

## My Crown 1261

### Chapter 1261: Defaulting on Payment

“Okay.” The crown prince nodded with a grin as he held her small hand while saying, “I’ll make them for you when we get back.”

“I want shrimp filling.” The little fellow held her head up high as she made this request.

The crown prince nodded with a smile. “Okay.”

Meanwhile, the eldest young sir squinted his eyes as he watched the two leave while holding hands. After sweeping a glance at the sulking fourth princess, he flashed into a small alley nearby.

“Young Sir.” A hidden guard in black bowed in greeting.

“How is it.”

“All of Shuntian Prefecture’s posts have been uprooted from the vicinity of the Mo Kingdom capital.” That person reported in a low voice, “That person has started to target Anyi Prefecture again in secret. I am afraid that the Six Prefectures’ forces will vanish from Mo Kingdom before long.”

The eldest young sir laughed. “It is none of our business, so we only just need to watch. Even my good second brother has turned a deaf ear to Liu Yizhi’s death, so why should I meddle in this.”

“As the future family head of the Qin Estate, he’s the one who has to worry and take charge of the overall situation.” The eldest young sir smirked before saying with a wave of his hand, “You can go back. There is no need to come find me again lately.”

“Yes.” That person vanished without a trace in a flash.

Eldest Qin smiled as he set off for the Qin Estate. After the drama from today, that brainless princess would probably be too afraid to come after him for a while.

*This fourth princess had been annoying him to death recently!*

*How could there be such a woman who had no sense of shame nor self-awareness in this world.*

*Neither did she go look at herself in the mirror to observe her disgusting behavior. Even though he was quite the ladies’ man and cherished all the budding flowers in the world, it didn’t mean he could stomach just anyone!*

*Sigh.* Upon thinking of that proud and overbearing little flower in the flowerbed of maidens, the eldest young sir couldn’t help but squint his eyes.

*Mhm, it was indeed very vexing.*

Not long after the eldest young sir’s figure disappeared, Huang Chong showed up inside that small alley before vanishing again with knit eyebrows.

The second young sir had him trail the eldest young sir, but after observing for half the day, he didn’t find anything suspicious about the eldest young sir.

At any rate, since they belonged to the same estate, he supposed that the eldest young sir wouldn't do anything unfavorable to the Qin Estate.

At dusk.

In a teahouse in the Mo Kingdom capital, two handsome-looking young ladies were sitting inside a private room on the second floor.

The waiter who was serving the tea involuntarily stole several glances at them before walking out with his tea tray.

"I invited Miss Xin out today to inform you about that matter with the 20 thousand mystic currency..." Commandery Princess Yi'an gave an embarrassed smile. "I am not afraid of Miss Xin's ridicule. I had basically emptied out all my savings in order to purchase that prolongation pill last time."

"I had originally planned to pool the money for Miss Xin in these two days, but from the looks of it, I truly am unable to gather this sum." Commandery Princess Yi'an was discomfited as she spoke.

Xin Yu'er tittered as she raised her fan to hide her mouth, "Miss Xueyin, you are treating me as an outsider when you say it like this. Since we are friends, then that bit of money is of no concern."

Commandery Princess Yi'an's eyes couldn't help but brighten, yet she quickly protested with a smile, "How could I do that."

Deep inside her heart, she really hoped that this Miss Xin could write off this 20 thousand mystic currency loan, but she didn't have the face to say this. Hence, the commandery princess invited her out so that the other party could waive it on her own initiative.

Seeing that Miss Xin was being so tactful, Commandery Princess Yi'an was a bit happy on the inside, yet nothing showed on her face.

### **Chapter 1262: Her True Colors**

"Miss Xin is certainly Xueyin's friend." Commandery Princess Yi'an picked up her teacup and smiled at Xin Yu'er. "Allow me to offer Miss Xin a toast with tea in place of wine."

The two people each sipped several cups of tea, each harboring their own nefarious intentions, before Xin Yu'er stood up to take her leave an hour later.

After exiting the teahouse, Baoyan couldn't resist looking back and scowling in ridicule, "What Commandery Princess Yi'an is she if she can't even cough up 20 thousand mystic currency. Does she think other people are unaware of her identity?"

"Young Master, why must you get close to this woman."

"You're talking too much." 'Xin Yu'er' swept Baoyan a cold glance. "I told you not to follow me, yet you just had to do so. I naturally have my own matters I need to handle."

Baoyan could not help getting agitated. "You couldn't still be thinking of that stoic-faced crown prince consort, right! Last time we were almost unable to leave the Mo Kingdom capital!"

“What do you understand.” After saying this, ‘Xin Yu’er’ did not say any more and walked toward the inn with a wave of the hand.

