

The Brilliant Fighting Master

Chapter 18: Surprise

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The territories of the east and west courtyard bordered on the Xilan Street of the mountain town, which was full of the sound of firecrackers and children's cheers at the moment. Some people were playing drums and performing lion dances. People saw those from the west courtyard piling up boxes and putting them in a line at the street corner. Everyone from the West courtyard was excited to see these boxes, since they already heard the news that the year-end bonus of this year would be bigger than usual.

Jiang Tianxiong, the owner of the west courtyard, was standing with his son Jiang Jian behind those boxes. The steward Li Hong was with them as well. They were looking at the other side of the street complacently. That was where the East courtyard was located. There were boxes, too, but the amount was much less. The atmosphere was also very dull. People from these two sides were in a completely different mood.

Gao Yue was standing there sorrowfully. She knew that her son had sold the panaceas, but she also did some calculations. The income of selling these three hundred panaceas could only save them from the plight for the moment. The year-end bonus would still be less than usual.

Suddenly Li Hong shouted, "Guys! You've been working a lot this year! Each family will get ten gold beast heads and ten Gathering Qi Pills. Besides, you'll also get some fur and other awards."

"Wow!"

Those from the West courtyard all shouted with excitement. Jiang Tianxiong nodded with satisfaction. The boxes were opened one by one and the things inside left the whole street in an uproar.

Out of curiosity, those from the east courtyard also looked over. They saw gold in the first big box and huge amounts of Gathering Qi Pills in the second.

In the third box there were some fancy furs, while in the fourth and fifth box were all kinds of weapons, from knives and swords to clubs. People from the West courtyard collected their year-end bonuses with excitement.

“Lady, shall we start?” Someone from the east courtyard said lifelessly.

“Wait a second. Chen said he would arrive soon,” Gao Yue said.

A middle-aged man with a hat suddenly said, “Lady, it doesn’t matter. We won’t blame you. If in the past few years we could enjoy the wealth together, this year of course we can share hardships together.”

“Yes, this isn’t your fault.”

“We can take it.”

Many people echoed that man’s words. But Gao Yue noticed more people were in silence. It was logical. They already lost hope for the east courtyard, since even if they had managed to get through that year, there wouldn’t be any big changes in the next year. Unless...the Windblade would return!

“Jiang Fan, what a beautiful talk!”

A harsh voice stirred up some disturbance in people. The middle-aged man with a hat looked over and said angrily, “Jiang Yu, it’s you! You are such an ungrateful soul.”

The man that had spoken was a small guy with an ordinary look and very small eyes. His eyes were so small that they narrowed into slits when he was smiling. His arrival provoked some anger in the crowd. It turned out this guy was originally from the East courtyard, but he deserted to the west courtyard before they really took over the East courtyard.

What was excessive was that he even tried to persuade others to desert with him. Jiang Fan was one of the guys he tried to win over. Jiang Fan scolded him harshly. This day, he came in order to get revenge. He was holding ten gold beast heads and ten Gathering Qi Pills in his hands and shouted, “Your son is in the crucial period of the Condensing Qi State. Does he know that your stupidity is holding up his progress?”

“Do you still remember the benefits you got from here before?” Jiang Fan said in a cold voice.

“Hahaha, I worked hard. I deserved it. Why should I be grateful? Let me have a look. I think you from the east courtyard will get five gold beast heads, at most.”

The whole East courtyard was embarrassed by his words. Especially Gao Yue. She lowered her head for shame. Jiang Yu was from the east courtyard. So he knew the situation of the east courtyard pretty well. Five gold beast heads were indeed the maximum. They couldn't afford more.

“You are wrong.”

All of a sudden, Jiang Chen's voice appeared. People looked over. Jiang Chen was walking in big steps to approach Jiang Yu. He said to him with hatred, “The year-end bonus of the east courtyard will be twenty gold beast heads and ten Gathering Qi Pills for everybody. Besides, all of the Gathering Qi Pills have a holy quality class.”

The whole Xilan Street was silenced by him. Everyone looked over to Jiang Chen. Jiang Yu didn't know what to say. Whether it was true or false, he wasn't in the position to question Jiang Chen.

“Jiang Chen, watch out. Your boasts will do you no good,” Jiang Jian said scornfully from the other side of the street.

