

My Crown 151

Chapter 151: Daughter Is A Nouveau Riche

“Sister, sister! Breakfast!” Xiao Lin’er waved her arms while foolishly smiling at her sister enthusiastically.

Wei Ziqin shoved the little foodie into Qiao Zhongbang’s arms before quickly walking to Qiao Mu’s side. She looked at the talismans in Qiao Mu’s hands, shocked. “Qiaoqiao, this? The two storage talismans that you gave me last time a-are from you...?”

“I drew them.” Qiao Mu nodded, not having planned to keep hiding it from them anyway.

Since they coincidentally saw it, then she will explain the matter of talisman drawing while she was at it so that Mother would stop hoarding those two talismans like a treasure and prudently counting each use, too afraid to store and withdraw.

Wei Ziqin had a face of disbelief.

When Qiaoqiao gave her the two storage talismans earlier, she had said that it was given by the master who saved her.

One of the spaces was larger than the other one. You can store and withdraw 100 times for the smaller one and store and withdraw 200 times for the larger one.

She had filled them with all the living essentials from their home, ready-to-eat food, and their family’s clothing.

She was barely willing to use them.

But now, Qiaoqiao actually said... she drew those storage talismans!

Qiao Mu rubbed her nose and glanced at her mother with embarrassment.

Before, she had randomly concocted a lie and said that the crown prince gave her those storage talismans, but the lie was exposed so quickly! Cough, cough!

“Mother, these storage talismans are actually pretty easy to draw! Look!” She dug out the purple talisman from her waist purse and withdrew 30 blue storage talismans with a swipe. “These all have 200 uses and contain 2 cubic meter storage space.”

Qiao Mu’s mother was flabbergasted.

Her father also looked petrified.

“Qiaoqiao, could it be that you’ve been drawing these storage talismans the whole night?” Qiao Zhongbang recovered his wits and immediately put on a stern expression as he looked at his daughter. “Although it’s quite extraordinary that you were able to draw 30 storage talismans in one night, you are still young right now and your body is still growing. Don’t be so hasty from now on, and pay attention to resting and sleeping, understand?”

Qiao Mu: Actually, I think I drew more than 200 talismans in one night...

However, she did not dare to tell her father that and merely demurely nodded and agreed.

Qiao Zhongbang had previously encountered storage talismans, a treasure that could be comparable to a mystic cultivator's inner world, in his sect, so his knowledge exceeded Wei Ziqin's greatly and knew that storage talismans were a fairly rare-to-obtain item.

Qiao Zhongbang also knew that the art of talisman making was a method that had always been personally passed down generation by generation, so many secret talisman methods had been drowned in the flow of history and lost for a long time.

For example, not everyone was capable of drawing this storage talisman. It was unknown whether anyone from the patrician families of Guanlan City knew how to draw storage talismans.

What he did know was that a treasure like storage talismans would be an extremely hot item whether it was auctioned or sold in the black market.

However, when his daughter passed out 10 talismans each to his wife and him like a nouveau riche, Qiao Zhongbang's hand was shaking as he held the storage talismans and his eyes were screaming "Am I dreaming?"

"These 10 talismans are for Second Uncle." Qiao Mu stuffed 10 more blue talismans into her father's hand. Then, she picked up the blue and yellow talismans and examined them before putting away the blue talisman and planning to use a yellow talisman to try it out.

"Qiaoqiao, what's that?" Qiao Zhongbang's emotional turmoil calmed slightly and his sight landed on the yellow summoning talisman in Qiao Mu's hand.

This beginner-level yellow summoning talisman was the demonstration talisman dropped by the Golden Talisman Jade Tome earlier.

Qiao Mu thought for a moment before deciding to take the talisman outside the building. She explained as she walked, "This is a summoning talisman."

Chapter 152: All Hell Broke Loose

"It's possible I will summon a giant animal like a wolf, tiger, or leopard later."

When Qiao Mu walked downstairs, she ran into Shaoyao walking toward her with a smile, "Sir, Madam, Little Master, breakfast is ready."

The eyes of the little foodie who was laying in her father's arms brightened as soon as she heard this. "Sister, breakfast!"

Qiao Mu paused and looked back to tell Shaoyao, "Head over there first! I'll come to the drawing room to eat in a moment."

"No, no," Qiao Zhongbang said while shaking his head. "How could Father not stay for the rare chance of seeing the legendary summoning talisman?"

Wei Ziqin also expressed her desire to survey it.

Shaoyao, however, was somewhat dumbfounded. She looked at her little master and asked in astonishment, “Summoning talisman?”

Did she hear something wrong? Why did she hear Sir mention the summoning talisman?

