

### Chapter 31: Fire Venom (1)

In the past, quite a number of people had tried researching on the applications of those two items. However, it was not until many years later that they managed to grasp a general idea. Thus, though others might grow wary of Ye Qingtang's bulk purchases, they could never know their purpose for now.

"Your taste is truly.... quite amazing." Si Bai chuckled. He had no intention to probe further.

Soon, they arrived at the entrance to the Si household. Once having stepped through the entrance, Si Bai clearly sensed something amiss.

Even when they were still along the hallways, Ye Qingtang could hear the commotion coming all the way from the main hall.

"Grandpa, we couldn't afford to delay his treatment. I'll negotiate with the Duans to get their Flame Suppressant pill." A deep voice resounded within the main hall.

"Dr. Xu had already begun his treatment. Getting the Duans to cooperate won't be easy. Besides, they may seem friendly with us, but that's only on the surface. Who knows what they're doing behind our backs. Even if you approach them personally, I doubt they'll comply." Old Master Si's reply followed, with a tone which hinted his distress.

Ye Qingtang and Si Bai threw a glance at each other before they entered the main hall in the next instant.

Aside from Old Master Si, there was another man with a large stature and a dashing look that bore a striking resemblance to Si Bai, though he appeared more matured and robust.

"Bro?" Si Bai was slightly surprised by the man's presence.

The man was the eldest young lord of the Si household and Si Bai's oldest brother, Si Ye.

"You're back." Si Ye gave a slight nod as he greeted Si Bai.

"Bro, when did you return? I've overheard you talking about someone's treatment.... Where's Si Qiong?" Si Bai became solemn. Their family's younger generation consisted only of those three brothers. Si Bai, being the youngest and the one suffering from a frail constitution since birth, was showered with love from his eldest brother, Si Ye, and his older brother, Si Qiong. Thus, the brothers' relationship was certainly cordial.

Once he asked about Si Qiong, Si Ye's expression turned grave. He did not answer Si Bai straight away but looked towards Old Master Si instead.

Old Master Si heaved a sigh and said: "Si Qiong's been wounded by an Ifrit and is poisoned by its fire venom. Dr. Xu's attending to his injuries at the moment."

Si Bai faltered for a moment.

An Ifrit's fire venom was known to be lethal. It could cause an exothermic effect on the vital organs. Dousing that effect with common medications had proven to be ineffective. The fatality rate was almost nine out of ten, where the victim had to literally suffer the burning pain till their life force burned out.

The only cure known at present was to consume an ice lotus, which could only be found growing in the mountains of Yucang.

The mountains of Yucang was a long-haul away from the City of Lin. A round trip would most likely take at least a month. When time is of the essence, bringing an ice lotus all the way back from the mountains would not be a feasible solution.

"I've already sent our men to get that ice lotus. What we need now is to borrow the Flame Suppressant pills from the Duan household." Si Ye knitted his brows as he repeated his plan.

The Flame Suppressant pill, true to its name, were able to delay the effects of the Fire Venom, which would in turn, buy enough time for the retrieval of the ice lotus.

"But Bro, that pill is their family's heirloom. Like what grandpa mentioned, I doubt they will just give them to you." Si Bai's countenance darkened as he stated the fact.

Si Ye's brows remained knitted. He was fully aware of that obvious fact. But.... without that pill, Si Qiong's life would no doubt be....

"I could help to suppress that venom."

When the Si household members were in dire straits, a girl's voice rang clearly amidst the commotion.

Si Ye turned his attention towards the voice and finally took notice of the girl standing next to Si Bai.

"Who is this lady?" Si Ye asked out of courtesy.

"She's the young lady of the Ye household, Miss Ye Qingtang." Si Bai plainly stated.

### **Chapter 32: Fire Venom (2)**

Si Ye's grim expression turned to wariness once he knew Ye Qingtang's identity.

"Si Bai, when did you get acquainted with them?" Si Ye's tone of voice became forbidding as well.

Being the eldest amongst the brothers, he had certainly experienced the grief of their mother's unnatural death and despised the Ye household, rumored to be the perpetrators.

"We don't welcome members of the Ye household." Si Ye asserted.

Si Bai was just about to make an explanation when Old Master Si interrupted: "Si Ye, don't be rude. She's our guest, here to provide treatment for Si Bai."

Si Ye was stunned for a moment before he looked once more, at Ye Qingtang's petite figure.

"Providing treatment? At her age?"

