

The Good 31

Chapter 31: Searching for Another Target (1)

Qi Meng looked at Shen Yanxiao's plain clothing and suddenly felt nervous. Even though those luxury goods could fetch a high price individually, the amount was still pretty insignificant at the Qilin Auction House.

However, the amount of those goods was the game-changer. There were at least a hundred of luxury items there, and all of those could fetch a pretty significant amount.

Where did the little fellow get all those items from?

Qi Meng had his suspicions, but he did not reveal it. The people at the Qilin Auction House would never question the origins of the items that were commissioned to them. Furthermore, he had also seen many plainly dressed customers who owned many expensive treasures. Their simple appearance was made to fool other people.

"That's all I have. Please have a look and see if they are suitable." Shen Yanxiao could not determine the system of values in that world, and she was also unaware of the standards that they had at the Qilin Auction House. So, she could only rely on Qi Meng to appraise those items. If they were unwilling to accept them, then she would need to separate them into smaller batches to be sent to other auction houses. Besides, she had to take extra care to avoid the Vermilion Bird Family's attention. If that were the case, then not only would she get the money she needed slower than her expectations, but she could also run into other problems as well.

Qi Meng nodded, then called for a few goldware and jewel appraisers to review the items that were scattered on the ground.

As expected, every single goldware and jewel in that pile was of the highest quality. Qi Meng had only seen items with similar quality within the Qilin Family's main house.

However...

"These items are very valuable, but there's some abrasion on these few pieces of jewels. It doesn't seem like an item by itself, more like part of a complete set." The jewel appraiser said as he held onto a few thumb-sized jewels in his hand.

As she looked at the jewels in his hands, Shen Yanxiao silently recalled the scene when she removed those jewels from Shen Jing's jewelry box.

"Can these items be auctioned off here?" It was better to overlook the unimportant details. She cared more about whether the Qilin Auction House would take those items off her hands.

As the person-in-charge at the Qilin Auction House, Qi Meng could, of course, quickly make a rather accurate estimate for that batch of items.

If they were to measure the standards of the items, it would barely meet the Qilin Auction House's criteria and this was not a business they could not do without. However, it was not something he would consider at that time because he was more mindful of the influence and power behind that young lad.

Not many people could do what he just did, and that was to produce so many expensive and luxurious items in one go.

After he weighed the pros and cons of the situation, Qi Meng smiled and said, "Yes, these can be auctioned here. If you can spare the time, we can sign the agreement immediately. Then we will arrange for the auction as soon as possible."

"Very well." Shen Yanxiao nodded.

She had to admit that the Qilin Auction House was extremely efficient. A few moments later, Qi Meng had signed the agreement with Shen Yanxiao. The contents of the deal were pretty straightforward. The Qilin Auction House would be responsible for the auction of the items that Shen Yanxiao had entrusted to them, and they would collect ten percent of the profits while the rest would be paid to Shen Yanxiao.

After they signed the agreement, Shen Yanxiao did not intend to collect the profits directly. Instead, she discussed with Qi Meng to see if he could use the Qilin Auction House to purchase a certain amount of low-grade demonic cores on her behalf.

"Are you sure you wish to exchange that money for demonic cores? According to our current estimates, if we use all of your profits from the auction to buy low-grade demonic cores, you'd probably end up with more than a thousand of them." Qi Meng thought that he should warn the young customer about the considerable amount of demonic cores that he would have procured. Furthermore, Qi Meng knew that there weren't that many uses for the demon cores and rarely would anyone buy them in large quantities.

Chapter 32: Searching for Another Target (2)

Shen Yanxiao inwardly laughed. She needed no less than thirty thousand of demonic cores, so the thousand of demonic cores seemed like inconsequential to her.

"I am certain. As for the commission that your Qilin Auction House should collect, you can take the sum directly from the sale of the items." Shen Yanxiao might have been someone new at the auction scene, but she knew that with Qilin Auction House's reputation, they would not even covet that little sum of money from the sale of her items.

Qi Meng said nothing else since he knew that the customer was determined about his request. After they signed the agreement, Shen Yanxiao had completed the purpose of her little trip.

