

My Crown 521

Chapter 521: The Crown Prince Is in a Bad Mood

Yang Fengyan promised her compliantly, but she didn't think much of it.

She naturally knew her older brother's moral character. The year before last, he raped a b*tchy servant from the Blue Mountain Courtyard, resulting in her death, yet her family actually dared to come demand compensation. In the end, it was her aunt who covered everything up. She reckoned that the grass on the graves of that family of reckless and contemptible paupers had already grown to reach a person's height.

After leaving Willow Court, the more Yang Fengyan thought about the matter, the more resentful she felt, so she simply headed for Crane Garden, wanting to see for herself how amazingly beautiful that b*tchy servant whom the two young masters were fighting over truly was.

—My Lian's section break—

In the Eastern Palace's southern study, the last rays of sunlight shone upon the window frame, illuminating a wintery and ramrod straight figure.

Huifeng appeared noiselessly at the entrance and bowed in greeting. "Your Highness, Mei'ye's investigation, starting from Xijiu City, discovered traces suspected to belong to Miss in the outskirts of Guanlan City."

"According to those porters' description, there's an 80 to 90 percent probability that it's Miss. However, her traces disappeared after entering the capital."

Two days ago, Mo Lian received Ao'ye's urgent news that the box of letters inside the house in Pear Blossom Alley had vanished all of a sudden.

He had a premonition that the little fellow must have dropped by.

It had been more than two years already and that "I'll be waiting" was still ringing in his ears, but the little fellow just didn't appear. He wondered where this little one had run off to again.

Crown Prince Mo compressed his lips and gazed frostily outside the window at the snow landscape.

If he had known that this would happen, he shouldn't have let her leave at all back then.

Just you wait, little fellow, as long as you haven't disappeared off the face of the earth, We will definitely find you. At that time...

"Your Highness." Xiao'xi'zi walked in carefully and said weakly, "Manager Gong has brought the k-king's decree."

These days, the servants in the Eastern Palace were all on tenterhooks, not daring to speak more than necessary. They acted in observation of the crown prince's taut mood, afraid that they would be punished from a single misstep.

Last time, there was a talkative servant who gossiped secretly behind His Highness's back, shooting her mouth off that His Highness probably wasn't going to find the young lady that he was searching for. The

next day, all traces of her had disappeared, and no one knew where she had been taken to be dealt with.

Not to speak of the eunuchs and servants who passed their days with fear and trepidation, even the old officials who came to the southern study to give their reports would occasionally be met with the crown prince's rage, berated until they were completely shamefaced.

His Highness was in a bad mood, and it was the kind that got worse by the day! This was something that everyone knew.

Provoking His Highness now was the same as rushing over and begging for a scolding yourself. If there weren't any especially important matters to deal with, the officials dared not bother him carelessly at this time.

Mo Lian didn't bother with Xiao'xi'zi's announcement and rather turned to Huifeng, saying, "Beilan Fortification reported that they have cultivated a batch of thriving seeds, except that they have a prolonged planting period. However, that piece of land can at least produce something, so We plan to..."

"Your Highness, by the king's order, this old official has come to pass on his decree." Gong Chang'an's voice travelled in from the outside, seemingly betraying a slight quaver.

If you're afraid, why did you still dare to interrupt Us? Mo Lian's upturned phoenix eyes instantly turned cold.

"Enter!" Mo Lian turned around, walking to his seat. He sat down, waiting for the trembling Gong Chang'an to brace himself as he entered the southern study.

Gong Chang'an only felt his scalp turning numb, and he kneeled on the ground with a flump, not even daring to raise his head. "B-by order of the king to pass on his decree, His Majesty r-requests that Your Highness the Crown Prince g-go to the Qin Estate to a-attend the old Qin patriarch's 60th birthday feast."

Chapter 522: The Crown Prince is So Scary

Not a sound could be heard, even after quite a while. It was so silent in the southern study that you could hear a pin drop.

Gong Chang'an presented the invitation with both his hands. His forehead was drenched in sweat as he inwardly protested the king's trickery. He hadn't wanted to perform this unrewarding task, but it couldn't be helped that the king personally ordered for him to make the trip...

Why was it that whenever this father and son were digging pits for each other, the people who suffered would always be them small fry, wuwuwu.

Xiao'xi'zi also stood to the side with a lowered head, and he completely treated himself as a piece of wood, not speaking nor uttering a word.

Gong Chang'an was fearful and apprehensive for a good while before he finally heard the crown prince's deep and chilly voice ring in the study. "Qin Guilu needs Us to show up at his birthday to heighten his prestige? He has the cheek to request for such a thing?"

