

My Crown 571

Chapter 571: I Won't Get Angry

Just as Elderly Lady was helped into the room, everyone was chatting cheerfully.

However, after Elderly Lady Qiao née Wang entered, the entire drawing room turned absolutely silent.

Everyone immediately stood up to welcome Elderly Lady. When they peeked furtively at Elderly Lady and saw that she seemed to have ill intentions, they couldn't help but look at each other in dismay.

On the contrary, Qiao Mu didn't say anything. When her mother stood up, she also stood up along with her. She then followed her mother into curtsying towards Elderly Lady before sitting down immediately afterwards.

No one could find fault with this etiquette. However, Elderly Lady's brows were furrowed, her eyes blazing. She couldn't find the little stoic pleasing no matter how she looked at her.

Her face remained stoic all day long, constant and unchanging, just like someone owed her a buttload of debt!

"Xiao Sen, come here to Grandmother." After sitting down, Elderly Lady Qiao née Wang beckoned to Qiao Sen.

After Qiao Sen skipped over, Elderly Lady Qiao née Wang pulled over his small hand.

Upon taking a look, Elderly Lady Qiao née Wang saw that the swelling in her youngest grandson's hand had indeed not gone down completely. Her face changed color in agitation, and she turned around to lash out at Qiao Mu. "Lass, it's fine if you've come back! But do you have to create such a big commotion? This is your own brother, not one that got picked up from the streets! Look at what you did upon coming back; you dragged him to someone else's house to torment him, both hitting and scolding him. This old one and your parents haven't died yet! It's not yet your turn to interfere with your younger brother's upbringing!"

Qiao Mu's icy gaze shot straight towards Elderly Lady.

The sharp light contained within that gaze promptly jolted the old madam's heart in shock.

She hadn't seen this lass in several years, so she couldn't have imagined that her gaze had become even more severe, to the point that it could practically cut apart her set of old bones.

However, Elderly Lady regarded this youngest grandson very highly and couldn't bear to see him suffering any grievances. Even though she was starting to feel scared inside, she still couldn't resist sticking up for her grandson.

Standing next to Elderly Lady, Donghe pursed her lips and snickered in secret as she waited to watch Eldest Miss getting trounced.

All of a sudden, she saw Eldest Miss standing up abruptly, her charming pair of icy eyes unexpectedly shifting towards her body.

The anteroom was so silent that you could hear a pin drop.

The servant girl Donghe only felt that her heart was about to leap out of her chest.

She saw Eldest Miss arrive before her in a flash and soundly slap her cheek, without room for objection.

This slap was quite humiliating. The servant girl Donghe instantly opened her mouth to spit out a mouthful of blood, with two teeth mixed in. Her body crumpled to the ground with a thud, and she started wailing and whimpering, her contracting pupils filled with disbelieving horror.

Elderly Lady had also been frightened by this lass's action, and her face had drained of color. She had thought that this lass had rushed up to hit her. However, it turned out that she was attacking the servant girl next to her.

She suddenly recalled how she had called for her two grandnephews from the Wang Family to deal with her a few years back. At that time, her young granddaughter was only seven, yet she wasn't able to take advantage of this lass.

This lass was already a fiend when she was seven, not allowing anyone to belittle her.

"Elderly Lady, this is the thing that you've trained? Even a tiny servant girl dares to turn up her nose at me. What does she think she is!" Qiao Mu berated, lambasting her without mercy, "She's a servant girl, yet she dolls herself up like a concubine: wearing flamboyant colors, acting coy, and making a display over what's right and wrong. She doesn't know her role as a servant! That's why there's a foul atmosphere hanging over the family! Someone! Drag her away this instant. It doesn't matter if you sell her off or beat her to death, just immediately get her out of my sight! Don't make me disgusted!"

Chang Zai immediately popped out tactfully, beckoning for two boy servants with a wave of his hand to restrain Donghe's arms.

Chapter 572: You Think I Don't Have a Temper?

Elderly Lady was so infuriated that her chest kept heaving. She pointed at Qiao Mu while uttering "You" for half the day. Even though she wasn't able to form a complete sentence, her eyes were still fuming so much that they threatened to spit out flames.

"On what basis can you sell me off? On what basis? I'm Old Madam's servant!" Donghe's eyes involuntarily glowered while her arms were restrained by the two boy servants. She struggled continuously, causing her head of pearl and jade accessories to slacken. She truly cut a sorry figure with her disheveled hair.

Hearing this, Qiao Mu's belly full of anger instantly exploded, and she ruthlessly kicked Donghe's body, which directly sent her flying out from the two boy servants' grasp. The servant girl Donghe collapsed to the ground heavily, a bloody wound opening up on her head from when it smashed against the thick stone tiles.

The surroundings were absolutely silent. The group of servants stared with fear and trepidation at the outraged Eldest Miss, feeling as if a huge palm had gripped their hearts. They were so terrified that they couldn't even breathe properly.

