

## **My Crown 1381**

### **Chapter 1381: Quelling Violence with Violence**

Eldest Prince Consort Shu Quan also did not expect the situation to become so irreversible.

By the time she recovered her wits, the people beside her reported anxiously, "It is bad, Prince Consort, we got separated from Fourth Miss in the crowd."

"How, how did that happen?" Shu Quan's face paled instantly, and her body teetered. "Quick, go find her quickly!"

Even if Shu Quan had the heart to dispatch half of her eight guards to find Shu Hui, they were unable to squeeze their way out of this sea of people to start their search.

In reality, she had long told this fourth younger sister to not come along for the fun.

After all, Xiluo Street truly was too turbulent at times. She was afraid that she would be unable to protect her fourth younger sister should this kind of situation occur.

At that time, her mother would be the first to not let her off.

"Prince Consort, do not worry. Perhaps the fourth miss is fine. We are not able to make our way out right now. We will go when the crowd disperses a bit."

Even so, Shu Quan's face was still pale. She recalled how at the beginning, the line had still maintained good order. Each person left jubilantly after getting their portion of rice.

But as the waiting time grew longer and longer, some burly men in the back of the line started clamoring in impatience.

A fine rice distribution ended up escalating into an intense riot. The most pitiful thing was that those impoverished commoners without the strength to truss a chicken could escape disaster if they fled fast enough, while those who were slow got punched with fists that had no eyes.

In her anxiousness, two thousand royal guards had come with the crown prince and crown prince consort.

They immediately took control of the chaotic scene upon arrival.

"Your Highness? Your Highness!!" Eldest Prince Consort Shu Quan shouted in surprise.

Xi'er and the rest also yelled excitedly, "His Highness has come. It is His Highness, His Highness has come!"

"We're saved, it's great."

The two thousand elites were so disciplined that their performance was astonishing.

It only took a short while for them to completely restrain the thirty to fifty burly men who were making trouble.

Speaking of which, most of those burly men were normal people and were merely a bit stronger than an ordinary person.

It was truly too easy for two thousand disciplined royal guards to handle them.

One of the gang leaders who put up the fiercest resistance seized a woman in front of Mo Lian and was about to punch her nefariously.

In his rage, Mo Lian galloped over while drawing his Raven Moon sword. With a horizontal slash, that man died on the spot.

This bloody development intimidated everyone. Meanwhile, Shu Quan was even more unlucky as she was coincidentally standing to the left of the gang leader and got sprayed in the face by his blood.

Shu Quan staggered, screaming while covering her face with her hands.

When Mo Lian heard this familiar voice, he steered his horse around and trotted through the crowd.

Qiao Mu was sitting in front of him, and her curious gaze landed on the eldest prince consort Shu Quan. She recognized this woman, who seemingly was Mo Lian's eldest sister-in-law.

Mo Lian creased his brows. *Could it be that this random riot was the result of these several women's handiwork?*

"Go ask them what happened." Mo Lian spoke coldly, sweeping a glance at Huifeng and the rest.

A group of royal guards went up to push the common people to the sides, emptying out a path that allowed two horses to pass through abreast of each other.

Huifeng and them flitted forward rapidly and questioned several commoners closely.

Although the unlucky common people had suffered a bad scare, they were still able to retell what had happened while stammering. Soon, Mo Lian was able to grasp the entire situation.

Shu Quan had regained her senses by this time, and she quickly squeezed past the guards encircling her and shouted, "Your Highness."

Chapter 1382: Almsgiving Disturbance

"Your Highness! Please rescue my fourth sister! She got separated from us in the crowd and is currently missing. I am afraid that she will meet with danger!" Shu Quan beseeched desperately in worry.

The crown prince looked at her with creased brows. "Does Royal Brother know that you came to Xiluo Street to distribute rice?"

Shu Quan nodded repeatedly while wiping away her tears and sweat.

"Simply foolishness," Mo Lian reprimanded.

Xiluo Street was originally populated with impoverished people. Even the royal court would dispatch the military to maintain public order every time they distributed rice.

They were afraid that something unexpected would occur and turn a good deed into a bad one.

Yet these women before him dared to come to this slum to announce their existence with just seven to eight royal guards?

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Did they have any brains at all?

He didn't expect this eldest sister-in-law, who was composed and magnanimous in her interactions with people, to do such a foolish thing.

Could it be that one's IQ would also decrease after being with Eldest Royal Brother for too long?

In reality, Shu Quan was also very distraught.

