

My Crown 541

Chapter 541: Couldn't Suppress His Rage

Once they mentioned the long hallway and the flowerpot, Qiao Mu promptly recalled what they were talking about.

“So you were that scaredy-cat! What else do you know aside from tattletaling?” The little stoic’s eyes suddenly flared up, and she actively lifted a leg to stomp Hu Youkang in the belly, kicking him so that his entire body kept rolling before crashing into Situ Yi’s short table.

Situ Yi hastily jumped up to evade, but that unlucky fella got caught up with the table and flipped onto the floor with it.

Hu Youkang’s body was pressed under the flipped table, so everyone could only see his two trembling legs that peeked out from beneath it.

Family Head Qin watched agape!

Although he heard his servants report to him about “Second Young Master’s ferocious maidservant’s” awesomeness, hearing about it was one thing, personally seeing it happen was another!

“You! You!” Situ Yi pointed at our dear Qiao Mu and exclaimed with complete certainty, “You’re Little Junior Sister! Don’t deny it! You, you! Come over here! Come quickly!”

Qiao Mu glanced at him before pattering over.

Situ Yi pulled her to his side and stroked her head. He was exasperated but still spoke with sincerity and earnestness. “Little Junior Sister, why are you so disobedient. Where did you run off to these two years? Did you know that everyone has been searching for you! How could you just suddenly disappear like that? Everyone’s been worried to death over you.”

“Immobilize!” Qiao Mu suddenly pulled out a talisman and slapped it onto Situ Yi’s forehead.

That yellow-colored talisman paper swayed and fluttered on the elegant, handsome, and bright-eyed youth’s forehead.

Everyone: “...”

Duan Yue, especially, twitched his mouth speechlessly.

This child really hadn’t changed a bit at all! Once she felt it was noisy, she would immediately think of using strange methods to make you shut up quickly.

Situ Yi’s brows jerked, and he reached out to yank off the talisman paper fluttering on his face. He looked at the stoic face helplessly. “Little Junior Sister! Senior Brother is saying this for your own good. Don’t be irritated, and don’t keep mum either! Only if you speak can we know what exactly happened in these two years.”

“Senior Brother Situ, your cultivation has surged.” Qiao Mu sighed and eyed Situ Yi regretfully.

Her cultivation had also skyrocketed, but she still wasn’t able to immobilize him!

Crown Prince Mo had been gazing at Darling Qiao the entire time from a distance. Although he didn't express anything, he unconsciously squeezed the wine cup he was holding.

When did the little fellow and Situ Yi become so close? She was basically admitting her identity by calling him "Senior Brother Situ!"

This little one was expressionless and did her utmost to cut ties when it came to him, yet she just so straightforwardly acknowledged Situ Yi?

Crown Prince Mo's rage surged and boiled with nowhere to release it.

Duan Yue's complexion also wasn't pretty. He studied Situ Yi up and down, left and right, but he didn't feel like this fellow was more handsome than himself? The little stoic didn't even acknowledge him, so on what basis did she first acknowledge Situ Yi?

Eh? Why did he sense a dense killing intent? Situ Yi was baffled.

"You, come here!" Crown Prince Mo finally spoke.

Situ Yi peered in Crown Prince Mo's direction and saw the crown prince's eyes brewing a forbidding rage, the latter's gaze locked on the hand that he was using to stroke his little junior sister's head.

Uh...

Situ Yi sheepishly retracted his palm and elbowed the little stoic gently. "His Highness the Crown Prince is calling you over."

"Your Highness!" Second Young Master Qin suddenly stood up and strode over quickly to Qiao Mu. He stood in front of her and bowed towards Crown Prince Mo. "It's this humble one's fault for not disciplining his maidservant strictly. I am willing to assume all responsibility."

Chapter 542: Go Back with Me

The fury in Crown Prince Mo's pupils was so extreme that it could soar into the heavens.

"Bang!" The wine cup in his hand disintegrated into a fine powder that instantly scattered in the breeze.

Assume responsibility? Where did this scoundrel come from, considering himself her guardian angel and wanting to assume all responsibility for his darling?

Then what about him? What was he, Mo Lian, to her?

The crown prince was enraged. Qin Guilu's brows jerked, and he suppressed the apprehension in his heart.

That person said that the plan would immediately commence as long as the crown prince arrived. Why wasn't there a trace of it commencing even until now?

Judging from the crown prince's skyrocketing fury, he reckoned that the crown prince wasn't going to stay in the Qin Estate for much longer.

"Someone, hurry and replace His Highness the Crown Prince's wine cup." Second Young Master Qin coldly instructed as he swept an indifferent glance across some subordinates.

Noticing that the atmosphere had completely turned foul, the subordinate scrambled to be the first to leave and procure a new wine cup...

