

## My Crown 1241

### Chapter 1241: Coming-of-Age Ceremony (1)

Qiao Mu contemplated before making a guess with a light cough, "Such as, because his furnace often explodes, he has to be near a water source to ensure his safety. Otherwise, if a fire starts up, he won't even be able to hide."

Mo Lian: ...

*What kind of oddball was this!*

"You mean, he intended to jump into the lake if the furnace exploded?"

Qiao Mu nodded.

Mo Lian couldn't resist bursting into laughter. Afterwards, he pulled the little fellow over and fed her the warm tea. "Forget it, let's not bother with those miscellaneous people. It's been so difficult for us to spend the afternoon idly, so talk with Hubby, hm?"

Darling Qiao drank a long gulp of tea before looking up at him and deadpanning, "I've been idle every day for the past few days."

Hearing this, Mo Lian's eyes instantly lit up. "Then how about I come to see you every day?"

"If I say no, will you not come?"

Mo Lian shook his head rapidly. "No."

Qiao Mu, however, merely cast him a glance. *She didn't want to bother with him anymore!*

As the boat undulated on the lake, the couple chatted away for who knows how long.

He had said that he would send her home after two hours, yet he dragged it out for a whole four hours.

By the time he stealthily sent her back, the sky had already turned dark!

Meanwhile, her younger sister was pouting as she sat inside her room. Consequently, she didn't even give her a glance when she saw that her older sister had returned!

*Liar!* She said that she would return in an hour, yet she had made her stay here and put on an act for more than four hours! She was bored to death!

Seeing that her younger sister was angry, Qiao Mu quickly took out a lot of pastries and snacks from her inner world to coax her.

The foodie was very easy to please, and that stern face soon collapsed and turned into a beaming one.

Qiao Lin happily ate the food in her arms as she informed, "Sister, today the sister from the Li Family came to visit you not long after you snuck out. Mother nearly discovered that you weren't inside your room!"

Qiao Mu was startled. "The sister from the Li Family?"

In her impression, there was seemingly only that person...

“Li Xiu’e, the Third Miss from the family of Assistant Minister Li of the Office of Imperial Banquets?”

“Mhm, mhm. It’s her. Luckily, she was quick-witted. When she discovered that the person inside the room wasn’t you but me, she even helped me coax Mom away,” Qiao Lin tittered while tilting her head.

Qiao Mu also nodded. “What did she say.”

“She said she had come to see Sister as well as give her thanks. She spoke such strange words that I wasn’t able to understand.” Qiao Lin puffed out her cheeks. “She said that she is going to get married at the end of the month, even before Sister.”

“Oh, she embroidered a handkerchief for Sister. She said that even though it may be a meager gift, her feelings were true, and she hoped that Sister would like it.” Afterwards, Qiao Lin took out a small box and stuffed it into Qiao Mu’s hands. She then commented with a wink, “I opened it and took a look. She embroidered it very well.”

Qiao Mu nodded, putting away that box containing the silk handkerchief.

“Sister, are you close to Miss Li?”

“Mhm. She is quite a good person.” *She had finally broken free of that loathsome eldest prince and married into a good family.*

“Okay, go back to your court to rest.” At the same time, Qiao Mu ruffled her younger sister’s hair.

After sending Xiao Lin’er off, Qiao Mu also went to bed after washing up.

The following few days, she would draw talismans and refine pills inside her room whenever she was idle.

A lot of the time, she would also be embroidering flowers—mhm, embroidering lotus flowers.

That’s right, she only knew how to embroider this one flower.

Her mom praised her talent at the beginning, but three days later, when she saw that her daughter only knew how to embroider a lotus flower, she didn’t say anything after that...

Finally, the day of her coming-of-age hairpin ceremony came at long last.

### **Chapter 1242: Coming-of-Age Ceremony (2)**

After taking a bath early that morning, she changed into her clothes before sitting quietly inside the eastern room.

Soon afterwards, her entire coming-of-age hairpin ceremony proceeded in a systematic fashion under her parents’ supervision.

The guests of honor had now been welcomed and were seated in the hall. Thys, when the music started playing, Qiao Zhongbang and his wife watched as their daughter, dressed in formal attire, walked over from beyond the crowd.

At the sight, the couple exchanged emotional gazes, with the sentiment that their daughter was now grown up.

Meanwhile, the guests of honor that had come to attend Qiao Mu's hairpin ceremony were the family members of prestigious officials in the capital.

