

The Good 681

Chapter 681: Control the Emperor and Command the Nobles (4)

“You may think that I am being reckless about this matter. But the fact is, sending a punitive expedition against me, however it may be, will result in nothing. I don’t think the Emperor will or can do anything against me when I have enough power to compete against the armies of the Longxuan Empire. However, since that is not the case now, I have to leverage external forces. That being said, once I grow strong enough, anyone that means ill will to me will have to carefully consider their own abilities.”

“For instance, when I first arrived at the Forsaken Land, I saw how those from the Blue Moon Dynasty were robbing the resources in the eastern region that belongs to the Longxuan Empire. Those people knew no shame about their behavior. Rather, they exploited the weak grasp of the Forsaken Land the Longxuan Empire had. Plus, look at the road the Longxuan Empire is going down; it is clearly going down the road of the weak. I believe the Emperor is very aware about how our forces are being bullied inside the Forsaken Land. However, the Emperor has no choice but to exercise forbearance and let the other three countries rob their resources because the Longxuan Empire no longer has the power to contend against the other three countries.”

“When the powerful are around, the weak have no rights. All in all, I must build a strong force that belongs to me, so strong that even when I detain the prince and threaten the state teacher, the Emperor will have no courage to turn hostile against me. By then, what I want is more than him not turning hostile against me, I want him to cozy up to me.” A smile of confidence blossomed around Shen Yanxiao’s mouth. She knew that to stand at the top of the world, she must have enough strength to step on the people at the bottom to ascend to the peak.

The five beasts heard Shen Yanxiao out in surprise. They could finally see that Shen Yanxiao did not do this because of a lack of consideration. It was rather just what she considered was beyond what they could envision.

What kind of powerful strength and will were in this petite body that could motivate her to come up with such unprecedented thoughts?

She analyzed the style of the Emperor from the situation at the Forsaken Land. After considering all the factors, she gained absolute confidence to reverse the course of events.

They had to admit that, as men, they felt humbled to her grand display of courage and foresight.

“You... you never cease to surprise me. As your friend, I will support you no matter what you have planned for the future.” Yang Xi calmed himself down from his shock and remarked with sincerity.

“In the future, regardless of the difficulties you will face, we from the Phantom will never leave you alone. You are free to just do as you wish,” Yan Yu said with a smile. His worries had dispersed after Shen Yanxiao’s statement.

If a girl that was still so young could deliver such courageous words, so as men, they could not fall too far behind.

“Xiaoxiao, I have been thinking that if you were a man, I am afraid that you would eventually control every inch of the world. If you were a man, the Brilliance Continent would have another fierce and

powerful figure.” Qi Xia had to praise Shen Yanxiao’s courage. She was visionary and thoughtful. She was confident, confident enough to go through her plans to stand at the top.

People would rarely achieve anything if they did not have the confidence to do so.

“A man? A woman? Why can’t I do things that a man is capable of? In any case, it is not that I am unable, it is that I am unwilling. I am not interested in ruling the world. I just wish that no one can point their fingers at me so I can just live in freedom and peace.” Shen Yanxiao chuckled. Never had she thought that women were weaker than men.

Chapter 682: Is It Fine to be Tsundere Like This? (1)

Everything she had been doing until now was to protect herself and to undo the seal. During this whole process, some unexpected events did push her to the teeth of the storm. But, now that she had arrived at this position, she had to be responsible for the responsibilities this position brought. In this world, apart from herself, there were many more families and friends that she cared and felt responsible about. For herself and them, she must eliminate all the possible threats. She wished for a world where nobody would have the courage to point their fingers at them and where the people she cared about could live in this world in liberty and comfort and free from the shackles!

The five beasts said nothing more. The admiration in their eyes was their honest reply to Shen Yanxiao.

Li Qi was imprisoned while Pei Yuan and Long Yue were detained. Their honor guards were completely unaware of what had been happening amongst their superiors. They just roamed about in the city as per usual.

Pei Yuan and Long Yue were detained but Shen Yanxiao did not limit their movements. As long as they stayed in Sun Never Sets, they could roam freely in the city.

The construction of Sun Never Sets was still ongoing. The arrival of the envoy could basically be neglected in the city.

