

My Crown 601

Chapter 601: Bestowed to You

This woman's cheeks were slightly protruded from her face, and her face was unusually gaunt without any extra flesh on it. Her eyes were penetrating and spirited, and Qiao Mu felt that that woman seemingly swept a glance across her face while standing up.

That gaze was one that made others displeased.

"Vassal King Consort of An'nan, what do you have to say." The queen's tone when speaking to Wu Hongmo was still relatively harmonious.

"Your Majesty the Queen, my niece Wu Xiaosu has newly learned a rather interesting fan dance. How about having her dance for the queen to temporarily liven things up?"

The queen nodded slightly. "Very well."

The 18-year-old girl called Wu Xiaosu must have made prior preparations, since just as the queen gave her consent, she, under a royal maid's guidance, led 15 backup dancers into Brilliant Sun Hall. Wearing a sheer and flowing long pink dress, she was proudly holding her head up high and puffing her chest out as she walked to the front.

"Greetings to Your Majesty the Queen." Wu Xiaosu and the group of girls curtsied and chimed in chorus.

"You can rise. Wu Xiaosu? Is she the Wu Family's eldest daughter?" The queen asked lightly.

The Vassal King Consort of An'nan nodded with a smile. "Reporting to Your Majesty, she is indeed the Wu Family's eldest daughter."

This smile further deepened the Vassal King Consort of An'nan's protruding cheekbones.

"Xiaosu will humbly be showing her inadequacies now." The Wu Estate's eldest miss, Wu Xiaosu, curtsied again before turning to the two backup dancers behind her and sending them a look.

Instantly, the sounds of a zither alongside bamboo chimes rang out melodiously. Wu Xiaosu's body curved backwards into a very exaggerated semiarc, her waist so delicate that it could practically snap.

Swish. A pink feather fan slid out from her sleeve, which she then used to shield half of her exquisite face.

With 16 young and pretty young girls performing the fan dance, it appeared very splendid and magnificent. Each of their movements could even form its own beautiful picture.

The stoic face was expressionless and used her chopsticks to poke at the food before her before randomly rummaging through them once. However, she soon set down her chopsticks in utter distaste.

As the food had already cooled down completely, it really couldn't pique her interest. She would be better off eating her Qiuqiu's piping hot, no-salt mini stew.

To feed so many guests, the food had naturally been sent over by the imperial kitchen. Yet even though the food had been insulated in cotton-wadded brocade boxes, the journey from the imperial kitchen to the Central Palace was very distant after all.

It would be strange if the food didn't cool down after being carried all the way here on this snowy day.

The little fellow had always been a picky eater, so she was unwilling to eat even a bite of this cooled-down food.

How would her mother Wei Ziqin not know her daughter's finicky temperament? Her eyes were slightly troubled as she watched her daughter from afar.

"Crown Prince Consort, let this servant pour you some fruit wine." A royal maid waiting on her walked closer with her head lowered, and she poured a fragrant fruit wine from the white jade flask in her hand into Qiao Mu's cup.

This wine was brewed from the winter fruit that could grow in icy and snowy landscapes. Not only could you eat its flesh when hungry, but it was also excellent as an extremely rich and fragrant fruit wine.

Most importantly, it was a hardy plant that thrived easily; plus, it had a low chance of mutating. Consequently, the inner capital district had been continuously planting this fruit tree's seeds on a large scale in recent years, so as to fulfill the people's various demands.

Of course, the price of winter fruit was still very expensive for the famished and impoverished common people at the lowest rungs of society.

Qiao Mu expressionlessly raised her wine cup and stretched a hand over it to give it a waft.

As a fruity fragrance assaulted her nose, Qiao Mu's complexion turned frosty in the blink of an eye. She directly flipped her wrist and splashed the cup of superior-grade fruit wine onto the royal maid's face.

"Ah!"

Chapter 602: Assassinating the Crown Prince Consort

The royal maid abruptly crumpled to the floor. Although she was covering her orifices with her hands, black-colored blood could still be seen spurting out from her face, and her appearance was extremely horrifying.

Everyone abruptly dropped the chopsticks in their hands with a clatter.

Her Majesty the Queen was so startled that she even stood up from her seat, and the sounds of music and dancing naturally stopped.

Wu Xiaosu had just danced to the intensely passionate climax when she was interrupted all of a sudden. Hence, when the music accompaniment stopped, the girl turned around indignantly.

Qiao Mu glanced back at her coldly before slightly averting her eyes to look at the royal maid that was covering her face while rolling back and forth on the floor, yet she didn't say anything for quite a while.

The inside of the Brilliant Sun Hall was absolutely silent as everyone stared in horror at that royal maid.

“Crown Prince Consort, w-what did you do!!” Noble Consort Zheng abruptly shrieked.

Deeply terrified that that royal maid might recklessly roll before her and infect her with some kind of filth, Noble Consort Zheng successively retreated backwards.