After Qiao Zhongbang cupped his fists and relayed some words of courtesy, he announced the commencement of his daughter Qiao Mu's coming-of-age ceremony.

After giving a series of greetings, the eighth princess Mo You, who had volunteered to be Miss Qiao's master of ceremonies, stepped forward.

The eighth princess solemnly curtsied toward all the guests present at the ceremony.

Afterwards, she turned around and winked at Qiao Mu before picking up her comb and brushing Qiao Mu's hair with it.

It was rare for Qiao Mu to not be the least annoyed by the overelaborate rites.

When the three bows were done and Madam Ren picked up the hairpin that Mo Lian personally crafted, a frantic announcement was made outside. "Her Majesty the Queen is here, Her Majesty the Queen is here!!"

Everyone was stunned, but as they were all madams and ladies who had their share of life experiences, they promptly stood up composedly as they curtsied together with a sonorous greeting to the queen.

Queen Zhao, dressed in a wide-sleeved brocade robe with a multi-colored phoenix coronet in her hair, walked in imposingly through the front door while surrounded by her retinue.

"You may all rise," remarked Queen Zhao lightly. She then walked up to Qiao Mu and inspected her carefully before giving a nod.

Subsequently, she stretched out her right hand, and Elderly Nanny Huaxuan immediately walked up and opened the lid of a long jade box. Elderly Nanny Huaxuan stooped over and took out a violet jade hairpin from within before handing it respectfully to Queen Zhao.

"This item is the heavenly phoenix violet jade hairpin that Her Majesty the Queen Dowager used for her coming-of-age hairpin ceremony." Queen Zhao stroked that hairpin as she smiled at Qiao Mu. "It was also crafted personally by the former king."

Everyone couldn't help but gasp when they heard this.

Heavens, they had heard of this heavenly phoenix violet jade hairpin before. That item was not just a simple accessory. It could also save the wearer's life at critical junctures.

It was even said that it could ward off all attacks under the divine realm three times!

In fact, this heavenly phoenix violet jade hairpin indeed saved the queen dowager's life before. At this time, it was a divine item that could save one's life two more times, yet the queen dowager bestowed it to the crown prince consort without batting an eyelid!

*How highly did she view this young crown prince consort!*

Qiao Zhongbang and his wife said apprehensively, "This item is too precious, Your Majesty the Queen, our young daughter..."

However, Queen Zhao raised her hand to stop the couple's words. She then picked up that heavenly phoenix violet jade hairpin and slowly arranged it in her hair.

"Many thanks to Grandmother. Thank you, Royal Mother."

Qiao Mu raised her head and looked across the hall with bright eyes.

Crown Prince Mo, who was standing there, was straining his eyes to peer at his wifey.

*His Qiaoqiao had come of age!*

Crown Prince Mo felt his heart pounding persistently. At this time, his eyes had already filtered out everyone present. Only that slender figure entered his eyes and passed into his heart...

"Haha, I did not come late, right." A chuckle rang out from afar.

Everyone looked up at that person in bafflement. Mu Jingrui, that Seventh Master from the Mu Clan who supposedly hailed from the Divine Province, had come uninvited.

Yet the moment Qiao Zhongbang and Wei Ziqin saw this person, their expressions changed.

Wei Ziqin even grabbed Qiao Mu's small hand, grasping it tightly!

### **Chapter 1243: Sense of Superiority**

Although Mu Jingrui's appearance here was very odd, he did not interrupt the hairpin ceremony's proceedings.

Instead, he found a seat to sit down in as he looked at Qiao Mu with a smile.

Not to mention Mu Jingrui's strong aura, but even the white-haired elder following him seemed to have extremely high cultivation.

The elder, who had bulging arm muscles, stared at Qiao Mu like a hawk.

The appearance of the two people caused many of the people present to lower their heads instantly, so they eventually drew in their aura.

This was the terrifying part about the strong and powerful's might.

Mu Jingrui represented the Divine Province's talisman patrician family. It was practically the difference between heaven and earth when comparing it to the talisman patrician family in the Sikong Planet's Mo Kingdom.

Therefore, Mu Jingrui's appearance here only made the atmosphere congeal for a moment.

Soon, the hairpin ceremony continued to proceed smoothly until its completion.

Qiao Mu and Crown Prince Mo looked at each other longingly from a distance until their mother urged her to leave with her gaze.

Even though she was a bit puzzled when she caught a glimpse of Mu Jingrui, Qiao Mu did not say anything and merely nodded at him lightly.

