

My Crown 241

Chapter 241: Freeloader

Qiao Mu paused as soon as she entered the main hall.

It turned out both City Lord Gu and Mr. Zhang were there and speaking to her parents and second uncle. Elderly Lady Qiao was sitting on the side, and her eyes were red from crying.

Mother Xu comforted her next to her, and Elderly Lady Qiao wiped the corner of her eyes with her handkerchief before releasing a long sigh and saying, "Ruwan is a truly unfortunate child. Who would have expected that to happen yesterday? What a wrongful death she suffered!"

City Lord Gu's eyes brightened the instant he saw Qiao Mu and quickly walked forward to politely greet her, "Miss Qiao, did you suffer a shock from yesterday's matter?"

Qiao Mu naturally feigned hesitation and nodded.

City Lord Gu came to bring them Wen Ruwan's ashes. They had cremated her, so they should at least allow her family to keep her ashes as a memento. City Lord Gu suffered quite a fright when he discovered Wen Ruwan's identity last night and his heart felt like it was dangling off of a cliff as he made the visit to the Qiao Estate, afraid to be confronted with the little miss' anger and admonishments.

However, from the current looks of it, Miss Wen did not have much status inside this household. She was an outsider after all and merely had some familiar relations to the elderly lady.

Although Qiao Zhongbang and his wife made some lamenting remarks, they didn't truly feel sad and peacefully accepted this piece of news. They hadn't interacted with Wen Ruwan for more than a few days, after all. Qiao Zhongbang even thought Miss Wen had a bit too many tiny ulterior motives.

When City Lord Gu and Mr. Zhang were departing, they happened to run into His Highness the Crown Prince entering the Qiao Estate.

City Lord Gu quickly nagged Mr. Zhang, "Have you delivered the compensation from Miss Qiao's last mission yet?"

"I have. Don't worry, sir."

"Ay, let's quickly pick a few more things and send it here. We'll say it's... um, supplementary compensation! His Highness the Crown Prince is eating and living at the Qiao home and visiting the Qiao home every day, no? We can't keep making a little girl feed His Highness out of her own pocket, right?! This isn't too proper!" *'His Highness was a bit shameless!'*

Mr. Zhang was stuck in his bewilderedness.

How did Sir Gu's mind work?

'You're calling His Highness a freeloader behind His Highness' back! How much do you want to die?! Ah...'

“Xiao Mo is here!” Wei Ziqin joyously smiled the second she saw Mo Lian and quickly welcomed him inside to sit down. “Qiaoqiao just woke up, so let’s eat lunch earlier in a moment. Xiao Mo must be hungry too, right?”

“Don’t worry, Auntie, a casual meal will do,” Crown Prince Mo replied with a grin. His previous “This crown prince is very hard to serve” attitude was nowhere to be seen and was replaced by a friendly “I’ll be happy with a simple bowl of rice” attitude.

Qiao Mu covertly sent this guy a murderous glance and kept gesturing at him with her chin to scam!

This scoundrel kept bounding toward her house every day and had gotten on familiar terms with her dad and second uncle especially. She really didn’t understand how these three men had so much nonsense to talk about ceaselessly!

A certain crown prince was well-read and innately intelligent. As long as he was willing, he could seriously talk about any subject that he wanted, whether it was martial arts and cultivation technique or military and political affairs. He was adept at everything.

Hence, her father and second uncle were growing more and more joyful the more they chatted with the crown prince. Every day, they would mention Mo Lian and lavish him in praises. They kept saying how he was profoundly knowledgeable and exceptionally talented—they truly piled him with any compliment they could think of.

He managed to win over her entire family within three days, even the little foodie would call “Brother, food!” every time she saw the crown prince. Our darling Qiao Mu was driven up the wall by this group of unprincipled folks who all inexplicably became turncoats after a brief lapse of attention.

“Get out here.” Qiao Mu shot a murderous glance at a certain crown prince.

Wei Ziqin quickly went up and clapped Qiao Mu’s head and admonishingly looked at her daughter. “How can you talk like that, child. Don’t be mean to Xiao Mo.”

Chapter 242: Do you have medicine?

‘Yeah, don’t be mean to me!’ The crown prince nodded vehemently and swept his eyes across the child with a grin.

‘Ah, so infuriating! Mom isn’t Qiaoqiao’s real mom anymore...’

“Ahem.” Elderly Lady Qiao lightly coughed to try and attract Qiao Mu’s attention. “Qiaoqiao.”

“I heard Grandmother isn’t feeling well these past two days?” Qiao Mu turned to her and icily responded. “Mother Xu, why aren’t you helping Grandmother back to her room to rest?”

The elderly lady pursed her lips in anger. She hadn’t even finished speaking! Based on the girl’s tirade, it was apparent that the girl didn’t like her at all.