Having gotten rid of the interruptions, Shen Yanxiao recruited more labourers to speed up the city construction. Under her instructions, Pei Yuan told the honor guards that had come with him to participate in the city construction as well.

Su He was uncovering more and more mineral products in the eastern region. Some buildings had already been erected in the city of Sun Never Sets. A real city was slowly coming into being. Given enough time, the city would catch the world’s attention.

Because of Shen Yanxiao’s previous demonstration of her eight mythical beasts, during this time, the other three forces in the Forsaken Land had been behaving themselves. Nobody dared to come and create trouble.

Taking advantage of this peaceful time, Shen Yanxiao spared no resources to build the city.

Several months passed. Shen Yanxiao witnessed with her own eyes how the one worn-out Sun Never Sets gained a new look, being full of high-rise buildings and filled with neat and clean streets. Sun Never Sets finally had taken on the look of a real city.

Shen Yanxiao was filled with joy now that the city construction was about to finish. The only thing that depressed her was that, even though Xiu's strength had been recovering, he did not reach the stage where he could unlock the next seal for her.

Seven Star Moon Seal, the strength of the seal was increasingly more powerful as the recent few levels were unlocked.

It would take three to five years for Xiu to reach the next level of his strength, unless there was a city full of demons to provide him with enough dark elements to boost his strength.

Shen Yanxiao was upset, so much so that she could not even smile as Sun Never Sets was coming together.

Standing on the city wall of the Sun Never Sets, gazing at the vast land outside, frustration was brewing in her heart.

She was unhappy and depressed. All of a sudden, she noticed something was off in Sun Never Sets during the past couple of days.

The members of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had been acting strangely. They would avoid her looks. Before she could even question them, they would find all kinds of odd excuses and run away.

Stomach pain was the most common excuse. What confused Shen Yanxiao the most was when a middle-aged mercenary said in a panic that his wife was in labor and that he could not chit chat with her. Then, he betook himself to his heels.

Shen Yanxiao was speechless.

This man had followed the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group to the Forsaken Land by himself. All of his family members were in the Longxuan Empire. What made it curious was that Shen Yanxiao clearly remembered before this mercenary entered the Forsaken Land, he was complaining about his misfortune in finding a wife. How come he had a wife all of a sudden and one that was in labor?

Was there some sort of magic at play?

Chapter 683: Is It Fine to be Tsundere Like This? (2)

Shen Yanxiao had heard more than enough of these kinds of funny, annoying and cheap excuses. She was puzzled as to what had happened to these men. They were just fine not long ago. Why would they avoid her like a plague these days?

She did not torture them, did she?

The already depressed Shen Yanxiao became even more so. She made it her mission to become a city lord that was loved by her people. However, all of a sudden, she realized that she had become a dreadful monster in the eyes of the people.

She wanted to vent her depression to the beasts but their reaction drove her crazy.

“Really? I think you are overthinking about it. Everyone is fine. I believe you are just too tired, so get some rest.” Tang Nazhi looked at Shen Yanxiao with a straight face but his hands were hidden in his pockets. He would look away from her now and then. There was something odd about him.

“Are you sure?” Shen Yanxiao did not notice the strangeness of Tang Nazhi’s actions because she was still upset.

“Yes. You can ask Yu if you don’t believe me.” Tang Nazhi nodded quickly.

Yan Yu, who was on the side, cleared his throat. However, he still sounded somewhat unnatural. “How about I cast a blessing on you? How about you take a rest?”

“I am not tired at all.” Shen Yanxiao pulled a long face. Why did she have the feeling that Tang Nazhi and Yan Yu were trying to get rid of her?

Why, all of a sudden, she had become so unpopular?

“Well, where are the other two and that dishonest trader? I have not seen them since this morning? Where did they go and who are they trying to bring a disaster to?” Shen Yanxiao looked around but failed to find Qi Xia, Yang Xi, and Li Xiaowei. Usually, the five beasts were inseparable. Why would they split up today?

“Ah! They, they have... gone to the toilet. They got sick from some food yesterday. Well, you know.” Tang Nazhi hurriedly explained.

It was unfortunate that the excuses they came up with were so lame.

“They’ve got the runs...? Can you find anything else that is more absurd?” Shen Yanxiao did not know how to respond. Tang Nazhi’s excuse was no better than that mercenary who had magically become a dad.

