

Chapter 151: Mission Team (2)

“Junior Sister Ye,” Gu Yanqiu greeted with a smile upon seeing Ye Qingtang.

Ye Qingtang nodded in response.

“Gu Yanqiu, so this is the person you found?” One of those other disciples suddenly asked.

Gu Yanqiu replied, “This is Ye Qingtang. She is a teammate in our mission to the Giant Rock Canyon this time. Junior Sister Ye, this is Meng Sheng.” Gu Yanqiu pointed at the person who popped the question just now and subsequently introduced the others to Ye Qingtang.

This time, Gu Yanqiu found a total of ten people as he said previously.

However, other than Gu Yanqiu and Qin Huan, everybody looked at Ye Qingtang with a subtle expression.

“Is Junior Sister Ye a new disciple?” Meng Sheng asked with a frown.

“Yes,” Ye Qingtang answered without emotion.

“How is your spirit root?” Meng Sheng asked again.

His excessive questions could not be blamed though; it was indeed unexpected for everyone that Gu Yanqiu invited a new disciple to join the team this time.

Gu Yanqiu would occasionally pick a few missions that were suitable to be completed by a team. Moreover, he had plenty of experience, and most of the missions he selected could be successfully completed. Many outer sect disciples were very willing to work with him, and the other disciples like Meng Sheng this time were considered to be people who frequently went on missions with Gu Yanqiu. The teammates Gu Yanqiu usually selected were very reliable, but this time, Gu Yanqiu suddenly said that he found a new disciple to join, causing others to be surprised undoubtedly.

They heard some things about this batch of new disciples as well and knew that there were two geniuses with green spirit roots this time.

“Red spirit root,” Ye Qingtang said generously.

With that said, the other nine people present were dumbfounded.

Even Gu Yanqiu and Qin Huan stared with their mouth opened.

Ye Qingtang actually had a red spirit root?

What joke was this?

“Senior Brother Gu, are you sure you want a new disciple with a red spirit root to go on the mission with us?” Meng Sheng’s initially emotionless face darkened the moment he heard that Ye Qingtang had a red spirit root.

He originally thought that the new disciple Gu Yanqiu found was one of the two disciples with green spirit roots, yet... she had a red spirit root!

Earlier on, he had already heard that there was someone with a red spirit root in this batch of new disciples, and they all treated it as a joke. He did not expect that in the end... this person was actually going to be their teammate and was whom Gu Yanqiu personally recruited!

Shock was written on Gu Yanqiu's face completely as well. He had never expected that Ye Qingtang was only a red spirit root.

Gu Yanqiu saw Ye Qingtang's skills at the Rewards Pavilion previously. Although it was not much, it was enough to gain his acknowledgment; thus, he made an exception to recruit Ye Qingtang into the team. He did not ask more then and instinctively felt that even if Ye Qingtang was not a green spirit root, she would still be a yellow spirit root. In the end...

In a moment, Gu Yanqiu's expression turned a little awkward.

Looking at Gu Yanqiu's reaction, Meng Sheng could not help but sneer as he openly looked at Ye Qingtang up and down.

"Junior Sister Ye, do you know the level of the demonic beast that we are going to the Giant Rock Canyon to hunt this time? That is a level 6 Giant Lizard which has killed countless of people."

Ye Qingtang raised her brows as she looked at the sarcastic Meng Sheng and scoffed in her heart.

Meng Sheng turned to Gu Yanqiu and said, "Senior Brother Gu, you have always made sound decisions, but this time, I wish that you can properly consider whether a new disciple with a red spirit root would have the ability to follow us to the Giant Rock Canyon."

Gu Yanqiu frowned slightly and did not give a clear answer immediately.

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Qin Huan quickly returned to his senses and looked at Ye Qingtang over and over again. However, there was neither the slightest trace of discrimination nor belittlement in his eyes, but a burst of shock.

As a new disciple, it was already very fierce and fiery of her to be able to knock out Zhou Qu. What was scarier was that she was still only a red spirit root.

What was this girl?

How could a red spirit root still be so fierce?!

"What's wrong with a red spirit root? I think that this isn't a big deal. If Junior Sister Ye is skilled enough, why bother about the spirit root? This isn't even about selecting spirit roots, why do you care so much?" Qin Huan could not help but retort when he noticed Meng Sheng's dissatisfaction.

He thought that Ye Qingtang was very awesome. Why were these people all so snobby to simply judge her based on her spirit root when they had not seen her abilities?

