

## My Crown 661

### Chapter 661: Changed Her Mind

After Qiao Mu woke up the next day, Shaoyao walked inside with a wide smile while holding a small box in her hands.

“Miss, Xiao’ye dropped by just now to deliver something by the Lord’s order.”

The little fellow had just finished washing up, and she covered her mouth while yawning slightly before saying with a nod, “What is it.”

“It’ll be lunch in a while, so just finish drinking this porridge to avoid an empty stomach for now.” Shaoyao responded while handing her a small bowl of red date porridge with a grin.

“Shaoyao, you were keeping watch the entire night?”

“That’s right, Miss.” Shaoyao nodded while moving the small box to the table.

“Don’t keep watch tonight and go sleep. What danger can there be in our own home?” Qiao Mu set down the bowl of porridge from which she only ate two mouthfuls, taking up the small box that Shaoyao had placed on the table. After opening the lid, her eyes sparkled upon seeing its contents.

In the center of the small box sat a vermilion-colored pill with a purple pill vein, surrounded by a fluctuating brilliance.

“This beautifying pill is truly excellent.” Qiao Mu extended her hand to rub it.

If she directly added a little something to this pill, it would be too much of a waste, so how about...

Qiao Mu compressed her small lips as another plan steadily hatched in her mind. She closed the lid with a slap and handed the small box to Shaoyao. “Shaoyao, deliver this beautifying pill to my mother for her to consume it. In a while, I’ll make my own instead.”

She had originally planned to directly tamper with this beautifying pill before sending it to Consort Zheng for her to enjoy, but she changed her mind now! Humph, she naturally couldn’t let that woman benefit. Such a fine item was perfect for her mom instead.

“Okay, Miss. Shaoyao will go now and will be back very quickly.” Shaoyao chuckled before striding out of the room with the small box.

Afterwards, Qiao Mu continued to drink several mouthfuls of the red date porridge. At the same time, she motioned her mystic conscious, and the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron abruptly jumped out of her conscious. It landed steadily on the floor before instantly growing to half a person’s height.

Next, Qiao Mu recited the names of several medicinal materials and had Qiuqiu send them out. After finishing her porridge, she then started to process the herbs in front of her unhurriedly.

After removing the dregs and keeping only the essence, Qiao Mu threw the herbs into the medicinal cauldron, which instantly elicited a reaction.

A scarlet cauldron fire ignited on its own, and the copper cauldron instantly turned incomparably transparent. The medicinal cauldron gradually started to spin, and the single star in the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon design that was radiating a streak of light suddenly lit up.

Surely, this beautifying pill in which she added a wisp of the purest heat poison, the nether posy, tasted extremely delicious.

Qiao Mu supported her chin with one hand while observing the medicinal cauldron, and she couldn't help but curl up her lips in total satisfaction.

This medicinal cauldron normally looked very unassuming, so she didn't expect that it would look so magnificent while refining pills.

The entire copper cauldron had already turned transparent, like colored glass, and it even allowed her to clearly see how the fire inside was being controlled. The fire control was utterly perfect; it automatically made an accurate judgment based on the degree that the herbs were scorched.

Therefore, she didn't need to continuously control the fire throughout the entire process, which saved her a lot of time and energy.

Miss Qiao was quite happy. Sure enough, in pill refining, a good medicinal cauldron achieved better results with half the effort.

With this comparison, her set of cr\*ppy "pill refining tool kit" really could be tossed to the corner now.

Miss Qiao leisurely walked to the short table next to the bed and sat down. She took out a pure white messenger talisman from her inner world and then pulled out her talisman pen to write on it.

Shortly afterwards, both the Hidden Pavilion and Night Pavilion received the message that the lady of the house sent out.

'Spread the word, Morning Sunlight Pavilion will be auctioning off an exceptional beautifying pill to the public in three days' time.'

## **Chapter 662: Won't Take Responsibility for Suckering You to Death**

*Ding.* The medicinal cauldron produced a faint sound. In the period between putting in the herbs and pill formation, Qiao Mu basically didn't need to lift a finger.

Furthermore, because she was only producing a high-grade beautifying pill, she didn't need to use additional mystic energy to fan the flames.

The pill took shape after only five minutes, which made Miss Qiao very satisfied.

With a whisk of her sleeve, there was a faint fragrance emanating from the two pills that jumped out from the cauldron, promptly hitting her in the face.

