

The Demoness Is Not Evil Chapter 1-10

Chapter 1

Sky and land blurring into one as the storm rages on, an entire air filled with rainy mist.

Torrents of rain piercing down on the human body as they fall, combined with the gales, even the trees are frantically swaying back and forth as they struggle to stand firm against the strong winds.

This is a sudden round of torrential rain, it is extremely common to have such thunderstorms here in the summer.

With this kind of weather, it is difficult for the people to predict when to make preparations in advance, therefore even if you end up as a drowned rat in this heavy rain, it is nothing to be surprised about nor is it worth fussing over.

Despite being aware of this, Qu Qing Yin is still unable to hold back her surprise.

Her surprise is due to the fact that when she ran into the rundown mountain temple completely drenched, there was already someone inside, a male who had not even a speck of rain on him, with handsome looks, a gentleman who carries himself in such a refined manner.



This menacing thunderstorm is just like a river flowing backwards, because before it started raining, she spotted this temple from afar, but the moment she runs in, she realises that she is in an situation as awkward as a fish who had been helplessly swept along by the strong water currents.

To get here before her and have the pleasure to put his foot up and rest, this man sure is lucky!

In this moment, Qu Qing Yin could feel a tinge of jealousy towards him.

Without even looking down, Qu Qing Yin herself knows that she is in as bad of a state as it could get. Her thin layers of summer clothes had been soaked through by the downpour of rain, the fabric sticking to her skin...in a situation like this, any woman in the same shoes as her would know it is inappropriate for an unfamiliar man to see her in such state.

Liu Feng had only just caught a glance of her when she ran out to the hall, then turned to look outside at the pouring rain.

Qu Qing Yin's gaze swept around the deserted hall, her eyes resting inside the building where bits of gold paint can be seen crumbling off, looks like a worn out statue.

The bag on her shoulder may already be soaked through, but inside were some greaseproof packages, and somewhere amongst them she has a clean set of dry clothing. Therefore she quickly changes out of her wet attire in the fastest pace possible, and walks out from behind the Buddha statue, with her wet clothes in hand, she gently wrings out the water.

Looking out into the rain, Qu Qing Yin frowns, her eyes wanders around the hall, searching for some dry wood to start a fire and dry her clothes.

Liu Feng gently closes his paper fan, standing up, he makes the first move and breaks down the doors and windows, gathering the bits of wood in front of her.

“Thank you.” Qu Qing Yin spoke with such sincerity, looking at the person with a bright smile.

Liu Feng faintly smiles back, “You’re welcome.” He says as he starts the fire.

She searches all over herself, and from her waist side she takes out a string of ornaments with silver chains.

Liu Feng’s eyes flashes a hint of amazement, something he had seen that looked like ornaments, turned out to be a fine workmanship of the silver dart.

Qu Qing Yin throws out her right hand and a silver dart was nailed to the wall, trailing from it is a long thin silver chain, she flips her hand and throws again, another silver dart is driven into a pillar, a makeshift clothesline made on the spot just like that.

Liu Feng opens his fan smiling, he watches as she hangs up her wet clothing.

“This rain will last all night, has lady happened to bring anything to eat?”

Qu Qing Yin curtly asks back: “Gentleman hasn’t brought any?”

Liu Feng spreads out his hands, laughs and says: “You can tell just by looking that I am empty handed.”

Qu Qing Yin looks at him strangely, “How do you know it will rain all night?”

“I just know, would lady like to make a bet with me?”

Shaking her head, she speaks with a firm tone, “No.”

“Then lady believes me right?”

Qu Qing Yin does her clothes whilst looking out, disapprovingly saying: “I only believe the facts.” Summer thunderstorms have always been

elusive, even though the rain is overwhelming right now, who knows, the wind can pick up and blow away the storm clouds within an instance.

Liu Feng sees her wordlessly hang up the last of her garments, her two pieces of underwear, this young lady really is a tad too shameless.

She looks back, and sees Liu Feng's facial expression looking quite unnatural, following his eyes to the underwear that she had just hung up, she couldn't help but to blink at him, "What's wrong?"

Flinching as though he just received a burn, he immediately diverts his eyes away, using the fan to cover his face, he sounds a cough, "Nothing."

His eyes falls upon the rock besides her where two greaseproof packages were, and tries to change the subject, "Do you have anything to eat there?"

Qu Qing Yin lets out a little laugh, this person must surely be really hungry, as she laughs, she opens one of the greaseproof packages.

Liu Feng watches as she opens the package, inside is a roasted chicken and some lu wei. (Lu wei / 卤味 – food braised in aromatic brine)

Qu Qing Yin hands over the greaseproof package, "If you are correct, then we will have to be neighbours for the night, and you also helped me with the fire, no matter what I cannot just leave you to starve yourself."

Liu Feng did not hold back and took the whole chicken.

She laughs and places the greaseproof package on top of the rock beside her, and then opens the final greaseproof package, inside were more than a dozen of steamed buns (mantou).

Unable to hold back his laughter, "Lady you are indeed prepared."

Qu Qing Yin throws him a few steamed buns, and also laughs, "I may not be able to read the heavens, but I do know the principle of never letting myself get hungry whenever I am on the go."

"That truly is a golden principle."

"Most definitely."

The fire lights up Qu Qing Yin's graceful face, she has a smile that brings warmth and comfort to people, yet her eyes reflects a hint of reckless nature, perhaps a crafty one. Liu Feng suddenly feels as though he has taken a liking to this not so predictable young lady.

Qu Qing Yin wraps up the greaseproof packages anew again, and returns her attention to drying the clothes.

Outside is booming with thunder, the rain showing no signs of stopping, and like a sharp cold knife, lightning would flash across the sky from time to time, dimly lighting the building when it does.

The two of them did not exchange any words since, inside the temple only the sounds of the crackling fire can be heard.

Outside, the sounds of thunder continues to rumble, the rain continues to pour down, and the sky grows darker and darker. In the end, evening falls with a moonless sky, everything generally dark, had they not lit the fire, right now they would have already been swallowed up in darkness, not even able to make out the outline of their own hands.

Liu Feng stands and walks to the doorway of the temple, his eyes looking far into the black wilderness, between the heavens and the earth there is only the sound of heavy rain and raging winds.

At a time like this, when everything is engulfed in darkness, the shadows are like a gigantic dormant beast, waiting to devour unaware lost souls.

He turns his head and glances back, the lady is still drying her clothes over the fire. Her semi-dried hair falls down to her chest, blocking his

view as it covers the side of her face, making it difficult for him to see her expression.

Amidst the sound of the heavy rain, someone suddenly runs into the temple.

To perk up his senses twice in one night, Liu Feng felt rather surprised.

A timely lightning pierces through the dark skies, revealing the appearance of the new arrival.

“Hero Liu!”¹ Entering in the same ‘fish swept along by the water currents’ manner as Qu Qing Yin, is another young lady. To see someone standing by the doorway through the lightning, one cannot help but to gasp out loud.

The one who let out a sound is drying her clothes over the fire, she subconsciously glances over, before continuing to attend to her business.

Liu Feng politely nods at the person, “Lady Shui.”



Shui Su Yun is simply glad to see him, totally forgetting her awkward situation, she quickly runs up to his side, sweetly speaking: “To see Hero Liu here, it truly is a rare coincidence. Speaking of which, ever since our goodbyes at Fei Ying Bao (Soaring Eagle Guild) last year, we haven’t seen each other for a long time.”

¹ Hero as in *dà xiá* / 大侠 – a respectful term used to address honoured pugilist of the wulin world.

“Lady has been well?” Liu Feng curtly asks, but advertently turns his body, his eyes casting onto the curtains of rain outside.

“Thanks for asking, I have been great...achoo!” The sound of a sneeze interrupts her words.

“Lady should go inside and warm yourself by the fire, inside is another lady, I am fine standing out here.”

Shui Su Yun only just realises her current situation, her face burning red as she clumsily speaks: “Then...then I’ll go dry myself inside.” Finishing, she turns her head and heads into the rundown temple.

When she got inside, Qu Qing Yin had already finished drying her clothes, just about to put it away in her bag.

“Hey, you have any dry clothes? Let me borrow them.”

The previous graceful lady suddenly turns rude and spoilt, Qu Qing Yin could not help but to eye the girl, before she looks at the bag in her hands. Calmly smiling: “I am sorry lady, though I would love to help you, but the only extra set of clothes I have, I have just changed out of, right now they’re still hung up.”

Shui Su Yun spots the silver chains with clothes hung over it, annoyed, she frowns, “How could you not prepare two more sets of clothes?”

Qu Qing Yin sounds genuinely apologetic: “My family’s situation isn’t too well, even on the go I only have these two sets of clothes to change into, lady must find it funny.”

Hearing this, Shui Su Yun feels a slight choking sensation.

Outside at the porch, Liu Feng who is admiring the rain could not help but to sigh, who would have known she had such a bad temper? Wrongly throwing the blame onto others too.

Without any other ideas, Shui Su Yun could only sit by the fire and allow her clothes to slowly dry.

“Hey, you have anything to eat?”

Qu Qing Yin had just taken out a needle and thread from her bag, she hasn't even picked up the piece of material to mend yet when she heard the other girl speak again, lifting her head to look at her, she shakes her head, “No, I did not expect it to start raining so heavily, so I did not prepare in advance.”

“How could you not prepare anything?”

“It's not like I'll starve myself by missing a meal or two, I'm already used to it.”

“You—”

“I am truly sorry, but I think it will be better if lady, you bring a few attendants along the next time you go out, if not then just get used to it like me.” She sincerely advises.

Liu Feng holds his fan up against his smile, struggling to hold back the laughter in his chest, is she not afraid of someone exposing her lies? Though he has no intention to do so.

Things finally quietens down inside the temple, probably because Shui Sun Yun repeatedly got knocked down, and finally learnt how to restrain herself.

Liu Feng stands outside admiring the rain as he waits for the people inside to get ready.

“Hero Liu, my clothes have dried, you can come in now.”

When he walks in, his eyes land on Qu Qing Yin, who is quietly focusing on mending her bag.

The bag already looks a bit washed out, but the material used to make it is strong, her sewing is done so accurately too, one cannot even spot the flaws.

This lady is clearly capable of the typical housekeeping skills, had he not seen how she threw the dart with such expertise, he surely would have seen her as an honest lady from a commoner's background.

Looks truly are deceiving!

"Hero Liu, why do you not come to our Fei Ying Bao anymore?"

"I am drifting around the four seas, travelling with no fixed destination." Shui Su Yun's question pulled him out of his thoughts, he sits down by the fire, forming a circle with the girls.

Qu Qing Yin does not lift her head, only focusing on the job at hand, deep inside, she lets out a sigh, this mountain temple is a little too small, she feels like the unwanted third wheel here, this sure does not feel good.

Outside the temple, the winds are strong and the rain is heavy. Inside the temple, an attractive pair of young lady and young gentleman merrily chatting away. If not for her presence here, this weather, this timing, this location, is just like the situation Shi Fu (master) spoke of, the perfect chance for the good and bad to happen.

The needle in Qu Qing Ying's hand is placed down, could it be that she really has to act like a fool in this weather, becoming a drowned rat in the rain, just to give them this perfect opportunity?

Of course not! Thinking about it this way, Qu Qing Yin's guilty heart is finally put at ease.

The bag in her hand has finally been mended, she had yet to snap off the thread, when she hears noises coming from outside. The other two hears it too and looks out.

"Missy, it is great that we've found you." Several people rushes in to avoid the rain, the moment they catch sight of Shui Su Yun by the fire, they were immediately overjoyed, not caring about the pitiful state they were in, they prioritise themselves with greeting her first.

Qu Qing Yin dismissively sweeps a glance at them, before she lowers her head to snap the thread with her teeth, using the mended bag, she wraps it over the other bag by her side to create an additional layer.

Liu Feng speaks to the people of Fei Ying Bao, whilst keeping watch on her movements, he smiles knowingly.

She is a person with great attention to details, those two layers of her bag, clearly the one on the outside looks worse than the one on the inside, but it is more durable. And even though the way she dresses is very simple, if you look closer you can see little details that shows she is not someone who lives a constraint life.

For her to not conceal her real self, and at the same time, not give off the wrong impression to others, she is definitely no simple person.

The rain continues to pour down, and the sky never got the chance to brighten up.

That is because night has already fallen.

Strong winds buffeted the old door and windows of the mountain temple, creating an eerie sound like that of a ghostly cry shrilling through the darkest hours of night.

With the rain running rampant amidst the raging winds, this rundown temple which is their only shelter from the wind and rain, becomes more cramped.

Inside this temple, there are only two places that can provide shelter from the rain. Fei Ying Bao has many people, they occupied the majority of the space, several guards stand together by an area that does not provide enough shelter from the wind and rain, just so that they do not violate their missy's own space.

The remaining space was just enough for Liu Feng and Qu Qing Yin to keep a corner each, they were not exactly that close to one another, but had no chance of spreading out any further.

Qu Qing Yin hugs her bag, pulling her knees up to her chest as she sits on top of the platform, her heart feeling a bit uncomfortable – she’s hungry.

That Fei Ying Bao’s missy is indeed unlikeable, but to starve herself just because of her, then that would be such a pity.

With eyes showing no signs of drowsiness, Liu Feng inadvertently sweeps a glance towards the case, only to see Qu Qing Yin hugging her knees as she sits on top of the mountain temple’s platform, her whole body dry, held in her embrace is her bag, her head lying on top of it, looks like she has already fallen asleep.

“I’m going to starve to death soon, you lot quickly go and bring back something to eat.” The silence in the large hall was interrupted by Shui Su Yun’s voice.

Several Fei Ying Bao guards looks around at one another, amongst them, two decisively receives the order, reporting “Your subjects here shall go, may missy wait.”

“All of you go, quickly find me something to eat.”

“Yes.”

All the guards head out into the rain to look for food, and once again there are only the three of them in the temple.

Now that Shui Su Yun has sent all the guards away, she happily comes running up to Liu Feng’s side, “Hero Liu, go over there with me to shelter away from the rain, they have all gone now.”

“Here is good, in a while they will be back, the guards of Fei Ying Bao are all very capable, if lady Shui is afraid, why not ask that lady other there to join you.”

The lady mentioned, Qu Qing Yin, lifts her head and glances over at them.

“It is not like I know her, who knows if she is a good person.”

Qu Qing Yin slightly squint her eyes.

Liu Feng smiles, “That lady looks generous, she is not anyone bad.”

“I would rather believe in Hero Liu.”

“Since you believe me, I already said she is a good person, what are you still afraid of?”

“Well even if I’m willing, she may not be.”

“Then I shall go ask for you.”

He says and so he does, standing from his seat, he walks over to her, asking: “Will lady be willing to accompany lady Shui?”

Qu Qing Yin sits up straight on top of the platform, looking at him, she faintly speaks: “I’ve stopped being a good person a long time ago.”

“Hero Liu, see! Even she herself says she’s not a good person.” Shui Su Yun quickly grabs hold of the opportunity to reason.

Liu Feng laughs: “Normally, bad people typically wouldn’t say they’re bad, going by this logic, those who calls themselves a bad person, typically aren’t so bad at all.”

“That is where you are wrong. Bad people also have their own justification of what is bad, in that case, why wouldn’t bad people dare to admit it?”

“Lady.....”

“I believe you and lady Shui over there have more in common, it’s late, right now I need to rest.”

At the side, Shui Su Yun angrily says: “You truly are an ill-mannered one, are you aware that Hero Liu is a reputable figure in the Jiang Hu? You actually dare to speak to him like this?!”

Qu Qing Yin dismissively states: “It is not like I know him.”

Liu Feng claps his hands, laughing, “Well said.”

“Hero Liu—”

He waves his hand, “She’s right. In this world there are many who do not know of me.”

Qu Qing Yin smiles, “You are considerably well aware of yourself and your own limitations.”²

“I am flattered.”

“Now can you go continue accompanying lady Shui, and let me take a good rest?”

“But what to do?” Liu Feng lets out a little laugh, “I suddenly feel that speaking to lady you would be more meaningful.”

She remains calm and composed, “That’s easy.”

“How so?”

“You pay me money, then I shall allow you to stand here and speak to me, but I will not necessarily respond.”

“That truly is a good suggestion.”

“My suggestions are generally good.”

“But I have no money on me right now.”

“That really is a pity.”

² Qu Qing Yin actually uses a Chinese proverb here ‘自知之明’ (pronounced: **zì zhī zhī míng**) which roughly translates to – to have thorough knowledge of oneself; to know one’s limitations.

Liu Feng persistently says, "But to pay lady to converse with me, I should have enough."

She extends her hand out, "Give it."

He places a gold ingot down, she inadvertently glances down at her hand, when the look in her eyes slightly changes.

Qu Qing Yin accepts the payment, and says: "Alright, you can say whatever you want now."

Shui Su Yun watches on from the side, raging in anger, she points at her and says: "Have you gone crazy from deprivation? How could you just accept money from anyone? If news of this travels to the Jiang Hu, you wouldn't even know if you died."

Qu Qing Yin is unaffected by her words, "Jiang Hu people die in Jiang Hu. If I die then I died, is it possible for me to consider the meaning of my death at that point?"

"You....."

"I am simply speaking the truth."

Liu Feng agrees, "She is indeed speaking the truth."

Shui Su Yun looks at him, and then looks at her, within her big eyes, droplets of tears starts forming, annoyed, she stamps her feet, "Both of you are picking on me!"

Qu Qing Yin tilts her head at her, "Bad person picking on someone, isn't that just a matter of course?"

Liu Feng nods, "Lady's every word is indeed on point."

"That is because in this world, words of truth are the best to say."

"Makes sense."

"Of course it makes sense."

Shui Su Yun bites down on her bottom lip, spitefully glaring at Qu Qing Yin.

She faintly smiles, "There is no need for you to look at me like that, since you had already thought I am a bad person, to have me treating you like this, is it not normal? So right now you should not be feeling wronged, is that not right?"

Shui Su Yun is rendered absolutely speechless.

Liu Feng smiles knowingly, this lady really isn't one to lose to others.

"You treating me like this, we Fei Ying Bao definitely won't let you get away with it!"

Liu Feng's eyes darken, looking as though he doesn't agree with this course of action.

Qu Qing Yin sneers: "If people of Fei Ying Bao all do things your way, I believe the decline in business is but a matter of time, if it's like that, then what's there for me to be afraid of?"

Liu Feng lowers his head, averting his eyes down, the fan in his hand covering his mouth, just in time to hide his smile.

"You—"

"Lady Shui, we have spoke enough now, why don't you return to your seat, just go wait for your guards to return with food, how's that?"

"Hero Liu, let's not speak to someone like that." Shui Su Yun angrily says.

"But I have just spent some money, if I don't converse with her is that not a waste?"

"Then I shall give you the money, you don't need to speak to her now."

Qu Qing Yin watches Liu Feng in amusement.

Liu Feng seriously speaks: “Lady Shui, you cannot say it like that, even if you give me the money, the money I spent has already been spent, this is a fact.”

“Even if you have wasted your money, it is better than speaking to someone like that.”

Qu Qing Yin nods in agreement, “She’s right, it is meaningless speaking to me.” She wasn’t planning to speak to begin with.

“The money I spent is real gold”³

“I’m definitely not going to return it to you.”

“That’s why it is only right that I speak to you lady, only then has this deal been conducted.”

“If that is what makes you happy.” She can no longer be bothered speaking to them anymore, she grabs her bag and lays her head on top of it, hoping to get some rest.

Liu Feng pretends he did not see this action of hers, doing as he pleases: “Say, do you think there are other people living within a ten li⁴ radius around here?”

Qu Qing Yin responds with an ‘en’ sound, how is she supposed to know this.

“But with such heavy rain, even if they can hunt for food, there isn’t any dry wood to roast it with.”

Shui Su Yun thought about it this time, urgently asking, “If that is so then they wouldn’t be able to get anything to eat?”

³ The phrase for **real money** Liu Feng uses here is **zhēn jīn bái yín / 真金白□** – money in its most physical form.

⁴ **lǐ / 里** is a measuring unit for distance, it’s approximately half a kilometre

Liu Feng honestly speaks the true facts, "The hunted livestock cannot be roasted to eat, if they have to find some form of housing, who knows when they will get back?"

She looks at him pitifully, "But I'm so hungry."

"Just wait, maybe they'll be back very soon."

"But didn't you say, there's no housing within ten li radius?"

"It is but a guess, maybe the situation isn't so miserable."

Shui Su Yun worriedly looks out, "They've been gone for half a day, how come they're still not back?"

Qu Qing Yin throws in a comment, "It doesn't seem to have been that long, you are just too impatient."

Shui Su Yun replies: "You don't speak to me, I don't wish to bother with the likes of you."

Qu Qing Yin purses her lips, thinking to herself, and he clearly doesn't want to bother with you, yet you think I'm speaking out of hand, well you're alone in this then.

Liu Feng shakes his head, looking helpless.

Having suffered several setbacks, Shui Su Yun loses the spirit to speak anymore, she alone, dully walks back to her spot and sits down, falling into a daze as she looks out.

Liu Feng does not leave, he leans against the platform, his left hand holding his right hand, both hands holding his fan as he supports his chin, he asks the person on top of the platform, "You really don't intend to do anything?"

"Hero rescuing the beauty, that sort of thing is not suited for me."

Liu Feng silently laughs, once again asking: "Then what is suited for you to do?"

“Right now all I want to do is sleep.”

“But you already accepted my money.”

“That is why I did not shoo you away.”

“You’re really planning to leave to me to speak alone?”

“Right now it is time for sleeping, must you be so energetic?”

He uses the fan to cover his mouth, letting out a little cough, “Lady sure doesn’t hold back your words.”

“Are we really familiar with one another?”

“.....only met today.”

“Well since we’re not acquainted, then why should I show you any mercy?”

“I have yet to ask for lady’s name?”

“We’re not acquainted.” That was her reply.

Liu Feng could only smile, “It’s boring, I just wanted to start a conversation.”

“I have nothing to speak to you about.”

“Actually lady Shui isn’t the only one hungry, I’m a little hungry too.”

Qu Qing Yin finally lifts her head to face him, “I think you two have more in common to speak about.”

“Lady should watch your tongue.”

“You sure are hard to take care of. I don’t speak, you go on with your own monologue. I speak to you, yet you are reluctant.”

“Well it is hard making money.”

“That’s no lie.”

“It’s rare of lady to agree.”

“Why should I disagree with what’s right?”

“That is true.”

Qu Qing Yin covers her yawn with her hand, “From what I see those people from Fei Ying Bao wouldn’t be back for another hour and a half or so. You should go sleep first, once they return, if they manage to bring back food then you would definitely get a share.”

Liu Feng really wanted to knock her head with his fan, “Looks like you really are sleepy.”

“I was originally so.”

“In this situation you can still sleep?”

“What’s it to me? Since it’s got nothing to do with me, then why shouldn’t I be able to sleep?”

Liu Feng is knocked speechless by her, he could only say: “Then you go ahead and sleep.”

“En.” She drops her head onto her bag, then lifts it back up. This is strange, why is he still not leaving.

Liu Feng looks at the spot he was originally sat at, sighing, “It’s started leaking.”

Qu Qing Yin looks over, it is indeed so, “Lady Shui’s side is more spacious.”

“Those people would be back in a while.”

She laughs but says nothing.

He gave her a look, playing with his fan, he says: "Those who does business should have morals."

Qu Qing Yin continues to laugh, laughing silently but merrily.

Liu Feng could not hold it in any longer and laughs along, this situation is indeed somewhat amusing, he cannot blame her for laughing.

Whilst the two of them laugh amongst themselves, a few guards from Fei Ying Bao returns, some empty handed, some with livestock, also some with wild fruits, none with any cooked food, this made Shui Su Yun extremely unpleased.

There's livestock but with no dry wood to start a fire they're useless, and those wild fruits are too sour, she might as well continue starving.

Liu Feng looks at the bag in Qu Qing Yin's embrace, letting out a sigh, "Lady sure is resistant." Would much rather starve herself than take out her food.

"I'm already used to being hungry anyway."

Lightly hitting his fan onto his forehead, he silently sighs, she really is determined to not take out her food.

Chapter 2

The following morning, the wind and rain has stopped, after all that rain, moisture fills the air, leaving a nice breeze, such cool summer season, makes everyone feel comfortable.

Qu Qing Yin steps out onto the temple's porch, lazily giving her waist a big stretch.

This is great! Everyone has already left, only she remains now.

That missy⁵ of Fei Ying Bao, to wake up and not see her subject of interest Hero Liu, could only bitterly leave, throwing her an unfriendly glare before doing so.

Qu Qing Yin comfortably laughs out loud, if she has not guessed wrong, that Hero Liu should be that famous figure known throughout the Jiang Hu. Wu Lin's number one man of honour, "Gentleman Xiao Yao" (The Carefree Gentleman) Liu Feng. His weapon, a golden fan with jaded frame, he carries around.

According to Jiang Hu rumours, this person made a name for himself at the age of fifteen, is rivalled to none, has friends all over the world, acquainted with most in Jiang Hu, all in all, a legendary figure.

Yet in this instance, this prestigious person sure is a funny one, avoiding the missy of Fei Ying Bao in such an obvious manner, this is hilarious.

"Looks like lady is in high spirits."

Qu Qing Yin looks at the person in surprise, "Did you not leave?"

Liu Feng smiles, "I had only strayed away for a bit, admiring the mountain scenery after the rain."

Qu Qing Yin covers her mouth to laugh. If you're hiding from someone, then you're hiding from someone, still trying to sound all high and mighty.

"Stop laughing for now, get some food out, I'm so hungry."

She looks up at him, not without suspicion, "With your walking pace, it is only right that you had already found a nice window seat at a clean restaurant to eat by now."

"But I'm still here, it's only natural that I'm still hungry."

⁵ Sorry, I probably should have mentioned this earlier but 大小姐 / *Dà xiǎo jiě* translates to **missy**, but it also refers to girls with spoilt characters too, this addressment itself is usually directed towards a girl from a well off family, hence the spoilt connotation.

Qu Qing Yin takes out some food from her bag, giving him half the share, "Once we're done eating here, we shall meet again in the Jiang Hu."

Liu Feng's outstretched hands takes hold of the food, smiling: "Thanks."

"You're welcome, your money has already paid for more than the food's worth."

"I thought lady took it without a hint of guilty conscience."

"I have no guilty conscience to start with, even if you had paid extra."

Liu Feng nods, "Lady really speaks the truth with every word said." It really leaves people helpless.

Qu Qing Yin laughs, splitting the steamed bun in half, adding on some lu wei and eats it.

Liu Feng throws a piece of broken steamed bun into his mouth as he asks her, "Lady is heading towards Dan Xia Valley too?"

"What makes you think I need to go there?"

"Right now there's news in Jiang Hu that there are many people heading to Mount Zhong Yi Manor, this path is the only way there."

Qu Qing Yin understood now, "Then the people of Fei Ying Bao are also heading there, you don't want to be followed by others, so you purposely wait for them to leave first."

"Lady is of high intellect."

"Lady Shui is a beautiful maiden⁶, why are you so afraid?"

⁶ Xi Meng more specifically uses another Chinese idiom to refer to Shui Su Yun as a **beautiful maiden – huā róng yuè mào / 花容月貌** which means – **one's face is like flowers, one's features like the moon**. Describing a maiden who is as beautiful as flower and as fair as the moon.

Liu Feng smiles and looks at her, saying in a playful manner, “If like lady you then I wouldn’t be afraid.”

Qu Qing Yin laughs in spite of herself, “Isn’t that only because I’m not one to cling to you without letting go.”

Liu Feng laughs but says nothing.



Having finished the dried food, Qu Qing Yin takes out a water sack from her waist side and drinks from it,

she puts the stopper back on and was about to hang it back on her waist, when she hears him say, “Perfect, I am also thirsty.”

Her hand pauses for a moment, in the end she just hands him the water sack.

Liu Feng directly gulps down a few mouthful of water, wiping his mouth, he exhales, “That was good.” Erm, her breath had remained on the mouth of the water sack, it had no other taste.

Qu Qing Yin gently shakes her head, knotting back up her bag and wearing it on her back, she waits for him to return her water sack.

Liu Feng gulps down another few mouthfuls, and then returns her the water sack, “Lady has yet to answer me, are you heading to the Dan Xia Valley?”

“Why must I go there?” She does not answer but asks back.

He nods his head, "That makes sense, although this is the only path to Dan Xia Valley, it is true that lady doesn't have to be heading there."

Qu Qing Yin was speaking in circles, "But I am indeed heading there."

Liu Feng couldn't hold back his sigh, "Lady....."

She laughs and says: "Hero Liu can't even take this little joke?"

"If you say it like that, what else can I say?"

"Are you planning to travel along with me?"

Liu Feng honestly speaks, "I believe that ladies should keep a companion by their side, that way the road will be easier to walk."

"But I feel that if I walk with you I'll be met with too many troubles, so I don't want to."

"So in lady's eyes I am nothing but trouble."

Qu Qing Yin looks at him seriously, "If the rumours of the Jiang Hu are not wrong, I think that you are indeed nothing but trouble, big trouble."

He has acquaintances all over the world, that just goes to show that he has experienced many things that others have not, that's equivalent to telling the world that he himself is a bundle of trouble.

"Lady already knows who I am?" He looks at her with a grin.

Qu Qing Yin is unaffected: "To have Fei Ying Bao's missy to treat you like that, I don't think there's a second person in the Jiang Hu who's capable of such, gentleman Xiao Yao Liu Feng."

Liu Feng opens up his fan with a 'shua' sound and waves it, smiling, he says: "Then I shall guess lady's identity."

"Me?" Qu Qing Yin laughs in spite of herself, unintentionally saying: "What's there to guess about me, just an amateur in the Jiang Hu."

Liu Feng shakes his head, “Lady is too modest, to have the famed Ou Xiao Chen to tailor weapons for an amateur in the Jiang Hu, I’m afraid everyone else could only wish for that.”

Qu Qing Yin calmly looks at him.

He points to the bird bracelet on her left wrist, saying: “That exquisite bracelet was specially made for you by Ou Xiao Chen right? I’ve seen it at his place before.”

Qu Qing Yin was astonished.

“Ranked third in rewards, Jiang Hu’s bounty hunter Qu Qing Yin.” He’s confident he has affirmed her identity, Jiang Hu people only knows of her nickname ‘Ling Long Dao’ (meaning exquisite knife/sword), only a few knows of her actual name. Had Ou Xiao Chen not mentioned it, he too would not have known.

Qu Qing Yin raises her hand to look at this bracelet that looks like gold but is not gold, looks like jade but is not jade. Unable to stop her smile, she shakes her head, “And here I thought having met Master Ou, in this world, there would be no other who knows of this thing.”

“I only just happened to see it, if I may ask, although this thing was a little piece of work made by Grand Senior⁷ Ou for fun to give to lady, it is the work he is most proud of. Every single person within the Jiang Hu knows, Grand Senior Ou is an eccentric man, to seek him to make weaponry is a close to impossible task, but he made a great exception for lady. If that is so, then how could lady be a mere amateur?”

She sighs, “Didn’t expect that Ling Long Dao as an unexposed identity, would become an object of identification.”

Liu Feng also could not help but to sigh loudly, “Lady has never revealed a slightest hint of indication to your identity, had I not seen this

⁷ Grand Senior or Qián bèi / 前□ is more accurately refers to **someone of an older generation**.

thing before, I'm afraid I would not have been able to work out your identity either."

Qu Qing Yin looks at him, "If you already know I'm heading towards Dan Xia Valley's Mount Zhong Yi Manor, then why do you still ask when you clearly know the answer?"

Liu Feng smiles, "Lady didn't want reveal your identity, so I could only play along with this act of yours." Since this trip is going to be a lonely one, why not make a few changes to the plan, besides she's such an interesting lady.

"So you're saying I'm the one at wrong here?"

"That's considerably correct."

"Since you already knew my identity, that's all the more reason for you to have gone along with lady Shui."

"Jiang Hu rumours states that lady is independent by nature, always like to do things on your own, walks around with a full body clad in black, face hidden behind a black veil, voice very hoarse." He pauses, smiles and shakes his head, "Looks like words travelling around the Jiang Hu are not to be trusted, lady's voice can be said to be more clearer and joyful sounding than that of the yellow raven."

"Shi Fu once said, a man's mouth is most outstanding, the most untrustworthy is also a man's mouth. Therefore, I will not thank you for your praises."

Liu Feng drew in his fan towards the bottom of his nose, "Your Shi Fu's words really is a direct jab to the hearts of men"

Qu Qing Yin smiles, "Don't try changing the subject, in accordance to your friendship with Fei Ying Bao, are you really intending to disregard Shui Su Yun's safety?"

