

My Crown 671

Chapter 671: Let Her Be Happy

Glancing at the snake, Qiao Mu pondered for a bit before getting off the bed. She took out a small basket lined with cotton and put it next to the table. "Stay here and don't crawl around randomly. Especially not into my bed!"

The white snakelet nodded its head continuously and obediently wriggled its body into the small basket, coiling up into a ball.

Seeing that it was quite obedient, Qiao Mu finally felt relieved, and she flipped onto the bed, pulling up her blanket and falling asleep.

The next morning, the first thing Qiao Mu did after waking up was to check up on that snake.

The white snakelet was waiting in that small basket extremely docilely, not moving at all.

Even the ball posture that it was in yesterday was still the posture it was in today.

Seeing her coming over, the snakelet's small head probed out of the basket.

After seeing that it had stayed there the entire night, with no traces of it having crawled out, Qiao Mu's brows couldn't help but ease up slightly.

It seemed this snakelet wasn't as galling as she had thought.

"Miss." Shaoyao drew the curtains as she hurried in, giving a salute. "The Wu Family's Eldest Miss, Wu Xiaosu, has come to request an audience."

Qiao Mu had long forgotten about this person, hence she creased her brows at this report. "Not seeing, don't know her."

Shaoyao knew that her little master would respond this way, so she said with a smile, "Shaoyao has already tactfully rejected Miss Wu and requested that she rapidly return to her estate. However, it's unfortunate that Miss Wu won't listen to me. She's standing outside our marquis's estate right now and refuses to leave no matter what."

"Then let her be." Qiao Mu deadpanned. "Since she likes it, then let her stand outside."

Was she, Qiao Mu, the type of person that would hastily invite a person inside after being coerced in consideration of both families' prestige?

The more she threatened her like this, the more detestable she was.

Since she liked humiliating herself, no one could prevent her from doing so. Let her stand outside as long as she wanted.

"Where's Xiao'ye? Let him come in, I want to ask him about what happened in the Zheng Estate yesterday." Qiao Mu set the small basket onto the table, meeting the white snakelet's protruding eyes.

Shaoyao cried out in shock, "Miss, a snake slipped inside?"

Qiao Mu simply glanced at her in amusement. "This is my summoned beast."

"Summoned beast?" Shaoyao was a bit astonished. "You mean that day in the garden, when Miss tried to summon something? Then the summoning didn't fail. However, this snakelet doesn't look mighty nor ferocious at all. Could it be counted on in critical situations?"

The snakelet's eyes glared at Shaoyao in response to her defamation.

"It was the one who kept sending me gifts these past few days," Qiao Mu said.

Upon hearing this, Shaoyao's eyes suddenly grew round, and she motioned a person's height with her hand. "That stalk of red coral?"

"That's right. As well as the herbs later on, it was the one who gifted them."

Shaoyao immediately gazed at Great Lord Snake in worship, in the same way people would gawk at a nouveau riche. "Then, Miss, should I prepare some frogs and mice or the like to feed the snakelet?"

Unexpectedly, however, once she finished speaking, the white snakelet proudly turned its small head aside in immediate distaste while its moist eyes gazed pitifully at Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu glanced at it and asked inadvertently, "Want porridge?"

The snakelet furiously nodded its small head.

"What kind of snake is this, it doesn't eat live animals but drinks porridge instead. Its preference is actually the same as a human's..." Shaoyao muttered as she walked out, and she called for Xiao'ye, who was waiting outside, in passing.

"Crown Prince Consort." Xiao'ye saluted after entering.

"What happened afterwards yesterday?" Qiao Mu inquired curiously.

"State Uncle Zheng delivered that beautifying pill to the palace that very night and presented it to Her Highness Consort Zheng."

Chapter 672: Don't Bully It

Qiao Mu nodded her small head in satisfaction. "Courtesan Zheng was very happy, right."

"Correct." Xiao'ye continued, "Consort Zheng bestowed many gifts to State Uncle Zheng on the spot, including fine jade, precious stones, gold, and silver, but their value can't compare one bit to the 103 pieces of high-grade magnetite State Uncle Zheng paid up. Sir Zheng could only suffer in silence and returned to his estate listlessly."

Qiao Mu smirked. "Just let Courtesan Zheng slowly enjoy that beautifying pill."

By the time Shaoyao returned with the porridge, Xiao'ye had already left after being dismissed.

A faint knock came from the window, but Qiao Mu didn't turn around. She merely kept her focus on the white snakelet that had practically buried half its head into the bowl of porridge.

Unexpectedly, this snakelet paid particular attention to how it ate. After the entire bowl of millet porridge entered its stomach, it even raised its small head up halfway, gesturing to Shaoyao with its eyes to pick up the white cloth beside it and wipe it down.

