

My Crown 781

Chapter 781: Defending Him

“Who are you?” Wenren Ningjing shouted with her eyebrows arched in anger.

“You don’t deserve to know!” Qiao Mu raised her hand with a frigid expression, and her crow repeating crossbow slipped out from her sleeve, suddenly aiming at Wenren Ningjing’s direction.

“What are you doing?” Wenren Ningjing yelled, and she abruptly shrunk her neck while covering her head with her hands.

Yet she only heard a rapid breeze whipping past her ear, and it seemed like the arrow had shot something instantly. The sound of something falling promptly came from behind her.

Upon turning around, Wenren Ningjing finally pieced together what had happened.

It turned out that a civilian in the crowd had already mutated furtively. It was clawing for the back of her head, yet the little lady on the city gate tower had shot it flying with an arrow. This arrow had directly pierced through his skull and left him deader than a doornail.

The city gate tower was at least a thousand feet away from where she was standing. The people outside the city gate were so astonished by her arm strength and eyesight that they instantly fell into a silence so absolute that you could hear a pin drop.

“Look at what you all are, a mob of stray dogs. Yet you actually have the nerve to scold other people? Turn around and see exactly how many of you are truly fighting?” Qiao Mu scoffed in extreme ridicule. “If you were the crown prince, you’d probably be so freaked out that you wouldn’t even dare ascend the city gate tower!”

Crown Prince Mo turned to look at his Qiaoqiao with a grin.

The little lady’s defense caused the hint of displeasure that had just risen in His Highness the Crown Prince’s heart to instantly disappear without a trace.

Look at how his Qiaoqiao was defending him.

“Your Highness, it’s this one who didn’t consider the situation carefully.” Dou Fenghua returned to the present and hastily continued, “But, nearly ten thousand zombies have assembled nearby. If the city gate isn’t opened, then...”

“How about this? At present, there isn’t enough time to get examined one by one. So would Your Highness please mark out an independent area inside the city so that all of us can enter the city first? There, we can undergo examinations one by one. Your Highness can also send some guards to keep watch, so that if something unforeseen occurs, there’ll be a timely response.”

“Ten thousand zombies?” Second Young Master Dou’s words shocked City Lord Lin into jumping up immediately. “Second Young Master Dou, are your words exaggerated?”

“There’ll only be more, not less!” Second Dou looked up at Crown Prince Mo. “Will Your Highness please make a decision.”

"It looks like there will be a bloody battle today." Mo Lian declared in a cold voice, "Second Dou, your suggestion is fitting. We'll do it that way for now! Lin Yongyi."

"Thank you, Your Highness." Second Dou let out a sigh of relief before turning to exchange a glance with Wenren Ningjing.

"Yes, Your Highness." Lin Yongyi immediately picked three hundred soldiers to descend the city gate tower together. Afterwards, he ordered people to turn the capstan and creakingly pull open the city gate. The civilians outside the city were driven to a small plaza beside the city gate tower to be kept under surveillance.

"Miss, do we enter the city or not?" Xiangqin was bewildered.

Previously, they were fleeing the city at all costs. She hadn't imagined that they would have to go back inside before the night was up?

What on earth were they struggling about for earlier?

"Silly, of course we have to enter." Feng Manyun picked up a random mantle and wrapped herself completely with it. Her contorted face spasmed slightly.

She didn't want to stay outside the city and be torn to shreds and eaten raw by those ugly zombies.

"Miss, but what if someone discovers your injury?"

"Less babbling, we're entering first."

"Enter the city!" After Sixth Zheng dealt with the last zombie beside him, he pulled a teammate's hand and pushed him into the crowd.

Second Dou, Wenren Ningjing, and company also stood at the back of the crowd, not in a rush to enter the city.

At this time, Second Young Master Dou met Sixth Zheng's gaze, nodding at him. "Sixth Young Master Zheng."

Chapter 782: Killing One Person Every Ten Steps

Sixth Zheng raised his eyebrows at Second Young Master Dou, and he also lightly nodded back in acknowledgment.

Suddenly, an extremely burly zombie pounced out from a wrecked tent located behind where Sixth Zheng was standing, clawing for the back of his head.

It was from such a close distance away that Sixth Zheng hadn't even reacted yet.

Wenren Ningjing hastily pulled Second Young Master Dou's arm and rapidly retreated backwards while shouting, "Senior Brother, be careful."

In reality, that zombie was still a distance away from Second Young Master Dou. Furthermore, it had pounced in Sixth Zheng's direction, so it simply wouldn't endanger her senior brother at all.

If Wenren Ningjing was willing to assist Sixth Young Master Zheng, his crisis would have immediately been resolved.

However, in Wenren Ningjing's eyes, there was only her senior brother, and no one else.