“If you are aware of my friendship with Fei Ying Bao, then you should understand that since I am not accompanying her, then that just goes to show that she is not in any danger.”

“That’s true, from here to Dan Xia Valley there is less than three hundred li in distance. Jiang Hu’s number one most famed Mount Zhong Yi Manor, if they cannot even watch over their own spheres of influence, then this gathering would be no different to a big slap to their own face.”

“Lady just always have to speak in such a penetrating manner.” Liu Feng cannot help but want to sigh.

“This is the truth.”

“Yes. Words of truth are the best to say.” He looks her up and down, “Dan Xia Valley isn’t far from here, lady is intending to just go straight ahead?”

“Can I not?” She asks back.

“But black outfit and hat is lady’s signature attire.”

“Can I not do the exact opposite?” She changes the topic, saying: “Besides, did I say that I will be attending the event as Ling Long Dao?”

Liu Feng was a little startled, then starts to laugh, “If this is how lady would likes to conceal your identity, then of course it is not necessary.”

“You’re wrong again.”

“Oh?”

Qu Qing Yin eyes falls into the distance, her voice seems to sound slightly sentimental, “I do not deliberately dress like that, but whether I am receiving a job or handing in a job, my mood just never feels too good. If I am to describe the feeling, I guess you could use the words grave mood to describe it, I believe the colour is more in line with that feeling.”

It is rare of Liu Feng to remain silent for a moment, "Lady has such a soft heart."

"Why do not say I'm sentimental?"

"Sentimentality is originally part of a woman's nature, but a soft heart like that of a young maiden is rare." His expression looks so sincere, he has seen many different female characters within the Jiang Hu, but the chances of seeing one that has maintained such a gemlike gentle heart, is getting more and more rare.

Qu Qing Yin felt somewhat surprised.

"Lady seems to be very unfamiliar with people praising you." He permits himself to give her a smile.

"Shi Fu said, hearing too much nice words, is not good for a girl."

Liu Feng lightly hits his forehead with his fan, quietly laughing, "Your Shi Fu truly is an outstanding person." So outstanding it makes him speechless.

"Of course." Because of her longing, Qu Qing Yin's expression turns nostalgic and gentle, even that pair of always dull wave-less eyes looks as though it's been washed over by clear adjacent waves.

Just then, Liu Feng suddenly discovers, she has a pair of enchanting eyes, if she is willing, she is capable of making any man drown in those deep pool-like gems.

And in that moment, his heart froze.

Qing Yun Inn is an inn that is open just under a hundred li distance from Dan Xia Valley.

Because this time, Mount Zhong Yi Manor issued a heroes notice to create a Jiang Hu gathering, the inn was already overcrowding with people.

When Liu Feng and Qu Qing Yin had entered, even the large dining hall did not have a single space to sit down. They had already looked around a few restaurants, everywhere was filled with people of the Jiang Hu.

Looking at the state of this final inn, Qu Qing Yin is already getting a dry throat.

Jiang Hu people loves being part of the lively crowd the most, not to mention this lively crowd is caused by Jiang Hu's number one famed Mount Zhong Yi Manor, not caring whether they have the capability, a huge number of people have come to participate in this event.

These people have filled up all the restaurants in the mountain village outside Dan Xia Valley, leaving people who come later to hopelessly look for a place to stay.

Liu Feng could not hold in his sigh, "Originally didn't want to bother others, but looking at the situation, we can only go and be a bother."

Qu Qing Yin remains unmoving, saying: "You go yourself, I'll think of something else."

Liu Feng turns to look at her, "You're not coming with me?"

Qu Qing Yin directly says, "I hate troubles."

He touches his nose, unamused, "Since we came all the way together, might as well just stick together for the remainder of the journey."

"We're almost there."

"This whole area is already overcrowded, lady how will you find a place?"

"Finding a place to eat and sleep in the outdoors is the norm, Jiang Hu people all got here like that."

“Hero Liu!” A surprised voice interrupts the two people’s conversation.

Liu Feng turns to the sound, curtly responding to the person with a fist holding greeting, “Sect Leader Jiang, long time no see.”

“Come come come, Hero Liu come sit over here, if we have somewhere to sit, how could there not be any space for you.”

“Excuse us for intruding.”

“This lady is?” The Jiang Shan Sect Leader hesitantly asks.

“A friend, surname Qu.” Liu Feng smiles as he makes a simple introduction.

Sect Leader Jiang’s eyes suddenly changes to become somewhat ambiguous, when looking into them, you can see a smile in its glances, “Lady Qu, sit, Hero Liu is a friend of ours, you too shouldn’t hold back.”

Qu Qing Yin had originally wanted to leave, but now that it’s already getting late, she could only sit with them. Smiling, she curtly responds, “Many thanks.”

“And here we thought Hero Liu had already arrived, who’d have thought you would get here so late, but, wanting to come to Mount Zhong Yi we have already set a room aside for you, whether you come early or late you would have nothing to worry about.”

Liu Feng smiles, picking up the newly placed wine flask, he pours himself a cup of wine, raising the cup up around the table, “This Liu thanks you for your gift⁸, let us drink up with this cup of wine.”

“Good.” Everyone simultaneously toasts.

Qu Qing Yin could only lift up her cup too, she did not down it all, but takes a little sip.

⁸ I had to slightly alter the meaning of the translation here to fit it into context better. Xi Meng uses another idiom here, **jiè huā xiàn fó / 借花献佛** – **to present the Buddha with borrowed flower** which means **to receive something and make gift of it.**

Liu Feng explains for her, "She is not a good drinker, I shall drink in her stead." Saying that, he downs the cup in one go.

"Hero Liu sure is refreshingly direct."

At the same time, the way everyone looks at Qu Qing Yin changes.

Appears with Liu Feng, yet leaves him to safeguard her without giving him the chance to avoid the situation, the meaning behind this seems intriguing.

Qu Qing Yin does not interfere with Liu Feng's social circle, only quietly accompanying him in sitting there.

In her view these Jiang Hu pugilists are different from her, when taking jobs from the government officials she has come across many Jiang Hu people, she is used to marking the price clearly, according to the order of labour, search, and payment, whilst these people are filled to the brim with the hot bloodied nature of the Jiang Hu, she is more indifferent.

Right now they are unaware of her identity, if they knew, they would definitely look at her with colours of contempt, and that is what she is more familiar with.

Shi Fu once said, since we walk different paths, then there is no need to care about others' lack of understanding, nor is there any need to explain yourself. In Jiang Hu, famed people have their own path of fame to walk, every person have their own lives to attend, there is no need for bystanders to pitch in their thoughts.

The people sees that she is only quietly sitting there eating slowly, assuming she is just a shy one, they do not forcefully try to pull her into the conversation.

Liu Feng understands, though she is from the Jiang Hu, she is indifferent towards the matters that goes on in the Jiang Hu, only doing what she needs to do, be it praise her or blame her, what others say is none of her concern.

She can say without the slightest care in the world “I’ve stopped being a nice person a long time ago”, but can also say with eyes filled with sadness “If I am to describe the feeling, I guess you could use the words grave mood to describe it”, the her that is like that, Ou Xiao Chen likes, he too also likes, thus he believes that his many friends would like.

Filled with feelings and recklessness is just what Jiang Hu people are like by nature, but she is restrained and subtle.

After three rounds of drinks, these people are getting chattier, moving onto discussing the reason for this Mount Zhong Yi Manor’s hero gathering.

It is said that this gathering of pugilists is to assemble a force to get rid of the rapist⁹ Mo Zi Qi, the very mentioning of this person, has Jiang Hu people gritting their teeth in resentment.

This person is highly skilled in martial arts, cruel in the way he works, his mind seems unstable, is also very perverted, in order to satisfy his own animal-like desires who knows how many innocent maidens he has defiled, some Jiang Hu people had tried capturing him, but he had always managed to escape their pursuit, and later exerts revenge in a rampage. Many Wu Lin sects have suffered huge losses, what more, the maidens under them had pitifully been trampled all over.

Now, this rapist has finally sparked anger amongst those in Mount Zhong Yi Manor, hence them issuing a notice to the Wu Lin, calling for Jiang Hu people to join forces and eradicate this demon.

Qu Qing Yin lets out a sigh in her heart, has this person already gotten to the point of breaking such unpardonable sin?

“It is said that the rapist has now started to target those who knows martial arts, Jiang Hu people have always been strong, yet many

⁹ Here the term that Xi Meng had used for **rapist** is **Yīn mó / 阴魔**. Yin can refer to women (whilst Yang refers to men) and Mo means demon. Hence why he is seen as some sort of evil demon, basically the term means something along the lines of a woman’s worst demon (or nightmare)

maidens of famed sects are afraid to be added to list of victims, it is indeed a traumatic panic.”

“The most agitating thing is, this criminal arrogantly leaves a note beforehand listing the maidens he plans to target, provocatively testing the tolerance of the Jiang Hu.” Someone got so angry they slam their hand down on the table, causing the dishes to jump several times.

“If that’s the case, then he should be targeting from weak to strong, everyone must stay on alert, we cannot allow him to take the first step and cause disarray.”

Qu Qing Yin’s sudden words left the whole table of people stunned, bringing the conversation to a halt.

Liu Feng is the first to snap out of it, “Why do you think he will start from the weak to the strong?”

“Instincts.”

Liu Feng nods, “I trust lady’s instincts.” She is a bounty hunter, regarding these matters she is more experienced.

“If you trust me then great, although Mount Zhong Yi Manor has invited all the maidens on the list, wanting to focus on protection, but this move will give him the chance to take action whilst on the road, it’s definitely risky.”

So direct with the right and wrongs of Mount Zhong Yi Manor, she truly is fearless. Deep inside, he shakes his head.

The people once again changes the way they look at her, originally thought she was a dodder flower, now, she’s more like a man eating flower. Then again, a woman who is with gentleman Liu, how could she possibly be a simple figure.

“Is lady also on his list?” Someone inappropriately but hesitantly asks.

Liu Feng furrows his eyebrows at him, his heart firing up with anger.

Qu Qing Yin laughs, "Must be because I am difficult to find, aren't the people on his list all easy to find?"

Once the words were spoken, everyone felt as though they were struck by lightning.

Yes! It is indeed so! Liu Feng says: "Lady is ingenious."

"It is but an obvious point."

That one sentence left many rendered embarrassed, her one word "obvious" really hit them hard in the face, such blow even all the other Jiang Hu people could deeply feel it.

Their concern in following directions seems to be lacking that little bit of deviation, but it was this little deviation that could have ruined everything, only thinking of how the rapist is deliberately going against the famed sects and righteous cults with such resentful revenge, and completely ignoring the fact that his next target is someone easy to search for.

Now that the lady's words have knocked some sense into them, it finally dawned upon them, within the Jiang Hu there is clearly many independent heroines that fits into his standards, yet their names are not on the list.

Their movements became erratic, not knowing where to start, what the rapist himself could possibly be thinking, this problem itself is giving the people of Jiang Hu the biggest headache. He has no place and is no part of any sect nor cult, with no roots nor base, often suddenly appearing, abruptly disappearing, catching people off-guard. He really is despicable.

Liu Feng looks a little helpless, "Lady Qu, sometimes you cannot speak of the truth like that."

Qu Qing Yin looks puzzled, "Is it not good for me to speak the truth?"

Liu Feng being questioned by her like that, it is not like he can possibly say that her words of truth has left many people beyond embarrassed right? But, the moment he spots the flash of cunningness in her eyes, he cannot help but to laugh.

Liu Feng almost forgot what this person is like, she puts on that look of innocent ignorance, always managing to deceive people with such ease. Everyone often says not to judge one by appearances, yet far too often do we judge people by appearance. Perhaps there really is no solution to this problem.



Once the wine started getting a little intoxicating, Mount Zhong Yi Manor had sent for someone to get Liu Feng.

After Liu Feng said his goodbyes to Sect Leader Jiang, he along with Qu Qing Yin left the Qing Yun Inn with the envoy who was sent to get him.

Qu Qing Yin did not actually want to go to Mount Zhong Yi Manor, so after they left the inn she stops in her track, with a sincerely apologetic voice she says: "Hero Liu, I still have things to do, how about the two us go our separate ways now."

Liu Feng raises his eyebrows in surprise, "Ai~ didn't you say you had already sorted out whatever you needed to? There's no need to feel bad, since they prepared a place for me to stay, preparing an additional place for you wouldn't be a hard task."

Upon seeing this, the envoy from Mount Zhong Yi Manor hurriedly speaks: "Since lady is with Hero Liu, then do come along, our spacious manor will be honoured to have you as guest."

Qu Qing Yin looks at Liu Feng with a meaningful stare, he turns his back with a laugh, acting as though nothing happened. She could only reluctantly say to the envoy: "That would be too bothersome of me....."

"If lady does not stay with us, then master would definitely believe that this little one lacks hospitality towards lady. Then this little one has committed wrong."

Liu Feng speaks up: "Let's go, it will get dark soon, there is still quite a distance to the manor, it would not be good to travel through the night."

"That's right. Lady if you please."

Qu Qing Yin inwardly sighs, backing down, she nods her head, "Then, I apologise for the trouble."

The horse carriage that came to collect them was parked at a place, tens of li away from the inn. It's low-key but still carries a grand air, a glass lantern hanging at all four corners.

In the driver seat sits a burly man, and in front of the carriage are four female attendants, each with a lantern in hand, assuming it is used to light up the roads.

Liu Feng and Qu Qing Yin are the guests, therefore only they are allowed to enter the carriage, the envoy could only sit next to the coachman at the front.

Entering the carriage, one can see how amazing it is. On the walls there hangs a few night shining pearls for lighting. Inside is spacious and comfortable, there are a few tables, some with fruits and snacks placed on top of them, on others there were also some books, this is considered to be very considerate.

Qu Qing Yin sincerely states, "They are indeed Wu Lin's number one manor."

Liu Feng extends one leg, crosses the other, leaning against the carriage wall smiling, "Now lady can stop blaming me so much?"

"With the way things are now, even if I continue to blame you, I'll get nothing good from it."

"Those words are indeed correct."

Qu Qing Yin sits aside, from the table she grabs a few pieces of fruit to snack on. Before at the inn she had barely ate her fill and is actually hungry right now.

Liu Feng grabs hold of a long cushion to lean on, his legs still one stretched one bent, relaxing himself as he grabs a bunch of grapes to eat, "Outside Dan Xia Valley now, is a mingling of good and evil, though lady is fearless, but to leave lady alone outside, makes it difficult for me to feel at ease, therefore I myself decided to invite lady to stay with us." Liu Feng explains his actions.

Qu Qing Yin's mouth stops chewing, she frowns, "I can understand your view, but that does not mean that I will accept your kindness." Even those with good intentions can do bad things, on this trip she was never supposed to get involved with others.

Liu Feng disagrees, "No matter what, lady has come here to achieve something. If so then at the manor, you may find out so much more, is that not better?"

But she had a different opinion, "Though I may find out more at the manor, but it would also be easier to arouse suspicions and therefore expose my identity. If I want to know more, it'll be less risky to get things done in secret."

"This time the one you're dealing with is the rapist, I cannot allow a lady to act alone." He does not doubt her abilities, but he is worried that

against Mo Zi Qi, what are the odds of her winning? If there is even the slightest trace of error, her fate would be difficult to imagine.

And he, definitely does not wish to see such outcome, nor does he even want to think of the possibility of it happening. Therefore, even if she is unwilling, he will keep her at his side, only then would he be at ease.

Qu Qing Yin remains silent for a while, not long after, inside the carriage you could hear the sound of eating again.

Liu Feng silently laughs, he just likes this personality of hers, clever through and through without any formality.

The carriage was going very steadily, with the alcohol settling in, Liu Feng finally lays down on the floor, both hands cushioning his head, closing his eyes, he says, "I drank too much today, the wine is getting to my head."

Qu Qing Yin was turning a page of the book in hand, when she heard his words, "This thing called wine is better left put, drinking it will only make yourself suffer."

"Lady really doesn't drink?"

"I don't drink often," her voice slightly lowers "Nor do I drink with unfamiliar people. Shi Fu once said, never give men the 'influence of alcohol' excuse, because the ones who receive the short end of the stick is always the woman."

Liu Feng lets out a stuffy laugh, "Lady really takes your Shi Fu's words to a high regard."

"Since they are right, why shouldn't I listen to them?" She asks.

"You are most correct, words of truth must be listened to." He turns over, lying on the ground, he squints his eyes looking at her. Under the softly glowing night shining pearl, she looks so stunning, with an added enchanting charm, it really is the light shining upon the beauty, and the

beauty looking three times more prettier, causing his heart to pound restlessly, "Qu Qing Yin." He softly calls.

Hearing him sound her name she lifts her head. This is weird, why is he calling out her name out of nowhere?

"That is a nice name, a single clear sounding melody flows alone, your father must be very talented in literary." (Qū Qīng Yīn / 曲清音 this name roughly means a song of clear melody)

Qu Qing Yin's eyes dims, "Who knows, he passed away before I could form any memories of him, I guess he is though." To her, the word 'father' is just an unfamiliar word to her, although Shi Fu had taken up the role of 'father' in her life, but in the end he is not her father.

"I have spoken out of hand." Liu Feng felt apologetic.

"There was no harm done, facts are facts. Even if we don't mention it, the fact remains."

"In the end it is I who made lady think of the unhappy things."

"Not unhappy." She hesitates, "Just regretful."

Liu Feng lies back down again, speaking in a lazy tone, "Are you not tired?"

She raises the book in her hand, saying, "This books seems quite refreshing, if you're tired then sleep, once we arrive someone would naturally call you."

"En, Qu Qing Yin." He calls her name again.

"En?"

"This name really sounds good to the ears....." His voice trails off.

Qu Qing Yin hears his breathing gradually settle down, and knows he had fallen asleep. Smiling, she shakes her head, and continues reading the book.

Chapter 3

TLN: So the rapist was first mentioned in the previous chapter. I'd just like to add that although it makes more sense for the words Yīn mó / 阴魔 to mean a woman's worst demon (or nightmare)...the literal translation would be the female demon (as in a demon who feeds on females) but I'm afraid people would get mixed up thinking he's a female so I'll be sticking to the less formal and probably less appropriate way of calling him the rapist. Just bear in mind, these characters in the novel are rather dignified people, they don't just outright call him rapist like that hahaha

When the horse carriage comes to a stop, they were already inside Mount Zhong Yi Manor.

Because they were inside the carriage throughout the trip, Qu Qing Yin was unclear of the specific route that led them through Dan Xia Valley.

Within the Wu Lin, Dan Xia Valley has always been a remotely mysterious place of existence. It is said that one generation's master had become a government official, entitled Prince of Zhong Yi, thus establishing the Mount Zhong Yi Manor. His descendants has since retreated to the Jiang Hu, becoming one of Wu Lin's powerhouses.

The master of the manor is not particularly active in Jiang Hu matters, but when something big happens in the Jiang Hu, then the people of Mount Zhong Yi Manor would definitely step forward. Just like with this whole ordeal caused by the rapist, Mount Zhong Yi Manor would organise a gathering for pugilists to join forces in order to rid evil, they are even in charge of the reward money.

The pugilists of Jiang Hu's chivalry is granted, but even pugilists need to eat and sleep, and these all require the spending of money.

Moreover, Mount Zhong Yi Manor has already implied that you need only to eradicate this rapist. Whether you're a sect or cult, or even an individual for that matter, you can receive a bounty of two hundred thousand taels of silver, this is no small sum, for many blood-stained Jiang Hu people, this is a high price that they would not have even dare to think of.

That is why, the amount of Jiang Hu people coming to this gathering is more than the amount carps in the river. Like Liu Feng says, there is a complex web of people, as the convenor of this gathering, Mount Zhong Yi Manor would naturally have to invite some people to stay at the manor, but the necessary precautions has to be done.

Qu Qing Yin had only casually looked around the place, she did not look in too deep, after all guests should keep to the rules of conduct of being guests.

"Ah, this place is still the same." Stepping down from the carriage, stretching as he looks around, Liu Feng speaks with a smile.

The envoy understandingly says, "This courtyard is the same place gentleman had stayed at last time."

"I know, it's not bad here." The second half of his sentence was directed towards Qu Qing Yin.

Qu Qing Yin nods a little, "It's excellent." Looks like his relationship with Mount Zhong Yi Manor is also great. For the manor to specifically prepare a whole yard for him, he must be special.

"It's getting late, we shall no longer disturb you two rest. We shall take our leave now."

"Go go, here I am familiar with, no need for you to attend to us."

"Gentleman and lady, please help yourselves." The envoy finishes and leads the other attendants away.

Liu Feng heads towards the main house, speaking as he walks, "Pick a room in this yard, I believe they had cleaned them all."

"Then I shall go and rest." Qu Qing Yin does not wish to be alone with him, taking the opportunity to escape. "Right, see you tomorrow."

"See you tomorrow."

Qu Qing Yin heads towards the opposite wing. The rooms are not too extravagant, but clear consideration on the furnishing of table and chairs can be seen, although not every little thing is a treasure in itself, all have their individually nice quality, ordinary people would not even be able to afford it.

Qu Qing Yin has even found that the Mount Zhong Yi Manor has even considerately prepared two sets of new clothes for her, completed with hair accessories.

Moving into the inner chamber, the water filling the tub steaming.

Qu Qing Yin cannot help but laugh, rushing here through consecutive days, she really does need a tub of hot water.

This Mount Zhong Yi Manor sure lives up to their number one manor reputation, to have already received the news whilst they were on the road, making it so that once they arrive at this manor, everything would have already been prepared, this way the guests can truly feel at home.

Qu Qing Yin takes out her hair accessories, undresses from her clothes, and soaks into the hot water, comfortably taking a bath, and then changes into the clothing prepared by the manor.

Using a towel to slowly drain the water from her long wet locks, she sits in front of the dressing table mirror and carefully smooth through her hair with a black comb.

To have this fascinatingly translucent, bronze mirror reflect her face, causes her to fall into a little trance.

This time's outing is rather lengthy, she has not been able to leisurely pamper herself like this for such a long time.

Shi Fu once said, girls are like flowers, which requires watering and trimming, not necessarily for her own content, but also necessarily for her own content.

Qu Qing Yin juts out her lips, if Shi Fu was still alive, he would definitely despise her sloppiness, but running around all day, where does one get the spare time to attend to these matters? Can't have her dressed like a refined lady whilst hunting down fugitives right? She takes out the scented sachet that she always keeps with her and from it, takes out a round jade box, opening the box to scoop out a transparent paste onto her palm, evenly rubbing it in circular movements on her face, and then puts the box away.

The jade coloured cream quickly sinks into the skin, touching it now, she can already feel the difference from the rough feeling before.

At this moment, Qu Qing Yin again recalls Shi Fu's reprimanding words— —one who is not naturally beautiful, must pay attention to self-grooming, if not you'd become an old bead by the time you marry.

Pei! Pei! Pei! Shi Fu really is most spiteful! Since young has always been constantly nagging at her ears, talking as though talking is his profession. Also when it comes to self-grooming, he knows more than women do, causing her to always feel as though Shi Fu was born the wrong sex.

Qu Qing Yin keeps thinking, after bathing she had originally felt sleepy but the feeling had completely disappeared, stroking her hair, forget it, might as well go out into the courtyard and enjoy the air. She opens the

door and steps out, un-coincidentally seeing a jar of wine sat on top of the stone table in the middle of the courtyard where Liu Feng drinks alone.

“Lady can’t sleep?” Because his mind was filled with her, his heart was a mess and therefore wasn’t able to sleep, but what is her reason? Subconsciously, in Liu Feng’s heart, a trace of sanguine expectancy blossoms.

“Hair’s still wet, I came out to leave it to air dry.” She casually walks over, sitting down by the stone table, “Didn’t you say you drank too much, why you drinking again?”

Her long loose hair added a slight touch of childlike quality just like that of a young girl, the wind brings along a hint of fragrance, faint but nice, Liu Feng looks at her, never seen her with blusher on, how could her body suddenly carry this type of scent?

Qu Qing Yin thought he was looking at the outfit she’s wearing, laughing she says, “The manor prepared it, the size is just about right, so thoughtful.”

Liu Feng lowers his head and laughs, “This outfit really suits you.”

“Compared to my original one, this is much better.” She was speaking of the clothing material.

“The main reason is because lady is pretty, that’s why it seems like the clothes are better.” He was pointing to her appearance.

Qu Qing Yin’s cheeks lit up with a tinge of red, not used to having people praise her upfront, plus his eyes are looking too passionate.

The playfulness in Liu Feng’s eyes deepens, “Don’t know if it’s a problem to ask for lady’s age?”

“Nineteen.”

“If that is so, I am a few years older than lady, how about you start calling me [Older] Brother always Hero here Hero there, only addressing me based on an identity label, it’ll be a waste of our meeting.”

Qu Qing Yin hesitated, this addressment is too intimate.

“Could it be, I’m unworthy of lady’s addressment of ‘Brother Liu’?” He looks at her with a seeming smile, purposely trying to push her.

“I’m afraid that I am the unworthy one.” She laughs, then generously calls out, “Brother Liu,” It is just an addressment, must she be so calculative.

Liu Feng heartily laughs out loud, downing a few mouthfuls of wine, wiping his mouth, he says, “Refreshingly direct.”

Under the moon, amongst the cool breeze, by the stone table, a handsome and unrestraint man, a beautifully refined and graceful girl, like a scene from a timeless painting, allowing people to look at the scene as though time has stopped.

Morning at Dan Xia Valley was really smooth going, in the distance, the mountain mist hazily makes the whole mountain manor look as though it is located in the middle of fairy wonderland.

As Liu Feng steps out of his room he looks up and catches sight of the shadow in the courtyard, she is still wearing the purple outfit from last night, her long hair simply put up into a bun, embellished with only a few hair ornaments, a simple yet fresh look.

Delicate and graceful, that is the impression she gives off, she is nothing like a guest of the hot blooded Jiang Hu, and instead holds the charms of a polished lady from a noble family.

“What are you looking at?”

Qu Qing Yin turns around, quickly nodding her head, and says, “The view is not bad here.”

“You like it?”

“With such nice scenery, why wouldn’t I like it?”

“That is true, did you have a nice rest last night?”

“This place makes you feel at home, it is only reasonable.”

Liu Feng laughs, “Looks like Manor Master Guan will have to thank you for this high praise of yours.”

“The truth is clear.”

“I almost forgot, you love speaking the truth the most.”

Qu Qing Yin lights up with a smile, fresh and gentle as though it can melt the heart of others.

The colour in his eyes darkens, playfully asking, “Then when do you not speak the truth?”

Qu Qing Yin laughingly replies, “When speaking the truth it is fine to tell you, when not speaking the truth who would tell you that?”

Hearing that Liu Feng could not help but to let out a big laugh.

“Hero Liu, lady Qu, you’re both up. Just in time, breakfast is ready.”

The envoy assigned was conveniently the same one, behind him were two female attendants carrying two sets of food containers. “Are you both eating together?”

Qu Qing Yin raises her eyebrows at the envoy’s words.

Liu Feng remains poised and says, “Just leave it on the stone table, I and lady Qu just happen to have something to discuss.”

Qu Qing Yin looks at him, since when did they become so close for him to directly speak up for her?

The envoy and female attendants places the dishes down and then withdraws with good grace.

Liu Feng sits down by the stone table first, then waves Qu Qing Yin over, “Quickly come eat whilst it’s hot, I reckon the manor would be bustling with energy soon.”

She ponders a little, then makes her way over, quietly picking up her chopsticks to eat.

Both people were peaceful, but when they were halfway through eating, they could hear a burst of laughter from outside, the owner of the laugh continues to laugh as he walks into the courtyard.

“I heard that [Younger] Brother Liu got here last night, and was even accompanied by a beauty. Old Zhang I definitely had to check out what kind of heavenly beauty had caught the eye of Brother you.”

Liu Feng places down his chopsticks, smiling as he greets the newcomer with a fist holding greeting, “[Older] Brother Zhang, have you been well?” “Good, I’ve been great. Brother you’re not looking so bad either.” Zhang Shan says as he casts Qu Qing Yin at the side a look, laughing as he pats Liu Feng’s shoulder, “Not bad not bad, Brother you have good eyes, one look can see that she’s gentle and graceful.”

“This is Qi Shi Er Lian Huan Wu’s Zong Piao Ba Zi, Zhang Shan.” Liu Feng introduces to her.

(Qī shí'èr Lián Huán Wú / 七十二连环坞 (72 Serial Docks) – a sect that has great influence within the Jiang Hu; Z **ǒng**
Piao B **ǒ**/总瓢把子 refers to someone who manages to gets all the scoops as in the exclusive news, pretty much the king of scoops)



Qu Qing Yin curtly delivers a fist holding greeting, "I've long heard of your Zong Piao Ba Zi reputation, witnessing it today, you truly live up to the name."

Zhang Shan waves his hand, "What Zong Piao Ba Zi, calling me [Older] Brother Zhang shall be fine."

Qu Qing Yin did not feel comfortable with this, but knew that in an event like this, it is not good to refuse to give people face, and so quietly speaks, "Brother Zhang."

Liu Feng quietly laughs, he had already realised, under normal circumstances she would not make it difficult for others, unless that person has messed with her. This can be regarded as her little missy temper, when unprovoked she will not make others dislike her.

"Now that's right." Zhang Shan laughs out loud. "[Younger] Sister how should I address you?"

"Qu, Qu as in melody/tune."

"So it is the Sister of the Qu family. If you have time, do drop by with Brother Liu at our Qi Shi Er Lian Huan Wu as guests."

"Ok."

"Sister is also of the Jiang Hu, have you made a name for yourself yet?" Zhang Shan just says whatever comes to mind, bearing no doubts, nor does he care who you are.

Qu Qing Yin does not directly say it.

Liu Feng laughs out loud, chipping in to help her out, "Has Brother eaten? Sit down and eat with us."

"You guys go ahead, I have already eaten. Just couldn't wait to see Brother you, and so came so early, this is no coincidence, looks like I have interrupted you two eating." Zhang Shan reaches out to knock himself on the head, feeling apologetic.

She is still wearing a smile on her face, did not even sass out half a word.

Liu Feng says, "It's nothing it's nothing, I was pretty much done eating myself, let us go in to talk." He looks towards his side, "Qing Yin, you take your time eating."

"Right right, Sister, you take your time, I haven't seen Brother Liu for such a long time, we'll go inside to have a little chat."

"Alright." She was still faintly smiling as she replied.

Watching as they both enter the room, Qu Qing Yin slightly purses her lips.

Up to now, things have not been going according to plan. If it carries on like this, this won't be good!

She looks at the food on the stone table, sighing in her heart, now she really has no appetite.

After them, Qu Qing Yin also leaves the stone table, she does not go to find the other two, but instead steps out of the courtyard. The manor's guards were generally spread out ten steps between one another, maintaining a high level of vigilance, because many of the rapist's listed targets have already arrived at the manor, for a precaution of the worst case scenario, this is the necessary measure to take.

At this time, the amount of Jiang Hu people entering the manor has gradually rose, walking around the manor would naturally mean

running into some people. There are some Qu Qing Yin knows of, also some she has seen before, but a huge number of people she does not know, those people naturally does not know her either.

“Lady Qu, are you alright?” The manor’s envoy comes up greeting her.

Qu Qing Yin smiles and nods, “I’m good.”

“Is lady going somewhere? If needed I can send for someone to escort lady.”

“No need. I just want to go out and have a look around.”

“Then it is still better to have two guards go with you. That way when gentleman Liu asks, I can reply at ease.”

“I’ll have to trouble envoy then.” Qu Qing Yin could only accept the envoy’s good intentions, because from what she sees, if she doesn’t accept it, she reckons she wouldn’t even be able to leave this place.

“It’s nothing it’s nothing, you are a friend of gentleman Liu, which makes you a precious guest of our manor, naturally we have to attend to you well.” The envoy waves over two nearby guards, “You, and you, you two accompany lady Qu out, be sure to protect her well.”

“Yes.”

Outside Mount Zhong Yi Manor, before the ‘elimination of evil’ bounty hunt sign up begins, the place is bustling with people. Using this Mount Zhong Yi Manor’s heroes gathering, many have come to join in the fun and at the same time, not forgetting to see if there is any money earning opportunities before the sign up.

Before the sign up, the place is just like being on a government official’s rewarding stand, always rewarded with the gold that the bounty hunters and people of Jiang Hu loves most. “I heard the top ten most

rewarded bounty hunters have all come, if so it really is going to be really lively.”

“Who said that? That Ling Long Dao hasn’t even showed up right?”

Someone bursts into a wretched laugh, “No matter how great that Ling Long Dao is, she is still just a woman. The one we are dealing with this time is the rapist, the mortal enemy of women. Her not showing up is but a normal matter.”

Many laughs along.

