

Chapter 151: Shocking Yu Academy

Lu Yin left after he greeted the officials; it was apparent that none of them had any energy to entertain him at this moment. However, just as he was about to leave, a flying vehicle suddenly changed directions and careened towards Lu Yin with no intentions of avoiding him.

Lu Yin found this strange, but he easily dodged the ship before turning around to look at who had tried to run him over. A man exited the vehicle and glanced at Lu Yin with a provoking, cruel smile on his face.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed coldly once he saw the man, as he recognized his face. This man was from the Outerverse Youth Council and was one of the two Limiteers who followed Bazeer. No wonder he's here looking for trouble.

"I was just going to say that I had great luck today, but I never expected to run into you! What? Did you get chased out from Astral-10 as well?" the man sneered while glaring at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin disdainfully answered, "Who do you think you are? How dare you speak to me."

The Limiteer was infuriated by Lu Yin's contemptuous response; he didn't expect that Lu Yin would dare to be so rude to a Limiteer as him. "We can start by talking about what you did to Ghostfire. Do you realize that you crippled a genius?"

"Genius? More like an idiot! He was just a pathetic thing that only knew how to avoid attacks with his innate gift. His body was so unbelievably weak that I crippled him with a single attack. Can you really call that a genius?" Lu Yin taunted.

The Limiteer clenched his fists to suppress his boiling anger. "There are competitions within the Youth Council as well, and Ghostfire was a genius that we groomed. Since you crippled him, I'm going to do the same to you right now and teach you why you can't offend certain people! You'll regret this for the rest of your life!" The Limiteer then dashed towards Lu Yin and punched out, his surging star energy drawing everyone's attention.

Lu Yin's gaze turned cold. This person was a Limiteer as well as a member of the Outerverse Youth Council, and he would be considered very powerful by the Outerverse's standards. However, to Lu Yin, who was used to battling against Limiteers from the Astral Combat Academy, this man was too weak. He was at most comparable to Craynor.

To be fair, it was already quite impressive that this Limiteer could be considered on par with the second ranked fighter on the Blaze Realm Rankings. Even though he was just a Limiteer, a Limiteer from the Outerverse was usually only comparable to a Melder from the Innerverse. No matter how outstanding this person was, he was still miles away from Lu Yin.

Bang!

Lu Yin easily blocked the Limiteer's attack, causing the palace guards to stop in shock. They had been running forwards to defend Lu Yin, but apparently, there was no need for them to interfere.

Lu Yin squeezed his hand slightly and the gruesome sound of bones snapping filled the air. The Limiteer cried out in pain as Lu Yin squeezed down harder, crushing the man's fist. He then twisted his hand

downwards to force the man to kneel on the ground. The Limiteer looked up angrily. "How dare you?! Release me! I'm from the Youth Council."

Lu Yin coldly replied, "I'm teaching you who you cannot afford to offend." He then used Three Stacks to completely smash the man into the ground, creating a small pit in the earth.

Everyone who saw this scene was dumbfounded. How could a Limiteer powerhouse from the Outerverse Youth Council possibly be completely defeated by Lu Yin? How long has it been since he joined Astral-10? Could the Astral Combat Academy really have caused his power to make such an amazing leap?

Lu Yin looked down at the Limiteer in the pit and apathetically said, "Go and tell Bazeer to remember what he said in the past. I will join the Outerverse Youth Council."

He then left without waiting for a response while the Limiteer gritted his teeth. He was enraged, but also stunned. This person had improved greatly after such a short trip away from the Great Yu Empire. He had only ever been dealt a crushing defeat this badly from an Explorer, but Lu Yin had handed him one as just a Melder. How was he so strong?

A few of the nearby officials looked at each other in surprise; King Zishan had changed drastically. If, in the past, he had just been an average person who was trying to reap some benefits from his new position, he was now a young talent who had just unveiled his true power. While he was still too weak to have any real impact in the empire, he had displayed his potential, and no one would ever underestimate him again. No wonder millions of youngsters had taken the entrance exam when Astral-10 had arrived at the Frostwave Weave; an elite academy could truly transform a person.

The King Zishan Palace looked exactly the same as before. Lu Yin searched through the entire mansion, but he still wasn't able to find any clues as to where the Zishan Clan's treasure could be. He sighed reluctantly; it wasn't his fault if he couldn't find it. He looked up at the three rings in the sky and his eyes flashed. Is it time to learn the complete Sky Beast Claw? While it might not be necessarily useful anymore, I still have the desire to learn it in its entirety and to challenge the five Hall Masters... It's time to test their strength.

Although the upheaval in the Great Yu Empire had caused some elites to leave Yu Academy, most of them had remained behind.

One day later, Gerbach was sitting at the top of a tower, gazing at the lake below him with a sad expression. He was wondering whether the empire would be able to successfully weather the oncoming storm.

His gadget started beeping, and a quick glance at it caused Gerbach's eyes to light up and a smile to spread across his face. "He's got guts, challenging all five Hall Masters. It looks like he's learned a lot during his time at Astral-10. Regardless, the five of us earned our positions through our genuine ability. He's dreaming if he thinks that he can catch up to us within a few months just because he's improved quickly." Gerbach then immediately notified the other Hall Masters. It had been a long time since anyone had challenged one of them, and Lu Yin was challenging all of them at once.

Actually, Schutz is also in Astral-10, so the two of them have probably battled before. Since he's challenging us now, then could he really be that confident in himself? No, we can't let him do this. At

most, we can let him replace Schutz. But we can't let him defeat us all, Gerbach thought to himself, growing excited.

Huo Zhong, Logan, and Tianming soon received the news and all of them headed to the formcast pool. Lu Yin had been waiting there for some time when Tianming arrived. He was the first of the Hall Masters to reach the pool.

"King Zishan, congratulations on joining Astral-10," Tianming warmly greeted.

Lu Yin smiled as he responded, "Hall Master Tianming, you're too polite. I'm here to repay you for teaching me the Three Stacks technique in the past."

Tianming was puzzled, "Repay me?"

Lu Yin nodded. "We'll talk about this later. Someone's coming."

Tianming was surprised. Someone's coming? He hadn't sensed anyone approaching them.

Logan arrived soon after their brief exchange, and Tianming looked at Lu Yin more seriously. This person had changed greatly and was quite terrifying now.

Lu Yin had always been curious about Logan. He had immediately approved of Lu Yin's request to learn the initial twenty forms of the Skybeast Claw technique and had always been very friendly towards him. He was also the person who had learnt the most styles of the Skybeast Claw technique in Yu Academy, having mastered a total of forty nine forms.

Huo Zhong arrived at the same time. While the Huo family technically wasn't on the friendliest of terms with Lu Yin, Lu Yin had realized that, regardless of whether it was Huo Qingshan or Huo Zhong, they had always treated him quite well.

As soon as Huo Zhong walked up to them, he said, "King Zishan, Zhang Dingtian has gone missing."

Lu Yin sighed. "Leave him be. One's fate is determined by the heavens." Huo Zhong nodded in response and silently stood to the side.

Logan kept stealing surreptitious glances of Lu Yin; his gaze was complicated and contained tinges of curiosity, confusion, suspicion, and even hope.

Gerbach soon arrived and heartily laughed when he saw Lu Yin. "You've become arrogant after spending some time at Astral-10 and now you're even trying to challenge us? Hasn't Schutz told you how powerful we are?"

Lu Yin smiled mysteriously. "I can at least try. Besides, I'm bored."

Gerbach grinned. "Fine, you can try. Alright, let's cut the nonsense. Do you want to fight us individually or all together?"

Lu Yin beamed as he responded, "I'm fine either way."

Gerbach had only asked the last part jokingly since it was impossible for anyone to fight against all of the Hall Masters simultaneously, and yet, Lu Yin had readily agreed. This actually infuriated Gerbach. He was a Hall Master of Yu Academy and one of the strongest powerhouses of the Great Yu Empire's younger generation. Despite his accolades, someone was actually looking down on him! He immediately took out a fruit that was covered with lightning and prepared his battle technique: Lightning Arrow.

Lu Yin's eyes gleamed and he raised his hand as well, mirroring Gerbach's actions. "Lightning Arrow."

Crackle!

Lightning roared and shot into the distance.

Tianming and the rest were stunned by the scene and Gerbach's eyes almost fell out of his head. Lu Yin had truly used his Lightning Arrow. Although it hadn't been real lightning, it had been far more powerful since he hadn't relied on a lightning fruit to unleash the technique.

"How is that possible? Do you have an innate lightning gift?" Gerbach exclaimed as the others stared intently at Lu Yin. The experts guarding the formcast pool were also staring at Lu Yin, even the Explorer among them.

Lu Yin casually answered, "Star energy isn't as simple as you believe it to be, and one's control over star energy is of the utmost importance. It's rare to see any student of the Astral Combat Academy rely on external items to battle. Anything can be simulated with star energy, and although it isn't actually real, it will be far more powerful than the actual thing."

Gerbach and the others were stunned by this revelation as Lu Yin's explanation had enlightened them. Could they use star energy like that as well?

The Outerverse also knew about the different levels of control over star energy, but it wasn't common knowledge. Lu Yin had only learned about the different levels after joining Astral-10, and that was only because of the reward that the Rainmaster had given him. It was entirely possible that Schutz still didn't know about it yet. Although this wasn't a great secret, nobody would be willing to reveal it as no one wanted to be surpassed by their peers. However, Lu Yin didn't want Gerbach and the others to train blindly since they all had high potential.

However, even with this knowledge, it was difficult to improve one's control over star energy. Astral-10 had the Rain Observatory and the other academies probably had similar training places. This was probably one of the reasons why Gerbach and the rest didn't know about this; the Great Yu Empire probably didn't have any place like the Rain Observatory. Hence, it would be useless for them to know this even if Undying Yushan had taught them this.

"I have lost," Gerbach said quietly. He was disappointed; he didn't expect that the gap between them would grow so large after just a few months.

Tianming, Logan, and Huo Zhong didn't object either. Lu Yin had used star energy to mimic lightning energy and defeated Gerbach. Just this single exchange proved that he now far surpassed them. There was no point in competing any further.

"King Zishan, you can learn the complete Skybeast Claw technique. No one will stop you. Here's the location," Tianming said as he passed the coordinates to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin solemnly said, "Thank you."

Lu Yin had wanted to learn the complete Skybeast Claw technique when he had still been on Earth, but he hadn't been able to do it after arriving at the Great Yu Empire despite his title as King Zishan. This was because the five Hall Masters had been all too powerful and he hadn't been able to defeat them when he had first arrived. But after spending a short amount of time at Astral-10, things had changed drastically. This just proved that, sometimes, one's environment was more important than their talent.

Lu Yin couldn't console the disappointed Gerbach, and unless he could somehow take them back to Astral-10, there was no way for him to change their training environment.

Gerbach, Logan, and Huo Zhong soon left, leaving only Tianming behind.

"Hall Master Tianming, let's spar," Lu Yin said.

Tianming didn't ask why and just nodded. He was a laid-back individual and hadn't gotten angry at all back when Lu Yin had learned the Three Stacks technique from observing him. While he considered Lu Yin's request to be odd, he was fine with it.

He lifted his palm and smashed it down towards Lu Yin. Lu Yin lifted a hand and met Tianming's palm with his own. There were three soft bangs from the Three Stacks, but Tianming retreated in wide-eyed shock in the next moment, as a Fourth Stack had appeared. But before he could respond, a Fifth Stack also appeared, shattering the ground beneath him.

Chapter 152: Changes on the Zenyu Star

"This... is Five Stacks?" Tianming was shocked, and he stared at Lu Yin in disbelief.

Lu Yin nodded. "I'm still extremely grateful to Hall Master Tianming for demonstrating the Three Stacks technique for me. This Five Stacks is to show my thanks."

Tianming was still at an absolute loss for what had just happened. "How did you learn the Five Stacks technique? The Ninefold Sect's Nine Stacks technique is one of the absolute secrets of the Grandtop Weave. Did you meet one of their disciples?"

Lu Yin smiled as he shook his head. "I learned this from one of Astral-10's mentors. Hall Master Tianming, reaching Five Stacks is not actually that hard. Come and get a feeling for it. After you learn it, I'll go to learn the Skybeast Claw technique."

Tianming suppressed his shock and excitement as he quickly nodded. He then raised his hand again with a solemn expression. This was the Five Stacks technique, and as a disciple that was chased out of the Nine Stacks family, it held a great attraction to him. Even if he had to owe Lu Yin a great favor, he was still more than willing as long as he could learn this technique.

It wasn't that Lu Yin was unwilling to teach him the Nine Stacks technique, but rather that it would take too much time, and he did not have the luxury of slowly teaching it to Tianming. It took Tianming two entire days to learn the Five Stacks technique, and that was still only enough for him to find the general direction for future practice. It would still take him a few months to fully be able to use the Five Stacks technique. After all, he was not like Lu Yin, who had a Cosmic Art that greatly reduced the time it took him to learn a new battle technique.

It was precisely at times like this that Lu Yin acutely appreciated the value of his Cosmic Art. In this specific instance, he was eager to see when he would be able to manifest the ninth star and form a star field. It would definitely bring about a noticeable transformation to his techniques.

The entirety of the Skybeast Claw was recorded on a stone wall. The twenty forms that each Hall Master held were nothing more than a copy of a section of the wall. Once Lu Yin saw the original record, he was overwhelmed by a feeling of transcending through the ages as the image of a beast's giant claw of tearing through the heavens flashed through his mind. At that instant, Lu Yin could even make out the scales of the claw, even though it was no more than a glimpse.

"The Skybeast Claw stone wall was brought out of the Innerverses by His Majesty. The Great Yu Empire had no Skybeast Claw or Flash technique until His Majesty brought them back from the Innerverses. From then on, we have used these two battle techniques to dominate the Frostwave Weave," Tianming explained before letting Lu Yin ponder the wall alone.

Lu Yin was already thoroughly immersed in the Skybeast Claw stone wall. The technique appeared to only be a normal claw tearing through the heavens, but he could see boundless changes within the technique. It was very similar to how an absolute powerhouse in their natural state was capable of facing any battle techniques, where even just one move could neutralize every technique under the skies. That was the sensation that the Skybeast Claw technique gave off, and it made Lu Yin feel that it could face up against any other battle technique without losing.