Bang! At the moment of imminent peril, an arrow coming from the city gate tower directly pierced through the zombie's skull, pinning it to the tent behind him.

The night wind blew, and an elegant and exquisite pale figure, with icy and celestial looks, stood atop the city gate tower.

Across the vast and obscure night sky, Sixth Zheng turned around and looked into the depths of the little lady's icy eyes.

Those were a pair of chilly and unfeeling eyes, like two deep, dried-up wells. There were no ripples in them, and her expressionless face seemed as if it were carved from wood.

For some reason, Sixth Zheng felt his heart wrench slightly, as if something had been triggered.

When he wanted to take another look, he discovered that the little lady had already disappeared from the top of the city gate tower.

Everyone was swarming towards the interior of the city, but they were driven to the small plaza by the soldiers Lin Yongyi sent out.

Even though everyone who entered the city was going with the flow, two people were going against it.

Qiao Mu released numerous crow-gold arrows simultaneously with the crow repeating crossbow in her hand. It instantly shot several zombies who were brandishing their fangs and claws as they chased after the crowd, promptly sending them flying.

She was the very epitome of what it meant to kill one person every ten steps, and her expression was so cold that it seemed as if it had frosted over.

All the people that passed by the crown prince and the little lady all halted distractedly, gazing at them blankly. Immediately afterwards, they were jostled by the stream of people behind them, so they continued to run inside with the flow.

Second Dou, Sixth Zheng, and them were the last to enter the city.

Simultaneously, with Lin Yongyi's shout, the city guards had already started to turn the capstan in reverse to shut the heavy city gate again.

After Sixth Zheng jumped through the city gate while pulling along the heavily panting Wu Xiao'en, and Qiao Mu's crow-gold arrow shot the last zombie out of the city, the city gate slowly closed shut.

Sixth Zheng was panting lightly, and just like this, he gazed at Qiao Mu's small expressionless face in a daze.

"Little Sixth." Qiao Mu gradually lowered the crow repeating crossbow she was holding, and her gaze fixated on the bewildered Sixth Zheng with a long unseen curve on her lips.

Mo Lian was startled, and he immediately went up to grasp Qiao Mu's small, slightly icy hand. Subsequently, his evaluating gaze landed on Sixth Zheng's face.

His looks could be considered above average, and his martial skills were not too bad.

But Duan Yue, Situ Yi, and even those two from the Qin Family, were all very outstanding figures. However, he had never seen his Qiaoqiao reveal such a tender-hearted expression towards any of them. She even directly called him with an intimate "Little Sixth?"

What was with this kind of gaze that was noticeably recalling the past?

Mo Lian was very certain that this was the first time that his darling saw this Sixth Young Master Zheng! And yet this unfathomable familiarity between the two people, what the hell was up with that?

This made the crown prince feel as if his heart was being scratched at by a cat. He felt greatly unsettled and looked at Sixth Young Master Zheng as if facing a formidable enemy.

"Crown Prince Consort?" Huifeng also gazed at Qiao Mu in slight puzzlement.

Chapter 783: Where are the Crown Prince Consort's Royal Guards?

It was only until Qiao Mu returned to the present that she realized her behavior was a bit abnormal. *Little Sixth must have felt that she was quite strange too.*

Subsequently, she recollected herself and switched to a wooden poker face again, nodding as she said, "Going to sleep now."

Huifeng: "..."

Crown Prince Consort, you've become more skilled at forcefully changing the topic!

What kind of time is it right now that you're still thinking about sleeping? Would you even be able to fall asleep?

"Your Highness!" City Lord Lin ran over with his subordinates in restless anxiety, and he hastily bowed before reporting, "Just as Second Young Master Dou said, there is a large horde of zombies one kilometer away. There are upwards of ten thousand of them!"

"Huifeng, bring a team up to the city gate tower to hold them off." The crown prince decisively ordered.

"Lightning, accompany the crown prince consort back and protect her well."

"Lin Yongyi, pass down the order to summon all the mystic cultivators, body cultivators, superhumans, and everyone else who can fight in the city to assemble near the city gate tower!" The crown prince passed down several orders in a row. Afterwards, he turned to Qiao Mu and said tenderly, "Qiaoqiao, go sleep first if you're sleepy."

Everyone: "..."

Your Highness, don't you find this scene strange?

Yet, waving her small paw, Qiao Mu really did turn around and go back to her room. Lightning, along with several hidden guards, naturally followed after her like shadows.

This made Lin Yongyi and the rest tongue-tied. However, they also didn't know what to say.

"Lin Yongyi, you need to send more people to keep watch over the small plaza. Continue with the examinations. People without problems can enter the inner city, and transfer those who can fight up onto the city gate tower." The crown prince was referring to those thousand people from the tent district who had just entered the city.