Shaoyao muttered “Holy sh*t” before hastily picking up the white cloth to wipe its snake head, which caused Qiao Mu to involuntarily break out in laughter.

The next second, she felt her body lightening, and she had already landed into a warm and comfortable embrace before she knew it.

“Qiaoqiao, I knocked on the window but you ignored me,” Mo Lian griped pitifully.

“You’ll come inside whether or not I respond to you.” Qiao Mu turned to cast him a glance, poking his chest with her finger. “When are we heading out for Beilan?”

“In two days, most likely. Royal Father opposed vehemently after I told him our plans, so I have to persuade him.”

“What the heck is he opposing for? It’s not like you’re going to Beilan for fun, you’re going to patrol a food production base! It’s an important matter that concerns the kingdom and the people! His kingship is truly a rather easy one, restricting you to the palace all day long to handle state affairs in his stead!”

Mo Lian gave a low chuckle while cupping his darling’s small face in his hands. He looked at her attentively as he said, “Qiaoqiao, you’re feeling upset for your husband!”

Jabbing at him with her small hand, Qiao Mu merely rolled her eyes at him. “We’re leaving in three days at the latest!”

“Okay.” Mo Lian circled her small waist with his arms as he rocked her slender body and said, “I’ll listen to you.”

When he inadvertently glanced to the side afterwards, he met the white snakelet’s protruding eyes.

Mo Lian’s expression changed, and he grabbed towards that white snake at lightning speed.

Yet in the blink of an eye, like lightning, the white snakelet glided in mid-air with a whoosh. Its snake body abruptly shrunk to about an inch in length, escaping Mo Lian’s grab.

“Eh?” Qiao Mu widened her eyes.

This white snakelet could actually shrink into this small of a size, as well as swiftly and successfully escape Mo Lian’s grab?

Masta! There’s a bad guy here who wants to capture me! With a wriggle of its body, the white snakelet rapidly flew towards Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu subconsciously shrunk her small frame, hastily hiding both her small hands in Mo Lian’s embrace.

After turning her head for a look, she saw the white snakelet, which had abruptly halted in mid-air after flying over halfway, writhing its small body like so, its eyes tearing up as it gazed pitifully at her.

Uh... Why did she feel like she had bullied the snake?

But it was chilly and wriggly, and it had such an awful feel. She was unwilling to touch it from the bottom of her heart!

MASTA!! The white snakelet's large, cute eyes were actually shedding tears at this point.

Qiao Mu: !

You're a cold-blooded animal! Why are you like a human, possessing various emotions and desires, and know how to cry?

Mo Lian immediately gazed vigilantly at this stupid snake that was trying to act cute, and with a flick of his finger, a bewitching red light shot towards the cold-blooded animal.

Yet just as the streak of fire was about to spring onto the white snakelet's snakeskin.

Qiao Mu jumped up abruptly!

Chapter 673: The Melancholic Mo Lian

"Mo Lian, don't bully it!"

Qiao Mu had jumped up all of a sudden, extending her small paws to hug the cutely dumb white snake that had frozen in mid-air. It had frozen stiff like an idiot and dumbly watched on as Mo Lian's cluster of flames came shooting towards its body.

If it were to get roasted like this, wouldn't it get turned into a charred snake cartilage dish?

Masta! The white snakelet's large, watery, amber-colored eyes revealed its deep adoration. Wriggling its body, it was about to take advantage of this opportunity and scurry into Qiaoqiao's clothes.

However, Mo Lian deftly clipped that d*mned snake's head with two fingers, catching it off guard, and with a random fling—

Whoosh, the white snakelet flew through the air in a perfect parabola and was directly thrown outside the half-opened window!

By now, Mo Lian was beside himself with melancholy: *Why do We have to guard against not only people, but also beasts?*

*Look at this d*mned white snake's lustful expression.* (Mo Lian's own imagination.) It was obvious with a single look that this was a lecherous snake. How could he let it stay inside his darling's boudoir? Absolutely no way.

"What did you do?" When Qiao Mu saw that Mo Lian had directly tossed the pitiful white snakelet out the window, she was both exasperated and helpless.

Just as she was about to walk to the window, Mo Lian tugged her small hand back.

"Qiaoqiao, it's a male snake. You can't let it hide inside your clothes!" *Even more, you can't put it near your chest!* Mo Lian declared in all seriousness.

Qiao Mu couldn't resist rolling her eyes. "I just wanted to put it back inside the basket. It's great now, I don't know where you tossed it to."

Mo Lian harrumphed and swept a glance at the door. "It came back on its own."

After slithering up the table, the white snakelet peered pitifully at Qiao Mu, its large eyes continuously shedding tears with a pitter-patter.

Trying to act pitiful!! Mo Lian was just about to pick it up and throw it farther away.