Narrow-minded!

Really too narrow-minded!

Ye Qingtang originally saw Gu Yanqiu's awkward expression and mentally prepared herself for the worst—that she might not be able to take part in this mission. Yet unexpectedly... Qin Huan, who seemed unreliable, actually became the first person to speak up for her.

“Junior Brother Qin, the quality of a spirit root is related to our cultivation. What is wrong whether I care about it or not? Furthermore... we have already reduced the number of people in this mission. Other teams in the outer sect formed a team of at least twelve to thirteen people to deal with a level 6 demonic beast, but we only have ten. If we bring a new disciple with an inferior spirit root, what are the chances of success? This mission would take at least half a month's time, and if we fail, who is to bear the loss of this half a month?” Meng Sheng did not back down at all.

“How would you know we would fail if you have not tried before?” Qin Huan asked in return.

Meng Sheng was about to say something, but Gu Yanqiu spoke at that moment.

“I have already decided on the members. What Junior Brother Qin said is right, and I understand Junior Brother Meng's concern as well. However, we are going to set off tomorrow, and changing members at the last minute would be even more inappropriate. As the initiator of this mission, I guarantee to compensate everyone's loss should we fail this mission. When I complete missions with you all in the future, I will automatically make up to everyone with my Xuanming points. How about that?” Gu Yanqiu said calmly, though there was a hint of toughness in his tone.

Meng Sheng frowned slightly. Even if he had any more dissatisfactions, it was difficult to continue arguing after Gu Yanqiu mentioned about the compensation.

On the other hand, the other disciples did not feel too strongly about this. While everyone was indeed suspicious of Ye Qingtang's abilities, they still had some trust in the people that Gu Yanqiu selected. Moreover... when a new disciple joined the team, she would definitely be given a little less once the mission is completed. In this way, they would be given more, and there was nothing much to object to.

As the initiator of the mission and the team leader, Gu Yanqiu would be given a higher percentage of Xuanming points. Hence, since he said he would compensate them should they fail, they would obviously accept it as they trusted Gu Yanqiu.

Without any objections, the matter was settled like this.

Ye Qingtang did not say anything from start to end. Rather, it was Gu Yanqiu who turned to Ye Qingtang after persuading everyone else and said apologetically, “Junior Sister Ye, I'm sorry. Just now, I... was just a little shocked and neglected you. I hope you will excuse me.”

Gu Yanqiu did not speak up for her immediately when Meng Sheng questioned Ye Qingtang just now, and regardless, Ye Qingtang was someone he found and personally invited. Thus, he was naturally guilty.

Chapter 153: Fire-Resistant Soft Amour (1)

“No problem. I am already very happy that Senior Brother Gu is willing to believe in me,” Ye Qingtang said generously.

Rather than debating about how skilled she was with others, why not prove to them with her skills in the mission?

Gu Yanqiu was a tactful and rather fair person, and this was good.

Only Qin Huan’s reaction previously surprised Ye Qingtang slightly and made her like the frivolous senior brother even more.

After confirming the members, Gu Yanqiu shared the information he researched on with his teammates.

The Giant Lizard was a level 6 demonic beast with thick, rough skin and had an extremely strong defense. Poison was present in its saliva and hidden between its scales, and one would have to be exceptionally cautious if they wanted to kill it

“I recommend everyone to prepare some antidotes individually in case you need it when the time arises,” Gu Yanqiu reminded.

Everyone was experienced and naturally knew about these.

Qin Huan took a look at Ye Qingtang from aside and whispered softly, “Junior Sister Ye, I’ll prepare your share of antidotes for you.” Then, he still gave her a surreptitious wink which enhanced his already handsome appearance.

Ye Qingtang did not know whether to laugh or cry, but she still remembered Qin Huan’s kindness.

In the sect, elixirs could only be exchanged with Xuanming points. Although antidotes required very few Xuanming points, Ye Qingtang did not have a single point since she was a new disciple, and it was good that Qin Huan noticed this.

After a while more, everyone dispersed.

During the meeting, Meng Sheng did not say anything further, but he looked at Ye Qingtang disapprovingly before leaving.

“Junior Sister Ye, Meng Sheng is just like that. Don’t take it to heart,” Qin Huan comforted.

Ye Qingtang chuckled, “It’s fine.”

Upon seeing that Ye Qingtang did not have any special reaction, Qin Huan finally put his heart at ease and bade Ye Qingtang goodbye along with Gu Yanqiu to start his own preparations.