“...” Tang Nazhi said nothing. He gave Yan Yu a pleading look.

Yan Yu heaved a sigh.

“They have something to take care of.”

“Oh.” Shen Yanxiao could tell that Tang Nazhi and Yan Yu were not planning to tell her where the other three bastards had gone to.

Shen Yanxiao had suffered so many setbacks that she had lost interest in probing further. She felt so depressed that she started slouching.

Those of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group were sneaking around, and the five beasts were being all secretive in their actions. It seemed that everyone was hiding something from her. This kind of feeling of not being in on a secret was making her lose her mind.

Shen Yanxiao turned around and left. She kept on pondering about what had gone wrong. The other three forces had been behaving lately. They did not create any troubles.

Pei Yuan and Long Yue had gradually settled down. Nothing should be wrong on that front either.

That unlucky Li Qi starved to death not long after he was imprisoned. Shen Yanxiao could not find anything that could have possibly gone wrong.

Sitting inside the city lord's mansion that had just been finished, Shen Yanxiao cupped her hands under her chin and looked at Vermilion Bird who was sitting by her side.

"I don't know where Jiu has gone to, and I cannot even find Xiao Feng. Only you and the little Phoenix are with me now. What on earth are they doing?" Shen Yanxiao sighed. She had become used to doing everything with her friends. It was so lively back then. Sadly, the situation had become cold and cheerless all of a sudden. To make it worse, the reactions of others when they saw her made her speechless.

Chapter 684: Is It Fine to be Tsundere Like This? (3)

"You have me here, right? Here, if you are bored, you can play with the Little Phoenix." Vermilion Bird's mood was the opposite of Shen Yanxiao's. Vermilion Bird was in ecstasy since he could enjoy the company of his master all by himself without any rivals to split her attention.

Vermilion Bird earnestly wished that those people would continue their odd behaviour so that they would not come and snatch his master away!

Vermilion Bird carried the Little Phoenix to Shen Yanxiao. She used a finger and poked on its round belly. She could not stop herself from enjoying the softy and feathery touch.

"Chu~" Pleased, Little Phoenix squinted its eyes in comfort. Currently, Little Phoenix did not look like a Phoenix, but a hamster when it acted all cute like this.

Recently, Little Phoenix was fed well. The fluffy fine hair had vanished. Tiny and soft feathers covered up Little Phoenix, making it all the more adorable.

"Never mind." Shen Yanxiao sighed. A depressive mood was not a mood suitable for her. She stood up and went back to her room.

Ever since she came to the Forsaken Land, she had little time to cultivate her battle aura and magical powers. Both were still at the same level as when she participated in the Inter-academy Tournament.

She sat with her legs crossed on the bed. Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath, focused her mind, and entered her heart's lake.

In the tranquil heart's lake, she found a tall and slender figure standing there.

"Xiu, how long will it be before you can unlock the next level of seal for me?" Shen Yanxiao looked at the breathtakingly handsome Xiu and tilted her head in question.

"Two months, at most," Xiu said slowly. His voice was so cold, and yet Shen Yanxiao felt warmth.

"Two months? That will be about the same time when Sun Never Sets will be finished. This is a double blessing." Shen Yanxiao nodded, chuckling.

"I guess so," Xiu said.

“Then I must not loaf around any longer. I must use this time to catch up on my cultivation of battle aura and magical powers. Otherwise, unlocking the seal will not be effective when my strength has not improved.” Shen Yanxiao knew that she had devoted a lot of energy, maybe even too much, into building Sun Never Sets. She had the eight mythical beasts with her but the world was vast and boundless. She could not guarantee that there would be no other powerful enemies lying about. Only by enhancing her strength could she be prepared to prevent such misfortune.

“Yes,” Xiu replied gently.

Shen Yanxiao said nothing more and focused her entire mind on cultivation.

When she began cultivating, there was something she did not know.

Xiu stood in her heart’s lake, pacing around the reflection of Shen Yanxiao.

Once, he thought that his host was born to be a good-for-nothing. At that point, he almost gave up on his recovery. However, overnight, Shen Yanxiao experienced a drastic change. She developed herself to her current state from a foolish loser that was despised by all. That in and of itself was stunning.