After Wei Ziqin stepped through the door, she took a deep sniff before exclaiming excitedly, "Daughter! You're refining pills right now. Did Mom disturb you?"

Qiao Mu couldn't resist facepalming, especially since she kept feeling that her mom was abnormally overexcited about her ability to refine pills.

“Mom, I’ve already finished refining.” Qiao Mu directly summoned the Nine Stars Mirroring the Moon Cauldron, which had automatically extinguished its cauldron fire, back into her conscious. Afterwards, she put the two tampered beautifying pills that were fresh out of the oven into two separate exquisite wooden boxes.

Ay, she had only wanted to produce one tampered beautifying pill, yet the medicinal cauldron produced two.

Wei Ziqin hastily strode over and picked up one of the wooden boxes, admiring it happily while she prattled continuously, “Daughter, the pill you refined is so fine.”

Look at how lustrous, translucent, dainty, and delicate this pill was. It was covered with a faint pill vein and glimmered under the light. Even she, a layman, automatically took a liking to it.

“Mom.” In resignation, Qiao Mu helped her mom sit down.

She also smoothly took back the box from her mom’s hands and put it, along with the other box, into her inner world to avoid accidental consumption.

“Qiaoqiao, this beautifying pill that you gave Mom, why don’t you keep it for yourself to use.” Wei Ziqin took out the small box from her pocket and said, “Mom is already so old, there’s nothing to beautify.”

“Mom, look, I myself know how to refine it. The two pills just now were both beautifying pills. I can make as much as you want. This one is for you, so quickly consume it. It’s also beneficial for your body.” Qiao Mu poured a cup of tea in passing to urge her mom to consume it.

Wei Ziqin cast her daughter a glance with a chuckle before finally complying and swallowing that beautifying pill.

“Mom, this beautifying pill improves your body condition imperceptibly, slowly but steadily, so you won’t see instant results. But gradually as the months pass by, you’ll discover that your white hairs and wrinkles will have disappeared. Your skin will have become more glossy, and your body will be energetic!” Qiao Mu held onto her mom’s arm, and the mother and daughter pair happily chatted away for a while.

Wei Ziqin was amused into loud laughter, and she poked her daughter’s forehead. “You impish lass, you just like blindly coaxing Mom.”

While the mother and daughter pair were in a fabulous mood...

On the other hand, in State Uncle Zheng’s Estate, Zheng Cao was currently shouting at Second Manager Qi in a terrible rage.

“How do you do things? How could you let such a close opportunity slip away?” A middle-aged man, dressed in a cyan brocade robe and sporting a goatee growing from his sharp chin, paced back and forth in the sitting room with his hands behind his back.

Second Manager Qi groveled on the ground servilely as he avowed pitifully, “This subordinate doesn’t know why things turned out like this either. This subordinate had led people to that merchant’s home but ended up missing him. Only after asking a neighbor did this subordinate learn that the merchant had sold the beautifying pill to Morning Sunlight Pavilion before moving away that very night.”

Zheng Cao went up to kick Second Manager Qi. "Useless wretched servant! Tell me, how should I explain this to Consort Zheng."

### **Chapter 663: Staking it All for the Beautifying Pill**

This wretched servant hastily took credit in lieu of someone else in front of Consort Zheng when he hadn't even handled the matter properly.

Otherwise, the situation would have still been salvageable.

Second Manager Qi hastily said with a bitter expression, "Her Highness already knows about the beautifying pill. We must obtain it for her at all costs."

When Zheng Cao thought about how he would have to pay an astronomical price to successfully bid for it at Morning Sunlight Pavilion's auction, he felt his heart ache.

Several deep wrinkles creased on his forehead, and Zheng Cao declared coldly, "If I force them to hand over the beautifying pill, what can such an inconsequential Morning Sunlight Pavilion do?"

Second Manager Qi shuddered fiercely, and the cold sweat beading his forehead poured down at once. "Master, you must not do that! This servant has heard that Morning Sunlight Pavilion is backed by an extremely influential power. Do you still remember what happened two years ago, when the Hong Estate's young master caused trouble at Morning Sunlight Pavilion? He was later booted out after breaking a leg from getting beaten. Alas, he got beaten for nothing since the Hong Estate simply wasn't able to seek justice. Allegedly, that young master is still paralyzed on one side of the body even now."