Ye Qingtang returned to her room alone and analyzed the information on the Giant Lizard. Afterward, she took out the scales of the fire beast that she previously brought from the Treasure Pavilion from her space ring.

She had always stored this item in her space ring and only took out to use some of it on Second Young Master Si when he was poisoned. She still had a large portion of it on her hands, and she had not found a suitable time to use it until now where there was finally a use for it.

The nature of the Giant Lizard's poison was fire, and the scales of the Fire Beast had an extremely high resistance against poison with a fire nature. Even if it was the flame toxin, the Fire Beast's scale had a way better resistance against it than any other things.

After pondering for a moment, she started working on it.

There was some tannic acid in her space ring. This was a corrosive substance that was usually used to soak rusty ironware to wash the rust away.

Ye Qingtang got a large wooden bucket and smeared a layer of waterproof white glue in the bucket. Once the white glue dried, she poured the tannic acid into the bucket and soaked the scales of the Fire Beast in it.

The scales of the Fire Beast were extremely hard, making it very difficult to be destroyed and forged. However, this was merely due to the lack of knowledge in the current era.

In the future, some intellects discovered that the scales could be softened using tannic acid, allowing it to be forged easily. In the present, no one apart from her knew how to process the scales of the Fire Beast; thus, Ye Qingtang bought many of it at the Treasure Pavilion.

Watching the scales of the Fire Beast soak in tannic acid, Ye Qingtang thought of something, and she immediately started preparing after estimating the materials she had on hand.

Chapter 154: Fire-Resistant Soft Amour (2)

Once Su Wan returned to the room, she smelled a faint sour smell. With a frown, her eyes followed the direction of the smell where she ended up looking at where Ye Qingtang was.

Although the living quarters for the three people were all in one room, they were separated by a screen and thus Su Wan could only see Ye Qingtang's shadow and not what she was busy with. Su Wan's face turned ugly as she covered her nose.

"What smell is this. It's so stinky."

Su Wan's complaints traveled into Ye Qingtang's ears, and Ye Qingtang merely smiled lightly.

While the tannic acid had a rather sour smell, there was a fruity scent in it, and it did not smell bad and was even fresh-smelling.

Knowing that Su Wan was unhappy with her over Yun Shu, Ye Qingtang did not take her comment to heart.

She looked down at the wooden bucket where the translucent tannic acid had already turned brownish-red due to the soaked Fire Beast's scales. Ye Qingtang used two long chopsticks to poke at it and realized that the scales had already softened. Then, she picked them up immediately.

After soaking in tannic acid for such a long time, the scales of the Fire Beast which was initially thick became unusually soft. Its texture was not as rough as before and felt soft like a slightly-thick piece of cotton instead.

Ye Qingtang wiped away the tannic acid on the scales, took out a pair of scissors, and immediately cut them before they hardened again. Afterward, she took out a special iron needle, threaded a fish glue thread through it, and began sewing nimbly.

Half a day passed just like that.

Ye Qingtang used the softened scales of the Fire Beast and made three pieces of fire-resistant soft armor.

Out of those three pieces of armor, she kept one for herself.

Then, she wrapped the other two and kept them aside.

This fire-resistant soft armor was very light and had good flexibility. There would be no discomfort for anyone and was very suitable to be worn on the body.

Although it was thin, the characteristics of the Fire Beast's scale was fixed within the fire-resistant soft armor. Even if these three pieces of armor were thrown into a furnace and left to burn for three successive days, only the fish glue thread would be burnt at most, and the soft armor would definitely not be affected at all.

Ye Qingtang wore one of the three pieces of armor, and with outerwear, one could not tell any unusualness or plumpness.

As the weather was turning cold, wearing the fire-resistant soft armor even warmed the body.

After putting it on, Ye Qingtang immediately took another armor and headed out to find Yun Shu.

"This is... for me?" Yun Shu looked strangely at the dark red "vest" that Ye Qingtang handed to him.

He could not tell what material was that vest made of, but it felt warm to touch and was very magical.

"This thing is not too bad. If Senior Brother Yun doesn't mind, wear it on your body on normal days," Ye Qingtang said with a smile. She would naturally not forget about Yun Shu when she had something good; she owed him her life in her previous life.

Yun Shu took the fire-resistant soft armor in his hand and pursed his lips with a complicated expression in his eyes. He looked up at Ye Qingtang with a subtle expression.

