

**Chapter 71: The Birthday Banquet (8)**

“Sure, Miss Ye. Go ahead with whatever needs to be done.” With that said, Mu Su handed Ye Qingtang a note with his current address and added, “In that case, I’ll be on my way.”

“Thank you again, my Lord.”

Mu Su gave a slight nod before he turned around to leave the premises. His task at hand would be to inform His Highness about Ye Qingtang’s upcoming visit.

Mu Su’s departure was as sudden as his arrival, though none of the guests would dare to comment on that. Even after he had left the hall, everyone was still in a daze.

After confirming Mu Su’s departure, Ye Ling finally came to his senses, and together with the Second Elder, they pulled Ye Qingtang to a corner for questioning: “Tang Tang, what was that all about?”

Ye Qingtang watched their anxious faces and she responded with an assuring smile: “Father, Uncle, as you can see, I’ve grown a new spirit root! Though it can’t be compared to my previous one, but that’s still better than nothing. And now, his Lordship has agreed to refer me to Xuan Ling’s clan, isn’t this wonderful news?”

Ye Ling and the Second Elder were rendered speechless by her statement. The re-emergence of her spirit root and getting a chance to join an Exalted Clan were wonderful news indeed.

Although there were still many questions they wanted to ask her, both were aware that this was not the suitable time and place. Thus, they remained quiet.

On the other hand, the Great Elder who had witnessed the entire matter, lost all the joy from his birthday celebration. With a clouded face and a sharp glare, he stared daggers at Ye Qingtang behind her back.

“Grandpa....” Ye Xun approached the Great Elder’s side discreetly, with a complicated look on her face.

“Xun-er, follow me. There’re matters to be discussed.” The Great Elder spoke in a solemn tone and without paying further heed to the guests that were still in the hall, he retired to his study, accompanied by Ye Xun.

The guests saw the Great Elder’s unhappy face before he left, but that was within their expectations.

At first, everyone assumed Mu Su’s visit was a birthday surprise from Ye You, but that turned out to be a huge blunder. Recalling the Great Elder’s enthusiasm back then was quite the comic relief.

Anyone would have a sour face if he or she was in the Great Elder’s shoes now.

The Great Elder was at his worst as he led Ye Xun into his study. Once he closed the doors behind them, he gave an order to Ye Xun: “You’re to make haste to the Cloud-breakers as soon as possible.”

Ye Xun faltered for a moment.

The Great Elder explained: "Everyone in the city will come to know of Ye Qingtang's acquaintance with Mu Su and it'll be too risky to get rid of her here. If she even joins Xuan Ling's clan, she'll be the bane of Xiao-You's existence."

Ye Xun gave a nod as she had more or less caught on to the Great Elder's intentions.

Ye Qingtang's original spirit root was stolen by Ye You. If this rumor was to make its way around, Ye You's reputation would be tarnished.

"Grandpa, you want me to inform Sis about this?"

"That's right." The Great Elder nodded and added: "I'll order the men to escort you there quickly, once you've met her, you're to inform her of the details. Given her status, she's in a much better position to deal with that Ye Qingtang for now."

"Noted, Grandpa. I'll carry out your order without fail." Ye Xun curtsied meekly, though she had other plans in her mind.

Duan Tianrao had already shown his displeasure with her, and if Ye Qingtang really managed to join an Exalted Clan, he would definitely hold a deeper grudge against her. Her plan to become the First Lady of the Duan household would be foiled then.

However, if Ye Qingtang was to meet with a sudden death during her training, that would surely erase all lingering desires he had towards her.

Since no one would care to flog a dead horse.

## **Chapter 72: Courting Attention (1)**

The Great Elder looked at Ye Xun, seemingly satisfied with her response, "I'll write Xiao-You a letter and you'll bring it to her."

With that said, the Great Elder started writing the letter immediately.

Once Ye Qingtang saw the Great Elder and Ye Xun leaving the main hall, her eyes flashed with a mischievous gleam.

She made an estimation of the time and when the awaited moment drew near, she excused herself and left the hall as well.

But at the moment she stepped out of the hall, a figure suddenly appeared in front of her.

Ye Qingtang raised an eyebrow when she realized it was Duan Tianrao who had blocked her path.