Shen Yanxiao was like a seed buried in the soil. Xiu witnessed how she was growing under the sunlight. He used his strength as water to irrigate her, helping her step towards the peak.

Looking at the delicate face of the reflection, Xiu’s cold eyes were covered by a glow.

To him, a human’s appearance was all the same. Whether they were beautiful or ugly, at the end of the day, they were just odd clumps of similar features to him.

He had been looking at Shen Yanxiao for a long time, a human that he had been in contact with for a long time. But her face represented more than an odd clump of features. To him, these distinct features had a name, Shen Yanxiao.

A girl that was growing up bit by bit before his eyes.

Chapter 685: Is It Fine to be Tsundere Like This? (4)

Xiu was there for everything that happened to Shen Yanxiao. Xiu had no comments about the friends around her acting eccentrically. Humans always had a variety of reasons for their behaviors. Those people had no significance to Xiu.

However, the oddness of such behaviors had upset a certain girl’s mind.

Xiu gazed at the endless heart’s lake. He squinted his golden eyes.

“I believe the day will be here soon.”

His whispers were baffling.

When Shen Yanxiao woke from her cultivation, it was the afternoon of the next day. She had not been eaten for a long time but she did not feel hungry.

Yet, patting her empty belly, she still decided to get herself some food.

She stepped out from the city lord's mansion, but failed to see Vermilion Bird and Little Phoenix. When she stood outside the mansion, doubt filled her eyes.

It was as if the large city had become unoccupied overnight. She could not see anyone whether it was on the city wall or on the streets.

It was in the afternoon. Theoretically speaking, construction workers should be still running about doing their job. Where did everyone go?

Everything was strange. Shen Yanxiao tried to contact Vermilion Bird but received no response. This was different from when she was at the Graveyard of the Sun. She could tell that her spiritual connection with the Vermilion Bird was not cut off. It was just that Vermilion Bird did not reply.

How come after one night, even Vermilion Bird had betrayed her!

Shen Yanxiao roamed randomly in Sun Never Sets, searching every inch of the city, but she could see no one.

"What has happened?" Shen Yanxiao's mind was unsettled. Overnight, everyone in the city had disappeared, leaving behind an empty city and a confused her.

Could it be that last night, the three forces had launched a secret strike?

Shen Yanxiao was frightened. That was the most plausible explanation she could think of.

However, there was no sign of a struggle anywhere, nor was there any blood on the ground. She could not even smell a hint of blood.

"Where did everyone go?"

Shen Yanxiao frowned.

"Xiu, can you tell me where everyone is?" Shen Yanxiao clenched her fists. She had to turn to Xiu.

"Underground." Xiu gave her a hint.

"Underground? They went to Underground City of Demons?" This was a surprise. But Shen Yanxiao never questioned Xiu's words. She headed toward the entrance of the underground city at once.

As she got close to the underground city, a ray of brilliant light suddenly flashed before her eyes.

Shen Yanxiao lifted her hand to shield herself from the glare. The next second, her hand was grabbed by a warm hand.

"Keep your eyes closed for now." Shen Yanxiao heard Qi Xia's magnetic voice. Before Shen Yanxiao could react, Qi Xia had covered up her eyes with his hand.

"Qi Xia, what are you doing?" Shen Yanxiao frowned.

"Come with me." Qi Xia chuckled. He grabbed Shen Yanxiao's soft, delicate hands and stepped forward.

Shen Yanxiao's eyes were covered by Qi Xia's hand. She could not see anything, so she just gave up and obediently followed him.

After some time, when Shen Yanxiao felt she had walked across the entire underground city, Qi Xia finally stopped.

“Okay now.”

“What?” Shen Yanxiao was filled with confusion.

When the hand over her eyes slowly moved away, Shen Yanxiao opened her eyes, still puzzled.

She was completely mesmerized by what laid in front of her eyes.

Chapter 686: This Is Your Party (1)

The underground city was in a state of complete darkness, as if it was midnight, but the night sky was dotted with shining stars, surrounding the bright moon that was shining in the sky. This sight was as beautiful as the night sky.

If it was not for the fact that she knew she was underground and that it was in the day outside, Shen Yanxiao would have been convinced that she was standing under the starry sky.

