtang glanced over Zhou Qu's fist, and her eyes turned cold.

"Senior Brother Zhou, courtesy demands reciprocity. If you can receive three moves from me, I'll acknowledge your previous guidance. Not only will I pay you the remuneration for the previous three moves, but I'll also add on another twelve bottles. How about it?" Ye Qingtang said smilingly.

Zhou Qu was taken aback instantly. The initial dissatisfaction was replaced by shock at this instant.

Receive three moves from her?

Was Ye Qingtang a fool?

At that instant, Zhou Qu really wanted to laugh. He merely wanted to get back what was his with interest and asked for twelve bottles of Xi Spirit Pills. How would he have thought that Ye Qingtang actually sought death herself and doubled the number of Xi Spirit Pills!

Chapter 144: Another Three Moves (2)

"No problem," Zhou Qu agreed immediately.

He mocked Ye Qingtang for being foolish in his heart.

Did she really think that she was more powerful than him now just because she got lucky and received his three moves?

Zhou Qu's ranking as the first one thousand in the outer sect was not fake. He was confident in sparring with new disciples with green spirit roots like Lu Xiuwen, much less a red spirit root disciple like Ye Qingtang.

A cold murderous look flashed across Ye Qingtang's eyes as she saw Zhou Qu's confident expression. Looking down slightly, she hid away all emotion in her eyes.

"Then, may Senior Brother Zhou receive my moves."

At that point, the Rewards Pavilion was empty, and they had no other scruple while exchanging blows.

Zhou Qu was full of confidence, and the arrogance in his eyes could not be hidden at all. He waved to Ye Qingtang nonchalantly and said, "Come on, Junior Sister Ye."

Ye Qingtang's lips curled up. In the very next instant when Zhou Qu finished his sentence, she suddenly disappeared before Zhou Qu's eyes!

Suddenly, Zhou Qu lost sight of Ye Qingtang, and the arrogant smile on Zhou Qu's face froze instantly.

In the next second!

Ye Qingtang suddenly appeared behind Zhou Qu, and a cold light flashed across the bottom of her eyes.

At that very moment!

Ye Qingtang suddenly raised her leg, and with a jump, she directly landed a heavy kick on Zhou Qu's temple!

Zhou Qu simply had no time to react and only felt an extreme pain surging from within his brain. Under this pain, his tough physique could not withstand that blow, and he was kicked dumb. His mind buzzed, and his vision was blurred, rendering him unable to see anything.

"Senior Brother Zhou, this is the first move." Ye Qingtang's voice sounded like that of a devil's which traveled from behind him.

Zhou Qu's head seemed as though it was going to explode. The force in that kick just now was not at all inferior to any boxing cultivators and completely not what a fifteen-year-old girl should possess.

However...

This was not the end yet.

Only one move was over in the agreed three moves.

Ye Qingtang stood still and looked at Zhou Qu hugging his head without any pity.

Suddenly, she took a step forward.

Zhou Qu seemed to sense something at that point and straightened himself, wanting to block Ye Qingtang's oncoming attack with his fists.

However, Ye Qingtang did not launch a sudden attack this time and merely smiled as she looked at Zhou Qu's miserable look.

Zhou Qu was not born gifted, yet he forcefully developed himself to where he was today. Clearly, he was not someone that could be easily bullied. If Ye Qingtang wanted to teach him a lesson, it must obviously be under the pretext of ensuring her own safety.

“Senior Brother Zhou, the second move is next,” Ye Qingtang said with a slight smile.

Zhou Qu could not be bothered with the ringing pain in his brain and forced himself to raise his head, wanting to catch Ye Qingtang in action.

However...

He was still a step slower.

The moment he looked up, Ye Qingtang rushed to his front at the speed of light, and her tiny figure appeared right in front of him directly.

Zhou Qu only managed to look down at Ye Qingtang’s outstanding features. What entered his eyes was a smile, with indescribable evilness, which bloomed on her face.

It was also at the moment Ye Qingtang smiled when she gave a flying kick right across which violently landed on Zhou Qu’s lower jaw.

This kick had Zhou Qu flying out immediately!

Chapter 145: Another Three Moves (3)

Zhou Qu’s large and strong frame fell on the ground with a heavy thud. The two successive kicks were all aimed at his brain.