Old Master Si furrowed his brows. In fact, he still finds it hard to believe she was indeed capable of providing treatment for Si Bai.

“Don’t bother yourself with that. We had more pressing matters at hand.” With that said, Old Master Si turned his attention towards Ye Qingtang.

“Miss Ye, you were saying, you know how to suppress that Fire Venom?”

Si Ye grimaced at Old Master Si’s attitude. He could not stomach the fact that his grandfather, who had despised the Ye household all along, would allow one of their ladies to provide treatment for Si Bai, granting her free access to their premises.

Ye Qingtang gave a nod and reiterated: “Yes. One of the things I’ve brought today happens to come in handy.”

“Are you referring to those Ifrit’s scales?” Si Bai caught onto her words quickly when he was reminded of her purchases from the Pavilion of Treasures.

“Yup.” Ye Qingtang confirmed his conjecture.

Everyone from the Si household had a weird look on their faces once she made that claim.

Si Ye frowned deeply whilst he tried his best to curb his displeasure: “Miss Ye, I’ve no idea how you’ve managed to convince my grandfather into allowing you to provide treatment. But, if you’re thinking of suppressing the venom with an Ifrit’s scales, I’m afraid anyone would know that’s impossible.”

Though Ifrit’s scales did possess a high degree of fire resistance, but unless the scales could be ground as an additive for medications, they would be meaningless against the Fire Venom which ran rampant within a victim’s body.

Moreover, hardly anyone could lay a scratch on the scales, which stood as a testament to its almost indestructible composition. Therefore, grinding them to powder would be nigh impossible.

Si Ye’s statement, more or less, represented everyone’s thoughts. Even Old Master Si had a look of skepticism at the moment.

Ye Qingtang watched their reactions and giggled to herself.

“Since there’s no other way, why not give it a try?”

Si Ye knitted his brows as he could not refute her words.

Old Master Si drew a deep breath before he conveyed his decision: “We’ll let Miss Ye give it a go.”

“Grandpa! Are you sure that’s wise?” Si Ye clearly voiced his objection.

“Bro, Miss Ye’s right. Other than that Flame Suppressant pill, there’s no other way. We should try out any possible alternatives, for Si Qiong’s sake.” Si Bai tried to persuade him as well.

Si Ye’s countenance clouded over as he gave Ye Qingtang a perplexed and imposing look.

“Miss Ye, it’s up to you now.” Old Master Si declared in a heavy tone.

Ye Qingtang nodded with conviction, “I’d appreciate if I can get a private room, for my preparations.”

“Sure.” Old Master Si agreed to her request without any hesitation, and a room was ready for her in a jiffy.

Ye Qingtang locked herself in the room as she began her preparations.

Si Ye and Si Bai stood watch outside the room. While Si Ye peered at the tightly shut doors, with his brows remaining knitted throughout, he voiced his dissent: “This is all too ridiculous.”

### **Chapter 33: Fire Venom (3)**

Si Bai chuckled and said: “Relax bro . Didn’t I get better over the past few days?”

Si Ye sized him up from head to toe . Although Si Bai’s pallor was still quite apparent, his breathing had become less constricted than before . “Grandpa mentioned, Ye Qingtang’s the one who provided the prescriptions?”

“Yup . ”

Si Ye gave a condescending sneer despite Si Bai’s assurance .

“That could only mean she just happened to know the right prescription, but medical expertise’s not all about being affluent in prescriptions and theories . ”

Si Bai could tell that his brother’s judgment was clouded by his entrenched hatred towards the Ye household and decided to rest his case .

After the two watched the doors for some time and perceived no commotion from within, they proceeded over to Si Qiong’s room .

When Si Qiong was wounded by an Ifrit, Si Ye could only watch in vain

as he bore witness to him being poisoned by its venom . One could only imagine the remorse and rage Si Ye had to endure over his own incompetence in protecting his brother .

“Dr . Xu, how much longer can he hold out?” Si Ye was clearly distressed at Si Qiong’s critical condition, once he saw him bedridden, with a pain-stricken and sunburned face .

Dr . Xu looked rather despondent as he broke the news: “To be frank, three days at the most . Without any suppressants however, I’m afraid... . It won’t be much longer . ”

The news. .hit both Si Ye and Si Bai like a ton of bricks .

“Dr . Xu, will Ifrit’s scales be effective if they are used as the suppressants?” Si Bai asked, in hope of clearing any doubt .

