

My Crown 581

Chapter 581: Wretched

“Could it be that you’re deluding yourself into thinking that you could win His Highness’s favor with your looks?” Eldest Junior Wei’s wife, Madam née Bo, was currently burning up with skyrocketing anger after gaining nothing from the marquis’s estate. Hearing Madam née Sun’s words, she immediately started mocking and ridiculing the mother and daughter pair, just like in the past.

How could Wei Mingli swallow this anger? She pointed at Madam née Bo and hollered furiously, “What do you mean? What’s wrong with my looks? Do I look hideous? You old lady look like a crooked date, so repulsive, and you still dare to ridicule others? Why don’t you save yourself the trouble.”

Madam née Bo instantly flew into a rage. On the other hand, Madam née Sun was frightened into being as silent as a cicada in winter, and she vigorously pulled at her daughter’s hem, gesturing for her to stop talking.

“You sassy little b*tch, is this how you speak to your elders?” Madam née Bo was not to be trifled with. After all, the second branch’s mother and daughter pair had been meekly relying on their eldest branch for survival all this time. How dare they defy her authority now?

How was Madam née Bo willing to endure this resentment? She rushed forward, and taking advantage of her broad and plump body, she grabbed ahold of Wei Mingli’s hair before giving her two crisp slaps across the face.

“I’m hitting you for not knowing etiquette! Let me see if you b*tchy little hussy still dare to climb all over me!”

“Ah!” Wei Mingli only felt pain from Madam née Bo’s nails scratching the left side of her face. After touching her cheek, she could see a hint of blood on her fingers, and she was immediately annoyed, resentful, scared, and furious, all at once.

“B*tchy little hussy, it’s wishful thinking to dream of soaring to the heavens to turn into a phoenix! Why don’t you look in the mirror to see what you like! Men have to be blind to fancy you! The other party is the aloof and detached royal crown prince! Yet who do you think you are! Don’t blame other people for looking down on you when you’re the one asking to be humiliated!” Madam née Bo said the nastiest words she could, scolding Wei Mingli into crying from anger.

Madam née Sun was clumsy in speech and didn’t dare to refute Madam née Bo, so she pulled her daughter’s hand and persuaded, “Alright, alright. Speak less, don’t quarrel with your Eldest Aunt.”

Yet at her persuasion, Wei Mingli only felt her heart grow cold, and she fiercely flung away Madam née Sun’s hand while screaming, “Go away! Are you still my real mother? You still have to gall to persuade me to stop talking when you see your daughter being bullied like this? That old lady has been the one scolding me this entire time! I hate you! I hate you all! I hate you all to death!”

Wei Mingli started bawling at once. Suddenly, she turned around and hightailed it out of there, disappearing without a trace shortly afterwards.

Madam née Sun was so shocked that her whole body trembled, after which she put down pride to beg Madam née Bo, “Eldest Sister-in-Law, don’t be angry with a child! Look at how we’ve only just arrived at the capital and there are so many people here, so what if Mingli gets lost? We should quickly follow to look for her.”

“Go yourself if you want to look for her! That b*tchy little hussy has only gotten lustful, what use is it in minding her? Maybe she has long wanted to leave us and go find a random man somewhere.” Madam née Bo flung away Madam née Sun’s hand forcefully and gave her a contemptuous glance.

These words jabbed at Madam née Sun’s heart, and her face turned ghastly pale while her lips quivered. However, she subconsciously didn’t dare to refute Madam née Bo.

“What are you all bickering about? This here is Minshun Boulevard! The place where all the officials are gathered. If there’s nothing happening, the common people are prohibited from loitering and making a racket here. Go go go! Everyone get out of here!” After receiving the news, the city guards ran over and started driving the people away without a second word.

Elderly Lady roared and was just about to rush forward to bang on the marquis’s estate’s main door, but Xu Jiao yanked her away forcefully. “Mom! Let’s leave here first, we’ll take our time to make plans after leaving!”

The group had come in high spirits, but left wretchedly.

Chapter 582: Filial Son and Virtuous Daughter-in-Law

While being escorted by the city guards out of Minshun Boulevard, Elderly Lady looked back unresignedly at the marquis’s estate’s tightly shut main door.

On the contrary, Xu Jiao didn’t say anything, but her eyes were flickering with avarice as she stared back scorchingly at the marquis’s estate.

She understood the eldest branch couple too well. They were people who simply couldn’t harden their hearts.

She reckoned that it wouldn’t even take three days for the Qiao Zhongbang couple to give in and call on them to visit!

Ultimately, the old hag was a bargaining chip in her hands. As long as she had the old hag in hand, she could assure that the eldest branch couple would be submissive and docile.

Thus, how could she allow the old lady to continue lingering at the marquis’s estate?

Even if she had to forcibly seize her, she definitely had to wrest control over the old lady!