Even for Zhou Qu, a fit and healthy person who was extremely able to withstand blows, he was already dizzy from the two kicks.

Even if his body was as hard as metal, it was impossible to cultivate until his head became as hard as steel!

Zhou Qu got up with difficulty, and the pain in his head intensified. Never would he have dreamt that Ye Qingtang was so swift in her attacks and that she had such a fierce force!

How was this level of skill what a new disciple who just entered the sect should have?!

At that instant, Zhou Qu only wanted to give the disciple who said that Ye Qingtang had a red spirit root a beating.

This was the skill of a bloody red spirit root?

Where the hell did this find a fifteen-year-old with a red spirit root who could hit him up so easily come from?!

If it was said that Zhou Qu was overflowing with confidence when he accepted Ye Qingtang’s request for sparring, then at that point in time, that confidence was long crushed into pieces by Ye Qingtang’s two kicks.

“Wait... wait a while...” Zhou Qu hurriedly said after sensing that something was not right.

It was a pity that Ye Qingtang did not intend on letting Zhou Qu off, just like... Zhou Qu never intended to let any new disciple on the arena off.

Zhou Qu wanted to make a slight adjustment, but Ye Qingtang appeared right before him once again.

“Junior Sister Ye, wait a while. I...” Zhou Qu frowned and said with a feigned discomfort. Just when he thought Ye Qingtang was attracted by his words, he fiercely punched at the nearing Ye Qingtang with a fist full of force.

However...

This punch did not touch Ye Qingtang at all.

The fist that Zhou Qu struck out was easily avoided by Ye Qingtang, who was beaming at him while holding onto his wrist tightly.

Zhou Qu’s expression changed drastically.

“Senior Brother Zhou, this will be the last move already.” A devilish grin emerged on Ye Qingtang’s beautiful face. She suddenly lifted another hand and placed it on Zhou Qu’s fist, locking them tightly. Using her elbow as support, she turned on her heel swiftly and pulled Zhou Qu by the wrist, throwing him over her shoulders and heavily onto the ground!

A loud bang, mixed with Zhou Qu’s miserable cry, reverberated throughout the first floor of the Rewards Pavilion.

This fall made Zhou Qu spit out blood immediately. It was as though the bones all over his body were crushed by someone so much so that he was too in pain to even have the energy to crawl up.

Three moves were over.

Rather than receiving three moves, Zhou Qu did not even have the ability to dodge them.

Ye Qingtang stood high and tall and cast a cold look down at Zhou Qu, who was sprawled on the floor, just like how Zhou Qu stood on the arena and hit her until she spat blood in her previous life.

Everything that happened in her previous life would not be the same again in this lifetime.

Ye Qingtang stepped on Zhou Qu’s chest, and an evil grin hung on the corner of her lips.

“Zhou Qu, are you even qualified to give me guidance with such little abilities?”

The pain was so excruciating that Zhou Qu felt dizzy. With blood flowing out from the corner of his mouth and his chest about to be ripped open from Ye Qingtang’s step on it, he did not even have any energy to speak.

After appreciating Zhou Qu’s miserable look, Ye Qingtang was about to turn and leave.

Yet, unexpectedly...

Just when she turned around and was prepared to leave the Rewards Pavilion, she suddenly found...

Two figures stood outside the main entrance of the Rewards Pavilion from god knows when.

It was a pair of young men who were taken aback. They looked in shock at Ye Qingtang who was radiating devilishness and Zhou Qu who was stepped under her foot.

Chapter 146: Mission Invitation (1)

Ye Qingtang's head hurt a little...

She taught Zhou Qu a lesson just now because there was no one in the Rewards Pavilion at that time and because three moves would only take a short time; thus, it would not be seen by others as she wished.

In the end...

Someone still ended up seeing it.

Ye Qingtang was not afraid of anything but of someone using this matter to stir up trouble.

After all, it was strictly forbidden for disciples to fight amongst themselves in the sect.

Zhou Qu was still being stepped under her foot, and with a face full of blood, he looked extremely miserable.

If someone saw this and wanted to stir trouble, it would really be a bother.

It was not that Ye Qingtang could not cook up some lies, but it would take some persuasion and be a waste of time.

As Ye Qingtang was conflicted about what to do, the two disciples outside the main door similarly experienced complicated emotions.