“Have Mo Jiao go.” The crown prince spoke coldly, his words tinged with faint sarcasm. “Hasn’t Mo Jiao been fancying the third daughter of Li Fuhai, the Assistant Minister of Imperial Banquets, lately? Madam Li had the grace of receiving the Qin Estate’s treatment before, so she will definitely bring along this as of yet unmarried Third Miss to the Qin Estate for the celebration. Isn’t this a great chance for Mo Jiao to devise a plan to win the belle’s heart and take her home as his concubine? Then she’ll be able to birth a fifth grandchild for Consort Cheng earlier.”

Gong Chang’an was flabbergasted as his cold sweat kept pouring down.

Oh Great Crown Prince, you really are terrifying. You’ve already investigated the Assistant Minister of Imperial Banquets, Li Fuhai’s family’s trivial matters so thoroughly, even knowing that his madam previously received the Qin Estate’s grace? You’re so scary that it puts a lot of pressure on other people!

What to do? He suddenly pitied His Highness the Eldest Prince very much. His Highness the Eldest Prince’s intellect couldn’t even compare to a single hair of yours, so what could he even use to compete with you?

Mo Lian snickered. “That good older brother of Ours, only his skill at courting women could be considered outstanding. Other than that? Brains, ability, and the like, you can forget about it.”

Gong Chang’an: ...

This was all ridicule, wasn’t it?

It was only after staring distractedly for a bit that Gong Chang’an then kowtowed helplessly. “Your Highness. The king has been consuming the regulation pill concocted by the Qin Estate’s patriarch recently and has found his body greatly improved. That’s why he wants you to make this trip, to also request the Qin Family patriarch for several more bottles of the pill. E-Even if your attendance heightens the Qin Estate patriarch’s prestige, please just bear with it this time, Your Highness...”

Mo Lian stared frigidly at Gong Chang’an. “Since the king is in good health, then he can personally take care of these state affairs!”

Gong Chang’an: ...

Don’t! Your Highness the Crown Prince!

“This old servant will go back to report to the king immediately and have... the king send His Highness the Eldest Prince to the Qin Estate.” Gong Chang’an was scared witless and hastily crawled out the door to flee, even neglecting the invitation that dropped to the floor.

If he were to speak any further, the crown prince was going to ditch his work and quit!

“How preposterous!” A tiny elixirs patrician family’s patriarch was delusional enough to have him go forth to offer his congratulations?

His ego had to be inflated to the skies, right!

Mo Lian smacked the desk angrily, and many booklets fell off in a rustle.

Xiao'xi'zi and the other servants simultaneously kneeled to the floor, not daring to raise their heads nor breathe heavily.

"Your Highness, the king is muddle-headed and does things without contemplating over the matter. It's not like you haven't known this before." Huifeng bent down to pick up the booklets on the floor and placed them on the desk.

"Someone had definitely given him this idea." Mo Lian's handsome complexion darkened, and he sneered, "It seems like that Courtesan Zheng needs to go."

"Your Highness." An aged and steady voice sounded from outside the door.

"Mister Shangguan has come." The crown prince stood up and went outside to welcome him. He bowed in greeting upon seeing a white-clothed elder with a genial expression.

The elder chuckled while stroking his beard.

Chapter 523: Smoldering Fury

"Your Highness, Courtesan Zheng is merely a nobody. Whether she gets eradicated or not, it's all at Your Highness's mercy." Shangguan said softly as he followed the crown prince into the inner study.

"It wouldn't be pretty if a rift forms between Your Highness and the king due to an insignificant nobody. Perhaps you wouldn't mind, but in the future, Her Majesty and His Highness Yu..."

"Ever since Courtesan Zheng entered the palace seven to eight years ago, her favor with the king has never once diminished. It's clear as day that she has the means to enact her schemes. Unfortunately, she hasn't been able to birth a son, so she can't at all threaten..."

The two's voices got softer and softer, shutting the door after entering the inner study.

"It's fine if Your Highness doesn't wish to go to the Qin Estate. With Your Highness's identity, it's all up to you whether or not you choose to meet a tiny elixirs patrician family. It indeed isn't suitable for the king to send you there just for a few pills. As for Courtesan Zheng, you should just give her a lesson as a warning. This matter doesn't require Your Highness to personally make a move..."

Huifeng waved his hand, dismissing the eunuchs and royal maids that were still kneeling in the study.

Suddenly, the window frame quivered, and a pitch-black figure floated in quietly.

"Are you so addicted to climbing through the window that you have to do it every time?" Huifeng's eyes didn't even shift, not even bothering to give the newcomer half a glimpse.

Mei'ye flashed to the desk and grabbed the kettle, immediately guzzling water down into his stomach. "Where's His Highness?"

"He's talking with Mister Shangguan." Huifeng walked up to him and eyed him suspiciously. "What did you find?"

"Miss disappeared after entering the city." Mei'ye set down the kettle and switched to a serious and stern face.

This was already reported a few days back!