Elderly Lady Qiao hastily sat up and scrambled to say, "Qiaoqiao, do you have any medicine? Grandmother accidentally hurt her hand this morning. If you have some effective medicine, can you lend some to Grandmother?"

Elderly Lady Qiao awkwardly smiled at Qiao Mu and lifted up her right sleeve, revealing a long, bloody cut on the back of her right hand.

"Mother, how did you hurt yourself???" Qiao Zhongbang jumped out of his seat. He was near her, so he could see the laceration was quite long and deep.

Qiao Zhongbang's heart ached for his mother, so he couldn't help but complain, "Mother Xu, how did you look after Mother? How could you allow Mother to get hurt like this?"

Mother Xu also jumped in fright and frantically shook her head. "Sir, this old servant really doesn't know when Elderly Lady hurt her hand."

Qiao Mu and the crown prince both approached the elderly lady and meticulously examined the wound.

When Qiao Mu looked back up, her lips turned up with a cool, meaningful smile directed at her grandmother.

The elderly lady froze for a second, and her heart suddenly skipped a beat.

However, her face quickly returned to normal and continued to put on an innocent face. "Qiaoqiao, do you have any superior-quality medicine?"

"I do. I have all kinds of medicine." Qiao Mu's smile turned more provocative, and she took out a little jar that was still half full with superior-grade ointment from her belt. It was left over from when Mo Lian helped her dress her scratches.

"Grandmother, allow me, your granddaughter, to help you apply the medicine so that I can fulfill my filial duty," Qiao Mu said with a light chuckle.

The elderly lady felt her hair stand on end. She really wasn't used to this child speaking so politely to her!

"N-no need! I-I can apply it myself when I get back to my room!" Elderly Lady Qiao snatched the ointment from Qiao Mu's hand and stuffed it into her pocket. Then, she stood up and made an excuse that she had a headache and wanted to return to her room to rest before fleeing without looking back.

"Shaoyao, stay here with Mother and Younger Sis. Dad, Second Uncle, come with me." Frost enveloped Qiao Mu's face as soon as her grandmother left.

Second Uncle Qiao and Father Qiao met each other's eyes, their hearts sinking.

Meanwhile, the elderly lady rushed back into her room after obtaining the ointment. Her senses were assailed with a rotten smell as soon as she entered, and the contents of her stomach rolled around.

She forcefully repressed her desire to wretch and hastily opened the door to the small side room. She quietly called, "Juan'er, Juan'er, come and put on the ointment quickly. Mother got the medicine!"

A woman with long, withered, and disheveled hair and dark circles under her eyes suddenly turned around.

Qiao Wenjuan snatched the ointment from Elderly Lady Qiao's hand and anxiously complained, "Why did you take so long?!"

Her wound never healed after she was scratched by that zombie that day.

It deteriorated further these past two days and actually got infected and started rotting. She even saw a little chunk of rotting flesh fall from her arm with her own eyes.

None of the ointment she smeared over it helped. But she remembered that her niece had quite a lot of superior-grade ointment, which was why she risked danger to sneak into the Qiao residence during the night and asked her mother for help.

Chapter 243: She Mutated

"Juan'er, you know how your niece is slyer than a demon. If she knew you secretly sneaked home, she would definitely mercilessly kick both of us out of this house," Elderly Lady Qiao said with lingering trepidation.

"Juan'er, let Mother help you apply it." Elderly Lady Qiao worriedly looked at the injury on her daughter's arm, tears rolling down her face from heartache.

This injury was so deep that Qiao Wenjuan's bones peeked out, so how could it not hurt?

After the ointment was applied, Qiao Wenjuan felt like the ointment did have some cooling effects and helped reduce the swelling on her arm, but there was too little ointment. "Mom, get more ointment from that little b*tch. This little amount isn't enough."

BANG! The room door was violently kicked open by our dear Qiao Mu.

Mother and daughter both jumped in shock, and the ointment nearly dropped to the ground. Elderly Lady Qiao's eyes were wide open as she emotionally stood up and shouted, "Y-you! How could you all forcefully enter like this?!"

"Dad, Second Uncle, she's mutated! She isn't human anymore!" Qiao Mu took out her bow and arrow and aimed it at Qiao Wenjuan with an icy expression.

Based on this woman's appearance, her incubation period was about to pass, and she would completely mutate into a zombie in a day or two.

The fact that Elderly Lady Qiao hid her inside her room meant that she neglected not only her own life but also the entire family's lives!

"Oh, Mother!" Qiao Zhongbang was flabbergasted as he looked at his own mother, so angry that he did not know what to say.

His old, muddle-headed mother! No wonder she had been hiding inside her room since yesterday and did not come out! It turned out she had secretly hidden Wenjuan inside her room.

Elderly Lady Qiao started crying. “Eldest Child, Second Child, the one standing before you is your real sister! Ah, you can’t treat her like this!”