The stars were flickering above her head. It was as if she could reach out and harvest the stars.

“Do you like it?” There was a trace of affection and happiness in Qi Xia’s voice.

Shen Yanxiao opened her mouth but could not utter a single word. Since she had arrived at the Forsaken Land, dark clouds were the only thing hanging above her head. She could not even remember how long it had been since she saw a starry sky.

“Xiaoxiao, happy birthday,” Qi Xia whispered to Shen Yanxiao.

Shen Yanxiao was surprised. Then, for a moment, she fell into a trance.

“City lord, happy birthday!” Many people stepped out from the darkness with each one of them holding a glistening light crystal in their hands.

In this dark underground space, the light crystals in their hands were like fallen stars.

Tang Nazhi, Yan Yu, Yang Xi, and Li Xiaowei were the four that stood in front of the crowd. The light crystals were exceptionally glaring in their hands. They stepped towards Shen Yanxiao and sprinkled the light crystals around.

Strands of starlight spread in every direction, making it as beautiful as the Milky Way.

“You...” Shen Yanxiao was surprised and delighted. She would never expect that she was stepping into such a scene.

“Hey, silly, how can you forget your birthday? Thank god we remembered it. Or else, you will never recall that today is your fourteenth birthday.” Tang Nazhi rubbed Shen Yanxiao’s head.

“How did you do that?” Shen Yanxiao raised her head and gazed at the underground world that was as stunning as the starry night.

“We used light crystals which have been processed by Yang Xi, making them brighter within a smaller range. What you see is the result of days of our hard work.” Yan Yu smiled and answered Shen Yanxiao’s question.

The light of the light crystals was hard to manipulate. There were over ten thousand light crystals high above. Normally, the underground world would be brightly lit up by the thousands of light crystals. However, with Yang Xi’s help, the brightness of the light crystals had been greatly reduced. While the light crystals were glistening charmingly, they would not light up the whole area around it.

Shen Yanxiao could not imagine how much effort they must have put in to create a starry night sky for her. She now finally understood why people in the city had been so secretive in their actions recently. It turned out that they had been privately preparing for her birthday.

During the day, they were busy building the city. They only had time to make the tens of thousands of light crystals in the dark of the night. They had to install those light crystals on the ceiling as well. Realizing how much thought and effort they had put in, Shen Yanxiao’s heart was filled with warmth.

To create this scene for her, they must have had very little time to rest during the past few days. They created this magnificent scene for her regardless of the troubles.

“Thank you.” Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath, as a lump had appeared at the back of her throat.

In her previous life, she was an orphan. She did not know when she was born. She had no idea when was her birthday, not to mention to celebrate it.

She had gotten used to a life without a birthday. She could never imagine that there would be people that cared about her birthday other than herself.

This was the first and the most unforgettable birthday that Shen Yanxiao had celebrated in her two lifetimes.

“I am glad you like it. Our troubles are worthwhile.” They had to try every means to avoid Shen Yanxiao so that she would not stumble across this surprise before it was ready.

Chapter 687: This Is Your Party (2)

Fearing that they would inadvertently blurt out the secret, everyone had been using all their mind power to come up with awkward excuses. The five beasts could handle this better, but finding all kinds of excuses almost killed those socially-inept mercenaries.

“City lord, please ignore what we said before. We... had no other choice.” Those mercenaries were embarrassed. They wished they could slap themselves to death on the thought of the excuses they had made.

They had just randomly blurted out excuses when they were out of their wits!

“Yes, it was all in good health.”

“Also, I don’t have a wife yet...”

Shen Yanxiao was between smiles and tears when she heard those explanations but most of all, she felt moved.

For this surprise, all the demons and humans in Sun Never Sets were mobilized. Even Pei Yuan and Long Yue were dragged here to make up the numbers. The two had become used to living with demons. They were not uncomfortable anymore in the demon's underground city.

The soldiers that came from the capital were fed with knockout drugs by Qi Xia and the others early in the morning. Now, those soldiers were stuffed into the many rooms, snoring loudly in their sleep.

"I was dragged here by them. I just found out about this..." Vermilion Bird squeezed himself out from the crowd. He had been waiting for Shen Yanxiao in the city lord's mansion when he was suddenly taken here by the five beasts. He only found out that they were preparing for Shen Yanxiao's birthday when he arrived here. He found it frustrating that he, the mythical beast, had no idea that today was his master's birthday. This was such a shame.