As Gu Yanqiu looked at the devilish-looking girl, shock filled him. He initially wanted to submit a mission with his junior brother, but who knew that he would stumble into such an exciting show just when he reached the entrance of the Rewards Pavilion.

Gu Yanqiu recognized the person on the floor as well—the rather “famous” disciple in the outer sect, Zhou Qu.

Gu Yanqiu knew what kind of person Zhou Qu was, but... he did not expect that there would be a day Zhou Qu would be pressed on the floor and be badly beaten up.

What made Gu Yanqiu more shocked was that unfamiliar girl.

“Senior brother, this girl is quite skilled,” Qin Huan, who was standing beside Gu Yanqiu, said as he blinked and looked at Ye Qingtang with approval.

He had been annoyed with Zhou Qu for a long time and would have given him a beating long ago if not for the sect's rules.

Unexpectedly, someone helped him to vent his anger.

Gu Yanqiu frowned slightly. He noticed that there was a change in emotion in the girl's eyes and guessed what she might be concerned of. Coughing lightly, he said, "Junior Brother Qin, go submit the mission first."

Then, he handed the items to Qin Huan.

Qin Huan did not say anything further and took the items over. When he walked past Ye Qingtang, he even cast Ye Qingtang a flirty look as though it was nothing.

"Ye Qingtang..."

This senior brother, your principles are gone.

As she saw Qin Huan climbing the stairs up, the worry in her heart finally faded slowly. It seemed that these two senior brothers were not big-mouthed.

Then, Ye Qingtang was ready to take a leave first and then later decide what to do.

Seeing that Ye Qingtang was about to leave, Gu Yanqiu immediately said, "Junior sister, please hold on."

Ye Qingtang stopped in her tracks slightly and looked at the good-looking young man confusedly.

"How do I address you, junior sister? I am Gu Yanqiu," Gu Yanqiu said politely.

Gu Yanqiu?

Ye Qingtang's eyes widened in surprise. She heard of this name in her previous life as well.

However, when she entered Xuanling Sect's outer sect in her previous life, Gu Yanqiu had already become an inner sect disciple. She had never met him and only heard some things about him.

Gu Yanqiu was talented, tactful, and thoughtful, and, thus, favored by the Xuanling Sect elders.

After going through a few clues about Gu Yanqiu from her previous life, Ye Qingtang replied, "My name is Ye Qingtang, and I am one of the disciples in the newest batch."

Gu Yanqiu was surprised. He already found Ye Qingtang unfamiliar previously and never expected that she was actually a new disciple.

He looked at Zhou Qu, who was still lying on the floor, and shock filled Gu Yanqiu's eyes unavoidably.

A newly-entered disciple could actually beat Zhou Qu up into this state?

"Senior Brother Gu, is there anything else?" Ye Qingtang did not intend to stay for long.

Looking away, he cast a look at Ye Qingtang as though he was thinking about something. A moment later, he then said slowly,

"I wonder if Junior Sister Ye is interested in taking up a mission."

Chapter 147: Mission Invitation (2)

Gu Yanqiu's words really stunned Ye Qingtang.

Gu Yanqiu knew that his words were a little sudden as well. Usually, if they wanted to take on any mission, they would definitely not consider any new disciples. Since they just entered the sect, those new disciples were still not that skilled and, more than that, did not have any experience in completing missions. If such a person was added in a group, the person would only become a burden.

However, this time, Gu Yanqiu broke such a tradition.

Although Zhou Qu's skills were not considered the best in the outer sect, it was still above average.

Just now when they reached the Rewards Pavilion, Ye Qingtang already exchanged blows with Zhou Qu, and they only saw Ye Qingtang's last move.

But, it was exactly that one move that gave rise to the idea of adding Ye Qingtang into the group.

To be able to knockout Zhou Qu in a move, this new disciple was definitely not simple.

Ye Qingtang returned to her senses and could more or less guess the reason for it. According to the memory from her past life, Gu Yanqiu was quite skilled and adept at leading teams. Since it was a mission that he accepted, it should be pretty good.

Ye Qingtang herself came to the Rewards Pavilion to search for a suitable mission but could not find anything she liked after browsing for such a long time. Gu Yanqiu's suggestion could be said to fit exactly with her wishes.