Based on her knowledge, this talisman was a nearly extinct talisman that was treasured generation after generation by the talisman patrician families in Guanlan City! A talisman patrician family might have just one mere summoning talisman, but they would worship it in their ancestral hall like a holy artifact!

“Alright then.” Qiao Mu nodded. “Father, Mother, don’t be nervous, the summoned animal or plant should be obedient—probably.”

In truth, she was not confident in the slightest when she said that. She had never summoned an animal or plant before so who knew what in the world she would summon!

What if it was a ferocious beast? She hoped it would not frighten the loudmouthed Xiao Lin’er to tears...

“Cough, Father, Mother, walk further away with Xiao Lin’er,” Qiao Mu reminded them, the yellow talisman in her hand.

Realizing the possible danger, Wei Ziqin nodded before dragging Qiao Zhongbang and drawing back, cautiously ordering, “Qiaoqiao, be careful! Run quickly if something goes wrong!”

Qiao Mu looked down at the yellow summoning talisman in her hand.

She made these talismans, so the talisman energy inside was imbued with her spirit. Hence, it was way too easy for her to use the talisman. She did not even need to drip a drop of blood to imprint the talisman and directly swiped the surface of the talisman with two fingers.

The talisman ripped in half and a yellow light burst from it, and everyone watched the garden with their eyes as wide as possible, brimming with anticipation and nervousness.

Qiao Mu, who had been looking forward to a ferocious beast appearing, had moved into a fighting posture, waiting for a legendary ferocious beast to pounce forward for her to beat up until it submitted...

However, a sharp shriek rung next to her ears, so piercing that she shuddered.

A few cyan-colored feathers floated toward her, sticking themselves onto her face.

Qiao Mu spat them out and reached out to wipe the feathers from her face, the shock in her eyes lingering.

Suddenly, a thing with an extremely slender neck and claws that wildly flapped its incomparably small wings like it had a stroke leaped toward her and started chasing her while shrieking at the top of its lungs.

F*ck me! This shape—wasn’t it a mutated weak chicken??? This was too d*mn different from the ferocious beast that she conjured in her mind!

“You! Don’t come over here!!! AH!!!” Qiao Mu’s eyes shot open when she saw the chicken springing toward her, and she spun around and ran toward the garden.

Qiao Zhongbang and Wei Ziqin looked at each other with bewilderedness, before laughter broke loose uncontrollably.

Their daughter’s appearance just now was simply too comical!

That was the energetic look that a little girl should have! The couple happily trailed after the girl and chicken with their younger daughter in tow.

“Qiaoqiao, don’t run blindly! The drawing room for meal-taking is over there.”

‘Who had the mood to eat at a time like this!’ Qiao Mu looked at the extremely clear sky sorrowfully, her heart full of helplessness.

Chapter 153: Why Do You Spit!

“Eldest Brother, Eldest Sister-in-Law, morning!” After a good night of sleep, Qiao Zhongxing brought his son to the entrance of the little drawing room in high spirits. When he saw his brother and his sister-in-law, he stopped with a smile.

To his utter surprise, when he looked behind him, he found his niece, who was always calm and collected and acted like a little adult, was fleeing in a panic from a strange looking thing and frantically running toward the drawing room behind him while frenziedly shouting “Go back! Go back!!!”

Qiao Zhongxing was dumbfounded.

Meanwhile, his son next to him exclaimed in surprise, “Father, that’s a pheasant! Is it an extra dish for us?”

Qiao Zhongbang and Wei Ziqin: ...

“Cough, Second Brother, don’t worry. Let’s go. Let’s head in and take breakfast first.” Qiao Zhongbang walked up and clapped his brother on the shoulders. Recalling something, Qiao Zhongbang took out the stack of 10 storage talismans from his sleeve and stuffed them into Qiao Zhongxing’s hand.

“Eldest Brother, what’s this? Talismans?” The talismans that were sold in talisman shops were very expensive and had an 80% probability of being fake, so where did his brother get this?

“Yes, storage talismans drawn by your niece. Let’s go. We’ll discuss it when we’re inside.”

They sat around the circular table, and Qiao Zhongbang explained how to use the storage talismans to his brother. Then, he patted his dumbfounded brother and chuckled.

“Second Brother, let’s keep this knowledge in our family. Qiaoqiao said these storage talismans aren’t difficult to draw and to use them freely.” Qiao Zhongbang nodded toward him.

Qiao Zhongxing immediately understood. “Eldest Brother, Eldest Sister-in-Law, don’t worry. I won’t tell anyone about the storage talismans.”

It's too magical! His niece was actually a rarely seen talisman practitioner!

Wei Ziqin gave a few more instructions to the children before looking at her eldest daughter, who had returned after being chased in a circle by the 'pheasant'.

"Qiaoqiao..."

