

G E D 1491

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“Roast fish?” Feng Wu stared at Jun Linyuan. “My dear crown prince, we’re out in the wilderness. Can you settle for something simpler?”

Feng Wu still had to cultivate and she was very busy.

But of course, Jun Linyuan wouldn’t let her go.

He gave Feng Wu a proud look, crossed his hands behind his back, and marched off.

What choice did Feng Wu have? She had to follow him in frustration.

Luckily, it was the 15th day already.

Feng Wu thought to herself, *When the 18 days are over and this mission is completed, I won’t be his maid anymore.*

The lake was filled with moon fish that would sell at a good price in the market since they were hard to catch and very rare.

But for Feng Wu and Jun Linyuan, catching moon fish was a piece of cake.

They didn’t even need any bait. Feng Wu just sat by the water and washed her hands. She then gathered her spiritual essence into a thread and lifted a fish out of the water by pulling the thread.

The moon fish was about half a meter long and a silver white color. In the moonlight, it almost looked translucent.

“Let’s go.” Feng Wu put a straw rope she had braided through the fish’s mouth, took Jun Linyuan’s hand, and tried to leave, because she wanted to get this over with as soon as possible.

She had obtained some insight while they were traveling today, and she was looking for an opportunity to sit down and think it over.

However, it was a beautiful night, and the crown prince obviously didn’t plan to let Feng Wu go that easily.

“Xuan Yi and Feng Xun will be here tonight,” Jun Linyuan said casually as he lay down on the snow-white rock and rested his head on his crossed hands.

“They weren’t with us before?” Feng Wu was surprised.

The crown prince glanced at Feng Wu before he turned his gaze to the sky in silence.

“That’s right.” Feng Wu rested her chin on her hands. “Xuan Yi aside, if Feng Xun were here, he would definitely have come find us. But he didn’t, not once.”

“Yes.” The crown prince nodded.

“If they’re going to be here tonight, one fish indeed won’t be enough. I remember that they can both eat a lot.”

Feng Wu caught a few more fish as she spoke.

With her storage space, she could simply throw the moon fish inside.

“By the way, we won’t see any moon fish again on our way to the Senal Grassland, will we?” This was Feng Wu’s first time going to the Senal Grassland, so she didn’t know the terrain well.

Jun Linyuan said casually, “A fish is probably worth a cow there.”

What?!

Feng Wu’s eyes lit up and she looked at Jun Linyuan in excitement. “Really? Are you sure?”

Jun Linyuan grunted.

“That’s so profitable! If that’s the case, we shouldn’t let these fish go to waste!”

One fish for a cow? Just imagine that! Feng Wu was getting excited just thinking about it.

“And a cow from the Senal Grassland is worth a low-grade spiritual stone in the mining area in the central plains.” Jun Linyuan made another striking statement.

Feng Wu: !!!

Although she had a spiritual stone lode, all the spiritual stones beneath the Fang manor, low- and top-grade alike, went toward the formation.

Feng Wu still had Chaoge, Qiuling, Uncle Qiu, and Xiaoqi to consider, and they all needed spiritual stones for their cultivation. So —

“These are all spiritual stones. No, I can’t just watch them slip away.”

Her beautiful master was in her ring space; she would never put the fish in there.

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But aside from that, she still had another storage ring which Jun Linyuan had given to her before, and it was where she could keep the fish.

Feng Wu crouched down and opened up the ring, and soon, moon fish started pouring into it.

One, two, three... 100, 1000... In the end, Feng Wu lost count of how many there were. In short, there were a lot.

Feng Wu exclaimed in surprise all of a sudden.

“What’s that?” Feng Wu snatched a moon fish out of the water and examined it curiously.

There was something different about this moon fish, which was covered in a faint glow. She could detect a subtle hint of spiritual essence on it.

Somehow, the fish struck her as odd, but she couldn’t exactly pinpoint why.

She was still trying to figure it out, when Jun Linyuan walked over and crouched down next to her.

His long, slender fingers reached over and took the chubby moon fish.

“Hm?”

The crown prince frowned a little.

“Do you know what’s with this fish?” Feng Wu looked curiously at Jun Linyuan.

“Yes.” He swiped his fingers across the scales of the fish and a streak of blue light floated up.