"On what basis can I sell you?" Qiao Mu shouted harshly. She then turned to Steward Chang Zai and roared, "Go bring me her indenture contract! At once!"

“Yes yes yes!” Chang Zai hastily gestured to several boy servants with his eyes.

The group then swiftly bolted for Longevity Court.

Since she said that she was Old Madam’s servant, then her indenture contract would certainly be inside Longevity Court.

Old Madam watched on blankly as that group of boy servants carried out Qiao Mu’s order, running unpretentiously to her Longevity Court to search for the indenture contract and not caring for their principles at all. She was so angered that her chest kept heaving, and she was practically unable to breathe.

Before long, several clever boy servants ferreted out the indenture contracts, and they handed the thin stack to Eldest Miss.

“Do you see, your indenture contract is now in my hands! You’ll live only when I let you live, and you’ll die if I want you to die!” Qiao Mu brandished the indenture contract in her hand. It scared the servant girl Donghe, who had shrunk into a ball on the floor, into scrambling and crawling towards Elderly Lady. She wailed repeatedly, “Elderly Lady, save me, Elderly Lady, Elderly Lady, save me.”

Even though the servant girl Donghe was crying while trembling, she made sure to maintain her image of a tear-stained beauty, her charming eyes still sending coquettish glances. When she saw Elderly Lady was preoccupied with taking deep breaths and didn’t say anything, she then raised her head towards Qiao Zhongbang, bawling as she crawled in his direction. “Master, Master, save me!”

She just knew that Elderly Lady was up to her wicked tricks again!

Seeing how this Donghe dolled herself up so alluringly, it was obvious that she wasn’t content with her current lot. There was even an 80 percent chance that Elderly Lady had promised Donghe that she might get promoted to become her father’s mistress if there was a chance.

“Xiao Sen has gotten ruined in you bunch of witches’ hands!” Qiao Mu strode forward and stomped on Donghe’s back, which directly pinned her onto the floor and left her unable to move.

“Drag her outside, whip her 30 times, then immediately sell her off. From today on, anyone that dares to cause trouble by gossiping around and babbling nonsense, will meet this end!” Qiao Mu stated coldly as she mercilessly ground her small heel into Donghe’s back.

Donghe howled as she got dragged out. She absolutely couldn’t have imagined that she, who had only come to watch the drama, ended up becoming the one acting in it?

Elderly Lady was so livid that she crumpled onto the ground and bawled while pounding the floor, “My descendants are unworthy! My descendants are unworthy! Ahhh, I’ve actually been humiliated so by my granddaughter at my advanced age. I can’t live on! I can’t live on!”

She thumped her chest as she cried out, taking in deep breaths.

Qiao Zhongbang peeked awkwardly at the crown prince, who was sitting calmly on the side.

At some point in time, a pitch-black figure had appeared next to the crown prince. Huifeng stepped forward, like how one’s shadow follows the body.

The crown prince sent him a covert glance. Huifeng comprehended his meaning and left to carry out his order.

Chapter 573: Eldest Miss Is a Devil

This truly was a drama! His mother had stopped her antics recently, so why did she start to make a fuss again just as his eldest daughter came back!

She clearly knew that this eldest daughter of his was not someone she could control! This Elderly Lady! Qiao Zhongbang couldn't help having a headache, and he massaged his temples while secretly blaming his mother for being meddling.

He had just learned why his youngest son suffered a beating. It truly was because they as parents didn't discipline him properly, and he deserved to be beaten and punished. He had even planned to personally make a trip to Sir Ren's estate tomorrow to apologize to Sir Ren.

What was his mother doing! A servant girl wagged her tongue in front of her, intending to cause trouble, and as expected, she anxiously ran over to chastise his eldest daughter. This truly was vexing!

No one had thought to inform Elderly Lady today, so if not for someone's instigation, how would she have come over by herself?

Qiao Zhongbang wasn't a fool, and he could connect the dots after thinking the matter over.

The fact that there was such a commotion in the family—wasn't this purely making the crown prince witness a spectacle!

Qiao Zhongbang glanced furtively at the crown prince, and when he saw his collected face without any intention to comment, his mind involuntarily relaxed a bit.

After Huifeng left to carry out his order, the crown prince scoffed faintly in his heart.

That Dong-whatever servant girl was insolent to the extreme, angering his Darling Qiao so badly that her face was flushed.

As such, you still hoped to report to the middleman without a hitch after leaving the Qiao Estate?

Donghe didn't know that her fate had long been decided. After being punished with 30 whips, she was flung out the door like a cloth rag to wait for the middleman to come take her away.

She was beside herself with indignation, and she kept swearing, "You think you're so awesome because you're the Qiao Estate's Eldest Miss! You think you're all that because you're the crown prince consort! I will definitely take revenge for today, you just wait... Wuwu, wuwu!"