"What do you want, Mr. Duan?" Ye Qingtang asked while her eyes flashed a look of contempt.

Duan Tianrao had a complicated look and as he gazed at Ye Qingtang's pretty face, his heart swelled with that unrelenting desire again.

"Tang Tang, can I have a word with you?"

Ye Qingtang could not care less about Duan Tianrao, but a sudden thought struck her and she put on a smile in the next moment, "I'm about to make my way to the courtyard for a breath of fresh air, we can chat over there if you want?"

Duan Tianrao became elated when he heard Ye Qingtang's reply. He had felt a tinge of regret ever since the day she revealed her appearance, but without a spirit root then, she lacked the credentials for a First Lady and he managed to get over it.

But now....

After he had witnessed her revealing her spirit root and Mu Su's agreement to refer her to an Exalted clan, that regret returned to hit him like a ton of bricks.

He was worried Ye Qingtang would resent him over the engagement matter at first, but now, after seeing her smile at him, he felt a sense of relief.

That's right....

Although he had called off his engagement with her, with all those years they had spent together, Ye Qingtang's infatuation towards him was a given.

Come to think of it, she might be angry at him, but her heart would still long for him.

"Of course. It has been a while since we had a stroll together." Duan Tianrao surely had no objections and while giving his response, he put on his most dashing smile.

Ye Qingtang regarded his narcissistic act with a cold-eyed glance before she turned around and headed towards the courtyard.

Duan Tianrao followed closely beside.

In contrast to the lively main hall, the courtyard exuded a peaceful atmosphere.

The moonlight spilled onto the flowers which bloomed across the courtyard, bathing them in a soft shimmering glow.

Duan Tianrao walked alongside Ye Qingtang, watching her pretty face illuminated by the moon, his heart fluttered and his eyes became fixated.

Ye Xun may well be a beauty, but she certainly can't hold a candle to Ye Qingtang.

"Tang Tang, this reminds me of when we were young. You were pretty timid back then, always unwilling to go outside, and I'll end up coming here to play with you. Do you still remember that foxtail flower growing in the outskirts of the city? You liked that flower and so I went all the way out there to pick it up for you. You were obsessed with that for quite a while...." Duan Tianrao could not help but start reminiscing on his childhood days with Ye Qingtang.

Now that Ye Qingtang had a spirit root again, and a chance to join an Exalted clan, she would obviously be the much better choice when compared with Ye Xun.

Ye Qingtang gave a perfunctory nod, and swept her eyes across the surrounding walls of the courtyard discreetly.

Duan Tianrao did not realize he was being ignored and just continued to rattle on, “We were best friends back then, and did you know that at that time, I actually considered spending the rest of our lives together to be a wonderful thing, but...”

### **Chapter 73: Courting Attention (2)**

Duan Tianrao hesitated for a moment before he continued: “I had never expected my father would choose me to be the next head of the household, and so I’ve had no choice but to put our household’s interests before my personal feelings, even if it meant hurting the one I loved...”

Duan Tianrao stopped in his tracks and in the next moment, he grabbed Ye Qingtang by the arm.

Ye Qingtang knitted her brows when she suddenly saw his yearning face.

“Tang Tang, will you forgive me?”

“I beg your pardon?” Ye Qingtang was not paying attention to him all this while, thus, to see him getting all worked up out of the blue was quite a ridiculous sight.

“Tang Tang, I know you’re still angry with me. I admit, it’s my fault. But you must believe me, though I’ve called off our engagement, you’re still always there in my heart. Due to the loss of your spirit root back then, I just didn’t have a choice. But things are different now, you’ve a spirit root again, even if it’s just a red one, I don’t mind at all, so.... Can we start over again?” Duan Tianrao poured his heart out to her.

But Ye Qingtang could only find his words amusing when she heard them.

She quickly slipped out of his grasp, and after smoothing out her wrinkled sleeves, she replied nonchalantly: “Mr Duan, please be reminded that you’re currently engaged with Ye Xun. Do not be distracted by nostalgia.”

Once Duan Tianrao heard her words, his heart fluttered. If Ye Qingtang was indeed jealous over his affair with Ye Xun, that would prove he was still there in her heart.

