

## The Good 41

### Chapter 41: Arrogant Little Bird (2)

How could Shen Yanxiao not know of Shen Yue and the other's opinions?

However, as an outsider, Shen Yanxiao thought of things more deeply than Shen Yue.

If it were merely to prevent the Vermilion Bird Family from embarrassment before the sage, then they would lose face anyway, even if she was not on the list.

Shen Yifeng had no plans to go easy on the twins, even if Shen Yanxiao did not participate in the contest and it was an inevitable fact for those twins to get crushed. With her image of a trash that had neither brains or strength, she would merely be more of an embarrassment compared to the twins.

Therefore, Shen Yanxiao knew that Shen Feng added her name to the contest for another purpose.

"No matter the reason, this is a great opportunity for you. So why should you be perplexed over the intentions?" Xiu's voice was still ice-cold like snow. In his opinion, there was no need to consider the circumstances. No matter what Shen Feng's intentions were, it was a golden opportunity bestowed by heaven for her to have the chance to stand before the Vermilion Bird.

Shen Yanxiao curled her lips. Xiu behaved as if the Vermilion Bird was guaranteed to be hers, but she was not confident.

She had only arrived in this world for a short period, and she wasn't even clear about the concept of a magical beast, let alone a mythological beast that stood at the top of the food chain?

"Opportunities also have to be grasped. Didn't you hear them saying that the Vermilion Bird has been lying dormant for hundreds of years? None of them could obtain its favor and with just my current physical state..." It was a good thing to have confidence, but blind self-confidence would only lead to a disaster. Even though Shen Yanxiao was confident, she was extremely cautious in the face of unfamiliar matters.

That had been her habit and allowed her to succeed repeatedly and not get arrested. As a thief goddess, skills was important, but sufficient preparations ahead of time was also a must.

To her, the Vermilion Bird was just like a huge hundred-carat diamond that was kept in a highly dangerous place that she had never heard of.

There were plenty of good items. However, they were only considered as a good item if she was confident that she could obtain it.

"It's only a little bird." Xiu snorted and disapproved of Shen Yanxiao's over-cautiousness.

There he goes again...

That had to be some kind of acknowledgment for the mythological Vermilion Bird to be called an 'little bird', when a certain lord had regarded an eight-ranked magical beast as a 'little beast.'

Shen Yanxiao remained silent, but Xiu's words caused her to think of something. She hesitated and asked, "From your tone, you know the Vermilion Bird?"

There were no undulations with Xiu's voice as he spoke with an aloof and remote tone. "It's not worthy for me to get acquainted with it. I merely know of its master."

Shen Yanxiao's eyes brightened!

Xiu's identity was full of mysteries, and with her understanding of him during this period, she knew that he had an arrogant personality. If he said that he was acquainted with the Vermilion Bird's master, then he must have genuinely knew him!

Speaking of which...

How old was that guy anyway? The Vermilion Bird hadn't reappeared in the world for a hundred years, and if Xiu was acquainted with its owner, then that must have been something that happened more than a hundred years ago.

If Xiu had lived in this world a hundred years ago, wouldn't that mean he was more than a hundred years old?!

Shen Yanxiao could not believe that the slightly cold and cheerless voice that seemed to belong to a young man was actually from an 'old man' who was more than a hundred years old! He sounded like he was still in his early twenties!

### **Chapter 42: Arrogant Little Bird (3)**

"Hehe, since you're an old acquaintance, why don't you tell me what the Vermilion Bird looks like and the special conditions to sign a contract with it!" Even the current Family Head, Shen Feng, had only heard about its notoriety but he had never seen the Vermilion Bird with his own eyes. However, the fellow inside her had seen it before, and very possibly might had been close with its previous master. Since she knew someone who understood the Vermilion Bird, Shen Yanxiao started to have designs about the mythical beast to some extent.

However, that was still a mythical beast!

Even though she was ignorant about mythical beasts, just the thought of 'obtaining the Vermilion Bird meant becoming the Family Head,' was sufficient for her to be curious about it.

"It's merely an arrogant little bird who overestimates its capabilities, and it is slightly larger than the normal aerial magical beasts," said Xiu.