Seeing that she had an upright look and no flirtatious intent in her eyes, Yun Shu really did not know how to react at the moment.

After staying silent for quite a while, Yun Shu finally replied rather stiffly, "Since it is Junior Sister Ye's kindness, then I will... accept it. Thank you."

"There's no need to be polite with me," Ye Qingtang said generously.

No one knew that the interaction between the two of them fell into the eyes of someone who passed by them not far away.

Chapter 155: Fire-Resistant Soft Armour (3)

In the room, Su Wan scattered some powder on the floor in hopes of getting rid of the fruity smell.

Suddenly, there were loud knocks on her door, and she saw Liu Yue standing outside once she opened the door.

“Senior Sister Liu? Is there something wrong?” Su Wan looked at Liu Yue confusedly.

Liu Yue immediately pulled Su Wan to one side and said with a frown, “Junior Sister Su, what are you still doing here? Do you know what I saw just now?”

Confusion was written all over Su Wan’s face.

Liu Yue told Su Wan everything she saw.

Instantly, Su Wan’s face turned pale.

“You... you really saw it? Ye Qingtang really made a piece of clothing and gave it to Senior Brother Yun? Senior Brother Yun even... accepted it?” Su Wan asked with a frown and a despondent expression.

“How can it be fake? Let me tell you, Ye Qingtang that little bitch has a lot of tricks. Look how renowned the Liu Yun family clan behind Senior Brother Yun is. Ye Qingtang first gave him elixirs and then clothes. If you still continue to waste your time around like this, be careful that your Senior Brother Yun would be deceived away by other people with ulterior motives,” Liu Yue warned.

Su Wan’s face turned blue, and her lips were tightly pursed.

“I am not close to Senior Brother Yun. If I just go up to him like that... isn’t it...”

“Don’t be unwilling to give up on your image. Look how she has so many tricks? Which part of you loses to Ye Qingtang? Other than that face of hers, what else does she have? As long as you show him your interest in him, Senior Brother Yun will naturally know how to differentiate good and bad,” Liu Yue suggested.

Just when Su Wan and Liu Yue were talking, there was a knock on the door.

Su Wan kept away all her emotions and opened the door.

When the door was opened, a handsome face suddenly fell into Su Wan’s eyes.

“This junior sister, is Ye Qingtang here?” Qin Huan asked with an attractive smile.

Su Wan was swayed by his peach blossom eyes, though she returned to her senses once she heard Ye Qingtang’s name.

“Ye Qingtang does live here.”

“Is she in then?” Qin Huan smiled even more brightly when he saw a gentle and pretty junior sister at the door.

“She... isn’t,” Su Wan said rather unwillingly.

“So she isn’t... Like this, then. I have a few items here, and I’ll have to trouble you to hand them over to her. Also, do pass on the message that I will be waiting for her outside the sect tomorrow morning and

that she must not be late. Do tell her to prepare her things well as this trip will take at least half a month." Then, Qin Huan placed a few bottles of antidotes in Su Wan's hands.

Su Wan looked at the antidotes and was extremely unwilling but could not show it in front of Qin Huan and could only force out a reply, "Okay."

"Thank you, junior sister," Qin Huan said smilingly and left.

Su Wan frowned at the antidotes in her hand and thought of Qin Huan's attractive face again. She was very unwilling as all of this was connected to Ye Qingtang.

"Junior Sister Su, your chance is here!" Liu Yue, who heard everything clearly in the room, suddenly exclaimed.

Su Wan closed the door and threw the antidotes on Ye Qingtang's table unwillingly. "Senior Sister Liu, don't make fun of me already."

"Junior Sister Su, are you dumb? Didn't you hear that senior brother from just now say that Ye Qingtang is going on a mission with them and would not return for at least half a month? In this time, won't you be able to properly interact with Senior Brother Yun?" Liu Yun said.

Excitement could be seen in Su Wan's eyes as a glimmer of hope suddenly emerged in her heart.

Chapter 156: Affection (2)

When Ye Qingtang returned to her room, Lin Long and Su Wan were both present. Lin Long was reading at her table alone as usual while Su Wan, for the first time, initiated to talk to Ye Qingtang when she saw her.

"Ye Qingtang, a senior brother came to find you just now and wants me to tell you to gather outside the sect tomorrow morning. He even prepared a few bottles of elixirs which I placed on your table." This was the first time Su Wan spoke to Ye Qingtang. Despite acting casual, there was still a hint of awkwardness in her tone.