Lu Yin stared at the Skybeast Claw stone wall and unconsciously raised his hand in an attempt to imitate the carvings. As he did so, a beastly howl could be vaguely heard resounding through the walls.

In the history of Yu Academy, the ones who had comprehended the Skybeast Claw technique the furthest were three deceased former Hall Masters. One had been an Explorer who had perished in a war against the other weaves. He had comprehended seventy two forms and had been considered a genius with an innate gift. He could use one strike to defeat two others at his rank, but he had died surrounded by enemies. His death was truly tragic.

However, that was only when the history of Yu Academy was considered, and the Skybeast Claw technique did not belong solely to them. The royal family also had the right to learn this battle technique, and Lu Yin had even seen a shadow of the Skybeast Claw technique in Duke Yushan's drinking posture. The Duke had already assimilated the technique into his every movement, and since he had lived for hundreds of years, it also meant that his understanding of it was profound. Also, Dorren Yushan must have learned it in the past as well.

Before this, Lu Yin had only learned the first twenty forms. As he faced the ancient stone wall, he practiced by repeating the same action for five consecutive days. After five days, he had learned forty three forms. All the while, his Cosmic Art spun at its full power of eight stars, causing his comprehension speed to greatly increase and his understanding of the Skybeast Claw technique to rise continuously.

After another five days, Lu Yin had learned ninety forms, and when his hand formed a claw it caused the very air to distort. He had a feeling that, once he learned all hundred and eight forms, he would be capable of tearing the void itself apart.

When a Melder was capable of tearing space, it was a sign that they were an incredible genius with innate gifts. The five Hall Masters of Yu Academy had practiced the Skybeast Claw technique for many years, but none of them had even learned fifty forms. This was because they were too weak and also why Wendy Yushan could not be bothered with them. Lu Yin's comprehension speed was an innate gift that had shocked all of Astral-10; there was a vast difference between the Hall Masters and him.

The ninetieth form seemed to be a threshold, and it became more and more difficult to comprehend the battle technique after that. Over the next three days, Lu Yin only learned six more forms, and he was unable to continue after that regardless of how much time he poured into studying the stone wall. Even with his Cosmic Art, he could only comprehend the first ninety six forms.

Lu Yin breathed out; he was done learning this battle technique for now. Ninety six forms wasn't bad, so he could let the last twelve forms go for now. He wouldn't try to force his comprehension since his impression of the Skybeast Claw technique was sufficiently deep already. He would wait for his Cosmic Art to further develop, and he might even be able to derive the remaining forms from what he had already learned. He had spent thirteen days to learn ninety six forms of the Skybeast Claw technique; this was shocking enough to even draw the attention of Undying Yushan.

Lu Yin raised his hand and tested the claw technique, nearly causing the void to collapse. This power could rival the Nine Stacks Shockwave Palm's. Once he integrated it with his battle qi, Lu Yin felt that it would truly tear through the void.

He left the stone wall and returned to the King Zishan palace. It had been nearly half a month since he had left the capital star, and when he returned, he noticed that there were many more powerhouses gathered around the imperial palace. Lu Yin was able to notice them even though they were purposefully restraining their auras. He was immediately reminded of the spacecraft docked at the space station that did not come from the Outerverse. Were they here for the Undying manual? The Innaverse must be getting ready to act against the capital star.

At this time, his gadget beeped quietly, and Uncle Reuben appeared. "Little Seven, leave Zenyu Star immediately. Undying Yushan has reached his limits. Once he dies, no one will be able to restrain those from the Innaverse, and the Zenyu Star will fall into chaos."

"It should just be some captains from the Imperial Thirteen Squadrons. They won't pose a problem to me," replied Lu Yin.

Uncle Reuben sternly said, "Those Outerverse Cruisers can't even be compared to the Innaverse powerhouses. Besides the exceptions of Huo Qingshan and the blind monk, the rest are nearly useless. The blind monk was also taken to the frontline by Dorren Yushan. Zenyu Star will not be able to defend itself. You should leave immediately."

Lu Yin sighed. Truthfully speaking, Undying Yushan had treated him rather well and Zenyu Star had also been a peaceful time in his life. Who would have thought that it was about to become a bloody battlefield?

"Wendy Yushan is on her way back to Zenyu Star. When she gets back, she will be able to regain control of the situation. Nothing will happen to the Great Yu Empire." It was as if Uncle Reuben could read Lu Yin's thoughts.

Lu Yin's heart trembled. The name "Wendy Yushan" had not originally meant anything to him, and he had only regarded her as a legend. Yet ever since she had publicly rejected him for her hand in marriage, her name seemed to have become tightly intertwined with him. Wendy Yushan did not seem to care about him, but he would never forget her. Even Uncle Reuben assumed that she would be able to suppress all the troublemakers who had come to the Great Yu Empire. "I understand. I will bid farewell to Undying Yushan before I leave."

Uncle Reuben nodded and then disconnected the transmission.

Lu Yin stepped through the Grand Astral Gate; he could feel many eyes boring holes through his back. There was a teahouse that had sprung up not far from the palace, and it was currently filled with powerhouses.

These powerhouses from the Innerverse were becoming unbridled. Once Undying Yushan perished, they would charge into the palace without care. Lu Yin knew that he should leave quickly.

After a long wait, Undying Yushan finally awakened and summoned Lu Yin in.

"Your Majesty," Lu Yin greeted politely.

Undying Yushan looked feebly at Lu Yin. "Come closer."

Lu Yin walked towards the emperor.

"Closer."

Lu Yin was puzzled by the request, but he nonetheless stepped forward until he was right by Undying Yushan's side. Undying Yushan looked at Lu Yin with murky and tired eyes. "Little Yin, don't search for the Zishan clan hidden treasure. Return to Astral-10."

Lu Yin was shocked as he looked at Undying Yushan. Only now did he realize just how perceptive this Ironblood Emperor, who had ruled the empire for eight hundred years, was even at death's door. Perhaps Lu Yin's last visit to the palace had made his goal too apparent when he had wandered around the palace for a prolonged period of time.

"Your Majesty—" Lu Yin wanted to say something, but he was stopped by Undying Yushan. "The treasure belongs to the Zishan clan, and this Majesty should not stop you. But there's no more time, so don't think about it anymore. This Majesty will see to it that you get appropriate compensation. Leave the capital star immediately—the further the better. Before you can properly protect yourself, don't stray too far from Astral-10. Rest assured. Even if a war breaks out in the empire, it will not spread to Earth. This Majesty has already sent people to protect it."

Lu Yin felt a pang of sorrow stab through his heart. He could feel Undying Yushan's concern and the dying man was truly doing his best to guide Lu Yin as an elder. "Your Majesty, please take care."

This was his last farewell.

Undying Yushan nodded. "Go. The further, the better."

Lu Yin retreated a few steps, bowed, and then turned to leave.

Undying Yushan sighed. So what if he had traveled through the universe? On his deathbed, he was surrounded by insignificant enemies, his descendants were being monitored, and his son had turned traitor. He asked himself what wrongs he had done to deserve this ending. Why did it have to end up like this?

“Eh, it’s such a pity that the effect of this purple star ointment is insufficient. Otherwise, it could have prolonged His Majesty’s life a while longer.” Lu Yin had just stepped out of the emperor’s chambers when he coincidentally overheard this. His eyes gleamed as he paused in his steps.

Undying Yushan’s attending physician had just uttered those words.

“When His Majesty first returned from the Innaverse with heavy injuries, it was only with the purple star’s medicinal effects that he was able to survive for so long. But now that the plant has been mostly exhausted, there’s no choice left. It’s a panacea from the Innaverse’s Fallen Star Ocean. Even the fifth princess would not have an easy task gathering it as it can only be found by luck,” another doctor griped.

“If we could just double the effectiveness, then His Majesty could be saved. But what a pity. The second prince is too vicious and preemptively arranged for the purple star to be wasted bit by bit a hundred years ago. Otherwise, it would not have ended up like this,” another doctor bemoaned.

Lu Yin’s eyes flickered as he stood at the doorway. It was possible for him to raise the effectiveness of this purple star if he managed to roll Enhance. His die should be able to upgrade the purple star by a grade, no? However, Lu Yin hesitated. If he did this, then it would expose his innate gift. But if he didn’t... He remembered Undying Yushan’s affectionate gaze that should have been directed only at family members. Lu Yin’s heart jolted and his gaze steadied.

Sometimes, human emotions could surpass all else. Lu Yin knew that he was no selfless saint and that he would also take advantage of anything to get ahead, even engaging in dark schemes if necessary. He had thought that he would never sacrifice himself to save another; those who did so were idiots. But when it came to those who were close to him, he couldn’t turn a blind eye, could he? Otherwise, how would he be any different from a beast? Undying Yushan had shown great kindness to Lu Yin ever since he arrived at the Great Yu Empire, and now, Lu Yin wished to preserve this person’s life, even if it required paying a price.

Lu Yin returned to Undying Yushan’s side, “Your Majesty, could you hand the purple star to me and allow me to study it?”

The surrounding people looked at Lu Yin. This was Undying Yushan’s lifeline and this request was akin to cutting it short.

Huo Qingshan and Jue Lang’s gazes turned cold.

Undying Yushan lethargically opened his eyes, “Of course.”

“Your Majesty, no! The purple star is the key to your survival!” one doctor cried out.

Undying Yushan feebly responded, “For how long?”

The doctor hung his head. It was not a question of how long as it was simply unable to prolong the emperor's life any further. Undying Yushan was practically already at death's door.

"Give it to Little Yin." Undying Yushan was finished speaking on this matter.

Jue Lang stood up and glared at Lu Yin. His eyes were cold as he did not know what King Zishan intended to do, but to request the purple star at this sort of time was no simple request.

Lu Yin never thought that Undying Yushan would not hesitate to hand over his lifeline, the purple star, to him. He took a deep breath and hoped his luck wasn't too bad. He had to roll three pips: Enhance. He had to.

Chapter 153: Enhance

The purple star was a spherical purple plant with an appearance as resplendent as the stars. Unfortunately, it was slightly shriveled from being improperly stored, which had caused the plant to lose some of its medicinal effectiveness.

Lu Yin could not help but marvel at the depths of Duke Yushan's calculations. He had been preparing for this day for a hundred years, and his betrayal had been impeccably timed as well. How vicious.

Lu Yin didn't know how many star energy crystals he would need to upgrade the purple star. All he had on him was 160,000 crystals, so he hoped that that would be enough. Otherwise, he would have to go back to Undying Yushan and ask for more.

He took the purple star and reserved the private lounge next door, but Jue Lang followed behind Lu Yin, staring at him the entire way. Lu Yin grimaced as he explained, "Captain Jue Lang, since the purple star's efficacy has diminished for His Majesty, I'm going to do my best to restore its effectiveness. That won't be possible if you continue staring at me."

Jue Lang was shocked. "You can restore its effectiveness?"

Lu Yin nodded as he replied, "There's a chance. Although it's extremely unlikely, I must still try."

Jue Lang gave Lu Yin a long look, turned around, and then closed the door without another word.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. As the proverb says, the prudent man foresees evil and hides himself. However, people could be swayed away from the prudent choice. Lu Yin had lost his memories and forgotten where he came from, but he had been saved and thus accepted his saviors as his family. Undying Yushan had cared for him like family, and thus similarly deserved to be treated like family, which meant that Lu Yin would take this risk for his sake.

Lu Yin retrieved his die which had not been touched for nearly twenty days. It had almost completely recovered to its peak luminescent state, and Lu Yin was pleased to discover that he could roll it four consecutive times today. He tapped the die lightly and it began to spin. It finally stopped at four pips: Time Stop.

Time Stop was a common roll. Lu Yin entered the Time Stop space and relaxed for three days while he continued trying to simulate the ninth star of his Cosmic Art.

When the three days were up, Lu Yin left the grey space. The ninth star was still nowhere to be seen, but he felt like he was pulling closer and closer to the sensation that he had felt when the crazy director had shown him the ninth star. He was in no hurry and could always try again.

The second roll was two pips.

Five minutes later, the Blackhole Disassembly vanished. Lu Yin rolled the die for a third time, hoping for success. It was a pity that fate seemed to be against him as he rolled five pips: Gift Copy.

Lu Yin didn't move. While there were certainly experts outside like Huo Qingshan and Jue Lang who possessed innate gifts, he had no way of touching them in time; Gift Copy was thus wasted.

He breathed in deeply; he was already at the fourth roll, and after the fifth, he would no longer be able to handle the die's mental strain any longer and he would be forced to fall asleep. After that, it would take at least ten days before he could recover enough to roll the die again. This fourth roll was vitally important.

He watched the die grind to a halt and land—five pips. Another wasted roll.

Lu Yin clenched his fists, and his gaze hardened. Enhance and Possession were the rarest rolls from the six possible results. Again.

He tapped the die and his eyes never left it. Then, the scene changed before his eyes as he reappeared in the grey room. Time Stop again. He had failed to roll Enhance. He immediately began to grow dizzy and was seconds away from fainting. Right before he lost consciousness, he threw five hundred more star crystals towards the time to ensure that he would still be within the Time Stop space when he woke up. Then, he collapsed.

The excessive mental strain brought unconsciousness crashing down upon him, and Lu Yin once again saw the jade finger penetrating through the heavens to crush him. Just as before, he exploded in anger. "Outrageous! Audacious!" He awoke with a loud howl and his entire back drenched in sweat.

It had taken him two days to recover from his comatose state. He looked around and saw that he still had ten days of time left on the counter.

Lu Yin rested for a while, and then reached out his arm and brought out the lifeless die. He could use his innate gift even while in the Time Stop space, but its energy consumption was multiple times higher than what it would be in the real world. In other words, he could shake the die four times just like outside the Time Stop space, but he had to rest for ten days after every die roll. Otherwise, he would suffer even more drastic consequences than if he had rolled it five times in the outside world.

Fortunately, he was in the Time Stop space, which allowed him to be more extravagant. It all depended on whether or not he had enough star crystals. Hopefully, they would be enough!

Lu Yin lavishly spent nearly six thousand star crystals at once to increase the duration of Time Stop by thirty days. He now had over forty days of time in the ashen space, which gave him four more opportunities to roll the die. He refused to believe that he could not roll Enhance within these four rolls.

