

The Brilliant Fighting Master

Chapter 25: A Turnaround

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“Stop!”

Suddenly the crowd heard a voice as deep as booming thunder.

Jiang Chen’s expression changed. He left the ring as quickly as he could.

Almost at the same time, a blast blew a huge hole where Jiang Chen had been standing.

A middle-aged woman appeared in the chaos. She was dressed like a Taoist nun and looked a bit scary with her sagging eyebrows.

“Gui Ya!”

Someone recognized her.

Gui Ya was standing in the ring with her hands behind her back, looking down on the people. Gao Yue showed up at the moment when she was about to speak. Gao Yue shouted at her, “What were you thinking? I’ll kill you if you hurt my son!”

If Jiang Chen hadn’t dodged in time, he would definitely have been severely injured.

Gui Ya didn’t expect that an average woman like Gao Yue had the nerve to reproach her. She was on the verge of flaring up, but suddenly sensed some majesty in Gao Yue. The light in her almond eyes was as sharp as a treasured sword.

Gui Ya was stunned for a second by what she sensed in Gao Yue. But fortunately, Gao Yue’s aggressiveness disappeared so soon that Gui Ya thought it was an illusion.

However, she didn’t get the chance to respond to Gao Yue, since Jiang Wentian and the Jiang’s elders also came up to her.

“Gui Ya, why did you attack my grandson?”

“If I didn’t, he would have pierced my apprentice’s back and paralyzed him,” Gui Ya said.

Meng Fei was shocked by what he had heard. He looked over to Jiang Chen with fear.

Jiang Chen had intended to kill him or paralyze him with only one movement, without considering the consequences. He was scared when he thought about him.

“Do you think such things could happen while we are watching on the side?” Jiang Wentian said coldly.

“Besides, you sent your apprentices to take part in our annual dinner, but you were hiding somewhere. What did you intend to do?” Jiang Tianxiong put aside the conflict between the east and west courtyard while they were confronting the foreign enemy together.

Everyone was looking at Gui Ya, waiting for her answer.

“I’ll be straight with you. My apprentice and Su Qian are lovers, but Su Qian is engaged to Jiang Chen. So I hope you could end this engagement.”

Gui Ya didn’t beat around the bush. She was speaking in a domineering manner.

Jiang Wentian had heard the story, but to his surprise Gui Ya also got involved. He looked over to Gao Yue and Jiang Chen wonderingly.

Gao Yue didn’t know how to respond. She looked nervous.

“Grandpa, the engagement was already ended. I sent a certificate of divorce to the Sus,” Jiang Chen said.

“Did you?”

“Hum, do you know what kind of negative impact you make on a girl by sending her a certificate of divorce? It seems your east courtyard is ignorant of your current situation. You went too far!”

“Exactly. You don’t have the right to divorce Su Qian,” Meng Fei said immediately.

Jiang Chen sneered at him, “First of all, she was seeing another man when she was still engaged to me. She didn’t think there was anything wrong with that. Second, she didn’t respect my mother. What’s wrong of me to divorce a lady of such easy virtue?”

“Your right isn’t decided by what she did, but by your strength,” Gui Ya grinned sarcastically. It was amusing for her that Jiang Chen had given a serious speech.

“Are you threatening the Jiangs? Are you sure you want to do this?” Jiang Wentian said to her.

“Senior Lord Jiang, without the Windblade, the Jiang Mansion is much less powerful. Don’t look at me like that. The Southwind Ridge won its reputation and property only thanks to the Windblade. Since he isn’t here now, many people are coveting your Jiang Mansion. The current situation is unfavorable for the Jiangs. Are you sure you want to offend me because of an engagement?”

Gui Ya continued arrogantly, “After all, many forces want to invite me over.”

The Jiangs were embarrassed when they heard Gui Ya’s words, but there were people gloating over what was happening as well, like Jiang Feng and Jiang Jian.

As for the outsiders, the disciples of the Swordquest School were sitting on the fence for the moment.

Xiao Hai suddenly saw something and stood up.

“Senior, you are not the only one coming after Jiang Chen. Me, too!”

Gui Ya was quite arrogant. She glanced at him and was on the verge of saying “who do you think you are,” but suddenly found he looked familiar. She asked, “Are you Master Cao’s apprentice?”

“Yes.”

“Oh? What happened?” Gui Ya asked out of curiosity.

“Jiang Chen broke my hands not long ago. Today my master will take revenge for me.” Xiao Hai, who had kept silent, finally flared up.

Because he saw his master coming.

Is all this only a flash in the pan?

