

## Chapter 21: Conceive a Child (2)

“Your Highness.... Is the Heart of the Demon Emperor here?” Mu Su asked.

The man nodded briefly. In the darkness, his profound gaze went over the locked gates to the Ye household. The gates unlocked and swung open by itself abruptly whilst the man walked towards the residence.

“Wait here.”

The man commanded in a deep and soothing voice. Mu Su obeyed reverently and remained on watch outside the gates as he looked devoutly at the man who stepped into the residence.

The little black orb that was snuggling in Ye Qingtang’s bosom keenly sensed something amiss. Its rounded form trembled instinctively before darting straight beneath her quilt.

In the next second, the door to Ye Qingtang’s room swung open without a sound. A stalwart figure appeared outside the door.

A sense of nostalgia beckoned the man to approach Ye Qingtang at her bedside. Under the moonlight, he saw the young girl’s exquisite and refined facial features that was akin to God’s gift to mankind while she slept like a baby.

Not the slightest wavering was seen from his profound eyes as he held out his hand over Ye Qingtang’s chest, that softness felt in the palm of his hand hindered his action momentarily, before he resumed his intention.

A waft of aura began gathering at the palm of his hand from where Ye Qingtang’s heart was.

The little black orb that hid under the quilt was observing the man’s actions discreetly. It darted out of the quilt anxiously, knocking itself directly into the man’s “indecent” hand.

The accumulated aura was dispersed with the orb’s collision. A dark miasma swarmed up the man’s hand as he frowned at the little black orb that settled itself atop Ye Qingtang’s chest, protecting her.

“You can’t take her heart!” An immature voice that was childlike resounded from within the little black orb.

The man’s eyes and voice were equally cold as he gazed upon the orb unperturbed.

“That’s mine.”

The little black orb became hysterical in an instant and guarded Ye Qingtang like there’s no tomorrow.

The man wore a slightly contemplative demeanor when he observed the orb’s behavior, “The demonic aura, to think that it condensed to develop a conscious... “He turned his gaze instinctively towards Ye Qingtang, who continued to sleep soundly. “Is it because of her?”

The Heart of the Demon Emperor contained the demonic aura that pervaded the world. Its presence had now condensed into a soul that should not have existed. Had the girl managed to awaken that aura?

“Now that I’ve a will of my own, you can’t erase me!” The little black orb exclaimed. It was originally, the demonic aura which dwelled dormant within the Heart of the Demon Emperor. It was finally tinged with consciousness, when Ye Qingtang called upon its presence. If the heart was to be retrieved by the man, it would lose its conscious forever!

It did not want that!

It did not want to disappear, just after having a conscious!

“That’s not up to you.” The man gave an apathetic response.

“If you dare to take the heart by force, I’ll blow myself up and you’ll be left with nothing!” The orb retorted in anger.

The man’s eyes squinted slightly, flashing a menacing and chilling gaze.

Nothing had dared to threaten him.

As though it picked up on the man’s dangerous vibes, the little black orb could not help but to shrink back in fear.

“I... I may return the heart to you, but you’ve got to give me a body first.”

“That’s impossible.” A demonic soul could never possess a body.

“Its not impossible! That’s if she had a child with you. I’m initially your heart with a soul infused from her body, hence only the flesh and blood born from the both of you, will be able to inherit my consciousness.” The orb grew more and more excited as it spoke.

If it became her child, wouldn’t it be nice to call her mommy~

## **Chapter 22: Pavilion of Treasures (1)**

“.....” The man was obviously stunned by the orb’s astonishing words.

To have a child with her.... he laid his eyes once more on the girl sleeping soundly on her bed.

The little black orb clarified gently, “Once the both of you have a child, I swear I’ll return the heart to you. I’ve a will now you know, you can’t retrieve the heart if you go against my will....”

The man knitted his brows. Just like the orb claimed, if it resisted, he could never get his heart back in one piece.

The man’s eyes gleamed with a chilling and murderous intent as he glared at the dark miasma swarming on his hand. He remained silent for some time, till he seemed to have given up on dealing with that at the moment and finally turned around to leave.

After the man left, the little black orb finally stopped trembling. It snuggled down into Ye Qingtang’s bosom again, all curled up like a furball.

“Mommy~ Mommy~”

It liked Ye Qingtang, the girl who “awakened” it. It was her and the demon emperor’s heart that gave birth to it. She must be its mother then!