“But I heard she is chasing down an evil villain outside of this.”

“News spread within the Jiang Hu are not always to be trusted, who knows whether that is truth or lie, not like anyone has seen the Ling Long Dao’s figure anyway.”

“Shuu~ watch your words when speaking, Ling Long Dao is not someone to be offended. According to rumours, ever since she stepped foot in the Jiang Hu, to this day, every job she has taken on has never been met with failure.”

Once those words were spoken, as expected, the people immediately pretended that nothing had happened and changed the subject.

They are all people who had experienced their own fair share of bloodshed, naturally they would understand that those who wanders the Jiang Hu – one careless slip of the tongue can lead them to their own fatality.

Standing outside of the crowd, observing the whole scene was Qu Qing Yin who had heard every word said, but did not let the least of it get to her.

This really is a huge movement, almost all of the top ten most rewarded bounty hunters had come, coupled with other sects, cults and scatters of other Jiang Hu people, even if he manages to harass someone, this would be enough of a headache for that rapist.

To become the mutual enemy of the entire Wu Lin, looks like the rapist's days will not go as smoothly as it once did.

Qu Qing Yin looks in front towards the 'elimination of evil' bounty notice, slightly hesitant, two hundred thousand liang¹⁰ bounty missed out on just like that, no matter what there will still be some regrets.

"With such degree of excitement it should be starting soon, time to head back." Someone suddenly says.

Qu Qing Yin turns her head.

Liu Feng sways his fan as he walks over from the side, laughing ever so light-heartedly, "You came out to check out the lively crowd?" Could it be she really wants to take on the job? This little thought made his heart sink.

Mount Zhong Yi's two guards sees Liu Feng, respectfully salutes him and leaves with good grace. With Wu Lin's number one gentleman here, lady Qu's safety would naturally be assured.

"To come to Dan Xia Valley and not see the sign up to eliminate evil, just seems to make one feel that this trip here is but an empty one."

Liu Feng stands shoulder to shoulder with her and watches on for the soon to start announcement, lamenting, "Before this 'elimination of evil' bounty hunt, it hasn't been this lively for such a long time."

"Doesn't that just go to show that the Jiang Hu has been at peace for too long?"

"That's right, unfortunately now....."

"Worldly matters are impermanent."

"Let's go, we didn't have much of breakfast, and it is already fast approaching noon now. I'll treat you to lunch."

¹⁰ Liǎng / 两 is the currency used in Ancient China, these currencies were actually measured in weights.

Qu Qing Yin was a little surprised, "Not returning to the manor?"

Liu Feng sways his fans, saying, "Within the manor we are guests, it is freer to be outside."

She understands what he is saying, he must have noticed her own discomfort, who would have thought he is this attentive, this is surprisingly beyond her expectation.

"It is not like that, just not used to such warm hospitality."

Liu Feng pauses the hand that was swaying his fan, and then smiles and says, "Zhang Shan, that person does not care about trifling matters, if by chance he had said something out of hand, please don't let it get to you."

"I wouldn't, Zhong Piao Ba Zi isn't a bad person."

"Since you had already addressed him as Brother, from now on don't change that addressment in front of him, he would not be happy with it."

"Got it."

In order to find some peace and quiet, the two people picked out a restaurant at the corner of the street, but because of this gathering, even this little shop had many customers.

They picked out a table in the corner to sit at, and ordered a few dishes. The worker goes to report their orders. Qu Qing Yin takes hold of the pot of hot tea on the table and washes the cups, pouring them both a cup of tea.

Swaying the fan in his hand, Liu Feng casually starts the conversation.

"Amongst the top ten most rewarded bounty hunters, nine are here, how could we still stand a chance."

"You shouldn't speak like that, the rapist is incomprehensible, also highly skilled in martial arts, if not, Mount Zhong Yi Manor would not

have needed to organise this heroes gathering to send out this 'elimination of evil' order."

"Such words are also correct."

... "Amongst the bounty hunters, that mysterious sword (Dao) didn't show up this time."

"Probably scared of the rapist."

"That is not right, since she is the most mysterious sword, and no one has seen her real appearance before, even if she did come, it is not like we would know."

"That's right, who knows, she could already be here."

"That's why, be cautious with your words. This sword could very well be murderous, if one were to provoke her, she may just murder them without requesting a fee."

Hearing this Liu Feng could not help but to eye the person across him.

Qu Qing Yin leisurely drinks the cup of tea in her hands, as if to say the person they speak of is nothing like her.

"If we were to say in the Jiang Hu which woman is never to be offended, Ling Long Dao would definitely be high up there, with a voice like that, there is definitely no likelihood of her being anywhere near beautiful. "

Liu Feng laughs, if he were to say she was an outstanding beauty that would be too exaggerating, but to say she is just pretty is also too undermining.

Face shape ranging from that of a melon and a goose egg, eyebrows not drawn but done with umber black make up, straight nose, thin lips as though coated with a pearl, eyes like autumn water, small ears like ingots, earlobe slightly sagged, said that such people tend to be more lucky.

Her skin bright and dewy, as for her body.....although back then at the temple he had only taken a glimpse, but as a man, a woman's body figure would always leave quite the impression.

Liu Feng discreetly uses the fan to cover his face, feeling a little guilty, because of that time he had even had an erotic spring dream, in which, he had committed an act of immorality against her.....

"Customers, here are your dishes, please enjoy."

Right then the worker serves up their dishes, breaking him away from his daydream.

"Brother Liu, what's wrong?" The sensitive Qu Qing Yin notices him acting unlike his usual self, and couldn't help but to quietly speak out.

"Nothing, eat eat, after we're done I'll take you to look around."

She shakes her head, "No need, we had better return to the manor." To walk around alongside Wu Lin's number one gentleman, really isn't a wise idea.

"Why not tour around the place? It's a rare chance for us to be here."

"I don't like being in the crowd."

Liu Feng raises his brows but says nothing.

Bounty hunters tend to be more used to doing things on their own, they're typically tolerant, and are patient, capable of chasing down fierce, stubborn villains for thousands of li and are also calm and collected.

This is probably the reason why she insists on keeping her distance from him, habits can sometimes become imbedded into the person's blood and bones, amending them is not an easy task.

Deep inside, Qu Qing Yin is thinking, she cannot continue to stay with Liu Feng, this person is too clever, he isn't someone she should get involved with.

... "Liu Feng, so this is where you are!"

A clear, crisp voice charmingly calls out, and immediately a swift, fierce strike cuts through the air, aiming towards them.

Qu Qing Yin indifferently remains still, she believes that before she leaves the gentleman, there is no place for anyone to do anything.

Liu Feng extends his hand, seizing hold of the attack from the long whip, his brow twitches^ laughing he says, "Missy Li is this how you greet someone?"

There, was someone of such strong attractive beauty, a young girl like a rose in full bloom, dressed in bright red like a fiery phoenix. With a bright smile she looks at Liu Feng, her original hostility turns warm, "As soon as I reached Mount Zhong Yi Manor I heard people say that gentleman Liu is accompanied by a beauty, came to check it out, but she is merely mediocre."



Liu Feng laughs, "To be able compete with missy Li's beauty, not many can fare, this is no surprise."

"Who is she?" Li Fei Yan points at Qu Qing Yin, directly asking on the spot.

Qu Qing Yin blandly looks over, saying, "A Jiang Hu amateur, not worthy of missy asking."

Li Fei Yan proudly lifts her chin, "Glad you know, the seat next to gentleman Liu is not a place for someone like you, hurry and get out my way."

Qu Qing Yin places her chopsticks down, and stands up, still looking ever so calm, "Missy please take a seat, I shall take my leave." First that Shui Su Yun, and here comes another Li Fei Yan, the ones Liu Feng is involved with really do all come from a powerful background.

"Heng~, counted your tactful."

The Jiang Hu people inside the shop watches this dramatic scene, every one of them keeping their eyes wide open, anticipating what this will lead up to.

Liu Feng's smile remains unchanged, gesturing for her to sit, "Missy Li please take a seat."

Li Fei Yan unperturbedly goes over and sits herself down.

Liu Feng takes his fan, spreading it open, and laughs, "Since missy Li has come here to eat, then please take your time, it just so happens that Qing Yin and I are pretty much done here, we shall take our leave first. Farewell." Having said that, he gets up from his seat.

"You—" Li Fei Yan was abnormally angry, looking towards the young girl who is already a few steps ahead, the whip in hand lashes out towards her.

Liu Feng easily moves to interfere with her attack, blandly speaking, "Listen to my word of advice, do not mess with her."

"You insist on protecting her?"

Liu Feng lets go of her whip, waving the fan in his hand, "I am saying this for missy's own good."

"You blocked my whip and say it's for my own good?"

“I had merely blocked the attack of missy’s whip, that’s better than getting the whip cut down by someone, or even, the owner of whip get cut down by someone.” The understatement in his words brought upon a chill.

Li Fei Yan’s phoenix eyes opens wide, angrily laughing out loud, “I would also like to see how this little amateur’s skills can fare.” Once again, her whip lashes out like a snake.

Everyone had only seen a flash of silver pass by, and the whip had been entangled within a silver chain, and those silver chains were what everyone had originally thought to have been the girl in purple’s waist ornaments. Only looking at it now, did they realise it is actually a dart.

Li Fei Yan secretly channels her inner energy through her hands, yet the whip remains stilly unaffected, she couldn’t hold back her shock.

Qu Qing Yin just blandly looks at her, saying, “Being short tempered isn’t a good habit, girls should be a little gentler to have people dote on her.”

“Who the hell are you to dare lecture me?” Li Fei Yan was brimming with anger.

She smiles, turning her head ever so slightly, saying to Liu Feng who stood aside leisurely swaying his fan, “Say, should I cut the whip, or should I cut the person?” Would his heart be pained to see this?

Liu Feng lets out a little cough, “The Li guild master isn’t a bad person.” Although disciplining is necessary, but you still need to leave some face for the person.

“Fine then.” Before those words could be heard, everyone could only hear a brittle sound ringing throughout the shop. Li Fei Yan’s snake root whip had been cut down into inches within seconds, falling to the floor in shattered pieces.

Li Fei Yan went pale with shock, taking a few steps back, looking at her in disbelief, “You.....”

Qu Qing Yin retrieves her dart, hanging it back onto her waist, looking at her with a smile, and says, “Someone who refuses respect and insists on receiving penalty¹¹, typically wouldn’t get any good from doing so.”

At the side, Liu Feng exhales, “Missy Li, didn’t I say so before, do not mess with her, she’s just never been someone good to mess with.” He has always pretended to mess with her but never dared to take actual action. That’s because he is well aware of how powerful she is, afraid that if he exceeds the limit he wouldn’t be able to handle the consequences, and can only bear with it as he slowly figures her out.

Li Fei Yan stomps her feet, “So you just watch her bully me? I’m going to tell my father.”

“You need to understand one thing, someone who dares to cut down your whip wouldn’t be someone who would be afraid of the Li guild’s head master.”

“Who exactly is she? For you to be so protective of her?”

“Her?” Liu Feng laughs out loud as he looks at Qu Qing Yin, and then says to Li Fei Yan, “Someone who I daren’t offend, nor do I wish to offend.”

Once those words were said, the place was in an uproar, for even the Wu Lin’s number one gentleman to dare not to offend, nor want to offend, what kind of background does this lady come from?

Qu Qing Yin lowers her head and laughs, not caring about whatever Liu Feng is trying to do. This image he had established for her is far too powerful, looks like no matter who tries to do her wrong will now have to consider the severity of the cost before taking any action.

¹¹ I had to simplify the saying here, the original phrase used is **jìng jiǔ bù chī, fēi yào chī fá jiǔ** / 敬酒不吃,非要吃罚酒 – it roughly translates to **to refuse to drink to a toast** (a form of respect in which you’re supposed courteously return the gracious act. By refusing to do so you are directly opposing the person which is blasphemous, and is basically asking for punishment, hence...) **insisting on drinking for forfeit**.

“If by chance the Li guild master wants to look for me, I shall wait for the invitation with open arms.” Having finished her sentence, she turns around and heads out.

Liu Feng laughs out loud, and says, “Missy Li, I shall be leaving first then. Right now she is staying in the same courtyard as me, finding it would be very convenient.” Leaving no room for clues, he puts his and hers’ relationship into a confusing ambiguous light.

“They—”

Liu Feng no longer bothered with her, instead hastens his pace to catch up with the person in front.

Any man who hasn’t received their wife’s hand in marriage yet, would definitely not dare to offend her, nor would they wish to offend their other half, otherwise, their wife could very possibly fly far away from them.

Chapter 4

Qu Qing Yin was not walking very fast, so Liu Feng was able to easily catch up to her.

“If I continue walking around with you, I could very well become known as an evil person.” She turns her head, looking at him with a smile that’s not really a smile.

Liu Feng did not approve of the way she spoke, saying, “If you want to be a nice person who could possibly stop you?”

Her right hand plays with the silver chains on her waist, speaking in a relaxed tone, “Shi Fu once said, be it a good person, be it a bad person, as long as I’m happy, then its fine.”

“Your Shi Fu is a wise person.” Liu Feng looks around, “You must have not eaten much before, I’ll go buy some food, and then we’ll go and find somewhere to eat.”

“That’ll be good.”

“You go wait in front for me, I’ll be back soon.”

“Alright.”

Qu Qing Yin watches him walk away, puffing out her lips, she draws her hands to her back, leisurely walking forwards, but not long after she stops in her tracks.

As the saying goes, enemies narrows your path. She had run into Shui Su Yun, and the way Shui Su Yun was looking at her was full of resentment. With her, were not only Fei Ying Bao’s guards, but also the addition of a few young men. By looks of it they’re her fellow brothers from the same guild.

“Senior Brother, it’s her.”

Hearing those words, Qu Qing Yin was a little surprised. She does not believe that she had done anything of such great offence to that Shui missy, how is it that she has to engage in a feud with her?

“Lady, so it was you who treated my Junior Sister with disrespect?”

“If that’s how you’re going to put it, then there seems to be such case.” Qu Qing Yin thought about it deeply, even then she could not recognise what offense she has done.

“That’s right.” The young man in blue unsheathes his sword.

Qu Qing Yin takes a look at Shui Su Yun, and then looks at the man who took the courage to stand up for his junior sister. Looks like ever since she had met Liu Feng, things just keep moving in strange directions, each and every one appearing to be so unreasonable. Now, she finally understands, Liu Feng that rascal is basically a walking disaster.

It is just like Shi Fu says, popular men, no matter if they did or didn't initiate the provocation, would always be the cause of many problems, if possible it's best to stay away from them. Now, she sees that these words cannot be anymore correct, be it Shui Su Yun or Li Fei Yan, they all treat her with hostility because of Liu Feng.

"What are you trying to do?" She purposely asks in a clueless manner.

As expected, these words made the by-standing Jiang Hu people to laugh out loud, the opposing person had already drew his sword, yet she still asks what he's trying to do? This lady really is a tad too stupid.

"Draw your sword." The young man in blue says.

Qu Qing Yin looks at her own hands, honestly shaking her head, "I have no sword."

"Then take out your weapon, I Ge Fei Xiong will not attack an unarmed person."

"Sister of the Qu family, what's going on?" At that moment, Zhang Shan's voice suddenly intervenes.

"Brother Zhang." Qu Qing Yin, in regards to this situation at hand, did not even know where to start explaining, whatever she say will just come out weird, might as well not say anything.

"Senior Zhang." As soon as Ge Fei Xiong sees Zhang Shan he is shocked beyond words, and can only respectfully greet him. He looks towards Qu Qing Yin alarmed, he doesn't understand, what kind of connection does this lady share with Qi Shi Er Lian Huan Wu?

Zhang Shan sweeps his gaze across Shui Su Yun, not even bothering with them, and only speaks to Qu Qing Yin, "Where's Brother Liu? Why is he not with you, causing these unknowledgeable amateurs to carelessly clamour around you?"

Those words made Ge Fei Xiong's face turn red, Shui Su Yun's face was not looking too good either.

Qu Qing Yin did not know how to respond, and could only let out a little laugh.

“Qing Yin, Brother Liu.” The central character in this situation, Liu Feng, finally appears.

“Brother Liu, as the envoy of this beauty you really are too incompetent. Others are already challenging her upfront, yet you are nowhere to be seen.”

Liu Feng walks up to Qu Qing Yin’s side, handing over the things in hand to her. “Here. A roasted pigeon, five spice smoked chicken, and some fried melon seeds for you to snack on.”

Qu Qing Yin suddenly went speechless, this Liu Feng is kidding right?

Zhang Shan heartily laughs out loud, “Brother Liu, are you trying to feed Sister Qu like a pig right now?”

Liu Feng laughs and says, “Fattening her up wouldn’t be so bad,” nobody will steal her that way. The latter half of the sentence he kept to himself.

Shui Su Yun watches as the three people completely ignores her, her face turning worse by the second.

And only then did Liu Feng take notice of them, speaking with slight surprise, “What’s happened? When did Qing Yin ever cross the Fei Ying Bao?”

“She has treated my junior sister with disrespect, she even admitted so herself.” Ge Fei Xiong works up his courage to say. Although he does not know what kind of background this girl comes from, to have the backing of two of Wu Lin’s most skilled pugilists, but his junior sister’s hurt feelings, he definitely cannot ignore.

Liu Feng laughs, casting a look of disapproval at the person beside him, he says, “Honestly speaking, the words that comes out of her mouth are not exactly pleasant. That’s because in this world, words of truth are just

better off said than that of lies. And she only likes to speak the truth, so for others to find her words unpleasant is no surprise." Qu Qing Yin was sure that he was not singing her praises.

Zhang Shan loudly laughs, "This personality of Sister Qu I like, to be able say whatever you want. These days, are people not allowed to speak the truth?"

Shui Su Yun angrily speaks out, "She's looking down on our Fei Ying Bao, do you really think this is a simple matter of speaking the truth?"

Qu Qing Yin widens her eyes in surprise, "When did I ever look down on Fei Ying Bao?" How is it that she herself is not aware of this?

"You said so yourself at the mountain temple, saying our Fei Ying Bao is merely mediocre. You are looking down on us."

Qu Qing Yin looked even more confused, turning to ask Liu Feng, "I said that?"

"At that time what you said was 'If people of Fei Ying Bao all do things your way, I believe the decline in business is but a matter of time, if it's like that, then what's there for me to be afraid of?', if one was to understand that as looking down on Fei Ying Bao, then it makes sense." His memory isn't bad.

Shui Su Yun, as though grabbing onto the most powerful evidence, confidently exclaims, "You see! Hero Liu also says so. You are clearly looking down on our Fei Ying Bao!"

Qu Qing Yin nods, "Fine then, so what is there for me to look up to in this esteemed guild? This scene in front of me?" She understatedly counters back. "Shi Fu once said, if a girl has been spoiled far beyond reach, then it's the same as sending her to her death, I guess your father surely doesn't understand this principle."

Shui Su Yun stifles, feeling wronged, tears forming in her eyes, "You you....."

Qu Qing Yin was not done with her words, "But if you think about it this way, if by chance your father has someone he resents so much, then he can marry you off to them with no regrets. That way he can easily ruin the opposition's whole family. Revenge without firing a shot, very cost-effective."

"Pu-!" Someone could hold it in no longer, laughing out loud.

At that moment, Liu Feng could not hold back the fan in his hand, hitting it on her forehead, laughing as he speaks, "From what I see, your Shi Fu can marry you off to his enemy, you too can also cause wreckage amongst the opposition's family without firing a shot."

Qu Qing Yin suddenly felt a little embarrassed, lowering her voice a few notches, mumbling the words, "Shi Fu really has considered that before. I've been taught by him to the point where my lethality got a little out of hand."

Liu Feng hits his fan onto his own head, should he be feeling a little sorry for himself here?

Zhang Shan guffawed to the extent of continuously slapping his own thigh. He even praises so well.

"But Shi Fu has also said, as a woman, rather than let others ruin you, it is better to ruin others." Her face looking ever so innocent.

Zhang Shan complimented her with a round of applause, "Such words speaks of excellence, if I ever have a daughter I would most definitely teach her this. Rather wrong others, than have others wrong my daughter."

Shui Su Yun could no longer hold back, roaring at her, "You actually dare to insult my daddy, we Fei Ying Bao definitely won't let you get away with this!"

Qu Qing Yin remains unaffected, saying, "If you insist on this, I have nothing to say, though I do not wish to cause trouble, but that does not mean I am afraid of trouble."

Shui Su Yun wanted to say more, but sees that the crowd around them was increasing in numbers. She becomes scared of the news spreading wide, and in the end can only bitterly leave with the others.

Qu Qing Yin asks Liu Feng, "For me to continue staying at the manor like this, would it really be alright?" She did indeed cause offence against two members of the manor's esteemed guests.

"I don't mind finding someplace else with you to stay at." Did she really think that by provoking the Fei Ying Bao, she would not have to stay with him any longer?

Qu Qing Yin's heart weighs heavy, looks like this isn't going to work.

"I still have matters to attend to, so I shall leave first, if I have time I'll go find Brother Liu to drink again." Zhang Shan leaves with his underlings as he speaks.

"Brother Zhang take care."

"Let's go, we'll go find somewhere to eat. Seriously, only left for a bit and you managed to cause such a huge commotion." Liu Feng's tone carried a sense of helplessness.

Qu Qing Yin felt that she was innocent also. "I was not the one who caused the situation." She had even wanted to act as though she did not see Shui Su Yun and brush past her, unfortunately the other party was not happy to do so.

"But you had purposely allowed the situation to develop further."

"I only went along with the flow."

"You want to go against Fei Ying Bao that much?" He takes the greaseproof packages from her hand, leaving her with the bag of seeds, "Let's go."

“No,” Qu Qing Yin subconsciously keeps up with his pace, not forgetting to explain herself, “They had already challenged me upfront, I couldn’t possibly back down.”

“Fei Ying Bao’s master, are you familiar this person?”

“I know a little about him.”

“A little?” He turns to look at her.

Qu Qing Yin seriously nods, “This person is highly opinionated, overbearingly arrogant, hence Shui Su Yun being spoiled to this extent by him, this is no different from raising one to be crippled, I am still suspicious whether he is actually her birth father.”

The way she speaks, must she really answer every question asked, every word filled with such honesty too?

“You don’t look at me like that, I have said this before, words of truth are best said. Besides I believe that I should not have to hold back my words for someone who I don’t like, speaking with grace and respect.”

So towards those she does not care about, she takes on this kind of attitude? Liu Feng allows a laugh to escape his mouth.

Whilst speaking, the two people had already walked to the peaceful hills outside Dan Xia Valley. This place is the open wilderness, not a place that is easy to hide in, with great scenery.



Have to say that Liu Feng sure knows how to choose locations, to eat in a place like this, naturally puts you in a good mood.

He opens up all the greaseproof packages, laying them out on the ground, before sitting down and quickly calls her over.

Qu Qing Yin good heartedly sits to a side, grabbing two pieces of the roasted pigeon to eat at the same time, once done she reaches out again for the smoked chicken.

Liu Feng raises his brows at the sight, "You sure you don't need to hold back a bit?"

"Who treats someone to eat and tells them to hold back?"

"Has your appetite always been this good?"

"I guess so, only by filling yourself up, will you have the energy. When given the chance to not let your stomach starve, it's better to just not starve at all."

"Looks like it is I who has mistreated your stomach."

"You said it yourself, I didn't say anything."

"This principle of having self-awareness and self-knowledge, I at least have."

Qu Qing Yin laughs and bites into the chicken drumstick, eating with an expression of worldly great taste.

Seeing her like this, his laughs pours out from deep inside his overwhelmed heart, unable to withhold the pressure within any longer.

From the very beginning, this lady has been able to strip his heart off all its defences, unknowingly allowing itself to grow to love her influence on him, as she falls deeper inside with every little step.

She has no intention, but he has the heart, because of this he makes up for it little by little, and by having her accompany him, he appears to have the upper hand right now, but can things really be this simple?

As a bounty hunter, she has specifically come to Dan Xia Valley yet has no intention to sign up for the bounty, this in itself is not a normal thing, and he believes this is not because she fears the rapist.

Although he also does not wish for her to sign up for the bounty, this is definitely something out of the ordinary.

But then again, the 'ordinary' is not something you often see come from her, this fact alone really causes people headaches.

"If I had not shown up at that time, would you have signed up for the bounty?" He finally asks her about the worry in his heart, regarding the moment when he had found her stood in front of the 'elimination of evil' bounty sign up.

Qu Qing Yin looks at him, "At the time I did indeed hesitate a little, it is after all a tempting sum of twenty thousand liang. By completing such a job, I can then just wash my hands clean off this line of work and become a wealth holder instead." When speaking to someone of high intellect, sometimes it is better to speak only ninety percent truth and ten percent lies, only then is it adequate.

Liu Feng's expression looks down, "Then have you considered the consequences of making a misstep?"

Qu Qing Yin laughs, "In this world wealth touches people's heart, but there are few who can remain resistant."

Liu Feng releases a relaxed breath, "If you are saying that, that means at that time you only hesitated a little, but had no intention to take on the bounty?"

"Not really." The tone in her voice suddenly changes.

Liu Feng brows twitches, Qu Qing Yin's reason for not continuing to speak with him, is because the chicken drumstick in hand was already finished, she takes out a handkerchief to wipe the grease from her hands, looking as though her mind is at peace.

"I have always been curious, what exactly have you come here to do?" Instead of speculating, it is better to just ask for a clear understanding, maybe she will tell the truth.

"Just to check it out." She says it so naturally, in such a relaxed manner.

"You don't like the lively crowd." He directly debunks.

"But some lively crowds you just cannot help but to get drawn into, this is human nature." She spots a strike and deflects them, all whilst remaining calm and composed.

Her answer is of a reasonable one, leaving Liu Feng dumbfounded.

Qu Qing Yin started to snack on the seeds he had bought her, cracking them with her front teeth as she casually says, "Are you suspicious of me?" This awareness makes her feel slightly uncomfortable.

"Would you be angry?"

"No." Denying it far too quickly, made her suddenly feel as though she had made a lame attempt to hide something, causing her to slightly feel nervous.

Liu Feng had apparently thought this also, his eyes immediately lighting up.

Qu Qing Yin returns to a calm state of mind, slowly spitting out the shell, and asks back, "Why should I be angry at an irrelevant person?" That's right, he is an irrelevant person, there is no need for her to be angry.

Liu Feng can only shake his head as he looks at her, this lady can sometimes be so foulmouthed to the point it makes others angry. On one hand she says she is not angry, on the other hand she throws a sharp jab at you, all whilst looking as though she has done nothing wrong. “I wouldn’t say I’ve gone as far as suspicious, I just don’t understand something.”

Qu Qing Yin held far less interest in those words than she does with the seeds in hand, so she does not speak. “How about you tell me honestly, that way it will save me from guessing around.”

“To have nothing to begin, yet managed to provoke the alighting of dust.” She lifts her head to eye him cynically, “Have you stuck your nose in that many matters that you are starting to have problems, nothing going on yet you spend the whole day guessing around, thinking too much?”

“Qing Yin-ah.....”

Qu Qing Yin did not bother with him, continuing to crack her seeds.

Liu Feng turns his body over, and rolls up to her side, lifting his head to look at her, “Borrow your leg as a pillow for a bit, how’s that?”

Qu Qing Yin blandly looks at him, “Nothing much.”

“You don’t look very happy.”

“There is a man treating me with intents of misconduct, how could I be happy?” Is this how he behaved with such indecency to attract all those flowers¹²?

“A fair lady, a gentleman’s good match, is that wrong?”

¹² Flowers obviously refers to the women he attracts, but Xi Meng actually uses the words **peach blossom** here, or **táo huā / 桃花** which can mean to attract love. Don’t know if you ever heard of the term peach blossom luck or **táo huā yùn / 桃花运**? If not, those that are single might want to search it up ^_~ ...just in time for Chinese New Years too haha

“Not wrong,” she slowly speaks on without haste, “But the question is, must the fine lady comply?”

Liu Feng laughs out loud, both hands cushioning his head as he looks up at the white clouds in the blue sky, leisurely saying, “And here I thought you would continue acting as though you didn’t get it.”

“Originally I indeed didn’t get it,” she scrunches up her brows, “But since you already said it so clearly, I cannot possibly not get it.” Seems like things are not like how she had thought.

“Didn’t get it?” Liu Feng laughs again, “I guess that’s true.”

Seeing his smile, Qu Qing Yin was troubled. If he is keeping her by his side because he likes her, then would it not be even more of a hassle to get rid of him?

Shi Fu once said, sometimes being liked by someone is not necessarily that great of a matter. She believes this pretty much sums up how she feels right now.

Upon returning, Liu Feng and Qu Qing Yin could feel a subtle vibe in the manor.

“Hero Liu, you’re finally back, something went wrong!” The envoy hurriedly runs up to report.

Hearing such words, Liu Feng dares not to delay, rushing inside with flying steps. Qu Qing Yin hesitates for a moment, then follows after him.

Only when the two people were given the details, did they find out that the rapist had actually kidnapped a female member of the Mount Zi Ying Manor, at a place not far from Dan Xia Valley. His attitude is far too arrogant.

“This is provoking fellow members of the Wu Lin, he is blatantly looking down on everyone here!” Someone furiously slams the table.

Deep inside Qu Qing Yin lets out a sigh, Mo Zi Qi has long been lawless. If not, he would not have outraged people to the point where the long absent Mount Zhong Yi Manor had to once again hold an 'elimination of evil' bounty hunt.

"The problem is, this female disciple was not on the list he had given." Someone says, confused.

Hearing this, she could not help but frown, did anyone say you must follow the guidelines? Some people from the righteous sects really has brains that are far too fossilised, no wonder why Shi Fu would always scoff at them.

"The evil demon's twisted ways were never supposed to be inferred using common sense."

"But before this he did in fact target those that are on the list."

"In fact I think....."

Everyone was acting as their own judge to every word said, there were no consensus at all.

So when Jiang Hu people hold meetings, this is what the real situation looks like, Qu Qing Yin could truly feel the disappointment from deep within her heart.

Really is better known than seen, as people we should not get too curious, luckily she did not go in and was only employed to stand outside to listen. If not, had she wanted to leave, then that wouldn't have looked good.

Thinking up to that point, Qu Qing Yin turns around, returning to the courtyard of her temporary living quarters alone. Sitting at the courtyard's stone table by herself, with her head resting in her hands, she looks at the *rosa chinensis* (China rose) amongst the flower garden, thinking to herself.



He says he likes her?

What does he like about her?

Thinking about it now, what part of her is worth him liking?

When it comes to appearance she cannot compare to Shui Su Yun, even more so with Li Fei Yan. When it comes to family background and sect she is under then it is not even worth mentioning. If there's anything to mention then, it can pretty much be said with just seven words — good and evil aren't of equal standing.

Her real identity is actually what Jiang Hu people most often speak of as that particular – demoness!

It is just that, so far she has always been able to hide it very well.

However, once this incident comes to an end, looks like this demoness identity of hers would be nailed to the board, with no more possibility of changing. That is why taking care of that bounty hunt and then washing her hands clean off this line of work to become a wealth holder is not a bad idea at all.

But just like Liu Feng had said, she cannot have guaranteed success. Right now, Mo Zi Qi martial arts skills is exceedingly high. Looks like he has been practicing the evil arts of an unorthodox sect. Such evil skills could very possibly have eighty-ninety percent chance that it is related

to the spiritual development of yin and yang alike, martial arts like this could enhance the inner energy by one thousand li a day. It sure does causes a lot of headaches, so difficult to make a decision.

Liu Feng was already standing at the entrance of the courtyard for some time now, he did not hurry his way in. On the contrary, he has the leisurely carefree mood to lean against the doorway, admiring the beauty bathed in the sunset.

Is this the look of one's lover in the eye of the beholder? The more he looks at her now, the more pleasant she seems, always causing his heart to feel so ticklish. A man of honour also has a man of honour's difficulties, to face one whose beauty is as attractive as the flowers and still have to endure a life of hollow affection. Had he have been a Casanova then his current situation would have been much easier to handle.

"Qing Yin." In the end he speaks out, shattering the wonderful image of the beauty bathed in the sunset.

"What are you thinking about all alone there, causing you to get lost in your thoughts?"

"What goes on in a girl's mind, is it something that can casually be told to others?" Her voice carried a rather quiet approach as she asks back.

"What goes on in a girl's mind?" Liu Feng softly says and laughs, "Did I disrupt the tranquil spring lake?" (Note: He's asking if he had disrupted her dirty thoughts XD)

Qu Qing Yin glares at him, her face involuntarily heating up.

Liu Feng laughs even more joyfully, pulling her hand to make her sit back down by the stone table, he takes the teapot on the table and pours himself a cup of tea.

"I was only joking, no need to be mad."