Finding her irritating, two boy servants directly stuffed a rag cloth into her mouth.

"Mom, get up first!" Even though Wei Ziqin sat unmovingly with an unfeeling expression, Qiao Zhongbang couldn't sit still. After all, he couldn't continue staring blankly as his mother sat on the ground like a village woman and shamelessly made an unreasonable scene in front of the crown prince!

"You rotten son!" Elderly Lady gave Qiao Zhongbang a sound slap across the face.

Several years ago, Qiao Zhongbang had an earnest and sincere heart, just like that of a newborn, but his mother had practically eroded it all away. Now, his heart had already grown cold, so it naturally wouldn't hurt anymore.

On the contrary, Second Uncle Qiao Zhongxing flared up as he stood with a swish, shouting, "Mom! What are you doing? Are you done yet? You people, quickly help Old Madam back to Longevity Court!"

"Ah, my sons are not filial and my daughter-in-law is not virtuous!! Ah, my descendants are unworthy! What purpose is there for me, this old person, to keep living? Just let me die and be done with everything!" Elderly Lady wailed while bawling her eyes out.

Qiao Zhongbang stood up quietly and didn't pay attention to her anymore.

Qiao Mu gazed coldly at Elderly Lady before suddenly retrieving a small bottle of medicinal solution from her inner world with a flip of her hand. She slowly ambled toward Elderly Lady, handing it over. "Here, drink it."

Elderly Lady looked at her with enlarged eyes, and her lips involuntarily quivered. "This, what is this?"

"A poison solution. I guarantee that you'll be deader than a doornail after drinking a mouthful." Elderly Lady's complexion immediately turned ashen as she raised her head.

Everyone inside the courtyard quietly kept their mouths shut, not uttering a sound, and a terrifying silence pervaded the entire anteroom.

"Do you need me to find someone to help you?" Qiao Mu asked coldly.

"You, you!" Elderly Lady was indeed a scaredy-cat. Qiao Mu was so excessively vicious that she wilted subsequently. As she gazed at Qiao Mu's apathetic eyes, her entire body couldn't resist trembling.

Chapter 574: Third Master Barges into the Estate

Elderly Lady froze for a moment before she started bawling her eyes out and making a scene on the ground. "Ah, my sons aren't filial and my daughter-in-law isn't virtuous! They're about to kill me, this old lady! Ah! Ahh."

Qiao Mu looked on coldly without a word, her charming eyes gazing derisively at Elderly Lady.

Yet, just at this time, a boy servant that was guarding the entrance rushed inside and bowed. "Master, Madam, Second Master. There's a group of people outside who claim to be Third Master and his family, and they insist on barging in. We servants can't confirm their identities, so we're blocking them outside for now."

When Elderly Lady heard the words "Third Master," it was as if her ears had been pricked. She instantly stopped her tantrum and raised her head, shrieking, "It's Zhongheng, Zhongheng's family has come! I want to see them! Zhongheng, Zhongheng ah, my pitiful child! Ah, you've come to rescue your old mother!"

Wei Ziqin stood up and pulled her two children to the side, not wishing to acknowledge this granny that was bawling her eyes out.

She was now almost annoyed to death by this granny, who would bring Xiao Sen away practically every day to take care of him. Besides, she didn't do it well either, spoiling him into developing a bunch of terrible habits instead.

Every time she wanted to lecture her son, this granny would hastily defend him, not letting her hit or scold him.

Look at what kind of character the child she took care of turned into.

If not for her daughter making a scene early this morning, she still wouldn't have known that this imp actually bullied others like this outside.

He deserved to be beaten! Later, she had to make sure that his father reproached him severely too. They must make this child remember this lesson no matter what.

At this time, seeing that Elderly Lady was still making an unsightly racket, Wei Ziqin quickly entrusted her two half-grown children to the old nanny next to her. "Mammy Li, bring the young miss and young master back to their rooms first."

The situation was too nonsensical right now. She didn't want her children to observe this granny's disturbance and imitate her example later on.

"Yes!"

"Mom!" Qiao Lin still wanted to stay and watch the ruckus, but she received a glare from her mother.

"Go back." After all, she was still a little lady. It was good if she learned other things, but she would truly be too uncultivated if she learned this granny's way of making an unreasonable scene.

"Aw." Qiao Lin pursed her small lips. Mammy Li took her hand, dragging Qiao Sen along, and the two children were taken away.

At this instant, the two boy servants guarding the main entrance were beaten inside.

Although Qiao Zhongheng looked thin and weak, the muscles on his arms were bulging. It was obvious that he was a strength-type superhuman.

He took advantage of his strength to enter rapidly, taking the lead to barge into the marquis's estate.

Behind him, his wife and child, as well as Granny Niu's family, filed in.

With the help of Granny Niu's robust sons, Qiao Zhongheng totally 'annihilated their foes' in their wake, beating the crap out of the boy servants in the Qiao Estate.