However, she was curious about the young man that was in the room with them. She could feel his relentless inquisitive gaze on her while she was there.

Even though her disguise made her look better than before, her appearance was only good-looking, at best. When compared to the young man, the difference was like heaven and earth. If the other party was a female, then at least she could understand their interest in 'her' appearance.

However, he was clearly a handsome man, and he was also so much better-looking than her, by countless-fold!

‘Say, you’re a handsome man, so why aren’t you staring at some other beautiful girl? Instead, why are you staring at a somewhat good-looking person of the same gender?’

Shen Yanxiao estimated that the low-grade disguise potion that she used would wear off at anytime soon, so she had no intention to linger there. After she exchanged a few more polite words with Qi Meng, she hastily made her escape.

As he looked at the skinny figure who fled in haste, Qi Xia couldn’t help but laugh.

“Third young master?” Qi Meng looked at Qi Xia’s abrupt laughter in puzzlement and felt somewhat afraid.

Qi Xia lazily shot him a glance. “What do you think about the items that the young lad had brought?”

Did the third young master meant to test his evaluation abilities? Qi Meng immediately became serious and said, “The items are all of good quality, and for him to take out such a huge amount of luxury items in one go, the customer’s background is definitely not as simple as he looked. Therefore, I could only be bold to accept this transaction. Furthermore, according to his last request, there must be some uses for such a large order of demonic cores. Even a hundred people will not be able to digest such a quantity. He could be from a wealthy family who wanted to purchase low-grade demonic cores to train their subordinates covertly.”

Qi Meng’s analysis was quite reasonable. The good thing about the demonic cores was its low price. Besides, the adverse effects of those cores were not serious either. Thus, it was suitable for families who could not afford to use weapons embedded with magical cores to use demonic cores instead to train their subordinates.

After Qi Xia heard his analysis, he merely laughed and absent-mindedly said, “His background is indeed not simple.”

Such a large amount of top-grade luxury items were not readily available in just any affluent but ordinary families. Some of the items were even comparable to the ornaments placed in his room. For goldware of that quality, there were probably only three to four shops in the Longxuan Empire that could produce it. Also, the majority of the products from those shops had been purchased by the various influential factions in the capital, and among them, the five great aristocratic families owned the most substantial proportion.

However, with their wealth, they would not have had to auction those goldware for money.

Qi Meng’s analysis was correct. However, he overlooked a single point. Even though the quality of those neglected, damaged jewels wasn’t bad, which family would place those inferior items among a pile of luxury goods that were meant to be sold?

Qi Xia smirked with interest. He was seventy to eighty percent sure about the origins of those items.

That lad’s skills had to be exceptionally good that he could obtain such a huge amount of high-quality luxury goods!

Chapter 33: Searching for Another Target (3)

As she was satisfied with the completion of her first trade transaction, Shen Yanxiao felt particularly happy upon her return to the Vermilion Bird Family's home. For the subsequent days, her training in magic and battle went smoothly too.

Shen Jiayi finally recovered after a period of recuperation. However, like what she had threatened Shen Yanxiao that day, the fire had burnt off all of her hair and eyebrows. Shen Jiayi's head looked like an egg then, and other than facial features, it was spotless.

The vain Shen Jiayi cried and mourned what had happened to her every day. She was unwilling to take a single step out of her room, and she kept her mouth shut as to what had happened to her that tragic day. Even if Shen Yue wanted to cause trouble for Shen Yanxiao, he had no excuse to do so.

He could only visit various auction houses and fork out a large sum of money for potions that could promote hair growth to fix Shen Jiayi's bald head.

To avoid another untoward incident before they could invite the sage to their home, Shen Feng immediately tasked someone to send the Snow Spirit Fox to the God Realm. Not long after that, he received news from them.

In ten days time, the sage would leave for the Longxuan Empire, and he would also grace the Vermilion Bird Family with his presence to awaken the Vermilion Bird.

That piece of great news caused the entire Vermilion Bird Family to cry tears of joy.

They finally saw a glimmer of hope after they had suffered for more than a hundred years. During those ten days, everyone was 120% more attentive to their tasks. It was a rare scene in the Vermilion Bird Family where all of the family members worked toward a common goal. They wanted to ensure that they could give the sage an excellent impression when he arrived.