Dr . Xu wore a bitter smile as he nodded, “That might be effective but

but unfortunately, I’ve yet to see anyone succeed . To accomplish that would require the scales to be broken down into powder suitable as additives . No amount of effort will be enough to grind those scales as hard as boulders . ”

When Si Ye heard the explanation, he threw a reproachful glance at Si Bai .

Si Bai could definitely figure out his brother's intended message, but he would rather not make any further comments . Whether Ye Qingtang was capable of achieving that remained to be seen .

"Lord Si Bai, is there a reason behind that question?" Dr Xu asked .

Before Si Bai could answer his query, Si Ye, who had obviously tolerated for too long, spoke contemptuously: "Some lady from the Ye household just claimed she's able to use those scales as suppressants . "

Dr . Xu was stunned for a moment once he heard that claim, and just when Si Ye was

Ye was expecting him to criticize Ye Qingtang for her arrogance, Dr . Xu heaved a sigh of relief instead .

"Well, if it's Miss Ye, she might know a way . " Dr . Xu clearly expressed his trust in Ye Qingtang's abilities .

"... . " Si Ye could never expect a prestigious physician like him to agree with Ye Qingtang's outlandish ways .

Si Bai could only watch without a word, and sigh at his brother sulking over his unexpected defeat .

Ye Qingtang had dropped by the Si household these few days and the times when Dr . Xu consulted her on medical practices could be considered aplenty . Anyone could tell that Dr . Xu was completely enamored by her medical expertise .

While everyone waited anxiously, Ye Qingtang finally showed up at the door to Si Qiong's room under the guidance of an attendant . She held a small porcelain bottle small porcelain bottle in her hands .

"Miss Ye, it's a pleasure to see you again . " Dr . Xu greeted her in an amicable manner once she stepped into the room .

Ye Qingtang gave a subtle nod and while avoiding Si Ye's piercing gaze almost instinctively, she approached the bedridden Si Qiong directly .

Si Qiong had fallen unconscious after desperately enduring the sweltering pain induced by the Fire Venom afflicting his body .

"How's he faring so far?" Ye Qingtang inquired from Dr Xu .

Dr . Xu could only shake his head at the threatening situation .

Ye Qingtang examined Si Qiong's condition and noticed fresh blood oozing from the bandages around his wound on the left side of his chest . She adjusted her sleeves in the next instant and made a request to Dr . Xu, who stood by the side: "I'll require your assistance, Dr Xu, in removing these bandages . "

#### **Chapter 34: Fire Venom (4)**

Dr. Xu was just about to come forward, when Si Ye's large stature cut in directly in front of the bed. With a tight grip, he locked Ye Qingtang's hand that tried to remove the bandages.

"You know the wound on his chest is deep. What're you trying to pull off by removing those bandages now?" Si Ye asked in a coldly contemptuous voice.

Ye Qingtang looked straight into the eyes of Si Ye, that glared at her like a beast staking its prey, and with a smile that played on her lips, she plainly stated: "If you want your brother to continue with his suffering, feel free to take your time."

Si Ye scowled at her, in a fury that engulfed him with fierce momentum.

"Lord Si Ye, Miss Ye's well-versed in the medical field. If she's willing to handle this personally, I'm sure she must be pretty assured of its success. Why not let her give it a go?" Dr. Xu tried to convince him as well.

"If she must try, Dr. Xu, you should be the performing physician. She's still much too young for this." Si Ye continued to glare at Ye Qingtang. Needless to say, regardless of her age, as long as she was from the Ye household, Si Ye would not give in.

Si Bai was growing a headache as he watched from the sidelines. His grandfather and eldest brother were like two peas in a pod, stubborn as a mule.

Si Bai was just about to coax Si Ye into stepping aside, when Ye Qingtang suddenly flipped her slender hand within Si Ye's clutch, shifting into a firm grip over his hand instead. Before Si Ye could even react, she raised a foot next and kicked him directly in his side!

Si Ye could never expect a girl like her to start a fight without warning, moreover her moves were at lightning speed!

A loud 'crack' resounded within the room.

Ye Qingtang had dislocated Si Ye's arm with that single kick....

"I'm trying to save a life now, stop wasting my time." Ye Qingtang tossed Si Ye out of the room and as she began removing the bandages, she told Si Bai: "Keep an eye on your big brother while I'm busy here!"

Si Bai could neither laugh nor cry at the situation, but he rushed forward nonetheless, and held Si Ye back, who had erupted into a frenzy.

