

The Good 321

Chapter 321: Victory (2)

The moment that Pu Lisi left, all of the teachers looked at Shen Yanxiao. There was no longer any contempt in their gazes. Instead, their eyes showed intense excitement.

They thought that Shangguan Xiao was already very talented. They never expected that the ability of that first-year student would surpass even Shangguan Xiao.

How old was the kid?

Shen Jue had to be about four to five years younger than Shangguan Xiao!

Since he could already concoct the most potent intermediate-level potion that was only a par beneath an advanced-level potion, did that mean he could break through to an Advanced Herbalist in another four to five years?

The teachers pushed Shangguan Xiao to the back of their minds. At that moment, they could only think about the super prodigy, Shen Yanxiao.

“The winner of this competition is Shen Jue. A big congratulations to him on his victory. Shen Jue can go to the Saint Laurent Academy’s medicine storage room this afternoon and choose one set of medicinal ingredients.” The teachers made the announcement when they had managed to calm the excitement in their minds.

Shen Yanxiao’s victory had far exceeded everyone’s expectations. The students who had bet against Tang Nazhi were crestfallen as they tucked their tails and went elsewhere to wallow in the misery of their losses.

At that very moment, they realized how foolish they had been.

They had even made a shameless boast about how they would win Tang Nazhi’s money. Not only did they fail to do that, but they had also embarrassed themselves entirely.

A first-year student had unexpectedly beaten a group of second and third-year students. If that news were to get out, it would be the single most embarrassing thing that they would have ever done.

“Shen Jue won! Shen Jue had really won!” The first-year students, who stood at the corner, all jumped with excitement when they learned about Shen Yanxiao’s victory.

All of them cheered and raised their arms up high as they waved in excitement.

That moment was just too precious for the first-year students. They had always been the lowest tier of existence within the Herbalism Division. Most of the time, they would have to suffer mockery at the hands of their second and third-year seniors. However, Shen Yanxiao had managed to defeat more than a hundred of those elite students, all on her own. She even managed to beat the self-proclaimed top student in the Herbalist Division. Therefore, it was the most glorious moment for all of the first-year students.

How could they not be excited? How could they not be happy?

From that day onward, everyone would know about the super-skilled first-year herbalist in their midst, and no one would dare to underestimate them anymore.

“Well done, Shen Jue!”

“You are amazing, Shen Jue!”

The usually-quiet students burst into cheers at that very moment.

Shen Yanxiao was stunned when she heard the cheers and praises for her. She followed the voices and spotted Lin Xuan among the enthusiastic crowd.

Why was he there? Shen Yanxiao was somewhat surprised when she saw him. Her eyes swept across the students who cheered for her. She smiled when she realized that they were her fellow first-year students.

When did those groups of brats slip into the arena? Were they there to cheer for her all along?

Even though Shen Yanxiao was not very familiar with most of the first-year students, she was still very happy for their support.

Tang Nazhi sighed in relief as he stood amongst the crowd. When they announced that Shen Yanxiao was the victor in the competition, his lips blossomed into a brilliant smile.

“You go, boy... ah, wait! You did good, girl! As expected, you didn’t disappoint me!” Tang Nazhi said with a smile.

Chapter 322: Victory (3)

Qi Xia leaned against Tang Nazhi’s shoulders as he smiled at Shen Yanxiao, who stood on the stage. Yan Yu and Yang Xi had also rushed to the venue, and they were equally happy when they witnessed Shen Yanxiao’s glorious moment.

At that very instant, the first-year students all cheered in excitement while the faces of the second and third-year students were drained of all colors. It looked as if they could not even keep their spirits up.

A junior had cruelly shamed their classmate, so how would they have the motivation to hold their heads high in front of the first-year students?

Shangguan Xiao had lowered his head in silence amid those joyful cheers. He had used one of the most potent intermediate-level potions, and yet that was still not enough to go against Shen Yanxiao. He had been thoroughly defeated.

That was his first defeat to someone in the Herbalist Division, so that particular setback had crushed his confidence.

He had left the arena discreetly so that no one would notice his exit. Everything that happened at that moment seemed like a mockery toward him.