“Making a fuss about nothing, just like a village woman.” Qiao Mu coldly stated, “This royal maid poured me a cup of poisonous wine just earlier, so I merely bestowed it to her to drink it.”

Everyone simultaneously turned silent.

Thank you! Crown Prince Consort, why were you so generous...

“Poisonous wine!” Her Majesty the Queen’s eyelid jerked abruptly. When she recalled her son’s protective expression before he left, she couldn’t resist massaging her faintly aching temples.

After all, based on her son’s temperament, if his dear wife was met with an assassination attempt in this Brilliant Sun Hall, then he definitely wouldn’t take it lying down!

“Go request Old Royal Physician Cao to make a trip over.”

Watching this royal maid continuously rolling about on the floor, yet not breathing her last, everyone only felt their hearts growing cold.

That royal maid’s face must have rotted away by now. Otherwise, why would a black liquid incessantly spill forth from between her fingers?

What kind of vehement poison could immediately rot away a person’s flesh and cause poisonous fluid to streak all over after a mere splash to the face?

What if the crown prince consort had drunk this cup of poisonous wine just now?

Everyone couldn’t help but shudder.

After quite a long time, Old Royal Physician Cao finally rushed over to the Central Palace after hurrying as fast as he could.

Upon stepping into Brilliant Sun Hall, he saw the poisoned royal maid howling in anguish in the center of the hall. It seemed that she hadn’t stopped breathing all this time. Nevertheless, everyone had scattered far away, not daring to approach that royal maid at all.

Only an aloof little lady dressed in crimson composedly stood next to that hissing and howling royal maid. She would even occasionally step forward to give her a kick. “Don’t scream anymore. The royal physician is here.”

Old Royal Physician Cao gazed speechlessly at that young lady before hurriedly going to pick up the shattered flask and cup that had previously held the fruit wine. After taking a sniff and using medicinal tools to test them, he then concluded with an affirmative nod, “The wine has been poisoned with highly toxic poison. However, pray forgive my senile self’s ignorance for not knowing how this highly toxic was concocted, and therefore being unable to prescribe appropriate treatment.”

Qiao Mu’s lips curled up slightly.

If you could elucidate the method of detoxifying the poison I administered, then you could truly be considered amazing.

When this royal maid was pouring wine for her, she had sniffed out that there was something amiss about its fragrance. Thus, she put on wafting the fragrance from the wine cup as a front to scatter the poison powder in it, which she then smashed onto the royal maid's face.

Heh, what was this called? This was called 'harming others will end up harming yourself!' The royal maid had only administered a slow poison. This kind of poison needed to be taken for around three months at the very minimum, accumulating in the body over a long period of time, before it would suddenly act up and cause sudden death. Its advantage was that it was impossible to detect that the person had died from being poisoned.

She was just a bit curious, what kind of person would use this kind of lukewarm poisoning method to deal with her? Was there still going to be a follow-up move after this!

Chapter 603: Placating

The person was rather patient, showing that he or she was a person who was capable of doing great things. She would like to see whether that person would continue to administer this kind of slow poison on her after this.

Qiao Mu tilted her head, and then turned towards Her Majesty the Queen with a foul expression. "How is it? It's confirmed that she wanted to harm me, right."

The queen nodded. "Crown Prince Consort, how do you want to punish this person."

"Kill her." Qiao Mu's small mouth opened and spat out these two words without any reservation.

The group of well-bred young ladies looked at her apprehensively. After this brief contact with her, they seemed to have perceived eight words describing the crown prince consort: cruel and vicious methods, not to be provoked!

The Vassal King Consort of An'nan smiled and said, "The crown prince consort truly is amazing, only needed to take a whiff of the fruit wine's fragrance to know that the royal maid had poisoned it. Could it be that the crown prince consort is also well-learned in the use of poison?"

Qiao Mu cast her an innocent glance. "That is not the case."

"Oh? What is the meaning of this statement?" The Vassal King Consort of An'nan asked with a smile, "If the crown prince consort happened to guess correctly by a stroke of luck, then this luck is indeed too good."

"This person's behavior was sneaky, and her hands continuously trembled when pouring the wine. I splashed her with the wine to only sound her out and didn't imagine that it really had been poisoned. However, I wonder if other people's wine cups have also been poisoned?"

Everyone glanced in alarm at the royal maids beside them that were in charge of pouring the wine. Some, being even more excessive, had already cupped their throats and turned around to cough as if their lives depended on it, just as if they wanted to vomit out the wine that they drank just now...

“Royal Physician Cao, please examine the other madams and misses’ wine and drinks.” How could the queen not comprehend the reason for the horror in these people’s eyes?

The old royal physician nodded and stepped forward to examine each and every cup before shaking his head and saying, “The other cups all don’t contain poison.”

The queen nodded. Nevertheless, at the same time that she exhaled a sigh of relief, the graveness in her eyes deepened. This meant that this incident with the poisonous wine was clearly aimed at the crown prince consort.