Among these were many operation squads that could be counted on in the upcoming battle.

However, Wenren Ningjing was the first to be unable to tolerate it anymore. She bit her lower lip in displeasure and interrupted, "Your Highness is instructing everyone to go up the city gate tower, but could it be that your crown prince consort has a special privilege?"

"That's right, everyone has to participate in the battle, yet your crown prince consort can still go back to her room and sleep soundly?" *This was too peculiar!* It was simply eye-opening how this crown prince so brazenly shielded her without care for the consequences.

The name of the female next to Wenren Ningjing was Kong Roumiao. As one of Celestial Medicine Valley's top 50 disciples, she originally had no qualification to stand beside Second Young Master Dou. However, it was only because she was close with the old valley master's granddaughter Wenren Ningjing that she had this kind of privilege.

Kong Roumiao was completely docile and obedient towards Wenren Ningjing and shielded her considerably. As long as Wenren Ningjing opened her mouth, Kong Roumiao, this brainless fan, would pop out too.

At this time, Kong Roumiao had crossed her arms and was glancing provokingly at Qiao Mu, and she gave a snort when she walked past her.

The crown prince consort turned to eye Kong Roumiao and the rest before asking with knitted brows, "Where are the crown prince consort's royal guards? Why hasn't anyone subdued this person for provoking the crown prince consort?"

Huifeng: "..."

Crown Prince Mo silently facepalmed.

By the time the crown prince consort finished speaking, Lightning and the others had already appeared on the spot. Two youths in black cut to the chase and twisted Kong Roumiao's arms behind her back, forcing her to kneel on the ground.

"Ah!" Kong Roumiao shrieked.

Wenren Ningjing also jolted in fright, subconsciously retreating backwards.

"What should the punishment be for offending the crown prince consort?" Qiao Mu asked impatiently.

"Kill!"

The expressions of the group of people from the Celestial Medicine Valley promptly changed. Second Young Master Dou hurried forward and bowed, pleading, "Will the crown prince consort please quell

your anger. As this humble one's junior sister hails from Celestial Medicine Valley, she hasn't been subjected to secular constraints since young, so will the crown prince consort please pardon her."

Chapter 784: Bait

"So garrulous." Qiao Mu glared at Second Young Master Dou. "As their eldest senior brother, you don't know to restrain your juniors from having the gall to offend the crown prince consort. Simply unfathomable."

Everyone: "..."

"How many of your fellow disciples can make themselves useful? Have them step out!"

Second Dou: *...Why did I feel that this crown prince consort was kinda cute? She spoke so straight to the point that it was kind of odd.*

"Of the crown prince consort's royal guards, those with the guts to confront the zombie army, step out!"

Rustle! The group of Hidden Night Pavilion members, in addition to more than a hundred hidden guards concealed in the darkness, simultaneously jumped out. Their movements were especially uniform.

"Do you see! This is the difference between us!" The crown prince consort emphatically rolled her eyes at the people from the Celestial Medicine Valley.

Lin Yongyi and his men were left at a loss for words, and when they turned to look at the crown prince, they saw him still holding his forehead but trying his best to stifle his laughter.

"Cough." Huifeng coughed lightly to prompt the crown prince.

Crown Prince Mo walked up with a grin and held Qiao Mu's small hand, saying, "That's right, that's right. Do you see? The crown prince consort has several hundred subordinates that are willing to risk life and limb and confront the zombie army for her! You guys don't have people, so it's only natural that you go to the frontlines yourselves!"

That's right, none of these morons from the Celestial Medicine Valley comprehended her words. That's what she meant. She had money and manpower, so why couldn't she first catch up on sleep so that she'll be more at ease?

Why the heck did she have to force her super sleepy self to fight with the zombies over there! Was she a fool?

Only the crown prince comprehended her meaning. These bunch of idiots! She was disinclined to bicker with them anymore!

"Qiaoqiao, I'll send you back to your room to sleep." His darling must be super duper sleepy. But her imperious little appearance was still so cute all the same!

Yup, didn't these blind plebs know that his darling was currently in her growing period! If she didn't grow properly, how could that do!

The crown prince carried Qiao Mu back to her room and tucked her in, before bringing people back to the city gate tower.

Half a kilometer away from Beilan City, several prisoners' carriages were madly accelerating forwards. Each prisoners' carriage detained five to six people of both genders and all ages, and all of them were screaming incessantly in panic.

It was two huge hyenas, and not horses, that were pulling each prisoners' carriage.

These hyenas' running speeds were much faster than horses. It was only that they ran extremely ferociously, and the prisoners' carriages jolted so much that several of the people inside retched.

At the beginning, there were around a dozen of these prisoners' carriages, but by the time they fled to Beilan City's city gate, only four to five carriages remained.