"No need to go through the trouble!" Crown Prince Mo stood up abruptly and descended the steps, heading towards Qiao Mu.

What to do? He looks very, very angry! Our dear Qiao Mu was inexplicably a bit flustered and agitated. She was out of her wits and could only subconsciously hang her head while poking her index fingers together.

She had gotten fat from eating her words for these past two years, so he had reason to be angry!

At that time, she said that she would go look for him in the capital, and he had smiled quietly and said okay, that he would wait for her...

Besides, the ferule that he had gifted her broke, and Big Treasure had died. She was useless to not be able to safeguard the presents he gave her.

She was a little jinx who cursed everyone who got close to her, so she wasn't very suited to be by his side, right?

"Go back with me." When the crown prince saw her keeping silent, her small figure shrinking behind Second Qin, he felt his heart wrenching in pain. He stretched out his hand to grab her wrist.

Second Young Master Qin instantly deflected his palm.

"Your Highness." Second Young Master Qin stressed, "This is this humble one's maidservant. Please conduct yourself with dignity, Your Highness."

"Who do you think you are? Daring to speak without thinking in front of Us? When did she become yours? She never had been!" A killing intent swirled in Crown Prince Mo's eyes, and he promptly smacked towards Second Qin's head without a second thought.

"Please quell your anger, Your Highness! Please forgive my son for being rude, Your Highness!" Qin Guilu cried out loudly while trembling.

When Mo Lian smacked down his palm, he felt a rather powerful energy blocking him somewhat.

The defensive shield on this fellow was unexpectedly quite powerful?

Mo Lian's phoenix eyes harbored a certain danger as he swept a cold gaze at Qin Xin.

The two's gazes clashed, and monstrous waves threatened to surge to the heavens from the depths of their eyes.

Crown Prince Mo promptly put up his guard and glanced coldly at Second Young Master Qin: *When We first met Darling Qiao, who knows where you, this baffling fellow, were?*

"Step aside!" Mo Lian shoved Second Qin angrily and nabbed a certain someone over to his side.

"Let's go!" Crown Prince Mo yanked the little fellow's wrist in frustration and turned around, dragging her along with him.

How was it possible for her to free herself once his fingers latched onto her wrist like an iron pincer?

Our dear Qiao Mu blindly followed him along to the anteroom's entrance and noticed that the madams and young misses were standing nearby, looking over from afar.

As both genders' dining halls were close to each other, the female guests had walked out from their hall in curiosity when they heard the commotion. Hence, they were dumbstruck upon seeing this scene.

"Mom, who is this b*tch? Why is the crown prince grabbing her hand?" Mu Qianqian glared disbelievingly with a pale complexion at Qiao Mu.

What was happening? The crown prince normally didn't like coming into contact with women, so why would he grab tightly onto that b*tch without letting go?

Chapter 543: Level-Four Zombie Attack

All of the female guests were whispering and peeking at the crown prince, who left while being surrounded by his retinue, when a blood-curdling screech suddenly rang out.

"Save me! Save me!" The quavering voice of a young man travelled over.

"Roar!" A terrifying and deafening roar travelled into the female guests' drawing room immediately after, frightening the madams and young misses into dispersing to the sides.

With a boom, the door to the drawing room crashed onto the floor.

A young man in disorderly clothing scrambled inside and flumped before a missus, reaching forward to grab onto her leg without thinking. "Save me, save me! Save me!"

That missus was frightened by this rash little bastard into retreating backwards repeatedly, in addition to being shamed into anger.

Qiao Mu's small brows jerked slightly when she heard this person's voice.

Although this person was panicking desperately at the moment, she could still recognize his voice as that of the person who was engaged in some hanky-panky with Concubine Mei in the middle of the night.

"Ah, Maternal Young Master!" Some maidservants yelped.

Qiao Mu only then realized that this discomposed young man with a flat nose and large flat face was Yang Jiazhen, Madam Qin née Yang's treasured but notorious nephew.

It was so absurd that he was so impatient to have a fling with his own uncle's concubine, even keeping his aunt in the dark. It truly was so revolting that it made her want to puke.

"Roar!" A half-nude woman with disheveled hair pounced inside from the doorway.

However, she couldn't be considered a woman anymore now.

All the muscles on her body had been supplanted by black and rotting flesh. She was crawling at an extremely explosive speed using all four limbs and entered the drawing room in the blink of an eye.

A black whirlpool flickered in her soulless eyes as she fixated on her target—Yang Jiazhen. She ground her sharp teeth and opened her mouth to reveal a zombie’s signature byproduct: fangs!

“Mom! Why is it a zombie!” The room instantly descended into chaos. The normal madams and young misses really were freaked out into abandoning their poise and screaming nonstop.