In the next moment, he made up his mind and said: “Tang Tang, just say the word and I’ll renounce my engagement with Ye Xun anytime. There’s actually nothing between me and her. You and I are meant to be.”

Ye Qingtang could not help but to roll her eyes at him. Does the word ‘shame’ exist in his dictionary?

Nothing between him and Ye Xun?

If getting engaged meant nothing to him, would bearing his child qualify as ‘something’ then?

Although all those thoughts crossed her mind, Ye Qingtang could not be bothered to respond to his romantic scam.

Just as Duan Tianrao continued to profess his love for her, four shadowy figures suddenly descended into the courtyard from beyond the walls.

A mischievous gleam flashed across Ye Qingtang’s eyes.

They are finally here.

When those figures landed, their eyes revealed an inkling of anticipation at the sight of Ye Qingtang, but when they noticed Duan Tianrao standing beside her, they faltered for a moment.

Ye Qingtang winked at them discreetly before stepping forward to speak. Her voice sounded cold and distant: "Who goes there? All illegal trespassers will be prosecuted!"

Those figures, who turned out to be men clothed in black garbs, seemed to come to their senses at her words. After they exchanged glances, they unsheathed the swords on their hips.

"Are you Ye Qingtang?"

"Yes. I am." Ye Qingtang answered without hesitation.

"Good. We've been hired to take your life. No hard feelings, but this is the end for you." The men sneered before they launched their attacks on Ye Qingtang.

"Watch out!" After Duan Tianrao realized those men were after Ye Qingtang, a sudden thought struck him. He happened to be fretting over winning her back, and now, these villains actually showed up, allowing him to play the hero saving the damsel in distress.

With that in mind, Duan Tianrao drew his sword and while shielding Ye Qingtang behind his back, he engaged in a sword fight with those men.

### **Chapter 74: Courting Attention (3)**

"Tang Tang, go and get reinforcements quickly! I'll stall them here!" Duan Tianrao exclaimed.

Ye Qingtang appeared to be in a panic, but her eyes remained dispassionate.

The black-garbed men managed to circumvent Duan Tianrao's attacks, though they were unable to put a scratch on him. Duan Tianrao thought his opponents could not fare against him and even took a chance to flaunt his swordplay.

Ye Qingtang watched their perfunctory fight with a cold-eyed gaze and when Duan Tianrao did not notice, she gestured to the black-garbed men to attack without constraints.

Those men, who had qualms at first, immediately went on the offensive once they saw her gesture.

Duan Tianrao, who managed to fight on par initially, became overwhelmed and suffered injuries in an instant.

The clashing of their steel intensified and its commotion emanated throughout the estate. Ye Qingtang swept her gaze across the corridors and noticed several lights approaching from the direction of the main hall. Evidently, the commotion had already attracted people's attention.

With that in mind, the dispassionate look in her eyes was replaced by tension.

Duan Tianrao had no idea why his opponents suddenly exerted an immense power and he sustained more injuries from the fight. He could no longer keep up with appearances and struggled desperately to fend off their attacks. From the corner of his eyes, he caught a glimpse of Ye Qingtang 'frozen in fear' and shouted: "Tang Tang! You must escape! These people are here to kill you!"

Ye Qingtang seemed to 'come to her senses' at his words and finally turned around to escape.

However, Ye Ling and the guests in the main hall had long noticed the commotion from their fight and had since arrived at the entrance to the courtyard, where they happened to bump into the 'escaping' Ye Qingtang.

"Tang Tang! What's going on?!" Ye Ling rushed forward to check on her and after ensuring she was unharmed, he heaved a breath of relief.

"Father! There're assassins trying to kill me! Mr Duan's fending them off!" Ye Qingtang answered in a 'panic-stricken' state.

Everyone became startled once they heard that.

Who had the nerve to attempt an assassination on Miss Ye, right in the middle of the Ye's residence?

Ye Ling was shocked by her words as he was reminded of the previous assassination attempt on his own life, orchestrated by the Great Elder. Was this his doing again?

"The nerve of them! I'll have their heads on a pike!" The Second Elder grunted and rushed towards the courtyard in the next instant.

Ye Ling and Ye Qingtang, together with the rest of the guests followed behind.