Huifeng rolled his eyes at him. Only after talking to this fellow some more would you realize that he was a clown by nature, and that it was only his exterior that exuded seriousness.

“You only brought this piece of news back to His Highness after such a long investigation?” Huifeng was rejoicing in Mei’ye’s misfortune. “Just you wait.”

Wait to be out of luck, wait to be punished, wait to be berated by His Highness, hahaha!

“Of course it’s not this bit of news.” Mei’ye humphed before turning to sweep Huifeng a glance. He said solemnly, “It’s only that I’m not telling you. I want to report to His Highness personally!”

“You!” Huifeng humphed, ditching him as he turned to walk toward the inner study.

When he reached the inner room’s entrance, he saw the crown prince and Shangguan Jing walking out.

“Mister has just returned to the capital. You must be weary and tired from the journey, so you should go back and rest up.” The crown prince looked to Huifeng as he said, “Escort Mister back to his estate first.”

“Understood.” Huifeng was slightly vexed, feeling as if a kitten was clawing at his heart, when he realized that he couldn’t witness the outcome of Mei’ye’s report.

“Your Highness, then this old man will take his leave first.” Shangguan Jing cupped his hands in a bow.

Crown Prince Mo swiftly ceased his gesture and even returned it. “Take care, Mister.”

After Huifeng escorted Shangguan Jing out the door and left with him, Crown Prince Mo then turned his head to Mei’ye, who was standing to the side. He cut to the chase and inquired, “How was it?”

Mei’ye knelt down on one knee with a grave expression. “This subordinate is incompetent. I’ve been able to confirm Miss’s traces at the city gate. However, Miss seemed to have completely hid from the world after entering the city, leaving no traces at all.”

Mo Lian sat down and massaged his faintly swollen temples. After quite a while, he finally stated frigidly, “Continue the search. You must find her, even if you have to dig three feet into the ground and overturn the entire capital. I’ll give you two more days. If you fail... then you’ll all return to Martial Mountain for training.”

A bead of cold sweat rolled down Mei’ye’s forehead as he quickly lowered his head with a nod.

“Understood

Chapter 524: Speculation

His Highness the Crown Prince had become more and more menacing. It was simply inhumane torture to send them back to Martial Mountain so readily for training.

The crown prince supported his forehead with his hand, and his eyes flickered as he contemplated the places that child might have possibly gone to.

He had already sent people to be on the lookout near the Qiao Estate in Guanlan City, but there was not a single trace of the little fellow returning.

Guanlan City was the largest city in Northern Mo, or rather, the entire northern region. A grandiose first-class fortification had been constructed upon the city's current framework during these past few years, more than doubling its surrounding land.

It truly gave people a terrible headache to find a little lady in such a large city, like looking for a needle in a haystack. Even if he increased the manpower, he knew that this was an extremely difficult task to complete in the short term.

"Your Highness, this subordinate will excuse himself now." Mei'ye had counted imaginary mushrooms for half the day already while genuflecting on one knee. But since he still hadn't heard His Highness dismissing him, he could only brace himself to remind him.

He really was terrified that he might trigger His Highness just by speaking...

Mo Lian returned to the present and nodded slightly at him.

Our dear Mei'ye thereupon realized that His Highness the Crown Prince was simply lost in thought just earlier, completely omitting his presence.

Just before Mei'ye left through the door, he caught sight of the invitation that had been tossed to the floor like trash. He muttered to himself, "Qin Estate?"

"What is it?" Mo Lian glanced towards Mei'ye, who had halted at the door.

Mei'ye coughed lightly. "This subordinate just recalled that the Qin Estate had drummed up a large-scale recruitment for servants several days ago. It seemed to have attracted a lot of people as the Qin Estate has been very famous lately. A lot of women went there willingly to try out just for the estate's two young masters."

"However, it was unfortunate that the Qin Estate had requirements for hiring maidservants. They seemed to want only those that were strong and knew a bit of martial arts."

"Several days ago?" Mo Lian's thought process was very meticulous and flexible, seemingly realizing something from Mei'ye's information.

"Yes, it was several days ago." Just as he finished speaking, Mei'ye suddenly looked at the crown prince, a trace of suspicion flashing past his eyes. "Could it be that after entering the city, Miss...??"

It was impossible, right! Why on earth would the little miss want to be a maidservant at the Qin Estate without rhyme or reason?

Mo Lian's gaze deepened slightly as an unremitting whirlpool welled up in his eyes, consolidating and expanding outwards...

After Noble Consort Zheng received the news, she threw an explosive tantrum in the Sophora Flower Palace.

She had received the Qin Estate's benefits and promised that she would certainly talk the old king into delegating the crown prince to the Qin Estate.

However, the crown prince sent back one sentence, stating that he wouldn't go! The king didn't insist on it, either, and listened to the crown prince's suggestion, decreeing the eldest prince Mo Jiao to attend the Qin Estate's birthday feast.