Previously, the eldest prince had gloated using an extravagantly colorful description of how starting a House of Treasures would earn so much money, and he even incited her to move her family's valuables into the House of Treasures.

In the end, someone had made a clean sweep on the first day of business. Not only did they lose everything they invested, they were even in huge debt!

Nowadays, the monthly stipend from the royal court simply could not pay off their expenses. After all, there were so many people in their household, with the eldest prince's innumerable side consorts and concubines. They truly had to pinch pennies now.

Food and money was also necessary to provide for the guards and maidservants. Recently, as the Eldest Prince's Estate was practically unable to make ends meet, they had to dismiss who knows how many maidservants, nannies, and guards.

Right now, she did not know how long they could last living off her dowry.

Several days ago, she did not know whose advice her husband had listened to, but he delusionally said that he wanted to come distribute rice on Xiluo Street to win popular support.

She had already analyzed the difficulty of conforming to the common aspirations of the people for her husband.

At present, the entire royal court followed His Highness the Crown Prince's lead, and the common people were also full of praise for him. Did you think that casually giving alms would immediately win favorable impressions from large numbers of people?

It was impossible, alright!

Not to mention, the entire estate did not have much stored grain left either, but the eldest prince was an obstinate one. He only asked about the results and never the process of whatever he delegated her to do.

Hence, Shu Quan could only brace herself to agree in resignation.

As a result, a disturbance occurred during the rice distribution, and even her sister was missing now. This really was an arduous but fruitless endeavor.

The most important task on her agenda right now was to find her fourth sister. Everything else could be dealt with later.

Since it was the eldest prince consort's request, Mo Lian would not turn a blind eye. He signaled with his eyes for several royal guard teams to disperse and search the nearby alleys.

Shu Quan was out of her wits as she looked at Mo Lian and muttered anxiously, "What to do, what to do."

Meanwhile, Mo Lian dismounted while holding on to Qiao Mu's hand, and he ordered for the accompanying doctors to examine the common people's injuries.

Seemingly having found their mainstay, the common people lined up orderly under the royal guard commander's lead to get examined by the doctors.

Some whose injuries were rather serious were carried to the front.

After a series of rescue procedures, an extremely young doctor from the royal physician building saluted Mo Lian. "Your Highness, the common people mostly have superficial wounds and bruises. The two most serious cases are merely bone fractures and need some extra attention."

Mo Lian nodded. At this time, the several royal guard teams that had dispersed to find Shu Hui had also hurried back.

#### Chapter 1383: Butterfly Guide

One of the team captains saluted Mo Lian respectfully before reporting, "Your Highness, we have searched everywhere but have not discovered any trace of Fourth Miss Shu."

Shu Quan couldn't help but stagger when she heard this. Her complexion immediately turned ghastly pale, and she became faint, practically about to collapse to the ground in the next instant.

Xi'er exclaimed as she rushed up to support her, "Prince Consort, Prince Consort."

Mo Lian creased his brows. "Royal Sister-in-Law, I'll send you back first."

"No, no! I cannot just go back like this. Your Highness, something must have happened to my sister! It was so chaotic just now. What if, an evildoer had carried her off, then, then what should I do!" Shu Quan wailed, "Your Highness, please send more people to search for my fourth sister, you must not let anything happen to her."

"I will naturally have my men search for her, but I had better send you back first right now.."

"Your Highness!"

"Do you have anything that your younger sister touched before, like a piece of jewelry or handkerchief?" Qiao Mu suddenly asked calmly.

“Yes, yes!” Shu Quan automatically pulled out an embroidered handkerchief and carefully unfolded it. She said quietly, “My fourth sister embroidered this herself for me the year I got married.”

Qiao Mu looked at her and then gave a nod. With a wave of her fingers, several hundred small, fluttering butterflies swarmed forth. They hovered about that handkerchief for several seconds before scattering.

This scene astonished Shu Quan, and Xi'er was shocked, too.

Everyone thought that the crown prince consort had used some kind of special talisman to summon so many butterflies.

Shu Quan looked at Qiao Mu gratefully as she hastily expressed her thanks. “Thank you for the crown prince consort's help, thank you.”

Qiao Mu did not say anything else. If she were in Shu Quan's shoes and an evildoer had carried off her Xiao Lin'er, she would also be very worried. This was only natural.

Even though she did not really like that Madam Shu née Zhuang, this eldest prince consort looked like a sensible person.

Only ten minutes had passed when the poison-tailed butterfly queen Xiaoxiao reported by voice transmission, “Master, we have located her. Follow me.”