The group swiftly charged into the anteroom. When they saw such a huge marquis's estate, as well as Qiao Zhongbang and his family's magnificent dress, they were so envious that their eyes had turned red.

Heavens, what kind of life had they been suffering, and what kind of life had the Qiao Family's eldest branch been enjoying.

Qiao Zhongheng would never have imagined that his guileless and simple eldest brother, whom his mother disliked the most, would actually achieve meteoric success and be bestowed with the title of a marquis.

Xu Jiao had good eyes and immediately saw Elderly Lady Qiao née Wang lying on the floor. Scrambling over in a rush, she hugged her mother-in-law and wailed while bawling her eyes out with excellent theatrics, "Ah, Mom! My old mother, sigh. Daughter-in-Law has finally found you at last! Ah, Mom, Mom!!

Elderly Lady almost fainted from Xu Jiao's cry.

Chapter 575: Psychological Gap

Furthermore, Xu Jiao's smelly body and overpowering bad breath assailed Old Madam's nostrils when she latched onto her and opened her mouth. This immediately caused Old Madam's stomach to churn, and she almost fainted.

Xiayun wanted to help Elderly Lady up, but Xu Jiao pushed her away forcefully. She tightly latched onto Elderly Lady without letting go, just as if she had caught a life-saving straw. Xu Jiao hugged Elderly Lady firmly and glowered menacingly at everyone else.

These years, Elderly Lady had been living quite the pampered lifestyle, so she was now almost dying from the strength of the stinky Xu Jiao's grip.

"Mom! Son isn't filial! To find Mom after such a long time." Qiao Zhongheng dashed over and knelt heavily on the floor while weeping.

Seeing her son so haggard and thin, Elderly Lady immediately felt sorrowful from heartache, and she gripped both of Qiao Zhongheng's hands as her tears streamed down her face.

"Xiao Long, hurry and come greet your grandmother, and give her a kowtow." Xu Jiao chided her son.

Qiao Long hastily scampered while wailing "Grandma."

The family of three wept fiercely while encircling Elderly Lady.

Elderly Lady didn't disdain the filth on Qiao Long's body either. Seeing how her chubby grandson had turned as skinny as a shriveled green bean, her heart ached so much that it almost made her faint.

After this family barged in, Qiao Mu already instructed people to shut the main door.

Although there weren't many people on Minshun Boulevard, the Qiao Estate was unwilling to enact a drama with their doors wide open.

Things were perfect now. After the three generations took their time to enact an episode in this drama, Granny Niu kicked Xu Jiao's leg impatiently, which finally caused Xu Jiao, who was still weeping bitterly, to regain her senses.

"Mom, how have you been these years?" Xu Jiao feigned wiping her tears away while peeping furtively at her sister-in-law on the side.

However, she was immediately filled with anger from this glance.

Wei Ziqin's face was fair, clear, and delicate, with only some fine wrinkles at the corners of her eyes. She was wearing a lotus-root-colored robe embroidered with peonies, paired with a similarly-colored flowery pleated skirt. She looked wealthy and noble at a glance.

The most hateful thing was that Wei Ziqin just sat there the entire time without batting an eyelid.

No less than half the day had passed, and no matter how big of a clamor Qiao Zhongheng's family of three made, she didn't even say a word.

This demeanor of hers infuriated Xu Jiao into gritting her teeth.

In the past, Elderly Lady favored her the most. How could Wei Ziqin compare to her when it came to food and clothes?

But now, her own family of three were just like the beggars on the street, while Wei Ziqin gloriously got promoted to a Marchioness. She wore damask and satin and ate exotic delicacies. This gap was just too large, to the point that it threw Xu Jiao's entire being and heart into turmoil.

"My sons are not filial and my daughter-in-law is not virtuous!" When Elderly Lady heard her youngest daughter-in-law's question, she immediately started bawling again.

It was as if Qiao Zhongheng was suddenly charged with energy, and he stood up abruptly, immediately denouncing Qiao Zhongbang. "Eldest Brother, how could you be so unfilial? Look how angry you made Mom! Have you taken care of Mom properly these past years?"

"As I said, Mom can't do without me taking care of her!" Xu Jiao squeezed out two drops of tears, and she said with a bitter face, "Mom, how about letting Daughter-in-Law and your eldest grandson take care of you the future?"

"Yes yes yes." Elderly Lady agreed repeatedly.

"But will Eldest Brother and them welcome us?" Xu Jiao asked deliberately while lifting the corner of her eye in order to provoke Wei Ziqin.

"He dares not to welcome!" Elderly Lady immediately bellowed, her voice full of vitality. "You're all full brothers that are ready to fight to death for each other under any circumstances. If he dares to be so shameless, then he can be ready to drive this old mother out along with you all!"

Chapter 576: Aggrieved

Wei Ziqin was so revolted that it was like she had swallowed a fly.