"Bro, just let her try, I'll make the assurance."

"You idiot!" To prevent hurting Si Bai should he retaliate, Si Ye could only glare at Ye Qingtang, while he endured the excruciating pain from his dislocated arm.

He could not understand what's wrong with his family, placing their trust on someone from the Ye household!

Ye Qingtang removed the bandages swiftly without faltering. Beneath those bandages, a repulsive wound was exposed, accentuated by the burned skin overlapping it. Ye Qingtang narrowed her eyes and drew a dagger from her waist. With a swing of her arm, the dagger flashed across the wound, drawing a bloody seam!

Everyone else within the room had the shock of their lives when they witnessed her act.

Si Bai had never expected Ye Qingtang to reveal such a hand. He loosened his restraint on Si Ye instinctively.

Si Ye, after witnessing his brother being slashed in the chest, stormed forward like a vicious beast, set loose to tear Ye Qingtang apart.

But....

Once Dr. Xu saw Ye Qingtang raising a porcelain bottle next and emptying its contents, which were like crimson sawdust, into the open wound, he rushed forward as well and blocked Si Ye in his way.

“Lord Si Ye! Wait! Miss Ye’s applying the Ifrit’s scales directly into the wound. This will no doubt, suppress the venom in the body!”

“Ifrit’s scales?” When Si Ye heard Dr. Xu’s words, he was clearly stunned for a moment.

“It’s my ignorance. To think there’s really a way to grind those scales into powder. Miss Ye’s truly amazing.” Dr. Xu was totally flabbergasted. Despite her young age, Ye Qingtang who was capable of medical feats had time and again, impressed the experienced and prestigious physician.

### **Chapter 35: Fire Venom (5)**

“Miss Ye must have planned for this way ahead. To mix the ground scales as an additive into existing medications will take up more time. By applying it straight into an open wound, the venom in the bloodstream will be directly suppressed. Its.... the first time I’ve seen such a method.”

Si Ye stared at Ye Qingtang, with eyes full of suspicion and bewilderment.

After emptying a full bottle of ground Ifrit’s scales into the wound, Si Qiong’s parched skin gradually recovered at a rate that was visible to the naked eye. His fever subsided and his breathing became steady as well.

All these panned out like a miracle right before Si Ye’s eyes.

Ye Qingtang ensured there was nothing remaining in the bottle before concluding her treatment. She kept the empty bottle and said: “This will suppress the Fire Venom within his body. But to fully neutralize its toxin, he’ll still require the Ice Lotus”

Si Ye glanced at Ye Qingtang confoundedly before turning to Dr. Xu for his assessment on Si Qiong’s condition. His mood had certainly mellowed out.

Dr. Xu reassessed Si Qiong’s vital signs and just as Ye Qingtang had determined, “His condition has stabilized, there should be no further issues for the time being.”

When Si Ye learnt that the venom had indeed been suppressed, he secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

But....

When he perceived Ye Qingtang’s indistinct smile, Si Ye’s initial sense of indignation turned into embarrassment and his dashing face grew slightly red.

“Miss Ye.... I’m sorry...” Si Ye made an awkward apology. Even though he had a hard time believing it, but Ye Qingtang had truly accomplished what she had claimed at first.

Ye Qingtang smiled but kept quiet. Winning the hearts and minds of the Si household was never a walk in the park. Otherwise, she would not have tried her best at saving their lives.

Si Ye, while still being stifled with embarrassment, announced quickly, “I’ll inform grandpa.” With that said, he left without daring to look behind him.

Si Ye came to the main hall and told Old Master Si that Si Qiong was out of danger.

When Old Master Si learnt that it was all thanks to Ye Qingtang, he had quite a complicated look on his face. After a moment of silence, he heaved a sigh and said: “Looks like we have owed her a favor, again.”

“Grandpa, what’s up with her?” Si Ye was obviously flustered.

Old Master Si looked at his ruffled grandson, before revealing Ye Qingtang’s story, of how she requested for a meeting with Mu Su in exchange for treating Si Bai and the predicaments she faced in the Ye household.

Si Ye was greatly astonished at what he heard.

“Si Ye.... I’m afraid it won’t be easy for us to return her favors now.” Old Master Si showed a bittersweet countenance. If treating Si Bai had, for a time being, reduced his prejudice, topping that off by saving Si Qiong’s life had completely earned his trust towards the ill-fated girl from the Ye household.

If it was not for Ye Qingtang, two lives would have been lost.