The number one student in the Herbalist Division had been defeated by a first-year junior who had only been at the academy for less than half a year.

He could not face the reality of his defeat.

The competition ended with Shen Yanxiao's overwhelming victory. The teachers gave a few more instructions to Shen Yanxiao before they told her that she could go.

Before Shen Yanxiao could even step out of the venue, a tall figure lifted her.

"Haha, little girl. You are really an unexpected one!" Tang Nazhi laughed loudly as he boosted her. It was an effortless movement due to Shen Yanxiao's weight.

Shen Yanxiao was stunned when she was lifted to the air. However, when she saw Tang Nazhi's brilliant smile, she did not know whether she should laugh or cry.

"Hey, idiot! Let me down now!" Even though she had the physical attributes of a child, she still had the mentality of an adult. So how could she endure it when someone physically lifted her?

"Nope!" Tang Nazhi said with a chuckle.

"Hey, that's enough!" Shen Yanxiao glared at Tang Nazhi speechlessly. Why did it look as if he was happier than she was even though she was the one who won the competition?

Qi Xia and the others had also walked toward them. All of them smiled when Tang Nazhi lifted Shen Yanxiao.

"Hey, you three bastards. What are you laughing at? Tell him to put me down quickly." Shen Yanxiao glared at them moodily. She had attracted everyone's attention when she was announced the winner of the competition. Coupled with Tang Nazhi's excitable actions, the students at the arena were all staring at her.

"Nazhi, put her down." Qi Xia laughed softly as he persuaded Tang Nazhi to put her down. It was a rare occasion where it looked like even he was in a good mood.

It was only then that Tang Nazhi released his hold on Shen Yanxiao.

"Great job! Your brother here shall play host and treat you to a good meal." Tang Nazhi laughed as he patted Shen Yanxiao's head.

"That's a must, of course. After all, I've helped to save you tons of money." Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows. She had indeed helped to save the large sum of gold coins that Tang Nazhi had prepared for the bet.

"Yes, yes, yes, my dear lady. You're the best," Tang Nazhi said in a child-like tone as if he was trying to humor a little kid.

Shen Yanxiao rolled her eyes at him.

"Yes, that's right. I did hear something about a wager between Tang Nazhi and Shangguan Xiao. Since you've won, how are you planning to handle that wager?" Yan Yu asked with a smile.

It was only then that Tang Nazhi recalled the terms of his bet with Shangguan Xiao.

“I’ll let Xiaoxiao handle it. That Shangguan Xiao kid was very proud, was he not? Since he had wanted to expel me from the Herbalist Division, let’s see who’s leaving now.”

Chapter 323: Benefits of Victory (1)

“What do you have in mind, Xiaoxiao?” Yan Yu asked in curiosity. They had heard about the wager between Tang Nazhi and Shangguan Xiao, and they had known about Shangguan Xiao’s schemes.

Shen Yanxiao smiled and said, “I don’t intend to do anything. The best way to deal with someone like him is to treat him as something insignificant, like the air.”

Shangguan Xiao usually acted arrogantly, and he also looked down on other people because of his so-called talents in herbalism. If Shen Yanxiao moved as they had wagered and told Shangguan Xiao to leave the Herbalist Division, he would feel that he was very unlucky to have lost in the competition and how things were unjust for him.

Instead, it would be better to forget about that incident and ignore it altogether.

For some people, they would take more offense with a dismissal attitude than an outright fist-in-the-face action.

“That’s a good idea. I think he must be waiting for you to settle the debt with him. If you were to ignore him, it would make him feel ridiculous for worrying about that.” Qi Xia nodded in agreement.

Then they tossed Shangguan Xiao to the back of their minds and changed the subject to the prize of the competition.

After all, that was Shen Yanxiao’s real objective.

“Well, rumor has it that the Saint Laurent Academy’s medicine storage room is comparable to the Imperial Family’s. As long as it is a medicinal ingredient that can be found within the Longxuan Empire, it would most certainly be inside that room.” Qi Xia had managed to get some information from his vast network. “Based on the list that you had given me, most of the ingredients that you need are inside that storage room. However, the list is too long. Even if you managed to win every competition for three years, you won’t be able to collect them all.”