The others had flipped over midway, and the people inside were brutally torn apart and eaten by the pursuing zombies!

Even until now, these prisoners felt as if they were in a dream!

Originally, they were locked up in prison, but for some unknown reason, they found themselves on a fleeing prisoners' carriage when they opened their eyes, with a large horde of zombies hot on their tail.

Before long, they were getting closer and closer to Beilan City's city gate!

They shouted at the top of their lungs, crying for help while waving their arms vigorously at the black mass of people on top of the city gate tower.

They didn't want to die! They hoped to be locked up in prison again.

Even if they were to eat pig feed every day while serving their many years in prison, it was better than inexplicably being torn apart and eaten by these zombies!

"Your Highness." Second Young Master Dou walked up next to Mo Lian and said quietly, "I saw them on the way here. These people seem to be beasts' bait! If this one's guess isn't wrong, someone had deliberately led them to Beilan City."

Chapter 785: They're Targeting You

"At that time, I found it extremely strange. Why would someone take such great pains to use prisoners to bait a large horde of zombies to Beilan City?" Second Young Master Dou turned and looked hesitantly at Crown Prince Mo. "However, the moment this one saw the crown prince, this one realized why. It turns out that these people were targeting you."

Crown Prince Mo's icy lips pulled into a thin line, and he nodded apathetically. "Did Second Dou discover anything else?"

Second Dou nodded lightly. "So where did these prisoners come from? If this one's conjecture isn't wrong, these prisoners were probably transferred out from the Mo Kingdom capital's dungeon."

"The Highest Judiciary only imprisons third-rank high officials and above, in addition to relatives of royalty. Even if these people are locked in prison, there isn't anyone who dares to touch them rashly." Second Dou analyzed, "So this one surmises that these prisoners were probably transferred out from the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice should be in complete chaos by now."

Second Dou's conjecture was correct. At this time, the Minister of Justice, Mao Kangfu, was kneeling inside the king's royal study. He had just reported the fact that a large batch of prisoners had escaped from the Ministry of Justice's prison, and he didn't even dare take a deep breath after that.

The Mo Kingdom's old king felt his eyelid jerking nonstop, and he kept feeling as if something bad was about to happen. However, the people he had dispatched had yet to send back a message.

"Someone had stolen your identity pendant and released a hundred prisoners without approval?!" The old king was so furious that he smacked the desk. "You only discovered now that such a serious thing happened! What the hell are you good for?"

Mao Kangfu took off his official's hat of his own accord and held it in his hands. Following this, he promptly prostrated on the ground with his head hung low. "My king, this official has failed in his duty, but will the king please give this official the chance to atone for his crime with a meritorious act, by allowing this official to lead soldiers to recapture these prisoners!"

"They've escaped for so long already, how are you going to recapture them!"

The commander of the royal guard, Hui Feng, brought He Tian with him as he strode to the royal study's doors. He genuflected on one knee, "Greetings to the king."

"Enter!" The old king hastily beckoned to them. "Hui Feng, He Tian, hurry and lead 2000 men to assist the Ministry of Justice in recapturing all the prisoners that escaped..."

"My king!" A shadow abruptly appeared inside the king's study. It was precisely the king's closest hidden guard that he had sent out earlier to make inquiries.

"How is it, how is it, hurry and speak!"

The hidden guard bowed in greeting before replying, "My king! This subordinate has already sent people out to scout, and they discovered that these prisoners who secretly escaped have fled in the direction of Beilan City."

"These awful scoundrels!" The old king bellowed angrily, "Hui Feng!"

"My king, this subordinate hasn't finished speaking." The hidden guard hastily continued, "Us subordinates have investigated and found that this batch of prisoners had startled many zombies in their vicinity during their escape. By now, upwards of ten thousand zombies have already congregated and are chasing after them to Beilan City!"

"What?" The old king leaped up in shock, as if his butt had been set on fire.

Beilan City? Wasn't that where his royal son was?

"Royal Father, ah, Royal Father!!" This timing of Eldest Prince Mo Jiao was truly very coincidental.

While running into the royal study, he put on a wondrous show, grabbing onto the desk leg and wailing, "Ah, Royal Father! Royal Father! This son has heard that Sixth Royal Brother has been besieged by a large horde of zombies at Beilan City! This son requests that Royal Father allocate 3000 elite soldiers to this son. This son wants to personally travel to Beilan City and rescue my royal brother! Ah, Royal Father!"

Chapter 786: The Essential Difference

Get out of here!

The king kicked Eldest Prince Mo Jiao into tumbling on the ground.

The tear stains on his face had yet to dry, and he looked up dazedly at his old man in confusion.

The old king picked up a ruler in passing and slapped it at Mo Jiao's back. "You think your father doesn't know what cunning plot you're scheming? You think your father, I, am a dotard?"