Ye Qingtang looked at the few bottles of elixirs on her table and immediately knew which senior brother Su Wan was referring to.

"Thanks," Ye Qingtang said quietly.

Su Wan frowned, and she pursed her lips. It was already a huge grievance for her to interact with Ye Qingtang, but... once she thought of what Liu Yue said before she left, Su Wan still took a deep breath and asked again.

"Are you going to do a mission already?"

"Yes." Ye Qingtang was keeping the elixirs and did not pay too much attention to Su Wan's expression.

"But aren't the new disciples temporarily not appointed any missions?" Su Wan asked in an attempt to fish for more information.

“It is a rewarded mission,” Ye Qingtang replied.

Su Wan was taken aback.

She only heard the outer sect elder mention the rewarded missions when she entered the outer sect. Although some new disciples checked out the Rewards Pavilion these few days, none of them rushed to accept a mission. After all, they were still new disciples and did not have enough control for these missions.

Previously, Su Wan already thought it was strange and thought that Ye Qingtang was appointed on a mission and had to go on a mission together with Qin Huan. Yet...

The mission that Ye Qingtang was going for was actually a rewarded mission!

How could this be?

Su Wan looked at Ye Qingtang’s back view and narrowed her eyes.

Ye Qingtang was only a new disciple and had a red spirit root. Which senior brother or senior sister would bring such a burden on a rewarded mission?

Su Wan really could not understand, but when she saw the sunlight from her window casting on Ye Qingtang’s beautiful side-profile, it was as though she knew something.

No matter how she looked down on Ye Qingtang, Su Wan could not deny that Ye Qingtang’s beauty was indeed outstanding.

“How many days are you going for?” Su Wan asked instinctively but forgot about the urgency in her tone.

Ye Qingtang did not pay much attention previously; thus, she replied one after another, but she suddenly sensed that Su Wan seemed to be very concerned about her mission. She could not help but stop what she was doing and turn to look at Su Wan behind her.

The pair of questioning eyes fell on Su Wan’s soft face, causing Su Wan to panic. Only then did Su Wan realize that she was overly pushy as she was not supposed to probe on just now.

“Su Wan, you seem to be very concerned about me going on a mission?” Ye Qingtang raised her eyebrows slightly. It must be known that in all these days that they entered the sect, this young lady Su could not even be bothered to say anything to her. Why did she suddenly change today?

Su Wan paled and looked down, hiding away the panic in her eyes. She put on a calm front and said, “I’m just asking casually.”

Ye Qingtang smiled and did not say anything more, as she really did not feel like playing company with those girly thoughts that Su Wan was having.

As long as Su Wan did not provoke her, she could not be bothered with what Su Wan was thinking of.

Su Wan sat aside silently as hope arose within her.

Ye Qingtang was really going out on a mission. Then, in the coming period of time, Ye Qingtang would never appear beside Senior Brother Yun. She must really seize this opportunity and let Senior Brother Yun know who was actually the best!

Chapter 157: Affection (3)

After a night of packing, Ye Qingtang did not prepare too many things.

She only packed some food and clothes to change in. As for the elixirs and whatnot, she still had some in her space ring, and adding on the antidotes that Qin Huan sent, it was enough to use.

This morning, Ye Qingtang was done packing and ready to head to the gathering point.

When she just left the door, she suddenly saw a complicated-looking Yun Shu standing below a tree not far away who was looking down with a frown as though he was troubled.

“Senior Brother Yun?” Ye Qingtang walked up curiously.

Upon hearing Ye Qingtang’s voice, Yun Shu suddenly returned to his senses, and a trace of fluster could be seen on his face.

“Junior... Junior Sister Ye, good morning,” Yun Shu sounded rather stiff.

“Is Senior Brother Yun waiting for me to head to the warden’s lesson together?” Ye Qingtang asked.

Yun Shu stunned for a moment then finally muttered a stiff-sounding “yes”.

“I’m afraid that won’t be possible. I am going to do a rewarded mission with other senior brothers and sisters and will not be back until about half a month later. You don’t have to wait for me in this half a month,” Ye Qingtang said with a laugh as she forgot to tell Yun Shu about it yesterday.

Yun Shu could not help but look surprised when he heard that Ye Qingtang was going on a rewarded mission.

“Rewarded mission? You really went there to take on a mission that day, and you still tried to sweet-talk me.” Yun Shu frowned as he recalled how Ye Qingtang said she was going to the Rewards Pavilion the other day. Though there was blame in his tone, it was more of worry.