If she were to take one medicinal ingredient per month, she could only take twelve ingredients per year. Even if she won it for three years straight, that would only amount to thirty-six types of ingredients. However, she had at least fifty to sixty rare ingredients on her list.

Shen Yanxiao touched her chin as her lips blossomed into an evil smirk.

“Who would use such a stupid method? It would probably take me two trips to get a clear understanding of that place. After that, I could take whatever I wish. Who could stop me then?”

As soon as Shen Yanxiao said that, the four of them immediately came back to their senses.

The little kid before them was a bona fide thief goddess. All she needed to know was the exact location and deployment of the medicine storage room and the solution for the magical arrays in that room. After that, she would be able to take any medicinal ingredients from that room, and it would be as easy as reaching for something in her bag.

“Well, yes, that is much more convenient. However, the magical arrays in the medicine storage room are not that simple to solve. Qi Xia should be able to lend a hand in that aspect, though,” Yang Xi said.

Shen Yanxiao looked at Qi Xia as he fluttered his eyes, with pure innocence, at her.

“Qi Xia’s talent in magic is not worse than your talent in herbalism. Furthermore, he had done his research on magical arrays.” Yang Xi looked at Qi Xia, who pretended to be cute as he silently shifted his head to the side.

“For real?” Shen Yanxiao stared at that profiteer. She had seen some of his strength during the class allocation test. Even though he appeared to be slightly black-hearted, she knew what he was somewhat powerful.

“Why don’t you take a guess?” Qi Xia asked with a sweet smile.

Oh shit, she had the sudden urge to slap him! The corner of her lips twitched.

In contrast, Qi Xia felt great as he gazed at the little kid who looked as though she was about to explode.

Chapter 324: Benefits of Victory (2)

“Very well, I shall not tease you further. As long as you can get a grasp of the situation with the magical arrays in that room, I should be able to help you with that problem.”

Qi Xia knew that teasing should be done in moderation. Otherwise, a particular little cat would start to brandish its claws.

Shen Yanxiao was supposed to be at the Archer Division in the afternoon, but the division had also arranged its monthly competition for that period. Since she did not register for the competition, she did not have to be there. So she took the time to make her trip to the medicine storage room to retrieve her prize.

As the afternoon rolled by, the news of Shen Yanxiao’s victory over more than a hundred seniors and Shangguan Xiao’s defeat had been spread throughout the Herbalist Division. Those who were not there to spectate the competition expressed their disbelief over the news.

They did not understand how Shangguan Xiao was defeated, and they lamented their decision not to go and watch the competition themselves.

The teachers had also learned about the same news. Luo De did not attend the competition because he had an errand to run, but he could not stop smiling when he heard about it.

Good kid, she was definitely someone worthy of his attention. It had only been a short period, but she had already defeated Shangguan Xiao.

Shangguan Xiao's first defeat and Shen Yanxiao's first glorious showcase had set off a heated debate amongst the people in the Herbalist Division.

Everyone discussed whether the name for the top position in the Herbalist Division would change soon.

As for Ye Qing, who had lived in the library for quite some time, he had heard the news about Shen Yanxiao's victory from Luo De. He was surprised when he learned that the potion Shen Yanxiao made in the competition was his newly-invented Pseudo-death Potion.

"Great Master Ye Qing, it is all thanks to your guidance that the kid, Shen Jue, could improve at such speed," Luo De had said with excitement. It had only been a few days since he had sent Shen Yanxiao there, and she had already defeated Shangguan Xiao. It was hard to believe!

Ye Qing chuckled and sighed. "I didn't teach him anything. He was here as an assistant."

Luo De smiled and then said, "Don't be so modest, Great Master Ye Qing. It is everyone's dream to be your assistant. Furthermore, you have imparted your newly invented Pseudo-death Potion to that kid. If it were not for that, Shen Jue would not have been able to make another intermediate-level potion that could compete against the Replenish Potion."

The Replenish Potion was the top-ranked potion amongst the intermediate-level ones. That was the reason Shangguan Xiao was confident about his chances and why Pu Lisi was there for a good show.