If possible, Shen Yanxiao wanted to pry Xiu's head open to have a good look at the information about the Vermilion Bird. What kind of information was that? What was the difference between saying something and saying nothing at all?

In any case, it seemed that lord Xiu had no intention to say anything else. No matter how Shen Yanxiao threatened and bribed, he did not continue with the topic and urged her to start her training instead. Even though the Vermilion Bird was only a smelly fart in his eyes, but with its capabilities, Shen Yanxiao

had to raise either her battle aura or magic to the sixth rank, at the very least, to get the little bird to surrender and pay its allegiance to her.

Without any useful information, coupled with Xiu's whip that forced her to continue with her training, Shen Yanxiao could only retract her curiosity and followed his orders.

However, she had her own plans too.

'If you can do it, then just continue to keep your mouth shut. I don't believe you would be willing to look on helplessly as the Vermilion Bird throws itself at another person when the time comes!'

They were like ants on the same rope, so what did she have to be afraid for?

...

Five days passed in a blink of an eye. Several luxurious carriages were already parked in front of the Vermilion Bird Family gates early in the morning.

The sage was already seated in his exclusive carriage and nodded at Shen Feng through the window.

Led by Shen Yifeng, the candidates for the Vermilion Bird stood respectfully before Shen Feng and listened to his last lecture before they set out for a long journey.

"This trip is related to our family's reputation and no matter the cost, one of you must successfully bring the Vermilion Bird back." Shen Feng solemnly looked at the four grandchildren who stood before him. The long journey was led by the God Realm's envoy and other than the four candidates from the Vermilion Bird Family, they only assigned one servant to accompany each of them.

Among the four of them, Shen Yifeng had the highest chance to obtain the Vermilion Bird. Not only did he inherit the best lineage, but he was also a rare prodigy that one had ever seen in a century, and the entire Vermilion Bird Family held high expectations for him.

Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei's strength might be inferior to Shen Yifeng, but their talents were still pretty good. They merely appeared mediocre due to Shen Yifeng's skills.

The Vermilion Bird hadn't shown itself in the human world for a century, and no one knew of its conditions for a master. If the criteria were not based on their strengths, it was very likely for the twins to obtain its favor.

After all, the mental energy of twins was a very delicate thing. If they have the intention to complement each other, then their mental energy would probably be on the same level as Shen Yifeng.

The satisfaction that he concealed deep down changed when Shen Feng's gaze shifted to that thin and weak physique.

### **Chapter 43: Lava Valley (1)**

Unlike the three candidates who were in high spirits, Shen Yanxiao stood at the edge with a confused gaze and a slack expression. She looked like someone who was on a mental journey of her own, and she did not even listen to what Shen Feng had told them. The only bright and delicate feature on her face

wandered left and right with a lack of focus. When one looked at her, they would see no signs of someone who had a long journey ahead of them, and she seemed like an ignorant little kid who was forced to go along with the team.

When she stood next to others, one could see the huge contrast between them.

The three attractive and lively youngsters, and an oblivious ugly duckling with a dull appearance that looked confused had stood together. It was quite a ridiculous scene.

Shen Jiayi dressed meticulously that day, and she deliberately stood beside Shen Yanxiao. She had taken extra care with her looks, and she seemed exceptionally beautiful when compared with Shen Yanxiao's ordinary looks.

When the two of them stood side by side, the difference between them was as if one was made of flowers and the other of mud.

A triumphant smile quirked on Shen Jiayi's lips. There were only two women in the third generation of the Vermilion Bird Family, and Shen Yanxiao's undeniable ugliness made her seem more beautiful.

Even if she was unable to contest for the Vermilion Bird, she had to make the idiot suffer during the trip and to disgrace herself before the sage, as revenge for the past humiliation that she had suffered because of her!

"We understand." The three of them respectfully answered.

It was not only about their attempt to restore the Vermilion Bird Family's reputation to its peak, but it was also about the future of their status in the family. No matter who it was, they would not let go of such an opportunity!

...