“Is that spiritual essence? This moon fish contains spiritual essence?” Feng Wu was confused.

“The moon fish doesn’t have it, but if they swallow something which contains spiritual essence, they’ll have it in them,” Jun Linyuan said.

“If they’ve ingested spiritual essence by mistake... Does that mean that there’s something filled with spiritual essence in the lake?” Feng Wu’s eyes lit up!

Jun Linyuan didn’t comment.

“Shall I go down there and have a look?” Feng Wu asked him.

Before she knew it, Feng Wu had started to get into this habit.

“Let someone else go,” Jun Linyuan said indifferently.

Was there anyone else around?

Feng Wu was still feeling bewildered, when two figures approached them.

“Boss Jun! We finally caught up with you! I was so worried!”

Feng Xun jumped at them and tried to hug Jun Linyuan, but of course, the crown prince wouldn’t let him.

Hence, Feng Xun turned to Feng Wu instead. “My dear sister —”

However, Jun Linyuan picked him up by the back of his collar before he could reach her.

“Waaaa! Boss Jun! Boss Jun! Let me down! Let me down!” Feng Xun kicked around in the air.

But —

Soon, Feng Wu heard the sound of something falling into the water.

Turning around, she saw that poor Feng Xun had just been thrown into the lake.

Feng Xun was about to go ashore, when Jun Linyuan stopped him.

He said, “Since you’re already there, dive deeper.”

Feng Xun was confused.

Feng Wu immediately explained to him about the moon fish.

Treasure hunting had always excited Feng Xun, so he dove in head first and quickly swam around in the lake.

Feng Wu was confident that Feng Xun would be able to find the source right away, but —

To her surprise, after coming back up for air three more times, Feng Xun still couldn't find anything.

"Let me have a look." Xuan Yi jumped in.

Feng Xun and Xuan Yi each covered half the lake after splitting it into quarters.

That way, they could do a grid search and would soon find their answer.

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As expected —

In less than 15 minutes, they heard from Xuan Yi.

He handed Feng Wu a broken stone when he came back up. "I think you know what this is."

Feng Xun craned his neck. "Xuan Yi, are you kidding me? I found quite a few of these shabby stones on my side as well, but I didn't think much of them."

Xuan Yi didn't reply and only watched Feng Wu quietly.

Taking the broken stone, it only took Feng Wu one look to realize what it was.

"This is a spiritual stone used in a formation. It's just that it's drained of spiritual essence, so it looks the same as any common stone."

Feng Wu rose to her feet and studied the lake with a cold look in her eyes.

She didn't expect to find a formation in the lake.

Judging from what was left of the spiritual stones, this was no ordinary formation.

"I'll go have a look."

Feng Wu jumped into the lake after saying those words.

She swam as nimbly as a fish in the lake, and before long, she arrived at the spot where Xuan Yi found the stone.

Grotesque stones and red coral of various shapes covered the bottom of the lake.

Feng Wu was very level-headed for her age. "We'll search the area around this spot. We're looking for some spiritual stones. I need a baseline spiritual stone to deduce the type of formation used here."

Feng Xun and Xuan Yi were both influential young lords who usually didn't take orders from anyone but Jun Linyuan.

But before they knew it, they had started to believe everything Feng Wu said.

With their help, Feng Wu soon discovered the pattern of the spiritual stones, and with that pattern, she was able to deduce the type of formation used.

“It’s a Level 5 formation. That’s incredible.” Feng Wu started looking for the core of the formation as she spoke.

Because she had found the general direction, the search wasn’t difficult at all.

Feng Wu was in the front with Feng Xun on her left and Xuan Yi on her right.

The three of them formed a triangle.

A few times, Feng Xun thought that they hit a dead end when there was nothing in front of them but a wall of red coral.

However, Feng Wu could somehow always lead them through it at an impossible angle.

No wonder this secret had been hidden under the lake for so many years; if one didn’t understand formations, they wouldn’t know where to look.

“We’re here.”

They were passing under the archway of a bridge when Feng Wu said that.

The scene they saw was quite impressive once they were on the other side of the archway.

They thought they had arrived in hell.

They were looking at a treasure ship.

After years at the bottom of the lake, the ship was very dilapidated.