“Son, where will we get the gold beast heads?” Gao Yue was nervous, too. No one knew better than her the situation of the East courtyard. What's more, Jiang Chen was talking about holy Gathering Qi Pills! They would be doomed if they couldn't fulfill their promise.

“Uncle Fan!”

Jiang Chen shouted, and smiled at Gao Yue to assure her. Fan Tu and two Wind Move Guards each carried a box and laid them onto the ground. They sounded pretty heavy. Everyone's attention was drawn over. Then Jiang Chen opened the boxes in person.

People found gold beast heads in two of the boxes and holy Gathering Qi Pills in the other. Plus several boxes of things that Gao Yue had prepared, the west courtyard was beaten by the east in an instant.

“Let's start.” Jiang Chen ordered calmly when everyone else was still in shock.

Fan Tu shouted as loud as he could, “Brothers and sisters of the east courtyard, please come to collect your year-end bonuses!”

“Is it for real that everyone gets twenty gold beast heads? And these holy Gathering Qi Pills are for us, too?” Someone from the East courtyard couldn’t believe it.

“Of course!” Fan Tu answered confidently.

“Hooray!”

People from the east courtyard couldn’t help cheering like beasts. Their depression was gone once and for all. Those from the west courtyard, who had been complacent, were stunned by the current scene. Jiang Yu, who had been boasting about his bonus, looked from the gold beast heads in his hand to those twenty heads and the holy Gathering Qi Pills in Jiang Fan’s hand, and looked confused.

“Haha, now your son knows what you’ve made him miss?” Jiang Fan said to Jiang Yu exactly the same thing that the latter had said to him. Jiang Yu felt regret, but he had to swallow it. He gritted his teeth and left in silence.

“Anyway, you Jiang Chen...” Jiang Jian was about to say something satiric.

But Jiang Chen didn’t give him any chance to do so. He interrupted Jiang Yu, “Cut the bullshit. I’ve achieved the Gathering Yuan State. How about you, Jiang Jian? I don’t see any progress in you! Gathering Yuan State?”

Jiang Jian had intended to satire Jiang Chen, but now he was taken aback by Jiang Chen’s words. He looked over to his father. Jiang Tianxiong stared at Jiang Chen seriously, as if he were trying to find something in him.

“Gathering Yuan State? For real, son?”

Gao Yue was so excited that she approached Jiang Chen and grasped his arms. There were so many surprises and she didn’t know how to describe her feelings. Her son recovered instead of remaining disabled for having been deprived of the holy pulse!

“Young Lord!”

“Young Master Chen!”

People from the east courtyard gathered around him, as if he were their backbone. As long as Jiang Chen was here, they wouldn't be beaten by the west courtyard. Jiang Tianxiong left instantly without saying anything.

"Jiang Chen, my brother will be back tomorrow. You'll regret it by then." Jiang Jian said harshly, unwilling to throw in the towel so soon.

"Anytime!" Jiang Chen smiled with despise. He didn't want to argue with such a wimpy nerd. By then the East courtyard fought a beautiful battle against the west courtyard in the year-end bonus matter. Jiang Chen was no doubt the biggest hero.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Jiang Chen told her the whole story about the holy Gathering Qi Pills. After hearing the story, Gao Yue stared at Fan Tu and reproached him, "Why did you act up with him?"

"Lady..." Fan Tu didn't know what to answer.

"Mother, because we intended to surprise you," Jiang Chen hastened to say.

"What kind of surprise is that? I could barely eat these days." Gao Yue gave him a reproachful look, but then burst into sweet smiles.

The Gathering Yuan State is classified in a different way than the Condensing Qi State. It has three classifications: the preliminary stage, middle stage and late stage.

Each stage includes three sub-stages: beginning, completeness and peak.

Jiang Chen's current state was the beginning of the preliminary stage of the Gathering Yuan State.

After the year-end bonuses were given out, on the next day, the travelling members of the Jiangs returned one after the other.

Among them was Jiang Jian's brother, Jiang Feng. He progressed a lot in the past year and had achieved the peak of the preliminary stage of the Gathering Yuan State.

In addition, he brought back a noble female companion, which was enviable for others.

And the cousin who was on good terms with Jiang Chen also came back.

Her name was Jiang Lu, a very pretty woman. As soon as she came back to the Southwind Ridge, she went to Jiang Chen's room and expressed her empathy and anger for what had happened to him.

She also brought Su Qian's news to him.