As its name implied, the Lava Valley was situated between several high mountains with countless burnt ash-colored stones. It was autumn, and the weather was supposed to be crisp and refreshing. However, the temperature for the area around the Lava Valley was so hot that it was as if the air was boiling. Heatwave surged from underground, and there was no vegetation in the entire valley. From a distance, it looked as if a rift valley was split between the forest, and it was pitch-black.

There were no houses in the vicinity of the Lava Valley. Everyone in the Longxuan Empire knew that even the usually fuss-free jackals refused to live there, let alone the more picky humans. In that barren and torrid place, only demon beasts would hide there and struggle at their death's door. .

Back when the Lava Valley had not existed, the land was covered in luscious greenery. It was when the mythical beast decided to settle down there that all life was set on fire by the Vermilion Bird's flame until there was nothing left. All life then completely disappeared from the soil of that land.

Other than the Vermilion Bird Family who would dispatch men to check up on the Vermilion Bird for every generation, no one else would want to step foot in the land of the dead.

Even when the Vermilion Bird Family's men went there, every visit would incur severe injuries. The high temperature that surrounded the Lava Valley made it impossible for people who had yet to advance to the sixth level to stay for an extended period. The demon beasts that hid in the shadows would also wait

for an opportunity. Every visit would end with the death of several people at the hands of those ferocious demon beasts, and even so, the Vermilion Bird Family were unwilling to abandon the land that they had long regarded as their sacred place.

Seven to eight luxurious carriages slowly entered the quiet valley. The leading carriage was much larger than the carriages in the rear. The scene was actually quite weird. The area was, undoubtedly, scorching hot, but the carriages radiated a slight chill around it, and they were not affected by the high temperature at all.

#### **Chapter 44: Lava Valley (2)**

Shen Feng had made preparations for everything because he understood the importance of the trip to the valley. The main frame of the carriages was built with Hoarfrost Darksteel so that the people inside the carriages would not feel the slightest heat, not even in a blistering hot environment.

The cost for those carriages was enough to purchase a whole city, and with their wealth, the affluent Vermilion Bird Family could only afford to build ten.

And this time, they had utilized eight of those for the trip to the valley.

Other than the hoarfrost carriages that could help to prevent heatstroke, those who were headed to the Lava Valley had also worn heat-resistant ice silk armors. The closer they got to the place where the Vermilion Bird rested, the hotter it would get. Without the ice silk armor as protection, they would probably be roasted by the heat the moment they stepped into the Vermilion Bird's nest.

It was reasonable to say that Shen Feng would not have sent only four guards to follow them as they were about to enter a place with harsh environment and where dangers lurked all around them. However, that was the sage's intention.

Everything that had to do with the God Realm was like a mystery to outsiders, and the powers that the sage would use to awaken the mythical beast was a secret of their own. If they were not worried that the four young masters and misses, who had lived pampered lives were unable to bear the long and difficult journey, the envoys from the God Realm would not even bother to bring the four guards with them.

As for their safety...

How powerful was the existence of the God Realm? There were eighteen envoys in total for the trip to the valley, and the most powerful existence in the God Realm sat in the front carriage – the sage.

Even high-level demon beasts would think thrice about their sinister plans for that group, let alone the ordinary demon beasts.

Across the entire Brilliance Continent, the God Realm was probably the only one who dared to claim that they had not seen a single strand of demon beast hair in their territory.

Everyone knew that the high-level demon beasts also had a higher level of wisdom. They were not only powerful, but they were also as smart as humans. They would never risk their lives to attack a group of humans with a powerful leader in their midst.

As soon as they entered the Lava Valley, the human scent from the carriages attracted a large number of low-level demon beasts. Even though their wisdom was low, they could still sense the powerful suppressive aura that radiated from the first carriage. No matter how fragrant the human scent was, the fear that they felt, instinctively told them that the people in the carriages could never be used to satisfy their appetite.

Regardless of how ravenous those starved demon beasts were, they could only hide in the darkness and continued to smell the fragrant scent they had not inhaled for a long time to console themselves.

The carriage that Shen Yanxiao was in was at the second-to-last position of the group. Although those god envoys from the God Realm were arrogant, they knew the importance of that trip. They were responsible for the front and back of the group to prevent attacks from any ignorant demon beasts.