The man left the Ye’s residence. Mu Su who remained on watch outside the gates noticed a shade of melancholy that hung over the man’s countenance.

“What’s wrong, your highness?”

The man’s brows remained knitted and after a moment of silence....

“How do I get a girl to have a child with me?”

“.....” Mu Su’s eyes nearly popped out of his head at his question.

What on earth had he just heard?!

Who could have thought that the noble, impassive and apathetic demon emperor would ask such an incredible question?!

“That depends....” Mu Su’s thoughts were in full flood. He cleared his throat and hesitated before he answered, “As long as there’s true love between them, I believe the girl will be willing to have the man’s children.”

“True love?” For the first time, a sign of uncertainty showed on the man’s countenance, that had remained glacial since time immemorial.

Ye Qingtang had a dream, a really strange dream.

In her dream, there was a bouncing little black ball, chasing her around, calling her ‘mommy’....

She did not understand why she would have such a weird dream, but after she had woken up, she quickly put that dream behind her.

After she had freshened up, she contemplated her plans. Yesterday, she had managed to get the ball rolling at the Si household but expecting them to go full throttle would be impractical. She was not in a hurry regardless; half a month’s time would be ample for her to complete her preparations.

Since her task at hand was not only acquiring the Si household or Mu Su’s support, as those were considered external factors, to attain her revenge on her past enemies, her own strength was the real decisive factor!

Although she had been blessed with a spirit root again, it was still a weak sapling. She had to nurture it by “feeding” it to its full potential!

Ye Qingtang left her residence and proceeded over to the Pavilion of Treasures, situated at the northeastern side of the city.

The Pavilion of Treasures was a brand that was renowned around the world. Not only in the City of Lin, its branches spread throughout all major cities in the continent. Within it, one is expected to find an abundance of exotic jewelries and wares. As long as you had the coins, any exotic treasure may be as good as yours.

A magnificent and luxurious seven-storied pavilion housed the Pavilion of Treasures. In her past, Ye Qingtang once visited the place when she was down in the dumps. She did not get to buy anything then, because of the exorbitant prices, but now....

A smile played on her lips as she strolled into its building.

Although it was still early in the morning, there were numerous patrons. The assistants in their greyish coats were shuttling amongst the crowd, with a dazzling treasure presented on each of their serving salvers.

Ye Qingtang strolled past the shelves which showcased gems and jewels, arriving in front of a small but quaint counter. Several pieces of gems roughly the size of fingernails were displayed on the counter, each with its own myriad of colors and brilliant lustres.

### **Chapter 23: Pavilion of Treasures (2)**

Ye Qingtang laid her eyes on one of the gems which was pinkish-white, roughly the size of the nail on a pinkie.

It was stunning to behold, with its white and translucent luster tinged with pink.

“A Flora Moonstone...” Ye Qingtang squinted slightly at its presence.

The Flora Moonstone is a precious gemstone which is saturated with nature’s aura. Wearing it as an accessory enhances the training efficiency for a cultivator. For the ladies, the Flora Moonstone is also revered for its effective anti-aging property.

While Ye Qingtang was admiring the moonstone, a few men of a lofty stature approached her side abruptly. One of them pounded on the counter.

“I didn’t expect to find a Flora Moonstone here.” Amongst the group, a dashing young man pointed out the moonstone.

Ye Qingtang raised her eyes from the counter as she heard the man’s voice. Her eyes flashed a chilling gaze when she recognized him.

“And I wasn’t expecting to see you here either, Miss Ye. Or should I address you as my Ex-sister-in-law?” The young man had also acknowledged her presence, though his greetings were full of scorn.

“Duan Tianrui.” Ye Qingtang looked impassively at the young man before her, who was obviously a belligerent.

Duan Tianrui was the third young master of the Duan household, and also Duan Tianrao’s younger brother.

It was two days ago when Duan Tianrao called off their engagement. Everyone in the Duan household would have known that by now, thus Duan Tianrui was openly contemptuous of her.

“What? Have you taken a fancy to this moonstone as well?” Duan Tianrui sized her up from head to toe with a smirk on his face, “Not bad. A Flora Moonstone is truly a rare gem. You’ve good taste.”

Duan Tianrui paused for a moment before he resumed: "But, as a member of the Ye household, don't you reckon, such a precious gem should only belong to someone befitting it?"

Ye Qingtang chuckled and asked: "Who's that?"