A guy would show up in the New Year celebration banquet of the next day, an enemy that would be extremely difficult to deal with for Jiang Chen.

That guy was Meng Fei. He came to the Jiang Mansion with his apprentice sister, claiming that they were having adventures in the Hundred Thousand Mountains and had no time to go back home to celebrate the New Year, so they came to the Jiang Mansion to join in the fun.

Jiang Lu told Jiang Chen something she knew by hearsay, "He is Su Qian's new boyfriend. He is here only to seek revenge for Su Qian. His master Gui Ya was a famous and powerful man in the Hundred Thousand Mountains."

"Oh? Revenge?" Jiang Chen didn't understand what that meant, since from his understanding he was the one who should seek revenge.

"Did you or did you not write the certificate of divorce to divorce Su Qian?" Jiang Lu asked.

"Yes, I did."

"It's very humiliating for a girl to receive a certificate of divorce. And people will say that Meng Fei is with a loose woman that you've abandoned. That's why they only want you to sign that disengagement agreement."

Jiang Chen got to understand the situation, but he still had some doubts, so he asked, "How did you know these things?"

"Because I was in the Whitewater City."

Jiang Chen nodded. Jiang Lu was working in the Whitewater City. Of course she was more well-informed.

"Even you know that Meng Fei is Su Qian's boyfriend. There is nothing wrong with my certificate of divorce."

Jiang Lu was worried. "I am afraid that he will rock the boat tomorrow. He is in the peak of the preliminary stage, and his master is Gui Ya..."

"Take it easy."

Jiang Chen didn't take it seriously and interrupted her indifferently.

Jiang Lu looked at him, puzzled. She said, "It seems to me you've become a different person."

"I have to grow up after all those bad experiences," Jiang Chen said helplessly.

"Alas. Don't upset. These things will be over sooner or later. We will definitely get Uncle Windblade out of there." Jiang Lu felt remorse for what she had said and looked at Jiang Chen with empathy.

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The New Year celebration officially started on the next day. Guests who wanted to have some fun in the Southwind Ridge also had arrived.

Most of these guests came here to celebrate the New Year because they didn't have enough time to go back home or they had no family at all.

However, there were some new people among this year's guests.

For example, Meng Fei and his apprentice sister, Liu Fei, whom Jiang Lu had mentioned.

And Xiao Hai, the alchemist who worked for the Jiang Mansion. But it was his first time celebrating the New Year here. He didn't look very friendly. His hands were bandaged.

The west courtyard knew soon that it was Jiang Chen who had beaten Xiao Hai and he came here this day to avenge himself. His master would arrive soon.

What's more, to everyone's surprise, apprentices from the Swordquest School were also there.

That was a powerful school beyond the Hundred Thousand Mountains. People could deduct from its reputation in the Southwind Ridge how great and powerful it was.

The two disciples were pursuing a villain who was hiding in the Hundred Thousand Mountains and didn't get time to go back. That was how they were in the Jiang Mansion.

Of course the Jiangs treated them as noble guests.

At the same time, there was a special guest for the east courtyard, someone from the Su's.

He was sitting with the east courtyard, talking with people in a jovial mood, as if he had no idea of the current relationship between the two families, which made the east courtyard totally confused.

Jiang Chen came to the square in his new clothes. Some servants were busy with fixing up the place. There were round large tables as far as the eye could see.

He became the center of attention as soon as he showed up. A guy came to him promptly.

"Jiang Chen."

It was a handsome young man in a white robe. Beside him was an elegant lady.

The young man was Jiang Jian's brother, who just came back from the institution. He was in the peak of the preliminary stage of the Gathering Yuan State, as good as the Wind Move Guards of the Jiangs. And he was only twenty years old.

Jiang Feng had been very popular in the Southwind Ridge until Jiang Chen's great talent was discovered.

Fortunately they were four years apart and had no competitions between them, so there had been no conflicts. After Jiang Feng went to the institution, they had even less encounters.

“You are the son of the Windblade? What a plain boy!” The girl beside Jiang Feng sized up Jiang Chen with a look and showed a contemptuous smile.

She continued without expecting any response from Jiang Chen, “To be honest, without the Windblade, the Southwind Ridge is only an ordinary force.”

The she looked around and shook her head with pity.

Jiang Feng was embarrassed, but he knew his female companion’s temper, so he didn’t respond.

“Who are you?” Jiang Chen asked.