"I wonder what kind of mission Senior Brother Gu is talking about."

A hint of approval quickly flashed across Gu Yanqiu's eyes when he saw that Ye Qingtang was neither too humble nor too arrogant and merely a tad bit nervous.

"A few days ago, Junior Brother Qin and I just took on a hunting mission. The location is at the Giant Rock Canyon, and the target is a level 6 demonic beast. There is a rather large reward for this mission, with a total of over six hundred Xuanming points. I wonder if Junior Sister Ye is interested."

Six hundred Xuanming points was a pretty good reward.

However, Ye Qingtang did not agree directly and asked, "How many people are you intending to recruit into the team for this mission?"

Regardless of how many Xuanming points there were, it was still important to see how many people the points were going to be split with.

Gu Yanqiu was rather shocked over Ye Qingtang's question, but he answered honestly, "I intend to form a team of about ten people."

A team of ten?

Ye Qingtang raised her brows slightly.

If the mission was completed, splitting six hundred Xuanming points amongst ten people meant that one person would get about sixty points each, and this was much more effective than those solo missions she saw.

Ye Qingtang roughly calculated the distance between Xuanling Sect and the Giant Rock Canyon and estimated that they should be able to return in half a month's time if the team was capable enough.

Earning sixty Xuanming points in half a month was still relatively worth it.

After thinking for a moment, Ye Qingtang chuckled, "Count me in for this mission."

Gu Yanqiu nodded.

"Senior Brother Gu, is there any other thing?" Ye Qingtang asked with a smile.

Gu Yanqiu shook his head.

"Then, just find me before we depart. I'll head back first," Ye Qingtang said smilingly.

This time, Gu Yanqiu did not ask her to stay again.

After watching Ye Qingtang leave, Qin Huan, who had already submitted the mission, saw Gu Yanqiu standing at the entrance of the Rewards Pavilion and went up to him playfully.

"That little junior sister left?" Qin Huan chuckled.

Gu Yanqiu gave a slight nod and said, "I have already invited her to participate in the Giant Rock Canyon mission."

The smile on Qin Huan's face froze slightly, and surprise filled his eyes.

Gu Yanqiu had always been cautious in forming his team and had the highest completion rate for the rewarded missions. Previously, Qin Huan indeed admired Ye Qingtang, but... he really did not expect that Gu Yanqiu, who had always been cautious, would suddenly pull a little junior sister he just met into the team.

Chapter 148: Mission Invitation (3)

"Senior Brother... aren't you a little too fast in your actions? That little junior sister just now looks very foreign and feels like a new disciple," Qin Huan said.

Gu Yanqiu nodded.

"That's right, she just entered the sect."

Qin Huan's jaw nearly dropped onto the floor.

"Senior brother, you know that she is a new disciple, yet you still want to add her into the team? You are..."

Qin Huan really did not know what to say Gu Yanqiu at a moment's time.

Since when did Gu Yanqiu become someone who did whatever he pleased?

"You saw her exchanging blows with Zhou Qu just now as well. What do you think of her skills?" Gu Yanqiu asked instead of replying.

Qin Huan was taken aback, and he instinctively recalled Ye Qingtang's fierce throw over the shoulder. He really could not draw a connection between that clean and sharp technique with the exquisitely beautiful face.

"Uh... she has some skill it seems," Qin Huan replied straight to the point.

Gu Yanqiu laughed.

"It is so, then. Our team has never looked at credentials but at abilities. Since she has the ability, why should we be afraid of the so-called difference between new and old disciples?"

Qin Huan scratched his head and was speechless over how Gu Yanqiu twisted his words. "Do whatever you want. Anyway, the Giant Rock Canyon mission is taken on by you. Since you are the leader, then you'll naturally decide on the members." Then, his gaze fell on Zhou Qu, who was half dead on the floor, again.

"Serves Zhou Qu right. All he knows is to bully the new disciples. Meeting a skilled one this time is a lesson for him."

Gu Yanqiu frowned slightly and said, "Zhou Qu is fearless, but don't forget the reason why he dares to be so arrogant in the outer sect."

Qin Huan was taken aback. An image of a person suddenly flashed across his mind.

"If Zhou Xuan hears of this incident..."

Gu Yanqiu shook his head. These were not what they could control.

...