Xiaoxiao transformed into a multicolored butterfly and flew out from Paradise Planet, dancing about in front of Qiao Mu while flapping her wings.

Qiao Mu tugged Mo Lian's sleeve.

Mo Lian had long known that his little wife was a capable one. He promptly understood and scooped her up by the waist before jumping onto a horse. “Half of the people stay here to keep watch, everyone else will come with me.”

Shu Quan also hastily mounted a horse to tag along. Her worry and anxiousness showed clearly in her actions.

The party trailed after the butterfly Xiaoxiao, weaving through the alleys on their horses until they stopped in front of a small, ordinary courtyard.

“This?” Mo Lian looked down at his wifey slyly.

Qiao Mu nodded.

Shu Quan still wanted to ask something, but when she suddenly heard the fourth miss's horrific scream, her entire face promptly turned ashen.

“I'll go in to take a look, y-you all don't come in,” Shu Quan stammered before bringing Xi'er inside.

Qiao Mu looked up at Mo Lian. “How do you plan to explain this to your Royal Father?”

“Tell him the truth.” Mo Lian paid no heed as he swept the door a glance. In any case, he had already done his all to help and had found her. As for what happened afterwards, it was not their responsibility.

“But Qiaoqiao, you have been breeding such a useful group of helpers in your Paradise Planet,” Mo Lian whispered into her ear.

Chapter 1384: Help Out with the Food, ‘Kay

Qiao Mu nodded before explaining in whispers, “I’ve had them for a long time. Before, I only sent them out to scout for information and stuff. Xiaoxiao told me recently that they’ve advanced in level after consistently absorbing the mystic energy in my Paradise Planet. Now, they can track down targets by differentiating scents.”

Mo Lian’s eyes lit up. “That’s awesome, Qiaoqiao. In the future, I’ll rely on you if I need to find anything.”

\*Mwah.\* As they spoke, he caught her off guard and planted a kiss on her cheek.

Qiao Mu instantly flushed red and peered about guiltily. She only saw the royal guards lined up behind them like door gods with their heads and eyes down, pretending to not have seen anything.

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She then beat him with her petite fist and rolled her eyes at him. “Stop fooling around.”

“I’m not fooling around.” Crown Prince Mo gave a perfectly guileless look as he winked at her. “I am engaging in normal communication with my wife.”

Ha ha, how very funny. Qiao Mu swept him a speechless look.

The crown prince immediately waved his hand, leaving behind one hundred royal guards to escort Shu Quan and her sister home. The other people would follow him back to South Xiluo Street where the disturbance broke out.

By this time, much of the cacophonous crowd had already dispersed, and the ground was littered with debris and broken wooden frames.

Qiao Mu’s eyes flickered, her gaze landing on a young girl who was bawling while sitting on a heap of trash.

Because the girl’s mother was coaxing the young boy in her arms, she was unable to attend to the little lass sitting on the trash heap. This kind of scene could be witnessed everywhere in the slums on Xiluo Street.

Qiao Mu shook her head. “Have you distributed the winter fruit from last time?”

Mo Lian nodded. “I entrusted it to Song Yuan, and he handled it quite well by putting a portion of the people to work with the winter fruit as their monthly pay. Isn’t that good?”

Qiao Mu also nodded when she heard this. She did not advocate giving them out for free either. She especially could not tolerate those strong and able men being indolent. Only getting rewarded when you worked was the correct path.

“I’ve harvested a lot of winter fruit again. I’ll give them all to you too.” After saying this, Qiao Mu placed around a dozen storage talismans in Mo Lian’s hands.

Yet Mo Lian instantly became unwilling. “No, how can I let my wife fork out supplies every time.”

Qiao Mu looked at him silently before honestly pointing out, “I really can’t store it all. It’s all heaped up outside the storehouse. You can go see for yourself at night.”

Mo Lian: ...

Alright, his wifey was just too loaded! Since the rich lady didn’t care, then he’ll accept it. Just treat it as... helping his wife out in consuming the food, ha ha.

People would laugh their heads off if they were to hear of this. Who didn’t hide their food stores nowadays? Only this little oddball could do such a thing.

“The southern defensive wall needs reinforcing lately. I’ll have Official Song come select able-bodied adults for this mission. With food as payment, I’m certain that many people will be up to accept such an easy mission.

Qiao Mu hummed in agreement as she bobbed her head like a chick pecking at rice. In Mo Lian’s eyes, she looked so very cute that he stared at her in a trance the entire time.

