

R O T S F E 1-10

Chapter 1: Crushing the Heart on Lingyun

“Swoosh!”

A cold light appeared all of a sudden along with the sound of bones and flesh being chopped apart. Blood. Bright red blood was splashed across the white snow. Behind the splash of blood stood a gorgeous woman, holding a sharp sword in hand. She stared coldly at the enemies that she slaughtered. No emotion could be sensed from her pale and calm eyes.

The woman was in a long and thin-layered dress in winter. Her pure white dress had been dyed a crimson color by the endless blood.

Beside her feet, nearly a hundred corpses stacked on top of the white snow. The blood that flow out of the corpses had also dyed the snow around her red.

However...

This was not the end yet.

The woman raised her eyes slightly. On her pale but beautiful face, a pair of deep eyes took a glimpse towards the tens of thousands of people gathered in a circle hundreds of miles away, with everyone there staring at her in a greedy way.

Scanning through the faces one by one, the woman suddenly raised her lips to an angle, displaying her evilness. She raised her hand and used one of the fingers to wipe off a drop of warm blood sliding down the corner of her lips. The pale lips were covered by a trace of redness, bright but sinister.

79 people... who would be the next one?

Ye Qingtang had never thought that one day she would become the enemy of the rest of the world and be attacked by tens of thousands of people on Lingyun Cliff!

All these could be credited to the Heart of the Demon God located in her chest!

With anomalies in the sky, the Demon God was born. His birth signaled the end of the sky and the death of the earth.

Ye Qingtang was not the Demon God. She had no idea why the heart which belonged to the Demon God would appear in her body.

However, all of these did not matter anymore.

The people in front of her all came for the Heart of the Demon God, which would grant them the unimaginable power, one that seemed able to reverse the sky!

No one cared whether Ye Qingtang would be alive or dead.

In the eyes of these people, she was just the container of the Heart of the Demon God.

How ridiculous this was!

Ye Qingtang straightened her body slightly. Her bare feet stepped on top of the soft snow, allowing the blood in the snow to soak her feet. She tilted her head and raised her sword all of a sudden. The tip of the sword, with a drop of blood, was pointed towards a well-dressed woman standing at the center of the crowd.

“Ye You. Don’t bother to send these useless people up anymore! If you want the Heart of the Demon God, you have to take it by yourself!” Ye Qingtang was laughing, but deep in her eyes, there were not any traces of a smile.

Back then, Ye You was also the genius girl of the Ye Family. Just because Ye Qingtang’s spirit root was of the best quality which was extremely rare, Ye You ripped apart Qingtang’s stomach with her own hands to dig out the spirit root for her own use.

It had been 300 years since that day.

Ye You took Qingtang’s spirit root and stole the life that once belonged to Qingtang. She thus became the well-known genius. Now, she had already become the Great Empress Paragon. However, Ye Qingtang faced countless obstacles and nearly died many times in her life without her spirit root. It took her immense effort to reach the Paragon level. However, she was trapped on top of the Lingyun Mountain by Ye You for the Heart of the Demon God.

Ye You frowned as her name was called by Ye Qingtang. Her eyes were full of disdain. To her, Ye Qingtang was just an ant struggling for survival, one who did not even qualify for Ye You to kill using her own hands.

“Don’t let her escape! You must dig out the Heart of the Demon God entirely for me.” Ye You commanded to the bodyguard beside her.

Everyone surrounding the Lingyun Cliff immediately crowded around Ye Qingtang.

A besiege by ten thousand people marked the absolute failure of Ye Qingtang even if she had some superpowers.

Behind her was the cliff that one could not even see the end of it. In front of her was the besiege by ten thousand people. However, Ye Qingtang’s face showed no trace of fear or awe.

For this life of her’s, her father and second uncle were murdered. Senior Brother Yun sacrificed himself to save her. Her master’s life was shortened just to protect her...

Ye Qingtang closed her eyes slowly. Looking back through her life, she recalled countless regrets.

People who loved her had already passed away. Now with her enemy in front of her, she would not allow Ye You to get what she wanted, even if Ye Qingtang had to destroy the Heart of the Demon God herself.

The moment everyone dashed towards Ye Qingtang, she raised her hand suddenly and stabbed her own chest using her arched fingers. She crushed the Heart of the Demon God abruptly, the heart that everyone was longing for.

Boom!

The instant Ye Qingtang crushed the heart, a loud explosion sounded from the Lingyun Cliff!

The Heart of the Demon God was destroyed. Streaks of aura were rushing between the sky and the earth. Lingyun Cliff was surrounded by storm wind. The earth trembled and the mountains swayed. At the same time, huge cracks suddenly appeared on the enormous cliff.