Ten days quickly passed, and then Lu Yin took out the die and tapped it. One dot: Pilfer. Useless. He was alone in the Time Stop space, so he couldn't retrieve anything. Pilfer was completely useless. His

solitude also made Gift Copy and Possession worthless. The only rolls that would mean anything were a two or three.

He still had more than thirty days to spend in this space. When he looked around at the dull surroundings, he really wanted to change it, but that would cost him a few crystals... Forget it. Who knows how many crystals it'll take to enhance the purple star, so I'll just leave it alone for now.

He tried to simulate the ninth star while waiting for ten more days to pass.

The die recovered. He tapped it. Pilfer again; useless. Lu Yin was left speechless by the outcome. It was truly difficult trying to roll Enhance.

Another ten days later, and Lu Yin tapped once again. While he didn't hold much hope when he tapped the die, he became so emotional when three pips revealed themselves that he nearly kissed it. Finally, he had rolled Enhance.

He saw the two light screens, one above and one below, and let out a heavy sigh. Fortunately, Enhance could be used in this Time Stop space.

He retrieved the purple star and placed it on the upper light screen. He then took out star crystals and threw them in. As the light screen absorbed more and more crystals, the purple star slowly sank into the upper screen; its descending speed was even slower than the formcast model's. Lu Yin's heart sank. From what he could tell, the formcast model would require almost 300,000 crystals to completely upgrade, and this small purple star would require even more than that.

The purple star had come from the Inverse's Fallen Star Ocean and could be used to preserve lives. It was absolutely worth an exorbitant sum, but Lu Yin did not nearly have that many crystals. Thus, he could only try to upgrade it as much as possible with the crystals he had left.

Lu Yin took a deep breath before he threw his remaining 150,000 crystals in and watched them be slowly absorbed by the screen. The purple star slowly descended and the shrivelled surface seemed to regain some of its luster. Lu Yin's eyes shone; the doctor had said that the medicine just needed to have double its effectiveness to save Undying Yushan's life. If the purple star was upgraded, then its effectiveness would undoubtedly be more than doubled. That also meant that it did not have to be perfectly enhanced.

After the 150,000 crystals were consumed, the purple star had moved in between the two light screens. The shrivelled portion of the plant's surface had completely recovered, and Lu Yin even saw the luster shifting as the colors were on the verge of changing.

Lu Yin grabbed the purple star. "Even the color's changed. This should be of some use now." He was still nervous, but even if there was no improvement, he had given his all.

There were still more than twenty days remaining in the Time Stop space, and Lu Yin didn't want to waste his time. He used a hundred crystals to increase the gravity of the space to a hundred times and then checked his cosmic ring. He still had around three thousand crystals left. This could be considered a large sum in the Great Yu Empire, but it was way too little for his current needs. Luckily, his Mavis Bank card held another 100,000, so he still had some emergency funds.

The twenty days quickly passed by, and while Lu Yin could sense the ninth star much more clearly than before, he still could not make even a shadow appear. This was going to be a long journey.

From Lu Yin's point of view, he had been gone for nearly two months, but it hadn't been more than a moment for Jue Lang and the rest.

When the pale-faced Lu Yin seemingly returned a moment later and handed the purple star over to the doctor, the doctor's pupils shrank to pinholes and he stared at Lu Yin in shock, "What- what's going on?"

Jue Lang and the rest had cold looks. "Speak clearly. What happened?"

The doctor was in disbelief as he stammered, "The purple star has turned into a billowing star."

Everyone was stunned by his evaluation. They had heard of the billowing star before. When Undying Yushan had been severely injured all those years ago, everyone by his side had been his most trusted subordinates. They had heard countless doctors sigh wistfully about the billowing star that could completely heal Undying Yushan's injuries. Huo Qingshan had made multiple visits to the Fallen Star Ocean and had nearly lost his life searching for it, but he had been unable to find any billowing star or even purple stars. Fifth Princess Wendy Yushan had done the same, but both the purple star and billowing star were objects that could only be found by chance. The billowing star was much rarer than the purple star, and was a dozen times more valuable. It was considered extremely precious even within the Inniverse.

How did Lu Yin do it? They all turned to look at him in shock.

"Hold on. This isn't actually a billowing star," the doctor explained as he continued to examine it, "It's still a purple star, but is on the verge of becoming a billowing star."

"Is it of any use to His Majesty's injury?" Lu Yin asked.

The doctor nodded as he delightedly answered, "Yes, it's definitely useful. King Zishan, Your Highness, how did you do it?"

Lu Yin shook his head, declining to answer. "Give it to His Majesty for treatment first. I'm tired, and will rest first." And with that, he returned to the lounge and fell into a deep slumber. Huo Qingshan and the rest did not attempt to stop him, and instead urged the doctor to start the treatment right away.

Lu Yin and the rest's conversation couldn't be overheard, but the people in the surrounding area had heard the doctor's shouts. One soldier who had been standing guard outside heard the cries. His expression changed as he slowly left.

An hour later, multiple figures appeared in the skies above the palace, each releasing a terrifying pressure. Huo Qingshan and Jue Lang looked at each other, but refrained from making a move.

From within the palace, Fourth Captain Di Ou, Sixth Captain Peach, and Ninth Captain Rocky Auna rose into the sky together and stared at the outsiders floating above the palace. "This is the Great Yu Empire's palace. All unrelated persons must leave immediately."

Outside, an elder had a contemptuous attitude. “A mere empire of the Outerverse dares to try to intimidate us. Undying Yushan has already died and you will move aside if you are sensible. Otherwise, Zenyu Star will be washed in blood today.”

Di Ou had a stern expression as he replied, “The Innerverse has never meddled in the Outerverse. You are violating the universe’s rules.”

A woman outside the palace with a charming smile said, “Rules? You Outerverse denizens can only obey, but the rules are written by us. Scram immediately. If we act, then this entire palace will be turned into dust.”

At least ten people had appeared outside of the palace. Though the Innerverse powers felt that Undying Yushan most likely had not obtained the Undying Manual, they didn’t care. Hence, various powers had sent representatives. When they all gathered together, there were so many of them that their pressure was almost unbearable for Di Ou and the rest.

Suddenly, the skies turned red. Countless eyes turned towards Zenyu Star as a scorching heat covered the skies and enveloped all of Zenyu Star, the three rings of land around it, and even stretching into the vastness of the universe beyond.

This was the strength of a Hunter; Huo Qingshan had stepped out.

As someone who had journeyed through the Innerverse and as one of the Great Yu Empire’s few Hunters, Huo Qingshan’s appearance made the crowd outside the palace slightly wary. These people were just Explorers, and while a few of them might be Cruisers, none of them dared to belittle a Hunter even if he came from the Outerverse. This was a terrifying cultivator whose power level had surpassed 100,000 units.

Not far away, Huo Xiaoling’s face paled as she stared into the sky from the Huo clan’s courtyard, worry etched into her face.

In the opposite direction, the Auna clan was in a similarly somber atmosphere. The great clans of the Great Yu Empire would all share the same fate; they would either bask in glory or be crushed in defeat. When faced with the intense pressure of the Innerverse, they had all chosen to stand strong. Everything would be fine if they succeeded, but if they failed, then everyone’s lives would be forfeit.

Chapter 154: Green

Bazeer had a relaxed expression when he looked at the scene before him. He was from the Outerverse Youth Council, so not even the Innerverse powerhouses dared to touch him, which usually paved the road ahead of him. He still remembered that helpless feeling when Undying Yushan had suppressed him in the past. “Hurry up and die, old geezer. When you’re dead, I’ll kill that person myself.”

The three layers of land were sealed off, their inhabitants expectantly waiting for the end result. At this point in time, no more spacecraft were being allowed into Zenyu Star. Additionally, many Explorer powerhouses had appeared in the starry skies and were coldly staring at Zenyu Star.

“My Great Yu Empire doesn’t fear war. Don’t delude yourselves into thinking that you can trample over my empire’s dignity. You’ll need to get past my Thirteen Imperial Squadrons first,” Huo Qingshan barked, causing the flames in the sky to strengthen again while the crowd gasped in surprise.

The Innerverse powerhouses were all afraid. There were not many powerhouses in the Outerverse, and even great powers that controlled an entire weave did not have many Hunters among their ranks. However, the Great Yu Empire was an exception. If not for the Innerverse's both open and secret meddling, then they would have definitely gained control of more than just half of the Frostwave Weave. With its strength, it could even swallow the surrounding weaves. In some sense, the Great Yu Empire was like a trapped beast; ferocious and brutal, but surrounded by enemies. Today, the Innerverse powerhouses were going to face this beast.

Suddenly, a storm composed of energy whipped up from out of nowhere and wiped out the inferno in the skies. "How dare a mere Outerverse Hunter act so conceitedly. Today is the day your Great Yu Empire will cease to exist." These words swept across the entire Zenyu Star and caused the three layers to shudder in fear. Zenyu Star's oceans boiled and its earth split open, destroying countless spaceships in the process.

Many were stunned and stared at the sky in terror. A giant hand had appeared, lunging towards the palace.

The Thirteen Imperial Squadrons captains were all stunned stiff with the sole exception of Huo Qingshan, whose gaze turned fiery at the sight of the giant hand. His body flushed red and burned even fiercer than the sun. An indescribable power billowed forth from his body, causing even the giant palm in the sky to pause. The cultivator behind the palm felt unexpectedly threatened.

Huo Qingshan was not a simple cultivator. He had also made his way through the Innerverse and had even left his name in the Blaze Realm.

It was at this moment that a green wave rippled out from the palace, pulsating like a heartbeat. Then, it suddenly exploded, tore through the giant hand, and continued to soar through the sky. In a mere instant, the green wave had dispelled all of the foreign forces that were pressuring and influencing Zenyu Star. The powerhouses from the Innerverse surrounding the palace turned deathly pale and all coughed up blood.

High above, in the void of outer space, an elder's pupils dilated. He was a Hunter from the Innerverse who had intended on suppressing the palace, but that green wave of star energy had appeared before him and then transformed into Undying Yushan's palm. The elder was dumbstruck. "You aren't dead? How is your domain so terrifying?!"

"Go back and tell your master that I, Undying Yushan, don't have what he wants." The green star energy then swept over that elder, breaking all four of his limbs. He hurriedly fled in terror.

The green star energy overwhelmed everything and dyed Zenyu Star in its own color. Everyone was overpowered by the green star energy.

For the people of Zenyu Star, this star energy gave them warmth. On the other hand, those from the Innerverse felt dread as they trembled in terror.

Huo Qingshan was delighted. This is His Majesty's true strength. He has finally recovered.

Peach was struck speechless. How terrifying! She could still recall the day that she had been forcefully appointed as the Sixth Captain. She had also experienced this strength that day, and it was still fresh in her memory.

Under the cloak of Undying Yushan's strength, the palace's aura deepened, giving off an incomprehensible and terrifying feeling that made one's teeth chatter. Those from the Inniverse were forced down until they were half-kneeling towards the palace.

A moment later, Undying Yushan's imposing figure floated forth before looking down at them. "This was your last warning. Now scam." They vomited blood again, felt the horrifying pressure on their organs, and then retreated as quickly as they could with their injuries.

"Congratulations, Your Majesty, for returning to glory. The empire is unrivalled!"

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...

Undying Yushan's gaze swept across everyone, and he sighed inwardly. Return to glory? How could it be that simple? He had simply extended his time at death's door. And the more frequently he used his strength, the closer he was to the end of his life.

"The empire shall resume its normal activities. Also, examine the records of anyone who crossed the borders and capture any suspected spies. Huo Qingshan, you shall be in charge of this," Undying Yushan ordered.

Huo Qingshan immediately moved to obey. "Yes, Your Majesty."

After issuing a few more orders, Undying Yushan landed on the ground and reentered the palace.

In outer space, many of the Inniverse powerhouses were seething with fury. They had fallen from grace after spending all of these years planning for the downfall of the Great Yu Empire. They had hatched all sorts of plots and schemes to thwart the Great Yu Empire from becoming too powerful or expanding their territory. But who could have predicted that Undying Yushan would make fools of them all, causing all of their efforts to go down the drain. What a shame.

But that Hunter elder was even more resentful; all four of his limbs had been cleanly snapped off, and he had been forced to resort to using his star energy to sustain his life while his blood stained the skies red. He would take this revenge one day, but he knew that he was no match for Undying Yushan. His only option was to think of a way to request his master to act on his behalf.

Everyone thought this had all been a part of Undying Yushan's plan, but no one knew that, if not for Lu Yin, Undying Yushan would have perished earlier. A nobody had changed their fates.

Lu Yin had truly fallen asleep. While this had initially been done as a pretense to disguise his innate gift, he was truly completely exhausted and ended up sleeping soundly for three days.

The first thing Lu Yin saw when he woke up was Undying Yushan's back. Lu Yin quickly turned from perplexed to sober and rushed to stand up. "Your Majesty, are you alright?"

Undying Yushan turned to give Lu Yin a grateful smile as he nodded. "Little Yin, this time it's all thanks to you."

"Your Majesty, don't say that. If it were not for you, then the Lu Yin of today would not exist," Lu Yin solemnly replied.

Undying Yushan smiled and patted Lu Yin's shoulder. "Your ancestor, Undying Zishan, saved me more than once, and now you, a descendant of the Zishan clan, have saved me once again. I owe the Zishan clan too much."

Lu Yin did not reply, as he could see that Undying Yushan was reminiscing about the past.

Undying Yushan sighed and looked into the sky. "Little Yin, what do you think of the Great Yu Empire?"

Lu Yin thought that this question was very odd and almost felt that it was not his place to speak of such things. Regardless, he still answered. "Very good. The empire is prosperous and the people are peaceful."

Undying Yushan laughed. "There's no need for such political niceties. Tell me the truth."

"No idea. I haven't roamed around the empire yet," Lu Yin blurted out.

Undying Yushan looked at Lu Yin and seriously said, "If I said that I would hand this empire to you, would you accept it?"

Lu Yin was shocked and immediately retreated. "Your Majesty, please don't play a joke on Little Yin. I wouldn't dare."

Undying Yushan burst into another round of laughter and shook his head. "Alright, I won't speak about it. Let's go. I want to show you something." He then walked out of the room, leading the way. Lu Yin gave the emperor an odd look as he followed behind.

They walked through multiple pavilions and the technological shield that protected the inner area of the palace. Then, Undying Yushan led Lu Yin to a corner of the palace where a concealed passage appeared on the ground when he approached it.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. He could vaguely guess at where Undying Yushan was taking him.