Duan Tianrui smirked and stated as a matter of fact: "Funny you should ask. That will be my new sister-in-law of course. Miss Ye, I'm afraid you are still unaware. My elder bro will be renouncing your engagement during the Sabbath. Other than that, he will be introducing his new fiancé as well. This moonstone was chosen by her. You wouldn't want to be a spoilsport now, would you?"

Others might not know who Duan Tianrui's new sister-in-law was, but there was no way Ye Qingtang would be unaware.

Obviously, that would be Ye Xun.

Ye Qingtang was not really enthusiastic about this moonstone at first, but since it was something that Ye Xun wanted, she would be more than happy to be a hindrance.

"Is that so?" Ye Qingtang put on a faint smile, "But despite all that, I still like it."

Duan Tianrui narrowed his eyes as a hint of displeasure, "Miss Ye, the moonstone is known for its anti-aging property, that is essential for a lady to retain her beauty. However, someone like you...."

With that said, Duan Tianrui glanced at the veil on Ye Qingtang's face, "Its better not to let all that go to waste."

Though he did not mention it explicitly, his words were a blatant discrimination against her hideous appearance.

Ye Qingtang raised her eyebrows and retorted: "But I want this so badly."

Duan Tianrui's face clouded over, "Miss Ye, our families may be considered an alliance. You had neither a spirit root to cultivate, nor an appearance to maintain. To be fighting over an item which you clearly had no use for. Are you for real?"

Ye Qingtang wanted to laugh.

"Duan Tianrui, if you're so determined to buy this for Ye Xun. Let's compete with our own assets."

Duan Tianrui sneered and waved over an assistant straight away.

### **Chapter 24: Pavilion of Treasures (3)**

The assistant ignored Ye Qingtang though she had stood in front of the counter for quite a while. However, he came over in an instant once he saw Duan Tianrui waving a hand.

"Mr Duan, how may I be of service?"

Duan Tianrui pointed to the Flora moonstone displayed in the counter: "Take this out."

The assistant promptly took the moonstone out from its display, "This Flora moonstone just arrived yesterday. I'm afraid you can't find another one resembling its luster in this world."

Duan Tianrui was pleased with its quality upon a closer inspection. Not forgetting his opponent, he raised his eyes and looked at Ye Qingtang.

“How much does this cost?”

The assistant replied: “Thirty thousand gold.”

The price he quoted was “loud” enough to draw the attention of the other patrons within the boutique.

For a moonstone the size of a pea to be worth a whopping thirty thousand gold!

Heavens knew the price was not an amount the common folk could earn in a lifetime.

Even the aristocrats might have difficulty forking out such an exorbitant amount.

“Thirty thousand.... Miss Ye, are you still keen on this?” Duan Tianrui observed Ye Qingtang. He had long since known from Duan Tianrao, that the Great Elder had subverted all authority from Ye Ling, the head of the Ye household. Thus as his daughter, Ye Qingtang could be considered a “lady of the household” in name only. She could never afford to pay such a large sum of money now that her family’s finances were controlled by the Great Elder as well.

Ye Qingtang narrowed her eyes, flashing a chilling glare.

Some surrounding patrons cast their eyes over this rivalry between the two households, but when they realized Ye Qingtang was the one representing the Ye household, they shook their heads discreetly.

Although the matter with Duan Tianrao renouncing her engagement had yet to befall, its rumors were already spread around the City of Lin. This public dispute with Duan Tianrui only got to prove its validity.

Summing up all those rumors flying around made everyone realize, this lady of the Ye household was no longer as cherished as she used to be.

How will she compete with Duan Tianrui?

An attendant accompanying his master was at a corner surveying a selection of jades when he traced his sight towards the commotion. He was shocked by what he witnessed before informing his master hastily:

“Young master, its Miss Ye!”

Si Bai put down a piece of white jade, before turning his head towards the direction the attendant was pointing at. From the crowd, he was able to distinguish that petite yet familiar figure.

“Ye Qingtang?”

“Young master, it seems Miss Ye had gotten into an argument with members of the Duan household. Shall we go and have a look?” The attendant asked precariously.

Si Bai did not rush to give an answer but just observed from a distance, at the girl who stood solo as her eyes gleamed with amusement. He chuckled and shook his head, “That’s not necessary. She has a way with that.”

Ye Qingtang's smile was all too familiar, just like the time when she was contending with his grandfather at the Si household, she exuded a confident and triumphant demeanor.

But Si Bai did not turn his gaze away, as he was curious about how she was going to resolve this predicament.