Xu Jiao humphed lightly, and flung away Elderly Lady’s hand after leaving the marquis’s estate.

Their family of three had just taken a beating, so their footsteps weren’t all that nimble.

Her son Qiao Long was the most miserable. Not only did his butt suffer heavy injury, his mouth had also been beaten rotten by the bamboo plank. In addition to her heartache, Xu Jiao couldn’t help but hate Qiao Mu to death on the inside.

That degenerate little b*tch! Just because His Highness the Crown Prince doted on her, she dared to torment her darling son like this. One day, she would definitely make her taste the misery of being tortured like this.

Hmph, men's favor comes quickly and leaves quickly.

Not to mention, that person was also the great Mo Kingdom crown prince, second only to the king himself. How could it be possible for him to stay faithful to the b*tchy little hussy? That girl would inevitably lose his favor, at which time she would make her pay her debt in blood...

Elderly Lady started wheezing after taking several steps. She had lived a pampered lifestyle, and her body had gotten used to the luxury. Every time she had to go somewhere, she would take either the palanquin or the carriage, so it wasn't necessary for her to walk on her own two feet at all.

Glancing back at Old Madam, Xu Jiao scolded "Cursed old woman" in her mind, but she still feigned a virtuous appearance on the outside, helping Elderly Lady up onto Granny Niu's donkey cart.

At this time, she still had to rely on this old woman. Everything would be fine once she came back to the marquis's estate one day.

Before the Qiao Zhongbang couple came to look for them, she had to wait upon this old woman well and let her know that she was the utmost filial.

However, this time, Xu Jiao's scheme was bound to end up totally fruitless.

These years, Qiao Zhongbang had already been utterly disappointed in his mother time and time again. He was not going to propose bringing back the old lady on his own accord.

Besides, since it was the crown prince who gave the order this time to send this "old master Buddha"[1] out the marquis's estate so that Third Brother's family could fulfill their

"filial duty," he of course wasn't dumb and just had to go along with the flow.

As for Wei Ziqin, her heart had long grown cold, as well. She was more than eager for the third branch to wait upon this "old master Buddha" and bring her far away. It was best if they never came back to disturb them.

At this time, Xu Jiao still didn't realize the eldest branch couple's intentions, so she and Qiao Zhongheng spared no effort in showing "filial respect" to the old lady the entire time. They took everything into consideration in making her comfortable, which consoled Old Madam greatly.

She was thinking that even though her eldest and second sons weren't filial, driving her out the marquis's estate even at her advanced age, it was still fortunate that she still had a filial youngest son and daughter-in-law. Hence, she couldn't be considered to be too tragic.

After the group of tattered beggars were escorted out of Minshun Boulevard, they gazed at the busy people coming and going on the street. They practically didn't know where to go.

They didn't have money, and they had almost eaten up all their food. They didn't even have a place to stay at the moment. What were they to do!

Qiao Zhongheng was already starting to regret it now. He was rueing, why did he have to pose as a big shot and act high-and-mighty just now. He should've just pitifully begged to hug onto his eldest brother's thigh!

Chapter 583: Want to Flee After Teasing Him?

As for Wei Mingli, she continued to dash madly after impulsively running out of Minshun Boulevard. However, she started to regret it after running for some time.

She was disoriented and didn't know where she should go.

Wei Mingli gazed dazedly at the unfamiliar faces that were coming to and fro before gradually slowing her footsteps.

Suddenly, she was jostled by a passing carriage, and her entire body staggered as she fell to the ground.

However, she didn't come into contact with the icy ground in her memory but had rather plunged into a warm embrace that smelled of ambergris.

"Miss, are you alright?" A man's voice rang out beside her ear. Although it wasn't as magnetic and pleasant-sounding as His Highness the Crown Prince's voice, it was still considered satisfactory.

Wei Mingli raised her head and met a pair of large, slightly swollen eyes framed with thick eyebrows.

The man's features could hardly be described as elegant and outstanding and could only be considered regular. They really couldn't hold a candle to His Highness the Crown Prince's slightly upturned phoenix eyes and gorgeous face.

Wei Mingli involuntarily froze. She chided herself for relating everything back to the crown prince, and her small face automatically blushed.

Could it really be that she was yearning for love?

"Miss has been startled." The man's eyes flickered as he gazed at Wei Mingli, and he stretched out both hands to help her up from the ground.

Wei Mingli, however, found the other party's scorching gaze to be slightly embarrassing.

Although she came from the village, she was still a twenty-eight-year-old little lady after all. She felt bashful under the man's gaze, so she lowered her head.

Just as Granny Niu and Xu Jiao's group were roaming the streets for a place to stay, the Qiao Family inside the marquis's estate had finally eaten a peaceful and pleasant reunion meal at last.