“My name is Jin Jie. You can call me Miss Jin,” She said proudly.

“You are a guest here. Watch your mouth.” Jiang Chen didn’t show her any courtesy.

Jin Jie was shocked. She said angrily with her eyes wide open, “What did you just say? Do you know whom you are talking with?”

“An insolent woman, who knows no respect,” Jiang Chen said coldly.

“Respect? Your small Southwind Ridge doesn’t deserve my respect.”

“Then please leave.” Jiang Chen gestured towards the door.

Of course Jin Jie wouldn’t leave so easily, but she was so dumbfounded that she couldn’t even say a word.

Jiang Feng took the chance to question Jiang Chen, “Jiang Chen, she is my guest. You don’t have the right to ask her to leave.”

“So you’ll allow her to talk bullshit here to insult the Jiangs? Don’t forget you are also a member of the Jiangs,” Jiang Chen said.

Jiang Feng was extremely discontented with Jiang Chen’s attitude towards him, since he didn’t save face at all in the presence of Jin Jie. He said, “What a great talk! How eloquent you’ve become since we last met! Looks like that without your father here, no one is giving you any proper education. Today I will give you a good lesson as a brother!”

“Yeah? How will you give me the lesson?” Jiang Chen raised his head and looked at Jiang Feng with provocation.

“You’ll know it soon. There are plenty of chances at the banquet.”

Jiang Feng didn’t rush. Instead, he left with Jin Jie for the moment.

At the moment Jiang Chen sensed that someone was looking at him. The cold and gloomy look made him quite uneasy.

He looked towards where the look was coming from. He saw a young man who was more or less his age sitting in a seat for distinguished guests.

There was also a girl beside him.

Jiang Lu came to him and noticed his look. She nodded at him.

“Is he Meng Fei?”

Jiang Chen squinted. Instead of being intimidated, he looked like he had accepted the challenge.

Something occurred to him. Last time when her mother went to the Su’s, they met a rude guy who claimed to be Su Qian’s boyfriend.

He called Cher over, pointed at Meng Fei and asked her, “Is he that guy?”

“Exactly!” Cher looked at him and nodded.

“What did he say?” Jiang Chen asked.

“Young Master.” To his surprise, Cher glanced at him and didn’t dare speak.

Jiang Chen couldn’t imagine what terrible things Meng Fei had said that even the talkative Cher didn’t dare speak them out.

“Good. I got it,” Jiang Chen said coldly.

Suddenly the place was in a great uproar.

The guests on site stood one after another and looked to the same direction. The lord of the Jiang Mansion, Jiang Wentian, namely Jiang Chen’s grandpa, was walking towards them slowly.

Most of the people of the Jiang Mansion hadn't seen him in almost half a year. He finally showed up on the big day of the year, looking healthy and in fine fettle, which was quite soothing.

Jiang Wentian greeted the guests one by one and sat down at the main table.

Jiang Chen saw Gao Yue's meaningful glance and walked over to greet him.

"Chen, are you feeling better now?" A bright smile lit up Jiang Wentian's ancient wrinkled face. He mentioned neither the Black Dragon City nor Jiang Chen's father.

Jiang Chen understood his intention and wished him Happy New Year.

Jiang Lu, Jiang Jian, Jiang Feng and other disciples of the Jiangs' came forward one after another to wish Happy New Year to the elders.

Then Jiang Wentian stood up to declare the start of the banquet.

They had a hearty meal. Everything smelled so delicious that young kids were tempted to start eating without the permission of the adults.

"Jiang Feng, did you learn anything new in the institute in the past year?" Jiang Wentian asked.

Jiang Feng felt delighted. He answered with pride, "Grandpa, I've achieved the peak of the preliminary stage and I think I will achieve the middle stage of the Gathering Yuan State soon."

"By then my elder brother will be a powerful person even in the Jiang Mansion!" Jiang Jian added right away.

"Good!"

Jiang Wentian nodded with satisfaction. He suddenly glanced at Jiang Chen and said with pity, "How great it would be if Chen hadn't been injured."

Jiang Feng wasn't very happy to hear this. He said, "Jiang Chen hit the bottleneck of the Condensing Qi State before. It would indeed take him lots of time to break it through. Even if he hadn't been injured, it would have taken him more or less one year."

“Jiang Chen achieved the Gathering Yuan State in less than half year even after he was injured. How would it have taken him such a long time?” Jiang Lu argued.

