

## The Good 281

### Chapter 281: I Reject! (1)

“Shen Jue, what nonsense is this?” Luo De’s jaw dropped as he was shocked by her answer.

Shen Yanxiao had agreed to Pu Lisi’s provocation!

Was that a joke? Even though Shen Yanxiao managed to produce an intermediate-level potion, it was still only an intermediate-level potion. The one that Pu Lisi had been making was likely to be an advanced or even an expert-level potion. In terms of difficulty, the Aura Concealment Potion probably could not even compare. Furthermore, he had done one demonstration for Shen Yanxiao.

He did not believe that Pu Lisi, in his mood then, would be so kind-hearted as to do a demonstration for Shen Yanxiao.

Even if the task was to balance the Hawthorne Flower and the Pixie Flower, it would still require one to have a high level of skills to accomplish that task.

At that time, he thought that Shen Yanxiao had been too arrogant.

Luo De was quite familiar with Shen Yanxiao’s ability, and even he was not optimistic about her chances of winning, let alone any other person.

Pu Lisi sneered as he looked at Shen Yanxiao. “Sure, give it a try, if you think you have the skills to do it. If you can keep balance both the Hawthorne Grass and Pixie Flower and still retain their medicinal effects, I shall approve Luo De’s recommendation and allow you to stay at the library to become my assistant!”

He truly did not believe that the young kid could use the Hanath Flower to keep the repellency effect between the two medicinal ingredients in check.

If things were that simple, then he would not have had such a headache over it.

Shen Yanxiao lifted her eyebrows, but she did not say anything else. She walked toward the table and took a potion that Pu Lisi had previously produced. The potion had the same medicinal components to the one that Pu Lisi had already used. The only difference was that the potion did not have any Hawthorne Grass or Pixie Flower in it.

Shen Yanxiao moved that potion to the side as she took a Hannath Flower from a pile of medicinal ingredients.

She did not use the Hawthorne Grass that Pu Lisi had processed into a powdery-form. Instead, she ground a few fresh Hawthorne Grass until it was as fine as powder.

Ye Qing saw how Shen Yanxiao had processed the medicinal ingredients while he stood to watch at the side. One could almost see the traces of approval in his eyes.

The way Shen Yanxiao had handled the Hawthorne Grass was perfect; it was neither too fast, nor was it too slow. She had carefully removed all redundant leaves and roots, and the remaining branches had

been dried and then powdered. She had also clocked the drying time correctly, and she had managed to remove the Hawthorne Grass from the flames after its water had evaporated. It was then placed in the apparatus that one could use to grind items.

Even Ye Qing could not find a single flaw in the method that she used.

Shen Yanxiao did not know how she could have processed the medicinal ingredients so flawlessly. Her subconscious mind had told her that it was the best way to do it, almost as if there was an invisible force that had urged her to take respective steps to process those ingredients. That invisible force was not part of the knowledge that she gained from her study in herbalism. It was more like an intrinsic skill that allowed her to identify the essential elements of the Hawthorne Grass and also the parts that she should discard like chicken ribs.

Even as she dried the Hawthorne Grass, she could determine the accurate time to accomplish that based on the faint smell it emitted.

Everything was exceptionally odd, and even Shen Yanxiao did not understand the reason. She merely regarded that as an innate talent that her body had inherited from her mother.

As Pu Lisi looked at Shen Yanxiao's flawless technique, he merely snorted and did not comment on anything else.

It was not difficult to process medicinal ingredients, so that did not mean anything at all.

After Shen Yanxiao had processed the Hawthorne Grass, she placed the previous potion that she had taken on the flame to heat it.

## **Chapter 282: I Reject! (2)**

After that, she did not continue with the process. She merely stared at the medicinal liquid in the crystal bottle without any movement.

"Hmph! You were so proud and confident earlier on, so why aren't you doing anything right now?" Pu Lisi mocked her. How could one accurately grasp the amount of Hawthorn Grass needed for the potion so easily? That was the essence of the difficulty in brewing that potion.

Shen Yanxiao ignored Pu Lisi and his mocking of her, and she continued to stare at the potion on the open flame. The potion gradually warmed, and as soon as it released the first vapor, she immediately added some of the Hawthorne Grass powder into the bottle.