"They're able to touch even the well-established, hundred-year-old Hong Estate without repercussion, not to speak of patrician families like ours, which have only just settled in the capital," Second Manager Qi hastily exhorted.

Zheng Cao's brows wrung together tightly. He had heard of this incident before. It was said that the old madam of the Hong Estate was the blood sister of the current Queen Dowager, so the entire Hong Estate was theoretically in-laws with Her Majesty the Queen Dowager. Yet Morning Sunlight Pavilion still dared to beat up the Hong Estate's young master to the point where he couldn't walk out on his own but had to get carried out instead. Moreover, the Hong Estate was unable to find a bit of fault with Morning Sunlight Pavilion. Such an influential power indeed couldn't be provoked carelessly.

"Sigh." Zheng Estate sighed in defeat. "Qi Ming, we must obtain this beautifying pill at all costs before doing anything else. After being demoted, Sister will definitely be in a bad mood at this time. If we go against her wishes precisely at this juncture, it's possible that she'll also resent our Zheng Estate."

Zheng Cao understood his younger sister extremely well. If he went against her wishes, she would certainly remember this.

She had the means to enact her schemes, so it wouldn't be a surprise if her rank got promoted again. After all, the king had lavished favors on his sister all these years. How could past affections be cut off so quickly?

“Let the estate calculate how much magnetite we have on hand at the moment. Purportedly, Morning Sunlight Pavilion also collects rare colored crystals and gems. If we don’t have enough magnetite, see if Morning Sunlight Pavilion accepts amber crystals to make up the difference.”

“Reportedly, the royal court intends to manufacture a mystic currency, forged from magnetite, for use in business transactions. Perhaps it’ll be more convenient to square accounts in the future.” Zheng Cao sighed again. “If there really isn’t any other choice, go check each young miss and young master’s room and gather any mystic weapons and the like that Morning Sunlight Pavilion can immediately exchange for magnetite.”

Hopefully, he wouldn’t have to resort to this point! After all, a tiny beautifying pill was unlikely to auction for some astronomical price. He only hoped that all would go smoothly on the day of the auction and that he wouldn’t have that many competitors fighting with him for this beautifying pill.

The more he ruminated, the more vexed he felt, so he simply flung his sleeves and threw this matter to Second Manager Qi to handle, while he himself went out to find his concubine to drive away his cares.

On the other hand, Qi Ming ran to ask the senior manager for money with a crestfallen face, and sure enough, the senior manager berated him to no end.

These two years, the Zheng Estate had been in extremely terrible circumstances. In particular, ever since the zombie outbreak, the estate was basically unable to make ends meet. Merely relying on the master’s official salary issued by the royal court was truly unable to support an estate’s operations.

Moreover, there were so many people in the Zheng Estate, such as the many concubines and their children, as well as miscellaneous servants. Other than Sixth Young Master, the rest were the type to be all take and no give.

#### **Chapter 664: So Vexing**

Qi Ming followed closely behind the senior manager to the accounting room. After a series of calculations, the amount of magnetite that the estate could raise was truly not much.

They only had around a dozen high-grade magnetite and a hundred or so mid-grade magnetite.

Even after adding a box of colored crystals and gems to the pool, Qi Ming didn’t feel confident enough about the auction, and so he could only report the situation to Zheng Cao.

Yet with Zheng Cao’s order, all hell broke loose in his concubines and children’s residences. Episodes such as ‘Fifth Young Master was going to hang himself because they snatched away his mystic weapon’ and ‘Third Young Miss was going to commit suicide by consuming poison if she couldn’t have her private jewelry’ were merely two of many that occurred.

These three days inside the Zheng Estate, the piddling incidents that transpired in succession infuriated Zheng Cao half to death. In the end, he passed down an order that whoever caused further trouble would get booted out of the Zheng Estate.

With this forceful suppression, although no one in the Zheng Estate caused a fuss anymore, the concubines and young misses all holed up in their courts, wiping away their tears in private the entire day. Each of them bawled their eyes out, wailing that they couldn’t survive like this anymore and that

they would have to go beg on the streets, etc. This caused the estate's servants to all laugh up their sleeves at their masters' amusing drama.

Zheng Cao passed three vexing days like this, and it wasn't until the day of Morning Sunlight Pavilion's auction that he decided to personally make the trip with Second Manager Qi. He cut off his means of retreat and resolved to acquire the beautifying pill no matter what.