Ye You and her fellow people did not bother with anything besides escaping from the path where they came from hurriedly.

When the wind howled, the earth trembled and the mountains swayed. Ye Qingtang, lying in a pool of blood, fell into the endless chasm along with a huge cracked stone.

However...

At that instant, a golden light suddenly came from the sky and dashed towards the falling Ye Qingtang.

Time seemed to stop in that second.

The huge falling stone was suspended in the mid air, and a shadow landed on that huge stone.

It was a man with astonishing beauty. The white clothes he wore were swinging in the storm wind. He just stood beside the body of Ye Qingtang quietly, staring at the wound on her chest that was ripped apart by herself. He could feel a trace of a familiar aura, disappearing gradually from the wound.

“Found it.”

His pleasant and deep voice was covered by the wind. The man slowly squatted down and touched the bloody wound gently using his long and elegant fingers. Wisps of aura were emerging continuously from Ye Qingtang’s wound and slowly into the man’s palm, forming a translucent heart.

Just as the heart was about to condense into a solid form, the aura suddenly dispersed. The translucent heart dispersed into particles, scattered around the body of Ye Qingtang, and disappeared.

A trace of blackish green sparkled in the man’s deep eyes.

“I see...”

The man’s finger pointed at the area between Ye Qingtang’s brows the next moment. A streak of golden light diffused into the area softly...

Chapter 2: Reborn (1)

Pain was spreading around Ye Qingtang’s body quietly. Some kind of unbearable pain seemed to engulf her. She opened her eyes suddenly, but she was no longer at the snow-covered peaks of Lingyun Mountain.

“Tang Tang, you’re finally awake.” Ye Qingtang heard a tiring voice beside her ears.

Ye Qingtang was shocked when she heard the voice.

This voice...

How many years had it been since she last heard this voice?

Ye Qingtang instinctively shifted her sight to see a middle-aged man with a haggard face standing beside her.

“Father...” Ye Qingtang opened her eyes wide, unable to believe what she had witnessed. The middle-aged man helped her as she struggled to get up.

Ye Ling, master of the Ye family clan, stared at his daughter and said worriedly, “Tang Tang, your body hasn’t recovered since your spirit root was broken. You need to rest more. Don’t rush to get up.”

Ye Qingtang’s eyes opened wider. She was extremely astonished by the situation in front of her.

What happened?

I destroyed my own heart on the peaks of Lingyun Mountain. Why am I alive?

Father... I thought father was killed by the Great Elder three hundred years ago? Now... How...

A series of questions arose in Ye Qingtang’s brain continuously. Only after taking a glance at her surroundings, she realized that she was in her own room of the Ye family, a room that ceased to exist a few hundred years ago.

“Tang Tang, as your father, I will still take care of you in future even if you have lost your spirit root. You don’t need to care about what others say. Just rest well and recover soon.” Ye Ling did not give much thought to the abnormal behavior of Ye Qingtang. He thought that Ye Qingtang was just too shocked to pay attention to him.

Only Ye Qingtang knew how shocked she was internally in that moment.

She had revived and returned back to the Ye family three hundred years ago!

Looking at her father in front of her, Ye Qingtang’s eyes were filled with tears. Three hundred years ago, in her previous life, she was weak and useless. She could only helplessly witness her father and her beloved Second Elder being killed by Ye You’s grandfather, the Great Elder of the Ye family. However, she could not believe that she was back now!

Ye Qingtang sat up slightly, staring at her father whose face was full of concern. She tried to calm herself down.

At the same period of time in her previous life, her spirit root had just been snatched by Ye You. On top of that, the Great Elder threatened that her father would be in danger if she ever told him the truth. As a result, she could only cover up the truth by saying that she broke her spirit root by herself.

In her previous life, Ye Qingtang thought that she would be able to ensure her father’s safety as long as she could tolerate the humiliation. However, she did not know that the Great Elder had already taken most of the power of the Ye family and had secretly laced her father’s meals with chronic poison. The Great Elder not only encouraged Ye You to snatch Ye Qingtang’s spirit root but also killed Ye Ling to take over the official master position of the Ye family.

She could only blame herself for being too naive in her previous life.

“Tang Tang, since you are up, drink the medicine before it gets cold.” Ye Ling did not notice the changes in her daughter at all. Instead, he caringly offered her the medicine that was still warm.

Ye Qingtang took the medicine her father handed over to her. Staring at the reflection of herself in the medicine, she went blank for a second.

The girl in the reflection had delicate features, but there was a red palm-sized birthmark on her face which used to be white and clean. The birthmark which stretched across half of her face totally ruined her original beauty, even making her appear extremely ugly.