Shen Yanxiao chuckled and rubbed Vermilion Bird's little head.

"There is more." Qi Xia patted Shen Yanxiao's shoulder and pointed to the man-made starry night.

Shen Yanxiao looked up. The mythical beasts had been getting ready on the side. They waved their hands and generated resplendent light. In an instant, gorgeous fireworks flashed past the "night sky", followed by blossoms of light of colorful magical powers.

The sparkles of the magical powers were like multicolored fireworks falling with the starlight.

"Today is your fourteenth birthday. From today on, we will celebrate your birthday every year with you." Qi Xia bent over and kissed Shen Yanxiao on her porcelain cheek. The other four beasts took the liberty and each kissed her as well.

"This will be a reward for us." Qi Xia laughed a wicked laugh.

Shen Yanxiao covered up her face. She did not know whether to cry or laugh as she looked at these adorable and annoying guys.

She had no regrets in her life with such a group of friends.

"I heard that in the distant Luna Continent that when the elves celebrate their birthdays, they will dance under the starry night. I wonder if I can have the privilege to invite our birthday girl for the first dance tonight." Gracefully, Qi Xia stepped back, bowed, and reached out his hand towards Shen Yanxiao.

Melodious music sounded out, echoing in the ears of all.

"I don't know how to dance but I will say yes if you are not afraid of me stepping on your feet." Shen Yanxiao laid her hand on the hand in front of her.

Under the "night sky", the beautiful boy and the charming girl danced charmingly to the rhythm of the songs. Everyone else stepped to the side, leaving the floor to them.

Like a true aristocrat, Qi Xia gently and elegantly led Shen Yanxiao in their dance.

Shen Yanxiao turned around skillfully and her hand fell into the grip of another warm hand.

Chapter 688: This Is Your Party (3)

“Let me take it from here.” Unlike the usual days, there was a tender smile on Tang Nazhi’s handsome face. He held Shen Yanxiao’s soft, delicate hand and pulled this sweet girl away from Qi Xia.

Amid the rise and fall of the music, the five beasts scrambled for Shen Yanxiao.

Shen Yanxiao was like a butterfly dancing trippingly, spinning from one friend to another.

At the moment, the onlookers’ hearts were brimming with happiness.

Nobody noticed that a faint mist floated out of the dancing crowd, gradually forming the shape of a slender figure in the “night sky”.

Gazing at happy Shen Yanxiao who was surrounded by the others, the rigid face of Xiu’s seemed to have been softened greatly. There was a smile in his half-squinted eyes. He raised his head to look at the carefully prepared night sky. Then, with a wave of his hand, a subtle touch of mist enveloped the entire underground city.

Hanging high above on the ceiling, the light crystals began to flicker in the dark underground city. The light would glisten and then fade away, just like real stars.

All of a sudden, a gentle hue was cast over the “moon” that was made of a huge singular light crystal, as if real moonlight was spilling onto the ground.

A gentle breeze sprang up. Delicate fragrance jumped into people’s noses. Amid such joyful songs and laughter, all seemed to be the catalysts for joy.

A flash of silver light shot across the sky, just like a shooting star. The next second, more rays of light began to shine with more “shooting stars” flashing by.

Shen Yanxiao looked up while dancing. Delight filled her eyes when she saw the shooting stars across the sky.

“Yang Xi is amazing. How did he create those shooting stars?” Shen Yanxiao had never seen a shooting star before. Only now when she witnessed it with her own eyes did she know how breathtaking it was. No wonder in her previous life, people would stay up late to wait for the fall of a shooting star.

That fleeting beauty could not be described in any language.

Yan Yu, who was dancing with Shen Yanxiao, was taken aback. The new highlight that was added to the beauty of the underground city was not their work. At the very least, they had never successfully created the shooting stars.

“That... is not us.” Yan Yu blinked. He was just as puzzled.

Shen Yanxiao stood there in confusion when a somewhat cold and refreshing voice echoed in her ears.

“Happy birthday.”

Xiu!

Stunned, Shen Yanxiao looked around. This voice did not come from her heart's lake, but her ears, which implied that Xiu had come out from her body.