He was already so miserable, and if he still couldn't acquire the beautifying pill to win his sister's favor, he feared that his future days were going to be even worse than they were now!

Morning Sunlight Pavilion's usual auction was during the beginning of the month, but because this was a special auction hosted for the "precious beautifying pill," the timing was more flexible, so it was simply scheduled to start at noon.

Needless to say, this beautifying pill was truly quite in demand. The noble ladies from all sorts of backgrounds had sent people to inquire about it in advance, and even those people without the wherewithal to place a successful bid still sent a representative over to participate in this grand occasion.

Just as Zheng Cao entered the auction house with Second Manager Qi, his eyelid couldn't resist twitching upon seeing the full house.

*F\*ck, so many people! They couldn't all be here for the beautifying pill, right!*

Inside the exclusive and luxurious private box on the second floor, Qiao Mu had come early with her brother and sister, snagging a spot to watch the fun. At this moment, the three siblings were chatting away while each holding a small packet of melon seeds.

Huifeng coughed lightly and announced, "Crown Prince Consort, the Zheng Family has come."

Hearing this, Qiao Mu stood up and walked to the window. She looked down and glimpsed a middle-aged man, sporting a goatee and dressed in a cyan robe, walking towards the stairs with his hands behind his back.

"Have him go to the main hall." Qiao Mu waved her small hand while turning to look at Huifeng.

Huifeng's mouth twitched, but he still left the private box quickly to carry out his order.

Afterwards, only the three siblings were left inside the private box.

"Sister, why do you care about where he sits?" Qiao Lin muttered while cracking her melon seeds.

"If he sits inside one of the private boxes on the second floor, how can I watch how his expression distorts?" Qiao Mu then harrumphed. "You'll see, in a while, I'll make him so angry that he'll vomit blood."

The door to the private box suddenly opened, with Duan Yue and Mo Lian entering one after another, followed by a lightly coughing Situ Yi.

Duan Yue lifted an eyebrow and asked with a smile, "Anger who into vomiting blood?"

"Zheng Cao." Qiao Mu pulled her two siblings to the side, making room for the three people to sit.

“Little Junior Sister, so this is your true appearance.” Situ Yi exclaimed in admiration, which immediately caused Duan Yue to roll his eyes.

“Brother Situ, that day at the Qin Estate, I reckon that there was an 80 percent chance that you were making a wild guess, right.”

“Of course not. Little Junior Sister’s so distinctive...” *stoic face, who wouldn’t recognize it?*

### **Chapter 665: Swallowing His Anger**

“Your Senior Brother Situ is talking drivell.” Duan Yue turned to smile at Qiao Mu. “He for sure made a wild guess.”

Yet Situ Yi waved his hand. “Don’t listen to Duan Yue speak nonsense. Little Junior Sister, a single glance was all I needed to see through your immutable expression. How was a wild guess even necessary!”

Qiao Mu subconsciously touched her small face and thought: *Looks like the next time I use a facial disguise, I have to take note of this. It’s best if I can produce an expressive face to avoid spilling the beans immediately.*

Seeing the little fellow’s pondering expression, Mo Lian couldn’t resist lifting his eyebrow. “What are you thinking with such a serious expression. You couldn’t be thinking that you should produce an expressive facial disguise to fool me next time??”

Duan Yue: ...

Qiao Mu immediately turned her head aside with a guilty conscience and walked to the door without leave, promptly stepping out.

Meanwhile, the quarrel taking place at the foot of the stairs grew louder and louder. Zheng Cao, with his hands behind his back, had been blocked at the stairs, and he was so angry that his face was already starting to turn green.

The manager of Morning Sunlight Pavilion’s capital branch was a middle-aged man over forty years old. He sported an amiable face that begot wealth and had a smooth and slick tongue, stifling Zheng Cao, who was threatening to flare up, into becoming short of breath with merely several sentences.

“All the private boxes upstairs have already been reserved. Other people made reservations three days ago. Naturally, our Morning Sunlight Pavilion can’t break the rules. The Song Estate’s Second Miss is also sitting in the main hall downstairs right now. We don’t have a choice either. It’s truly because too many people have come to participate in the auction this time around.”

Zheng Cao was infuriated into sweeping his sleeves. “Let’s go!”

Zheng Cao led Second Manager Qi downstairs in a huff, wishing for nothing more than to leave Morning Sunlight Pavilion right away.