“Don’t be nervous, everyone, don’t be nervous! Keep your calm and don’t run carelessly. Make sure that you don’t come into contact with this zombie!!” Qin Guilu was simply about to be infuriated into tears!

What the hell were all of these random things exactly!

Why were these incidents breeding like flies and surfacing one after another in waves on his 60th birthday feast?

Who could come out and tell him why there was a zombie in his home?

At present, the entire Guanlan City was under strict lockdown day and night. Don’t mention a zombie, even a mosquito wouldn’t be able to get into the city.

Who knows how many people would take advantage of this incident if they found out that a zombie had appeared in the Qin Estate? The entire Qin Estate would probably get implicated!

Could it be that this was part of that sir’s calculated scheme?

Releasing a zombie into the banquet to recklessly attack Crown Prince Mo? Was that feasible? This plan didn’t seem that reliable!

“Uncle, save me, Uncle, save me!” Yang Jiazhen was only wearing one pant leg because half of his other foot had split open, seemingly the work of the zombie’s vicious bite.

Yang Jiazhen was about to go crazy. He repeatedly wailed bitterly and crawled, half-dressed, towards Qin Guilu. It discomfited several unmarried young ladies, who all spat in disgust after covering their eyes with their fingers.

“He got bitten!” Several patrician families’ young masters shouted in horror.

“Hurry, hurry and isolate him, we can’t let him come over!”

“Uncle, save me, wah! Uncle, Uncle!! Aunt, where are you, Aunt! Ahhh, save me, ah! Save me!”

“Roar!” The zombie suddenly flipped out and lunged onto Yang Jiazhen’s back.

Chapter 544: Wiping Out This Humiliation

The zombie’s monstrous mouth split open to reveal two long fangs, which abruptly pierced and tore into Yang Jiazhen’s neck.

Yang Jiazhen screamed miserably. Qin Guilu’s pupils contracted several times as he blocked his two sons next to him. “Don’t go over! Everyone, don’t go over!”

“Humph! He brought it upon himself.” Qiao Mu stated coldly all of a sudden as she watched in ridicule at the maternal young master, Yang Jiazhen, who was currently being torn apart by the zombie on the floor.

If her guess was correct, this zombie was the young lady from a good family that Yang Jiazhen had kidnapped from the jewelry store.

The other party was about to get married, yet he had to act tyrannically and forcefully make her his.

This young lady mutated into a zombie after her death and sought him for revenge. This truly was appropriate retribution!

It served him right! He just deserved to die!

“Be careful! She’s coming over now!! Everyone, focus your mystic energy attacks!” Family Head Qin hollered and was the first to release a wave of mystic energy, striking the ground beneath the zombie.

However, that zombie’s movements were abnormally explosive, its speed shocking everyone present.

“Little Junior Sister, why is this zombie so fast?” Situ Yi had always felt that his little junior sister really possessed a natural gift for dealing with zombies!

He questioned her without any hesitation, completely oblivious to the crown prince’s sullen gaze.

“This is a level-four zombie and already has a bit of intelligence. See how she already knows how to take revenge on her enemy!” Qiao Mu answered Situ Yi’s question subconsciously. “Level-four zombies move faster than normal people. If they were to bite a level-five mystic cultivator, they are able to obtain a portion of their power and at least reach the level of a level-three mystic cultivator.”

“What?” Everyone immediately paled from fright after hearing this.

They had never imagined that zombies could also obtain power from mystic cultivators. At this rate, weren’t zombies about to f*cking defy the natural order?

“Don’t get bitten by it! Or else you’ll get infected, and your body will mutate before the five-day incubation period is up! Even the gods won’t be able to save you.” Qiao Mu said dryly, but everyone else shuddered upon hearing her words.

“Uncle, Uncle, Uncle, ah, save, save me...” Yang Jiazhen wept bitterly, covering the bloody hole that opened up in his neck with one hand while he struggled to crawl forwards with the other.

Qin Guilu clenched his fists. Suddenly, a surging mystic energy exploded from his body and instantly pummeled Yang Jiazhen, who was just about to crawl up to him, into mincemeat.

“Family Head Qin is strong-minded.” Everyone let out a collective sigh of relief. They were afraid that Qin Guilu would suddenly go nuts and insist on rescuing Yang Jiazhen, that menace, no matter what.

The group concentrated their firepower on the level-four zombie.

The female zombie’s movements and speed were extremely explosive. She would be sprawling on the floor one moment and be leaping up at the next, frightening the madams and young misses into shrieking.

Luckily, there were guards protecting these useless women. Seeing their numbers, the zombie didn't lunge towards them.

This zombie already had a bit of intelligence and knew to flee towards the window.

"We can't let her escape! Kill her." Qin Guilu was drenched in cold sweat, and he led several great mystic cultivators in hot pursuit. Several waves of criss-crossing and overlapping mystic energy landed on the zombie's back, and the zombie, who was clinging to the window, promptly fell down from it.