Qiao Mu shot an arrow but it did not hit Qiao Wenjuan. It pierced into the door frame instead because Qiao Wenjuan dodged it rather quickly. Qiao Wenjuan’s abnormally fast speed caused Qiao Mu to be involuntarily taken back.

Cold sweat drenched Qiao Zhongbang’s body as he watched this. He pulled his panic-stricken mother toward him and impatiently shouted, “Mother, was it Qiao Wenjuan who scratched your arm?”

“She wasn’t scratched,” Qiao Mu frostily said. “Her cut is very crooked and has an uneven depth. It’s apparent that she couldn’t handle the pain and was unsteady in her force when she was cutting herself.”

Elderly Lady Qiao truly went all out for Qiao Wenjuan and had no scruples against cutting her hand to swindle some ointment from Qiao Mu.

“Oh, Mother, Wenjuan has mutated. Listen to me, ‘she’ really can’t stay here anymore or else she’ll endanger our entire family!” Second Uncle also spoke up.

“Second Child, are you human? How could you say that?! This is your sister!” Elderly Lady Qiao angrily slapped her son.

Qiao Wenjuan hid next to the cabinet and bared her teeth at them. She shouted at them, “You are the mutated monster! You are the ones who deserve to die! Since no one wants me to be well, then I’ll make you all die with me!”

After saying that, she swiftly pounced forward and reached out for the back of Elderly Lady Qiao’s head with both hands.

Elderly Lady Qiao was dumbstruck. She never expected her daughter to attack her again.

Qiao Wenjuan’s hands were an inch from the back of Elderly Lady Qiao’s head when a burst of flames exploded on her hands. She instantly released an anguished howl and fell backward, the exposed bones in her hands jutting out.

Elderly Lady Qiao’s lips shuddered as she looked back at her daughter in shock. When she saw how Qiao Wenjuan’s torn arms didn’t have a trace of blood, she realized her daughter truly wasn’t alive anymore.

How sinful!!! Elderly Lady Qiao sunk into despair, tears streaking down her face.

When Elderly Lady Qiao thought about how her daughter turned into a zombie in her prime years, she couldn’t find it in herself to accept it no matter what.

Chapter 244: Unfilial Son

“No! Don’t kill her! She’s innocent; she didn’t want to become like this either! She was a victim.” Elderly Lady Qiao tugged on her son and wanted to kneel. “Release her! Spare your sister and let her leave!”

“Mother, this son can’t comply with you about this matter. Sister isn’t human anymore. We can’t release her and allow her to harm other people...” Qiao Zhongbang wasn’t indecisive about this matter at all.

Slap! Elderly Lady Qiao slapped her son, her geriatric, wrinkly hand trembling as it hung in the air.

She pointed at Qiao Zhongbang and angrily shouted, “You unfilial son!”

The left side of Qiao Zhongbang’s face swelled instantly. The force behind the elderly lady’s slap was apparent.

“Mother, have you gone dull with age?!” Second Uncle stomped his feet in anger and shot past his eldest brother, who foolishly stood in front of their mother. Second Uncle used his body to block his raging mother and shouted, “Qiao Wenjuan is already dead! Eldest Brother is in grief about it, and so am I, but what else can we do? We can’t revive Qiao Wenjuan! We also can’t allow her to harm you, Mother, or our entire family!”

The elderly lady’s finger shook as she pointed at the two brothers, tears tumbling down her face ceaselessly. She couldn’t stop the grief from flooding her heart.

‘My daughter... My daughter who I daintily raised like a pampered flower...’

Qiao Mu clutched Elderly Lady’s shoulder without any courtesy and forcefully pushed her back. She severely said, “Mother Xu, escort Elderly Lady to the west wing to rest. She won’t need to come out unnecessarily!”

Mother Xu’s arms trembled slightly as she quickly supported the elderly lady’s falling body. Then, she half dragged and pulled the screaming old woman out of the room.

Qiao Wenjuan climbed up from the ground, her head crooked at an abnormal angle. Her violently protruded eyes intently stared at Qiao Mu before she suddenly leaped toward her with a roar.

Bang! Bang bang bang!!! A mere lift of the crown prince’s fingers and several fireballs shot toward Qiao Wenjuan and exploded in a series.

Qiao Wenjuan’s entire face was exploded beyond recognition, and she was unable to get near Qiao Mu at all.

Qiao Zhongbang darkly looked at Qiao Wenjuan’s miserable appearance, his fists tightly clenched.

“Roaaar—roar!” Qiao Wenjuan released an inhuman bellow while kneeling on the floor on her hands and knees. When that bellow traveled to the anteroom, it caused the unsettled Wei Ziqin to jolt in fright.

She quickly stood up while grasping Xiao Lin’er’s hand. Shaoyao blocked them immediately and said, “I wouldn’t recommend Madam going there.”