"Eat first!" Qiao Mu ran outside the door again, quickly disappearing without a trace.

The little foodie suddenly said in a childish tone while nibbling on a pastry, "Sister, really, really funny."

Laughter erupted from everyone.

Qiao Mu bounded out of the drawing room and charged toward the main door. That d*mn 'pheasant' kept chasing her while flapping its short wings and shrieking and gurgling.

She summoned it herself, so she had to swallow the bitter consequence herself!

When Qiao Mu reached the door, she spun around and extended her hand toward the weak chicken, angrily shouting, "Stop!"

The pheasant slowed down with tiny steps. Then, it suddenly flapped its wings and made a gurgle before spitting out a pillar of water.

Qiao Mu was not on guard—How would she have known this weak chicken would spit out saliva!—and was immediately drenched head to toe, dripping everywhere.

The child's eyes instantly started spitting fire!

Her ferule shot into her hand and without a second word, she launched herself at the weak chicken, aiming to kill. "Don't run, you weak chicken!"

'I will murder you!'

"Caw caw caw!" The weak chicken might look scrawny, but it was extremely nimble and clever. Seeing Qiao Mu charging toward her violently, it flapped its wings in a panic and ran toward the entrance of the alley while shrieking.

"Don't run!!!" Qiao Mu was both angry and laughing.

A turn and they reached the entrance of the City Lord's Estate. Qiao Mu paused her steps, not expecting a group of people to be kneeling in front of the estate.

The weak chicken brashly barged toward them, leaving claw marks on a few people's heads and causing the kneeling people to release shocked yells.

The corner of Qiao Mu's lips twitched from her anger, and she pulled out the Spirit Binding Rope and flung it at the chicken.

"Caw caw caw!" The pheasant felt its legs entangled by a rope and wanted to escape but was pulled back by the child. It screamed while flapping its wings and involuntarily landed in the child's hands.

Chapter 154: Stepmother (1)

Qiao Mu's tiny hand was squeezing the pheasant's neck, eliciting strings of pitiful gurgling.

"Quiet!" Qiao Mu brusquely beat its head and turned around, intending to leave.

"Qiao Mu!" A harsh shout came from the entrance of the City Lord's Estate.

Qiao Mu turned her head and saw Qiao Wenjuan walking toward her with large steps. Her brows raised.

It appeared that Qiao Wenjuan became capable of escaping with her life intact after gaining her super speed ability.

After Qiao Wenjuan was kicked out of the group, Qiao Mu could not be bothered to speak with the woman. Hence, Qiao Mu merely glanced at her before expressionlessly clutching the pheasant and continuing to leave.

"Stop right there, Qiao Mu!" Qiao Wenjuan bolted toward Qiao Mu and was about to grab her slim shoulders when Qiao Mu kicked her mercilessly.

Qiao Wenjuan cried out in shock and staggered back a few steps before plopping onto the ground butt-first.

"Wife." Third Junior Wei ran over to help Qiao Wenjuan up.

Only then did Qiao Mu realize that Qiao Wenjuan wore a married-woman hairstyle. Qiao Wenjuan got married in the two days that she had not seen her?

Wasn't this a little fast?!

Madam née Niu ran up, her shrewd eyes scanning Qiao Mu up and down. When she saw the child's red cheeks and bright and pretty clothes, an astute glint flitted through her eyes.

"Isn't this Old Qiao's Qiao Mu?" Madam née Niu walked forward with a giggle and tried to pick up Qiao Mu's hand. "Do you still remember Granny Niu from Wei Clan Village?"

Qiao Mu took a step back with her pheasant, her face wooden. "I don't know you."

Madam née Niu's artificial smile instantly froze.

"Dear child, didn't our two families meet to discuss your youngest aunt's marriage a little while ago?" Madam née Niu let out an embarrassed chuckle. "However, you're still young, so it's normal for you to be forgetful. Where's your grandmother? Granny Niu wants to say hello to your grandmother."

Based on this child's clean and pretty appearance, her days must be quite decent.

Meanwhile, their Wei Family had a perilous escape. Both human and donkey were tired, but they did not even have a place to stay. What was a better time than this to mooch from their in-laws?

"Miss Qiao, did the commotion at the City Lord's Estate last night disturb your rest?" The scholar, Zhang Yan, came over and asked with a gentle expression.

Yesterday night, Concubine Liu's scoundrel second nephew had caused a giant uproar. In his anger, the city lord nearly kicked Concubine Liu and her whole family out of Xijiu City.

The patriarch of the Liu Family tied up his second son and knelt in front of the City Lord's Estate to beg for mercy while Concubine Liu sobbed and whimpered the whole night, causing the entire City Lord's Estate to be in a terrible mess all night long.

Such a large commotion must have affected the Qiao Estate half a street away at least a little bit.