The pair of shining clear eyes were looking around her surroundings. Finally, she saw a vague figure on the "moon".

It was Xiu.

A trace of a smile climbed into Shen Yanxiao's eyes. She had thought that Xiu was away from worldly pleasures. She would never expect that Xiu would join in the celebration of her birthday.

Staring at that vague figure, she moved her lips but made no sound.

Xiu knew that she was saying thank you.

"The human mind, indeed, is the most elusive of all. Humans are willing to pay an unequal price for these temporary beauties." Xiu looked at the underground city. There was no trace of contempt on his cold face. Fixing his eyes on the little girl smiling in the crowd, Xiu raised his eyebrows.

"But the outcome is good."

Xiu pointed the tip of his finger to the beautiful shooting stars and waved his hand. The thousands of light crystals hanging above came together at once and gradually converged in the "night sky". Slowly, the image of a pretty figure came into being.

Everyone looked up to see this unusual situation. In the darkness, the figure that was depicted by the light crystals was dancing. It was a reflection of Shen Yanxiao!

Chapter 689: Ouyang Huanyu (1)

On that day, the celebration only came to an end in the evening. The next day, everything returned back to its usual state.

However, Sun Never Sets welcomed an unexpected guest.

Shen Yanxiao blinked. She could not believe what Evil Wolf was reporting to her.

"Who did you say has come?"

Evil Wolf replied, "Well, that person claims that he is the Principal of Saint Laurent Academy, Ouyang Huanyu."

Shen Yanxiao immediately stood up from her chair.

Ouyang Huanyu was the person who gave her the most headaches back when she was in Saint Laurent Academy. This sanctimonious principal was a hypocrite inside and out. Shen Yanxiao could not figure out why Ouyang Huanyu had come to the Forsaken Land.

The Forsaken Land was regarded as a restricted area in all the countries. Armies were stationed where the four countries bordered the Forsaken Land. Since the Longxuan Empire had not successfully built a city in the Forsaken Land, anyone that wished to come to the Forsaken Land must receive a pass from the Emperor to step foot onto the Forsaken Land, just like what Shen Yanxiao did when she first entered

the Forsaken Land. She had to report to the garrison at the border. But for those from the other three countries, including the Blue Moon Dynasty, they could save themselves from this trouble.

The Forsaken Land was perilous to most. Most people would find it difficult to survive once they arrived at the Forsaken Land. As such, not even the most fearless mercenary dared to set foot here.

Before a city was built in the Forsaken Land, nobody without a pass was allowed access. And, at the moment, the Longxuan Empire had not opened up a path to the Forsaken Land to the public yet, so Ouyang Huanyu must have obtained the pass from the Emperor to be able to come here.

But why would he come here?

If it was possible, Shen Yanxiao wished that she would never meet this hypocrite ever again. It took her so much trouble to leave Saint Laurent Academy. She had thought that she would never have to see this mysterious old man again. But unexpectedly, he had come to her in person.

“City lord?” Evil Wolf found it strange that Shen Yanxiao was frowning so much. In the Longxuan Empire, Ouyang Huanyu enjoyed high prestige. It was not only because he was the Principal of Saint Laurent Academy, but also because of his achievements in magic. He enjoyed praise both in the capital and from the civilians. Evil Wolf had just met with Ouyang Huanyu just now. The former thought that this legendary principal had a good-temper and impressive bearings. He was quite polite too.

So, why would his city lord knit her eyebrows so tightly on hearing the name of Ouyang Huanyu?

Shen Yanxiao darted a glance at Evil Wolf. She was filled with complicated feelings. Shen Yanxiao knew the true side of Ouyang Huanyu better than anyone else. The kind and nice exterior was just a facade he put on to deceive everyone. He delayed the treatment of Yun Qi on purpose and colluded with some mysterious person in private. Besides, Shen Yanxiao did not forget the conversation between Ouyang Huanyu and that mysterious person that she overheard in Ouyang Huanyu’s room that night.

She clearly remembered that the mysterious person and Ouyang Huanyu attempted to pull her into their organization.

Shen Yanxiao did not know what they were studying, but she could tell that she would not like it.