After she added the powder, the potion immediately calmed, and the vapor that had surfaced previously then disappeared without a trace.

That meant Shen Yanxiao had managed to add the precise amount needed into the mixture.

Pu Lisi's lips twitched.

"He got lucky." He tried to console himself.

Ye Qing glanced at Pu Lisi, and he gave him a small smile.

The amount of each medicinal ingredient in a potion had to be exact if one wanted to brew the potion successfully. Shen Yanxiao had managed to do that without any additional tool, and that was not something that one could attribute to good luck.

Ye Qing looked at Shen Yanxiao as he quietly anticipated for her next action.

After Shen Yanxiao added the powdered Hawthorne Grass, she immediately fished out a Hanath Flower from the pile of medicinal ingredients. However, she did not process it. She merely plucked two petals from the flower and then added them to the potion.

In the blink of an eye, the light pink petals dissolved into the potion the moment they touched the mixture.

There were no signs of repellency between the two ingredients in the potion. Its stable color and luster meant that there was no decrease in the efficacy of the Hawthorn Flower.

Pu Lisi's face immediately darkened.

He had claimed that the Hanath Flower would eliminate the Hawthorne Grass' medicinal effects. Shen Yanxiao's potion was like a slap in his face.

Shen Yanxiao did not have the time to worry about Pu Lisi's emotions. She swiftly took a Pixie Flower and then extracted its juice as fast as she possibly could.

"Why are you extracting the juice? You have to add the Pixie Flower as it is!" When Pu Lisi saw Shen Yanxiao's supposed mistake, his expression recovered.

It was just as he expected; the little kid still lacked skills.

Shen Yanxiao did not pay Pu Lisi's word any mind, and she continued to process the Pixie Flower with her full attention.

In complete contrast to her relaxed speed when she processed the Hawthorne Grass, she did everything quickly. The stalk of Pixie Flower was liquified in no time at all.

The pool of liquid was crystal clear, and it did not have any impurities in it.

Ye Qing looked surprised by what Shen Yanxiao had done.

For one to be able to process the medicinal ingredients to such perfection in such a short time, that student...

Ye Qing's expression sobered, and his heart raced as he stared at Shen Yanxiao's side profile.

Shen Yanxiao then poured the Pixie Flower juice into the crystal bottle. As the emerald-colored liquid dripped into the pale red-colored potion, the color of the fusion began to change. It had turned into a vermilion shade instead of the initial pale red color.

The medicinal liquid inside the crystal bottle was as calm as the lake at night time; it was without any abnormality.

The Hawthorne Grass and the Pixie Flower had combined perfectly together, and there was not even a small sign of repellency.

Pu Lisi's feigned calmness had shattered at that very moment. He stared at Shen Yanxiao's potion in bewilderment as he could not believe what was in front of his eyes.

He had spent a year on the potion, and he had never been able to combine those two medicinal ingredients so perfectly together.

### **Chapter 283: I Reject! (3)**

Did the little kid successfully combine the two medicinal ingredients that had caused him frequent headaches? The same kid who turned out to be an absolute eyesore?

How was that possible?

Pu Lisi immediately walked to the table without waiting for anyone else. Then he took the potion so that he could observe it more carefully.

The potion had a faint fishy smell, with vivid color and luster. Shen Yanxiao had, without a doubt, succeeded!

Pu Lisi looked at Shen Yanxiao with a dark expression on his face.

He did know what to say. He had looked down on the kid, but she had managed to do it!

As he thought about what he had previously said, Pu Lisi's throat constricted as if someone had choked him.

There was no doubt about Shen Yanxiao's success, or anything suspicious about its circumstances.

"It looks like you have succeeded. I will keep my word and allow you to be my assistant." Pu Lisi felt complicated. He was embarrassed that a junior had schooled him, and at the same time, he was excited about such a talented student.

Even though Shen Yanxiao was talented, she still had a lot to learn in herbalism. Pu Lisi thought that Shen Yanxiao would feel grateful for his offer since he was a Great Herbalist. Who would care about his previous ridiculous words?

He was a Great Herbalist, and he had lost count of the people who would give anything to obtain his guidance.

He thought that Shen Yanxiao should be grateful to him since he was willing to accept her despite her rude remarks to him.