“Tsk tsk, the scenery is pathetic, as if a nuclear bomb had exploded here.” Shen Yanxiao surveyed her surroundings through the thin cloth that covered the window.

She was the only one in the entire carriage. The guard that was assigned to her had been ‘borrowed’ away by Shen Jiayi with the reason of ‘insufficient manpower’ the second day after their departure. The horses that pulled the hoarfrost carriage were specially selected heat-resistant military horses, and they would follow the front carriage automatically, and thus they did not require a driver for the carriage.

As long as she stayed in the carriage, no one would notice anything that Shen Yanxiao did in there, even if she did some somersaults. So she did not pay any attention to her own words or actions as she did not have to worry that anyone would be surprised by that.

### **Chapter 45: Lava Valley (3)**

Shen Yanxiao secretly gave Shen Jiayi a thumbs up for her efforts to make things difficult for her.

‘You’ve done well!’

If she had to display a Mona Lisa’s smile for twenty-four hours a day and to act like an idiot, how tragic would that be?

She was also very thankful for Shen Jiayi’s wickedness and her eight generations of ancestors! <sup>1</sup>

“Xiu, were all these caused by that little bird?” The only one that could converse with her was Xiu, who resided within her, and she did not have any reservations with him.

“The South Flaming Vermilion Bird. Only that beast would take such great pains to burn the land to create such a nest.” It seemed like he was in a good mood, even though he answered Shen Yanxiao’s question reluctantly.

“Burn the land to create a nest? Didn’t you say that it was merely larger than the normal aerial magic beasts? Why does it need to stay in such a large nest?” Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows. They had entered the Lava Valley for half a day already, but as she looked at the route in front of her, she knew that they still had a long way to go before they would reach their destination.

“The four mythical beasts have an arrogant temperament, and they would never allow other living things to exist near their nests. The Vermilion Bird is of the fire nature, and it has a preference for hot places. They would only accept the place for a nest after they raised the temperature around the surrounding area. Even though the Vermilion Bird usually hover at heights most of the time, they also have a strong desire to control the ground. This place is considered small when compared to its previous nest. It must have suffered from some heavy injuries before it went dormant. Otherwise, I reckon that the few mountains nearby would not have existed anymore.” Xiu’s voice was very calm like he only discussed the weather that day, and it was as if he thought there was nothing wrong for a bird to occupy such an ample space. It was also as if he believed that the nest that the Vermilion Bird had chosen was quite shabby.

Xiu might have been very calm, but Shen Yanxiao was not.

As a person from modern times, she understood how hard some people had struggled for their whole life just for a few dozen meters of land. She was shocked by Xiu’s nonchalant explanation of how the Lava Valley got its name.

Extravagant! It was honestly too extravagant!

It occupied an area that was comparable to a small city in modern times because it needed a place for a nest. How extravagant was that? When she recalled how arrogant those people were after they purchased an island, she then thought that their attempts were weak and pathetic when compared to the Vermilion Bird in the Lava Valley!

Shen Yanxiao understood Xiu’s hint about the larger size of the Vermilion Bird’s old nest. Apparently, for the standard of mythical beasts, its nest at the Lava Valley was as small as an underground basement.

She couldn’t imagine how vast the Vermilion Bird’s ‘official’ place of residence would be.

Furthermore, according to what he had said, the residence of the other mythical beasts were also extremely spacious.

Just how big was the Brilliance Continent anyway, for it did not only needed to accommodate so many humans and magical beasts, it also had to allocate vast spaces for those mythical beasts to be squandered away?

“Xiu, did you have a huge place of residence as well?” Shen Yanxiao knew that Xiu had a physical body a very long time ago. Even though she did not know the reason he became a soul that resided within her, she was very curious about the place that nurtured someone like him with such an arrogant temper.

Xiu did not reply immediately, as if he was deep in thought about the past. A short while later, he answered slowly.

“Hmm.”

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‘Can you not give me such a concise answer?!’

Shen Yanxiao clicked her tongue and continued to ask.

“Bigger than the Lava Valley?”