As for Shen Yifeng, Shen Jiawei and Shen Jiayi who were qualified as candidates to inherit the Vermilion Bird Family, they were repeatedly dragged to their rooms by their fathers for more closed-door lessons. They knew that it was a once in a lifetime chance, and if they were to succeed, it would mean instant success for them.

In another ten days, the Vermilion Bird Family would usher another peak to regain their long-lost honor.

As for Shen Yanxiao, who was unrelated to the Vermilion Bird Family, what did the sage's visit have to do with her? While the others were busy with preparations for the sage's visit, she enjoyed herself as the days passed. She worked hard for her training in magic and battle aura, and she even found the time for a quick trip to the Qilin Auction House to retrieve the 3728 demonic cores that Qi Meng had prepared for her.

When she went to retrieve the demon cores, she forgot to disguise herself for that trip. However, she did not encounter that handsome young man again.

With the excuse for a happy and fruitful cooperation, Qi Meng gifted her with a high-grade interspatial ring and the storage space for that was a hundred cubic meters. She could easily store thirty thousand cores in that space, not to mention a mere 3728 demon cores.

Shen Yanxiao was puzzled with Qi Meng's sudden express of goodwill, but she would be an idiot not to take advantage of that. Furthermore, Qi Meng was utterly oblivious about her identity, and she would be a fool if she did not take it.

More than three thousand low-grade demonic cores were brought back to the Vermilion Bird Family. She quickly closed the door to her room as she grabbed a handful of demonic cores from the ring. She was prepared to start the feeding process for a particular lord.

Regrettably, Xiu did not do any special tricks. He still existed within her and could only use Shen Yanxiao to absorb the energies within those cores.

Shen Yanxiao was intrigued when the demonic cores in her hands transformed into strands of light that flowed through the middle of her eyebrows.

In just a single night, Xiu had absorbed all of the demonic cores. Unfortunately, such a small amount was practically nothing to him.

Chapter 34: Crazy and Ridiculous (1)

If she wanted to satisfy Xiu's appetite, then she would need to 'hunt' outside of her' nest.' The Vermilion Bird Family had tightened their security after the last incident. Even though the strength of the guards was as mighty as a drifting clouds, Shen Yanxiao could not determine if Shen Feng would take drastic actions had she continued to loot from them. After all, the sage would arrive soon, and they couldn't afford any more disasters.

However, other than the Vermilion Bird Family, where else could she get a considerable amount of wealth quickly?

Suddenly, a fantastic idea flashed across her mind.

In the entire capital, who else were comparable to the Vermilion Bird Family if not the other four great aristocratic families?

A wicked smile quirked on her lips. With that smile, the Azure Dragon Family was the first to get hit and then followed by the other families. All of them eventually met the same fate as the Vermilion Bird Family.

...

It was a continued miserable period for the five great aristocratic families. After the Vermilion Bird Family were first looted, the Azure Dragon Family, the White Tiger Family, and the Black Tortoise Family then consecutively suffered at the hands of a heartless little thief. Fortunately for the Qilin Family, they were the only aristocratic family that was spared from that fate.

Like the Vermilion Bird Family, the three aristocratic families also decided to keep their mouths shut about the theft because they wanted to protect their families' dignity and reputation. Except for the members within their own family, no one else knew about the losses that they had suffered at the hands of a thief.

Naturally, that meant that the victims thought that they were the only unlucky family whose wealth was plundered. To avoid a scandal and to protect their prestige, they could only suffer in silence. There was no visible turmoil on the surface, but they had dispatched troops to track their stolen items discreetly.

Eventually, all of the investigations led to one of the five great families, the Qilin Family's Auction House.

If only the four other families would gather and hold a discussion calmly, they would then discover the similarities between the thefts.

All that was stolen were precious goldware and jewels. Even though the items were very valuable, it did not cause any damage to the victims. All of their rare treasures were safely kept in the storehouse and were not even slightly moved.

However, after the string of robberies, the four aristocratic families were as anxious as a bird startled by the mere twang of a bow, and they increased the security at their storehouse to threefold.