On the other hand, Duan Tianrui was maliciously enjoying every bit of her predicament while toying with the moonstone on his hand.

He had long been dissatisfied with the engagement between Ye Qingtang and Duan Tianrao. His older brother, a ladies' man, having to cope with a wife as hideous as her? Thank goodness their engagement was called off. Without that relationship, he need not play nice with her anymore.

### **Chapter 25: Bent Grass (1)**

However, Ye Qingtang was not in the slightest bit distressed by this predicament. On the contrary, she put on a smile instead and said to the assistant: "Call your manager."

The assistant was a little surprised by her sudden request, "Miss Ye, if there's anything you need, you may just ask me to...."

"Call your manager, if you want Bent Grasses." Ye Qingtang interrupted and gave him a rather cold-eyed gaze.

When met with her icy gaze, the assistant suddenly felt his blood chill. But, when she mentioned "Bent Grass", he started to tremble, due to another reason though.

Duan Tianrui did not know what Ye Qingtang had up her sleeve and only assumed she was making a fool of herself. He urged the assistant instead: "Feel free to get your manager, I will... "

Before he could finish his sentence, the assistant had already scurried off.

Within moments, the assistant returned in a hurry, accompanied by a man in his fifties.

"Miss Ye, I'm the manager of this boutique. Pleased to meet you." The middle-aged man greeted Ye Qingtang before cutting to the chase, "I've heard from my assistant regarding the Bent Grass you've mentioned, may I know... any information you had about it?"

Although the manager remained composed while talking, his eyes echoed his eagerness.

The Bent Grass was a precious herb sought after by the owner of the Pavilion of Treasures. Its requisition was put up across all the branches in the continent, promising a hefty reward of ten thousand gold for every Bent Grass found. However, until now, not the slightest clue of its location was known.

"I know where you can find them." Ye Qingtang stated plainly.

Duan Tianrui sneered from a side once having heard what she claimed.

A girl who was not even sixteen and had never stepped a foot outside the city; where would she learn the whereabouts of that rare herb?

The manager's eyes gleamed in anticipation, "Miss Ye, we can assure you'll be appropriately rewarded once you've provided us with that information."

Ye Qingtang spoke without hesitation: "It's in the Withered Woods just outside the city."

Duan Tianrui nearly burst out laughing at her "revelation".

The Withered Woods was situated along the City of Lin. Although it housed several types of herbs, but all of them were known to be common ones. Only a fool would hope to find Bent Grasses growing there.

No one would believe such an outrageous claim.

The manager did not expect Ye Qingtang to mention the Withered Woods. His burning anticipation, like fire being doused with ice water, vanished in an instant and his face became rigid with disappointment.

"Miss Ye, you must be joking, that's impossible."

"What if it's true?" Ye Qingtang followed up by saying: "Get someone to prepare paper and ink, I'll draw its exact location for you."

The manager considered her info to be hogwash, but judging from her air of confidence, although he furrowed his brow and hesitated for a moment, he passed the order to prepare the stationery she requested.

Ye Qingtang drew a simple map on the fly, with the supposed location of the Bent Grass pinpointed on it.

The manager handed the map over to one of his trusted assistants.

The crowd of bystanders, who witnessed the assistant leaving with the map had their faces piqued with curiosity. No one knew how Ye Qingtang found the confidence to come up with that map.

The manager had heard from his assistant, about Duan Tianrui and her dispute over the ownership of the Flora moonstone. Now that he had sent his assistant to check on the authenticity of her claims, though the result seemed mire like everyone expected, but the manager still decided to place his bet on that one in a millionth chances of hitting the jackpot. "Mr Duan, please wait for a moment till we work this out." The manager requested from Duan Tianrui.

Duan Tianrui smirked and said: "No hurries. I too hope your good establishment is able to find that herb." With that said, he gave Ye Qingtang a dirty look.

## **Chapter 26: Bent Grass (2)**

The manager smiled gratefully at Duan Tianrui for his patience.

"Young master, is Miss Ye telling the truth? There really are Bent grasses in the Withered Woods?" The attendant from the Si household asked Si Bai once the commotion came to a standstill.

Si Bai leaned against a counter in a corner, polishing a piece of white jade with the hem of his shirt while his eyes remained focused on Ye Qingtang. A smile played on his lips as he replied nonchalantly: "Who knows?"