They actually dared to have him, State Uncle Zheng, sit in the main hall to fight with a crowd of ordinary folk for the beautifying pill? When he, Zheng Cao, went to other auction houses, which one didn’t wait upon him deferentially and give him the best service possible? How would they dare treat him like how this Morning Sunlight Pavilion did? It was simply outrageous.

Following behind him, Second Manager Qi was so anxious that he was about to cry. “Master, if we leave right now, then what about the beautifying pill?”

This indeed made Zheng Cao pause before he shouted angrily, “Buy it somewhere else!”

“B-But it’s only sold here.”

“Preposterous.” In the end, however, Zheng Cao’s footsteps froze slightly, and he turned his neck stiffly while robotically pivoting his body. He swallowed his anger and walked towards the front row in the main hall, followed by the bowing Second Manager Qi.

“Yo, State Uncle Zheng. Most honored to meet you.” A person stood up abruptly from the front row and saluted him obsequiously.

“It’s Hong Cheng from the Hong Family.” Zheng Cao tugged the corner of his mouth into an artificial smile and subsequently sat down next to Hong Cheng.

“Did Sir Zheng come to purchase the beautifying pill for Her Highness Zheng?” Hong Cheng exchanged pleasantries and said with a smile, “My humble self also came to see this beautifying pill that has been rumored to be so fantastical.”

Recalling that Hong Cheng was also an advanced-level pill alchemist, Zheng Cao couldn’t resist inquiring, “It is said that Master Hong’s pill refining skill is out of the ordinary. Are you also able to refine this beautifying pill?”

Hong Cheng boasted proudly, “Refining a beautifying pill is naturally a walk in the park for me. However, State Uncle Zheng might be unaware that the several medicinal materials required to refine this beautifying pill are extremely difficult to gather. In particular, a high-rank medicinal material called visage-setting mushroom has basically already gone extinct on our Sikong Planet.”

Hong Cheng continued with a sigh, “Otherwise, if Sir Zheng can find this visage-setting mushroom, I definitely will be able to refine a high-rank, high-grade beautifying pill for Her Highness Zheng.”

### **Chapter 666: Suckering Out Blood**

Zheng Cao almost couldn’t control his temper and directly spit in Hong Cheng’s face.

*If I could f\*cking find that exotic visage-setting fungus, would I still need you to refine a beautifying pill! You think that you’re the only advanced-level pill alchemist in the Pill Union? Who would still care about you?*

Qiao Mu closed the door to the private box and said impassively, “Zheng Cao and that despicable pest from the Pill Union are sitting together.”

“Which despicable pest?”

“The one that tried to snatch my medicinal cauldron.”

Mo Lian stood up and walked to the window, looking down below before letting out a chuckle. “This person is from the Hong Family.”



“What Red[1] Family, Blue Family. I don’t care who he is. First, he tried to snatch my medicinal cauldron. Now, he’s sitting with Zheng Cao. In any case, he’s a despicable pest.” Qiao Mu pursed her small lips.

“This Hong Family is one of the capital’s eight great patrician families.” Duan Yue filled in.

“What eight great patrician families?” Qiao Mu asked offhandedly.

“The talisman patrician family: the Mu Clan; the Qin Estate’s elixirs patrician family; Duan Yue’s concealed weapons patrician family: the Duan Clan.” Mo Lian continued, “Other than these, there’s also the families that specialize in smelting and mining: the Wu Clan, Hong Clan, and...”

The little fellow had long lost the patience to listen to that whatever eight great patrician families, running to the window to look around below instead. Hence, Mo Lian stopped his spiel with an involuntary laugh.

Oh well, it didn’t matter whether she remembered the specific families. He’d remind her again if they happened to cross paths in the future.

“It’s starting, it’s starting.”

After Huifeng came back, he instructed the employees to bring in more snacks for the two foodies.

Only after they replaced the cooled-down tea did he order them to leave the room.

The group chatted as they ate, while also surveying the auction taking place down below. Besides the beautifying pill, there were naturally other mystic weapons, high-rank jewelry, and the like also up for auction today.

Even the items that Zheng Cao had plundered from his concubines and daughters were also on the auction list.

These items had been sent to the auction house two days ago. Mo Lian was naturally very aware that Zheng Cao could only shell out 50 or so pieces of high-grade magnetite, but this was only a rough estimate after also accounting for the odds and ends from converting these items into magnetite, as well.