“Didn’t you just achieve the Gathering Yuan State? And it didn’t take you much time?” Jiang Feng said with satire.

The arguing of the young generation made the elders laugh.

The Second Elder said, “So, let’s start the annual evaluation to see who is the best.”

In a second all of the disciples turned pale. The annual evaluation was what they were looking forward to, but they also felt nervous about it.

The annual gathering wasn’t only to have a meal together, but also to see the progress of the young generation.

That was why Jiang Chen had tried so hard to achieve the Gathering Yuan State.

“Wonderful. Let’s start. Fetch the bow of the lost souls here!” Jiang Wentian ordered without asking others’ opinions.

It was a unique weapon that only existed in the Southwind Ridge. It didn’t have any lethality, but could detect how strong one’s soul was.

How strong one’s soul was would decide how fast and how deep he could apprehend a martial method and a martial technique.

So the bow of the lost souls could detect one’s talent.

This was something unusual, since talent meant everything for the people living in this continent, but by far there didn’t exist a way that could ascertain one’s talent with 100% accuracy.

This was like gambling on stones. You wouldn’t know whether a stone was a gem or trash until it was cut open.

A man would have to practice and be judged by the time he spent practicing and his achievements.

However, everyone wanted to know how great his talent was and how far he could go beforehand.

Many powerful forces also wanted to find out a way to detect one's talent so that they could pick out the more talented ones to train.

The disciples of the Jiang Mansion would shoot with the bow of the lost souls. The farther they could shoot, the stronger their souls were.

Murong Feng and Li Lie, the two disciples of the Swordquest School, had never heard this kind of thing. They only got to know this story when people of the Jiangs beside them explained it to them.

Murong Feng was a gorgeous woman. She had a beauty that the women living in the mountains didn't possess. She was graceful, but also very lively.

She was in a close-fitting dress, which had already attracted much attention.

She said, "Tools used to detect talents are very rare, and most of them don't have a high accuracy. It's quite surprising that I will see it in a place like the Hundred Thousand Mountains. And it looks so amusing."

"Let's buy one when we go back. I want to show it to the elder and see whether it works or not," Li Lie said.

"Sure."

The Swordquest School also possessed a talent test tool called Skyquest Sword. There was a rare pattern carved on the blade, which made it very difficult to draw the sword from the sheath. So one's talent would be decided by how much he could draw the sword from the sheath.

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There were more disciples than the bows. So they had to take the test in turn.

The disciples were standing with the bow of the lost souls holding in hand, and were trying to aim for the porcelain bottles hanging in the air. The closest porcelain bottles were three hundred steps away.

Most of them chose to shoot the closest targets, since if they chose the farther ones and missed the target, they wouldn't get any points.

Only confident ones would choose to take the challenge.

For example, Jiang Feng. He got into the Cangnan Institute, so he must have a good talent.

He shot a handsome arrow. The arrow blew shrilly, ripping apart the sky, and shattered the porcelain bottle that was eight hundred steps away.

The whole Jiang Mansion was astonished. Jiang Tianxiong was very proud to see this.

“Very good.” Jiang Wentian nodded with satisfaction.

“It looks fun. Let me try it.”

Jin Jie suddenly walked to Jiang Feng and extended her hand out with no intention to ask his opinion.

“Sure.” Jiang Feng handed the bow of the lost souls to her.

Jin Jie didn't rush to shoot the arrow. She played with the bow a little first, tried to pull the bowstring back, and then put an arrow in the bow. She was so confident that she aimed at the target that was one thousand steps away.

Her slender arm drew the bowstring to the limit and the arrow then flew out with a whoosh. The porcelain bottle that was one thousand and two hundred steps away was shot.

“Wow!” Many people were shocked.

“Eh? Looks I can shoot farther.” Jin Jie was so excited that she was about to shoot the second arrow.

“The Jiang Mansion isn't a scenic spot that you are visiting. Everyone only gets one arrow every time. Even if you want to play around, you have to respect the rule here.” Jiang Chen walked to her and felt anger for this woman.

He was the son of the Over Cloud Palace in his previous life, but he had never been arrogant because of his noble identity.

Jin Jie was behaving like the descendents of those upstarts. They had some deep-rooted bad habits.

“How shabby you are!”

Jin Jie curled her lip. Jiang Chen didn't leave her a good impression. She rolled her eyes at him, gave him the bow and said sarcastically, “You've never tried this, have you? What's your result for last year?”