Undying Yushan was still smiling slightly as he slowly stepped into the underground chamber. Lu Yin followed closely behind.

This underground area was very ordinary, and besides a single corridor, there wasn't much else; just a few murals on the wall.

Finally, the two stopped before a giant metal door. Undying Yushan looked at it and said, "I believe that, earlier, you were searching for this. This is your Zishan clan's hidden treasure."

Lu Yin did not attempt to hide the truth. "Yes. Someone once told me that the Zishan clan's treasure might be hidden within the palace."

Undying Yushan turned to Lu Yin, "Tell me. Why are you looking for it?"

Lu Yin did not hesitate in his reply. "I'm broke."

Undying Yushan was astonished. He had thought that Lu Yin would fabricate all sorts of grand reasons for it, and had never dreamed that he would respond so simply. Yet, this response was also very logical; treasure was money and whoever lacked money would look for treasure. Undying Yushan laughed, "Are the expenses at Astral-10 too large for you to handle?"

Lu Yin seriously replied, "The expenses are enormous. All the training in Astral-10 requires the consumption of massive amounts of star energy crystals. This was true especially since I've broken through to become a Melder now; a mentor even had to fill me up with star energy. It's like a bottomless pit. I need a vast amount of star crystals as plainly absorbing the free star energy in the universe just takes too long."

"Yes, the Melder realm is a serious hurdle and requires large expenses. I had nearly forgotten about this. I should have given you more before," Undying Yushan said with a regretful tone.

Lu Yin grew excited, but he still didn't know what to expect from Undying Yushan's words. Undying Yushan then turned around and slowly opened the metal door. Lu Yin was full of expectation. What kind of good stuff does the Zishan clan treasury hold? Mountains of star energy crystals? Or perhaps the even more valuable star crystal essence? Lu Yin was curious and impatiently stared at the door, wishing that he could see through it.

As the metal door fully swung open, an empty expanse greeted Lu Yin's sight.

Lu Yin blinked. Nothing? Where's the treasure? He looked at Undying Yushan with a confused expression.

Undying Yushan beamed at him. "Are you disappointed?"

Lu Yin forced a smile onto his face as he replied, "Your Majesty, you've become much more humorous after your body recovered."

Undying Yushan laughed again. "Not humorous. This was prepared for those thieves in the night."

Lu Yin was still lost.

Undying Yushan's smile vanished as he explained, "The Inniverse wanted to probe me, and so, they concealed themselves for centuries as they impeded the expansion of our empire's territory. How could I not have noticed their actions? Whether it was the royal treasury or the Zishan clan's hidden treasure, both were rumors that I deliberately leaked. This was so that, when I passed on, those people would be buried with me."

Lu Yin was shocked. "It's all fake?"

Undying Yushan's lips rose in a smirk. "Of course it's fake. If there really was a treasure here, then did you think that I wouldn't touch it? That I would have kept it hidden away all this while? The Zishan clan isn't the only clan to have legends of a secret treasure. Every great clan of the empire that has ever perished has similar legends of a legacy treasure hidden within the palace. But with the passing of the generations, gradually there was no one left to talk about it. Only those thieves from the Inniverse

would continue to nose around and search for clues.” Undying Yushan pointed at the empty room as he stated, “Look, if the supposed Zishan clan’s hidden treasure contained nothing, then do you think that they would accept it? They have been hiding undercover for centuries and would definitely enter this room to investigate. And this is the graveyard that I’ve painstakingly prepared for them. Even a Hunter would find it hard to survive.”

“The palace contains a total of five graveyards like this,” Undying Yushan proudly revealed.

Lu Yin was shocked. This was his first time experiencing the boldness of an emperor at the end of his days. This was someone who dared to bury all of the Inniverse schemers in one fell swoop.

Chapter 155: Invisible Aura

This was a plot that had been carefully laid over the course of multiple centuries, and even if it were revealed to its intended victims, not a single one of them would believe it. They would definitely search through every inch of the palace regardless of the risk.

They would not dare destroy the palace, either, because they had no idea exactly how the Undying Manual might be recorded down. What if they accidentally destroyed the manual as a result of their actions? Even though the chances of the Undying Manual being in the palace might not even reach 1%, they still did not dare to take this risk. Undying Yushan was taking advantage of their greedy nature to trap everyone and bring them all down with him.

“What do you think?” Undying Yushan asked as he looked at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin respectfully answered, “You’re very courageous, Your Majesty.”

“Do you have any questions?” Undying Yushan asked with a faint smile.

Lu Yin’s eyes shone. “Aren’t you afraid that those Inniverse organizations might destroy the Great Yu Empire in a fit of rage?”

Undying Yushan answered with a question of his own. “Why do you think that unfilial son of mine, Duke Yushan, did what he did?”

Lu Yin was initially confused, but then he remembered something. He gazed at Undying Yushan in surprise.

Undying Yushan placed his hands behind his back and indifferently said, “Everyone in the universe knows that Duke Yushan betrayed the empire. Even if the empire is destroyed, he will still survive. He will be the surviving bloodline of my Great Yu Empire.”

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed as he recalled the bitter look in Duke Yushan’s eyes that night and how he had reacted when he learned that Dorren Yushan was planning on stealing the first prince’s place. Everything made sense now. It wasn’t that Duke Yushan didn’t want to do it, but rather that he had been forced to by this dying emperor. All so that the Great Yu Empire’s imperial bloodline would be passed on. Or, perhaps, even the prince didn’t know that he was being used. This was actually true for both of the princes.

Undying Yushan was very vicious. In order to kill the plotting Inniverse powerhouses, he did not even mind forcing his own son to go against him. Had he machinated for centuries, just to kill these people?

Was it really worth it? Duke Yushan had tried to destroy Violet Planet a hundred years ago so that Undying Yushan would die earlier. However, he never expected that Undying Yushan would have planned for this as well. He just genuinely didn't care about his life and just wanted to take more people down with him.

"Why are you telling me all this, Your Majesty?" Lu Yin was nervous when he realized who he was dealing with.

Undying Yushan looked straight at Lu Yin. "I'm not joking when I say this. If you want, I can let you inherit the Great Yu Empire. Due to a certain item, influential powers in the Inniverse have set their eyes on the Great Yu Empire. It's only a matter of time until it's destroyed. Duke Yushan is just one way for me to preserve some things and so is Wendy. However, neither of them can be completely trusted, and I still need a third option."

"You shouldn't be looking for me," Lu Yin said.

Undying Yushan smiled gently. "You're King Zishan, which makes you the fourth person in line to inherit the throne, and you're obviously the person I'd choose. Don't worry. I'm not making you the emperor, but I do want you to inherit my resolve. When the day comes and you have sufficient power, I'll be happy as long as you rebuild the Great Yu Empire and protect Zenyu Star. That'll mean I haven't completely disgraced my ancestors!"

Lu Yin didn't understand. This was a huge responsibility that he simply could not bear. Besides, he wasn't even the real King Zishan, but the man before him was baring his soul and putting his complete trust in Lu Yin. He didn't want to betray this man's expectations; Lu Yin had his own integrity.

He could also tell that the emperor was using a psychological trick on him. After all, Undying Yushan had resorted to all kinds of tricks to secure a path of survival for his bloodline. He had gone so far as to force his children to go against him, make siblings fight against each other, and disregard human lives. Lu Yin didn't want to become that kind of person.

Undying Yushan sighed. "I know that it's hard for you to accept all of this right now. Take this." After saying that, Undying Yushan took a ring and passed it to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin curiously asked, "What's this?"

"It's a ring of authority of the empire. If something happens to me, Dorren, and Duke, then you can use this to command all the armies of the empire," Undying Yushan said.

Lu Yin wanted to return the ring, but after he saw Undying Yushan's hopeful gaze, he knew that he had no choice but to keep it. He knew what Undying Yushan was thinking. Given the current circumstances, Undying Yushan was in the most danger as he had been targeted for centuries. Next was Dorren Yushan, followed by Duke Yushan, and lastly, Wendy Yushan. While it wasn't likely that she would fall into the line of danger, it was still a possibility. Thus, Lu Yin was Undying Yushan's last hope because nobody paid any heed to him. Besides, he was currently in the Astral Combat Academy.

When Undying Yushan saw that Lu Yin had accepted the ring, he smiled. "That's how King Zishan should be! Responsible! From now onwards, you're the fourth official successor to the throne. And for becoming a successor, I'll give you a present." As he spoke, he produced a crystal card.

Lu Yin's eyes brightened. This had been his entire goal! Since the Zishan clan treasure didn't exist, Undying Yushan was obviously giving him something else as compensation.

"There's a hundred thousand cubes of star crystals here. Treat it as a reward for becoming a Melder," Undying Yushan said.

Lu Yin expected to receive a lot more, but to his disappointment, it was only a hundred thousand. His appetite for star crystals was growing larger and larger, and a hundred thousand cubes was no longer enough to warrant his excitement. When he had defeated Craynor, he had received almost ninety thousand cubes of star energy crystals from just that. Of course, he was aware that the Innerverse and Outerverse produced different amounts of star crystals. The Innerverse produced nearly a hundred times the amount of the Outerverse. The hundred thousand that Undying Yushan had just gifted him was akin to ten million in the Innerverse. So, relatively, it was actually quite a large sum.

"Thank you, Your Majesty," Lu Yin answered gratefully.

"The production of star crystals is very low in the Outerverse. A hundred thousand isn't much, but it should be enough to meet your needs for some time. When you become a Limiteer, I'll gift you something else if I haven't died yet."

"The empire seems to be quite rich, Your Majesty," Lu Yin stated, as if trying to sound something out.

Undying Yushan burst into laughter. "What are you trying to ask?"

Lu Yin recalled when various officials had tried to bribe him back at the capital star. Those officials had given him a pitiful amount of star crystals, and there was a huge difference between what he had received then and what Undying Yushan had given him now. It didn't make any sense. No matter how wealthy the imperial family was, there shouldn't be this large of a difference.

"Was I being petty when I wanted a welcome gift from those officials?"

Undying Yushan chuckled. "Not at all, because it was a welcoming gift."

Lu Yin frowned. Calling it a welcome gift was actually a form of humiliation to him. He had made those moves with the intention of receiving bribes, but they had actually given him the appropriate amount for a welcome gift. The amount had been tiny. How embarrassing! To think that he'd been so satisfied back then while the officials had really thought nothing of him. They clearly saw the world differently. Lu Yin silently reprimanded himself with a reminder to be more careful in the future. When asking for bribes, don't ask for a certain amount. Just collect the norm and don't ask for an amount.

"Okay, I've told you everything that you should know and given you your reward as well. Now, I'm going to teach you some imperial battle techniques: the Invisible Aura Technique and the Ashen Energy Force," Undying Yushan said sternly.

Lu Yin was astonished. "You're going to teach me imperial battle techniques?"

Undying Yushan grunted in acknowledgement. "When I returned from the Innerverse, I brought four battle techniques back with me. They're the Skybeast Claw, Air Flash, Invisible Aura, and Ashen Energy Force techniques. The Skybeast Claw technique was given to Yu Academy in the hopes of creating new talents for the empire. The Air Flash technique belongs to the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, and the last

two, the Invisible Aura and Ashen Energy Force techniques, belong to the imperial family. Since you're an official successor of the imperial family now, you naturally have the right to learn those two as well."

Undying Yushan was doing so much for him that Lu Yin was even getting a little emotional. "Thank you so much, Your Majesty, but I've already learned a lot of battle techniques. If I learn any more, then it'll be difficult for me to learn and integrate them into my fighting style properly."

Undying Yushan pondered his words over and agreed. "In that case, while you don't have to learn the Ashen Energy Force technique, you must learn the Invisible Aura technique."

"The Invisible Aura technique?" Lu Yin was confused.

Undying Yushan seriously said, "The Invisible Aura technique makes your aura invisible. In other words, it hides your battle power. When you use this technique, nobody will be able to determine your power level, even when you're fighting. Back in the day, one of the main reasons why I was able to return to the empire from the Inniverse was because of this technique. If used well, it may very well save your life."

Lu Yin was delighted, as this technique sounded very useful. "Thank you, Your Majesty."

The Invisible Aura technique wasn't too complicated, and it merely required one to use their body to create a lock that would seal up star energy. While learning it did not take much time due to its simplicity, very few would think to use this method. It was a very sophisticated technique.

Lu Yin fully learned it in just twenty minutes.

"You learn so quickly! I'm shocked. I heard that you learned the 96th form of the Skybeast Claw in thirteen days and also managed to learn Tianming's Three Stacks after seeing it once. Considering your talent, this is the first time I'm hoping that you'll be able to marry Wendy," Undying Yushan said with a ruefully sigh.

Lu Yin had been completely immersed in the excitement of having learned the Invisible Aura technique, but after Wendy's name was suddenly brought up, his heart sank. He'd heard this woman's name far too many times, and it was impossible for him to ignore her existence.

"I can do a lot for you, Little Yin, but I'm powerless when it comes to Wendy. She might be my daughter, but she is also a disciple of Ten Thousand Swords Peak. I alone cannot decide who her husband will be," Undying Yushan said apologetically.

Lu Yin hurriedly said, "What happens between me and Princess Wendy will sort itself out. You don't have to worry about it, Your Majesty."

Undying Yushan nodded. "Alright then. Anyways, she should be back in a few days. Would you like to meet her?"

Lu Yin actually wanted to refuse, but after thinking it over, he remained quiet. He knew that his status paled in comparison to Wendy Yushan's, but he should at least have the courage to meet her. "We can discuss this later, but I won't immediately refuse."

Undying Yushan was glad to hear his response. "Don't worry. With me around, she won't do anything to you."

Lu Yin nodded.

"Also, don't forget about that three year marriage agreement that you have with the Aunas," Undying Yushan reminded.

Lu Yin could only nod again.

Undying Yushan patted him on the shoulder as he consoled, "That marriage contract will tie both sides together. Even if you don't marry Jenny Auna, the Auna Family is already trying to curry favor with you. Haven't you noticed?"

Lu Yin's eyes shone as he recalled what had happened when he had met Rocky Auna outside of the Grand Astral Gate. The Auna family had obviously shown that they wanted to display their goodwill.