The five beasts all came on the news. They were all aware that back in Saint Laurent Academy, even the subject of Warlocks was taboo. On several occasions, Ouyang Huanyu almost caught onto Shen Yanxiao’s secret. If it was not for the Moonlight necklace Yun Qi had given her, the fact that Shen Yanxiao was a Warlock would have been exposed to the public before the Inter-academy Tournament.

“Why is Principal Ouyang here?” Qi Xia’s expression did not look good. Smart as he was, he had no clue about Ouyang Huanyu’s visit’s true purpose.

“I don’t know.” Shen Yanxiao shook her head.

“Are you going to meet him?”

“Since he has arrived, it is going to be difficult for me not to meet him,” Shen Yanxiao replied.

Chapter 690: Ouyang Huanyu (2)

One trouble followed another. She had just taken care of the special envoy when this hard-wired man suddenly came to her doorsteps. She just did not know what was the purpose of Ouyang Huanyu's sudden visit.

"Never mind. Let me go and meet him. I don't think he is of any threat to me now." Avoiding problems was never her style.

"Should we go with you?" Qi Xia asked.

Shen Yanxiao shook her head.

"For now, I don't want too many people from the Longxuan Empire to find out that you are here." Five potential inheritors of the great aristocrat families gathered in one location would catch too much attention. Revealing too much of her hidden cards was not a wise choice.

"Then you must be careful. If anything goes wrong, send out Vermilion Bird. As far as I know, the magic beast that Ouyang Huanyu has is only a high-ranked magic beast. With Vermilion Bird by your side, he cannot harm you." Tang Nazhi could not help but give more advice to Shen Yanxiao, as he was still worried for her.

"I know what I am doing." Shen Yanxiao smiled. Whenever she wanted to solve something herself, the five beasts would immediately turn into her nannies. They were as thoughtful as Yin Jiuchen.

"Evil Wolf, take me to him." Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath. She was most curious about Ouyang Huanyu's reason for coming here.

They walked past the neat and clean street. From the distance, Shen Yanxiao saw an old man in a white robe. Given the temperament he was born with, Ouyang Huanyu was not the kind of person that people would be averse to. Those of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group next to him were chatting with him. The expressions of those mercenaries indicated that they admired Ouyang Huanyu quite a bit.

However, no matter how gentle and cultivated Ouyang Huanyu appeared to be on the surface, in Shen Yanxiao's heart, he was a sly fox.

"Principal Ouyang, it has been a long time. How are you?" Shen Yanxiao suppressed her aversion for him and greeted him calmly.

Ouyang Huanyu turned around and looked at Shen Yanxiao with a smile. The mild expression on his face made him look like a kind elder.

"I am doing fine."

"Principal Ouyang, what is your purpose for coming such a long way here? The Forsaken Land is a dangerous place. If you wanted a spot for a trip, this is definitely not the spot," Shen Yanxiao asked with a smile. No trace of contempt could be detected in her words. Her words were full of admiration for her teacher, as if she was a straight-A student paying respect to her teacher.

Ouyang Huanyu replied with a smile, "This is not a proper place for a talk. I wonder if I can have a private conversation with you, the City Lord of Sun Never Sets. Truth be told, I am here on behalf of someone."

Shen Yanxiao was surprised. She digested Ouyang Huanyu's words in her mind quickly. On behalf of someone? Could it be Yun Qi?

A moment of thought later, Shen Yanxiao nodded. "Then let us go to the mansion."

"Sure."

At the city lord's mansion, Shen Yanxiao told everyone to leave while she stayed in the main hall with Ouyang Huanyu alone.

Ouyang Huanyu was sitting on a brand-new chair. He glanced through the few items in the room. He noticed that this mansion was still a work-in-progress. On the outside, it looked impressive and magnificent, but the interior left much to be desired.

Only a small desk and several chairs were in the main hall. Even those were created by Yang Xi using some woods from the Forsaken Land.

Compared to the grandness of the exterior, the interior appeared miserable and shabby.

It took Ouyang Huanyu a while to look around before he moved his gentle gaze back to Shen Yanxiao. "The Longxuan Empire has been through too many setbacks in the Forsaken Land. It is admirable that you have successfully built Sun Never Sets to this extent. You poor kid. You have to shoulder so much responsibility when you are still so young. I believe your days in Sun Never Sets must be difficult."