“Eight hundred steps.” Jiang Feng answered.

He couldn't understand why Jiang Chen could get such a good result before. After knowing that Jiang Chen had the holy pulse, he felt relieved, since at the same time he was informed of the robbery of the holy pulse and the tragedy of the east courtyard.

“Let's see whether you can break my record.” On hearing that Jiang Chen's record was four hundred steps closer than hers, Jin Jie showed an extremely bright smile.

Jiang Chen took the bow of the lost souls and thought of the record of his father, which was two thousand steps. That was quite impressive for him.

The previous Jiang Chen used to make that record as his target.

“Let me help you achieve it.”

Jiang Chen drew the bowstring and put the arrow in the bow. He aimed at the porcelain bottle that was two thousand steps away.

His movement attracted some attention. Jiang Feng sneered at him, “Don't forget that if you can't shoot that far, your arrow will reach nowhere and you won't get any points.”

The farther the distance was, the more difficult it was, since in that way not only the distance but also the accuracy represented the strength of his soul.

Two thousand steps away, the porcelain bottle was only a black spot.

Jiang Wentian raised his thick grey eyebrows. Although he hadn't seen anyone during this time, he knew everything that happened in the Southwind Ridge.

“This kiddo wants to show that he has enough talent, but is he pushing himself too hard?”

Jiang Wentian was pretty fond of this grandson. However, to put the big picture into consideration, the east courtyard wasn't powerful enough to take the responsibility of the Jiang Mansion for the moment. If he entrusted them with the position of the lord of the mansion recklessly, it would only bring the Jiangs to ruin.

That was why he didn't stop the west courtyard from merging with the east.

On this day he had to make a decision.

At the moment, Jiang Chen loosened his fingers and let the arrow fly.

The moment the arrow left the bowstring, the Bow of the Lost Souls was vibrating due to the great force.

Pah!

Soon people heard the cracking sound of the porcelain bottle, but it was so far away that no one was sure whether it really smashed into pieces. A guy in the late stage of the Gathering Yuan State went to verify the result.

Not only was the record broken, but he shot the arrow much farther than Jiang Feng and Jin Jie.

"Gosh, Jiang Chen! How did you make it?" Jiang Lu ran over with excitement and admiration.

"Easy," Jiang Chen answered her and looked at Jiang Feng and Jin Jie, who were already speechless.

Not far away, Meng Fei, who came to challenge Jiang Chen, was shocked too. But in no way would he admit that Jiang Chen was better than him. He sneered, "The Southwind Ridge invented this thing for self-entertainment. Who knows how accurate it is?"

"Yeah, you might achieve three thousand steps," his apprentice sister, Liu Fei, said.

"Certainly."

Meng Fei nodded without any hesitation. He was also considering taking a try, but he wasn't very sure of himself, so he didn't want to risk it.

“It’s only two thousand steps. That means that it’s not very difficult. I can do that, too. If you are really good, try to shoot the farthest target located three thousand steps away.” Jin Jie was reluctant to admit her defeat. She was challenging Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen glanced at the porcelain bottle that was three thousand steps away, which he had to squint to see, no bigger than a black spot.

“All right.”

Jiang Chen placed another arrow on his bow and aimed at the porcelain bottle.

When one drew the string of the Bow of the Lost Souls, the force he gathered wasn’t his genuine yuan, but the so-called strength of the soul. It was like filling a well with an infinite amount of water.

The more you filled in, the greater the force was, and the farther the arrow reached.

Jiang Chen didn’t feel tired at all when he was shooting the porcelain bottle that was two thousand steps away. This meant that he could reach farther.

He once again loosened his fingers and the arrow flew out like a mustang out of control.

Many people stood up, doubting whether the target would be hit.

Pah!

However, they heard the cracking sound once again.

Seeing this, Meng Fei totally gave up his intention to try.

Jiang Chen smiled and handed the bow to Jin Jie. He said, “Won’t you try the second arrow as well? Now, go ahead.”

“Hum, these are only toys for children. Do you really take them so seriously?” Jin Jie finally asked.

Her words provoked dissatisfaction among the disciples of the Jiang Mansion. Even Jiang Feng couldn’t defend her any more.

As to whether the bow of the lost souls counted or not, the Jiang Mansion drew the conclusion from decades of experience. All of those who got the best results in the annual evaluation would achieve something greater in the next few years.