Qin Xuan swung his sword and chopped off the zombie's head on the spot. It then rolled to a madam's foot and instantly spooked the delicate madam into fainting.

Qiao Mu took a sniff and suddenly smelled a strange fragrance in the air. Her heart sank with a thump.

"Leave quickly, the hall is about to collapse!"

Chapter 545: Trifling Skill

Mo Lian's expression also changed subtly. He scooped up the little lady by the waist and swiftly ran out of the room.

The little lady suddenly stuffed a pill into his mouth. After a short moment of surprise, he swallowed it without any reservation.

As expected, the entire room collapsed with a boom within several seconds just as he made it out of the anteroom. Dust flew everywhere as broken rock rolled down.

"Your Highness!" Huifeng followed him out hastily.

Mo Lian tugged the little lady's hand, retreating several steps. He loosened his grip and flapped his sleeve before her to scatter the flying dust while smothering his cough.

The large hall in front of them that collapsed all of a sudden basically buried everyone inside in an instant.

Mo Jiao that fool hadn't come out yet, either. Things were getting interesting now.

"Return to the place for now." Mo Lian didn't have the patience to stay in this hazy Qin Estate any longer and grasped for the little fellow's soft and small hand.

However, he only grasped at empty air. Upon turning his head to look, there wasn't a trace of the little one in sight.

The child must have used that invisibility talisman to run off again when he wasn't paying attention!

Huifeng glanced all over and only saw one wailing madam or young miss being helped out after another. Each of them looked miserable, their heads covered in filth and blood.

Upon turning his head and seeing His Highness the Crown Prince trying to control his boiling fury, Huifeng silently lowered his eyes and grumbled inwardly.

Could this little great aunt just bear with their lord for a bit?

What kind of fuss was she trying to kick up?

How did she disappear again all of a sudden?

“Let me see where you can run to!” As Mo Lian clenched his fists, he turned around and strode off. Huifeng quickly followed behind without a word. He didn’t want to carelessly say anything at this time and inexplicably turn into cannon fodder!

Qiao Mu had indeed used an invisibility talisman to escape.

On one hand, she didn’t know what frame of mind she should have to face that terrifying fellow.

On the other hand, that fragrance was really too suspicious, so she needed to go and take a closer look.

The crown prince wasn’t thinking of beating her again, right? She’s already grown so big! If that fellow dared to hit her again, she wouldn’t let him off!

A small pair of wings flapped before her. The black butterfly fled swiftly, flying high up for one moment and down low in the next.

Qiao Mu’s speed of pursuit wasn’t weak either, and she maintained a certain distance behind it from beginning to end.

After the butterfly left the Qin Estate, it flew out onto a bustling street. It then flapped into an out-of-the-way road before flying into a run-down courtyard.

“You’ve done well. We just have to wait until early next morning for his poison to take effect without anyone knowing, hehehe.” A vulgar laughter rang out in the small courtyard.

“Is that right? You’re just that confident?” A chilly female voice abruptly broke the silence pervading the courtyard.

That person turned his head around quickly, and his pair of differently-sized eyes bulged out in shock as he stared dazedly at the little lady that strode into this courtyard.

Qiao Mu’s gaze landed acutely on his body. This person was a pygmy, so he was extremely short.

She had never seen one before. He had a triangular head and an extremely ugly appearance. His differently-sized eyes stood out the most, with one eyebrow higher than the other. His whole face was extremely unbalanced, and looking at it really scarred her eyes!

“Darn lass, you won’t tread on the wide-open path to heaven but insist on trespassing into the closed-off hell! Since you’ve come, then you might as well stay here!” The pygmy’s face grew sinister, and he extended his hands abruptly. Countless black butterflies simultaneously flew out from his sleeves and swarmed Qiao Mu.

“You dare show off such a trifling skill in front of me?” Qiao Mu scoffed. She flung her sleeve, which scattered a cloud of medicinal powder. The batch of black butterflies that were flapping with all their might in mid-air simultaneously plopped to the ground.

Chapter 546: Poison-Tailed Butterfly

“You’re a poison manipulator?” The differently-sized-eyed pygmy cried out. He abruptly unclenched his palm and discharged a black smoke at Qiao Mu.

“You dare to harm others with just this level of poison manipulation?” Qiao Mu shouted sternly and flashed quickly to evade his poison smoke.

The pygmy’s eyes glinted with a cruel light as he cackled in laughter. “You’re still too green, Little Miss. You think that you can avoid my poison smoke just by evading it? From the moment I released the poison smoke, the air in this area had already been saturated by its poison fog, hahaha.”

The pygmy was only halfway through his spiel when he suddenly clutched his chest and widened his eyes in horror.