The fact that this kind of incident happened in her Brilliant Sun Hall, wasn’t this deliberately causing friction between her and her son and purposely making her feel vexed inside?

“Crown Prince Consort, this queen will definitely do you justice and give you an explanation for this incident.” The queen said softly.

Qiao Mu merely nodded without much of an expression.

She wasn’t counting on the queen to be able to investigate anything useful anyways. In any case, using poison against her was like giving her a tickle. She just had to do what was necessary in response to whatever those people dished out.

At this time, the royal maid that was rolling about the floor had already gradually quieted in a slow death.

Old Royal Physician Cao promptly went up to examine her. “Lest she mutate, it’s better to cremate her before the night is out.”

The queen nodded repeatedly and quickly instructed the royal guard beside her to handle this matter.

As an originally good and proper small banquet ended in such a bloody manner, the queen felt her enthusiasm waning at once.

After properly placating the crown prince consort, she also bestowed her with a lot of gifts, treating it as a way to repair their relationship.

Furthermore, the queen was slightly worried in her heart that this crown prince consort might narrow-mindedly believe that this death by poisoning incident was something she had a hand in. However, as she couldn’t discern any expression at all from that poker-faced stoic face, she was unable to figure out the girl’s true inner thoughts.

The queen was greatly depressed. Her feelings would take a steep plunge when she looked at this completely stoic-faced daughter-in-law.

Look at how many daughters-in-law Consort Cheng had. Which of them weren’t attentive and gentle towards their mother-in-law? On the other hand, her own daughter-in-law didn’t have much of an expression no matter how you looked at her, which was a bit aggravating.

The small banquet ended abruptly. Before Noble Consort Zheng was supported out by her servants, she cast a chilly gaze at Qiao Mu out of the corner of her eyes. Then, she lissomely treaded out of Brilliant Sun Hall’s main entrance in her pair of embroidered shoes.

Chapter 604: Exhortation

Just as Qiao Mu walked out of Brilliant Sun Hall, she was pounced on squarely by the chattering Xiao Lin'er.

"Sister, are you coming home with us today?" Qiao Lin asked with a giggle.

"Your sister still can't go back today." However, just as Qiao Mu was going to agree, that abominable voice broke her off.

Seeing her turning around to glare at him, the crown prince strode over quickly, automatically reaching for her small hand before turning to smile at Wei Ziqin. "Mom! Qiaoqiao still has to stay here for a few days. Royal Father will summon her tomorrow, and it'll be too troublesome to make a round trip! Rest assured, Mom, I will take care of Qiaoqiao well."

This overfamiliar and awfully shameless guy was even calling out "Mom" in front of the noble ladies and daughters that had not left yet!

Wei Ziqin was momentarily startled before she started laughing while covering her mouth.

After her laughter had subsided, Wei Ziqin pulled her daughter's small hand. "Crown Prince, I'll leave after speaking privately with Qiaoqiao."

"Okay, I'll wait here for Qiaoqiao." The crown prince nodded with a smile.

Steering clear of him, Wei Ziqin pulled Qiao Mu under the eaves of the corridor and said in a low voice, "Daughter, there's still three months until your coming-of-age hairpin ceremony, so you're still young. Don't do any inappropriate things that will make Mom worry, understand?"

Even with her mom hemming and hawing, Qiao Mu was so clever that she immediately understood what her mom wanted to say, causing her small face to inexplicably flush red. "Mom, what are you saying. He's been sleeping by himself in the side chamber these two days."

Wei Ziqin was all smiles as she nodded straightaway, and she couldn't resist praising her son-in-law. "I just knew that this child Xiao Mo is especially sensible. He has good character and also a good temperament! He's even handsome! Aiyah, Mom really didn't misjudge him. You two really are a match made in heaven! Hahaha!"

Mom, I beg of you to stop praising him! Aren't I the one who's your own daughter?

"My good daughter, your behavior in the main hall today is also... you should be more careful in the future. That person is the king's noble consort after all, so you still have to give her a bit of face."

Qiao Mu humphed. "Those people still aren't qualified for me to act prudently."

After saying this, she immediately glimpsed her mother's anxious expression, so she couldn't help but nod resignedly and reassure, "I know, I know. Anyways, as long as other people don't provoke me, I won't actively provoke other people either."

"You lass. Alright, Mom is only making herself clear. I'll be leaving the palace with your sister first then. You have to remember to come back in two days! It's not good for your reputation to keep living

together with him before the wedding. You have to be more mindful, since gossip is a fearful thing after all.”

Qiao Mu nodded her small head. “Mom, I will come back earlier. I miss your home-cooked dishes.”

“You silly lass. Whatever time you come back, Mom will cook for you then. Are you afraid that I can’t feed an extra mouth?” Wei Ziqin laughed giddily, her eyes overflowing with doting affection.