The attendant was baffled, "But if there aren't any, Miss Ye will become a laughing stock! Young master, are you really intent on just watching her... Ouch!"

The attendant grimaced after Si Bai knocked him on the head.

Si Bai grinned and stated: "She doesn't need us to worry about her. Just relax and see how this plays out."

The attendant rubbed his temples, totally confused by what he had experienced.

The manager had gotten his assistants to prepare refreshments for Ye Qingtang and Duan Tianrui while waiting for time to pass.

The attendants from the Duan household, who accompanied Duan Tianrui on this occasion, stood around him, throwing occasional glances at Ye Qingtang's composed demeanor before murmuring:

"Young Master, I'm afraid Miss Ye had gone crazy, are you really intent on playing along?!"

Duan Tianrui raised his eyes and looked at Ye Qingtang for a moment before a subtle smirk played across his lips.

"If she's intent on playing the clown, why not?"

With that said, his sight turned towards the entrance of the boutique and chanced upon the assistant, who was dispatched with the map, returning while covered in dirt. Duan Tianrui's eyes gleamed with amusement in an instant as he put down his cup of tea.

"Let the show begin...."

There were a lot of onlookers within the boutique, who would not want to miss this extravaganza, featuring the Ye and Duan household, two of the top aristocrats in the City of Lin.

The dispatched assistant, though covered in dirt, seemed to be carrying something precious in his bosom as he was seen clinging to his arms with the utmost care.

"How is it?" The manager asked the moment he saw that assistant returned.

The dispatched assistant was still gasping for air, but his eyes could not hide his excitement. He nodded his head profusely at the manager while exclaiming: "Yes! I found it! But it was well hidden within a cave! It's all thanks to Miss Ye's map, or else finding it would be impossible!"

Once that statement was made, aside from the assistant and Ye Qingtang, all mouths went agape within the boutique.

The Bent grass was really found!

How is this possible?

Everyone else was dumbfounded.

The assistant took out a brocade box, still covered with some dirt, initially enfolded in his arms and handed over it carefully to the manager. The manager opened the box hastily and within it, laid the Bent grass, azure green in color, still glistening with the fresh morning dew.

In the next instant...

The manager heaved a heavy sigh of relief.

“Miss Ye, thank you... thank you so much.” The manager kept the box of Bent grass carefully before turning towards Ye Qingtang and expressing his gratitude with the most genuine smile on his face.

Heavens knew how long the owner had searched for this herb!

If it was not for Ye Qingtang’s insight, who knew this precious herb would be growing in a cave!

Ye Qingtang put on a gentle smile before saying, “No problem.”

The Bent grass was indeed a rare herb currently but that was mainly due to the misconception of its natural habitat. In a few decades, the Bent grass would no longer be considered rare. In her past, Ye Qingtang once hid in the Withered Woods to escape the Great Elder’s clutches and discovered it by accident. Therefore, she could remember its location clearly.

All these were not known to anyone else.

With the Bent grass found, Duan Tianrui’s face clouded over in an instant. He had looked forward to Ye Qingtang making a fool out of herself, but now, his expectations were dashed.

In a short period of time, the manager ordered his assistants to prepare the promised reward of a hundred thousand gold for the herb’s acquisition.

### **Chapter 27: Bent Grass (3)**

Three chests filled with glittering gold made their way into the envious eyes of the onlookers.

Ye Qingtang glanced at the gold before she picked some up, piece by piece, a gold nugget the size of her palm, and plonked each down onto the counter displaying the Flora moonstone.

There was a clunk as each gold piece landed on the counter, but Ye Qingtang remained indifferent to that. With squinted eyes, she focused her sight on the grim-looking Duan Tianrui, observing his darkening countenance as every clunk resounded.

“Here’s thirty thousand gold, I’m buying the Flora moonstone.” As the final gold piece totaling thirty thousand landed on the counter, Ye Qingtang made her statement with a subtle smirk on her face, which nearly burst a blood vessel on Duan Tianrui.

Never in his wildest dreams did he anticipate that Ye Qingtang had such a trick up her sleeves.

Even without her coffers, she not only managed to acquire the moonstone, she also made a killing right off the bat!

Regardless of his prudent temper, Duan Tianrui could not help but be infuriated by Ye Qingtang’s provocation.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Duan. We work on a first-come, first-served basis. This Flora moonstone...” The manager, who owed Ye Qingtang a favor over the discovery of the Bent grass, obviously stood by her. He

approached Duan Tianrui personally and requested him to return the moonstone, that he had been toying around in his hands.