Yet Qiao Mu put out her hand to stop him. She glared at him grumpily before holding the pitiful snakelet in her hands. "What are you doing? Don't bully the kid!"

What kid! He dared to wager Duan Yue's head! This seemingly frail white snakelet was definitely an adult snake. Moreover, judging from its speed and strength that it was meaning to conceal, he knew that it was probably an abnormally black-bellied critter.

Mo Lian's gaze landed icily on the snake's head when all of a sudden, he saw the white snakelet turn its head around and actually glare back at him ferociously.

*F*ck, it was a scheming snake as expected!*

Look look look!

It was glaring at him behind his darling's back!

"Sigh." Males were all belligerent creatures. Even a male human and a male snake were able to start a fight!

Our dear Qiao Mu placed the white snakelet into the basket and stroked its snake head.

Suddenly, her fingers paused.

She abruptly realized that this white snakelet didn't feel icy nor chilly when she stroked it. Rather, the sensation was as smooth and soothing as a piece of fine jade.

She clearly remembered that the first time this snake appeared beside her bed, that squishy and chilly slithering sensation induced her goosebumps to promptly rise.

Yet right now, what was up with this warm sensation?

MASTA!!!

The white snakelet's snake head rubbed back and forth against Qiao Mu's fingers in utter enjoyment.

Meanwhile, the longer our dear Mo Lian watched this scene, the more infuriated he got.

"Alright, don't stroke it anymore." *The more she stroked it, the greedier this d*mned snake got!* Mo Lian hastily tugged Qiao Mu's hand away, holding it in his own hand before pulling her outside.

"Let's go, come with me to greet Dad and Mom." After saying this, Mo Lian's finger moved faintly, upon which an ink-colored ring quietly floated above his finger.

Chapter 674: Presenting Pills

Qiao Mu's eyes brightened slightly, and she extended her hand, taking the ring and wearing it on her finger.

After mobilizing her mystic energy, a transparent eggshell shield appeared around her. She could sense that its defensive energy was more concentrated than before, and it was clear that this defensive shield had undergone reinforcement.

"Mo Lian." The little fellow tilted her small head, reaching for his large palm.

Mo Lian lowered his head slightly and gently flicked the side of her forehead. He then carried her high up, his smiling phoenix eyes gazing at her deeply. "Are you planning to give me a return gift? Your husband will receive it gladly."

Right away, Darling Qiao's small face became dyed in the shade of sunset, and she peered about, feeling as guilty as a thief.

"There's no one." Mo Lian broke out into laughter. "Didn't Darling already drive out all those annoying people that walked in and out all day? There's only Shaoyao remaining, but she has long steered far away."

Ah, that's right. She had driven them all out from Nanzhu Garden. She wasn't a particular person either and didn't need other people to attend to her daily routine and meals.

"Then give me a kiss, and I'll treat it as a reciprocal present." Mo Lian turned his head aside, leaning in towards the little fellow's lips.

"Daughter—" Dad Qiao shouted.

The two people separated instantly after only a brief touch, and Crown Prince Mo's hands even shook, nearly dropping his darling onto the floor due to his guilty conscience.

On the other hand, our dear Qiao Mu's face was bright red like a small tomato, drooping involuntarily.

Crown Prince Mo felt even more melancholic.

You are indeed her real dad! You truly know how to pick the right time to come.

Qiao Zhongbang ran inside, as fast as if he were flying. He immediately glimpsed Crown Prince Mo and his daughter standing abreast, separated by a considerable distance.

The dad was extremely satisfied when he saw them. As he said, the crown prince wasn't a reckless person.

Look, he purposely performed a surprise inspection this time. The result: Xiao Mo, this child, stood beside his daughter, gentle and refined, with unsurpassed charm, and he even maintained his distance from her. Such an understanding child!

He really liked him the more he looked at him!

At this point, Dad Qiao had completely forgotten that the crown prince didn't even enter through the main entrance and had instead directly barged into his daughter's boudoir by sneaking in through the back window...

“Crown Prince...”

“Dad, there’s no need for so many formalities! Qiaoqiao and I were just about to pay obeisance to you and Mom. Let’s talk while we walk.” Crown Prince Mo stealthily tugged Qiaoqiao’s small hand as he led Dad Qiao outside.

At the same time.

Inside the royal study of the King’s Palace.

The king had summoned the Qin Estate’s father and sons trio. He waved his hand with a smiling face as he consoled, “Family Head Qin and the two young masters have suffered.”

“The crown prince, this child, is scrupulous and steady in his work. Many affairs in which We didn’t take everything into account, he can deal with appropriately. The reason he sent a massive military force to guard the Qin Estate was that he was worried that another mishap might occur!”