Nevertheless, this was already a considerable amount of assets. A person who could shell out 50 or so high-grade magnetite at once in times of peace was already considered filthy rich, let alone using this sum to purchase a beautifying pill.

After a little while, the manager of Morning Sunlight Pavilion’s capital branch, Liu Yan, knocked on the door, giving a simper as he entered with a tray.

“Your Highness, State Uncle Zheng wishes to auction off a 500-year-old snow ginseng.”

“Let me see.” Qiao Mu extended her small hand, and Liu Yan hurriedly handed the tray over.

Qiao Mu lifted the cloth covering the tray and examined that 500-year-old snow ginseng in her hand. Then, right in front of everyone, she overtly... confiscated it!

Liu Yan gaped his mouth slightly, then turned to look towards the facepalming His Highness the Crown Prince.

*Your Highness, your wife is going too far!*

Soon, Qiuqiu chiseled an identical “500-year-old snow ginseng,” sending it out into her hands.

“Alright, return this to him! Tell him that the auction house doesn’t have this rule. The items up for auction have always been confirmed two days prior, so how can he add an item at the last moment? Go tell Zheng Cao that the auction house can’t bend its rules for him!” Qiao Mu declared righteously.

Liu Yan took back the tray and looked down at it in a daze. “Crown Prince Consort, this snow ginseng is?”

“Is there a problem?”

*“N-No, there isn’t.” But the weird thing was that there wasn’t a problem. Didn’t the crown prince consort confiscate the snow ginseng just now? How come she returned it after a short while?*

Our dear crown prince consort swept the snow ginseng a disdainful glance. “Only several hundred years old, I don’t fancy this at all! Go return it to him.”

“Yes yes yes!”

### **Chapter 667: What Is Qiuqiu**

After Manager Liu exited the private box, it was quiet inside.

Two siblings plus three men, five pairs of eyes in total, just stared at her without blinking.

“What’s up.” Qiao Mu calmly returned their gazes.

Whether it was the shape or aroma, the “500-year-old snow ginseng” that Qiaoqiao gave to Manager Liu just now was identical to the one that she “confiscated” earlier.

But according to the little fellow’s disposition, it was impossible for her to take it out again after putting it away in her inner world.

Unless...

“Cough, can I ask, what exactly is the 500-year-old snow ginseng that you swapped for Sir Zheng?” Duan Yue asked curiously.

“A tonic.” The little fellow supported her cheek with one hand as she stood by the window, looking down to admire Sir Zheng’s glum expression after having his “snow ginseng” refunded.

This fellow, Liu Yan, was especially reliable in handling matters. He especially “returned” the item to Zheng Cao personally and even vehemently requested him to inspect it in front of everyone. Only after ensuring that nothing was wrong did he lead his employees away.

*This manager was exceptional at his job!* Our dear Qiao Mu slightly compressed her small lips as she nodded in praise.

“Ugh, cough.” Situ Yi affectedly drank a mouthful of tea as he asked, “What kind of tonic?”

“Daikon! It’s especially beneficial when consumed during winter. It’s very delicious when stewed with short ribs in a pot of soup. It’ll be even more nourishing if eaten with mutton.” Qiao Mu said in an aloof voice.

“Pfft...” Duan Yue was caught off guard, and he spat out his tea, coughing repeatedly from choking on it.

On the contrary, Situ Yi had just swallowed his tea, hence he didn’t spray it out. At the moment, he was both amused and exasperated while holding his teacup and staring fixedly at the child.

Really, this gremlin swapped the other person’s 500-year-old snow ginseng with a daikon. Yet the crucial point here was that she could actually produce an identical “500-year-old snow ginseng” within minutes for the swap. Not everyone was able to do this.

It’s no wonder that Zheng Cao was suckered so miserably, putting away the “snow ginseng” without being suspicious at all.

After all, its shape and aroma were exactly the same as before. Besides, who else could be like the little fellow and pull shenanigans within such a short time frame?

The mastery Qiuqiu had over plants could be said to rival the heaven’s power of creation. Any plant that passed through its branches could only submit to its wishes. Anything it wanted to create, it could create.

Consequently, for a period of time, the little fellow had felt slightly puzzled.

What was Qiuqiu exactly?

This magical tree!

As they spoke, the auction finally reached its climax!