The little thief could have only tested the waters, and he might not be so lenient next time. All the things that they had in the storehouse were very valuable, and they would most probably vomit blood if they were to lose even one of those items.

During that period, the four families lived in fear and apprehension. However, the little thief seemed to have disappeared and did not bother them again.

At the same time, Qi Meng of the Qilin Auction House had received another batch of luxury items from Shen Yanxiao.

As he looked at the goldware and jewels that piled like a small mountain, Qi Meng had an urge to weep. The number of items that the customer had sent them was almost equivalent to what the Qilin Family possessed. When the customer sent the luxury items in waves, Qi Meng honestly wanted to take his hands and beg for him to bring other items instead. If they continued to sell luxury items, then everyone in the capital might assume that their Qilin Auction changed their standard to auction luxury items instead.

Chapter 35: Crazy and Ridiculous (2)

When Shen Yanxiao looted from the Vermilion Bird Family, she still adhered to the concept of how one should never steal from one's family and she only did it because she wanted to test her skills. Therefore, they got off easy as she only took the minimum from them. For the other three families, however, it was a different matter.

Plus, she had a reason for her actions...

It was because she saw the opportunity to grab the feathers from a flying goose! Her actions were so cruel that it would make one's hair stand up in anger!

One example would be the Seven Star Treasure Sword that hung on a certain young master's headboard in the Azure Dragon Family. The dazzling gems and even the gold ornaments on that luxurious scabbard had been entirely scraped off.

There was also the white jade chessboard that belonged to a certain madam from the White Tiger Family. The chess pieces and the chessboard disappeared without a trace. Even the two gold boxes that stored the chess pieces were stolen, along with the lid that was made from pure gold.

Another example was from the Black Tortoise Family, where she found a deep blue crystal chain that hung on a certain young miss' neck and wrist.

The necklace and bracelet were presents for the young miss when she celebrated her adulthood, and she had never parted with them, not even when she bathed and slept. As a result, it was taken away just like that after a night of sleep and they assumed that the heartless thief had personally taken the accessories off the young miss.

The incident nearly caused the chaste young miss to knock herself to death onto the headboard due to the despair, in order to guarantee her innocence. As a result, the Black Tortoise Family Head had to restrain her forcefully. He also gave a special order in secret that if the thief was discovered, they were not to kill him on sight, and instead, he must be brought back to the estate.

Was that a sign that a certain young miss would get married to someone of the lower status?

In any case, the members of the three families were in a panic and a mess because of a heartless little thief who managed to rake up so much money in a frenzy.

With only three cruel acts, Shen Yanxiao had managed to hoard more than twenty thousand of demonic cores. Coupled with the two thousand cores that Xiu had depleted previously, she only needed another five thousand cores to reach the thirty thousand that she needed!

When she saw Xiu absorbed all of the twenty thousand demonic cores, Shen Yanxiao's mood shone like it was spring, and it was as bright as a flower.

As she looked at the seal on her arm, she could imagine the scene where she'd laugh madly at the sky when Xiu would finally undo the second seal as she fed him the final few thousands of demonic cores that would bring the total amount to thirty thousand cores.

However, as for the money to purchase the last five thousand low-grade demonic cores, she wondered 'who would pay for that'?

She had never considered the Qilin Family. Even though they were rumored to be extremely wealthy, well, it wasn't like she could steal from them and then arrange to sell those items at their auction house, right?

As for the other four families, she estimated that the profits she could continue to scrape off from them would not amount to much due to her previous ruthlessness, and thus, she directly skipped over them.

In that case, there was probably only one place in the entire capital where the trip would be worthwhile.

The palace!

Far away in the palace, a certain old gentleman, who wore a crown that was embedded with gems, suddenly felt a cold chill down his back.

...

Unfortunately, before she had the chance to extend her evil claws toward the palace, the sage from the God Realm arrived with his team and had entered the capital of Longxuan Empire.

The sage arrival's had alerted all the bigwigs in the capital.

From the most influential monarch of the Longxuan Empire to the commoners from the lower status, the city was abuzz with the sage's arrival.