After she returned to her room, Shaoyao walked in and said with a smile, "Miss, are you tired? How about taking off your coat to rest for a bit?"

"I'm not tired." Qiao Mu shook her head lightly. She then sat down by the window sill and subconsciously caressed the lustrous jade bangle around her wrist hidden deep within her sleeve.

*Murong Xun, I had my coming-of-age hairpin ceremony today! But where are you...*

Qiao Mu's eyes dimmed as she lowered her head, letting Shaoyao deftly remove all the accessories in her hair and plait a simple braid.

"Madam." The sound of two people greeting Wei Ziqin suddenly came from outside.

When Wei Ziqin walked in, she looked at Qiao Mu nervously. "Qiao, Qiaoqiao."

"What's wrong, Mom." Qiao Mu set down her fine-toothed comb and looked at Wei Ziqin puzzledly.

"Come with me." Wei Ziqin took her small hand, grasping it with some force.

Seeing that her mother's expression was strange, Qiao Mu stood up and soothed, "Mom, what is it."

"Don't ask right now. Come with me to your dad's study. You'll know when we get there."

Nevertheless, Qiao Mu was nonplussed.

Seeing that her mother was hemming and hawing without being able to focus her gaze, Qiao Mu didn't ask any further. She changed into her normal plain clothing and followed her mother to her father's study.

When they walked inside, she saw that Seventh Master from the Mu Clan sitting in the round-backed armchair in her father's study. He gave her a smile when he saw her enter.

Qiao Mu had a faintly favorable impression of this Seventh Master Mu that she had compared notes with before.

However, he grandiosely came to make a call with someone today and blatantly sat in her father's study. In contrast, her father was gingerly standing by the side.

Suddenly, Qiao Mu's impression of him turned into dislike.

*What was this supposed to be? The Upper Three Provinces' unique sense of superiority over the Lower Star Domain?*

Just like how the Middle Six Prefectures acted wilfully and did whatever they liked in the Lower Star Domain without regard to others.

That's why they could attack the Holy Water Sect without any hesitation just because they coveted the holy water.

Because they at that time commanded the strength to do so.

Qiao Mu's gaze turned cold, and Mu Jingrui captured that instantaneous shift in expression.

He couldn't help but be stunned.

*Hm? The little lady was suddenly showing dislike for him!*

*Why?*

### **Chapter 1244: Ink Lotus Seal**

Meanwhile, Mo Lian, who hadn't gone far from the Marquis of Jiayuan's Estate, looked irritably at the uninvited guest who had suddenly leaped onto his carriage.

"Your Highness! He?" Huifeng pulled his lips into a line as he glared at the fat old man who had disregarded etiquette and suddenly hopped onto Their Highness's carriage.

However, Mo Lian raised his hand to stop him from speaking more, stating, "It's fine, you're all dismissed."

"Your Highness, do you truly want to continue staying here?"

"I had already told Second Elder clearly when he came to find me previously. I need at least a year's time before I can leave."

"Is there that much tying you down in the secular realm of the Lower Star Domain?" The fat elder sighed, "His Majesty is nearly about to lose all his patience."

Afterwards, the fat elder observed him. "Besides, the sacred fire in your body is about to resurge. The ancient ink lotus seal cannot not suppress the sacred fire from awakening. At that time, when the seal breaks and the sacred fire awakens, the two will merge, making you recover your divine-realm cultivation straightaway. The Lower Star Domain simply cannot admit you, nor will Heavenly Law let you off."

"Right now, the reason you can move about freely under Heavenly Law's nose is completely due to the suppression of the ink lotus seal on your body." The fat elder continued with a sigh, "You are the person who has inherited the oldest ancient lotus seal. Why are you still reluctant to leave this branch family in the secular realm? If not for the internal disorder in the Divine Province that year that caused instability in the political situation, His Imperial Majesty the Emperor..."

"Alright, don't say any more." At this point, Mo Lian indifferently broke off Third Elder's rambling. "I already made myself clear to Second Elder last time. I still need one more year. I will not leave or go anywhere during this year."

The fat elder exhaled heavily. "Your Highness! But the seal on your body is certain to break on its own within three months. How much more willful do you have to be? Don't you also understand very well? Once the death lotus seal grasps the third layer, it is impossible to stop the seal from breaking. Even doing your utmost to suppress it is useless."

Mo Lian turned around coolly before looking at the fat elder. "Third Uncle, I cannot go back. At least not right now."