A heavy and festering scent of blood wafted throughout the courtyard, as the carnage between Duan Tianrao and the black-garbed men came into plain sight under the moonlight. Duan Tianrao obviously could not match his opponents as his attire was already drenched red with blood!

"Back off!" The Second Elder bellowed as he cut in between them with a single leap, while the guards gathered shortly thereafter and repelled those men.

Duan Tianrao heaved a deep breath after reinforcements finally arrived, his whole body was soaked in cold sweat.

"Mr. Duan, are you all right?" Ye Ling furrowed his brow as he attended to his injuries.

"I'm okay, those bastards wanted to kill Tang Tang. Uncle Ye, you've got to arrest them." Although Duan Tianrao put up a tough front, he was actually gritting his teeth in pain from his injuries. But he did not forget to keep up with appearances while he gazed at Ye Qingtang with affection in his eyes, saying:

"As long as Tang Tang's safe, I've no regrets."

Ye Qingtang regarded his act with amusement discreetly.

His act had proved rather efficient in portraying the situation without having her to relate the whole incident personally. That saved her a lot of trouble.

## **Chapter 75: A Great Show (1)**

After sending Ye Xun off to the Cloud-breakers, the Great Elder heard the commotion and rushed over to the scene as well. Upon reaching the courtyard, with all the guests crowding around, he furrowed his brow and made his way through.

“What’s going on here?” The Great Elder asked in a solemn tone.

Once Ye Qingtang noticed the arrival of the Great Elder, her eyes twinkled with an inkling of amusement. But before she could speak, Duan Tianrao cut in to report on the situation, while being supported by his attendants, “Great Elder, there’re intruders trying to murder Tang Tang.”

“What?!” The Great Elder faltered for a moment. Someone else wanted her dead?

The Great Elder thereupon laughed in his head. Judging from the matter, it would seem Ye Qingtang had again provoked the ire of a certain dangerous personage. But unfortunately, her assassination was a failure, else it would save him a lot of trouble.

Though those thoughts crossed his mind, his countenance remained impassive as he voiced his ‘concern’ in a dignified manner: “To think there are yet people who would commit such atrocity. Are those intruders apprehended?”

“The Second Elder has managed to deter them. It’s only a matter of time, I reckon.” Duan Tianrao followed up.

The Great Elder gave a slight nod before he proceeded to observe the fight that was ongoing between four black-garbed intruders and the Second Elder along with the house guards.

Is that all of them?” The Great Elder questioned.

“Yes.” Duan Tianrao, who was desperate to keep up his appearance in front of Ye Qingtang, added quickly: “Tang Tang and I were having a stroll before those men suddenly appeared, claiming to take her life. If I had not fended them off in time, I’m afraid they would’ve succeeded.”

Ye Qingtang remained silent while Duan Tianrao continued to embellish his achievement. She gave a twitch at the corner of her lips discreetly and instead of denying his embellishments, she covered up for him in an apprehensive manner: “Mr. Duan’s right. Those intruders were after me. I would be dead if he had not protected me.”

The Great Elder knitted his brow. He would very much prefer for her to be dead, but as Great Elder of the Ye Household and in the presence of the guests, he had to feign fury over the matter: “Imbeciles! I’ll make you all regret making enemies of the Ye Household!”

With that said, the Great Elder joined the fray, ready to dispose the intruders.

However...

Those intruders, while still embroiled in the battle, exchanged glances between themselves, with eyes that flashed a flicker of excitement when they saw the Great Elder.

Before the Great Elder could even make a move, one of them shouted: “Great Elder! What do you think you’re doing?!”

The Great Elder had intended to apprehend the intruders without putting in too much effort, but he could never expect them to bring up his name in the middle of the fight and was thus, stunned for a moment.

“Are you trying to silence us?!” One of the intruders who seemed to be the leader glared daggers at the Great Elder.

Once those words were spoken, all eyes were on the Great Elder in an instant.

What’s that?

Something about silencing a witness?

Those intruders are acquainted with the Great Elder?

The Great Elder had no idea what was going on but he retorted furiously at the leader’s words: “Shut your trap! I’ve no idea who you’re and what you’re babbling about!”