Zhang Yan looked at the child apologetically.

"No." Qiao Mu shook her head. "You worried too much, Mr. Zhang. We rested quite well."

"That's good." Zhang Yan nodded with a smile.

Madam née Niu's gaze shot between Zhang Yan and Qiao Mu inquiringly, sparks coming out of her eyes.

This brat, Qiao Mu, was actually so familiar with the city lord's personal scholar. It appeared there was hope for their Wei Family to gain some benefits!

"Um..."

"Mr. Zhang, if there's nothing else, I'll go back now." Qiao Mu nodded at Zhang Yan without waiting for Madam née Niu to speak and turned to leave.

"You!" Seeing how rude the brat was, Madam née Niu was livid with anger.

Why would Qiao Mu bother with her? She grasped her gurgling pheasant and headed home.

"Isn't this Sister Ziqin's Qiaoqiao?" A dainty voice drifted to Qiao Mu's ears, causing her face to turn to ice in the blink of an eye.

Chapter 155: Stepmother (2)

Although this voice was younger than in her previous life, it was still familiar to her like a nightmare, forever imprinted in her memories.

She appeared! Wen Ruwan! No matter how docile and charming this malicious and serpent-hearted woman pretended to be on the surface, it did not erase her poisonous scorpion insides.

In her previous life, this woman appeared next to Grandmother a year after the zombie outbreak, when Mother had hurt her body while birthing Qiao Mu's brother and was near the end of her wick.

This life, Wen Ruwan showed up early.

In reality, she never figured out why Wen Ruwan just had to set her eyes on Father even though she could maneuver her way into any wealthy and affluent family she wanted with her skills at scheming and abilities in general.

In the beginning, Father did not agree to marry Wen Ruwan no matter what. Later, it might have been partially due to Grandmother's threatening, but Qiao Mu felt like there was something else behind the matter.

Wen Ruwan was hell-bent on marrying Qiao Zhongbang back then.

How could a person with his mystic meridians destroyed like Qiao Zhongbang enter Wen Ruwan's eyes?

'Love?' Qiao Mu scoffed.

There must have been some kind of benefit involved that she missed.

Currently, Wen Ruwan had a warm smile on her lips, but when she met Qiao Mu's fathomless maelstrom-filled eyes, which continuously tore into her spirit, she could not help but start.

This child's eyes...? Why did they feel like they carried the coldness of an ice cave and a bone-chilling hatred?

Was she mistaken?

Wen Ruwan blinked and looked again, only to see the child's wooden and completely expressionless face.

Phew... like she thought, it was her misconception.

"Qiaoqiao, is Aunt doing good?" Wen Ruwan's voice was very soft and sweet and pleasing to the ears.

"Grandmother? Quite good." Qiao Mu sent Wen Ruwan a meaningful look. "Aunt Wen also wants to visit Grandmother?"

Speaking of which, Wen Ruwan was Grandmother's distant maternal cousin's niece.

In her previous life, Grandmother's affectionate indulgence for Wen Ruwan could not be measured. It would not be an overstatement to say she considered her half a daughter.

If it were not for Grandmother's ardent support, Father would not have married Wen Ruwan so soon after Mother passed away.

Wen Ruwan felt like there was a hint of derision mixed in the child's soft voice, but when she looked over, she could not catch anything from the child's expressionless face.

Wen Ruwan revealed a smile she deemed to be the friendliest and prettiest and nodded at Qiao Mu. "As a junior, Ruwan should naturally visit Aunt."

Qiao Mu glanced at her indifferently. "Grandmother is sick, so she's unsuited to see guests for a while. Aunt Wen's well intent will be relayed to Grandmother."

"Since Aunt is sick, it's even more vital for me to go as a junior..." Wen Ruwan urgently said, not expecting to have been rejected.

"Who do you think you are? I can take care of my mother myself. Qiao Mu, bring me to see my mother! I'm warning you, if there's anything wrong with my mother, I won't spare you," Qiao Wenjuan said harshly.

"Mr. Zhang, if I remember correctly, people can't enter the central district as they please, right?" Qiao Mu coldly asked.

“That’s correct.” Zhang Yan hurriedly nodded. “These people were brought here to be questioned due to Second Young Master Liu’s matter. Don’t worry, Miss Qiao. I’ll handle their allocation. Take care.”

Qiao Mu nodded and turned around to quickly leave with the ceaselessly screaming pheasant in her clutch.

Qiao Wenjuan’s eyes were nearly popping out of their sockets. She chased after Qiao Mu and called a few times before she was mercilessly blocked by the guards of the City Lord’s Estate.

“It’s the Qiao Family’s private residence up ahead,” Mr. Zhang aloofly stated. “Don’t casually enter without the owners’ permission.”