“The king is speaking too seriously.” Qin Guilu hastily cupped his hands and said with a smile, “His Highness the Crown Prince’s order had precisely concurred with this one’s intention. As of today, the 10-day danger period has passed, and it’s evident with one glance that no one inside the Qin Estate has shown any signs of mutating. Even if another zombie appears inside the capital again in the future, it shouldn’t be blamed on our Qin Estate, right.”

“Of course, of course!” The king laughed out loud and pointed to the seat in front of him, saying, “Family Head Qin, please sit.”

“Thank you, my king.” Qin Guilu thanked the king for his favor and sat down, while Eldest Qin and Second Qin hung their heads slightly and came to a stop behind their father.

“Xuan’er, present the box to the king.”

“Yes, Father.” Eldest Qin walked several steps forward and bowed slightly as he presented a bejeweled box with both hands raised up above his head.

The king was delighted, his gaze infused with a satisfied smile, and he cast a glance at Gong Chang’an, who was standing to the side.

Chapter 675: Release

Gong Chang’an immediately understood the king’s intention, and he quickly descended the stairs, taking over the box that Eldest Qin proffered.

“Inside, there are three meridian-nursing pills and fifty vigorous-growth pills, which our Qin Estate is offering to Your Majesty as a small token of our feelings.” Qin Guilu lowered his head slightly as he said, “This one has been very ill at ease that the crown prince received a shock at the Qin Estate that day.”

When Qin Guilu raised his gaze, Second Qin promptly walked out from behind his father and opened a rectangular box, presenting its contents to the king.

The old king lowered his head for a look, and upon glancing at the item, he was so ecstatic that he couldn’t conceal his wide smile.

“My son obtained this 400-year-old earth ginseng by chance during his practical training outside. Today, this one wishes to present it to His Highness the Crown Prince as an apology gift. Hopefully, my king won’t scorn my wish.” Qin Guilu said with a smile.

“Okay okay okay.” The king kept nodding in delight. “Gong Chang’an, send someone to deliver it to the Eastern Palace.”

Due to the Qin Family’s tactfulness, the king naturally revoked their house arrest and liberated the Qin Estate. The king also placated Qin Guilu a good deal, bestowing him with some gifts in the end, before instructing someone to escort the Qin Estate trio out of the palace.

After leaving the palace, Qin Guilu was finally able to wipe his head of cold sweat and breathe a slight sigh of relief.

“Where are you going?” Seeing that Second Qin was turning to leave, Qin Guilu called out, involuntarily startled.

“You return first. I have something to do.” Second Qin left with a flick of his sleeves after coldly saying this.

Yet Qin Guilu was slightly ill at ease and turned to Qin Xuan. “Is Second Young Master angry?”

Qin Xuan swept him a glance.

Qin Guilu hastily added, “But I didn’t have a choice. After all, we’re in the Lower Star Domain right now. It’s not good to clash with the Mo Kingdom’s old king in the open, so I could only trouble Eldest Young Master and Second Young Master to give the old King Mo some benefits. We had to resolve our present predicament first and foremost.”

Qin Xuan replied sardonically, “No, he’s not angry. It’s only that your decision this time of acting on your own is a bit frustrating, not to mention that you went for wool but came back shorn.”

Qin Guilu stiffened and was slightly shocked on the inside: *They knew?*

“Could it be that you thought that Second Qin was still not aware of your and Shuntian Prefecture’s cheap tricks?”

Qin Guilu’s cold sweat instantly dripped from his forehead. He had been keeping those two people in the dark when he made a secret deal with Shuntian Prefecture’s Qiu San for a pill recipe. Yet right now, he had been exposed out in the open.

“Eldest Young Master, this subordinate is surnamed Qin. Alive, this subordinate is the Qin Family’s person, and dead, the Qin Family’s ghost. This subordinate absolutely wouldn’t do anything to betray the Qin Family. It’s only that, that...” *that he coveted those few rarely-seen pill recipes that Qiu San’s master offered.* That’s why he colluded with Qiu San for benefits time and again.

“Dumbass.” Qin Xuan glanced coldly at Qin Guilu. “You don’t even know when you’re being used as a pawn. This time, if not for Second Brother cleaning up your mess for you, you think that the Qin Estate could have been extracted so quickly from this zombie incident?”

Qin Guilu narrowed his eyes as he gazed in disbelief at Eldest Young Master Qin. "Eldest Young Master, please speak forthrightly."

"Do you know how many people that person sent to infiltrate the Qin Estate to search for evidence?"

"If not for Second Brother destroying all your secret letters with the Shuntian Prefecture, you'd already be in prison. Ha ha, or perhaps you'd already be beheaded." Eldest Young Master Qin spat this out in an easy-going manner. Conversely, Qin Guilu's expression changed tremendously as his pupils abruptly contracted.

"Y-You're talking about, His Highness the Crown Prince?" Upon coming to this realization, Qin Guilu paled from fright.