However, the Pseudo-death Potion that Shen Yanxiao concocted had overpowered the glory of the Replenish Potion, and it was indeed powerful. Except for Ye Qing, there was probably no other herbalist who could create a potion with the same power.

Ye Qing shook his head and said, "I'm not trying to be modest. I meant it when I said that I did not teach Shen Jue the formula to the Pseudo-death potion."

Shen Yanxiao had been with Ye Qing for less than a week. During that time, he had observed her talents and also given her guidance on some occasions. However, he had not really begun to teach her.

Luo De was stunned when he heard that.

"You didn't teach him that? But he had managed to produce the Pseudo-death Potion!" Ye Qing would not have lied to him, so Luo De believed his words.

Ye Qing smiled and replied, "I did make several bottles of the Pseudo-death Potion while she was here. However, she merely assisted me with some of the medicinal ingredients. Perhaps she paid attention to what I did and memorized the process by heart. That was probably how she concocted that potion."

Chapter 325: Benefits of Victory (3)

Ye Qing did not expect that Shen Yanxiao would have the ability to produce the Pseudo-death Potion, which he had invented, after only a few observations. What kind of perception and memory skills would one need to have to achieve that?

That kid was much more talented than he had expected, and even Luo De was surprised.

Had that kid really learned to concoct a potion after only a few observations of the process? What kind of joke was that?

The Pseudo-death Potion was not the same as the Aura Concealment Potion. The latter only required about a dozen medicinal ingredients while the Pseudo-death Potion needed more than forty types. Furthermore, there were many slight adjustments necessary for the two initial potions, and she would need to remember all the subtle information precisely to apply it to a real situation.

That kid must not have been human!

“Shen Jue is worthy of our molding. It looks like I should start my teachings soon.” A smile surfaced on Ye Qing’s face. Shen Yanxiao’s talents had exceeded his expectations, and there was no need to continue his initial observations as he believed that the kid deserved his guidance.

In the afternoon, Shen Yanxiao found a teacher from the Herbalist Division who could lead her to the Saint Laurent Academy’s medicine storage room.

The medicine storage room was located in the Herbalist Division’s backyard. There was only a single building in that yard, and one could see that the whole storage room had occupied a rather huge area.

The teacher brought Shen Yanxiao to the entrance of the medicine storage room, and there were four young men at both sides of the door.

The door was about four meters high and six meters wide, and it looked rather imposing.

The teacher handed a scroll to one of the young men, and he proceeded to open the door after he read the contents of the scroll.

Shen Yanxiao noticed the young man had tapped nine times on the door to get it to open. She tried her best to observe everything and paid close attention as she stood there in silence.

A faint medicinal scent assaulted her nose when the door was unlocked.

One by one, copious amounts of aged wooden cabinets appeared before Shen Yanxiao’s line of sight. She could not even see the end of the line with a single glance.

“Shen Jue, please go in and choose your ingredients. I will not be following you inside,” the teacher instructed.

“Alright.” Shen Yanxiao nodded obediently, but her eyes twinkled with a crafty glint.

At the same time, Shen Yanxiao commanded Xiu, “Xiu, please see if there are any magical arrays inside.”

She was not familiar with magical arrays, and so she allocated the task to the great buddha, Xiu.

“Very well,” Xiu answered.

Then, Shen Yanxiao stepped into the medicine storage room.

The moment she entered the room, she noticed that something was amiss, and Xiu answered her doubts the very next second.

“There’s a powerful magical array at the entrance, and it will fluctuate every time someone crosses the barrier. I noticed that the guards made a few hand movements earlier, so that was probably why you could enter the room safely. I think the magical array is attached to the door.”

Shen Yanxiao touched her chin. She thought that the young man’s movements were odd, and so she paid more attention to him. She did not expect that a seemingly ordinary door would be engraved with such powerful magic.

Shen Yanxiao took note of what Xiu had said as she finally entered the medicine storage room.

She had to admit that she was amazed by the Saint Laurent Academy’s medicine storage room. There were hundreds of cabinets of medicinal ingredients, and every single cabinet had 108 drawers of valuable ingredients in it.