Shen Yanxiao pursed her lips. She sneered when she saw how snobbish Pu Lisi was even though he was embarrassed with himself. "Great Master Pu Lisi must have been mistaken. Even though I accepted your challenge, I never agreed to be your assistant."

He might have been a Great Herbalist, but so what? A person with such immoral characteristics was not qualified to be her mentor!

“What did you say!?” Pu Lisi glared at Shen Yanxiao in disbelief as he thought that he had misheard her.

It was a rare occasion that a Great Herbalist like him would want to guide another person, and yet she refused his goodwill without even considering the pros and cons of the deal?

“Stop with the nonsense, Shen Jue.” Luo De’s emotions fluctuated like a rollercoaster. His first worry had turned into jubilation when Shen Yanxiao successfully created the potion, and when he heard that Pu Lisi permitted her to stay in the library, his heart danced with joy. How could he have expected that Shen Yanxiao would reject Pu Lisi’s offer?

It was an invitation from a Great Herbalist, for goodness sake!

It was an opportunity that many had dreamed of, but she had decided to reject it!

Luo De wished he could strangle Shen Yanxiao’s neck and for her retract her previous words. Even though Pu Lisi had a bad temper, everyone agreed about his talent in herbalism.

Shen Yanxiao used the handkerchief on the table to wipe the remnants of the medicinal ingredients on her hands and then casually placed it back on the table. After that, she walked past Pu Lisi without a sideways glance at him and went toward Luo De.

“My apologies, but I have no intention of becoming Great Master Pu Lisi’s assistant.” Shen Yanxiao stopped by Luo De’s side, and her face revealed absolute confidence while a disapproving smile hung on her lips.

A Great Herbalist’s guidance?

Thank you, but she was not interested. If the Herbalist Division were not responsible for the Blood Banquet Potion, she would not even want to deal with a narrow-minded person like Pu Lisi.

Shen Yanxiao had decided that the powerful yet mysterious Xiu was her lifelong teacher, while the selfless and sincere Yun Qi was her mentor.

As for Pu Lisi?

He did not have the qualification or the worthiness for her respect!

### **Chapter 284: Ye Qing’s Invitation (1)**

Shen Yanxiao did not hesitate with her rejection, and the four spectators were so astonished that they were speechless.

No one would believe that an herbalist would reject a Great Herbalist’s mentorship.

Thus, everyone believed that Shen Yanxiao had gone crazy.

No one could comprehend the reason she rejected Pu Lisi.

Even though she would like to stay in the library to learn more about the Blood Banquet Potion, she was sick of Pu Lisi's personality. She knew that she would not learn much from a Great Herbalist who thought so highly of himself.

It was much better to research on her own anyway. She knew her abilities well, so it was not like she was helpless about the Blood Banquet Potion.

"You'd actually..." Pu Lisi's calm emotion was stirred once again by Shen Yanxiao's refusal.

Did the kid have a bad brain? It was an honor for one to be his assistant, and yet she would reject it!

Luo De's heart ached.

He wished that he could beat some sense into the little kid, but alas, he could not bear to do so.

Shen Yanxiao did not care for the shock that appeared on everyone else's faces because she knew that she had other resources for experts who would impart their knowledge on her. Xiu was a powerful being, and Yun Qi was the sole Great Summoner in the entire Longxuan Empire. She even had a smelly fart Vermilion Bird at her beck and call. Pu Lisi was simply too insignificant.

Ye Qing stared at the little kid who was bothered by neither favor nor disgrace. He had noted her every single action, so he knew that the kid was very talented in herbalism. Even the top student in the division, Shangguan Xiao, could not compare.

Ouyang Huanyu had recommended several talented students to assist them. Unfortunately, only a few of them had barely managed to pass Shangguan Xiao's achievements. Even though Shangguan Xiao had pretty good talents, it did not manage to move Ye Qing from his buddha-like stance. Alas, Ye Qing lamented about the lack of exceptional talents in the pool of young herbalists.

He went to Pu Lisi's room by chance, so he did not expect to discover a new talent there.

When Shen Yanxiao rejected Pu Lisi's offer without any hesitation, Ye Qing decided that he liked the stubborn kid.

Only a handful of people had the boldness to reject a Great Herbalist.

Ye Qing knew that he would regret it if he were to let that kid go.