He was staying here to find an opportunity to talk to Lil’ Blockhead. He... refused to accept this.

On the other hand, Commandery Princess Yi’an was in an extremely good mood after leaving the teahouse, so she planned to stroll around for a bit with Xu’er before returning to the palace.

As the saying went, out of debt, out of burden. After having just shucked off a debt of 20 thousand mystic currency, she planned to go to a jewelry shop nearby that she frequented to pick out a quality piece in celebration.

Xu’er was also extremely joyful as she walked beside her. “That Miss Xin is quite tactful. In any case, it is her greatest fortune to be able to make friends with someone as honorable as the commandery princess. The commandery princess possesses unparalleled talent and looks, not to mention modest, courteous, and sweet-tempered. She has accumulated this good luck for eight lifetimes in order to make friends with the commandery princess.”

Commandery Princess Yi’an pressed her lips together as she pranced in delight down the road.

As long as Xu’er didn’t say anything that overstepped any bounds, she very much liked her slick tongue.

Suddenly, Yi’an paused her footsteps, her gaze settling on two girls who were walking over in the opposite direction.

Her originally good mood was abruptly replaced by the pique in her heart. Her smile had also frozen on her face.

One of the girls that was walking over was actually wearing the exact same hairpin as her, and her clothes were pretty much the same as hers too—a yellow short garment paired with a pink sheer skirt. However, from the looks of it, the other party’s sheer skirt contained more fine details. A swarm of multicolored butterflies had been embroidered on the lower hem of her skirt. When she walked, the skirt would flutter and cause the butterflies to dance. It looked very pleasing to the eye.

Yi’an’s rage involuntarily flared up from the bottom of her heart.

When Xu’er saw this, she quickly turned around and sent the two concealed hidden guards a look.

Soon, the two hidden guards pursued the two young ladies and stopped them after making a turn into an alley.

Yi’an walked slowly into that alley with Xu’er. As she sized up that young lady who had dressed up similarly to her, the rage in her heart flared up even higher.

That girl looked dull and ordinary, and her eyes were also quite small. The girl’s features combined could not even match a tenth of her beauty.

The two young ladies who had been stopped by the hidden guards were cowering with fear and trepidation as they looked at Yi’an and her escort.

“Miss, you, do you need something?”

Xu'er walked up and gave the girl with the butterfly skirt a sound slap. "You're extremely audacious! You actually intend to dress yourself up as our commandery princess?"

"Wh-What?" The girl with the butterfly skirt was promptly confounded.

She simply couldn't understand why this commandery princess had stopped her.

### **Chapter 1263: Exposed**

*From the maidservant's implication, it was because her getup was similar to this whatever commandery princess in front of her?*

*But could this be blamed on her? How could she have known when she went out today that a baffling person would embroil her in a conflict because of these clothes and this piece of jewelry?*

"You! You're crazy!" The other young lady with the girl in the butterfly skirt glowered at Commandery Princess Yi'an.

The rage in Yi'an's heart grew, and she walked up to the young lady while narrowing her eyes. She then lifted her sleeve and gave her a ruthless slap. "I, an eminent commandery princess, is someone you can hurl abuse at?"

"Ah!" This ruthless slap made the young lady fall to the ground. Yet just as she let out a scream and was going to retaliate, she got restrained by a hidden guard.

"N-No, what do you guys want to do? Can you not be so unreasonable! You can't!" The girl in the butterfly skirt looked at Commandery Princess Yi'an in horror. Just as she wanted to walk forward she got restrained by the other hidden guard.

"Someone, someone come quickly. Help! Hell, how could there be such an unreasonable person in this world?" The girl in the butterfly skirt struggled while screaming.

Commandery Princess Yi'an stared at her coldly as a rhapsodic light surfaced in her eyes. "Press them down."

"No, don't! ... Don't!" The girl in the butterfly skirt repeatedly shook her head while sobbing and watched horrifically as Commandery Princess Yi'an revealed a small knife in her palm.

While displaying a sinister smile, Yi'an walked up, abruptly slashing at that girl's face with her knife.

"Ah!!" The agonizing screams of two girls rang out from the depths of the small alley.

Yi'an was still wearing a gentle smile on her face while disfiguring that woman's face with one slash after another.

As she slashed her knife, she recalled her childhood of how she had curled up like a pitiful worm while getting kicked and beaten by a bunch of girls.

She seemed to once again see the Marchioness of Su'an's youngest daughter saying to her arrogantly: "Go, strip the clothes from this d\*mned girl's body! She really is a little b\*tch who cannot withstand loneliness, even daring to steal my old clothes to show her face to Elder Cousin! Strip! Beat her, beat her to death!"