The east courtyard had suffered from endless disappointment. On this day, Jiang Chen’s performance brought hope to everyone. But to their surprise, more troubles were waiting for them.

Not until then did people see Cao Chenghua coming.

“Master Cao.”

Gui Ya gave him a smiling face instantly.

People living on this continent had reached a consensus. That is, you could offend anyone except an alchemist. These guys controlled panaceas as well as human resources.

“Ha, Jiang Chen, looks like today won’t be easy for you. What will happen next?” Meng Fei thought gloatingly.

Cao Chenghua had come to rock the boat, so he didn’t show a friendly face to anyone.

Fan Tu said to him, “Your apprentice molested our lady with insolent words...”

“Fan Tu!” Jiang Wentian hastened to stop him with an angry roar.

Jiang Wentian walked up to Cao Chenghua and said to him, “Master, there might be some misunderstandings...”

Cao Chenghua ignored him. He looked at Fan Tu and said, “Let me ask you. Did you or did you not keep slapping my apprentice even if he had claimed he was an alchemist?”

“I did,” Fan Tu admitted.

“It was his master’s order.” Xiao Hai pointed to Jiang Chen in haste.

“You continued to attack his arms, knowing that he was my apprentice! It looks to me like the Jiang Mansion doesn’t need an alchemist.”

On hearing this, the whole group of Jiangs turned as white as a sheet. The joyful atmosphere was completely gone.

“That’s right. We don’t need a crappy alchemist.”

Jiang Chen spoke, to everyone’s surprise.

“Master, it’s him! It’s him!” Xiao Hai pointed to him agitatedly.

Cao Chenghua, with a long face, looked over. What he saw bewildered him. Wasn’t that the guy whom he met in the Pegasus Chamber of Commerce?

“We’ve met again so soon, Senior!” Jiang Chen was smiling mysteriously.

“My...my young friend, it’s you!”

“It’s me, Master Cao,” Jiang Chen said. “My master has figured out what your problem is. I plan to tell you about it next time. Looks you don’t want to know anymore.”

“No! No!”

The sudden turnaround bewildered Cao Chenghua. He tried to calm down and said, “Could you tell me why you beat my apprentice?”

Jiang Chen took out a Gathering Yuan Pill and handed it over to him. He said, “It’s your apprentice’s work. Please take a look and you’ll see what’s wrong with it.”

Cao Chenghua took it and checked it carefully. He thought his apprentice had made some mistake, but he started to frown a while later.

“My young friend, there is nothing wrong with it. It’s very pure.”

Xiao Hai, who was beside him, raised his head and said, “Master, of course it’s pure.”

“The panacea is all right. The problem is with the ingredients he used.”

Xiao Hai turned pale on hearing Jiang Chen's words. Cao Chenghua pulled a long face again. He crumbled the panacea and smelt it.

"Why does it have..." Cao Chenghua, frowning, found medicinal materials for class two panaceas were used.

Jiang Chen said, "Because your apprentice's work is crappy, he has to use better ingredients to guarantee the success rate. We wasted huge amounts of good materials in these two years and were unaware of it. We paid him good money. Master Cao, what do you think? Should I or shouldn't I break his hands?"

"You—you—you!"

Cao Chenghua pointed at Xiao Hai, totally speechless. Who would ask him to refine panaceas in the future?!

Xiao Hai was so embarrassed that he wanted to slap himself. He hadn't expected his secret to be found out. After all, he was only beaten for insulting Gao Yue.

He hadn't expected Jiang Chen to have been keeping quiet about what he had found out.

"You are not my apprentice anymore. From now on, I have nothing to do with you."

"Master!" Xiao Hai screamed, horrified.

Cao Chenghua ignored him. He took a deep breath, looked over to Jiang Wentian and said, "Lord Jiang, it's my bad. I'll compensate for all your losses in the past two years."

"No, no, you don't have to." Seeing such a turnaround, Jiang Wentian felt the turn of events was very exciting.

"Master Cao, you can't let it go like this. They beat the hell out of your apprentice." Gui Ya was very unhappy with what was happening.

"His master is a class six alchemist!"

To everyone's surprise, Gui Ya almost fell out of the ring when she heard Cao Chenghua. She exclaimed astonishedly, "How is this possible?"

“Why couldn’t it be? And that’s only a conservative estimate. Alchemists who can refine holy class one panaceas with such a high success rate have to be a class six or seven at least.”

“This...this...this...” Gui Ya was speechless. Her forehead was dripping with sweat.