## **Chapter 46: Path of a Warlock (1)**

“What if you compared it to the Longxuan Empire?”

“Do not compare it with such a remote and desolate place.”

“...”

Remote... and... desolate...

Shen Yanxiao had to admit. She was tempted!

“Hey, if you regain your strength one day, will you return to your home?” Perhaps she was too idle, so Shen Yanxiao started to chat with Xiu about trivial questions for the first time ever.

“I will definitely return.” Xiu’s voice faintly revealed a determination that she had never encountered before.

Shen Yanxiao smiled. “Then, as your ally, shouldn’t you consider bringing me along to sightsee?” She was very curious about his luxurious home that could reduce the wealthy Longxuan Empire to a ‘remote and desolate’ place.

“Very well.” Even though Xiu did not understand what Shen Yanxiao meant when she said ‘sightsee,’ he could still guess her intentions by what the words meant individually.

“When I repossess my body, I will certainly bring you there.”

Shen Yanxiao smiled even more brilliantly.

Luxurious places were a thief’s favorite place to be. In a place where gold littered everywhere, it was an excellent opportunity for them to get rich!

Since she had loaned her body to someone for so long, she thought that she ought to charge a certain amount of ‘rent’ after the matter was settled.

Xiu did not realize that he had led a wolf into his home. After that short chat with Shen Yanxiao, he recovered his personality as a devious instructor.

“It’ll be awhile before we reach the Vermilion Bird’s lair. Before then, you must train without stopping to sleep or rest so that you can increase your strength.”

Shen Yanxiao’s face soured...

Even though her progress during that period was considered stable, it was still a distance to the sixth-rank target that Xiu had set for her!!

She thought that he simply wanted to hound her to her death!!

...



As they journeyed, Shen Yanxiao had barely managed to follow Xiu's order to neither rest nor sleep under his strenuous training!

For the entirety of two days and nights, what she had done in the carriage other than train was to continue to train some more!

It had been two and a half days since they entered the Lava Valley, and they still had not reached the Vermilion Bird's lair. It was a cruel reality!

For an entire two days and two nights, she didn't even get the chance to rest her eyes, and if she relaxed for a little bit, Xiu's ice-cold voice would explode in her mind. It was not a sound that she would hear in her ears, so even if she jabbed her ears, it would not have lowered the volume.

Every day, the sage would dispatch someone to send food and drinks to every carriage, and they would continue the journey for the rest of the time. Even after they had arrived at the Lava Mountain for so many days, Shen Yanxiao feet had never touched the ground.

Before the day ended, Shen Yanxiao's magic finally broke through to the sixth rank under Xiu's inhumane training.

After the sixth rank, Shen Yanxiao had to choose the direction of her magic training between three classes, and they were magus, warlocks, and priests.

Xiu was an excellent teacher. He analyzed the situation of the three paths and explained them in a simple but yet precise manner for Shen Yanxiao.

Magus had the strongest attack between the three classes, and even among a huge army, they still maintained a decisive role. A powerful magic attack often possessed a more terrifying killing power than the siege weapons.

However, a magus was also very weak. They were unequaled in situations with long-ranged enemies, but if a powerful opponent were to attack them from close proximity, then they would be very vulnerable to the attacks.

### **Chapter 47: Path of a Warlock (2)**

All magic attacks required a certain amount of time for chants, and more powerful magic would require longer time for the chants. The magus needed a perfectly safe environment to work because they had to concentrate on their chants, and so, they were an extreme class of their own.

They were like kings in long-ranged combats, but a weakling in close-quarter fights.

It was the first class that Shen Yanxiao had decided to abandon.

In a real battle, no enemy would allow the magus the time that they needed for their chants. Without the protection of powerful teammates, an unaccompanied vulnerable magus could be easily killed by a close combat class even if the opponent was lower-levelled. Of course, a skilled magus would require only a short time for his chant, and they could also torture those close combat enemies to death with their ample experiences.

However, that was not what Shen Yanxiao wanted. She did not have any support, and to be at a disadvantage in close quarters combat during the initial phase of her training was not something that she wanted to do.