Qiao Mu was unaware of his gaze at the beginning. By the time she was, she abruptly shielded his eyes with her hands. “You’re not allowed to look!”

“Naughty,” he grouched. He pulled down her petite hands with his own and beamed at her while saying, “You’re not allowed to stop me from looking at you.”

## **Chapter 1385: I Am Perturbed by the Sight**

**Translator:** Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

Qiao Mu expressed her annoyance with a phooey.

Yet who would have expected this guy to start acting wanton in front of others too after their wedding. He encircled her waist and smiled at her slyly. “What are you phooeying for. I only have you as a wife. Who can I look at if not you. Wifey, wifey, wifey!”

This demonic chant resounded in her ears...

Qiao Mu chortled, simply unable to resist laughing when she looked at this guy.

“You have no sense of shame.” She pinched his waist, but she could feel that the ab muscles under his clothes were so hard that her fingers hurt from trying.

“What do I have to be ashamed of in front of my wife..” Mo Lian nuzzled her innocently.

“Stop messing around!” Qiao Mu promptly pushed him away before peering up at him. “I’m talking serious business here!”

“Tell it then.”

“I plan to come here to Xiluo Street tomorrow to distribute food, but I have a requirement. I will only distribute it to the elderly, infirm, women, and children. Those strong adult men should not even think of profiting without effort and getting a grain of rice from me.”

The crown prince’s eyes brightened. “Qiaoqiao, you are gathering the people’s support for Hubby right?”

Qiao Mu: ...

*I think that you are overthinking it!* A certain crown prince consort looked at her husband expressionlessly.

“You’re so great, Qiaoqiao.” The crown prince was so joyful that he practically wanted to fly. He lifted Qiao Mu up and was about to reward her with two kisses.

Yet who knew that Darling Qiao would cover up his lips with her petite hands before sweeping him with a stoic expression. “I am only perturbed by the bursting storehouse and want to distribute some of the food inside!”

Crown Prince Mo: ...

*What could he say? Only the filthy rich had the qualifications to carry out such large-scale projects!*



“Fine, fine, fine. As long as you’re happy.” Crown Prince Mo mounted the horse while carrying her. “As we are still newlyweds, how about having Hubby come with you tomorrow to distribute the food.”

“Oh, you want to gather the people’s support right?”

Crown Prince Mo: ...

“Does this crown prince need such a thing as the people’s support? Isn’t that just accomplished with a wave of the hand!”

“You’re just boasting.” Qiao Mu cast a glance at this confident guy. “Where did you ditch the Venerable Peach Blossom Immortal? I haven’t seen him these two days.”

Mo Lian smiled. “Don’t worry, he’s enjoying himself.”

At this time, a certain venerable immortal that was on Qiao Mu’s mind popped his head out of a heap of top quality wine. He toasted his cup toward Hidden Flower and declared, “Drink, keep drinking!”

*Won’t you die from alcohol poisoning!*

Hidden Flower felt harshly treated by life. As His Highness’s subordinate, he had to disguise himself as a zombie for one mission, and now he had to serve as a drinking partner. Chit-chatting with this venerable immortal who had such wild behavior after getting drunk on a jar of wine was simply ugh!

*At any rate, he was the august captain of the Hidden Pavilion. Yet in the end, he had such an unreliable master!*

Mo Lian’s internal thoughts: *You’ve got to be kidding, how could he let such a big wax candle<sup>1</sup> come and disrupt his and his wife’s newlywed life.*

How would Qiao Mu know that a certain black-bellied person was entertaining the venerable immortal this way? She nodded without suspecting anything after hearing his assurance. "It is good to entertain him well. He is quite formidable. Perhaps I will still need his help in the future."

*However, this deity-inviting talisman was a bit weird. How come that Venerable Peach Blossom Immortal still hadn't gone back after being summoned for several days already?*

While carrying Qiao Mu, Mo Lian steered the horse back to the palace. He whispered into her ear, "Qiaoqiao, you had clearly wanted to distribute rice after seeing how pitiful those women and children were."

*Yet she had to say something like she had too much food that she couldn't store it all. This child just stubbornly refused to admit it.*

*This little fellow had always been someone who only took action but never said anything. Her temper really was worrisome.*

Chapter 1386: I Understand You

People who didn't know her extremely well would more or less misunderstand her from her expressionless stoic face.

Mo Lian nuzzled his head against the top of hers. "It's fine, even if everyone in the world does not understand you, there is still me who does."