How could she face the Qin Estate now?

Could the eldest prince's status compare with His Highness the Crown Prince's?

How would other people think of her, Noble Consort Zheng, if she couldn't even handle such a trivial matter?

Her personal nanny couldn't help but remind the noble consort. "The king places great importance on His Highness the Crown Prince, so you shouldn't mention this matter again. If you do, you'll frustrate the king."

"Does Your Highness remember the incident that happened in the royal garden a few years ago? After that happened, the king gave you the cold shoulder for over a month, which ended up benefitting that Noble Lady He."

Noble Consort Zheng choked with resentment when she recalled this incident!

The king resented that she shot her mouth off and slandered the crown prince's birth. That month felt as if she had been thrown into the Cold Palace; he didn't take one footstep into her Sophora Flower Palace. It truly did benefit that b*tch Noble Lady He, who got pregnant and even gave birth to a son afterwards!

Chapter 525: Nothing Was Going Right

As for her, she had only given birth to a useless daughter after a long and painstaking pregnancy. This really annoyed her to death!

"Reporting to Your Highness. Fifteenth Princess's wet nurse requests an audience. She said that the princess is suffering from an asthma attack again. Even breathing seems to be a bit difficult..."

Noble Consort Zheng's complexion turned cold and she interrupted the eunuch's report, berating, "What use is it to report to this consort? This consort isn't a doctor! Are you all dead? You don't know to send for a royal physician from the Royal Physician Building?"

After chasing the wet nurse off with her tirade, Noble Consort Zheng's mood worsened, and she smacked the tabletop resentfully. "They're all useless trash!"

This daughter had been an endless bundle of trouble ever since she was born prematurely. Her body was feeble and she easily got infected. The king had only seen this daughter a few times!

On the other hand, the sixteenth prince birthed by Noble Lady He was only half a year younger than Little Fifteenth, yet the king was very much fond of him.

Noble Consort Zheng felt even more miserable after making this comparison.

The old nanny sighed, lamenting how the fifteenth princess was quite pitiful. Even though she was born a noble, she wasn't favored by her parents. She also had asthma at such a young age. She truly was an ill-starred child.

"Your Highness, do you want to check on Fifteenth Princess?" The old nanny asked Noble Consort Zheng cautiously.

Noble Consort Zheng stated coldly with indignant eyes and pursed lips, "This asthma has been a recurring problem, and even the royal physicians are powerless to cure it. This means that this illness can only be treated by nursing her health properly from day to day. This consort doesn't have any solutions either! It's not like she won't wheeze nor cough if this consort goes to see her!"

The old nanny was stupefied and unable to reply. She nodded without saying anything else and retreated to the side.

Before long, a piece of news spread to Sophora Flower Palace. It said that when the king was returning from court, he encountered a royal maid who fainted from hunger on the side of the path, and he rescued her in passing.

After washing up, the 28-year-old royal maid looked lovely and pitiful. Her figure was voluptuous and her looks excellent. Her appearance was very sweet and pleasant, and even her voice was extremely charming. The king was enraptured on the spot and kept her as his own, bestowing her with the title of "Noble Lady"...

Upon hearing this, Noble Consort Zheng was left dumbstruck on the spot!

Royal maid? What kind of royal maid was so wanton and impudent? To dare seduce the king in broad daylight in front of other people?

It couldn't be said that Noble Consort Zheng's position in the palace allowed her to blot out the sky with a single hand, but at the very least, she could put those lowly b*tches intent on clambering up the ladder into their places. Who dared to play such cheap tricks behind her back?

She wouldn't believe it if no one was behind this!

The king certainly had to play with his new beauty for a few days and would definitely not come to look for her. When Noble Consort Zheng realized this, her insides couldn't help aching, and she kept feeling that nothing was going right at all.

However, more news spread to the Sophora Flower Palace at night, stating that Her Majesty the Queen especially mentioned to the king that Noble Lady He had laboriously performed a great merit by giving birth to the sixteenth prince.

With the sixteenth prince getting older and older, shouldn't Noble Lady He's standing also raise? So as to not depreciate the sixteenth prince's status.

The king felt that the queen was benevolent and virtuous, having made an excellent point. On top of lavishing praises onto the queen, he also raised Noble Lady He's title to "Zhaoyi"[1] on the spot.

From now on, Zhaoyi He was the most powerful person below the title of "Consort." Apparently, this aggravated those women with the title of "Royal Concubine" to no end.

Noble Consort Zheng was so irritated that she didn't even eat dinner. She cursed at the queen inwardly for being a busybody and felt like everyone was setting themselves against her!

So what if you gave birth to a prince! Who knew if he'd be able to grow up!