Although Shaoyao didn’t know what happened with Elderly Lady, she could guess that something major had happened based on that commotion and Miss’ expression before she departed. Madam was pregnant and it was difficult for her to move around, so it was best for her to abstain from the excitement so as to prevent any accidents.

How could Wei Ziqin sit still though? She held Shaoyao's hand and said, "Don't worry, I won't go near. I will just take a peek from afar."

Then, she headed toward the direction of Elderly Lady Qiao's room. She didn't approach as promised and merely stood on the far end of the corridor to look through the elderly lady's opened doors.

Suddenly, a zombie with disheveled hair shot out of the door.

Her daughter also charged out of the room with a bow and arrow in her hands. She had just aimed it at that zombie's head when the bow and arrow were snatched by her father.

"Dad?" Qiao Mu's face was dark as she looked up at Qiao Zhongbang.

'At a time like this, Dad isn't about to be... soft-hearted?! Is he?!'

Qiao Mu looked at her dad like she expected something better from him. When Qiao Zhongbang saw her gaze, he felt like their father and daughter position were reversed.

His daughter looked like... she was looking at some good-for-nothing child. The sullenness and disappointment in her eyes were utterly brilliantly amusing!

Chapter 245: Allow Dad to Do it!

"Qiaqiao! I don't need you to act. Allow Dad to do it!"

Qiao Zhongbang's face was dark as he raised the bow in his hand and aimed it at the escaping Qiao Wenjuan, an arrow shooting toward her head soon after.

His swiftness and decisiveness did not seem like her indecisive and fickle good-for-nothing dad at all...

Swish! The arrow immediately pierced Qiao Wenjuan's head, sending her a few steps forward with its impact until she fell onto the ground with a plop.

Qiao Mu's eyes turned into a smile as she secretly peeked at her father.

Father didn't want it to be her who took care of her "Little Aunt." He was using his own method to protect his daughter.

If someone had to be responsible for this crime of "parricide," then he, Qiao Zhongbang, would shoulder it!

Even if his mother was unwilling to forgive him for the rest of their lives! Even if his mother was going to blame and resent him for the rest of their lives!

Qiao Zhongbang extended his arm to block Qiao Mu's path before he sprinted forward with the arrow. He kicked Qiao Wenjuan's leg twice and breathed a sigh of relief when she didn't move anymore.

Second Uncle also went up to check her before saying to Qiao Mu and Qiao Zhongbang, "This is a major matter. We're not sure whether Qiao Wenjuan scratched anyone when she sneaked into the city, so I'm going to report the matter to the City Lord's Estate. We might as well have the city lord send someone here to take care of this corpse too."

Qiao Mu nodded in approval. "Second Uncle's right. Thank you for your trouble, Second Uncle!"

Second Uncle Qiao waved his hand before hastily leaving their home.

Wei Ziqin, who was standing in the corridor with her heart trembling with fright, finally relaxed and dashed toward the father and daughter pair. "Qiaoqiao, Zhongbang, what? How did a zombie appear in our home? Are you alright?"

Qiao Zhongbang bitterly smiled at his wife. Qiao Wenjuan was plastered to the ground and her face suffered devastating damage from the fire spirit, so Wei Ziqin naturally didn't recognize who it was.

"We'll head to the forecourt before talking about it."

When Wei Ziqin learned that the zombie just now was mutated from Qiao Wenjuan, she couldn't help but be gobsmacked.

She worriedly glanced at her husband and asked, "About Mother..."

Qiao Zhongbang waved his hand with a bitter smile. "Let her be."

Soon, Second Uncle Qiao and City Lord Gu led a zombie-cleaning team into the residence in haste and deftly carried Qiao Wenjuan away.

Wei Ziqin stood up and turned to Mo Lian. "Xiao Mo, you must be hungry. Our family's put on a spectacle in front of you."

"It's nothing, Auntie. No one wishes for these kind of matters. Counsel Uncle more and comfort him. Uncle won't be in too good of a mood for the next few days." A certain crown prince walked past Qiao Mu and blinked his eyes at her.

"Good child, you're very considerate." Wei Ziqin found Mo Lian to be more and more pleasing to her eyes the more she looked at him.

Qiao Mu reached out an arm toward her mother's back. *'I'm so angry! Mom, *I'm* your real daughter! I'm the poor child who hadn't eaten a single grain of rice since I've woken up! Ugh!'*

Bang! Qiao Mu sullenly sat on a chair, outraged by this injustice.

A figure abruptly appeared next to her. Before she could react, someone had picked up her tiny figure.

"Qiaoqiao's tired, right? I'll carry you to the dining room." Mo Lian gracefully walked to the dining room while carrying the child, incidentally gaining praising "What a good youth" gazes from Qiao Mu's parents.

"Let's go wash our hands and eat!"

*'Let me wash your d*mn hands! I'm not a child! Ah, put me down, you bastard!'*

Crown Prince Mo secretly snickered. Before he could take more than a few steps, Duan Yue's voice was heard from the door. "Qiaoqiao! Is Qiaoqiao home?"