*Who wants to wear your old clothes! Who wants to!! All that I, Hu Xueyin, wear in the future must certainly be the only one of its kind!*

“B\*tch, b\*tch!” Yi’an slashed the face of that girl in the butterfly skirt until her bloodied flesh had been badly mutilated. Afterwards, she started laughing gaily.

“In the future, remember to not dress up the same as me.” Commandery Princess Yi’an stuck out a bloody hand and patted the girl in the butterfly skirt, who had fainted.

*So what if the youngest daughter of the Marchioness of Su’an was of honorable status? As of right now, hadn’t she been lying in bed like a living corpse for years?*

She had gouged out that woman’s eyes, pulled out her tongue, and sliced apart her tendons, but she did not let her die. *Look at how kind-hearted she was.*

Anyone who went against her would not have a good ending.

“Commandery Princess, they have both fainted.” Xu’er’s beautiful small face was exuding a sinister smile at this time.

“Break their arms and legs, cut their tongues, strip their clothes, and toss them into a nearby brothel. This is only a small punishment for failing to distinguish your superior and defying this commandery princess.” Yi’an uttered these words in a gentle manner before tossing down those two girls she did not know like discarding trash. She then turned to walk out of the small alley.

Soon, those two girls who had suffered from unparalleled savagery were carried away by the hidden guards.

### **Chapter 1264: Dream**

No one knew that this kind of unthinkable incident had occurred in this alley just now.

After walking out of the alley, Yi’an once again put on that mask of modesty, courtesy, gentleness, and kindness that characterized her commandery princess identity. She boarded her carriage and returned to the palace in an excellent mood.

“I haven’t returned to the Marquis of Su’an’s Estate in a long time to see my paraplegic little sister.” Commandery Princess Yi’an said with a smile, “Xu’er, let’s find a day to return to the estate to see her.”

Xu’er immediately responded while nodding her head in comprehension.

The carriage arrived at the palace gates while following the broad road paved with greenish-black tiles. When they saw that it was Commandery Princess Yi’an’s carriage, the guards immediately granted passage.

Commandery Princess Yi’an lifted up the curtain with her hand and smiled at the guards with a nod.

When the carriage drove onto the palace road and slowly made its way to the queen dowager’s Longevity Palace, Commandery Princess Yi’an cast her gaze in the direction of the Eastern Palace. She secretly vowed: *One day, I will become the most honorable woman in this entire Northern Mo. Never will I have to bend to the whims of others again!*

Meanwhile, after Qiao Mu's coming-of-age hairpin ceremony, the Qiao Estate started to get busy with the preparations for Second Uncle's wedding.

During this period of time, Wei Ziqin was as busy as a spinning top. In order to make Second Uncle abandon his bachelor life as soon as possible, the entire family put in all their effort.

In addition, after Second Uncle's wedding, the crown prince's wedding would be just upon them, so the entire Qiao Estate was raring to go.

All the boy and maid servants were hyped up as they busily readied things here and there all day.

This caused Qiao Mu, this idler, to be a real eyesore...

After noontime, Darling Qiao was sitting inside her own little courtyard, drinking tea and eating dried fruit while also flipping through medical books and taking a nap.

Subsequently, she heard the announcement from outside that Madam Ren had come.

Madam Ren had naturally come to find her mother. It had nothing to do with her.

After flipping through the medical book some more, Qiao Mu then threw it to the side, planning to take an afternoon nap in the sun.

Everyone inside the house were busy people. Only she was so bored that she was counting ants.

Qiao Mu laid back on the chair, but she had only just closed her eyes when she heard approaching footsteps. A maidservant came over hastily and curtsied, informing, "Crown Prince Consort, the miss of the Count of Jian'an's Estate has come to pay a visit."

Qiao Mu flipped up and said with a nod, "It's Miss Pei. Invite her in."

Soon, the miss of the Count of Jian'an's Estate, Pei Jia, was led in along with her personal maidservant. She was around 17 years old and was shy by nature.

When she saw Qiao Mu, she smiled timidly. "Greetings to the crown prince consort. After getting entertained by the crown prince consort last time on Fu Mountain, Mother in-instructed me to c-come return the courtesy..."

At this, the maidservant behind her quickly tugged at her sleeve in exasperation: *Oh, her block headed miss. What were you saying?*

Pei Jia also felt that what she said was amiss as she was speaking. *How come she felt like her words sounded like her mother had forced her to come return the courtesy?*

Subsequently, she gazed at Qiao Mu apologetically. "S-Sorry Crown Prince Consort, Pei Jia is awkward in speech and c-cannot speak too well."