These past years, she would make morning and evening visits to this old woman every day, and every time Old Madam fell ill or got hurt, she would attend to her bedside tirelessly. In the end, she received neither a word of praise nor thanks. On the contrary, the words "unfilial sons and unvirtuous daughter-in-law" had been on her lips the entire time now.

She was so aggrieved in her heart that the rims of her eyes reddened.

This old woman didn't even ask and decided on her own that Qiao Zhongheng's family of three could move in!

Sitting next to her mother, Qiao Mu held her mother's hand, giving her a comforting look while gently saying, "Mom, don't worry. I won't give them a chance to come in and mess everything up."

Wei Ziqin immediately patted her daughter with her hand. Even though the rims of her eyes were red, her voice was resolute. "You don't have to mind this matter. Mom won't let them achieve their desires."

She was now a legitimate third-rank Marchioness with a royal mandate, personally ordained by the king's royal edict. It was utterly impossible for Xu Jiao to bully her and use her as a stepping stone like in the past.

Besides, she wasn't a fool. From the looks of it, not only was Xu Jiao's family deluding themselves into thinking that they could move into the marquis's estate, but even that Granny Niu's family, which had absolutely no relation to them at all, wanted to move in too and fish up benefits.

How could she let these rat excrement come inside and throw the entire Qiao Estate into pandemonium?

Since her mother had spoken, Qiao Mu just continued to sit there without taking matters into her own hands. She just rummaged through her storage talisman and pulled out an item, smacking it onto the small table.

Upon hearing this sound, Elderly Lady turned around. Upon seeing the red piece of paper on the table, she recalled something, her eyelid suddenly twitching.

As the lady of the marquis's estate, Wei Ziqin had already walked over. She gazed coldly at Xu Jiao, who was currently engaged in excellent theatrics. "Third Sister-in-Law, you don't have to drag along Old Madam to put on a show anymore. No matter what you say, your family of three, as well as Granny Niu's family, cannot move into the marquis's estate. This is the estate bestowed by the king, and not just anyone who comes can live in it!"

"You!" Xu Jiao had already aged a lot from being weathered and tanned, and now, her face had darkened even further from anger. She exerted all of her strength to rock the hand that was supporting Old Madam. "Mother-in-Law, listen to what Eldest Sister-in-Law is saying. She clearly doesn't want to acknowledge us as relatives!"

Elderly Lady Qiao instantly grew so livid that her body trembled. She turned and pointed at Wei Ziqin, letting loose a torrent of abuse. "Malicious woman! Where do you plan on driving my son and grandson away to? You malicious woman! Do you believe that I'll have Zhongbang divorce you right now!"

Wei Ziqin's servant girl Chunying was so infuriated that her face was flushed. After all, she had seen for herself how well Madam treated Old Madam all these years. Madam was very considerate; whose family's daughter-in-law could go to the extent that she did? Even she, a tiny servant, was unable to put up with this any longer. Old Madam, she really was a thankless wretch!

Qiao Mu gazed frigidly at Qiao Zhongheng's family that were hopping around like clowns. She pinched up that piece of paper and walked over to Old Madam, stating while supporting her own mother, "Elderly Lady, it must be mentioned that my mom has a third-rank royal mandate now. She can't be divorced by any random person who says to divorce her. I indeed don't believe what you just said!"

“Moreover, this family division document was written out very clearly. Do you want to look it over to refresh your memory again!”

Elderly Lady Qiao was so incensed by Qiao Mu’s jeering tone that she collapsed backwards on the spot.

Xu Jiao supported Elderly Lady with a fuss, and she turned her head to berate Qiao Mu. “This is the Eldest Miss, isn’t it. I haven’t seen you in several years, yet your words have become even more sharp and unkind! Besides, what place do you have to speak when your elders are talking?”

Chapter 577: The Crown Prince Is Enraged

Qiao Mu glanced at Xu Jiao coldly, a hint of contempt surfacing on her small stoic face. “I’m sorry to say, but based on my current status, I indeed can speak up wherever I want!”

What to do? She suddenly wanted to abuse her power to bully others mercilessly!

It wasn’t good to abuse one’s power to bully others! But faced with these greedy and hypocritical faces, she really didn’t want to restrain herself any longer.

On what basis did her mother have to suffer from these people’s abuse? It couldn’t be that these people would be willing to let their family off if they tolerated them?

Xu Jiao’s complexion changed drastically.

Qiao Long, who was on the side, couldn’t endure it any longer and immediately hollered, “You little b*tch, how dare you speak like this to my mom?” At the same time, he barreled over and flung out his hand, aiming to slap Qiao Mu’s small face.

In the past, Qiao Long was the entire family’s little ancestor. Who dared to give him attitude?

Now, after entering the eldest branch’s marquis’s estate and seeing the eldest branch, which could originally only wear plain cotton clothing and live in a rundown house, all living a life of luxury and having fair complexions, he really felt that it was unfair to the extreme!