"Does anyone simply joke around like that?" This is already considered sexual harassment. Shi Fu was right, no matter how much of a

gentleman one is, a man's genes are imbedded with such wretched nature.

"Calm down, calm down. I'll use tea in place of wine, and shall self-punish myself with this cup in apology, how's that?" He laughs as he toasts her.

Qu Qing Yin points at the teapot, saying: "Drink down the whole pot."

"Okay okay, as you say." After saying that, he really takes the whole teapot, drinking from its spout.

Although Qu Qing Yin was still a little angry at him, seeing him like this, all anger dissipates, her face involuntarily revealing a smile.

Liu Feng downs all the tea in one go, wiping his mouth, he smiles at her, "That's right, look how much more attractive you are when laughing, although your reproachful look is also very beautiful."

"You....." How could this person be increasingly less decent?

Liu Feng looks at her, his eyes darkening, "Actually there's something I've wanted to do for a long time."

She didn't even manage say the word "what" yet, and his hand had already touched her face, stroking her facial features, lastly stopping at her lips.



Qu Qing Yin freezes, and only after a moment did she react, reaching up to swat away his perverted hand¹³.

Liu Feng blocks with his left hand, preventing the brutal force from her hand. Turning it over, he places her hand into his gentle hold, the right hand on her lip slightly rubs it a bit, dumbly saying, "Did you apply some blush?"

"Let go." Qu Qing Yin was seriously angry.

Yet Liu Feng still laughs, "Always looking so impassive, only now are you a lot more lively with your actions."

Qu Qing Yin with her left hand in hold, this time could only use her right hand to attack.

Liu Feng didn't even flinch, with one move of his hand, her entire body fell into his embrace, and with only a flash of light between, he had accurately taken her in, placing a kiss onto her lips.

Qu Qing Yin did not expect him to take such action, her whole body freezing in shock, and Liu Feng takes the opportunity to suck on her lips a few more times.

A "pa" sound rings through the air, a noteworthy slap, rewarding gentleman Xiao Yao's handsome face.

Qu Qing Yin stares at him angry and shamed, the hand that hit him slowly clenches into a fist, then covers her own lips.

Liu Feng had but not the slightest look of anger, a smile showing in his eyes at the look of her cheeks slowly reddening, rendering her into none other than a tender state.

"Shameless!"

¹³ The actual term that was used for **perverted hand** or a **groper** is what Chinese people call **salty pig's trotter** or **xián zhū shǒu** / 咸猪手. Salty can also mean lecherous in Chinese whilst pigs have generally had this connotation of being a pervert as seen with characters like the famous Zhu Bajie in Journey to the West, or if you're not familiar with that novel/drama franchise, then Oolong from Dragonball who was based on him.

Suddenly hearing a cry, tenderly denouncing the two people in one's eyes, they both immediately look towards the source of sound.

Qu Qing Yin was thinking, I haven't even scolded yet and someone says it before me? This is just too overwhelming.

Contrarily, Liu Feng was thinking, a pleasant moment had been interrupted.

Standing at the entrance of the courtyard were two young ladies who had clearly took to their efforts to dress up. If Li Fei Yan is like a peony in full bloom, then Shui Su Yun would even more be like a valley of orchids. Of spring flowers and the autumn moon, both have their own winning charms.

Qu Qing Yin wipes her lips with the back of her hand. Putting her hand down, she breaks free from Liu Feng's embrace. Eyes looking back and forth from the three people, but says not a word.

Liu Feng opens his fan, looking at the two invited guests as calm as ever, he smiles and says: "Two ladies need something?"

Li Fei Yan points at Qu Qing Yin, speaking with a look of contempt: "Liu Feng, a woman like her who has no shame, you're actually willing to keep her by your side?"

Qu Qing Yin's eyes sank.

But Liu Feng laughs and says: "Lady Li is remarking the wrong person. Between man and woman in front of the flowers and under the moon, this is just affection between lovers nothing more. Can you actually say that every woman in the world is shameless then?"

Once Qu Qing Yin hears this, she thinks to herself that this world renowned hero is also a shameless scoundrel, black and white spouting out his mouth in reverse, who says she is affectionate with him? It is clearly him suddenly taking advantage of her.

Li Fei Yan was startled, looking at him in disbelief, and then looks at Qu Qing Yin, finally stomping her feet, “You like her?! You clearly know that I like you!”

“I thank lady for your love, but I really do not have the fortune to reciprocate it, may lady forgive me.”

Shui Su Yun at the side was already weeping, the image of a pear blossom bathed in rain¹⁴ really looks so delicate and pitiful, striking a deep chord within one’s heart.

Qu Qing Yin involuntarily lifts her head to look at the sky. Ah~ it really is most difficult to endure the grace of a beauty.

“Both ladies have yet to say, have you come here for something?”

Li Fei Yan’s face carries a look on unacceptance, her words spoken with a punch in her tone, “My dad sent me to ask for you.”

Shui Su Yun followed with a nod of a head, “Me too.”

Qu Qing Yin did not want to hear anymore, turning around to return to her room. First he acts unruly towards her, now he has other women that are infatuated with him coming to the door. A man like that is such an asshole. To think that she had just bore the slightest bit of beautiful thoughts.

“Qing Yin, don’t return to your room yet. First go to find the envoy and help me get some ice to apply to my face. No matter what, you wouldn’t want me to go see people with half my face swollen right?” He sincerely albeit dramatically, points to his left cheek that had been slapped.

She could not help but to fiercely glare at him. This asshole actually thinks that this scene isn’t bad enough?

“Don’t get angry, quickly go get me some ice. If not this matter really would be known to the world.”

¹⁴ Pear blossom bathed in rain or lí huā dài yǔ / 梨花帶雨 refers to a weeping beauty.

Qu Qing Yin thought about it and agreed. With his current outrageous virtue, looks like things really could get to the point where everyone knows. So although unwilling, she could only withstand the fuming flames in her heart and go find the envoy.

Once Liu Feng said that, Shui, Li, both girls also noticed his left cheek, both glaring towards Qu Qing Yin's back view.

"She's that unruly, how do you put up with it?" Li Fei Yan issues her words of injustice first.

Shui Su Yun follows after, saying: "Exactly, Hero Liu. How could she be like that, to hit so ruthlessly."

Liu Feng laughs, dismissing his guests, "Both ladies may leave first. Wait till I have tended to my face and I shall go see both Master Shui and Master Li."

Both girls' hearts felt rather unwilling, but could only dismiss themselves first.

Once the two were gone, Liu Feng reaches up to touch his swollen left cheek, the corner of his lips pulled up high.

Not a bad taste, soft and gentle, kissing deeper, it also felt rather sweet. Wonder if she's been eating candy. His only regret is when Shui, Li, both walked in at the wrong time, if not he should have been able to take more advantage¹⁵ of a certain someone.

So unfortunate, ah, so unfortunate.....

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The actual term used for taking **advantage of someone** in such way is **chī nèn dòu fu / 吃嫩豆腐**, literal translation – **to eat soft tofu**.

Qu Qing Yin comes back with ice, and sees a certain someone looking rather urgent. She grunts, directly throwing the bag of wrapped ice towards him.

Liu Feng extends his hand to catch it, and extends his hand again to grab onto her. With a slight use of force, he easily pulls her into his arms again, sitting her on top of his lap. "After hitting someone, you should at least take care of the aftermath, quickly help me tend to my face, it's already all swollen up now."

Qu Qing Yin raises her hand, gritting her teeth as she says to him, "You want me to reward you with another slap, that way your left and right cheeks will be similarly swollen?"

Liu Feng stuffs the bag of ice into her hand, using her hand to apply the ice to his face, "If you are not afraid of causing a huge commotion, then naturally I shall happily walk out too."

How could Qu Qing Yin possibly sit in his arms willingly, she was struggling to get up.

"Qing Yin." Liu Feng vigorously hooks her in by the waist, his voice showing his constraint. In her ear he speaks in tone that only the two can hear: "Stop moving around."

Qu Qing Yin's entire face flames up, she had already noticed the changes in his body, picking up the ice pack in her hand and smashing it into his chest several times, intolerably shouting: "Lecherous!"

"This is the normal reaction of a man." Liu Feng also felt a little embarrassed, but he still had to clarify this.

Qu Qing Yin could not hold back and raises her hand once again.

Liu Feng turns his right cheek towards her, "If you are willing then go ahead and hit it."

Seeing such scoundrel attitude of his, she really did not know what kind of reaction she should be showing him, and instead, directly places the ice pack on the restless part of his lower body.

Liu Feng takes a breath, tightening his hold on her, saying into her ear: "Be careful you don't destroy your own happiness for the latter half of your life."

How can this man be so shameless to such extent?

Qu Qing Yin could not hit, but not hitting, her heart would be angered to death. In the end she could only grab hold of the ice pack and bitterly stick it to his face.

To have her apply the ice on him, the desires in Liu Feng's heart drops a lot. When his face got iced once again, he felt so much more comfortable.

"How could you suddenly become so shameless?" She could not hold back the mumbles.

Liu Feng speaks with feigned righteousness: "I had just suddenly realised using the righteous gentleman approach towards you, I would become too passive. I have a friend that once said, the reason why a womaniser can get so many women, is because he is shameless enough to do so."

"Pei." Qu Qing Yin directly spat out at him. "Which asshole told you such thing?" For the sake of all the women in the world, she is going to get rid of this public hazard – free of charge!

"For now, I cannot tell you."

The look in Qu Qing Yin's eyes changes like crashing wave. Smiling as she leans into him, she places her left hand on top of his heart, seductively breathing out the words: "If you tell me now, I shall reward you with something advantageous."

The refined lady suddenly turning alluringly devilish, the impact caused could only be so substantial. Liu Feng had almost lost control again. “What advantage?” Right now, it’s best to negotiate the bargain.

“What advantage do you want?”

Having been hooked in by those alluring eyes like that of a demoness, he lacks the will to break free from her enchantment, painstakingly keeping his mind as clear as possible, he hoarsely sounds: “How about I sleep at your room tonight?”

“Sure.” Qu Qing Yin coolly agrees straight away. Her left hand acting even more unrestrained as it slithers to the back of his neck, hooking on. Just a tiny bit more and her lips would have plastered itself on top of his, “So what’s your answer?”

“Ji Chui Yu.”

“Nicknamed ‘the man who doesn’t love’¹⁶, the womaniser Ji Chui Yu?”

“Yes.”

“Great.” Within a moment, Qu Qing Yin removes herself from her alluring demoness demeanour, her face instantly cold like ice, as she separates herself from him with additional distance.

This before and after image really is like the difference between the heavens and earth! “So about tonight?”

“You come sleep in my room, I’ll sleep in yours.” The front half of her sentence had his soul sent flying to heaven, whilst the latter half was a direct hit, knocking him back down to his senses.

¹⁶ Once again had to alter the translation here slightly. Whilst I referred to Ji Chui Yu’s nickname as ‘**the man who doesn’t love**’, Xi Meng actually uses a more lengthy phrase – **passing through a million flowers, yet nothing allures him** or **wàn huā cóng zhōng guò, piàn yè bù zhān shēn / 万花丛中过, 片叶不沾身** which means that although he attracts many beauties (welcomes them even), he himself has never fallen into the love trap.

Should have known earlier that things would not go as smoothly she says, Liu Feng shakes his head, suddenly looking at her thoughtfully.

Qu Qing Yin's sleepy eyes adds to her cold expression, looking as though she has not slept.

"Qing Yin, when you used to hunt down criminals, did you ever pretend to be a seductress?"

Just then, for her to act it out so smoothly as if it is how she generally behaves every day, there must be a catch.

"So what if I did?"

Liu Feng's hands clenches, for the first time he had the desire to kill. "Words going around states that gentleman Xiao Yao would never kill." She raises her brows at him in a rather mocking way.

Liu Feng does not laugh, only looking at her with profound respect, "What if I leave them suffering a fate better dead than alive?"

Qu Qing Yin chuckles out loud, "So there was still this option, but too bad, those that have made me resort to this tactic, have generally died a brutal death, if you wish to find them, you can only go and negotiate with Lord Yan (*Judge of the Underworld*)." She was not done speaking, "Right now, have you decided how you would like to die?"

Liu Feng laughs, slipping to her ear side, "How about I die on top of you?"

Qu Qing Yin raises her hand wanting to slap him across the face.

Liu Feng laughs and grabs hold of her hand, squinting his eyes at her, "You really used this move on other people before?"

Qu Qing Yin raises her brows.

"Answer me." He speaks in a dignified manner.

"What's it got to do with you?" As if she can be bothered with him.

Turning her face towards him, he very seriously looks her in the eyes, one word by one word, he speaks: "I want the truth."

Qu Qing Yin reaches up to break his hold on her, he perseveres with a tight grip, clenching at her chin, causing her pain, she could not help but to reach up and hit him, "It hurts, let go."

"Answer me."

"So what if I did? So what if I didn't?"

"Fine let the past be bygones, from now on you must never use this tactic again."

"As if I need your care." Angered, her chin clenched by him is hurting to death.

Liu Feng suddenly laughs again, letting go of her chin, he hugs her and says: "With your skills, sharing a bedroom would be too much of a concern, but, these sets of skills you have learnt, all touches upon the crucial essences, even my soul would have been gouged out by you."

"Let go. Who let you be so outrageous?" Must this person's hands always be on her?

Liu Feng laughs as he releases her, allowing her to get up, and grabs the fallen ice pack to continue tending to his face.

Qu Qing Yin straightens out her slightly messed up outfit, unable to stop herself from looking at a certain someone with a bitter glare. That dear friend actually had the decency to laugh even more joyously.

"Qing Yin, tonight I will really be going to your room to sleep."

"Go ahead."

He continues applying the ice to his face as he walks up to her side.

"How about you don't go either, let us stay together."

Qu Qing Yin grabs hold of a teacup from the stone table and glares at him.

Liu Feng knew better to take two steps back, laughing along as he says, "Just joking, but, are you really going to go and trouble Ji Chui Yu?"

"You have a problem?"

"No, no," he dryly coughs twice, "His martial arts is not weak, you should be careful, but, don't you ever use that tactic on him. Temporarily, I do not have any intentions to slay him."

With but one move, Qu Qing Yin had the cup in hand slamming into the stone table, the cup may not have entirely gone in, but the mouth of the cup is flatly in line with the surface.

Such a beautiful move!

Liu Feng completely understands now, this no-nonsense lady, if he continues teasing her again, looks like he will be the one to suffer the terrible consequences in the end.

People need to understand and accept the truth.



Shi Fu was indeed correct, once a person tears off the skin on their face¹⁷, then there is nothing they cannot do. Seeing a certain someone help himself in through the window, uninvited at night, this was what went through Qu Qing Yin's mind.

"You want to switch rooms to sleep in?" She looks at him, very calmly asking, casually re-tying the belt of her outfit.

Liu Feng did little to avoid the hindsight meaning of those words, just staring straight ahead: "Get dressed, we are going out."

Qu Qing Yin raises her eyebrows, "Going out?"

Liu Feng leans against the table in front of the window, arms crossed in front of his chest, sparkling eyes looking directly at her, "When I close my eyes, all I see is you seducing me in broad daylight. There is no way I can sleep, so I just came to get you to come admiring the moon with me."

"You're the one who can't sleep, not like I can't sleep. Go admire it yourself."

"Looking at the moon would also just make me think of you. If you were to accompany me then that should not happen."

Qu Qing Yin tilts her head as she looks at him, then looks at the already prepared bed, casually walking up to the bed, she sits down. Directly sending him a smile, "How about, you come sleep with me?"

Liu Feng relentlessly pounds at his chest several times, appeasing his restless heart, asking her with a sigh: "Is this how you blatantly make me feel bad?"

"I mean it, let's sleep together, if you can withstand it then come."

¹⁷ o **tear off the skin on your face** – as gory as it may sound – it actually means to rid yourself of feeling any shame. I think it's easier to understand such phrases if you understand the notion of 'face' in Chinese culture, which is quite hard for me to explain here. I would like to say it's about dignity and respect of oneself, but it also goes way beyond that.

Liu Feng was really shocked, "You....."

"I need to sleep. I definitely will not be going out to accompany you admire the moon."

"You sure you know what you're saying?"

Qu Qing Yin runs her hand through her loose hair, blandly speaking: "I know. I already said, as long as you can withstand it, then you can come sleep with me, if you have no self-confidence, then go admire the moon by yourself."

"Just so that you don't need to come out and admire the moon with me, you are willing to let me sleep in the same bed as you?" He feels as though it must be him who is hearing wrong.

"Can't I?"

Liu Feng slaps himself in the head, feeling that his own moral bottom line is being challenged once again. "If I really go ahead and sleep with you, do you understand the consequences of this?"

Qu Qing Yin plays with her long hair, and looks at him sceptically, saying: "In the deepest hours of night, instead of sleeping you climb into my room through the window, trying to make me go out to admire the moon with you. The consequences of others finding out about this, is there any difference?"

Hearing this, he rubs his nose, unamused.

"What's your decision?"

Liu Feng looks out of the window, then looks at the bed. He finds that no matter what decision he makes, both are wonderful ideas. "You wouldn't regret it?"

"Regret what?"

"Your decision."

“I won’t regret it. What’s your decision then?”

Liu Feng turns and shuts the window, Qu Qing Yin lifts her feet and lays down on the bed, leaving the outer spot for him.

Once Liu Feng walks up to the bed, he inwardly sighs to himself. He does not know himself whether this decision is correct. If halfway through the night he breaks the rules of propriety, then it looks like he will get to see what the rumoured Ling Long Dao is like.

Speaking of which, this is strange, when he was staying in his own room, his mind was full of her sultry attitude that had him trapped in enchantment, but now that he is really sharing a room with her, his heart has cleared up its conscience.

Her breathing is steady, proving that she is indeed calm at heart.

“Qing Yin.”

“Just sleep.”

“Why do you dare to do this?”

“Want to know?”

“En.”

“When you were deeply thinking in the room, there were no sense of crisis, but once you have laid next to me, you would be thinking about the possibility of such crisis, in the end nothing happened.”

“Today, had it been someone else, would it have been the same?” He suddenly felt agitated.

“Heng.” Qu Qing Yin lets out a cold scoff, “What do you think?”

Liu Feng immediately understands that he has asked a stupid question, and could only rub his nose, “Do you think the Mount Zi Ying Manor’s incident is the rapist’s doings?”

“You already have an answer for that, do you not?”

“Say, who do you think would use the rapist’s name to do such thing?”

“I do not solve problems for others for free.”

“It isn’t good for girls to get lost in money issues.”

“I only know that going in accordance of labour, search, and payment is perfectly justified.”

“No exceptions?”

“No, definitely not. If it is you asking, then I would even increase the price.”

“Why?”

“Because I am happy with that.” What can he do?

Liu Feng could do nothing but sigh, both hands folded on his belly, staring above the bed to organise his thoughts.

Besides him, the person’s breathing gradually grew evenly stretched out, falling into deep sleep.

Liu Feng silently laughs, she actually feels too at ease around him, or is it that she is too confident in herself?

Having walked the Jiang Hu for so many years, to meet a lady like her is really the first, behaviour ever so changeable, acting in ways far beyond that of others’ expectations, but once you think about it, it is actually really reasonable.

Her temper can be said to contain adequate mood swings, and does not keep to many rules of etiquette. Between good and evil, she is a paradox of both. A person like this, often acts fearlessly, probably for good, on the contrary also probably for evil. Good or bad, depends on how she is feeling, what mood she is in.

Just like tonight, she did not feel like admiring the moon with him, and so directly suggests to sleep with him instead, such act, even demonesses of the evil cults, may not necessarily be able to pull off, but granted she did it so naturally, righteously and justifiably.

To like a lady like this, Liu Feng feels that he needs plenty of spirit. Because she could very possibly treat him with such tenderness one moment, and cross swords with him the next.

Er..... maybe he should go to the temple to pray, perhaps it will be more secure that way?

How does it feel to be on the same bed as a lady? In the past Liu Feng was not sure, but now he knows.

The sunlight creeps in through the paper window screens, brightly lighting up the room.

Summer skies just has to brighten up too early, in the past he did not think this, today he seriously feels that the early brightening of the skies is just too hateful. They had clearly marked their boundary line on the bed before sleeping last night, so although there is a clear distinction, the feeling is still different.

Qu Qing Yin turns her body as she awakens, seeing him, she could not help but to raise her eyebrows, "You've still not left?"

"Huh?"

"In a while the manor's envoy would be bringing breakfast over, quickly leave."

Liu Feng crawls over to her, placing her hand on his chest. He emits a low laugh and says: "Us being like this, does it not sound like words shared between a scandalous couple after waking up in the morning?"

Qu Qing Yin directly shoves him off the bed, and smashes a pillow onto his body, cursing: “Get lost.”

Liu Feng laughs as he gets up from the floor, returning the pillow back. He then tidies up his attire, opens the door and leaves.

Qu Qing Yin secretly grinds her teeth at the direction he had left in, before getting up to freshen herself.

On the other hand, after leaving Qu Qing Yin’s room, Liu Feng returns to his own room, the look on his face makes a sudden change, the fan in hand opening with a ‘hua~’, as he enters laughing. Walking in as he speaks: “As soon as I smelt it, I know that the drunkard you are yet again the dove occupying the magpie’s nest¹⁸.”

Inside the room comes the sound of a slightly tipsy man, “It is rare of you to have let me catch you not in your room. I heard that in this courtyard there also lives a beautiful lady. What? You slept there last night?”

“What about you? Why have you not gone finding lady Zhang to sleep with, and instead came to my place?”

Whilst speaking, both men in the room directly confronts each other, both men as radiantly handsome as the other, but did not share the same charms.

¹⁸ Another proverb used here haha. **The dove occupying the magpie’s nest** or **jiū zhàn què cháo le / 鳩占鹊巢** 了 – the meaning is pretty straightforward but it basically means when **someone occupies a place that does not belong to them**.



Ji Chui Yu half leans against the headboard of the bed, his shirt open, revealing the uninhibited debauchery of a womaniser, he carefully eyes Liu Feng up and down, dismissively waving his hand in disinterest, “What did you do last night?”

“I slept with a lady.” Liu Feng speaks the honest truth.

Ji Chui Yu scornfully sweeps his eyes towards him, “You had only slept with her right?”

He calmly sits aside on a chair, “It is not like I am you, be it something you should do or should not do, you’d do it all.”

“If the man is not a bad one, women would not love him. They all just love my wickedness to death.”

“Don’t overfill yourself with words, there are definitely ladies out there that do not like such character like yours.”

“It is fine as long as a huge number of ladies likes it.” Ji Chui Yu lazily stretches his not-so-decent waist on the bed, and places his feet on the ground, he walks over to the table to pour himself a cup of cold tea to drink.

“So about the rapist’s whereabouts.....”

Ji Chui Yu extends his index finger, shaking it side to side, “Mount Zi Ying Manor’s incident definitely would not be his doings.”

“Oh?”

“Right now there is a high chance that he is still outside the region.”

“Outside?” Liu Feng looks unsettled.

“Yes, seems like he has been lured there by someone.”

Liu Feng remains silent, he thinks back to some words he had heard before the ‘elimination of evil’ bounty hunt.

Ji Chui Yu is aware of his strange expression, asking him, “Is there anything wrong?”

Liu Feng smiles, waving his fan, “Nothing, just thought of someone, suddenly feel like this person is full of mysteries.”

Ji Chui Yu smiles with clear understanding, “A girl right.” Pausing for a moment, he points out of the room. “The girl staying in this courtyard.”

Liu Feng does not answer. “According to your analysis, how long has the rapist been outside the region for?”

Ji Chui Yu thinks for a little while, “At the very least, a month, he seems to be looking for something or someone.”

“If that is the case, the thing or person he is searching for must be of great importance to him.”

“Definitely, if not he wouldn’t have not even shown up when Mount Zhong Yi Manor released the heroes notice.”

“If the rapist had been outside the region for so long already, then the several cases within the area cannot be his doings.”

“Not really, after all, none of us knows if the rapist have any men under him.”

Liu Feng nods in acknowledgement of this point, “It would be great if we find out who the rapist is avoiding with dread.”

Ji Chui Yu sighs, "That won't be easy."

Hearing this Liu Feng quips with a laugh, saying: "There are also tasks that you, Ji Chui Yu finds difficult?"

"I'm human, not a God, of course I would have my own difficulties." Ji Chui Yu looks at him suspiciously, "You have been spoken of by Jiang Hu people to such level of heavenly being, but in the end, are you also just a human, or are you still a young chick that has yet to rid of their overalls." (He's referring to Liu Feng virginity XD)

Liu Feng strengthens the movement of his fan, glaring at him, "Still better than a womaniser like you who reads the best of a thousand sails."

"That's not true, the ladies just love men like me to death."

Ji Chui Yu upon hearing movement in the courtyard, extends his hand to open the window, once he sees the smoothly slim figure in the courtyard, his eyebrows twitches, playfully looking back, "You have good eyes."

Liu Feng walks up to his side, very bluntly hits his shoulder with force, "Of course they're good."

The gentleman casually speaks, rubbing his chin, after thinking for a while, he snaps his fingers, "I say, this lady looks so familiar. So I have seen her before."

Liu Feng side glances him.

Ji Chui Yu nudges his friend with his shoulder, wickedly speaking: "Want to know where I have seen her?"

Liu Feng scoffs at him, "Save the nonsense."

"This is no understanding flower, when she kills, her hand raises and the sword immediately cuts, neat and tidy. That is definitely a female

fiend. I have only met eyes when passing by her, and the cold sweat came oozing out from the bottom of my heart.”



“You have seen her use her blade?”

Ji Chui Yu nods, “A blade that I could not even catch a clear appearance of, that was the most fastest, most vicious, most evil spirited blade I have ever seen.”

“Who was it that died?”

“How could you not ask when I had seen it?”

Liu Feng just goes with the flow, “When did you see it?”

“About three, four years ago.”

“Three, four years ago?” At that time she must not have stepped foot in the Jiang Hu for long, her name still not known.

Ji Chui Yu continues looking at the person in the courtyard, “Right now she looks much more approachable than before, her face also looks prettier, had I not seen her before, I would probably have really thought she is a gentle and refined lady.”

The person in the courtyard seems to be aware of being watched, casually glancing to the side.

Ji Chui Yu raises the teapot in his hand in acknowledgement.

Qu Qing Yin sees that there were two men stood side by side at the window, and was little startled.

“Qing Yin, come here. I’ll introduce you, this is Ji Chui Yu.”

“Oh?” Qu Qing Yin walks forward a few steps, hearing the name, she stops, eyes slightly narrowed.

Ji Chui Yu takes two steps back, poking at a certain someone’s waist, “Little Feng, have you been speaking ill of me in front of her? This lady’s expression doesn’t look right.”

Liu Feng looks on with an innocent face, spreading both arms, “I had only told her, that you once said to me ‘the reason why a womaniser can get so many women, is because he is shameless enough to do so’.”

Ji Chui Yu glares at him, “Don’t you tell me now, you then showed her your shamelessness.”

“I was only thinking that your words truly are words of wisdom.”

“It is only when I get to my eighth lifetime lintel¹⁹ do I befriend someone like you who forgets friendship over beauty, a rascal who betrays his own friends.”

“Ji Chui Yu?” Qu Qing Yin was at the window within a flash of a step, watching the people inside slightly smiling.

¹⁹ **The eighth life time lintel** or **bā bèi zi méi / 八輩子楣** – I may be familiar with the use of this term but I never actually wondered how it came along, so I done a bit searching and to be honest, the majority of this explanation is just me interpreting it all but it seems to make sense hahaha. First of all a lintel is a horizontal support of timber, stone, concrete, or steel across the top of a door so you can consider that a metaphor for the ‘obstacle’/challenge you have to go through to move on from your lifetime. Hence the term **dǎo méi / 倒楣** (literal translation: befall of lintel) which is the Chinese equivalent of saying bad luck, it is basically saying ‘bad luck has befallen’. But the eighth lifetime one is considered the worst bad luck you would ever get. As for the meaning of the eighth lifetime, I found out that zero was not created by the Chinese, so Chinese people counted up to nine at most back then, which means the ninth lifetime is the last. Therefore once you get to the obstacle in your eighth lifetime there is still challenges to come – another lifetime for you to **dǎo méi / 倒楣**...I hope I explained that well enough for you guys to understand, I mean it was quite a wordy explanation haha

Ji Chui Yu collects himself, delivering her a fist holding greeting, "That is indeed I, how should lady be addressed?"

Qu Qing Yin scrutinises him, the corner of her lips lifting, spreading her smile wider, "I have seen you before, at Chuan Shan Road." At that time she had an adulterer in captivity, an unscrupulous criminal to kill, right when her killing spirits was at its strongest.

Liu Feng smiles at his friend and says: "Looks like it is not just you with great memory, her memory is also really great."

"I just did not think that back then, the person I had met eyes with, was actually Jiang Hu's well known womaniser Ji Chui Yu."

Liu Feng laughs and asks: "And had you have known?"

Qu Qing Yin eyes him, "At that time, what's it got to do with me?"

Liu Feng laughs out loud, well said. When things has got nothing to do with her, she would not give the slightest bit of care.

Ji Chui Yu also glares at him.

Liu Feng smiles, introducing to him, "Surname Qu, Qu Qing Yin."

"That is not a bad name."

"Gentleman Ji's name also isn't bad."

"Lady come in and sit."

"No need, this reunion of old friends between you two, I better not intrude on. In a while, I shall just tell the envoy to leave my share of breakfast in my room." The latter half of the sentence she directs towards Liu Feng.

Liu Feng nods, "If there is nothing going on, then it is better to not leave the manor."

She only replies two words, "So fussy."

Seeing her turn to leave, Ji Chui Yu's face lights up with a taunting smile, "Little Feng, you have truly met a female fiend that will torment you. Senior Brother I would only like to say to you 'best of luck'."

Liu Feng snappily swats his hand away, "Thanks."



The second time Liu Feng jumps in through Qu Qing Yin's windows, she was in the middle of reading a book.

It is clear that she had just taken a bath, her long hair still damp, looks like she is waiting for her hair to dry before sleeping.

"What have you come here for?" She casually asks unperturbed.

"To sleep." He simply answers.

"Your room does not seem to be this one."

Liu Feng directly heads to her bed and lays down, both hands cushioning his head, saying: "Can I say that there is a dove occupying the magpie's nest?"

"Ji Chui Yu?"

"En."

“He has been working hard day and night these past few days. So tonight he came here to catch up on sleep?”

Her mocking tone made Liu Feng laugh, he turns over to look at her, “Must you really speak without the slightest bit of obscuration?”

Qu Qing Yin disagrees, “What I said is the truth, is it not?”

“Even if it is the truth, a lady like you saying it like that is a bit.....”

“What about you? A grown up man like you always coming to spend the night at a lady’s room, what is the meaning of this?”

“How could you say ‘always’, this is no more than the second time.”

“Really?”

“If you have no objections, then I think that having it become ‘always’ is no problem.”

Qu Qing Yin coldly glances over at him, then continues reading her book.

Liu Feng proceeds to speak on: “This gathering is almost over, after this where are you planning to go?”

“What do you want?”

“I was thinking, for ‘no more’ to become ‘always’, I will definitely have to follow you to get the chance.”

Qu Qing Yin places down the book in hand, walks over to the window, reaches out and closes it, then heads towards the bed.

Liu Feng silently waits to see what she is planning.

She places her hand on the lapel of her clothing, looks at him, and speaks with seriousness: “If I give myself to you, would you no longer follow me around?”

Liu Feng lies flat on the bed, looking above the bed, his voice sounding heavy, "I really want to yes, but, if that is the case, I most likely would not be able to let you go even more."

Hearing this, Qu Qing Yin laughs, her hand pulls open her clothing, revealing the peach coloured undergarment inside.

Snow white clothes slowly falling to the ground, she step by step walks towards the bed.

Liu Feng had already closed his eyes, "Qing Yin, men cannot continuously withhold being repeatedly aroused."

Qu Qing Yin throws aside her undergarments by the bed, her body leaning onto his, "Liu Feng, you want it, I am also willing, is this not satisfaction for both of us?"

Liu Feng can feel the pressure of her graceful body on his own, his throat could not help but tighten, his hands sweating profusely. "You're.....really sure?"

"Of course."

Within an instant, he flips her over, pressing her under him. His hand reaching out, letting the curtains down in one move. Then within an instant his clothing were strewn out all over the floor.



.....

Qu Qing Yin's eyes remains closed, her entire being still in the intoxicating world of wonders, yet to return to reality.

"My Qing Yin." He lowly whispers to her, he deeply kisses her, continuously sucking on her lips.

Qu Qing Yi avoids the urging of his lips and tongue, placing her hand on his chest, she cannot bear it any longer and delicately pleads, "Don't."