Jiang Chen said suddenly, “Master Cao, my master told me that your problem was with the fire. You changed the fire from a roaring one to a softer one at the wrong time.”

Then he stopped for a while, looked around vigilantly and whispered in Cao Chenghua’s ear.

Cao Chenghua was dumbfounded by what he heard and became wild with joy. He said excitedly, “Yes, exactly! Why didn’t I consider that? Thank you so much! Thank you!”

People stood there astonished when they saw how Cao Chenghua forgot himself upon hearing what Jiang Chen told him.

Gui Ya really believed it this time. She promptly changed her arrogant attitude and said, “Lord Jiang, I was a little muddled when I said those things just now. Please don’t take it too seriously.”

“Really? Weren’t you threatening me seriously just now?”

“It’s only a misunderstanding.”

“I heard that Su Qian tore my certificate of divorce?” Jiang Chen said.

“Yes.”

“All right. I’ll write another one today. And I want you and your apprentice to send it to the Su Mansion in person. Then I’ll let bygones be bygones,” Jiang Chen said ruthlessly.

Although Murong Feng and Li Lie didn’t know what had happened, from what they’d heard, they knew why Meng Fei was rocking the boat. But in the end, he hadn’t succeeded. What was more, he had to take the divorce certificate back.

Su Qian would be very disappointed when she saw it.

“No problem,” Gui Ya accepted promptly, regardless of Meng Fei’s opinion. “We’re leaving.”

Gui Ya began to drag Meng Fei out of the place. Liu Fei also followed them.

“Don’t leave so soon. Take a seat,” Jiang Wentian smiled.

“No, no. We are fine.”

“Meng Fei, did I say you could leave?” Jiang Chen said coldly.

Meng Fei was about to leave, but stopped when he heard Jiang Chen. He turned around with a ferocious expression.

Gui Ya was confused since she didn’t know what was wrong. Her apprentice Liu Fei told her the story.

“Go apologize to him right away!” Gui Ya ordered.

So Meng Fei went up to Gao Yue.

“No need. Your apology is worthless,” Gao Yue stopped him when he was about to say something.

Then Gui Ya and her two apprentices left in silence.

Gui Ya didn’t even look back. She had not only come unexpectedly, but left unexpectedly too.

“Ha!”

Jiang Wentian laughed loudly. He was in a good mood. He invited Cao Chenghua to sit in a seat of honor and went back to his seat.

Suddenly he looked at Jiang Tianxiong and said, “Son, it’s time to stop.”

“Yes, Father?” Jiang Tianxiong didn’t know what he meant.

Jiang Wentian went on, “You can’t mess around if you want the family to have a good future. As long as Jiang Chen isn’t disabled, even if he is not as good as Jiang Feng, he will succeed the family property.”

“I did give thought to making you the west courtyard’s successor. But if I do give the Jiang Mansion to you, what shall I do with the east courtyard? Maybe if Jiang Chen were disabled, he wouldn’t be able to object to my decision, but what about his offspring? This will be a source of discord for the Jiangs.

“I know you very well. If you make your mind up, you will absolutely be able to weed the east courtyard out.

“But with the internal strife, the Jiang community will lose its cohesion and will grow apart little by little.”

This was easy to understand. Jiang Tianxiong should have known, but he was bewitched and wanted so much to realize his goal that he simply neglected this fact.

At that moment, he finally came to his senses thanks to Jiang Wentian’s speech.

“Father, I want the best for the Southwind Ridge,” Jiang Tianxiong said. “Since Jiang Chen is doing great, of course he should inherit the family property. Tomorrow I’ll return everything that used to belong to the east courtyard to them.”

“Good. And you should provide them with enough manpower,” Jiang Wentian nodded, very satisfied.

“Sure.”

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“Eh? Looks like the guy from the Sus also left.”

Fan Tu noticed that Su Qun had left and was amused.

“The guy from the Sus?”

Jiang Chen didn’t know they had sent someone over, but he didn’t take Fan Tu’s words seriously.

“Son, your grandpa asked you to see him in his study after everything is over.” Gao Yue was walking gently. She was so proud of her son that she couldn’t help but smile.

However, all of a sudden, there was sadness in her eyes.

Jiang Chen knew what she was thinking. She was wishing his father could be here.

...

Jiang Chen went to Jiang Wentian's study when the annual dinner was over.

As soon as he opened the door, he saw Jiang Wentian's back. He said to Jiang Chen, "You want to save your father, don't you?"

"Yes."

"Do you know how powerful the Black Dragon City is and how your revenge will bring disaster to the Jiangs?"