The leader sneered and reiterated: “I’ve suspected you’re a conniving one. Hiring us to assassinate Ye Qingtang on one hand, but turning against us on the other, once you’ve deemed we would fail. Is this your plan to cover up for your misdeed?”

### **Chapter 76: A Great Show (2)**

Once the intruder had spoken those words, everyone in the courtyard gasped in astonishment.

Those intruders were actually hired by the Great Elder to assassinate Ye Qingtang? What exactly is going on here?

Ye Ling’s face clouded over in an instant. Given his previous experience, he believed that that was most probably the case.

The Second Elder ceased his attacks for the time being and frowned suspiciously at the Great Elder.

Whereas the Great Elder was clearly taken aback for a moment.

Why are these assassins trying to pin this crime on him?

“Stop spouting nonsense! As the Great Elder of the Ye household, why would I want our young lady assassinated?!”

Ye Qingtang watched the situation unfold with a twinkle of amusement in her eyes. She came forward and added: “That’s right! You think you can get away scot-free by making that groundless accusation?! Come clean right now or don’t even think about leaving this place in one piece!”

The Great Elder did not expect Ye Qingtang to speak up for him instead and became quite flabbergasted.

The intruders exchanged glances before the leader replied: “Miss Ye, we’re telling the truth. If you want evidence, what we have here is the Great Elder’s handwritten letter delivered to us by one of his henchmen.”

With that said, one of the intruders produced an envelope, “We may hand this letter over to you, on the condition that you’ll let us go safely.”

Ye Qingtang did not answer straight away but took a peek at the Great Elder instead.



The Great Elder furrowed his brow but did not reject the proposal since he certainly had not hired assassins to deal with Ye Qingtang.

“All right, I’ll promise that after determining its authenticity.” Ye Qingtang agreed since there were no objections.

Once the verbal agreement was made, the intruder tossed the envelope, which landed neatly in front of Ye Qingtang and the others.

She picked up the envelope immediately, before browsing its contents with Ye Ling.

During which, the Great Elder stood by, totally unperturbed.

However...

After checking the content, Ye Ling’s clouded face became more intense as he peeled his eyes off the letter and glared straight at the Great Elder.

“Why’re you doing this to my daughter?!”

Even the Great Elder who was initially unperturbed, faltered for a moment at Ye Ling’s exclamation.

“Sir, I beg your pardon?”

Ye Ling exposed the written letter in front of everyone, where its content indicated a reward of ten thousand gold for taking Ye Qingtang’s life.

And that content was clearly signed off with the Great Elder’s signature seal, bearing his initials.

“That must be a fake.” The Great Elder knitted his brow and retorted.

“Fake? I can recognize your handwriting, and your signature seal is impossible to be forged.” Ye Ling answered coldly.

The surrounding guests began examining the seal on the letter and concluded that it was certainly identical to the one on the Great Elder’s birthday invitation, which they had received not too long ago.

All eyes were on the Great Elder again, this time with looks of astonishment and disbelief.

Forging a person’s handwriting might be plausible, but certainly not in the case of a signature seal which was a unique private property. That could only happen if it was stolen right under the person’s nose, which was highly unlikely given the Great Elder’s prowess.

The Great Elder’s face clouded over as he personally scrutinized the handwriting and the seal on the letter, which was at first glance, identical to his own.

### **Chapter 77: A Great Show (3)**

However...

Upon a closer inspection, the Great Elder was stunned. The letter was indeed written by himself and it even turned out to be exactly the one which he had ordered to be sent to Qin Luo’s Pavilion, for Ye Ling’s assassination previously. But now.... why was Ye Qingtang specified as the target instead?

The Great Elder was shocked by a sudden realization, his eyes shot daggers at Ye Qingtang in the next moment.

That night, those assassins he hired turned against him in the midst of their mission. Something felt off ever since and after taking a closer look at these intruders now, they shared the same physique as those assassins back then...

Could it be that those assassins were bought off by Ye Qingtang and everything that happened then and now, was all orchestrated by her?!

But even after discerning all that, the Great Elder had no way to speak up for himself, since the source of the letter and its original content were all unspeakable.

Regardless of the target being either Ye Ling or Ye Qingtang, any assassination attempt would be considered a heinous crime punishable by death!

"The Great Elder had attempted to assassinate the heir to the household! Guards, seize him now!" Ye Ling shouted out the order in the next instant.