“You child, you just.” The fat elder lamented with a sigh as he shook his head, “Just as obstinately stubborn as your mom.”

The fat elder sighed again before taking out a small black tower the size of his palm from his pocket and throwing it at him. “Keep this on you. It can conceal the aura of the divine-realm cultivation immediately about to flow out from your body.”

The fat elder straightened his body before squatting before Mo Lian, exhorting earnestly, “I say, you child, what if Heavenly Law discovered you. That would make things very troublesome.”

“Third Uncle.”

“Fine.” The fat elder waved his hand. When he saw the picturesque young child in front of him, and he couldn’t resist worrying with a sigh, “Just look at you child. You got thrown into the Lower Star Domain to avoid some matters as well as to undergo practical training. Yet your heart has gotten so wild.”

“Will your dad acknowledge the wife you marry in this Lower Star Domain?”

“Who needs his acknowledgment.” Mo Lian scoffed. “My matters do not need his meddling, nor does the wife I marry need his recognition.”

The third elder was promptly exasperated when he heard this, and he pointed at Mo Lian with a trembling finger. “You father and son are both the same!”

#### **Chapter 1245: Does Not Need His Recognition**

Mo Lian’s thin lips were pulled tightly into a line, his expression incomparably cold and harsh.

The fat elder commented with a shake of his head, “Although that little lady is indeed gifted, just this is far from enough.”

“Your Highness’s status is so honorable. Even the noble daughters with exceptional root constitutions from the six great patrician families of the Divine Province cannot match you. Let alone a humble girl from the Lower Star Domain. You are playing with fire here, Your Highness. Even if you marry her in the Lower Star Domain now, the emperor of the Divine Province will not acknowledge this marriage. Perhaps, he might even implicate the little lady in his wrath...”

Hearing this, Mo Lian’s icy gaze settled on the fat elder. “If that person dares to touch my Qiaoqiao and harm a single hair on my Qiaoqiao’s body, I’ll overturn his entire Divine Province! Humph! What can a tiny lousy Divine Province amount to! If my Qiaoqiao likes it, I’ll naturally present it to her on a platter.”

The fat elder was gobsmacked for a moment, after which he shook his finger at Mo Lian with an exasperated sigh. “You really are exactly the same as your dad back then. No one would believe that the two of you aren’t father and son!

“Fine, fine, this old man will not say anymore. In any case, just keep your situation in mind. Once you finish handling your matters, quickly return to the Divine Province. It is no joking matter should Heavenly Law catch on to you.”

“You were staying in the Lower Star Domain because the seal was suppressing the divine-realm aura in your body in the past. Things are not the same now, child...”

“Third Uncle, I know.”

“Okay, okay, okay, don’t blame Third Uncle for nagging. I have already seen your foster father and also brought this up with him.” The fat elder started fuming when he recalled the meeting. “You didn’t see his constipated expression at that time. It was like I was going to snatch his son! He even staggered backwards like he was about to stop breathing.”

*Was it that excessive? This king of the branch family in the Lower Star Domain drew people’s ire too easily!*

*They had entrusted him to take care of the young master, yet he dared to seize the emperor’s son once the 21 years were up? Such a baffling person.*

Mo Lian looked at the fat elder sternly. “You’ve seen Grandmother and Mother.”

“I haven’t.” The fat elder cast him a glance. “I just went to see your foster father! Sigh, you take care of this matter. You have to leave sooner or later!”

“Your Highness, our House of Elders from the Divine Province has come to visit you every year since you were three by travelling through special passageways. You should have long been aware that you have to leave the Lower Star Domain sooner or later.”

Yet Mo Lian merely frowned and did not speak.

“The emperor has not had it easy these years. Ever since your mother fell into a deep slumber, His Imperial Majesty has been under great pressure.”

“Hasn’t Wushuang said that he’s about to marry a new madam? Isn’t that woman about to move into Morning Sunlight Palace?”

“Don’t listen to that darn lass Wushuang’s nonsense.” The fat elder snorted as his beard wagged. “His Imperial Majesty’s feelings for your mother have never changed in these 20 years.”

“Humph.”

“Sigh! Don’t you not believe it, child.” The fat elder quickly said, “When you return, you know.”

The fat elder patted Mo Lian’s hand. “As for the little lady...”

“It’s none of his business!” Mo Lian barked, “He can’t even take care of his own wife, yet he dares to take charge of me?”

The fat elder felt that if the emperor were present, he might want to strangle this son of his to death.