“Sis, when you and Brother-in-Law come back, remember to stop by Uncle Wang’s flatbread shop and buy me one... mhmfmph, Mom what are you covering my mouth for? Bring back Uncle Wang’s flatbread... fmhmph!” The little foodie’s mouth was promptly muffled as Wei Ziqin dragged her away.

Seeing this, Qiao Mu couldn’t resist pursing her lips in laughter as she boarded the carriage.

She had been busy all this time after coming back, so she had forgotten to prepare some snacks for her foodie sister. When she went back in two days, she definitely needed to prepare more delicious things for her to eat.

Besides, she didn’t see Brother Xiao Hu when she went back last time. She wondered if he had come out of closed-door cultivation yet.

On the other hand, the crown prince elatedly gazed in the direction that the little foodie had left in before turning to remark smilingly to Qiao Mu, “Younger Sister truly is a clever one. As expected, her personality takes after you: innocent, vivacious, and entertaining! When we go back in two days, we’ll bring her more than just a few pieces of flatbread. It won’t be a problem even if it’s two stacks.”

Chapter 605: Your Highness, Quickly Pick Up Your Principles

Qiao Mu cast him a glance, both amused and exasperated. *Were you treating my sister as a pig!*

Huifeng also really wanted to roast, *Your Highness, are you blind? How is your stoic-faced wife vivacious and entertaining? Can she even become vivacious?*

During the carriage ride, the crown prince grasped Qiao Mu’s small hands. “Qiaoqiao, Royal Mother definitely didn’t have someone poison that wine. You have to believe me.”

Qiao Mu merely returned a glance to him that had “You think I’m a fool” written all over it.

The crown prince straightaway laughed himself silly and nodded as he remarked, “I just knew that my Qiaoqiao is so intelligent, certainly one of a kind in this world. I will definitely strictly investigate the truth of this matter. To dare poison only you in front of everyone’s watchful eyes, this person must have bribed that royal maid beside you. In addition, there aren’t that many people who can bribe the people inside my Royal Mother’s palace. As for such a rarely seen highly toxic poison...”

“I was the one who scattered that poison powder into the wine cup.” Qiao Mu said dryly. “I scattered a smidge of incomparably toxic poison powder whose toxicity would spread and fester the flesh upon contact.”

The crown prince: ... *Sure enough, my wife is not ordinary.*

Huifeng’s mouth twitched: *What to do? The crown prince consort is so cruel.*

“Before this, she poisoned my wine with a slow poison. Three months later, I might have unwittingly died all of a sudden with a stomp of my foot.” Qiao Mu’s detached tone caused the storm in the crown prince’s eyes to surge up violently and uninhibitedly in a raging tide.

“I’m just curious, will this person still send some kind of person to my side and continue to feed me poison!” She really was very curious.

“Darling, what do you plan to do? I will completely support you! Just say the word!”

Huifeng: ... *Your Highness, quickly pick up the principles that you dropped all over the ground! Where did my wise, divine, and mighty Highness, eulogized by all, disappear to!*

“I plan to turn their trick against themselves and lie low in wait. I’ll wait until that person comes to hide by my side, then I’ll secretly transfer all the poison that person tries to feed me all onto their own body.”

The crown prince carried her to his lap and repeatedly nodded as he said, “Qiaoqiao, you’re really amazing!”

Huifeng: ... *Crown Prince Consort the Great, are you certain it’s not because you’re lazy and don’t want to investigate, that you said “lie low in wait?”*

“That’s right, I remember that a certain someone said last night that he would tell me a hilarious joke upon returning from morning court.” Qiao Mu said while pursing her small mouth.

Realization immediately dawned on the crown prince, and he said while chuckling, “Last night, I heard that a thief snuck into Second Royal Brother’s estate. All hell had broken loose, and the night was not peaceful. Second Royal Brother had even tripped and fell when pursuing the thief. It was so bad that his elbow even cracked from the fall.”

Qiao Mu compressed her lips. “But I saw his mother Consort Liu today, and she was all smiles, like nothing was wrong. Her son had already tripped into a wretched dog of a mess, so why can she still smile?”

Huifeng: ... *Her Highness the Crown Prince Consort’s wording felt a bit strange!*

“The more entertaining event happens tonight. Yesterday was only a warm-up. He thinks that he’ll be able to sleep soundly tonight? Hmph!” The crown prince continued to speak softly into her ear.

Qiao Mu’s eyes suddenly bulged, and she turned to look at this crown prince. A gremlin! Who could be his match!

“Qiaoqiao, is it hilarious?” Mo Lian swayed with a grin while hugging his wifey. “Show me a smile then.”

Qiao Mu immediately averted her small head and faced him with the back of her head instead.

Chuckling lightly, Mo Lian was just about to turn her head back around when a black shadow suddenly landed next to the carriage. He said anxiously, “Your Highness, Madam Qiao and Second Miss were attacked at Dongshun Gate. Our people are already doing everything they can to resist. Everything’s alright for the time being.”