Qiao Mu glanced at her before reaching out to pat the chair beside her. "Sit."

That day during the gathering at Fu Mountain, Qiao Mu had already discovered this.

As Miss Pei was a bit shy, she was like an invisible nobody when sitting in a group. If it weren't for Mo You and Liang Qingqing occasionally teasing several words out of her, she could probably not talk to other people for an entire day.

Her elder brother Pei Yidao was also someone of few words, but from the looks of it, he was attentive and cared for Miss Li.

*The Countess of Jian'an was quite fortunate.* Qiao Mu nodded her head. When she saw Miss Pei staring at the medical book next to her, she asked, "Want to take a look?"

### **Chapter 1265: A Pair of Oddballs**

Miss Pei's face showed a bit of excitement. "I, I can? Crown Prince Consort."

As a response, Qiao Mu handed her that medical book.

Miss Pei took it in both hands as if she had obtained a precious treasure, and she actually just started reading through it page by page in front of Qiao Mu, drunk on its contents.

The young servant girl standing behind her was nearly alarmed to death by her blockheaded miss, and she reached out to pull at her miss.

Yet Qiao Mu waved her hand at her and said, "Let her read."

This was perfect for her to take a short nap.

These two oddballs—one had come as a guest yet started reading through a medical book, neglecting everyone, after conversing fewer than three sentences with her host.

While the other, who ditched her guest after enticing her with a book, took a nap...

This situation tempted Shaoyao into nearly bursting out in giggles when she came over.

After replacing the two ladies' cups with hot tea, she beckoned for the other servants to bring Miss Pei's young servant girl, who was crying on the inside, somewhere else to rest for a while.

The sunlight shone lazily in the afternoon.

The trees' mottled shadows rendered a tranquil atmosphere.

Meanwhile, the servants who were hyped up with the preparations all involuntarily quieted their footsteps by slowing their pace when they passed by this small, quiet courtyard.

One girl was asleep with a blanket covering her belly, while the other one was joyfully engrossed in the medical book she was holding.

This was the scene that Crown Prince Mo witnessed when he came over, and a faint smile involuntarily crept over his face.

His darling was still that adorable no matter what she did.

She still looked so good sleeping quietly underneath the big tree.

“Your Highness.” Shaoyao, who had come upon hearing his footsteps, was about to curtsy, but Crown Prince Mo stopped her with a wave.

“How long has the crown prince consort slept for.”

“It has been more than an hour already.”

Crown Prince Mo smiled. “Then let her sleep for a while more. I’ll go and talk with Father-in-Law for now.”

“Yes.”

Not long after Crown Prince Mo left, the little one sleeping there seemed to have sensed something, and she wriggled her body while opening her slightly dazed eyes.

Shaoyao smiled with closed lips as she jogged over to her and remarked, “Miss, you’ve awakened.”

“Did Mo Lian come just now.” Qiao Mu turned to look at Shaoyao.

Shaoyao’s eyes lit up, and she applauded with repeated nods, “Miss, you’re so incredible. His Highness the Crown Prince had just stopped by. He went to go chat with the Master after seeing that you were still asleep.”

“Oh.” Qiao Mu turned around. When she saw that Miss Pei was still leafing through the book with relish while in the same position from an hour ago, she couldn’t help but be at a loss for words.

“She’s been reading for as long as I’ve been sleeping?”

“Mhm.” Shaoyao giggled as she commented softly, “I’ve already replaced the tea twice, yet Miss Pei has been so focused that she hasn’t even taken a sip yet.”

Their conversation finally aroused the bookworm’s attention, and the miss hastily put down the book with a reddened face. She was abashed as she stammered apologetically, “S-Sorry, Crown Prince Consort. I-I was too immersed in the medical book that I had forgotten that the reason I came was to thank you.”

“Ah, Baihui, where are the pastries we brought? Eh? Where is Baihui?”

Shaoyao couldn’t resist laughing. “Do not worry, Miss Pei. We brought that young girl to eat some snacks and rest inside.

“Ah. This really is too embarrassing.” Pei Jia looked at Qiao Mu with a reddened face. Seeing that Qiao Mu’s expression, although stoic, was cool without a hint of displeasure, her heart finally settled down.

“Crown Prince Consort, I-I, when I read books I easily get immersed.”

### **Chapter 1266: Hitting It Off**

“I-it is not that I intended to neglect you,” Pei Jia explained cautiously.

At this time, the young servant girl Baihui was led back over, and she gazed at her miss in exasperation.



*Madam had exhorted Miss repeatedly to remember to talk more when paying a visit to someone else's house. Yet her miss ended up leafing through a book for nearly two hours...*

Qiao Mu waved her hand. "You like to read medical books a lot?"