Duan Tianrui grinded his teeth discreetly and handed over the moonstone, which he initially expected to be in his pocket.

The manager presented the moonstone to Ye Qingtang in front of everyone and announced, "Miss Ye, this Flora moonstone is now yours."

Ye Qingtang raised an eyebrow and received the moonstone before throwing a glance at Duan Tianrui.

That single glance was enough to drive Duan Tianrui up the wall.

To think he would be the one to end up playing the clown!

"Well, congratulations on your new purchase, Miss Ye. I've matters to attend to and shall make a move."

Duan Tianrui bit his lip before conveying his bureaucratic message and went off, accompanied by his attendants, with their tails between their legs.

Everyone was at a loss for words as no one expected this when the curtain falls.

Si Bai, who had been observing from a corner the whole time snickered to himself when he witnessed Ye Qingtang playing Duan Tianrui like a fiddle. He resumed his appraisal on his jade selection without a second thought.

"Miss Ye, if there's anything else you need, feel free to ask. I'll excuse myself for the time being." The manager smiled and offered Ye Qingtang his utmost hospitality.

Ye Qingtang gave a subtle nod, acquiring the Flora moonstone was a pleasant surprise, but there were more important items for her to find.

The manager left the boutique's lobby and headed straight towards the top floor.

The doors to the loft suite at the top floor were shut tight. The manager straightened his attire before knocking politely on the door.

"May I have your Lordship's permission to enter?"

"Granted."

The manager then opened the doors quietly and entered the room.

The charismatic Mu Su was seated by the desk. The manager once having closed the doors behind himself, knelt down in front of Mu Su, while he presented the brocade box containing the Bent grass.

"Your Lordship, we have managed to acquire the Bent grass."

Mu Su raised his eyebrows and received the box. After checking its contents, there was a contented smile on his face.

Who could have known that the mysterious owner of the Pavilion of Treasures, was none other than the famous Marquis of the City of Luoxing.

“Though this had taken quite a while, but you did well.” Mu Su put down the box before commending the manager for his work.

The manager remained on his knees and responded respectfully, “I thank your Lordship, for your graciousness.”

Mu Su had just arrived in the City of Lin the night before. The manager was shocked by his sudden advent because deep down, he feared his presence. It was a blessing for him to acquire the Bent grass just in time, otherwise, he would not have dared to show himself in front of him.

## **Chapter 28: Buoys (1)**

Sporting his chance to bring up a certain request while Mu Su was in a good mood, the manager added quickly: “Your Lordship, there is another matter requiring your attention.”

“What is it?” Mu Su asked.

“A few days ago, we received a letter addressed to your Lordship, delivered by the Si household.” With that said, the manager presented an envelope, which he had kept with him since its receipt.

“The Si household?” Mu Su was intrigued, for the head of the Si household was one of the few who knew his undisclosed identity as owner of the Pavilion of Treasures.

Mu Su unsealed the envelope and as he ran through the letter, his changing countenance reflected the bizarreness of its contents.

“Ye Qingtang from the Ye household wishes to meet up with me?” Mu Su was baffled, his eyes veered towards the antechamber instinctively.

A man seated within the antechamber furrowed his brows.

The manager noticed the change in Mu Su’s line of sight but could not get enough nerve up to take a peek in its direction. He lowered his head further instead.

Last night, there was another person who arrived with Mu Su. Even a dignitary like Mu Su held him in high esteem.

The manager suddenly remembered Mu Su’s allegiance to the Temple of Ancient Splendor... ‘Don’t tell me that person’s the legendary God-Emperor...’ The manager stopped contemplating at this point, his best bet at the moment was to mind his own business.

Mu Su hesitated for a moment before asking, “Who is this Ye Qingtang?”

That night when his Highness visited that girl at the Ye household, he did not manage to get the girl’s name. This Ye Qingtang might be that girl.

The manager answered hastily: “Ye Qingtang is the young lady of the Ye household, and also the heir to the head of the household.”

“Aside from her, are there other young ladies currently staying in their residence?” Mu Su enquired further.

“There’s three young ladies in the Ye household. Ye Qingtang is the daughter of the current head of the household. There’s Ye You, the granddaughter of their Great Elder and also, Ye Xun, the head of the household’s adopted daughter. Ye You had left to join the Cloud Breaker’s clan some time ago while Ye Xun lives in the manor away from their main residence majority of the time. Therefore, Ye Qingtang is the only young lady staying in their residence currently, I reckon.” The manager deduced in detail.