Si Ye was deep in his thoughts when Old Master Si noticed his left arm dangling abnormally from his shoulders, “What’s wrong with your arm?”

Si Ye faltered for a moment after being reminded of his dislocated arm. He chuckled nonchalantly, before setting his arm in place, “Just a lesson that I deserved.”

“Grandpa, I’m the one who treated her with impertinence in the first place. I’ll apologize to her formally in a while.” Si Ye added sincerely.

Old Master Si brushed off his statement by waving a hand, “Although she’s still young, she’s totally incomparable to other girls her age. Since she hasn’t hold it against you, I’m sure she has not taken this matter to heart. Just one thing you’ll need to remember, we must regard her with honor and respect in the future.”

### **Chapter 36: Rite of the Sabbath (1)**

Old Master Si was against being embroiled in the Ye household’s internal conflict at first, but now, he had a change of heart.

If their Great Elder returned and intended to lay a finger on Ye Qingtang, the Si household would no longer just sit back and watch!

Si Ye agreed and nodded.

Dr. Xu wanted to consult Ye Qingtang on the procedures required for grinding the Ifrit's scales, but she circumvented his questions.

She did not intend to just disclose what she knew, which came as her advantage from being reborn.

In exchange for saving two lives, she had successfully earned the Si household's trust, which was well within her predictions.

Planning ahead step by step, she had already completed her strategic plan in this life.

After leaving the Si household, Ye Qingtang headed straight home. Retrieving a piece of Buoy from her dimension ring, she calmed her mind and began her cultivation training.

Regardless of any available support, ultimately, she could only rely on herself to wreak her vengeance!

A few days passed in the blink of an eye, and the City of Lin ushered in a significant day for a major event.

The Rite of the Sabbath, where all noble families from the City of Lin gave their blessings to the common folk, granting the auspice of peace and prosperity. At the time of the Sabbath, members of the noble families would proceed to the altar on stage, to contribute to this momentous occasion.

On the day of the Sabbath, decorations and frills celebrating the event, filled the streets and houses in the city. A huge altar on a stage was erected in the city's central plaza and although the event had yet to begin, the common folk had already gathered around the altar, waiting for the time of the Sabbath.

The magnificent Sky Wheel, crafted from a Dragon stone stood in all its glory atop the altar, with all its intricate carvings clearly visible to the naked eye. The carvings depicted several dragons perched around a roulette, which were so realistic, it instilled the impression that the dragons might come to life anytime.

Turning the Sky Wheel was an ancient rite that had been practiced for centuries. Legends told that the City of Lin had suffered catastrophes hundreds of years ago. When its people were in peril, a savior emerged to bring forth the plan for salvation. A Dragon stone was acquired after relentless effort and with the collaboration of hundreds of craftsmen, the construction of the Sky wheel was completed in a matter of months. Turning the Sky Wheel was said to create the aura of a dragon, which could overturn all evil responsible for calamities and in turn, brought peace and prosperity to the city.

The wheel weighed thousands of pounds, and to turn it successfully would require the strength of at least an innate stage five achiever. Representatives from the noble families would take their turns in turning the wheel. The number of rounds the wheel was able to revolve would directly determine the strength of the person who turned it.

"The Duan, Ye and Si households. Whose representative will be able to turn the most rounds this year, you reckon?" The common folk speculated amongst themselves while waiting for the event to start.

"All of them have their aces. Previously, the Ye household will be the one with the highest chance of winning. You know, their young lady Miss Ye Qingtang possessed a verdurous spirit root. Her potential definitely outshines the others. The only person who may be on par with her will be Mr Si Bai from the Si household."

“That guy was a prodigy, but he had a weak constitution since birth and didn’t he refrain from participating during the previous years? I doubt he will participate this year.”

“Miss Ye Qingtang? Haven’t you heard, her spirit root shattered in training?”

“That’s right. What a waste.”

“But, I’ve heard there’s another young lady from the Ye household, Miss Ye You. Not too long ago, she was scouted by the Cloud breakers’ sovereign as a disciple. She may be able to replace Miss Ye Qingtang as their ace... oh wait, she had already left to join their clan, guess she won’t be participating as well.”

### **Chapter 37: Rite of the Sabbath (2)**

“Miss Ye You or Ye Xun had always been their representative for the past years. If Miss Ye You is not around this time, Ye Xun will most likely be the one to go on stage then.”

“Although Ye Xun’s adopted, she fared quite well. Being graceful and with that pretty face, I’ll say she’s a suitable representative.”