What?

Qiao Mu was alarmed, and the crown prince's expression also immediately turned solemn.

Chapter 606: Second Miss's Acting Chops Are Exceptionally Good

The two people were no longer in the mood to admire the snowy night by the wayside, and they both jumped out of the carriage, bolting towards Dongshun Gate at a miraculous speed.

Today, all of the madams with mandates and noble daughters' carriages had been arranged to enter and exit from Dongshun Gate. However, because she had taken time to speak with her daughter, Wei Ziqin had left rather late.

Hence, as the carriage followed along the path towards Dongshun Gate, there weren't many people under the decorated archway anymore.

Through the snow that was whirling more and more heavily, they saw the Wu Family's carriage, which carried their eldest miss Wu Xiaosu, travelling exasperatingly slowly in front of them.

Wu Xiaosu had instructed the carriage driver to purposely slow down and wait for Wei Ziqin's carriage to come.

"Madam Qiao." Lifting her curtain unhurriedly, Eldest Miss Wu poked her head out and called softly.

Wei Ziqin also lifted a corner of the carriage curtain and met Eldest Miss Wu's eyes. She nodded and said, "Miss Wu, is there something?"

"Madam Qiao, I really am sorry to inconvenience you. As the wheels of my carriage seem to be malfunctioning, is it possible for you to give me a lift?"

Wei Ziqin turned her eyes to take a look, and she saw that the back wheel of Wu Xiaosu's carriage was indeed slightly crooked. It looked as if it couldn't support the carriage for a long distance.

"Miss Wu, we don't seem to be headed in the same direction." Xiao Lin'er poked her small head out and grinned toothily at Wu Xiaosu. "I see that your carriage wheel is only crooked, and it should be able to turn for a while longer. Your home is also not far from Dongshun Gate[1], so I reckon that it should hold up until then. You're not like us, who have to detour to the northern gate. If we have to circle around on top of that to give you a lift, who knows how long it'll take me and my mom to return home."

Her implication: *As Miss Wu is such an understanding person, you wouldn't be so inconsiderate nor would you do something this inappropriate.*

As Wu Xiaosu didn't anticipate that this little lady's mouth would be so sharp, trying to dismiss her with a few words, her expression stiffened slightly and didn't look too pretty.

However, her carriage driver timely jumped down and bowed respectfully with clasped hands before saying, "Madam Qiao, we had originally not wanted to trouble you. However, from this old servant's many years of carriage driving experience, this carriage wheel truly can't hold up much longer. As it's bitterly cold outside right now, if the carriage wheel breaks down and can't travel any further, then our miss will have to endure the night in the snow. Please, would Madam be so kind as to give our miss a lift? It won't cause you to deviate too far. This old servant is familiar with the road situation around this area and can point out a shortcut for Madam. This old servant beseeches Madam to assent."

Being a kind-hearted person, Wei Ziqin was just about to agree when Xiao Lin'er called out, "Gah!"

Her small face abruptly scrunched together, and cold sweat started dripping down as it overflowed from her forehead. She had started exhibiting her exceptionally excellent acting chops.

"What is it, what happened?" Wei Ziqin was startled.

Her maid Chunying also asked anxiously, "Second Miss, what's happening. Where does it hurt, Second Miss?"

"B-belly hurts! Mom! My belly hurts!" Xiao Lin'er released a trembling groan, and her entire body had even started shuddering.

"Lin'er! Don't scare Mom, you were still alright just now. Why did your belly start hurting now?"

"Mom, it must've been the cold wind flooding in that gave me a chill! Mom, let's get home quickly! My, my belly is hurting me to death."

"Don't speak nonsense!" Wei Ziqin patted the back of her daughter's hand in heartache, and she hastily poked out her head to instruct the carriage driver, "H-hurry up, hurry back to the estate."

"Yes, Madam." The Qiao Family's carriage driver of course was also unhappy that he had to take a roundabout route in this snowfall. Therefore, when he heard the Madam's command at this time, he whipped the horse and promptly drove the carriage away in a gallop.

Chapter 607: Attacked

The glare that Wu Xiaosu directed towards the Qiao Family's carriage could almost shoot out fire, and she punched the carriage frame heavily with a bam. Wu Xiaosu hollered furiously, "B*tch! The older one is already such a b*tch, but the younger one is b*tchy too!"

"Miss, what should we do now? If we can't board the Qiao Family's carriage, then we can't..." Wu Xiaosu's personal maid started speaking in a quavering voice.

When suddenly, Wu Xiaosu slapped her soundly across the face, causing her to cry out "ah" in alarm. The maid cupped her face with a hanging head, her tears about to roll down.

"You're asking me what to do? What's the use in keeping all you bunch of trash! Forget it if you don't know how to come up with ideas, yet you're asking me what to do now!"

Her personal maidservant tearfully kneeled down inside the carriage and repeatedly kowtowed for forgiveness.