After the auctioneer hyped up the beautifying pill with a deluge of extravagant praises and finally announced the start of the bidding, the price skyrocketed instantly!

It wasn’t until the bid reached 30 pieces of high-grade magnetite that the upward momentum waned slightly.

On the floor, only three parties remained fighting one another in the bidding war.

One party was Zheng Cao, another one was the newly emerged Zhaoyi[1] He’s family, and the third was an elderly nanny. It was unclear which rich family she was representing.

These three people were unwilling to relent, throwing out one bid after another.

It was only when the bid broke through 40 pieces of high-grade magnetite that Zhaoyi He’s family announced their withdrawal.

However, that elderly nanny still sat there calmly and composedly as she raised the bid continuously.

43 high-grade pieces of magnetite, 44 pieces, 45 pieces...

Zheng Cao repeatedly squirmed in his seat, feeling as if his butt was on tenterhooks, and cold sweat overflowed on his forehead.

To curry favor with State Uncle Zheng, Hong Cheng quickly said upon seeing this, "It seems that the auction house didn't agree to auction off the superb quality snow ginseng that Lord State Uncle is in a hurry to sell."

"How about this. I'll buy this snow ginseng from Lord State Uncle for double the market price."

### **Chapter 669: Total Loss**

State Uncle Zheng was so on edge that he rubbed his hands anxiously before glancing at his "bosom buddy." "How many pieces of magnetite do you still have on you? Lend them all to me, and I'll return them to you later on."

Hong Cheng was stupefied. He hadn't imagined that the favor he extended using 24 pieces of magnetite wasn't sufficient for State Uncle Zheng to purchase that beautifying pill!

He wanted to refuse, but he was also afraid that State Uncle Zheng would bear a grudge against him.

Moreover, at this kind of "life or death" juncture, he needed to display his best behavior.

Hong Cheng gritted his teeth and said, "I, I at most can take out 15 more high-grade magnetite."

"Give them all to me! Later, when I present this beautifying pill to Her Highness, Her Highness will certainly bestow gifts." Zheng Cao urged, "Take them all out now."

Hong Cheng dug out his assets with a bleeding heart.

State Uncle Zheng immediately staked it all on this bid, and he stood up, roaring with a flushed face, "93 pieces of high-grade magnetite!"

"95!" Qiao Mu continued to raise the bid.

Hong Cheng felt as if the sky was about to collapse.

Sure enough, State Uncle Zheng turned to him again, staring at him with bloodshot eyes. "Hong Cheng, since you helped me this time, you should help me to the end. I will definitely remember your merit, and you'll easily achieve meteoric success in the future!"

Hong Cheng hesitated slightly before finally hardening his resolve. "I-I only have 10 pieces of high-grade magnetite left. I truly have no more!"

State Uncle Zheng also gritted his teeth and shouted fiercely, "103 pieces of high-grade magnetite!"

*If I still can't buy it with this, forget it then!*

This time, the little fellow was silent, but she continued to crack her melon seeds.

"You're certain that those two people have been squeezed dry?" Seeing Huifeng enter, the little one asked, merely raising her head slightly.

Huifeng's mouth twitched. "This subordinate guarantees that these two people are so destitute right now that it wouldn't be surprising for them to pawn their pants."

“Fine then.” Qiao Mu spread her small hands. “Distribute these high-grade magnetite to those who need them.”

In his daze, Huifeng quickly turned to look at the crown prince. Seeing the crown prince nod his head in assurance, Huifeng immediately became exceptionally excited.

“Yes! Thank you for the crown prince consort’s bestowal.”

“103 pieces of high-grade magnetite... going three times! Sold! Congratulations, Congratulations to Sir Zheng, Congratulations on obtaining a beautifying pill.”

However, State Uncle Zheng merely sat there, grief-stricken as if he had lost his parents. Where on his anger-distorted face could any hint of joy be seen?

Right now, he just wanted to take the thing home and weep bitterly while hugging his blanket.

This time, for Her Highness Zheng’s face, the entire Zheng Estate had thrown in all its capital!

State Uncle Zheng received that small box that only held the beautifying pill with trembling hands. Suddenly, he raised his head and shot his gaze, as scorching as a torch, towards a window on the second floor.

Right now, he especially wanted to know who was the person that jumped out to bid against him in the late stage. Judging from the voice, the person was definitely a young lady!