Since there weren't any miscellaneous people disturbing them any longer, everyone was in a joyful mood and had larger appetites than usual.

Sometime later, when the crown prince took his leave, he also very naturally held the little fellow's small hand as they exited the Qiao Estate together.

It was only after boarding the carriage that Qiao Mu then rolled her eyes at him.

After all, it was obvious that she didn't have to return to the palace, but this person just insisted on leaving together with her!

This fellow had completely let go of decorum now too. He didn't even avoid her kid brother and kid sister at all, holding her hand and hugging her truly as he pleased.

"At home, I can do whatever I want to do." The crown prince grinned as he carried up the little fellow and set her on his legs. He then hugged her waist and closed in on her ear, saying softly, "You're tired after busying around for the whole day, right. Do you want to nap for a bit?"

Qiao Mu only felt her ear warm up slightly, and she stretched out her small hand to rub it.

The crown prince let out a muffled laugh. He then pulled away her small hand and helped her rub it very gently. After he was done, he even chuckled, "Your ear is itchy?"

Bad egg! Qiao Mu pivoted her head to glare at him. However, since their faces were extremely close together, Qiao Mu's small mouth brushed across the corner of his lips with this turn of her head.

It was light and gentle, like a wisp of a feather, but it quietly strummed at his heartstrings.

Our dear Qiao Mu had completely frozen up. Similarly, the crown prince wasn't in a much better state than her. His eyes were gazing dazedly at her, yet a dense whirlpool was churning in its depths.

Seeing that the situation was turning risky, the little fellow wanted to flee after teasing him. After struggling while on his knees, she was just about to escape his embrace and flip to the other side of the carriage.

However, the crown prince fished her back over and secured her on his legs. He lowered his head and exhaled a breath of medicinal power infused with a chilly fragrance by her ear. "You want to flee?"

A certain person instantly discovered that her small limbs couldn't budge, and her pair of watery eyes grew round and large. She huffed as she glimpsed at his face that had pressed close to hers.

As an apothecary, was it apt for this fellow to use medicinal power so recklessly on her body? What kind of medicinal power was this?

Chapter 584: Bit the Wrong Place

Heavens! Why was this medicinal power so powerful? It made her entire body feel completely limp and powerless with one breath, and she couldn't even raise her limbs?

Qiao Mu glared at him!

"Oh, you're definitely unconvinced that I used medicinal power on you like this. How about I let you use talismans on me first!" The crown prince grinned as he pressed close to her face and exhaled gently.

The great crown prince consort instantly resurrected to full health, and without feigning politeness, she pulled out several talismans and directly slapped all of them onto the crown prince's forehead!

Those talismans fluttered back and forth hilariously on the crown prince's forehead. After a short while, the crown prince sniggered in laughter.

So infuriating. These talismans were completely ineffective against him, sigh.

In her rage, Qiao Mu promptly circled her arms around his neck and bit his chin without thinking.

Yet after very noticeably feeling the crown prince's body slightly tensing up, she slackened her small mouth.

His slender index finger caressed her small face, and he chuckled softly. "You bit the wrong place, darling."

Qiao Mu raised her head, and all of a sudden, her small and exquisite chin landed in his palm very accommodatingly. Just as she was confused and at a loss, she felt her lips being stuffed with something moist. In her daze, she could vaguely hear the man's light chuckle as he said, "Bite here, darling. Put some strength into it!"

Darling Qiao jolted and almost leaped up, her head bumping into the carriage's ceiling.

Ha ha, but this was only her wishful thinking, as her entire body was currently limp from the medicinal power's effects. She was unable to raise her limbs even in the slightest.

This bas—tard!!

What was he doing? Wasn't this kissing her? Being glared at by a pair of round eyes at almost point-blank range, the crown prince cracked up in laughter and broke off the kiss.

He gathered her into his embrace. "Are you glaring at me because you still want to bite? Here, feel free to."

Qiao Mu: ... *This darling suddenly doesn't want to speak to you.*

"If you're not going to speak, I'll continue kissing my darling then." The crown prince closed in on her small mouth in an exaggerated fashion, and our dear Qiao Mu immediately raised her hand and pushed it against his chest. It was only then that she discovered that she could move her limbs again.

Wah, this baddie. He'll let her move at times, but not let her budge at others. He was so freaking despicable.

She huffed while yanking at his long hair. "Didn't you say that it's only confirming our status and there won't be anything else?"

He was already revealing his true colors so quickly. Wasn't he afraid that she was going to bite? That's not it! Biting was out of the question too. He would be the one taking advantage if she bit him.

"Mhm, we're only confirming our status." The crown prince gazed innocently at her.

What came after confirming their status would then be kissing and hugging and toppling...

"You're the one who pounced over to bite me just now! Do you still want to bite? Darling, I allow you to bite whenever you want."