Chapter 156: Banishment

“I’m a daughter of the Qiao Family!!! I’m that little girl’s aunt... ah!” Qiao Wenjuan was roughly shoved by the guards and landed in the midst of the Wei Family.

“What are you doing?!” Qiao Wenjuan angrily shouted, her face flushed purple.

“Give them their identity tablet,” Zhang Yan ordered without care and then turned to the people from the Liu Family kneeling in front of the door. “Follow me inside.”

Family Head Liu acted as though he had been pardoned and inwardly relaxed. Then, he sent a kick at the groaning Second Liu. “Get up, you worthless punk! Kowtow a few more times to your uncle later! Look at all the trouble you cause our family day and night! If you don’t gain your uncle’s forgiveness today, I’ll exile you from the Liu Family and let you perish on your own!”

Causing a ruckus in the night and furiously knocking down the city gate—the disgraceful things that this worthless punk did! If it weren’t for him, perhaps their Liu Family would have been banished from Xijiu City by the City Lord already!

Second Liu pursed his lips and grievously stood up from the ground. However, he did not forget to look back at Wen Ruwan and said with a drooling smile, “Little Sis Wan, wait for me... Ah, hey... Dad, Dad, what are you doing???”

With his left ear pulled by Family Head Liu, Second Liu had his head twisted in pain as he followed his father inside the City Lord’s Estate while ceaselessly calling “Little Sis Wan.”

Coward! What a completely useless guy!

A miscalculation on her part for sacrificing her body and letting this coward grope her the whole journey. How aggravating!

Wen Ruwan resentfully glared at the back of Second Liu before curtsying toward a guard of the City Lord’s Estate and saying gently, “Brother, I’m the relative of that little girl just now and really want to visit my aunt. Can you give me some leeway please?”

Upon seeing how Wen Ruwan was pretty and gentle, and did not boorishly shout or make a commotion like some barbaric countrywoman like Qiao Wenjuan did, the guard of the City Lord’s Estate gained a favorable impression of Wen Ruwan and spoke politely to her.

“Miss, it’s not that we want to block you, but you heard what Miss Qiao said earlier. Elderly Lady Qiao isn’t receiving guests recently, so please don’t make things difficult for us.” The guard then secretly told Wen Ruwan, “Little Miss Qiao just now is a distinguished guest that our city lord told us to treat nicely and avoid offending.”

Wen Ruwan was bummed and displeased inside but still had to feign a gentle smile and docilely nodded and said, “Then I’ll have to trouble you to please escort us, Brother.”

“It’s my duty, it’s my duty.” The guard took a great liking to the gentle and obedient Wen Ruwan, so he purposefully dug through the pile of wooden tablets before handing one to her and said with a smile, “Although it’s still inside the shed area, there’s still good and bad lodging places. The corresponding spot for this wooden tablet is a fairly decent location in the shed area. Take care of your safety above all else when you are in the western district, Miss.”

Wen Ruwan thanked him insincerely, disdainful inside. So what if he gave her a fairly good location tablet after some selective choosing? It was still in a dive location like the lowly shed area! She did not expect that she, Wen Ruwan, would tragically end up living in the shed area...

The guard then tossed a handful of tablets to Qiao Wenjuan and her group. “These are your identity tablets. Each family will take one. Guards, escort them to the western district.”

Qiao Wenjuan immediately kicked the tablets and harshly screeched, making a scene, “Why should we have to go? My mother lives here, I want to find my mother! You don’t have the right to kick me out of here! Mother! Mother!!! Mother—”

Chapter 157: Let’s Gather and Part on Good Terms

“Make them leave this instant!” the head guard ordered. Two guards promptly came up and grabbed the kicking and screaming Qiao Wenjuan without any niceties, dragging her out of Pear Blossom Alley.

Qiao Wenjuan screamed her voice hoarse, fire spitting from her eyes. She kept cursing, “Qiao Mu, you cursed wench, how dare you treat your real aunt like this! You’re utterly heartless and immoral! You’ll get your just desserts!”

The guards of the City Lord’s Estate were evidently experienced in dealing with unreasonable women like her, so they directly stuffed a ball of dirty cloth in her mouth, cutting off her shrieks.

The guards jointly lifted her without regard for her gender and tossed her onto the donkey cart.

The guards then ushered the members of the Wei Family onto the cart one after another before driving the cart toward the western district.

As for Wen Ruwan, they were much more courteous and purposefully found a mild-mannered pony for her to ride by herself.

The whole Wei Family left while cursing, screaming, and bawling.

After Qiao Mu returned home with her hand around the pheasant’s neck, she tossed the commotion at the City Lord’s Estate to the back of her mind.

“Caw caw caw caw!”