Pei Jia nodded emphatically.

The young servant girl Baihui gave a supplemental explanation, "Miss was born with a congenital deficiency, so she has always only been able to nurse her health by meditating, not even being able to cultivate her body. As prolonged illness will turn the patient into a doctor, Miss slowly started getting obsessed with the art of healing."

"Then do you like to refine pills?"

"A pill alchemist?" Pei Jia quickly shook her petite hands. "I cannot become a pill alchemist. Al-Although I do yearn to, being a pill alchemist requires talent. My talent in the art of healing is not very great either, I just randomly ponder over it."

As she spoke, her hands were still furtively stroking the cover of that medical book, reluctant to part with it.

Qiao Mu tugged at the corner of her mouth and displayed what she thought to be a genial smile.

In reality, in other people's eyes, she wasn't even smiling at all...

"There is at most a two years' age difference between us, so let us abandon our titles of address and call each other by our names," the young crown prince consort told Pei Jia on this lazy sunny afternoon.

Although Pei Jia was a bit joyful in her heart, she was unaware that this was the happiness from making a friend.

Because her body had been weak since she was young, she basically didn't leave the house. Those noble ladies fawned on her on the surface because of her family background, yet she once overheard them secretly ridiculing her for being a chronic invalid behind her back. After that, she became even more unwilling to go out and participate in other people's gatherings.

She was 17 this year but had yet to engage in talks of marriage. It was honestly because no family would consider her because of her weak body.

Luckily, her mother had always been consoling her, saying: 'My daughter is so outstanding. You naturally deserve a good man as a match in the future.'

Besides, there were many people on Sikong Planet who married after turning 20. However, these people's situations were usually due to the fact that they had spent their teenage years focusing on their cultivation, while she was merely a normal person. Her teachers had all told her regretfully that it was impossible for her to cultivate in this lifetime with her congenitally deficient body.

"Th-Then how about I call you Qiaoqiao from now on." Pei Jia smiled widely.

The little stoic thought that her smile was quite dazzling, so she tried to crack a greater smile in return. However, it was quite difficult for this stoic face to purposefully display a smile...

“Jiajia.” The little stoic nodded and then handed that medical book to her. “Bring it back with you to read.”

She then turned her wrist and took Pei Jia’s pulse. “You’ve been nursing your body quite well. I’ll give you another prescription. Produce a decoction following the prescription twice a day, and you won’t need to take medicine anymore after half a month.”

A surprised smile surfaced on the young servant girl Baihui’s face, and she spluttered, “Cr-Crown Prince Consort, i-is this true? Miss can be freed from those medicines in the future?”

Qiao Mu nodded. After chatting about the medical book for a bit longer, Qiao Mu stood up to escort Miss Pei out of the estate.

Shaoyao followed after them as she smiled while covering her mouth. Later, when the crown prince inquired about this matter, Shaoyao couldn’t resist remarking, “After Miss Pei came, she sat beside the crown prince consort and quietly browsed through a book while the crown prince consort took an afternoon nap. After she woke up, they hit it off.”

Crown Prince Mo was rendered speechless after hearing this.

Five days later, the Qiao Estate joyfully opened its doors for Second Uncle’s wedding.

### **Chapter 1267: Wedding at the Qiao Estate**

From bright and early in the morning today, Marchioness Wei Ziqin and all the servants started getting busy.

Qiao Zhongbang greeted guests in the forecourt with a smile on his face from start to finish. He was happy for his second brother from the bottom of his heart.

Although the wedding planning had been a bit rushed, all of the necessary things that ought to be present were not lacking.

Second Uncle Qiao, who was marrying a wife again after 10 years, was a bit panicked too, making several blunders since early in the morning.

Even so, in order to avoid any possible delays that might cut into the auspicious time for the ceremony, Second Uncle Qiao set out from the estate with his groomsmen more than two hours in advance.

Meanwhile, the bride had been staying at the Ren Estate since the day before. Even though the two estates were considered neither far nor near each other, they were bound to be able to bring back the bride within two hours. There would not be a delay to the marriage ceremony.

As for Qiao Mu, she was wearing a festive crimson dress for once. She specially ran over to Brother Xiao Hu’s courtyard to check in on him.

When she entered, she could hear Brother Xiao Hu grousing to Shaoyao discreetly, “Shaoyao, it’s not like I’m a lucky charm. Just look at how I’m dressed. It’s my dad that’s getting married today, not me...”

Shaoyao said phooey to him.

Yet Qiao Hu went up to hug her with a grin and said, “Shaoyao, don’t you say this marriage between the two of us should be moved up the agenda now.”