By this time, the Qiao Family's carriage had already travelled far. After exiting Dongshun Gate, it had turned left.

Wei Ziqin poked her daughter's forehead with her finger, both annoyed and amused. "Stop pretending already!"

After all, this act just came at the drop of a hat. How was this younger daughter just so remarkably talented to be able to even force out cold sweat?

Sticking out her tongue, Qiao Lin revealed a sweet smile as she held her mom's arm and said, "Mom, as it happens, her carriage broke down in this bitterly cold weather only just as we came along. I wouldn't believe it if that Miss Wu said that she didn't have any ulterior motives. At any rate, we should refrain from hurting others, yet guard against those trying to hurt ourselves. Sister also said that we shouldn't be overly kind. We have to be sharp-eyed and clear-headed, as well as always thinking things over."

"Sigh, you!" Wei Ziqin couldn't help but be amused. These two daughters were both rascals with honest demeanors. The older one was stone-faced and taciturn, but her thoughts were more meticulous than anyone else's. Meanwhile, this younger one looked to be carefree and simple-minded on the outside, yet in reality her thoughts weren't careless, and her brain was also very active.

"Hehe, Mom. I just feel like that Miss doesn't seem like a kind one. We just won't mind her much and it'll be fine."

"Mhm." Wei Ziqin cast her a glance before sighing. "My daughter has grown up and also has more ideas now. Mom can't manage her anymore."

Qiao Lin giggled and started simpering while hugging her mom's arm, "How could that be? Mom, Daughter is very obedient."

The mother and daughter were presently speaking affectionately when all of a sudden, a sword's glint abruptly flew over and hacked towards the carriage. It instantly chopped the shaft in two, falling onto the ground with a clang.

The carriage driver couldn't control the swerving carriage and rolled down from his seat. However, before he could even say anything, he was beheaded by an incoming glint.

The mother and daughter grabbed onto Chunying and flew out of the wrecked carriage, and the carriage body that had flipped to the ground was instantly riddled into a sieve by the numerous arrows.

Chunying was beside herself with apprehension, and she hastily shouted after landing, "Madam, Second, leave quickly! Don't mind this servant."

Around a dozen fully grown men, with extremely powerful auras and dressed in nighttime combat outfits, surrounded the mother and daughter pair, fiercely attacking the two people all at once.

"Chunying, retreat backwards!" Qiao Lin's eyes deepened, and the eleven-year-old little lady's eyes faintly revealed a penetrating gleam at this moment.

Wei Ziqin waved her sleeve to block a person's attack, and she looked at the intruders with a solemn expression. "Who are you? Actually daring to attack a madam with a royal mandate in front of Dongshun Gate, do you all not want to live?"

The dozen people dressed in nighttime combat outfits didn't say anything and only surrounded Wei Ziqin and her daughter, launching attacks on them without fearing for their lives.

Among these dozen people, there was a level-nine mystic cultivator, whose mystic energy was very full-bodied. Wei Ziqin, this tiny level-three mystic cultivator, and Qiao Lin, this level-four mystic cultivator, were naturally not his match.

Chapter 608: Separate Pursuit

As the night deepened, the offensive was also gradually becoming more ferocious.

Suddenly, two agile and nimble black-clothed youths jumped inside the encirclement, accompanied by the roars of two tigers. Two huge mystic beasts lunged forwards, chomping on the palms of two people dressed in nighttime combat outfits, tearing at them at all costs.

The attackers only let out a groan, still not uttering a word.

“Brace yourself, Madam Qiao. We’ve already sent someone to inform the crown prince and crown prince consort, so please don’t panic.” The youth that spoke swung his sword and entirely blocked a level-five mystic cultivator’s attack for Wei Ziqin.

Among these people, other than that level-nine mystic cultivator, the rest mostly only had level-five and level-six cultivation. Half of them were even body cultivators who were around the sixth layer.

Naturally, they were more than sufficient to deal with Wei Ziqin and her daughter, who were only at level-three and level-four cultivation, but they were absolutely nothing in front of level-10 mystic cultivators.

The two youths along with their mystic beasts soon cleared out a path, and they were just about to charge out of the encirclement while guarding the mother and daughter.

Suddenly, their bodies tensed up, and they abruptly raised their heads, seemingly having sensed something.

They saw that level-nine mystic cultivator taking out two white beads the size of pellets from the cloth folding in his chest, giving a cold snort as he abruptly flicked them at the two mystic cultivator youths.

“Madam Qiao.”

“Second Miss, hurry and dodge!”

The two youths each grabbed one of the two people and dispersed to the sides.

Two booming explosions suddenly rang out, and the explosive sounds of level-11 mystic energy beads tore apart the quiet night, practically alarming half of the residents in the capital.

Because the two youths had to protect Wei Ziqin and her daughter, they both suffered an impact to their organs from the mystic energy bead’s explosion. While smothering several coughs, fresh blood trickled out from the corners of their mouths at basically the same time.