“If you call again, I will pluck all of your feathers and turn you into a naked chicken!” Qiao Mu coldly threatened, uncaring for whether the pheasant understood or not.

The pheasant really stopped screeching and pitifully cawed with a flap of its wings.

“Heh, what could you possibly be unsatisfied with?” Qiao Mu icily glanced at the pheasant. “I’m the one who should feel ashamed! Have you seen anyone who summoned a feather-shedding chicken with a summoning talisman? I must be the first in history!”

Qiao Mu got angrier the more she spoke...

“Caw caw caw!!!” A certain defiant pheasant flapped its wings and spat water out.

The child cuffed its head without holding back. “If you spit everywhere again, I’m going to chop your head off and kick it around like a ball!”

A certain pheasant felt that it was incredibly tragic. Do your parents know how vicious you are, child?

“Do you think you’re awesome just because you can spit water? I can easily find a performer on the street for that! They can even spit fire!” Qiao Mu irritably snapped. Then, even she herself found herself comical.

This chicken... perhaps it also felt incredibly feeble and unwilling when she summoned it!

“Listen to me, immediately go back when its time. Be more careful the next time I use a summoning talisman. Don’t randomly come to join in the fun, got it? Forget it this time, I’ll forgive you! Let’s get along and gather and part on good terms! Hurry and leave tomorrow and don’t come back.” She aimed to be a great talisman practitioner that summoned fierce beasts like lions, tigers, bears, or leopards! What should she do with herself by summoning a chicken?!

When the steward, Chang Zai, opened the door, he was immediately met with his stoic little miss clutching a pheasant in her hand and muttering nonstop.

The beauty of this scene could not be described! Chang Zai’s mouth twitched as he opened the door wide and received her inside. “Miss, Sir and Madam said that you haven’t had breakfast yet. Do you want some now?”

Qiao Mu shook her head. “No need, Steward Chang. I’m going to head to Elderly Lady’s room. Is Mother Xu there?”

Speaking of Mother Xu, Chang Zai wanted to give her some tears of sympathy.

Not only was Mother Xu in charge of going out to buy things and miscellaneous tasks like sweeping the courtyard, but she also had to serve Elderly Lady when she had time. She was engulfed in work like a spinning top.

“Elderly Lady doesn’t need much attending. Serving her three meals a day and brewing a pot of tea for her will suffice,” Qiao Mu coolly said as she walked. “Having three meals a day is decent in a time like this already. Who needs so many formalities?”

Chapter 158: Be more mindful of your place

Chang Zai's lips kept twitching. He finally figured out that his little master disliked the elderly lady a lot.

Chang Zai respectfully led Qiao Mu to the doors of the elderly lady's room and sent Mother Xu a look before they left together.

The elderly lady's leg was still feeble. When Qiao Mu tossed the pheasant away and entered the room, the elderly lady was partially sitting and partially laying on the bed.

Upon seeing Qiao Mu enter, the elderly lady coughed in embarrassment. "Qiaoqiao is here."

"Grandmother." Qiao Mu indifferently greeted with a curtsy. Although she wore an aloof expression, Elderly Lady Qiao could not find a single fault in her manners.

"Sit, Qiaoqiao." Elderly Lady Qiao had a benevolent expression. She earnestly wanted to mend her relationship with her granddaughter.

Elderly Lady Qiao witnessed everything that happened at the city gates of Xijiu City, so she finally realized that her granddaughter was vastly different from before.

Her granddaughter appeared to be very strong. Even the city lord and other people were polite to her granddaughter, so how could an addled old woman like her refuse to accept the times?

Qiao Mu sat down on the low stool next to the bed. Then, she dug out the family division document from her sleeve and laid it open in front of the old woman.

Elderly Lady Qiao's eyes twitched, confused about the child's intent.

"Grandmother, this granddaughter met a group of people at the entrance of the street just now. One of them claimed to be Madam Niu from Wei Clan Village, so I wonder if you're familiar with her?"

Isn't Wei Clan Village...?

Elderly Lady Qiao was astonished. "That's your youngest aunt's future husband's family, isn't it?"

"Youngest Aunt already married herself into the family. She's currently with them."

"What?" Elderly Lady Qiao looked at Qiao Mu in shock. "Your youngest aunt really got married?"

Qiao Mu nodded. "There's also a miss surnamed Wen. She originally wanted to come and see you along with Youngest Aunt, but this granddaughter stopped them. Miss Wen says she's your distant niece, do you know her?"

Elderly Lady Qiao's forehead twitched. She rubbed her forehead and sighed. "Child, say what you want to say frankly."