Once the order was given, the Second Elder directed his fists towards the Great Elder immediately.

The Great Elder could never have expected things to end up this way. He had no choice but to defend himself from the Second Elder's attacks.

From this moment on, the situation spiraled out of control. The invited guests could never imagine encountering firsthand an assassination attempt on the young lady of the house, not to mention the horror of witnessing the Great Elder being exposed as the mastermind!

Everyone could not help but to assume, based on the Great Elder's recent actions, that his ambition to lead the Ye household was the catalyst. Given Ye Ling's deteriorating health and Ye Qingtang being the only heir to the household, the Great Elder might have become all too eager to achieve his goal.

Duan Tianrao shared the same sentiments as the others, but could never believe the Great Elder would actually perpetrate an assassination, and could only gawk at the ensuing chaos.

The Great Elder, when compared with the Second Elder, had always been slightly inferior in terms of strength. He being able to gain an upper hand over the latter the other day, was only due to his advantage in numbers. Now, in a one-on-one, the both of them managed to fight on par.

The Great Elder was exasperated over his own incompetence for falling into Ye Qingtang's trap. Even if the Second Elder was still recuperating from his previous injury, given his superior prowess, it would only be a matter of time before the Second Elder would defeat him.

While crossing their fists, the Great Elder turned his attention discreetly towards Ye Qingtang amongst the crowd. When he managed to gain some distance from his opponent, he dashed towards the crowd all of a sudden, attempting to grasp Ye Qingtang as a hostage.

His sudden move was unexpectedly fast, like a lightning struck out of a blue sky. Even Ye Ling, who stood guard beside Ye Qingtang, had no time to react.

Ye Qingtang, having discerned the Great Elder's presence closing in on her, managed to evade his grasp in the nick of time, but at the same moment, his grasp happened to tear off a piece of her coat.

From within the torn coat, dropped the egg of the lightning drake, which Ye Qingtang had held close to her bosom ever since its discovery, and with a thud, the egg crashed mercilessly onto the floor.

Ye Qingtang furrowed her brow as she watched the egg suffered its fate in vain. Before she could even grief over its loss, the Great Elder had already continued to come after her.

But...

The fallen egg suddenly crackled on its own in the midst of all the commotion. More cracks surfaced across its shell in the interim and began falling off into pieces. Before the crowd could even react to the strange spectacle, a small shadow darted out from its remains, heading straight towards the Great Elder!

### **Chapter 78: A Little Dragonoid (1)**

The shadow's speed was far beyond a person's reaction time.

The Great Elder was about to grab Ye Qingtang before the shadow crashed straight into him. A thunderous rumble exploded right in the Great Elder's ears as the tremendous force from the head-on collision sent him flying head over heels!

However, it did not stop at that. Before the Great Elder could even hit the ground, the shadow had already caught up to him in midair, unleashing a flurry of blows onto him. Like a mayhem of fireworks, its lightning movements were dazzling.

Everyone was shocked by the spectacle before them, even Ye Ling and the Second Elder, who had rushed to aid Ye Qingtang, froze in their tracks.

Ye Qingtang was stunned as well. She watched the shadow that emerged from the egg, continue its thrashing on the Great Elder.

What is that?

Ye Qingtang was quite disturbed as she reflexively turned her attention towards the fallen egg, which were now, pieces of broken empty eggshells.

It's empty... don't tell me....

Ye Qingtang reverted her attention to the shadow, that happened to slow down its movements and it was during then could she finally make out what the shadow was.

It's .... or in fact, he or she's... a toddler...

The toddler looked, at most, two or three years old, with a rosy complexion. However, a pair of dark bluish horns protruded from the head, and from the buttocks... grew a tail covered in reptilian scales, swaying along with the toddler's movements...

What....

The hell is that?!

Ye Qingtang was dumbfounded. The hatchling from the egg was supposed to be a lightning drake, but 'the little dragonoid' that emerged instead totally stupefied her.

Even in her past, she had never heard of a drake that could transform into a humanoid!

The chubby little fellow looked so adorable at first glance, its small rounded face and rosy cheeks seemed to be stuffed like a meat bun. However, its dark green eyes squinted dangerously, whilst its cuddly fists were pounding fractures into the Great Elder's bones.