Liu Feng insists on pestering her, his hand still on the midsection of her body, travelling up, "I only just got the knack of this, savouring the best, how could I stop now?"

Qu Qing Yin smacks him, "Already done a few rounds, I'm so tired."

"But just then your scream was most – soulful."

Qu Qing Yin's entire face turns red, her hands forcefully pounds at him, "Asshole."

Liu Feng lowly laughs, "This asshole that you really like?"

She reaches out and pinches his lips together, "Right now I hate to death, had I known earlier, I would not have given you anything."

Liu Feng spreads her legs open, once again entering her, thrusting as he lowly laughs, saying: "Medicine for regret cannot be bought in this world, you just have to accept your fate."

Because of the force he was using her on her, Qu Qing Yin's hands shoots up to grab his shoulders, like a fish with oxygen deficiency, her lips parts, gasping for air, the seductive look in her eyes could not be concealed, provoking the person on top to grow increasingly out of control.

Deep into the passionate night, the joyous frequency gradually fades out. The rooster cries, signalling morning.

Chapter 6

After a lingering night, he is still him, she is still her.

Everything seems to be the same.

The only change would probably be when Ji Chui Yu saw his good friend's refreshed face after spring (meaning his 'new' self after losing his virginity), he raises his brows in surprise, jokingly saying a word of, "Congrats."

Liu Feng turns and credits him with a knowing laugh.

Qu Qing Yin, because of a certain someone's overly hard work, could only rest in her room for a few days, when she had finally left her room, the heroes gathering was already over, those that were staying at the mountain manor had left one after the other, now there were only a handful of people left, and so she organises her belongings, preparing to leave.

Liu Feng seeing her leave her room, walks up and takes the bag from her hand, wearing it on his own back, "Let's go, we need to go say our goodbyes to the Manor Master."

"Manor Master?" Seems like since she came to Mount Zhong Yi Manor she had never seen this Manor Master Guan, before leaving the place, she should at least say goodbye to the owner."

"Seems like this time around, you never got to see him."

"Never had the chance."

"It is you who did not want to see him right?" He laughs as he exposes her.

Qu Qing Yin does not directly answer him, only smiling.

When they reach the guest hall, Ji Chui Yu had already arrived a step ahead of them, and was currently conversing with Manor Master Guan.

"[Older] Brother Guan, Chui Yu." Liu Feng walks in with a fist holding greeting, "I had you both waiting for long."

“There is no such thing, this time we never got the chance to sit down and have a nice chat, did not think that once we got spare time you would already be leaving.” Guan Guang En says regretfully.

Liu Feng laughs and says: “This time we do not have the fortune. Then next time, we will definitely have the chance.”

Guan Guang En looks aside to Qu Qing Yin, laughingly saying: “This must be lady Qu, this time around, if this spacious manor has treated you without enough hospitality and respect, I ask for lady’s forgiveness.”

“Manor Master Guan is too polite, this esteemed manor makes one feel at home, if not inappropriate, I’m afraid that I would want to stay here for longer and not leave.”

Guan Guang En laughs out loud, “If lady likes, drop by whenever you want, this spacious manor would always welcome you.”

“Manor Master really is too polite.”

Guan Guang En waves his hand, “I am not being polite, whenever lady wants to, just come, treat this place like your own home, just like [Younger] Brother Liu here.”

Qu Qing Yin glances at Liu Feng, and promises with a smile, “Then I am very thankful to Manor Master, I will definitely come by sometime.”

“You must definitely come.”

“Of course.”

Guan Guang En reaches out to pat Liu Feng on the shoulders, speaking quite emotionally, “Seeing you today, I can rest assured, whilst wandering the four seas, it is still much better to have a destination in mind.”

Liu Feng smiles but does not speak.

“The Grand Madam²⁰ has arrived.”

The moment the escort by the door reports, everyone inside stands up in greeting

Grand Madam Guan is a generous looking elderly, she receives the support of two female attendants to sit down on the master seat, and smiles down at Qu Qing Yin, “This lady truly has a refreshingly delicate appearance, come, let me take a look.”

Qu Qing Yin curtly walks up to greet, “Grand Madam.”

Grand Madam Guan steadily nods her head, grabbing hold of her hands, and gives them a pat, “Looking now, I can see you are not bad, gentle and virtuous.”

Ji Chui Yu lowers his head and secretly laughs, looks wise she is gentle and kind, but when it comes to killing she can also be a fiend who even the heavenly deities will back away from.

Liu Feng could only stand aside, smiling as he watches on.

“This lady of yours I like, come, I shall give you this hairpin.” Grand Madam Guan takes out from her hair, a hairpin with a body of brilliant gold, topped with an emerald coloured jade piece as big as one’s thumb, happily laughing as she plugs it into Qu Qing Yin’s hair.

It would have been disrespectful for Qu Qing Yin to refuse the gift, and so she could only accept it, she pays her respects with a grand gesture, bowing down, “Many thanks for Grand Madam’s luxurious gift.”

“Our meeting here is a fateful encounter, no need to thank me.”

Qu Qing Yin takes out the jade box from the scent sachet hanging on her waist, presenting it upfront, “Grand Madam’s gift, this junior although lacking, ought to repay, this is junior’s personally grinded jade moisture

²⁰ The **grand madam** or **Lǎo fū rén** / 老夫人 would be the mother of the Manor Master The literal translation is actually old madam, which sounds quite rude in English haha, after all with age comes more power and dignity. As the mother of the Zhuang Zhu, she of course holds a lot of authority, more so than Zhuang Zhu himself as it is basic morals to show respect to your elders and filial piety to your parents.

cream, I gift it to you. May you remain ever youthful, blessed with longevity.”

Grand madam Guan laughs and accepts the gift, opening it to smell, “Mm, the smell is light and elegant, the cream has also been grinded to a great fluorescent and soft quality, just one glance and I can see it is not average, this is ingenuity.”

“As long as Grand Madam likes it.”

“You gifting me this cream, if it is of good use to this elderly, but cannot get hold of anymore after, what to do?” Grand Madam Guan jokingly asks her.

Qu Qing Yin laughs and answers, “If it suits Grand Madam’s taste, Qing Yin shall write out the formula and send it to Grand Madam, you can just have your people follow the instructions.”

“You have no problem with that?”

“From the beginning it was made to use, of course there is no problem.” Qu Qing Yin smiles to the female attendant at the side, “May I trouble this sister to get some paper, brush and ink.”

The attendant sounds her reply, and retreats to fetch the supplies. After a little while, she comes back with the paper, brush and ink. Qu Qing Yin proceeds to write the formula with sufficient details, blows dry the words and passes it over for the Grand Madam to see.

Grand Madam Guan observes the paper of beautifully graceful brush strokes, each clearly written without losing the intensity of the words, she nods approvingly, “Truly a calm mind with ingenious hands, the idle quality of a heart of orchids. I wonder who will be the lucky one to receive your hand in marriage.”

Qu Qing Yin lowers her head in avoidance of the topic.

At this time, Liu Feng walks up, saying: “It is getting late, Grand Madam, Brother Guan, we shall take our leave first. Till we meet again.”

“Till we meet again.”

Guan Guang En shows them out, all the way till they are out of the valley. Liu Feng and the other two gets on the horses and leaves, yet he still stays till he can no longer see their figures, finally turning back to return to the mountain manor.

Back in the guest hall, Grand Madam Guan is still sat in her seat, seeing her son return, she asks, “Already left?”

“Yeah.”

Grand madam could not help but let out a sigh, “One years’ time, it was such a rare opportunity for them come here.”

“Mother.”

“I’m fine, but that lady really isn’t bad, she is different from the usual Jiang Hu people, understands etiquette, thorough knowledge in the rudiments of writing, those handwritten words, ah~, one glance can tell she has been taught by a great master, with graceful manners, clearly received high court’s admonishments, really don’t know how she ended up in the Jiang Hu, just like a bright pearl thrown into darkness.”

Guan Guang En says: “Had she not, how could [Younger] Brother Feng have met her then?”

Grand Madam Guan laughs, “Such words are indeed true, in the end it comes down to fate. Already twenty five years old and only now has a lady caught his eyes, this really is a rare occurrence.”

“That’s true, from what your son sees, Brother Feng is even under that lady’s suppression by quite a fraction.”

Grand Madam laughs even more merrily, rubbing the jade box in her hand, saying: “That little monkey should rightfully have someone who can put him under control.”

Guan Guang En also laughs along, and the person who became their subject of conversation lets out several sneezes on the horseback.



No matter how long the journey, there is always an end to it. No matter how far apart the ends of the world are, hearts of friends remains close.

Ji Chui Yu had parted ways with them three days ago, continuing his journey to explore the world's boundless beauties.

And during these three days, Qu Qing Yin and Liu Feng had always been at peace, when resting at the inn, both lodge in their own room, just like the usual companions.

Inside her room, Qu Qing Yin sits in front of the mirror, slowly applying scented cream, her just-bathed skin is particularly soft and smooth. At this moment, the window makes a soft sound, someone had silently jumped in, but she does not look back.

A pair of big hands wraps around her waist, embracing her entire body as he secures her on his lap. "Why did you come over today?" Qu Qing Yin coldly asks, beginning to comb through her wet hair, not showing the slightest sign of mood swings because he had come in.

Liu Feng's hands had already slithered inside her clothing, impatiently rubbing one of her peaks, gently massaging it, saying: "Your body is clean today right?"

She raises her brows, "How do you know?"

"Of course I know, it looks on in despair when I can only look at you, how could I not be concerned?"

Qu Qing Yin immediately spits at him.

Liu Feng patiently waits for her comb her hair, before picking her up and heads to the bed, hastily climbing on.

Qu Qing Yin felt an astringent pain caused by his eagerness, and could no help but to beat him a few times, "What are you doing?"

"What do you think.....after last time – we never did it again.....Liu junior is also going crazy....."

Whether Liu junior has gone crazy or not, Qu Qing Yin did not know, but the person on top of her sure is crazy. Like somersaulting over and over again he tosses her around throughout the night, where is the rumoured indomitable spirit, with heavenly righteousness Hero? This is totally a big pervert.

After a vividly joyous time, Liu Feng fondles with person in his arms, whilst lowly asking, "Did it hurt?"

"Much better than the first night." Her answer is very honest.

He chuckles, "This thing really gives people a great taste, leaving them unable to hold back."

"That rascal Ji Chui Yu told you this too?" Qu Qing Yin narrows her eyes.

Liu Feng reaches up and squeezes her chin, thinking that although in this moment her mood has quite a bit of killing intent, a cute side to her also brightly shines through.

“Regarding matters between men and women he is indeed an asshole, but you cannot deny that some of his words are very reasonable.”

Qu Qing Yin swats his hand away, rubbing her chin, sounding a ‘heng’, she disapprovingly says: “He had so many women, exactly is it him who slept with them, or them who slept with him? Can such difference be cleared?”

Liu Feng who was surprised for a moment, suddenly bursts out in laughter, grabbing hold of her and rolls around on the bed a few times, his laugh unrestrained as he speaks: “What you said is just too true.”

Her face of a matter of fact expression, “It is originally so.”

“It is already deep into the night, sleep.”

Qu Qing Yin pushes him, unable to push him away, she stops, “Tomorrow let us go our separate ways.”

Liu Feng closed eyes does not open, only asking: “Why?”

“I have matters to attend to.”

“Can’t we stay together?”

Qu Qing Yin takes a moment of silence, “Such matter I would like to attend to alone.”

“Is there danger?”

“What danger, I am only going to clean up my parents, and Shi Fu’s graves.”

“Then I insist on going together.”

“To do what?”

He opens his eyes, reaches out and slightly scrapes her nose, “Silly girl, your body is already mine, of course I have to go with you to pay my respects to father and mother in law, Shi Fu too.”

“Not like you married me, stop talking nonsense.” Qu Qing Yin brushes his hand away, feeling some grievances.

“Whenever you want to wed, then I shall marry, I can even marry you now.”

Qu Qing Yin knocks on his head, feeling agitated, she says: “It is already midnight, don’t be crazy.”

Liu Feng returns such words to her, “You’re one to talk, already midnight and you are not sleeping, suddenly speaking of parting ways. Is it because I did not work hard enough before, for you to have the leisurely time to be thinking all over the place?”

Qu Qing Yin smacks him right on the chest, spitting out: “Really is the more I get to know you, the more I don’t dare to recognise you.”

Liu Feng lightly pecks her lips, laughing as he speaks: “I shall let you see this side of me then.”

“I beg to be excused. What’s there to see, no different from a pervert.” She grandly does not hold back and fires the words at him.

Liu Feng pulls her into his embrace, extending his finger to dab at her lips, he says with complete seriousness: “Qing Yin, I do not care if you are hiding something from me, deceiving me, I only care for your safety.”

Qu Qing Yin was feeling drowsy, thinking to herself, could it be he knows something?

Someone who is recognised as Wu Lin’s number scholar, must be a someone of high intellect, to be in contact with such intellectual, sometimes even when being too careful, you cannot be sure you have not left behind any traces.

“Every person has something they do not want others to know, therefore I will not force you to come out clean to me, but do not make

me worry, your safety is of utmost importance, do not take dangerous risks." Liu Feng looks at her very seriously, very seriously pleading her.

"It is not like I am ill, why should I insist on finding dangerous tasks to do?" She does not answer but asks back.

Liu Feng laughs, but his laughter does not reaches his eyes, "You and I both know, in this world there are tasks that are dangerous but has reasons for it to be done, reasons that makes it impossible not to get it done, but I do not wish for you to have such tasks that must be done."

"And if I do?"

"I'm coming." He says it with such decisiveness and resolution, without the slightest hint of hesitation.

Qu Qing Yin bursts out laughing with a 'pu chi' sound, wrapping her arms around his waist, she says: "Shi Fu once said, the words men say on the bed, are most un-trustable. Say, should I trust you?"

Liu Feng bitterly laughs, "Your Shi Fu really....."

"Really did thoroughly figure out what the hearts of men are like?"

Liu Feng shakes his head and continues to laugh.

Qu Qing Yin rests her head on top of his chest, her voice revealing a trace of weariness, her speech also somewhat vague, "Do you know why I wanted to give myself to you that night?"

"Why?"

She lowly laughs in his embrace, "Liu Feng, do you know how I felt went I heard Ji Chui Yu say you were still a young chick (a virgin)?"

Hearing this, Liu Feng's face heated up, she heard that?

“Shi Fu has also once said, if I ever meet someone who is not bad, someone who I also like, and also happens to be someone who is willingly as pure as jade, then I must take the upper hand and make him mine.”

Exactly what kind of Shi Fu is this? Liu Feng reaches up to rub his temple.

The person his embrace still continues to speak: “I used to believe his words were just irresponsible remarks, not bothering to listen to them.”

“Then why did you still.....”

“But at that time I felt that your intentions really weren’t bad, and I myself did not hate it.”

Liu Feng laughs and speaks: “You also tested me quite a few times, is that not right?”

Qu Qing Yin’s consciousness was becoming a little fuzzy, “How did I, I was only making use of the situations at hand, nothing more, who told you to take advantage of me.....?”

Liu Feng holds her close, sighing before he says: “I too just could not control my feelings, it could not be helped.”

The person in his arms had already fallen asleep, he places a kiss on her hair, and follows her into dreamland.

This is love. Who schemed who into it, is no longer important. What is important is that they both love each other.

On a day of light rain, people cannot help but to feel a bit under the weather. Liu Feng reaches out and pushes open the inn’s window, looking down at the sparse amount of pedestrians on the streets.

“The heavens really are not rewarding.” He sighs, then turns to look at the person at the dressing table.

Her outfit today is different from the usual, it does not carry the air of a Jiang Hu person at all.

Layers on top layers of clothing, there is at least a number six or seven layers. Her attire accentuated with exquisitely beautiful accessories, also adding a few more hair ornaments.

Her dressing like this, looks just like a fine lady from an aristocratic family.

Watching her get up and walk towards him, Liu Feng's heart lets out sigh, she really isn't revealing enough, sits without bending her knees, smiles without showing her teeth, moving without shaking her garments.

"Is this the real you?" He could not help but ask.

"If this is the real me, would I let you on my bed?"

Liu Feng laughs out loud, reaching out to pull her into his embrace, he lowers his head and plants a kiss on her lips, "Such words are indeed true."

Qu Qing Yin stands by his side, by the window. Her face showing grief, "The me like this is what my parents are familiar with, what Shi Fu wishes for me to be. That is why I have dressed like this to see them, only then can their hearts rest assured."

Liu Feng gives her shoulder a strong pat, his hand reaching out for the umbrella, "Let's go, the carriage I have hired is waiting below."

Qu Qing Yin grabs hold of his hands, "Liu Feng, you and I have not yet wedded, it is not right for you to go."

Liu Feng loudly sighs, "Qing Yin, of course it is a must for me to comply with these formalities, I believe the elders would even more like to see you have someone to rely on for the rest of your life."

"You going really is wrong though." She insists.

Liu Feng's hand reaches up to her face, attentively looking at her, her expression does not disclose any information, he closes his eyes, puts down his hand, and holds onto her shoulders, "Fine then, since you are insisting on this, I believe you have a reason that you cannot tell me."

Qu Qing Yin lowers her head and says nothing.

"Go then, don't miss the hour, come back early, I shall be waiting at the inn for you."

She nods her head, accepting the umbrella from him before she turns and steps out the door.



Liu Feng watches her leave the inn from the window, getting onto the horse carriage, gradually blending into the rain, and slowly disappears from sight.

Reclining back on the window frame, both his arms are folded across his chest. The expression on his face looking deeper than water.

She does not trust him!

Even though she had given herself to him, she still does not trust him.

There is clearly something between her heart and his, not visible, not tangible, but there is truly something that is definitely there.

He had come with her to her hometown, but is not allowed to follow her to sweep the graves.

It is not that he cannot sneakily follow her, but he knows that if found out, the relationship between the two of them would end there, this is probably the reason why she is willing to let him follow her to her hometown.

She has always been a clever lady, so clever to the point it gives him some headaches.

It is difficult to travel on a rainy day, the horse carriage runs slowly, arriving at the halfway point, the carriage had even got caught in the mud, unable to get out.

Qu Qing Yin opens up the umbrella and steps off from the carriage, walking ahead on foot.

This rain falling from the heavens, is just like her state of mind right now, filled with sadness.

Every year around this time, this is when things feels most difficult, most miserable for her. Ever since Shi Fu has passed away, she has truly become lonesome with no family, living on in this world all alone. In the wilderness with not a single soul, Qu Qing Yin who is holding onto the apricot-yellow umbrella is just like passing smoke, not caring about the amount of mud dirtying her embroidered skirt and shoes.

Approximately four hours²¹ later, she stops outside a quiet little village.

In front of her were two graves, placing down the fruit offerings down on both of them, she lights the incense and joss paper.

²¹ I've converted the time here to the present day equivalent. Back in ancient China there were only twelve hours a day, so each hour or **shí chén** / 时辰, were equivalent to two hours of the present day. [Additional note: the twelve hours were also named after the zodiac animals in order, starting from the hour of rat – 11pm to 1am, all the way to the hour of the pig – 9pm to 11pm]

“Shi Fu, he has almost committed more than a lifetime’s worth of unpardonable sins²², in time Yin-er shall be going to collect his corpse, fulfilling yours and his master-disciple fate.”

Qu Qing Yin watches as the joss paper burn out in front of Shi Fu’s grave, sighing, she reaches out to place her hand on the gravestone, softly speaking: “But Yin-er still does not understand, he went as far as deceiving his master and betraying his ancestors, why do you still accept him as your disciple? Could it be that, even when walking the wrong path, you have to walk it to the very end, such thing is actually your true way of working?”

Between her words, the memory of Shi Fu’s old but powerful voice lapses before her eyes – your Shi Fu I have never admitted wrong in my lifetime.

This Shi Fu of hers who would never admit his wrong, ah~.....

The time for such occasion has passed by, Qu Qing Yin once again stands before both graves, hesitating repeatedly, before finally saying: “Father, mother, your daughter I has met someone, unfortunately, this person is difficult to keep in control, your daughter I had made a decision in a moment of haste, don’t know how I should follow on from there.” Her voice was cut off for a long time, before continuing, “Once I get this task done, between me and him, if our fate is still intact, then your daughter I shall bring him along to meet you both and Shi Fu.”

In front of the graves, ashes blends into the mud, the fruit offerings remain there despite the pouring rain, also in front of the graves, the smoothly slender figure is no longer there.

Not long after, Qu Qing Yin returns to where the horse carriage had gotten stuck, the coachman honestly and sincerely still there waiting

²² The actual phrase that was used here was *è guàn mǎn yíng* / 恶贯满盈 which I have already translated as accurately as possible in the above extract – **committed more than a lifetime’s worth of unpardonable sins/evil doings**. But the phrase also suggests that – it’s about time he receives heaven’s judgement.

there for her, she sits back in the carriage and returns to the little town called Hong Ye Town (Red Leaves Town).

The horse carriage parks up in front of the inn, a hand lifts the carriage curtains from outside.

Qu Qing Yin looks at the owner of the hand, not saying a word.

Liu Feng offers her a hand, "Come, I'll help you off."

She places her right hand on his, allowing him to support her as she steps down the carriage, she coldly speaks: "Scared I won't return?"

He asks back, "Have you ever thought of the possibility that I would be the one to leave first?"

Qu Qing Yin gives him the umbrella, entering the inn by herself, as she speaks without a care: "That will be perfect."

Liu Feng follows after her, "Really don't care?"

"En, there is a great saying, a three legged frog is hard to find, but a man with two legs is extremely easy to find."

She turns her head and gives him a glance as light as the clouds.

Liu Feng's hand wraps around her waist, leading her upstairs, "With this weather, watch out you don't catch a cold. Look at you, your hands are so cold. I asked the worker for some hot water, so you can take a nice hot bath."

Inside her room, Qu Qing Yin sits at her bed, falling into a daze.

Liu Feng lifts his robes and sits next to her, grabbing hold of her chilly hands, saying: "Should have let me accompany you, look at you going by yourself, and coming back looking like you lost your senses. Also," His hand reaches up to stroke the corner of her eyes, "How could you cry your eyes out to such state?"

Qu Qing Yin looks down to her feet, her voice almost gone with the wind, "Liu Feng, I made up my mind. Next year I will be bringing someone to go clean the graves with me, but I do not know if that person would be you."

"Then it will definitely be me. You think you still have the chance to exchange for someone else?"

Her eyes rolls up to look at him, slightly pursing her lips, "I do not wish to exchange either, but I will not be hanging myself from a tree. Shi Fu once said, a girl's youth is precious, it is not to be wasted."

Liu Feng strikes whilst the iron is still hot, "Let us marry this year then."

Qu Qing Yin shakes her head, "Cannot do this year."

"Why?"

"Some things must be experienced to know whether it is worth it."

Liu Feng no longer asks, only wrapping her into his embrace.

A burst of noise suddenly sounds from outside the window, both of them looks towards it.

"Go take a look." Qu Qing Yin says.

Liu Feng releases her, and opens the window, a messenger pigeon stands there, he takes out a bamboo tube from its legs, opening it up.

At this time the worker comes in with hot water, after pouring it all, he quietly withdraws.

Qu Qing Yin shuts the doors, she takes out the hair ornaments, then starts undressing.

"Do you not want to know what it says?" After reading, he turns to the screen divider, watching the heavenly scene of the beauty entering the bath.

Qu Qing Yin does not even bat an eyelid, slowly sitting down in the bathtub, her head leaning back on it, "Gentleman Xiao Yao always has many matters to attend to in the Jiang Hu. The more I know, the more troubles I get, better not knowing at all. Is there not that great saying, ignorance is a bliss."

"A problem has arose at Qi Shi Er Lian Huan Wu." (Note: Remember Zhang Shan or Brother Zhang from chapter 3?)

"You need to go there." She was not asking but was sure.

Liu Feng eyes her, "You definitely wouldn't go."

"Not going." She directly rejects.

"Then don't go, these Jiang Hu troubles you have never liked anyway, just that....." He grabs hold of her right hand from inside the tub, firmly gripping onto it. "Don't do anything dangerous, I'll be worried."

"Okay."

"You say it, you do it."

"I will not do anything dangerous." She promises.

Liu Feng pats her smooth, bare shoulders, then turns and leave the screen. Before he jumps out of the window, he once again repeats, "Don't do anything dangerous."

Hearing the sound of windows close, Qu Qing Yin laughs, using her arms as a pillow, she turns to looks towards the outside.

And what exactly is considered dangerous?

Walking the Jiang Hu, has always been a dangerous task in itself.

Chapter 7

In the Jiang Hu, waves always come after storms. Since the 'elimination of evil' bounty hunt announcement at Mount Zhong Yi Manor, not even a month had passed, and now Qi Shi Er Lian Huan Wu has engaged in a dispute with Nan Hai San Shi Liu Dao (Southern Sea's Thirty Six Islands), with both sides physically confronting each other. Once gentleman Xiao Yao received the news, he immediately rushes to Qi Shi Er Lian Huan Wu to mediate the matter.

At the same time, the rapist has shown up in the Jiang Hu, consecutively laying hands on the females of the Jiang Hu. His target did not differentiate between righteous sects and evil cults, as long as these girls are not weak in martial arts, then they may very well become his next target. In this moment, the females amongst the Jiang Hu have all fallen into a state of anxiousness. The people of the Jiang Hu, because of the bounty rewards from Mount Zhong Yi Manor, has also been on the search for the rapist's whereabouts.

Sitting by the window of the 'listening to the rain' veranda²³, watching the bustling pedestrians downstairs, is Qu Qing Yin dressed in a simple attire, decorating her hair is only one hairpin that does not particularly match her outfit, with a full body of gold, topped with an emerald coloured jade.

Turning the cup in her hand, she was feeling a little distracted.

"Qu Qing Yin!"

A tender voice denounces, causing Qu Qing Yin to put her thoughts away and look over. She purses her lips, resting her cheek in one hand, "Missy Shui, came to drink tea?"

Leading a dozen guards was Shui Su Yun, who arrogantly sits opposite her, she looks her up and down, and loudly laughs, "If you have no

²³ The **listening to the rain pavilion** or **tīng yǔ xuān / 听雨轩** refers to a pavilion or teahouse where one can admire the rainy scene, listening to and watching the rain. [Additional note: In modern day Chinese terms, these words can be used to refer to the ladies toilets. Which is quite the downgrade if you think about the original poetic connotation it had]

money then don't act wealthy. You think by sticking in a golden hairpin, you can confirm that you're not poor?"

Qu Qing Yin turns the cup in her hand, calmly speaking, "This is a gift from an elder, it has nothing to do with me being rich or not."

"Heng. Who knows if it's a fake good that you found from some random place."

"I really find it strange, why has missy Shui not stayed behind at Mount Zhong Yi Manor, are you not afraid of the rapist?"

"With the prowess of our Fei Ying Bao, you think he still dares to come?" Shui Su Yun's words were spoken fast, but her eyes reveals a trace of wavering.

Qu Qing Yin can tell with one glance that she was not speaking the truth, but this has nothing to do with her.

Since the matters do not concern her, she shall just stand aloof. Qu Qing Yin continues to play around with her cup.

"Hey, Qu Qing Yin, where's Hero Liu?"

Qu Qing Yin raises her brows at her, "Why ask me? Am I supposed to know?"

"Didn't you leave Mount Zhong Yi Manor with him?"

"Does leaving together mean that we wouldn't be going our separate ways later on?"

"Then say, is Hero Liu still at Qi Shi Er Lian Huan Wu right now?" Shui Su Yun persistently asks on.

Qu Qing Yin shakes her head.

"How could you not know anything?" The Shui missy is not pleased.

“It is not like I have heavenly knowledge of all things, how am I supposed to know?”

“Words going around the Jiang Hu are all saying that you are his soulmate²⁴, how could you not know of his whereabouts.”

Qu Qing Yin laughs, “Not like being his soulmate makes me his wife. Even if I was his wife, it is still possible to not know of my husband’s whereabouts, so me not knowing, what’s so strange about that?”

“Such words are extremely true.” Someone interrupts, laughing.

With the flash of a shadow, an additional radiantly handsome, chic man sits at the table.

Qu Qing Yin knits her brows, “Ji Chui Yu!”

Ji Chui Yu takes the teapot from the table and pours himself a cup of tea, taking a few sips, then rests his hands on the windowsill, his body leaning back on it. Smiling but not really smiling, he looks at the person in front, “Don’t look at me like that, I’ll pay for the tea.”

Once Shui Su Yun hear those words, she immediately looks at Qu Qing Yin contemptuously, she really is a pauper.

Qu Qing Yin honestly speaks without holding back: “Of course you are paying, I have not even finished drinking one cup, yet you already drank cup after cup.”

“Lady Qu, you do not need to have such views of me. In respect towards Brother Liu Feng, you should at least treat me with a little bit more respect, is that not right?”

Ji Chui Yu could only laugh as he shakes his head.

²⁴ The terms used here is **hóng yán zhī jǐ** / 红颜知己 can mean soulmate or a female confidante – a beautiful female confidante (红颜 means beauty), so although it can be suggested, it does not necessarily mean lovers. For those who watched Bu Bu Jing Xin (and I’m guessing all you XD), if you remember how Lu Wu was first introduced as the 红颜知己 of the thirteenth prince. And if you think about it, at the beginning she was just a great friend he could confide in, they were not lovers at this point.

Shui Su Yun smiles as she speaks to him: "Hero Ji, did you come to find me?"

Ji Chui Yu was surprised, "Find you?"

"Yeah." She looks as though this is but a matter of fact, "Could it be, it was not my father who told you to find me?"

"I did not see Master Shui, but I have heard that you insisted on not staying at Mount Zhong Yi Manor and ran out here by yourself. Lady Shui, right now it is really dangerous outside, it is better for you to quickly return to Fei Ying Bao."

Hearing such words, Shui Su Yun points to the person beside her, saying: "What about her? Is it not dangerous for her to be outside?"

Ji Chui Yu curls up his hand by his mouth and lets out a cough, "This, lady Shui need not worry about. Lady Qu is no famed figure, the rapist would probably have no interest in her."

Shui Su Yun sends a prideful glance towards Qu Qing Yin.

Qu Qing Yin secretly holds back her laugh. Could it be, having the rapist take interest in you is something to be proud of? Is this Shui missy okay in the head?

Ji Chui Yu also turns his head slightly to sneak in a laugh, this Shui missy really has been spoiled to the head by Guild Master Shui. To show such ignorant attitude to the severity of the situation, someday if she by chance suffers a premature death, it is only to be expected.

"Missy Shui, we are not familiar, can I trouble you to sit at another table? You are not scared of the rapist, but I, this Jiang Hu amateur is very afraid."

Shui Su Yun storms up from her seat, huffing with anger: "You think I am willing to sit here? Being near you is no different from breathing in dirty air."

“Ok then go, I won’t be sending you off.”

Ji Chui Yu lies on the window to watch Shui Su Yun and her pack leave the streets, and then turns his head to look at Qu Qing Yin.

“What’ve you come finding me for?” She asks without a care.

Ji Chui Yu taps his fingers on the table, and jokingly says: “How do you know I came all the way here just to find you?”

“We are not familiar,” Qu Qing Yin coldly says: “Missy Shui does not seem to have any relation to you, and it does not seem like you are here to play hero rescuing the beauty.”

“I am indeed here to rescue the beauty, but I am not rescuing missy Shui, rather, I am rescuing you.”

Qu Qing Yin sighs, “He sent you here?”

“Other than him, who else would have the face to?”

“Nonsense.” She places down the cup in her hand.

“Right now, he is tied to a spot over there, yet he still cannot stop worrying about you. So he could only ask for me, this Jiang Hu idler, for a favour.”

“Asking for a favour from a Jiang Hu womaniser to look after me, only he would think of that.”

“Lady Qu, I may be dissolute but I am not obscene. Moreover, the wife of a friend cannot be toyed with, this principle I still understand.”

“I heard others say otherwise.”

“Say what?”

“A friend’s wife, don’t hold back.”

“Pu.” The tea in Ji Chui Yu’s mouth suddenly sprays out, causing him to continuously choke, it wasn’t easy for him to calm his breathing.

“You.....” You really can’t hold back your tongue to such extent?

Qu Qing Yin calmly turns the cup in her hand, not even batting an eyelid, “Please leave, I do not need anyone’s protection.”

“You should at least consider his feelings.”

“Then he too should consider others’ feelings.”

“The rapist has gone on rampant lately, it seems like he is haunting this neighbourhood.”

“I know.”

Ji Chui Yu sits up straight, eyeing her carefully, “Did you come here because of the rapist’s appearance?”

“En.” Qu Qing Yin does not deny it.