He really wanted to hack this young lady to pieces and execute her with death by a thousand cuts!

However, it was unfortunate that she didn’t show her face. Besides, he didn’t want to stay here even a single second longer!

After leaving Morning Sunlight Pavilion, State Uncle Zheng wore a sinister face as he instructed the two subordinates behind him, “You guys stay here and keep a close watch. If that woman from the second floor private box comes down, think of a way to trail her home!”

He wanted this little b\*tch that dared to provoke him to pay the price.

The two nefarious thugs from the Zheng Estate nodded repeatedly in response.

However, even until it was early evening, when the lanterns started getting lit, they didn’t see any young lady walking out from the door.

Qiao Mu had long brought her siblings home. At this point, she had already finished eating dinner and was prepared to consume a level-11 mystic breakthrough pill.

Suddenly, she heard a shuffling sound near the door.

## **Chapter 670: Currying Favor**

Instantly, the fine hairs on the little fellow’s body stood on end, and a bad premonition swept past her mind.

That rustling noise immediately caused her to eye the doorway on high alert, and just as expected, she saw a white and squishy snakelet slithering inside, its pair of round, watery eyes gazing at her cutely.

The snakelet was lopsidedly carrying an uncomely cotton print sack as it rapidly slithered twice. However, when it saw its little master before it could approach the bed, it jumped up instead.

“You’re not allowed to come over!” Qiao Mu stood on the bed with the blanket still wrapped around her as she stared guardedly at that restless white snake.

The white snakelet quickly rocked its body, throwing the cotton print sack to the floor before retreating back considerably. It then coiled itself into the shape of a cake, gazing pitifully at its little master.

While still wrapped in her blanket, Qiao Mu sat down with a solemn face. “You’re prohibited from stealthily slithering into my room in the middle of the night.”

The white snakelet pitifully nodded its head before jabbing at the sack on the floor with its thin tail.

Qiao Mu inexplicably found this little fellow to be somewhat cute, but she then reflexively rubbed the goosebumps on her small paws.

*Cute your ass! How could an icy snake, and who knows whether it was venomous either, be cute? An illusion! It was definitely an illusion.*

She absolutely must not be moved by that snake’s gaze that was feigning weakness!

“Go further away.” Qiao Mu hopped off the bed and waved her small hand at the snake.

The white snakelet wound itself loop by loop, until it became a white ball, before rolling to the foot of the table. There, it probed out its small head and gazed at its little master with watery eyes.

Qiao Mu tried taking two steps forward, and after seeing that it kept put, she then felt relieved and boldly walked up to the cotton print sack, squatting down.

This time, the white snakelet brought back a lot of medicinal materials again with the Cosmos Treasure Sack.

Previously, its little master’s delighted mood when she received medicinal materials left a deep impression on it. The snakelet made a preliminary confirmation that compared to precious metals and jewelry, its master seemed to like this kind of stuff more.

Qiao Mu also felt slightly puzzled. She wondered where this snakelet gathered such a myriad of exotic herbs from.

It was precisely this snake that helped her gather the visage-setting mushroom, the extremely rare ingredient that she had previously used to refine beautifying pills.

“You don’t have to bring more in the future.” Qiao Mu said offhandedly as she threw all the herbs inside the Cosmos Treasure Sack to Qiuqiu.

Yet when she turned back to the white snakelet, she saw it gazing at her aggrievedly like a little wife, its tears almost trickling from its eyes.

*Right now, it was even being disdained for bringing over the things Master liked, wuwuwu...*

Qiao Mu was baffled and couldn't comprehend what the snakelet was trying to express with this "abandoned wife" face.

She merely said dryly, "I have enough herbs and whatnot for the time being. I don't know where you pulled them from, but after harvesting so many successively, even a stupendous treasured land will become exhausted. Let them grow nicely now."

Hearing her explanation, the white snakelet instantly flung away its "abandoned wife" face and gazed at Qiao Mu with large, cute eyes: *So it wasn't that Little Master disdained its herbs!*

Wasn't this cold-blooded snake's face a bit too expressive?

After she finished sorting out the herbs, Qiao Mu climbed onto the bed and gave a yawn while covering her mouth. "I need to rest now."

The white snakelet wound itself up, loop by loop, until it became an even smaller ball that could hide underneath the cabinet, doing its best to convey a "I won't be disturbing your rest" attitude.