“Rest assured, Senior Brother Yun. I’m only there to experience it this time. There are still a few other senior brothers together with me. Don’t worry,” Ye Qingtang chuckled. In both her previous and current life, Yun Shu was like her brother, and his nagging made her feel exceptionally warm.

“Forget it, I can’t control you anyway. You should be more careful. If there are any problems, don’t rush into it so hurriedly. Listen to the guidance from other senior brothers,” Yun Shu sighed as he understood that based on Ye Qingtang’s character, she was not someone who would change her mind just because of his nagging.

“Okay! I will remember Senior Brother Yun’s words by heart.” Ye Qingtang laughed in reply.

Yun Shu took a look at her, and all his emotions that he gathered were completely gone after hearing Ye Qingtang's sudden news. Considering that Ye Qingtang was right about to go on a mission and that some things were inconvenient to be said in case she becomes distracted during the mission, he suppressed everything in his heart.

Without saying anything more, Yun Shu took out a few bottles of elixirs from his arms and stuffed them into Ye Qingtang's hand.

"These are elixirs that I brought from my family clan. Perhaps, there will be a use for them."

Ye Qingtang looked at her hand full of elixirs, and a warm smile surged in her eyes.

"It is still Senior Brother Yun who dotes on me," Ye Qingtang chuckled. Sparing with the corny affection, she kept the bottles swiftly. Anyway, whatever good things that she obtained in the future, there would always be a share for Yun Shu, and there was no need to regard him as an outsider.

Yun Shu really did not know how to react to her teasing and hurried her to get moving after nagging a few more times.

Watching Ye Qingtang's disappearing further away, Yun Shu shook his head with a bitter smile. However, he did not notice that not far away, Su Wan stood outside the door from some time ago and witnessed everything between Ye Qingtang and Yun Shu. Jealousy and hatred filled that pair of gentle-looking eyes.

"Senior Brother Yun," Su Wan said gently after hiding away all her emotion.

Yun Shu, who was preparing to leave, suddenly turned around and looked confusedly at a rather foreign-looking Su Wan upon hearing a voice.

"This junior sister?"

Su Wan quietly took a deep breath. Stepping forward, she greeted gently, "Senior Brother Yun, my name is Su Wan."

"So it's Junior Sister Su," Yun Shu replied kindly.

"Is Senior Brother Yun going to listen to class?"

"Yes."

"I am heading there as well. If you don't mind, can we go together?" Su Wan looked up with endless affection in her soft eyes.

Ye Qingtang, what right do you have to fight with me!

Chapter 158: Giant Rock Canyon (1)

Outside the main entrance of Xuanling Sect, Gu Yanqiu and the rest had already arrived.

Ye Qingtang arrived just on time. The moment she exited the door, she saw Qin Huan rushing up towards her.

“How is it, little junior sister? You’ve received the things, haven’t you?” Qin Huan asked with a smile so bright that was comparable to a sunny day.

Ye Qingtang replied very calmly, “I received it. Many thanks, senior brother.”

“…”

Could it be that I became uglier recently?

Just when Qin Huan was pondering about why his ever-successful smile failed on Ye Qingtang every single time, Ye Qingtang placed the fire-resistant soft armor that she prepared long ago in his hands.

“This is?” Qin Huan looked at the soft armor and thought that the item was pretty interesting as that there was a surge of warmth in his hands.

“A gift in return,” Ye Qingtang replied.

“…”

Little junior sister, how much do you despise me that you’re unwilling to owe me even a small favor!

While Qin Huan accepted the gift, the complaints and sadness within him intensified.

Gu Yanqiu walked over at this time and said, “Junior Sister Ye, there are two more people left. We will wait for a while more.”

Ye Qingtang nodded.

Qin Huan was extroverted and had always been lively while Gu Yanqiu was silent and disliked speaking too much. If he said anything, they were definitely useful words.

In the whole team, Ye Qingtang was a little more familiar to only these two people, but she did not try to get closer to the rest of the team as well.

Rather, it was Meng Sheng who wore an ugly expression once Ye Qingtang appeared.

Clearly, he was still not too satisfied with Ye Qingtang as his last-minute teammate.

“Senior Brother Meng, don’t take it to heart already. Just take it as giving Senior Brother Gu face. That little junior sister is pretty good-looking. Didn’t you see Qin Huan protecting her so persistently? For all we may know, this is someone Qin Huan likes, and Senior Brother Gu only invited her to join us because he was showing Qin Huan face,” another disciple in the team laughed.