The eldest prince was stupefied!

He had come over to make a timely stance and demonstrate his fine moral character of loving and protecting his younger brother, yet his old man still berated him for that? *If this wasn't called being a dotard, then what was?*

"Royal Father, Royal Father!"

Yet the old king still gave Mo Jiao's back two sound slaps with the ruler. "You calculated this exact moment to come here and make a show of your obedience! You want to say that you weren't the one who found people to surreptitiously release those prisoners from the Ministry of Justice's prison?"

Mo Jiao: ... *What did I do?*

"Don't think that your Royal Father has become a dotard! How could We possibly not know those tiny ulterior motives of yours? What do you want to lead soldiers to Beilan City for? Are you rescuing your royal brother or going there to harm him??"

The Minister of Justice, Mao Kangfu, hastily crawled forward, reaching out to block the ruler that the old king was brandishing. "My king, my king, this incident is unrelated to the eldest prince! This official's identity pendant was probably stolen by the recently notorious thief Ding Tingding."

"What?" The old king turned around while holding the ruler and stared incisively at Mao Kangfu. "Why didn't you say this earlier?"

Mao Kangfu was unable to respond.

Indeed, he had originally wanted to cover this incident up. After all, how glorious was it to tell others about it?

Ding Tingding had left him a message stating that he would steal his identity pendant within 24 hours.

He had already put up a 360-degree defense without any blind spots, so how would he have expected that his identity pendant would actually disappear without a trace when it was time!

Wuwuwu. He indeed didn't want to tell the king that Ding Tingding was the one who had stolen his identity pendant. However, seeing that the king was berating the eldest prince, it would drive a wedge in this father-and-son relationship if he were to continue concealing this incident.

“Royal Father!” Once the eldest prince heard this, he immediately wept so much that he had tears and snot running down his face. “This son truly is innocent! This son is of course leading soldiers to Beilan City to rescue Sixth Brother. This son can swear to the heavens that my words are by no means false!”

Was he stupid? Even if he wanted to find a chance to exterminate the crown prince, it wasn't possible for him to kill the crown prince while leading troops under Royal Father's nose?

*He said that he wasn't a dotard! This was f*cking what being a dotard meant!*

The eldest prince criticized the old king incessantly on the inside. The old king had lashed him so hard with the ruler that there were traces of blood, and he couldn't stop hissing from anger and pain.

*This d*mned old fellow! They were both his sons, yet it really was a world of difference how he, who was the son of a consort, was treated. Even when they were young, this old father looked after the crown prince with the utmost care and was so unconditionally biased towards him. His heart was so partial that it had veered off course to the Northwestern Desert!*

It was only then that the old king coughed awkwardly, aware that he had wrongly blamed Mo Jiao. He tossed the ruler to the floor and hollered frustratedly at Gong Chang'an, who was beside him. “Why haven't you gone to summon a physician from the Royal Physician Building to come tend to the eldest prince's injuries!”

“Mo Jiao, Royal Father knows what you're thinking.” The old king said coldly with a frown, “We can tell you that the things you all are pining for, the crown prince doesn't care about at all. This is the most essential difference between him and all of you.”

Mao Kangfu's cold sweat was gushing down.

He didn't expect that the old king would actually admonish his eldest son in front of him today.

Could you father and son have your daily spat behind closed doors! What was he, an official, to do upon hearing this?

Chapter 787: Missing a Golden Opportunity

“Hui Feng, He Tian.”

“This official is here!”

“Immediately bring 2000 men with you to Beilan City for rescue.”

“As Your Majesty orders!”

Since Eldest Prince Mo Jiao hadn't been successful in displaying his obedience and had instead been beaten up by his old man, he was restraining a bellyful of anger as he left the royal study with clenched fists.

The most essential difference! The most essential difference!

They were both his sons, yet Royal Father only took a fancy to the crown prince and not any of his other sons! This was their most essential difference!

Royal Father was totally unaware how his old eyes seemed to be glowing whenever he talked about the crown prince. That was a boastful glow! That was the gaze of extreme pride!

The most essential difference between them that he was talking about, was that the crown prince simply looked down his nose at the power and status they yearned for so wholeheartedly!

Ha! By praising him to such heights, wasn't Royal Father afraid that if the crown prince were to plummet down some day, the crown prince wouldn't die horribly and be consigned to eternal damnation!

*On what basis was the crown prince perfect in all aspects, yet his other sons were like dog sh*t and totally worthless?*

Mo Jiao pummeled a column in the corridor before departing sulkily.

Just as he walked out of the King's Palace, he saw Eldest Prince Consort Shu Quan standing beside the path with a faint smile under the moonlight, waiting for him to come out.