Jiang Wentian turned around. He looked at Jiang Chen with a cold and serious face.

"I will save my father," Jiang Chen said.

"You should know that the Nings are a hundred times more powerful than us. The Black Dragon City is even more powerful than the Hundred Thousand Mountains." Jiang Wentian's face became more and more serious. "Leave the Southwind Ridge alone."

"Yeah, I know."

"You still want to save him?"

"Of course!"

Jiang Chen took a deep breath and said, "I will definitely go back to the Black Dragon City to save my father, whatever it may cost me."

"Fine!"

Jiang Wentian burst into laughter and said, "If you said you wouldn't, I would have slapped you to wake you up. But it looks like I don't have to do that.

"Courage is the most important quality for a man."

In fact, Jiang Chen had already guessed what his grandpa was going to say. He knew what kind of person his grandpa was after seeing his decision to change the surname of the family.

“But revenge takes time. You will need to grow up, step by step, and be humble. The Swordquest School has offered to accept you as their disciple, but I don’t want you to go, since the Black Dragon City will be informed.”

“I understand.”

So Jiang Chen refused Murong Feng and Li Lie with the excuse that he didn’t want to leave his mother alone.

Murong Feng and Li Lie were merely disciples of the Swordquest School, so they didn’t insist, but to them, it was a pity that Jiang Chen had refused.

In the end they told Jiang Chen that if he changed his mind, he was welcome at the Swordquest School anytime.

This New Year had been quite exciting for the Jiangs, especially for the east courtyard.

Jiang Chen’s performance eased everyone’s worries, even those from the west courtyard.

All things considered, the smarter people knew the internal strife between the east and west courtyard would harm the Jiangs as a whole and wasn’t worth it.

However, although Jiang Wentian didn’t want Jiang Chen to join the Swordquest School, the Black Dragon City heard the news about Jiang Chen all the same.

The Black Dragon City wasn’t interested in the news of the Hundred Thousand Mountains. What they were paying attention to was news about the Southwind Ridge.

They knew they had done something disreputable. However, with their power, they must have some measures to nip things in the bud.

In the Black Dragon City, in the courtyard of the Nings, a beautiful woman who looked around 35 years old was sitting by a furnace. She was wearing a red skirt of thin silk, with jewelry on her head.

She was lying in a soft chair, languid but still full of grace.

“He is in the beginning of the preliminary stage of the Gathering Yuan State, has mastered the sword point, and is qualified for the Swordquest School?” the beauty murmured.

She asked casually, “Did he join the Swordquest School in the end?”

“No.” An old yet powerful voice came from the dark side of the room.

The beauty sneered and said, “So, the requirements of the Swordquest School for new disciples is still as strict as always. The two disciples don’t have the final say in the recruitment.”

An old woman came out of the shade. “Lady, shall we—”

“If we start war with them directly, there will be a great risk when the Taoist Priest Skywind returns, so it’s not a good idea,” the lady interrupted. “We could take advantage of other forces who are watching the Southwind Ridge.”

The old woman said, “Exactly. Thanks to the Windblade, the Southwind was developing rapidly during the past decades. Now that he isn’t there, many forces are planning something. But due to the remaining prestige of the Windblade, they are still quiet for the moment.”

“Good. Go spread a rumor. Say that the Taoist Priest Skywind died in the war, and the Windblade was killed in the Black Dragon Pool.”

“How smart! Even if the Taoist Priest Skywind comes back someday, he will have no way to blame us if he sees the Windblade is still alive.”

The beauty nodded and said, “Thanks to the holy pulse, my son’s power has enhanced rapidly. We don’t have to pay attention to those small fries. Still, we should be prepared.”

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In the Whitewater City, Su Qian was glad to see the New Year come.

On New Year's Eve, her father told her that he would send her to learn skills from masters beyond the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

Su Qian had been looking forward to travelling outside since she was very small, so she was quite excited to hear the news, as it was a rare opportunity for her.

The people of the mountains usually spent their whole lives there. Even the renowned Cangnan Institute meant nothing outside of the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

She felt lucky that her potential had been noticed in the Pulse Invigorating Ceremony so that she could get the chance to enter the outside world.

At this moment, she was expecting Meng Fei's good news that she could break up with Jiang Chen once and for all, so in the future, no one would say that she had a fiancée in the mountains or had been divorced when she was away on her adventure.

Meng Fei kept his promise. He arrived at the Su Mansion on the day they had agreed upon.

Su Qian came up to Meng Fei joyfully. She grinned at him, "Brother Meng, have you got the disengagement agreement?"