“So, its really her?” Mu Su widened his eyes slightly in surprise.

The manager continued: “Actually, she’s also the one who had provided us with information on the Bent grasses’ location. Miss Ye is currently shopping at our boutique below.”

“.....” Mu Su nearly burst out laughing.

He suffered an internal injury during his younger days and required these Bent grasses as medication. After searching for so many years, who could have thought he would receive salvation from the same girl whom his Highness had sought after.

“Since she’s not only our client, but also our benefactor. We should, of course, reward her. In the future, if she ever shops at our boutiques again, make sure she gets a 20% discount on any item.” Mu Su made a generous offer, while taking a peek at the antechamber from the corner of his eyes.

“Noted, my Lord.” Though the manager nodded, he was actually at a loss for words. What Mu Su had offered, was a discount not only applied to the local boutique in the City of Lin, but across all branches in the continent.

One could only imagine the amount saved when purchasing all those treasures with that discount!

The manager left the room, speechless after all matters were concurred.

After the manager left, the man emerged from the antechamber.

Once Mu Su met him in person, he got up from his desk instantly and got down on one knee.

“Your Highness!”

That glacial yet dashing face remained inscrutable and those deep-set eyes skimmed over the exposed letter on the desk.

“Accept her meeting.” A deep voice resounded.

“By your order, I’ll send the answer straight away.” Mu Su obeyed without any hesitation.

You’re the boss and the boss has the final say!

Anyone would expect that response from his Highness, the only question was, why did Ye Qingtang wish to meet up?

## **Chapter 29: Buoys (2)**

Ye Qingtang, who was still shopping in the boutique did not notice at all, that from atop those inconspicuous higher levels of the building, a pair of deep set eyes were silently watching her every move.

Mu Su stood next to the man, Han Cangming, in a secret loge and while observing Ye Qingtang, he became fascinated by the gorgeous young lady.

That is the host for the heart of the demon emperor?

Mu Su could not help but to recall Han Cangming's question to him, when they left the Ye's residence last night.

So, his Highness desired for a girl like her to conceive his.... Ahem....

Mu Su stole a glimpse at Han Cangming, whose eyes were fixated on Ye Qingtang all the time, not in the least aware of the undulating mood of his entourage.

The Pavilion of Treasures offered an assortment of exotic merchandise. Thanks to Ye Qingtang's help for locating the Bent grass, she earned a tantalizing discount for all her purchases, which she would obviously make the most out of.

The manager, tasked by Mu Su, was assisting Ye Qingtang in her shopping personally. He initially thought she would make full use of this opportunity to buy a few famous pieces of merchandise and did not expect her to stop by an unattended counter abruptly.

"Are these Buoys?" Ye Qingtang enquired as she pointed to the counter displaying some brightly colored pebbles.

The manager nodded as he threw a glance on those display.

Buoys were spoils scored from hunting down a fifth-order spirit beast that required the collaboration of more than a hundred people. The Buoys in itself however, were deemed unremarkable.

Buoys had a solid composition, highly resistant to any form of physical damage. In lieu of the efforts required for their achievement, Buoys were highly priced despite no one perceiving a practical use for it. Even as just mere decorations, Buoys were not as exquisite as gemstones, thus other than a few aristocrats who would buy one or two pieces to flaunt their wealth, almost no one would be interested in them.

But Ye Qingtang was totally attracted by those few pieces of Buoys.

Buoys might be useless to the others but definitely not to her. She regarded them as priceless!

"How many of these Buoys are available for sale?" Ye Qingtang inquired further.

The manager could not comprehend her enthusiasm over those deadweight Buoys and merely considered her as being inquisitive, "Around a dozen or more."

Those things were considered deadweight as they were a burden to sell, and had accumulated like a hoard.

Whilst Ye Qingtang stroked her chin, her eyes gleamed in delight, "I'm buying them all."

"..." The manager's eyes nearly popped out of his head at her decision.

All?

“Miss Ye, just a single piece costs a thousand gold. Are you sure?”

Ye Qingtang gave an affirmative nod.

“...” The manager was dumbstruck.

Whilst expecting Ye Qingtang to purchase something worthwhile with her discount, who could have thought this young lady would choose instead, to buy those Buoys which were as insignificant as some common pebbles!

Furthermore, just a dozen would cost her more than ten thousand gold!