Chapter 3: Reborn (2)

Ye Qingtang had not seen this face for a few hundred years.

She remembered that in her previous life she had felt inferior as a result of her birthmark. She could only wear a veil all day long to cover the ugly face. However, after a long time, she realized that she was not born with the birthmark, but it was instead the result of someone purposely sealing her original appearance.

Thinking about such, Ye Qingtang could not help but smile. She drank her medicine in one gulp. As the bitterness entered her throat, she swore secretly that since she was given a chance to be reborn, she must cut off all the regrets of her previous life.

She would never let anyone hurt her father or anyone around her!

Ye Ling sighed softly as he watched Ye Qingtang finish her medicine. The Ye family now was very unstable. Ever since the Second Elder, who always supported him, went into seclusion, the ambitious Great Elder took the chance to take over the entire Ye Family. Ever though Ye Ling was still the master of the Ye family, he had already lost all of his power.

However, he felt relieved as long as Tang Tang was safe and sound.

“You should rest more after drinking the medicine.” Ye Ling’s eyes were full of concern. Ever since his wife passed away, he treasured his precious daughter even more and focused mainly on taking care of her.

Ye Qingtang nodded. All her suffering from the three hundred years in her previous life were incomparable to the care from her loved ones. She felt extremely lucky to be able to meet Ye Ling again.

When Ye Ling was about to leave Ye Qingtang’s room, a servant’s voice was heard outside the door.

“Master, the second junior master of the Duan family, Duan Tianrao, is here to visit the Young Lady. He’s at the front hall now.”

Ye Ling smiled in relief after hearing the servant’s words. He then turned his head and looked towards Ye Qingtang who sat on her bed.

“Tang Tang, Tian Rao cares for you. You see, he came to visit you this early, as he knew you weren’t feeling well. I feel relieved to let him take care of you in the future,” Ye Ling said.

Duan Tianrao was the second junior master of the Duan family in Lin Town. He was also the fiancé of Ye Qingtang. The two of them were engaged when they were young. Duan Tianrao was waiting for Ye Qingtang to turn 16 when he would then marry Ye Qingtang.

As for this son-in-law, Ye Ling was quite satisfied with him. He was delighted that Duan Tianrao came to visit Ye Qingtang this early.

Unfortunately...

Ye Qingtang’s face showed no trace of shyness a normal girl would have. There was only sarcasm in her big and clear eyes.

Duan Tianrao.

How could she forget about him?

Not long after the news of her broken spirit root was spread out in her previous life, Duan Tianrao rushed over to the Ye family. However, her fiancé was not there to comfort her and instead just tried to make things worse.

Ye Qingtang closed her eyes slowly. The images of Duan Tianrao when he arrived at the Ye family in her previous life appeared in her brain.

Ye Qingtang wore the veil all day long. There were rumors spreading in Lin Town in her previous life that she was extremely ugly. This was the reason why Ye Qingtang was too afraid to step out of the Ye family. Even when she stayed within the Ye family, she wore the veil all the time.

Even her long-engaged fiancé, Duan Tianrao, had not seen her face under the veil before.

Ye Qingtang used to think that Duan Tianrao treated her sincerely. However, after her spirit root was broken, Duan Tianrao came not to comfort her but instead to annul the engagement, choosing another woman over her.

“Tang Tang?” Ye Ling was concerned as he saw that Ye Qingtang’s expressions were odd.

Chapter 4: Reborn (3)

Ye Qingtang opened her eyes dazedly. She felt the care and warmth from Ye Ling’s worried gaze.

Yes, she thought.

Why did she need to bother with those bastards? She should only protect those people who cared for her in this life.

“Father, I’ll dress up soon. You can go over first.” Ye Qingtang smiled slightly.

...

A tall and handsome man was sitting on the chair in the hall of the Ye family. Beside him was a beautiful and graceful girl.

“Duan Lang, about the matters we’re going to discuss today...” The girl frowned slightly. She puckered her lips expressing her concern.

After seeing such a lovely expression on the girl’s face, Duan Tianrao who was sitting there could not help but raise his hand to cover her white hands.

“Xun Er, you don’t need to worry. I’ll be here for you.” Duan Tianrao’s voice was very gentle when comforting the girl.

Ye Xun was an orphan adopted by Ye Ling at a very young age. She had been raised by the Ye family ever since she was a baby. 16 years had passed, and though she was an adopted daughter, she still received the same education as the rest of the Ye family’s daughters growing up. Her appearance was not inferior to those of the other daughters of the Ye family.

Ye Xun’s beauty was the reason why she was able to capture Duan Tianrao’s attention.

Ye Xun lowered her eyes filled with sadness and anxiety.