Crown Prince Mo turned around with Qiao Mu in his arms and shot a murderous glance at the waving Duan Yue bounding toward them.

'What a tactless guy! Why did he come here?! Did he think anyone could gain the liking of Qiaoqiao's family? Don't even think about it! Humph!!!'

Chapter 246: Farewell

"Xiao Mo, eat more." Wei Ziqin enthusiastically picked up food from the plates into Mo Lian's bowl and also remembered to serve Duan Yue next. "Ah-Yue, you eat as well."

Xiao Lin'er watched with distress as the food that originally belonged to her was served to the youths' bowl little by little, and she could only sulkily gnaw on the bun in her hands.

Qiao Mu felt even more sullen and disheartened. She wanted to eat a piece of meat, and her parents would quickly serve some meat to the two youths. She wanted to eat a few bites of vegetables, and her parents would take turns telling the two youths to eat more vegetables.

In the end, she merely wanted to drink some soup, but Mother snatched the large soup spoon from her hand and enthusiastically served a large bowl to Crown Prince Mo first.

So aggravating! How could there be such a difference in treatment?!

She uneasily survived lunch with a chest full of sullen feelings, and her heartless parents left with Xiao Lin'er and Qiao Hu.

Qiao Mu had a scowl on her face as she pattered to the drawing room next door and hopped onto a big wooden armchair and sat down. She watched Duan Yue walk near her and asked, "Why are you still here? Don't the people from your sect have to return to the sect?"

Crown Prince Mo nodded in agreement and slowly walked to sit next to Qiao Mu.

Duan Yue felt like he had gotten used to her insults, so he didn't mind her cold attitude at all. He quickly dashed to her and took out a box to display in front of her. "For you!"

The crown prince immediately intently glared at Duan Yue with a gaze more piercing than lightning. *'How dare this punk use presents to deceive this little girl!'*

The girl opened the box and saw that it was five balls of Core Ravaging Thunder, the weapon whose explosive power could destroy half a mountain.

Although Qiao Mu's face remained stoic, the two youths could feel the low pressure around her dissipate greatly.

The child had always been very brisk with her present acceptance. She would silently accept it whenever you gave her something. You want some words of courtesy from her? Dream on!

She was already being courteous to you if she did not turn around and leave as soon as she received the present.

"I'll be returning to Daybreak Sect with them in the afternoon." Duan Yue pouted and said, "I probably won't be able to leave for at least two to three years, but I heard the three sects will hold a gathering and compete with each other every few years, so we'll definitely see each other again in the future."

“Ah.” The child nodded.

‘I said so much, but you just responded with an “Ah”! How can we have a pleasant conversation?!’

This child’s stoic personality endowed her with the natural special ability to kill a conversation.

“Okay, we understand.” Mo Lian picked up the caught-off-guard child and turned around, flicking his sleeves to send off the guest. “You should go back and pack up. We won’t escort you out. Steward! Escort our guest to the doors!”

‘What a usurping, meddling guy!!! Why are you pretending to be the head of the household in my own home!!!’

Qiao Mu beat him with her fist and wanted to struggle but her hand ended up imprisoned by Crown Prince Mo.

The child laid on Crown Prince Mo’s shoulders and her round eyes sent a final glance at the miserable Duan Yue. After some brief thinking, she extended her other hand and meaninglessly waved her hand at him.

‘Have a pleasant journey!’

‘Wah... How come I detected these four heartless words from her eyes?!’

She was ending it with a simple “Have a pleasant journey”? He still had so many unspoken words of farewell, and he was already forcibly kicked out. Was this really fine? She should at least say she might miss him in the next few years! Ahhh!

If time could freeze over this moment...

The youth’s tall and slender figure would be situated next to the door, and his eyes would be warmly looking at the direction that the girl departed. Under his long eyelashes, there would be mirth in his rippling but clear alluring eyes.

*‘Just wait, you d*mn girl!’*

Chapter 247: Big Treasure

Mo Lian looked down at the box in the child’s arms and lightly harrumphed. He brusquely took the box from her and tossed it to a nearby chair.

The child glared at her with round eyes. *‘D*mn punk! You’re too rude!’*

“Why are your eyes so round?” Mo Lian smiled and sat down with the child on him. “No matter how round you make your eyes, you’re still a little, expressionless stoic.”

‘So what if I’m stoic?! I love being stoic! Humph.’

“I also love a stoic.” Crown Prince Mo nodded his head in agreement and turned the child around to face him. With a grin, he asked, “If we were separated for three to five years, would you miss me?”

The child primly raised her chin. "I won't."

Crown Prince Mo chuckled and lowered the stubborn child's face back down and pressed a kiss to her forehead. "I'll miss Qiaoqiao. I'll really miss Qiaoqiao—really, really, really miss. I'll really miss you..."