Qiao Mu*: ... It seemed like that was indeed the case!*

"I don't want to anymore!!" Qiao Mu gazed at him exasperatedly, her small stoic face almost collapsing.

Seeing her like this, the crown prince was amused, and he snuggled the little fellow while looking at her regretfully. "Next time you want to bite, do as you wish and don't hold it in, okay?"

This darling really didn't want to speak to you anymore!

"That's right, darling, aren't you going to give me a return gift?" Mo Lian swayed gently while hugging his little one.

Qiao Mu abruptly widened her bubble-like eyes: *What the hey? Why is it a return gift again?*

Just as she was musing about when exactly she owed that fellow a present, he lifted her small chin, and their gazes entangled together.

Within her dilated pupils, she saw his slightly curved thin lips closing in on her face.

Something wasn't right! Wasn't it just confirming their status? Why was he kissing her so frequently? Wah, this was only the first day of their betrothal!

Swish!

Chapter 585: The Killjoy Assassins

The crown prince's eyes glinted, and he took advantage of the situation to topple the little one over, shielding her beneath him.

He then flicked his sleeve, jolting that arrow into smithereens, and released a defensive boundary to deflect the countless densely-packed arrows that came raining down afterwards.

Even then, a series of whistles could be heard outside, while He Tian and his soldiers were already starting to fight with the black-clothed people that were swarming over from all directions.

Qiao Mu raised her small head from within his embrace, and she saw his thin lips pressed tightly together, his eyes stern. He was emanating a hint of killing intent, and it went without saying that he was extremely furious.

"Mo Lian." She involuntarily called out.

The crown prince lowered his head and nibbled her pink and luscious small lips. "Don't be scared, wait until I kill them."

A bunch of idiots without discerning eyesight who dared to disturb his wonderful moment of affectionate cuddling with his wife!

They all deserved to die!

Qiao Mu pursed her small lips, thinking: *From where did you see that this darling was scared?*

As they spoke, another thunderous storm of arrows swiftly rained down in a torrent, pitter-pattering as they crashed onto the defensive boundary.

However, since the defensive boundary shielded the entire carriage, it was completely unharmed. Other than the first arrow that had shot past the curtain, the rest had all been deflected.

Mo Lian couldn't help but be a bit frustrated. He was to blame for being so engrossed in snuggling with the little fellow, intoxicated by her fragrant tenderness, that he unexpectedly didn't detect that someone had prepared an ambush at Huabei Gate.

At this time, the commotion outside Huabei Gate had already alarmed the patrolling royal guard, and a large group of soldiers were heading there rapidly.

Compressing his lips, the crown prince scooped up the little fellow and abruptly dashed out of the carriage as a severe glint flashed past his phoenix eyes.

The thousands of arrows that were raining upon the two people all halted in the blink of an eye, and then started vibrating in mid-air.

Light clacks rang out immediately afterwards.

The thousands of arrows turned abruptly on their heads, and with a firepower that surged forth like billowing clouds, they flew towards the rooftops where the assassins were lying in ambush.

"Ahhh!" Ear-piercing screams rang unceasingly, accompanied by black shadows plummeting from the rooftops one after another.

Qiao Mu turned to look at He Tian and the others who were currently engaged in battle with several dozen assassins. With a wave of her small hand, a wad of talismans appeared in her hand.

Intermediate-level blue dizzying talismans scattered in the breeze, and they zeroed in on the batch of black-clothed assassins. The process of the talismans activating to when it took effect basically flowed smoothly without stopping.

The black-clothed people's footsteps instantly swayed unsteadily, just as if they had gotten tipsy, lurching left and right, back and forth. They couldn't even keep a grip on the sabers and swords in their hands.

In response to this turn of events, He Tian and the rest immediately seized this chance to swing their blades and reap these assassins' lives.

Seeing that the situation was bleak, one of the assassins turned around and was just about to flee when suddenly, a blaze struck his chest. After releasing a blood-curdling screech, his entire body collapsed onto the ground while his head knocked heavily against the thick stone tiles.

By this time, the patrolling royal guard had finally hurried over. Seeing that it was the crown prince who had come under assault while returning to the palace, all of them were scared out of their wits, and they simultaneously knelt to accept their punishments.

He Tian also rushed over rapidly and said while genuflecting, "Your Highness, this servant has failed his duty for not detecting the assassins' ambush."

Mo Lian waved his hand towards him and said, "They had consumed medicine that could conceal their presence. Lead some people over and make sure that all the archers on the rooftops have been dealt with."

"Yes!" He Tian then paused and inquired, "Should we leave any survivors?"

“We know who did this.” Mo Lian curled his lips and shook his head noncommittally. “Clean up everything.”

“Yes!”

He Tian led a group of royal guards towards the areas where the archers had lain in ambush to clear up the mess.