“Qin Huan doesn’t even know to restrain himself. Sooner or later, he will get into trouble,” Meng Sheng said coldly.

Qin Huan’s nature was to flirt with pretty junior sisters when he had nothing to do, and they no longer minded it. However, it was good that Qin Huan knew when to stop and kept business and personal issues separate; thus, they did not bother too much about it.

But this time, Meng Sheng was a little unhappy.

However, on Gu Yanqiu’s account, he did not say any more ugly words.

A while later, the other two disciples hurried over.

All ten members arrived. Previously, Gu Yanqiu had already reported to the outer sect elder about their journey. At that instant, they were all outside the sect and above the clouds, standing in the sky while being surrounded by mist.

“Let’s go,” Gu Yanqiu said.

In the next second, the Path to Heaven that they had to go through during the entrance assessment appeared before them. Light shone from the cloud and straight onto the ground.

Everyone stepped on the Path to Heaven and walked down from Xuanling Sect with a lotus blooming at every step they took.

The Giant Rock Canyon was quite some distance away from Xuanling Sect. Sects would allocate horses and carriages for disciples to use when they were out on a mission.

Gu Yanqiu had already reported about the mission; hence, when they descended from the Path to Heaven, they saw ten horses at the peak of the mountain, and everyone sat on a horse each. After entering the sect, they were required to wear the sect uniform when leaving for missions. Amongst the ten people, there was only one girl, Ye Qingtang. The other nine people were elegant and talented young man with full energy and extraordinary disposition. Taking a look at the ten people on horses, it was like a brilliant scenery.

And so, they began their journey for the rewarded mission.

Chapter 159: Giant Rock Canyon (2)

The Giant Rock Canyon was far away, and everyone was experienced. There was not much talking on the journey, though Gu Yanqiu would occasionally stop to verify their coordinates and then continue the journey.

Ye Qingtang was at the tail of the team, and she looked at Gu Yanqiu at the most front with admiration.

It was not illogical for Gu Yanqiu to be able to achieve such a high position in the future. The team that followed him only had to listen to arrangements, and everything would be fully right.

Everyone did not really interact throughout the journey, as they rode at top speed, grasping every minute and second. In the sect, every disciple placed extreme importance on cultivation and would naturally be unwilling to spend time on journeys.

Gu Yanqiu was previously worried that Ye Qingtang would not be able to withstand the treacherous journey since she was a junior disciple, a female, and the youngest in the team.

However, in the times that he looked back to check on Ye Qingtang, he realized that...

This junior sister’s condition was far more stable than he imagined. After hitting the road through days and nights, there was neither a slight trace of fatigue nor teenage girls’ pretentious act on Ye Qingtang’s face as though there was no difference between her and the rest of the disciples in the team.

To this, Gu Yanqiu could not help but be in more approval of her.

Gu Yanqiu had recruited skilled junior and senior sisters to participate in missions previously as well, but in those episodes, he was rather annoyed by the problems that arose.

Females' physical strength was a little weaker than that of males, and most were not used to such a hurried journey. Sometimes, Gu Yanqiu had no choice but to slow down to give in to them, causing the time taken to complete the mission to be prolonged.

Eventually, Gu Yanqiu no longer formed teams with female disciples.

Ye Qingtang's performance really surprised him to a certain extent.

Other teammates who shared the same worry put down some of their views against her upon seeing Ye Qingtang's condition as well.

At least, this little junior sister was not finicky.

Six days later, the team finally arrived near the Giant Rock Canyon.

Between the hills, a canyon formed from overlapping giant rocks, as though it was a crack in the ground, appeared before everyone's eyes

Before they arrived at the Giant Rock Canyon, everyone had already felt the heatwave from the canyon sweeping towards them along with the wind.

The Giant Rock Canyon was originally a volcano. Hundreds of years ago, a mighty figure cultivated a profound skill where he split the volcano and froze the lava, forming the current state of the canyon.

Although the volcano was gone today, under the layers of rock, magma still flowed beneath the ground, resulting in the extremely high temperature in the entire canyon. Even the tip of the cliffs were all burnt into a dark, red shade.