Meanwhile, Darling Qiao was totally oblivious to the queer and billowing developments in the royal capital.

She only felt that the two men in the Qin Estate were beyond annoying. They looked for her every day without anything better to do, making it so that she didn't even have time to herself.

Chapter 526: Too Idle

It was Family Head Qin's 60th birthday tomorrow. She had been greatly bothered these two days, as many distant female relatives, in addition to those from the branch families, had been settling into the Qin Estate every day.

The senior manager and second manager were so busy from just the courtyard arrangements and related trifling matters that their feet didn't even touch the ground.

All the servants in the entire Qin Estate had been mobilized.

Darling Qiao could be considered the most leisurely one out of all these people.

After Caiwei was punished for the incident in Blue Mountain Courtyard, the news that the second young master was keeping a little maidservant by his side circulated in the entire Qin Estate. The rumors said that she was very frightening and not to be trifled with. She even dared to thrash the eldest young master, which in turn attracted the eldest young master's attention. The eldest young master confronted the second young master, requesting to have her, which caused the two young masters to nearly come to blows in the end!

Whom among the people in the estate, including the servants, didn't have discerning eyesight? From then on, no one dared to order Qiao Mu about.

Hence, even if the estate was swamped with so much work that the managers were dog-tired, they still wouldn't send this little great aunt on errands.

Darling Qiao was at such leisure these two days.

At this time, Qiao Mu ran to the little flower garden following a roundabout route in order to evade the annoying Qin Xuan. She found a gazebo to sit in.

Soon afterwards, she heard the whispers of two maidservants that were ditching their duties. "Just now I saw two boy servants carry... into maternal young master's room."

"It really is so sinful. I heard that she was a young lady from a good family, just about to marry. When she was shopping at a jewelry store... maternal young master bumped into her."

"She truly is an unfortunate woman."

"What are you two b*tchy servants whispering about over here?" A stern voice suddenly rang out.

“Maternal young miss.” The two maidservants were so frightened that they trembled as they hastily knelt on the ground.

“Slap their mouths! They’re all b*tches with loose mouths, daring to comment on their master behind his back!” You think that she didn’t hear? They were obviously talking about her older brother just now.

Although her older brother Yang Jiazhen failed to live up to expectations, he still wasn’t someone that two b*tchy servants could freely discuss.

“Spare us, maternal young miss, spare us, maternal young miss.” The two maidservants wailed as they bawled their eyes out. It was so noisy that Qiao Mu, who was resting in the gazebo, knitted her brows together.

This bunch of people were so long-winded and blabbering without end—she should poison them all into mutes!

Just as she was about to stand up and take action, she heard Eldest Qin’s voice. “What are you all gathering here for?”

“Eldest Cousin!” That maternal young miss cried out in pleasant surprise. “Fengyan greets Eldest Cousin.”

“Oh, it’s nothing. Fengyan, continue on. I just came to look for someone.” Qin Xuan circled around his blushing cousin and strode directly to the gazebo behind the tall rock garden.

As expected, he saw the little lady sitting in the gazebo with a glance, and she swept him a chilly gaze in return.

“Xiao Bao, let’s go. I’ll bring you to somewhere fun.” This eldest young master sauntered over with smiling eyes.

“Not free.” Qiao Mu refused resolutely.

The eldest young master, who had been refused by our dear Qiao Mu 15 to 16 times in total over these two days, was already accustomed to the little fellow’s way of speaking. Hence, he didn’t get angry upon hearing her answer as he strolled into the gazebo. “Today, Hualing Street is hosting an Elixirs Appreciation Convention, which will even sell some high-grade medicinal cauldrons. Let me tell you, it’s a very fun event. If you don’t go, you won’t be able to see a lot of good things.”

“What good things can there be?” Qiao Mu was taken aback, and she became a bit interested when she heard “medicinal cauldron.”

“How are they not good? Good medicinal cauldrons can not only raise the pill’s grade, but also quicken the pill concoction process. Think about the poison powder that you had scattered the other day. If you had made it into a pill instead, they would’ve become permanently mute after swallowing one. You wouldn’t have to worry about them raising a ruckus in the future anymore.”

Chapter 527: Pandemonium

The boy servant that was following behind the eldest young master twitched his mouth. He also subconsciously widened his eyes, as he felt that the young master's words didn't sound like anything decent.

Did he intend to lead the little lady onto a crooked path?

Yet, the little stoic felt that Eldest Qin's argument was quite reasonable for once. That's right, it was best to deal with them once and for all, or else it would be too troublesome. Every time the poison wore off after three days, she would have to scatter it again the next time she encountered their yapping.

She nodded, and just as she was about to speak, she heard an impassive voice suddenly butting in. "Eldest Brother need not be troubled to bring her. I will accompany her to the convention."