Meanwhile, Mo Lian held Qiao Mu’s little hand and walked up to those hissing and howling black-clothed people, who were clutching at their chests while tossing and turning on the ground.

Chapter 586: Dictum Talisman

The two exchanged glances before walking up to those black-clothed people, who were hissing and howling continuously, with apathetic gazes.

With a wave of her fingers, Qiao Mu pulled out a blue talisman, flicking it at a person on the ground.

After a bright blue light flashed, that person jolted abruptly before suddenly turning silent.

“Who ordered this assassination?” Qiao Mu interrogated in a chilly voice.

The assassin rolled about on the ground once before opening his mouth and saying, “Second...”

Suddenly, Qiao Mu felt her body lighten, while Mo Lian reacted swiftly and flung out a ball of fire that encapsulated the assassin’s whole body. At the same time, he swiftly retreated backwards while carrying his Qiaoqiao.

“Boom!” The assassin just self-detonated without warning within the ring of fire that Mo Lian had laid down!

What was going on? Qiao Mu’s eyes widened abruptly, and she turned to look at the solemn-looking Mo Lian, whose body was still tense.

As Mo Lian carried the little lady, he subconsciously patted her back gently and murmured, “Everything’s alright.”

Qiao Mu was befuddled. “Why would my dictum talisman make him self-detonate?”

Just like the diamond talisman and invisibility talisman, this dictum talisman was introduced in the Golden Talisman Jade Tome’s fourth jade slip. Its effect was a bit peculiar though.

After activating the dictum talisman, it could make everyone with a lower cultivation than hers honestly speak the truth.

That was why she had thrown out that dictum talisman just earlier: to inquire about the assassin’s identity. However, she didn’t anticipate that the person would self-detonate all of a sudden!

“It has nothing to do with your talisman.” Mo Lian hugged the little lady tightly and stroked her back to placate her. “Someone had probably extracted a thread of his soul, as well as given him a psychological suggestion. As long as he attempts to expose the mastermind, that person can immediately sense it and force him to self-detonate.”

“So what did he mean by ‘second’ just now?”

Qiao Mu was confident in her hearing, so she knew that she didn’t mistake the word that the black-clothed person had uttered just now.

Curling his lips, Mo Lian leaned in and whispered into her ear.

At this time, He Tian and his group, who had been alarmed by the sound of the huge explosion, had hurriedly retraced their steps.

When He Tian saw that their two masters were unscathed, he let out a sigh of relief. Yet on the inside, he was cursing these assassin’s last 18 generations of ancestors.

They just had to come and stir up trouble! Couldn’t they stop for a while?

The king, queen, and the royal concubines in the harem quickly found out that the crown prince had been ambushed at Huabei Gate, and they all sent people over to express their commiserations.

The king and the queen even summoned the crown prince that very night to ask him about the incident.

Naturally, our dear Qiao Mu didn’t join in on this fun. After Mo Lian first sent her back to the Eastern Palace, she washed up before climbing onto the bed.

And at this time, after the king and the queen summoned the crown prince to the main hall, they observed him meticulously before finally asking, “Who assassinated you? Do you know?”

“This servant was incompetent in his protection. Will the king please mete out punishment.” He Tian stepped forward and kneeled to beg for pardon.

“He Tian did not fail in his duty. It was also this son’s fault for being careless.” The crown prince stated faintly.

The queen glared at her son resentfully before turning to question He Tian. “Have you investigated the assassins’ origin?”

He Tian hesitated to speak.

The king demanded, “What are you doing by hesitating to speak? Spit it out!”

“Please pardon this servant, Your Majesties the King and the Queen. This servant found this from the assassins’ bodies, but this servant doesn’t dare to speak recklessly...” He Tian presented a jade pendant in the shape of a half-moon with both hands.

The king snatched over the jade pendant that he presented before suddenly flying into a rage.

“Someone! Go and request for Noble Consort Lin and the third prince’s attendance!”

Meanwhile, Mo Lian had on a leisurely expression.

When Queen Zhao saw this, her anger flared up again, and she pulled her son over while saying, “Royal Mother has already heard! Today’s incident happened because you accompanied that lass from the Qiao Family back to her home.”

Chapter 587: Standing Up for His Wife

Upon hearing this, Mo Lian was immediately displeased with his mother's disparaging tone of voice. "Mother, what do you mean 'that lass from the Qiao Family,' that is your son's wife. The crown prince consort that Father personally ordained!"

On the side, the king twitched his mouth and wished for nothing more than to smack the back of this son's head!

This was a punk that always made his father clean up his messes!

Did he issue that royal edict willingly? Ah! He was threatened and coerced to! If he divulged the words that this d*mned son said to him that day in the royal study, they could definitely anger his old mother to death!

In consideration for his feelings of kinship for his wife, he was reluctant to tell Queen Zhao, "this son of yours is that devious of a person."