Paying that price for a pile of stones was a total dead loss!

The manager was prepared to advise her against her hasty decision but the deal was sealed when Ye Qingtang placed that amount of gold directly onto the counter without a second thought. The manager was at a total loss for words.

Without a choice, he could only steel his heart against her loss as he ordered his assistants to present every piece of Buoy available in the boutique for her purchase.

There was a total of seventeen pieces that amounted to a price of thirteen thousand six hundred gold after Ye Qingtang’s twenty percent discount. On top of that, the manager gave her his own concession and only collected thirteen thousand gold from her in the end.

Even with all that, the manager still felt he was cheating Ye Qingtang out of her coffers.

However, the person in question received her new purchases in all smiles.

### **Chapter 30: Buoys (3)**

Although people were still currently unaware of a Buoy’s purpose, but in a few years, news of it being able to nourish a spirit root would be circulated. A Buoy was in fact, one of the world’s few external nutrient sources for cultivating a spirit root. Therefore, though a thousand gold was a high price to pay for a single piece now, after people learned of its purpose, a Buoy’s fetching price would increase exponentially. Even ten thousand gold per piece would be deemed insufficient then.

So, who’s to say Ye Qingtang had made a dead loss? She had made a killing instead!

“There’s one more matter requiring your kind assistance. If there’s any more of these Buoys in any of your fine establishments, I’ll be buying them all.” Ye Qingtang made the request to the manager in all smiles. The Pavilion of Treasures had branches all across the continent. If she gained their cooperation, she would not have to worry about depleting her supply of spirit root supplements.

The manager on the other hand was totally bewildered.

Miss Ye is not a lunatic, I suppose?

The manager did not accede to Ye Qingtang’s request straight away but agreed to look into it. He became prudent of her enthusiasm in Buoys. Was there another purpose when she wanted to buy them in such bulk?

Ye Qingtang was not in a hurry nonetheless. The dozen and more pieces of Buoys she had just acquired were enough to last her quite some time.

Aside from those deadweight Buoys, Ye Qingtang had chosen to purchase the scales of an Ifrit as well.

Ifrits were spirit beasts which roamed the tablelands of magma. They were vicious beasts, possessing scales which had a high degree of fire resistance. However, due to its sheer size, the weight of its scales impeded its intended use for forging equipment and thus, turned out to be a white elephant instead.

Ye Qingtang's choice of purchases were so absurd that the manager considered his task, as her shopping assistant, was becoming quite a cross to bear. Was she a connoisseur of junk for real?

In order to store all her purchases, including those gigantic Ifrit's scales, Ye Qingtang bought a dimension ring directly from the boutique as well.

And for Mu Su, who had accompanied Han Cangming in Ye Qingtang's covert observation for nearly half a day, he became quite awkward as he witnessed her relishing in those junk she bought.

"Your Highness... this Miss Ye had quite a unique eye for things..." Mu Su faltered as he made the remark and kept an eye on Han Cangming's demeanor.

"Those pieces of junk were bought on her own accord! That had nothing to do with me!" was the hidden pretext Mu Su wished to bring across to him.

Han Cangming did not react to Mu Su's remark but just continued to watch her in a contemplative manner.

Ye Qingtang had taken full advantage of her rebirth and managed to turn a profit from all her prior knowledge. After making her rounds, ensuring there were no other essential items to purchase, she left the boutique feeling contented. Just as she reached the foyer, she stumbled upon Si Bai and his attendant, who were just about to leave as well.

It was a pleasant coincidence, since Ye Qingtang had intended to visit the Si household again, to keep up her end of the bargain by restoring Si Bai's health. She left together with them, for convenience's sake.

"..." Mu Su watched in silence, as Ye Qingtang left the premises with a seemingly well-acquainted and handsome young man. He turned around to face his liege, his Highness....

Who remained impassive with his usual poker face.

Mu Su made a facepalm discreetly. Your Highness, please develop your sense of urgency!

This made up his mind. He had to create an opportunity for his Highness and Ye Qingtang to meet up during her requested meeting!

You have to play your part when you want her to conceive your child!

"I see you've bought quite a number of Buoys and Ifrit's scales." Si Bai brought up the subject of Ye Qingtang's peculiar purchases while they were on their way to the Si's residence.

Si Bai knew what Buoys and Ifrit's scales were, but he had not heard anything special about their purposes.



“Yup.” Ye Qingtang did not intend to keep a lid on her purchases anyway.