Ye Qingtang returned from the Rewards Pavilion and made a mental note of the Giant Rock Canyon mission. Just when she returned to her room, she heard a clear laugh.

When she pushed open the door, she saw Su Wan chatting with another young girl. Upon seeing Ye Qingtang's return, both of them stopped laughing, and their eyes seemed to intentionally avoid Ye Qingtang as though they completely did not see her.

Ye Qingtang had a little memory of that girl whom Su Wan was chatting with; she was also one of the new disciples.

"Junior Sister Su, I didn't expect that you were actually allocated to stay with her. There is still another empty spot at my place. How about we ask the warden if you could be changed to stay over there someday?" That young girl said smilingly. Although her voice was not loud, Ye Qingtang could still hear it.

Su Wan glanced over at Ye Qingtang, who just walked past, and an unusual emotion flashed across her eyes, though she quickly looked down to restrain her expression.

"There's no need to trouble. Fortunately, entering the sect is also all for the sake of cultivation. I'm not bothered with other things," Su Wan said gently.

“Junior Sister Su is still so good-natured. But, this is not a way as well. Isn’t Yun...” The girl still wanted to say something, but Su Wan hurriedly shook her head without allowing her to continue on.

The girl peeked at Ye Qingtang and frowned, speaking quietly, “Junior Sister Su, if you really like Senior Brother Yun, you must take more initiative. Otherwise, you’ll just give others a chance, and it would really be too late then.”

Chapter 149: Affection

There was a pained look on Su Wan’s face.

As early as during the entrance assessment, Su Wan already crushed on the gentle Yun Shu, but she did not dare to take any action and could only look at him silently.

This was nothing much, but what made Su Wan conflicted was Ye Qingtang...

Since the entrance assessment, Ye Qingtang had been extremely close to Yun Shu, and now that they entered the sect, it could be said that Yun Shu and Ye Qingtang were always together. When they were listening to lessons, they would also sit together, and in the seldom occasions where he was not with Ye Qingtang, he was busy cultivating alone.

As a result, Su Wan never had the slightest chance of getting close to him even though she wanted to.

Instead, it was Ye Qingtang... who became even closer to Yun Shu.

All of this fell into Su Wan’s eyes.

“Senior Sister Liu... I... I have no choice as well... I’m afraid Senior Brother Yun doesn’t even know me,” Su Wan said rather bitterly.

The girl who was speaking to Su Wan was Liu Yue. Seeing Su Wan’s resignation to the situation, Liu Yue was even angrier.

“What choice do you not have? Others even gave up on their pride and clung onto him, and you’re still watching on like this? Senior Brother Yun is good-natured. How would he reject you if you went to him?” When Liu Yue said this, she intentionally or unintentionally looked at Ye Qingtang, who was reading.

Su Wan pursed her lips.

In reality, the intimacy between Ye Qingtang and Yun Shu was already widespread amongst the new disciples in the outer sect.

Everyone already could not imagine that Ye Qingtang passed the entrance assessment with a red spirit root. Moreover, the Ye family clan in Lin Town that she came from was not a renowned family clan. She was merely born with better looks, and such a person was simply useless in a sect.

Yet, Yun Shu so happened to be close to Ye Qingtang. Furthermore, Ye Qingtang gave the two additional bottles of Xi Spirit Pills that she won on the arena to Yun Shu previously, causing a number of new disciples to think that something was up.

They only felt that Ye Qingtang tried so hard to please Yun Shu because she took a fancy on the Liu Yun family clan behind his back.

Su Wan remained silent. Knowing that she could not say anything much, Liu Yue and Su Wan finally left after sitting for a while.

Only Ye Qingtang was left in the room alone. She sat at the corner of her bed and flipped through a book on Xuanling Sect's basic swordplay. The little lightning dragon peered his head out from her embrace and lazed against her arms.

"Su Wan is actually interested in Senior Brother Yun?" Ye Qingtang raised her brows slightly. Although Su Wan and Liu Yue already lowered their volume intentionally while talking just now, Ye Qingtang still heard everything.

Ye Qingtang was simply too lazy to explain the rumor between her and Yun Shu.

Why was there a need to waste saliva in explaining things to people she did not care about?

It was a waste of time only.

However...