Eldest Prince Mo Jiao's heart eased somewhat and felt slightly better upon seeing her. There was a smile in his brows as he went up to support the eldest prince consort's hand, saying, "My consort, why have you come?"

"As your Eldest Highness hadn't returned even after a long time, this consort felt worried. Hence, this consort simply came to the entrance of the King's Palace to wait for Your Highness."

"Sigh." Eldest Prince Mo Jiao sighed and said, "My consort, you were right! Sure enough, Royal Father wasn't willing to hand me authority over the military, and he's very guarded against me. I wonder if it's because Second Brother's previous incident triggered one of the king's nerves. From the looks of it, he doesn't believe anyone besides Sixth Brother."

Eldest Prince Consort quickly reached out and secretly tugged at the eldest prince's sleeve.

Was this something that could be said so carelessly? They had just exited the King's Palace, so the king's and queen's informers were still everywhere. *This husband of hers truly was too reckless.*

The eldest prince consort sighed as she lightly smoothed out her thick hair. Afterward, she got up on her tiptoes to straighten the eldest prince's collar, as well. "Your Highness, your complexion looks a bit pale. What happened?"

As the eldest prince was still stifling his resentment in his chest, he said while supporting the eldest prince consort, "We'll talk about it after getting back."

"Okay." The eldest prince consort nodded with a smile, and her peripheral vision caught a glimpse of a slender shadow flashing past a hidden corner.

A radiant glint flitted past her eyes.

Was it the queen's informer, or was it Consort Zheng's or some other royal concubine's?

It seemed like the fact that her husband had been reproached in the royal study today would soon be circulated among all the members of the court.

The Eldest Prince's Estate didn't necessarily have it much easier than the Second Prince's Estate!

Shu Quan could only sigh. *She had already told him not to enter the palace at this time, but her husband wasn't someone who would listen to others' exhortations. Sigh...*

He squandered a great opportunity to no purpose to do the crown prince a favor.

If her husband had listened to her persuasion and secretly dispatched people to Beilan City to rescue his royal brother...

Then once Beilan City's crisis was resolved, how perfect would it be when he stealthily leaked out this information to the king and the crown prince?

Yet this rash husband only had that bit of military authority over the South Battalion in his eyes, wanting to take advantage of this opportunity to win it over. However, how would the king be willing to satisfy his wishes.

Just as the eldest prince and his consort departed the King's Palace, someone had gone to the queen's Central Palace to pass a message.

Chapter 788: Instigating

Queen Zhao, sitting before her dressing table, scoffed. "My son had just become embroiled in Beilan City's crisis, and someone immediately couldn't sit still. Could it be that they thought our Zhao Family doesn't have people?"

Earlier, the queen had speedily summoned her younger brother Zhao Sheng to the palace. By this time, Zhao Sheng should already have set out for Beilan City with his two sons to rescue the crown prince.

Beside her, Nanny Qing gently massaged Her Majesty the Queen's shoulders, and she couldn't resist cutting in, "Isn't that right. Your Majesty doesn't need to worry. His Highness the Crown Prince is very capable, so how could this trivial matter stump him! Rather, it's that crown prince consort..."

Nanny Qing paused her speech. Hexiang, who had entered while carrying a cup of tea, walked lightly to the queen's side. She docilely set the cup of tea before the queen and then stood behind her without making a sound.

Queen Zhao's brows creased slightly upon hearing Nanny Qing mention her daughter-in-law. She felt a faint headache coming on, and that stoic face popped up in her mind without rhyme or reason.

After peering at the queen from the corner of her eye, Nanny Qing's lips curved up into a hidden smile, and she continued with unremitting efforts. "This old servant has heard that the crown prince consort still has the temperament of a child and just likes to have fun. The reason why the crown prince left for Beilan City without bidding farewell this time, might possibly be the crown prince consort's idea."

After listening to her words, Queen Zhao pursed her lips unhappily.

Last time, it was also because the crown prince had accompanied that lass from the Qiao Family back home that he met with an assassination attempt on the way back!

This time, it was also that lass's unruliness that put the crown prince in danger!

What's more, she couldn't like that stoic face no matter how she looked at it.

When she recalled how Consort Cheng came to pay respects to her with her several daughters-in-law, she was so envious!

There was no need to mention the Shu Family's Eldest Miss, Shu Quan, whom she had watched grow up. She had been educated and well-mannered from young, and currently, she had given birth to one son and two daughters. It could be said that she, as a wife, had lived up to expectations.

The eldest prince's Side Consort Zhang also looked to be quite sensible, and she had also given birth to a daughter.

Side Consort Wu, Wu Xiaoli, was the Wu Family's Second Miss and the daughter of a concubine. However, she had fulfilled her wifely duties ahead of schedule! She hadn't yet been wedded for half a year, yet she was already pregnant when she came to pay her respects. It was very likely that she was going to give birth to Consort Cheng's fifth grandson.