The level-nine mystic cultivator appeared before one of them like a phantom, and he horizontally struck out a palm towards the youth’s back. While sending the youth flying, he snatched Wei Ziqin over and struck her in the back of the neck to make her fall unconscious.

“Mom!!” Qiao Lin clenched both fists with reddened eyes.

The level-nine mystic cultivator suddenly raised his sleeve and shot an arrow in her direction. That spring-loaded arrow concealed in his sleeve rapidly arrived before Qiao Lin in the blink of an eye.

The level-10 mystic cultivator youth’s expression turned cold, and he swiftly raised his hand, using mystic energy to restrain that arrow, forcing it to explode with a bang before him.

Immediately afterwards, his expression changed slightly, and he inwardly cursed “shit.”

The spring-loaded arrow had been laden with poison powder, and with this explosion, the poison powder scattered with the wind and assaulted his senses, causing his body to tremble and sway slightly.

The two mystic beasts were just about to lunge forwards to tear at the attacker, yet because they inhaled the poison powder, their limbs abruptly skidded into a sprawl on the ground.

The level-nine mystic cultivator seized this chance to swiftly dart to this level-10 mystic cultivator youth and once again struck out his palm, this time at the chest. His ironclad fingers exerted strength on Qiao Lin’s pulse.

Qiao Lin painfully scrunched up her brows, and the cold sweat on her forehead cascaded down as her body limply crumpled to the ground.

The remaining seven to eight people in nighttime combat outfits swarmed forth in a disciplined fashion, and they separately hauled the unconscious mother and daughter into two prepared carriages.

With a shout, the carriage drivers urged the horses forward as they brought away the mother and daughter separately.

When the crown prince and crown prince consort rushed over and saw two carriages leaving as fast as lightning in opposite directions, their hearts instantly sank with a thump.

“Your Highness!!” The two black-clothed youths scrambled up from the ground and ran to them in a stagger. “They’re each fleeing towards Huabei Gate[1] and Jinnan Gate[2].”

Chapter 609: Furious

Mo Lian and Qiao Mu exchanged glances and nodded in tacit understanding before immediately chasing separately in pursuit. With a whistle, around a dozen hidden guards closely followed after Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu’s pair of eyes were already burning with a raging fury: *Today, she had to declare to the entire world that whoever was foolhardy enough to kidnap or hurt her family, she would make that person die miserably and regret having ever walked upon this earth!*

As the carriage advanced forwards swiftly, the carriage driver would occasionally turn his head back to look around.

Qiao Mu coldly pulled out a speed talisman and applied it to her own body.

The moment her speed skyrocketed, Qiao Mu was like a flitting electric spark, accelerating as she advanced.

Seeing this, the carriage driver gave an explosive whoop, and the carriage rapidly turned the corner along the way.

How could Qiao Mu let him go? With a leap off her toes, she had already flitted to the rooftops. She only heard the breeze whipping by her ear, and the fast speed at which she darted had drawn out a white afterimage behind her.

Swish swish! After a few leaps, Qiao Mu jumped down from the roof eaves that were blanketed in a thick and white layer of accumulated snow, a harsh glint flashing past her eyes.

Extending her fingers, she instantly froze a stream of water into ice crystals, and with a wave of her hand, more than a hundred ice crystals were shot flying like a blizzard towards the entire carriage, riddling it into a busted sieve.

A hint of panic and amazement pervaded the depths of the carriage driver's eyes, but his movements didn't stop as he continued to whip the horse, urging it to gallop madly.

However, Qiao Mu saw clearly with a glance that neither her mother nor sister were inside the carriage.

"You're courting death!" With her eyes emitting a merciless light, Qiao Mu leaped into the air, covering her entire body with mystic energy before violently punching the person's head with a boom.

The entire carriage and its shaft fractured simultaneously, and the three people within the carriage were just about to jump out to escape.

However, the dagger in Qiao Mu's hand was like a flash of lightning, instantly swiping across the carriage driver's neck.

Even though his round head had rolled down to the carriage wheels, the horse still charged straight on due to inertia.

After sending out three immobilization talismans, those few body cultivators' bodies froze, displaying poses of getting up from their seats as they were just about to escape.

"Talk! Where are the people inside the carriage?" Qiao Mu's palm whipped in the wind as she slapped one of the people across the face.

"If you don't talk, you won't have the mercy of life or death!" Qiao Mu's fingers viciously and ruthlessly dug into that person's shoulder, her icy eyes gazing at the person fixedly.

"Ah!" That body cultivator's body was already rather tough and sturdy, but he didn't anticipate that the girl's clutch would feel like having his bones forcibly snapped apart.

"Are you talking or not!" As Qiao Mu didn't have the time to hear his anguished howls, she grabbed his neck with one hand while whipping out a dictum talisman with the other.