The God Realm was a strange existence, and it did not belong to any Empires within the Brilliance Continent. It independently occupied a piece of land that overlooked the sea, and the area was neither big, nor did it have an enormous army as a guarantee of their military prowess. However, the God Realm's existence was something that no empires would dare to offend.

Chapter 36: Crazy and Ridiculous (3)

There were no commoners in the God Realm. Everyone there are called as a god's envoy, and all of them possessed amazing strength.

Even if all of the empires in the Brilliance Continent were to join hands to launch an attack on the God Realm, they wouldn't even be able to break through their first line of defense.

Thus, everyone in the Brilliance Continent revered those who resided in the God Realm.

So when the sage decided to grace Longxuan Empire with his presence, all five aristocratic families turned up in full strength and all of their members lined up at the capital's entrance to welcome the sage's arrival.

When the envoy from the God Realm stepped into the capital, all the commoners who stood on both sides of the road sprinkled petals of fragrant flowers to welcome them. The guards who stood high above the city gates set off fireworks, and the melodious trombone resounded throughout the horizon.

Fireworks that were initially intended for destruction blossomed in broad daylight, and even though it was daytime, the fireworks released by the magicians shone brilliantly.

The monarch of the Longxuan Empire personally led his troops and welcomed the sage into the palace under everyone's reverence.

However, the noise and excitement had nothing to do with Shen Yanxiao.

It was because she was the Vermilion Bird Family's disgrace, and so she was not allowed to appear before the sage. As a result, she was left alone in the estate.

She felt depressed as she sat on her bed. It wasn't because she missed out on a meeting with the sage, but she had to temporarily postpone her plans to infiltrate the palace due to the sage's appearance arrival.

Just as everyone cried tears of joy at the sage's presence, a certain thief displayed fits of anger instead because the conman-like sage's arrival had disrupted her plans.

To disrupt someone else's job was an extremely unethical act!

Usually, the sage would first pay a visit to the palace. Therefore, Shen Feng led everyone back to the estate after the welcome ceremony.

As Shen Feng led the entourage of the Vermilion Bird Family, all of them beamed with huge smiles on their faces.

"Ha! The Azure Dragon was still confused as to why the sage had come. From the looks of it, if they were to know the sage came to awaken the Vermilion Bird, I'm afraid their beards would go crooked from anger." Shen Jing followed behind Shen Feng, and he recalled the expressions of the members from the other four families, he felt exceptionally rejuvenated.

Shen Feng was comparatively more composed. Since a long time ago, he had become accustomed to the blank expression that he usually wore on his face. However, from what he had heard and seen today, he could not contain the traces of a smile on his face.

"Don't be too blatant. The sage will be coming to our estate tomorrow, have you prepared for everything?"

The matter concerned the Vermilion Bird Family's reputation, and he had no choice but to be extra careful.

"Everything has been prepared," said Shen Duan.

"Hmm." Shen Feng nodded with satisfaction. A few moments later, he thought of something and turned to Shen Duan and said, "Send some servant maids with nimble hands and feet to Shen Siyu. All he has are bodyguards, and it's not suitable for them to dress the little girl."

"Ah?" Shen Duan didn't seem to understand. What was with his father's spontaneous words?

Shen Feng said, "The sage will be here tomorrow to bring the candidates to the Lava Valley to establish the contract with the Vermilion Bird. Even though she is mentally challenged, she can't be too sloppy and lack manners in front of the sage."

What did he just hear!?! Shen Duan stood rooted like a wooden chicken and stared intently at Shen Feng as he suspected that his ears had misheard.

Even if he was a fool, he understood the 'little girl' that Shen Feng had mentioned referred to their Vermilion Bird Family's disgrace – Shen Yanxiao!

Chapter 37: Vermilion Bird Candidates (1)

What was even more shocking was that Shen Feng clearly meant for Shen Yanxiao to join the other candidates to set off for the Lava Valley together!

Did he just crack a joke?!

Shen Duan was not the only one in shock, even Shen Yue, Shen Jing, and Shen Ling who stood at the side were stunned.

The old man had never been close with that fool. Did the sun rise from the West? It was such a crucial period for the Vermilion Bird Family's reputation, and he actually allowed that fool to participate?