“I owe the Ye family a debt of gratitude for raising me up. I’m scared that this matter might...”

Duan Tianrao was heartbroken seeing how anxious Ye Xun was.

He held her hand tightly and said, “Xun Er, you’re the adopted daughter of the Ye family, and it’s true that you owe them the debt of gratitude. However, our matter has nothing to do with that gratitude. Just rest assured. I’ll be there for you no matter what happens.”

Ye Xun nodded her head. A faint smile could be captured in her eyes as she noticed how much Duan Tianrao cared for her.

At that moment, Ye Ling walked into the hall. Ye Xun and Duan Tianrao immediately let go of each other’s hands. Duan Tianrao stood up and greeted Ye Ling.

“Uncle Ye.”

“Father.” Ye Xun also stood up.

Ye Ling just nodded slightly and looked towards Duan Tianrao in front of him.

Ye Qingtang was the only daughter of Ye Ling. She had a weak body since she was born. She was even ashamed of herself due to her birthmark. Thus, it had always been Ye Ling’s greatest aspiration to find a husband who would take care of his daughter.

Lin Town had, in total, three large family clans. Apart from the Ye family, the Duan family and the Si family were the other two large family clans. The marriage alliance with the Duan family was based on equal social status, and Ye Ling would be relieved to hand over Ye Qingtang to Duan Tianrao as Tianrao cared for Qingtang all the time.

“Tianrao, Tang Tang is still dressing up. She’ll come over soon. Just wait for a while.” Ye Ling smiled.

A trace of uneasiness appeared in Duan Tianrao's eyes, but he did not show anything on his face. He exchanged glances with Ye Xun beside him secretly.

"No need to rush," he said and smiled.

He then nodded towards the servant beside him. The servant immediately placed a few well-decorated boxes onto a table beside Ye Ling.

"I heard that Tang Tang's spirit root was broken, devitalizing her. Thus, I prepared some tonics including the Hunyuan Pills which will help Tang Tang to regain her vigor. The pills are very effective in terms of healing power." Duan Tianrao spoke gently.

"The Hunyuan Pills are difficult to find. I was about to look for them, but you have already brought them over. I'm very relieved to see that you truly love her." Ye Ling felt pleased.

"This is to be expected from a fiancé," Duan Tianrao said humbly.

Chapter 5: Annul the Engagement (1)

Ye Xun held her fists tightly as she watched the Hunyuan Pills being sent to Ye Ling. However, remembering what Duan Tianrao said, all her worries were gone, and she smiled gently.

"How's Tang Tang these past few days?" Duan Tianrao's eyes flickered. It seemed that he was waiting for the right opportunity to open up.

Ye Ling did not sense anything. He sighed and said, "How could she feel alright after her spirit root was broken? The child is always very considerate. She never shows any signs of pain in front of me. It's very heartbreaking to see her in this state."

Ye Ling raised his eyes and said to Duan Tianrao, "Tianrao, you're Tang Tang's fiancé, and the two of you grew up together. It'd be great if you could spend more time with her. I'm sure she would be more relaxed."

Duan Tianrao smiled but did not respond directly.

Ye Xun who was standing at the side lowered her head slightly. She pulled Duan Tianrao's sleeve discreetly, and in response Duan Tianrao gently patted her hand to comfort her.

At the same moment, a skinny silhouette slowly entered the hall and greeted Ye Ling who sat on the main chair.

"Father."

Seeing Ye Qingtang, Ye Ling's eyes reflected deep love and care.

"Tang Tang, you haven't recovered fully yet. Sit down first."

Ye Qingtang, who was wearing the veil, sat beside Ye Ling quietly. However, her eyes did not even look towards the direction of Duan Tianrao, who sat below.

Ye Ling did not notice how indifferent Ye Qingtang was towards Duan Tianrao. He smiled and pointed towards the things on the table to show Ye Qingtang.

“Tang Tang, all these are given by Tianrao to help you recover. He even brought Hunyuan Pills for you. He truly does care for you.”

Ye Qingtang’s took a glimpse towards the tonics stacked on top of each other like a mountain on the table. She then glanced at Duan Tianrao who sat below. Her sight was extremely cold without any expression of fascination or gratitude.

“Thank you, Young Master Duan, for your effort.” Ye Qingtang spoke lightly.

Young Master Duan?

The other three all froze for a second. In the past when Ye Qingtang met Duan Tianrao, she always called him Brother Duan. Why did she distant herself today?

Duan Tianrao frowned slightly. However, remembering the purpose of his visit today, he did not bother anymore.

Ye Ling thought that Ye Qingtang was in a bad mood as her spirit root was broken, so he also did not bother to find out the reason.