He strokes his forehead, “Looks like Little Feng really guessed correctly, your target was always him.”

She actually continues to speak like it is nothing: “His current pricing is worth two hundred thousand taels of silver. A poor person like me would certainly target him.”

Ji Chui Yu says with complete certainty: “You are not lacking in money.”

Qu Qing Yin’s eyebrows twitches.

Ji Chui Yu looks her up and down, laughing as he speaks: “Only those who do not have a good eye would think lady you are someone who lacks wealth.”

Qu Qing Yin did not argue with him regarding this issue, only continuing to turn the cup in her hand.

Ji Chui Yu sighs, “Even if you say nothing, I can figure out myself that there is an inside story to this. Little Feng is afraid that you are being overly swayed by your personal feelings, that is why he urgently sent for me.”

“He really has meddled into too many matters to the point it became a habitual illness.” She concludes.

Ji Chui Yu laughs, clicking his fingers, “Such words are well said. I agree.”

Qu Qing Yin throws away the cup in hand, getting up to leave. Ji Chui Yu also follows her in getting up, quickly throwing some money on the table and chases after her.



The night is deep and thick, on this particular night, the wind carries the faint sound of fighting.

“Rapist. This time with us He Yang San Xiong (three heroes of the river and sun) here, we shall see where you can still run off to.”

“Haha! Such big talk, are you not afraid the wind will slice your tongue.”

The rapist has once again stirred trouble. Some people of the Jiang Hu had caught him directly abducting a woman, and immediately chased after him. Amongst them, Ji Chui Yu and Qu Qing Yin were of no exception.

Although Ji Chui Yu has always considered his own qinggong (light foot martial arts)²⁵, not necessarily Wu Lin's number one, but at least in the top five, yet he actually discovers today that there is someone whose qinggong is far above his, but her name is not widely known.

From the fight scene, Qu Qing Yin stops at a place, quite a distance away. Seems like she has no intention to move any closer.

Ji Chui Yu stops besides her, standing side by side.

"I thought you would have charged in."

"To let those people deplete his energy first, it would make it easier to relentlessly beat the dog in the water²⁶."

He swallows the lump in his throat, "And he still thinks you will be swayed by personal feelings, he really is overly concerned."

"Shi Fu once said, for a girl walking the Jiang Hu, safety is priority."

He nods his head in agreement, "Such words are absolutely right."

Qu Qing Yin looks over the scene, letting out a long sigh, "Also, I do not think that these people can defend against him, I'm afraid it will get chaotic."

Ji Chui Yu looks at her.

"His skills seems to have improved again. This is problematic."

Qu Qing Yin's voice was so quiet, it could barely be heard, but Ji Chui Yu still caught onto her words. Deep inside, he could not help but to form many questions. Looking at this, she seems to have great understanding of the rapist.

²⁵ **Qīnggōng / 轻功** – Those of you who are familiar with Wu Xia novels and/or dramas would probably already know this, but qing gong is a high level martial arts skill. It can be translated as **light foot** or just **lightness skill** as it refers to a skill that makes users to feel light weighted, allowing them to move swiftly, jumping to great heights, and flying, it's basically a skill that helps users defy gravity.

²⁶ To relentlessly beat the dog in the water or **tòng dǎ luò shuǐ gǒu / 痛打落水狗** means to be merciless with bad people, even when they are drowning.

“You go snatch back the person in his hands. There should be no problem with that right?”

Facing the look in her eyes, Ji Chui Yu felt like a suspect being interrogated, he immediately hits his own chest in assurance, “No problem.”

“Then quickly go. Any later and it will be too late.”

“What about you?” He could not help but ask.

Qu Qing Yin coldly locks her hands behind her back, “Right now, it is still not time for us to meet yet, but, I believe that day shall come very soon.”

Ji Chui Yu nods, and then flies over to release the lady captured by the rapist.

In the end, the rapist had indeed managed to flee the scene. He too, only ditches the lady with the group of people and returns.

“Guess who it is?”

Qu Qing Yin calmly speaks, “It wouldn’t be missy Shui right?”

“You guessed right, it is indeed her.”

“That missy really does not care to listen to others.” She already does not wish to say anymore.

“You yourself don’t listen to the words of a certain person either.”

“I have self-knowledge and awareness, and know how to use my brain to think things through.” Saying that, she turns and leaves.

Ji Chui Yu rubs his nose, unamused, and also follows after her, “Why did you only tell me to snatch the person back, and not grab hold of the rapist?”

Qu Qing Yin casually asks him back, "You certain you can grab hold of him?"

Ji Chui Yu is silenced, he indeed had no certainty, before when he had crossed path with him, he knew it would be difficult to win against the rapist.

Qu Qing Yin continues to speak: "Looking across the Jiang Hu, right now, I am afraid there are less than a few who have the ability to hold up against him. If we continue to let him accumulate both yin and yang energy, I am afraid he will soon become Wu Lin's number one."

"Accumulate yin and yang energy?" Ji Chui Yu's steps slows.

Qu Qing Yin stops in her track, turning to look at him, "Could it be, you lot have not considered, what is the reason for him to specifically target females who are skilled in martial arts?"

"He is just a lewd demon, is he not?"

"But his targets are confined to females within the Jiang Hu only."

Ji Chui Yu was startled, "Thinking about it now, that truly seems to be the case, but how can you be so sure?"

"Spent a little more time analysing it, that is why I know."

"Such news need to be spread out quickly. Since it is an all-round spiritually developed martial arts, then we need to take measure from henceforth. First we must make it so that he cannot get hold of the women."

"You're not bad." Qu Qing Yun does not hold back her praises.

"The important thing is, lady is smart enough."

Qu Qing Yin continues to walk forward.

Ji Chui Yu once again catches up to her, "Right now for you to be willing to tell me so much, what is the reason?"

"When wanting to see someone die earlier, of course I'd help him dig his grave."

Ji Chui Yu was stunned to the point of unconsciously stopping in his tracks. Exactly what kind of entanglement does she have with the rapist? They both clearly have not met before, but completely understands one another, and are also evidently very keen on digging up traps for each other. "Why have you never told Liu Feng this before?"

"The timing was never right, if he is here right now, I would tell him the same thing."

"I don't think so."

"Oh?"

"Even if lady would tell him, you would most likely tell him using a different approach, rather than directly telling him out loud."

"Really?"

"Sometimes, the more you care for a person, the more cautious you would be. The more cautious you are, the more you dare not to make the slightest misstep. Lady cares for Liu Feng, therefore towards him, you will not speak without reserve, but for me, that is not the case."

Qu Qing Yin lifts her head to the black sky, silently letting out a laugh, she whispers the words: "Maybe so."

Sometimes, once something is about to end very soon, people would instead feel afraid.

People's calculations may as well be left to the heavens²⁷, but who knows what the heavens' calculations would turn out to be?



Changes in the Jiang Hu are very swift, and the world becomes even more of a wonder, this is what Qu Qing Yin thinks when she sees Shui Su Yun.

Perhaps it is due to the influence of the saving grace last night, missy Shui is stubbornly clinging to Ji Chui Yu's side. With such exaggerated action, even the dissolute by nature, Ji Chui Yu, cannot withhold this beauty's grace.

"You are a friend of Hero Liu, so you must be as powerful as him. Besides, last night it was you who saved me. Right now, who knows whether that lewd demon would return to finish what he had started? It is much safer for me to follow you."

Qu Qing Yin stands by the side, having already been watching this drama for half a day. Unable to hold back any longer, she throws in a comment, "In essence, I feel that Ji Chui Yu and that lewd demon are of the same kind, having women stay as far away from them as possible would be the best approach."

Ji Chui Yu smiles in silent recognition of her taunt.

²⁷ **People's calculations may as well be left to the heavens** or *rén suàn bù rú tiān suàn* / 人算不如天算 means that rather than predicting this to happen and predicting that to happen, just allow fate to take its course. In other words, expect the unexpected.

Shui Su Yun answers back in ridicule, "Then why don't you stay away from Hero Ji as far away as possible? You're just afraid of the rapist."

"That, missy Shui, is where you are wrong. It is not that I am not staying away from him as far as possible, instead, it is him who is not willing to stay away from me. This is essentially the difference here."

"You think you're a goddess walking the earth? Womaniser Ji Chui Yu has seen all sorts of women, yet he would see you in a different light?"

"To have Ji Chui Yu see me in a different light, does not mean I have to be one with beauty comparable to that of heavenly deities."

Ji Chui Yu makes a timely comment, "I have only been entrusted by someone, this is nothing more than a loyal commitment."

Shui Su Yun's face makes a sudden change, "It was Hero Liu who entrusted you?"

He nods, "Other than him, who else would have the face to."

Shui Su Yun lightly bites down on her bottom lip, her eyes blankly staring at Qu Qing Yin.

Qu Qing Yin nonchalantly grabs an almond nut from her hand, crushing it to eat.

Ji Chui Yu thoughtfully sweeps a glance at Shui Su Yun.

"Hero Ji, I will go cook up some food for you." Once Shui Su Yun finish speaking, she gets up and leave without waiting for an answer. The Fei Ying Bao guards rushes to follow along.

Ji Chui Yu looks towards the person crushing the almonds, he raises his brows and laughs, saying: "Say, you think the dishes served would be edible?"

She coldly makes a comment, “Material comforts leads to sexual desire²⁸, what do you think?”

Ji Chui Yu laughs out loud, “Well said!” Changing the subject, he also says: “In respect towards Guild Master Shui, I hope you show some leniency.”

Qu Qing Yin noncommittally answers, “I shall act accordingly.”

Following on, both people attend to their own business as they sit there, waiting for Shui Su Yun’s dishes to be served.

Not long after, Shui Su Yun brings out a few dishes, although she has such reckless temper, her cooking skills are quite remarkable.

“Didn’t think that missy Shui’s culinary skill is so extraordinary.” Ji Chui Yu is forever generous when it comes to praising women.

She proudly looks down at Qu Qing Yin who grabs hold of her chopsticks to eat, “Of course, my mother says that women must always have a number of dishes they can proudly bring out of the kitchen.”

“If that is the case, men need only marry a chef then.” Qu Qing Yin ridicules.

Hearing this, Ji Chui Yu lowers his head to secretly laugh.

“You—”

“Even if words of truth may not be pleasant to the ears, sometimes you are still better off listening to them.” Qu Qing Yin speaks with rare sincerity.

“Just because you are not like a woman yourself, no need to be jealous of others.” Shui Su Yun finally squeezes out the words.

²⁸ Material comforts leads to sexual desire or **bǎo nuǎn sī yín yù / 饱暖思淫欲** – I guess the meanings is already made obvious through translation, but to put it bluntly – luxury leads to sex.

“To be like a woman like you, I’d rather not.” Qu Qing Yin’s words forever so dull yet sharp.

“What about me? The rapist abducted me not you, this just goes to show you are basically useless.”

Qu Qing Yin rubs her eyebrows with her index finger, looking at her in disbelief. Quite a while after, she manages to squeeze out the words, “I believe the vast majority of women are willing to be useless like me.”

Ji Chui Yu was holding back his laughter to the point his shoulders were violently shaking. Nevermind Qu Qing Yin feeling speechless, he too was speechless to the extreme.

Shui Su Yun also understood the impropriety of the words she had just said. Her heart was feeling rather distressed, but still wasn’t willing to lose momentum in front of Qu Qing Yin, and could only harden her tongue, saying: “So you know? Heng~.”

“All normal people would think that.”

Shui Su Yun was greatly angered. The meaning behind her words, is she not basically saying she is not normal?

Although she clearly understands the meaning behind her words, she is unable to use it against her, and could only glare at Qu Qing Yin with a pair of spitting eyes.

“You are not allowed to eat the dishes I cooked.” Angered, she takes the dishes away from Qu Qing Yin’s sight.

Qu Qing Yin places down her chopsticks without a care, continuing to crush her almonds to eat.

Ji Chui Yu takes an already crushed almond from in front of her and throws it into his mouth, chewing as he speaks: “Are almonds really that nice to eat?”

“It is suitable to eat a lot, without causing any harm.” (Suggestively referring to her previous comment – “Material comforts leads to sexual desire”)

A glimpse of sparkle flashes in Ji Chui Yu’s eyes, laughing as he speaks: “Is that so?”

Qu Qing Yin looks at him with a smile, “You can always try it.”

“They say ‘take on advices, and eat your fill’, since lady says it like that, I shall definitely give it a little try.”

“Well-behaved children usually doesn’t get in trouble.”

Ji Chui Yu deeply thinks about it, “Makes sense, but this thing cannot be eaten like a proper meal.”

“I do not intend to marry a chef, but I still have some money. The chef should most definitely be willing to cook me a lot to eat.”

“And here I thought lady was not planning to eat a meal today.”

Qu Qing Yin nonchalantly says: “I already said there is a beauty to feast one’s eyes on²⁹, but sometimes looking at it makes it difficult for one to swallow their food.”

After such words were said, Ji Chui Yu stares at her, Shui Su Yun glares at her.

Qu Qing Yin remains poised as she finishes drinking her half-filled cup of tea, standing up, “I am now going to find the chef to cook me something to eat, excuse me.”

²⁹ A beauty to feast one’s eyes on or **xiù sè kě cān / 秀色可餐** – It seemed like Qing Yin was playfully insisting that Chui Yu can eat Shui Su Yun up if he finds her really pretty XD God I love how they kept secretly bantering about it until Qing Yin just blurts it out like it’s nothing hahaha.



As it had just been raining, the night air feels rather cool. In this cool night, a shadow quietly climbs over the ridges of the building, leaping into a square yard, and flashes towards the left side.

Unlatching the door, and gently pushing it open, the shadow enters within a flash, closing the door again.

Inside, the room is filled with darkness, only ever so faintly can you see through the bed curtains, inside, lies a person.

In the dark, a pair of desire-filled eyes stares at the bed. A wisp of breeze emits from his finger, hitting the sleep acupoint of the sleeping figure, within a flash, he had already slipped inside the bed curtains.

In this dark night, filled with material desire, the woman's creamy skinned body makes one filled with ecstasy. The layer of obstruction is severely punctured through, destroying the image of innocence. He delightfully rides her, whilst recklessly absorbing the fundamental yin spirit. Thoroughly trampling all over her fragrant body.

Roughly two hours later, the shadow leaves the room within a flash, leaping onto the ridges of the building and into the thick night.

After he had left, a slender figure suddenly appears in the corner of the courtyard. A pair of cold eyes looking in the direction the man had

disappeared in, followed by a cold glance towards the room that he had left, once again withdrawing into the shadows.

In the morning, Ji Chui Yu who had spent the night drunk, returns to the inn in a tipsy state. On the patio he sees Qu Qing Yin who was resting her cheek in her hand, enjoying the morning sun on the porch. He laughingly steps forward to greet her, "Lady is in great spirits."

"Not as great as Hero Ji. Last night, once again exchanging words of affection in the connubial bed."

Ji Chui Yu lets out an unruly laugh, "These past few days has been pretty peaceful."

Qu Qing Yin only responds with a faint smile.

Both people enters the courtyard to sit down, waiting for the inn owner to serve them breakfast.

Unexpectedly, before breakfast had arrived, the room in the left wing sounds a piercing scream, like thunder striking in spring, an intense wake-up call.

Ji Chui Yu looks at the person opposite him, alarmed.

Qu Qing Yin face shows no change, only indifferently speaking: "You should not have thoughts of harming another. Nor should you go without the thoughts of defending against another. I have never had the thought to harm another, but....." She had intended to take a careful approach.

Ji Chui Yu had already comprehended what she wanted to say, his expression went through several changes, and his throat constricted, "He came?"

Qu Qing Yin nods.

"You just watched....." His hand grips onto the edge of the stone table.

"I have already said I will not put my life at risk."

Ji Chui Yu was dumbfounded.

“You noticed that the people in this inn all had a great night’s sleep?”

Qu Qing Yin unhurriedly fills him in.

He quietly speaks with utmost seriousness, eyes casting to the left wing, “It was her?”

“I have already said this before, Guild Master Shui to have spoilt her to such a state, must have really wanted her to die an uncommon death.”

Ji Chui Yu does not speak, only after quite a while does he say: “No wonder why the inn owner is so delayed in serving up breakfast.” Everywhere is also ever so quiet and peaceful.

Qu Qing Yin’s expression just always has to be so indifferent, “She had drugged the food and wine of the Fei Ying Bao guards. I’m afraid it would not be easy for them to wake up before noon.”

Ji Chui Yu stares, so cruel! No wonder why she just watched on, the person he is pitying must have done something worth hating on to begin with.

“Ji Chui Yu.”

“En?”

“Could it be, you are not aware of the change in your own body?”

Once Ji Chui Yu hears this, his brain suddenly flashes like a spiritual light. Unable to believe it, he smacks the table and stands up, pointing to the left wing, he grits his teeth as he speaks: “That was also her?” No wonder why he was so tempted to go out in search for beauties, and here he thought it was because of his own loneliness, so it was because.....

Qu Qing Yin claws out another batch of almonds to crush, whilst crushing them, she shakes her head and sighs: “You clearly know the

principle of 'listen to people's advices, eat your fill', but unfortunately you were unable to act on it."

Ji Chui Yu stares at the almonds in her hands, his face looking as though he has seen a ghost.

At this moment, the room in the left wing erupts with heart breaking cries.

His finger shakily points to those almonds, unbelievably saying: "They can cure it?"

Qu Qing Yin lifts an almond nut, saying: "These are sweet almonds from the south, they taste sweet, unlike the almonds from the north, they are slightly bitter. I like the southern almonds, it is flavourful when eaten." It seems like she did not answer the question, but in reality she had already told him the answer.

Ji Chui Yu lets out a deep sigh, "It really is retribution." Whether it is him or the Fei Ying Bao guards, as long as someone was there, things would never have gotten to this stage.

Qu Qing Yin also sighs, "It is just that when you eat a lot of almonds, it is easier to digest. So I just eat some every day."

Once those words were spoken, if not for the wrong timing, Ji Chui Yu would have probably laughed out loud.

"Should we go in and check?" He did not know what would be considered the right thing to do, and could only ask the person in front.

Qu Qing Yin coldly sounds a 'heng', "I have never had such benevolence of the Bodhisattva. Those who walks the Jiang Hu, has today but no tomorrow. It is already more than enough to care for yourself, to meet those like gentleman Xiao Yao who loves to meddle in others' matters is rare."

Is this her venting her anger? Ji Chui Yu could not help but to think.

“If you wish to take on the role of ‘the one who cares for women’, then go ahead and check on her, but do not expect me to go see her.”

Inside the left wing room, the naked Shui Su Yun lies in the messy bed, crying to the point of losing her voice.

Not only did she lose her innocence, eighty percent of her lifetime’s worth of martial arts skills has also gone.

Why did the outcome turn out this way?

It is clearly Qu Qing Yin who should have suffered such fate, it was clearly supposed to be Qu Qing Yin.....exactly where did it all go wrong?

Shui Su Yun whose sanity has already been thrown into chaos, blankly raises her head, falling into a daze. Even those protective layers of clothing had not been worn when she opens the door and walks out.

Ji Chui Yu sweeps a glance, immediately turning his back.

Qu Qing Yin sees him like this, raises her head to look. She too, cannot help but frown, with a light tap of her foot, her body had already been swept up.

Soon after, a piece of clothing falls onto Shui Su Yun’s head, a somewhat chilly voice travels into her ears.

“Wear some clothes, do you want everyone to see your body?”

Shui Su Yun was startled upon hearing those words, her sanity partially returns to her, slightly panicking, she clumsily puts on the clothing, and then turns to look at the ice cold face of Qu Qing Yin.

That was an expression she had never seen before, with eyes as cold as frost, directly stabbing into her. It seemed as though she could see into all her internal organs.

Chapter 8

Not long after, the guards of Fei Ying Bao protectively leads Shui Su Yun in leaving Hong Ye Town.

Standing at the road, Ji Chui Yu could not hold back his sigh, "No matter what, for a lady, this is just too cruel."

Qu Qing Yin who was standing at the side, just coldly looks on, "To her it is cruel, to others is it not cruel then? Since she has the guts to harm others, then she should have the guts to handle the consequences."

Ji Chui Yu could only shake his head.

"Drunkard."

"Little Feng!" He turns back, to see the sudden appearance of Liu Feng, his faces showing an expression of shock, "When did you arrive?"

"Yesterday."

"Why did you only show up today?" Once the words escaped his mouth, he comes to a realisation, looking towards the direction in which the figures of Fei Ying Bao had disappeared, "It was good you did not show up."

Liu Feng laughs, and heads towards the other person, "Qing Yin."

Qu Qing Yin coldly glances at him, then turns around and walks off.

Liu Feng helplessly shrugs his shoulders.

Ji Chui Yu walks over, placing his hand on his shoulder, as he speaks with mixed feelings: "Your woman really is a ruthless character."

"At least I do not have to worry about her suffering unfavourable situations."

"These words of yours, don't you think you're also ruthlessly protective?"

Liu Feng's face turns serious, glancing down the road, his voice weighs heavy as he speaks: "Qing Yin is right, since you have the heart to harm others, then you must accept the appropriate consequences. In this world there is definitely something called heaven's judgement."

"Are you not going to catch up?" Ji Chui Yu playfully juts his lips towards the direction Qu Qing Yin had left in.

Liu Feng shakes his head, "Right now she does not want to see me."

"In the end, this whole situation is trouble caused by you attracting all those rotten peach blossoms." (Remember peach blossom can mean to attract love)

"Let's not bother with that for now. So tell me, what is the situation like here?"

Ji Chui Yu wipes away all traces of playfulness, saying: "You guessed right, her target has always been the rapist, and it seems like her understanding of the rapist is way beyond your expectations."

Liu Feng remains silent.

"Since when did you realise it was her who lured the rapist away?"

"Since when we were at Mount Zhong Yi Manor."

"That early?"

"En." Liu Feng nods, "How did this matter with Shui Su Yun happen?"

Ji Chui Yu's expression looks complicated, before he speaks, he first lets out a sigh, "Before she had arrived in Hong Ye Town she had already met the rapist, and even set up a plan, her goal was to make Qu Qing Yin become the rapist's woman, thus eliminating the chances of you two being together."

Liu Feng tightens his hold on his fan.

“Lady Qu is sharp eyed and clear headed, she managed to detect the peculiarities, whilst quietly staying calm and collected, she took on each tactic accordingly, then ultimately put missy Shui into the pit.”

Liu Feng speaks with certainty: “Qing Yin must have gave her chances.”

Ji Chui Yu nods, “She did, unfortunately someone did not know how to cherish them.”

“I best go and see her.”

Liu Feng uses qinggong to quickly chase after Qu Qing Yin, not long after, he sees that she had stopped under a tree, leaning against it, he cannot tell what she is thinking.

“What do you want to ask me?” She looks up to the lush foliage of the treetops, faintly speaking.

“Qing Yin.” He only lightly calls out to her.

“In this world there is not that many coincidental meetings, those coincidences were all fake. Her target has always been you, yet she stumbles along to make coincidental meetings with me. Moreover I know the whereabouts of the rapist, just from looking at her behaviour, to not be able to encounter the rapist is almost impossible.” Qu Qing Yin reaches out to tear off a few leaves, blowing them away. “I have tried to make her quit, unfortunately, that Shui missy really does not understand good grace.”

Liu Feng reaches out and pulls her into his embrace, “Don’t think too much of it, things can always be resolved.”

Qu Qing Yin self-mockingly laughs, “I feel like I am becoming less and less of a nice person.”

“Did you not already say, you have not been a nice person for many years now?”

“That’s true, probably because I have been the bad person for too long, I somewhat miss the times when I was once a nice person.” She turns to look at him, “You as a Hero with such famed reputation, to be with me who has not been a nice person for so many years, are you not afraid of all the gossips?”

“I’m not afraid.”

“Did you know? Just before, I suddenly had this terrifying thought. Just thinking about it has shivers running down my back.”

Liu Feng shivers with uneasiness, “What?”

Qu Qing Yin just shakes her head, “Maybe I am thinking too much. I really hope it is me that is thinking too much. It must be me thinking too much.”

Because of her words being spoken three times, each with her tone changing to be more and more fearful, Liu Feng thinks that her thoughts must be truly terrifying.

“Don’t ask me what it is, I don’t dare to say it.” Scared that once said, it will become reality, and that would be far too terrifying.

Liu Feng silently nods.

“From now on, never let Ji Chui Yu look out for someone in your place, he will put you in a disastrous situation.”

“Did something happen?”

“He most probably did not dare to tell you. He had unknowingly fell into someone’s trap, had he not, that night, the rapist would not have got anything done.”

“Did you not remind him?”

Qu Qing Yin speaks honestly, “Because at that time, I suddenly wanted to be a bad person.”

Liu Feng shakes his head, probably because at the time she was fuming inside, not to mention she is originally a paradox of both evil and good, so her temper would naturally act regardless of whichever side, this is all too normal.

“Now that the news have already spread across the Jiang Hu. From this point on, I am afraid that since we have driven the dog into a dead end, the dog would anxiously do whatever it takes.” This was the only thing that he was worried about.

“But this is a solution that stemmed from having no solution.”

“It is.” This is the most helpless factor.

The Fei Ying Bao Guild Master has sent out an announcement, inviting the rapist on the fifteenth of September, the night of the full moon, to a verdict of life and death in front of Fei Ying Bao, in order to settle the scores between them.

Everyone within the Jiang Hu are praising the Fei Ying Bao Guild Master’s courage, taking on the responsibility, so his daughter does not need to face such burden on her own.

At the time when she was listening to the news, Qu Qing Yin was in the middle of pouring tea, as she holds up the pot, the hot water splashes onto the back of her hand.

Liu Feng immediately grabs hold of her hand, using his fan to cool it, saying: “Be careful, this water is really hot.” He calls over the worker: “Worker, bring some ice over, quickly.”

“Got it, please wait, I’ll be there in no time.”

Qu Qing Yin calms her mind, “Just a slip of hand, it’s nothing.”

“You still say it’s nothing, it’s all red.” Liu Feng’s dashing brows knits together, just then the worker brings the ice over, he takes out a handkerchief to wrap it up and gives her the ice pack.

Qu Qing Yin asks him, “What’s going on with Fei Ying Bao Guild Master?”

“Must be the eagerness of doting on his daughter.”

“You think the rapist will turn up?”

“In normal situations, Jiang Hu people values their reputations, and ought to turn up, but this is not the case for the rapist. He also knows that right now, the people of the Jiang Hu are all searching for him, coming out would make him the public’s target.”

“Since everyone is aware of this point, then say, why would Guild Master Shui spread the news like this?”

Liu Feng could not help but look at her, failing to see the look of indifference in her face, “It is rare to see you trying to get to the bottom of something.”

Qu Qing Yin smiles, “Looks like I am not usually very curious.”

“That’s good. Curiosity in Jiang Hu people, is not a particularly good thing.”

“Looks like you feel this deeply, is this a vital insight?” She quips.

Liu Feng nods with utmost seriousness, saying: “It is.”

She blankly looks at him, “You still haven’t answered me.”

Liu Feng thinks for a moment, and says: “Although in accordance to common sense, the rapist should not show up, but I actually feel that this time he would come out to accept the battle invitation.”

“Your instincts?”

“Yeah, what about you?”

Qu Qing Yin juts out her bottom lip, her tone a little solemn, “I also have such instinct.”

Liu Feng looks at her, “Are you planning on watching the scene?”

Qu Qing Yin asks back: “Could it be, you don’t have such plans?”

Liu Feng laughs, “Then is this considered ‘heart and mind think alike’ of us?”

Qu Qing Yin slaps away his hand, taking it upon herself to tend to her hand.

Liu Feng does not mind, pouring her a cup of tea, and places it by her side.

“What happened?” Ji Chui Yu enters through the window, lifting his robes to sit by Liu Feng’s side. He was little surprised to see Qu Qing Yin there with an ice pack.

“She wasn’t paying attention and got burnt by the water.”

Ji Chui Yu grabs the wine flask from the table and pours himself a cup of wine, after draining the cup in one go, he says: “Lately the amount of women on the streets is getting less and less. If the rapist is not exterminated soon, such days will be impossible to go through.”

Liu Feng looks him up and down, “Did you not climb out from the connubial bed?”

Ji Chui Yu speaks righteously: “I am complaining for all the men in this world.”

Qu Qing Yin calmly speaks: “As long as you keep your belt securely tied up, the men in this world will be very grateful to you.”

Ji Chui Yu swallows the wine in his mouth with great difficulty, with a choked up face, he stares at his good friend, "Can you not do something about that mouth of hers?"

Liu Feng laughs as he pours himself a cup of wine, lightly sipping from it twice, before he says: "Her words cannot be considered false."

"As a person, sometimes you should not be so honest."

Liu Feng thinks otherwise, "Dishonesty is also of no good."

Qu Qing Yin follows on with another stab, "Those that are like Hero Ji, clearly aren't honest."

Ji Chui Yu sighs, "You both singing in harmony like this, really is 'a couple of one heart, sharpness enough to cut through gold'."

Liu Feng laughs and helps him fill up his cup with wine, "Let us toast to such words."

Qu Qing Yin's face remains unchanging as she continues to tend to her hand.

Ji Chui Yu tosses the wine down his throat, wiping his mouth, and says: "I must say, when it comes to the arts of remaining calm, you are truly admirable."

Qu Qing Yin raises her hand, saying: "I have been burnt by tea."

"This, could it be because lady could not stay calm enough?"

Qu Qing Yin nods, "Yeah."

"What did you hear to make you so un-calm?" Ji Chui Yu was curious.

Liu Feng explains to him, "She heard that Master Shui, on the fifteenth of September, the night of the full moon, has invited the rapist to a battle."

"This matter seriously makes it uneasy for one to remain calm." Ji Chui Yu grabs hold of a pair of chopsticks to pick some food, eating as he speaks: "The people outside, are all wondering if the rapist would show up when the time comes."

"What do you think?"

"I believe the rapist will go." Ji Chui Yu says it without the slightest hesitation.

Liu Feng laughs, "Great heroes think alike."

"What about lady Qu?"

"Although a little far-fetched, I can also be considered a hero."

"I must say, Master Shui is a true man, to dare to send out his invitation like that." Ji Chui Yu speaks with admiration.

Qu Qing Yin adjures a cry.

Liu Feng looks at her, "Qing Yin has other thoughts?"

Her gaze falls upon the streets below, voice coldly saying: "A father who truly dotes on his daughter would not do such thing, this is no different to a sword driving her to her death."

Ji Chui Yu could not refrain from asking: "If he does not do this, how is he supposed to vie for justice, in name of his daughter?"

"There are many ways to kill someone off, martial arts does not always represent capability, especially in such times when the rapist is the public's enemy. It was not necessary for him to make such a high profile invitation to a battle. A show when overdone just looks fake."

Liu Feng refrains from putting himself in a position, swaying the fan in his hand, and remains silent.

"Is this your prejudice against Master Shui?"

“I am merely speaking the facts as they are.”

“Master Shui is a generous and forthright man, he is after all, regarded as a great leader.” Ji Chui Yu could not help but to come to the subject’s defence.

“And what about it?”

In face of her question, touching on his point lightly, Ji Chui Yu suddenly does not know what to say.

Liu Feng makes a timely interjection, “Have you two bore a grudge against one another in your previous lifetime? Always pitting against each other like this.”

Ji Chui Yu laughs out loud, playfully blinking his eyes, saying: “Between us two, it can be said that enemies destined to meet. Little Feng, are you jealous?”

Liu Feng reaches out and pulls the person beside him into his arms, placing her on his lap, he laughingly says: “If you’re like that, I can only be jealous.”

From the beginning to now, the meatball³⁰ held in Qu Qing Yin’s chopsticks did not shake the slightest bit, she turns to look at Ji Chui Yu, then calm and collectedly plops the meatball into her mouth.

Ji Chui Yu blankly stares for a moment, then suddenly fills up his cup of wine, raising his thumb up to her, “Lady Qu, I really give it to you.” Her expression, her action, really did not change the slightest bit.

In the next moment, Qu Qing Yin’s left hand takes out a hairpin from her head, within a lightning flash, she stabs it at a certain someone’s thigh.

³⁰ More specifically speaking, the meatball is actually called **lion’s head** or **shī zi tóu / 狮子头** is a Huaiyang cuisine, which consists of pork meatballs (about 7–10 cm in diameter) stewed with vegetables. There are two varieties: the white (or plain), and the red (红烧, cooked with soy sauce)

Liu Feng's fan opens up, blocking the hairpin, he bitterly smiles, "I was wrong, is that not enough?"

Qu Qing Yin coldly stares at him.

Liu Feng takes hold of the hairpin in her hand, putting it back into her hair. Honestly and sincerely putting her back into her original seat, he stands up and earnestly says: "I'm sorry."