Did Shen Feng have a mental lapse?

Shen Duan's expression paled. He honestly did not know what to say. He wanted to tell his father that Shen Yanxiao was an idiot with mental deficiency and that she was also trash who could not train in magic or battle aura. The possibility for her to sign a contract with the Vermilion Bird was zero, so why would his father risk their family's prestige with her appearance before the sage?

Shen Duan wanted to persuade Shen Feng to abandon those outrageous thoughts, but Shen Feng did not give him a chance to speak before he went straight ahead. Instead, Shen Siyu walked past Shen Duan and said, "It'll suffice for Second Uncle to send the servant maids directly to Xiaoxiao's room. I will send someone there in a short while."

The second-generation and third-generation of the Vermilion Bird Family had the same expression as Shen Duan, that expression showed their thoughts, which was 'Did the world go crazy or did we go crazy?'

Did the world turn into a fantasy novel!?

Since she believed that it was her duty to be a bystander, Shen Yanxiao trained and crammed herself with knowledge of that world as Shen Siyu continued to bring her exquisite pastries from time to time, and her days were free and mostly unfettered.

Just when she felt like a fish back in the water, her peaceful days were disrupted during the second day of the sage's arrival.

On the way to the main house, Shen Yanxiao lowered her head and followed behind the servant as she failed to understand the situation. Why did Shen Feng ask for her attendance when the sage came to the Vermilion Bird Family? Wasn't he afraid that the 'Vermilion Bird Family's disgrace' would bring shame to their excellent reputation?

With those doubts in her mind, Shen Yanxiao arrived again at the main house where she had been a spectator.

As she walked in, she saw another person by Shen Feng's side. Dressed in a pure and holy white robe with light blue colored satin on the corners of his sleeves, and a few patterns that were weaved with silver threads, his clothing looked frugal yet exquisite. There was a faint smile on his handsome face that seemed to bring comfort to those who saw him. His bright eyes could also bring out an odd feeling of ease and reverence in a person.

The commoners saw the sage from the God Realm as the god's son, and therefore, his arrival was worshipped as such everywhere he went, regardless of the country.

Shen Yanxiao quickly sized up the world's greatest 'conman' and lowered her head and continued to act like an idiot.

The moment she entered the main hall, she could sense the gaze of the Vermilion Bird Family's disciples who were all seated on both sides as they continued to stare at her conspicuously.

Shen Jiayi stood behind Shen Duan, and her previous pretty face seemed pale. Even though she had meticulously dressed up, it could not conceal the sorry state that she was in. Her jet-black hair had become a thing of the past, and after she continued to use potions that promoted hair growth, hair had finally grown on her head. However, the length was only half the length of a finger. No matter how she dressed up, her head looked similar to a bird's nest.

She looked like a bald little lion, and those who saw her could not help themselves as they laughed at her.

She stared intently at Shen Yanxiao. She would never forget who had landed her in such a miserable state.

Chapter 38

: Vermilion Bird Candidate (2)

When she knew that she had to appear before the sage with such a miserable appearance, she nearly knocked herself to death due to embarrassment.

Women cared most about their appearance, let alone someone like Shen Jiayi, who was proud and arrogant. As she grew up in the Vermilion Bird Family, when had she ever suffered from such humiliation?

If it weren't because of Shen Feng's orders, Shen Jiayi probably would have chopped Shen Yanxiao into mincemeat a long time ago!

What she failed to understand was the reason for that disgrace's appearance here on such an important day when the sage graced his presence in the Vermilion Bird Family?

Shen Yue frowned as if he sensed his daughter's rage. He did not sleep well during the night after Shen Feng gave the order the previous day. He could not understand the reason behind Shen Feng's decision to allow Shen Yanxiao attendance. Everyone knew that she only had the wisdom of a four-year-old, and even if she did not cry or cause trouble, it was not like she would understand the discussion. If she made a joke of herself in front of the sage, would that not lower the prestige of their family?

Other than the sage who was unaware of the circumstances, Shen Feng who gave the order, and Shen Siyu who executed it, everyone else frowned at Shen Yanxiao's appearance.

They were worried that the Vermilion Bird's Family disgrace would throw away their family's dignity in front of the sage.