"For now, you don't have any connections to the empire. Thus, the Auna Family, which also doesn't belong to any factions, can be helpful to you. I don't mind if my successor makes connections with external officials; it'll all depend on you. Even if you don't marry, those three years should be more than enough for the Auna Family to provide you with quite a bit of aid," Undying Yushan said.

Lu Yin glanced at Undying Yushan. This person was teaching him how to use others, and also how to set situations up so that he would receive the results he wanted. Are these the emperor's psychological tactics?

After a long time, Lu Yin left the palace. But he was pulled back inside right after by Undying Yushan, mostly to teach him how to deal with certain matters. From Lu Yin's point of view, the emperor was teaching him things that were not widely known, yet were very effective. Learning from the experiences of someone who had governed an empire for over eight centuries was very valuable. Dorren and Duke Yushan had probably been taught like this as well, and it was now Lu Yin's turn.

While thinking about the recent turn of events, Lu Yin unconsciously walked up to the Grand Astral Gate. He looked up and felt his heart tremble. Before him stood Rocky Auna, quietly looking at him.

Chapter 156: Bloodstained Space

When Lu Yin saw Rocky, a feeling of guilt crept up within his heart. He had just been talking with Undying Yushan about how he could best make use of the Auna Family just now. Who could have guessed that he would run into one of the aforementioned people. It really was bad to talk about someone behind their back. He shouldn't have heard anything... right?

"Hello, Captain Rocky," Lu Yin greeted enthusiastically and modestly.

Rocky Auna nodded, his expression as indifferent as ever. He even managed to squeeze out a smile as he asked, "Do you have the time to visit the Auna Family? Our family head has been waiting to meet you for a long time."

Lu Yin's first instinct was to refuse, but after thinking things over, he ultimately decided to accept Rocky's offer. He would have to visit the family sooner or later as, even though he had a marriage agreement with them, he hadn't done so yet. Even if his actions were interpreted in the most generous

manner possible, he would be seen as having no manners. However, if people tried to read into his intentions, then they might think that he thought nothing of the Auna Family. And this was the Auna Family, a powerful family with a Cruiser at its head.

“Of course. I’ve long since wanted to visit Snow Mountain, sir,” Lu Yin answered politely.

Rocky smiled at Lu Yin before leading the way. Soon enough, they arrived before a luxurious spacecraft. The two of them then embarked for the Auna Family’s residence.

Meanwhile, in the dark void of outer space, an ancient sword pierced through the stars, aimed straight at the Great Yu Empire.

But in reality, it was a spacecraft in the shape of a sword. No matter how closely one inspected it, it looked like a sword flying through outer space at exceptional speeds. Spacecraft like these were rarely seen and only ever came from the Inniverse’s Ten Thousand Swords Peak. Within it was Wendy Yushan, who was rushing back to her homeworld.

Within the spacecraft, Wendy had an indifferent and icy expression on her face. While she did not care much for the Great Yu Empire, it was still her birthplace, and her family was still there. If anyone had the guts to challenge the empire, then she’d kill them all.

Not too much later, she saw a spacecraft approaching hers from the front, as if it were fleeing away from the Great Yu Empire.

Her eyes narrowed when she saw the spacecraft, and with a casual stomp of her foot, she tore through space and appeared directly in front of the spacecraft. Then, with a wave of her hand, numerous metallic glints shimmered in space that instantly destroyed the spacecraft. Every person who was inside died with the sole exception of a middle-aged man, who emerged from the wreckage with a pathetic expression. He gazed at Wendy in shock. “Y-you’ve returned?”

Wendy’s gaze was cold. “What happened?”

The middle-aged man grit his teeth and turned pale before he spoke. “Your father, Undying Yushan, is fine. We were deceived by him and didn’t manage to hurt him in the slightest.”

Wendy continued glaring at him. “I already know that, but that’s not what I wanted to hear.”

“You might be a disciple of Ten Thousand Swords Peak, but I’m still not someone you should provoke. I’ve also got someone-” But before the middle-aged man could finish his words, Wendy killed him with a single blow. He had been a Cruiser, albeit seriously injured, and had still been very powerful. But he couldn’t even hold out against Wendy for even a second and had been instantly killed.

“I’ll look for the person who’s backing you, ant.” Wendy’s tone was calm, complete unconcerned about whether the Cruiser was dead or alive. Arrogant wasn’t even strong enough to describe her mind. In her eyes, even Inniverse powerhouses weren’t worth considering. Like she’d said, they were mere ants in her eyes.

After Wendy returned to her sword-shaped spacecraft, it continued flying into the distance.

Each Inniverse spacecraft that she met on the way was destroyed by her. She didn’t care about who these people were nor the organizations behind them. She was a disciple of Ten Thousand Swords Peak

and also a member of the Ten Arbiters Council. No matter how brazen these people might have been, they didn't have the guts to attack someone related to the Ten Arbiters; the Ten Arbiters were the pinnacle of tyranny, influence, and power.

Soon enough, many Inniverse organizations received the news of their members being slaughtered and became enraged. However, there was nothing they could do about Wendy Yushan. As she already knew, while they could work together to disregard Ten Thousand Swords Peak, they could never stand against the monstrous Ten Arbiters. At this moment, they were already intensely regretting their decision. If they'd known that the Great Yu Empire had birthed such a terrifying monster, then they would have tried to remove Undying Yushan regardless of the cost years ago. Then, a heaven-defying person like Wendy Yushan would have never come into existence.

Along the way, at least fifteen cultivators at the Explorer realm or above were killed by her as she paved her way home with blood. The entire space path was splattered with blood, and any soldiers or space pirates that passed by trembled in fear when they saw the macabre scene.

Wendy Yushan had used such a high-profile manner to announce her return, but when she looked at Zenyu Star, she was still very far away.

At that moment, Lu Yin had just arrived at the Auna Family's residence.

This clan was one of the strongest among the entire Great Yu Empire. Among its members, besides the captain of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, Rocky Auna, the family also held another mysterious existence—Xueshan Auna. That person was a key member of the Auna Family and held the same status as Huo Qingshan within his.

This was something that Lu Yin had found out after chatting with Rocky Auna. He'd thought that the Auna family head wasn't a warrior, but to his surprise, the person was even more powerful than Rocky Auna.

While admiring the grand manor, Lu Yin felt a chilling sensation wash over him. This was a natural side effect that emerged whenever someone activated the Auna Family's battle technique that had been passed down through countless generations: the Blizzard Palm. Every blood-related member of the Auna Family had trained in this technique at some point in time.

As they approached the entrance of the manor, Lu Yin saw someone he knew—Torry Auna, the vice-captain of the Ninth Imperial Squadron who had nearly killed him back on Earth.

As soon as the two of them saw Torry Auna, Rocky carefully shifted gazes to observe Lu Yin. He wanted to use Torry to get a glimpse of Lu Yin's bearing and see if he was a petty person or not. For normal people, it would be nearly impossible for them to ignore someone who had nearly caused them to die.

Thankfully, Lu Yin was merely slightly surprised at seeing Torry Auna. Then, he nodded at him and smiled casually.

Rocky Auna gently sighed. Thankfully, this King Zishan was not a petty person, which meant that he had the potential to accomplish great things in his life.

Lu Yin didn't mind Torry Auna at all. He had never blamed Torry for anything at all. In fact, to him, it even made sense that the vice-captain had acted against him, since Lu Yin had tried to rob Jenny Auna.

At that time, he hadn't become King Zishan yet and had merely been betting that his threats would work. Besides, after his identity as King Zishan was verified, Torry had stopped trying to cause trouble for him. Everything that had been done purely out of necessity. There was no need to pursue things any further.

Torry Auna was the Ninth Imperial Squadron's vice-captain and an Explorer realm powerhouse. No matter how high Lu Yin's position was, he still had to give him the basic amount of respect that such a powerhouse commanded. Lu Yin nodding to Torry Auna was enough to show his sincerity.

Torry couldn't help himself from sneaking a glance at Rocky, who surreptitiously nodded back. After seeing this, Torry bowed to Lu Yin before leaving.

Lu Yin didn't notice this silent exchange as he was instead enamored with the Auna Family's manor. It wasn't very extravagant or grand, and its decorations could actually be called simple. From a distance, it was pure white; the Auna Family manor was covered from ceiling to floor with snow and ice.

"Our family has passed down the Blizzard Palm technique for generations. The effects are multiplied when we train in such an environment," Rocky explained.

Lu Yin grunted in understanding. "I heard that the Auna Family's Blizzard Palm technique can even freeze the void. Quite impressive."

Rocky burst into laughter. "Any battle technique becomes frightening when its wielder is strong enough. The battle technique in and of itself isn't that powerful. You've fought with Jenny before, so you should have experienced it for yourself then. It's not powerful enough to threaten you."

Lu Yin inwardly agreed with Rocky's assessment, but he still had to be polite, "It's a battle technique that's been passed down through many generations, after all. That's more than enough to make many people throughout the empire envious."

Rocky shook his head. "The Outerverse is still the Outerverse in the end. The Blizzard Palm technique can be considered to be a pretty good technique in the Great Yu Empire, but it's nothing compared to the techniques of the great organizations in the Innaverse." At this point, Rocky looked at Lu Yin and said in an admiring tone, "I saw how you took out that Limiteer from the Outerverse Youth Council in front of the palace. You're powerful."

Everything suddenly clicked together for Lu Yin; he had been wondering why Rocky Auna's attitude had changed so drastically, but it seems that in the end, it all came down to power. His identity as King Zishan meant nothing to Rocky, but his battle power was a whole other story. Lu Yin had handily defeated those Limiteers from the Youth Council, and that organization was one of the top within the Great Yu Empire. If Rocky knew that Lu Yin had also enhanced the purple star, then he might even start asking about Lu Yin's innate gift.

After considering all of this, Lu Yin sighed ruefully in gratitude. Undying Yushan had been very generous to not ask about this matter at all.

"The only person amongst the Great Yu Empire's younger generation that can stand up to you is probably Schutz from Astral-10. The others, even Limiteers, are no match for you," Rocky said happily.

Lu Yin merely smiled. Schutz? He was one of the bottom ranked students in Astral-10 in terms of power while Lu Yin was the leader; the gap between them was huge. However, there was no need for him to say anything. Rocky might not believe him and even think that he was spouting nonsense.

The Auna Family mansion wasn't completely covered with ice and snow, and there were places with normal weather as well.

After passing through the manor, they walked for ten minutes before reaching a sitting room. There, the current head of the Auna Family, Xueshan Auna, was already waiting.

Not only was Xueshan Auna the family head of the Auna family, but he was also Jenny's father.

Lu Yin suddenly had the strange feeling he was being introduced to his father-in-law. While he had never considered marrying Jenny, many people in the empire already thought him as the Auna Family's son-in-law. In some sense, he really was meeting his father-in-law.

Lu Yin paused for a moment before stepping into the living room. From a glance, he saw that a solemn looking middle-aged man was sitting at the master's seat. This was naturally Xueshan Auna.

Lu Yin bowed, "Greetings, Uncle Xueshan."

Xueshan Auna inspected Lu Yin with a curious look on his face. Lu Yin didn't move and just remained standing.

A while later, Xueshan nodded in satisfaction and warmly said, "Have a seat. You too, Rocky."

"Yes, sir," Rocky answered.

Lu Yin bowed once again. "Thank you, sir."

When Lu Yin sat down, a servant immediately came over and poured tea for the three of them. The fragrance was pleasant and calming with a hint of bitterness. The leaves themselves seemed to be frosted over, which piqued Lu Yin's curiosity.

Xueshan Auna looked at Lu Yin as he said, "I've always wanted to greet you. Forgive me for making you come all the way to our Auna Family mansion."

Lu Yin politely answered, "Not at all, sir. I should be the one greeting you. Please forgive my rudeness."

Xueshan Auna was very satisfied with Lu Yin's congenial attitude; he was neither arrogant nor hot-tempered. In the past, he would not have cared one way or another, but he now knew that this person was a student of Astral-10. Lu Yin had the ability to also easily defeat Limiteers from the Outerverse Youth Council, but his demeanor remained polite. This was rare. "Enough with the pleasantries. I hope that you won't mind if I call you Little Yin."

Lu Yin smiled. "That's what His Majesty calls me as well. Of course I don't mind."

"Alright then. How's life in the Astral Combat Academy, Little Yin?" Xueshan asked.

Rocky looked at Lu Yin. The two Auna men might be powerful, but they had never gone to the academy. The Astral Combat Academy was the most prestigious academy in the universe and neither of them had met the requirements when they were younger.

Lu Yin gave a brief summary on his activities in the academy. Of course, he did not mention Astral-10's decline. Just as Undying Yushan had instructed him, regardless of whether he actually married Jenny, it was necessary to maintain his value in the Auna Family's eyes. If they discovered what had happened to Astral-10, then Lu Yin's value would drop along with it.

Chapter 157: Wendy Yushan

Most of the Great Yu Empire only knew that Astral-10 had been driven from the Inniverse, and not many of them knew the specific details about Astral-10's dire situation. Thus, Lu Yin did his best to avoid revealing the full extent of Astral-10's tragic state.

Even with Lu Yin's sparse explanation, his audience was stunned by the descriptions of the teleportation stone, ported battles, Rain Observatory, Sand Ocean, Nine Trial Zones, and everything else. Few Outerverse denizens had even heard of these mysterious places, especially the ported battles. The thought of freely pitting themselves against Inniverse powerhouses was so wonderful that even Rocky Auna grew excited from Lu Yin's stories. It was a pity that he wasn't a part of the younger generation.

"I wish that I were born a few hundred years later. If I were as young as little Yin, I would die to enter the Astral Combat Academy," Xueshan Auna bemoaned.

"It's a pity that Jenny couldn't make it," Rocky Auna said with a sigh.

Upon the mention of Jenny's name, Xueshan Auna's face changed. "Don't bring up that useless thing. As the heir to the Auna clan, it would have been acceptable if she had merely failed the Astral Combat Academy examinations; however, she failed at the Sentinel trial stage and was even captured. Worthless."

Lu Yin grew embarrassed, as Jenny had naturally been captured by him. Did Xueshan Auna mention this just to make me feel guilty?

Even though Xueshan Auna was genuinely furious, Jenny was still his daughter by blood and even the eldest child of his first wife. He could not stop his innate affection from showing through his eyes.