As a result, Queen Zhao, who had flown into a rage after receiving the news, rushed to the king's study and chewed him out in frustration early this morning. Even now, the king was still holding in a belly full of anger!

These days really hadn't been peaceful.

He wasn't allowing them to say anything about it either? She just said "that lass from the Qiao Family," yet their son immediately jumped out to stand up for her?

The queen jabbed her son's forehead with her eyebrows arched in anger. "Mom hasn't reprimanded you yet! You and your royal father just rashly issued an edict to that lass from the Qiao Estate by yourselves. Do you still regard me as your mom?"

Queen Zhao truly was about to be angered to death!

On her end, she had been enthusiastic and chomping at the bit, handpicking various estates' misses for the crown prince this entire time. Fine, that was whatever, but on the other end, her husband and son didn't let out a peep and just issued a royal edict without warning, directly confirming the crown prince consort candidate at the speed of light.

The crucial point was that she hadn't seen this crown prince consort at all throughout this entire process! She didn't know what her moral character was like, either.

She had two good crown prince consort candidates that she favored in her heart, but now, her plans had been completely messed up by this father-and-son pair.

"Royal Mother, your son of course respects you very deeply in his heart." Mo Lian beamed as he helped his mother to the side to sit down. "But your son's wife is also very (more) important. If your son can't marry this wife, your son will have to live as a bachelor for the rest of his life."

The king grabbed a book and smashed it toward the back of the crown prince's head. *This unfilial son! He actually dared to speak without a filter like this in front of his mother!*

Even he didn't dare mention such rascally words before his own queen.

As expected, Queen Zhao's eyes bulged in shock, and she looked her son up and down, as if trying to discern if his words were true or false.

Mo Lian tilted his head, evading the book that his old father smashed at him, while looking innocently at his mother.

Seeing that his expression was exceptionally serious, Queen Zhao's curiosity about that lass from the Qiao Family was completely piqued.

In Queen Zhao's heart, her son was the most outstanding child in the entire kingdom, and there were few young ladies in this world that could match up to her incomparably excellent son.

She had never seen him care to this extent towards the women around him in these past twenty years. Don't tell me that her son had pursued this crown prince consort himself, even shielding her like this? It really made people curious...

"Anyways, Mom is displeased that you placed yourself in danger for that lass from the Qiao Family." Queen Zhao grumbled in dissatisfaction, "You ought to let Mom see your good wife at the palace banquet tomorrow evening, right?"

Mo Lian nodded directly and supported Queen Zhao as he said, "Mom, my wife is still young, so make sure that you don't scare her. Your son only has this one wife, so if you scare her into fleeing, your son will end up as a bachelor for the rest of his life!"

Queen Zhao was both irritated and anxious as she jabbed her son fiercely. "You child, spouting nonsense all the time."

The king also glared at the crown prince grumpily.

At this time, an announcement came in from the outside. "My king, Noble Consort Lin and the third prince have come."

"Tell them to get the hell inside!" The king roared furiously.

Chapter 588: Getting Shot While Lying Down

At this time, a woman, wearing a gold-patterned brocade robe paired with a flared light pink skirt, was walking gracefully into the main hall. She still looked well-preserved even though she was almost fifty years old.

Behind her followed a twenty-eight to twenty-nine-year-old man dressed in a long azure robe. His long hair was tied high, and his skin was considered quite fair and clear.

"This concubine greets the king! Greetings to the queen."

"You've raised a good son!" The king grabbed an inkstone and smashed it at Noble Consort Lin's forehead without a second word.

Noble Consort Lin immediately paled in shock, and she abruptly groveled on the floor, trembling as she inquired, "This concubine is unaware, for what reason is my king this furious?"

"Bang!" The inkstone smashed at Noble Consort Lin's feet, scaring the noble consort into turning ashen.

“You still have the gall to ask Us!!” The king paced back and forth on the steps and shouted in fury, “Why aren’t you asking the good son that you raised?”

His third son, Mo Teng, immediately knelt down and repeatedly cried out his grievance, “Royal Father, Royal Father! What wrong exactly did this son commit? Why are you treating Mother Consort like this?”

“Is this yours?” The king grabbed the jade pendant in a half-moon shape from the table and threw it at Mo Teng’s face with a slap. “We remember that this is the present your mother consort gave to you in front of everyone for your tenth birthday. Is it this one? There’s even your character ‘Teng’ engraved on the back!”

Mo Teng was struck with panic and cried out hastily, “Royal Father, why is this jade pendant here? I had already lost this jade pendant more than two days ago! Royal Father, will Royal Father exercise your penetrating judgment!”

How could the king believe his nonsense? Instead, he went forward and kicked his son into toppling over. “You shameful scoundrel! You just happened to lose it right on the bodies of the assassins that attempted to assassinate your Sixth Brother?? You think We are so easy to deceive, right!”