Ji Chui Yu glances at the hairpin in her hair that had been gifted by Grand Madam Guan. The corners of his lip twitches, as he lowers his head to concentrate on drinking his wine.

Qu Qing Yin takes out the hairpin again, coldly saying: "This hairpin, I may like right now, but that does not mean that I will carry on liking it for the rest of my life, you understand?"

Liu Feng's face slightly changes, tightening his hold on his fan, "Qing Yin—"

Qu Qing Yin looks at the hairpin in her hand, her eyes looking rather complex.

Liu Feng once again takes the hairpin from her hand, putting it back in her hair. He lightly holds her hand, sighing loudly, "Don't be angry."

Qu Qing Yin also sighs, turning her body, she half lies on the window sill, and watches the pedestrians on the streets.

Liu Feng and Ji Chui Yu looks at one another, and then continues to drink and eat as they please, wisely leaving her undisturbed.

Because they both realised, right now, Qu Qing Yin is in a very, very bad mood. Just one little provocation will ignite a monstrous fire.

Moonlight paving the ground, as if the entire land is covered in snow.

The new moon hangs in the sky like a hook, the beauty in front of the window like a painting.

A cloak falls onto her shoulders, and a pair of big hands rest on top, pulling her into his arms, sighing, he says: "Your mood today doesn't seem right."

"I don't want to talk about it."

Liu Feng shakes his head, "If you do not wish to say it, I will no longer ask. If you want to talk about it, then I shall be all ears."

Qu Qing Yin looks up at the new moon, extending her hands out, "Today's moon is truly beautiful." If people's heart were this bright and clear like the moonlight, how wonderful that would be.

"No matter how beautiful the moon is, you cannot miss your sleep. It is already late, get some sleep. Tomorrow we still have some travelling to do."

"You go ahead and sleep first, I want to stay a little longer."

He sighs, "If you don't sleep, you really think I can?"

She remains silent for a while, "Are Ji Chui Yu's news well informed?"

"When it comes to information gathering, he indeed has the knack for it. You have something to ask of him?"

Qu Qing Yin was slightly hesitant.

Liu Feng notices her hesitation, adding: "He is also very tight-lipped."

She turns to him.

"It's just, do you really want me to ask something of him at this time?"

Qu Qing Yin's eyebrows twitches.

Liu Feng tightens his arms around her, sighing as he speaks: "Don't go, or I will really be jealous."

"You clearly know I don't like men like Ji Chui Yu."

"Sometimes, people clearly know things but still cannot control their own feelings. This is something I have no control of."

"You don't seem like a man who would get jealous."

"All men gets jealous."

Qu Qing Yin's hand rests on top of the window sill, faintly sighing, "But, I cannot bear the questions inside of me. I just cannot calm down."

Liu Feng seriously speaks: "Why are you not willing to ask me? Maybe I have the answers to the things you want to know."

Qu Qing Yin was still hesitant.

Liu Feng shifts from back hugging her, and turns her body into his embrace, speaking into her ear: "We are already one another's closest person in this world, you do not need to guard against me."

"I am just worried."

"Worried?" He was dumbfounded.

Qu Qing Yin nods, "If you are capable of getting jealous, then could it be that I am not even capable of being worried you would no longer like me?"

"Does this have something to do with what you want to know?"

"Yes." She answers with utmost seriousness.

"Really cannot let me know?"

"Although you will know sooner or later, but, I still wish that you will be the last person to know."

“Why?”

“Because—” Qu Qing Yin lowers her head, “Despite that, be it dying early or dying late, the results may be the same, but there is a difference in timing. If it is later then may be the situation will make a turn for the better.”

“That is reasonable.”

“But.” Qu Qing Yin’s words makes another turn, “It depends on the situation, sometimes it is better early than late.”

“Qing Yin-ah, you are thinking too much, this isn’t like you at all.”

Qu Qing Yin reaches up and pinches between her eyebrows, sounding slightly restless, “I don’t mind people speaking as if I am the bad person, a demoness, but.....”

Liu Feng cuts through her words, “Even if you are a demoness, I will still like you.”

Qu Qing Yin releases her brows, using her hand to cover his mouth, frowning, “Shi Fu once said, the bad also has a bad enough character, beasts have already been disgraced by men, if you cannot even be considered as a beast, then you can truly wait to get struck by lightning.” (Beasts can also refer to those who act inhumanely)

Liu Feng’s hand enters her clothes, his voice low, “Right now, I want to be a beast towards you.....”

Qu Qing Yin reaches out to smack away his perverted hand, scolding him: “I’m being serious.”

“I’m also serious.”

“You already have no integrity. Serious? You’re as serious as a ghost.”

The corner of Liu Feng’s eyes shows laughter, in the end, she stills throws him that preoccupied look, only such unrestrained and refreshing words suits her most.

“Stop messing about, quickly let me go, or I’ll really be angry.”

Liu Feng presses her back against the window, his hands resting at her waist. Smiling into her forehead, he speaks with a low voice which carried temptation, “Regarding other people’s matters, why should we care? Right?”

“What if it is not completely considered other people’s matters?”

Liu Feng amorally expresses, “As long as you are safe and sound, then it is not worth thinking about.”

“Liu Feng.” She lightly calls out to him.

“En?” He was all ears for her.

“When making a timely comment, men of no principles are the most adorable.”

“Then marrying such an adorable man, would that not be a very great idea?”

Qu Qing Yin does not answer him straight away, just reaching up to hook her arms around his neck.

“Is this you agreeing?” He raises his brows.

“I still haven’t thought it through yet.”

“Must it take so long? I’m telling you now, I am very unyielding.”

“If you wed me now, and regret it later, then wouldn’t I become an abandoned wife? Rather than have that happen, then it is better to not marry yet.”

Liu Feng lets out a sigh, “If you are like this, have I not basically been turned into an accused man?”

Qu Qing Yin is as serious as usual, saying: “Then how about becoming a single old man?”

Liu Feng scoops her up with one hand, saying: “A single old man, I will not be. The harmony of yin and yang is of correct principle.”

“As expected, Shi Fu was right, to have a man keep himself as pure as jade is much harder than having them be so unfaithful³¹.”

“You are wrong to say that, I have always been yours only.”

“A moment of loyalty is easy, a lifetime of loyalty is not so easy.”

“You wish for that?”

“Every woman wishes for that.”

Liu Feng places her down on the bed, lowering his head to peck her lips, saying: “I only hope that my loyalty can keep you by my side forever.”

“Then why don’t we give this a try?”

Liu Feng laughs, reaching over, he tosses her clothes off the bed, and then presses his body on top of her soft one, “Fine, let’s try it.”

The sheer curtains slowly falls, covering the spring filled bed.

She pants from underneath him, and says: “Some people say, on a day of snowfall, without an umbrella, two people advancing straight ahead, may grow old with white hair together.”

“Hand in hand, we grow old together, old with white hair, never turning our backs on one another.” He stares into her eyes, earnestly pledging a promise.

³¹ I have simply translated this part as men being **unfaithful**, but Xi Meng actually refers to the phrase **tōu xīng de māo / 偷腥的猫** – literally translates to **cats that steals fish** which means – cats likes fish so much that they’d charge up to take it once they smell the fish. Here the cats, refers to men, and the fish is women in their eyes. It’s basically saying that men are unfaithful creatures who cannot hold themselves back from setting their eyes on other women.

Qu Qing Yin naturally smiles at him, delicately parting those red lips, and answers him with a word of 'Okay.'³²

At this moment, there was a sudden movement in the yard.

Liu Feng glances beyond the curtains. "Should we go out and check?"

"The moon hangs above us, people meeting after dusk. You want me to go out to see his rendezvous with someone?"

"Womaniser Ji Chui Yu really dislikes no women."

"He can go to meet his beauty, we too shall not let this wonderful night idle away....."

The next day, they waited for the one who went pleasure seeking at night, Ji Chui Yu, but had only waited for the news that he is temporarily not returning, and could only travel ahead of him.

A few days later, the horse carriage they were travelling by, once again welcomes the return of the womaniser.

Surrounding Ji Chui Yu right now is an alcohol-filled air, constantly yawning, even the area around his eyes were turning slightly blue. Sitting opposite him was Liu Feng, who contrarily, was looking invigorated, face filled with radiance.

Qu Qing Yin sits at the side, holding a walnut hammer. Ji Chui Yu curiously asks: "You are obviously able to easily crush it with one move, so why do you insist on using a hammer?"

"If I have a hammer, why should I not use it?"

That was a good answer, besides, the small gold hammer in her hand is very special, exquisitely compact.

³² This part just doesn't seem right no matter how I tried to translate it, but the actual character that was used here is **hǎo / 好** – in Chinese, it can mean different things depending on the context it is used in. For example it can mean **good, okay, very**, etc. the characters it is paired with can also affect its meaning. Here Qing Yin says the word **hǎo / 好** as in, she is voicing her **agreement or satisfaction** of Liu Feng's words.

Ji Chui Yu found that she seems to often have some sort of exquisite accessories or plaything, such things cannot even be found in some markets. This makes him very interested in investigating her identity, and what kind of background she has come from. "I heard from Little Feng, you have something to ask of me?"

Qu Qing Yin stops the motion of using the hammer, looking up to sweep a glance at Liu Feng, "Originally, I did."

"Meaning that right now, you don't?"

"We are already not far off from Fei Ying Bao, whether I ask or not, is no longer of importance."

At this moment, Liu Feng intercepts with a laugh, "Where have you, this womaniser, been playing off to these past few days, to have gotten yourself into such humiliating position?"

Ji Chui Yu could not help but to let out a big sigh, raising his head to look at the curtains, "In this world, these living beings called women, are most difficult to understand."

Qu Qing Yin discreetly throws him a disapproving look.

Liu Feng says: "When speaking, it is best that you think your words through first."

Ji Chui Yu warily looks across to Qu Qing Yin, only to see her head lowered as she concentrates on crushing the walnuts. Deep inside his heart, he lets out a heavy sigh of relief.

Just when he had put his heart at ease, Qu Qing Yin without raising her head, says: "Those two eyes are looking very symmetrical, the perpetrator's power control is truly formidable."

Liu Feng bursts out in laughter, turning his head ever so slightly to take a look at his good friend's face. The face of someone who had an embarrassing secret exposed.

Ji Chui Yu bitterly laughs, "Lady Qu really does like to speak the truth."

"Because words of truth are the easiest to say."

Ji Chui Yu takes the teapot from the table and downs a few mouthfuls, looking rather solemn. Liu Feng sees the look on his face and knows that there's something more to this matter, he could not help but to twitch his eyebrows, quietly waiting for him to speak.

Ji Chui Yu first glances at Qu Qing Yin, and then opens his mouth to speak: "Master Shui of Fei Ying Bao's grudge against the rapist had started nineteen years ago." He pauses, "It is said that Madam Shui was the one who threw away her husband and abandoned her daughter in order to marry a new lover."

Liu Feng finishes, "And that new lover was the rapist."

Qu Qing Yin hammers down, crushing yet another walnut. She calmly and collectedly speaks: "The rapist was also once an elegantly pretty boy, to seduce a married woman is nothing difficult."

Ji Chui Yu nods in agreement, "Even now, his looks does not show his age." It is just that it has a little feminine sense of immorality.

"He is practicing yin and yang energy alike, to maintain such youthfulness, is not difficult." She speaks with a very bland tone.

Liu Feng helps her pick out some walnuts and places them on the dish, on top of the table. He chuckles and says: "You saying that, makes it sound like you have seen the young rapist before."

Qu Qing Yin speaks in a complete matter of fact tone, "I just know." Shi Fu had once painted out his appearance for her to identify, it really was a gentleman with unparalleled elegance.

"How do you know?"

Qu Qing Yin looks at him, bowing her head and smiles, "Shi Fu had specially painted out a portrait for me, allowing me to open my eyes

wide and know not to wrongly give my heart out. In this world, some men may have a sincere appearance, but you can absolutely never fall for it."

Ji Chui Yu was too curious, "Who exactly is this Shi Fu of yours?" Exactly what kind of strange Shi Fu is he to have been able to teach a disciple as strange as Qu Qing Yin?

"Nothing more than a bad old man." Qu Qing Yin glances at him, "Isn't womaniser Ji Chui Yu only interested in women? Since when were you also interested in bad old men?"

Ji Chui Yu was speechless, only after calming himself down does he say: "Little Feng's appearance is also more on the sincere side, so why do you still like him then?"

Qu Qing Yin asks back: "Is he a perverted villain?"

Ji Chui Yu strokes his own chin, thoughtfully saying, "Looking at it from a certain way, he can also be considered a perverted villain."

Qu Qing Yin remains very calm and composed, "Regarding this aspect, you are far greater than he is. Therefore I will never like you."

Ji Chui Yu was convinced he had just received something called a stab in the back.

Liu Feng laughs as he pours her tea.

Chapter 9

September the fifteenth, on the night of the full moon.

With people overcrowding the front of Fei Ying Bao, no matter for what reason they are here for, overall in the Jiang Hu, amongst the three cults and nine schools, the majority has come.

Liu Feng's party arrives on September the fourteenth, at this time, they too were also preparing to watch the battle in the crowd.

Ji Chui Yu looks around at the situation, speaking with heartfelt words: "No matter whether the rapist is the devil that everyone has disgraced or not, if he really dares to come, you cannot deny that he is worthy of being a Jiang Hu person."

Qu Qing Yin looks at him, "Is this you appreciating one another?" (She's referring to them as fellow lustful creatures)

Ji Chui Yu stares at her.

Liu Feng grabs hold of her hand, shaking his head, signalling that she should not keep provoking others.

Qu Qing Yin looks on with boredom, no longer saying anything.

Wherever you look, the Jiang Hu people are all whispering to one another, discussing the results of this battle as well as the reason why the two people held grudges since back then.

When the moon rose high into the sky, a shadow comes flying in, descending onto the stage in front of Fei Ying Bao.

The person who came, has dashing eyebrows with a pair of dazzling eyes, appearance is gentle and pretty, causing many who sees the rapist, unable to help but to express their surprise.

A lewd demon to actually have such a charming face, is this the heaven's cruel joke on the people of earth?



“I have not come to see you.” Mo Zi Qi says as he settles on the stage, his one sentence stopping Shui Mu Yuan from saying his original opening speech.

“No matter who you have come for, as long as you are, we shall settle the scores between us today.”

Mo Zi Qi casts him a dark look, coldly laughing: “The scores between us?”

Shui Mu Yuan hatefully says: “Back then she left me for you, does she regret it now?”

Mo Zi Qi icily speaks: “In order to make her regret it, you were willing to scheme to have your own daughter to be dirtied and shamed?”

Shui Mo Yuan suddenly looks up to the sky, roaring with laughter, “Daughter? Haha.....” He glares at Mo Zi Qi’s face which looks the same as back then, gritting his teeth as he speaks: “Shui Su Yu is but the vile spawn of the adultery between you two dog-like people. How is she my daughter? It is you who had raped your own biological daughter, not a bad taste now is it?” (Note: dog-like refers to adulterers)

Once those words were out, one rock receives thousands of pounding waves, the on looking Jiang Hu people were instantly rendered restless.

Within the crowd, Liu Feng notices that in that moment, the hand that was holding onto his, suddenly tightens.

Mo Zi Qi continues to coldly look at his opponent, "Shui Mu Yuan, I have never shamed your character. You say we are dog-like people, but back then, why did you make Ah Yu marry you and become your wife? Besides, you clearly knew that I fell in love with her first."

Shui Mu Yuan sounds a 'heng', "But since she had married me, then she should honour the principles of womanhood."

"Her heart was not with you, marrying you, was because she was pregnant with your child. Why should she, for a man like you, honour those damn principles of womanhood?"

"What right do you have to say Shui Su Yun is my daughter? If she is my daughter, back then, would she have wanted to take her away?"

"A person like you, what right do you have to make her believe that you would be a good father?"

"I don't believe it."

"So what if you don't believe it? This is the fact."

"No.....this isn't true.....no....." Not knowing when she had shown up below the stage, Shui Su Yun shakes her head, tears streaming down her face, she looks up at the two men onstage, her footsteps staggering.

Everyone looks at her with eyes filled with sympathy, within all the happenings between them, she is definitely the victim in this mess, through and through.

Shui Mu Yuan points his sword at Mo Zi Qi, "I don't believe a single word you have said. In order to deny the crime of raping your own daughter, you point the blame elsewhere. I will not believe you."

Mo Zi Qi sounds an icy laugh, "I am already known to all as the most satanic demon, what crimes do I not dare to admit? As long as it is a

crime I committed, then there shall not be anything that I dare not admit.”

“Then why did you still come to this meeting?”

Mo Zi Qi looks around the audience in an inquiring manner, proudly standing there, “I have already said, I have not come here to see you. Right now, you are not even capable of taking on a hundred attacks from my hands, because of you I have made this trip and had no choice but to reveal myself.”

Shui Mu Yuan was angered to the point his face turned pale. “Right now, are you disregarding the fellow Jiang Hu people here? You think that coming here, you can still leave?” He hatefully asks.

Mo Zi Qi conceitedly says: “Since I have come, then I have the capability to leave.”

His words sent the crowd into an uproar, within a moment they were burning with rage. The thing Jiang Hu people holds highest in regard is the word ‘**Míng/名**’ (means name or reputation). With the rapist publicly looking down on these heroes, he has no doubt caused public outrage.

“No matter who it is you have come here for, since you are here, then you shall leave your life here.”

Shui Mu Yuan’s words expresses the voice inside of many others, after all, Mount Zhong Yi Manor’s two hundred thousand liang reward money is for real.

Mo Zi Qi’s one sleeve fends off Shui Mu Yuan’s sword attack, at the same time he works his inner energy, his voice booming in all directions, “I know you are definitely here, you have done so much to scheme against me, could it be you don’t dare to reveal yourself now?”

To many Jiang Hu people with weak inner energy, his voice painfully shook their eardrums to the core, leaving them with no choice but to take desperate measures and put themselves at a safe distance away, at

the same time, their hearts shook with horror, realising that the rapist's inner energy runs so skilfully deep.

Shui Mu Yuan simultaneously attacks nineteen times, but each attack is met with thin air, his heart turns desperate, and he loudly shouts, "Against such a demon, there is no need to keep to the principles of the Jiang Hu, everyone attack together!"

Qu Qing Yin turns her head to look at Ji Chui Yu, "Is this how the highly regarded great leader you speak of do things?"

Ji Chui Yu rubs his nose with disinterest, but still have words to say: "Against someone like the rapist, could it be, we still have to keep to the principles of the Jiang Hu?"

"No need." Qu Qing Yin changes the topic, "But, since he has been invited here for a battle, then they shouldn't do this."

Ji Chui Yu shuts his mouth.

On the stage, Shui Mu Yuan clearly isn't Mo Zi Qi's opponent. Some Jiang Hu people standing at the sides was already feeling tempted, but does not want to be the first to charge in. For a moment, no one makes a move.

Qu Qing Yin sounds a barely audible sneer, Liu Feng once again tightens his hold on her hand, giving it a few squeezes.

Qu Qing Yin side glances him.

"Your one word can cast away nerves of steel." He says.

Qu Qing Yin nods her head, her eyes returning to the stage.

At this time, there was a sudden change, originally responding with ease, Mo Zi Qi, suddenly staggers, his right leg is half kneeling down, his left arm still capable of fending off Shui Mu Yuan's sword, and for the first time, red can be seen.

“You—” Mo Zi Qi unable to believe what had happened, leans onto Shui Mu Yuan, “What have you done?”

Right then, Shui Mu Yuan’s face seems to have gone a little crazy, the sword in his hand stabs into the injured Mo Zi Qi, smugly saying: “I’m not your opponent? The moment you dirtied Shui Su Yun’s innocence, you were destined to meet such ending,”

“You actually put poison on your daughter’s body?” From the corner of Mo Zi Qi’s lips, a stream of fresh red blood flows. “That isn’t poison, it is bewitchment, I had bought it from the Master of Miao Jiang to deal with you.”

Qu Qing Yin’s eyes turns icy, she had originally suspected what had happened back then at the inn, but right now, it seems like those Fei Ying Bao guards that are always with Shui Su Yun to protect her, were really people set up by Shui Mu Yuan.

“I had tolerated it for sixteen years, today, I have finally sought redemption.” Shui Mu Yuan pushes his sword into Mo Zi Qi’s chest, piercing it through his body. Blood soaks through his body of moon-white robes, dripping down onto the stage.

When Shui Mu Yuan’s sword hilt draws in close, Mo Zi Qi’s left hand sickly probes on, grabbing hold of the hand holding onto the sword. And within an instant, his right hand pierces through his left shoulder, into his raw flesh and digs out a big, bloody hole.

The crowd below the stage could no longer contain themselves, at the same time, many people flew on stage, aiming their attacks at the heavily injured Mo Zi Qi. After all, regarding matters like relentlessly beating the dog in the water, there will never be a shortage of people when it comes to doing it.

But when one wants to cheaply take advantage, there will also be a time when they suffer a great deal. Without any exceptions, Mo Zi Qi knocks down all these people in mid-flight, some dying on the spot, some gravely injured.

But, there are so many Jiang Hu people here, that the heavily injured rapist could not possibly have any chance of escaping, seems like his death here is destined.

After the fellow Jiang Hu people attempted to attack Mo Zi Qi, Shui Mu Yuan clutches his injured left shoulder and withdraws from the battle ring.

Mo Zi Qi repels another round of joint attack, once again channelling his inner energy to release a sound wave of his voice, "At this point, you still refuse to reveal yourself? Any later and you'll have no chance."

Some people who hears this, could not help but to look around, wanting to know exactly who it is that the rapist cares so deeply about.

More people chose to continue attacking, in an instant, the handles of several swords and blades were simultaneously cut down, a cold silver grass-like blade had bolted past, and all that can be heard was the crashing of broken swords and blades falling to the ground.

At the same time, one person gently descends onto the stage.

Liu Feng calmly watches the person who went flying onto stage, he knows that whatever had puzzled him for so long, today, he shall finally get answers.

Mo Zi Qi's mouth was dripping with blood, he looks at the young girl in apricot-yellow robes standing before him, "Where's the old man? Why has he not come himself?"

Qu Qing Yin's pair of hands naturally droops down to her sides, revealing no weapon, but just then it was indeed her who had cut down all those swords and blades.

"Shi Fu has already passed away many years ago." She calmly tells him the answer.

Mo Zi Qi spits out a mouthful of blood, laughing as he speaks: "As expected, he didn't die back then, heavily injured and deposed of his

martial arts, such a tall cliff yet he still fails to fall to his death. That old man really has the luck of devil. Moreover, I never thought that he had even accepted such a beautiful Junior Sister for me.”

Junior sister?!

This girl is actually the rapist’s fellow junior sister! Everyone at the scene were all rendered surprised.

“Shi Fu told me that when you have committed more than a lifetime’s worth of unpardonable sins, to come and retrieve your corpse.”

Mo Zi Qi clutches at his bleeding wounds, laughing to point of coughing up blood, “Could it be you weren’t the one who added fuel to the flames in between, in order to scheme against me?”

Qu Qing Yin frankly nods, “According to the pace Senior Brother you were going in, to have committed more than a lifetime’s worth of unpardonable sins, there still needed some time, but I am already tired of being in the Jiang Hu, before I retire, I want to retrieve Senior Brother’s bones, only then would my heart be at ease.”

Ji Chui Yu reaches out and pats his fellow brother on the shoulder, earnestly saying: “Take care. This lady’s evil nature is no less than that of the rapist.”

Liu Feng throws off his hand, and says nothing.

Mo Zi Qi scrutinises her, suddenly feeling enlightened, “You’re that soulmate of Liu Feng?”

Qu Qing Yin does not admit it, nor deny it.

Mo Zi Qi loudly laughs, “Great, as expected of someone that old man had taught. That Shui missy wanted to plot against you, so you quietly let her reap what she sowed. Even if there was no Shui Mu Yuan there to set it up, Junior Sister would probably have been able to retreat safe and sound.”

“Senior Brother is overpraising.”

“Those so-claimed Jiang Hu’s righteous sect, are still nothing to those of us that they call demon, demoness. Junior Sister, say, is it not funny?”

Qu Qing Yin only looks at him indifferently, saying: “Senior Brother, do you have any unfulfilled wish?”

“I do.” Mo Zi Qi points towards Shui Mu Yuan, “Kill him in my stead.”

Qu Qing Yin does not hesitate to nod in answer, “Okay.” She turns around, step by step, walking towards Shui Mu Yuan.

Shui Mu Yuan moves his sword and points it at her, “You’re his junior sister, like him, walks the same path that defies virtue, someone that everyone within the Jiang Hu has the right to punish.”

Qu Qing Yin coldly looks at him, saying: “If Mo Zi Qi is considered a beast, then you cannot even be considered anything to a beast. Even if missy Shui is not your own flesh and blood, she is still the daughter you have raised for sixteen years, yet you actually have the heart to scheme to have her dirtied and shamed, moreover she is indeed your flesh and blood. To call you a beast is an insult to beasts themselves.”

Such remarks won over the acknowledgment of many people.

“What a load of nonsense, you demoness! You.....”

Shui Mu Yuan’s words had yet to finish, when she had already unsheathed her blade.

No one managed to see how that blade had emerged, only able to see the blade light up, possessed with killer instincts, her hand rises, and falls, and things end just like that.

The sword in Shui Mu Yuan’s hand falls to the ground, his entire body stiffly landing back, straight onto the stage, fresh blood from his body spraying out everywhere.

The knife in Qu Qing Yin's hand disappears, her entire person looking pretty but fragile as she stands aside, like a willow branch trembling in the wind³³. Compared to the brutality before, she simply appears like a completely different person.

"What kind of blade is that?" Mo Zi Qi asks.

Qu Qing Yin answers, "Ling Long Dao." (The exquisite knife)

The heroes were once again sent into an uproar.

Ling Long Dao?!

The beautiful girl before their eyes is the rumoured cold blooded and ruthless, hideous and solitary, Ling Long Dao?

They say that Ling Long Dao is the blade of justice, but how could it be that she is under the same Shi Fu as the rapist who committed more than a lifetime's worth of unpardonable sins?

Mo Zi Qi spits out another mouthful of blood, unable to hold back the pain like that of having ten thousands bugs biting his insides, he says: "I know that, you wouldn't let me die in the hands of others."

"Even if you had deceived your master and betrayed your ancestors, you still shouldn't die in the hands of others."

He bursts into another round of laughter, "The old man never admits wrong in his lifetime, even if I murder my Shi Fu, he still wouldn't admit that accepting a disciple like me is wrong."

³³ The phrase **a willow branch trembling in the wind**, this is probably a proverb that Liu Feng's name probably derives from – **ruò liǔ fú fēng / 弱柳拂风** – with the second (willow) and fourth (wind) characters making up Liǔ fēng's name (柳风). Willow can also refer to elegance whilst the wind part can suggest Liu Feng's carefree nature as gentleman Xiao Yao.

Off stage, Liu Feng hears this and his heart jumps. One who never admits wrong in his lifetime, the Bù Cuò Mister? (Bù Cuò / 不错– means **never wrong**)³⁴

Thirty years ago the ‘Bu Cuo Mister’ was a renowned figure in the Wu Lin. This person has a peculiar way of doing things, his presence fleeting, his actions not necessarily contained within the Jiang Hu, but because his name value in the Wu Lin is extraordinarily high, famed sects and righteous cults were unable to do anything to him.

Fortunately, this person has no devilish ambition to dominate the Jiang Hu. As long as one does not mess with him, then one is able to live on in peace.

It is just that, in the end, he suddenly vanished from the Jiang Hu scene, no one knew of his whereabouts thereafter, but no one ever thought that he had actually been injured by his own disciple.

Onstage, Mo Zi Qi still has some words to say, asking: “Junior Sister, I still have one question.”

“Speak.”

“Those women, where have you lured them?”

“They have been lured to a place that Senior Brother you, cannot cause any disaster in.”

“Truly a great answer.”

“Better speak now.”

“Junior Sister really is great at calculating, always a step ahead, I have not even made a move yet and you had already set up traps for me to jump in.”

“I am only stronger in terms of using my brain, with your current martial arts level, to single-handedly kill you by myself is an impossible

³⁴ **Bù Cuò / 不错**– means **never wrong** in the case of Qing Yin’s Shi Fu who is someone that never admits wrong, but it can also mean **not bad** – as in praising someone.

task. I, by myself cannot achieve that, so I can only lend the strength of others to use." She pauses for a moment, "Luckily, Senior Brother your ability to wreak havoc in the Jiang Hu is not to be underestimated. This is what gave me the only advantage that I could make use of."

"Ah, you make your move then."

Qu Qing Yin kicks up a cut down blade from the floor, her sleeves billows, and the blade is faced with no resistance as it pierces into Mo Zi Qi's heart.

"Thank....." The final word forever remains on the tip of Mo Zi Qi's tongue, never again having the chance to come out.

"You cannot take him away just like that." When Qu Qing Yin slowly walks towards Mo Zi Qi to retrieve his corpse, someone suddenly speaks up with those words. Once said, it receives the agreement of everyone else.

"You and he are of the same Shi Fu, who knows if you have really killed him." Someone questions her.

Her reply is very simple, "You can cut down his corpse into pieces, as long as you leave his remains for me to take away, it will be fine. This way, there wouldn't be any objections right?"

In the end there really were some people who leapt onto the stage, cutting at Mo Zi Qi's corpse. Qu Qing Yin just stands aside as she watches on.

Those people did not actually cut Mo Zi Qi's corpse into pieces, but having cut into him like that, they were sure there cannot possibly be any chance that he is still alive, and only then did they leave the corpse to Qu Qing Yin who stuck by her words and only observed from the side.

Nevermind her Ling Long Dao name, the very fact that she is under the same Shi Fu as the rapist alone, makes everyone dare not to face her

wrath. The rapist's judgement, has ended, the Jiang Hu people gradually leaves.

The night breeze is chilly, blowing against the onstage Qu Qing Yin, her clothing fluttering in the wind, naturally looking like a flying deity.

Liu Feng walks up to her side, "How are you going to prepare to take him away?"

Qu Qing Yin's face shows no emotions, saying: "He is already in such a state, simply cremate him, it will also make it easier to take him away."

Liu Feng had no objections, but Ji Chui Yu still had questions, "The matter Mo Zi Qi asked you about before he died....."

"From the list, some people were hidden away by me, once matters are done, they will all naturally return home."

"You hid them away?" Ji Chui Yu could not believe it.

Liu Feng adds: "It does not necessarily means she personally did it."

Ji Chui Yu knocks his own head, "That's true, then who was it that helped her?"

"Those who know too much, usually dies early. You sure you want to know?"

He sees the look in her eyes, and immediately makes it clear, "I don't wish to know, not even the slightest bit."

Qu Qing Yin's eyes lands on Mo Zi Qi's torn and beaten corpse, lightly letting out a sigh, "Help me cremate him."

Liu Feng nods, "Okay."

Not long after, the huge fire catches onto the stage that once stood tall, and the entire platform was reduced to ashes in the flame. A generation of demon, Mo Zi Qi, completely vanishes from the face of earth just like that.

Matters ended just like that?

No, matters did not end like that.

After September the fifteenth's battle in front of Fei Ying Bao, Jiang Hu people found out that bounty hunter Ling Long Dao was in fact under the same Shi Fu as the rapist, both were the disciples of, the 'Bu Cuo Mister' who was wandered the Wu Lin thirty years ago.

Regarding this idea of dragon born dragon, phoenix born phoenix, even the mice born son can burrow such reasoning. Friends and relatives of evil ones that walks the askew path, are all also evil ones that walks the askew path. That is why, Ling Long Dao Qu Qing Yin is in actual fact the demoness of an evil sect. That being the case, how could this demoness of an evil sect be so intimate with a leading figure of Wu Lin's righteous sects, gentleman Xiao Yao?

Within this time, Ling Long Dao became Jiang Hu people's object of criticisms, amongst them were rumours going around the Jiang Hu stating Ling Long Dao must have casted some sort of devilish bewitchment, only then could she have manage to seduce such a righteous, noble one like gentleman Xiao Yao.

Unfortunately, the main character in all this have disappeared from the Jiang Hu, unable to prove the authenticity of such rumours.

Later, some people suddenly thought of something.

Back then during the battle in front of Fei Ying Bao, Ling Long Dao seems to have mentioned something about retiring from the Jiang Hu. That is why she secretly fuelled the situation behind the scenes, letting her senior brother, who had deceived his master and betrayed his ancestors, to become the public's enemy, and thus used the hands of the public to lead him to destruction.

Even later, another group of people thought back to when she had mentioned something about hiding away some women, but regarding the women she had hid away, no one has shown up to reveal anything, looks like this will forever remain a mystery to them.