He suddenly rolled onto the ground, and his entire body started convulsing. A layer of frost rapidly coated his face and limbs, freezing even his eyebrows. His lips quivered incessantly, but he was unable to speak and could only gaze at her in horror.

“You’re dying.” Qiao Mu spoke icily as a dazzling dagger appeared in her hand. “Why don’t you guess, how many bloody holes do I have to poke in your body for you to identify the mastermind?”

The pygmy’s originally grotesque face had completely contorted by this time, and he glowered at Qiao Mu as his jaws chattered from fighting one another.

“Are you baffled by why you got poisoned?” Qiao Mu patted the pygmy’s face twice with her dagger, her lips curling up into an icy curve. “You can go and ask the King of Hell.”

“Spit it out. In which stinky gutter is Shuntian Prefecture’s Liu Yizhi hiding in?”

“Ah!” Two more bloody holes appeared on the pygmy’s body in his moment of hesitation.

His entire body convulsing, he stared wide-eyed as this she-devil lifted him up like a bag of garbage and carried him into the rear court.

There, countless small and thin cocoons hung on one of its walls, trembling and swaying gently.

“It seems like you’ve made quite a breakthrough in nurturing these poison-tailed butterflies. What do you say if I feed you to them?” Qiao Mu spoke icily, her eyes devoid of warmth.

“D-don’t, I-I’ll tell you, I’ll tell you.” The pygmy was horrified and spoke with quivering lips, “T-The person who’s been contacting me all this time is Sir Qiu San. I-I only know that he’s hiding inside Beilan City’s Beilan Fortification, which isn’t that far from the capital. As for the concrete address, I-I really don’t know!”

“Qiu San?” Qiao Mu recalled the familiar voice she heard conspiring with Qin Guilu that night and had an epiphany. “Is he Liu Yizhi’s attendant?”

“Right, right.” The pygmy said in a quavering voice, “Sir Qiu San has been very aggravated. He said that Northern Mo’s crown prince’s actions these few years have been pushing Shuntian Prefecture’s people to their deaths, and that we needed to counterattack.”

“That means, Qin Guilu is indeed colluding with your Shuntian Prefecture.” Qiao Mu’s eyes instantly frosted over.

“Qin Guilu has been v-very cautious. He and the Shuntian Prefecture don’t communicate using letters. If M-Miss wants to charge him with conspiring with the Shuntian Prefecture to murder His Highness the Crown Prince, it’ll p-probably be very difficult.”

“Qin Guilu conspired to murder a kingdom’s heir apparent just for a mere pill recipe.” Qiao Mu pulled out her dagger from the pygmy’s body and said coldly, “The Qin Estate has come to its end.”

“Crack!” The dagger flew out and stabbed into the wall. Immediately, the entire wall’s cocoons burst open with a series of bangs, and a swarm of black poison-tailed butterflies flew over. They congregated into a dense mass and enveloped the pygmy neatly.

The pygmy howled miserably from inside the poison-tailed butterfly swarm. “W-Why? I already told you everything, ah, ah, ah!!”

“I don’t think I said that I would spare your life after you confess honestly.” Qiao Mu replied apathetically. The moment she turned around, she gazed coldly at the black figure that had dropped down from the sky.

After a little less than an hour, Qiao Mu smoothly returned to the Qin Estate. She slipped into Qin Guilu’s study and as expected, ended up empty-handed. Qin Guilu, this sly old fox, had long wiped out all his traces...

She returned to her room and lay down to sleep, fully dressed. She indistinctly saw Second Qin’s figure pacing back and forth outside, wanting to knock on the door. Yet, he seemed to have thought better of it when he saw that she had extinguished the lamp.

She was a bit overwhelmed after being tormented for the entire day. Thus, she fell into a deep sleep as soon as her head hit the pillow.

Chapter 547: Waking Up in the Eastern Palace!

She slept really soundly that night, unlike other nights when she would be startled awake by the slightest noise.

When Qiao Mu opened her eyes, she felt that her spirit was rejuvenated and her breathing steady.

However...

She blinked her eyes and flipped onto her stomach while still being enswathed in a thick, brocade quilt. She was a bit flabbergasted when she saw the thick, bright yellow sheer silk hanging down from the ceiling.

This huge, several-feet wide bed made of agarwood was obviously not the one she had at the Qin Estate!

She raised her hands to feel the bright yellow, silk-weave canopy inlaid with jade beads.

Two white jade pendants with a penetrating luster swayed gently.

Also, this brocade quilt around her?

The little fellow stuck out her small hand from inside the quilt with a stupefied expression. After checking out her surroundings, she rolled back onto her butt and sat up straight while still enswathed in the quilt.

What was this situation?

Dazzling candelabra holding brightly-lit red candles were placed every five feet.