“You’ll be 16 years old in half a year’s time. I think we can proceed with your marriage with Tianrao. When you feel better, I’ll discuss your marriage with the master of the Duan family clan. Is that fine?”

Ye Ling did not initially intend to have Ye Qingtang marry so soon, but now that her spirit root was broken, it was very unlikely for her to have any improvement in Wushu. The Ye family had already been controlled by the Great Elder, and even as the master of the family clan, he no longer held much power.

It would be better for Ye Qingtang to marry Duan Tianrao early. He would be more relieved knowing that Duan Tianrao would be able to take care of her.

The faces of the three people who were present suddenly changed upon hearing what Ye Ling said.

Especially for Ye Xun, her body stiffened, and Duan Tianrao’s facial expression darkened.

Only Ye Qingtang still sat properly on the chair. Her sight was cold, and she was sharp enough to capture the changes in Ye Xun and Duan Tianrao.

“Uncle Ye.” Duan Tianrao stepped forward suddenly.

“Today, I came over to tell you about something.”

Chapter 6: Annul the Engagement (2)

“Yes? What is it?” Ye Ling asked.

Duan Tianrao remained silent for a while and said, “Besides visiting Tang Tang, I came here today for another reason. It’s because... I think the marriage between Tang Tang and I should be annulled.”

The smile on Ye Ling's face disappeared immediately after Duan Tianrao finished his sentence.

"Tianrao, what do you mean by that?"

Duan Tianrao took a breath and decided to confess everything.

"I grew up together with Tang Tang so, of course, we are close with each other. However, I can only view her as my sister and not as a couple. I have told my father about it, and he also agrees that we should not push for such a marriage. Hence, I'm here today to annul the engagement," Duan Tianrao said.

"WHAT!" Ye Ling slammed his fist loudly on the table. He stared at Duan Tianrao in anger.

"You want to annul the engagement? Do you know what you are talking about!"

Ye Ling was furious. The engagement between Duan Tianrao and Ye Qingtang was made when they were young, and everyone in Lin Town knew about that. Now, Duan Tianrao wanted to annul the engagement. If the news spreads out, his daughter would be viewed as a joke in other people's eyes!

Duan Tianrao had already made up his mind.

He stared at Ye Ling who was raging and carried on. "Uncle Ye, a few days ago, my father had confirmed that I would be the heir of the Duan family clan. I will become the master of the clan, and my wife will be the mistress of the Duan family."

Duan Tianrao looked towards Ye Qingtang and her veil. His sight showed a sense of aversion.

"Tang Tang never shows her real face to others. Furthermore, her spirit root was broken and she can't improve her Wushu anymore. Duan family is one of the three great family clans in Lin Town. The mistress must be able to take on heavy responsibilities. The Tang Tang now... I fear, is not suitable for this role anymore."

Duan Tianrao sounded very pleasant and logical, but every word he said to Ye Ling pierced his heart like a sword.

"Duan Tianrao, do you know what you just said! Your engagement with Tang Tang was confirmed long ago. Now you want to annul it?" Ye Ling reproached.

Duan Tianrao frowned and raised his eyes slightly.

"Uncle Ye, I did have an engagement with Ye Qingtang. However, what kind of spirit root did she have back then, and what kind is it now? Uncle Ye, you really want me to marry a woman who has no spirit root and no appearance?"

Ye Ling trembled with anger. He never expected that Duan Tianrao was this kind of person.

Duan Tianrao did not change his mind at all even after witnessing Ye Ling's anger. He turned and looked towards Ye Qingtang, who remained silent all along.

"Tang Tang, I think I treated you fairly enough in the past. Now, you should think from my perspective. Even though others in the town said you were extremely ugly, I didn't request to annul the engagement back then. However, now that your spirit root is broken, do you still want to marry me forcefully? How am I supposed to explain this to the Duan family?"

“I can tolerate it if my wife is ugly, but I can’t bring a useless mistress for the Duan family.”

Every word that came out of Duan Tianrao hurt. From the beginning to the end, he only valued Ye Qingtang’s spirit root.

When Ye Qingtang had the supreme-grade spirit root, he could tolerate her ugliness. However, now that her spirit root was destroyed, why did he still need to accept her?

Ye Ling stood up in anger and roared. “Duan Tianrao! Shut up! I was blind to allow the engagement between you and Tang Tang! I never knew you that you were this kind of abhorrent person!”

Chapter 7: Annul the Engagement (3)

“Uncle Ye, you’re also the master of your family clan. Is there anything wrong with what I just said?”

Duan Tianrao finally removed the entirety of his disguise. He knew long ago from Ye Xun that the Great Elder was the one with power and that Ye Ling was only the master of the family clan only in name.