“Fine, fine, fine.” The fat elder simply backed down in resignation. “This old man will stay be staying here for a period of time, so if there is anything just come find me at the recreational residence.”

### **Chapter 1246: The Mu Clan of the Divine Province**

Meanwhile, inside the Marquis of Jiayuan Qiao Zhongbang’s study.

As Qiao Mu’s frigid gaze flitted across Seventh Master Mu and the white-haired elder, she flicked her sleeves and sat down in front of him.



The white-haired elder behind Seventh Master Mu creased his brows and couldn't resist reprimanding, "How dare you be so insolent in front of Seventh Master Mu."

Even so, Qiao Mu merely swept a freezing gaze over that elder. "My time is limited, you have 10 minutes."

"You!" The white-haired elder was incensed, but Seventh Master Mu stopped him from having a fit of anger.

"Qiaoqiao." Mu Jingrui looked at her calmly. "I believe that with your intelligence, you should know our purpose in coming today."

"I do not know." Qiao Mu's voice was particularly even, tinged with a bit of apathy.

The white-haired elder promptly turned furious. "How could you not know!"

He then turned to glare at Qiao Zhongbang and Wei Ziqin. "Didn't we come to an understanding that day? You will tell her the truth on the day of her coming-of-age ceremony."

Wei Ziqin covered her face and choked with sobs, "I, I did not know how to tell her."

When her mother started sobbing quietly, Qiao Mu's heart had already sunk into the pits.

She was even afraid to contemplate why she was in such a panic.

She stood up and coldly showed them the door. "Since you're just hemming and hawing and don't want to speak, then there is no need. Chunying, see the guests out!"

Mu Jingrui stood up and looked at her frosty back with a sigh. "Qiaoqiao, haven't you already guessed it. Qiaoqiao, you've never doubted your own origins when you have such excellent talisman talent?"

"Talisman talent is passed down from generation to generation. Those who are not from the Mu Clan rarely can have such outstanding talisman talent."

Qiao Mu's back, which was facing Mu Jingrui and the white-haired elder, had already stiffened completely.

"Your surname is Mu, and your name is Mu Qiao[1]. You are a child of the Divine Province's Mu Clan, Mu Qiao!"

"My surname is Qiao. Having the surname Qiao for one day means having it for a lifetime." After stating this coldly, Qiao Mu turned around to leave.

However, the white-haired elder couldn't hold it in and shot up as he flew into a rage. "You cannot tell good from bad! If you weren't from the Mu Clan, do you think you would command such excellent talisman talent? Would you be able to break through to become an advanced-level talisman practitioner at such a young age? That is all because you inherited your birth father's talisman talent. You..."

Qiao Mu abruptly turned around. This was the first time Mu Jingrui beheld such a resolute harshness from the little lady's face.

“My talent never had anything to do with your Mu Clan.” She was certain that her talisman talent had stemmed from the Golden Talisman Jade Tome.

Although she didn’t remember how it was stored in her conscious pool, she was absolutely positive that this matter had nothing at all to do with the Mu Clan of the Divine Province.

On the side, Mu Jingrui looked at her with a complicated gaze. “Qiaoqiao, we can understand that you are unable to accept it at this moment. But this is indeed the truth.”

“You are the child that the Divine Province’s Mu Clan has lost touch with for many years.” He took out a jade pendant that hung from a red string. “Your foster mother has also kept the other half of this jade pendant. Putting them together is sufficient to prove your identity.”

Qiao Mu looked expressionlessly at Mu Jingrui without any ripple in her dead eyes.

It made his heart quiver and his body chilly all of a sudden.

This child was truly too cold. This wasn’t the gaze directed toward family; this was obviously the gaze directed toward a driveling foe.

#### **Chapter 1247: Nothing to Do with Me**

“Then let me ask you. Where is my birth mother?” Qiao Mu asked softly in a low voice.

Wei Ziqin’s grip on Qiao Zhongbang’s hand faltered.

Mu Jingrui was also startled. He clammed up before saying after some time, “Qiaoqiao, I still, cannot tell you about your mother at the moment.”

“There is some misunderstanding in all of this that cannot be explained clearly in a few words.” Mu Jingrui explained with a sigh, “I was entrusted by your grandfather to come search for you. Qiaoqiao, you have to know that your grandfather has never given up searching for you all these years.”

“Ha, ha!” The two curt chortles that Qiao Mu apathetically uttered made one’s heart turn cold and tremble fearfully. “Then let me ask you again. If I leave with you, what identity will I use to return?”