“Bah!” Shaoyao rolled her eyes at him. “What do you mean ‘the two of us.’”

It was at this moment that the little fellow popped out like a candle that was as bright as the light produced by 10 million candles[1], shouting, “Brother Xiao Hu!”

This freaked out the embracing couple so much that they swiftly extricated themselves before hastily straightening out their collars with a light cough.

Qiao Mu sauntered up to the two people with her paws behind her back before circling around them. “Brother Xiao Hu, if you want to marry Shaoyao, you have to ask me first.”

Qiao Hu immediately went up to her with a simper while rubbing his palms together. “Younger Sis, you can’t bear to see your elder brother stay a bachelor forever.”

“I can’t say.” Qiao Mu tilted her petite head and stepped in front of Shaoyao. “With our Shaoyao being so outstanding, who wouldn’t she be able to find?”

Qiao Hu got agitated when he heard this, and he quickly grasped his younger sister’s petite hands. “Younger Sis, you cannot pull your brother’s leg.”

Qiao Mu cast him a glance before taking out a box and tossing it to him. “For you.”

“What is this, Younger Sis.”

“The mystic breakthrough pill I promised you last time.”

Qiao Hu was overjoyed as he opened it to take a look. The two globular mystic breakthrough pills inside were truly too pleasing to the eye.

“Younger Sis, you treat us so well.” Qiao Hu laughed foolishly as he rubbed the back of his head.

“I’m going now. I have to help Mom greet the guests.”

“Crown Prince Consort, I’ll go with you.” Shaoyao hastily cast off Qiao Hu as she caught up to Qiao Mu. Along the way, she informed, “When I came over just now, I heard that Mistress Eldest Aunt and Maternal Young Miss had returned.”

Qiao Mu was startled, but she finally realized after a moment that Shaoyao was referring to Qiao Wenxiu and her daughter.

While leading Shaoyao toward the courtyard where her mother was, Qiao Mu gave a nod and then inquired, “Has that whatever Yuan continued to stir up trouble for them afterwards.”

“After having Sir Pang attend to them for several days as Miss instructed, the situation did turn for the better, but that Zhou Yuan is like a rabid dog that can’t be shaken off.”

Qiao Mu nodded.

After all, every family had its hardships. Besides, she was merely an unmarried little lady, so she couldn’t interfere with too much and meddle in everything.

In any case, she could let her dad and mom handle these trivial affairs. Dad was her cousin Pu Ruolan's uncle by blood, so he naturally would be able to back up Pu Ruolan with this identity as her elder.

### **Chapter 1268: Gathering Together All at Once**

When Qiao Mu arrived at Second Uncle's new court, she saw her mom up to her ears in work while busily instructing this and that to the servants.

"Hurry, hurry. The bride and groom are about to come. Get a move on it! Hey, carry the double happiness cakes inside." The elderly nanny following beside Wei Ziqin was ordering the bustling servants about.

When she looked up and saw Qiao Mu and Shaoyao, she welcomed them in all smiles. "Crown Prince Consort, Miss Shaoyao, you have come. Madam is busy at the moment."

"It's fine, I just came over to take a look." Idler Mu raised her hand to rub her chin. "Is there anything that needs help?"

With the start of spring, the weather had already turned warm.

After Wei Ziqin had made several rounds about the new court, sweat was beading on her nose.

When she noticed that her daughter had come over, she quickly walked up to her and grasped her petite hands with a smile. "Qiaoqiao, there's a lot happening today, and a lot of people today too. Luckily, your eldest aunt came early and was able to lend me a hand. Oh, right, Qiaoqiao, you still haven't seen your eldest aunt and cousin. Come, come, come."

Wei Ziqin was pulling her daughter's hand as she left Nanny Qiu several more instructions before she called out into the house, "Wenxiu, Ruolan, come quickly. Our Qiaoqiao has come."

Two women walked out from the inside of the house.

The older one was dressed in a bright blue cheongsam with a straight collar and long sleeves. From the looks of it, the jewelry she was wearing wasn't too valuable. She nodded at Qiao Mu with smiling eyebrows. "Qiaoqiao, do you still remember Eldest Aunt?"

The young woman possessed delicate and refined facial features, and she was dressed in a long dress with a bottle-shaped collar. With her hair coiled up into a married woman's bun, her head was free of any accessories. She only wore a wooden hairpin in her hair and a wooden bangle on her wrist in an exceptionally simple and modest fashion.

Qiao Mu walked up and nodded at Qiao Wenxiu and her daughter. "Eldest Auntie, Older Cousin."