For the first time since her rebirth, Ye Qingtang began to wonder if she had overlooked some vital information in her past.

While she was still pondering over its nature, the Great Elder was nearly beaten to death.

The little fellow, whose height could not even reach the Great Elder's thighs, was exceedingly brutal. Its strength was capable of pinning a grown man on the ground, whilst raining punches, each devastating enough to inflict jaw clenching pain. No one could imagine a grown man would be unable to hold up against a toddler's strength!

Thus, even the Second Elder froze in his tracks at the sight of this 'brutality'.

The Great Elder, lauded for his impenetrable resilience, was beaten senseless by now. He had struggled numerous times to break free, but once he lifted his head, he was knocked back into the ground by its punches, and the impacts resounded like a percussion instrument.

When all the Great Elder's bones were seemingly fractured, 'the little dragonoid' suddenly jumped high into the air, and curling the tail that swayed behind, it lashed mercilessly, like a whip, onto the Great Elder's head. The lashing impact came down on the Great Elder like a ton of bricks literally and he was knocked out cold in an instant.

"....." Ye Qingtang was shocked beyond words.

Such monstrosity was unheard of!

After ensuring its victim was beaten to a pulp, the little fellow finally dusted off its hands, seemingly satisfied with its accomplishment. It turned around in a sudden, with its dark green eyes focused on Ye Qingtang, who was still standing dumbstruck at a side.

### **Chapter 79: A Little Dragonoid (2)**

When their eyes met, that bloodthirsty glare vanished without a trace. The little dragonoid's expression became pleasant, blinking its innocent eyes at Ye Qingtang, and in the next moment, it trotted towards her on its little feet.

Beneath the surrounding gazes of astonishment, the little fellow who had beaten the Great Elder to a pulp was now wagging its tail like a puppy before its owner. While rubbing its hands with glee, it regarded Ye Qingtang with eyes sparkling with excitement.

"Mommy~ Mommy~ I've beaten the bad guy~ Ain't I great?"

“...” Mommy?!

Ye Qingtang stared at this peculiar little ‘beast’ in bewilderment.

She had heard of filial imprinting in precocial birds, whereby a hatchling would identify the first living species it saw as its parent, but to think... that such a ‘practice’ was amongst a noble beast, like the lightning drakes as well?

The little fellow was unaware of Ye Qingtang’s contemplations. With its head held high, it continued to wag its tail and regard her with enthusiasm. Its innocent and adorable features were totally unlike that of the savage beast that had just beaten someone to near death.

“Yeah...” Ye Qingtang heaved a deep breath to suppress the palpitations in her chest.

Having received her praise, its wagging tail turned livelier.

Rubbing her forehead, Ye Qingtang had the notion that things had proceeded beyond her expectations. But to not dwell on the matter, she approached Ye Ling to carry on with her plan.

The little fellow toddled behind her like a duckling following its mother, with its sparkling eyes transfixed on her and a smile playing on its lips.

Mommy~ Mommy ~ It had finally managed to appear before its mother-to-be....

However.... the little fellow peered at its own pair of little claws, and could vaguely make out the reptilian scales beneath its fair skin.

Sure enough, this wouldn’t do at all.

Only the offspring of that man and its mother could serve as the host for its powerful conscious. Though this lightning drake was a powerful existence, should it remain in this host for too long, the drake’s body would surely crumble.

If its mother had not faced that danger just now, it would never had succumbed to possess the young body of the drake.

Usually, drakes did not possess the ability to transform into a humanoid. Ye Qingtang’s knowledge from her past memories did not fail her, but she had no way to know that the chubby little fellow behind her was originally the little black orb conceived from the heart of the demon emperor.

“Tang Tang... that’s...” Like the others, Ye Ling was shocked by that little fellow’s presence since it first appeared.

“Father... that, I’ll explain later. We need to decide what to do with the Great Elder now.” Ye Qingtang suggested after having simmered down.

Ye Ling gave a slight nod, whilst the Second Elder had already apprehended the tattered Great Elder and brought him before them.

Ye Qingtang turned her attention towards the surrounding guests and addressed them: “We’re sorry for having to put all of you through that. May all the guests leave the premises now for this is a private matter. Thank you for your kind cooperation.”