There was some cargo on the ship, but there were more dead bodies.

Some lay face down, some on their backs, and some had been impaled on poles. It was a horrible scene.

“It’s a shipwreck!” Feng Xun was the first to rush toward it.

However —

“Stop!” Feng Wu stopped him.

Luckily, Feng Xun always listened to Feng Wu, so he stopped at her command.

He turned around and looked at Feng Wu in bewilderment.

Feng Wu said grumpily, “Did you think that shipwrecks wouldn’t have traps on them?”

She then threw a stone at the ship.

It hit the ship, and suddenly —

Squeak —

There was a terrifying sound.

Before Feng Xun realized what was going on, Feng Wu was already dragging him back.

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They had only just hidden behind a wall, when they heard the sound of shooting arrows!

The water should have hindered the arrows' movements, but it seemed that these arrows were able to overcome that resistance, and the impact they made resembled an explosion. It was terrifying.

Whoosh —

They just kept coming!

Luckily, Feng Wu reacted in time. Otherwise, Feng Xun would have been injured, rushing out like that.

Still shaken from the lingering fear, he looked at Feng Wu and heaved a sigh of relief. "That was close. If you didn't drag me away, I would have turned into a hedgehog by now."

Feng Wu chuckled. "No, you won't. You would just have a few painful injuries. Nevertheless, those are some very malicious arrows."

They only boarded the shipwreck after it was all over.

"Hey, why are most of these dead people from the grassland?" Feng Xun examined the corpses curiously.

The flesh had rotted away years ago, but they could still see that the dead people were descendants of the grassland from the bones.

Xuan Yi said grumpily, "Grassland or not, it has nothing to do with us. Let's go find the thing."

Feng Xun agreed.

Compared with this discovery, they preferred the thrill of the treasure hunt.

"I think someone beat us to it and took everything valuable." Feng Xun and Xuan Yi looked around and spoke in a sorry tone after they came back out.

"Is there nothing left?" Feng Wu frowned.

"No." Feng Xun sounded resigned.

He had expected to find some treasure after they finally disabled the formation, but the ship had only turned out to be a shell.

Feng Wu scratched her head. "That shouldn't be the case. Did someone get here before us?"

She wouldn't believe it, so she went in to search herself.

Feng Xun followed her and discouraged her as she looked around.

"I told you already, there's nothing left. But you won't believe me and just have to look for yourself. You were so excited, but you're going to be disappointed."

The cabin was utterly empty, as though someone had taken absolutely everything.

While Feng Xun was sighing and moaning, Feng Wu was tapping on the walls with her fingers.

Feng Xun looked at Feng Wu in resignation.

He had told her that there was nothing here. Did she think she could find something by tapping?

But to Feng Xun's surprise —

After three long and five short taps —

Crackle —

There was the sound of cracking wood.

Feng Xun's eyes widened as he watched a medium-sized sealed box fall out of the wall.

"That —"

He stared at Feng Wu in bewilderment. "You — how did you find it?"

Feng Wu said innocently, "I just tapped randomly and it fell out."

Feng Xun: !!!

It had obviously been hidden so well that the first group of people who got here hadn't found this hidden treasure box.

"What's inside?" Feng Xun was curious.

Feng Wu said, "We'll have a look once we're up on shore, since we have to leave now."

Feng Xun was confused. "Why?"

Feng Wu said, "Because the self-destruct mode was activated after this box fell out. This treasure ship will explode in less than a minute."

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"What?" Hearing that, Feng Xun grabbed Feng Wu and dashed off. "Let's go! This is a formidable treasure ship, and we don't know how much of an impact the explosion will have. Just move as fast as you can!"

Feng Wu, Feng Xun, and Xuan Yi quickly left the bottom of the lake.

The three of them had just climbed out of the lake when —

Whoosh —

A formidable shockwave struck them from behind, and it was terrifying!

Waves shot up and exploded in the air!

Thump!

The impact threw the three of them onto the bank.

Luckily, Jun Linyuan had activated a protective skill before they hit the ground.

Feng Wu opened her eyes to find herself already in Jun Linyuan's arms.

That terrifying shockwave had been extinguished by Jun Linyuan's strike.

Feng Wu was speechless.

Even so, the water level was still rising quickly.