Chapter 326: Searching for Treasures in the Medicine Storage Room (1)

Shen Yanxiao did a rough calculation. There were probably about tens of thousands of medicinal ingredients in the storage room.

It was an impossible task to look through all of the medicinal ingredients, even if she had more than ten days or half a month. However, she only had a single afternoon at that time.

She had to pick a set of medicinal ingredients and then leave the storage room before the sun had set. Otherwise, they would consider it an automatic abandonment of that privilege.

“Ouyang Huanyu is a crafty old fox, indeed. There are so many medicinal ingredients here, but we only get one afternoon to pick our choice. It is not easy to find the good stuff among all the items here.” Shen Yanxiao’s eyes swept across the room. Even though it was a good prize for a competition, it was still not an easy task to find the best ingredient in such a short time.

The door behind Shen Yanxiao slowly closed as she stepped further into the room, and then she was left alone there.

When she confirmed that there were no outsiders around her, Shen Yanxiao immediately called for the Vermillion Bird.

The Vermillion Bird, who was almost bored to its death before it was called forth, immediately pouted when it appeared.

“Are you trying to stifle me to death?” Ever since Shen Yanxiao had started school, he had only been let out once during the class allocation test, and after that, he had been shut inside Shen Yanxiao’s body for the rest of the time. The Vermillion Bird had been very regretful for choosing a master who had kept him in captivity all day long. It was such a bore.

If he were to think about his past, which of his masters did not flaunt his existence to the outside world so that the masses could worship him?

However, Shen Yanxiao had not only prevented him from revealing himself, but she had also bullied him!

Shen Yanxiao chuckled and poked the Vermilion Bird's small head. "My family's mythical beast is not that weak. Anyway, I called for you because I need your help with something."

The Vermilion Bird crossed his arms and gave Shen Yanxiao an unhappy look. Even then, he was rather proud of what she had said.

It was as he had expected. The little girl needed his help with something.

There were times where insignificant humans could not deal with certain situations, and during those times, they would need the help of their all-rounder mythical beast.

However, even though the Vermilion Bird was proud that Shen Yanxiao needed his help, his expression changed the very next second.

"Well, you're a mythical beast, and there's nothing that you cannot accomplish. I would like your help to search the area to see if there are any unique medicinal ingredients," Shen Yanxiao said with a meek smile.

The Vermilion Bird's eyes nearly popped out when he heard that.

"You... you... you called for me to help you find medicinal ingredients?!" The Vermilion Bird glared at Shen Yanxiao in disbelief.

She had not needed his help with a fight or a battle. The kid wanted a grand mythical beast to help her search for some worthless medicinal ingredients!

Did she even know who she was talking to?!

Shen Yanxiao appeared not to have noticed the Vermilion Bird's fury as she continued to smile like a lovely flower.

The Vermilion Bird turned his head to look at Shen Yanxiao's infuriating face and snorted. "No way."

He was a mythical beast and not her servant!

Even a mythical beast had their dignity, alright!

He would never do a servant's tasks.

Shen Yanxiao stared at the Vermilion Bird's arrogant face and quirked her eyebrows. "Don't tell me that the great and mighty Vermilion Bird does not know how to recognize unique medicinal ingredients?"

Then she sighed and continued to speak in a disdainful tone, "It looks like I have overestimated your abilities. I thought that mythical beasts are omnipotent. I did not expect that you wouldn't know how to differentiate a few medicinal ingredients."

The Vermilion Bird's mouth twitched as he glared at Shen Yanxiao in a fury.

Chapter 327: Searching for Treasures in the Medicine Storage Room (2)

“You dared to belittle me! Who said that I don’t know how to identify medicinal ingredients. I’ll have you know that the items here are not even worthy of my eyes. Those Lingzhi Snow Lotus that you humans see as precious ingredients are merely snacks to me!”

That was too much! Not only did that little human abuse him, she even dared to question his strength.

That was intolerable!

“Do you only want me to look for medicinal ingredients? Just you wait, I’ll get you all the best medicinal ingredients in this rundown place in mere minutes!”

After he said that, the Vermilion Bird immediately flew into the air and floated back and forth between each of the cabinets.