Rows of night luminous pearls the size of fists hung from the four corners of the room, while the inner side of the roof beam was layered with white carved jade. Looking further away, the inner and outer rooms were clear and distinct, so spacious that it left people dumbstruck.

T-This?

How was this a room? Wasn't this a gorgeous and extravagant palace?

What the heck was going on? How did the Qin Estate's room turn into an unfamiliar bedchamber?

Could someone come and tell her what exactly was going on!

Qiao Mu hopped off the bed and pattered barefoot to push aside the heavy bead and silk curtains. She turned her head for a look and found out that she had only just effing left the bed's vicinity after running for such a distance...

"Is there anyone here?" Qiao Mu tossed the brocade quilt onto the floor, showing her short-sleeved inner garment underneath. She ran to a treasure display shelf on the side to rummage for her clothing.

Hence, when Shaoyao came inside followed by a line of royal maids holding neat and tidy clothing, she discovered her little master rummaging through the treasure display shelf...

After turning her small head around, our dear Qiao Mu's eyes brightened when she glimpsed Shaoyao, but she coughed twice in slight embarrassment immediately afterwards. "En, I-I'm looking for my clothes."

"Pfft." Shaoyao couldn't resist laughing. Aiyah, her little master was rummaging for clothes in the treasure display shelf.

"Master, you've finally come back at long last." Shaoyao was already a grown young lady. She was a bit emotional seeing Qiao Mu again after so many years.

"Shaoyao." The little fellow fiddled with her small hands before pattering forwards. She wanted to take the clothes, but the royal maid holding the clothes evaded to the side and bowed in greeting, terrified.

"Master, which piece do you want to wear?" Shaoyao bent over to help her with her shoes before pulling her over to the dressing table. "If you don't like any of them, Shaoyao will have them prepare more."

Qiao Mu cast a glance, but the dozens of girls were holding so many clothes that it dazzled her eyes.

“Whatever is fine.” She had never been particular about these things, so she pointed randomly to the first girl.

“You can’t be haphazard about this. If Master isn’t happy, His Highness will be angry.” Shaoyao smiled as she combed through her disheveled head of jet-black long hair. She knew that her little master didn’t care for a head of pearl and jade accessories, so she only picked two dainty and exquisite bead flowers as a slight embellishment.

Qiao Mu touched her ordinary-looking face that would be lost in the crowd. “This is the Eastern Palace?”

Even a fool would know what had happened in the middle of the night after waking up inside a palace. The little fellow gritted her teeth.

No wonder she had slept so soundly. The crown prince must have used his medicinal power on her again to underhandedly bring her back to the palace, that scoundrel!

“Where’s that scoundrel!” This darling wasn’t pleased!

Shaoyao’s small hand froze slightly as she set down the comb. She coughed lightly and said, “H-His Highness usually has to meet with officials in the southern study around this time. He’ll return a bit later.”

“Humph! I also have stuff to take care of too!” Our dear Qiao Mu casually took an outer garment from a random royal maid and put it on, intending to walk out from the bedchamber.

Unfortunately, she didn’t walk far before stepping into and getting rebounded by a considerable amount of energy. The little fellow gaped in shock and stretched out her hand to support her head.

Qiao Mu stared fixedly and discovered an abnormal current circulating around the bedchamber. It was like a flexible and see-through casing that trapped her inside!

Shaoyao snickered while covering her mouth. “Little Master, don’t waste your energy. You can’t go outside. His Highness was worried that you would secretly run away again, so he temporarily put a restriction on you.”

“Don’t worry, it’ll be fine once His Highness returns!”

Qiao Mu: ... I’m worried!

Chapter 548: Defensive Boundary

It would have been better if Shaoyao didn’t mention it, seeing as Qiao Mu’s pitiful heart was now rather perturbed and unsettled.

Qiao Mu tugged at Shaoyao.

This girl was now a seventeen to eighteen year-old tall and voluptuous young lady. She had a rosy oval face and a smiling pair of extremely quick-witted eyes.

“Little Master, don’t hesitate to tell Shaoyao if you have any requests.” Shaoyao said with a grin.

“Shaoyao, can’t I go out for a walk?” Such fine weather was hard to come by, and it was her first time in the royal palace. Yet, she wasn’t even allowed to go outside for a stroll?

Shaoyao shook her head like a rattle-drum. “No can do, Little Master. You’ve already seen how His Highness has already enclosed this bedchamber with several layers of energy. His Highness hasn’t given you permission to pass through it, so you can’t go outside.”

“This is a defensive boundary, right.” *Don’t think that she didn’t know what this thing was!* Our dear Qiao Mu gritted her small sharp teeth.

She had once seen Fan Qiuhe use this kind of large-scale defensive boundary before. It could instantly enclose several, even a dozen, people inside and resist external attacks.

The effects of a defensive boundary were comparable to that of a defensive mystic weapon.