However, Ye Qing also knew that Shen Yanxiao would never agree on becoming Pu Lisi's assistant based on her attitude toward him.

The lightbulb went on in Ye Qing's mind, and he smiled as he looked at Shen Yanxiao, who was already prepared to leave. "Please wait a moment, child," Ye Qing, who had rarely asked someone to stay, said.

Shen Yanxiao had quite a good impression of Ye Qing, so she was polite toward him. She stopped walking and looked at Ye Qing.

Ye Qing smiled and asked, "Since you are not willing to be Pu Lisi's assistant, how would you like to assist me instead?"

The moment Ye Qing spoke, everyone gasped.

Pu Lisi looked at Ye Qing in astonishment, as if he could not believe his ears.

How esteemed was Ye Qing? He had not mentored any students for about twenty years before that. The Great Herbalists might have advertised for assistants, but they were actually on the lookout for talented disciples instead.

### **Chapter 285: Ye Qing's Invitation (2)**

Even the teachers were eager to be Ye Qing's disciples, let alone ordinary students from the Herbalist Division like Shen Yanxiao.

However, no matter how many people would like to stick to Ye Qing like glue, he had rejected all of them. Ye Qing did not even have any intention of recruiting an assistant. Alas, he had made the offer to Shen Yanxiao.

Pu Lisi nearly spat out blood. He had also wanted to become Ye Qing's disciple!

Everyone knew that Ye Qing was only a step away from becoming a Grandmaster Herbalist. Even though they were both Great Herbalists, the wide gap between their achievements was too wide for Pu Lisi to bridge.

Pu Lisi was already satisfied if he could get a word or two of guidance from Ye Qing. However, Ye Qing had wanted to take the little kid as his disciple!

How was that even reasonable?

ZShangguan Xiao, who stood at the side, felt even more complicated than Pu Lisi. It was an amazing feat for him to pass the test to become Pu Lisi's disciple, and he knew about the scary gap between Pu Lisi and Ye Qing's accomplishments.

He thought about how complacent he was when Pu Lisi accepted him as a disciple and compared it to the situation at that moment.

The plain kid had actually attracted the attention of the top herbalist in the Longxuan Empire. He was so vexed about the situation that he thought he would die from it.

Shen Yanxiao was also surprised by the offer. She was ready to leave when she rejected Pu Lisi's offer. She did not expect Ye Qing to offer her another invitation.

Shen Yanxiao found it hard to reject the kind-looking old man's invitation. Furthermore, she knew that Ye Qing was the more accomplished herbalist amongst the two.

She also knew that Ye Qing had a gentle temperament, and thus, she decided that he was worthy of the status of a great master!

Shen Yanxiao stole a quick look at Pu Lisi, and she noticed how his lips twitched. She smiled at Ye Qing and said, "It is my honor and pleasure to obtain a favor from Great Master Ye Qing."

Shen Yanxiao readily accepted Ye Qing's invitation.

Pu Lisi wanted to barf blood from his anger.

Ye Qing smiled gently at her. It seemed as if he was in a good mood.

“Luo De, this young lad shall follow me from now onward. He won’t be attending classes at the Herbalist Division for the time being. Please inform his teachers about this matter.” Even though Ye Qing was highly respected, everyone praised him because of how he would cater to all things whenever he wanted to do something.

“Of course!” Luo De’s heart beat wildly. He never expected that Shen Yanxiao was so fortunate that Ye Qing would take her as a disciple!

It was way unexpected, and it had far exceeded his expectations.

With her talents and Ye Qing’s tutelage, Shen Yanxiao would, no doubt, propel to an Advanced Herbalist in no time at all. Luo De would feel exceptionally proud if she were fortunate enough to become a Great Herbalist.

After all, Shen Yanxiao was a prodigy that he had personally discovered.

Ye Qing smiled. He lowered his body to look at the petite Shen Yanxiao and said, “You will be following me in the future, are you prepared to suffer hardships? I have very strict requirements.”

Shen Yanxiao revealed a faint smile and said, “I will certainly give it my all and will try my very best not to let Great Master Ye Qing’s expectations down.”

It was, of course, for the best if she could stay in the library to research the Blood Banquet Potion. Furthermore, those Great Herbalists seemed to have obtained more detailed conclusions for their research as compared to her own studies. She also found Ye Qing’s personality far more agreeable than Pu Lisi.