She went on before Meng Fei could answer her, "You must have given Jiang Chen a good lesson, right?"

Meng Fei didn't answer. His expression was hard to read. He handed her the envelope in his hand with hesitation.

"This is it?"

Su Qian took it excitedly, but she was frozen when she opened it.

She looked up to Meng Fei and said uncertainly, "Meng Fei, what happened?"

Her outlook had never been so awful.

"Please don't ask." Meng Feng gritted his teeth. If it were not his master's order, he wouldn't have come here by himself.

“Whatever. Anyway, I’m going to the Province of Widepool soon to join those schools and sects that the Southwind Ridge could never catch up to.” Su Qian crumpled up the certificate of divorce, but this time she didn’t tear it.

“You’re going to the Province of Widepool?” Meng Fei was surprised.

“Yes. The Purple Heaven Villa, the Heaven and Earth Gang and the Void School are all there. Maybe I can join the Swordquest School!” Su Qian raised her head as she listed the highly respected names.

Meng Fei’s expression was even more complicated when he heard the last name. He said, “Are you going to join the Swordquest School, too?”

“Too? Who else in the Hundred Thousand Mountains is able to join it?” Su Qian didn’t understand what he meant. She wasn’t actually very confident when she was talking about the Swordquest School.

Meng Fei glanced at her and said with a bitter smile, “Jiang Chen has been recruited by the Swordquest School.”

Su Qian stood there, dumbfounded, upon hearing Meng Fei. Her happiness that had been present in the previous days disappeared instantly.

Many people reacted in the same way as Su Qian. When they heard the story of what happened at the annual dinner of the Jiang Mansion, they realized that Jiang Chen had achieved great things and was already a brilliant new star.

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Jiang Chen didn’t rest on his laurels. Instead, he practiced sword methods everyday in order to better his mastery of the sword point, but Gao Yue was worried about him, since if he spent the whole day practicing sword methods, he wouldn’t have time to upgrade his state.

However, this was proof of how precious a martial arts genius he was.

Most people would choose to upgrade their state instead of their martial arts techniques.

Even if one had great martial arts techniques, without the support of a high state they would still be weak. The movements would only look good.

On the contrary, if one had a high state, they would possess great strengths even though they didn't have any skill in martial arts techniques.

But a martial arts genius can attain both.

Jiang Chen didn't want to boast about himself, but he was devoting all of his efforts to enhancing his swordsmanship realm, because the realm of swordsmanship relies on inspiration, while a state can be broken through by other methods.

The most important reason he was focused on swordsmanship was the fact that there were limits in a state system. When one reached the limit, the importance of martial arts techniques would be reflected.

You only can construct a skyscraper with a good foundation.

Jiang Chen, who had mastered the sword point, was thinking of the sword methods stored in his memory, but he couldn't think of anything that he could practice directly at that moment.

However, he would have to choose a sword method to practice hard. The spirit of his sword would be enhanced incidentally through this process.

His mastery of the sword point allowed him to enter the threshold of the swordsmanship realm. After that, he would need to enhance the spirit of his sword and the doctrine of his martial arts techniques.

In the end, Jiang Chen chose the Rainbow Sword Method. Its sword movements could only be learned thoroughly after the wielder mastered the spirit of the sword.

Jiang Chen went through its first three movements in his mind every day in order to enhance his swordsmanship realm.

The first three movements were:

The first, three movements in one.

The second, fire clouds all over the sky.

The third, the arc of rainbow.

Jiang Chen's forehead was soaked with sweat after a day's practice. It's really difficult to master an advanced sword method.

I need to exploit my advantages to the fullest!

Jiang Chen decided to have some practical fights so he could advance as rapidly as possible.

He wasn't going to fight in the mountains behind his house, but in the Hundred Thousand Mountains, where the danger was real.

Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to train seriously, as it was impossible for the Wind Move Guards of the Jiang Mansion to fight him at ease.

Gao Yue, worried for his safety, didn't allow him to travel at first.

Neither did Jiang Wentian, until Jiang Chen agreed to take some guards with him.

At that moment, Jiang Wentian was paying great attention to Jiang Chen. The two guards who were going to protect him were Wind and Cloud of the Jiang Mansion. Both of them were in the late stage of the Gathering Yuan State.

If I have guards protecting me, I know that there will be no danger, even when I am facing death. That will affect my performance in the fight, but it's still better than fighting at home.

So Jiang Chen left the Southwind Ridge with Wind and Cloud and entered the Hundred Thousand Mountains.