Amongst the hushed whispers and crowd’s chatters, the time to commence the rite was fast approaching. Members from the three noble families had already arrived at the altar.

A thunderous drum roll, rumbling atop the altar’s stage, marked the official commencement for the Rite of the Sabbath.

Si Ye was the first to go on stage. Standing in front of the Sky Wheel, he proclaimed a prayer of blessing, before he put his arms around the wheel. Exerting his strength, he turned the wheel, weighing several thousand pounds, with all his might.

The gigantic Sky Wheel revolved with a tumultuous rumble, resembling the roar of a dragon. The common folk surrounding the stage, whilst deep in their prayers, had their sight locked onto the revolving wheel.

The Sky Wheel, after revolving for two rounds, came to a rest.

Other than its immense weight, there was so much backlash between the wheel’s meshing gears that for centuries, turning the wheel was deemed a great feat. To turn just a round would have taken its toll on a common cultivator. Si Ye had managed two, that obviously earned the crowd’s applause.

“As the eldest young lord from the Si household, his strength is truly impressive.”

Duan Tianrao was near the altar as he watched Si Ye walked down the stage. He maintained a straight face, that was in contrast to his brother, Duan Tianrui, who was clearly amused, as he spoke to Duan Tianrao in a hushed whisper:

“Bro, he ain’t that impressive. From what I see, he’s at most an innate stage five, while bro, you’ve already exceeded stage six the last month. Thrashing him is a piece of cake.”

A smirk played along Duan Tianrao’s lips while he ran his eyes over Si Ye but focused his attention on the dashing Si Bai, who stood beneath the stage instead.

Si Bai was the real genius among the Si household. Although he had never showcased his strength, but judging from his talents, Si Ye could never hold a candle to him. The real person whom Duan Tianrao wished to surpass was Si Bai all along.

Unfortunately, Si Bai had never participated.

After Si Ye came down from stage, it would be the Duan household's turn. As their representative, Duan Tianrao leapt onto the stage instantly with a single jump.

When his stalwart figure appeared on stage, plenty of girls amongst the crowd of audience feasted their eyes on him.

Out of all the noble men in the city, Si Bai could be considered the most attractive in terms of looks. But regrettably, due to his weak constitution, he had rarely left his residence. Duan Tianrao, on the hand, caught the eyes of many girls in the city because of his strapping build and charismatic face.

Duan Tianrao stood beside the Sky Wheel, and as he focused his eyes on it, he built up his might in an instant, and exploded into action to turn the wheel.

The wheel started revolving the next moment and with that rapid rotation, the crowd of audience stared in awe.

Under Duan Tianrao's might, the Sky Wheel completed three full rotations!

He had clearly surpassed Si Ye by achieving a further round!

That was the highest record in these recent years.

"He has improved again!"

"With such strength, no wonder he's chosen to be the next head of the household. No common man's able to exceed him at that."

Duan Tianrao had his usual demeanor even as he basked in the exhilarating cheers and praises from the crowd, though his eyes twinkled with an inkling of satisfaction. As he turned around to face the crowd, he paid homage to the audience and voiced his appreciation, "Today, it's an honor for me to stand here before everyone. I'll like to take this opportunity to announce a couple of important news."

### **Chapter 38: Rite of the Sabbath (3)**

While standing amongst the crowd beneath the stage, Ye Ling's face clouded over. Instinctively, he turned a worry-stricken look towards Ye Qingtang, who stood quietly beside him.

Duan Tianrao swept his gaze over the anticipating crowd and without further ado, he announced directly:

"Today, I ask everyone present to stand witness to the renunciation of the engagement between I, Duan Tianrao and Miss Ye Qingtang."

There were gasps of astonishment throughout the plaza once those words were spoken.

"He's calling off the engagement now? Why?"

“What he did sure makes the Ye household look bad.”

The common folk was obviously shocked by his announcement. The engagement between the Duan and Ye household, being noble families of equal standing, was a given celebration since long ago. It was hard to imagine their engagement would be renounced today, after all this time.

A shadow crossed Ye Ling’s face instantly, but he knew even if he was to make a fuss now, the person to shoulder all the burden in the end would still be Ye Qingtang. All he could do now was rein himself in.

Duan Tianrao watched the crowd’s reactions and continued his speech unperturbed: “That’s one, and the second piece of news I’ll like to share is that Miss Ye Xun, from the Ye household and I have professed our undying love for one another and we have gotten engaged.”