Ye Qing nodded and realized that he found Shen Yanxiao got even more pleasing to the eye.

### **Chapter 286: Ye Qing’s Invitation (3)**

Talented and courageous juniors were pretty hard to come by those days. Which herbalist would not grovel at the feet of a Great Herbalist? Who would have the courage to reject an offer from a Great Herbalist?

Shen Yanxiao had rejected Pu Lisi, and so, Ye Qing had a favorable impression of her.

A submissive person would never reach the peak of their profession. For one to reach the peak, one must abandon many secular concepts of the world and devote themselves to surpass their rivals’ accomplishments.

“I have some other things to handle today. You should return to your dormitory for the time being and report here first thing tomorrow morning.” Ye Qing was in a pleasant mood as he had accepted a rather amiable disciple.

"I understand." Shen Yanxiao was also in a good mood because she had found an herbalist mentor that she liked.

In contrast, Pu Lisi was in a nasty mood because Shen Yanxiao had rejected his offer.

Shen Yanxiao had caused him to lose face again, and he had already planned to ask Ouyang Huanyu to expel the student, who did not appreciate a kind offer from him, from the Saint Laurent Academy. However, he did not expect that Shen Yanxiao would become Ye Qing's disciple instead. Thus, even if he had the courage, he dared not cause trouble for Shen Yanxiao so openly.

"Pu Lisi, please follow me. I've gathered all the Great Herbalists as I have something to discuss with all of you." After Ye Qing had arranged for Shen Yanxiao's matters, he immediately brought up the reason why he came for Pu Lisi that day.

Pu Lisi gnashed his teeth, but he did not dare to reveal the slightest hint of unhappiness.

He could only follow Ye Qing and left the room with extreme hatred for Shen Yanxiao.

As for Shangguan Xiao, he looked at Shen Yanxiao awkwardly.

Ten minutes before all of that happened, he was the most promising student with the brightest prospect in the Herbalist Division. However, it looked like his position had become slightly uncertain when Shen Yanxiao accepted Ye Qing's offer.

Unfortunately, the two other people in the room did not care for his feelings.

After Ye Qing and Pu Lisi had left, Luo De clapped Shen Yanxiao's shoulder with joy.

"Good lad. Now that you've obtained Great Master Ye Qing's favor, your future will be boundless." It had gone better than his expectations, and Luo De was sincerely happy for Shen Yanxiao.

Shen Yanxiao touched her nose as she looked at a smiling Luo De and said, "Thank you, teacher Luo De for your recommendation." Both of them only had a brief contact during the enrollment test, but he had helped to pave the road for her future. Thus, she was quite thankful for Luo De.

"There's no need for that. You must work hard when you're with Great Master Ye Qing. I am sure you will make a great name for yourself in the Longxuan Empire in the future." Luo De was very optimistic about Shen Yanxiao's future. Both her talent and Ye Qing's guidance were rare in those days.

Shen Yanxiao gave him a small smile, but she did not say anything else.

She would work hard, especially if it were for Yun Qi.

At that moment, her daily schedule would prove to be more compact. She would need to fully utilize her time in a day to get good progress in her studies in herbalism, warlock, and archery.

Shen Yanxiao could only sigh when she thought of the long road ahead.

She knew that there was no free lunch in the world, and she would need to put in more effort than other people if she wanted to get stronger.

## **Chapter 287: Moonlight Spring (1)**

The next morning, Shen Yanxiao made her way toward the Herbalist Division's library. With the assistance of the teachers there, she took the elevator to the 95th floor, where Ye Qing's room was located.

Shen Yanxiao noticed the differences the moment she stepped out of the elevator. The 90th floor had three to four rooms, and Pu Lisi occupied one of them.

However, the 95th floor was an entire room of its own, and it was solely for Ye Qing's use.

It was easy to see the differences between Ye Qing and Pu Lisi from the disparity in how the academy treated them.

Shen Yanxiao left the elevator without making a noise. She smelled a faint fragrance, but there was a hint of blood in it. It was similar to what she had detected in Pu Lisi's room the day before that, but it was somehow thicker.

Shen Yanxiao followed the scent, and it brought him to a rather important space on the 95th floor. Ye Qing stood in front of a huge table as he focused on the potion in his hands.