Qiao Mu's gaze wavered, as if her heartstrings got tugged on, and she raised her watery eyes at him.

\*Clip clop, clipitty-clop.\* A claret-colored horse was galloping toward them as fast as lightning.

When Qiao Mu looked back, her petite mouth twitched. "Huifeng has quite the unique hobby."

He had actually chosen such a vibrantly-colored horse. This scene of a young man in black riding a red steed really was quite comical..

"I also think he looks ugly on it," Mo Lian belittled quietly. "Don't you think it would be great to let my Qiaoqiao ride such a fiery precious horse instead. My Qiaoqiao would be even more beautiful riding such a fiery claret horse instead, no?"

Qiao Mu actually nodded in approval. "That should be the case."

The royal guard commander Hui Feng[a], who had been listening to the young couple's quibbling, couldn't resist wanting to roll his eyes.

What to do? His masters were each more thick-skinned than the other. This simply shattered his depth of comprehension toward this world...

“Your Highness!” Huifeng caught up and gallantly cupped his hands toward them while sitting on the horse.

Mo Lian criticized quietly, “Look at him, he just had to catch up and disturb our couple time. Why did I accept such a dumb subordinate.”

Yet Qiao Mu immediately nodded in acknowledgement. “Actually, none of your subordinates in the Hidden Night Pavilion are smart. They’re all kinda silly.”

Mo Lian: ...

“Your Highness, the Shu Family’s fourth miss has been rescued.”

Mo Lian glared at Huifeng. “You hurried here just to report this trivial matter?”

Huifeng was a bit confounded.

Just now, didn’t His Highness leave him there with a hundred royal guards to keep watch!

He had thought His Highness had wanted to investigate the situation, yet who knew that this rascal of a master simply did not take it to heart. From how His Highness had simply forgotten what he had instructed him earlier, he had most likely given those orders offhandedly.

How did he get stuck with such a master? Huifeng looked at the crown prince consort exasperatedly.

“It’s fine, tell us about it.” Qiao Mu nodded and encouraged Huifeng to give his report with her gaze.

This young man was simply a dolt, getting dejected just cause His Highness the Crown Prince snubbed him.

“Fourth Miss Shu did not receive any physical injuries, it’s just that, cough, her reputation might suffer a bit.”

Qiao Mu gave an “oh,” and that was it.

And then there was an awkward silence.

On the side, Hui Feng gazed at his brother in sympathy.

Huifeng really wanted to slap his own mouth. Look, take a look. This pair of rascally masters simply weren’t very interested in this matter. He was tricked into taking it seriously and reporting it right away!

“This subordinate has already safely escorted the eldest prince consort and Fourth Miss Shu to their estate,” Huifeng continued.

When the crown prince consort gave another “oh,” Huifeng simply could not go on!

When Mo Lian saw this, he laughed uncontrollably. “Alright, you can head back first. Oh, that’s right. We and the crown prince consort will come here to Xiluo Street tomorrow to distribute food. You and Hui Feng together go make arrangements. You must make sure that everything is accounted for! If

something unexpected happens and causes this crown prince to lose face, you all know the consequences.”

Chapter 1387: Chance Encounter (1)

The two people shuddered before nodding repeatedly. “Yes, Your Highness!”

On the other hand, Qiao Mu curiously observed those two’s constipated expressions and could not help but look up at Mo Lian. “What’s with them?”

“Oh, it’s nothing. It’s just that if they don’t do their jobs well I’ll chuck them back to Martial Mountain to continue their training.”

It’s only training!

Yet looking at their constipated expressions, she couldn’t resist suspecting if Mo Lian had made them do something that stripped them of their will to live.

Crown Prince Mo was unable to restrain a smile but he didn’t not say anything. After they rode back to the palace, the crown prince went to the King’s Palace to report this time’s riot to the old king.

Meanwhile, Qiao Mu, who was hopelessly bored, took out the bone forging pill that the sapling gave her with a flip of her hand.

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Suddenly, she heard the sapling yelling excitedly in her conscious pool. “Master, Master, you’re finally planning to use this bone forging pill, right.”

“Nope.” The little stoic’s reply immediately dispelled the sapling Qiuqiu’s enthusiasm.

This master was getting more and more unruly.

“I have to go distribute rice tomorrow and return home the day after that.” Qiao Mu numbered off on her fingers. “How about the day after the day after tomorrow. I’ll take this bone forging pill of yours then.”

She kept feeling that the sapling had some kind of obsession toward this bone forging pill. She did not know if it was going to screw her over!