Furthermore, she was accustomed to split-second decisions, and something as time-consuming and tedious as that was not suitable for her.

The second choice would be a priest. Their attack abilities were weak, and it was as if they had none. However, they possessed a powerful connection with nature and could heal any injuries by borrowing the power of nature. Furthermore, they could utilize the power of nature to strengthen themselves and their companions. Of course, those were all only short-term effects.

The priest was a class that relied more on their companions when compared to the magus. Without powerful allies, a single priest would not even be able to deal with a low-level demon beast.

The priests of this world were similar to doctors of modern times. They were merely more mysterious than doctors, and they were more of an all-rounder.

Before she heard the complete explanation, Shen Yanxiao had already vetoed that class that sounded like a path for the Virgin Mary.

She did not wish to stand behind other people and become a parasite that would enjoy someone else's protection!

Finally, there was only the warlock class left.

Xiu was very precise when he explained about warlocks, and it was in more detail when compared to his explanations about magus and priest.

Warlocks were an intriguing existence in the Brilliance Continent. They were far less aggressive than magus in terms of attack and did not possess the ability to heal any injuries. However, they were the nightmares of many.

Warlocks utilized strange curses, but they could not make someone vanish in a split second. However, they could secretly influence and cause the other person's corpse to disappear. They were like an invisible poison that would corrode the enemies' life force without anyone's notice. Curses did not require chants, and it only needed to execute hand signs to activate it. Warlocks could execute curses in the blink of an eye and cause the opponent to be weakened. They could incapacitate a powerful magus to prevent access to their magic, and turn them into trash for their enemies to slaughter!

It was basically the first choice for any shady person!

The moment Xiu ended his explanation, Shen Yanxiao became very interested in that horrifying class.

As a thief goddess, it was not her nature to expose herself to charge and break through the enemy lines. Instead, she would conceal herself in a dark corner, and wait for an opportunity to strike as that was where her interest lies in!

The warlock class was simply tailor-made for her!

“Then, that’ll be it!” Shen Yanxiao instantly decided that she wanted to walk down the path of a warlock that seemed to have bright prospects.

However, Xiu reminded her that there weren’t many people in the entire Brilliance Continent that went down the path of a warlock. It was because many thought that they were an extremely sinister presence. Furthermore, they practiced despicable methods, and no family would allow their members to learn a class that would disgrace their family’s prestige as they believed a true warrior should face their enemy head on!

### Chapter 48: Path of a Warlock (3)

The God Realm that was revered by everyone had loathed the existence of warlocks. Among the six different classes between magic and battle aura, the warlock class was the closest to darkness and the radiant God Realm refused to approach any power of evil.

Due to the prejudice of the common masses and the God Realm’s suppression, it was as if none trained in the path of a warlock in the entire Brilliance Continent.

Even if there were, they would live like a street rat and endured abuse by everyone else.

Shen Yanxiao couldn’t understand the reason behind that.

How did such an efficient class become such a despicable existence when the words came out from the hypocrites’ mouths?

Despicable? There were tons of people in the world who posed as a person of high morals with a bright and neat appearance, and yet they were happy to commit dirty acts in private. Since the world could accept those hypocrites, why couldn’t they accept a class that was just another branch of magic?

It was so absurd that she didn’t know whether to laugh or to cry.

“So what if they are boycotted? So what if they don’t like it? I have chosen my path, and why should I care about where other people would point their fingers?” Shen Yanxiao sneered. She was never a person who would care about how the world perceived things.

She would only choose what she believed to be right, and she would never comply with the world’s opinion.

Shen Yanxiao knew that no one in this world could be trusted and she could only rely on herself.

“Remember your words today. Only you can hold the ground for your own choices.” Since she insisted, Xiu did not even try to dissuade her. Shen Yanxiao could vaguely perceive that he was pleased with her choice.

Even though she had already decided the future for her path in magic, it was practically impossible to learn the skills of a warlock in a place as simple and as crude as the Lava Valley. Even if Xiu was someone who was veiled in mystery, it was also impossible for him to foresee that the owner of the body that he resided in would choose the path of a warlock. Therefore, it was natural that he did not cram information about warlocks into his mind.