Usually, no one would be willing to call the trash for the monthly communal meal, let alone any other family activities. No one would remember her existence, except for Shen Siyu who would always bring her along when he returned to the family's compound.

No one wished for the sage to have a wrong impression of their family due to that disgrace.

The atmosphere in the main house became somewhat strange, and it was all because of Shen Yanxiao's appearance.

After Shen Yanxiao entered the main house, she stood quietly at the spot they brought her to, and that caused everyone to break into a cold sweat.

Did the idiot want to stand in front of the sage and annoy him? Oh god, her unattractive face could be described as ugly when compared to the handsome and beautiful looks of everyone in attendance there. The fact that she stood out among the others was a constant reminder to everyone else that she was a disgrace!

Just as Shen Duan wanted to order someone to pull that reckless idiot to one side, the quiet sage suddenly smiled and said, "Is this the Vermilion Bird Family's seventh miss?" His voice was gentle and sweet, similar to lukewarm spring water that flowed through their hearts.

"That's right." Shen Feng nodded in agreement.

"Xiaoxiao's wisdom is somewhat lacking, so please forgive her if she disrespects you in any way."

The sage smiled and shook his head.

"I find this child very pleasant looking."

Everyone who was worried that Shen Yanxiao would embarrass them in front of the sage was flabbergasted the moment he said that.

What did they just hear? The sage actually said that he found the idiot pleasant-looking?

If one considered Shen Yanxiao's overall appearance, one would find that she would be easily overlooked if she was to stand with a group of people. As she stood among the members of the Vermilion Bird Family, she was like a chicken among a flock of beautiful cranes.

How would that make anyone feel pleasant when they looked at her? Wasn't the sage's esthetic conception a little bit too much?

Shen Jiayi was struck dumb. She stared at the Shen Yanxiao in disbelief. She thought that the idiot was not even comparable to her toe. She was unconvinced that the ugly duckling could actually obtain the sage's praise.

Chapter 39: Vermilion Bird Candidate (3)

Something even more shocking had happened then.

The sage stood up and slowly walked towards Shen Yanxiao. He bent his waist and lowered himself to her height as he looked at the little girl who still had her head down. He smiled as he said gently, "How old are you?"

Shen Yanxiao sensed the sage as he moved closer to her, but as an 'idiot,' she was not supposed to 'understand' the sage's question. Therefore, she continued to look at her nose with her head lowered. Everyone worshipped the sage, but she only thought of him as an influential 'conman.' As for the

conman's expression of goodwill, she cared more about when he would leave so that she could have the chance to enter the palace and 'take out' the last batch of money to purchase the demonic cores.

If anyone knew about Shen Yanxiao's thoughts, they would probably jump out and strangle the ignorant fool.

How influential was the God Realm? Even the monarch of the Longxuan Empire had to welcome them personally and not only was she not ecstatic for his arrival, she actually wished that the boss of the God Realm would get lost. That was such a worrying thought!

"Ahem, Xiaoxiao is fourteen this year." Due to Shen Yanxiao's mental deficiency, Shen Feng could only answer in her stead.

"Fourteen years old? That seems to be a bit too early." The sage softly muttered before he revealed a smile. "However, it's not impossible. Since the Family Head approves her to join as a candidate for the Vermilion Bird, then there should not be any problem."

Ordinary disciples would only search for their magical beast after the age of sixteen. It was because their mental energy would only stabilize after they matured and to sign a contract with a magical beast was something very dangerous. If their mental energy were too weak and they couldn't control the beast, it would very possibly result in a backlash. Not only would their spirit be severely affected, but it was also likely the magical beast would injure them.

With Shen Yanxiao's age, she was too young to become a candidate for the Vermilion Bird.

All of the third-generation members of the family were stunned.

When Shen Feng gave his orders the day before, the third-generation members weren't there, and so they did not know that Shen Yanxiao would join as a candidate to sign the contract with the Vermilion Bird. They were initially baffled by her appearance, but they did not expect the reality to be even crazier than their expectations!

What a joke, she was clearly an idiot and trash! How could someone like her become a candidate?!