The difference was that the defensive mystic weapon’s defensive shield could only serve a defensive purpose at best.

On the other hand, it was a whole other matter for a defensive boundary set up by someone.

When you were inside someone else’s defensive boundary, it meant the person who set up the defensive boundary could constantly observe your each and every move, every frown and every smile, so long as they wanted to...

Of course, a person’s defensive boundary was unable to be sustained for a long period of time. Normal mystic cultivators were simply unable to set up their own defensive boundaries, either.

After all, how long it could be sustained, and how strong its defensive power was, were all closely related to the person’s own cultivation.

If the person’s mystic energy was exhausted, the defensive boundary would naturally disappear.

However, the crown prince doing this really made her speechless!

He set up a defensive boundary for no reason just to confine her from leaving. Then, didn’t it consume his mystic energy to maintain the defensive boundary and constantly monitor any of her abnormal movements, all while discussing politics in the southern study?

In addition, the defensive boundary that he set up covered an extremely large area, already enveloping an entire bedchamber. The energy consumed was naturally much greater.

She just didn’t know, regarding his cultivation... how high was it? This action of casually setting up a large-scale defensive boundary was so willful that it raised people’s hackles!

Shaoyao laughed awkwardly, cough cough. She also felt that His Highness was overly anxious.

Little Master was already inside the Eastern Palace. Where else could she run to? You needed an identity tablet to go in and out of the royal palace. How could Little Master go out without an identity tablet?

There were more than ten thousand royal guards, who were definitely not just decorations, patrolling inside the palace. It was close to impossible for Little Master to take advantage of the situation and slip out of the palace.

If Qiao Mu knew what Shaoyao was thinking, she would definitely give her a humph.

As long as this darling used an invisibility talisman, those royal guards wouldn't notice her even if she were to stroll right up to them! Not everyone's cultivation was higher than this darling's! As long as she was cautious and evaded those people with top-notch cultivation, how could normal royal guards stop her?

Just as the two were speaking, Xiao'xi'zi directed a group of people to carry one large chest after another inside.

Qiao Mu stared with widened eyes at Xiao'xi'zi and company.

Xiao'xi'zi and the rest hurriedly came forward to give a bow. He said respectfully, "Miss, His Highness said that Miss can look through these medical books for now to relieve your boredom should you feel so inclined."

Chapter 549: Royal Appeal

Fifteen minutes ago.

The Royal Physician Building's old managerial physician was sprawled on top of a chest and was using both arms to grip it firmly. He yelled with tears and mucus streaking across his face, "No, no! You can't take away these books! You can't take away a single one!"

"Royal Physician Cao, it's only borrowing them for a few days. They'll be returned later!" Xiao'xi'zi directed people to carry out the chests one by one.

"You can't!! Many of these medical books are hand-written manuscripts of out-of-print books, so there are only one of them! Not lending, not lending! This old man can't lend them to you! Who can this old man turn to if they get ruined by some chance?" Royal Physician Cao latched firmly onto Xiao'xi'zi's leg. "Return them to me, return them to me!"

Xiao'xi'zi's mouth twitched as he yanked out his leg, and he promptly reprimanded, "Stop, stop it! Royal Physician Cao, please be mindful of your image! This eunuch is acting under His Highness's orders to borrow your medical books and will return them in a few days!"

Stop making a fuss, you old geezer!

As he watched the chests being carried out one after another before his eyes, Royal Physician Cao felt his eyeballs roll back. He inhaled a breath and felt like fainting.

The nearby royal physicians rushed over and helped the old physician regulate his breath and calm down. "Old Royal Physician Cao, Old Royal Physician Cao..."

Xiao'xi'zi gestured hurriedly to the group, and they fled with the chests, escaping in discomposure from the Royal Physician Building.

They left behind a group of madly hopping and howling physicians.

Royal Physician Cao's tears poured out as he yelled, "H-help me change my clothes, wuwuwu! This old man will lodge a royal appeal!"

Meanwhile, after gazing at the dozen chests of books, the little lady raised her head towards a certain direction in the bedchamber before giving a humph.

The crown prince was definitely observing her in secret. Otherwise, why could the royal maids and eunuchs come and go freely while only she couldn't?

She stuck out a small finger and gave a gentle poke. An energy ripple undulated from the bedchamber's entrance, absorbing her finger before slowly rebounding.

Humph!! Baddie!

Inside the southern study.

The group of officials sneakily raised their heads to peek at Their Highness.

They surprisingly discovered that His Highness had turned up his lips slightly, a smile surfacing from the bottom of his eyes.

This was a rare sight that only happened every few years.

The officials who had just reported some bad news, and were currently waiting for His Highness to berate them, were dumbfounded.

