

Silence descended upon the crowd once again.

It was a silence that was as still as death.

The slightest breath became deafening and almost piercing to the ear.

Everything had happened too quickly.

Mr He was dumbstruck. He was still caught in a daze. He had not caught how Liu Qing had pulled off a counterattack in the nick of time, turned the tables on Luo Heng and driven him out of the arena.

According to the rules, one was defeated when he or she fell off the arena.

Liu Chuandao was equally stupefied. He shot to his feet and stared unblinkingly at Liu Qing. The solemn look on his face transformed gradually as a smile appeared on his face. He burst out into laughter without any warning.

The disciples in the audience were gaping. They could fit an entire chicken egg in their open mouths. It took them a long while to recover from their shock.

Luo Heng...had been defeated.

He had not gone down in a fight. But he had been driven off the arena. That was more humiliating than being defeated by Liu Qing's attacks.

He had been invincible a moment ago. He had been crowing with triumph.

But now, he had lost.

Luo Heng got to his feet and stared stupidly at Liu Qing, who was still standing in the arena.

He was still replaying the final move that Liu Qing had made.

Had he...lost?

He couldn't believe it. He had lost!

He couldn't accept his defeat. His face flushed instantly.

The scene of Liu Qing unleashing her last move played in his head. The speed at which she had moved had been incredible. Her speed wasn't the only thing that caught his attention. He had a feeling that that move had been designed to defeat him.

This...was simply incredible.

"That move..." Luo Heng thought for a long moment before he finally pulled his mind back to the present. He was still disgruntled, but he was a lot calmer than he had been a moment ago.

He stared at Liu Qing, then murmured. "Who taught you that move?"

Luo Heng didn't believe that Liu Qing was capable of coming up with such a move on her own.

She had been pretending from the start. She had set a trap for him and lured him right into it. She

had fought the way that Luo Heng had expected her to fight.

But she had been concealing her true abilities all along.

She had the nerve to conceal the true extent of her capabilities in a fight with him.

“Who taught you that?” Luo Heng repeated his question. Liu Qing kept quiet. She turned and looked at the dazed Mr He.

She couldn't be bothered to tell him.

She had lost all respect for Luo Heng the moment that he had decided to treat her with condescension.

“Liu Qing has won,” Mr He took a deep breath before announcing the outcome of the match.

Everything had happened too quickly. The fight had unfolded in an unexpected manner. They didn't know how to respond to what had happened.

Even Mr He was still caught in the final moments of the fight. That final move...

...must have been something that Jiang Ning had taught Liu Qing.

The speedy interchange between defense and offense was something that not even he could have come up with.

NH

The final offensive step, especially, held potential for an infinite number of moves. Liu Qing had not mastered the move yet, but Mr He could discern the incredible power that could be unleashed. It had the potential to become a fatal blow.

Unleashed when least expected, it would take one's opponent down.

However, you could only use it once against the same opponent.

If you didn't win the fight the first time you unleashed this unexpected move, you would not have another chance to use it again. Your opponent would kill you without mercy!

Liu Qing had won.

This was an outcome that no one had unexpected.

"I didn't expect Third Miss to show such a great improvement, Chief Liu," someone said with a laugh. "I understand now why Chief Liu has been so confident of her chances all along. She is indeed impressive."

"Thank you." Liu Chuandao did not comment further.

He was equally stunned. In fact, he was dumbstruck.

But when he thought about how this might be connected to Jiang Ning, a man from outside the mountain, suddenly everything could be explained


away easily.

Liu Chuandao eyed Jiang Ning. He had not reacted to Liu Qing's victory. It was as if nothing special had just happened.


An uproar finally rose in the crowd when Liu Qing walked away from the arena and made her way back to her seat.

“That’s impossible! Am I seeing things?”

“It’s real. This is real. She sent Senior Luo rolling off the arena. That’s unbelievable!”

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NH

“How did she do that? She was moving too quickly. I couldn't see what she did. The odds were clearly not in her favor.”

Liu Qing paid no attention to the looks everyone as giving her. She didn't care if they were looking at her with suspicion, disbelief, shock or bewilderment. She was in a state of stunned stupor herself.

The final move had been something that Jiang Ning had taught her. He had told her to conceal her true strength.

In her opinion, when you were faced with a powerful opponent like Luo Heng, you should throw everything that you had at him. You didn't have the luxury to conceal your true strength.

But she had ended up doing what Jiang Ning had told her to do. She had followed Jiang Ning's exact instructions on choosing the right moment to strike.

She had reeled back with shock when she had sent Luo Heng flying out of the arena.

“I've won.”

Liu Qing sat down in front of Jiang Ning.

“I saw that,” said Jiang Ning. “Congratulations.”

Their conversation ended with Liu Qing's nod. No one said another word.

She needed some time to collect her thoughts.

NH

She needed time to think. How had she managed to win the fight?

She had been in that fight. She had won it. But she couldn't understand how she had managed that.

All she had done had been to follow what Jiang Ning had told her to do. That had led to her victory.

The outcome of the battle wasn't a proof of her strength. It was proof of the unimaginable depths that Jiang Ning possessed.

There wasn't anything to look forward to in the matches that followed.

There was no question about Liu Qing earning a place in the top three positions.

Another match was required. She had won Luo Heng. That was proof that she had grown stronger.

Zhang Heng stood in the distance with a dazed look on his face.

"I'm sorry, Mr Zhang, I didn't expect this to happen," Luo Heng said with a hint of resentment in his voice. "This was beyond my expectation. I didn't know that Liu Qing had such an attack up her sleeve. It was simply incredible...But such a technique doesn't exist in the Qingshan Sect."

He couldn't have known that Liu Qing could unleash such a move. Not even in his wildest

dreams.

He knew every Qingshan Sect technique that Liu Qing knew and he knew them better.

He had not deemed Liu Qing worthy of his attention at all and he should have crushed her. Yet, in the end...

He had been thrown out of the arena by her attack. This was mortifying!

“You’ve really done me proud,” Zhang Heng said sarcastically through clenched teeth. Violent tremors coursed through his body. He pointed at Luo Heng, his next words at the tip of his tongue. But he swallowed them in the end. “Humph!”

Luo Heng was going to enter the Portico and become the Senior Elder’s disciple. He might not care if he offended Luo Heng, but he didn’t need to be blacklisted by another person.

Luo Heng wasn’t feeling happy as well.

It should have been an effortless victory, but he had lost.

“Let me tell you the truth. Liu Qing wasn’t the one who defeated you,” Zhang Heng scoffed. His lips curled into an icy smile. “He’s the one who defeated you.”

Luo Heng’s eyes turned towards where Zhang Heng was looking and landed on Jiang Ning. His pupils contracted instantly.

NH

“Him?” There was a hint of scorn in his voice.

Jiang Ning looked like any other ordinary man. Luo Heng couldn't see anything exceptional about him. He looked young, perhaps younger than Luo Heng. How had he lost to this man?

“He's the one who trained Liu Qing. He trained her for a month. And you lost. You wouldn't be able to withstand a single blow from him if you were to fight him instead.”

Zhang Heng's intentional exaggerations amplified the disgruntlement that Luo Heng was feeling. Luo Heng's eyes reddened.


He wouldn't survive the first attack?


That was utter bullshit!


“Who is he?” Luo Heng ground his teeth.

Zhang Heng laughed mirthlessly but didn't say anything. Instead, he gave Luo Heng a look. Luo Heng caught scorn, disappointment and a hint of mockery in his eyes.

The anger that had been burning inside Luo Heng erupted instantly.

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