"I don't mean anything. I just want to ask Grandmother whether you want to live with your daughter, son-in-law, and distant niece or plan to stay here and live with us." Qiao Mu calmly ran her hand over the family division document. "After all, our Qiao Family was officially divided already, so my family isn't

responsible for minding the private business of other branches, especially the business of Qiao Wenjuan, who has been married and is staying with the Wei Family.”

“Father and Mother are kind, so it’s right and proper for them to support Grandmother.” Qiao Mu looked at Elderly Lady Qiao meaningfully. “As for other people... my family isn’t a charity.”

Elderly Lady Qiao couldn’t help but bitterly smile. The child might have spoken in a circle, but her goal was to force her to state her position and warn her to be mindful of her place.

“Qiaoqiao, don’t worry. Grandmother isn’t muddle-headed, so why would Grandmother interfere with the Wei Family’s business? As for your youngest aunt, ey...” Elderly Lady Qiao did not know what to say when she remembered how her daughter had pushed her out to die in her place.

Qiao Mu nodded in satisfaction and stood up to curtsy before leaving.

As Elderly Lady Qiao felt her granddaughter leave without any hesitation, she felt regret bubble in her heart. Her granddaughter did not want to say a single unnecessary word to her!

Was it really that easy to mend a previously broken heart?

Two days later, outside of the Heavenly Treasure Gate of the royal palace, there were three large carts of supplies resting there along with two rows of guards standing heroically on each side.

The guard captain standing in the front held a giant red brocade box with his eyes dutifully fixed ahead.

“Stop the carriage.” A luxurious carriage stopped in front of Heavenly Treasure Gate. A pull of the curtains and an alluring figure swiftly darted out of the cabin. The person wanted to snatch the brocade box from the guard captain with a lightning move of the hand.

“Such intense mystic energy.”

Chapter 159: Commandery Princess Hui’an

The captain of the guards was shocked and dashed back to dodge with the brocade box. He also raised the sheath of his sword to block the approaching soft and fair hand. “Commandery Princess, please stop! This is a present prepared by His Highness the Crown Prince, please be careful to not damage it.”

“Brother Crown Prince’s present? For who?” The newcomer was a girl around 13 years old. She wore a buttoned jacket over a long dress embroidered with gold flowers. There was an eight-treasure colored glass hairpin stuck in her dark luscious hair, which drifted to her waist, and her skin was extremely fair while her face glowed like the moon. She was a sweet and charming girl.

Currently, her hand was tightly clutched around the guard captain’s wrist. Her eyes were sharp as she coldly stared at the guard captain.

“Commandery Princess Hui’an.” The guard captain did not reveal any panic on his face when faced with this pampered and willful commandery princess. He respectfully said, “This subordinate is only responsible for escorting these supplies and doesn’t know anything else.”

“Let go. Let this commandery princess see what’s inside the box.” Commandery Princess Hui’an pursed her lips as she coldly looked at the guard captain.

“Please forgive this servant for being unable to obey your order.”

“How insolent!” Commandery Princess Hui’an grew enraged. Her eyes shot up and her eyes were angrily wide open as she icily stated, “He Tian! You, a mere centurion of the royal guard, dare to look down on me, a commandery princess?! What a heinous crime!”

“Commandery Princess, this servant doesn’t dare! However, this servant can’t disobey His Royal Highness’ order! Please allow us through, Commandery Princess. This servant and his guards need to head out of the city and can’t be delayed any longer!” He Tian held the box in one hand and crossed his chest with his stocky arm as he loudly told Commandery Princess Hui’an.

“You wretched impudent servant! You dare to defy this commandery princess?!” Hui’an gritted her teeth in anger and pulled out a whip from her waist, harshly flinging it against He Tian’s arm with a slap.

He Tian was rooted to his spot like a mountain and tightly clutched the brocade box in his arms. There was not a single ripple in his eyes as he looked at the spoiled and willful commandery princess in front of him. He coldly said, “Commandery Princess, this servant is merely obeying the order of His Highness the Crown Prince...”

“You wretched servant is using Brother Crown Prince against this commandery princess again!” Hui’an did not wait for him to finish speaking before shouting and holding her whip high in the air. This time, she aimed it at He Tian’s face without restraint.

Even when the whip was about to land on his face, He Tian did not dodge or move a single centimeter.

An immensely cold and magnetic voice suddenly spoke, “Hui’an, what are you doing?”

Hui’an’s whip froze high in the air and could not descend.

She turned around and hastily put away her whip. Then, she donned on a soft and adorable expression and joyously bounded up the steps.

“Brother Crown Prince!”

Hui’an looked up at the ephemerally swaying white figure. Although His Highness the Crown Prince was standing against the light, causing his handsome face to be hidden, Hui’an felt like her teenage heart was about to leap out of her chest for some reason and was pounding nonstop!