Lu Yin was reminded of an amusing phenomenon; regardless of whether it was a Hunter who had a lifespan of a thousand years or a weaker cultivator who could only live for a few hundred years, they tended to delay giving birth whenever possible. He had actually investigated this phenomena, and apparently, it was because most cultivators only wanted to have children when they had reached peak strength. By doing so, their descendants would have a greater probability of inheriting their innate gifts and strengthening their clan.

Just like Daynight and Mavis clan members, the children of powerful cultivators were more powerful than normal cultivators. Many cultivators in the universe had a dream of establishing a strong clan, so they often delayed establishing a family for as long as they could. Xueshan Auna had lived for several hundred years and only had one daughter: Jenny Auna. Undying Yushan similarly only had a few children.

Xueshan looked towards Lu Yin and, in a soft tone, asked, "Little Yin, what do you think of my girl, Jenny?"

Lu Yin's heart pounded when this question was asked. "She's a good person. She's very kind and very pretty."

Xueshan Auna smiled wryly. "You don't have to be polite. As her father, I know that brat's disposition extremely well. She's stubborn and isn't very talented. But she is indeed kind and very pretty."

Lu Yin smiled. "Miss Jenny is indeed a good catch."

Xueshan Auna nodded as his expression turned serious. "Since our two families have confirmed the engagement, when do you plan on having the wedding ceremony with Jenny?"

Lu Yin fell silent. After a while, he raised his head and seriously replied, "Uncle, I wish to focus on raising my strength for now. Could you give me some time?"

"His Majesty has previously discussed this with me. Three years is not a long time, but it isn't short either. We can delay the wedding with Jenny for three years, but you must be engaged first."

"I don't accept!" Jenny shouted as she furiously ran in. She glared angrily at Lu Yin before demanding, "Give up! I won't marry you. You're not worthy of me."

"Shut up. What audacity!" Xueshan Auna slammed the table, stood up, and pointed outside. "Get out! You have no right to speak here."

Tears welled up in Jenny's eyes as she looked indignantly at Xueshan Auna, "Father, I will not marry him, even if I die. I already have someone else in my heart. This person doesn't even qualify to be compared with Brother Feng."

"Get lost," Xueshan Auna said as he waved his hand, causing an icy gust to sweep across the sitting room and toss Jenny out of the room.

Rocky Auna immediately tried to defuse the situation. "Brother, there's no need to be angry. I'll bring her around." After saying that, he quickly ran out.

Lu Yin did not speak from start to end. He wasn't concerned about the situation at all. Rather, he was actually glad that she had rejected the engagement because he didn't know how to turn it down. However, he still had to put on an act. "Uncle, who's this Brother Feng that Jenny mentioned?"

Xueshan Auna smiled bitterly. "He's named Yan Feng, the young master of Fireforge Planet. When Jenny visited their planet to experience the other extreme of temperature, she was unexpectedly rescued by Yan Feng in a dangerous situation. But don't pay it much mind, Little Yin. There's no need to worry about Yan Feng. She was young back then and I cannot possibly allow her to marry into Fireforge Planet. That planet is too unsuitable for anyone from the Auna clan to call it home."

Lu Yin calmly sipped his tea. He remembered Yan Gang from Fireforge Planet, and also that Ghostfire had mentioned it during Astral-10's examinations. It seemed that that planet had some muddled ties with the Great Yu Empire, and its target seemed to be Wendy Yushan. Yan Feng, huh?

Lu Yin made a request. "Uncle, may I speak to Miss Jenny alone?"

Xueshan Auna paused, but then gave his consent. "Please be patient with her. That brat's been spoiled to death, so don't place much weight on whatever she says."

Lu Yin smiled. "It's normal for girls to be a bit headstrong. Things should improve after marriage."

Xueshan Auna's eyes shone at Lu Yin's response as it seemed to indicate that Lu Yin wanted to marry Jenny, which was good news. "Yes, that's right. Okay, go ahead."

Rocky Auna returned, informed Lu Yin of Jenny Auna's location, and then Lu Yin slowly walked over.

Jenny Auna was furiously gnashing her teeth. "So he still has the balls to look for me. Hmph, I'll let you know the might of the Auna clan." She activated her gadget and it seemed like she sent a message.

Lu Yin slowly walked through the courtyard as he immersed himself in the visuals of the Auna clan's heritage, enjoying himself immensely. This was truly an incredible clan, as there were items of great cultural value that had been accumulated over the ages displayed everywhere.

Before long, Lu Yin found Jenny Auna, who had two Limiteers beside her. Lu Yin was unperturbed by the additional people and continued approaching her without any hesitation.

Jenny Auna defiantly pointed at him. "Teach him a lesson."

The two Limiteers didn't hesitate as they did not recognize him. Thus, they approached with the intention to strike heavily; there were no lack of Limiteers within the Auna clan.

An icy glint flashed through Lu Yin's eyes. Although he had hoped that Jenny Auna would resist, his punishment could not be too excessive, lest it cause any annoying complications. He would teach her a lesson and by doing so, let the Auna clan see his truth worth. He considered his next course of action for a brief moment, and then vanished as he stepped out, distorting the very air around him.

With two soft slaps that resounded throughout the courtyard, the two Limiteers were struck to the ground, expressions of disbelief still on their faces. Fresh blood flowed down their sides and stained the ground red as the four arms that had been cleanly and instantly severed fell onto the ground beside them with a discordant plop. Lu Yin appeared before Jenny Auna and raised his hand, slowly touching Jenny Auna's smooth cheeks.

This outcome shocked Jenny Auna to her core. How is this possible? Though the two Limiteers had not mastered any battle techniques, they were still Limiteers. In spite of that, they had been severely injured near instantaneously. Jenny looked at the scarlet blood spreading across the ground and felt an acute sense of danger. She didn't even attempt to avoid Lu Yin's hand that was caressing her face.

"I will tolerate being mischievous this once, but don't go overboard. There won't be a next time." Lu Yin's calm tone caused a chill to run down her spine. She had felt this once before, when she had nearly died during Astral-10's examination. That had been an unforgettable experience, but that same feeling had resurfaced again with this man, her alleged fiancé.

Lu Yin smiled as he continued, saying, "We've known each other for so long, but I've never given you any gifts. Here, this is for you." An exquisite ring appeared in his hand. It was a completely normal ring without any special abilities that he had obtained after rolling Pilfer with his die. Its craftsmanship was quite impressive and it should have had a rather considerable price tag. It was more than sufficient as a

greeting gift to the Auna clan's eldest daughter. Jenny Auna was still in a daze and could only stare at the ring, dumbfounded.

Lu Yin repeated, "Take it. This is my gift for you."

Jenny Auna trembled; coincidentally, the blood was creeping towards her feet. She was extremely frightened, but she still stuck out her hand. Lu Yin accepted her snow-white hand and put the ring on her finger. He exclaimed, "Beautiful! This was an enjoyable meeting. I'm looking forward to our next one." He then turned and left.

He did not bid farewell to Xueshan Auna as he knew full well that the Auna clan head was monitoring his every movement. Xueshan Auna would learn much about Lu Yin through these actions that he had just taken.

As Lu Yin went around the corner and his figure vanished, Jenny immediately took a step back to avoid the slowly expanding puddle of blood. She panted, and was only now able to react to what had just happened. She looked at the exquisite ring on her hand and thought about throwing it away, but the thought of Lu Yin's icy gaze rose unbidden in her mind, and that wasn't even mentioning the sorry state of the two Limiteers in front of her. She ultimately decided to leave the ring on her hand.

In the distance, Rocky Auna sighed. "Brother, he's truly not simple. He can already use Flash so exquisitely that his technique is beyond most Limiteers as he is nearly able to shatter the void with his movements. How can his body handle it? It should be too fast."

Xueshan Auna had an amazed expression on his face. He wasn't just shocked by the young man's power, but also his execution. In just a few seconds, he had subdued Jenny. No matter what his strategy had been, this King Zishan's abilities were far beyond his imagination. He was obviously much more powerful than what he had previously been led to believe.

"Brother, Astral-10 must be truly extraordinary if it transformed him so much in just a couple of months," Rocky Auna commented.

Xueshan Auna calmly replied, "There's no need to be overly shocked. Those two Limiteers were very weak; even the Yu Academy's Hall Masters can defeat them. And Little Yin easily destroyed one of the Council's Limiteers. Those two can't even qualify to carry Lu Yin's shoes and would only shame us no matter the outcome. Normally, my Auna clan can act with impunity. This is also a warning for Jenny."

Rocky Auna could not bear it any longer. "Jenny must have been frightened."

"This will be a good experience for her then. Otherwise, she will truly end up suffering once she marries King Zishan. It's better to face reality now than later."

Rocky Auna nodded in agreement.

"Oh, we must also send a gift in reply to King Zishan. Don't be stingy."

"Understood. I'll give the task to Torry."

Xueshan Auna thought about it for a moment, but then nodded in approval. "Very well."

Across the planet, the Zenyu Star space stations had all been sealed and the monitoring devices all deactivated. The cabin door of a spacecraft opened, and Wendy Yushan walked out. Jue Lang, Di Ou, Peach, and Bazeer were already there waiting for her.

Bazeer's eyes gleamed when he saw Wendy Yushan. He stepped forward and respectfully greeted, "Representative Wendy, you must have had a difficult journey."

"Mmm," Wendy Yushan said, barely acknowledging him.

Jue Lang and the other captains stepped forward as well. "We pay respects to the Fifth Princess."

The trio's attitude was very deferential, even more so than when they faced Dorren Yushan. This was because of Wendy Yushan's strength.

Wendy Yushan's gaze swept across them all before finally stopping on Peach. She retrieved a large pile of snacks under Peach's watchful eyes. "For you."

Chapter 158: Lu Yin and Wendy

Peach was delighted by Wendy's gift, and she immediately took the snacks. Her small face beamed as she aimed a smile at Wendy Yushan. "Thank you."

Wendy Yushan nodded in response. "I had to rush over here, so I wasn't able to prepare much. I'll move the production lines of your most beloved snacks to Zenyu Star."

Many were stunned by Wendy's declaration. It seemed a little overboard.

Even Peach shook her head. "There's no need to go that far. A small bite of these snacks are good enough. Otherwise, I wouldn't cherish them."

Wendy Yushan raised her head. "That's true. Some people don't know how to appreciate what is dear to them." She then stepped forward and vanished. Jue Lang and the rest were shocked; they could not sense where she had gone. Wendy was just too strong.

Bazeer's gaze revealed his excitement, and there was even a hint of infatuation, but it was quickly suppressed. Wendy Yushan was beautiful, had a naturally heroic demeanor, and it was all accentuated by the longsword she wielded; she emanated the natural aura of a conqueror. Bazeer was a member of her throngs of admirers, but he hid his thoughts well and didn't dare expose them. His idol was Wendy Yushan after all. She would not think twice about killing him, and he knew that he was no match for her.

Sadly, there was no telling who might draw the short stick of her anger at any given moment. Pity welled up within Bazeer as the image of a man flitted across his mind.

Within the Imperial palace's gardens, Undying Yushan was silently observing a certain purple plant. Wendy Yushan appeared behind him with tranquil eyes and a calm face.

Undying Yushan turned around as he remarked, "You've lost even more manners since last time."

Wendy Yushan disregarded her father's snide comment and sat down. "I killed almost half of those Innerverse meddlers."

Undying Yushan sighed. "I heard. It turns out that I can't even fulfill my duties as a father! My daughter had to act on my behalf."

Wendy Yushan stared at Undying Yushan. "Why didn't you inform me earlier? If I were watching over everything, it'd be fine even if the ancestors behind them come out."

Undying Yushan shook his head. "Showing off your abilities is not a good idea. Ten Thousand Swords Peak is not the strongest organization, and while the Ten Arbiters are powerful, the interests of all parties involved must be considered. Oftentimes, there is a gap between the law and the real world; however, this gap can bury us all."

Wendy Yushan coldly replied, "Even if they use all of their hidden cards, I won't be harmed."

Undying Yushan smiled. "I know who's behind you, but the winds of the universe are forever changing. That person is also not immortal. How can you be certain that she has no intentions on the Undying Manual? Even if the likelihood of me having it is miniscule, that probability might be enough for her to abandon you."

Wendy Yushan snubbed, "Father, you are still too narrow-minded. Do you really think that the Undying Manual can drag out everyone's greed? The person behind me doesn't care about it at all, and neither do the Ten Arbiters."

"There's no one who can resist the allure of immortality," Undying Yushan responded with a sigh.

"Anyone who reaches a certain level of strength will naturally come to understand that no one can truly be immortal. I dare say that, amongst the Ten Arbiters, not a single one of them wants to seize the Undying Manual. They would just have to reveal their intentions a little, and both the Great Yu Empire and myself would cease to exist."

Undying Yushan nodded. "Perhaps you're right. Alright, let's not discuss this anymore. Now that you've shifted the focus of the conflict from me to you, what do you plan to do next?"

She arrogantly replied, "Whoever dares to give me trouble shall die."

"It sounds like you're very confident in your power. Do you want to spar?" Undying Yushan suggested, his lips rising ever so slightly to form the barest outline of a smile.

Wendy Yushan turned away, not accepting the invitation. While she was confident that she could defeat many powerhouses, she knew that she would be powerless against her father. Even though he had been severely injured and his power had declined significantly, he was still a powerhouse who had lived for nearly a thousand years. His battle power far exceeded that of a considerable number of people in the Inniverse, and he could not be measured by the Outerverse's standards. Otherwise, those Inniverse powers would not have waited until they received news of Undying Yushan's death to act.

"Father, the empire has really declined. If you hadn't put on that act and deceived everyone at the last moment, then Jue Lang and the rest would not have been able to stop the Inniverse powerhouses. And the Yu Academy is truly too weak. I can't even bear to look at them," Wendy Yushan criticized, still in a snobbish tone.

Undying Yushan laughed and gazed lovingly at Wendy. This brat of his was still every bit as competitive as she had been in her younger days. If she couldn't win in an argument against him, then she would always try to take the advantage in another aspect. She used this tactic time and time again, but it didn't invalidate her arguments. Compared to the Innerverse, the younger generation of the Great Yu Empire truly was far too weak, apart from Schutz. Actually, there was now Little Yin as well. He was the top student in Astral-10 and had even surpassed Schutz.

"Little brat, Father did not arrange anything and very nearly died," Undying Yushan spoke in a hushed tone.