In Grandmother’s eyes, he, Qiao Long, was the greatest ancestor. Even if he gave this Eldest Cousin a slap across the face, she could do nothing but spit out blood and have her teeth knocked out!

However...

His hand had yet to touch a hair on Qiao Mu when his face took a heavy slap.

“Insolent!” With a flash, Mo Lian had arrived beside Qiao Mu. He drew her into his embrace and gave a furious bellow, his expression abnormally furious.

He really didn’t know that Qiaoqiao was bullied like this back then in the village.

The fact that this half-grown punk dared to hit his Qiaoqiao right now clearly showed how wild he was used to being at home in the past, and how used to hitting others he was!

He really had quite the dog guts.

Immediately afterwards, the main door abruptly opened wide, and several dozen armed guards charged inside, completely surrounding Granny Niu’s family as well as Qiao Zhongheng’s family of three. They

drew their sharp blades, which glinted under the light, and simultaneously pointed them towards the ghastly pale Qiao Zhongheng and company.

Qiao Zhongheng and company's malnourished faces all showed bewilderment, but with so many blades pointing at them, they could only raise up both hands in surrender.

He Tian respectfully led his soldiers to genuflect in greeting. "This subordinate greets the crown prince and the crown prince consort. This subordinate did not do his best in protecting his masters! And has caused the crown prince consort to be startled! Will the crown prince consort please mete out punishment."

Qiao Mu shook her head and gestured for him to stand.

Meanwhile, Qiao Zhongheng and company's eyelids jerked fiercely, each of them wearing flabbergasted expressions as they stared dumbfoundedly at Crown Prince Mo and their eldest niece, who were standing in the center of the crowd.

C-Crown Prince? Crown Prince Consort? W-What was the situation?

After they entered the city, they went around like headless flies to ask around for the Qiao Estate's location, and they couldn't be any more specific than that. Furthermore, the person that pointed out the way for them didn't have good intentions and directly identified the Marquis of Jiayuan's Estate, telling them that it was the city's largest Qiao Estate.

Seeing how they were dressed in rags and looked just like beggars, that person actually wanted to play a joke on them and see an amusing show. He deliberately wanted to pull their legs. How would he have guessed that he indeed directed them on the correct path?

When he saw that Qiao Zhongheng's family of three were truly the Marquis of Jiayuan's Estate's relatives, the person who directed them over and had planned to watch an amusing show was so frightened that his knees buckled, and he made himself scarce right away.

Hence, after entering the city, Qiao Zhongheng and the others simply didn't find out what was going on before bolting straight for the Qiao Estate.

He only knew that his eldest brother had been promoted to an official and gained a lot of wealth, as well as nabbing the title of a marquis. He was very envious and had been thinking that he had to bring his wife and son to settle down in the marquis's estate at any cost. He had to hug onto his eldest brother's thigh no matter what. When the time came, perhaps he could even become an official.

Thus, this sudden development shocked Qiao Zhongheng's family into turning as white as a sheet.

Chapter 578: Anguished Howls All Over

He Tian bellowed threateningly, "A bunch of unruly rogues! Why aren't you paying your respects to the crown prince and crown prince consort?"

Qiao Zhongheng's and Granny Niu's families knelt down hastily as they trembled like quails, not daring to cause a disturbance anymore.

The entire estate immediately turned absolutely silent.

Qiao Long, however, was still enraged, and just as he scolded “b*tch,” Mo Lian’s icy gaze swept over, his phoenix eyes emitting a severe murderous aura. “Slap his mouth.”

“N-No, don’t! H-He’s a child, children are immature and have no filter, so please forgive him, Your Highness the Crown Prince!” Seeing a eunuch on the side bringing over a broad, red, wooden plank scared the daylight out of Xu Jiao, and she quickly rushed over to protect her son.

“He’s so big already, yet he still doesn’t have a filter. That’s your fault as the parent, to not know how to educate him and instead leave him to his own devices.” Mo Lian said coldly, “Punish him with ten planks to help him remember this lesson.”

Xu Jiao wailed, wanting to pounce forward, but she was immediately dragged out of the way by two nefarious soldiers.

She shrieked with bloodshot eyes, looking on helplessly as a soldier dragged Qiao Long away to the side so that the eunuch could use the broad plank to “slap, slap, slap” her son’s mouth time and time again.

In all his years, Qiao Long had never suffered this kind of humiliation before. His mouth took one hit after another, and a tooth even fell out after all ten hits had landed. He roared with a bloodied mouth, “You little b*tch actually dare to hit me? What do you think you are! You dare to treat me like this in front of Grandmother? I should have just strangled you to death back then!”

Xu Jiao was horrified, and all the color drained from her face. She scrambled towards her son and screamed, “Xiao Long, stop talking, stop talking!”

A skyrocketing fury billowed in Mo Lian’s eyes, and he bellowed furiously while raising his hand, “What are you all standing there doing? He’s unrepentant and impertinent, speaking insolently to the crown prince consort. Drag him out and beat him to death.”