The guests had no intention of staying behind in the first place. What transpired tonight was a sticky situation where no one would wish to get involved in. Thus, in accordance to Ye Qingtang's request, the guests left without complaints, after bidding their valedictions.

"Tang Tang, tonight, I've...." With the exception of Duan Tianrao, who looked at Ye Qingtang with a face full of concern.

However, Ye Qingtang regarded him with an impassive look and interrupted his words: "Mr Duan, thank you for your assistance tonight. We'll arrange for someone to see you home safely."

Duan Tianrao faltered for a moment when he noticed her cold and impassive face. He could not help but to feel a sense of foreboding.

"Tang Tang, I'm fine, really. What do you think of what I've suggested earlier? As long as you agree, I'll talk to my father once I return home later, and we can reinstate our engagement."

### **Chapter 80: Cleansing (1)**

Ye Qingtang gave the incessant Duan Tianrao a cold look, twisting a slight sneer across her lips.

"Mr. Duan, all good things come to an end, and this is it for us. Farewell." With that said, Ye Qingtang did not give him any chance to respond and had the attendants carry him away in a jiffy.

Duan Tianrao was in a state of shock as he gaped in disbelief at Ye Qingtang's apathetic response. However, before he could even make a comeback, he was carried out of the Ye residence already.

After that, the people who remained in the courtyard were: Ye Qingtang, the little dragonoid, Ye Ling, the four assassins and the Great Elder, whom was restrained by the Second Elder.

"The people have already left. Guess it's high time we make an exit as well?" The leader of the assassins suggested.

Ye Ling furrowed his brow at the leader's statement.

Ye Qingtang gave a laugh instead: "Good job. I'll make sure the full payment reaches Qin Luo's Pavilion tomorrow. Have a good rest."

The leader replied in kind: "Thank you Miss Ye. We look forward to your patronage again. Good night."

With that said, the assassins vanished beyond the walls of the courtyard.

Every word of their conversation was heard clearly by the rest of the people present, including the Great Elder, who had awoken in the midst.

"Ye Qingtang! How dare you set this up against me!" The Great Elder glared daggers at her, like a vicious beast ready to maul her to pieces.

Ye Ling and the Second Elder were astonished. They initially believed the assassins were hired by the Great Elder, but to think... this was all a set-up by Ye Qingtang.

Ye Qingtang regarded the Great Elder with amusement.

“A set-up? My, you do have a way with words. But isn’t this letter written personally by you? All I did was changing two words.” Ye Qingtang flapped the letter in front of the Great Elder’s face.

“You!” The Great Elder, furious beyond words, gnashed his teeth at her.

Ye Qingtang sneered in return: “Your evil deeds are your undoing. Soon, everyone in the city will come to know of your treachery. Do you still think you can walk away scott-free?”

“Great Elder. You’ve committed a heinous crime and in accordance to the decree of the noble Houses, we hereby sentence you to death.” Ye Qingtang smirked while she recited the judgment.

The Great Elder continued to glare at Ye Qingtang, whilst sneering: “Sentenced to death by the mere likes of you imbeciles? I dare you! My granddaughter and the Cloud-breakers will see to my vengeance!”

Ye Ling and the Second Elder had a look of concern on their faces when the Great Elder threatened them with that statement.

Indeed, even after exposing the Great Elder’s crime in public, thereby granting his execution but... he still had Ye You’s backing.

If the judgment was made known to her, things might turn ugly in time to come.

Especially since Ye You became the disciple of the Cloud-breaker’s sovereign, if she was to involve them in this matter, the outcome would be uncertain.

However, Ye Qingtang remained unperturbed and grinned like a Cheshire cat instead, “Oh about that, I hate to break this to you. After you’re executed, what we’ll announce to the public will go something like this: Although you’ve committed a heinous crime, in lieu of your past contributions, the benevolent us have decided to just revoke your position as Great Elder and incarcerate you for a period of time. We’ll ensure no one will know you’re already executed, including your granddaughter. She’s far away at the Cloud-breakers. How many years do you think it’ll take for her to complete her training and return here personally to find out you’re dead?”

ED: Ooh, could this finally be it?!