“Oh,” the sapling responded. “Master, I’m telling you, I won’t screw you over! You’ll know after taking it. This bone forging pill is a very good pill. After taking it, your bone marrow and meridians will improve greatly. The effects depend on the person. Some people can remold their bones from a mortal skeleton into a mystic skeleton, while others can reach the heavens in a single bound and achieve a spiritual skeleton!”

“Oh.”

“Master, you’re not excited?” Qiuqiu continued harping on. “I feel like you will be that person who will reach the heavens in a single bound.”

Qiao Mu was holding a box of snacks while sitting on the bed, and she ate two pieces. She couldn't help but find it laughable when she heard this. "Why do you think that?"

"Because you are Master. You create miracles every time you make an advancement."

Qiaoqiao likes this explanation! Qiao Mu blinked. If the sapling were sitting next to her right now, she would definitely rub its head gently...

"Master, since you're bored anyways, how about we take a stroll through the royal palace and see if there are any new animals to put inside Paradise Planet?"

"Good idea." Qiao Mu immediately put away the box of snacks and hopped to the ground. "Qiuqiu, you really are doing your utmost for Master."

The little treant clambered onto her shoulder and gesticulated, "Qiuqiu will not hesitate to go through water and tread on fire for Master!"

The human and treant walked out from the Eastern Palace and sauntered about the palace as if strolling through their own backyard.

"Master, there must be a small farm inside this palace. I'm speculating that it must be near the kitchen."

"I think so too." Qiao Mu nodded in agreement.

"We don't have high expectations. We only need to take three to five of each kind of small animal," the little treant giggled.

Qiao Mu hummed in approval as she walked along a tall palace wall.

She saw multistoried buildings and repeating pavilions covered with glazed tiles and decorated with vermilion eaves. All the people in the palace that she encountered would salute her, so Qiao Mu just gave them all perfunctory nods as she walked past.

Eventually, a sedan chair embroidered with cyan flowers turned the corner and ambled toward her direction.

Qiao Mu merely cast an unconcerned gaze when she was walking past.

Yet a supple voice suddenly came from the sedan chair. "Stop the sedan chair."

A fair, jade-white hand slowly lifted the curtain, and its owner poked out the top of her head as she called gently, "Will the crown prince consort please stay."

Chapter 1388: Chance Encounter (2)

Qiao Mu stopped and turned her head toward the sedan chair.

Commandery Princess Yi'an walked out from the sedan chair with small and light steps. She smiled toward her and greeted, "Yi'an greets the crown prince consort."

However, Qiao Mu merely nodded apathetically before redirecting her gaze toward the royal kitchen.

Commandery Princess Yi'an's smile stiffened on her face.

She did not expect the young crown prince consort before her to be loath to even give her a glance.

"Crown Prince Consort." Commandery Princess Yi'an quickly stepped forward and called her again. "Will the crown prince consort please stay."

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She gave the two porters a look, and they immediately leaped forward to block Qiao Mu's path.

Qiao Mu creased her brows, feeling quite displeased.

She was heading to the royal kitchen to see if it had a farm nearby, yet that woman whom she had only seen several times kept stopping her. Even now, that woman was blocking her path, which made her slightly irritated.

Couldn't she just let her quietly be alone?

"Crown Prince Consort." Commandery Princess Yi'an sauntered up to Qiao Mu and tugged a stiff smile. "Yi'an heard that someone barged into the Eastern Palace on the day of the crown prince consort's wedding. Did the crown prince consort get hurt?"

"You can't see for yourself whether I am hurt?" She really was asking a question when she already knew the answer!

Commandery Princess Yi'an was rendered speechless and could only smile awkwardly. "Y-Yes, it is great that the crown prince consort did not get hurt. Yi'an has been very worried these past two days."

"From the looks of it, you don't seem to be worrying about me." Qiao Mu cast her a glance.

Yi'an wished for nothing more than to tear off this young crown prince consort's mouth. What she said was simply, simply too infuriating!

She had merely greeted her out of courtesy and perhaps also wanted to take this chance to chum up to her. After all, they were sure to see much of each other in this palace in the coming days.

Yet this young crown prince consort actually kept people at a far distance!

"Crown Prince Consort."

Qiao Mu put out her hand to stop her from speaking. "I have an errand to attend to right now, so tell your people to step aside."

Who had the leisure to continue squabbling with her? It's not like they were familiar with each other, so why act like they were? It was simply baffling.