Furthermore, as the second layer of the Seven Star Moon Seal had not been undone, Shen Yanxiao's growth in magic had come to a standstill after she advanced to the sixth rank. No matter how much she trained, there had not been any further progress.

It was as Xiu had mentioned, the effects that she had experienced when the first seal was undone were closely related to the seal.

Shen Yanxiao could only abandon her thoughts to continue with the path of a warlock and concentrated on her battle aura instead.

Unfortunately, for one to advance to the sixth rank of magic in such a short period was really a rare occurrence and if she wanted to continue to advance in battle aura with such a short time available... well, it would simply be the ravings of a lunatic!

Xiu no longer urged Shen Yanxiao to train as hard as she previously did.

As the Vermilion Bird Family's carriages advanced toward the depths of the Lava Valley, the surrounding temperature also increased. Any drops of water would evaporate the instant it touched the ground, and even the low-level demon beasts did not dare to enter such a hot place.

The people inside the carriages knew that as the temperature rose, it also meant that they were closer to the Vermilion Bird's lair.

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Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei sat in the same carriage, with a middle-aged servant to serve them as they rested. As for the other two servants, they had been left behind in the carriage that Shen Jiawei was supposed to be in.

"How long until we arrive? I feel like my body is about to fall apart from sitting in the carriage all day! I've had enough of meat jerky, and if I eat any more, I will definitely puke!" Shen Jiayi frowned and leaned against the carriage. She had been accustomed to a pampered life in the Vermilion Bird Family's compound, and the long journey had made her uncomfortable. If it weren't for the Vermilion Bird and for the chance to gain the sage's favor, she would never agree to suffer through all those hardships.

#### **Chapter 49: Vermilion Bird's Nest (1)**

"How would I know? It has been so unbearable, to be cooped up in this carriage and without anything to do. I'm nearly bored to death! It's a good thing that I have you to accompany me. Otherwise, I would have gone crazy!" Shen Jiawei had always followed his sister, Shen Jiayi. He was too bored when he was alone in his carriage and could no longer stand it. Thus, he took the opportunity to sneak into his sister's carriage during one of their stops.

When the two unruly twins got together, things were not as dull as before.

Even then, they still could not bear with the boredom.

“Hmm, I wonder how that idiot is coping with being cooped up in the carriage all alone... Haha, don’t tell me she has made a mess in the carriage? It’s an expensive carriage too.” Shen Jiayi looked out the window and snorted.

“Perhaps she did. She’s an idiot anyway. Simple tasks like eating and dressing on her own are already an issue for her. In any case, I will not dare to look inside her carriage, who knows what it’ll look like. Sister, you’re brilliant to ask for her attendant.” Shen Jiawei chuckled.

“An attendant to serve her? Is she even worthy of the service from them? Stop joking. The four guards that grandfather dispatched this time are all part of our family’s team of elites, and it’s simply a waste of resources to have them wait on an idiot like her. I’d like to see if she can live comfortably without anyone to take care of her while she is confined inside the carriage.” Shen Jiayi was aware that she could not deliberately make things difficult for her in an obvious manner while they were with the sage. However, it was still possible to take some actions discreetly. Even though it couldn’t diminish her hatred, it would still make Shen Yanxiao suffer.

The twins conspired with each other, and the attendant who waited on them turned a blind eye on their actions. Instead, he carefully observed the situation outside their window.

All of a sudden, a blurry figure flashed past the window. The attendant stretched his head out in astonishment, but he could not locate a single silhouette outside on the charred soil.

“What’s wrong?” Shen Jiayi noticed the attendant’s strange action and asked.

The attendant another look and after he ensured that there were no abnormalities, he sat down and said, “Your lowly subordinate’s eyes went blurry for a moment, and it was as if I saw someone.”

Shen Jiayi laughed and said, “Did your eyes go blurry from being in the carriage for far too long? How could there be anyone outside? According to my father, anyone without the ice silk armor would be dried up instantly. So how could there be anyone outside?”

The attendant nodded as he also felt that he must have made a mistake. Therefore, he paid no more heed to that.