“You...” Ye Ling trembled with rage.

Ye Xun who was standing aside stepped forward. A slight smile appeared on her face, but she quickly disguised it with an expression full of concern.

“Father, please do not be angry.”

“Do not be angry? How can I not be angry?” Ye Ling questioned.

Ye Xun looked at the tall and strong Duan Tianrao gently and said, “Young Master Duan has his own reasons. As the next family master, he needs to care for the prestige of the family. Father, I hope you will understand. Tang Tang is still young. She will be able to find a good husband in the future.”

“What did you just say?” Ye Ling stared at her adopted daughter unbelievably. He could not believe that she would speak up for Duan Tianrao.

Ye Xun stared at the furious Ye Ling and then looked towards Ye Qingtang, who had not spoken at all. She took out the Hunyuan Pills that Duan Tianrao gave her and handed them over to Ye Qingtang.

“Tang Tang, Young Master Duan cares for you. He even brought the Hunyuan Pills to help you recover,” Ye Xun said as coldness sparkled in her eyes.

She was very sure that Ye Qingtang loved Duan Tianrao and that she definitely would not agree to the annulment. Ye Qingtang would not accept the Hunyuan Pills. She might even beg Duan Tianrao to keep the engagement.

Eventually, the Hunyuan Pills would return to Ye Xun’s hands.

Even though Ye Xun held such beliefs, she still pretended to persuade Ye Qingtang sweetly.

Ye Qingtang stared at Ye Xun coldly, watching her fake concern. She smiled coldly in her heart.

Ye Qingtang saw through Ye Xun's actions and could read her thoughts. In her previous life, Ye Qingtang was exactly the type of person Ye Xun thought she was. When she knew that Duan Tianrao wanted to annul the engagement, not only did she reject the tonics and Hunyuan Pills that Duan Tianrao gave her, but she also begged him not to abandon her, throwing away her dignity and pride.

She did not care about the prestige of Ye family and Ye Ling, and she had placed herself in an inferior position. Ye Ling even vomited blood as he was too furious.

However, this time...

Suddenly, a smile appeared on Ye Qingtang's lips. Just as Ye Xun was feeling very confident of her analysis, Ye Qingtang extended her arm and took over the Hunyuan Pills.

"Then I will thank Young Master Duan for his kindness." She then placed the Hunyuan Pills into her own space ring, a dimensional storage item.

The whole process happened smoothly.

While Ye Ling was still enraged, Ye Qingtang suddenly spoke up for the first time.

"Father, I think Young Master Duan has a point as well."

The three people in the hall were all taken aback by Ye Qingtang's words.

Duan Tianrao stared at Ye Qingtang in surprise. He thought that the moment he asked to annul the engagement, Ye Qingtang definitely would be crying and begging. He did not expect that she would say such words.

Ye Ling was also dumbfounded. He looked at his daughter with great concern as he was scared that she was too upset by the news.

"Tang Tang, what... what did you say?"

Ye Qingtang sat on the chair and stared at the three astonished people.

She said slowly, "As a girl, of course I understand it is embarrassing for my engagement to be annulled. However, since Young Master Duan is the heir of the family master, it's understandable that he needs to focus on the prestige of his family. I am not suitable to be the mistress of the Duan family."

Chapter 8: Transformation (1)

Ye Qingtang paused and continued.

"Father, think about it again. I've always been weak. When I had the spirit root, my ability could be considered high. No one would dare to challenge me. However... now I lost my spirit root. If I still request to marry over to the Duan family, it would make their whole family unsatisfied. I don't have the ability to defend myself anymore. Why do I have to go over just to be mocked by others? Even though Young Master Duan's words were not pleasant to listen to, he said them for my own good."

Ye Qingtang sounded very calm. None of her sentences were said out of anger. It seemed that she really did believe whatever Duan Tianrao explained.

Ye Ling was stunned. He did not imagine that Ye Qingtang would say so.

Previously, it was the Duan family who came over to ask for the engagement when Ye Qingtang's spirit root just emerged. Now, right after Tang Tang's spirit root was broken, they claimed that her daughter was extremely ugly. It seemed as if it was the Ye family who was forcing an engagement with the Duan family.

Duan Tianrao smiled after hearing what Ye Qingtang just said. He was pleased that she understood the situation. Ye Xun also felt pleased that Ye Qingtang knew what was the right choice to make.

Ye Ling's face was still clouded.

Duan Tianrao continued to speak as Ye Ling remained silent for quite a while.