Eldest Qin pursed his lips and swept a glance at Second Young Master Qin, who was ambling over. He complained irritably, "Why do you have to fight with me over everything? You're always everywhere, just like a ghost!"

"It's not that I want to fight with Eldest Brother over something. Rather, Mu Xiao Bao was part of my court's staff from the beginning. I hope that Eldest Brother will not interfere too much."

Eldest Qin's expression instantly sank. "Don't forget, I was the one who ordered the maidservant recruitment at the beginning, while you're the one who stuck a foot into this matter. It's entirely right and proper for me to take back what's mine."

"Who's yours!" Qiao Mu and Second Qin rebuffed in unison.

Qiao Mu even turned around brusquely to leave the gazebo.

Meanwhile, the maternal young miss Yang Fengyan standing on the side had been treated as invisible and totally ignored by the two young masters the entire time. Her eyes burned with rage, and her entire body trembled from fury.

Suddenly, she shouted angrily, "Are you both done yet?" and the three people's gazes simultaneously turned towards her. Qiao Mu also stalled her footsteps.

"You both quarrel over this little b*tch every day. Today, I'll punish this b*tch in Aunt's stead for the both of you!" Yang Fengyan was so jealous that she was about to go crazy.

When she finished speaking, she drew out a whip and thrashed it at Qiao Mu's small face.

That day, she had detoured to Crane Garden in order to observe for herself how outstandingly beautiful the b*tch was. However, she was halted outside before she could step into the courtyard. She was told that the young master was busy and couldn't entertain her.

She was angered half to death and threw a tantrum after returning back. These two days, she hadn't found the chance to scrutinize the b*tch that was always on the two young masters' minds.

Upon seeing her today, she saw that the other party was a stoic-faced girl with ordinary looks that didn't even measure up to a tenth of her own. She truly was angry, anxious, and irritated. She really didn't understand what was so good about the little b*tch before her that the two young masters had to fight over her so.

Qiao Mu's gaze became livid, and before Second Qin could go up and block the whip, she had already sprung towards Yang Fengyan. She snapped the wrist that was holding the whip and snatched it over with a lightning move of her hand. As soon as it was in her grip, she directly flicked the whip twice towards Yang Fengyan's face.

Two crisp "crack" sounds were heard, and Yang Fengyan crumpled to the ground as a result. She covered her bloodied face with her hands and screamed in fright, "Ah, my face..."

"You're overestimating yourself!" Qiao Mu wasn't appeased and kicked her flying into the air, tracing out a perfect parabola. She plummeted into the small pond beside the rock garden with a splash.

Second Young Master Qin had intended to rescue the damsel in distress, but when he saw that a display of heroism was unnecessary, he silently retracted his hand.

Eldest Qin: ...

Sometime later, when Madam Qin née Yang learned that her niece was injured heavily, she was enraged! She had wanted to summon that extremely audacious maidservant to punish her, but she was told that the young lady had left the estate with the second young master, and that they had yet to return.

Madam Qin née Yang was absolutely incensed and directly sought out Family Head Qin to complain. However, she was instead berated by him, who warned her to keep an eye on her niece and nephew so that they wouldn't keep shaming the Qin Estate.

Family Head Qin was currently vexed and conflicted on whether he should invite the crown prince, so how would he have the time to deal with this trifle?

Chapter 528: So It Was High-Grade

Night had fallen, and the lanterns had just been lit. There was already a vast crowd gathered before Hualing Street's Wurun Pill House.

"Everyone, the Pill Appreciation Convention will be held inside Wurun Pill House for five consecutive days. Everyone can participate. For the fourth and fifth days, there will be an auction of precious pills and medicinal cauldrons on each day. I hope that everyone present can show up at that time." The middle-aged man, who was probably Wurun Pill House's clerk, had a smile on his face as he spoke.

"No matter your status or background, if you believe that you are in possession of an excellent pill, you can take it out for it to be appraised and admired!"

Many onlookers cheered with applause.

As the peanut gallery's natural disposition was to head wherever the bustle was, it could be foreseen that Hualing Street was going to be very lively for the next few days.

So many people had already come to take a look on the first day today, so there were only going to be more and more people each day.

At this time, one person took the lead and stepped out of the crowd with a brown wooden box in his palm. "I want an appraisal."

Two of Wurun Pill House's employees led him to a long table.

That person arrogantly opened the wooden box's lid, and a faint medicinal fragrance floated out immediately.

"Good pill!"

"Excellent!"

"It's certainly excellent since we can smell the pill's fragrance upon opening the box!"

Hearing that people in the crowd continued to lavish praises on it, Qiao Mu glanced towards the sources of those few sporadic voices.

Those few people had hidden themselves away among the crowd and were scattered far from each other. The way they echoed and responded to each other's bravos made quite a few clueless peanut gallery members shout out praises along with them as well.