Shen Yanxiao made her approach silently as she did not want to interrupt Ye Qing's work.

She stood for two hours before Ye Qing finally noticed her presence. He was startled when he realized that Shen Yanxiao stood at his side.

"Oh, you're here! How long have you been here?" When Ye Qing was in the process of mixing his potion, he required absolute silence for his full concentration. Therefore, he did not notice anything was amiss with his surroundings.

"Around two hours. I noticed that you were working, and so I did not want to interrupt you." Shen Yanxiao was also an herbalist, and she knew that she would not want to be interrupted while she was working on a potion. Thus, she did not say anything to announce her arrival.

She had used that period to focus her attention on Ye Qing's process.

When she saw the medicinal ingredients and the half-completed potion on the table, Shen Yanxiao deduced that Ye Qing was busy with the Blood Banquet Potion.

When he mixed the medicinal ingredients into the potion, he had looked serious when he did that. Nevertheless, the repulsion effect had appeared a few times. He had no choice but to start all over again.

Even so, Shen Yanxiao could tell that Ye Qing was very precise when he mixed the medicinal ingredients and when he processed the potion. She knew that her abilities then could not even begin to compare with Ye Qing's standard.

That was what one would expect from the top herbalist, who was only one level below a Grandmaster Herbalist.

Shen Yanxiao's silent waiting period had won Ye Qing's impression of her. From her attitude toward Pu Lisi, he had thought that she would be an arrogant and unruly student. He did not expect that she could wait so calmly for an extended period.

Ye Qing knew what he should change his impression of Shen Yanxiao.

"Since you're here now, you can help me with the process of some of the medicinal ingredients." Ye Qing had seen Shen Yanxiao's skills, and he was confident that she would be able to cope with those basic ingredients. Ye Qing decided to deal with those higher-grade ingredients personally.

Shen Yanxiao followed Ye Qing's instructions wordlessly, and she carefully processed a batch of medicinal ingredients.

Ye Qing would give her pointers from time to time, and Shen Yanxiao realized that her skills had improved significantly.

While Shen Yanxiao processed the ingredients, she would also pay attention to Ye Qing, who had his hands full with the Blood Banquet Potion. Even though Ye Qing was at the peak-level of a Great Herbalist, he was still careful and attentive about his process. However, he still found it difficult to progress past two-thirds of the entire process.

Shen Yanxiao had suspected that Ouyang Huanyu stalled the progress of the Blood Banquet Potion deliberately. It was not until she witnessed the difficulty of Ye Qing's process that she realized Ouyang Huanyu was not as despicable as she had expected.

## **Chapter 288: Moonlight Spring (2)**

The Blood Banquet Potion had an extremely complex preparation process, and the three medicinal ingredients that Shen Yanxiao had processed the day before were the most basic ones. The real difficulty was in the process that Ye Qing was trying to complete.

Ye Qing was not impatient about the process, even after repeated failures. Instead, he was more careful as he continued.

Thus, the process was repeated over and over again.

Shen Yanxiao began to think when she saw Ye Qing's focused expression.

Those who could reach the same level as Ye Qing were the ones who would fully devote themselves to the profession. They would also possess the level of concentration that surpassed the average people.

Based on the half-completed potions that she could see, Shen Yanxiao deduced that there were about a dozen bottles there. Ye Qing started his process from scratch for each of his attempts.

Shen Yanxiao stayed by Ye Qing's side the entire morning. When noon came, a teacher then came up with the elevator to deliver Ye Qing's lunch.

However, there was only one portion, and it was clear that the teacher did not prepare Shen Yanxiao's share.

“You don’t have to be here in the afternoon. Come back again tomorrow morning.” Ye Qing finally put down the potion in his hands to stretch his aching bones.

Shen Yanxiao bid farewell to Ye Qing and left the Herbalist Division’s library.

It was a good thing that she was not needed there in the afternoon as she had allocated her time for lessons at the Archer Division.

Her schedule continued for the next several days, and Shen Yanxiao had to travel back and forth between three places. She would head to the Herbalist Division’s library in the morning, then the Archer Division in the afternoon, and then she would go to the Warlock Division at night. She could only return to the dormitory for a quick rest when it was dawn.