Shen Yanxiao looked at the Vermilion Bird’s small figure as it flew around, and she did not know whether she should laugh or cry.

The Vermillion Bird had an extremely pure personality, and that made her feel unfulfilled.

She did not feel as if she did anything wrong when she bullied the mythical beast. Since she had the Vermilion Bird’s help, Shen Yanxiao was all too happy to be idle. She decided to walk around the medicine storage room in relaxed steps.

Most of the time, she only glanced at the medicinal ingredients on both of her sides. However, she did not notice anything unusual.

Even though the prize for the Herbalist Division’s competition seemed attractive, in reality, it was to challenge one’s abilities.

There were tens of thousands of different medicinal ingredients in the large medicine storage room. If the winner wanted to select something great in only one afternoon, it would take patience and tons of luck.

Shangguan Xiao had been persistent in participating and winning the monthly competitions, and it was likely because he had yet to finish browsing all the medicinal ingredients in the storage room.

Shen Yanxiao did not continue to linger at the cabinets near the entrance. Instead, she walked into the depths of the room.

Based on her experience as a thief goddess, the better items were always hidden deep inside a room. The ones placed near the entrance were ordinary ingredients that one could purchase in any random shop.

Shen Yanxiao immediately made her way into the deeper parts of the room.

As she continued to walk, she noticed that the tags used on the cabinets had changed, and she also saw many medicinal ingredients used in intermediate-level potions.

It looked like her prediction had been correct.

After a while, Shen Yanxiao finally reached the end of the medicine storage room, and she could see a few wooden cabinets there.

She walked toward one of the cabinets and glanced at the ingredients' names.

However, even though those medicinal ingredients were far more valuable than those at the entrance, they were also not what Shen Yanxiao had in mind.

"That's weird. This is such a big medicine storage room. Is there no medicinal ingredient that we can take to show off?" Shen Yanxiao frowned.

Little did she know that the ingredients that she had dismissed were extremely precious to some herbalists.

Of course, one should not blame her for that. With her financial capability, she did not consider the items that she could purchase as rare and precious. She wanted priceless treasures that one could not buy with money or gold coins.

Shen Yanxiao had no other choice but to continue with her search.

Just as Shen Yanxiao was feeling doubtful, the Vermillion Bird had made some discoveries.

"Hey, little girl. What kind of medicinal ingredients are you looking for? The items in the cabinets at the corners of north, south, east, and west are somewhat different. You might want to have a look at those." The Vermillion Bird had swept across the entire room at high speed. There was no doubt that mythical beasts had natural borne advantages if they were to search for medicinal ingredients. They could find valuable ingredients with just a sniff in the air, and such talent was incomparable.

Chapter 328: Searching for Treasures in the Medicine Storage Room (3)

"The corners of north, south, east, and west?" Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows. It looked like Ouyang Huanyu was smart enough to avoid common thought processes. He had hidden the truly priceless medicinal ingredients in the most inconspicuous places. If the winners of the competition followed the usual common sense, they would undoubtedly overlook those four corners.

Shen Yanxiao immediately walked toward the eastern corner. As expected, there were precious medicinal ingredients in three of the drawers of the innermost cabinet at that corner. Even if one had money, one would be hard-pressed to find and purchase those rare ingredients.

She memorized each of the ingredients, but she did not grab any of them. Instead, she looked through all the cabinets at the four corners of the room.

As she completed her stroll, Shen Yanxiao sighed in admiration for the richness of the Saint Laurent Academy's medicine storage room. If she were to put all the ingredients from the four corners of the room on auction, no one could bid on them if they did not have tens of millions of gold coins.

It was unfortunate that she could only choose one medicinal ingredient. Shen Yanxiao was vexed with the situation as she was used to taking whatever she wanted.

There were at least fifty to sixty different precious medicinal ingredients that she needed for the Blood Banquet Potion.

Shen Yanxiao was discouraged because she had such a hard choice to make.

She had no other option but to open each of the drawers and to make her decision based on the value of the ingredients.

While Shen Yanxiao was disconcerted about the situation, she also discovered some problems with a specific medicinal ingredient called the Baize.