His Highness the Crown Prince had unexpectedly not gotten angry and instead calmly given several instructions. He inquired if there was anything else before dismissing them.

After exiting the southern study, the several officials that were accustomed to getting berated by His Highness showed their disconcertment on their faces, slightly incapable of coming to terms with what just happened.

"Sir Song, you don't have to be at your wits' end. From what I heard of the crown prince's implication, he will probably make a trip to Beilan personally."

"I heard that they have already cultivated the first batch of seeds that they planted into vegetables. As long as we can produce something, even if it takes a longer time, these hard times will come to pass."

Just earlier, the Minister of Revenue Song Yuan had reported to His Highness that not a single grain had been reaped recently. The situation was extremely precarious. It was also practically impossible to find any clean and not-mutated fish and shrimp in the nearby rivers either. If this continued, then the half-year supply of surplus grain in the granary would run out!

The others had originally thought that His Highness would give him another dressing-down in agitation, but Sir Song was surprisingly let off the hook. It was too unexpected...

"Disregarding the western region's infertile land, our Northern Mo, compared to the numerous countries in the southern region, could already be considered to have an abundant amount of surplus grain." One sir sighed and said, "If not for His Highness's foresight, it wouldn't be exaggerated to say

that the entire kingdom would be full of starving people with tens of thousands of people dying by now.”

Everyone in the group nodded repeatedly and walked out while in discussion.

Chapter 550: Did You Miss Me?

Mo Lian closed up the document in his hand and stood up to walk outside.

Xiao'xi'zi wasn't present, so another eunuch followed quickly behind His Highness the Crown Prince.

“Xiao'lu'zi.” The crown prince halted and tossed him a piece of paper. “Inform the kitchen to ready the meal according to the menu.”

The crown prince is suddenly being particular about food! Xiao'lu'zi was a bit dazed and followed with small steps. “Is Your Highness eating in the bedchamber?”

“Mhm.” Mo Lian responded. He gestured for him to leave and strode quickly towards his bedchamber thereafter.

He soon arrived at the entrance to the bedchamber and immediately waved his hand to dismiss the bowing royal maids as he entered noiselessly.

The little fellow was currently holding a small jar of dried fruit and had snuggled onto the soft couch against the window. A thick medical book was resting on her knees, and she would occasionally flip a few pages.

Shaoyao, who was standing quietly on the side, frantically wanted to bow to him when she saw him entering.

Master held up a hand to stop her and sent her a cool glance. Shaoyao understood and furtively retreated from the bedchamber with a bowed waist, giving her two masters the space to themselves.

Qiao Mu was engrossed in reading, and her small hand would unconsciously pick up a dried fruit strip to nibble on. The huge volume of medical knowledge in her brain was currently overlapping with that in the books.

She realized that a lot of the herbs in the books only had different names from the ones she recalled in her mind, while their usages were roughly the same. Sometimes, the medical techniques that surfaced in her mind were even more precise and effective.

There was practically no doubt that she must have accumulated copious medical knowledge in the past.

The period of time between her death in her previous life and her rebirth in this life... what exactly happened then?

Was it during this time that she learned medicine from her master...

Just as a spark of inspiration flashed through her mind, she suddenly felt a familiar presence approaching.

The little fellow abruptly raised her head, the thick book already having been pulled out of her hands.

The crown prince was dressed in formal attire and his long hair was bound into a coronet. He was somewhat different from the him in unadorned clothing. There was a severity between his exquisite eyebrows that was not normally present.

“What are you doing?” Darling Qiao started fuming when she saw him. First, he locked her inside the room without saying anything. Now, he was provoking her again by taking her book away without room for objection.

Mo Lian directly threw that lousy book to the floor and stretched his arms out to carry her up from behind. He spoke softly into her ear, “There’s nothing you want to tell me?”

The little fellow extended a hand, but he immediately grasped it. Her entire body was enveloped by his tyrannical presence, unable to move in the slightest. She instantly started huffing in anger.

“Did you think about me in these two years?” His head gently nuzzled the side of her slender neck.

Our dear Qiao Mu intuitively felt that this guy was angry, and her body automatically stiffened.

Did she think about him? How could she not? Once she thought of how his wispy figure dissipated abruptly after taking a hit for her on the snowy peaks, her heart would feel abnormally painful.

She unconsciously bit her small pink lips.

“Forget it, I don’t want to know.” He murmured beside her ear. The pair of arms bound around her waist squeezed tighter, pulling her firmly into his embrace.

“Mo...”

“Mhm. Let’s eat first. Are you hungry?” He suddenly carried her up and called for people to bring in the food.

There were around a dozen dishes for the two of them, which was already an extreme extravagance now.

Although his expression was mild and tranquil as jade, his bearing elegant and graceful as he attentively used his chopsticks to help her to the food.

Qiao Mu felt in her heart that something was off.