With that said, Duan Tianrao turned his gaze which directed the crowd’s attention towards Ye Xun, standing next to Duan Tianrui beneath the stage.

Ye Xun, while donned in a white gown highlighting her daintiness, revealed a captivating and bashful smile on her gentle and refined face.

“Xun-er, come on stage.” Duan Tianrao, upon feasting his eyes on her embellishing makeover, wore a bright smile as he reached out to her.

Ye Xun retained a bashful smile as she walked onto the stage under the inquisitive eyes of the crowd. Her fair and delicate hand was held closely by Duan Tianrao once she approached his side.

“Xun-er, you are my fiancée and technically a proud member of our household as well. Why not take this opportunity to give your blessing to the people as one of us too?” Duan Tianrao looked upon her with pampering affection and tenderness.

Ye Xun nodded meekly. Her dainty demeanor definitely caught the eyes of several people among the crowd.

Ye Xun, being the prettiest girl in the City of Lin, was a widely accepted opinion among the common folk of the city. Seeing her in the flesh reinforced that opinion. As she stood quietly next to the dashing Duan Tianrao, everyone thought that they were a match made in heaven.

“I must say, Miss Ye Xun’s indeed a perfect match for Mr Duan Tianrao.”

The crowd was also shocked by the second piece of news Duan Tianrao had announced. Calling off the engagement with Ye Qingtang in the first instant, but getting engaged with Ye Xun, who was also from the Ye household next, was certainly out of their expectations.

But....

Though they might have found it sudden, after getting a closer look at the couple on stage, they began to acknowledge they were a better match.

Although Ye Xun was adopted by the Ye household, she was a natural beauty, whose cordial nature had earned the praises of many. An embodiment of the perfect wife in the hearts of many men.

“Since its your recommendation, I’ll give it a try.” Ye Xun replied modestly, with a gentle smile that had certainly mesmerized her surrounding men.

Duan Tianrao stepped back as he gave a nod.

With a piercing glance, Ye Xun summoned her strength discreetly as she focused her attention on the wheel. The her today was no longer just an adopted lady from the Ye household. She was Duan Tianrao’s fiancée, and also the First Lady of the Duan household in the near future.

### **Chapter 39: Turning the Sky Wheel (1)**

While harboring such intentions, Ye Xun turned the Sky Wheel in the next instant.

Ye Xun might not be capable of exerting much strength, but with her good fortune, the Sky Wheel rotated nonetheless.

In the flash of an eye, the wheel completed a full rotation. When its tumultuous roar came to a halt, Ye Xun’s eyes gleamed with satisfaction.

After witnessing her result, Duan Tianrao was pleased as well.

“Didn’t expect Miss Ye Xun to improve this much. I remembered she only managed half a round last year... it’s a full round this time.”

“No wonder she has gotten so much love from Mr Duan Tianrao. With her talent and looks, if he becomes the head of the household in the future, she’ll be a worthy First Lady.”

The common folk were impressed by Ye Xun’s progress and began to stand in favor of Duan Tianrao’s marriage with her instead.

However, ....

“Wait a sec, if she’s representing the Duan household, what about the Ye household?”

Many started raising doubts in their minds.

For the past years, it was either Ye You or Ye Xun whom represented the Ye household. But now, Ye You had left to join the Cloud-breakers’ clan and Ye Xun had already given her blessing as part of the Duan household. From the way things stand, Ye Qingtang was the only one remaining who could represent the Ye household.

If it was still in the past, Ye Qingtang going on stage as a representative would be a given, but.... her spirit root had just shattered. How could she turn the wheel in that condition?

Having realized that, the crowd started focusing their attention on where members of the Ye household were.

Ye Ling had a wretched look on his face as he stood before the crowd’s prying eyes. Although he knew Duan Tianrao would renounce the engagement, never in his wildest dreams would he expect Ye Xun to be in cahoots with him, having reached the stage where they had even declared their engagement.

At this moment, Ye Ling had no time to pay heed to what others were thinking. He turned his gaze hastily towards Ye Qingtang standing beside him, as all sorts of emotions deluged his train of thoughts.

He had intended to let Ye Xun be their representative, but never in a million years did he think a situation like this would occur.

“Tang Tang....” Ye Ling’s stricken face was contorted with worry. Only the younger generation from the three noble families could go on the altar’s stage. Even if he wanted to go up himself, it would be against the rules of their custom.