The Baize was a crucial ingredient for the Blood Banquet Potion. Its rarity was similar to an eighth-ranked magical beast.

However, one of the ingredients in the drawer was a little peculiar. The Baize was supposed to be a seven-petal white-colored flower, and the edges of its petals were curved like waves. Even though the Baize she saw had a certain undulation, it looked different, and she found that weird.

Each medicinal ingredient would have fixed characteristics, but the wave of that Baize's edges was not the shape of a regular semi-circle. Instead, it had some sharp edges, but the differences were very subtle. She would not have discovered it if she did not touch and feel it with her hands.

Just as Shen Yanxiao doubted the Baize, Xiu suddenly spoke.

"Why would they have this plant here?"

Xiu's usually cold tone sounded surprised.

Shen Yanxiao stared blankly ahead for a brief moment before she asked, "Xiu, do you know this medicinal ingredient?"

"To be more accurate, this is not a medicinal ingredient. This is a Moling, and it only grows underground, where the devils live. The Devil Clan did not know how to use it for potions, so instead, they would cultivate it with two other types of plant to breed demons."

"A plant from the Devil Clan?" Shen Yanxiao did not expect a plant that looked so similar to Baize would have come from the Devil Clan.

"That's right. Even though this plant looks like some medicinal ingredients from the human realm, it is fundamentally different. The Moling cannot be consumed, and even the Devil Clan, who are highly resistant to poison, would never eat it. This plant has extremely potent toxicity and dark elements. If it were cultivated with the Skeleton Flower and the Flame Flower, it would produce large quantities of dark aura that the Devil Clan used to breed powerful demonic beasts. When a demon consumes the dark elements, they will go through some changes. Those mutant beasts brought a terrifying calamity to this continent during the war between the gods and the devils." Xiu's voice was ice-cold as usual, but at that moment, there was a trace of doubt and curiosity in it.

Chapter 329: Moling (1)

Shen Yanxiao frowned. It sounded like a hazardous plant, so why was it mixed in with the other medicinal ingredients? When she looked into the drawer, she could see some ordinary Baize in it too.

“Wouldn’t that make this a dangerous plant?” Ouyang Huanyu had tasked Ye Qing and the other Great Herbalists to work on the Blood Banquet Potion for Yun Qi, and one of the ingredients needed for that potion was Baize. If the herbalists used the Moling plant instead of the Baize plant in the Blood banquet Potion, would that not harm Yun Qi?

Shen Yanxiao wondered if she should destroy that plant. If Xiu was right, then the Moling plant could very well hurt both Ye Qing and Yun Qi.

Yun Qi was her mentor, and she owed him a debt of gratitude, while Ye Qing had also extended much help to her. She did not want to see either of them hurt.

Even though Shen Yanxiao was a heartless person, she respected the elders who cared for her with sincerity.

That was a value she acquired from when she learned her thieving skills in her previous life. She had been a small figure in the organization, bound to be a sacrificial pawn at some point in her life. Fortunately, the number one thief god in the organization favored her and had imparted his skills onto her. If he had not done that, she would not have become a world-renowned number one thief-goddess.

Shen Yanxiao had great respect for the teacher who had taught her everything she had known.

The teacher had told her that people like them lived in the darkness. They could afford to abandon everything in their lives, except for the gratitude between a mentor and a student.

Shen Yanxiao had kept his words in her heart.

‘Once a mentor, always a mentor.’ That was the principle that she firmly believed in.

“If it is used in potions, it would become a horrible poison. There is no cure for humans in terms of herbalism. However, it is the perfect plant to breed demonic beasts.”

Shen Yanxiao thought hard about what Xiu had said as she felt that he was trying to give her a hint.

“You said that this thing could produce dark elements. If I remember correctly, you also said that you require demonic cores and dark elements to help you to recover your strength. If this Moling plant can produce dark elements on its own, does that mean you can extract it directly from the plant?”

Xiu required a large number of demonic cores, but if she were to obtain all the cores in the Longxuan Empire, it was still not enough.

If the Moling plant was that powerful, would it not be great if she could use it?