There was barely a single soul near the Giant Rock Canyon, as no one could live in high temperatures for long. Instead, many demonic beasts with fire natures were attracted to settle in there. Hunters came here occasionally, though the chances of winning were only fifty percent. While some returned fully loaded, some lost their lives there. In the Giant Rock Canyon, it was not difficult to see some remains of those killed by demonic beasts scattered miserably between the rocks.

Before entering the Giant Rock Canyon, Gu Yanqiu made everyone take a short break.

"Later, we will enter the Giant Rock Canyon directly. The temperature in the canyon is extremely high. Once we enter the canyon, everyone should direct your energy on your own and isolate the heat from your body. This hunting mission can continue for a maximum of only three days. If we exceed the time, the flame toxin in the Giant Rock Canyon's air will injure us. Thus, we must find the Giant Lizard's lair and kill it in the shortest time possible."

Chapter 160: Giant Rock Canyon (3)

Everyone nodded.

Qin Huan found it a little strange though. When Gu Yanqiu was giving instructions, Qin Huan's gaze uncontrollably fell on Ye Qingtang, who patted her chest with a hand.

Under his outerwear, Qin Huan was wearing the fire-resistant soft armor that Ye Qingtang gave him before.

This vest was light, and one could not tell what material was it made of. Previously, Qin Huan kept it instead of wearing it, and it was Ye Qingtang who ordered him to change into it when they were taking a rest before they headed to the Giant Rock Canyon.

Qin Huan did not think too much about it initially, but he felt that something was a little off now.

He took a look at Gu Yanqiu and the rest whose faces were tinted red from the heat as they neared the Giant Rock Canyon. In contrast, he did not feel hot at all, and his body felt cozy as though the heat was isolated away by this thin vest. Only his four limbs could feel a little heat, but his vital organs were well-protected by the soft armor.

What exactly was this soft armor that little junior sister gave him?

Qin Huan could not understand at the moment, but he remembered her favor.

"Most of the Giant Lizards stay in groups. Our target this time is the biggest level 6 Giant Lizard. If we encounter other Giant Lizards, we just need to direct them away." Then, Gu Yanqiu looked towards Qin Huan and said, "Qin Huan, you are quick enough. If we encounter a group of them, you will bring two other people to direct other Giant Lizards away. Meng Sheng and I will think of a way to attract the target to an open space."

"Huh? Oh... okay, I got it," Qin Huan replied hurriedly as he returned to his senses.

"Junior Sister Ye, you'll follow me tightly at that time," Gu Yanqiu turned to Ye Qingtang and said. Although he had seen Ye Qingtang's capabilities before, he did not dare to just allow Ye Qingtang to act on her own.

"Senior Brother Gu, I'm afraid this is not suitable," Meng Sheng suddenly said after remaining silent throughout.

"Why?" Gu Yanqiu asked.

Meng Sheng replied, "We are dealing with a level 6 Giant Lizard. Putting everything else aside, even you and I need to be very cautious. Moreover, this Giant Lizard's poison is extremely deadly. Out of the ten of us, only you, Qin Huan, and I have the appropriate skills. Qin Huan has already gone to attract the attention of other Giant Lizards. It is inappropriate if you split your focus on taking care of others."

Then, Meng Sheng's gaze fell on Ye Qingtang.

"Since we came on a mission together, where would there be any protection or not? Everyone must work together and put in their utmost best to hunt the demonic beast. If Junior Sister Ye stills needs someone to protect her, why is she needed on this mission? She will just be a burden instead."

While Meng Sheng's words were ugly, it reflected the thoughts of other disciples present.

It was already the limit for ten people to deal with a level 6 demonic beast. If there was one less person's effort and another top-skilled teammate had to split his attention to protect the person, the hunt might not be a success.

Gu Yanqiu returned to his senses and was aware of this problem as well. When he was about to say something, Ye Qingtang suddenly said, "Senior Brother Gu, why not let Senior Brother Qin go with you all. Leave the mission of attracting the other Giant Lizards to me."

With that said, Gu Yanqiu was stunned.

Giant Lizards lived in groups, and no one knew how many other Giant Lizards would be around their target. Gu Yanqiu made Qin Huan in charge of the job because Qin Huan was pretty skilled. If it were anyone else, it would be unsuitable as they would be attacked by the Giant Lizard's venom as long as they were a little careless.

"Junior Sister Ye..." Gu Yanqiu felt that it was unsuitable, but Meng Sheng spoke one step ahead of him. "Since Junior Sister Ye wants to try, let her try then. It is also a chance to verify whether she has the qualifications to participate in this mission, isn't it?"