Fortunately, Shen Yanxiao made sure to take care of her health after the little incident when she had collapsed. She would prepare one or two nutritional tonics at the Herbalist Division’s library to replenish her mental health so that the previous episode would not happen again.

Even so, she had slimmed down quite a bit.

Tang Nazhi’s heart ached when he saw that Shan Yanxiao’s face had become thinner.

Does the little girl not care about herself? She was as busy as a bee all day long, and she had lost a lot of weight.

Shen Yanxiao already looked weak when he first met her, and she got as thin as a stick since then.

Tang Nazhi could no longer stand by and not do anything about it. When Shen Yanxiao completed her archery lessons in the afternoon, he dragged her back to the dormitory and then tucked her in her bed.

1“What are you doing?” Shen Yanxiao looked at Tang Nazhi speechlessly. She could not understand his action.

What was wrong with the guy? Tang Nazhi had squatted at the entrance to the Archer Division while he waited for her. When her lesson had ended, he duped her into following him back to their dormitory. Even then, she could not understand his intentions.

“What am I doing? If you weren’t a girl, I would’ve hit you a long time ago!” Tang Nazhi looked at Shen Yanxiao angrily.

“Look at how skinny you are right now! I can even lift you with one hand. If this continues, you won’t be able to last for long, even with those supplements!”

Shen Yanxiao felt complicated about his actions. Even though Tang Nazhi spoke to her in a forceful tone, she could still sense the concern in his tone.

Shen Yanxiao had wanted to counter his points, but she thought better of it.

In both of her lives, she could count the number of people who cared for her on one hand, and so she cherished his concern for her.

Tang Nazhi finally snorted with satisfaction when Shen Yanxiao decided to stay obediently on the bed. Then he took a huge pile of items from his cabinet.

He proceeded to place all sorts of delicacies and tonics on Shen Yanxiao's bed.

### **Chapter 289: Moonlight Spring (3)**

Her lips twitched when she saw the number of items that piled up like a small mountain on her bed.

He must have plotted his actions that day!

A large number of tonics meant that he had prepared them beforehand.

After that, Shen Yanxiao finally experienced what one would call force-feeding.

She only had to open her mouth as Tang Nazhi fed her. She did not know whether she should laugh or cry at that scene.

However, when evening came, Tang Nazhi could no longer stop Shen Yanxiao's protest. He had no choice but to let her go to the Warlock Division.

It was already the middle of the night when Shen Yanxiao finally appeared from the Warlock Division's gates. A slender figure appeared in her line of sight.

Qi Xia leaned lazily against a large tree with his hands crossed. His fox-like eyes half-squinted, and the corner of his lips curled up as he looked at Shen Yanxiao with a smile.

"Why are you here?" Shen Yanxiao blinked and gazed at Qi Xia. The casino that he ran during that period resulted in a large number of cores for her. Even though they were mostly of the lower grades, they had allowed Xiu to recover some of his strength to undo her third seal.

"Tang Nazhi had complained throughout dinner tonight. He was lamenting about a little kid who was not concerned about her health again." Qi Xia narrowed his eyes as he looked at Shen Yanxiao.

As he stood against the moonlight, the faint light had lengthened his startlingly tall and slender physique.

Qi Xia did not wear his long robes since it was night time. Instead, he wore an azure-colored shirt. Under the moonlight, he looked like a gorgeous prince from the sea.

"And?" Shen Yanxiao rubbed her forehead. Did Qi Xia have the same intention as Tang Nazhi, and that was to force-feed her food?

She had eaten a lot that night, and if she continued to do so, she would definitely have a nosebleed.

"So, I thought of a place." Qi Xia looked at Shen Yanxiao with an inviting smile. His vague manner made her wonder about the thoughts he had in his mind.

"What place?" Shen Yanxiao quirked an eyebrow.

Qi Xia did not say. He walked toward Shen Yanxiao and then stretched out his slender fingers.

Shen Yanxiao stared at Qi Xia's hand and then slowly put her small hand on top of his.

Qi Xia smiled and said, "Follow me, and you'll know."

Then, he dragged Shen Yanxiao toward the Saint Laurent Academy's Magus Division.

The usually-bustling Magus Division seemed exceptionally quiet at that moment. The light crystals at the roadside radiated unusually gentle glow that accompanied the moonlight.