Xiu pondered about that for a moment before he said, “Even though that is feasible, I’m afraid that my present strength would render it hard to use, especially if I am to solely rely on the Moling plant. If you can find some Skeleton Flowers and Flame Grass, and use them for cultivation, then it can indeed replace the effects of those demonic cores. By then, I will only need a month to help you to break the fourth seal.”

He required only one month to do that? Shen Yanxiao’s eyes lit up immediately.

Based on the speed of her efforts in gathering the demonic cores, it would probably take at least a year before she could break the fourth seal. Furthermore, that could only happen if she had enough demonic cores. Since she had bought large quantities of those cores, the number of cores in the entire Longxuan Empire continued to decrease.

Chapter 330: Moling (2)

There might even be a day when she could no longer find any demonic cores.

If she could find all the plants required for the cultivation, then she would no longer have to worry about finding more demonic cores. The ones that she had could also be used on Clemance.

At the moment, due to the insufficiency of the demonic cores, she had to feed everything to Xiu. She had not used any of the cores on Clemance, which she had in her hands.

“Where can I find Skeleton Flower and Flame Grass?” Shen Yanxiao was tempted. She prayed that those two plants were not from the Demon Clan. Otherwise, she would never get them, even if she were to sacrifice her life.

Xiu thought about it for a moment before he said, “I’m not sure where you can find them in the human realm. I do know that the Skeleton Flower will usually grow at places where demonic beasts converge. The flowers also require corpses as nutrients for it to grow. As for the Flame Grass, you can find them in a Phoenix’s nest.”

“A Phoenix?” Shen Yanxiao blinked. The Phoenixes in that world were different from the ones in her memories. They were also a type of demonic beasts. Based on records found in books, they were as rare as the Phoenixes that she knew.

“A Phoenix doesn’t seem to be very powerful. We’ll give it a go if we find one.” Shen Yanxiao touched her chin. Based on records, Phoenixes were usually eighth or ninth-ranked, and they were classified as high-level beasts. Since she already had a twelfth-ranked Vermillion Bird, would it not be an easy task to capture a Phoenix?

Yet, Xiu decided to rain on her parade.

“Eighth to ninth-ranked? Are you referring to a newborn phoenix? A Phoenix has the strength of an eighth-ranked demonic beast when they are born, and it would rise to the tenth-rank when they reach adulthood, which is similar to the Vermillion Bird. Furthermore, all Phoenixes have a special trait, and that is resurrection. If they perish at a place with a strong fire element, they will be resurrected and also break through to the twelfth-rank directly. Some will also advance straight to the thirteenth-rank to become a legendary sage beast.”

“Thirteenth-ranked... sage beast?” Shen Yanxiao gulped as she could not even begin to imagine the strength of a sage beast.

The Vermillion Birth had only the strength of a twelfth-ranked beast, and it was already powerful enough to crush all magical beasts in the continent without any pressure.

A single mythical beast had been powerful enough to help the Shen Family to rise from an unknown clan into a powerful drive behind the monarch's force in establishing the Longxuan Empire. As for a sage beast...

She could not imagine that scene, no matter how much she wondered about it.

Shen Yanxiao turned toward the Vermilion Bird, who had his arms crossed, and asked with hesitation, "Vermilion Bird, how does your strength compare to a sage beast?"

The Vermillion Bird frowned and grumbled reluctantly, "Are you joking? You want me to compare a mythical beast like myself with a sage beast? Is that not the same as comparing those high-level magical beasts with me?"

High-level magical beast and a mythical beast...

When Shen Feng invited the sage from the God Realm to awaken the Vermilion Bird, he had gifted him with two eighth-ranked magical beasts. If they were not that difficult to capture, Shen Feng's heart would not ache even if he had to give a dozen of those magical beasts.

That was the difference between a high-level magical beast and a mythical beast. She could also guess the gap between them.

Shen Yanxiao's lips twitched. A Phoenix was an eighth-ranked high-level magical beast the moment they were born, and they would only become as strong as a mythical beast once they reached adulthood. If they were to encounter one that had been resurrected, it would probably be a legendary sage beast. Therefore, if she wanted to get the Flame Grass from their nest, it would be a frightening journey indeed.