"Water is going to get up here soon. Let's go." Still carrying Feng Wu in his arms, Jun Linyuan ran back to the campsite.

Feng Xun and Xuan Yi followed him.

It was a long distance for normal people, but to Jun Linyuan, it was only a matter of a few leaps.

Jun Linyuan told Feng when they got back, "A flood is coming. Let's move up the hill."

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Why was there suddenly a flood?

No one would believe it if it had come from someone else, but since it was Jun Linyuan who said it, no one questioned it.

The carriages started moving again and were soon halfway up the hill.

Just then, the water from the lake arrived.

Everyone looked at Jun Linyuan in amazement.

That was so impressive! How incredible!

Jun Linyuan ignored them all. Instead, he carried Feng Wu back to their carriage.

Feng Wu was still holding the box she found at the bottom of the lake, and she only opened it happily when they got back to the carriage.

Feng Xun and Xuan Yi gathered around and watched curiously.

"What's inside? I'm so curious," Feng Xun said expectantly.

Feng Wu said, "It was so well-hidden. I think it's some sort of top secret."

The box was made from hard iron from the bottom of the ocean with a password consisting of formation codes. If one tried to pry it open by force, the box would destroy itself.

That was to say, no one would know what was inside.

Luckily —

Feng Wu knew formations, and less than a handful of people in the entire Junwu Empire were better at her in them.

With some deduction, she was able to solve the password in less than five minutes.

With a click —

The wondrous box opened.

The first item —

It was a messenger bottle.

Feng Xun didn't open it right away, and only looked at Feng Wu.

Feng Wu was amused, and she chuckled. "It's okay. There's no trap. Just open it."

Feng Xun only opened the bottle after hearing Feng Wu's confirmation.

"Hey, what's this?" Feng Xun took a light yellow parchment out of the bottle.

On it was an illustration of mountains and rivers with notes written in a foreign language.

"Hey, isn't that the language of Senal? And isn't that Sheep Grass Mountain?" Feng Xun cried out.

Feng Wu looked at him in confusion.

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Feng Xun couldn't hold back his excitement. "That's a treasure map, isn't it?! Am I right?!"

Feng Xun showed it to Jun Linyuan as he spoke.

Jun Linyuan glanced at him and gave a slight nod.

That immediately settled Feng Xun's mind, and he said excitedly, "So, that's a real treasure map?!"

He looked at Jun Linyuan with twinkling eyes as he spoke.

Jun Linyuan nodded again. "And the treasure belongs to the royal family of Senal."

"Holy crap!" Feng Xun was so excited that he almost jumped up.

The grassland was a region, and the Senal Grassland was the most wealthy of them all. If they could obtain the treasure of the royal family, that would be —

Even Feng Wu was thrilled, let alone Feng Xun. This would be so much more profitable than selling moon fish.

"And? Is there more?" Feng Xun asked anxiously.

Feng Wu took a second object out of the box.

It was a booklet. Technically, it was a notebook.

Feng Wu opened it and saw that it was the record of a solitary trip.

“This booklet belonged to someone called Molmo, who wrote all this.” After turning a few pages, Feng Wu saw that it was all written in the Senal language, which gave her a headache, so she gave the booklet back to Feng Xun.

“Molmo?” Feng Xun was utterly surprised. “I’ve heard that name before. If I remember correctly, he was the previous crown prince, and should have become the king!”

“Really?” Feng Wu raised an eyebrow. “Have we discovered some sort of secret of the royal family? That’s okay. We’ll have a closer look later.”

Putting the booklet aside, Feng Wu took out the third object.

It was a jade slip.

Feng Wu cried out softly when she injected her spiritual essence into the jade slip.

Immediately, all eyes were on her.

Feng Wu said, “It contains a cultivation technique known as Nirvana of Omen.”

Feng Xun was surprised. “Nirvana of Omen? Are you sure? Is it really Nirvana of Omen?!!!”

Feng Wu looked at Feng Xun in bewilderment. “Have you heard of this technique before?”

Feng Xun said, “Of course I have. That’s the most superior cultivation technique in the grassland, and only the royal family can access it. Moreover, it’s only for the most promising members.

“If I remember correctly, after this slip was lost, so was the cultivation technique.”