"That man is cold-hearted, vicious, and merciless."

Chapter 676: Surreptitious Confrontation

Qin Xuan sneered. "Once he gets ahold of evidence, not even the dogs and chickens in the Qin Estate would be spared."

"Qin Guilu, be more careful when doing things in the future, you... aren't his match." Eldest Young Master Qin laughed and didn't say anymore. He ditched Qin Guilu, who had turned dumb as a wooden chicken, and left fleetingly.

Qin Guilu simply didn't realize that the two young masters had already crossed swords with the crown prince in secret. He merely wiped his forehead of cold sweat and forced a bitter smile.

It turned out that all his petty ploys had been laid bare in the young masters' eyes, and yet he had the nerve to feel immensely pleased with himself in secret.

Qin Guilu had no choice but to give in to old age. At present, each of these young children were truly more ruthless than the next.

Meanwhile, Second Qin boarded a carriage and coldly recited his destination.

After the carriage started moving, a large group of cheering and jubilant females swarmed out from the street corners after hearing the news. They had all ran over to ogle the Qin Estate's young masters, but it was unfortunate that they were half a beat behind and could only bite the dust.

The carriage arrived outside a residence and stopped in a corner, far away from the main entrance.

Even though the carriage driver didn't know what his master was waiting for, he didn't dare to be nosy. He could only act like a sealed gourd and silently accompany his master in waiting.

A small, blue and white palanquin had also parked in front of the entrance. A young miss, accompanied by her maidservants, was standing in front of the palanquin with a somewhat gloomy face.

Second Qin was silently waiting for something as he sat inside the carriage. Likewise, that young miss was also waiting as she stood outside someone else's door.

They had waited for a full three hours, and lunchtime had even passed. The carriage driver opened his mouth and had just cautiously called out, "Second Young Master."

When on the other end, the estate's main doors suddenly swung open towards the inside with a creak.

Two figures stepped out side by side while holding hands, with a royal guard and a maidservant following behind them.

Second Qin was surrounded by a dreary atmosphere as his profound gaze, separated by the carriage curtain, locked onto the first little lady that had stepped across the threshold.

Eldest Miss Qiao, so this is your original appearance?

That whatever Mu Xiao Bao, was also a fake name.

Second Young Master Qin's cold gaze landed on Miss Qiao's small hand, which the crown prince was holding, and he intuitively felt uncomfortable in his heart.

How could some other man hold this small, soft, and charming hand?

Deep within his heart, it was as if something had been torn open, and the pain felt somewhat difficult to bear.

Second Qin gazed coldly at those two people, the gleam of blades practically about to overflow from his eyes for real.

Which caused—

Qiao Mu and Mo Lian to both turn their heads towards the carriage.

Separated by a thick carriage curtain, the two men's gazes icily intertwined into a straight line.

Immediately afterwards, Second Qin clenched his fists forcefully before ordering, "Return to the estate."

For some reason, the carriage driver felt that the surrounding air seemed to have also grown a few degrees colder.

It was already the coldest month in winter to begin with, so at this moment, he couldn't resist sneezing multiple times in succession. He rubbed his nose and quickly drove the carriage back towards the Qin Estate.

"Who was inside that carriage?" Qiao Mu tugged the crown prince's sleeve, asking curiously.

"Someone of no importance." Mo Lian's gaze followed the carriage, and he only retracted it after a short period of time. He lowered his head to look at Qiao Mu. "You need not pay attention."

Qiao Mu didn't pursue the matter further. After all, the two people had planned to leave the estate for a stroll after eating their meal.

She had just given him four ebony storage talismans filled with winter fruit. As a matter of fact, it was actually a bit comical when speaking of those 50 winter fruit trees.

Qiuqiu was like a silly fool, insisting on hastening their growth to speed up their harvest.

However, after picking several rounds of fruit, it seemed as if something had happened to those trees.

Chapter 677: Turning a Blind Eye

Right now, those trees had been tormented by Qiuqiu so much that they were at their last gasps. They probably had to rest properly for a period of time.

On the contrary, Qiuqiu had become even more spirited these past two days.

Those unfortunate winter fruit trees had been ruthlessly milked dry.

A single 12 cubic meters ebony blue storage talisman really couldn't hold all that winter fruit.

Therefore, she had to fill four ebony talismans to the brim before being able to clear up the accumulated mass of winter fruit.

Upon receiving such a large winter fruit stockpile, the crown prince was extremely surprised, and he lavished praises on his Qiaoqiao while hugging her.

This time, the Ministry of Revenue's Song Yuan was going to be elated. Sir Song, who had originally been bewailing his poverty to him every day, had already started to "defame" his dad, egging him into directing his attention to the harem and cutting its spending.