On the third day when the night fell, the eight carriages stopped in front of a huge cave.

After a long journey, they finally arrived at their destination. Fed up with the long bumpy ride, everyone hurriedly got down from their carriages.

Shen Jiayi was aware of the severity of the situation, so she sent the attendant that was charged with Shen Yanxiao’s well-being back to her.

As the attendant led her down the carriage, Shen Yanxiao stretched and looked up at the huge entrance in front of her.

The pitch-black cave was half the size of a hill. As she stood in front of the entrance, she could sense a constant stream of hot wave that radiated from within the cave. Luckily, the ice silk armor that she wore had managed to block the heat. Although she could still feel the boiling temperature, it was still bearable for her.

“This way, please.” The attendant returned and stood by Shen Yanxiao’s side. Even though he doubted that she understood what was said, he had to be respectful toward Shen Yanxiao in front of the sage.

## **Chapter 50: Vermilion Bird’s Nest (2)**

In reality, the attendant had never taken Shen Yanxiao seriously. He was an elite nurtured by the Vermilion Bird Family, and his participation in the quest had proved his worth. However, he did not expect that he’d be sent to take care of the trash and deep down, he was unsatisfied with the task. Therefore, when Shen Jiayi decided to cause trouble for Shen Yanxiao, he did not hesitate as he walked toward her and left Shen Yanxiao alone in the carriage for three whole days.

Shen Yanxiao knew what some people thought of the situation, but she was too lazy to pay any attention to it and walked directly toward the entrance.

Shen Jiayi and the rest had already arrived at the entrance, and the constant stream of the heatwave that radiated from the pitch-black cave stopped them from their next step into the cave.

“This is the Vermilion Bird’s lair. All of you should prepare yourselves, and we’ll be entering the cave shortly.” Just like before, a pure and holy smile appeared the sage’s face, and as he faced the cave before him, he was not tense at all.

Shen Yifeng’s heartbeat quickened. After they awakened the Vermilion Bird, he was the most likely candidate to obtain it. He was confident that the mythical beast that laid dormant there would eventually belong to him. He concealed his excitement and turned to look at Shen Yanxiao, who had walked to his side.

He was aware of Shen Jiayi’s deliberate actions to make things difficult for Shen Yanxiao for the past previous days, but he did not do anything to stop her. At that moment, he revealed a friendly smile toward the ignorant Shen Yanxiao and said, “Seventh sister, it has been hard on you these past few days but don’t you worry. Your older brother is here, and I will take good care of you.”

With a gentle tone and some sweet words, Shen Yifeng transformed into a good brother that took care of his younger little sister.

However, Shen Yanxiao felt only disdain toward his sudden display of kindness. If Shen Yifeng honestly cared about her, then he would not have allowed Shen Jiayi to harass her. He had never once stood up for her in those three days, and his sudden display of kindness was because he wanted to show a good side of him in front of the sage. Shen Yanxiao had already noticed that when they were back at the Vermilion Bird Family’s compound. Shen Yifeng would shower her with affection whenever Shen Siyu was present and acted as if she was his biological little sister. However, as long as Shen Siyu was absent, he would treat her like an invisible person. He did not even look at her, let alone to speak nicely to her.

Shen Yanxiao had caught on to his little scheme. However, she was too lazy to bother with an idiot who did not know how to conceal his hypocritical thoughts.

Shen Yifeng did not expect the idiot to respond to his goodwill. He said those kind words to project a kind personality before the sage. The world respected the people from the God Realm because they had

always treated others with benevolence. They loathed evil and darkness while advocated for light and kindness.

Naturally, Shen Yifeng knew what to say and when to say it. The best way to display his kindness was to treat the idiot well. In any case, the trash would not be able to snatch the Family Head position from him, and superficial actions were always simple and easily done.

Shen Yanxiao's participation in the quest was not only as the twin's unfortunate cushion, but she also became the prop for Shen Yifeng to display his positive side.

It seemed as if everyone had made full use of the idiot.

The sage's smile deepened as he looked at Shen Yifeng's 'care' toward Shen Yanxiao. However, an unfathomable glint then flashed across his eyes.