Even though Commandery Princess Yi'an was almost infuriated to death by her, she couldn't raise a clamor. She could only quickly pick the important things to talk about instead. "Crown Prince Consort, it is like this. Yi'an heard that the crown prince consort will give alms on Xiluo Street tomorrow. Yi'an also wants to go and contribute her humble effort."

Qiao Mu swept her a glance. "You are also dishing out fifty kiloliters?"

“Fifty kiloliters?” Commandery Princess Yi’an herself did not realize that she had actually shouted.

That was 50,000 liters of grain!

A normal family could subsist on one liter of grain for two to three days, yet the crown prince consort said that she was going to hand out 50,000 liters of grain tomorrow?

This, how was this possible!!

Even if she was the crown prince consort and the crown prince’s monthly stipend was much more than a normal prince’s, it wasn’t enough to sustain her willful squandering.

A subsidy!

The king and Her Majesty the Queen must have subsidized her in private so that she could use it to heighten the Eastern Palace’s prestige!

Commandery Princess Yi’an contemplated while gritting her teeth.

Her smile was stiff as she blurted, “H-How is that possible. Yi’an just wants to go help the crown prince consort.”

“Liar!” Qiao Mu immediately turned hostile as she glared at her. “You said that you wanted to contribute your humble effort, but it turns out that you don’t even want to take out a single liter of rice. Then what use do you have?”

“There are so many servants in the Eastern Palace. Is there a need for you, a commandery princess, to come and help?”

### **Chapter 1389: Petty!**

“Crown Prince Consort, how can you say it like that.” On the side, Xu’er couldn’t help but get agitated. “Our Commandery Princess only wants to contribute a humble effort by coming to help you.”

*This crown prince consort’s words were too rude. How could she ridicule her master like that.*

*It had to be known that their master was rich in the past too. If it wasn’t for the fact that she had purchased a prolongation pill for an astronomical price that day at the House of Treasures, then her days as of late wouldn’t have been so miserable.*

With the commandery princess’s current circumstances, she of course couldn’t take out mystic currency to buy grain for the distribution. That’s why her best plan of action was to accompany the crown prince consort to make a favorable impression among the common people.

Doubtlessly, at that time, those commoners would certainly like the gentle and thoughtful commandery princess better and not that stoic-faced crown prince consort.

“I don’t need your help! Not only are you not contributing grain, you are even futilely attempting to glean grain under the guise of help. Are you not embarrassed as an august commandery princess.” Qiao Mu’s blunt words simply made Commandery Princess Yi’an stagger backwards in rage.

“Wh-What do you mean by me gleaning grain? Crown Prince Consort, make yourself clear!”

*How could there be such an unreasonable person in this world that could make others hopping mad with just three sentences.*

“Is that not the case?” The young crown prince consort swept her an indifferent glance. “The harem issues stipends every month, and you are no exception either. Even with this, you are still snatching work from the junior royal maids and eunuchs. You are simply petty!”

“Wha, What??”

“Commandery Princess!” Xu’er was also so furious that her belly was about to explode. She supported Commandery Princess Yi’an while glaring at Qiao Mu and exclaiming, “Crown Prince Consort, please use discretion in your speech! How is our commandery princess gleaned your grain? Just say it openly that you’re afraid that she will steal your thunder if she goes with you! Why find all these weird excuses.”

The young crown prince consort swept the master and servant pair a glance before scolding “crazy” underneath her breath. Then, she trotted alongside the palace wall and left without turning her head back.

Meanwhile, the sapling Qiuqiu that was sitting on her shoulder was simply splitting his sides in laughter.

He truly understood his little master too well!

This child was simply looking down upon Commandery Princess Yi’an from the bottom of her heart. The reason being no other than that Commandery Princess Yi’an was truly too petty.

It had to be known that the young crown prince consort had issued a small mission in the Eastern Palace. Tomorrow, she would reward 10 liters to anyone who was willing to accompany her and distribute rice on the streets for two hours. If a lot of people lined up for the rice and thus extended the time, she would give them an extra 10 liters every two hours.

When this small mission got issued, all the junior eunuchs and royal maids in the Eastern Palace were scrambling to secure this task.

Even if this grain was of no use to them in the Eastern Palace, they could smuggle it out of the palace and give it to their families.

Besides, who would complain of having extra grain during these times.

Qiao Mu selected ten junior royal maids and ten junior eunuchs to help her. She only needed twenty people, no more than that.

After the list of names for the mission was issued, those eunuchs and royal maids who didn’t get picked were dejected.