But this may after all not be a bad suggestion. Right now, the common people in the Mo Kingdom capital were nearly unable to fill their stomachs, yet the orioles and swallows in the king's harem were all still extravagant to the extreme. If he could cut down on the harem's expenses, he would certainly be able to save a large sum of money.

"Miss Qiao!" Suddenly, a round-faced maidservant, whose face was flushed red, extended her arms to obstruct the two people's path.

"You, you, how could you ignore our miss?"

It turned out that after the two people stepped out the door, they didn't even spare a glance at the Miss Wu standing before the palanquin. They simply minded their own business and were about to leave while holding hands.

This time around, that maidservant blocked their path. After casting a sidelong glance, they saw Miss Wu, who was dressed in a light pink garment, cloaked with a light fur coat, and adorned with a small and exquisite beaded flower head-ornament.

She had braved the cold winter wind as she stood next to the small palanquin. Her small face had turned slightly flushed from the blowing winds, and her eyes were suffused with a slight grievance.

"Insolence." Huifeng lashed out. "How dare a lowly maidservant bar the crown prince and the crown prince consort's path? Why didn't you kneel down in salute upon seeing Their Highnesses?"

That maidservant was scared into a jolt, and she promptly knelt on the ground with quivering shoulders, stuttering, "P-Please excuse this servant for her impropriety. G-Greetings to the crown prince and the crown prince consort."

"On account of your devotion to your master, I'll let it go. You're dismissed." Qiao Mu said coldly.

That maidservant hastily crawled two steps backwards and kept kneeling on the side, not daring to get up.

Yet Wu Xiaosu's icy fists, hidden away in her sleeves, couldn't resist clenching tightly.

Taking several steps forward with a rigid face, Wu Xiaosu prostrated herself before the crown prince. "Xiaosu greets Your Highness, greetings to Miss Qiao."

Crown Prince Mo's slender eyebrows involuntarily scrunched up, and he rebuked mercilessly in a low and cold voice, "You don't know to address her as Crown Prince Consort?"

Wu Xiaosu's fingers, hidden beneath her sleeves, were practically about to snap. She shrunk backwards affectedly and spoke respectfully as she hung her head while kneeling on the ground. "Xiaosu feels that. Since Eldest Miss Qiao has yet to marry Your Highness, this form of address that transgresses her status may perhaps destroy Miss Qiao's reputation. Xiaosu has been admonished by her mother since young, so she doesn't dare be improper and unceremonious, which may ruin a lady's integrity."

"What a silver tongue." The crown prince sneered. "So you're criticizing this crown prince for being improper and unceremonious?"

"It's Xiaosu's fault for being wooden and slow of speech, not knowing how to speak properly. Please forgive Xiaosu for provoking Your Highness's anger." Xiaosu raised up her charmingly pitiful face as the aggrieved teardrops in her eyes threatened to spill.

"It's fine, it's only just a form of address." Darling Qiao really wasn't that particular about this! She tugged the crown prince's hand and said, "Let's go, are we still going for a stroll? What's the use of paying attention to her?"

Crown Prince Mo only then retracted his gaze, and he pulled along Qiao Mu's small hand in a displeased mood.

Yet just as he turned around, he heard Miss Wu call out, "Would Miss Qiao please stay."

Chapter 678: Exploding in Fury

A hint of impatience flitted across the center of Qiao Mu's eyebrows.

Was she very familiar with her? She didn't even send a message beforehand, and yet she came to call on her out of the blue.

Where was the ceremony and etiquette that she kept iterating? Was this the etiquette that their Wu Family indoctrinated?

"Miss Qiao, previously, because of me, Madam Qiao and Second Miss Qiao ended up receiving a shock. This is just a little something to show my respect." Wu Xiaosu strode up to Qiao Mu and abruptly took out a rectangular box from her inner world, handing it over to Qiao Mu.

"What's the meaning of this?" Qiao Mu felt that this woman was very baffling.

Wu Xiaosu nodded lightly at her and said with a graceful smile, "If previously, I hadn't delayed your mother at Dongshun Gate, perhaps they would've long departed and thus not have encountered the black-clothed people's pursuit."

"You came to give my mother an apology gift?" Qiao Mu asked coldly.

Wu Xiaosu was stunned, and she snuffed out that burst of fury in her chest with difficulty. She scolded in her mind that this eldest miss of the Qiao Family was too blunt in her speech.

How was this an apology gift? She was merely using this incident as a pretext to pay a visit to this Eldest Miss Qiao in an attempt to get closer to her.

Was this Eldest Miss Qiao an idiot? How was she so unknowledgeable about the ways of the world? Which discerning person wouldn't be able to decipher these words of courtesy?

Even if she, Wu Xiaosu, didn't stop Madam Qiao outside Dongshun Gate, the mother and daughter duo would still meet with danger, alright?