This made Queen Zhao unbelievably green with envy!

Upon making a comparison to her two disappointing sons, Queen Zhao sighed incessantly. Her younger son was already 13 years old, yet he was like a runaway wild horse, fooling around outside all day with no trace of him to be seen.

The older one was even more unreasonable! He was over 20 years old yet paid no heed to women at all. *Oh, he did now!* But the one he paid heed to was a little stoic.

The fact that the heir apparent didn't have sons—wasn't this scrambling to give your enemies leverage against you? No wonder the royal censors were constantly nagging.

Queen Zhao set down her ivory fine-toothed comb in frustration. She raised her eyebrows and eyed Nanny Qing. "If we're comparing Commandery Princess Yi'an to the future crown prince consort, who do you think suits His Highness more?"

"It's only that the crown prince consort is younger, and also grew up among the common folk from young, so her temperament is a bit more carefree." Elderly Nanny Huaxuan lifted the curtain and walked to the queen's side with a smile.

Huaxuan very naturally picked up the fine-toothed comb that the queen had set down on the dressing table, and she started to comb the queen's hair gently. "Her Majesty the Queen Dowager has raised Commandery Princess Yi'an by her side from a tender age. It is only natural that there is nothing to nitpick about her etiquette. However..."

"Sheesh, if you have something to say, out with it." Seeing that Elderly Nanny Huaxuan hesitated to speak, the queen couldn't resist urging, "There aren't outsiders here, so what can't you say?"

"Yes! Then this old servant will be frank."

Chapter 789: Counsel

"Since both of Commandery Princess Yi'an's parents died when she was young, it could be said that she was born under an ill star." Elderly Nanny Huaxuan docilely combed Her Majesty the Queen's long hair as she continued quietly, "If not for Her Majesty the Queen Dowager taking pity on her as the

descendant of a martyr, and consequently bestowing her with the title of Commandery Princess, she would only be having a hard time in the Marquis of Su'an's Estate right now."

"Yes, her uncle is indebted to His Majesty for his special favor of bestowing him with the title of the Marquis of Su'an. However, it can't be helped that although there are many sons in the Marquis of Su'an's Estate, they're all good-for-nothings."

Queen Zhao nodded. On the side, Nanny Qing pursed her lips defiantly when the two people weren't paying attention.

"When you say it like that, it is indeed so. Yi'an isn't a particularly auspicious person." *How could she match up to her excellent son!*

Queen Zhao was contemplating that her son wasn't young anymore, yet he was still without child.

That little stoic was still tiny, so she reckoned that her son still had to raise her for two more years before he could consummate their marriage.

Don't tell her that her darling son had to fruitlessly keep watch during these two years? How was that okay? She couldn't bear for him to, not to mention that she very urgently wanted to hold a grandson!

It didn't matter whether it was the son of the main wife or a concubine. *Nothing could be better as long as she had a grandson to hold!*

Therefore, Queen Zhao wracked her brain cells in private, wanting to pick two side consorts for her darling son!

Look at how Consort Cheng's son already had two side consorts. Her own son was the crown prince of the great Mo Kingdom, second only to the king himself, so why couldn't he have a side consort?

Crown Prince Mo had thought that his mother had already stopped her antics, yet he didn't expect that this pig teammate was still secretly continuing to drag! Him! Back!

"The eldest miss of the Mu Family's eldest branch, Mu Qianqian, is rather not bad. Her small face is round and snow white, and she has a sweet smile. Unlike that wooden and expressionless stoic face." Her Majesty the Queen mumbled to herself, "It's only that she didn't particularly accord with etiquette during the palace banquet last time. It'll be fine once she gets taught the rules again in the future."

"Yi'an is also good-looking. Great Sea Monastery's senior monk had once told her fortune and said that she would give birth to many sons and have many blessings. Although the first half of her life doesn't seem too favorable, it's possible that she's meant to create a harmonious home, and she can even bring fortune to her husband. By letting her become a side consort with her status, I've already kept Her Majesty the Queen Dowager in mind." Queen Zhao got more enthusiastic the more she spoke. "Also, the Shu Family's fourth miss, Shu Hui, is 18 this year. The last time I saw her, she was as beautiful as a flower bud. The Dou Family's two misses are also not bad. After all, they're the dual beauties famed throughout the capital. The one from the Duan Family is rather okay too, and there's also the Qin Family's..."

“Goodness, my queen.” Elderly Nanny Huaxuan set down the fine-toothed comb and gazed at the queen helplessly. “Even if those young ladies you mentioned are each more ethereal than the next, it’s no use! Your family’s Highness doesn’t fancy any of them!”

The queen instantly deflated and gave a humph.