It was obvious that Jin Jie just didn't want to say uncle, but it was really annoying.

Suddenly, Murong Feng from the Swordquest School stood up and said, "Lord Jiang, thank you for your hospitality. I have an iron sword here. It's the Skyquest Sword of the Swordquest School. It has some locks in it and can examine one's talent in swordsmanship or martial arts techniques. The more you can draw the sword out of the sheath, the greater your talent is. We can use it to see the talent of the Jiangs' young generation."

"It sounds great. We can use it to verify the value of the bow of the lost souls." When she heard that thing was from the Swordquest School, Jin Jie totally changed her attitude.

"Thank you. We really appreciate your suggestion."

Jiang Wentian gave it a thought and concluded that the Swordquest School meant well, so he took her suggestion pleasantly.

"You are welcome. The Swordquest School can use it repeatedly, so it won't cause us any loss." Murong Feng glanced at Jiang Chen while speaking.

She said, "I am also curious about the potential of the young generation of Jiangs. Anyone who can draw two-thirds of the Skyquest Sword out of the sheath satisfies one of the requirements to be a disciple of the Swordquest School."

"What?!"

Even Meng Fei walked over, interested to try the Skyquest Sword, not to mention numerous other disciples of the Jiangs.

But there were only two Skyquest Swords, so there were even fewer chances to try than in the case of the bow of the lost souls.

"This is a test tool of the Swordquest School. Do you dare try it?" Jin Jie, with a provocative expression, turned around to look over to Jiang Chen.

“You are so childish. If this time you lose again, how will you excuse yourself?”

“That is absolutely impossible!” Jin Jie stared at him and shouted angrily.

“Are you sure?” Jiang Chen smiled noncommittally.

Jin Jie was provoked by him. She came forward in a rude manner, pushed away the first disciple who was trying to draw the sword, and put her hand on the handle of the sword.

Before the disciple who was pushed away by her could complain, Jin Jie had already started to exert her force.

The sheath of the ordinary-looking Skyquest Sword seemed attached to the sword. She was dragging the sword little by little instead of drawing it.

Jin Jie’s face flushed with exertion, but only a bit of the sword was dragged out. She was dragging slower and slower and finally stopped when half of the blade was out.

Jin Jie shouted and relaxed her grip. The blade retracted into the sheath right away.

“Did I draw out two-thirds of the sword?” Jin Jie hastened to ask.

“Yes. You’ve satisfied one of the requirements to be the disciple of the Swordquest School. If you’re interested, you can continue with the other tests. If anyone can draw the whole sword out, they can join our school right away.” Murong Feng said with smile.

This result was good enough for Jin Jie. If it were so easy to join, the Swordquest School wouldn’t be the Swordquest School.

Her arrogance showed again on her face. She looked to Jiang Chen and shouted, “Now, do you dare compete with me?”

“Why not?”

Jiang Chen smiled and came forward quickly. He extended his hands to grab the handle of the iron sword.

The scene ignited everyone's excitement, especially people from the Jiang Mansion.

Jiang Chen had done so well with the bow of the lost souls. If he failed to draw out the Skyquest Sword, it would mean the test with the Bow of the Lost Souls wasn't accurate at all.

For the outsiders there, of course the Swordquest School had more credibility than the Jiang Mansion. And it was natural for them to trust the test tool of the Swordquest School.

Jiang Chen couldn't afford any failure. He grabbed the handle with his left hand and started to exert his force.

The Skyquest Sword that seemed to weigh half a ton in others' hands looked different in his. The sword was drawn out of the sheath quickly and smoothly.

There was no obstruction at all in the whole process. It happened so fast that when everyone came to themselves, the Skyquest Sword was already in Jiang Chen's hand.

"Eh, what's this?" It was even surprising for Jiang Chen himself.

"It's out?!"

It was the first time for the people of the area to see the blade of the Skyquest Sword. Not only the onlookers, but also the two disciples of the Swordquest School, were astonished.

"You just said that if anyone could draw out the Skyquest Sword entirely, he could be a disciple of the Swordquest School, didn't you?"

"That's right." Murong Feng nodded and kept looking at Jiang Chen.

"Jiang Chen, how old are you?" Li Lie asked.

"Sixteen."

"You can become a disciple of the Swordquest School. Are you interested in joining us?" Murong Feng offered him the olive branch, and smiled.