The child was briefly taken back.

'A blank look is a much better improvement from a stoic look! Being blank is also a type of expression,' the crown prince thought.

The crown prince waved his hand in the air and stuffed a large bag of clanging spirit rocks into her arms. He squeezed her stoic face and said, "There are 500 spirit rocks here, it should last you three to five years. Keep that golem operating. When I'm not here, let that guy talk to you more in my place! You know, Qiaoqiao, it's better for you to talk more."

"Don't think that talking is tiring, so you don't talk. How can talking tire you out?" This child, if no one talked to her, she could probably be mute for the whole day.

"Okay."

'This highness talked for so long and you freaking only reply with an "Okay"! Darling Qiao, you can kill a conversation at any time unsurprisingly!'

"You're not allowed to say 'Okay'." Mo Lian exasperatedly smiled and poked her forehead.

Qiao Mu rolled her eyes and took out her little golem to install a spirit rock into its belly.

A second later, the noisy golem jumped up and happily danced around, chanting like a nursery rhyme, "Little Master, Little Master, Little Master! You're awesome, Little Master! You're finally not stingy, Little Master!"

'You're stingy! Your whole family's stingy!'

"I gave it a name!" The child prodded the golem's head with her finger.

Mo Lian looked at her with a smile. "What is it?"

"Its name is Big Treasure."

"Oh! Little Master bestowed me with a name! Big Treasure! I'm called Big Treasure!" The golem swung its arms and legs, spinning in circles where it was standing.

Mo Lian did not know whether to laugh or cry. He looked down and asked with amusement, "Why is it called Big Treasure?"

The child tilted her head and blinked her glistening eyes. "I don't know. It came to my mind."

Mo Lian couldn't help but tease her with a smile, "Could it be because you're called Little Treasure that you named it Big Treasure?"

The child's eyes suddenly widened, and she looked at him with a shocked expression, unable to react.

Mo Lian could not help but panic a little when he saw her reaction. He shook her lightly and gently asked, "Qiaoqiao. Qiaoqiao, what is it?"

Qiao Mu returned to the present and dazedly glanced at him. "What did you just call me?"

"Qiaoqiao?"

Qiao Mu shook her head.

"Little Treasure?" What was so weird about the nickname "Little Treasure"? Why did she have such a strange expression?

"Qiaoqiao."

"Hm... It's nothing." Qiao Mu nodded, her mind adrift. "It's nothing, it's nothing."

Although Mo Lian was somewhat suspicious, he didn't pursue the matter upon seeing she had recovered.

Qiao Mu properly put away the bag of spirit rocks and looked at the crown prince. "You're departing tomorrow?"

"Yeah." Crown Prince Mo nodded and seriously looked at her. "Tonight, I'll have a reunion meal with Uncle and Auntie so that I can bid them farewell while I'm at it!"

Qiao Mu's face instantly darkened.

Chapter 248: Reunion Dinner

As expected, both of Qiao Mu's parents greatly enjoyed tonight's dinner. Second Uncle Qiao even told Qiao Mu to bring out three jugs of bamboo leaf brew and shared a dozen drinks with Mo Lian.

When Second Uncle Qiao saw the youth drink each cup so valiantly, the thought to compete his drinking ability against the youth's popped up in his mind.

In the end, Second Uncle drunk to unconsciousness!

Qiao Mu exasperatedly pursed her lips. *'Second Uncle, don't casually compete with people if your alcohol tolerance isn't good! Look at how only the second jug is unsealed and you're already dead to the world! Meanwhile, that guy doesn't look the slightest bit different.'*

As the hour turned late, Qiao Mu's parents passionately invited the youth to stay the night!

Inside her mind, Qiao Mu felt like there was something wrong with this picture, but she couldn't pinpoint the exact odd spot.

She wrecked her mind studying Mo Lian's words when a flash of realization occurred, and she finally detected the strange part.

What did a noble crown prince like him who had nothing to do with her ordinary Qiao Family have to unite about with her Qiao Family? He was even having a reunion dinner with her parents for no reason!

Our darling Qiao Mu covertly glared at the crown prince, and it was like the crown prince sensed it and happened to turn around, sending her a smile. His smile was akin to a sky of brilliant, glittering stars, making his face truly blinding!

'How annoying!'

Every time they had dinner with the crown prince, it was like Qiao Mu was adopted off the streets, and her parents' attention were not on her, their actual daughter, at all!

Second Uncle Qiao hugged the opened jug with half its bottle remaining and dazedly murmured, "Bamboo leaf brew, bamboo leaf brew..."

Wei Ziqin was incredibly amused and hurriedly told Mother Xu to help Second Uncle back to his room to rest.

Qiao Mu thought about it and took out six peaches and two leaves from her storage talisman and placed them on the table.

The peach tree in the paradise bore fruit very slowly. A long time had passed, but she was only able to pick off six fruits. She had been storing them inside a storage talisman.