Feng Xun then smacked his own thigh. “Only those with the grassland bloodline can learn it, so it doesn’t mean much to us. But don’t worry. With it, we’ll be able to get a lot of things. Hahaha —”

Feng Xun was so excited that he prompted Feng Wu, “And? Is there more? Take it out, quickly.”

Feng Wu waved him off grumpily. “There’s also a dagger, and it looks a bit old.”

“Oh god! That has to be Molmo’s personal dagger! It has to be!”

“Little Feng Wu! You’re awesome!” Feng Xun patted her arm in excitement. “You know what? The objects in the box may not seem like much, but if we make good use of them, we can turn the Senal Grassland upside down if we want! You’re our lucky star!”

Feng Xun patted Feng Wu on the back.

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He only realized that he had patted her too hard when Jun Linyuan threw a dirty look at him.

“Hahaha, Xiao Wu, are you alright?”

Seeing the way the girl stumbled under his patting, Feng Xun scratched his head, looking ashamed.

Feng Wu waved at him. “That’s alright. You guys enjoy your chat. I’m hungry. I’ll go roast you some fish.”

Those moon fish couldn’t go to waste.

They were at the best location halfway up the hill.

Feng Wu chose the best spot and had Feng Xun set up the grill for her.

Moon fish didn't have a single scale and were very easy to clean.

After removing the entrails and rinsing the fish, Feng Wu made three cuts on each fish, used some ginger to get rid of the fishy smell, and seasoned them with a special concoction she made herself.

Meanwhile, she also stuffed the fish with spices that she had gathered during the trip.

Once everyone was given their tasks, Feng Xun started setting up the grill while Xuan Yi went to find some firewood.

Because they were out in the open, the other people were able to see everything they were doing.

Families like the Zuo family were especially shocked when they saw the way Feng Wu ordered Feng Xun and Xuan Yi around.

How was that even possible? What magic did Feng Wu have? Why did influential young lords like Feng Xun and Xuan Yi get along so well with her?

The harmonious scene stung many eyes and broke many hearts.

Seeing that the moon fish was properly seasoned, Feng Wu came out of the tent and took over the job.

"I'm starving —" Feng Xun patted his stomach and looked resentful.

Feng Wu patted his head the way one would pacify a puppy dog. "There, there. It's almost done. Just another 15 minutes."

"Alright. I'll just sit here and wait." Feng Xun sat down cross-legged and rested his chin on his hands. The way he blinked looked quite adorable.

That was how Feng Wu and Feng Xun interacted with each other on a daily basis, but to other people, that was the most incredible thing!

"Why is Young Lord Feng so obedient with Feng Wu?"

"And Young Lord Xuan as well."

"Feng Wu is just a bed-warming maid. How does she do it?!"

—

The entourage this time was quite sizable, and there were high-ranking officials, first-ranked dames, princes and princesses of all sorts...

They were all arrogant people that used to look down on Feng Wu. But now, they suddenly realized that Feng Wu was so important to Feng Xun and Xuan Yi, which utterly confused them.

They were so overwhelmed with jealousy that they had no time to analyze it. All they knew were their jealous feelings!

Feng Wu didn't know what the others were thinking, but even if she did, she wouldn't care at all.

She mulled over her cultivation technique as she busied herself with roasting the fish.

She had mastered the three stances her beautiful master taught her, but she still didn't know where she could find the fourth one.

Her master had disappeared so suddenly that she probably had to wait until he woke up to learn the fourth stance.

Feng Wu patted her own head in frustration.

She was only on the 6th mission of the 12 Trials of Love, and the 6th one had been extended... She couldn't imagine how torturous the future ones would be.

As she skillfully coated the roast fish with sauce, she racked her brain and tried to predict what might happen next and what precautions she would have to take.

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Although she was absent-minded, the fish turned out excellent.

The empress dowager, Emperor Wu, and Jun Linyuan were the core of the convoy, so the three of them weren't so far apart.

As soon as the fish was ready, the aroma filled the air. The empress dowager just happened to be downwind, so the intense scent drifted her way.

"That smells so nice!"

Feng Xun was so intrigued by the aroma that his mouth watered.