How did this become an apology gift?

When she called upon other families' young ladies and expressed goodwill like this, based on the rules, shouldn't she be instantly led inside?

"Since you came to give my mother an apology gift, why did you persist in standing outside my estate's main door and insist on seeing me? Just go find my mother yourself!" *She really was a baffling woman!*

Wu Xiaosu was so livid that the two hands she was using to hold the rectangular box started quivering uncontrollably.

If it were possible, she truly wanted to give this stoic face in front of her a big slap across the face!

*Can you f*cking comprehend the ways of the world, even if only a little bit?*

Would visiting guests not want their pride anymore when you spoke like this to them?

Standing to the side, Crown Prince Mo's mouth twitched. He simply swept Miss Wu a glance before turning his head to the other side while holding back his laughter.

Seeing Wu Xiaosu freeze there, her lips quivering without saying anything, Qiao Mu gazed at her with extreme impatience. "Is there anything else? If there isn't, don't block the way. We still have things to take care of."

What the hell can I do when you've already laid things out in the open? Wu Xiaosu tightly clenched her fists hidden within her sleeves. Her entire body shifted to the side robotically, yielding the way, and she looked on helplessly as Qiao Mu and the crown prince left with a flick of their sleeves.

The fury within her eyes could practically ignite a torch!

This was the result of her waiting from morning until afternoon, and in the end, she didn't even step through the Qiao Family's main door!

Fine! This Eldest Miss Qiao truly was extremely difficult to deal with. Before speaking with her, she hadn't the slightest idea that this person was actually such a slick and ruthless character.

She was so young, yet she was exceptional at scheming.

Wu Xiaosu had imbued Qiao Mu's entire being in a conspiracy theory. She believed that this Eldest Miss Qiao had intentionally given her the cold shoulder in front of the crown prince for the whole morning.

Afterwards, she mercilessly expunged both her self-respect and her pride in front of the crown prince, completely barring her outside the door.

But did she think that she would give up like this?

Her mind echoed her aunt's assiduous exhortation: *You must become "good sisters" with the Marquis of Jiayuan's Eldest Miss Qiao.*

Who knew that Miss Qiao would be completely baffled by her.

Wasn't it comical that a total stranger, after suddenly coming to request an audience, put on a show of being "affectionate sisters?"

Chapter 679: Entrapping Qiaoqiao

"Young Master." Halfway through the journey, a phantom-like figure quietly appeared within the carriage and bent forward slightly in greeting.

"Did you wipe everything clean?" Second Qin asked faintly in a voice that was as frigid as iron.

"Yes."

Second Qin nodded, and his gaze shifted to that person's shoulder, where a patch of dark red was currently seeping out from the black garment. "You fought someone?"

"Yes." That person cracked open his wide mouth, his eyes showing bloodthirst. "However, the person this subordinate fought didn't end up well. He suffered even more serious injuries than me and probably, ha ha, won't make it past tonight."

Second Qin nodded faintly and then had the person leave the carriage.

Mu Xiao Bao, you want to run away so irresponsibly after provoking this young master?

In the blink of an eye, the teacup between Second Qin's fingertips crumbled into dust.

That's impossible!

Meanwhile, Qiao Mu rubbed her slightly itchy nose, and Mo Lian caught her small hand within his palm immediately afterwards, caressing it with his fingers.

"Cold?"

What do you mean "cold?" She was a mystic cultivator! How could the chilliness of a winter day make her cold?

It wouldn't matter even if she only wore a single piece of clothing!

However, if she were to really wear only a single piece of clothing, then her dad and mom would be the first ones to nag her continuously, not to mention the crown prince.

On this first clear day after the snow stopped, there was still quite a lot of pedestrian traffic on the main street.

The two people strolled around aimlessly for a while on the street, quietly enjoying the slow passage of time.

It was truly a pity that good things didn't last forever, with a brawl breaking the silence on the street. The pedestrians hastily dodged aside, and the sound of shouting and whipping, alongside a woman's cries, very quickly caused all hell to break loose on the street.

The crown prince lowered his head to pull out a jade messenger talisman from his sleeve, and when he saw the small characters that appeared after swiping his fingertip, his expression sunk. "Qiaoqiao, I have to return to the pavilion to take a look. I'll first send you back."

"What's wrong?"

"Ao'ye got wounded."

Qiao Mu abruptly raised an eyebrow. "Ao'ye got wounded? Can I come along with you?"

The crown prince was slightly taken aback before exclaiming with a smile soon after. "It'll be even better if you come along! How could I forget again that my Qiaoqiao is not only a pill alchemist; she has even more exceptional medical skills."

"Am I allowed to know the pavilion's location?" Qiao Mu blinked her eyes.