The Marquis of Jiayuan’s Estate quieted down at once.

However, it was only quiet for an instant before Xu Jiao’s screeching wails immediately took over.

“No, no, no. No!” Crawling and scrambling to Mo Lian’s and Qiao Mu’s feet, Xu Jiao kowtowed loudly. “Will Your Highness the Crown Prince spare him, spare him, Your Highness the Crown Prince! It’s this stupid woman’s fault for not properly teaching her son what he can and can’t say. This stupid woman will most certainly punish and educate him mercilessly, so would Your Highness the Crown Prince please spare his life!”

When she raised her head and saw Crown Prince Mo keeping his lips shut, she hastily clambered over to Qiao Mu, wanting to hug her thigh. “Niece, Eldest Miss, no no no, Crown Prince Consort, Your Highness the Crown Prince Consort! This stupid woman begs of you, in consideration that you both share the same grandfather, please spare your younger brother’s life! Please, Crown Prince Consort, Crown Prince Consort!”

Qiao Mu remained apathetic.

Mo Lian lowered his head to glance at her before caressing her head with his palm. He then waved his hand irritably, “Drag him out.”

Two soldiers immediately hauled Qiao Long up and headed straight for the forecourt.

Xu Jiao felt her sight turning black. She repeatedly begged for mercy and kept banging her head on the floor.

Meanwhile, Granny Niu's family was so terrified that they couldn't speak.

A 15 to 16-year-old young lady that was kneeling behind Granny Niu sneakily lifted her head and stared intoxicatedly at the enraged crown prince.

This is the current crown prince? He was so young and handsome, and had such power and status.

Wei Mingli's maiden heart throbbed, and she was practically unable to avert her gaze.

Look, look. Even the rascally and ruffian Eldest Junior Wei's family were only fit to kneel before His Highness the Crown Prince right now, not daring to utter a single word.

Madam née Sun, who was kneeling next to Wei Mingli, hastily tugged her daughter, warning her to quickly lower her head.

Chapter 579: The Crown Prince's Decree

Madam née Sun was a timid person. Seeing how her daughter was staring unceremoniously at the crown prince's heavenly visage, right to his face, she was alarmed and scared. She was also worried that her daughter would attract trouble due to her ignorance, so she quickly yanked her to make her lower her head.

She had three daughters. Two had died from hunger, and she only had this one daughter left.

Second Junior Wei had died from illness the year before last, so she and her daughter relied on the eldest branch for survival. They had originally been passing their days with fear and trepidation, so she didn't want to stir up even more incidents now. How would she have known that her daughter had been lovestruck and was actually indulging in a fantasy about the crown prince at this very moment?

However, Wei Mingli didn't pay the slightest bit of attention to Madam née Sun's reminder, her eyes fixated unwaveringly on the crown prince.

Her gaze was so piercing that Qiao Mu vigilantly looked over at once. Her frigid but pretty eyes swept a glance at Wei Mingli, and she asked in displeasure, "Why do you keep staring at me."

Everyone: "..."

The crown prince's lips, which had compressed into a straight line, tilted up slightly. For some reason, he just suddenly recalled the sorry figure of that Qi Mei'er from the Coitus Faction back then...

His darling was as comical as always. She kept feeling that other girls' stares were directed at her.

Madam née Sun was incomparably horrified, and she immediately forced down her daughter Wei Mingli's head.

A "bang" rang out, as Wei Mingli was forced into giving a resounding kowtow. Her eyes were brimming with unwillingness and resentment as she forcefully flung away Madam née Sun's palm.

She only felt that Madam née Sun was unable to accomplish anything but liable to spoil everything, making her lose face in front of so many people.

She didn't raise her head and only tightly clenched her skirt while biting her lips.

Qiao Mu felt bored and turned to look at Qiao Long, who had already been dragged to the main entrance and was clinging tightly to the door frame. He finally knew to be afraid now, and he wailed thunderously, persistently begging for help and for mercy.

Old Madam didn't have any more energy to make a commotion at this time, so she could only cry out intermittently while lying on the floor, "My granddaughter is forcing me to my death! Forcing me to my death!"

Xiayun stretched out her hands in a panic, hating that she couldn't cover up Old Madam's mouth in time.

His Highness the Crown Prince was already in a thunderous rage, yet Old Madam still dared to howl recklessly at this time. Did she really think that His Highness wouldn't behead her, an unruly old woman?

It's not like she didn't witness what happened to Third Master's family when they insulted the crown prince consort just now? The crown prince loved Eldest Miss so dearly that he couldn't bear having her suffer even the tiniest bit of grievance.

Right now, His Highness was tolerating her only out of consideration for the Marquis of Jiayuan couple.