Mo Teng’s eyes bulged in alarm. He had naturally also received the news that the crown prince had been ambushed at Huabei Gate. At that time, he had even been rejoicing in the crown prince’s misfortune.

He didn’t expect for this unfathomable fire to suddenly burn onto his own body.

What was going on? He didn’t do anything at all! This jade pendant had indeed already gone missing three days ago. How should he know how this jade pendant appeared at the scene of the crown prince’s assassination?

He was being framed, someone was definitely framing him!

“Royal Father!!” The unfortunate third prince, Mo Teng, shuffled forward on his knees and tearfully hugged the old king’s thigh while crying out miserably, “It really isn’t this son! This son can swear to the heavens that if he really did send people to assassinate Sixth Brother, then this son will be struck by lightning and die miserably!! Royal Father, think about it! If this son had truly sent people to assassinate Sixth Brother, how would this son leave this kind of leverage at the crime scene! Ahhh, Royal Father! You have to believe this son! This son most definitely didn’t do this!”

The crown prince gazed at the unlucky third prince and sighed before saying, “Royal Father, I also believe that Third Royal Brother wasn’t the one who did this.”

The third prince Mo Teng simply didn’t dare believe his ears. The legendary crown prince younger brother that was akin to a cleansing spring breeze on the outside, but was in fact extremely cold-hearted and merciless on the inside, was actually pleading on his behalf today?

The old king pulled a long face, with distaste hanging coldly on the corner of his lips. He budged his leg a bit before directly yanking it out of Mo Teng’s embrace.

“Verbal speech is not enough as proof. I will dispatch people to investigate this incident thoroughly! Starting today, until the truth of this matter comes to light, obediently stay inside the Third Prince’s Estate and don’t come out.”

Immediately, Noble Consort Lin lay limp on the floor and called out continuously, “Your Majesty, the third prince is innocent, Your Majesty! Your Majesty!”

As the king didn’t want to hear any more, he instead rebuked Noble Consort Lin angrily. “You’re also grounded for three days, and carefully reflect on what kind of son you’ve taught.”

Chapter 589: You’re On Your Own

After being driven out of the main hall by the king, the pitiful third prince who got shot while lying down felt the cold wind whip past him, making his body shiver.

The crown prince also followed him out, and he glanced at him with a sigh. “Third Royal Brother, I believe you, but Royal Father won’t listen to my words and asserts that Third Royal Brother is the culprit because of that jade pendant.”

“Sixth Brother!” The third prince abruptly turned his head, wishing for nothing more than to grab the crown prince’s hand and spill out all his grievances.

However, it couldn’t be helped that the crown prince clenched his fist and raised it to his mouth, faking a cough, which allowed him to evade the third prince’s enthusiastic paws.

“Sixth Brother, you really have to believe me! I can swear an oath of poison to the heavens!” Mo Teng extended two fingers to make a vow.

“Alright, alright, Third Royal Brother, I believe you, of course.” The crown prince hastily interrupted his series of vows, and he grumbled in annoyance on the inside. *Couldn’t he let Us finish speaking first?*

This moron! He was so dumb that he didn’t even know how to refute this accusation and could only make vows. But what was the use in that? No wonder he was the one being framed.

Noble Consort Lin wiped her tears and implored, “Please, will Your Highness the Crown Prince render fair judgment. Teng’er is sincere in his heart towards Your Highness and absolutely wouldn’t do such a treasonous and outrageous act.”

“Speaking of which, Third Royal Brother is also too careless. How did such a personal jade pendant fall into the hands of people with ulterior motives?” Mo Lian cast a glance at Mo Teng and sighed. “Actually, We originally had a target of extreme suspicion in mind. And We could’ve even mentioned it to Royal Father, but then this matter with Third Royal Brother came about...”

Mo Teng’s ears wiggled and he quickly lowered his voice, inquiring, “Sixth Brother, who are you suspecting? Tell Older Brother in secret so that Older Brother can also know what to expect. You also know that Older Brother is not very astute and is easily muddle-headed.”

Ha ha, why don’t you just say that you are dumb. The crown prince ridiculed in his mind.

However, he kept up a beaming appearance on the outside. Following which, the crown prince lowered his voice, and the two brothers huddled together as he whispered, “Third Royal Brother, actually, I feel

that Second Royal Brother is incomparably suspicious. I also have some clues in hand that point to him. But who knew that Third Royal Brother's jade pendant would actually show up at the scene of assassination? This, I... I can't help defend you much on Royal Father's end either."

Mo Teng's complexion turned super green at once. Seemingly thinking of something, he slapped his thigh soundly before hastily telling the crown prince, "Sixth Brother, Older Brother recalled some things and will first return to the estate."