"Qiaoqiao, good child, Eldest Aunt doesn't have a valuable greeting gift to give to you, but take this as a token of Eldest Aunt's affection for you." Qiao Wenxiu then stuffed a pure gold bangle into Qiao Mu's hands.

Its purity was not too good, and it could even be considered to be of inferior-quality among Qiao Mu's pile of gold, jade, and gems.

If it were a young lady who despised the poor and curried favor with the rich, then that young lady might even rebuff them for being poor relatives.

Yet Qiao Mu accepted it without another word and nodded toward Qiao Wenxiu while saying with a deadpan expression, "Thank you, Auntie."

Qiao Wenxiu smiled happily. "Back then when Auntie returned to Qiaotou Village with your older cousin, you were still young and probably had no memories of that time yet. This is your older cousin Ruolan."

Pu Ruolan stepped forward with a smile and greeted, "Younger Cousin."

"Alrighty, Mom and your eldest aunt still have a lot of things to take care of. Help Mom entertain your older cousin." Wei Ziqin chuckled, about to pull Qiao Wenxiu along to leave.

At that moment, a woman rushed inside breathlessly and announced with her face wreathed in smiles, "They're coming, they're coming! The bride's sedan is about to reach the intersection."

"Aiyah, hurry, hurry, hurry. Go to the entrance to welcome them. Are the gongs and drums ready! How about the drummer, where is the drummer."

"Madam, everything is ready. Let us go to the entrance quickly."

Qiao Mu speechlessly watched as her mom left in double time. Since her mother was busy with receiving the bride, she became Idler Mu again.

Afterwards, she turned to say to Pu Ruolan, "Older Cousin, let's go to Xiao Lin'er's court. It's a bit too chaotic here."

Pu Ruolan nodded with a smile. "Okay."

The two people exited the main door to the new court and made a turn for Xiao Lin'er's court. They had only gone halfway when they met up with the young lady who was rushing over in a bustle.

### **Chapter 1269: Brother-in-Law Has Come**

Numerous guests had come today, so the people manning the door had been busy accepting gifts and announcing the guests' arrival.

"The Madam of the Marquis of Su'an's Estate is here."

"The Old Madam of the State Duke of Qing's Estate is here—"

The boy and girl servants ran to and fro in waves, with another group of people arriving just after they would bring away one group. The courtyard truly was as crowded as a marketplace as guests kept pouring in.

Wei Ziqin and Qiao Zhongbang were each receiving guests at the forecourt and rear garden respectively.

Meanwhile, Crown Prince Mo made a circle about the marquis's estate before he found his pretty young wife. That little fellow was leisurely sitting on a swing as she chatted with her young sister and older cousin while cracking melon seeds.

When Pu Ruolan looked up, she saw a tall young sir walking in their direction.

She quickly stood up and walked over to the swing, cueing, "Younger Cousin, there is someone here."

"Brother-in-Law has come." Qiao Lin hopped off the swing at once. She chuckled as she held Pu Ruolan's hand, "Older Cousin, that is His Highness the Crown Prince."

Pu Ruolan frantically gave a curtsy.

Yet Qiao Mu was still swaying to and fro on the swing as she looked up at the approaching man. "Why have you run back here to the rear court?"

"I came to see if my Qiaoqiao was shirking her duties in laziness again." Mo Lian walked over with a smile. Afterwards, he gestured for Pu Ruolan to rise and dispense with the formalities.

Qiao Mu directed a harrumph at him. "There are so many damsels outside that I have no time to welcome them one by one."

Mom had already given her an earful two to three days in advance about how she must not get into a temper by all means today during Second Uncle's wedding. *Everyone who came was a guest, so she shouldn't beat them up just because she didn't like what they said...*

*How baffling, did she need Mom to remind her? It wasn't like she was sick in the head. If other people didn't provoke her, how was it possible for her to go mad and beat other people up.*

The most despicable thing was that whatever fourth princess who neurotically ran to lodge a complaint against her with the king.

*That fourth princess said that the beating had made her look unpresentable. But she was simply nuts. When had she beaten this fourth princess before?*

*She simply didn't know that whatever fourth princess, alright?*

When she recalled this, she cast Mo Lian a disapproving gaze as she declared in her mind: 'His home is the place with the most women in the world, so freaking annoying!'

Crown Prince Mo quickly huddled over when he saw his wife's disgruntled gaze, giving her a grin. "What is wrong for you to use this kind of gaze to look at your hubby. What has Hubby done badly, do tell."

Qiao Lin, who had long gotten used to the crown prince constantly getting all lovey-dovey with her sister, chuckled while covering her small mouth with her hand.

Instead, it was rather Pu Ruolan who was a bit shocked.

She had not expected His Highness, who looked so unapproachable on the surface, was actually this kind of person...