Wendy Yushan was shocked by this reveal and scrutinized Undying Yushan carefully. Her eyes flashed as she replied, "Impossible. Your condition has improved substantially, and in your current condition, you can hold on for at least another hundred years."

Undying Yushan forced a smile onto his face as he informed Wendy of what had actually happened. She was shocked and immediately asked, "What could his innate gift be for him to be able to nearly enhance a purple star into a billowing star?"

"Once, a die appeared with a frosty chill around it. I'm unsure of the exact details."

Wendy Yushan fell silent. Her right thumb caressed her sword hilt as she muttered to herself, deep in thought. There were many strange innate gifts in the universe. If this King Zishan really had the ability to enhance a purple star into a billowing star, that was a very valuable ability. The billowing star was a rare treasure even in the Innerverse.

"Find out what his innate gift is." Wendy was direct in her thoughts.

Undying Yushan looked sternly at Wendy, "He himself has stated that there are no issues with the purple star. If he doesn't speak, then we will not force it."

"I know that his innate gift may be special, but there's no way that it would be that valuable, unless his innate gift really can enhance a purple star to a billowing star. Then it would be worthwhile for me to speak up for him and defuse his conflict with Bazeer."

Undying Yushan's eyes blazed. "His worth would only merit you speaking up and defusing the conflict? Do you know what sort of shame he endured because of Bazeer?"

Wendy couldn't care less about Lu Yin's shame. "I've already said that the strong will prey on the weak in this universe. Bazeer is strong, so he can do as he pleases. If someone needs to be blamed, then it should be that person for not knowing his place. I can only speak on his behalf due to the uniqueness of his innate gift. If it were anyone else, I wouldn't care even then. Of course, as repayment for saving your life, I'll transfer him to one of the other academies. Astral-10 is just too lousy."

"You can transfer him to the other academies? But you're not even a student of the Astral Combat Academy." Undying Yushan was doubtful of his daughter's plans.

Wendy laughed confidently before replying, "Father, many of Ten Thousand Swords Peak's disciples are students of the Astral Combat Academy. I'm their senior, so my words are more than enough to bring one person into an academy. It's quite simple."

Undying Yushan fell silent. He felt that his daughter was too arrogant, but at the same time, her words were backed up by her strength and lofty status. But the universe had a saying; do not look down upon others. The shame that Bazeer had brought to little Yin could not be dissolved with mere words. If Wendy decided to defuse the conflict with her might, then it would only lead to Little Yin becoming even more infuriated. It would be alright if he were a normal person, but if one day he became a peerless powerhouse, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Undying Yushan could only assume that this wasn't the first time that Wendy had acted in this brazen manner. She had offended too many people to count, but no one had dared to act against her as she was protected by the Ten Arbiters' prestige. But there was no absolute in the world, and the Ten Arbiters may not remain invincible forever.

"Little brat, listen to me. Look at it from the bottom sometimes. There are many things that cannot be seen from just a high vantage point," he advised.

Wendy spun around and fiercely shot back, "Father, you've also reached certain heights before and should know that some people naturally don't understand what living like a lowlife is like. Only by perpetually seeking ever greater heights can we ever fulfill our potential. All I need to do is continually look upwards." She then tore the void in front of her apart, stepped in, and vanished.

Undying Yushan sighed; she was absolutely correct. He had once reached those heights, and hence held those same thoughts as well. The top twenty in the Astral Combat Rankings were not the peak, as there were still the top ten, and then the top five after that. And above them, there were still the Ten Arbiters and even more ancient and powerful ancestors after that. Although those seniors had not cultivated with formcast models, they had become unimaginably terrifying over time.

After Lu Yin left the Auna clan, he flew in his spacecraft towards the King Zishan palace. On his way back, he reviewed everything related to the Great Yu Empire. Why did Undying Yushan fabricate legends about the Zishan clan treasure? Was it really just as a plot against the various Inniverse powers? My family even set me up with the identity of King Zishan because of those legends. Just that might be reasonable, but what about Silver? He's from the Neohuman Alliance, so why does he have such a detailed understanding of the Great Yu Empire? Is it because of the Undying Manual?

The Neohuman Alliance power was powerful, but it was also limited to acting in the shadows. Many Inniverse powers had concealed themselves specifically to deal with the Great Yu Empire and were waiting for Undying Yushan's demise. However, the Neohuman Alliance's influence and power in the Great Yu Empire couldn't possibly exceed that of the Inniverse powers, so why did they know so much about the empire?

There were only two possibilities. The first was that the Neohuman Alliance was certain that the Undying Manual was in Undying Yushan's hands, and thus had spared no effort in investigating the Great Yu Empire. Besides that, the Alliance might also have another goal.

Lu Yin was reminded of Silver's special attention to himself and guessed that Silver must have other motives.

Also, Lu Yin's family had specifically told him to find a way to join the newly established Great Yu Empire Youth Council. They must have some other goal besides obtaining the Undying Manual.

Lu Yin's eyes twinkled; the Great Yu Empire must contain other secrets that he hadn't uncovered yet.

The stately King Zishan palace appeared before him as Lu Yin's spacecraft landed. Suddenly, the void in front of him distorted, from where a peerless beauty with an ancient longsword stepped out, nearly causing the spacecraft to explode. Lu Yin ignored the near destruction of his spacecraft, only staring at the woman: Wendy Yushan.

Wendy Yushan had stepped through the void and unintentionally run across Lu Yin. She glanced at him and a strange expression flashed across her eyes, but it vanished even quicker before her entire body vanished as well.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed as his surroundings returned to normal. That could've been a dream, but that woman's appearance was unmistakable. She was definitely Wendy Yushan. She had recognized him but had not bothered to say anything.

This was Lu Yin's first close encounter with Wendy Yushan. She had a calm gaze that seemed to view everything as ordinary without any special display of arrogance. But this was actually the greatest arrogance, as it meant that she did not put anything or anyone in her eyes, including Lu Yin.

Lu Yin sighed. He had not expected to bump into Wendy Yushan here. Is this fate? It was impossible to know what the circumstances of their next meeting would be, and Lu Yin suddenly grew excited at that thought. He hated Wendy Yushan's calm look and fervently wished that he could shatter that tranquility. At their next meeting, he hoped that his actions would be able to send a ripple of shock into that woman's eyes. Or incomprehension, or maybe even regret... The Astral Combat Tournament would be the best opportunity for him to prove himself to the entire universe.

Chapter 159: Sourcebox Catalog

Not long after Lu Yin arrived at the residence, Peach arrived with a tortured expression.

Lu Yin could already guess what had happened.

"I'm sorry. I lost your friend," Peach sincerely apologized to Lu Yin, her face extremely cute.

Lu Yin smiled as he consoled, "Peach, Bai Xue is an adult and is responsible for her own behavior. Getting lost is her fault and not your responsibility."

Peach obstinately said, "I don't even know what happened. She just vanished mysteriously. I didn't even sense anything when she disappeared."

Lu Yin was shocked since he assumed that she had lost track of Bai Xue when Yu Academy had fallen into chaos when the second prince, Duke Yushan, defected. A portion of Yu Academy had left the academy grounds at that time, and it was very possible that Bai Xue had been taken out as well since she had an innate gift. But now it seemed that there might be other matters at play. "How?"

Peach didn't know either. "I really don't know."

"Didn't she go in the first round?"

Peach shook her head. "No, she went missing in the Sixth Imperial Squadron's encampment. A super powerhouse should have been the one to take her away, but I couldn't feel any trace of remnant star energy. I've reported this to His Majesty, and he said that only a Hunter or above powerhouse could have accomplished such a thing. And it must have been no ordinary Hunter, either, as the emperor couldn't sense anything either."

Lu Yin was shocked to hear Peach's words. For someone to be able to hide their movements from Undying Yushan, they were definitely a super powerhouse. But why Bai Xue? And Zhang Dingtian, Seruzen, Xu San are all missing as well. Could their disappearances all be related to this mysterious super powerhouse? They were all very ordinary and their only commonality lay in their shared origin of Earth. But Earth should be a very ordinary planet without any connections to any super powerhouses.

Lu Yin felt helpless as he could not make sense of what had happened either. He told Peach, "It's unrelated to you, so don't blame yourself."

Peach nodded with a gloomy face. She liked Bai Xue, but the woman had gone missing on her watch.

Peach left soon after, but before she left, she told Lu Yin that Wendy had brought her many snacks from the Inverseverse. Lu Yin knew what she was hinting at, but he really had no more snacks and so could only gently push her away.

Torry Auna arrived shortly after Peach left.

"King Zishan, Your Highness, this is the Auna clan's welcome gift for you. Please accept our good wishes," Torry Auna said as he passed an information chip to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin received the chip and smiled at Torry Auna. "Please convey my thanks to Xueshan Auna."

Torry Auna nodded and slowly left.

Lu Yin inserted the chip into his gadget and discovered that it was actually a list of names. More specifically, it was a list of names of those who were once loyal to the Zishan clan. Sigmund Mathers name was on the list. Additionally, there was a portion of the names that had been labeled as traitors.

This list of names was rather similar to Silver's; it was more detailed, but the two lists were essentially identical.

This list represented the Auna clan's sincerity in dealing with Lu Yin. If not for Silver's gift, Lu Yin would have been extremely excited to receive this gift, but since it was just a copy of information that he already had, this gift held no practical value to him. Even money would have been better...

Lu Yin crushed the chip into dust and looked at his gadget, recalling something.

Master Wusheng had given Lu Yin several instructions before he left Astral-10. One was to wait for the network to finalize his approval as a Lockbreaker. Lu Yin did not know if it had finished yet, but he went ahead and entered the code that Master Wusheng had given him. The registration interface immediately popped up on his display.

After Lu Yin entered his serial identification number for the Lockbreaker Society and went through several rounds of authentication, a message finally appeared that stated, "Congratulations, Lu Yin, for successfully being verified as a Lockbreaker. Please choose a pseudonym and begin your great, lockbreaking journey."

Lu Yin's eyes gleamed and immediately entered a pseudonym—Seventh Brother.

A moment later, the display changed to a general interface. There were various guides and rules concerning Lockbreakers, and there was also a flashing icon in the bottom-right hand corner. Someone was trying to contact him.

Lu Yin curiously opened the icon, only to receive a flood of congratulatory messages from all over the universe. The senders included various empires of the universe, clans, companies, institutions, and even research organizations. The congratulatory messages were so numerous that they nearly overwhelmed him.

While he had known that Lockbreakers held a high status, he had never known that it was to this extent! He was just a new member with no accomplishments to his name, but so many people had already rushed to reach out and congratulate him. This was just too unbelievable! He was sure that even the Great Yu Empire was one of the well wishers.

Lu Yin immediately closed the messaging program. There's too many. I don't have the time to view them all.

An icon close to the messaging icon flashed on the display with the description, "Sourcebox Catalog," below it.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. He had read through Master Wusheng's books and now had some cursory knowledge about lockbreaking. For example, objects that required lockbreaking were called "sourceboxes." Over the countless years of the universe's existence, innumerable treasures had been birthed into existence before being covered in dust and sealed away. These were sourceboxes, and lockbreaking was the only method that could restore them to pristine condition.

The Sourcebox Catalog was essentially a collection of lockbreaking videos. Any Lockbreaker could film and then upload a video of them lockbreaking onto their own channel in the Sourcebox Catalog. This channel could then be sold, exchanged, and if suitably qualified, uploaded onto the Lockbreaker net itself for others to view and admire.

The flashing Sourcebox Catalog icon meant that there were new lockbreaking videos available to view.

Lu Yin opened it expectantly, and a series of messages appeared before his eyes: "Congratulations to Seventh Brother for entering the Lockbreaker Society. Mavis Bank has sent five videos from the Sourcebox Catalog,"

"Congratulations, Seventh Brother, for entering the Lockbreaker Society. Exotic Metal Union has sent three videos from the Sourcebox Catalog,"

"Congratulations, Seventh Brother, for entering the Lockbreaker Society. Shamrock Enterprises has sent three videos from the Sourcebox Catalog..."

Each message stirred Lu Yin's heart. Every one of these messages had been sent by a powerful force of the universe, and there were dozens of messages. Lu Yin hadn't even heard of half of them, but since they were able to enter the Lockbreaker network and send messages, they were definitely not simple, and they most likely even had Lockbreakers of their own.

Mavis Bank, Shamrock Enterprises, Daynight clan, Fire Realm... All sorts of powers expressed their goodwill towards Lu Yin. With regards to a Lockbreaker's status, even a powerful, ancient family like the Daynight clan did not dare to act too haughtily. This was the respect that a Lockbreaker commanded.

Lu Yin rejoiced once again that he had successfully joined the Lockbreaker Society and that he was now able to experience another world.

In his excited state, Lu Yin started watching the Sourcebox Catalog videos that these powers had gifted him. First up was the one from Mavis Bank.

He saw a strange, towering black rock that stood in stark contrast to its desolate surroundings. A man slowly approached the rock, the void tearing apart as he neared. The desolate ground changed as well; the man's appearance seemed to have disrupted the immediate area's balance, causing it to break apart in stress fractures. The void started to crumble, but even this could not influence the man.

When the man finally reached the bottom of the black rock, he calmly reached out to touch it. He mumbled to himself as he circled the stone. After making a complete round, he began hitting it at specific points. An hour passed, during which cracks slowly spread across the black stone's surface until it finally collapsed. In the instant that it collapsed, the surrounding void seemed to be on the verge of completely shattering. The man used one hand to stabilize the space and forcefully mend it back together. Finally, the desolate ground was enveloped by a green layer of light, and countless plants started to grow from it. Before the man appeared a towering green rhizome.

This rhizome had always been sealed by the black stone and was finally freed by the man.

Lu Yin was shocked. So this was lockbreaking; that black rock had actually been the universe's star energy and all other sorts of special energies that had formed around the rhizome and sealed it in over the passage of time, turning it into a sourcebox. And it had been successfully unlocked in this video.

The process seemed simple, but every step was fraught with fatal danger. That entire desolate land had been within the pressure and influence range of the sourcebox, which meant that anyone who stepped in would face a tremendous pressure. It was such a dangerous place that even the void had collapsed upon the slightest imbalance. In order to successfully perform his lockbreaking, this man had spent a whole hour to shatter the outer shell formed by the energy. This was a laborious process where a single wrong move could cause the man to die, as well as cause the sourcebox to be destroyed altogether.