Yet Old Madam slapped both knees and shed tears continuously as she bewailed, "This marquis's estate doesn't have a place for us! I can't live in this marquis's estate any longer. After becoming a high official, the siblings are mutually harming each other! Ah, ah! What kind of sin did this old woman commit! Aiyo! I can't live on!"

Qiao Mu suddenly tugged the crown prince's sleeve.

The crown prince lowered his head to glance at her. Seeing the irritation in her eyes, he understood immediately, and he waved his hand while saying, "Wait."

The two soldiers hauled Qiao Long back over like a gunny sack and hurled him before the crown prince and crown prince consort.

Qiao Long's whole body was trembling, and he had already peed his pants in fright. Now, after being hurled to the floor, the pungent odor of urine wafted into the air.

Lifting her sleeve to cover up her mouth and nose, Qiao Mu automatically withdrew into Mo Lian's embrace, her eyes full of distaste and contempt.

"Since Old Madam is unable to live in the marquis's estate any longer. Then this crown prince will grant you your wish to leave the estate and live with the Qiao Family's third branch. Someone, punish the Qiao Family's third branch each with 30 planks, then throw out Old Madam with the third branch and the rest. From now on, they are forbidden from taking half a step into the marquis's estate.

Transgressors will be beheaded!"

Chapter 580: Scheming

After this decree was passed down, anguished howls immediately echoed throughout the entire room.

Old Madam was bewildered.

When did she ever sincerely want to leave the marquis's estate? Where else could she live in such comfort?

She was only wailing this offhandedly; how could it be taken for the truth!

They had just moved from a small estate to such a grand marquis's estate, so she hadn't enjoyed her fill of these pleasurable days. Yet the crown prince decreed for her to move out and live outside with her youngest son and daughter-in-law?

How could this do? Ahhh! She wasn't leaving! Where could her set of old bones go?

Glimpsing at Old Madam and noticing that she was about to start protesting, Xu Jiao very swiftly used her filthy, black hand to muffle Old Madam's mouth.

Only if they brought the old lady out with them could they still have connections to the eldest branch later on.

Otherwise, how could they continue to claim connections to the eldest branch in the future after being tossed out this time?

Xu Jiao wasn't foolish. Just the opposite, she was actually very shrewd.

She knew that she had to keep a hold on Qiao Zhongbang's mother, because due to that man's honest and considerate character, he would definitely give in one day.

At that time, their third branch would certainly be able to return...

Pulling along her son Qiao Long, Xu Jiao groveled on the ground with her husband Qiao Zhongheng, and the family of three kowtowed humbly several times in succession. Then, the soldiers brusquely hoisted them up and beat each person with 30 planks before promptly tossing them out the main door.

Granny Niu's eyes rolled around in a calculative circle, and she cried out, "Ziqin, ah. I'm from the same village as you..."

However, she was immediately met with a sweep of the crown prince's severe gaze. This frightened her so much that she instantly stifled her belly full of words, and her knees went soft, causing her to kneel.

"Where did these noisy idle people come from? Throw them out!"

Immediately after the crown prince reprimanded coldly, seven to eight soldiers swarmed over like tigers and wolves. They impolitely whacked Granny Niu's family with their clubs several times before dragging away the group of clamoring people and promptly shoving them outside the main door. They immediately rolled into a pile with Qiao Zhongheng's family of three.

"Oh my, my." Granny Niu patted her old waist and wailed in distress. However, in dread of the crown prince, she didn't dare to swear out loud and could only mutter curses inside her mind.

This year's horoscope truly was unlucky! She had originally planned to grandiosely enter the marquis's estate along with Xu Jiao's family to enjoy life. Yet she didn't expect that all the people in Xu Jiao's family couldn't handle the matter properly and instead ended up provoking the current crown prince's anger, which directly swept all of them out the door!

Oh my, my, it angered Granny Niu to death, it angered her to death!

Meanwhile, Wei Mingli was ballistic and screeching on the inside. She was a twenty-eight-year-old young lady, yet those nefarious soldiers just snatched her up and tossed her out the door, completely obliterating her dignity.

It truly shattered her maiden heart into smithereens, which pained her to no end.

That unfeeling royal crown prince, with just a sweep of his terrifying gaze, was able to shut up everyone present at once.

Wei Mingli felt agitated and restless, as if a kitten was clawing at her heart. Her eyes cast a jealous and resentful gaze at the marquis's estate's tightly shut main door, her heart full of unwillingness.

"Grandmother, are we not going to do anything after being swept out the door like this?" Wei Mingli twisted her sleeves and bit her bottom lip, her words imbued with unwillingness.

Jolting in shock, her mother Madam née Sun raised her hand and smacked her back heavily. "You're courting disaster! You still dare to talk nonsense! You truly were too audacious just now! Actually daring to stare at His Highness like that? You're not afraid that it would infuriate His Highness, making him behead you?"

"My, isn't it because there are ripples in the little lady's maiden heart? Pshaw! So brazen and shameless!"