As he watched Noble Consort Lin and the third prince Mo Teng leave in a flurry, Mo Lian muttered, "Who is free to play these cheap tricks with you guys."

He didn't even have enough time to accompany his wife!

This gang of trolls that kept causing trouble for him all the time, hmph, he'll have them fight amongst themselves in a dogfight.

"Your Highness, should anything be done on the second prince's end?" Huifeng asked in a low voice while following the crown prince.

"How could We not! And be assassinated for nothing!" Our dear Mo Lian would start fuming whenever he recalled the romantic atmosphere inside the carriage that had gotten interrupted.

This Second Brother really was tired of living. Since he dared to play a game of assassination with him, then he'll find more people to play to his fill!

"Didn't you report a while back that a downtrodden royal descendant of Western Qiu Kingdom had fled to the Second Prince's Estate..." The crown prince beckoned for Huifeng and gave him his instructions.

Huifeng's mouth twitched as he nodded continuously, after which he left to carry out his orders.

His master really was suckering His Second Highness to his death!

But whose fault was it that His Second Highness was so blind? You're on your own, Your Second Highness!

Chapter 590: Poison-Tailed Butterfly Queen

Second Brother, do you realize the consequences of provoking this crown prince?

Crown Prince Mo sneered and then sauntered for a short while when all of a sudden, his footsteps stalled. His expression froze slightly before drastically changing in the blink of an eye, and he made a beeline for the Eastern Palace at once.

Qiao Mu hadn't entered Paradise Planet for several days already. Ever since that day when she tracked down the poison-tailed butterflies, disposed of a poison manipulator, and had the sapling transfer all the poison-tailed butterflies into Paradise Planet, she hadn't entered again to take a peek.

Now, she finally thought of taking a look, so she had the sapling bring her into Paradise Planet.

Qiuqiu had especially set up a separate poison garden that was completely detached from the medicinal garden, and it had even relocated all the poisonous flowers and herbs that were originally in the medicinal field to the poison garden.

At this time, as she strolled inside the poison garden, she saw swarms of multicolored poison-tailed butterflies fluttering about.

Yet all of a sudden, an enormous shadow descended, fluttering its wings as it flew towards her.

Upon observing closely, she saw that the huge butterfly before her had already transformed into its human form: a small loli carrying a pair of long and beautiful midnight blue wings on its back. This was the strange object that dropped down from the sky that day just as she intended to leave the poison manipulator's courtyard.

This was the butterfly queen of the poison-tailed butterfly swarm, and she named her Xiaoxiao[1].

Speaking of which, that pygmy poison manipulator probably couldn't rest in peace even in the underworld.

The poison-tailed butterflies that he cultivated for his entire life had now been appropriated for the little fellow's use.

However, the most amusing thing was that he didn't even get to glimpse the poison-tailed butterfly queen just before his death.

After the poison-tailed butterfly queen broke out of its cocoon, it cheerfully fluttered towards our dear Qiao Mu and directly acknowledged her as its master.

Qiao Mu was musing, that pygmy was probably pouring out his grievances even after entering the King of Hell's Palace!

Tilting her small head, Qiao Mu beckoned towards the Xiaoxiao that was fluttering its wings.

Xiaoxiao cheerfully shrunk its figure and transformed into a butterfly the size of a finger before fluttering to Qiao Mu's hand and calling out cutely, "Master, Master, have you come to see me?"

"That's right, how are you and your small companions faring here?"

"This place is very nice! The mystic energy is dense, and we can be so carefree here. It's too suitable for us to live in." Xiaoxiao said happily while flapping its wings.

"That's good then." Qiao Mu knew without a doubt that her Paradise Planet was a good residence and that the little fellows would definitely be pleased.

Anyways, she was just asking casually. She stroked Xiaoxiao's wings and said, "Xiaoxiao, send several butterflies out with me. I want them to go somewhere to scout out information."

"Alright, Master." Xiaoxiao waved its hand, and three small black butterflies fluttered over to Qiao Mu, dancing about in front of her.

"Master, even though they can't speak, they already have intelligence. Just instruct them to do what you require, and they will handle it. After obtaining the relevant information, they will tell me, and I will naturally report it to Master."

"Xiaoxiao is awesome." Qiao Mu nodded. Although her small stoic face didn't show much of an expression, the sapling Qiuqiu could still tell that Little Master was very happy.

Aiyah, this butterfly wasn't thinking of competing with Qiuqiu for Master's favor, right!

"Master, Master, I can also go out, I can also help you handle affairs!" The water child rolled over in a dash and bounced repeatedly before Qiao Mu.

"No need, it's only some trivial matters. You all stay here."

"Okay!" The water child immediately drooped its head, looking listless.

"Wah, Master, you should go out quickly, I can sense Crown Prince the Great's aura extending over. He seems to be very angry..." The sapling Qiuqiu spoke up suddenly.