“Qiaoqiao, our Mu Clan has set up a space talisman matrix in the Mo Kingdom capital that connects the Lower Star Domain to the Divine Province’s Mu Clan. Only people from our Mu Clan are able to activate it! It can transfer people once in a six-month period, each time not exceeding five people. At that time, we can use this space talisman matrix to return...”

Qiao Mu examined this man in front of her icily.

That bone-chilling gaze caused Mu Jingrui to suddenly see his sister-in-law through her.

That lonely woman with a cold and proud temperament that he had respected for many years.

But evidently, the little lady before him was even more heartless than that haughty and aloof sister-in-law of his.

She seemed to not like people from the Mu Clan all that much.

“Ludicrous! You want me to follow you back to your clan like a stray cur with my tail between my legs?” Qiao Mu’s expression did not change at all as she uttered these words without any warmth.

“Why should I listen to you?”

“You don’t know what’s good for you!” The white-haired elder hollered.

With a wave of her hand, a green vine shot out from her sleeve, whipping toward that elder’s face without warning.

“So what if I don’t know what’s good for me?”

*\*Smack!\** Mu Jingrui appeared in front of the elder with a flash and tightly restrained the vine whip in his hand even though he felt his palm hurt from the lash.

Mu Jingrui’s eyes bulged when he turned his head and saw Qiao Mu hurl a wave of mystic energy straight at the white-haired elder.

“Qiaoqiao.” Mu Jingrui was shocked.

*The degree of concentration of this mystic energy meant...*

*\*Boom!\** The mystic energy hit the elder squarely. Even though he made a move to resist, Qiao Mu’s mystic energy attack still struck him out of the study. He directly rolled down the steps quite tragically.

“You had better best not try my patience.” Qiao Mu wore an unfeeling expression. “Don’t make things look bad for yourself when you’re getting on in years.”

“Level-14 mystic cultivator?” Mu Jingrui was thrilled at the same time he was shocked.

*This child had already advanced by leaps to become a level-14 mystic cultivator at such a young age?*

Her talisman talent was also not worse than Xingchen’s.

With such achievements, this young genius was a cut above that current eldest miss of their Divine Province’s Mu Clan.

“That whatever Mu Clan of the Divine Province has nothing to do with me.” Qiao Mu stated coldly before raising her hand and saying, “Chunying, see the guests out.”

“Yes, Miss.” Chunying quickly bolted in from outside before respectfully curtsying toward Seventh Master Mu and the white-haired elder. “This way, please.”

The elder stood up sullenly with displeasure. “Simply outrageous!”

### **Chapter 1248: Origins**

The talent of this little lady was indeed excellent as someone from the Mu Clan, but her personality itself was too wildly arrogant and aloof.

*Compared to their compassionate, gentle, and charitable eldest miss, there was simply too great of a difference!*

“Qiaoqiao.” Mu Jingrui was at a loss for words.

He simply didn't expect that Qiao Mu wouldn't even acknowledge them.

Qiao Mu turned around and swept them a gaze without any warmth. "Examine your own conscience and ask yourselves, if I weren't a level-14 mystic cultivator, if I weren't an advanced-level talisman practitioner, if I... wasn't such an exceptionally gifted young genius. Would you still bring me back?"

As she said this, she scoffed at him in ridicule. "Family is also preordained by fate. From the looks of it today, I have no fate with the Mu Clan. Please leave, I won't be seeing you out."

"You!" The white-haired elder was livid. "Do you know what the Mu Clan of the Divine Province represents? If you don't have the protection of a clan, you won't be going far in your future path."

"Could it be your scope is only limited to a tiny Lower Star Domain and a mere crown prince consort of the Mo Kingdom?" The white-haired elder shouted, "Do you know that if you return to the clan, with your talent and identity, you can even reclaim your original marriage engagement! You simply wouldn't need to compromise and marry the crown prince of a minor kingdom in the Lower Star Domain."

"Old Bai!" Mu Jingrui shouted harshly. "The marriage engagement can be discussed at a later time. Right now we are talking about bringing Xiao Qiao home."

"I will not acknowledge whatever rubbish marriage engagement that is. If you dare insult my Lian again, I will have you completely turn into a dead person." The little fellow erupted with a viciousness that made people's blood run cold.

"A frog at the bottom of a well." The white-haired elder got so infuriated that he gasped heavily. "Your original match could have been the Nether Province's Young Master of the Upper Three Provinces!"