Feng Wu was already an excellent cook to begin with. The moon fish was naturally tasty, and Feng Wu had used a tiny formation to gather spiritual essence when she was cooking. As a result —

"Xiao Wu, Xiao Wu —" Feng Xun blinked at Feng Wu. His big sparkling eyes could melt one's heart.

Feng Wu only gave him a grumpy look and rubbed his head. "Wait."

"Alright..." Feng Xun looked as pitiful as a puppy dog.

Just then, he sensed a cold glance aimed at him!

A chill ran up his legs, and his back stiffened.

Turning his head involuntarily, he saw —

The crown prince was glaring at him with eyes so cold that they could freeze the air!

Ssss —

Feng Xun drew in his breath.

He detected jealousy... Boss Jun was jealous!

At that thought, Feng Xun immediately moved away.

Feng Wu had just torn off a palm-sized piece of fish and was handing it to Feng Xun when he moved away. He didn't even get to his feet when he jumped back.

Feng Wu was surprised. "What?"

Looking around, Feng Xun saw that he was no longer being stared at. When he looked again, he saw that Boss Jun was no longer there.

"Haha, it's nothing. I was mistaken."

Feng Xun and Xuan Yi were travel-worn and weary from their long journey here. They didn't even have time to rest on their way, let alone feed themselves.

By now, they were so hungry that they thought they were going to pass out.

"Aren't you hungry? Take it." Feng Wu wrapped a green lotus leaf around the roast fish and handed it to Feng Xun.

Feng Xun took it and breathed in deeply...

That aroma was insane!

Without thinking, he stuffed it into his mouth!

Wow —

It tasted even better than it smelled! It was maddening!

That was so delicious!

"Wow! That tastes great! Xiao Wu, you're such an amazing cook!"

Feng Xun's words were muffled with all the fish in his mouth, but one could tell what he wanted to say from his sparkling eyes!

Xuan Yi was also eating, but he wasn't wolfing it down like Feng Xun. He was much more civilized.

He might eat like a refined man, but he wasn't slower than Feng Xun by any means.

Feng Xun and Xuan Yi finished their portions in less than three seconds, and they involuntarily turned their heads toward Feng Wu.

She was still holding a moon fish about half a meter long.

"Xiao Wu —" Feng Xun cried out, and the next second, he jumped at Feng Wu.

Feng Wu said grumpily, "Don't get too excited! I'll give it to you!"

However, Feng Xun didn't get it in the end, because Xuan Yi got there first.

"Damn it! Xuan Yi! How can you do that?! I didn't know you were that type of person!"

Feng Xun was exasperated! That man was so mean!

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Xuan Yi chuckled. "The devil takes the hindmost. Blame yourself for being too slow."

"Give me back my roast fish!" Feng Xun stomped his foot in frustration.

Xuan Yi had gone through all the trouble to get it, so of course he wouldn't give it back.

Feng Xun jumped at him in frustration!

But Xuan Yi knew Feng Xun too well to let him get what he wanted.

Before Feng Xun could get to him, Xuan Yi was already running away!

"Xuan the Second! Stop right there!" Feng Xun stomped his foot and ran after him as fast as he could!

Of course Xuan Yi wasn't going to stop. Holding the fish, he dashed off, while Feng Xun chased after him at top speed.

There was only so much space in the campsite, and they weren't exactly trying to keep their voices down, so they disturbed the others.

Right now, a lot of eyes were on them.

Most of the men were staying outside, while the women were in the tents. But if one looked closely, they could see that the door curtains had been lifted slightly...

The Zuo family.

Mrs Zuo and Mrs Dugu were still together. They were already sister-in-laws, and with their common enemy, the two of them were especially close at the moment.

They were still talking about how to deal with Feng Wu, when they smelled the incredible aroma. Before they knew it, they heard the hubbub outside.

"What's that about?" Mrs Zuo asked curiously.

Mrs Zuo's chamber maid was called Yufurong, and she had a mild temper and smiled all the time. She said merrily, "I'll go have a look."

She soon came back with a strange look on her face.

The two ladies darted curious looks at her, and Mrs Zuo frowned. "What's that about?"

Yufurong stopped smiling and said quietly, "It's Young Lord Feng and Young Lord Xuan."

"Xuan Yi and Feng Xun? They usually behave themselves. Why are they making all that noise now? What's going on?" Both ladies had their eyes on Xuan Yi and Feng Xun.