"Fruit for after dinner. One for each person. Eat!"

"Peach!!!" the little foodie instantly leaped out of her seat and shot to Qiao Mu, reaching out to take a peach.

"Wow, this peach is quite good looking!" Qiao Zhongbang commented with a chuckle.

"Dad, eat a leaf first and then eat this peach." Qiao Mu handed the leaf and peach to her dad before telling her mom, "You too, Mom."

"I've thought about it. Dad, your mystic meridians are damaged and caused all of your mystic energy to flow out, but it doesn't mean you can't sense mystic energy from now on." Qiao Mu seriously looked at her dad and said, "This leaf can allow normal people to sense mystic energy, so perhaps it can help you to reconstruct your mystic meridians. As for Mom, she theoretically can't trigger her mystic meridians, but there's no harm in eating this leaf. It can at least strengthen her body."

Qiao Zhongbang and Wei Ziqin both looked at their daughter, dumbstruck.

Qiao Zhongbang, especially, looked like his daughter had told him a folktale and couldn't help but stutter when he started speaking. "D-daughter, y-you are s-saying this leaf c-can help D-dad feel m-mystic energy again?"

"It should! Dad, try it out! If it's useful, then eat this peach." The energy contained in this peach was very rich. Although it wasn't a large quantity, it should probably be enough for her father to advance a level.

This tiny, tiny leaf could hold a candle to the meridian-nursing pill! Qiao Zhongbang did not say anything else and directly consumed the leaf.

Wei Ziqin also ate her leaf.

Soon, Qiao Zhongbang looked at his daughter in overjoyed surprise. “Q-qiaoqiao, Dad feels it! Dad feels his mystic energy recovering and his mystic meridians awakening! T-this leaf really seems to be able to reconstruct my mystic meridians.”

Qiao Mu nodded. “Dad, your situation is basically the same as triggering your mystic meridians a second time and completely reconstructing your mystic meridians.”

Chapter 249: Accident

Her hunch was right—the leaf she stole from the sapling was truly useful to her father.

“Daughter, Dad needs to immediately enter into seclusion. Take care of Xiao Mo and arrange a place for him to stay tonight!” After Qiao Zhongbang said this, he eagerly left in haste.

Qiao Mu could not resist rolling her eyes. At such a vital moment, Dad still did not forget about Crown Prince Mo and instructed her to take good care of him! It was as though she treated him extremely terribly!

“Mom, how do you feel?” Qiao Mu looked at her mother.

Wei Ziqin had a strange expression and looked at Qiao Mu. “Qiaoqiao, about the mystic meridians, are mystic meridians something thin and weak like your veins and you can feel a trace of special energy flowing inside of it?”

Qiao Mu’s eyes suddenly brightened. “Mom! You triggered your mystic meridians?!”

“P-probably?” Wei Ziqin nodded with a surprised expression. She knew her body well. Back then, her young miss had said that she did not have any hope to trigger her mystic meridians in her life, so she could only be a normal person in content.

Hence, she never delusionally wished to become a mystic cultivator. But today... today, she actually...?

On the side, Qiao Hu’s mouth was opened so wide that it could fit a duck’s egg!

Today’s events were truly too blinding to his eyes! First, Eldest Uncle felt his mystic meridians recover and he had hope for successfully reconstructing his mystic meridians. Now, something even more absurd happened! His eldest aunt, who had never cultivated mystic energy, said she successfully triggered her mystic meridians!

It was that little, tiny leaf—the leaf! Qiao Hu hastily sat next to Qiao Mu and swung her arm as he said, “Elder Younger Sis, Elder Younger Sis, do you still have more leaves? Give one to Brother!”

Qiao Mu involuntarily chuckled as she looked at the silly child. “You fool, you’re already a mystic cultivator! You don’t need to sense the mystic energy again. If you merely want to increase your mystic energy and advance a level, eating the peach will do!”

“The peach!” Realization dawned on Qiao Hu. He quickly picked up a peach and was dumbstruck when he saw that Xiao Lin’er had already eaten half of her peach.

“Elder Younger Sis, Little Sister already ate half a peach, so why isn’t she having any reactions?”

Qiao Mu looked at how her sister wished for nothing more than to bury her head inside the peach and amusedly said, "Xiao Lin'er is still too young, so triggering her mystic meridians wouldn't hold any benefits for her body. It's better to take it slow and wait until she's seven or eight to trigger it."

Since Xiao Lin'er had never triggered her mystic meridians or cultivated her body, she naturally couldn't absorb the energy contained inside the peach juice. Hence, it was this foodie who was wantonly wasting a precious treasure! She ate a peach for the sole purpose of indulging her taste buds...

"Sister! Eet peach!" Xiao Lin'er used her hands, which were sticky with peach juices, to longingly touch a second peach, unwilling to let go while her eyes pitifully peered at her sister.