Ye Qingtang really did not expect Su Wan to be interested in Yun Shu and still thought that Su Wan had always been cold to her previously because she looked down on her spirit root. Unexpectedly, the problem was actually with Yun Shu.

However...

Ye Qingtang's brows were furrowed. In her previous life when she came to Xuanling Sect, Su Wan and Yun Shu were already in the sect long ago. However, at that time, Su Wan never over-interacted with Yun Shu and, rather, was extremely close to Lu Xiuwen. Rumors of them having a secret affair even spread throughout the outer sect.

How was it that in this lifetime...

Su Wan suddenly changed and took a fancy on Yun Shu and not Lu Xiuwen?

Ye Qingtang did not think much into it though; After pondering for a short moment, she put this matter down again.

Chapter 150: Mission Team (1)

Ye Qingtang had been diligently training according to a routine every day to strengthen herself. Occasionally, she would exchange a few moves with Yun Shu, though they were mostly centered on the sect's swordplay.

Two days passed like this, and Ye Qingtang heard some news regarding Zhou Qu.

After being beaten up to a pulp by Ye Qingtang that day, he was carried back to his room, and it was said that he was still dizzy and had not woken up.

Ye Qingtang was still wondering whether Zhou Qu would cause her trouble the very moment he woke up.

Yet, unexpectedly...

Others found her one step ahead of him instead.

Ye Qingtang had just finished practicing her swordplay. When she exited the main entrance, she saw a carefree Qin Huan leaning against a tree and teasing a tiny-framed female disciple.

Qin Huan had a handsome face and peach blossom eyes. His smile was very attractive, causing the young lady to blush furiously and run away shyly while cupping her cheeks.

Before Qin Huan could regret over how the little junior sister he took a fancy on escaped, he saw Ye Qingtang standing a few steps away from him and glaring at him with a very subtle look.

Qin Huan's face froze. Clearing his throat rather awkwardly, he went forward and greeted, "Junior Sister Ye."

"Senior Brother Qin?" Ye Qingtang chuckled. She only met him once at the Rewards Pavilion the other day, and it was Gu Yanqiu who told her about the mission afterward as well. It seemed that Qin Huan came here today because Gu Yanqiu's team was straightened out.

"Did Junior Sister Ye just finish practicing your swordplay? You're really diligent," Qin Huan said with a laugh with a senior brother tone.

However...

Ever since Ye Qingtang witnessed him flirting with two female disciples, Qin Huan's image was completely shattered.

"Are you here to find me because of Senior Brother Gu's mission?" Ye Qingtang asked.

Qin Huan nodded. "Junior Sister Ye is indeed smart. Senior Brother Gu has already decided on the people and decided to depart tomorrow. Thus, he wanted me to find you today to familiarize with each other in advance since we are going to be comrades in the hunt in the future." Qin Huan smiled temptingly as his peach blossom eyes smiled beautifully.

"I'll trouble Senior Brother Qin to lead the way then," Ye Qingtang replied calmly without any change in expression.

"..."

Was he not smiling obviously enough? Or did his skill in picking up girls drop?

How was it that Junior Sister Ye did not have any reaction to such a "flowery" smile of his?

Qin Huan could not help but be a little suspicious of his manly charisma.

Honestly speaking, Ye Qingtang's appearance stood out from the rest and was hardly comparable even in a place like Xuanling Sect. Qin Huan, who had smoothly picked up many girls, naturally wanted to flirt with Ye Qingtang as well. Yet, the outcome could not be any more miserable...

His male ego took a huge hit.

“What’s wrong, Senior Brother Qin?” Ye Qingtang looked at the defeated Qin Huan with an intentional puzzled look.

Qin Huan returned to his senses and quickly dusted off that sense of defeat. “Nothing. I’ll bring you there now.”

Ye Qingtang’s lips curled up into a smile as she saw the sadness in Qin Huan’s eyes fade in an instant.

Although this senior brother did not have any principles, he was pretty cute.

Qin Huan still did not know that his dignified and majestic image as a senior brother long became “cute” in Ye Qingtang’s heart and brought her to the team’s gathering point.

Gu Yanqiu had already been standing there for a long time, and a few other outer sect disciples with powerful demeanors were standing beside him.

When Qin Huan brought Ye Qingtang over, those few disciples eyed Ye Qingtang up and down rudely without concealing.