Now, she’s the only one....

Ye Qingtang had stood silently beside Ye Ling all this time. Even when Duan Tianrao openly replaced her with Ye Xun in his engagement, she remained indifferent.

But when she saw Ye Ling’s worry-stricken look, she could not help but to drop her gaze slightly.

Ye Ling heaved a deep breath before making his decision, “Tang Tang, you’ll have to go on stage to represent our family.”

Ye Ling would avoid having her go on stage at all costs, if he was not left without a choice.

Whether Ye Qingtang was able to turn the wheel did not matter to him. All he wished was for the event to end as soon as possible.

Ye Qingtang nodded meekly. Her slightly lowered eyes glimmered with an inkling of craftiness. As she raised her eyes and looked towards Duan Tianrao and Ye Xun standing together as a couple on stage, beneath her face veil, a faint smirk played across her lips.

In the next moment, she gradually approached the stage.

Her appearance attracted the attention of many common folk amongst the surrounding crowd.

Many harbored mixed emotions towards this young lady from the Ye household. Even from the time before her spirit root shattered, she had never went on stage, not to mention appearing in public.

Therefore, today could be considered her debut, under the watchful eyes of the entire city.

## **Chapter 40: Turning the Sky Wheel (2)**

As Ye Xun gazed at the approaching Ye Qingtang across the crowd, a gleam in her eyes revealed her scorn towards her, which she had cleverly disguised without anyone noticing.

“Duan-lang, but she’s....” Ye Xun feigned unease as she looked at Duan Tianrao.

Duan Tianrao shook his head at her and stated: “That’s none of your concern. We’ll be married next year and you’re no longer just part of the Ye household. So, you don’t have to worry too much about their matters.”

Duan Tianrao appreciated Ye Qingtang’s understanding, at not kicking up a fuss over his engagement matters in public. But whether she was able to turn the wheel, or whether she would be an embarrassment to her family mattered naught to him.

When Ye Qingtang stepped onto the stage, Duan Tianrao hugged Ye Xun's waist brazenly and with a single leap, they descended gracefully to the floor.

Only Ye Qingtang remained on the spacious altar's stage.

"Bro, the Ye household's really sending her? Given her current condition, it'll be a wonder if she's able to turn that." Duan Tianrui did not conceal his disdain, as he rolled his eyes at Ye Qingtang coming on stage.

"Tianrui, please stop saying that..." Ye Xun furrowed her brows as she put on a despondent face.

Duan Tianrui retorted instead: "You're far too amiable. You remember the day you sent me to get that Flora moonstone? She's the one who snatched it up."

Ye Xun pursed her lips and dropped her gaze, hiding a glint of appeasement in her eyes.

"Xun-er, he's right. Her well-being's the Ye household's responsibility and has nothing to do with you. You don't have to feel guilty about this." Duan Tianrao consoled her in a gentle voice when he noticed his damsel in distress.

"That's right. Just sit back and relax." Duan Tianrui concurred.

Ye Xun nodded meekly at last, without anyone realizing her sneer behind that pretense. When she raised her eyes to look at Ye Qingtang standing on stage, a gleam of irony could be seen from her eyes.

Ye Qingtang remained indifferent as she observed the gigantic Sky Wheel while standing alone on stage.

The common folk crowded around the stage shook their heads discreetly when they noticed her lack of intent to turn the wheel.

Given Ye Qingtang's current circumstances, there was no way she could turn the wheel. Unfortunately, there was no one else who could represent the Ye household. If Ye Xun had yet to give her blessing on behalf of the Duan household, she could have participated in her stead, without Ye Qingtang having to make the attempt that was clearly beyond her capabilities.

However, ....

Just as everyone was assuming Ye Qingtang could not turn the wheel even an inch, beneath her face veil, a smile played on her lips. Suddenly, she raised her fair and delicate hands, placing a grip on the sides of the wheel, and with a chilling glance, she exerted her strength!

A tumultuous roar rumbled instantly, that was deafening to all surrounding the stage.

The Sky Wheel rotated without fail under her own strength, right before their eyes!

Not only was it rotating at a high speed, but in the blink of an eye, it exceeded two rounds and only started to slow down after the third.

It was only after a fourth round, that the gigantic Sky Wheel finally came to a halt.

That deafening roar ceased simultaneously as well.

And with that, a deafening silence filled the entire plaza.

Everyone was stunned as they stared at Ye Qingtang with their mouths agape.

“What on earth just happened?”