"It's rare that Tang Tang is so sensible. Uncle Ye, a few days later, it'll be the day for the greatest families of Lin Town to gather and worship the Heavenly Dao. I am the heir of the Duan family, so my fiancé needs to go with me to turn the Heaven-Spinning Wheel. Only a person with a Connate Level Five ability or above can turn that wheel. Do you think Tang Tang's current ability will be enough for her to turn that wheel?" Duan Tianrao said.

"If she can't, the prestige of Duan family will be damaged in front of everyone."

"GET OUT! NOW!" Slamming the table violently, Ye Ling shouted at Duan Tianrao and pointed towards the main door.

Enough was enough. He would not allow this bastard to continue to humiliate his daughter.

He would not allow the Duan family to humiliate his daughter in such a way.

Duan Tianrao frowned but decided to keep quiet after seeing how furious Ye Ling was.

"Uncle Ye, you should figure this matter out by yourself. Whether you agree or not, I am going to annul the engagement in front of everyone in a few days when we worship the Heavenly Dao. I shall leave now." Duan Tianrao waved his hand insincerely and turned around.

"Take all your things back! Our Ye family does not need such rubbish!" Ye Ling said.

Duan Tianrao's mouth twitched. He signaled his servants to bring everything out and walked out of the hall.

Ye Xun immediately followed up and said to Ye Ling, "Father, we cannot forget our manners. I shall go and send Young Master Duan off."

Ye Xun caught up with Duan Tianrao without waiting for Ye Ling's reply.

Witnessing Ye Xun's misplaced hospitality, Ye Ling looked towards Ye Qingtang, who kept quiet all along, with indignation.

“Does this Ye Xun understand the situation? Duan Tianrao greatly humiliated you today, yet she still wants to send him off?” Duan Tianrao said.

Ye Qingtang was totally unconcerned by Ye Xun’s actions and instead focused on peeling her orange.

“Father, if she wants to send him off, just let her be.”

There was no way Ye Xun did not understand the situation.

That would be a joke. It was hard to find a person in Lin Town who was smarter than Ye Xun.

Ye Ling was not aware that Ye Xun and Duan Tianrao had been secretly together since long ago. It was most likely Ye Xun who told Duan Tianrao the news of Ye Qingtang’s broken spirit root. If not, how could he have come over so early to annul the engagement?

Even though Ye Xun was an adopted daughter, she was very good at observing situations. She never liked her position as an adopted daughter of the Ye family even though the family had never treated her unfairly at all. It was definitely Ye Xun who told Duan Tianrao about Qingtang’s broken spirit root.

Chapter 9: Transformation (2)

In her previous life, not long after Duan Tianrao annulled the engagement, he announced that he was going to marry Ye Xun in front of the greatest families of Lin Town that had gathered for the blessing day,

She was there, and everyone in Lin Town began discussing the annulled engagement. As a result, Ye Qingtang faced great pressure and went over to try to convince Duan Tianrao to change his mind. However, she witnessed the ‘good news’ between Duan Tianrao and Ye Xun with her own eyes. She herself then became the target that everyone sneered at.

Ye Xun was very cunning and alert. In Ye Qingtang’s previous life, Ye Xun became the mistress of the Duan family and showed her support to the Great Elder. Using her intelligence, she became the right-hand man of Ye You in the days to come.

Ye Qingtang suspected that the chronic poison in Ye Ling’s food was placed in by Ye Xun secretly.

After all, Ye Xun always hid herself very well. Ye Qingtang did not suspect her at all until the relationship between Ye Xun and Duan Tianrao was known.

Ye Ling treated Ye Xun as another one of his dear children and took good care of her all the time.

On the day her spirit root was stolen, Ye Qingtang was led by the Great Elder and Ye You to a place with no one else around, where the act then happened. All these could be credited to Ye Xun, who failed to keep her appointment with Ye Qingtang.

Now as she thought over the details again, Ye Qingtang realized that Ye Xun was just a poisonous snake, a detestable traitor, that the Great Elder had placed near her.

“Tang Tang, I’m sorry that you had to go through all these tough situations one after another. I should not have agreed with the engagement from the Duan family back then.” Ye Ling sighed heavily.

“But at least you don’t need to go to turn that Heaven-Spinning Wheel anymore.”

Ye Ling was also worried that Ye Qingtang might not be able to turn the wheel with her current strength. Now with the engagement annulled, the Ye family would not send Ye Qingtang in order to prevent people from mocking her.

Turn the Heaven-Spinning Wheel?

Ye Qingtang raised her eyebrows.

How was Duan Tianrao so sure that she could not turn the wheel?

She needed to go the worshipping of the Heavenly Dao now as it seemed.

What was the worst that could happen without the spirit root? She needed to let Duan Tianrao and everyone in Lin Town witness whether she was truly incapable or not!