“Unbearably pungent!” Before Commandery Princess Hui’an could come a meter near him, the crown prince swiftly raised his leg and handsomely... kicked the bounding commandery princess down the steps!

Hidden Flower, the captain of the Hidden Pavilion, who was standing next to the crown prince: ...

The officials who were rushing toward the crown prince to seek an audience: ...

Hui’an rolled down the steps and originally intended to steady herself, but somehow, her leg tripped and promptly ate dog shit.

The scene was so beautiful that a direct gaze would be too much.

“Why are you still standing there?” The crown prince berated He Tian with a dark expression. “Are you an idiot? Don’t you know to defend yourself when other people hit you? You didn’t even try to evade it! Do you think you’re made of steel?”

The official who rushed over to mediate in the quarrel: ...

My dear lord, that’s a commandery princess! Is it really alright for Your Highness to goad a mere centurion under you to impetuously defy his superior and attack a commandery princess?

Chapter 160: Not as Cute as Her (1)

He Tian immediately cupped his hands and repentantly said, “Yes, Your Highness! This servant will depart at once! This servant also won’t stand like a sitting duck the next time I encounter situations like this.”

Hidden Flower’s lips twitched.

Why did he feel like the personal guards trained by the commander of the royal guards, Hui Feng, all held a close resemblance to Hui Feng himself? They were all blockheads...

The crown prince who had to worry sick about his subordinates sighed exasperatedly before turning to peer at Hidden Flower. “Why are you still here?”

“This subordinate will depart now!” Hidden Flower hurried to follow He Tian’s group with a stern expression.

He promised His Highness the Crown Prince to personally ‘inspect’ Xijiu City in His Highness’ place!

It was not until He Tian and his stream of guards and carriages rolled far away that the fallen and shit-eating Commandery Princess Hui’an finally reacted. Brother Crown Prince kicked her away.

“Command-commandery Princess,” her personal servant cautiously called her. “Th-this servant will help Your Highness up.”

“I don’t need your help!” Commandery Princess Hui’an shot up from the ground. Her carefully styled hair was messed up, and her disheveled look cut a sorry figure.

Primarily, it was because she bit herself when she crashed to the ground, so blood was leaking out from her nose and mouth.

Her personal maidservant did not dare to look directly at such a ‘gorgeous’ appearance.

“G-go I-look into it! See wh-who is the r-recipient of B-brother Crown Prince’s p-present!” Hui’an’s lips were shuddering from how angry she was, her honeyed affection had all turned into blazing fury.

Upon seeing her personal maidservant’s cowering head and unseemly appearance, Hui’an slapped the maidservant and angrily shouted, “Hurry and straighten this commandery princess’ appearance already! This commandery princess will immediately see Her Majesty the Queen!”

The personal maidservant had a miserable expression and was shrinking back. Although she feared Commandery Princess Hui'an, she could not resist advising, "Her Majesty values His Highness the Crown Prince more than Her Majesty's life. If Your Highness drags such a trivial matter to Her Majesty, Your Highness will only make yourself look unfavorable..."

Commandery Princess Hui'an stomped her feet in anger. "I don't care! Then I'll go find Her Majesty the Queen Dowager to seek justice!"

"Commandery Princess, let's return to the estate first," several junior maidservants miserably begged.

Although the Queen Dowager doted on the commandery princess a lot usually, if the matter became related to Her Majesty's precious direct grandson, 10 commandery princesses still would not be enough!

Commandery Princess Hui'an bawled to the high heavens as she left the royal palace.

When Mo Lian heard Xiao'xi'zi report the matter, he made a noncommittal sound without looking up. He laid a few more strokes with his pen before setting it aside.

The crown prince propped his chin up with one hand and stared at the desk with his head tilted.

Some time later, Xiao'xi'zi cautiously said, "Your Highness the Crown Prince, Ninth Princess and Tenth Princess are here."

"Oh." The crown prince shifted his elbow and looked up, his sight landing on the entryway. "Let them in."

Ninth Princess and Tenth Princess were both birthed by Royal Concubine Xi. There was not a large age gap between the two—one was eight and one was nine—and both looked fair and cute and lovable and exquisite.

When the two children were led inside the Eastern Palace by their respective wet nurse, they were incredibly apprehensive. Their concubine mother's reminder ceaselessly repeating in their ears, "When you go to the Eastern Palace, you must abide by all manners and be extremely respectful. You must do all that you can to ingratiate yourself with the crown prince. You mustn't gain the crown prince's disfavor..."

"Mo Xue—"

"—Mo Li—"

"—greet the crown prince." The two children both curtsied and greeted. They were young but the rules and etiquette that they learned had been ingrained deep inside their bones, so every gesture and every movement were very standardized, as though they were puppets created from a mold.

Mo Lian frowned. A single look and he lost interest in his sisters.