"It's just a mere level-five mystic breakthrough pill, and of such inferior quality, not even measuring up to low-grade beginner-level pills. Yet you found several people to praise it in order to deceive others, but it can only fool amateurs." A sudden female voice rang out from just right next to Qiao Mu.

After she spoke, everyone nearby looked in her direction.

Qiao Mu stared at her and saw a tall woman wearing an uncompromising expression. She looked to be just over 20 and had on a serious face.

The man was right in the middle of exhibiting his level-five mystic breakthrough pill, and his face, which was originally full of arrogance, instantly turned into the color of a pig's liver. He glared at the uncompromising woman. "Who are you? What you said sounds so impressive, but what do you even understand?"

"What do I understand?" The uncompromising woman sneered. "Look at the mystic breakthrough pill you have; for the time being, we'll call it a mystic breakthrough pill. On the one hand, it's exterior is not smooth and round enough. It obviously doesn't even reach the standard of a beginner-level pill. On the other hand, low-grade pills will bear an orange pill vein. Look at how uncomely its surface is, and it doesn't even have a pill vein. Its pill fragrance isn't heavy enough for a level-five mystic breakthrough pill either. What else can it be if you're not deceiving others?"

Qiao Mu's eyes brightened a bit when she heard this, and she couldn't help but to cut in and ask, "Older sister, what grade would the pill be then if it has a faint purple trace on it?"

The woman turned her head over and glanced at her in surprise. She nodded courteously at Qiao Mu and replied, "If it produces a purple pill vein, it is definitely a high-grade pill. It's not commonly seen in Guanlan City."

"Then, how about if a longevity pill concocted from longevity flowers bears a purple vein? What grade would it be considered?" Our dear Qiao Mu felt that she really needed to learn about these basics.

“Longevity flowers are considered to be a mid-level medicinal herb. The produced pills that bear a purple pill vein are usually called intermediate-level high-grade pills.” Second Young Master Qin, who was standing beside Qiao Mu, answered impassively.

Chapter 529: Lying in Wait

After hearing Second Qin’s words, that young lady with an uncompromising and stern face immediately nodded in complete agreement.

“This young sir is correct.”

When the man holding the wooden box in front of the long table saw the three engaging in a lively discussion, he involuntarily glowered and cut in with a rebuke. “You’re spouting nonsense! You think you’re invincible just because of what you say? If you’re so capable, you should take out a higher-leveled mystic breakthrough pill to compete with me!”

The uncompromising young lady sneered in ridicule. “Competing with your lousy pill? It’ll just lower our class for no reason.”

At this time, Wurun Pill House’s middle-aged clerk also waved his hand quite impatiently. “Alright! You should step down. This level-five mystic breakthrough pill, just as that young lady commented, doesn’t even have a pill grade, which goes to show that it has been tainted with many impurities. I estimate that normal mystic cultivators would only have a 10% probability of advancing after ingesting this pill.”

“Furthermore, ingesting this ugly mystic breakthrough pill that doesn’t even have a grade will probably incur side effects afterwards.”

Seeing that the mystic breakthrough pill that he provided for appraisal was evaluated to be worthless, the man’s face couldn’t help becoming flushed, and he pushed apart the crowd to leave amidst the snickering.

“Since they’re appraising pills, what is he doing by arranging his people to mix in with the crowd?” Qiao Mu asked, perplexed.

The young woman with an uncompromising and stern face glanced at her and explained kindly, “After the appraisal is complete, the provided pill can be left in the care of Wurun Pill House, which will then auction it off on the fourth and fifth days.”

“However, that person treated everyone as fools. Wurun Pill House also has many of its own masters and experts, so it was impossible for him to get away with it.”

“This young lady is from the Pill Union, right? Nice to meet you!” Wurun Pill House’s middle-aged clerk cupped his hands towards the uncompromising young lady with a smile.

That young lady compressed her lips together and nodded at the clerk without saying anything else.

The following pill appraisals went very smoothly. After all, no one else dared to step out and shame themselves anymore.

Qiao Mu didn’t get to see a single high-grade pill even when that day’s event had ended.

In the middle, when someone brought out a mid-grade age pill, there were already people who offered prices on the spot. After a round of offers, the price had already hiked up to five pieces of mid-grade magnetite. In the end, Wurun Pill House's clerk dissuaded the buyers, saying that the pill would first be left in the pill house for safekeeping, and that it could only be auctioned off on the fourth and fifth days.

The people in the crowd rubbed their palms against each other. Many pairs of eyes were fixed on that mid-grade age pill.

Qiao Mu was thinking inwardly that the age pill was quite popular.

She had also previously concocted around a dozen age pills in total, filling up a small bottle. Besides, she wasn't lacking in magnetite, so she didn't bother to sell them.