"Scram!" Qiao Mu tossed over a handful of poisonous powder, which finally stopped up the elder's rambling mouth.

Qiao Zhongbang and Wei Ziqin gazed blankly at their daughter.

"Chunying, what are you standing there for? See the guests out!"

After saying this, she didn't look at Mu Jingrui and the white-haired elder again as she promptly left the study with a flick of her sleeves, leaving behind the unsightly-looking white-haired elder.

In contrast, Mu Jingrui gazed thoughtfully at Qiao Mu's leaving figure without saying anything for a while.

Wei Ziqin and Qiao Zhongbang looked at each other in dismay.

After a long time, Wei Ziqin released her grip as if she had gotten pricked by something. She left urgently while saying, "I, I'll be checking up on our daughter."

Wei Ziqin strode quickly to Qiao Mu's room. However, she stood dazedly in front of the door for a long while without taking another step.

This lasted until Qiao Mu opened the door and met her eyes.

It was only then that Wei Ziqin silently walked inside and sat on the edge of Qiao Mu's brocade divan. She told Qiao Mu gently, "Qiaoqiao. You, have you calmed down now?"

"I have been very calm the whole time," Qiao Mu replied coolly.

"You, do you blame Mom, for, for hiding this from you all along?" Wei Ziqin grasped her small hand nervously.

In reality, Qiao Mu was still very shaken up. After all, she hadn't been able to prepare herself mentally for today's events.

That Seventh Master from the Mu Clan just came and told her that she wasn't from the Qiao Family, that her surname was Mu. This was truly quite ridiculous.

"Qiaoqiao, sor-sorry..."

"Mom, what should you be sorry to me about." Qiao Mu turned to look at Wei Ziqin as she said earnestly, "If not for Mom and Dad raising me all these years, I might have already died."

### **Chapter 1249: Calamity**

"Y-You're not allowed to say nonsense." Wei Ziqin's tears streamed down at once as she touched Qiao Mu's face with trembling fingers. "Qiaoqiao, you, are you still willing to call me Mom?"

"One day as my mom, a lifetime as my mom."

This matter that had put her on tenterhooks for such a long time had finally cleared up, allowing her to see the sun again.

Qiaoqiao didn't blame her one bit.

Wei Ziqin sobbed as she covered her mouth with her hand.

Qiao Mu embraced her shoulders and patted her back gently as she comforted, "Mom, you don't have to care about what irrelevant people say."

Even so, Wei Ziqin shook her head. "That person is your Seventh Uncle."

As she spoke, she took out half of a jade pendant attached to a red string from her pocket. "This is what your birth mother left behind for you. I'm now giving it to you."

However, Qiao Mu did not take it, and her small hand even shrunk backwards.

Wei Ziqin was stunned as tears rolled down her cheeks. "Qiaoqiao, you aren't blaming her, are you?"

"I'm not." Qiao Mu spat out these two words faintly with a cold expression.

"Even though I only spent two to three months together with your mom, I know that she loved you dearly." Wei Ziqin recalled while wiping her tears. "Her body was extremely weak after just giving birth to you, yet her enemies came at this time. Hence, she entrusted you to me in order to protect you..."

"Mom." Qiao Mu cut her off. "Then you tell me, who is my birth mother?"

Wei Ziqin suddenly clammed up. She then composed herself before saying with a shake of her head, "I took an oath in front of Miss, promising her that I wouldn't say."

“Before Miss lured her enemies away, she told me that your surname was Mu. But to tell the truth, because Mom and your dad were living with you in Qiaotou Village all along, we had a limited understanding of the outside world. It wasn’t until we came to the capital and heard of that talisman patrician family, the Mu Clan, that we had some faint suspicions.”

“Qiaoqiao, will you blame Mom for not telling you all along?”

With a tepid expression, Qiao Mu shook her head. “Mom, my mind is in disarray right now. I don’t want to say anything more.”

Wei Ziqin grabbed her small hands and urged, “Child, you must not blame your birth mother by all means. She didn’t want me to tell you because she hoped for you to live peacefully and not be clouded by the enmity of the secular realm. She just... didn’t wish for you to walk on a path that lived only for revenge.”

Qiao Mu nodded docilely, but her expression was apathetic. “I know, Mom.”

“No, you don’t know.” Wei Ziqin’s heart was about to shatter when she saw her apathetic expression. “You can loathe anyone in the Mu Clan. But only your mom, you cannot.”