This man in the video was definitely a super powerhouse who could move freely throughout the universe, or he would not have been able to forcefully mend the shattered space back together. Lockbreaking not only required a deep control and understanding of star energy, but it also required one to have vast strength. Without a certain level of power, a Lockbreaker may not even be able to approach a sourcebox.

Lu Yin recalled the title page of the book that Master Wusheng had given him. There was a line that went, "No two identical sourceboxes exist in the universe."

Each and every lockbreaking process was unique, which was one of the main reasons why lockbreaking had extraordinarily high requirements for one's control over their star energy and even more stringent requirements for one's experience. This was why there were hundreds and thousands of Lockbreakers constantly watching and studying the videos that other Lockbreakers had posted on the Sourcebox Catalog. By increasing their knowledge and experience, not only could a Lockbreaker improve their chances of success, but they could also improve their chances of surviving.

Lockbreakers enjoyed a lofty status in the universe, but in exchange, they had to bear an unimaginable danger. This was because sourceboxes were sealed by the universe, and unsealing any sourcebox was basically a battle against the universe itself.

Lu Yin muttered a couple inaudible curses as he clicked his tongue. He wanted to view that video again, but he could not access it anymore. Each video could only be viewed once, and he would have to pay to view it again. Damn...

There was nothing Lu Yin could do about it, so he selected the next one.

This time, the setting was at the bottom of an ocean. The angle was not a panoramic view, but rather only showed a pair of hands. This person seemed to have used their gadget to film, which meant that this Lockbreaker had shot the video by themselves.

The snow-white pair of hands were evidently a girl's. As the camera moved and the video progressed, Lu Yin eventually caught sight of the sourcebox. This time it was a fish, or more accurately, a frozen fish stuck within a grey material.

Nobody knew how long this fish had been sealed away for, but it had an ancient aura around it. The sealed sourcebox slowly floated up from the ocean floor.

When it appeared, countless marine lifeforms with scarlet eyes swarmed over from all directions to attack the lady. The woman waved her hands, staining the water red with blood in an instant. Even the strongest of those marine creatures was merely as strong as a Melder, and the majority were only at the level of a Sentinel. The woman in the video was a Limiteer and had easily dealt with them with a wave of her hand.

Limiteers were generally only Junior Lockbreakers, so these videos that featured them helped Lu Yin greatly. The first video was something that he could only look up to; who knew how long it would take him to reach that standard.

With the marine creatures removed, the woman was able to easily grab the frozen fish. As she stroked it with her hands, she seemed to be sensing something. Lu Yin guessed that she was using her star energy to get a better sense of the fish's surface so that she could better break down the dust that it was sealed in.

After a long time, the dark, dusty material on the fish's surface gradually lightened. It had originally been dark grey, but it had now turned ash gray and was continuing to grow lighter with each passing minute.

After two hours, all of the dust that had been sealing the fish had vanished. The fish's eyes flashed as it regained its original appearance; it was brightly colored and a wise radiance seemed to flicker across its eyes. It was clearly a valuable specimen.

The video ended there, not revealing the fish's abilities or uses; it had been hidden by the video owner. Every sourcebox was valuable, but the sealed treasures would gradually deteriorate and disintegrate over time. Sometimes, after removing the seal, there might not even be anything left inside. However, anyone who came across a sealed sourcebox would be willing to have it unlocked, as there was always the possibility that an astonishing object was contained within.

Chapter 160: Harmless Sourcebox

Lu Yin selected the next video and continued watching.

This time, the display in front of him showed a dark room with a small stone in the middle of it. A man appeared and slowly approached the stone. However, before he even drew close enough to touch the stone, a burst of white light flashed out from above the man. A flurry of invisible attacks shattered the space inside the room, causing the man to crumble into pieces.

Lu Yin was shocked; this video was of a failed attempt. Lockbreakers faced major risks and many Lockbreakers died every year with death being a common occurrence in their line of work. It seems that the Sourcebox Catalog not only included successful cases, but they also featured failed attempts. These were actually even more useful than videos of successes to the average viewer, as these videos represented invaluable experiences.

Although no two sourceboxes in the universe were exactly the same, many shared similar traits and dangers. For example, Lu Yin had been terrified by that white flash that had appeared in this video; if, one day, he encountered a similar white flash during his own Lockbreaking attempt, he would make sure to flee immediately. These kinds of reactions were all born from experience. Hence, these videos were all very precious.

Lu Yin had received about a hundred Sourcebox Catalog videos for free, so he spent a few days watching all of them. Most of the videos were of successful lockbreaking attempts, and there were only a few failed attempts, and of those, only three had deaths. All of these videos were extremely rare; most people wouldn't show them that easily.

Lu Yin rubbed his temples as he pondered over the situation. Lockbreaking was extremely difficult, but also simple. It didn't require much technical knowledge, but it had high standards on a Lockbreaker's own ability and experience as that was all they could rely on. This was the main reason why the profession was so dangerous.

Lockbreakers were like a death squad supported by humanity; one that battled against the universe itself over countless treasures. They enjoyed the utmost respect of mankind, but that was because they faced enormous risks. It was no wonder why Master Wusheng had instructed Lu Yin to contact him before making a lockbreaking attempt. Wusheng must have been worried that Lu Yin would accidentally kill himself during his first time.

The reality was, after watching so many videos, not only did Lu Yin not have an urge to start lockbreaking, but he was actually of the opinion that he should avoid it as much as possible, at least for

now. He had no desire to gamble with his life, especially since he had no formal lockbreaking tutor. It would be all too easy for him to accidentally kill himself.

Lu Yin lifted his hand and, with gleaming eyes, looked at the die that had appeared there. He decided to put a hold on lockbreaking for now and that he would only try after learning more. He would first earn some more money, as he only had around three thousand star crystals on him right now, which made him feel insecure.

In another location on Zenyu Star, Bazeer had just met up with Wendy Yushan.

“Take this and contact that Lockbreaker. Ask him to help us lockbreak it,” Wendy Yushan slowly said as she tossed a clump of mud towards Bazeer.

Bazeer was confused. “Representative Wendy, is this a sourcebox?”

Wendy Yushan shot a cold gaze at Bazeer. “Just do as I say. Tell the Lockbreaker that this Sourcebox is harmless and that it will be good practice for him. Whatever he obtains from this lockbreaking attempt will be his reward. This is also to show the sincerity of the Outerverse Youth Council.”

“Understood.” Bazeer left quickly.

Wendy Yushan then turned to look at her gadget, which was displaying Lu Yin’s page from the Lockbreaker network. Of course, the name Lu Yin wasn’t listed; instead, “Seventh Brother” was.

“It’s surprising that the new Lockbreaker is from Zenyu Star. Hopefully, it’s not someone from the Innerverse,” Wendy Yushan muttered with her ever-cold gaze. Even she didn’t dare to underestimate a Lockbreaker, as every Lockbreaker had a high chance of becoming an extremely strong powerhouse as they were the only ones who could unlock sourceboxes. Many Lockbreakers spent their whole lives exploring ancient planets and searching for sourceboxes. Once they obtained a rare item, they would quickly rise up to become a new powerhouse. These were people who she couldn’t afford to offend.

Lu Yin looked at the Mavis Bank in front of him and glanced at the universal currency that was shimmering in the sunlight. He couldn’t help himself from exclaiming, “Still as rich as ever.”

Just when he was about to enter, the familiar ring of an incoming call came from his gadget. He looked at it and his face twisted in anger. Bazeer?

Lu Yin looked at the contact request from Bazeer on his gadget. He quickly glanced through the details and breathed a sigh of relief; Bazeer wasn’t contacting him directly. Rather, he was doing so through the Lockbreaker network. This meant that Bazeer didn’t know that Lu Yin was a Lockbreaker yet.

Considering his grudges with Bazeer, this man would definitely kill Lu Yin as soon as he found out that Lu Yin was a Lockbreaker. It was something that would definitely cause huge troubles for Lu Yin.

But why would Bazeer contact him? Lu Yin glanced through his profile and noticed that his location was set as Zenyu Star in the Great Yu Empire, which Lu Yin immediately changed to private. No one had told him that his location would be displayed; no wonder Bazeer had contacted him. He was probably trying to get closer to “Seventh Brother” on behalf of the Outerverse Youth Council since they were located so close to each other.

Lu Yin didn't decline the call, but he didn't use the video call function either. He only answered after using a voice-altering option, saying normally, "Who is this?"

"Greetings Lockbreaker. I am Bazeer, a representative from the Outerverse Youth Council," Bazeer said respectfully. His attitude was completely different from their first encounter, when Lu Yin had first arrived at Zenyu Star. It was as if he were talking to another person entirely.

Lu Yin sneered. "What do you need?"

"I have a sourcebox here and would like to ask you to unlock it," Bazeer answered humbly.

Lu Yin impatiently answered, "I'm busy."

He was just about to hang up when Bazeer anxiously interrupted, "Please wait! This Sourcebox is not dangerous at all and can be used for practice. Also, anything you obtain from the lockbreaking attempt will belong to you. This is to represent the Outerverse Youth Council's sincerity."

Lu Yin was quite interested in this proposal; a harmless Sourcebox was rare. Not all Sourceboxes were dangerous, but there was a low chance for there to be anything truly valuable in a harmless sourcebox, and that was not even mentioning the chances that the item inside had already deteriorated to dust. Nevertheless, this was still a good chance for him to practice as all Sourceboxes were precious. Most people wouldn't be willing to sell this chance as they would want to try themselves.

"How can you be sure that it's harmless?" Lu Yin asked.

Bazeer replied, "The Sourcebox is in my palm right now, and I have already tested it on a normal person. It is completely harmless."

Lu Yin hesitated a moment before saying, "Fine, I agree. Where will the dropoff location be?"

Bazeer was excited by Lu Yin's acceptance; it was rare to be able to get to know a Lockbreaker. He was an Explorer himself and might be able to obtain Sourceboxes in the future, so if he had connections to a Lockbreaker, he would have a chance of obtaining something rare. "You can choose the location. Whatever's convenient for you will work."

Lu Yin thought about it briefly before saying, "Leave the sourcebox in the third vase by the entrance of the Imperial Palace."

Bazeer was stunned. "The palace?"

"What? Are you not willing? I will remember your sincerity and that you represent the Outerverse Youth Council. I have also memorized your name, Bazeer. That should be more than enough. What? Were you expecting to meet me?" Lu Yin said impatiently.

Bazeer gritted his teeth before replying, "Alright, I'll do as you say. Don't worry. I'll place it there tomorrow."

Lu Yin ended the call, content with the result. As long as it was placed within the palace, he wouldn't have to worry about someone finding out his new identity. Numerous people entered and left the

palace everyday, including the ministers and the captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons. He was certain that Bazeer wouldn't be able to monitor the entire palace, which meant that his identity wouldn't be revealed.

When Bazeer reported the situation to Wendy Yushan, she smiled. The palace? She was curious as to how this new Lockbreaker was able to enter the palace freely. She wanted to see who it was.

After the call, Lu Yin continued walking into the Mavis Bank, but he paused after taking a few steps. He just realized that although Bazeer couldn't monitor the palace, Wendy Yushan could. After all, the palace was her home. He needed to come up with some way to distract Wendy; otherwise, it would be too difficult for him to retrieve the Sourcebox undetected.

Lu Yin's bank card had a total of 200,000 cubes of star crystals within its account. He withdrew the entire amount and filled his cosmic ring up. He had spent thousands of star crystals to purchase his cosmic ring and had made sure that it was an ultra-large one. The size was probably excessive for most people, but it could no longer satisfy Lu Yin's needs. Unfortunately, while there were even larger sizes for cosmic rings, they weren't available in a place like the Frostwave Weave.

As he walked out of the Mavis Bank, Lu Yin started researching Wendy Yushan with his gadget. To his surprise, he discovered that she didn't actually reside in the palace as she had moved out a few years ago. Her residence was actually quite distant from the palace. Lu Yin thought about it for a moment and then smiled. He was going to test Princess Wendy with this Sourcebox pickup.

The next day, Bazeer entered the palace under the guise of visiting Undying Yushan and then left after some time. Wendy arrived at the palace before even Bazeer.

Lu Yin was in no rush to retrieve the sourcebox and spent his time in the King Zishan mansion studying a star chart. This had become his pastime whenever he had some free time.

On the day the sourcebox was deposited, no one went near its hiding place at the palace.

On the second day, Wendy Yushan continued monitoring the sourcebox for an entire day. She thought that the Lockbreaker might have realized that she was monitoring the area.

On the third day, no one retrieved the sourcebox yet again. Wendy Yushan frowned as she considered the possibilities.

On the morning of the fourth day, as Wendy was still considering the situation and deciding whether or not she should stop monitoring the palace, she received a shocking piece of news that caused her to fly into a rage. A spacecraft piloted by dozens of drunk men had crashed into her residence and caused a huge mess.

Wendy Yushan immediately rushed home.

At the same time that she went home, Lu Yin followed some officials into the palace. The sourcebox that he had just retrieved was already within his cosmic ring. He wasn't sure if Wendy Yushan was still monitoring the palace, but he had already done everything within his power. If she was still watching the palace, then his identity would be revealed, though that wasn't really that big of a problem. But he was quite confident that she had left. While investigating Wendy, Lu Yin had discovered that her residence was very important to her.

This was a special day for the Great Yu Empire as it was an official armistice day for the civil war against Duke Yushan. Many officials had come to the palace, and the entire area was extremely crowded. Lu Yin stayed there for a while before returning home. He specifically made it a point to not visit anyone during his time in the palace.

Less than a minute after Lu Yin left, Wendy Yushan returned to the palace and checked the vase. Her gaze turned cold. The sourcebox was gone. She thought about what had just happened at her residence and realized that she had been completely played.

Wendy was confident in her intelligence and knew that she had only been tricked because she hadn't been expecting it. After all, she was Wendy Yushan. "You'll only escape this time, and you better pray that you become a useful Lockbreaker. If not, I'll let you know the true cost of tricking me." She was fully capable of exposing the new Lockbreaker's identity if she really wanted to.

Back in King Zishan Mansion, Lu Yin looked at the clump of black soil in his hand. So this was a sourcebox. Although it looked quite common, this was a genuine sourcebox, and what's more, it was even a harmless one that was the perfect chance to practice. Lockbreaking relied on both one's ability and experience, and he was going to get his first bit of experience now.