*With these circumstances, Commandery Princess Yi’an actually wanted to snatch one of the royal maids or eunuchs’ means of livelihood? Wasn’t it simply preposterous and shameless!*

How would Yi’an know that the young crown prince consort was thinking this way. She had thought that the crown prince consort had perceived her feelings toward His Highness the Crown Prince, so that’s why she rejected her company.



Because she had clearly been informed after making inquiries that His Highness the Crown Prince would accompany the crown prince consort tomorrow during the rice distribution.

*She only wanted to create more opportunities to approach his highness. Even this was denied to her?*

As Commandery Princess Yi'an looked despondently at the crown prince consort's back silhouette, her eyes flickered.

### **Chapter 1390: Ploy**

"Commandery Princess, this crown prince consort is truly too abominable," Xu'er griped. "Why does Commandery Princess bear with it every time?"

Commandery Princess Yi'an's eyes flickered as she responded with a cold smile, "We'll be returning to Longevity Palace to pay respects to the queen dowager."

When the hidden guard made his report, the queen dowager was pruning her favorite jasper begonia potted plant.

Recently, this jasper begonia had been wilting. She did not know whether it was because of the weather, but it made the queen dowager's heart ache, and she ordered for it to be transported back from the gardener's so that she could attend to it personally.

When she listened to the hidden guard parrot the crown prince consort and Commandery Princess Yi'an's argument without missing a single word, the queen dowager was stunned before suddenly breaking out in laughter.

The hidden guard's mouth also twitched as he explained, "This subordinate heard that the crown prince consort had issued a mission in the Eastern Palace which all the royal maids and eunuchs applied for, but only twenty people were chosen..."

*This odd crown prince consort!* For other people, it was the masters who randomly appointed several people to go with them.

Yet she was actually rewarding them and even set a quota.

The queen dowager set down her clippers and smiled with continuous nods. "This granddaughter-in-law of mine is interesting. I rather think that her method is quite good. If she were to randomly appoint several people, they indeed would not dare to disobey, but they would not be as enthusiastic as if there was a reward for this mission! Since the royal maids and eunuchs are voluntarily doing this job, then this rice distribution will definitely conclude smoothly and quickly."

As she was speaking, Feng Gu came in with a taut expression and saluted Her Majesty the Queen Dowager. "The commandery princess has come."

The queen dowager's smile slipped a notch, and she gazed indifferently at Commandery Princess Yi'an, who was walking in lissomely.

"Yi'an pays her respects to the queen dowager." Commandery Princess Yi'an felt that the queen dowager had been treating her lukewarmly these two days. Even the latter's gaze toward her was sometimes extremely insipid.

It was unlike before, when the queen dowager would beckon her with a smile to sit next to her.

“Yi’an, is there something?” The queen dowager said with a smile as she picked up her clippers again and examined the jasper begonia, judging where she should snip it next.

This jasper begonia was her favorite. She could not let it die by all means.

Yi’an’s gaze flickered as she walked up and said with a smile, “Reporting to the queen dowager, Yi’an wants to make a trip out of the palace early tomorrow morning.”

“Oh?” The queen dowager cast her a look. “Is something the matter?”

Commandery Princess Yi’an put on an act as she said with a smile, “Yi’an heard that the eldest prince consort went to Xiluo Street to distribute rice but ended up causing a considerable disturbance, while the pitiful commoners on Xiluo Street suffered from injuries of varying degrees. Yi’an feels that they are very pitiable, so Yi’an plans to bring Xu’er along tomorrow to express my sympathy for them.”

The queen dowager froze while holding the clippers before subsequently saying with a smile, “That’s not necessary. The crown prince has already reported to the king that he will accompany the crown prince consort to Xiluo Street tomorrow to nurse the injured, as well as distribute some grain to the elderly and infirm, women and children.”

“We feel that the crown prince consort’s decision is excellent and have already approved of it. We have also dispatched Nanny Zhong to accompany them.”

Commandery Princess Yi’an’s heart sank with a thump. It turned out that the queen dowager was already aware of this incident. Sure enough, she had still underestimated how well-informed the queen dowager was.

Yi’an hastily forced a smile. “Queen Dowager, Yi’an still wants to do her utmost effort and go help.”

The queen dowager tightened her grip on the clippers. She then shook her head as she responded tepidly, “I see that there is no need. On the contrary, it is bad if too many people go. The crown prince consort has already brought enough people this time. It is good enough that you are willing to help.”