'Liu Shan Men' has always been in a position between the government and the Jiang Hu, and as Liu Shan Men's head leader, Yuan Kuo Hai is also one who has one foot in the Jiang Hu whilst keeping the other foot in the government.

On this night, Liu Feng sways his fan as he walks into Liu Shan Men, directly charging into Yuan Kuo Hai's home.

Yuan Kuo Hai was not in the least surprised, casually pouring a cup of wine, and downs it, "Gentleman Xiao Yao coming to visit at night, is something the matter?"

"Ling Long Dao." Liu Feng only says those three words.

Yuan Kuo Hai's cup of wine stops before his lips, "Should you not know best where she is? Why would you come running here to ask me?"

"It is because I cannot find her, that I have come to find you."

"How could I possibly know?"

Liu Feng lifts his robe and sits at the seat beside him, self-catering to himself as he grabs the wine flask and pours himself a cup. Turning the cup in his hand, he says: "To hide away those women, is no simple matter, besides to seal the lips of Jiang Hu people and make them remain absolutely silent, no matter how I think about it, only the imperial court has such capability. So, I can only come and find you."

"You found the wrong person."

"Whether I have found the wrong person or not, you yourself know very well."

Both people silently drink their wine for a while.

Yuan Kuo Hai places down his cup, saying: "I have nothing to say. If like the rumours says, she is your soulmate, then you should not be unable to find her."

Hearing this, Liu Feng nods his head, "You cannot say it, is that right?"

Yuan Kuo Hai pours himself another cup of wine, and says nothing.

Liu Feng tosses the wine down his throat, "I will not make things difficult for a friend, you say you cannot say it, then I shall not ask." Having said that, he gets up and leaves.

Just when his foot steps out the door, Yuan Kuo Hai's voice sounds from behind, "The Capital's largest family."

Liu Feng smiles, his back facing him, with big steps, he strides out the main door, "Thanks."

The night breeze is very chilly, but his mood is great, he knows that she is not purposely avoiding him, if not on purpose, then there must be someone else behind this.

Since someone else is behind this, then he must go find her.

Not long after, Liu Feng stands outside the red walls with green tiles. This is where the capital's largest family lives – the imperial palace.

But, would she really be here?

Liu Feng may not be completely sure, but since he has found his way here, no matter what, he should seek out an answer.

The grand grounds within the imperial palace is very heavily guarded, but someone like Liu Feng who is a highly skilled individual, to casually wander such grounds is nothing.

When Liu Feng finds the master of this imperial palace, he was looking through some paperwork.

The shadow from the light suddenly flashes, inside the hall is an additional person, but the emperor does not show any panic, nor does he immediately call upon the guards.

He only places down the paper in his hand, gets up and interlocks his hand behind his back, walking out from behind the imperial desk, he

stops four or five steps in front of Liu Feng, calmly saying: "Gentleman Xiao Yao, Liu Feng."

"This peasant greets your majesty."

The emperor suddenly smiles, "She said that you would definitely find your way here, I did not believe her, and even made a bet with her. If you manage to find your way here, then I will not object yours and hers' wedding, but if you did not manage to, then she needs to abide to the marriage that I shall bestow upon her."

Liu Feng laughs, "Luckily this peasant has come."

The emperor sighs, "My royal auntie only has Yin-er as her only daughter. I have originally wanted to find her a man who is honest and reliable to be her husband, but she had carelessly stepped into the Jiang Hu."

Liu Feng vows, "This peasant will protect her attentively."

"I believe your words, but I will still feel slightly worried. So I have decided to personally take a good look."

"That is only reasonable."

"Seeing you, I can rest assured, but I still won't be telling you where she is. If you are really sincere, if you two are really fated, then I believe you two shall definitely see each other again."

Liu Feng cannot help but bitterly laugh, "Your majesty....."

"Okay, what you wanted to know, I have already said it all. I still have matters to attend to, I will not keep you here then."

Liu Feng was not offended, only retiring with good grace.

Outside, the wind seems to have gotten colder, a few pieces of dead leaves descends from the trees, making this autumn night feel even bleaker. Standing on the deserted streets of the capital, he cannot help but to look up to the moon and sigh.

That young emperor clearly dotes on Qing Yin, unfortunately Qing Yin has no interest in residing deep in the palace. Under such situation, this sure makes things difficult, really cannot help but make one feel helpless.

In such a bleak night, seems like it is better for one to find someplace to drink some wine and warm up their body.

And so, Liu Feng once again goes back to Liu Shan Men's head leader's room.

Yuan Kuo Hai was still drinking wine, with additional flasks of wine resting on the table. Once he sees him, he laughs as he raises the cup in his hand, "You came back."

Liu Feng enters, laughing, "You knew I'll be coming back?"

"Yes. Whether you got the answer you wanted or not, you would still come back." Yuan Kuo Hai pours him a cup of wine, pushing it across, "But, I believe you have gotten the answer you wanted."

Liu Feng takes hold of the cup, tossing it down his throat, and sits down on the chair, "Got it, but also haven't got it."

"Oh?"

"Right now I want inquire something from you, there's no problem with that right?"

Yuan Kuo Hai laughs, "Depends what you're asking?"

"How many aunts does the current emperor have?"

"From the first wife, there is only one."

"Tell me."

"This aunt of the emperor married early to a scholar, third place in Han Lin examination. Husband and wife were blissfully in love, unfortunately the prince consort passed away early. The princess was a

heavily sentimental person, and took the prince consort's memorial tablet to the prince consort's hometown. It is said that the princess' life thinned out from there, not even a few years have passed and she passed away, leaving behind a daughter."

Liu Feng raises his brows, "Is that all of it?"

"Yes, all of it."

He could not hold back his sigh, "Indeed a low profile princess."

Yuan Kuo Hai laughs out loud, "Right, almost completely unknown."

Liu Feng grabs hold of a wine flask, saying: "Come, let us drink till we are drunk tonight."

"Great."

Chapter 10

Autumn breeze cold, autumn leaves falls, a drizzle of rain flutters as winter arrives.

A figure of brilliant red in this silvery white world is particularly striking, Li Fei Yan's character is like her favourite clothing colour, hot blooded and unrestrained.

Her horse stops below a monastery, and just then someone holding an umbrella, walks out from the mountain gate. In this unexpected timing, both people meet eyes.

Li Fei Yan's eyes rounds, exclaiming, "Qu Qing Yin!"

Coming out from the monastery is indeed the one who had disappeared from Jiang Hu for a long time now, Ling Long Dao Qu Qing Yin. Just seeing her in a body of purple clothing, body covered in a white fur cloak, her hair done up sophisticatedly, with a dignified posture, no

matter how you look at it, she is but a refined lady who treads through the snow, admiring the plum blossoms.

Qu Qing Yin nods her head at her, "Lady Li."

Seeing her, she had only planned to just walk past, but Li Fei Yan turns her body around, shouting, "Don't you know he is looking for you?"

"I know." Her voice, soft and light, like a snowflake falling from the skies.

Li Fei Yan could not believe it and shouts even louder, "If you know he is looking for you, how could still be hiding away with your mind at peace."

"I am not hiding from him." She is only waiting for him to find his way here.

"If you are not hiding from him, how could he have not been able to find you?" Li Fei Yan does not believe a single word she had said.

"The meeting between people, sometimes depends on their fate." This is also how she had answered her cousin Emperor. The time agreement is one year, within a year she is not allowed to take it upon herself to go find Liu Feng.

Li Fei Yan sees that she has started to walk again, and immediately pulls her horse along as she follows after her.

Qu Qing Yin stops in her track, lifting her head to look at the girl in red sat on top of the horse, "Why are you following me?"

Li Fei Yin twitches her eyebrows, "Lady I, just likes to, can't I?"

"But I do not like people following me."

"That is your problem."

Qu Qing Yin bursts out laughing, "That's true."

Li Fei Yan leaps off her horse, pulling the reins, she walks the road side by side with her as snowflakes delicately descends.

“Are you living here?”

“En.”

“These past few months, you have always been here?”

“Yes.”

“Actually, right now I still really hate you.” Li Fei Yan’s expression looks complicated.

Qu Qing Yin lightly laughs, but says nothing.

She speaks as she walks: “I have liked Liu Feng for so long, but in the end he only ever speaks bluntly to me, but you actually managed to stand beside him so casually, just seeing it made me feel uncomfortable.”

Qu Qing Yin continues to simply, saying nothing.

“They all say that you must have used some underhanded tricks on Liu Feng, to have made him so dead set on you only.”

“Really?”

Li Fei Yan speaks in a seeking truth from facts manner: “Although I do not like you, and also know you are not that nice of a person, but you really do not look like a demoness.”

“You can pick out a demoness from looks?”

“Of course, those that are evil and walks an askew path all have an evil air around them, but you don’t.” Not only do you not have it, you also have an air filled with righteousness around you. Besides, Ling Long Dao is a blade of justice that eliminates evil.

“Lady Li.”

“En?”

“Did you know, that the highest level of being a bad person is by being able to make good people think they are good.”

Li Fei Yan asks back: “Are you that sort of person?”

Qu Qing Yin laughs, “That’s a good question, although I cannot be considered a good person, but it seems that I have not gone to such extent of being bad.”

“Exactly.”

Qu Qing Yin shakes her head as she laughs, she has underestimated this Li family manor’s missy. She looks as though she has a reckless temper and is unreasonable, but also has this firm and honest side to her. Just that she does not mask her words, speaking so bluntly, making it easy to offend others.

Looks like, Li Fei Yan has not caused any less trouble with this mouth of hers. “You don’t have to follow me, I won’t be leaving this place.”

Li Fei Yan’s face was rendered surprised, “You…….”

Qu Qing Yin continues to speak, “You want to let him find me, don’t you?”

She quickly turns her face, sounding a ‘heng’, “As if I’d do that, if he cannot find you then it is even better.”

Qu Qing Yin laughs but remains silent.

Li Fei Yan turns her head to see the smile on her face, feeling a little annoyed, she loudly says: “I really wouldn’t!”

“I got it.”

Li Fei Yan rapidly jumps onto her horse. From the horse, she immediately condescends: “I said I wouldn’t so I wouldn’t, be it you

want to leave or not." And then strikes the horse with her whip, leaving just like that.

Seeing the figure clad in red disappear into the snow scene, Qu Qing Yin could not help but to burst out in laughter, this missy Li sure is an interesting person.

Raising her head to look at the lightly descending snow, she lets out a sigh, do they not all say that gentleman Xiao Yao has many connections around the world? To have been searching for a few months and still not have found her, she really has slightly overestimated him.

Forget it, not going to think about it.

This snowfall has lasted a few days, still not showing any signs of stopping, walking this silvery white world, makes one feel lonely and bleak.

Qu Qing Yin shifts the umbrella, looking up at the overcast skies, snow overflowing from the heavens falls down. She laughs as she spins a few circles amongst this snowy ground. Light, shallow but clear laughter rings throughout the place, here, there is not a single soul around, such scenery also appears open and clear.

A purple figure amongst the white, like a child playing in the snow, a refreshingly bright smile lighting her face.

This is the scene Liu Feng is seeing.

Looking for so long, searching for so long, that person suddenly appears in front of him like this, causing him to be taken by surprise, a pleasant surprise that overwhelms him.

Sensing something, Qu Qing Yin, follows her senses and looks over, suddenly freezing on the spot.

Liu Feng makes one flying leap and lands by her side, hands cradling her face, sighing as he says: "Haven't seen you for so long, yet you don't even miss me?"

"You've seen missy Li?"

He was clearly stunned for a moment, "Li Fei Yan? She came here?"

Qu Qing Yin laughs, "Not so long ago I just happened to come across missy Li. She left in agitation, I thought you had already ran into her."

"You thought she told me your whereabouts?"

Qu Qing Yin nods.

"Of course not, but looks like we are indeed fated." Liu Feng pulls her into his arms, "Finding you really isn't an easy task."

"Oh?"

Liu Feng pinches at her cheeks, his tone carrying a hint of jealousy as he speaks: "That cousin of yours, really is one cloud that can hide the sun."

Qu Qing Yin buries her head into his chest, "This agreement lasts only a year, if a year later you still haven't found me, then I shall go find you, finding you, this gentleman Xiao Yao who loves meddling into others' matters would be much easier."

"I always feel that this is not something to boast about."

"It never was to begin with." She answers like it is but a matter of fact.

He was speechless.

"Let's go, unless you really want to stay here in the snow with me?"

Liu Feng laughs out loud, extending his hand and picks her up, "Since you want to be in a warm place." Her being in his arms really feels so great.

Qu Qing Yin's arms wraps around his neck, playfully asking: "Where?"

"In bed."

The bed on a cold winter's day is indeed the warmest place to be in, especially after a man and woman had passionately warmed it up.

Qu Qing Yin's long loose hair splays out on the pillow, the hand clutching the pillow was still slightly trembling, Liu Feng presses his hot body against her back.

"Qing Yin" He gently whispers.

"En." She replies with pleasant laziness.

"Are you willing to marry me now?" He whispers into her ear.

Qu Qing Yin quietly laughs, "What do you think?"

He turns her body over, lowering his head to kiss her facial features.

Qu Qing Yin's hand lightly grazes at his waist, her expression looking seductive and erotic, making his just quelled desires to awaken again.

"Spring night bitterly short, the day rises high, since then, the noble ruler no longer attends morning assemblies." He could not help but to sigh.

Qu Qing Yin's slender neck slightly tilts back, her apricot-like seemingly closed, and a light moan of ecstasy escapes from her mouth.

Facing such a seductive lover, looks like it will be difficult to maintain control over Liu junior during this lifetime. Liu Feng penetrates her like a ferocious tiger, possessing all of her sweetness.

A gentle voice lightly sings, screaming out in excitement. The joys of fishes being water can be felt by the men and women of this world in such small bed, between the sleeping mat and covers, where they passionately sing out their high notes.

The clear skies of early morning has long sunk in, just that the light reflection from the snow makes people produce this illusion that it is still early. They maintain the man on top, woman on bottom, intercourse position, prolonging their time lying together.

He is reluctant to leave her body, she is greedily clinging to his warmth, "Why did you not wait for me at your hometown?"

"Cousin wouldn't allow it."

"Really cannot even slip out the slightest bit of news to me?"

"They say if fated, you can find them from a thousand of li away, I only wanted to see whether we are fated or not."

"Is that true?"

"It's false." She hugs his waist, chuckling, "Taking up my body, where else can I run off to?"

Liu Feng lets out a low laugh from his chest, "So, I cannot regret it, is that right?"

"Yes."

"How could I be willing to regret it?" Both pairs of eyes staring into one another, deep feelings of affection and tenderness circulating from their eyes. He stares into her eyes, seriously and sincerely says: "Is it good to come home with me then?"

"Yeah."

"I will still continue to walk the Jiang Hu."

Qu Qing Yin hooks onto his neck, kissing him on the lips, "As long as you remember to come home nice and clean, then it is fine."

Liu Feng raises his eyebrows, teasing her: "I smell something sour."

Qu Qing Yin also raises her brows, "You sure it is not the thick smell of blood?"

He hugs her and rolls over, changing their position to woman on top, man on bottom, his hands massaging her waist, "Looks like, I married a dominant wife."

She narrows her eyes, "Is that so?"

Liu Feng laughs out loud, "This dominant wife that I myself have willingly chased after."

"Heng."

"You're really going to retire from the Jiang Hu?"

Speaking of this, Qu Qing Yin could not help but sigh, "A place with people will be a place of the Jiang Hu, I say I'm retiring from the Jiang Hu, but just how many people can actually retire from it?"

Liu Feng clasps his arm around her, also following on with a sigh.

"I am no longer young, I should at least peacefully stay at home and give birth to a few children. If not, another few years later, I'm afraid I wouldn't even have the strength to do so."

He could not help but laugh, "Lady wife is extremely correct, we shall work harder to give birth to a couple more, so that once we are old, we will not feel lonely."

"Loud mouth."

"We will give birth to one each year, how's that?" He self-servingly says.

"You treating me as the mother pig?"

"Even if you are mother pig, I will still love you. Just go ahead and give birth."

"Giving birth or not is not just something women can say and do."

Liu Feng felt that his own dignity as a man was being challenged, turning his entire body over, having her pressed down under him.

"Ah!" Qu Qing Yin because of his sudden reverse of position, utters a light cry.

“Tonight, don’t you even think of sleeping.”

Qu Qing Yin pushes him, “I don’t want to, sweating so much, I need to wash up.”

“Really don’t want to?”

Qu Qing Yin stares at him, “Really.”

“That’s true, we still have many days to come.” He said it so meaningfully.

She grandly does not hold back and reaches up to his waist, shaking his mahua (Chinese fried dough twist), “What are you thinking about all day?”

“Branching out, to raise you into mother pig, that way no one will steal you from me.” He says it in all seriousness.

“Then why don’t you feed yourself into a male pig, not letting other women cling onto you?”

Liu Feng considers her words, “This truly isn’t a bad idea, then from now on, I will have to bother lady wife to feed me well. I’d say up to one or two hundred jin^[1], would just about be alright.”

Qu Qing Yin whacks him, “Then wouldn’t I be at even more discomfort, being weighed down by you?”

“Weren’t women born to be weighed down by men anyways? Was there any who were weighed down to death?”

“Get lost.” Qu Qing Yin was angry

He loudly laughs, turning his body to get off the bed. Pulling down his clothes from the top of the screen and putting them on, he looks back to say: “I’ll go tell someone to prepare some hot water. Once you’re done washing, sleep after you’ve eaten your fill.”

“En.”

The place that they are in right now is an independent courtyard within an inn. Qu Qing Yin had already paid up a year's worth of residency.

Liu Feng opens the door and exits. At the porch he breaths in a few mouthful of the icy but fresh air. His face filled with joyful laughter, looking back at the unlatched door, his smile broadens. With quick steps he goes out to ask for hot water and food.

Mount Zhong Yi Manor, this is the home Liu Feng took her back to.

Qu Qing Yin shows not even the slightest signs of surprise.

Liu Feng laughingly says: "You really have already guessed it."

She looks towards the tall, distance mountain manor, softly saying: "It is not like they deliberately hid it from me."

"That is because, it is already certain that we are all one family, so why should we hide it from you."

"But you also didn't clearly state it." She side glances at him.

"You're so clever, if I make it so clear, what's the point in that."

"Glib-tongued with words of eloquence."

Liu Feng looks at the golden hairpin in her hair, saying: "This hairpin is my mother's most loved."

Qu Qing Yin tilts her head as she looks at him, "Now that I think about it, you don't seem to have ever given me a gift."

Liu Feng pulls her in by the waist, laughingly saying: "I'll gift you again in the bridal chamber."

"Gift what?"

He does not say anything, guiding her towards the mountain manor's main doors.

Only when they were approaching, did Qu Qing Yin realise the manor was decorated with lights and festoons, prepared just like it would be for a wedding, she could not help but to look at him with raised eyebrows.

Liu Feng very naturally says: "They're just waiting for us two main characters to show up."

"You sent out the invitations?"

"Only invited a selected few."

Amongst these selected few, there is definitely womaniser Ji Chui Yu, so when they enter the manor and see Ji Chui Yu, Qu Qing Yin was not in the least surprised, it is just that.....

"It looks like it's just him." Didn't he say there are a few people.

"Congratulations to you both." Ji Chui Yu walks up, holding his fist to congratulate them.

Liu Feng curtly responds, "Thank you."

He turns to look at Qu Qing Yin, "Is lady Qu not liking the lack of guests?"

"No," Qu Qing Yin shakes her head, "I only feel that if only you, this wedding guest, is not here either then how perfect that would be."

Liu Feng's fan opens up to hide his face, his shoulders trembling.

"It is not good to say that, no matter what, I am still the only wedding guest here."

Qu Qing Yin bluntly asks: "Where is the wedding gift?"

Ji Chui Yu chokes on his own saliva, "Little Feng, are you really not going to prepare to say anything?"

Liu Feng sways the fan in his hand, smiling as he says: "She hasn't said anything wrong, attending a wedding, where is your wedding gift?"

Ji Chui Yu could not help but to let out a sigh, "Indeed...the wife sings, the husband follows."

At this time, two female attendants comes up, speaking to Qu Qing Yin: "Lady, please come with us to change your outfit."

Liu Feng says: "You go first."

Qu Qing Yin nods her head, she speaks no more and follows after the attendants.

Ji Chui Yu throws his arm around Liu Feng's shoulder, playfully asking: "Are you planning to be your wife's slave?"

Liu Feng asks back: "Why can't I?"

"Really congrats, lord bridegroom."

"Let's go, accompany me to get changed."

"Honestly speaking, I really haven't seen you wear a red outfit before."

"Perfect, you can see it this one time."

"I am truly honoured."

"Exactly when will I be able to drink your wedding wine?"

"This, you can only ask the heavens."

"You're really....."

Approximately an hour later, dressed in his bridegroom outfit, Liu Feng returns to the wedding ceremony hall. Once he spots Qu Qing Yin in a

full body of red, supported by the matron of honour as she enters, he smiles and takes two steps forward.

Ji Chui Yu pulls him back just in time, warning him: "What you in such a hurry for?"

He bitterly laughs, "These ceremony customs are really troublesome."

"A fortunate hour, a lucky day. Happily bow in thanks to the marriage hall....."

With the sound of the matchmaker's voice, the wedding ceremony begins.

Grand madam Guan sits in the master seat, merrily smiling as she watches the lovers finally get married. Guan Guang En also stands at the side, his face lit with a bright smile.

Outside the mountain manor, firecrackers were set off, within a moment, a lively festive atmosphere flutters within.

Once husband and wife had bowed towards each other, the ceremony has already ended. In this wedding ceremony hall, Liu Feng lifts the bride's head cover. This is the first time he had seen Qu Qing Yin after a meticulous makeover. The originally pretty face looks even more glorifying under the candlelights of the wedding ceremony hall.

"Lady wife, you really are beautiful."

Qu Qing Yin smiles.

The female attendants brings forth two cups of wine, handing it to them.

Liu Feng toasts Ji Chui Yu, saying: "Many thanks for coming to attend our wedding ceremony."

Qu Qing Yin also follows him with a toast.

Ji Chui Yu also toasts them in return them, all three simultaneously downing a cup of wine each.

Liu Feng leads his wife by the hand, kneeling down in front of grand madam Guan, "Many thanks to grand madam for putting your heart into helping us husband and wife prepare this wedding ceremony."

"It is only right, it is only right."

Qu Qing Yin places the wine cup down, taking hold of the tray from the female attendant, and raises it towards the grand madam, "May grand madam drink this tea."

"Good." Grand madam Guan places down a thick red envelop on the tray.

"Thank you, grand madam."

"May you husband and wife remain sweet tempered, live on well in harmony."

"We will."

Grand madam Guan looks at Liu Feng with comfort, "Really you...wedding is a major life event, yet you planned for it to be so cold and cheerless. Really wronging a great lady."

Qu Qing Yin speaks up for him, "Grand madam, this you cannot blame him, it is I who do not wish to get involved with Jiang Hu matters anymore. If he were to invite people, those invited would all be Jiang Hu people, it is still better to keep it nice and simple like this."

"We have let you be wronged." Grand madam Guan pats her hand.

Qu Qing Yin shyly bows her head, no longer saying anything.

"Okay then, since you have all rushed here, it must have been difficult. Go turn in for the night earlier."

“Yes.” Liu Feng supports his wife to her feet, “May grand madam walk slowly.”

“No need to send me off, this old lady is still able to move, you all rest early.”

“Okay.”

Once grand madam Guan had left, only Guan Guang En and Ji Chui Yu, as well as Liu Feng husband and wife, four people remains in the ceremony hall.

Guan Guang En says: “Today is your auspicious day, we shall not invite you to get drunk with us.

Ji Chui Yu stands aside, saying: “Yes, I and Guan Zhuan Zhu shall merrily drink away. You two go spend your wedding night.”

Liu Feng laughingly nods his head, “Then we husband and wife shall return to our room first.”

Ji Chui Yu waves his hand, “Go go, a moment of spring night is worth a thousand gold.”

Liu Feng husband and wife looks each other in the eye, only smiling at one another. Holding hands, they leave the ceremony hall together, returning to a newly arranged small courtyard that Mount Zhong Yi Manor had prepared for them to rest in.

Returning to the new room, Liu Feng helps his wife take down the headdress, “Is it tiring?”

“It’s fine.”

He watches his wife take down the hair accessories, cleaning off the makeup, changing back to the refreshing and cool Qu Qing Yin, only then does he holds her waist as they both head over to the bed and sit down.

“Right now, is there anything you want to ask me?”

Qu Qing Yin leans her head onto his shoulder, from the open windows, she looks up to the moon in the sky, asking: "Does Ji Chui Yu not know?"

"He doesn't know."

"Isn't he your best friend though?"

Liu Feng embraces her, together they look at the moon scenery outside the window, "Ever since the day I have left Mount Zhong Yi Manor, I can only be Liu Feng."

"This is the rules of Mount Zhong Yi Manor?"

"En. If you want to, then stay guard at the mountain manor. If you want to, then spread your wings free."

"Turns out, this is the reason why Mount Zhong Yi Manor is able to stand firm and not shake. Then would our children have to come back here later?"

"Depends on the situation."

"Mount Zhong Yi Manor has a really huge responsibility, if possible, I feel it's better to not come back."

Liu Feng lightly laughs, "I also feel that way."

"I love admiring the moon from the roof most." She squints her eyes.

"Want to drink some wine?"

"Yeah."

"I also feel tonight's moon scenery isn't bad, let's go, up to the roof to admire the moon."

"Are you crazy, such a cold day and you want me to go up to the roof to suffer the cold wind and admire the moon with you?" Qu Qing Yin just simply cannot cipher what goes on in his head.

Liu Feng sees her expression, and immediately laughs out loud, "It's not often I see such a lively expression from you, as your husband, I am very pleased."

"You're crazy."

In the end, of course they did not admire the moon from the roof, a moment of spring night is worth a thousand gold, Liu Feng has never been a wasteful person.

Once again coming to this town called Hong Ye Town, everything seems to look the same as it did one year ago.

They are still staying at that same inn from last time, this house, as long as you open the windows, you can see the pedestrians walking the streets.

Liu Feng sits at the window sill looking at the street view. He turns his head to the person lying in bed, "You feeling any better?"

Qu Qing Yin's face looks pale, her voice lacking energy, "A little better."

"How could there be such a big reaction?"

She only shakes her head.

He closes the window and sits by the bed, holding onto her hand, speaking dearly, "Seeing you like this really pains my heart."

"All women has to go through this."

He reaches out to cradle her face, sighing as he speaks: "Your body can't even withstand the bumpy road, must you insist on coming?"

"The sweeping of graves day is almost here, plus the day I agreed upon with cousin has past, I can go home now."

"Agreement? There were still agreements?"

“En, cousin disallowed me from going home for a year.”

“I thought he only didn’t want you to be found by me.”

“I believe there must be another reason.”

Liu Feng silently nods.

“Ou — —” Qu Qing Yin suddenly feels sick again.

Liu Feng hastily grabs the spittoon and holds it up, seeing her trying to throw up the sour liquid but unable to let it out, his heart suddenly tightens, sketching out his self-blame. “Had I have known earlier, then we should not have gotten you pregnant.”

Qu Qing Yin directly spits towards him, “I don’t need belated efforts.”

“My heart is truly pained for my lady wife.”

“Before when I saw pregnant women’s reaction, I was still wondering if they were for real. Only when it came to my turn, did I realise just how difficult it is.”

“Let us rest here for another two days before we leave, we still have a long road ahead.”

Qu Qing Yin grabs a handkerchief to dab at her lips, whilst raising her head to look at him, “How do you know?”

“Lady wife, your husband is not that stupid. At that time when you did not allow me to follow along, I had already guessed it.” With her personality, she could not possibly give him the chance to find out where the graves are at that time, staying here was just a cover-up.

“At least you are considered obedient, not following after me.”

Liu Feng pours her a cup of water and hands it over, “Had I followed along would you not have been angry? Lady wife’s fumes, your husband I, would not dare to challenge in the slightest bit.”

“Really?” Qu Qing Yin drinks a mouthful of water, staring at him, “The amount of times you’ve messed with me is considered little?”

“That is the playful banter between husband and wife, it is different.”

“Fu Wei Trading Guild’s matters, are you not going over, is it really not that important?”

“The drunkard should be able to handle it, with lady wife in this state, I cannot bear to leave you alone.” He takes her emptied cup and puts it away, supporting her to lie back down, “Besides, all these right and wrongs in the Jiang Hu, which one of them can possibly be more important than my lady wife.”

Hearing this, Qu Qing Yin laughs.

“What’s so funny?”

“The gentleman Xiao Yao who loves meddling in matters most, to actually say such words, is that not funny?”

Liu Feng knows that he can’t hide it from her, honestly speaking: “Fu Wei Trading Guild’s matters aren’t hard to resolve, it is just that there is something rather troubling.”

“Tell me.”

Liu Feng sees that she seems to be looking fine, and continues to speak: “You still remember missy Shui?”

“En.”

“Lately in the Jiang Hu there has been this matter of heroes gradually disappearing, I feel that this has something to do with her.”

“Oh?”

“Lady wife does not care for Jiang Hu matters, naturally you would not have realised it. I am also suspicious that she has been practicing some sort of unorthodox martial arts.”

“I don’t think so.”

“En?” Liu Feng’s spirit picks up, he has always felt that his wife is someone of extremely high intellect, regarding some things she has some unique insights. Maybe her words can help him unlock his mind of doubt.

Qu Qing Yin’s eyebrows knits together, her voice slows, “Still remember the one who caused the feud between Master Shui and my senior brother, madam Shui?”

“Her?” Liu Feng frowns.

“Throughout these years she should have been accompanying Senior Brother, unfortunately when Senior Brother died, she has never revealed herself.”

“Maybe she is already dead?”

“If she is dead, then back then, my Senior Brother would probably have mentioned it to Shui Mu Yuan.” Qu Qing Yin pauses for a moment, “Besides, practicing yin and yang energy alike, such evil martial arts, must require two well-matched practitioners to complement one another.”

Liu Feng’s expression immediately turns imposing.

“Back then Senior Brother stole our sect’s forbidden martial arts manual. I heard from Shi Fu, that although this secret manual teaches a powerful form of martial arts, it is too overbearing. Even the slightest mistake could make one lose control and get possessed by their inner demons.”

“You’re saying—”

Qu Qing Yin’s expression was slightly imposing, “On that day, the state my Senior Brother was in, he had already shown signs of being possessed by his inner demon, if he had actually got possessed, then he would completely lose his original nature, a great havoc. This is also the reason why our sect had banned this secret manual. It is just that in the

end it is the blood and sweat of the founding master, which makes it inconvenient to destroy.”

“You have never spoke of this before.”

“But even if this secret manual has fallen into the hands on madam Shui, I believe she too will not be met with a good ending.”

Liu Feng looks at her with confusion.

She wipes her mouth, saying: “Shi Fu once told me, when he was young, he had once accidentally ripped out a few pages, scared that his senior sister would scold him, he secretly burned those pages into ashes, in order to pretend everything is intact.”

Liu Feng’s mouth parts, helplessly rubbing his forehead.

Qu Qing Yin says: “You also know, Shi Fu has never admitted wrong his entire life, he was like that since young.”

“I understand.”

Having said all that, Qu Qing Yin was not feeling too good, closing her eyes, “I’m going to sleep for a bit.”

“Ok, sleep.” He sits at the bedside, accompanying her.

After sweeping the graves, Qu Qing Yin returns to her home that she had long been absent from, but she had almost not been able to recognise her own house.

Seeing this newly built, extravagant looking residence, she had almost rubbed her forehead and groan out loud.

So this is the reason why her cousin did not allow her to return home!

“Lady, mister.”

A row of female attendants, a row of male attendants, and even a row of guards, greeting them in a perfectly uniformed manner.

Such a parade, even Liu Feng, wanted to rub his head in frustration. That imperial cousin really is overbearingly thoughtful.

“Cousin doing this, is he trying to make me flee his country?”

Liu Feng could not help but to burst out in laughter, “This is all considered his sincerity, besides you do require the care of others right now.”

“This really is too much.....” She is already living her days with her diet and daily life being taken care of. Could it be from henceforth, she has to get used to it from the start again?

This is the sincerity of the emperor, both people could only accept it. Liu Feng stayed home to accompany his wife for five days, when it came to the sixth day, he gets shooed out of the house doors.

If gentleman Xiao Yao no longer meddles in others’ matters then he is no longer gentleman Xiao Yao, thus after hearing her say such words, he definitely cannot remain sitting there.

“Once I have attended to matters, I will be right back.” He promises before he leaves.

“Come back clean.” She requests of him.

“Okay.”

— — — — — The End — — — — —