Ye Qingtang put away her thoughts. She smiled and shook her head. “As long as father is here, I won’t grieve.”

She did not even care about Duan Tianrao that much as long as Ye Ling was safe.

“You silly girl, I cannot be with you for your whole life. You’ll have to marry someone eventually.” Ye Ling touched Ye Qingtang’s hair lovingly. His health was deteriorating over the years. If not because of that, the Great Elder would have never been able to control the Ye family.

Ye Ling could not predict when he would pass away. The thing that he worried the most about was Ye Qingtang’s safety.

On the other hand, Ye Qingtang knew about Ye Ling’s concern. In her previous life, she was too depressed over Duan Tianrao to notice the abnormality in Ye Ling at all. Only after the Great Elder had asked assassins to kill Ye Ling and frame the Second Elder who just finished his seclusion, Ye Qingtang then realized that Ye family was not the one that she remembered.

Ye You took away her supreme-grade spirit root and was selected by the sect masters of the Chao Sect and the Yunxiao Sect. She was accepted as the direct disciple under the sect masters. The Great Elder was sending Ye You to the Yunxiao Sect now, so there was still some time before the Great Elder returned. Ye Qingtang must finish her preparations in this period of time.

The real battle would start when the Great Elder returned.

Ye Qingtang estimated that the Great Elder would return in half a month’s time. Around the same time, the Second Elder, who always supported Ye Ling and cared for Ye Qingtang, would finish his seclusion.

Chapter 10: Transformation (3)

The Second Elder was the most powerful person in the Ye family. The Great Elder would not dare to kill Ye Ling and Ye Qingtang in his presence.

In Ye Qingtang's previous life, the Great Elder killed Ye Ling secretly and framed the Second Elder, effectively eliminating the Second Elder as well. Ye Qingtang then lost two of her greatest supporters in the Ye family. If she had not run away quickly enough, she would have been killed by the Great Elder in Lin Town as well.

All her suffering in her previous life happened after the Great Elder returned. This time, Ye Qingtang would not allow the same thing to happen again.

Whether it was her father or her second uncle, she would protect both of them!

She would return the enmity of her previous life a hundredfold back to the Great Elder.

Ye Qingtang's heart was heavy up to this point.

"Father, can you ask someone to help me buy some herbs?" Ye Qingtang asked suddenly.

"Of course. What do you need? Just write them down, and I'll ask someone to go and get them for you." Hoping that she would not be too depressed from what happened with Duan Tianrao, Ye Ling tried to satisfy every need of Ye Qingtang.

Ye Qingtang nodded and then wrote a long list of herbs to Ye Ling.

The first thing Ye Qingtang needed to do was to figure out the identity of the chronic poison in Ye Ling's body.

Ye Ling's true strength was equal to, or maybe even greater than, that of the Great Elder. It was the poison that the Great Elder had placed every day that caused Ye Ling's health to deteriorate and his strength to decrease.

The Great Elder would not have been able to assassinate Ye Ling successfully in the previous life if not because of that.

Her father would regain his original strength only if the remaining poison was cured. If her father's strength returned, even if the Great Elder wanted to do something, he would not be able to fight her father.

In her previous life, even though Ye Qingtang lost her spirit root, she was not depressed all along. She studied and practiced manufacturing, array formation, elixirs, and everything that could help her become more powerful. She memorized the ancient medicine recipes, and she could make any Spirit Pill if she wanted.

She only needed ten days at most to clear the poison in her father.

Ye Ling asked a servant to buy the herbs and bring them back to the Ye family as soon as possible. Once Ye Qingtang made sure that all herbs were bought, she returned to her room to prepare the antidote immediately.

Ye Ling was worried at first whether Ye Qingtang could recover from the emotional setback that Duan Tianrao had caused. However, Ye Ling felt a bit confused after seeing his daughter lock herself up with the herbs.

Since when was the little girl interested in herbs?

How come he did not realize that?

Ye Ling was very perplexed.

Ye Qingtang, however, had already started with the preparations.

Ye Qingtang was very familiar with herbs, and she was extremely skilled in classifying them accordingly. People who did not know of her talent might have thought that a master physician disguised herself as Ye Qingtang.

When she was almost done, she wiped away the beads of sweat on her forehead. When she raised her eyes, she saw her delicate but flawed reflection in the bronze mirror beside her.

She lifted her hand subconsciously and touched the large red birthmark on her face. A smile appeared on her mouth. She took a few herbs from the stack, mixed them together, and made a bowl of black herbal soup. She frowned after noticing the pungent odor coming from the soup.

Her birthmark had been on her face for very long. In her previous life, she initially thought she was born with the birthmark, but she found out much later that it was caused by a special poison.