Why did her son have such a one-track mind? That little stoic was so tiny. What on earth was good about her?

“Your Majesty, you’ve seen how much His Highness likes the crown prince consort.” As Huaxuan whispered into the queen’s ear, her old eyes flickered with the wisdom of an elderly nanny. “We can’t let a rift form with His Highness because of this, and the affection between mother and son...”

Nanny Qing wanted to walk up, yet she had no choice but to halt her footsteps when Huaxuan cast her a cold glance out of the corner of her eye.

“What’s more, Her Majesty the Queen Dowager loves that Commandery Princess Yi’an dearly. Do you think it’s a good idea for her to be with the crown prince? His Highness and Commandery Princess Yi’an have known each other since young, and there haven’t been any sparks between them after so many years. If you insist on matchmaking them, wouldn’t it displease His Highness?”

Chapter 790: Aggravating

“Nonsense!” The queen was unconvinced. “Every time that child Yi’an sees my son, I see her eyes shining, unable to be averted! How can you say that there aren’t sparks?”

Huaxuan’s mouth twitched before exclaiming, “Goodness gracious, my queen! When His Highness walks outside, he’s so unearthly handsome, like a jade tree in the wind. Which young lady won’t have shining eyes upon seeing him!”

“That stoic face didn’t!” The queen was peeved upon talking about this. She precisely felt that that little stoic didn’t hold her darling son in high enough regard. The lass pulled a stoic face all day long in front of her son, never gazing at him fondly!

You couldn’t treat her son like that! It simply aggravated her to death!

Huaxuan: ...

After complaining for half the day, it was all because the mother-in-law felt that the daughter-in-law didn’t attach enough importance to her darling son!

Elderly Nanny Huaxuan could totally understand Queen Zhao’s mentality. Indeed, His Highness should be able to attract countless pursuers with his excellence wherever he went.

The crown prince consort’s attitude was irregular!

Cough, but, wasn’t the crown prince consort still young! It was possible that she still didn’t understand what affection meant.

“Your Majesty, this old servant advises that you don’t interfere with their matters. Particularly not that side consort selection. Look at how much His Highness cherishes that stoic-faced daughter-in-law of yours!”

Queen Zhao promptly glared at Elderly Nanny Huaxuan.

The accompanying Hexiang: ...

Nanny, why are you also calling her stoic-faced!

“Cough cough, this old servant was just saying. If you arrange some kind of side consort selection, His Highness would certainly not like it. At that time, it’ll be your pride that will be hurt after making such a display,” said Nanny Huaxuan as she coughed lightly.

“Truly, the son escapes the mother’s control once he leaves the nest!” Queen Zhao stomped off to bed in a huff. *She was just feeling sorry for her darling son! Yet her son wasn’t appreciating it!*

Hexiang secretly gave a close-lipped smile before hastily helping Queen Zhao to get ready for bed.

Qiao Mu slept soundly through the night, and by the time she opened her eyes, it was already dawn.

After feeling her abdomen, she involuntarily gave a sigh.

No wonder she felt like she couldn’t keep her eyes open and was terribly tired last night. It turned out that her first period since her rebirth had come.

She had long prepared clean cotton cloths beforehand, so she wasn’t caught unprepared at this time.

However, her body still felt very tired, and her head still felt a bit dizzy. Since her lower body was also wet, she didn’t feel too comfortable. She got up and fiddled about for a bit, padding a clean cotton cloth before changing her clothes.

A low voice came from outside, and Qiao Mu hastily flashed to the door. She pressed her hands against the door and mumbled with a reddened face, “You’re not allowed to come in.”

“Qiaoqiao, you’re awake?” Mo Lian couldn’t help being surprised when he tried pushing open the door but was met with resistance. “What happened?”

“Nothing.” While still continuing to press against the door, Qiao Mu grunted, “Call Shaoyao inside.”

“Have you forgotten, Shaoyao didn’t come with us and remained in the capital.” Mo Lian was at a total loss and couldn’t make heads or tails of what was up with his little lady.

“Then, then call a random maidservant over.” After saying this, Qiao Mu thought about it and supposed that the maidservants and guards were probably busying about elsewhere at this time, so she said deflatedly, “Forget it, forget it, I’ll deal with it myself.”

She moved her small hand from the door. Just as she turned around, she heard a faint sound from behind her, and Crown Prince Mo had already pushed open the door to the room.

“Qiaoqiao.” Mo Lian could see her complexion with a single glance. “Why is your complexion a bit pale? Qiaoqiao, you’re unwell?”

He carried her up at once and walked towards the bed. "Do you want to sleep a while longer?"

Qiao Mu, however, was so ticked off that she wanted to bite him. She covered his eyes with a hand and shouted, "You're not allowed to look, not allowed to look!"