As a matter of fact, they weren't the only ones. All families in the imperial capital with teenage daughters had their eyes on the two young lords.

Because they were the most ideal future husbands second only to Jun Linyuan!

Feng Xun and Xuan Yi were both promising enough to win the hearts of the mothers.

“Xuan Yi and Feng Xun? What happened? Are they having a row with someone?” Mrs Zuo asked with a frown.

Zuo Qingluan wasn't her only daughter. There was also Zuo Qingyu.

Mrs Dugu also had three daughters.

Yufurong smiled wryly. “Young Lords Xuan and Feng are fighting each other.”

“What? Aren't they good friends? They're like brothers. Why would they break into a fight?”

Just then, they heard someone shouting outside.

“Xuan Yi! Stop right there! Do it, or I'm gonna kill you!” Feng Xun sounded as if he had lost his mind.

Xuan Yi was being very naughty. He stuffed the fish into his mouth as he ran.

Feng Xun couldn't see it from behind, but when they reached a corner, he saw everything!

“Hey! Xuan Yi! How dare you eat it without my permission?! Put that fish down right now!”

Feng Xun had only tried such good roast fish once in his life, but someone else had stolen it before he could have another bite!

Xuan Yi looked over his shoulder with a resigned expression. “Is that all you can do? Shout at me?”

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Feng Xun asked, “What else? Give me a hint.”

Xuan Yi didn't have time for that. He took a large bite of the fish, chewed, and did it all over again.

The others were all astonished when they saw the way the two of them ran around.

The ladies were utterly surprised when Yufurong told them about it.

“What? Young Lord Feng and Young Lord Xuan are fighting over a roast fish?” Mrs Zuo couldn't believe her ears.

But Yufurong nodded with a bitter smile. “That's right; everyone heard it. Young Lord Feng is already running very fast, but he can't catch up with Young Lord Xuan.”

Mrs Zuo looked shocked. “What's going on? It's as if the young lord has never tasted roast fish before.”

“But it does smell nice, and even my mouth is watering.” Mrs Dugu told the old maid next to her, “Go find out who made that fish and have them cook one for me. Quickly.”

Granny Ye was about to go, when Yufurong stopped her.

She smiled wryly. “Granny Ye, please don't go. You won't be able to get it.”

“What now?” Mrs Dugu was bewildered.

As the family of Empress Dugu, the Dugu family was one of the most influential families in the empire that everyone thought highly of. Why would anyone say no to such a family? Mrs Dugu smirked.

But —

“That fish was cooked by Miss Feng Wu herself.” Yufurong smiled bitterly.

Miss Feng Wu...

A hush fell over the crowd as soon as she said that name.

“She’s just all over the place!” Mrs Dugu snorted. She didn’t try to hide her disdain.

Mrs Zuo sounded discontent as well and said sarcastically, “What’s going on with the Feng clan? Why is that girl so good at seducing men?”

It was obvious that the two ladies were jealous, because they had daughters as well, and they could never get along well with Feng Xun and Xuan Yi.

While the two ladies were secretly tormented by their jealousy, the empress dowager —

Because she had insisted on going to the Senal Grassland, the empress dowager had to be on a strict diet imposed by Feng Wu.

The instructions were quite simple: the food had to be low in oil, salt, and sugar, and the empress dowager was already getting sick of it.

If she knew that Feng Wu had come up with that regime, she would probably hate her even more.

She was lying in bed and whining about her pain, when she smelled the aroma of food from outside.

It was such a unique smell that she didn’t think she had ever smelled it before.

One could only imagine how someone who was about to pass out from starvation would feel when they smelled the spicy aroma.

The old lady swallowed with difficulty. She was about to ask Granny Lan about it, when she heard footsteps outside.

“Your Majesty, Mrs Dugu and Mrs Zuo are here to see you. Do you feel well enough to see them?” Granny Lan asked.

Mrs Dugu and Mrs Zuo? Had they come with the food that was giving off that nice aroma?

The empress dowager was elated by that thought.

She sprang up from the bed and cried out, “Quickly! Invite them in!”

How thoughtful of them! the empress dowager thought to herself.

Invite them in? Mrs Dugu and Mrs Zuo exchanged surprised looks.