Qi Xia brought Shen Yanxiao to the back of the Magus Division's training ground.

As they walked deeper into the small and peaceful forest, they came to a spring.

The tranquil surface of the spring reflected the moon that hung high above the skies as a faint flower scent pervaded their surroundings.

Traces of mist wafted from the spring water due to its warm temperature.

"Is this a hot spring?" Shen Yanxiao looked at the hot spring before her in surprise. It was a small spring, perhaps only large enough for four to five people at any one time. However, how did a place like this exist in the Saint Laurent Academy? She had never heard anything about it before.

Qi Xia pulled Shen Yanxiao to the edge and brought her hand to soak in the spring.

As her hand touched the water, warmth spread throughout her body, and her tensed nerves relaxed at once.

"This is a Moonlight Spring. The spring water gushed from a thousand meters down below. The priests have blessed the surrounding stone walls, so if one were to soak in it, they would be able to relax. It could also help to recover your strength and relieve your fatigue." Qi Xia lowered his voice, and his already pleasant voice became much more seductive at that moment.

## **Chapter 290: Welfare (1)**

"Why did you bring me here?" As warmth continued to spread from her palms, Shen Yanxiao tilted her head to look at Qi Xia.

Qi Xia smiled and said, "This is a privilege for the top student. Every division has a moonlight spring, but the ordinary students wouldn't know about it. Only the top-ranked student would have the opportunity to use it."

Qi Xia had remained the top student in Magus Division ever since he enrolled in the academy. No one had managed to even 'shake' his position.

Therefore, the moonlight spring was practically for his personal use.

"I wonder if there's one in the Warlock Division," Shen Yanxiao wondered out loud.

"I doubt it. These moonlight springs were only constructed during the past few decades, and the Warlock Division had already been isolated then. The dean would not have constructed a moonlight spring there." Qi Xia looked at the hot spring and smiled. "I don't use it often, so if you need it, you can come here for a dip in the evening. This way, you won't fall ill again because of overworking."

If Tang Nazhi's care and concern were direct and overbearing, then Qi Xia's methods were like the spring water, gentle and warm. It also did not overwhelm her from within.

It did not matter how they behaved as Shen Yanxiao was still very grateful for their attention.

"Does that not mean that I'd be taking advantage of your privilege?" Shen Yanxiao beamed as she gazed at Qi Xia.

He quirked his eyebrows and replied, "That's why I said that it's a good deal for you."

"In that case, I will accept your offer." It was not easy to take advantage of a profiteer, so Shen Yanxiao decided not to be courteous with him.

Qi Xia stood up and looked up at the moonlight before he smiled and said, "Have a soak first, I'll stand guard outside." Even though she was still a young kid, and she would not have had the body of a grown woman, Qi Xia still acknowledged the difference between men and women.

When Qi Xia left, a slight smile curled on her lips.

The cunning profiteer was extremely despicable toward outsiders, but he was rather sincere and giving with his comrades in Phantom.

Qi Xia's care and concern were not as direct as Tang Nazhi, but he would show his goodwill according to each individual's personality and needs.

After she confirmed that Qi Xia had indeed gone further than her location, she undressed to reveal her delicate snow-white body. She shivered, and a light breeze blew past and hastily made her way into the moonlight spring for a proper soak.

The warm spring water wrapped her entire body as the blessed stone walls activated to alleviate Shen Yanxiao's exhaustion.

Shen Yanxiao sighed comfortably as she leaned against the stone wall while immersed in the spring water.

Perhaps she had overworked her body; Shen Yanxiao had unintentionally fallen asleep. The warm spring water was like a natural quilt that isolated her from the chilliness of the outside world.

The moment she fell asleep, a strand of dark light suddenly poured from her chest, and it gradually formed a human figure in mid-air under the moonlight.

With long black hair that hung a waterfall and bare feet that stepped above the thin mist, a pair of golden-colored eyes that carried traces of chilliness looked the moonlight.

Xiu looked down, and as he gazed at Shen Yanxiao soaking in the moonlight spring, an indiscernible glint streaked across his eyes.

Moments later, sounds of footsteps toward the hot spring could be heard.

Xiu raised his slender fingers and levitated Shen Yanxiao from the water to slowly shift her away from the spring.