After hearing this, Qiao Mu did not open her mouth to speak for a long time.

Seeing that Qiao Mu was fatigued, Wei Ziqin stood up while wiping her tears, saying, “You should rest first then. Mom...”

“Mom, then did you know that perhaps I had long been a target because of my birth mother.”

Wei Ziqin’s footsteps faltered as she just froze there.

“What, what do you mean?”

Qiao Mu started to understand now that those things that occurred in her previous life were truly not a peculiar coincidence.

With her special identity, it was simply that someone didn’t wish for her to return to the Divine Province’s Mu Clan.

That’s why she had already been a target ever since she was seven!

“There has been a pair of eyes observing me all this time from an unseen dark corner.” Qiao Mu analyzed coolly, “Before this, I had been at a loss as to how I had provoked the Shuntian Prefecture when I was seven years old.”

“I finally understand the reason today.”

### **Chapter 1250: Pay the Price**

“This identity as a daughter of the Mu Clan has brought me calamity from birth.” Qiao Mu frigidly looked straight ahead with a cynical smile, “You guys didn’t tell me anything and let me live a lifetime in ignorance.”

“This enmity has been destined since birth. There is no escape!”

Wei Ziqin gaped at the child before her.

There was not the slightest hint of endearment in her expression when talking about the Mu Clan. On the contrary, there was more disgust than anything else.

That disgust practically wanted to overflow from her eyes.

*What a joke, why did she need to endear herself to a clan that had never taken care of her before? In fact, all the calamities she had suffered in the past were because of them.*

“Mother, overprotectiveness is actually a kind of harm.” Qiao Mu expounded bitingly, “Because a lot of the time, if we ourselves are not strong enough, then we’re still the meat on other people’s chopping blocks. Even if we want to peacefully and smoothly live out our lives, perhaps there are people who do not wish for you to live well.”

“Qiaoqiao, did something happen that Mom does not know about?”

Qiao Mu shook her head and did not continue on.

After Wei Ziqin left in a bit of trepidation, Qiao Mu sat in a daze in front of the bronze mirror, staring at her own reflection the entire time.

Her mind kept playing her conversation with Wei Ziqin on repeat.

*“Why did he ascertain without question that I am from the Mu Clan?”*

*“You look like your birth mother. Those who know your mother can recognize your birth with a single glance.”*

“No matter who you are.” Qiao Mu threatened coldly as she stared at the hazy reflection in the bronze mirror. “I will make you pay the price!”

It was already enough to mess with her in her last lifetime. No matter who it was who foolishly dared to meddle with her in this life, she would make them... die!

After spacing out for a while, Qiao Mu felt a slight headache, so she got up and walked to her bed.

She tossed and turned, feeling unwell even after entering dreamland.

However, when she opened her eyes and saw Mo Lian’s smiling face up close, her mood turned a bit better for some reason.

“Qiaoqiao, you truly are lazy, sleeping until the sun is high up in the sky.” He poked her small face before lifting her up from the bed.

“What’s wrong?” He kneaded her cheeks. “It’s only been a night. Is it that you haven’t seen me in too long that you’re looking at me with this kind of gaze.”

Qiaoqiao herself didn’t know how adorable her gaze was. It was basically glued to him, unable to be peeled away.

“I...” Qiao Mu hooked his neck with her arms. “Mo Lian, I didn’t sleep well the entire night.”

“You must have been missing me.” That guy shamelessly boasted as he carried her to the bronze mirror. Yet seeing that she was reaching for the heavenly phoenix violet jade hairpin, he hastily pushed aside her small hand.

*Simply preposterous, he had spent so much time crafting a phoenix hairpin for Qiaoqiao to use during her hairpin ceremony, yet his grandmother snatched away his opportunity...*

*He was unhappy just thinking about it!* Mo Lian promptly threw that heavenly phoenix violet jade hairpin into its brocade box. “Not wearing this one.”

“What are you doing, Grandmother gave me this.”

Mo Lian merely cast it a glance with a harrumph. “So what if Grandmother gave it to you. Wear the one I gave you.”

“Qiaoqiao, why didn’t you sleep well last night.” Upon seeing Shaoyao walk in, Qiaoqiao patted Mo Lian with her hand.

Crown Prince Mo reluctantly lowered the comb in his hand and handed it over to Shaoyao.

“Didn’t you say it was because I was missing you.”

When Crown Prince Mo heard this, his eyes lit up. “You really were missing me.”