It was already late into the night when everyone started leaving. When Qiao Mu followed the second young master back to the Qin Estate, she saw a great show of force lined up at the entrance. Two neat lines of servants were holding long staffs in their hands.

This was... lying in wait, waiting for herself here, huh.

Madam Qin née Yang's face was black and sullen. She had gathered together a group of servants and waited the entire time for Qiao Mu, who had only returned late at night. Naturally, she didn't have a pleased expression.

She only stretched out her hand, pointing a finger. "Take her down."

The servants instantly charged forward like wolves and tigers.

"Let me see who dares to mess around!" Second Young Master Qin shouted frostily, which scared the vicious and nefarious servants into backing down.

Second Young Master was not to be provoked. This estate was surnamed Qin, after all.

Although the stepmadam was in charge of the domestic affairs, it was still the two young masters' words that held weight before the master.

Dark clouds hung over Madam Qin née Yang's face, and she looked askance at Qiao Mu with a chilly gaze. "This lowly wench disfigured the maternal young miss in addition to breaking her hand. She should be put to death for this offense. Is Second Young Master planning to disregard the clan rules and shield her to the end?"

Chapter 530: Kill Whom?

Only the heavens knew how much her heart ached upon seeing how Yang Fengyan's face was streaked with two whip lashes.

The lowly wench didn't control her power at all when she struck Fengyan's face. As a result, the lashes were so deep that the bone could be seen. It could be seen how ruthless and merciless the little b*tch was.

Although she wasn't able to successfully appeal to the master emotionally, Madam Qin née Yang was unable to stifle her anger over this incident no matter what. Therefore, after careful thinking, she

rounded up all the male servants to wait for them at the entrance. She would definitely seize that b*tch and sell her off after whipping her a thousand times!

“Yang Fengyan was insolent without restraint, speaking impertinent remarks before this young master. I’m the one who ordered the beating. Does Madam also intend to kill me?” Second Qin’s chilly voice caused Madam Qin née Yang’s heart to shudder without reason upon hearing these words.

Madam Qin née Yang laughed awkwardly. “Second Young Master truly knows how to crack a joke.”

“This madam has already been informed of all the details. It’s all because that little wench refused to comply with maternal young miss’s discipline. Even actually daring to hurt her!” Madam Qin née Yang pointed in Qiao Mu’s direction.

However, she clearly saw the other party rolling her eyes at her in response!

This? She really wanted to overturn the heavens, was that right?

“I’m sleepy!” Could she just return to her room to rest and sleep? It was already late, and they just had to squabble without end. It really was troublesome!

Qiao Mu kicked at a heap of snow in slight irritation.

Second Young Master Qin also became irritated immediately. “Alright, go find Father if you’re dissatisfied. Move aside, all of you.”

The two lines of servants didn’t dare to block the second young master from entering, so they all retreated backwards.

Madam Qin née Yang was fuming so much that her chest heaved erratically, and her face had flushed into a dark reddish purple. “So Second Young Master insists on obstructing me and sticking up for this little wench?”

Second Qin gave Madam Qin née Yang a cold glance. “I’m only saving your lives.”

“It’s Father’s birthday tomorrow. If you were to die here today, who would be the one to entertain those missuses and noble ladies?” Second Qin’s words caused Madam Qin née Yang to feel a frosty chill coming from her bones.

Her whole body shuddered, but she was so livid that she puffed up her chest, her eyes bursting in fury. “Oh? Is that right? Since that is the case, I would like to see whether Second Young Master will really turn your blade against your own stepmother should I insist on killing this lowly wench today.”

Madam Qin née Yang pointed in Qiao Mu’s direction, her bulging eyes seeing red. “Restrain this lowly wench and beat her to death!”

The servants were in a quandary, stuck between the madam and the second young master. Upon hearing the order, they could only brace themselves to go forth and apprehend Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu’s small stoic face instantly turned several degrees colder. Before a servant could even touch her with his hand, she acted first and ruthlessly kicked that person’s stomach towards where the stepmadam was standing.

How would Madam Qin née Yang have known that the little fellow was the kind that took people's lives when making a move? She was hit squarely by the servant that had been sent flying horizontally, and they both smashed into the protruding door sill with a "bang."

A crisp "crack" was heard, and Madam Qin née Yang's lower vertebrae instantly fractured. She immediately let out an anguished howl before fainting.

When Eldest Qin rushed over after receiving the news, he saw the group of servants surrounding a stoic-faced little lady with horrified faces. They were ill at ease and didn't know what to do.

"What are you all crowding here for?" Eldest Qin snapped brusquely. "It's so late at night. Do you all have nothing to do after eating your fill? What are you all doing by blocking the entrance?"

"E-Eldest Young Master. This maidservant next to Second Young Master clobbered Madam and made her faint!"

Hearing the servant's words, Eldest Qin looked towards Second Qin and saw that the other party had on a poker face.