Among the third-generation disciples, Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei had the worst expressions on their faces. They were candidates because they were at a suitable age, but what was with Shen Yanxiao? Not only was she stupid and worthless, but she was also clearly younger by two years. Could their grandfather have gone crazy to let the disgrace participate in the candidacy?

Shen Jiayi's expression became twisted. She couldn't believe everything that she had heard.

That idiot already snatched her brother Siyu, and then, she also wanted to seize the Vermilion Bird? Who did she think she was?!

Among the three candidates, Shen Yifeng was the calmest and the most collected. He was surprised at Shen Yanxiao's participation, but he was not as resentful as Shen Jiayi.

Even a fool would know that it was absolutely impossible for Shen Yanxiao to sign a contract with the Vermilion Bird. If they disregarded her mental deficiency, it was still impossible for her to obtain the Vermilion Bird's favor with her weak strength. Everyone knew that throughout the successive generations, those who were contracted with the Vermilion Bird were the most powerful in the family.

Chapter 40: Arrogant Little Bird (1)

Shen Yifeng did not even bother to worry about the trash who was not qualified to train in battle aura or magic.

So what if she participated as well? She would only serve as a prop, and he was determined to obtain the Vermilion Bird. Furthermore, even though Shen Yanxiao was trash, Shen Siyu's prospect was beyond measure. If he could get closer to Shen Siyu by being kind to that idiot, then it would take half the work and twice the effect to become the Vermilion Bird Family's successor.

Therefore, no matter in which aspects, Shen Yifeng did not have any objections for Shen Yanxiao to become a candidate. On the contrary, he would display care and concern for Shen Yanxiao during that period to get on Shen Siyu's good side.

Just as everyone gnashed their teeth at the news that Shen Yanxiao would become a candidate, the person involved was also in shock.

What did Shen Feng do? When did she get pulled into the muddy water as well?

Shen Yanxiao was speechless. Even though she wanted to swindle and obtain the supposedly powerful Vermilion Bird very much, she was very clear about her status in the family. For her to have the chance to meet the Vermilion Bird was even tougher than a meeting the monarch. However, a ridiculous thing happened and Shen Feng had actually put her name on the list.

Did he suffer from a cerebral stroke?

Regardless of how dissatisfied everyone was, they were also aware that any decision made by Shen Feng had no leeway for discussion. Thus, they could only conceal their dissatisfaction in their minds.

The date for the Lava Valley was fixed to be three days later. Initially, Shen Yue and the others were furious about Shen Yanxiao's candidacy, but Shen Yue came around soon enough. So what if Shen Yanxiao was given the right to candidacy? With that idiot's strength, if she could sign a contract with the Vermilion Bird, wouldn't that mean that everyone else could also do so?

After Shen Yue came around, he placated Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei very soon. When those two unruly kids thought heard their father's analysis, they felt slightly better. Shen Feng's decision to add Shen Yanxiao to the list might not necessarily be a bad thing. Although Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei's had average strength, it was still like fleeting clouds when compared to a powerful opponent like Shen Yifeng.

If there were only the three of them that contested for the Vermilion Bird, they would very possibly suffer a crushing defeat under Shen Yifeng's strength when the time came. Furthermore, the contest would take place in front of the sage and wouldn't that mean they would embarrass their family? With Shen Yanxiao in the last place, they were confident that they would crush her even if they lacked the strength to beat Shen Yifeng. With the trash as a prop, they could still maintain their reputation before the sage.

With that thought in mind, how could Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei grumble about Shen Feng's decision to squeeze her onto the list? Instead, they were deeply grateful for their grandfather's 'sensible act'!

Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei were secretly pleased, and Shen Yifeng did not even care about the incident.

That was because they knew that Shen Yanxiao's existence was to highlight their outstanding abilities. There could only be prominence if there were stark comparisons.

As for Shen Yanxiao, who everyone else regarded as only a prop, she felt lost as she sat on the chair and supported her chin with her hand.

'What exactly is Shen Feng's intention of pushing me to stand before the Vermilion Bird? Even if I can 'rescue' those two unruly kids' face before the sage, I'm still part of the family. I don't feel that letting an idiot lose face is better than letting those two kids lose face.'