"I'm telling you! If you don't honestly confess everything! Once I use a dictum talisman and ask about your families' whereabouts, I will bury them in the rivers and lakes after grinding their bones into scattering dust! Unable to die without a burial place!"

That person's pupils instantly contracted as he trembled in fear, as if he was looking at a fiendish devil.

"Talk!" After activating the dictum talisman, it still needed some time to take effect, but time was what she lacked the most right now! She needed to know her mother and sister's whereabouts at this moment. She couldn't wait another second.

"I-I'll talk! T-That level-nine mystic cultivator c-carried Second Miss Qiao away when turning the corner just now!"

Crack! That person's gaze turned sluggish, while his neck tilted slightly. Because his neck had been fractured, his entire head drooped downwards.

Crack crack! After two more successive sounds of bone fractures were heard, the other two body cultivators also died on the spot.

Qiao Mu immediately summoned out Qingluan and jumped onto its back. After radiating her spiritual conscious outwards on a large scale, she hollered while pointing to the left. "There."

Chapter 610: Blitzkrieg Strategy

Letting out a shrill cry, Qingluan spread out its wings before abruptly accelerating in the direction that Qiao Mu had pointed out.

Not long after, Qingluan approached its peak speed.

Qiao Mu's stoic face had been completely replaced by a frigid chill. At this moment, her gaze, capable of freezing anything in any direction within three thousand feet, made it seem as if she had returned to that night from a few years ago. It was so dreadfully desolate and quiet.

She! Wanted! To! Kill! Them!

She wanted to skin and debone them alive, killing them without any chance of escape!

"Shriek!!" Qingluan swooped down from high up in the sky, already locked onto a running target.

That person was dashing forward at a miraculous speed while carrying Xiao Lin'er underneath his armpit. After exiting Jinnan Gate, his objective seemed to be heading for Xiluo Street.

Many commoners who had fled to the capital from all over the kingdom had been settled down on Xiluo Street[1]. It could even be said that it was the most crowded area in the entire capital.

Nevertheless, most of the commoners didn't have houses and could only pitch a heap of adjoining tents outside.

The people that could live in houses on Xiluo Street were usually mystic cultivators, body cultivators, and the like.

If this fellow ran into Xiluo Street with her sister and snuck among the heaps of tents, then it would become very troublesome to search for him.

Curling her lips up into a sneer, Qiao Mu had already stood up on Qingluan's back, leaping down while slapping an immobilization talisman at that person's back.

However—

After activating the immobilization talisman, that person's body only swayed slightly before immediately continuing to run forwards nimbly.

He had stepped through Xiluo Street's decorated archway and was just about to enter the tent area.

Seeing this, Qiao Mu's eyes glinted sharply, and she launched a quick and violent mental attack with her spiritual conscious. Although she had not yet entered the spiritual realm, her mystic conscious had

already been prematurely promoted to spiritual conscious. Compared to the mystic conscious, the usage of the spiritual conscious was much more extensive.

Not only could it infiltrate other people's inner worlds and scan their mystic meridians, it could even launch intangible attacks.

Under her spiritual conscious's scrutiny, the other party's cultivation was clearly unveiled.

"So you were a level-12 mystic cultivator who used an aura-repressing talisman to disguise yourself as a level-nine mystic cultivator." Qiao Mu scoffed.

Her spiritual conscious had already infiltrated into the other party's conscious, and she gave him a heavy injury that was akin to being ripped apart.

"Ah!!" Obviously, that mystic cultivator didn't anticipate that Qiao Mu still had such methods. It felt as if someone had fiercely attacked his conscious, and its foundation had practically started to shatter. Due to his panic, his arm slackened, and the Xiao Lin'er that he had wedged under his armpit plummeted towards the ground.

Springing upwards, Qiao Mu caught her sister before directly throwing her backwards to the several hidden guards who were closely following behind.

"Don't interfere!" Qiao Mu extended her fingers and gestured behind her. Her pupils were filled with a harsh sternness as she gazed icily at the level-12 mystic cultivator in front of her.

"As it's such a beautiful snowy night, we won't disturb the common civilians on Xiluo Street! Life isn't easy, so we shouldn't create trouble for them."

As soon as she finished speaking, she unexpectedly pulled out an extremely thin vine from her sleeve and gazed coldly at that mystic cultivator. "Since I can't use a dictum talisman on you, then fine. I'll just use some other methods to make you talk."

That person couldn't help sniggering. "This little silly girl is rather arrogant! It's only a pity, I wonder if you have the fortune to return to your Eastern Palace alive."

"Is that so?" Qiao Mu's lips curled up into a meaningful sneer.

The vine abruptly whipped over in the level-12 mystic cultivator's direction, sweeping straight for his face.

Qiao Mu simultaneously launched another attack with her spiritual conscious, even though launching two attacks with her spiritual conscious within a short time frame had already caused her to reach her spiritual conscious usage limit.

She did this because she wanted to end the battle rapidly!