"What foolish words are you saying? I don't have any secrets before you. You can directly ask me anything you want to know. Besides, you're the Hidden Night Pavilion's lady of the house. How are you not allowed to go?" The crown prince squeezed her small hand. "Let's go."

Qiao Mu nodded, and just as the two people were about to leave hand in hand, they saw a weeping woman rushing towards them straight on as she carried a child.

Seeing that they were about to stumble into Qiao Mu, the crown prince frantically grabbed his darling by the waist and carried her over to his side, evading that reckless woman.

As a result, the woman crashed heavily onto the ground with the child she was carrying, and since she was pressing the child down beneath her, the child gave a groan before starting to bawl out loud.

"You b*tch, you even dare to run!" The man's curses, along with the sound of the whip cracking through the air, instantly landed on that woman.

Whap! Yet when the whip landed on that woman's back, the man's hand distinctly froze for a moment. It was as if he hadn't expected for this lash to land so easily.

While holding on to the child, the woman scrambled to pounce at the crown prince's feet as she grimaced in pain. "This miss, this miss, please be benevolent and help me and my child."

According to the normal sequence of affairs, the rich family's miss would certainly show deep sympathy for the mother and son's encounter.

Yet who expected the little stoic to—

Chapter 680: Spilling All the Beans

“Hit!” Qiao Mu ordered.

Huifeng’s mouth twitched, and he reflexively gave that man that was holding a whip a big slap.

Slap! After taking that slap to the mouth, the unfortunate man crumpled to the ground with a clang.

“Thank you for Miss’s rescue, thank you, thank you! This woman is...” The woman that was carrying the kid wept as she knelt in front of the crown prince, giving her thanks ceaselessly.

“Continue!” As the crown prince was carrying Qiao Mu, she couldn’t move her limbs, so she turned her head to order Huifeng, “Hit! Hit both the man and woman!”

The peanut gallery that was originally watching an episode of ‘a beauty rescuing a weak mother and son’ felt a gust of wind blowing over their heads.

What was the deal with this Big Miss?

Wasn’t she rescuing them? Why did she also want to hit the victim?

Why was the brain of a rich family’s daughter wired so differently from that of normal people?

Qiao Mu patted the crown prince’s chest, indicating for him to set her down. She snatched the whip from the burly man’s hand with a lightning quick move of her hand before flinging it to Huifeng.

“Whip! Fifty lashes each!”

Everyone: “...”

*F*ck, even the county magistrate wouldn’t punish someone with 50 planks right from the start when judging a case!*

Where did this monster come from?

The crown prince couldn’t resist facepalming.

For a period of time, the scene was a bit tragic as both the woman and man yelped miserably on the street. Under Huifeng’s whooshing lashes, they rolled about on the ground from the pain, crawling away while howling painfully. They could only hug their heads, trying to scurry away.

Yet Qiao Mu didn’t even bat an eyelid. She took over the child, whom Shaoyao carried over, and took his pulse. After examining the child’s eye, she then took out a pill and had him swallow it.

At the same time, she snapped her fingers, and two talismans instantly transformed into two light beams, pouncing at the man and woman’s bodies.

“Who sent you guys.” Qiao Mu gazed coldly at that woman who was crying bitterly with her head in her hands, and she curved her lips in ridicule.

“Don’t hit, don’t hit, don’t hit, Big Miss, don’t hit anymore!” The woman howled desperately at the top of her lungs before suddenly giving a jolt. She then spilled the beans, answering Qiao Mu’s interrogation systematically and in full detail.

When targeting people like this woman that didn't possess mystic energy, the dictum talisman basically didn't even need time to react and instantly took effect after activation.

"It was a young lady who gave us a liter of rice and had us act out this drama. That young lady said that you, young miss, was kindhearted and would definitely rescue me once you saw me getting beaten by my husband. She told me to then beg you and be sure to have you take me in."

"What did that young lady look like? How old was she?" Qiao Mu questioned in a frigid tone of voice.

At the same time, the peanut gallery had long become flabbergasted. They hadn't imagined that this woman had actually put on this act with her husband to deceive this rich family's miss.

"She looks quite pretty, like a flower, but her figure seems somewhat frail. She's about 18 to 19 years old and wore a light, light-pink fur coat." The woman answered honestly.

"Other than rice, did she give you anything else?"

"Yes yes yes." The woman lowered her head and dug around in her waist pocket. She took out a golden cicada the size of a thumb and respectfully presented it to Qiao Mu.

After sweeping a glance over, her expression changed slightly, giving a scoff. "Tell me what she told you, word by word."

"Yes yes." The woman didn't hide anything at all and told Qiao Mu the young lady's instructions in its entirety.

A hint of swelling rage flashed past the crown prince's eyes.

"Let's go take care of our business first." Qiao Mu spoke in a jiffy before handing the small child in her hands to Shaoyao. "You send him home."