Qiao Mu glared at him before pushing away his large palms. "Older Cousin is here."

"She's one of us." Crown Prince Mo grabbed Qiao Mu's petite hands while smirking. "You won't be able to take an afternoon nap today. What to do, you'll be sleepy in the afternoon."

During this period of time, Idler Mu would take an afternoon nap every day, while in the rest of her free time she would be drawing talismans. She was simply too carefree.

*Phooey!* Qiao Mu glared at him in chagrin. *This guy only knew how to make fun of her.*

*With it being Second Uncle's wedding today, was it possible for her to abandon all the guests in the estate and hide away in her room to take an afternoon nap?*

Crown Prince Mo kneaded the little fellow's face with a smile. "I'm not making fun of you. Aren't I feeling bad that you won't be able to take a nap?"

"You're not allowed to say it." Qiao Mu pounded his chest as she turned her stoic face aside with a pout.

"Qiaoqiao." Mo Lian cupped her small face and turned it back to him.

### **Chapter 1270: Wedding Day Is Approaching**

Mo Lian's phoenix eyes curved as he chuckled, "Fifteen days left!"

Even though Qiao Mu rolled her eyes at him, her mouth involuntarily curled upwards.

Qiao Lin was merrily laughing up her sleeve on the side when she heard this.

However, Pu Ruolan inquired puzzledly, "What does the crown prince mean?"

Pu Ruolan immediately understood when Qiao Lin whispered "wedding day" into her ear, and she nodded with a smile.

"Brother-in-Law! You have to prepare a big, big red envelope for me!" Qiao Lin yelled in the direction of the swing from where she was sitting at the stone table.

Mo Lian looked over at her and nodded straight away with a smile. "Okay."

"Seventh Master Mu has come!"

Qiao Mu could hear the excited cheers coming from the forecourt even while sitting in the rear court, and her gaze subsequently turned cold.

"What is it, Darling." Mo Lian was startled. His wifey had been in an extremely good mood, yet her expression was now clouded over in a drastic change.

But speaking of which, that Seventh Master from the Mu Clan of the Divine Province was quite odd.

He came over the day of Qiaoqiao's coming-of-age hairpin ceremony, and now he was also here for Second Uncle Qiao's wedding. It felt like he was being overly familiar with the Qiao Family.

At this time, several excited shouts were coming from the forecourt. Everyone stood up to cup their fists in greeting toward Mu Jingrui, who was striding in from the main entrance.

On the other hand, the white-haired elder, whose expression was tinged with scorn, was haughtily carrying a large brocade box as he followed behind Mu Jingrui.

In his eyes, this bunch of brats from the Lower Star Domain were indeed as weak as ants.

Mu Jingrui had presented an extravagant gift on this occasion—snowcap lingzhi[1].

When he presented this lingzhi, everyone goggled at it, green with envy.

The physicians and pill alchemists among the guests, especially, wished for nothing more than to spring over like a tiger and examine it carefully.

Qiao Zhongbang's smile also stiffened.

Although the groom, Qiao Zhongxing, did not understand the situation, he still went up and cupped his fists toward Mu Jingrui neither obsequiously nor superciliously in thanks.

*It was quite strange, he simply did not have any dealings with this Seventh Master Mu from the Divine Province.*

*Why would this person give him a wedding gift without rhyme or reason?*

"Congrats, Congratulations." Mu Jingrui exchanged pleasantries with a smile.

A minor commotion suddenly came from the back of the crowd, which naturally parted to the sides like the tide.

The young crown prince consort and Crown Prince Mo came over while hand in hand. Her petite face remained stoic as her gaze stabbed at Mu Jingrui and the white-haired elder like a knife.

"What did you come for." Just as Qiao Mu was about to step forward, her mother Wei Ziqin swiftly strode forward to grab her hand.

"Qiaoqiao." Wei Ziqin quickly shook her head at her.

At this, Qiao Mu merely glared coldly at Mu Jingrui in warning.

Mu Jingrui practically comprehended the little fellow's meaning right away: 'Don't speak carelessly!'

*This was to warn him not to divulge her identity as a daughter of the Divine Province's Mu Clan in front of so many people, correct?*

*How much did she dislike the Mu Clan to not wish for any association with them!*

Mu Jingrui lamented with a sigh in his heart. However, when he subconsciously swept a glance over Crown Prince Mo, his brows creased.

*This crown prince's aura was seemingly amiss.*

Crown Prince Mo was also sizing up Mu Jingrui at the same time that Mu Jingrui was doing the same to him. Suspicion flitted across his mind.

"Hahahaha, today is Second Uncle's wedding. I am not late, right?"