Qiao Mu was about to die from laughter because of her. She shook her head and said, "Sister won't eat it and will leave it for you. But you aren't allowed to eat it today. Wait until after lunch tomorrow."

Qiao Lin's eyes brightened, and she hastily reached out to hug the peach. She sent her sister a bright, sweet grin. "Thank you, Sister!"

"This one is for you!" Qiao Mu handed the last peach to the crown prince before turning to her mother and saying, "Mom, you should also go back to your room and enter secluded cultivation. Remember to eat the peach too, it'll help you advance a level. I'll take Xiao Lin'er to bed now."

After escorting her sister to her bedroom and settling her, Qiao Mu led the crown prince outside the building.

"Qiaoqiao, I'll owe you your return gift for now and give it to you the next time I see you..." The crown prince happily put away his peach and followed the short-legged child, slowly walking behind her step by step.

'Return gift?' A certain someone's close-up handsome face flickered across Qiao Mu's mind before she angrily turned her head back around and continued forward.

'Youth, you're taking advantage of me!'

Chapter 250: Regretful Departure

A scarlet red light flitted across the night sky. As the light expanded, both the crown prince and Qiao Mu looked up simultaneously.

Suddenly, Qiao Mu felt her legs hanging in the air and exasperatedly looked at the crown prince, who had carried her into his arms.

'ARGH!' A certain child grumbled inwardly, *'I want to grow tall! I'll grow tall so that he can't carry me!'*

"Qiaoqiao, I'll miss you, I'll really miss you," the crown prince muttered while pressing his forehead against her forehead. "Don't worry, I'll remember the return gift, and I'll definitely give it to you when we meet again, alright?"

*'Alright, your a**! This treasure really doesn't want your strange return gift...'*

"Alright," the crown prince responded in place of a certain child with a grin.

'You! You can talk to yourself to this extent! You shameless guy! You're gonna anger this treasure to death!'

After a red light flitted across the sky, a black figure that was a few inches shorter than the crown prince abruptly appeared behind him.

It was a youth around 11 or 12 years old and entirely different from the simple-minded Qiao Hu. This youth was coldly handsome with sharp features, already revealing his budding talent.

What was strangest about him was his pair of eyes—they were naturally heterochromatic, one gold and one red.

Qiao Mu curiously observed him, completely ignoring the youth's taut and aloof face, which warded people off from looking at him.

"This is Little Seven." Crown Prince Mo glanced at the child behind him with exasperation. Look at how impatient this child was. He had told the child that he was leaving tomorrow morning, but he was too impatient to wait and came.

"You're that blazing golden dragon!" Qiao Mu's eyes brightened as she studied Seventh Yan's head in close detail.

That magnificent and terrifying dragon head from back then actually became a human head!

The youth glanced at her before looking away with a snort.

"He has a bad attitude!" Qiao Mu turned to look at the crown prince stoically, unaware that she was tattling to him currently. "Can I win against him?"

The crown prince nearly chuckled out loud and shook his head, expressing his regret. "You can't win."

"Oh." The child muttered to herself, "Forget it if I can't win!"

The crown prince: ...

The youth turned to glare at her when he heard her words! Was this brat saying she would give him a good beating if she could win against him???

'Insolent! Insolent! This gutsy, rude, and impudent human!' The youth glared at the child, and the child glared back, not to be outdone.

The crown prince supported Qiao Mu's waist and turned around to head back inside the building with her in his arms.

Did these two little fellows have ill-matching qi fields? Why were they glaring at each other like agitated roosters at their first meeting? He probably should not put them together again in the future.

"I can't stay overnight today." After carrying Qiao Mu to the bed and placing her down, Mo Lian regretfully caressed her forehead. "Sleep. Be good and close your eyes. I'll leave after you fall asleep."

Qiao Mu: "..."

'How the heck can I sleep with you staring at me like this?!'

The crown prince patted her tiny figure and lightly said, "Don't worry, I won't forget the return gift. We'll see each other again very soon. At that time..."

The crown prince flicked his sleeves and Qiao Mu foggily smelled a faint calming, medicinal fragrance. She blinked twice before surprisingly slipping into dreamland.

Mo Lian sat on the edge of the bed and used the hazy and cool moonlight to dazedly look at her, lost in his thoughts, through the thin veil for a while before standing up and departing.

The room's doors closed with a creak. Mo Lian's straight and slender figure was elongated by the cool moonlight. He was desolate and noble, like a snowy mountain.

Seventh Yan's figure flickered. He turned into a dragon and soared into the sky, dancing in spirals under the cold moonlight.

The crown prince leaped and silently stood on the back of the dragon before turning around and profoundly looking at the small courtyard behind him.

'Although I am not with you, I yearn to be with you...'

'We'll meet again, Qiaoqiao.'

The blazing golden dragon sailed through the night sky, painting a streak of flaming, golden red across the pitch-black sky.